

SKETCHES  
OF  
V I R G I N I A  
HISTORICAL  
AND  
B I O G R A P H I C A L .

BY THE  
REV. WILLIAM HENRY FOOTE, D. D.  
Pastor of Presbyterian Church, Romney, Virginia.

PHILADELPHIA:  
WILLIAM S. MARTIEN, 142 CHESTNUT STREET.  
1850.

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Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1849,  
By WILLIAM S. MARTIEN,  
In the Clerk's office of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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advice of a Christian friend, induced me to do something; but they are very thoughtless, and some whom I have earnestly dealt with seem still unconcerned; yet there are two or three, or more, that seem to break off their wickedness, and serve God. In my advices to them, I do not go out of the sphere of a private Christian. I hear them repeat the Mother's Catechism and read in the New Testament. There are some who come to me at present on the Sabbath once in a fortnight, when we have no sermon. Some persons have objected against their learning, as if it made them worse, but that effect has not followed on any that have been with me, so far as I know; on the contrary, they come to serve from conscience, whereas it was before from dread. I was speaking to them, not to learn when they should be working. No,—they said, for that would be theft, to steal time from our masters. Some make very good progress. Some can read in the New Testament. Several, before I came, could read, but had no books, which I have helped them to, from those I got from Glasgow. And they read to the rest. But alas! there is little seriousness amongst us here in this country. When I go amongst Mr. Davies' people, religion seems to flourish; it is like the suburbs of heaven. The poor negroes seem very thankful to any that instruct them, Mr. Todd informed me he preached a sermon to them, and they thanked him, and seem desirous of further knowledge. It is very agreeable to see the gentlemen in those parts at their morning and evening prayers, with their slaves devoutly joining with them. From about the date of this letter for a series of years, the cause of religion flourished more in the Northern Neck than any other part of the State. And this prosperity was connected with two individuals, Colonel James Gordon and Rev. James Waddell, assisted by a company of gentlemen of the old school of manners and habits of intercourse.

Colonel James Gordon of Lancaster county, Virginia, may be considered as the nucleus of the congregations, in Lancaster and Northumberland, to which Mr. Waddell devoted the most active part of his ministerial life. A Scotch Irishman, he emigrated from Newry, County Down, Ireland, and took his abode, in early life, in Lancaster. His brother John resided on the opposite side of the river Rappahannoc in Middlesex county, at Urbanna, the county seat, and a port of entry. These brothers were enterprising and successful merchants, and became wealthy and influential; and have numerous descendants in Virginia and scattered over the South and West. The Gordons of Albemarle are the descendants of John. The time of their emigration cannot now be stated exactly, but from circumstances we are led to the conclusion that it must have been previous to, or about the time that Mr. Anderson visited the

Governor, at the request of Mr. Caldwell and the appointment of Synod, in the year 1738, to secure for the colonies, about to emigrate to Virginia, their religious privileges. The brothers were closely connected through life; James, however, was the most active in religious matters, and in this view calls for more particular attention. A man of enterprise, of popular manners, habits of hospitality, of extensive landed and personal property, by education and principle a Presbyterian, he stood firm in his religious opinions and practice, and received the reward of his faith and devotion. A man of system, he was in the habit of keeping a journal, in which he made daily entries in a brief manner, of his domestic concerns, his mercantile affairs, his farming operations, and events of interest in the neighbourhood, or the country at large. He registered the names of all visitors at his house, whether to dine, or lodge, or remain a longer time; and is equally particular in noticing all his absences from home, either on business, or friendly visits. Of this journal, there remains only a fragment, which appears to be the middle part of a large volume. There is not one long sentence in the journal, except in the copies of two or three letters which found their way into the volume; yet the brief dry notices, of a man of business and careful observation, crowded together, as the events took place, day after day for five years, give a graphic sketch of Virginia life in the Northern Neck, in its fairest form. Without the least ostentation, in this journal kept only for his own eye, to direct his business and correct his memory, he shows himself the hospitable Christian gentleman, and makes us feel the power and necessity of the gospel. All the knowledge we have of Mr. Waddell's labours in the Northern Neck, and of the gathering of the congregations in Lancaster and Northumberland is, with one exception, derived from this journal, and from the records of Hanover Presbytery. Mr. Gordon's name does not appear on the records of Presbytery, yet from the interest he took in the religious welfare of his family and neighbours, it is more than probable he was active in the applications made for supplies from Hanover Presbytery. Were the records of Newcastle in existence, we might find some notices of a previous date.

The first application from the Northern Neck was, April 27th, 1757, in Hanover—"An importunate application being made to Mr. Davies from some people in and about Richmond county, to come and preach to them, the Presbytery appoint him to preach there the last Sabbath in June." In July, 1757, a request came—"from Lancaster and Northumberland. The Presbytery appoint Mr. Davies three Sabbaths in the Northern Neck and one at Petersburg, between this and the Spring meeting." In January, 1758, Mr. Pattillo was directed to

spend "the third and fourth Sabbaths in April in the Northern Neck." At the meeting of Presbytery, April 26th, 1758, Mr. Pattillo excused himself for not fulfilling his appointments in the Northern Neck, and was appointed to preach—"the third Sabbath of June in Lancaster; the Friday before in Richmond; the fourth in Northumberland; the first of July in Westmoreland, and the second at discretion." In September, 1758—"Presbytery appoint a sacrament in the Northern Neck, the last of March next. Petitions for supplies were presented from Essex, Lancaster, Northumberland, and Westmoreland." Mr. Davies was appointed one Sabbath in the Northern Neck this Fall, and another in the Spring at the sacrament there: Mr. Todd was appointed—"to assist at the sacrament in Lancaster, before next Presbytery." This appointment was fulfilled. Application for supplies were continued from meeting to meeting till Mr. Waddell accepted a call from the congregation and became their resident minister. The first date is Friday, December 22d, 1758. The entries are about the arrival of ships, and the price of tobacco, which was then three pence per pound, and it was supposed would soon be four pence. On Monday, Christmas day, his wife and daughter attended Wicomico church, in Westmoreland county.

"1759, January 8th, Monday—Went with Mr. Criswell to Northumberland Court. Mr. Leland and Mines behaved like blackguards in respect to Mr. Criswell, who went to get scholars, and engaged several, though the parsons did all they could against him, which seemed to make the people more fond of sending their children. I think such ministers should be stripped of their gowns. Tuesday 9th.—Went to Colonel Conway's, where Mr. Criswell and myself dined, and were very agreeably entertained. The old gentleman, I believe, has now fully dropped opposing the meeting-house, which is mostly occasioned by a letter he lately received from Mr. Ben. Waller, who informs him that dissenters have power to build houses and enjoy their religion by Act of Toleration, and complains much of the Church of England's last petitioning the king about a law that was lately passed in this colony, that set their salaries at  $\frac{1}{8}$  per cwt.,—which they call the Two-penny Act, which is like to make a great noise in this country. Thursday, 11th.—Mr. Criswell began keeping school at Ball's; had but five scholars.

"Monday 15th.—Tobacco has got to 30 shillings per cwt.; it seems it will run very high this year. I'm at a loss what to think of it."—On the 13th of February, he says tobacco was 40 shillings per cwt. We notice these prices because the course pursued by the clergy respecting their salaries, which were estimated by pounds of tobacco, and the acts of the Legislature on the subject,

had a most important bearing on the established church, and contributed not a little to her downfall.

In February and March he speaks of a meeting-house in progress—but does not speak of its location. It was probably the one built in Lancaster not far from his residence.

“Wednesday, March 21st, 1759.—Sowing oats in the young peach orchard. Went to Colonel Selden’s, where I had the pleasure of meeting dear Mr. Davies, Mr. Shackelford, and Colonel Thornton our Adjutant. Thursday 22d.—Went from Colonel Selden’s to general muster. Mr. Davies staid there till we had done the exercise; and then came home with me with Colonel Thornton, Colonel Selden, and Major Flood. Friday 23d.—Went to meeting; a large company; where Mr. Davies gave us an excellent sermon, and where we met Captains Morris, Craighead, De Graftemead, and Smith. They all came here in the evening; likewise Mr. Todd, (Rev.) Mr. Blackwell, Colonel Taylor, and Mrs. Boyd; a full house.

“Saturday 24th.—Went with the above to meeting. Mr. Todd preached to a large company. Sabbath, 25th. A comfortable day to me. The Lord’s Supper was administered; forty-four communicants besides the Hanover gentlemen. Mr. Davies and Todd at Colonel Selden’s. Monday 26th.—Mr. Davies preached in Northumberland, and Mr. Todd at our meeting-house. We had a fine sermon. Monday, April 9th.—Went to Northumberland Court. Tobacco at 40 shillings and rising. Gave Mr. Minzie Mr. Davies’ letter, that seemed to give him much uneasiness, and I am persuaded he will not enter into a dispute with Mr. Davies if he can avoid it. Thursday 26th.—Robert Hening came home this morning and brought a letter from Mr. Minzie to Mr. Davies, which in my opinion is very stupid and foolish.

“May 7th, 1759.—Got to Richmond Court about six o’clock. Many people at court. Tobacco seems to fall very fast, so that the merchants wanted to sell as well as the planters; that I don’t believe there was one hoghead sold; 40 shillings was demanded, but I did not hear that 30 shillings was offered. Friday 18th.—Went to court-house. Court set but a short time. Minis’s play was read in the ordinary by Mr. Packer, that received it from Mr. Rinehard, who said he found it in the court-yard. Minis and Leland at the head of the mob; pretty fellows to be teachers of the people.

“June 9th, 1759, Saturday—This day my daughter Anne was married to Mr. Richard Chichester, about 11 o’clock forenoon (he then names all the company.) The parson, Mr. Cam, went off first about 4 o’clock, and most all went off at night, and before it.”—On the next day they all went to the Episcopal church. It seems some of the family generally attended the

Episcopal church, though the Colonel did not often. This Mr. Cam took an active part in the contest between the clergy and the Legislature about the value of tobacco, in which the clergy were paid. "Friday 22d, Mr. Chichester set off to-day to visit Mr. Davies, in Hanover, before he left the colony. I wrote to him. His going away gives us here and in Hanover county, the greatest uneasiness. But I trust God will direct us in the way to heaven. Sunday 24th—At home, Mr. Criswell read us a fine sermon—had all the people in that we could.

"July 1st, Sunday—We went to the meeting-house, but very doubtful of Mr. Martin's coming; but about 12 o'clock we had the pleasure to see him. He gave us two excellent sermons. Monday 2d—Went to meeting. This season there was a large company,—all seem so much pleased with Mr. Martin. Tuesday 3d—Went to meeting, very near as many as yesterday. Last night Mr. Martin lay here. We had a very large company also this night;—he lectured last night. Monday 9th—Went to Northumberland Court,—my wife, Molly and Betty, and Lib Chichester went with me as far as Mr. Conway's. The paper was read about Minzie and Leland publicly, which occasioned a large company some mirth—Minzie sat till it was read—but then went out from the company much displeased. It appears these ministers will repent their farce that has pleased them so much. Thursday 19th—Mr. Downman came here,—has got fifteen thousand seven hundred pounds of tobacco subscribed towards a meeting-house in Northumberland. Tuesday 24th—Yesterday received a long letter from Mr. Maine, a mate of Captain Young's ship, who appears to be a pious Christian.

"August 25th, Sunday—At home with my wife and family, where I have much more comfort than going to church, hearing the ministers ridicule the dissenters.

"September 21st, Friday—Went with my family to meeting, where we had an excellent sermon, preached by the Rev. Mr. Todd. ('I will love thee, O Lord'.) Mr. Henry is not come over the Bay,—which is not disagreeable to me, as he is not qualified in the colony. Saturday 22d—Went to meeting with our company, where there was a greater number of people. The text was John iii. 14, 'Peace be to thee, our friends salute thee.' Sunday 23d—The comfortable sacrament of the Lord's supper was this day administered at our meeting-house, by Mr. Todd; fifty-three communicants: none from Hanover. Religion seems to increase amongst us, for which we have cause to adore the great God for such blessings. Monday 24th—Went to preaching to-day,—when we all parted. Mr. Todd to Captain De Graftemead's to-night—texts—Friday, Psalm xviii. 1; Saturday, John iii. 14; Sunday, Jeremiah l. 4, 5; Monday, Genesis xxxii. 26.

“Thursday, October 3, 1759.—Received a letter from Mr. Joseph Taylor, of White Haven, giving me an account of my dear mother and the rest of my relations at Newry. Sunday 7th.—Went with my wife to White Chapel Church, where we heard Mr. Cam preach a very indifferent discourse—nothing scarcely but external modes,—much against Presbyterians—so that I was much disappointed by going to church, for it was mispending the Lord’s day. How I lament the want of a good minister for our church, that we may all see the things that belong to our peace before it be too late. Sunday 28.—Major Campbell called here this morning on his way from James’ River, and brought the agreeable news of the surrender of Quebec and Montreal,—but with the great loss of our great and brave General Wolfe who was killed in the engagement.

“Saturday, December 8, 1759.—Mr. Hunt and Mr. Kilpatrick came,—that much revived us. Mr. K. gave us a sermon at night. Sunday 9.—Rained hard but we went to meeting; where we met a great many people, considering the weather,—had a good discourse from 16th verse, fifth chapter, Song of Solomon.

“Tuesday, February 19, 1760.—Went with my wife to the school, and treated the boys with pancakes and cider—got them play in the afternoon. Thursday 28.—Went to Colonel Conway’s, but could not agree with him for his tobacco. As I cannot be of his way of thinking in regard to religion he seems to take opportunity to hurt my interest. But I endeavour to trust in God that I may not fear what man can do unto me. Monday, May 26.—(After sacramental service by Mr. Todd, in Northumberland) went to meeting to-day,—a pretty large company of the common people and negroes,—but very few gentlemen. The gentlemen that were inclined to come are afraid of being laughed at; Mr. Minzie endeavours to make it such a scandalous thing.

“Friday, October 10, 1760.—Mr. Criswell wrote from school the agreeable news of the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Davies in the colony,—he has gone to Hanover; Mr. Hunt came to Colonel Selden’s last night, so that I hope we shall have the comfort of hearing him preach a Sunday in our meeting-house. Saturday 11.—Mr. Hunt, Mr. Maring and Mr. Criswell came before dinner, but with disagreeable news that Mr. Davies will not return this way. Sunday 12.—Went to meeting,—heard a fine discourse well delivered, I think, by Mr. Hunt. I think we must have him for our minister if we can; as I believe he will give general satisfaction. Sunday 19.—Went with my wife to Northumberland—meeting at our store there—where we heard Mr. Hunt deliver an excellent sermon on love. A great number of people there. Mr. Hunt proceeded on his way to Hanover, and has promised to endeavour to send Mr. Davies this way on his return northward.

“December, 1760.—Mr. Caldwell, afterwards barbarously killed in New Jersey, preached repeatedly both in Lancaster and Northumberland. Thursday, December 25.—Went to meeting,—heard Mr. Caldwell, who gave us the best sermon ever heard in these parts on Christmas day,—several seemed much engaged, and more so than I have observed for some time. The text was from Matt. i. 23. Saturday 27.—Went to meeting, heard Mr. Hunt deliver a very good sermon, 1st Peter iv. 18; a great number of people. At night Mr. Caldwell preached a sermon here,—about seventy or eighty negroes were here,—text Revelations ii. 4, 5. Blessed be God these are comfortable times. Sunday 28.—Went with company to the meeting-house, but it rained most all day, so that we had few there except those that had received tokens, and not all of them. There were forty-four communicants, several of our friends being sick, and winter time. I adore my blessed Lord I never had more comfortable a sacrament. May the love of God be shed abroad in all our hearts, that God may be glorified, and by our light shining before men. Sermon by Mr. Hunt, Matt. xxii. 4. Monday 29.—Went to meeting,—Mr. Caldwell gave a most excellent sermon, 2 Timothy ii. 19. I ordered Scipio with my chaise and horses to wait on Mr. Caldwell to Bawler’s ferry, as his leg was sore. Mr. C. is a great orator. Blessed be God we have had comfortable times. May what we have heard make a lasting impression upon us, and make us delight in the paths of true religion and virtue. Tuesday 30.—Went with David Hening to William Doget’s,—found him sober,—then I desired him to walk out with me, which he did; I then discoursed with him as well as I could about his preventing his wife and daughter from meeting at the Lord’s Supper after they had received tokens, and several other matters. He confessed his error, and promised amendment of life, which may God grant him grace to perform.

“Thursday, March 12th, 1761.—Yesterday heard the disagreeable news of the death of the Rev. Mr. Samuel Davies. Never was a man in America, I imagine, more lamented. The Christian, the gentleman, and the scholar appeared conspicuous in him. Virginia, and even Lancaster I hope has great reason to bless God for sending such a minister of the gospel amongst us. But he that sent him can send another, and his labour be attended with as much success. But I am afraid our country is too wicked for such comfort. Thursday, 19th—The militia was called on to proclaim King George the Third, which was done in pretty good order. The officers joined and gave the men about fifty or sixty gallons of punch.

“Sunday, April 19th, 1761—Went with my wife and family

to meeting to hear Mr. Hunt's farewell—1st John, 27th. Signed a call for him.

“Sunday, May 3d, 1761—This day Colonel Selden read a sermon in the meeting-house and John Mitchell prayed, but few there, as they were not acquainted with it. Sunday, 17th—Colonel Selden read a sermon, and on the next Sabbath Mr. Criswell read a sermon and prayed, at the meeting-house. Friday 29th—Sent some help to raise Northumberland meeting-house, as Mr. Smith intends getting it up to-morrow. Sabbath 31st—Mr. Criswell read and prayed at the meeting.

“Saturday, June 13th, 1761.—Two Guineamen arrived at York for Mr. Wm. Nelson. Tuesday, 16th.—Another Guineaman came in with about 140 slaves. Friday 19th.—Went to Court. Negroes sell very high, £63 at Hobbs hole. Tuesday, 26th.—Went with Mr. Dale Carter to the Court House,—then went to Colonel Selden's about a glebe for Mr. Hunt, but Colonel Selden could not get the glebe completed.

“July, Friday 24th, 1761.—Fast;—Saturday—Preaching. Sabbath.—The communion service; twenty new communicants, and fifty old ones. Wednesday, 29th.—I went to Colonel Selden's to visit Mr. Hunt, and let him know that there were several subscribers to our meeting. Did not like some of his proceedings, and seemed to prefer Mr. Caldwell to him. We had much conversation with a freeness on both sides,—but with great uneasiness to him.

“Monday, August 3d, 1761.—Speaking of Mr. Hunt,—he does not seem fit for us, in my opinion,—the most of our great men are very forward to have him settled. On this day Mr. Hunt was at his house. I had long and full conversation with Mr. Gordon on the subject. Friday, August 7th.—Yesterday Mr. Criswell wrote to Mr. Todd about Mr. Waddell. Monday, 10th.—Called in Messrs. Dale Carter, Thos. Carter, John Mitchell, and John Wright, and told Mr. Hunt, with them, we wanted to hear Mr. Waddell. Mr. Hunt very earnestly desired to have the matter brought to a conclusion; and expressed a disinclination to remain unless the congregation were unanimously in his favour, and a day was appointed for the subscribers to meet and determine the matter. Wednesday, 12th.—Went with Mr. Hunt in our chaise to the meeting-house to meet the subscribers there,—so few met, nothing was done to what was expected. Mr. Hunt will not stay except we are unanimous. No high debate among us. Sunday, 20th.—Mr. Hunt bade farewell to the people: and gave notice that Mr. Todd or Mr. Waddell would preach in two weeks. I am very much reflected on, and in short the whole of Mr.

Hunt's going away is laid upon me,—but I trust the Lord will give me strength to bear it.”

Mr. Todd visited the Northern Neck in the fall, and spent the last Sabbath of October, (25th) and the first Sabbath of November (1st) and administered the sacrament of the Supper. Of the sermon on the latter Sabbath, Colonel Gordon says,—“I never heard a sermon, but one from Mr. Davies, that I heard with more attention and delight,—O, if the Lord would be pleased to send us a minister of as much piety as Mr. Todd.” About seventy communicants, black and white, though the day was rainy.

“Sunday, January 31st, 1762.—At home with my family. Molly said all the Shorter Catechisms; James fifty-six of the Larger; and Molly Hening, one hundred and six.

“Saturday, April 3d, 1762.—Mr. Criswell set off for the Presbytery. Colonel Selden could not; James, his son, being dangerously ill. On his return, Mr. Criswell brought news from the Presbytery, which held its meeting at the Byrd, in Goochland, that Mr. Waddell was appointed to visit the Northern Neck; and on the 16th of April, Sunday, the Colonel makes the entry above quoted,—‘May the Lord be praised, I at last have had the comfort of going with my wife and family to meeting, when Mr. Waddell performed to admiration.’”

On Sunday, May 30th, the congregation made out a call; on Sunday, June 6th, Mr. Todd administered the sacrament to about one hundred and three communicants; and on the Monday following Mr. Gordon offered Mr. Waddell the call, which he refused to accept, but promised to return and visit the people. On the 16th of the month, as has been noticed, Mr. Waddell was ordained by a committee of Presbytery, at Harris's Creek, Prince Edward.

At a meeting of the Presbytery, held at Providence, in Louisa, October 7, 1762—Mr. Waddell accepts of a call from Lancaster and Northumberland counties, in which the Presbytery heartily concur. No preparations were made for the installation services; nor does it appear that they were ever performed.

Mr. Waddell continued the acceptable pastor in the Northern Neck till about the year 1778, when, on account of ill health and the inroads of the revolutionary war, he removed to the Valley of the Shenandoah. Col. Gordon tells us that on June 30th, 1762, a lottery was drawn for the advantage of the congregation,—and in a satisfactory manner; for which he says “blessed be God.” He does not tell either the amount raised or the plan of the scheme.

February 13th, 1763—Sunday.—“Went with my wife and family to meeting;—as we went, found Mr. James Ewell and

his wife on the road, walking, as they could not get their horses over, the wind blew so hard. We had a pretty full house to-day. Mr. W. preached from the 4th of Zechariah, 7th, a fine discourse. He named ten persons whom he proposed for elders; Col. Selden, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Chichester, Dr. Watson, Thomas Carter, Dale Carter, John Mitchell, Mr. Belvard, Mr. Wright, and myself,—and I desired the people, if they knew any thing against our characters,—before this day fortnight, to acquaint him with it.” The Dr. Andrew Robertson mentioned in this appointment of elders, was a surgeon and physician of great eminence. Born at Inverness, Scotland, in 1716,—graduated at Edinburgh,—he entered the army in Flanders, and was in the battle of Fontenay, in 1745. With Braddock’s army, in 1755, he escaped with the remains of his regiment, twenty in number, living on acorns for many days. On his return to Great Britain he resigned his commission, and with his wife and son emigrated to America. Landing at Indian Banks, Richmond county, Virginia, he was entertained most kindly by a Scotch merchant, Mr. Glasscock. Having taken his residence in Lancaster, he soon took the lead in medical practice in the Northern Neck. A gentleman in his feelings and manners, and a man of enterprise, his influence was great; and uniting with Colonel Gordon, he contributed not a little to the prosperity of the Presbyterian Church in the Northern Neck. He died March 1, 1795, aged seventy-nine years. Some of his descendants are in Washington city. On the appointed day six of the persons named, Messrs. Chichester, the two Carters, Mitchell, Gordon and Selden, were ordained elders, the others declined the office.

The seating of the meeting-house in Lancaster was, as usual, a source of anxiety. “Friday, March 25th, 1763—Went to the meeting-house and agreed with Mr. Atkinson to have more double seats and less single ones in the meeting-house. I understand the people are displeased with the single seats, which we thought would be more convenient for the people, as they faced the minister when they sit. But as it is disagreeable to some, especially Mrs. Miller and some other women, and as it is cheaper to have them double, thought it proper to have more of them made; but I have reason to fear there is much more pride among us than piety, and even in those I could not expect it.

“Monday, April 11th, 1763.—Mr. Waddell set off for Williamsburg to take the oaths agreeable to law.” It is evident the rigour of the courts was much relaxed, as in this case, and in the case of Mr. Henry, mentioned under date of September 21st, 1759, the dissenting ministers were permitted to exercise their ministry so long before the requirements of the statute were complied with. It was not till Friday, May 20th, 1763,

when the Colonel says—"Mr. Waddell, Mr. Hening and Mr. Span went to court with me"—that "Mr. Waddell read the articles of religion this day before Mr. Currie and Mr. Minis, which they certify. Mr. Minis was probably the author of Minis's play.

On Sunday, April 24th, 1763, the sacrament was administered to ninety white and twenty-three black communicants. "Monday, 25th,—Went with my wife and family to meeting to hear the young people say their catechisms. Mr. Waddell gave us good advice and exhortation how to bring up our children, and how comfortable religion was, &c. Molly Hening answered the best, and all the Larger Catechism. James Gordon answered ninety questions in the Larger Catechism: Molly said all the Shorter."

Mr. Whitefield visited the Northern Neck in 1763. "August, Friday, 26th,—This evening I had the comfort of receiving a letter from the Rev. George Whitefield, who landed this day at Urbanna. Saturday, 27th,—Mr. Waddell and I this day set off in our boat about 7 o'clock for Urbanna, got there about ten, and Mr. Whitefield and Mr. Wright, who came with him, readily agreed to come with us, so that we set off about eleven, and got home about two. We are very happy in the company of Mr. Whitefield. Sunday, 28th,—Mr. Whitefield preached from 1 Corinthians, iii. 11, a most affecting sermon to a great number of people. My wife would venture out though in such a condition. Monday, 29th,—At home with Mr. Whitefield—rained. Tuesday, 30th,—Mr. Whitefield, Waddell and Wright went to dine at Colonel Selden's. Wednesday, 31st,—Went with Mr. Whitefield to meeting, where he had a fine discourse to a crowded assembly. Friday, September 2d,—Sent for Colonel Selden and bought his chair horse for £47. 10s. for Mr. Whitefield. Mr. Whitefield much pleased with his horse—preparing to set off to-morrow. Saturday, 3d,—I have been much fatigued this day with fitting out Mr. Whitefield, but Mr. Wright being so unwell, and it rained so, they could not set off to-day. Sunday, 4th,—Mr. Whitefield, Mr. Waddell and Mr. Wright went with me to the upper meeting, where Mr. Whitefield preached from Matthew, xxv. 10, to a crowded house. Mr. Waddell was obliged to make the negroes go out to make room for the white people. Carried our dinner with us; and we dined at the Old Store House, much to the satisfaction of Mr. Whitefield. They set off about 4 o'clock for Dr. Flood's. Mr. Waddell returned to my brother's with them."

On the next Sabbath, September 11th, the sacrament of the supper was administered to about one hundred and fifteen white, and thirty-five black communicants.—"O these delightful and comfortable opportunities, may they make our hearts

glow with love to that God who has been so gracious to such blind ignorant creatures, who have lived in stupidity and security so many years. Monday, 26th—Went to the examination of young people, when about fifty or sixty were examined much to their improvement; and afterwards, a sermon was preached which very much affected both young and old.”

Great efforts were made to give permanency to the congregation. “Friday, November 18th, 1763—Went to our court with Mr. Waddell,—have got £600 in bonds toward a fund for the maintenance of a Presbyterian minister, which the Almighty seems to bless. O what cause have we to praise the Lord’s goodness to us in this congregation! Friday 25th—Went with Mr. Waddell to the glebe to see Henry Hinton, Jr.; could not get finished to-day. Saturday 26th—Finished the survey to-day and got home to dinner.” For the cultivation of the glebe, as the labourers in the Northern Neck were almost universally Africans, Colonel Selden presented the congregation with his “negro man Toby.”

After the sacrament on December 25th—he says “a comfortable time, blessed be the Lord, who is so kind and benevolent to such dust and ashes as we are who are so unworthy of the least favour. O Lord, what are we that thou shouldest be so mindful of us, in sending the gospel to shine among us in such a remote part of our world. O, Almighty God, give us grace by thy Holy Spirit to improve these delightful scenes to thy glory and our salvation. Monday 26th—Mr. Waddell set off for the Committee in Hanover, where Mr. Rice is to be ordained, and Mr. Criswell comes on his second trials. Saturday 31st—Mr. Waddell got safe home to-day. Blessed be the Lord for all his mercies to us this year. O may our minds be more and more engaged in his service, and begin the new year with new hearts, and with sincere minds give up ourselves to him.”

[*Thus ends the fragment of the journal.*]

Of Mr. Whitefield’s visits to the Northern Neck there are some pleasant traditions. The widow of Lewis Stevens, of Stevensburg, Newtown, who was a Miss Hening from the county of Lancaster, used to tell with interest, many circumstances, remembered by her friends respecting Whitefield. She described his appearance as he is represented by the wax figure in the museum of Princeton Theological Seminary,—with wig—gown—bands for the neck and wrists;—as fastidious in his dress when about to appear in public;—as cheerful in his private intercourse,—and playful with children. He would sometimes amuse his friends with the history of his narrow escapes from assaults made on him while preaching.