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**Diary of a Journey through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida**

**July 1, 1765, to April 10, 1766**

**John Bartram**

Annotated By

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[Transcribed and further annotated by Ben Burroughs, Coastal Carolina University, 2010]

Pages 14 & 15 [In SC traveling from Santee River Delta to Little River, just below the State line]

[July] 16[.] [1765] set out & dined at baldins[.] thermometer 89[.] saw 5 yoke of oxen hauling plank with 4 wheels[.] lodged at James halseys[.] this days Journey was thro piney poor land[;] very open level land & no inhabitants along ye road which was laid on ye driest poor land[;] ye low swamp being inhabited & planted with rice & some of ye best higher ground with indigo & corn[.]

[July] 17<sup>th</sup>[.] therm[.] 80[.] set out [for] crockrans ferry [Cochran's Ferry was a mile upstream from modern Hwy. 17] [over] one branch of santee[;] [South Santee River] then over a ver[y] rich iseland to ye other branch [North Santee River]. ferreag 9 pence[.] ye iseland produced Cypress[.] tupelo both sorts[.] poplor[.] birch[.] sweet gum[.] hicory[.] ash[.] alder[.] sephalanthos[.] willow[.] evergreen oak & scarlet[.]

dined at Mark hoggins[.] a good kind man: therm. 91. here it had not rained to wet ye ground deep since January. these two days I found several curious species of plants in ye savannas[.] trees was pine[.] evergreen oak[.] broad leaved willow[.] scarlet[.] scrubby white & red & black[.] hicory[;] in ye swamps[.] tupelo[.] alcea[.] red bay[.] maple[.] birch[.] ash[.] fartle berry[.] and[r]omeda[.] Liquid amber all over[.] Cornus[.] Saw several curious plants & much tall piney ground[.] then crossed A ferry to georgetown[.] containing 150 houses pretily scituated on ye river sampets [Sampit][.] [July] 18[.] then set out over much savanna ground & some piney dry sandy soil to monks ferry on black river [possibly Gadsen's Ferry/Charing Cross, now called Pringle's Ferry at Black Bank Plantation][.] 6 pence[;] then over pede [Great Peedee River, possibly at Wragg's Ferry which would have taken him over to the ricefields][.] 6 pence[;] then Wocama [Waccamaw River][.] 1 shilling[.] half A mile broad[;] then very poor sandy soil & some savannas[.] dined at Joseph Allens [on Waccamaw Neck, the husband of Susanna Pawley, daughter of Joseph Pawley (1680-1717) and niece of Percival Pawley (b. 1670)][.] thermometer 91[.] Saw A large chinkapin[.] 13 paces diameter in ye branches & 4 ½ [inches] diameter in ye bole[.] lodged at Pikes [probably Stephen Peak's] on ye west end of long bay[.] [Surfside Beach area] lightned all night[.]

[July] 19[.] thermo. 81[.] cleared up in ye morning[.] travailed along ye bay [Myrtle Beach area][.] ye banks of which is A red soil[.] which I suppose reacheth into ye sea under ye fluctuateing sand[.] insomuch that all ye adjacent shells is tinged with A deep orange color[.]

butt ye object that engaged my attention most was A solid rock of concreet shels & gravel [later known locally as “Hurl Rocks”, they have now been covered with sand by the beach renourishment projects. It is located adjacent to Hurl Rock Park at 21st Ave. S., Myrtle Beach, SC.] whose summit Just appeared even with ye fluctuating sand[,] but to what depth it decended I cant say[,] it was so soft as with A sharp pointed knife to cut A little hole into it[,] its appearance was Just such as is common in ye back parts of ye countrey[,] ye shells common on this sh[ore?] was ye Cockle & clam[,] dined at ye east end of long bay at A very kind gentlemans house[,] [probably Jeremiah Vereen who owned an indigo plantation at that site] thence very poor sandy soil to little river[,] lodged at one Rust [or Ross] at ye boundary house[,] [The Boundary House was located on the state line just above Little River on the King’s Highway. At the time of Bartram’s visit in 1765, it was actually owned by William Allston. In 1775 it was occupied by Isaac Marion, brother of Revolutionary War general, Francis Marion.]

[July] 20[,] set out with Mr. Rust [or Ross];] rode over much savana ground & great variety of curious flowers[,] now leaveing ye coast[,] takeing ye back road up ye countrey[,] crost over Wocomack ferry[,] rode over great variety of savana[,] Cypress and bay swamps[,] saw ye west india cotton with yellow flowers double[,] 4 foot high[,] & ye common cotton[;] both growing well[,] ye soil sandy on ye surface then A red sandy loam 5 foot[;] then A stiff tenatious Clay[,] ash colored[,] to A great depth to 20 foot[.]

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Pages 18, 19 & 20 [Returning to SC from NC]

[August] 7[,] [1765, in southeast NC] set out[,] rode over some dry sandy ground but generally over very large savanas on which grewed A great variety of curious plants[,] dined at dr Halls where grewed on A moist ousy soil some very curious plants & strange shrubs[,] rode over some hilly ground to ye river[,] where I lodged at Thomas Neels.

[August] 8[,] set out & rode over many fine large savanas which produ[c]ed many very curious plants[,] of which was A large kind of plantain: when we came near Bruinswick [Brunswick Town, NC, seat of three colonial governors of NC] ye land was generally more sandy & in some places very poor[,] ther[,] 75[;] at 3[,] 82[,] we arived in ye town by three A clock[,] dined & went to wait upon ye Governour [NC colonial Governor William Tryon] who received us very kindly[,] we lodged at Thomas Niels[.]

[August] 9[,] went early to ye Governours [NC colonial Governor William Tryon lived at “Russellborough”, the governor’s mansion on the Cape Fear River near Brunswick Town, NC][.] thermometer 83[,] set out at eleven[,] we rode over much deep water & wet savana ground & some white sand hills[,] observed many curious & new species of plants; ye savanas as well as ye highest piney ground was very open with A fine distant prospect & & very straight roads[,] moderate weather & pleasant travailing[,] lodged at skinking mores [Schenkingh Moore, grandson of SC colonial governor James Moore who served from 1700-03][.] A very religious house[;] A new light baptist[,] many of his riligious brethren lodged there & performed family duty evening & morning[.]

[August] 10[.] set out[.] thermometer 74[.] A very fine pleasant day & even road[.] some very white poor sandy ground[.] some open pleasant Savanas[.] but not one inhabitant for 20 mile[---]our days Journey[---] nor one spring of water but several creeks[.] lodged at Captain ross [or Rust] at little river [Little River, SC, just below the state line][.] A pleasant scituation, but poor sandy soil[.] here ended ye tipitiwitchit [Venus Flytrap][.]

[August] 11[.] set out[.] [travelling south along the King's Highway in the North Myrtle Beach area] thermometer 78[.] over much poor sand ground & some prety good[.] which was planted with indigo[.] which was prety good[.] some cut & some Just ready[.] we came by noon to long bay[.] crossed ye first swash[.] as it is called[.] being A midling creek running from ye high land & not pasable at high water nor till half ebb[.] [Lewis Swash aka Singleton Swash] it often changeth ye ford by reason creatures pasing backwards & forwards & treading ye sand in holes[.] & by floods[.] there is several other small ones or little fresh water runs comeing from ye high land[.] to cross which is of great service for horses to drink at. & allso for thair thair riders especialy in coole weather. ye bay is called long bay [Singleton Swash to Surfside Beach] & is fifteen mile long but formerly thay used to travail ten mile farther up it[.] the beech being mostly continued from where we enter it to where we land again[.] its very pleasant rideing on hard sand close to ye roling waves Just washing ye horses feet[.] except at high tides when ye sea beats against ye beach[;] from which it retires at low water 150 or 200 yards[.] here is great variety of shels of ye clam & cockle kinds[.] some Courees, sea stars, clams, oisters & periwinkles but very few scallops or snails[.] some razor shels[.] but what engaged my notice most was ye great quantities of great rocks [later known locally as "Hurl Rocks", 21st Ave. S., Myrtle Beach, SC] wholly composed of sea shels of ye same kinds with those that ye surf heaved up on shore[.] & placed in every direction and of all [deferent?] magnitudes[.] ye one as ye other with broken shels[.] some of which was ground to course sand & all forced into ye cavities of ye greater shels[.] ye same in appearance with those vast masses up toward ye heads of our great rivers: & ye fisher men say that these rocks of shels extends many leagues into ye sea & to seven fathom water[;] how much more thay have not tried[.] here in ye swamps near ye shore ye great magnolia begins & continueth to ye southward[.] lodged at Peaks [probably Stephen Peak's, in the Surfside Beach area][.]

[August] 12[.] thermometer 80[.] set out[.] this day was very temperate & cloudy[.] ye pleasantest day of all our travails from Charls town[.] [area between Surfside Beach and Winyah Bay, lower Waccamaw Neck] arived at Geor[g]letown[.] it thundred all ye fore part of ye night but did not rain in town but northward[.] here grows many of ye evergreen oaks [Live Oaks][.] A very ornamental tree[.] ye lower branches spreading horisontaly 30 yards diameter & ye general appearance of A globular form[.] affording A lovely shade in many parts of ye town[.]

[August] 13[.] warm morning[.] crossed sampets river [Sampit River][.] on which ye town fronts[.] it is about 200 yards broad[.] Ships can come above ye town: we next crossed ye main deep branch of Sante[.] [North Santee River] 150 yards broad[.] then above A mile cross an Island to ye other shallow branch [South Santee River][.] over which thay set with poles[.] 300 yards broad[.] dined at cockroms [Cochran's, a mile upstream from modern Hwy. 17][.] exceeding hot[.] thermometer 90[.] (wocoma [Waccamaw] half A mile broad[;] peede [Great Peedee] 200 yards[;] black river 300 yards broad[.] which we crossed yesterday) & saw several great magnilias [magnolias] growing on ye bank of Wocomaw [Waccamaw River] on dry ground[.] one was near 18 inches diameter[.] after dinner traveled by several savanas clothed

with grass & many dilicate flowers; some ponds but most of them dried by reason of hot dry weather[;] & some dry white sandy ground[,] yet generally produced very lofty straight pines [Long Leaf Pines] with divers kinds of oaks[;] & in ye swamps many bays. great Mirtles. Alcea floridiana[,] water oak & tupelo[,] sweet gum[.]

[August] 14[.] set out from Halseys[.] rode as usual over savanas & poor sandy soil[.] therm[.] 78[.] crossed A bridge over oindo [probably Awendaw][.] saw great quantities of pitch [Long Leaf Pine resin] spiled on ye ground many years since (it being A common landing)[.] this pitch being melted by ye sun is become very hard like A rock[;] but where very thick and ye sun shineing very hot[,] I could make an impression in it with my finger. in some places ye sand was drove upon it by ye wind[,] which produced course grass & some herbs[.] dined at baldwins[.] thermometer 88[.] haveing stoped & refreshed our selves at A Common well[,] of one of ye best kinds near ye Coast[;] for our road lay generally from ye long bay [Surfside Beach] between two & four mile from ye shore. this was A hole dug at ye head of A bay swamp which declined to A Cypress pond[,] which in wet weather held 2 or 3 foot depth of water[;] at other times would be dry by ye exhalation in hot dry weather: this hole is about 7 or 8 foot deep containing midling good water: ye earth is dug away on one side to A easy declivity to walk down to lade ye water out[.] it is coveren over with poles on which pine branches is laide to screen ye sun from heateing ye water but this did not hinder ye dead rotten leaves & dung of birds from falling into it[,] which might easily have been remedied by covereing it with boards reared up over it[,] as it served for its proprietors best water for family use[,] which was very large. lodged at Mr Ramingtons[,] A Civil man[.]

[August] 15[.] thermo[.] 82[.] traveled over midling good land[.] here ended A curious plant called in north carolina Cockup hat [Stillingia, a plant with many medicinal uses][.] common all ye way[.] we observed many good farms & gentlemens seats[.] came to lamprees at hobcaw ferry [in Mount Pleasant, SC, on the Cooper River across from Charleston][.] paid 20 shillings for ferriage & 30 shillings for a dish or two of tea[.] pasage 3 mile[.] landed at Charls town[.] put up our horses at Mr Cannons & walked to our friend Lambols [Thomas & Elizabeth Lamboll, 19 King St., Charleston, SC, house built c. 1739] where we was accommodated in ye most civil & best manner. in A large chamber. One side fronting ye street with A large window & balcony with A prospect down ye bay[;] ye south side fronting ye garden & orange walks over which A lovely prospect apeared of James island over As[h]ley river[,] two mile broad[,] from two large windows[.] ye farther end of his garden reaches to within A few yards of ye rivers bank: ye north front hath A fine prospect of ye town through two large windows[.]

[August] 16[.] thermometer 83[.] this day was spent in placeing my specimens Collected in our Journey from ye midle settlements of Cape fear & stitching them to paper[.] this day it rained & thundred[,] which struck A chimney & hurt A woman or frighted her very much[.] this was ye greatest rain thay had for several weeks[.]

[August] 17[.] thermometer 81[.] noon 87[.] when ye breees arose which generally cools ye air in chambers[.] this day I spent in placeing specimens & billy in drawing A fine odd locust[.]