

JOURNAL OF A TOUR FROM PHILADELPHIA THRO
THE WESTERN COUNTRIES OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND
OCTOBER, 1809.

(Continued from page 178.)

Sept. 21st. Our Journey was from Mauns to Messgars 29 Miles.

We left our Inn early—& in one mile descended to the Juniata, by a good tho stony road, the soil indifferent & the substrata a hard slaty rock—we forded the Juniata which is abt 50 yards wide & the river now very low, but in freshes it is deep and there is a ferry across, it is a beautiful stream and we passed in the angle of a long cove or bend—the sides for a great way a perpendicular rock, with wood every where peeping thro—on arriving at the opposite point, and ascending a high hill, the river appears like a beautiful Amphitheater bending round the point, so that we rode for a considerable distance on a ridge with a high precipice on each side and the river at our feet under both of them—we continue over a very stony road, tho' not steep, generally with slaty rocks, here & there intersected with limestone—a good deal of the soil appears composed of the shelly crumbling slate—but is poor—about 15 Miles down the river to our right is a vast bank of coal which is carried in boats to the Susquehanna & Columbia—at 8 Miles we reached Tates Tavern at Bloody run where is a neat little village—with the Juniata running thro it whose banks we had accompanied ever since crossing it—it is every where a beautiful gentle stream of abt 50 yards very clear & its banks fringed with trees—the hills rising immediately from it—Bloody run takes its name from a

battle fought between the Indians & the whites in which the latter were all killed—it is close at the foot of two ranges of mountain which are very near to each other & run thro the country nearly parrallel leaving scarcely any valley between them—these are called the Warriors ridge & Tusseys Mountain.

Leaving Tates we came on to Bedford 8 Miles—luckily the Juniata has broke thro the two last mentioned mountains, so compleatly to their base that winding along its banks we had a level road from which the hills rise on each side very high covered with trees—among the crumbling masses which have been tumbled from them—we observe slate of various kinds, limestone & a variety of other hard stones such as are common in the mountains—we kept the Juniata all the way on our left the stream still preserving the same beauty—near Bedford a branch called Dunnings Creek which appears to be the largest one of the two strikes off to our right & we cross it on a bridge.

We found Bedford a neat town of about 200 houses—many of them very good, it is the capital of the county & is rather an old town being founded in 1760 & was continued as a frontier against the Indians till the close of last war—it does not improve so much as other towns owing to its being surrounded by mountains & not having so large an extent of rich country, as some others to support it—it is however beautifully situated on a handsome little eminence with mountains all around it, and sufficient space in the valley for a number of good farms—the navigation of the Rays town branch of the Juniata is good in freshes for arks & other boats to the Susquehanna & flour is carried to Baltimore for abt \$1½ p. Barrel.

We dined at Stuarts Tavern where we found some company who frequent the mineral Springs at abt 1½ miles distance, these are said to contain a considerable

quantity of carbonic acid gaz, and magnesia we had not time however either to see or examine them.

After leaving Bedford we had a stony road for 5 Miles to the division or forks of the old & new road to Pittsburgh & took the latter—we soon began to ascend an elevated hill called the Dry ridge from its having no streams rising in it—at the foot of this ridge is a beautiful bottom, called Harmans bottom, with some fine meadows which are worth \$40 p. acre—the Ary ridge is at first pretty steep, but the road otherwise good having no stone, but altogether composed of the soft crum: slate which we have found always covered with a poor soil—there are however many new settlements making upon it—after a variety of successive eminences—at abt 2 Miles we gained the summit & here had a magnificent view of the sun setting behind the Allegany we then had an excellent road to Mesgars Inn kept by a Dutchman on the top of the ridge.

Our bill last night was	4.70
Bait at Tates20
Dinner at Bedford	2.20

\$7.10

(To be continued.)