

Journal from the mouth of the South Branch of the Saskatchewan River to the confluence of the Bad & Red Deers Rivers, where Chesterfield House is situated by Peter Fidler

1800 August 15th. Friday - at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Am entered the mouth of the South Branch of the Saskatchewan river & went up it (with 2 Boats & 18 men) SbW - WSW 1 put up at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm - at a very high steep bank at North side - gave every man a Gun & ammunition, loaded them all & the 4 Muskettoons belonging to the Boats all with Ball - as we are going up an open country that we have never been before - & the Fall Indians [Gros Ventre] who inhabit the upper parts of it are a desperate sort of Indians - who destroyed the South Branch house & plundered it of every thing & most inhumanly murdered every man at it - except Mr Van cull who providentially escaped into an old Cellar within the Stockades & covered himself over with rubbish - in 1794 - in the fall 1793 they also plundered Manchester House of every useful article: this last May they also attacked Mr Wills with 2 Canoes at the Eagle Hill Creek & one man received 7 Shots thro him - & miraculously recovered - these circumstances occurring so lately was the occasion of well arming ourselves - Left Cumberland House 6th Inst - arrived at Carlton House the 13th - left that house the 15th at 5 am - & arrived at the mouth of the South Branch at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pm - & parted company with Mr Bird & Sutherland who proceed up the North Branch with 2 Boats & 5 Canoes - Muskettoes very troublesome all night. this has been the Summer of very few of those very troublesome insects - gave the Men amongst them 240 Ball - 20 flints & filled every Powder horn - & every man where he lay down had is loaded Gun close by. Fresh breezes SW. Calm and clear.

16th Saturday - Light Air at SE Morning overcast - afternoon clear & hot - at 4.55 Am got underway tracked on North side SSW $\frac{1}{2}$ a small rapid - ESE $\frac{1}{2}$ NWbN $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{4}$ - S $\frac{1}{8}$ a strong rapid & fine up putting place on North side - SWbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - SbE S $\frac{1}{2}$ - SSW $\frac{1}{4}$ a rapid - very high steep clay banks on both sides the river in the Bays - WNW 1 - a large smooth stone in the Middle of the reach or rather rock - NW $\frac{1}{4}$ - SbE b $\frac{1}{4}$ - SSW $\frac{1}{4}$ a big large round stone on the Point on the North side - WNW $\frac{1}{8}$ - all below pretty strong current & high bare banks - NNW $\frac{1}{4}$ a shoal strong rapid - WbS $\frac{1}{4}$ WbS 1 a small gravel Island on the South side - very easy current Here

Augt - these last reaches - WSW $\frac{3}{4}$ a stony strong Point - exactly like Holsters Point in the North branch below Carlton House - a strong shoot - S $\frac{1}{4}$ - NW $\frac{1}{2}$ - SE $\frac{1}{2}$ - easier current than before these last 3 reaches, low banks & the wood near the edge of the water these 4 last reaches - SSW $\frac{1}{2}$ - SbE $\frac{1}{2}$ - NW $\frac{1}{2}$ stony strong & bad - SbW $\frac{1}{4}$ woods for 100 yards close to the very edge of the river - bad tracking just here on that account WbS $\frac{3}{4}$ - NWbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - NWbN $\frac{1}{2}$ - WbS 1 easy current & fine low banks a gravel & small willow Island on the North side, went on the South side it which is bad & the N side too shoal - NW $\frac{1}{2}$ barren ground on the North side the first we have seen of any size in this river - & put up at 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pm - Pine Poplars & Birch all along the river this day & pretty thicketty a willow & stony Island on the South side opposite where we put up.

17th Sunday - at 5 Am got underway, tracking always, all the Day - went SW $\frac{1}{2}$ WbS $\frac{3}{4}$ - NNW $\frac{3}{4}$ a little stony Island on the North side & bad - & a steep bare bank on same side SWbS $\frac{3}{4}$ two stony, strong points & 2 bits of bare bank in the reach - SEbS $\frac{1}{2}$ a fine low barren ground point on the North side with 12 Poplar Trees on the Point - a strong shoot of current - SSW $\frac{1}{4}$ - WSW $\frac{1}{2}$ very strong current - a bare bank just above the Barren ground point - ESE $\frac{1}{2}$ - SSW $\frac{1}{4}$ a small Island of big stones in the middle of the river & a fine point on the North side also a steep bare bank on South side WSW $\frac{1}{4}$ - SSW 1 bad Tracking - two small willow Islands one on each side of the river - No Pines this day - or the latter part of Yesterday - only small Poplars & some few birch - not a single Pine of any size - WbS 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ fine barren Knowls on the North side - SW $\frac{1}{2}$ & stoped at 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ for rain - got away again at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ & sailed SbE 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ river 200 yards wide here & a large Poplar Island, on South side it we went S 2 Miles - on the South side the Pop. Isd & upon it 3 Canadian Houses built in 1795 - but left the following Spring - they were afraid to venture higher up on account of the late destruction of our Settlement the Year before. This 2 last miles a S Course is along the Island choked up with sands on the North side the Isd - altho the Channel is wide - very fine barren ground near the river & low banks on the North side & steep bank on S Side - SWbW $\frac{1}{2}$ - SSE $\frac{3}{4}$ a small creek on the South side - SW $\frac{3}{4}$ a small bit of barren ground on the South side, the first we have seen on that side as yet - near the river - WbS $\frac{1}{4}$ & tracked again on the North side NWbN $\frac{1}{2}$ a small willow Island on the North side & stony & bad - and a little above a on the other side a stony

Augt very bad points – along the North side is the best tracking of the two – W $\frac{1}{4}$ & put up at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm – saw a Bull after we put up crossing the river the first we have seen as yet

18th Monday at 5.8 am got under way. Tracked on the North side as usual & went NWbN $\frac{1}{3}$ – NbW $\frac{1}{3}$ – NW $\frac{1}{2}$ strong current & a few rocks in the middle of the river – NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ – NbW & crossed to the South side as the woods are now close to the water edge – WSW 1 and old French House here built about 1784 – called Fort De Lisle – on South side – now not any track of the House to be seen only a part of the Beaver Press – Just above on the North side a Canadian House built by Mr Belleau a Canadian 1801 – in the Fall. Poplar Island – SWbS 6 Miles & came to the head of the Large Poplar Island. This last reach $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide, with several poplar & willow Islands & shoal sand banks – fine barren ground & steep bank on North side – & thick woods near the river on opposite side –

note - D. Math. 0:22 99° 35' 15"
Lat 52-59-20 ... 99-35-0

Taken on the North side $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the head of the large Poplar Island. Went NW 1 a high point & steep bank on South side – also pretty open barren ground – here we tracked again on South side – below in this last long reach the woods close to the waters edge – which prevented us from tracking & rowed with oars – thro different parts of the river on account of the small Islands & shoals – EbS 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ along a high steep bare bank & put up at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pm – Several Cow Buffalos here I 1 killed Cow & 1 Bull – Fresh breezes at SE & Sailed a little amongst the Is below –

19th Tuesday – Fresh breezes at SE, overcast, afternoon clear & pretty warm. at 4.50 am embarked & went, Tracked & Sailed on different sides of the river SbE 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ a Poplar Island on the South side – WSW 1 – NW 1 Plenty of Buffalo Tracks & a steep bank – WbS $\frac{1}{4}$ fine low barren ground on the North side – SbW 2 a Poplar Island went on the South side it – a steep bank – & fine level barren ground close along the river on South side $\frac{1}{2}$ mile within – NW 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ – NNW $\frac{3}{4}$ – NWbW 1 thick woods on S Side. NWbW $\frac{3}{4}$ – SWbS $\frac{1}{2}$ – WNW $\frac{3}{4}$ – SSW $\frac{1}{2}$ barren bare hills on the North side & a few Pines opposite the South Branch House appears these are the only Pines we have since 8 Days Journey up this river SSE 1 & arrived at the Site of the South Branch house – built by Magnus

August 19th Twatt & Mr William Walker in 1786 -

Handwritten note:
 26. 2. 11. 57. 45
 + 30
 26. 52. 53. 2 111. 50. 15

This observation taken 16th May 1801 - on our return down this river - we left our Winter House or Chesterfield 22^d April - Stopped here from 1 to 3 ½ Pm - & collected a few nails from the Old Houses - Tracked on N side (the House is on the same side) SSE ¾ - SWbS 1 ½ a small willow Island on the South side S 1 a Creek on the North side & a few Pines in it - SSW ¼ & put up on a steep bad bank at 6 ½ Pm on N side - Millions of Grass hoppers all the way from the South Branch house to where we put up - being in many places 3 or 4 deep all alive - I walked along shore & in places they were so very numerous that they darkened the air - I Wintered at this House from 22^d Dec^r 1789 to 4 June 1790 - it has never been reestablished since the melancholy catastrophe in 1794. - Thick woods on both sides of the river - a little way within small plains of fine Grass Land. -

20th Wednesday - at 5 ½ am got underway, sailed a little & Tracked on diff^t sides of the river till 6 Pm & put up on North side - The following Courses. S ¼ - SEbS ½ fine steep bank & barren ground on the South side - SSW ¾ & SW 1 ½ steep bare bank on the South side & woods - supposed to be the small hill that appeared ahead up the river on Monday - WbS ½ & low fine barren ground point on the South side & no woods - SEbS ¾ a stony grassy Isd in the middle of the river - SbE ¾ - EbS 1 - EbN ½ a high steep bare bank on the South side - SbE 1 a small Poplar close to the North shore - EbS ¾ a high steep bare bank on the South side - along the bay on that side the bank is nearly 120 feet perpendicular & about the half way down it a ridge of stones all along the bay about 8 feet or more thick - all of an equal heighth from the water - something curious - as very regular - a fine low barren ground Point on the N side opposite this ridge of Stones. SSW ¾ - SbE ½ - SWbS ¾ EbS ½ high steep bare bank on the South shore - SSW 1 - SEbS ¼ a few large Burnt standing Poplars on N side & swampy there - under the main bank. SSW 1 - W 1 a little stony Island on the North shore - SbE fine barren ground these last 3 reaches on both sides - very sandy & uneven ground here on the North side & high - a thin wirey grass & a deal of stuff like Wormwood - also great plenty of the Bastard Cherry wood - but none growing upon the bushes this Summer - Saw many buffalos - but the greater part is on the South side which is much better grass - strong current most part of this after noon & strong current - woods above the bank near the river just above where we put up. Mr Park & Ben Bruce in hunting but Killed nothing Fresh breezes at NW with rain in the forenoon - afternoon Calm & nearly clear

August 21st Thursday Light airs at SW, clear & hot_ afternoon a shower of rain & midling breezes at W. at 4.50 am got underway & tracked $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile & crossed the river to the South side, & went after some Buffalos near the bank & Ben Bruce killed 1 Cow & 1 Calf - I also killed 1 Bull - took the best of the meat & got underway again at 9.25 - & a boat tracked on each side of the river_ but the South side is rather the best_ SbW1 - SbS 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ a low, shoal, stony Point SE - NW 1 a deep creek on the South side but at present no water in it - This is the only one we have observed upon this side since we have first entered this river 300 Yards above it a Stony Point

Aug 21st 1890. 29. 0
Lat. 52. 33. 7" 90. 29. 15

SSW 2 - SWbS 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - SbW 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ woods all along the river on the South side - at the head of this reach a very high steep bare bank on S Side and here the Woods edge all above an intire open country - not a single stick growing for many hundreds of miles except along the Banks of pretty Large rivers or Creeks - & all to the NE of this line woody - pretty fine barren ground on the North side - on S side rather stony $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the river on the upper bank - SW 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Put up on South side at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm - a deep gully on the opposite side a little below where we put up_ Hammocks all day on both sides of the river till 1 Pm - Strong current yesterday afternoon and this day - Vast numbers of Grasshoppers - on both sides of the river - they are now copulating - The following Year we passed up this way very few or any of those Insects to be seen_

22nd Friday - Calm & hot - afternoon fresh breezes at W - as the Canadians intend to come up this river to build - we go on but slowly waiting their coming up to us that we may be the more & better able to repel any attempts of Indians that might be made on us_ these several days past we have made easy days Journey on that account_ at 2 Pm we got underway to go to a herd of Cows & went SEbS 1 - SWbW 1 - SbW 2 & stoped & killed 3 Cows - one where we came from & the other 2 here a fine low level flatt Point on the South side - No woods but a few small stragling Poplars under the bank close to the river on both sides -

Aug 22nd 1890. 29. 0
Lat. 52. 20. 29 97. 57. 37

} Perhaps the other observation before this, in this river should be taken, the error of 37"+ instead of 15"- NB {This observation is set down for the wrong Day (being taken on the 23rd before we started)}

August 23rd Saturday ~ Rain from 8 am until 2 Pm - killed one Young Bull - & proceeded up the river, to a more plentiful place of wood, as we Intend to dry some of our meat, to eat when we arrive where we are to Build, in case the Buffalo is scarce there - or we dont see any Indians soon after to assist us in Provisions - Went SEbS 2 ½ & put up on the same side - at a pretty large Hammock of Poplars in a deep gully - a great number of Tent Places (old) here - - Evening fresh breezes at E. the other parts of the Day Calm - great numbers of Buffalo in motion up the river -

24th Sunday ~ Heavy rain from 5 am all Day & most part of the night Fresh Gales at NE in the evening veered to the NW. - our Tents being below the bank - quite overflowed them - & wet the meat a good Deal that we have lately killed - all our Men always sleep in the Boats except myself - Onan Norquay & Benjⁿ Bruce -

25th Monday ~ Fresh breezes at NE. with flying showers of rain - employed splitting & Drying the Thighs & shoulders of 2 Buffalo - no Buffalo now near us.

26th Tuesday ~ Light breezes at WNW - Clear fine weather at 7 am embarked tracked on the North side (these days past tracking upon the South side) W 1 - SSW 2 - SbE 1 - S 1 a deep gully on the South side and a small round Hill about 3 miles from the river within - SSW 1 - SbW 3 a deep gully on the North side - killed 1 **Cavinitis** took the best of it & again got away - went SSE 2 Very little wood along the bank this day - in this last reach 2 or 3 small Poplars on South side & what appears large from the gully below on North side - Left a note for the French Master at the mouth of this river - also 1 last night acquainting them of our waiting for them - & wishing them to push well forward to overtake us soon - SWbS ½ & put up a deep gully on the S Side & a low point on the North Side. Not a single sprig of wood above the banks.

27th Wednesday - At 6 am resumed our progress forward - WSW 1 a nice ledge of small Poplars on the South side across the Point - & it has every appearance of its formerly being an Island or that the main channel of the river was on the South side S - SSW 1 ~ Went on hunting & Ben. Bruce killed 3 Cows - & myself 3 Cows & 1 Bull stopped & brought the greatest part to the Boats & crossed the river to the South side - to the upper end of a small hammock of Poplars - to dry the meat - fit for keeping - as there is not a Single tree on the other side - a steep bank & rather wet just above where we stopt - Drift wood & rather stony where we put up at 3 Pm. Light breezes & variable - thick smoaky air & hot - several old Traps at the bank made of Stones - for killing small foxes - made by Indians, many Years ago - about 2 mile within a kind of Low Valley - & a little water but not a single sprig of wood above the Bank on either side to be seen

August 28th Thursday

ry - Dehalt on 22 94.15.15
 Lk 52.14.52 94.15.45

All hands employed splitting & drying meat - Fresh breezes at SW. clear & hot. Evening fresh gales at NE. with heavy thunder lightening & rain.

29th Friday ~ Light airs & variable, clear, hot weather - Finished drying the meat - ready to embark tomorrow - also unloaded the Boats - & reloaded them.

30th Saturday A hill on the South side the river about 4 miles within runs parallel with the river - & uneven ground there - small hills & vallies - the nearest part of it appears ESE - The small round hill mentioned the 26th Inst. bears from here NbW - a hill also appears up the river on the right hand or North side - at 9 ½ Am got underway (left another note here for the French master) tracked on the N Side S 1 - WSW 1 ½ - SW ½ - SbW ½ - SW ½ these 4 last reaches a little small wood under the bank on the South side all along & wet springy ground - WbN 1 a good spring of water on the South side & a little steep bank at it - Steep high bare clay banks on the North side & a deep Creek with small willows growing in the mouth of it - a low valley within near the Creek - near SSW 1 ½ - high steep bare bank on the North side ESE 1 ½ - near SSW 2 Sailed these 2 reaches & obliged to put up on the North side at 2 Pm. for rain at a fine low Point - Strong Gales at South & kept veering to the NW - a very thick smoaky air - can see but a very short Distance, scarce across the river.. hills on N side

... hills on N side

31st Sunday At 6 ½ Am got underway, tracked along the North shore as usual - near WbS 1; near SSW 3 - river rather narrow here - small woods all along on the Face of the Bank - NWbW ½ a low flatt point, on the South side near the river covered with small Poplars - S 1 ½ high drifts of clean sand on the North side - & several pretty high sandy Knowls covered with herbage & small bushes of Hard berry wood & Maple - This is only close along the bank of the river & extends about ¾ mile in this manner - within fine level barren ground. great numbers of Tent Places here - & also in several places below where we have gone up the Bank being distinguished either by some few old fragments of wood - fireplaces or a round circle of Stones that are put up on the bottom edges of their Tents to prevent the wind blowing them down - Pegs are used when

Augt.. They have them in preference

They have them in preference De. Alt. Oct 1. 111. 36. 15
 Lat. 52. 5. 54

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY

De. Alt. Lyra
 9-16. 0 - 59-26. 0
 16-55 - 123. 0
 17-52 - 57. 30
 9-16. 56 59-42. 10
 - 2. 11 + 30
 9-14. 45 59-42. 40

Emersion of 2nd Satellite of Jupiter Watch 9. 2. 45 good sight
 Long. 107. 3. 15 9. 0. 30
 Snake Island, Moon woods 1 1/2 mile distant. Taken
 1/2 way amongst the sandy Knowls on the North side

66

Emersion of 2nd Satellite of Jupiter Watch 9.. 2.. 45 good sight Snake Island, Moon woods 1 1/2 mile distant. taken 1/2 way amongst the sandy Knowls on the North side

all these observations made 12th May 1801 on our return from Chesterfield House when we left that house 22nd April - & long before - not any Snow was to be seen - & all the Appearance of Summer - all the way till 15th when Strong Gales of Wind from the North East with Snow without intermission for 2 Days & nights & the Snow on the level was Knee deep - much more than we saw the whole Winter - & the drift in some Places was more than 6 feet Deep - we remained here 5 Days on that account - The weather was not very cold all the time - a few hammocks of Poplar on the South side some 2 or 3 miles from the river - SSW 1 The river here above 500 Yards wide - & a Poplar Isd called the Snake Island near the South Shore. here the Moose Woods commence upon both sides of the river. being nothing else but small Poplars willows &c - on the South side they extend a great way from the river - but on the North side never above 2 miles - Tracked now on the South side, which is very indifferent bad bank & woods - a high Drift of sand at the lower one of the Snake Island & no water now betwixt it & the North shore. the end of the Tracking may be said to end here until above these woods on account of the bad bank, & the woods pressing close to the waters edge & steep - S 1 SbE 3 all sandy knowls near the river on South side - & low point on North side - SSE 2 - very uneven ground on SS near the river - S 2 also good up putting place on the South side in some small poplars - SSW 1 a deep Creek on S Side called Beaver Creek runs from the ESE - not much water in it - this Creek is intirely full of Beaver as far the distance of 4 miles up the Creek There are Beaver Dams at almost every 20 or 40 yards - & all the poplars are cut down, not a single one standing for a great distance on either side - of Late on account of the greater part of the woods being cut down by them - They are the greater part of them either dead or have left it for a more plentiful place of food - Mr Bellew killed himself the following Spring 64 Beaver in it in 2 1/2 Days - a little above on same side a high steep bank at the river

August 31st of barren ground - WbN 1 ½ across the valley - which is more than 2 miles across the intervening space is the channel of the river - & very thick woods Poplar Willows &c & swampy Part - small Lake also upon these Points below the Main banks - Not a single Pine since a little above the South branch House S 1 ½ & put up at 5 Pm - the river here to the bottom of the bay is nearly ½ mile - Found here the Skeleton of a Parchment canoe used by some Inds above to cross the river - went on hunting after we put up & killed 1 Red Deer 1 Cow & 1 Bull - Fresh Gales at W. Clear - but a thick smoaky air occasioned by the woods or Grass being on fire - Sailed most part of the way from the Snake Island & tracked the remainder along sands - on different sides of the river - a fine Lake within on N side under & close to the main bank - Sandy Knowls on N Side - & the first Prickles, that we have yet seen - they are the same as those mentioned being seen at Red Deers River in my return from the Rocky Mountain the 21st July 1793 -

September 1st Monday Light breezes at W. smoaky air & hot - Killed 2 Cows - lay by all Day for the Canadians to come up. very uneven ground near the Main bank of the river on N Side - a single small Hammock of Poplars a little way within above the Bank

2nd Tuesday - Fresh breezes at NE, & the smoak cleared away - went up the river SW 1 & stoped till 2 ½ Pm & killed 2 fatt Cows - vast numbers of Buffalo here on the North side - an open place of wood at the river on North side - a steep perpendicular blue Clay bank all this reach on S S - Went ESE ½ - EbN 1 - ESE ¾ & put up on the North side at a Point of Poplars - a large flatt sand below us - Killed also 1 Calf -

3rd Wednesday ~ Employed splitting & drying meat all Day - In the Evening we was rather alarmed, by a strange dog coming to us - we supposed that he belonged to Indians that might be near & had some bad design upon us At night we all embarked in the Boats & dropt down the river a little opposite the large flatt sand that we could perceive any person approach us at ¼ miles distance - we all put our arms in compleat order - & 2 men at a time kept watch all night - but we saw nobody -

*Obtained 022. 90. 34. 45
+ 30
Lat. 51. 54. 57 90. 35. 15*

Septembr 4th Thursday The Dog remained near us the whole Night_ we tyed our boats to a large drift tree fast in the sand, about 10 or 12 Yards from the shore - at 6 ½ am got underway with a strong sail wind - wind at N. cold cloudy weath^r went SSW 1 - ESE 2 - S 1 - ESE 1 ½ - SSE 1 a fine low level plain on the South side about ½ mile deep - very full of Buffalo - & a steep perpendicular earth bank all the way along - in tracking walk on the top of the Bank small hammocks of Poplar & swampy betwixt the back of this plain & the main bank river full of sands - Killed 5 Cows here which detained us 1 ¾ hour before we got away again - SW 2 to the upper end of the Moose Woods & fine barren ground on the North side & a steep high stony bank very thicketty just below it - No wood now on the North side - but fine level ground - on the South side a few small hammocks of Poplars still continues near the river for a few miles. a small ledge of woods on N side ½ mile within opposite the high nose - SW 2 a small creek on the North side - S 1 ½ end of the woods within on S Side here fine barren level ground - nice stony shore for tracking on S Side; from the head of this reach the woods below appears a long way off just like an Isld. SWbS 3 small drifts of bare sand on the North side & a small gully just below it - NWW 3 - SSW 4 & put up on the North side at 6 ½ Pm - not a single stick of wood on either side of the river - a low point NE.

5th Friday ~ Rain & Light breezes of wind at N from 4 am till Noon - then Dry, but continued cloudy & cold - at 1 ¾ Pm got underway - as there is not a single stick of wood near here to make a fire to dry our things - went SWbS 1 ½ - SbW 2 ½ - SEbS 1 ½ tracked mostly on the South side - Killed 2 Cows - a steep bare bank of blackish earth on South side - & we put up on N Side at a small Creek just below some few woods under the bank, growing in hollows -

6th Saturday - Heavy rain from 2 Pm to 2 am - next morning - Fresh breezes at SE - Our Men taking ash for ax helms - as there is good wood of that sort here - waiting the arrival of the Canadians -

7th Sunday - a Large Bear came near our Tent Last night - Strong breezes at NW. cloudy cold weather - another strange dog came to us from the South side & above - the other one followed us a little way - & remained - **Larid** also & 3 Bears up on a sand in the middle of the river.

8th Monday Light breezes at SSE with rain from 6 am till 3 Pm a very old crooked Large Poplar at the mouth of the Small Creek.

Septemb^r 9th Tuesday Left a note here for the Canadian Master, acquainting them that we had now waited 13 Days for them since we entered this river - and as the season is fast advancing - & not knowing properly what distance farther before we arrive at the Mouth of the Red Deers river where we are to build - occasions our going - on more expeditiously for the future - at 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ am got underway - went SbE 2 - a deep Gully on the North side SEbS 2 a low deep creek & Gully on the same side - SEbS 2 a large flat sandy Plain on South side & a deep gully on the North side opposite the sand plain -

Handwritten note:
 Sand plain - Dealt 021 87° 3' 45"
 + 30
 Lat. 51° 25' 47" 87° 4' 15"

A deep Creek on N Side - no water now in it & a little above on same side a low kind of flatt level Point or Valley & a spring of water - E 3 half way up this reach on S Side a fine low gulley - no wood, & a nice small run of water - put up on South side - a large view within here - At 10 Pm - several herds of Buffalo ran down the bank where we lay close to us & very near running over us - fired 3 Shots at them to drive them from away - not a single sprig of wood here Mr. Park & Ben Bruce fired several shots at Buffalo but without effect in the Day - Fresh breezes at S. overcast & cold in morning; & afternoon Clear

10th Wednesday Fresh breezes at S clear & cold - at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ am got underway - tracked on different sides of the river - as usual - SSE 4 a nice low flatt Piece of Land on the North side - nearly level with the river - two or 3 small stony Islands on the North side - EbS 2 Sandy Knowls on South side - SE 3 a deep fine Creek on the North side - & a smaller one on the opposite side - where we put up - Killed 4 Cows & 1 red Deer - several small tufts of Small Poplar - Birch - ash - maple - Saskatoon; Hard berry wood & willows the only woods growing along this river - but generally on the North side in deep small hollows in the face of the banks - but not a single sprig above them - Great Plenty of red Deer all along this river - where ever there is any small woods of any kind so sure are there to be some of those Animals to be seen -

11th Thursday - at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ am got underway went SSE 2 - SEbS 4 - ESE 5 - EbN 1 - and put up at the Elbow of the river - at the middle of the last reach but one - a part of the bank appears just like the end of a house - 2 Islands in this Last reach 1 of which is nearly a mile long

Sep^r. went on the North side it - altho the remainder of the Day we in generall tracked on the South side - & is stony in places - a little woods upon the Isd - river nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide at the big Isd - pretty high ridge on N side, sandy & covered with a small kind of shrubs - a fine spring of water from under one of the sandy Knowls on N side opposite the middle of the Island - More hammocks this Day of small Poplar &c. on N Side - than usual - in the face of the bank - a high Drift hill of Sand at the Point on N Side - tracked past the spring on the North side which is very indifferent - Killed 1 Red Deer - in the river which Drove before the Current - put up at 5 Pm.

D. nalla aquila 94. 30. 0
+ 30
22. 51. 6. 20 94. 30. 30

Light airs & variable hot weather - with Thunder Lightening & rain from 7 Pm until 11 - A fine low valley a little above on the South side, & has the Appearance of a river - a few stunted Poplar at the rivers edge there - High Steep earth banks on both sides of the river in several places every Day. -

12th Friday ~ a little above our Tent an Old Bull came down the Bank in to a puddle near the river about 6 Inches deep - & he kept walking round & round in a small circle - as if he had been light headed & held so till we passed him about 1.2 mile before he left off when he went away - altho we passed within 100 yards of him, this is the first sight of any think of the kind..at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ am got underway & went SbW 1 & SWbS

1

went N by 20 Miles *D. nalla* 0 22 05. 30. 0
+ 30
22. 51. 4. 13 05. 30. 30

<p>11 22. 55. 9 - 73. 7. 15 0 22. 41. 34. 35 22. 41. 35. 31 9 22. 40. 51. 0 22. 40. 10. 21 11 54. 41 9 15. 4 9 15. 50 + 35. 26. 43. 3 73. 11. 2 105. 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ empty</p>	<p>22. 55. 9 - 73. 7. 15 56. 24 - 7. 0 57. 5 - 6. 15 57. 58 - 6. 0 58. 45 - 5. 45 59. 36 - 5. 15 23. 0. 24 - 5. 0 1. 11 - 4. 45 2. 3 - 4. 30 2. 53 - 4. 0</p>	<p>12 0. 1. 16 - 72. 39. 30 2. 16 - 39. 15 3. 5 - 39. 0 3. 46 - 38. 45 4. 34 - 38. 30 5. 13 - 38. 0 5. 56 - 38. 0 6. 39 - 37. 30 7. 28 - 37. 30 8. 29 - 37. 0 0. 4. 53 72. 38. 18 1. 4. 50 1 0. 9. 43 72. 38. 48</p>	<p>0 22. 42. 57. 35 22. 42. 58. 26 9 22. 42. 54. 20 22. 42. 58. 39 11 54. 42 9 15. 2 9 15. 58 + 25. 29. 75 + 4. 72. 40. 40</p>
--	---	--	--

105. 51 $\frac{1}{2}$

D. nalla 0 22 01. 23. 0
+ 30
22. 53. 21 01. 29. 0

<p>11 22. 47. 46 - 81. 23. 0 48. 31 - 28. 30 49. 18 - 34. 0 22. 48. 32 81. 28. 30 + 4. 119 + 30 22. 53. 21 81. 29. 0</p>	<p>11 22. 50. 7 - 82. 44. 15 51. 0 - 49. 45 51. 51 - 55. 45 22. 50. 59 82. 49. 55 + 4. 52 + 30 22. 55. 51 82. 50. 25</p>
--	--

these observations Taken on the South side - where Aquilae was observed last Night bears from this spot N $\frac{1}{2}$ E 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ mile - Then went SWbS 3 mostly sandy banks on N side - & a small Poplar Isd N S - very hilly & hollow ground within on the North side covered with brush or Juniper bushes - a long steep sand bank

Sept 12 - drifted on North Side, close to the edge of the water on the South side several Poplars cut in two by Beaver - the lower parts of which are standing above 7 feet above the level of the ground - I suppose that sand banks have been drifted at that time they was cut which appears to be nearly 12 or 15 years ago - nearly that height & since it have again been drifted away by the winds - which causes this singular appearance - as the bare sands here are in a continual state of fluctuation by strong Gales of wind - SWbW 3 & put up on the North Side at 5 Pm - a pretty good Hammock of Poplars here - sufficient to build a house with - the only one we have seen since the Moose woods - indifferent shores for Tracking ever since we left the Moose woods - several sand Banks in the river - & steep banks in several places at the waters edge - & muddy - Killed 1 Bull - very few to be seen.

13th Saturday - at 6 ½ am got underway - went WbN 2 - SWbS 1 ½ three or 4 Kind of Creeks on the North side but no water in them - SbW 4 a good hammock of Poplars on North side on a point in the river - a high sandy hill on the S Side opposite where we put up last night - SW 2 - S 1 high steep bare banks Earth rather loose - with a good quantity of small pieces of a Stone like alabaster, which glitters in the Sun a good distance off - a small Creek with a little water in it on the same or North Side - Killed a black bear - he chased a heard of Buffalo into the river - & followed them close while swimming & before they was just ready to Land he cut the Sinews of Both hind Legs of a Young Bull - & before we could get opposite to him which was only ¼ mile off he had already skinned a considerable part of the Back & eat some also - when we fired & Killed him - BB & son Killed 2 Cows where we put up on N Side - very uneven hilly & holley ground below the Main bank which is above 1 mile from the river - a small Poplar Isd on S Side - & low flat Point -

Sept. 12. 1800. Lat. 50° 50' 30" N. Long. 94° 58' 30" W.
Sept. 13. 1800. Lat. 50° 50' 30" N. Long. 94° 59' 00" W.

As we are now pretty high up the Country - & in daily expectation of seeing some Indians - we began to keep a regular watch 2 men alternately one in each Boat for 3 hours each - the whole night - having all our Arms & ammunition ready - hitherto we have kept no regular watch - Light breezes at NW. Clear & warm - a thick cold fogg in the morning Tracked mostly all the Day on the North side - a small narrow long swampy Pond of Lake here a little above us on a low Point on this Side -

Septem 14th Sunday Fresh breezes at South Clear weather – at 10 am – got underway rowed ESE 2 miles – a Good large hammock of Poplars on the North Side & very sandy in the Bay on the South Side – here on this point on the North Side on our return down here in the Spring – just at the back of the wood, at the edge of the Barren ground, we found 7 Skulls of unknown people – all whole – and entire except one which was broken in a hole on one side – the principal part of the Teeth was all fallen out – & the Skull, being as white as Snow – by exposure to the Sun & water & Snow in the winter – we also found close by the fragments of a little wood & some small noggans – of both hood & Buffalo horn – also in the Ashes in one old fireplace found the blade of one of our womens Knives – a good Deal rusty – there has been 5 Tents here – we also saw the principal part of the bones of one about 8 years old by their size – These people have either been killed by an Enemy – or else cut off by the Small Pox in the fall 1781 – & the appearances of the different things we saw to have been at or near that time – as then whole families & tribes was cut off at once by that terrible & malignant Disorder – which is much more so in these parts than in Europe – or else the constitution of the Natives here – are quite different – which last I believe to be the case – SSW 2 & put up on the South Side – I went on hunting, I killed 6 Cows – Robt Bugh 1 Cow – & Benj. Bruce 2 more – a little above where we did – Rob^t Bugh also 1 Red Deer a high hill at the head of this reach which directly crosses the river at right Angles – about 2 or 3 miles off – running ESE & WNW – Great numbers of Buffalo crossing the river from the South & the North side – & a great many Red Deer on NS – very uneven ground on SS in the face of the Bank all small hills & deep hollows – above the bank fine level ground – not a single sprig of wood above the Bank on either side all the way – since the Moose Woods – Brought the best of the Meat to the Boat

15th Monday – Fresh breezes at W clear fine weather. at 7 ½ am got underway – tracked on the SS – SSW 2 – SWbW 3 & went to the top of the bank on SS which is very high – at least 850 feet – but very full of Small hills & Deep hollows before we ascended to the top – a large view here – nothing particular – WNW 3 – these last 2 reaches a low flatt bottom near the river on this Side & a good small Creek with the most water we have seen in any Creek on this Side – the lower end of the last reach high peaks of earth on SS & a deep Gulley – WSW 1 ½ a few stragling Poplars in this reach on NS – SWbS 3 & put up at 6 pm on

Sepr 15th the SS – sailed a little in the evening – afternoon, cold & cloudy with fresh breezes at North – a large herd of Buffalo crossed the river & I shot 2 Good Cows as they came out of the water – No woods on either side –

16th Tuesday Rain in the Night & this morning at 11 am got underway Sailed SWbS 3 – a nice bushy Poplar Island on the SS. & a little above it on the NS a willow Island – stoped from 10 until 2 pm for rain – W ½ a small Poplar Island on SS. & a thorny, briery, place on the NS & a low fine meadow piece of Land where we put up at 5 ½ - the best tent place for fine, level & grassy we have yet had – no woods on either side – what we use for cooking &c is drift wood we find along the sides of the river Very hilly & holly ground particularly on the SS – no Buffalo or Red Deer to be seen this day – I am very badly & have been so now twice by sleeping upon wormwood – which causes a great looseness & pain with great lassitude thro my whole frame – Sailed most of this day –

17th Wednesday at 7 am Embarked steered SW 4 – a willow Island at the bottom of the reach on NS. a middling good point of Poplars NS – & a very high bank 900 feet high & very hilly & holly as usual – NS & the same on the SS – we are now passing thro the Hill, mentioned on Monday, which commenced where I went up the Bank – No woods here a small barren grass Island towards the upper end of the reach about 20 Yards from SS & about ¼ mile long – this has been severed from the SS which it has every appearance – rather steep towards the N – at the lower End – a small rapid of stones at the head of it betwixt the Is & SS – Shoal a few poplars at the head of the reach on SS – SW 2 high bare steep banks on the NS & no grass – in the face of the bank only – & 2 curious humacks like high pinnacles of Earth in the face of the Bank – & a flatt low bottom on SS, in the middle of which is a singular Conical knowl of Earth about 15 feet high & the same in Diameter – flatt at top & steep all round except a small slope in 1 place – which will enable any person to climb up it –

*1. D. Nat. 021 02. 31. 15
 2. 50. 37. 46 + 30
 02. 31. 45*

WbN 2 a wide creek on the SS, no water in it – a small willow Point S a little above it – & a few willows on the SS. – NNW 1 a

Sept 17 few large old stunty Poplars on the SS & a small Id of stunty Poplars on the same side – river very narrow here & no sands – Barren ground on the SS WbS 3 a large Barren ground Island on the SS, with a few large Poplars on the upper end of it – & willows at the bottom – a small willow Island at the Tail of it on NS – went on SS the Barren ground Id which is deep but at the head of it Strong ~ NWbW $\frac{3}{4}$ a pretty good Poplar Island on SS. put up on NS at the head of it in a kind of Gully – at 6 pm – curious red rocks here in the face of the under bank – NS – strong current – River narrow. Shot one Ball – I am still very badly – occasioned by laying upon worm wood one night lately – Morning warm & Clear – Afternoon fresh breezes & Cold at W – very hilly & holly on the face of the Bank on NS – of loose earth

18th Thursday Strong breezes at NW cloudy & very cold all day – at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ am LeBaron & seep shot 1 cow each as they came out of the water – at 6 am we got underway – Tracked on the North side WSW 1 & passed a strong rapid very rocky & stony close to the bank & difficult to get safely up – a long projecting flatt point of stones on the SS which contracts the channel here at Low or middling water as is not more than 15 Yards wide – and a large Creek on SS at the head of the rapid which is navigable with light & small Canoes from the Pe kun me coo hills about 15 or 20 miles within where this creek has its source – a low shattered valley where the creek runs down a little within & a curious earth pinnacle in it to be seen from the river on the W side the Creek – a great quantity of Maple – in this Creek or rather below it – the small – This rapid is the upper side of the Hill – the lower side the beginning is where I went to the top of the Bank on Monday above this the banks gradually declines & becomes quite low particularly on the NS – WSW 1 a few stunted Old Poplars just above the head of the rapid on NS – NW 1 – SSW $\frac{3}{4}$ - WNW 2 – WSW 2 – SWbS 4 a high Drift of sand on the NS in the edge of the river & a fine low Point on same side at the head of the reach, the only one we have lately seen – a fine low bottom & a great crossing place for Buffalo on both sides in places – all day. WbN 3 bottom of this reach Poplars on NS nearly drifted up with loose Sand – NNW 1 – WbN 4 & put up – the latter part of the day small willows growing in a valley on the SS – at 6 pm on the NS – in a few large Poplars – Saw 2 Bears eating Drowned Buffalo in the edge of the river – fired at one, without effect – lower banks on both sides – Still very poorly – Buffalo very plentiful this day – upon both sides but particularly on the NS. which as the best Grass –

Sept 19th Friday ~ Fresh breezes & variable Westerly, clear weather & Cold – at 6 am got underway, went near WbS 5 a steep bank at the head of this reach on NS. with a few dry standing Poplars – bad tracking at it – W ½ N 6 river here wider, above 400 yards wide & full of sand banks – pretty easy current. a deep dry creek on SS – & on NS opposite a kind of Free Stone rock in the face of the steep bank close at the river – NNW 1 & put up at 6 pm Still very badly – a few poplars in places in the first reach, on this last reach great numbers of Buffalo, the ground in a manner covered by them on both sides – banks low & smooth

mouth of Nat. Aqueduct 95° 20' 0" on SS
 Lat 50° 41' 22" + 30
 95° 20' 30"

20th Saturday Got off at 6 am – & went NNW 1 a few Poplars on the NS – WNW 5 fine low sloping banks on both sides; a creek & Island of willows on the SS & a large hammock of good Poplars – also a few on the NS – a low valley on SS at the head of the reach, full of sandy Knowls & covered with small shrubs – or bushes of willows – NWbN 4 & put up on NS – the Grand Boufon on E^t. side – a fine low plain & a long view of 20 miles nearly within from the river – all a low flatt land the upper end of a pretty large hill opposite here bearing NE – & runs down nearly parallel with the river – the upper side crosses the river at the Rapid, here it is about 4 miles from the river – on the SS opposite here a low valley WbS & full of pretty high hills of entire sand, this is a great place for the Buffalo crossing here – a little below in this reach 3 Mud houses on this side amongst a few Poplars – they are of a circular form about 9 feet diameter & 4 ½ high – they appear to be nearly 20 Years old – they are said to have been built by a small war party from the Mississoury river – who live in these kind of habitations – lay by 4 hours killing Buffalo – I killed 3 – Mr Beaunel & Mr. Pack 1 close to the river – the ground here is all covered by them – a very large single Poplar here 3 fm round out in the plain a little from the river – sandy land – & plenty of the Prickles which delight in such soil – the lower end of this last reach the river opened like the ocean – little land in sight – still very badly – Clear fine warm pleasant weather & Calm – Rowed the great part of this reach – on account of the steep & woody banks on both sides & many sandy shoals – a large long Poplar Island on the SS

Sepr where the bodys of 2 Iroquois Indians was found in April 1802, on our return down here the 2^d time – 14 of these people with 2 Canadians left Carlton House & came up this river by land in March, to kill Beaver – who had been erroneously told was plentiful – 2 of these men was killed about 4 or 6 miles below our House other 2 not above $\frac{3}{4}$ mile – & about 10 days afterwards – the other 10 along with the Canadians was also inhumanly massacred about 15 or 20 miles below our house upon the river – every one of which was scalped – & several they cut to pieces limb from limb – their Nose – Private parts – & mangled them in the most Shocking manner – This was done by the Old Transgressors the Fall Indians they would have attempted to kill us also but we kept within a good fort when the last 12 was killed they hung their scalps upon long poles & all passed up the river near the house singing & dancing – some of them was even eatg the Part of the heart of one – they Pillaged them they killed of 9 Kegs of Powder – 70 lb of Ball – 60 lb of Shott – upwards of 50 Steel Traps – & all their Guns & other articles – what raised the resentment of the Fall Inds so very much was that the Summer 1801 – the Southern & Stone Indians had made war upon them, killing 76 men women & children – in 2 different Places up towards the Stony Mountain on the Moocoowans river – & at the Pe kun o me koo hill – they also scalped 3 who they took for dead two Children about 10 Years old and a middle aged woman – who recovered & came to our house – afterwards – the Scull was just like a picked bone – & exposed after wards to the weather – The Small pox the same spring also came amongst them from the Southward towards the Mississoury river – & cut off 100 principally of Children – & fortunately it did not spread amongst other Indians – Also that winter being uncommonly severe with deep snow – that a few of them lost their lives by the severity of the weather when out in the Plains trapping Small foxes – also a heavy & sudden Snow in May 12th & 13 1801 – which killed above 100 of their horses – & the Enemy besides went away with 174 – Such was the causes that irritated them to that Degree – as to kill all the Iroquois & Canadians – we used every endeavour to save the lives of the last 12 – but without effect – we also buried these 2 that was killed near the House & wrapped them up in New Blankets but the day after they tore them up again – & chopped off their hands & feet – & carried to their Tent where they all Tented $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from our house the Whole Nation being above 600 able Warriors – Other Canadians that accomp^d the 2 Iroquois – that was killed near our house fortunately escaped & got into our house – where they remained all spring –

Sepr 21st Sunday – at 6 am Embarked, went NNW $\frac{1}{2}$ W 4 – NWbN 2 all full of willow & small Poplar Islands, rowing mostly – very bad tracking – Thousands of Buffalo – on Both sides – W $\frac{1}{2}$ S 8 – willow & Poplar Islands on both sides & River wide & full of shoal sands – all the Poplars Yesterday & this day Very Stunty & short – not good for building a house with – Got on tolerably well – put up opposite the head of a large Poplar Island on the SS at 7 pm quite dark – we could not find a proper place sooner – a large Round Large Stone like a Mill stone 1 mile below on this side & high drift of pure sand a nice creek of water just below the Mill stone – runs out of a hill of sand – near the edge of the river – sandy ground on the SS in this last long reach in several Places – Mr Mills boy Died in this P. 1802 ----W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 1 just before we put up – Light Airs & variable clear & pretty hot

22nd Monday – at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ Am got underway – went W $\frac{1}{2}$ N 3 – SW 2 a poplar Island on the NS & a steep bank on the opposite & a low bank on NS – near NWbW 4 a poplar Island SS – NWbN 1 & entered another small hill – that crosses the river here – NWbN 1 – WbN 1 – WbS 1 near WSW $\frac{1}{2}$ S 5 high steep on both sides these last 4 Reaches – Particularly on the North side which is almost perpendicular & quite bare of grass – a few small poplars on both sides in this last reach – & got thro the hill – Since the SW course two miles the river has been quite narrow, strong current & no sands – good tracking mostly all we have gone this day – a small willow Island at the head of the last reach & a small narrow low under bank on both sides Passed several small creek on both sides but not a drop of water in any one of them – The Prickles much fewer these 2 days past than before – SWbS 2 SWbW 2 – WSW 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - SWbS 1 a Poplar Island on the North side & a strong shoot of current – WbS 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ fine level low underbank on SS & round a high steep bare bank on NS a long piece ahead here up the river WbS 1 & put up on SS at 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ pm – Killed 1 Bull & Cow – at the upper side the hill the banks appears to fall back from the river on both sides – River narrow – strong current & pretty good Tracking – altho we sailed all Day – Strong breezes at N, cold cloudy weather the hill appears in the plain above the bank on this side, below, which we passed at noon – Started 3 Bears where we put up but killed none only 1 in the Mg – in NS entg the thro –

Septemb 23 Tuesday ~ Rain in the Night & till 9 am. at 9 ½ we embarked & again sailed all day – went SSW 1 – near SWbW 7 – a good point of Poplars on the NS – the best we have seen for building yet – a deep creek on SS & water running down it pretty much – a small hill within on SS about 2 miles from the river – now follows crooked shorter reaches, with willows sides & something similar to the moose woods – NWbN 1 a good poplar point on the SS – & lowish bank on NS – W 1 WSW 1 ½ - here as we was tracking on SS – an old Grizzel She Bear & her 2 Young ones of a year old & more ran Down with great vigor to the waters side – we saw them at a little distance when all our men then was walking immediately ran Aboard of the Boat which was 2 feet deep & a little from the Shore – the moment they got on board – the whole 3 Bears came to the very side of it & endeavoured to get in amongst us – we had several guns Loaded but durst not fire for the men while getting in – in our hurry to drive them & keep them from coming aboard we fired several shots which severely wounded two of them when they ran away again up the Bank – Them was the most driving Bear any of us had ever seen – this little hill below a very plentiful place for them Animals – being seldom or ever disturbed by any humans as since we have several times 1 or 2 when the face of the Banks – but as this season their skins are not good for want of hair – prevented our killing them – NWbW 1 SW 1. The tail of a large Island, put up on the SS on good Poplars fine sloping banks on both sides – The latter part of the Day – Poplars on both sides where we put up. Fresh breezes at East cloudy cold weather Mr Brown & Ben Bruce killed 2 Cows.

24th Wednesday – At 6 ½ am got underway went crooked betwixt SSW & NW 4 miles making SWbW 3 – a high steep under bank & very bad Tracking SS – a high steep bare bank on the NS – SE 1 ½ a bad under bank on SS tracking – small sandy plains on SS – WSW 2 WNW 2 main bank on the NS – of late poplars and willows all along under the main banks – good poplar on both sides – about 1 ½ mile betwixt the main banks of the river - & points of poplar go below the banks – a little below this the 10 Iroquois & 2 Canadians was killed – WbS 4 little wood on the NS – a point of Poplars on the SS. SbE 1 a high steep face on SS – formerly an Island – SWbS 1 Chesterfield House.