

JOHN JENNINGS "JOURNAL FROM FORT PITT TO  
FORT CHARTRES IN THE ILLINOIS COUN-  
TRY," MARCH-APRIL, 1766.

[Copied from the original in the Manuscript Department of The  
Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

*Saturday 8th March.*

At three O'Clock this afternoon left Fort Pitt to proceed  
for the Illinois. At five joined Capt. Long & Major Small-  
man at Long Island, about Ten Miles down the River; con-  
tinued here all Night.

*Sunday 9th.*

This Morning at Seven O'Clock, left Long Island and  
proceeded down the River, with the five following Batteaus,  
Viz: The Ohio Packet, which I commanded; The Beaver,  
Capt. Wm. Long; The Dublin, Joshua Moore; The Good  
Intent, Wm. Davenport, And the Otter, John Finley. At  
Nine O'clock past Log's Town, about Eighteen Miles from  
F. Pitt. At Eleven, past Beaver Creek, twenty five Miles  
from the Fort. the Old Indian Town which stands there,  
is very pleasantly Situated. At five, in the afternoon past  
the Senneca Town, At the two Creeks opposite each other,  
is reckon'd Sixty five Miles from F. Pitt. At Six in the  
Evening, encamp'd about Twelve Miles below the Indian  
Town, for the Night.

*Monday 10th March.*

At Seven O'Clock this Morning left our Camp. At  
Twelve, Mr. Winston haled the Boats, to bring too, in a  
threatning manner, two of the Boats made for him, but  
Capt. Long ordered them to proceed down the River, & put  
on shore for him, not chusing to refuse his coming on board,  
as he observed some Ind<sup>n</sup> Women, & did not know but there  
might be Men conceal'd, to do us an injury, he put him on

Board the Good Intent Batteau, with Mrs. Sinclair, & assumed the command, w<sup>ch</sup> was at first intended for him. As I was at a great distance from the Boats, did not know what had passed till evening encamped. This Night, at the lower End of the Strait reach which hath many fine Islands in it.

*Tuesday 11th.*

This Morning at Seven O'clock, left our Encampment; at half past twelve, we passed the Mouth of Muskingham River, computed to be one hundred fifty three Miles from F. Pitt. At three O'Clock in the afternoon passed by little Kanawa or lifting Creek. At five passed the Wanduxales Creek; At half past five encamped for the Night. This day very Cold.

*Wednesday 12th March.*

At Six O'Clock this Morning, left our Camp at Seven, passed the Hockhooking Creek; At twelve entered the Big Bent. At two got through it; passed by an Indian Encampment, with several hunters there; at five in the Evening came to the great Kanawa River, encamped opposite to it this Night; Still very Cold.

*Thursday 13th.*

At Six O'Clock this Morning, disencamped, at Ten passed two Indian Encampments, where was Several Indians supposed to be Hunter's. At twelve pass'd by Gyandot Creek. (Here the six Nations Indians throw away their Canoe's when they go to War against the Southern Nations). At half past one O'Clock, in the afternoon, passed Tottery, or Big Sandy Creek; At four passed little Tottery Creek; at five encamped for the Night, saw several Parrotkites: Continues very Cold.

*Friday 14th*

Set out this Morning. at Six O'Clock; At Nine, four Canoe's with twenty Shawanese, joined us, they gave us some fresh Meat, returned the Compliment with Biscuit, & Tobacco. At Eleven passed by the Sioto River. Three

hundred forty five computed Miles from F. Pitt; here the Shawanese left us, & went up the River, the entrance of it is Narrow, & the Land low. At a small distance on the West side are some hills, & on the same side, on the point of the River, formerly stood the Large lower Shawanese Town, which was entirely destroyed by a flood in the Year ——. At five in the afternoon passed a large fine Island, At Six Encamped on the West side the River, for the Night. saw some parotkites, Cold still Continues. Note—After we pass'd the Sioto, we always encamp'd on the North side the River, if possible, it being thought most safe.

*Saturday 15th.*

At half past five this Morning left our Camp, which is about fifty Miles below the Sioto, At Nine passed by Elk Creek, saw some Indians Cabbins, At four O'Clock came up with, & passed Major Smallman, & the Indians, who left us last Night to go a Hunting; At half past four, pass'd by the Little Mineami River; low land at the Entrance; is about forty Miles below Elk Creek; at five encamped for the Night, where is a Buffalo Lick, with several beaten paths made by them, & near our own Camp is several Indian Cabbins. At seven O'Clock this evening Major Smallman, with the Indians came to our Camp, brought us fish & Meat, & set out again immediately.

*Sunday 16th.*

At half past five this Morning left our Camp, A quarter past six, we passed by the great Salt Lick River, about six Miles below the little Mineami River, on the opposite side, At half past Nine, saw Several Indian Cabbins, with two Houses well built for defence, the Logs standing upright, & close to each other. At Ten passed by the great Mineami River, which appeared to be Large at the entrance, the Land at the Mouth low; at a small distance on the East side, is a resing Ground, about twenty Miles below the great Salt Lick River. It rained, & blowed so excessive here,

was obliged to encamp at four this afternoon, where was two very large Indian Encampments, & from its appearance they had not left it, above two days; near this is a Large Buffalo Lick, with a great many beaten paths. It rained, & snowed all this Night.

*Monday 17th.*

At six O'Clock this Morning, left our Camp. At eight, passed by the Salt Lick, back of which about four Miles, is the place where the Elephant Bones are found. At ten was obliged to bring too, & encamp for the Night, had such a great snow storm, & the Cold so intense, that we could not continue on the River; saw several flocks of Parrotkites.

*Tuesday 18th.*

At half past six O'Clock, this Morning left our Camp. At eight, passed some Warrior's Cabbins; these are known by a Tree having the Bark strip'd of all round, about four feet from the Ground, with particular marks Cut on it, denoting what Nation they are, & their good or bad success in War, which is known by the Indians, who happen to pass that way. At Nine was obliged to encamp. It blowed so very hard & the cold so intense, that we could not continue on the River. the Otter Batteau who was astern, was not able to join us till four O'Clock in the afternoon; continued here all Night.

*Wednesday 19th.*

At six O'Clock this Morning sett off. At half past Nine, passed by the Kentucke River; Large at the Entrance, & pleasant Banks, on each side, is about thirty Miles below the Salt Licks, where the Elephant's Bones are found, At Eleven Maj<sup>r</sup> Smallman & the Indians joined us, with plenty of Buffalo & Bears Meat. At four O'Clock in the Afternoon, saw some Warrior's Cabbins at the Point of a Creek on the West side of the River. At Seven encamp'd for the Night, on an Island full of Canes about ten Miles above the falls, & forty below the Kentucke River.

*Thursday 20th.*

Left our Camp at half past six O'Clock this Morning. At eight, passed a Large Island, about five Miles above the falls. At Nine came through them, but the Water being very high, was not perceptible, except a few small Whirlpools. At the beginning of the falls, is a small Island, on the East side of the River, which is necessary to keep close on board. The Land about them is low.

At half past three O'Clock in the afternoon, we passed a fine River, on the Cherrokee Side, Called the Big Dear River, about Thirty Miles below the Falls, At six encamp'd for the Night, about six Miles below the Big Dear River; saw several Warriors Cabbins, this day, the Weather Moderate.

*Friday 21st.*

Left our Camp, at half past five this Morning. At six brought too. & took two Bundles each Batteau, from on board the Otter, to lighten her, that she may be able to keep up with us, in blowing Weather. Heard a Gun fire, not far from where we encamped, supposed some Indians a hunting. At One O'Clock this afternoon, the Wind rose so sudden, & blowed so very hard, that the Batteau's, Good Intent, & the Dublin ship'd a great deal of Water, before it was possible for them to make the Shore.

At five encamp'd for the Night, which was very Stormy. Came about Sixty Miles this day; near our Camp was seen some fresh tracks of Indians. This day saw several Warriors & Hunters Cabbins.

*Saturday 22nd.*

At Seven o'clock this Morning left our Camp; about a Mile below it, was obliged to put on shore again, it blowing so very hard, with such a swell, that it was impossible to proceed any further. The Gale continuing all day, encamp'd here for the Night.

*Sunday 23rd.*

At six O'Clock this Morning left our Camp. At Twelve saw a smoke at a great distance; at three in the afternoon

passed it on the North side the River, but saw no Indians ; it appear'd about two hundred Yards back from the River. At Six put in Shore, near a Large Rock & dress'd some Victuals. Came about twenty Miles this Day. At half past seven this Evening sett off again ; fastn'd the Boats together, & went all Night. Come about forty Miles by six O'Clock the next Morning.

*Monday 24th.*

At half past six O'Clock this Morning passed a very fine River, near as large as the Ohio, on the Cherrokee Side, It's called the Green River by some & Big New River by other's ; the Mouth lies E: N: E: & W: S: W: the Land low about it. A Mile below this is a large Island. At two O'Clock in the afternoon passed a Large beautiful Island in the shape of a Lozenge ; about six Miles Long & fifty Miles from the above River. At five pass'd another Island, about three Miles long & two Miles from the other Island : At half past five went ashore, to dress some Victuals. At half after Seven in the Evening sett off again, fasten'd the Boats together, & went the whole Night.

At half past Eleven pass'd the Wabash, a very Large fine River, but being Night cou'd not described the Land about it ; It's about thirty Miles below our Last encampment. By six O'Clock the next Morning, come about thirty Miles from the Wabash ; the two last days have been very Cold.

*Tuesday 25th.*

At eight O'Clock this Morning brought too, at an Island, (it Rained, & blow'd very hard) opposite to which on the West Side the River is a Large Rock, with a Cave in it. At Nine Sett off again ; At one O'Clock in the afternoon, it Rained, & blow'd so very hard, was obliged to bring too, the Gale continuig encamp'd for the Night. Came about forty Miles since Six O'Clock this Morning ; passed several fine Islands this day.

*Wednesday 26th.*

At Six O'Clock this Morning left our Camp ; At eleven passed the Shawnese River, on the Cherrokee side. At

one in the afternoon, brought too, & encamp'd; it blew so very hard, & the Swells so great, cou'd not continue on the River. The Gale increas'd, staid here all Night. Came about forty five Miles since Six O'Clock; passed Several fine Islands. The Land overflowed for many Miles on the North side of the River.

*Thursday 27th.*

At half past Six O'Clock this Morning Sett off; at half past seven, passed the Cherrokee River, which is very Large; on the East side of this River & about twelve Miles below the Shawnese River, with an Island at the Mouth, it lies about S: E: & N: W: five Miles below last Nights' encampment.

At Ten O'Clock arrived a Misiac, or Cherrokee Fort, on the North side of the River, about ten Miles below the Cherrokee River. This Fort (which is now in Ruins) was four Square, with four Bastions, & a ditch, each square about one hundred feet, was built with Logs and Earth, & most delightfully situated, on a high Bank, by the River Side, the Land clear about four hundred yards round it, & very low for some distance. At half past Ten set off again, & at one in the afternoon, put in Shore, it blowing hard, the Boats were divided on each side the River; at four went up River again about four Miles, to join the other Batteau's on the Cherrokee side; the Gale Continuing encamp'd for the Night.

*Friday 28th.*

At half past five this Morning left our encampment; At two in the afternoon came to the Mouth of the River. It lies N: W: & S: E: At this time about one Mile Wide. The Mississippi here lies N: E: & S: W: is about half a Mile Wide; The Land at the upper point of the Conflux of the two Rivers hath a great Number of small high Trees on it, but now overflowed; the lower point is low Land full of small Willows with a small Bank rising behind it. At some distance over this Point, saw a great Smoke. It's about

fifty Miles from Misiac, to the Mouth of the River, And from Fort Pitt by the best Acc<sup>t</sup>. I could keep, allowing for the great Number of Serpentine turns in it, I compute it to be about Twelve hundred Miles. Went about half a Mile up the Mississippi with the Batteau's, unloaded the small one, immediately put some necessaries on board, & at four O'Clock in the afternoon I set out for the Kuskuskee, accompanied by Maj<sup>r</sup> Smallman & M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Moore Commiss<sup>y</sup> with 6 Men. At six O'Clock encamp'd for the Night, on the English side of the River, came about six Miles, this afternoon.

*Saturday 29th.*

Left our Camp, at Six O'Clock this Morning, passed several Island & a great quantity of Trees in the River; on those Islands are a great many Stumps of small Trees, which the Beaver's Eat through, & when the Tree falls, they either then Eat the Bark of the Top part of it, or else drag it into the River, & carry it to their holes to Eat, or build with; sometimes both, which has been observed by those who have watch<sup>d</sup> their Actions. The Tree which seems most peculiar to them, is like the Willow. At Seven O'Clock in the Evening, encamp<sup>d</sup> on the English side for this Night; passed several encampments, saw several flocks of Parrot-kites, heard a report like a Gun or fall of a Tree.

*Sunday 30th.*

At six O'Clock this Morning left our Camp; At Nine brought too, on the Point of an Island were had been a Small place of defence; on the Island is a great quantity of Grape Vines; passed several other Islands; the Wind blowing fresh down the River, could not Stem the Current, was obliged to bring too, at two O'clock in the afternoon, & the Gale still continuing, encamp for the Night; passed a great number of encampments, came about six Miles this day.

*Monday 31st.*

Left our Camp at Six O'Clock this Morning. At Ten came to some Rocks on the Spanish side, were the Current



was too rapid for us to Stem ; Crossed over to the opposite side, & the Current there Runs so Strong that we was three hours in going one Mile. At four in the afternoon a Large French Boat came in Sight ; I immediately hoisted our Colours, went on shore to meet them & know who they were. Row'd with fourteen Oars, Mons<sup>r</sup> Pichard Mar<sup>s</sup> from Ye Wabash, Maj. Smallman & M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Moore, went on board his Batteau as passengers for the Kuskuskes ; At six encamp'd together, on the English side for the Night, came about ten Miles this day.

*Tuesday April 1st.*

At half past five this Morning, left our Camp ; passed several places where the Current was very Strong ; At two O'Clock, came through a Long Strait between two Islands : at Eleven went on shore, & dress'd some Victuals ; at Twelve sett off again ; At Three O'Clock in the afternoon, the French Batteau left us the Current being so very rapid, cou'd not keep company with them ; soon after being obliged to tow our Boat along shore ; A very Large Beace Tree fell into the River, providentially we had passed it about ten yards before it fell, or in all probability the Boat would have been Crushed to pieces, & every Soul on board perished.

The difficulties we have met with this day, prevented our gaining above ten Miles. At Seven encamped on the Spanish side the River, for the Night, the first part of this day very Cold.

*Wednesday 2nd.*

At half past five, this Morning left our Camp ; from Eight, to ten on the Spanish side of the River, passed by a great number of high Rocks, about two Miles in length, which have a very Romantic look, & are worthy of observation to the Curious. They have Cedar Trees growing on them, & large holes, which possibly may lead to Caverns. At the upper End of these Rocks is a small Creek, the Banks at the Mouth are most delightfully situated, the Land on the side being pretty clear ; by the point of a Hill on the

Top of which is a most Beautifull prospect; on the opposite side of a passage between an Island, & the Main Land, which hath the appearance of as grand a Canal as ever I saw; this runs around the Island Vasse, at the other End of the Island is another passage to an Island, which looks equal with the above, & between this upper Island, & the Main Land, is a passage little inferior to the other two. These two Islands are full of Willow Trees, almost of an equal height, which must look very pleasant in the summer. Near the mouth of the aforementioned Creek is two inscriptions Cut on a Tree of two Frenchmen who were buried there in the Year 1765. At Six O'Clock encamp'd on the Spanish side River for the Night, came about twelve Miles this day.

*Thursday 3rd.*

Left our Camp at five O'Clock this Morning. At eight came to the Grand Tower, on the Spanish side the River, which is reckon'd half way, from the Mouth of the Ohio to Fort Chartres. The Water which comes round this Rock, is too rapid for Boats to stem it, behind which is a large Whirlpool, where the Logs continually turn Round. Was obliged to Cross the River here, to the point of a Rock on the other side, where the Current was very rapid & with much difficulty passed it, encamp'd this Night on the Spanish side the River, came about fifteen Miles this day.

*Friday 4th.*

At half past five this Morning left our Camp, passed several very large Islands, which must afford a beautiful prospect in the Summer. Encamped on the English side, at the Mouth of a large Creek, for this Night. Rained very hard all this day, came about twelve Miles.

*Saturday 5th April.*

At Six O'Clock this Morning left our Camp. At Eight heard a gun fire, & saw the St. George's Colours hoisted, which gave us great pleasure, immediately answered it, &

hoisted the Union flag. At Ten O'Clock came up to them at the Mouth of the Kuskuskes River; they were two soldiers sent by Ens<sup>n</sup> Robinson of the 34th Reg<sup>nt</sup> commanding Kuskuskes Village, Six Miles from the Mouth of the River; the French Boat got in the day before us, gave intelligence of our coming, which was the reason the Soldiers was sent, to show us the signal. Went on Shore to clean ourselves, then proceeded up the River, & at Two O'Clock in the afternoon arrived at the Village, which is situated by the River side, on a very extensive plain, with some very rich soil about it. It hath a Number of houses, some Large, but meanly built, with good Lotts behind them for Gardens, but make little use of them, the inhabitants in general being very idolent. Yet some are wealthy. At this time most of the principal of them, are gone on the Spanish side the Mississippi, with their Cattle & Corn, which makes provisions very Scarce; the Streets are Irregular, has a tolerable Good Church, & a Large Colledge, but is abandon'd, all the priests being gone away.

*Sunday 6th.*

At two O'Clock this afternoon, left the Kuskuskes, to proceed for Fort Chartres by Land in a Calash, a very ruff imitation of our Chairs, were I arrived at five, and met with a very polite, & kind reception, from Major Farmar & the rest of the officers. There Fort is situated on a plain, near the River Mississippi which breaks in, upon it so fast, that it will soon be in great danger of falling into it. It's built with a high Stone Wall, about eighteen Inches thick, four Square, with four Bastion's, full of Loop-holes; port-holes for Cannon, & a ditch round it; hath a very good Barracks. The Gate fronting the River makes a very good appearance.

The Country between the Kuskuskes Village, & this Fort is a large plain, about eighteen Miles distance. The soil excellent, producing very fine Crops of everything that's sow'd on it, tho' the French are very bad Farmer's. On the Road leading to this place, about four Miles from the

Kuskuskes is an Indian Town, the Nation of the above Name. Their Head Chief Tomera. It hath several Houses & a Large Church in it, on the same Road, about three Miles from this, is a small French Village, called Preve de Roche, is pleasantly situated with few inhabitants, who are chiefly farmers, & by their Fort, is another French Village, called after it's Name, hath several Houses, but most of them in a ruinous condition, the chief of the inhabitants having left it, & these Houses most of them rendered useless, some quite destroyed. This evening went to a Ball, given by a Gentleman of the Army, to the French Inhabitants, who made a very droll appearance: it seems this is the only day of diversion among the French.