

20 November 1898 The morning tolerably
cold, appearance of snow from the clouds
left encampment about at 9 o'clock
and proceeded over to the White Hair
Village, the way is on the western side
of the mountains. Prayers were said
at the little tent on the river
immediately upon our arrival to
the White Hair village. The White
Hair himself arrived soon after
leaving our camp by. We proceeded
to Hudson, and had a long talk
with the head men of the village.
The White Hair himself first spoke
and then after the pretty birds spoke
evening approached and our Council
was deferred until the morrow.

21st November, about 10 o'clock
this morning the wind was very
high and with it there came
a pretty smart snow. (A snow storm
at day light
the ~~best~~ ~~most~~ ~~interesting~~ we found
very cold. The wind still raged.
At 12 o'clock we were invited by
the pretty Bird to dine with
him, we found his fare consisted
only of stewed Buffalo Meat,
being the first that I have ever
eat very good. As soon as
we had finished our dinner
we were again invited by the

By the White Man to dine with
him. we found his porridge consisting
only of Corn made into soup, in
the Indian manner and which
was very good indeed. Soon
after we proceed to Lushanoff
and after two or three dark nights
we finished our talk. I shall
not forget to put in my
Book the substance of the
speeches that were spoken
on the occasion, and also
what they did (sings) at their
dinner, all things good.)

21st November. From the Valley
we started at 9 o'clock and
in company with the White Man
P. B. and the Quakers (and our journey
for the Arkansas. Our course has
been little east of South generally,
with an an left at the distance
of a few miles the main branch
and oft a considerable distance
another considerable stream of
the Neotho, which we are
now camped on. Its western
side, pine trees are seen

houses, bought to day) the 73
H. Spoons for Mother, haulter, when
Oh I shall present to who I like best
in this world, saw those of my
Parents, What I write here is done
in such a manner, that no man
will I know be able to read but
myself, but myself, the
traveller to day 25 miles, the
sun rose this morning in such
a beautiful light, I shall not forget
put in my book my reflections
on the occasion, cold all day
snow melted away in course of
the day, got pretty cold towards
evening, at dusk the moon
rose beautifully, all well
and in cheerful spirits

I am happy to see you. I have travelled along road.
I first came to St Louis and then saw Genl
Clarks the great friend of the red man, the Choctaw
had seen him before, and they were very proud
when they saw him, So St Louis we travelled up
the Mississippi river in a boat that went by
Fire, we were seven days on the river, from
that place we travelled towards the west, and
without any difficulty we at length reached
the Shawnee Village, near which place we spent
five days, we talked with them as friends and
brothers, smoked together and eat together, From
the Shawnees we then turned and have now
made our camp on the banks of the Neotho.
within the center of your Village, we have for
the first time taken you by the hand, and the
pleasure seeing you in person with my own eyes.
In coming here my object was to see and talk
with you, it was the wish of my great Chief
and all the head men of the Choctaws that I should
do so, and I am really glad that this day has
at length come when the Osages and the Choctaws
should meet, shake hands and talk to each other.
It is a fact that our nations have been at times in enmi-
ty with each other, and like men and warriors made
the ground red with each others blood, ~~among~~
Choctaws and Osages where ever they have seen
other. The Choctaws are thought to be the largest nation
of red people known to be in the U States and
they are like other red men love war, but we
have been told by our great Father the Presi-
dent to be at peace with all nations, and

and learn our young men how to work, and
advise them to pursue the way of the white
men, and believing this to be the best and the
best way for ourselves and the generation to come,
the Choctaws have said by every thing like
war, and wish to be at peace with all nations,
and particularly the Nations of red people. And
now we offer you our hands and wish to you
have our hearts in truth and friendship. And
from this day let us be as friends, let that
great light, that shines on all nations never
again set up any more of war between
the Choctaws and the Abapies, let our paths
be in future paths of peace.

Two years ago when commissioners of
the United States Government came to treat for
the blue-stem lands there was brought to us
by one of them a talk from the Wau Sath theg.

23rd Started this morning at 8 o'clock
after prayers. before day the wind
blew high, and by the time we reached
the hills on the Prairies the wind
was unaccountably light and very
freely unpleasant, owing to the wind
our eyes suffered more particularly.
Saw to day more timber than
usual, which was only a few
Stripes on hills Black & Jack - Park
Oak and the timber on the creek
however then not much all first
topography, crossed the Prairies
~~and then~~ crossed as a tributary
of the Prairies on which the
Saw an ~~very~~ little vegetation
this evening some Coal. Yesterday
day we crossed a creek that
had for 7, had oak
The waters are these
we then saw Hawsing. The
Lands not good 25 miles

24th Monday After morning
prayers the company
in health. Traveled down the course
crossed several miles of
timber one particularly good
at day

just before I saw down I saw at this
moment seated on a high rock that pro-
jects over a high bluff above the stream
of Susquehanna, at the distance of 80 yards,
here I see her in all her beauty of
the distance of an inch or two
and her gurgling over her rugged
bottom, and occasionally

At camp. November 28
1878

My dear Father,

We are now encamped on the Eastern banks of the Verdigris a few hundred yards below the Creek Agency and a few miles above where it joins the Arkansas River and fifty miles from the Choctaw Agency. We are here resting our horses and laying in provision for the remainder of our expedition. From here we intend going on to the Canadian and then to the Choctaw country on the Arkansas. The country between the Atapa and Kanzas is all Prairie, no game of any kind whatever, and the soil of the lands by no means good. but notwithstanding that these are facts to me and all of the Choctaws and Chickasaws in company. The whites who are with us, some of them have been presumptuous enough to tell us that it is a fine country, and even have said that it is the best in the world.

Peace is now finally made up with the Choctaws and Coger for we were five days in their towns and had two days talk with them and smoked the Pipe of Peace, and eat together. We talked also with the Kanzas Indians. In coming here we passed through a considerable part of the Cherokee lands (part of their late purchase) all of which we have seen. is nearly Prairie. We have been told that we shall find thousands of Buffalo on the Canadian and Elk and Bear.

Two hundred and thirty excess have
just arrived here from the old nation
and it is said that 300 are on their
way behind those just arrived.

Present my love to Mother and
to my brothers and sisters, and my
respects to all who may enquire after me.

For
Cant. Thos. J. S.
Dec. 1828

Major John Ritchey

Columbus

Mississippi

Silas J. Ritchey
Alexander Meyer
Estonian Meyer

Dr. Ritchey
March 1828
Ritchey
J

Dear Father

(copy)

Nov

27th

1828

we left our encampment at the
Hawnd Village on the 5th Inst and proceed
in a South West direction and explored the
lands between the Kansas and Osage Nations,
and all I can say of that portion of the woods is
that it is good for nothing and never will be,
for it is all Prairie and nothing in them but
rock and gravel. One in that country is a perfect
Curiosity the Buffalo is still 300 miles west of
that Country, and as to Deer we never ^{saw} see in all,
nor any kind of game whatever, the lands is generally
poor. Notwithstanding that these things are all
true, the white people with us have been declarations
enough to tell us that it is a fine Country,
We saw the Kansas Redskins, and I know you never
saw such people in your life, their manners and action
are wild in the extreme, they are in a perfect state of
nature and would be a Curiosity to any civilized man,
Their dress consist only leather leggins, moccasins
and a Buffalo Robe wrapped around their body,
their head is trimmed close all over except on the back
part there is a small patch left and that platted into
two pieces. The women had an alle leggins and
moccasins and nothing more about them than a Buffalo
robe, their hair is left to grow at large and hang
promiscuously over their shoulders, It said they go
perfectly naked in the summer, The Kansas
Indians are no doubt a part of the Osage for
they speak the same language. They can

I shall without giving you a journal of our
travellers, tell you some thing about the Apsaks,
We in the first place came to their Agents, and
then spent two days to hold a talk with the Hoops,
their principal men were out hunting and we
had to wait until they came in after being
notified by messengers of our arrival.

Upon our arrival we found no body but a few old
men and women. the warriors and principal men
were all out hunting, but immediately messengers
were sent and before 12 o'clock next day several
of them came in the White Hair excepted who is the
Principal chief. we waited for him two days.
At length the company concluded to proceed
down to his Village, and just as we reached to
his place of residence, he also arrived ~~from~~
~~his~~ and soon after we commenced our talk,
and before sun set we made a White road
and hurried forever the Lomakawke, at night
the wind blew tremendously and with it came
snow that by the morning the ground was
covered, and a white road there enough we had
to travel in, but we spent another day with
them in talking and eating and so fed and
harmonious will in future be between the
Cheetaws and Apsaks. One of the most influen-
tial characters of the Apsaks have come with
us and is with us now, but she will return
back home from here, he is called the Prebly

Bird and is the greatest man by nature
the traps have. He is their ^{major} Principal in War
and in Council he is their great Orator
and upon the whole he is truly a very great
man. From the traps we travelled ~~dearly~~
a Quoth course generally, and have come through
in our journey a part of the Cherokee lands
and have at length reached the Creek Agents on
the Ouedigis. We are 5 miles above Grant
Gibson and 60 above St Smith. We expect
to be here two or 3 days to recruit our horses,
and will then strike for the Canadian,

I have enjoyed very good health since my last,
and I do wish you not to feel the least uneasy
about me. Tell mother that I came very near
getting married to a half breed Adop. a very pretty
young woman and that I am yet in love with
her very strongly. I do not expect to go home with
the company. I shall stay behind, and go home
by water. You must not expect me before March
Kincaid will get home probably in January,
You must tell his family all the news I have
written, he has enjoyed good health, with out
a day's exception. Present my love to
Mother, Brothers, and Sisters, and to all who
may enquire after me. Ad Peter

In Camp, on the Banks of the Verdigris
{ near the Creek Agency
Nov 27th 1828.

Dear Father,

We left our encampment at the
Shawnee Villages on the 8th Inst and proceeded in
a South west direction, we explored the lands between
the Kansas and Osage Nations, we saw the ^{people of} Kansas
Nation, they are more in ~~the~~ State rude and
uncultivated than any people I had ever seen. Their
manners and action were wild in the extreme,

We left Fort Smith on Sunday Morning
The 4th of January A D 1899. the weather very
pleasant and agreeable. Uncle Holson accompanied
Peter and myself out from the Fort 10. miles and
returned back home. We proceeded on together
for home in the road leading on to the Little Rock.
Crossed several small streams, none of any note
except the Quath grass. This stream heads up against
the Poteau within a few miles. We crossed also Big Creek
and just on this side we stayed all night with Mr
Sumner. Distance from Fort Smith 25 miles.

Monday the 5th we proceeded on the weather remark-
ably pleasant. In our course to day we had
Mountains to our right. Came into piney timbered
country. Struck the River to day as we did
yesterday. Stayed all night with Mr & Sallers
who is indeed a fine a man. Travelled to day 30 miles.

Tuesday 6th we made an early start this morning
and came on pretty rapidly. Let me not forget
to mention while I think of it. That Mr Sallers
line, on the banks of the Short Mountain
Creek. and was a ferry. Saw I go on with my
to day travel. The Mountains to right all
day. clothed with the green pine. Nothing
has pleased my fancy more than the appearance
of the Mountains to our right. They seemed
to peer up a magical sight. After crossing
Shal Creek we crossed soon after another
Creek and after leaving its banks we
took to our left a blazed way that lead
us to Wittz Ferry. from the park we
immediately entered piney timbered country.
and O how sweet it was. to hear the wind
softly sighing through the boughs of the
pines. it touched the cords of my inner
feelings and brought my imagination into
thousand of names &c. We crossed the
River. and then reached the Missionary
at Slight Station at Sund Set. Distance
to day 30 miles. Some appearance of falling
weather.

Wednesday 7th January. This morning when
I got up ^{it} was cloudy. at 10 o'clock there
came ~~a~~ all day long rain. I went in the main time
to the male school and after ~~seeing~~ ^{seeing} and ~~these~~ ^{these} on
from them made to them a short address. Borrowed
ten dollars from Quakburn. took dinner with
Mr. Pictner, then came to the black room
and wrote a letter to (Mr. St. John).

January 14th. From Gray we had company
Doctor Mahan, the road very stony and
rotten, the appearance of the country very flat.
Came into prairie after going about 10 miles,
which continued till we reached to Persepolis
traveled 25 miles. weather warm.

15 Jan'y. From Persepolis we reached
to Mr. Evans. 16 miles, the weather pleasant,
appearance of the country, all prairie
and very level.

16 Jan'y. From Evans we reached to
Mr. Pingley distance 28 miles, app
earance of the country yet very level
and yet warm.

17 Jan Reached today the Post of
Cavanaugh distance 27 miles.
Country level. Prairie. Still the
wood in 1/2 miles of the town.

I am at this time on the banks of the Mississippi
waiting in great anxiety for a passage, which
I intend taking in the first boat, bound down
It is probable I shall get off to day, if so, the
calculation is that I shall soon be striding over
once more the lovely hills and plains of the Chickasaw
where I long to be, It is now almost four months
since I took leave from home and during that
time I have not had the pleasure but on of
hearing from my relations and friends. I have naturally
a stronger affection towards my relations than most
of people, and especially for my parents. I have
had many a melancholy hour on their account
as I know they have grieved much at my being
separated from them and so forth,

Jan 18th

From the Post we proceeded down
as far as Mrs. Forsberg's 9 miles below,
Came to this place in a carriage,
paid to the driver \$4. —

15th Bought a Skiff, paid for it \$5 and
\$2 more to an old Spaniard to row
us down, we went to the cutting
Came to the cut off, took down
that, and then on into the White
River. And soon that river
to a cut off again passing from the
Mississippi into the white river, but
is now dry, left our skiff and
went to the land

Jackson, Mississippi.

January
24th 1829

Dear Uncle,

We have just reached this place, and have thought it our duty to let you know of it, and that we shall have the infinite satisfaction in a few more days in striding over once more the lonely hills and plains of our Native Country. I think it time now to give you a sketch of our journey so far. It ever has & in my life have been so much put to the test of hardship and trouble as I have been since my departure from Fort Smith. While there I was very fortunate, out of money, and a dependent on the generosity of Strang's, however, and got through pretty well, but very sick of traveling, and in a prodigious humor for home. There first back let me get, was at Pitts ferry. The ferry man would not put us over because he had no money, and so I had to commence and march to the dammed ~~sawal~~, which made the thing worse, and I had to at last give him my handkerchiefs (the only one I had) before he would consent to cross us. That evening we reached Bright the Missionary Station, we found them extremely polite and friendly to us, and loaned me ten dollars which helped us and was considerable and which I am at thousand times thankful to them. We spent a day with them. The time passed off very agreeably for we were among people that were pretty much like our that is I mean the Cherokee who were at school.