

May 1787

drew information for his more complete diary entries for those dates which appear earlier in this volume (see entry for 8 May 1787).

[May 1787]

Friday 11th. Set out before breakfast and rid 12 Miles to Skirrets Tavern, where we baited, and proceeded to the Ferry at Havre de grass to dinner. The wind being high, & the weather Squally I did not cross the river—frequent Showers thro' the day with Mists and sun shine alternately.

Saturday 12th. Crossed the river early in the morning and breakfasted at the ferry house on the east side. Dined at the head of Elk and lodged at Wilmington. At the head of Elk Mr. Corbin joined me, and took a seat in my carriage to Wilmington.

Sunday 13th. About Nine o'clock Mr. Corbin and I set out, and dined at Chester, where I was met by Genls. Mifflin, Knox & Varnum—Colonls. Humphreys and Minges and Majors Jackson and Nicholas. After dinner we proceeded for the City. At the Ferry (Grays) I was met by the Troop of City light horse by whom (and a large concourse, I was escorted to Mrs. Houses—after passing the Artillery officers (who saluted) at the entrance of the City. On my arrival a peal was rung and Mr. Robt. Morris & his Lady again pressing me to lodge with them I had my baggage moved and took up my Quarters at their House—after paying my respects to the President of the State Doctr. Franklin.

Monday 14th. This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention such members of it as were in town assembled at the State House where it was found that two States only were represented—viz. Virginia and Pennsylvania. Agreed to meet again tomorrow at 11 O'clock. Dined (in a family way) at Mr. Morris's & dr[an]k Tea there.

Tuesday—15th. Repaired to the State Ho. at the hour appointed. No more States represented, tho' there were members (but not sufficient to form a quoram) from two or three others—viz. No. Carolina, & Delaware as also Jersey. Govr. Randolph of Virginia came in to day. Dined with the Society of the Cincinnati.

Wednesday 16th. Only two States represented. Agreed to meet at one o'clock. Doctr. McClerg of Virginia came in. Dined at Doctr. Franklins. Drank Tea & spent the Evening with Mr. Jno. Penn.

Thursday. 17th. Mr. Pinkney of So. Carolina coming in from New York and Mr. Rutledge being here before formed a representation from that State. Colo. Mason getting in this Evening from Virginia compleated the whole number of this State in the delegation.

Dined at Mr. Powells and drank Tea there.

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May 1787

Friday 18th. The State of New York was represented. Dined at a club at Greys ferry over the Schuylkill & drank Tea at Mr. Morris's—after wch. went with Mrs. Morris & some other Ladies to here a lady read at the College Hall.

Saturday. 19th. No more States represented. Agreed to meet at one Oclock on Monday. Dined at Mr. Ingersolls and spent the evening at home—going to bed soon.

Sunday 20th. Went into the Country with Mr. & Mrs. Morris and dined at their place at the Hill. Returned in the afternoon and drank Tea at Mr. Powells.

Monday 21 Delaware State was represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's—great splendor shewn.

Tuesday. 22d. North Carolina represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Morris's.

Wednesday 23d. No more States represented. Rid to Genl. Mifflins to breakfast—after wch. in Company with him Mr. Madison, Mr. Rutledge & others, crossed the Schuylkill above the Falls. Called at Mr. Peters's Mr. Penns and Mr. Hamiltons and repaired at the hour of one to the State House. Dined at Mr. Chews with the wedding guests & drank Tea there in a large Circle of Ladies.

Thursday 24th. No more States represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Ross's. One of my Postilion boys (Paris) being ill sent for Doctr. Jones to him.

Friday 25th. Another delegate coming in from the State of New Jersey made a quorum; and Seven States being now represented, the body was Organized and I was called to the Chair by a unanim. vote. Major Jackson was appointed Secretary—and a Com[mitt]ee consisting of Mr. Wythe, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Chs. Pinkney chosen to prepare rules & regulations by which the Convention was to be governed. To give time for this it adjourned till Monday 10 Oclock. Returned many visits in the forenoon and dined at Mr. Thos. Willings. Spent the Evening at my quarters.

Saturday 26. Returned all my visits this forenoon (where I cd. get an Acct. of the Lodggs. of those to whom I was indebted for them). Dined at a club at the City Tavern and spent the Evening at my Quarters writing lett[ers].

Sunday 27th. Went to the Romish Church, to high Mass. Dined, drank Tea, and spent the evening at my lodgings.

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June 1787

Monday 28th. Met in Convention at 10 O'clock. Two States more—viz., Massachusetts and Connecticut being represented, made nine on the floor. Proceeded to the establishment of rules for the government of the Convention and adjourned about 2 O'clock.

Dined at home and drank Tea in a large Circle at Mr. Francis's.

Tuesday 29th. Dined at home and went to Mr. Juhans benefit Concert at the City Tavern. The same Number of States met in Convention as yesterday.

Wednesday 30th. Convention as yesterday.

Dined with Mr. Vaughan. Drank Tea and spent the Evening at Mr. & Mrs. Lawrences.

Thursday. 31st. Convention representation encreased by the coming in of the State of Georgia occasioned by the arrival of Majr. Pierce & Mr. Houste[n].

Dined at Mr. Francis's and drank Tea with Mrs. Meridith.

[June 1787]

Friday June 1st. Convention as yesterday. Dined with Mr. John Penn and Spent the evening at Bush-hill at a very elegant entertainment given to a numerous company by Mr. Hamilton the owner of it.

Saturday. 2d. Majr. Jenifer coming in with powers from the State of Maryland authorizing one member to represent it, added another State (now eleven) to the Convention.

Dined at Club, at the City Tavern, and Spent the evening at my q[uar]ters.

Sunday—3d. Dined at Mr. Clymers and drank Tea there.

Monday—4th. Convention as on Saturday. Dined with Genl. Mifflin. Reviewed the light Infantry—Cavalry—and part of the Artillery of the City and dined. Drank Tea with Miss Cadwalader.

Tuesday. 5th. Dined at Mr. Morris's with a large Company and spent the evening there.

Wednesday 6th. Dined at the Presidents with a large Company & drank Tea there after wch. came home & wrote Letters for France.

Thursday—7th. Dined at a Club at the Indian Queen. Drank Tea & spent the evening at home.

Friday—8th. Dined—drank Tea and spent the Evening at home.

June 1787

Saturday 9th. Dined at the Club at the City Tavern. Drank Tea and sat till 10 o'clock at Mr. Powells.

Sunday 10th. Breakfasted by agreement at Mr. Powells; and in company with him, rode to see the Botanical Garden of Mr. Bartram—which though stored with many curious Trees, Shrubs, & flowers was neither large nor laid off in much taste.

From hence we rode to the Farm of one Jones to see the effect of the Plaister of Paris. This appeared obvious—first on a piece of Wh. stubble, which he says has never recd. any Manure, and the Wheat so indifferent as to be scarcely worth cutting; The White clover on this (without any Seed be putting in the grd., & the Plaister laid on the Stubble without breaking) was full high to Mow and very thick. The line was fairly, & most obviously drawn between the grass where the powder was spread and that where it ended, for in the latter the grass was not only thin, and very indifferent, but scarcely any of the White clover. The same difference was equally apparent on a piece of mowing ground. The grass there, principally White clover, with a mixture of Red far overstepped, and was much thicker than that which surrounded it. The Soil of these pieces appeared to be a loam—very slightly mixed with Isenglass originally good, but according to Mr. Jones's acct. a good deal exhausted. He informed us of the effect of the Plaister on a piece of heavy, stiff meadow (not subject however to be wet) and that it was still more obvious here.

This manure according to his acct. was laid on the 29th. of October in damp or wet weather, & at the rate of about 5 bu. to the Acre—Moon in the Increase (2d. quarter) wch. he says (though there certainly can be nothing in it) the farmers tell him ought to be attended to. When it is laid on grass land, or Meadow, the ground ought first to be well furrowed, so as to raise the mould.

From hence visited Mr. Powells farm, after which I went to Mr. Morri[s's] country seat to dinner by appointment and returned to the City about dusk.

Monday. 11th. Dined—Drank Tea and spent the Evening (in my own room) at Mr. Morris[s].

Tuesday 12th. Dined at Mr. Morris's & drank Tea there. Went afterwards to the Concert at the City Tavern.

Wednesday 13. Dined at Mr. Clymers & drank Tea there. Spent the evening at Mr. Bing[h]ams.

Thursday—14th. Dined at Majr. Moores and spent the evening at my own lodgings.

Friday—15th. Dined at Mr. Powells & drank Tea there.

Saturday—16th. Dined at the Club at the City Tavern and spt. the evening at my own lodgings.

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July 1787

Sunday 17th. Went to Church. Heard Bishop White Preach & see him Ordain two Gentlemen into the Order of Deacons.

After which rid 8 Miles into the Country dined with Mr. Jno. Ross and returned to Town agn. about dusk.

Monday—18th. Dined at the Quarterly meeting of the Sons of St. Patrick at the City Tavern and drank Tea at Doctr. Shippens with the party of Mrs. Livingston.

Tuesday. 19th. Dined in a family way at Mr. Morris's and spent the evening there in a large party.

Wednesday—20th. Dined at Mr. Meridiths and drank Tea there.

Thursday 21st. Dined at Mr. Pragers and spent the evening in my own room.

Friday—22d. Dined in a family way at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea at Mr. Francis Hopkinsons.

Saturday 23d. Dined at Doctr. Rustons and drank Tea at Mr. Morris's.

Sunday—24th. Dined at Mr. Morris's and spent the Evening at Mr. Meridiths in drinking Tea only.

Monday. 25th. Dined at Mr. Morris's. Drank Tea there and spent the Evening in my own Room.

Tuesday—26th. Took a family dinner with Govr. Randolph and made one of a party to drink Tea at Grays ferry.

Wednesday. 27th. Dined at Mr. Morris's drk. Tea there, & spent the Evening in my own room.

Thursday—28th. Dined at Mr. Morris's in a large Compy. Drank Tea there & spent the Evening in my own room.

29th. Friday. Dined at Mr. Morris's and spent the Evening at home.

Saturday 30th. Dined at a Club of Genn. & Ladies at the Cool Spring—Springsbury and spt. the Evening at home.

July [1787]

Sunday 1st. Dined and spent the Evening at home.

Monday. 2d. Dined with some of the Members of Convention at the Indian Queen. Drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's & walked afterwards in the State Ho. yard. Sat for Mr. Pine.