This picture of Alice Eliza Baldwin Hall and Frank Watts Hall was taken April 26, 1928 in Lake Worth, Florida.

Alice Hall, my grandmother, was a state licensed 18 year old 1st grade teacher in Surveyors Creek, Florida (later called Estero) before marrying my grandfather Frank Watts Hall. Alice Baldwin's family homesteaded in Ft. Denaud and owned citrus groves. Frank Watts' family homesteaded property near the little community of Caloosa now known as Alva, Florida. His family had citrus groves and a nursery. After marrying Alice they lived in Caloosa until they built and moved into a large two story house in LaBelle, Florida across from what is now the Swamp Cabbage Celebration Park. They had 5 sons and 1 daughter. During their lives, they owned the LaBelle Mercantile building and business, the local Texaco Service Station, the local movie theater that was often operated by my father when he was an early teenager They owned substantial local property, two community developments, and other business activities until the great depression made life much more difficult.

Alice passed away in 1954 and Watts in 1939.

FROM FEB. 5 TO OCT. 10 many funny thing have occurred.

Oct. 10, 1898.

Left wharf on Paine at one o'clock. Had pleasant trip until just below jettie when crank pin of engine broke. Tied up to channel stake and waited until Grey Eagle came and towed us into Myers. Busy all evening.

Oct. 11, 1898.

Left Myers on steamer Caloosa. Met Mr. Sparkman, Senator Pasco and Mr. Ball. Annie A. was going to her school at Boca Grande. Reached Punta Rassa on time. Went to see Sallie Kallum. Found her somewhat changed, but a very good girl. Spent nearly all my time in her company. had a pleasant time. H.

Oct. 11 12, 1898.

Spent most of day with Sallie Near made her mad before I knew it by saying "mean things" about girls in general. Left Punta Rassa at dark just after a little boat ride with Laura Gonzalez. Wind held up until six miles off Naples and then

died out.

Oct. 13

Were becalmed off Naples until half past one in afternoon. Sailor Tom and I rowed into Naples with the mail. Met Ed Blount and family there and ate dinner with them. Jennie Moore (of Joe Bostick fame; wow!!) was one of their party. Rowed out two miles and met schooner coming in, boarded her and went on to Marco, got there at 4.30 in the eve. Saw Miss Vick very soon after landing. Capt. Collier and wife are very pleasant, had a good time with them for the Halls came over bringing their musical instruments.

Oct. 14.

Capt. Collier took me through his grove of three thousand cocoanut trees, a beautiful sight seen from water side. Secured some mutton to eat. Mr. Hart took Miss Vick and I to Little Marco in his boat. Reached there at 10.30 A.M. Ate dinner with Mr. Hart. Went over and looked at school house. Palmetto shack 20x30 modern seats, no stove, my desk a fine box on

slender legs, no stove; water like tea after it has stood all day in kettle. In afternoon came on up to Mr. Kirk — where I am to board. Five boys, one roomed house, four beds, two trunks, one table nine cats, four dogs, Hunters by trade, plenty of venison to eat, Two boys each killed a deer today. Oder of dead meat all around, seven million of "skeeters". Felt sad and wrote to Penny; wanted to see her mighty bad.

Oct 16.

Wrote to Alice and to Helen, did a little washing this morning and patched two holes in the seat of my winter pants. My first attempt at patching and think I did very well. There was a slight pucker around patches but that did not matter. The boys went to town to do business, this day (Sunday) being the chief business day in this section.

Oct 17.

My first day as a teacher. Had eight pupils, and they were very good; all are bright children.

I will try to make my pupils learn something; but somehow I seem incompetent. I must learn. All the pupils are young except one girl of 17; she reminds me of Stella M—. Had to keep a smoke in the school house all day to drive out the mosquitoes and sand flies. It rained in the afternoon and made the walk to the boat very unpleasant. Rowed nearly all the way home.

Oct. 18.

My second day gone. Things are beginning to run more smoothly. The pupils have studied their teacher and are now beginning to be mischevious. One child absent. Mosquitoes were terrible this morning, but a wind sprang up near noon and by ~~night~~ evening the mosquitoes had quieted down. We sailed most of the way home this evening. While writing this the smudge is nearly putting my eyes out, but the "skeeters" have skipped out. The old man went hunting today, but was unsuccessful. I discovered that my large pupil, Cora, has a lover. Am afraid she won't study much.

Oct. 18.

Sailed all the way to school this morning; while sailing wrote two pages to Miss Andrew. The morning was cool and for once the "skeeters" were quiet. About noon a few began to visit the school.

The day was quite windy: I discovered a piece of an old sail which droffed down over the doorway and kept the wind out; a piece of scantling at the lower end held it down.

School is running more smoothly and I am feeling better over it.

Oct. 19.

School went finely today. I forgot my umbrella this morning and befor I reached school the rain began to fall, and it has drizzled and poured all day long. We came home in the rain tonight. Sailed to the Point. Secured the Ft Myers Press today. "Skeeters"! "Skeeters"!! "Skeeters"!!!

Oct. 20.

No school today because it has rained nearly all the time. The rain began last night and just poured for several hours. Yesterday the woods were dry, and this morning every thing was under water. The boys and I went hunting this morning for quail. We waded for several miles and secured a few birds. I also killed a rabbit. Nearly all my clothes are wet and things are very disagreeable. I see a north-west squall coming, which means cold weather for a few days.

Oct. 21.

Today was Saturday, but I had school in order to make up for yesterday. Had a fine wind down this morning for the wind was from, had all I could stand and nearly

upset the boat. After reaching Mr. H's — we had to go over to Mr. Hart's after the children. The day was very disagreeable and the children were very uncomfortable for the wind whistled in at all corners. Sailed nearly all the way back to the Island. Cold enough to settle the "skeeters" Will try to finish my letter. Miss Andrew

Oct. 22.

Sunday, my second at Marco. I went to town with Mr. Kirkland and the two boys today. We sailed down and had all the wind we could stand. When just entering the Marco Pass a squall struck us and nearly capsized us. We were forced to let go the sheet rope and then we were driven on to a sand bar.

I took some books, The Religion of Geology, The Conspirators and the Conscripts, to Miss Vick for her to read. I was at Capt. Collier's most of the time for we

had to wait until the tide turned before we could beat back up the channel and bay. I bought some cocoanuts from Capt. C., six for a quarter, big fine ones. Ate dinner at Collier's and had a fine dinner too; was very glad to get it too after a week of greasy food.

We left Marco half hour by sun and tried to sail home, but the wind was too strong so we rowed; reached home at seven o'clock. Saw Capt. Hendry and Harvey Hutman in Marco. I Met Mr. Ludlow and his wife. He has a fine apple farm at Caximbus.

Oct. 23

School passed off well today, had some trouble with Ruby, Velma and Pearl, but only because they are so full of life. The morning was clear and fair, but near noon it became squally and rainy. Had quite a storm this afternoon. Sailed down this morning but had to beat and row back this evening. Discovered today that I do not understand teaching Grammar to beginners. It is the hardest study I have to teach well.

Oct 24.

School progressed finely. I did not eat so much as usual and I found my brain to be clearer. Sailed down this morning but had to row back this evening. Mosquitoes very bad to-day. A heavy rain falling tonight. Plenty of venison for Mr. K. killed a deer yesterday, which makes five since I came. Rover disappeared, and has not been seen today.

Oct 25.

No school today owing to the bad weather. Will have to make up for lost time next Sat. A North Wester is coming up and the weather will be cold tomorrow I fear. He, the boys and I practiced a few shots with the rifle today; I find I am not a very good marksman. Rover was found dead today, and the boys think he was killed by a blow on the back of the neck, which Mr. Kirkland struck him with

a hatchet while in a fit of passion. The old man has a fierce temper, and is continually yelling at the dogs and sometimes curses them. Every thing is swimming, and the water is all around the house. Pieces of dead meat are lying about the place, making things somewhat disagreeable. Bah! How some people live. I would often write more of my mind, but the boys are so impolite that they crowd around and begin to read what I write as soon as I start.

Oct 27

School went well today. Had a spell of the "giggles" today and was as bad as my pupils almost; but, did succeed in keeping my dignity most of the time. Had only ½ hr. of noon and no recess this afternoon, so got out half hr. sooner by so doing. Went past the bar and secured some "isters" this evening and had a roast and a "raw gobble" after supper. I succeeded in disposing of at least twenty myself.

Sailed down this morning with a fair wind. Claude's and Nora's books came today, also the Harts children books.

Oct. 28

Sailed down this morning with a fine wind. Stopped at Haymen's with some flour and lard for her to keep the family on until her hubby gets back, he having gone away to be gone for two weeks without leaving her or the children any thing to eat. His father-in-law is not afraid to say that his son in law is one of the laziest and most shiftless of men. Such is life. This evening as we came past we saw a fire near the bank and George said he supposed Mrs. Hall was cooking oysters for her and the family. Her name is the same as mine but I do not claim relation with her husband!!!

~~We shall have~~ no school tomorrow for some of the pupils wanted to work. Will have school next Sat. Leora was sick today. I descovered that she knows Alice, her family having lived at the Garvey's place at Denand.

Mr. Kirk came in this evening with two deer. He had left half of one in the woods it being too much for him to carry with the other. May go hunting tomorrow. Stopped out of a rain at Walter Collier's this evening. Rained for an hour.

Oct. 29.

Went hunting today with the three oldest boys. Walked about 15 miles and saw nothing but an alligator and some bear signs. Shot at birds some this evening and the dogs treed a coon which I shot at long range. The boys led me to a place where a deer had been killed and I got the horns which are fine ones. We were caught in a rain and quite thoroughly drenched. Wasted much ammunition at trees and birds; killed a few larks. Did intend going down the bay and catching some mullet this evening but we finally decided not to.

Received a letter from home this evening. The boys were very much interested in whether my parents could read and write as well

as I could. Their parents can't read or write very well and they seemed surprise that my parents could do such a thing. Th gauge the lives and accomplishments of ot people by their own narrow and ignorant live and environments. When I write in this dia of evenings, the boys say I am "letting my fig root a little", meaning the fig carved on the end of my bog-oak pen staff which "Penny" brou from Ireland for me. Thoughtful, kind "Penny".

Oct. 30

Went to the beach by Little Marco pas this morning, and we three went bathin in the surf. Had a fine time against th breakers and enjoyed ourselves greatly. Fou a few shells, but nothing fine. I found vine on the beach which was 111 feet lon Its name I do not know, but there a lots of them growing there. Got a little wet coming back this evening for it is the wet season I know; still raining and likely to continue so for a few hour Saw Jean Johnson this evening. Dese

ered that Claude wants to be an officer in the navy; hope he will get there. Had my algebra along, but did not succeed in working the problem of the planets and sun.

Oct. 31.

Cool and windy with a north wind blowing today. Had a fine sail down this morning and a very nice time beating back this evening. Did not quite hit the landing this morning and were run into the bushes in a double quick hurry. The boat turned broadside to the wave and we shipped considerable water before we could get out. The children built a table outside the school house today.
Coming home Arthur said he "felt cold and wanted to fuzz up like a bird"; a queer little fellow, but spoiled and petted; rather shrewd for a ten year old. Teaching grammer is getting interesting now.

Nov. 1.

School went smoothely today had a little trouble with Ruby, Velma and Claude, but only mischeviousness

Strong wind today, had a nice time to beat back this evening; got somewhat wet from waves, and we took aboard some water. Wrote part of a letter to my mother. The boys kill a turkey and squirrel today, and were going fishing tonight but I had no to do.

Nov. 2

Sailed down this morning with fair wind and the old boat; she more steady than the other one. School ran smoothely but some of the children were inclined to be lazy. Will have to make them stu tomorrow. Cora is drawing a ma of N. America. Blanche thinks I am holding him back in frac to enable Cora to catch up with hi He is mistaken. Had to row up this evening and I broke an oar; t wind was furious. Went fishing with the boys tonight. We caught ab

thirty little mullet; no big mullet in the creek or bay. I threw the net a few times and succeeded in catching one little mullet. I think I will soon learn to cast the net, but it is hard on ones teeth to hold a sinker between them. We cleaned the fish after returning home at ten oclock, Had a hard row up the bay tonight, wind strong.

Nov. 3.

Pupils became very restless and hard to manage this afternoon. Hope better results tomorrow. Sailed down this morning, but this evening had to come back against a furious wind. George broke his oar, and we, having nothing but paddles to pull with, went back down the bay, for the boat was unmanagable. After a few minutes I got the sprite-pole and poled up to Hayman's where we found a pair of oars in the old boat Black Maria. We borrowed the

oars without asking permission.
Had fish today and I ate a lot
you bet! The boys killed a turke
today and they descovered where
three deer had been feeding in
Pierce's potato patch.

Nov. 4.

Sailed down this morning. Had
some trouble with Ruby and had
to spat her hand with a ruler &
felt worse than she did, I know,
and hope I will not have to
do any more punishing. Had
a good row back this evening
but got caught in a slight
shower. Ate some cane when I
got home, and shot once with
the 22. The boys killed two turke
and three squirrels today. When I
got home I tried to patch two
holes in the seat of my winte
pants, but the patches did such
a pucker that I gave Mrs. Hall —
no relation of mine — 10¢ to patch them

for me. The boys are talking and their coarseness disgusts me. Have been reading to the whole family and the report of an uprising of negros in a certain section of Miss. interested them more than any thing else. The boys all want to go and "shoot niggers" for they regard the shooting of a "nigger" with as little seriousness as the shooting of a bird. Haymen wants to shoot "niggers" too.

Nov. 5

Sailed down today and for a wonder had a wind to sail back with this evening. Miss Vick was waiting at Mr. Hall's for me when I passed this morning and went to the school where she stayed until noon. She thinks her former pupils have improved and I hope they have. Mr. Weaver came at eleven o'clock and stayed until noon when he took Miss Vick home - to Mr. Hart's I mean. She wanted me to ~~fing~~ change $\frac{m}{n}$ to a fraction whose denominator is 100. Will try to do it soon.

Had some trouble with Blanche and Pearl, ~~Velma~~ Ruby and Arthur. Blanche is mean and needs a good thrashing.

Mr. Weaver brought some mail for me, papers and a letter from Alice, letters from "Penny" Sam White, Genevieve, mother and Mr. Lees of Sanibel, who wants to be member of school board. I learned today that Miss Stella Baston had been very easy on the pupils and had spoiled them; they had better look out for me for I am getting out of humor with them.

Noah, Reese and I went bathing this evening, and while we were in the water, Mr. Bill Kirk happened to come down the creek and warned us that his wife and Mr. Kirk were coming down in a boat just behind. We boys crawled in under the mangroves like otters and hid there until Mr. K, and his sister in law were past.

We were so amused at our position that the boys exploded with laughter just as the boat was passing. I was as much tickled as the boys for I was standing on my toes in the mud with my head stuck out of the water, and all bunched up.

Nov. 6

Stayed at home and read, wrote letters, made out an order to Montgomery Ward & Co. and had the dickens of a time with the boys. They are awful coarse as most ignorant people are. They wanted to go swimming today but I did not go. Mr. and Mrs. Kirk went to Marco today to buy provisions. I did some washing this morning, it being Sunday, but the only day I have had this week. Read to the family some tonight. Wrote to Sam W. Alice B. and my mother. The boys have been spending most of their day hunting around and shooting birds with a 22 caliber rifle. They are awfully cruel.

Nov. 6, 7

The wind is blowing a gale today and we nearly ran the boat under this morning. Went from the little island to landing in 15 minutes; had a hard pull back this evening. Had five visitors today and one of the boys remarked that "the N. E. gale had blown the people in to the school house", just as it blows the mosquitoes from place to place. Reese killed a small deer today and wounded two big turkeys but they got away from him.

Nov. 8

No school today, for it was Election day, which is holiday. I went to Marco in the good boat, had a big wind and made most of the run with a mutton-leg sail. Tried to beat up the channel, but found I could make the stretch better with the oars so took down sail and rowed. Every thing

was quiet in Marion, and after voting I went up to see Miss Vick. Stayed an hour or more, and at 11 o'clock started back home. Came through little cut at Abi Hall's place, but found the water so shallow that I had to get over-board and push the boat through. It was hard work. I made good time up Calhoun Channel but the wind was so strong I could keep my sail only half or a third full. Nearly capsized several times, but kept such a sharp eye on the wind and boat that I kept from taking in water. Made 3 short tacks to get around Umbrella Point, and also made 3 short tacks through Hall's Bay. Had to get out and full the boat through the Sugar Hole, for the current was swift and shallow. Two boys went hunting today and secured a squirrel and two gobblers. They shot down a deer, but it got away from them. Received a letter and book from Alice. The book to be read to "my heathens" as she calls them. Am tired tonight.

Nov. 19

Sailed down to school this morning with a good wind and succeeded in sailing most of the way back this evening. The boys went to the bird rookery to shoot curlews this evening. They have not yet returned. School went very well this evening, but I had some trouble this morning with the Hart children who are quarrelsome and are always hurting each other.

Had no oil this evening so went up the creek to Bill Kirk, and then to Demerritt's to borrow oil. We went in the little canoe, and fairly run her under we went so fast. I steered and did not strike a snag nor bush although it was dark and I am not acquainted with the creek. Little Lillie Demeritt looks so lonesome. I believe I will give her a doll or picture book to amuse

herself with Christmas. She is a very pretty and sweet child.

Nov. 9. 10

Studied Grammar this morning as we sailed down to the landing while Dan handled the boat. Took my M. & W. Catalogue to Old Mrs Hall. Had some trouble with the pupils this afternoon until after recess and this morning I was forced to punish Ruby with the ruler. Claude brought some N.Y. Worlds and a letter for me this morning. War seems imminent between England and France. The boys went hunting today but did not kill any thing. Dan sent off his Press items this evening. Mosquitoes are terrible now and the smudge is worse for the smoke hurts my throat. Am now reading The Swiss Family Robinson a chapter at evening to the "Heathens" as Alice says.

Nov. 11

School went well this morning. This afternoon my pupils spoke pieces, al did very well except Arthur who becam frightened and set up a boo-hoo after speaking two lines. Little Velma did very well also. Lillie Demerritt spo a little piece, also Mrs. Almeda Kirk and Mrs. K. "motioned her piece" to the great delight of the members of the Kirk-family. She did very we for one without an education. After the speaking was over I read two selections for the people and they seem to enjoy the reading as they did the speaking. The school was nearly fu of visitors today, and the people seem enjoy "speaking day" at the school.

After school, as we were all lea the school house, I met Mr. Harris, man of fifty-odd years and his 1 year old wife. Mr. Harris wants to send his child wife to school, also

her little brother, which will make two more pupils, and take up time. Mrs. Harris is the most bashful person I have ever seen. She looked like a scared deer today, and I could hardly get a word out of her or get her to raise her eyes from the ground. Nobody seemed to take any notice of her.

Nov. 12

I rose very early this morning and after a poor breakfast, two of the boys and I went hunting. The woods is full of water yet, and the mosquitoes are terrible. We saw no game, but in Middle Hammuck saw plenty of bear signs. We reached home shortly after noon. Mr. Kirkland went hunting this morning also, but he did not return until after dark this evening. He killed three deer, and brought one in with him, the other two he hung up on trees and left in the woods until tomorrow morning.

This afternoon, the two oldest boys went curlew-hunting up Bear Hammuck creek and

killed three. I took every thing out of my trunk and looked for moth but found none. I also chewed a lot of cane and wrote letters to mother, Alice and part of a letter to Penny. I also did some washing.

Nov 13

This morning the two boys and Mr. K. went into the woods and brought back the two deer which Mr. Kirk had left last night. They left two hours before day break. I finished my letter to Penny and as the Kirks were ~~all~~ going to Marco I sent the letters to the office by them. I spent the day at Harts today and got home at sundown. Mr. Hart brought up some books and papers for me. The papers and one book, Gulliver's Travels, were from home, while the school books I ordered from Myers also came. Little Verna and Ruby seem to like me very much. I had a little scuffle with Lord over a rose and I have been ashamed of it ever since. It is very hard to keep my dignity as a school teacher should. Leora seems to

like me better than she likes Jean; and I must be careful, or she will think more of her teacher than her books. When I got home, I found letters from Helen, home, and Miss Andrew. Miss Andrew is in as bad a place as I am in. I read two chapters of the Robinson book this evening then read my letters.

Nov. 14

Had to row nearly all the way down to the bay this morning for the wind was light. We were 15 minutes late but got out in time. School went very well, but I had to teach against my feelings for I do not feel well today. Had no trouble with the pupils, and the lessons were good. Blanche was somewhat ...lky over her lessons. Saw the Press and thing Foster is elected for member School Board. Have a boil on my hand, and a boil inside my nose which makes me very cross. Had trouble with Arthur coming home tonight, but he had to obey me. He has had his own way at home so long that it hurt him mightily to have to do as I said. I wish he was my boy a few weeks; he would learn to think there was somebody else in the world besides himself, and that the whole world was not made for him alone. The boys have gone gator hunting tonight. Little Sellie came to school this afternoon.

Nov. 15

The boys rowed down this morning but we sailed nearly all the way back this evening. School went well, but having a boil on my hand and one in my right nostril, I didn't feel very well; feel little like fever was in my system tonight. Wrote to Mr. Bostic today, and sent an order to him to draw out my first month's pay and send it to me. Had to nearly smoke my eyes and throat out, to drive out the "skeeters" this morning. This evening Noah played his harp and the smaller boys and little Reese Hall had a "hoedown". It is very amusing to see the little fellows dance jigs especially little Reese. We are going to have a dance (2) sometime this winter, and I have said I would buy the lemons to make lemonade for the dancers. I must learn to dance a jig too. The boys have gone 'gator hunting tonight; they killed one 'gator today