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DIARY OF KENA FRIES

*edited by* JEAN YOTHERS AND PAUL W. WEHR

*translated by* MARGARETA MILLER

**I**N 1870, a few Swedes led by Dr. William A. Henschen and his brother Esaias settled on Henry S. Sanford's lands lying on the south shore of Lake Monroe. Other Swedes were not long in following them to central Florida. Sanford, in need of labor for the development of his new town and the care of his groves, employed Henschen as his agent to return to Sweden to recruit immigrants. In May 1871, Henschen returned with the first of two groups of Swedes. Many of their countrymen, hearing of the Swedish colony at New Uppsala near Sanford, came and established themselves in the nearby communities of Piedmont (an area just south of Apopka), Forest City (lying between Apopka and Altamonte Springs), and the Lake Jessup settlement, now Oviedo. Kena Fries's father was one of those who immigrated to central Florida.

John Otto Fries, born in Uppsala, Sweden, on September 29, 1838, was the third son of Elias Magnus Fries, a well-known botanist, whose forebears came from Friesland. His mother's family claimed as an ancestor the famous Linneaus, Karl von Linne. John was graduated from the University of Uppsala in 1857, and immediately began graduate study in Stockholm, receiving degrees in geology and civil engineering in 1860. For the next ten years he was employed by the Swedish government, and it was during that time he served as a member of a geological observation party which traveled to the Arctic Circle. It was for this service, perhaps, that the Royal Geological Society of Sweden bestowed upon him honorary membership. Sometime after 1860 he married, and his wife Christina bore him two daughters, Christina (Kena) on October 31, 1867, and Eva in late 1870 or early 1871.

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In the later months of 1871 John took temporary leave from his wife and young daughters and immigrated to the United States, undoubtedly with the intention of establishing himself in Florida before sending for them. Why John chose Florida as his destination is difficult to determine, but the possibility of his hearing about, or even speaking with, Henschen, also a graduate of the University of Uppsala, when the latter was recruiting workers in the vicinity of Fries's hometown might have aroused his interest in the area. After landing in New York City, John boarded the *San Salvador* for Savannah, and from there he sailed on the *Dictator* to Jacksonville. On December 24 the riverboat *Starlight Jacksonville* carried him to Mellonville, a settlement which had sprung up on the grounds of old Fort Mellon and is now a part of Sanford.

Two days later he and four others hired George Lewis to carry them in a wagon drawn by four mules the approximately twenty-four miles to Orlando. The party left Mellonville at 9 A.M., and did not arrive in Orlando until evening. Fries spent the next three days inspecting homesteads in the Orlando area, but he did not find any to his liking and returned to Mellonville. He eventually located on the old Cook's Ferry road which crossed the St. Johns River at the mouth of Lake Harney.

Count Nicholas Wassielief, an exile from Russia who was then living in the Geneva area, encouraged John to take up surveying. He was quite successful in that profession, surveying the routes for the Tavares, Orlando and Atlantic Railroad and the Oviedo, Lake Charm, and Lake Jesup Railroad and serving as deputy United States surveyor and Orange County surveyor. It was while holding the latter position in 1890 that he drew a map of Orange County. It was, perhaps, one of the best county maps in the state at the time, for it marked rivers, roads, railroads, schoolhouses, churches, and post offices, and located and named many homesteads.

In his letter of April 7, 1873, John described his experiences in Florida to his wife and children who were still in Sweden. The next year he homesteaded 160 acres between lakes Gem and Bath south of Oviedo on the old road to Geneva. It was there that his family was reunited with him, and it was there that the fifteen-year-old Kena began her diary. When John was appointed Orange County surveyor in September 1883, he and his family moved

into three rented rooms in Orlando so he could be nearer his office. In the spring of 1884 the four of them moved into the more comfortable quarters of their new home where Matilda Olsen, another Swede, joined them as their live-in servant in 1885.

After the disastrous freezes in the winter of 1894-1895, John moved to Titusville and became Brevard County surveyor. This left Kena and her mother alone in the home in Orlando, for Eva had returned to Sweden in 1894 to marry. In 1900, through the efforts of John M. Cheney, superintendent of the census for the second district of Florida, Fries was appointed special agent to take a census of the Seminole Indians living in Florida, which was completed in September 1900. He was assisted in this task by Archibald A. Hendry. Although John was absent from Orlando for many years, he was living at home when his wife Christina passed away in January 1917. Despite his eighty-one years, he helped take the census for Orange County in 1920. John Fries died in January 1931, and Kena was now alone.

The diary of Kena Fries is in the collections of the Orange County Historical Museum in Orlando. The greater part of the manuscript reflects the daily life of a lively Swedish immigrant girl living in central Florida 100 years ago. Margareta Miller, the Swedish-born translator, remarked that there are "numerous references to Swedish customs such as making new clothes for May First, making Easter decorations out of egg shells, growing parsnips." The later entries added sporadically until 1937 reveal the author's growing loneliness and preoccupation with the past.

The translation is as exact as Kena Fries's grammar and style permitted, and the punctuation follows that found in the manuscript. The various spellings of the same given and family names appear in the translation just as Kena had written them. Before 1900 either Jessup or Jesup was acceptable, although the former is used now exclusively. Jessup is the spelling for the lake and the settlement. Jesup, however, appears in the name of the railroad company as it was chartered.

The first two pages contain inscriptions written in English. On the first appears: "Kina Fries, From her sister Eva Fries, Oviedo, March 12, 1883." On the second is the poem:

"He who drinks from Gods gold chalice  
Of art, or music, or rhythmic song

Must sift from his soul the chaff of Malice  
And weed from his hearth [heart] the roots of wrong.”

The entries begin on the third page.

Monday, March 12, 1883. Eva has given me this beautiful book, so I had better write as well as I know how. My other book is all complete. Today Eva was at school and received the best marks.<sup>1</sup> Emmanuel was so mad he would not talk to her all the way home.<sup>2</sup> Though probably Jenny Holtzclaw will get the big prize which is a golden pen, probably made of brass.<sup>3</sup> There is a new girl at school called Maggie Argo, Eva likes her just about as well as JZ, poor JZ is in a bad way, they owe Martin 60 dollars and now they have to do the washing themselves.<sup>4</sup> Today I put a hen on thirteen eggs and I hope that all of them will hatch. I have also been out milking twice today, and I have finished the comforter I was making for Mamma and I think that is fairly good, for me that is. Then I practiced the piano for an hour. Pappa has been to Orlando today, and he brought home quite a few things, little and big, among them a book, and also dates and taffy, it is so much fun getting these things when Pappa comes home. Yesterday Mrs. Brock and Mrs. King were here.<sup>5</sup> Mrs. King is thinking of getting her piano down. Then I will go and visit with her. Now it is very late and cold, I wonder if winter will never end. If I don't go to bed now I won't wake up in time for milking and I am so sleepy that I can't write neatly.

Wednesday, March 14, 1883. Today I have been churning butter and washing dishes all day long. This evening Eva brought home my part in Cinderella. I am the Baroness and I shall have to be very harsh on Cinderella. I believe Eva is drawing a map of

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- 1 . The schoolhouse was about one mile northeast of the Fries's residence on the road to Geneva.
  - 2 . Emmanuel was the son of J. E. and Johanna Okerlund. They were Swedes who had moved to the area in 1882.
  - 3 . Virginia was the nine-year-old daughter of J. C. and Martha F. Holtzclaw.
  - 4 . Maggie was the daughter of James E. and Lisa Argo who moved to Oviedo from Georgia. J. Z. was the twelve-year-old daughter of Mrs. J. L. Brewster, a widow who operated the Brewster House on the north shore of Lake Charm.
  - 5 . Mrs. Martha Brock's first husband died in the Civil War. She later married Meredith Brock and settled in the Lake Jessup area in 1868. Mrs. King was the wife of J. H. King, the son of Martha Brock by her first marriage. Mr. King represented Orange County in the Florida House of Representatives in 1908-1909.

the southern states. This morning I did not wake up until nine o'clock and that must not happen tomorrow. Wiley Lee is going by coach to Minnesota and there he will be learning about meat.<sup>6</sup> He made a fire that burned down the wooden fence and much more, some people say it was not he who did it. Both Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Tom Lawton had babies, both boys, I hope they will live.<sup>7</sup> Emanuel will handle the mules instead of Wiley.

Saturday, March 17, 1883. Today we are going to the Lees for "candy pulling" [written in English] it is probably Wiley's good-bye party.<sup>8</sup> Pappa stayed home both today and yesterday. We are expecting Charlie Ack [?] how sincerely good and kind he is to us. Yesterday I was in school to rehearse my piece and I thought they were carrying on like they were crazy, laughing and talking and shrieking like wild ones. All the children except for Eva, Jessie, Maggie Argo and Emmanuel were allowed to read their pieces out of books and they could not even read it properly. Mrs. Lindsay, JZ, Emma Larson, Julia Lee, Eva, and I received an A.<sup>9</sup> Now I must stop because I have so much to do before we go to the Lees. I have to help Mamma tidy up and bake and iron and starch and I don't want to be late.

Monday, March 19, 1883. Now Pappa has left to survey land and we are alone again. All the candy turned into sugar at the Lees and we have been asked to come in two weeks instead. Eva is ill again and cannot go to school. [Illegible] has a new bolt of calico. Yesterday Pappa and Mamma and I went to church for a temperance meeting and we had a picnic in the woods and then we stayed with the Sommervilles while Pappa went to the Youngs.<sup>10</sup> Eva was at home. We have two new cows, one is named Betsy and

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6. Wiley was one of the nine children of James H. and Laura Lee. The family came to the area in 1874 from Hamilton County, Florida. Mr. Lee served continuously as Orange County commissioner from 1895 to 1911.

7. Mrs. Fox was the wife of George Fox. Mrs. Tom Lawton was the second wife of Thomas, son of A. B. and Narcissa Lawton of near Thomasville, Georgia. Tom's brother Alex had moved to Orange County about 1869, and the other members of the family followed. Tom owned a store at what was known as Lawtonville and served as postmaster at Lake Charm from September 1886 to May 1887, when the office was closed.

8. The Lee's residence was on the south shore of Lake Charm.

9. Emma was the thirteen-year-old daughter of Peter and Mary Larson who lived approximately one-half mile northeast of the schoolhouse. Julia Lee was Wiley's sister.

10. Wallace and Cayrina Sommerville had two children, Jane and James, ages twelve and ten respectively. W. B. Young was a Physician.

the other one Droupe, that's a funny name. Eva has stopped writing journals, a dozen would be enough to tire anybody out, but the last one was to be so romantic.

Tuesday, the 20th, 1883. Now I have been out milking with Mamma. Last night first Mrs. Akerlund was here, then Emanuel came, they had supper and left.<sup>11</sup> Then came Mrs. Nilson and she had supper too, we had both washes and custard left from breakfast.<sup>12</sup> I got a lot of "advertizing books" and paper. Eva does not go to school but is home ill. Yesterday we planted my garden, onions, radishes, turnips, peppers, tomatoes, cauliflowers, and parsnips. Now it will soon be Easter and I shall borrow a magazine from Miss Ella and make [illegible] and such things from egg shells, and soon it is Mamma's and Pappa's wedding day so I shall have to get some presents ready.<sup>13</sup> I am finishing Mamma's foot stool. I should write to Gertrud soon, I have received a letter and book marks, two I believe it is, but I am in such a hurry.<sup>14</sup>

Friday, March 23, 1883. Eva has found my journal.

Saturday, March 24, 1883. I did not have time to write more yesterday so I must do it today instead. Yesterday was Good Friday. Today is Easter Eve. I now have fever every night so I shall not be allowed to eat Easter eggs. I had such pretty shells, but Pappa threw them to the chickens and I don't know what will happen. I shall bake some lemon pies today. Eva washed her dolls' clothes the other day, but I shall not be allowed to do that however much I want to. Miss Ella has now come home from the Lees where she has been the whole week, and she has been hanging around all day though she says she is in such a hurry more so than anybody else. She ought to be as busy as Mamma, Mrs. Nilson and then she would probably say that it would be impossible to do everything. It is impossible to like her. Rosa and

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11. Akerlund is a misspelling for Okerlund.

12. Elias and Ida Nelson immigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1875, and settled in the Lake Jessup community.

13. Miss Ella was the twenty-six-year-old unmarried daughter of J. D. and M. E. Jackson who resided in Longwood.

14. Gertrude was one of the daughters of Ingram Fletcher. Calvin Fletcher, Ingram's father, was the founder of that prominent Indianapolis, Indiana, family. When Ingram and his daughters visited Orange County in the early 1880s, the daughters stayed at the Brewster House. He and his family moved to Orange County in 1884. He was appointed postmaster at Orlando in 1890.

Eddie or Stella were here for the milk just now.<sup>15</sup> Pappa brought home lemons from Jacobs it is very nice to get them.<sup>16</sup> Gustav and Sten have not returned yet.<sup>17</sup>

April 1, 1883, Sunday evening. Now I have a lot to write about. Yesterday we went to the Lees for "candy pulling," and it turned to sugar again and then they gave up. Wiley left last Friday. Gustaf and Sten brought home 40 or 43 head of cattle so now they have nearly a hundred. Mrs. Nilson and Gustaf were here tonight. I had four Easter eggs and now the fever is gone. Eva has started a new diary, she is incurable in that way. Mrs. Lindsay will not put on Cinderella. Mrs. Farnell was here last Friday. Yesterday, Mrs. Farnell caught a big hare that we had for dinner today. Tommy Farnell is so scared of me that he cries whenever he hears my voice. Now we have a swing between the trees, we will see how long it lasts. The "Potato" cow screams something terrible. Yesterday we had a letter from Aunt Sanna. Tomorrow Pappa will go to Orlando. Now I had better stop. Eva is reading just now when I finish she will start playing the piano.

April 8, 1883. Yesterday we had a picnic with White the Young's boarder. Last Tuesday Mamma and I went to the Svenssons and we had a lot of fun, now the fever has returned. My blind hen had 9 chicks and Isabella had 10. Eva and Emanuel met a drunk man last Tuesday. Here is now a person who seems to want to stay forever, his name is Garrick or something like that, it's an ugly name and he is so unpleasant he only reads sitting in the rocking chair with his feet on the organ bench or on the table and seems to think he owns everything, anyway we cannot play or be around him, it is almost like not having a home or any room. Yesterday we had a small "candy pulling" instead of the picnic. Pappa brought home candy twice this week.

Thursday, April 24, 1883. Now a long time has passed since I wrote in my journal. Eva is mean always reading it. Today we went to Jacobs place and it was fun, they have such a big lake called Pickle.<sup>18</sup> Garitt left yesterday but he left his trunk so I suppose he will be back. I think I will start another journal since Eva can always find this one, but the other one is in the attic and

15. Rosa, ten, Eddie, eight, and Estella, six, were the children of A. P. and N. E. Farnell.

16. It is impossible to learn whether this was P. J. or W. C. Jacobs.

17. These were sons of Elias and Ida Nelson.

18. Both Jacobs lived on the north shore of Lake Pickle, now called Pickett.

she will never find that one since she has not seen it. Yesterday we went fishing but we did not catch any trout. Mamma has finally got a dresser and Eva looks through my chest and things. Anderson and Miss Ella are here today. Tonight Eva and I will go fishing. I gave Eva a rod.

Friday, April 25, 1883. Yesterday Garritt came for his trunk so now the parlor looks right again. I picked blackberries yesterday and filled nearly a whole milk can from one single bush. My old hen has cramps and Mamma has given her pepper and vanilla, I hope she does not die, and yesterday Lillie had a fish bone stuck in her throat so I nearly lost both my pets.<sup>19</sup> Pappa went to Deltona yesterday. We are making new dresses for May first they are white and a work of art, now I have to tidy up. It is so much fun to be well again.

Monday, May 8, 1883. Today we started to do homework. Uncle Matte is dead he died from pneumonia poor Aunt Eva and her many children. It was good that he did not die from delirium. Aunt Sera wrote nearly 22 pages. I could probably write a lot but I promised Eva to write her journals in the big book and how surprised she will be tomorrow when she receives it [illegible]. Mamma is churning butter and washing dishes, hope we soon get a letter from Pappa.

Friday, May 19, 1883. Last Tuesday was my names day and I received a "lace fichu," a scarf, money for a crochet hook from Eva and four balls of yarn from Mamma and the other day when Pappa came home two materials for dresses, one beautiful lawn dress and one calico piece and a pair of boots.<sup>20</sup> Mamma said that we ought to have saved but Pappa would not hear of it. Today Pappa is in Orlando for the town meeting. I gave Mamma a knife holder and a funnel, Eva gave Mamma a sugarbowl and "a preserve dish" of glass. Last Sunday we went to the Nilsons in the afternoon and had ice cream that Gustaf had made. Mr. and Mrs. Wright were there and then they came back with us and had watermelon and then they went home.<sup>21</sup> Yesterday we went to Tuskaville for dinner it was a real vegetable dinner consisting of squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, lettuce, cabbage, [illegible],

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19. Kena must have loved animals, for in his letter of April 7, 1873, her father included numerous remarks about the animals near his home.

20. A lace fichu is an ornamental, three-cornered cape.

21. The Wrights lived about one-half mile west of Lake Pickett.

ochra, and peaches for dessert.<sup>22</sup> We went down to Brantleys wharf and looked at the large garden.<sup>23</sup> Sosy is a real “chatterbox” and Jack is so cute poor little ones who don’t have a father or do not know where he is. Mrs. Lindsay was not at home, Mrs. Wright is so pleasant, [illegible]. Mrs. Sward from Sanford is here she is such a nice and pleasant person.<sup>24</sup> This morning came [illegible] and said they would go home with him. He brought them here but he has not taken care of them since, she has two little children, Carrie and Edith or “Bojan” her name is really Ingeborg. Carrie has a big doll called Salle [illegible]. Eva has picked berries tonight. Mamma has found and read my journal and said it is poorly written, with spelling like that of a kitchen maid, it was not exactly pleasant. Now I have fever and have had it for three nights but I do not wish to tell mamma for then she would be so sad but I will take the last iron pill tonight, I think mamma thinks I am strange.

Friday, August 17, 1883. Now it is so long since I wrote the reason is that my journal was lost but I shall try to think of everything that happened. Charlie was shot on July 19, I think, he was sick in the evening on the Thursday and we went to the Nilsons and Mamma and Sten went down to shoot him but Sten couldn’t do it so Mamma and Granstrom took care of him during the night and then he was shot in the morning.<sup>25</sup> Poor Charlie he was probably in awful pain. We were so sad and so was Pappa when he came home. Lee’s little Fido who was running around here went with Pappa to Orlando and other places then he was sick and died. On the Sara day [namesday] I received a box for hairpins and money for a crochet needle. On the Christina day I got a slip, soap, hair oil, lace, a thimble, a comb, a pair of boots, that was really a lot. For Mamma’s birthday I made dinner, fried chicken with cabbage, potatoes, and pie and melon pudding and coffee, in the afternoon, we had invited Mrs. Nilson and we had coffee and cookies and waffles and little iced cakes, we did not get to the store so instead I made candy and it came out very good. Once we

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22. This was a small settlement northwest of Oviedo on the road to Sanford. The general area is known today as Tusckawilla.

23. The wharf was the westernmost shipping point for river steamers on the south shore of Lake Jessup. It was about a mile north of Tuskaville.

24. L. Sward was among the first group of Swedes to arrive in 1871 to work on Henry Sanford’s lands.

25. Olaf Granstrom was a Swede living in the area.

had an ice cream festival and the ice cream was wonderful and we had a beautiful night, two kinds of cake. Another time Mrs. Akerlund was here and I was making ice cream but I spilled everything on the ground so I felt very sad. Then came Mrs. Aulin and Emma and they stayed for a whole day.<sup>26</sup> Now Mrs. Aulin is away she left two weeks ago. Today two weeks ago Herber was buried and today Mrs. Lawton [illegible] I don't think she cared so much for Mrs. Lawton. Frida has two cute little puppies, Eva calls them Rover and Clover and now we have a big dog called Dan or Dandy he is black. One night five turkeys were lost so now we only have 8. Now I must stop. Eva found my journal just now. Eva probably would not find it interesting she has found an old journal that I wrote in 1878 it is funny she says. Emmanuel is here now. Eva was in my journal again. "Oh, how beautiful are Walborg and [illegible]" she has written she is so poetic she is a genius. Mrs. Aulin has lent us the Home Circle and her organ book. Now I have to stop I had a letter from Elizabeth.<sup>27</sup>

Saturday, August 25, 1883. Today is the Lovisa day Eva's only namesday she does not count Eva for that is on Christmas Eve. From Mamma she received two pairs of stockings, a Swiss apron, with lace, a lace collar a fine soap, a beautiful little brush, a bag of candy and dates from me a fan and a handkerchief with lace around it. She also received a bone box from Mamma I think she liked the fan best but I would have liked the brush best. Mrs. Larson and Hilda were here yesterday, now they have gone to Mrs. Ella to buy grapes. Mrs. Ella is very stingy she only sells us grapes she never gives us any but she gives to other people, I don't like her. Emmanuel is a clerk in the store now. Eva has drawn a man sitting at the parlor table, he looks like Akerlund. Hurrah for Eva Thora Lovisa Fries.

August 26, 1883. Sunday. Now Pappa has gone to Orlando and we are alone today. Next time Pappa comes home we will move. Now the land has been cleared in Orlando. This morning we got

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26. Mrs. Aulin's husband Andrew was educated at the University of Uppsala and immigrated to the Lake Jessup area around 1870. A few years after his arrival he married Lona Lawton. He managed a store in Oviedo and served as postmaster from 1879 to 1882 and from 1883 to 1889. He also served as county commissioner but attended only one meeting. He is credited with selecting the name Oviedo for the community.

27. Elizabeth was another daughter of Ingram Fletcher.



Kena Fries as a young woman. (Photograph courtesy of Orange County Historical Museum, Orlando).

The image shows two pages of a handwritten diary on a grid background. The handwriting is in cursive and appears to be from the late 19th or early 20th century. The text is dense and fills most of both pages. There are several instances of crossed-out text, indicated by a large, dark scribble in the center of each page. The left page has a small mark in the top left corner, and the right page has a small mark in the top right corner. The overall appearance is that of a well-used, personal journal.

Two pages of the diary. (Photograph by Paul Hightower).

a letter from JZ she wants us to come and stay three to four days and Mrs. Lindsay wants us to come to Tuskavilla next Tuesday. I would like to go to Mrs. Svenson Monday or Tuesday, we are in such a hurry now making the lawn dresses it is just terrible the way I write.

August 29, 1883, Wednesday. It has rained the whole morning. It is not so late, only ten in the morning, they have not come from Tuskavilla to pick us up but I didn't really expect it so I am not sad I don't think we can go to JZ tonight. I don't want to leave mother alone at home. Yesterday I broke mother's glass pitcher, but I hope I will be able to buy a new one. Ragtag will have kittens soon. I wonder if Eva has read my journal lately. Now I shall try to make a pretty ornament. . . .

September 3, Monday, 1883. We have a new month now. We will move in two weeks. We went to Brewster Wednesday night and stayed until Friday night, it was quite nice but JZ is very false. Julia Lee went home with us and stayed until Sunday night. She and Eva found a soft shell turtle.

Friday, September 7, 1883. I cannot write more now Eva has read my journal. Ragtag has had kittens but they were drowned. Now I am making a night gown for Eva, I shall give it to her on the Thora day, and I am making a white jacket of Pique for Mamma, this week we have made four linen dresses with many pleats it isn't quite finished but the week isn't over yet. Mr. Jimmie Mitchell was here this morning, Mrs. Mitchell is dying, poor people, I played for him, I am learning Napoleon's march, it is very difficult. Nickolina was expected home the day before yesterday.<sup>28</sup> Last night she had coffee with Mrs. Nilson.

[Many of the entries on the next several pages are either illegible or unintelligible. The sense of the few bits and pieces that can be put together relate to the family's move to Orlando, various crises of the pets, Eva's serious illness in April 1884, the move that spring to the family's new house, the first French lesson, various needlework projects, and the father's illness in the summer of 1884.]

Tuesday, August 15, 1884. Katy is dying so we had to lock her up so that she would not bite. Pappa wanted to kill Katy for everybody said she was dangerous. Mamma's birthday was not like

28. Nicolina was a daughter of Elias and Ida Nelson. The two remained friends, for she wrote to Kena from Oviedo on July 9, 1895.

other years. I gave her a pillow, a tray, a motto, "Simply to thy cross I cling."

Thursday, June 14, 1888. I just found this and read the old diary or "journal," as we used to call them. Four years have passed since I wrote in this book. Much has happened in this time period, both happy and sad. But this is enough.

Thursday, December 10, 1888. I did not get any further in June. This evening I got this book out about my childhood. We were certainly very happy. My dear Mamma and Papa [note spelling] who did everything they could. I wonder if my Swedish spelling is better now. Soon it is Christmas. I remember the last Christmas in the old place so well. I wonder if we will sell it or keep it. Now it is a dear old place, with its many memories. I have been too hasty. Let me try to live more in the present— and "Ad majorem gloriam Deus."

Sunday, October 17, 1889. Soon it is a year ago that I wrote in this book. Eva has since come home from Sweden.<sup>29</sup> I have just come home from Asheville. Oh, how grateful I ought to be from year to year for still having my dear ones. I wonder how it will be next time I look at this old book.

Monday, September 22, 1890. When I cleaned up my closet I found this old book again. All is well, may it stay that way next time I find this book. The summer has passed in peace and quiet. Papa has been to New York and several other places. The day after tomorrow I start my school with a salary of forty dollars. 98% on my certificate, may I succeed and may I enjoy my money.<sup>30</sup> I shall stop now for how long. . . . oh, nobody knows. How little I knew when I started to write this book over seven years ago.

Jan. 14, 1907. Today Mama found this book and we have read it laughing and crying at the same time. Mama is almost offended that anybody could have found it poorly written, with poor spelling. It is nearly 17 years ago that I last wrote in this book,

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29. Eva was in Sweden in January 1888, but when she went there cannot be determined.

30. Kena attended St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine in 1886. In September 1890, she was appointed teacher for the school in the Swedish settlement of New Uppsala near Sanford. The patrons of the school were not pleased with the appointment and petitioned the superintendent for another teacher. He refused their request, but how long Kena remained at the school is unknown. In June 1892, she was appointed teacher in the Miranda school but declined the position.

and how grateful I am that I still have all four alive. Eva is married and has four boys.<sup>31</sup> I am at home with my dear Mama. We shall see next time we find this journal if we have Papa at home for good, and everybody well and happy.

May 6, 1908. Again I find "my journal." Papa is [illegible], half at home, mostly gone, but registered here for election. Mama has aged a lot— Eva and the children in good health. If I only could relive my life since I started this book. Mama says, "God save me from starting over"— Hope all will be well next time I find this book.

March 29, 1909. Not quite. [These two words were written in English.] Not quite a year ago but as always everything is a mistake, never can I do as I want to and should. Found my journal this time up in the attic. In an attic it was started many years ago.

Sept. 24, 1910. Ever the same wish to "do it all over." Oh, if I could only be pleased with myself. God bless Papa, Mama, Eva and "Jinks" 16 years last Wednesday.

December 19, 1919. Nine years have passed since I found my "old journal" last time. Mama, dear "beloved Mama, my mama, my mama," has left forever "her Kina."<sup>32</sup> Old Papa I have been allowed to keep, but he has aged a lot, starting to "fail" but still very much like he was. This will be the third Christmas without Mama. The memories from childhood are the most precious part of Christmas now. May Papa spend many more Christmases with me and Jinks, even he is graying now.

February 6, 1936. Today I found my book in the old doll chest. Papa has now been with dear little Mama for more than five years.<sup>33</sup> I have been a "cripple" since December 19, 1925, alone and helpless, but God and Eva have helped me. [In this passage the old spelling and turn of phrase were used— most of the entries from adulthood reflect the writer's knowledge of the Swedish spelling reform.]

April 19, 1937. Quite unexpectedly I found my old book. The years pass, the older one gets the faster they pass by, and the

31. Eva signed a contract to teach at the Oviedo school in May 1891, for six months at \$55 per month. In June 1892 and 1893, she was appointed teacher at the Formosa school. On October 4, 1894, in Stockholm, Sweden, she married Count Einar Lonnberg, a professor of science at the University of Uppsala.

32. Christina Fries, John's wife, died on January 4, 1917, at the age of seventy-two.

33. John Otto Fries died on January 7, 1931, at the age of ninety-two.

evening hour of life approaches. Mama, Papa, and little Madie are waiting.

This is the last entry Kena made in her diary. Shortly thereafter she began writing an account of the early days of Orlando and vicinity which was published under the title *Orlando in the Long, Long-Ago . . . . And Now* (Florida Press, Orlando, 1938). It seems she undertook the task because she needed money, for it is said she used the income from the sale of the book to pay for a new roof on the old family house. She died on January 16, 1945, and lies buried next to her parents in Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando.