

Journal from the 1st Mission of John Francis Astle
Louisiana — May to July of 1896
Transcribed by Charlotte Astle

May 10 1896 — 8 miles North of Covington — Sunday morning, a fine day a short time after going to bed last night we was aroused by live stock that was trying to carry us off. We lay there for some time killing them as they ran across my face and it kept me busy. At last Elder Moore got up as we could not stand it any longer. We lay down to it, he struck a match the bed was literal covered with bed bugs. I never seen the like in my life. There was hundreds of them, We got up took the quilt off the bed spread on the floor and lay down without any covers and only one quilt under us. I put my pants and socks on. I did not sleep much as I never got rid of all the bugs. Got up at 5 oclock, shaved, cleaned up, had breakfast, set around and talked till 10:30. We went to attend a Methodist meeting one of their Leading elders was there, he was a quite a speaker although he did not preach in accordance to our belief, also witnessed them Crison (Christen) a baby. The elders read a prayer then sprinkled it and placed his wet hand on it. Then read another prayer and we went home with Mr. Nathan Whiting took dinner, our meeting began at 3:30 p.m. Elder Moore presided opening exercises. I spoke 1 one hour and five minutes on the Kingdom of God. Elder Moore spoke a few minutes, closed. We had a large crowd and they kept very quiet. At the close of the meeting, spoke of holding meeting again the near future, got commitment to hold meetings. Went home with Mr. Nathan Whiting., had supper we talk on the gospel, retire at 9 oclock.

May 11 '96 — A good nights rest last night, did not have any bed bugs, arose took breakfast and was treated well by Mr. Whiting, and biding them good by with an invitation to call again. Started east for the Sun P.O. a distance of 18 miles, crossed little Rogue Falls, went up the Colombi Road conversing as we went. The people was a long way apart, about 1 oclock called on Mr. Strathman, he invited us to dinner also to spend the day and night we excepted. I talked on the gospel, wrote a letter to R. T. Astle, had supper, a talk about our country, at 9:30 I began to write a letter to my wife. Went to bed at 11:30. Treated well. **V2 W7 D1**

May 12 '96 — Three miles North West of Talisheek PO — After a good nights rest arose at 5:30 had breakfast with Mr. Strathman, biding them good by asked to call again, continue toward the Sun P.O. Crossed the Bouge Chitto River , conversing as we went, arrived at one P.M. But was disappointed as I did not get any mail and the last letter form my wife was dated Apr. 12. Went South, conversed, Called on Mr. A. B. Jenkins, was asked to stay all night, excepted, treated well, had supper, a short talk on the gospel, sang some, went to bed at 9:00 p.m. **12mi D12**

May 13 '96 — Sun PO — A good nights rest, got up feeling well had breakfast, bidding Mr. Jinkins good by with invitation to call again. Went to Mr. Pierce had a long talk on the gospel, from there to Mr. Osker Mitchell a talk on the gospel, had dinner, went on our way West along the line conversed.. Left our washing with a Darky, invited to stay with Mr. E.E. Jenkins, had supper, a talk on the gospel, retired 15 minutes to 10. Also got word that Frank Rackin came down on 27 of Apr. **9F W5 mi. D10**

May 14 '96 — Rested well and got up well, breakfast, shaved treated well, asked to call again, bidding them good by went our way conversed a few, went to the P.O. got a letter from my wife all very well, the people of Grover had a surprise on her, she got a set of Glass dishes, it was on the 29 of April. also a letter form Mrs. Alvin McCombs all well. Went to Mr. S. L. Jinkins, made arrangements to hold meeting at his place on Sunday the 17of May, had dinner and continued our labors, West to the Bogue Chitto River, then up the river along the Franklin road, called on Mr. Emyle Talley, he invited us to say all night we accepted , a short talk on the gospel, supper, talked about our country, retired at 9 p.m. **W7 FV7 revisited 1 Ref.1 D6.**

May 15 '96 — Sun PO — Got up this morning feeling well, had breakfast, spoke of holding meeting Mr. Talley said he would be pleased to hear us, said he was willing for us to hold a meeting in their church if the rest of the interested parities are, so we took it in hand to see all the parties. Got to Mr. Jno Talley, he was not willing, said the preacher had charge of the Church. Invited us to stay for dinner, we did so. We talked a little on the gospel, he said he was satisfied with what he had. Visited all the Families on North of Bogue Chitto River, crossed on the south side of River, called on Mr. W.F.Depriest, had supper, a short talk on the gospel, also about our country, went to bed at 9 p.m. **W8 F6 D4 Rev1 Ref1**

May the 16 '96 — South of the Bogue Chitto Bridge one mile A good nights rest, got up well, had breakfast an long talk on the gospel, bidding them good by with invitation to call again. Visited Mr. Crawford, a gospel conversation, he had us lead prayer before leaving, asked to call again, from there crossed the River got our washing cost 20¢ each, changed clothes and left them to get washed, went to the creek, had a bath, set out in the woods and read some in Old Testament, continued was going by Mr. Henry Mizell's was invited in, a pleasant conversation on our country, supper, a long talk on the gospel treated well. **W6 Fw1 Re1 D2 gospel convers3**

May 17 '96 — Sunday Morning at Sun PO — Got up this morning feeling well as it is fast day for the elders we did not eat breakfast, spent the morning in talking and I read some from Church History, had dinner after or about 2 oclock. We went to Mr. S.L. Jenkins to fill appointment,

Meeting began at 3:15 myself presiding with exercises, Elder Moore spoke on or gave the people a general outline of the gospel. Spoke 45 minutes a little time left I spoke one half hour on apostasy and restoration of the Gospel. We had a large crowd, filled the house and two galerays. We had a pleasant time the spirit of the Lord was with us. The people seemed some what interested, gave 18 tracts away and went home with Mr. Henry Mizell. Had two other invitations to go home, But Mrs. Henry Mizell was the first and we excepted, had supper, a pleasant conversation, went to bed at 8:30.

May 18 '96 — Monday — Got up well, had breakfast, wrote a letter to Prest. Swenson, left a VofW with Mizell and bidding them good by with invitation to call again at any time., asked to send word when we was coming again as Mr. Mizell said he would arrange for a meeting. Ordered our mail forwarded to Pearl River as we are thinking of going on Honey Island went and got our washing cost 15¢, crossed Bogue Chitto River, wrote letter to my wife, also to elder Jones in Scott Co, went down the river, called and got entertainment with Mr. Erben Cooper, though he was not very friendly, said he did not take any stock in our preaching, said our doctrine was a curse in the county. Had supper, a talk on our country, retired at 9p.m. **W9 V3 D2**

May 19 '96 — Thomas PO — Had a good nights rest, had a shave, breakfast, read from New Testament. Biding Mrs. Cooper good by, Mr. Cooper sliped (slipped) of in the field and never said a word. Thanking them went our way. After visiting a few families, and asked to call at Mr. Crawford's, reached the Thomas P.O., P.O. letters, stayed there talking, 12 oclock came, asked to dinner, a very good one, a short talk on the gospel, thanking Mr. Thomas went our way. Treated well all the way. They was quite friendly, the day was very hot, after Mr. Carpenter asked us to stay all night we excepted, supper, a talk on the gospel, which mad 5 conversations on gospel. **V11F W4mi D12 T**

May 20 '96 — Rested well last night, got up well, breakfast, got the names of the people down to Violin P.O. was treated well, asked to call again, bid Mr. Carpenter good by, continued our canvas, Mrs. Hyten asked us to stay for dinner. We consented, a long, talk on the gospel, asked to call again, bidding her good by, went our way, visited several Grantham's, Mr. Sam Grantham was in the field, asked us to call again. Finished conversing in this settlement and went South, down the River the people seemed to be willing for us to hold meetings in their meeting house, but there is a meeting their next Sunday so we put ours of for some time in the future, received entertainment with Mr. Dave Richardson, had supper, a short talk on the gospel, also on our

country, was treated kindly all day. A fine day although threatened rain. **W7 V11 F D11 Rev1 GC4**

May 21 '96 — Arose this morning feeling well, had breakfast and bidding Mr. Dave Richardson good by and thanking him, continued our canvas in Parker settlement called on Mr. Cook, was invited in, his wife was confined to her bed having been throwed out of a wagon and a weel (wheel) running across her, breaking some of her ribs. They are spiritualists we had a long talk on the gospel, very nice people. The Lady is a teacher of elocution. We had dinner, the Lady seemed to have a desire to investigate, we left two tracts, she thought of sending for a Book of Mormon, thanking them and bidding them good by went to Mr. John Parker, a man 73 years old was sick in bed, a short talk with him, he had us lead Prayer before leaving. called on Mr. Garlet, invited in a talk on the gospel, supper, another pleasant talk, went to bed. **visitng14F revisit1 Dis16T Walking 8 miles**

May 22 '96 — Violin PO — We arose this morning well had breakfast Mr. Garlet said when we come there, we could hold meeting, bidding him good by, continued our journey visiting, had a long talk of the gospel with Mr. Jno Crawford, from there visited 3 indian families, did not get to talk much with them, left a track with one of them, the others could not read, they are all Catholic, went by way of Mr. Welch, called for a drink, he asked us to stay for dinner we did so, thanking them went our way, called on Mr. Crawford had a long talk on the gospel for about one hour, then went on, set by the side of the road, wrote to Bro J. A. Davis of Simpson Co. Miss. Went to another Crawford, the gentleman was not home, and they did not seem to care for us. So we went and spent the night with Professor Hill supper, a pleasant talk till 10 oclock, had prayers, went to bed.

May 23 '96 — Flesenville PO — Rested very good, got up well, breakfast on bread and milk, thanking and bidding Mr. Hill good by, made our way to Pearl River Station, got letter form my wife all very well, having cold weather, also letter from J.P.Thompson with \$9.00 in the Seventies & elders got up a dance for my benefit on the 1 of May and raised it which I am very greatful for. Went to the store and got two ancherfies (handkerchiefs), started for Honey Island. The day is very hot, went out in the woods had a shave, read some, crossed the tressel work over the Pearl River, a large bridge, the tressel work about one half mile long, first house is man by name of J F. Blackwell, we called on him, introduced our selves, he said he would like to hear us preach, invited us to stay at his place and he would go and notify the people and we would have meeting tonight, we accepted the invitation, he started out. Before we had gone it began to rain, looked as though we would not have a meeting. Finely it let up, we had supper, the people began

to come in, meeting began at 8 p.m. The spirit of the Lord was with us, the people kept very quiet. We enjoyed ourselves well, we sat up till 11 o'clock, talked about our people. Mr. Blackwell was somewhat surprised, did not think we were the Mormons till we held meeting, one of the Bros did though, had met two of our elders in Mississippi, and was very curious to have us preach.

May 24 — Sunday Pearl River PO — A good night's rest, got up a fine day, feeling well, had breakfast, the timber here is very thick, there is no pine, very swampy. We had no meeting for today, so we went with Mr. Blackwell to attend a Baptist meeting, after waiting at the appointed place for a long time, a few came. They held meeting, we were invited home with Mr. Hall, ½ miles a pole road, had dinner, the afternoon is very hot and sultry, no breeze whatever, spent the day talking on different subjects, never got on the gospel, though there was a Baptist preacher there by the name of---, He had met the elders in Mississippi. It rained some after supper, a long talk on the Word of Wisdom, retired 9 p.m. **W3 D5 V4**

May 25 — Honey Island — Arose well, a fine day, had breakfast, wrote letter to my wife, biding Mr. Hall good by with invitation to call again we went over on the R.R.T., posted letter, visited a spoke (spoke) factory. They average 700 spoaks (spokes) a day, and some of them are for an 8 foot wheel (wheel), a log cart. Went out to Bayou, had a bath and visited some lady by the name of Mrs. ___ asked us to stay for dinner, we did so, a pleasant conversation, from there to Mr. Smith's, they both live close by the mill. We were welcomed in, his father lives in Mississippi, a great friend to the elders, one of his Daughters is here, she said there had been 10 elders at her father's. Miss and Mr. Smith asked us to hold Meeting at their house, so we gave out appointments for 7 o'clock, a gospel conversation, notified the people, took our underclothes to Mr. Barkers to get them washed and back to Mr. Smiths, had supper, and meeting began at 7:00. Mr. Smith and sister sang for us, Elder Moore spoke first on the Kingdom of God. I spoke a short time and closed, they sang *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*. We had enjoyable time. There were some there that hadn't attended meeting for years. The spirit of the Lord was with us, all seemed interested, after Miss Smith played the organ and sang for us, we retired at 10 p.m. **W2 D5 V5 Meet1**

May 26 '96 — Honey Island — A good night's rest, got up well, wrote my diary for the past two days had breakfast, Mr. Calvin Smith asked us to take a walk over to the mill and look around awhile, we went on arriving there, Mr. Dr. Benton stepped (stepped) up to Elder Moore, told him he did not want us Mormons there, said we were no good and wanted us to get of his place. We stood there a few minutes. Dr. Benton said something to Mr. Smith and told us to

leave the place, we did so. Mr. Benton was mad because Smith let us preach in the house where he was living as the places around the Mill belonged to him. I am sorry for Smith as he was working there for a living, but think it will turn out for the best, I think it will cause him to think and investigate. Mr. Smith thought it was all right. Told us when we come on the Island again he would have some place to preach, Biding them good by and thanking them, made our way down the Island, visited several families, took dinner with Mr.---, a long talk on the gospel, thank them, continued, came to Mr. Hendley, talked on the gospel for some time. He said we could hold meeting in his house and sent a boy around to tell the people, had supper, went to the school house, has a nice little crowd gathered. I spoke on general & individual salvation. The people seemed to be interested, wished us to hold another meeting, went home with Mr. Budy Hindley, a short talk and went to bed.

May 27 '96 — Honey Island — Got up well had breakfast and shaved. Biding Hendley good by with invitation to call again, continued our canvas, had dinner with Mr. Mike Asher. He has seen the elders a good many times in Mississippi, a pleasant time, when bidding good by asked to call again. Had a short talk with a Mr. Lot Smith a friend to the elders in Miss., he wished us to stay all night with him, so we left our grips and finished canvassing in the lower part of the Island. And went back to Mr. Smiths, had supper. Mr. Asher and wife came over and we had a long talk on the gospel. The old man asked a great many questions. Went to bed at 10 o'clock.

May 28 '96 — Honey Island — I did not rest very well, after breakfast with an invitation to call again continued our canvas, went North crossed the R.R.T., we had a great deal of hunting to find the people, got our washing, cost 15¢ each, did not have dinner, and I did not feel the best kind. Called on Mr. Pembrit Mitchel, got entertainment, was very tired, had supper, a pleasant talk on our country, and went to bed at 8 o'clock, it was thundering, lightning and raining very hard. **W9 V7**

May 29 '96 — Honey Island — Rested very well, got up feeling a little better, had breakfast and bidding Mitchels good by finished canvassing on the Island, went to Pearl River Station, we go very muddy (muddy) we brushed up and went to PO got letter from my wife all very well, but the weather was cold, also go letter from Prest. Swenson, stated the Conference would be held in Miss. in the last part of Aug., all the elders very well they Baptized a Lady in St Helena Pa. (Parish) PO card to have mail sent to Abita Springs. Went 4 miles west of Pearl River, to Mr. Jno. Kinedy, had supper, a pleasant talk about our country. Went to bed at 9:30 p.m. **12Mi V3 D3 Rev1.**

May 30 '96 — Florenville PO — After a good nights rest and breakfast, we bade Mr. Kinedy and family good by. I was impressed to go to Bayou Lacomb, and hold meeting, the coming Sunday. Went by way of Florenville, sent a card to Jno. Deeds. A man 5 miles North West of Covington telling him we would be there on the 7 of June to hold meeting at his place, made our way to Mr. James Henley, on Bayou Lacomb, at 11 oclock, took dinner, asked to have the privilege of holding meeting, got the Baptist Church gave appointment for meeting at 11 oclock, a talk on the gospel, went to the creek and had a bath, had supper. Mr. Coffee and wife came over, we had a long talk on the gospel. Mrs. Hinkley is a great talker on the Bible, but will not hold to it, she has her own idea, and wont believe anything,. Went to bed at 10 P.M.

May 31 '96 — Bayou Lacomb P.O. — Sunday morning, very sultry, rested well, arose feeling very well had breakfast, read some, at 11 oclock held meeting, a nice little crowd. Elder Moore done the speaking, invited home with Mr. Jno Coffee, had a good dinner, spent the afternoon talking a little of everything. At 6 p.m. went to Mr. James Henley, had supper, a short talk on the gospel and went to bed.

June 1 1896 — After a good nights rest, thought the mattress bothered some, got up feeling well, a very warm morning, has breakfast, thanking and bidding Mr. James and Mrs. Henley good by, went west to Lister Station. Took dinner with Mr. Wm. Mclandon, wrote letter to Prest. S. L Swenson, from there to Mrs. Strain, was welcomed in by her coming out to the gated to meet us. This is the second time visiting her, visited one of her sons on the way over. Had supper, a pleasant conversation till 10 oclock when we retired. **W12 V1 D1 R1**

June 2 '96 — Abita Springs PO — We had a good nights rest, got up feeling well, some what cloudy this morning, a breeze from the north, causes it to be a little cooler. Had breakfast, wrote letter to my wife, bidding Mrs. Strain good by, asked to call again, went by way of Strafford's, and to Abita Springs, got 100 tracts & 100 cards, then to Thomas Cook's, they seemed pleased to see us I also go a letter from S. H. Jones & elder Kennington in Tenn., all well, had dinner with Cook spent the afternoon talking on the gospel, had supper, another gospel conversation , Mr. Cook and wife seemes very interested, as read O.P. Pratts and the VofW, went to bed at 10 oclock.

June 3 '96 — Abita Springs PO — After a good nights rest, got up well, had breakfast. I think Mr. & Mrs. Cook will be Baptized before we leave the Pa (parish), bidding them good by, a warm invitation to call at any time, went to Covington, got 23 papers, the Post Mistress said she sent a letter to Abita Springs last night. I did not get it when we called this morning so I sent a card to

have it sent back here. Went to hotel left our things, then down town got new shoes, socks, collar, scissors cost \$3.20, went back to Hotel, cut each others hair. Tried to see the mayor Mr. Frederis but was not home, has supper at Hotel, wrote letter to Bro J. P. Thompson went to bed at 10:30 p.m.

June 4 '96 — Covington — After a good nights rest, arose had a shave, did not eat as it was fast day, went and seen the Mayor of Covington, he said there was nothing to prevent us form canvassing the city. Took our clothes to laundry to have them washed, started out to canvas, went to the Printing office subscribed for county paper. The Editor seemed quite friendly, said if we would give him notice of any meeting he would print it. We canvassed about 54 families. I had a long talk with two neither one believed in much of any thing, went to Hotel had dinner, read a little, went our and canvassed. Also seen a Methodist minister about getting a house to hold meeting in he objected, said that Mormonism is not recognized. He is very bitter, had supper, went to PO got letter from my wife, all well, also one from Bro. Creel of Miss. Went to bed at 9pm. **V88 D89 Mi5**

June 5 '96 — Covington — Last night was so hot we did not sleep very good, got up took breakfast, canvassed all the business houses all so Clabeon I had the privilege of visiting the Mayor of New Orleans. Finished canvassing the City visited the Ice Factory, they was freezing 100 pounds every 25 minutes, had 137 blocks in at once. Took dinner, wrote letter to Mother, read the News Papers, we was thinking of leaving the City, but it looked a great deal like rain, so I fixed my pants, did not eat any supper, as I thought I could live on two meals a day, as money is scarce. Just before going to bed, was treated with a dish of ice cream by the Lady of the Hotel. We had canvassed. Finished the City, did not preach as we could not get a house. **34F D3 W5mi**

June 6 '96 — Covington — Got up well after a good nights rest, had breakfast, and settling with the Hotel Lady for food and lodging, which was \$2.25. Left the city went north west about 3 miles took dinner with Mr. Wm. Long, had a talk on the gospel, biding them good by, asked to call again, continued on our way, called at Mrs. Hebestveit, it began to rain, and we was invited to stay all night, we accepted, a short gospel conversation. They had a large Barn and some Blooded stock, had a look at them, then supper came, we ate, a pleasant conversation, it rained very hard till 11 oclock we went to bed out in the barn. **W5 V8 D3**

June 7 '96 — 5 miles North of Covington — Sunday Morning, we had a good nights rest, cleaned up, had breakfast, it rained a great deal in the night, and the country is very level, so the

water stands on the ground, and we was 5 miles from our appointment, and a river to cross. Biding Mrs. Hebestveit good by and she invited us to call again, we started for Mr. Jno Deeds, with a Negro Pilet, we reached the river, crossed on a gam of logs. As there was no bridge, we had a great deal of water to wade through, our shoes was good so we did not get our feet very wet, one place we had to take our shoes off, reached Deeds at 11 oclock the appointed time for meeting, no one there, had dinner, in a shot time a few came, and we held meeting. I spoke on general and individual Salvation. There was the best of order, spent the rest of the afternoon in singing had supper, a pleasant talk with Mr. Deed went to bed in the Barn at 8:30 p.m.

June 8 '96 — 5 miles North of Covington — I slept sound, did not feel much like getting up, but being away from home I could not do as I please, so I got up and took breakfast, it looked a great deal like rain. With a invitation to call again, we bid Mr. Deeds and family good by, made our way north up the turn Pike road to Mr. Borrers, had dinner and made arrangements for meeting Tuesday night, biding them good by went to P. Bennett, spent the afternoon on talking on different sub, wrote letter to my wife, supper, went to bed at 9 pm.

June 9 '96 — In the Bennett Settlement — Tuesday — Got up well, breakfast, took our clothes across the river to get them washed, left them with a Negro, went to Mr. JR Greens, stayed with him till after dinner, read some, a gospel conversation, went back, had a bath, and shave. Went to R. Bennett had supper, then to meeting, a large crowd there. Meeting began as usual, I spoke 55 minutes on the Gospel, the people paid the best of attention, was very anxious for us to hold another meeting, gave appointment for Wednesday night, Went home with P. Bennett.

June 10 '96 — Got up this morning feeling well, had breakfast, talked some, read some, had dinner, talked some on the gospel, it rained some this afternoon. I wrote my dari (diary) for the past 5 days, spent the evening in talking to Mr. Bennett, had supper, went to meeting. A large crowd there, meeting began at 8:15 p.m. Elder Moore spoke on the Kingdom of God. Let Miss. Bosser have a VofW went home with Mr. R. Bennett.

June 11 '96 — A good nights rest, the night was cool, had breakfast, biding Mr. R Bennett good by, with invitation to call again, went to P Bennett, loaned Miss Bennett a VofW, got our grips, biding all good by with a warm invitation to call again. Crossed the River, got our washing cost 15¢ each, went to Mr. Waren Willie, treated us well had dinner, a pleasant conversation about a little of everything, at 2 p.m. biding them good by asked to call again made our way by way of Pickets turnpike, time still visited two families and called on Mr. E. Rogers had supper, a long talk on the gospel. Went to bed at 9:30 P.M.

June 12 '96 — Verger PO — Arose this morning well, had breakfast, loaning E. Rogers a VofW, and bidding them good by crossed the West Bogue. Mr. Rogers is still in for that debate said he would write us about the time, Mr. Creel could be there, mad our way tom. F. Fussell, took dinner, bidding them good by went out to the Sharp settlement on the Bouge Chetto River, visited 8 families, made arrangements to hole meeting in the Gernsalman Church, a Baptist meeting house. Got entertainment with Emanuel Taylor, had supper, a pleasant conversation, touched a little on the gospel, went to bed at 9 p.m. **W11 V8 D8 Re1**

June 13 '96 — On the head of the little Bogue Falaya. — Last night was quite cool, caused us to sleep well, got up well, breakfast, was treated well by Mr. Taylor, bidding the good by, continued our canvas, giving notice of our meeting Sunday the 14 of June, took dinner with Mr. Jno. Spinks, from there to Mr. Ben Williams, asked us to stay all night. We excepted, left our grips and visited a couple more families, came back had supper, a pleasant conversation, went to bed. **V10D9W9**

June 14 '96 — On the Bouge Chitto River — Sunday morning, a cool night rested well, took breakfast, had a shave, as we did not get to Saturday, red some. At 10:20 a.m. started to the Geurselam Church, arrived there, meeting began at 11:15. There was a singing class there, they asked to do the singing, we consented for them to do it. I spoke one hour and 5 minutes it seemed to be very hard work for me to speak. The people left very quiet. Sold 3 VofW one to Ben. Williams, 1 Emanuel Taylor & Boy Fantuelraym made arrangements for the house to hold meeting some time in the future, went home with Mr. Ben Williams, a pleasant conversation with a Lady form Tex., had dinner at 5 oclock we bade them all good by with invitation to call again, went down the river a couple of miles, got entertainment with Mr. Enoch Talley had supper, he did not have much to say. Went to bed at 9 oclock.

June 15 '96 — At the Bouge Chitte River — Monday morning — Arose well, a cool morning, had breakfast, wrote my Dira (Diary) for the past two days, bidding Mr. Talley good by went down the river, finished canvassing then west on the Cloumlon road, Loaned a VofW to Mr. Levenhouse ,took dinner with Mr, C. Straman, went to Talisheek P.O. Got a letter from my wife, all well. Elder Moore had a gospel conversation with Miss Matice, got a letter form Prest. Swenson, elder Carlisle went home. Went to Mr. Carle Rousche had supper, a pleasant conversation, went to bed at 10 p.m.

June 16, '96 — Talisheek PO — Rested well, arose, a fine day, took breakfast, wrote a letter to Prest. Swenson, bidding, Rousche good by with invitations to call again, went over by the

Methodist camp ground, had a bath, wrote letter to my wife, Posted them, made our way towards Wm. Cooks, stayed in the woods had a nap, read from Church History, arrived at Cooks found them well, had supper, a pleasant talk. There was a Mr. Bassler died in Abita Springs, the boys and girls went and set up. We went to bed.

June 17 '96 — Talisheek — Got up well, the day is fine and warm, took breakfast, read form the Bible most all morning, as we have not much of anything else to do. As our writing is done, had dinner, left appointment to have meeting in the Hickory Grove Church. Biding Cooks good by, went to the P.O. I got my photos of the elders of the Miss. and the Louisiana conference. Sent to home, went to Wm. Dutch's received entertainment, has supper, a pleasant talk, went to bed at 10 p.m.

June 18 '96 — Talisheek PO — It rained and thundered a great deal last night. We rested well, arose, cloudy this morning, had breakfast, Mr. Dutch went to Covington, and we bade them good by asked to call again. We went about a mile stoped (stopped) in the woods had a shave, read from Church History, did not have any dinner, went to Mr. Cooper, a shot talk, while it was raining, then to Mr. C.L. Baker, 5 miles from Covington. Had a pleasant time, though they did not care any about the gospel, has supper, went to bed at 10 p.m.

June 19 '96 — Covington — After a good nights rest, arose, took breakfast, biding Baker's, good by, went to Covington, got a watermelon, seen two gentlemen about preaching in the Presbyterian Church, a Mr. Smith and a school teacher had rented the house to teach school in, we could not get consent of ether one of them, so we have to give up preaching in Covington, for the present at least, from there started for Thomas Cooks up the R.R. track. Set under the shade of an old oak tree, elder Moore wrote a letter. I wrote my dira (diary), and read some. Arrived at Mr. Cook's, had supper, a gospel conversation, a pleasant time, treated well. **W11ReVisited1 D1**

June 20 '96 — Abita Springs — After a good nights rest, arose, took breakfast, it looked a great deal like rain. I went to Abita Springs 1 ½ miles, seen the rail road agent about a pavilion hall they have there, if we could get it to hold meeting in, got his consent. Wrote two notices and tacked up on some buildings there, stating that we would hold meeting on Monday night June 22. Went to P.O. got posted cards 5 cents, started for Mr. Cook's, just as I got out of town a man came along with a buggy, asked me to ride, I excepted, road to T. B. Cook' on arriving it began to rain, I read some, had dinner, and read some more, then took our clothes across the creek to a Darky to have them washed. On our way back had a bath, had supper and had a pleasant

conversation. Mr. Cook has a pretty good understanding of the gospel, and is very interested, we arrived here Friday night, he asked us to stay with him till Sunday morning, and we would all go to meeting. At 9:30, after prayer, all retired for the night.

June 21 '96 — Abita Springs — Sunday morning, arose well, cleaned up, as it is fast day for the elders we did not eat breakfast. It looks a great deal like rain today. At 8 o'clock we all started for Hickory Grove Church a distance of 3 ½ miles arrived all O.K., meeting began at 11:30a.m., usual exercises. Elder Moore done the speaking on the gospel, a nice crowd present at the close of the meeting. Mr. Keen a Haleness and I had quite a talk of Baptisms and other things, went home with Hyrum Cook son of Wm. Cook, had dinner, spent the afternoon in a pleasant conversation, supper, held another meeting in the Hickory Grove Church, a large crowd there, one of the Cook's girls played the organ, they sang two hymns and we sang one. I spoke on Apostasy and restoration. The people paid very good attention, the Spirit of the Lord was with us. Went to Wm. Cook's for the night.

June 22 '96 — Rested well last night, feel well this morning, it was some what cloudy, had breakfast, Biding Cook's good by with invitation to call again, went and visited two families, set in the woods and read from B.H. Roberts, did not have any dinner, went to Thomas B Cook's had supper, and went to Abita Springs, got letter from my wife, all well, one from Prest. Swenson, and a envelope from Prest Enderson, with \$8.60 in, but not a line. We then held meeting in the Pavilion Hall, a large crowd. Elder Moore spoke 30 minutes. They did not keep very quiet, there was two men drunk, one of them kept talking and all did more or less. I spoke about 20 minutes, they kept more quiet. Meeting closed, we sold 2 VofW and could of sold more if we had them, gave 12 tracts away, went to Thomas Cook's and retired for the night.

June 23 '96 — Abita Springs — Arose this morning well, had breakfast, wrote letter to my wife, got our washing cost each 20 cents, biding Cook's good by with a warm invitation to call again, went to Abita got one bunch of envelopes, Posted letter, it started to rain we stayed there till 2 p.m., we started out in the rain, went to Mr. Schick on Bogue Falaya, walked 8 miles, 6 of them in the rain. Had wet walk without dinner, a gospel conversation with Mr. Schick, supper, went to bed at 9 p.m.

June 24 '96 — Got up well, had breakfast, wrote letter to Prest. Samuel Enderson, had a pleasant time with Mr. Schick, treated well, biding him good by, crossed the river, left our washing with a Darky at Jones still, from there to John Fitsgerial to see about meeting he was not home, then to Nathan Whitney, had dinner, a pleasant time, he thought we could get the house,

biding him good by went to Mr. Luke Eleson, a gospel conversation with his wife, had supper, we was invited to attend prayer meeting, we excepted, on arriving we was asked to take part, which we did. Elder Moore read a chapter form St. John, opened by prayer. I spoke to the about 20 minutes. We had a pleasant time, went home with Mr. Luke Eleson and retired for the night. We also gave appointment for two meetings Sunday.

June 25 '96 — 8 miles North of Covington — We are feeling well this morning, the sun is shining bright, had breakfast, shaved and bidding Eleson's good by went and spent the day with Ben Rogers, had a long talk of the gospel, also dinner with him, bidding him good by, went to J F Fussell for the night, gospel conversation, supper, and retired for night. A very hot dry day.

June 26 '96 — North of Covington 8 miles — A very warm morning, feel kind of drowsy, had breakfast a short talk with Mr. Fussell, bidding them good by and asked to call again, started out, we can not do much the people don't seem to be interested, and we have to lay around till Sunday to hold meeting, so we went in the woods and spent off the day reading form Church History, went to Mr. H. Roberts, had dinner, the thermometer is 98 above zero, very hot indeed. I went to his shop fixed my knife as on blade was broke out, a gospel conversation between elder Moore and Mr. Roberts mother, supper, a pleasant conversation on religions and other Sub., retired for the night.

June 27 '96 — Got up well, had breakfast and bidding Robert's good by with a warm invitation to call again, went to Jones & Pickets Still, got our clothes cost 15 cents. A Darky Baptist Preacher asked up to hold meeting for them, said some white people would be there, we gave appointment for 7:30 at night. Started for Mr. Nathan Whitney's, elder Moore thought we could go a shorter rout. I did not think so but we started out and traveled 5 miles to get 3. Took a bath, had dinner and supper together, went to fill our appointment. We learned that Mr. Davis a professed Haleness (Holiness) had been doing all he could to prevent us from holding meeting, and through him there was but few there, while we was waiting for the crowd to gather, the darkies, held a prayer meeting, our meeting began, there was not a white person there, singing and prayers, I spoke on the first principals of the gospel. Enjoyed the spirit of the Lord, we had a pleasant time. The darkies appreciated very much, went and stayed with Mr. Whitney all night.

W11Re1M1

June 28 '96 — Semitucy Creek — Sunday morning, a fine day, feeling well, had breakfast. At 11 oclock went to meeting, a quite a crowd. Elder Moore spoke on the Gospel, a nice meeting, went and had dinner and went to Sunday School. They went through there exercises before

prayer, they read and some had a verse committed to memory. After Sunday School, went to fill an appointment. The people did not get there so we could begin till 8 o'clock, usual exercises, I spoke on Apostasy and restoration. I well, never felt better in my life, spoke on hour, the night was very warm, prepared very bad went to Whitney's for the night, went to bed at 12 o'clock with out supper.

June 29 '96 — Got up well, cleaned up, wrote my dira (diary) for the past three days, had breakfast, bidding Mr. Whitney good by with invitation to call again, Went East to the Talisheek P.O. got letters from Prest. S.L. Swenson, also from Prest. Kimball instructing us in regard to our labors, said it was absolute of a necessity to travel with out purse and script, had dinner with Mathice, a gospel conversation with his daughter, wrote letter to my wife and Prest. S.L. Swenson. Went to Mr. Rouck for the night, had supper and a pleasant talk on politics, went to bed at 10 p.m.

June 30 '96 — Talesheep PO — Arose this morning feeling well, had breakfast, bidding Rouck's good by, they asked us to call again, made our way East along the Columba road, came to Mr. Smith's after walking 8 miles in the hot sun, had dinner, we learned that our appointment was not give our as we expected, so Mr. Smith sent his little boy around on a horse to notify the people, we remained there had a long talk on the gospel with Mrs. Smith had supper, it rained very hard for a short time, we went to the church, distance of 1 ½ mile, a nice crowd, opening exercises, Elder Moore spoke on the Kingdom of God, gave appointments for a meeting July the 1 at 7:30 p.m., had a pleasant time went home with Mrs. Smith, the road was very muddy (muddy), walked 9 miles, We retired to rest at 11 o'clock.

July 1 '96 — At Jones and Pickets Still — 13 Miles North East of Covington — It is a fine morning, we are feeling well, after a good nights rest, took breakfast, bidding Smiths good by with an worm invitation call again, and leavig a VofW went and had a chat with Mr. Ladinghouse, he said he liked the VofW well, also asked about which was the best news paper of the west as he wished to sub scribe for one. We told him the Desseret News was, left a sample with him and went to the little Church House, and wrote my dira (diary) for the few days, went to Mr. Benton took dinner, a short talk, Mr. Benton went to work, told us to stay as long as we whished, so we stayed all afternoon. I read the sub. Book of Mormon, in VofW, had supper, then we went to meeting. The house was close by, a nice crowd, usual exercises, I spoke on Apostasy and restoration, spoke of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon. As soon as I sat down when Elder Moore said a few words and was going to close, a professed Holeness (Holiness) Preacher by name of Booth stepped up with a bible in his hand wished to say a few words we gave him

permission. He tried to prove we was preaching a fake doctrine, said that the Book of Mormon was not true, said the Apostles were not needed in our day, quoted from 16 Chapter of Luke, he spoak (spoke) about 30 minutes. On his stetting down I arose, spoke on the points he referred to, and bare testimony to them, all with the exceptions of one was on our side, instead of gaining anything he lost. A Mr. Benton, was very much taken up with our Doctrine, preached of VofW, said if he could hear the gospel like that he would know what Church to belong to, gave us a very warm invitation to call and see him, said as long as he had a home we had one. We never got away from meeting till 10:30 p.m., went home with Mr. Benton and retired for the night.

July 2 '96 — 13 miles North East of Covington — Got up well as it is fast day, did not eat any breakfast, bidding them good by went east along the Cloumbo Road, had a bath in the Bogue Chitto River, crossed the Bridge, left our washing with a Darkie, went to Mr. Henry Mizell's, then to P.O. got a letter form my wife all well, also from mother, and a letter form Mr. Elic Rogers a Haleness on the Bogue Falaya River, wanting us to be at the Welcome Church on Thursday before the third Sunday, to discuss the Book of Mormon and other sub. Took dinner, spent the afternoon chatting with Mr Mizell, supper and retired for the night 9:30 p.m.

July 3 '96 — Sun PO — Arose very well, had breakfast, looked rainy this morning, bidding Mizell good by, started out to revisit some, set in the woods, and read some, then to Mickel's, form there to Mr. Perce, had dinner and a pleasant gospel conversation and other Sub. Went to Mr. Henry Simkins and spent the night, had a pleasant time.

July 4 '96 — Sun PO — Got up well had breakfast, a short talk, thanking them for their kindness, with a warm invitation to call at any time, we started our for Hebreu Church, went by way of Henry Mizell, a short talk, on bidding them good by, they wished us success and asked us or any of our elders to call and see them at any time, and they would do the best they can. Got our washing cost 20¢ each. Crossed the river had a bath, there is picnickers in several places to day, went down the river, thought of staying with Grantham, he has company, then to Mrs. Hyten, the gentleman was not home, then to J.D. Carpenter, his folks was not home, so we had to go on to Mr. Slades, spent the night with him, treated well, a short gospel talk, retired for the night, after walking 8 miles, the people in the settlement seems very cool.

July 5 '96 — Thomasville PO — Sunday morning, a fine day, got up well, had breakfast, talked awhile, went to the meeting house, claim to be a union house, on our arrival we found a notice on the door, No Admittance for the Mormons to preach here. So we had to stay out side, there was but very few came out, not one that had any interest in the house so we held meeting under some

Oak Tree. Thought there was but a few of us we had a pleasant time. Invitee home with Mr. Wilkins, had dinner a conversation of the gospel and other Sub., had a fill of figs, went to bed at 9 p.m.

July 6 '96 — Thomasville PO — Monday morning after breakfast, bidding Mr. Wilkins good by with invitation to call again, went down the river, called at Wm. Cook's, then to John Parkers took dinner, a pleasant conversation, on bidding them good by they asked us to call and see them again, continued down the river, called at Press Crodic's, they seemed pleased to see us, had supper, a gospel conversation and went to bed at 9:30. Walked 14 miles, rained a great deal on the road, we was just behind it.

July 7 '96 — Florenville — After a good nights rest and breakfast, we bade Crodics good by and thanking them, they asked us to call again, we made our way to Pearl River, was disappointed in not getting any mail. We went to store, got a box of shoe blacking & laces 10¢, then to the woods, wrote letter to my wife, also to Mr. Alex Rogers, about the debate, crossed West Pearl on the R.R. bridge, went to E.J. Blackwell, found them feeling well, he had received the VofW and liked it the best kind. He also testified to the truthfulness of the word, we had supper, a long talk on the gospel, he loaned the VofW to his bros., said they liked it well. The people in this Blackwell settlement seems to be very friendly, went to bed at 9 p.m.

July 8 '96 — Honey Island — Got up well this morning and it is a fine day, after breakfast we and E J. Blackwell went a fishing. I caught 7, 5 blue cat and 2 perch. Went to the house, had the fish for dinner, after din, went and visited on old man by the name of Mr. Beets, he said he had heard a great deal about the Mormons, but we was the first he ever saw, had a long talk on the gospel, loaned him a VofW, bidding him good by, went and talked with Mr. Blackwell's wife, from there to Calvin Smiths, the was an old lady by the name of _____ a member of the church there, she was pleased to see us, she had not seen the elders for about two years, we had supper and a pleasant conversation. As Mrs. Smiths was not feeling well, was expecting to be confined, we went to Mr. Wm. Hindley's for the night, a short talk and went to bed.

July 9 '96 — Honey Island — The night was cool, arose in the morning feeling well, had breakfast with Mr. Hindley, thanking them, went to Smiths, got our grips, went to Rev. Burks, left our clothes to have them washed, set in the woods and read some, took dinner with Wm. Hall, thanking them and told them of going to hold meeting in Mr. Whites Spok (spoke) factory, had a shave in the woods, read some went to Wm. Hindley. Had supper, then held

meeting in the SpOak (spoke) Factory. Had a pleasant time, I spoke 40 minutes on general and individual salvation, then to Hindleys and went to bed.

July 10 '96 — Honey Island — After a good nights rest, arose well took breakfast, Mr. White said if we wished to hold any more meetings in Factory we was welcome to do so. Biding Hindleys good by, made our way down the Island, took dinner with Budy Hindley a talk on the gospel, left a VofW with him, gave appointment for meeting Sunday at 11 a.m., bidding them good by, went to Lot Smiths, found them well, there was a man by name of Johnson there from Miss. he asked us to call and see him if we got in his neighborhood, had a pleasant time. Had supper, after a short talk went to bed. **W6Rev3**

July 11 Saturday — Honey Island — Rose this morning feeling well, after breakfast with Mr. Lot Smith, thanking him for his kindness with an invitation to call again, call by Mr. Burks, got our washing cost 15¢ each, from there to J.T. Blackwell, had dinner, a pleasant conversation of the gospel. Loaned a VofW to J F Blackwell. The Blackwell's are very interested held meeting. After supper a nice meeting, Elder Moore spok (spoke) on the Gospel. Retired to rest a t 10 p.m. Got a letter from my wife. The little on is not well. **W8 Re2**

Sunday July 12 '96 — Honey Island — Got up this morning well, it is a fine day, after breakfast walked 3 miles to a little school house, where we held meeting at 11 a.m., There was a large crowd, the house would not hold them all, the people seemed to have a desire to learn, after the usual exercises I spoke on the apostasy and restoration for an hour, the people was very quiet, and I was blessed greatly with the spirit of God. The tears came to the eyes of some of the people, at the close of the meeting, expressed a strong desire for us to come back and hold some more meetings, from there went to J.F. Blackwell's, had dinner, after had some singing and talking, supper, at 8 oclock held another meeting, Elder Moore spoke on faith. I spoke on repentance. Mr. E.J. Blackwell said when we came back he desired to be baptized and there is a good prospect of 6 or 7 being put under water. Retired to rest at 10:30.

July 13 '96 — Honey Island — Monday morning, after breakfast, bidding Blackwell's good by asked us to call again soon as possible, went to Pearl River, got a ticked which cost 60¢, went to Abita Springs, then to Thomas Cook's, found them all well, and pleased to see us, had dinner, a pleasant talk with Mrs. Cook. We Moore and I cut each other hair, had a bath, then supper, a long talk with Mr. Cook on the gospel. He said if we went to the Blackwell settlement to send him word, as he wanted to come over. Retired to bed 10p.m.

July 14 96 — Abita Springs — A fine day, the sun is shining bright and we are well. After breakfast, bidding Cooks good by went to Covington, we sent two O Pratt's works to the Blackwell's one to Enoch & 1 to J.F. Blackwell. Got a letter from my wife and Swenson, all well also one from Prest. Kimball stating that two Elders in the Texas Conference was sick and asked the elders to fast and pray for them, which we will on the 19 of this month, as that is the day set apart for that purpose, wrote and posted letter to my wife, went to store and got a tye (tie) and a few other little things cost 60¢, then North on the Hornesville Road. It is very hot and dusty. When we got out of town 4 miles a man by name of R.J. Green caught up with us, asked as to go and stay with all night, he lived 7 miles form there and it was 5:30 p.m., he took our grips in his buggy, and followed him, arriving at his place at 15 minutes to 8, had supper, was quite tired, as we walked 17 miles in the hot sun, talked a while on the gospel and retired a 10 p.m.

July 15 '96 — Verger — We are well this morning, after breakfast had a shave and long talk with Mr. Green, left a VofW with him, bidding him good by, with invitation to call again, said we was perfectly welcome, made our way to Alex Rogers, a distance of 4 miles, had dinner, spent the afternoon talking with Mr. Rogers. About sun down Mr. Creel came, we had supper and had a long talk on the gospel, but we differed widely on some points, he said the Church was not built on revelation, he did not think the gospel was taked entirely for the earth, referred to 12 Chapter of Rev. said that it was fulfilled, claimed the those two prophets laid dead in the streets which is called spiritually Sodom & Egypt, he referred to the woman question. We tried to make arrangements what Sub. we was going to discuss on the 16. He said he was going to prove what the Latter Day Saints was only people that the Lord hated. He seemed to be quite *rathey*, on that we retire. Well he said he knew that we could not defend our selves, I thot we made competent of defending our selves and was going to do it.

July 16 1896 — Verger PO — About 11 miles North of Covington, at the welcome church the professed Haleness (Holiness). After a good nights rest, we arose well, we cleaned up as we *concluded* to fast we, did not eat any breakfast, but we felt the serenity of a richly portion of the Spirit of God. & assist us in our labors, in defending the precepts of the gospel, as the lad came for us to debate with Mr, Creel a professed Holeness (Holiness) Preacher. We went to the woods offered prayers. On our return to the house a conversation was entered into between Mr. Creel Rogers and Elder Moore and my self. It was pretty warm for a little while. At 10 oclock meeting began. Mr. Booths spoak (spoke) $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour trying the spirits, he infured (inferred) that we were fake. Elder Moore then arose, spoak (spoke) 20 minutes explained what we had come here for, what the gospel once was, and that it was taken from the earth, and was restored again. Mr. Creel then took the stand, his remarks bearing on Polygamy declaring that the New

Testament condemned it quoting Tim. III:2 and going on about Joseph Smith and Brigham Young. I then took the stand spoke 1 hour and 10 minutes on Apostasy, the restoration and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, also a few words on polygamy, as Mr. Creel forced the Sub on. We enjoyed the spirit of the Lord, I never felt better in my life. Bore a faithful testimony to the truthfulness of the work that we are engaged in, spoke like I never had done before, meeting closed for dinner, which was eaten on the ground, we had a bite with J. Z. Bernard, after which meeting continued. Elder Moore took the stand, spoke on general and individual salvation for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour. Mr. Creel took the stand quoted Rev. XI:8 to prove that a spiritual interpretation should be placed on all parts of the Bible, carried the idea that every thing was spiritual and nothing literal. Also Rev XVI:13-14 said that one spirit came for the devil one from the Catholic, the other from Joseph Smith, he also said he had read a book about Brigham Young's 19 wife. The meeting closed by Jno. Booth, reading a clipping from some paper stating that three men went to Ariz. Got stripped of means and wrote to the Gov. of Miss for help to get back. I gave...

- John Francis Astle's Mission Diary unfortunately ends here -