

Journal of Stella Ophelia Bowling Cunningham
November 1893—September 1894

Transcribed from a copy of the original by
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Great-great-granddaughter of
Stella Bowling Cunningham

Introduction and Notes on the text:

I have preserved all of Stella Bowling Cunningham's writing, including errors, such as spelling errors, capitalization errors, etc. except where confusion might occur. I have also preserved her original paragraph breaks, although I didn't preserve her line breaks, as the diary was written in a very thin ledger. Where writing is indecipherable or extra notation is needed in order for the reader to understand something, I have included a note in italics and brackets []. Also, it should be noted that Stella was inconsistent in how she wrote out the dates. I followed the format she chose for each individual entry.

Stella apparently taught school during part of the time in which she wrote this journal—this is inferred from the fact that she frequently mentions school as if she is teaching it. She apparently boarded in several houses, as it was not uncommon for local families to host teachers. One family with whom she boarded was the Cunningham family. “Mr. Cunningham” in her journal refers to Johnson Franklin Cunningham, who would become her father-in-law. Mr. A. and Mr. Amos refer to Amos Blakey Cunningham, who would become her husband. The journal might have been started during the beginning stages of their courtship and continues past their wedding, covering a total of about ten months from November 1893 to September 1894. Toward the end of the journal, she mentions how sick she feels. I think she is experiencing morning sickness, as she would have been expecting my great-grandfather, but she doesn't mention she is pregnant in the journal.

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 1893

Had school as usual & fun [*possibly fine*] too but not extra good order.

I am most sick with cold and cough.

In eve Uncle Jeff [*I am not sure who this is, as I have no record of a sibling named "Jeff" for either of Stella's parents, but based on other entries in the diary, he seems to be connected with her Aunt Panthea. Panthea was married to George Payne, so I'm not sure.*] came by and brought me two letters, one from Rosco & one from Sadie & my *Chautauquan* [*The Chautauquan was a publication of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, the first organized reading circle in the country, a four-year course of assigned home reading*].

Sent for stamps .10 cts. For this book .10 and bought Pain Paint .25.

After school finished my gown all but buttons & holes.

Read some in my course.

Wed. Nov. 29, '93

Nothing unusual.

Thurs. Nov. 30—1893

Thanksgiving day but it was not observed here. Started to write to – [*indecipherable, possibly Minnie*].

Fri. Dec. 1- 1893

School as usual & in eve swept the house & went to Lewisville.

Sat. Dec. 2, 1893

Went to town and bought

Canton flannel \$1.35

thread .05

Brown velvet .60

canbrier [?] .100

Crinlin [?] .10

Wrote to Flood & Vincent about exchanging a book. Wrote to J.W.T. & Mary Hutton.

Sewed on dress.

Washing .20 unpaid.

Sun. Dec. 3, 1893

It was to-day I wrote instead of Sat.

In evening Uncle Jeff took me out to Mr. Cunningham & Mr. A. [*Amos Cunningham*] & I had a talk at night.

Mon. Dec. 4 '93

Had school. The first day of second month [*perhaps this refers to when Stella started teaching school?*].

Sewed on my dress after school & at night.

Sent picture to Sallie & Minnie.

Bought stamps .10 cts.

Tues. Dec. 5, 1893

School as usual and in eve sewed some & at night went to church. Free Will preached on the Blind man healed.

One profession.

Mr. Amos went with me.

Wed. Dec. 6, 1893

Not a full school because of rain. Wrote a little to Maggie. Sewed in eve and at night. (The pedd? [*possibly peddler*] staid all night.) Mr. Libass teased us so much.

Thurs. Dec. 7, 1893

School as usual and sewed at night. Carrie staid all night.

Fri. Dec. 8, 1893

School as common & in eve had spelling [*possibly tutoring or extra class?*].
Uncle Jeff came for me. Found Mama [*Mary Elizabeth Kennedy Bowling*] & Children [*most likely Stella's younger siblings*] here.

Sat. Dec. 9, 1893

Wrote to Maggie & to Judge Bradley, sending three stamps for reply.

Sewed on dress finished it. Went to town and
bought Silk \$.50

thread (silk) .10

ribbon .15

cord .15

ribbon & thread .35

Borrowed from P.N.C. \$1.00

Went to Uncle John's [*I'm not sure who Uncle John is, as I have no record of a sibling named "John" for either parent, but could be an uncle by marriage or family friend*].

Washing .20 cts. unpaid.

Rubber .10 cts.

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1893

Arose late and helped do work then went to church wore my green dress.

A Bro. Miller preached on "Stephen being stoned."

In eve Uncle Jeff brought me out to Mr. C [*presumably Cunningham*] and at night we all went to church at schoolhouse. Mr. Amos went with me. A Mr. Holley preached about "Salvation being of the Lord etc." It was late when we retired.

Wrote to Rosco.

Monday, Dec. 11, 1893

School as usual and at night made the cravat case for Velma [*Stella's sister*]. Mr. A. sat up with me & we had a talk. Bought stamps .10.

Tues. Dec. 12, 1893

School and it turned cold. At night we went to Mrs. Lusk's and it was late when I retired. (Mr. A. asked for a () but I refused.) [*Note: This is one of Stella's euphemisms for "kiss."*] Got a letter from J.W.T.

Mr. Amos brought my papers and paint too.

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1893

At night made Mr. Libass' hat mark. School as common.

Went to Mr. Bragg's [*possibly the Bragg family that Amos's sister Mattie (Martha Lugena Cunningham) married into*] and saw the little baby & got to board with them.

Thurs. Dec. 14, 1893

At night went to a party at Mr. W. Cunningham's [*most likely William Matthew Cunningham, Amos's oldest brother*] and came home to make Mattie's hat mark [*Mattie is most likely Martha Lugena Cunningham, Amos's sister*].

Sat up late to get it finished.

Fri. Dec. 15, 1893

School as usual and afterward swept the house.

Fixed to go to town & wrote some in this book.

It was late when Uncle Jeff came for me. Commenced Papa's [*"Papa" was William Jones Bowling, Stella's father*] book-mark. Went to Mrs. Hall.

Sat. Dec. 16, 1893

Helped clean up and wrote to J.W.T.

Went to town with Aunt Panthea [*the sister of Stella's mother, Mary Elizabeth Kennedy, Panthea Narcissa Kennedy Payne*], Florence, and Mrs. Hayes.

Went to several stores. Had my voucher fixed by old Bro. Perry paid .25 cts.

Bought stamps .10 cts.

Knife .25

Borrowed off D. Campbell \$10.00.

Dec. 16, 1893 concluded

Bought (at Denton) velvet .50

(at Denton) rings .10

hat 2.50

ribbon (cream) .25

lawn .10

Silk (cream) .10

silk thread .05

Album 1.50

fine-comb .10

pocket-book .05

Comb-case .10

Finished the book-mark and made one for Mary Hutton and wrote a little to her and sent it. In evening went with Aunt Panthea to see some sick people, the Mrs-es Milligan & Mrs. Bradley.

Went back to Mrs. Milligan to get a stamping pattern.

Wrote to Mama [*Mary Kennedy Bowling*] and fixed the cravat case to send.

Florence and I went to Mrs. Hall's to get a cloak-pattern but failed to get it.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 1893

After the cleaning up I washed & dressed for church.

Went to Mr. E. church & heard the new preacher preach on "The Lord is my Shepherd."

In the evening Mr. Amos came for me. At night several young folks came in and I had to play some for them [*in several other places in the diary, Stella mentions playing the organ, so it may be assumed that is what she means here*]. They sang some. (There was whiskey around.)

Got a letter from Flood and Vincent so fixed the book "Outlines of Economics" to send back to exchange for "Roman & Medieval Art."

I left ten cents to pay postage.

Monday, Dec. 18, 1893

School as usual and very good too. At night made a pin cushion & gave Mrs. Cunningham [*Mary Anne Penelope Anthony Cunningham, Amos's mother*] and Mattie. Made two head rests (a long one and a square one).

Fixed the hat-mark in Mr. Libass' hat. The first thing in the eve was to start my hat-mark with A.B.C. [*initials of Amos Blakey Cunningham*] on it to be a Xmas present.

Tues. Dec. 19, 1893

School.

Sent and bought hat-rack .10 bought Panthea's knife, fork, & spoon .25.

As Mr. Cunningham was fixing to move several came to help catch chickens so I did nothing but talk, play the organ and eat pop-corn & pecans.

In evening I finished my skirt & made my handkerchiefs.

Wed. Dec. 20, 1893

Mr. Cunningham moved out & Mr. Bragg came in.

School as common. After which I made another head rest! Wrote a note to Eva.

At night read some & finished my hat-mark.

Mr. Amos sat up & talked with me till late and I granted his request [*either a euphemism for a kiss or his proposal*].

Began my handkerchief.

Thurs. Dec. 21st 1893

School as common & read some at night. Retired early.

Miss Mattie staid all night and went to a party.

I slept good.

Friday Dec. 22, 1893

School as usual and dismissed for Xmas.

Fixed up things to go home and went to Mr. Cunningham's with Mr. Amos on a load of oats (in sacks).

At night the Houston boys came over and staid till bed-time.

Sat. Dec. 23, '93

Mr. Amos took me to Coppell in a buggy.

Bought ticket for .80 cts. And started for home about ten o'clock. At Plano Mama & Homer [*Stella's brother, Homer Alfred Bowling*] met me in the buggy.

I paid on Homer's suit \$2.00 and bought for Horation [*Stella's brother, Horatio Hayden Bowling*] a chest of tools .35.

Got home before night. Mama, Miss Mollie, and Ida came to see me.

Sunday 12-24-1893

Did up work and went to church. Bro. Crouch preached on "The Seven Sayings of Christ on the Cross."

In eve Home and I went to see Velma and take their presents [to] put in children's stockings (cts.) .50.

Monday. Dec. 25th 1893 Xmas

Cleaned up and gave the presents. Papa a book-mark Mama a comb-case, Homer a knife and hat-rack Horation a little tool chest, & Panthea a knife, fork, & spoon [*Note: This is probably Stella's sister Panthea or Panthia Verena Bowling rather than her Aunt Panthea.*] Mama gave me a collar and cuffs.

Velma, Hurbert, and his Bro. came about eleven o'clock they gave me a work-box. We had a very good dinner. Mrs. Leach came a while & Susie also Ida a few

moments. Velma & them went home. We played "Cash" and enjoyed it. Got a letter from Maggie.

Tues. Dec. 26, 1893

After cleaning up I painted Laura's felt for paper-holder.

Went to Mr. Armstrong's a few moments. Then to Mr. Culledges to see Stena [*or possibly Steven*] Watson.

Went to the S.S. concert at Campbellite church. It was very good but I sorter had headache.

Wed. 12-27-1893

After cleaning up & dressing we all went to Velma's, had a good dinner. In the eve Mrs. Dorsey, Mrs. Worsham, Mrs. Mary Shirley, & Mrs. Graham came to see us.

After they all left Velma & I went where Bro. Hurbert was working. (I staid all night at McKinney, the rest went home.)

Thurs. 12-28-1893

After getting ready Velma and I went by Mrs. Phillips' a while then out to depot and I came home paying for ticket .25.

Washed & ironed Papa some shirts when I got home. In eve went to Mrs. Leach's & to Lizzy Ereckson's & saw Mr. Hugh.

Miss Mollie gave me some plants to set out.

Got a letter from Mary Hutton.

(I think it was to-day.)

Fri. 12-29, 1893

After cleaning up & getting ready Papa brought me over to Lewisville in buggy. I had no mail only "Chautauquan."

Saturday 12-30-1893

Got up late & help do work. Made a head-rest for Aunt Panthea (A large one).

Papa left after-noon. Went to Uncle John's awhile.

My washing which had been done last week was .25 (unpaid).

Bought wax .05

Aunt Panthea gave me a beautiful handkerchief to use as neck-tie (pink chiffon).

Florence and I went to Mrs. Payne's & I went to Mrs. Hall's but Cora was gone.

Sun. 12-31-1893

Got breakfast or rather helped & helped clean up then dressed but was too sick to go to church. I had to lie down some & ate no dinner. Uncle Jeff brought me out to Mrs. Bragg's (as I was about well.) I started to write some and Mr. Amos came to see me. We had a very nice time. He gave me a beautiful silk handkerchief with S on it & said "S is for sweet." He staid till after eleven o'clock then bid me good bye () [*Stella's euphemism for a kiss*].

Thus ended the year 1893 with me after he left I retired but was sleepless for sometime & heard shooting to welcome the New Year I suppose.

I prayed before retiring.

Now dear 1893 I bid you adieu. You have gone with joys to some and sorrows to others and I have had some of each. Farewell, farewell.

Monday, Jan. 1st 1894

New Year's Day

I arose early & dressed for breakfast.

Cleaned up my room, got ready, and went to school.

Had full school.

Came home from school and found Mr. Cunningham here & he gave me my money he had got with my voucher \$4.00 and I paid him for board \$11.00 still due on same .60 for one month \$ 15 days.

Started a letter to Edna & read some.

Tues. Jan. 2nd 1894

School as usual and in eve & at night read and finished my letter to Edna and started one to Maggie.

Wednesday 1-3-'94

Went to school and read some in eve & at night. Mr. Amos & the boys came by going to help Mr. W. Cunningham catch chickens & Mr. A- staid here till they came.

Thursday 1-4-1894

School as common and I hurried home afterward wrote some on Mattie's letter.

Mattie came and we had a very nice time and we milked for Mrs. Bragg.

After supper Mr. Amos & Charley [*Charles Benjamin Cunningham, Amos's younger brother*] came. Mr. Amos, Mattie, & Mr. Joe Bragg [*Mattie Cunningham would later marry Joe Bragg*] sat up in my room and we popped corn and had a very nice time till they left after nine o'clock.

Fri. 1-5-1894

Nothing uncommon only spelling in the eve.

After school I fixed to go to town and wrote up my diary.

Uncle Jeff came for me late and had two letters for me from Mr. Custis telling of the marriage of J.W. Tolleson [*I think this was J.W.T. to whom and from whom Stella received letters, and I believe they might have courted*] & Minnie Mathis and the other from Mary.

At night read some and finished my letter to Maggie & wrote to Sadie.

Last day of second month [*of teaching?*].

Saturday 1-6-1894

Got up and helped get breakfast & clean up.

Then wrote to Mama & to Mr. Custis. Help get dinner and then got read and went to town sending the four letters and Sent money to Mr. Custis \$13.00

To Papa & Mama 8.00

cost of sending .13

Sent picture & headrest to Maggie Lemons .02

Sent gloves & sleeve patterns to Mama .03

Bought stamps .50

Ribbon for head-rest .15

thread .05

pins .05

Safety pins .05

Pills .20

paper .10

Breast pin \$1.00

My washing this wk. .15

Bid J.D. Campbell \$10.00

Ida for washing .85

Before going to town I cut a sleeve patter to send to Mama for negro Belle.

Went to see Oda Lee also Wince [*possibly Write; indecipherable*] Minnie & included in the .85.

Sunday, Jan. 7, 1894

Helped get breakfast and clean up. Then washed and dressed myself.

Read some.

After dinner dressed and expected Mr. Amos to come for me but he did not so Uncle Jeff brought me out.

Started a letter to Beulah but Mr. Amos cam & I stopped.

He staid till late.

Monday, Jan. 8, 1894

Had school as usual and I felt a little fretted.

Read at night and finished my letter to Beulah.

Tuesday 1-9-1894

Early in the morning received an invitation to Carrie's wedding Thurs. night.

School as common but it was an unpleasant day for me.

In eve & at night read some and prayed before retiring & felt better.

Wednesday 1-10-'94

School as usual and had better order & felt better at night. Read a little (I think).

No: for Mattie came and after dark Mr. Amos came. They all gave us the room.

Some boys came and played the fiddle.

Thurs. 1-11-1894

School and afterward came home & dressed for the wedding. Mr. Amos came and went with me. And after coming home staid quite awhile and we talking of the time being about the last of April [*Stella is referring to her own wedding to Amos*].

We said "good bye" [*they kissed*] & I retired.

Fri. 1-12-1894

School as usual and very full. Afterward paid Mrs. Bragg for board till Jan. 5, 1894 \$2.55.

Wrote in this book.

Fixed to go home.

Uncle Jeff came for me.

Saturday, Jan. 13, 1894

Helped to do the work and fixed my silk dress, made it shorter. It drizzled a little in evening.

Sunday, Jan. 14, 1894

Helped do work and bathed and dressed.

Got a letter from home.

Went to Uncle Johnnie's And we went to Mrs. Hall's (and saw Emma & Mrs. Maye).

Mrs. Hayes came to see me.

Uncle Jeff brought me out home and I sent Grandma the calendar pattern. [*Note: Strong evidence suggests that this is Cynthia Walker Palmer Kennedy rather than Manervia M. Bowling, due to the fact that she most often seems to be associated with Stella's Kennedy relatives, coupled with the known fact that Stella's Grandfather Kennedy died in Ft. Worth and that Stella's father's family is not known to have traveled to Texas.*].

At night Mr. Amos came, as usual.

Mon. Jan. 15, 1894

Had school as usual.

At night read some and wrote to Velma and started a letter to Mary.

Tues. 1-16-1894

School and at night read. Read a good deal in Bible.

Prayed as usual.

Wed. 1-17-1894

School as usual.

Found Mr. Cunningham here so had to talk to him or did rather.

Paid him the rest I owe on board \$.60.

Mr. Amos came to see me so I talked.

Charley came in a few moments as he had come to see after his father.

Thurs. 1-18-1894

Nothing unusual, at night I finished my letter to Mary and sent for some silk embroidery (thread) .25 to Brainerd & Armstrong, Co.

Friday 1-19-'94

School as usually. AT noon came up to house & had two letters one from Rosco other from Edna. After school I fixed and went home with Mattie.

Had a very nice visit.

In night a rain and quite a storm came.

Saturday Jan. 20, '94

Helped a little about cleaning up and sat round & talked. After dinner Mr. Amos took Mattie & I over to Lewisville in buggy.

Rosco came down to Aunt P. [*Panthea*] and invited us to a party at Mr. Payne's.

Mattie staid all night with me.

We went to town.

I bought gloves .20

prepared chalk .05

lamp cleaner .10

Paid Mr. Hayes the .05

Miss Cora came just at night while I was fixing for the party.

Mr. Hatcher went with me & I met Mr. Jones.

Had a very nice time.

Got a letter from Ella Marks.

Mrs. Cunningham gave me a pair of stockings.

Sunday, Jan. 21, '94

Helped do work and washed & dressed for church (wore my silk). Went to M. E. church & Bro. Edwards preached on "Faith."

After dinner Mr. Bragg & Mr. Amos came for Mattie & I.

Miss Cora came awhile.

I had to leave Grandma sick.

Mr. Amos staid till 9:30 P.M. & bid me adieu [*kissed her*].

I wrote to Mama.

Monday 1-22-'94

A full school & some trouble.

At night fixed some of the reports but felt tired & sleepy so retired early.

Tuesday 1-23-1894

Full school. It was cloudy & began to rain before night; colder & sleet & snow
1:30.

I let a little bird in & the old cat caught it I am so sorry. Read some in "Greek
Literature." Worked a sum. At school read the report. Wrote to Annie.

Wednesday 1-14-1894

It was cold – the coldest weather that has been this winter.

I fixed & went to schoolhouse. Mr. Joe [*probably Joe Bragg*] went along to make
the fire.

Only three boys came so I dismissed and came home.

Worked on my black cape.

Cleaned out my trunk and hunted up J.W.T.'s letters which were in No.

Read some & wrote some.

Thursday 1-25-'94

It is still cold – the snow not gone.

Had school with five pupils. Tured [*probably meant "turned"*] out early &
intended to read some but just as I got a fire & warm Charly [*sic: Charley*] came & soon
Mr. Amos came. He staid till about ten & bid me adieu [*kissed her*] & I retired.

Friday 1-26-1894

Had school not a very full school either as it is still cold. In evening had spelling
awhile. Fixed to go home & wrote up in my diary.

They did not come for me so I felt disappointed.

There was a dance here (at Mr. Bragg's).

I read a little.

Saturday 1-27-1894

Cleaned up my room and read some.

Mr. Joe Bragg took me to Lewisville. Found them not well [*probably a reference to her family*].

Finished my cape & worked button holes & put buttons on my gown.

In evening went to town & exchanged the gloves and bought shoes \$1.40

soap .10

needles .05

Paid for washing (two wks.) .30

Went to town again to see about shoes.

Came by Uncle Johnnie's & found Florence sick.

Went to see Ola Lasater (who is sick). Got my Embroidery Silk & the book. A letter from Beulah [*Note: Stella spelled the name "Beulah" previously; I'm not sure which is accurate*] and one from Mr. Custis & family.

Saturday Jan. 28, '94

Helped do work then washed & dressed.

Went to Uncle Johnnie's & Ray went back with me.

He just tried to see how amusing he could be it seems.

After noon I went to Mr. Hall's and to S.S.

Uncle Jeff brought me out.

Mr. Amos came; staid till about 10:30 and said "Good bye" [*kissed her*] and so I retired after my usual prayer.

Read some during the day.

Mr. Amos gave me a pocket-book.

Monday 1-29-1894

Did my usual work and went to school – had a full school but not good order.

At night read some and wrote to Edna.

Tuesday 1-30-'94

School as usual and I gave them a talk.

I went to Mr. Cozby's had a very nice time.

Wed. 1-31-'94

A full school. A Norther blew up about 5 P.M. Some fiddlers came & it bothers me.

Read some.

Thursday Feb. 1st, 1894

School as usual.

In evening Charley came & I did not get to read any after supper the men came & played the fiddle so I could do nothing.

Mr. Houston talked to me a little also Mr. Joe B- [*Bragg*].

I looked for Mr. Amos but he did not come.

Fri. Feb. 2, 1894

Still a little cold I had very good school.

Was sick & turned out early.

Went to town with Uncle Jeff. Read a little.

In the night it rained.

Sat. Feb. 3, 1894

AS I did not feel well I did little.

Still raining & in eve turned cold.

I got a letter from home one from Velma and one from Maggie L- [*Lemons*] and got a circular too.

Bought stamps .10 cts.

Washed my stockings.

Sunday 2-4-1894

Helped do the work.

Finished my letters to Edna and Rosco and wrote one home.

Went to see Florence a while.

Read some

Uncle Jeff brought me out here and Miss Mattie was here also Mr. Amos & Mr.

Houston.

Mr. Amos staid late before saying "good bye" [*kissing her*].

After my usual prayer, I retired. Mr. A- & I burned my letters from J.W.T. 44 in No. [*This is why I believe that J.W.T./J.W. Tolleson was a beau of Stella's*].

Monday 2-5-1894

This is the first day of the fourth month [*of teaching?*].

Nothing unusual.

Read some and wrote some in my diary rather re-writing some.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, '94

Nothing uncommon.

I fixed up my voucher. Read some and transcribed some of my last year's diary.

Wed. 2-7-1894

An unpleasant day in school. Read some. Wrote some. A letter to Grandpa Diltz [*I have no idea who Grandpa Diltz is, as no one by that surname has yet been located in Stella's family*] & one to Mrs. Cowling.

Thursday 2-8-'94

It had rained and so I had no school. I went to schoolhouse but no one else came.

Wrote to Beulah Spruil or rather started to when Mr. Amos came.

He staid rest of the day and all night and talked to me till late then bid me adieu & I retired.

Friday 2-9-1894

Had school and in evening, had spelling.

Uncle Jeff came for me.

Saturday 2-10-1894

I helped do the work & washed & dressed myself.

Went to Florence's & she was gone, then I went to Mrs. Haye's then to Mrs.

Bourland's to get a baby sack Pattern.

Went to town bought felt, for table scarf, \$.60

Bought a ½ yd. cream wool goods .30 (to make Velma a little sack.)

envelopes & pens .10

Paid for washing .15

Sent for flower seed .05

Wrote to [*indecipherable*]. Sent my letter to Beulah [*Beaulah*].

In eve Bertie & Miss Anderson came to see me. Had my vouchers fixed up.

Sunday 2-11-1894

It was raining & did all day.

I helped do the work & wrote to Velma.

Read some.

Did not get to come to my school, it rained so.

Monday 2-12-1894

It is still cold so I lost to-day.

Read some.

Uncle Jeff brought me out here in evening.

We looked a little for Theodore but he did not come.

At night read some & wrote in my diary.

Bought quilt calico .80

Tuesday 2-13-'94

Had school but not very full as it was still cold.

At night read some but not being very well I retired early.

Wednesday 2-14-'94

Valentine's Day, I received a letter from Rosco, one from Mary Hutton & one from Annie Price.

Had a small school.

Wrote to Maggie Lemons.

Read some.

Thursday Feb. 15, 1893

School as usual.

In evening, read some and at night talked to Mr. Amos till after ten and then he went home.

Friday 2-16-1894

Nothing unusual only in evening I had a little review in Arithmetic classes.

Wrote some more to Maggie as I had not sent her letter off.

Uncle Jeff did not come for me.

At night I read some and wrote in my diary some.

Saturday 2-17-1894

Cleaned up my room and cleaned out my trunk hunting out scraps for crazy work.

Florence came for me and I rode home behind her.

I worked some on the little sacque and read a little.

I had an awful headache.

Sun. Feb. 18, 1894

I helped do the work & sat round and talked and read a little.

Went to Uncle Johnnie's a little while.

In evening Florence & I went to S.S. and I wore my silk.

Florence & Uncle Jeff brought me home.

Mr. Amos came as usual.

Monday 2-19-1894

After cleaning up I went to school.

Read a little & wrote some.

Had the headache so took some medicine.

Tues. 2-20-'94

School as usual, still most sick.

I think I read a little. Commenced the little sacque. Sent Maggie's scraps off (I think) and bought stamps .10 cts.

Wed. 2-21-1894

School but as it was cold not very many came.

The boys came after the bees and Mr. Amos staid all night and sat up late talking to me.

Thursday Feb. 22, 1894

School as usual and in the evening had a little on Washington, they had not prepared much.

At night, I worked on the sacque some and read some (I think).

Fri. 2-23-'94

It is still cold, so school not very good.

After school we swept the house.

It looked like snowing.

Mr. Amos came for me in the buggy and I went to their house.

A bad cold night.

Sat. 2-24-1894

We got up late.

It snowed most all day. We sat round and talked and had some pop-corn to eat.

Snowed at night too.

Sun. 2-25-1894

Arose late again. I helped clean up then dressed myself. In eve we had pop-corn & all went to the spring.

Mr. Amos brought me home but did not stay long.

I wrote to Mr. Custis & family. Wrote up my diary.

Monday Feb. 26, 1894

School as usual.

Got a letter from home and one from Velma.

At night wrote a letter home. (Read a little I think.)

Worked some on the little sacque.

Tues. 2-27-'94

School & nothing uncommon only Mr. Ballard came for his son's books.

Worked on the little sacque & read some.

Wed. 2-28-1894

School as usual.

At night worked on crazy work. Charley came by awhile.

Thursday March 1st, 1894

Nothing unusual at school only I took a switch had some better order.

At night Bessie Cunningham [*I'm not sure who this is, as Amos had no sisters named Bessie, but it could be a cousin or niece*] staid and slept with me.

Mr. Amos came as usual and staid late.

Fri. 1-2-1894

School as common & in eve had spelling. Florence came for me horseback.
Found Aunt Panthea sick. Little Panthea sick. Had a letter from home & one from Salle
Mathis.

Saturday March 3rd 1894

I helped do the work and finished the little sacque.

Mr. Fox had brought my money (school money) \$4.50 and the check for rest.

In morning I went to town bought green felt .60

thread .10

Chenile (red & green) .80

paper .10

stamps .10

Paid for washing (two wks.) .30.

Miss Oda Lee came to see us in evening.

I felt bad.

Sunday 3-4-'94

As I did not feel well and it was cloudy & damp, I did not go to church.

Of course, I helped do the work.

Wrote a letter home & one to Rosco.

As it looked like rain Uncle Jeff brought me out early before three o'clock.

I dressed to be ready for my beau!

Read some in Bible and wrote up my diary.

I started a letter to Ella M-.

Mr. Amos came early & staid late.

Charley & Bud Houston came by here & I failed to ask [*indecipherable*].

Monday, March 5, '94

It had rained during the night, so not many came to school.

I finished my letter to Ella & sent it off.

In evening & at night read some and started a letter to Mary Hutton.

Tues. 3-6-1894

School as usual, and in evening I did not feel well.

Read some & wrote some too.

Wed. 3-7-1894

School as usual. Read some.

I wrote a letter to Sallie Mathis.

Thurs. 3-8-'94

Nothing unusually at school. I read some little.

At night it was so late before Mr. Amos came I thought he was not coming but he did and Mattie with him.

It looked like rain so they staid all night.

She slept with me and in the night the old dog made us move our bed out.

To-day I finished my letter to Sallie.

Friday March 9, 1894

I fixed my letters to send off, that is after Mr. Amos & Mattie left. I wrote some more in Mary S. Had school as usual & Florence came for me in the buggy.

Found a letter from home also one from Treasurer Eads about school-money.

At night sat round and talked as my head ached some.

Paid for washing .20.

Sat. 3-10-1894

I helped do the work then hunted for some paper to draw off my pattern and had to go to Mrs. Hays' to get some. Drew off my work and learned how to work the leaves (Aunt Panthea showed me.)

In the evening company came, one was Mrs. Hays also Oda Lee came too.

After supper Florence & I went to Uncle Johnnie's awhile.

Bought stamps .25 sent for ribbon but did not get it and don't know what I did with the .05.

Sunday 3-11-1894

Cleaned up my part then washed & dressed for church and wrote to Velma also sent the sacque (cost .03).

Grandma & I went to church in the buggy.

Bro. Bennett preached about “The Spirit which cometh from Above is first pure, then peaceable then—etc.”

Company came.

Mr. Amos came for me in a buggy. We set the time [*Note: this last was written above the sentence before it and presumably refers to the date for their wedding*]. He staid till most ten and bid me adieu, after which I retired without my usual prayer (fearing some one might pass or Mr. Joe come by.)

Mon. 3-12-‘94

School as common only few (18) so many planting corn & some sick.

Worked a little on my scarf.

Read some & went to church with Mr. Joe.

A “Free Will” preached about “The Foxes” & sins being like the fox etc. Paid for board \$8.00 to Mr. Bragg [*“to Mr. Bragg” written above “paid for board”*] (7.20 for month ending 2-2.)

Tues. 3-13-1894

School as usual still only a few.

I went to Mr. Edmondson’s to stay all night & it looked like rain. Had a very good time.

Wed. 3-14-‘94

Nothing unusual.

In eve we worked some on my scarf.

Washed my gloves.

Read some & wrote some.

Thurs. 3-15-'94

School as usual only small. I read some and worked some on my scarf.

At night Mr. Amos came.

Friday 3-16-1894

A very small school. Only twelve.

I finished reading "Greek Literature."

Fixed to go to town.

Florence & Grandma came for me.

I got a letter from home.

At night sat round and talked.

Saturday 3-17-1894

Helped do work and worked some on my scarf.

In eve I went to town & bought Sarsaparilla .90 and paid for washing .15.

I went by Vicie Spark's by mistake to see Mrs. Eversole then to Mrs. Payne's & back home. Went to Mrs. Vanfleet's to get light bread for A. Panthea. At night it rained & Aunt P. got scared.

Sunday 3-18-1894

I helped do work. It rained & the cyclone came.

I read some and wrote home. Left to buy stamps .05.

Uncle Jeff brought me out here.

Mr. Amos came & his cousin with him so he had to leave early. We did not even shake hands at parting. It rained at night again.

Monday 3-19-1894

Still raining.

I went to schoolhouse but no one came so I came back and worked on my scarf.

Read some in United States & Foreign Powers also in the novel.

Nothing unusual.

Tues. 3-20-94

Had school. It was wet and muddy so not very many.

I think I worked on my scarf some. Read in the novel.

Nothing unusual.

Wednesday 3-21-'94

School as usual and I read some. Worked some.

Thursday March 22, 1894

Nothing uncommon at school.

I worked on my scarf & read some.

Mr. Amos came late and staid tolerably late.

As usual, I said my prayers and retired as soon as he left.

Friday 3-23-'94

School as usual, after which, I fixed and went to town with Florence, who came for me.

Sat round and talked some & read some.

Sat. 3-14-'94

Helped do the work then worked on my scarf and most finished it.

Went to Uncle John's but no one at home then. I went to Mrs. Hays' and she gone.

Bought gloves .20.

Got a letter from Sadie & she sent me some little pieces like she had been sewing on. Got my *Chautauquan* & a circular letter.

Had the headache.

I finished reading *Darkness and Daylight* a novel. Cool or cold.

Sunday March 25, 1894

I helped do work, then got ready and went to church.

It is Easter and so cold, ice. Florence & I went with Mrs. Hays.

Bertie and Miss Anderson came home with me and Grandma got mad and I most cried.

Uncle Jeff brought me out early and Mr. Amos came early and staid till after ten and bid me adieu.

We (F. & I) went to the new church. Bro. More preached. Text "he is risen indeed." The house was decorated.

After my usual prayers I retired.

Mon. 3-16-'94

School as usual.

Still cold.

I went to Mrs. Sigler's to stay all night and went to bed without my "accustomed" prayer before-hand.

I played the organ for them.

Tuesday 3-27-'94

Nothing uncommon.

I "posted up" my register also this, my diary.

Read the Lewisville paper some.

Will pray & go to bed.

Wed. 3-28-1894

School as usual and a big norther came up before noon.

I intended to got to Mrs. Houston's but it was too cold.

I worked some on my scarf and fixed up one of my vouchers.

Wrote to Rosco and told of my going to marry.

Thursday 3-29-1894

Nothing unusually at school.

It was pretty day.

I wrote a note to Mr. Sigler and one to Mr. Edmonson to come to school Sat. eve.

Got a letter from home and one from Mr. Custis and one from Denton about the Summer Normal.

At night Mr. Amos came and we had a pleasant time.

Friday March 30, 1894

I had school as usual and examined some classes as it is next to the last day.

When I got home found Mattie had come and so we got ready to go to Coppell to the society. Mr. Amos took me in the buggy. It was only tolerable.

Sat. 3-31-1894

To make up for a day lost I taught to-day and it was the last day.

Had examination of some classes.

In evening had spelling and speeches, Several came but not the trustees only Mr. Cunningham.

I fixed my trunk in the morning.

Paid Mr. Bragg \$7 for board.

Uncle Jeff came for me.

Sunday April 1st 1894

I help do the work and then went to church – (wore my silk dress).

The Methodist preacher preached about Judas Iscariot and finished the same at night.

In even Mr. and Mrs. Payne came. I went to Mrs. Minis' a little while.

Mr. Amos came to see me and at night we went to church. He staid a short time after we came home.

Florence staid in the room with us.

The sermons were good especially at night.

Mon. 4-2-'94

Uncle Jeff took me to Denton to fix up my papers. I had to fill out more in the Term Report.

Got money on No. 3 for \$42.75 and the "check" for rest.

Bought Domestic .50

[*bought more Domestic*] 1.00 & gave Aunt Panthea.

Bought calico .35 for children.

Bought calico .10 for Panthea.

I borrowed Bertie's veil and Lydia's "glasses" to wear and brought them back by.

Tuesday 4-5-'94

I helped do the work and gathered up my things to go home.

Paid Aunt Panthea \$12.50.

Paid Ida for washing .45.

Bought Pecans .05.

Papa came for me and Homer with him.

I went to Mr. Hayes' and by Uncle Johnnie's but Florence was gone.

At night we went down there awhile. Grandma, Florence, Homer, & I.

Wednesday 4-4-1894

Papa & I went by Mr. Edmondson's to get my flowers, and then by Mr. Bragg's to get my trunk, etc.

I finished "packing" and we intended going home but it looked so much like rain.

I paid Mrs. Bragg \$7.50 for board & am now even. Owe no man anything (i.e. in \$ and cts.)

(I believe Aunt Panthea slipped my pocket-book \$.50 [*Note: this could be \$50, as there is a mark before the 50, but it is on the margin line, and I can't be sure which it is. I am more likely to think it is .50, because \$50 was way too much for Aunt Panthea to have "slipped" Stella for Stella not to be sure.*])

I went to town and bought Chenille, .65.

Bought pecans .05.

Thursday April 5, 1894

We came home. Got here about 3 o'clock P.M.

I "sorter" straightened up and gave them all their presents.

I gave Mama 10 yds. domestic, Panthea [*Stella's sister Panthea, not Aunt Panthea*] two dresses, and the boys a waist a piece.

I set out my flowers Mrs. Edmondson had given me.

Friday 4-6-'94

I cleaned up then got ready and went with Papa to see Velma. Got to her house about 1:30 P.M.

Just set round and talked.

Sat. 4-7-'94

Helped Velma with work and worked some on my scarf, finished the tan piece and told Rick wanted to buy it.

Bro. Hurbert got me silk thread .10 and finishing Braid for Panthea.

We heard of Emma Hamilton having a boy.

Sunday 4-8, 1894

Helped do the work then sat round and talked till time to come home.

Had to go to train alone & Bro. Hurbert had come to Allen and so he came to train before I left.

The boys were at the train in Allen to meet me, and Mama & P [*sister Panthea*] were at Mrs. Leaches' so I stopped there a while.

Paid for ticket .25.

Monday 4-9-'94

I cleaned up house and then went to work – helped Mama make Panthea [*sister Panthea*] some things.

Got a letter from Mr. Amos and one from Sally Buster.

I attended to my flowers.

At night I washed myself and put on clean clothes.

Tuesday April 10, 1894

Cleaned up and helped Mama on Panthea's clothes.

Wrote to Mr. Amos.

Got a letter from Ella Marks and one from Mary Hutton.

Wednesday April 11—'94

Cleaned up of course then worked in my flowers – planted Pansys etc. and helped Mama in garden some.

Commenced the green half of my scarf.

At night went to prayer meeting at Campbellite house with Susie & the children.

Some day this week we bought butter of Mrs. Gullledge .15.

Thursday 4-12-1894

I staid at home with the children while Mama went to Velma's.

Bought crimping iron .20.

Bought pins .05.

I worked on my table scarf.

Read a little.

Friday 4-13-1894

My birthday.

After cleaning up, I went to town and bought paper and envelopes .20. I came by Mrs. Leach's.

Got a card from Papa.

Wrote to Aunt Panthea.

Worked on my scarf.

Mama left us alone and went to Velma's.

We staid all night alone. Susie came over some in the evening.

Friday 4-20-1894

Cleaned up then ironed. Mama went to McKinney and I gave her .50.

In evening, I scoured the kitchen.

Read some in Youth's Companions.

Saturday 4-21-'94

Cleaned up good as I am looking for Mr. Amos.

Went to church.

Bro. Crouch preached or rather talked on the "Parable of the Pounds" and gave a good talk too.

In the evening Mr. Amos did come and we had a very pleasant time.

Sunday 4-22-'94

I cleaned up the house as usual. Hurbert came for Mama as Velma is sick – has a girl.

Mr. Amos & I went to church. Bro. Crouch preached on Missions text Go into all the world and preach.

I had to get dinner. Mr. A- left after five, he bade me adieu. We changed the time to May 30 [*the date of their wedding*].

Monday April 23, 1894

I did the work then got ready and Home took me to Velma's. I went to stay while she is sick.

I found her & the baby doing very well but at night we had to work with the baby all night, it was sick.

Tuesday 4-24-'94

I waited on Velma and the baby.

Wrote to Rosco and started to write to Mary but did not finish.

Wed. 4-25-'94

I still attended to Velma and the baby.

Papa & Mama came up.

At night Velma got worse had a fever and we sent for the Dr.

Thurs. 4-26-1894

I could not come home to the picnic as Velma was so sick. I did nothing but wait on her & the baby. Mama came up for awhile in eve.

Fri. 4-27-'94

Same as before.

Nothing new. I have to sit up at night.

Sat. 4-28-1894

Nothing new.

Sunday 4-29-'94

Still waiting on Velma & she still bad off. Mrs. Smith left & I had work to do.

Monday 4-30-'94

About the same. A girl came but did not stay.

Tuesday May 1st 1894

Nothing unusual. Mary Murphy came to stay.

Wed. 5-2-'94

Nothing unusually.

Velma is better – the fever about broke.

Thurs. 5-3-'94

Mama came to-day and borrowed .50 cts. & I bought stockings .25.

Fri. 5-4-'94

Velma still better and nothing uncommon.

Sat. 5-5-94

Still about the same.

Sunday May 6, '94

Did my work as it should be.

Homer came and brought me a letter from Mr. Amos, one from Maggie, and one from Sallie Mathis.

At night I ans. Mr. Amos' letter.

Monday 5-7-'94

Nothing new I believe.

Tuesday 5-8-1894

Velma still doing very well.

I wrote some more in Mary's letter but did not finish it.

Wed. 5-9-1894

Velma isn't quite so well.

I think it was to-day, I heard that teachers music [*will*] be examined in 25 studies.

Thurs. 5-10-1894

Velma still worse.

I finished Mary's letter & wrote to Mama. Mary took it to office. Bought stockings .10 and crackers .05.

Friday 5-11-1894

I waited on Velma & the baby as usual.

Hurbert gave me some paper & envelops.

Saturday 5-12-1894

I had to come home as Mr. Amos is coming.

I hated to leave Velma she was worse and almost crying.

Ticket .25 cts.

I helped Mama clean up & scour.

Mr. Amos came about three o'clock before I got dressed.

Sunday 5-13-1894

I cleaned up & dressed then talked to Mr. Amos. He "asked" for me [*Note: I believe this means he asked her parents' permission to marry Stella*].

Papa & Mama went to Velma's in eve.

At night I gave him a (—).

This is Maggie Lemons' birthday; she is 27.

Monday May 14-1894

I cleaned up then talked to Mr. Amos till he left on the eight.

We decided to have waiters [*probably maid of honor and best man at wedding*].

Mattie & Mr. Joe.

I wrote up my diary.

Went to Velma's on the 11 o'clock train. Ticket .25.

Wrote to Sadie & to Theodore & to Maggie & to Aunt Panthea.

Tuesday May 15-'94

Did the usual work & waited on Velma.

Mary left so I had more to do.

Paid for face wash .25.

Wed. 5-16-1894

Nothing new – still wait on the sick and do work.

Thurs. 5-17-94

About as usual. I made my drawers. It rained & hailed a little.

Friday 5-18-1894

Everything about the same. Mrs. Dorsey came.

Saturday May 19-1894

I did the work.

In evening Mrs. Phillips came and staid with Velma till I went to town.

Bought 4 yds. embroidery .60

5 yds. domestic .30

3 yds. cambric .30

mitts .25

pins .05

Oil cloth .10

Papa came by awhile.

Wrote to Cora Hall & to Mama but did not send.

Sunday 5-20-1894

Came home on the g [*could be "S"—indecipherable*] Ticket .25.

It is cool and has been since the rain.

Mr. Ticknor came.

Grandma is here.

Wrote to Ella, to cousin Sallie, & to Beulah.

Borrowed \$5.00 of Campbell.

Went to Velma's on train—ticket .25. Hurbert met me at train.

Monday May 21, 1894

Did work.

Mama & Grandma came & in evening we went to town and I bought my wedding dress & things.

Dress \$6.50

Slippers 1.50

hat 3.50

mitts .25

handkerchief .25

elastic .10

hair pins .05

corset .50

vest .25

hoes [*probably means "hose"?*] .25

prepared chalk .05

tissue paper .05

Tuesday 5-22-1894

Did work & came home on the 8 train, ticket .25.

I cut my dress – first the lining [*lining?*] to waist.

I went to Mrs. Leaches, I think.

Wed. 5-23-'94

Did work and worked on my dress.

Thurs. 5-25-1894

At night made the baby a cap.

Did work and worked on my dress. Got a letter from Rosco.

Friday 5-25-1894

Did work and worked on my dress – finished it at night. I had very little trouble.

Got a letter from Mary – such a sweet one.

Wrote a note to Velma & got one from her.

Bought pills .25.

Susie came & I invited her & Emma [*to the wedding*].

Borrowed \$1.00 from Grandma.

Sat. 5-26-1894

Did work.

Made Velma's baby a cloak out of what was left of my dress.

Made Panthea's hat of lawn.

In evening Horatio & I went to Velma's

I was very tired.

Saw Mr. & Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Bush.

Sunday 5-27-'94

Got breakfast & cleaned up dishes. Went to see Emma & came by Mrs. Phillip's & on home.

Wrote some in my diary.

Went to Hershals' grave & prayed [*probably Stella's brother Olin Hershals Bowling, b. April 13, 1884, d. February 19, 1890*].

Monday May 28-1894

I cleaned up the house – a general clean up & fixed beds & etc. for the wedding.

I fixed up my trunk.

Helped clean yard.

Tuesday 5-29-1894

Cleaned up.

I fixed my things to go.

Cleaned front yard & worked my flowers.

Got some from Miss Mo?^[possibly Mollie—*indecipherable*] & some from Mrs.

Bush of McKinney.

Uncle Jeff & Florence came & Velma.

Miss Mollie gave me a “cake stand.” (Grandma was sick.) Papa bought me some
[indecipherable].

Stella Bowling

Wed. 5-30-1894

I cleaned up.

Corrected my affair with Ida, having to pay her .10.

Helped fix things in general.

About 1:30 P.M. Mr. Amos, Mattie & Mr. Joe came.

The boys went to McKinney.

Mattie & I dressed early & went over to see Mrs. Armstrong.

May 30-1894 contin—

The guests came and we were married about 8:30 P.M. or little later.

Presents received

Miss Mollie Leach – cake stand

Aunt Panthea – rocking chair

Grandma – Silver forks

Florence – Silver knives

Cousin May D- – breast pin [*Note: this is probably May Danaher, daughter of Stella's aunt Adelia Parthenia Kennedy and Michael Danaher; that the Danahers and Kennedys stayed close is demonstrated by the fact that W.J. Bowling and Mary Elizabeth Kennedy Bowling named one of their children Oliver Danaher Bowling.*]

Dr. & Mrs. Wolford – fruit bowls

Mrs. Ereckson – towel

Ma – linen towels

Dr. & Mrs. Wolford – flowers, holly-hock & cape Jessmine.

Guests left about 10.

Prayed as usual & retired.

Received a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Custis and one from Edna Duncan and such good letters too.

Thursday May 31st 1894

It was muddy but we came any way.

I left my father's home to go to a new home.

“I part from love that hat still been true,

“I to into love yet untried and new.” – A new trial I never had before.

We had a very pleasant trip if it was muddy.

Reached Aunt Panthea's after four some.

I fixed up a little & we came on.

The guests were here when we came and I was so embarrassed – more so than when we married.

They had a real good supper and all went off nice.

Had music on violin, banjo, & organ.

The married ones & all staid all night – only 27 and 30 for breakfast.

All seemed to enjoy it.

Of course, they teased Mr. Amos & I some.

Friday June 1st 1894

Arose rather late.

After breakfast cleaned up my room.

Play a piece for the children.

The families went home. Most of the men went fishing. (Pa, Mr. Amos, & Charley staid at home.)

In the evening Mr. Amos & I took a nap. When we got up, we went to see the hogs.

I helped milk – began work.

Sat. 6-2-'94

I helped clean up (I think). Cleaned up my room.

Bro. Hood & family [*Note: This is probably Johnson Hood Cunningham, Amos's older brother*] went home.

Wrote to Mary Hutton.

In evening went with Mr. Amos to town – Mattie & I we went to Aunt Panthea's.
Grandma had come & brought me a letter from Aunt Delia – such a sweet one
[*probably Mary Kennedy Bowling's sister Adelia Parthenia Kennedy Danaher*].

We brought out my chair.

Will Woods promised to come to-morrow & bring Carrie.

At night, I prayed as usual.

Mr. Amos bought some wax & Oscar Elbert gave us some candy. Am sick (feel bad.)

Sunday June 3-1894

Helped clean up then dressed.

We went to Aunt Panthea's about twelve (Will & Carrie having failed to come).

Came home in the eve. On the way saw Mr. J Cozby & his girl & Jones Payne & Laura.

At night some young folks came—the Houstons & Jones, & we had music.

It was late when we retired.

Monday 6-4-'94

I helped some about breakfast & cleaning up.

Helped Mattie gather & prepare vegetables.

Got so sleepy.

Played a little on the organ.

Papa came at night & had prayer.

Tuesday 6-5-1894

Helped do the work.

Lined Mr. Amos' hat and made him some gloves & Mr. Will some.

It rained.

I got a letter from Sarah Buster & one from Rosco – they had been sent to Allen.

Mama brought them to L- & Pa brought them out home.

Wednesday 6-6-1894

Helped do the work.

In evening we went to Aunt Panthea's & Mama came home with me.

She played organ for us, at night.

Thursday 6-7-'94

After Mama left, we washed – a big washing.

In evening gathered vegetables for to-morrow.

Friday 6-8-'94

Helped as usual & ironed some. They cut oats.

Ma gave me a dress. *[It is possible that further references to "Ma" and "Pa" refer to her mother and father-in-law, as she referred to her own parents as "Mama" and "Papa," but I can't be sure. However, the diary seems to indicate that Stella and Amos lived with the Cunninghams, and it makes sense in context of the rest of the entries that*

“Ma” and “Pa” are her in-laws, especially as she does not refer to “Mr. Cunningham” or “Mrs. Cunningham” after she marries Amos.]

Saturday 6-9-1894

Helped do work.

Wrote to Annie.

In morning ironed some.

Sunday 6-10-1894

After work was done we (Mr. Amos & I) went to town. It sprinkled on us some & we got there too late for church.

Grandma left for Ft. Worth.

In evening we went to baptising. Miss Oda Lee was baptised.

Came home & milked as usual.

In evening we took a long nap.

Monday 6-11-1894

Helped do work and to hoe out the orchard.

In evening Ma, Mattie, & I went to Mrs. Houston's.

Tuesday 6-12-1894

Helped do work then to wash.

Wrote to Aunt Delia & Mr. Custis. Hunted guinea nests.

Wednesday June 13, '94

Ironed some besides usual work.

In evening us women went to the farm.

Thursday 6-14, 1894

Ironed & helped Mattie as Ma went off visiting to Lloyd.

Helped Mattie on her dress.

In evening Jones Payne came & at night the Houston boys came after we had gone to bed & Mr. A. & I did not get up.

Friday 6-15-1894

Helped as usual.

Mattie & I planted watermelon seed.

Got from peddler stockings .25 cts. But Ma is to pay for them.

Saturday 6-16-1894

Helped do the work.

Wrote for Pain Paint, to Mama, & to Sarah Buster.

We went to town and had our pictures taken [*Note: These might be the photographs of Amos and Stella in their wedding clothes, in which case the date I had fixed to them is off by a couple of weeks*].

Bought stamps .20

P.O. order .05

6-16-1894 continued

Bought thread .25

(Mr. A.) bought handkerchieves .25

We were late getting home.

Got a letter from Sally Mathis.

Sunday June 17, 1894

After doing the work we went to Mr. Bragg's & Mattie went too.

After dinner we looked at the crop.

And Mr. Amos & I came by Willie's [*I believe this is William Matthew Cunningham, Amos's oldest brother. Before they were married, she referred to him as Mr. W. Cunningham, but there is no more reference to him by this name after the marriage, so I believe she used this more familiar name*].

At 11 o'clock we (Mr. A. & I and Joe & Mattie) went to church. Old Bro. Jasper, a Campbellite, preached or rather talked about how we should live.

Mr. Amos paid for the fish net \$3.00

It was very warm walking.

I got supper.

Prayed as usual before retiring.

Monday June 18, '94

Helped do usual work. Put away our clothes.

Cut out my underskirt & worked some on it.

Took a nap & helped hunt guinea nests.

Tuesday 6-19-1894

Did my part of work.

Finished my skirt.

Went to sleep.

At night some boys came & we had music.

Wed. 6-20-'94

Helped Mattie do the work.

Wrote to Edna Duncan.

They got done "chopping" & all went fishing but Mr. Amos.

Mollie came & staid with us [*possibly Amos's older sister Mary Elizabeth*
"Mollie" Cunningham Bragg].

Thursday 6-21-1894

We washed & in evening I ironed some. Ma & Pa came home.

Got ready to go home.

Friday 6-22-'94

Cleaned up my room then got ready to home (to Allen.)

Mr. Amos and I went home and Florence went with us.

Bought "soda pop" (two gl.) .10

wax .05

We stopped a while at Aunt P.

Got a letter from Maggie and one from Sadie.

We got home a while before night – Saw the Armstrongs all & some others.

I was tired. We went in a wagon.

Sat. June 23, 1894

I helped do the work as I used to do.

We went to church & Panthea went with us [*I'm not sure if this is Stella's aunt or sister*].

Bro. Crouch preached on “burden bearing.” He and Bro. Hunt went home with Papa – we all had a very nice time.

Late Mr. Amos & I went to McKinney.

I got to Mrs. Phillips.

Called for my Church letter.

Sunday June 24, 1894

Helped Velma get ready then she went home with me.

We all went to church.

Bro. Crouch preached.

In evening Rensa & Hurbert Gullede came a while & Susie & Emma & Miss Mollie.

Mr. Amos & I went to Mrs. Armstrong's & to Mr. Leach's.

(The Baptists organized a S. school. Hurber G. was Baptised.)

At night we went to church & Bro. Hunt preached on “Redemption & Justification” a very good sermon but not so good as Bro. C. can do.

Gave in collection .10.

Monday 6-15-94

Helped clean up a little then packed my trunk & things.

Started home about nine had my trunk & flowers etc.

We came to Laura's for dinner & staid awhile.

Too supper at Aunt Panthea's and got home most nine P.M. Tired.

[This part was written on page one, but dated this date, so I moved it here.] Mr.

Mayes [*indecipherable*].

Butter 10 lbs. .10

Eggs 5 doz. 6[?]

Bought coffee 1.00

stockings .50

lace .80

Tuesday 6-26-'94

Helped do work.

In evening slept awhile & Mrs. Hodge came.

In morning fixed my flowers.

We weighed – Mr. Amos weighed 115 lbs. and I 103 lbs.

Mr. Barger, wife, & two girls came and staid all night.

Wednesday 6-27-1894

After doing regular work we washed.

In evening I cleaned out my trunk and straightened up things.

Thursday 6-28-'94

Ma paid Mr. Amos \$1.40 [*the cents are indecipherable, but it looks like a "4"*].

Cut out my dress (the one Ma gave me).

Friday 6-29-1894

Did usual work then worked on my dress.

They went fishing. Mr. Amos went too and Mattie slept with me.

Saturday 6-30-1894

After the usual work I worked on my dress & finished it all but buttons.

I ironed some.

In the evening I went with Mr. Amos to town &

bought paper .10 cts.

pens .05

lace .20

We went to Aunt Panthea's & had ice cream.

I got a letter from Ella Marks & one from Annie Price.

(The Pain Paint came.)

Sunday July 1st 1894

Helped do the work.

Went with Ma & Mr. Amos to the field & by the house place & went to the spring
with Mr. Amos.

Sat round and talked & read most of the time.

Monday July 2, 1894

Helped do work.

They all went to help thresh but Pa, Ma, & I & in evening Pa went.

Ma & I went to hunt grapes.

Wrote home & to Sallie Mathis.

Tuesday 7-3-1894

Helped do work & Mr. Amos & I gathered grapes & I made some Jelly.

Wed. 7-4-'94

I made more Jelly. In evening I fixed my "relic" flute, my doll & album.

Thurs. 7-5-1894

We washed.

Mr. Amos went to town & paid for fixing iron rod .20 & bought musalege
[*mucilage*] .05.

Got a letter from Miss Sarah Buster & got my *Chautauquan*.

Friday 7-6-1894

Helped do work & ironed some.

Saturday 7-7-'94

We finished ironing.

In evening the men went to town & we went to the lake and found what we thought to be a bee tree.

Mr. Amos exchanged the mucilage for gum Arabic.

Sun. 7-8-1894

We just set round & laid round.

Monday 7-9-'94

Did work & I believe fixed my chair cushion.

Tuesday 7-10-'94

Helped as usual & helped Ma some on her quilt.

In evening Aunt Panthea & Uncle Jeff came & he & I went for watermelons.

Wed. 7-11-'94

We washed & Mattie & I "settled" the bees.

Thurs. 7-12-'94

Did nothing but usual work.

In evening I felt bad most sick [*Stella makes several allusions to feeling sick from here until the end of the diary. As my great-grandfather Herman was born in March*

1895, I believe she was suffering from morning sickness, but may not have realized what it was or else did not feel comfortable discussing a delicate subject like pregnancy in her diary].

Got a letter from home & a card from Aunt Panthea as she has gone to Ft. Worth.

Fri. 7-13-1894

Ironed some.

Was most sick.

Wrote to Maggie Lemons.

Sat. 7-14-1894

After the usual work I got ready & went with Mr. Amos to hunt peaches. Found none.

Bought sugar \$1.00

Liver Medicine .20

lemons .10

Sunday July 15, '94

We went to town to church to Mr. E. church.

Edwards preached a Missionary sermon.

Went to Uncle Johnnie's for dinner & came home early.

Mon. 7-16-'94

Helped do work.

Still feel bad & tried to take medicine & couldn't.

Tuesday 7-17-'94

Helped & then helped with a quilt & quilted some.

Wrote a letter home.

Fixed my grapes to dry.

Wed. 7-18-1894

Did work & we washed.

In evening helped quilt & Mattie & I followed the tramp to the field to see that he did no harm.

Made grape jelly.

Thursday July 19-1894

Ironed & then helped quilt.

At night it rained.

Fri. 7-20-1894

Helped do work.

In evening Mr. Amos & I went to town &

bought fruit cans \$1.00

rope .10

Went to Aunt Panthea's (The well men were here when we came home).

Mr. Bragg paid .40 for helping thresh.

Sat. 7-21-1894

Helped do work as usual.

Aunt Panthea & Florence came & spent the day.

Wrote to Mama as we could not go to-day.

In evening Mr. Amos went to town & bought a candy bucket for me .15 cts. to put a flower in.

Sunday July 22- 1894

Did usual work & lay around all day.

Read some & late Mr. Amos & I went to look round some.

It was a long lonesome day.

Monday, July 28, '94

Helped do the work.

Mr. Amos & I went to Aunt Panthea's intending to go for peaches but found out there were none.

He had his teeth fixed cost seven dollars.

At night we all went to church across the creek at Bethel FreeWill Baptist.

Bought sugar \$1.00

Tuesday 7-24-'94

Did work & gathered & fixed grapes & jelly.

Pa & Ma came home & we will go as far as Lewisville to-wards home.

No we only fixed up things.

Wednesday July 25, 1894

We went home, went in the wagon.

I got a letter from Mary Hutton.

We got home before night.

At night Mr. Amos & I staid at home & kept the children while the rest went to church. Susie came over and staid with us awhile.

Thursday July 26, '94

I helped do work & went to church. Bro. Crouch preached on "Christ's Coming."

In evening Mr. Amos, Velma, & I went to Lizzy Erecksion's and saw Mrs. E
[*indecipherable*].

At night went to church.

The text, I believe, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden etc."

Friday 7-27-'94

We all went to McKinney to the Re-union. Had a very nice time.

Bought sugar .25 cts (for the lemonade).

Bought watermelon .15 cts.

At night we went to church. I believe Bro. Hunt preached.

Sat. 7-28-'94

Helped do the work & went to church.

In evening Mr. Amos, Velma, & I went in the buggy to her house.

Had our pictures taken \$3.00

Bought stuff for shirts .50

Slippers \$1.00

lawn .10

Suspenders .25

elastic .05

Sunday 7-29-1894

Mr. Amos & I went back home and went to church.

Bro. Crouch preached to a large crowd.

In evening we all went to the baptising saw nine Baptised.

We went to church at night; a Bro. Rodgers, of Belton, preached.

Wrote to Aunt Panthea.

Monday 7-30-'94

Helped do the work and went to church. Bro. Rodgers preached.

I went to Pearl's & Mrs. Leach's.

At night went to church. Bro. Hunt preached.

Subject "The Righteous dead" I believe.

Tuesday 7-31-1894

We came home & Mama and the two little ones came with us.

One the road Mr. Amos bought a watermelon .10 cts.

Found Grandma at Aunt Panthea's sick.

Wednesday Aug 1st, 1894

Helped do work & gather grapes and fix them to dry and make jelly.

Thursday 8-2-'94

I was sick – hardly able to do anything but made my jelly.

At night it rained.

Fri. 8-3-'94

Still puny, but I helped some & quilted some.

In evening Mama & F [*indecipherable*] came & staid all night.

A big rain came a night.

Sat. 8-4-1894

Helped do the work & to quilt some.

We went to Aunt Panthea's to stay all night.

Sunday Aug. 5, 1894

We came home but too late for Ma to go [to] her visit.

Willie Cunningham came & Mr. Amos paid him \$1.50.

Horatio came out home with us.

Took a long nap then washed and dressed.

Monday Aug. 6, 1894

We washed a very big washing & in the evening I helped quilt.

Mr. Amos hoed cotton (just chopping out briars etc.)

I got very tired.

Tuesday 8-7-1894

Ironed some and in evening I patched.

Mr. Amos helped work the road to town – the big hill principly.

Wednesday Aug. 8, 1894

I cut and made Mr. Amos a shirt, the first one I ever made alone.

Mama & Florence came and in the evening we all helped her get grapes.

Thursday 8.9.1894

The men all went to the Sale (Mr. Hill's sale) and us women went to Aunt Panthea's.

Helped Mama fix her grapes.

In evening I went to town with Ma and Mattie.

Got our pictures & a card from the man. Also a letter from Beulah Spruil.

When we got home Cousin Will, wife, & son were here.

Friday 8-10-1894

We did the usual work and I put buttons on & holes in Mr. Amos' shirt.

Mr. Amos worked the road regular work day.

Saturday 8-11-'94

Pa & Ma went with Cousin Will to Willie's so Mattie & I did most of the work then did not do very much more. I patched a pair of pants.

Mr. Amos went to town to mill.

I got a letter from Edna Duncan.

Sunday Aug. 12, 1894

Mr. Amos & I went to Lewisville to church.

Bro. Bennett preached text Isaiah 30; 28 verse "And you hear a word behind you saying turn neither to the right etc."

Went to Aunt Panthea's for dinner & home in the evening.

Monday 8-13-'94

Mattie went home with Cousin Will.

Helped do the work & to quilt.

At night I was sick.

Tuesday 8-14-1894

Helped quilt & do the regular work

Mr. Amos chopped cotton.

Homer & Horatio came & brought word Hurbert cannot come.

Wed. 8-15-1894

I went to town with Home & H- & in the even Mr. Amos came for me horseback.

I went to the singing a while in the morning.

Thursday 8-16-'94

Ma & I washed.

In the evening I rested & tore up my two old dresses Aunt Panthea gave me for quilts.

We went to hunt grapes late & tired me out.

Fri. 8-17-1894

I ironed some & then helped to quilt.

Mr. Floyd & Cousin Fred [*indecipherable – looks like “Fred”*].

They finished the cotton & Mr. Amos went for some peaches & at night we fixed them to preserve.

Saturday 8-18-1894

Cleaned up as usually and cooked my preserved & fixed the others.

Helped about dinner.

Mattie & the boys came home at noon.

Mr. Amos went to town in evening & bought

Vinegar .35 cts.

Coffee .25

Whiskey .25

Sunday Aug. 19, 1894

Mr. Amos & I went to Aunt Panthea's got there late too late for church.

At night we went to church. Bro. Reeves preached Text Jer. (I think) 22 & 31
verse.

We went horseback.

Mr. F- & Cousin Fred went home.

At night we saw the [*text leaves off*]

Monday 8-20-'94

Mr. Amos helped split rails.

I helped quilt.

In the evening the Edmonson girls came.

Tues. Aug. 21-1894

Homer came & said Grandma is still sick.

Mr. Amos still work[ed] at the rails & I quilted.

Wednesday 8-22-1894

Helped to quilt I think.

Mr. Amos chopped again.

Thursday 8-28-'94

Washed & gathered grapes.

The men hauled rails & in the eve Mr. Amos cut the grape tree for us.

Fri. 8-24-1894

Ironed & fixed my grape preserves. Was sick.

Bought lemons .10 cts.

Sat. 8-25-'94

Ironed.

Heard that Grandma was so sick still.

Sunday 8-26-1894

After doing the regular work Mr. Amos & I went to Aunt Panthea's and found Grandma very sick.

Monday 8-27-'94

I went back to town to help nurse Grandma.

Mr. Amos began cotton picking.

Tues. 8-28-'94

Still in town.

Wed. 8-29-'94

Waited on Grandma & in evening came home – Florence brought me.

Thurs. 8-30-'94

We washed & in evening I went back to town.

Fri. 8-31-'94

Homer brought me home. Bought sugar \$1.00.

Ironed & made watermelon preserves.

Mr. Amos & I went back to town & staid at Uncle Johnnie's

Sat. Sep. 1st 1894

Came home & helped do work.

At night we went to church. Bro. Holly – FreeWill Preached at the schoolhouse.

Sunday 9-2-1894

We went to see Grandma, found her very low.

At night we went to church again & Mr. Amos professed. A Mr. Eastland preached.

Mon. 9-3-'94

Homer & I went to town early.

Grandma died at 6 P.M.

Mr. Amos came & we came home.

Bought a buggy from John Houston \$20.00.

Papa was at Aunt Panthea's.

Tuesday 9-4-1894

We went over to town as soon as we could.

Bro. Bennett preached the funeral text "Blessed are [those] that die in the Lord etc." I think.

They took Grandma to Ft. Worth to bury. I staid with Auntie. Mr. A. came home.

Wednesday 9-5-1894

Helped Florence take out things.

Uncle Jeff came on the noon train & had lost my voucher.

Cora Hall & Uncle M- brought me home & Mr. Amos took me back to go to Denton. He had come back home.

Thurs. 9-6-'94

Mr. Amos came to town for breakfast & we went to Denton got money on voucher No. 5 \$45.00 & made arrangements for No. 4.

Bought domestic \$0.50

bleach .50

bed spread .50

cotton goods .80 for quilt lining

Bought vests .05

clothes brush .25

Paid wagon yard fee .05

Got home late at night.

Fri. 9-7-1894

I helped do work.

Mr. Amos picked cotton.

Sat. 9-8-1894

I helped do the work.

In the morning Mr. A. picked cotton in the eve we went to town.

Uncle Jeff got back the lost voucher from Ft. Worth.

Had the buggy fixed .30

Bought cheese .20

Paid Uncle Jeff \$6.00 including the dollar I owed Grandma.

Aunt Panthea got a letter from Mama to us all.

Sunday 9-9-1894

We all went to church at the school-house.

Bro Kerr preached on the "Beasts of Revelations."

We went to Mollie's for dinner.

At night it rained.

Monday 9-10-1894

Did usual work.

Wrote to Sadie but did not get to sent it off.