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JOURNAL OF A VISIT TO GREENVILLE FROM CHARLESTON
IN THE SUMMER OF 1825 *

CAROLINE OLIVIA LAURENS ¹

MAY 1825

Annotated by MRS. LOUISE C. KING **

May 23rd. Left Charleston about 8 o'clock A.M. Crossed Clements' ferry about 9, during our passage a very heavy shower of rain came up, which continued off and on, until we reached Limerick,² where we dined. At 5 P.M. after taking leave of the family set out for Mepkin.³ Scarcely a mile on our way before the rain again overtook us, which lasted the rest of our journey. Nevertheless we all arrived at Mepkin without any accident, about sunset. Concluded before bed-time to remain the next day at Mepkin, that our clothes might be perfectly dried and to give Mr. Laurens a chance at killing a buck.&c.

Wednesday 25 left Mepkin at 7 o'clock accompanied by Dr. B. & Frederick who rode with us as far as Stephen Mazyck's, about 14 miles from Mepkin to see Woodboo Spring, which is said to be 30 feet deep. The basin appears to be about 30 feet in circumference, and the water so transparent that the fish may be distinctly seen swimming &c.

After satisfying our curiosity we bid Adieu to our friends, and proceeded to the end of our day's journey, the Rocks plantation,⁴ where we arrived between the hours of 3 & 4. We were hospitably entertained by the servants, their Master not being there.

26th. Thursday. Left the Rocks at 7 o'clock intended to have done so at sunrise, but the fatigues of the preceeding day prevented. About 4 Miles from here we came to the Eutaw Springs; leaving the carriage in the road we walked down to them. They issue from a small hill in two different places and running a few yds. they reach a larger hill through the base of which they pass, and boil up into a large basin on the opposite side. The waters then run off forming a creek. I ate a few

* From original in the possession of Daniel Huger of Charleston.

** Mrs. King is assistant director of the Pendleton District Historical and Recreation Commission, Pendleton, S. C. 29670.

¹ Caroline Olivia Laurens, wife of Henry Laurens, Jr., was a member of the Cooper River Ball family. * Caroline Olivia Laurens

² Plantation owned by the Ball family.

³ Home of Henry Laurens, Sr.

⁴ Home of Captain Peter Gaillard.

observe the Rules & Orders of your Said Court. And you are also hereby obliged to keep a Register of all Such Arms, Crests or Alterations & Assignmts. of Arms As Shall by you be granted or Assigned to Any Persons Inhabitants of Our said Province, And you are to preserve & Register the Pedigrees and Descents of the Severall Familys Inhabitants of Our Said Province. And you are to regulate all Publick & Solenne Processions & Meetings & all & Singular the promisses above mentioned. We do hereby Impower You by Your Self, or your Sufficient Deputy or Deputies to performe & Execute, & to doe & performe all & Singular other matters & things whatsoever which to your sd. Office shall belong or appertaine Given under Our Hands & the great Seal of Our Province June 1705.

Taken from the Originall in the custody of Peter LeNene Esqr. Norroy & now in the Custody of Mr Hodgson of the Six Clerks Office who is one of the Landgraves

Signed by Granville Palatine Craven Granvill for Ld. Carteret M:
Ashley J. Colleton

artichokes by the spring and drank some of the water which was very cool and refreshing. We viewed the spot where one of our Revolutionary battles was fought; all was still. Who could imagine that this was once the scene of a battle.

Returning to the carriage we continued our journey and arrived at Mr. Felder's about 20 miles from the Rocks and were much pleased with our entertainment—he invited Mr. L. to hunt with him in the afternoon, and his wife took E. and myself to visit the neighboring chapel, a neat little building on the brow of a hill a mile from the house.

27 Friday. Left Felder's at 6 o'clock and arrived at Houseman's at 3, distance about 28 miles, road very hilly and the scenery pretty. Brandy failed half way, and we had recourse to the Grey, who like an old friend stood by us in our difficulties. Met Maj. Garden on his way to Columbia.

28th Saturday. Commenced our journey from Housman's at 6 o'clock, road very sandy and hilly. Stopped to Breakfast at Scott's, 16 miles from Columbia, left there half after 11 and arrived in Columbia at 5. This days ride very fatiguing to us, and distressing to our horses, obliged to "cart it" the whole way. We lodged at Clark's Hotel, next door to the Court House. About sunset we walked as far as Taylor's hill, the prospect from it was beautiful. A few yds. from the bottom of the hill was situated the steam engine for raising water to a large basin which was on the top of it, from whence it is conducted by means of leaden pipes to most of the yards in the town. We returned home and supped in company with Maj. Garden and from 15 to 20 Collegians.

29th Sunday 3 o'clock A.M. heard the stage horn blow. The first thing we heard when we awoke, was that Mrs. [J. C.] Calhoun had come on it. They broke down 14 miles from Columbia and fortunately the passengers got off unhurt. The weather so warm, we did not go to church, but staid quietly at home to rest ourselves for the succeeding day's journey.

30th Monday. Left Columbia a little after sunrise. Crossed Broad River 3 miles from Columbia, and stopped to breakfast at Davis' 10 miles further. Mrs. Davis admired John very much, and said, he was very much like his father, and would be more so, if his face was as hard and as thin as Mr. L's. After breakfast we again set out on our journey and traveled over 20 miles of the worst roads that can be imagined. Half past 5 o'clock reached Mr. Roof's, a farmer, who appeared to have

everything very comfortable about him—he told us he had an orchard of 12 acres, consisting of apple and pear trees.

31st. The Grey being galled by the collar, and all of us feeling rather fatigued we concluded to stay at Roof's, and to set out early next morning.

June 1st. Left Roof's a little after sunrise, breakfasted at Halfacre's and proceeded on our journey at 9 — found the roads a little better — saw a bear, which was chained near a house on the road, and arrived between 3 & 4 o'clock at Foster's, apparently very clever people. One of their children was a complete dwarf, being 21 yrs. old and not more than 3 feet tall.

2nd. June. Detained at Mr. Foster's by rain, we became better acquainted, and found them more agreeable than any of the people we met with. Mr. F. told me I had a great fortune in having a sober husband, and that I could not value him too highly.

3rd. June ate breakfast at Mr. Foster's and set out on our journey at half past 6 o'clock, rode through Laurensville and arrived at Goldsmith's, a distance of 40 miles. A quarter of a mile from Mr. G.'s we came in sight of the Allegany mountains, but from their being so distant to our view, we were not much gratified. The night was pretty cold, which was fortunate, as we all were obliged to sleep in the same chamber and found a fire very comfortable. We slept very soundly notwithstanding our accommodations, which were better than we expected, from the appearance of the house as we rode up to it.

4th June. Set out from Goldsmith's anticipating a nearer and clearer view of the Blue Ridge. At 11 o'clock arrived at Greenville, without missing our way once, or the least accident happening to us, for which we have reason to thank God. 5 miles before we got to the village we came to a small branch, which I could not gain courage enough to cross, but made Davy ford over with me in his arms. Mr. L. took John with him on the Grey, and Eleanor staid in the carriage, however we all got over safely. Took up our lodgings at Dr. Crittenden's,⁵ had a very excellent dinner, after which we took a walk down to a river Reedy which runs on the western side of the village. We crossed over on a log bridge, and walked down the bank of the river to a little mill on the side of which is a beautiful waterfall apparently 25 feet high. We stepped from rock to rock until we got immediately in front of the falls, which gave us a full view of them. A little below and just above a smaller fall

⁵ Dr. John Crittendon owned the Greenville Hotel.

Eleanor and myself bare-footed and piloted by Mr. L. crossed and re-crossed the river, which we found very refreshing, so much so that we almost resolved to take a bath as soon as it was dark.

5th. Sunday. Attended divine service which was performed in the C.[ourt] H.[ouse] at present the only place of public worship. All the villagers attended, which formed a pretty good congregation. They were not all of the same persuasion. A Baptist minister preached. I was informed there were two churches to be erected in the village, very shortly, one Baptist & one Episcopal.⁶ In the evening we took a walk round the village, and admired it very much. It is situated on a pretty hill, which is much improved by two or three large brick buildings. Walking up and down the main street, one may have a tolerable good view of the Blue Ridge. We again visited the falls, and viewed them from a rock which is of the same height, and almost opposite to the larger falls. We saw them to great advantage and were highly pleased. Eleanor and I proposed to each other, to go one day in the week, purposely to try and sketch a view of it.

6th. Staid all morning at home & were much amused at seeing the country people assemble at the C. H. to attend a sale. At dinner Mr. W.[arren] Davis, proposed accompanying us to a chalybeate spring, which is about a half mile from the main str. of the village. We forgot to carry cups therefore, could not taste the water, which I understand is delightfully cool and has a strong taste of iron.

7th. Went immediately after breakfast to sketch a view of the falls, and succeeded tolerably well. In the afternoon, accompanied by Mr. Davis, we rode to the late Governor [Lemuel J.]^{*} Allston's seat, which is now in ruins, had a fine view of Paris mountain and determined to visit it the next morning.

9th. Directly after breakfast set out to see Paris "Mount" accompanied by Mr. Walker. Within half a mile of the summit we left the carriage, and walked up a rock about 1200 feet perpendicular height—from this elevation, we had a grand and sublime view of the Table Rock, and the Saluda Mountains. The intervening scenery, consisting of small farms separated by occasional clusters of trees, formed a beautiful contrast with the lofty mountains beyond. After satisfying ourselves with this prospect we determined upon ascending to the summit, which did not repay us for the labour of climbing to it, the view being obstructed by the thick foliage of the trees. In our descent we picked a few huckle-

⁶ The Baptist Church was built in 1826; Episcopal Christ Church organized 1821, incorporated 1829.

* Connection is (W.H. O.H.M) to Joseph Allston

berries, which were very grateful to our parched mouths. When we reached the carriage, we refreshed ourselves with some bread and ham, which Mrs. Crittenden had kindly given us. Continuing down the mountain in the carriage, after nearly reaching the bottom, owing to some carelessness of the coachman's, the horses got out of the road, which alarmed me so much that I alighted from the carriage, fortunately everything was brought to rights without further accident, and we returned to dinner extremely fatigued, though not without appetites.

10th. The fatigues of our trip to Paris mountain kept us quietly at home all this morning. In the evening we went to return a visit to Mr. & Mrs. & Miss La Bruce⁷ and Miss Bee, where we met Mr. and Mrs. Chisolm & Mr. & Mrs. Croft. We spent half an hour very agreeably then took our leave.

11th. Remained all day at home Eleanor and myself occupied in making riding habits, which we purchased from Solomon Davis, a Jew, and a fellow boarder, who keeps his store immediately under my chamber, and is the greatest chatter-box in the village. After supper walked down to the river with E. and Mr. L. On our return, Eleanor proposed that we should go to see Mr. & Mrs. Ben Allston & Co.⁸ who had arrived in the village this forenoon in our carriages & one chair, with 3 spare horses. Being indisposed I remained at home, while E. & Mr. L. paid this visit.

12th. Sunday. Attended divine service both morning & afternoon. In the evening Mrs. Croft called to see us. About 8 o'clock this morning Mrs. Dawson & Miss Ford with their brother arrived at Greenville, and took up their lodgings at Dr. Crittenden's.

13th. Staid at home all the morning, and in the afternoon called to see the Rev. Mr. Johnson, lady and daughter, who reside at a quarter of a mile from the village at the Female Academy,⁹ as Mrs. J. is teacher there. Miss Johnson proposed riding on horseback the next afternoon, and Mr. Dunken, whom we met there offered to equip Eleanor with everything necessary, which offer was very acceptable.

14th. In the afternoon Miss J. and Mr. D. called & brought a horse for E., and I mounted the old Grey accompanied by Mr. L. set out to visit Piney Mountain, but the weather looking very uncertain we changed

⁷ The La Bruces owned Arundel Plantation of the Pee Dee River.

⁸ Allston was a very rich planter on the Waccamaw River and came to Greenville every summer.

⁹ Johnson was leader of the Baptist congregation (1824). The academy was the forerunner of Greenville Womans College.

our route, crossed the Reedy river, and rode about a mile, when seeing the rain fast approaching, we turned towards home, but were overtaken by it. Luckily a small house was near, which we took shelter in during the rain, which ceased in about a quarter of an hour, when we all remounted our horses and got home without being wet. We resolved to ride out to the mountain in the morning, as the afternoons were generally uncertain.

15th. Directly after breakfast set out on our ride to the mountain, accompanied by Mrs. Dawson and Miss Ford, who rode in their carriage. Miss Johnson, Eleanor and myself, with several gentlemen rode on horseback. The top of this mountain is a level space of about two acres, upon which is a good house surrounded by tall oaks. The view from this eminence, most of our party preferred to that of Paris mountain.

16th. This day John is 9 months old, has 6 teeth, can creep about very fast, and stands up whenever he can get near a chair or a wall.

17th. Went to see Mr. & Mrs. Croft in the afternoon. They carried us all over their yard and garden, everything about them is remarkably neat & comfortable. They asked us to stay to tea which we did. Mr. Croft invited us to ride out the next morning on horseback to see his farms.

18th. Immediately after breakfast Mr. Croft called and brought a horse already equipped for Eleanor, and we all set out to visit what Mr. C. called his upper farm, about 5 miles from the village and just at the foot of Paris mountain. When we arrived there the overseer treated us with great hospitality, and produced apples, cherries and butter-milk in great abundance. Leaving this farm, we proceeded to the lower farm 3 miles from the village, after drinking some very cool and pure water, we bent our course homeward, passing by a farmer's house two large dogs ran out, one of them caught hold of the tail of E.'s horse which made him kick up. Eleanor was so frightened when she saw the dogs, that she let go the rein, and as soon as he kicked, she fell off, fortunately not at all hurt.

Sunday 19th. Went to church or rather the C.[ourt] H.[ouse]. Found it very warm, the minister said that on account of his indisposition there would be no service in the afternoon, so we all went to ride, and took tea with Mrs. Croft.

20th. Eleanor spent the day at Mrs. C[roft]'s and played upon the piano. In the afternoon they called for me to go and ride, which I did, and was much pleased with a farm Mrs. C. carried us to from this place, which is a mile and a half from the village, you can see Paris and Piney Mountains, and just in front of them the little village of Green-

ville. The foliage of the trees was so thick, that we could only see the tops of the houses, and the curling smoke from some of the chimneys. When we returned to the village we called to see the [Ben] Alston family. Mrs. Alston said she was afraid her husband had the country fever he was then in his bed, and had had an ague in the morning. We met Mrs. LaBruce there, who invited us to take tea with her, the next evening.

21st. Made up a large party; after breakfast, to go down to the mill to be weighed. Eleanor's weight was lb. 108, Mr. Lauren's 128, John's 22, and mine 133. Drank tea at Mrs. LaBruce's and spent a very pleasant evening. Mrs. Croft invited us to take tea with her on the 23.

22nd. After breakfast Mr. Croft called for us to ride on horseback, which we did. Our ride extended as far as Col. Toney's¹⁰ farm, a beautiful place but—the house and garden appear to be going fast to ruin.

23rd. John was taken with a throwing up which continued all day and in the evening I sent for a doctor who said that he had no fever but advised me to give him a dose of castor oil which I did. Mr. Laurens and Eleanor went to Mrs. Croft's party and as I did not like to leave the child I remained at home and wrote a long letter. When Eleanor returned she gave me an account of the party. Mrs. Shepherd and her daughter Mrs. W. were there. Mrs. S. played upon the piano and sang the "Soldier's Bride" to the great amusement of the company. Miss Sarah Bee was among the belles and was dressed as usual, but she did not please the Greenville gentlemen as much as the Charlestonians would have been.

24th. About 12 o'clock, the Masons walked by Dr. Crittenden's house accompanied by a band of music which played very sweetly. The principal instruments were the flute and violin. Mr. Walker, the orator of the day, walked on one side, with a roll of paper in one hand and an ivory [blank] in the other after going up the main street, they turned and walked to the Court House where the oration was delivered. It was a very interesting d[is]course as it gave a succinct account of the principles upon which Masonry is founded, and proved that it is not a society to be laughed at, and ridiculed. In the afternoon Mr. Walker politely offered to take us to the Lodge and show us all their robes, crowns, sceptres, &c. which opportunity we were very glad of, and readily accepted his offer. The novelty of the apartment was highly gratifying to us, as we had never seen anything of the kind before.

¹⁰ Toney, estimated to be Greenville's wealthiest citizen, built the fabulous Mansion House Hotel in 1824.

When I entered and saw, "Holiness to the Lord," written over the Grand Master's seat, I could not help feeling some degree of awe. A great number of swords, triangular pieces of tin, and a variety of other symbols, were hanging in all directions about the room. In one corner stood a wooden window which was painted black, we were told it represented the lattice window through which King Solomon paid his workmen, who built the temple. There were three tables or altars besides the one that stood in front of the Grand Master's seat, which was at the east end of the hall. One of the tables was placed in the centre, and the other two in the North end being left quite bare and I understand at candle-light it is left perfectly dark. There are two red curtains suspended from the ceiling which enclose the center altar; one is drawn along the North of it and the other South. There also are several white curtains in different parts of the Hall. Mr. Walker showed us one of their books which explained the meaning of all of the symbols, and as we were very much pleased with it, he hold us to keep it as long as we wished.

25th. Left Greenville after breakfast and had a very pleasant ride over to Pickensville about 13 miles. The scenery was pretty, and the fields by far the best cultivated we have as yet seen. We crossed the Saluda river over a well built toll bridge, which has been lately put up. In some places the river may be forded, but the water is extremely muddy and is so thick that the bottom can not be seen. Pickensville is a pretty little spot, and has a fine view of Paris and Piney Mountains. It is the property of Dr. John Roberson [Robinson] who has a house in it where he with his family reside. There is a shop & one or two small dwelling houses also, and an orchard a half a mile square, which extends from the main str. to the Pendleton road. The Dr. offered Mr. Laurens a fine lot, if he would build upon it.

27th. Mr. Laurens went over to Pendleton to try if he could succeed in getting lodgings at some clever farmer's, where we might remain the rest of the summer.

28th. Mr. L. returned but without success. Col. Lewis,¹¹ the gentleman to whom he applied, was willing to take us, but his wife would not consent to it.

29th. Having no employment, Eleanor and myself went over to the store to buy some homespun to make frocks for John to learn to walk in. They just came a little below his knees. In the afternoon we rode over

¹¹ From Rutherford, N. C., Lewis settled on Seneca River on the Clemson-Cherry Crossing Road at San Salvadore in 1800. Named for Sir Francis Salvadore who was slain on this place in 1776 in a battle between Tories and Indians.

to Mrs. Mance's, about 2 miles from here, to get apples. The old woman came to the carriage with a glass pitcher and tumblers and offered us some water.

30th. The weather being unsettled we remained at home all day, however in spite of the wishes of the cotton planters it rained very little.

July 1st. Early this morning we were awoke by the bustling noises of the neighbouring people who were getting ready to go to Greenville where a Negro was to be burned alive for stabbing a white man. This fellow had made an attempt to kill his master, but not succeeding, he ran away and lodged in the barn of an old farmer, who having occasion for some grain, went thither at night; not knowing anyone was there, upon his entrance (the Negro who had just awoke out of a sound sleep and thinking he was pursued by his master) instantly jumped up killed the old man and made his escape, but after a few weeks was caught and sentenced to be burned.¹² This morning Mrs. Robinson hearing me say how very fond I was of green-cheese immediately set about making one, which she did by first pouring boiling water over a small bit of calf's rennet, then strained it off, and after straining the milk, warm from the cow, threw in the water from the rennet, which turned it immediately, then she dipped off all the whey, and picked out the specks and hairs, after which it was put into a cheese hoop and pressed.

July 2nd. Left Pickensville after breakfast and arrived at Pendleton to dinner. Took up our lodgings at Mrs. Lortons,¹³ and fixed upon staying five or six weeks with her. We were very much pleased with the view of the mountains from the Village, and indeed with the village itself. We heard so much against it that it was quite an agreeable surprise to us to find it so pretty a place. The mountains are about 20 miles distant and they appear to form a half moon round the village and when the light clouds are hovering about their summit, they resemble so many volcanoes. The very evening we arrived here Mrs. Calhoun called to see us and promised to come the next day to show us the way to church.

3rd. Sunday. We went in company with Mrs. Calhoun to the Episcopal church¹⁴ and heard a very excellent discourse from the Revd.

¹² Jack Kenny Williams, *Vogues in Villany*, pg. 104 states that a Negro man was burned at the stake in Greenville 1825 for rape.

¹³ First home built in Pendleton, East Queen Street.

¹⁴ St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1822.

Mr. Dickerson. No service is performed in the afternoon as the congregation live too far from the village. Col. Huger's¹⁵ family called to see us.

4th July. This great day was passed over in perfect silence here, it was quite the contrary in Greenville. I understood in addition to the parade &c. there was to be a grand ball in the evening, at which Mrs. Shepherd is to show off a few steps.

5th. As we all received letters yesterday we spent the greater part of this in answering them. In the afternoon Mrs. Laurens concluded to join a party that were to make an excursion among the mountains. Col. [Francis K.] Huger, Mr. Davis¹⁶ and several others were of the party. After tea Eleanor & I went to see the Miss Huger's who reside in a house next to Mrs. Lorton's. We spent a very pleasant evening. Mr. Edward Harleston¹⁷ (a beau of Miss Annabella's) was there. They mentioned their practice of walking early before breakfast, and E. promised to join them in the morning.

6th. When Eleanor returned from walking she gave me such a pleasing account of her walk that I resolved to get up early next morning and accompany them.

7th. I made great exertions to keep to my determination of arising at 5 o'clock and succeeded astonishingly well, as I was dressed by that hour. On our return from walking Miss Huger's invited us in to breakfast. After breakfast they lent us some books to take home.

¹⁵ Col. Francis Kinloch Huger spent a summer at Lowther Hall, 161 East Queen St., while building Long House on Bruce's Ford Road, to which he moved in 1825, about 5 miles out of Pendleton.

¹⁶ Mr. Davis was probably Warren R. Davis, an early lawyer and solicitor in Pendleton. He had the reputation of being a wit and very popular in the community. His sister Martha was the wife of Col. John Ewing Colhoun.

¹⁷ The Harleston family lived on Bruce's Ford Road at Grumblethorpe about 5½ miles from Pendleton. (Mills map, Pendleton District 1820.)

(To be continued)

SOME POPULAR BOOKS IN COLONIAL SOUTH CAROLINA

WALTER B. EDGAR *

The earliest inventory of a South Carolina library was recorded in 1679. From then through December 1776, some 2,314 inventories contained a reference to books or a library. But in these 2,314 inventories only 438 had titles other than Bibles, prayerbooks, or testaments. Most frequently the inventories just mentioned that the deceased had owned "books," "a parcel of books," or "a library."

The list of popular books contains all titles appearing in at least five libraries. Except where noted, no distinction was made between the many editions in which some of the titles were available. The titles are divided into categories to present an idea of what type of books were favored by Carolinians. The figures indicate (in descending order) the number of inventories in which the works were found.

RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

Burkitt, William	<i>Expository Notes, with Practical Observations on the New Testament</i>	35
Allestree, Richard	<i>The Whole Duty of Man</i>	27
Hervey, James	<i>Meditations and Contemplations</i>	21
Tillotson, John	<i>The Works of</i>	21
Flavel, John	<i>The Whole Works of</i>	17
Cooper, Antony Ashley, (Earl of Shaftsbury)	<i>Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times</i> ..	16
Hervey, James	<i>Theron and Aspasio</i>	15
Tillotson, John ¹	<i>Sermons</i>	15
Foster, James ²	<i>Sermons</i>	14
Locke, John	<i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>	13
Woolaston, William	<i>The Religion of Nature Delineated</i>	13
Sherlock, William	<i>A Practical Discourse Concerning Death</i>	12
Clarke, Samuel	<i>A Demonstration of the Being and Attributes of God</i> ..	11
_____ ³	<i>Sermons</i>	11
Taylor, Jeremy	<i>The Rule and Exercise of Holy Living (The Rule and Exercise of Holy Dying)</i>	11
Poole, Matthew	<i>Annotations upon the Holy Bible</i>	10
Beveridge, William	<i>Private Thoughts upon Religion</i>	9

* Mr. Edgar received his doctorate in history from the University of South Carolina in 1969.

¹ There was more than one collection of Tillotson's sermons.

² There was more than one collection of Foster's sermons.

³ There was more than one collection of Clarke's sermons.