

DIARY KEPT BY DR. W. I. I. M RRON IN 1837-1838

... respectable and apparently pious citizens - the town is badly laid off - the Court house out of town, the jail burned down, two brick churches, 4 taverns, 5 or 6 good stores, some groceries, and some neat dwellings made of wood & painted - Went to bed half past 8 o'clock did not get to sleep until late though (t a) great deal about Lavinia & the children; arose in the morning in good health the 1st of Feby. visited Mr. Thompson before breakfast, thought his symptoms some better - same treatment continued 5 gr doses of Calomel every two hours his son Franklin quite unwell - Became acqt. with Mr. Milam a merchant also James H Haven a native of Massachusetts - visited the Smelting furnace one mile from town with him - He is about 30 years of age, intelligent and in all respects a gentleman. He is trying to get an English School - Visited Mr Thompson frequently through (the) day - left him at 8 o'clock, went to my lodging at White Hall, did not get to sleep until late awoke in the morning 22nd Feby in good health. Visited Mr Thompson, his symptoms still bad, after breakfast settled my bill and put off for Caledonia - 12 miles south, passed through a poor pine country for six miles - Bellview settlement a country of good land - Caledonia 22 miles NW of Farmington overtook the Detachment at Caledonia - Camped at Seburns 2 miles west of Caledonia - Slept at Seburn's - 23d Feby set out early and traveled 15 miles to Harmony at the Cotoway Lead mines Camped near Jesse Murphys stayed at I.M.^s - Rain all

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Potomac

night - Traveled over a poor gravelly country - 24th Feby
 Rain, Detachment made a late start. Camped on Huzzard Creek
 a branch of the Merrimack river, at Brickys 10 or 12 miles
 from Murphy - passed through a hilly and poor country - rain
 all day - 125 miles from where we crossed the Mississippi
 river - Lodged at Brickys - 25th Feby Cloudy & drizzling rain
 traveled to Prestly Andersons on dry Creek, buried Lewis
 Perdo rain all day - Stayed with Mr A - 26th Feby Cloudy &
 cool. traveled to Davis near Steelville 10 miles - clear -
 27th clear and cold, traveled 10 miles to Brinker near Mafsys
 Iron Works - snowed some during the day a very cold night -
 four Indians died, and were buried viz - 2 of Mills family
 old Byrd, and Mary Fields - Examined the forge & furnace at
 Mafsys - I think it the most convenient and splendid place
 of the kind I ever saw - 28th Feby traveled to Mr. Wishon
 11 miles - W - from home - his father in law Mr Singleton an
 excentric old fellow - had an eggnog & stew - Mr S made his
 dog sing &c - Tryed hard to get to return home, Mr. Taylor
 would not consent - had the hippo badly - thought much about
 home - would have given all I had to have seen Lavinia and
 the children - Cold day

March 1st 1839. The detachment traveled 12 miles to Wilsons -
 the whole country over which we passed a complete desert -
 Saw some fine gangs of Deer - The Detach^t camped on Bever Creek -
 Came on with Major Cox to Mr Bates^s on little Piney five miles
 from Wilsons - a poor broken country except on the river -
 Narrow rich bottoms, a sickly mean country - Little Piney

3.

a branch of the Gasconade - a warm pleasant day - appearance
of rain - commenced snowing about midnight - a very sudden
change in the weather - quite cold at day light 2nd March
Snow storm from the North - Mrs Thompson came to Camps, her
husband Johnston Thompson died at Potosi - The Detach^{mt} moved
1½ miles below Bates^s on little Piney -. The coldest day we
have traveled. Sunday 3rd March very cold - Detach^t did not
move - Lewis Ro^{fs} returned. March 4th. Clear & cold -
(Bates' in Pulaski Co. Waynesville the county seat.) Jas
Harrison 2 miles below Bates a mean man-will not let any person
connected with the emigration stay with him 4th March, traveled
to Harrisons on Big Piney, very cold - Distance 10 miles. 5th
March. traveled 12 miles to Waynesville on Roberdeau Creek, a
branch of the Gasconade - clear & pleasant day stayed at Col.
Swinks - a genteel man, & pretty wife & quite familiar.
March 6th. The detachm^t made a late start, the morning warm,
wind from the south, look out for rain - traveled 14 miles to
the Gasconade River at Stark's, through a barren & sterile
country, the day continued pleasant - Sydney Roberts in this
neighborhood. March 7th. Fine morning, made an early start,
reached our encampment at Beans on the Usage Fork against 10
clk (distance 10 miles) still a barren country. Beans a mean
house -
March 8th traveled to Grigsbys 10 miles (same kind of country)
Grigsbys farm a fine one - a talkative man &c &c
March 9th traveled 11 miles to a creek 4 miles south west of
Parke - Park's 7 miles from Grigsbys. Went on to Burnetts

myself with Cox 6 miles beyond the encampment.
 March 10th Sunday - The Detachment came up to Burnetts early
 in the morning, fine pleasant day. Butrick preached. Burnetts
 farm a fine one. Col Vernon has bought a preemption 20 miles
 north west of Burnetts. March 11th Fine day - Detachment
 early. traveled 10 miles to Neavis - 12th March Detachment started
 before day, traveled 12 miles to Danforths - warm day -
 turned cold during the night Snowing in the morning
 March 13th. Cold morning - Came on to Springfield 8 miles
 got no letter from home - much disappointed - Alfred Indian
 living here - Springfield in a rich country - Many Indians
 got drunk - March 14th fine morning, clear & calm. Genl. Smith
 Tavern keeper a clever fellow - traveled to Dyer (Bell Tavern
 12 miles) 15th March clear and fine morning traveled 17 miles
 to Allens, through a desert - Got a mean dinner - Didnt like
 the place & went $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles near Igo's Parr $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of Allens
 said to be a good house. A Waggon run over a little Indians
 head, had to go to Camps & see him - Stayed in Camps, the last
 time since I left Gore's in Illinois. 16th March traveled 12
 miles to Lock's in Barry County on Flat Creek a branch of
 White River. Lock a gambler & hunter. did not sleep much.
 The girls and boys talked & laughed all night. A fine pleasant
 day - Sunday 17th March. traveled up Flat creek 15 miles to
 McMurtres - Eat dinner at Masons 2 miles N E of McMurtres - fine
 day Monday 18th March Clear & warm traveled through Washburns
 prairie and to Pratts 18 miles - crossed the line of Arkansas &
 Missouri near Meeks on Sugar Creek 7 miles North East of Pratts

5.

Monday night, hail, rain wind & thunder. Tuesday 19th March.
rain all day; did not travel Wednesday 20th Cloudy & cool -
traveled 15 miles to the X Hollows, eat dinner at Homeslye &
came on 8 miles to Fitzgeralds in company with Cox Fields
Henger & Geo D Morrow - a mean house - Thursday 21st cloudy
& cool - passed through Fayetteville & met the Detachment ^{at}
did not get a letter at town -
Cunninghams 3 miles from town, much disappointed. Fayetteville
in Washington County - fertile land around it - beautiful situa-
tion - a good Court house - Bank house & some other good buildings
got a mean dinner at the Brick tavern From Cunninghams, we
traveled to Col Thomasons on the 22nd of March 18 miles, and on
Saturday the 23 we arrived at Woodalls in the Cherokee Nation West
3 miles from the boundary line - Sunday 24th most of the Indians
turned over to the Government - settled my business and on Monday
25 left for John Rofs Headquarters - traveled down Barren Fork
of Illinois and over to the main River and took lodgings at
Wm Key's - Jim Brown there - 26th Left after breakfast, saw G. N.
Cowan got \$6.00 - arrived at Coodys for dinner 10 miles - got
dinner & went down to Fort Gibson 10 miles ^{traveled} return from Fort
Gibson to Mrs Coodys & stayed all night - Saw Buty Cheek there -
27th Came up to Coodys - tried to get my business settled did not
accomplish my object until Sunday 10 O'clock, when we (Brother
George, I. I. Fields & black George) started for home - and
traveled to Smiths 18 miles - April 1st left Smiths after
breakfast pd \$1.50 - 12 miles to Mrs Webbers, 8 miles to Vineyard-
stopped at Wilsons saw I O Taylor & Patterson. got some good

20-25 mi
to LaSalle
to Woodalls
45-50 Ft Gibson

25
11

liquor, came on down Lea's creek to Knox's 16 miles from
 Viryard - passed Devault at natural mill dam, stopped (underlining
 at _____¹ paid \$1.50. 2nd April traveled Morris
 18 miles to Van Buren on the Arkansas, met with Dr Tuggles,
 his wife & daughter, took dinner with the ladies at Mr
 Pascal's - Van Buren a new place filled up with
 "black legs" - promises to be a place of business -
 Left at 2 ock and came to Mrs Herds 15 miles, a good
 tavern, the only good house I have met with in Arkansas --
 (paid at Van B- \$6.00 at Griffins in C.N.² for George &
 horse - \$6.00 my bill at Coody's \$3.50) - From V Buren traveled
 through a hard & poor country except the Creek bottoms on Frog
 Bayou Paid at Mrs Herds \$1.75. Left 3rd April after
 breakfast, crossed Big & little Mulberries³, White oak &
 Horsehead creeks - poor country except on the creeks traveled
 35 miles to Faces on Horsehead, a good place, good eating
 & liquor Rained hard in the night paid \$1.87-1/2 (for
 Brandy 50¢) left after breakfast, 4th Apr, 10 miles to
 Clarksville on Spadrie, a new place, surrounded by tolerable
 upland country, 8 miles to Maddens mills on Piny, a Pine barren
 15 miles to Col Williamsons -- here I heard of Pleasant Jarnagin

1. Word indecipherable.
2. C.N.--Cherokee Nation.
3. The reference is to the two Mulberry creeks in western
 Arkansas east of Van Buren.

& Dr Taylor — Paid \$1.75 — left 5th Apr after breakfast —
 Buffalo gnats pestered our horses nearly all day — Point Remove
 5 miles above Lewisburg — rich land, extensive bottoms —
 looking country — came to Dr N Menafees 2 miles below
 Lewisburg on the river a pleasant and intelligent gentleman.
 Paid 25¢ toll at Point Remove the Doct did not charge us —
 Gave his cook 50¢ — left 6th April after breakfast, the Doct
 came with us eight miles — passed through a rich and marshy
 bottom — 8 miles down the river to Mathers on the Cadron —
 paid 25¢ for ferrage over the Cadron came to Wilsons on ²
 traveled 25 miles — Wilsons a good house but dear — paid \$2.75
 for self George & Tollage — left after breakfast 4th Apr —
 came to Little Rock 18 miles for dinner paid at Humphreys \$1.25
 — came to Easons 14 miles — 5th Apr paid at Easons \$2.75
 18 miles to Harris' in the Prairie — \$1.00 at H's for an
 old umbrella — 15 miles to Mrs Blacks 5 to Col Blackmores
 where we traveled to — paid \$3.00 — not a good house — started
 east 9th Apr. gave a man \$2 Fields and I myself out to pilot
 us to White River found it worse than we expected — Rock Roe
 bridge dangerous — came near swimming at two places — had some
 difficulty in making the Ferryman hear us, had to shoot several
 rounds with our Pistols — got over safe, paid \$1.00 a piece, got
 some liquor at _____³ and came on merrily to Patricks

1. The name of the creek is Caldron on modern maps.
2. Word indecipherable — might yield to map study. A place name.
3. Word is Tybury or Pybiory. Tybury is more likely. Does not show on modern maps. Rock Roe was crossing below confluence of White and Cache rivers, on the west bank — modern town of Clarendon is on east bank of White below where Cache runs in.

20 miles from White River a tolerable house paid \$2.75 left
 after breakfast 10th of Apr. warm morning rain and thunder
 about 11 o'clock passed the _____¹ holes safely 10 miles
 from Patricks the road very bad, and much of it covered with
 water came to Strongs² 34 miles paid \$2.50 left Strongs after
 breakfast Apr 11th 3 miles to St Francis river 9 miles to
 Black Fish Lake - had a pilot to take us through the swamp
 to the Lake. Fields & myself gave him \$3.00 - The swamp worse
 than I imagined - paid 50¢ at the lake for ferrage - George
 forgot my umbrella there - 12 miles to Mrs Anthony's - staid
 all night. paid \$2.75. left 12th Apr after Breakfast - 4 miles
 to Marion, & 8 from Marion to the ferry at Memphis, crossed
 the river on a Steam ferry boat. paid \$1.00 for ferrage -
 stoped in Memphis, paid \$1.00 for horse shoeing, \$3.25 for
 umbrella, 50¢ for whip 37-1/2 for shaving soap and \$1.42-1/2
 for stocks³ left about 12 o'clock & came 19 miles to Mrs
 Seviars - a good house paid \$2.50. left ~~MOON~~ after breakfast
 passed through Oakland, stoped at Summerville paid 37-1/2¢ for
 dinner \$1.00 for shoeing charge behind Came to Middleburg 40
 miles, paid \$2.25. 25¢ for Liquor, passed through Bolivar &
 came to Purdy 37 miles staid all night. paid \$2.50 left after

1. Word unreadable. Could be "long" or "pony."
2. Strongs was a notable place at the St. Francis river where roads
 across Arkansas intersected.
3. "Stocks" apparently an abbreviation for "stockings."

breakfast 15th April came 12-1/2 miles to Mrs Davys staid
until next morning left there after breakfast, 3 miles
to Savannah, bought a saddle tree for George paid \$5.00
for it, 50¢ for ferrage came to Waynesboro 30 miles staid at
Sgt East paid \$2.00 left after breakfast, 28 miles to
Lawrenceburg at Mr. George I Freirburgs a dirty Dutchmans
paid \$2.25 left after breakfast 13 miles to Pulaski,
got 1 lb Tobacco there @ 75¢ - came on to Mr. Childress
20 miles, the best house I have stoped at paid \$1.50 left
19th Apr after breakfast traveled 43 miles to Winchester
stayed at Dr. Lewis a mean house paid \$2.25 bought a
Spring Lancet at \$5.00 Left after breakfast.

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