

DIARY

THOMAS FALLS BUCHANAN

The following pages are the transcript of the diary of Thomas Falls Buchanan who departed Anahilla, Ireland for America on May 13, 1844. This transcript attempts to follow the original exactly and departs from the text only to the extent of the addition of capitals at the beginnings of sentences and the addition of periods at the ending.....

Elizabeth Buchanan Hauer

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Annabilla 13th May 1844

Left Home Monday Morning at 2 Oclock for America. Arrived in Belfast at Two in the Evening.

Tuesday 14th Left Belfast at Eight in the Evening in a Steam B for Liverpool.

Wednesday 15th Sailing very near the Isle of Man this Morning. Arrived in Liverpool at Twelve noon.

Thursday 16th On board the ship Philadelphia lying in the dock bound for New York.

Friday 17th Sailed out of the dock at Eleven Oclock into the River and then anchored.

Saturday 18th Pilot came to us and set sail at Twelve. The River rough and nearly all the pasengers on board sick. The Pilot leaves us. Sailing by the Welsh Mountains. There appears to be snow on them.

Sunday 19th A nice brese. Sailing very fast and has passed ships that were out before us. In sight of Ireland sailing round the coast of Cape Clear. When shall I see Ireland again? Perhaps never. (Oh Lord where ever my lot be Cast may I love and serve thee for ever.

Monday 20th Nothing particular. No land to be seen. Going on well but Cold.

Tuesday 21th Fine side breese. Meeting nine of ten ships for Liverpool. In the Evening spoke a Brig. Our Capt. asked for longitude. The Capt. of the Brig says 1420. Ours say 1912.

Wednesday 22nd. Going on well. There are a ship along side of us these two days. We are a head of her now. Overtook one and lost sight of her again. The sea a little rough. Ship rowling greatly but a fine day. No rain since we came on board. Sailing about $8\frac{1}{2}$ nots an hour.

Thursday 23 A fair wind this morning but very slack and the ship rocking much but making very little way. No ships in view but many porpoises.

Friday 24 Wind turned to south and blowing very much. Sailing very fast about nine nots. Evng still faster ten nots.

Saturday 25 A very rough night. Everything tossing about in the cabin. One of the sails torn and much rain and the ship rowling all night. A ship coming after us. Sailing very slow but a fine day.

Sunday 26 This morning a very rough sea. One of the jib sails torn to pieces. Mighty rain for one hour. All the sails taken up but Two and these two reefed up. Cleared up again and a fine day and many fowls flying.

Monday 27th It has been a wet rough night. This morning cold and some showers. Sailing slow. Wet Evening.

Tuesday 28 Calm. Some showers. Wind nearly fair but very little of it.

Wednesday 29 Sailing none all night but rocking. A nice morning and warm. A fine wind. Sailing about six nots. Wind turned to the South. Sailing fast. In the evening still quicker from Ten to Eleven nots. Had to take up all the sails but four and these reefed.

Thursday 30th The roughest night we had yet. The waves dashing over the ship. Today seen a great many porpoises at the very side of the ship, dashing and were with us for half an hour. A sure sign of a squal or storm. In the eveny Foggy wet dark and misty.

Friday 31 A Calm morning still Foggy. No wind. Not sailing any. Tacked. About Ten breese sprang up and getting on middley about 6 nots. Seen many fish. Getting Cold in Evening.

June

Saturday 1 There was a mountain of Ice seen by the Crew and some of the passengers last night. The weather still cold and nearly a head wind but getting on by tacking.

Sunday 2nd This morning a little rough but sailing pretty quick. Rough wet and squally all day.

Monday 3rd Very misty and dark but sailing very well by tacking. Passed a Brig that was out ten or twelve days before us. A cold and wet night.

Tuesday 4th Quite Calm this morning. Sea very level and smoothe. Not a riffle on the water. Got very misty and dark. Quite thick fog. A very wet day. Cleared up in the Evening. Sailing very fast. Overtook a vessle in the evening for Burdrew bound for Boston. Spoke her. She is Five weeks out. The saw much Ice last night. We saw none. Seen many porpoises today sailing by the banks of Newfoundland.

Wednesday 5th A fine morning but sailing very slow and much warmer. A little breeze in the Evening.

Thursday 6th Another fine morning. Getting warmer. Passed a ship this morning sailing about five miles. Blew up a fine gale in the Evening.

Friday 7th A wet night and this morning very Calm. Sailing none. Getting much warmer. In the evening very misty.

Saturday 8th A misty morning. Sailing well. Got wet and unpleasant and the mist still thick so that one of the sailors has to stand on the watch all day for fear of Coming in Contact with some vessel.

Sunday 9th A fine morning warm and calm. A breeze got up about Twelve. We are tacking so much these Two weeks. Thus we are not gaining much and getting on slow. At present nearly head wind. (Rev. Mr. Lyons a Presbyterian Preached for us today.)

Monday 10th A very rough Morning. The wind has got very strong. About Two O'clock tore Two of the sails and the rest all reefed up and we are doing nothing but tossing about and getting sails up and the others mended. Foggy and rough Evening.

Tuesday 11th This morning the sea running very high. The waves quite high and large and the ship rowling greatly. All the sails reefed up. The waves I may say are mountain high and white with foam. About five we tacked and when doing so the ship gave Two dreadful heaves and went down nearly on her broad side and washed boxes and everything through the Cabin. Some of the passengers were hurt. Wind ceased in the Evening.

Wednesday 12 This morning nice breeze & sailing well.

Thursday 13 A nice morning. Fair wind. Sailing on very well. Two ships in view. One of them the Independence a packet from Liverpool. Left it three days after us and has passed us today.

Friday 14 A fine morning. Sailing Ten knots. Heavy showers in the Evng. Still cold.

Saturday 15 Sailing well but rather Cold for the season of the Year and us getting so near America. Sounded in the Evening. Has 25 Fathoms water.

Sunday 16 A beautiful morning but sailing very slow. Tacked at Two and fine breeze. Many Fishing Boats in view. (Mr. Lyons Preached.)

Monday 17th Sailing very fast and at Eleven got the Pilot on board and was very glad to see him.

Tuesday 18th This morning when I got up there was a beautiful view. Land on both sides & the Light Houses. The scenery is most grand. We passed up by the Forts & it is quite warm & delightful. We cast anchor at Eight Oclock. Morning to perform Quarantine. Great washing and cleaning up. Warm & fine view on each side.

Wednesday 19th Got on board a skooner at Eight in the morning. Left the ship and went out to be examined. Got started from that at Twelve & got to New York at Two.

Thursday 20th In New York the people appears to me to be the most unjust & great take ins that ever I have met with yet.

Friday 21 Left N Y. at Five in morning for Philadelphia and passed through some beautiful Country Seats in Jersey. Landed in Philad at Two. This is a beautiful City. The streets all square & very regular built. Some very handsome squares & walks. Went to see the water works. They are very grand. Stopped in City to the 16th July. Met many from there.

July 16 Tuesday Left Philad at nine in the morning. Went 82 miles in Rail Road Car to Columbia. The got started on Canal at 7 in the Eveng. Went by Harrisburgh Seat of Government of Pennsylvania. Sailing along the River Susquehanna for about 40 miles then crossed it and followed the River Juniata. A very hilly country along the Canal.

17 18 19 Sailing along the Canal and River. Nothing particular as there are very little scenery. Some small viliges. Had to stop on Friday at Twelve on **account** of one of the locks being broke. Got started at Twelve at night. Country still rough and hilly but some good country seats of Farmers. I think the Country are more level back from the River & Canal.

20th Arived at Hollidaysburgh at Four in the Eveng. Had to stay there for the trucks to take us along the railway. The Boat we are in is a section Boat has Four parts and run on the Trucks on the rail Road. Sunday Monday and Tuesday to one Ock at Hallidaysburgh. Took Locomotive for Four Miles and then began to accend the encline plains. Got to the Top and slept on the summit of the Alleghany Mountains. We are drew up the plains by a rope and ingine on the top and between the plains. Some of them we are drew by Horses & some by Locomotive accordant to the distance between the plains. There are five plains up & five down. The plains are about Three quarters mile long.

Wednesday 24 Started at 7 in the morning to decend. Got down four plains then went 14 miles by engine and came to a Tunnell. It is about three Hundred feet under the mountain. And then came down the Tenth plain and then 4 miles to Johnstown without any assistance. The road has a small incline. To day we came over some of the most frightful places with the engine

that ever I did see. Left Johnstown at one. Passed through a tunnel upwards of 300 feet under ground in the Canal.

Tuesday 25 Passed a great many salt works today and coal mines along the Canal. The Country appears to be rough and hilly. Sailing along the Conamack to we crossed over the Alleghany in a long adack sailing sailing alont it. Crossed it again going into Pittsburgh at nine Friday mornny. This is a great place for manufactory but it is a black dirty place so many coal and Iron works in it.

August 1st Went down the River to Beaver to see Mr. Mitchell about 30 miles on the Ohio. There appears to be very good land about Beaver and Mr. Mitchell has a fine place. Came back to P. on the Third.

5th Started with William Neely for new Alexandria in Westmoreland County 30 miles from Pittsburgh. Staid with him to the 19th. Came back to P. There are many Irish out there and some very good farms but mostly hilly and roads bad. Farmers appear to live very comfortable but I think they have very little money. It appears to be mostly barter in the stores. The Farms are mostly from One to Three Hundred acres. I was through much of the Country for 6 or 7 mils round the town with neely as he was Pedling.

August 26 Left Pittsburgh on monday Evening at 4 Oclock. Left Robt working with a gardiner near town. Oh may the Lord protect and guide him in the way he should go and be his Counselor and stay in a strange land and with strangers) Sailing down the Ohio River the land appears to be hilly but some good looking places along the River.

Wednesday 25 Got to Cincinnati at nine at night. This is a fine clean looking city and regular built. It has increased in a few years greatly. There are much Steam boating done here good buisness place and lively.

29th Started at five in the evening. Got to Louisville at Eight in the morning.

Friday 30th Louisville is a clean regular built Town in the state of Kentucky and a stiring buisness place. There are some fine buildings about the town and a level Country. Distance from Pittsb 587 miles.

September 5th Thursday started from Louisville at nine Morning. The Land along the River appears level and good and some Towns of considerable account & fine places along the River. It appears to be a good country. Passed the Cumberland River about nine in the morning.

Saturday the 7th Came to Paducah at Eleven. This is at the Mouth of the Tennessee River. Stopped there to five in the Evening and then started up the Tennessee. Distance from Louisville 333 miles.

Sunday 8 We are getting on slowley to day. The Boat running aground & sticking on bars of rocks & Sand. The river is low.

Monday Still sailing slowly. Had to stop the most of the night as we could not get over the bars.

Tuesday 10 Got to Savanah at Four eveng. Got off the Boat there as she will not be able to get up to Florence. Stopped there all night. This is a small Town in Tennessee.

Wednesday 11th Started in stage at Twelve noon. Arived in Florence at Twelve at night. Distance is 32 miles. The Road is rough hilly and dusty.

Thursday 12th Seen the Messrs Simpsons to day and they received me most Kindley. They appear to Know the heart of a stranger. I went to Mr. John Simpson to stop there & I get a situation.

Friday 13th To day went with Mr. Hugh Simpson to Mr. Gookins and agreed with him to go and stop there for some time to we would see how we would do. Went to live with him on Monday.

16th September. This Town comes far below my expectations. It is not near as large as I thought it was.

October 10 Friday Reced a letter from James Simpson in answer to one I wrote him the Tuesday after I came here informing me that Robert left there Three weeks after I left. He started for Canada. (Oh Lord God direct and protect him & keep my mind from destruction. Oh that I had fetched him with me but what could he do here.

November 5th Agreed with Gookin to day. I am to stay with him to the first of November 1845. For my services I get Three Hundred Dollars board and washing. May I Keep close to God and remember all his mercies to me & may I acknowledge him in all my ways & may I prove faithful. Amen.

Sunday 17 Recd a letter from my Father to day that was directed to Robert Pittsburg & forwarded to me. They are all well at home. It is nearly six months since I had a letter before from home. I bless God for all his sparing mercies and Goodness to me.

Dec. 5th I feel greatly cast down to day on account of Robert. (Oh may the Lord protect him & Keep him from evil and may my mind be stayed on the Lord of all my mercies and may all my fears of him be groundless.

29th This day I recd a letter from James Simpson. Has not heard from Robt yet. (What shall I do?) May I keep looking unto Jesus that he would stay my mind and keep me from these distraction fears & may I begin this year to Love and serve

the Lord more & may my whole affections be centered on him as the chief object of my Love. This day Twelve months was in Annahilla & now what distance there are of land & watter. Shall I ever see it again?

1845

Jany 5th This day recd a letter from James Simpson informing me that he had a letter from Robt from Toronto upper Canada and that he is well (Oh Lord I bless & thank thy holy name forever that he is still alive & that I may yet see him. May I never forget thy goodness to me.

Tuesday 30th Recd a letter to day from my brother Robt for which I have great reason to rejoice & be thankful to the Lord for all his sparing Mercies to him & me since we left home. May we both be Kept from evil or doing that which is not right.

April 4th To day got a letter from James Simpson Pittsburgh informing me of Robt Comming back there on the 12th March that he is very well.

April 11th This day recd a letter from my Father & from James Henry. They are all well at Home. Oh Lord thou art good and doeth good & thy mercy endureth for ever.

April 23rd Recd a letter from Robt to day. He is well. May he be guided and directed by the Lord of all his mercies.

May 12th Monday This day Twelve months left home. O Lord though have been good & merciful to me. May I acknowledge thee in all my ways for I know that though art able to support & provide for me if I put my trust in thee the true & living God. May I be alive to my soul eternal interest. May I live nearer to thee the source of all good. May I improve the time given me so that at last I may dwell in Heaven for ever where there shall be no parting of friends.

1845

June 18th This day recd a letter from J Simpson dated 8th Inst informing me of Robt leaving that about 10 days before he wrote for Philadelphia.

July 2nd Recd a letter from Brother William. They are all well at home.

8th I had a letter from Robt to day from Philadelphia. He is thinking of starting for home about the 26th of this months.

Sept 12th I am Twelve month in Florence to day. How thankful should I be for his sparing mercies and providential care over me. How I should thank him for all that is past & trust him for all thats to come. May I abstain from all appearance of evil & may it be my choice to serve the Lord always. Give me that grace to make that choice for I know that every moment Lord I need the merits of thy death.

Nov. 3rd To day recd a letter from Robt stating of his intentions to depart from Philadelphia on the next day for Home. The letter was dated 23 October. O Lord do thou be his protector & bring him safe to his desired haven & may he be ever guided by thee.

Decb 17th I recd a letter from my Father. They are all well at home when he wrote for which I feel very thankfull. Agreed with Mr. Gookin to day to stop with him for some time longer. I am to get Twenty five dollars per Month.

1846

Jany 1st Another year is past & gone. Have I grown in grace? When I take a view of all the mercies of the Lord to me and the little improvement made I see it should humble me in the dust for I am not worthy of the least of his goodness but it is not accordant to my merit but the loving Kindness and tender mercy of the Lord that I am spared. May I work out my salvation and unto thee o Lord shall I ascribe the glory both now and for ever. May I begin this year to set out anew to serve the Lord and do thou give me grace sufficient to put this reselution in practice & do though gide me & direct me in all my ways and all I do and say tend to thy glory & do though open up my way before me & may my trust be in thee. Amen and amen.

1846

Feby 2 This day came to live with A H Wood. I have no particular engagement but will get at the rate of Two Hundred per Year & br. (?)

May 13th It is Two years since I left home. How thankful should I be to the Lord for all his mercies. May I live closer to him. O Lord to thou influence me by thy holy spirit and may it incline my heart to every gracious act and desire. Creat a clean heart & renew a right spirit within me that I may perfectly love thee and magnify thy holy name.

Sept 7th Left Florence and came to live with M Gorman to the end of the Year. O may it prove a blessing to me. May I serve God & may I acknowledge him in all my ways.

1847

Jany 1 Made arrangement to live with him next year. I am to get Three Hundred dollars board & washing.

May 12 It is Three Years to day since I left home. How time passes. When shall I be there again.

Nov 14th (Sunday) I left Tuscumbia on the steam Boat Muscle at 1 oclock and got to Paducah at the mouth of the Tennessee River at 8 Oclock Tuesday night. The distance 286 miles. Had to stop there to thursday morning for a Boat and started on the steam Boat Vanleere at 7 Oclock. Got to Memphis at 3 oclock on Friday. There is a good buisness done here and an improving place. Distance from Paducah 274 miles. Got to Vicksburgh at

Seven O'clock Sunday Evening. Distance from Memphis 394 miles. And to Natchez at nine on Monday morning. Distance from Vicksburg 115 miles. Sailing down with Louisiana and I think there are some of the most beautifullest views that ever I did see. Fine sugar Plantations on every side & excellent looking dwellings & fine looking negro Quarters all lookg comfortable. The sugar Cane is quite green and the Orange trees & every thing looks green so the Scenery is dilightful. The land looks to be very good & level. The green fields put me in mind of the fields at home. Arived in New Orleans at 7 Oclock Tuesday night. Went up to the City Wednesday Morning. This is a great place of buisness. Distance from Matchez 300 miles. From Florence "Ala" to New Orleans is 1369 Miles. There is great stir on the levee. Much doing in the Plovision way.

Sunday O Such a place of iniquity and sabath breaking. A great many of the stores open and one could not believe it was Sunday. Drays buisey at work and buisness going on the wart & then Horse Racing Bull fighting Theators, Balls and every such doings. O Lord when shall the people Know thee. Stayed there to Saturday the 4th December and left on the steam boat James Town at 6 Oclock evening.

Sunday See what apearance this Country has. See every one working on this day and all the Sugar Houses at work. Oh that they would remember the Sabath day to Keep it holy. When we stopd a wood yard I asked a negro Boy that was holling wood if he did not get Sunday to him self. No he said he had to work the same as any other day. He said what a difference there was between that and where he was raised. I asked him where that was. He said in the state of Virginia. But the fact is there are no regard paid to the Sabath day on the River on none by Steam Boats.

Got to Paducah at 9 on Sunday night the 12th December. Had to stay there to Thursday 16th and got to Florence on Tuesday the 21st. There was the greatest rise in the Tennessee River that has been known by the oldest settlers here. When I was comming up we met some Houses sailing down the River & warehouses with cotton in them. Agreed with Marshal Clarke to live with him next Year.

May 13th It is Four years to day since I left Home. How time passes. How much I would like to see them all there but shall that ever be the Lord only Knows

November 6th Monday This day left Florence at 2 Oclock. Got to Louisville on Sunday Eveng 12th. Stoped there to Thursday. Bought a stock of goods. Got to Chickasaw on Monday 20th November. O Lord do though be my gide. Do though assist me to do what is wright and if it is thy will do though prosper me in buisness.

Monday 1st January Another Year is gone. O Almighty God though searcher of hearts though giver of all good and perfect gifts do though cleanse me from all unrightness and may I love and serve thee. Amen.

12th May 5 years since I left home. How time passes. Have I grown in Grace. I fear not but it is My determination by gods grace to renew my spiritual strength and press on that I may obtain the blessings I require.

May 13th 1851 Seven years to day since I left home. Oh how time passes and what changes has taken place there since I left. How many has went to their long long Home. Some of those who I have been well acquainted with I shall never see them on earth but I hope to meet them in heaven where parting is no more. Have I grown in grace since I left home. I fear that I have not that _____ of sin. I can look upon it with less remorse that I there could. It does not appear so hatefull. O Lord make my conscience more tender so that I may hate the very apperance of evil and flee from every sin but it is my determination to be more watchful and prayerful so that I may obtain that eternal rest that is prepared for me and all those that Love the Lord.

My Brother Robert was taken sick on the 7th November 1851 and died on 21st. Oh Lord thou art God and ruleth the destiny of the children of men.

May the 13th 1855 It is Eleven years since I left home. Time rolls on. What changes. Is this my lot to live alone. If the destiny of man is fixed from eternity why should I complain. Oh Lord thou knowest what is best for us and I know that every thing will work for good to those that Love and serve God. Oh Lord incline my heart to live and serve thee They only true and loving God.

July 28th 1855. This day I had a letter from My Sister Jane Eliza bring me the sad intelligence of my Father death. He died on the 26th June. Oh Lord thou Knowest me altogether. May I be reconciled to thy providence for though art good and thy Mercies endureth for ever. I have seen many men and had to do with many and my Father was the Most Holy and upright man I have ever met with. He died triumphant praising & Blessing God. Oh may My last end be like his. I shall never see him on earth. Oh May I meet him in Heaven where he is gone.

Chickasaw Friday 7th July 1856 Left Chickasaw on the Evening to go home and left East Port at 4 oclock the next morning on steamer Epoh. Oh Lord direct my way.