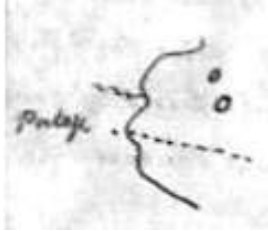


A Journal from the Long Point Cedar Lake to Swan River House, Somerset & Carlton Houses - also the upper Parts of the Red River, in 1795 by Peter Fidler

1795

76

**October 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** ~ at 1 Pm left the Long Point in the Cedar Lake and went SWbW 8 miles and arrived at 3 ½ Pm and put up on the North end of the Long swampy carrying place out of the Cedar into the Win ne peg os sis Lake - a small bay at the Carrying Place on N end as on the Margin -



carried Canoes & Goods ½ mile from the edge of the Lake - a small creek falls out of a Swamp near the shore into the Cedar Lake - a great number of Tent Poles & old broken canoes here - Fresh breezes at S & Cloudy - Evening Light Airs at WNW. on Saturday Sept. 5th 6 Canoes left York Factory 2 to proceed for Swan River ie Mr Isham & self - & 4 Canoes to Cumberland House - with Messrs Geo. Sutherland, John Wright, Surgeon; Jas. Bird; & John Peter Pruden - with 4 working hands in every Canoe - I have been remaining at York Factory ever since the 4th of July 1793 - we parted with Messrs Sutherland & Co - about 6 miles NE of the Long Point - The Survey from York Factory to the Long Point in the Cedar Lake, from whence I now take my departure will be found in Volume 1<sup>st</sup> ..

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday** ~ At 6 ½ Am the People began to carry the Goods & Canoes & got all to the Tent poles an open spot near the middle of the Carrying place where water is to be had. the distance 2 ¼ miles - there is 1100 Yards at the N end that is very swampy & wet & very bad carrying - all the rest quite across is dry hard ground & good walking - towards the S end 2 or 3 small Hills near the Lake - the whole Length of this carrying place is 4 miles & 180 Yards measured with a line of ⅙ of a mile long - it is two Spells to carry all over the Swamp - in the middle of which a great Southern Indian Chief was buried here - this is above 70 Years ago - & every Indian that passes here gathers up a lump of Moss & throws upon his grave - as a memorial of respect - he was it is reported very old when he died & was then on his way to Hudsons Bay - The Course over the Portage is SbW - a good deal of Cedar upon this particularly about the Middle - some Trees will be more than 1 foot Diameter - but in general full of Branches - This Portage

**October** is along a ridge of Land - narrow - neither side an intire swamp - at Midnight a heavy gale sprung up at NW - afterwards fresh Gales - clear weather - morning Cloudy. afternoon Calm & rather hazy - very warm weather for the Place & Season

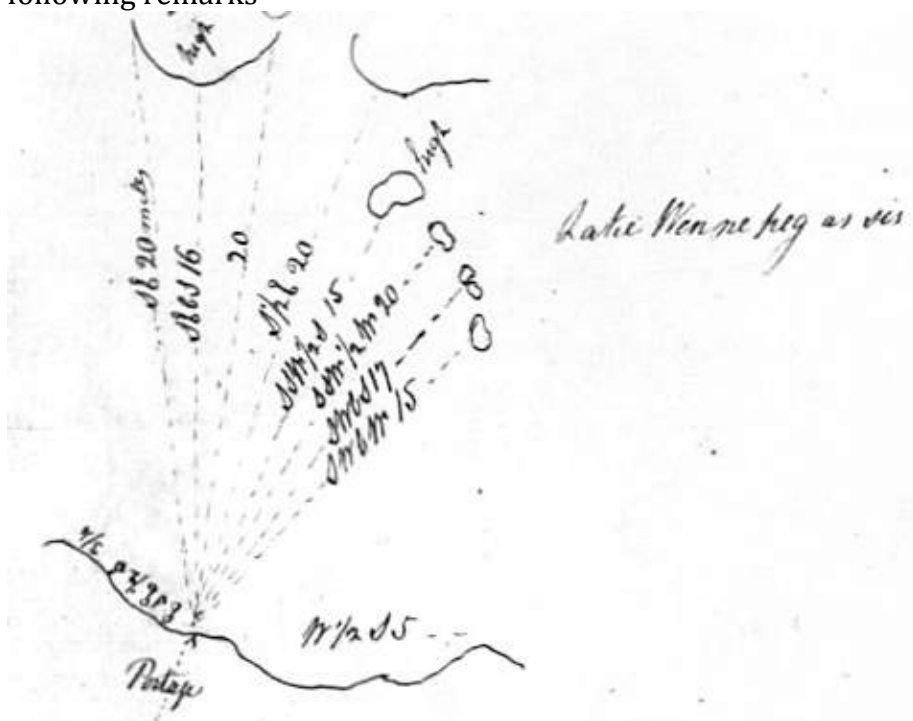
*Dealt 0 22 64. 11. 15*  
 $\begin{array}{r} + \\ 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$   
*Lat. 53. 6. 59*      *64. 11. 22*

Taken at the N end of this Portage adjoining Cedar Lake

**5<sup>th</sup> Monday** ~ Got all over the Portage to the edge of Lake Winnipeg os sis at 5 ¼ Pm - Fresh breezes at SW, intermixt with Calms with Thunder & heavy Rain - Rain most part of last night and till 8 am - Shot several Wood Partridge on the carrying place - Pine, Cedar - Asp, Birch &c is the wood that are to be found here - The Porcupine hill bears SW ½ W & appears low from the S. end of this Portage.. Observed the Sun to Set N 72° W - hence the variation of the Compass is 9°.37 Easterly ~

*Dealt 0 22 63. 32. 0*  
 $\begin{array}{r} + \\ 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$   
*Lat. 53. 3. 27*      *63. 32. 7*

Taken at the S end of the Carrying Place - at the edge of Lake Winnipeg os sis - made here also the following remarks -



high SbE 20 miles SbE ½ E 16 20 SSE 20 SEBs ½ S 15 SEBs ½ S 20 SEBs 17 SEBs 15 high Lake Winnipeg os sis W ½ S 5 Portage N ½ E 4300 y

**6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** ~ at 8 am got underway went in Lake Winnipeg os sis - as we - put up on a Small Is<sup>d</sup> at 3 ¼ Pm - called the Fishery Island - It a but thin Is<sup>d</sup> only about 100 Yards long near the South Shore - only 3 large Poplar Trees upon it which appears at a distance like a 3 masted Ship - The forepart of the Day fresh breezes & variable intermixt with Calms - Afternoon fresh breezes at ESE - Clear Warm weather - The North end of the Porcupine Hill bears from this Island SWbW about 30 Miles off - Water in this Lake brackish near the Portage very clear - & white Stones all thro the Lake - & a white salt substance chrystalizes on the Stones along shore - which is purgative - even in small Quantities -







low land. stony shore. Pine 40'

From the Point A - the South end of the Porcupine hill bears S 67° W appears low

**October 8** a bluff of Asp at the mouth of the Shoal river - a good mark to find the entrance of the river

*the river Shoal Old 111. 24. 30  
Lake 52. 44. 21 111. 24. 15*

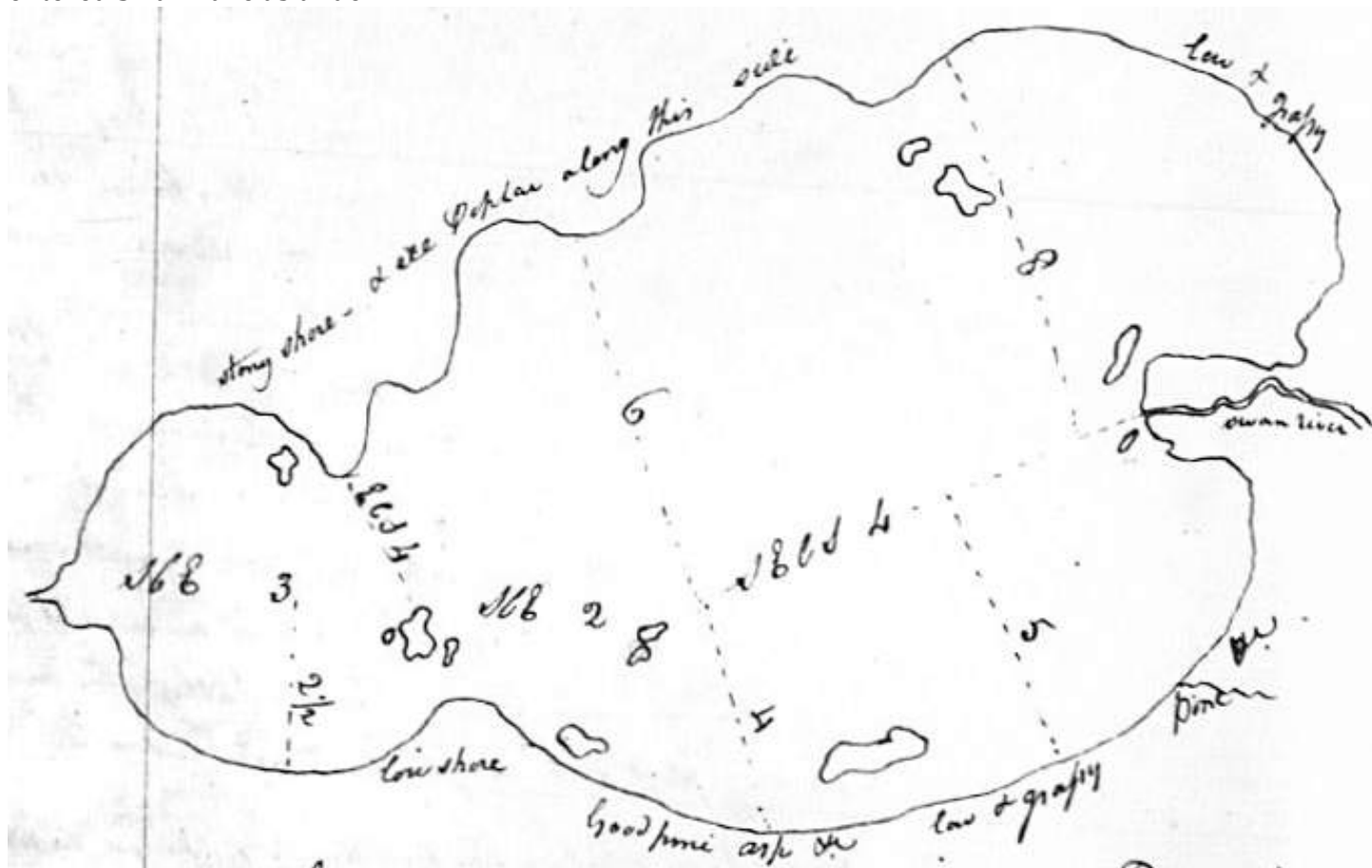
Taken at the Mouth of the Shoal river at the entrance into Lake Winepeg on sis 13<sup>th</sup> May 1796 ~ Arrived at the mouth of this river at 12 ½ & remained here until 2 ½ Pm Mr Ishams Canoe not yet come up - when we embarked & went up the river E ⅓ - SW 1 ½ a shoal rapid & small willow Island - formerly an Old Canadian House here on the North side the foundation of which is to be seen, also 2 beds in the ground a little below the House where 2 Canoes have been put into to keep them from splitting with the Frost in the Winter - in the fall 1781 - they came here for the winter a large band of Cree Indians went from the red river to take this Settlement & kill all the Canadians - but before they reached it they were overtaken by the Small pox virus of whom died & others became sick that their horrid design was frustrated - only a very few proceeded onward to the House - & behaved themselves in a proper manner - & the Canadians never knew of the intentions of these Indians until the following Summer - a few Years before they had openly attacked 2 Settlements on the red river & at one of them a few Canadians were killed & a great many Indians - before the Small pox they were so very numerous that had not this destructive disorder attacked them it was the opinion of every one that no traders could with safety visit these interior parts - the same was case at the Saskatchewan River - since the Canadian House was abandoned about 1783 - pretty large Poplar Trees have sprung up within the foundation of the House - such the rapid growth of Poplars here - The Canadians had a settlement in those times at the Red Deer river One betwixt that & Swan river - which was both being very near taken by the Southern Indians - Mr Peter Belleau - Continued our course up the Shoal river ESE ¼ - SSW ½ a shoal rapid - SbE ⅛ a fine Fen piece of ground on the East side - SW ¼ a fine piece of ground on W side - & the River rather wider than below - SbE ⅛ a strong rapid - E ⅛ a small creek on the E<sup>t</sup> side - SbW ¼ - near S ⅓ a very shoal, stony, strong rapid called the Pelican Fall Tcd 300 Yards - 50 of which was very strong - SSW ⅛ SbE ¼ - SW ⅛ - ESE ⅛ - a small creek on E<sup>t</sup> side - SW ⅛ a shoal rapid Led on N side 50 Yards - a small willow Island on the South Side - SSE ⅛ Led 40 Yards SWbW ¾ shoal - a small Creek on N W side very salt when the Canadians Yearly make several large kegs of Salt - by evaporating the water - WSW ¼ SW ⅛ - SEbS ¼ - SW ½ & put up near the head of the river at 7 Pm -

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** being quite Dark - we was obliged to proceed slowly thro the upper part of the River - Several Stones lying about - banks being Dark - these last 5 Courses pretty strong current - River rather wider than below - from 30 to 70 Yards wide, low muddy grassy sides - plenty of asp - but very few pines along the river - Fresh breezes at South the forepart of the Day - afternoon Calm clear weather - at night a Strong Gale at NW sprung suddenly up - a little before the weather was very sultry hot & Cold flaws of wind repeatedly succeeding each other making a difference of at least 20° in the Thermometer betwixt the hot & cold current of air which seldom lasted more than ½ a minute before it changed - The Observations made in this Journey were made with a 12 Inch brass Sextant by Cary London - Artificial Mercurial horizon - with a Watch with 2d hand made by J. Jolly London - being a very good one

**9<sup>th</sup> Friday ~**

ay ~ Debat. Sirius  $41^{\circ} 56' 0''$   
 $+ 2$   
 Lat.  $52^{\circ} 37' 37''$   $41^{\circ} 56' 7''$

Jussy Not very clear - hazy - at 6 ½ am we got underway went in Shoal river as last night SW ¼ & entered Swan Lake as under -



stony shore - & all Poplar along this side low & grassy Swan river Pine low & grassy Good pine asp &c low shore SbE 3 SEbS 4 Nb 2 SEbS 4 6 8 5 2 ½ a small hammock of asp at the mouth of Swan river - a good mark as the mouth is difficult to find being very shoal there - at the head of Shoal River the South end of the Bird Hill bears SSE ½ E & appears low & at a great distance - similar to the view of the Porcupine Hill at the S end of the Swampy Portage - Entered the Swan river at 9 ¾ am & went up it SSE ½ - SE ½ - near S E 1 - near SSE 1 - SW ½ SW ⅓ a place called the Middle Carrying Place on the East side into Swan Lake which is very short

**October 9<sup>th</sup>** W  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SW  $\frac{1}{2}$  - SSW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SWbW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - NW  $\frac{1}{8}$  - WSW  $\frac{1}{8}$  - WbS  $\frac{1}{8}$  - SSE  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SSW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SbE  $\frac{1}{8}$  - S  $\frac{1}{8}$  - W  $\frac{1}{8}$  - SWbS  $\frac{1}{4}$  pretty good Poplars here - all below an intire Swampy Country & only small Willows - NbW  $\frac{1}{8}$  - WSW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SSE  $\frac{1}{8}$  - SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SSE  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SW  $\frac{1}{8}$  good Pine on the West side, called the upper carrying Place - WNW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - WSW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SW  $\frac{1}{2}$  a few Pine Trees on the East side - SWbS  $\frac{1}{4}$  - W  $\frac{1}{4}$  - SWbW  $\frac{1}{4}$  - NWbW  $\frac{1}{8}$  - WSW  $\frac{1}{8}$  - N  $\frac{1}{8}$  a Canadian House on W side built about 8 Years ago by Mr Cuthbert Grant - at present inhabited - Formerly an old house a little above on same side - pretty good horses here - & a very wet swampy Country on both sides of this river all the way up from the Lake - then SW  $\frac{1}{8}$  & arrived at Swan River House at 1  $\frac{1}{4}$  Pm - & found Mr Hallett & all well except John Johnstone Sen<sup>r</sup> who has a Bad thumb - This House was built by Mr Isham in 1790 - This river is from 10 to 15 Yards wide, easy current, low, grassy, muddy & willowy sides & very little wood except a few asp or Poplar - Here is also a few Old Oaks, white Elm & much resembling the Low banks of the Saskatchewan - This is the most Northern situation that Oak is observed to grow here in this Country They appear to be very Old - the greater branches being all Dead - some of these Trees is about 18 Inches Diameter at the Root - Fresh breezes at W forenoon Cloudy afternoon Clear - for Lat & Long<sup>d</sup> of this House see the End of this Volume - about 3 miles within on the NW side opposite the House is a small creek & a large Swamp that communicates with the Swan Lake - an excellent Place in the Spring to catch good Large Pike - one net will catch about 100 pr Day - in the Summer they all go again to the Lake - & in the Winter there is none in it being frozen nearly to the bottom - a net is generally set across Swan river at the House all Winter & Summer - but only a very small number of fish are to be caught, of Tickamy, Jack, Succor, Perch, Methy - The most plentiful kind is a small flatt fish - caught in the Summer -

**15<sup>th</sup> Thursday** ~ These 3 Days Mr Isham has been busily employed in Packing up Trading Goods &c to go & make a Settlement at the Red River - as we hear that the Canadians have built there this Summer - & the principal part of those Indians that usually Traded here are gone to that Place - There is no navigation with Canoes to transport the Goods there the Upper part of this river being shoal - & then to pass over land betwixt the two Rivers - at 8 am Mr Isham, Myself, Mr Hallett & 8 men with 3 Horses loaded with Trading Goods & Stores - we had no more Horses to take



**October 15<sup>th</sup>** and on our arrival here found only Provisions in the House for 2 Days, so that we have nothing else to eat but Turnips, Radishes &c - until we shall arrive at Somerset House which will take us 3 Days in going there - Hugh Sabeston & 2 or 3 men are remaining there - & by word brought lately they had got a tolerable quantity of Provisions - Went along the North side of Swan river SW 5 miles & crossed the river at the Lower crossing place & went on the S side SW 7 miles & crossed over the river again at the upper Crossing place & went SW 3 miles & put up at 3  $\frac{1}{3}$  Pm - got to the first cross<sup>e</sup> Place at 10 am stoped there  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour - arrived at the upper Crossing Place at 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  Pm stoped here till 2  $\frac{1}{3}$  & got off again - & put up as before mentioned at 3  $\frac{1}{3}$  Pm - Fresh breezes at NW flying showers of Snow & Hail - Great Quantities of Hops at the upper carrying Place - of a pretty good Quality as have been often times proved - they are found nearly all along the banks of this river above the House - & also at the Red River where we built - From the House to the lower crossing Place thick woods with a few small grassy plains - betwixt the 2 Crossing Places rather more open & dry & above the upper one quite dry a kind of Meadow Land - & hammocks of Poplar & some few pine interspersed here & there - near Swan river very few Pine generally all asp & Maple, the juice of the Latter the Canadians & Indians make Sugar off which is of a pretty good Taste & colour when it is made without being burnt in the Kettles the Juice is boiled in - it takes upon an average from 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 Gallons of the Juice to make 1 pound of Good Sugar - The trees are taped on the Southern side about 1 foot from the ground by a small notch being cut very smooth with a hatchet & just below a small cleft is made & a small chip or bit of wood is put into it about 3 Inches long - the juice running out of the wound & following this small chip like a little spout which conveys it into a small dish of Birch rind that is placed under to receive the Juice - & every morn<sup>g</sup> these dishes is emptied into large Tubs of Logs hollowed out for the Purpose in Cold weather the Juice does not run - & when very hot the same in warm weather the mornings are the best times - This process begins in April & generally lasts till the beginning of May - 2 people will tap about 1000 Trees to keep them in Liquor as fast as they evaporate it to produce Sugar - which is made by boiling in Large Kettles, & when it becomes of the consistence of honey great care is necessary to keep it from burning & giving the Sugar a bad taste & colour - a little fatt is all the ingredients used in this Process of making Maple Sugar

**October 16<sup>th</sup> Friday** ~ at 6 am we resumed our Journey Went SW 4 ½ miles & came to a Place called by our people the Water Hut - at 8 am - water is to be found here & a pretty good place to sleep at in the Winter - then SW 5 miles & at 10 am arrived at Large Pine Hammock on our left hand - then SW 9 miles & put up at 5 ½ - at 1 ½ Pm passed a small Salt Lake & Salt Spring - where the Canadians & our people usually make Salt by boiling the Salt water till all the watery particles are evaporated ~ the water is very salt - & the Spring is a little from the Track on the right hand - In the morning Mr Henry Hallett went forward to Somerset House, to send men back with provisions to us as we have none - In the evening after we put up Thomas Brown & Adam Heitness came to us from Somerset House with Provisions on 2 horses - Ground more open than the latter part of Yesterday - Several small Hammocks of asp - Light Airs in the forenoon at WNW - cloudy & Cold - afternoon Clear and warm - Not being used of late to walk much - we find this Journey very fatiguing.. The Swan River is all to the left of us in some places 3 or 4 miles

**17<sup>th</sup> Saturday** ~ at 6 am got underway went SW 6 miles & passed an Old Canadian House built by Mr Ellice in 1793 but now deserted - the river here runs close to the Track & appears pretty deep & little current - a little onward a small ridge of earth about 8 or 10 Yards wide with no wood whatever growing on it - This singular ridge is said to extend from the Marsh near the Porcupine hill several miles off - & crosses the river here - & continues but a little way on the SE side the river - the Southern Indians have a particular name to it which is                      Then went SW 4 ½ miles & arrived at Somerset House at 9 ¾ am - & found Hugh Sabeston Well - he has been here about 3 weeks & has Traded about 200 MBr - & a little dry provisions - This House was built by Mr Isham last Fall - it is situated on the NW side of a fine open Plain at the woods edge - ¾ of a mile from the river across the Plain - Good pines Poplar &c here - a Canadian House here built also at the same time by Mr Thorburn - Mr P. Belleau now master - it is called by the Southern Inds the Barren ground hill house - More thicketty this day than Yesterday - particularly near & about Collers Old house - Several small Plains of fine grass dry Land - all the way - with some few Swamps - in the winter time when the Cold is intense the Buffalo frequent these small plains - as a shelter from the Cold which they find in the Large open Plains - Here the Provisions in the winter consists principally of Buffalo meat & in the Summer the Moose & Red Deer - a fine country particularly for the Latter kind. Light breezes at NW. Cloudy weather -

October 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday ~

<i>Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday - D. Nat. C. L. L. 55. 47. 0</i> <i>Lat 52. 2. 53</i>			<i>55. 47. 7</i> <i>55. 47. 7</i>			<i>Thermom. 56</i>		
<i>940 N. L.</i>			<i>940 N. L.</i>			<i>Formalhaut &amp; 90 N. L.</i>		
#			#			#		
3	20. 19	65. 1. 0	3	34. 52	65. 3. 30	7	19. 53	61. 33. 0
	20. 51	1. 0		35. 27	3. 30		21. 23	32. 30
	29. 25	1. 30		35. 58	4. 0		22. 28	32. 0
	30. 2	1. 45		36. 38	4. 0		23. 43	31. 0
	30. 57	2. 0		37. 6	4. 0		25. 11	30. 15
	31. 30	54. 2. 15		37. 39	54. 4. 15		26. 43	40. 30. 0
	32. 17	2. 30		38. 2	4. 15		27. 47	29. 30
	32. 58	2. 30		38. 37	4. 30		28. 46	29. 0
	33. 29	2. 15		39. 13	4. 45		29. 54	28. 45
	33. 54	3. 0		39. 49	5. 0		30. 53	28. 30
<i>3. 31. 10 65. 2. 1</i> <i>+ 5. 55 + 7</i> <i>3. 37. 5 65. 2. 8</i>			<i>3. 37. 20 65. 4. 10</i> <i>+ 5. 55 + 7</i> <i>3. 43. 15 65. 4. 17</i>			<i>7. 25. 40 61. 30. 27</i> <i>+ 5. 55 + 7</i> <i>7. 31. 35 61. 30. 34</i>		
<i>6 Fa 12. 37. 30</i> <i>aa 12. 41. 33</i> <i>8 Fa 15. 37. 10</i> <i>aa 14. 47. 52</i> <i>11 — 54. 39</i> <i>9 — 14. 58</i> <i>6 — 16. 7</i> <i>+ 45. 6. 20 + 9 = 65. 27. 47</i>			<i>6 Fa 11. 50. 40</i> <i>aa 11. 54. 58</i> <i>9 Fa 15. 47. 0</i> <i>aa 14. 57. 42</i> <i>11 — 54. 39</i> <i>9 — 14. 58</i> <i>6 — 16. 7</i> <i>+ 50. 5. 32 + 9 = 65. 30. 49</i>			<i>+ Fa 4. 25. 10</i> <i>aa 4. 36. 35</i> <i>9 Fa 7. 8. 40</i> <i>aa 6. 22. 31</i> <i>11 — 54. 42</i> <i>9 — 14. 56</i> <i>+ 57. 1. 15 + 11 = 61. 15. 31</i>		
<i>101. 27</i>			<i>101. 34 1/2</i>			<i>100. 13 3/4</i>		
<i>Mean Long. 101. 5. 5 W.</i>			<i>Dat. C. L. L.</i>			<i>Dat. C. L. L.</i>		
<i>3. 19. 34 - 27. 43. 15</i> <i>19. 57 - 37. 30</i> <i>20. 26 - 31. 0</i> <i>3. 19. 59 27. 37. 15</i> <i>+ 5. 55 + 7</i> <i>3. 25. 54 27. 37. 22</i>			<i>3. 21. 32 - 28. 19. 15</i> <i>22. 3 - 11. 45</i> <i>22. 29 - 5. 30</i> <i>3. 22. 1 - 28. 12. 10</i> <i>+ 5. 54 + 7</i> <i>3. 27. 55 28. 12. 17</i>			<i>Thermom. 54</i>		

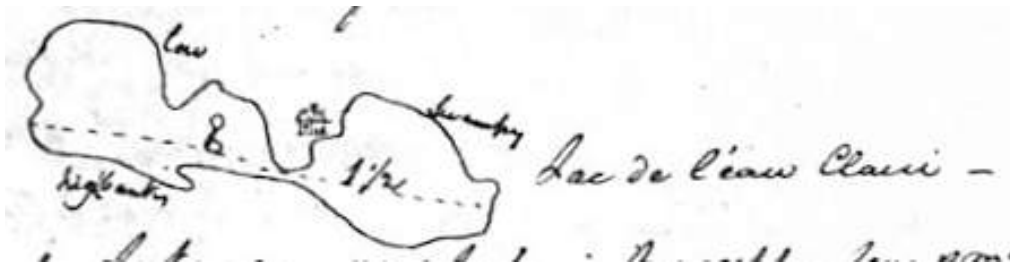
According to the Mean of these Observations, with the Mean of those Made at Swan River House (found in the latter end of this Volume) the Course is S 70° W & Distance on a direct line 47 Miles, which is something too much - Repairing things & making preparations to go to build a Trading House at the Red River - an Indian man arrived & says that Mr John Sutherland from Albany is far advanced up that river with two Batteaux loaded with Trading Goods &c - Two Canadians with 5 horses set off from their House here for Swan river House with about 200 MBr - Traded here by them lately - Fresh breezes at NW, Clear hot weather - a little water to be found by digging a hole in the ground near the House - but the water is brakish & disagreeable that our people are under the necessity of fetching all their water from the river 3/4 mile off - for Drinking & Cooking ~

**October 19<sup>th</sup> Monday** ~ Got every thing ready & left the House for the Red River to go over Land - we have 7 Horses loaded with Trading Goods, Stores & other necessities - Mr Isham - Myself & 10 men accompanied us - Mr Hallett Remains Master here with 5 Men - Thomas Halcro & 2 Men remains at Swan River - very few Indians now visit that House since Somerset House was built - but is absolutely necessary to remain at to keep the Goods & Furs in - as no water conveyance is betwixt the Houses - very little more than will float an Indian Canoe - all the Goods are either carried on horseback in the Summer or while the Snow is not too deep - & then conveyed on small sledges dragged by dogs - The furs & all the dry Provisions for the passage down to the Factory is also conveyed overland in the above manner - Left the House at 11 am. Went SWbW 7 miles & passed the Barren ground Creek - very small - then SWbS 3 miles & put up at another Creek and Big Beaver Dam at 4  $\frac{1}{3}$  Pm - stoped  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour in the middle of the Day to rest the horses - they carry two bundles each, weighing (bundle) 80 lbs - Swan River runs in the same serpentine direction as before & on the left of us - or East about 2 or 3 miles - a pretty high roundish hill the upper end opposite us - It is to be seen at a considerable distance - about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way from Swan River House to Somerset House - & the nearest part is about 3 miles from the last mentioned Place - SWbW - it is called by the Southern Indians the Thunder Hill - as they remark that Thunder is heard near it much oftener than any other Place - a superstitious notion - about 4 miles from this last House to the SW along the Track we have passed this Day - very uneven ground consisting of all small hills & vallies - with rather thicketty of small underwood, Hazle &c Called Costone Hills - resembling some Place of that name in the Orkneys Several Indians Accompanied us - who are to hunt & remain about the Red River all Winter - among these is a surprising Indian about 30 Years of age & has been quite blind ever since 1781 caused by the Small Pox - This Man can go to any part he wishes almost in as short a time as one that can see - 4 Years ago he acted as Guide to some of our Men 3 Days Journey from Swan River House - where was a variety of different ground - Lakes - Creeks & thick woods alternately - & he went as direct as if he had had the use of his Eyes - In the winter he always came from the Tent to the House alone - Summer or Winter was all the same to him - Light breezes at SW - Clear & Hot - Fine open ground about the first Creek

**October 20<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday** ~ at 6 am got underway, went SWbW 10 miles & crossed Swan river at 10 ½ am - here the river is not more than 10 Yards wide, shoal - & very crooked short reaches - low banks - & runs from the West - out of the E to we mam mi Lake - passed two pretty large plains before we came to the river & the last 4 miles a thick poplar hammock - Large that joins to the Porcupine & Bird or Thunder hills. - very easy current & river takes a WSW or SW direction stoped here a little to rest the horses - & again got underway - went on SE side Swan river SWbW 12 miles & put up at 5 Pm - stoped twice in the Day a pretty large Pine Hammock a little way above where we crossed Swan river since which a House has been built there by Mr Robert Longmoor - in 1798 - Very little woods since we passed the river, fine open Land - only a few small hammocks of Poplar or Asp. At 3 Pm passed a small creek that falls into the red River about the Elbow, course about SSE - two or 3 small Lakes where we put up - Grass on Fire & burns very fiercely to the WSW & SE from us - Strong Gales at SW clear & hot weather - in the Evening Rain - At Swan River a Canadian man overtook us - & keeps company he is supposed to be to watch us to see where we build - Slept in our Tent.

**21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** ~ Yesterday in the Afternoon we kept rather too much to the Westward - at 7 ¼ am got underway went SWbW 7 miles & crossed a pretty deep Creek that falls into the Red River - stoped a while here & again went SWbW 5 miles & came to the Bank of the Red River & went up it near west 5 miles - & arrived at 4 Pm. where the Canadians are building on the SE bank of the Red River - found 6 Tents of Indians here on our arrival - This Day pretty thicketty but dry Land - all the way until we came near the Red River - then a fine open Plain all along the N side the river - & good Pines ½ mile from the river - all the rest of the Day Poplar, Willows - also good pine but swampy on the SE side about 1 mile below where we build - The Canadians has nearly finished their House. An Indian arrived here & says that he spoke to Mr John Sutherland from Albany Yesterday - he is advanced near the Elbow - or Marlboro' House built by Mr Isham 1793 & deserted the followg Year - Fresh Gales at NW. with frequent showers of Rain - Hail & Snow - Great Quantities of Hops here at the river edge growing amongst willows which they run up along -

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>** All hands began to build Carlton House 26 feet long & 22 feet wide - of small asp - no pine but what is in a Swampy situation - This House is on the S side the Red River about 200 Yards in a Small fine Plain - & about 150 from the Canadian House - a Mr Falcon Master - The Elbow of this River or Marlboro' House is about EbN 15 miles from this place - & runs in a serpentine manner - very shoal & full of rapids about 10 Yards wide - no passage for loaded or half Loaded Canoes above the Elbow - In feby 1796 I went overland to the White Mud River SSW 15 miles - this river falls into the Red River a little below the Elbow a fine little river but little water in it particularly in the Fall of the Year - Mr Sutherland & Mr Peter Grant a new Company attempted to proceed up it to build, but obliged to return soon - for want of water - Fine open land where I was at the White Mud river at the Hunters Tent - I saw several large herds of Buffalo - rather steep banks here - & the river runs thro a fine low grassy vally. The 24th Octr Mr Grant of a New Company & a Mr Collier of the Old Compy arrived at the Lac de L'eau claire about 4 miles NE of this house - & built 2 houses - the former obliged to carry every thing upon their backs from the Elbow a distance of near 15 miles -



low swampy E 5 1 1/2 high banks Lac de l'eau Claire -

a Shoal Swampy Lake very view fish in it except a few small Pike - A new Company besides Mr Grants arrived at Swan river & built & also at Somerset House this Fall - called the South Company. Day zad so Master. Mr Sutherland built at the Elbow 1/2 mile above Marlboro House - so that there is 5 houses very near each other ~ The Gods Lake is about SWbW or WSW - about 25 miles - about 8 miles long & not more than 2 wide in the broadest Part - pretty Deep - & great quantities of Large Pike is to be caught there - pretty open Land thereabout - This is from Mr Isham who has been there The E tow we mam mis Lake about NW 45 or 50 miles from Carlton House that the Red Deer & Swan rivers fall out off - one at each end - a Swampy Country thereabout & several small creeks falls into that Lake from Westward - betwixt Somerset House & this House several large Thorn trees the only ones I have ever seen in this Country. NB The head of the Northern branch of red river has its source near the E tow we mam mis Lake