JOURNAL FROM JERSEY TO THE MONONGAHALA,
AUGUST 11, 1788.

BY COLONEL ISRAEL SHREVE,
Mansfield Township, Burlington County, New Jersey.

According to the distance as set down in this journal from the Black Horse in Mansfield to this place is 320 miles. Please to Excuse the Incorrectness of this journal as I have not time to Copy it, it is as near the Truth as I can Write, from your old Friend Israel Shreve. To friends and acquaintance in Mansfield, Burlington County, New Jersey. By Jacob Sheelor, who faithfully discharged his duty in carefully driving a waggon.

Journal of travel from the Township of Mansfield, County of Burlington, in the State of New Jersey to the Township of Rottroven in the County of Westmoreland, State of Pennsylvania, consisting of the following persons—Israel Shreve and Mary his wife with their children viz., Kazia, Hester, Israel, George Greene, Rebecca and Henry, with John Fox and James Starkey, three two horse waggons and three Cows.

William Shreve and Rhoda his wife with their children, viz., Anna and Richard. Joseph Beck and Cary his wife with their children Benjamin, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Henry, Joseph and Ann, with one three horse waggon. Dannel Harvey and Sary his wife and three children, viz., Job with a Melatto boy named Thomas and Joseph and Ann Wheatly, John Shelvill and one
three and one two horse waggon and one cow, in all 29 souls.

Munday the 7th of July, 1788. Set out and crossed the Delawor at Dunkle’s ferry where a number of our relations and friends accompanied us. We parted with them and continued to the Sign of General Washington, 17½ miles today. Here stayed all night. Rainy in the night. Tuesday the 8th of July set out early, halted in the city of Philadelphia several hours getting necessaries. Left the city and passed over Schuylkill over a Bridge at the Middle Ferry. Halted on the Hill the other side. Set out again and halted at the Sign of the Buck. 21 miles today. Stayed all Night.


Thursday the 10th of July set out again. Hindered sometime gotten forrage at a mill. Went on over exceeding muddy bad roads. Halted and dined at Caleb Ways. Hear proceived the Black Mear badly foun-dered. Drenched her with salt and water and sent her to the light waggon. Went on and halted at the Sign of the Marriyers Compass, kept by a Mr. Taylor in Pequa Valy, 13½ miles today, only occasioned by bad Roads and Crossing the South Mountain and one my Waggons drove by James Starkey oversetting bottom upard this day. The women much fatuaged by Walk- ing. Sary Harvey walked 8½ miles over the hill at one heat.

Friday the 11th of July set out and passed over roads full of badmudhols. Halted and breakfasted at the Sign of the Hat, kept by Andrew Coldwell. Hindred this morning by getting classps put round the
fellow of a wheel. Went on over muddy roads to George Prisly at the head of the great Spring, Sign of the Bird in Hand and dined. Set out again and Crossed the Conestoga Creek within 2 miles of Lancaster. 17 miles today. All cheary and in high spirits. Stayed all night it being the height of Harvest took Particular notis of the crops of wheat which is bad in general so far, being killed by the severity of the weather and much Mildew.

Saturday the 12th of July set out early and halted sometime in Lancaster. Had one new Horse shoe put on, drove out of town and Breakfasted late, dined in the woods, went on again and obliged to halt at a Private House paraded our beds in a Barn. This did not set well with H. Dannieil went on to Elizabethtown in the night. 16 miles today.

Sunday 13th July set out and halted at Alexander Boggs at the Sign of the Bear in Elizabethtown. 11 miles today. Hear John Gaston and Wife overtook us on their way home to the Monongahala River.

Monday the 14th of July. Set out at sunrise. Halted and Breakfasted at Middletown. We are now in Sight of the Susquahanna River. Went on to Chambers Ferry crossed over to Copton Simpsons set out again and forded a Rapid Creek called Yellow Breeches and very mirey roads. Halted at Patterson’s Tavern. 18 miles today. Staed all night. Here is good level land. The Crops of wheat along the Road from Lancaster to the Susquahanna appears to be plenty of straw with much Mildew and Rusty.

Tuesday the 15th of July. Set out again and passed over Exceeding good leavel land. Halted at Carlile and dined. (Hear I lost my Dog.) Set out again and passed over Leavel Roads full of bad Mud holes and halted at Roberts Simples Tavern. 22 miles today. Rainy night.

Wednesday the 16th of July. Set out and halted at
Mr. Crakens Tavern at the head of the great Spring and breakfasted. Road something better than yesterday. Went on to Shippinsburg and halted and dined at Captain Scott’s Tavern. (When we dined at Taverns we always made use of our own provisions.) Set out again in hard rain. By advice took the right hand road that leads over the three hills. Lately opened and made by a Mr. Skinner from New Jersey. Halted at Joseph Finley’s Tavern at the Sign of the Ball. 19 miles today. A rainy night. Road leavel but muddy in places today.

Thursday the 17th of July. Set out and halted at Coopers Tavern at the foot of the first hill, called the Blue Mountain and breakfasted. All in good health and high Spirits. Crops from the Susquahanna to this place Exceedingly Good and plenty clear from Mildnes and rust. Then ends good Lands untill over all the hills except in spots and hear began sorrow. Set out and assended the first Mountain so steep as to be obliged to duble the teams to get up and much stony going down the other side in this valley Crossed a Creek called Connogoguinop. Halted at said Mr. Skinner’s who made the Road. It coming on to rain hard and our horses much Woried, stopped the afternoon. 9 miles today. Stayed all night. Hear Joseph Beckes daughter Ann was Taken Sick.

Friday the 18th of July. Set out again and rose the second hill called the North Mountain. This as steep and stony as the first. At the west foot forded a Creek in Path Valey. Went on and halted at a drole tavern. The Land Lord Drunk abed, a gentleman who calls himself Noble with the landlady nursing the land lord who was fast asleep. This place neither affords forrage or water and whisky nearly out. Coming down the last hills Danniel Hervy drove his stallion down to follow the waggon. The horse taken an old path and caused several hours serch was found Stripped
of all his Gears but the collar, consisting of a new Bridle, a pair of leather lines, harness, back and belly bands and one iron trace the other took out to lock the waggon. About 2 o’clock in the afternoon set out and descended the third hill called Tuscurora Mountain. This hill much steeper than the other. At or near the top where there is several cabins in one lives or stays an old woman who appears to be very sick and in distress. This hill as well as the other two so stony going down seeming enough to dash the wagons to peaces falling from one stone upon another. At the west foot of these three hills is a good farm. Went on a mile father to a Mr. Jimmesons who keeps a tavern and store of Goods which he sels as cheap for hard cash as such goods is sold for in Jersey for paper Money. Hear had the misfortune to break one of my wagon wheels sent it on 4 miles this evening to be repaired. 8 miles only today. This is the place called the Burnt cabbins where the old road that passes through Chambers Town comes in. This old road said to be 20 miles father than the new one but much better and shuns two of the three hills just mentioned. Our women complains heavily on occasion of their being obliged to walk on foot over the mountain.

Saturday the 12th of July. About 11 o’clock set out all but the disabled Waggon and passed over Barron sidling roads. Halted at Captain Bird’s at Fort Littleton. 5 miles today. Here is one or two pretty good farms in this valey. Here staed for the waggon wheel which was not finished until evening.

Sunday the 20th of July. Sent the repaired wheel to the waggon, which ansered about 11 o’clock. Had a further hindrance by having three shoes put on. Then set out and passed over Barron Roads. Good only exceedingly gullied so as often to be obliged to hold up the waggon from over seting. Halted in the woods at a run of good water at the foot of Sideling
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Hill. 13 miles today. Staid all night. Heavy complaints among the women.

Monday the 21st July. Set out and ascended Sidelong Hill up a good new road made by said Skinner. Halted on the top and Breakfasted at Henry Levingtons Tavern. Went on over exceeding stony roads to Rays Hill. Hear cut saplings and chained to our waggons. This hill steep gullied and very stony. Skinners men at work making a new road down. We continued unto the crossings of Jeneatto, forded the River and halted on the hill at a Colonel Martins Tavern. Land lord nor lady at home no feed but 2 rye sheaves cut up for which I paid 9d. The girls of the house very uncouth and surley. Went and halted at a cabin tavern kept by a young Dutchman. 12 miles today. Roads from Martins barony and bad. Sideling Hill one fellow of one of my waggons gave way. Mr. Shreve put in a new one.

Sunday 22d July. Set out after breakfast. Went on and passed through Bedford. Halted for one horse shoe went on fore mils further and halted at John Bonnetts Tavern at the forks of the old Pennsylvania and Glaid Roads. 15 miles today. Here is an Excellant farm more than 100 acres of the best of Meadow. Joseph Beck's child very sick here all Night.

Wednesday 23d July. Set out late in the morning. Went on over a poor country and in the evening halted at a Poor Dutch Hut where the land lady was very angry at D. H. for puling a radish. No feed at this tavern nor anything else but whisky. 13 miles today. The knots very bad here.

Thursday the 24th of July. Set out and passed over 5 miles to the foot of the Allagana Mountain, having now passed 12 miles along Dry Ridge but two or three houses and them very poor. Went on and assended the Mountain which is nothing of a hill to what we have passed. Halted and dined a little off the road on the
hill. Exceeding rainy. We then proceeded on the Allagano one mile into the Glaid and halted at Christian Spikers where we stayed the remainder of the day on account of the illness of the child. 13 miles today. About 11 o’clock this evening Ann Beck, daughter to Joseph Beck departed this life to the great graef of her parents, more so on account of its being far distant from their former home.

Friday the 25th of July. Sent to Berling for a coffin which arrived towards evening when the said child was decently interred in Mr. Spikers family’s burring ground. Stayed here all night still raney by spells.

Saturday the 26th of July. Hired George Bancacker and two horses to put before my harvest waggon for 8s per day and find him and horses. Set out and halted and breakfasted at a blacksmith. Had two clasp put on my waggon wheel and had one horse shoe put on. Set out and halted at Mr. Blacks. Here is a family waiting for Jud Sims. Went on and tuck a right hand road at an empty cabin on account of the other road being cut so much with heavy loaded waggons. Went on halted and dined at one Jacob Louts. Went on and halted at a Dunkers called Perleys. 15 miles today. The land in the Glades the roads we have passed no great things, only hear and there a Spot.

Sunday the 27th of July. Set out after going a few hundred yards missed the most meterial part of Daniel Harvey’s property it having gone before and tuck the wrong road. A hue and cry was maid when to his joy it was found unhurt. We passed on and begun to rise Laurel Hill. Halted and breakfasted at a run of water. Set out again and assended to the top of the mountain over myre and stony roads then soon begun to descend down first a short steep hill then a long gradual descent through a Chestnut Brush, the timber appearing to have been killed by fire sometime before. Huckleberries here as well as in many places before, very
plenty on the low green bushes. This road down over logs and stones enough to dash all to peaces. At length we arrived at a house in Ligenear valey. 10 miles today it being Sunday and come on to rain we staid the afternoon and all night. Our women exceedingly fateaged by walking today over this mountain.

Monday the 28th. Set out and after passing three miles halted and breakfasted. Set out again and found the steepest hill we had met with. Going up Chestnut Ridge being obliged to put 6 horses to som of the heaviest waggons. Hard rain here. Went on and begun to descend. Said ridge came into the other road which is so mirey as to sink the waggons to the hub in many places. Here stopped at a blacksmiths and had one shoe put on one of my horseys. Set out I being before met Joseph Wood on his way to Jersey from Little Kenhaway he informed me a house was empty ready for me in the forks of Youghaina went on was over Taken by John Fox with the intelligence of one of Daniel Harveys waggons being broke down went on and halted at John Bonnetts it being the first house over all the mountain. In the evening all the waggons arrived. Last Daniel Harveys two. 12 miles today. D. Harvey last evening moving from his waggon to Mr. Bonnetts got out of the road it being very dark could not find it again forsed to take up his lodging in the woods until today. Sarah Harvey and Sarah Buck walked 6 miles over exceeding bad roads this afternoon. They arrived much wearied.

Tuesday the 29th of July. Sent for D. Harveys broken waggon. He got an axel tree put in. We are now clear of the mountains over which we have with much difficulty got so far safe. Only the accident or misfortune of losing the child. The Allaghania mountain being the back bone of America or of the United States is easy to assend being a long gradual assent up Dry Ridge upon it especially on the east side most
spacious. White pines in great plenty. The Glaids is a high country or piece of land 18 miles wide between this and the Larrel Mountain. Many miles of the way through chestnut timber such as I never before saw for size and hight. On the Larrel Mountain are chestnut in abundance as well as Chestnut Ridge in many plases as many railes could be got on an acre as could be got out of the best cedar swamp in Jersey. The land it grows on of little other value but for timber.

Wednesday the 30th of July. Set out halted and breakfasted at Mr. Rolisons. Went on through a settlement of good land for this country. Stopt and dined within 4 miles of Budds Ferrey. Hear found a Mr. Brunts with a large family from Huntndon in Jersey bound for Kentucke. Went on two miles father found Moses Juttle waiting for Judge Symmes. Went on and forded the Youghagaina River. The water so high as to come into some of the wagons that happened to drive a little amiss. Halted and stayed all night at Budds Ferry today. We are now in the Forks. Here I received Colonel Bayards letter of instruction where to find the house prepared for me.

Thursday 31st July. Set out halted at Captain Petersons whear Cawet formerly lived. Went on took the Elizabethtown road several miles when all the Wagons left me and turned off to the rite hand to or near the meeting house to Asher Williams. I went on with my family and turned to the left of Mr. Walter Walls it com on to rain hard and the road difficult to find. Stayed the afternoon and all night. 8 miles today. Mr. Walls is a Jersey man exceeding kind.

Friday the first of August set out. Mr. Wall sent his son James as a guide with me. After going a mile or two met Mr. Joseph Lemmon the owner of the house I was going to with Mr. Taylor. Walter Carralso accompanied us with several others to our new habitation where we arrived about one o'clock in the after-
noon. All well after a very fatiguing journey of 25 days since leaving Jersey. The house provided for me is a new one 30 feet by 26, two stories high built of hewed white oak logs a good stone chimney. The house not finished no family lived in it until we came. We set to and stopped it with lime and clay. Laid the upper floor with Cherety Boards. It is now pretty comfortable for summer. A spring of good water within about 5 rods of the door. I have the privilege of pasture, 14 acres of good land and sowe this fall with wheat and plenty of apples for house youse. I have road over some of the neighborhood and to give a true description of the place must say the land in general is exceeding good producing excellent crops of grain. Many parts too rich for Wheat though there are good Crops in general Indian corn some excellent other fields been hurt with the wet season. All the truth can say against the place is the land in general is hilly although even those hills are exceedingly rich in producing walnut, sugar trees, ash, with a variety of other wood. As to the inhabitants they are most all from Jersey exceeding kind to new comers as well as to one another. They live in a plain way not spending a great part of the time in dress and foppery. They do and may live as well as they please as to the real necessaries of life.


Forks of the Yough
December 26th, 1789

Dear Brother:

Having an opportunity to Philada. I embrace it and mention my situation an intended one. Since I have been here have wished to git Washington's Bottoms. I have at last obtained the whole tract on rent for five years. I wrote to the General by his agent in this country Colonel Canon who a few weeks ago returned from
New York. The General was pleased to order Colonel Canon to let me have the whole of the Bottoms so called at my own offer. The old farm contains about 80 acres of improved upland and about 40 of the best kind of meadow, a bearing orchard of 120 apple and 100 peach trees. The buildings as good as most in this country. Pretty well situated and five other improved farms that at this time rents for £43—10. I am accountable for the whole rent, which altogether is £60, so that I shall have the old place for £16—10, to be paid either in money or wheat at 3s per bushel. I considered that land at the Miami settlement was raising fast and that I had better pay this low rent for a well improved farm than Barter away my land at a lowe rate for land here. Land does not raise much in this place owing to the great immigration down the River. It seems as if people were mad to git afloat on the Ohio. Many leaves pretty good liveings here sets of for they know not where but too often find their mistake. I beleave this as good as any other settlement down the River for the present. The Mississippi trade is open at this time and all the wheat, whisky, bacon, etc., buying up by those concerned in it. The highest price for wheat is 4s in trade or 3/9 cash, whisky 3/cash and bacon 6d per 1 lb. cash. On the farm where I am going is as good a stream for a grist mill as any in the whole Forks and a mill that can be set going for I believe £50, and a number of years given for the repairs. I am in hopes of being able to set it going as it will produce more grain than all the 6 farms on the Tract. I am to have possession the first of April next and flater myself I have as good chance as any person in my present circumstance could expect. I shall have nothing to attend to but my own private concerns and think this way of life far preferable to any other. Richard Shreve is to have one of the small farms. They contain of improved land as follows—one 40
acres upland and 5 good meadows, one 35 acres upland and 7 good meadows, one about 35 acres upland and—meadows. The other too about 25 acres upland and 5 or 6 of good meadow each. The whole in good fence they being the year before last rented for repairs only &c. Peggy Shreve has a daughter. She and her husband has been very sickly but recovered. I am grandfather to another son. John and his wife pretty well as is our family at present but expect measles as it is in the school where our boys goes. I hope you are all well also. I am with great respect and love

Your brother

ISRAEL SHREVE

To CALEB SHREVE,
Mansfield, Burlington County, New Jersey.

Israel Shreve, the writer of this journal, was 36 years of age when the Battle of Bunker Hill occurred and at the time was living on the Franklin Park Farm, in Rancocas, in New Jersey. Although Quaker blood coursed through his veins he was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel of the Second Battalion of New Jersey troops, November 8, 1775, and upon the reorganization of the Jersey Line, February 28, 1776, he was made Colonel of the Second Regiment. His regiment was with Washington in many of the most important battles of the War and won laurels in many encounters. He was at Brandywine where two horses were shot from under him and he was wounded. His battalion marched to Germantown where they formed the left wing in the Battle of Germantown. The winter of 1777-78 was passed in suffering and gloom at Valley Forge. In May, 1779, a detachment of his troops took part in General Sullivan's expedition against the Seneca Indians. When the War closed he went west and took up a tract purchased from General Washington, known as "Washington Bottom." He remained a farmer on this place until his death, which happened on the same night that Washington died.—Ed.