

DIARY of MARQUIS LAFAYETTE WOOD (Just as he wrote it.)

Manuscript Department of Duke University

1858 January

Monday 4. Left for Mt. Airy, reached Winston, and spent the night with my friend and classmate, Col. J. W. Alsbaugh....

Wednesday 6. Traveled 22 miles. Stayed with Brother Pace, who lives near the Pilot Mountain.

Thursday 7. Reached Mt. Airy. Stopped with Brother Prather. Found him and family to be quite pleasant. Formed the acquaintance of Rev. William C. Reid.

Friday 8. Called on Bro. Reid. Visited Bro. Elisha Banner and Rev. W. Rawley.

Saturday 9. Read and studied some. In the afternoon called on Bro. Rawley. Found Bro. B. T. Shelton and lady at his house.

Tuesday 12. Went to spend the night with Bro. Roberts, a local preacher, living in the country.

Saturday 16. Left Mt. Airy for Bro. Pace's. I passed a camp of the company of gypsies which passed through Mt. Airy last Thursday. As soon as they said good morning, boss, I was bartered for a horse trade. But I left them without any trading, or effecting any good.

Sunday 17.....Preached at Ebenezer from St. John 17: 20-21. Read the "General Rules" to the society, and gave them a talk.

Wednesday 20, Rode a few miles. Found a rough and poor country. Took dinner with Bro. Wiley Patterson's family. Spent the night with Bro. Dan Haymore.

Thursday, 21.....Preached at Mt. Hermon. Read the "General Rules" of our church to the people.... Spent the night with Bro. A. Lewis... Found the country around Mt. Hermon quite broken- somewhat mountainous--but now very rocky. Land not rich.

Friday 22. Preached at a schoolhouse, through a regular appointment called Indian Graves.

(He read the "General Rules" to all churches.)

Sunday, 31. Preached at Oak Grove to quite a large and attentive congregation... Went home with Bro. Saunders, a Protestant Methodist preacher.

1858 February

Tuesday 2. Clouds skirting around. Snow on the Blue Ridge--the mountain. Came to Mt. Airy this morning. Stopped with Bro. E. Banner.

Sunday 7. At 11 o'clock I preached at Lebanon from St. John 17, 20-21. Not many persons out in consequence of the snow. Preached at candle-lighting, in Mt. Airy, from Heb. 4:9. Several persons out.

Met up with old Bro. Hicks who I saw at a camp-meeting on the Blue Ridge Mission in 1856. Bro. Hicks is a local preacher on the Surry Circuit. He told me that he was converted under the preaching of Waddle Johnson, the first Methodist preacher that came through this country. He said that he had often heard of the Methodist preachers, and had always heard them represented as false prophets. But when they came in reach he was determined to go and hear them and accordingly when

Rev. Mr. Johnson preached in some five or six miles of him, he was present, and under conviction before going to hear him, and had the horrors of hell so depicted and the beauties of heaven so portrayed, that he could hold out no longer, and fell as a dead man, thinking that he was going to die. After passing a few days between hope and fear, while lying upon his bed of rest, meditating upon his condition and the mercy of God the Lord caused gladness to fill his soul and joy to spring up in his heart.

Feeling it his duty to offer life eternal through Jesus to others, Bro. Hicks sought license to preach. All the time the devil tempting him on various points--bringing his want of an education to his mind... (Bro. Hicks was licensed to preach.)

Thursday 11. Quite cold. But seven persons met me at Salem, by appointment.... People got very cold. Found here a new church though not completed, but it is, will be quite respectable.

Sunday 14. Did not leave Bro. Patterson's in consequence of bad health and the snow....

Wednesday 17... Mr. C. M. Vanorsdell presented me with my ambrotype, which was a good picture.

Friday 19. ...Went to, and spent the night with, William W. Banner, an old school mate.

March 1858 Told the people at Hollow Springs....At Flat Shoals I preached.... I exhorted a small congregation at New Hope...Spent part of the day with Bro. Needham who labors on the Fisher's River Mission.

Sunday 7....Snow about three inches deep. Bro. Reid preached at 11 o'clock ... I preached at night ...Bro. Reid gave us a very heart searching exhortation. And also gave the citizens a talk about building a church.

Monday 8. Snowed all last night and snowing this morning. When it ceased-it was about eight inches deep.

We spent the day principally talking about building a church in Mt. Airy. Finally a while before night we succeeded in making a start in raising the money. Got \$510 and the lot subscribed through a part of it was conditionally. I think the snow was providentially sent to detain Bro. Reid in Mt. Airy to instrumentally in putting the ball fully in motion.

Bro. Reid and I took tea with Mr. Robert Gilmer.

Tuesday 9. Continued the effort to raise money to build a church with tolerable success.

Wednesday 10. Raised the subscription for a church to \$815.00. Bro. Reid left this morning. ("Bro. Reid" was Numa F. Reid, presiding elder.)

Thursday 11. Preached at Salem from ...to about 20 or 25 persons. Went home with Bro. Andrew J. Satterfield, a nice man and has a nice family.

Friday 12. Preached at White Plains.

1858 March

Saturday 13. Went to Rockford. This was once the county town of Curry, but is now near the county line. Rockford is on the Yadkin River, and is on a hillside. It looks somewhat dilapidated. There is a free church here. The Baptists have the ascendancy. The old Court House, now called a Seminary, is the neatest building in the place. I stopped with Bro. Nicholson. His is a pleasant family. I preached at candle-lighting, from... A tolerable congregation.

Sunday 14. After riding 7½ miles I reached Siloam, and preached to a respectable and attentive congregation. Held class meeting and read the "General Rules". Went home with Bro. Journey, a local deacon.

Tuesday, 16. Spent the day reading. Visited widow Reeves and family in the evening and took tea with them...went and spent the night with Bro. Whitaker....

Spent the night with Bro. Nutt.

Left Bro. Nutt in the afternoon, went down the Ararat, through fields

.....(He tells of cutting off branches off a fallen tree to get there, etc. .)

The main dwelling is very comfortable.....I shall not visit Bro. Fulk again til he cuts a road to his house.

April 1858

Thursday, April 1...done a little towards a church in Mt. Airy. The cause moves on but slowly.

Friday 2 Done a little more towards raising funds for the church here. Visited Gen. Graves' family. (Baptised wife who was very ill. She died.)

Saturday 3 ...Preached at Oak Grove.

Sunday 4. At 11 o'clock preached in Mt. Airy the funeral of Ellen Victoria Allred, deceased, little daughter of Murphy Allred. Bro. Jesse Roberts preached on the occasion a very appropriate short sermon. 3 o'clock Bro. Reid preached.

At candle-lighting I preached for the colored people from Eph. 2:8.

Monday 5. Attended the burial of a little boy, son of Edward Banner..Went out and spent the night with Mr. R. R. Galloway.

Tuesday 6. Spent the night with Squire Moore's family. Preached at Lebanon to 9 persons.

Wednesday...Went to, and spent the night with Bro. Murlin Sparger.

Friday 9. ...Preached at White Plains to six persons. Creeks were up some in consequence of the rain that fell last night. The water ran up in my buggy, and crossing Stewart's Creek it sloshed a little on the seat.

Saturday 10. ...Preached at Rockford/ at candle-lighting to an attentive audience.

Sunday 11. Preached at Siloam. Formed a Sabbath School. Quite a large and attentive congregation.

1858 April

Sunday 18. Preached at Ebenezer..

Thursday 22. Preached at Mt. Hermon. Formed a Sabbath School. Was happy to meet up with Bro. Pepper, preacher on the Patrick Circuit. Transcribed the class books for Mt. Hermon and Indian Graves.

Saturday 24. Preached at Hollow Springs to five women and two children.

Sunday 25. Flat Shoals. Organized a Sabbath School.

Tuesday 27. Preached at New Hope. Formed a Sabbath School....Preached at candle lighting at Bro. Alex Gallaspie's...

Wednesday 28...Spent the night with Bro. "A. Barker.

Thursday 29. ...For the first time I saw today the "Siamese Twins". I had only a slight view of them, as they were attending to business at the time and so was I. They are not as large as I expected to see them.

Saturday, May 1. Preached at Oak Grove to a small congregation..Went to Bro. Mitchell's for dinner, but as his wife was about to present him with a son, or daughter I did not stay all night. Before I got far I met the doctor going to superintend the presentation, but he was too late I learned since.

Sunday 2. Preached at Lebanon from...Held class meeting and read the "General Rules" to the society.

Wednesday 5. Went out to Bro. Gwyn's and spent the night.

Friday 7. Went to Rockford in the forenoon, stopped with Bro. Nicholson, called on Bro. James W. Davis, whose wife is sick. Bro. E. Moore came to see, and spend the night with me. (June 1858)

Saturday 5...I heard Mr. Caldwell (Presbyterian) preach in the Male Academy.

Sunday 6. 8 o'clock. //W// A. M. The Presbyterian ministers, Caldwell, Smyth, Montgomery, held a prayer meeting which I attended. 11 o'clock. Mr. Caldwell preached for me at Lebanon. 3 o'clock Mr. Montgomery preached at Mt. Airy They have established a small church in the place.

July 1858

Thursday 22. Preached at Mt. Hermon. Held class meeting. I shot a very large rattle snake under Bro. Lewis' crib. Bro Pepper and lady came and spent the night with me.

Saturday 31. Preached Oak Grove ...Large congregation. After preaching went to Ararat River and baptised three persons--one by immersion. These are the first adult persons I ever baptised, and of course the first immersing I ever done.

Sunday, August 1. Preached at Salem, at 11 o'clock the funeral of Bro. Evans' child.

August 1858

Thursday 19. Did not have meeting in the day as but few persons usually come out. So I concluded to spend the day in ascending the noted Pilot Mountain with my friends Dodson and Carr. I suppose about 9 o'clock we, with Charlie and little Sammie, started for the Pinnacle's height. The weather being quite warm, and Millard Fillmore, the noble horse that carried Bro. Charlie Pace and I as far as we could well ~~drive~~ drive, having been in the pasture for some time we had to travel very slow. About one o'clock after climbing over rocks, and ascending steps and ladders which have been placed along the rugged ascent of the granite Pinnacle we stood about eighteen hundred feet above the level of the waters of the beautifully curving Adkin. There high up in the atmosphere upon one of the granite rocks, worn smooth by the tread of the hundreds of visitors to its inviting summit to scan at a glance a vast extent of Nature's grand and soul stirring works--after resting a while our weary bodies and casting around thee upon the broad, beautiful and magnificent landscapes towering mountains and the majestic Blue Ridge, we helped ourselves to lunch which Sister Pace so kindly provided us and drew from and quaffed freely of the small runlet which we had filled with mineral water from Mr. Gillam's spring, near his house. While we were satisfying the demands of nature we gazed intensely upon the Sauratown Mountains which lifted themselves east of us--the verdant landscape, dotted with farms and dwellings, marked with roads. To the right of Sauratown Mountains as the distance increases the picturesque landscape seems to heighten till it melts and mingles with the blue heavens, forbidding the vision of man reaching further, and at the same time causing the beholder to feel how finite--how small--how circumscribed the sight even when upon the tallest

peaks of earth.

When our lunch was dispatched we commenced rambling over and around the dizzy heights of the Pinnacle. As the eye is lifted toward the south-south west the sparkling waters of the Yadkin at different places meet the view. Beyond its rolling ripples the southwest, the Brushy Mountains whose blue tinged tops shut out all beyond peer up to add to the grandeur of scene.

As the west and northwest lies the sublime Blue Ridge defying the gaze. While upon its side and top may be seen sparks of the woodsman's ax and the farmers' utensils, as if man was determined to make every spot of the world, however rough, yield to his support. Upon the whole, what a scene! How magnificent! Who can stand upon the summit of the lofty mountain and view the grandeur of surrounding scenery, and not be impressed with the wisdom and power of Nature's God?

We then descended to base of the pinnacle, and walked around it to view its towering granite height. It lifts itself as if some great internal commotion shot it above the surrounding and other part of the mountain. That time had worn its surroundings down while it stands defying the pelting storm and raging wind. One of these theories is very probable.

Late in the afternoon we returned to Bro. Pace's and hastened to Ebenezer to worship God whose works we had been beholding and admiring.

September 1858

Friday 3. Attended to some little matters concerning the church (Mount Airy). At 4 o'clock I with Miss Chattie Prather, Thomas W. Prather, and Miss Rebecca Banner started to a camp meeting in Wythe Co., Va. We reached the top of the Blue Ridge, up the Fancy Gap, about an hour after dark. We traveled up the mountain which is five miles from the base to the top with no light but that of the stars. The road winds around hollows and ravines along high precipices and towering crags. On one hand threatening rocks hang above the head, on the other the rippling rivulet is heard for a number of feet below. We spent the night with Mr. Mitchell who lives on the top of the mountain. He is quite a clever man, takes pleasure making sojourns pleasant.

Saturday 4. Early this morning we left Mr. Mitchell's, and pursued our journey. Being under the impression that Cripple Creek Camp Ground was in six or seven miles of Wytheville, and knowing that we could not reach this place today, we concluded to go by way of Wytheville and spend the night there. We stopped at Cart. Raper's and had our horses fed. We had a snack, which Mrs. Mitchell gave us. About daylight dawn we reached Wytheville, and to our astonishment and mortification learned that we were eighteen or twenty miles from the place of our destination. We stopped at the Wytheville House kept by Mr. Crocket. This is a pleasant hotel. Very attention is paid to guests, to make them comfortable.

Sunday 5. We hasted early this morning for the camp meeting. The road most of the way was quite good. The other portion was quite rough. I suppose it was 1 o'clock when we reached the campground. And when we arrived at the place we were ~~sadly~~ sadly disappointed. The camp-ground is right by the side of Cripple Creek, hemmed in on every side by mountains. The first voice we heard on our arrival was that of boys, "Will you have your horse taken care of?" Seeing no appearance of the harbor or preaching I inquired for the church. Some one pointed further on and across the creek, we drove across, and to our great astonishment, we found ourselves among a number of wagons, selling cakes, candies, etc. We then inquired for the preachers' camp and had to re-cross the creek to find it. Finally we succeeded in finding the harbor and worship was going. We sent for the preacher in charge. He came out. I introduced myself to him. But as the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was about to be administered, he could not immediately attend to us. The ladies were accommodated at Bro. Porter's tent. When the Sacrament was over Bro. Worley came to me again and carried me into the preachers' tent and introduced me to Bro. McGee of the Marion Circuit.....

Monday 6. Cripple Creek. I preached the first sermon from Luke 16:23... Bro. Kerr preached at 11 o'clock; Bro. Torbell at 3: Bro. Morley at night.

Tuesday 7. We left the camp meeting and went to Wytheville. Here I met up with my friend Mr. Jas. Reid Pace..... This is a nice and growing town. When the improvement now in progress are completed and other streets filled out it will be a large

and beautiful town. The Tennessee and Virginia Rail Road runs by this place.

Wednesday 8. We traveled towards N. C. as far as Hillsville, the county site of Carroll Co. We spent the night at Mr. Walker's Hotel. He is quite a clever man and has a pleasant family.

Thursday 9. We reached Mt. Airy, 3½ o'clock, P. M. The ride down the mountain was delightful. The scenery was beautiful. Upon the whole we had a pleasant trip.

Sunday 12. Prayer meeting at Oak Grove. At 4 p. M. I preached at Lebanon the funeral of some colored persons, deceased. Spent the night with Edward B. mner.

Wednesday, 15. Oak Grove. I preached at 11 o'clock... Four or five were pleading for mercy. At candle-lighting, one joined our church. Bro. Minshaw preached. I followed with an exhortation. But two or three got down to be prayed for. I then for back sliders and cold hearted professors, and several came forward, and other sinners seeking life and salvation. When I told all who wanted to be made happy to get down and begin to pray. All the professors of religion knelt down. The Holy Spirit was poured out, and such a time of rejoicing and shouting I scarcely ever saw in all my life. Six or seven persons were converted, several back-sliders were reclaimed, and others were crying for mercy.

Johnny Brower, a little boy about thirteen years old, was a bright convert, but after his conversion he became a successful exhorter and instructor of penitents. He was instrumental in getting three or four down upon their knees to pray for pardon and peace. One, he and other little boys, and who was himself a little boy, and who was himself a little boy, persuaded to such religions, was converted to God. Glorious time indeed.

October 1858

Sunday 10. Rockford. Preached at 11 o'clock the funeral of some colored persons deceased.

Bro. Nicholson's wife was converted in her room about midnight. Today, one young lady joined the church.

These items were inadvertently omitted from this copy. One has to scan to get any items of interest.

Jan. 27. Took supper with Gen Graves whose son had just brought home his wife.

Monday 8. Went and spent the night with Bro. Hugh Gwyn and family.

June 4. Bro. Needham baptised six persons for me, four of them were immersed.

Thurs. 5. Visited with Brother Needham and an afflicted young lady, Sister Margaret Patterson.

July 30. Quarterly conference was held at 8 o'clock. Bro. Avent preached, Bro.

Barringer preached at 11, at 3 Bro. "ush, at candlelight Bro. Heflin.

Tues. 31. Salem. Bro. Wheeler preached at 8 o'clock. Bro. Reid at 11, Bro.

Avent at 3, at candlelight Bro. Heflin.

August. Thurs. 2. Our camp meeting closed this morning. It resulted in the conversion of about 50 souls—28 white, 3 colored.

1870 Wood Diary (Taught in a male academy)

January 1870

Saturday 19 (February) Henry (?) Sparger's youngest child, Mary Elizabeth, died this morning at 10 o'clock. She was two years ~~old~~ and most three months old. The child fell in a kettle of water last Thursday and got so badly burned that she died. Tuesday 22. Taught all day. ~~1/2~~ In the evening I married Mr. Cummings M. Short to Miss Susan Nannie Hines.

March 1870

Friday 25. Married William G. Fey to Miss Eliza Banner this morning at 11 o'clock. This afternoon at 3 o'clock I attended a public meeting at the church to see about enclosing the graveyard. Taught the balance of the day.

Sunday 11. Attended Sabbath School in Mt. Airy and preached. Preached at Oak Grove at 3 o'clock. Prayer meeting in Mt. Airy.

Saturday 30 (April) Attended the meeting of the Agricultural Society of this place in the afternoon. Planted 20 seeds of Chinese yams.

May 1870. Thursday 5. In the evening I married John M. Surger to Miss Matilda Smith.

Sunday 9. Preached at night for the colored people in Mt. Airy, Needmore Street, from I Sam. 12: 23-24

Saturday 14. The Sabbath School in Mt. Airy had a very nice pick-nick today in the Academy. It was a complete success. Mr. W. A. Graham, one of our school boys made us a very good speech. The Salem Sabbath School also had a pick-nick.

Sunday 15. At 11 o'clock preached the funeral sermon of the late Mrs. Gallaway to a very large congregation. (Sunday School in the morning and preaching at Oak Grove at 3. Prayer meeting at night at Mt. Airy.)

June 1870 -Friday 10. Wrote to Dr. N. F. Reid, enclosing \$5.15 for delegates to General Conference. Attended Miss Lizzie Gilmer's Examination today and concert at night.

Friday 5 August. Wrote to Gen. R. E. Lee.

September, Saturday 5. Went out to the flat rock.

Wednesday 14. Wrote an Obituary of Ann Sparger, daughter of William and Sarah Sparger.

September. 1870

Tuesday 20. Beautiful day. Started at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock a. m. in company with C. W. Lewis, B. Y. Graves, Miss Minnie Armstrong, Miss Sellie Rickett, and my family to the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains, via Fancy Gap; and reached there between sunset and dark. Stopped with James Mitchell, who lives in the top of the mountain at an elevation of 3005 feet above Norfolk.

Wednesday 21. We went out this morning on the highest point of Elk Spur to see the sun rise. The scene was beautiful and grand. Then we went two miles east to Mr. Morris' and visited near his house a cliff of rocks known as the Devil's Den, We reached Mt. Airy a little after dark.

Sunday 25. Dr. Miles Fey preached at 8 o'clock. (camp meeting at Center Camp Ground in Yadkin County.)

October 1870. Thursday 6. Rode four miles to G. W. Smith's to marry James N. Slaughter to Ethie E. Smith.

Friday 7. Taught a while today. In the afternoon a spelling contest came off between the boys of Mt. Airy Collegiate Institute and the girls of Mt. Female Academy; and delivered a lecture on China.

Saturday 15. Heard of the death of Gen. Robert E. Lee yesterday evening.

Sunday 16. Preached in Mt. Airy at 11 o'clock; at Oak Grove at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock; and at Needmore for the colored people at night from I Sam. 2:30

Wednesday 19. In the afternoon attended a meeting in memory of the late Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Sunday 30. Delivered a discourse at 11 o'clock in Mt. Airy from Exodus 11:3 on the Life and Character of General Robert Edmund Lee who was born in Westmoreland County Virginia January 20, 1807 and died in Lexington, Virginia, October 12, 1870. There was a large congregation in attendance.

Rev. R. Daniel Raymore, a Baptist minister, preached at night.

Friday 9. Buried Capt. James C. Norman in the afternoon. Funeral largely attended. He leaves a widowed mother, and four little children without father or mother.

Dec. 1870

Wood Diary

December 1870

Saturday 11. Spent most of the day with Rev. Hugh Gwyn.

Thursday 15. Taught til 12 o'clock. In the afternoon went to Patrick County, Va. to marry William Gilmer to Miss Cora A. Moore. The wedding party reached Mt.

Airy at 2 o'clock p. m. We closed our school this evening.

Sunday 18. Preached at Salem at 11 o'clock, a. m. and in Mt. Airy at night.

Wednesday 21. Attended a young men's party in the evening..

Friday 23. Miss E. A. Gilmer and Carrie's School closed today; and they gave the girls a party at night at Mrs. Banner's.

(1871, Rev. Wood went to Olin, N. C.)