

Diary of Carrie Berry, age 10, Atlanta, Georgia

October 26, 1864 - November 13, 1864

The following passages were taken from the diary of Carrie Berry, a 10- year -old resident of Atlanta, Georgia. They provide a first- hand account of war through the eyes of a child. A typed copy of the original manuscript was provided by the Atlanta History Center to Duke University

Wed. Oct. 26. I have ben ironing nearly all day to day. I ran up to Aunties a little while this evening and she told me that she was going away and I want to go too. I have ben begging Papa all of the evening.

Thurs. Oct. 27. I have ben running back and forth to Aunties all day carrying things what she gave me. She gave me so many things Mama says that I have got the house packing full of boxes but I have got all I will get for Auntie is the last one that is left.

Fri. Oct. 28. Auntie left us this morning at eight o'clock. We all feel so sad to think that we are left alone. I don't know what I will do for some place to run to when I get lonesome.

Sat. Oct. 29. We all have felt very lonely to day. I went down to see Ella this evening and came by to see Aunt Marthy. She looks very lonely since Auntie has gone.

Sun. Oct. 30. I have ben over to Julia Lowry this evening. They are all ready to move and it looks like every body is going to leave here from the way the soldiers are moving about. Our sargent left us this morning. We all were sorry to part with him. He has ben a very good friend to us.

Mon. Oct. 31. All of the soldiers have left from behind the garden and all ,but every thing seems so quiet. Ella came up this evening and spent the evening with me.

Tues. Nov. 1. I have ben sewing on Sisters apron while Mama made me a pare of shoes and I have ben up to Aunt Marthy once or twice.

Wed. Nov. 2. It has ben a cold and rainy day. I have ben sewing to day and studying some too. Papa has made my shoes and they are very nice.

Thurs. Nov. 3. I ironed some this morning and sewed some this evening. Me and Zuie went up to see Aunt Marthy.

Fri. Nov. 4. Nothing of interest has happened to day. It is the repote that the federals are going to have to leave Atlanta and we are afraid that we will have to leave too.

Sat. Nov. 5. I have hemmed Sister an apron and skirt. Mama has ben buisy drying up some tallow and I had to stay in the house.

Sun Nov. 6. Cold and cloudy day. Mama sent me around to Mrs. Lesters this morning to see if she was going away and she said she was going to stick tite to her house.

Mon Nov. 7. Every boddie seems to be in confusion. The black wimmen are running around trying to get up north for fear that the Rebels will come in and take them.

Tues. Nov. 8. This is Zuie's birthday and she has be very smart. We lost our last hog this morning early. Soldiers took him out of the pen. Me and Buddie went around to hunt for him and every where that we inquired they would say that they saw two soldiers driving off to kill him. We will have to live on bread.

Wed. Nov. 9. Aunt Marthy got fritened last night and began to pack to leave and we have ben bringing thing home that she gave us.

Thurs. Nov. 10. Me and silvie ironed to day and we were done by twelve o'clock and I hemmed Sister and apron in the afternoon. Aunt Marthy did not get off to day and we hope that she will stay.

Fri. Nov. 11. This is the last day that cars are going out to Chattanooga. We are erbliged to stay here now. Aunt Marthy went down to the carshed and I expect that she got off as she has not ben back.

Sat. Nov. 12. We were fritened almost to death last night. Some mean soldiers set several houses on fire in different parts of the town. I could not go to sleep for fear that they would set our house on fire. We all dred the next few days to come for they said that they would set the last house on fire if they had to leave this place.

Sun. Nov. 13. The federal soldiers have ben coming to day and burning houses and I have ben looking at them come in nearly all day.