

119 Years Ago This Month at Old York Factory on "The Bay"

Leaves From an H.B.C. Post Journal Recording Routine of Day-to-Day Happenings at York Post December, 1801

REPRODUCED VERBATIM
From Entries by William Tomison

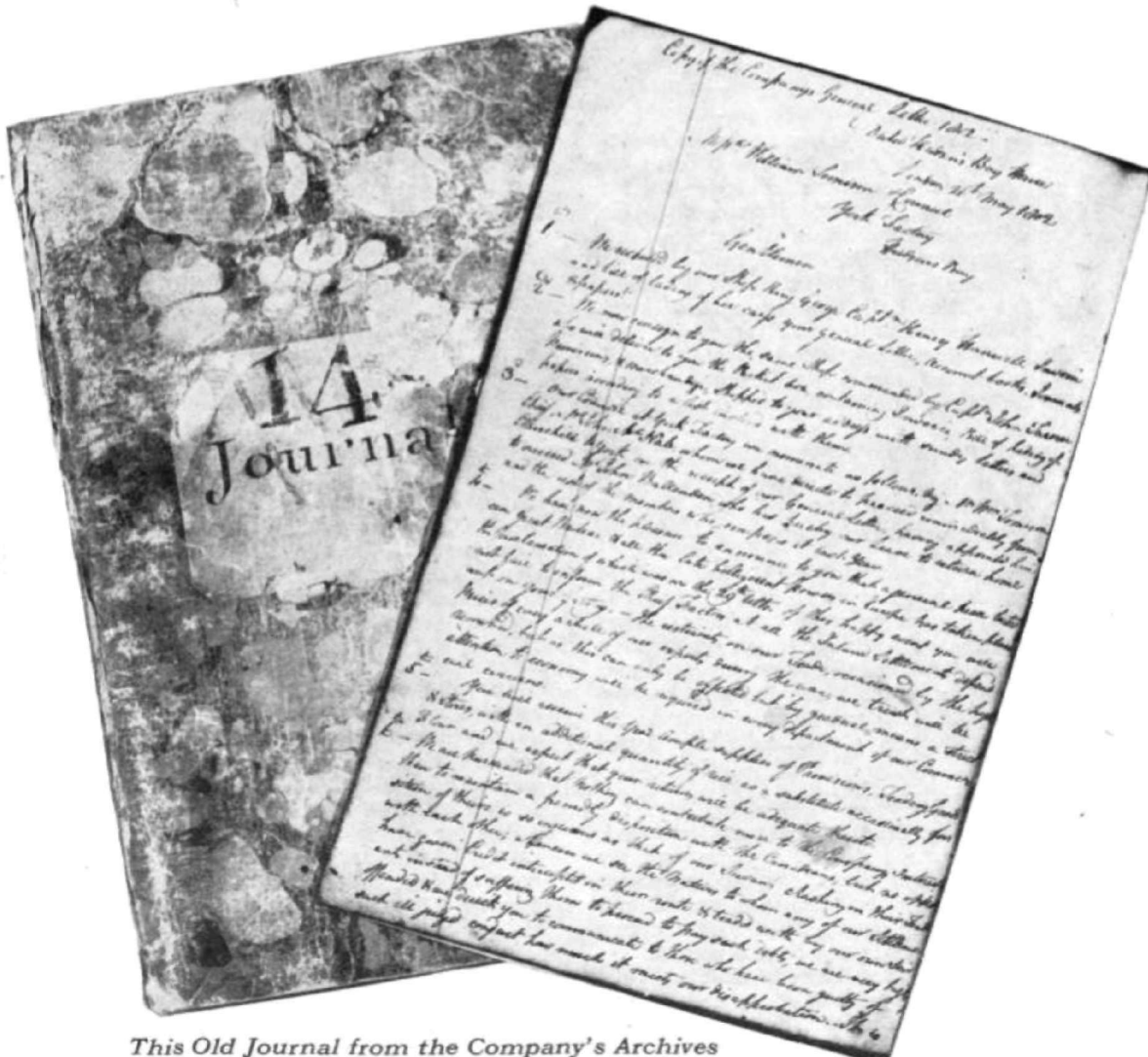
A.D. 1801

Dec'r 1st—Tuesday—2 men sawing a few boards—& the rest as before—hung up our meat in the shed—also 2 Indians brot us 2 cows (buffalos)—Hot weather & light breezes at S.W. very little snow left—

Dec'r 3rd—Thursday—4 men made bags—The 2 men finished the door & the rest at their duty. Jas. Ruchan began yesterday to make plainmen's coat for Ind—traded 5 Buffalo from Indians—heavy rain for three hours this day—afterwards strong breeze at S.E.

Dec'r 6th—Sunday—Indians busy trading & several of them went away—also 6 fall Ind young men came in with a few foxes—very heavy fall at W in the evening—3 chiefs came in.

Dec'r 9th—Wednesday—3 cut firewood—3 making soap & the rest as before—1 Blackfoot that speaks fall Ind. came here with a few foxes he will remain in our cooking tent until the Fall Ind come in—they say that they will be all in about the last or beginning of next month—



This Old Journal from the Company's Archives is the Source of the Accompanying Extracts

- Dec'r 14th—Monday—Calm clear & very sharp—our pitch hunters returned with a sufficient quantity of pitch—abt 3 big kegs—3 cut firewood—2 cooping & 2 tayloring—the other 2 repairing my cabbn floor—Our people found some tattood Indians at the Pines, coming to the Fall Ind—One of our horses fell into the river at the banks up here—sticks below the men's chimney took fire at 10 in the evg. but we soon put it out.
- Dec'r 15th—Tuesday—Light breeze at N.E. afternoon overcast & warm—6 men went hunting up bad river—Killed 4—4 rep'd the men's chimney—Taylor as before.
- Dec'r 16th—Wednesday—12 Blood Ind Chiefs came to our house & 6 to the French house—sent 3 Indians on hunting they killed 5 cows & brot 3 home—our men brot home the 4 they killed yesterday—men hunting but no luck on So. Side, Mr. Park killed 1 cow—light breeze & warm.
- Dec'r 18th—Friday—Light breeze, clear wea'r—Tradesmen at their duty—& the rest cut firewood—All the Blood Inds. finished trading & went away.
- Dec'r 20th—Sunday—Fall Indians traded & went away—they say that they will not go to war against the Stone Ind. this winter—
- Dec'r 22nd—Tuesday—Thick snow in the morning—men as before—& got a sufficient number of logs—Taylor making a pair of trowsers for myself—1 Fall & 2 Tattood Ind came in—they have not been in before—they have about 12 foxes—The Fall Ind man has been along with them 2 years—
- Dec'r 23rd—Wednesday—Salted yesterday 1 keg of meat—Ind went away—Taylor finished my trowsers—3 Blackfeet Indians came in—cold wea'r—men came home with 1 cow—
- Dec'r 25th—Friday—Got Christmas dinner ready for the men & it was a good one gave them 1 dram of rum & $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of brandy each—Indians traded & went away, 7 cows to fetch from the tents, the Englishman brot us 3 Cows—16 Tongues—& $8\frac{1}{2}$ Made Beaver & 4 bladders of fatt—The Feathers we hear is returned to the Pond to hunt Buffalo—He & his family will be pittiful all winter as last—cold wea'r—
- Dec'r 26th—Saturday—The 2 men at the hunting tent made 2 trips to the house with 5 Horses each time they brot 10 Buffalo—2 remaining behind—tyed up the skins & Taylor cut out Chiefs coat—a fall Ind came in with a few foxes—Mr. Park killed a lynx at the House—Buffalo very plentiful 2 miles from the House—men's chimney again took fire.—
- Dec'r 28th—Monday—Brot in this day 61 grey foxes—23 wolves—3 lynx—2 Badgers—3 Red Foxes—6 Beaver—Taylors at their duty—all the rest cut ice to lay up our vituals with—
- Dec'r 30th—Wednesday—Wea'r as yesterday—2 rep'd the men's stove—Taylors at their work—& the rest sawing meat—Englishman's father-in-law brot us 3 cows—3 fall Indians came in with dog team.
- Dec'r 31st—Thursday—Strong breeze at N.E. very thick drifts of snow—cleaned out the yard—& took in our line for bundles—The Feathers came in last night with meat—5 cows to Mr. Wells—he returned this day cleaned out the yard—Taylors at their Duty—& repaired 2 waistcoats of mine.—