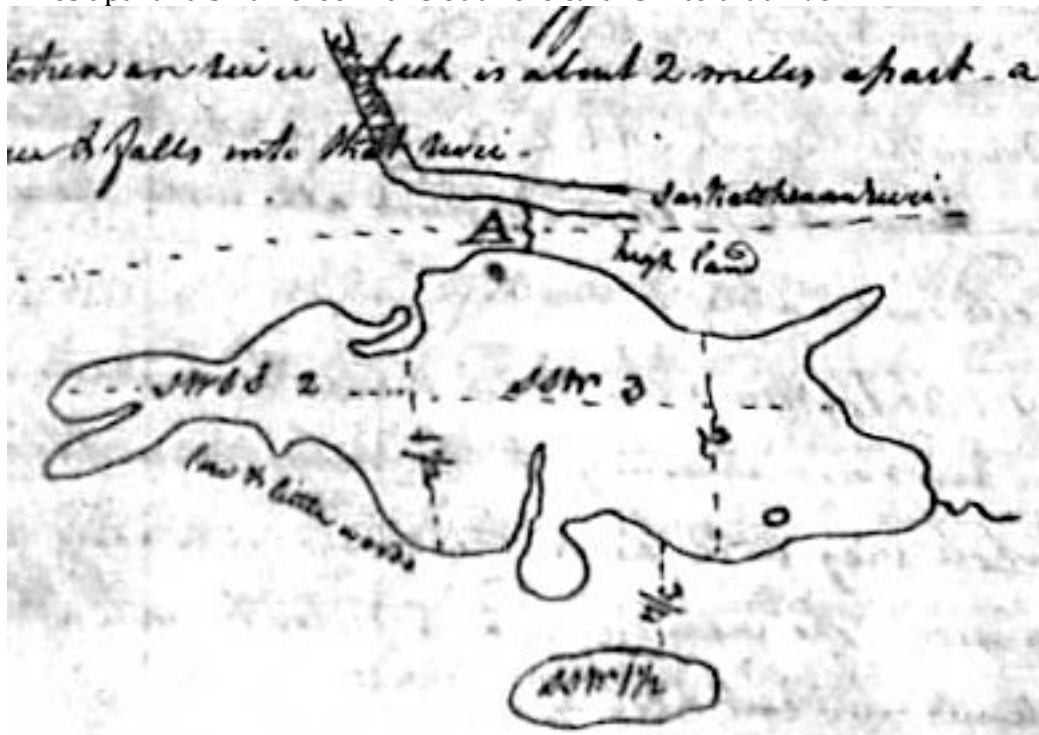


Journal of a Journey by Land along the North Side of the Saskatchewan River & up it to the Tea, Sturgeon or Red Willow River - by Peter Fidler in 1793

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 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 ½ hours - & put up very much fatigued, with the great quantity of underwood at 6 ½ pm in the midst of the thicket - tied 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 ½ Miles & at 7 ½ 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

At the Del. Alt. 022. 02. 27. 0
2. 53. 47. 47 *+ 5. 50*
02. 32. 50 *Thermometer 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 ½ am we renewed our Journey, went nearly close along the river the whole day & put up at 5 ¾ 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 thicketty - 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 ¼ am resumed 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 resumed 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 ½ am resumed 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 thicketty 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 thicketty - 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 ½ 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 ¼ Am we resumed our Journey, out of these Swamps & thicket went till 9 ¼ 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 ½ feet Deep - apparently runs from the NW & falls into the Saskatchewan River about ¾ 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 thicketty 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 ☉s 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

740; N L			740; N L		
3 rd 9-37.0	18-25-50	40-46-30	18-39-40	40-39-0	3 rd 11-42.45
aa 9-42.41	27-5	46-0	40-45	38-30	aa 11-47.23
7 th 17-12-0	29-5	45-15	42-50	37-45	7 th 18-40.10
aa 16-17-50	30-25	44-30	43-50	37-30	aa 17-46-8
m -60-0	31-40	44-0	46-0	36-45	m -60-0
9 -16-25	33-0	43-30	26 46-30	36-15	9 16-26
0 -16-1	34-50	42-30	47-50	36-0	0 -16-1
+1.22 + 3.42 ½ + 28 ½	35-55	41-45	49-5	35-45	+1.5.5 + 2.16.5 + 28.5
41.27.44	37-20	40-15	50-25	35-30	41.19.12.5
	38-0	40-0	51-45	35-0	
	18-32-19	40-43-25	53-0	34-30	
	= 6-9	+ 6-20	18-46-31	40-36-35	
113-38 ½	18-26-10	40-49-45	= 6-9	+ 6-20	113-23 ¼
			18-40-22	40-42-55	
740; N L			740; N L		
3 rd 16-8.0	19-11-45	40-27-0	19-33-0	40-17-30	3 rd 18-50-15
aa 16-11-19	13-25	26-15	33-50	16-45	aa 18-53-2
7 th 21-26-15	14-30	26-0	35-0	16-0	7 th 23-5-0
aa 20-32-45	15-35	25-30	28 36-10	15-45	aa 22-11-53
m -60-	16-50	24-45	37-0	15-30	m -60-0
9 -16-27	17-45	24-15	37-50	15-15	9 -16-27
0 -16-1	19-0	23-45	38-28	16-7	0 -16-1
+45-1.10 + 28	20-20	23-15	= 6-9	+ 6-20	+35-3.17 + 28
41.3.39	21-25	22-30	19-29-19	40-22-27	40-52-41
	19-16-44	40-24-48			
	= 6-9	+ 6-20			
113-15 ½	19-10-35	40-31-8			113-27 ½
Dalt 0; N L			Dalt 0; N L		
19-1-45	28-28-0		19-5-0	28-20-30	
2-50	47-0		6-5	39-30	Thermometer
3-55	29-5-0		7-5	57-30	
19-2-50	28-46-40		19-6-3	28-39-10	
6-10	+ 6-20		6-3	+ 36-20	
18-56-40	28-53-0		18-59-55	28-45-30	

Latitude deduced from the Dead Reckoning 53°..52' ⅔ - Mean Longitude of these 4 Lunar Observations 113°..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 resumed 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 Saskatchewan 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.

*Small 22 86.19.15
 22 53.45.46 + 6.20
 86.25.35* *Thermometer 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 resumed our Journey back to Buckingham House & kept along the Indians pitching track that we was not before apprised off - went till 9 ½ 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 ½ - 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 ¼ 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 ½ am we left these Indians & put up at 4 ¾ 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 ½ am resumed our Journey went about 8 miles thro thick small woods - then burnt Grass - stoped at a small Creek at 11 ½ 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 ½ am got underway & at 8 ½ 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

Remarks from Buckingham to Edmonton House - walking upon the River			
1797 March 13	Left the House at	8.0	32 miles
	Dog jump Creek N ^o	9.28	
	Lower Poplar P ^o House	12.27	
	Upper Poplar P ^o	3.50	
	Put up at Hunting Tent	6.10	
14	Got underway at	6.0	22 miles
	Stopped from 9 ½ to 12 for Snow		
	Pine P ^o N ^o	1.45	
	Pine P ^o S ^o	2.30	
	Put up N ^o	5.30	
15	Got underway at	5.30	30 miles
	Chagall & Birchwood N ^o	8.30	
	Stopped here 1 ½ hour - went till 11.0 & again started 1 hour more -		
	15 Can ^o - Pine P ^o S ^o & a small willow P ^o		24 miles
	a little above it half way	3.45	
	Poplar P ^o & Wards Creek N ^o	5.10	
	Put up at	6.15	
	16. Got underway at	5.30	
	Pine P ^o N ^o	10.10	
	Large creek S ^o	12.0	
	Where J. Pender left goods.	1.45	
	Left the house P ^o	2.30	
	Lower end of Long reach Creek N ^o	5.0	
	Put up at	6.15	
	17. Got off at	4.30	20 miles
	Vermeton River N ^o	7.30	
	Lower end of willow creek N ^o	11.20	
	Arrived at Edmonton House at	11.28	
	Total distance by the river 80 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 ~