

James Dinsmore Journal from Natchez, May 1824-1827

May 19th In the morning went to the landing to see Major Minor off in the Olive Branch – the boat started about 11 o'clock. Renewed Major Minor note in Bank for 3033\$ & gave another in its place for \$2881. Endorsed Capt. Clement's note. Delivered to Mr. Ferguson J. Minor's check in favour of Wm Brune for \$600. The negroes came over from [S]tock [F]arm today – recd. a letter from Mr. Carrie(Carne?) of New Orleans with four half casks of claret. [Dinsmore was working for John Minor & managing the family's various plantations in Mississippi and Louisiana. The Stock Farm was one of those.]

20th Put in Bank to the credit of John Minor a check drawn by Mrs. K[atherine] Minor for \$700. – rode over the plantation – the new ground corn wants cleaning very much. 20 lbs. pork purchased of Harris taken to the Quarter. [Kate Minor, the widow of Stephen Minor, was the mother of William John Minor, who eventually became Dinsmore's partner in the Bayou Black plantation in Terrebonne Parish in Louisiana. She lived at Concord, a beautiful residence that was built for the last Spanish governor of Natchez, Gayoso. It burned in the early 1900s, but a picture of it survives in the Dinsmore home.]

21st Gave Mr. Harris a check for \$200 for the 20 barrels pork. Drew a check for \$167.70 to take up a note signed by Mary Girault on which John Minor is third endorser & left the note with Adams & Sprague – took their receipt & directed them to commence _____ immediately against drawer & endorsers – settled the execution of Morris & took the draft with B. M. Lapue's acceptance for \$92 payable on the 1st Jan next – In the evening went over to the Lake. &. - - - -

22nd The crop at the Lake in a most miserable state – the cotton small & yellow and not all scraped out – the cotton mostly fallen below the first ditch – the hands employed in replanting as the water recedes and scraping when they can – gave the overseer instructions as per mem. of J. Minor – in the evening returned – got a bill & receipt for the 20 barrels pork - - - paid one dollar for ferriage over and back. - - - -

23rd Sunday – sent 3 pieces linen averaging about 61 yards to the Lake to make clothes for the Negro women.

24th Found the stray horse in Town & sent him home – drew a check in favour of A. Kees the carpenter employed on the Hunt house for \$40 - & took his receipt.

25th Presented H. Postlethwaite's amt to his son for settlement – visited the plantation – the hands engaged in cleaning out the new ground corn.

26th Borrowed 6 dollars from Ferguson to pay for the writ against Mrs. Girault Jas. Girault & C. B. Green. Directed Ferguson to pay Baugham's order \$11.50 for taking up and advertising the stray horse.

27th Endeavored to settle with Mr. Nevitt and Mr. P_____ - gave a check on Bank in [favour] of Jas. _____ for forty dollars for work on the Hunt house – took receipt for \$43.12 – the balance to _____ in hereafter if _____ decides that he deserves it – engaged him to white wash house for \$10 –

[Several days missing.]

June 2 Gave Alfred Metcalfe a check for \$100 part of the balance due him for plastering the Hunt house. – rode over the plantation – the crop appears to be improving a little.

3rd The weather excessively dry – recd. a letter from Ambrose Bridges – received the note in Bank which was endorsed by Wm Brune for \$1773.

4th Bought a flat boat with from six to seven hundred barrels corn for which I gave George Clem a check for \$212.50. Went to the Lake and gave directions for carrying over the corn, fodder, and 20 bls. pork at Harris' – the runaways Bacchus & Vincent have given themselves up – a part of the crop below the house looks well the rest very unpromising – a small insect is making considerable depredations in some places among the cotton – the large worm _____ mostly disappeared – paid a dollar for ferriage over & back. - - -

5th Gave W. Lippencott a check for fifty dollars and took his receipt – endorsed Jas. Hall's note for \$108 – visited the cotton field over the creek – it looks pretty well but everything is suffering dreadfully for want of rain – put a letter into the post office for John Minor in which I give him an account of what is doing on all the plantations, directed it to Louisville.

June 6th Sunday – Went to the quarter & got some direction respecting Negro clothing &c.

June 7th Got an attachment against the property of Ervin & put it into the hands of the Sheriff – the fees 1\$ paid by Ferguson.

8th Went to Washington [Mississippi] to enquire respecting lands which J. Minor wishes to enter in Concordia – find that this must be done in the office at Washita – Recd. a letter from Wm. Kenner & Co. covering their amt. _____.

9th Endorsed for the purpose of renewing John Foster's note in Bank for upwards of \$1000. We have had a light rain this morning which was sadly wanted. Visit the Lake where I hear the overseer is sick. The crop is recovering rapidly – the corn on the Lintot land appears well considering all circumstances – the overseer is out - sent to the Lake altogether 23 barrels pork – paid ferriage 1 dollar.

10th The hands at work in the race (sic?) grown field the corn there almost ruined for want of rain – completed a settlement with George Newman – directed Mr. Forsyth to endorse the balance due him on the execution in his hands \$50.18 $\frac{3}{4}$ - being the amt.

11th The Sheriff has taken Ervin's 3 negros & put them in Jail – presumes that C. B. Green will replevy them.

June 12th Drew a check on Bank on fav of Green Howard for \$95 for 36 very fine cypress logs - one in favour L & M Robetaille \$52.50 for 3 barrels pork – one in favour of E. Harris & Co. for 22.86 lbs of hams – wrote a letter to Major Minor to be handed him by T. B. Reed Esqr.

13th Sunday – went to church.

14th The hands gone over to the stock farm – no rain yet & a good part of the corn ruined past all recovery – the oats got in today.

15th A Bill of Exchange drawn by James Bridges for \$650 accompanied by Major J. Minor's letter – credit to him for that amount presented today and accepted, payable July 15th – Lippencott has finished underpinning the brick house – gave him a check for \$100 & took his receipt. Mr. McGee came today to purchase Sukey & 2 children. Messrs Wilkins & Richards judge them to be worth \$800.

16th visit the stock farm & Lake today – the crops there excepting the corn look very thriving.

17th signed for J. Minor two notes in Bank one for \$1050, the other for \$273 both endorsed by Wm. Brune – rec'd a letter from Geo. Green & Son advising the arrival of 15 bales cotton marked S.M. & 3 J.M. – no rain yet.

June 18th A light shower fell today sufficient to wet the ground to the depth of about 2 inches. The hands finish the crop at the stock farm & return to this side.

19th The Hands employed in planting peas among the corn.

20th Sunday

21st Made an arrangement with Mr. Kees the carpenter by which he is to get articles from Mr. Miller for the amount of 40 dollars to be charged to the Estate. rode over the plantation – the cotton looks well – the corn not so bad as might be expected.

22nd Went to Town to engage a gin wright - made an arrangement to meet Capt. Nevitt the day after tomorrow.

23rd A most delightful shower this morning. It will save part of the corn – went to the Lake – no rain there – the cotton crop there overwhelmed by myriads of worms, in some places several acres are destroyed together – the corn on Miss Lintots land has had no rain since it was planted and is of course in a most miserable state; the ground as hard &

as dry as a brick – the crop at the stock farm looks well – the hands on this side employed in planting peas &c.

June 24th 1824 Engaged Covington today to repair the gins – endorse a note of which Wm. Brune is the drawer for \$568 another for Major Chotard of \$718 on both which Major Minor is endorser.

25th Met John B. Nevitt and tried in vain to make a settlement – wrote to Wm Kenner & Co. & requested them to send 2 barrels of Molasses for the use of Concord plantation. Directed Mr. Winston to take to the Lake 3 barrels of the Jowls bought of Robetaille for \$7.50 pr. barrel.

26th Mr. Ferguson paid \$25 for fifty barrels of corn purchased for the carriage horses & c. at Concord. Judge McGehee's Boy came for his wife Sukey and her two children – sent them & also Randal to remain some time with his mother. A Bill of Sale to be given when Major Minor returns.

27th Sunday

28th Accepted a draft drawn by Mr. A. Kees in favour of Mr. Miller for forty dollars – mem. write to Wm. Kenner & Co. shortly respecting some items in their a/c – visited the plantation.

29th Rode through the cotton field over the Creek – the crop there looks well but rather small as all other cotton is this year – deposited in Bank for collection Mr. P. Southworths note for \$1250 given in favour of Wm. Parker.

June 30th My Brother arrived today from Mobile.

July 1st Visited the field over the creek – every thing now suffering beyond measure for want of rain – put into the post-office a letter to Saml Steer requesting him to send up a power of attorney to authorize some one to assign forty two shares of Ms. Chotards Bank stock.

2nd Endeavoured today to settle with Capt. Nevitt when there appeared against him a balance of \$4082 – renewed a note in Bank of which John Minor is drawer & Wm Brune endorser for the sum of \$998.

3rd Wrote a letter to Major Minor – by Mr. Foster – took up Southworths note in Bank where it had been deposited – he paid \$500 of the amount to Ferguson and promised to pay the balance with interest in a few months. Ferguson is to give Major Minor credit for the \$500 – found Capt. Clements note for \$500 at Bruness – recd notice that B. R. Grayson's note for \$9000 on which J. M. is endorser was protested.

4th Sunday. Sent to the Lake by Mike 31 yards of cotton cloth made at Concord.

July 5th 1824 Went to Church to hear Mr. P____'s oration – The Hands employed at stock farm the crop on this side very dry and suffering dreadfully for want of water.

6th H. W. Comas' note for \$631.98 payable in Bank became due today. he (sic) declares himself unable to pay it – took another note for 640.40 in place of it payable in 60 days.

7th Went to the Lake – the cotton looks better than could have been expected – the worm all gone.

8th Recd. a power of Attorney from Saml Steer to assign Mrs. Chotard's Bank Stock – assigned 42 shares accordingly. Give Lippencott a check for \$13 for lime purchased by him for the brick house.

9th Attempted without success to take a number of runaways who are encamped in the Bayous – we have had a pretty good shower today – the cotton and part of the corn will benefit by it.

10th Rode round the plantation – the cotton begins to recover a good colour – the hands brought over from the stock farm.

11th Sunday – Sent 25 yds linen purchased of Carrell to the Lake by Mike – they had a good rain there on Friday – Solomon who had run away came in today & is to be sent back tomorrow by Mr. Norris.

July 12th Recd letter from Wm Kenner covering bill of lading for 2 barrels molasses – no news yet from Major Minor which is very surprising – Mr. Foster has not yet gone to Kentucky but will go today.

13th The ground begins to be parched again with the drought. Sent the cart into town to clear away the dirt near the Hunt house & put it into Dr. Provan's table &c.

14th Went to the Lake – the cotton there has acquired a green colour & is growing vigorously – the corn is lost past redemption (sic)

15th Renewed two notes in Bank one for \$1291. the other for \$712 – and endorsed one of which Wm Brune is the drawer for \$205. Bridges' draft for \$650 charged by the Bank to J. Minors acct. – had a light shower today which will be of some service to the late planted corn.

16th Part of the hands engaged in hewing timber for the gin. Covington engaged to commence repairing them within three weeks – that was on the 24th June – he has not appeared yet. Mr. Wilkins has agreed to furnish 50 pieces of bagging & a due proportion of rope for the plantations. Directed the overseer at the Lake when last there to use every means in his power to provide fodder by sowing corn, peas, &c.

- A light rain on part of the plantation.

July 17th Wrote a letter to Major Minor giving him an account of the state of things here. Paid D. W. Lippencott \$50 by check on Bank & took his receipt. Visited D. Alexander on the subject of levying at the stock farm – he promises to converse with Mr. Davis respecting it.

18th Sunday

19th Very warm and dry – Isaac who had ran away some time ago returned today.

20th Recd notice today from the Bank that I had overdrawn to the amount of \$510 – a light rain on part of the plantation.

21st Went to the lake – the crop there in a flourishing state – some of the cotton 7 feet high - &c.

22nd Went out this morning in search of runaways – signed a note to be renewed in Bank for \$2881.35 – endorsed to renew Capt. Clements note for \$962 – put a note into Bank with Mr. Wilkins endorsement for \$1000 – as an accommodation to pay the overdrafts & meet current expenses – received of Mr. Postlethwaite the day before yesterday \$177. due from W___'s estate – gave my receipt & placed the money in Bank – the estate has been found insolvent &c.

23rd A negro boy about 10 years of age called Charles, Arthur's son, was drowned today in a gully where he had gone to get water – went to see M. Little to employ him in repairing the Gin – found him sick &c.

24th Paid O. Leneve \$150 in check for 300 barrels of corn – 200 barrels were sent to the Lake & 100 brought to the quarter. – had a good shower of rain today – wrote a letter to Philip Minor in answer to his of the 30th ult.

25th Sunday

26th The hands going over the cotton beyond the Creek for the last time. – the rot has made its appearance & is more frequently observed than usual at this season. – a number of hands have been employed for a week in making brick.

27th Wrote to Major Minor & gave him an account of the situation of things here

28th Heard today that the overseer at the Lake is sick – went over – found Winston in a high fever & very much alarmed. Dr. Provan arrives bleeds & prescribes for him – after dinner went to Doctor Kerrs (sic) to engage a gin wright – engaged Mr. Roy to commence work next Monday – on my return found Mr. Winston at the point of death in consequence of taking a tea-spoon full of Tartar Emetic by ___ for cream of tartar – he died about 8 o'clock the same evening.

July 29th Returned to the Lake to day with Mr. Norris & Wm Winston – the corpse of T. Winston was removed & buried near the quarter at Concord – engaged Wm Winston to take the place of his deceased Brother as overseer at the Lake & on the same terms at which he had been engaged.

30th Remain at the Lake until today for the purpose of attending to the sick negros & initiating Mr. Winston as overseer.

31st Gave John Forsyth a check for \$200 & a note for \$70.75 in full for his account against D. W. Lippencott for bricks &c. furnished for underpinning the house sold to Purnell & took Lippincott's receipt for the amount \$270.75 – also gave Lippencott a check for \$24.50 for cash paid by him for 14 barrels lime – to be used in building columns for the gin – left a check with Ferguson in favour of E. Harris for \$34.90 for bacon & 1 barrel of peas purchased some time since – receipted the Execution vs. McDermott for \$246.54 as a partial offset to the Execution Camp vs. Minor for \$289 – which Mr. Forsyth sent here some months ago, receipted, but no part of which was paid recd of Forsyth a memorandum of his accts with John Minor &c.

August 1 Sunday

2nd Went to the Lake for the purpose of installing the new overseer & to give directions with regard to the management of the plantation. M. McCleary commenced work on the gin today.

3rd Sent over to the Lake 20 pieces of bagging & 15 coils of rope &c. Endorsed Thos. Hall's note for \$108 – also renewed the note in Bank for \$1773 endorsed by Wm. Brune.

4th Recd a letter from Geo. Green & Son enclosing acct of sales of 15 bales cotton
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5th Mr. Roy the Gin wright went over to the Lake today to repair the gin – wrote to Major Minor giving him a history of occurrences here since my last.

6th Rode over the fields – the cotton opening very fast – the hands employed in scraping in the cheat.

7th Went to Town according to appointment to meet Capt. Nevitt & was disappointed as usual – engaged a man to white wash the Town house for \$15 – went to the brick yard – they have made 50,000 and are laying them up preparatory for burning.

8th Sunday. Bill furnished 100 lbs beef last for the negros & is to continue to furnish to some time the same quantity weekly.

August 9th Went over the river today to see Judge Broughton about working on the road – the hands employed on the road – the cotton opening very fast at the Lake – a slight shower today.

10th Commenced picking with part of the hands today in the field near the Washington road – visited the field beyond the creek – the cotton very small & opening fast.

11th Sent to the Lake 4 sides of leather to make a hand for the Gin – obtained from Currell @ \$5 pr side. On the 6th instant settled with Conner the Gardener – found a balance due him of \$271.66 for which gave him a check on Bank & took his receipt.

12th Rode over the fields today – the cotton opening rapidly & very little rot – commenced burning the bricks – part of the hands employed in scraping out the corn at the stock farm.

13th Endorsed John Fosters note on Bank for \$1090 to be renewed today – got from the Bank the scrip for 8 shares of Mrs. Chotards Bank stock & gave it to Mrs. Minor.

14th Visited the fields the cotton continuing to open fast – have had occasional showers of rain for several days past &c.

August 15th Sunday

16th Borrowed M. Fergusons check for \$30 to pay McClary the carpenter for 12 days wok on the gin house.

17th Went to the Lake today – find several people sick – the hands employed for 8 days past on the road – persuade the Supervisor to desist for the present – the Gin wright will finish there tomorrow – the crop looks remarkably well.

18th Renew the note in Bank for \$1055 and that for \$273 – ride over the plantation.

19th Roy the Gin wright came to the Quarter today and is to commence work tomorrow – part of the hands employed in pulling fodder & the rest in picking cotton.

20th Gave Mr. Obrien a check for \$10 in part for making a cistern for the Hunt house – paid also Norris order to Deehert for \$30 for a coffin for T. T. Winston.

21st All the hands commence picking today – only one person slightly sick on the plantation.

22nd Sunday

August 23rd Made an arrangement with Mr. Postlethwaite to settle with him on Wednesday. Went over the river to see Mr. D. Alexander – gave him \$125 which I borrowed from Mr. Ferguson to enable him to pay at the Land office at Washita for the back concession between the Stock farm and Joseph Minors tract – paid 1.25 cts for ferriage over and back.

24th Went to Washington very early this morning – found in the Surveyor Generals office the original Grants & plots for the Stock Farm & Joseph Minors tract – took them out of the office & gave my receipt for them – sent them to Mr. David Alexander, to be taken to Washita, to enable him to secure the back concession for the Estate of S. Minor.

25th Mrs. Minor sent in the \$125 borrowed of Ferguson. Lippencot (sic) began to build the brick columns under the Gin.

26th Endorsed for the purpose of renewing in Bank Major Chotards note for \$718 - & Wm. Brune's note for \$564. Engaged today Shipman the Carpenter at \$40 pr month to work on the press & gin house on the Lake – he begins tomorrow – a shower today.

27th Another heavy shower today – the cotton opening most rapidly and no rot. – recd a note from Mr. Winston informing me that Betsey had fallen out of her seat & died suddenly – apparently without any sickness – all hands picking at the Lake for some days.

28th Wrote to Philip Minor – promised to send down 10 pieces cotton bagging to Waterloo if wanted there.

29th Sunday – Marias child about 9 months old died today at the Quarter.

30th Settled with Adam Elwing the coachman today – paid him \$100 & took his receipt – the money furnished by Mrs. Minor. – wrote to Major Minor & gave him a minute account of the transactions &c which have taken place here & at the Lake since my last – also the substance of the letter recd from Philip Minor respecting the purchase of land.

31st The hands employed in picking cotton over the creek – it is nearly all open there – they pick from 7-8000 lbs pr day.

Sept 1st Gave Robert Saunders a check for \$18.50 for whitewashing & finding materials [for] the rooms in the Hunt House – renewed a note in Bank for \$998. endorsed by Wm. Brune.

Sept 2nd 1824 Mr. OBrien commenced building the cistern which he is to complete & wa__ for \$38.

3rd Went to see Mr. Alexander who has returned from Washita – obtained the Deeds & other papers which I sent with him and also a receipt for the receiver of public money at Washita for \$125 in payment of 100 acres back of Joseph Minors tract of land on the Lake – gave all the papers to Mrs. Minor.

4th Went to the Lake – the overseer informs me he has picked about 40,000 lbs cotton – the rot is making great havock (sic) there.

5th Sunday. Gave Shipman a check for \$5 today for work on the Gin.

6th The hands have finished the field over the creek today – about 90,000 picked – the cotton beginning to rot on this side.

7th Gave Thos. Frith the carpenter who worked with Shipman at the lake a check for \$12.30 the amount of his account.

8th The hands picking in the field near Town and the rot is making dreadful havock (sic) there.

9th Got a decorticator from Mr. Wilkins & made an experiment on some cotton plants.

Sept 10th At length after a nine months negotiation have effected a settlement with Capt. Newitt & have taken his notes for \$4082.74 – payable in Jan. 1 1825 and Jan. 1 1826 – also obtained his receipt for the amount due him for pickets, shingles &c. – Recd letters from Geo. Green & Son who advise that they had sold 50 bales SM cotton at 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ - 62 bales D_ at 11 $\frac{5}{8}$ & thirty seven JM at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ - recd some time since amts sale of 15 bales at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

11th Finished picking cotton in the field near town to day – obtained from it upwards of 40,000 lbs.

12th Sunday. Went to the Lake – the rot there less destructive than for the last ten days – cotton picked upwards of 72,000 lbs. – the Gin-wrights went over today to finish the press & set the Gin again.

13th Deposited in Bank today a packet containing 2 deeds of Trust to Major Minor & Saml Steer in favour of Mrs. F. M. Chotard for Bank Stock & negros – also 158 shares of Bank Stock belonging to Mrs. Chotard for safe-keeping - Gave Ferguson a \$20 note of the Bank of Fayetteville (sic) Ten. To be exchanged for Ms. Minor on the best terms possible.

Sept 14th Recd a letter yesterday from Major Minor – visited the field over the creek – there will be very little more cotton there.

15th Wrote to Major Minor – inform him as to the state of the crops – the quantity picked &c. Renewed two notes in Bank one for \$1291 the other for \$712 endorsed Wm Bruner note for \$205.

16th Purchased some days ago 10 barrels pork from E. Harris 4 barrels of which have been taken to the quarter by Norris – the remaining 6 are to be taken to the Lake.

17th Call on Mr. Tooley for money in his hands collected for the Kercheval Estate – received \$9.25 the balance of all he had collected after paying costs on suits in which the Estate had been defeated.

18th The hands picking in the pine field. Winston took to the Lake today the 6 barrels pork purchased some days ago from Harris & 4 sacks salt – 91,300 lbs cotton picked at the Lake.

19th Sunday – went to Leisure Hill.

20th Fine weather for picking cotton – the gin-field & part of the pine field not picked over yet.

21st Go to the Lake – the hands commence picking at stock farm – the cotton very beautiful – they have picked at the Lake about 120,000 – they averaged yesterday 124 lbs.

Sept 22nd Rainy and cool – engaged at Kerchevals accounts

23rd Still rainy.

24th More rain – renewed a note in Bank for \$2881.35 endorsed by Wm. Brune, also a note for \$1000 endorsed by Mr. Wilkins – endorsed a note for Wm Brune for \$2500 to renew.

25th Very hard rain this morning.

26th Sunday – The Concord hands are picking cotton today at the stock farm for which I promised to pay them.

27th Engaged today in enquiring into the affairs of the Kercheval estate – find that Mr. Griffith had collected in 1822 about \$277.65 for which he had not accounted in the case J. Minor adm. V Anthony Campbell – recd from Mr. Griffith a schedule of monies collected by him for the Kercheval estate. – enclosed his note in Bank for the purpose of renewing for about \$867 – obtained from M. Ferguson 5 bits to pay to the clerks for examining records.

28th Went to the Stock farm and Lake – the Gin at the Old fields has started today – also that at the Lake Mr. Little went to the lake to work two weeks ago last Sunday – he has been sick since last Friday. Mr. Roy was taken sick two weeks ago last Sunday and has not been able to return to his work since – they have picked at the Lake about 150,000 lbs at Concord about 200,000 lbs.

29th Wrote today to Major Minor – informed him as to the situation of things here – the quantity of cotton picked the state of the Gins &c. – recd from Philip Minor by the

last mail a letter in which he informs me that he had not heard from Concord this summer.

30th Mr. Roy recommenced work this morning repairing the brash for the Gin at the stock farm.

Octr 1st The weather cool for some days past – the rot making great havock (sic) at the Stock farm & at the Lake in the late planted cotton – a number of the Garden & House servants commenced picking today.

2nd The hands still picking at the Stock farm – went to Town & endeavoured to employ another Gin-wright but without success.

3rd Sunday – the hands returned from the Stock farm today – have picked there 64,000 besides 2 days picking not included. M. Roy engaged today in finishing the brush.

Octr 4th Drew a check on bank for \$4.75 for ferriages paid by me at various times in going and returning from the Lake during high water. The hands picking in the pine fields.

5th Wrote to Philip Minor in answer to his letter recd a few days ago.

6th Went to the Stock farm & Lake – the Gins there are both at work and making very fine cotton – the rot continues to spread destruction – at the Lake they have nearly picked over the front cut the second time.

7th Recd a letter from Geo. Green & son yesterday by which he advises that he has sold 19 bales inferior SM at 8 ½ cts.

8th Engaged Mr. Ashford to work on the Gin at the Lake – he is to go over on Tuesday next.

9th Purchased from Mr. Lapice 221 yards negro cloth at 50 cts pry d & 36 yds from M. Helm at same price – all for the Lake plantation – a very heavy rain today.

10th Sunday – rainy and cool

October 11th Sent over to the Lake the 257 yds negro cloth purchased on Saturday – also sent over 4 pieces purchased last year – containing about 177 yards – rain & warm.

12th Heavy rain last night and today – the cotton seed sprouting in the boles and on the scaffolds – the rot at the stock farm is destroying all that was left of the cotton. – the cotton picked by the Concord hands about 230,000 – on looking over Halls cotton book I find this is about 50,000 more than was picked at this date in any year between 1815 & 1823 and twice as much as was picked in three of the years between those periods. – the storm continues with heavy rain.

13th The rain still continues – miserable weather for the cotton – recd a letter by the last mail from Geo. Green & son by which they advise that they had sold 19 bales inferior SM cotton at 8 ½ pence.

14th Mr. Ashford commenced work yesterday on the Lake Gin – M. Winston obtained today 60 rags & 61 Grates for the same Gin & 3 sides leather from Currell – cold & cloudy – the rot has destroyed the remainder of the cotton over the river. Wrote to Major Minor today & acquainted him with the situation of things here – also answered the letter he wrote to William – cold & more rain.

Octr 15th Endorsed Foster's note to be renewed today for \$1090. Went to the Lake with Major Chotard – the cotton not so much injured by the rot as I had been led to imagine. Both Gins making very fine cotton – 24 bales baled at the Lake – Mr. Ashford will have the other Gin going next week – examined the cotton book at the Lake they will have 190,000 lbs picked there tonight – a clear fine day and fortunately no frost yet.

16th Recd from Griffith & Quitman \$277.65 money collected by them some time since on an execution John Minor Adm of Jas Kercheval v. Anthony Campbell – the money has been deposited in Bank & in consequence of their holding it so long in their hands G & Q charged no commission. Recd from M. Tichenor \$100 for an iron chest which I have receipted for to him – weather fair.

17th Sunday – fair.

18th Wrote to Wm. Kenner & Co. & requested them to send up 150 pairs of shoes for the Negroes – deposited in Bank to the credit of John Minor the \$100 recd on Saturday for the iron chest Mrs. Minor not wanting the money – recd from Geo. Green & Son acct sales of 131 Bales SM cotton and 37 Bales JM do ----- cloudy threatening rain.

19th The weather cold and rainy with the appearance of a long storm.

20th Cold and rainy.

21st A light frost this morning but not enough to kill the cotton – the weather clear but cool.

22nd The new Gin at the Lake has been in operation about 2 days – fair & warm.

23rd Sunday – finished picking over the crop once yesterday.

24th Recd a letter from Major Minor today – Gave a note to Postlethwaite for \$373 – payable next March for the mules.

26th Went to the Lake today with Mr. Wilkins and M. Davis – about 50 bales ginned there and 221,000 picked

27th Gave John Robb a draft for \$100 on Mr. Brune for making & burning 50,000 brick & took his receipt – gave James Cuddy a check for \$32 for casting 20 boxes for the gudgeons for the Gins & took his receipt. Obtained the accounts of the Kercheval Estate in the hands of May – he has collected only \$10.62 which he paid over to me – an execution has been put into the hands of the constable against A. Campbell.

28th Settled with the Sheriff Forsyth today recd from him a balance of \$245.72 and a draft by Kyle & Bledsoe & accepted by Wilkins & Linton for \$99.06 ¼ payable on the 1st January 1825 – this was collected on a claim of the Kercheval Estate.

29th Wrote to Major Minor giving him an account of the state of things &c – deposited in Bank \$255.72 to the credit of J. Minor the money collected from Forsyth and May – the Hands picking in the Washington road field – endorsed Major Chotards note to be renewed today.

30th Went to the Lake – upwards of 230,000 cotton picked there – little fresh rot & the fields covered with cotton – 46 bales pressed – frost last night so as to injure vegetation in low spots.

31st Sunday – the Concord hands picking cotton today – made an engagement with Major Chotard with the approbation of Mrs. Minor to pick cotton over the creek.

Novr 1st Recd a letter from John Minor in answer to mine of Sept 29.

2nd Fine weather – picking cotton in the Washington road field.

3rd Mr. Philips arrived with the negros bought by Major Minor – paid by check on Bank Major Minors draft on William Brune for \$600 – finished the Washington road field from about 40,000 was obtained.

4th Wrote to Major Minor in answer to his of the 17th Oct – rain today.

5th Took the package of notes deposited in Bank last spring by M. Brune as security for the letter of credit obtained by Bolton of New York and delivered it to Brune who borrowed only \$8000 from Bolton and who has an acct against JM. For 5 or 6000\$ - besides the notes are becoming due and must be collected.

6th Visited the Lake – they have picked there 251,000 lbs – an abundance of cotton open.

7th Sunday – Distributed among the Concord negros 90 pairs shoes – Mr. Norris takes one pair for which he is to be charged – sent 59 pairs to the Lake – the hands go over to the stock farm today.

8th The rain fell in torrents last night. Got a note discounted at Bank for \$1000 on Friday last to pay taxes, workmen &c. Paid by check Robert Tuner the taxes on the

Concord estate for 1824 Two hundred and ninety four dollars & 88 cents (pd to Brune) – also paid by check E. Harris accounts for pork bacon &c. amounting to \$211.95 – a side of leather sent to the Lake for the Gin brought back to make bands for the Gin on this side – the weather rainy & cold.

9th cold disagreeable weather.

10th Recd a letter from Wm Kenner & Co advising the recpt of 61 bales of cotton from Waterloo which they are about to ship to Havre. Wrote to them to send some articles for Mrs. Minor – also write to Ambrose Bridges requesting him to send me the a (sic) list of the number and marks of the bales of cotton made at Waterloo – weather cold.

11th cold and cloudy but not frost yet sufficient to kill the cotton.

12th Fair and warm – picking at the stock farm at the rate of about 5000 per day.

13th Visited the Lake – 270,000 lbs picked there and nearly 100 bales ginned – the female screw at the Stock farm broke off in the middle – the Gin at this side started today & goes extremely well. Mr. Roy has gone to the Stock farm to make a new screw.

Novr 14th Sunday – Rain in torrents. Got at Brunes & sent to the Lake for the negros there 1 piece of cloth and pairs of shoes.

15th Wrote to T. Hall to attend court tomorrow as a witness. – paid the acct of Jas. Jackson & Co. by check \$41.06 – very cold.

16th Attended court – the suit Harts Adm v. J. Minor does not come on today

17th A Frost last night sufficiently severe to kill the cotton plants – requested M Brune to pay Winston five dollars for costs in a suit brought against him by Richardson for putting up gates on the road.

18th visited the Lake – the hands there employed in gathering pumpkins & peas hauling cotton to the landing &c.

19th Shipped today on board the Steam Boat Natchez, Capt. Davis, One hundred Bales of Lake cotton to Wm. Kenner & Co. & directed them to hold it subject to the order of John Minor. – clear & cold

20th yesterday & today the hands have been on this side gathering the potatoes & pumpkins

Novr 21st Sunday. Paid all the negros but about 16 for picking cotton on Sundays – cash paid to them \$82.44 – obtained the money from Mrs. Minor.

22nd Gave Mrs. Minor a check for \$100 for money borrowed of her for paying the negroes & to be borrowed hereafter – engaged in investigating the titles to the lot sold to Purnell which has been advertised for sale by the Government.

23rd Went to the Lake – made enquiries of the Justice respecting the circumstance of Leah being brought before him by Loder as a run-away – paid the Negroes at the Lake \$6 for pressing cotton on Sundays – the money obtained from Ms. Minor.

24th Went to Washington [Mississippi] to search to records for grants of land from the Spanish Government to Richard Harrison & from the latter to Stephen Minor – found the record of the grant to Harrison but not to Minor.

25th Consulted with M. Turner & Mr. Adams respecting lot in Town advertised for sale – obtain an agreement drawn up by the former to be signed by the persons interested in the lots offered for sale.

Novr 26th A note in Bank for \$1000 became due which could not be renewed – compelled to pay it by drawing on Wm Kenner & Co. at 30 days for \$1000. Agreed with the Admr of Dr. Hart to refer the suit pending against John Minor to the decision of Capt Surget, D. Duncan and D. Gustine – advised Wm Kenner & Co. of having drawn on them for \$1000 and promising to put funds in their hands to meet it at maturity.

27th The hands picking at the Stock farm – the weather cloudy & warm.

28th Sunday

29th Recd a letter from Wm. Kenner acknowledging the recpt of the 100 bales of cotton by the Natchez – also a letter from Geo. Green & son advising the sale of 40 Bales JM Waterloo at 11 ½ pence.

30th Major Minor arrived this morning from Kentucky so here is an end of my Journal for the present.

Decr 24th Drew a check on bank for \$43 to pay the lake people for picking cotton & paid it over to them less two bits also gave a check to Mr. Ashford for \$20 for work on gin.

27th Delivered to Mr. Wilkins to be credited to the acct of John Minor Kyle & Bledsoe's draft on him for \$99.06 - - paid on the race-ground to Saml Ivy \$135 belonging to the club.

28th Settled today with Mr. Forsyth and recd the balance due Kerchevals estate on the execution vs. Terrell & al. & vs. Geo. Newman & al. to the amount of \$265.73. Mr. Norris gone to the Lake. M. Wall gone to the stock-farm with all the hands except those gathering corn.

January 3rd 1825 Went to Washington in company with Mr. Banks to bid for the Lot in Town – sold to Purnell – Mr. Banks bid it off for the Estate at \$1000. I drew the check on Bank for that amount & paid it to the Receiver Mr. Dunbar.

Jan. 4th Presented J. Morris' draft to Mr. Lapice and recd a check for \$927 the amount, which is deposited in Bank.

Jan 6. 1825 Shipped today aboard Steam Boat Natchez 66 bales cotton from the Lake "J. Minor" and 38 from the Stock farm "S. Minor" to Wm Kenner & Co. and direct them to hold it subject to the order of J. Minor

Jan. 7 Drew a check in favour of Wm. Carvill & Co. to pay their acct. for leather &c for 78 dollars & 18 cents.

Jan. 10 Visited the Lake & initiated the Overseer &c.

Jan. 11 Drew a check in favour of S. Scovill for \$19.50 for articles purchased for use of Lake Plantation

14 Purchased of C. Miller 131 ½ yds Linsey, for the use of Concord Negros at 50 cts. Gave him a check for the amount \$65.70 – also paid François & Co. acct for ferriages by check \$13.25.

17th Drew a check in favour of N. Smith for \$30 to pay his acct for William's tuition &c - - purchased yesterday from C. Miller 30 yards cloth at 25 cents & 20 yds from Lapice at 50 cents for the use of Concord Plantation. Purchased from Lapice 30 ½ yds cloth at 50 cents for the use of the Lake Plantation. Directed Norris to get at Miller & Sturgess's 2 bls. pork for the Lake – gave an order to Wall for 2 bls for Concord to the same.

Jan 22 Sent to the Lake 50 barrels of the pork at Miller & Sturgess's – 6 barrels I believe had been sent before.

Jan. 26 Dismissed Mr. Norris today. He has been at the Lake since the 25 Dec last.

February 13. 1825 Sent this day to the Waterloo Plantation by the Steam Boat Natchez the following negros belonging to the Estate of Stephen Minor (namely) Gabriel & Milly his wife & their children Washington & Winney – Roy & his wife Hannah & their children Edmond, Rachel & Walker – Jesse and his wife Peggy and their children Ailsy, Bill, Delia, Jess, Clarissa & David – also Isaac & John Covington – 19 in all – Shipped also 150 Bales cotton S.M. and 20 do J.M. to Wm Kenner & Co.

Feb. 22 Gave today to John Foster ___ check on the Farmer & Mechanic's Bank at Philadelphia for one thousand dollars each. which (sic) he engages to lay out in negros in Kentucky for John Minor

Feb. 23 Gave Mr. Atkinson a check on the Farmers & Mechanics Bank Philadelphia which he is to dispose of in purchasing Joseph Minor's farm in Indiana in the name of John Minor.

Feb 27th Delivered to Silas Dinsmore Jr. a note on Wm Jones for the sum of \$1000 Dated April 20 1820 which is to be collected by him - - Returned to J. Minor

March 4. Purchased at Wilkins 3 pieces cotton bagging for the Lake – also sent 2 coils of the rope purchased before.

5th Left with Wm B. Griffith a deed of Trust from Wm. Parker to Hunt also Hunts assignment of the same to the Executors of S. Minor with instructions to have the property advertised and sold according to the terms of the deed &c.

7th Bought today for the first time this year for the Concord Plantation 100 barrels corn and 1 ton of hay – and 51 barrels corn & one ton hay for the Lake.

March 14 Gave Mr. Boynton a check for \$78. \$23 of which was to pay for the tickets purchased by Mrs. Minor in the lottery & \$55 the order of R. H. Adams for Rees & Reed a draft of \$5000 from Mr. Brune on H. M. Shiff and his check for \$2156.58 in payment for \$21 Bales cotton purchased by on acct of the latter – enclosed the daft to Wm. Kenner & Co. to enable then to pay J. Minors acceptance in favour of Smith & Hislop due the 1st April. – Purchased 140 barrels corn – 90 of which were taken to Concord the rest to the Lake – Mr. Crayon paid for it and charged it to acct of J. Minor \$70.

18th Recd of David Chambers \$250 for 500 bushels corn contracted for with John Perkins – gave my recpt for 500 bushels corn to be returned to Perkins – contracted for 200 barrels corn at 5 bits for the Lake.

21st Deposited in Bank Mr. Bunes check for \$2156.58 recd for the cotton to the credit of J. Minor – also \$120 of the money recd from David Chambers.

April 2 1825 Gave Mr. Butler a check for \$138.75 for taxes for Estate of S. Minor in City of Natchez bought of E. Harris 1930 lbs of hay for the Lake at the rate of 24\$ p ton of 2000lbs.

4th Gave Frederick Stanton & Co. a check for the amount of their acct \$103 – Sent to Waterloo to day by the lime boats 10 barrels of the pork from the quarter.

8th Paid Thomas Nixon's acct. for merchandize \$215.58 by check. E. Harris for hay sent to the Lake \$23.12 by check – John Ragsdaile's for 35 barrels corn for Concord.

22nd Sent to the Lake today 468 ½ yards of the linen purchased at New Orleans – also a piece of moskitoe (sic) netting purchased last year 102 yards. Also 28 ½ yds sheeting

23 Sent to the Lake 4053 lbs of hay purchased of Gereaudan for which I gave him a check for \$60.79 ½ - sent also 3 doz of hoes bot. of Brune &

May 17th C.B. Minnis this day paid his note of \$54.58 & interest – total \$60.57 which was deposited in Bank.

January 4 1826 Major J. Minor took this day to Waterloo plantation, the following negros belonging to the Estate of Stephen Minor, to wit, Abigail & her daughter, Ann, Pemelia, Caleb & his young child, Edmond & Lewis Jackson, Rose & Milly her child, Crecy & Emily ten in all also Annis the wife of Lewis Jackson belonging to John Minor.

7th Deposited in Bank a Bill of Exchange on Geo. Green & Son for 1500 [British pounds] – left book to be made up &

9th Delivered to Chas. Whittimore John Minors check on bank for \$4000 in part payt of note given to Geo. Lloyd for Somerset plantation – took his receipt.

14th Sent to M. Brune a check on Bank for \$2000 which he promises a return when Major Minor returns or sooner if required – also left with him Capt. Clements note for \$77.89 for collection

17th Settled with Mr. Turner – gave him a check for \$183.53 due for fees recd and deposited in Bank his check for \$948.97 collected from Kemp's Executor

January 19 1826 Left with Mr. Brune for collection a note against John Foster for \$226 dated May 17. 1825 payable 1st inst. also a note against Southworth for \$1250 on which several endorsements had been made.

January 20 Left with Mr. Wilkins to be sent to New Orleans for collection a note for upwards of \$1200 on which \$550 had been paid.

January 21 Collected from Mr. Purnell \$632 the principal and Interest of a note given for cash advance to underpin the house sold him – also \$600 it being the Interest due on his note of \$12000 to the 1st January 1826 & deposited the same \$1232 in Bank 23 inst. – Gave F. Beaumont a check for \$145.37 the amount of his accts for 1825 – gave Purnell a recpt.

Feb. 9 Arrived today from Kentucky the 150 barrels pork contracted for – direct 50 barrels to be taken to Concord quarter 90 to the Lake & 10 left at Sturges to be sent to Waterloo.

11th Delivered to Major Bake of Louisiana a check on Bank in favour of Lyman Harding dated August 1819 for money lent – he is to collect the amount from the heir of Harding.

Feb. 13. The note of John Foster left with Brune on the 19th Jan. has been collected & credited by him to J. Minors acct – note & interest \$239.56.

13 (sic) Sent to Waterloo by Spencer 4 mules & 6 horses belonging to the Concord plantation.

27 Drew a bill of Exchange on George Green & Son for 1500 [British pounds] which was put in Bank – delivered a check for \$5000 to J. C. Wilkins & Co. which they are to pay to Brock on acct of note due him – delivered to Brune for collection Chas. B. Greens note for \$327.

March 13 Recd of Henry Moss the amount of Snodgrass note dated April 21 1829 for land \$126.11 which I recptd for to him

March 14 deposited 162.82 collected from Snodgrass Estate including the above. Drew on Geo. Green & Son for 1000 [British pounds] – at 60 days sight – put it in bank – paid John Minor \$6.50 given to me by Gibson for 2 hides sold Foster – to be credited to the Estate of S. Minor.

March 14 Recd a Draft of P. M. Lapice on Laurens Millandon at 60 days sight in part payment of the Judgment vs. D. & T. Alexander for the sum of \$3050. for which gave my recpt.

March 18. 1826. Gave to M. Linton P. NM. Lapice draft on Milleandon for \$3050 to be discounted & the proceeds placed to the credit of J. Minor.

21 paid to Philip Minor \$2741. which is to be paid for the land purchased at Waterloo except 75 dollars to be laid out in pork.

April 30th Sent to the Lake three pieces of linen for the negros measuring in all 481 ½ yards purchased from Carell & Co.

Sept 12 drew today on Geo. Green & Son for 600 [British pounds] at 30 days sight – Gave Brune a check for \$900 – sent \$600 to Wilkins & Linton.

Sept 24 Sent to the lake 10 pieces cotton bagging & twine purchased from Lapice also 6 coils cordage purchased of Wilkins in 1824.

Nov. 22 Mr. Erwin today paid J. Minor \$1000 & gave him a draft on John Hagan & Co. for \$2100 left as security J. Minor having signed a bond for the appearance of sd Erwin in a suit ads. B. Roach if the decision should be against Roach the \$1000 & draft to be returned to Erwin if in his favour it is to be paid over the satisfy the Judgment.

March 22 1827 Recd of Irby \$50 for Brills rent for the last half year – gave my recpt for the money & paid it over to Ferguson & Vorwerk to the credit of Estate of S. Minor J.D.

Apl 6 Recd of Levi Purnell \$600 that being the Interest due on his note of \$120000 to Estate of S. Minor – paid the money over to Ferguson & Vorwerk who placed it to the Credit of Estate S. Minor & give me a receipt. J.D.

May 26. 1828. Settled with Harris & Marsh & gave them my recpt for \$293.25 - \$75 of which was in acct against John Minor the balance \$218.25 in check which has been deposited in Bank May 27.