

Eleven point river <sup>24</sup> 50 yards wide high abrupt banks, water deep, we forded it, however, and put up for the night at the house of Mrs. Black handsomely situated on the bank of the river - has a fine plantation and good accomodations for travellers. Distance 34 miles.

MONDAY, OCTR. 2nd. Proceeded at ½ past 5 oclock a.m. - we have now a good wagon road to travel on, - the country the same as yesterday to fouche de moi, or Thompsons' creek, 10 miles from Eleven point river - after crossing the creek, it is much more level, less stony better soil and is pretty thickly inhabited. At Strawberry river, distilleries commence and the number of those establishments increase with the more dense population. Observed a fine young orchard of fruit trees on Spring river, the property of Col. Hines. Breakfasted at ½ past 10 oclock at the house of Mr. Schriver, on fat pork, corn bread & milk - after which, continued our way, to Hicks' ferry on Current river, <sup>25</sup> where we crossed in a scow, the river about 80 yards wide, gravel bed, water about 5 feet deep perfectly clean. It is a beautiful stream, a new Town is laid out here called Currenton - the road thro Davidsonville intersects the upper road at this place. The country from fouche de moi, to current river is undulating, soil thin, but few stone on the surface, tolerably well timbered. Lots in Current-Ville sold for, from 30 to 50\$ a piece - but one building in the Town, preparations were making for erecting more. Proceeded to Harris' a distance of 6 miles over a hilly & in some places very

<sup>24</sup> Eleven Point River rises in Howell County, Missouri, crosses Oregon County, and from there flows south through Randolph County, Arkansas, to join Spring River just above the latter's confluence with the Black.

<sup>25</sup> Current River rises in Texas County, Missouri, and flows south into Arkansas at about the Randolph-Clay boundary, and continues on to unite with Black River just above the town of Pocahontas, Randolph County.

stony part of the country. Crops of corn are light, it is said there has been no rain here of any consequence since the 4th of July - leaves begin to fall. Distance to day 31 miles.

TUESDAY, OCTR. 3rd. After taking some bread & milk we proceeded about 6 oclock a.m. - travelled 3 miles and crossed Logans Creek, a small handsome stream - thence 10 miles to Little Black river <sup>26</sup> which is about 15 yards wide gravel bed, a fine growth of cane on the bottoms of this river, there is no house, no water, the country hilly and soil thin & poor - crossed the river & breakfasted at Mr Powers'. The Cyprus swamp of the Mississippi approaches to within 3 miles of the road, which seems to run on a dividing ridge of the country, and is the reason why we see so much poor land. Pork sells here at 6\$ per cwt., corn at 50 cents the bushel - young cattle, say 4 years old sell at 16\$ per head. A Methodist preacher was staying here, no doubt living on the hospitality of this good lady, who gave us a fine breakfast of roasted chickens, coffee &, our horses well fed for 37½ cents each - continued to Bullingers across Black river where we halted for the night - we travelled on what is termed the new road, which follows the course of a creek, between the hills, and we saw but little of the country other than the valley, in which were several families settled, and all sick with the ague & fever or Billious fever. Forded Black river, <sup>27</sup> which is about 80 yards wide, gravel bed and clear water. Meet a family moving from New Madrid, to

<sup>26</sup> Capt. Bell has the two streams confused. The first he arrived at was Little Black River, which rises in Carter County, Missouri, and flows south to join the Current. The second was Logan Creek, which begins in Reynolds County, Missouri, and flows south to join the Black in Clay County, Arkansas.

<sup>27</sup> They appear to have crossed Black River a little above the town of Williamsville, Wayne County, Missouri.

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Bell, John R.

1957

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