



ROUTE OF
VILLIAM H. GRAY'S
JOURNEY EAST
1837

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the night. Here we began to feel the want of provisions and the pangs of hunger, to relieve which we thought best to kill a horse, of which we made our meal for the night.

AUGUST 26. Today we started, taking a due East course. We struck a trail and continued on it till night, having crossed several streams, which we succeeded in getting our horses across with considerable difficulty.

AUGUST 27. This morning at sunrise we started, hoping soon to find some place where we could get relief from our present situation and wants. We continued on till about nine o'clock, and came out at Council Bluffs. Our feeling on again seeing a human being can better be imagined than described. May God help us to ever remember His Goodness to us in the trials we have just passed and help us to improve from past experience in future usefulness, patience and perseverance, for the promotion of His cause among the Heathen and savage tribes of our land.

On arriving at the Bluffs, we found Mr. Mitchell,⁵⁴ trader among the Black Feet, at the post. I made several inquiries respecting the prospect of members of the Board traveling with the Black Feet. He seemed to favor the proposition, and said he would forward a letter, giving a bill of prices for supplies to the care of the Company at St. Louis. He also said he would endeavor to procure the remainder of my letters from the Sioux and forward them to me as soon as possible.

AUGUST 28, MONDAY. About ten this morning, being furnished with horses by Mr. Papaw,⁵⁵ we continued down till we reached Belview (Bellevue), where we found our boat. We also met Brothers Dunbar, Allis⁵⁶ and Doctor James, agent to the Potowatomies), with their wives. We remained at Belview till Thursday, 31st, when we left and proceeded down the Missouri River in our canoe till we reached Fort Leavenworth.

SEPTEMBER 7. We reached the Fort. I called on Mrs. Morgan, Major being absent. I also called on Capt. Sumner, who is the Commanding Officer.

SEPT. 8. We proceeded down the River till we met the Steamboat,

Booneville, and got on board, and returned with her to St. Louis, where we arrived on the 13th of September, 1837. I remained at St. Louis till the 18th to arrange my affairs, respecting the Sioux, and proceeded to Cincinnati. Arriving the 22nd, left the 25th, and reached Utica on Saturday, Oct. 15th, being eight days in going to St. Thomas and returning to Buffalo to deliver the little son of Mr. Ermatinger.

I left Buffalo the 13th, arrived in Utica the 15th, being one year and seven months absent, having experienced the goodness of God in unnumbered ways in the special preservation of life and health, while performing a journey of little more than ten thousand miles.

It may be said of the several tribes west of the Rocky Mountains, that they are generally mild in their disposition, kind in their treatment of strangers and each other, and scrupulously honest in all their dealings. Lying is scarcely known among some of the tribes.

The Spokanes are a band of about one hundred, or one hundred and fifty families, situated on the Spokane River, about one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Walla Walla. They are located at the place called the Old Fort, which was first established by Astor—a part of the band are partially stationed on the head waters of the River, bearing the name of the Tribe. Those in the vicinity of the Old Fort, which is now gone to decay, have for the last years cultivated nearly enough for their subsistence; with a little assistance from a Teacher they can easily be taught civilization in all its parts.

Their country is generally well timbered, interspersed with beautiful plains. Their manners are mild and hospitable, manifesting a strong religious feeling, devout in all their forms of worship, and strict in attending all their meetings of a Religious character. They have a native school, taught by one of their own young men, who has received a limited education at Red River, by the name of Garry.

They have also a house, devoted for Religious meetings, sufficiently large to contain all the persons in the Village. Their worship is similar to that of the Nez Percés. Garry has a Bible, from which he attempts to teach the Natives. Having received his knowledge away from his Tribe, he has in several instances imposed on their credulity by his superior knowledge.

The Pend d'Oreilles are a band of about one hundred and fifty, or two hundred families, situated north of the Flat Head, or Clark River;