

DOCUMENTS

Our First Horticulturist

(Continued from Vol. XXI, p. 305)

[The Wilkes Expedition inland party under Lieutenant Johnson have crossed the Naches Pass in the Cascade Mountains and have reached the Colockum Pass in the Wenatchee Range. From here they descended to the Columbia near the mouth of the Wenatchee. The date is the afternoon of June 4, 1841, the party having had breakfast at 1 p.m., after a stiff seven hour climb to the summit.]

At three in the afternoon we struck the north branch of the Columbia, and by keeping up along its banks, shortly arrived at the Piscouas¹¹⁶ River, which takes its rise in the range of snowy Mts. which lay in a N. West direction from us. About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from its junction with the Columbia its breadth was about 250 yards. At this place we camped for the night. Tending from this down towards the Columbia was a beautiful patch of meadow land of about 100 acres in extent. The Indians had enclosed small squares by turf walls within which the[y] cultivated Potatoes (Irish) in a very systematic manner. On this flat were abundance of Grouse and Carlew, a number of which we shot

Plants: two species of *Calochortus*¹¹⁷ was found today. A shrubby Phlox, a *Marrubium*,¹¹⁸ & four or five Compositae; the first Birch observed since leaving Nesqually was found on the banks of a small run overrun by a *Clematis* of which we found two species, perhaps the smallest one *Atragene*.¹¹⁹

5th. Our guides having expressed some doubt as to there being a path for Horses along the North bank of the Columbia, and appearing also ignorent of any direct path for Okanogan Fort, Mr. Johnson & Pier[r]e Charles crossed the Piscouas on a raft and found that the party could, independent of the many ridges that set down close to its banks, get along, and by ten O'clock with the assistance of a native who came along with his canoe, our luggage was all got safe on the opposite bank—the horses and our Indians soon followed. We soon got under Weigh. We had since yesterday fore-

116 *Piscouas*. The Wenatchee River. Johnson, following instructions from Wilkes to use Indian names, records *Wainape*, his best attempt at *Wenatchee*.

117 *Calochortus*, mariposa lily.

118 *Marrubium*, horehound.

119 *Atragene*. *Clematis columbiana* is sometimes called *Atragene*.

noon got clear of forests, and in what I would call a swelling¹²⁰ prairie country, at least such was its nature to the South of River, & only a few solitary Pines graced the tops of the hills to the north, at least such as approached the River. While farther back towards the base of the snow cap'd range—deep forests prevailed. We had some difficulty in passing with our Horses the loose stony bank that set down into the River, from these giving way and carrying us a little farther into it than we wanted. This days route was more rich in plants than the two former. A Cupressus¹²¹ tree, and a Cruciferous plant on rocks, was among the number. Towards evening we encampd. on a small flat on the banks of the Columbia. Made today about 11 miles.

6th. Sunday. Got under weigh at 5 A.M. partaking of a cup of Coffee before we set out. On the early part of the forenoon came upon a river (I think called Clear Water¹²² some where) which we found to[o] deep for our Horses to foord, rode up along its banks about 1½ miles, where we were stopd. by Natives on the opposite bank who made signs for us to return to where we had made it—which we did, where the[y] stood by with a canoe to take us over, which we accepted. When horses and all were got safe over—Mr. Johnson in paying the Indians for these services offended the Chief of the Tribe very much, in the manner in which he proffered¹²³ him some Tobacco, which was not accepted of.

About one mile above where this took place was the encampment, where, for the [first time during the last] ten days we procured a satisfactory meal, in some roasted salmon¹²⁴ which we individually bought for ourselves. About two miles above this, we had to cross¹²⁵ the Columbia, & had we not had the bolsters with us we would have fallen on the mercy of the Indians who had no reason from the manner in which Mr. Johnson had used them, to be friendly towards our party. Before sundown, Horses and everything else belonging to us was safely landed on the opposite shore. The breadth of the Columbia where we cross'd it was about ½ of a mile & very still. We bought some fine fresh Salmon from a Native who

120 *swelling*. Brackenridge was unsatisfied with this adjective; he wrote *rolling* above it, but did not cross out *swelling*. After this he used *rolling* for numerous scenes.

121 *Cupressus*. This genus (cypress) is not reported as native for Washington. What tree was it that he found? The Alaska cedar, *Chamaecyparis nutkaensis*, is popularly called a Cupressus, of which it has the main characteristics. Piper says the Alaska cedar is found as far east as Idaho.

122 *Clear Water*. The Entiat River.

123 *proffered*. Dr. Pickering reports the chief as saying of Johnson, "His heart is bad." *Quarterly*, XX:57.

124 *roasted salmon*. It had been roasted ready for sun-drying, before being powdered and made into balls for winter use.

125 *had to cross*. The reason for this deviation is not made plain either by Wilkes, Pickering, or Brackenridge. Wilkes had ordered Johnson to keep to the west bank all the way to Okanogan.

had just speared them. When cooked some of our people partook of them rather freely. (These were Okanagan Indians).

7th. The route today was inclined a little inland from the river, over a somewhat rolling sandy prairie unprofitable for any purpose but Sheep pasture. Towards the afternoon we again came in sight of the Columbia and rode along its banks for a few miles, but the route turning again inland, our guides cautioned us not to leave it that day as there was no water inland except a small run which was not far off, where it was understood we were to encamp. Mr. Waldron & myself rode on till we came to this spring, where we unsaddled our Horses & let them of [f] to graze. Soon after the leader of the party came up & ordered us to proceed, without knowing where water was to be found, or where he was leading the party to. He was by far to[o] consequential & ignovent of such undertakings, to think of consulting any one. \$60 for a guide and 50 more per month for a boy to wait upon him day and night, is rather a round sum to go for nothing. At least I never saw what any of these two individuals did towards the furtherence of the party,¹²⁶ that an Indian could, or did not do. From this spring Mr. J rode a head of the party and at the top of a rising ground in place of taking a north direction rode straight on. There being no marked path we all stuck to our Indian guide, who was leading us in the direction of Okanagan. Towards sundown Mr. J being still a missing, we dispatched his groom *Peter*, and Pier[r]e *Charles* in search of him. At dark the[y] all reached our camp safe; where we had neither fire¹²⁷ nor water. We rode today about 20 miles—during the afternoon had a gentle shower of rain.

8th. Expecting to reach Okanagan Fort today, in the early part of the forenoon Mr. J and three indians left us and went on towards it. After a pretty smart ride our party reached the banks of the Columbia right opposite the Fort at one P.M. when we saw a canoe setting towards us to carry the party over, Mr. J. having arrived about an hour before us.

The Fort we found under the Charge of a Canadian Frenchman [by] the name of La Pratt, who rendered us all the assistance in his power. Provisions was the principal thing we wanted, and tis a fact as singular as tis true, that the party after starving for 10 days, should bring into this place not less than 25 lbs of Pork, 3 whole

¹²⁶ furtherence of the party. Dr. Pickering says of the guide, the Canadian Pierre Charles, that with the Indian Lachemere he "proved the main reliance of our party." *Quarterly*, XX:55.

¹²⁷ neither fire. The *Narrative*, p. 432, says that they cooked their dinner "with a hawk's nest and a few bushes growing out of a rock."

Cheeses, 3 cases of Sardinias, with some Butter—(the Sardinias & 2 of the Cheeses were afterwards made presents off to individuals)

Had I then¹²⁸ had the least idea that such conduct would have been approved off by the commander, or that he had direct orders to act as he did, I would certainly have taken the shortest way for the U. States, viz: across the Rocky Mountains.

9th. The Collection of Plants made, by being carried in a bag on horseback, were moist and a good deal bruized, so that this day was pretty much occupied in overhauling them—towards sundown walked down to the junction of the Okanogan with the Columbia, about two miles below the Fort, the latter forming a solitary Palisaded square, destitute of Basteons, about 60 yards removed back from the Columbia, on a poor flat Sandy neck or Peninsula formed by the approach of the two rivers.

Inside of said Fort is a large House for the reception of the Companys Officers, consisting of several appartments; from the end of this house runs two rows of low mud ones towards the entrance, which serves as Offices, & dwellings for the trappers & Families, leaving the centre an open oblong square.

This Station¹²⁹ or Fort is more for the convenience of the Companies Fur business in New Caledonia,¹³⁰ used as it is as a kind of depot, than for any Furs which are found in its vicinity. While we were there a troop of horses arrived with Flour from Colville for the N. Caledonia Station. Out of which we recd. a supply along with several necessaries. The soil is to[o] poor to admit of anything being done in the Farming way at Okanogan, but I must say that I never beheld finer Cattle in my life than I did there.

10th. We did not procure any fresh horses here, but Mr. Maxwell, one of the H.B. Co's. Clerks about to return to Colville with horses promised to overtake us tomorrow so getting all our luggage ferried accross to the opposite shore, by 2 o'clock P.M. we were on the road, retracing part of what we had arrived by.

Mr. Johnson rode ahead of party so far that we lost sight of him, till rounding the point of a hill his Horse came towards us at full Gallop: by this we all suppos'd he had come to a good camping place, had unsaddled his horse & laid himself down to rest. So we kept onwards till sundown where we encampd at a fine little stream;

¹²⁸ *Had I then.* This passage was almost certainly written long after, probably after the court-martial trial of Captain Wilkes.

¹²⁹ *Station.* This is not the Okanogan factory of Astoria days, but the post built later by North-Westers. The former was on the Okanogan; the latter, on the Columbia.

¹³⁰ *New Caledonia.* Practically identical with the British Columbia of today.

had supper—still no signs of Mr. J. When Sergt. Stearns & Pier[r]e went back in search, while I kept firing signal guns till 11 P.M. when they returned without him, so we all went to rest. Our camp was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile up from Columbia & we had travelled this day from fort about 8 miles along its banks—

June 11th. At 5 A.M. Pier[r]e, Peter, S. Stearns, & myself went in search of Mr. J. and about 9 Peter came upon him fast asleep behind a bluff about 3 miles back, so that this frolick of his kept the party $\frac{2}{3}$ of a day back. As I observed before we had left the river and were on the way for the Grand Coule[e]—the land was truly prairie with here and there pools of water, amid a salt marsh which gave birth to some singular plants—the crusted Salt-petre or salt on the surface had very much the appearance of hoare frost.¹³¹ We put our tents down for the night in an open place.

12th. At 10 A.M. made the Grand Coule[e]. The pass that led us into it was down a bank of loose rock about 500 feet high. Its breadth where we crossed it was about 5 milés. About the centre are several deep lakes bounded on the upper end be precipitous rocks. Here we found abundance of Ducks. I could observe no feature whatever that could lead one to suppose confidently that the valley had ever been the course of the Columbia, as it bears no traces of a sweeping current having passed through it at any time. On the contrary it presents in many places a rolling surface, with several rotund bluffs to the height of 700 feet. At the upper end of one of the lakes is a deep gap or hollow so that had water ever flowed through the Coule[e] this must have been the principal channel, and yet these rocks in place of being water worn or rounded of[f] are angular and show their natural disposition. The Coule[e] appeared to me to be like the seat of a former *Lake* or *Sea*,¹³² which by some convulsion or another had a gap formed in its banks by which its waters forced their way into the Columbia. There is a large tract of flat land in its bottom, but to[o] much impregnated with salt to raise crops or Grain on, but I should think admirably adapted for the raising of Sheep & Cattle, there being plenty of water and abundance of Good grass, both in the Coule[e] and within 20 miles of it on both sides. In the afternoon Mr. Maxwell came up with us—he loaned us several of the Companies Horses to help us along. The general course of the Coule[e] where we made it tends N &

¹³¹ *hoare frost*. "Saline efflorescences" is Dr. Pickering's term.

¹³² *Lake or Sea*. Brackenridge, like most early travelers, misses his guess here. Science declares that the Grand Coulee is the result of river action.

South. On leaving it we made a few miles on the opposite side & Camp'd on the prairie.

13th. Got underweigh at 5 A.M. travelled very rapid. The country was a quite rolling prairie affording excellent sheep pasture, & entirely destitute of trees till the afternoon when we again made the Columbia the banks of which are thinly wooded with Pine. Going down the banks we found a singular species of Trillium almost stemless. The party encamped close upon the Columbia, about two miles below where the Spokane river joins it.

14th. The following morning at an early hour by the assistance of two Canoes and some Natives we cross'd the latter where we breakfasted. From here Messrs. Maxwell & Johnson left the party to make a visit to the Messrs Eel[1]s¹³³ & Walker,¹³⁴ missionaries some where up the Spokane; while headed by Mr. T. Waldron our party were to make the best of their way to fort Colvile, there to await their arrival, Mr. J. having taken *Jonnie* our Indian guide a part of the way with him, & unfortunately we took a wrong track, so that on Jonnies return to our party we were not to be found and he continued on to Colvile while our path led us westward towards the Columbia, close by to which we encamp'd for the night. The day had been very fine and clear.

15th. Having hired a fresh Indian Guide we again set forward & about 11 O'clock came upon the right path—it had rained very hard and still continued. At mid-day we halted to take some refreshments, the pack horses being much jaded, while Dr. Pickering's & my own were still fresh and the Fort being only 8 miles distant, we agreed to ride on without a guide while the remainder of the party should come on the following morning. Keeping our horses at a steady canter the Dr. & I reached Colville¹³⁵ at 4 P.M. where we were kindly welcomed by Mr. A. McDonald¹³⁶ the Superior. Our course today was close upon the banks of the river through a loose sandy Pine forest. A Campanula & several fine Polemonaceous Annuals were among the best plants we had found for the last two days.

16th. At 10 A.M. Mr. Waldron & party arrived. Messrs Johnson & Maxwell a little before sundown, dissappointed in not having found the Mission at home. I had been busy all day reduc-

¹³³ *Eels*. Reverend Cushing Eells and wife came out as missionaries in 1838. Eells later took up educational work, and still later founded Whitman College.

¹³⁴ *Walker*. Reverend Elkanah Walker and wife also came out in 1838 and settled with the Eellses six miles north of the Spokane River.

¹³⁵ *Colvile*. Named for Andrew Colvile, of Hudson's Bay Company. Fort Colvile was built to replace Spokane House. It was begun in 1826.

¹³⁶ *A. McDonald*. Archibald McDonald had founded Fort Nisqually in 1833. He was for years one of the most noted traders of the H. B. Co.

ing the bulk of our specimens bag, also drying some of the recent collected ones & picking up a few fresh ones in the vicinity of Fort, which is situated on a flat rich spot, of about 200 Acres in extent, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of which is now under cultivation as a farm, the principal crops being Wheat, Potatoes & Barley although a small quantity of Oats, Mays, & Peas is also raised.

June 16th. Vegetables or Garden stuffs have never succeeded well with them, the cause arising either from bad seeds or bad management. The soil is a deep black loam, in many places mixed with a large portion of gravel the whole has been deposited by a back current of the River leaving a number of lakes which incircle the whole, with the exception of two land passes, one leading up the bank of the river, the other out towards a Flour Mill. with these exceptions it may be said to be an Island. The high piquets surmounted by bastions which forms the inclosure of the dwellings & stone houses of the Company form altogether a formidable retreat from any Indian invasion, and may be said to stand next in size and strength as a Fort to that of Vancouver, in the Oregon.

17th. Today Mr. Johnson, Dr. P. and myself took a walk down to the Kettle falls. These may be about $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile below the Fort (the Fort is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile removed back from the River). To convey a better idea of these falls I give a rude sketch.¹³⁷

Falls: the first at *A* is 8 feet, that opposite *B* 5, the two being divided by a wooded Island. The lower and largest of all at *C* has a fall of 14 feet. The boiling and tumbling of the latter at the base of the fall is grand in the extreme. The lowest and most accessible part for Salmon to run up is at *D*, where the Indians spear a great many. Mr. McDonald informed us that very few ever got above the upper fall, & that those that passed the lower one was generally caught between the two—between *E* and *D* are large masses of Quarts rock on which the Natives dry their Salmon. A little way below these falls is Tomsons Rapids¹³⁸—the[y] begin at the mouth of Mill River and continue down for a considerable way.

18th. *Cattle*. Mr. McDonald showed me today 196 head of fine Cattle, the offspring of two Cows & a Bull which he got from F. Vancouver in 1825. The H.B. Co. have engaged to furnish the Russians at Sitka with Cheese, Butter, & Pork, the principal part of which is supplied from Colvile. New Caledonia also depends on this place for her flour, pork, corn meal &c &c

¹³⁷ sketch. Drawn and lettered in the manuscript, but omitted here.

¹³⁸ *Tomsons Rapids*. Thompson's Rapids (or Rickey Rapids), named for David Thompson, who in 1811 was first to explore the Upper Columbia.

Mr. J made a present of to Mr. Maxwell—one of the Ships Bowie Knife Pistols, which Dr. P. carried to protect his person—the rest of us had our Fowling pieces.

June 19th. During the three days the party remained at Colvile we experienced every kind[n]ess that Mr. McDonalds situation could afford. At mid-day as we were about to take our departure He & Mr. Maxwell rode out several miles with us. Our course was from Fort due south by comps. through a marshy valley watered by a small stream which often lost itself in the meadows. This was bounded on both sides by well wooded hills with a low undergro[w]th of shrubbery. During the afternoon we came to one of the Companies Dairys, where we halted for a few minutes. This Dairy is 10 miles from Colvile, and we rode on 15 farther & camp'd for the night. Met with today *Potentilla fruticosa*,¹³⁹ *Lilium*¹⁴⁰ sp: in woods. Saw also a few Larch trees intermixed with the Pines on the hills. The Spruce was very scarce, no hard wood. Weather showery.

20th. Sunday. A large quantity of rain had fallen during the night, so that in crossing & recrossing the valley our horses were in danger of getting mired. In the forenoon fell in with a party of Pondera Indians gathering Cammass roots. Here we stop'd to breakfast. We bot. some Cammass roots that had been cooked along with the roots of a *Balsamoriza* which had imparted a Molasses taste¹⁴¹ to them. At 4 in the afternoon we reached the Mission Station,¹⁴² of Messrs Walker & Eel[1]s, who belong to the American Board of Missions. The[y] occupy two small log Houses, have a good stock of Horses & Cattle, & have begun to raise Wheat and Potatoes. The Spokane Indians are the tribe nearest to them, a good many of which the[y] have got to reside in the vicinity of the Station. Among these we found their Chief who sold us some Horses. Mr. Johnson, Sergt. Stearns & Peter were about to visit the Pointed heart Lake,¹⁴³ while the remainder of our party were to make the best of their way to Fort Walla Walla, by way of Mr. Spauldings Station on the Kus Kutsii River, to be under Charge of Mr. T. Waldron.

This Mission is distant from Colvile 60 miles, between which in the valley that stretches from the one to the other, are many fine

139 *Potentilla fruticosa*, 5-finger shrubby cinquefoil. This species is now classified as *Dasiphora fruticosa*.

140 *Lilium*, probably wild tiger lily.

141 *Molasses taste*. The Oregon sunflower, pounded into powder, was used for this purpose.

142 *Mission Station*. Chimikain, "The Plain of Springs." It is now called Walker's Prairie.

143 *Pointed heart Lake*. Coeur d'Alene; called by natives Skeetshoo.

pieces of land capable of being Cultivated & the whole producing excellent pasture

21st. Attended family worship in the House of Mr Eel[1]s where the old Spokane Chief¹⁴⁴ was present, after which made a Botanical excursion. On my return a warm discussion ensued between Dr. P. & Mr. J. respecting the moovements of party, and from Mr. J.'s reasoning the old adage to me was made clear— That a Sailor on shore was a fish out of Water.—

Our party left Mission station at 3 P.M. Mr. & Mrs. Walker accompanying us several miles. After riding 10 miles made the Spokane and before dark both Horses & luggage were landed on the opposite bank where we pitched out tents. The track of country from the Mission to the River Sp[okane] is poor & thinly wooded with Spruce, Larch, & Pine, neither of which are of great size. The banks or margin of river for a good distance back is sand & gravel with a few Alder and Willow bushes. The old Chief¹⁴⁵ joined our party to go to Mr. Spauldings.

22nd. Travelled today about 30 miles, in a E S East direction, from the Spokane to this the country is hilly, with Lakes and open glades intervening—the soil is poor sand and stones, a few scattered Pines on the Hills, while arround the Lakes Cotton wood and Willow bushes were seen. In water Nuphas lutea, & Menyanthes trifoliata, were abundant.

23rd. We were late in starting this morning, there being no proper system of procedure. About 4 miles on we came upon a party of Spokane Indians encamp'd at the entrance to a fine meadow—out on a rooting excursion. These number about 350, devided into about 20 Lodges or Huts. Among them was an Indian¹⁴⁶ and [a] Canadian Frenchman¹⁴⁷ who spoke tolerable good English. On entering their Camps, a stout savage looking fellow step'd forward and seized one of our Horses, saying he had been stole[n] from him. This same Horse was bot. by our Indian—Lashmere—near Colvile, for which he gave his only musket. We remonstrated on the injustice of this proceeding—through the Frenchman, when the savage let go the halter, walked cool[1]y up to his lodge, loaded his Rifle and was about either to shoot the Horse or one of us, when Mr.

¹⁴⁴ *old Spokane Chief.* Illim Spokane, Son of the Sun, had been well known to traders since Astoria Days.

¹⁴⁵ *old Chief.* According to Pickering this addition to their number was the "Pondera" chief rather than the Spokane chief.

¹⁴⁶ *an Indian.* Spokane Garry, son of the Spokane chief. He had been for five years in the school at Red River. He "stated that he had been five years at the white man's settlements." *Narrative*, p. 459.

¹⁴⁷ *Canadian Frenchman.* Dr. Pickering speaks of him as "a half-breed free trader." *Quarterly*, XX: 60.

Waldron & myself step[p]ing up cocked our pieces, saying that if he presented at any one we would instantly blow his *brains* out. When he explained that his intention was only to shoot the Horse, we passed then quickly through them, glad to get rid of such a band of Ruffians. We afterwards learnt that this fellow lost the Horse by gambling—to which these Indians are notoriously addicted. We Pass'd in the afternoon through a rich fertile valley, tending S. west and N. E east, our horses walking up to the knees in Clover; near to this is a fine run of water. Rode today 20 miles, the early part clear and warm—in the afternoon, Thunder & lightning—encamp'd on the margin of a Pine wood—

June 24th. Our course today lay over a fine rolling prairie country producing as fine pasture as I ever beheld in my life, well watered, though destitute of wood. On our left as we rode along was observed a range of Pine woods tending in an East & West direction, distant from us at one time not more than 8 miles.

Courses today S.E. by South, distance gone, 30 miles. Plants observed—*Coronilla*¹⁴⁸ sp: *Frazera*, *Habenaria*,¹⁴⁹ *Calochortus*, *Baptisia*,¹⁵⁰ *Trifolium* sp: a good plant for Cattle.

25th. Made the Kus-Kutskii¹⁵¹ river about mid-day; had to ride two miles up along its banks before we came opposite Mr. Spauldings Station,¹⁵² when a boat was immediately sent over for us. We found Mr. S. and family living in a snug and comfortable House into which we were heartily welcomed. Mr. S. took me out in the afternoon to shew me his farm and Cattle. The former consisted of 20 acres of fine Wheat, a large field in which were Potatoes, Corn, Melons—Musk & Water—Pumpkins, Peas Beans &c &c the whole in fine order. He shewed me a Yew [ewe] that had 7 Lambs in one year, viz: 2 in the early part of January, 3 in June, and 2 in Decr. Yews breed with him twice every year, he shewed me also 38 sheep the of[f] spring of two Yews in three years. He has also built a Saw and Grist Mill, both of which is at the use of the Natives when they apply; to improve the social condition as well as to introduce habits of industry among the Natives Mr. S. is doing much. Mrs. S. has regularly about her a number of young feemales, which she is teaching to Card, Spin, Weaves Blankets & Knit stock-

¹⁴⁸ *Coronilla* is not reported in our flora, but is in Gray's Manual, reported from New Jersey and other states. Did Brackenridge make a bad guess on this plant? Or has there been a switch in terminology which I have failed to catch?

¹⁴⁹ *Habenaria*, an older classification now superseded by several genera, as *Lysias*, *Piperia*, *Limnarchis*.

¹⁵⁰ *Baptisia*. No member of this genus of the bean family is listed as native to the Northwest.

¹⁵¹ *Kus-Kutskii*. The Kooskooskee River, better known as the Clearwater, in Idaho.

¹⁵² *Spauldings Station*. Reverend Henry Harmon Spaulding in 1836 settled in the Lapwai valley.

ings. Mr. S. has made a great many hand Looms, & he shewed me blankets which had been wove[n] by a Native on one of these which was not much inferior to Mackinaws.

He has also given them Cattle, Sheep, Seeds of Wheat, Corn, Potatoes &c and made them Plows & other emplements of Agriculture.

We had a large Meeting of Natives in his House, when we endeavoured to impress on their minds the utility of taking the advice and following the example of Mr. S. in cultivating the Soil & raising Cattle, to which the[y] all agreed—todays ride 15 miles.

26th. This morning, I had again to reduce the bulk of specimens by parting with some of the paper. I afterwards in Co. with Mr. Waldron cross'd the River in order to exchange some of our broke[n] down Horses for fresh ones, in which Mr. S was very liberal, giving us Horse for Horse and a spare one. We left the mission at 11 A.M. accompanied by Mr. & Mrs. Spaulding, also Mr. & Mrs. Smith¹⁵³ now residing with the former. On our way we visited the farms of the natives, which lay up a rich valley running in a South direction from the Kus-Kutskii. These farms are all well fenced in. these extend from 4 to 12 Acres, in which the[y] cultivate Wheat, Corn, Potatoes, Melons & Pumpkins. One of them raised last year /40.—400 bushels of Potatoes, & 45 bushels of Wheat, with part of the Potatoes he bot. dried Buflo. meat sufficient to serve him during the winter, thus enabling him to remain at home, in place of going out all summer on the hunt. The whole of the lots we visited wer[e] kept in good order, and several had good mud Houses built on them. Mr. S.'s object is to have them give up or relinquish their roving habits and to settle down and cultivate the soil, in which he is succeeding admirably, and if industry and perseverance on his part is to effect the object he has in view—that of improving their social condition & instilling into their minds the principals of religion—also to get them to settle down in his vicinity, he certainly has left nothing undone that one man could perform. And for my own part I wish him all the success that his industry merits. A[t] 3 P.M. came upon the banks of the *Snake River*, where we found at a Salmon station a number of Indians of the Snake tribe¹⁵⁴ to the ammount of 70, having about them a flock of fine Horses to the number of 400. On passing the[y] paid no atten-

¹⁵³ Mr. & Mrs. Smith. Rev. A. B. Smith and wife had arrived as missionaries in 1838; they had established themselves at Kamiah, sixty miles above Lapwai. In this year, 1841, they had abandoned their station, considering the natives "given up of God and devoted to destruction." He went from Spalding's mission to the then Sandwich Islands. See Snowden's *History of Washington*, Vol. II, p. 126.

¹⁵⁴ Snake tribe. Very likely an error for Nez Perce.

tion to us, but soon after sent up two Canoes to ferry our luggage over. The Native in charge of the Canoes when the[y] had finished went of[f] without demanding anything for their trouble, shewing that the[y] are an independent people, a trait of character which generally follows when the[y] become rich in Horses,—at least such is the fact so far as I have observed among Indian tribes. The Snake River where we crossed was about one mile above its junction with the Kus-Kutskii, its breadth about 250 yards, destitute of bushes or trees on its banks. This river abounds in Salmon, in Kus-Kutskii the water is so clear that the Natives say that the[y] cant spear them. These two rivers form the south branch of the Columbia by some called Lewis River.¹⁵⁵ A few miles below the mouth of the Snake the Lewis is bounded on the side by a range of high basaltic columns, under the shelter of which we camp'd for the night. Travelled today 20 miles over a prairie country fit for nothing but sheep pasture. Weather clear and warm.

June 27th. Started at an early hour—our course at first west, in the afternoon S.W. by West, pass'd several small patches of Corn on the side of hill. Saw no Indians. Travelled this day 40 miles. Country hilly with deep valleys in which we generally found water and abundance of good pasture. No Pine trees, a few Willow & Alder bushes in moist places. Soil a stiff yellow Loam. Plants: saw a Pentstemon with serrate leaves; *Monarda*¹⁵⁶ sp: *Lupinus* sp: with white flos: very common. Camp'd at dark on top of hill.

28th. Early this [forenoon] after starting came on a spur of the Walla Walla river, lined with a few scattered Pine & Willow bushes. At mid-day Mr. W Dr. P. and myself left the pack Horses in charge of Pier[r]e Charles to bring along, while we rode ahead in order to reach the Fort¹⁵⁷ before dark, which after riding 20 miles over a waste sandy prairie we effected. Mr. McLean one of the Companys Clerks (since the death of Mr. Pombran)¹⁵⁸ was in charge of this fort, which is generally called F. Nez perce, welcomed us in a very friendly manner. We must have rode today about 55 miles, observed a good many patches of fine wheat land on a small branch of the Walla Walla.

¹⁵³ *Lewis River*. Now generally called the Snake, with Clearwater merely a tributary.

¹⁵⁶ *Monarda*. Either bergamot mint or horse mint.

¹⁵⁷ *Fort*. Sometimes called Fort Walla Walla, but more properly Nez Perce. It was built first in 1818 by Alexander Ross.

¹⁵⁸ *Pombran*. Pierre C. Pambrum, H. B. Co. trader for many years, died from injuries received in a fall from a horse in 1841. Pickering (*Quarterly*, XX: 56) reports that news of Pambrum's death had reached the Indians on the Naches by May 31. Pambrum was succeeded by Archibald McKinley; McLean had charge until McKinley arrived.

29th. At an early hour this morning Pier[r]e arrived with the Packs & Horses, he had lost the path and kept travelling all night over the prairie in search of the fort. After regulating our collections I went with Mr. McLean to have a view of the Garden and farm both of which are distant from Fort 3 miles, on the banks of the Walla Walla river, in various patches about 50 acres in all is cultivated as a farm, on which is grown Wheat, Mays, Peas & Potatoes, the extent of the garden 2 acres where Onions, Carrots, Beats, Turnips, Potatoes, Cabbage, Lettuce &c &c had been sown but chockd up with weeds, the soil is a rich deep brown Loam. So far up this river as my observations went, no great extent of Land of the quality above mentioned can be found in a field, as the serpentine course of the river accross the valley cuts it up, and in the early part of the Summer a deal of it must be overflowed. About 25 miles up this river at a place called Waiiletpu is a Mission station under the direction of Dr. Whitman¹⁵⁹ who with his brethren I was informed are succeeding well with farming, breeding of Cattle &c &c The soil there I am informed is good and a considerable extent of it. The[y] have also been successful in turning the Indians attention to the tilling of the soil. With the exception of what I have stated the country arround Fort Nez perce is of a sterile nature.

30th. Dr. Pickering and myself undertook an excursion to Lewis River 10 miles distant but finding when a few miles out the sandy prairie so destitute of interest in a plant way, we turned towards the banks of the Columbia and returned in the afternoon. On prairie started a number of Hares. These animals are as large as the English Hare, but have longer ears and limbs, and the whole body of lighter colour. The[y] do not burrow, as some have suppos'd them to do, but only form a shallow seat under a wormwood bush, which here as in the Snake country is a common shrub. Of Plants we found a *Salsola*,¹⁶⁰ *Opuntia*¹⁶¹ sp: *Dalea*¹⁶² sp: *Oberonia*¹⁶³ sp: a handsome plant, *Verbena* sp: with several *Compositae*.

159 *Dr. Whitmans* Marcus Whitman, for whom Whitman College was named.

160 *Salsola*. Since the Russian thistle did not reach us until after statehood and since it is the only member of *Salsola* in the Northwest, what plant should this be? The *Dondia depressa* or *Suaedia depressa* was called *Salsola depressa* by Pursh (Piper, p. 240). This blite is found in Eastern Washington, and its old name seems to identify it with the *Salsola* here mentioned.

161 *Opuntia*. Probably *O. polycantha*, prickly pear, common along the Snake river.

162 *Dalea*. This large genus of the bean family is in Gray's Manual but not in Western Flora. Brackenridge probably found a similar genus, *Petalostemum*, of which a Species, *P. arnatum*, was collected earlier by Douglas on the arid plains near the Blue Mountains.

163 *Oberonia*. Did Brackenridge mean *Abronia*? *A. umbellata* would answer to a handsome plant.

July 1st. Thursday Towards evening Mr. Johnson & party accompanied by Mr. Gray,¹⁶⁴ one of the Mission from Waiilatpu,¹⁶⁵ where Mr. J. had called. This day was oppressively hot, with not a breath of wind.

2nd. Dr. Whitman came down to pay us a visit; found him a very intelligent man. I was very anxious to visit his place but could get no satisfaction from Mr. Johnson as to when he intended leaving this fort, so I occupied my time in put[t]ing my collections in order to be ready to start on the shortest notice.

3rd. Kept lingering about all day expecting every minute to set out on our journey. The Piquets of Fort Nez perce form a square surmounted by a bastion on each corner, each of these provided with four small Brass Guns, with a platform inside all round about 5 feet from the top, below which is a row of loop holes for musketry. The breadth of the Columbia, according to Mr. J. opposite the fort is 2760 feet, in the center of it there is several small Islands both above and below the fort.

4th. Sunday. Mr. McLean after giving the party a number of Horses—on loan, to be left at Nesqually, set us on the opposite side of the river in Canoes which was effected by 9 o'clock. We then kept up along its banks till we got opposite the mouth of Lewis river, where we struck a little inland. Came upon abundance of Grouse, Rabbits, Hares, and Carlews. The country is of rolling nature—sandy and barren.

5th. Got a glimpse of Mount St. Helens¹⁶⁶ during the early part of the forenoon. At mid-day as we were crossing the Eyakema, an Indian arrived from Fort Nez perce with a card from Mr. McLean informing us of the arrival there of Mr. Drayton,¹⁶⁷ belonging to our Squadron. Observed today a few good patches of good land close upon the river

6th. Our route still lay close upon the Eyakema which flows through one of the most barren countrys¹⁶⁸ it has ever been my lot to witness. A few scattered wormwood bushes with an occasional tuft of grass is all that releaves the eye from the open almost unbounded waste. We encamp'd near a marsh where the Moschetos

¹⁶⁴ *Mr. Gray.* William H. Gray came with Dr. Whitman in 1836, went east in 1837, and returned in 1838.

¹⁶⁵ *Waiilatpu.* Waiilatpu, near the present city of Walla Walla.

¹⁶⁶ *St. Helens.* Error for Mount Adams.

¹⁶⁷ *Mr. Drayton.* Joseph Drayton, an artist with the Expedition. He had come with Wilkes to Vancouver and with Peter Skene Ogden up to Nez Perce.

¹⁶⁸ *most barren country.* Even a horticulturist, as he looks upon the sage brush plain, does not always envision the marvelous change that irrigation will make, as Yakima, the sixth richest agricultural country in the United States, could prove to Brackenridge could he revisit this fair valley.

were so plentiful that we could get no rest. Rattle Snakes is here also very abundant.

7th. In the early part of this day came up to the junction of the Spipe river with the Eyakema which we foorded, but previous to this another river¹⁶⁹ flowing from the S. West had joined it. During the day cross'd over some high hills an[d] then Came into the Spipe valley where we found a number of Indians from whom we bot. some Salmon. here we for the first time from Walla Walla came upon Pine trees, and a small river¹⁷⁰ coming in from the S.S. West here also joined the Spipe, its waters was very brown and thick. Along its banks was a range of Basaltic columns. For the last two days we had found little new in the plant way, if we except two Oreogoniums and several Compositae, a number of small Oaks, of the same species as observed at Nesqually, was pass'd by. These appeared local, as we observed them nowhere else.

8th. We had a great many difficult passes to make along the rocky banks of the river. Crossed over to its south bank where we came upon the Camp of the old Chief Tobias, who had on our way out sold us some Horses, recrossed the river again and at 10 got up to the path¹⁷¹ where we struck off on our way for Okanagan. The water in the river we found very much subsided from what it was at that time.

9th. The Old Chief Tobias, his Son and four horses joined our party in order to accompany us to the Nesqually. The pack Horse carrying the Botanical specimens got into the river and before we could drive him back swam to the opposite side. One of our Indians threw off his coat and crossed after him, & by a good deal of trouble succeeded in getting him over again to the party. The plants being in Gum elastic bags were not the least injured, which was fortunate.

At one Oclock P.M. arrived at the place on the Spipe at the base of the range of Mts. where the first party encamped on the 17th of May to await Mr. Johnsons arrival; here we haulted for a short time and then set forward to reach if possible the summit of the ridge before dark, which we effected. The snow had entirely dissapeared with the exception of a few lumps under Spruce trees. The plants were now in all their beauty, Ranunculus, Cla[y]tonia,

169 *another river.* The Ahtanum River, more properly a creek.

170 *small river.* Cowiche Creek.

171 *path.* The north-and-south arterial trail again.

Caltha,¹⁷² *Menziesia*,¹⁷³ *Vaccinium*, and *Helonias tenax*,¹⁷⁴ all vied with each other. The height of this range at the highest point we pass'd is close upon 6000 feet,¹⁷⁵ while that near the Eyakema, where the Barometer got broke[n], is 6000 in full.¹⁷⁶

10th. On the west side of the range we found the snow more plentiful than on the east, although vegetation on both sides appeared much in the same stage of advance. it rained very hard today so that by the time we reached the small prairie where the parted [party?] halted to recruit the horses on the way out—we were all drenched to the Skin.

11th. Near Mid-day before we struck our tents, on account of the morning being wet, which gave us a chance of picking up a few plants, there being no opportunity to do so on the march from the rapidity with which we proceeded, all having enough to do taking care of his person and Horse among a multitude of Logs, Rivers and precipices. The weather still continues to be wet; found the river had fallen very much.

12th. Continued to rain in torrents, which made the roads very bad & broke down several of our Horses, as also that of the Old Chief which we were compelled to leave in the bush.

13th. Weather much the same as yesterday; every thing except what was in Gum elastic bags was wet through, so that at night we all fared very uncomfortable.

14th. Cross'd the Smalocho,¹⁷⁷ and reached the flat meadow land which borders on the Nesqually plains, here we encamp'd for the night, this day was very fine, which dried all our clothes.

15th. On the afternoon of this day the party reached Fort Nesqually, being absent exactly sixty days from the Ship. And casting a look back on that part of the Oregon that we had traversed it appears to me that we certainly must have viewed it in a very different light from the majority of writers that have come out so boldly in its favour. As an agricultural country to me it appears almost positive that to take the upper lands (or those above Walla Walla) on an average, that Ten acres out of a Hundred would not produce Rye enough to cover expence of Seed and Labour. I have

¹⁷² *Caltha*. The marsh marigold.

¹⁷³ *Menziesia ferruginea* (fools huckleberry) is the only species in Washington.

¹⁷⁴ *Helonias tenax*. This pine lily does not belong to the *Helonias* genus of *Melanthaceae*, but to the *Xerophyllum* genus; it is therefore properly *Xerophyllum tenax*.

¹⁷⁵ 6000 feet. The *Narrative*, for the eastward crossing, gives Naches Pass as 5092, which is pretty close to the present B.M. 4923.

¹⁷⁶ 6000 feet in full. The height of the summit of the trail over the Wenatchee range "where the barometer got broke," Colocum Pass, was given in the *Narrative* as 5303. The B.M. is 5323.

¹⁷⁷ *Smalocho*. The White River again.

chosen Rye as being a grain that succeeds better on poor soil than any other that I know. And that not more than Two acres out of one Hundred would produce Wheat that would pay the farmer for his trouble. The valley extending from Colvile to Chimekane (Messrs Walker & Eel[1]s station), at Lapwia on the Kus-Kutskii, (Mr. Spauldings station) and at Waiiletpu on the Walla Walla are the only three good tracts of land that we saw, or could learn anything of. Much has been said of the Willamette as a wheat Country but of that I can say nothing.—Nature seems to have designed the upper part of the Oregon more as a pastoral, or country for the raising of Cattle. That part of it pass'd over by us between Okanagan, by way of the Coule[e] to the River Spokane, & from that over to the Kus-Kutskii could not be surpassed as a sheep Country by any in the world, although I have not the least doubt but that the incursions of the Woolves¹⁷⁸ and Indians on the herds might prove an obsticle to the Sheep farmer at the Commencement.

Edited by O. B. SPERLIN

¹⁷⁸ *Wolves*. Dr. Pickering says, "In the course of a journey of eight hundred miles, the only large quadruped we saw was a solitary wolf." *Quarterly*, XX: 60. In such matters as this, Brackenridge does not hesitate to generalize on one particular.