

Thursday May 18th 1843 Started from Fort Gibson
accompanied by a sergeant ~~and~~ one
private and my servant, to overtake
Capt. Brown, who left on the 14th with
a command of seventy men ~~and~~ on
a tour of reconnoissance to the prairie
~~and~~ arrived at seven in the evening
at the encampment of Lieut. Johnson and
Anderson - who were sent out on the 16th
with a command of twenty five men
to ~~overtake~~ join Capt. Brown, in this days
journey I crossed the Neosho river at Fort
Gibson and the Indians about three m
west of it and traveled thirty miles
direction North West - Country mostly prairie

Friday 19th Traveled in company with Lieut
Johnson passed three of Capt. Brown's encamp-
ments and halted about three miles
west of his last one for the night - after
having traveled 18 miles Course North West
Country mostly ^{rolling} prairie -

Saturday 20th Ported Company with Lieut.
Johnson with the intention of overtaking
Capt. Brown in the evening, passed his last
night's encampment about 12 o'clock in
the day, and arrived at his encampment

Thursday, May 18, 1843 Started from Fort Gibson accompanied by a sergeant, one private, and my servant, to overtake Capt. Boon who left on the 14th. with a Command of 70 men, on a tour of reconnoissance to the prairies. Arrived at 7 in the evening at the encampment of Lieuts. Johnson and Anderson, who were sent out on the 16th. with a Command of 25 men, to join Capt. Boon. In this day's journey, I crossed the Neosho River at Fort Gibson, and the Verdigris about 3 miles west of it, and travelled 30 miles, direction North West. Country mostly prairie.

Friday. 19th. Travelled in company with Lieut. Johnson. Passed three of Capt. Boon's encampments, and halted about three miles west of his last one for the night, after having travelled 18 miles. Course North West. Country mostly rolling prairie.

Saturday 20th. Parted company with Lieut. Johnson, with the intention of overtaking Capt. Boon in the evening. Passed his last night's encampment about twelve o'clock in the day, and arrived at his encampment of today at seven o'clock, found Lieuts. Chilton and Buford with him, did not expect me until some time next day. Country, prairie, rolling, and timber occasionally. Struck the Osage trail, a heavy, beaten one, and arrived at the Arkansas, distance 36 miles. direction, West. Had a thunder-shower in the night.

with him - did not expect me until
Country prairie rolling and timber occasionally struck
Some time next day had a thunder
the breeze trail a heavy beaten one, and arrived at the arkans
shower in the night - direction reversed
Distance 36 Miles

Sunday 21st Remained in camp to day
awaiting the arrival of Lieut Johnston
and endeavouring to find a ford across
the Arkansas which Capt. B finally suc-
ceeded in doing, Lieut Johnson arrived
at five o'clock -

Monday 22nd ~~Camp~~ Forged the Arkansas
the ford about $3\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile in length
crossed our provisions &c in a canoe
made of the bark of the hickory and
encumbered on the south side of the river
about one mile from it on a little stream
putting into it -

Tuesday 23rd ^{or} Traveled 20 Miles in a
north westerly direction, low on abund-
=ance of deer, Country mostly rolling
prairie interspersed with spots of woods
land -

Wednesday 24th Course N. W. West Distance
traveled 20 Miles Country rolling prairie
interspersed with woodland. Soil red
sand stone - encumbered on a bank of the
red fork. Water nearly the colour of
blood. Great many turkeys seen through
the day very few deer - some prairie
dog holes seen

Sunday 21st. Remained in camp today awaiting the arrival of Lieut. Johnston, and endeavoring to find a ford across the Arkansas, which Capt. B. finally succeeded in doing. Lieut. Johnston arrived at five o'clock.

Monday 22nd. Forded the Arkansas, the ford about three quarters of a mile in length. Crossed our provisions etc. in a canoe made of the bark of the hickory, and encamped on the South side of the river about one mile from it, on a little stream jutting into it.

Tuesday 23rd. Travelled 20 miles in a North West-ly direction. Saw an abundance of deer. Country mostly rolling prairie, interspersed with spots of woodland.

Wednesday 24th. Course, West, North West. Distance 20 miles. Country, rolling prairie interspersed with woodland. Soil, red sandstone. Encamped on a branch of the Red Fork, water nearly the color of blood. Great many turkeys seen through the day, very few deer. Some prairie-dogs' holes seen.

Thursday 25th. Course, North-West. Distance, 21 miles. Country, rolling prairie. Soil of a deep red cast. Crossed the stream on which we were encamped last night, and crossed another branch of the Red Fork at about 12 miles from the last and 9 miles from this, arrived at the banks of the Red Fork, a fine large

Thursday 25 Course both West distance twenty one
miles. Country rolling prairie, soil of a
deep red cast. Crossed the stream
on which we were encamped last night
and crossed another ~~for~~ branch of the red
fork at about 12 miles from the last, and
nine miles from this arrived at the
banks of the red fork, a fine large
stream on which we encamped, saw
a great many turkeys some few deer
and three antelope also some elk
tracks, crossed a large stage trail run-
ning north ~~east~~ and south west

Friday 26th Traveled 20 miles ^{both} course, ^{west} Country
level prairie crossed the red fork in the
evening saw little or no game, a few ante-
lope made their appearance, and appen-
ed to be very curious as to the movements
of our column. Lieut Anderson shot
an American hare - the first animal
of the kind that I ever saw, it is very
fleet about, twice the size of our common
rabbit and somewhat of the same colour

Saturday 27th Distance traveled 20 miles course
West Country fine level prairie some of them
a perfect level for four or five miles in
extent, saw a great many old signs of
buffalo, on the creek on which we encamp-
ed bound the carcasses of some two or three

stream on which we encamped, saw a great many turkeys, some few deer, and three antelope, also some elk tracks, crossed a large Osage trail, running North-East and South-West.

Friday 26th. Travelled 20 miles, course North-West, country level prairie, crossed the Red Fork in the evening, saw little or no game, a few antelope made their appearance and appeared to be very curious as to the movements of our column. Lieut. Anderson shot an American hare, the first animal of the kind that I ever saw. It's very fleet, about twice the size of our common rabbit, and somewhat of the same colour.

Saturday 27th. Distance travelled 20 miles, course West, country fine level prairie, some of it a perfect level for four or five miles in extent. Saw a great many old signs of buffalo. On the creek on which we encamped, found the carcasses of two or three buffaloes who, in all probability, had died of starvation during the spring. Had a violent storm after sun-set, accompanied by heavy thunder and lightning and hail, the hail as large as a hen's egg. The water flooded our tents and wet everything. No one knows the comfort of a good house until he has been obliged to encamp in such a storm as we had tonight. Saw several antelope and a few deer.

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Saw several Antelope and a few deer
Sunday 28th Started out this morning in con-
sequence of being obliged to dry our cloth-
-ing which had been wet during the night
made but eleven miles, course north
saw a good many Antelope - Hunted & shot
a hare and one of the men a badger

The day was exceedingly cold -
the country level, prairie and has at
one time been covered with buffaloes

Monday 29th distance 12 miles course north
country prairie towards the west
across some grassy sections, and the Capt
being anxious to make some inquiry of
them with respect to the Salt places
concluded to stop with them at their
encampment. found them busily en-
gaged in drying buffalo meat, having
killed some 25 of them near their en-
campment.

Sunday 28th. Started late this morning in consequence of being obliged to dry our clothing, which had been wet during the night. Made but 11 miles. Course North. We saw a good many antelope. Lieut. Johnson shot a hare, and one of the men, a badger. The day was excessively cold, the country, level prairie, and has, at one time, been covered with buffalo.

Monday 29th. Distance, 12 miles. Course, West of North. Country, prairie. Towards noon came across some Osage Indians, and the Captain, being anxious to make some inquiry of them with regard to the salt planes, concluded to stop with them at their encampment. Found them busily engaged in curing buffalo ^{killed} meet, having some twenty-five of them near their encampment. We learned from them that one of the salt planes was about twenty miles from us, and got from them some general ideas with regard to the country. We were very fortunate in finding one of them able to speak English well. Captain determined to set out for the planes early in the morning. Saw several antelope through the course of the day. The stream on which we are encamped is a very beautiful one, and empties into the Red Fork. The water is as clear as crystal, and contrasts strongly with the red and bloody looking water which we have been seeing for the past few days.

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miles from us, and got from them
some general ideas with regard to
the Country. We were very fortunate
in finding one of them able to speak
English well. Capt. Boon determined
to set out for the Islands early in the
morning. Saw several Antelope through
the course of the day. The stream or
River we are encamped is a very
beautiful one and empties into
the neck of the bay. The water is as clear
as crystal and contrasts strongly
with the red and bloody looking
water which we have been seeing
for a few days —

Monday 30 Boon in the morning found that
about 12 of our horses were gone and two of
my best horse among the rest. Their
had been cut ~~by~~ and the horses
carried off by Indians, the Grapes being
the trail and lost about 16 of them
according to their account. Capt. North
Lieut Johnson with 30 men
Lieut. about 13 Grapes accompanied
Lieut Johnson from their conduct
strong suspicions that they had
them. themselves from several
to take place on the

Tuesday 30th. Soon in the morning found that about twelve of our horses were gone and two mules, my best horse among the rest. Their halters had been cut, and the horses carried off by Indians. The Osages found the trail, and lost about 16 of their horses, according to their account. Captain Boon sent Lieut. Johnson with 30 men in pursuit. About 13 Osages accompanied him. Lieut. Johnson, from their conduct, had very strong suspicions that they had stolen them themselves. From several things that took place in the route, and from the fact of their wishing so soon to turn back. He, however, still continued on until he was unable to see any more signs of them, when he returned home.

Wednesday 31st. Cpt. Boon sent over for the Chiefs and had a talk with them, told them that some of their young men had stolen our horses, that when he encamped amongst them, we supposed that we had encamped amongst friends, but that we had been deceived, for we found ourselves amongst enemies. The old Chiefs insisted upon it that the Captain was mistaken, that it was the Pawnees that had stolen our horses, and not the Osages. The Capt. told them that he was so firmly convinced that it was the Osages that he intended to keep them all with us, and that he would not allow them to hunt buffalo until the horses were returned.

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to turn back ~~the~~ however still con-
tinued on, ~~until~~ ^{until} he goes ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~able~~ ^{able} to
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Wednesday 31st Capt Moon went over for the
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vinced that it was the Osages
that he intended to keep them
all with us and that he would
not allow them to hunt buffalo
until the horses were returned
We moved our camp but a few
miles to day some 8. I should thin
varying the Osages with us - Some
buffalo were seen feeding at a distance
The day was wet

We moved our camp but a few miles today, some 8, I should think, carrying the Osages with us. Some few buffalo were seen feeding at a distance. Our course was West.

Thursday, first of June Remained in camp all day. Capt. Boon and Lieut. Johnson started for the salt planes, accompanied by two Osages, and had gotten within about two miles of them, when they were obliged to turn back in consequence of seeing Indians, whom, the Osages said, were Pawnees. Capt. Boon, on his return, determined to take about fifty men with them and start out early in the morning for the planes. Our men killed 7 buffalo today, and we of course had a great feast of buffalo meat. One of the men shot a prairie-dog, or rather I would call it a squirrel, for it resembled one more than a dog. It was about a foot in length, with a bushy tail about three inches in length, and very much the color of a fox squirrel.

Friday 2nd. Set out from camp today for the purposes of examining the salt plane. At a distance of about ten miles it presented a grand sight. The whole plane seemed like one vast sheet of ice. After reaching the plane, we did not find the salt in such masses as we had expected to see it. It appeared to be nothing more than the efflorescence from the sandy surface of what must sometimes be the bed of a large river. The whole plane is one perfect level, and one imagines himself travelling on ground covered with a slight sprinkling of snow. We saw a great many

Thursday 24th and remained in camp all day. Capt Boon and Lieut Johnson started for the Salt Plains accompanied by two oxen. and had gotten within about two miles of them when they were obliged to turn back in consequence of seeing Indians whom the oxen said were Snowies.

Capt Boon on his return determined to take about 50 men with him and start out early in the morning for the Plains. Our men killed seven buffalo to day and we of course had a great feast of buffalo meat. One of the men shot a prairie dog or rather I would call it a squirrel for it resembles one more than a dog. it was about a foot in length with a bushy tail of about three inches in length and very much the colour of a fox squirrel.

Friday 25th Set out from camp to day for the purpose of examining the Salt Plains. at a distance of about ten miles it presented a grand sight. the whole plain seemed like one vast sheet of ice, after reaching the plain we did not find the salt in such masses as we expected to see. it appeared to be

buffalo upon the plane, killed one cow and captured two calves, one of which we were obliged to leave on account of its being unable to travel, the other followed the command like a dog. Our course was West, a little South. Distance, 20 miles. Caught a young hare, which I am going to raise.

Saturday 3rd. Set out this morning with the intention of reaching the Santa Fe trace in the course of six or seven days. Travelled nearly North, distance of 20 miles over a prairie, saw nothing of interest, numerous towns of prairie dogs were seen, and several unsuccessful attempts to kill them were made.

Sunday 4th. Distance 25 miles. Course nearly North. Crossed two pretty considerable streams, the first of which empties into the Red Fork, the other, into the Arkansas. Encamped by the banks of a clear stream, which, from its course, must empty into this last. Country, rolling prairie. Caught a hare, and Lieut. Buford shot a large wolf and a buffalo.

Monday 5th. Distance 18 miles. Course, North. About noon we were carried about four miles out of our course in consequence of having met a party of Osages, and having found one of the mules that we lost some few days ago in their possession. They could, of course, give no account of how the mule came in their possession, although among their party were three of the same Osages that we had encamped with when our horses were stolen. Captain Boon took their rifles and bows and arrows from them, and the officers took four horses from

More than an efflorescence from
sandy surface of what must
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Killed one cow and captured two
calves one of which, we were obliged
to leave on account of its being unable
to travel - The other followed the
- band like a dog - Our course
west a little south distance 20 miles
Caught a young one which I am
- ing to raise -

Saturday 3rd Let out this morning with
intention of reaching the Santa Fe trace
the course of six or seven days - Traveled
nearly north a distance of 20 miles over
prairie, saw nothing of interest - except
at night ~~se~~ numerous towns of prairie
days were seen and several unsuccessful
attempts to kill them were made

Sunday 4th Distance 25 miles Course
north - Crossed two pretty considerable
the first of which empties into the Red
the other into the Arkansas - Encamped
the banks of a clear stream which

them to compensate for those that were lost, telling them that their horses, bows and arrows, and rifles, would be returned to them as soon as they returned our horses. One of the men killed a dow antelope today, and we had some of the meat for supper. It had very much the taste of venison. The antelope resembles the deer somewhat in appearance, with the exception that its horns are not branched, but single, and coming directly from the front. Its hair is also much ~~coarser~~ than the deer, and its rump has a spot of white, which gives it a very singular appearance when running. Crossed the Arkansas River, found it much shoaler, and not nearly so wide as where we crossed it before, had very little difficulty in driving our wagons across it, and encamped on the North side.

Tuesday 6th. Distance, 10 miles. Course, North. Encamped on the banks of a beautiful little stream that has its origin in some sand hills that we passed over today, and which consisted in a constant succession of conical mounds, running North West and South East. I caught a young elk immediately upon our arrival at our present encampment. It was a beautiful thing, but in consequence of its being very young, and having nothing to feed it upon, I was obliged to let it go again, and I presume it found its mother shortly afterward.

Wednesday 7th. Distance 8 miles, North. An elk killed by Lieut. Chilton, meat very delicate. Saw some

Course must empty into this Cost. Country
rolling prairie. Caught a bear and
sent Buford shot a large Wolf and
a buffalo —

Today 5th distance 18 Miles ~~to~~ Course
at, about noon we were carried about
miles out of our course in consequence
having met a party of braves and having
lost one of the Mules that we lost
a few days ago, in their preparation
could of course give no account
how the Mule came in their
preparation although among their party
were three of the same braves that we
were encamped with, when our horses
were stolen — Capt Boon took them
his gun and bows and arrows from
them and the officers took four horses
from them to compensate us for
those that were lost, telling them
that their horses, bows and arrows and
arrows would be returned to them
soon as they returned our horses
one of these men killed a deer until
late to day and we had some of
the meat for supper, it had very
much the taste of Venison — The Antelope
resembles the deer somewhat
in appearance, with the exception the

eight or ten more. Encamped within about four miles of the Santa Fe trail. Saw some few horse tracks in the grove near our present encampment, also found where a party, probably of robbers, had been encamped some two months ago.

Thursday 8th. Distance 15 miles. About four miles from our last nightly encampment, came upon the Santa Fe trail. Found that some two or three wagons had passed upon the trail, some going in the direction of Santa Fe, other, the other way. After going upon the trail some eleven miles, we came across a party of men encamped. They told us that they were emigrants on their way to California, that they were waiting for the traders, whom they expected to accompany as far as Santa Fe, and that the traders would be here about next Sunday. That an express from the Governor (Amases) had passed and returned, conveying the information that he would meet the traders at the Mexican boundary with about 600 men as an escort, which would save the necessity of Col. Mason's command going to Santa Fe. There were but five persons in this party of emigrants, one of them had but one leg, the other, but one arm, and two others were cross-eyed. The country has been all day today, rolling prairie. The stream on which we are at present encamped, is called the Little Arkansas. It has been raining all day, or rather I should say, mist has fallen all day, and at night it has turned into heavy showers accompanied with thunder and lightning.