

DOCUMENTS

Our First Official Horticulturist

The Wilkes Exploration Expedition surveyed the natural resources of this region in 1841, five years before our Uncle Sam took sole possession by right of exploration and settlement. This expedition offered incomparable opportunity to several aspiring scientists, no one of whom was more proficient than Brackenridge, horticulturist and assistant botanist, soon to be presented to readers of the *Quarterly* as a diarist of two exploring trips made in what is now Washington State, in which explorations he played a scientist's part.

His scientific masterpiece, *Botany Cryptogamia* (Vol. XVI of the publications of the Wilkes Expedition), published in 1855, is usually referred to as his work on ferns. How appropriate that his name was *Brackenridge*!

William Dunlop Brackenridge was born June 10, 1810, near Ayr, Scotland. After ten years of thorough education in his native city, in which training botany was the strongest lure, he was at the early age of sixteen given charge of Sir John Maxwell's pleasure grounds at Springkell. A year later he became head gardener to Dr. Neil at Edinburgh.

After four years in Edinburgh he was employed by Count Ebers of Poland to landscape his large estate. Following this he spent three years under Professor Friedrich Otto in charge of a department of the Berlin Botanical Gardens. From here he sailed for America. He landed in Philadelphia and immediately found employment as foreman with Robert Buist, a famous nurseryman. His employer, recognizing his abilities, recommended him to the Secretary of the Navy as botanist to accompany Wilkes. As Dr. Charles Pickering had already been employed as naturalist, Brackenridge was made assistant and designated horticulturist. The expedition sailed in August of that year, 1838.

The major events of that four-year cruise are fairly well known; a host of minor incidents appear in his forthcoming diary. His collection of specimens represented some ten thousand species. Living plants and seeds likewise were not neglected. These, with substantial contributions from Dr. Pickering and others, became the nucleus of the National Herbarium. Returned to Washington, he was put in charge of the living plants, which were in 1850 removed to the new Botanical Gardens at the foot of the Capitol. Here many

of them may still be seen. He served for some years as Superintendent of Public Grounds in Washington.

At the same time he was assigned to the preparation of the report on the cryptogamia of the expedition. In this work Asa Gray helped him with the Latin nomenclature. The volume was begun in 1846 and was ready in 1848. Governmental delay of six years gave him opportunity to revise; he had been handicapped by lack of a good botanical library in Washington and by want of a collection of authenticated species of exotic ferns. When at last the monumental work was published, only a few sample copies of the quarto volume and fewer of the magnificent folio of plates had been finished and issued before the fire of 1856 destroyed plates, books, folios, even the manuscript. Today his book remains, according to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, "the rarest of all modern botanical monographs of value." Because of this same destructive fire, also, his work and name enter but slightly into the scientific nomenclature of the flora of our state.

In 1843 Brackenridge had married Miss Isabella Bell of Jedburgh, Scotland. In 1854 he moved to a small estate near Baltimore, where he established a florist and nursery business. About 1876 his son Archibald took over the florist trade, the elder Brackenridge retaining the nursery. For many years Brackenridge was horticultural editor of the *American Farmer*. He was the moving spirit in the Maryland Horticultural Society. He died suddenly on February 3, 1893, at his residence in Govantown, near Baltimore.

One of his foremost discoveries was the *Darlingtonia*, or California pitcher plant, made while the overland party from Puget Sound to San Francisco was in northern California. An alarm of Indians had caused the party to seek cover; but Brackenridge, undismayed by the alarm, stayed behind till he could gather the singular plant which had just attracted his attention.

Mr. Brackenridge was a six-footer, with broad shoulders and broad forehead. He was rugged in speech, sometimes blunt and impetuous; but at heart he was kind and sensitive. He was ever a student, loving the classics equally well with science. The *Florist Exchange* speaks of his "surreptitious thoroughness." He contributed to professional periodicals throughout a period of nearly fifty years, "preaching the gospel of beauty, taste, and fitness." For his seventy-fifth birthday, June 10, 1885, he had been presented by intimate friends with a "diploma," the following engrossed on parchment:

“Salutation, congratulation, cordial wishes for extended years, added honors, continued usefulness.

Accomplished gardener, tried citizen, valued friend, true man.

Health, happiness, prosperity.”

While I was preparing this there came from the press Vol. II of the *Dictionary of American Biography*. I was tempted to let the matter rest with Donald Culross Peattie's excellent account contained therein; but as I had found a few authorities whom he did not consult, and as the matter needed to be shaped especially for the *Quarterly's needs*, I proceeded to boil down the large amount of my material into the foregoing. The chief articles drawn upon have been the following: *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. II, article by Peattie under Brackenridge, William D.; *Journal N.Y. Botanical Garden*, XX, 117-24, article by Barnhart; *American Florist*, Feb. 9, 1893; *The Florist Exchange*, New York, Feb. 11, 1893; *Mehans Monthly*, March, 1893; *The Florist Exchange*, April 1, 1893; *The Gardener's Monthly*, XXVI: 375-6; Preface to *Botany Cryptogamia*, Vol. XVI of the publication of the Wilkes Exploring Expedition; Parts of his unpublished Diary, deposited with the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

One problem I have not been able to solve. His name is William Dunlop Brackenridge. Then why does the Wilkes *Narrative* speak of him throughout its five volumes as J. D. Brackenridge? His granddaughter, Miss Isabella T. Renwick of Baltimore, assures me that in the official document of appointment as horticulturist the initials are W. D., and that all of Captain Wilke's letters to him are addressed to W. D. The discrepancy probably reveals only another example of Captain Wilkes's numerous bobbles.]—O.B.S.

The Brackenridge Journal for Oregon Territory

(Introduction and notes by O. B. Sperlin)

The Manuscript.—The following diary is printed from a photostat copy of small parts of a manuscript, the whole of which is in possession of the Maryland Historical Society, entitled “Remarks and Opinions by W, D, Brackenridge.” The copy was made by the Washington State Historical Society, through Secretary W. P. Bonney, Tacoma. Mrs. Henry W. Patton of Hoquiam first called the attention of the Society to the existence of the manuscript. The parts of the photostat copy include the title page; one page narrating the arrival of the Wilkes Expedition in Australia, February, 1840; one page entitled “Gardeners Island;” forty pages entitled “Sandwich Islands” (Sept. 24, 1840— Feb. 29 [Sic!], 1841); one page entitled “Northwest Coast of America”; three pages entitled “Puget Sound”; twenty-seven pages entitled “Inland Expedition”; nine pages entitled “Chekelis Route”; one page entitled “Fort Van-

couver"; two pages entitled "Willamette"; six entitled "Route to California"; and one page entitled "California—Shasta." The pages are not numbered, but there are apparent gaps between parts till "Oregon Territory" is reached, when the gaps cease till the close of the photostat copy with "Shasta." The part to be printed in the *Quarterly*, beginning with the arrival off the Columbia and closing with "Shasta", are therefore continuous.

Brackenridge, in common with all members of the expedition, turned in to Captain Wilkes his journal before leaving ship in 1842. When later he was assigned to the task of preparing the volume on ferns, he probably made this copy, interpolating a few "remarks", such as the one that seems to have been engendered by something that came out at the court-martial trial of Wilkes. (See June 8 entry).

The Editing.—This Brackenridge record is in clear handwriting, with no parts illegible. Measured by the standards of 1840, the author's composition reveals a well educated man. It has been a pleasure to follow both his narrative and his opinions. In addition to minor corrections shown in the text, I have taken the liberty to change regularly his possessive pronoun from *there* to *their*, and his *these* and *whoose* to *these* and *whose*. His periods, all made like commas, and his commas, blending into dashes, I have also rectified for the convenience of the reader. I have retained his capitalization, though one can not always be sure of his intention. His abbreviations I have also retained, within the limits fixed by present day type-setting. I have furnished notes on botanical points only where ready reference might not help the inquiring reader.

Citations to the *Narrative* of the Expedition are to Vol. IV of the six volume edition of 1845. Citations to Pickering are made very convenient to follow through Mr. J. Neilson Barry's reprint (*Quarterly*, XX, 1) of the pages from *The Races of Man and their Geographical Distribution*. The page citations to the Wilkes *Diary* are to Prof. Edmond S. Meany's reprint from the *Quarterly*, 1825-6. Further description of the five fur-trade forts visited can be found in my "Washington Forts of the Fur Trade Regime," *Quarterly*, VIII: 102-114. The botanical notes are chiefly based upon Piper's *Flora of Washington*, Howell's *Flora of Northwest America*, Piper and Beattie's *Flora of South Eastern Washington and Adjacent Idaho*, Gray, Brewer, and Watson's *Botany*, Vols. I and II, Gray's *Manual*, and Frye and Rigg's *Flora of the Northwest*. Common names are taken especially from the last mentioned work.

Relation to the Wilkes Narrative.—Prof. Edmond S. Meany, in *Mount Rainier, a Record of Exploration*, p. 13, attributes the authorship of Chapters XII and XIII in Vol. IV of the *Narrative* to Lieutenant Robert E. Johnson, U.S.N. He awards this honor to Johnson notwithstanding the fact that first person in these chapters, as throughout the *Narrative*, always refer to Wilkes, while Johnson is referred to always in third person. Professor Meany no doubt considered the *substance* Johnson, though the *form* was partly Wilkes. The publication of the Brackenridge journal shows that only a minor quantity of the substance was Johnson, the major quantity being Brackenridge and Pickering.

Wilkes had Brackenridge's journal before him when he wrote the *Narrative*. He also had his own diary and similar records by all of the scientific men and leaders of parties for the entire four-year cruise. For Chapters XII and XIII detailing the Inland Expedition he depended upon journals kept by Johnson, Pickering, and Brackenridge, possibly others. He drew heavily upon Brackenridge's record, but left enough unpublished to help us materially in reconstructing that era of fur-trade posts, Indians, missionaries, and early agriculturists.

Acknowledgments.—To Mrs. Henry W. Patton of Hoquiam, who first informed us of the manuscript; to the Maryland Historical Society and the Washington State Historical Society for permission to print; to Miss Isabella T. Renwick, granddaughter of Brackenridge—to these individuals and institutions hearty thanks are due. Mr. L. V. McWhorter of Yakima, and his friend, Captain Goudy, a Yakima Indian, have helped with matters pertaining to the trail from Naches Pass to Wenatchee. Last but not most materially and directly, Professor George B. Rigg, of the University of Washington, gave me many and extremely valuable hints in solving knotty problems of botanical nomenclature.

Remarks and Opinions by W. D. Brackenridge

Oregon Territory—North West Coast of America
April 28th 1841.

After a rough passage, from the Sandwich Islands,¹ we this day made land, which proved to be Cape Dissapointment, which forms the north point at the entrance to the Columbia River; on nearing which the sea broke so furiously accros its mouth on the Sand bar,²

¹ *Sandwich Islands.* Hawaiian Islands.

² *sand bar.* The *Narrative*, p. 293, says at this point: "Mere description can give little idea of the terror of the bar of the Columbia,....one of the most frightful sights that can possibly meet the eye of the sailor."

that Capt. Wilkes deemed it imprudent to run the Ship in, & so put about and bore away towards Puget Sound.

29th. The following day the weather being very foggy the Porpoise & [the] Vincennes came very near getting on shore³ near Quean Isle Rocks,⁴ but by a dexterous manouever both were enabled to *claw off*, as it is called by seamen.

30th. On the 30th the Vincennes ran inside of one⁵ of the Flattery Rocks which form the South Cape at the entrance to the Straits of *Juan de Fuca*, up which we beat all night without coming to anchor.

May 1st. Weather Calm, with Rain but altogether pleasant. The dark green Pine forest, which all along lined the banks of the Straits and extended back inland as far as the eye could reach, reminded me of European scenery, but betokened any thing but a rich soil. A few deciduous Trees (now green) was observed thinly scattered along the margin of the Forest, among the Pines.

2nd. Shaved Dungeness⁶ point very close and on the 2nd ran into Port Discovery; at the entrance to which is protection Island⁷ beautifully situated for erecting a fort to command the passage into the Port, where a hundred sail when once fairly in, could lay safe at anchor during any gale of wind, there being abundance of water close into the Pine covered banks.

3rd. On the 3rd at noon Dr. P.,⁸ myself and several Carpenters going on shore to cut wood,⁹ landed opposite the Ship, and nevertheless that the natives were pretty numerous about the bay, and to all appearances friendly disposed, but owing to orders rec'd.¹⁰ on board from the Command relating to our bearing towards them, we did not deem it prudent to ramble far from the Bay, but kept off and on along the woody banks till sundown, when we returned on board. I this day for the first time saw *Mahonia fascicularis*¹¹

3 on shore. "This was one of the many hair-breadth escapes from wreck, incident to this cruise." *Narrative*, p. 295. Wilkes attributes escape to "the good qualities of the vessels" and to "the conduct of the officers and crew."

4 *Quean Isle*. The *Narrative* (p. 295) says that the place was "Point Grenville of Vancouver, and Destruction Isle." As these places are thirty miles apart, Wilkes is far from clear. Probably *Quean Isle* is Brackenridge's rendering of *Queenhithe*, which name Meares put on the old maps, thinking it the native name for the region about Destruction Island.

5 one of the *Flattery rocks*. Tatoosh Island.

6 *Dungeness*. "New Dungeness pt." in the Wilkes *Diary*, p. 11.

7 *protection Island*. "There never was an island that better deserved its name than that of Protection Island." Wilkes, *Diary*, p. 12.

8 *Dr. P.* Dr. Charles Pickering, naturalist of the expedition.

9 *cut wood*. "Carpenters were sent on shore to cut some small spars for our boats. All the navies of the world might be furnished with spars here." Wilkes, *Diary*, p. 13.

10 *orders rec'd.* Wilkes was "apprehensive of difficulties similar to those met with in the Feejee Group." His "General Order" is printed, p. 301 of the *Narrative*.

11 *Mahonia fascicularis*. In Brackenridge's day this name was applied to all Oregon grape species from Alaska to Mexico. It is now limited to a Mexican species. *Mahonia* is an old synonym for *Berberis*. One of the particular species here is *Berberis nervosa*, the dull Oregon grape; the other is

& *Aquifolia*,¹² in their native habitat. *Calypso borealis*¹³ was also very common in shady woods; with many more interesting Plants.

May 4th. This day I alone landed at the same place I did yesterday, went along the beach to a native camp; the males appeared rather morose in their disposition, & very much afraid for the safety of their feemales. The[y] belong to what is called the Classet¹⁴ Tribe of Indians & have had dealings with American Captains, from the fact of them uttering the words "Boston Ship Tomson."¹⁵ All the males carried knives under their blanket or skin, some of which the[y] had made themselves from Iron hoops, but the most had been procured from the H.B. Co.¹⁶ for skins?—for a small bit of Tobacco I got several of them to go with me and collect shells and plants. The most interesting of the latter to me were *Ribes sanguinea*,¹⁷ another species with small scarlet flos: somewhat like *R. speccosa*, 2 sp: of the *Bartsia*,¹⁸ *Goodyera* [*Goodyera*],¹⁹ *Abies Douglasii*,²⁰ with two other Spruces, one of which resembles the Hemlock spruce of the States. A few Maples were found on the open banks, the trunks of which are too small to prove of much consequence to settlers.

5th. Near the entrance to this bay on both sides are several open verdent banks affording a rich harvest to the Botanist; I have nowhere been so pleased with the beauty and variety of Flora, as here presented itself. *Dodecatheons*,²¹ *Scilla*²² (the Cammass of the Natives), *Viola*,²³ *Leptosiphon*, *Trifolium*, *Collinsia*,²⁴ *Claytonia*,²⁵ *Geum*, *Stellaria*,²⁶ *Fritillaria*,²⁷ *Erothronium*,²⁸ *Vicia*,²⁹ &c &c. vied with each other in beauty, & we arrived just in season to see the

12 *Mahonia Aquifolia*, or *Berberis aquifolium*, the shining Oregon grape.

13 *Calypso borealis* is now classified as *Cytherea bulbosa*.

14 *Classet*. The *Narrative* gives Clal[!]am, and uses Classet for the natives seen three days previously.

15 *Boston Ship Thomson*. "The first inquiry was, whether we were Boston or King George's ships, by which terms they distinguish American and English." *Narrative*, p. 297. Could the "Thomson" be from *Tonquin*, the name of Astor's ship destroyed near Nootka in 1811?

16 *H.B.Co.* Hudson's Bay Company.

17 *Ribes sanguinea*. The species should be designated *sanguineum*; it is the red-flowered currant.

18 *Bartsia*. No species is known for this region. But the Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja*) was formerly classified as *Bartsia*.

19 *Goodyera menziesii*, rattlesnake plantain. Piper classifies it as *Peramium decipiens*; Gray has it *Epipactis decipiens*.

20 *Abies Douglasii*. The Douglas fir is now classified as *Pseudotsuga taxifolia*, the first part of which means *false hemlock*. It is not a spruce, as Brackenridge implies; though it was formerly thought to be.

21 *Dodecatheons*, shooting stars.

22 *Scilla*. *Camassia* or *Quamasia* is now the name of the genus.

23 *Leptosiphon*. Piper does not give this genus. Howell gives it as a sub-classification under *Linanthus*; Gray treats about the same species under *Gilia*. It is a member of the phlox family. The plant here is probably *Gilia bicolor* (*Leptosiphon bicolor* or *Linanthus bicolor* in other nomenclatures).

24 *Collinsia*, blue lips.

25 *Claytonia*, spring beauty.

26 *Stellaria*, chick weed.

27 *Fritillaria*, rice root.

28 *Erothronium*, properly *Erythronium*, dog-tooth violet.

29 *Vicia*, vetch.

spring flowers in all their splendour. The *soil* on these banks consists of a light brown *Loam*, but the general character of the *Soil* around Port Discovery is a thin black vegetable earth with a sub-soil of sand and gravel.

6th. Both the Brig Porpoise, & Vincennes, weighed and came too again at Port Townsend; opposite where we lay was a large open Table land free of timber, which terminated towards the beach in a steep bluff or bank; in the vicinity of this is abundance of fresh water. This locality appeared to me to offer every advantage as a site for a Town or Settlement.³⁰

7th. Dr. Pickering and my self went on to this Table land in the early part of the forenoon, but were soon recalled by a signal Gun from the Ship, which was getting under weigh.

8th. Did not go on shore today; in the afternoon the vessels went up the Sound a considerable distance farther.—

Oregon Territory—Puget Sound

May 9th. Our vessels entered this day what is called Puget Sound (*proper*)³¹ I went on shore for a short time, found a few plants in the dense Spruce forests,³² which prevail up as far as we had gone.—

10th. Went a collecting in Co. with Dr. P. and Mr. Heath,³³ Mate of the H.B. Cos Steam Boat Beaver, who had arrived from Nesqually to pilot us up thither.

11th. On the early part of the following day both vessels proceeded up the Sound and brot. too in Nesqually Harbour a little before sun down, previous to which we were visited by Capt. McNeil³⁴ of S.B. Beaver, & Mr. Anderson³⁵ Superintendent at Fort.

12th. Remained all day on board Ship.

13th. Fort Nesqually³⁶ lays inland a good half mile from the Bay on the plains or margin of the extensive prairies which stretch back into the interior 15 or 20 miles. Right above the quay or landing place is a high bank along the face of which a good road has

30 *Settlement*. "Upwards of 1000 acres all ready for the plough. The soil is a light sandy loam but seems exceedingly productive. The grass was several inches high and covered with wild flowers and wild strawberry plants in blossom." Wilkes, *Diary*, p. 14.

31 *proper*. Wilkes (*Narrative*, 304) does not give up the term *Admiralty Inlet* till he reaches Sunset Beach on the 10th, when he writes: "taking the passage to the right of Vashon Island, and finally towards evening anchored just below the narrows leading into Puget Sound." Wilkes thus follows Vancouver in putting Puget Sound south of the Narrows at Tacoma. Brackenridge, probably following the pilot Heath, anticipates present-day maps.

32 *Spruce forests*. Douglas fir forests.

33 *Mr. Heath*. First officer of the *Beaver*. He had arrived two days previously. "Pilot's Cove" commemorates the place of his arrival.

34 *McNeil*. William Henry McNeill, for whom McNeil Island was named.

35 *Anderson*, Alexander Caulfield, for whom Anderson Island was named.

36 *Nesqually*. Site of the present Dupont Powder Works. Nisqually House was later built inland nearly two miles from the fort. Brackenridge's spelling was widely used until rather recently.

been formed through the bush towards the Fort; the Company has got a Dairy about three miles out from the Fort; in the way of which I accidentally bent my way through the bush with my collecting case where I fell in with a Sandwich Islander busy plowing land for Potatoes. In the same field, a quantity of Peas, Oats, & Wheat looked well. The soil was a light brown earth, intermixed with a goodly portion of gravel and stones. Such soil requires a great deal of rain during the summer to bring a crop of Grain to perfection. The plains were at this season one complete sheet of flowers, principally of the following genera: Ranunculus, Scilla (Cammass), Bartsia, Balsamor[rh]izia (Oregon Sun flower), Lupinus, Collinsia, with many other small annuals. These plains are intersected with and broken in upon by belts or clumps of Spruce trees, with a dense under growth of Hazel, Cornus,³⁷ Spiraea, and Prunus,³⁸ with a few scattered Oaks which stud the plains. Near several of the fresh water lakes I observed two kinds of Ash,³⁹ but of to[o] diminutive a growth to be of any use as timber. Solitary examples of a Yew was also found in Creeks about the Bay, a wood which the Natives prefer for making their Bows of. Large examples of *Arbutus procera*⁴⁰ abound on the high banks opposite where our ships lay.

May 14th. Rec'd. orders⁴¹ today to prepare for an inland excursion to be absent from the Ship two months. in the afternoon made an excursion again out on the plains, fell in with two species of Populus, a Birch, and an *Arbutus*, perhaps *A. tomentosa*,⁴² *Arbutus Uva-ursi*,⁴³ and a small *Ledum*,⁴⁴ the latter rare, & the former abundant in boggy places. A *Linnaea*⁴⁵ and an *Asarum*⁴⁶ was very common in shady woods.—

15th. Remained on board all day put[t]ing the Botanical col-

37 *Cornus*, dogwood.

38 *Prunus*. The three native varieties are the wild plum, the wild cherry, and the chokecherry.

39 two kinds of Ash. Only one species, *Fraxinus oregana riparia*, is reported for Washington. The mountain ash would hardly be possible at this location.

40 *Arbutus procera*. *Arbutus menziesii*, the madrona tree. *Arbutus procera* is given as a synonym in Gray, Brewer, and Watson, vol. I, p. 452.

41 rec'd. orders. Wilkes records (*Diary*, p. 18) that such orders were given to "Mr. Johnstown" on the 12th, or two days previously, and that Johnson spent the 13th trying to buy horses. The *Narrative*, however, (Appendix XII), dates the order itself on the 13th.

42 *Arbutus tomentosa*, rather *Arctostaphylos tomentosa*. It is our manzanita.

43 *Arbutus uva-ursi*, rather *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. It is our kinnikinnick. It is not found in boggy places; rather on dry, gravelly soil.

44 *Ledum*. Labrador tea, *Ledum groenlandicum*, is, on the other hand, commonly found in boggy places.

45 *A. Linnaea*. Species americana (twin flower) is the only one known in the Northwest.

46 *Asarum*. Either wild ginger or mottled wild ginger.

lections in order and transferred the same *by order*⁴⁷ over to Mr. Jont. Dyes⁴⁸ to look after.

16th. Sunday—took a stroll out on the plains three miles beyond Fort.

17th. Learned today that the inland party was to consist of the following individuals, viz: Lt. Johnson⁴⁹ (to have charge of party), Dr. Pickering, Mr. T. Waldron,⁵⁰ *myself*, Sergt. Stearns,⁵¹ Pier[r]e Charles⁵²—as Guide, *Peter Pain*⁵³—as Interpreter, Henery Walton⁵⁴—to act as Cook, with natives to assist us in crossing the Mountains. Getting provisions & other necessaries ready kept us all busy, & at 4 in the afternoon the party was ordered⁵⁵ to leave the Ship, which we all did, leaving a good many of our things on board. Our tents were pitched for the night outside the Fort, & our luggage piled up in a heap; which obliged us to stand watch, when we could just as easy have placed the whole inside the Fort,—an offer which was made us by Mr. Anderson, but no—we must stand guard, while we could have reposed. Mr. Johnson arranged the watch as follows: He was to keep what he termed a standing watch, viz. from sundown to 9 P.M. & then from 5 A.M., the remainder of the Night to be divided into 4 watches, to be kept by Dr. Pickering, Mr. Waldron, Sergt. Stearns, & myself; which was actually performed.—

18. All hands belonging to the party busy repairing⁵⁶ saddles, with the additional aid of the sail makers mate from the Ship. About

47 *by order*. Piper reports (Introduction, p. 15) as follows on the condition of the Wilkes collection in Washington, D.C.: "Unfortunately the original labels of the specimens seem in some way to have become intermixed, with the result that a good many plants confined to eastern Washington bear such labels as 'Port Discovery' and 'Nisqually,' while other species confined to western Washington are labeled 'Walla Walla' or 'North Fork of the Columbia.' On some sheets eastern and western Washington species are mixed, and mounted over a single label." Brackenridge, by underlining this phrase, seems to hint that he suspected that all was not "shipshape" after the collections had left his hands.

48 *Dyes*. John W. W. Dyes, assistant taxidermist.

49 *Lt. Johnson*. Robert E. Johnson.

50 *T. Waldron*. T. W. Waldron; not to be confused with R. R. Waldron, the purser, who at the same time went with Wilkes on an overland trip to the Columbia.

51 *Sergt. Stearns*. Simon Stearns, who served the entire cruise.

52 *Piere Charles*. Pierre Charles, a French Canadian who was long prominent in the *Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually House*.

53 *Peter Pain*. Peter Bercier, "who spoke English, and all the languages of the country." *Narrative*, p. 419. Brackenridge didn't hold Peter in high esteem; hence, probably, the *Pain*.

54 *Henery Walton*. In the *List of Officers and Men* he is Henry Waltham; in Wilkes's *Orders to Johnson* he is Henry Walthorn.

55 *was ordered*. Two days previously (May 15, *Diary*, p. 20) Wilkes says, "gave Lt. Johnson notice he must start on Monday by 2 o'clock." Evidently Johnson did not keep all members of his prospective party informed of such notices. Of the May 17 episode Wilkes says, "Got Lt. Johnson off on shore and encamped that he might see his traps and equipment all together." *Diary*, p. 20.

56 *repairing*. Wilkes (*Diary*, p. 10) tells a different story. "Lt. Johnson not off yet fussing fidgeting and delaying our time no crupers, then no packsaddles, then no girths all his time being wasted bargaining for horses. I think his coadjutor Mr. I. [T.?] W. Waldron would have attended to much better than he did." In the *Narrative*, however, Wilkes gives Lieut. John a very high rating just here. "I must do justice to the exertions of this officer in getting ready for his journey, which he accomplished in less time than I anticipated, as the delays incident to setting out on a novel expedition, and one believed by most persons to be scarcely practicable in the summer season, are great and tantalizing..." p. 418.

mid-day Captain Wilkes & party started⁵⁷ on horse back for the Columbia River, taking with them such a number⁵⁸ of Horses, that we could not get our compliment⁵⁹ completed.⁶⁰

19th. With what horses we had [we] managed to get our luggage out from the Fort about 2½ Miles, where we encamped near the margin of a lake⁶¹ where several Horses were purchased of Natives. Our guide has also now arrived from the Coultitz, so that we look fair for a start.

Oregon Territory—Inland Expedition

May 20th. This morning was very cloudy, & during the forenoon we were visited by several of our officers from the Ship & Mr. Anderson. The encampment broke up at noon, & removed about 5 miles farther along the plain in the direction of Mount Ra[i]nier; where we found a small stream⁶² of water & encamp. close by it for the night. Before leaving this camp a number of natives paid us a visit & left on friendly terms. On the plains I observed several specimens of a very large Pine, the height of many I estimated at 130 ft. The habit of this Pine resembles that of *Pinus resinosa* [more] than [it resembles] any other that I know. in Co. with Dr. P. we wandered from the camp towards evening, and found by the banks of a stream, a very handsome yellow *Ranunculus*, described by Dr. Hooker, in thickets. *Trillium* sp: with large leaves & small flowers; *Lupinus polyphyllus*? not in flower. Solitary specimens of a rich orange colour'd *Cruciferae*,⁶³ annual plant, were observed here for the first time.

21st. Started at day break and in the early part of the forenoon crossed a large river⁶⁴ about 70 feet wide. We now entered on a fine patch of Meadow land with clumps of Alder and Willow. The whole was quite flat & continued for at least three miles in the same direction as our route lay. I could observe the same character of land extended a considerable distance up the River. The soil was of a black turfy nature, & would be an excellent place for a farm and dairy. On leaving the meadow we began a gradual ascent the path in many places scarcely visable. Among dense masses of

57 party started. Another peculiar discrepancy. Wilkes (*Diary*, p. 21) says that he left Nisqually next day at 10 A.M. The evening before, that is, the 18th, he had written: "Hope to see them [the Johnson party] off tomorrow, as I do not like the idea of starting before they are all off."

58 such a number. Wilkes says that the 13 horses in his party were "all of them kindly loaned to me by the Company's agent Mr. Anderson, in charge of the Fort."

59 compliment. Complement is intended.

60 completed. Wilkes (*Diary*, p. 21) ridicules Johnson's horse-buying. "I had only to laugh at the perplexities Lt. Johnson was thrown into by the Indians retreating from the bargain he had all but closed with them, requiring more by way of potlatch or a gift adding greatly to the prize of horses."

61 lake. Sequalitchew.

62 small stream. Murray Creek.

63 *Cruciferae*. The mustard family is called *Brassicaceae* in Piper.

64 large river. The Puyallup River.

Gaultheria Shallon,⁶⁵ Hazel, Spiraea, Vaccinium,⁶⁶ & Cornus. Towards evening we came upon the Smalocho⁶⁷ river and encamped at the junction of the Upthascap⁶⁸ with the former. Though deserted of inmates, I here saw a very snug and perfectly water tight house built from plank split out of the Thuja, or Arbor Vitae, a tree which attains a great size⁶⁹ on these mountains. The planks were as smooth as if cut out by a saw & many of them three feet wide. At this place we met several natives awaiting the arrival of the Salmon as their season was now approaching. The snow melting on the mountains we were ascending had swollen the Rivers to an unusual size which made it necessary for us when we had to cross them, to cut down Trees on their banks so as to form a bridge to carry our packs across, making the Horses swim over.

May 22nd. The path which we generally followed was a faint Indian trail, and we did not learn whether horses had ever been taken⁷⁰ across the Mountains by the same route or not; at least no traces of them could be found, so that our Guide was obliged to cut a run for us often to the length of several miles, through thickets of brush wood & wind falls. Our progress was not alone inter[r]upted by such causes, but the steep precipices which our horses had to ascend, with their slippery sides and rooty fronts—our horses often on getting within a few yards of the top was precipitated to the bottom, or wedged in, *packs and all*, between the Stems of Trees, which sometimes took us an hours hard labour to extricate and adjust the damage sustained.

23rd. At one of these hard catches, the horse carrying our provision Case fell from a bank into the River,⁷¹ the lashings giving way the whole pack went down the stream—the horse alone was recovered. Today we had a view of Mt. Ra[i]nier, which we judged to be distant 30 miles; & with the exception of a few rocky bluffs fronting the South east, the whole was perfectly covered with Snow, & so far as the eye could detect, destitute of Trees for at least 3000 ft. beneath the Summit—

(To be continued)

65 *Gaultheria shallon*, salal.

66 *Vaccinium*, huckleberry.

67 *Smalocho*. Brackenridge's memory slips here. The party did not reach the Smalocho (White) till two days later. The river here meant is the Puyallup. He wrote this from memory because of his having lost his notebook later near the Yakima.

68 *Upthascap*. The Carbon River, and its branch, South Prairie Creek.

69 *great size*. *Thuja plicata*, giant cedar.

70 *been taken*. Wilkes in the *Narrative* says, "They traversed a route which white men had never before taken." (P. 470.) But Pickering, in *The Races of Man, Quarterly*, XX:55) says to the contrary: "The path we followed had been but once previously traversed by civilized man." The problem cannot be solved unless the missing books of the *Journal of Occurrences at Nisqually House* are found. The missing book for 1841 could certainly give new light on the Wilkes Expedition's activities thereabouts.

71 *river*. The *Narrative*, p. 421, calls it the Smalocho. It is now called the White River.