

Dinsmore Homestead Museum Newsletter

How did the Dinsmores think about birthdays? Today we have cake, singing, candles, and presents. In the past, though there may have been a few presents for younger children, it was a day for remembering and telling someone how much you cared. Here are a few examples of birthday wishes, differing in their degree of sweetness according to the author.

Patty to Julia, March 6, 1887: "All day you have been in my mind sweet Mommy and though I wrote day before yesterday I can't let the 6 of March go by without telling you how thankful I am that the little baby with soft brown eyes who found this day fifty four years ago flowery and warm on Bayou Black lived these years for me to love and to love me. I wish I could kiss you...."

Patty to Julia, March 6, 1892: "All day I have been thinking of you and trying to get a chance to tell you so and how much I love you. Bless you sweet heart! I wish I was with you today. It has been a lovely day here and the breath of spring in the air has made me think of the woods on the way up to the grave yard and I have wondered whether any turkey peas have come up to wish you as many returns of the day as I do.... This isn't much of a letter but I couldn't sleep without saying how much I love you and how I wish I could celebrate with you this greatest day of the year for me...."



Julia Dinsmore

Sally to Julia, March 10, 1886: "My dearest Mommy, I let your birthday and all last week go by without writing you a letter. I am so sorry about it. I have thought about you all the time through...."

Sally to Julia, March 8, 1892: "My dearest Mommy, I got your letter and was so glad to hear you were all right. I feel so badly to think I let your birthday go by with out writing you a letter. But I thought of you all day and wished I could be with you in Boone to walk over the hills and hunt turkey peas if the weather would permit...."

Julia to Sally, Dec. 4, 1882: "My precious own, Sweet sixteen to-night, but my little baby forever and ever, Amen. I am writing up in our room and looking right now at the corner by the door where I saw you first. It was a case of love at first sight and it has lasted sixteen years. Lord love you darling and make and keep you good. He only knows how thankful I am for you and always have been every moment of your life. I should be so glad if I could hug and kiss you and tell you that I love you and that you are my little heaven—but I will be glad anyhow—because you are mine and you love me—even if we are separated...."



Sally Flandrau

Julia to Patty on Isabella Selmes' first birthday: March 22, 1887: My darling big baby – This being the little baby's [first] birthday I will return the compliment and write to you and her. Give her her own's best

love and some of your sweetest kisses. I am thankful she is spared to you and hope you are well repaid for the horrors of a year ago...."

Julia to Patty, August 14, 1884: "My darling big baby, The first thing when I waked up I thought of you and wished you all good wishes in one. Lord love you darling and make you good and happy. I wish I could be with you and Sally to-day—and hope you will be happy together. My pleasure and treasure and darling sweet, my little drop of comfort and lamb of the golden fleece, it is all as true now as it was twenty three years ago, and ever will be...."

Julia to Patty, August 14, 1891: "My darling big baby – Of course you know I want to write to you to-day—and I have waited for two or three days for your birthday. I am humbly thankful you are spared to me and though you have now lived the sweetest years of a woman's life hope you will find the rest full of good luck and happiness. That you help to make what is left of mine is a comfort to you I know in the bluest of your dyspeptic moments – and I trust you have run away from the

enemy and lost it in the wilds of the [Yellowstone] Park..." [note: this was Patty's 30th birthday]

Julia to Patty, August 14, 1916: "My darling b.b. You knew I would write to you to-day—to wish you what happiness life has to spare after so many birthdays, and to tell you that there is one who is glad you were born, even if you are not...."



Patty Flandrau

On Julia Dinsmore's Birth

Martha Macomb Dinsmore: September 19, 1833: "Well as the Story book says 'Once upon a time' on the 6th March in a neat little cottage in the remote wilds of Bayou Black there appeared at 5 o'clock in the afternoon under the most comfortable, favorable circumstances a little fairy girl, all sweetness & brightness & goodness—with dark blue eyes & fair skin & bright black hair whom her dear father gladly welcomed as a great accession to his wealth & happiness & immediately called her Julia Stockton...."



BIRTHDAYS

Julia to Isabella Selmes, March 22, 1900: "My darling Isabella, This is to let you know that I am thinking of you on your birthday and making wishes for your happiness, and loving you as much as ever and even more because your muddy is away and you can't have her kisses and petting. I owe you 14 myself—and wish I could see you now and tell you how glad I am to have

a share in our only child. Lord love you darling, and may you have all the good luck there is in life and as many birthdays as you want. I send you in this a little hard times present of two dollars and hope you may get ten dollars worth of fun out of it.... "



Isabella Selmes