

Thomas Woodfin Keesee Honeymoon Trip, 1853

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From Photocopies of the Original
Provided by
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Thomas Woodfin Keesee was born 21 August 1816 in Richmond, Virginia, the son of John William Keesee and Martha Woodfin, and the grandson of George Keesee and Fannie Frayser. George Keesee was the son of Charles Keesee and his wife Mildred, and Charles Keesee was the son of the immigrant George Keesee who died in King George County, Virginia in 1741.

On the first of November 1837, Thomas Woodfin Keesee married Marie Louise Bolling Cross, who was born in 1819 and died in 1839 after giving birth to one child, John William Keesee, born 8 August 1838. Thomas Woodfin Keesee's second wife was Elvira Narcissa Nelson, a widow. Thomas Woodfin Keesee served the Confederacy as a colonel; he died 31 December 1885 in Columbia, Maury County, Tennessee.

Cover letter from Susan Polk O'Brien to Allen Randolph Keesee [no date]:

Your note was waiting for me when we returned home after a week at Montegale while Bob attended Trustees' meetings at Sewanee.

The original of the diary is in the State of Mississippi Archives. I asked Charlotte Capers to get a copy of it for me—so here's a Xerox for you. I know you will find it as grand as I do. We laughed hysterically over poor Narcissa fainting and flopping the entire trip. She sounds just like we O'Brien girls—though I believe she was not our ancestor. It was his first wife that begat us, wasn't it? And where is the plantation he mentions? Near Hernando?

Do the names he mentions match your records [somebody has interposed "yes"]? He certainly had a batch of relatives and friends!

Sorry I missed your luncheon invitation. Try me again.

Written by Thomas Woodfin Keese I: Diary of his honeymoon trip North in 1853
Note that comments in brackets [---] were added by Carolyn Earle Billingsley

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Embarked from Columbia [Tennessee-added editorial note on my copy] May 18th 1853 on Wednesday at 1 o'clock PM—Encountered a heavy cloud that evening with severe thunder.

19th Taken sea sick in stage [probably what we'd call motion sickness or car sickness] and stopt 8 miles east of Bolivar, Hardeman County at Major Charles Hancys where we remained until Saturday evening.

21st Where we again took stage for Somerville and traveled all night, the air cold and chilly. Return of sea sickness. Arrived in Memphis Sunday evening.

22nd 4 o'clock all covered in dust and both of us very much wearied. Some appearance of rain.

23rd a fine shower of rain last night. The air very pleasant, both Narcissa [Narcissa Nelson, second wife—added editorial note] and myself much improved. We reached the plantation at 10 o'clock, found the overseer and all the servants well and the crop remarkably clean. We remained at the plantation 15 days and then took steam for Cincinnati [sic] Ohio. While at the plantation we went to town one day where Narcissa met with many old acquaintances and spent a pleasant day. I visited the magnificent steamer

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Eclipse as she touched at the wharf going up. She was crowded with passengers and freight.

Wednesday 1st of June got up at 3 o'clock in Memphis to take Hernando stage out to plantation, the early rising made Narcissa quite sick.

2nd is a beautiful morning. The air soft and pleasant.

3rd & 4th ditto. all well.

5th “ . crops are growing finely. While I was out in the field this morning an Irish [heathen?] came into the house without any notice and very much alarmed Narcissa, so much so that she left the house and strained her foot by jumping out the back door, which was very painful for several days.

6th Left plantation before sunrise and drove to Memphis to breakfast in company with Dr. Leftwich who had spent the night with us. The great South Western Convention meets this day at 10 o'clock in the City Hall, a very

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magnificent [sic] room.

Thursday 9th June Left Memphis on the Cincinnati Packet with quite an agreeable company of passengers particularly Mr. and Mrs. Beasley of North Carolina who were introduced to us by Mr. Buntyn. While on board and before leaving Memphis Mr. Boswell an old and particular friend of Major Nelson called to see us.

Friday 10th June Fine day and nothing unusual took place. We passed Cairo [Illinois], Paducah [Kentucky] and Smithland etc.

Saturday 11th June. Another most delightful day. We were at Shawneetown at 6 o'clock and Evansville at 12. Narcissa is complaining. Took 2 pills, the operation of which made her quite sick.

Sunday 12th June This if possible is a more beautiful day than the previous ones, but Narcissa is still sick and loses [sic] the opportunity to witness some grand scenery on the banks. Amongst the passengers is a Miss Hanna from Memphis, a very interesting young lady. Got 10 feet of the canal at Louisville 12 o'clock

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and found the Steamer Moro Castle aground in the canal which detained us all day.

Monday 13th June Moro Castle still aground and we still lying up at the canal. We walked up to see Porter the Kentucky giant, the 1st time for Narcissa.¹ After being

¹ *Portland: CITY SERVED AS DETOUR POINT FOR FALLS FREIGHT AND TRAVELERS; JIM PORTER RULED THE WHARF TAVERNS*, By Shawn M. Herron © *The Courier-Journal*: Porter [Kentucky—near Louisville] was the natural stopping place for boats going upstream to the Falls of the Ohio, Portland once flourished on the portage business. In the early 1800s, freight and passengers were taken off boats and hauled to Louisville along the turnpike, now Portland Avenue, made dangerous by bandits preying on the heavily laden wagons. Once safely in Louisville, they could reload the boats that had been taken over the falls or load new boats waiting at the Louisville wharf. By 1819, business was booming. . . . In the 1840s and '50s, Portland was home to "Big Jim" Porter, the Kentucky Giant. Standing 7-foot-8 or an inch or two taller -- legends differ -- he presided over several taverns in the wharf areas of Portland and Shippingport and could be seen tooling his horse-drawn cab along Main Street with his paying customers. At his death in 1859, a special 9-foot casket was required. From <http://www.courier-journal.com/reweb/community/placetime/city-portland.html>; accessed 3 April 2000; From "Footprints of an Itinerant," (1856) by Maxwell Pierson Gaddis, accessed 3 April 2000 at http://www.mnu.edu/~fjohnson/313/gaddis/foot-prints/footprints_50.htm: "Chapter 50, THE SUNNY SOUTH, Thursday, December 22, 1842. -- I left the Queen City on board the steamer Scioto Belle, quite indisposed. On arriving at Louisville I was quite too unwell to proceed on my journey. . . . For more than five days I was confined to my bed, and suffered most exquisite pain for a period of more than forty-eight hours from an abscess on my throat; . . . At Shippingport in the morning I accidentally met the Kentucky giant, James Porter. He was seven feet eight inches in height and tolerably well proportioned. In early life he learned the "cooper's trade," but was engaged in keeping a small grocery store, and also in running a hack between that place and Louisville. His chair was three feet high, and standing behind the counter was a highly-ornamental rifle eight feet long. I conversed for some time with the "giant," and learned from him

delayed 24 hours at the canal we took passage on the Alvin Adams, one of the fine Union Line Steamers and thus left Louisville amidst the greatest crowd of passengers that I have ever met with on any steam Boat. The weather so extremely warm that we could not ride out to see the city of Louisville. Mr. And Mrs. Beasley are still in company with us. We are pleased with the good company of some of the lady passengers.

Wednesday 14th June Arrived at Cincinnati 6 o'clock and took lodging at the Burnett House. Mr. and Mrs. Beasley continued their journey up the river. We were sorry to part with them having found them exceedingly pleasant and agreeable traveling companions. In the evening drove around town and the suburbs

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House is being erected.

Friday 17th June I took the cars back to Cincinnati in search of my baggage and found it on the train coming up and returned to Columbus by 10 o'clock, remained there till 1 o'clock and and [sic] started again on the Cleveland cars where we arrived at 7 o'clock & while I was seeing to my baggage the marshall arrested me for Wm. Kisane who had threatened a mans [sic] life. I got the officer to go with me to the Forrest City Hotel where I left Narcissa and I then went with him to the Squires Office and was discharged without any examination. Got back to Hotel and found Narcissa in tears.

Saturday 18th June Fine morning and after breakfast Narcissa and I got a carriage and rode through the principal streets to get a view of the city and we both agree that it is the prettiest town we have seen. The width and regularity of the streets and the

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elegant shade trees give to Cleveland a rural appearance I never saw in any other city. We started to Buffalo at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and arrived there at 10 P.M. a distance of 200 miles.

that his father was deceased, but that his mother was still living, and resided not far from him in the village of Shippingsport, below the falls. His father and mother were of ordinary stature, and so were his brothers and sisters.

As I looked upon this human prodigy I thought of Goliath, whose height was six cubits and a span, whose spear was like a weaver's beam, the head of which weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And I remember the prophet Samuel's account of four others "who were born to the giant, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants;" one of whom "was a man of great stature, and had on each hand six fingers, and on each foot six toes-four and twenty in number."

We are now fully under way, but moving very slowly, on account of the ice. For other incidents connected with my journey I refer the reader to my diary kept at the time;" and *American Notes*, by Charles Dickens, Chapter 13 - From Cincinnati To Louisville In Another Western Steamboat; And From Louisville To St. Louis In Another. St. Louis (Accessed 3 April 2000; http://www.mastertexts.com/Dickens_Charles/American_Notes/Chapter00013.htm), Dickens' trip was taken in 1842 and tells of his encounter with the Kentucky Giant.

Sunday 19th June Buffalo is a very considerable place. We did not go much through it as we took the cars for Niagara at 9 ¼ o'clock arriving there in about an hour. The view of the falls is so far above my powers of description that I will not try to give any account the impression it made upon us, but will only say nothing that I ever saw or heard of could give one a proper conception of its grandeur. In the evening we went over to Canada and got the best view of the falls and traded a little with Victoria[‘s] loyal subjects. We were struck with the great quantity of ever greens, pines in great variety and hemlock.

Monday 20th June Left Niagara at 9 o'clock

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and 10 minutes passed through Rochester then on to Syracuse, Utica etc. and got to Saratoga about 8 o'clock.

Narcissa was quite sick for several hours today but is better. We stopped at the United States Hotel, made the acquaintance of R. L. Smith and daughter of Brooklin[‘e’ at end crossed through] N. Y. They seem to be pleasant people [‘and f’ crossed through].

Tuesday 21st June Narcissa kept to her bed a good part of the day and I gave her some laudanum which relieved her.

This is the most beautiful place I ever yet beheld, so tastaly[? Tastefully?] nice and clean.

Wednesday 22nd June Narcissa better and we drove out to Saratoga Lakes a nice body of water where fishing parties from the Springs go and take pleasure rides in sail boats etc. Met with James Ellis and Lady here today from Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Smith and daughter of Brooklin [Brooklyn, New York] left for home this morning. It appears that persons are coming and going at all hours of the day and from every part of

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the world.

Thursday 23rd June Weather fine and the crowd is rapidly increasing at the springs.

Friday 24th June This is St. Johns day. We left Saratoga at 1 o'clock for New York. The trains delayed so much time that it missed connection at Schenectady, we then went onto Albany and stayed all night, got there about 7 o'clock. Walked about after supper and looked at some of the fine stores etc. Albany is quite a city and the seat of government of N. Y.

Saturday 25th June. We take passage for the City of New York on the splendid steamer New World at 7 o'clock with a tolerable number of passengers. Narcissa and myself a little complaining from the effects of colds. Got to the city at 4 o'clock and took lodgings at the St. Nicholas Hotel, finest house in the world, more convenient and better furnished. Weather very cool and woolen shawls comfortable.

Sunday 26th June We went to Grace Church in the forenoon and saw the most elegant meeting house and the most fashionable congregation in the city. Met with some Kentuckians and made their acquaintance.

Monday 27th June Waked up and found it
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raining and dark and dull. Met Gov.[?]. James in the barber shop and C. P. Maguire sent his card to my room. Went to [P. T.] Barnum Museum and staid nearly all the morning.

Tuesday 28th June Narcissa and Mrs. David Looney went to Stewarts[sic] Silk House and shopped most of the morning. In the evening went to Franconi Hippodrome and when we came back found C. S. Nelson [a relative of Narcissa's?] at the St. Nicholas. He came and sat awhile in our room.

Wednesday 29th June Visited Christal Palace.

Thursday 30th June Went to Greenwood Cemetery one of the prettiest places I ever saw. Crossed the river at Hamilton Ferry going and Fulton coming back. In the evening walked about town etc. and at night went to Niblo Garden.

Friday 1st July Started to see the ships but did not get there and in the evening we left for Philadelphia at 5:30 and arrived at 9:30 oclock and took lodgings at the Girard House.

Saturday 2nd July. Walked about town a little then went to the Academy of Fine Arts and spent several hours. After dinner we went to Fair Mt. Water works etc.

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Sunday 3rd July. We went to Methodist Church and heard a most excellent sermon and saw Thad Plummer. In the evening walked about the city and looked at the fine residences and parks etc. Philadelphia is the most elegant city we have visited.

Monday 4th July Witnessed quite a display at the Military Company and bands of music which marched up by our Hotel on Chesnutt St. We afterward went to several of the public squares where bands of music were playing and thousands of women and children. At night the fireworks and rocketts [sic] were flying over prettily.

Tuesday 5th July Went to the U. S. Mint and saw them making money from the gold dust and were quite interested and afterwards went to the Navy Yard and various munitions of war etc. Met John T. Wheat here, he now lives in N. C.

Wednesday 6th July. Left Philadelphia at 8 ½ oclock for Washington City. Stopt at Baltimore 2 hours. Made the acquaintance of Mr. John Carrie Jr. And Lady of Richmond, Va. We got to Washington 5 ½ oclock and took lodgings at Browns[?] Hotel. Met A. O. P. Nicholson first morn after getting in the house.

Wednesday 7th July. Went to Washington Monument

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Smithsonian Institution. The Capital & grounds and the Presidents [sic] House and after tea met with Mr. Currie [the previous mention of this couple appears to be "Carrie" but this instance definitely looks like "Currie"] and Lady again.

Friday 8th July. Took steamer at Washington for the Fredricksburg-Richmond cars and got to Richmond at 3 o'clock P.M. Put up at the American Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Turpin & Mr. and Mrs. Pleasants called on us in the evening and in the morning ["July 9th" written above the line] we went to my Mr. Pleasants to stay [doesn't make sense], that evening Jesse F. Keesees family came up to see Narcissa.

Sunday 10th July. We went to the old Church (4 Mile Creek) to preaching where I saw a great many old friends and took dinner with cousin John Garthright. Came back to town in the evening about 8 ½ o'clock during a heavy rain.

Monday 11th July Saw cousin Mollie Binford.

Tuesday 12th July I went to J. B. Keesees [sic] a short time and we remained at Julia's [editor's note that this is TWK's sister] the whole day and rode out in the afternoon.

Wednesday 13th July. Julia went to Jesse Keesees [sic] to see his daughter Sally [editor's note that Sally is the daughter of Jesse] who was very sick and we remained at Julias [sic] all day.

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Thursday 14th July. Sally Keesees is better today. Julia has been down to see her.

Friday 15th July. Sally Keesees still better. I went down to cousin Polly Burtons [sic] and Alberta Akins[sic].

Saturday 16th July. Narcissa, Julia and myself walked over the Rail Road Bridge and then went to Holly Wood Cemetery, a very elegant place to be so new.

Sunday 17th July. Julia, Narcissa and myself went to the Presbyterian Church in the morning and in the evening Mr. Pleasants and myself went to see the Hon. John N. Botts. My uncle Jesse Keesees called this morning.

Monday 18th July. Narcissa went shopping and I had a letter from Wm. The first since we left home.

Tuesday 19th July. Cousin Elizabeth Binford called on us and we promised to dine with her on Friday next. In the evening we went to see the steam vessel Jamestown and the the paper mill.

Wednesday 20th July. Rained all the morning till 1 o'clock. We went to Jesse F. Keesees [sic] to dine

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and spent a very pleasant day.

Thursday 21 July. Rained all day and we remained at Julias [sic]. Narcissa a little complaining both yesterday and today. [I think he must mean she had some complaint, i.e., was sick.]

Friday 22nd July Julia, Maria K., Narcissa and myself went down to Jas Binford's [sic] to dine and we stayed all night.

Saturday 23rd July. We called on cousin Betsey Garthright in the morning and took dinner with my old friend T. J. West, had pleasant time[.] Many of the neighbors were invited. In the evening we called at Dr. Metters [sic] (a cousin of mine) and he and his Lady went with us to Col. Robt Simons[sic]. we remained all night.

Sunday 24th July. Col. Simms and Lady went with us up to 4 Mile Creek Meeting house and after preaching we went to Mr. Wm. Gunn to dine and thence to Richmond.

Monday 25th July. Narcissa & Julia went shopping and to Mr. Murrays [sic] to see Mr. Pleasants [sic] sister.

Tuesday 26th July. Narcissa remained with Julia all day.

Wednesday 27th July. We went to Uncle Jesse F. Keesees [sic] to dine and remained all night.

Thursday 28th July. Still at Uncle Jesses [sic] all day and night.

Friday 29th July. Still at uncle Jesses [sic], after dinner Julia drove down for us to go to her house where we returned about dusk. All in good health. Received a letter from Bailey today. Hands all well etc.

Saturday 30th July I rode to old John Carters [sic] in the morning.

Sunday 31st July Julia, Narcissa and myself went to the Methodist (Centenay [sic]) Church and heard Dr. Lee preach a fine sermon.

Monday Aug. 1st Julia & Uncle Jesse Keesees [sic] whole family went to the Dagourian Gallery² and had our and their likenesses taken and then went to dine with Uncle Jesse. After dinner Julia, Narcissa and I paid a call to the Miss Burches and returned to Julias [sic].

Tuesday Aug. 2nd. George W. and M. F. Keesee
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² This probably refers to a Daguerreotype photography studio.

went with us to another Dagourian Gallery [Daguerreotype photography studio] and had their pictures taken. At 5 o'clock in the evening Miss E. Ellis, Julia, Geo. W. Keesee, Narcissa and myself all took passage on the canal packet for the mountains.

Wednesday 3rd Aug. When within ten or fifteen miles of Lynchburg found the canal out of order. We had to take stage at 2 o'clock in the morning & go over the hills for four or five miles and then creep up and down the banks of the canal through mud and water etc.

Thursday 4th Aug. Got to Lynchburg at 6 o'clock in the morning, took breakfast at the Cabler House and then embarked on cars for Bottetourt Springs. We arrived at Bonrooks Depot at 9 ½ o'clock after looking for and trying various ways to obtain a conveyance to the Springs. We chartered a waggon [sic] with some straw in the bottom and chairs to sit in and had a very nice and safe ride arriving about 4 o'clock. Miss Ellis and Julia obtained lodging at Mr. C. Cockes [sic] as there was no more room Narcissa and I went to Dr. Bouldins [sic] distant about ½ a mile. After tea Mrs. Hollowell and Jas and Wm. J. Pleasants came to see us.

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Friday 5th Aug. Visited the Springs and had a very pleasant day. Made some agreeable acquaintances etc.

Saturday 6th Aug. Went over to the Springs to take leave of Julia and the Pleasants family then took carriage to Clover Dales to intercept the stage to Fincastle. Got on Fincastle stage 10 ½ o'clock. Arrived at Fincastle 1 o'clock in time to take stage for the Natural Bridge. All went well until we got to Buchanan where one front wheel ran off and then the horses took fright and ran away upsetting the coach bruising all hands some, but injured none. Got another coach and team in an hour and reached the Bridge about dark.

Sunday 7th Aug. Narcissa quite sick last night about 1 o'clock but recovered during the day sufficiently to visit the Bridge, a most stupendous [sic] work of nature, surpassing any thing I have seen except sublime Niagara.

Monday 8th Aug. Started on our way back to Fincastle at sun rise where we arrived at 10 ½ o'clock, waited 4 hours for coach then embarked for the Sweet Springs, got as far as the mountain

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house by 11 o'clock at night.

Tuesday 9th Aug. Started at 3 ½ o'clock for old Sweet Springs got there to breakfast then went to Red [Sweet?] kept by H. Bins our old acquaintance. Narcissa quite worn and tired from night traveling.

Wed. 10th Aug. A bright morning which adds to the natural beauty of the place. Took a bath this morning which was elegant indeed. Several persons arrived and some departed today a pleasant party of about 150 present.

Thursday 11th Aug. I tried the bath yesterday and another today and found it really a luxury indeed. Met with Mr. Timons here from Holly Springs.

Friday 12th Aug. Weather clear and fine.

Saturday 13th Aug. Had a visit from a Miss Harrison who formerly lived at the Institute also a visit from a Miss Johnson a cousin of P. G. Payne. Narcissa spent the morning with Mrs. Bias. Saw an old acquaintance whom I knew when a boy (A. Morris) from Richmond.

Saturday 14th Aug. Another fine day. We are all

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packed up to go to White Sulphur but at breakfast table Mr. Bias and several ladies persuaded Narcissa to remain longer. Went to preaching in the Ball Room at 11 o'clock. The day passed off pleasantly. Visitors coming and going.

Monday 15th Aug. Good many leaving this morning for other Springs. In the evening we went over to the old Sweet Springs and tried the water which is inferior to the Red Sweet. We then rode down about three miles to see a water fall and returned about supper.

Tuesday 16th Aug. Weather fine and warm. After breakfast we took stage for White Sulphur Springs 16 miles distant and proceeded about 10 miles to the top of the mountain when a heavy rain overtook us and I being on top of coach got very wet, but as it was down hill all the way we soon arrived and formed about six hundred persons there & amongst them some acquaintances including Dr. Handy and Lady from Baltimore, Mr. Mears from Norfolk, Mr. Oakly, from Courtland, Ala. And Mrs. Looney from Memphis, Tenn. This water is very much like the sulphur of Beaver Damm [sic] both in appearance and taste.

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Wednesday 17th Aug. A large number of arrivals this evening from the Staunton road. These Springs certainly afford more company and less accommodations than any other place I have ever seen or heard of. It is with no little difficulty that one gets enough to eat at table and can only do so by bribing the servants. Amongst the most distinguished persons here are Mr. and Mrs. Bonnaparte from Baltimore a nephew of Napoleon and the Hon. Mr. Stewart of the Cabinet.

Thursday 18th Aug. This day 3 months ago we left Columbia on our present trip and quite a circuitous one it has been. Weather very damp and cloudy, but many persons are very anxious to get away from the springs. We left at 7 o'clock for the Warm Springs and got along well except an old ill bred fellow who was disagreeable in the stage. We took dinner at Mr. Wooderands [sic] who keeps an elegant house, where we both ate too much as it was the first good food since getting to the White Sulphur. About 6 o'clock we stopped a short time at the Hot Springs and then went on to the Warm Springs where we remained all night. I took a bath. The most delightful thing

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In the world, the water bubbles right out of the ground, just of the right heat for bathing and had a fine nights rest.

Friday 19th Aug. Rose at 6 oclock and proceeded on our way to Staunton via the Bath Allum Spring where we took our breakfast and tried the water. Took dinner at a Mr. Manns [sic] and arrived in Staunton at 8 ½ oclock where there was some of my old acquaintances and relations, but I was so tired that I did not speak to them as we only had two hours to sleep before we had to start again.

Saturday 20th Aug. Waked up at 12 oclock to start again. We have 95 miles to make today but an elegant McAdamist road³ down the Valley of Virginia a very fine county. We passed about a dozen little towns today and got to Winchester about 6 in the evening having had the best days stage travelling that I ever had in my life. Met with Adam Burton soon after getting there. He is an old acquaintance and went to work for me in Columbia many years ago. We have done a trip of 3 days very hard staging the first 2 of which was over the mountains and afforded some very fine scenery.

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Narcissa slept till 9 oclock trying to gain what sleep she had lost the three previous nights. Thos. D. Spindler came to see us at 11 oclock and as Narcissa had not dressed I went with him to the Lutheran church and heard a good sermon. After dinner Tom came again and spent nearly all the evening with us. After he left we walked out to see the place and came across a flower garden and grape nursery in which was the finest parcel of grapes growing in a summer house and were of a variety of species. Tom brought some presents for his sisters and got us to take them to them.

Monday 22nd Aug. We were waked up at 4 oclock to get ready for the cars to Baltimore where we arrived about 12 oclock, taking breakfast at Harpers Ferry. After dinner we rode about town and visited Washingtons Monument and many other public buildings among them the Cathedrals and saw them at worship. Took cars again at 7 ½ oclock for Philadelphia which we reached about 1 oclock at night, very tired and worn out. We put up at Jones Hotel a most elegant house. We were put in a good room and nice bed

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and we slept until 9 oclock next morning. After breakfast we went out to Girard Colledge [sic] and looked through that institution. In the evening met with Edward Dale, Thos.

³ "John MacAdam was born in Ayr in 1756. When he was fourteen he moved to New York and made his fortune working at his uncle's counting-house. On his return to Scotland in 1783 MacAdam purchased an estate at Sauchrie, Ayrshire, and started experimenting with a new method of road construction. When he was appointed surveyor to the Bristol Turnpike Trust in 1816 he remade the roads under his control with crushed stone bound with gravel on a firm base of large stones. A camber, making the road slightly convex, ensured the rainwater rapidly drained off the road and did not penetrate the foundations. This way of building roads later became known as the Macadamized system. As a result of his success, MacAdam was made surveyor-general of metropolitan roads in England. By the end of the 19th century, most of the main roads in Europe were built in this way. John MacAdam died in 1836." From <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/SCmacadam.htm>, accessed 3 April 2000.

Phillips and Wm. and Wm. [sic] J. Dale of Columbia. After tea Thos. Phillips and Edward Dale came to the Hotel & spent the evening with us. I bought this evening of Messrs. Lacy and Phillips a set of Buggy harness.

Wednesday 24th Aug. We start for New York at 9 o'clock by the cars. An alarm at five this morning and the engines and hose carriages are funning at a great rate up the streets making a terrible fuss. We reached New York about one P.M. found the city very much crowded indeed and much [sic] difficulty in obtaining room but succeeded as I had telegraphed from Philadelphia yesterday. Both of us very disappointed about not finding letters for us from home. After dinner we walked up Broadway to see some of the pretty things. Just a[s] we arrived Miss Loony and her party were preparing to go to Grace Church to be married and leave for Columbia on her bridal tour. It is a little remarkable that we got the very same room 205 that we had upon our first arrival here in June at the
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great St. Nicholas, New York City.

Thursday 25th Aug. After breakfast we walked up Broadway awhile and then went up to the Crystal Palace and spent four long hours looking over the fine articles then returned when the 5 o'clock dinner was ready and after dinner Narcissa was very tired and she did not go out but remained in her room.

Friday 26th [Aug.] I revisited the Palace today to examine the machinery but was not as well pleased as I anticipated. On my way back to the Hotel I met with Eastman of Nashville Union. Saw several Memphis gentlemen here today. After dinner N. and I walked about getting up a few things to take home preparatory to starting in the morning at 6 o'clock. It is now 9 ½ o'clock and we are just one packing up ready to go to see old ["N" crossed out] Danl. Wonder what she is now doing. I expect she has her head tied up with a pocket handkerchief.

Saturday 27th Aug. We were waked up at 4 ½ o'clock to get ready for the cars to Buffalo. By some bad management my boots were mislaid
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and it liked to have caused us to miss the cars but we just did get on in time and were off at 6 o'clock on the New York and Erie R.R. and reached Buffalo at 10 o'clock having travelled four hundred miles today. Put up at the America Hotel.

Sunday 28th Aug. 9 o'clock and Narcissa is just getting up as I return from breakfast. 9 ½ o'clock waiter just knocks at the door with N's breakfast. About eleven we walked out looking for a Methodist church but could find none so went to the Presbyterian Church. Quite a large house and well filled with a good looking congregation who heard a most elegant sermon preached from 8th & 9th verses of the 55th C[h]apter of Isiah. After dinner we rode all about town, saw some very fine places with pretty shrubbery.

Monday 27th Aug. Started at 7 ½ o'clock for Cleveland. We were woke up this morning early by the ringing of bells to alarm the town & call out the firemen and other citizens to

put down a mob of negroes who had assembled around the jails to rescue a fugitive from Nashville who had been recognised [sic] and captured at Niagra

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yesterday. There was an attempt to rescue him at the Falls while taking him across the river in a boat. Arrived at Cleveland 3 ½ o'clock and took dinner at the Waddel House and staid till 8 ½ o'clock then started for Cincinnati [sic] via Columbus on a slow train of cars and arrived next morning.

Tuesday 30th Aug. Arrived in Cincinnati [sic] 9 ½ o'clock in time for the Louisville Steamer Ben Franklin on which we took passage. Here we met with Thos Begly who had been on to the East to buy good [goods?] for him and Charles who are in business together at Winchester, Tenn.

Wednesday 31st Aug. This the last day of summer and we have left behind all the freesoil and abolitioners of the North and landed safely upon our own Sunny South and feel almost at home and really thankful for the health and pleasure that we have enjoyed since we left home. Our boat got here some time before day but we did [not?] leave until about sunrise when we went up to the Galt House and got very good accomodations [sic]. We remained here today to see Louisville but it is

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raining and very likely to do so all day consequently we will not be able to see much of it. We have traveled about five thousand miles since we left home and thus far without any serious accident to mar our pleasure. 9 o'clock at night we have just overhauled our trunks preparing to take stage in the morning for Tenn.

Thursday 1st Sept. We were up and off by 5 o'clock with sixteen passengers and were wanting to get on every mile. The morning damp and foggy but not cold. Pleasant ride for nine miles through a very fine country to the breakfast stand. While waiting another coach came up equally as heavily loaded as the one we came on. Now such washing and dusting and stretching as there is amongst these 30 stage passengers and almost every one has his or her complaint about this or that thing but all are waiting for something to eat and wondering what it will be. Well it is announced all rush in the dining room and procure seats to the table. Now we look up and down from one and to the other for something better than we see before us but in vain

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nothing presents itself better than sour beef, sodden biscuits and some coffee that was left day before yesterday. in a very little while we are all done and off on the stage again doing very well. Our passengers increase & now number twenty. by 2 o'clock we reach Bardstown [Kentucky] & take dinner, a very good one. At table are several girls who can talk Dutch & seem to be very proud of the accomplishment from the manner they keep gibbering. dinner over, baggage and stage changed & we are off again. Country not so fine, nothing worthy of note occurs & we reach the supper stand. a moderate good stage house here is another changes of coach & baggage. Supper over and all safely seated we are off for a whole nights travel and after a few hours most of us become sleepy and now and then are aroused by some one exclaiming that his neighbor is too heavy or that the opposite on is putting his feet on his hat etc. and about the time all is again still a

passenger in the middle seat hails the driver to stop and says he has dreamt he had lost his hat and wants to look for it. After sundry such mistakes we discover

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the grey dawn of morning approaching and we begin to rejoice at the early prospects of breakfast which we have been told will be good.

Friday 2nd Sept. 7 o'clock has arrived and we are at the eating house & do very well. Our numbers have got down to a very comfortable number and we travel along till dinner which we take in Gallatin [Tennessee] at a real one horse tavern & all come out angry and daming [sic] all such landlords but rejoice to know that we are only 26 miles from Nashville. We have been very interested in the company of one of our passengers a Dr. Linsley one of the professors of the Medical Colledge [sic] of Nashville. He is a man well informed on most subjects & of considerable travel. 6 ½ o'clock got to Nashville and put up at the Veranda. Met with several Columbians from whom we learned many items of news.

Saturday 3rd Sept. Raining and stage full to overflowing, but must go to Columbia today. twelve seats ahead of us but I will see if I can not manage some way to get Narcissa inside the coach and I will take an outside seat although it does rain.

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9 o'clock stage is out, Narcissa inside & I a seat with the driver. It is still raining & there is some contention about seats etc. get off with 18 passengers and all goes well to Franklin where we drop some of our members & go on to Columbia where we get about 6 o'clock in afternoon and find most of friends well but learn of much mortality in and about the county during our absence. This winds up our trip of nearly four months and lands us back in dear old Columbia, Tenn. One of the best places after all is said and done.