Some Account of my Journey Among the Seneca

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Some Account of my Journey among the Seneca Nation of Indians in company with Joshua Hatfield, John Peirce Henry Simmons and Joel Swayne. 1798.

I left my native home and near connections on the first day after noon the 29 of the 6th mo. 1798, which was a close trial both to them and myself, but I was enabled to bear it with a degree of fortitude beyond my expectation. Calling to bid several of my relations farewell I got but a few miles that evening, next morning proceeded on my way.
Some Account of my Journey among the Nation of Indians in company with Joshua Sharpless, John Peirce, Henry Simmon, and Joel Swayne. 1798.

I left my native home and near connections on First day after noon the 29th of the 4th mo. 1798, which was a close trial both to them and myself, but I was enabled to bear it with a degree of fortitude beyond my expectation. Calling bid several of my relations farewell I got but a few miles that evening, next morning proceeded on my way.
met with Joel Swainne, dined at John Moore's in Adderbury and from there to Abraham Gibbons's where by appointment we were to meet the rest of our company. Lodged there this night and was much entertained in conversation by our kind friends which had some tendency to free my mind from that melancholy depression the parting with my dear relation had in some measure produced. 7th the 1st. A fine pleasant morning and vegetation making a rapid progress. About ten O'clock the rest of our company came forward dined here and paid on thos' Lancaster to Wrights Ferry and put out Horses to a Tavern
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and put our Horses to a Tavern ytf
where we propos’d lodging but was kindly invited by our friend Mr. Wright to his house where we remained that night. 50 miles from my home. 2nd of the mo. The morning very wet but our business not admitting of much delay we took breakfast and was ferried over the Susquehanna River in two flatboats about 8 O’clock for 6 pence a man and horse. The ferryman being so low was occasioned by a new ferry being opened and there was a rather striving which would gain the most custom.

Proceeded on to little York through a beautiful fertile country yet the Wheatfields as well as this Lancaster County afforded but a very discouraging prospect being much injured by the Kepian Fly. The Town of
where we propos'd Lodging but was kindly invited by our friend Wmy Wright to his house where we remained that night. 50 miles from my home. but our business not admitting of much delay we took breakfast and was ferry'd over the Susquehanna River in two flats about 8 O'clock for 6 penc a man and horse: The ferrage being low was occasioned by a new ferry being open'd and the two parties striving which would gain the most custom. a beautiful Fertile Country yet they Wheatfields As well as thro Lancaster County, afforded but a very disease rageing prospect, being much injur'd by the Hessian Fly. The Town of

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Transcription
York consists of about 500 houses, is beautifully situated and a large stream of water called Cadorus running through it. There, over which a commodious bridge is built; I being surrounded with fertile fields and blooming orchards, expanding the beauties of Spring, render the Landscape more delightful. We dined here and fishing with Mr. Kirk (a young man with whom I was acquainted) he kindly offered to pilot up to Huntington that afternoon, whose company was very acceptable and I had some apprehensions that he would some day have to go on the same business that I was going upon. We passed through a little village of about 28 houses 2 miles from Y. called Night Town, over several branches of the Conewaga, and arrived at Mr. Garrison in the evening where myself &.

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...Kirk's lodge, having come 90 miles this day: the others went on to Isaac Everitt, two or three miles further. Here I was much entertained with that mechanical & philosophical genius, young Isaac Garrison, who did fail to be eminent in the literary world. He had constructed a wooden clock, which he said kept time exceeding well, on the face of which was a representation of the earth, the sun & solar system turned by the clock, and performing their revolutions in regular order.

3. The morning being pleasant we set out early & met the rest of our company at Isaac Everitt's, thence proceeded on over the ridge generally called the south mountain, mostly covered with pitch pine, just by Valley Furnace on a stream.
Wm Kirk lodg’d haveing come ytf 30 miles this day: the others went on ytf to Isaac Evereds two or three mileytf further. Here I was much entertain’d ytf with that Michanical & Philosophi-ytf cal genius, young Isaac Garrison, whoytf bid fair to be iminent in the literaryytf world. He had constructed a Wooden ytf Clock which he said kept time exceedytf ing well, on the face of which wasytf a representation of the earth, the ytf Sun & whole Solar System, turn’d by ytf the Clock, and performing their ytf revolutions in regular order. ytf ytf ytf 3rdytf The morning being pleasant ytf we set out early & met the rest ytf of our company at Isaac Everedsytf thence proceeded on over the Ridge ytf generally call’d the south Mountainytf Mostly cover’d with pitch Pine. Justytf by Holley Furnace on a Stream ytf
called Mountain Creek which came down on the North side, where they told us there was plenty of good Straw. Cropt another Stream called Yellow Breeches, stoppet at the sign of the Black Horse, thence on to Striplingsburgh where we dined. This is a little Village containing about 250 houses scattered along the road for about half a mile there inhab. in them mostly Dutch. A small Stream of Water runs thro' this Village over which a large Boat Bridge is erected whereon these market House stands. In the afternoon we pass thro' another Dutch Village called Straipsburgh about 3 mile from the former, containing perhaps 60 or 80 houses, and situated in a low Valley near the foot of the M. Mountain over which we hazzed this evening &
call’d Mountain Creek which came ytf down on the North Side; where they ytf told us there was plenty of good Ironytf Ore. Cross’d another Stream call’d ytf Yellow breeches, Stopt at the signytf of the Black Horse, thence on toytf Shippensburgh where we din’d. Thisytf is a little Village containing aboutytf 250 houses scattered along the roadway of aboutytf for about half a mile the inhabi-ytf tants mostly Dutch. A smart stream ytf of Water runs thro’ this Village ytf over which a large Boat Bridge isytf erected whereon their market houseytf stands. In the afternoon, we pas’d ytf thro’ another Dutch Village call’d ytf Strassburgh about 8 miles from ytf the former, containing perhaps 60 ytf or 80 houses, and situated in a lowytf Valley near the foot of the N. Mountainytf over which we pass’d this evening &ytf
and put in for Quarters at George Skinner's a Commodious Inn for Travelers. Having come in this day a Journey about 210 miles, the land mostly of a thin soil except in the valleys near the streams of water. The Wheat fields were much injured by the Fly, but Rye in most places looked well, a great deal of which was sow'd and no doubt appropriated to the want of Sinuses from the Multitude of Still Ponds we pass on the road.

12 Set out about Sunrise and rode to Fort Littleton to Breakfast, and two rugged Mountains from whose lofty summits we could behold a multitude of surrounding Mountains intermix'd with many low valleys, which afforded a gratifying prospect. In between these mountains was a little Village called Thurnet.
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tains was a little Village call’d Fhannets-ytf
burghytf
near. Coming down from Westmoreland we passed over the Sinking Hills, which is said to be seven miles across, and appear to be a range of broken mountains running in almost every direction. Took some refreshment at Jim Skinner's 13 miles from last stage thence on 9 miles further where we crossed Jumicatke in the most hilly romantic place I ever saw before.

This stream runs in a meandering manner among the Hills; we ride along in the bend of it for many miles, and some places could throw a finger stone into the stream on either side of the road. In among these high towering Hills are some narrow fertile Valleys abounding with limestone in places. Arrived at Hartley's Tavern in the evening where we spent in for lodging and got good accommodations for ourselves and Horses. Having come in this day's journey about 39 miles.
near Canegocheage Creek where appear’d ytf to be some fertile Bottoms. From ytf littleton we pass’d over the Sideling Hills ytf which is said to be seven miles across ytf and appears to be a range of broken ytf mountains running in almost every ytf direction, took some refreshment at ytf Jno Skinners 11 miles from last stage ytf thence on 8 miles further where ytf we cross’d Juniatta in the most ytf hilly romantic place I never saw before. ytf This Stream runs in a Meander ytf ing manner among the Hilles, we ytf rode along in the bend of it for many ytf miles, and some places could throw ytf a finger stone into the Stream on ytf either side of the road. In among ytf these high Towering Hills are some ytf narrow fertile Valleys abounding ytf with limestone in places. Ariv’d at ytf Hartleys Tavern in the evening where ytf we put in for lodging and got good ytf accommodations for ourselves and ytf Horses. Haveing come in this days ytf 39 Journey about 39 miles. ytf ytf
5th. Set forward early and rode to Bedford, to Breakfast 6 miles from our Lodging. Bedford is the county town and a pleasant situation in a large valley being surrounded with hills on every side—proceeded on and reached the top of the great Allegheny Mountain in the afternoon 2½ miles from Bedford. Where there is a good Tavern, a little fertile land about the house, and what was more remarkable, an excellent spring of water a few rods from the door. From thence we descended the Mountain, and arrived at Berlin in the evening a pleasant little village of about 90 houses mostly Dutch. We lodged at Doctor Kimble's where our entertainment and lodging was very good, and our landlord very solicitous for news about the politics of the Times.

36th Day of Journey 36 miles today.
5thyt Set forward early and rodeyt to Bedford to Breakfast 6 miles fromyt our Lodgeing. Bedford is the Countyyt Town and a pleasant situation ytf in a large Valley being surroundedyt with hills on every side. proceededyt on and reach’d the Top of the ytf great Allegeny Mountain in the ytf afternoon 24 miles from Bedford, ytf Where there is a good Tavern, a little ytf fertile land about the house, and what ytf was more remarkable, an excleent ytf Spring of water a few rods fromyt the Door. From thence we descendedyt the Mountains, and arived at Berlinyt in the evening, a pleasant little village ytf of about 90 houses mostly Dutch. ytf We lodg’d at Doctor Kimbles, whereyt our entertainment and lodging ytf was very good, and our landlord ytf very solicitous for news about the ytf politics of the Times. ytf 36 our journey 36 miles to day. ytf
10th of the M. & 1st of the Week.

Set out in the morning and rode 13 miles to breakfast at a Dutch tavern where the landlady looked rather putrid, and was not able to prepare us with a breakfast more tasteful. Dined at Baplers Tavern 14 miles further, and proceeded on over Cherront Ridge, a lofty mountain from which summit we first had a view of the Western Country on the North side of the mountains, which appeared to be an extensive plain, interspersed with small hills, beautiful valleys, and affording a gratifying prospect. Arrived at Connell Hill in the evening, a little village on the margin of the Yachgum River, where we were kindly received by our ancient friends Thomas Gibson and his wife, who moved from Chiter county in the early settlement of Bedford—

41 31 miles to-day
6th of the mo & 1st of the Weekyf. Set out in the morning and ytf rode 13 miles to breakfast at a ytf Dutch Tavern where the Landlady ytf looked rather Sluttish and was not ytf able to furnish us with a Tea cup & ytf Sauces apiece. thence over Laurel Hill din’d at Basslers ytf Tavern 14 miles further and proceeded ytf on over Chesnut Ridge, a lofty moun- ytf tain from whose Summit we first had ytf a view of the Western Country on ytf the North side of the mountains, whichyft appear’d to be an extensive plain, inter-ytf spers’d with small Hilles & beautifulyft Valleys that afforded a gratifying ytf prospect. ariv’d at Connels ytf Vill. in the evening, a little Village ytf on the Margin of the yochigenyft River, where we were kindly receiv’d ytf by our antient Friend, Thomas Gibsonytf and his Wife who mov’d from Chester ytf County in the early settlement of ytf Redstone. ytf 41 come 41 miles to dayytf ytf
This morning Thomas Gibson took me down the river about half a mile to see what he said was some thing of a curiosity. The mighty Dashing of the Waters had worn a Cavity in the side of the bank a considerable ways into the Hill in which was exhibited abundance of Horn Ore, Stone Coal, and Limestone all intermixed with each other. It appeared as tho the hill at some periods had been on fire, which had penetrated in a Subterraneous manner so far, that 50 or 60 yards from the Margin of the Water on a high Bank the ground was sunk down in considerable Depth in the form of a reservoir.

After breakfast we were ferried over the River and proceeded going to Bee Radwallader's that evening J. Lwayne & myself took our rout by way of Union Town to see some of his Relations Union
This morning Thomas Gibson took me down the River about half a mile to see what he said was some thing of a curiosity. The mighty Dashing of the Waters had worn a cavity in the side of the bank a considerable ways into the Hill in which was exhibited abundance of Iron Ore, Stoney Cole, and Limestone all interspers’d thro’ each other. It apear’d as tho’ the Hilly at some period had been on fire, which had penetrated in a subteraneous manner so far, that 50 or 60 yards from the Margin of the Water on a high Bank the Ground was sunk down or considerable Depth in the form of a reservoir. After breakfast we were ferry’d over the River and propos’d going to Bees Kadwallader that evening. J. Swayne & myself took our rout by way of Union Town to see some of his Relations. Union yf
It is a prosperous little place, where the county courts are held. There are several stores & taverns which appear to get custom plenty. Rode at Mr. Dixon's mile from U. Town where I parted with Joel, and went to Rees Cadwallader's alone, after calling to see one Wm. Whitestripe who made from Newgarden some years ago & who had restrained much property from my father, got for military demands in the time of the revolution. He was not at home himself but his family gave me a hearty welcome. I met with the rest of our company & our kind friend Rees Cadwallader where we remained several days to rest ourselves, prepare some necessary articles for our journey, visit...
is a prosperous little place, whereby the County Courts are held: there are Several Stores & Tavern which appear to get Custom plenty, whereby Din’d at Wm Dixons 5 miles from U. Town where I parted with Joel, and went to Reece Cadwallader alone, after Calling see one Wm Whiteside who mov’d from Newgarden som years ago & who had restrained much pro perty from My Father, for Military demands in the time of the revolution. He was not at home himself but his Family gave me a hearty welcome. I met with the rest of our company at our kind Friend Reece Cadwallader where we remained several days to rest, ourselves, prepare some necessary articles for our Journey, visit