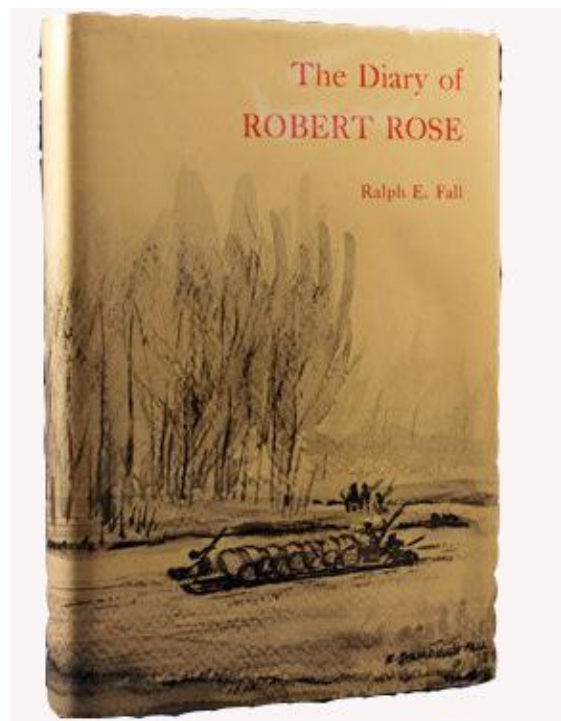


**Joshua Fry in excerpts from the Rose Diary 1746-1751
compiled and edited by Aubin Clarkson Hutchison, 1999
updated by Pamela Hutchison Garrett, February 2015**

The Diary of Robert Rose, 1746-1751, was edited by the Rev. Ralph E. Fall of Port Royal, VA, who worked on the volume for twelve years. It adds considerable color to our story of Col. Joshua Fry. Rev. Fall served at historic Vaughter's Church in Essex County, St. Asaph's in Bowling Green, and St. Peter's in Port Royal, VA. His wife, Elizabeth Stambaugh Fall, a Rose descendant, designed the dust jacket for the book. Murray Fontaine Rose of Falls Church, VA, a seventh-generation descendant of Parson Robert Rose, produced the map which accompanies the volume. It is unique in that authentic records for several hundred plantations, towns, and other sites were used to plot locations on present-day topography by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Rev. Robert Rose was born in Wester Alves, Scotland on 12 Feb 1704. He was minister of St. Anne's Parish, Essex County, Va., 1727-1748, and of St. Anne's Parish, Albemarle County, Va., 1748-1751. He was in Essex Co, VA when Vaughter's Church was erected in 1731, where services still continue to this day. This is the Church where the body of our ancestor Dr. Paul Micou was reburied in 1966. Probably it was in Essex County that young parson Rose and Joshua Fry first became fast friends.

A synopsis of the Diary, given at the Colonial Williamsburg website, highlights, "The diary reveals Rose as a planter, businessman, surveyor, doctor, and lawyer, as well as a minister and a frequent traveler between Albemarle and Essex counties. In making these trips he passed through Stafford, Spotsylvania, Louisa, Orange, and Culpeper counties, visiting the leading families and sometimes preaching, performing marriages, or baptizing. "



Learning more of his life from various county records would be interesting but presently we have but the period covered by his recordings, 1746-1751. I can only include, and in abbreviated fashion, a few of the many notes I took from his very interesting diary, including some added editorial information:

1747

Apr 1; Ate breakfast with Dr. Walker, visited with Mr. Fry, and.....

Apr 3; Messrs Taliaferro & Dr. Walker worked hard on my Mill; went over the Tobo Row Mountains with Dr. Walker

Apr 10; Apparently Rose, Dr. Walker and others were hunting and visiting about for several days and returned to Dr. Walker's on Apr 10.

May 21; Rose is busy planting Tobo. Tobacco was the most important commodity in Virginia, 140 years after John Rolfe first cultivated it at Jamestown in 1607. In Parson Rose's time it was of two grades: sweet scented, the better variety which was grown in Essex Co; and Oronoco or transfer grade which brought less at the warehouses and was mostly grown in Albemarle Co. Rose's salary in both counties remained at 16,000 pounds of tobacco per year plus "cask" (another 400 pounds to allow for spoilage), but his income had more value in Essex than in Albemarle. Since 1624, a Virginia law decreed that no planter could sell his tobacco until he had paid his year's tithe to his parish of residence.

Jul 11; Rose slept at Paul Scott's, g-son of Dr. Micou. Paul, son of John & Elizabeth Micou Scott, was of Port Micou. (Mary Micou's sister Elizabeth Micou married James Scott?)

Aug 18; Lodged with Mr. Robert Rae at Mr. John Micou's. (Micou ran an Ordinary?) John Micou of Port Micou, north of Vauter's Church, paid Rose 30 pounds sterling "cash", or 40 % of a 50 pound debt. (?)

(#209) Since 1691, every four years parish vestries had to review the boundaries of their constituents, inasmuch as markers like trees and stones were often disturbed, children were tithed (taxed) when they reached age 16, and new families moved in and old families moved away. The season for "processing the bounds" was Sept to March. A fine of 1200 pounds tobacco was placed against vestries, and 350 pounds against individuals, for not participating or complying. This provided a census of tithable persons upon whom the tax was levied for parish expenses, and cleared up land titles to avoid quarrels of ownership. Two persons in each precinct or a parish were appointed to the task of "beating the bounds".

Oct 19; Dined at Col. Fry's.

Oct 25; Met with Messrs Fry & Lynch at Mr. John Harvie's.

Oct 31; Went toward Albemarle Court House...left chair and boy at Gouldsby's....went about 8 at night to Col. Fry's.

Nov 19; Helped Henry Motley of near Sparta in Caroline Co to settle some accounts. (Rose was preparing now to move to Albemarle.)

(#275) Rose, John Harvie, Joshua Fry and others purchased shares in John Warren's copper mines in Buffalo Ridge District of Amherst Co.

1748

Mar 8; To Albemarle, called on Capt Chas. Lynch, lodged at Col. Fry's.

Mar 9; Stayed at Col. Fry's, expecting his return. Had dislocated ankle (Fry or Rose?)

Mar 10; Went to Albemarle Court House; returned to Col. Fry's.

Mar 14; Visited Mr. Fry in Warren's Cabin.

Mar 27; Went to Court House, preached, returned to Col. Fry's.

Apr 7; Went to Layton's and dined aboard the 100 ton snow, Anderson, a sailing ship out of Glasgow, owned by James Richie former Glasgow merchant, and Andrew Crawford of Tappahannock, who together also owned the Prosperity out of Aberdeen. Alex Rose, the parson's youngest brother, was aboard the Prosperity when it suffered a siege of piracy at sea.

Apr 16; Rose went with his wife to Mr. Anderson's store.

Apr 26; Rose (and wife?) stayed at Hobs hole (former name of Tappahannock) all this day as Mr. Anderson was busy dispatching Capt. Campbell on the Anderson.

May 18; Rose went to Micou's, called at Dr. Roy's (whose wife had just died) . . At this time Rose was still wanting to move to Albemarle but was not getting permission from Gov. Spotswood to whom Rose owed money. Finally on 28 May he obtained his permission.

(#374) John Nicholas, whose brother Robert Carter Nicholas was Treasurer of Virginia, was Clerk of Albemarle, 1750-1792. John married Martha Fry, a daughter of Col Joshua and Mary Micou Fry. They had six children, including a daughter Margaret Nicholas whose 2nd marriage was to Patrick Rose, a son of Rev. Robert Rose and Anne Fitzhugh Rose.

June 11; Preached at Mountain Chapel, dined at Col Jepherson's (Jefferson) plantation, and went to Col. Fry's where found Mr. Harvie.

(#398) Moore Fauntleroy, a son of William and Katherine (Griffin) Fauntleroy, married Margaret Micou, a daughter of Dr. Paul Micou (1658-1736) and Margaret (Cammack) Roy Micou of Port Micou. Moore and wife Margaret lived at Crandall in Richmond County where he died in 1758.

June 26; Dined at Col. Fry's, he being set off for ye Assembly; got a guide in the evening to go to Mr. Anthony's, who lost himself and me . .

Aug 1; Rose meets with his Vestry to accept Mr. Smelt as his successor when he removes (to Albemarle) which he proposes next Feb. In the evening Rose rode with Capt. Micou and Paul Scott to Mrs. Brook's

Aug 15; Mr. Smelt extremely sick, as are the children of Parson Rose who seem to have scarlet fever. Rose wrote to Col. Fry . .

Sept 3; Rose went to Mr. Micou's to marry John Lee, clerk of Essex Co, to Mary Hill, a daughter of Col. Leonard Hill, decd, and Mary Micou Hill Fry. The marriage occurred at the Port Micou home of John Micou, older brother of Mary Micou Hill Fry. (The editor of the Rose Diary says that two sisters of Mary Hill Lee were Elizabeth Hill who married James Dunlop, merchant of Port Royal, where her grave marker is dated 1780, and Anne Hill who married Richard Tunstall of K&Q County. But GWF says Elizabeth was a daughter of Mary Micou's son Leonard Hill III, and Anne was a sister of Mary's husband Leonard Hill II.)

Sept 27; Parson Rose's wife, brother John, and children set out on this day to move to Albemarle. Rose followed them that evening to Col. Lomax's.

(#435) There were six Rose children, ages 15 to 2, and servants who went along. The new Rose home at Bear Garden was not yet fully erected on Tye River, and the family and servants made their abode in temporary dwellings.

Sept 28; They left Lomax's about noon and called at Mr. Richard Taliaferro's, who lay dead in his house (Blenheim near present Woodford, in Caroline Co, VA). (Judith Micou, sister of Mary, married Col. Lunsford Lomax.)

Oct 1; Rose was conveyed by Mr. Beale to breakfast at Dr. Walker's, then rode to the Chappel by Hickman's to preach, and rode to Col. Fry's at night . . .

Oct 6; Rode with Mr. Harvie in the rain to Col. Fry's where Rose met his wife and children, much to his satisfaction.

Oct 15; Rose called on Col. Fry where he left Col. Lomax.

Nov 10; Parson Rose, having returned to Essex to transport more of his goods to Albemarle, was at the home of Mrs. Tarent (mother of his dead first wife), when Rose's eldest child, Mary, died that night. He buried her two days later beside her mother, Mary Tarent Rose, and their 2nd child, Robert, who was born and died in 1738. Mrs. Tarent died a few days later, 28 Nov 1748. She left her home plantation to her grandson, John Rose, age 13.

Dec 9; Parson Rose became executor for Mrs. Tarent and for her neighbor Mrs. Robert Edmundson who had been summoned to bleed Rose's daughter Mary as a treatment for her illness on the night she died. Mrs. Edmundson must have died soon after, just as Mary's grandmother did, for her will was proved in Essex on 20 Dec 1748. During this terribly sad time for Parson Rose he took his young brother Alexander on a journey to Williamsburg. The Capitol had burned on 30 Jan 1747 and only the brick walls were standing. But he was able to show him other sights such as the Goal, Bruton Church, several taverns, and several W&M college buildings. On 7 Dec they dined at the Rawleigh Tavern, spending the evening with the President and Council, the Speaker, Col. Beverley, and others. On 8 Dec they heard debates and spent the evening with Col. Lomax. On 9 Dec they dined at the Capital Landing where they were treated by the Burgesses Tod, Fry and Lomax and spent the evening in Mr. Tod's lodgings where Parson Rose slept for two nights, being at one Rodman's. Capital Landing was situated east of Williamsburg on Queen's Creek which flowed northeast to York River. It was planned as a port of entry for inland Williamsburg in 1699. Lots were surveyed and warehouses, dwellings and taverns were authorized or erected.

Dec 31; In cold high wind Rose rode to Col. Fry's. He had left son John to be tutored by Mrs. Sarah (Taliaferro) Brooke at Brooke's Bank in Essex Co.

1749

Feb 13; Rose, leaving his Tye River home on a new tour, lodged this night at Col. Fry's.

Feb 21; Encountering much cold and snow, Rose found much sickness but arrived to find his son well in Essex.

Mar 7; Rode to Col. Fry's, and with not time to get home, spent the remainder of the day.

Apr 29; Lodged at Col. Fry's. On 29-30 to Court House by 11 where preached to a numerous congregation, twenty-nine of whom received the sacrament.

May 13; Rose left his house about 10, rode to Col. Fry's (very warm), arriving about 6.

June 9; Very warm, rode to Court, received 2 letters, then to Col. Fry's with my brother, Mr. Harvie and Col. Jefferson.....

June 10; Hot, a thunder shower about 11 . . . left Col. Fry's where his son was ill of a Distemper that answered the description of St. Vitus' Dance.

(#609) Joshua Fry and Mary (Micou) Hill Fry of Viewmont had 5 children, of whom the sons were: John Fry, married 1764 Sarah Adams, widow of Thomas Adams of Blair Park; Henry Fry, married Susan Walker and became deputy clerk of Albemarle; and William Fry, died unmarried. The disease of St. Vitus Dance has been described as a nervous disorder occurring mainly in children (more common to girls), accompanied by involuntary jerking movements of the muscles of nearly the entire body. Fright or anxiety were believed to be frequent causes. The name for the affliction arose in the Middle Ages when sufferers of "the dancing mania" resorted to chapels named for St. Vitus. This may have afflicted William.

July 23; Preached at the chappel, dined at Mr. Lynche's, rode to Col. Fry's . . .

Aug 27; Rode to Court House to preach, and on to Col. Fry's to visit Mr. Thomas Hill who was supposed to be killed by being thrown from a horse he was training . . .

Aug 28; At Col. Fry's . . . Rainy, hot, Mr. Hill in a Comatous state . . . (probably Mary's Micou Hill Fry's son)

Aug 29; At Col. Fry's, Mr. Hill continues comatous, notwithstanding the large evacuations by cupping and alternate bleeding and purging . . . same weather . . .

Aug 30; Left Col. Fry's about 11. Flooding doing much damage in area.

Aug 31; Went to Mr. Nicholas' Plantation (John Nicholas, son-in-law of Col. Joshua Fry).

Sept 3; Rode to the Mountain Chapel 20 mi, preached on Acts . . . then to Dr. Walker's.

Sept 9; To Col. Fry's, dined . . . on to Mr. Joblin's, lodged. Barefoot horse could not travel.

Oct 3; Called at Col. Fry's . . . then home

Nov 9; Rode to Dr. Thomas Walker's where Mr. Leonard Hill came . . . Leonard Hill (III) was a son of Leonard and Mary (Micou) Hill of Essex. As a widow, his mother married Joshua Fry. Leonard III married Sarah Thacker, had two daughters: Mary Hill (m. Bennett Brown); Elizabeth Hill (m. James Dunlop).

Nov 12; Rode to the Chappel at Hickman's, preached, and went to Col. Fry's

Nov 13; At Col. Fry's with Mr. Lomax all day . . .

1750

Feb 5; Rose left home with wife to visit her father (she had learned of her mother's death in Dec). Got to Col. Fry's with difficulty, clear and cold . . .

Feb 6; Spent day with Mr. Fry

Feb 7; Detained by snow at Mr. Fry's

Feb 8; Left Mr. Fry's at 10 . . . to Beal's at night.

Mar 13; Yesterday, and this, fine weather. Got to Col. Fry's.

Mar 14; Cloudy, left Col. Fry's about 9, got home at 5 as it began to rain.

Mar 21; Rose went with Mr. Nicholas and Jordan, dined at Capt. Allen's, viewed a place for a Church being . . . on the Confines of Buckingham and near a fine spring.

Apr 12; Rode to Court House, preached, went to Col. Fry's, windy dry weather . . .

May 8; Very warm, rode to Col. Fry's, spent evening with him, Col. Chizwell and Wm. Randolph. (On 7 May, Rose had passed thru Orange Co and paid his quit rents to the sheriff, Benjamin Cave. Annually he paid 2 shillings per 100 a. Rose also "drew on Mr. John Nicholas for my levies . . .")

(*763) John Nicholas (son-in-law of Joshua Fry) was clerk of Albemarle and responsible for the list of titheables. In 1747, the number in Albemarle was 1,758 titheables. Figuring three per family, county population was then about 5,275.

May 18; Col. Fry made me ye first visit (promised to accept a part of the Copper Mines on Mr. Chissel's terms. Went with Mr. Fry and Mr. Anthony to . . . in the evening.

May 19; Rode with Col. Fry to Rockfish, then by path leading to ye courthouse, crossd ye river and got in ye rain and ye dark to Mr. Jno Nicholas' house at ye mouth of ye Slate River.

June 3; Left early to preach at Coleman's on south side of Fluvanna River. With some difficulty got home at 9 at night. Parson Rose had kept preaching appointments he had made two months earlier. It was a 15 hour Sunday for him, including his travel time. With only one church building (the Mountain Chapel near Shadwell) in his 2,500 sq mi parish in Albemarle Co, Rose had become a "circuit-rider" parson, visiting the homes of constituents every two months or oftener. When "new" church structures were built, smaller "house congregations" were consolidated, and the circuit was reduced in size. (Anglican)

June 10; Rode to Court House; preached to large Congregation, administered the Sacrament and went in the rain to Col. Fry's; hot

June 11; At Col Fry's all this day; warm weather.

June 12; Walked . . . to Castleton Harper's, settled accts & returned to Mr. Fry's; hot

June 13; Rode to Court House; held Vestry; stayed with Col. Fry all night; very hot

(#789) Probably Parson Rose gave to St. Anne's Parish Vestry a progress report on site selection for 4 new churches the vestry had authorized 7 Aug 1749. One was probably even then under construction on Ballenger Creek.

June 14; Left Court. Got with Mr. Fry to Capt. Cabal's to dinner . . .

June 16; At home all day, Messrs Fry, Cabal got here at night in a thunder shower. Hot . . .

June 29; Went to Col. Fry's at night . . .

July 1; Preached at Wm. Moore's; lodged at Mr. Saml Burk's with Dr. Hopkins and Col. Fry. Very hot weather.

July 2; With Col. Fry viewed some land possessed by Dr. Hopkins who has cleared about 12 acres, two of which not worth 5 sh, on this acct there's an action of Waste. He has built 2 Tobo Houses and Tarred posts in ye ground.

July 3; Rose left Mr. Jordan's along with Jno Harvey and Duncan Cameron on a canoe trip to Richmond.

(*797) The two-day canoe trip, referred to by Bishop Meade as "historic", began in present Amherst Co. where they put their single dug-out canoe on Pedlar River. They lunched near Elk Island in the James River, probably at the home of Dr. Arthur Hopkins, and by nightfall were at the home of Major John Bolling, Jr and Elizabeth (Blair) Bolling at Licking Hole Creek, where lodging was provided. The site on present maps is "Bolling Island" between Goochland and present Powhatan Co. Perhaps here or earlier, Harvie and Cameron left Rose to continue on alone. He visited Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson, at Tuckahoe en route, and arrived at Richmond the evening of 5 July 1750.

July 16; After 10 days in Richmond Parson Rose returned, stopping at Walker's. Dr. Walker had just returned home on 13 July having left in February on His Ramble on the Branches of the Mississippi.

July 17; Rode to Col. Fry's.

July 18; Left Col. Fry's about 7 and arrived home about 4 in the evening.

July 19; Hot. Went to ye mines at Col. Chizwel's request to accommodate some difference between Col. Fry and him which was agreed before Rose got there . . .

July 21; Rose left the mines at noon, got home with Col. Fry about five in the afternoon.

(*804) Dr. Thomas Walker reached the pass known as the Cumberland Gap in present Lee Co, VA on 13 Apr 1750. Credited with being the first to explore southwest VA and KY, he may have been preceeded by Col. James Patton of Augusta Co.

Aug 15; Rose at Court for decision of case between Harvie and Christian . . . went in evening to Col. Fry's. Very hot.

Sept 1; Rode . . . thru Green Creek to Mr. Fry's.

Sept 2; Preached at ye Court House . . . returned with Mr. Jno Nicholas to Mr. Fry's.

Sept 3; Rode with Mr. Jno Nicholas to Capt. Cabal's in order to arbitrate the difference between James Christian and his sister-in-law....

(#830) Jno Nicholas was clerk of Albemarle. A county magistrate was needed to settle James Christian's dispute (above), carried over to a third day.

(#834) John Clayton, clerk of Gloucester Co, came to inspect a group of Rose's slaves which he later bought on 29 Dec.

Sept 23; Mr. Jno Walker came in the evening in order to teach my children.

(#835) John Walker, son of Thomas and Susanna (Peachy) Walker of Locust Grove of K&Q, and older brother of Dr. Thomas Walker of Louisa and Albemarle, was born in 1711. As tutor of Parson Rose's children at Bear Garden, Walker himself received instruction from Rose in arithmetic (1 Jan 1751).

Oct 8; Left Mr. Hunter (sheriff) sick, and rode to meet the Vestry at Court House. Was disappointed, and rode to Col. Fry's at night . . .

(#838) Parson Rose had viewed Woodson's land on 9 Oct. As owner of considerable land himself, he had acquired much land use experience. As with Joshua Fry on 2 Jul 1750, Rose again was appalled at the "wasted" land of Benjamin Woodson who lived in the vicinity of Dr. Arthur Hopkins plantation in Albemarle Co.

Nov 3; Returning from a tour back to Essex, Rose rode to Dr. Walker's.

Nov 4; Called on Maj. Merriweather's, and rode to Col. Fry's. Cold, frosty weather.

Nov 5; Rode from Col. Fry's home, where found . . .

Nov 12; Again disappointed in meeting with Vestry at Court. Rode to Col. Fry's. Cold.

Nov 13; Held Vestry at Court House; lodged there with Mr. Stith, Fry, Jepherson and others all night. Cold.

Nov 14; Left Court House and lodged with Mr. Stith at his Quarter . . .

(#853) Apparently their copper mine investments were not materializing and digging for ore had ceased on land owned both by Harvie and Joshua Fry nearby.

1751

Jan 26; Rose's Mill Dam had been ruined by flooding, with 20 days labor and many hands had been rebuilt, and now had broken again. "Such are the profits of mills." He rode with Mr. John Nicholas to Capt. Cabal's in order to go next day to Church at Ballengers Creek, but snow detained him.

Feb 18; Parson Rose's wife delivered of a daughter, Margaret, their last (6th) child.

Feb 23; Cold. Col. Fry came about noon.

Feb 24; Cold. Rode with Col. Fry about 16 miles by the pass near the Three Ridged Mountins to the Branches of Rockfish and returned at Night . . .

Feb 28; Rode to Warren's Mines, returned over Buffalo below Rocky run, very deep. This was to put a stop to working on Fry & Harvie's land which was before done.

Mar 6; Moderate weather. Rode to Col. Fry's to make him a visit and lay down Tye River in ye Map of Virginia.

Mar 7; At Col. Fry's. Very pleasant weather.....

(#901); There are more than 42 references to Joshua Fry in Parson Rose's diary. Rose and Fry, both prodigious men, spent two days together discussing the new map of Virginia then in preparation by Fry and Peter Jefferson of Shadwell. Their map, printed in 1751, states that Fry, Jefferson, William Churton and Daniel Weldon of North Carolina, in 1749 surveyed the line between Virginia and North Carolina, "being 90 miles and 280 poles." On 1 Jan 1755, John Dalrymple in London added distances to the "Fry-Jefferson Map," which he had measured and entered in his journal. These distances are given between fourteen towns and Williamsburg, between eight towns and Fredericksburg, and between five towns and Alexandria. The map shows "Tye River," with "Rose" located at the confluence of Piney and Tye Rivers, and "Fry" on Hardware River in the Green Mountains.

Mar 23; Rode from home about noon, called at Capt. Nevil's where dined, and at night reached Col. Fry's.

Apr 18; Parson Rose had arrived at Williamsburg on 12 Apr. On the 17th he dined at Rawleigh Tavern. On the 18th he rode to York with James Reid Esqr. and dined there, then on to Mr. John Clayton's in Gloucester at night

May 7; Left the Meadow, got to Jno McCaly's about noon, stayd there for a horse which got in part of a 16 year-old debt, and came to Col. Fry's at night. Warm.

May 8; Rested at Col. Fry's. Warm. . .

Parson Rose made his final diary entry 13 June 1751. He died 30 June 1751, age 46, as he was assisting William Cabell in surveying and laying out the lots and streets of Beverley Town at Westham Plantation on James River west of Richmond. He was the first person to be buried in St. John's churchyard on Church Hill in Richmond.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Joshua Fry \(database\)](#)