



NEWSLETTER



BRUNSWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BRUNSWICK TOWN, P.O. BOX 356, SOUTHPORT, N.C.



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"A JOURNAL OF OUR TRAVELS" Diary of Miss Amelia Potter Russ — 1836

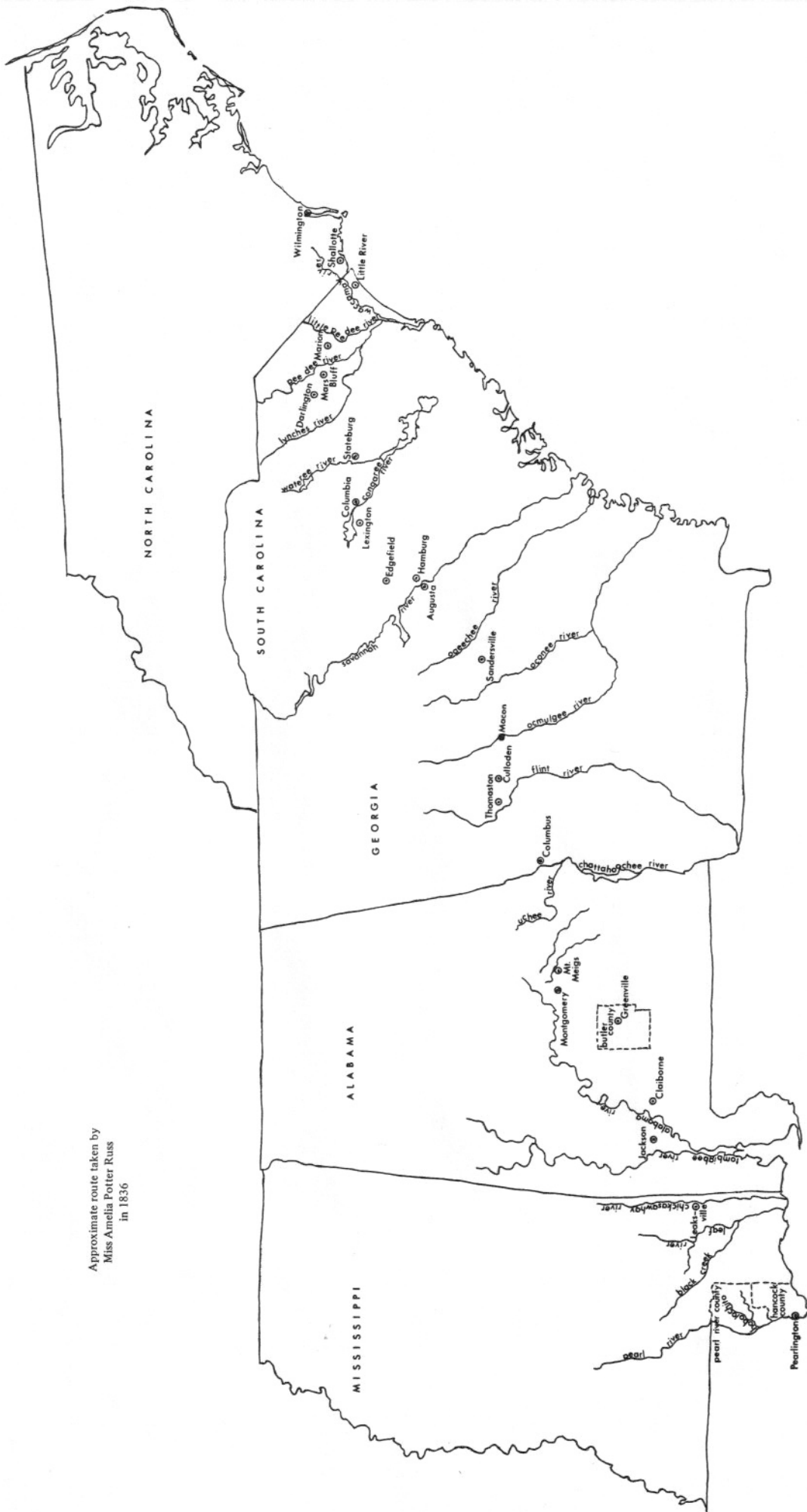


Donated by: Laura Leonard Crawford
Deciphered and submitted by: Ruth Ford Leonard and G. Rudolph Leonard

Mr. G. Rudolph Leonard gives the following genealogical sketch of Amelia Potter Russ:
Amelia Potter Russ was born in Brunswick County, North Carolina on March 1, 1814. Her parents were Sempronius Russ who married Amelia Potter on September 27, 1792. Her maternal grandparents were Samuel Potter and Anne Willitts Potter. Sempronius Russ is listed in the DAR Patriot Index. He died by accidental drowning in the Cape Fear River on October 19, 1816.

A copy of the diary was given to Mr. Leonard by Mrs. Laura Leonard Crawford, Slidell, Louisiana. She stated: Many families came from Brunswick County, N. C., to South Mississippi and Louisiana, including members of the Gause, Russ, Poitevent and Leonard families. Some intermarried before and after leaving Brunswick County. Amelia Potter Russ married Daugherty Gause on June 12, 1837, one year after arriving in Hancock County, Mississippi. Her sister, Lydia, married William Gause on November 11, 1829. Amelia Russ, wife of Sempronius Russ, is buried with three of her daughters (Amelia Potter Russ Gause, Lydia Gause, and Adeline) in the Old Pearlington Cemetery, Hancock County, Mississippi. The graves were moved from Gainesville, Mississippi by the U. S. Government Reservation Authorities.

Laura Leonard Crawford is a direct descendant of Colonel Jacob Leonard of Brunswick County, North Carolina. G. Rudolph Leonard is a direct descendant of Major Samuel Leonard, a brother of Colonel Jacob Leonard. Said Jacob and Samuel Leonard were officers in the American Revolution, Wilmington District.



Approximate route taken by
Miss Amelia Potter Russ
in 1836

DIARY OF MISS AMELIA POTTER RUSS

Trip from Brunswick County, North Carolina to Pearlinton, Mississippi.
1836

"A JOURNAL OF OUR TRAVELS"

- 18th. Left Shallotte, Brunswick County, N.C., February, (1836) at 3 o'clock in the evening and started for the WEST, arrived at Little River half past 8 o'clock and traveled 16 miles.
- 19th. A sleety morning. Left Little River at 12 o'clock made 14 miles and camped near Harris's Ferry with an agreeable night.
- 20th. A pleasant morn- all started off in fine spirits and crossed the Wackamaw River- Harris's Ferry- paid \$1.50 ferriage. Overtook W. Poitevent & family. Made 19 miles and all camped together for the first time. We pitched our tents at dark which were 7 in number and the forest was warmed with our lights.
- 21st. Sunday all started at 8 o'clock and traveled very well for three or four miles when W. Poitevent ran away with the cart and broke it to pieces. It was repaired and all started again. We crossed through a most miserable swamp. The cart broke down and we were obliged to stop. Traveled 18 miles.
- 22nd. Started at 8 o'clock- all well and in good spirits. Crossed Drowning Creek- Floid's Ferry- paid \$3.00 ferriage, traveled 14 miles.
- 23rd. All started well and hearty except Aunt Sarah P. (Poitevent) Passed through Marion- Crossed Pee Dee at Marses Blough (Mars Bluff)- Ankrum Ferry- Paid 23.7½. Made 19 miles and camped at dark- had a very rainy night but were fortunate enough to get in a church.
- 24th. All started at 8 o'clock but not in good spirits- perhaps owing to the weather which continues bad. Had a tolerable good road. Traveled 20 miles and stopped at a camp ground and camped in a commodious meeting house in Darlington District.
- 25th. All started in some better spirits than we were yesterday- made a pretty good day's travel- Passed through a large swamp- Traveled 25 miles and camped about dark near Mr. Smoot's mill where we had grinding done.
- 26th. A rainy morning- started about 10 o'clock- Passed by some beautiful building- one of the handsomest I ever saw and through Statesburg- Traveled 15 miles and camped at sunset- Crossed Linch Creek. Paid \$1.50 for toll.
- 27th. Started at sunrise. Crossed Wateree, Garner's Ferry- Paid \$2.50 ferriage. Traveled 20 miles and camped 9 miles from Columbia near a Mr. Ware's.
- 28th. Sunday morning- a cold, windy, rainy day- about 10 o'clock it commenced sleeting. We were invited to Mr. Ware's and were kindly treated.

- 29th. All started and traveled until we got in sight of Columbia where we all stopped and had our horses shod in Columbia- made 9 miles.
- 1st. March- We passed through Columbia, crossed the Congaree on a toll bridge paid 2.87½ (3 cents)- Passed through Lexington 12 miles from Columbia. Traveled 20 miles when a very heavy Hail came up. We had the good luck of getting into an old house where we staid all night.
- 2nd. A rainy cold morning- all started and traveled 22 miles, and camped at sunset in Edgefield District.
- 3rd. Started after sunrise. Traveled a Hilly sandy road very badly cut by the waggons- Traveled 25 miles and camped 5 miles from Hamburg.
- 4th. Passed through Hamburg- Crossed the Savannah River on a toll Bridge- Paid 2.12 (3 cts)- Passed through Augusta- Traveled 17 miles.
- 5th. Started a little after morning- Traveled 19 miles and camped near a grist mill where we had grinding done.
- 6th. Sunday morning- All started well and in good spirits excepting Aunt Sally whose health continues very delicate. We traveled 19 miles. Crossed the Ogeechee on a bridge and camped one mile from it.
- 7th. Traveled 8 miles when we were obliged to stop on account of the rain. Parted with Mr. Poitevent and family on account of Aunt Sally's health which is too delicate to travel.
- 8th. A rainy morning- We started and traveled through Sandersville and crossed Buffoloe's Bridge- paid \$1.00. Traveled 18 miles and camped.
- 9th. A clear morning. Passed over the Oconee River at Scotts Ferry- Paid \$1.87½. Passed through Saddleboro the prettiest little village I ever saw. Traveled 23 miles and camped near a large meeting house.
- 10th. A cold rainy, windy morning. Traveled the worst road that ever was traveled. Camped 5 miles from Macon in a little log cabin. Made 11 miles.
- 11th. A clear cold morning- Crossed the Oakmulgee River on a toll bridge- Paid 22½ cents. Passed through Macon. Traveled 20 miles.
- 12th. A pleasant morning- Traveled 15 miles and camped at Colodensville and remained until Tuesday morning. We spent our time very agreeably with our friends and relatives.
- 15th. A pleasant day- Left Colodensville. Passed through Thomaston 16 miles from Colodensville and camped in a meeting house. Made 21 miles.
- 16th. A cold, damp, disagreeable morning- Crossed Flint River on a toll bridge- Paid 62½ cents. We traveled 21 miles and camped in a Large Baptist Church.
- 17th. Cloudy morn- Traveled 25 miles and camped in sight of Columbus.

- 18th. The weather still unsettled. Passed through Columbus over the Chattahoochy on a toll bridge. Paid 175 cents- Passed thro Sodone- Met a great many Indians. Lost our way. Traveled 8 miles out of the way over hills- Traveled 19 miles and camped at sunset.
- 19th. A pleasant morn- Crossed the big Euchee on a toll bridge- Paid 1.122 Traveled a sandy road thro a very poor looking country- The afternoon very rainy- Got permission to stay in a large school house where we were quite comfortable.
- 20th. Sunday morn. Cloudy- Started and traveled 21 miles over a hilly clayey country.
- 21st. A very pleasant day- Crossed a persimmon swamp- Paid 75 cts toll. Made 20 miles.
- 22nd. Fair, cold day- Crossed Cuttahoochee Creek on a toll bridge. Paid \$1.00. Crossed Line creek- Thompson's Ferry- All in good spirits- Got through the Indian Nation. Passed Fort Meggs- Traveled 20 miles & camped 2 miles from Montgomeray-
- 23rd. Passed through Montgomeray & camped a half mile from the town.
- 24th. All started & traveled through the Prairies- Crossed the Potomo River- Gunnel's Ferry- Paid 125- We had a most miserable road- Made 20 miles-
- 25th. Traveled 20 miles through a sandy road- had a pleasant day.
- 26th. Very pleasant weather- Passed thro Greenville. Traveled 20 miles.
- 27th. Sunday morning very pleasant- Passed by a place in Butler County where there had been a dreadful Hurricane. In many places the trees were torn up at such a rate scarce one could be seen standing- Made 28 miles.
- 28th. Traveled 26 miles- Had a tollerable good road. Passed thro Claibourne & camped near a large Baptist Church.
- 29th and 30th. Spent at Uncle Wingate's.
- 31st. Started in the afternoon. Traveled 8 miles- Crossed the Ala. River Dole's Ferry, camped on the bank of the River.
- April 1st. A pleasant day- Traveled a hilly road- Crossed a deep creek. Made 17 miles.
- 2nd. Passed thro pine Jackson- Crossed the Tombigbee river, Wards Ferry- Paid 26 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents- Made 21 miles.
- 3rd. Sunday- a rainy day- traveled thro a wilderness country. Made 18 miles.
- 4th. A clear day- Traveled 20 miles. Crossed the Mississippi line.
- 5th. Passed thro a level, barren country, our spirits dull- Crossed Chekasaka (Chickasawhay) River, McKinney's Ferry- Paid \$1.00- Passed thro Leaksville in Green County- the poorest village I ever saw or heard of. We could get no provisions of any kind- neither for love nor money.

- 6th. Clear, warm day. Crossed Leaf River- Mody's Ferry- Paid \$1.25 cents- Provisions scarce- Stopped at a Mr. Donbyles- Sent to Mill had grinding done- Made 14 miles- camped in a swamp or close by.
- 7th. Traveled thro the most desolate looking country I ever saw- Crossed Black Creek- Perkins Ferry, paid 150 cents & camped on the bank of the river in Perry County- Made 21 miles.
- 8th. A pleasant day- Traveled a good part of the way right thro the woods- a good part of the way without any sign of a road. Provisions very scarce & hard to get. Caught gophers- Made 27 miles- Got thro the Gopher nation.
- 9th. Clear pleasant weather- Traveled a good road. Made 27 miles.
- 10th. Sunday morning- All in good spirits- got in sight of Pearl River- Traveled a hilly road- Made 20 miles- Arrived at Brother Asa's at sunset-
- 11th. & 12th. Spent with Asa.
- 13th. All started- A crooked road. Crossed the Bolochitto, paid \$2.25- Made 17 miles.
- 14th. Started & traveled 28 miles- Arrived safe at Brother Samuel's near Pearl- ington, Miss- Hancock County.

Miss Amelia P. Russ

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AUGUST MEETING

DATE: Monday, August 9, 1976

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Brunswick Town Visitors Center

PROGRAM: "Historical Sketches of Southport from Newspaper Articles of the 19th Century" Mr. Bill Reaves, speaker