



de Stolfe Journal



12.4 : EARLY SUMMER 2023



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Covers activities from May through July 2023.

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ON THE COVER



If this image on the cover looks vaguely familiar, it is because this graphic is the background image, also called wallpaper, as well as the lock screen image, on Mac computers. Specifically, it is a dynamic wallpaper that changes light patterns and colors throughout the day. This one is called "The Beach". Take a look on the last page to see the same view at other times of the day and night.



This bunny made an appearance at Dad's house on July 4, 2023.

We live in the 21st century, not the 1920s! Wherever there is a web link like below, click it to go to the webpage it references! (Click it now!)

www.destolfe.com



COMMENTS BY RG

Hello All and Happy Summer!

This summer has certainly shown itself as hotter than most average summers, particularly in those areas not typically this hot in the summer. Some areas like where I live can regularly get this hot, not every summer but most summers. We are fortunate here to also have typically lower humidity levels that make the heat “tolerable” as compared to 85° with very high humidity! So stay cool and drink lots of water!

This issue of the journal is sort of a hybrid of a regular journal with varied features and of a travel report. With the travel report, I had two places I went for work, a day trip to Midland for the Fourth of July and a week long trip to Tampa, Florida. Of course, the week long trip to Tampa has a report that is much longer and so I have had to make this issue just a little longer to include it.

Another main feature in this issue is a report about the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg that happened in early July 1863. I include excerpts of an eye witness account of what happened through a small diary of sorts written by Sarah Middleton “Sallie” Robbins Broadhead titled *The Diary Of A Lady Of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, From June 15 To July 15, 1863*. This

fascinating little book provides direct insight into the horrors of that battle during the Civil War and what she personally did and saw over that month from mid June through mid July. I definitely recommend looking over that section of this journal!

In mid July of this year, I had a birthday turning 51. The day itself was trumped by the first day of the drive to Tampa for work and so did not really get to do anything out of the ordinary for my birthday. But it was generally a good day overall.

This issue returns some features like Random Things, Garden Roundup, and Culinary Quests at least to round out the journal with some other things besides large topics to give more interest.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer even though school either has started or is starting shortly.

Keep cool and drink lots of water!

RG



The morning of my birthday, I had enough time to stop at Dutch Brothers to get my free birthday coffee. This is what I got.

WORD FOR LIFE

Revelation Topics—Twelve Gates Named For The Twelve Tribes

For the Revelation topic in this issue of the journal, we jump to near the end of the book of Revelation to chapter 21. In this chapter, the Word talks about the new Jerusalem after the current world flees God's presence and the entire world is made new (Revelation 20:11, Revelation 21:1, 4, 5). To be clear, God had to destroy this current decrepit, sin ridden world in order to bring forth His perfect, clean world. An angel then came to John to say "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife" (Revelation 21:9). The bride is the new holy Jerusalem "descending out of heaven from God" (21:10). This chapter goes on to describe the holy city. In part, the description shows that the city had "a great and high wall with twelve gates" (21:12) with "names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west" (21:12-13). While the Word does not seem to reveal how the gates are arranged on each wall, knowing that God is a God of order*, we could presume that the three gates on each of the four walls are evenly spaced. Also, the Word states that "the twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl" (21:21) along with the "gates shall not be shut at all

by day (there shall be no night there)" (21:25). For this writing, let us note that the names of the gates are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

In the last issue about Are The Jews Saved, I mentioned the twelve tribes of Jews who were sealed. These names were: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin (Revelation 7:4-8). We have some assumption that these are the names that will be on the twelve gates of the new Jerusalem. However, we do not know which names are on which gates, but we know that all twelve gates, each being made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:21), will be open and will stay open (21:25). Now just for fun, let us take a look at the gates of old Jerusalem, the city as it exists today.

Jerusalem as a city has existed for thousands of years going back to the time of Abram when it was originally called Salem. However, one cannot expect a city of this age to stay exactly the same over all those years! Even up to the present, the original part of the city changed much and likewise so has its gates. Some gates were sealed and are still sealed, while some of those sealed gates were reopened. I could not find any information of any new gates punched through the

old walls. The total number of gates in the walls of Jerusalem is rather confusing, but here is what I found. Gates that are currently open and in use include Damascus Gate, Herod's Gate, Lions' Gate, Dung Gate, Zion Gate, Jaffa Gate, and New Gate. Gates that existed and were sealed include Golden Gate, Single Gate, Triple Gate (Eastern Huldah Gate), and Double Gate (Western Huldah Gate).

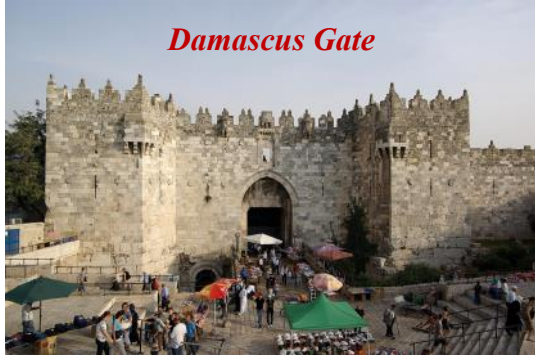
In searching for information, I came across one statement on Wikipedia that stated, "A smaller entrance, popularly known as the Tanners' Gate, has been opened for visitors after being discovered and unsealed during excavations in the 1990s". While this statement has no citation, I did find a source on my own stating, "Tanners' Gate is located in the Old City's southern wall, near the Dung Gate. It is the second oldest entrance into the Old City, a pedestrian gate probably built in the 12th Century [1100s] by the Crusaders near a cattle market (hence the name). Suleiman the [Magnificent] filled in Tanners' Gate when he built the present-day Old City walls, gates, and towers. The gate was discovered during post-1967 archeological investigations, partially reconstructed and interpreted as part of the Beth Shalom Garden. It was studied further during excavations along the Old City walls in 1995."

Jerusalem was destroyed twice in its history, first by the Babylonians during the Exile of the Jews and later by the Romans in 70 AD. With that destruction, we can assume that some of the original gates were lost. One gate that is apparently still in rubble is the Broad Gate. But I had trouble finding any information about this for the term that came up the most was "Broad Wall" rather than gate. Another gate in sources I found mentioned an Excavators' Gate, or also referred to as Excavation Gate. A note from Wikipedia showed: "(Eastern gate of the main Umayyad palace, attributed to Caliph Al-Walid I (705–715). Destroyed by an earthquake around 749, walled up when the Ottoman wall was built (1537–1541), reopened and rebuilt by archaeologists... in 1968.)"

We should not be surprised that if David's plans for the old city's walls included gates, that God's new Jerusalem will also have gates. But in this case, God honored the people who descended from His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for all eternity by naming them on the gates of the Eternal Kingdom. However, the gates are not the only things God used to honor important people in God's story recorded in the Bible. That discussion will be in a future issue of the journal.

WORD FOR LIFE

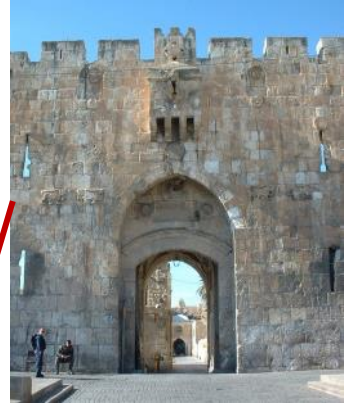
Damascus Gate



Herod Gate



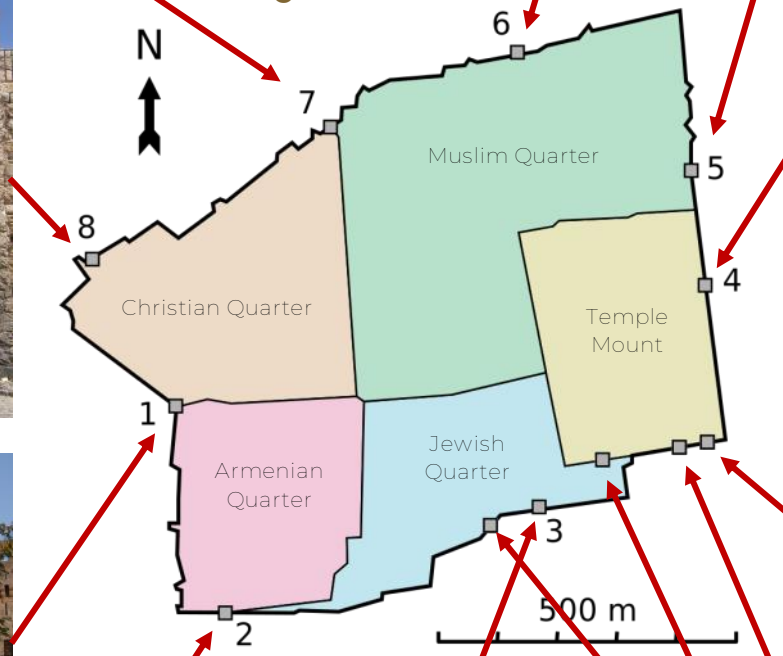
Lions Gate



New Gate



City of David



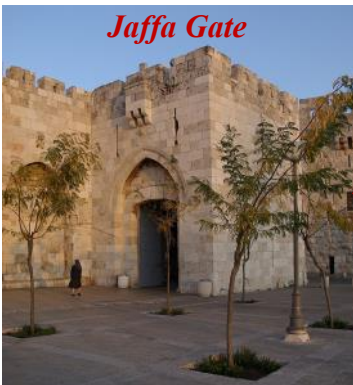
Golden Gate



Single Gate



Jaffa Gate



Dung Gate



Triple Gate



Zion Gate



Double Gate



Tanners Gate



WORD FOR LIFE

**All throughout the old Testament, the Word describes how God wants things done in a certain order.*

Revelation 20:11

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Revelation 21:1

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

Revelation 21:4

...loud voice from heaven saying, "...the former things have passed away..."

Revelation 21:5

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Revelation 21:9-13

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."
10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of

heaven from God,

11 having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.
12 Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:
13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

Revelation 21:25

Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).

READ MORE

- Wikipedia: Gates of the Old City of Jerusalem—https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gates_of_the_Old_City_of_Jerusalem
- Agape Bible Study—<https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/documents/The%20Gates%20of%20Jerusalem.htm>
- Jerusalem Foundation—<https://jerusalemfoundation.org/old-project/tanners-gate-plaza>
- Israel-a-history-of.com—<https://www.israel-a-history-of.com/gates-of-jerusalem.html>

Some Notes About Measurements

While I did not cover this specific topic within this Word For Life, I do want to comment on it. Revelation 21:15-17 specifies the size of the new Jerusalem stating, *15 And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 The city is laid out as a square; its length is as*

great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. 17 Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.

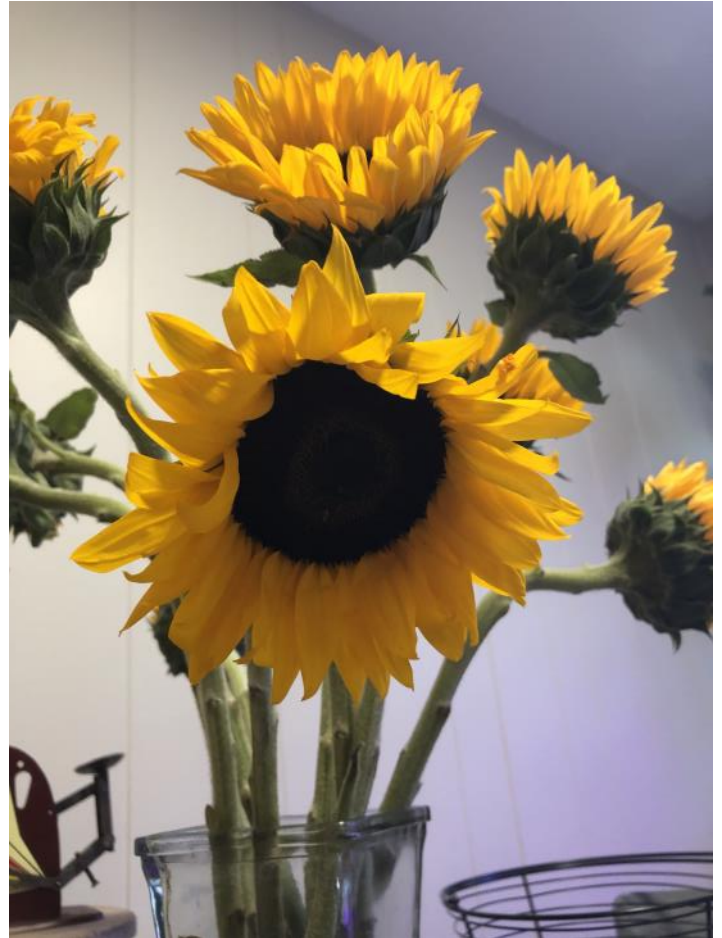
There are two units of measurements we are not familiar with today. A furlong is defined as "a stadium, a Greek measure of distance equal to 606 feet and 9 inches [606.75]". This is a little less than what other definitions of a furlong that state it as 660 feet, or 1/8 mile, that is a much more

contemporary unit of measure. So 12,000 furlongs of the new Jerusalem then equals to just under 1379 miles in the shape of a cube. A cubit is defined as "approximately equal to the length of a forearm... about 18 inches, or 44 cm". That makes the walls measure at 216' high.

RANDOM THINGS



After a few days, I stopped to get photos of these two yuccas that somehow grew in these strange spots!



Found some sunflowers at the store.



*This is called Desert Willow (*chilopsis linearis*)*



*This is called Bird of Paradise (*caesalpinia gilliesii*)*

RANDOM THINGS



I bought a semi restored Jiffy-Way egg scale just to see if the eggs I get from store actually live up to the size they are supposed to be! Many times, the eggs seem much smaller than what the carton says they should be! (I say semi restored because the restoration job was not done that well and could have been better.)

This is what my car showed as the temp in the late afternoon on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Back in November 2022, I attended the WRCA Ranch Rodeo Finals. These photos show the Saturday night performance. It turns out that someone got a photo from one side within a few minutes of when I also got a photo from the other side! You can see me in the other photo, circled.



RANDOM THINGS

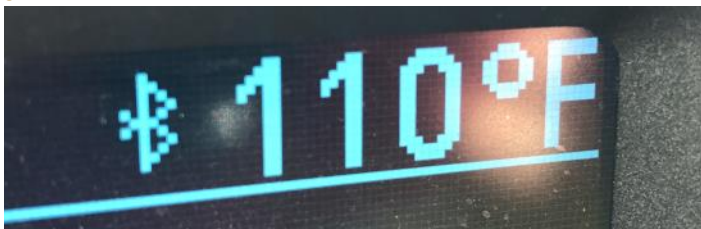


Uh... I don't think so!

What is this? Looks nothing like a phone!



*The cast of Back To The Future circa 1985 (top) and 2023 (bottom). Christopher Lloyd, Michael J. Fox, Lea Thompson, Thomas F. Wilson.
Source: floating on Facebook*



My car showed this as the temp on July 10, 2023.

Words With Friends



Played "equine" for 111 points



Played "deject" for 117 points



Played "sizzle" for 118 points



Played "modelers" for 131 points!



Played "jukebox" for 153 points

FOURTH OF JULY

As part of my job, we had an event to work on July 4 that was in Midland, Texas. The city of Midland annually has their Star-Spangled Salute on July 4 with various activities throughout the day and ending with fireworks after dark. I am rarely out of town for Independence Day, but for this year, I was, and it would be an 18 hour day.

After maybe four hours of sleep, I left the house while still dark to get to the shop before 6:00. We left the shop once we loaded up and got a quick breakfast from Whataburger before leaving around 6:30 towards Midland along US 87. The sun was coming up by this point. We got to downtown Midland just before 8:30 to the area where our first staging spot was (we would move to another spot a few hours later). This area is known as Centennial Park, located right next to the Bush Convention Center. The first part of the day was the Children's Sidewalk Parade that started at 10:00 where kids with their parents literally walk around the block, around the park—

actually on the street, which was barricaded—as part of a casual parade while a high school band provided the music. This tradition apparently goes back 60 years to 1963. There were hundreds of kids with their parents, and by the look of things, this was not their first time doing it! I took my GoPro and went around to get some video and a few photos with my camera.

The parade lasted about 30 minutes, and once everything cleared out, we packed up and moved to the other spot where we would be set up for the rest of the day. Another guy came down with a different vehicle and set up in another spot at the opposite end of the park. We had two spots around the park. For us, there were three of us, once we were set up, we literally needed to do nothing until it got dark and before the fireworks, almost 12 hours. The rest of the morning and the afternoon until early evening had little scheduled of the event until a concert that started at 7:00. We did a few other things, and it was time for lunch as it



Centennial Park in downtown Midland, Texas.



was after Noon. Because it was a holiday, we ended up going with our third choice pick for lunch that was open. In this case, it was Rosa's and so not a bad choice for me! Because it was also Tuesday, it was taco Tuesday! So, I got the taco special, and the others got other food. We leisurely ate and hung out for a while before leaving.

Once we got back, we were rather tired as well

as it was getting to the hottest part of the day. So, two of us stayed in one truck with the air going while the other one went to the other truck. The two of us ended up chatting about random things for several hours to kill time. In the meantime, the park was slowly filling up with people for the eventual concert, as well as going to the various food trucks. At one point, they were doing a sound check on the stage, which many

FOURTH OF JULY

people mistook as the actual concert, as it did not start until 7:00. Or maybe people had nothing better to do and just sat on the grass to watch. I don't know. In the late afternoon, there were a bunch of mounted sheriffs that came by past us and parked themselves at an open spot near us. I got a few photos and asked them how many mounted sheriffs there were. They said twenty, with ten of them there. I saw four of them in the morning during the kids parade.

By this point, I finally had to go to the bathroom after all of that tea from lunch and went over to the convention center. They had various kids activities there that went throughout the day. I then went over to the

other truck and hung out with the other guy. I would remain there until we left. After a while, the other guy came over, and it was the three of us just being there. At one point, they went over to the food trucks to get some early evening snacks. I didn't get anything but did swipe some spiral fries. I didn't have any cash since payday wasn't until the next day. We just stayed there for a while, then the other guy eventually went back over to the other truck and did not see him the rest of the day.

It was getting sunsety, and it was finally cooling off a little bit, at least cooling off to mean that it was in the 80s instead of being in the 90s or 100s. The concert went on for three hours until it was



Large crowd for the concert.

fully dark. The fireworks started at 10:00, and we packed up partly ahead of time and finished when the fireworks started to try to leave before the crowds would leave. We slowly crept through the crowd and down the short block past the food trucks to make a turn onto the next road when two of the ten mounted officers there at the intersection quickly

clopped over to us and yelled at us to shut down the truck. Apparently, because people were all over the place, they determined that it was too much of a danger for us to leave until the crowds left, which of course was why we were trying to leave before the crowds left to cut out the traffic. All we could do was just sit there in the middle of the street. I was standing outside the truck while the other guy was the driver. I stood by the truck and just watched the fireworks. Our other guy said he would see one of the officers staring him down almost as if to say, "I dare you to move!".

The fireworks seemed good and lasted for maybe 20 to 30 minutes.



Midland County mounted sheriffs (ten of twenty here).

FOURTH OF JULY

It was slightly windy and some of the fireworks blew onto one of the tall buildings. I'm sure that was quite entertaining for those in the upper floors of that building! Once done, the crowds quickly dispersed, but there were a lot of people as the park was full, even overflowing! We still had to just sit there until the people thinned out. By around 10:30 or 10:45, we started up and slowly moved our way to the intersection to turn onto the other road. This time, the cops left us alone and we finally

made our way onto the road we needed to go back home. Until we got to the north end of the city, the traffic was heavy hitting nearly every light, but we were still moving.

It was totally dark for most of the drive home, we could see people setting off their own fireworks everywhere in the distance. Also, being in oil country, we could see the different oilfield areas burning off their natural gas with bright orange flames atop long pipes. There were a few areas where drilling



Fireworks in Midland.

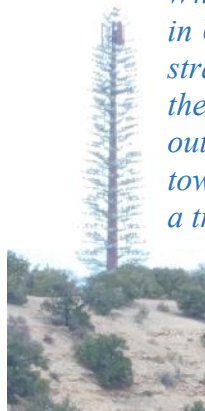
derricks in the distance were lit up. We finally got back to the shop around 12:30 or so and unloaded, and I left to go home. Even in the

late night, people were setting off fireworks all over the place. Once home, I stayed up for a little while and chilled before going to bed.

MORE RANDOM THINGS



I came across two other versions of this Pears Soap, besides the gold one.



While at a rest stop in Utah, I saw this strange tall tree in the distance. Turns out that it is a cell tower disguised as a tree!



These are flowers on the Desert Willow tree found throughout Lubbock.

The HEB in Lubbock opened in the fall of 2020. The place stays continually busy!



GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

Excerpts from *A Lady Of Gettysburg*

This writing includes excerpts from a personal diary written by Sarah Middleton "Sallie" Robbins Broadhead and titled The Diary Of A Lady Of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, From June 15 To July 15, 1863. She gave a day by day account for one month of the things that happened, even if nothing of note happened on any particular day. I have included here details I wanted to highlight of much longer writings from each day.

Sunday, June 15, 1863

To-day we heard that the Rebels were crossing the [Potomac?] river in heavy force, and advancing on to this State. No alarm was felt until Governor [Andrew Gregg] Curtin sent a telegram, directing the people to move their stores as quickly as possible. [Stores here does not mean businesses but rather the foods and goods "stored" in the buildings.]

Friday, June 20, 1863

The report of to-day is that the Rebels are at

Gettysburg.

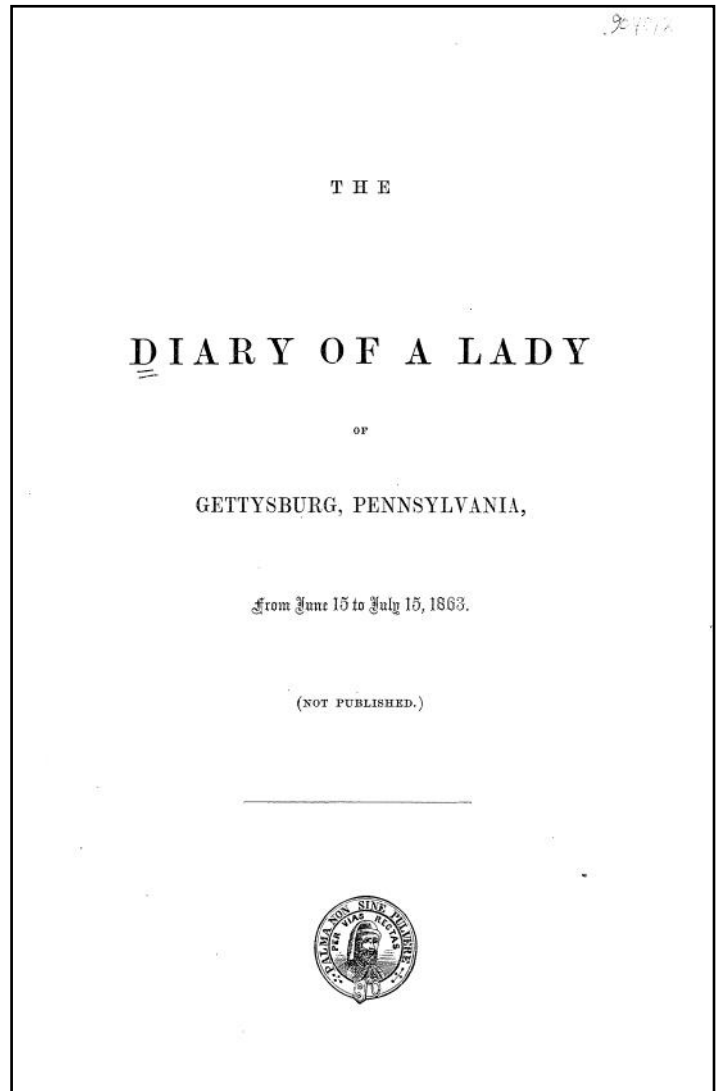
Chambersburg [Pennsylvania] and are advancing on here, and refugees begin to come in by scores. [A score means twenty.]

Sunday, June 22, 1863

The report now is that a large force is in the mountains about eighteen miles away, and a call is made for a party of men to go out and cut down trees to obstruct the passages of the mountains... They had not gone half way, when the discovery was made that it was too late; that the Rebels were on this side of the mountain, and coming this way... About seventy of the Rebels came within eight miles... They stole all the horses and cattle they could find, and drove them back to their encampment.

Tuesday, June 24, 1863

This morning early a despatch [dispatch] was received, saying that a



[Union] regiment of infantry was coming from Harrisburg... The train bringing them came within ten miles, when it ran over a cow, which threw the cars off

the track. No one was hurt, and they are now encamped near the place of the accident.

GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

Wednesday, June 25, 1863

Our militia did not come to town, but remain encamped where they were yesterday.

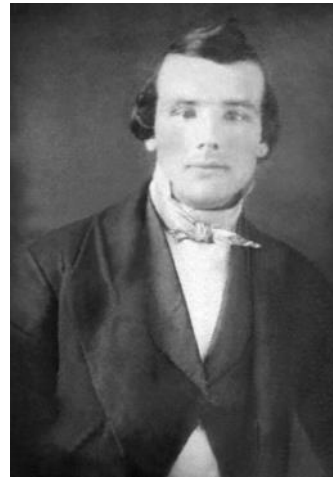
Thursday, June 26, 1863

Our militia passed through town this morning about 10 o'clock, and encamped about three miles to the west... The town was quiet after our men retreated, until about 2 o'clock P.M., when a report spread that the Rebels were only two miles from town. No one believed this, for they had so often been reported as just coming, and had as often failed to appear... When, however, the wagons of the militia came thundering through the streets, and the guard stated that they had been chased back, we began to realize that the report was a fact. In about half an hour the entrance of Jenkins' Rebel cavalry began, and they came with such horrid yells that it was enough to frighten us all to death... We all stood in the doors whilst the cavalry passed, but when the infantry came we closed them, for, fear they would run into our houses and carry off

everything we had, and went up stairs and looked out of the windows. They went along very orderly, only asking every now and then how many Yankee soldiers we had in town. I answered one that I did not know. He replied: "You are a funny woman; if I lived in town I would know that much." [The word "funny" here would more accurately refer to the word "foolish".] They were a miserable-looking set. They wore all kinds of hats and caps, even to heavy fur ones, and some were barefooted. The Rebel band were playing Southern tunes in the Diamond. [Today, this is called Lincoln Square or The Circle at the crossroad of Carlisle Street and Hanover Road.] I cannot tell how bad I felt to hear them, and to see the traitors' flag floating overhead.

Sunday, June 28, 1863

About 10 o'clock a large body of our [Union] cavalry began to pass through town, and we were all busy feeding them as they passed along. It seemed to me that the long line would never get through. I hope they may catch the Rebels



Joseph Broadhead

and give them a sound thrashing. Some say we may look for a battle here in a few days, and others say it will be fought near Harrisburg. There is no telling where it will be.

[Famous last words!]

Wednesday, July 1, 1863

I got up early this morning to get my baking done before any fighting would begin. I had just put my bread in the pans when the cannons began to fire... About 10 o'clock the shells began to "fly around quite thick", and I took my child and went to the house of a friend up town. As we passed up the street we met wounded men coming in from the field. When we saw them, we, for the first time, began to realize



*Sarah Middleton
"Sallie" (Robbins) Broadhead*

our fearful situation, and anxiously to ask, Will our army be whipped? ... I, with others, was sitting at the doorstep bathing the wounds of some of our brave soldiers, and became so much excited as the artillery galloped through the town, and the infantry hurried out to reinforce those fighting, that for a time we forgot our fears and our danger. All was bustle and confusion. No one can imagine in what extreme fright we were when our men began to retreat. A citizen galloped up to the door in which we were sitting and called out, "For God's sake go in the house! The Rebels are in the other end of town, and all will be killed!" We quickly ran in, and the cannonading coming

GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

nearer and becoming heavier, we went to the cellar, and in a few minutes the town was full of the filthy Rebels... We remained in the cellar until the firing ceased, and then feared to come out, not knowing what the Rebels might do. How changed the town looked when we came to the light. The street was strewn over with clothes, blankets, knapsacks, cartridge-boxes, dead horses, and the bodies of a few men, but not so many of these last as I expected to see. "Can we go out?" was asked of the Rebels. "Certainly," was the answer; "they would not hurt us." We started home, and found things all right. As I write all is quiet, but O! how I dread to-morrow.

Thursday, July 2, 1863 – Part 1

Of course we had no rest last night. Part of the time we watched the Rebels rob the house opposite. ... the robbers must have gotten all they left in the house. They went from the garret [attic] to the cellar [basement], and loading up the plunder in a large four-horse wagon, drove it off. I expected every minute

that they would burst in our door, but they did not come near us. It was a beautiful moonlight night, and we could see all they did.

Thursday, July 2, 1863 – Part 2

The cannonading commenced about 10 o'clock, and we went to the cellar and remained a little while until it ceased. When the noise subsided, we came to the light again, and tried to get something to eat. My husband went to the garden and picked a mess of beans [likely green beans], though stray firing was going on all the time, and bullets from sharpshooters or others whizzed about his head in a way I would not have liked. He persevered until he picked all, for he declared the Rebels should not have one. I baked a pan of shortcake and boiled a piece of ham, the last we had in the house, and some neighbors coming in, joined us, and we had the first quiet meal since the contest began. I enjoyed it very much. It seemed so nice after so much confusion to have a little quiet once more. We had not felt like eating before, being

worried by danger and excitement... About 4 o'clock P.M. the storm burst again with terrific violence. It seemed as though heaven and earth were being rolled together... About 6 o'clock the cannonading lessened, and we, thinking the fighting for the day was over, came out. Then the noise of the musketry was loud and constant, and made us feel quite as bad as the cannonading, though it seemed to me less terrible. Very soon the artillery joined in the din, and soon became as awful as ever, and we again retreated to our friend's underground apartment, and remained until the battle ceased, about 10 o'clock at night.

Friday, July 3, 1863

To-day the battle opened with fierce cannonading before 4 o'clock A.M. Shortly after the battle began we were told to leave this end of the town, for likely it would be shelled. My husband declared he would not go while one brick remained upon another, and, as usual, we betook ourselves to the cellar, where we remained until 10 o'clock, when the firing ceased...

Again, the battle began with unearthly fury. Nearly all the afternoon it seemed as if the heavens and earth were crashing together. The time that we sat in the cellar seemed long, listening to the terrific sound of the strife; more terrible never greeted human ears. We knew that with every explosion, and the scream of each shell, human beings were hurried, through excruciating pain, into another world, and that many more were torn, and mangled, and lying in torment worse than death, and no one able to extend relief. The thought made me very sad...

Saturday, July 4, 1863

This morning, about 6 o'clock, I heard a great noise in the street, and going to the door I saw a Rebel officer on horseback hallooing to some soldiers on foot, to "Hurry up, the Yankees have possession of the town and all would be captured". I looked up street and saw our men in the public square, and it was a joyful sight, for I knew we were now safe. Soon after, the Rebels sent in a flag of truce, but what was communicated we did

GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

not know, and, in consequence, the people were more scared than ever... As soon as the flag of truce had gone, our sharpshooters were pushed out to this side of town, and were all around us. We were between two fires, and were kept close prisoners all day, not daring either to go out, or even look out of the windows, on account of the bullets fired at every moving object... We know, however, that the Rebels are retreating, and that our army has been victorious. I was anxious to help care for the wounded, but the day is ended and all is quiet, and for the first time in a week I shall go to bed, feeling safe.

Sunday, July 5, 1863
Early this morning I went out to the Seminary, just outside of town... What horrible sights present themselves on every side, the roads being strewn with dead horses and the bodies of some men, though the dead have nearly all been buried, and every step of the way giving evidence of the dreadful contest. It is heart-sickening to think of these noble fellows sacrificing everything

for us, and saving us, and it out of our power to render any assistance of consequence. I turned away and cried. We returned to town to gather up more food if possible...

Tuesday, July 7, 1863
We found on reaching the hospital that a wagon-load of bread and fifty pounds of butter had arrived, having been sent in from the country, and a supply of what the soldiers call "hard tack", had been distributed. All got some to eat, but not as much as they desired... I assisted in feeding some of the severely wounded, when I perceived that they were suffering on account of not having their wounds dressed. I did not know whether I could render any assistance in that way, but I thought I would try. I procured a basin and water, and went to a room where there were seven or eight, some shot in the arms, others in the legs, and one in his back, and another in the shoulder.

Wednesday, July 8, 1863
Again at the hospital early this morning. Several physicians and

lady nurses had come on from Washington the previous evening, and under their care things already began to look better. The work of extracting the balls, and of amputating shattered limbs, had begun, and an effort at regular cooking. I aided a lady to dress wounds, until soup was made, and then I went to distribute it. I found that I had only seen the lighter cases, and worse horrors met my eyes on descending to the basement of the building.

Thursday, July 9, 1863
I visited, with what supplies I had, some of those in the town. I found the wounded in them much better situated, some attention having been paid to them, by the citizens near, during the battle. All had plenty to eat, though very few had beds to lie on and rest their wounded bodies. Nearly every house is a hospital, besides the churches and warehouses, and there are many field hospitals scattered over the country near the scene of the battle.

Friday, July 10, 1863
This morning I again

visited the Seminary, and was rejoiced to see the improvement that had been made in the arrangements for the patients. Nearly all have been provided with beds and clean clothing, and a more comfortable look pervades the whole building.

Saturday, July 11, 1863
This day has been spent in caring for our men. We procured clean clothes from the Sanitary Commission, and having fixed them up, they both look and feel better, though their wounds are very painful. Our town, too, begins to look more settled, and more like its former self. The atmosphere is loaded with the horrid smell of decaying horses and the remains of slaughtered animals, and, it is said, from the bodies of men imperfectly buried. I fear we shall be visited with pestilence, for every breath we draw is made ugly by the stench.

Sunday, July 12, 1863
Our house has been constantly full, and every house I know of has been, and is, full... There has been some difficulty in securing

GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

proper medical attendance, the surgeons not liking to quit their hospitals and run from house to house, and our own physicians are overwhelmed with business.

Monday, July 13, 1863

This day has passed much as yesterday and the day before. The town is as full as ever of strangers, and the old story of the inability of a village of twenty-five hundred inhabitants, overrun and eaten out by two large armies, to

accommodate from ten to twelve thousand visitors, is repeated almost hourly. Twenty are with us to-night, filling every bed and covering the floors...

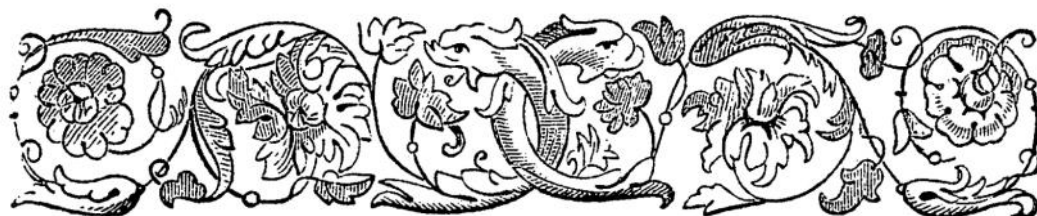
What our soldiers are in the army, I cannot say, but when they are wounded, they all seem perfect gentlemen, so gentle, patient, and kind, and so thankful for any kindness shown them.

Tuesday, July 14, 1863

It is now one month since I began this Journal, and little did I

think when I sat down to while away the time, that I would have to record such terrible scenes as I have done. Had any one suggested any such sights as within the bound of possibility, I would have thought it madness... No small disturbance was occasioned by the removal of our wounded to the hospital. We had but short notice of the intention, and, though we pleaded hard to have them remain, it was of no use. So many have been removed by death

and recovery, that there was room; and the surgeon having general care over all, ordered the patients from private houses to the General Hospital. A weight of care, which we took upon us for duty's sake, and which we had learned to like and would have gladly borne, until relieved by the complete recovery of our men, has been lifted off of our shoulders, and again we have our house to ourselves.



Read More

- Civil War Cooking: Harvesting a “Mess of Beans” During Battle
<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2018/11/19/civil-war-cooking-harvesting-a-mess-of-beans-during-battle>
- Find a Grave—Sarah Middleton “Sallie” Robbins Broadhead
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/165544328/sarah-middleton-broadhead>
- Find a Grave—Joseph Broadhead
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/165544411/joseph-broadhead>
- My Favorite Historical Person: Sarah Broadhead
<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2017/06/15/my-favorite-historical-person-sarah-broadhead>



GETTYSBURG 160 YEARS

One Specific Fatal Casualty

Tuesday, July 7, 1863

This morning we started out to see the wounded... I assisted in feeding some of the severely wounded, when I perceived that they were suffering on account of not having their wounds dressed... I procured a basin and water, and went to a room where there were seven or eight, some shot in the arms, others in the legs, and one in his back, and another in the shoulder. I asked if any one would like to have his wounds dressed? Some one replied, "There is a man on the floor who cannot help himself, you would better see to him." Stooping over him, I asked for his wound, and he pointed to his leg. Such a horrible sight I had never seen and hope never to see again. His leg was all

covered with worms. I inquired, Was there no doctor in the building? if there was, I must see him. One was brought... We fixed the man as comfortably as we could, and when the doctor told me he could not live, I asked him for his home, and if he had a family. He said I should send for his wife, and when I came home I wrote to her, as he told me, but I fear she may never see him alive, as he is very weak, and sinking rapidly.

Thursday, July 9, 1863

I am quite anxious to learn the condition of that man at the Seminary whose wife I sent for. I was thinking of her when the cars, for the first time since the destruction of the Rock Creek bridge, came into town, the road having been repaired. [A "car"

here probably refers to a horse drawn buggy or cart carrying people rather than a motorized vehicle, even though a steam powered combustion engine did exist in 1863 by the time of the battle of Gettysburg.]

Friday, July 10, 1863

This morning I again visited the Seminary... I miss many faces that I had learned to know, and among them the man whose wife I had written to. A lady stayed with him until he died, and cut off a lock of his hair, which she gave me for his wife.

Sunday, July 12, 1863

To-day the lady I sent for came to see her husband. I never pitied any one as I did her when I told her he was dead. I hope I may never again be called upon to witness such a heartrending scene. The only comfort she had was in recovering the body, and in tears she conveyed it to the resting-place of her family. I had some satisfaction from the fact that I had marked the grave, without which she might not have recovered it.

This photo shows the Lutheran Seminary with the tower in the distance. Sarah volunteered to take care of wounded soldiers at the Seminary after the battle in Gettysburg. She started on Sunday, July 5, 1863.



From My Favorite Historical Person: Sarah Broadhead

CULINARY QUESTS

Kolaches (actually Klobasnek)

For the first time ever, I decided to make some kolaches, a common breakfast pastry of sorts that has roots in Czech culture from immigrants to Texas starting in the 1850s. The word strictly refers to a sweet pastry topped with fruit or cheese similar to a Danish called koláč (singular) and koláče (plural). With how the word is used in Texas, it

usually refers to a sausage wrapped in a bread dough that the Czech people actually call Klobásník (singular) or klobásníky (plural).

I decided to make mini versions of the large ones you normally find in the doughnut shops in Texas. I also decided to use skinless sausages.



Historic Carrot Cake

So, I was watching *Tasting History With Max Miller* on YouTube, and he had an episode about a wartime carrot cake. Typically, I don't like carrot cake for various reasons, but this one looked different from today's versions and actually looked good from the monstrosity of what a

carrot cake is today! So, I got the recipe and tried it. Turned out that it was good but seemed more like a regular cake with only a vague taste of carrots. It wasn't overly sweet and did not have the usual calliope of unnecessary additions that today's versions have.



WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

Introduction

My job had a short term event scheduled about a week prior to the event. The job would be in Tampa, Florida. We would have to drive there necessitating leaving a couple of days before we needed to arrive for setup. This also meant that I would be gone for a week. Based on the dates, we

would have to leave on my birthday, Monday, July 17, 2023. About the only information I knew prior was that the job was to work a concert at the George Steinbrenner Field, a baseball field, in Tampa, Florida. I tried to search for more information but found very little. Either way, we would need to drive

over two days to get there for setup. I did not drive, but the other guy did, as I was more of a helper as it always good to have more than one person for help and for safety. As for me, I cannot recall if I had ever been to Tampa despite being born in Florida and having lived there my first 25 years

of so. I thought this city would be an interesting place to visit despite being smack in the middle of summer! While this was a work specific travel, I'll report the trip in the same way I have with my other trips from the last three years.

Monday, July 17, 2023

Per the scheduled plan, I left the house to be at the shop by a certain time. However, the other person needed to delay leaving, and so that left me with some time to do a couple of things. Since it was my birthday, I stopped at Dutch Brothers to claim my free coffee! I got a large iced coffee with oat milk that was really good, but they didn't decorate it up like they did last year. (I guess it was different people.) I then went over to the Shipley Do-Nuts next store for some doughnuts. I did a couple of other things before heading over to the shop. Once the other guy who would drive the entire route got to the shop, we loaded

things and finally left the shop at about 10:15, getting on the road after a short stop somewhere else by 10:30. The route we would take was basically to go from Lubbock to I-20 then just to take I-20 straight out to Mississippi and go from Jackson down to Mobile to get on I-10 across Florida to I-75 and down to Tampa.

Our first stop was about 1:00 PM in Baird, located east of Abilene, to get gas at Love's. We also had lunch there at the Subway. After about an hour, we left and headed to the Louisiana border. Getting through the DFW area seemed like it took forever as the traffic was terrible! In actuality, to go from

the western edge of the general Fort Worth area to the eastern edge of the general Dallas area is in fact about an hour's drive! (Dallas and Fort Worth are about 30 miles apart.) We stopped in Van also at a Love's for gas and a break around 5:30 and leaving about 6:00. Just to note, our travels frequently included stopping at a Love's stopping every three to four hours for gas. We finally got to the Texas Louisiana border a little over an hour later. Our destination for the first night was Monroe, Louisiana. As we got to Shreveport, the roads were notoriously terrible! The roads switched from asphalt to concrete which in itself

was not a problem, but they were crazy bouncy and had small potholes scattered all over the road, so we really had to try to keep the vehicle straight on the road and in our lane! We got to Monroe just after dark, a little before 9:00. We found our hotel, a Holiday Inn Express, then parked, checked in, and went to our room. We decided that we wanted something to eat, but we did not know what restaurants were nearby. We ended up having a pizza delivered to the hotel, specifically from Pizza Hut. The pizza tasted really good particularly because I don't usually get Pizza Hut. We soon went to sleep.

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Today was Tuesday, and it was another mostly driving day. Originally, we thought about going right to Tampa from here, but that would have made for an extremely long day and longer than was necessary. We left the hotel around 10:30 and continued our way east on I-20. As we were driving along the eastern part of Louisiana, I noticed on both sides of the road many cornfields, but they were separated and surrounded by blobs of trees and bayous like a circumference around the fields. Some of the corn looked really dry having dry leaves, while some of the fields looked nice and rich green, but they were all at an early stage of tasseling out.

After about an hour, we stopped at a Love's in Tallulah, Louisiana. We got gas and took a break. As we drove in, I noticed a quite unusual sign. It said "Danger Beware of Alligators"! Undoubtedly, I had to get a photo! Then, I looked in the water and indeed saw a small alligator in a clear spot

of the water! It was only about the size to make a boot out of, but it would still ruin your day if you came across it badly! After about 20 minutes from when we left, we arrived to and crossed over the Mississippi River into Mississippi and to Vicksburg shortly after that. By 1:00, we got off I-20 and took several roads that took us to Mobile. The route we took was pretty much the same as when dad and I went to Florida those trips in 2020. We got on US 49 to Hattiesburg and briefly took I-59 around the city to get to US 98 that went into Alabama. A little less than an hour later, we stopped at a Love's near Lucedale, Mississippi for about 20 minutes and continued on. We crossed over into Alabama when we went over the Escatawpa River. I did notice something quite different from the last time I went through here three years ago on the Alabama side. There was some major road construction that appeared like a rerouting of US 98 or some sort of bypass. Plus, the other bridge



"Danger Beware of Alligators"



Saw one. Not very big, but enough to ruin your day!

across the river was now in use as it was unused before and looked years abandoned in the past. In looking up the construction, it indeed was a rerouting, but it was unclear as to where the road would go further to the east.

We travelled through many little Alabama towns along US 98 until we got to I-65 in Mobile. We would go south for a few miles until it dead ended into I-10 where we would then go east. There was a good bit of traffic as it was almost 4:30, but it

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

kept moving as we went through the George Wallace Tunnel under the Mobile River. (George Wallace was governor of Alabama in the 1980s.) After the tunnel, I-10 was basically a long bridge that crossed over the Mobile Bay. Another road that paralleled I-10 was US 98, also called the Old Spanish Trail and called Battleship Parkway, a causeway that was barely above the water level! Once back on solid land, we drove for about another 20 minutes until we got to the now well known Buc-ee's in Alabama. We were there for about an hour to get gas, food, and to look around. (Although, I did not use the bathrooms.) Once we left Buc-ee's, we got

into Florida a little before 6:30. We would drive another two hours before we got to the Eastern Time Zone. We reached Tallahassee around 10:00 and stopped an hour later at yet another Love's in Lee, Florida. We finally got to I-75 in Lake City at about 11:45 and went south a few miles getting to the hotel about ten minutes later. For this night, we stayed at a Home2 Suites. This was a really nice hotel! I would have no problem staying at a place like this in Tampa! We needed to leave by 8:00 in the morning to get to Tampa by 10:30 and it was already almost midnight. We stayed up for just a little while before going to sleep to get a few hours at least.



Nearing downtown Mobile, Alabama.



Eastbound entrance of the George Wallace Tunnel.

Escatawpa River

New Diversion



Alabama Department of Transportation

Current Road



Buc-ee's Beach Express near Robertsdale, Alabama.

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Since we arrived to the hotel last night a little later than planned, we did not get as much sleep as we needed, but we had to leave by 8:00 to make sure we would get to Tampa by the time we needed to set up. We did leave by 8:00 and did get to the field by about 10:30. I ended up dozing off several times on the way down, but we basically took I-75 all the way to Tampa. I don't remember exactly where we went once in Tampa, but we likely got on I-275 at some point to get to the George Steinbrenner Field, which was located not far from the airport. We ended up waiting in a parking lot for nearly an hour until we heard back from our contact as to where exactly we needed to go to set up. We needed to go right onto the baseball field. They laid down plywood for us to drive on so not to mess up the grass, as it looked immaculate! We stayed for about two hours to get things initially set up before everyone would leave for lunch. So, we also left to get lunch and to do a few errands.

Besides some errand stops, I suggested that we go to Publix to get some fresh sandwiches from the deli that they are known for. I got Chipotle Chicken along with a container of coleslaw and some bottled tea. But I also got a few of my favorite desserts from the bakery! The store did not have any seating, so we went to the truck and ate there. (Publix has such yummy sandwiches!) After a while, we left and checked into the hotel. This hotel was much smaller and only okay as compared to any of the other hotels we stayed in! (And to be honest, I would not want to stay there again.) We needed to be back on the field around 4:30, and so we headed back. There really was not much else we needed to do, having done most of it earlier. Because it was fully sunny and really hot, I ended up sitting in the dugout for shade. Fortunately, a large fan provided some air flow. While I was in the dugout, the sound and lights were finally ready and running. I could tell that it was going to be



George M. Steinbrenner Field



The venue for the concert as it was being set up.



The rain was coming!

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

loud and basey! Also, not until today did we even have a clue who was performing! The headliner act was Anthony Hamilton. I had never heard of him, but he was apparently well known among certain circles.

While the afternoon was sunny and hot, that did not last long! It quickly got cloudy with gray clouds moving in. When lightning flashed a few miles away, a head person of the facility

yelled out that there was lightning and to stop activity and take cover. The road crew immediately went to covering up the equipment and only a few minutes later, a few rain drops came down with a few people quickly scrambling. I quickly found out why! Just seconds after the drops fell, the rain let loose in drenching waves! Needless to say, as I left the dugout, I was soaked in short order! This is very

typical for Florida and would explain why people knew what was coming and sprinted to cover! Contrary to other parts of the country, however, the rain was warm and lasted for a while. With that, there wasn't much else we could do for the rest of the day. We left a little after 5:30 pretty much assuming that we were done for the day. We went back to the hotel and brought in the rest of our stuff. I ate some of my Publix desserts

and ended up sleeping for a couple of hours. After dark, we left to do a couple of errands and to get a snack from Krystal getting a dozen Krystals with fries and drinks and eating them in the hotel lobby. As for the next day, we didn't know when we would have to meet, but we assumed that we would find out sometime in the morning.



Immaculate baseball field grass.



The home team dugout.



View of the field from the home team dugout.

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

Thursday, July 20, 2023

This is the day of the concert in the evening. However, some things would happen to make the day more, shall we say, interesting. We were able to sleep in a little later only because we were sure that we probably would not need to be at the field until sometime in the afternoon since most of our part was already done. The concert was scheduled to start at 7:00. Even after we were up and ready, we ended up staying in the room for several hours until we got word from our contact about when we needed to get there. We ended up leaving about 1:30 or 2:00 to head over only to find out that we did not actually need to rush over and did not need to be there until about 4:00. With that pressure off, we went to get some lunch. We settled on going to the nearest Culver's. I got the pot roast sandwich with coleslaw and tea and some custard. Still not needing to go to the field yet, we then stopped back at Publix so I could get a few things I wanted. We then went back to the room until we could get

word as to when we needed to be there before the concert. While we waited at the hotel, the clouds were developing fast and soon after was lightning and thunder. Once we realized that, we knew that there would be a rain delay, but we didn't know for how long. From our window, we could see that the weather came in waves and the radar showed the same. Originally, the delay was just going to be until 7:15 when the concert would start. However, the rain kept coming and the delay was moved until 9:00. Meanwhile we just waited in the hotel room.

We finally made our way over to the field a little before 10:00. They also let people in around that time. Some people were in the stands while higher priced tickets had seats in front of the stage. We went on the field, but security stopped us and wouldn't let us on the field. But the event producer came over and cleared us. We first stood on the field near the dugout for a while before going in the dugout. The concert



Opening act.



Headliner act was Antony Hamilton.



Antony Hamilton performing.

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

finally started about 10:45, almost four hours after the original start time! An opener group performed for about 30 minutes, and there was an extended delay before the headliner act, Anthony Hamilton, came out and performed for about an hour finishing about 12:30. Needless to say, the concert was cut way short from the original

schedule. While the people quickly left, we stayed for a while to shut things down. We originally thought we would be able to pack up and load out, but we found out that we would have to come early in the morning instead to do that. We finally left about 1:00 and went back to the room, getting to sleep around 1:30.



In Florida, you need to watch out for these greedy, assaulting sea gulls!



Publix—Where Shopping Is A Pleasure [And Sweet!]



Publix has the best desserts as you can see in these bakery cases, and that's besides the tables of even more baked goods!



WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

Friday, July 21, 2023

We checked out and left the hotel early to be at the field around 6:30 which is shocking to me that it even happened despite only about three to four hours of sleep! It was still dark outside. Once we got there, we ended up waiting almost an hour before others got there who needed to be there for us to get our stuff to leave. We finally left the stadium about 7:45 and made our way on to I-275 which went into I-75. Obviously, I snoozed part of the way up along I-75. Part of the time when I was awake, we passed by several very Florida features, citrus stands! A little after 10:00, we finally got to I-10. We continued for

another 30 minutes before stopping at Love's just south of Lee for food, gas, and a break. A little to the east before we stopped, we crossed over the Suwannee River with the musical sign. After an hour and a half, we got to the Apalachicola River and to the time zone change. By 1:30, we got to the Florida Alabama state line.

Once in Alabama, we stopped again at the Buc-ee's a little before 2:00 for gas and some lunch, spending about an hour. Our time inside the Buc-ee's was short, as we ate in the truck, but we had to wait before leaving as the place was crowded with

cars and large vehicles! We then continued to Mobile and went over the bay and through the tunnel under the Mobile River getting to US 98 by way of I-65. Soon, we were in Mississippi. We continued to New Augusta to stop at Circle K for a short break before getting onto I-59 for just a few miles in Hattiesburg to get to US 49 to Jackson. Mobile to Jackson sure required a lot of turns! Our stop for the night was Clinton, Mississippi. This was a little town just west of Jackson. We needed to get gas and could not find what we wanted in Clinton, so we continued a little further west about 20 miles to

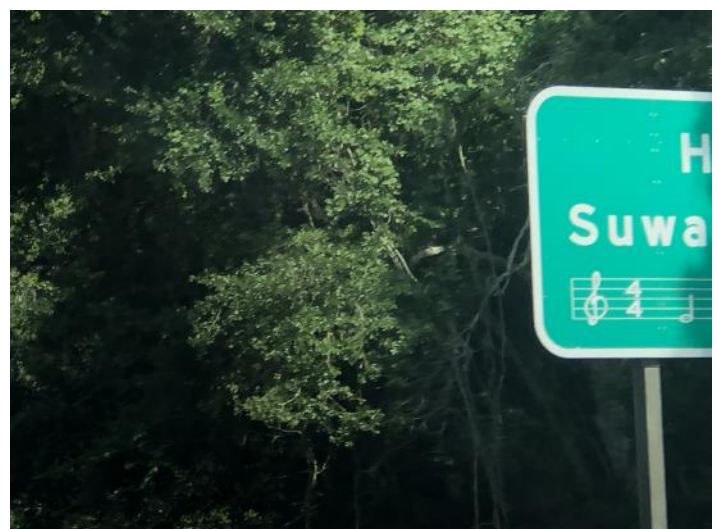
Flowers to stop at a Love's. But after that, we headed back east to Clinton since that was where the hotel reservation was, getting back a little before 8:00. Before checking in to the hotel, we stopped at Sonny's BBQ nearby for dinner. Then, we checked into the hotel, a Holiday Inn Express, that was really nice! We rested for a while before going to sleep.



I like Sonny's BBQ for their variety of BBQ sauces.



Standard feature in Florida, citrus centers with Indian River fruit, souvenirs, and live baby gators!



On this trip, this was the best photo I could get since the sign and the river snuck up on me!

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA



Stopped again at the Buc-ee's in Alabama.



Downtown Mobile driving on I-10 going west.

Saturday, July 22, 2023

The other guy was determining whether to take two days or to take three days to get back home. Well, some time yesterday, he determined that we would go as far as reasonable yesterday, which was basically to Jackson, and go the rest of the way today. The drive would be long, but about two thirds of it would be in Texas. We slept to a reasonable time and got cleaned up. We had a light breakfast at the hotel before leaving around 9:15 and getting on I-20. Having

had a pretty good breakfast, we were feeling pretty good, even though we had a long drive ahead of us.

We crossed over the Mississippi River at about 9:50. We just kept going without the need for any stops and got to

the Texas border about 2.5 hours later at about 12:20. While going through Shreveport, one thing to note about the



Metal truss bridge over the Mississippi River from Mississippi to Louisiana.

WORK TRIP TO TAMPA

city is that the roads there absolutely suck. In fact, the roads were so bad that it's actually hilarious. If you were in the car and trying to write something, just forget it! The road would have you bouncing around all over the place, up, down, and slightly sideways! The roads were obviously horribly maintained, not necessarily because of potholes, but by the rough, uneven surfaces from the really bad methods used to fix the roads!

We were near Longview and stopped briefly for gas and a bathroom break at a CEFCO, but we were really wanting to stop at a Love's. We continued down the road and did find a Love's about 20 minutes later. There, we got some food. They had a Subway, but I noticed that they also had a Godfather's Pizza and that sounded good to me. I got a personal pizza and a fountain drink from the truck stop. It tasted really good since I am not aware of any being in Lubbock. We left about 2:00 and finally got to the DFW metroplex over an hour later. Just

to get through the metroplex even along I-20 took about 1.5 hours with traffic and road construction. I'm just glad that the interstate does not go anywhere near the middle of those cities! We finally got to Weatherford at about 4:30 and stopped again at a Love's for about 15 minutes. Needless to say, what we were pulling just used a lot of fuel to cause the low economy.

After finally having left the extended DFW area, we knew the rest of the drive was straight forward and familiar to both of us. We got to the Abilene area at about 6:20. One topic of conversation we had while driving through the west area of the town was about Noodle

Dome Road. In my own travels, I had seen that name many times before but had no idea what it meant other than it was the name of a road. I thought it referred to some sort of sports arena. But, no, not even close! Read elsewhere more about this funny name.

Once we got to the Sweetwater Roscoe area at about 7:00, we turned off I-20 and on to US 84 that goes right to Lubbock. From here, we knew that we were about two hours from Lubbock besides any stops. We did stop in Post at a completely new CEFCO around 8:00 for gas and a bathroom break. At this point, the sun was still out but nearing sunset. We got back to Lubbock

and back to the shop just before 9:00 and with sunset light. To go from west of Jackson back to the shop took basically 12 hours. And frankly, it did not feel like it took that long. The drive yesterday from Tampa to Jackson took just about as long. Once we got to the shop, we got our own vehicles out of the shop, unloaded everything, and left around 9:50. I did not go home right away because I had a couple things I wanted to do. But once I did get home, I completely unloaded the car and chilled for a while before going to sleep around 12:30.

Miles travelled: 3062
States gone through: 5



Saw these really neat oil derrick picnic tables at a picnic area between Liberty City and Tyler, Texas.

BLUECAT TRAVELS



Leaving Holiday Inn Express in West Monroe, Louisiana.



At the George Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, Florida.



Beware of Alligators at Love's in Tallulah, Louisiana.



Stopped at Publix while in Tampa, Florida.



First stop at Buc-ee's off I-10 near Robertsdale, Florida.



Return trip stop at Buc-ee's.

WHAT IS NOODLE DOME?

North of Trent in Texas, located west of Abilene, is a place called Noodle Dome Road. I pass by the big green sign every time I'm on I-20 going east to Abilene or places further east. But, I have never known just what exactly it was. I assumed that it was a goofy name of some sort of local sports arena. Well, it turns out that I was not even close to being right!

While travelling back to Lubbock from Tampa and after we passed by the sign, I did some quick Google searches to find out what was the story behind this goofy name. This story is rather interesting, but also still a little

mysterious as finding some of the information was fruitless. The easy part is that the road is named after a particular place. So, that just leaves to explain what is the Noodle Dome.

The word dome here does not mean a covered arena like I assumed, but rather actually refers to a geologic feature called a salt dome that was formed from gas and oil pressure underneath forcing up a salt layer into a domed feature upon the otherwise flat land of the area. A salt dome is much like a similar feature called a granite dome that is formed mostly the same way. One source stated the

following. "Salt domes are geologic formations known as reservoirs for oil and natural gas. It's basically a column of salt that builds up underground and pushes toward the surface, creating a hill or dome. The Noodle Dome Oil Field opened in 1926 and kicked off a boom for the area." While some domes are high above the ground level, some domes can be subsurface and not easily seen as a mound or hill which would likely explain why the area looked as flat as a pancake.

So while that explains what the dome word means, that leaves to find out what the noodle

part means. Apparently, the noodle part comes from the nearby Noodle Creek. According to the Handbook of Texas published by the Texas State Historical Association, they state:

Noodle Creek. Noodle Creek rises three miles west of the Taylor county line and six miles east of Lake Sweetwater in northeast Nolan County (at 32°26' N, 100°12' W) and flows northeast intermittently for thirty-one miles before emptying into the Clear Fork of the Brazos River two miles west of Farm Road 3116 and six miles east of Lake Sweetwater in northeastern Nolan



As you can see from this street view from 10 years ago, Noodle Dome Road is just dirt and fields!

WHAT IS NOODLE DOME?

County (at 32°40' N, 100°00' W). Oak, juniper, elm, mesquite, and grasses grow beside the stream. The terrain is generally flat to rolling with moderately steep slopes and steep margins.

While this is a dry, academic description—after all, it was written in 1952!—it does give a general idea of its nature. However, that still does not answer where the word noodle comes from! Now, a town called Noodle was named for the creek and boasts a whopping population of 40 as last reported by the 2000 census.

According to several sources that mostly copied each other,

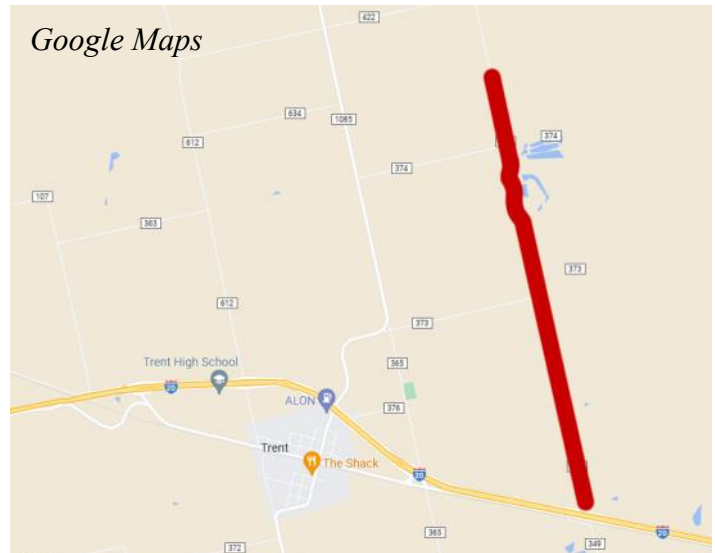
the word noodle is apparently a folk slang term for “nothing” referring to the fact that the creek is often dry some times of the year so that there’s no water, empty, nothing there. I could not find any specific reference to how this slang term came to be and so is probably lost to time and possibly to a certain cultural aspect. But, in thinking about it, perhaps the slang term developed from the idea that noodles from the store are dry until boiled

in water and somehow the comparison of no water formed into the concept of dry noodles

especially with how the creek winds through its 31 miles. That is the best guess I have.



Circled here is the tiny town of Noodle, Texas.



Noodle Dome Road is the stretch in red.



This is a stretch of Noodle Creek.

READ MORE

- <https://archive.reporternews.com/news/columnists/big-country-journal/wandering-around-the-old-noodle-28c5c79e-2cd3-6d3c-e053-0100007f89df-364579621.html>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/noodle-tx>
- <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/noodle-creek>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noodle_Creek
- <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2020/08/09/from-bug-tussle-to-tarzan-here-are-40-of-the-oddest-texas-town-names-and-the-stories-behind-them>
- <https://www.texasalmanac.com/places/noodle>
- <https://www.topozone.com/texas/jones-tx/stream/noodle-creek>

GARDEN ROUNDUP

March 29, 2023



April 9, 2023

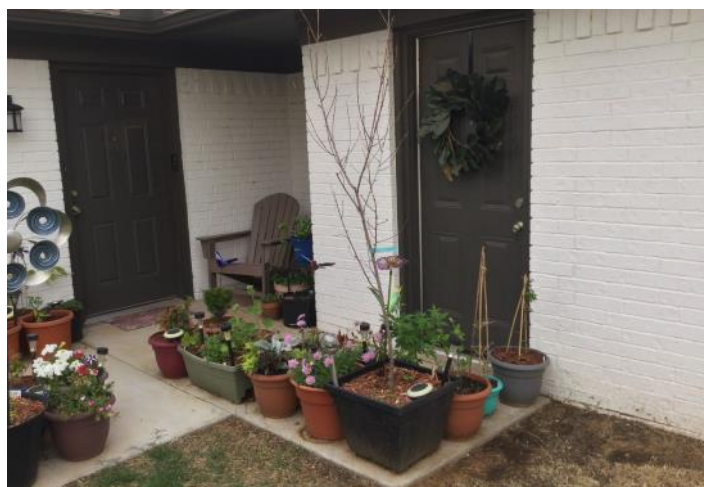


April 18, 2023



GARDEN ROUNDUP

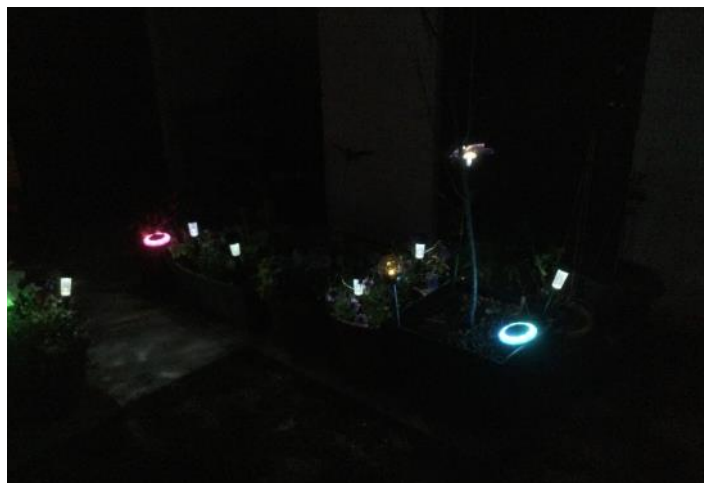
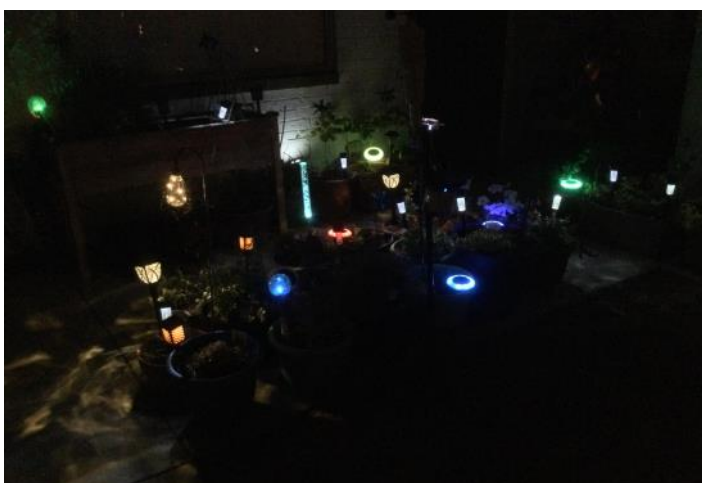
May 12, 2023



May 12, 2023



May 12, 2023



GARDEN ROUNDUP

June 4, 2023



July 31, 2023



Grape vine. Bought from Lowe's in 2022, red grape variety called Venus seedless.



FINAL THOUGHT

Phases of dynamic wallpaper on Mac: “The Beach”.



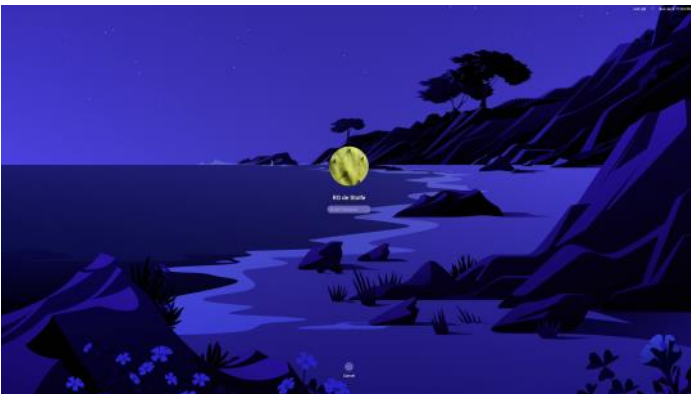
Day



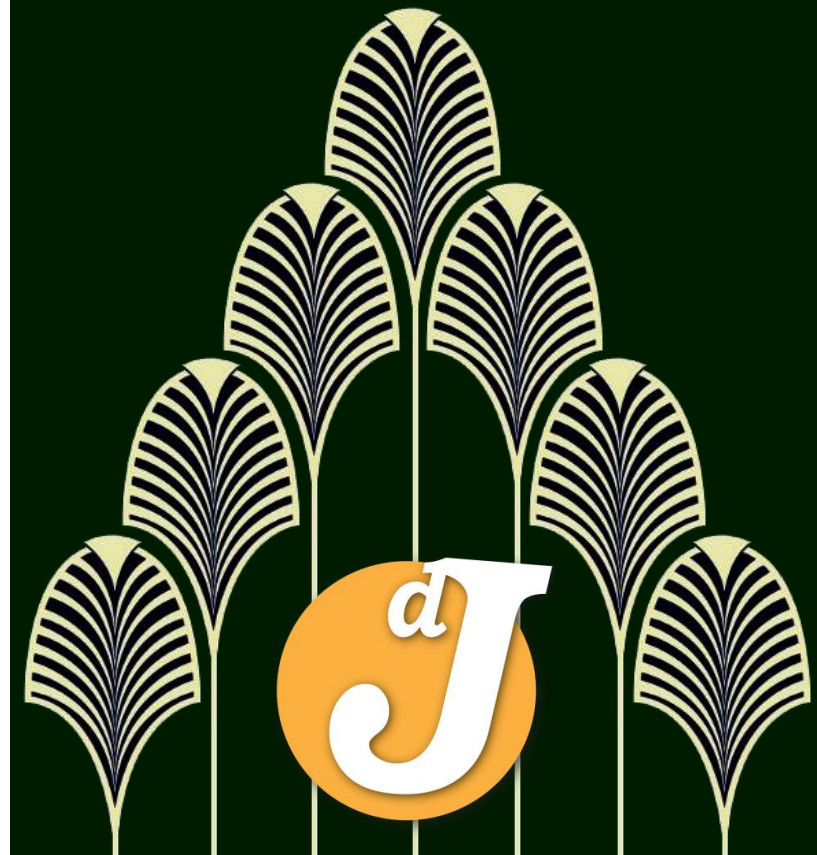
Presunset



Sunset



Night



The **de Stolfe Journal** is a publication made by Robert-George de Stolfe. The first issue was published in March 1986 as the de Stolfe Journal and published irregularly until 1998 (17 issues total). The *Candid* version of the Journal started in July 2012 through December 2018 (over 60 regular and special issues). Now back to the original name starting in 2019, archives of all issues—including the original ones (1980s-1990s)—are available on the website: www.destolfe.com

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