

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2001

VOLUME 102 • NUMBER 4



Publication of this issue is made possible
in part by the Frederick Horner Bunting
Publication Fund and

THE
SOUTH CAROLINA
HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2001

VOLUME 102 • NUMBER 4

CONTENTS

Traditional Belles or Borderline Bluestockings? The Petigru Women by William H. Pease and Jane H. Pease	292
“Great Events Have Taken Place”: The Civil War Diary of Adèle Allston Vanderhorst by Pamela J. Clements	310
A Businessman in Crisis: Col. Daniel Jordan and the Civil War by Henry Carrison	335
Book Reviews	362
Recently Processed Manuscripts	381
Memorials	386
Index, Volume 102	387

**“GREAT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE”:
THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF ADÈLE ALLSTON
VANDERHORST**

EDITED BY PAMELA J. CLEMENTS*

ADÈLE ALLSTON, THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF ROBERT F. W. Allston, like many other young women of the southern planter class, kept a diary during her teens and early adulthood, and despite the burdens of motherhood, at least to some extent throughout the rest of her life. This diary is interesting for several reasons. First, as the eldest daughter of Robert F. W. Allston, rice planter and governor of South Carolina (1856-1858), Adèle occupied a role at the apex of the antebellum plantocracy, and she witnessed the Civil War and Reconstruction along with her own coming of age. In addition, while many women’s diaries from this era and class indicate ambivalence with the restrictive roles imposed by the “cult of true womanhood,” Adèle’s diary illuminates the life of a young woman who accepted her role of daughter, and then wife and mother, without question.

While the extant diary begins in 1859, with descriptions of plantation and townhouse life, Adèle’s diary account intensifies with the coming of the war to Charleston, a time that coincided with her entry into society and her “belle” years, during which her main occupation was selecting a husband. After 1870, with her responsibilities mounting with each successive child, the diary entries become less frequent and much shorter, with the diary becoming more of an expanded account book than a personal journal. The section of the diary kept from 1859 to 1861, is clearly a schoolgirl effort. At first, Adèle writes ploddingly and without passion of parties, walks, and horseback riding with various suitors, none of whom seems overwhelmingly interesting to her; “pleasant” is the most common adjective in these early pages. The early years of the diary also dutifully record Adèle’s examination of various social and moral lapses, indicating that her diary, along with that of her sister, was part of her at-home education. However, when the capture of Fort Sumter takes place in April of 1861, then nineteen-year-old Adèle is apparently electrified, along with the rest of the country. She begins to discuss current events in greater detail, showing how the war is affecting her; at the same time she begins to measure her suitors more seriously. For that reason, I have excerpted the section from South Carolina’s 1861 entry into the war to 1870, when the character of Adèle’s diary changes considerably.

* Pamela J. Clements is an associate professor of English at Siena College.



Adèle Allston VanderHorst about the time she began writing her diary. From *Chronicles of Chicora Wood* by Elizabeth Allston Pringle.

Adèle Allston was born into one of the wealthiest rice planting families in the country. The Allstons are one of the most studied and well-documented planter families, belonging to the group of intricately-intermarried plantation owners sometimes referred to as the rice "princes" or "grandees."¹

Adèle's father, Robert Francis Waties Allston, one of the wealthiest Georgetown rice planters and a noted educator, became governor of South Carolina in December of 1856, serving one full term before the onset of the war. Her mother, Adèle Petigru Allston, was a younger sister of James Louis Petigru, the highly respected Charleston lawyer, orator, and Unionist. The Allstons had either nine or ten children, five of whom lived to adulthood.

¹The Allston plantations have served as source material for numerous important books. See J.H. Easterby, *The South Carolina Rice Plantation as Revealed in the Papers of R.W. Allston* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1945); Charles Joyner, *Down by the Riverside: A South Carolina Slave Community* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994); and William Dusinberre, *Them Dark Days: Slavery in the American Rice Swamps* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996).

Benjamin, the oldest, was born in 1833; Robert in 1836; Charlotte Frances in 1837; Adèle in 1842²; Louise Gibert in 1844; Elizabeth Waties in 1845; Charles Petigru in 1848; and Jane Louise in 1850. Robert, Charlotte, and Louise died as young children; at least one other Allston child did not survive infancy. Adèle herself was not expected to live. Born two months premature in the heat of a South Carolina August, family members described her as "small enough to fit into a teacup." Elizabeth Allston Pringle describes Adèle's difficult birth in *Chronicle of Chicora Wood*: Robert Allston, thinking he was about to lose his wife, insisted that the baby carry Adèle's name. Despite her tiny size, her mother's illness, and the sweltering summer heat, both mother and daughter survived.³

Over the course of Adèle Allston's childhood, her father gradually added to his already considerable plantation holdings, adding Exchange, Nightingale Hall, Waterford, Ditchford, Guendalos, and Pipe Down plantations to the family's original "home," Chicora Wood, the name of which had been changed from Matanzas in 1853. In his will, Allston states his intention to leave a thriving plantation to his wife and to each of his five surviving children; however, at his death in 1864, the estate was heavily in debt, so all the plantations except Chicora Wood were sold. At the peak of their wealth, the family's properties also included a house in Plantersville, the upland settlement to which planters often removed in the malarial summer months, a beach house on Pawley's Island, and a magnificent town house in Charleston. For a time during her adolescence, Adèle lived in the elegant mansion now known as the Nathaniel Russell house; Allston bought this imposing townhouse in 1857 to become his city residence as South Carolina's governor, perhaps also considering his three daughters' imminent debuts and the necessity of finding them suitable husbands.⁴ Adele and her siblings spent their childhood in the constant movement from house to house that characterized low country planter society: from their plantation home, to Pawley's Island in summer, to the city for the winter social season, then back to the plantation in spring.⁵

² In her memoir, Adèle's sister Elizabeth claims that Adèle was born in 1840, but other records, including family diaries and letters, place her birthdate in August, 1842. Elizabeth Waties Allston Pringle, *Chronicles of Chicora Wood* (New York: Scribner's, 1923), 88.

³ Pringle, *Chronicles*, 87-88.

⁴ Anthony Q. Devereux, *The Life and Times of Robert F. W. Allston* (Georgetown, SC: Waccamaw Press, 1976), 203-04. Allston apparently paid \$38,000, of which \$2000 was in cash, despite Nathaniel Russell's cost of \$80,000 in building the house.

⁵ The lowcountry rice planters' peregrinations are thoroughly documented, not only in diaries and family letters, but in works such as Lawrence Fay Brewster's *Summer Migrations and Resorts of South Carolina Lowcountry Planters* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1947).

The Allston children grew up as beneficiaries of great wealth and privilege, in a family that valued education and literacy to the greatest extent. Ben followed the low country elite's general practice for oldest sons; he attended West Point like his father before him, graduating in 1853. Charles attended Octavius Porcher's Willington Academy, but enlisted in the army when the draft age was lowered to sixteen, later returning to take up rice planting after the war. At first the girls were tutored at home. Robert Allston hired first a Miss May, and later Miss Ayme, as tutors for Adèle and Bessie. In 1852, Adèle began to attend Madame Acèlie Togno's boarding school, joined by Bessie in 1854.⁶ During the war, Madame Togno moved her school to Barhamville, near Columbia. Bessie and Jane were sent there for a time during the war; Adèle completed her formal education at Mme. Togno's. Her parents later took her on a grand tour, during which she studied music and visited several European capitols.

The girls' education was, for female children of their time, extensive. At Madame Togno's, instruction was conducted in French, with real fluency in French a goal. In her own diary, Elizabeth describes her French reading as part of her summer study at the beach. The girls also studied history, geography, science, and writing. Adèle Petigru Allston apparently also had her daughters keep diaries for practice in written composition, logic, moral and social development, and to check their reading progress. Elizabeth writes:

Then I wrote a page in a blank book and showed it to mamma for correction. She had me to write a journal of all that had taken place the day before, instead of writing in a copy-book.⁷

By the time she begins her diary in 1859, Adèle is finished with school and has begun traversing the social gauntlet designed to end in a suitable marriage. The first few years of her diary record rounds of balls, parties, carriage rides, and other social outings. Between 1859 and 1863, Adèle is clearly weighing various suitors during these years; the gentlemen who visit, escort, and leave bouquets provide a roll-call of names of the most prominent Charleston and Georgetown families: Rhett, Alston, Blake, Middleton, Pringle. The name Arnoldus VanderHorst, a son of Elias VanderHorst of Kiawah Island and Charleston, appears gradually more frequently beginning in 1861; on January 15, 1863 she remarks "I became partially engaged." In the year or so preceding their marriage, Arnoldus had argued strongly for a wartime marriage; that his desire for an earlier date prevailed over Adèle's doubts about it is apparent in her diary, as well as in her sister's memoir. Adèle and Arnoldus VanderHorst were married

⁶ Madame Togno lived only a few houses from the Allstons on Meeting Street; her school was considered Charleston's most elite academy for girls.

⁷ Pringle, *Chronicles*, 137-38.

on June 24, 1863, and left immediately for Wilmington, where he was stationed with General Whiting.

For the duration of the war, Adèle moved from house to house, staying for a time with her in-laws on Chapel Street in Charleston, returning to Chicora from time to time, and spending time in Wilmington when it seemed safe to do so.

VanderHorst was a younger son of Elias VanderHorst, a wealthy planter who owned most of Kiawah Island. The family also controlled VanderHorst wharf near the Battery in Charleston and owned the steamer, Kiawah. When his older brother Lewis was killed in battle in 1864, Arnoldus took over the management of the family plantations at Ashpoo and Chickesee; after his death, Adèle continued the management of these estates with the help of his overseer, Quash.

The VanderHorsts eventually had seven children: Adèle, Anna Morris, Elias, Frances, Arnoldus V, Robert, and Elizabeth; it is not surprising that Adèle had little time for journal writing after her children are born, and even less after she was widowed. After the war, she records her novice adventures in gardening, raising turkeys, and managing their much-reduced household. Arnoldus died in a hunting accident on Kiawah Island in 1881⁸, and Adèle continued raising the children leaving Quash Stevens, her husband's manager (and possibly his half-brother) to run the Ashepoo plantation.⁹

As a young widow with a large family, Adèle Allston VanderHorst continued to spend a great deal of time with her mother-in-law at her house on Chapel Street or at the family's plantations on Kiawah. Always extremely close to her mother and siblings, she wrote them frequently; in fact, the entire Allston family was particularly devoted to letter-writing; the huge collection of family letters extant in the South Carolina Historical Society's collection is by no means a complete set, for the family's slaves destroyed many of the family's papers at the end of the war.¹⁰ As an adult, Adèle frequently visited her mother at Chicora Wood or at Croley Hill, her sister Bessie at White Hall or Chicora, and her sister Jane in Charleston or Flat Rock. Having raised her six children, this matriarch of a large family lived until 1915, dying at age 73. With her husband and her sister Elizabeth, she

⁸There is some speculation that Arnoldus' death may have been a suicide, given his depression over the family's bankruptcy after the war. He was warned by his former slave Quash Stevens that his gun's trigger mechanism was faulty and that he should not hunt alone, yet he did exactly that. His obituary states, somewhat enigmatically, that he tripped over a fallen log and accidentally shot himself "in the jaw."

⁹"A Short History of Kiawah Island and Quash Stevens," Chicora Foundation, Inc., 1993. [Cited online] SCiWay: South Carolina's Information Highway (Error! Bookmark not defined.)

¹⁰ Pringle, *Chronicles*, 269.

is buried at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

Adèle Allston VanderHorst apparently obeyed the nineteenth century dictum for women, to live a life defined by her father's, then her husband's affairs, and to remain firmly within the private or domestic sphere. She lived a quiet, circumspect life throughout the tumultuous years of Nullification, Secession, Civil War, and Reconstruction. She traveled to the north twice, and once to Europe, both times accompanied by her parents. Outside of family occasions - births and deaths, weddings, funerals, and the constant travel that wealthy families engaged in, the War was the defining event of Adèle Allston VanderHorst's life.

Nowhere in her diary does Adèle express dismay or ambivalence about her role as first daughter, then wife, of a planter. In the adolescent portion of the diary she cites anger (expressed only by her "turning red") as a serious moral and social lapse, and she apparently maintained a calm, even subservient, demeanor, throughout her life. In her memoir, Adèle's sister repeatedly contrasts "Della's" character with her own, stormier and more resistant personality: "My sister was absolutely docile and did just what mamma wanted her to do."¹¹

Robert Allston was considered by many who knew him to be peremptory, overbearing, even at times pompous, driven by an overwhelming sense of duty and class consciousness. Dusinberre notes that "In some measure, Allston's character was indeed that of a stereotypical old-fashioned gentleman: courteous, fastidious in his conduct, pious, and somewhat aesthetic," but also notes that many, even his wife, quailed before his "captiousness."¹² Apparently Adèle obeyed her father's dictates about the proprieties, and about choosing a husband, as thoroughly as she did her mother's. Early in the diary, there are frequent mentions of Pinckney Alston, a suitor for whom Elizabeth had a liking. He was apparently more interesting, flashier, than the quiet, somewhat ponderous Arnoldus VanderHorst. In her diary, Elizabeth remarks that she thinks Pinckney would stir up Adèle's imagination more than Arnoldus. The advice from her father that Adèle dutifully inscribes in her own diary, recommending the bashful, quiet man over the "gallant," seems to suggest his strong recommendation of Arnoldus.

As a well-brought-up Southern lady, Adèle is reticent about her personal feelings, though the diary subtly records her slowly growing preference for Arnoldus Vanderhorst. Her marriage is perfunctorily handled; whether because she is too circumspect to discuss her marriage in detail, or whether she simply becomes too busy as a wartime bride to keep up with writing, a

¹¹ Pringle, *Chronicles*, 166.

¹² Dusinberre, *Them Dark Days*, 291, 294.

chore she always belabored. The contrast with her dramatic sister Elizabeth's writings, however, is conspicuous. It is tempting to see in her silence about the marriage that her reasons for marrying are those of duty and practicality rather than of passion, but given her overall reticence, it is impossible to know what she really thought. She was certainly devoted to Arnoldus, and in later brief diary entries, marks the anniversary of his death with sorrow.

Perhaps once an adult, and away from her mother's watchful eye, Adèle was no longer compelled to keep close scrutiny on her behavior in her diary. Perhaps the responsibilities of a large family kept her from writing. Adèle's writing style indicates that, unlike her prolific sister Elizabeth, she really did not enjoy writing much. At any rate, the entries rapidly become less frequent after 1870, dwindling to become an account book with some commentary in three small volumes from the 1880s.

Adèle Allston Vanderhorst's diary is of interest in several respects. First, it illustrates (as so many other personal writings do) the galvanizing effect of the war on an ordinary—and very young—individual. It provides an interior view of the life of the plantation aristocracy of South Carolina. Secondly, Adèle's diary offers an interesting comparison with the writings of her sister Elizabeth; whereas Adèle is a rather ordinary adolescent girl of her class, section, and era, Elizabeth, three years younger and a born writer, will later prove to an extraordinary turn-of-the-century woman. Living in the same house, nearly age-mates, taught by the same parents and in the same schools, the two girls' diaries offer some fascinating glimpses into their differences in character, apparent from an early age.

"Great Events Have Taken Place"

[Editorial policies: I have kept most misspellings, marked by [sic]; I have added periods at the ends of some sentences and titles (cf. Mr.), which I have also capitalized, but have left the rest of the punctuation as it appears in the journal. Where a word is obviously missing or where there is a tear in the paper I have so indicated in brackets. If I could not be sure of a word, I have indicated that by a question mark in brackets. In a few cases, I have completed lost or abbreviated words, mainly names, also in brackets. For the most part, this text is as Adele Allston wrote it.]

SCHS

12-217-1-2

Adèle Allston (VanderHorst)

[inside cover]: Adèle Allston

March 2nd, 1859

[on flyleaf]:

Adèle Allston

Charleston March 1859

37 Meeting Street¹³

March 2 — it rained all day until the afternoon when between the showers Mamma and I went out to get some things for Charlie¹⁴, a desk and pens, etc. Mamma also got a dress— for Maum Mary in the country, and one for Maum Molly. I made the purchase of this book which I intend for various purposes and hope it will aid in keeping me straight and also in the difficult task of self knowledge.

1861

Jan 22nd

Great events have taken place. We are no longer among the United States but have seceded from the confederacy. Four other states have joined us so far. South Carolina seceded on the 20th of December. I mean earnestly to try to abandon the habit of daydreaming into which I have fallen and in which I waste a great deal of time. It is a very gloomy day raining incessantly and a high north wind blowing. I think of the soldiers down at Morris Island which is such an exposed position. I hope none of them may be made ill. Answered Phebe Campbell's letter. Yesterday evening received the payment of Philapena which was not due as I had not caught Mr. Blake.

Jan 23d It is still blowing very hard and looks very gloomy. It was raining this [morning?] so that Jinty & Bessie¹⁵ could not go to school. Poor Bess she has been suffering ever since we came from the country and today she had to go to bed and see the doctor. She suffered from constant nausea and pain in her stomach. I hope it may be nothing serious. Last Autumn Papa sent me this paper which he said had been written for my benefit. As it is written in pencil I shall copy it in here.

“We never saw a genuinely bashful man who was not the soul of honor. Though such may blush and stammer and shrug their shoulders awkwardly unable to throw off with ease the thoughts they would express; yet commend them to us for friends. There are

¹³ The Nathaniel Russell house is now numbered 51 Meeting Street. R.F.W. Allston bought this impressive townhouse in 1857, then called the Dehon house, for \$38,000. Dusinberre, *Them Dark Days*, 286.

¹⁴ Charles Petigru Allston (1848-1922), Adèle's younger brother.

¹⁵ Adèle's younger sisters, Elizabeth Waties Allston [Pringle](1845-1921) and Jane Louise Allston [Hill] (1850-1937). Within the family their nicknames were Bessie and Jinty.

fine touches in their character which time will mellow and bring out; perceptions as delicate as the faintest tint of the unfolding rose, and their thoughts are none the less refined and beautiful that they do not flow with the impetuosity of the stream. We are astonished that such are not always appreciated. The ladies (who are gifted by nature with much penetration but whose vanity is easily flattered) the ladies with really good hearts and cultivated intellects, will reward the gallant moustache brainless, with smiles and attentions because he can fold a shawl so gracefully and bandy compliments with Parisian elegance, while they do not condescend to look upon the worthiest man who feels for them a reverence so great, that every minute glance is worth more than a thousand empty flatteries. The man who is bashful in the presence of ladies is their defender when the loose tongue of the polished slanderers would defame them; It is not him who boasts of conquests or dares to talk glibly of feelings that exist in imagination chiefly, but he whose cheeks will flush with anger to hear the name of woman coupled with coarse language or oaths — yet he who would defend them, is too apt to be least honored by the majority of the Sex.

Ladies — choose him for a partner in life, whose delicacy of deportment, whose sense of your worth leads him to stand aloof while others crowd around you with unmeaning compliments. If he blushes, stammers even at your approach, consider these as so many signs of his exalted opinion of your sex. If he is retiring and modest let not a thousand fortunes weigh him down in the balance; for depend on it, your life will be happier with poverty and honesty, than with many another surrounded by the splendor of palaces.”

Receipt for Thickening the Hair¹⁶

Pour boiling water on the sage leaves and let them remain some time near the fire, then strain it and apply it to the hair daily. If any pomade is needed an equal mixture of cocoanut & olive oils with a little perfume is very efficacious.

May 6th 1861 Chicora Wood

I have been in the country more than a month; a very anxious time it has been, for on the 12th & 13th of April Fort Sumter was bombarded and taken by our troops and in the great goodness of God not a man was killed or even severely wounded. The hostile fleet lay off of our bar during a great part of the engagement but made no effort to enter. Bessie was in town staying with

¹⁶ This recipe is written in the text of the diary.

Aunt Ann¹⁷ so that she saw all the conflict. Brother¹⁸ was on duty at Morris Island. We could hear the guns very distinctly on the 13th but could hear nothing from the city, the mails having failed. Major Anderson was allowed to salute his flag and [lacuna] saluting his flag [lacuna] were killed by a most [illegible] exploison [sic] of cartridges which were on hand for use. Major Anderson surrendered unconditionally. Gen. Beauregard granted him most generous terms which Major A. does not state very fairly in his account to his government, indeed he uses every means to excite the people against us. All our young men have gone to Virginia which is to be the seat of war for the present. Col. R. E. Lee has been elected Commander of the forces of Va. The Southern Confederacy comprises nine States at present. Bessie wrote from town the other day that Arnold[us] VanderHorst, Grimkè Rhett & Julius Blake were all going to Va. under Cousin Johnston.¹⁹ I hope they will all get back safely and acquit themselves well, they are all friends of mine. Here I put a leaf from a bouquet sent me by J. Blake the day before I left town [torn page] what surprises me [torn page] [g]rieves me is that Pin[ckney]²⁰ has left Charleston left his [torn page], said goodbye to friends, for the purpose of entering the army. He has procured a place as Clerk in the Quartermaster's Department at Montgomery. A few[sic] days after he left, his father died, his health had been very feeble for some time past. Having joined the Army Pinckney will probably not return to Charleston and I shall probably never see him again. He was one of my friends whom I am truly sorry to lose. [about four words blotted out] He is now Captain in the Confederate Army & stands very high with his men. Mr Cohen of Savannah²¹ is staying with us at present. He was the orator [sic] for the Indigo Society on Friday last, he was from Georgetown originally

¹⁷ Mary Ann LaBruce, wife of Captain Thomas Petigru, a brother of Adèle Petigru Allston. Sometimes called "Aunt Ann" within the family.

¹⁸ Benjamin Allston (1833-1900), oldest surviving brother of Adèle Allston. An 1853 graduate of West Point, at this time he was a member of the staff of General James Simmons stationed at Morris Island. Devereaux, *Life and Times of Robert F. W. Allston*, 245.

¹⁹ Brigadier General James Johnston Pettigrew (1828-1863), a cousin of J. L. Petigru, Adèle Petigru Allston's brother.

²⁰ Pinckney Alston, who appears earlier in Adèle's diary as one of her suitors. Probably T. Pinckney Alston, Jr. (1832-1864,) a son of Thomas Pinckney Alston (1795-1861) of Marietta and Friendfield plantations. Elizabeth Allston Pringle (*Chronicles*, 147) calls him "a gallant soldier and charming man" in her memoir, and says "Alas, he was killed early in the war."

²¹ This could be Solomon Cohen, listed as an original member of the Georgetown Planters Club. He is cited as "removed from Georgetown" in George C. Rogers, Jr., *The History of Georgetown County, South Carolina* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1970), 289.

and is a very pleasant person.

May

June 11th Brother left us on Wednesday last (June 5th), for Virginia, having hesitated for some time about going at all. He decided very suddenly, told us one day and left the next evening. He went as an independant [sic] volunteer I hope he may get a position to please him when he gets there, we ha[ve] not heard from him since his departure. Mamma is very low spirited about public affairs. She thinks we will be defeated in Virginia but dear me defeat is too dreadful to be thought of even for a moment. I do not feel very well and not at all in good spirits and an event occurred yesterday which took me entirely [by?] surprise and nearly upset me. Mr C. Chisolm called while I was practising which astonished me rather but still I was not in the least prepared for what followed. It was extremely painful, particularly as he seemed really to feel it so much. He asked me to consider what he said his attachment etc. but what was the use of considering it, it would have ended in the same way, as I told him as gently as possible. He is an excellent person, one for whom I have an esteem but nothing more. It seems such a mockery to me to hear any one who sees me only now and then, in fine who have not the habit of loving me, speak of being attached to me, if they only knew all that passes within, out of the reach of every human eye! People think I am amiable. I wish to heaven it was true. Yesterday on the Battery Mr C.'s brother and sister were there in the buggy with only one seat up, and they stared looked at me so hard. Mr Frank Porcher²² has very kindly offered to let me make up a party for sailing next week, but I don't want to do it. I don't feel like giving a party of any description now that Brother is not here.

June 19th Yesterday came off the sailing party which Louise gave and which was very pleasant. Arnoldus Vanderhorst told me on the boat that he was going to day to Virginia & offered to take anything to [B]rother, he spent the evening here last night and told us goodbye, he expects wishes [sic] to be made aid [sic] or else serve with some company. I wrote to Brother and sent the letter up to go by him to day. I will miss him very much he is a very friendly person and one whom I have really a warm friendship for. Now we have no one to drop in and tell us the news or try and cheer Mamma. There is now no friend on whom I could call if I wanted anything, it is a desolate condition. Fortunately Mr. Robertson is to be here all summer.²³ This

²² Adèle Petigru Allston's sister, Louise, married Philip Johnston Porcher. Adèle mentions a number of Porcher cousins in her diary.

²³ Alexander Robertson, Charleston rice factor. He took care of much of the Allstons' business in Charleston, including supervision of the children at school when their parents were in the country or traveling. Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, 322.

afternoon we received a telegram from Brother, he is to be a Major in the Provisional Army which is what he wanted. Mr Russel[']s letter is very disagreeable.²⁴

July 19th Brother is at Winchester with [h]is Regiment (19th Mississippi) and we supposed there has been a battle as they (the advance) were in the face of the enemy under Patterson. There has been a battle in western Virginia in which we were defeated and Lt. Pegram taken prisoner besides many others whom we did [not] know. Poor Gen Garnett! and yet it is a soldier[']s fate but he is a great loss to the Army. A battle has been fought at Manassas in which we were victorious & it is what we should be so thankful for. Papa is in Richmond. He left here last Friday a week ago. Mr. Bryan very kindly came in this morning to tell us of the fight at Manassas, the result of it rather. I suppose we wd not have heard of it at all until tomorrow but for him. Mr. VanderHorst is at Winchester also, he is on Gen. Bee's staff.

22nd Last night just as we were thinking of going to bed Mr. Bryan came in and told us the news that had arrived by telegraph. A fearful battle had been raging all day at Manassas from dawn until seven in the evening, and we were victorious at length the enemy being [in] full retreat. It was dreadful to think of our men all day fighting and that day Sunday with us it had been rainy. This morning we learned what a complete victory it was. Truly can we say it was not our might that gained the battle[,] the odds against us were so great. Though a signal and complete victory yet is it very sad — very dearly bought. Many good and brave men have fallen. Gen. Bee has fallen and one of his aid[e]s (his brother in law) I only hope is seriously wounded.²⁵ There is no mention of Brother so that we are glad to conclude he is well & unharmed. I hope all our friends are equally so, Mr. VanderHorst was on Gen. Bee[']s staff. Poor Mr. Ben Johnson is killed, it is very sad[,] he was a

²⁴ William Howard Russell, *My Diary, North and South* (Boston: T.O.H.P. Burnham, 1863). Russell, Special [War] Correspondent to the (London) *Times*, visited America in 1861, commenting on the early stages of the war in a series of letters. On May 14th, 1861, he describes Charleston's defenses in less than glowing terms: "In the first place, it may be well to admit that the military preparations and positions of the South Carolinians were more formidable than one was prepared to expect on the part of a small State, without any considerable internal organization or resources. This comparative efficiency was due mainly to General Beauregard and his assistant-engineer, Major Whiting, who are both professional engineer officers of the United States' army, and who had capacity and influence enough to direct the energies of the undisciplined masses in the proper direction, instead of allowing them to rush on their fate in the perilous essay of an escalade, as they intended." Quoted in Hugh Brogan, ed., *The Times Reports the American Civil War: Extracts from The Times 1860-1865* (London: Times Books, 1975), 11.

²⁵ C.S. Brigadier General Barnard E. Bee, in Johnston's army.

brave and gallant man. James Conner & Theodore Barker²⁶ are noticed as being slightly wounded. Nurses are said to be much wanted, and many gentlemen have gone

today. Uncle Phil²⁷ speaks of going. Papa is there already & I am sure will be useful in that way as he is an excellent nurse. I wish some of us could go on to Va. in that way. This morning Mamma [&] I wrote to Brother as we heard that the Rev. Mr. Porter²⁸ was going to Va. and went up to the M C R. R. depot[,] where we found crowds of people women & children and heard it was the Irish Volunteers[,] Captain McCready going to Va.

July 25 Every day we hear of some sad occurrence. As yet not a word from, or of[,] Brother or Papa which is very strange and makes me feel badly. Mamma feels very anxious. Poor Henry Middleton! We heard he was wounded[;] it is thought to be mortal. Poor fellow he went out so full of hope and spirit and in the first battle to fall. He was a private in the Washington Light Infantry.²⁹ His poor mother & sisters. The glory of the victory is so saddened by our losses that it is impossible to feel exultant. When I think of those who in weariness and suspense await the arrival of what remains of those dear to them, it is fearful and I wonder to see people walking about with radiant faces, and yet we have been greatly blessed and surely the feeling of gratitude should keep us from wearing gloomy faces or being gloomy at heart.

July 31st Today went to Henry Middleton's funeral at four in the afternoon at St Phillip[']s church. Bessie and I went. It was so sad[,] he was the man of the family.

Left Charleston August 12th and reached the Beach on the afternoon of the 14th found Minnie³⁰ and children quite well.

²⁶ Possibly Theodore Parker. Anna Parker, a good friend of Adèle's, is mentioned several times in this diary.

²⁷ Philip Johnston Porcher, married to Louise Petigru, Adèle Petigru Allston's sister.

²⁸ Anthony Toomer Porter, a clerk with the Robertson-Blacklock factorage firm. In 1848 he returned to planting, but eventually became a clergyman. Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, 305.

²⁹ Henry Augustus Middleton, Jr. (1829 - 1861), son of Henry Augustus Middleton (1793-1887), Charleston attorney and St. George parish plantation owner. "He was educated at Harvard, worked as an engineer, and from 1855 to 1861 managed Weehaw Plantation for his father. In 1861 he joined in raising and equipping a troop of cavalry. He then volunteered for active service in Company A of Hampton Legion and was mortally wounded at the Battle of Manassas in July 1861." [online] South Carolina Historical Society web page (<http://www2.citadel.edu/cgi-win/pf3/exe?...721@Middleton+Henry+Augustus+1829+1861&>)

³⁰ Mary Charlotte North, wife of Joseph Blyth Allston, Robert F. W. Allston's nephew. She was a cousin of Adèle's on her mother's side, a daughter of Adèle Petigru Allston's sister, Louise Petigru North.

Two Prayers by Bishop Atkinson of North Columbia for the Confederate States:³¹

O Lord, our God, who rulest amid the hosts of Heaven, and over all the nations of the earth Thou hast power to cast down or to raise up whomsoever Thou wilt, and to save by many or by few; and we now come to Thee to help and defend us in this our time of danger and necessity. We acknowledge and lament, O God, the many grievous sins, by which we have justly provoked Thy wrath and indignation, and wert Thou extreme to mark iniquities O Lord, we could not abide it. But it is Thy nature and property ever to have mercy and to forgive; and we beseech Thee now to extend to us Thine accustomed mercy, and to deliver us from the evils and dangers, to which we are exposed. Do Thou! O Lord, remove from our borders all invading armies; confound the devices of such as would do us hurt, and send us speedily a just, and honorable, and lasting peace. And above every earthly blessing give us, as a People, grace to know, and love and serve Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for those who have gone forth to war in the defense of their State and Country.

O Lord most gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we commend to Thy care and protection Thy servants, who in behalf of their families and their country, have gone forth to meet the dangers of war — Direct and lead them in safety, bless them in their efforts to protect and defend this land; preserve them from the violence of the sword and from sickness; from injurious accidents, from treachery, and from surprise; from carelessness of duty, from confusion and fear; from mutiny and disorder; from evil living and forgetfulness of thee. Enable them to return in safety and honor, that we being defended from all who would do us hurt may rejoice in Thy mercies and Thy church Almighty give Thee thanks in Peace and Truth, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Sept 6th

Day before yesterday afternoon the inhabitants here were thrown into a state of wild excitement by the news that a vessel had come into the Inlet at the upper Beach, and was landing.³² All the men on the Beach or seashore went off as fast as possible armed as heavily as they could, and the women

³¹ These prayers are included in the text of the diary.

³² "The Beach" refers to Pawley's Island, where the Allstons maintained a summer home, now the Grant-Allston house. R.F.W. Allston purchased 20 acres of beachfront in 1845 and obtained a grant of 54 acres of marshland in order to build his own private causeway, probably the site of the current South Causeway to Pawley's Island. Easterby, *South Carolina Rice Plantation*, 23; Devereux, *Life and Times of Robert F.W. Allston*, 224-25).

were left forlorn[;] however it fortunately proved to be a Corn vessel taking shelter for the night, and all the brave defenders returned to their households. The enemy having possession of Hatteras makes it likely that at any time we may in truth be invaded. Heaven defend us when it does come and give each of us the power & will to act wisely. Yesterday Mamma commenced spinning[,] has quite a hank for [B]rother[']s socks. She is continuing today.

This receipt Papa gave me to copy so that I put it in here.³³

12 oz. bruised blue galls

8 oz. sulphate of indigo

8 oz. copperas

6 oz. gum Arabic

a few cloves

1 gallon rain water

Let the vessel be frequently shaken for two or three weeks after the above are put into it.

Dec 23rd Yesterday we had sad news from Badwell of Louise Porcher's serious illness.³⁴ Most earnestly do I hope & pray she may be restored to health; it is a great shock to us. She was so full of life & spirit[,] it is terrible to think of her being so very ill I cannot realize it or believe it.

We certainly have enough care to make us think our utter inability to help and protect ourselves. The enemy have possession of Port Royal and Beaufort and are every day strengthening themselves[;] all the planters in that section of country have burnt their crops and moved their people, so that many who a few weeks ago were wealthy or at least prosperous men are now reduced to poverty. Added to this on the 11th of this month a fire broke out in Charleston which raged until the afternoon of the 12th[,] laying

³³ This recipe for ink indicates not only the effect of wartime shortages but also the Allston family's dependence on writing.

³⁴ The Petigru family home in the Abbeville district; Louise Porcher was a cousin on Adèle's mother's side; Adèle Petigru Allston's sister Louise Petigru had married Philip Johnston Porcher.

a great part of the city in ashes. My dear Uncle³⁵ was burnt out saving his pictures and some of his books, also Cousin Lynch Bowman who I suppose lost everything which she could ill afford.³⁶ Many many others shared the same fate. It is terrible to think of the suffering which must ensue. We heard yesterday from dear [B]rother[;] he is suffering from jaundice and has been ordered to Norfolk to report to Gen. Huger.

1862

Jan 12th 1862 We went to church to day and heard a most excellent sermon from Mr. Hunter.³⁷ The congregation consisted of women[,] Papa with Dr. Sparkman & Mr. Weston having gone to see Dr Magill³⁸ who has been very ill. We have had the great pleasure of a visit from Brother. He arrived most unexpectedly (Monday, Dec 30) the evening after we heard of dear Louise's death[;] his visit quite cheered us up. He left last Friday on his way to Norfolk, where he was due today. It was a great blessing to see him and I hope I am sufficiently grateful for it. Louise's death is very terrible[;] it comes upon me as a thing impossible to believe. What a blank it leaves and poor Mary Anna. What will she do[?] God help and comfort her. Louise died Dec 19th at 7 P.M. twenty four hours before her parents reached Badwell. She had been speechless from the Monday previous. Anna Parker has lost her eldest brother by an accident in Virginia. The New Year [h]as set in. God grant that each day I may improve in grace & true holiness. Tomorrow Jane[']s lessons commence in real earnest. I hope I may not fail in my duty to her nor in gentleness.³⁹

³⁵ James Louis Petigru (1789-1863), Adèle Petigru Allston's oldest brother, prominent Charleston lawyer, famous both for his oratory and for his Unionist stance.

³⁶ The great fire of 1861 destroyed much of lower Charleston, both north and south of Broad Street. J.L. Petigru's house was destroyed. E. L.[ynch] Bowman describes the Charleston fire in a letter to R.F.W. Allston dated December 27th, 1861, (*Easterby, South Carolina Rice Planter*, 186-87). R.F.W. Allston's maternal great-aunt, Elizabeth Allston, married Thomas Lynch, Sr.; Allston cousins Mary and Lynch Bowman were descendants of Thomas Lynch (*Devereux, Life and Times of Robert F.W. Allston*, 23-24).

³⁷ Rev. Joseph Hunter, rector of Prince Frederick's Parish 1848-62.

³⁸ Dr. Sparkman, one of the Allstons' Georgetown neighbors, was also their plantation physician. Mr. Weston is either Francis Weston, nephew of Francis Marion Weston, who owned Laurel Hill (and husband of R.F.W. Allston's niece, or Plowden C.J. Weston of Hagley. Dr. John D. Magill (1795-1864), owned Richmond Hill plantation.

³⁹ Both Adèle and Elizabeth served as tutors for their younger sister Jane.

The Fishburns⁴⁰ are in the country and Helen Alston⁴¹ with them. Helen staid with us a few days. She is a very nice child with great discretion. We heard at church today that Burnside[']s expedition is meant for Georgetown. The Gov. had a dispatch from Pres. Davis to that effect.

Jan 15th Received last night a really heartfelt letter from Anna Parker in answer to one written to her on her brother[']s death.

Feb 12 Went to Charl[e]ston with Papa and saw Charlie off at night for Mr Porcher's.⁴² While in town saw Arnoldus VanderHorst several times and became partially engaged to him, which since then has been made positive, by his coming up here. This is no time for engagements and now I so often wish I had not yeilded [sic] to his entreaties thinking I could make him happier than he was. 29th April I have been engaged since the 23rd March. It seems much longer, have had two letters from him since his return to Virginia & have not [sic] idea where he is at present. Today [29?] the Hunters leave. Mr. H. preached his farewell sermon last Sunday[,] his text was 13 chap 2 Epistle Corinthians 110.⁴³ It was very touching. Mrs. H. will be very much missed by every one. She was always cheerful and ready & able to assist

all. They have been here fifteen years. She came here a bride & two of her children sleep in the churchyard —

20 June. Bessie Jane & myself have been staying at Mr Shaw[']s nearly a month⁴⁴, the 21 of May the Yankees sailed up Waccamaw river[,] broke open Mr Middleton[']s Mill and took out a great deal of rice. Papa sent us up here to be out of harm[']s way. I ought to be satisfied and grateful that things are no worse, but it is very hard to be cheerful and contented always. I had two very nice letters from Mr V. the beginning of this week. Poor Henry King was killed last Tuesday in a skirmish on James island. He died gallently [sic] at the head of his company Mr J.J. Edwards was also killed and Julius Blake wounded. It is sad to think of. I dread to open the papers and yet have such a craving for the news. Here we only see the Triweekly Courier. Young

⁴⁰ Dr. B. Clay Fishburne and his wife, Jane Rose Fraser Barnwell Fishburne, of Enfield plantation (Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, 429).

⁴¹ Helen (Mason) Alston, wife of Joseph Alston, eldest son of William Algernon Alston, of the Oaks Plantation (Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, 261).

⁴² Willington Academy, located in the Abbeville District, where Charles Petigru Allston boarded. Frederick Adolphus Porcher (1809-88) was a noted educator at the College of Charleston and in Abbeville.

⁴³ Rev. Joseph Hunter, rector of Prince Frederick's Chapel, Episcopal church on the Pee Dee river; the Allstons attended when residing at Chicora Wood. Devereux, *Life and Times of Robert F.W. Allston*, 202, 246.

⁴⁴ Thomas L. Shaw, Georgetown merchant (served as Mayor in 1839) and steward of Georgetown Methodist Church. Rogers, *History of Georgetown County*, 354, 528).

Julius Pringle has come home from Europe.⁴⁵

Plantersville Oct 13 1862 Summer is at an end. The cold days of Autumn have commenced. In a few weeks Mamma & I expect to move up to Society Hill where we intend spending the winter.⁴⁶ The children have been more than a month at school. We miss them extremely I miss Bessie more than I can say.

Dec 5th Brother arrived after eight o'clock at night in company with Papa. We had expected them all day. Brother looks well & says he has recovered from his wound.

12. stockings. Chemise 12. Drawers 10. Petticoats 5. Night Gowns 8 Handkerchiefs. 24.⁴⁷

July 1863 Arrived at Wilmington N.C. July 16th at 7 in the morning having been married three weeks before in Charleston. Same day Gen. Whiting called — It is lonely but time accustomes [sic] one to every thing. Mr V. is out all morning & I would not have it otherwise—⁴⁸

July 29th Read yesterday a letter from Papa containing a 50 dollar bill first payment for ferry. Arnoldus gave me to put away for him yesterday 90\$ part

⁴⁵ John Julius Pringle (1842-1876), married Elizabeth Waties Allston in 1870 after serving in the war with her brother Charles. His mother inherited White House plantation from her second husband, Joel R. Poinsett. He died in 1876 after only six years of marriage; after the war, Elizabeth bought White House and, later, the Allston's family home at Chicora Wood, becoming a planter herself, as the title of her memoir notes: *Patience Pennington* [pseudonym of Elizabeth Waties Allston Pringle] *A Woman Rice Planter*, (New York: Macmillan Company, 1913); rpt. (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1992).

⁴⁶ In a letter to Adèle P. Allston (July 10, 1861), Sarah C. Williams invites the Allston women to stay for the summer season near Society Hill, at “our place, Croly Hill, where we have passed several summers since Oaky Hollow was burned.” The Allstons accepted this offer of a summer residence near the North Carolina border, since the coastal area had become too dangerous. The spelling of the house's name varies (Crowley, Croly, Croley) in the private papers of the Allston women. *Easterby, South Carolina Rice Plantation*, 177.

⁴⁷ Perhaps a list of trousseau items. Adèle is notably silent about her own wedding in this diary, although she is more voluble about Elizabeth's wedding in 1870.

⁴⁸ William Henry Chase Whiting (1824-65), one of the Confederacy's top engineers, who eventually became a Major General. Arnoldus VanderHorst had served under him when Major Whiting was sent to Virginia in 1861 to serve as chief engineer on Brig. General Joseph E. Johnston's staff. In 1862 he was assigned to command the Cape Fear District. See Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Rays of Departing Hope* (Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Company, 1997), 36-37, 451, 461, and passim). Dusenberre notes that James Chesnut, an aide to Jefferson Davis, had secured this job on Whiting's staff for Benjamin as a favor to R.F.W. Allston. *Dusenberre, Them Dark Days*, 292.

of his pay, the first draft he has made[,] also a check for 300 sent him by his father. I find myself much happier than I expected[;] it would be hard not to be. The only drawback is I hear so seldom from home & then the state of the country. God have mercy upon us! Went yesterday to see Mr & Mrs Watson.⁴⁹ I like him very much — Mrs. Hill⁵⁰ sent us some butter yesterday, more than a lb. I feel badly about it but A. does not. He thinks it is all right & I suppose he knows best. Many, a good many ladies have called to see me & are cordial & kind so that I begin to feel less strange but it is the longest two weeks I have ever passed. —

July 30. Went out to tea last night for the first time at Mrs. James Anderson[']s[,] Maj. and Mrs. Hill & ourselves the guests.⁵¹ A beautiful tea table delicious breads of all kinds & delightful tea & coffee. A very pleasant evening. Mrs. Terry⁵² called yesterday. She has such a sweet voice she sings at St. Johns church. I was anxious to make her acquaintance. No letters today, another disappointment — Aug 7th Received yesterday a sweet letter from Mamma[,] the third since getting here. Arnoldus got a letter from Brother my darling of whom I think so often, constantly. The longing after what is not in me something beyond troubles me causing as it does uncontrollable restlessness. It is three weeks since we came here [;] it seems much longer though now the days pass rapidly enough.

Aug 22nd Aug 29 Yesterday went out to get a dress for Mamma[,] a black Alpaca which at length I succeeded in procuring 11 yds 8.50 & two pieces braid 1.50. Some days ago Margaret brought me a calico she wanted which I bought for her \$20 10 to Charleston remaining \$20.

Sep 29th Have been at home now for two weeks. A. is in Wilmington. I hear from him almost every day & write the same. Yesterday Papa gave me \$50 the remainder [one] for [ferry]. Went down to Wilmington day before yesterday & had my wisdom teeth extracted in consequence of which my face is swelled & painful.

Nov 22nd Sunday Wilmington. The first evening Arnoldus has passed away from me since June of his own accord, a letter from Pape written in pencil.

⁴⁹ Reverend Alfred A. Watson, of St. James Episcopal Church, Wilmington, originally from New York. (Fonvielle, *The Wilmington Campaign*, 455).

⁵⁰ Wife of Major James Hill, General Whiting's Chief of Staff and brother-in-law. Fonvielle, *The Wilmington Campaign*, 140, 294-95.

⁵¹ Mrs. James Anderson may be the wife of Brig. General Joseph Reid Anderson, who became overall commander at Wilmington in September, 1861.

⁵² Two brothers, Captain Adrian Terry and General Alfred H. Terry, served together at Wilmington. Adrian Terry acted as assistant adjutant general for his brother. Fonvielle, *The Wilmington Campaign*, 224. Mrs. Terry could be the wife of either officer. It seems that the VanderHorsts were entertained by a number of officers and their wives.

1rst March 1864 Paid the first \$5 to Mrs Churchill to assist in the education of her daughter. I have agreed to pay 5 a month while here. It is a nicely spoken little girl she sent to me today for the money. I have been planting pease today & seeing the garden hoed up[,] besides which have cut out Arnoldus['] long desired calico shirt.

Heard the 3rd of this month from my dear Brother a long letter only a month old in which he says he is to be married on his Birthday 25 Feb. Heaven bless & keep him. It is a complete surprise.⁵³

25th Good Friday went to church this morning in a rain, was doubtful at first about going having only a sun umbrella, and truly I am thankful that I went. The services were very impressive and the sermon most noble. Mr Patterson preached. He considered Sampson [sic] as a type of our Blessed Savieur [sic] in his life & actions. The wind now amounts to a gale and the rain has ceased. The following is an extract from a piece written by Louis Young who was A.A.G. to Cousin Johnston Pettigrew.⁵⁴

This sketch may seem imperfect without a further reference to the commander of the Brigade, whose part in the campaign has been thus far traced; therefore approaching with reverence a subject so far above my power, I mingle my reflections with those, I know, in eloquent feeling are constantly revolved in the hearts and memories of even the humblest in the Brigade.

To the biographer and historian we leave the story of his life, replete from earliest childhood with all the endowments which characterise the good and great and it will gratify you to know that this pleasing task has been entrusted to one able to do justice to a subject so illustrious. We will remember our commander as one whose earnestness, jealous attention to duty, and abilities far beyond those commonly allotted to men, commanded the affections respect and confidence of all who knew him. With a mind capable of grasping every branch of knowledge, and with the eye of a statesman foreseeing the country's destiny, he had prepared himself by a thorough military education for the struggle in which we are now engaged. As practical as he was learned, he was an officer in whose skill all confided; and often has the cheering influence of his presence been manifest upon his troops when in danger they saw their General ride to the front. Pure generous, and noble he was loved with an enthusiasm which enabled him to discipline through the affections, and it is remarkable that with very little

⁵³ Benjamin Allston married Ellen Stanley Robinson in Texas, where he was then stationed. After the war, returning with Ellen to try planting at Guendalos in the Georgetown district, he suffered personal bankruptcy, and later entered the ministry. After Ellen's death in 1875, he married Louise North, his cousin.

⁵⁴ C.S. Brigadier James Johnston Pettigrew (1828-1863), a relative of the Charleston Petigru family, and sometime law partner of James L. Petigru.

Dear Charlie's birthday he is 17 years old today & is a man before his time I fear. Thank God I have been permitted once more to embrace my dear Brother & to welcome his wife who is a truly attractive person, clever & amiable but feeble in health. The dear little girl we were not granted even a glimpse of, she died suddenly just before they left for home — ⁵⁹

I expect to go down with Arnoldus to his home in Charleston in a month[']s time—

October 29th 1866 Chapel St. Charleston

Here I have been for more than a year living with A[']s parents who are as kind as possible. I have a dear little girl a year old, truly a "well spring of Joy" has she been to me. Arnoldus has gone to N.Y. on business[,] thence he goes to Richmond. He left on Saturday & expects to be gone 3 weeks. Baby is beginning to step holding onto a hand or chair & is very proud of her accomplishment. She has very sweet attractive little ways. She looks much like her father with his shaped head and deep blue eyes—

Nov 20th Yesterday got my old house furniture in place & last night slept in my old Chicora bed stead for [the] first time since the enemy made their first raid up Waccamaw.

May 22nd, [66]. I trust I am somewhat settled now for three weeks. Living in discomfort & confusion makes one appreciate order & a place for everything very highly.

Saturday 17 Nov 66 A pr. of very fine oxen from the estate for Arnoldus[,] they are valued at \$100. Pendleton started for Kiawha [sic] Monday 26th Nov with the pr. of oxen and the white cow which last died on the road side from exhaustion etc. Arnoldus is in the country at his father's plantation very active & diligent.⁶⁰ I see him very little but try to be content. Adèle can walk across the floor now & makes a bow or curtsey very nicely Dec.

January 1867 Arnoldus is again in the country making contracts & arrangements for the ensuing year. Kiawha [sic] is under contract & I trust A. will have no difficulty at Ashepoo. He went up Monday 14th. Mrs. Grimbball gave me the following receipts which she said she knew to be excellent.⁶¹

For chilblains. In the burning stage rub turpentine on the part affected & it will give relief. Also on the approach of a sty take table salt reduced to as

⁵⁹ Adèle's brother Benjamin had married Ellen Stanley Robinson in Texas; always in fragile health, after producing four children, she died in 1875.

⁶⁰ After the death of his father in 1874, Elias VanderHorst, Arnoldus took over the management of the VanderHorst plantations on the Ashepoo River and Chickesee Island, but he was clearly already working with him at this point.

⁶¹ Most likely Meta Morris Grimbball, wife of John Berkley Grimbball, of The Grove plantation on the South Edisto River. She would have been a neighbor of the VanderHorsts in the country.

much of a powder as possible then with the end of the finger rub it on the eyelid. It will disperse the sty. —

April 1867 It is strange to think of my children, two little daughters so near together. Adèle the eldest[,] eighteen months old not able to talk. Fortunately she walks all about and is very helpful. Anna Morris is considered a beautiful baby by knowing ones, but she cries so much as to bid fair to ruin her nose which is already large.— I get on very comfortably. Mr. & Mrs. VanderHorst are very kind and I see so little of Arnoldus he is more like company than anything else. He is off again to the country.

18th Went today with Min to see Mrs. Grimball & her daughter in Law & little grand son just 3 months old. Helen Lewis⁶² was with us, we walked back and she found the walk very wearisome. Tomorrow will be Good Friday.

July 14 Mamma's school is ended⁶³ and she can now have some rest which is much needed by her. As usual, I spent Saturday with her. Adèle is quite interesting now[,] begins to talk & understand everything. I have put pantalets on her this month.

July 27th 1869

Mamma moved away from town a week ago 20th Chicora is to be their residence in winter & Plantersville. I miss them very much & in the autumn will miss them more[,] for that is the time they always returned from the country. I have a little boy now 4 months old today as good as a baby can be & quite strong apparently.

1870

March Sunday the 27 came from Chickesee where [I] had been with the children for six weeks paying Arnoldus a visit. Elias was a year old on that day. He is very forward for his age[,] walks all about and has out eight teeth[,] of which two are jaw teeth.

April 11th Went into the country to Chicora taking with me the two little girls; to be present at Bessie's wedding which took place on the 20th of the month — All the arrangements were very nice successful. Bessie looked lovely in white muslin with illusion veil & orange blossoms. Julius Pringle

⁶² Helen M. Lewis, one of the children of Anna Raven and John Williams Lewis, of Ravenswood, a plantation adjoining the VanderHorst's Chickesee on the Ashepoo River. John Williams Lewis was Arnoldus VanderHorst's brother-in law, having married his sister Anna Raven Vanderorst. Suzanne Cameron Linder, *Historical Atlas of the Rice Plantations of the ACE River Basin—1860* (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1995), 130, 494, 497.

⁶³ After the war, Adèle Petigru Allston for a time headed a boarding school for girls in the Meeting Street house, hiring language and music teachers and employing Bessie and herself as teachers of literature and history. Easterby, *South Carolina Rice Plantations*, 222.

had asked Mr Trapier to go up and perform the ceremony which he did.⁶⁴ Charlie gave her away. He engaged Laner for the occasion as his present to Bess, and surely it was one which gave great pleasure to all the guests. Mamma looked very handsome in her black velvet & lace which she wore at our earnest solicitations, and Aunt Harrie was pretty as ever. Jane as first Bridesmaid was in white with pink sash & pink flower in her hair and looked very pretty. Arnoldus came up just the day before the wedding with many other gentlemen most of them to stay at Mrs Pringle[']s. Bessie got some beautiful presents from all of her friends and some of his relatives. Mrs P. gave a matinée the day after the wedding, from which I joined the children on the steamboat and came to town and have felt very desolate ever since—Nelson after arranging the supper table and giving a general outline to his assistant was taken very ill & so we left him.⁶⁵ This is Sunday the last day of April but I have not been able to go to church because of a cold & headache.

May 4th Jane did not come down as I hoped she would last Monday. In her letter she says Mamma was not very well[,] therefore I can suppose she did not wish to leave her. Arnoldus is up at Ashepoo Mr. J. Lowndes is with him. Paid Marion on Tuesday & Miss Ashton. Have read since coming back *Visits & Sketches* by Mrs Jameson & found it charming. The description of various cities Munich among others is most interesting and her account of paintings and pieces of sculpture is vivid and delightful—I have enjoyed it very much.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ The Trapiers were planters in the Georgetown district. At least two Trapier sons became ministers. A letter written to Adèle Petigru Allston in March of 1865 says, "The Revnd Mr. Trappier was long in prison and threatened with hanging for poisoning the wine he gave them and his [illegible] Son with him who was made to testify against his Father, he is again at Liberty but his family have been stripped of every thing. . . ." Easterby, *South Carolina Rice Plantations*, 206.

⁶⁵ Nelson, a mulatto slave, was the Allstons' butler. Dusinger, *Them Dark Days*, 343-45.

⁶⁶ Mrs. Anna Brownell Jameson (1794-1860). Art historian and travel writer. Mrs. Anna Jameson, *Visits and Sketches at Home and Abroad. With Tales and Miscellanies now First Collected, and a new edition of the "Diary of an Ennuyee"* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1834).