

**W 2158**

**Diary of Susan Van Wart Storrow (July 26, 1844 – November 22, 1865)**

**Second daughter of Sarah Paris Storrow and Thomas Wentworth Storrow, Jr.**

**Diary from March, 1863 to November, 1864**

**Abbreviated Version**

*{Original spelling (with all its variations) and punctuation retained throughout; inconsistent and inaccurate use of the apostrophe, misspelled, repeated and incomplete words, very little punctuation, a style of notation rather than text}*

## **1863**

**MARCH, 1863**

Irvington March 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> I have determined to keep a diary, what it will be I am sure I don't know. It is not to be a minute one. I came home from New York yesterday where I have been staying with Aunt Nannie. The ground is covered with snow. I went to church morning and afternoon. After afternoon service I walked on Mr Mac Vickar's piazza with him ~~I had such a pleasant walk~~ talked of the church and the services.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Mr Parish came in this morning. his visits are always so pleasant, he went to the Phinney's and then came back here to lunch. The Grinnell's are up. Cousin Julia stopped here with Julia, Josey, and Irving, went to the Hamilton's Miss Tweedy came for me to go to our German lessons. I enjoyed it very much – read Little Red Riding Hood. Tweedys' and Jaffray's called in the evening Cousin

Oscar came bring a letter from Aunt Nannie enclosing a cheque of 10\$ for the church. Cousin Oscar stayed to tea.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>. Today is ~~Wednesday~~ Thursday and I have not written for two days. So much for the resolution I make. I had determined never to let a day pass without a few lines. Now I will try *an* recall the incidents of these two days. Tuesday morning Mamma received a letter from Aunt Lydia inviting us to Boston in April. My delight I ~~de~~ need not express. The Cousins came for me at ten to sleighride to the Morgans'.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Mamma and I went to church it had snowed hard during the night so that it was as much as we could do to get there. Cousin Eliza came in the afternoon. I went over to the sewing society in the evening at the MacVickars'. Tweedy family and some other were there.

**NOTE: The "sewing society" was most likely related to sewing for the troops or the poor.**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Kate and I went round to the Newbold's found them at home. Mrs. Newbold and Fifi came with me to Elises's where Mamma was. I did not go out again till evening when I went to the Constants with Mr. Parish – Kate having gone to the theatre with the Van Warts. I had a very pleasant evening. There was a most wonderful little boy there only seven years old who recited and gesticulated long pieces of poetry most beautifully. His name is Dudley Waller. Daisy played on the harpe and was as sweet as ever...

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> We all went out shopping this morning with Elise. In the afternoon I stayed at home...We had intended going to the opera but the prima donna was ill

so that it has been postponed. We had a very merry evening playing cards Rouge a Noir. We play doctor Busby every evening with the children.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> today is Gracies 5<sup>th</sup> birthday she is to have some children here this afternoon a cake with her name on it and five little candles lighted round to represent her years. I went in the morning to Mrs. Newbold's found her at home... We met Mamma and Kate there and we all went shopping together...in the evening we all went to the Opera...– the piece was The Ballo di Masqera

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> . ...We went shopping stopped at the Newbold's... I came home lunched, and stayed at home all the afternoon reading Pioneers by Cooper.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> This morning I went down to the Van Warts to get Kate to go with me to the photograph place there were so many people there that we came away and I am to go again later. I went later in the afternoon waited there all together nearly 2 hours...I drove out in the afternoon with Elise we stopped for Mama and then drove towards the Central Park but it began to rain so we turned back.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

Went round to Mrs. Thayers with me but did not find her at home. I then came home. Elise had been out to the Central Park with all the children. After lunch I dressed and went to Annie Bencards .... On our way home I stopped for my photograph. It is quite good and is to be ready in a week.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> We went to church and came directly home. it has been a dreadful day snowing and raining.

## **APRIL, 1863**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April We went to church at one o'clock Miss Tweedy came for me in the carriage and we went down to see Miss Reynolds. We did not take our German lessons. In the evening I went over to the sewing society.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nothing happened in the morning. In the afternoon we went to the dancing class afterwards we went down to see Miss Tweedy she went with us through the Dam came to the Cottage.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> It rained all day in the evening the whole Williams' family came to tea and Mr Mac Vickar

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Cousin Sarah came in the carriage and Mamma Julie and I went to Tarrytown with her to Mrs. Freeland the dressmaker. We spend most of the day there which made me very cross

Friday 24 It rained all the morning so that we did not go out After dinner we took a little walk and Kate and I stopped at the Mac Vickar's

## **MAY, 1863**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May it is raining hard. It rained all day and I did not go out.

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> It is raining again to-day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Another rainy day Cousin Oscar came in

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> It was cloudy and rainy all day. In the evening we went to tea at Cousin Elizas the Mac Vickars and Cousins were there

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> I did not go out till after afternoon church when we all walked down to the Grinnell's and Cottage. We are to have prayers for the next three days on account of the State of the country.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Early this morning I came round to Cousin Sarah's. We went together to have our ferotypes taken ...I have just begun to try and Raffle my cushion

**NOTE: This cushion will be raffled at a Sanitary Commission Fair or similar event in New York City (see below)**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> I met at Aunt Nannie at the Ulshoeffers went out with her stopped at the Daniel Parishs. They took a number of tickets. In the afternoon I did a little shopping. Uncle came for me in the evening to go and see a panorama of Holy Land

**NOTE: "tickets" for the raffle of Susan's cushion**

Tuesday Irvington 28<sup>th</sup> I went to Tarrytown this morning with Cousin Charlotte and the Cousins to see a company returning from the war. They were very well

received for so small a place. In the afternoon we walked down to the Cottage and Grinnells

## **JUNE, 1863**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of June Today is St. Barnabas the day of our Fair We went over at nine o'clock and were busy the whole morning. It was a dismal day every little while we had a small shower. At two the service took place in the church and after the Sunday school children had been fed the fair began. I had a table with Miss Reynolds and Miss Tweedy A great many people came so that we had a very successful day notwithstanding the cloudy weather (~~word heavily crossed out~~) the profit was about 400 and 40 dollars...

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> It is raining this morning so that I doubt if we can get out to-day.

## **JULY, 1863**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of July. It is rainy to-day and glad we all are, although it is the 4<sup>th</sup> the country needs it so much. Julie and I walked down to the Cottage and Grinnells. All went to tea at Elises' and saw the fireworks from the top of their house

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> ...After dinner Cousin Oscar and Eliza drove over told us of the riot that has been going on in New York on account of the draft. I came home in the carriage drove down to the station for Mamma and Julie the latter has brought home a dog which has been the source of great amusement to me having run away as soon as he got here. We have however found him.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Elise came to tea a few minutes after she left, Mr Parish came in, having come across the river in a row boat. The rioters have destroyed the track so that the cars don't go. In the afternoon Kate arrived from the Donaldson's. We went to the sewing society

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Mother, Julie, and I, and Spy the dog (the Newbolds gave) went to take a walk – found Cousin Pierre here. Elise and the children stopped. Another warm but cloudy day Cousin Julia and Saunders came to tea

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> We had such a fright last night, Catherine and Bridget having stayed out till after twelve o'clock. They had been to a Christianing in the village. Mama immediately thought it had something to do with the riot and was very much alarmed. It was so warm that I did not go out till evening.

Kate, Mama and I went to Tarrytown the weather is excessively warm. At eight it was in the house last night at eleven o'clock Cousin Oscar came over in the evening for a little while

## **OCTOBER, 1863**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of October I went down to the Station to give Mr Grinnell a letter for Doctor Peters took a little drive with Fanny. Went to Miss Barneys in the afternoon sewing for the Fair. Doctor Peter's came up Cousin Kate, Elise and Cousin Eliza called Cousin Oscar have been to-day in Never a day passes without a visitor.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Uncle went down this morning. It is a rainy day. The dressmaker came.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Miss Tweedy, ~~called~~ and Mr Sheldon called Went to the church. Laying of the corner stone Went afterwards with Mama and the Cousins, servant-hunting At last persuaded Mrs Smith to come

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> It has been raining hard all day so that I have not been out...I am now writing sitting in the little room On the corner of the sofa with the blue pillow at my back and the sofa pillow at the end. Spy is sitting just outside of the window looking at what is going on I wonder what I shall be doing next year at this hour half past three about.

Wednesday 21 I cannot recollect what I did

### **DECEMBER, 1863**

11<sup>th</sup> Friday Went down to the Pond I tried to skate. looks very much like snow. stopped at the Grinnells saw Julia's baby and Fanny Russel. Miss Barney came in.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> snowed yesterday afternoon quite hard We went this morning to dress the rooms for the Fair. Stayed there a ~~quite~~ long time. Mr Parish came up bought our bonnets up.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> fine weather we are delighted as tomorrow is the Fair. I went down to help arrange the tables.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> beautiful weather the fair took place. we all helped sell had altogether a very pleasant and satisfactory day they have made about 18 hundred dollars.



Monday 21<sup>st</sup> We (Kate and I) went to the Reynold's then to the Tweedy's We went to the Hamilton pond skated a little.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas day Cousin Julia sent us each a silk dress ... & Cousin Helen pockethandkerchief Aunt Nannie also, Cousin Oscar and Cousin Ogden 5 dollars Mr Newbold a barrel of provisions. We dined at the Grinnells and went to the Reynold's in the evening.

Wed Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> I went to Miss Reynold's about the tableaux Susie Holdrege dined. Mr Parish called invited us for New Years day We went to the Reynold's in the evening Kate was the Goddess of Liberty We had a very pleasant evening...

## 1864

### JANUARY, 1864

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1864 We went to prayers in the morning stopped at Mrs Mac Vickars. Mr Reynolds and *Bailley* called.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> We walked down to the Hamilton pond. All went *to* dine at the Cottage

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> We went down Mamma and I to try and get a dress made did not however succeed. I spend the night at Elie's Mamma at Aunt Nannie's. Kate came down on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> she is not able *to go to* the party either her dress not being fresh enough

Saturday , Went over to Cousin Eliza's Mac Vickars came to tea. Reading Nicholas Nickebley.

Monday 11 I went up to Tarrytown Sarah the dressmaker came

Tuesday 12 Went skating on the Grinnells pond.

Wednesday 13 Went skating for a little while.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> We went to the Constants my first party wore a white silk and violets and grass in my hair were invited to the *Mane's Teareney's* and Cousin Eliza Gabriel's

Friday 22 went out with Elise to pay visits

Saturday 23 We went to the Central Park with the Freeland's to skate. I did not attempt it.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> We all lunched at Delmonico with the Van Warts and *Hoge's*. We dined at the Freedland's and went with them to the Stereopticon saw views of Paris and others.

## **MARCH, 1864**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of March Snow storm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> I walked down to the Cottage and dined very hard walking on account of the snow.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sewing society. We went to reading in the evening at the Reynold's. Miss Reynolds and Mr Smith came up.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> We walked down to the Cottage church in the afternoon. In the walking is dreadfully muddy.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> We have decided to accept Mrs Blatchford's invitation and to stay there and help her sell at the Fair.

## **APRIL, 1864**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Came to the City

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> went to the Fair to Daisy's table

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> mother came down I went to the Knickerbocker kitchen *stall* ...Very prettily arranged with a Fountain in the center I was almost crushed trying to get into the children department

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Went to Mrs Allen's table from four to ten.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Went to Fair with Mother went... to Stationery table Roman also a little while in the evening

## **MAY, 1864**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> very warm A battle is being fought ~~on th~~ near the Rappahanock no Apr 30, 1863 – May 6, 1863 Jones. Julie left this morning went with Freddie Jones. very warm. We have as far as can yet be ascertained gained a victory the battle ground is Fredericksburg or somewhere in that direction. Becks called Newbolds did not get home till evening.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Cold weather battles still going on without any decisive victory.

**NOTE: Battle of the Wilderness, May 5- May 7, 1864.**

## **JUNE, 1864**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> ...Finished reading "our Old Home" by Hawthorne and began "The head of the Family by Miss Mulock.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Cloudy morning uncertainty about going to West Point we started by the 9=15 train. Mary Morgan, and her brother, Lassy Jaffrey's, Mr Phillips two Mrs Talbert's Elise, Mr Parish and Helen Bill Tweedy Daisy & Mr Thompson and us three. the weather cleared we drove first to Roe's Hotel then about the different buildings. in the afternoon we went to Cousins' dined at the Hotel rained most of the afternoon so that we did not see any parade. Came home in the Express train which Mr Grinnell got to stop.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> St Barnabas. Today was the Consecration of our new church it was full after service we had a collation it was a beautiful day...

**NOTE: St. Barnabas's Episcopal Church in Irvington, still active.**

Saturday 18 Beautiful day finished "The Scarlet letter". Went to the Pic nic up in Beckman wood Cousin Oscar's Pic nic. Beautiful day Effie Freeland came home in the carriage with us.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> ... finished "Hyperion" Longfellow. Very warm weather nights very hot.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Reading "Married ~~and~~ or Single" Miss Sedgwick's. spent the day at the Grinnell's stopped at the Parish's and Cottage.

## **JULY, 1864**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> I went to church in the afternoon funeral of the little Kemble girl a boy died two days ago. lovely afternoon.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> a letter from Kate from Saratoga. .... finished reading "Dunallan" by the *authour* of "Father Element." very warm day.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> began to put away things. Prizes given to the children of the sewing class.

Friday 22 Fine day. received 1-\$ from Cousin Ogden for my birthday on Saturday morning

23 Mrs W Elise Mr Parish took tea yesterday Johnny Morgan called in the evening finished reading "Nathalie" by Julia Kavanagh. Kate and Charlie arrived.

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Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> My 20<sup>th</sup> birthday Charlie left. Walked up to the Williams' and Morgan's.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Fine day we are longing for more rain.

## **AUGUST, 1864**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> ... I began "The days of Bruce" by Grace *Agustar*"

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Played Croquet at the Ogden's in the afternoon Severe thunder storm in the evening.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Went to the Library ...

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> ... finished "Evelina". played Croquet at the Haggerty's.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> Played Croquet with *nannie* Fanning Beck Mr Tucker and Buchanan Winthrop dined at the Haggerty's played Croquet spent the evening at the Becks played games Mr Rogers sang. Hones, Ashurst Devereux Clarks etc were there found Charlie at home

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> went to the Roblins beautiful day going to Ice Glen I went in Chandelier's Roblins wagon with Nellie Shaw Kate Julie and Charlie came together. We all met there and went through the Glen together We met a large party of about *fourty* in the Glen all the Hotel and boarding house people. I enjoyed it very much and managed to scramble quite (IW) It was a most beautiful day. The Glen itself is a passage between two Mountains *felled* with rocks many of them covered with beautiful ferns and large trees seem to grow out of the rocks themselves. We had to go through caverns the opening of which were very very small.

## **SEPTEMBER, 1864**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> I always forget that years hence should I read this journal things that I *ken* about at this time I may almost have forgotten. went to church in the afternoon. played Croquet at the ~~Becks~~ Ogden's.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> went to church finished my glove made of wash leather it is a beauty

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> church went to the Becks.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> rainy morning Mr Paine called took a very short walk. Church. took tea at the Haggerty's. reading "Christie Johnstone".

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> went out with Cousin Helen played Croquet going to dine with Cousin Helen and Pierre. drove to Stockbridge. Alice Clark Sophie *Melors* Nannie Beck Cousin Helen came in the evening. went to the Becks with the Freelands and Clem. walked up to the Ledge. Moonlight.

Saturday 24 regular walk---reading "Childe Harold" Byron. rainy afternoon

## **OCTOBER, 1864**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Nothing in particular

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> In the morning we went to Cousin Henry's rainy afternoon.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Drove to Poughkeepsie. drove with the colt in the afternoon.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> rode 5 miles. delightful! finished Minister's Wooing Mrs Stone.  
read part of Early Dawn

Monday 22 Rainy day letter from Corte and Buckman Neither of telling us of their arrival in New York. waited 2 hours and a half at Dobs ferry...I have now come to the end of this book which *look* so formidable when I began it.