

## William M. Jordan diary 1852-1857

(genealogical note in file that William M. Jordan and Ann Eliza Page were married 27 Sept 1842; Sidney D. Bumpass, bm.) Handwritten manuscript. Jordan was stationed in Caswell for 1852 and 1853. All of 1852 and excerpts of 1853 below.

Original is located in the Archives and Special Collections of Perkins Library at Duke University (Sec. A items1 c.1). Transcribed by M. Park Hunter ([park@itisgood.org](mailto:park@itisgood.org)), pastor of New Hope and Purley United Methodist Churches, fall 2008.

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- 1 Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> 1852 our First Quarterly Meeting commenced. It was held at Bethany Church, near Leasburg – Rev. T.S. Cambell P.E. I am allowed \$280 for Family Expenses. Wm Lea, James Shankes(?), and Jos J. Thaxter were appointed a committee to assist me in laying in provisions. Wm M(?) Ghiles(?) appointed district steward. Wm (corner missing) Price was appointed
- 2 Steward of the Circuit in place of B F Stanfield resigned. On Sunday Bro Campbell preached us a good sermon from Rev 22.14. Congregation attentive – good time in administering the sacrament. At night I preached in Leasburg.  
Sun Feb 8. At Yanceyville felt cramped(?) in preaching; forgot one of the heads of my sermon. Alas! What a poor creature I am. Will I ever overcome that timidity which annoys me so much? Lord help!
- 3 Sun 15 Preached at Bethany for the first time. Did not have liberty. At night in Leasburg had more freedom.  
Sun March 14 Preach in Yanceyville on the instruction of children. Strange as it may appear, we have no Sunday School here. Bro Campbell preached at night.  
Thu 18 Baptized several persons at Camp Springs.  
Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Preached at Shady Grove for the first time. I came here in January but have no congregation. In February it rained on
- 4 the day of my appointment.  
Sun April 4<sup>th</sup> Made some remarks on the subject of Baptism at Connaly's, and baptized several persons – had a time of good feeling during the administration of the ordinance. Preached on the instruction of children. Here we have a good Sabbath School which will I think prove a great blessing to the neighborhood.  
Sat 17<sup>th</sup> At Shady Grove our Second Quarterly Meeting commenced. The P.E. absent in consequence of family affliction. I went
- 5 home with Col Wm W Price.  
Sunday morning I solemnized the rites of matrimony between Hiram W. Price and Arramin(?) ta Linell(?). We then went to Church where I preached and administered the Sacrament assisted by Bro Wm Anderson. Not much interest manifested.  
Weather unfavorable.  
Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Came on to Yanceyville. Found Bro Campbell in great distress – His wife and youngest child very low. He has a hard time of it. All
- 6 his white (whole?) family except himself have been sick. His wife with consumption his children with Scarlet fever.

- Wed May 5<sup>th</sup> Started to Wake(?). Got to Page's next day. Friday went to Raleigh. Here I heard of the death of J.S. Nicholson and J.W. Wilson. Our preachers are passing away. Lord, raise up and send forth more laborers into the field!
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Preached the funeral of Mr(?) Wood and child at Frinlly(?)
- 7 in the Granville Circuit.  
Monday, got to Leasburg  
Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Left home in the morning, and got to Providence so as to preach at 4 o'clock & how tired I was! After preaching in going to Bro Turners stopped at Mr. Williamisons to avoid the rain. Remained here untill about sunset, and supposing the rain was about over started again. O what a time I had! Thunder. Lightning, Rain in torrents. I got safely
- 8 to Bro Turners, not however without a wetting. Here I learned that Sister Campbell had died. Bro C's youngest child died on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. He has lost three wives within some seven or eight years.  
Wed 12 After preaching at Camp Springs, went home with Bro Bruldin(?) whose wife lay very low. She died a few days after in joyful hope of eternal life.  
29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> Held a Two Days Meeting at Salem. This is a New Church built during
- 9 the last year. We have only four members in Society at the preac(?). I fear it will be a good while before we shall do much here.  
Sun June 6<sup>th</sup> Brought the cause of mischief before the Congregation at Coandly's(?). Obtained about \$20 in money and Habness(?)-him. Three persons were admitted on probation in the Church.  
Sun 18<sup>th</sup> Brother Campbell gave us a long discourse on the subject of Baptism in Yanceyville. The Baptists were generally absent.
- 10 I think they will keep still on the subject of Baptism awhile about Yanceyville. What a pity that so much time has to be taken up in discussing this subject. If the Baptists will agitate the subject I say our preachers are in duty bound to give our views on the subject.  
Sun June 20<sup>th</sup> A very large congregation assembled at Bethany. Bro Bryant was to have preached the funeral of Mr. Jas Fuller(?). He failed to attend, and the
- 11 funeral was not preached. I spoke to the people from Eccl 9.10. Preached again in Leasburg at night.  
Sat July 17<sup>th</sup> Commenced a meeting at New Hope. Bro S. Lea came to my assistance on Sunday and preached one sermon. I toiled hard 'till Sunday evening. Sinners seemed to feel much, but would not yield. Poor New Hope! It is a hard place. Great deal of gambling about here.  
Sat 24 Begun at Harrisons.  
Sunday, Had Brothers An
- 12 dersons and Forbes to help me. There seemed to be feeling under the first sermon, but during the recess it began to rain, and O what a time. Rained untill night  
Monday Br Forbes(?) and myself preached. During the last sermon it began to thunder – some left – others showed a great deal of restlessness. Under such circumstances we could accomplish but little; so we closed the meeting.  
Sat 31. At Connaly's commenced a meeting by preaching from 2 Peter 3.12. Sunday morning we held Love-feast; at the close

13 of which we had two mourners. At the close of the first sermon we administered the  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Had a time interest. Bro S Lea preached the second  
sermon. We had several mourners. On monday two persons professed to find the  
Lord in the pardon of their sins. On Tuesday we had a goodly number of mourners,  
but no converts. Baptized three persons by immersion. Wednesday was rainy – few  
14 persons out. We had however sufficient encouragement to continue the meet-  
ing. Thursday was election day but a goodly number of people attended and we had  
a time of interest. Friday, we had a glorious time. Some ten persons professed  
conversion. During the meeting fifteen persons professed to pass(?) into the liberty  
of God's people and fourteen joined the Church. Thank the Lord for his goodness.  
During the Meeting I was greatly aided by Brothers H(?)N Holden and T.J.  
Howard. Bro T.W. Holden's health was such that he could not attend much of the  
time. At the close of the meeting, however, he made  
15 at talk mostly to the young converts which I trust will result in their good. The  
brethren whose names are here mentioned are lay members.  
Sat Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Began at Lea's Chapel. The meeting was continued untill Thursday  
afternoon. I was absent one day being called away to marry a couple. In my absence  
the meeting was kept up by the lay brethren. Some three or four persons professed  
conversion, and that section of membership attending the meeting was considerably  
16 reserved: but alas a large  
portion of the members were absent much of the time.  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Preached at Hebron and in the afternoon at Bro Hightowers(?).  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> About daybreak or a little before I was called up to go and preach the  
funeral of Father Gunn. I had sixteen miles to go. Was not in a good plight fro  
preaching from my ride and previous labor. I took for my text 1 Thess 4.13,14. Of  
Father Gunn I will here record the following notice: - Starling Gunn was born in  
17 Nottoway(?) Co. Va., on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1764, and died at his residence in Caswell  
Co. N.C. on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1852. At the age fourteen he volunteered his  
services in behalf of country. Having become a soldier in the Revolutionary War, he  
served several campaigns, and was present at Yorktown when the British army  
under Lord Cornwallis was captured. Soon after the war had ended he engaged in a  
Christian warfare, and became  
18 a soldier of the cross of Christ; and having taken unto himself the armour of God he  
never laid it aside. He fought till his master called for him; and in his last illness  
gave satisfactory assurance to his friends that all was well. We believe his spirit has  
entered into rest. When I met him at Church a little more than two week before his  
death little did I think that he would so soon be taken from us. But he is gone. May  
my  
19 last end by like his!  
Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Began my meeting at Bethany. It was to have commenced the day  
previous. But having to preach Father Gunn's funeral I could not be there; and  
Brothers Anderson and Dowdy failed to attend. To proceed with my meeting at  
Bethany. On Sunday at the cloase of the second sermon about fifteen persons came  
to the altar and prayed for nearly all of whom were pupils in Br Lea's School. After  
laboring with them a short

- 20 time two of them professed to find the Lord in the pardon of their sins. Monday we had a glorious time some eighteen or tw(?) professing conversion. The meeting continued untill Thursday late in the afternoon, and if it could have been continued a few days longer no doubt but we would have had many more conversions. Some Twenty five professed to pass from death until life. The Lord be praised for his goodness! During this meeting I had no ministerial help Bro Lea being sick; but I was nobly aided by the lay brethren Garrett, Stanfield, Shanks, Thaxter and others. On the last day of the meeting I made some remarks on Baptism and baptized several persons.
- 21 Sat 21 Commenced at Shady Grove. Continued four days. Assisted part of the time by Bro Wm Anderson. We had hard toiling to but little purpose. I have not preached to a more restless congregation for years than that which usually attends at Shady Grove.
- 22 Sun 29<sup>th</sup> Commenced at Concord. Bro James Reid preached in the forenoon and I in the afternoon. Next day I preached twice and brought the meeting to a close. Not much encouragement. Sinners hard.
- Sat. Sept. 11. Rode to Yanceville to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting. No meeting today in consequence of the rain, a great deal of which we had. Sunday, Bro Dans(?) from Greensboro preached us
- 23 a good sermon on the subject of Doing good. We obtained for the Missionary cause in money about \$60, and a subscription of some 23 or 30 dollars. Meeting was held on Monday. Bro D. did not accomplish much for the Greensboro College enterprise. I am sorry for this.
- Sat 18. Began a meeting at Hebron which lasted four days, and resulted in four conversions, and the conviction of a goodly number who would not yield.
- 24 Sun Oct 3. Preached at Connally's. In the afternoon made a talk on Baptism – baptized several in the church by pouring – and then baptized six colored persons by immersion in Mr. Richmond's mill pond.
- Thurs Sa & 15<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>(?) preached at Old Prospect. Once person admitted on probation and two baptized.
- Sun 17. At Bethany some feeling in congregation. Bore my testimony against wearing gold. W. Renn's case was brought before
- 25 the church. He promised not to drink spirituous unless in cases of necessity. We concluded to try him longer.
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Preached at New Hope. Took dinner at Mr. T.S. Lea's. After dinner went to Bro D. Gunn's. When I got to Rattle Snake Creek found the bridge had been so damaged that I could not cross on it. Made several unsuccessful attempts to cross the creek above the bridge. I then left my Sulky and rode bare back to Bro Gunn's
- 26 Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Bro Anderson and myself preached the funeral of Mr John McDaniel. Poor fellow. I visited him in his sickness and urged him to seek the salvation of his soul. He replied "it is too late." Drunkenness was his ruin.
- Wed 27<sup>th</sup> After dinner went eleven miles to Jos(?) S. Price to solemnize the rites of matrimony between Schell(?) F Hodges and Martha A. Price. After supper left for Leasburg. 27 miles distant. Got there about 3 o'clock.
- Fri 29<sup>th</sup> We left for Wake, having closed my year's la-

27 bor on Caswell Circuit. During the year about 70 persons had been added to the church on probation - \$214 collected for Missions – and \$47 conference collection – and \$17.50 for Sunday School Books – some 40 copies of the Visitor subscribed for – 14 persons belonging to the church had died, among whom was Starling Gunn and Thomas W Holden. The former had been a soldier in the revolutionary war, a member of the Methodist Church more than 60 years

28 and had filled for many years the offices of Steward and Class Leader. The latter had been a member of our church some 30 years, filling a large portion of the time the offices of Class Leader and Steward. They both left a good testimony behind. We trust they are now in that better country.

We arrived at Mr. Page's Saturday evening, after having encountered one of the heaviest falls of rain it was ever me lot to meet with. Found our friends well.

Sun 31. Was Bro Floyd's day

29 at Wesley Chapel. Several were added to the church on probation; and in the afternoon the ordinance of Baptism was administered at Page's Mill Pond to some 20 persons. Some were immersed – the larger portion however were baptized by aspersion standing on the mill dam.

Tues Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Drove down to Louisburg, the seat of the conference.

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference opened, Bishop Capers(?) presiding. We had a peasant session were admitted on trial

30 located, and 3 (S.D. Bumpass, JL Nicholson, and J.W. Wilson) had died. We have nett increase of about 2300 members. Missionary collections upwards of \$6000. Which is a considerable increase over the last year. At this conference I would have been lodged in the country, but for my friend Warren Nobles to whom I under great obligations for his kindness to me during the year 1836. I am sorry to find that he is now out of the church. I

31 pray that God may bring him back again and make him what I think he once was. I was reappointed to Caswell Circuit with F.W. Boring(?) for my colleague. After the adjournment of conference I returned to Mr. Page's where I had left my family.

Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Preached at Wesley Chapel, and administered the Holy Sacrament.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> was the time fixed upon to start back to Caswell, but in consequence of rain we delayed starting untill Monday

32 Monday came, but our little Johny was so sick that we could not venture to take him out. We got off Wednesday, and arrived at Leasburg Thursday afternoon.

Sun Dec 3<sup>th</sup> Preached at Connally's. Had feeling time. But alas some of the members have been quite crooked. We tried to straighten matters, but I fear not to much purpose. May the Lord help! I returned to Leasburg without stopping to get dinner.

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Moved into the Parsonage. The house is very

33 small and badly furnished. Considering the wealth of Caswell Circuit it is not at all creditable to the circuit.

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Owing to the rain did not get off as I intended, so I had to ride to Yanceyville Sunday morning. Bro Campbell preaching at 11, and Bro Baring at night.

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Got back home, not having preached at all during my absence. We have a great deal of rain, and the roads are in very bad order indeed.

- Sat 18 Went out to Bethany and made a talk from Dan 6.10. Few persons present.  
Weather cold.
- 34 Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Preached at Lea's Chapel from Eph 6.13.
- Wed 22 Taken quite sick – confined to the house six days. Missed several appointments.
- Sun Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1853. Rode over to Connally's, and preached from 1 Chron 4.10. The congregation was small, owing in part it is supposed to the report of my sickness which had been exaggerated. We have new difficulties here. Alas how budy is the enemy of souls.
- ...
- 35 Fri 21. Went to New Hope – preached in the School House a fire having been built up there. Had some comfort in speaking from Gen 17.1
- 36 Sat 22. At Harrison's no person met me. Called at the Hinton's to see Bro Baring Who has been laid up here some days. He is getting better.
- ...
- 37 Sat 29<sup>th</sup>. To day our First Quarterly Meeting commenced at Bethany. T.S. Campbell P.E. preached from 1 Tim 2.8. We had ten members in Quarterly Meeting Conference including the P.E. We resolved to take the sense of the members of our church in the bounds of
- 38 the circuit in regard to the removal of the Parsonage. And a committee was appointed to ascertain the probable amount it would take to make the parsonage in Leasburg what it ought to be; and another committee was appointed to ascertain what it would cost to procure a parsonage in Yanceyville.
- ...
- 48 Sun 13<sup>th</sup> At Yanceyville preached in the morning from Matt 9.12. Got the members of the Yanceyville and Piney Grove Classes who were present to remain in the house after the dismissal of the congregation. We effected a union between the two classes. Piney Grove is
- 49 only about a mile and a half from Yanceyville. At night preached from Heb 4.11. Considered I the rest spoken ofe. II The danger of coming short of the rest III What we should do to secure this rest "Labor." Had liberty in speaking. Hope good was accomplished.
- 52 [April] Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> We had a convention in Yanceyville to obtain the voice of the circuit in regard to the location of the Parsonage. A majority of the delegates voted for Yanceyville.
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Preached at New-Hope – felt drawn out – hope hard times will grow better at this place.
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup>. Preaced on the instruction of children at Harrison's. O how painful to see so little interest manifested in training the rising generation.
- 52
- ...
- 54 June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> We held our Third Quarterly Meeting at Harrison's. I was much mortified at the smallness of the Missionary Collection!
- ...
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> At Camp Springs Started a subscription here

55 for the Parsonage. People didn't subscribe much – very discouraging. Want a great deal of preaching too, and that on Sunday!

...

63 [September] Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Commenced at New Help – continued nine days. Great indeed were the displays of Divine power. We reckon the number of converts to be forty one. The believers were greatly blessed. Some of the old members of the church say they have never seen such times at New Hope before I shall never forget this meeting while memory lasts. Glory to God for such a manifestation of his goodness!

...

64 [October] Mon 24<sup>th</sup>. We had rain and snow. Did not go to New Hope. Tuesday at Harrison's, Wednesday at Shady Grove – two persons joined on proba-  
65 tion. Society at this place in rather a bad condition. Thursday rainy – went to Prospect – had few hearers. – preached from Genesis 17.1.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> at New Hop some of the friends having sent round through the neighborhood to let the people know that there would be preaching – had quite a congregation. Preached with comfort from Rev. 2.10. Seven persons were admitted on probation, one received into full membership from the Baptists, and fourteen were baptized. The Lord

66 hath done great things for New Hope this year. There have been forty seven additions to this church during the year. May the Lord keep them faithful!

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Commenced at Hebron – continued until Tuesday afternoon. We had I trust a time of profit, but only two converts. This was my last meeting on the circuit.

67 Wed. Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Bid adieu to Caswell – We have had on the circuit during the year about 230 conversions and 188 have joined our church on probation. The Lord be praised for his goodness. I can say with all my unworthiness that the Lord has helped me much. But for the course pursued by my colleague, it would have indeed been a pleasant year.