

1797
July 28

Tuesday - Smith made a new main spring for
algun lock & did other necessary jobs. Traders men at
their respective duty. 4 Men packing up goods to
send to Edmonton House. The rest carried home and
cut firewood - in the afternoon 3 men came from the
Hunting Tent with word to fetch meat. Fresh
traps at N with light snow most part of the day.

March 1st Wednesday - Fresh traps at N. Thick snow in
the morning - afternoon clear - Traders men at their
duties & the rest cleaned out the yard.

2nd Thursday - Sent three men for meat & to tell all
the rest to come home if there are no buffaloes to be
got. - Smith stacking algon for M^r Sutherland the
Traders men as before. The rest carried home and cut
firewood. Sent John Cunden & Goo Goucher away to
Edmonton house with dogs & sledges, with trading goods
the rest loaded their sledges ready for setting off tomorrow
for Edmonton.

1797
March

Peter Sidler to M^r Geo Sutherland.

18

Buckingham House 2nd March 1797

Wth Sir.

Your people arrived here the 26th Inst^o after
a very tedious Journey of ten Days - they were necessitated
to leave all the Buckhind & 2 houses more than 60 miles
from this House - on account of the great depth of the
snow; and it was with the greatest difficulty they got
the rest of the House down here: - I should have
despatched your men back sooner, but it was necessary
to let the House rest themselves a few days before they
returned.

There are but very few Indians about this
place (save Bringers) therefore have sent you nearly all
the trading goods here (except Pottery & Powder) as I last
inclosed, there are only 15 yards of Red Corded Cloth 5 yds of
Blue corded and half a roll of Tobacco left here of those
articles.

It surprised me to hear, that you had made
such an extraordinary Trade, so early in the Spring -
which is double of what was promised thro' the last
Year at this time - and I make no doubt but
you will be able to accumulate 2 or 3 thousand more

1797
March

more of your Goods be sufficient when the Spring
hunts come in.

The Gun lock is repaired and sent also
the Wood as with 70 Suetels, 100 Gun worms & 100 and 200.

Wishing you health and Plenty

I remain

D^r Sir

Your old^d & true Servant

Peter Miller

³ Friday. Sent 4 men to hunt Buffalo up the River —
also the men that came down returned to Edmonton
House with 5 sledges loaded with trading goods, with 2 pieces
on each sledge upwards. John Swin at work making
a Boat sail this is the first job he has done since
Christmas. he is now pretty well recovered from his long
and severe illness. Mr. Rich also at work at the Mill.
Smith & Carpenters & Dayler at their duty. The cart
hauled home & cut firewood. Light breezes at No with
light snow most part of the Day.

1797
March 14th

17
Saturday. People as yesterday & leaned out the face
light breezes variable, rather hazy.

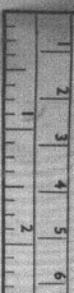
¹⁵ Sunday. Fresh breezes at No. Clear sharp weather.
The men returned with meat & all the men came
home from the Hunting Tent from below — no buffaloes to
be seen there.

¹⁶ Monday. Snow & Dust most part of the Day, with
fresh breezes at No. — all hands at work Friday. in the
evening one man came from the Hunters Tent up the
River with word to fetch 3 pairs.

¹⁷ Tuesday. Fresh breezes at No. in the forenoon — afternoon
light snow and clear weather. People as on Saturday.

¹⁸ Wednesday. Fresh breezes at No. morning clear and
pleasant, afternoon rather hazy. Sent 2 men to join the
Hunters up the River. also sent 3 men for meat & the
man that came with word accompanied them, all hands
as before.

¹⁹ Thursday. all hands as yesterday. Light breezes
at No. clear pleasant weather.



B.24/a/4

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1797
March 10th

Friday Fresh breezes at N. Clear fine weather -
People as before - The men returned with the meat &
the Hunters hath moved higher up the river

11th Saturday - Wind as yesterday & thawed much. Tradesmen
as before - The Carpenter finished the last stroke of the 2^d
Boat. all the rest as yesterday - a Packet arrived at
the Canadian House from where it had wintered, only 9 Days.

12th Sunday, Light air & variable clear fine weather

13th Monday, A self & one man set off to go to Edmonton
House, - left James Giddy in care of the House - Tradesmen
at their respective duties - the rest falling firewood -
one man came from the Hunting Tent with word to
fetch 11 Buffalo - an Indian came here with a few furs
Fresh breezes at N. Cloudy weather

14th Tuesday Fresh breezes at N. with Snow - Smith
making nails for the Boats. and the rest as yesterday -

15th Wednesday, Light breezes at N. Clear weather -
3 men went to fetch flesh - The Indian went away
the man that brought word for to fetch meat -
returned to the Tent - The rest as before.

1797
March 16th

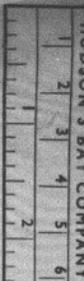
Thursday - Light breezes at N. N. W. Cloudy weather
People as yesterday.

17th Friday - Light breezes at N. Flying Clouds - Men cleaned
the snow off the Canoes - Tradesmen as before -

18th Saturday - The men returned with the flesh of 19
Sows. Mr. Slett came home with our people - he is to stay
at the house to assist in canoe building - Tradesmen
at their duty & the rest cleaned out the yard - Light
breezes at N. & clear.

19th Sunday Fresh breezes at N. Clear warm weather
Sent 5 men for meat -

20th Monday Wind & weather as yesterday - in the
morning men hauled home firewood - afterwards putting
Snow & water into the bucket shied to preserve the meat
in warm weather - Carpenter at their duty and
the canoe builders by Gilbert Daughton, John Slett
Peter Saberton, John Howatt & Mr. Slett cleaned out the
Carpenters shop & putting their plains &c. in order to
begin to plain canoe wood tomorrow.



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1797
March 10th

- Friday Fresh breezes at 6 M Clear fine weather -
People as before - the men returned with the meat &
the Hunters hath moved higher up the river
- 11th Saturday - Wind as yesterday & thawed much, Tradesmen
as before - the Carpenter finished the last stroke of the 2^d
Post. all the rest as yesterday - a Packet arrived at
the Canadian House from where it had winter, on the 12th Day
- 12th Sunday, Light air & variable clear fine weather.
- 13th Monday, A gale & one man set off to go to Edmonton
House - left James Gaddy in care of the House - Tradesmen
at their respective duties - the rest falling firewood -
one man came from the Hunting Tent with word to
fetch 11 Buffalo, an Indian came here with a few furs
Fresh breezes at 6 M, Cloudy weather.
- 14th Tuesday, Fresh breezes at 6 M with Snow - Smith
making nails for the Boats, and the rest as yesterday -
- 15th Wednesday, Light breezes at 4 Clear weather
8 men went to fetch flesh - The Indian went away
the man that brought word for to fetch meat
returned to the Tent - The rest as before.

1797 18
March 16th Thursday - Light breezes at 4 M, Cloudy weather
People as yesterday.

17th Friday - Light breezes at 6 M, Cloudy - Men cleaned
the snow off the canoe - Tradesmen as before -

18th Saturday - The men returned with the flesh of 12
furs. Mr. J. Lett came home with our people - he is to stay
at the house to assist in canoe building - Tradesmen
at their duty (the rest cleaned out the yard) Light
breezes at 4 M & clear.

19th Sunday, Fresh breezes at 6 M, Clear warm weather
Sent 5 men for meat.

20th Monday, Wind & weather as yesterday - in the
morning men hauled home firewood attended putting
Snow & water into the bucket shed to preserve the meat
in warm weather - Carpenters at their Duty and
the Canoe Builders by Gilbert Laughton, John J. Lett
Peter Salveston, John Nowatt & Mr. J. Lett cleaned out the
Carpenters shop & putting their plans &c. in order to
begin to plan Canoe wood tomorrow.

1797

March 21st ~~Monday~~ Light breeze at N. Clear weather - The
Canoe builders planing Timbers. Carpenters as
usual & the rest hauled home firewood.

22nd Wednesday - All hands as yesterday - The men
came home with Cases. Fresh breeze at S.W. with
thick snow most part of the day.

23rd Thursday - Wind & weather nearly as yesterday.
People as before - An old woman came to the House
with a few skins which she traded for Liquor.

24th Friday - Fresh breeze at N. with Snow all day -
Three men overhauling the Boat under the rest as
before - & collected firewood. Seadigger at their duty.

25th Saturday - Fresh breeze at N.W. Clear weather
Seadigger as before & the rest hauled home firewood

26th Sunday I arrived from Edmonton House and the
man that accompanied me there - also 2 of Mr. Sutt's
Men came with us for Brandy with Dogs & sledges.
Light breeze at N.W. Clear sharp weather.

1797th
March 27

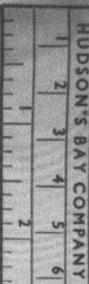
Monday Sent the 2 men that came with me
yesterday away back with four Kegs of Brandy - 2 men
making Gunwails for Canoes - the other three canoe builders
planing the Timbers - John Sevin & Merim Rich at work
at the Boat ends - Carpenters at their duty & the rest
collecting firewood. Fresh breeze at N.W. clear sharp weather.

27th Tuesday - The Seadigger as yesterday & the rest cutting Ice
in the river to put into the victual shed. All our Hunters
came home, as there is no buffalo near hand they brought
the flesh of three Foxes with them. Wind & weather as before

28th Wednesday - Fresh breeze variable, clear & thawed a little
all hands as yesterday.

29th Thursday - Fresh breeze at N.W. Clear & thawed much.
The Canoe builders finished planing all the gunwails
& Timbers for six Canoes - Carpenters as before - The rest
hauling up Ice from the river to put into the victual
shed.

30th Friday - All the Canoe builders got Shafts & Jumps
for Timbers for the Canoes - Carpenters making Cars for the
Boats - 4 men making Mallets & Wedges for the Prop. & the
collected firewood - Wind & weather as yesterday - in the
evening heavy rain.



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1797

April 1st

Saturday Fresh breeze at N flying clouds and thawed a little - a good deal of water on the ice in the river - sent 6 men to bring home the shafts & Pombes - they returned with them in the evening - 2 men making mallets on edge - Carpenters at their duty, the canoe builders planing splinters - the rest variously employed - Smith making shoes for setting poles.

2nd **Sunday** Fresh gales at N clear sharp weather -

3rd **Monday** Wind & weather as yesterday. Smith as on Saturday - & all the rest also

4th **Tuesday** Fresh breeze & variable cold freezing weather. Smith at his duty also, the carpenters & canoe builders. The rest variously employed.

5th **Wednesday** Wind variable with light snow much part of the day. Traders men at their respective duties & the rest packed 22 bundles of furs in the dinner prep.

1797

April 6th

Thursday Fresh breeze at N.W. Cloudy weather 2 men burning the Sunapee Pombes for 6 Canoes - Canoe Builders as before - Carpenters caulking the boats. The rest packing furs.

7th **Friday** Fresh breeze at N.W. with flying showers of snow & cold weather - all hands as yesterday - and finished packing all the furs in the house. An Indian arrived with a few skins. Loaded them & he returned.

8th **Saturday** Traders men as yesterday & the rest cleaned out the yard & before the gates. Light breeze variable southerly, clear & cold for the season. an Indian came for us to fetch meat from his Post.

9th **Sunday** sent 6 men with horses to fetch the meat. Fresh breeze & variable & thawed a good deal.

10th **Monday** Wind & weather as yesterday. Traders men at their respective duties, Carpenters finished caulking one Boat - the rest variously employed - in the afternoon the men came home with the flesh of three Cows.

20

1797
April 11

Tuesday Light air still hazy & falling in the evening gentle rain. Carpenters put the last Iron work to the 2^d Boat & finished painting the case. Tradesmen as before - almost variously employed Smith cleaned 7 Trading Guns

12

Wednesday - Wind & weather nearly the same. Finished planing all the planks. Carpenters caulking the boat. He not cleaned the plantations. 2 men put 3 pair of Gunwicks together. One pair of Black foot Indians came here & brought a few wolves - they say most of their Countrymen will be here in a few days

13

Thursday - Fresh breezes with a variety of variable weather - all the Canoe builders dressing Timbers - Carpenters as yesterday and the rest brought home wood to pitch Canoes. Traded with the Black foot & they went away

14

Friday - Fresh breeze at No. with thick snow most part of the Day - People as yesterday.

1797
April 15

21
Saturday - Fresh breezes and variable cold weather - Canoe builders finished turning the Timbers & the rest as yesterday.

16

Sunday - Fresh breezes variable cold weather.

17

Monday - Strong gales at No. & clear & sharp. A Blackfoot came for Tobacco for 4 men, got it and went away. Sent 4 men for white mud to send to Mr. Sutherland. In the evening they returned with 2 Canoe builders made the Canoes & made every thing in readiness to begin to build Canoes. The Carpenters at their duty & the rest variously employed

18

Tuesday - Wind as yesterday with thick snow most part of the Day. Tradesmen doing butchery jobs within doors & the rest carried home a little firewood.

19

Wednesday - Wind as before with thick fog. The Blackfoot arrived & brought a good quantity of wolves & Proves - Tradesmen as yesterday & the rest variously employed.

1797

April 20

Thursday. Wind & weather as yesterday. Trade with the Blackfoot and they all went away. Carpenters caulking the Boat & the rest as before.

21

Friday - Wind & weather as before. Smith repairing a Trading Gun. Carpenters finished caulking both the Boats & put the Ceiling into one - made 22 small bags of Pemmican @ 38¢ each. The rest as before.

22

Saturday - Wind and weather the same. Smith as yesterday. Carpenters at their out, & the rest cleaned out their yard.

23

Sunday. Fresh breeze at N. cold weather.

24

Monday - Sent 2 men to hunt pitch & they ret. with some excellent stuff. Carpenters finished one Boat ready for painting - Canvas Builders collecting stores for their use - Taylor making clothing these 4 days past. Smith repaired a key for a Pad lock. Fresh breeze & variable clear weather.

1797
April 25

Tuesday. Fresh breeze at N. overcast warm weather. Smith made the Gun-pairs, masts to burn on the Houses belonging to them. Boats ready for painting - the rest cut firewood.

26

Wednesday - Sent 2 men with all the Horses about 40 miles from the house to take care of them as there is but little grass near the house. Put a lance on the Bed. Carpenters painting the Boats. the rest variously employed. Fresh breeze at N. cloudy.

27

Thursday - Clear warm weather with squalls of wind at N.W. Took the first lance of the Bed all the rest as yesterday. in the evening 2 Canoes arrived from the upper house & brought the following Letter.

Edmonton House 24th April 1797

Dear Sir,

The backwardness of the Spring will very much retard the Building of Houses, and consequently will occasion a late embarkation: at the same time I find it will be impossible to man our Boats & Canoes for York and leave a sufficient number

22



B.24a/4

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number of Men to protect both Houses in the
Summer - I have therefore determined to abandon
Buckingham House for this Summer.

Mr. Shaw having a great number of spare
hands, intend leaving some Men and Officers to prevent
as far as in his power our house from being destroy-
ed by the natives in our absence - You will there-
fore send up all the Trading Goods and Tradesmens
Stores by the Boat, or Canoes, keeping the House Stores till
my arrival, as I intend leaving them in the French
house during the summer.

The River Ice has given way opposite the
House, but remains fast both above & below - yet
the water falls off fast - Send all the Men up with
the Craft except the Canoe builders - I will dispatch
20 Men in the 4 Canoes from here as soon as the Ice
gives way, with what fur Provisions they can take
- If the Boats are finished, Nichol James Boat builder
may come of the first drift as he is to summer
here - he being unfit for the paper and John
Moore goes down with the Boats in case of

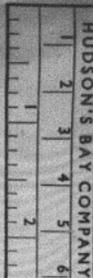
of accidents - let him keep what tools he thinks
will be necessary for the paper - Send up all
the Plank cut for the Boats, by the Boats so that
articles will be difficult to get at this place -
The Canoes can take up all the Trading Goods
and Stores - If you have any spare line for
tying bundles, I beg you to send it, as we are
short of that article.

The Indians have told me often of the
great scarcity of Beaver, many of them have been
in fact, brought very few.

Wishing you better success

I am Yours^{tr}

Geo: Sutherland



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B. 24/a/4

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1797

April 28th

Friday - Fresh breezes at Mr. hazy weather
Canoebuilders took the Canoe off the Bed and rep.^d
4 old Canoes - Carpenter got made a 2 yds. One
man killed a Bull near the House. and the people
brought it home - Ice gave way a little above the House.

4th
29

Saturday - Put a canoe on the Bed & took it off
in the evening. pitched an old Canoe & cleaned out
the yard. Light breeze at Mr. clear weather with Snow
in the morning

4th
30

Sunday - Fresh breezes at Mr. clear & hot.

May 1st

Monday. Wind & weather nearly as yesterday -
Ice moved a little. Canoebuilders at work at the
Canoes - sent 13 men for boots to see the Canoes & they
returned with a sufficiency to sew Carpenters finished
the Boat, made the rest variously employed. Mr. Kirk
 unfit for any duty by reason of his swollen Horse.

2nd

Tuesday - Wind & weather the same - at 1 PM the
River Ice gave way - Hadesmen at their duty
& the rest variously employed.

1797

May 3rd

Monday - Wind and weather as before - all hands
carried both Boats down to the water's edge - The Canoe
Builders at their duty & the rest variously employed

4th
4

Thursday - Heavy squalls of wind at Mr. Clear
hot weather. River driving full of Ice all last
night & small pieces driving all day. Canoebuilders
took the 4th Canoe off the Bed - Smith made 230
nails for the Boats in case of accident on the Rapids
The rest making every thing ready to go with the
Boats to Edmonton House to assist burying down
the Fur & from thence - at 3 1/2 PM 4 Canoes &
others & 12 men arrived from Edmonton House with
Furs & Provisions.

Edmonton House 6 May 1797

H. L. L.

The last of the River Ice passed this place
Yesterday - I have therefore dispatched 20 men on
4 Canoes with furs & Provisions as list enclosed
The extra men are to assist up with the Craft -
The water falls of very fast & the season is far
advanced - I therefore hope you will dispatch all

24

all the men in the Boats & Canoes that can
possibly be spared immediately on the receipt of this
- Have sent you all the Tracking Lines, Grosus
& raw pitch, I had here, have also given each Man
a pair of shoes for tracking up the Goph. - Sent
you all the Tobacco you can spare, as I have not
left in the House. - As the Stone Indians are all
gone toward the King Mountain, I wish you to
send up all the Houses on the South side of the
River as soon as possible, in order to be drove to
the Westward where they are to be kept in the Hammer
- As I understand there are a number of Unga
band house stealers from the Touchwood Hill intend
visitory this quarter in the Summer with a view
of taking away all the Houses they can find.

I am

D^r Sir

Yours &c

Geo: Sutherland

1797th
May 5

25

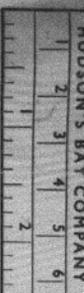
Friday - Early in the morning sent away the
2 Boats for Remonton House with different Stores &c
belonging to the House - The men that came in
the Canoes making things in readiness to return
tomorrow - Canoe builders at their duty, and the
rest variously employed - The 2 men that went
to keep the House came home as all the ice is
gone - an Indian man arrived with a few furs.
Heavy Gale at N.W. Clear weather

Buckingham House 5th May 1797

D^r Sir

Your men arrived yesterday in the
2 Canoes with all the things sent - have dispatched
them back & shall fit out 3 more Canoes in a day or two
The Boat left here this morning & Michel Spence
Boat builder accompanied them. They have taken
up all the Boards and line at this place.

The river did not clear of Ice till
yesterday and there is a great deal left on the shores
which will make it very bad tracking - The cold
weather that has of late prevailed, has very much



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much retarded the canoe building, however
we have built 4 & hope if the weather permits
shall get all the rest made and the others
repaired by the time you arrive here.

There is not more than 6 lbs of Tobacco
in the house. & Indians has come in from two
different quarters this day for that article, so that
there will not be a bit to spare at this place
and indeed it will not be half enough.

Shall send up all the houses in
a few days on the south side the river with 4
Men along with them.

Wishing you a pleasant passage and
an early sight of you

I remain

Yr Serv

Your Obedt. Servant

Peter Fidler

1797

May 6th

26
29
Saturday - Wind & weather nearly as yesterday
Canoe builders at their work - at noon 8 Men
arrived over land from Edmonton House - sent off
the 4 Canoes that came from the upper house.

May 7th

Sunday - Fresh gales at 4th clear hot weather
sent away 3 Canoes to the upper house to assist
down with furs. They have taken most part of
the Trading Goods up with them - Canoe builders
at their duty.



May 8th

Monday - Wind variable clear & cloudy alternate
crossed all the houses to the south side & men
set off with them to the upper house. Canoe builders
as before - the men are all away up above in the
craft except the canoe builders & Mr. Rich. an
Indian arrived with a few skins.

May 9th

Tuesday - Heavy gales of Wind at NW & cold weather
could not work at the Canoes.



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1797

May 10th

Wednesday - Light breeze at N, clear weather
 repaired 2 Canoes

11th

Thursday - Light breeze & variable, morning cold
 afternoon warm, took the 5th Canoe of the Co. & arrived
 arrived brought a few furs.

12th

Friday - Loaded with the Indian Man & he went
 away - Put the 6th Mast Canoe on the Bed, Wind as
 yesterday & warm weather.

13th

Saturday - Fresh breeze at N, clear & cold.
 Sailed the Canoe & cleaned out the yard.

14th

Sunday - Wind & weather as yesterday.

15th

Monday - Light breeze at N, clear & warm
 Repairing Canoes - Several Mowhats Ind arrived here.

16th

Tuesday - at 9 am 2 Boats & 2 of our Canoes arrived
 from Edmonton House loaded with Furs & Provisions
 one of the Boats met with an accident a little above
 the House & wet the bundles of Furs - Light breeze
 & variable pretty warm weather. Employed in repairing
 the Canoes.

1797

May

27

Edmonton House 13th May 1797

29

D^r Sir,

Our 4 Canoes only arrived here yesterday
 the other three are not yet come - however I have
 dispatched 30 men in the Boats & 2 Canoes well loaded
 with Furs & Provisions as per enclosed list - I expect to
 get every thing down this Trip, as it would be too
 late to make a second - I think leaving this place
 on Monday - Got all the Canoes mended and every
 thing ready as soon as possible.

I am

D^r SirYours Y^r

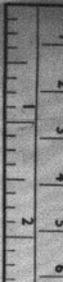
Geo. Sutherland

17th

Wednesday - Light breeze at N, cloudy weather
 at 11 am Mr Sutherland arrived here with five Canoes
 loaded with Furs & Provisions. John Moore & John
 Davy repairing the Boat. Canoe Builders at their
 duty and the rest drying Furs. Several Towow
 Indians arrived & traded a few furs.

Peter Noble.

Remainder of Book
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