

SOUTHERN, JOE

MURROW DIARY. #18287

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Joe Southern
Investigator
November 27 & 28, 1937

Sketches from the J. S. Murrow Diary
Joe Southern, Atoka, Oklahoma

Apr. 24th 1867.

Mrs Flack left today for Doaksville to bring her aged sister up to live with her. The sister has become friendless and destitute since the war though before she was in affluence - It is a pleasant thing to see this sisterly affection - I rode out with Mr. Sparlan to purchase some seed potatoes, visited one Indian house but had no opportunity of conversing on religious subjects. On my way back, met an Indian man and talked with him; learned he was a Methodist; invited him to my appointment on Sabbath week: he consented to come- Mr Sparlan wishes me to teach his boys to spell, read, write, & the rudiments of Arithmetic. He has thirteen children, none married, 11 boys. Rode 10 miles: R.V.1: Letters sent Mrs Burns- Mrs Flack returned after an absence of an hour & a half The Boggy Creek is swimming. A buggy and a wagon both got into the creek yesterday & altho no lives either of men or beast were lost yet there was great danger.

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27th Walked until seven o'clock hunting an eligible site for building in case, I should conclude to settle here: found but one suitable place & that very contracted.- Rain all the afternoon. My earnest prayer to Almighty God is to direct me in all I do.

May 2nd

Visited Silas Worcester today-he is lying quite low in the last stage of Consumption I expect. He seemed to be alarmed & hence does not like to talk respecting his spiritual condition. I read portions of the Testament to him- Also sang & prayed with him.- Miles 15, visits 1. Prayermeeting 1- Gave testaments 6- Hymn books 2.- Tracts 92 pages.

May 3rd

Visited my friend Mr Davis-had some religious conversation-Learned that the family of Col. D. N. McIntosh is yet near Nails Mill on Blue-that the death of Mrs Hawkins was probably occasioned from neglect & want of comforts, the Marie Perry is dead-& that Col. McIntosh is spending his life in riotous living.-May God help him & the Creeks.--Miles traveled 2.-Visits 1.-Prayermeeting 1.

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May 6th

Attended a Choctaw Court.-Met Col Jas Riley & others,-their courts are very crude-no house yet-though one is in process of erection.-The Judge-Clerk and other officers full blood Indians, proceedings all in the Choctaw language & written in same I was requested to address the people on the subject of education-It took me by surprise but I exhorted them not only to cultivate their minds, but their lands, and more especially their hearts. A sale of stray horses and cattle next occurred-I noticed they closed the bids at the fourth knock instead of the third, as in the states,--the stock sold very high, Attended a meeting for instruction of F & A. M at night, miles 4. surmons 1, visits 2.

May 8th

Again assisted in building the Court House-learned there is a claim on the site where I prepose building & hence think of abandoning my present site & selecting another also a very pretty and desirable place, miles 5- visits 1.

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May 15 th

Assisted Mr Davis this morning from his bridge across Boggy.-Conversed with Mr-Downing-He has been an old side Baptist-desires yet to be a Christian-but has had some trouble in his family.

June 8th

Leaving my wife & baby doing well I rode down today to Boggy Depot in company with Messrs Davis & Downing, for the double purpose of meeting some of my Masonic brethern in a practice Lodge tonight & tomorrow. D. V. to preach for the citizens of Boggy Depot. Spent the evening until 11 oclock very pleasantly in Lodge meeting-Found 9 other Masons present none very bright. E- station devolved on me & I tried to fill it as well as I was able. Miles 12-Visits 1.

July 29th

Arose late: A new scholar for my little school 12 children today-Creek rose rapidly and compelled me to dismiss early, This stream is a great trouble. My well digger returned today very unexpectedly, We should never Judge the actions of others without strong grounds-I thought he had run away-and spoke of it to others.

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July 30th

Mrs Murrow taught school for me today or rather for herself, for I have never claimed the school but have been teaching only for her. I aided in digging the well it is hard work no religious conversation today. O Lord help me to be more faithful in thy service in my missionary work.

Oct 1st

A new quarter begins today & God has also blessed me. Two checks have been rec'd amounting to \$129.00. This will relieve me very greatly. - I will now pay off some debts & try to make my cabins more comfortable for my family.

April 15-1869.

With others made preparations for two days meeting at this station. Sat & Sab. next, by building an arbor & c-- May Gods spirit be with the people at the meeting--- A Choctaw preacher expected. Bro James Williams--Good man.