

# Diary of Charlotte “Lottie” Elizabeth Partin

(January 01, 1937 – June 06, 1937)

Transcribed by Jackie Layne Partin

*(This is a six months diary written by Lottie Partin when she was twenty-two-years old. She and her sister Ruby had previously stayed out of high school a year in order to allow their older brother Grady Edward Partin to finish high school. When Grady Edward was to enter Grundy County High School, there were no school buses. Students who lived too far from the school to walk had to find boarding near the school. Willie Partin drove his son in a wagon from Pelham to Tracy City to find boarding. Some students boarded at the Tribble Bell house and other homes around town. The boarding fee made an extra burden on the Partin family's finances since those were the initial years of the Great Depression. Luckily, soon after the school year began, a bus was obtained to bring the Valley students to the mountain, and Grady Edward could then live at home. However, the girls continued to help at home until their brother graduated in 1931.*

*The next year Grady Edward worked in Nashville and went to business school at night. He asked the trolley or bus driver to wake him when the school stop was reached and also on the return to the place where he was boarding. His sisters, who had willingly waited a year for him to finish high school, went back to high school, and when they graduated, Grady Edward bought their class rings for them.*

*After graduation Lottie went to business school in Nashville and worked at the “Kress Five-and-Dime” where she liked her job. Later, Grady Edward wrote his sister a letter and asked her if she would be willing to return to Pelham and go into business with him. Mr. William Aylor was willing to sell Grady and Lottie his little store at Crossroads, (on the corner where the log house is now 2009,) and made the generous offer that if they would buy the store, they could pay him as they went along or “no money down.” The siblings accepted the offer and became the new owners. Both of them fell right into working hard at the store and also on the road in what might be called their first venture with a “Rolling Store.” It was during this time that Lottie kept her diary.)*

## Diary Begins:

Miss Lottie Elizabeth Partin  
At: Crossroads  
Place: Aylor's Store  
1937



“Here is hoping for the best in the future.”

**Friday, Jan. 01, 1937:** Very gloomy and a slow, cold, windy rain, which continued throughout the day and night. I went to church at Decherd, Tenn. and heard Bro. Hamilton preach. I went in the car with Ruby and Aubrey McCullough, Ruby's boyfriend. Saw Frances Harkreader, Grady's girlfriend. Also, Gladys and Ruth Anderson were there, girls that went to school at Decherd when we did. The road was covered in water in several places, which almost caused us to run in the ditch at one time. Hulon L. came by about 6:30 evening and had had trouble with a load of coal.

**Saturday, Jan. 02:** Rained in morning, very gloomy and muddy. The river was up the highest in ten years. Emily and John were water bound, but John and Grady came through, and the car went dead; Grady got out in the water and cranked the car. Emily and I were scared about them. I kept store almost all day by myself. After Grady got back, Emily and I went to Uncle Buford's and did we have fun at the supper table and washing dishes? Then we went to the river to see how full the river was. Stopped at Douglas Patton's and drank Coca Cola. Ward Goodman and George Smith, Jr, and Douglas kept me up until 8 minutes till 11 o'clock. Aubrey Mc (*Cullough*) carried us out riding. Alice Roper and her cousin, Frances P. and Tatsy Patterson and Ruby Cox were at the store.

**Sunday, Jan. 03:** Very clear and cold. Went to church and Sunday School. Taught the Junior Class. Bro. Roberts and his wife and children, also his wife's sister and her (son?) took dinner and supper at our house. They sang and played the guitar. That night at church—Hulon walked to church with Alice Roper and Audrey sat with him and I let on like I was angry. Emily, Mrs. B. Smith and I tried to get Audrey across the road for fun, because of Warner P. Emily fell down. Ruby spent the night with me and kept me awake. I asked Grady to get up and turn on the light—she was such a little baby, Ha!

**Monday, Jan. 04:** A beautiful day—sun shining—but cool. I went down house at Bell's Mill. I went down with Mrs. B. Smith. That night Audrey Smith came down to get Ruby to help write a theme in English. Audrey and I played the guitar, and she taught me the first chords on the guitar. And I have hopes to learn to play and sing. Roy Elbert wanted Audrey to play and sing. He fell asleep before she started to play; I tried to awake him. Douglas stayed up

here at Crossroads with Grady. Daddy slept upstairs by himself, Roy on the divan, Ruby, Mama and I slept together in order to be together.

**Tuesday, Jan. 05:** The morning very disagreeable, with rain and wind; misted off and on through the day. I stayed down home until after dinner; then I caught a ride with Ed Laxson and Virgie in Model T. Ford. Daddy came up with me. Ruby and I tried to learn to play the guitar and sing. Mama got most of the dinner—good old turnip greens for dinner and cornbread. Grady wrote his first letter to Ruth Shelton while she was at I. C. at Murfreesboro. Also wrote Frances Harkreader the same time. I have a fellow, but am not satisfied with my beau—ha!

**Wednesday, Jan. 06:** Cloudy, windy, cool and misty all day. I got up early, while Grady slept until about 9 o'clock. I didn't do anything except work around the store and cooked some and also read some. After dinner, I went in to see Elva, or about dinnertime. She is sick, something like the mumps; about two o'clock in the afternoon I went down to Jewel Partin's to see the first tufted bedspread, I ever saw. I also had to help on it. Mrs. B. Jacobs and Elsie Patterson were there. That night was Bible study at the Chapel, but Ruby and I didn't go.

**Thursday, Jan. 07:** Very pretty day, Ruby stayed up here at Crossroads till about dinnertime. Nothing happened that was very exciting that I now remember.

**Friday, Jan. 08:** A pleasant day; looked like rain about 5:30 or 6:00, but didn't. I wrote a letter to Alice Partin, the first letter since she had been in Washington, D. C. I went down home a few minutes at Bells Mill. Ruby got material for red blouse and black flannel skirt.

**Saturday, Jan. 09:** Kept store almost all day by myself as Grady had to make several business trips. That night, several girls were in and boys: Lura Henley, Fana (? sp.) Woodley, Virgie Laxson; also Audrey and Ruby Cox were here. I was very tired and disgusted so I went to bed about 9:30, very early for Saturday night—as I usually have to keep the store open until late.

**Sunday, Jan. 10:** Came very hard rain while at Sunday School. I rode back with Hulon L. Ruby rode back with Ward Goodman, also Jessie Bell Laxson. That afternoon, Ward and Hulon came down. Estell Roper carried Jessie Bell Laxson home. Grady and several boys and girls went to Bethel to church. That night, we went to church at Chapel. Down at the store we all tried to learn to play the guitar.

**Monday, Jan. 11:** Showers of rain fell all during the day. I didn't do anything very much. Alice Roper, and Frances Patterson stayed a while with me, and Frances was joking Alice

about she and Grady getting scared at a dog. Grady said, "Open up your wings and fly," to Alice. It is raining harder now as I am writing. Ruby and I stayed here all day by ourselves. Grady said he saw Mama Shelton, Ruth's mama, today. It is now 8:30 P. M.

**Tuesday, Jan. 12:** Rained continually throughout the day, but has about quit. I cooked a good dinner, and ate more than usual. Aunt Jewel and Elsie came down tonight and stayed awhile. Douglas, Shortee Roper and I did some carpenter work, made a whatnot shelf—paper rock and book ends. It is now 21 minutes until 10. Bedtime—good night.

**Wednesday, Jan. 13:** Very pretty day, about dark very windy. I worked by myself almost all day. That night I got paint for my woodwork. Stayed up until late. Elsie Patterson was with me.

**Thursday, Jan. 14:** Cloudy all day, a mist of rain. Grady worked in store, and I cleaned up the back rooms making me a room by curtains and also made a dresser table, looked very well. Also got a card from Alice P. from W. D. C. yesterday.

**Friday, Jan. 15:** Cloudy, looked like snow, very warm considering the time of the year. Roy Elbert and I kept store. Grady, Elsie and Ruby went selling dresses and groceries. The river was up, and as they didn't get back at the regular time, was worried about them, but they got back ok.

**Saturday, Jan. 16:** Sun shined and was very pleasant. I worked very hard in the afternoon in the store. I went home about 6:30 P. M.; did not have any company although I was looking for some, but he didn't get the letter I wrote him, so he didn't come. I wasn't ready so it was ok. Ward came home from store with Ruby as Orb didn't come.

**Sunday, Jan. 17:** Was windy and misty. I didn't go to Sunday School for the first Sunday in several weeks. I helped clean up at house. Hulon came down after me to carry me to S. C., but I didn't come back with him. That afternoon Orb came. Also while I was up Sewanee, I saw Daisy Piper, she was surprised to see me. I also saw inside of St. Mary's rooms and in the chapel. Alice and I had some fun waiting for the girls. It was a very beautiful place. The boys had to wait outside.

**Monday, Jan. 18:** A gloomy day. Uncle Roy's boy was buried—(*According to Arlene Bean, the infant was buried at Red Hill Cemetery with words "Infant son of Roy and Imogene Partin"*). I saw Ruth and Evelyn and Mrs. Lemons, also Emily and Elsie. Orb and Mr. (*blank*) brought the baby from Chattanooga.

**Tuesday, Jan. 19:** Cloudy with rain until night. I went to Valley Home Club with Mrs. Masters, the Home Demonstration teacher, studied about foods and what they contain. Roy stayed up here. I washed him for school. Alice came up here and brought some eggs. Tonight, Grundy girls and boys played F. C. H. S. I wanted to see the game.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20:** Still warm and cloudy. Grady bought Mr. Aylor's truck to go into the peddling of goods. I worked at the store.

**Thursday, Jan. 21:** Warm and sun shining. I am 22 years old this day. Got Hollis Cox to take care of the gas trade. He only sold 5 gallon. The traffic was slow because so much water had cut off the traveling people. Ruby went over to see about a job with Dr. Bowden at Pelham. Frances P. stayed with me.

**Friday, Jan. 22:** Sun shining and warm, a few clouds. Rained in the afternoon, much cooler. Worked in the store. Grady came back with the truck bed. We have a fire for the first time in several days.

**Saturday, Jan. 23:** Very cold and misty rain. Mr. Pearson was buried. We have only had 27 hours of sunshine and 2 days without sunshine this year. The first street buses came through Crossroads today.

**Sunday, Jan. 24:** A misty rain in the morning. It had really rained for about 3 hours. Water is up everywhere. Louisville, Ky. and Nashville and many other towns and states are calling for help. The waters seem to be the worst in the history—the waters are getting up here—this afternoon. I went to preaching at Providence in the truck; Audrey went with us. Daddy rode in the back of the truck on a willow seat. Audrey, I and Bro. Hillard and wife took supper at Grandpa's. Emily and Audrey came up here and stayed. Got Billie Hinson Conry to carry them home, afraid waters would get up. Easter lilies and other flowers are blooming; also rose buds are out.

**Monday, Jan. 25:** A very pretty day without rain. Over the radio (*radio*) help is called for Louisville, Ky. that is covered with water. Also Miss. Valley, also other towns, the worst, it seems, in history. Elva Aylor, Isabell, Mrs. Garner, Aunt Annie and Aunt Allie B., Mrs. Roper and Thelma Smith and I sent \$6.15 to help.

**Tuesday, Jan. 26:** A very nice day. I worked and did about the same as any other day.

**Wednesday, Jan. 27:** The sun shined about all day. Several cars of policemen stopped here to buy drinks on their way to Louisville, Ky. to help control the people. I went to prayer meeting.

**Thursday, Jan. 28:** Misty rain almost all day. Ruby went to work as Grundy Co. Health office girl in Dr. Bowden's office. I kept store. Elva came out and stayed with me some. Mr. Turner now 85 or 86 stayed with me and kept me company.

**Friday, Jan. 29:** Beautiful spring-like day. Kept store while Grady was delivering merchandise in Providence. Ruby went to Nashville with Dr. Bowden to learn about her duties as a County Health Clerk. We went to bed about 9:30. Ruby spent the night with me.

**Saturday, Jan. 30:** A sunny morning and afternoon, getting cooler and about 9:30 very windy and cold. I did lots of work, washing and keeping store. Roy E. helped me. Tonight, I went down Jewel's and listened to the radio calling off names and where they had moved them, the people from the Louisville, Ky. flood.

**Sunday, Jan. 31:** Spent the day at home. It rained in the morning and was cloudy all afternoon. Frances H. came down after Grady, and they went riding. Sunday night, Mama and Aunt Allie came up here; I went up Aunt Allie Blair's and saw her. She was telling who my ancestors were. She said her mother was a Cobb before she married a Patton, and her mother's mother was a Grayson. She also said they, Spencer and William Grayson came from Wales. They were the only ones to come to the States. We are descendants from Spencer—he settled in the south— William in the north. Also a Cobb was a congressman from Alabama, which was a cousin of my grandmother Goodman. We later in the evening went down Frances Patterson's and a crowd, and I sang while some played guitars. We acted crazy for a while and came home. I went to bed. Ruby was with Ward Goodman.

**Monday, Feb. 1:** A cloudy moist day—but no rain. Mama stayed with me here in the store. I worked on a dress for Maria (*not certain of this name-jp*) Brown, crepe trimmed in eggshell satin. Grady carried Mama home. Also Douglas and Roy who came in like stuffed toads, as it was turning much cooler. Roy's coat was too long for him, but he didn't care. Ruby stayed up here with me. Margaret Patton also Emmett Roper and Estell and Haskell stayed with us a while. The lights went off and I had to light a lamp.

**Tuesday, Feb. 2:** Very cold with ice, the first since before Christmas. The sun is shining now. I also hear a train blowing at Monteagle. It is now 22 minutes till two o'clock. I have now on the Frigidaire a lovely jar of buttercups. Today, Roy is 11 years old.

**Wednesday, Feb. 3:** Blank

**Thursday, Feb. 4:** Blank

**Friday, Feb. 5:** Blank

**Saturday, Feb. 6:** Cloudy. I worked very hard fixing up the shelves. Ruby stayed up here with me that night.

**Sunday, Feb. 7:** I went to Chattanooga with Mrs. Leuivorous (*sp. Jp*) family. Buford, Lorene and Mrs. L. took dinner at Uncle Roy's. Aubrey carried me over to Uncle George's; they seemed tickled to see me. Then I went around up on Miss. (*Missionary*) Ridge also to Rossville, Ga., the first time to ever be in Ga.

**Monday, Feb. 8:** Cloudy and windy with the sun shining every few minutes. Grady went to Tracy with the grocery truck. Came up a storm with rain and lightning about bed time, warm enough for very light cover almost like summer nights. Roy came up and spent the night with us.

**Tuesday, Feb. 9:** Very cold. I went down home the first time in two weeks. Mama and family were all doing fine. I came up here with Effie Bell as she was afraid the creek was too full to cross. Ruby came up to help work with us and spent the night. Frankie and girls, Gladys Bishop, Helen Kellar, came up and bought candy sticks and pies. It is now 10 after 11 o'clock.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10:** I worked around the store as usual. It was a very cold day and night. It was the regular prayer meeting night, but was so cold no one came out for the first time since it has been organized.

**Thursday, Feb. 11:** Cold, but sun shined almost all day—I worked cleaning up the store and around, cooked more than usual. Ruby worked up here. We sent off some Valentines, but as I now have no boyfriend; I did(*n't*) send any off to any boy but Paul—Ruby sent Aubrey McCullough one also going to send Ward Goodman one.

**Friday, Feb. 12:** A spring like morning. I don't know of anything that happened that was unusual

**Saturday, Feb. 13:** Cloudy and rain in the afternoon and night. Ruby went down to Buchannah to take Mrs. Lemmons with Aubrey Mc—and saw the Buchannah and Murfreesboro ballgame. Ruby got back about 10:15. She got a box of Valentine candy—she spent the night with me. We had a laugh at Aubrey when he tried on Grady's overcoat.

**Sunday, Feb. 14:** A cold windy day. I went to S. School and taught the Juniors. Then we all took dinner at home. I sure enjoyed it. I kissed Daddy for the first time to remember it.

**Monday, Feb. 15:** I worked in store while Grady peddled at Tracy. It was a very pleasant day. Elva came out and stayed with me. Daddy came up and Roy stayed in the afternoon with me. Roy stayed all night with Aunt Jewel as Uncle Buford was away. Douglas took sick with flu or cold.

**Tuesday, Feb. 16:** About the coldest day of the year also some snow but none today. Douglas doing very well. Grady didn't go out today.

**February 17, 18, 19, blank:**

**Saturday, Feb. 20:** Cold and rainy. Went to Winchester. Frances and John went to the show. What a time, bought a new pair of shoes. Emily spent the night.

**Sunday, Feb. 21:** Very cold and windy in the afternoon. Ruby, Aubrey and Ward Goodman and I went to Sewanee and around by Decherd. Went up Frances' and toasted marshmallows and also visited Uncle Buford's. Douglas has the flu.

**Monday, Feb. 22:** Forgot to keep up—

**Feb. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, blank:**

**Sunday, Feb. 28:** Snow very deep which fell Saturday night. Didn't have any Sunday School because of snow. Went down home for dinner. After dinner, Ward G. and Shortee Roper came down, and we all went to Louise Blair's to carry her a wedding present, but found out she was not married and what a joke on us.

**Monday, Mar. 1:** A very cold snowy day. I stayed by myself and worked at the store. Grady went down home. Frances P. stayed with me. Grady got stuck in mud at mill. We got worried about him and about 11:30 got Uncle Elbert to get out of bed to go see about him.

**Tuesday, Mar. 2:** A beautiful day, snow almost gone. Me and Hollis Cox stayed and kept store while Grady sold groceries at Tracy.

**Wednesday, Mar. 3:** A very beautiful day—prayer meeting night. Grady went to Decherd, and Ward G. got in a ditch so we were up until late. Margaret and Trussell boys stayed with me.

**Thursday, Mar. 4:** Pretty morning but cloudy in afternoon with light showers tonight. Ruby is improving from flu. Grady has gone to put truck in garage. Fixing to go to bed. Good night. I wrote a farewell letter to Hulon, saying because we were friends once that I hoped we wouldn't be enemies.

**Friday, Mar. 5:** A spring day, beautiful. Got a radio for \_\_\_\_ (*can't decide what this word is-jp*) the first. Hollis Cox and I wired it up. We enjoyed a little while. Went to bed a little earlier than usual.

**Saturday, Mar. 6:** Another beautiful day. I made a pair of pajamas and worked in the store. Grady turned on coal oil stove and let burn on high and did I have a job cleaning up. Roy E. spent the night and morning with me. Aubrey came to see Ruby, and I went with him. I got tired sitting up. So I wound up the clock to make it strike. I was about 10:30 when we left. Ruby was in bed.

**Sunday, Mar. 7:** Chilly day with rain that night. I thought I was taking the flu, but didn't. Aubrey came in afternoon. Ruby was up.

**Monday, Mar. 8:** A cool day but very pretty. Elsie and I went up to Mr. Ropers to see the gypsies up at the camp. We had some fun. John Partin went with us. He said the only reason he was proud I was his niece was so I wouldn't get struck on him. Ha! We called him our protector.

**Tuesday, Mar. 9:** A beautiful sunshine day, but cool with wind.

**Sorry, I did not keep daily record, but will try to from now on.**

**Mar. 10-25 blank:**

**Friday, Mar. 26:** Good Friday, very cool day. Had lots of fun with Roper boys, also local girls and boys (6,7,8<sup>th</sup> grade) went on an Easter hunt. Got an Easter card from cousin Bessie Patterson, now Inglehanger. Rutha Shelton and her mother and Bell Myers came down joked Grady about carrying Ruth home in a little wagon of Roy Goodman. Grady was gone peddling groceries. Roy has the mumps. Hope we don't take them.

**Saturday, Mar. 27:** Snow, not very much, cold wind. I kept store. That night Estell Roper and Aubrey, Ruby and myself (*went*) to the play the Ladies Club was giving; went from there to Tracy City to show and saw a picture with Gene Autry. Our feet got cold. We stopped at Monteagle at the City Café and bought some supper – me and Estell put our money together to pay for our eats. Got back about 10:30. Sold eats and drinks to about 25 Pelham boys.

**Sunday, Mar. 28:** Easter Sunday. Roy still sick, cold day. I was nurse while Mama was over at Aunt Allie's with Uncle Elbert and wife. Ruby went riding with Aubrey. I stayed at store with Douglas while Grady, Ruth Shelton, Ruby and Arb went riding. I had fun with George

Smith, Jr. Went to sleep, and boy from Pelham woke them up. Douglas and Roper boys and George liked to run me deaf with noisy blooms (*maybe she meant balloons*). Ruby and Aubrey quarreled; Ruby said she wished she had never seen Aubrey – then she could hardly sleep that night.

**Monday, Mar. 29:** Sunshine day but cold and windy. Uncle Roy and family and Aubrey went back to Chattanooga. Ruby gave me a letter to give to Arb, making up for what she said.

**March 30, 31, blank:**

**Thursday, Apr. 1:** April Fools Day, pretty day. I had fun April fooling Ruby and Elva Aylor. I did not have any joke pulled on me.

**Friday, Apr. 2:** Ruby and Grady went to Winchester. Rub got suit rust\_\_\_\_\_ and hat.

**Saturday, Apr. 3:** Pretty day. Ruby went to Chattanooga to spend the day.

**Sunday, Apr. 4:** Pretty day, but wind blew very hard. Took supper with Alice Roper. Ate by Estell; they joked me. The first time I ever ate up there. Went to church with Estell. Beat everyone home. Ruby and Arb came back from Chattanooga. Douglas and James Smith stayed in store with lights off and tried to scare us. Roy E. sat up for the first time since flu or mumps.

**Monday, Apr. 5:** Rainy weather, cloudy – I slept late in morning. Ruby worked came by and told what a big time in Chattanooga. About Uncle Roy and them joking she and Arb. Ruby got mad at Estell for joking about seeing Lock and *Da\_\_\_\_\_ (not sure jp)*. Estell said she thought she had seen something no one else had – ha! Going to bed early. Roper boys and Margaret Patterson and George Smith and Ed Tucker, Lois and Alf Rodgers and two children.

**Tuesday, Apr. 6:** Cloudy and cold. Grady peddled groceries at Tracy City. It is now 12 minutes after 7 – he hasn't got here yet ; said he has a date Friday night at a play to be given at Grundy County. I am a little jealous, but he doesn't know it and does not suspect it.

**Wednesday, Apr. 7:** Beautiful sunshine day. I worked as usual around the store. That night Estell and I went to prayer meeting. He was joking as usual.

**Thursday, Apr. 8:** Cloudy with sunshine up in day. That night cloudy and wind strong. Douglas and I peddled for the first time. Enjoyed it very much. Kate Patton gave me some

flower plants. Arb came by with some fellow who had traded cars; I was in hopes he wasn't married – but he was – ha!

**Friday, Apr. 9:** Cold and misty rain. Douglas and I delivered groceries. Had a cold day. Saw Mrs. Allie Patterson who is sick from T. B. Got some new curtains for home, green and red and tan, made in ## style. Grady went to Monteagle. Mama sent us some pinto beans and cornbread. It was good. Douglas is a big help.

**Saturday, Apr. 10:** Stayed in store. Grady went to Ward Goodman's party and got Alice and carried her home, and Mr. Roper and Mrs. Roper said something.

**Sunday, Apr. 11:** Took pictures. Alice, Grady, Ruby and I, Frances, Tatsy, George and Estell and Haskell, also Warner and Alton P. were there. We took most of them at the mill. We took one up at the house in yard.

**Monday, Apr. 12: blank**

**Tuesday, Apr. 13:** Went to Winchester and got new shoes.

**Wednesday, Apr. 14:** Night, prayer meeting went up, Estell came back with me or rather just walked back with me. Nice night. Don't think I would like to go with him.

**Thursday, Apr. 15:** The Nazarene Church steps were built and a jar placed in steps to be taken up in 25 years. The names of boys and girls were put in. Uncle Elbert Goodman, George Smith, Jr, Paul Parson, Ed Hamilton, Arb Adams, Elva Aylor , Aunt Bettie, Grady and I worked; I peddled.

**Friday, Apr. 16:** Pretty day. I went to Valley Home to a play (*that*) given at close of school. Thelma Gene Partin recited – "Take a Tater and Wait." She was cute. Ray Goodman was a doctor in the play. Ruby and I both had blue hats, gloves and purses. Roy went with us. Grady carried us there; also Gordon Long went. Lude Goodman and Effie Bell and *Dillion* (?not certain- jp) girl teachers.

**Saturday, Apr. 17:** Got up pretty morning. Think I have the mumps. Did(*n't*) do anything much. Went home and went to bed. Saw Aubrey and Buford, thought I was Ruby dressed ready to go. Mama and Roy Elbert have had the mumps.

**Sunday, Apr. 18:** Sunshiny day. Stayed at home. Mama sat up; I am still sick, but not bad. Aubrey came. Mama stayed upstairs and I stayed down in the back room. I got excited thought something (*that was*) after the chickens.

**Monday, Apr. 19:** Fair and sunshine. Frances came by to help with housework. I came back to store; still have mumps if that is what I have. Aubrey went back to Chattanooga.

**Tuesday, Apr. 20:** Sunshiny day. I did not work, still sick. Ruby went home in wagon with Gordon Long, Lannie's brother, Ruby's old fellow. Roy and Gordon came up on bicycle. Roy excited; I had to call him down, afraid he would be sick.

**Wednesday, Apr. 21:** What a rain about 12 o'clock at noon. Grady and Roy went to Dechard to sell chickens. I spent the night at home. Mama is improving. Daddy sick with indigestion and bad cold. Ruby and I made candy date roll, and did we have a time (*with*) wet wood, etc. Ruby said if he knew how much trouble we are having he would appreciate this. I said "Do you think so?" It was very good after all – any way that is what Jewel and Mrs. Aylor said.

**Thursday, Apr. 22:** The mumps are about gone. Very beautiful day. Everything green after rain.

**Friday, Apr. 23:** Douglas birthday – 18 years old. A pretty day – we delivered groceries to Providence and Bells Cove, also around by Pelham. Saw cedar tree Grandma Goodman set out in Harbet Haynes old home place. Two Rodgers girls and George Smith, Jr. came up and played music. Daddy and Mama are improving.

**Saturday, Apr. 24:** And is it raining, sure has been pouring. Oak Grove girls are bringing a play up here. I am anxious to know how it comes off. I have gone with some Oak Grove boys, but not interested now.

**Sunday, Apr. 25:** Cool in afternoon. A large crowd of girls down home. Tatsy, Francis Patterson and Ethel and Louise Partin. Emily came by, and I got her to stop; told her I was going home with her. She also went in to meet my Beau, but when she got there, there was no one – ha! Elsie and Thelma Gene said they were mad. Church up here at Chapel. The boys are making plenty noise.

**Monday, Apr. 26:** Pretty day – worked around in store.

**Tuesday, Apr. 27:** Pretty day – Grady delivered at Tracy City, Douglas and I cleaned up the store – the showcase and shelves, and was it a job? I went down home. Spent the night; walked back up next morning.

**Wednesday, Apr. 28:** Rain last night, cloudy today with showers of rain, thunder and lightning. Mr. Collins very ill. Cousin Ida, husband and Audrey Smith came up and tried

on several dresses, lacy ones and slips, also looked at the luckies, asked what they are? Alice Roper and Tatsy, Ruby were here also. Audrey and Ruby went home in truck. Mama sent me some beans and cornbread for supper. Good night.

**Thursday, Apr. 29:** We delivered groceries up Coffee County line and up Laynes Cove. Got back early. Had some fun.

**Friday, Apr. 30:** Rain when we first left for Providence to deliver groceries. Came up a windstorm after the rain. We stayed out until the wind got so bad we could hardly get in house. Trees fell down behind us. Douglas and I—we stopped at Grandpa's and ate dinner and stayed until the wind stopped. Mr. Collins was buried that afternoon. The water on Laxsons' pond was blown up high like sand in wind. Grandpa said he never saw it before. He said this day will not be hard to remember. There were more trees blown over there than ever before to be remembered.

**Saturday, May 1:** Very pleasant day. Uncle George and Aunt Lelia and kids came over. I spent night down home.

**Sunday, May 2:** Rain and cool. I helped clean up house and went to Sunday school with Uncle George, Emily, Elsie and Edna. Mary Gene sang two songs and Edna played the piano. Mary sang "Blessed Book" and "Not My Will But Thine Be Done." We all went down home and had a regular family reunion, except Uncle Roy's family. Mama looked good in brown dress with eggshell color and rust sweater. Gordon Long played harp.

**Monday, May 3:** Very pretty day with rain late that evening. I drove the truck down home.

**Tuesday, May 4:** Rain and cloudy all day. Roy and the 4-H Club boys and girls got chickens. Roy got 100. Grady went to Tracy. Ruby got a letter from Arb.

**Wednesday, May 5:** Pretty day, sunshine

**Thursday, May 6:** Pretty day, sunshine. Douglas and I worked out; went up Cousin Dora Patterson, and Jim wondered if I wouldn't blister in the sun.

**Friday, May 7:** Still pretty. Douglas and I worked again. We got back early.

**Saturday, May 8:** Pretty day. I went to Tracy City with Jewel Partin to get a hair set while they got ice for Pie Supper at Providence. Aubrey came to see Ruby. They went to pie supper.

**Sunday, May 9:** A beautiful day, but cloudy in the evening. Grady, I and Frances Harkreader went to Nashville, and they went on to Lebanon. We went in little Willys— (according to James Bell, Jr., Lottie's son, this was a Willys 77, and he still has the operational book for the car). Grady did the driving.. He had two back seat drivers—Remember the red light and little Austin (?) car. I enjoyed myself fine; the first time to ever go by the way of Tullahoma. I spent the day with Mrs. Lemons and family. We went to Shelby Park; they just had put out iris flowers of every color.

**Monday, May 10:** I was so tired; I didn't know what to do.

**Tuesday, May 11:** Grady worked at Tracy City. Douglas and Grady went to 4-H Club. Elva and I fixed up a letter like it was from an old widower to Elva. Grady believed it on the start.

**Wednesday, May 12:** Douglas and I gave the store a cleanup. Grady selected me a pair of slippers. I told him he could not fit me. I liked them. A little show up here tonight. Rain, and it is until a very few has come. Grady saw Frances today. It has been raining all evening, but not real hard.

**Thursday, May 13: blank**

**May 14-21: blank**

**Saturday, May 22:** Pretty day. Uncle George and Aunt Lelia Mae came with the children. Edna and many had slacks on; the first to have on, I believe.

**Sunday, May 23:** They took dinner down home. The flowers were blooming so pretty. Mary saw her first snake at Bells Mill. Roy and Edna killed it.

**Monday, May 24:** S. R. came up, and we had a fuss over a kiss he unexpectedly gave—I slapped him.

**Tuesday, May 25: blank**

**Wednesday, May 26:** Douglas peddled in afternoon.

**Thursday, May 27:** Grady and Douglas went to Tracy to peddle. I kept store. Ruby and Dr. Bowden worked at Tracy also today.

**Friday, May 28:** Cloudy and warm.

**May 29 – June 4: blank**

**Saturday, June 5:** Emily and Douglas went to Tracy to see show. Ate sandwiches, had a nice time.

**Sunday, June 6:** Had childrens' day – beautiful day. Ruby was in it. Also Roy E. said the welcome speech. Ruby told Arb not to be at the program. Roy was sick, but they both did fine. Ruby, Grady and I sat on front seat in church. Bro. Roberts took dinner at house. Ruby, Arb, Geneva Conry and Grady took picture and had a flat tire.

**This was the last day Lottie wrote in this particular series. Other notes found further over in her little notebook are listed below:**

### Historical Notes and Facts Kept in Same Book as the Above Diary

My great-great-grandmother was a Grayson. She was a descendant of Spencer Grayson. He and his brother alone came to the States. Spencer settled in the South, and William in the North. They came from Wales. Spencer owned many acres of land.

My great-grandmother was a Cobb. She married (*John Patton*) and lived in Alabama. She had four girls and two brothers (*sons*). Joe (*Josephine*) married a Gilliam; Bell (*Isabell*) married a Reid. Allie (*Alabama*) married Mart (*Martin*) Blair, and my Grandmother Manervia, married a Patterson (*Daniel*) the first time but he died a few years later. Then she married Henry Goodman, my Grandfather. Her first children were Dan Patterson (*Jr.*) who lived in Crossroads near Monteagle, Tenn. Arthur Patterson was the oldest; he spent his life on the train, and died in Birmingham, Alabama after several operations.

My Grandfather Goodman had been married before (*to Margaret Roberts – jp*), who had died leaving children: Lee Goodman who \_\_\_\_\_; Edd who has several children; Douglas, Lude; Dillion; \_\_\_\_\_; Margaret, Maude Edna, Irene, \_\_\_\_\_. These live in Tracy City, Tenn. Also Annie Goodman with one son Ralph lives in Chattanooga, Tenn. She married \_\_\_\_\_; Maude Goodman married a \_\_\_\_\_ who died \_\_\_\_\_ also \_\_\_\_\_ married Anderson.

Grandmother's children by Grandpa Goodman: Elbert Goodman married Bettie Turner children: Georgia married Paul Mooney, also Ralph and Ray. Aunt Allie married O. P. (*Oroville Patrick*) Partin, a distant cousin of Daddy's; their children : Alice, Paul, Louise, Raymond, Gene, Clara Mae, Reba, James Ray and Kenneth and (*Helen-jp*). Tavy Bell Goodman born September 1898. She married Willie Harrison Partin, my father, Sept. \_\_\_? Grady Edward Partin was born a 9 pound fat baby, Sept. 9, 1913. I was born (Lottie Elizabeth) Jan. 21, 1915. Ruby Annie Mae born Oct. 10, 1917. Willie Douglas was born April

23, 1919; Roy Elbert Partin born February 2, 1926. All but Roy Elbert were born near Providence, Bells Cove. Roy was born at Bells Mill near Cross Roads. We lived at Bells cove place for years—leaving there moved near Alto, Tenn.—John Ikard’s farm which was for the most part one time belonging to my Great-grandfather Partin. Stayed there for two years, then moved to Bells Mill made good on everything but Mama took sick—lost about all we had. And Mr. Bell moved from Chattanooga after we lived here for 9 years, we moved to Alto, Tenn. Ruby and I started in Decherd, Tenn. schools.

After finishing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Pelham, Tenn. we went 3 ½ years to Decherd then moved back to Bells Mill and finished by school at Tracy City in 1935 where Grady finished in 1931. I am now with Grady in Crossroads running a general merchandise store and Gulf filling station. Delivering truck Grady has. Ruby is working at Pelham in Dr. Bowden’s office. She is secretary or clerk for Grundy County Health Office. Douglas is working on the farm and at the mill. Roy is going to school at Valley Home. Douglas staying out of school to help daddy as he has something wrong with is back.

My Grandmother Goodman had a twin brother who died. She and her sisters came to Tenn. after their (*father*) died to live at their (*Aunt Elizabeth Patton Osbourne--jp*) at Pelham. They came in a \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note: Some of this history can be read at <http://www.grundycountyhistory.org/> under the title of “Four Little Patton Girls from Alabama” and also “Memoirs of Ruby Partin Long” both by Jackie Layne Partin.**

## Found On Loose Note Sheets Not of the Same Size As Above Diary

### These Few Notes Were Written During December 1938

**December 11, Saturday:** Grady started moving to Tracy City. Uncle George came—hated about us moving. Ruby helped us move. Spent night down home. Felt bad over leaving because everybody was so nice especially Elive and (*missing – jp*).

**December 12, Sunday:** Spent day at home. Elive came down in afternoon, and we cried because we were leaving. Orb came and carried us to Tracy. Elive spent night with us. Grady came home, and Orb spent night with him.

**December 13, Monday:** Working hard trying to staighthen out things. Dr. Bowden came by asking me if I was going to Nashville with him and Ruby on Tuesday. I couldn't go but wanted to.

**December 14, Tuesday:** Ruby went to Nashville to take exam for clerk. I worked in store trying to get things fixed up.

**December 15, Wednesday :** Working in store, Grady distributed circulars about us being in Tracy City. Ruby came by and stayed about an hour. We went down town to see about decorations for X-mas.

**December 16, Thursday:** Open store in Tracy for first time. Sold a good many things. I like the new place because it is something different. (*This was not the building that was built which became a popular merchandise store in Tracy City; this little store was in some way incorporated with the Lee and Annie Goodman Café next to Flury's Store. – jp*)

**December, Friday 17:** Douglas and I worked store. Grady peddled in Valley. Roy and James came back with him. Valley Home boys and girls stopped. The V. H. girls won at tournament. (*Note: Once when the "Rolling Store" ran out of gas, the brothers put kerosene that they had for sale in it and managed to get back home. When it was no longer in use, the Partin family cut the top off the Rolling Store and used it for a top to the hen house at the homeplace in Tracy City. Tavy Partin told this story to her grandson Jimmy Bell while they were gathering eggs one day.*)

## List of Names Written By Lottie in Same Book as Diary

Paul	Imogene
Alice	Margie
Louise	Bessie
Raymond	Edna
Gene	Mary Gene
Clara Mae	Johnnie Ruth
Reba	Emily (June 5)
James Ray	John (Sept. 19)
Kenneth and Edward	Elsie P.
Ralph	Margaret
Georgia	Audrey Smith (Feb. 20)
Ray	Frances Ikard
Thelma	Alice Roper
Clifton	Jessie Bell Laxson
Allen	Louise Blair
Claud	Ruth Lemmons
Dillon	Margret Patton
Wilson	Frances Harkreader
Frances (Oct. 27)	Ruth Shelton
Tatsy (March 5)	Lura Henley
Florence	Awana Meeks
Geneva	Eva Meeks

## Added Notes to Lottie Partin Diary

(by Jackie Layne Partin)

*(I made an effort below to identify all the names used in the six-month diary. Please send me corrections if necessary, or identifications if known. Jackie Layne Partin—[jackiepartin@blomand.net](mailto:jackiepartin@blomand.net) )*

**Adams, Orb--???**

**Anderson, Gladys**—daughter of Alfred and Hannah Anderson ; classmate of Lottie when she attended school at Decherd

**Anderson, Ruth**—daughter of Alfred and Hannah Anderson; sister to Gladys; classmate of Lottie at Decherd

**Aylor, Elva**—daughter of William and Viola Aylor , former owners of the Aylor Store

**Aylor, Mr.**—William A. Aylor, former owner of the Aylor Store

**Bell, Effie**—may be the daughter of Sumner and Hattie Bush (Rowe) Bell

**Bishop, Gladys**—may have been the daughter of William and Sally Bishop of Alto, TN

**Blair, Allie**—may be Aliziria White Blair, daughter of William and Violet (Baird) Blair

**Blair, Louise--???**

**Bowden, Dr. (Upton Beall)**—well-known local doctor who also worked in all parts of the county at different times.

**Brown, Maria (?)**

**Cobb, Family**—Lottie's grandmother Minerva (Patton, Patterson) Goodman's mother was Martha Cobb, daughter of Bryant Cobb, of Belle Font, Alabama.

**Collins, Mr**—may be William Collins who was married to Ida Patterson Collins.

**Conry, Billie Hinson**—maybe son of Ed and Tavy Conry; brother to Edna Conry

**Conry, Geneva**—daughter of Mike E. and Allie W. Conry; Mike was a county deputy

**Cox, Audrey--????**

**Cox, Hollis**—Henry Hollis Cox, son of Rufus "Eck" Cox and Rosa Lee (Fults) Cox

**Cox, Ruby**—daughter of Robert "Bob" and Lula (Jacobs) Cox

**Garner, Mrs.--???**

**Goodman, Grandma** – Minerva Elizabeth (Patton; Patterson) Goodman, wife of Henry Goodman

**Goodman, Lude** – son of Ed and Maud Goodman;

**Goodman, Ray** – Raymond, brother to Lude

**Goodman, Roy** – ???

**Goodman, Ward** – son of William R. and Myrtle Goodman

**Grayson, Spencer** – Lottie's ancestor through her gg-grandmother

**Grayson, William** – Brother to Spencer

**Hamilton, Ed** – ???

**Harkreader, Frances** – girlfriend of Grady Edward Partin in 1937

**Haynes, Harbet** ?? – Probably Hobart Haynes, son of Bud and Dora Haynes

**Hillard, Bro.** – ???

**Hillard, Wife** – ???

**Henley, Billie Hinson** – ???

**Henley, Lura** – daughter of Jim and Lura Henley

**Jacobs, Mrs. B.** – Could be wife of Clyde Jacobs

**Kellar, Helen** – ????

**Long, Gordon** – son of Edward D. and Myrtle Long of Alto

**Long, Lannie** – son of Edward D. and Myrtle Long of Alto

**Laxson, Ed** – Carl Edd Laxson, son of John and Rebecca (Sanders) Laxson; husband of Virgie Tucker

**Laxson, Jessie Bell**

**Laxson, Virgie** – Virgie (Tucker) Laxson, wife of Carl Edd Laxson

**Lemmons, Mrs.** ???

**Leuivorous, Mr.** ???

**Leuivorous, Mrs.** ???

**Masters, Mrs.** – Home Demonstration Agent

**McCullough, Aubrey** – Could be son of J. D. and Mattie McCullough of Coffee County, TN. (Note: Aubrey, Ruby and Lottie were parked at an overview somewhere when a man pulled a gun on Aubrey. Ruby and Lottie jumped on the man and wrestled the gun from him and saved the day!)

**Myers, Bell**—Possibly step-daughter of John Whitman and daughter of ??????

**Parson, Paul**—Paul W. Parson, husband of Claudia and father of Billy, Cecil and Dewey Parson

**Partin, Alice**—Alice Belle Partin; daughter of Orville P. Partin; siter of Paul C. Partin

**Partin, Buford**—James Buford Partin, Lottie's uncle; husband of Jewel (Patterson) Partin

**Partin, Douglas**—Lottie's brother, son of Willie and Octavia Partin, husband of Agnes (Duggan) Partin

**Partin, Edna**—Could be daughter of Carney and Mamie (Curtis) Partin; distant cousin to Lottie Partin

**Partin, Elsie**

**Partin, Emily**—Half sister to Lottie's father Willie Partin; daughter of John and Betty (Laxson Clemons) Partin

**Partin, Ethel**—daughter of Johnny B. and Warren Partin; sister to Grover and Taylor Partin

**Partin, George**—George Leslie Partin, Lottie's uncle; brother to Willie Partin;

**Partin, Grady**—Lottie's brother Grady Edward Partin; husband of Georgia Violet (Schild) Partin

**Partin, Jewel**—wife of James Buford Partin

**Partin, John**—John Reginald Partin, full brother to Emily Partin; son of John and Betty Partin

**Partin, Lelia**—Leila (Merrill) Partin, wife of Lottie's Uncle George Partin

**Partin, Louise**—Mildred Louise Partin; daughter of Orville and Allie Blair (Goodman) Partin

**Partin, Mary Gene**—Lottie's first cousin; daughter of George and Leila Mae Partin

**Partin, Paul**—Paul C. Partin; son of Orville and Allie Blair (Goodman) Partin

**Partin, Roy Elbert**—Lottie's brother; son of Willie and Tavy (Goodman) Partin; husband of Ruth (Phillips) Partin

**Partin, Roy (uncle)**—Lottie's uncle; brother to Willie, James Buford and George Leslie Partin; husband of Emogene (Lemmon) Partin. Roy Partin had first been engaged to Florence Henley, daughter of Jim Henley. Florence was severely burned starting a fire in the fireplace and died from her burns. She was buried on what was to be their wedding day. She is buried within the blocked fenced in the cemetery near Bell's Mill along the road to Providence that comes out at Bells Cove.

**Partin, Ruby**—Ruby Anna Mae Partin; sister to Lottie; wife of Dean Long

**Partin, Thelma Gene**—Thelma Jean Partin, daughter of James Buford and Jewel Partin

**Partin, Willie (daddy)**—Lottie's father, William Harrison Partin; son of John and Nancy (Patterson) Partin

**Patterson, Allie** – Allie Isabell Patterson; daughter of Daniel Patterson, III and Annie (Jacobs) Patterson

**Patterson, Bessie (Inglehangar)**

**Patterson, Dora (cousin) (Jim)** – Probably Jim and Dora Patton, not Patterson

**Patterson, Elsie** – daughter of Daniel B. and Tennie L. Patterson;

**Patterson, Frances** – Frances Lorene Patterson; sister to Allie Isabell Patterson

**Patterson, Tatsy--????**

**Patton, Douglas** – son of Willie Patton; grandson of John D. and Jennie Wilder

**Patton, Kate** – could be a sister to Jim Patton;

**Patton, John--???**

**Patton, Margaret** – could be a daughter of George and Mary Patton

**Pearson, Mr.** – Probably Mr. Silas N. Pearson, father of Nellie and Lizzie Pearson

**Piper, Daisy** – daughter of Dr. George W. and Bettie Piper of Alto; later step-daughter to John Hill

**Roberts, Bro.** – probably Roy Roberts, minister at Chapman's Chapel Church (1936-1950)

**Rodgers, Alf** – husband of Lois and father of Jimmy Ray Rogers who married Connie Meeks

**Rodgers, Lois** – Lois (Cox) Rogers, wife of Alf

**Rodgers, Kids** – Francis, Melba, Nellie Theona, Boyd, Jimmy Ray, Phillip Dalton, Rita Faye,

**Roper, Alice** – daughter of William and Carra Roper of Coffee County

**Roper, Emmett** – son of William and Carra Roper of Coffee County

**Roper, Estell** – probably John Estell Roper, son of William H. and Carra Roper

**Roper, Haskell** – probably Irvin Haskell Roper, twin to John Estell Roper

**Roper, Mrs.** – probably Carra Roper

**Roper, Shortee** – probably a nickname for one of the above family members

**Shelton, Ruth--**could be a daughter to W. W. and Annie Shelton of Coffee County

**Shelton, Mama** – could be Annie Shelton of Coffee County

**Smith, Audrey** – daughter of George and Bettie Smith

**Smith, George, Jr.** – George Eleck Smith; son of George and Bettie Smith; brother to Audrey

**Smith, Mrs. B.** – Probably Mrs. Bettie Smith, mother to Audrey and George, Jr.

**Smith, Thelma** – May be Thelma (Patterson) Smith

**Trussell, Boys and Margaret ??/--**James, Carl, Albert and Paul Trussell, sons of James W.

Trussell; Margaret ????; Or could be sons of Robert and Ella Trussell, Henry, Ernest and Leon

**Tucker, Ed** – Probably Edward W. Tucker, son of Lee and Annie B. Tucker

**Turner, Mr. (85)** – husband of Mary E. Turner; father of Bettie M. Goodman; father-in-law of Elbert J. Goodman

**Woodley, Fana--????**

**Hulon L.--???**

**Frances P.** – Could be Frances Patterson, wife of John Ragland Partin

**Alton P.** – Probably Alton J. Patterson, son of Harrison and Ollie A. Patterson

**Warner P.** – Could be Warner Patterson, son of Andrew and Emma Patterson

**Evelyn** – Maybe Evelyn Tucker, daughter of Lee and Annie Tucker

**Isabell** – Maybe Isabell Patterson, daughter of Daniel and Lula (Jacobs) Patterson

**Aunt Annie** – Could be Annie (Jacobs) Patterson, wife of Daniel Patterson, III who was Lottie's Half Uncle; or she could be Julie Ann "ie" Goodman, wife of Lee Goodman who was Lottie's Half Uncle

**Lorene** – Probably Lorene Patterson, daughter of Daniel and Tennie L. Patterson

**Frankie--????**

**Cousin Ida** – maybe Ida Patterson Collins

**S. R. (Lottie's boyfriend)--?????**