

James Dinsmore Journal (1814?)

Journal of Journey from N. York to Kentucky.

Lodged at Harlem on east river

May, viewed all the fine things in the city the hall the expenses exorbitant

May left N. York rode leisurely on through N. Jersey saw in the woods for the first time the Solanum Lycopersium [may be solanum lycopersicum or tomato] viewed the college buildings at Princeton made of stone looked well

June 2 arrived at Philadelphia visited the [Peale] Museum the new frigate traversed the streets until quite tired left the city same day proceeded eight miles lodged at a good house.

June 3 travel'd on through a butiful (sic) country some worth 300 Dollars per acre lodged 110 miles from Philadelphia

4 Passed through Lancaster a considerable town – the number of taverns number not less than 25 in one street the country adjoining most butiful – proceeded 3 miles for thee – lodged at a miserable dirty German tavern the landlord owning a farm worth 60.000 Dollars –

5 Cloudy but favourable for traveling from up the Susquehannah (sic) 4 miles to Bowman tavern a good house – saw for the first time the pawpaw on the banks of the River whole acres of the Solanum Lycopersium [see above] are found in the woods

6 Very rainy (sic) start about noon proceed to Carlisle 14 miles

7 Rain incessantly dine at Weakleys a good house proceed (sic) 25 m. to Mono__ __ats execrable

8 Rainy – bu_t fast at Strasburg begin to ascend the mountains Road most horrible lodge at Wilson's on the top of Sidling Hill a good tavern

9th Proceed through dreadful roads to a good house 30 miles

10th Still rainy proceed to Hapsburg country rough and poor

11 More rain in the morn lodge within 7 miles of Pittsburg

12 Remain at Pittsburg through the day visit the glass manufactories – see nothing in this famous town but smoke & filth & hear nothing but the clincking (sic) of hammers & the swearing of Irishmen

13 Travel in company with Mr. Stone of Cincinati (sic) & Mr. Thorp of Vermont lodge distant 12 miles from Stubenville (sic)

14 cross the Ohio in the morning breakfast at Stubenville (sic) proceed 25 miles

15 Travel through a country of an indifferent soil lodge at a miserable cabin

17 Arrive at Zanesville country not much settled

18 Proceed through a good country arrive at Newark examine the fortifications in the neighborhood the first ive (sic) visited was of a circular form the walls 20 feet high from the bottom of the ditch containing within the circuit of the wall 60 acres one mile west as another fort of an octagonal form containing 80 acres at each of the angles is a gate and at the entrance an eminence in the form of a half moon to defend the same on the west side of the fort are two parallel walls which run west a considerable distance and terminate in another small fort On the east are two other parallel which extend to the distance of 3 miles &

terminate in another fort – near to these forts are many mounds continue our Journey to Granville get wet the rain falling in floods - - -

19 Leave Granville early – See turbers (sic – tuber?) for the first time travel through a most horrible road – mud & water to the horses belly – arrive at Franklinton See deer &c.

20th remain at Franklinton –

21 Continue our journey lodge within 8 miles of Chilacothé (sic) through a level fertile but unhealthy country –

22 Arrive at Chilacothé (sic) take breakfast remain until 4 P.M. travel on 10 miles

23 Proceed through a good country more broken there than which I had seen for several preceding days – overtake a Kentucky parson on his way home from Philadelphia apparently a very goodman O Strange!!

24 Continue with my Parson a very agreeable man cross the Ohio at Limestone and Alas! see for the first time in my life a Slave O fortunate New England! all thy sons are free –

25 proceed (sic) from Limestone travel on through a good country lodge at the blue Licks

26 A few miles of poor country from thence to Lexington a beautiful (sic) country. Lodge a few miles out of town

27 Arrive at Lexington – streets horribly muddy – somewhat disappointed in the appearance of things visit Mr. Morrison & Reid treated with great kindness

28 Introduced to Mr. Holmes visit the steam mills & factories in the vicinity in company with him the country around the town fertile as the garden of Eden.

29 Deliver my letter of introduction to Mr. Prentiss treated with much politeness leave town about noon for Danville – call at Mr. N. Morrisons house he is gone from home – proceed to Kentucky river

30 Arrive at Danville in the afternoon – find Mr. Thom at his Pot Ashe factory received with great cordiality

July 1 Take a view of the town country very beautiful

2 Continue to make excursions – proposals are made to me to engage to instruct an academy - &c. &c.

3 Leave Danville for Louisville 2 miles from town see for the first time in my life a full grown bear reach L_____ town

July 4 Travel through a good country pass through Bardstown a tolerable place the people about celebrating the anniversary (sic) of our independence – many at the tavern very drunk proceed twelve miles with hard traveling ---

5 Weather cloudy – prepare to proceed – horse very badly foundered – determine to rest one day – insupportably hot spend the day in shooting

6 continue on through a new & level country – arrive at Louisville just before night visit Mr. Holmes – received in a very friendly manner

7 Ramble about Town visit New Albany a most wretched miserable pitiful place composed of half Dozen log cabins not one of which is fit to stable a horse in mirabile dictu !! [latin: Wonderful to relate]

8 Visit Jeffersonville – much like the former go to the springs not worth notice - - leave Louisville proceed 12 miles to Middletown

[Backwards on page is written To Louisville 3 M]
a Kentucky Sign board

9 Fall in company with Mr. Levers a Virginian – good company – travel to Shelbyville a small county Town – a dozen of Houses huddled together _____

July 10 Travel on with my company – country tolerably good arrive & lodge at Frankfort the seat of the Legislature a tolerable town situated low on the banks of the Kentucky river - -

July 11 Leave Frankfort see (at a tavern a few miles from town) a British officer, prisoner by the name of Clark – travel through a good country arrive at Lexington at night – find Mr. Thom there - - -

12 Remain at Lexington visit in company with Mr. Prentiss his farms & sheep, factory &c.

13th Breakfast with Mr. Prentiss find Mr. Kendall of Dunstable Mass instructing the family of Henry Clay that brawling Kentuckian who has made so much noise on the floor of Congress the stumper of Ky & divers other places O mirabile dictu! This is indeed casting pearls before swine Spend the evening very pleasantly at the house of Mr. Prentiss –
N.B. Mrs. P. a most amiable Lady

14th Leave town in the afternoon accompanied out of town by Mr. Thom travel to Winchester 20 miles –

15 Travel through a tolerably good country – lodge within six miles of Mud Lick

16th Breakfast at the Olympian Springs find a Ky lawyer a Jacose (sic) fellow travel with my Kentuckian he asserts that there is not one honest man or chaste woman in Floyd County! Lodge at a cabin in the woods nobody knows where.

17th A mountainous country arrive at Sandy Licks find my Brother well &c. &c.

18 - - 30 Remain at Sandy to rest – amuse myself with reading shooting &c. prepare to Leave Kentucky in company with my brother - - -

August 1. 1814 Leave Little Sandy a rough country – lodge at the mouth of Big Sandy - -

2nd Cross Sandy into Virginia never wish to see Kentucky again travel 25 miles

3rd Continue up the river Bottoms very good - - roads bad – scarsely (sic) passable cross the Ohio at Gallipolis a pleasant settlement see several vineyards – proceed up 15 miles –

4th View in order to purchase a piece of Land do not agree with the owner – find by a Mr. Smith brother of John Smith of New Chester invited to his house treated with great kindness remain all night

5th See two strange animals an opossum and a copper head snake – leave Mr. Smith's arrive at Long bottom - -examine a tract of land with an intention to purchase –

6th pass Bel pre in the afternoon – a pleasant settlement Blannerhassetts island it appears desolate lodge with in 8 miles of Marietta –

7th Arrive at Marietta rather on the decline the houses poor, old and decayed, wide intervals between them. - -

8th cross the Muskingum travel on the banks of the Ohio – lodge at New port a Yankee settlement.

9th pass Longreach see the steam boat going down the river the bottoms very narrow cross to the Virginia side

10th Settlements somewhat older – pass grave creek by swimming – called so from the mounds that are found near it visit a mound suppose it to be 60 feet high

11th Travel through a very uneven but pleasant & fertile country in the midst of which the town of Washington is situated a delightful spot

12th Arrive at Pittsburgh remain through the day - - See Chute – Nothing new

13th Leave Pittsburgh expenses at the Tavern enormously high cross the Allegheny (sic) proceed 14 miles - -

14th Visit the town of Harmony a fine settlement composed of Wirtembergers their vineyard very beautiful the wine of a tolerable quantity (sic)

15 In the morning fall in company with a gentleman from Onondaga N. York – wait one day for him

16th continue our journey very bad road – country poor stop at a private house near Meadville on French Creek eat a supper of Buttermilk & mush by the light of electricity – sleep very much disturbed by a couple who were courting in the same room - -

17th A very bad road to Waterford head of French Creek lodge on the high lands between that and Erie - - a high country – soil tolerable

18th Breakfast at Erie proceed about 10 miles country good –

19th Pass the line of N. York about 3 miles examine a tract of land with an intention of purchasing find it to be of an excellent quality