

1878

R. Jenkins - Oliver

Edited by Jo Ellen Chisholm

1878 is based on the life of Henry Forest who lived during the late 1800's til the mid 1900's.

The book is written in a mixture of Geechee and Gullah dialect which is still spoken in the area today and almost entirely in dialogue. The book has a word translator located in the back of the book to make the stories reader friendly.

Early one summer morning, Caroline was awakened by labor pain. She turned over and shook her husband.

"John, it's time, go get Ms. Maggie". John got out of bed, and put on his shirt and overall.

"Richard get out of bed."

"What's wrong papa?"

"Go get Aunt Mary, your mama bout to have the baby. Hurry!"

John went to the barn, hitched up his mule Bessie to the wagon, to begin the two mile ride to Ms. Maggie's house. Just as John started out of the barn it began to rain. Meanwhile, Richard ran next door to get Aunt Mary.

"Aunt Mary! Aunt Mary, open the door." Richard called out while he knocked on the door. Aunt Mary's husband Ed opened the door, squinting his eyes like someone awakened from a sound sleep.

"Richard, catch your breath, and tell me what the matter."

"Mama bout to have the baby!"

"Mary!"

"I'm coming Ed!"

"Come on Richard, let's go and see bout your mama." Aunt Mary hustled out the door.

"Richard help you brothers get dress, and y'all chilluns go to the front room." Aunt Mary entered the house and immediately began taking charge.

"Yes Ma'am!"

When Mary went into Caroline's bedroom, she was rolling from side to side in pain.

"Mary, John ain't back yet?"

"Not yet!"

"I is going in the kitchen, and cook breakfast. I'll come back and check on you in a little while."

"Ok!"

Coming out from the bedroom, Aunt Mary heard the chilluns in the front room crying, "y'all stop crying your mama gonna be alright. Richard, go out to the back porch, and get some wood so I can start a fire."

"Yes Ma'am!"

After riding for thirty minutes in the pouring rain John arrived at Ms. Maggie house. He jumped down from the wagon and knocked on Ms. Maggie's door. "Who dat?"

"Ms. Maggie it's John, Caroline's husband."

Ms. Maggie opened the door wide, "come in out the rain."

"Ms. Maggie I come to get you. My wife Caroline is bout to have the baby."

"Let me get my bag an parasol."

The ride back took longer than the usual thirty minutes over the muddy and slippery road. John took out his whip and hit Bessie once. "Faster Bessie, faster!" When John and Ms. Maggie reached the house they could hear Caroline crying out in pain.

"John get me some newspapers an put a kettle of water on the stove."

"Yes Ma'am!"

John went into the kitchen where Mary, and the children were having breakfast. "Good morning Mary!"

"Morning."

"I got some water on the stove boiling."

"Ok, I'll go and get the newspapers."

"You want me fix you some breakfast?"

"Yes! Thank you."

"Chilluns, y'all go to the front room, I'll be there shortly."

"Yes Suh!"

After eight hours of intense labor, Caroline gave birth to a baby boy.

"Caroline, you got a boy."

"I wuz hoping for a girl."

"Maybe next time you'll have a girl."

Ms. Maggie came into the front room where John, Mary, and the children were sitting.

"John, you and Caroline got a fine baby boy. You chilluns got a little brother."

"Ms. Maggie can we see Caroline now?"

"Sure, y'all go on in." The two older boys were smiling when they saw their little brother. Isaiah the youngest brother was tearful.

"Come yeh Isaiah don't cry, you still my knee baby."

"Chilluns y'all go back to the front room so your mama can get some rest."

"John, what we gonna name this one?"

"We'll name him Henry." Aunt Mary was standing in the doorway holding the family Bible. She handed Ms. Maggie the Bible so she could write Henry's name and birthday in it.

"Caroline, I gonna take Ms. Maggie home. The rain done stop."

"I'll stay with the chilluns til you come back."

"Thank you Mary!"

"Mary!"

"Come on in Ed."

"Caroline done had the baby yet?"

"Yeah she got a boy. They is sleeping now. John went to take Ms. Maggie home. I be home soon as he come back."

"Take your time, I done cook supper."

John, Caroline, Ed, Mary and their children all live on a five acre farm. John and Caroline live in a three room house with a small front porch and a back porch with a closed in kitchen. Ed and Mary lived in a small two room house with large front porch

and a back porch with a closed in kitchen. Ed and Mary owned both houses and the property.

John and his brother-in-law Ed worked the five acre farm together.

The next morning at dawn there was a knock on John's front door.

"Who dat?"

"John it's Ed!"

"Come on in Ed, I'll be ready in a few minutes."

"How Caroline doing?"

"Ok."

"Mary said she'll come over early to cook breakfast."

"Richard, get up son, so you can help me and Ed in the field today. I'll start a fire in the stove before we go out to the field."

"Good morning Caroline, how you and my handsome nephew doing this morning?"

"Morning, Mary, we is doing ok, but I notice Henry goter a knot on his forehead."

"Oh my goodness Caroline, you done mark that boy at a hickory knot."

"I couldn't get enough of em when I wuz carrying him."

"Don't worry, he'll out grow it. Beside, papa had a funny looking head. How bout flap jack, fried eggs and bacon for breakfast?"

"That sounds good Mary. I think we is out of milk, John will get some when he go to town today. After I nurse the baby, I'll get William and Isaiah up for breakfast."

Mary left Caroline in the bedroom and went to the kitchen.

"Caroline, breakfast is ready. I go out and call Ed, John and Richard."

"Mary, thank you for fixing us breakfast."

"You is welcome John."

"We's going back to the field to finish load the wagon."

"Mama, can we go out to play?"

"Y'all stay in the yard."

"Yes ma'am!"

"Mary, I'll help you clear the table."

"I got it, you go and rest."

"Caroline! I see nosy Ms. Agnes coming up the road." Ms. Agnes is Pastor Reed's sister who is always in everybody's business.

Knock, knock! "Caline!"

"Come on in Ms. Agnes."

"Good morning. How y'all doing?"

"We's doing ok! How you Ms. Agnes?"

"I'm burning up, its hot out yeh today."

"I get you a glass of water."

"Ok, thank you Mary!"

"Caline, I hear that you and John done had another boy."

"Yes ma'am, I wuz hoping for a girl."

"Maybe you'll have a girl next time."

"You want see the baby?"

"I got plenty of time to see him, let em sleep."

"What y'all named em?"

"Henry!"

"That's a nice name!"

"Ms. Agnes, I got your water."

"Thank you, Mary!"

"When I wuz in Fred's the other day, I overheard Ms. Ann tell a customer that Mr. Allen done left his wife for a young gal. Ain't that a shame, after she had all them chilluns for him."

"Yes, ma'am, that surely is."

"I also overhear Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney telling Pastor Reed that their teenage daughter Adeline, done got knock up for a married man."

"Who?"

"I don't know. When they seen me they stop talking. Did y'all known that brother Jones taken sick two days ago?"

"No!"

"Caroline, do us need anything else beside milk and ice for the ice box?"

"Oh, good evening Ms. Agnes I didn't know you wuz yeh."

"Good evening!"

"We could use some more butter and kerosene."

"How you doing Ms. Agnes?"

"I is fair to midland."

"Mary, do us need anything?"

"We could use some more rice, flour, milk and ice."

"I'll get some cookies and candy for the chilluns. We gonna take Richard along with us."

"John can I get a ride back to the house?"

"Oh sure Ms. Agnes."

"I'll come by on Saturday to help Mary with the washing."

"Ok!"

John and Caroline welcomed another child. A baby boy who they have named David. The older boys are all attending school at the community church where the family worship regularly. After school, Richard and William help their father and uncle in the field. Isaiah and Henry play together, however, Henry has a short temper.

Pastor Reed stopped by John and Caroline's home on Saturday morning.

"Come on in Pastor Reed."

"Good morning brother John! How are you and your family doing?"

"We is all doing fine. I wuz out in the field with Ed and the boys! We is bout to go into town. Come on Pastor I'll show you what we done plant this year. Pastor we is worry this year because we ain't had enough rain for the crops to grow. All of the farmers in Georgia is worried because we ain't had much rain this summer. I don't know what we is going to do. We got plenty of vegetables and fruit canned, but not enough to carry us until next summer. The hens ain't laying as many eggs as they wuz last year this time. The only way we makes a living is by farming."

"John that is the reason for my visit today! I'm planning a meeting after church services on Sunday, and I want to know if you and your family are planning to attend."

"Pastor we is all planning to come. Ed and Mary said that they wuz coming."

"Good, I see all of y'all tomorrow."

"We is asking that all of the church members to stay after church service today for a community meeting. We want the chilluns to go outside during the meeting. As you all know we usually have two picnics and our yearly church anniversary each summer. The farmers that usually give food for our festivities will not be able to accommodate us this year because of the drought. I'm proposing that we cancel the picnics and the summer school class for the children this summer. We will use some of the money from the treasury to help buy food for the church anniversary in July. Is there anyone who opposes this suggestion? Ok, I will see y'all next Sunday."

The next day, John, Caroline and their children all went next door to visit Ed and Mary.

"Y'all come on in."

"Hey Uncle Ed and Aunt Mary."

"Hello boys! I got some sweet bread I jus baked."

"Thank you aunt Mary!"

"Y'all welcome."

"Y'all chilluns go out- side and play."

"Ed, tomorrow we will pump water, and carry it to the field. Maybe we can save some of our crops."

"Mary I'll come over after breakfast so we can work on our quilts."

"I got some extra material Aunt Bessie give me."

"Ok!"

"Can y'all stay for supper? We is got plenty cook. I don't want it to spoil."

"We'll be glad too!"

"Good morning Ed. After we water the crop, I plan to take the boys fishing. Would you care to go?"

"I got three fishing poles I can bring so we'll have enough."

"Ok!"

"William get the hoe and a bucket and go out yonder near the pump and dig up some baits."

"I wanter help!"

"No Isaiah, you stay here, and pump the water for us."

"Ok papa!"

"Maybe the next time Caroline and Mary will go. We can take some food, and stay all day."

"Caroline since we got all of that material, we can make some quilts to sell."

"That a good idea!"

"Why is them chickens making all that noise?"

"I don't know!"

"Lemmie me go see!"

"Caroline! A snake in my hen house!"

"I'll go and call John and Ed."

"Mary got a snake in her hen house!"

"Hurry!"

"Mary, whey he at?"

"Over yonder behind that pole!"

"I don't see nuthin over yeh. I see him now! Boys y'all stay outside the gate. When you kill a snake always stand in front of it because it can jump back on you."

"That's right!"

"We bout to go to the pond to fish, we'll be back by supper."

"Come on, Henry, you stay with me and Aunt Mary."

"No, I wanter go!"

"Stop that crying fore you get a spanking. Did you hear me?"

"Henry, do what you mama say!"

"Hello! Anybody home? Mary, Ed!"

"Papa, is that you?"

"Yeah me and your Mama come to visit."

"Y'all come on in! I'll is glad to see y'all."

"We stopped by John and Caroline, nobody wuz home."

"Caroline and two of her chilluns is over yeh."

"Caroline, y'all come out yeh; I got a surprise for you."

"Papa and Mama I'll is glad to see y'all."

"Caroline who them those two handsome boys?"

"This Henry my knee baby, and this David."

"Hello Henry give grandpa and grandma a big kiss. Hey Henry you favor me, and I think David favor John."

"We didn't know that you and papa wuz coming. John, Ed and the boy gone fishing. Me and Caroline wuz working on our quilts! Y'all sit down. I make us some sweeten water."

"Thank you, Mary, we can use something cool to drink. You and Ed ain't had no luck yet?"

"No! I don't think we is going to have any chilluns, but we help John and Caroline with the boys. Y'all can stay yeh with me and Ed."

"Ok!"

"I thought this one would be a girl, but John and Ed will have plenty of help on the farm."

"Yeah!"

"They surely will."

"We'll be staying a few days. Your mama and me been feeling poorly lately."

"What wrong?"

"Just old age, neither one of us is spring chickens."

"Well I is going to the house Mary, I goter cook supper."

"Ok Caroline we'll come over tomorrow."

"I'll fix breakfast for all of us."

"Caroline can Henry stay a little while? We like to get to know him. I'll walk him back home before supper."

"Ok papa!"

"Be good Henry!"

"We is back."

"Did y'all catch anything?"

"Me and the boys catch a few catfish, and Ed catch a few shads. The fish ain't biting much today. The next time I think we'll go down to the Ogeechee River and try our hand. We'll take two wagons so you and Mary can go too. Whey is Henry? I don't see him!"

"Oh he still at Mary house! Papa and mama is yeh visiting."

"Ok! We is going to clean these fish for supper. Boys, y'all go over to Uncle Ed house and say hello to your grand papa and grand mama."

"Ok papa!"

"Hey Papa Ben and Mama Ann, me and Mary did'n know y'all wuz coming."

"We just decided yistdiddy."

"Well we is glad y'all came. I'm is going out back, and clean these few fish for supper."

"What kind did you catch?"

"Shad!"

"Them some good eating fish!"

"Yes suh!"

"Hey grandpapa, grand mama!"

"Oh my goodness look at you boys, y'all sure done grown up. Oh yeah I almost forgot. I brought a peppermint stick for each of y'all."

"Henry stop pushing me!"

"I got one for you too. Henry, stop fighting your brother."

"That little Henry is going to be like me, he ain't going to take no mess."

"Ben, stop encouraging that boys to fight."

"Y'all boys go sit on the porch and eat your candy."

"Be a good boy Henry!"

"Yes ma'am."

"Ed I'll go out back with you."

"Ok!"

"My grandson Henry is going to be something else."

"Yeah, he don't back down, he give his brothers fits."

"Ed, how things going on the farm."

"Papa Ben we is having a bad year. We been carrying buckets of water to the field, but I think we will lose over haf of our crop. Everything been so dry this year. We had to cut back on the food for the hogs and the chicken. We been hunting or fishing every other day. We got plenty of rice, grits, and meat. Of course money is tight. We been going to bed at dusk to help stretch out the kerosene."

"We brought a box of candles for each of y'all."

"We is grateful, and I know John and Caroline can use em. The only time the boys get to read is at night."

"Mary them some beautiful quilts you and Caroline is making."

"We gonna take them to the market and sell em."

"I help y'all with the sewing while I is here."

"That ok mama you can sit and talk to us while we sew."

"I ain't blind yet I can still see well enough to sew. Oh yeah! I got some moonshine to make some medicine for the chilluns. I also got some cough medicine that I made."

"Let me see it! Good gravy that smell like kerosene!"

"That's right I got 10 drops of kerosene in it, and a tablespoon of salt and sugar. A pinch of this will cure a cough in a minute."

"Mama, ain't kerosene poison?"

"A little bit ain't never kill nobody. You member when Caroline had that whooping cough."

"Yeah!"

"I give Caroline a pinch of this cough medicine for two days, and she ain't had a cough since."

"Why you got the bottle of moonshine wrapped up in that blouse?"

"I goter hide it from your father."

"Why?"

"I thought papa stop drinking."

"Every once in a while he get a taste for it. Then he get the devil in him. One night while wuz sleeping, I hear somebody outside singing. I see the moon, the moon, the moon. So when I turned over to call Ben, I ain't seen em. I got out bed as cold as it wuz and went out on the front porch. Da sit your father on the front step in his long johns, high is a Georgia pine."

"My word!"

"Let me go the kitchen and fix this up before your father and Ed come back in. Mary get me a garlic, I got some acid Federica. Hide these under the bed. I take them to Caroline in the morning."

"Ed don't drink anymore."

"No!"

"Ed ain't drink since he become a deacon in the church."

"That's good!"

"Ann, me and Ed hear y'all in yeh laughing. What so funny?"

"Oh, I wuz jus telling Mary bout a funny story."

"It must be a funny one, cause we hear y'all way out yonder laughing."

"It wuz a good one papa!"

"Must be bout me then!"

"Mary, yeh the fish for supper!"

"We'll have supper ready in a little while."

"Ok!"

"Me and Ben going to sit on the front porch, and shoot the breeze!"

"The mosquitoes is bout to eat me up."

"Me too!"

"I is going to get some straw and make a smoke for them mosquitoes."

"Dat a good idea!"

"Hey, Ed, you got any white lighting?"

"No man, I don't fool with that stuff no more. I is a deacon now."

"I didn't know that! I drink a little taste every once in a while to keep my mind together."

"Supper ready!"

"Ok!"

"We is coming."

"This some good eating! Y'all sure put your feet in this."

"What you say!"

"Anybody want more?"

"I take a few of these fish over to Caroline in the morning for breakfast."

"Fish, grits and gravy, what you talking bout."

"Ann, Ed tell me he is a deacon in the church now."

"Mary told me."

"I got a smoke going out front for the mosquitoes."

"Hey Ed, the field in front of your house done catch on fire."

"You kidding!"

"Get some buckets from the barn. Hurry boys. We goter put out this fire fore it get away. The wind done pick up! We gonna need some more help. Richard go hitch up Lula belle and go tell brother Jones and his boys we need help. Then go over to Ms. Agnes and ask her to pass the word."

"Yes suh!"

"Keep them buckets coming."

"I wonder how that fire started."

"Ed made a smoke for the mosquitoes, and while he and Ben went into the house to eat supper, the wind pick up, and blow a spark over in the field. Everything is so dry, even the ground is cracking from the heat."

"We got a wagon full of help coming now, if we get some more help we can start a line."

"We sure glad to see y'all."

"The wood probably need to be burn, to get rid of the snakes."

"We sure thank all of y'all for helping us put out this fire before it burn down the house."

"That what neighbors is for!"

"We'll see y'all in church on Sunday."

"Papa Ben you alright?"

"I is little short winded from the smoke. I'll go lay down."

"Let me get you some water papa."

"Thank you, baby girl!"

"Don't worry Ben will be alright in a minute."

"Ok we see y'all for breakfast in the morning. We done had a lot of excitement for one day."

"Good morning!"

"Y'all come on in. John just start a fire in the stove."

"Caroline, I brought some leftover fish from yesterday."

"Thanks Mary."

"Caroline, me and Mary will help you cook breakfast."

"Ok Mama!"

"Good morning boys!"

"Good morning!"

"Ed, me and the boys is going out to water the field before breakfast."

"I come and help y'all."

"We got it papa Ben!"

"Well I can help pumped the water."

Knock! Knock! "Brother John and sister Caroline, its Pastor Reed."

"Good morning Pastor, we is in the kitchen. Come on back."

"Good morning Mary, and who is this fine young lady?"

"Pastor you remember my mama Ann and my papa Ben."

"Oh yeah!"

"They is here to visit us." "It's nice to see you again sister Ann. It has been a while."

"It surely has now."

"John, Ed, papa, and my boys is outside watering the field. Have a seat."

"I came by to see how everyone is doing."

"My sister tell me y'all had a big fire in the field yesterday."

"Yeah we can see clear to the road now."

"I notice that when I was coming up the road."

"Good morning Pastor Reed."

"How y'all doing? I heard y'all had some excitement here yesterday."

"Oh I almost forgot! Pastor, you remember our father-in-law Ben."

"Yes! It nice to see you again!"

"Y'all boys done watering the crop?"

"Pastor, join us for breakfast."

"I don't mine if I do."

"I sure enjoyed that."

"You welcome."

"I hope to see everybody in church Sunday. I'll be going now."

"Ok Pastor!"

"Boys, y'all come in and wash up for breakfast."

"Ok papa!"

"Isaiah how come you wet up?"

"Henry chunk water on me."

"Ha Ha!"

"That ain't funny, Henry! Go put on some dry clothes."

"I hope he don't catch a cold."

"He be alright."

"I got some medicine in my bag, yeh put this up until you need it."

"Thank you, mama!"

"John wuz going to take the boys hunting today."

"I think they is tucker out from yistdiddy."

"Yeah!"

"Gather around, boys, I wanter tell y'all a story. Henry come over yeh and sit on grand papa lap."

"My papa uncle wuz working on a farm in Carolina. He had been out yonder working that field all day long with sweat pouring of his face. So he sit down to rest in a

peas patch. His boss told him 'boy I ain't paying you to sit.' Uncle Frank told him, I know, boss, but I is so tied and hot.

Boy, who you think you is talking back to. Some of the crackers working nearby overheard them talking. The other colored men working in the field jus hang their head, and kept working. It wuz a burner that day. Much like this day! Anyway the next day, Uncle Frank didn't show up for work. The boss man ax, "where that old lazy boy today?"

"We don't know, boss we ain't seen em since yistdiddy."

"We wuz all worried cause we ain't seen em for two days. Cousin Sol wuz out coon hunting with his dog two miles from the farm. The dog wuz behind some bushes this a barking and carrying on. When cousin Sol went a little closer to see what all commotion wuz bout, he seen his papa hanging in a oak tree with flies all over his body. He almost drop dead. He ran back to house hollowing and screaming."

"Mama, I found papa, he hanging in a tree."

"His mama fell on the floor. The word spread, and the sheriff and his deputy came to the site. The sheriff ax when wuz the last time anybody seen em."

"We seen em two days ago when he went to the farm to work. They never found out who beat him to death, and hang him in that tree. Lincoln freed the slaves, but we still ain't free. We still goter do what the white man say."

"I think we can all use something cool to drink."

"I'll go to the kitchen and make some sugar water."

"Caroline, I go and help you."

"Ok Mary!"

"We'll be back in a little while."

"Boys, y'all can go under the oak tree and play."

"Ok Papa!"

"Papa Ben I is glad you told the boys that story bout they great uncle."

"I don't wanter see nuthin happen to them boys."

"Me neither!"

"They got to learn how to get along in the world."

"Maybe one day, things will change."

"Maybe!"

"I got a watermelon out in the barn. I'll go get it so we can cut it."

"I ain't had a good melon this year."

"Me and Ed grow some good melons. They smaller than usual cause we ain't had much rain this year."

"John, you and Ed grow the best melon in all of Georgia. This melon sweet as sugar!"

"It surely is now."

"Well we all going back to house so we can get ready for church tomorrow."

"Ok Ed. We'll see y'all tomorrow."

"There ain't no wind blowing today, the lightning bugs is out, and frogs is crowing for rain. Even the honeysuckles and the wild flowers is leaning over. The grass ain't been brown in years. The ground is so hot and dry you can fry a egg on it."

"That the truth!"

"Church service will be short today due to the weather. I like to take this time to welcome brother Ben and sister Ann to our church service. Please raise, we will adjourn after the choir sing Narrow my God to Thee."

"Cousin Ada, I ain't seen you in a long time."

"Ann I didn't know you wuz here."

"Me and Ben is yeh visiting for a few days."

"Ada is that you?"

"I ain't seen you in a month of Sundays."

"Ben, it sure is good to see y'all. I would like to invite all of y'all for supper."

"Ok!"

"I see if John, Caroline, Ed, Mary and they chilluns can come too! I know that Amos want see all of y'all."

"Thank you for having all of us for supper."

"We is glad to have y'all."

"Amos, you sure missed a good service today. Pastor Reed preached today."

"What message did pastor Reed preach today?"

"Love thy neighbor as thyself."

"Y'all come on in. I bring the whole family for supper. Look who else wuz there."

"Ben and Ann, how long y'all been here?"

"We come a couple of days ago."

"Well, it sure is good To see y'all."

"Ed I hear from Ms. Agnes y'all had some excitement over da the other day."

"Yeah, we had a field fire."

"I wasn't able to come; I had a bad cold. I had a little fever this morning, that why I ain't come to church, but I is felling better."

"We enjoyed supper."

"Let go out and sit on the porch. We can catch up on what been going on."

"Y'all remember our daughter, Martha. She got a real good job cooking for a family in Carolina."

"Oh my goodness, look who coming up the road. I wonder what that nosy old hag want."

"Amos, be quiet, she'll hear you."

"I don't care!"

"Good evening, everybody!"

"Good evening Ms. Agnes."

"I saw y'all coming over here, so I thought brother Amos muster took a turn."

"I wuz feeling poorly, but I is feeling better now."

"Good!"

"Would you care for some supper?"

"No, thank you, but I could use a cool drink."

"I get you some sweet water."

"Thank you, sister Ada!"

"Ms. Agnes, this is Ben and Ann, me and Mary mama and papa."

"Please to make y'all quaintance."

"Ms. Agnes is Pastor Reed sister."

"I know y'all chilluns is glad to see your grandparents."

"Yes, ma'am, we sure is."

"Ok, y'all chilluns go play."

"Can we go over to Jimmy house for a little while?"

"Ok, don't stay long; we'll be going in a little while."

"Henry, you stay here with us."

"Stop crying; you too little to go. Come on Henry, grandpapa will push you in the swing. Ain't this fun?"

"We got plenty of peaches this year. When the chilluns come back maybe they can go out back and pick up some for y'all to take home."

"I is going back to the house."

"Ok, thank you for coming by Ms. Agnes."

"Don't mention it."

"I go and call the chilluns; we better be going too."

"Richard, William, Isaiah, y'all come on. We bout to go."

"All of y'all go get a bucket so we can pick up some peaches fore we go home."

"John, I got some water to water the mules."

"Ok, Ed."

"I'll help you take it round back."

"That's ok brother, Amos. It's hot out yeh. Save your strength."

"Our trees ain't bearing well this year. I'll send my boys over yeh one day next week to help y'all pick up peaches."

"Thank you Caroline, me and Amos sure do preciate it."

"We'll see y'all at church."

"Ben and Ann we'll see y'all next time."

"Ok!"

"Bye!"

"Ed, can me and Ben catch a ride to the train depot when you and John go to town."

"We is going tomorrow to take what's we can to the town market."

"Caroline, I'll kill a chicken to fry for em to take on the train."

"Ok, I fix some corn bread for em to take."

"We can all ride to town tomorrow."

"Ok, me and Caroline can take two quilts to sell."

"Good morning, Mr. Allen, me and Ed don't got much to sell today. We ain't had much rain."

"The cotton farmers ain't had much cotton to sell."

"Me and Ed been thinking bout planting some cotton next year."

"Y'all will have plenty of help. Them boys of your is getting big."

"Yes, suh, they sure is."

"Your total for the crops comes to two dollars."

"Thank you Mr. Allen!"

"Y'all need anything today?"

"We don't got enough money to buy everything we needs."

"Y'all always do right by me, so y'all can pay me fifty cent and charge the rest."

"What you mean, Mr. Allen?"

"The next time y'all bring me some crops, y'all can pay me what you owe."

"Ok!"

"We sure do thank you."

"Can I help y'all girls with anything?"

"Ms. Ann, me and Caroline got two quilts to sell."

"These is pretty. I can buy them for a dollar a piece."

"Yes ma'am that a be fine." "Y'all need any more material?"

"No, ma'am, we is got plenty."

"Well, if y'all wanter sell some more quilts, bring in for me to see."

"Thank you ma'am!"

"Look we sell them two quilts for two dollars."

"That's good!"

"Her say bring in our quilts for her to look at. John, can you and Ed bring em when y'all come back to town?"

"We'll be glad too!"

"Sure will!"

"We'll go to the train depot now. I don't want y'all to missed the train."

"Boys, don't y'all play on that train track; y'all might get run over."

"Ok papa!"

"We sure glad y'all come to visit us."

"We had a good time."

"We got a little money if y'all need some."

"No, we is ok!"

"Besides y'all gonna need that money."

"I gonna put the wagon under them oaks tree til we see the train coming. Boys y'all better come out of the sun before y'all get a heat stoke."

Choo choo! "Yeh come the train now!"

"Come over yeh, boys, and give grandpapa and grandmamma a kiss."

"Mama yeh is a lunch bag me and Caroline fix for y'all."

"Thank y'all."

"Maybe one day before we died, y'all a get chance to come visit us."

"We hope so."

"Boys, y'all be good and do what you papa and mama tell you. Bye!"

"Have a good trip. I hope y'all get home fore supper."

"It took us four hours to get yeh."

"Four hours?"

"Yeah this train stop at every cotton field and pick up people all long the train track."

"Oh Ben, stop!"

"Dat the truth!"

"It jus fifteen miles from Millen to Rocky Ford, but it will take us all day to get home."

"Good evening, brother Jones!"

"How y'all doing today?"

"We is all doing fine."

"Two of my boys is going to Rocky Ford on the train. They is going to work on the saw mill til farming pick up. Since everything been so dry, farming been slack."

"I hear from my father-law, they got plenty of work."

"That good!"

"Then my boys might stay, but I still got four more boys at home to help me farm."

"John and me been thinking about that cotton gin."

"They ain't hiring; things a little slow da."

"Well, we is going back to the house."

"Papa, I can work at the saw mill?"

"Richard, you still got two years before you'll be old enough to go. Beside me and Ed need you to help us out."

1878.

Copyright 2009 by R. Jenkins Oliver.

All Rights Reserved.

This book may not be reproduced, transmitted, or stored in whole or in part by any means, including graphic, electronic, or mechanical without the express written consent of the publisher except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

Published by:

Seaburn

PO Box 2085

Astoria NY 11102

<http://www.seaburn.com>

ISBN: 1-59232-232-8

Printed in the United States of America

Words Reference for 1878

Area Dialect	English
Ah	I
Almond neck	Almanac
Armma	I'm
Asma	Asthma
Ax	Ask
Bout	About
Cain't	Can't
Chewing the rag	Talking
Chile	Child
Chilluns	Children
Cluding	Including
Coon	Raccoon
Coop	Coob
Coota	Turtle
Couldner	Could not
Crumb snatcher	Child
Cuse	Accuse
Da	There
Dangous	Dangerous
Dat	That
Discieving	This evening
Dusk dark	Sun down
Fixin	Ready
Fore	Before
Gainst	Against
Gittin	Getting
Goter ,Gotta	Got to
Hadner	Had not
Haf	Have
Hairy caine	Hurricane
In the family way	pregnant
Jus	Just
Juster	Just
Kin folks	Family
Lemmie	Let me
Cuba	Illegal gambling
Mighter	Might have
Mittee	Committee
Mout	Mouth
Muster	Must have
Nuthin	Nothing
Oursel	Ourselves
Pecting	Expecting

Preciate	Appreciate
Purumonia	Pneumonia
Quaintance	Acquaintance
Roomertism, Arthruitis	Arthritis
Shoot the breeze	Talk
Short winded	Short of breath
Suppen	Something
Take Down	Give Birth
Til	Until
Token	Death, ghost, spirit
Took a turn	Got worse
Tween	Between
Whey	Where
Woulder	Would have
Wouldner	Would not
Wuz	Was
Yeh	here
Yisdiddy	Yesterday
Yonder	Here