

## Acronyms & Abbvs.

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used throughout this report, and in particular, the tabular indices in Part 2 and Part 3 of this volume:

<b>BLM</b>	USDI Bureau of Land Management.
<b>CBWR</b>	Coos Bay Wagon Road.
<b>DLC</b>	Donation Land Claim.
<b>E.</b>	East of the Willamette Meridian.
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System.
<b>GLO</b>	USDI General Land Office.
<b>GPS</b>	Geographic Positioning System.
<b>HBC</b>	Hudson's Bay Company.
<b>N.</b>	North of the Willamette Meridian.
<b>Rng.</b>	Range: 6-mile wide north-south survey lines, numbered consecutively E. to W.
<b>S.</b>	South of the Willamette Meridian.
<b>Sec.</b>	Section: One of 36 consecutively numbered square miles within a Tsp. (1).
<b>Tsp.</b>	Township: (1) A 36-square mile area, bounded by numbered Tsp. and Rng. lines. (2) 6-mile wide east-west survey lines, numbered consecutively N. to S.
<b>USGS</b>	United States Geological Survey.
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture.
<b>USDI</b>	United States Department of the Interior.
<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service.
<b>W.</b>	West of the Willamette Meridian.

## Volume II: Journal Entries, Surveyor Notes, Indices & References

### Part 1. Journals & Correspondence

#### 1. Alexander McLeod Journal Excerpts, October 26, 1826 – February 5, 1827

This section of the *Coquille Trails* report is a compilation of McLeod's complete journal entries during the times of his four historic visits to the Coos, Coquille, New, Sixes, and Elk river basins: October 24 to November 2, 1826; November 10 to December 16, 1826; December 25, 1826 to January 7, 1827; and January 15 to February 5, 1827. They are presented here in some detail because of their specific historical importance to this report, the fact that they are an otherwise obscure and somewhat difficult to locate resource, and because of their intrinsic value to a better understanding of Coos County and Coquille Tribal histories.

These journals were first published in their entirety in 1961 as "Appendix C. Journal of a hunting Expedition to the Southward of the Umpqua under the command of A. R. McLeod C.T. September 1826," of the Hudson's Bay Record Society book, "Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journal, 1826-27" (Davies 1961). The McLeod writings were assembled and annotated by Dorothy O. Johansen, the Professor of History at Reed College, in Portland. In the late 1980s Zybach had the pleasure of discussing this work directly with Dr. Johansen by telephone, as he first attempted to trace McLeod's steps through the Willamette Valley, along the Oregon Coast, Umpqua River, and the Middle Fork and East Forks of the Coquille. At that time she commented that all of her research had "taken place in her armchair" with topographical maps, and seemed much pleased by the interest and field-tested accuracy of her findings (Zybach and Wasson 2009: 100).

We have tried to keep annotations and commentary to a minimum in the current assemblage, and have cited Dr. Johansen directly when depending on her own notes. Spelling and typos are, so much as possible, given exactly as they appear in Davies (1961), with some minor corrections of obvious typos or odd punctuation. Our own comments are enclosed in brackets ([ ]) and/or written in italics. Thanks and credit are due Nana Lapham, Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project, Inc., who did the careful transcription and word processing required of this process.

#### **First visit: October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1826 – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1826**

**On October 23, 1826** Fine weather. In the course of the forenoon we startd. in a body, leaving Laframboise [Michel La Framboise, well-known HBC trapper and trader known as "Old Raspberry": the literal meaning of his French name] in Charge with an Assistant. All the families remained at the camp. After obtaining canoes in addition to the number we have, our party gradually diminished as we approached the sea. Being coupled in each canoe together they took different directions up the various streams in hopes of finding beaver. They were directed not to exceed ten or twelve days absence at which period I expect to return. With five men and two Indians in a canoe, accompanied by the old Chief and suite in another craft, continued descending the main [Umpqua] river till dark . . .

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather. Proceeded about six miles and landed at a Village of two houses, where we were very hospitably treated and breakfasted on sturgeon and salmon, after satisfying our host with a few trinkets, we continued our progress after a delay of two hours half mile further on terminated our Journey by water. Put up our crafts in a secure place and proceeded along the beach with our baggage and some trading articles to secure a welcome reception, carried on mens backs in this manner, we drudged on three hours and came to a small river whose breadth does not exceed thirty yards [probably Tenmile Creek: McLeod and his troupe are now in Hanis Coos territory], yet Indians find plentiful supply of salmon trout in it, as we were informed by a few that cast up at the moment we appeared, their habitations being in the neighborhood they observed our approach from a distance and came to us with extreme caution apparent dismay, which soon was dispelled when notified of our friendly intentions, being the first people of a different colour to themselves they had ever seen, their eyes were fixed on us, our fire arms attracted particular notice, tho, they were aware of the use of them had never witnessed an instance of the effect. We lost an hour to allow the men to refresh themselves and went forward about nine miles and formed our camp near a small Lake, having receded from the beach since leaving the little river, yet walked on bare sand with now and then a clump of trees dispersed here and there, the sand is so loose as to leave the prints of a Bears feet very plain, yet we saw none, and but few tracks of deer; indeed there is no grass to attract the latter. A messenger was dispatched ahead to notify the natives of our approach.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>.** Light rain at intervals, for which we are ill prepared, having no other covering than a coat and blanket each. Past a restless night; the rain fell so heavily that we had to lose time in the morning to put our arms in order, after which we continued our Journey about seven miles to a river or rather an inlet, the discharge of several rivers [Coos Bay], the most noted is of no great magnitude, the main Channel running into the Ocean is about a mile broad. This being the season for the salmon trout to ascend the different streams, the natives had an abundant supply of which we obtained some for trinkets. The main land is lofty and covered with impenetrable wood, if we can judge from appearances. After the ceremony of meeting was over, we experienced a work to get an Individual to serve in the capacity of a linguist further on. No one appeared willing to accept our offer; alledging that they were unacquainted with the inhabitants of the next river; or rather, I imagine, apprehensive of trusting themselves amongst them, less they suffer for past aggressions, we had to visit several habitations and at last succeeded with great deal of entreaty to gain our individual and he requested, we would grant him the liberty to engage a second, to which we readily assented, by this time, the day was far spent; however we got out of the reach of the majority of the Indians and past the night about three miles short of the Ocean, a short distance to the Southward of where we first made this river. The loose sand heaped by the violence of the wind, proved very fatiguing to the men who had burthens to carry. We hired a sizable canoe to take us forward our old Chief and suite declined to go further, he was left to his own will, still we had four natives, attached to us, seemingly well disposed to serve us, yet the new comers somewhat discomposed, tho they place every confidence in us, which alone I believe has influenced them to comply with our solicitations relying on our protecting for their safety. Our Guide informed us, that for expeditions sake, we ought to take advantage of the ebb tide, as we had a rocky point ahead [Fossil Point] to double, which at flood tide would be attended with danger.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>.** Rained most part of the day very heavily. We took advantage of the ebb tide agreeable to our Guides desire. The obscurity of the night suggested the Idea of entrusting the management of our craft to our new Guests, who acquitted themselves handsomely course three miles west then turned to the south, up an inlet where we found an Indian family lodged; being out of danger we waited day light then proceeded as before, 4 miles and secured our canoe with our baggage and things on the mens backs, we entered the woods in a westerly course, the distance of six miles and made the Ocean. Continued our progress on the beach composed of sand hard and level. The close of the day brought us to a fine river about a hundred and twenty yards broad [Coquille River: McLeod and his men are now in Miluk Coos territory, near the historical Indian town of Nasomah], except near the sea, it assumes the shape of a Bay, up this stream, we were told, the country abounded with Beaver; but that like every other Indian report of the kind deserves little credit. Our unexpected arrival caused much alarm, as we came unobserved within a few yards of the dwelling of a few families, before we gave them notice of us; however their fears soon subsided and their aspect recovered its former gaiety, for we could hear their merriment at the moment we gave notice of our approach. After distributing a few presents with which these poor people were much gratified we proceeded to a convenient spot to pass the night, signifying to the natives our intentions of ascending the river on the morrow, and requested them to notify their friends of our intentions, and added if they had beaver, would readily traded with them. To all our questions they replied in the affirmative. Before we had kindled a fire, messengers were off to give notice to their friends up the river of our mission.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.** Weather fine. Prudence dictated the necessity of keeping watch during the night: the result justified the measure, the night was not far spent when a party of seven and twenty of the natives came to us, but with no evil intentions, at least we observed no symptoms of hostile inclination on their part, yet it evidently appeared, that the Indians of our party, stood much in awe, of the Intruders, after a few hours conversation, as well as we could make ourselves understood and paying them for the few fish they brought, we signified our wish of going to rest; and the party left and proceeded to the houses close by and set up a dance, which annoyed us all night. When the day dawned we obtained a Canoe and proceeded up the river about 12 miles, visited several little villages from one to the other. The party of Indians following us increased as we ascended. Altho' they possess Beaver, they were not very eager to open a traffic with us. Observing this, I resolved to return to the spot we occupied last night and to renew our visit on the morrow with more apparent prospects of success. As far as we have proceeded the river keeps the same width: the country on each side is low and marshy, beaver vestiges frequently seen and the natives confirm the report that beaver is plentiful within land. Obtained fresh salmon for our supper. Wild fowl plentiful, time is too precious to hunt. Traded 3 Sea Otters, 27 large and small beavers and 3 common Otters.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>.** Rain fell heavily all night, we were so far fortunate as not to be incommoded by it during the day. Conformable to our resolutions of yesterday, proceeded up the river and put up at dusk for the night by an Indian dwelling containing two families the distance we come in short, we made frequent stoppages at the different residence of the natives, traded 45 beavers large & small.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>.** The rain falling in torrents all day caused this days detention: traded a small otter skin. Some Indians cast up with the meat of an Elk, they found drowned in the river, yet my men

relished the meat tolerably well, and made their supper of it.

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.** The rain having abated in the course of the night, we had an early start, still ascending the river, till about 10 A.M. having reached the limits of our Journey, we returned towards the sea, but had to put up for the night a few miles above the first village. The period for our return to our party is drawing to a close, and it would create serious uneasiness to disappoint our people, to avoid which we need make some exertion on our way back. Our interrogatory questions to the Natives of this river, produced no satisfactory result, relative to their knowledge of the Country, or its inhabitants to the Southward of which they profess themselves ignorant, **alleging** that they never venture in that direction beyond another small river about thirty miles from hence, where a few of their friends reside. Seemingly they are not acquainted with any great body of water in this neighbourhood, they make mention of an old man residing about the source of this stream, who is in the habit of visiting a river of some note to the Southward of us, the rout thereto is over land about three or four days Journey, and they imagine that body of water to be the one we allude to – as far as we have been this stream, the country wears the same aspect denoting the appearance of possessing beaver. Traded 13 beavers.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>.** Constant rain during the day. As we intimated our intentions to the natives of returning in some time hence, we did not fail admonishing them to make every exertion to collect beaver to trade. Being hurried continued tracing our steps back at the hazard of wetting our furs having no other means of securing them from wet but by wrapping them in our blankets. Encamped where we disembarked the 26 Instant [near the mouth of the Coquille], found our canoe removed from the place we left it: this was caused by the extraordinary rise of water from the late heavy rain Killed two Bustards many more might shot had we time for the purpose.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.** The rain continued unabated all night, of course, we had a restless night, having no other canopy but the heavens. As soon as we could see, we got afloat and directed our course forward till we reached the rocky point, noticed above, the tide flooding confirmed the story of our Guide, and we had to wait for the ebb before we dared venture, therefore we had to stop short of the villages for the night. Killed a couple of Bustards & a heron, an Elk was wounded, the hurry of the moment only prevented us from tasting his flesh.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Fine weather. Early in the morning we were on board reached the principal on the afternoon where we landed our Guide traded ten beaver and took our leave of these people and reached the little river [Tenmile Creek] where we formed our Camp for the night. When we past here few Indians were to be seen, now the number is pretty great; and in fact, they are so much dispersed at this season of the year, that an Idea of their number must be erroneous, to a person passing amongst them: for my part I dare not hazard an opinion certain not to come near the thing.

**Second Visit: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1826 – December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1826**

**Friday November 10<sup>th</sup>.** Rain at intervals, still we continued our rout as on the former Trip, and encamped at the first little river [Tenmile Creek], Indians supplied us with salmon trout for supper. Few ducks killed before leaving Camp.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, about midday encamped on the bank of an inlet connected with the main river, river Cahourz [Coos River], in this neighborhood the hopes of getting a few beaver suggest the propriety of making a stay. The spot fixed upon is not yet known as we had no time to see the country. In the evening some traps were set and few wild fowls killed.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>**. Rained heavily all night, but the day fine. Some Indians visited us, from whom, we got a few Beavers. The men traded some fish killed a few Bustards.

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, the men provided themselves with canoes and more traps set a deer killed, and three beavers caught.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. Changed encampment, distance three miles men off to set their traps, three Beaver caught, some wild fowl killed.

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**. Weather fine. Four men with Laframboise and self keep camp, the rest have leave of absence to trap.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain all night, which abated only about 12. Six beavers brought to camp. P. Charles and his companion killed three Buck Elk some wild fowl shot.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. Some Indians came to us with few beaver that we obtained, men going for their traps, four beavers brought by the trappers removed to a more eligible situation distance a mile and half, some Bustards killed.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**. Cloudy weather. Sent a man and two Indians to the second village, who obtained a few Beaver by the way of trade, report states, those Indians have no more furs. A party of trappers that were up the north branch [possibly Haynes Inlet], returned with two Beaver. That Stream is of no extent, so they have relinquished that place. Some wild fowl killed. The skins of the Elk lately killed and little meat brought to camp.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. A party in four canoes started for the purpose of trapping on the rout we propose going, others arrived, brought six beavers more wild fowl killed, indeed our daily fare depends thereon.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. The arrivals of yesterday have returned to resume their former occupations killed more wild fowl, many Indians going backwards and forwards, some brought us berries, but we discountenance the same for various reasons.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**. Fine weather. Nothing of a particular nature transpired today, more wild fowl killed.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Heavy rain. In the evening two of our trappers arrived brought couple of beaver. The country is reported to be poor and unproductive, where ever our people have visited; their wish now is to proceed forward to where we discovered lately, as the appearances there more favorable.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>**. It rained heavily all night, the day was fine. We started to join the small party sent ahead on our rout, who are waiting for us at an appointed place. Course South, distance 9 miles encamped late and some had to sleep on board their Canoes for want of a better place. Saw many Indians employed in fishing &c. some wild fowl killed.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. Continued the same course as yesterday up an inlet to its termination at a portage half mile long [Overland], distance today ten miles. Our men being stationed at the south end of the portage came to us and returned with each a load of our things. Some Indians cast up who also assisted, however we had to stop for the night, at the north end. This little party since leaving the camp, caught 13 Beavers.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, and by means of canoes hired for the purpose, continued our rout through a Creek [Beaver Slough], much encumbered with brush wood that gave great difficulty to work the craft forward – with two men I took the woods to join the party at the main river [Coquille River] where we arrived in good time, but not without trouble from the marshy ground, frequently above knee deep in mire and water, tho' in a direct course, the distance does not exceed three miles, yet we took four hours constant traveling night coming on before all hands could get to the Camp, accounts for many remaining in the rear Seven beaver were caught today. Three of our Indians who were in our rear join us today, they brought ten beavers skins.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, men started for the purpose of trapping 2 Beavers brought to Camp. A trap belonging to [Alexis] Aubichon said to have been stolen, provisions getting scarce.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, canoes are not easily got here, as the Indians have resorted to the upper part of the river where fish is more abundant. It is moreover reported that the Indians grumble at our presumption in trapping without paying them tribute: to see into the truth of this Laframboise and P. [Pierre] Charles took a turn up and visited several houses, recovered the stolen trap and learned the origin of the above complaints, falls on two lads with Ignace and Jacques [Iroquois freemen from the Willamette Valley], both of the Umpqua tribe [likely Kelawatsets or Etnemitane], and like them, they have given too much scope to their tongues, the first meeting with them I shall try if little wholesome advice will have effect, if not I warrant other means that I can command, will keep them in subjection; else their masters require some thing of the kind.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain, which subsided and allowed us just time to leave and from our Camp at a more convenient place [this location may be easier to pinpoint with McLeod's next trip to the Coquille, in late December], before that job was completed the rain returned with great violence. P. Charles is gone a hunting 2 Beaver caught.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>**. Rained all day. P. Charles returned, had no luck. Six Beaver brought to camp.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain all day and night. Laframboise accompanied P. Charles to set traps, but, meeting an Elk which they killed, returned with part of the meat. In the evening Aubichon and his associate arrived from trapping no success owing to the great rise of water from the late excessive rains.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>.** Rain fell in torrents all night, but subsided a little in the course of the day. Laframboise accompanied [sic?] by [Nicholas] Dupont started for Deputy's [Jean Baptiste Deputy dit McKay] Camp with a message to the latter. P. Charles is going for the remainder of the animal killed yesterday, met with a herd and killed six more, part of which brought to the camp. Four Beavers brought today. A party of Indians visited us today: some among them led us to expect them in a day or two, as they had a few skins which they disposed to trade.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Constant rain, in consequence of which the water rises rapidly and proves a serious obstacle against trapping. Men employed in bringing meat to the camp, till the darkness of the night rendered it necessary to defer till tomorrow to bring the remainder. A party of Indians came to us and we obtained fourteen Beavers large and small from them, late in the evening two of our men who were trapping up this river, (Shequits) arrived with the skins of four beaver, and an otter, they report, the country to be inundated; they have been up to the forks [apparently Myrtle Point] where they left their companions with their traps under water and no possibility of getting at them, till the heavy rains subside.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Heavy rain still prevails, a part of an Elk having remained on the field was brought to camp. Men and women employed in preparing skins and curing meat: a job not easily accomplished under such unfavorable weather. 4 Beaver brought to Camp.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>.** Torrents of rain falling till evening when appearances gave hopes of a change of weather. The few hands about the Camp employed as yesterday.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>.** The rain somewhat subsided and fine weather ensued but we cant flatter ourselves with the hope of a continuance. Traps gave four Beaver, various reports are circulated by the Natives rather unfavorable to our views; however appearances denote no cause of danger, as those stories came thro' a channel not much to be relied on, creates of course, little uneasiness, for it is evident those Indians in the marvellous and endeavor to excel one another in fictions most likely with an intent to dissuade us from prosecuting our Journey to the Southward; for on this subject they never fail in representing insurmountable obstacles, and add that the natives are vicious and very numerous, those and similar other stories of a like nature have of late so often assailed my ears that a repetition passes unnoticed, nor will all they can say or do deter me from accomplishing the object in view.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>.** Weather fine. Finished scraping the skins and made further preparations to proceed up the Channel to join the other division of our party, hired canoes from a party of Indians that paid us a tempory [sic] visit and returned to their quarters. Dubruille [John Baptiste Dubreuil] and Joudoin [Charles Jeaudoin] gone to bring their traps, they have leave of absence of the night.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>.** Rained hard all day, the two men who went yesterday for their traps returned and brought two beavers as luck would have it, they met a she Bear and two Cubs, they could only succeed in securing the former, the young ones escaped. One of our canoes carried off by the rise of the water in the course of the night and brought to us by an Indian who received suitable compensation.



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>**. Weather fine, proceeded up the river which continues fine and of equal breadth. About midday met our people descending also returned with us, put up at sun set passed many Indian habitations, indifferently erected, and their owners poorly off gave them a share of our stores. The party who joined us today had little success, indeed since we are in this river, the weather has proved very unfavorable, and till the [water level?] falls, little success can be anticipated, consequently a loss of time must ensue. I design therefore to avail myself of the period to visit the country southward [South Fork of the Coquille River] some distance from the upper part of this stream and [if?] it is found practicable for horses, we shall endeavor to find a passage from thence to the Umpqua to bring over our horses and baggage; distance 15 miles.

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather, After ascending the river about five miles, we stopped to erect our camp, on a suitable spot on the north bank. The river continues fine with beaver vestiges along its banks but the excessive rise and fall of the water baffle the skill of our Trappers. A party of Indians cast up and took up their abode near neighbourhood for the night, they are on a visit to their friends to the source of this stream. Made preparations to proceed southward to obtain a knowledge of the Country.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**. Weather cloudy. About 8 A.M. I started with P. Charles [,] Laderoute [Xavier Seguin dit Ladiroute], two Owhyhees [Hawaiian servants of the HBC] and three natives; proceeded by water about 11 miles, where the river is divided into two branches, one coming from the northward, and the other from the opposite direction at the confluence of the former, stands a small village, containing half dozen of men and families. Engaged a guide for the main Channel, where we found a foot path on the west bank of the south branch, which we followed and seasonably came to the river – past three small plains abounding with fine grass in full verdure. After dusk we put for the night, distance by land 14 miles course southerly. Left six men of all descriptions with strong injunctions to be on their guard, that their attention might not be drawn from that object I deemed it necessary to prohibit setting traps till my return, provided Ignace and Jacques with ammunition to procure the means of subsistence.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain all day. As soon as day light enable us to see our way we moved forward, after passing a short belt of wood we opened into a fine plain at the extremity of which, we came to a village of five dwellings rather unexpectedly. Our sudden appearance amazed the inhabitants who had not observed us, till we reached their door their fear was soon dissipated, we obtained some dried salmon indifferently cured for which they got in return a few trinkets. My men took their breakfast and by means of canoes, we forded the river, about 50 yards wide – continued our Journey on the east bank about five miles and reached another village greater and more populous than the last. Here the river assumes a different aspect, it becomes rocky, with many cataracts, some perpendicular falls, that afford the means of spearing the salmon trout, our guide made some objections for going further alledging [sic] that we could not reach the great river (for by this time, it appeared evident to him, our intention led that way) owing to the high state of the water, all the others supported the argument, yet persisted in going forward, tho' aware we could not go far, not being prepared to encounter such difficulties as the natives represented, but still no impediment as yet afforded to obstruct our progress, with great deal of persuasion [sic] our Guide assented to proceed as we gave him to understand, our intention was merely to see the country, we would defer till a more favorable period to visit the Great [Rogue] river, which these people are in the habit of visiting and from hence in Summer reached it in two

days they represent it to be a fine stream, not very large somewhat answering by their description the Umpqua: like it the country on each side is plains, those people know nothing of its junction with the Sea. We continued our Journey, passed the village about 4 miles, following the same track by which we came, and in this short space, had to ford the river three different times, on one occasion Laderoute proved unable to follow his companions, had to go to his assistance still we had not come to the worst part of the way, seeming difficulties increasing, without any advantage accruing from persevering further I deemed it advisable to trace our steps back, to examine the Indian route to the Umpqua, which if practicable for loaded horses at this period of the season, the length of the river, Shequits, no doubts exist, but we can get to the great river [Rogue River] by this rout after a few days fine weather as the water falls as rapidly as it rises. At dusk we formed our camp about a mile south of the last village we past. The Indians brought us some fresh trout of small size, but not unpalatable, their dried fish of which also they brought us some, is very indifferently cured without taste of a bad quality: in this respect, they fare better than their friends in the lower part of the river. The former having the advantage of vegetable productions growing abundantly in their neighborhood a luxury to Indian palate that the **later** [sic?] seldom enjoys as none grows within their reach.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>.** Very heavy rain throughout the night and day – as early as possible we proceeded to the village and to our surprise found the water had risen four feet perpendicular since we past yesterday, had some further conversation with the Indians on the subject of the resources of the country, their assertions tend to encourage us to persevere in our pursuit, several minor streams are pointed out to us said to contain beaver, but the great river in particular is frequently alluded to, as possessing beaver in great plenty; but these people like their neighbours are subject to exaggerate, so we can't rely on what they say. These people seemingly never molest those animals, I presume others either judging from appearances they never kill an animal and depend solely on the produce of the waters for subsistence, with roots that grow spontaneously in the vicinity, the same observation is applicable to the natives on the great river, who never trouble themselves about furs, and have little or no intercourse with strangers. At the second village, we hired two canoes; in which we embarked and proceeded before the current with uncommon velocity to its junction with the main river. It keeps the same breadth **all long** [sic?], bank in many places high and perpendicular. The bed of this river is of gravel in the present state of the water, no impediment exists to obstruct the progress from the upper village; but in the summer it is very shallow, during the low state of the water. As we descended many Beaver vestiges were observed, and many must have remained unnoticed from the velocity with which we passed many places. At the forks we took our own crafts and before dusk reached our Camp, found every thing safe.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.** Light rain and cloudy weather. Made some preparations for a trip to the Umpqua, thro' the country, the object of which his [sic?] to bring our horses if practicable. The women employed in drying skins, at which job the men assist.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>.** Rainy weather. With the same men as on the former occasion accompanied me, we left the Camp in canoe ascended the river the length of the forks, left our craft, being provided with Indian guide, shaped our course southerly thro' a foot path leading along the west shore of the north branch about two miles up the river we found a small village containing half dozen of Indians situated at the foot of a steep rock, which obstructed our passage but by means

of the only canoe these people had, we were enabled to pass the precipice, which otherwise might have caused much loss of time, thro' more than seventy yard in the direction we are going. After dusk the two Owhyhees [Hawaiians] cast up being in rear ever since we left our crafts, the present state of the water renders the road infinitely worse than it otherwise would be, could we ford the Channel occasionally, it would exempt us from passing many bad places. We find the representations the Indians made of this rout to be very incorrect: however in summer it certainly assumes more favorable aspect. The country on both sides of the river as much as we can see of it, is mountainous and broken and covered with much wood.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>.** Heavy rain continues and in the evening came on snow. Continued our Journey and ascended the mountain nearly to its summit, passed two small villages collectively not exceeding twenty inhabitants of the masculine gender. Lost couple of hours waiting for the two **oyhees** [sic?], their non appearance, and our uncomfortable situation from the inclement weather, hurried us forward leaving them to make their way forward the best way they can, taking for granted that they cannot stray from the track. We put up in the face of a steep hill, much exposed, having no other canopy than what our Blankets afforded. Saw elks tracks as we came along, we crossed four small streams running from west to east.

**Wednesday [sic] 16<sup>th</sup>.** Weather fine, in the course of the forenoon descend the mountain and entered a fine plain [Possibly Fluornoy Valley] where I appointed a rendezvous with Depoty but to my surprise no vestiges can be found which circumstance led us to continue forward after passing a short mountain covered with thick woods we again got into a plain country on the bank of a small river, met Indians who informed us of Depote's residence and added that a gentleman with some men, was stationed at the Umpqua river, we directed our steps towards Depotys camp, but the darkness of night put a stop to our progress, previously we espied a grizzly she Bear, and two Cubs having nothing for supper, was an inducement to make some exertions and success crowned our endeavors, one of the young ones escaped owing to the obscurity of the night. Encamped in the open plain.

### **Third Visit: December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1826 – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1827**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.** Weather fine. Having every thing ready, the same men, that accompanied me, now return, John Kennedy and Gobin being the only addition. Having light loads we went a good part of the mountain, whose ascent is very steep and the descent not so steep but very long at its base. Pass'd the first river flowing in from the west and encamped, one of our party little Michel [probably one of the Hawaiians: perhaps "Michel" Otoetanie or "Michel" Oaumtanie, according to Johansen, p. 201] missing, having returned on the way for some thing, he forgot come night coming on he could not find his way.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather, as soon as day dawned, we got in motion just at the moment, little Michel hove in sight. In the evening we reached our camp and found every thing in good order and safe. Four of our party remained in the rear.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather. The remainder of our party cast up, today in two divisions – settled a party to proceed under the guidance of P. Charles – to trap beaver in a river in our front not very remote from hence, Ignace having found some beaver in this vicinity, sent him to set his

traps.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>**. Fine weather. Eight men under the guidance of P. Charles departed for the purpose of trapping in a river southward of us they descend this river to the sea from hence [sic] proceed along the beach, the two Indians that accompany them, are to act as Interpreters. In the course of the day, the remainder of the party, except Ignace, who attends to his traps, proceeded down stream below our first encampment, in this stream, many vestiges of beaver. Few Indians are now seen, to what we formerly saw, occasioned by the failure of fish which makes the natives resort to other parts.

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**. Still fine weather, all hands setting traps, with instructions to be at the camp every night, unless leave of absence is previously obtained. A party of Indians visited us, they were much gratified with a hearty meal we gave them

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>**. Same weather as yesterday. At dusk Ignace and family arrived, he caught seven beavers and otters, since we left him others who visited the traps set yesterday, brought two beavers. More traps set – many shots missed at otters.

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**. Fine weather still, altho' beaver so common hereabouts, the ebb and flow of the Ocean is much against trapping; moreover in land, the height of the water proves an insurmountable obstacle, for the men can neither, proceed afoot nor with craft, brush wood and fallen trees obstruct the various channels – 4 Beaver brought to the Camp. Indians engaged as guides, to show where beaver resides.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 1827**. Fine weather, all the men out the whole day the close of which brought them home, with only 3 beavers a party of Indians visited us, among whom were many elderly men whom we interrogated on various subjects, but to little purpose as they can give us no satisfactory information or else they plead ignorance, it is obvious, fiction is predominant failing with them.

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Fine weather. Having but six men about me still they were not backward in observing the usual ceremony of the new year, a fathom of tobacco given them on the occasion – afterwards they were directed to decamp – from hence, to a more eligible spot about seven miles nearer the Ocean [Riverton], which we reached in good time to form our Camp. Great indication of beaver. Two Elks killed a part of one brought to Camp.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Fine weather, the men after bringing the meat we had in the field to the camp, went to visit their traps, they only caught one Beaver, two missed, in the course, we heard beaver playing in the water.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**. Rained at intervals. The Indians who accompanied P. Charles and party arrived, reported no bright prospects little or no Beaver to be found, they brought the skins of two state that the party will soon be here, unless they find greater encouragement than they have thitherto experienced, the natives attribute the disappearance of the beaver to the **hight** [sic?] of the water one beaver caught, an Umpqua Indian who ranks as a chief with this people [possibly St. Arnoose, the “old Chief”], voluntarily accompanied us since leaving said river and was one of

those that accompanied the party to the southward on his return yesterday, passing a village situated by this stream, some miles westward of us, took advantage of a favourable opportunity and seized on the person of a youth and succeeded in carrying him with impunity: no doubt this act of aggression will be imputed to us, as being committed by an individual attached to our party; therefore to do away with any bad impression, this act of cruelty might create, after reproving the old fellow sharply, in presence of many Indians, for his misconduct took the youth from him and returned him to his friends.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>.** Heavy rain in the course of the night, succeeded by fine weather during the day. Sent two men to deliver the above mentioned youth to his Parents, who were grateful for our interference. **Perre** [sic?] Charles & four of the party arrived, the others have stopped to lay their up a small river where some Beaver vestiges were seen, they have had no success: seventeen Beaver is all they caught. All hands daily at their traps, they brought eight beaver today two men stopped out to examine a creek running some distance to the interior.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>.** Cloudy weather. Aubichon and Joudoin who slept out on leave of absence, returned today, brought one beaver and two cranes, made preparations to proceed with a few men along the coast, the object in view is to reach, if possible, the great [Rogue] river, said to be some distance to the southward all our endeavors to obtain satisfactory account of it have failed but I hope the excursion in contemplation, will put the question at rest. Settled two Indians to be of the party, gave instructions to the people remaining at the camp to continue trapping, turn about day after day, only half of them to absent themselves at once.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather, till midday when heavy rain and occasionally hail came on, accompanied by high S.W. wind – with the rising sun six men and self on board of a canoe, descended the [Coquille] river to its confluence with the Ocean, from hence afoot along the beach about 14 miles and sixteen by water, passed a small river by the natives (Chiste etudi) [possibly New River] formed our Camp near where our people were lately trapping, on the border of an extensive marsh or swamp. Saw many wild fowl, but the stormy weather precluded hunting, tho' our situation and circumstances would render it a necessary expedient for our means of subsistence entirely depend o the chase.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather, we started , having previously sent forward our three Indians, (for we took one on the way)to obtain guides and Interpreters at the next river, we found them before the Indians came with a canoe, the village being situated on the east bank of a small lake, which divided us from them, and without a craft we could not get at them, for no wood is to be found on the west shore, which is composed of sand thrown up by the sea, after waiting some time at last a canoe brought us, still further delay incurred before we got a guide: that object accomplished we continued our journey. This tribe of Indians is called, *Got tam you*, the discharge of the lake we passed yesterday, and today passed the river of the same name, also another stream about an hundred yards wide, here we found a deserted village; for want of timber we were obliged to use the planks with which the natives form their huts to raft us over the river. Beaver muck seen at every river as we go along, the Indians who never saw a European face before, seemed to be alarmed, for we observed in the course of the day, several runing [sic] with all their might from us. Thro' the means of our Interpreter, we hailed them but ineffectually. This river termed *Squits en*. Proceeded about 17 miles and formed our Camp on

the border of a small lake, about a mile and a half long killed 3 geese and a duck, saw Elk tracks, tho of a late date, yet we are too much hurried to lose time to hunt.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather: as we preparing to start, we saw a Beaver swimming opposite to our camp, and gave the name to the Lake --- he was shot at but too long distance to do execution.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather, continued our rout, in consequence of many steep rocks, we had to ascend and descend the hills alternately, little or no wood, having a foot path along which we followed. Passed the river *Quatachen* and river *Henne-Chenni* both small and not above knee deep water at ebb tide, Beaver vestiges in both, the natives never molest the we observed also several Sea Otters close to the rocks; one was wounded by a rifle shot, but for want of a canoe, we lost it, met with some Indians in the course, after their panic was dissipated and a few presents handed them, they assented to keep us company, so we continued in company, till evening when we shared our booty of the day with them, having three deer we gave them one and reserved two small ones for ourselves distance 13 miles. Country rough tho' free of woods. Many tracks of Elk and deer. Seen no harbors for vessels along this part of the coast, except where points of rocks can afford, which are more favorable to Indian canoes than any other crafts.

#### **Fourth Visit: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1827 – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1827**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.** Fine weather, we had an interview with the [princi]pal Indians of the place at an early hour and notified [them of] our intentions to join our party, and observed that [we wo]uld again visit them in quest of Beaver, in reply to [which] they replied as before, that up this river would find.....abandoned the idea of ascend this river for a proper.....canoes these people have, are not all calculated.....such strong currents as run in this river, they are [shaped] like [a tr]ough, square at each end, their breadth about.....of their length. On leaving our camp we went.....animals killed yesterday laid, many Indians.....us, to whom we gave the greatest share, reserving a little.....us forward; while the men were preparing their [brea]kfast,.....of the natives succeeded in escaping unobserved.....one of our small hatchets after our search made in which the remainder of the natives joined, to no avail we had recourse to other means and detained half a dozen of them for sometime, till a message was delivered to the principal characters, signifying our intentions of recovering the stolen article, or else ample remuneration made us in return in a short time, three Chiefs with about sixty followers made their appearance, and informed us that our suspicions were well founded, but that the offender was out of reach and some days would elapse before the article could be recovered, to bring the case to a termination, they offered us a hostage and gave us up the services of an Indian of their tribe till our return when they would recover the stolen article and restore it, this settlement was acceded to and both parted us with our hostage on our return and the Indians to their dwellings --- we availed ourselves of the opportunity this circumstance offered of intimating our abhorrence of thieving and that indeed it was the value of the article as the act to have passed it over in silence might not only leave a bad impression but actuate them to further aggression, we encamped near river Ukejeh, a few Indians from thence came to us, spent part of the evening at out camp and went back.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>.** High northerly wind with frequent showers of hail and snow continued our

progress passed the river Ukejeh [Euchre Creek?] had an interview with the Indians, passed the river Hene Chenni [Mussel Creek?] at dusk we put up in the face of a steep hill, where we laid much exposed to the wind – two deers killed and one only rendered to the camp.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**. The same weather as yesterday, continued our rout and encamped at the last woods south of river Got tom ye [Sixes River?] killed three bustards.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**. Weather still more stormy than yesterday, in the evening the wind increased to a gale, however we reached our camp, found every thing safe, the night being far spent when we got home, the Indians accompanying us could not keep up, but did not stop in the rear, our hunters had but little success, both with traps as well as with the gun; yet it is acknowledged both beaver and elk are plentiful; the rise and fall of water is so frequent and generally on either extreme which renders trapping a very precarious business at this season.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**. Stormy weather continued throughout the day the arrivals preparing to set traps, granted leave of absence to Kennedy and Laderoute, to be here the day after tomorrow, to leave their traps set, if appearances justify the measure. Two beaver and an otter brought to camp, at my suggesting to some of our party previous to my departure on my late jaunt to proceed to river Cahouse [Coos] for the purpose of trade, the instruction was followed up, but no success ensued in consequence of the high value the Indians put on the few furs they possessed, being informed by stragglers that we put an advance on our property, above the rate allowed at the establishment which precluded the possibility of settling with them and without being authorised I am not justifiable in establishing such precedent, as would satisfactory to those people, for it is very evident they will not give their skins, under the value of the Fort Vancouver Indian Tariff. I felt somewhat disappointed that Laframboise and party are not arrived.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**. Same weather as yesterday with rather less rain men started in various directions to set traps and hunt large animals provisions scarce.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>**. During the forenoon the weather was fine, but soon changed and rain fell in torrents traps visited no success, great rise observed in the water.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**. Cloudy weather, and light rain all day, an elk and a beaver brought to camp, the missing of Beaver is echoed from every mouth all day; the meat of three elk brought in and a beaver. Having barely time for the men to reach the establishment agreeable to orders, making allowances for detention by stress of weather, it is now necessary to put a stop to trapping even if time permitted, the weather is too unfavorable for the purpose.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Same weather as yesterday, issued orders for all the traps to be taken up, in doing which two beaver were found in them. Women employed in scraping skins settled with the little Chief Kitty yeahun and Neaze who return to their respective homes along the coast. Made some preparations for starting tomorrow should the weather permit. As the navigation of the Umpqua is very dangerous at this season of the year, suggests the other rout by the north east branch of this river, as the surest way, as we can by means of canoes reach the foot of the mountain from thence men can easily in three days carry our property over to McKays camp, at least where we last left them in a fine plain at the base of the mountain, southward from hence. Some of the

party having traps above were allowed to start to recover them.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Cloudy weather, with frequent showers of rain Aubichon, Joudoin Turoucohinna requested to proceed by the Umpqua to recover some property they left there in November which I agreed to, having no burthen but their own things from where the navigation is dangerous, they can proceed by land gave a note to Ignace for Laframboise directing him to afford the party what assistance he can, and take every advantage of the favorable weather to get forward, directed this little party to keep together with the exception of Ignace who stopt to finish scraping a skin or two meantime the others go a short distance forward to lay their traps and are to wait for him, about midday the remainder of the party and self proceeded a few miles up the river, the heavy rain made us put sooner than we otherwise would have done, having upwards of two hundred skins in furs and no proper covering gives much trouble to preserve them from injury. The men who preceeded us yesterday, we found near where we formed our Camp, they could not recover some of their traps owing to the heavy rise in the water, in the traps taken up, four Beavers were found in them.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>**. The rain fell so heavily that we could not stir many Beaver vestiges about our camp, induced the men to set a few traps some Indians came to us from above, report many elk in that quarter water is very high and the current proportionally strong. In the course of the afternoon Ignace cast up, with a sick child of his, whose indisposition suggested the idea of coming to us to obtain medical assistance. The childs case is not dangerous, tho' the father alarmed.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain – in the course of the night the water rose about four feet perpendicular in the river, during the night the Indian that was given us as hostage, effected his escape he was seduced by an acquaintance of his who residing on this river who accompanying Ignace, the latter Indian informed of this circumstance took to the woods and we saw him no more, confirmed us in the opinion that he was privy to the others escape. Ignace departed in the course of the forenoon, I admonished him to make all haste and join the others, in fifteen days he expects to reach the old fort at the Umpqua, the appointed place of rendezvous.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**. Light rain, we proceeded to the first fork distance about 9 miles, heavy rain made put up, no particular occurrence.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**. Heavy rain so that were forced to remain in camp, three elks killed and the meat brought in, three Indians stopped with us, on their way down stream, with a cargo of camass, their chief subsistence at present, fish having long ago almost entirely failed in this river which made the majority of the Indians to resort to other places.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>**. In the forenoon the rain having somewhat subsided orders were given to raise camp, the extraordinary rise of water made it necessary to make two trips to avoid accidents accordingly the furs and some other effects were put on board of the two largest crafts we have, both strongly manned, we succeeded by the close of day to enter the N east branch, about a mile, where we landed, two men and self remained, and the others went to assist in brining up the remainder of our things. No sooner were landed, then the rain again came on in torrents, however fortunately our furs getting wet.



**Monday 29<sup>th</sup>.** The rain ceased in the course of the forenoon, and the men brought up the remainder of our things by the close of the three elks killed. Some Indians came to us, their dwellings are on the banks of this river, a short distance above, a fall observed in the water.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>.** Little or no rain, the meat of the animals killed yesterday, which gave general occupation in drying and in preparing the skins for wrappers for our furs.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>.** Heavy rain: however having our furs wrapped in elk skins with the hair on we ventured to proceed with part of our baggage, having a chain of rapids to ascend suggested the idea made a portage above which we formed our camp with the exception of two men, the others assisted in bringing forward the remainder of our baggage, the distance we came to day not exceed two miles this part of the river is rapidous yet not dangerous, water falling fast, the apparent continuation of bad weather leaves us no hopes of making much progress and the appointed time to meet Depoty agreeable to settlement made with him being expired induced me to send Cartreah [This may well be the same person Douglas wrote about on October 17 (Davies 1961: 183): “Baptiste M’Kay having given me one of his Indian hunters, a young man about eighteen years of age, as a guide. To what nation he belongs he does not know, as he was brought from the South by a war party when a child, and kept as a slave until M’Kay took him. He is very fond of this mode of life, and has no desire to return to his Indian relations; and as he speaks a few words of Chenook and understands the Umptqua tongue, I trust to find no difficulty in conversing with this my only companion.”] forward to give him tidings of us, in case our absence should create uneasiness, being short of hands I was necessitated to send that Individual alone – the Indians about us are ill clad, that they can’t venture any distance in such weather, besides the mountains over which we must pass, are covered with snow and no compensation that we can offer will tempt any of the natives to accompany our messenger.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February.** We had less rain than for some days back – and our progress greater than many former days – often making a portage of about a quarter of a mile, we met with no other impediment till dusk put a stop to our labour.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Continued our rout, and put up near an Indian village situated on an eminence in a plain of some extent, to our surprise the messenger [Cartreah] we sent forward, did pass the spot and we met him close by on his return, the awful aspect of the mountains intimidated him, or rather some acquaintance of his residing here attracted his attention, and dissuaded him from going to join his master J.B. Depoty, being one of his household I expected he would shown more determination.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Hard frost in the course of the night and fine weather succeeded, but we could not avail ourselves of it, as we wished, for we had a long rapid to ascend, and afterwards the men find themselves destitute of paddles as well as setting poles, to provide themselves with which, took part of the day. Hunters went to the chase, but had no success.

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>.** In the course of the night, the rain returned as heavily as ever, by sun rise, every was on board of our canoes and as the men were going to push off, I notified my intention of proceeding forward with an Individual of our party, Nostey [possibly an Indian, also spelled as

“Nasty”], recent verbal intelligence by a late arrival from over the mountains purporting to state that an officer and some men had arrived at Depotys camp and that they gone together to the eastward. Our informant further adds that they had been reduced to kill a horse, tho’ the report is doubtful [the report was accurate], I cannot believe second express to come from the establishment, yet I feel desirous to ascertain the fact, particularly, as the informant tells that Depoty who is well known among those Indians expressed a suspicion at our non arrival the appointed place of rendezvous, he has abandoned, if so we shall find ourselves without horses – which will cause some detention, unless we come up with them, before the men, I leave, reach the north side of the mountains, I admonished them to be cautious in case of an accident in the rapids and as we could not rely upon our future plan, being short of provisions, directions were given to hunt a couple of days before attempting to ascend the mountains, over which the men must carry the baggage &c on their backs. The day was rainy, yet we continued our Journey till night precluded a possibility of going further, in lieu of going over the mountain as on former occasion we took another track, following its base now and then touching the river expecting it to be more advantageous than the former one, in this idea we were sadly mistaken. We past a small village at the extremity of the mountain but had no conversation with the few people in it. Much snow as we got near the mountain.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>.** Light rain, as soon as the day dawned, we were glad to avail ourselves of it to leave a disagreeable berth, having past the night exposed to snow and rain –shortly after sun rose, we entered the open country [probably Lookingglass prairie], having got out of the mountain . . .

**Volume II: Journal Entries, Surveyor Notes, Indices & References**

**Part 1. Journals & Correspondence**

**2. Jedediah Smith & Harrison Rodgers Journal Entries, June 29 – July 10, 1828**

The Smith and Rodgers journal excerpts used here and referenced in the text are from Dale (1918) and Sullivan (1934). Transcription from these sources was by Crys Stephens, NW Maps Co.

**June 29<sup>th</sup> 1828**

JEDEDIAH SMITH: June 29<sup>th</sup> N N West 5 Miles. The traveling for the last two days much alike alternately on the beach and over the hills which generally closed in to the shore near which the country was generally prairie [sic] with some thickets. Farther back from the coast the hills were high rough and covered with thickets & timber. This day I could have traveled farther had it not been high tide which prevented me from traveling on the beach and the hills were too rough to allow me to leave the shore. In the vicinity of my camp the country was clothed with fine grass and other herbage, a good grazing country though somewhat rough.

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We made an early start again this morning, steering [sic?] as yesterday N.N.W. along the beach and hills, and travelled 5M. and enc. on account of the water being high, which prevented us from getting along the shore, or we should have travelled a great deal further, as the point of the mou. was too ruff that come into the beach to get along. The travelling yesterday and to-day much alike. I killed one deer after we enc. The day clear and warm.

**June 30<sup>th</sup> 1828**

JEDEDIAH SMITH: June 30<sup>th</sup> North 5 Miles. After traveling 2 Miles I was obliged to leave the coast and travel over the hills to my encampment which was a short distance from the shore where there was good grass. From a high hill I had an opportunity to view the country which Eastward was high rough hills and mountains generally timbered & north long the coast apparently Low with some prairie. In climbing a precipice on leaving the shore one of my pack Mules fell off and was killed.

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We was up and under way in good season, directing our course N.N.W. along the beach 1 mile, then took a steep point of [Humbug] mountain, keeping the same course, and travelled over it and along the beach 6 miles more, and encamped. Lossed one mule last night, that fell in a pitt that was made by Inds. for the purpose of catching elk, and smothered to death; one other fell down a point of mou. today and got killed by the fall. The day clear and pleasant.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1828**

JEDEDIAH SMITH: July 1<sup>st</sup> 1828 North 9 Miles. At 5 Miles from camp crossed a creek the outlet of a small Lake on which was some Beaver sign. At this place the hills recede from the shore leaving a bluff from 30 to 100 feet in height. Immediately on this bank is a narrow skirt of prairie and further back low Pine & brush. The soil thin and loose. Encamped on a river 60 yards wide on which there was some beaver sign. I found the tide too high to cross. For the past three days but one deer had been killed but as we had dried meat we did not suffer from hunger. We saw appearances of Elk have been abundant in the vicinity when the grass was tender. For many days we had hardly got sight of an indian and but one had visited camp since my horses were killed. In the course of the days travel one of my horses was crowded off from a cliff and killed.

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1828. All hands up early and under way, steering as yesterday N. along the beach of the ocean and across the points of small hills and travelled 12 miles and enc. The day clear and warm; one Ind. in camp early this morning. The country for several days past well calculated for raising stock, both cattle and hogs, as it abounds in good grass and small lakes a little off from the beach where there is good roots grows for hogs. One horse killed again to-day by falling.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1828**

JEDEDIAH SMITH: July 2<sup>nd</sup> 12 Miles North principally along the shore at 6 Miles from camp passing a small Lake. During the days travel the hills were generally 3 or 4 Miles from the shore the intermediate space being interspersed with grassy prairie brush, sand hills & low Pines.

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1828. We made a pretty early start again this morning, steering N., and travelled 12 miles and enc. No accident has happened in regard to horses to-day. We travelled pretty much along the beach and over small sand hills; the timber, small pine; the grass not so plenty nor so good as it has been some days past. The country, for 3 days past, appears to leave the effects of earth quakes at some period past, as it is quite cut to pieces in places and very broken, although it affords such an abundance of good grass and clover. The weather still good. As the most of the mens times expired this evening, Capt. Smith called all hands and gave them up there articles, and engaged the following men to go on with him, at one dollar per day, untill he reaches the place of deposit, viz;

John Gaiter	Abraham Laplant
Arthur Black	Charles Swift
John Hanna	Thos. Daws
Emanuel Lazarus	Tousaint Marishall

Daws time to commence when he gets well enough for duty. Also Peter Ranne and Joseph Palmer, at the above named price, one dollar per day, and Martin McCoy 200 dollars, from the time he left the Spanish country, untill he reaches the deposit.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1828**

JEDEDIAH SMITH: July 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 Miles N N West. At 2 Miles from camp I came to a river 200 yards wide which although the tide was low was deep and apparently a considerable River. On first arriving in sight I discovered [two] some indians moving as fast as possible up the river in a canoe. I ran my horse to get above them in order to stop them. When I got opposite to them & they discovered they could not make their escape they put ashore and drawing their canoe up the bank they fell to work with all their might to split it in pieces.

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1828. We made a pretty early start, steering N. along the pine flatts close by the beach of the ocean, and travelled 2 m., and struck a river about 2 hundred yards wide, and crossed it in an Ind. canoe. Capt. Smith, being a head, saw the Inds. in the canoe, and they tried to get off but he pursued them so closely that they run and left it. They tryed to split the canoe to pieces with thir poles, but he screamed at them, and they fled, and left it, which saved us of a great deal of hard labour making rafts. After crossing our goods, we drove in our horses, and they all swam over, but one; he drowned pretty near the shore. We packed up and started again after crossing the beach N., and travelled 5 miles more, and encamped. Saw some Inds. on a point close by the ocean; Marishall caught a boy about 10 years old and brought him to camp. I give him some beads and dryed meat; he appears well and satisfied, and makes signs that the Inds. have all fled in their canoes and left him. I killed one deer to-day. The country similar to yesterday; the day warm and pleasant.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1828**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We made a start early, steering N.N.W. 9 m., and enc. The travelling pretty bad, as we were obliged to cross the low hills, as they came in close to the beach, and the beach being so bad that we could not get along, thicketty and timbered, and some very bad ravenes to cross. We enc. on a long point, where there was but little grass fir the horses. Good deal of elk signs, and several hunters out but killed nothing, the weather still good.

**July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1828**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We travelled 1 ½ miles to-day N. and, finding good grass, enc. as our horses was pretty tired. Two Inds., who speak Chinook, came to our camp; they tell us we are ten days travell from Catapos on the wel Hamett, which is pleasing news to us. Plenty of elk signs, and several hunters out, but killed nothing.

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1828**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. N. 2 miles to-day and enc., the travelling very bad, mirery and brushy; several horses snagged very bad passing over fallen hemlock; after encamping, two elk killed,

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1828**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We concluded to stay here to-day for the

purpose of resting our horses and getting meat and clearing a road to the mouth of a large river that is in sight, about 2 miles distant that we cannot get to without. About 100 Inds. in camp, with fish and mussels for sale; Capt. Smith bought a sea otter skin from the chief; one of them have a fuzill, all have knives and tomahawks. One a blanket cappon, and a number of pieces of cloth. The weather for several days past good.

### **July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1928**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We made an early start, directing our course N. along the beach and low hills; the travelling very bad on account of ravenes, fallen timber, and brush. We made 2 miles and struck the river and enc. The river at the mouth is about 1 m. wide, the Inds. very numerous, they call themselves the Ka Koosh. They commenced trading shell and scale fish, rasberrys, strawberrys, and 2 other kinds of bury that I am unacquainted with, also some fur skins. In the evening, we found they had been shooting arrows into 8 of our horses and mules; 3 mules and one horse died shortly after they were shot. The Inds. all left camp, but the 2 that acts as interpreters; they tell us that one Ind. got mad on account of a trade he made and killed the mules and horses. The weather still good. One horse left today that was ma[i]m[ed].

### **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1928**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. We made an early start again this morning, and crossed the 1<sup>st</sup> fork of the river, which is 400 or 500 yards wide, and got all our things safe across about 9 o.c. A.M., then packed up and started along the beach along the river N., and travelled about 2 miles, and struck another river and enc. We crossed in Ind. canoes; a great many Inds. live along the river bank; there houses built after the fashion of a shed. A great many Inds. in camp with fish and berris for sale; the men bought them as fast as they brought them. We talked with the chiefs about those Inds. shooting our horses, but could get but little satisfaction as they say that they were not accessory to it, and we, finding them so numerous and the travelling so bad, we thought it advisable to let it pass at present without notice. We bought a number of beaver, land, and sea otter skins from them in the course of the day.

### **July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1828**

HARRISON G. ROGERS: Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1828. We commenced crossing the river early, as we had engaged canoes last night; we drove in our horses and they swam across; they had to swim about 600 yards. Our goods was all crossed about 9 o.c. A.M. and 2 horses that was wounded, and one was much, remained, that Capt. Smith and 5 men stay to cross; the 2 horses dyed of there wounds, and Capt. Smith swam the mule along side of the canoe. He was some what of opinion the Inds. had a mind to attact him from there behaviour, and he crossed over where the swells was running pretty high, and, there being good grass, we enc. for the day; the Inds. pretty shy. The river we crossed to-day unites with the one we crossed yesterday and makes an extensive bay that runs back into the hills; it runs N. and S., or rather heads N.E. and enters the ocean S.W., at the entrance into the ocean its about 1 ½ miles wide.

**Volume II: Journal Entries, Surveyor Notes, Indices & References**

**Part 1. Journals & Correspondence**

**3. Lt. Col. Silas Casey Correspondence, October 24 - December 14, 1851**

The following correspondence was transcribed by Crys Stephens, NW Maps Co., from materials on file with the Coquille Indian Tribe. They are thought to have been first copied from original materials at the Smithsonian Institute.

Port Orford, O. T.  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Colonel

I have the honour to report that I arrived at this place safely about 12 PM on the 22nd Inst. We succeed in landing every thing by 7 O'clock PM, and by the use of an unfinished storehouse built by L. Winon [Wyman?], over the roof of which we have placed a tarpaulin, I have managed to have all our stores safely housed.

The rumor that had reached the general of a party of volunteers having left this place for the scene of the murders was a mistaken one. It most probably originated in the fact that a party did leave for the purpose of discovering a road to the Oregon trail. After proceeding about 90 miles, they returned without accomplishing their object, having fell short of provisions. They are of the opinion that they were not far from the trail at the time they turned back. The country in the immediate vicinity of this place is densely wooded, principally with Fir, Spruce, and Cedar.

From the report of a reconnoitering party which I sent out, and which this day returned and from other information which I have collected, I am led to believe that a practicable route can be obtained to the Coquille, which is about 35 miles distant.

The Indian Agent, Dr. Dart, left here a short time since, the Coquille indians refusing to meet him.

I regret that I have no interpreter by whom I could communicate with the Indians in question.

No alternative presents itself but to strike them first and then extending to them the Olive Branch on their submission. I am now anxiously awaiting the arrival of Lt. Stanton with the horse, who enter in my plan of attack.

I find the Cape Blanco Indians, about 15 miles from here, apparently friendly, but I think not to be trusted far.

From information gathered from Gov. Gaines, who was a passenger on the Columbia, and from what I can collect from persons about here, I am led to believe that the Coquille are the only

hostile Indians on the coast. After chastising them, should the season permit, I will turn my attention to discovering a wagon route to the Oregon trail.

I found with the command four general prisoners, but the order of the general promulgating the proceedings, is not here.

Under the circumstances, I have suspended the sentences of Pvt. Johnson, Pvt. Marshall and turned them to duty, and have directed Pvt. Michels, who is on the sick report (from a cut finger) to be turned over temporarily in charge of L. Winon.

very respectfully,  
Your Obedient Servant  
L. Casey  
Br. Lt. Col. U.S  
Commanding Detail

Bv. L. Col. S. Hooker  
Ap Ad- Gen. 3<sup>rd</sup> Division  
Benicia, California



Port Orford, O. T.  
October 31, 1851

Colonel,

On the 29<sup>th</sup> Inst. the Sea Gull arrived and yesterday finished unloading.

I send off to-day, Lt. Stanton with the horse to take a position in the vicinity of the Coquille. We have been directed if possible to receive the services of the Chief of the Cape Blanco Indians as guide. I feel the more sanguine that his sincere services can be obtained from the fact that within a few days it has been reported that one of his men has been killed, and several wounded by the Indians of the Coquille.

I have directed the A. I. M. to engage the services of the Sea-Gull for a short time and shall myself embark tomorrow morning with the . . . [*undecipherable*] . . . of the command, and the howitzers, for the purpose of effecting a landing at the mouth of the river. I shall take with me one of the surf boats, with the purpose, if possible, of placing it in the river.

If successful in affecting a landing, I shall make a combined attack on the village of the murderers from both banks of the river.

I regret that no water proof bags were sent for the purpose of packing our Bread, sugar, etc. I have been obliged to cut up ten tents for bags, and a tarpaulin for covers. It has rained almost every day since we arrived and a water proof covering becomes indispensable for parts of the ration.

I have enclosed a return of the troops for the month of October 1851.

I have also enclosed a roll of the citizens employed in the I. m Dept. Brush and (Bruner?) were employed by my order. I think the services of the latter can be dispensed with very shortly.

Very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A  
Commanding Detachment

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
A. Ad. Gen  
Pacific....  
Benificia

Camp at the Mouth of the Coquille  
November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Colonel

In my last communication I stated that I was about combining an operation against the enemy by land and water. In pursuance of that object, I left Port Orford on the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October with Companies A & E, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons, and the two mountain howitzers on board the Sea Gull. About 11 o'clock same day Lt. Stanton with C Troop started by land. I arrived off the mouth of the Coquille river at day light on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, found a heavy surf beating on the shore, but succeeded in landing. Lt. Wright with about 20 men, the six men at the immediate danger of their lives, as the boat capsized in the surf about two hundred yards from the shore and in two fathoms of water. After the capsizing, it was with the utmost difficulty that the sailors could be prevailed upon to make another attempt. In the meantime, the surf having increased, it was found impossible to land Any more men.

We remained until daylight the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. awaiting an opportunity to land, but the prospect at the time appearing worse than ever, I directed the Capt. to leave for Port Orford. By the time the imminence of the danger to the vessel had become such that it was only by shipping one anchor, and applying all force possible to the other, that we were enabled (fortunately having a full head of steam) to escape from our anchorage, just as the sea broke in the place where we had laid, and in seven fathoms of water.

We arrived in Port orford 9 PM same day, landed the men that night, and left the next day with A Company and the part of E Company who had not succeeded in landing at the mouth of the river, and arrived at Lt. Stanton's camp (which we found two miles from the mouth of the river) on the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

I had previously sent an express to Lt. Stanton, directing him to concentrate the troops and await my arrival. In the meantime to construct a raft for the purpose of enabling us to cross the river. I found L. Wright encamped at the mouth of the river and constructing a raft.

The morning after the landing of Lt. Wright, while walking a short distance from camp, he perceived four Indians behind a rock. On beckoning to them, they approached him. After a little while, the Indians becoming alarmed at some movement of the Lt.'s men, started running. The Indian nearest to Lt. Wright made an effort before leaving to snatch his gun from him. He jerked it from him, and shot the Indian dead as he ran from him.

The Indians showed themselves in number on the opposite side of the river; when the men commenced in making the raft, firing across a number of rifle balls. Brandishing their knives, shaking their bows, and evincing every bravado possible.

On the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, I visited Lt. Wright's camp at the mouth of the river. About 50 Indians made their appearance, and went through the performances of the previous day. Soon after my leaving, the numbers increased to 100, who fired several shots across the river.

On the 6<sup>th</sup>, I sent Lt. Stanton with 30 dismounted dragoons, and with four days rations in their haversacks, to take a station about ten or fifteen miles above the mouth and on left bank of the river, for the purpose of intercepting any canoes that might pass up. On the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, I crossed the river on a raft, with the two companies of dragoons on foot, with four days rations in our haversacks, and one blanket, each man.

After marching about 15 miles through marsh and over mountains which were rendered very slippery, and difficult to cross, by the incessant rains, we arrived on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> about 10 o'clock, within sight of fires of an Indian village, directly on the bank of the river.

I made my dispersion to attack, but on entering the place, found that the enemy had fled. We saw but two who were within rifle range. The Indians had evidently taken their Salmon and fled up the river.

I should have remarked that the day before I left, an Indian crossed the river and came to my camp. He appeared somewhat alarmed. Whether he came as a spy, or for other purposes, I could not tell, as I have no interpreter. I concluded, however, to keep him a prisoner, believing that should I obtain an interpreter, I could make him extremely useful. Lt. Stanton unfortunately became entangled in the challenges of the country and did not reach the position marked out for him, and consequently did not succeed in intercepting any of the enemy who had been driven from the right bank. At the village (which Mr. Brush recognized as the one where the men were murdered) we found a fishery, the nets extending across the river.

The Indians are frightened, and have fled up the river. I am well satisfied from the few trails leading into the interior, that their villages are all on the river. I am also satisfied that their principle means of subsistence is the Salmon obtained from the river, and that their principle fisheries are at the mouth, and within a short distance of the mouth. The nature of the country is such that the incessant rain renders the hills near the river very difficult to cross, and by keeping directly upon the river, impassible . . . [undecipherable] . . . would be encountered.

Under all the circumstances, I have resolved to operate upon the river in boats. It is 30 miles to Port Orford from this point, and although the road is very difficult at points, I am in hopes I will be able to get through the two surf boats which I have. One of them is now on the road.

The Coquille river is 200 yards wide at its mouth at low water, with probably 9 ft. of water on the bar, but the channel is narrow that leads out among the mouths. The mouth . . . [undecipherable] . . . is so exposed to the prevailing winds, that there are breakers constantly almost quite across its entrance. Once over the bar and it appears to be a large navigable stream affected by the tidewater to its forks about 40 miles up.

I am encamped in a fine position at the mouth and on the left bank of the river and shall make here my depot for supplies while operating up the stream. Should I succeed in putting my boat party in open water, I am in hopes now to incline the enemy to peace if they are not so now.

The service of a good interpreter would be invaluable.

I shall endeavor to start the party for the Oregon road soon, although the season is so far advanced that I fear they will not succeed.

I would like to have two or more surf boats, with the necessary articles for repair sent up immediately. Should we not need them, they will be useful in the camp.

Inasmuch as there is an extensive farming country in the vicinity of Port Orford, extending to, and up this river, which if an adequate protection was afforded, would I think would I think speedily settle. I suggest that another supply of subsistence store be furnished to Port Orford.

Very Respectfully  
Your Ob. Servant  
Silas Casey

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
Ass. Ad. Benicia

Camp at the mouth of the Coquille  
November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Colonel,

One of my surf boats has just arrived safely, and is now launched in the river. Tomorrow the team will start for the other boat and will also bring up a small launch which Lt. Wyman [Wynon?] has in possession, provided it can be repaired. I have just had a report of the result of some soundings. The tide at little more than half flood gives but seven feet in the channel at the mouth of the river. Thereby demonstrating that at Port Orford, must be the depot for all supplies required for this portion of the country. As soon as my boats arrive, which will be in a few days, I shall organize a party to operate up the river in boats, with a confident expectation of speedily bringing the Indian to terms. In fact, I believe I could treat with them now, had I an interpreter.

I would respectfully suggest that authority be given me to leave, if it should be necessary, a company of Dragoons at this point. By the aid of the boats which will be on the river, they will be able effectually to (curb?) the Indians of this region, and give confidence to settlers, who are inclined. I learn, to come in considerable numbers to this, one of the finest portions of Oregon.

Horses, I have but little doubt, could be subsisted here all winter on the grass alone, but inasmuch as their services would be but little required, I would consider it more expedient that the force here be footmen. The force here could be supplied from Port Orford, either by wagon or pack mule.

I shall tomorrow lay off a government reservation, which will combine good water, plenty of firewood, good land for cultivation, fine timber for building, with (beauty of situation?). Sufficient log buildings for a company can be put up at a trifling expense.

I consider it expedient to make a reservation at once, for by the Oregon land bill, some person would be sure to lay their claim. Should the government not wish to retain, they can but give it up.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Commanding Detachment

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
Ap. Ad. gen Pac. Div.  
Benicia, Cal.

P.S. Lt. Stanton leaves to-morrow for Port Orford with 30 (horses?), preparation to starting as an escort to Lt. Williamson, who will leave in a few days on the route for the Oregon trail.

Report of Silas Casey  
Report of Expedition against Indians

Camp Abbeyville, mouth of the Coquille, OT.  
November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Colonel,

At the date of my last communication I was in this place awaiting the arrival of my boats.

Being convinced of the impracticability of pursuing the Indians to advantage by land, owing to the dense nature of the undergrowth, and for other reasons, I resolved if possible to organize a boat party, and in continuation of the narrative of my expedition, I have the most honour to report as follows.

Having succeeded in obtaining, by land transportation from Port Orford, two boats, and by means of pitch obtained from pine trees rendering them possibly tight. I left this place before daylight on the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst. with a party 60 strong (including Officers) and nine days provisions.

After crossing up the river about 25 miles, passing a number of lodges which had been dilapidated and abandoned in haste, we perceived a fire on the left bank of the river. The officer in charge of leading the boat, saw a canoe with one Indian in it going up the river.

I immediately ordered the boats to land, and attack. We found two large lodges, covered with boards and matting, from which the Indians had just escaped. In one of them Salmon was cooking.

They contained large quantities of the different articles used by the Indians, fishing nets etc., together with three or four tons of dried salmon. I again embarked, landed above the lodges about half a mile, and sent back a party of ten men by land, with orders to approach as carefully as possible. I then ordered Lt. Wright to go down in his boat with his company and burn every thing except canoes, which I took for our use.

When the land party reached the vicinity of the lodge, they perceived several of the Indians returning to them. They fired, but with what result, I do not know.

Suffice it to say that by the time we reached the forks of the river (about 45 miles from the mouth) on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst., we had destroyed a number of lodges and large quantities of their food and implements. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, I ordered Lt. Stoneman with a scouting party in one of the Surf boats, to ascend the South fork of the river, and Lt. Wright with a party in the other Surf boat to ascend the north fork, with special orders that they both should return the same day Lt. Wright proceeded up the north fork about ten miles and returned, having perceived no fresh sign.

Lt. Stoneman returned in a few hours and reported that six or seven miles up the fork, he came upon a number of Indians, one of whom commenced talking in a loud voice and motioned him

away. They continued to advance, and previewing one of the Indians loading his rifle, he fired at him. Several shots from guns and a shower of arrows were delivered in return, and replied to by a volley from our men.

Agreeably to the instructions, given by me to the Lt. in case a large party was met, he returned to camp. It was the opinion of Lt; Stoneman as he reported, that the Indians were in a fork (made by the stream which ascended, and another stream coming into it) in large number awaiting our approach.

I again sent him out with a few men to make a reconnaissance by land, and ascertain if possible the true position of the enemy. He succeeded in approaching within about one mile of their position. His examination at this time (which owing to the density of the woods and undergrowth, was of necessity imperfect), rather shook his former opinion that the enemy were in the fork, but now was of the opinion that they occupied the left bank of the stream which he had ascended. The next day, on the 22nd., I resolved to attack the Indians who were evidently collected in position and awaiting my approach.

Believing that they were in considerable number, and having but 55 men, exclusive of Officers (from whom taking ten men, for boat crews, leaving but 45 men for the attack), I directed that the men should leave every thing in camp, excepting one days rations in haversacks, their bivouacs standing, their fires burning, and the remaining boat, and the remaining canoe tied to the bank.

I could not afford one man for guard. I directed Lt. Gibson, with 20 men, in the surf boats to ascend the river and take a position as near the enemy as he could, without being perceived by them, and then await further orders.

With the remainder of the command, I went up by land, and met the boats on the river. I will here mention that on our arrival up, we discovered about one ton of dried Salmon, which the Indians had hid on scaffolds.

On joining Lt. Gibson, I directed Lt. Stoneman with his company, who together with Asst. Surgeon Campbell and two hospital attendants, constituted one half of the command, to cross to the left bank of the stream, (kreek?) up to the enemy position, and commence the attack.

I directed the boats to ascend the river, keeping in rear of the commands on the banks; take up some safe position out of reach of the enemy fire, then land, and protect the boats, awaiting further orders. At the same time with Lt. Wrights Comp E, I ascended the right bank of the stream, resolving to attack, should the Indians be found on that bank, if not to await the attack of Lt. Stoneman, and take them as they fled from him, or cross the river in the boats to his assistance if necessary.

On arriving near the position of the enemy, I perceived that there was a fork, separated from my bank of the river by a small creek, that the greater portion of the Indians were in the forks, and that from the canoes on the left bank at the junction of the other branch of the fork with the main stream, there was about 20 of the Indians. I took up a position (the river here lending in an arc)

admirably commanding the position of the enemy, should they attempt to take their canoes, or to come out of their (coverts?)

I there anxiously awaited for about 15 minutes the attack which I expected to be made by Lt. Stoneman, a number of the enemy being all the time in plain sight, and within the complete command of my fire. Unfortunately the boats at this juncture, mistaking the position of the Indians, commenced advancing until they came within their fire, who it was apparent, were wholly unapprised of the dispersion against them by land, and were prepared for a boat attack alone, being placed in such position that they would have completely surrounded the boats, had they advanced.

Immediately, I perceived that we were in the close proximity of about 200 Indians. They raised the war-whoop, and for about 15 minutes contested the ground with us, when the deliberate fire of the men proving too galling, they abandoned their ground and fled in every direction. In the meantime, Lt. Stoneman being detained by the impracticable nature of the thickets from ascending the stream, took a broad trail which he supposed would lead to the position of the enemy. He found, however, that it struck the right stream of the fork about one mile above the junction.

On hearing our firing, he deployed his men as skirmishers, and came down to our position, killing a number of the Indians as they fled.

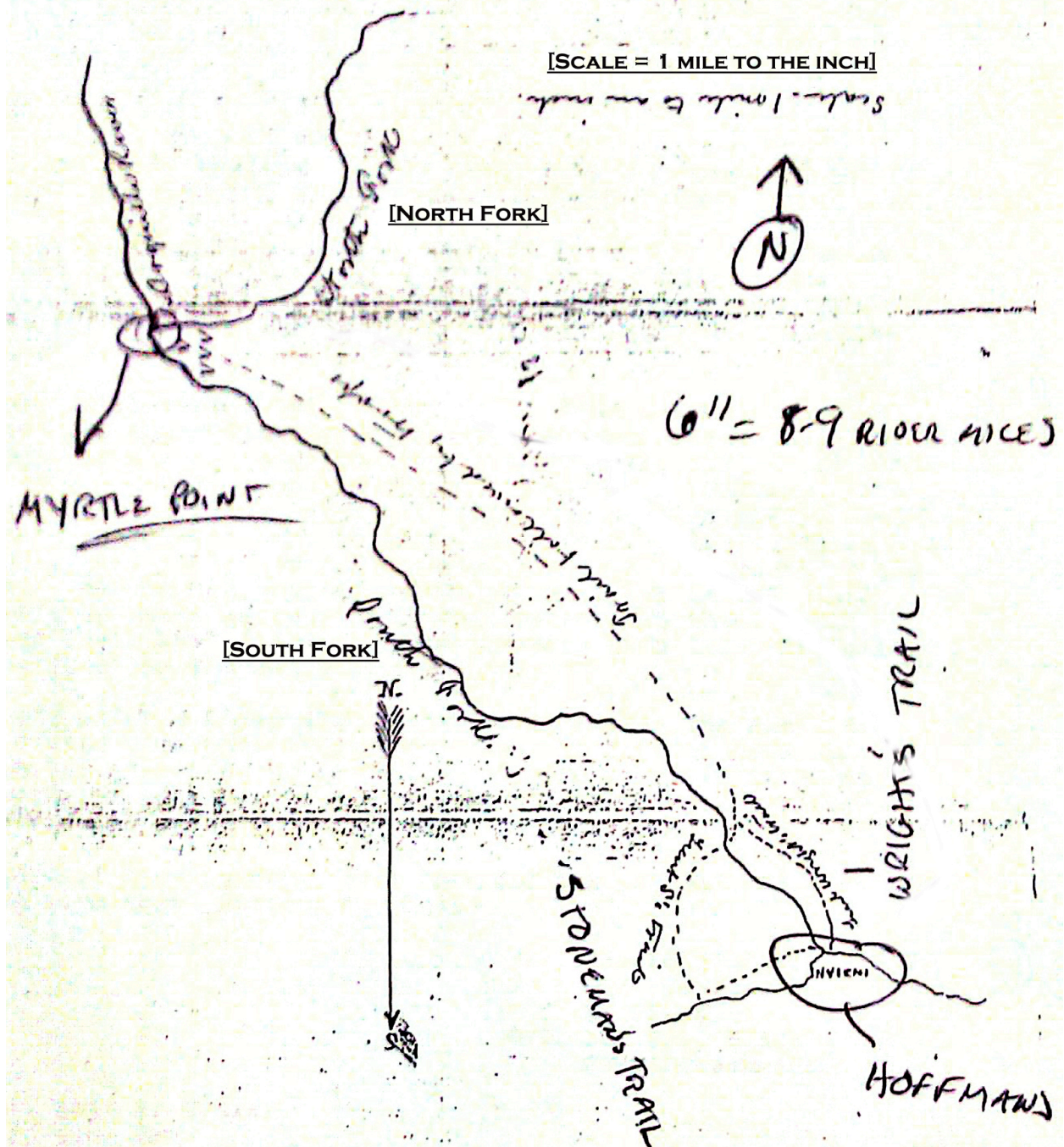
Although but five of the enemy were found dead, I have reason to believe that about 15 were killed. Many were seen to be carried off in the midst of the fight, and we made no search after the engagement. Although a number of my men were struck by the missiles of the enemy, both balls and arrows, they were all grazing shots which merely tore their clothes. Not one man was wounded. We recovered from the enemy one old U. S. musket and several balls which were recognized as having been taken from the party who were murdered last summer. One of the Indians who was wounded was seen to throw a rifle into the river.

I have enclosed a rough sketch of the ground in which the engagement took place, which will probably throw light on the subject. During the operation on the river, we took and destroyed 20 large lodges, with quantities of implements invaluable to them. We destroyed about 2000 feet of boards, which had been split out from logs, some of them three feet in width.

We took 15 canoes, and destroyed about thirteen tons of dried Salmon. Both Officers and men have been zealous in the performance of their duties. From Lt. Gibson I have received efficient and zealous aid. I feel much indebted to Lt. Stoneman for his practical knowledge of things, and for his zeal and efficiency in the performance of his duties. Although from a mistake he did not participate in the heat of the action, still as soon as the firing commenced he came down with gallantry, and performed good service. Lt. Wright with 22 men sustained the heat of the contest, and for the gallantry and firmness exhibited by him, merits the warmest praise.

The Indians having scattered and fled in all directions, and my supplies being nearly out, resolved to return to the mouth of the Coquille. Should my supplies, however, have been ample, I would still doubt the expedience of pursuing further.





[Casey's "rough sketch of the ground in which the engagement took place," with handwritten and typed annotations. One difficulty in interpreting the map, in addition to Casey's poor handwriting and the document's poor reproduction, is the fact that he put south on the top of the page – in direct opposition to most maps. The sketch is inverted here for easier interpretation.]

The Indians were evidently on the outskirts of their country, and pursuing further, friendly tribes would be involved. Mr. Brush who is with me, and was one of the survivors of the massacre, states that he found the Indians a little further up the fork friendly and evidently on bad terms with the Coquille tribe.

I lament every day that I have no interpreter, and feel confident that the Indians would now be glad to make peace. At any rate, before any further steps are taken against them, humanity demands that peace should be offered. I still have the Indian who came into me.

I am now putting up a few log buildings for the accommodation of a company which I intend to leave here for the present. Should the Indians not feel disposed for peace, a company at the mouth of the river with a few boats could control them completely, inasmuch as they would hold their hand their means of subsistence, keeping them from their best and principal fisheries and depriving them of their mussels, which they obtain at the mouth of the river, and which forms their chief subsistence one portion of the year.

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A.

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
Ass. Ad. gen Pac Div.  
Benicia, Ca.

Port Orford, O. T.  
November 28, 1851

Colonel

I have just arrived at this place from the mouth of the Coquille, Comp A commanded by Lt. Stoneman, with direction to complete his quarters to make the men comfortable while remaining. I consider the Indians subdued, and if I had an interpreter, I could treat with them at once.

However, until that event transpires, I would respectfully suggest the following disposition be made. Let A Comp. be continued at the mouth of the Coquille until the arrival of the (C?) Comp. (now mounted) from the Oregon trail. As it will be difficult to get their horses on board without a (float?), would recommend that the Comp. be left, and A Comp. relieve. There are now three good boats and six captured canoes at the mouth of the Coquille. Should the Indians refuse to treat, it is the grand strategic (point?) as regards operations against them. It controls their best fisheries, and prevents them from obtaining mussels from the mouth of the river.

The boats offer a cheap transportation to follow the enemy to their place of abode. it is necessary that the Columbia stop here on her next trip up to furnish supplies, and if it should meet with the approbation of the general, I will on my return from Oregon, proceed to carry out my suggestion.

I thought of leaving Capt. Kane here for the present. What should be done with Asst. Surgeon Campbell?

very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A.  
Com. Detachment

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
Asst. Ad-Gen. Pac.  
Benicia, Ca.

Port Orford  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Colonel

In my communication of the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult., I mentioned that I had left A. Comp. at the mouth of the Coquille, and intended that it should remain there for the present. I expected that the Sea-Gull, on her return from the Columbia river would bring down an Indian agent and interpreter. I knew that the mouth of the Coquille would be the best place for which to communicate with, and at which to assemble the Indians of that river for a treaty.

The only boat of any description which has touched at this place since the landing of the troops, was the Columbia on her return from Astoria, the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult. I then learned that the Sea-Gull was still at San Francisco, when she left, and as she has not yet made her appearance, I can make no calculation on her movements.

Two days since, I received information that a wagon which left here with supplies for Camp Abbyville, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Inst., had gone but 10 miles, being stopped by the high water in the river which empties into the ocean near Cape Blanco.

Yesterday, an experienced rider and horse were unfortunately drowned in attempting to cross that river. Inasmuch as there are three rivers between here and Camp Abbyville, which at times are (?) and from the almost incessant rains, will become more and more difficult to cross. I have considered that the immediate advantages of keeping up that (?), are more than counterbalanced by the difficulties of supplying it, and shall consequently abandon it as soon as the public property can be removed.

I have the honor to be  
very respectfully  
your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A.  
Comm. Detail

Bvt. Lt. Col. S. Hooker  
Asst. Ad-gen Pac. Div.  
Benicia, Ca.

Headquarters: Det. Pac. Div.  
Fort Orford, Oregon Ter.  
Dec. 9, 1851

Order No. 22

I- Unless contrary orders shall be received by the Steamer "Columbia", which is expected to arrive here on the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst., the following disposition will be made of the troops of this Detachment.

II- Companies "A" & "C", 1<sup>st</sup>. Dragoons, and Asst. Surgeon S. Campbell will embark on board the Columbia for Benicia.

III- First Lt. H. G. S. Gibson (?) will remain at this post until further orders and will report to Lieut. Stanton for duty upon arrival of the latter at Fort Orford. Lt. Gibson will by the first opportunity will send one of the mountain howitzers to the ordinance offer at Benicia.

IV- All the men of "C" Troop Dragoons now at this post with the exception of Sergeant Hill will remain at this Post in charge of Lt. Gibson until the arrival of their company.

V- Captain E. R. Kane, A. 2M. will remain on duty at this Post until further orders. He will secure as soon as possible a supply of forage for the horses of C Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons.

VI- First Lieut. H. W. Stanton, upon his return from an exploration of a route to the Oregon trail, will remain with his troop at this post until further orders.

VII- Lieutenant R. S. Williamson, Topographical Engineers, now with Lieut. Stanton, will upon his return to Port Orford, proceed by the first opportunity to Benicia, and report in person at the Head Quarters of the Division.

By order of Lt. Col. Casey  
(signed) Lt. H. G. S. Gibson  
Asst. [?]

Benicia, California  
December 12, 1851

Colonel

I have the honour to report that I have arrived here this afternoon from Port Orford, O. T., with A & E Comp., 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons.

I have explained in a former communication the reason for abandoning the mouth of the Coquille. Incurring the Companies to leave Port Orford without express orders to that effect, I was actuated by what I considered the good of the service, and for the following reasons.

I considered the object of the expedition as required by my orders fulfilled. In the next place, I had received no orders which conflicted with my act; The troops were exposed to almost incessant rains, without any covering but tents. But the principal reason for my withdrawing the troops without orders to that effect, was the fear that our supply of Subsistence Stores would be exhausted before a new supply could be received.

The Sea-Gull, which I understood had left with supplies on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, I had reason to believe was lost. I was informed by the A. P. S., Capt. Kane that but two months supplies of Subsistence had been brought from Benicia, and that already some of the (parts?) of the ration were gone.

I have enclosed a copy of the order issues by me on leaving.

In conclusion, I can only say that my time and best abilities has been devoted to the good of the service, and if i have erred, it has been an error of jusgement alone.

very respectfully  
your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col. U. S. A.

Capt. F. Steili  
aaa gen  
Pac. Div.  
Benicia , Ca.

Benicia, Dec. 12, 1851  
C-21/22

S. Casey  
Bvt. Lt. Col.  
Reason for leaving Port Orford

The (?) has read the written report with every disposition to put a favorable construction upon the movement of Lt. Col. Casey in returning to Benicia without orders, but us constrained [?] that the reasons assigned for the movement are altogether unsatisfactory; and the general is persuaded that Col. Casey himself, had he been setting judgement upon the movement instead of having been engaged in it, would be among the first to see the anomaly of an officer assuming to make such a movement on the alleged absence of orders “conflicting” with it-a principle that would disorganize in a very brief period any army whatever, and make it impossible for a general officer to know where to find his troops, after specifically posting them in view of purposes only known to himself: and, in regard to supplies, the apprehension of deficiency had no sufficient foundation. Supplies were shipped to Fort Orford the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. – while by the reports of the Commissary Dept., there should have been supplies on hand at Fort Orford of the substantial parts of the ration not subject to injury from rain until the 1<sup>st</sup>, if not the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. Besides, the return trip of the Columbia might readily have been counted upon by the 20<sup>th</sup> Inst. The discomfort of being in tents is an incident to the profession and ought rather to be considered a convenience, as troops in the field are not always supplied with them.

Benicia 13 Dec., 1851

E. A. H.

Benicia, California  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1851

Captain

Yours of yesterdays date with a copy of the endorsement (made by the Brig. Gen Comm. Pacific Division) on the communication of mine of the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst., has just been received. I would respectfully make a few explanatory remarks to be laid before the general. In my desire promptly to comply with the direction of the general Commanding, calling immediately for my reasons for the movement, which was made by me, I did not, it appears, take sufficient time properly to consider the order, and in consequence, have been misunderstood in one of the reasons rendered by me.

As a general principle, I do not think that a subordinate officer has a right to make the movement which was made by me on the alleged absence of conflicting orders merely. I did not make it on that ground. It will be admitted, I think by the Commanding general, that circumstances might arise in which a subordinate may be justified in anticipating, or even in disobeying the orders of his superior officer. I sincerely believed that such justifying circumstances had arisen in my case. The Gen. will probably remember that I was placed in command of the expedition at a short notice.

I had no opportunity before leaving, to inform myself with regard to the supplies. I looked for information on that subject to the A. 2 M. & A. C. S. Capt. Kane. I was informed by him that two months supply of Subsistence Stores had been brought along, which was in agreement with the (?) order No. 18, dated Benicia October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1851. He informed me a short time previous to my issuing the order for the movement that most of the supplies would be out on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> Inst., and that the Sugar and Coffee was already exhausted.

The only vessel of any kind which had touched at Port Orford since the landing of the troops, and before I embarked, was the Columbia on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, then on her way from the Columbia river (I had on that day returned to Port Orford from the Coquille). By the Columbia I learned that the Seas-Gull had left San Francisco on the 10<sup>th</sup> November for Port Orford, I had strong reason to believe that the Sea-Gull was lost. I accordingly availed myself of the first opportunity and embarked on the 10<sup>th</sup> Inst. with two Companies of Dragoons for Benicia, fearing that if I waited longer, I might be out of stores.

I knew that the military operation for the season had ceased, inasmuch as the requisitions of that order directing them had been complied with, and consequently that no urgent military reasons existed, which made it expedient to remain longer. Had I known then, what I afterwards knew, I should have acted differently, but possessed only of the knowledge which I had at the time, there was then no doubt on my mind that circumstances were such that justified me in anticipating orders, and for doing which I regret much that I have incurred the censure of one for whose military opinion I have the highest regard.

Bvt. Capt. D. Steil  
AAA GEN./Pacific Div./ Benicia

very respectfully  
Your Obt. Servant  
S. Casey