

THE DIARY OF WILLIAMSON YOUNGER

(1817-1876)

Editor's Note—Williamson Younger was born in Halifax County, Virginia, in January, 1817. He was brought to Tennessee by his parents when he was a child. His descendants fix the date between 1818 and 1820. As an adult he lived in McLemoresville and Atwood. Though a tailor by trade, he owned and operated a farm which lay in both Carroll and Gibson Counties. He was a Cumberland Presbyterian, a life-long Democrat and a slave owner who deplored the institution of slavery. He married Louisa Patton of North Carolina. Of their ten children, three daughters married Cumberland Presbyterian ministers and two of their sons served in the Confederate Army, one of them dying in a war prison camp. Williamson Younger died November 1, 1876, and is buried in the McLemoresville (Tenn.) Cemetery. There are many of his descendants in Memphis and West Tennessee.

This combination ledger-diary was set up to contain accounts kept and charges made against the author's ten children. The birthdate of each child opened that child's section of the book. The method did not work very well. Change of mind and condition ran the sections together. A separate book for each would have been better. In editing the record, I have omitted most of the "accounts" and "charges," retaining just enough to suggest the author's method. The names and birthdates of the ten children which are interspersed in the edited work, are here in a relative position to their appearance in the original. The editing has reduced the record to half the length of the original but without the omission of anything of major importance.

The editor, president of the West Tennessee Historical Society, hereby expresses the gratitude of the Society and himself to Mrs. James S. Dunford, great granddaughter of the author, for the loan of the original record for publication in this volume, and for the certificate that no part of it has previously appeared in print.

Marshall Wingfield

State of Tennessee, Carroll County, 1859. This book will contain accounts kept and charges made against my children. This I deem necessary in order to guard against any partiality in regard to schooling, etc. The younger children that may not get an equal chance with the older ones in schooling and other matters, I want to have it in something else. If I leave enough of the goods of this world to make them so, let them be made so. Be it distinctly understood that so far as a common education is concerned, I wish them all to be made equal. But some of them want a more thorough education, and, perhaps others may want a more thorough education hereafter. In such cases I want them, if I have the means, to have the same chance. But I can hardly be expected with my facilities, to give all an accomplished education. Therefore I make the before-mentioned provision. Furthermore, I find some of them are disposed to be more extravagant than others. Therefore what any of them may cause me to have to pay for them, in unnecessary extravagance, I will charge herein.

So that there shall be no misunderstanding, a part of this will be made from memory as I will commence this memorandum this December 28, 1859. But I will here state that all of it will not be taken from memory alone. I have kept account of what I have paid for the two eldest (to wit) Mary Jane and William Armistead. I will, in part, have to refer to memory, but I will endeavor to have them within the amounts paid. And that there may be no contention about my mind at this time, as regards my qualifications as to how I wish my little worldly matters managed, I will just say that according to the best record that I have been able to get at, I am about forty-three years old at this time, and I expect that I have about as much now as I ever had, which, thank God, has been sufficient, with the blessings of God, to provide so far, tolerably well for my family. I have scuffled hard in this world, not to hoard up the trash of this world, but to make my family comfortable. I have tried to be good and kind to all, both white and black. Though I have, no doubt, often done many things I had better not have done, I have tried to do the best I knew how. I have given the best advice of which I have been capable of giving, and I hope my children will follow my advice and walk and act by the golden rule laid down in Holy Writ.

July 13, 1860. The second day of this month, in the afternoon, I left home to go to Memphis to meet Brother Armistead. He failed to come. From what cause I cannot as yet tell. When I hear I will record it. Heard from Bro. Armistead. The cause of his not meeting me was he could not cross Cash swamp in Arkansas.

1861. The burdens of the war bear heavily on me having cost me much in fitting out my two sons besides lots of time in preparing clothes for them and for other soldiers. The government has not furnished my sons with anything in the way of clothing, except to J. W., a round-about and one pair coarse jeans pants, and to each one a coarse white blanket. Both caught measles while in the army and William A. came home with the measles and took typhoid fever and was confined about 8 weeks. James W. had the measles in camp. Wm. A. left for camp Oct. 13, 1861, after he recovered. I have never been a Secessionist. I never voted the Secession ticket. When the last vote was taken on whether Tennessee would secede, I did not vote at all for the reason I did not think I knew what was best. I believe our representatives in Congress and our Southern delegates in the Charleston convention, together with outsiders and the never-to-be-forgotten great national Democratic party, have been the cause and will be held accountable for the blood shed in this unholy war. I have ever believed the great political questions that were made a pretense to divide this government could have been settled, if the Southern leaders had been willing. Perhaps it is all right. We need chastising for our wickedness. No people of which modern history gives account, have so abused privileges and liberties. I mean both North and South. God is now chastising us. I believe we will never have a government of any permanency, North or South, unless we train our children better from the cradle. The voters of these once United States are in my humble judgment incompetent of self-government. The present demonstrates the fact. No rotten-hearted person prospers, even in this world, long at a time. As with individuals so with the nations. God help us to purge ourselves.

1861. When Benjamin Watts and his wife Mary Jane left here to move to Miss., I furnished them a little to commence with.

May 10, 1861. I feel that my health is becoming more feeble, and I contemplate starting to Mississippi this evening to visit my daughter and son-in-law, Benjamin Watts. Life being uncertain and death cer-

tain, I deem it best to leave my family some guide to go by, whether I be abroad or at home. I think this to be necessary, owing to the uncertainty especially in these warlike times. I want my friends, brethren and sisters in Christ, and our fraternal society to assist my beloved widow and wife, should it be her lot to remain here longer than myself, to instruct our children, school them, etc. I want all my just debts paid, all claims due me collected and, after paying what I owe, which before-said is very little, the balance is to be applied to schooling of them that need schooling most. If Louisa, my wife, does not wish to remain on this place, she can have the place sold provided it can be sold for a fair price, and enough of the proceeds of this tract of land applied to the purchasing a comfortable home, wherever she may, in her judgment, think best. At the same time I would advise her to counsel Benjamin Watts, our son-in-law, Wm. A., our son, also our son J. W., who is now with us. I want James W., to remain with his mother, at least until she may be able to get along without his services. I want all my family to remain, or be as near one another as convenience will allow, that they may comfort and assist one another in life and be sure to assist one another to meet God in peace. Be good and kind to one another and, O my dear children, for the Lord's sake, for my sake, for your own sakes, do not fall out over what little worldly goods I may chance to leave behind. Each one should be willing to do what is right. It is perhaps useless to give the foregoing advice, for I believe you will not try to wrong one another. With regard to my servants, I would rather they could be kept in the family and all kept together so long as my wife, Louisa, may live. Louisa, don't ever marry a second husband, for, in so doing you will run the risk of destroying what little happiness you otherwise might see. Now, in case my wife, Louisa, after my decease, should marry, I want all my property to be divided among our children. Those that have to have a guardian, to have one appointed, but never to have the person appointed whom she may chance to marry. Now I do not wish to keep my children out of any piece of property they ought to have, but, as you become of age, agree among yourselves what you ought to have, value the same and place it to their account. Then at the death of my wife, Louisa, or her re-marriage, or the youngest child becoming of age, estimate what each one has drawn, value the remainder, put the estimate together, divide by the number of heirs, and if

any of them have drawn or received more than their part, they must refund. But if not enough to make them equal, they must be made equal, taking care at the same time that all the children who may not have acquired a common education shall have enough over and above the others, to make them equal in that respect. Any thing which may be used by any of them to acquire more than a common education, they must be charged with, as I have already done with regard to some of the older ones. My object is to make them all equal, or come as near to it as I can, so far as I have control. I want my son-in-law Benjamin Watts, Wm. A., and James W., my two oldest sons, and Louisa my wife, to be executors of this will and request, to be subject to any alteration I may hereafter make. If any of my servants desire to be sold, I wish them to be accommodated. If I live to return from Mississippi, I expect to add more to this my will and desire.

Feb. 23, 1862. The war has been fully commenced in our own State. My desire is that the South may succeed. If she does not, I fear she will be almost wiped out as part of a once great nation. I have never felt in my heart that I desired a dissolution of these United States, though I wish the South to be victorious.

March 1, 1862. I paid Woollen of McLemoresville for B. Watts note of hand executed by Watts to Woollen. Mary Jane and Benjamin industrious couple, if God bless them with health I think they will do well.

April 25, 1862. I will here write down one thing while it is on my mind. My servant boy, Jack, seems to be disposed to be hard to manage. If he continues to be so, I think it best for him not to be kept at home with the little children. Better for B. Watts, my son-in-law, to have him, if he and Mary should be living and Jack should live. We know not what a day may bring forth.

Sept. 7, 1862. While myself and family were at Pisgah church in Carroll Co., there came to my house ten Federal soldiers and pressed two fine 3-year old mares and took also 1 saddle and 1 halter for which I have receipt from Col. Bryant. But the worst they stole several things for which they made no report. They inquired of Caroline, a colored woman, if I had any money and if it was hid out. The inquiry was made by Capt. Stevens of Wisconsin. I was informed by one of the Wisconsin

soldiers that this Capt. Stevens was of Company B., Wisconsin Volunteers.

Sept. 14, 1862. One week after the above robbery there came to my house six Federal soldiers, Tennesseans, and robbed me of another fine horse worth \$200, and a good new leather halter, and threatened to burn my house. One Lieut. N. Cott of Carroll County, Tenn., commanded the squad and was the man who threatened to burn my house. L. Barnhart was with Cott but he made no threats. Up to this time; Sept. 15, 1862, the Federals have robbed me of about \$600 worth of property. One item I have left out: This Lieut. Cott tried to persuade my black man Moses to go with him to Humbolt [*sic*], telling him that I was a dam'd rascal. That is the way Tennesseans are doing.

Sept. 19, 1862. On this day I heard Thomas Lewis say that he wished every Negro would run off and go with the Yankees. This Tom Lewis is a grandson of Anabell Dickson, the widow of Asabil Dickson who lives about 1/4 mile north of me.

Oct. 1, 1862. Two Negro men, Moses and Jack, run away from me and went to Humbolt, Tenn. They went into the Federal camp on Monday Oct. 6th, 1862: I got my gray horse back which the Tenn. Feds had pressed three weeks before. They nearly rode him down to nothing, but the horse recovered.

Dec. 14, 1862. Notified to attend at Trenton, Tenn., on a charge of writing a letter to be sent to my sons in the Southern army. Bill Warner arrested with letter. A few days ago the Confederates took Trenton and Humbolt, Tenn.

Feb. 23, 1863. Fourteen Federals came to my house while I was at Mr. Cunningham's 2 1/2 miles east of home, robbed me of a good mule, saddle, rug, curb bridle bit, and a new curry comb. They got dinner and fed off me and left with me an old mare that was nearly dead.

My man Moses came home from the Feds. some time in Dec. He was gone about nine or ten weeks and came back sick. Jack came home sick about 24th of Jan. 1863, remained at home 4 weeks did nothing but eat, got fat and sassy, and left Feb. 23, 1863. J. Harwood took him up in Trenton and returned him home on Tuesday, the next day. On the following Thursday night he left again. On Saturday night, April 10th, 1863, some thief stole my saddle out of my lumber room.

I believe this wicked war an uncalled for calamity. It might have been avoided had it not been for mean men North and South. I thought we of the South should have waited, and if we were not interrupted in our sovereign rights as States by Mr. Lincoln and the party in power, then of course no cause for rebelling. If we had been, I think there would have been a sufficient party in the United States to have put down any such encroachment on states rights. I believe the North has aggravated the South by her liberty bills and insults in the Federal congress to do what she has done. I have never been able to see sufficient grounds for secession and war. Both were brought on without my aid or voice at the ballot box. Now that both are upon us, my sympathies are entirely with my country and my people. I was opposed to secession and voted against secession. By the June vote it seemed the mass of the people had become drunk with rage and prejudice against the proceedings of the old government. I then thought I saw clearly where we were drifting. I was silent and did not vote at all. The fire was started and is burning to the consummation of our liberties, for the subjugation of the South is an end of our liberties. The treatment we have received from the old government has been calculated to drive us out of the Union. The officers of the Federal army have acted on the testimony of bad men and Negroes to seize the property of conservative men of the South. What was of no use to them, they have destroyed. This has strengthened the rebellion.

Sept. 1863. Mary J. Watts moved from Mississippi in the house with our family with her two children. Her mother and J. W., went after them. I have paid for shoes and clothing up to this time.

Sept. 6, 1863. I have been sorely afflicted this week for four days and nights with toothache and neuralgia. Thank God I am better this morning and I am quite troubled in my mind about the welfare of my wife and four of my children now absent from me. I hope God will be a shield and defence for them.

Sept. 8, 1863. Louisa returned home yesterday evening. Isaac N., Mary J., and her two little children, Polly the colored servant girl (sick) all home from Miss. I am easy so far as they are concerned.

Sept. 15, 1863. Heard from my two sons near Chattanooga, Tenn. Thank God I hear they are well. I feel quite relieved.

Nov. 23, 1863. Since the above was written the war and other things have made many changes.

Nov. 24, 1863. I have been suffering with excruciating pain caused by a rising in right side of my head. I am now troubled with cough and discharging matter from my right lung. Bad pain and soreness in the right side of my breast. I think my recovery from this attack quite doubtful. God's will be done.

Nov. 30, 1863. The Confederate soldiers have been eating and feeding on me this week. Furnished bread two rations for 40 men and about 50 pounds of bacon. Pressed one horse this evening for the Confederate service and left receipt for \$150 at this time only worth about half in Tenn. currency.

Dec. 20, 1863. Up to this time the Confederates have foraged off me to the amount of 16 barrels of corn and bread baked for 80 men and fed on me to the number of between 75 and 100 men and horses. I have not received one cent of pay from the Confederate authorities. The horse pressed of me Nov. 30 was sent back in about two weeks. The next day after being sent back, one Capt. Bray of Henderson county, Tenn., passed by and took the horse and left an old bay horse worth about \$50. I will now put on record the conduct of six men, calling themselves Confederate soldiers. Their names as I have been able to learn them are as follows: Capt. White from about St. Joe, Mo., James Cribs, son of Rev. Cullen Cribs, Billy Cribs, son of widow Cribs; Brown Flippin, Giles Billew, son of Jo. Billew. These four are all of Gibson county, Tenn. Thomas Lewis of Carroll county, grandson of Annabella Dickson, a near neighbor. These six men came to my house in the night and tried to rob me of my fine gray horse Pete. They could not catch him. I out generaled them. Names of more of the desperate men are Harve Smith, son of Owen Smith of Skullbone. I have been told that there were one or two others by the names of Smith, all of Skullbone notoriety. Cal Lusk, son of Byrd Lusk, is no doubt one of the ring leaders of the gang. Old Byrd Lusk's is their stopping place in this neighborhood. James Smith, John Smith, Jack Hitchcock and Pat Mathis. Old Lem Stout's is one of their stopping places. Wils Baird, Jr., a friend and abettor is of old Jim Baird's family.

Jan. 1864. Last night the Federal robbers visited me, nine of the worst class of men. However, four of them did nothing very bad, com-

pared to what the other five did. The four best behaved are Tobe Wilson, captain of the squad, Miles Baird, son of James Baird of Gibson county, ——— Sloan, and ——— Smith, brother of Dr. Smith, son-in-law of the before-named Baird. I don't know but two of the bad five, Corny Whicker and Ike Mathis. If I can get the names of the others I will put them on record. Only part of the gang came to my house, got supper and horses fed, then cursed and abused me, threatened to shoot me, to cut my throat and to beat me over the head with a pistol. One of them picked up a gun and threatened to shoot my wife because she was trying to take some stolen clothes from him. They plundered the house, took a repeater worth \$50, one pair gloves, a head net worth \$3 and one shawl cost \$7.50. Miles Baird gave little Mattie to whom the shawl belonged \$5 in Tennessee money. We snatched several articles from them.

Williamson Armistead Younger was born November 2, 1839.

Jan. 1864. I sent by P. Goodloe, my son-in-law, to Mr. John Hassel of Trenton, Tenn., thirty-five dollars for Mr. Hassel to take to my son Wm. A. Younger who was then a prisoner at Rock Island, Ill. Wm. A. has been some little prodigal in his boy days but in the general course of later years, good, kind, friendly and sturdy. I hope God will spare him for and turn his mind to some great and good way and noble purpose that his mark may be bright in this world.

James Williamson Younger was born January 15, 1842. James Williamson Younger my son is a good obedient boy. I hope he will, through the mercy of God, go through this dreadful war safe and untarnished in character and make a good pious man. Dec. 1, James W. has returned home from Hood's army. Has been out 3 years and 4 months.

1864. James W. has been compelled to be in the services as a soldier. What he has received from me is not to be accounted for in a division of anything I may have left of the goods and chattels of this world. The Federals carried off a fine young mare and saddle which I had designed for James W. Younger.

Jan. 31, 1864. Ten or fifteen of Dr. Smith's robbers here last night. Have not missed anything but I. Newton's saddle worth about \$13. I was out while they were in the house.

Feb. 2, 1864. Twelve of Capt. Holt's & Smith's robbers here again today. Drew sabre on me. Drew it over my head several times and swore to kill me. I told him to kill, that I was as well prepared to die as I ever would be. Took off my bay mare worth about \$150. Haltered my old Daniel mule but let me have him back by my paying them \$10. Some more names: George Nevel, Loss Quinn, one of the Connell's, Harve Smith and a brother Dr. Smith, and one of Capt. Holt's company's robbers. They will not tell their names when I ask them.

Feb. 13, 1864. Same robbers visited me again last night. Drew pistol on me to make me tell where my mules were. I did not tell. They made Allen, a Negro boy tell. Burst the door open & took the two last work mules I had. Took Allen off. I learned other names: Bill Nevel, (old Ruben Nevel's son) G. C. Smith and George Nevel. Cal Lusk and old Byrd Lusk are the ringleaders of the gang that visit this section.

Feb. 29, 1864. Just returned home from Paducah, Ky. I am satisfied that there is a regular organized band of robbers from here in to Illinois. It is clear to my mind that they get Federal protection. On the 26th instant, I laid the case before Col. J. A. Hawkins at Union City. He gave me no satisfaction. Let us bear patiently the spoiling of our goods.

Isaac Newton Younger was born March 7, 1851.

Apr. 17, 1864. I. N. seems to be very sleepy-headed almost like a disease. A good boy to work. I hope he will make a great and good man. He is very obedient. Isaac Newton Younger departed this life Thursday May 10th, 1866, by a melancholy accident, aged fifteen years, two months and three days. He was a good and obedient child. My health seems to be declining. Bad cough with pain in right side of my breast and often a very troublesome headache. The best remedy I have found has been industry, constant employment. If people generally would be more industrious there would be fewer chronic cases among the human family. That is my experience and observation.

Apr. 23, 1864. Within the last few days I have fed and lodged 15 Confederate soldiers. They offered pay in Confederate money. It being of no use to me, I did not receive it. I have furnished and fed soldiers and citizens until at this time I have nothing to spare.

Apr. 24, 1864. I got Benjamin Watts to go to Faulkners the 22 instant to collect the pay for the corn furnished Faulkner's Regt. while at Trezevant & McLemoresville, Tenn. He collected \$40 in Confederate currency & got a receipt for \$28, which is all that due me up to this time from Faulkner's Regiment. Nothing yet from Hyzer's Regt., money or receipt. They are due me for 20 bushels corn, and 2 hams, bacon and biscuits for 80 rations. Called upon this evening for bacon but none to spare.

May 4, 1864. I am quite unwell, pain in my breast and head, bad cough, considerable matter from my lungs. I am confident over half the people of this section are thieves and robbers—that is the males. I have been robbed heavily, especially in the way of work horses and mules. I am sorry to have to say it, but it is so. I found no one willing to assist me to recover my stolen mules, except John Craig, Sr., and his son John. They seemed to be willing to do all they could for me. Of course, I only tried them that claimed to be on the same side the robbers claimed to be on. I don't mean the robbers are all on one side. There are robbers on both sides as pretext. This section has suffered much the worst from the Fed. robbers, Dr. Smith's gang, Capt. Holt's company and Harris men. I learn that Capt. Parkersons, Col. Hezzers, Capt. Penns and Capt. Gooch's Rebel Companies have done considerable damage to the citizens in some sections.

May 9, 1864. The bay mare of which I was robbed by the Smith gang, I found today in the possession of one Lieut. Irvin, 31st Regiment, Tenn. Vol. Confederate Army. Lieut. Irvin is a son of Gerry Irvin, Weakley county, Tenn. Bay mare branded W.Y. on the left shoulder. Irvin refused to give her up and started on the mare for Johnson's army on the 10th inst. The mare is my property.

June 1864. Several squads of Confederates have stayed all night with me within the last few days. Some of names I recollect: Sam'l Waters Buckhannon of Texas, Wm. S. Bomar, R. Baker, one Tool, a prisoner for horse-stealing. Names of many others in the company not recollected. I fed them and their horses free of charge. Bohannon instead of Buckhannon of Texas. I have neglected this part of my record. I have fed a great many squads of Confederates since my last record. I have received nothing for feeding soldiers up to this time.

July 6, 1864. First katydid I have heard this season. Commenced

cutting my oats today. They are good. The weather has been extremely hot for two weeks.

July 15, 1864. James Clement wrote from Rock Island prison, Ill., to John M. Dickson who was then staying at Paducah, Ky., stating that Wm. A. Younger, son of Williamson Younger, two miles West of Atwood, died last Tuesday week ago in the hospital of bilious fever, after a very short sickness and much to our astonishment as he looked better than we ever knew him to do. Mr. Clement goes on to say to Mr. Dickson: "May we beg of you to let his father know this sad news and give expressions of our warmest sympathy for a loss which however severe for him has not been a slight one to us. He left \$21 which if not disposed of by his father will be sunk into the prison fund." This is all Jas. Clement says about his death in his letter to Mr. J. M. Dickson. Mr. Dickson wrote to me from Paducah July 9, 1864, and sent the letter he received from Jas. Clement. J. M. Dickson received other letters from some of the boys at Rock Island prison. He, Mr. Dickson, says that the boys wrote that Wm. A. was sick but three days and was in perfect health up to the time of the fatal attack. The two letters named in this record I wish preserved. According to the date given in the communication of Mr. C. to Mr. D. my son at the time of his death was twenty four years seven months and eighteen days old. William Armistead Younger enlisted as a soldier in the Confederate Army in June 1861 in A. P. Hall's company made up about Huntingdon and McLemoresville, and put in 22nd regiment at Trenton. Thomas Truman was elected Col. Wm. A., was in the battle of Shiloh and all the battles and skirmishes his brigade and division were in up to the time he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Missionary Ridge. The 22nd Reg. was consolidated with the 12th and retained the number 12th. The 47th was also thrown with them. This is my understanding of the affair.

July 23, 1864. This day I handed James Alexander a letter written to H. J. Hansbro, Paducah, Ky., requesting Mr. Hansbro to attend to having head and foot stones put to Wm. A. Younger's grave. The head stone is to be three feet high and foot stone proportioned, with this inscription: "Wm. A., son of W. & L. Younger of Carroll County, Tenn., born Nov. 2, 1839, died June 20, 1864. Prisoner of War." I also wrote to James Clement who is a prisoner at Rock Island, Ill., to ascer-

tain if there is any obstacle in the way of having the grave stones put to his grave.

Aug. 3, 1864. I have lived to see the time that those who have the least, over and above a comfortable living, are the best off. They have the least trouble and the least dread of robbers. Such characters are very numerous.

Sept. 4, 1864. This is a very clear warm day. I was taken yesterday with itching and burning. Last night suffered very much with cramp in my stomach and breast and quite unwell today. It is what is called St. Anthony's fire. It is very bad. The grasshoppers have been destructive this summer. The army worm has been quite destructive to grass and weeds since the first of Aug. Some of the worms are a dark, ashy color, dim stripes; others a shiny black with pale yellowish stripes from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

Nov. 3. The soldiers may have misrepresented things. I wish not to do my fellow men and my neighbors injustice. God forbid! Some soldiers will by the soldiers tell things on men in the neighborhood very well calculated to cause neighbors to think hard of each other. Col. Chennyworth's men camped at McLemoresville some little time. Their tales caused me to think hard of some people in this neighborhood. Chennyworth's men were a bad set, but they told the truth as circumstances have proved. On Dec. 1st, four Confederates got dinner and horses fed, and the four stayed all night, had supper, breakfast, lodging and horses fed for which the gents handed Louisa the magnificent sum of five dollars in Confed. money, probably worth ten cents or less. These were Tom Hutcherson's men, and I think they were but little account. Henry county men, Milam Dillehunt and Greer; the other's name not known, a heavy-set, red-head.

Nov. 4, 1864. I have not done much noting for some time because so much confusion and rumors of Federal raids. I am fearful to keep my books and papers where they can find them (that is my note or acct. books). There have been three men shot at, at home or near their homes in eastern part of Gibson county the past summer and fall, to wit, Jack Bullington, his cousin Pack Bullington and S. C. Cudd. The two Bullingtons will probably recover. They were shot by the men known as the Smith gang of Scullborn (Skullbone), Gibson Co. Tenn. Cudd was shot by some person in ambush about dusk and died about

four o'clock next morning. The Confederates are conscripting here. As a general thing, I am opposed to conscription and such hiding in the weeds.

Nov. 17, 1864. Part of Gen. Forrest's command camped at Shady Grove in Oct. I furnished them 10 bushels wheat and 182 pounds of flour for which I received 76 dollars in Confederate money.

Nov. 23, 1864. Yesterday and today General Lyons command Confederates had my wagon and oxen and two loads of corn from me. The foraging soldiers wanted to press my wagon to haul corn from Joshua Springers. I would not let my wagon go on such business and sent it loaded with my own corn, the two loads would make about 33 or 34 bushels. Very few men in this neighborhood have furnished any forage up to this time to the Confederate Army. They manage somehow to keep from furnishing any thing. It is really disgusting to see how little and low some people can act, and some of them members of the church of Christ! I can number between 20 and 30 men who are pretending to farm in this neighborhood, within two and a half miles, who I am confident, never furnished one bushel of corn to the Confederates, nor, I may add, to the Federal army. The foraging companies invariably get dinner and feed their horses with me, for which I don't receive anything. Their wagons are broken, their teams are of no account, and they themselves are sick. These are the excuses made. But when the block is raised at Paducah, they can make out a team sufficient to go to Paducah. God pity such deceitful liars.

Dec. 31, 1864. If any of my children or sons-in-law, should so forget themselves and go to quarreling with the other children, or heirs, or sons-in-law, or in any way vex or trouble my wife Louisa (if she be still living) or say hard things or speak of me in any manner unbecoming a child of a parent, especially a deceased parent, then their portion I wish divided among the others.

Jan. 1865. B. Watts entitled to a credit of \$65 for a little brown mule purchased of him.

Feb. 4, 1865. Let B. Watts have \$20 in Tennessee money. B. Watts left for the army this morning, Monday, Feb. 6, 1865. At home about 7 weeks.

Feb. 5, 1865. Since the above was written, I have entertained a considerable number of soldiers, the names of all not recollected. Three

Kentuckyians at one time (to wit) Staten, Crews, and Mabry. The last named on his return South stop'd half a day & night; and two from Weakley county, Tenn., one of them named Young, the other not remembered; one named Greer of Henry county, Tenn. The two of Weakley county & of Henry County paid their bill. I did not think I was under obligations to feed them and their horses for nothing. Then came one from Ky., Hendrix, and two from Wayne Co., Tenn., Garrett & York, offering to pay in Confederate. I refused to accept a good many from Carroll County. Many strangers seem to find the way to my house, especially when they are coming from towards Trenton. There are two ways to get here from Trenton—one by the way of Harvey's bridge and the other by the way of Shady Grove. Jeff Tite lives on one route and John Huke on the other. I seem to stand high with the citizens East, West, North and South, judging from the way they direct people, especially soldiers, to my house to be entertained. I have lately entertained six overnight and fed their horses. They had been turned off at the first house South on the road to Shady Grove, South of the railroad. There were two here from Trenton last Tuesday night. From near Nashville came Baker and Mann, nice looking men, who stayed all night on their return from the section of Sandy river & Blanton's factory.

Feb. 24, 1865. News that Col. Faulkner has been murdered at Dresden, Tenn. Further news, three men, thieves I suppose, have been killed near Como, Mitchell, Lewis & Elkin. Seven said to have been shot at South Gibson and four shot between McLemoresville and Huntingdon, Tenn., a few weeks since.

Feb. 1865. Never put a man in office that is not punctual in all things. If he is slack in his dealings, he will be so in his duties of office. Mitchell not killed as reported. [One Ross, a robber or thief, was shot about the last of March 1865.]

April 4, 1865. Two Rock Island prisoners got something to eat here today. Three got dinner here yesterday, prisoners from Camp Chase, one all night.

May 5, 1865. There is something a little uncommon here in the character of a bird—a kind of mocking-bird sits on the running rose bush in front of the piazza and sings after nightfall. He seems to mimic their language—a different bird from anything I have ever seen or heard, or if I have seen him he has changed his language.

1865. This is another spring of turkeygnats, and is the second year we have ever had them here. They make their appearance about the first of May. They follow especially young turkeys.

May 13, 1865. Finished planting corn today.

June 5, 1865. It is an old adage there is luck in leisure but the reverse comes up, there is danger in delay. Well this is it: I have thought for several years I would like to live in a country where slavery did not exist and I used to talk about moving to a free state. But all the free states lying North, and consumption being hereditary in our family, I thought it best not to move North. It seems now I am about to get to a free state without moving. I am an emancipationist and have been from boyhood, but I am opposed to the way in which emancipation is now seemingly to be brought about. Several things have operated to cause me to be an emancipationist. First, the cruel treatment I have seen in some sections of country. This had a powerful effect on me when a boy. I was quite a close observer. Second, the bad effect slavery has on the white population of the slaveholding states. Third, I have doubts about the right of holding slaves in any such way as the Negroes have been held. I think the great national wrong has been in not having them taught. There might be volumes written on this subject.

June 18, 1865. One John Traying, a man of bad character shot by Federal soldiers near Trezevant, Tenn. Also a few days before one James Wedington of bad character, was shot at Columbus, Ky., by the same authorities. We have many millennium writers and preachers in these days. I think we have much to do before we will ever enjoy a millennial rest in this world. The philosophy of poor mortal man will never change the immutable laws and decrees of an unchangeable, all-wise and just God. "When the wicked rule the land mourns."

July 28, 1865. Barbecue and Examination (Mrs. Lou Goodins) at Atwood. Heavy rain at night. Between twenty and thirty young men and girls with buggies and horses here all night. Some of the crowd had but little manners.

Aug. 3rd, 1865. Election today for members to the Federal Congress. Every voter has to get a certificate from the county court clerk to make him a qualified voter he has to come within the several articles and sections of what is known as the franchise act of the bogus Legislature under Wm. G. Brownlow's administrator of the government of

Tenn. The voters at Trezevant, Carroll Co., were as condemned looking assembly of men as I ever saw. They looked as if their very conscience condemned them. I think when things get right they will acknowledge their conscience did hurt them. I have no more use for some of them. I have seen his foot. He can vouch for a red-hot secessionist of the fire-eating order but not for me. I suppose it is because I will not sneeze when he snuffs. I have done them all the favours I could in person & property. The Confederate soldiers, perhaps, have done the same for me. If so, I thank them. But I do not thank them for their disfranchising course, especially their partialities.

Aug. 18, 1865. The report that Jas. Wedington was shot at Columbus is said not to be correct.

Oct. 22, 1865. It does seem to me that this land which once boasted land of light and Gospel privileges is fast approaching heathenism. Look at the church that city set upon a hill. The prophet and the priest are gone astray. The blind leading the blind and falling into the ditch. Look at the dress worn by the supposed followers of Christ, the professed daughters of Zion. I purchased a bale of spun thread a few days since at \$1.25 per dozen. The bale came to \$25.00 in greenback. In time of peace a bale was worth about \$3.00. On Feb. 15, 1865 I paid for 1 bale 600 spun thread \$31.25.

Nov. 10, 1865. Gave James W. Younger one fine silver watch worth \$60. I gave James W. means to provide himself with a good tract of land in Kansas.

Margaret Penelope Younger was born January 1, 1844. Margaret Penelope Goodloe departed this life June 3rd, 1868. How uncertain is our time here!

Dec. 31, 1865. This year I had an Englishman, Thomas Nixon, working on the farm. He was a poor hand. He did not seem to know anything about farming. I took him through kindness. I allowed him \$100—big wages for such a hand he proved to be. But quite a nice young man. I also had this year a Negro man named Andrew Watters, a worthless, sorry fellow. It seems to me to be perfect nonsense for people to hold out the idea of Negroes managing for themselves. As to giving them the franchise now, I think is superlatively ridiculous. I am driven to the conclusion that they who advocate it are either very weak in the head or mean in the heart, perhaps some of both.

1866. I have supported Mary J. Watts and Benjamin Watts since the year 1861. Some deduction must be made from their part and added to that of the others. You can agree on that, I think, among yourselves.

July 3, 1866. It seems to me that I have suffered more afflictions since the 10th of last May than in all my previous life. Why should I grieve my life away? I feel confident my son Isaac was a good child and a Christian. O how I loved him! O how I love all my children! May it be my happy lot to meet them at the gate of the Celestial City!

July 14, 1867. I was of the opinion when Mary J. and Benjamin Watts were married they would, with the usual luck and the blessing of God, manage their worldly affairs well. I fear that I am mistaken. I see they are very much inclined to live too fast. This thing of living too fast seems to be universal in this country.

March 1868. There is something strange in the course pursued by the Radicals of this state. It seems to me they will bring the country to anarchy and final ruin, yet they persist. What a strange creature is poor fallen man!

April 11, 1868. These charges on the foregoing pages against Ben and Mary Watts are to be discounted off of any part of my estate which they may have against all other settlements.

Sept. 22, 1868. I cannot forget my son Isaac Newton. O sweet child torn from me so unexpectedly and in such a frightful manner. O God help me to bear my troubles. A great deal of sickness here at this time. Mary Watts and her two children here at my house have been sick. Children now well but Mary quite feeble.

Sept. 27, 1868. After a great deal of rain the weather cleared and yesterday morning there was a little frost.

Tuesday, Sept. 28. Left home for Missouri, myself and Sarah Ann. Slept at A. H. Pattens, Union City, Tenn. One day lay-over in St. Louis. Put up at St. Nicolas Hotel. Stayed at College Mound McGee College from Friday evening till Wednesday morning.

Oct. 13. Started for home. Reached home 3rd day after I left. I don't fancy North Missouri. The land in a large portion of the country is not as rich as it seems to be. Timber is scarce and the worst is the people don't seem to be very hospitable. They will be obliging for pay and I don't think for any thing else. It seemed that way to me.

Martha Rocinda Younger was born —— 9th, 1854. May 1864 Martha R. is a good obedient child. God bless her and take care of her in this evil world.

1869. Martha Rocinda to expense while at Newbern with J. S. Howard \$46.36.

Dec. 3, 1869. I sent by express to Rev. J. S. Howard of Jacksonville, Mo., \$170.00 making it all expressed and paid to Rev. J. S. Howard since he moved to College Mound, Mo. I am not to pay J.S.H. any board for Lydia and for Sallie, but only for the provisions consumed. I have boarded J. A. Howard's family for the space of ten weeks, including his wife and three children. One good turn deserves another.

Lydia Emeretta Younger was born January 26, 1848.

Tuition fee paid J. W. Dickson at Bluff Springs Seminary, Gibson County, Tenn.

Dec. 29. I see from the statement of accounts from McGee College that the balance of Lydia's expenses is \$323.29.

Sarah Ann Younger was born Dec. 19, 1852. Sally is obedient kind and affectionate, O Lord preserve her for good. Thank God all of my children are good and obedient. I have had much satisfaction with them.

Sept. 24, 1870. Sent \$27.50 care of J. S. Howard, College Mound, Mo., for Sarah Ann.

Dec. 29, 1870. I find by the settlements of the accounts from McGee College that Sarah Ann has received \$227.20 over and above the amount charged. And this \$227.20 does not include the three items last charged.

June 1, 1871. Cash to Mary J. Watts sent by express \$5.00.

Jan. 12, 1872. Sometime since I wrote any in this book and many changes. The scars are not quite all healed which the war made. It seems to me that since the war, many people seem to feel themselves rather bound to act mean, lie, cheat and defraud, and live without work. The former part of this book wherein I have written what I then intended as a will and testament may all be re-considered, as many changes have taken place. I now want it distinctly understood that P. R. Goodloe, whose first wife was my daughter Margaret Penelope, shall have no

part or lot in any of my estate whatever. Margaret Penelope's son left at her death (to wit) James Henry Goodloe, I wish to be cared for by the family of Margaret Penelope's parents, brothers and sisters. And if James Henry Goodloe's father, P. R. Goodloe, permits him to live with and be raised in my family, I want him to have enough to give him a common education (i.e.) if he is permitted to stay with his grandmother, if she be living after my death. I will leave the providing for my grandson, James Henry Goodloe, to the decision of my wife, Louisa. She can be governed by what the prospects of the boy may be. I hold the deeds of two tracts of land lying in Gibson county, Tenn. One of the deeds was executed to me by M. H. Goodloe for one hundred acres. The other was executed to me by P. R. Goodloe for 117 acres more. I hold a note of hand on P. R. Goodloe for \$907. Now when the above named note has been paid I want P. R. Goodloe to have a deed made to him for the two above named tracts of land as I am only holding them as security to me for the payment of the above named note of hand of \$907. Signed Williamson Younger.

NOTE. Pages 23 and 24 missing from the book.

June 3, 1872. I expect to start tomorrow morning to visit my children in Ill. and Mo. Our time here is uncertain and I wish it understood that I want my wife Louisa to have this place my homestead as long as she may live or remain a widow. Then I want my son John Watkins to have the homestead together with seventy acres of this land taken off the east part of the tract after twelve acres being taken off east boundary running from L. W. Dickson's north boundary line through to the Arabel Dickson tract now belonging to Thomas A. Louis. The said twelve acres to be divided into three equal lots of four acres. My son James W., to have one four acre lot, John C. Roach and Lydia E., his wife, to have one four acre lot and the other four acres to go to one of my other children as may be agreed upon with yourselves, the balance to be divided as my children may agree upon.

June 4, 1872. Louisa and I started to Missouri and Illinois to visit our children Angy Howard and Mary J. Watts. We first went to Otterville, Ill., where Mary J. Watts and Benjamin Watts are now living. We took cars at Trenton, Tenn., at 8:30 P.M. Got to Ben's about 7:30 P.M., the next day, stayed with them one week, then left for Angy Howard's. Started from Ben's at 6 A.M., on June 13th. Went by

way of St. Louis 8:30 P.M. Got to McGee college next morning 8:30. Sallie and Mattie there at school. Louisa stayed. Myself, Sallie & Mattie left there for Ill., to visit Mary Watts on the morning of the 8th of July. Got to Ben's the next morning about 11 o'clock.

July 15, 1872. At Mary J. Watts at Otterville, Ill. Left there on Tuesday 16.

July 30, 1872. This is locust year but they disappeared by the last of June.

July 1872. Martha and Sarah Ann with me on their way home from McGee College, Mo. I made Mary J. Watts a present of a gold watch. Mary and hers were very kind to me.

July 30, 1872. This is the last amount paid for Martha R. at McGee College \$222.79. Martha went to McGee College, 10 months. Traveling expense to college was \$22.15.

Apr. 1, 1873. Paid to John C. Roach \$170.00 for horse and gave the horse to his wife Lydia E. I also let Lydia E. Roach and J. C. Roach have a lot or piece of land that I bought J. W. Cage of Atwood, Tenn. I will cancel all accounts on Lydia E. Roach previous to this date except piano which I consider as extra.

July 4, 1873. Sent by Southern Express to Mary J. Watts, Longton, Kan., \$200 for which I have receipt. Sept. 20, 1873. At B. Watts, Howard Co. Kan., we, W. & L. Younger.

Louisa Angeline Younger was born Jan. 2, 1846.

July 21, 1873. I have not given this son much in the way of schooling. I wish it understood that the homestead I now live in, together with about 75 or 80 acres of land on which are the buildings that I now occupy shall go to my son John Watkins. I want my wife Louisa to hold possession of the land and homestead above willed to my son John Watkins during her natural life or widowhood.

This year (1873) had a cold backward spring, and the caterpillars were destructive in West Tennessee. And last year was locust year here.

John Watkins Younger was born on August 9, 1859.

Jan. 1, 1875. Gave lot of lumber to build house since Sarah Ann's marriage to T. W. Cannon. No matter what disposition may be made of my other possessions this much must not be altered.

Apr. 27, 1875. There is no telling what a day may bring forth. This is my will and desire, revoking all and every thing that may be in conflict with this. Since writing the above I find there will be about 150 acres in the homestead, not including the place where James W. Younger is living which contains 83 acres. Therefore I will the homestead place of 150 acres to my two youngest children. What I mean by the homestead tract of land is the place on which I am now living.

Martha Rocinda, my youngest daughter, and John Watkins, my youngest son, each may give my grandson, Jimmy Goodloe, \$100.00. He is to have \$200 out of other effects of my estate. I want you my children and sons-in-law to do Jimmy Goodloe justice. If you think you can and ought to give him more than \$400 then you can do so. You can tell better when my affairs are wound up. Real estate seems to be on the decline. No telling how low it may get. I believe you will all do justice. Don't fall out.

I guess the move to Kansas will never take place while I live. We have long been talking of moving there. One of our children is now in Kansas. I suppose our son James will move there and I don't want to hinder the others from going, if they wish to move there. I want John Watkins to have a sufficiency of the farming tools to well furnish the farm and to have one horse or mule out of my stock, and Martha Rocinda to have one horse. Louisa my wife to have one horse and the buggy. You must remember that John Watkins has had but little schooling and Martha R. did not get as much as the other girls. If any of the children grumble or go to law to abolish any of my will or desire as expressed, I want that one cut off from any share or inheritance whatever. You know this is my handwriting whether witnessed or not.

Williamson Younger

This Dec. 29, 1875.

May 24, 1876. I hereby put on record that Mary J. and Benj. Watts must account to my estate after my decease for all money which I furnished them after they left Tennessee. All items as an account against M. J. & B. Watts are cancelled and remitted which were made prior to this date.

Mary Jane Younger, the first daughter, was born December 28, 1837. In the first commencement of Mary Jane, boarding from home

and going to school, she boarded with Dr. J. G. Boyd in McLemoresville, two five months sessions; also with the widow Roach (Rev. Mal Roach's widow) one five month session. These sessions I will not charge, but will let them be as a credit to her for teaching the other children.

May 27, 1876. Things have undergone considerable change since I wrote a piece about the distribution of my little worldly affairs. Margaret Penelope married Mr. P. R. Goodloe of Gibson County, Tenn., Dec. 1873. He and all other sons and daughters and sons-in-law must be taken in consideration. Settle up among yourselves, so as not to let W. G. Brownlow's pets have one dollar, if you can avoid it. If it be the will of God, I hope the Brownlow knaves and thieves will all be out of office before my body shall be laid beneath the clods. The Radicals pretend to have Christian fellowship for brethren who are Southern sympathizers, those whom they choose to call Rebels. How is it possible for the Radicals to have Christian fellowship for persons whom they say they cannot trust in matters of smaller importance? They say to us who are for our country, and contend for our rights, stand off, we can't trust you in political, civil, and judicial affairs. They say they can trust the illiterate black man but the white man they cannot trust with the affairs of government. Neither would they trust the Negro were it not for the fact they think to get the Negroes' vote to keep them in power. Are the Tennessee Radicals fanatics, fools or knaves? Can they not see that they will complete the destruction of this government?

June 16, 1876. I had some hemorrhage of the lungs. Three spells up to this date.

June 19, 1876. Discharges of blood from the bronchial tubes or lungs.

The End