



Gustav August Forsgard, 1832-1919

The Gustav A. Forsgard Diaries

Doris Glasser

In 1985, I was sent an advance copy of a catalogue being prepared by a Texana book dealer with whom I had worked over the years to build the Texas collection at the Houston Public Library. He had marked one listing in the catalogue to call it to my attention: two diaries kept by a young Houston merchant, one for the year 1860 and one for the period May 23, 1862, to April 2, 1863. I was, of course, very interested. We had often discussed the importance of diaries and journals in making a historical period come alive, and these diaries covered a significant time period, just before and during the Civil War. I knew the diaries would be a valuable addition to our collection. We were able to acquire them with funds from a special Library endowment, the Annette Finnigan Fund.

When the two small, leather-bound volumes were delivered, I read them at once and found myself completely involved in the life of Gustav August Forsgard. I wanted to find out more about him, and especially about the period January 1861 to May 1862, but I thought many of my questions would remain unanswerable. When I contacted a Forsgard descendant to tell her about our acquisition of the two diaries, however, she remembered some family talk from long ago of giving a diary of Forsgard's to the Houston Public Library. To our delight, a check of records showed, in the holdings of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library, a diary of G. A. Forsgard covering the first months of 1862. How these volumes were split up, or whether he kept a diary in other years, may never be known. We are fortunate to have three volumes reunited, a record of two years in the life of a Houstonian that has survived for a century and a quarter.

After reading the diaries, I began to do research into Forsgard's background. Several sources of information on him exist in the collection of the Texas and Local History Department. His name seemed somehow familiar to

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The Swedish entries were translated by Barbro Marchiafava.

me, perhaps from seeing his business advertisement in the first *Houston City Directory* of 1866 and in subsequent directories. A good biographical sketch of Forsgard appears in *History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of the Cities of Houston and Galveston*, published in 1895 by the Lewis Publishing Company of Chicago. I was led to another source of information on Forsgard when I showed the diaries to Ann Quin Wilson, author and longtime researcher of Houston's history. Her father had known Oscar Lee Forsgard, Gustav's son, and she had located an article written by Gustav Forsgard for the *Houston Chronicle*, February 4, 1913. The newspaper had asked Forsgard, on the occasion of his eighty-first birthday, to write his recollections of what Houston was like when he arrived here in 1848. Forsgard's emigration is briefly discussed in *The Swedish Texans* by Larry E. Scott, published in 1990 by the Institute of Texan Cultures. From these sources and others, we know something of his life.

Gustav August Forsgard was born Gustaf August Johannesson on February 3, 1832, in Forserum, Sweden, son of a prosperous farmer. His father, Johannes Samuelson, served in the Riksdag, representing the District of Jankoping. (Most Swedes at this time used the patronymic system, taking the father's name as the last name. Like other immigrants, Gustav chose a family name, Forsgard, when he settled in the United States.) Young Gustav was 16 years old when he joined a party of Swedish emigrants bound for Texas. He planned merely to come and see the land and then return to Sweden. He never went back, however, except for a single visit in 1866.

The group was encouraged to come to Texas by Swen Magnus Swenson and his uncle, Swante Palm, who had settled in Texas in 1836 and 1844, respectively. Swenson began to recruit other emigrants to join him when he returned to Sweden to visit his family in 1847, and continued his recruitment of relatives and friends over the following decades. Swenson and Palm often paid the passage of the immigrants who, in return, worked for Swenson for a time after their arrival. Many purchased land from Swenson near his plantation in Fort Bend County. Swante Palm lived in La Grange, Texas, and that area also became a center of Swedish settlement in Texas. Palm was noted for his library, having acquired between 12,000 and 12,500 volumes by the 1890s. Other members of the Palm family eventually established a Swedish-immigrant group in Austin.

The first group of immigrants to respond to Swenson's invitations included two brothers of Swante Palm, Anders and Gustaf, with their families; two brothers of Anders's wife Anna, one with his family; Swenson's mother, Margareta Andersdotter; Gustaf Johannesson, soon to become Gustav Forsgard; and a number of other people including, Forsgard remembered, "three maid servants and six man servants, mechanics, and a boy." None of them could speak English. The party sailed from Gothenburg, Sweden, in

early July 1848 and landed in Boston after a three-month voyage. Their journey took them from Boston to New York by rail and steamboat. From New York, they took the sailing vessel *Stephen F. Austin* to Galveston. In Galveston, the travelers took the steamboat *Reliance* to Houston, arriving on November 22, 1848.

S. M. Swenson had arranged with Houston businessman Benjamin A. Shepherd to send a rider to inform Swenson of the group's arrival. The party stayed several days at the Washington Hotel at the foot of Main Street, until their transport arrived from Fort Bend County. They went to Swenson's farm, where they worked in the cotton and corn fields and cleared land for Anders Palm's plantation. Unfortunately, Anders Palm died that first year and the saddened group scattered. Margareta Andersdotter returned to Sweden, young Gustav Forsgard went back to Houston, and the Palm families settled in La Grange and then in Industry, Texas. Forsgard served for many years as Swenson's liaison to newly arriving Swedish immigrants. Several of his brothers later followed him to Texas, changing their name to Forsgard as well.

In Houston, Gustav Forsgard went to work for B. A. Shepherd and his partner, A. J. Burke, as a clerk in their store on Main Street at Congress. Shepherd took the young Swedish immigrant under his wing, and gave Forsgard the opportunity for an education. He sent him first to a school in La Grange, and later to take a commercial course at Dolbear's Commercial College in New Orleans. Forsgard returned to Houston to work for Shepherd & Burke. When Shepherd sold his mercantile interests to his partner and the firm became Burke and Perkins, Forsgard continued to work for the company as a bookkeeper for about three years. Then he worked for James H. Stevens, also as a bookkeeper, for about a year, until he decided to go into business for himself. Forsgard went to Shepherd for advice and assistance. Shepherd gave him a letter of credit to J. H. Brower & Company in New York. Forsgard traveled to New York and Boston to purchase a stock of books and stationery, then returned to Houston to open his own store at 213 Main Street. Forsgard ran a successful business until the Civil War began.

In addition, he was an active and respected member of the community. A regular churchgoer, he was elected as a deacon of the Presbyterian church. Forsgard belonged to Holland Lodge #1 of the Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, the first Masonic lodge in Texas, established in 1835. He joined the lodge in June 1854 and was appointed Senior Steward in December of that year. He served as Junior Deacon in 1856-57, Senior Warden in 1861-62, Senior Deacon in 1864-65, and Worshipful Master in 1865-66, and was Dean of the Houston Lodge of Perfection, which was organized in 1867. Forsgard was also a member of Houston's volunteer Fire Protection Company No. 1, turning out at the dreaded cry of "Fire!"

In his diary for 1860, Forsgard records his many activities. The diary

reflects both his organizational involvement and the social life of a young bachelor as he spends evenings with other male friends, visits area families for tea or conversational evenings, and escorts young ladies to concerts and other local entertainments. The entries often mention the weather, an important concern to a storekeeper whose customers might be deterred by the rain that turned the unpaved street into a sea of mud. Weather patterns were also linked to the threat of disease, and the sad death of an acquaintance or friend is a recurrent theme in the diaries. Of special interest in the 1860 volume are two trips Forsgard made through East and Central Texas, as well as a buying trip to New York. The rigors of travel and Forsgard's impressions of the Texas country towns he passed through are vividly described.

For this issue of *The Houston Review*, the diary entries have been carefully transcribed as Forsgard wrote them, with only a few changes in his spelling and punctuation made where they were required for clarity. A few entries are in Swedish, and an English translation is provided in brackets. A complete and exact transcript is available to researchers in the Texas and Local History Department of the Houston Public Library. It includes some material that has been edited out here for the sake of brevity: the text of newspaper clippings pasted onto the diary pages, several pages of accounts, and some brief, uninformative entries.



Volume 1: 1860

Sunday, January 1, 1860

A very sunny & pleasant day: but cold. On mud puddles where the sun could not get at it, was Ice all day. Went to S.S.¹ To church to hear M Byers. In the afternoon walked about town in company with W. & F.

Monday, January 2, 1860

A day like yesterday. City Election. More candidates for the several small offices than ever before. ergo, some must be beat. Not much excitement.

A man who has been *dunned* all through last year *called* and paid his a/c.² a good beginning.

Tuesday, January 3, 1860

Weather same as yesterday but moderated towards night

Another man called & paid his a/c to day. trust the delinquents will keep it up all the year.

Saw a fight on Main St. between two drunken bloody Irishmen.

¹Sunday School

²account

Wednesday, January 4, 1860

Weather very pleasant Business good

Miss K invited me up to Miss N's to night Some girls were to be there spending the day, but I was too busy to go up.

Thursday, January 5, 1860

Business continues good and the weather is delightful They have been putting up the wires for the Galveston Telegraph in town to day.

I heard Mrs. C. had a boy last night.

Friday, January 6, 1860

Morning cloudy, about 9 o'clock it commenced raining and continued till about 3 o'clock Night moonshiny & fair

Bussiness pretty good.

Saturday, January 7, 1860

Very foggy. couldn't see fifty yds off. Cleared off about noon. But the mud. Whoopce!!—Going home to night I fell in with Geo Owens, he had poisoned himself by taking through mistake, a drink of burning fluid. Went home with him staid all night. he was all right when I left him this morning.

Sunday, January 8, 1860

A beautiful clear day drying up fast Walking is good. Slept in the forenoon Attended church at night. Rev. R H Byers preached (perhaps his last service here) an excellent sermon on the observance of the Fourth Commandment.

Monday, January 9, 1860

Morning damp and foggy Bright & sunny during the day

Petterson i Austin ar hitkomen att skaffa machineri for att fortsatta borringen på "Artesian" Brunnen vid Capitolet. Ryberg kom också hit idag. [Petterson in Austin has arrived here to obtain machinery in order to continue the drilling of the "Artesian" Well by the Capitol. Ryberg also arrives here today.]

Business pretty fair

Monday, January 16, 1860

Clear beautiful sunny day About 8 o'clock T. W. Whitmarsh's warehouse was discovered on fire The fire spread like lightning in an instant over the whole house. Those who were in the office had not time to save the books or lock the safe. Saved them selves by jumping out the window. House & contents a total loss. About 3000 bales cotton Loss about \$200.000.

Tuesday, January 17, 1860

D. G. Miller who was to be *married* to day—was burried. he died yesterday of Pneumonia.

Sunday, January 22, 1860

Attended S.S. & Church Rev J. W. Miller preached. Very beautiful day Called on Mr & Mrs. Wet¹ stayed to Tea.² Went to church with Emily N & went home with Earle D.

Monday, January 23, 1860

Very busy preparing for my trip in the country dont feel very well but feel like going any how Skrefo hem till mina Föräldrar [Wrote home to my parents]

Tuesday, January 24, 1860

Started shure enough. W^m Christian⁴ & myself in company but the accomodating RR agent Stiles would'nt take our horses on the cars. So we went on horseback. Got to Cypress by dinner got some substantial food got to Hockley that night stopped at Walker's. Had sollid beds & food.

Wednesday, January 25, 1860

Started for Hempstead 8 o'clock. Stopped at 11-3 hours—arrived at Chapple Hill about dark very much fatigued & worn out. not being used to riding. Laid down imediately.

Thursday, January 26, 1860

After seeing Ammons Chapple & some others we started again got to Brenham to dinner called round to see Kirby & Grant & others then traveled again facing a bitter norther to Independence. Pulled a cow out of New Years Creek.

Friday, January 27, 1860

Very windy & cold tho dry & sunny. Intend to lie over here till the weather moderates. Fares better here than used, tho. I saw something on the table they call, "Butter" which reminded me of ransid tallow used for greasing Gins, usually corn dodgers alone tempt my appetite

Saturday, January 28, 1860

Frost! Ice on the creek. Left the out-of-the-way place rejoycing. Went through Washington like a flash. Stopped at T. H. Pointers to dinner. Passed throu "Navisoto" the cars have just commenced making trips up there. It is a thriving place. arrived at Anderson to take tea at Fanthorp's⁵

¹Alfred Wettermark was a broker with a business on Main Street between Congress and Franklin. He originally came from Sweden. The Wettermarks lived next door to B. A. Shepherd.

²William Christian was a clerk, apparently for Forsgard.

³Fanthorp Inn, built in 1834 by Henry Fanthorp, sheltered many important guests. It is now a state historic site.

Sunday, January 29, 1860

Sunday! Yes but it dont look like Sunday—here in Anderson is two fine churches but no preaching. Stores open & negroe trade is brisk

Monday, January 30, 1860

Started at 9 o clock for Montgomery got dinner at T. Shannon's mill at 2 o clock got to Montg' at 5. put up at English's

Tuesday, January 31, 1860

Rained all the forenoon were dripping wet when we arrived at Danville put up at Sessum's. Very cold Laid over the rest of the day Had lots of fun of "John" a Mexican, Hostetter & Lem Callard

Wednesday, February 1, 1860

Started for Huntsville at 8 arived there to dinner Stopped at the Tentaw House B. S. Wilson is a very accomodating land lord. Being very cold, we concluded to stay till tomorrow Visited the Penitentiary & saw all the cotton machinery running

Thursday, February 2, 1860

Cold again. Ice on the creeks. Rode to Madison before we could get any dinner. Stayed there over night Of all the rough sharp fellows I ever saw, they Madison boys take the premiums Just think of their way of dunning, &c⁶

Friday, February 3, 1860

My birth day. hay!⁷ A very pleasant day. got to Leona to dinner. stopped at Anton's. the lady was very "perlite" offered us pipes and invited us to a social smoke. Fixed her S.⁸ machine then rode out to Reinharts & back

Saturday, February 4, 1860

Raining all day. couldn't ride to Centerville but we are in a very good place as luck would have it. Good country living & butter milk in the bargain. Wrote to J. S. N. sent off.

Sunday, February 5, 1860

Cold, rain & hale. Cleared up about 10 o'clock rodde to Centerville 7 miles stoped at the Thurman House

Here is a bright set of fellowes too. jel hol how they talk. Wrote to E. M. D.

Monday, February 6, 1860

Here is the Dickens to pay! Esquire Garner let W. Christian's horse out last

⁶Abbreviation for et cetera.

⁷Forsgard was 28 years old.

⁸sewing machine

night. Found the horse about 1 o'clock Started & got to "Alabama" (J. Albright's) that night Were well fed on mutten and cornbread.

Tuesday, February 7, 1860

Arived at Crockett to dinner Stopped at the "Crockett House" This is right-smart of a place. but money is very scarce here also, tho' whiskey is plenty

Wednesday, February 8, 1860

Traveled over some of the poorest country I have ever seen. Such sand hills. "Enough to make a Buzzard firt" Wonder how people can live in such places. got to Palestine after sun down. A fine place

Thursday, February 9, 1860

Having dined at the "Oceola" House we started for Trinity river crossed at "Parker's Bluff" went to Butler. that night were very well entertained at Manning's

Friday, February 10, 1860

Arrived at fairfield in time for dinner. Knocked about a while among the merchants Started again and got to Mr. Patton's "Flowerdale" that night. Rained all the afternoon

Saturday, February 11, 1860

Having had a good night's rest & a good breakfast we went to Chamber's store to dinner. dined at Chamber's Started for Spring Hill and arrived there about 5 o'clock Passed over some very pretty country & good land

Sunday, February 12, 1860

A dreary day—no church, no preaching, no nothing but negroes trading at the store

Monday, February 13, 1860

Waying & Rolling cotton that W^m bought. Rained a little

Tuesday, February 14, 1860

Started to dressden dined there Then returned to A. Barrey's. Walked about looking at his *tramping* mill etc.

Wednesday, February 15, 1860

Traveled to Milford to dinner Spent the afternoon there Saw friend J. R. Hudson. A singular place this town of Milford—just think of a town in Texas where there has never been any *whiskey* sold. it suits me.

Thursday, February 16, 1860

Went to Waxahachie before dinner. that is a place that looks well at a distance, and tolerably well anyway. Went to Col. Neal's that night. good place

Friday, February 17, 1860

Arived at Chatfield Point to dinner then went to Taos on Porters Bluff. Crossed the Trinity river and went to Mr. Berrys that night What a place! from the like deliver us

Saturday, February 18, 1860

Arived at Kaufman to dinner. put up at the Gibbs House. Attended a democratic meeting. Spent the evening at Mr. Parson's. Heard some fine music, vocal & instrumental.

Sunday, February 19, 1860

Bill has got the palpitation of the heart. Attended S. School and preaching Walked about & viewed the Town Called at Mr. Parson's after Tea S. Katie Sang "Farewell". Verily such a place in our weary travel is like a spring in a desert.

Monday, February 20, 1860

Started for Dallas. dined at the stage stand 2 miles from East Trinity tole bridge. Bull beef fried in tallow, raw bacon, coffee without sweetening & no spoon to stir it with. Eight H baby squealing shaking House to its fondation. Arrived safe at Lancaster

Tuesday, February 21, 1860

Left Lancaster after breakfast got to Dallas to dinner. put up at the "St. Nicholas" Dallas is the largest & best inland Town I've seen yet. Left after dinner & went to Reunion a French settlement. Very nice place

Wednesday, February 22, 1860

Started again after breakfast. Dined at Col. M T. Johnsons. Got to Ft Worth that night a very nice and rapidly improving place, but infested with gamblers

Thursday, February 23, 1860

Started at 8 o'clock, very cold, north wind blowing Ice on the ponds all along the prairie. dined at Howard's Mill on the Clare Fork Got to Weatherford 5 o'clock a very fast improving Town

Friday, February 24, 1860

Loafed around generally. Went to market: Witnessed the Weatherford mode of butchering. Heard various reports relative to Indian disturbances Heard the people's opinion of Sam Houston

Saturday, February 25, 1860

Riz: very early. Smoked, pitched into what they called breakfast. Went to the Mineral Spring & the Steam mill. Saw a sham fight. attended court. and saw the *Ball att the Court-House*

Sunday, February 26, 1860

Went to Buchanan Had a good apatite for dinner but got none My Horse got sick no corn fodder oats or straw in the whole town Weather windy and cold. Put up at the Bailey House

Monday, February 27, 1860

Slept very soundly on the floor last night (I think that men who undertake to keep Hotels ought to travel some) Knocked about all day in the rain & mud. "Noah"⁹ sick

Tuesday, February 28, 1860

Noah too sick to start yet. Not a grane of corn or any thing to feed on! "Oh, that mine enemies were horses and had to stop at such places."—Rained & rained all the afternoon. Had some fun in listening to the *fellers* talking

Wednesday, February 29, 1860

Sunny & bright. Started after breakfast Horse doing well Friend "Verstille" had the kindness to give him a feed of corn this morning. Stayed over night at Gather's Mill / or Covington pased very well indeed.

Thursday, March 1, 1860

A real spring morning. Arived at Hillsboro to dinner put up at Cooks. good place for man and beast. Left "Noah" and went to Milford on the stage. Saw J. R. Hudson he promised to send for my horse and take care of him

Friday, March 2, 1860

Returned to Hillsboro in the stage and went on in it to Waco leaving "Noah" to Hudson. A cloudy & windy day, some rain. Waco is certainly the prettiest Town in Texas. Oh how it has improved in the last 5 years.

Saturday, March 3, 1860

Walked about the town & suburbs Saw all the fine residences Churches (2) stores (8) mill (1) etc. Waco is surely a pretty location for a town & I think is bound to be a place.

W^m Christian left for Belton on Cruger's horse. left Milam for me

Sunday, March 4, 1860

Attended preaching in the Methodist Church in the morning Rev. Alexander preached & Episcopal service there in the after noon. by Rev. Sherley Went to the Baptist Church at night. All very good sermons

Monday, March 5, 1860

Started after breakfast (10 o'clock) Weather fine but windy. took the

⁹Forsgard's horse

middle road to Marlin. crossed at the ferry 9 miles below Waco got nothing for horse or self to eat before I reached Marlin

Tuesday, March 6, 1860

They take good care of horses at the "Marlin Hotel" but it is very rough go for folks. Started after breakfast. passed Alto Springs at 12. Eutaw at ½. got dinner (if fried eggs & corn dodgers may be so called) at Parson Gilbert's then went on to Owensville

Wednesday, March 7, 1860

Started in good season & passed through Stearling to Maj. Hanneys Ferry on the Brazos where I dined then went thro Fort Sullivan & stoped over night at Madox's 7 miles East of Brazos a place very much like Eastern Texas.

Thursday, March 8, 1860

Went to Boonville to dinner and then on to "Milekans" that night. A very good days ride, and I was very much *fatigued*

Friday, March 9, 1860

Started without breakfast. Crossed the Navasoto at Johnson's Ferry. got to "Navisoto City" at 10 o'clock got breakfast, or dinner, there and took the cars for Houston and got there at 3 o'clock P. M.

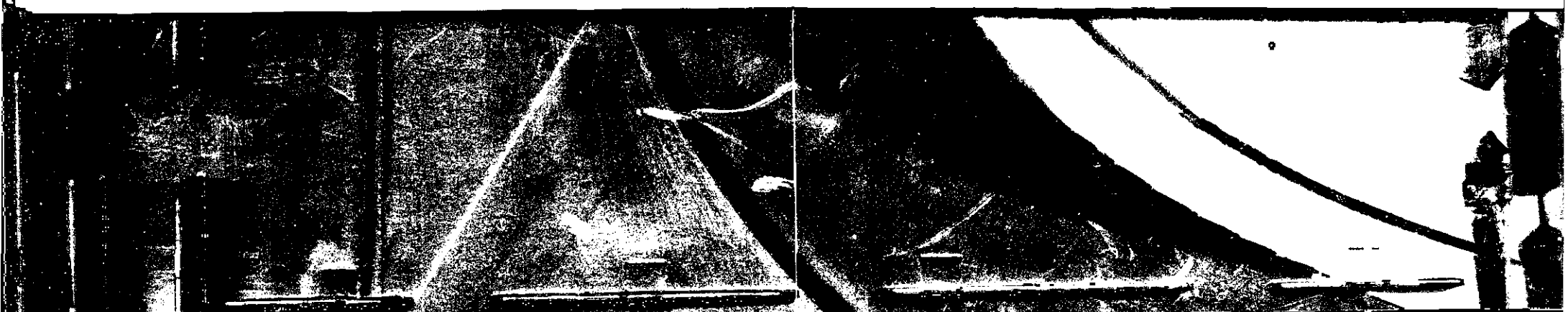
Saturday, March 10, 1860

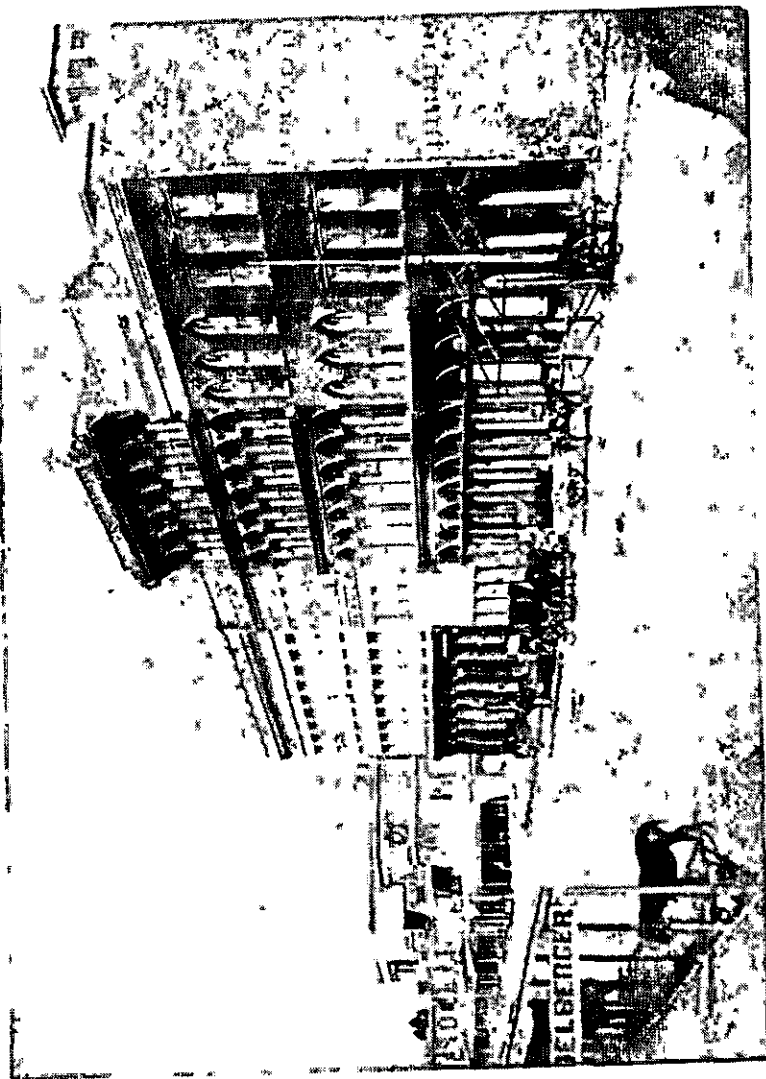
Was startled by an alarm of "fire" about 1 o'clock this morning. jumped into my breaches & boots & ran down Main Street. Found the Long Row in flames. the fire spread rapidly and soon laid every wooden building in the block in ashes. The fire communicated to the block on the oposit side of Main St. & soon consumed every store on that side (wood or brick) fronting on Main St. Sad sad. Many now behold the earnings of many years smoldering in the ashes. Only a year & 10 days since the entire block below was burnt down. & (see Jany 16th) A butcher named Mirekel Fleock shot & killed a police man by the name of [blank] at the Market this morning.—Whiskey! The ruins of last night are yet smoking & burning. Went down & called on Kate & Ellen.¹⁰

Sunday, March 11, 1860

A very pleasant day—attended S. School & Religious Worship Rev. Mr. Wayne of New Orleans preaches a *tryal* sermon preached noon & night

¹⁰Kate and Ellen Dart were the sisters of one of Forsgard's closest friends, a 27-year-old attorney named Joseph B. Dart. Joseph, Kate, Ellen, and their brother Christopher lived in the household of James Burke at the time of the 1860 census. All four were in their 20s.





Main Street between Congress and Preston, ca. 1865. The imposing Morris Building in the middle of the block was constructed in 1859. After the war, Forsgard's store was located on the corner of Main and Congress, on the side of the street not shown in this photograph.

Monday, March 19, 1860

Recd¹¹ a letter from Uncle Forsander. Weather very pleasant tho rather cold last night. Business pretty fair Attended church meeting, a meeting of the Trustees, I having been elected one of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church during my absence.

Tuesday, March 20, 1860

Weather fine and so business. Nothing transpired worth noticing After Tea, made a call in Frost-Town.¹²

Wednesday, March 21, 1860

Oh my! how dusty it is
Wrote to Bro James

Friday, March 23, 1860

Weather fine and so is business
Was at store till very late Posting the old Books.

Saturday, March 24, 1860

Rained considerably last night. Which has affectually settled the dust for a few days.

Made a call after Tea in Frost Town.

Sunday, March 25, 1860

Very fine weather Attended S.S. and Church noon & night. Mr. Phale preached

Took a walk over White Oak Bayou in the evening. That part of town is improving wonderfully.

Monday, March 26, 1860

Cold! Almost cold enough to snow. Why! this is a weather for this time a year. Have been tolerably busy. Not much time to sit by the stove.

Thursday, March 29, 1860

Weather fine & business fair. Called on E intending to take her to Madam Bishop's concert but twas so late when I got down there that we concluded not to go Especially as I was nearly crazy with a toothache.

Friday, March 30, 1860

Called on Dr. Morgan to have my tooth pulled. but he only broke it off and

¹¹received

¹²Frost Town (also called German Town) was located on Buffalo Bayou just below its junction with White Oak Bayou. Its first settlers date back to the 1820s. Many German immigrants settled in Frost Town in the 1830s and 1840s.

hurt me considerably without relieving the ache any.

E— left this morning on a visit to Columbia or Brazoria county.

Saturday, March 31, 1860

Called on Dr. M. again. He put some creosote or something on my tooth which relieved the pain a little.

"Twas very dusty this morning but a small shower at noon made it pleasant

Sunday, April 1, 1860

A beautiful day Attended Church and S.S.

My tooth has been troubling me all day. dont know if it is the *snag* or if it is the bruised and burnth condition of the gums. Toock a nap in the afternoon.

Sunday, April 15, 1860

Attended S.S. & church Rev. Mr. Castelton from Baton Rouge preached. Weather fine. Sermon one of the best I ever heard.

Saturday, April 21, 1860

To day they are having a celebration down on Sanjacinto a very pleasant day

Sunday, April 22, 1860

Commenced raining about midnight and rained incessantly till noon. Service in the Pres Church however noon & night. At 3 o'clock heard the alarm of fire—It had rained on a lot of Lime under a poor shed where they are building the new Episcopal Church which set fire to the Barrels & shed

Monday, April 23, 1860

Rained several small showers during the day. Paid a visit to A J Burke at night¹³

Wednesday, April 25, 1860

Very cold for the season trying to rain a little. Guess I'll go to the wedding to night Miss Jane Andrews is to be married to Mr F Lewellyn

Went—had a pleasant time.

Monday, April 30, 1860

Had a meeting in the Pres Church to call a Pastor Mr. Castleton was called. salary \$2000—

Tuesday, May 1, 1860

Great times here to day Sunday S convention and celebration. 1500

¹³According to the 1866 *Houston City Directory*, Burke lived on the block bounded by Smith, Louisiana, Lamar, and Dallas.

children on the ground (over the Bayou) besides men & women. A most beautiful sight & a pretty day I didn't go over tho but toock a long buggy ride with E— by moonlight.

Wednesday, May 2, 1860

A pretty day again Went down to Galveston Had fine times on the Bayou City. Jo Dart went down, and we spent the most of the night letting off our wits in private—after partying with the gals

Thursday, May 3, 1860

Jo & I toock a ride on the Beach before breakfast then went around and attended to some business, after which Jo returned on the boat. I remained to see friend F. Moller spliced to Miss Anna Crane which toock place at the house of Mr. Graves about 8 o'clock in the evening (3rd) quite a brilliant affair.

Returned home on the cars started at 10 o'clock arived at 2 o'cl called on E— got J B's Letters

Monday, May 28, 1860

Attended Professor Ryans Lecture on Eloquation at the academy.¹⁴

Tuesday, May 29, 1860

Attended Lecture again

Wednesday, May 30, 1860

Weather very warm & dusty.

Saturday, June 2, 1860

About 8 o'clock the alarm of Fire! was heard. I hastened to the scene at the corner of Prairie & [blank] Sts. our engine was coming just as I got there the carpenter shop of H. G. Pannell was in flames the wind was towards the dwelling house & that too was consumed. but by hard work the Fire was prevented from extending to other houses. Loss \$1000 to 2500

Sunday, June 3, 1860

Bro Jas. is here came down yesterday attended S. School & Church communion in the afternoon

Monday, June 4, 1860

Busy at the church having the old pulpit removed and some new pews put in

¹⁴The Houston Academy, the second institution of that name, was Houston's first chartered educational facility. It was housed in a two-story brick building constructed in 1857 on the block bounded by Rusk, Caroline, Capitol, and Austin streets.

Tuesday, June 5, 1860

J. J. Cain having discovered undue intimacy between his wife and Dr H. H. Smalley went in quest of the Dr. and finding him at the Finish fired on him with a shot gun the load taking effect in Smalleys arm and in the breast of the bar keeper. Cain's second shot lodged in the Drs shoulder. after which the Dr. ran up into the Biliard saloon & Jas Robertson took hold of Cain when C fired his revolver once or twice at him. Cain gave himself up, gave bonds for \$10,000

Thursday, June 7, 1860

A. Szabo was married to Kate Kelly last Tuesday night
Ketch¹⁵ & myself called at Mr. Bs to night Mary & Georgia¹⁶ sang & plaid for us.

Friday, June 8, 1860

They have been sprinkling Main St. for the last two days it is a decided improvement¹⁷

Called on Kate & Ellen

Tuesday, June 12, 1860

Had an moonlight excursion on the Bayou Four ladies & Five gent in the company & 4 negroes to propell. had plenty of Lemonade, cakes &c along landed on a romantic spot below & had a sort o picknic

Friday, June 15, 1860

Sam Houston is in town. Firing of guns on the Market Square. Speaking from the Kelly House galery—to night a very black cloud came sweeping over the city with every appearance of rain but not a drop came—Called at Wettermarks—Saw K & E home.

Saturday, June 16, 1860

Attended the Lodge to night. Ketcham & Billick were *pasd*

Monday, June 18, 1860

Very warm & dusty Went out to Tea at W. Maril's then called at Wettermark's there was quite a party—took K & E home in a carriage

Tuesday, June 19, 1860

Went to Mr. Bagby's to an Ice Cream supper given to Mr & Mrs Szabo had a very pleasant time. Walked home with Ellen

¹⁵Warren P. Ketcham, a bookkeeper.

¹⁶Daughters of A. J. Burke.

¹⁷Sprinkling the unpaved streets lightly with water reduced the amount of dust raised by passing traffic in dry weather.

Wednesday, June 20, 1860

Called at Mr Burkes Georgiana & Mary plaid on the piano & sang. & Mrs B. chatted

Saturday, June 23, 1860

Jo Dart spent the evening at my room. had Iced Lemonade, chatted, told anecdotes, drank *Toasts* in honor of the aneversary of exploring McGovern's garret

Sunday, June 24, 1860

It tried very hard to rain but couldn't. spent the evening in my room reading the same as the day Mr Taft preached

Monday, June 25, 1860

Looks very much like rain but only sprinkled.
Spent the evening in my room reading. Dr. Morgan called up & chatted a while

Tuesday, June 26, 1860

It managed to rain a little tho very little last night in consequence of which it has been a very fine day. Took Ellen out riding by moonlight

Sunday, July 1, 1860

Mrs Niles give up keeping boarding house. 'Tis almost like leaving home to leave a place where I have boarded so long.
Will commence at Mrs Hopsons on Monday

Monday, July 2, 1860

Called at Mr Bailey's to night Mr & Mrs Castleton were there Mr & Mrs. Perkin were there Mrs Moller & her mother from Galveston were up there too—

Attended washing of Fire Co

Tuesday, July 3, 1860

Attended meeting of Fire Co Ketcham was elected

Wednesday, July 4, 1860

went down below with Ketch—took Ellen out ariding by moonlight
Part of the Fire men are at Galveston celebrating the day.

Friday, July 6, 1860

Called at Mr. Burke's with Ketch. Mary & Georgie sang & plaid for us.

Saturday, July 7, 1860

Went to Dr Morgans & had a tooth plugged.
a company of "phantastics" about 20 in number made their appearance on horse & mule back about 5 O'clock & road up & down Main St.

Wednesday, July 11, 1860

Attended lodge acted as L. W.
Very hot now night and day

Thursday, July 12, 1860

Called at Mr Bs, to return Marys album. Attended Prayer meeting then called at Mr B's again to tell the girls good bye—they are going away to morrow to be gone some time—to school

Friday, July 13, 1860

Went up to Dr Morgan had him work on my tooth about an hour for which he charged me \$13- that's the way to make money. Called on the Miss S.' after Tea

Saturday, July 14, 1860

Surely a thunderstorm blue up about 5 oclock P. M. and with it we got a good shower

Had a glorious time in Dr. Bryans office about 9 & 10 oclock. Dr B., Dart, Norton & myself. smoked talked & drank a bucket full of Lemonade¹⁸

Sunday, July 15, 1860

As fair & sunny a day as usual. cant see that we have had any rain. Attended church at noon at 6 o'clock funeral sermon of Charles & Willie Vincent.—Toock Tea at Morgans at night attended Methodist Church

Tuesday, July 17, 1860

Rained all the morning pretty hard Start for N.Y. to day Left on Neptune no 2 at ¼ 5¹⁹ Ketcham accompanied me to Lynchburg. great many passengers onboard but nearly all strangers to me

Wednesday, July 18, 1860

Breakfasted at the Island City House. Attended to some business. then left on the S.S. Matagorda at 10 o'clock Weather very fine. never crossed the Gulf in a smoother time—yet didnt feel right.

Thursday, July 19, 1860

Passed the light House about day light arrived at Brashear city ½ past 8 o c at N. Orleans 1 o clock Started from N.O. on N.O.J.&GrtNR.R. at 8 PM Traveled all Night. Jaw hurts very bad. rested some

¹⁸L. Woodson Bryan was a dentist and one of Forsgard's closest friends. J. S. Norton, a merchant, may have been associated with Forsgard in business.

¹⁹Probably meaning "half past five," or 5:30 P.M.

Friday, July 20, 1860

Breakfast Canton 8 o cl 206 miles from N.O. Dinner at Grenada 1 o clock 87 miles from Canton Supper at Grand Junction 189 m from Canton passed Jackson 48 m from G.J. at 9 ¼ o clock

Saturday, July 21, 1860

Arrived at Columbus ½ past 2 at Caro at 5 O clock Started immediately on the Illinois Central R.R. Dined at Urbana ½ past Two. Arrived at Chicago at ½ past 8 oclock. put up at the Massasoit House

Sunday, July 22, 1860

It is raining & decidedly cool. after a good shave wash shampoo breakfast etc I walked around town for an hour or two. this Chicago is quite a place. Attended 2nd Presbytⁿ Church on Wabash Av. Started at 8 o clock for Detroit

Monday, July 23, 1860

Arrived at Detroit 282 miles 6 a.m. Breakfasted on the Boat. Started on the Great Western R.R. Canada for Susp Bridge Dined at London 12 M. arrived at Niagara 5 P.M. 7 Texians besides myself hired two carriages & traveled around to see the falls and all matters of interest thereabout.

Tuesday, July 24, 1860

Slept very well in the sleeping car last night tho' Jimeny aint it cold. I am nearly froze Breakfasted at Utica Went through Albany & down the Hudson RR whizing arrived in N.Y. 3 P.M. Washed got a new hat & went to Barnums²⁰

Wednesday, July 25, 1860

Knocked about to day and called on all my old business friends and made the acquaintance of great many more Left the Astor House for the Park Hotel.

Thursday, July 26, 1860

Went on board the "Great Eastern" she is indeed a monster craft. and many are they that go to see her—as many as 16 to 20,000 daily at 50 cts each

Friday, July 27, 1860

Commenced buying to day at A.S.B. & B. and called at several other places Went over to Brooklyn and toock Tea and spent the evening with Alex Agar last night

²⁰P. T. Barnum acquired the American Museum in 1841 and developed it into one of the best-known attractions in New York City. He rebuilt the museum after a fire in 1865, but closed it permanently after a second fire in 1868.

Saturday, July 28, 1860

Saw Our Am. cousin to night²¹ been buying wall paper & fancy goods to day and walked about some considerabl Called on friend Hoyt met Gregory etc

Sunday, July 29, 1860

Sloched about
was invited to dine over in Brooklyn but got in the cars at the Park & Went out to Harlem & did not return untill 2 oclock

Monday, July 30, 1860

Been busy buying to day.
Went up in the tower of Trinity Church to see the Great Eastern depart for Cape May

Tuesday, July 31, 1860

Busy buying again
Received a letter from Norton Wrote to Norton & to E

Wednesday, August 1, 1860

Went over to Boston at 5 P.M. via Fall River in the steamer Empire State had a pleasant trip

Thursday, August 2, 1860

Arrived at the American House this morning Attended the Trade sales in the forenoone. Met Perkins, Lee & others called on Swanberg, Blanchard A Ditson etc

Friday, August 3, 1860

Made some purchases met Burke, Sessums, Clarke, Gerson, Wilson, Browning & Burke. Returned to N.Y. via Stonington ½ past 5 P.M.

Saturday, August 4, 1860

Arrived in N.Y. on the steamer Plymouth Rock at 5 a.m. Put up at the Park Hotel Busy collecting my Invoices. at 3 o'Clock I in company with Mapes' Jr. & Loomis started out to Prof. Mapes' Farm. 11 miles out in Jersy It was well worth the trip to see it tho I did not return till 11 at night and it rained from sundown

Sunday, August 5, 1860

Sunday slept till 8 oclock. fine day Went up the 5th Avenue to the Hotel met Genl W. Wilborne. went to the church—found it closed Went over to Brooklyn in the afternoon Called on Agar road out to Greenwood returned toock Tea—

²¹Probably the play *Our American Cousin*, an enormously popular comedy of the era. President Lincoln was watching a production of this play the night of his assassination.

chatted a while with Mr & Mrs Agar then went to a Methodist Church—

Monday, August 6, 1860

Bussied about getting my bills to gather Made some purchases—

Tuesday, August 7, 1860

Same as yesterday
Called around at the Hotels after Tea looking for company home

Wednesday, August 8, 1860

Bussie as a bee all day getting matters to a focus so that I can start home to night. Started at 6 P.M.—Im sure I have forgotten something—but I am too anxious to get home to stay longer.

Thursday, August 9, 1860

Here I am at the Merchants Hotel Philadelphia—In consequence of hot Journals²² the train had to stop several times between here & NY. last night & at last leave the car (Baggage) behind yet missed the connection here & I have to lie over. this will bring me to N.O. too late for the Steam Ship & I will lose 2 days there

Friday, August 10, 1860

Left Philadelphia at 12 m yesterday passed through Baltimore Washington City Alexandria & through Lynchburg this morning passed the Va. springs. Toock supper at Jonesboro.

Saturday, August 11, 1860

Breakfast at Chattanooga Dined at Huntsville Ala Supped at Tuska Miss. Splendiferous peaches a dime a dozen as large as *small* melons.

Sunday, August 12, 1860

Travel! Travel! Traveling!!
Breakfasted at Canton Dined at Brookheaven and arrived at N.O. at ½ past 9 oclock

Monday, August 13, 1860

Here I am at the City Hotel and bound to stay till Wednesday morning. E. R. Withers is here

Tuesday, August 14, 1860

Met with Thos Bryan walked about the city some. called on Professor Dolbear²³ & saw Dyer. *tall Dyer*

²²A journal is the portion of a rotating shaft or axle which turns in a bearing. Overheated journals made it necessary to halt the train until they cooled.

²³Presumably the proprietor of Dolbear's Commercial College, where Forsgard studied.

Wednesday, August 15, 1860

Started this morning at ½ past 7 o'clock arrived at Brashear at 12. got on board the S S Orizaba had a very pleasant day & smooth sea

Thursday, August 16, 1860

Never felt better on crossing the Gulf wasn't sick a bit. Dr. Parsons & Katie were on board and as usual she favored me with some fine singing. arrived at Galveston 10 ¼ A.M. started to Houston & arrived this morning

Friday, August 17, 1860

How pleasant it is to get home! and meet with kind friends at every corner who with kind words and warm pressure of the hand congratulate on a safe return

Saturday, August 18, 1860

About 11 o'clock last night a fire broke out in the old N. Orleans House close to Kennedys bakery, which laid every building on the block in ashes including the Kelly House & some few houses on the next block

Monday, September 10, 1860

Have been ailing for several days and feel quite sick to day Called at Wettermark's to take Tea with a few friends Took a cup of Tea only & then returned home to bed

Monday, September 17, 1860

Have been sick a week (in bed) with the Typhoid fever. and am not clear of it yet. Mrs. Burke came in to day and took me out to her house 2 miles out where he has just moved to

Monday, September 24, 1860

Felt tolerably to day. road into town with Mr. Burke and spent the day in the store doing nothing however

Tuesday, September 25, 1860

Road into town again wrote a couple of letters and marked a few goods. remained in town and went to my room early

Wednesday, September 26, 1860

Spent the day in the store. feel very weak yet and not able to do anything

Thursday, September 27, 1860

Took a notion to go to Galveston to rusticate a while Started on the cars ¼ before 8 o'clock arrived at the Tremont ¼ before 12

Had an appetite for dinner the first in over 2 weeks Had a ride on the Beach Took Tea with F. Moller

Friday, September 28, 1860

Had another ride on the beach this morning with Mr. Roshey the news came here to day that the St. Bt.²⁴ Bayou City blew up last night on her way up to Houston. 12 killed Went up to Houston in Neptune No 3. Cost me \$13⁵⁰

Saturday, September 29, 1860

Took the Tap Road cars and went down below Sandypoint and fixed a sewing machine for Mrs. Kyle (an interesting young widdow) returned at 6 P. M.—Feel considerable improved—cost \$3⁰⁰

Sunday, September 30, 1860

A very bright and sunny day. Went to Church.

Monday, October 1, 1860

When I got to the store this morning I found that W^m had left the key at Gerson's and taken the car for Brazos City.

Andrew is sick and I have to work alone. E Rouget arrived to day

Tuesday, October 2, 1860

At work all day opening goods, when night comes I feel considerably used up Business is dull and what makes it worse I have to close the store when I go to my meals.

Friday, October 5, 1860

Same thing over hard works and alone in the store.

Tuesday, October 9, 1860

No service in our church to day. Mr. Castleton has got the dangue fever Weather very warm

Wednesday, October 10, 1860

Was invited to Cushing's to dinner²⁵ Went up and found Cleveland and Ellen Dart there had a very nice dinner &c

Thursday, October 11, 1860

Rained very hard this morning Heard last night that Ketcham had the dangue went down and staid with him last night.

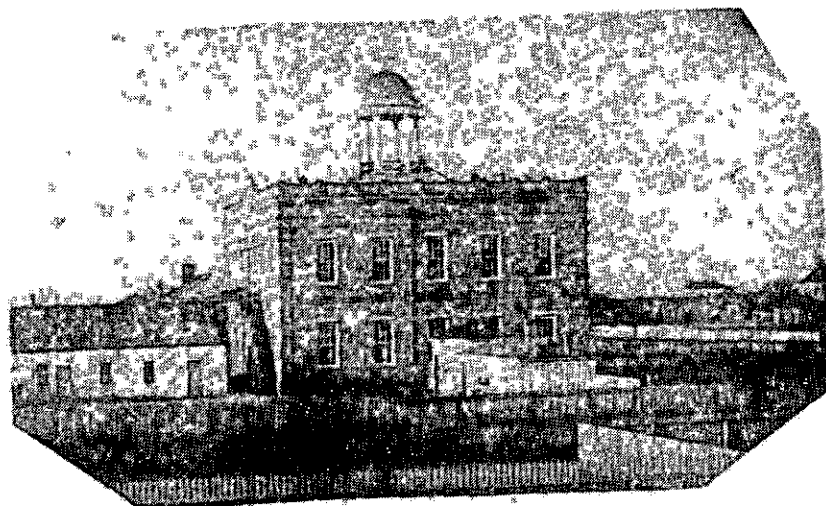
I am still alone in the store and working hard. Andrew is in the store occasionally

²⁴steamboat

²⁵At Edward H. Cushing's house, "Bohemia," the city's intelligentsia gathered. Cushing was the 30-year-old editor and publisher of Houston's newspaper, the *Tri-Weekly Telegraph*. He also had a printing business and bookstore.



Edward H. Cushing's house, "Bohemia," was built circa 1858. It stood on a 10-acre site now bordered by Holman, Elgin, Austin, and San Jacinto streets. Cushing's garden was famous for its many exotic varieties of flowers. The land on which Forsgard later built his house was adjacent to Cushing's property.



The Houston Academy was built in 1857 by Michael DeChaumes, the first experienced architect to work in Houston. In addition to serving as the city's school, the building was used for evening lectures and public meetings.

Saturday, October 13, 1860

Last night was a real winter night, and it has been cold in the shade all day
Fire is comfortable to night. Worked till late

Sunday, October 14, 1860

Attended church at noon & communion at 3 P.M. Attended Methodist church at night.

Weather fine but rather wintery

I heard that A. J. is sick

Monday, October 15, 1860

Very cold this morning frost they say and I believe it. the mercury stood at 50 in my room after sun up it has been chilly all day and cold again to night
Was in the store till ½ past 9.

Wednesday, October 17, 1860

Moderated last night and is just about cold enough to day business is tolerably good.

Ketch & Woodson Bryan called up at my room and played chess till 11 o'clock

Thursday, October 18, 1860

A very pleasant day The H&TCRR have changed their time. the freight Train leaves at 9 and the passenger Train at 11 A.M. frt arrives at [blank] a mail train at 6 P.M. Norton returned to night

Tuesday, October 30, 1860

Here it is again I have forgotten to write in my Diary for several days—but however nothing worthy of note has transpired It is very cold to day however and rainy.

Wednesday, October 31, 1860

The weather continues cold and rainy

Politics run high now adays.

Saturday, November 3, 1860

Business is very dull but the weather is pretty fair—

Miss B. ° Hⁿ and I called on Mr & Mrs. Massie after Tea²⁶

²⁶Belle Hopson, age 19, and her sister Nevline, age 14, along with a younger sister and brother, appear in the 1860 census as the children of Mrs. S. A. Hopson. The family owned considerable property, valued at \$15,000. A young woman and her small child also resided at the same address. It is probable that this is the same Mrs. Hopson with whom Forsgard began to board in July 1860.

Tuesday, November 6, 1860

The Presidential Election came off very quietly to day No doubt due to the fact there was no free Treats. Breckinridge & Lane got three to one.

Monday, November 12, 1860

It appears from the Telegrams that B & L have carried all but two of the Southern states and Lincoln all but one of the free states, New Jersey, which went for B & Lane.

Tuesday, November 13, 1860

Great excitement prevails. The South will never submit to be ruled by Lincoln (if he is elected which he undoubtedly is) under the principles on which he is elected.

Wednesday, November 14, 1860

Drizzling and Raining

The mass meeting called for to day convened at the Market House at 3 Pm Appointed a committee of 15 men of all parties to draft resolutions. then adjourned to the "academy" at candle light when Resolutions requesting the Governor to call a Legislature etc were read and adopted unanimously. Hurray—We have but one party now. *The South* and its rights Attended the regular meeting at the Masonic Lodge—early.

Sunday, November 18, 1860

A beautiful day, attended church. Heard Rev. T. Castleton. A part of the side of the Methodist Church fell down immediately after services, breaking down several Pews. at night Castleton preached to Business men. attended with Miss. Hⁿ.

Wednesday, November 28, 1860

Rainy and cold cleared off however and the evening was fair. Went out with A. J. B.²⁷ to put up some window shades and remained over night

Thursday, November 29, 1860

A beautiful day. Just cold enough to be pleasant Sun shining pleasantly.— Came in to Church and returned. Store closed service in the churches. It being the day appointed by the Governor as a Thanks giving day.

Friday, November 30, 1860

A concert & supper given to night by the Ladies of the Baptist Church and others for the benefit of the church—attended with Miss B. Hⁿ. had a very pleasant time of it

²⁷A. J. Burke

Monday, December 3, 1860

A fair day but dull Attended regular washing of Fire C^o Miss Belle left on the boat to go to Corpus Christy. Called at Mrs Hⁿ's with Ketch to make engagements for to morrow night's surprise.

Tuesday, December 4, 1860

Too cold! no party after all—It was to be out at "South Side" Postponed indefinitely

Friday, December 7, 1860

The surprise party will come off to night if it dont rain fine pleasant day

Saturday, December 8, 1860

The party did come off last night and we had a very pleasant time of it. I went with Miss Neveline H good company

Sunday, December 9, 1860

A pleasant day Attended church Norton returned last night

Monday, December 10, 1860

A fair day. business tolerable. Attended Bible Class at the Presbyterian church. Went home with Katie D

Wednesday, December 12, 1860

Sam Houston is to speak to night at the Academy at 7 o'clock. the citizens went from the Court House to the Academy in a torch light procession that no man could number. There to hear old Sam deliver an eloquent "Eulogy" on *him self* and the *past*. after which Judges P. W. Gray and Wharton made speeches pregnant with good sense and reason on the *present* and *future*. political aspects the degradation of submitting to Black republican rule, the necessity of secession, and the danger of delay The people said amen.²⁸

Monday, December 24, 1860

Weather tolerably fair and some business doing In obedience to an invitation from F. Moller of Galveston I started on the St. Bt. Diana to Galv started about sun down arrived in Galveston in due time. made several calles among my friends and acquaintances Dined at Mollers, some company—Toock Tea at Mrs. Crane's, & spent the evening there. lots of young folks there, fine time

²⁸Sam Houston, then governor of Texas, strongly opposed secession and made many pro-Union speeches around the state. After Texas voted to join the Confederacy in a popular referendum in February 1861, Houston refused to swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederate government and was removed from office by the Secession Convention.

Wednesday, December 26, 1860

Slept at the Island City House and after breakfast I started out and attended to some business Dined with Moller Road about a while in his buggy. Started home on the Neptune No 2.

Thursday, December 27, 1860

This morning found me safe and sound at home Attended the public Installation of the officers (in the Masonic Lodge) at the Court House at 11 o'clock. and Supper at Tuffly's at 8 P.M. Grand Time

Friday, December 28, 1860

Rainy and cold business dull
Spent the evening in my room Reading

Saturday, December 29, 1860

Miss B. Hⁿ returned this morning: looks as handsome as ever.
Muddy and trying to rain. very cold to night

Sunday, December 30, 1860

A beautiful sight! this morning to see the ground covered with *snow*.—in spite of the mud it remained on the ground till noon. A clear fair day attended church at night

Monday, December 31, 1860

Very cold last night the mud is frose hard and the pools of water in the street & Gutters frose over.

A sunny and clear day however tho very cold Called at M^r McGregor's after Tea pursuant to an invitation Met a very nice and select gathering of Ladies and Gentlemen there Had a nice supper fine singing & music and remained to see the New Year in. Just at 12 oclock some young Americans commenced to ring the Fire alarm bell (which just had been hung) and almost simultaneously all the bells in the city were ringing and the first impression was that a fire had broken out (our boys got out the engine) Thus the new year was ushered in among the ringing of bells music and song. and it was a beautiful moonlight night tho rather cold.



Gustav Forsgard's life during 1861 can only be guessed at. Politics took on an increasing importance as the schism between the Northern and Southern states deepened. Forsgard apparently developed a romantic interest in Belle Hopson; she is mentioned only casually in the 1860 volume, but the 1862 and 1863 entries record attachment, engagement, discord, and finally heartbreak.

In 1862, Forsgard closed out his business, as did many other Houstonians,

in order to join the Confederate Army. His entire stint in the army was spent in Texas, and his diaries for 1862 and the early part of 1863 record his increasing dissatisfaction with not being at the front and with the cavalry unit he had joined. In March 1863, he obtained a transfer and served as a lieutenant in the Signal Corps. He spent the remainder of the war serving in and around Galveston, assisting to fortify the Matagorda Peninsula against Federal invasion, and finally as signal officer on the steamer *Three Maries*.

**Volume 2: January-May 1862****Wednesday, January 1, 1862**

Sat up at the Hospital nursing last night. Didn't go to the Ball or Supper. The morning is cloudy & foggy but warm. Cleared up about noon. Ketch & I went out to try our guns in the evening and went to SouthSide to Tea stayed late. walked home.

Thursday, January 2, 1862

The weather still hazy. Business dull News unimportant The warlike aspects between England & the United States looks moore unlikely Itll be a backdown.

Friday, January 3, 1862

Very remarkable weather fine salubrious and warm as summer Fear we will suffer for it in future by having cold and rainy spring or sickly summer.

Sunday, January 5, 1862

Attended church noon & night Mr. Castleton preached an excellent sermon as usual.

The wind is in the North. Tis turning cold.

Monday, January 6, 1862

City election to day but very little excitement. weather fine.

Saturday, January 11, 1862

Am sitting up with Judge Spence to night he is very sick

Sunday, January 12, 1862

Fine as summer time. Attended church noon & night Attended the Funeral of Rev A. H. Wright a stranger who died at Jourdans. was buried by the Fraternity²⁹

²⁹the Masons

Monday, January 13, 1862

The weather has changed very suddenly. last night it was oppressively hot. To day it is cold as winter, with a Gray hazy sky and a strong sharp Norther blowing.

Tuesday, January 14, 1862

The weather still continues very cold, and business dull.

Attended pew renting at the church to night. Sat up with Judge Spence part of the night.

Wednesday, January 15, 1862

Weather has moderated and is sunny & fine

Judge E. A. Palmer died this morning at his residence He was well as usual last night When he was called to breakfast this morning he did not respond. and on entering his room they found he was dead—so sinks the weary soul to rest!

Thursday, January 16, 1862

The mail last night brought the sad intelligence of Col. Thos S. Lubbocks death. he died at Nashville Tenn. on the 9th inst where he has been seriously ill for some time.³⁰

Attended the funeral of E. A. Palmer this evening—he was buried with masonic honors.

Friday, January 17, 1862

The weather is cloudy and it rained quite hard at noon & during the evening Spent the evening at home—Plumer & Woodson came up and we plaid chess till "the small hours"

Saturday, January 18, 1862

The alarm of "Fire!" startled me about 3 O Clock this morning. In a moment I was up and at the Engine House (first there as usual). The fire was at R. S. Well's oposit Lockarts mill. The kitchen, dwelling house & all waš laid in ashes to gether with T W Whitmarshes new Ware House owing to the scarcity of water—The Tap Road Engine House and Hurds waggon factory was saved with great difficulties.

³⁰The brother of Texas Governor Francis R. Lubbock, Col. Thomas S. Lubbock was a Houston businessman who had arrived in Texas in 1835 and participated in the siege of Bexar and the Texan Santa Fe Expedition. He served in Virginia in the Civil War, taking command of Terry's Texas Rangers upon Terry's death, but dying of illness soon thereafter.

Sunday, January 19, 1862

Tis cloudy this morning and looks like rain. Attended church noon & Took a walk in the afternoon Attended church at night with Miss Neviline—

Tuesday, January 21, 1862

The cars arrived at 10 A.M. bringing the remains of Col T. S. Lubbock—The Lodge met and joined the funeral procession—Bro Jas is here—Stores closed all day weather clear & fine.

Wednesday, January 22, 1862

Weather still rather cold but fair & fine

To night attended regular meeting at the Lodge and acted as W. M. in the opening for the first time.

Thursday, January 23, 1862

Cold again to day but very fair.

Hired Horse & Buggy and Ketch & I went out to SouthSide and spent a couple of hours after Tea.

Friday, January 24, 1862

Weather very fair and pleasant

Bro James came up

Wednesday, January 29, 1862

Recd 2 Letters from norton to day by W Clark who returned from Va on furlough wrote to Norton

Weather cold

Thursday, January 30, 1862

Called at Cushings to night where I met the distinguished Poetess Miss Mollie E. Moore Quite a pleasant young lady.

Friday, January 31, 1862

Skrefo till "Edward Holmberg" Helsingborg—på Mrs. Möllers vägnar. [Wrote to "Edward Holmberg" Helsingborg—on behalf of Mrs. Möller] informing him of Fredrck Möller's duel.

Business dull—Weather moderate

Saturday, February 1, 1862

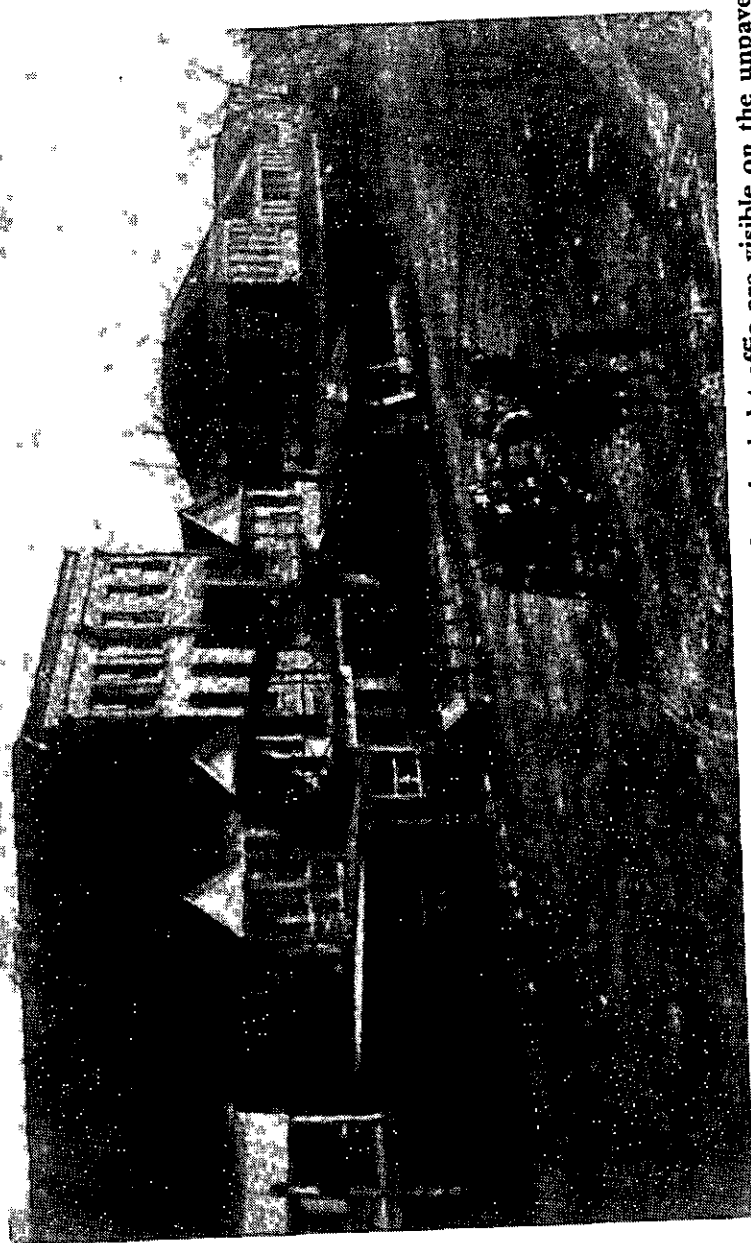
Got a Horse & buggy to night & Ketch and I went out to South Side to Tea

Sunday, February 2, 1862

Rather rainey

Attended church noon & night

Bro. James is up again



In this photograph of Main Street, circa 1866, ruts left by wheeled traffic are visible on the unpaved roadway. Teams of oxen hauling heavily loaded carts, like the one shown, raised clouds of dust in dry weather or were mired in mud when it rained.

Monday, February 3, 1862

Rained very hard early this morning. very hard but cleared up towards noon and was very sunny & beautiful My birthday! well I am now just twenty years older than I was twenty years ago.

Lodge met at 3 O clock attended the funeral of A J Songay.

Tuesday, February 4, 1862

A Beautiful day to day rather chillie

Attended regular monthly meeting of Fire Company to night—

Wednesday, February 5, 1862

Rather cloudy day but no rain. got a horse & buggy in the after noon took Cato out and went out to Camp Moores Regiment. took supper with Capt. Timmons. came home about 7 o clock.

Thursday, February 6, 1862

Drizzling a little to day but no rain. The Odd Fellows are giving a grand Ball to night at Perkin's Hall. Got a horse & Buggy and took Miss B' out riding after Tea went out to South Side, and out to camp, down to Engelkes and all about Had some talk again very pleasant. Om hon ej blir min husfru inom kort so är jag badly fooled. [If she does not become my housewife within a short time then I am badly fooled.] will know soon.

Sunday, February 9, 1862

A pleasant day but cold

B' gick ut pa landet idag utan at gifva mig swar. och hon gick med Högmodig fot ocksa haha! [B' went into the countryside today without giving me an answer. and she walked proudly too haha!] I wonder.

Monday, February 10, 1862

Very cold but very pleasant.

Attended a party at Mrs. Sessum's to night very brilliant array of beauty. left early very cold

Tuesday, February 11, 1862

Skrefo ett brefe till B' att lemna henne nar jag näst ser henne. [Wrote a letter to B' to leave her when I see her next time.] Telling some wholesome truths. Called at Col. Andersons after Tea engaging Miss Maggie to go to the concert.

Wednesday, February 12, 1862

Attended the concert with Miss Maggie to night. a very pleasant affair

Monday, February 17, 1862

Weather moderated—very fine. Handed Miss B'. that letter at noon. After Tea sade hon att hon hadde inget swar men önskade att tala med mig [After

Tea she said that she had no answer but she wanted to speak to me] I attended meeting of the Texas Gray's³¹ at the Courthouse then returned and had a chat "Godt och Kort." hon sade ja! ["Good and Short." she said yes!] and that of course put a stop to any further arguments. Den Sjuttonde är darfor den vigtigaste dagen i mitt lifs. Må den aldrig bli ångrad. [The seventeenth is therefore the most important day of my life. May it never be regretted.] Jas went up to day

gave B^l a bracelet i guell. [this evening.]

Tuesday, February 18

Attended initiation at the Lodge.

Wednesday, February 19, 1862

N.O. Cars arrived last night bringing bad news. Bombardment of Roncoak Island and capture of 1700 Confederates

Rained very hard last night and turned cold

Clear to day. Attended meeting Texas Grays at Court House. Then went over & spent a couple of hours with my duck.³²

Thursday, February 20, 1862

Clear to day but very chillie. Business dull. Ketch & I went out to South Side (on horseback) stayed to Tea and a while after.

Friday, February 21, 1862

Called on Miss Mollie E Moore at Mr Cushings and consequently did not attend the meeting of Texas Grays Nevertheless was elected 2nd Seargant.

Sunday, February 23, 1862

Attended the Episcopal Church. Walter Richardson was ordained and at night I witnessed the ceremonies of confirmation, their Bishop _____ officiating Called at Cushings in the evening by invitation.

Monday, February 24, 1862

A very beautiful day Texas Grays turned out to drill but had a very small turnout.

Thursday, March 6, 1862

Fred DeLisdenier is going to Va. to morrow. wrote to Norton & Burns & sent by him.

Spent the evening with my Duck—very pleasantly—

³¹One of several units organized by Houstonians to fight in the Civil War.

³²Apparently his pet name for Belle.

Friday, March 7, 1862

Weather moderate. meeting of Texas Grays this afternoon. Spent the evening at Dart & Mastersons rooms.

Monday, March 10, 1862

A vague rumor is in circulation to the affect that Genl. Price has gained a great victory over the Federals at Boston Mountain Ark. Hope it is true.

Tuesday, March 11, 1862

Rose early this morning went over to the N.O. Depot to see Col. Moores Regiment Texas 2nd Inf. off. they left for Arkansas.

Monday, March 17, 1862

Advertised in The Telegraph \$25 Bounty per month A Substitute Wanted to stay at home During the War and attend to a small business while the owner is in the army apply at Forsgards Book Store. N. B. No ablebodied young men need apply.—Had sundry applicants. Attended To-Gon-Won's Exhibition at Perkins with Miss Belle.

Tuesday, March 18, 1862

Rather cloudy to day rained some, in the afternoon.

Togonwon the Chinese Juggler is still performing at Perkin's Hall, for the benefit of the Hospital

Sunday, March 23, 1862

Stayed in my room all day Except going to Church. Towards night Ketch & I walked out to South Side remained there to Tea then walked home Weather fair but chillie

Monday, March 24, 1862

A Fire broke out in the "News office" about midnight destroyed the whole building between Perkins Hall & Rusk House Armstrong & Burkes Book Stores Bradys office & Dalys Printing Office

Wednesday, March 26, 1862

Sold out my entire stock to Will Armstrong & Bro Sold at cost are buisy taking inventory

Thursday, March 27, 1862

Still buisy taking inventory

Weather blustering

Friday, March 28, 1862

Still buisy taking stock

Had a difficulty with J D Cage about pew rent He contending that he had

paid more than he actually had. he got ripping mad and cursed me. In consideration of his age, I considered it nobler in me to take an insult than to resent it. and more especially as the books and his receipts proved that I was in the right—I went off and left him

Saturday, March 29, 1862

Still buisy at the store. taking stock Got through this evening.
Stayed with Bell till midnight. Talking and having a pleasant time

Monday, March 31, 1862

Buisy adding up the amt of stock It foots up \$6055.55
Weather very windy & dusty

Tuesday, April 1, 1862

Bro James came down to day. will stay till to morrow
Bought 614 acres of Land in Cypress & 5½ acres near the machine shop on the N.O.R.R. of D. Gregg for \$750.00

Wednesday, April 2, 1862

Had a conversation with Mr. T. C. Armstrong on military affairs. he offered me the position of 1st. Lieutenant in his company

Monday, April 7, 1862

Had a splendid rain last night.
Jag har förlidit de tre sista aftnarna hos min "Tilltänkt" till langt fram på natten. [I have spent the last three evenings with my "intended wife-to-be" until late at night.] Oh! the bliss and joy exceeds description. Though known to the virtuous alone.

Wednesday, April 9, 1862

It was my intention to leave for the seat of war this morning but find it difficult to get along without a pass port so I have written to Gov. Lubbock for one & must await his reply The concert at Perkin's Hall was quite a success closing \$550⁰⁰ for the Families of Soldiers

Thursday, April 10, 1862

I am suffering with a severe cold in my head which renders me unfit to attend to any business. James is leaving in the morning Told him good bye expect to see him in Terreys Regt. soon

Friday, April 11, 1862

A good shower of rain fell this morning
The day is pleasant and quite beautiful

Saturday, April 12, 1862

After Tea I remained at the house a while. Asked B^l if she would like to take a ride (tis a beautiful moon light night) she did not answer yes or no, although I waited a while, so I thought it rather cool & left.

Sunday, April 13, 1862

A beautiful day. Attended church noon. At night I did not go to church, but remained at the house to see B^l. hadnt seen her all day. at last she came in and we had a talk or rather a quarrel she was appearantly much offended at my leaving so abruptly last night. while I thought I was the one who had cause to be offended—made it up at last that neither had any cause

Tuesday, April 15, 1862

I am ready to go to the War. To join Wharton's Regiment at Corinth or the 5th Txs in Va. just waiting to hear from Gov. Lubbock in reply to my request for a pass port. and in reply to Abercrombies letter requesting my appointment as Transportation agent for the State.

Thursday, April 17, 1862

'Tis time I had an answer from Austin but none yet.
I am tired of this delay.

Monday, April 21, 1862

The news to day are more encouraging. Conscription Law passed. We are all soldiers now. for three years. i.e. all between the ages of 18 & 35 years

Tuesday, April 22, 1862

I am and has been for two weeks suffering with a bad cold in my head. and also by Tooth ache.

Wednesday, April 23, 1862

Went down to Sandy Point to day. together with some 20 masons to assist Morton Lodge in performing certain funeral ceremonies over Bro Tomlinson—Returned at 5 o clock attended Regimental drill of the militia—& Regular meeting of the Lodge to night.

Thursday, April 24, 1862

Had a long talk (or rather quarrell) with B^l to night. Told her the rumors I had heard &c.—After we had compared notes we were better pleased with each other than ever

Wednesday, April 30, 1862

Attended Regimental drill this evening.
Chriss Dart & I road out to "SouthSide" to Tea Spent a part of the night there very pleasantly.

Thursday, May 1, 1862

Started on the cars to go up but met Ferguson at the 5 mile station so B & I returned home. Attended meeting at the Court House to night (A Phizzle) Spent an hour very pleasantly with my duckey

Friday, May 2, 1862

Left Houston on the cars at noon. got on the stage at Cypress 2 P.M. arrived at Montgomery 11 P.M. Put up at Englishs

Saturday, May 3, 1862

Knocked around a little in Montgomery to day Bought a horse of parson Dealey (\$200) Started at 3 P.M. for Anderson (21 miles) Arrived there at 7 P.M. Put up at Fanthorps very tired—

Sunday, May 4, 1862

Left Andersen after breakfast and went as far as Milican's (14 miles) where feeling sick & tired I rested for the day but got tired of resting in such a lonesome place Oh if I was only home.

Monday, May 5, 1862

Left Milican at 7 A.M. Arrived at Hempstead at 9 on the cars Left my Horse there & proceeded to Houston. got there at 1 P.M. After Tea B' & I called at Mrs Wilson's. after which I spent a couple of hours with B.

Tuesday, May 6, 1862

Rather warm to day. Bad News to day New Orleans in the possession of the Yankees. Their forces have landed.³³
I spent the night *as usual*

Wednesday, May 7, 1862

Went up to Hempstead to day.
Rained right smartly this evening. A dull place this

Thursday, May 8, 1862

Returned Home to Houston

Monday, May 12, 1862

Went up to Hempstead to join Rev. J. E. Ferguson's Artillery company But after looking around a few days we found that he would not get it up—Stayed over night in Capt. Wood's camp

³³The U.S. Navy took New Orleans on May 1, 1862.

Tuesday, May 13, 1862

Knocked around Hempstead to day making the Exchange Hotel (Capt. Wallace's camp) our headquarters.

Wednesday, May 14, 1862

Jas. Masterson & I went up to Brenham this evening Joined Hargroves cavalry company to be attached to the 5th Rgt. Txs. in Va.

Thursday, May 15, 1862

Returned home to Houston
Went out to South Side this evening

Sunday, May 18, 1862

Capt. Eagle U.S.A. commanding the Santer. (Blockading Galveston) demanded a surrender of that city yesterday—which was refused. Sat up last night with Lieut. Wilcoxon who was sick at Mr. Burke's he died this morning

Monday, May 19, 1862

Eagle notified the foreign councils [consuls] at Galveston to have their property—wimen and childnd removed in four days.
One transport in sight

Tuesday, May 20, 1862

Nothing further from Galveston
Bought a Horse of W. C. O. Driscoll \$175⁰⁰ Saddle & Bridle of Bond \$50⁰⁰

Thursday, May 22, 1862

General O. P. Hebart has proclaimed Martial Law to day—here & at Galveston and in all the coast counties of the State.

Wednesday, May 28, 1862

Weather pleasant rather warm.
Road out to South Side this evening staid to Tea Told all good bye. Kissed the girls & Left.

Thursday, May 29, 1862

Left to day for Brenham to join the company

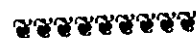
Memoranda [section at back of diary]

"Oh, human love! how blessed thou art. when sanctified of God, and experienced in the hallowed smiles of virtue. But all the fiends are merciful compared with thy retributive curse, when thou art evoked in the bosom of Guilt, or called to break the sacred sanction that guards the meanest home!"

Tangletown Letters

Reflections—But I dont think *Love* can be base though *passion* can—and here

is the difference Irresistible longings and desires which can never be gratified or contented except in the holy reciprocations of connubial affection. This I call love—But passion can be quenched. passion can be base. Love must be pure as the untrodden mountain snow. Passion is like a stream, changing with every season and temperature. Turbid, placid warm, cold, Icey, swollen overflowing the banks (of reason) carrying away or destroying everything in its way—Love is like the hilside spring: constantly gushing forth its pure and refreshing stream, self purifying, cannot be poluted or affected by temperature



Volume 3: May 1862-April 1863

Wednesday May 14, 1862

Was sworn in to the confederate army to day at Brenham

Thursday, May 29, 1862

Left Houston on the cars to go to Brenham to meet the company (Capt. Hargroves) Had quite a time telling "good bye" got more "God bless yous" from old folks and more kisses from "young lady folks" than I ever had in my life—at Hempstead I found that I could not get my Horse on the Brenham cars so I went on horseback as far as Mr Womacks where I had a good nights rest on a feather bed—pretty good soldiering—for gratis

Friday, May 30, 1862

Arrived at Brenham to day at noon—very hot. wrote to A.J. Burke & S.W. Bryan. Started for T. Affleck's—to buy a horse for Jack Burke Went by Camp Waul—stayed at Affleck's over night

Saturday, May 31, 1862

Returned to Brenham put up at Crumpler's Hotel. Very hot to day I am not well will not go to camp to day Rained this evening

Brenham, Sunday, June 1, 1862

Went out to camp a while to day but returned and slept at the Hotel.

Monday, June 2, 1862

Went out to camp to day. Had some corn dodgers & Bacon and some Drill—

Tuesday, June 3, 1862

Same to day Went to Brenham to Tea & returned Wrote to Belle

Friday, June 6, 1862

Last night our peaceful slumber was disturbed by a shower of rain which crowded us all into the only tent at double quick—By daylight the cloud passed away and the sun appeared. revealing to our astonished view a barren camp. the Hogs had robbed us of all our Bacon & beef—consequently we breakfasted on bread and squirrels (all who were fortunate enough to kill some)—and dined on cornbread and boiled onions—I fear we'll all get the gout. Recd a Letter from Belle

Sunday, June 8, 1862

Woodson Bryan & I road out to "Camp Waul" to preaching to Col McAdoo's to dinner then to Camp Waul to Brenham & to Camp Hargrove

Tuesday, June 10, 1862

Weather very hot but nights cold Wrote to Belle—yesterday & to day. Went out to Ceador Lake to day & then to Brenham

Saturday, June 21, 1862

Yesterday the company went up to the W. C. militia camp to a barbecue dinner given for our benefit. Rather a poor thing in my opinion. Went in town this evening. got two letters from my Belle else everything goes on as usual. no telling when we leave

Sunday, June 22, 1862

Geo. Wynne & I went to Chapplehill to day Then I wrote to Belle, Woodson Bryan & A J Burk & Jas R Masterson. weather scorching hot.

Thursday, June 26, 1862

Capt R.W. Hargrove regularly mustered in the company to day

Friday, June 27, 1862

Was daitled on special duty today for 6 days, and started home on the cars.

Saturday, June 28, 1862

Was made a "Royal Arch" Mason—to night together with Truße & Riley. gave a colation³⁴

Sunday, June 29, 1862

Dined at Mr. Morgans attended church at night with Miss Belle.

Tuesday, July 1, 1862

Last evening I went out to Mr. A.Js & staid to Tea. The weather is extremely hot now. Wrote home to day Sent by Wagner to "run the Blockade"

³⁴Collation, a light spread of food and drink.

Wednesday, July 2, 1862

Returned to camp
Regular camp Rotine until the 12th when I went down to Houston and remained till the 17th

Remained in camp as usual untill August 4th Went down to Houston 5th
Returned to camp

Monday, August 18, 1862

Still at camp and no knowing when we will get off. Nothing noteworthy occuring. Wrote to my "Duck" every few days and get letters, as often.

Tuesday, August 29, 1862

Received leave of absence for two weeks went down to Houston. arrived safe & sound in due time. Rain every day

Houston, Wednesday, September 10, 1862

Some rain to day attended regular meeting of Holland Lodge to night. Presided for the *first* time.

Monday, September 15, 1862

Went up to camp

Sunday, September 28, 1862

Left our camp on Wooddards creek Marched to Chapple Hill Camped then marched to Hempstead Monday

Monday, September 29, 1862

I have been acting orderly sergeant of the company for the last two weeks and to day, I drew the first rations that our company has drawn from the commisary We are camped below Hempstead about ¼ mile below Clear Creek & ½ mile below the Rail Road

Sunday, October 12, 1862

Slight frost this morning. day fair. The Col has for several days had orders to be ready to move at an hours notice. I went to Hempstead wrote to Belle

Sunday, October 19, 1862

A detachment of our company had some "heavy skirmishing" at "*Bullock's Run*" last night. none killed. Sgt. Sewell shot in the right leg badly. for particulars see "*Official Reports*" Another skirmish in *town* to day Several *dead* drunk. one prisoner (Rogers) Indeed our company is making a reputation worthy of Rowdies and scallawags.

Thursday, October 23, 1862

Our Company was paid to day: From inlistment in May 'till 1st Sept. My pay amtd to \$104 40

Tuesday, October 28, 1862

Last Friday night a norther blew up, and it cleaned our camp. Tents, arbors etc. blew down, we had to move down in to the thimber for shelter The weather has continued very cold since. Heavy frost every morning. Moderating to day.

Friday, October 31, 1862

Our company has been paid off to day, By Capt T. N. Minter for two months to date. My pay \$58-

The weather is rather warm again. Oh dont I wish I could go home for a day or two.

November 1862

Went down to Houston on Tuesday the 4th and returned to camp on the 7th. I was *sent down* to buy things for the boys *austensibly*.

November 1862

I was taken sick with Intermittent fever on the evening of the 14th and was sick for several days. the weather during the time was very cold and rainey. After three days the fever left me but I was then attacked with what the D^r. calls "Exhema" a kind of eruptions on the skin of my face and wrists. some thing like severe "prickley heath" it is now getting better and the skin peels off like dandurf.

Saturday, November 22, 1862

I am left almost alone to day. The men are gone to Hempstead to see a Horse Race, gotten up by some officers in Greens Rgt. I wrote to Belle, Burke & Masterson

Saturday, November 29, 1862

I am not quite well yet. I have been attending to my business as orderly though, ever since I got up. I recd. a letter to day from B^e the first since I saw her last.

Wednesday, December 3, 1862

Recd orders to day to be in readiness to march to Miss. next Sunday

Friday, December 5, 1862

Went down to Houston. Returned on Saturday. Never enjoyed myself better in B's company than I did the few hours I spent there this time. A serious accident happined in camp during my absence. R. D. Storey accidently shot himself while on guard, The load passing through both his hands.

Tuesday, December 9, 1862

About 1 oclock P.M. our transportation (two waggons 6 goat mules in each)



The banner behind these unidentified Confederate officers denotes their service with the Texas Legion (Whitfield's Legion) at battles in Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas, and in Corinth, Mississippi—the type of war service Forsgard longed for. Texas had two legions, defined as a mix of cavalry, infantry, and artillery. Judging by their uniforms, the seated officer belonged to an artillery unit, while the standing officer was in the cavalry.

arrived and the order was given to strike Tents and pack up. 3 o'clock we were on the Road for Genl Price's army in Mississippi. we proceeded some 8 or 9 miles when a courier overtook us with orders from Genl. Magruder countermarching our march and ordering us to report to Lt. Col. Fluellen at *Austin* we returned to our camp where we arrived about 8 o'clock P.M. The ladies along our road who waved their hkfs⁵⁵ as a farewell when we went came out to their gates in the dusk and cheered lustily when we returned.

Wednesday, December 10, 1862

The same old thing in camp to day except Greens Regt stole everything moveable while we were gone—
cold to day

Saturday, December 13, 1862

Struck tents and started on the march 12 o'clock M. Met a Regt. of Sibleys Brigade as we passed through Hempstead. Halted ½ mile from town to wate for our waggons (I got leave and returned to town long enough to write to Bl)—Crossed the Brazos at Stevensons Ferry. Camped 1½ miles from the river Drizzling rain all day and night. 7 miles to day

Sunday, December 14, 1862

The bugle sounded at 3 A.M. cooked, ate breakfast and loaded up the waggons. Marched at daylight Rained constantly. roades very muddy. Passed through Chapple Hill at noon. Halted at W^m Chappells where we got some refreshments (i.e. Pork & corn dodgers) went some 3 miles further and camped (between Busters & Mrs. Hargroves) 12 miles to day

Monday, December 15, 1862

The rain continued very desperately during the night and morning found us in mud and water knee deep.

We got an early start It cleared up during the day. Passed through Brenham and a little Dutch⁵⁶ town called Berlin and camped on Mill Creek 7 miles from Brenham where we had plenty of wood & muddy water 13 miles to day Some of the boys got tight Cob, Ford, Randle Martin & a dozen others and cut up the very mischief along the road and especially at Berlin Rested on the 16th

Wednesday, December 17, 1862

Got an early start weather fine. passed through Round Top Camped at Col. Moores near Rutersville. got corn & bacon free of charge from the Col. water bad & scarce 22 miles to day

⁵⁵handkerchiefs

⁵⁶Deutsch, meaning German.

Thursday, December 18, 1862

Went by Winchester & Cunninghams and as far as Hill 12 miles below Bastrop. Here for the first time we got plenty of corn & fodder and tolerable water. 20 miles to day No rains up this way

Friday, December 19, 1862

Started early. passed through Bastrop—(forded the Colorado) Camped at Alexanders 8 miles above Bastrop bought some corn from him at \$3 per Bu no water nearer than a mile. 20 m to day.

Saturday, December 20, 1862

Our march was through a barren country south of the Colorado to Onion Creek 8 miles from A. forded the river 3 miles below town. passed through Austin. recrossed the river and camped on the sand bar oposit town. 22 miles to day. I got permission and went in Town. staid at Rosengrens over night. Several of the boys came over in town and cut up considerable "drunkification Didos"³⁷

Sunday, December 21, 1862

Breakfasted at A. B. Palms returned to camp. Struck our tents and started in search of a good camp ground in the neighborhood of town Took the Georgetown road for some 5 miles and finally brought to a halt up in the mountains some six miles north of Austin at a place called "Spicewood Springs" but which the boys denominate Phort-hollow—about an acre of tolerably level black soil, covered with briars, brambles, & Brush and some large trees. Surrounded on nearly all sides by craggy mountains covered by scrubby cedars and Prickly Pears. The last place in creation for a *good* camp No forage for our horses I road to town after dark C. G. Palm took care of my horse and Bingtson of me.

Monday, December 22, 1862

Dined with Gus Palm Called on several of my old friends and countrymen Returned to camp by dark John Palm kindly lent me a ponie to ride while C. G. took care of my horse.

Tuesday, December 23, 1862

Raining to day our camp is a perfect stick-in-the-mud.

Wednesday, December 24, 1862

Occasional sprinkles of rain most of the men gone to Town I should like to devote a few pages to the description of the "Originals" in

³⁷"To cut up didoes" was a colloquial phrase meaning to behave in an extravagant or mischievous manner.

our company viz. "Capt." "Milkesadek."³⁸ "Pealegs". "Purp". Lester. "Snipes" "Boatsman" and the blacks, Peter & "Culpepper" But it is too much of a task They are however so "original" some for the want of sense, and some for the quere way in which they use it. That I will ever recollect them without any memorandum. A few of the Capts. "Stereotype Phrases" ought to be *saved* however so here it goes. *underlining* all the Stereotype "*Twill be good morning to them*" who "*Run against lightning*" or "*Go up against heavy timber*" in this "*Lay out*" and "*If you dont like the meat get out of the smokehouse*" "*If h-l stands at the gate*" "*Dont want none of it*" "*If there is no law in the Confedracy Id like to know it.*" "*Im still Captain of this Layout*" "*I'm not pot-gutted about a fight*" "*Go under*" "*I pass*"

Thursday, December 25, 1862

Weather warm and inclined to be raining. only about a dozen men in camp to day. Mr. Davis, son of [blank] Davis came down and invited us to dinner—our camp is about a mile from his house—Went up, had a very good Christmass dinner and some very patriotic talk from the Lady of the house.

Friday, December 26, 1862

Nearly all in camp. Went to town in the evening Recd a present of a neatly embroidered red coat of Mrs S Palm and Laura staid at Rosengrens over night

Saturday, December 27, 1862

Returned to camp early this morning. Drill. Went to town about sun down Supped at A B Palms

Sunday, December 28, 1862

Wrote to Bl. Attended the Episcopal Church Went out to Swensons to dinner returned to town late in the evening Took Tea at Swante Palms. Attended the Methodist Church. Wrote to Mollie B.

Monday, December 29, 1862

Dined with S. Palm. returned to camp in the evening found no Com Officers there. Most of the men gone or leaving.

Tuesday, December 30, 1862

A very stiff norther blew up last night & continued all day Weather very fine.

Wednesday, December 31, 1862

Very cold last night "Water went to sleep."

³⁸Possibly a misspelling of the name Melchisedek.

Thursday, January 1, 1863

A clear & beautiful morning clouded up about noon & 2 P.M. commenced a drizzling rain which continued all day. Struck camp & started on the march at 3 P.M. passed through Austin & camped on the South side of the Colorado oposit the ford. At our old camp. Went over in town took Tea at Rosengrens Called at S. Palms. Wrote to Bl Slept at the store

Friday, January 2, 1863

Breakfasted at R's. then went to camp. Started on the march at 10 A.M. went 5 miles below Webberville to Moores Well & camped 20 miles to day. Recd Let from B.

Saturday, January 3, 1863

Started early passed through Bastrop and camped 12 miles this side—at Hills again. 20 mils to day Met the Stage this evening and heard the gratifying news that the Federals had been whiped out of Galveston & Galveston Bay early New Years day³⁹—Hooray—yet my anticipations about being in the fight are vanished.

Sunday, January 4, 1863

Traveled 16 miles to day & camped on the banks of the Colorado 4 miles above LaGrange—a very good camp ground.

Monday, January 5, 1863

Rested to day went afishing only got one good size [illegible]. We hear extravagant rumors of men congregating and fortifying at Frelzburg to resist the draft.⁴⁰ Suppose we are to go to that neighborhood—May get into a fight yet.

Tuesday, January 6, 1863

Marched through LaGrange & Fayetteville camped 2 mils below at Bob Chappell's. 20 m to day

³⁹The U.S. Navy captured Galveston late in 1862 but a combination of naval and land forces under the command of Major General John B. Magruder retook the city in the Battle of Galveston on January 1, 1863. The island remained in Confederate hands throughout the rest of the war.

⁴⁰Reports of armed resistance to the draft during 1862-63 resulted in several Texas counties being placed under martial law and use of Confederate troops to subdue and jail the resisters. About 800 men were reported by Colonel W. G. Webb to be in arms in Colorado, Fayette, and Austin counties early in 1863. (Frelsburg and Columbus are in Colorado County.) However, Forsgard's diary entries suggest that rumors and unfounded fears may have greatly exaggerated the amount of such resistance.

Wednesday, January 7, 1863

Moved some 3 miles further down and camped on Cummins Creek at the mouth of Mosquete Creek. A tolerably good camp in dry weather but boggy & muddy when it rains. Our Capt surely is the poorest hand I ever saw at selecting camp grounds. The boys call this "Camp Phizzle Point."

Thursday and Friday, January 8 and 9, 1863

Busy fixing up camp putting up picket ropes hauling and packing wood &c &c

Saturday, January 10, 1863

Rained very hard last night & nearly drenched us wrote to Bl & Cushing Recd Letter from Mollie B & Bl.

Tuesday, January 13, 1863

Seven men in the Guard tent to day—21 on guard and detail—a great deal of dissatisfaction among the boys. How can men be satisfied with such treatment as we get. We have been in camp 9 months, fared harder and endured more hardship than most of the C. S. soldiers Yet they have gained laurals and we—nix—the boys are getting desperate on Bee hunting &c.⁴¹

Thursday, January 15, 1863

Went to LaGrange in the evening. had a very disagreeable ride bad roads after the heavy rains. Wrote to Bl. recd no letters no news.

Sunday, January 18, 1863

The coldest night of the season—the ground was perfectly white with frost, sleat & snow Commenced raining at 10 A.M. and continued all day—our camp is a perfect bog.

Monday, January 19, 1863

A clear & pretty day. drying ourselves and our clothes.

Tuesday, January 20, 1863

a fine day. Capt started to Houston. A kind of vermin, denominated "gray-backs" by the boys, have made their appearance in camp They appeared in force in our neighboring mess (no 5). Steps are taken to expell them. Great God! Can this be patriotism? To live as we do on felons fare—corn meal salt & beef—deprived of every comfort and most of the necessaties of life: in an out of the way place where we can neither hear, see, or do anything for our

⁴¹Forsgard explains later that "bee hunting" was a nighttime raid by the soldiers to steal the local farmers' beehives for the honey.

countries good!—No! it *may* be called so but it is just a ruse to fill some cowardly officers pocket and keep us poor diluded fools in *purgatory*

Friday, January 23, 1863

Rained nearly all day Capt returned from H.

Saturday, January 24, 1863

The rain continued pouring down last night, the creek rose some 15 feet. We and all our estate, real and personal, got wet Capt went to Columbus to day. A. J. Evans got a transfer to the 2nd Texas Rgt. I envy him.

Sunday, January 25, 1863

Drizzling rain all day. Cap returned Night and next day no corn or fodder 25 & 26

Monday, January 26, 1863

Waul Love discharged Eight men viz the ones in arrest. Coles, Ford, Hale, Hill, Jackson, Love 1st. and Martin 1st & Taylor 3rd were taken down to Columbus this morning to be court-martialed. A detail of ten men escorted them down viz Barmore, Ferguson, Griffin 1st. Hall, Haynie, Kusel 1st, Kemp 2nd. Lampkin 2nd. Mathis & Taylor 2nd. in charge of Lt. Ackerman and Cpl Middleton besides these the Capt and Pvts Cox, Nance & Taylor 1st went down. The men were not regularly detailed by me, but selected by the Capt. Lt. & Cpl. Brown & myself got leave to go to LaGrang. Roades very heavy, arrived there by dark. Then I wrote to Bl, Wilson & Capt Armstrong

Tuesday, January 27, 1863

Recd a letter from A. B. Palm & some late Telegraphs containing the news of the victory off Sabine⁴² The most glorious little affair of the war.

They only charge 4 or 5 \$ for staying over night at a Hotel now. 25 cents for a cigar \$3- for a plug Tobacco. That is moderate wen a soldier is getting \$11- per month. Returned to camp at 2 P.M. Hall & Griffin had returned only gone part of the way to Columbus when Coles horse died He got Griffin's horse to proceed on and Hall & Grif doubled it back to camp.

I was gratified to see the improvement in our commisary department Our mess chest was replenished with Pork, Sausages, Lard, Eggs, Beans, Peas, *Hominy*, Cabbage & Onions to last us for several days On inquiry I found that

⁴²This may be an attack on the blockading squadron on January 21 or a naval engagement on January 24. The famous Battle of Sabine Pass, where a handful of men led by Lieutenants N. H. Smith and Dick Dowling crushingly defeated a large Federal invasion force, did not take place until September 7, 1863.

the Ladies in the neighborhood hearing no doubt of our scanty rations, had made contributions of the aforesaid articles and sent in to us. God bless them! We will live well for a few days. I fear however it will do our quartermaster more good than it will us. Three recruits taken in to day

Wednesday, January 28, 1863

Martin 1st returned from Columbus late last night with a letter from the Capt to Lt. Miller. He reported that Hale was the only one tried as yet. He reported things as looking *Squally* and somebody as being angry or scared or both. Bryan, Burke, Cave, Rogers, Wilson (Macanless) & Wilcox, went with Martin to Columbus. They were sent for as witnesses I presume.

The weather is fair though it was very cold last night. Talking about the outrages committed by Butler and other Federal officers, Davis retaliatory proclamation in retaliation for them and Lincoln's Emancipation proclamation it can all be explained *thus* (to use the sporting language of the boys) Davis saw Lincoln's blind and raised him one, L. made it good: It now remains to be seen if D. will raise or call him.⁴³

Thursday, January 29, 1863

This is a very beautiful day. It is very quiet in camp to day, in consequence of so many being absent. I stroled about camp awhile to see what I could discover. I saw nothing of any interest, but what might be seen any day or at any time But as it will serve as an average record of "daily camp scenes" I will record it. although it is of less than average interest owing to the deficiency in numbers at present

I went down to Head Quarters to take my start. Lt M. and three contrabands⁴⁴ constituted the force present and were engaged in the following manner Lt. M. with a spade in hand was at work and had actually displaced several cubic inches of *terra firma*. Astonished at such an unusual phenomenon I ventured to inquire the cause by questioning him if "he was throwing up breastworks, rifle pits or fortifying his end of the camp" His reply was a satisfactory explanation—"I had the *collic* all last night and thought a little work might do

⁴³Major General Benjamin Butler was in charge of the Union occupation of New Orleans. His General Order No. 28 of May 15, 1862, made him infamous in the Confederacy. To combat the open hostility shown by New Orleans women to the occupying soldiers, it specified that any lady who insulted the Union flag, uniform, or army would be treated as "a woman of the town, plying her trade." In September, Davis proclaimed Butler "an outlaw and common enemy of mankind," and ordered that if captured he should be shot without a trial. Butler was removed by the Union in 1863 because of the widespread corruption under his administration. Lincoln promised to set forth an Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, and officially issued it on New Year's Day 1863.

⁴⁴Slang term for either slaves or free Negroes.

me good." I replied that it was no doubt the most efficient remedy extant if taken in sufficiently large doses.

The contrabands were engaged in the several occupations of cutting wood, washing dishes and currying horses. Mess No 1 all absent or visiting their neighbors. Mess No 2 do.⁴⁵ except the cook (coloured) and he had company, sitting around the fire chattering like monkeys and cutting up many amusing pranks. before I got to No. 3 I met a man with a gun on his shoulder. Just come in from a hunting tour. he presented no sign of success. at no. 3 was quite a large congregation. in the tent: one man sick, one a sleep, one overhauling his wardrobe, one reading what had once been a magazine, but now only a few torn and finger marked leaves were left to represent its former greatness. Outside was a blanket spread on the ground around which were squatted in all imaginable attitudes about a dozen men: each one had before him, from a few, to a handful grains of corn and the requisit number of "pasteboards" They were engaged in that most edifying amusing exciting and popular game called "Poker" and the granes of corn were rare representatives of value and redeemable at the "Bank"—I remained a while, witnessing the pranks of "fickle fortune" and musing over the many ways of and means used in invoking her and came to the conclusion that the Goddess, "fortune" was not as *blind* as her pasteboard worshipers. The conversation though enlightened and select, failed to interest me, being too monotonous viz. "Tis my blind." "I straddle it." "Takes you four to come in". "I pass". "I see the blind." "Im in". "I make it good". "I want one." "Give me three". "Me two". "Make your bets." "Tis my edge". "I bet a chip." "I see it, and go five better." "Im out". "I go five Dollars better". "I call you". &c The corn is raked down and the same dialogues with some slight variations gone through again: so I continued my walk. feeling no regrets that my education had been neglected in the "sporting line" No. 4 presented a similar scene though there were only four men around the blanket, one sick inside, one reading the Telegraph one the Army Regulations & one a Testament. In No. 5. one man was stretched on the ground reading "Female Life Among the Mormons" one was reconoitering his under garments, for "Gray-backs" Around the mess chest were seated several individuals, most of which were visitors from other messes, all engaged in earnest conversation about the prospects of the war. One individual was reclining on a pile of corn, engaged in nothing appearantly but the doleful expression of his countenance attracted my attention. his eyes were fixed on the ground appearantly, and I was in the act of saying "A penny for your thoughts." when a smothered sigh escaped from his lips. I checked myself, not wishing to

⁴⁵Abbreviation for "ditto."

intrude on his solemn meditations. As I turned and walked off, my eyes fell on the spot his gaze was fixed on there lay, *an empty bottle*. It spoke volumes, to him no doubt: and to me. it gave a more explicit answer as to the cause of the doleful and meditating appearance of the man than my meditated inquiry could have brought forth. At the picket rope I noticed L. currying his horse, while every now and then a corncob would come whizing and take him on some exposed part of his person. He'd look up at every pop, but seeing no one who he could fix the guilt upon, he resumed his menial occupation, muttering the while execrations upon the miscreants At last he caught Georgie in the act then came a chase a shower of chunks from all directions on the *pursuer* and the chase ended in a regular "rumpus" and curses and peals of laughter rent the air.

At no. 6. "our mess." I knew it by the neatness that pervaded—one was engaged in greasing his boots, another mending a bridle, another asleep, another attempting to make a fiddle say: "come out of the wilderness" while another (the writer) might a few moments ago, been seen washing the dishes.

At no. 7—only one at home and he on the sick list.

At no. 8. were two men i.e. Bealigs & Turp appearantly earnestly engaged in reading, I inquired the cause of this their recently acquired literary taste by saying—"Hallow! what's going to happen; *You reading*" when they replied that they were *not* reading "only looking at the pictirs". On examination I found that their library consisted of one copy Godeys *Ladies Book* and one Grayhams Magazine. Both in a very delapidated condition but the pictirs in a tolerable good state of preservation. One man rubbing the rust off of a gun and another examining the temper of a big Bowie Knife, by sticking it in the ground, drawing the edge of it across his thumb nail chopping at the tent pole, and at an old curry comb. completed the *group*

No. 9. Has only two negroes and three dogs left to represent it all the *men* having gone to Columbus—to be court martialed. P.S. I neglected to state that, Three fourths of the men in camp were smoking and the other fourth chewing Tobacco. so all evidently have got Tobacco, yet on a fair average three fourths will beg a "chaw or pipefull" and three fourths will say: "I'm out."

Friday, January 30, 1863

This morning I was ordered to go to Columbus as a witness for some of the boys to be tried there by the court martial I went down with the captain and some of the men who had returned from there last night The Capt was in a very bad humor all the way and I did not have much to say to him He however said that he would give me a *transferr*. I trust it is not an empty promise. Arrived in Columbus, found no place to stay at & no rations

Saturday, January 31, 1863

The boys have not been tried yet. it appears to be some trouble to get up a court martial. We were furnished with rations to day, and by heavy skirmishing I obtained some cooking utensils and an old house to stay in, which the boys liked very much. Staying at Hotels at \$4 per day had made some of them low in pocket.

Sunday, February 1, 1863

A beautiful day. A courtmartial convened at 2 o'clock P.M. but did not do anything being ordered by Col. Hardeman to disperse. Road over to Alleyton this evening & back. This is a Hempstead kind of a looking place, but not as pretty or as well located. By the way Columbus is a much better looking place now than it was in 49 it is a quite respectable looking country town

Monday, February 2, 1863

To day the boys were tried i.e. Coles, Ford, Hill, Jackson & Martin, the first four sentenced to 10 days confinement Martin to make an apology

Tuesday, February 3, 1863

(This is my birth day, and a pretty day it is. wish I could spend it with B.)

The Capt. is as mad as a wasp. He flies round & blows terribly He says if any one "wants him to take a back seat" they can "show their hand" at a general court martial "He'll give all a chance" He did not do it though but ordered us to be ready to leave for camp at once We had our horses saddled & were ready to start at 10 o'clock A.M. but did not leave till 4 P.M. the consequence was, most of us had no dinner being afraid to go off & get it lest the Capt should order a start & we go under (arrest) I and 3 others stopped at a house about supper time but it was no go, they wouldn't let us have supper. We arrived at camp about nine o'clock—cooked & eat—After which we were ordered to "fall in" The Capt. *selected* 25 men & ordered them to load their guns well: get their Horses saddled and be ready at once. It was the greatest *military burlesque* I ever saw or heard of

These 25 men together with 25 men and a Lt. from Riordans Batalion making 50 men, 1 Lt. and all under command of our Captain were going to arrest *Four* Dutchmen and bring them to Columbus to be tried for disloyalty—Just think of it.⁴⁶

⁴⁶"Dutchmen" here means German settlers in Texas. Although most German Texans supported the Confederacy, Germans made up a large portion of the opposition to secession and the war and were viewed with suspicion. The reports of armed resistance to the draft in this part of Texas involved primarily German Texans.

Wednesday, February 4, 1863

It rained very hard this morning from 4 till 9 o'clock A.M. The capt & 50 men returned at 5 o'clock bringing in *three* Life Dutchmen, the *fourth* one having been *paroled* to come in after day light, which he did. All this was done without the loss of a man The Arizona men were thoroughly disgusted with the affair & with *our* capt however & did not fail to say it. Some said one thing and some another, such as "Let's get down and kick the Capts a— and if ever we go under him again we'll let him kick ours." "Give me three men armed with corn stalks and I'll go in open daylight & arrest 4 Dutchmen." "Why just tell them to go and they'll go" "If the historians of the present war ever make mention of this disgraceful proceeding and mentions my name in connection with it I'll haunt him after my death."

It cleared off at 10 the 4th dutchman having come in & Riordans (Bakers) men had breakfast. all felt in better humor and started for Columbus our Capt. in command but leaving our men.

Thursday and Friday, February 5 and 6, 1863

Exceedingly cold weather. Nothing but the usual routine in camp.

Saturday, February 7, 1863

Last night was another of the nights that will be a black spot in the future history of a free people—an other disgraceful "Dutch hunt" The Capt & 1st Lt. with *Thirty picked men* and ten rounds of ammunition went out and captured a man named Miller and brought in to camp. The *picked men* done more however they robbed 3 or 4 Beegums⁴⁷ from another Dutchman and brought into camp.

The prisoner was sent to Columbus to day. To day we moved camp, about a mile up the creek, and are camped on a gravel ridge, well shaded by tall oaks.

Sunday, February 8, 1863

Had preaching to day in our Camp for the first time since we have been in service The Rev. Mr. Smith preached from the text (6th ch. Pauls Epistle to Tim.) "Fight the good fight and lay hold on eternal life"

My tastes may be perverted and my judgement unqualified for judging in such matters: But, I surely thought it the poorest sermon I ever heard.

Friday, February 13, 1863

Recd 2 Letters from Bl. yesterday—Wrote to day Nothing remarkable has occurred in camp this week excepting that Jack Burke & J. H. Cowen have been

⁴⁷Bee-gums was the colloquial term for beehives made from sections of a hollow tree (often a gum tree).

turned over to Col. Hardeman and were sent to Columbus yesterday morning. I reckon Jack will see by what authority such a high handed proceeding is done. The usual "Foraging", "Bee hunting" and "Surprise parties" have been going on—This will need explanation and I will give it here as told to me I have never been an eye witness to any of them. "Foraging" means to ride around the neighborhood after dark and steal anything that is eatable—"Bee Hunting" the same with the exception that Beegums and poultry are the only things confiscated—"Surprise parties" are parties of men who go out after the "Foragers" or "Beehunters" surprise them, fire blank cartridges on them and pursue them in their flight back to camp making them believe that the very "Dutch" are after them. This was done very successfully last night and Roper was nearly frightened to death came into camp and awoke us all telling that some 20 Dutch were after them and implored us to fly to arms. we knew what it was however and did not go to any trouble further than to take part in the laugh. Firing was kept up around camp for some time and the last I saw of Roper he was lying on his back panting for breath and the boys "doctoring" him. This morning Roper was all right again but accused Hemminway of deserting him and running in the hour of danger. It resulted in a duel between them two They fought with double barreled shot guns at 20 paces. The "Seconds" Jim Holtzclow & Jno. Lampkins had the precaution to draw the "blue whistlers" out of the guns before the duel, however, so the result was not more serious than some tremendous laughing by the crowd. R thinks it all in earnest

Saturday, February 14, 1863

This is emphatically a "Spring morning". The air is salubrious, of a genial temperature. The woods are vocal with the warbling of birds: the wite plum blossoms perfume the atmosphere: the sturdy oaks are budding: the modest violets are peeping out from under the dead leaves: and the sun shines brightly although no clouds an occasional sprinkle of rain desends to tip the new emeralds with gems of diamond lustre. It looks indeed like if Nature in her beauty was smiling through her tears. Coles, Ford, Jackson, & Hill returned last night, they having been released: They put out this morning for Industry, but soon a detail was sent after them to arrest them for having got tight and cut up in Columbus after being released. It is reported that we will be ordered to Arizona I hope it is so for I'd like to go somewhere

Sunday, February 15, 1863

The morning was a continuation of the fair weather of yesterday Mr. Bud preached to us a tolerably able sermon. Many Gents. & Ladies attended and after divine service the Ladies spread a substantial dinner for the crowd. A heavy rain set in and hurried the visitors off precipitately.

Thursday, February 19, 1863

A very fine day. It cleared up yesterday, but the woods are very boggy & Cummin's Creek is higher than it has been known for 20 years. The Capt. returned from Columbus last night and said he was ordered to report the company to Browns Batalion I hope it is so for I am tired of this *independent* service.

Friday, February 20, 1863

Dinner, Tableaux and concert at Fayetteville to day and night I attended⁴⁸
\$1200 for the Rangers
It rained all night
Rain every night for a week.

Brenham, Saturday, February 28, 1863

about noon last Thursday the 26th three ox teams hove in sight at our camp and we were ready to move very soon. and the result is we are here now after some very disagreeable travel.

Sunday, March 1, 1863

Had roll call before sun up The Capt announced Gray & me reduced to ranks, and I thanked him for it, though it created considerable indignation in the company that he should decend to so low and spiteful a means of revenge for no cause but our refusing to sign that affidavit which we knew to be false.

Putting our baggage on the cars we took up the march for Hempstead where we arrived by sundown and camped on the branch just above town.

Monday, March 2, 1863

Geo. Wynne & I went down to our old camp, grazed our horses, called on Tenney and I wrote to Bl.

Thursday, March 5, 1863

W H Campbell is out at Groce's very sick Geo & I stayed with him last night and I am going there to night again.

Sunday, March 8, 1863

Our company was paid off to day from Nov. 1st. till March 1st. and twenty five dollars commutation making my amt \$141.

Monday, March 9, 1863

By considerable log rolling I got permission to go to Houston and meet the company at Richmond to morrow on its way to Matagorda. I went on the cars

⁴⁸Benefit performances were given frequently to raise money for the troops.

and arrived in H in due time. I found that I have been detailed on the Signal Corps and will not have to return to the company

Sunday, March 15, 1863

I have spent a week here very pleasantly, most of my time has been spent with my duck but not as pleasantly as I might have anticipated.

Wednesday, March 18, 1863

Attended the concert last night at Perkins Hall for the benefit of the Second Texas and it was worthy of its object. After the concert I spent a couple of hours with my Bl and never never will I forget it. Left this morning before she got up, and went down to Galveston and reported myself for duty in the "Signal Corps"

Saturday, March 21, 1863

I am very pleasantly situated here. Our office is in Hendley's building 3rd floor a very pleasant room.⁴⁹ We board at Capt. McGeeans an old English Sea Capt. \$2⁵⁰ per month & our rations Our duties are rather pleasant though ordeaus.⁵⁰ It is in fact going to school—

Tuesday, March 24, 1863

Weather clear but rather cold. a stiff norther blowing.

Galveston is indeed a beautiful place. Many of the stores and private residences are really magnificent and city-like.—In the suburbs all look neat—shade trees and shrubbery in abundance in nearly every yard. From a "bird's eye view" the city looks more like a picture of imagination than something real: Streets, wide clean and regular, the green foliage gracefully mingled with the swan white houses and here and there a large massive building rising in gigantic proportions overlooking the rest. Then the beach—with the billows rolling like some hideous monsters chasing each other and falling headlong on the hard sand die murmuring their own funeral dirge. it is something awfully sublime, it is indeed "The voice of the great creator" that is heard in the roaring surge—Yet, I should not like to live here—There is something so monotonous in the beach & sea.—The eye, like Noah's dove goes out in search of some resting place but finds none. All is sea. It is like peering into the future—like looking into emensity—there is a line where the canopy of heaven seems to rest upon the face of the deep. the eye cannot see beyond that line & yet I know the line is only imaginary and beyond that there is the same line yet further off, bringing within its circle other scenes—Ah! Galveston is a world

⁴⁹The Hendley Building still stands on the Strand in Galveston. It has been restored as part of the Strand Historic District.

⁵⁰arduous

of its own, and perhaps—a good type of the wide, wide, world in many respects. Peopled from all zones and it has the climate of all zones. The tropical orange & Banana grow in the intense heat of the summer sun, The White sand drifting in the cold polar wind (Northers) represent the climate in a very decided manner of that region—

The sochial and moral world are also aptly typefied, from, affluence, wealth, Hightoned moral worth & Intelligence to the lowest dredge of destitution, want, degradation, vice, wickedness and ignorance. Oh but I am not writing a book—

April 1863

Went up to Houston on Sunday the 29th and returned to Galveston April 2nd.

Stayed at Mr. Burke's most of the time I was in Houston. Heard Mr. Carnes preach the funeral sermon of Woodson, W^m & John Bryan on the night of the 1st of April Oh how sad and unaccountable it seems Yet I am forced to believe it—L. W. Bryan is no more—one of my best and truest acquaintances—gone for ever. on the 14th March he was drowned while trying to rescue his brother John. Oh—I have been sick at heart since I heard it—

[undated]

-REVERIES-

Since the 18th of March I have been wrestling with an agony, before which any mere physical suffering shrinks into insignificance. It was not that my pride was humbled—not that I must go through life alone and as it were a miserable being—It was that she pittied me. I could shut out of my heart, the golden hopes of love—I can live and die alone—no wifes head will lie upon my breast,—no childrens voices call me father I can bear manfully the thoughts of all these disappointments of my golden dreams—But the idea that *she* pittied me, *she* who I had so long thought *loved me fondly*. That was more than I could bear.

I strove in vain to choke back the grief but it overmastered me. I wept—I, a man—aye I wept—But I will not write of the sorrow on which only God and my own soul have ever looked. - - -

Yet could I only believe that she does not love me—I would feel relieved, I would feel resigned and my feeling would settle down into quiet resignation. But no—when I recall all the tokens she has given me of her love. The expressions of her face—her unfaigned grief Her candor her words—She did not say that she did not love me, she acted as if she did, but for some unknown cause would not marry now—Ah what could I think.—I know my own heart I know that I love her—and have so many reasons to think that she loves me. Still I would like to hear it from her lips as well as from her actions—but her words

and actions unaccountably disagree—Hence my doubts, hence all my thoughts of hope and fear conflicting and almost driving me mad. - - - -

I've pictured her to me as my *wife* How charming she seemed to me in her beauty her grace. I thought how bright would be the future when her bright smile, merry laugh, and silvery song would cheer me and chase away the cares of business, as her form glided through *our* apartments, or as we sat in household quiet by *our* hearth stone.

I gloried in the thought of protecting her, of keeping all sorrow and care away from her future life—of calling her mine, of leading her footsteps out of the shadows of the world into the light of true happiness.

The dream's here still; even when I wake it is Within me: as without me; not imagined, felt. - - - -

For aught that I could read could ever hear by tale or history The course of true love never did run smooth.

O cruel fate! O hardness to dissemble.

Summoning pride to my assistance I concluded to assume indifference or at least to appear to have given her up.

I have not written to her since I left—

Surely if she desires to break off the engagement she will have a chance now—surely she will not give me new encouragement.

Thursday, April 2, 1863

I have been in Houston. I could no longer be in doubts. I wished to *see* how she looked and how she felt.—I did not call on her. I met Nev." in the Street and she insisted on my calling When I met her my resolutions failed me. I could not act the part I did not feel—and why should I? I have never seen her so happy or, I may say, so beautiful as when we met this time. Her features were radiant with smiles, her eyes sparkled with delight, and she looked on me with a fondness I had never before seen.

If I had been indifferent to *her*, *she* would surely not appeared so happy to see me.

It *was* from her soul, and I read her whole nature in the glance—It is as pure as she is beautiful. Her feelings prompted her actions, and her heart told her that I was really dear to her.

She surely would have met me with cold indifference had she not loved me, or at least she would not have submitted to my caresses as of old if her heart had not been mine

And last of all, she would not have worn the ring and bell Ah no there is no mistake in all of this, it cannot be mistaken. Were she heartless, designing, artful and coquettish she might have done all this to sport with my feelings—and I could despise her then as I love her, and as sincerley as I have loved her—But, I know her motives are pure and her feelings and actions honest and

sincere The conclusion is inevitable,—she is mine—and I really feel ashamed of having ever appeared indifferent to her for a moment and for having teased her so much. Why should I *ask* her if she loves me! is not her looks actions and sweet submissive confidence the most eloquent answers I could wish!—And yet I like to *hear* it from her lips - - - -

And yet, am I not too confident, could I not conclude from what Mrs. W. said that it is reported that our engagement is broken off—and that if such a report is out B¹ herself must have started it—And from what Baker said that I have an oponent, a rival? Were I of a jellous disposition I would naturally think so but I know her too well to think her guilty of treating me so, and I have too high an opinion of her virtue and good sence to think that she thinks anything of that vain drunken rake T. (for who else can it be in the 2n. department) I felt it my duty to tell her about it—had I felt any jealousy or belief in it, I should not have done so—

The fact is—an irresistable feeling has possession of me that tells me we are one in spirit, and will be. It overcomes all doubts and still it is only instinct. all my reasoning fall before it.

It may be "The wish is father to the thought" but no, it is more than a wish, or a thought It is a spontaneous feeling that overrules all else. a conviction, destiny it appears has fixed it so, and I am only too willing to believe it. It stands to reason too—how else could I ever thought of loving her—we were appearantly so different and moved in so different spheres—Her beauty attracted me—no! I am not the man to fall in love with a doll a beautiful face or form—Her good sence her purity, her worth, won my heart—no—although I love honor and respect her for that *now*.—*That* did not win my heart at first, for when I first knew her I knew her only as a gay thoughtless girl. the Belle of the ballroom or the theatre. Friends and acquaintances brought it about—No—my friends are not hers even now, nor hers mine. It was something else was it fate? and if so was it to teach me a bitter lesson of disappointment It must have been fate, but how can it be to disappoint me when I have thus far been so agreably disappointed in finding her more more worthy of my love than I had ever expected—and every day my love and confidence increasing—



After the war, Gustav Forsgard returned to Houston and opened a boot and shoe store. He left the mercantile business in the mid-1870s to pursue his interest in agriculture, which occupied him for the rest of his life. In 1867, he had begun to cultivate land he owned at the south end of San Jacinto Street, well out in the country at that time, doing some gardening with exotic plants. Forsgard was the manager of the Farmers' Alliance Exchange for many years

G. A. FORSGARD,
DEALER IN
BOOTS & SHOES,
FINDINGS, etc., etc.,
HOUSTON,
TEXAS,

Thankful for past favors, I would respectfully inform my old friends and customers, and merchants and consumers generally, that I have the best assorted and most carefully selected stock of **BOOTS AND SHOES** in the State. By giving undivided attention to this branch of business, and with unsurpassed facilities for replenishing direct from the manufacturers, enabling me to sell at a small advance on New York prices, I hope to merit a liberal share of patronage.

G. A. FORSGARD,
HOUSTON,
TEXAS

After the war, Gustav A. Forsgard opened a boot and shoe store at the corner of Main and Congress. This is his advertisement in the 1866 *Houston City Directory*.

and was involved in both local and state agricultural affairs.

Gustav Forsgard recovered from his ill-fated attachment to Belle Hopson. In 1866, he married Jennie M. Lusk, daughter of a veteran of the Texas Revolution. The couple traveled to Sweden to visit Forsgard's family; it was his only visit to his native land since his arrival in Houston at the age of 16. Gustav and Jennie Forsgard had six children, two of whom outlived their father. They were Oscar Lee Forsgard and Anna B. Scott, wife of Houston physician J. W. Scott. Gustav August Forsgard died on April 3, 1919, at the age of 87. His death was noted in the newspapers, which designated him "the oldest Mason in Texas," and he was buried in Glenwood Cemetery. Forsgard's San Jacinto Street property, on which he lived for over 50 years, became the site of the South End Junior High School in 1912 (now the Houston Community College).

During his long life, Gustav A. Forsgard saw many changes in his adopted city. We are fortunate that, through his diaries, we can glimpse the Houston he knew as a young man from 1860 to 1863 and share his experiences of early Texas.