

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.220

1799-1804: Diary fragment (pp. 5-8). [Contains yearly entries by a man living in the English countryside]



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1804 - My bachelor house, tho' not very elegantly furnished, containing a good deal of room, was frequently favored with the company of my married friends & their ladies, my husband, Mrs Compton & her daughter (since my dearest wife, then educating at Mrs Suttons, Twickenham) Mrs C. Lawrence & the branches of our family, who often depicted the enmity of a solitary country residence. Ioston however had little externally to tempt a visit from a fair sex, being totally without pleasure garden walks, or grounds - Instead of London drove this summer to Liverpool, & meeting with an acquaintance, Mr Boughton, who was proceeding to his relations at the Lakes took him there in my carriage, & a second time enjoyed the town of Windermere, Bleaswick Sea, & Ulwater, near which is Dale-main, the fine place of Mr Hasell, where I was very hospitably received & was to have been my companion - The weather however tempting us, & being both disengaged, a trip to the neighbouring Kingdom was as soon agreed upon as proposed, & we turned our horses head towards Carlisle & Glasgow, passing Greta Green along range of lower hills, (this Moffat, the Harrogate of the Scots) to Douglas mill & Hamilton, whence, having taken in the way all the magnificent scenery of the Clyde & Lanark, we reached Glasgow - This appeared a much nobler city than I expected, but it has since as well as, Edinburgh I understand, been very greatly improved - We proceeded to the singular fort-ress of Dumbarton, & Loch Lomond, finding the latter, alas, almost in a fog - From hence by Dalhousie we arrived at the ancient metropolis, being much pleased with the fine view of it & the hills of Galloway with its Islands from Bopetown House - remained at Edinburgh a few days, visiting Holy and House; Leith town & harbour, and the objects with a stranger's attention -

1799 - became soon acquainted with a families residing near Ioston, the late Lord Vernors being a resident, but only at Ioston in winter months, spending the autumn in Wales - Mr Basset as uncle occupied the farmage then, & had under his care the other advantages, ^(since parted) ^(the lawless & several other young men with whom I was then, & have since been intimate) - commenced farming under my unfavourable auspices, the summer being unusually wet, & fatal to my hay crop, much of which was ruined off by the floods - paid Twenty Pounds for two tons of old hay, & had to send to Derby for it - found the manure extensive, & well stocked with game, which my friends soon came to assist me in hunting -

1800 - During the winter & spring began to hunt regularly with Lord Vernors Ground, then under a excellent management of Mr Basset, & soon became the hunting ground of most of the gentlemen composing the field, among them the late Lord G. Talbot, his nephew Lord & the Mr Magdalen, old Mr. Fitzherbert, & Mr. Alderley, the Shapley Mundy's, & Charles of Newcastle, the Reverend (Bishop of W.) lately settled at Downage, Mr & Mrs. Knorr, with many others often at Ioston - Sir H. Every & Mr. Mundy (old school fellows) had just married, & were living at Eglington & Wotton not far distant - Submitted also to the Derby Harriers, & became a member of the County Hunt, the dinner of which at that time were well attended - My Mr & Mrs Yampson kind wife had always a bed at their house when I wished to be in Derby, which gave me favourable opportunities of attending the Races & Asbury Meets, & other parties of a season - visited occasionally at Longford and Colleston, where the present Sir C. Mundy then resided in the family of his uncle, a Doctor, who occupied the Hall -

1001 - Spent the winter & spring of this year much as the last, partaking of the Christmas festivities of Ludbury, which generally consisted of theatrical entertainments very well got up, a twelfth night ball to the county families, & dance on Miss Vernon's birth night to id farmers, & domestics - a barber from Boles & other messicks also embraced the company in the great hall, fine works being displayed on the lawn - at this period the beautiful Forest of Needwood being uninclosed, when the winter hunting ceased, had often delightful rides in it during April & May, with the young fox hounds, then stopping to scent hare, & frequently very lively bursts - became acquainted with Mr Gistone of Great Lodge, & his brother living at Holly Bush, both in the thickets of the forest, & an friend Mr Pringle, a vicar of Hambury - one road only then crossing Needwood to Lichfield, & leaving all other parts of it in winter - to nearly impassable - usually paid a visit to London in June in my carriage, & took up my abode at Fladgate Hotel, the chief quarters of my brother for several years - Had the honor this year (if I recollect right) of being stewed at Derby Races with Godfrey (senior) Mundy, & a good show of company on the old Race course in Sinfie Moor - invited shooting parties & hunting friends in id winter, being myself well horsed with four good hunters Worcester, Gamble, Blackmore, & a very favorite hack, Snap, bought at Cambridge, & one or two young colts breaking in -

1002 - Taking some interest in farming, & having a dairy of 20 cows, whose cheese sold well, I became member of the Derbyshire Agricultural Society, now no more, & frequently attended its meetings & committees,

1802 - at this time also bought my Leicestershire property at Whittington, now much improved by fencing, draining roads, & the enclosure of Charnwood forest, the allotments from which, exclusive of what I sold, added to the estate render it 360. acres including a young wood of 24 - The country being now, as it was called, at Peace with France, after my visit to London, repaired to the Lower Court, Mr Trevanion being then member for that town & his sons my friends, staying there - was in hopes of finding it easy to make a short trip to Paris, but met with many obstacles, which induced me to give up.

1803 - War again raging, & the threats of invasion by Napoleon having roused the spirit of the Nation, all classes were called upon to stand forward in its defence, among which Foster & Tupton producing two or three scores of heroes, led the honor, in company with a sort of military caste then at Chichester, of attempting to drill them for some months - more regular corps of volunteers however having been formed in the larger towns & parishes, & I joined, as lieutenant, that of Ludbury, generally acting with a smaller company at Bouridge, Capt Lambert as senior commanding the whole - nearly six thousand men were regimented in id county of Derby, & would have soon have been fit for local duty, if wanted, & capable of sending many fine detachments to id regular forces Besides these military services was at different periods invested with the civil & parish offices of overseer of the Poor, & Roads; and was occasionally summoned ~~to the grand jury~~ as no freeholder of Derbyshire on the grand juries -

was sold
 probably to
 Mr Maltman

I commanded this company of 120 men
 soon after & until the general reduction
 of the volunteer force