JOHN HENRY LACY

The bounds of this volume take us ever and anon to foreign shores, as Virginians by birth have often proved themselves citizens of the world in a noble sense, as they have gone far away to the Gentiles, carrying to them the Word of life. John Henry Lacy is one of this goodly company. He was born in Halifax County, Virginia, December 15, 1821. On the fourth Sunday of November, 1842, he was baptized into the fellowship of the Millstone Baptist Church, Dan River Association, by Rev. A. M. Poindexter. North Carolina and Richmond helped him in his education. He wrote: "I am under obligations to Brother E. Dodson for my first lessons in Greek. I also taught, and studied with Brother J. J. James, of North Carolina for several years, and spent six months at the Baptist Seminary, at Richmond in 1843. These are about all the opportunities I ever had." Mark these words. He was married to Miss Olivia E. Barkley, daughter of Elder J. G. Barkley, of North Carolina, May 1, 1853, by Rev. M. R. Forey, of Murfreesboro, N. C. His certificate of ordination, dated July 1, 1850, is signed by the following brethren: Stephen Pleasant, Samuel Wait, Elias Dodson, Isaac Merriam, John L. Prichard. On July 5, 1853, with his wife, he sailed from Boston, via England, for Lagos, Africa. In the company, bound for the same field of labor, were Rev. T. J. Bowen and Rev. J. S. Dennard with their wives. Alas! in almost less than a year, Mr. Dennard and his wife were in their graves, and, in 1854, the Board reported that they were "deeply afflicted in the return of Brother Lacy to this country". Mr. Lacy had gone to Abbeokuta as his field of labor, but being threatened with total blindness, upon the advice of the surgeon of the English Navy, returned almost immediately to America, reaching New York, March 4, 1854.

From the time of his return to this country until he died he lived in southern Virginia, the section of the State where he was born and reared. For most of these years he was pastor to one or more churches. During this time he served the Danville,
Greenfield, and Chatham churches, in the Roanoke Association; and Millstone, his mother church, and Hunting Creek, in the Dan River Association. He was at the General Association, in 1856, at Lynchburg, at which meeting Rev. George H. Pearcy, who had returned from China, and Rev. S. Y. Trimble, an accepted missionary Africa, were also present. Towards the end of his life disease hindered him from doing active work, and during his last five years he was a great sufferer, for much of this time an invalid. In all his afflictions he exhibited an unmurmuring patience and a serene faith. His death occurred March 24, 1881.

VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS (Third Series)

By: George Braxton Taylor

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SEE ALSO: Folder for Joseph George Barkley
After knowing Rev. J. H. LACY intimately for about ten years, and having a
good many business transactions with him, and following him at two of his churches,
hearing Christians and sinners testifying to his deep piety, strict integrity,
strong character and the numerous good qualities he possessed, I would do violence
to my conscience if I did not express my heartfelt gratitude publicly to God for
his great gift to a sinful world of our beloved Bro. Lacy. He was fifty-nine years
old the 15th of December 1880, licensed by Milton church, North Carolina, November
15th, 1849, ordained July 1st, 1850. He was married three times---first to Miss
Olivia Barkley (daughter of J. G. Barkley, a Baptist minister of North Carolina)
in Conocanary (Conoconary) church, North Carolina, on the 1st of May (Sunday),
1853. She accompanied him to Africa, and came near losing her life from African
fever. She died in Halifax County, Va., September 18th, 1865. He then married
Miss M. Jane Gilbert, of Pittsylvania County, Va., May 16th, 1867. She died August
13th, 1869. He then married Miss Mary A. Hardy, of Buchanan, July 24th, 1873. He
died a little after 12 M. Thursday, March 24th, 1881. His last words, barely
articulated, were, glory! glory! Through all his last illness, as ever before,
he declared Jesus his only trust and his ever present Redeemer.

Bro. Lacy was ever ready in pointing you to the promises of Scripture whenever
you said anything about his sufferings. I have seen him when in such pain
as almost to prevent his speaking, and someone would express their sympathy for
him, he would always justify his Father for any pain he suffered. He seemed to
look into and read God's great book of providence. "That his chastisements are
for peace", he would say; these are among the "all things which work together
for good to his people". A devoted and affectionate husband and father, a kind
neighbor, always had the praise of his churches as being a hightoned Christian
gentleman.

May all who knew Bro. Lacy, imitate him as he did Christ.

W. B. WILLIAMS.
Died in Halifax County, Virginia, on the 18th of September, Mrs. O. C., consort of Rev. J. H. Lacy, in the 35th year of her age.

Mrs. Lacy was the daughter of Elder J. G. Barkley, of North Carolina. Was baptized in her thirteenth year, married in her thirth-fourth (?). This pious woman proved her early consecration to Christ by becoming the willing companion of Brother Lacy as missionary to Central Africa. It is moral heroism in man to engage in such an enterprise; if possible it is a higher virtue in woman to become his co-laborer. They had not long entered upon their important mission before they felt the pressure of that enervating climate; consequently they were compelled to leave the field of their choice and return to their native land.

Sister Lacy was well qualified by nature, culture and grace, to the work to which she gave herself with so much cheerfulness and enthusiasm, and had the Lord spared her health, she would have ranked favorably with those pious women who were companions of our early Chinese missionaries. We presume she never recovered from the shock which her constitution received while in Africa. And yet, under the wasting of disease, she was useful and happy. Her piety, considering her age, was certainly of an extraordinary type; and the death of such a woman at a time like this is a sad calamity.

After protracted illness, she died in great peace, leaving sorrowing friends, three interesting little girls, a bereaved companion, an afflicted church, and a sad community to mourn her loss.

Whitesville, Halifax, Va., May 8, 1866

RELIGIOUS HERALD, May 17, 1866, p. 3:4

Note: Mrs. Lacy must have been about twenty-four when she married and not thirth-fourth. (BHC staff)
Died, at Chatham, Pittsylvania county, Va., on the 13th of August, 1869, Mrs. M. JENNIE LACY, daughter of Cornelius and Eliza Gilbert, and wife of Rev. J. H. Lacy, in the 30th year of her age. Sister Lacy made, in her 14th year, a profession of religion, which to a remarkable degree, she adorned to the end of her life. The writer of this brief tribute to her memory never saw or heard suggested any want of symmetry or consistency in her Christian character; and where nothing was perceptibly deficient, some traits were of a prominence which he has never seen exceeded. These were her meekness and gentleness, her unfailing serenity and patience, her wealth of affection, and her most manifest, yet most unobtrusive relish for the public exercises of religion. During the last two years of her life, she filled the trying position of pastor's wife, so as to escape all complaint, and that of stepmother, involving still more of recognized difficulty, so as to secure all commendation. She died in full consciousness, and with Christian faith and hope in liveliest exercise. We mourn a great social bereavement and an irreparable loss to her husband and children.

A.A.B.

RELIGIOUS HERALD,
December 23, 1869, p. 3
OBITUARIES

MRS. MARY A. LACY

On Sunday, October 9, 1910, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. B. H. Stallings, near Louisburg, N. C., the soul of Mrs. Mary A. Lacy took its flight to the heavenly home. Her body was brought to Virginia and interred by the side of her husband, in the family burying ground, near Millstone church, Halifax county, Va., services being conducted by Rev. J. H. Doan of South Boston.

Mrs. Lacy was Miss Mary Allen Hardy, born in Buchanan county, Va., March 23, 1844. Joined Buchanan church at an early age, and her consecrated life ever after made her greatly beloved, being widely known as a noble woman in many respects.

She was a great teacher, having done her first work along this line as assistant for her mother in Bedford county, Va., when only thirteen years of age. She graduated, possibly, at the age of sixteen or seventeen years; then her first real teaching began in Nashville, Tenn., where she taught several years. She married Rev. John H. Lacy, of Halifax county, Va., in 1873, and unto them three children were born -- Mrs. G. B. H. Stallings, Mr. Tolbert Lacy, and Miss Janie Lacy. The year after their marriage, she and her husband went to Danville, she as teacher in Roanoke College, and he keeping up his pastoral work. After being there one year they came to Halifax county where she taught public and private schools for about eight years in and around Meadville, he serving as pastor at different times for Millstone, Straightstone, Greenfield and Kentuck churches. It was there that Rev. Lacy died March 24, 1881. After his death Mrs. Lacy moved to Black Walnut, Halifax county, teaching there two years; then came to South Boston in 1884 and taught four years as principal of the Girls' College, in that town, and one year in the public school. In 1890 she returned to Danville and taught in Roanoke College three years; from there she went to Peytonsburg, Pittsylvania county and taught one year in the public school.

From there she went to Oxford, N. C., where she was given position as instructor.
of Latin, French and Mathematics in the Seminary. She was holding this position at the time of her last illness, having taught there sixteen years. In all, 'tis safe to say that this noble woman has taught between forty and fifty years, and 'twas in this sphere her influence was the greatest, an influence that always tended upward, an influence that always drew others to Him whom she daily served, and an influence that still lives.

The writer loved her, loved her as an own relative, and all through the close contact of teacher and pupil there was never a time when she did not feel the inspiration of her teachings.

"Though dead, she yet speaketh".

E. C.

RELIGIOUS HERALD
December 15, 1910
Page: 11:2-3
BETTIE B. LACY, eldest child of Rev. J. H. Lacy, died of consumption at the home of her uncle, C. S. Lacy, in Halifax county, Va., February 2nd 1875. She was baptized by her grandfather, J. G. Barkley, in her eleventh year, and lived nearly ten years a faith Christian. Twice bereft of a mother's love, she nobly filled a mother's place to her sisters and brother. She did not fear death, though "she could wish to live for her loved ones". As her life was one of beautiful trust, her death was full of peace." Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

RELIGIOUS HERALD

August 26, 1875.