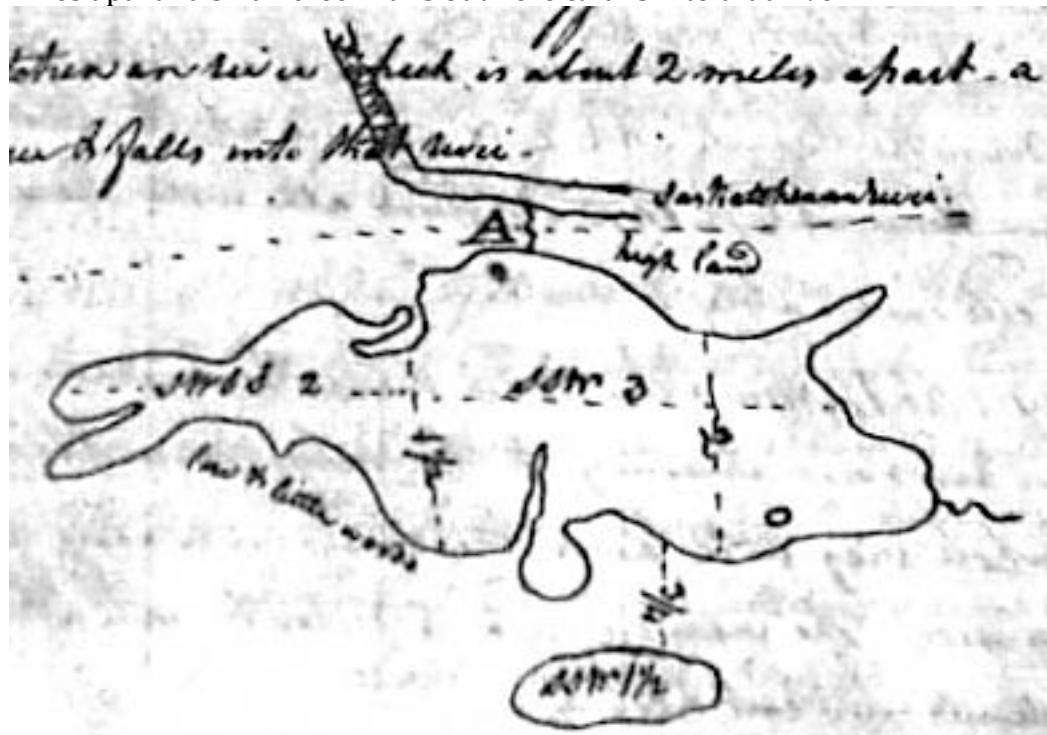


Journal of a Journey by Land along the North Side of the Saskatchewan River & up it to the Tea, Sturgeon or Red Willow River - by Peter Fidler in 1793

1793 70

April 1st Monday ~ The Canadians speak of going higher up the Saskatchewan River to build - induced Mr Tomison to send me up there, & see where would the most eligible spot to build at should the Canadians go there - Mr Thomas Jun Surgeon, John Ward, & William Flett accompanied me, with each of us two horses - one to ride & the other to carry our Bedding, Provisions &c - I have the Same Instruments with me that I had in my late Journey to the Rocky Mountain - I have no Nautical Almanac nor had I any in my last trip. at 10 am we left Buckingham House & went a little way in there on the North side of the Saskatchewan 12 Miles pretty open land & good road - a small hill running nearly N & S towards the river - here it begins to be exceedingly thicket of Large wood with much small willows - & Hazle &c went 9 miles along this very thick wood which took us 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours - & put up very much fatigued, with the great quantity of underwood at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ pm in the midst of the thicket - tyed our horses to Trees - all night - as had they gone loose very likely we should never have found them again - before we went to sleep they eat in a small swamp close where we put up - about 4 or 6 miles from Buckingham House crossed the Dog rump creek - Fresh breezes at SW pretty clear & hot

2nd Tuesday ~ at 6 am we reasumed our Journey in the thicket as last Night went 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Miles & at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ am we once more had the pleasure to come to open fine Ground - the country nearer the river is not so very thicketty as here - went along this open ground and near noon we came to a pretty Large Lake called Mer na wa nis - or Egg Lake - went betwixt this Lake & the Saskatchewan river which is about 2 miles apart - a small creek runs out here & falls into that river -



April - This Lake is pretty deep - high, bare banks on the South Side - & little woods on the N side low & plenty of small asp - great Quantities of Goose, Duck & Gull Eggs found here in the month of June - from whence the Name - at the mark A at the Creek got the

*A the D'Nath 021.82.27.0
Lat. 53.47.47 + 5.50
82.32.50 Hemispher 61.*

Proceeded on our Journey & put up at 5 Pm nearly at the upper end of a pretty long reach in the river NWbN 8 or 10 miles long - an Island pretty near the upper end of it - Very bad Land on the South side of the river - with plenty of small asp &c - pretty open land since the Lake - Saw 4 Bulls & a great many Red Deer - but did not hunt any of them - The Grass on Fire to the SW, far apparently a good way off - Distance this day about 29 miles making a Due West course Yesterday & This Day on a mean of both.

3rd Wednesday ~ At 6 1/2 am we renewed our Journey, went nearly close along the river the whole day & put up at 5 3/4 Pm - Yesterday flying showers of Rain, clear & cloudy alternate ~ This Day fresh breezes at WSW flying clouds & very rain like appearance - Yesterday Fresh Gales at W - Forepart of This Day pretty open & good - then 9 miles pretty thickety - then afterwards more open & good traveling - a pretty large creek about 8 Yards wide with good current falls into the River at the upper end of the Reach we slept at last Night - Distance This Day about 32 Miles - No Snow now upon the Ground except a little in thick woods - being rather an early Spring - water coming along the edge of the Ice in the river - but none of the Ice has yet given way -

4th Thursday ~ at 6 1/4 am reasumed our Journey, went till 8 Am & put up ~ John Ward went after some Red Deer at 8 am - & he not soon returning as expected we all of us went in Search of him until 3 Pm - & could not find any appearance of him - we then reasumed our Journey & went about 8 miles Distance in all this Day 14 Miles - As it is near the river - there is no danger of loosing himself any length of time - our Provisions being only sufficient to serve us 10 Days & not knowing when we should arrive at the end of our Journey occasioned us hurrying forward - We kept near the river the whole Day - Where Jno Ward went astray a Large Creek & a poplar Isd in the River at the mouth of the Creek - & then above it our road a very great thicket of Firs about 5 miles thro, then more open - In the morning passed several small creeks - & the Land pretty Fen - but uneven in many places In the morning we fell with a fresh Pitching Track of Southern Inds which we followed all day - Fresh Gales at WNW Flying Clouds -

April 5th Friday ~ at 7 1/2 am reasumed our Journey - & kept along the same good Track we fell with Yesterday morning which keeps pretty near the river only cutting straight across the projecting Points of Land towards the river - at Noon we came to 2 Tents of Southern Indians who entertained us very kindly, with the Best provisions they had - we remained here until 3 Pm & again got on our Journey - a little above is a good creek of water - & here begins a very thickety wet swampy country - the track keeps along the river - but as this was a long Point we thought it the best to cut direct across it - by which means we became much entangled among bogs, Swamps & small Lakes & very thickety - fortunately for us the ground had not yet become thoroughly thawed below - or we should not have been able to have got out of this exceeding bad Place again - or rather we could not have entered it - but we always expected to be soon thro it which determined us to push forward - we went till 7 1/2 Pm & was obliged to sleep in the midst of these Swamps - very bad stinking water here - & a vast number of Beaver houses - The Forepart of the day & until we entered here very good road & pretty open only small hammocks of small asp & Willows - Distance this Day 24 miles Fresh Gales at the Westward flying Clouds - Shot 2 Swans in a small Lake

6th Saturday ~ at 6 1/4 Am we reasumed our Journey, out of these Swamps & thicket went till 9 1/4 Am when we got out of these cursed Swamps, & fell into the Indians Pitching Track near the river, which we should have kept all the way - soon after we crossed the Vermillion River which is about 25 Yards wide - pretty good current & about 2 1/2 feet Deep - apparently runs from the NW & falls into the Saskatchewan River about 3/4 of a mile lower down - This river runs in a very serpentine course & small reaches for 7 or 8 Miles to the NE of this river very thickety of Small firrs & sandy which joins to the Swampy Country - which extends far westerly - before we found the Track we several times climbed tall trees to see where the River ran - & made directly for it - as the course we was going would have still bewildered us much longer - crost the Vermillion River & 2 Miles fine open land & put up & I was taking the ♂ Alt at noon when our people made a fire as we intended stopping here all day to rest the Horses & for them to Eat as last Night they had little or nothing The fire spread so rapidly amongst the grass that I was obliged to give over taking an Altitude - & saddle our horses & make the most haste we

April 6th could away, the fire raging so furiously - went 3 or 4 miles along the Saskatchewan River & crossed a deep small creek where we thought the fire would not reach us till next day - here we put up to rest the Horses - at 1 ½ Pm - Mr Thomas went on hunting Ducks at a few Small Lakes near our Encampment - at it was dark at night before he returned to us - he having been lost the greater part of the time amongst small hammocks of asp - He brought with him only 2 Ducks - Fresh Gales at NW, pretty clear & Cold - Distance in all this Day 16 Miles ~ nearly a due west true course from Buckingham House to this Place

| 940; NL | | | | 940; NL | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|--|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 8fa 9-37.0 | # 10..25..50 | 40..40..30 | | 18..39..40 | 40..39..0 | 8fa 11..42..45 | |
| aa 9-42..41 | 27..5 | —..46..0 | | 40..45 | —..38..30 | aa 11..47..23 | |
| 7fa 17-12..0 | 29..5 | —..45..15 | | 42..50 | —..37..45 | 7fa 18..40..10 | |
| aa 16..17..50 | 30..25 | —..44..30 | | 43..50 | —..37..30 | aa 17..46..8 | |
| 11..60..0 | 31..40 | 24..44..0 | | + 26 | 46..0 | —..36..45 | 11..60..0 |
| 9..—16..25 | 33..0 | —..43..30 | | 46..30 | —..36..15 | 9..—16..26 | |
| 0..—16..1 | 34..50 | —..42..30 | | 47..50 | —..36..0 + 15..5 + 216..5 + 28..5 | 0..—16..1 | |
| + 1.22 + 3.42 + 28 | 35..55 | —..41..45 | | 49..5 | —..35..45 | 41..19..12..5 | |
| 41..27..44 | 37..20 | —..40..15 | | 50..25 | —..35..30 | | |
| | 38..0 | —..40..0 | | 51..45 | —..35..0 | | |
| 0.. | 18..32..19 | 40..43..25 | | 53..0 | —..34..30 | | |
| 113..38 1/2 | — 6..9 | + 6..20 | | 18..46..31 | 40..36..35 | 0.. | |
| | 18..26..10 | 40..49..45 | | — 6..9 | + 6..20 | | |
| | | | | 18..40..22 | 40..42..55 | 113..23 1/4 | |
| 940; NL | | | | 940; NL | | | |
| 8fa 16..8..0 | 19..11..45 | 40..27..0 | | 19..33..0 | 40..17..30 | 8fa 18..50..15 | |
| aa 16..11..19 | 13..25 | —..26..15 | | 33..50 | —..16..45 | aa 18..53..2 | |
| 7fa 21..26..15 | 14..30 | —..26..0 | | + 28 | 35..0 | —..16..0 | |
| aa 20..32..45 | 15..35 | —..25..30 | | 36..10 | —..15..45 | 9fa 23..5..0 | |
| 11..60..- | 16..50 | 29..24..45 | | 37..0 | —..15..30 | aa 22..11..53 | |
| 9..—16..27 | 17..45 | —..24..15 | | 37..50 | —..15..15 + 35..— 317 + 28 | 11..60..0 | |
| 0..—16..1 | 19..0 | —..23..45 | | 19..35..28 | 40..16..7 | 9..—16..27 | |
| + 45..—1.10 + 28 | 20..20 | —..23..15 | | — 6..9 | + 6..30 | 0..—16..1 | |
| 41..3..39 | 21..25 | —..22..30 | | 19..29..19 | 40..22..27 | 113..27 1/2 | |
| 0.. | 19..16..44 | 40..24..48 | | | | | |
| 113..15 1/2 | — 6..9 | + 6..20 | | | | | |
| | 19..10..35 | 40..31..8 | | | | | |
| Dalt. O; NL | | | | Dalt. O; NL | | | |
| 19..1..45 | 28..28..0 | | | 19..5..0 | 28..20..30 | | |
| 2..50 | —..47..0 | | | 6..5 | —..39..30 | | |
| 3..55 | 29..5..0 | | | 7..5 | —..57..30 | Harmoneia | |
| 19..2..50 | 28..46..40 | | | 19..6..3 | 28..39..10 | | |
| — 6..10 | + 6..20 | | | + 6..3 | —..39..20 | | |
| 18..56..40 | 28..53..0 | | | 18..59..55 | 28..45..30 | 28 | |

Latitude deduced from the Dead Reckoning $53^{\circ} 52' \frac{2}{3}$ - Mean Longitude of these 4 Lunar Observations
 $113^{\circ} 26' 11''$ West from Greenwich - All these Observations taken by Estimation 62 Leagues to the
Westward of Manchester House & 37 Leagues West from Buckingham -

April 7th Sunday at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ Am we reasumed our Journey - went SW 3 miles thro small small hammocks of small asp & willows & came to the edge of a pretty large plain with a good descent all the way Down to the river - here we got the Sight of the Rocky Mountain [just clouds-ed.] which appeared very plain like towering black clouds in a Summers evening when calm - but rather low - it appears from SW to WbW - very conspicuous & high at SWbW variation of the Compass here about $19^{\circ} \frac{1}{4}$ East - This view was obtained a little way from the woods edge in the Plain - 2 or 3 small Ponds of water near - crossed over the Plain SW 5 miles - then thro several small hammocks of Small asp SW 1 Mile & arrived upon the Bank of the Tea river or Red willow creek sometimes called the Sturgeon River at 11 am - it is about 20 Yards wide, strong current & pretty deep - in the Year 1790 Mr Peter Pangman with a Canoe & several Canadians went up this river they say several Days (is 5) - when it divided into two parts one continuing NW & the other nearly NE. It is crooked short Turns all the way from the Saskatchewan river - Mr Pangman & Co then returned Down the River again in their Canoe - & proceeded up the Saskatchewan about 7 miles higher than where Acton House was built belonging to us in the Year 1799 - This Sturgeon or Tea river is the end of our Journey but not a Proper Place to build at owing to the small wood, that are here - a few pines along the Banks - in the Year 1795 Edmonton House was built which is about 1 mile higher up the Sascatchewian river than the mouth of this river - about a South Course no wood to build with there but what was rafted down the river - also the Firewood.

Dehahall 86° 19'.15"
 Lat. 53° 45'.46" + 6° 20' 86° 25'.35" Humonetu 46..

Longitude here deduced from the last observations $113^{\circ}..33'.50''$ W - lopped two pine trees at the mouth of this Tea river - A stony shore in the Saskatchewan river - a long chain of Hills on the SE side the river a good way above this extending near to the Stony mountain called the upper Beaver hills - a plentiful place for Beaver & thick woods - The above observation taken at the confluence of the Tea & Saskatchewan rivers - In escaping this last plain my compass fell down & unluckily broke - but I had got near my Journey with 3 WN we returned back for Buckingham House on the same side of the river - & nearly in the same track we came - put up at 5 PM - after going about 6 miles - Wm Flett killed 1 red deer - light breezes & scattered flying clouds -

April 8th Monday ~ at 7 am reasumed our Journey back to Buckingham House & kept along the Indians pitching track that we was not before apprised off - went till 9 1/2 am & met Mr Angus Shaw a Canadian Master & 4 men they are going to the same place we have been at - for a Place to build at - got breakfast with Mr Shaw & we parted each taking his proper course - at 10 1/2 - we went till 6 Pm & put up - Stopped to rest the horses an hour in the afternoon - Light breezes & variable cloudy - with a thick smoaky air - Grass on fire -

9th Tuesday ~ at 6 1/4 am got underway & at 9 am arrived at 3 Tents of Southern Inds we passed before, one lately having joined them - we kept along the Inds Track to avoid the Bad Swamps - but even there it is thicketty & wet - but a tolerable track is cut thro the thickest places of wood - at 10 1/2 am we left these Indians & put up at 4 3/4 Pm - Stopped one hour at Wards Creek - where he was lost but but saw no marks of his there, a little before we put up found a piece of birch rind wrote on by him with coal - he had returned to the House & the writing specified ~ Smart Gales at NNW - clear & cold weather

10th Wednesday ~ at 6 1/3 am reasumed our Journey went about 8 miles thro thick small woods - then burnt Grass - stoped at a small Creek at 11 1/2 am Mr Thomas's Horse that used to follow behind, went astray & we spent the remainder of this day before we found him at a considerable distance from the Track - Wind & weather as Yesterday.

11th Thursday ~ at 5 1/3 am got underway & at 8 1/2 am passed 6 Tents of Southern Indians who had lately been at the House - first part open fine Land, then burnt grass & a number of small hammocks of small asp & Willows - went down a low valley about 6 miles thicketty Road - Stopped 2 hours in the Middle of the Day & arrived at Buckingham House at 5 Pm - & found Jn Ward here who fortunately arrived here the 7th Instant - The Little Beaver hills bears from Buckingham House about SWbW - 14 or 20 miles off on S side the Saskatchewan river - Fresh breezes at NNW - overcast with a little Snow & Cold weather Morning clear Calm -

Remarks from Buckingham to Edmonton House - walking upon the River

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| March 13 | Left the House at | 8.0 |
| | Dogrumph Creek N.W. | 9.28 |
| | Lower Poplar P.D. Forest | 12.27 |
| | Upper Poplar P.D. | 3.50 |
| | Put up at Hunting Tent | 6.10 |
| t | Got underway at | 6.0 |
| | Stoped from 9 1/2 to 12 for Snow | |
| | Stone P.D. N.W. | 1.45 |
| | Stone P.D. S.S. | 2.30 |
| | Put up N.W. | 5.30 |
| t | Got underway at | 5.30 |
| | Canyon & Birchwood N.W. | 8.30 |
| | Stoped here 1 1/2 hour - went till 11.00 again staid 1 hour more - | |
| | 15 Can. - Stone P.D. S.S. down near willow | 2.0 |
| | alittle above it half way | 3.45 |
| | Poplar P.D. & Wards creek N.W. | 5.10 |
| | Put up at | 6.15 |
| t | Got underway at | 5.30 |
| | Stone P.D. N.W. | 10.10 |
| | Lay creek S.S. | 12.0 |
| | where J. Pendon left Goods. | 1.45 |
| | Left the horses 9 P | 2.30 |
| | Leave end of Lay creek N.W. | 5.0 |
| | Put up at | 6.15 |
| t | Got off at | 6.30 |
| | Vermilion River N.W. | 7.30 |
| | Ten river or red Willow creek N.W. | 11.20 |
| | Arrived Edmonton House at | 11.28 |
| | Total distance by the river 30 miles | |

1797 March 13th Left the House at ----- 8.0
Dog rump Creek NS - - - 9..28
Lower poplar Isd House - - 12..27
Upper Poplar Isd ----- 3..50
put up at Hunting Tent - - 6..10
32 Miles
14th Got underway at ----- 6..0
Stoped from 9 ½ to 12 for Snow
Pine Isd NS ----- 1..45
Pine Isd SS ----- 2..30
put up NS ----- 5..30
22 Miles
15th Got underway at ----- 5..30
Croyall & Birch rind NS . 8..30
stoped here 1 ½ hour - went till 11..0 &
again stoped 1 hour more -
15 Contd - Pine Isd SS & a small willow Isd
a little above it half way - - - 3..45
Poplar Isd & Wards Creek NS - - - 5..10
put up at ----- 6..15
24,, 20
16th Got underway at ----- 5..30
Pine Isd NS ----- 10..10
Large Creek SS ----- 12..0
where J. Pruden left Goods ----- 1..45
Left the horses I P ----- 2..30
Lower end of Long reach Creek NS - 5..0
Put up at ----- 6..15
30 Miles
17th Got off at ----- 4..30
Vermilion River NS ----- 7..30
Tea river or red willow creek NS - 11..20
Arrived Edmonton House at - - 11..48
20 Miles
Total Distance by the River 130 miles ~