THE PIEGAN TRIBE OF THE BLACKFOOT NATION OF INDIANS.

ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL.

1736-1814.

VI.

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The white man valued the native furs altogether beyond what the Indian was able to comprehend, and the latter was only too happy to find that he could trade them for that gaudy and glittering wealth which had been brought from a great distance to his country. Thus, in the early intercourse of the white man with the Indians, each gave to the other something that he valued lightly, and received in return something that he valued highly; and each felt a keen contempt for the stupid taste of the other. The trade, thus begun by imposition on the one side and ignorance on the other, developed upon more thorough acquaintance, into a regular system.

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PIEGAN INDIANS. — i — EARLY FRENCH TRADING POSTS.


(308) The elder La Verendrye, so far as his journals and letters show, was never on the Saskatchewan, but one of his sons built Fort Bourbon on the shores of Cedar lake, about 1748, and ascended the river as far as the forks somewhere below which he built Fort Poskoyac. After the death of the elder La Verendrye, in 1748, Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre was sent out to continue his explorations in the far west. A party of his men are said to have ascended one of the branches of the Saskatchewan to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, in 1751, and built there Fort La Jonquiere. This will be referred to again. Two years later Saint-Luc de la Corne, who had been sent to replace Saint-Pierre,

(310) is said to have built Fort Postkoyac — Fort Postkoyac the second — on the lower Saskatchewan. In a paper read before the Society (R.S.C., 1908, pt. I), Judge Prud'homme furnishes a very ingenious identification of the various French forts built, or said to have been built, on the Saskatchewan. He enumerates six: Forts Bourbon and Postkoyac, built by La Verendrye; Fort La Jonquiere, built by de Riverville's men; and Forts La Corne, Postkoyac and Pasquia (Poste Pasquia), by Saint-Luc de la Corne. Of these, he says that Fort Bourbon was situated upon Cedar lake, and La Jonquiere on the upper Saskatchewan. The two Forts Postkoyac were on the lower Saskatchewan; La Verendrye's Postkoyac, near the Forks of the Saskatchewan; La Corne's fort of the same name at the entrance to Cumberland Lake; Fort La Corne some distance below the Forks; and Poste Pasquia on the Carrot river.

The late Dr. Elliott Coues, in one of his foot-notes to the Henry-Thompson Journals ("New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest," II, 468), says that The Pas, close to the mouth of the Pasquia River, was the location of old Fort Poskoyac or Poscoyac. We have the evidence of both Hendry's Journal and the Journal of Cockeying to prove that a French fort existed at or near the mouth of the Pasquia River. The former establishes the presence of a second French fort, between the mouth of the Pasquia and the Forks of the Saskatchewan — in fact not very many miles below the Forks. Hendry gives no name to this upper fort, but mentions that it was "sub-ordinate to Basquia." Cockeying, paddling up the Saskatchewan in 1773, left Basquia on August 1st, and ten days later reached a point on the river where the families of his Indian guides were awaiting them. "Formerly," he notes in his Journal, "the French had a House here — From Basquia to this place I made the course to be 58' W. and distance 150 miles." Three days before, that is on the 8th of the month, he had passed "an old Trading House belonging to the French peddlars before the conquest of Quebec." This was about 93 miles from Basquia, and 58 miles from the upper fort. Cockeying, therefore, gives us three French posts between The Pas and the Forks. Hendry for some reason does not mention the middle fort. Possibly he passed the spot after dark; or may have been hugging the other bank of the river and so missed it; or, again, it may have been built after his visit.

Of these three forts, we know that the lower was situated at the mouth of the Pasquia. There is less certainty as to the position of the other two. Judge Prud'homme says of the upper one: "Fort La Corne, appelez Nipawi par les sauvages, fonde par le chevalier Saint-Luc de la Corne, a quelques milles a l'est de la jonction des branches sud et nord de la Saskatchewan, en 1753." He is somewhat indefinite as to the posi-

(311) tion. Sir Alexander Mackenzie says that the French had an establishment at Nipawi long before and at the conquest of Canada in 1763. In the Journal of Alexander Henry, the Younger, it is stated (p. 483) that he "camped at the spot where the French formerly had an establishment called
Fort Saint-Louis, built by Saint-Luc de la Corne in a low bottom on the S. side, where some years ago were still to be seen remains of agricultural implements and carriage-wheels. Their road to the plains is still to be seen, winding up a valley on the S. side." In foot-notes to the Henry-Thompson Journals (pp. 481-3), Dr. Coues clearly identifies the position of this old French fort - La Corne, a la Corne, de la Corne, St. Louis, Nipaw, Nipewee, as it was variously called - as "within the present Indian reserve, close to or at the mouth of Peycoran cr., and thus about 13 m. in an air line below the forks - much more by the bends of the river. The position is about the center of Tp. 48, R. xx, W. of the 3d init. merid."

From Cooking's description of the river above Pasquia it is reasonably certain that the point he reached on August 11th, and where he says the French formerly had a House, was the site of Fort La Corne, although his distances are in that event far astray. He makes the distance from Pasquia to this point 150 miles. John Fleming, who surveyed the river from Fort La Corne to the Pas in 1858 (Hind's "Narrative of the Canadian Red River Expedition," etc., I, ch. XXI.), makes the distance about 213 miles.

As to the third French post, between Fort La Corne and Fort Poskoyac, this would seem to be Judge Prud'homme's Fort Poskoyac (the second), "appelé aussi François, fondée à l'entrée du lac Cumberland par M. de la Corne, entre 1753 et 1754"; but if so, it could not have been situated at the entrance to Cumberland Lake. Fleming makes the distance from The Pas to Cumberland Lake 33 miles. Cooking mentions a carrying-place, on the north side of the river, into a lake named Menistatouakaw, which he makes 33 miles from Pasquia. As he apparently took a short cut across Saskatchewan Lake, and thus avoided the deep bend in the river north of that Lake, his distance would about agree with those of Fleming, and his Menistatouakaw would be Cumberland Lake. But the "old Trading House belonging to the French pedlars," which he passed on August 8th, was about 55 miles above Menistatouakaw Lake. In the interval he had passed a small branch on the south side of the Saskatchewan which "joins the river a little above Pasquia" - clearly Sipanok Canal, which runs almost due east to Carrot River, the latter joining the Saskatchewan a little above the Pasquia. From Sipanok Canal to the old fort Cooking's distance is about 37 miles.

A few miles below the fort he passed the mouth of a (312) branch bearing S. by E., which he calls Peatagow River. On Fleming's map (Hind's "Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition, 1858"), a small stream is shown entering the Saskatchewan from the south-east, about 102°55'. As the middle post was about ten miles above Peatagow River, we will be reasonably safe in placing it in long. 104°. Whether or not this was the fort which Judge Prud'homme calls Fort Poskoyac le second, built by La Corne between 1753 and 1755, it is impossible to say. It certainly is nowhere near the site fixed by Judge Prud'homme.

We have, then, the evidence of both Hendry and Cooking as to the existence of two French posts on the Saskatchewan, between the Forks and The Pas; and Cooking bears witness to the presence of a third. With the exception of Fort La Corne, however, it is impossible to reconcile Judge Prud'homme's descriptions with the evidence of these early explorers. Hendry visited the French post at the mouth of the Pasquia in 1754-55, and says of it, "This House has been long a place of Trade belonging to the French." Judge Prud'homme dates the three posts below the Forks between 1753 and 1755; that is to say, just about the time of Hendry's visit.

To sum up, the evidence afforded by these two journals goes to show that there were three French posts on the Saskatchewan between The Pas and the Forks. Of these the oldest was that at The Pas, or the mouth of
the Pasquia, built by the Chevalier de La Verendrye about 1746. The other
two, built by Saint-Luc de La Corne, were minor posts; the first situated
about 104'; and the upper post - Fort La Corne - about 104'33". Fort La
Corne was built in 1753; the lower fort may have been built after Hendry
descended the river in 1755.

As Hendry is the only British explorer or trader known to have visited
Fort Poskoyac, or indeed any of the French forts west of Lake Superior,
up to the close of the period of French rule in Canada, his description
of the fort, with the account of his meeting with the French traders, is
of exceptional value.

In this connection the following, from Robson's "Account of Six years
residence in Hudson's Bay" (pp. 62-63), is of interest: "It is universally
believed among the servants, that the French travel many hundred miles
over land from Canada to the heads of our rivers in the Bay, and that
they have erected huts and settled a considerable factory upon a lake
at the head of Nelson-river; trading with the natives for the lightest
and most valuable furs, which they carry a long way before they find
conveyance by water; and this general opinion is not taken up at random,
but supported by particular incontestable evidences of the fact. I have
seen French guns among the

(613) natives that come to York-fort; and once heard Mr. Brady, the
surgeon, converse with one of them in the French language. I have also
frequently seen in the governor's hand, a letter addressed to him from
the chief factor at the French settlement on Nelson-river. It was written
in French and Indian; and the purport of it was to establish a trade
between them and the English at York-fort, for those heavy goods which
the French stood in great need of, but could not bring from Canada, such
as guns, kettles, tobacco, &c., and the English were desired to say, how
much beaver they expected in exchange for these articles. The governor
told us, that he had sent a copy of the letter to England; and added, that
if the Company consented to such a treaty, we should get no furs but what
came through the hands of the French, who would soon have huts all the way
down Nelson-river.

"The linguists informed me, that they have had a description of the
French factory at the head of Nelson-river from different Indians, who
all agreed in the principal circumstances, and remarkably in this, that
the French have a large boat or sloop upon the lake. These people
formerly would have been glad to have had the English accompany them up
the rivers; and were once very solicitous to engage us to go up, that
we might head them against the French Indians; but they are now very easy
and silent upon that subject; the French by kind offices and a liberality
in dealing, which we think of no consequence, have obtained so much
influence over almost all the natives, that many of them are actually
turned factors for the French at our settlements for heavy goods. This the
Indians openly acknowledged to the linguist in the year 1743, just before
I left York-fort."
river-baron named Chatique, who laid tribute upon all they had, comforting them with the assurance that if they did not pay up cheerfully he would take their lives as well as their possessions. Alexander Henry's nephew and namesake passed the mouth of the Pasquia, or "the little river of Montagne du Pas," as he calls it, in 1808, and mentions that some traces of the old French establishment were even then visible.

(314) Hendry has reached the Saskatchewan, and before speaking of his further explorations, it may be in place to point out that he was the first British trader upon the waters of that great highway of the west. There has been a widespread impression, based upon Alexander Mackenzie's statements in his History of the Fur Trade, that the first British traders who reached the Saskatchewan came from Montreal. "In 1770," says Dr. Coues, "Thomas Curry, of Montreal, journeyed to Fort Bourbon, with guides, interpreters, and four canoes and wintered 1770-71. This pioneer of all the English traders was satisfied with his venture, and never repeated it; but he was immediately succeeded by James Finlay, who in 1771 went as far as Nipawi, then the last French settlement on the Saskatchewan." Curry and Finlay may be regarded as the scouts of that great fur-trading enterprise that afterward became known as the North West Company. The men of the North West Company are entitled to the credit of widespread explorations in the west, but the honour of first reaching the Saskatchewan undoubtedly belongs to a Hudson's Bay man, Anthony Hendry.

There seems, too, to have been some misunderstanding as to the relative claims of Curry and Finlay, for we learn from Cocking that Finlay was on the Saskatchewan at least as early as 1767. In paddling up the river, from Pasquia to the Forks, Cocking passed the ruins of a trading post in which, he says, "One Mr. Finlay, of Montreal, resided five years ago." Cocking passed the place in August, 1772. Under date of July 33rd of the same year he notes in his journal, "The Pedlar, Mr. Currie (who intercepted great part of York Port trade this year) is one day's paddling below this river, at Cedar Lake"; and Andrew Graham, the Factor, adds in a footnote: "Mr. Currie's encroachments was the reason I sent Mr. Cocking inland." This confirms Dr. Coues' statement that Curry, or Currie, was somewhere on the lower waters of the Saskatchewan in 1771, but it is evident that he did not return that year, as he was at Cedar Lake in August, 1772; and five years earlier Finlay was not merely on the Saskatchewan, but had built a trading post well up toward the Forks.
(321) June 28, 1754. Wednesday. Took my departure from York Fort (York Factory or Fort Nelson), and paddled up Hays River to Amista-Asinee or Great Stone (Stoney River or creek), distant from the Fort 34 miles; our course about S.W.b.W.; here we put up for the night.

37. Thursday. Paddled up Hays River till we came to Apet-Sepee, or Fire-Steel River (now regarded as a portion of the Hayes), and paddled up to Mistick-Apethow Sepee (Shamattawa river) or Wood Partridge River, and there put up for the night.

(322) 28. Friday. Paddled up Apet-Sepee to Pine-Reach (60 miles from York Factory), and put up for the night.

39. Saturday. Took my departure from Pine-Reach, and paddled up Apet-Sepee 35 miles N.W.; passed four large falls, the river about 16 poles wide, the banks high, and tall woods.

30. Sunday. Took my departure from inclosed fall (probably The Rock, a well-known point on the Hayes route), and paddled 38 miles N.W.b.N. & N.W.; the lands and woods as yesterday; passed seventeen places where the water was so shoal as to be under the necessity to carry our canoes and goods over.

July 1. Monday. Took my departure from Musketo-point, and paddled seventeen miles N.W. A heavy rain towards noon with thunder and lightning. The lands high, rocky with shrubby woods. Very shallow water with stones, which obliged us to carry our canoes and goods in several places (at or near present Mossy Portage).

3. Tuesday. Took my departure from Stony-Banks, and paddled 33 miles N.W. The river narrow and full of large stones. The banks (333) are rocky and very little woods. The land looks very barren. We have neither seen fish nor fowl yet, so we are scarce of provisions.

3. Wednesday. Took my departure from Tickomé-Reach, and paddled up a branch of Steel River 13 miles N.W.; passed much shoal water with rocky ground; obliged to carry our canoes over it. Passed thirty islands; on one of them grows a few birch trees. The banks of the River are low, on which grows Small Pines. Saw several Craw-fish and killed a duck.

4. Thursday. Left Craw-fish Fall and paddled 23 miles West (Hendry was now passing through Swampy Lake). Falls and Islands much the same as yesterday. Indians killed three Beavers; here are plenty of their houses.

5. Friday. Took my departure from fortunate Fall and paddled 35 miles W. b.So. & W.b.W.; passed much shoal water, and twenty-four islands; there is not a foot of water for a mile. We are greatly fatigued with carrying and hauling the Canoes, and not very well fed, but the Natives are continually Smoking, which I already experience allays hunger.

6. Saturday. Took my departure from Pike-reach, and paddled 36 miles W. b.S.; then we left Steel River and entered Attick-Segojan, or Deer Lake (Knee Lake, reached from Swampy Lake via Jack River); killed a good many pike and three Ducks, which are very acceptable.

(324) 7. Sunday. Took my departure from Three-Beacon Island and paddled 12 Miles W.S.W.; then came to the River. The Natives are divided as to the name of this River; however, it cannot with propriety be called Apet-Sepee or Steel River (is going up a branch running from the west into Knee Lake, traversing a route from Hayes to Nelson rivers). We paddled 12 miles up it. The Banks are hills and dales on which grow small pines. The River 12 poles wide; the water very deep in some places, and in other places not
six inches water and many Islands. Deer-Lake is large and deep, en-
compased with tall woods of Pines and Birch trees.
8. Monday. Paddled 26 Miles up the River W.N.W.; Islands and Rocks all
the way. In the evening, left the River, and put up on an Island in
Christinaux Lake (Cocking's Pimochickamow Lake).
9. Tuesday. Took my departure from Egg Island, and paddled 26 miles S.W.
& S.W.b.S. in the Lake; passed 23 woody Islands, and put up on one for
the night.
10. Wednesday. Took my departure from Pike Islands, and Paddled 35 miles
W.S.W. until we came to a river on the West side the Lake, where we put
up for the night.
11. Thursday. Took my departure from Shad Fall and paddled two miles S.W.
up the River, when it began to blow with Rain, which obliged us to put up.
Here twenty Canoes of Natives passed us on their way to York Fort, with
whom I sent a letter to Mr. James Isham (the factor at York), the Chief.
12. Friday. A continuance of rain; paddled none. Some drinking and others
fishing. Fish is our daily food.
(325) 13. Saturday. Paddled 28 miles. The River wide with small Islands;
Banks low and small woods; our course to-day S.W.
caught a good many large Pike.
15. Monday. Paddled 34 miles S.W.b.S. met four Canoes of Indians in the
French interest the Leader's name Monkonsko. He behaved civilly and
informed me that I was on the Confinnes of the dry inland country, called
by the Natives the Muscoty Tuske; and that I should soon see a French
house.
16. Tuesday. Paddled 20 miles S.W.b.S. then came to Othenume Lake (present
Moose Lake; north of Cedar Lake; on the Lower Saskatchewan).
17. Wednesday. Paddled 20 miles S.W.b.S.; then came to a River. Othenume
Lake is a good day's paddle either way; and the woods around it are tall
and well grown timber.
18. Thursday. Paddled 36 miles up the river; good water for a Canoe; the
river wide, banks high, and no woods to be seen; no provisions to be got
but fish.
19. Friday. Paddled 36 miles up the river.
20. Saturday. Paddled 6 miles S.W.b.S. and after dragging our Canoes 3/4
miles thro' a Swampy drain intermixed with Willows, came to Nelson River
and paddled on until we came to a small branch. The River is 15 poles
wide, water deep and current runs Eastward, and low banks with poplars
and willows.
21. Sunday. Paddled two miles up the River, and then came to Keiskatchewan
River (see Coues' footnote, pp. 461-2, Henry-Thompson Journals), on which
the French have two houses, one of which we expect to see to-morrow;
paddled up it 8 miles West; passed a large lake, which helps to supply
the River.
22. Monday. The Muskatoes are now intolerable, giving us neither peace day
nor night; paddled 14 miles up the River West, when we came to a French
house (Fort Poskoyac or Basquea or Basquia). On our arrival two Frenchmen
came to the
(338) water-side, and in a very genteel manner, invited me into their
house,—which I readily accepted. One of them asked me if I had any Letter
from my Master, and where, and on what design I was going inland. I
answered I had no letter, and that I was sent to view the Country, and
intended to return in the Spring. He told me the Master and men were
gone down to Montreal with the furs; and that they must detain me till
their return. However they were very kind; and at night I went to my
tent, and told Attickashish, or Little Deer, my Leader (a valuable leading
Indian according to Graham), that had the charge of me, who smiled and said they dared not. I sent them two feet of tobacco, which was very acceptable to them.

23. Tuesday. Invited to Breakfast and Dinner; thanked me for the tobacco, and presented me some moose flesh.

24. Wednesday. Took my departure from the French Settlement, and paddled up Keisketchawan River 6 miles; the Course West. Then left it and paddled 16 miles W.b.S. across a Lake (Saskanam Lake); then came to Peatago River (Carrot River); here are the largest Birch trees I have yet seen.

25. Thursday. Paddled up Peatago River 37 miles S.W.b.W. Large Birch trees on both sides the River. We still live on fish and are all heartily wishing for a change of food. This river is small, but good water as yet. Tomorrow we shall leave our canoes and travel.

26. Friday. Paddled 28 Miles S.W.b.W. up Peatago River, shoal water; passed 9 Islands, 4 Falls, and several Canoes, which the natives had left on account of shoal water.

27. Saturday. Very shoal water. Here we left our Canoes and travelled 4 miles S.W.b.S. Here were our Indians Families in a starving condition, for want of food; and we are in the same condition.

28. Sunday. Traveled 28 miles S.W.b.W. passed two creeks and two Indian tent-places. Neither Bird nor Beast to be seen, so that we have nothing to eat.

29. Monday. Traveled 34 miles S.W. when fortunately met with a fine bed of Strawberries, of which I did not eat (obviously "not" is an error in the original or copy) very heartily, as (337) did the Natives. Two miles farther, we met with berries the size of black currants and the finest I ever eat. I, as also the Natives, are fatigued with our two days' journies, which we are obliged to perform to come up to where provisions are to be had.

30. Tuesday. Traveled 16 miles S.W. level land, cherry trees, and fields of tares are full and ripe as any in England. Indians killed two Moose.

31. Wednesday. Traveled 13 miles W.S.W. Level lands and burnt woods; and there are nothing but stagnated water to drink. Came to two tents of Asinepoet Indians ( Stony or Assiniboine Indians). I smoked with them, and talked with them to go down with me to York Fort in the summer, but they answered, "We are conveniently supplied from the Pagua-Mista-gheshawuck Whiskeheghin." That is, the Frenchman's House of Trade.

August 1. Thursday. Traveled 13 miles S.W.b.S., fine level land and tall woods; passed three small creeks of sweet water. The Indians killed two moose; I am now entering a pleasant and plentiful country.


3. Saturday. Traveled 10 miles S.W.b.S. Level land with cherry trees, on which are plenty of fruit, plenty of Filberts. Indians killed 7 moose.

4. Sunday. Traveled 10 miles N.W. Land and Woods as yesterday. Met with 7 tents of Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Indians. I smoked with them; I have no hopes of getting them to the Fort; as what cloth &c. they had were French, and, by their behaviour, I perceived they were strongly attached to the French interest, Indians killed 2 Moose.

5. Monday. Traveled 11 miles W.S.W. Level land and poor Woods; killed four Wakesesew, or Red Deer, a stately animal, but the flesh coarse, and no manner equal to Moose flesh; however all is welcome to us.

6. Tuesday. Traveled 11 miles W.S.W. Level lands, and tall ledges of woods; crossed several small creeks of good water, which is acceptable; not having seen any these three days past.


8. Thursday. Traveled none. All hands feasting, smoking, drinking, dancing and conjuring (making medicine).
9. Friday. Level land; poplars and Willows. Passed two Salt Lakes, large lumps of Salt candid (sic) laying around the edges (Hendry has now travelled 325 miles from the French post of Basqua or Pasqua, and is now perhaps 70 miles east of Clark crossing on the South saskatchewan). Indians killed 2 Moose.
10. Saturday. Travelled 4 miles W.b.N.; then put up to feast &c.
11. Sunday. Travelled 11 Miles S.W.b.W. Level lands, short grass; no woods; and no water but what is salt.
12. Monday. Travelled 7 Miles W.S.W. Level land, with small black Cherry trees, yielding plenty of fruit. Nothing but salt lakes.
13. Tuesday. Travelled 7 Miles W.S.W. Level land, short Grass. Dry-woods, and several salt water lakes. We are now entered Mascuty plains, and shall soon see plenty of Buffalo, and the Archithinew (Blackfeet) Indians hunting them on Horseback.
14. Wednesday. Travelled none. The young Men hunting, killed several Moose and Wakesew; provisions plenty and good food.
15. Thursday. Travelled 8 Miles West; saw several herds of Buffalo.
16. Friday. Travelled 15 Miles Wb.N. Level land, with Birch, Cherry and Nut-trees; passed a lake of Salt water; saw two Buffalo and two Horses; killed 8 Wakesew.
17. Saturday. Travelled 8 Miles W.W.W. Crossed a large hill full of Shrubs, and fine berries like unto black currants. Started a Hare, of size and color like those in England. Indians killed 4 Wakesew.
18. Sunday. Travelled none. The Young Men hunting, killed several Moose. I dressed lame man's leg. He gave me a Moose nose, which is a delicate dish, for my trouble. At this place, a mineral spring as cold as ice.
19. Monday. Travelled 10 Miles W.S.W. in Mascuty plains; fine land, no woods; several salt-water Lakes; have passed but 4 places of fresh water, these five days past.
20. Tuesday. Travelled 15 Miles North; then came to Wapeseck-opet (South saskatchewan) River. (Hendry crossed some distance above present town of Saskatoon, at or near Clark Crossing) It is large; the banks are high; on which grow Birch, Poplar, Hasle, Elder, Fir, etc.; killed 5 Wakesew.
21. Wednesday. The Indian Men made temporary Canoes of Willows, covered with parchment Moose skins (bull-boats). The Women gathered (330) plenty of excellent berries, and cherries. I angled a few small Trout; and in the evening we crossed the River in our Slender Canoes, without any accident happening.
22. Thursday. Travelled 12 Miles N.W. Level land and dry ridges of woods; saw no water till we put up at night; and that was fresh and good, thank God. Indians killed 6 Wakesew. They are plenty and although coarse food, yet go well down with me and my companions.
23. Friday. Travelled 12 miles West. Level land, no Woods, nor water, till the evening; came to a ledge of Poplars and sweet water. The Archithinew (Blackfeet) Natives has been here lately; we know by their horses dung and footsteps.
24. Saturday. Travelled 13 Miles W.b.N. Attickasish, my Leader, and two young men, went another way in quest of the Archithinew (Blackfeet) Natives. In the evening came to Sechonby (North Saskatchewan, at or near the Elbow, 107' W.) River; it is about two furlongs wide, & full of Sandy Islands; the current runs easterly, and very rapid; the water deep; the banks high, on which grow Birch & Hazle trees.
25. Sunday. Travelled 2 miles West up the River in the Archithinew (Blackfeet) track. Level land, no woods but what grows on the banks; plenty of berries
26. Monday. Travelled 14 Miles W.b.N. the land level; no woods; but plenty of fine grass. Saw two Buffalo feeding on the other side of the
river. Met an aged man and a horse loaded with moose flesh, which he parted amongst us.

27. Tuesday. Traveled W.N.W. 16 Miles. Passed several ponds, & one creek of running water, in which we caught 17 small Trout. In the evening came to 34 tents of Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Indians. They have plenty of moose & beaver flesh, with which they treated us liberally.


29. Thursday. All hands feasting, dancing, drumming, &c.

30. Friday. Left the Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Indians, and traveled N.W. 10 Miles. Level Barren land, not one stick of wood to be seen, & no water to drink.

31. Saturday. Traveled 13 Miles N.W. The Indians killed 4 Waskesew, and I killed one. We are yet in Muscuitu plains; plenty of good water to-day.

September 1. Sunday. Traveled N.W.b.W. 10 Miles. Rocky hillocks, pleasant valleys, with Birch, Elder, Poplar & Cherry trees, with plenty of fruit. Seven tents of Indians pitched another way. We are yet above 400 in number, two-thirds of whom live chiefly on fruit.


3. Tuesday. Traveled none. Young men hunting, killed 3 moose.

4. Wednesday. Traveled 13 Miles N.W. Here Attickaish joined us again, with 3 Architiniue (Blackfoot) Natives on Horse-back. Level land; killed a great many Waskesew and moose.

5. Thursday. Traveled 13 Miles West. Level land, with plenty of fruit trees; plenty of moose, Waskesew, Swans, Cranes, White & Grey Geese, also a few Ducks. We are yet in Muscuitu plains (Hendry has been travelling along the south bank of the North Saskatchewan, and is now somewhere near Battleford). Here are a great many Asinepoet (Stoney or Assiniboine) Indians. The Buffalo has taken the route upwards (up the North Saskatchewan), and is the reason we have not yet met with Archiitiniue (Blackfoot) Natives.

6. Friday. Traveled W.S.W. 10 Miles. Hillocks and Dales & small ledges of woods all burnt. Indians killed 5 moose & 3 Waskesew; met with five tents of wekasew, or Eagle Indians. I gave their leader half a foot of Brazile tobacco, and smoked with them; they were very kind, and made me a present of some tongues, & a bladder full of fat. I could perceive no difference between them and the Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Natives with regard to the language; but one circumstance surprised me much, and that is, the men do not cover their nakedness; which are the only natives that do not attend to decency. The women are clothed the same as the Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Indians. The Natives inform me that they are a tribe of that brave Nation; and take their name from Eagles being plenty in the district they inhabit. The Leader promised to collect furs, and go down with me to the Fort. They never had traded with any European or Canadian. My Guides & Companions seemed afraid of them.

7. Saturday. Traveled 13 Miles W.S.W. Land &c. as yesterday. Indians killed 7 Waskesew; found a dead Buffalo; it had been wounded by the Architiniue (Blackfoot) Natives; several of their arrows were sticking in it.


9. Monday. Traveled 10 Miles W.S.W. over a barren plain, not one drop of water in it; then came to Hommocks of Poplar & Hazle, with a few ponds of water, plenty of moose & Waskesew.

10. Tuesday. Traveled none. The young men and I went a hunting, killed 3 moose & 6 Waskesew. I killed a Bull Buffalo, nothing but skin and bone;
Advances of Captain Bonneville by Washington Irving, Paris, 1837. Appendix, Keating's Narrative, inserted by "English Editor."

(275) At Lake Traverse, it is estimated that (buffalo) cows generally yield from two hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds of good meat. This is exclusive of the head and other parts.

New Light on the History of the Greater Northwest, The Henry-Thompson Journals, Edited by Elliott Coues, New York, 1887. Alexander Henry. Vol. I (171) (Red River, Saturday, February 27, 1801.) It is common to see a (buffalo) bull exceed 1,500 pounds, but a (buffalo) cow is seldom over 700 or 800 pounds gross.

(446) (Red River, Sunday, August 7, 1808) A fat (buffalo) cow, killed in the autumn, weighs from 800 to 700 pounds. A lean (buffalo) cow seldom exceeds 600 pounds. I have weighed 150 (buffalo) cows, killed from Sept. 1st to Feb. 1st, and found they averaged 400 pounds each. (Buffalo) Bulls in the same space of time average 580 pounds. Two-year-old (buffalo) heifers, in autumn, average 300 pounds. One-year-old (buffalo) calves, in autumn, average 110 pounds. These weights are exclusive of the offals. But the total edible meat of one full-grown (buffalo) bull, as received in the store-house, weighed 800 pounds. One thigh alone weighed 85 pounds. This (buffalo) bull was in full flesh, but had neither inside tallow nor back fat; which gives me reason to suppose that a full-grown (buffalo) bull, killed fat, about July 1st, would weigh about 1,600 pounds, offals included. Buffalo are cut up into the following 30 pieces by the hunter: 1 grose bose (hump); 1 petite bose; 3 depouilcles; 2 shoulders; 2 lourdes epaulettes (shoulder pieces); 3 fillets; 3 thighs; 3 sides; 1 belly; 1 heart; 1 rump; 1 brisket; 1 backbone; 1 neck. The tongue generally belongs to the hunter.


(335) We found the squaws in high glee, surrounded by the choice buffalo meat which our companions had brought in. The best meat of all was the depuyer. It may not be out of place for me to describe my depuyer. It is a substitute for bread, but much more nutritious. It lies on each side of the back bone next to the hide, running from the shoulder blade to the last rib. The upper edge, according to the condition of the animal, being from one to two inches thick, decreasing to the lower edge from one half to one quarter of an inch thick, and averaging in width from twelve to fourteen inches, and being from eighteen to twenty-two inches long. The average weight is about nine pounds. It is cured by dipping in hot grease and then exposed to the air to dry. If properly cured it will keep indefinitely without taint. This depuyer, together with the hump and the tongue, are the choicest parts of the buffalo.

David Thompson's Narrative, 1754-1813, Champlain Society, XII, Toronto, 1816.

(403) On weighing (we) found the average weight of the thigh of a Red Deer to be thirty-two pounds, and the whole of the meat 180 to 170 lbs.

(418) February (1810) By weighing we found the average weight of the meat of an Antelope to be fifty nine pounds when fleshy, but when fat to be sixty five pounds.

Some Memories of a Soldier by Hugh Lenox Scott, Major- General, U.S. Army, Retired. New York, 1886. (November, 1877, near Bear Paw Mountains.)

(61) A dressed antelope would weigh anywhere from fifty to seventy-five pounds.
took out his tongue, and left his remains to the Wolves who were waiting around me in great numbers; they do not meddle with any person. We cannot afford to expend our ammunition on them. In the evening when we returned home, found we were joined by ten tents of different Indians, but no tidings of the Archithine (Blackfeet) Natives. My feet are swelled, but otherwise, Thank God, in perfect health.

11. Wednesday. Travelled 15 Miles W. N. W. Level land; few woods; plenty of good water. The greatest hardships I have yet experienced is the Warmness of the weather, and the want of water. Indians killed 6 Waskesew.


13. Friday. Travelled 10 Miles N. W. Level land, no woods. Saw many herds of Buffalo grazing like English cattle. Indians killed seven. The Bulls will make towards an Indian when wounded: the flesh is sweet but coarse.

(333) 14. Saturday. Travelled none. I went with the young men a Buffalo hunting, all armed with Bows & Arrows; killed seven, fine sport. We beat them about, lodging twenty arrows in one beast. So expert are the Natives, that they will take the arrows out of them when they are foaming and raging with pain, & tearing the ground up with their feet & horns until they fall down.

15. Sunday. Travelled 7 Miles W. S. W. Level land, no woods to be seen; passed by a lake: the Buffalo so numerous obliged to make them sheer out of our way. Also Wolves without number, luring Indians killed a great many Buffalo; only taking what they chose to carry. I am now well stocked with tongues. We saw a few Moose and Waskesew; but as the Natives seldom kill them with the Bows & Arrows, they will not expend ammunition, while Buffalo are so numerous. I hope we shall soon see the Archithine (Blackfeet) Natives; the Horse dung, and paths being pretty fresh. Saw a large Snake but could not get at it.

(334) 16. Monday. Travelled 5 Miles West, then came to a small river called Chicotenah (Sounding Creek, between 110° and 111° W. long.). It is full of large stones & weeds; small Hazle, Birch & Poplar trees, growing on the sides of it. Buffalo very numerous. Indians killed a great many, only taking out their tongues, and some other choice pieces; leaving the remainder for the Wolves, &c.

17. Tuesday. Indians hunting. Women drying Meat. Two Young Men miserably tore by a Grizzle Bear (grizzly) whom they had wounded. One may recover but the other never can; for his arm is almost tore from his body, one eye is quite out, and his entrails are hanging from his body.

18. Wednesday. Travelled none. One Indian dead and the other in a weak condition. Two Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Natives came to us and informed us the Archithine (Blackfeet) Natives had killed and scalped 6 Indians, and that there were a great many nigh us.

19. Thursday. Travelled 7 Miles N. W. Level land and ledges of burnt woods. Several ponds of sweet water; left one family to take care of the wounded man.

20. Friday. Travelled 6 Miles S. W. then came to 7 tents of Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Natives. I smoked with them and bought a horse from them for a gun, to carry my provisions &c. At night they let the Horses graze with their feet fettered.

(335) 21. Saturday. Travelled 7 Miles S. W. b. S. Level land and Shrubby woods; Indians killed 13 Waskesew and 3 Buffalo.

22. Sunday. Travelled none. Indians hunting. Indians killed 6 Moose. No Buffalo to be seen. Saw several Wild Horses. The Natives behave very
kind to me, except my Guide Attickashish, who is a little out of humour because I would not lend him my gun; but I take no notice, neither do I value him.

23. Monday. Travelled none. Young Men hunting killed 4 Moose & 3 Buffalo; also a large black Bear. Saw several Toads. I cannot describe the fineness of the Weather, and the pleasant country I am now in.

24. Tuesday. Travelled S.W. b. S. 5 Miles. I killed a large Moose, took the heart, & gave the remains to the Indians. Level land and ledges of woods. Saw several Magpies, Pidgeons, and beautiful Wood-peckers. We are yet in Muscocy plains.

25. Wednesday. Travelled 5 Miles West, Level land. Indians killed 6 Moose & 2 Buffalo.


27. Friday. Travelled 7 Miles W. b. N. Ridgy land with hommocks of wood & small Creeks. Indians killed 6 Beaver, 3 Moose and 3 Buffalo. Saw a large smoke which we think are the Archithinene (Blackfeet) natives.  

28. Saturday. Travelled none. Several tents of Indians joined us: they made me a present of some fat meat and one dried snake 6½ feet long.

29. Sunday. Travelled none. Women dressing Skins for Shoes. Joined by more Asinapost (Assiniboine) Indians, & two Archithinene (Blackfeet) natives on Horseback; who informed us it is the Archithinene (Blackfeet) Smoke we saw: and that it will be eight days before we reach them.

30. Monday. No Mosquitoes to trouble us; Travelled 7 Miles W. S. W. Level lands, & small hommocks of woods. Joined by more Asinapost (Assiniboine) Indians, who have 6 pack-horses loaded with provisions, &c.

October 1. Tuesday. Travelled none. Came to us 7 tents of Archithinene (Blackfeet) Indians; the men all mounted on Horse-back, with Bows and Arrows, & bone spears & darts. I gave the Leader a foot of tobacco, one fire steel, a string of beads, a knife; and smoked with them. By (338) my interpreter he said that he would inform their Great Leader of my coming & so left us.

32. Wednesday. Travelled 7 Miles S. W. Level land. In the evening an Asinapost (Assiniboine) Indian shot a Boy by accident. Saw several wild Goats. My feet a little swollen.

33. Thursday. Travelled 13 Miles W. S. W. passed 3 Creeks where were growing the largest Pines and Birch trees I have yet seen. Indians killed 8 Buffalo, 2 Moose and three Beaver.

34. Friday. Travelled W. S. W. 5 Miles. Hillocks, Dales and Willows; plenty of water ponds: Buffalo in great droves: Indians killed 5 &.

35. Saturday. went 6 Miles W. S. W. Level land and no woods; passed two creeks, & several Iron Mines running in large long veins. Great plenty of Buffalo. We are still in the Muscocy Country.

36. Sunday. Travelled 7 Miles S. W. Several Creeks with plenty of Beaver: Indians killed 38 Buffalo. They are not so large as those I first met with. Two young men brought in 3 Goats: they are not so large as the Welsh ones.

37. Monday. Travelled none. Several Indians joined us. I was invited to a Beaver feast; Saw the Archithinene (Blackfeet) Smoke. Here is a ridge of fine flint stone.

38. Tuesday. Travelled 7 Miles S. W. pleasant valleys, hillocks, & ledges of woods. Indians killed a great many Buffalo, took out the tongues & left the remains to be eat by the Wolves. I cannot say whether them or the Buffalo are most numerous. Saw several snakes.

39. Wednesday. Travelled 5 Miles S. W. b. W. Level land with plenty of Creeks, 16 tents of different Natives pitched from us different ways. Indians killed many Buffalo.

(136) (Descending Mackenzie River, Sunday July 5, 1789, Dog-rib and Athapascow or Slave Indians. Athapaskan stock.) Their lodges are of a very simple structure: a few poles supported by a fork, and forming a semicircle at the bottom, with some branches or a piece of bark as a covering, constitutes the whole of their native architecture. They build two of these huts facing each other, and make the fire between them. The furniture has—(167)—monises with the buildings; they have a few dishes of wood, bark, or horn; the vessels in which they cook their victuals are in the shape of a gourd, narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, and of watape,* fabricated in such a manner as to hold water, which is made to boil by putting a succession of red-hot stones into it. These vessels contain from two to six gallons. They have a number of small leather bags to hold their embroidered work, lines, and nets. They always keep a large quantity of the fibres of willow bark, which they work into thread on their thighs.

*Watape is the name given to the divided roots of the spruce-fir, which the natives weave into a degree of compactness that renders it capable of containing a fluid. The different parts of the bark canoes are also sewed together with this kind of filament.
10. Thursday. Travelled none. Indians killed several Beaver for cloathing, as cold weather is approaching. 16 Beaver were taken out of one house. They are very numerous about the Creeks.

11. Friday. Travelled 7 Miles S.W.b.W. then came to Waskesew (Red Deer) River, and crossed it on a Fall about two feet high (Hendy crossed Red Deer River a little above Knee Hills Creek, 51° 33' N. Lat.), and much the same (337) depth, & 30 poles wide. On both sides there are stones of different sizes & weight; quite round, and of iron color; and a little distance from the River, are veins of iron-ore running along the surface of the ground. No woods to be seen. Indians killed several Beaver and 3 Moose.


13. Sunday. Travelled 7 Miles S.W.b.W. Level land, and ledges of woods; and numbers of Buffalo. Indians killed a great many. In the evening we were joined by 7 Archithinie (Blackfeet) Natives on horse-back, who informed us we should see the Great Leader, & numbers of Archithinie (Blackfeet) Natives to-morrow.

14. Monday. Travelled 4 Miles S.W.b.W. Then came to us four men on horse-back; they told us they were sent from the main body to see whether we were Friends or Enemies. We told them we were friends. Attickasish, Canawappaw, Cokamanakisish, and the other of our Leaders walked in front about 4 Miles farther then we; came to 200 tents of Archithinie Natives, pitched in two rows, and an opening in the middle; where we were conducted to the Leader's tent; which was at one end, large enough to contain fifty persons; where he received us seated on a clear (white) Buffalo skin, attended by 30 elderly men. He made signs for me to sit down on his right hand: which I did. Our Leader set on several grand-pipes, and smoked all round, according to their usual custom: not a word was yet spoke on either side. Smoking being over, Buffalo flesh boiled was served round in baskets of a species of bent, and I was presented with 10 Buffalo tongues. Attickasish my Guide, informed him I was sent by the Great Leader who lives down at the great waters, to invite his young men down to see him and to bring with them Beaver skins, & Wolves skins: & they would get in return (338) Powder, Shot, Guns, Cloth, Beads, &c. He made little answer: only said that it was far off, & they could not paddle. Then they entered upon indifferent subjects until we were ordered to depart to our tents, which were pitched about a full quarter of a Mile without their lines.

15. Tuesday. Froze a little last night. Our women employed dressing Beaver skins for cloathing. About 10 o'clock A.M. I was invited to the Archithinie (Blackfeet) Leader's tent: when by an interpreter I told him what I was sent for, & desired of him to allow some of his young men to go down to the Fort with me, where they would be kindly received, and get Guns &c. But he answered, it was far off, & they could not live without Buffalo flesh; and that they could not leave their horses &c: and many other obstacles, though all might be got over if they were acquainted with a Canoe, and could eat Fish, which they never do. The Chief further said they never wanted food, as they followed the Buffalo & killed them with the Bows and Arrows; and he was informed the Natives that frequented the Settlements, were oftentimes starved on their journey. Such remarks I thought exceeding true. He made me a present of a handsome Bow and Arrows, & in return I gave him a part of each kinds of goods I had, as ordered by Mr. Isham's written instructions. I departed and took a view of the camp. Their tents were pitched close to one another in two regular lines, which formed a broad street open at both ends. Their horses are turned out to grass, their legs being fettered: and when wanted, are

(34) Having barely enough horses to pack their effects nearly all the able-bodied men and women were on foot. The order of march being, first 3 mounted warriors, one keeping the proposed line of march, the others acting as flankers observing a distance of about half a mile to the right end left of the centre guide. Next in line of march, and immediately preceding the main body, were about 50 warriors afoot, and armed for action, moving, however, without any more display of military order than would a herd of so many cattle. Then followed the camp proper, men, women, and children leading and driving the ponies all heavily laden with camp equipage, not even the little colts nor the dogs were exempt from burden, and all in an indescribable state of disorder. Bringing up the rear was a guard of about 75 warriors mounted on the best horses. From this company, at intervals of about a mile small detachments of 5 or 6 were sent ahead, riding swiftly on either flank, until they reached a point a mile or two in advance of the main column, when, taking a position on some knoll, they would dismount, and sitting down in the snow, fill a pipe for a smoke, while their ponies foraged in the snow for the nutritious buffalo grass. Here they would remain till the rear guard came up when they would rejoin them. In the mean time another party of flankers had gone out, and so all day long. Our progress was necessarily slow, making an average of about 13 miles a day.

War Path and Bivouac, or the Conquest of the Sioux, by John F. Finerty, 3d. Edition, Chicago, 1890. (Finerty accompanied Gen. Crook's column in the 1876 Campaign against the Sioux.)

(35) We used to joke about the infantry, and call them by their Indian name of "walk-a-heaps," but, before the campaign was over, we recognized that man is a harder animal than the horse, and that "shenk's mare" is the very best kind of a charger.


(36) The infantry had remained in camp the past night twelve miles back and at 5 A.M. resumed the march, coming up with the cavalry toward noon, having been greatly delayed by the pack train.

(37) The halt was made at 9 P.M., the infantry having marched thirty miles, the remainder of the command about eighteen.


These dogs, if they are not broken in, are quite unfit for the sleigh; when, however, they are accustomed to the work, they draw a sleigh over the snow more easily than the best horse. If the snow is frozen, they run over it, where the horse sinks in, and they can hold out much longer. They can perform a journey of thirty miles in one day; and if they have rested a hour on the snow, and had some food, they are ready to set out again. A horse must have sufficient food, frequent rest, and a good watering place, and when it is once tired it cannot be induced to proceed.


(38) (Pembina River Post, 1803-04.) Oct. 3d. Mr. Langlois and others started for the Hair hills. This caravan demands notice, to show the vast difference it makes in a place where horses are introduced. It is true they are useful animals, but if there were not one in all of the North West, we should have less trouble and expense. Our men would neither be so burdened with families, nor so indolent and insolent as they are, and the natives in general would be more honest and industrious.

(See: Note opposite p. 44, load capacity of horses and dog.)
fastened to lines cut out of Buffalo skin, that stretches along & is
fastened to stakes drove in the ground. They have hair halters, Buffalo
skin pads, & stirrups of the same. The horses are fine tractable
animals, about 14 hands high; lively and clean made. The Natives are
good Horsemen, & kill the Buffalo on them. These Natives are drest much
the same as others; but more clean & sprightly. They think nothing of
my tobacco; & I set as little value on theirs:
(332) which is dried Horse-dung (wrong: it was probably the Nicotiana
quadrivalvis, either pure or mixed with other ingredients). They appear
to be under proper discipline, & obedient to their Leader: who orders a
party of Horsemen Evening & Morning to reconitre (sic); and proper
parties to bring in provisions. They have other Natives Horsemen as well
as Foot, who are their Enemies: they are also called Archithinue Indians
(Blackfeet): & by what I can learn talk the same language, & hath the
same customs. They are, like the other Natives, murthing one another
slyly. Saw many fine Girls who were Captives; & a great many dried
Scalps with fine long black hair, displayed on poles, & before the
Leader's tent. They follow the Buffalo from place to place: & that
they should not be surprised by the Enemy, encamp in open plains. Their
fuel is turf, & Horse-dung dried; their cloathing is finely painted with
red paint; like unto English Ochre: but they do not mark nor paint their
bodies. Saw four Asses.
(340) 16. Wednesday. Women employed as yesterday. With the Leader's
permission, I rode a hunting with twenty of his young men. They killed
8 Buffalo, excellent sport. They are so expert that with one, or two,
arrows they will drop a Buffalo. As for me I had sufficient employ to
manage my horse. When I came home I was invited to the Leader's tent
again where were all the Assinopet (Assiniboin) Leaders, etc., I thought
it very curious as there were four different languages among us. The
Leader gave orders to pitch away from him, and that we would see him
again in the Spring, when they came down after the Buffalo. He gave one
of the Leaders two young slaves as a present and 40 Buffalo tongues;
they were both girls. (Graham notes: 1765, "one of them was murthered
at York Port by a Bone-Native in a fit of jealousy."
17. Thursday. 332 tents of Archithinue (Blackfeet) Natives unpitched and
moved Westward; 17 tents of Assinopet (Assiniboine) Natives moved
Northwards; and we moved S.W.b.W. 9 Miles. Level land with ledges of
Poplar and willows. Passed two creeks, but little water in them; and
none to be got anywhere else.
18. Friday. A gentle frost: Travelled none. The Women employed dressing
skins for cloathing &c.
19. Saturday. Snow at times; Travelled none. Women employed as Yesterday.
20. Sunday. Travelled none. Women employed making Beaver coats; Men
hunting; killed 5 Buffalo & one black Bear.
21. Monday. Travelled none. I asked the men why they did not go to kill
Beaver & Wolves: but they made me very little answer.
22. Tuesday. Travelled 5 Miles W.S.W. Level land with poplars; a great
many small Creeks & ponds, with plenty of Beaver houses. Indians killed
a few, & I killed three. Fifteen tents pitched another way.
23. Wednesday. Travelled 7 Miles W.S.W. Land &c. as yesterday. Indians
killed two Moose, one Buffalo & only ten Beaver; when I am certain they
might have killed 300 if they had chased: but they only killed a few for
cloathing, & for Beaver feasting; Buffalo being their chief food at
present. The ponds here are surrounded with Beaver houses; & numbers
along the Banks of creeks; the roofs are thin and easily broke into.
24. Thursday. It freezes in the nights & thaws in the days; Travelled 6 Miles W.S.W. Level land; plenty of Creeks, & Beaver houses. Indians killed 3 Moose & a few Beaver.

25. Friday. Travelled 5 Miles W.S.W. Land &c. as yesterday. Indians killed one Buffalo.

26. Saturday. Hall at times. Travelled 9 Miles W.S.W. then (341) crossed Waskesew River (Knee Hills Creek) 3 feet deep & 10 poles wide: The current runs East. Large timber of sorts growing on its banks. Indians killed a few Beaver.

27. Sunday. Travelled 6 Miles W.S.W. Level land; & ledges of large birch, Creeks, ponds, and plenty of Beaver houses.


29. Tuesday. Left Muscovy plains, which I have been in since the 13th August, & travelled 5 Miles West. Level lands. Tall woods, & plenty of Creeks.

30. Wednesday. Travelled 4 Miles W.b.N. Land & Woods as yesterday. Indians killed 3 Moose and several Beaver.

31. Thursday. Women dressing what Beaver Skins they have for cloathing. November 1. Friday. We have a gentle frost in the night but is gone by noon. Travelled 5 Miles Wb.N. Level land; Ledges of tall woods, & Creeks full of Beaver houses: Killed several & 2 Moose. Saw the Archithumne (Blackfeet) Smoke, about a days journey off to the N.W. A young Man about 22 years old eat a good many Hemlocks & died in less than two hours after. He eat the above thro' ignorance.

32. Saturday. Travelled none. Indians killed a few Beaver.

33. Sunday. Indians killed several Beaver.

34. Monday. I went with the men a Beaver killing. They killed a few, & I two: they are numerous hereabouts, but the Indians would not stay above 3 hours from their tents. Dancing, Drumming &c.

35. Tuesday. Cold freezing weather. Indians killed a few Beaver, & I two.

36. Wednesday. Strong gale with Sleet at times, no stirring abroad.


38. Friday. Sleet & Snow at times. Travelled none. Indians killed 3 Buffalo & 2 Moose.


41. Monday. Indians killed 13 Beaver & I killed two. The Creeks are froze over, & the ponds will bear a person.

42. Tuesday. Thaws in the days & freezes in the nights. Travelled 5 Miles North. Low grassy swamps & ledges of woods, such as Birch, Juniper, & Poplar. Indians killed 3 Waskesew (Red deer).


(343) 14. Thursday. Women making cloathing for cold weather: Some families have not got half enough of skins for cloathing them on the approaching winter: & what surprises me most, they never go out of their tents but when they want provisions, altho' the Beaver & Otters are swarming about us in the Creeks & Swamps, not one went out to-day but myself, & I killed two Otters.

15. Friday. Travelled 6 Miles to a creek, where there are plenty of Beaver Houses.

17. Sunday. Seven tents of Indians pitched W. ward from us & what remained, killed 7 Beaver, one Waskesew (Red deer), & 2 Moose. The Beaver Dams bear people, which favors in killing the Beaver.
18. Monday. Travelled none. Broke open two Beaver houses but got none; having got past our stakes, the Beaver houses are not so strong by two thirds of the thickness, as I have seen about York Fort.
20. Wednesday. Clear frosty weather. It snowed a little last night. Travelled none. The Indian men a Beaver hunting; the Women dressing skins for cloathing.
21. Thursday. Clear frosty weather. Travelled 6 Miles S.E. Plains & Ledges of tall Birch trees. Thaws very little to-day (Hendry now in about lat. 51' 50" N. long. 114' W., his farthest point west.).
22. Friday. Travelled none. Indians killed a few Beaver. One man narrowly escaped from a Grizzle (Grizzly) Bear that he had wounded, by throwing his Beaver coat from him; which the Bear tore to pieces, & which the Natives always do when forced to retreat. The Men and Dogs went out & killed the Bear.
23 to 37. Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday. Snow at Intervals. The men killed a few Beaver, & the Women dressing skins for (343) cloathing. My Winter rigging is almost in readiness. Drumming, Dancing, & feasting.
37. Wednesday. Travelled S.S.E. 10 miles; & came to another Creek, where there are plenty of Beaver houses. Level land, and ledges of small woods; Saw neither Beast nor Bird to-day.
38 & 39. Thursday & Friday. Indians employed killing Beaver.
40. Saturday. The men went to look for Beaver houses: found 30 very nigh us; killed 6 Cats, each as large as a sheep, and fine eating, like lamb (Puma, or mountain lion).
December 1. Sunday. No frost here more than in the middle of summer. Indians killed a few Beaver.
3 to 4. Tuesday. Frosty weather: it is now very cold: Indians pitched away from us; So that we stand in Number Viz Myself, 3 Men, 5 Women & 4 Children: killed 7 Beaver.
5 to 7. Thursday. Strong gale with freezing, drifting, weather: killed one Moose: My companions hath neither Powder nor Shot: So that we must use the gun but seldom, as they now depend on me; Women making Shoes of Moose leather: I have as yet only wore Shoes with the hair on the inside, so moderate hath the weather been.
9. Monday. A Strong frost last night: killed 3 Beaver & one Cat.
10. Tuesday. Travelled East 4 Miles: Level land: ledges of woods & ponds of water: saw plenty of Moose but did not disturb them: bad walking; the ice will neither bear nor break down.
11 & 13. Wednesday. Broke open several Beaver houses but got none: The Men must look out for Beaver as they have no Ammunition & I am resolved to take care of mine, neither would it be prudent to expend Ammunition in a Beaver Country.
14. Saturday. Rained all last night & this day, so that it hath left little snow or ice: The Moose & Waskesew (Red deer) passing & repassing in herds, within 200 yards of our tent: The men beg Ammunition from me, but without success.
15. Sunday. Travelled none. Killed one Moose with the Bow and Arrows.
(344) 17. Tuesday. Snow & ice all gone: killed 3 Beaver, and afterwards making Snow-shoes.
18. Wednesday. Made 7 pairs of Snow-Shoes, there being no Birch the way we are to go.
19. Thursday. Travelled 5 Miles East: Level land, no woods: killed one Buffalo.
30. Friday. Travelled 8 Miles E.N.E. Land as Yesterday: Saw plenty of Wolves, Moose and Waskesew (Red deer).
22. Sunday. Travelled none: Snowed all day, killed 2 Beaver.
23. Monday. Travelled nine miles E.b.N. Crossed a branch of Waskesew (Red Deer) River (Knee Hills Creek): In the Evening I wounded a Buffalo.
24. Tuesday. Travelled none: I found my Buffalo lying dead a small distance from our tent. On a rising ground I had an extensive view of the Muscuity country which will be the last this trip: inland.
25. Wednesday. Killed 3 Beaver. We have a frost in the night & partly gone in the day.
26 & 27. Thursday & Friday. Killed 3 Waskesew (Red deer) and 3 Moose: I set a Wolf-Hap. I asked the Natives why they did not Harp Wolves; they made Answer that the Archithinque (Blackfeet) Natives would kill them, if they trapped in their country: I then asked them when & where they were to get the Wolves &c, to carry down in the Spring. They made no answer; but laughed one to another.
28. Saturday. Frost & snow & very cold weather: I travelled 5 Miles N.E. b.N. Level land, & narrow ledges of poplar, Alder & trees, got a Wolf in my Hap, & set 3 more; the Wolves are numerous. An Indian told me that my tent-mates were angry with me last night for speaking so much concerning Happing, & advised me to say no more about it, for they would get more Wolves, Beaver &c, from the Archithinque (Blackfeet) Natives in the spring, than they can carry.
30. Monday. Snowing & freezing weather: Got two Wolves from my Haps: Travelled 4 Miles N.E.: Level land, Creeks, & Willows: killed one Buffalo: I supply them with powder very sparingly, one charge at a time; the bullet we oftentimes get again.
31. Tuesday. Hard freezing weather. Killed two beaver, very numerous hereabouts: I did speak again to kill beaver but to no purpose.
(1755) January 1. Wednesday. Freezing weather: Indians killed one Beaver & 2 Waskesew (Red deer). I wear a Buffalo skin pair of shoes with the hair inwards.
(345) 2. Thursday. Strong gale with freezing weather: Three tents of Indians joined us: killed one Beaver.
3. Friday. Ice 4 inches thick on the ponds; & the ground covered with snow; but not so deep as to wear Snow-shoes; Indians killed 5 Waskesew (Red deer), saw about 300 feeding in one plain. I plainly observe all our Traders must be supplied with Furs from the Archithinque (Blackfeet) & Asinepoet (Assiniboine) Natives; as the people that joined us had not Beaver skins to cloath them.
4. Saturday. Strong gale with snow. At night we had a grand feast with Drumming, Dancing &c.
5. Sunday. Moderate weather.
7. Tuesday. Sharp frosty weather: travelled 6 Miles N.E.b.N. Level land, & Willows: In the evening came to a Creek where were plenty of Wejacks (Chippewa odjik or otchig, the fisher, Mustala pennanti): killed 2 Waskesew (Red deer).

8. Wednesday. Indians killed several Beaver.

9. Thursday. Snowy weather: travelled 5 Miles N.E.b.N.: Level land with ledges of Brush-wood & poplar: Indians killed 3 Waskesew (Red deer). In the Evening we were joined by 2 more tents of our Traders, they have as few furs as the others.

10. Friday. Indians killed one Moose & 6 Waskesew (Red deer): Women knitting Snow-shoes.

11. Saturday. Freezing weather with snow: Travelled none: killed 2 Beaver: The winter is set in in good earnest so that we change from leather to fur cloathing: plenty of Creeks a small distance from where we now are.


13 to 15. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Travelled none; Indians employed hunting: killed 6 Buffalo; Saw many going Westward.


17. Friday. Travelled S.W. 5 miles after the Buffalo; Level land, & no woods: the Snow 6 inches deep, & the ice rather thicker.

18 to 21. Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday. Freezing weather, with snow at times: Indians employed killing Moose & Buffalo: Wolves numerous: Every Evening the Natives are employed dancing &c. I have had nothing on my feet as yet but a thin flannel sock & a Buffalo skin shoe with the hair inwards: My Horse begins to lose flesh.


33 to 37. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday. Snow at times. Travelled none: Men feasting, & Women getting grass for the Horses.


23. Wednesday. Travelled 4 Miles North: passed two Creeks that are not frozen over: Indians killed 3 Moose and 3 Beaver.

30. Thursday. The men went to look out for Indians; but found none: I wounded a Buffalo.


3. Sunday. The French Leader named Wappensesew promises to go with me to the Fort: he hath a great sway among the Natives and is much esteemed by the French: I presented him with a little powder &c. Indians feasting, Smoking, Dancing &c.


4. Tuesday. Travelled 4 Miles North to a branch of Waskesew (Red Deer) river (Three Hills Creek), this branch is 8 poles wide & shoal water & open places: The Horses feed on Willow tops: the land S.W. is quite barren as far as I can see.

5 to 9. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday. All hands trapping foxes. I walked in Snow-shoes for the first time this winter. In the Evening Smoked & feasted with the French Leader.
10. Monday. Traveled 4 Miles N.W. Level land & tall woods; Spoke with 4 Indian men who told us that the far distant Archithinewe (Blackfeet) Natives had killed 30 of the nigh ones & 7 of our Indians.

11 to 27. Tuesday the eleventh to the 27th. Employed Travelling & sometimes laying by killing Buffalo, Moose &c in a pleasant & plentiful (347) full country, our course towards the N.E.: We were joined by different tribes of Natives, who yearly visited our Settlements: they brought with them several Archithinewe (Blackfeet) Women & Children & Captives, with many Scalps quite green: We are now at Archithinewe (Blackfeet) lake (Devil's Pine Lake, the source of Devil's Pine Creek), about one mile broad, & a good days journey in length (about long. 113° 30" W. lat. 53° 10" N. Called Ghostpine Lake on some recent maps); with tall woods on both sides mostly pines, the largest I have yet seen.

28. Friday. Traveled 4 Miles N.E.B.E. then put up to feast &c. The Scalps were displayed on long poles round the tents; & the Captives, Boys & Girls, were given away as presents to one another. They presented to me a Boy & Girl; which I declined accepting of in as modest a manner as possible.

March 1. Saturday. Killed 3 Buffalo & 3 Moose: A Captive Girl aged about 17 years was knocked on the head with a Tomahawk by a Man's wife in a fit of jealousy: No notice was taken as such game is common amongst them; the unfortunate Girl had been presented to the Murtherer's husband yesterday.

3 & 3. Sunday & Monday. Traveled 20 Miles towards the N.E.: Level land; tall woods: passed two Creeks & crossed another branch of the Wiskesez (Red Deer) river (Henry here crossed the Red Deer River above Tail Creek, where the Red Deer turns almost due south on its way to join the South Saskatchewan).

4. Tuesday. Traveled 7 Miles N.E. on the river; the water running over the ice in places: High banks & tall woods.

5. Wednesday. Traveled 5 Miles N.B. on the river; it thaws very much; our sleds in the water most part of the way: the banks as yesterday.

6. Thursday. Employed securing their Furs from Water, in order to hunt, came being scarce here.

7. Friday. Indians pitched different ways in search of food: Myself and Tent mates are to continue here if we can procure food: We are twelve in number; three men, Nine women & Children: What (348) Ammunition I had I gave to those I hope will join me, & proceed to York Fort in May next.

8. Saturday. Hard freezing weather: Men & Women repairing Snow Shoes & Sleds: My Horse is very lean.

9 & 13. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Wednesday. Men employed hunting, killed several Moose; We live well the provisions being good.

13. Thursday. Two young Natives in the French interest brought 18 Beaver skins to trade with us for Ammunition; I gave them a little & told them to go with me to York Fort with their furs, where they would receive more goods for them in barter, than they did from the French: They gave me fair promises.

14 to 16. Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Indians hunting, very good success: Myself hath been out of order with a Head-ache: Several Indians came begging powder but I gave them none; as I have only two pound weight remaining.

17. Monday. Freezes in the nights & thaws in the days. I went a hunting with my Companions: killed nothing: plenty of Buffalo tracks, but they have been disturbed by the Natives who hunt to the Northward of us.

18. Tuesday. I went a Hunting with my Companions; Saw many Wiskesez (Red deer) but could not come at them; the Snow so hard makes a noise under our Snow-Shoes: Ten tents came & pitched alongside of us in order to build Canoes.
PIEGAN INDIANS. 1754-1755. - 15 - ANTHONY HENDRY (HENDRY).

21. Friday. Pitched our tents on the other side of the River, Water running over the ice.
8. Tuesday. Last evening we had thunder & hail accompanied with a N.W. Wind: Men employed as formerly: I gave my Horse to an old man who is to return him in case I should return again to this plentiful Country. Dancing, Drumming &c, and all good humoured.
9 to 18. Wednesday. Thursday. Friday & Saturday. All hands employed building Canoes & in the Evening Smoking the Grand Calumet &c; Several Assiniboine Indians pitched their tents a small (340) distance below us; & in the Evening smoked with me, & promised not to trade with the French at Basquea Settlement, but accompany me to York Fort.
17. Thursday. I killed a Mouse (Moose) with my Bow and Arrows, & the Natives killed a great many.
18. Friday. Saw several Flocks of Swans flying towards the N.E.
20. Sunday. Each tent killed two Dogs & had a Grand feast; I must take notice they do not skin the Animal but scrape it & Roast it over a fire, two Young Men keeping turning it; for no Women hath any concern, not even to be present; The Old Men Conjuring (making medicine) &c.
21. Monday. All hands preparing our Canoes.
22. Tuesday. The Mosquitoes are plenty and sting severely.
23. Wednesday. Displayed my Flag in Honour of St. George; & the Leaders did the same, after acquainting them & explaining my reason: In the afternoon the ice in the River broke up: a great many Geese and Swans were seen flying to the Northward: In the Evening we had a grand feast with Dancing, Drumming, Talking &c.
24. Thursday. Busy about Canoes: Killed a Swan with my Bow & Arrow; they are plenty.
25. Friday. Ice driving down the river. Finished the Canoes & preparing to set out for York Fort.
26. Saturday. Busy packing the furs in proper bundles for stowing in the Canoes.
27. Sunday. Mosquitoes plenty & sting without mercy.
28. Monday. Embarked on board my Canoe (at about the mouth of Tail Creek), & paddled down the (350) river 34 Miles, in company with 30 Canoes of Assinibois (Assiniboine) Natives: The River large, with several Islands, & high banks & tall woods.
29. Tuesday. Paddled 30 miles down the river: deep water & not one Cataract to be seen; tho' I am informed it is almost dry in the summer, & full of small Cataracts.
30. Wednesday. Paddled 20 miles down the river then came to Attickosish my Guide & a great number of Natives, who hath not yet finished their Canoes. May 1. Thursday. Paddled 30 Miles down the river: High banks: a great many Islands, & lofty woods: the water hath fallen a little: we are joined by 30 more Canoes.
2. Friday. Paddled 30 miles down the river.

(337) (June 1, 1833, at Fort Pierre, among the Sioux) The tents are generally composed of fourteen skins, each worth two dollars.

Contributions, Historical Society of Montana, Vol. III. Affairs at Fort Benton from 1831 to 1839 by Lieutenant James H. Bradley, U.S.A.

(355) (Footnote by Lieut. Bradley) At Flatwood in 1849, Maj. C. (Culbertson) saw a lodge of 40 skins owned by a Blood chief named Pe-in-an-Soo-yam (Seen from afar) - the lodge poles were 35 feet long, and it contained two fires.

The ordinary lodge has from 8 to 13, sometimes 30 skins; with poles 15 to 25 feet - these were 30 poles - the ordinary lodge having from 15 to 20 poles.

He was the greatest chief Maj. Culbertson ever saw among the Blackfeet - having 10 wives and 100 horses. He died in 1870 aged about 60. - J.H.S.


(373) Tipis. --- From fourteen to twenty-six poles were used in a lodge, and one or two for the wing poles on the outside; these latter for adjusting the wings, near the opening at the top of the lodge, for the escape of smoke; the wings were kept at such angles as to produce the best draught. The best poles are made from the slender mountain pine, which grows thickly in the mountains. The squaws cut and trim them, and carefully peel off the bark. They are then partially dried or seasoned, and are first pitched for some time without any covering of canvas or skin. By being thus slowly cured they are kept straight. The length depends on the size of the lodge of course, and varies from sixteen to thirty feet.


(573) (Tipis) The tent is stretched on poles from 13 to 20 feet in length according to the size of it, each family making one to suit the number of persons to be accommodated or their means of transporting it; therefore their size vary from 6 to 30 skins each, the one being the smallest, and the other the largest size in general use, the common or medium size being 18 skins, which will lodge a family of eight persons with their baggage, and also have space to entertain two or three guests. The area of a lodge of twelve skins when well pitched is a circumference of 31 feet, and the space each grown inmate requires for bed and seat would be about 3 feet in width. People seldom stand upright in a lodge. They enter in a stooping posture, and moving forward in this way to the seat opposite, sit there until they leave. When sleeping the feet of everyone is turned toward the center of the lodge, where the fire is made, the smoke escaping at the opening in the top. The material will last with some repairs about three years, not longer. They usually make new lodges every third summer and cut up their old ones for leggings and mocassins. Their lodges are always carried along when they travel with the camp, being packed on a horse in summer, or on a travois in winter, in default of horses, and when the snow is deep they keep out wind and rain and answer all their purposes, but are cold, smoky and confined. Families of from 3 to 10 persons, large and small, occupy tents of different dimensions, say, one of 6 skins for the former and one of 16 skins for the latter number. Lodges of 36 skins are sometimes found among the Sioux, owned by chiefs or soldiers. These when carried are taken apart in the middle in two halves and each half packed on a separate horse. When erected the halves are again joined by wooden transverse pins, the poles are dragged on the ground, being tied together in equal-sized bundles, and slung to each side of the horses. A tent of this size will accommodate 50 to 80 people on an occasion of feast or council, as they can sit in rows three or four deep; about 30 persons, however, could sleep therein with ease, independent of the space required for baggage, provisions, and utensils.
3. Saturday. Paddled 30 miles down the river: it is very large and many islands, with lofty well-grown woods.
6. Tuesday. Paddled 30 miles: we expect to see the Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Natives.
7 & 8. Wednesday & Thursday. Paddled 66 miles down the river: provisions begin to be scarce.
10. Saturday. Paddled 40 miles N.N.E.: the river deep & the banks high: Indians killed a Buffalo.
12. Monday. Paddled 10 miles E.b.N. then came to one hundred tents of Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Natives. Their Leader invited me to his tent, and gave me plenty of Buffalo flesh: our Indians bought a great many Wolves from them, for old axes &c. (confirming what they told Hendry on Dec. 38) I could not persuade them to go to the Fort.
13. Tuesday. Paddled 30 Miles: killed 4 Buffalo, a great number grazing along the Banks. The Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Natives were mounted on good Horses.
14. Wednesday. Paddled 16 Miles: then killed 30 Buffalo grazing along the river side.
15. Thursday. Paddled none: killed a great number of Buffalos: Indian women and children employed drying meat. One hundred and twenty seven tents of Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Natives came to us: I bought 30 Wolfe's skins from them, and the Indians purchased great numbers of Wolves, peaver & Foxes etc. which proves what the Woman formerly (351) told me, concerning the Natives getting part of their Furs from the Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Indians. They told me that I should soon see their Leader, I did my endeavour to get some of them down to the Fort; but all in vain: and altho' the Indians promised the Chief Factor at York Fort to talk to them strongly on that Subject, they never opened their mouths; and I have great reason to believe that they are a stoppage: for if they could be brought down to trade, the others would be obliged to trap their own Furs: which at present two thirds of them do not. These brave Natives swarmed their Horses across the river; they looked more like to Europeans than Indians. They shared amongst us 10 Buffalo.
16. Friday. Paddled 30 Miles N.b.E. when we came to 30 tents of Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Natives: I talked with them as I did with the others; but all to no purpose. Our Indians traded a great many Furs from them. They have the finest Horses I have yet seen here, and are very kind people.
17. Saturday. Paddled none. Ten tents of Eagle Indians (might be Eagle band of Assiniboines before referred to) joined the Archithinuie (Blackfeet) Indians. Five Canoes of them are going to the Fort with me. They are a tribe of the Asinipoet (Assiniboine) Nation; and like them use the Horses for carrying the baggage and not to ride on. I was invited to the Archithinuie (Blackfeet) tents, where were feasting, etc.: much in the same manner as our Indians practice.
18. Sunday. Paddled 32 Miles N.E.; the river broad & deep with many Islands: the banks low & small woods, Viz; Birch Hazel Poplar & Fir: killed four Buffalo; they are numerous about the river sides.
19. Monday. Paddled 30 Miles N.E.b.E.; River as before; Musketoes plenty.
20. Tuesday. Paddled 30 Miles N.E.b.N. a noble spacious river.
21. Wednesday. Paddled none. Seventy tents of Archithiue (Blackfeet) Natives came to us, headed by the Leader that I saw in the Musquoy Country: I used my utmost endeavors to get a few of his young men to the Fort; but to no purpose. They had very few Wolves or Furs of any kind, having traded them before with the Pegoganaw (probably Piegans) Indians who are gone to the Fort, we are above 60 Canoes and there are scarce a Gun, Kettle, Hatchet, or Knife amongst us, having traded them with the Archithiue (Blackfeet) Natives.

22. Thursday. Paddled 30 Miles N. & W. the river broad and deep, no Islands. It appears to me at present to be a fine river but the Indians tell me that it is almost dry in the middle of Summer. The young men killed 4 Buffalo this morning & I gave away the remains of my powder & shot.

23. Friday. Paddled 30 Miles N.E. then came to a French Trading House (Fort La Corne) where were 4 men. The Master invited me to supper, but we had no bread until we were done; then he presented me with half a biscuit and a dram of French Brandy, and told me that this House was subordinate to Basquea and they heard of my passing by last Autumn.

24. Saturday. The Natives received from the Master ten Gallons of Brandy half adulterated with water; and when intoxicated they traded Cased Cats, Martens, & good parchment Beaver skins, refusing Wolves & dressed Beaver. In short he received from the Natives nothing but what were prime Winter furs.

25. Sunday. Rained hard last night; I could not get the Natives away today; it is surprising to observe what an influence the French have over the Natives; I am certain he hath got above 1000 of the richest skins.


27. Tuesday. Paddled 70 miles N.E.; Low banks, Tall woods, and deep water.

28. Wednesday. Thunder & lightning. Paddled 34 miles E.N.E. then came to a Creek where we angled plenty of Fish which were acceptable.

29. Thursday. Paddled 60 miles, then came to a French House I passed last Autumn (Fort Poskoyac or Pasquia or Basquea); there were a Master & 8 men. On our arrival they gave the Natives 10 Gallons of Brandy adulterated, and they are now drunk. The Master (presumably St. Lucie La Corne) invited me in to sup with him, and was very kind; he is dressed very Genteel, but the men wear nothing but thin drawers, & striped cotton shirts ruffled at the hands & breast. This House has been long a place of Trade belonging to the French, & named Basqua. It is 30 feet long; 13 feet wide; 9 feet high to the ridge; having a sloping roof; the Walls Log on Log; the top covered with Birch-rind, fastened together with Willows, & divided into three apartments: One for Trading goods, one for Furs, and the third they dwell in.

30. Friday. The Indians drank so much I could not get them away; nor was I capable to prevent them from trading their prime furs. I breakfasted with the French Master, and he showed me the stock of Furs Viz: A brave parcel of Cased Cats, Martens, and parchment Beaver. Their Birch-rind Canoes will carry as much as an India Ship.

31. Saturday. The Indians would not set out: they have kept a continued trading with the French; and I believe many would trade all if they
could persuade the French to take their heavy furs. Breakfasted &c with the Master; He said he was going with the furs to one of the Chief Settlements (Kaministiquia, or, perhaps, Michilimackinac) as soon as he received the Furs from the upper house, which would be in a few days hence. June 1. Sunday. Could not paddle: Breakfasted with the Master. Several Assinapost (Assiniboine) Natives distributed their heavy Furs and Pelts, that the French have refused, amongst our Indians with directions what to trade them for.


3. Tuesday. Paddled none: mustered my Gang total 70 Canoes.


5. Thursday. Paddled 40 miles N.E.b.N. sometimes in Lakes & sometimes in Rivers: Carried our Canoes over three points of land.


7. Saturday. Paddled 40 miles N.N.E. & N.b.E. barely depth of water for our Canoes: killed several large Pike and Carp with our paddles.


10. Tuesday. Paddled none: all hands employed killing Fish Viz. Carp, Guyniad, & Pike, also a few Shads, Burbot (Lota maculosa) and Perch: the fish eats insipidly without Salt; my stock being expended.

(354) 11. Wednesday. Paddled to Wekekeman Lake (possibly Oxford lake) Caught several Sturgeon with our Fish-gigs; good food.

12. Thursday. Paddled half way through the Lake and came to a small Island where we put up for the night.

13. Friday. Paddled across the Lake and came to a small river where we put up for the night.

14. Saturday. Paddled down the river and came to Dear Lake.

15. Sunday. Paddled through Dear Lake and came to Steel river: here met with 4 Canoes who had been at the Fort, & who informed me of the death of Mr. Skrimsheur, second in Command at York Fort; and that the Governor & all the men were well. Went & found my tobacco safe that I left here last Autumn: We smoked drank out two Runlets of Brandy that the Natives had brought from the fort.

16 to 20. Monday to Friday. Sometimes had good water & sometimes dragged our Canoes; had several Canoes damaged: when on the 20th day of this month of June we arrived at the fort, where we were kindly received.