

A Guide to the William Spencer Diaries, 1790

William Spencer Diaries, 1790.

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A Collection in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library MS 37.2

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

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Descriptive Summary

Manuscript number

MS 37.2

Language

English

Creator

William Spencer, b. 1764.

Extent

1 item.

Repository

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Administrative Information

Access

There are no restrictions.

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Alternative Form

Also available on microfilm M-50.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material at the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library

The Rockefeller Library has a microfilm copy (M-82.12) of William Spencer's diary for the period of Dec., 1787-Jan. 1790.

Related Material at the Virginia Historical Society

The original of the William Spencer Diary, Dec., 1787- Jan., 1790 resides at the Virginia Historical Society. William Spencer Diary, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia.

Unit Title William Spencer Diary,

Extent 1 item (48 p.)

Unit ID Mss5:1 Sp346:1

Bibliography

Portions of the diaries have been published in:

Virginia United Methodist Heritage, Fall, 1975.

Biographical/Historical Information

William Spencer was born in Buckingham County, Va. in 1764. While still a boy, he moved to Prince Edward County. He served as a Methodist circuit rider, 1789-1797, in Virginia and North Carolina. He was married to Mary Newbill and taught school in Prince Edward County. In 1804, he moved to Lunenburg County.

Scope and Content Information

Diaries of William Spencer (b. 1764), a Methodist circuit rider on the Williamsburg circuit, extending from Richmond (Henrico County) to Hampton; and the Surry circuit, including Surry and Sussex counties. Gives the locations where he preached, his reception by congregations, and accounts of his personal spiritual life. The diaries were written as a homily for future generations. Prominent early Methodists mentioned included Stephen Davis, Ira Ellis, James O'Kelly, and John Robinson. Spencer lists many of the homes and churches where he preached, including Clayton's Meetinghouse; Ellis Chapel, Sussex County; Lane's Chapel, Sussex

County; and Watkins Meetinghouse, Henrico County.

Index Terms

Persons:

Spencer, William, b. 1764.

Davis, Stephen.

Ellis, Ira.

O'Kelly, James, ca. 1735-1826.

Robinson, John.

Subjects:

Methodist Church--Virginia- -Clergy--History--18th century.

Methodist Church--Virginia--History--18th century.

Corporate Names:

Clayton's Meetinghouse.

Ellis Chapel (Sussex County, Va.)

Lane's Chapel (Sussex County, Va)

Watkin's Meetinghouse (Henrico County, Va.)

Genre and Form Terms:

Diaries--Virginia--18th century.