

John Mason Brown

Fort Benton

1862 _____ Rocky Mount's

If any accident should happen to me and this memorandum come into any white man's hands let him please communicate with my Father, Hon. Mason Brown, Frankfort, Kentucky, U. S.

Chief Mountain Lake
British America
July, 1862

1862

May 13

Tuesday - Left St Louis on my 2nd trip to the mountains. Took the Hannibal packet to intercept Spread Eagle at St. Joe. Fare to St. Joe \$10.50.

[The Spread Eagle: Sidewheel, wooden hull packet steamboat. Size: 210' X 36' X 6.', 389 tons.]

May 14

Wednesday - Arrived at Hannibal at 6 1/2 A. M. took R R to St Joe at 11 1/2. Arr at St Joe 10 1/2 P. M.

May 15

Thursday - The Spread Eagle hove in sight at 10 and by 12 we were afloat for the Mts. Find the boat a good deal crowded. A number of old friends on board - Bob Bailey, Frank Constance, Jake [or Frank?] Schneider, Charley Chouteau [*Probably Charles P. Chouteau for whom Chouteau County, Montana, is named*], Andy Isaacs, Al Clark, Dave Risley, etc, etc.

May 16

Friday - Got settled in Room B. with Geo Parker of St Louis for chum. No trouble with low water. We go on very well indeed for the season.

May 17

Saturday - The military drill project of last year is being revived - but I prefer talking with Constable and Mr Alex Dawson brother of my friend Andy Dawson [*Major Andrew Dawson, the American Fur Company's head man at Fort Benton*] who go up with us as far as Omaha.

May 18

Sunday - Reached Omaha at 5 1/2 A. M. Stopped a couple of hours to put off Pawnee Annuities. Walked through the village. Service by Father De Smet whom I have known very well for some time but whom I did not know to be the prototype (as Malcom Clarke [*of the American Fur Company*] assures me he is) of Eugene Sue's perfect priest Gabriel. Passed Council Bluffs at 4 P. M.

May 19

Monday - Travelled all day without detention, passing among other notabilities the Omaha Mission, Blackbird's hills and grave and the intricate bend at Decatur where we last year lost near a day.

May 20

Tuesday - Passed Omadi at 6 1/2 A. M. Got to Sioux City at noon. Put off a little freight and took aboard beef &c. A few Iowa troops (recruits) here.

May 21

Wednesday - Made a point about 20 m below Bonhomme Island ^above Yankton^ and lay here all night. Met the Mt rise about noon.

May 22

Thursday - Worked hard all day (as yesterday also) on the Annuity distribution. The Agent utterly incompetent to do his own work. Chouteau, Isaac & I do it for him. Passed Bonhomme Is at 10 o'clock. Here we lay for 12 days last year but aground. The whole neighborhood looked very familiar and recalled many recollections of Graham. Our stop last night was above Yankton. This is the capital of Dakotah Territory 3 houses here in one of which the territorial Legislature is sitting. The majority of the law givers were drunk on the bank. Tied up at the Yankton Agency. Met Galpin & [Walter Atwood] Burleigh In agt. Also Vaughns squaws and old Zephyer. A war dance was performed for the benefit of the green ones. Not many Yanktons here. The majority off for buffalo.

May 23

Friday - Passed the L'eau qui court [a river] and to Fort Randall by breakfast. 3 companies 14th Iowa in garrison. Lightened up our boat a couple of inches by putting of[f] Govt freight. Left Randall 10 1/2 A. M. At Rochambeau's Island or landing found a bad river in the afternoon. Passed too a beautiful spot where Hamilton a cashiered U S Army officer has lived with his Indian wife for 10 years or more. In afternoon reached Little Cedar Island and tied up a short distance above it. The cedar timber all cut of[f] and rafted to Ft. Randall to build the post.

May 24

Saturday - Bijou Hills at 7 1/2, Key West No 2 [a steamboat], our consort, in sight. Waited for her to catchup after passing her. Found great quantities of pure mica on the river bank. The boats wooded together and lay by for the night.

May 25

Sunday - Game in sight. Elk Antelope & Buffalo but at great distances. 33 persons cut across the Big Bend (4 m by land 40 by water). Took them up, heartily fatigued, at 7 1/2 PM. The Key West got 2 Buffalo. Dawson & Clarke have never before seen buffalo so low down the River. The indications are that game will be very abundant.

May 26

Monday - Numerous Antelope and a few buffalo in sight but at too great a distance to be hunted, and the new hands are to[o] tired after yesterdays tramp to try a long walk again very soon.

May 27

Tuesday - 12 m by 6 am to the bar at foot of Farm Island (so called from an agricultural experiment repeated through several years by the Fur Co without success). Remember to have been detained here for a day, last year, by the shallowness of the water. While sounding for the channel Jeff Smith's mackinac boat came down bound from the Gros Ventres to St Louis loaded with 1400 buffalo robes. Chas Chouteau purchased them and we took them aboard. Over the bar and to Fort Pierre (18 m) by 5 P. M. Came to 3 m above the fort - the only landing. A good many Sioux here perhaps 1800. Big Head, of the Yancktonaise band came on board and with about 30 of his warriors invited himself to stay all night. They slept on the Cabin floor. Every indication of trouble tomorrow.

May 28

Wednesday - Landed the Company freight and Annuities for the Minne Kanjous, Brules, Unk Pa-Pas, Schaspas, Yanktonaise and Blackfoot Sioux tribes.

Latta, the new agent held a council. The chiefs of 5 bands refused the Annuities and "Bear Rib" grand chief of all demanded that the Arricara Annuities should be given up the Sioux being at war with that tribe. I have never seen a more humiliating sight than the terror of Latta when the Chiefs declared they would detain us and the boat until the Arricara goods were given up. He turned pale and shook with fear as if an ague were on him. A fight seemed imminent. Chouteau requested me to take care of the defense of the boat and I and [*the Spread Eagle's Captain, Robert E.*] Bailey had posted 20 picked men and loaded all arms so well as to feel certain of getting the best of the fight, when the Agent ignominiously acceded to the demand and surrendered the Ree [*Arricara*] annuities. He came on board and retreated to his State room. The boat was cast loose at 5 P. M. amid the curses of the passengers & the huzzas of the Sioux.

May 29

Thursday - We were hailed by two Indians whom we recognized as Minnetarees. Took them aboard and ascertained that they belonged to a War Party that last night made a descent on the Sioux camp, carrying off a good many horses. These two got separated from their friends and were hotly pursued when we opportunely came in sight and took them up. Passed Big Cheyenne River at 4 o'clock.

May 30

Friday - Game in view, but far from the river. Saw one band of at least 100 antelope. Too many hunters to get much meat. Several of us took a long pull in the yawl to the Key West to direct her to the Channel.

May 31

Saturday - Without incident amused myself with a Gros Ventre Indian Mah-ish' angllice "Hoop Iron" who made some spirited but rude drawings for me. Antelope and Elk in sight in great numbers but frightened from the River by the boat. About 400 Buffalo seen. Ran upon a bar after dark and sparred all night before we got off.

Jun 1

Sunday - This morning came into the Sandstone formations. Butes in the Distance and the face of the country entirely changed. Made Mouth of Cannon Ball River by 5 P. M. *Lonthen* & Parker tried a hunt across a bend with the 2 Gros Ventres & came in very hot and heartily tired. The June rise is beginning to come down rapidly & with a head.

Jun 2

Monday - River rising rapidly and indications. Took up in afternoon our 2 Gros Ventres who with Johnson a deck passenger went out last night to hunt ahead. They brought in buffalo. Johnson came in minus hat & coat and fagged out. Passed Heart Bute and Heart River. Wooded at Assininboin Island.

Jun 3

Tuesday - Square Butes by 12 m These are the ostensible boundary of the Sioux and Ree territory - little observed by either party. Killed 2 Buffalo in the River. Fort Clark & the Ree Village by 5 P. M. The Rees, so numerous here last year have abandoned the location for a new village across the River from the Minnetarees and Mandans 60 m above this, at Fort Berthold. We proceeded to demolish Fort Clarke tearing down the pallisades and Houses for fuel. Put out an anchor and lay all night. Numbers of buffalo in sight.

Jun 4

Wednesday - Left Fort Clarke at daylight, both boats well wooded. River good and game very abundant. Killed 3 buffalo and several antelope, and scared a wolf well nigh to death by a volley of 20 or 30 bullets. 50 m to the Heart Rock and the old Mandan Village just above it. The winter houses we converted into fuel.

To Ft Berthold by 8 o'clock. Gros Ventres celebrating a Scalp Dance over a Sioux killed a few days since. Our 2 Indians received with great joy by their friends. Lay here all night.

Jun 5

Thursday

Discharged Annuities and Company freight. Held a council (Latta) with Mandans and Gros Ventres. Latta bullied these weak tribes in perfect conformity with his abject fear of the Sioux. During council the Emilie[,] La Barges boat[,] came up. 3 miles up the river we put out goods for the Rees, who have built a village on the West bank and formed an alliance with the Gros Ventres & Mandans against the Sioux. While here the Emilie passed us. Caught up with the Emilie at the Gros Ventre winter village 60 miles above Ft Berthold. Wooded from the lodges, the 3 boats Emilie[,] Spread Eagle & Key West laying in a clump through the night. Nick Wall & McKellops came over to see us.

Jun 6

Friday - Started early. The Emilie in attempting to pass us ran across our bows and got her sides somewhat crushed. [Emilie's Captain, Joseph] LaBarge aimed his rifle at [Spread Eagle's Captain, Robert E.] Bailey but did not fire. Great excitement, our passengers rallying with Rifles & pistols to Baileys assistance. No firing fortunately. In afternoon immense numbers of Buffalo blackening the Prairies to the Westward. Passed the mouth of White Earth River late in the afternoon. This is the most Northern point of the Mo River its latitude is 48 degrees 16 m. Tied up and wooded at a small stream on North bank. Bear tracks seen.

[Another version of this story from Joseph LaBarge Steamboat Captain. T. S. Bowdern, S.J.; The Missouri Historical Review published by the State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Vol 62, Summer 1968, pgs 449-469. "One incident, which occurred during the record trip was less surprising and more in keeping with the American Fur Company policy. The Spread Eagle, a fur company boat, attempted to ram the Emilie above Fort Berthold. This transpired during the first steamboat race on the upper Missouri. The Spread Eagle left St. Louis three days before the Emilie and the latter overtook her near Fort Berthold. For two days the boats were together; then the Emilie began to pull away. Captain Robert E. Bailey maneuvered the Spread Eagle into the regular channel to the right of the island while LaBarge turned to the left. The course to the left provided the captain with a shorter channel and it was navigable only because of a recent flooding of the river. As soon as Bailey realized that he was beaten, he brought his boat around in pursuit and rammed the Emilie amidships. Under the threat of being shot Bailey backed away before much damage occurred, Triumphant, the Emilie proceeded to Fort Benton and arrived four days before the Spread Eagle and returned to St. Louis a week ahead of her adversary. Charges were preferred against Bailey for his actions and the steamboat inspector revoked his license which was eventually restored through the efforts of LaBarge."]

Jun 7

Saturday - Killed 20 Buffalo out of a band of several hundred that we caught in the river. Had the Key West alongside nearly all day. Made the mouth of Big Muddy by 8 1/2 and tied up. Just below Big Muddy met Bob Lemon with a mackinac loaded with Buffalo Robes. A number of Assiniboins under their Chief White Head were encamped on the North bank gathering smoking weed.

Jun 8

Sunday - High wind all day which caused us to lose time. Mandeville shot a bald Eagle. 2 Buffalo & an Elk killed. Met a large cake of floating ice. Progress much impeded by the heavy winds. Talked late with Chouteau and did not get to bed until 3 o'clock.

Jun 9

Monday - While wooding Chouteau roused a grizzly. below Fort Williams fell in with a band of buffalo in the river. Killed about a dozen. Made Mouth of the Yellowstone at 12 o'clock and Fort Union 5 miles above 12 3/4. Meldrum & Righter here. [*Robert Meldrum, American Fur Company's head man at the fort.*] Righter leaves the country this year. Carroll down from Ft. Benton with 3 mackinacs full of robes. Meldrum reports troubles between Crows and Assiniboins. Discharged freight and went on for about 25 miles.

Jun 10

Tuesday - Made a good run & found good wood. Saw one of the spars of the ill-fated Chippeway bobbing in an eddy where it sticks as a snag. Also a box of Pilot Bread from the wreck of last year, aground on a bar. Had a good run to a point about 20 m below the scene of the burning of the Chippeway.

Jun 11

Wednesday - Passed in the forenoon a spot of burned timber on the South bank marking the place of the explosion of the Chippeway last year (23 June). Half a mile above I and Al Clark recognized the spot where we spent the comfortless night after our shipwreck. A high wind prevented our making Fort Charles by night.

Jun 12

Thursday - Made Fort Charles ___ miles from the Yellowstone built since last summer. It is situated on Wolf Point near my camp of last year and intended for the Crow trade. Consequently Meldrum has charge. Took on a horse for Clarke. Meldrum accompanies us to Milk River or the Crow Camp. Porcupine River by noon. Saw in the distance a clump of Cottonwood trees marking my camp of last year. Killed a large Elk at sundown. Lay up 20 m below Milk River.

Jun 13

Friday - Found the river a little troublesome below Milk River. Just above Milk River put Malcom Clarke ashore with horses to ride to Benton as rapidly as possible. Saw a remarkable whirlpool in the center of the river about 100 feet in diameter and converging, with a draught that took down large trees, to the center. In forenoon went through Canoyers Cut off at El Paso point, so called from Clement Canoyer who steered the first mackinac through this spring. This cut off effects a saving of 11 miles. Passed Dauphin's camp. In afternoon Mouth of Big Dry an extinct river. Culbertson tells me he has visited its head 600 miles westward. The bed is now nothing but arid sand. Made an excellent run.

Jun 14

Saturday - The river narrows rapidly as we ascend. Up to this time the points have been beautifully green and covered with large cottonwood without much growth. Above we see the barren hills of the Mauvais Terres. By 3 o'clock we came to pine timber topping the high hills. Passed numerous small Islands, low and subject to over flow. Jim Bushèe's brave on south bank. At night lay to near the Round Bute which marks 1/2 way between Forts Union and Benton.

Jun 15

Sunday - Along the Bad Lands with a very good river all day. Consumed much time in laying in wood. Late in afternoon met very strong current at Ponchette Point (so called from old Maran's dog). Broke tiller-rope and lost an hour. Just above the Point met a Mackinac from Ft Benton (Thursday night) with Hale, Kolecki and 12 of [*U.S. Army road builder, Lt. John*] Mullans men, en route for the States. Lay all night 1/2 mile above the Point. Large bank of Elk in sight. Sent letters by Kolecki.

Jun 16

Monday - River rose an inch last night. Channel narrow but deep and a good run to Beauchamps Fork. The estimates of distances vary very much. In forenoon passed mouth of Muscleshell River. Good lands about it high and well timbered. Made a large wooding at Dry Point. Took our first pine wood just before dark.

Jun 17

Tuesday - High bluffs on both banks. Two Calf Island and Cow Island in forenoon and Grand Isle after dinner. Wooded here. Killed black-tail deer and two cows. Found wood cut and split at Snake Point. No tree to make fast to and therefore kept on till 11 o'clock, reaching a point about 5 m below Bird's Rapids.

Jun 18

Wednesday - Found ourselves 1/2 mile below Buds Rapids instead of 5 m as we had supposed. Passed them without difficulty. 16 miles on came to Dauphin's Rapids - so called from a Canadian Voyageur who broke a steel chain cordelling here. Had much difficulty with the current, which fairly roars. Finally got out a couple of lines and dragged the boat over by men's strength. 10 m to the Judith River debouching through a beautiful valley well timbered and very pleasant to the eye after Bad Lands which have crowded the River since the Muscleshell. At the Judith (named from Mrs Lewis wife of Capt L of Lewis & Clarke) the tall bluffs taper down into praries extending down to the river. Saw many Big Horn but too high and distant to shoot. At dark came to Drowned Man's Rapids. Having used one cordel to round two points. After an ineffectual attempt to pass the Rapids, anchored for the night.

Jun 19

Thursday - Crossed Drowned Man's Rapids early & with great difficulty - putting out cordel and anchors. Passed thro the Bad Lands of the Judith about 50 miles. Sandstone bluffs frequently 300 ft high. All sorts of figures, pillars, forts, Cathedrals &c &c cut by the wind and rain. The scenery magnificent beyond description. River beautiful. Numerous islands, and handsome praries (after passing the Bad Lands). Lay up at night about 10 miles below the Maria River.

Jun 20

Friday - Ran rapidly up to the rapids just below Fort Benton and after hanging on them for half an hour attempted to land a cordel. In doing so one yawl was upset and of seven men 4 were drowned. Jake our mate [*Jake Schneider?*] was only saved by his own prodigious strength and the noble efforts of his brother Phil. With the exception of this most melancholy accident our voyage has been most uninterruptedly pleasant. The rescue of my old friend Jake was hailed with shouts and cheers by the whole boats company. At 12 o'clock we landed at Fort Benton our flag at half mast for the poor fellows whom we had just lost. Commenced unloading freight. Plenty of horses for all aboard.

Jun 21

Saturday - Discharged freight and commenced a brisk trade, especially in wagons. Most of the Adventurers pitched their tents about the Fort forming a very pretty camp. Met my old Bitter Root friend Dr Atkinson. [*Probably Dr. Monroe Atkinson, a physician turned gold prospector and who left the Bitterroots for another gold camp in 1862. From the "Journals of Thomas W. Harris," on the Web.*] Was pumped well nigh to death by Lynch and his comrades of that splendid swindle "The American Mining & Exploring Co." I put Risley and Atkinson in communication & knocked in the head several plans that would have embarrassed my & Dawson's operations for the season. The LaBarge passengers in a woeful way for stock &c. The Key West started back for St Louis. Made some arrangements with Morgan.

Jun 22

Sunday - Busy day. Everybody trading horses. Attended service held by F DeSmet in the Fort dining room. Spread Eagle left for St. Louis taking back Smith (J. H.) Storm in afternoon. Camped in the trading room.

Jun 23

Monday - The Crows made a raid carrying off about 70 horses. Risley &c lost their 4 mule team. F. F. Giorda & Imoda [*Jesuit priests Joseph Giorda and Camillus Imoda*] arrived from an examination of the Maria River. They have located their Mission on Birch Riv. Several parties started to day for Salmon Riv.

Jun 24

Tuesday - Buffalo Bill made an unsuccessful search for the missing horses. The Long Hair came in from the Piegan Camp at Cypress Mt. [*This may have been Buffalo Bill Comstock, who had the title before Bill Cody. It wasn't until 1868 that Cody definitively won the title in a buffalo shooting contest with Comstock.*] At night Michel Ogden and Alexander, with a party of Pend d'Oreilles [*also known as the Kalispel*] came in.

Jun 25

Wednesday - General moving off of the Adventurers for Salmon River. Risley, McKellops &c got off. Also Michel Ogden and his party for the Camp of the Kalispelms just above Sun River. [*Charles*] Galpin, of the LaBarge Opposition [*The trading company of LaBarge. Harkness & Co., the "Opposition" of the American Fur Company*] got in with a few horses from the Gros Ventres. Chambers my old guide with him. Hard rain in the afternoon. Caught a few fish.

Jun 26

Thursday - The last of the gold hunters (Neree Vallee's party) took their departure. Before they had proceeded far a severe hail storm drove them back. Hail fell in larger quantities and bigger stones than I ever saw before. Visited F. F. Giorda & Imoda at the upper Fort and talked with them for some time. Visited LaBarge and [Charles] Galpin, and worked hard with Carroll arranging the Co freight, during the remainder of the day.

Jun 27

Friday - Had a visit from [Charles] Galpin and Jno LaBarge [Brother of Joseph, Captain of the Emilie] of the opposition. Fished and sent a fine mess of pike and Catfish to the Fathers for their Friday dinner. Delaney and Lyon (good fellows both) got off. The Fort all straightened up. Paul Longtemps is chef des Engagées. Day hot and lots of mosquitoes in the prairie. Williams came in from Sun River bringing Mr Filley. Reports road from the Lake to Sun River quite unpassable for loaded wagons. A gentleman from Quincy Ill accidently shot his son. He was buried at the Coulée.

Jun 28

Saturday - The Long Hair came in to report to Little Dog outrages committed by Michel Ogden's Pend d'Oreilles upon his camp. A good deal of excitement thereat. Some Co. horses lost since 8 months were brought in. Made some definite arrangements to be consummated immediately upon Geo Steele's arrival. [Steele worked with the American Fur Company, in Helena and at Fort Benton.] Braced up the warehouse. Fished with no success. Day sultry but night quite cool.

Jun 29

Sunday - Service by Father Giorda with a short sermon in English which he translated into French and Blackfoot. In afternoon Malcom Clarke [employed by the American Fur Company] and Ahksenike (The Soft Low voice) were married by F De Smet. 3 Red River half breeds came in. Shipman of Valle's party, quite sick of Ague.

Jun 30

Monday - Geo Steele came in from Deer Lodge, reporting teams on the way over. Worden, Terry, Fred Burr and Hamilton, the latter with 70 horses. Frank Goodwin & Jack Collins from Highwood Mts bring packs of bear & elk skins. A party from the other Fort started for the Falls. Made all arrangements respecting Carroll, Gunn, Paul Longtemps & myself and Dawson. Set Gunn to work on rocker. Terry brings glowing reports from Deer Lodge diggin[g]s and Salmon River.

Jul 1

Tuesday - Rocker finished. List made up. Tom Adams & Johnny Grant in from Deer Lodge - reporting their teams and Geo Steele's purchases on the road. [In the 1850s, Johnny Grant settled in the Deer Lodge Valley and established what was to become one of the largest ranching operations in the country. There was also a lot of gold prospecting activity going on in and around the Valley since 1860, when the first paying quantities of gold in Montana were discovered nearby.] Maj Graham to be in tomorrow. Day intensely hot. Therm 97 in shade. Spent afternoon with the Jesuit Fathers. Grand dance at night winding up with a free fight between the cis and transalpine mountaineers.

Jul 2

Wednesday - My old and valued friend Major Graham arrived here from Deer Lodge, purposely to see me. Teams from that vicinity came pouring in to transport miners' supplies. [Name indecipherable] pronounces Deer Lodge Gold 21 or 22 carats fine and \$17.50 to \$18 per ounce. Filley & party returned from the Falls.

Jul 3

Thursday - Hard cold rain with high winds. Lumbermen back from the Highwood. Worden loaded his wagons.

July 4

Very cool day. Generally observed by all who could procure ardent spirits. Risley & Atkinson back very much to our surprise. Probably a grand split in their party. Bostwick with Geo Steel's purchase of Cattle from Deer Lodge. Fired a salute from the Fort Cannon & hoisted the flag.

Jul 5

Saturday - Horses all missing and an alarm of Crows & Gros Ventres. All proceeded from a daring attempt of a single Crow Indian to steal the Long Hairs stock. Stampeded the horses of upper Fort. Rock while fishing discovered the body of one of the poor men drowned on the 20 June. Mosquitoes awful in eveng. Dempsey, Johnny Grant &c leaving for Deer Lodge.

Jul 6

Sunday - Service by Father Giorda. Graham, Burr and Atkinson got off about midday. The "Shreveport" left at noon for St. Louis and we now feel as if we were indeed cut loose from civilization. F DeSmet went down to the Yellowstone. In afternoon about dusk the whole fort mounted and rode up to the Island to witness a horse race which didnt come off. High wind at bed time.

Jul 7

Monday - Dawson filled up three wagons to start tomorrow with freight for Deer Lodge. Horse race \$35 a side - 3 miles - Jake & Isidore. Late in afternoon a terrible hurricane, throwing down every lodge around the forts. Johnny Grant had a wagon loaded with \$400 worth of goods blown into the middle of the River, and lost. Presented by Malcom Clarke with an elegant buckskin suit.

Jul 8

Tuesday - Clarke with 3 wagons started for Deer Lodge with Terry's freight. Ned Williamson & Jack Collins (of Arkansas party) left for the North. Paul Guitard & party of men dispatched for Highwood Mts for timber. Fished & bathed in afternoon, but found the musquitoes terrific. Dr Atkinson left.

Jul 9

Wednesday - Had another Rocker and other mining appurtenances arranged and got all things ready for a start tomorrow. The Jesuit Fathers preparing to start for their new location on the Maria Riv. Harkness left Galpins post for Deer Lodge. Day very sultry.

Jul 10

Thursday - Left Fort Benton at 7 A. M. for St. Mary's or Chief Mountain Lake, estimated to be 200 miles to the Northwest. The party consisting of Mat Carroll (clerk at Fort Benton), Calvin Gunn, Paul Longtemps and myself. Paul has along his wife [*Margaret*] and brother in law [*Francois*], children of old [*Hugh*] of the Hudson Bay Co. We have our horses and an ox wagon & 2 yoke of Cattle. kept nearly west up the valley of the Teton crossing the bend by steep declivities intersected with coulees. Our oxen were untried and the day exceedingly hot, so we felt well satisfied with accomplishing 14 miles for this the first day. Soil barren but good grass & timber in the valleys.

Jul 11

Friday - Started at 5 1/2 and had some difficulty in surmounting a hill rendered very slippery by a heavy hail & rain that fell at day break. Took to our picks and shovels and soon made a road. Kept on the North bank of the Teton traversing a high prairie and changing our course for the Knees, two isolated butes. Having gone 15 m descended to the Teton and had a council of war. Determined to take the Prairie or Eastern Trail for St. Mary's Lake in preference to the trail along the base of the Rocky Mts. Camped therefore early on account of the long ride to next water. Our team does well to-day. Fine wind blowing. The Knees about 7 m west of us. Francois who was sent ahead last night met us with intelligence that Atkinson & c were a day in advance and would take the Mt trail.

Jul 12

Saturday - Started at 4 and after proceeding about a mile turned again into our N.N.W. course. Ascending from the valley of the Teton took an Indian trail and following it over a gently rolling prairie passed the butes known as the Knees at about 12 m. Gunn killed an antelope. No water so we called noon halt 5 m beyond the Knees to rest the cattle. Winds high and cool, from W. Kept on for about 6 m and camped at a wet weather creek tributary to the Maria's, easily known by its cut banks and about 1/2 m to the left of the trail.

Just North of our noon camp the Rocky Mts, snow capped, were visible to the West, Belt Mts to South, and the three remarkable mountains or Butes known as the Sweet Grass Butes seen all day to the North. These lie N of 49 degrees. Not a tree seen all day. Prairie in points a little stony. (N.B. a fine perennial spring on N side of East Knee. Water can always be had by digging in the heads of ravines on East slope of West Bute.)

Jul 13

Sunday - Started at 4 1/2. For about 6 m kept up the creek (or more properly pond) on which we had camped. The road very good though in places quite hilly. Followed strictly a travois trail. Leaving the creek made for a ridge NNW by W which we supposed to be close to the Maria. Reached its crest in about 22 m from our start. Pushed on for the Maria R. Got into the head of Coulees and had to diverge to W to regain the trail we had lost. It is necessary to keep 4 full points W of the Sweet Grass Butes (seen all day) in order to clear this obstruction. From the point at which we left our little creek we had no water until we struck the Maria at Gros Ventre Fork (a small tributary) which we did at 6 P. M. having accomplished by our estimate 33 good miles, 27 of them with out water. It would have been better, had we known of it, to have camped last night at the last water in the little Creek. Our cattle stood it well. Francois killed a fat antelope. Mosquitoes terrible at our camp. The Marias apparently fordable. The coulees very grand and forming a perfect labarynth. N.B. Keep straight for Western Sweet Grass Bute until the top of the ridge is attained then diverge (if the trail is lost) 4 full points to W. Game very wild.

Jul 14

About 12 last night we were all startled by a noise across the Maria. Jumped up and seized our guns. Hailed a Blackfoot & 4 Indians came up very cautiously and apparently scared. We each mistook the other for Crows. Found them to be Flatheads or Pend d'Oreilles. They camped with us. A fresh NW wind at midnight drove off the mosquitoes. Left camp at 6 AM and gaining the high prairie followed up the South bank of the Maria's. At 8 from a high point Chief Mountain our destination was seen to NW. Kept a little N of W, heading the Coulees that put into the Maria and traversing a very good natural road over rolling prairie. Through care of our oxen, made but a short drive of 13 miles to a creek tributary to the Maria. Found no wood and but brackish water. Grass very good.

Jul 15

Tuesday - Started at 4 1/2. Headed up the little creek and crossed it keeping well off from the Maria to avoid the coulees. The prairie high and well grassed - the points stony. At 1 o'clock (15 m) came suddenly upon Cut Bank Riv or Riviere aux Chord a tributary of the Maria. At the ford (where we rested an hour) the view was beautiful - a swift mountain stream, limpid water, highwater-worn, overhanging cliff-banks of sandstone. Caught a couple of good trout. From the Cut Bank kept on to the Maria's (12 m). Our course all day WNW. Had a good sight of the True Maria's Pass of the Rocky Mountains, distant perhaps 70 miles. Mountains about it all snow capped. Chief Mt in sight dimly. Sweet Grass Buttes to NNE. Rocky Mts begin to close in to the S upon us. The character of the water in streams indicates an approach to the snow-sources. We followed a travois trail to a good ford, where the banks of the River come gradually down. Camped on S bank. A light shower falling. Grass & wood abundant & good.

Jul 16

Wednesday - Last night very cold and cold winds blowing all day from the West where much snow is still laying in the Mountains. Crossed the Maria at our camp by a beautiful ford. Crossed in the forenoon a succession of valleys trending NE. The dividing ridges covered with boulders and fragments of metamorphic rock, very severe upon our stock's feet. After 9 A. M. having gained the highest ridge, made directly for Chief Mountain now in full view to the West. Stopped to rest near a small lake in a valley. Since crossing the Maria's lakes abound. Gunn killed a fine buck antelope and Carroll a wolf with his whip handle. Camped on a small stream which (in default of a name) we called Carroll's Creek. Grass & water very fine and abundant. Plenty of bois des Vaches [*dried buffalo dung*]. More handsome flowers on the prairie to day than I have ever before seen. The lakes we passed to day are all slightly alkaline. Made 23 miles. Oxens feet quite sore.

Jul 17

Thursday - Passing over some stony prairie came in about 8 m to a creek called by the Blackfeet "Po na ka ix." From this creek we crossed within 3 miles 4 other little streams in all of which we saw trout. Francois, discharging his gun accidentally, killed a horse and narrowly missed his sister Margaret, Paul's wife. In the afternoon toiled up a long, steep and very rocky hill, the first of the series this side of the Lake. Camped at 20 m - a hard day on the cattle. We extemporised shoes for the oxen out of the dead horse's hide. A very cold wind blowing from SW directly out of the Kootenay Pass. This a fine wide & apparently level road is in full view.

Jul 18

Friday - Hunted our oxen for an hour and at last found them cached in the tall grass not 50 yds from our camp fire. Kept westward during the forenoon making for the timber around St Mary's Lake, now plainly to be seen. Crossed a succession of ridges running out from the Mountains and trending NE. They become gradually less steep and rocky as one goes West. Struck pine growth on some hill tops to our right and left at 9 o'clock. Two small lakes close to our North. Came upon Atkinson's trail at 10 o'clock and halted for noon just E of the divide between the waters of the Missouri and Saskatchewan. Horseflies drove us from our noon camp. Had some very hard pulls up hills. A number of small marshy creeks which we crossed before reaching the Divide must be I think the head waters of Milk River. Reached the top of the Divide at about 3 o'clock. Pine timber on all the points. Keeping straight on for the Cut Mountain (as we called it) came to the last ridge E of St. Mary's Lake. Directed our course to a small lake in the Valley near St. Mary's. Camped there ourselves and the team very tired with about 18 m of difficult road.

Jul 19

Saturday - Moved camp in the midst of a very hard cold wind. Crossed the creek which forms outlet of St. Mary's Lake by blocking up our wagon bed. Found Atkinson & c camped near Monroes place. Took possession of Old Monroe's lodge poles and put up our lodge just by Father L'Hereux's cross - a huge pine one marking the Mission. Monroe & the Father both absent - probably gone to Fort Benton. Some Kootenay's camp'd here fishing. Constructed a raft for fishing purposes. Tested altitude by thermometer (an indifferent one of Atkinson's). Found it approximately 4500 feet.

Jul 20

Sunday - Gunn went out hunting. A Kootenay borrowed one of our lines and brought us a Lake trout about 2 1/2 ft long. Fished all the forenoon with very good success. Used up the afternoon in drying and tidying up for Sunday. There seems to be but little game hereabouts, probably the Kootenays camped hereabouts have run Elk & Big Horn back into the Mts.

Jul 21

Monday - Fished. Our cattle & horses picking up rapidly on the good grass. Day hot but a good wind blowing that keeps off the flies and mosquitoes. Explored the Lake in part. To the SW it extends perhaps 15 m, heading in the ravines and snows. For scenery it is not very remarkable though the depth of water gives it the greenish blue tint that mark all the large bodies of water W of the Mts. Towards the N the lake runs out by a small creek that links it with another large lake. Thence by Belly River it communicates with Little Bow River and the South Branch of the Saskatchewan. Some Kootenays camped near us and at night their dogs, half or more wild, stampeded our horses. Day after tomorrow we will move from this, all being anxious to change camp.

Jul 22

Tuesday - While preparing to start out on a fishing expedition John Monroe, son of Old Man M of this Lake rode in from the H B [Hudson Bay] Co's North Fort. His object to see his Father. He will go with us when we start tomorrow. The day extremely warm though we found a skim of ice on our bucket in the morning. Great quantities of Horseflies. Had to build smokes to which our stock ran, fighting for the smokiest place. Caught half a dozen very large trout.

Jul 23

Wednesday - Caught up our stock and at about 7 left St. Mary's Lake taking a NW course. The whole of Atkinsons party packed up and much to our disgust followed us closely, seemingly intent upon forcing themselves into our company. For 1 1/2 m we found the plain at the head of the Lake covered with boulders of small size. After that entering the hills found fine grass and very good soil. Crossed many little branches putting into the Creek that emptied St M Lake. Came upon a band of wild horses 4 of which were captured by Paul Longtemps, John Monroe & Jack Collins after a hard run. Made but a short drive of about 15 m. Our road lay much along hillsides and with the myriads of horseflies that infest the Country gave us quite enough for the day. Camped on a large creek. Many deer & moose tracks about.

Jul 24

Thursday - Raised camp early and had a hard time of it for some 5 m. Came upon a bear but he escaped us. Concluded to camp near the Upper Chief Mt Lake where a tribe of Kootenays are in order to trade for jerked meat. Hot and no wind stirring. In crossing the creek upon which we camped I was very nearly drowned, but got off with only a good ducking. Only a short drive of 13 or 14 m. Carroll & John Monroe rode over to the Kootenay Camp and returned with 4 bales of meat. As a matter of course the whole Indian population came over & gave us some trouble. The Kootenays are in the main a very honest people and nearly all are devout Catholics. Carroll saw in their camp some Mt. Assinaboins, who are all zealous Protestants and have books written in their own language, which they all read & write fluently. Their Alphabet was devised for them by Revd. Thos. Woolsey, an English missionary. A heavy rain fell in the night. Just here is the North Kootenay Pass said to be quite good for packs.

Jul 25

Friday - Changed our Course to the northward. Had a good road along the creek tributary to Belly River. Gunn & I stopped on the way & caught fine trout. Crossing some high ridges came down upon a Fork of Belly River running almost due E. All these streams are bold and large heading in the main Mt chan. close to our left. The fork at which we camped is larger than the Maria's at the Mouth of Birch River. Saw a few antelope but the country although excellently adapted to game is almost destitute of it. Passed large patches of a weed which the voyageurs call the Pomme de Terre des Sauvages or Indian Potatoe. Its root is small tasting somewhat like parsnips & is very palatable and nutritious. To NNE the Montagne de Ventre or rather Butte marks the junction of the streams forming Belly River. La Queue de Porcupique a round topped mountain apparently W of main chain bearing directly west. The Chief Mt directly S. The Milk River divide plainly seen to WSW. Put out a horse guard at night. Made about 22 m.

Jul 26

Saturday - Got out of camp early. During the whole day had a good country for travelling save where the crests of the ridges presented exposed flinty rocks. Made considerable Easting and camped on the Belly River just below the bluff bank buttes called La Ventre. My opinion is that the name comes rather from the large bend (convex to E) just here. The junction of three large creeks a few miles above forms the river. Of these one drains St Mary's Lake, one the Lake where we found the Kootenays and one intermediate. The stream a large fine river. Timber is sparse but enough for fine camps. The grass very short in the large but rank and fine in the valley. Made about 21 m. Concluded in a council to join parties with Atkinsons and send out a party of explorers tomorrow. Indians very dangerous and the duty somewhat hazardous.

Jul 27

Sunday - 8 men under my command left camp at 8 o'clock, leaving Carroll in charge of things. Our general course, heading the bends of the River along the Western bank was about NNE. Saw numerous fresh Indian war party signs and travelled cautiously. Rested at 18 m at the mouth of the "Riviere qu'il jouait" or as the Indians call it "The River where the Old Man (i.e. God) played bowls." The stream, putting in from the Westward, is quite as large as Belly River and very rapid. Found recent offerings to the Sun hanging in the trees. Kept on after a rest, crossing the Riviere qu'il jouait, and diverging to the Eastward. Camped on a slough of Belly River away from probably haunts of Indians. Found here the first service berries I have seen this year. Recent sign of Indians - fresh chopped wood & recent ashes. Picketed the horses close. Kindled a very small fire in a hole and slept with one eye open. 25 m.

Jul 28

Monday - John Monroe announced his wish to leave us and go homeward, 8 days due N. Parted company with him with much regret. Directed our course across a huge bend that the river makes at this point to the East. After 9 hours hard riding over a rolling prairie struck a small branch running E to Belly River. Followed it down to the River and camped. With our divergences from the true course our journey must have been over 40 m. Fine buffalo grass all day. Killed a stray bull in the afternoon near camp. The river at our Camp 300 yds wide. Its detour must be at least 60 or 70 m. Caught the edge of a shower at sundown. Day very warm and no water between streams. The creek was named in honor of me "Captain Brown's Creek."

Jul 29

Tuesday - Examined the country about the Creek. Found Gold in the creek bed and bars, also in Coulees pulling down from N. A stratum of very good stone coal crops out in the river bluff just below the Creek mouth. Its thickness about 1 1/2 ft. At noon Dr Atkinson & 3 others weakened and left on the back track, afraid of Indians. This left me only Gunn and Bostwick for Companions. They agreed to push on for Bow River in spite of the danger. Dr A & Co. left southward. We 3 packed and following the River in an E direction travelled about 15 m then turning sharp to N travelled 3 m and descended to a wooded point where we camped. The prairie changes to day from the rolling to a flat country. No game but a band of antelope and 20 or more cows seen after sunset by Cal Gunn. Fine bed of coal opposite our camp.

Jul 30

Wednesday - Set out very early and rode hard cutting the bends and following the general course of the river which makes some formidable detours to the E & South East. Timber almost entirely disappears from the River. The prairie a dead level or but slightly rolling. No game except a very few antelope which is strange as the grass is as fine as I ever saw. The stream still clear and mountain-like. The Rocky Mts have entirely disappeared from view. The Sweet Grass Buttes in sight to the ESE and a great way off. The maps prove very erroneous in putting down Belly River. Its debouche is very far E of its place on Govt. Maps. We have followed the river from the time we started 3 days since more than 100 miles. It evidently runs at least 50 m before joining Bow River. Having made about 35 m camped in a coulee without wood or fuel and in a driving shower of rain. Determined to return southward tomorrow as our provision is giving out and we already have only dried meat to live on.

July 31

Thursday - Raised Camp and started without breakfast, taking a WSW course by compass. Travelled some what more than 45 m and camped on Capt Brown Creek about 10 m from where we struck it on Monday. The day without incident and only enlivened by Bostwick's very humorous stories. Found no water on the Large. No game.

Aug 1

Friday - Rode very hard all day for 70 m into our Camp on Belly River. Had a view of the heads of Capt Brown Creek in the Coulees of the *Large*. Hit within 1 1/2 m of the mouth of what we had called the "Riviere qu'il jouait" - a pretty good air line for 130 m of Prarie without Landmarks. Am satisfied now that the River we followed so far is the Main Bow River or Grande Riviere des Arcs and that the river we crossed must be the Petite Riviere des Arcs. The riv. qu'il jouait puts into Petite des Arcs. A diagram would look somewhat [like] this [*A small pencil drawing of the mentioned rivers and how they joined included here.*]

Got into camp just at dark. My horse gave completely out within 5 m of Camp. Geo the Blacksmith determined to return to Benton tomorrow. Wrote to Dawson by him. Fortunately the day was breezy or our horses would never have brought us so well. When Bostwick & I fired our pistols from the bluff a general rush and commotion ensued all in Camp imagining us Indians. We looked rather like them with handkerchief round our heads and buckskin garments. Ate (of course) too much, having fasted for 30 hours.

Aug 2

Saturday - Raised camp and moved W to the true Qu'il Jouait River. George and Jno T left for Benton. Hard rain in the forenoon, wetting us to the skin followed by a cold wind that completely chilled us. The distance bet. the Rivers is but short, not over 12 m and a good prarie. Found a good place for camp and located intending to branch out from here. Gunn failed to come in to camp. Probably with Ned W^mson who is also missing.

Aug 3

Sunday - Waited in Camp for our strays to come in. Ned Williamson came in about noon, but he had not seen Gunn. Thinking he would be searching up and down the river for us we fired our guns at intervals but no tidings of him at night. I rode out at midday and put up a signal pole on a high butte. Rainy and cold. Caught some fine fish pike and salmon trout.

Aug 4

Monday - Five of us went out in search of Gunn who must be completely lost. He has however a good horse and plenty of ammunition and fishing tackle so aside from his and our anxiety there is not much to fear. We scoured the whole country for some to the Southward. A hard and very cold rain fell during the whole day. Atkinson prospected with very flattering success on W side of Qu'il Jouait toward the Queue de Porcupique.

Aug 5

Tuesday - So hard a rain fell during the whole day, and so dense a fog prevailed that it was useless to go out in search of Gunn tho Bostwick and I got ready. Lay in camp therefore wet to the skin, very cold and feeling decidedly rheumatic all of us. In afternoon an alarm of Indians brought us all to our selves (some without their guns and some with unloaded guns) but the Natives proved to be Piegans with Oliver, Old Munro's son at their head. Had a hearty greeting and feast with them. They report 24 lodges of Piegans 1 day distant and Old Munro with them. Oliver's party being furnished with a pack of cards by some one spent the rest of the day in a curious game of theirs. Hard rain all the night.

Aug 6

Wednesday - The oxen missing. I followed a very blind trail all the forenoon and found them a long distance from camp. Had hardly got into camp when Paul came in from another unsuccessful search for Gunn. We now despair of seeing him unless he has made for Chief Mountain to await us there. Last night a heavy snow whitened the Mts. Old Munro came in with the Lance-man, the Bull Head and Dawson's Comrade. Their camp under the Rising Head will follow tomorrow. Old M has spent 46 years in the Indian Country. He gave us some specimens of his Medicine. His Indian name is "The Wolf's Word." He lay awake all night under the influence as he firmly believes of his familiar spirit.

Aug 7

Thursday - Rising Head with his band of 24 or 5 lodges camped near us. We determined to move to morrow. Old M will accompany Paul and Carroll to a spot on Bow River and I will take the Wagon back to the Lake. The entire band of Indians will scour the Country for Gunn stimulated by a promise of handsome reward if he is brought in.

Became brother and Comrade with En-es-layp'-o-ka, "The Little White Calf" a really fine fellow & Dawson's particular friend. Old Munro began the story of the Cosmogony of the Blackfeet but we were interrupted. Several horses were give me by Enestaypoka, Bull Head, Oliver and Rising Head, but I was forced to decline them having nothing adequate to give in return. A slight rain fell at night.

Aug 8

Friday - Raised Camp to move up the R Qu'il Jouait. Had hardly gained the bluff when Cal Gunn hove in sight, 6 days lost and found accidentally at last. He had supplied himself however with abundance of food. Camped above the 2nd Fork of the River. Enestaypoka told me part of the story of the Old Man. Made to day about 17 m.

Aug 9

Saturday - Rained hard and we spent the entire day in Camp under such shelters as we could devise. Smoked and talked all day long.

Aug 10

Carroll, Paul and Gun with Old Man Munro started for the head of Little Bow River, leaving me the Oxen & wagon to take back to the Lake. They will be gone about 10 days. I started with Isthumaka's (Bull Head) camp of 17 lodges who are en route for the Lake - thence to Buffalo. Made but a short drive and camped on a little creek putting into Belly River.

Kept a very direct course 1 point E of chief Mountain. The Piegans very well behaved and friendly. Do not beg or seem disposed to thieve. For the latter however I and Nep the dog watch very closely. Was feasted (on berries and meat) at 8 different lodges at night.

Aug 11

Monday - The Indians seem to be in no great hurry which suits my team. Camped on Belly River after crossing the W fork. Crossed our outward bound trail during the day. Did not go very far only perhaps 12 or 15 m.

Aug 12

Tuesday - Avoided the rough Divide between the Branches by a detour toward the N.E. The Indians stopping to pick Service berries threw Carrafel and me in advance and we camped apart from the party that night - made my first bread - and met with decided and unexpected success. Only 3 of us together Carrafel, Neil & I and we had the pleasantest of all my camps. Our camp, on the north fork of Belly River.

Aug 13

Wednesday - Started expecting to intercept the main camp and travel with them. Was overtaken about 2 m out by a runner who brought word from Enestaypoka to return and join Main Body. Signs of a very large War Party have been discovered - apparently but a day or two old. Joined the Piegan Camp and we lay quiet all day the young men scouting in every direction. They came in with reports of close proximity of a war party. Collected all the horses and lay down expecting a night attack. During the afternoon dined no less than 5 times - alone, with Carrafel, with The Broken Hand, with Isthumaka-oko - and with Enestaypoka.

Aug 14

Thursday - All last night a woman in an adjoining lodge kept up a continuous lament for her child that had just died. "Oh my son, come back to me. Let me see you once more! Come back from the Sand Butes and I'll go with you. Come back again once more. It will be a hundred winters before I see you again! Oh my son come back! Marambo! &c &c.["]

After raising camp proceeded 6 or 8 miles to a lake where the Indians halted to catch young ducks. About 50 went into the water and after a great amount of shouting and fun bagged perhaps a hundred. The young ducks cannot yet fly well. Kept a sharp look out for enemies but saw none. Camped at night on the same creek that we found the wild horses upon as we came on.

Aug 15

Friday - As we left camp the Indians divided, part going on directly E to Buffalo and 7 or 8 lodges under Isthumaka's charge accompanying us to hunt Elk. Enestepoka led the main body, taking leave of me with the present of an antelope. Camped (short march) at a marais in the prairie. At night the various Indians met at our camp, wild with the news of a great battle just fought between the Piegans and Pend d'Oreilles. They strongly advised us whites to remain with them, but I suspected that they were more anxious for the assistance of 7 rifles in the Napakoins hands than for our safety. So I determined to go on tomorrow. The other whites hang to me very resolutely. The night was a sleepless one for the Indians. A woman and a young child both very sick were in the Medicine Man's hands. I was called in as consulting physician and prescribed the only remedy I had with me - diluted "Pain Killer" with good effects. For fee got 2 Fisher skins.

Aug 16

Saturday - The Indians afraid to venture to the lake. Do [Ditto] old Carrafel. I started however, Bostwick, Jack Collins, Ned W^mson, Jimmy and old Carrafel accompanying. Got to our old camping ground on the shore of St. Mary Lake early in the afternoon. The Kootenays that frequented hereabouts seem to have left. Found a bark canoe taken to pieces and cached. Flies & Gnats are abundant & annoying.

Aug 17

Sunday - After getting the stock together rode up in Mt to the Westward. Found but little sign of game. None of war Parties. Could catch no fish. At dusk Big Weasel came up with Old Munro's lodge and family. Bull Head & his band will be up, they say, to-morrow. The women find that our honest friends the Kootenays (or some one for them) have helped themselves, out of Munro's cache, to divers robes.

Aug 18

Monday - Last night the Big Weasel who seemed to be the Priests Fugleman, held a protracted meeting and kept us all awake with hymns and chants. I rose up wide awake at hearing that old tune "Am I a Soldier of the Cross." The Indians sang it very well. Several of us hunted carefully and laboriously on the West side of the Lake but without the slightest success. The lay of the Mts and the growth of timber all look most favorable for game. The flies must have run off the Elk and Blacktail deer.

Aug 19

Tuesday - Thinking that perhaps Carroll and his party might come in we passed the day making Caberoes whips &c and slicking up and repairing generally. Spent the latter part of the afternoon picking Service berries which are here very abundant. The buffalo gnats are very troublesome.

Aug 20

Wednesday - Ned W^mson, Bostwick & I hunted hard all day E of the Lake but saw no game. Found an enormous pair of Moose horns which would weigh I should think 125 pounds. Got into camp late and very tired. A number of Kootenays scenting our presence from afar came in and camped near us to-day. They are very poor and dirtier than any other Indians I have met.

Aug 21

Thursday - Tried hard to trade for some dressed skins for Moccasins with the Kootenays, but found them very close at a bargain. A rider from across the Mts got in and reports a fight between Kootenays and Whites near Ross' Hole (as well as we could understand him) and the death of 11 or 13 Kootenays, including their Grand Chief. The story excited not a little commotion in Camp but we feel no fear of our neighbors.

Aug 22

Friday - To-day, just as I was mounting my horse to hunt, saw a party approaching with what appeared to be a flag. Rode out to meet them and found them to be 8 Piegans under Kayo-Siecunum The "Black Bear." In the center of the party rode "Tu-wi'-ber" or "The Man who Rushes" Head Chief of all the North Piegans who carried, with all due gravity a U.S. flag, about as large as a handkerchief, upon the end of a fishing pole. They had been informed by Istumaka of my whereabouts and dignity and came over to see me. Feasted them in the Lodge and they opened their presents - a bale of tongues and a parcel of dressed skins. In evening a heavy blow with some rain. Spent the evening smoking and talking with my new friends.

Aug 23

Saturday - Made some small presents to Kayo-Siecunum and his chief men - of tobacco and ammunition and dismissed them to their Camp on the W fork of the R qu'il jouait. The camp there are making lodge-poles. Looked anxiously for the Explorers now 14 days out, but no signs of them. My provisions begin to run low. Sugar & flour non est. Coffee nearly gone and only a few beans left. If game could be procured I would not care.

Aug 24

Sunday - A couple of Kootenays rode up searching for horses lost last night. Probably run off by a bear. In the afternoon a sharp cold rain fell.

Aug 25

Monday - A beautiful day. Expecting the boys in did not leave camp but spent the day plaiting a bridle of buckskin. Succeeded in making a very handsome pair of reins. No appearance of our absent party. Fine Aurora at night and a small comet just in the N edge of the constellation Polar Bear.

Aug 26

Tuesday - Bostwick started for the Piegan Camp on the R Qu'il Jouait to trade for meat. We have demonstrated that there is no game within a radius of 15 m. Even the fish cannot be caught. John the tailor rode into camp about noon reporting the rest of the Exploring party close at hand. Bostwick met them and turned back. Our Explorers found nothing of any great value. Concluded to push on to Benton to-morrow leaving Carroll, Paul and Gunn to bring on the wagon. Got my moccasins &c in order for the trip.

Aug 27

Wednesday - In company with New Williamson and Jack Collins I started about 9 o'clock for Ft. Benton intending to take the Govt. Farm at Sun River in my way. Rode one of Ned's horses. Kept on to the Cut Bank which is the Northernmost Fork of the Marias and nooned or rather supped there. Killed a deer here but lost it in the willows. At sunset re-saddled and rode about 6 m to a lake in the prairie where we camped without fire. Made about 30 or 33 m.

Aug 28

Thursday - Rose before dawn and started at daylight. Stopped at the N fork of Two Medicine Lodge River to rest our horses. Stayed here some time cobbling our moccasins and patching up pack-saddles. Lost some time in catching young ducks in a lake killing them with our ramrods. Killed an antelope. Rode hard after these detentions and made Birch River before sundown 40 m. The Two Medicine Lodge is the main prong of the Maria River of which all the streams from Cut Bank to Sun River are tributaries. Killed a Doe and fawn just as we made our camp on Birch River. Game however scarce.

Aug 29

Friday - Got a somewhat late start, having over eaten and over slept ourselves. Crossed the River and kept hard on crossing the De Poni Creek and nooned at about 27 m on a small creek. Saw Elk but had enough of meat and did not attempt to kill any. Pushed on hard in the afternoon at a fast trot & soon saw the Teton Butes. Leaving these to our left and crossing Leaf Creek, we got to the Teton River just at dusk having made about 45 m. Killed a very fat doe within 50 yds of our camp. Our camp was disturbed by a grizzly who scared the horses. Ned & I both fired and one of our bullets penetrated his brain entering at the eye. Got our horses together and slept sound being very tired.

Aug 30

Saturday - Started at dawn and struck out for the Sun River Farm. Found the distance much greater than we had anticipated. No water between the Rivers and the face of the country broken and sterile. Rode about 50 miles, the sun broiling and our horses very tired. Got to the Farm however by 3 o'clock. Mrs Vail gave us what seemed to us a most sumptuous dinner. Tom Campbell came up from Benton with McKellops and Al Clark having returned from Deer Lodge for stores. McR & Al crossed Sun R below the Farm so I missed seeing them. Tom says Culbertson starts in a Mackinac for St. Louis tomorrow or next day. Vail put a mule at my disposal to ride to the Fort to-night. Put out after dark for the Fort, distant 60 miles. Rode hard on to the Spring 32 m and unsaddled to cool off my mule. Heard the hum of Indians marching Westward a little North of me. Feared they might set me afoot and take my gun, so saddled and made for the Fort where I arrived at daybreak having accomplished nearly 120 miles between sun and sun.

Aug 31

Sunday - Found that Culbertson and others had left at noon yesterday. Dawson, Clarke & McCulloch received me most heartily. About 1500 Indians still about the Fort but leaving continually. They are chiefly North Blackfeet & Bloods. The Crows to the number of 500 left to day having just made a peace with the Piegans. Heard of Frank Goodwin's death. He was shot on Wednesday by Menace the Greek in the Fort yard. Galpin has gone down to Milk River to meet the "Shreveport" Steamboat which has arrived there. Day very hot and flies very numerous.

Sep 1

Monday - Endeavored to organize a party to man the large boat just launched. But all now ready to go down the river have made other arrangements. Tackell & c started down. Jerry & Isidore drunk and very troublesome. At midnight an attack was made on the lodges camped just at the Fort gate. 12 shots were fired into Matsey's killing one of his wives and wounding another and a child. All hands rushed out and one of the assailants was shot badly judging from the blood that marked his trail. The attack probably made by Gros Ventres as well as could be inferred from the arrows.

Sep 2

Tuesday - Buried the dead squaw. A Piegan war party danced the grand war dance and started out for the Gros Ventres. The whole Fort in a commotion all day long. Five men headed by a Mr. Knox came in with a wagon - the Avant couriers of a train of 53 wagons from St. Paul. The remainder to follow in a few days. Meldram [Meldrum] is reported by them en route with some of the horses stolen from hence last June.

[The "Northern Overland Expedition" left St. Paul on June 13, headed by Captain James Fisk. Robert Knox was the Wagon Master.]

Sep 3

Wednesday - Tinkered and read all day hoping that Carroll & Gunn may come in this evening. Day Excessively hot. Thermometer 102 degrees in the shade but fortunately a smart wind blew, terminating in a slight shower.

Sep 4

Thursday - The Indians reported whites on the Marias. In afternoon Meldram [Meldrum] & several of the St. Paul party came in. It now seems certain from Meldram's account that the attack of Monday night was by North Blkfeet or Bloods, not by Gros Ventres as we at first supposed. Meldrum brings dates from the States to 13 July. At night Mr Haggard arrived from Pacific slope. He is establishing an Express to this point, to connect ultimately with the East. He gave us papers with Washington dates of 11 Aug.

Sep 5

Friday - The wind blew a perfect hurricane all day, but late in the afternoon McCulloch and I rode over to the Emigrant Camp on the Teton. Did not meet with a very hospitable reception which we attributed chiefly to their ignorance. The Fort was pretty busy all day with trading &c.

Sep 6

Saturday - A number of the Emigrants came over and with them 3 women who (especially a widow in search no doubt of a fortune) gave themselves great airs and showed the "short stock" most unmistakeably.

Carroll, Gunn, Paul & Old Monro got in having left his squaws on the upper Teton and by good luck having saved their horses. News came in that the North Blackfeet had stolen all the stock from Sun River Farm and 4 Company horses. Capt Fisk *[of the "Northern Overland Expedition"]* came over and staid all night.

Sep 7

Sunday - A number of the Emigrants came over to church to hear Father Imoda. They tried hard in their penurious way to make trades but were generally unsuccessful.

Three men came in from the other side of the Mts and enlisted in my crew. Another, a very intelligent German, came in on foot utterly destitute. McCulloch & I staked him for the trip. These men bring but gloomy news from across [the Mts]. Mining region is restricted in extent and already a far greater population there than can make paying wages. Ordered my boat. A runner brought in news of the hard battle between the Crows & Piegans and the Assinaboins or Sioux near Arrow River.

Sep 8

Monday - Our boat commenced and nearly completed. Her length is 30 ft, breadth 4 ft 9 in to carry 2 oars. This will allow is two watches and a couple of men to rest and relieve the others. Wound up my small affairs at the Fort, ready to take advantage of the first moment that we can start.

Sep 9

Tuesday - Cold and blustering day. Our boat completed all but the caulking. Capt Fisk and his train started on for Deer Lodge, leaving with me a number of letters for the States. A large war party of Bloods came in. They are most likely lurking around to make a descent on the Emigrants' horses. New arrivals from across the Mts. 4 men, for our crew, joined. Joe Lorion's zealous efforts completed my boat - all but the caulking. Evening very cold.

Sep 10

Wednesday - The boat completed. Finished up and settled. Bade farewell to Dawson [*Major Andrew Dawson, Headman at Fort Benton*], Clarke, Geo Steel, Carroll and the rest of my good friends at the Fort, whose kindness and hospitality has always made Ft Benton so delightful to me. From almost every one of the men I had a parting gift - so much that I was ashamed to take a tithe of what was given. Started at 4 o'clock. Vied by Dawson's direction firing a salute from the old cannon before the gate. Altho heartily glad to be on my [way] back to the States, I could not leave Ft. Benton without much regret for the friends I left there - and the more so as I will probably never see Dawson alive again, and can hardly expect to have another Mountain trip.

My oarsmen though green are strong and willing - a little awkward but they will be sure to learn before they reach St. Jos. I took the steering over. Camped at Fort Brule 25 m for the night. For an hour it rained very heavily but the stars came out beautifully making us wish we had pulled on.

Sep 11

Thursday - Started out in a dense fog, Sears (a returning Ky-ian 12 years in California) relieving me at the oar. Our party consists of 11 persons [word/s unreadable] suitable for the trip as well as can be judged at this early day.

The bowsman of my watch is a German Baron *Weitsleben* [Witzleben] very rich in his own country (as Hunike[?] *testifies*) & Aid to King Ludwig of Bavaria. He was largely concerned in the Lola Montez troubles at Munich. Possessed with a thirst for adventure he has passed 12 years in Central America & California. M^c[Culloch] & I picked him up strapped at Benton. He seems to be an admirable fellow. Next to him sits Gunn. Then rowing on the same bench are Harry ^Ira^ Brown[?] all the way from Maine, who has footed it from Portland Me to California, a good humored, sharp Yankee of 28 years, and Cross a North Carolinian somewhat disposed to shirk work but a capital singer of good songs. The other watch has long Tom Sears for steersman, the very picture of a Ky-ian and a Mt'eer, tall and raw boned & a capital shot. At the bow oar is Porter a Georgian, Sears partner for 12 years. Then comes Starks or Old Bally as we call him a Carolinian by birth but for many years resident in Warren Co. Ky, very quaint and original in his remarks, an explorer once of the heads of Fraser River. Wilson a Tennessean now an Indianian has the starboard waist oar. So long has he been in California and the Mts that he is most perfectly and blissfully ignorant of the improvements of late years. His absorbing wish is to see a railroad. Beside him is Howard an Iowa man quiet and hard working and chiefly remarkable for his ludicrous two-shooter rifle. McCulloch completes the boats company and in consideration of his confessed repugnance to work and a large proportion of the Expenses he pays he is nominally relieved

[September 11 continued] from duty, though I expect to get a good deal of rowing from him.

Our men are all green at the oars and their inexperience and a delay of some hours spent in Big Horn hunting (one of them we got, shot by Gunn) prevented us getting further than Eagle Creek 100 m from Benton. Here commences the beautiful scenery of the upper Mo. Camped on the bank just above the creek in a clump of willows under a high bank that protected us and our boat from the high winds that blew all night.

Sep 12

Friday - Had a fine run to-day all things considered though we lost some hours in climbing for and butchering meat. I killed a Big Horn just above the Citadel Rock at least 1000 yards. All day we were sailed down between the cut bluffs of the Bad Lands and as the scenery began to lose its novelty, the excitement of shooting the rapids. Dauphin's, Drowned Mans & Birds and numerous small ones - succeeded. The channel of the Rapids is full of large rocks that make the navigation very hazardous. We got through without accident having scarcely noticed the Arron & Judith Rivers. Made an early camp below Dauphin's Rapids. While cooking our supper a boat came down containing Jake (a Dutchman), one seceder Neil and two others. They had rowed hard all night to overtake us, being very much afraid of the Indians and desirous of travelling in our company.

Sep 13

Saturday - Killed a fine Buck just before leaving camp and the boys were in such good spirits at this accession to our stores that we had singing and rowing during the whole day. Towards night Buffalo made their appearance but we got none, not choosing to lose time as we had plenty of meat aboard. Our camp otherwise a delightful one was made most disagreeable by a soaking rain that drenched us and our robes & blankets. The river has not had to day the swift current of yesterday and we all felt tired and sore. My right elbow has an old rheumatic twinge from last year.

Sep 14

Sunday - A cold drizzly day that chilled our very marrow. Fortunately had good swift water and about noon killed a fat buffalo. Tom Sears gave the death shot. Very large bands are now to be seen on every point. One was enough for us but we killed a fat doe just where we lay up for the night. There are no land marks hereabouts that I can recognize since we passed Hammel's Island, but the steadiness of our stroke and the goodness of the water would indicate a good run - aside from the delay occasioned by killing & butchering the buffalo. Got 4 hours hard work out of Mc[Cullogh]. Several of the men quite unwell and stiffened up with cold. I find myself too busy to get sick.

Sep 15

Monday - Got a very early start partly because of a cold rain that vetoed sleep and in fact continued to drizzle most uncomfortably all day. It is an ill wind that blows no good; for the oars were kept busy to keep us warm and we ran a long way below the Muscleshell Riv. now a small creek and passing Beauchamps Fork took refuge from a strong head wind and the rain in a point just above Ponchette Pt. Raised a huge Grizzly devouring a bull. Rained all night.

Sep 16

Tuesday - Got a late start and worked hard against head winds though the current helped us. Spun round Ponchette Point and camped out of the wind not a great way below it. The hard rain that fell all through the day ceased about 9 and we had the unwonted light of stars. Weitsleben [Witzleben] and I talked till a late hour.

Sep 17

Wednesday - A fair sun shiny day and for the first time a fair blowing wind. Got up our sail and were making fine time when we were hailed from the bank by a War Party. We at first thought to keep on but they leveled their guns and hailed in Blackfoot "Nappa' pok-sa-pote" and we pulled in. To our dismay we found them Assinaboins. More than half our guns were useless from rain but we had them all capped and made a good show or they would have plundered us of everything as they did Neil who landed just below us. For half an hour we were in great danger. Mc[Culloch] and I who took charge of matters had several arrows pointed at us and guns cocked at our heads. Finally ordering the men to cock their guns Mc[Culloch] gave presents of Tobacco & flour and I and Howard jumped in the water and pulled the boat out of the Indians hands. We had not gone 15 miles when 2 Indians (Crows probably) hailed us from the S bank and as we did not land they fired - the balls striking the water and ricocheting over the boat. No damage done and the men all perfectly cool. 20 m on met a Crow war party 30 strong. 2 of whom swam over and received the small present we had to give them. But the remainder, angry that we did not come in and surrender unconditionally took dead aim at us at about 80 yds. The office of pilot, I now found a most unenviable one. Standing on an elevated bench, the better to manage the great steering oar, he offers a most conspicuous mark. Eight bullets whistled (as it seemed to me) within a foot of my head and one grazed the oar near my hand. One man of Neil's party whom we had taken in above was pulling the bow oar and skulked. The rest all showed true grit. We did not return the fire, from motives of policy. Got out of this, our 3rd scrape to-day, all right. Concluded at their urgent request to take Neil and his 3 men aboard. Scuttled their skiff and prepared to run all night as the country is eminently hazardous. Had gone on well till 9 o'clock when we ran in the dark with our bow upon a snag and the rapidity of the current swung the stern round upon another. Nothing but God's mercy prevented the instant destruction of our boat and the death by drowning of all aboard. Made some ineffectual efforts to get off. Thinking that the violence of the water would inevitably cause her to go to pieces, I caused those who could not swim to "coon out" upon the snags and the rest of us waited cold and wet and terribly anxious for daylight.

Sep 18

Thursday - As dawn came we saw clearly that nothing but the [word unreadable] of the bow snag had saved us from being crushed by the current. Even had we gone thro this place safely we must in the dark have been shipwrecked a hundred yards further down. After great labor got our bow loose and as she swung round Weitsleben [Witzleben] and Brown standing ready cut our work ropes and I straightened her down stream. We got through almost miraculously. Had not much trouble except an occasional sand bar and a head wind in the afternoon [word unreadable] passing the Dry Fork came to the post which [Charles] Galpin is building for the Crow & Gros Ventre trade. Met here [Jean Louis] Legare and others. Stopped but a few minutes and ran down 15 m to Dauphin's old Fort where the goods brought up by the Shreveport are stored. The houses were upon the River bank last Spring but a Cut off has thrown the channel 1/2 m from them. Met here my old acquaintances Larpenter [Charles Larpenteur], Bob Lemon & Jim Chambers. Very kindly received by them. Camped on the Point.

Sep 19

Friday - Were detained until 10 o'clock getting some little stores and waiting for letters which Larpenier [Larpenteur] wishes me to take below. I found here letters for me sent up by the Shreveport. Had a fair wind, and arranged two additional oars, and with sail & 6 oars made by night 80 m to a snaggy bend just above Ft. Charles. Camped without fire.

Sep 20

Saturday - Started very early and for an hour or two made fine time. A very heavy head wind sprung up forcing us to land and await its subsidence. Got safely by a large party of Indians, they fortunately not seeing us until we were a good distance past them. Rowed very hard against wind & surf all the afternoon. Killed an Elk. A heavy Equinoctial Gale springing up at sunset we tied up and slept.

Sep 21

Sunday - Had a more favorable day and made McKenzie's opp Fort (built in the mud where the Chippeway blew by 9 1/2. Stopped a few minutes to hear McKenzies account of his battle a few days since with 200 Sioux. He lost one man and all his horses, fighting for 4 hours from his house and killing certainly 5 probably more Indians. Kept on to Fort Stewart where we found Rollette in charge for Amer. Fur Co. Took in a half breed Cree for Rollette but the fellow got so frightened that he left at the Big Muddy 15 m below and returned by land to Ft Stewart. From the Big Muddy to Fort Union about 60 m and is perhaps the most dangerous part of the river for Indian War parties. We rowed and sailed well and after dark drifted for some distance till we camped on a high bar in the middle of the river observing perfect silence and building no fire.

Sep 22

Monday - Though we saw plenty of game did not allow shooting for fear of Indians. Kept steadily at work and reached Fort Union by 10 o'clock. Were hospitably received by Hodgkiss and concluded to stay all day to dry our bedding and bake up our flour as well as to take a good sleep. Heard here of the death of my friend Schoonover. Hodgkiss has but a small force and is apprehensive of troubles during the coming winter. Laid in a supply of hard bread &c to last us to Ft Berthold. Smoked and talked with H till a late hour. Wrote to Carroll.

Sep 23

Tuesday - Left the Ft. at 6 and made the Yellowstone in an hour. The river below the junction turbid and rapid but the bars troublesome. Took with us from Union as a special favor to H. a Crow, resident with the Gros Ventres. The river quite swift though falling. A good current & stiff breeze and fortunately a fine stretch of river enabled us to accomplish a long distance but the numerous little streams that put in on both sides confuse my recollection of the land marks & I can only guess the distance to be about 100 m. Slept on an island.

Sep 24

Wednesday - Had a fine day and an excellent breeze. Buffalo abundant. Killed a couple and took the choice pieces. Shot an elk also. Passed in the afternoon a war party camp of recent construction. Must have made over 100 m and were only stopped by a cut up channel. Getting entangled in the bars had us hung all night on one. Saw the reflection of a fire a mile or two behind us. We had, it seems, got by without seeing or being seen. Killed a bear from the boat to-day.

Sep 25

Thursday - Had a hard days pulling as a kind of compensation for yesterday. Hard up stream winds prevented our making Ft Berthold to-day as I had hoped. Although the danger of Sioux is imminent hereabouts I could not restrain the boys from shooting at a bear (which escaped severely wounded) and roping a cow in the river, which they dispatched with their pistols. Finding the channel difficult after dark (our usual luck) camped 8 or 10 m above Ft. Berthold.

Sep 26

Friday - Ran by the New Ree village, abandoned since the battle 2 weeks since between them and Sioux. The Rees now live with the Gros Ventres, in the village about the Fort. Found [*Fredrick Frances*] Gerard in charge. Patnand with him. McEldry also here. Had a hearty welcome from G whom I have known ever since I first came into the Indian Country. Laid in a little provision and after spending a few hours in talk left the Ft. Pulled exceedingly hard for a couple of miles when we got the wind favorably and went rapidly on. 5 or 10 m of bad river troubled us very much. Getting completely wet and the night being very cold we camped 40 m below the Ft. in the willows without fire and [two words faded, unreadable].

Sep 27

Saturday - Started very early and had a strong breeze in our favor. Ran by old Ft. Clarke by breakfast time and soon after passed the Square Buttes. Our arrangement of watches saves great deal of time. Dried our wet clothes in which we had slept, and thawed ourselves in the Sun. Made such excellent time that I felt encouraged to keep on after dark. The night was intensely cold. We could hardly grasp the oars. The Steersman's elevated bench I found very especially uncomfortable. At 12 1/2 o'clock landed on a sand bar and slept. We have made to-day 125 miles and our landing is just above the Cannon Ball River unless I am much mistaken. Saw a fine Aurora and a magnificent display of zodiacal light, in the SE.

Sep 28

Sunday - All awoke stiff and sore from cold and fatigue. The wind does not amount to much to-day. Passed Cannon Ball River at 8 o'clock and after losing an hour on a cut-up part of the River got along smoothly enough. Toward night a heavy wind and snags ahead rendered it advisable to camp which we did after a good deal of trouble with a bar. Slept in the bushes under the S bank of a bend. About 3 o'clock at night rain commenced falling and soon drenched us.

Sep 29

Monday - Morning bitterly cold. Had a hard time with cold rain and wind until 3 o'clock, when the sun shone out warmly. Passed numerous bands of Elk but would allow no shooting as we were in the very heart of the Sioux Country. Finding a good channel ran till 9 1/2 when the moonlight failed us and we tied up at a willow break. Here the Beavers kept up a loud splashing all night. The Elk too whistled louder than I have ever heard them. Slept in our wet robes. The day has been so inclement that we could not air them and a fire was out of the question. Think we cannot be far from the Big Cheyenne River.

Sep 30

Tuesday - Had a very hard day indeed until late in the afternoon when a breeze helped us somewhat. Ran by moonlight until 9 o'clock when we camped on a high sandbar. Saw a fresh war party camp in the forenoon. At night the wind blew perfect banks of sand over us as we slept.

Oct 1

Wednesday - Ran most of the day with our sail. Had a good river and made no stop until we saw a raft marking the spot where [Francois] LaFramboise is now erecting the Opposition trading post [*i.e., for LaBarge. Harkness & Co., the "Opposition" of the American Fur Company*]. La F came down to speak with us. He is in great fear of being "wiped out" as the country phrase is, by the Sans Arcs this winter. Kept on 3 or 4 m to Ft. Pierre. [Charles] Premeau absent - in the States. Martin in charge. Returned guns borrowed of Gerard. A steam boat has been expected for some weeks. As we walked up to the Ft. raised a great commotion in an Unk Pappa camp about the pickets and frightened the whites inside. All thought us an attacking party. From Louis' representations we were singularly lucky in missing Big Head and Medicine Bear's camp above. Heard of the troubles between the Santee Sioux and whites. Made a few purchases of Hard Bread &c.

Oct 2

Thursday - Ran down to Farm Island and camped to dry our robes, clean out boat and air our effects. Spent the day. Head winds would have prevented our making much. Found many traces of the Camp where Gen [William S.] Harney kept the Sioux prisoners in '56.

Oct 3

Friday - Had a very fine fair wind that carried our boat along at great speed until we got into the curve of the Grand Detour, where it headed us off. Passed Old Fort George early in the forenoon. In the Big Bend the waves ran so high that we were forced to land and await for 3 or 4 hours the subsidence of the wind. After dark ran 3 hours and camped at the extreme point of the bend, below the Island. Day cool but pleasant.

Oct 4

Saturday - Got under way early but lost 3 or 4 hours waiting for Gunn who very characteristically strayed off hunting and quite as naturally killed nothing. Moderate head wind during the forenoon freshening into a gale towards 2 o'clock. Had to lay by from 3 to 12 at night. At midnight the wind went down and we pulled all night.

Oct 5

Sunday - Our supplies laid in at Ft. Pierre beginning to run short, made a forced run against a head wind all day. Very hard pulling but kept it up, notwithstanding, till 4 o'clock at night or rather next morning when the men gave out and we had to stop for a few hours rest. River in good order and but for the wind we would run splendidly. Never was so fatigued in my life - having now been 36 hours without sleep, with insufficient food and hard at work all the time.

Oct 6

Monday - Passed early in the morning little parties of soldiers from Randall cutting wood - and scattered from Cedar Island down. Got to Ft. Randall at last at 8 1/2 o'clock. Garrisoned by 3 Corps 14 Iowa. Met here Hamilton &c. Bought supplies and run down to the Yankton Agency 16 m. Stopped here the rest of the day for the men to recruit. Well recd. by [Dr. Walter A.] Burleigh. Found Primo here. At 5 P. M. set sail and ran 12 m. Camped for the night to catchup on sleep. Got late papers containing very alarming war news from Ky. Am exceedingly impatient to get along.

Oct 7

Tuesday - Was so uneasy at the news I read yesterday that I could not sleep last night. Roused Camp very early to push on. fortunately the wind favored us. Ran past Bonhomme Island and to Yankton by 5 o'clock. found here Maj Hoffman who is en route for the States. I concluded upon his representations to accompany him by Stage to Sioux City & on to St. Louis as that method will save me a weeks delay. Camped my last camp on the river bank sitting up late talking with the boys, all of us regretting our separation and talking over the incidents of our voyage - very pleasant indeed in the retrospect.

Oct 8

Wednesday - Left Yankton in the mail wagon for Sioux City, having risen early and eaten a farewell breakfast with the boys. Had for fellow passengers Maj Hoffman, Jake (one of my men) and a Ponka Chief "The Iron Whip" whom Hoffman is taking East with him. Passed numerous little farms in the fertile prairie, but the houses have without exception been abandon'd through fear of the Sioux Santees, now at war with the Whites. Dined at Vermillion. Got into Sioux City 65 m at 6 P. M. Stopped with Hagy. Made arrangements for seats to Council Bluffs and the Agent kindly consented to push the stage right thro without stopping over-night on the road as is customary. Got dates here from the States up to 4 October.

Oct 9

Thursday - Started early for Council Bluffs in a crowded stage. Road bad and team inferior. Made but poor time and stopped for the night at the Little Sioux River. Hereabouts are a good many Mormons, relics of the establishment of Joe Smith in Mo. and Iowa. Along the road all the farmers are grinding and boiling Sorghum great quantities of which are consumed in Iowa. Much activity prevailing among the young men in organizing companies.

Oct 10

Friday - Started at 4 o'clock and rode through a most beautiful and fertile series of valleys - those of Bozer, Pitching and other Creeks. Crops fine and the country a perfect paradise for farmers. As we approached Council Bluffs & got upon higher ground the quality of the soil & products changes materially for the worse. Got into Council Bluffs at 2. Found it a thriving place of from 2 to 3000 inhabitants. Dave Risley & Jno Delany here for the last 10 days. Concluded to take boat for St. Joe tomorrow as being the most expeditions method.

Oct 11

Saturday - Left Council Bluffs at 6 o'clock for the landing distant 4 m. Took there the Steamer Omaha. Ran well all day though the river very low. Boat good and well officered.

Oct 12

Sunday - From just below Nebraska City to just above Belmont 7 m above St. Joe. Laid by until the moon rose.

On one of the back pages of the diary is the following list:

Tobacco
Ammunition
4 Gold Pans
3 Picks & Shovels
 xtra handles
2 Rockers
2 Dipper
 Creviceing Spoon
1 Blower
1 Axe
1 Hatchet
1 Jack Plane
1 Inch Auger
 Nails
1 Hand Saw
1 File
2 fry pan
2 Kettle
1 Coffee Pot
1 Drawing Knife
1 Inch Chisel
1 Gimlet
1 Tacks
 Pipe Stems & pipes
 Salt & pepper
2 Sacks Flour (200)
50 lb Coffee
4 Tea
15 Rice
50 Sugar
25 Hard Bread
Matches
Sale????? Mustard
30 Beans
 Bacon
 Sheets of tin
 Sheet iron
3 or 4 yds Canvas
Lantern & Candles
Coffee Mill
Empty Powder Keg
Musquito Net
Fishing Tackle
Stiff Blk Brush

Bucket
Vegetables

On another page:

Plaits

4 Round	Under 1 over 1
8 "	Under 2 over 2
12 "	Under 3 over 3
16 "	Under 4 over 4
22 "	Under 5 over 5
24 "	Under 6 over 6
32 "	Under 8 over 8

6 round Under 1 over 2

8 gasket Under 2 over 1

On back pages of the diary:

Smith bets Clarke a hat that before the 24th May 1862 Genl. Halleck will have been defeated by Beauregard.

Baily bets Risley that on the 24th May Richmond will be in the possession of McClellan's army.

Geo Parker bets Baily a suit of clothes that up to the 5th June 1862 the "Merrimac," Rebel Steamship, has not been destroyed.

Weh'-sa-ko-nesh
The sun has left
Ree for Evening

Weh-hai-ish-ah
tomorrow is coming
Ree for Daybreak

JMB to McCulloch Dr
1/4 ft Benton 19.09
X ~~Extra at Rollette~~
At Ft Berthold \$10/14 70
At Pierre 2.00
At Randall & Agency 1050/4 2.62

JMB with McC Cr
By share of Boat adv^d 8.00