

Transcript: The Jesse Pennoyer Diary

Wednesday, March 30, 1791

Set out for River Rideau found the road very bad. Was obliged to ford many small creeks. Travelled on till we came to a branch of River Petit Nation which was so deep that we could not properly ford it. Began a raft.

Thursday, March 31st

Finished the raft, first two men on to it for trial but the raft being made of green wood sunk in the river and with much difficulty we saved the men from drowning. We next made a raft upon a larger Scale upon which we tried five men but it met with the same fate as the former, got out of provision; sent two men back to the River for some. Travelled down the River with Mr. DePencier about a mile in order to find a fording but could not find any. We now travelled up the river about a ? and a half for the same purpose but it proved equally fruitless.

Friday 1st April, 1791

Began a third Raft at which we were employed all day. By reason of having to go so far for dry wood.

Saturday 2nd April, 1791

A violent snow Storm which oblige us to lie still all day.

Sunday 3rd

Crossed the River and joined the party at River Rideau having had to wade for the most part of the Day in snow and water. Found that my party had made a canoe.

Monday 4th

Sent four men into the woods about three miles to bring out Two Barrels of Flour which was left by one of the Carters ? went into the woods in order to find a Tree for another Canoe found one and returned.

Tuesday 5th April, 1791

Began a Canoe which employed the men all Day.

Wednesday April 6th, 1791

Began a Raft on which and on the Canoe the men were employed all day.

Thursday 7th

Finished the canoe, divided the provisions with Mr. DePencier each taking one half.

Friday 8th

Finished the raft and prepared for setting off for the point between the two branches.

Saturday 9th April, 1791

Put the provisions and necessaries on to the raft and into the canoes and rowed down the River about four leagues took one of the canoes and three men and went forward of the raft. Met with Mr. DePencier who told me that we were just approaching very bad rapids which he had just passed but had been obliged to unload his raft. I accordingly concluded to do so too but not being able to stop the raft it went down the rapids with all the Provisions on it. But not without imminent danger, however we lost nothing.

Sunday 10th April, 1791

Came on about 8 miles past many dangerous and difficult places without any loss.

Monday 11th

Brought the Raft and provisions round the point and up the West Branch about two miles and encamped.

Tuesday 12th

It rained most part of the Day. I went down the River to the Point but the rain prevented me from making any Observations.

Wednesday 13th, 1791

Began the traverse of the West branch of the River Rideau. Run on the line a mile and encamped.

Thursday 14th, 1791

Run on the line 1 1/2 miles mostly thro swamps & encamped.

Friday 15th, 1791

Run on the line 1 1/2 mile & encamped. Met with some bad swamps.

Saturday 16th

Run on the line 1 1/2 miles & encamped.

Sunday 17th

Moved on the raft and provisions 3 miles and run on the line 3/4 of a mile & encamped.

Monday 18th April, 1791

Run on the line 1 1/2 mile & encamped.

Tuesday 19th

Removed on the Raft Provisions about 3 miles with some difficulty the Current being strong and against us.

Wednesday 20th

Run on the line 2 1/2 miles thro very good land and encamped.

Thursday 21st

Run on the line 2 1/2 Miles which finished the Traverse of the River the Distance of Ten miles, encamped.

Friday 22nd April, 1791

Protracted the different courses which I had run, calculated the General Course of the River as far as I had surveyed and found it to be S 58 W.

Saturday 23rd

It rained most part of the Day. I came down about 5 miles & encamped.

Sunday 24th

This day being Easter Sunday and the party mostly Roman Catholic I gave them liberty to keep it sacred to the worship of God in their own way.

Monday 25th April, 1791

Made a Cabbin to secure the provisions came down to the Point ? and began the Survey of the Township of Oxford. Measured the distance across the River and encamped.

Tuesday 26th

Run on the line a mile and measured the distance across the River in several places and made several offsets to the River & encamped.

Wednesday 27th

Run on the line a mile and a half measured the breadth of the River in several places & encamped.

Thursday 28th April, 1791

Run on the line $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile with much difficulty being obliged to ford a swamp of considerable length the water being about 3 feet deep and very cold.

Friday 29th

Run on the line a mile with difficulty having several bad places to pass.

Saturday 30th

Was obliged to go back some distance and make an Offset to avoid the River, run on the line $\frac{1}{2}$ mile mostly thro good land & encamped.

Sunday May 1st, 1791

Run on the line $1 \frac{1}{2}$ miles & encamped.

Monday 2nd

Run on the line $1 \frac{1}{4}$ mile & encamped.

Tuesday 3rd

Run on the line 2 mile & encamped.

Wednesday 4th

Run on the line 2 miles mostly thro very good land and encamped.

Thursday 5th

Finished the First concession & encamped.

Friday May 6th, 1791

It rained the men ground their Axes.

Saturday 7th

Began the side line and run it the Depth of Two Concessions & encamped.

Sunday 8th

Run a line a mile & a half above Oxford in order to take the Course of the River.

Monday 9th

Made a plan of the front of the Township. The men washed their Shirts and Baked some bread ?

Tuesday 10th May, 1791

Went down to the point and began side line, run it on about 1/4 of a mile measured the breadth of the South branch.

Wednesday 11th

Run on the side line 1 1/2 miles mostly thro very bad swamp, encamped.

Thursday 12th

Run on a mile and encamped it rained all afternoon.

Friday 13th

Run on the line 2 miles and encamped.

Saturday 14th

Run on the line 2 1/4 miles & encamped.

Sunday 15th

Run on the line 2 miles & encamped.

Monday 16th May, 1791

Run on the line mostly thro very bad Cedar swamp - encamped.

Tuesday 17th

Finished the second Concession line & encamped.

Wednesday 18th

Run on the side line 2 miles mostly thro a very bad swamp & encamped.

Thursday 19th

Let the men out to Mr. Steven's to grind their Axes went to the encampment where our provision was lodged.

Friday 20th

Gave the men this day to wash their shirts.

Saturday 21st

Moved the Provision round the Point & ? 2 1/2 miles up the South branch & encamped.

Sunday 22nd May 1791

Made a Cabbin & secured the provision began the N. Easterly side line and run it on 3/4 of a mile mostly thro a very bad swamp & encamped.

Monday 23rd

Run on the line 1 1/2 mile mostly thro very bad swamp & encamped.

Tuesday 24th

Run on the line 2 miles and encamped.

Wednesday 25th

Began and run on the Concession about 1 1/4 mile and encamped. Sent four men for provision who was to return the same day but did not.

Thursday 26th

Sent two other men for provision being out but they did not return until it was too late to begin the line.

Friday 27th

Run on the line 8 lots ? 2 Miles and 56 chains thro very good land & encamped.

Saturday 28th

Went down the River with all the Party to remove the provision moved all the provision up the river about 1/2 mile and encamped.

Sunday 29th

Moved on the provision about 4 miles and encamped.

Monday 30th

The party were employed part of the forenoon in sunning the provision after which I began to Survey and run on a small distance and It began to rain and continued raining all day.

Tuesday 31st May, 1791

Run on the line 1 3/4 miles & encamped.

Wednesday 1st June, 1791

Run on the line a mile & 10 chains. There's a bad Cedar Swamp & encamped.

Thursday 2nd

Run on the line 1/2 a mile in a very bad cedar swamp and it began to rain and continued raining all day.

Friday 3rd

Rained all day which obliged us to be still.

Saturday 4th

Run on the line 1 3/4 mile and encamped.

Sunday 5th

Rained the forenoon, began in the afternoon & run on the line a mile and encamped.

Monday 6th June 1791

Run on the side line 2 miles mostly thro very bad swamp & encamped.

Tuesday 7th

Found 5 Mineral Attraction in a low sunken spruce swamp ? run on the line 4 (1/4)? miles and encamped.

Wednesday 8th

Run on the 6th concession line 1/4 mile and encamped.

Thursday 9th

Run on the line 1 3/4 of a mile mostly thro bad swamp & encamped.

Friday 10

Run on the line about 3/4 of a mile in the forenoon and about 12 o'clock I was taken violently Ill with a pain in my (head?) which obliged me to be still the remainder part of the day.

Saturday 11th June, 1791

Sent five men for provision and run the line about a mile and encamped. The men returned with provisions.

Sunday 12th

Run the line 1 3/4 of a mile & encamped.

Monday 13th

Run on the line a mile mostly in a very bad swamp & encamped.

Tuesday 14th

Run on the line 2 miles and 53 chains which finished it.

Wednesday 15th

Proceeded on the NE by line of the Township 3 3/4 Mile which finished it & encamped.

Thursday 16th June, 1791

Removed our provision & 6th (16th?) and run on the line between the 8th & 9th Concession 1 1/4 mile & encamped.

Friday 17th

It rained in the forenoon began in the afternoon on the line a mile & encamped.

Saturday 18th

Run on the line 2 1/4 Miles & encamped.

Sunday 19th

Sent five men for provision. It rained all day did nothing on the line.

Monday 20th

Run on the line a small distance in a swamp. The men returned with the provision & we encamped.

Tuesday 21st June 1791

Run on the line 1 3/4 mile & encamped.

Wednesday 22nd

Run on the line 1 3/4 mile & encamped.

Thursday 23rd

Run on the line 1 3/4 miles & encamped.

Friday 24th

Run on the side line a mile and encamped. It rained the remainder of the day.

Saturday 25th

Run on the side line 2 miles which finished it.

Sunday 26th

Began on the last line and run it on 1/2 a mile when by accident I cut my leg in such a manner as wholly disabled me from proceeding any further with the line it began to rain about 12 O'clock & continued all day. We encamped.

Monday 27th June, 1791

It rained all day & we lay still.

Tuesday 28th

Sent the men down the River to bring up the provision to the place where we (?) the line.

Wednesday 29th

The party returned with the remainder of the provision.

Thursday 30th

Sent a man out to the river for a horse (secured?) Seven Days provision and took the remainder on about 3 miles and encamped it rained most part of the day.

Friday 1st July, 1791

The man returned with a horse and we came out to the River.

Saturday 2nd

Took a canoe and went down the River about 6 miles for some Pork.

Sunday 3rd July, 1791

I still remain very lame. Lay still.

Monday 4th

Took five of the men and went up the river about 20 miles for some flour.

Tuesday 5th

Returned with the flour.

Wednesday 6th

Began a Map or protraction of the Survey of the Township of Oxford. Not being able to do anything else.

Thursday 7th

Continued working at the Map.

Friday the 8th

Continued lame and at work at the Map until the 14th July.

Thursday 14th July, 1791

Found my leg to be much better hired batteau and set out for River Thames in order to lay out 1000 acres of land for Sir John Johnson (barrister?) but the wind being so very Violent against us we got on but about Six miles & encamped.

Friday 15th

Rowed on about 20 miles against a very strong wind and encamped.

Saturday 16th

Arrived at Gananoque on River Thames about 4 o'clock p.m. & encamped.

Sunday 17th

It rained all day which obliged us to lie still.

Monday 18th July, 1791

Tuesday 19th, Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, & Saturday 23rd

Was employed in Traversing and Protracting River Thames.

Sunday 24th

The men baked bread and washed their shirts.

Monday 25th

Surveyed the front of Sir John Johnson's land.

Tuesday 26th

Began the eastern line and run it on about a quarter of a mile when I was taken ill with the fever and ague which obliged me to return to the encampment.

Wednesday 27th July, 1791

It rained. We could do nothing.

Thursday 28th

Found myself much better, insomuch that I began the Eastern line, and run it thro to the 2nd Concession, then measured down the Concession line to River Thames.

Friday 29th, Saturday 30th & Saturday 31st

Was buried in protracting and making a plan of the land I had surveyed.

Monday 1st of August, 1791

It rained in the forenoon. Got ready and set out for Edwardsburg, came on about 15 miles and encamped.

Tuesday 2nd

Arrived at Edwardsburg.

Wednesday 3rd August, 1791

Returned the batteau which I had hired, sent some men for provisions.

Thursday 4th

Went down about 8 miles for provisions but could not get any. Received a bit from the Hon ble John Collins Esq. informing me that I had provisions coming on.

Friday 5th

Heard of a small quantity of pork to be bought about Eight miles up the river. Sent some of the party for it but they returned and brought news that it was sold.

Saturday 6th August, 1791

Went down the river about ten miles in order to buy a barrel of pork but could not find any but at one place and that being L.6 10.0 per barrel. I would not take it at that price but borrowed from Captain William Frain 100 lbs.

Sunday 7th

It rained, lay still.

Monday 8th

Wrote the Hon ble John Collins Esq. and W. Frobisher respecting provision. The men baked bread and ground their axes. Began the measure of the side line of the Township of Edwardsburg at the water side between Edwards & Augusta and measured on the line the Depth of the first

Concession and found it to be 124 chains. Bro't on the provision about 3 miles and encamped. tryed the course of the line in several places and found it to be N.27 W. (?)

Tuesday 9th August, 1791

Found the quantity of provision which we had to be too heavy for the men to carry. I therefore left a part and travelled on to the end of the side line of the Township & encamped.

Wednesday 10th August, 1791

Sent four men back for the provision which we had left. Tryed the course of the line in several places and found it to differ widely from the General Course of the side lines of the Township I concluded to cross the Township and to begin the Northern boundary line from the Termination of the lower side line of Edwardsburg.

Thursday 11th

Travelled on about six miles and it rained so violently that we were obliged to encamp. One of my party was taken very ill with a fever.

Friday 12th August, 1791

Another man of my party was taken sick with the fever. Travelled on about eight miles and missed the line which we were in search of. The men being very heavy loaded & fatigued we encamped.

Saturday 13th

Turned our courses and travelled back about six miles and missed the line again altho we kept a constant look out for it, came to a line which we followed on to a Concession line which we found to be the line between the first (?) and second (?) concession. Followed the concession line on about 2 miles & encamped.

Sunday 14th August, 1791

Followed the Concession line to the end. Took its course in several places & took the side line of the Township and travelled on to the 6th Concession & encamped.

Monday 15th

Travelled on to the end of the side line of the township being the end of the 9th Concession. Began the Northern Boundary line and ran it on a mile and encamped. Three more of the party were taken very ill.

Tuesday 16th

Run on the line Two miles & encamped.

Wednesday 17th August, 1791

Run on the line a mile, mostly through a swamp and encamped. Another of the party was taken sick.

Thursday 18th

Run on the line 1 1/2. mile & encamped. The men remained very sick.

Friday 19th

Run on the line 1 1/2 mile & encamped.

Saturday 20th

Run on the line 5 Lots & encamped.

Sunday 21th

Run on the line 3 Lots which finished it. The men remained very sick.

Monday 22nd August, 1791

Come on to River Petit (?) Nation being about seven miles. Left three of the men on the road, they being not able to work.

Tuesday 23rd

Came out to the River. Sent a man back to assist the sick.

Wednesday 24th

Was employed in making out my accounts.

Thursday 25th

waited for a passage to Montreal finished my accounts. The sick men returned out of the woods.

Friday 26th

Waited for a passage.

Saturday 27th August, 1791

Waited for a passage. The party remained very ill.

Sunday 28th

Got a passage on board a batteau, and come on about 40 miles.

Monday 29th

Came on to Chateauguay.

Tuesday 30th

Arrived at Montreal about 4 O'clock in the afternoon.

Wednesday 31st August, 1791

The men still continue sick. I discharged five of them and hired others in their places. Waited on Mr. Frobisher concerning the provision, who gave me an Order on Mr. John Gray for the quantity I wanted started(?) my Acct. before Joseph Frobisher Esq.

Thursday 1st September. 1791

Wrote the Honble John Collins Esq.

Friday 2nd

Waited until Wednesday 7th for an answer from the Hon ble John Collins Esq. which I received and an order on Cap tn Genway for L.100. ... waited on Cap TN Genway who paid the above sum.

Thursday 8th September, 1791

Paid off the men whom I had discharged and advanced a month's wages to those which I had hired. Got a ticket front Mr. Clark to pay the Lock.

Friday 9th

Received 4 Barrels Pork and seven barrels of flour of Mr. John Gray. The barrels flour weighing each 224 lbs. Got it out to Lachine, came in to Lachine with my party. Waited on Mr. John Johnson respecting his land at River Thames.

Saturday 10th September, 1791

Hired a boat of Mr. John Grant loaded it and came on to the Cascades and encamped.

Sunday 11th

Came on to the Cedars(?) and encamped.

Monday 12th

Came on to Lake St. Francois. The wind being very strong against us we encamped.

Tuesday 13th

Came on to Point au Bodet with much trouble, the wind being so very strong against us that we could go no further.

Wednesday 14th September, 1791

Came on to Cornwall, it rained the most part of the day.

Thursday 15th

Waited on Coll. Gray as requested by Mr. John Johnson concerning Sir John Johnson's land at Gananoque on River Thames. And likewise to get a Plan of an inland Township but could not from Coll. Gray. Applied to Mr. Chewett but could not get one from him.

Friday 16th

Came on to Long Sault and encamped.

Saturday 17th

Came on about 15 miles and encamped.

Sunday 18th

Came on about 12 miles. The wind very strong against us.

Monday 19th September, 1791

Came on about 8 miles. The wind so very strong against us that we were obliged to encamp.

Tuesday 20th

Came on about ten miles against a strong wind and was obliged to lie still.

Wednesday 21st

Arrived at Edwardsburg, set the men to baking bread and preparing for the woods.

Thursday 22nd

Ground the axes and set off for the woods and travelled about 6 miles & encamped.

Friday 23rd

Came on to the last line of the Township of Oxford and encamped. Found the provision to be good which I had left there.

Saturday 24th September, 1791

Began the rear line of Oxford and run it on two miles and encamped.

Sunday 25th

Moved on the provision and run on the line about 1/2 a mile & it began to rain and continued all day.

Monday 26th

Run on the line 1 1/2 miles mostly thro a bad swamp & encamped.

Tuesday 27th

Run on the line 3/4 of a mile & it began to rain which obliged us to encamp.

Wednesday 28th

Run on the line 1 1/4 miles & encamped.

Thursday 29th

Run on the line 2 miles & encamped.

Friday 30th

Run on the line 1 3/4 mile which finished the Township.

Saturday 1st October, 1791

Run a line from the rear line of the Township of Oxford to the rear line of the Township of Edwardsburg and came on a small distance toward the River & encamped.

Sunday 2nd

Came out to the River and encamped.

Monday 3rd

Prepared a plan to lay before the Gentlemen of the land Board respecting the Additional land of Cap. Byrnes which was to be laid out at River Thames. Travelled on about Eight miles towards where the Land Board were to meet and put up.

Tuesday 4th October, 1791

Agreeable to the request of Sir John Johnson as well as the Gentlemen of the Land Board, laid a plan before the Board of the Surveys already performed at Gananoque's River Thames. Upon taking the matter into consideration the Gentlemen of the Board gave me orders respecting the same.

Wednesday 5th

Came on to Edwardsburg and found my party.

Thursday October 6th. 1791

Received introduction from the Hon. ble John Collins Esq. Deputy Surveyor General to lay out Seven Hundred Acres of land at River Thames for Joel Stone Esq. ? and set off for River Thames and rowed on about Eight miles & encamped.

Friday 7th

Rowed on about 12 miles when the wind sprung up so strong from the S.W. that we were obliged to encamp.

Saturday 8th

Arrived at River Thames & encamped.

Sunday 9th October, 1791

It rained most part of the day prepared for the woods.

Monday 10th

Travelled back to the end of the Traverse of River Thames and began an Addition of the Traverse and run on about 3/4 of a mile & encamped.

Tuesday 11th

Run on the line $1 \frac{1}{4}$ mile & encamped.

Wednesday 12th

Run on the line $2 \frac{1}{4}$ mile & encamped.

Thursday 13th October, 1791

Began a protraction of the work I had already done in order to know how far the line for Mr John Johnson should extend back.

Friday 14th

Continued at the above business.

Saturday 15th

Continued at the above mentioned business.

Sunday 16th

Lay still.

Monday 17th

Measured the distance from the point on the Wly side of the mouth of River Thames, to Nut Island & began the Traverse of the front(?) of Captn Joel Stone's land.

Tuesday 18th October, 1791

Finished the Traverse of the front of land belonging to Joel Stone Esquire and began the Traverse of the Westerly side of River Thames.

Wednesday 19th

Finished the traverse of the Westerly side of River Thames. Also surveyed Nut Island.

Thursday 20th

Surveyed Isle au Bled 'd' Indo(?).

Friday 21st

Protracted (?) the front of the land belonging to Joel Stone Esq. Received a letter from Mr John Johnson Bars.

Saturday 22nd October, 1791

Travelled into the woods and began the Eastern line of the Additional land for Captn Byrnes to be laid out for Sir John Johnson Bars Began and run on the line $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile & encamped.

Sunday 23rd

Finished the Eastern line of the above mentioned land and encamped.

Monday 24th

Came out to the River.

Tuesday 5th

Calculated for the courses and distances of the land belonging to Joel Stone Esquire ?

Wednesday 26th October, 1791

Began the Boundary Line of the land belonging to Joel Stone Esq. and run it on a mile & encamped.

Thursday 27th

Run on the line $1 \frac{1}{2}$ mile & encamped.

Friday 28th

Finished the survey of Captn Stone's land.

Saturday 29th

Set off for Edwardsburg and came on about six miles & encamped.

Sunday 30th October, 1791

Came on about (20) twenty miles against a violent N.E. storm & encamped.

Monday 31st

Came on to Augusta & encamped.

Tuesday 1st November, 1791

Arrived at Edwardsburg & encamped. Began to arrange matters to come down to Montreal.

Wednesday 2nd

Settled my accs prepared for Montreal.

Thursday 3rd

Set out for Montreal and came on to Matilda and encamped.

Friday 4th November, 1791

Waited on Captain John Munroe who desired a plan of the Township of Oxford which I had left at Edwardsburg. I therefore sent a man back for it.

Saturday 5th

Left Matilda & came on to Point au Bodet(?) & (tied) put up.

Sunday 6th

Left Point au Bodet and came on to Lachine and put up.

Monday 7th

Stored some articles at Lachine and came to Montreal.

Tuesday 8th November, 1791

Was employed in making out my (account) acct for Quebec .

Wednesday 9th

Was also employed in making my acct ready.

Thursday 10 November, 1791

Finished my Accs and sent them off by Post to Quebec.

Personally affirmed before me, James Finley, Esq. One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the City and District of Montreal Jesse Pennoyer (?) Deputy, Provincial Surveyor, and made Oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, that the preceding Journal of Surveys & Ca is Just and true to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn before me at Montreal
this 22nd November 1791 ? Jesse Pennoyer D.P.S.

James Finley J.P.