

BELLE VUE SHEEP FARM POST JOURNALS

1854

APRIL

- Saturday 1st Fair & clear fresh westerly breeze.--
Holland¹ & Ross plaining upper flooring for my ho:. The Ind^s
variously employed carrying planks[?] digging &c.
Antoine, Sima[?], Dibeau [Tibeau?], & Jacob finished their house.--
I engaged Cowitchin² "Joe" & Charley 2 weeks & Slavie 1 month.--
Ewes lambing fast.--
Cap^t Anthony³ left about 10 am for Bellingham Bay -- sold him 1
ram & a ewe \$10 ea:--
Charley & Joe left last night /Friday/ for Cowitchin unknown --?.--
Ewe died.--
- Sunday 2^d All quiet - Ewes lambing fast --
Two canoes passed apparently from Fort--
- Monday 3^d Raining more or less all day --
Sheep lambing fast -- but rain & cold is sadly against them.
John Ross & Tom covering beams in my house[?]
"Dick" with Page[?] & William amongst the lambing ewes.
"Tom" /Skatchet⁴ Boy/ & Klalam⁵ "Charley" with young lambs
and wethers.-- "Slavie" and Frank /Skatchet/ clearing at Park-- "Old
man" & Jim /2 Skatchets/ hauling pulling up logs.
- Tuesday 4th Cloudy with occasional sunshine but no rain.
Sheep still lambing fast there is nothing that we can do or have left
undone that will[?] save many of these young creatures as their mothers
udders are all dry as parchment and we have nothing but shell[?] for
them.-- All spare hands cleaning out Big Parks with oxen &c.--
Freizie [the Songhees chief] and several Ind^s arrived from Lummy⁶

¹ A list of the employees mentioned in the Journal, arranged alphabetically by stated name and containing information on relations and employment record, can be found in the document called "Servants".

² Cowichan tribes were located on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

³ Captain Anthony has not been identified.

⁴ The Skagit Indians occupied the area of the Skagit River Valley as well as eastern Whidbey Island.

⁵ The Clallam tribes were located on the north coast of the Olympic Peninsula.

⁶ Lummi, refers to the Island to the east of the San Juans, as well as the Straits Salish group that occupied it as well as the north and central portions of San Juan.

Tuesday 4th Cont^d Lummy Village -- & a whole host of old Klalam wives brought me --?

Wednesday 5th Indians clearing out second division of large Park⁷ -- John Ross & Holland upper flooring my ho:- Sheep still lambing fast-- Fine clear day

Thursday 6th Four Ind^s digging in garden. two carrying plank & 3 with[?] shepherds.-- John Ross & Holland commenced ceiling inside my ho.
Jacob & Tom returned from Fort.--

Friday 7th Men and Ind^s employed as yesterday.--
Had all the ewes & lambs penned in beyond sand hills[?]⁸ old Page & Kanalow[?] keeping watch.

Saturday 8th Employment unchanged.--
"Beaver"⁹ arrived about 10 am. landed 2 milch cows & 2 calves & a young bull safe, & then left immediately for Cowichin to trade potatoes¹⁰.-

A whole band of "Klalam" Ind^s encamped at my old encampment waiting for the salmon fishery¹¹ --? An old ewe died -- one horn.

Sunday 9th Fine clear warm day -- All quiet.--
Engaged five Cowichin Indians for one fortnight from tomorrow
10th Inst. Antoine killed a chevereaux[?]¹²

Monday 10th Cloudy and strong breeze from West.
Five Cowichins who I engaged yesterday with "Slavie" opening a road in the centre of the Island to get to Prairies in order to extend [our?]

⁷ The term "park" throughout the Journal refers to a fenced enclosure for animals (Oxford English Dictionary).

⁸ The sand hills were located to the south of the Establishment and Home Prairie; they are just south of modern Pickett's Lane.

⁹ The Beaver, which joined the Company fleet in 1836, was the first steam ship on Puget Sound. She was 101 feet long and 20 feet in the beam, with two sidewheelers. She served the Company well until here wreck upon the rocks near Vancouver Harbor in 1888 (Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room, Ships and Shipping Database [www.tpl.lib.wa.us/cgi/shipcgi2.exe]).

¹⁰ The Cowichan Indians (see f.n. 2) were known for their early adoption of the potato (Wayne Suttles, "The Early Diffusion of the Potato Among the Coast Salish", *Southwestern Journal of Anthropology* 7(3):272-288 [1951]).

¹¹ It was the Indian fisheries along the west coast of San Juan Island that first attracted the Hudson's Bay Company to the island, establishing their own fishery here ca. 1850 to trade salmon to pack in brine for shipment to various markets, including the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii).

¹² *Chevreau*, French for "kid"; this reflects Griffin's and other Company employees origins in French Canada.

sheep run Skatchets carrying plank, shingles &c.-- Ross & Holland working inside my house, ceiling partition &c.

A ewe died this morning, old age & pains of lambing being too much for her.--

Tuesday 11th Weather beautifully fine & clear--
Men & Ind^s employment as yesterday.-- Another ewe we had to kill this morning as she had worms & her wool falling off.--

Wednesday 12th Blowing a strong breeze from NE:--
Employment unchanged.

Thursday 13th A gentle breeze NE -- cloudy and showery all day
John Ross, Antoine, Jacob & Charboneau left for the Fort this morning after breakfast.-- Four Skatchets carrying small gravel[?] my house -- Cowitchins (6) at road --
Another ewe died this morning lambing.--

Friday 14th Fine calm clear day--
"Frank" with the "Doctor" carrying small gravel "Jim" with Old Man & ewes.-- Holland making a garden gate --
A ewe this morning which was tied at the Old Man's tent door¹³ with her lamb in endeavouring to make her escape broke a blood vessel and bled to death--

Saturday 15th Beautiful fine clear day--
Indians as yesterday -- Cowitchins finished road thro Grande Bois¹⁴ & Monday will commence clearing road thro the Prairies this side.--
Ewes slept opposite Estblmt.--

Sunday 16th Blowing fresh S east[?]-
All quiet

Monday 17th Gentle breeze --? --?
Cowichins & Holland finished new house.--
Two Chimsians & 1 [*insert Jim*] Skatchet, making a Park for cattle 'Frank' Watchman 'Doctor' carrying rails &c

¹³ Like other pioneers, Company men first lived in tents—probably wedge tents, but possibly tipis--before they erected log dwellings. (For more on fur trade tents, see A. Gottfred, "Some Notes on the Tents of the Northwest Fur Trade," Northwest Journal IV [www.northwestjournal.ca/VI4.htm].) There is some indication that shepherds continued to use them longer than the rest of the men (see, for instance, 10/3/1854).

¹⁴ Another indication of the Company's French Canadian origins, the "Great Woods" probably refers to the forest to the north of the Establishment and Home Prairie.

Lelmie[Lebrie?] left for Fort.

Tuesday 18th Showery all day & heavy rain during the night -
Ind^s as yesterday-- "Charley" and "Harry"[?] hauling square[?]
wood -- & wood for Cattle Park -- John Ross, Antoine &c &c[?] arrived
about an hour ago. 10 pm--

Wednesday 19th Beautiful fine clear day--
Holland & the 3 Skatchets & 4 Cowitchins opening another Road --
John Ross on sick list--
Put all the sheep and lambs in Big Park.--

Thursday 20th Cloudy & showery--
Holland & all hands Cowitchins Skatchets & Chimsians¹⁵ at Road.
Pinned[?] the sheep[?]

Friday 21st Fine clear day but blowing bleak cold southeast wind.--
Ross & Holland & all the Indians road making

Sunday 22^d Weather much as yesterday--
Holland with "Chimsians" (2) and 3 Klalams finished road -- the
Cowitchins would not turn out this morning when I called them -- but as
soon as I had turned my back to give them time to consider what they
going to do the rascals deserted leaving their ho:- & some of their things I
only engaged them for a fortnight their time was up today -- so they have
gained & I have lost nothing.-- John Ross served out rations -- Page drove
his ewes thro to first Prairies -- where I have had this new road cut thro to
-- he encamped in this Prairie tonight and tomorrow night likewise -- the
other side of Hollands Bridge¹⁶ -- and on Monday he will get thro to the
third Prairie--
Two canoes "Sheenomish"¹⁷ arrived from Fort.--

Sunday 23^d Fine clear beautiful day.--
All quiet

Monday 24th Showery all forenoon, & rained heavily all afternoon.--
John & Holland two 'Chimsians' & three 'Skatchets' commenced
making a bridge over 'Riviere Castor'¹⁸

¹⁵ The Tsimshian tribe was located on the west of Canada, north of Vancouver Island.

¹⁶ A bridge is indicated on the ca. 1860 Forsyth map; whether this is Holland's Bridge is not known.

¹⁷ The Snohomish Indians were originally located in the Snohomish River Valley.

¹⁸ Castor is the French (and Latin) word for beaver (*Castor canadensis*). This may be the watercourse in San Juan Valley, or perhaps Beaverton Valley.

I likewise arranged with Charbonneau & Galnil[?] to assist us.
Express canoe arrived from Nisqually¹⁹--

Tuesday 25th Fine clear day but blowing fresh..[?]
All hands Ind^s -- Freeman[?] &c at Bridge as I am anxious to get it
done in order to get the sheep thro -- Nisqually express wind bound.
Engaged three Cowitchins for a fortnight.--
[*marginal note* Harry's paper up one month 23d March--]

Wednesday 26th Weather beautifully fine calm & clear.--
Men & Ind^s as yesterday.-- Nisqually Express left at midnight.--
About midday the 'Otter'²⁰ arrived bringing 20 MillBank²¹ Ind^s
some guns Amⁿ & potatoes.-- There is a report that the Americans have
left [*insert* Nisqually] in two open boats well manned to seize the Co^s
property on the Island here.-- The 'Otter' remains a few days as guard
ship.--

Thursday 27th Excessively warm.--
Mill Banks landing potatoes &c from 'Otter' bringing them round
in a canoe.-- The other hands as yesterday--
Page drove his ewes to the bridge he will cross there tomorrow
morning--

Friday 28th Much as yesterday oppressively warm.--
Charbonneau left for Fort with 3 Cowitchins & 3 Chimsians in
Antoines canoe-- Finished the Bridge at least for the present. There is
still divisions[?] to be put in it & Parks made at the two ends.--

Saturday 29th Drizzly rain all day.--
Antoine Banne & Baptiste making a Flag staff²²--
John Ross with MillBanks cleaning up shavings, dirt, &c -- about
the premises-- Skatchets /3/ I sent off with John Williams wife[?] to
remain with the shepherds on the mountain cutting rails &c &c.
About 6 pm Antoines canoe arrives with the 3 Chimsians & 3
Cowitchins but not Charbonneau -- he will come here on Monday with

¹⁹ The Nisqually Express was apparently a relatively fast boat run from Fort Victoria and other Company posts to Fort Nisqually; the Company had an earlier, analogous express from Fort Vancouver to York.

²⁰ The Otter was a wooden, single-screw steamer built in England in 1852 for the Hudson's Bay Company. The dimensions of this 291-ton gross ship were 125 by 22 by 12 feet (Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room, Ships and Shipping Database [www.tpl.lib.wa.us/cgi/shipcgi2.exe]).

²¹ The Company had established a post, Fort McLoughlin, in 1833 at Campbell Island near Milbank Sound; these Indians, probably Bella Bellas, were from near there.

²² The erection of a flagstaff, to fly the Union Jack, was another attempt by the Governor Douglas and the Company to establish sovereignty over the San Juan Islands.

the steamer -- the 'Otter' has received orders to proceed in the morning to Vic to bring the Governor & Ladies on a pleasure excursion to the Island being "May Day" -- 3 bls Salmon, Hinges --? nails &c is all that came now--

Monday [Sunday?] 30th Light winds & hazy but no rain--
"Otter" left early this morning for Fort-- This afternoon got my Flag staff erected.-- Visited the flocks -- the mountain -- ewe killed for Mr. Douglas &c

May Day

Monday 1st Showery all day--
'Otter' arrived here about 11 am- with the Governor, M^r Work, D^r Benson, M^r Miles, M^r Tod, & all the Ladies & Gentlemen of the Fort, on a Pic Nic Party²³ -- but the day was too bad they had to leave early-- M^r Douglas accompanied me to the mountain to see the sheep.--

Tuesday 2^d Fine beautiful clear day.--
All Indians variously employed.--

Wednesday 3^d Gentle, westerly breeze but cloudy.--
Holland with 3 Cowitchins & 13 Mill banks left for Fort to bring --? and other things to my Ho.-- M^rDonald & his wife have likewise gone their child is dying.--
'Johny' Chimsian, assisting John Ross planing Plank -- 4 d^o- cutting 8 feet pine pickets -- 4 d^o- digging a well.--
About 7 pm a boat containing Col Ebey Amer Collector of Customs a M^r Webber & 3 hands²⁴ arrived here encamped at the small lagoon in Bay of Belle Vue Harbor²⁵ -- I paid them a visit in the eve.g without gleaning anything of importance from them.-- On arriving here I despatched Charbonneau & 6 Ind^s to Fort to acquaint M^r Douglas.--

²³ All of these men were members or former members of the Company: James Douglas (1803-1877) joined the fur trade in 1819, in 1849 became chief factor at Fort Victoria, and governor of British Columbia (as well as Vancouver Island) from 1858-1864; John Work (1792-1861), an Irishman, retired from the Company in 1852; Alfred Robson Benson served as a physician at several Company posts, including Nanaimo, Victoria, and Vancouver; John Miles; John Tod (1794-1882) retired from the Company in 1850.

²⁴ Isaac N. Ebey was Collector of the Customs for the District of Puget Sound as well as Inspector of the Revenue for the Port of Olympia. Henry Webber was appointed by Ebey US Inspector of Customs on San Juan Island; see Friday, May 5th for Webber's appointment and Saturday, May 6th for the Company's response.

²⁵ The Bay of Belle Vue Harbor, on the southeast coast of San Juan Island, is most probably what was later called Grande Bay by the English and Ontario Roads by the Americans, until it was renamed Griffin Bay, its current label, in honor of Charles Griffin.

Klalam "Johnny" com^d today hauling Antoin's wood.--

Thursday 4th Blowing a 'fresh' S:W: breeze--
"Otter" arrived about 11 am -- M^r Douglas & M^r Cameron & Cap^t
Sangster²⁶ passengers-- The "Otter" and two former gentlemen en route
to Nanaimo -- the latter remains here with his boat & crew of four hands --
to keep an eye on the movements of these Americans as yet we have seen
& done nothing -- Indians as yesterday
Holland & Charbonneau arrived with "Otter" --

Friday 5th Fine clear day. This morning a fresh breeze from SW.--
Ross & Holland at my Ho:- I sent all the Ind^s --? off to the sheep
station to carry rails for a park three of them digging a well Klalam
"Johnny" and Harry hauling with oxen Chimsian "Johnny" arranging a
grindstone & digging to erect a picket fence --? --? --?
Col Ebey left this morning leaving a Henry Webber behind who he
has appointed collect. of Customs --? --?

Saturday 6th Fine clear day with a gentle westerly breeze.--
I served a warrant against this Henry Webber this morning & on
the constable presenting the warrant he drew a pistol -- which caused the
constable to draw back & his assistants all left him Such a Farce! if this is
what is called Law it certainly is sum Law.--
All hands as yesterday. Mill Banks variously employed

Sunday 7th Beautiful fine calm day--
Capt. Sangster left at daylight for Fort -- & this Amⁿ Webber left
soon after for Bellingham Bay I believe so[?] he was heard to say
yesterday that he intended going there.--

Monday 8th Weather much as yesterday.--
My 'Skatchet' Indians have deserted. They did not make their
appearance to work to-day--
Sent 3 Cowichins out to shepherds with provisions &c &c[?] 3
Millbanks making roads to squared wood-- 1 a[?] hauling with Klalam
Johnny & oxen[?] & the other Ind^s cutting barking[?] & putting up a picket
fence-- John Ross & Holland at cutting[?] my Ho:--

Tuesday 9th Blowing a fresh westerly breeze all day--

²⁶ David Cameron was Chief Justice of Vancouver Island. James Sangster was Her Majesty's Collector of Customs for Vancouver Island.

3 Cowitchins cutting more rails at Mountain Station²⁷-- & all the others all as yesterday.--

About 4 p:m: the 'Otter' passed from Nanaimo-- She kept off 6 m whilst M^r Douglas came ashore, which he did for a very short time & then started for Victoria. —

Wednesday 10th Fine clear calm day. —

3 Cowitchins all day in Mountain cutting rails.-- 2 Chimsians putting up a --? fence.-- 4 Mill Banks at small picket fence.-- the others as yesterday. —

About 3 p:m: Col Webber again made his appearance with intention, if not --?, to remain here & carry out the instructions he has received from Col. Ebey.-- Sent 3 Cowitchins off this eve.g to Fort after they returned from the Mountain -- about 8 p:m: -- with letters to M^r Douglas.-- A boat & a Captain Faye or Farge with another Amⁿ came in & anchored in the Bay. —

Thursday 11th Blowing a fresh SWester. —

2 Chimsians as yesterday.-- 7 Mill Banks at picketing -- 3 with Klalams. 'Johnny' hauling filling up logs²⁸ -- & the rest splitting cedar fence posts.-- John & Tom finished putting in windows. —

M^r Webber the boat & her two passengers still here.--

Friday 12th Blowing still fresh from SWest.--

All the Indians as yesterday -- Except the 7 Mill Banks who were putting up pickets-- I took them out to Mountain Station & employed them carrying rails to make Parks for cutting the young lambs.--

A canoe of Mill Banks & another of Fort Rupert²⁹ Indians arrived to day from Nisqually -- report the death of a Chimsian Indian --? killed by an American supposed to be the son of the "Grand Visages[?]"

Capt: Faye & his boat left -- Mr. Webber still here.--

Saturday 13th Blowing fresh SWest. —

Indians all employed as yesterday.-- Klalam Johnny finished hauling filling up logs.-- Chimsians finished digging holes for fence posts.-- 3 Cowitchins arrived about midday. —

²⁷ Mountain Station was probably situated on Mt. Finlayson, located to the southeast of the Establishment and Home Prairie.

²⁸ In the Red River or Hudson's Bay Company style of log construction, vertically-grooved upright posts were set in ground sills and then "filled in" with squared logs with tenons that were laid horizontally between them.

²⁹ Fort Rupert was located on the north end of Vancouver Island.

About 2 p:m: a canoe arrived from Nisqually express with Purnish[?] Legace[?] & Northern Ind^s. Purnish[?] confirms the report of the murder of 'Grande Visages' son by an American - the wife of the deceased was in this canoe to-day. —

Sunday 14th Blowing fresh as yesterday. — All quiet.--

Monday 15th Blowing a gale SWest and South.--

Klalam 'Johnny' & a Millbank hauling fence rails & cedar posts-- 2 Chimsians cutting rails & 3 Millbanks -- the other Millbanks carrying posts[?] from high water mark in the Bay to top of hill at "Punch bowl"³⁰-- Cowitchins cutting pine branches to fill up park rails to prevent lambs from getting out— Johnny rep^g.[?] & Tom making doors.--

M^r Webber removed his camp from Spring[?]³¹ to behind the Estblmt.--

Klalam have arrived from "Kamass" picking³² and are encamped in the Bay--

Tuesday 16th A gentle breeze SWest.--

Mill banks carrying & picking up shells for lime.

2 Chimsians cutting spikes for fence posts.-- 3 Cowitchins cutting rails.-- "King Cole" & "Forgh a ballag"[?] caulking my Hs: with moss.-- The others as yesterday. —

--? deserters /Skatchets/ arrived to-day - after an unsuccessful attempt to get paid at the Fort - they were engaged for 3 months & deserted at the end of six weeks - as soon as we saw them coming we gave them such a cold reception that they cut & run for it.--

Dr. Benson & an Ameⁿ gentlemen -- M^r Crosby³³ -- arrived this evening[?] en route to Port Discovery -- near Dunginess -- to endeavor to reclaim some Fort Rupert Ind: children stolen by the Klalams from the above Ind^s -- to make slaves of them.--

Wednesday 17th Calm beautiful day.--

³⁰ The location of "Punch Bowl" is not known at this time.

³¹ The spring indicated is probably the one located on the banks above current South Beach.

³² One of the main staples of the Straits Salish (and other Native Americans throughout the Northwest) was camas (*Camasseia quamash* and *C. leichtlinii*), which grew in open meadows or prairies. Indian groups would harvest the roots of this lilaceous plant during the spring, and process it by roasting in pits in the ground (Wayne Suttles, *The Economic Life of the Coast Salish of Haro and Rosario Straits*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1974; Wayne Suttles, "Central Coast Salish" IN *Handbook of North American Indians, Volume 7, Northwest Coast*, edited by Wayne Suttles (Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1990); Suttles Fishery study; Daniel L. Boxberger, *San Juan Island Cultural Affiliation Study*. National Park Service, 1994; Julie Stein, *Exploring Coast Salish Prehistory*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000).

³³ Mr. Crosby has not been identified.

Sent a canoe of 15 Mill banks off collecting shells for lime -- 2 Chimsians putting up fence posts. The others as yesterday-- Klamam 'Johnny' & 2 Millbanks hauling rails & posts.-- Dr. Benson & Mr. Crosby left at day light.--

Cut the lambs.-- A young ewe in endeavouring to jump the Park fence broke her thigh -- we had to kill her.--

Thursday 18th Excessively warm all day.--

A canoe of Mill Banks arrived from Fort bring news of the Millbanks up north having been attacked the Rupert & other Ind^s—so my fellows are all going in the morning.-- Employed them to day cutting down all the large trees which obstruct the view between my Ho:- & Fort.-
- The others as usual. —

Friday 19th Another frightfully hot day. —

Mill Bank "Stuart" arrived last night & started to day for Fort with all my Indians -- & I am once more with my usual complement - i.e. 3 Cowitchins 2 Chimsians & Klamam 'Johnny'. —
Ewe killed by all^s[?] hung in Park fence. —

Saturday 20th Blowing a fresh SWest breeze & very chilly. —

A canoe of Mill Banks arrived from Nisqually en route to Fort. —
My Indians at their usual occupations fencing &c.--- served out Rations to shepherds - the shepherds report having seen four wolves³⁴ quite near their tents[?]. —

Sunday 21st Blowing still fresh from South West & chilly. —

Two large canoes passed to day evidently from the Fort.-- All quiet. —

Monday 22^d Fine clear day but a fresh So: West wind. —

2 Chimsians & 2 Cowitchins at fencing.-- The Cowitchins took out shepherds provisions. —

John Ross & Holland at weather boarding.-- I propose leaving in the morning for the Fort - if it does not blow too hard. —

11 young ewes killed by wolves. M^rLeod watchman.

Sunday 28th I arrived here this evening about 1 p:m: and found Col: Ebey a M^r Sewell[?] & a M^r Davis³⁵ with three others - awaiting the arrival of

³⁴ Wolves continued to be pose a problem to the Company's sheep raising efforts on the island, and traps were set on several occasions (c.f. 10/2/1854). Although they were eventually extirpated, the Journal mentions wolves as late as the end of 1859.

³⁵ Sewell and Davis have not been identified.

M^r Webber - I found the Estblmt all well - these gentlemen have apprised me that King[?] has raised a slanderous report about M^r Douglas[?] & the affairs here & at Vic. Which he has affirmed to[?] an affidavit.³⁶ -

M^rLeod[?] deserted from here this morning on the Nisqually express canoe.--

Monday 29th Showery all forenoon. afternoon fine & clear--
Wrote M^r Douglas fr [via?] "Freize" -- acquainting him about --? slanderous reports of cash[?] & such made at Bellingham Bay.--
I have been so busy visiting & attending to the strangers who are here, that I have been unable to attend to my other duties. -
Ind^s all variously employed & usefully.--

Tuesday 30th Fine beautiful day.--
Col. Ebey & Party left this morning.-- Indians variously & usefully employed. Went out to mountains & visited the sheep[?] -- it is eleven sheep that have been killed by the wolves thru M^rLeods carelessness & neglect.--

Wednesday 31st Oppressively warm. -
Sent John & Seven Mill Banks to the Fort for provisions &c.-- One of the MBs finishing the fence with "Pack"[?].-- two Cowitchins carrying in Rick[?] Williams things & Kanalows - Johnny Chimsian & associate cutting & splitting logs to lay on as flooring in small park - for the sheep shearing - Holland painting. -
Judge Lander, Major Sewell[?] & a M^r Moore[?] from the other side[?] paid me a visit here & remained all night.³⁷ They are en route to Vic:--

JUNE

Thursday 1st Another excessively warm day-
Sent Holland & 3 Cowitchins with 2 Chimsiams to arrange the washing place at Riviere 'Castor'.- One Millbank digging holes for posts & a new fence.--
Judge Lander & Party left early this morning for Victoria

Friday 2^d Blowing fresh S:W:-& showery all day--
Holland and Party returned this evening finished their job.-- the others as usual -

³⁶ This event has not been identified.

³⁷ Judge Lander, Major Sewell, and Mr. Moore have not been identified.

All quiet to-day. A canoe of Millbanks arrived from "Soke"³⁸ enroute to Nisqually to work - I have detained them until John Ross arrives, as I do not wish them to go any further.--

Saturday 3^d Still blowing a fresh SWest wind but [?] fine.
Purnish[?] Legace[?] arrived here this morning & remained all day wind bound - he is proceeding to Nisqually with an express.-
Holland & the Indians variously employed about the Estblmt.- The canoe of Millbanks left this morning for Millbank.-- Several Klalams arrived they are about commencing their fishing I believe.

Sunday 4th Fine clear day a gentle SW breeze.
Judge Lander, M^r Crosby & party arrived this morning from Victoria & left again in the afternoon for Bellingham Bay Sent Holland & Cowitchins & Chimsiams & my boy "Dick" out to the bridge to ready for an early commencement sheep washing - tomorrow we shall wash all the old ewes & get them home to commence shearing at once - the young ewes and rams we shall wash by & bye as they will require a second washing if washed now. Quinish[?] left early this morning no appearance of John Ross yet. I cannot think what can be detaining him so long.

Monday 5th Fine clear calm day
John Ross arrived about 10 am all well; loaded with provisions &c. Holland R. Williams & all my hands are out washing sheep - they returned about 8 pm finished old man's flock - which is all I will wash at present until we shear there - old man's dogs killed a ewe sheep charg'd[?] his[?] acct[?] -- Indians who arrived with John working at fencing &c.

Tuesday 6th Calm as oil all day
Great numbers of Indians, Klalams principally arrived They are commencing to fish Salmon &c. Five Millbanks cutting cedar posts. 2 do. hauling with Men - 1 do. with John Williams shepherding - & 1 do. digging holes for posts for fencing - "Harry" & chum[?] cutting rails "Johny" sick - Cowitchins variously employed -
Page sewing wool bags - Holland arranging a shed for shearing in - John Ross employed on my house - putting on hinges to gate & doors[?] &c.

Wednesday 7th Gentle breeze & fine -

³⁸ "Soke" is most likely "Sooke", located on the west side of Vancouver Island.

5 Mbks carrying out posts the others as yesterday - 'Johnny' cutting rails - Sent 'Jack' & another Cowitchin across for my small canoe left at McLodd [M^r Todd?]

John Ross commenced a stone foundation for my chimney - Oxen hauling wood for Antoine.

Ewe poisoned herself.

Thursday 8th Blowing fresh NW & showery -

5 Mbks. carrying out rails from woods to prairie - the others as usual - "Johnny" & two Hyd^{as}³⁹ fixing up around foundation of new kitchen - set Cowitchin 'Jack' to fishing salmon for all hands - the other two Cow.s filling up earth around fence posts. Holland at scythe[?] Handles[?] to John making a Bedstead[?].

Friday 9th Showery & gentle breeze NW

6 Mbks cont.[?] cutting Pickets for fence in my garden - 3 putting up fence posts - 1 shepherding - 1 Cowitchin /Jack/ fishing for Estblmt - 1 raking up Ferns & mowing do. - 1 making fence poles[?] & 1 taking care of rams - 2 Hyd^{as} with Oxen hauling Posts for fences - 1 do. 'Johnny' making gates &c. -

Saturday 10th Excessively warm & calm

Indians all as yesterday-
John Ross & Holland plowing
The American left this morning -

Sunday 11th Fine clear beautiful day, very warm -

About 11 AM a sloop arrived in the Harbor containing Col. Ebey, Judge Lander &c &c. & shortly after a much larger vessel arrived with 25 or 30 soldiers of Lieut. Webb[?] the pro tem. Governor Mason⁴⁰ & some others - they all landed & paid me a visit - they have it appears just returned from Bellingham Bay - the news[?] of the late murder & robbing committed it is supposed by the 'Nimsiams'[?] in revenge for the murder of the young man killed [*insert at Nisqually*] by [*insert one of*] the Americans --

Monday 12th Forenoon calm & clear afternoon blowing fresh from S:W: --

Two boats w/ Am^{ns} left this morning, one /the larger of the two/ seems to have gone to Vic - & the other over to Olympia - M^r Webber has again returned & he is now encamped at the foot of my large field -

³⁹ Haidas were from Haida Gwaii (formerly the Queen Charlotte islands) off the Canadian coast north of Vancouver Island.

⁴⁰ Charles H. Mason, Secretary of Washington Territory (Miller 1943:29).

John Ross & 1 MB w/ 2 Hydas ploughing - 'Johny' making gates for the Picket fence - 1 M.B. rep.g[?] my canoe - 1 M. B. taking care of rams & another the old ewes - 5 others cutting & carrying out small Pickets - Sent the three Cowitchins to Fort Vict[?] an Express from Nisqually handed me by Governor Mason - Page, two Millbanks & two Kanakas with Holland commenced shearing --

Tuesday 13th Blowing fresh SWest-
Indians & men employment unchanged from yesterday-

Wednesday 14th Still blowing fresh-
Six MBs cutting rails, two Hydas harrowing - John Ross painting[?]
- the others as usual -
A canoe with 3 Am^{ns} in it arrived here late[?] en route to Fort -
About 10 o'clock this eve'g. "Jack" arrived from the Fort -

Thursday 15th Cloudy & light SWest wind -
I sent Antoine & all my spare M.Bs (6) & "Johny" to Fort to get my bricks - John Ross has gone likewise he is going to build a barn for this mother -
3 Cowitchins arranging a shed on the beach for my canoe - the others with the sheep - "Harry" & "Bill" harrowing -
Killed a sheep for the shepherds who are shearing. Antoine was obliged to return this eve.g Strong head wind and tide they got as far as Recovery Island⁴¹ - where the tide and wind carried them out - so they turned and sailed back.

Friday 16th Gentle SW breeze-
Antoine left early this morning -
"Harry" & "Bill" looking for oxen all day
"Jack" fishing - the other two Cowitchins putting willow boughs around my garden fence - the others as usual -

Saturday 17th Cloudy & calm
Oxen hauling Rails the others as usual - served out Rations -
Renewed Cowitchins Boys[?] engagement - looking after the Rams - for 1 mth from this day - Wolves prowling about last night - About 9PM Antoine arrived from Fort. No bricks but about 14 bags Potatoes - A Ram lost supposed to be poisoned as he cannot be found -

⁴¹ Although Griffin wrote "Recovery" Island, this was probably "Discovery" Island, located on the route to Victoria off the southeast tip of Vancouver Island.

Sunday 18th Fine clear day blowing a fresh breeze SW-
All quiet - had all the Potatoes carried up to my house this morning early --

Monday 19th Fine beautiful day-
Six MBs cutting rails - two shepherding - 'Jack' fishing - 1 Cowitchin gone with Ben to Fort to bring his /Bens/ child who died last night - 1 Cowitchin taking care of young ewes & the fourth tying up wool with 'Johny' - the latter has taken 'Ben's' place as watchman w/ Kanalows - "Harry" & "Bill" hauling rails --

Tuesday 20th Showery all day & very warm-
Obliged to leave off shearing on acct. of rain - 4 MBs cutting small pickets - 2 do. digging a foundation for a Root Ho. 'Johny' 'Bill' & 'Harry' ploughing -- the others as yesterday. A Boat arrived late last night from Fort with some Americans - gone to Bellingham Bay this morning - cannot find this lost Ram anywhere - made every search.

Wednesday 21st Fine Clear day very warm-
Shepherds shearing - MBs forenoon cutting Pickets afternoon arranging my canoe - the others all as yesterday - Engaged 1 & discharged another Cowitchin the one I have engaged is 'Jacks' brother - this morning had occasion to find fault with John Williams he as usual gave me the grossest impertinence I have endured a great deal from this man ever since he has been with me -- knowing how difficult it is now to get men - but he carried the thing too far today more than I can suffer - I gave him his Congé⁴² - he will leave in the morning and whoever he gets next for a Bourgeois[?] will soon find him a growling, grumbling, disemboweled beef-eating trash as ever lived or I had anything to do with.
"Ben" arrived this evening from burying his child at Fort --

Thursday 22^d Blowing a fresh North Easter-
Started Antoine off with his & my canoe & all the Indians - except the 3 shepherd boys - to bring my bricks - John Williams & his wife have left - Holland on the sick list, bad cold & Pains on his body.

Friday 23^d Calm beautiful day-
Antoine arrived about 3 PM - with three large canoes - mine, his own & a hired one - with 2M Bricks & 10 bg. flour, Nahua & Robert Scudder have been sent here as engaged servants - had all the bricks

⁴² This word probably refers to the French phrase *donner congé* (to give notice), and, along with the term *Bourgeois*, reflects the French Canadian influence on Company practices.

immediately land above high water mark & the flour carried up & housed-

M^r Miles[?] arrived soon after Antoine en route to Nisqually - he is now proceeding to England w/ the W. Dptmt's Accts[?].--

Saturday 24th Cloudy & stormy all day-

All hands employed carrying bricks to top of the Hill - 'Johny' (Kilrooms[?]) laid up ill - he got drunk & has been nearly killed fighting w/ his Kilrooms[?]-

M^r Miles left at first light-

Killed two wedders Served out Rations - 15 lbs.[?] each man.

Sunday 25th Raining more or less all day - light winds-

Sent Antoine & 5 Millbanks off this evening with the canoe --? lent Nahua to come in - he is to return in a boat of his own which he has lately bought-

A boat with Am^{ns} arrived this evening from Fort --

Lost a ewe today who has been a long time sick with a diseased udder.

All quiet.

Monday 26th Blowing fresh S West-

Four Millbanks cutting wood for burning shells - One Cowitchin with 'Harry' & 'Bill' hauling bricks - 1 MB carrying & shifting Sheep Park⁴³ w/ shepherds - Nahua looking after Ind^s - Banne[?] com^d my chimney this afternoon -

Tuesday 27th Beautiful calm clear day -

--? & MBs & Nahua burning shells - 'Jim' Cowitchin w/ 'Banne'[?] at chimney - 'Harry' & 'Bill' harrowing -

Antoine's five Millbanks came back in Antoine's boat but no Antoine - it appears he is on a "spree" & these fellows would not remain for him -

Wednesday 28th Weather as yesterday -

Sent all the spare Ind^s to work grubbing & clearing roots &c out of Turnip field - 'Harry' & 'Bill' harrowing - 'Johny' & I work at fencing - the others as usual.

Antoine returned this afternoon -

⁴³ There were two types of sheep parks: standing and moveable. Sheep were penned in the parks at night, and moveable parks were used either to relocate to drier ground or distribute the manure over a field that might be cultivated later.

Shepherds shearing – a ewe was found dead in the Park this morning inflammation of the intestines – this bad weather cold winds & rain now they are shorn affects them

Thursday 29th Raining more or less all day
During forenoon Ind^s as yesterday – after dinner sent them all out with Nahua Dick Williams & Scudder to wash the young ewes & Rams – finished the Old Man’s flock of old ewes today – 974 – oxen hauling rails & clearing out Park.

Friday 30th Cloudy with fresh breezes –
Ind^s & men returned from washing the sheep this eve.g. Louis Trudelle[?]⁴⁴ who left Victoria with Mr. Miles for Nisqually returned this morning & left soon afterwards for Fort.

JULY

Saturday 1st Fine clear day
Sent Nahua & all the Ind^s off for shells to burn for lime – oxen hauling wood for do. – killed a wedder⁴⁵ for rations

Sunday 2^d Beautiful day & warm
All quiet-

Monday 3^d Weather much as yesterday.
Shepherds shearing rams – 2 MBs & 3 Cowitchins clearing out roots &c in field – 3 MBs burning lime - & the others repairing Hollands bridge &c – 1 MB sick – Oxen hauling small pickets for fencing around the garden.

Tuesday 4th Blowing a fresh Southerly wind-
Five MBs cutting rails – 1 sick – 1 watchman[?] & tying up wool - & 1 with Kanolows[?] & the old ewes – Cowitchin Boy with young ewes & a Songis⁴⁶ Boy with the Rams – the shepherds shearing – Oxen hauling rails.
Mr. Webber left this morning for Bellingham Bay – Two Barques on the Straits all day.

⁴⁴ Louis Trudelle, a Company employee, worked in a variety of Company locations, including Forts Langley, Nisqually, Vancouver, and Victoria; in the 1850s he bought a city lot in Victoria.

⁴⁵ “Wedder” is Griffin’s spelling of wether, a castrated male sheep.

⁴⁶ The Songhees (sometimes called Songish) occupied the area around Fort Victoria on the southern end of Vancouver Island.

- Wednesday 5th Blowing half gale all forenoon until 3 PM when it came on heavy rain which soon cleared & became more calm & settled
Five MBs barking & digging &c. pickets for garden fence & putting them up – MB shepherd still sick
Oxen hauling rails and small pickets
- Thursday 6th Fine clear calm day-
MBs forenoon cutting pickets – afternoon sent all hands Ind^s & men /except shepherds/ to look for my Horse who has been sometime missing he was 'found' but could not catch him, near the Oak Prairie-
- Friday 7th Weather much as yesterday-
Antoine, Baptiste & 3 Hyders started early this morning & came home with my Horse this even.g. MBs at picketing
Finished shearing the sheep.-
- Saturday 8th Weather warm & mild with a dense heavy fog-
My horse started off during the night back to the Mountain Prairie – we could not catch him – I was at finishing the fence &c.-
W. Webber returned this even.g.-
- Sunday 9th Excessively warm all day – All Quiet.
- Monday 10th Another very warm day –
I was all forenoon employed at my small picketing fence round garden & house – all the afternoon sent all hands off, except 1 MB & 2 Hyders, with Nahua to collect shells to burn for lime – they will not be back before tomorrow eve.g. – shepherds & assts. all as usual Scudder has charge of R William's spring flock until the return of the latter –
- Tuesday 11th Weather much as yesterday-
I went myself this eve.g. with Antoine, Baptiste & the Ind^s to catch my Horse, after much trouble we succeeded in getting him on to the Bridge where we caught him-
Nahua has not arrived yet from collecting shells-
- Wednesday 12th Weather warm with a mist hanging over all day-
Nahua arrived this eve.g with a canoe load of shells. Commenced immediately burning them on the Beach – Hyder 'Johnny' & 'Bill' cutting & hauling out logs to make a root house –

I have been away all day with Page searching out a place to put the sheep, between this and the Fall – I have decided on the Oak Prairie, & I have the station at the small Prairie at the end of Cowitchin Road –

Thursday 13th Weather fine & clear blowing a fresh breeze southwest-
Ind^s employed at various jobs. Hyders hauling logs for a root
house & 'Johny' building do. MBs at picket fence-
A canoe of 'Songis' lads arrived here this eve.g about 5 PM – who I
believe were sent by Mr. Douglas to ascertain if Holland had arrived safe
– from what these young men say – there seems a good probability that
my canoe has been upset & all hands perished. A boat head[?] was found
and brought here – the only clue[?] as yet. They fancy they saw a canoe in
the distance bottom upwards, or what seemed a canoe/ – my people must
have left the Fort drunk, at least, so it appears – there was Thomas
Holland, Richard Williams & 4 Cowitchin lads in it – besides others of
Hollands wifes relatives & Kanalow my Kanaka – the canoe I believe was
upset off Point Gonzalo[?]⁴⁷ I have sent & given notice to all the Ind^s
encamped at the different fisheries that if they should find any thing cast
ashore to restore it, send it to me here, or take it to Victoria –
[*marginal note* The 'Sand Stone', an Amⁿ ship, Capt. Slater[?], put into the Harbor
this am – blowing too hard – for him to proceed to Victoria. She is from
Whidbey Island[?].]⁴⁸

Friday 14th Fine clear day but blowing fresh SW –
Sent Antoine off to the Fort this morning in the canoe that arrived
here last eve.g with the Songis to endeavor, if possible, to ascertain the full
particulars of the loss of my men & property -- Some Songis Ind^s from the
Northwest of the island told me today that two of the Cowitchin Boys
have got ashore – & they believe the others have all perished – I have had
Holland's & William's property left here brought up to my house-
Hyders at Root House – the others as usual – all of the MBs with
old Page – have been digging a well for water where I am now going to
send the sheep – at the Prairie at the end of Cowitchin Road –
The Amⁿ sloop still mud-bound –

Saturday 15th Beautiful fine clear weather –
The "Otter" arrived here about 5 PM & remained only to land 30
bags flour 2 Boxes tea 1 keg[?] butter & 2 gallons[?] Liquor – it seems that
it is alas! too true my canoe has been capsized w/ all hands perished
except one Cowitchin Boy.

⁴⁷ Point Gonzalo, or Gonzales Point, located on the southeast tip of Vancouver Island, was named after Gonzalo Lopez de Haro, pilot for the 1790 Manuel Quimper expedition.

⁴⁸ Captain Slater has not been identified.

My Ind^s forenoon putting up a Park - afternoon land flour &c -

Sunday 16th Weather as yesterday.
All quiet - killed a wedder for Rations 15 lb ea[?]

Monday 17th Weather fine & clear & warm
6 MBs cutting rails out at new station end of Cowitchin Road - 1
MB & Hyder (engaged today) covering root Ho. with earth - Ox drivers
hauling stones for chimney -
[*marginal note:*] Engaged a Hyder

Tuesday 18th Weather much as yesterday very warm
"Otter" arrived here this morning brought 9 Bags Sugar 3 blls. Pork
1 keg gun powder & 30 -2 inch Plank - sent all to move off - Ind^s all as
yesterday - except Ox drivers hauling up Planks, Sugar, Pork, &c. -
Hyder 'Johny' I discharged today & sent away in the 'Otter' --
seven weeks he has been working.
Two Norwegians[?]⁴⁹ were sent for this estbmt. to suplmt[?] the
vacancies of Thomas Holland & Richard Williams.

Wednesday 19th Excessively warm all day -
Both of the Norwegians I have put in charge of the young ewes -
one takes their turn by day and the other watches at night -
Scudder --? Two MBs covering up root house roof the other MBs at
--? - Ox ploughing.

Thursday 20th Weather as yesterday exceptionally warm -
Ind^s cutting pickets & setting them up - Scudder & his Indians
taking down Holland's house[?] and putting it up alongside of mine - I
was using it for the present as a --? overhauling --? & pickets.--

Friday 21st Weather still continues the same--
Men & Ind^s employments unchanged from yesterday-
A Boat arrive late this eve.g from Bellingham Bay-

Saturday 22^d Weather much the same a slight southerly breeze.
Ind^s finished[?] picketing - some other MBs sweeping[?] and
cleaning up about the estblmt.

⁴⁹ One of these Norwegians who were hired as shepherds was most likely Anders Gulli, from Leir, (HBC, Servants Accounts B226).

Boat which arrived yesterday left about noon - A native arrived this afternoon with a Note Mr Franson[?]⁵⁰ about letter which had never reached here.

Killed a wedder served out 8 lb. per man Seven rations altogether.

Sunday 23^d Very warm all day.
Several large fires⁵¹ - are behind the Prairie Mountain & a very large one on Lopez Island - All quiet -

Monday 24th The warmest day by far I have felt yet -
All hands went out with Page's flock with the Rams to Prairies at the end of Cowitchin Road - Page, Ben, Bens brother-in-law a Burbank Bay⁵² remain out here - the two Norwegians with Dick's flock of young ewes remain here. -
In the afternoon Inds employed about the estbmt variously -

Tuesday 25th Weather very warm indeed -
All the Inds employed forenoon clearing out of deepening well afternoon squaring posts &c. to fill up inside of well - Oxen hauling wood from beach for Saw Pit⁵³ - Scudder with Inds[?]
About 3 PM Mr. Finlayson⁵⁴ & family arrived in a boat from Fort en route (a pleasure trip) to Nisqually -
The Amity[?] Bay⁵⁵ which left here last Saturday returned this evening.

[*marginal note*: Engaged "Bill"[?] "Harry"[?] 1 mnth]

Wednesday 26th Weather still continues the same --
Sent two MBs out to Park to cut rails for Parks until Saturday Bens brother in laws paper /the small Cowitchin lad looking after Rams/ finished yesterday he is going to leave, I sent a MB to relieve him. The other MBs variously employed about the estbmt. -
Dr. Helmcken⁵⁶ arrived here this afternoon from Nisqually where he had been with Mr. Douglas & others of the family - he left them all

⁵⁰ Mr. Franson: a Company employee?

⁵¹ These may be the result of Indian groups setting fire to prairies prior to their departure for the season in order to maintain open areas for camas and nettle harvesting.

⁵² Burbank Bay has not been located .

⁵³ Pits were constructed (usually in an embankment) for sawing planks or beams from rough-hewn logs. Two men—one at the top (the tiller man) standing on the log that spanned the opening and the other (the box man) in the bottom of the pit—would use a long 'open pit' saw (Eric Sloane, A Museum of Early American Tools [New York: Dodd, Mead & Company 1964] p. 70).

⁵⁴ Roderick Finlayson (1815-1892), Chief Factor, joined the Company in 1837, left the service in 1872, and in 1878 became Mayor of Victoria; Mt. Finlayson was named after him.

⁵⁵ The ship "Amity Bay" has not been identified.

here & has returned by himself - he only remained an hour or so -- & they proceeded on to Victoria -

Gave "Dick" leave to go to see his friends his father is dying - his two months (from 25 May to 25 July) have just expired -

Thursday 27th Excessively warm all day - at sunset wind freshened up half a gale from SWest[?]

MBs employed getting wood for well &c. Oxen hauling stones - Nahua painting my partition[?]

Friday 28th Weather cooler blowing hard all night & fresh throughout the day SWest[?]

Indians employed as yesterday.

Saturday 29th Calm fine & clear all day

"Otter" arrived here about 2 PM & landed the following Planks 200 Plank 1 ½ in:s = 4740 ft -- & 377 Planks 1 inc: = 6089 ft. - Nahua watching planks on beach all night - Killed a wedder for Rations

Sunday 30th Warm & clear day

All hands discharging & carrying planks above high water mark - finished 2 PM - Served[?] out to each Ind. say 12 of them: 3 lb Pork 3 Sugar ¼ lb 3 lb flour - extra for working well & on a Sunday -

Lost the young heifer belonging to the 'Gris Mustache' - opened it⁵⁷ & found the wind pipe & throat one maze[?] of ulcers - the liver likewise much diseased -

Monday 31st Fine clear day & calm

All hands carrying planks up to the top of the hill & putting them on a scaffold - Scudder at work in my house Nahua painting -

About 5 PM Napoleon Dease arrived here from Fort sent by C. F. Douglas to assist here on House building &c. &c. John Ross seems not likely to return.

AUGUST

⁵⁶ Dr. John Sebastian Helmcken (1815-1920) was born in England, where he trained as a druggist and surgeon. He joined the Company in 1849 and arrived in Victoria the next year; three years later married Cecilia, daughter of James Douglas. He was elected to the first Legislative Assembly of the Province.

⁵⁷ Griffin was quite conscientious about endeavoring to discover the cause of illness and death of each lost animal, and would often perform necropsies.

Tuesday 1st Beautiful fine clear forenoon – about 4 PM came on a dense thick damp fog –

Indians all employed piling plank – 2 Hyders with oxen out with Page hauling Rails for another Park – Scudder & Napoleon building a kitchen chimney –

About 3 PM John Ross arrived from the Fort, it seems that he has merely come to get his things he is not going to remain – he has bought the stock or part of it w/ improvements &c. &c. belonging to the Farm of the deceased Mr Shaines[?]

Wednesday 2^d Weather much as yesterday –

Nahua & Banne[?] with all the MBs left for Fort to get supplies for themselves –

“Otter” arrived here about 730 PM Doctor Benson came in her & brought instructions for C. F. Douglas – that I was to return with all dispatch in the “Otter” – & the Dr to remain in charge during my temporary absence.

We leave in the morning at 4 AM “Otter” brought 11 bgs sugar & table & kitchen utensils &c – most of the sugar burnt by a warming[?] fire on the beach where it was landed too late at night to have brought to the Estblt. –

Thursday 3^d [no entry]

Friday 4th Returned this evening about 8 pm.--

The Doctor left immediately on my arrival on board the “Otter” which will leave early tomorrow morning for Nanaimo – Governor Douglas & Judge Cameron[?] are on board –

Sent two wedders to Steamer one she had last Wednesday & another this morning.

Saturday 5th Excessively warm –

Indians burning lime cutting wood &c &c.

Sunday 6th All Quiet, weather as yesterday –

Monday 7th Blowing a breeze southwest

Napoleon & Scudder hanging a gate – Ind^s variously employed – I have only 4 MBs now – “Stuart” left during the night & has taken five of my Indians (Millbanks) away with him – my compliment now is five Millbanks & three Hyders –

We have had 34[?] ewes poisoned by a herb which grows near the first swamp at the present station - we have not been able to discover what the herb is yet⁵⁸ -

Tuesday 8th Cloudy all day & oppressively hot -
Napoleon & Scudder making lime &c - Ind^s variously employed -

Wednesday 9th Showery all day - at times very heavy - little or no work done outside -

Thursday 10th All forenoon dense thick fog - afternoon fine
Crowded[?] out & separated lambs
854 ewes & wedder lambs
38 Rams "
892 in all - besides 3 we killed, one with two broken forelegs, one with a stump of a hind leg, & one with a deformed face - & 5 wedders - sent John Ross to Fort

Friday 11th Cloudy all day -
Gave Norwegian flock of young lamb say 854 - Old Man has the old ewes & gimmers⁵⁹ of last year - the 72 young [*superscript* 38] & old [*superscript* 34] Rams the Hyder has -

Saturday 12th Blowing a gentle N West breeze & cloudy -
Some of the Old Man's "gimmers" ~~yesterday~~ got away from him yesterday - Napoleon & myself collected[?] them (145) & took them out of the station -

Sunday 13th Warm all day -
Mr Webber left this morning with some Hyders for Bellingham Bay - three boats of Am^{ns} arrived here today all enroute to Fort -

Monday 14th Oppressively hot all day -
Three boats have left - Napoleon & myself counting carcasses of sheep poisoned on the Plains or swamp -
Scudder at lime - 'Loma'[?] & Old Man's boy left last night - deserted - so I have now only 3 MBs & 3 Hyders -

[INSERT]

⁵⁸ This poisonous herb was most probably Douglas' Water Hemlock (*Cicuta douglasii*), which grows in and near swamps, and is extremely poisonous to both livestock and humans. Ranging throughout the Pacific Northwest, stands can still be found in wetlands on San Juan Island.

⁵⁹ A gimmer is a year-old ewe lamb, between its first and second shearing.

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80

288

60

348

M McFestall[?] 415

Mr. McScott 245

T. Scudder 657

348

415

245

657

1465

[End Insert]

Tuesday 15th Excessively warm all day -
Sent Scudder & "Harry" over to McLodds[?] this morning with
letters for Fort returned about 7 PM -
Napoleon putting in frames for windows for kitchen - shepherds
all as usual -
Norwegians dog killed 2 young lambs - killed the dog -

Wednesday 16th Blowing a gentle easterly wind -
Napoleon making a cupboard - Scudder making a Hen House -
The Others as usual. 2 Inds with Norwegian. "Harry" washing
windows[?] of Ho.[?]

Thursday 17th Wind Northwest - fresh -
Two canoes arrived from Bellingham Bay Mr Webber returned in
one - & the other the American officer for Watcom[?] County - who asked
me if I would give him an accounting of amount of my stock & property
belonging to the Co here - which I refused - he left soon afterwards - his
visit was official -
Late last night two men arrived from Fort Murdoch Mr Leod D[?] &
Murdoch Mr Leod II[?] appointed as shepherds here - today they have
done nothing - another canoe with Kanakas arrived from Fort en route to
Bellingham Bay -
Killed a wedder Rations.

Friday 18th Calm & very cloudy & showery -

Counted out & gave in charge to two M^cLeods the young flock of lambs say 845 - as counted by Page[?] - Norwegian gone out with Old Man -

I was carrying out Prov. &c. - Engaged one Chimsian for one month today -

Saturday 19th Cloudy with NE[?] wind & chilly

Sent out all the young sheep to Mountain Prairie in charge of two M^cLeods - Ind^s carrying out Prov. &c &c.

Sunday 20th Fine clear calm day -

Antoine arrived from Fort - brought letters &c - Sent out to the stations - found one of the M^cLeods ill - --Rheumatic pains in the head - "Bill" & Harry & MBs commenced[?] on another Paper -

Monday 21st Weather much as yesterday -

Napoleon & Scudder making a cupboard - Nahua with Ind^s cleaning up Estblmt. & getting gravel - M^cLeod very ill out at Mountain Station - M^r Webber left for Bellingham Bay.

Tuesday 22^d Fine clear calm day & warm -

Sent Napoleon, Scudder, Nahua & my four Indians off in Antoine's large canoe to gather shells for lime. They have gone to an old Skachett[?] encampment north end of Lopez Island⁶⁰ - I have not an Ind. with me here now - Old Page came in this morning reporting sheep all well - & M^cLeod better -

The deceased Hollands mother-in-law & some Cowitchins came here this evening - report having found Holland's child somewhere at Mill Site

Wednesday 23^d Weather as yesterday -

Men & Ind^s returned about 9 PM with a large load of shells - discharged them at the Spring at Sand Hill, ready for burning tomorrow - Nothing new today -

Thursday 24th Fine clear day

Owing to the carelessness of my Norwegian I have lost 13 sheep - poisoned in the same swamp where the last were poisoned - I have been out at the station all day with all the hands collecting the carcasses -

⁶⁰ There is archaeological and ethnographic evidence of a Skagit village near the north end of Lopez Island (see Boxeberger 1994).

About 7 PM M^r Finlayson arrived from Nisqually - encamped at Sand Hill near the Spring -

Friday 25th Weather cloudy & dense fog forenoon, afternoon clear & fine

-

Nahua & 3 Ind^s burning shells - Napoleon table drawer & cupboard kitchen &c.

Antoine, Page & 2 Hyders left this morning for Fort - M^r Finlayson started about 7 am -

Stations all well Visited them today -

Saturday 26th Weather fine & clear

Two Ind^s & Nahua working on my House & cleaning up outside - I gave the keys of depe[n]ce[?] to Napoleon he will from henceforth serve out Rations &c. I served a week's Rations to Men & Ind^s -

Traded some salmon w/ Cowitchins.

Sunday 27th Fine clear day - soon after sunset we had a severe thunderstorm & vivid[?] lightening - but not much rain - A canoe with six Chimsians arrived here from Fort - came to see some of their friends who are here working for me - they left here again very soon.

Traded about 50 fresh salmon -

Monday 28th Fine clear day & calm -

"Bill" & "Josey"[?] hauling lime, wood &c Napoleon making a wash-hand stand -

No arrival from Fort yet -

Tuesday 29th Weather much as yesterday -

"Bill" & "Josey"[?] hauling stones - Napoleon as yesterday - About 8 PM Antoine, Baptiste & Old Page arrived from Fort - the former in a beastly state of intoxication as usual - Baptiste is engaged for one y^r for this place -

Wednesday 30th Weather chilly & foggy all day -

"Bill" & "Harry" hauling stones - MBs & "Josey"[?] whitewashing &c - Napoleon making & finished my washhandstand - Page went out to his sheep this morning & sent Scudder in again, who remained in charge of flock during Old Man's absence.

Thursday 31st Weather unsettled - Sunset blowing fresh west -

Baptst arranging foundation for another chimney - Scudder & Nap. & 1 Ind. at chimney - 2 MBs cutting rails - "Bill" & "Harry" clearing large field of stones &c -

Went to the fishery for some salt herrings left there by "Otter" for us -

SEPTEMBER

Friday 1st Fine clear day-
Men & Ind^s as yesterday-
Myself & Antoine with Page looking for a suitable place for winter station - we have decided on a place but I am afraid there is no water
[*marginal note:*] one MB 3 MBs finished

Saturday 2^d Weather fine & clear-
Sent Scudder to site of new station to endeavor to find water, could not succeed-
Napoleon & Ind^s putting up fencing -

Sunday 3^d Weather warm & fine-
Myself, Napoleon & Old Man endeavoring to find a convenient spot for winter station - after a great deal of searching & trekking - I can see no place more convenient in every way & none so well adapted for a winter station as the small prairie before coming to the Bridge - I shall send Scudder tomorrow to dig for water -
All quiet -

Monday 4th Weather warm & fine -
Scudder & a MB looking for water out at Bridge Prairie - Nap's arranging fireplace - Ind^s hauling stones - Bapts. sick not at work - 3 MBs reengaged -

Tuesday 5th Excessively warm all day -
Myself, Nap & Scudder with a MB Indian search for water all day - the Ind. by the merest chance discovered a likely place. We dug to about 6 feet & found a little but very little there - Scudder will continue on digging in the same place -
Ind^s & Oxen hauling stones for chimney -

Wednesday 6th at Fort - started today in "Otter"

Thursday 7th at Fort -

Friday 8th d^o -

Saturday 9th Returned - 2 sheep Rations

Sunday 10th Fine clear day all well -

Monday 11th Beautiful warm clear day -
 "Otter" left about 10 AM - with 50 old barren ewes for Fort & six
 supplied to steamer -
 Jacob arrived here with me he is engaged for 1 yr - he,
 myself Antoine & Napoleon finally found the two cows with their calves
 & a year old heifer - who on being loaded last Saturday got into the
 woods. We brought them home today -
 I have now 4 cows [*insert note: 2 now landed*] & 3 calves & a year-
 old heifer - besides a stud & a mare -
 Baptiste putting up a Pen for Rams - Scudder plastering kitchen
 chimney - Murdoch M^cLeod very ill - Sent "Beau Cardse[?]" out to the
 Plains to fatten up a little he is miserably poor -

Tuesday 12th Weather much as yesterday -
 Jacob, Baptst & Scudder putting up flooring in kitchen, Napoleon
 making a door - Nahua & Ind^s fencing around the well & getting
 firewood &c - Antoine "Bill" & "Harry" ploughing -
 Doctor Helmecken & M^r R. Finlayson Jr arrived here en route to
 Nisqually about 3 PM & left again soon after
 A canoe arrived from Langley⁶¹ with Naps things
 Traded some fresh salmon -
 A boat with Am^{ns} arrived here about 9 PM en route from Fort to
 Whidbey Island -

Wednesday 13th Weather calm & clear
 Baptiste & Jacob getting wood for a Harrow - Antoine Bill & Harry
 ploughing - Nahua & 2 MBs quarrying out stone for chimney - Scudder
 laying foundation for chimney in one of the Mens House - Napoleon
 variously employed -

Thursday 14th Weather cloudy & blowing fresh SW[?]
 Bap^t & Jacob as yesterday making a Harrow - Antoine finished
 ploughing - Nahua & Ind^s at stones

⁶¹ Fort Langley, located on the Fraser River, was established by the Company in 1828.

Old Page came in from the Mountain about noon & reports two of the lambs having been shot - one yesterday & the other day before - Immediately started off with Napoleon & Antoine & examined the carcasses = which were evidently killed by Shot & Ball both - I went to the Songes Village⁶² & made every enquiry but could attain no clue to the perpetrators of the act - I have offered a reward of 3 Blkts.⁶³ to find who did it -

Murdoch[?] McLeod Jr has been in here on the sick list ever since last Saturday - he is still very bad - the Doctor en passant gave him some medicine which has done him no good apparently-

Friday 15th Weather much as yesterday but calm & cloudy -
Bapts. & Jacob finished Harrow & looking for a suitable piece of wood to make a field roller[?].
Scudder & Napoleon arranging shelves &c &c - in the kitchen -
Nahua & Ind^s getting out stones -
Parrish[?] Lagall[?] arrived from Nisqually en route to Fort - they leave with the night tide -
The U.S. Surveying Steamer 'Active'⁶⁴ cruising about the island sounding & surveying I killed a Ram & a wedder for Rations
'Joey'[?] Chimsians paper finished one month -

Saturday 16th Weather cloudy -
Jacob & Baptiste making a field roller[?] - Scudder with Ind^s quarrying out stone for chimney - Napoleon serving out Rations -
Steamer "Active" coasting off the island all day - Parrish[?] left this morning -

Sunday 17th Fine clear day -
Murdoch McLeod came in this morning & reports that the wolves have killed 13 lambs - I started off immediately with Nap- & Old Man - we found 7 (seven) dead - & six so severely wounded that we were obliged to kill them - the wolves it seems killed them in the open prairie - some Ind^s arrived here late this eve.g from Victoria & report the seizure of the U. S. Surveying Steamer 'Active' by the authorities at Victoria -

⁶² There were several "villages" recorded on the west side of San Juan.

⁶³ The standard trade item for the Company was an English-made blanket, which was rated on a point system based on its size and value in beaver. A table for typical trade equivalents during this period can be found on page 287 in Richard Somerset Mackie, Trading Beyond the Mountains: The British Fur Trade on the Pacific, 1793-1843 (Vancouver; University of British Columbia Press, 1997).

⁶⁴ Built in 1849 as a sidewheel steamer, the *USCG Active* was purchased in 1852 and used until 1861 for the US Coast Survey. Under the command of Lt. James Alden, she took part in the North West Boundary Commission survey of the San Juans as well as helping transport troops during the Pig War.

Monday 18th Beautiful fine clear weather -
Reengaged 'Harry' & 'Bill' one month from Sunday[?] [*marginal note: H & B --?*]
Sent Nahua & Scudder with Ind^s in Antoine's boat[?] round to the Grande Bay⁶⁵ to bring home the carcasses of the sheep killed by the wolves -- Eleven I had salted down by Jacob & Nap- & two so much eaten & rotten I gave to the dogs[?] - Nap- & Jacob took the two horses round to the fishery⁶⁶ this morning & brought home 4 bags salt - Bap^t finishing roller -
At Sunset I sent Nap., Nahua, Jacob & Scudder & Bap^t with three Ind^s in the boat to the Grande Bay to commence early in the morning & open a road from the shore of the bay to the site of the proposed winter station - they will be there all day tomorrow -
Steamer 'Active' passed here this evg. for the Bay, quite close to land they were apparently sounding - the report of her being seized quite unfounded error unless it is another Steam Vessel -

Tuesday 19th Excessively warm all day -
All hands making a road out at Winter Station - A surveying brig called here to day - she passed AM to Canal de Haro⁶⁷ -

Wednesday 20th Weather much as yesterday -
Sent Napoleon, Murdoch M^cLeod & 3 Ind^s to the Fort for mats &c - they started at daylight -
Jacob, Bap^t & 'Harry' ploughing -
About 2 PM Dr. Helmecken & wife M^r Douglas & family passed here from Nisqually en route to Fort -
Scudder went out to take care of lambs during M^cLeod's absence.

Thursday 21st Blowing fresh all day West -
Men as yesterday -

Friday 22^d Calm all day until Sunset blowing fresh SWest
Nap. & Murdoch M^cLeod arrived from the Fort about 4 PM All Well

⁶⁵ See f.n. 25.

⁶⁶ The location of the Fishery (the Company's, as opposed to the various "fisheries" of the Indians) is not known, although it may safely be said that it was on the west side of San Juan Island, north of current Grandma's Cove (see Wayne Suttles, Prehistoric and Early Historic Fisheries in the San Juan Archipelago [paper prepared for the National Park Service, 1998]). This will be referred to later as the "Old Fishery", in opposition to the newer one that was established near current Fish Creek.

⁶⁷ Canal de Haro (also spelled Canal de Arro), or Haro Straits as it is currently named, is located between Vancouver Island to the west and San Juan Island to the east.

Saturday 23^d Fine clear day -
 Jacob finished ploughing - sent M^sLeod out to his sheep Scudder returned - Served out a week's rations of Pork to Men[?] -

Sunday 24th Showery all day -
 Antoine, Baptiste & 'Bill' left for Fort to get the formers child baptized which was born yesterday - Sent M. M^sLeod to see the doctor - this man is always ill & unfit for duty -

Monday 25th Nap., Scudder & the Ind^s with the canoe bringing mud from old Indian Village⁶⁸ for chimneys -
 Jacob & 'Henry' hauling mud from Beach with Oxen[?] About 7 PM Dr. Benson[?] arrived en route to Olymphia on Co^s business. -

Tuesday 26th Blowing a complete gale all day --?
 7 AM Dr. Benson[?] left at daylight --? --? --? --? did not get far -
 Antoine crossed during a slight lull in the gale about 2 PM -
 Scudder & Jacob commencing chimney -- --? hauling stones - Ind^s caulking kitchen with wool[?].--

Wednesday 27th [*line illegible*]
 Men & Ind^s as yesterday Napoleon is laying [?] upper flooring on my house & making a Hatch[?]
 Dr Benson? returned about 10 a.m.; he has only been as far as Whidbey Isld. [*rest of line illegible*] & transacted the business he went about --?

Thursday 28th Weather foggy & cloudy all day w light showers of rain. -
 Scudder & Bap^{ts} at chimney - Jacob hauling, the Ind^s getting out stones, wood &c. -
 Napoleon is on the sick list.--
 Dr. Benson[?] left for Fort about 9:30 am.--
 Killed a wedder - sent for by Dr. -- one lamb died out at Station -

Friday 29th Fine clear day -
 Sent Ind^s & Nahua round with canoe loaded with plank &c &c to commence new station - Jacob started by land with the oxen. Napoleon sick.

Saturday 30th Another fine warm clear day -

⁶⁸ Which "Old Indian Village" this refers to is unclear; it could have been the settlement on Garrison Bay where the British established English Camp (see f.n. 62).

Served out rations to men half Pork & half mutton -
Killed two sheep - Napoleon sick -

OCTOBER

Sunday 1st Cloudy & misty -
Napoleon better - 'Joey' very ill indeed -
Old Man killed a ewe - water on the heart & old age -

Monday 2^d Fine clear day -
Antoine commenced cutting wood for a Hut⁶⁹ at Station - Jacob
hauling do. - Scudder & Ind^s with Baptiste cutting rails Posts & clearing
ground for Park site - all are encamped out there -
Napoleon a little better - "Joey" still very ill - found M^cLeod ill in
Bed /venereal[?]/ when I went out to the Station to day - I have set a trap
for the Wolves out at the Mountain -

Tuesday 3^d Beautiful fine clear day -
Visited the men found them all hard at it - I sent Nahua out this
morning to look after the Ind^s[?] - cutting rails - I shall continue sending
him until this work is over -
Napoleon a little better - M^cLeod (Jr.) still sick unable to attend to
his duties the Norwegian does all -
Visited my trap which I found was gone, but after a short hunt I
found it & a she wolf fast in it - after firing a Ball through her head I had
her brought to the shepherds tent & skinned - a very large animal -

Wednesday 4th Cloudy & showery all day -
Visited the men found them at their occupations - Napoleon better
- M^cLeod still ill unfit for duty - Visited my trap not signs of anything -

Thursday 5th Fine clear weather. Soon after sunset commenced blowing
fresh Southwest -
Visited my men. Antoine putting on roof of Hut - Scudder & Ind^s
at fence - Jacob & 'Harry' hauling - Nahua with the Ind^s -
Sent Napoleon round in a canoe to Songee Village to trade dry
salmon - got a few -

⁶⁹ The distinction between a "House", which Griffin mentions several times in reference to the dwellings at the Establishment, and the "Hut" mentioned here as a shepherd's dwelling is not clear. In addition to the implied difference in size, there may also have been a difference in building type and method.

Page castrated 11 young ram lambs -- Visited my trap - nothing -
M^cLeod better.--

Friday 6th Foggy & unsettled weather -
Visited my men found them all at their occupations -
The two shepherds likewise, [*rest of line illegible*] with their flock.
Killed two sheep for rations tomorrow -

Saturday 7th Fine clear beautiful day -
Ind^s & Scudder started off this morning with my canoe with more
plank [*rest of line illegible*]
M^cLeod again laid up - I found only the Norwegian with the
flock - this M^cLeod is a useless lump[?] of humanity - an "imposter" &
double-faced hypocrite[?] -
Served out rations to all hands -
M^r Webber left in Antoine's boat this morning for Bellingham Bay - he is
gone only for 3 days (DV[?])
Napoleon made a door today for one of the houses the first job he
has done for sometime - he is a good deal better - & can work tolerably
well -

Sunday 8th Fine weather - the nights are now very frosty a heavy hoar
frost every morning -
All quiet -

Monday 9th A beautiful calm clear day -
Men & Ind^s still out building station - Jacob & 'Harry' hauling
stones for the chimney - Scudder commenced building do - Ind^s at Park -
M^cLeod lying ill in bed Norwegian with the flock - killed a young ram &
old wedder for my rations, Napoleon & Murdoch -

Tuesday 10th Cloudy & light drizzling rain all day -
Jacob & 'Harry' hauling stones - Scudder, Ind^s, Baptiste & Antoine
putting up log Park - Napoleon & 'Joey' arranging my canoe, bars &c &c -
my dog "Prince" drove one of young rams into the water & got drowned
-

M^cLeod, out at station, very ill - swelled testicles - Last night about
8 PM a Hyder woman - who has hitherto been stopping with M^cLeod, but
left him when he last went to the Fort - started from here late in the
evening - for the purpose of going to M^cLeod - the night was so dark that
the Millbank Indian who watches the sheep out there - did not recognize
her as she approached near the Park -- & fancying it was a wolf or some
other animal fired -- & wounding this woman severely - his gun was

loaded with a Ball & several grains of shot – the ball struck her on the left groin & passed thro' & came out behind the hip bone – a flesh wound – all the shot, but one grain, likewise passed thro' her flesh – one grain is still lodged deep in her side – she seems considering loss of blood & pain to be doing well – I had her brought home in the ox sledge this afternoon –

Wednesday 11th Fine clear day –

Antoine & men finished at new station all but Baptiste & Scudder who remain there to finish the chimney – Jacob brought the oxen home &c –

Late this evening Banne[?] & Grand Loma[?] arrived from Fort – they are going deer hunting[?] I fancy –

Thursday 12th Beautiful weather –

Sent Nap. Nahua & 4 Ind^s off to the Fort this morning to get Provisions &c.

Jacob laid up with a swollen face & toothache -- “Bill” harrowing – Baptiste & Scudder building chimney out at new station – M^r Webber arrived from Bellingham Bay round 11 Am –

Friday 13th Fine calm clear day & very warm –

Jacob suffering a good deal from teeth & a very swollen face – Baptiste & Scudder at the chimney out at new station – “Bill” harrowing Three deserters from one of the Man[?] of War[?] now at Vic[?] passed here today – I did not see them – they only put ashore for a minute or two & proceeded on –

Baptiste & Scudder returned late this eve. having finished the chimney –

Napoleon & canoe arrived about 3[?] PM all well – with a few supplies –

Saturday 14th Beautiful day –

Jacob still missed[?], men & Ind^s variously employed – served out a week's ration of Pork –

A boat with two[?] Am^{ns} arrived from Vic – left almost immediately for Bellingham Bay –

Sunday 15th Fine beautiful weather –

All quiet – killed a ram lamb, recently castrated –

Monday 16th Cloudy all day & every appearance rain

Jacob & 'Harry' re-ploughing small field: - Scudder arranging root house for seed potatoes - four Ft. Hope[?]⁷⁰ Ind^s who I this day engaged with 'Joey' grubbing & clearing land - two Millbanks, "Capn blue"[?] & M^cLeod's watchman deserted last night - since the latter accidentally shot & wounded this Hyder woman they have been too much afraid to remain here⁷¹ - I have now 'Harry', 'Joey' & the four Ft. Hopes -

Tuesday 17th Fine clear day -
Men & Ind^s are engaged as yesterday -

Wednesday 18th Cloudy with a dense fog all day -
Jacob & 'Harry' ploughing - all the Ind^s grubbing field - Scudder & Nap. laying upper flooring in Page's House

Thursday 19th Dense fog & mist all day -
Jacob & "Harry" harrowing - sowed 1 bus. wheat in small field -
Ind^s grubbing - Nap. & Scudder flooring - killed two lambs from flock old ewes -

 Last night late - a boat with four Am^{ns} arrived from Bellingham Bay - they are en route to Fort - but the fog today prevented them - the sheriff /Mr. Barnes/ for Whatcom County came upon me for \$80.333 Taxes!!⁷² - which of course are not forthcoming -

Friday 20th Slightly foggy & unsettled weather -
Jacob & Scudder hauling rails & repairing fencing - Ind^s grubbing & clearing field - Am^{ns} all left about 4 AM - Napoleon's wife returned from Langley - A boat arrived from Fort for Bellingham Bay & another arrived from latter place bound to Vic: -

Saturday 21st Blowing a fresh South East wind -
The Men & Ind^s employed as yesterday - Served out rations to Men & Ind^s - killed two sheep for Men -

Sunday 22^d Still blowing a strong breeze all night & throughout the day
-
All quiet - Capt. Slater & al arrived from Fort.

⁷⁰ Fort Hope was located upriver on the Frazer.

⁷¹ The northern Indian groups—particularly the Haida—were feared for their frequent raids on the Salish, and in this instance the fear of reprisal is apparent.

⁷² Ellis Barnes (d.1858) was sheriff of Whatcom County from 1854 -1856. This ongoing dispute between the Company and Whatcom County over property taxes would eventually lead to the 1855 'San Juan Sheep War'.

Monday 23^d Calm clear fine day -

This morning Page & M^cLeod refused[?] to attend to their duties - Yesterday likewise - their sheep was --? Park the whole day - being Sunday, I did not want to raise a disturbance - but called them back in the morning - their only excuse was - that their House was not fit to live in - I have done all in my power at present to make them comfortable & I could do no more - the Old Man used most insulting language & gave me to understand he was going to leave.

M^cLeod had 2 shirts & 4 plug[?] Tob^a stolen from him & came to me wishing to have a search made among the men's property - I called Napoleon & ordered him to institute a search which he did until he came to Nahua, who refused to show his things quietly & we had to use force - which has so hurt his feelings! he intends going likewise to the Fort⁷³ -

Jacob harrowing - Scudder with Old Mans sheep - Napoleon & Baptiste out at new station hanging up a door &c - & getting M^cLeods & Norwegians things in -

Tuesday 24th Beautiful fine clear day -

Antoine & Nahua left this morning for Fort in the former's boat - Antoine has gone to settle his account & Nahua to remain there - Page unknown to me left in a Indian canoe.

Jacob & Napoleon cutting logs for a log house - Baptiste & all the Ind^s gone for shells - Scudder with Old Man's sheep - M^cLeod with the rams - Capt. Slater[?] & his companions left this morning for Bellingham Bay -

The Am^{ns} Revenue Cutter - Capt. Pease⁷⁴ - arrived & anchored off the sand Hills during the night - Capt. Pease paid me a visit this morning.

Wednesday 25th Weather much as yesterday -

Jacob & Napoleon cutting logs-

The others as usual -

Thursday 26th Cloudy with southwest wind -

Baptiste & Ind^s returned this morning with a load of shells - set all hands to work immediately burning them -

Jacob hauling logs - Nap. cutting small pieces[?] for chokes⁷⁵

Visited M^cLeod[?] all well there -

⁷³ Nahua, a Kanaka bought a town lot later (1856) in what was called Kanaka Row in Victoria (Richard Somerset Mackie, *Colonial Land, Indian Labour, and Company Capital: The Economy of Vancouver Island, 1849-1858* [MA thesis, University of Victoria, 1984], Table 15, p.257).

⁷⁴ Captain Pease has not been identified.

⁷⁵ It is not clear what these "chokes" were; possibly Griffin means "chocks", as in wedges. The entry for the next day seems to indicate that they were used to fill in the small interstices in a fence.

Friday 27th Fine & clear
Ind^s carrying up lime - Bap^{ts} cutting small fir for chokes for fence -
Jacob hauling.--

Saturday 28th Beautiful clear day -
Served out rations all hands - Mutton[?] - killed two rams - Jacob
& Baptiste continued chimney - Ind^s getting firewood &c. -
Antoine, Grand Loma[?] - & Old Page returned from Fort -

Sunday 29th Beautiful & fine -
All quiet -

Monday 30th Cloudy & calm -
Baptiste - Scudder & Jacob at chimney - Harry hauling stones - --?
Ind^s gathering stones - Napoleon putting a Stove - window[?] &c in Old
Pages House -

Tuesday 31st Started for Fort 8 AM -

NOVEMBER

[Wednesday 1st no entry]

Thursday 2^d Returned from Fort about 6:30 PM

Friday 3^d Dense fog all day -
Jacob Baptiste & Scudder with two Ind^s at chimney - Napoleon
putting up partition[?] in Mens House - other Ind^s collecting stones
making a drain round root Ho -

Saturday 4th Fine clear day -
Sloop "Helen" Hawkins[?]⁷⁶ arrived from Vic - & discharged in
good condition 40 bags flour & 7 bls Pork -
Counted Page's sheep 1124 & 57 Rams & cut[?] d^o - & 1 sheep
missing supposed to have strayed from the flock during the dense fog of
either yesterday or day before -
Put Rams along with ewes -

Sunday 5th Weather as yesterday -

⁷⁶ The "Sloop Helen Hawkins" has not been identified.

Killed a lamb for my mess -

Monday 6th Fine clear day -
Napoleon laying down flooring in his Ho - Jacob, Bap^t & Scudder at chimney - 5 Ind^s hauling & collecting stones &c - "Harry" & "Johny" carrying out Old Pages things & brought home M^sLeods & Norwegians.-
Page reported home yesterday, that there is too much difficulty risk keeping the young lambs in the Oak Prairie - I have today taken his flock of old ewes out there - & sent the young flock in - this young flock of lambs will not keep together & the oak Prairies is so extensive that the shepherds are constantly running keeping their flock together -

Tuesday 7th Weather cloudy, overcast & chilly -
Men & Ind^s as yesterday -

Wednesday 8th Weather fine -
Men & Ind^s engaged at chimney - filling up under foundation logs &c. &c. -

Thursday 9th Fine clear day with a cold easterly wind -
Sent Bap^{ts} & Ind^s out to clean the Park of chips &c &c. - out at new[?] station - Nap & Scudder & Jacob laying upper flooring - so as to allow time for the mud of the chimney to dry before entirely completing it -

Friday 10th Weather much as yesterday -
Bap^{ts}, Nap. Scudder & Jacob at upper flooring partitions &c - of mens Ho: - Ind^s banking with earth round foundation of Ho:s -
M^r Barnes & two others arrived from Bellingham Bay to receive my decisive answer to the demand for Taxes on the part of the U: S: Government - on my refusing to pay the amount - Notices[?] have been put up to the effect that a sheriff sale will be held on the 21st inst. at this place to sell off such a number of sheep as will liquidate the demand say \$80.33 -

Saturday 11th Beautiful day -
Men & Ind^s as yesterday -
Served out rations half Pork & half mutton - killed 2 lambs -
M^r Barnes & party left on their return to Bellingham Bay, this evening about 3 PM -

Sunday 12th Fine & clear -
All quiet - Antoine returned from hunting -

Monday 13th Cloudy & foggy -
 Men & Ind^s engaged at chimney & log Park &c &c - sent a canoe &
 two Indians to "Sanitch"⁷⁷ to try to get them to bring me potatoes & dried
 salmon - Renewed "Harrys" paper -
 Killed a lamb for my meat -

Tuesday 14th Foggy & unsettled weather -
 Men & Ind^s hauling out, cutting & putting up a log park extending
 our[?] old standing[?] park -
 Napoleon in cutting "chokes" for the logs this eve.g cutting very
 badly the instep of his foot - he lost a great deal of blood -

Wednesday 15th Weather fine & clear -
 Men & Ind^s employment unchanged -
 Napoleons foot seems inclined to do well - but it will be a
 long time before he will be able to move about -

Thursday 16th Fine clear day -
 Ind^s cleaning out Parks & two hauling Plank fire wood with oxen -
 Scudder & Jacob arranging their Houses - I have given Antoine & Grande
 Loma leave, on condition of arranging it - the House built by Letrie[?] -

Friday 17th Weather mild & clear -
 Jacob & Scudder with the Indians cutting a road thru from new
 station to Oak Prairie finished it all but a few heavy logs -

Saturday 18th Foggy & unsettled -
 Sent Jacob & Scudder to get the window[?] out of the Fishery Ho. -
 Ind^s getting wood cleaning up &c - Traded 18[?] barrels of potatoes from
 Sanitch[?] Ind^s - paid a 2 1/2 pt. Blkt⁷⁸ for 3 blls-
 Steamer "Beaver" anchored in the harbor late - I visited her - she is
 sent in quest of the "Prince Albert"⁷⁹ who left Nanaimo last Sunday & has
 not been heard of since or seen -

Sunday 19th Misty with drizzling rain -
 Napoleon suffered so from his foot last night - I was compelled
 early this morning before daylight to send for Dr Benson who happened

⁷⁷ Saanich is located on Vancouver Island, to the northwest of San Juan.

⁷⁸ See f.n. 63.

⁷⁹ Built in England in 1841 for the Hudson's Bay Company, this 303-ton ship was 103' long, 25'6" wide, and 17'6" deep. The *Prince Albert* had only a single year of run—1854—on the West Coast.

to be on board the "Beaver" - he came ashore & the steamer has proceeded on without him -

Monday 20th Heavy rains without intermission & strong SEast winds -
Sent Jacob & all hands out to clean the park at Old Man's.

Tuesday 21st Heavy rains & strong Southerly[?] winds -
Sent Scudder out to act as watchman for Old Man during this bad weather - Jacob & Ind^s at log Park cutting drains[?] & getting home firewood -

Wednesday 22^d Heavy rains with occasional burst of sunshine - wind varied a little to West[?] - & blowing half a gale -
Sent Jacob, Ben, & all the Ind^s out to new station to put up a moveable park for bad weather - the standing park out there now is ankle deep in mud & dung -
"Major Thompkins"⁸⁰ seen all day trying to beat over to the Fort -
Some Ind^s encamped at Spring at the Sand Hill -

Thursday 23^d Continued heavy rain the whole day & strong winds easterly -
Men & Ind^s all out at the station but owing to the rain I am afraid they are not doing much -
I am sorry to say I lost my little brown ox yesterday - it broke its neck going under a tree at the foot of "Port L'Enfer"⁸¹ - the meat I have had salted & served out --?

Friday 24th Beautiful fine clear day -
Jacob & all hands out at Station - Antoine & Loma left for Fort about 9 AM - the doctor went with them - blowing a steady southerly[?] breeze - saw the "Thompkins" pass down - & the "Rose"⁸² likewise - gone[?] into the Fort - a whale boat passed us this morning apparently from Bellingham Bay -

Saturday 25th Cloudy slight breeze southerly -
Ind^s carrying wood &c - served out rations to all hands of beef &c -
Mr Ross[?] & family⁸³ arrived here from Nisqually en route to Fort - wind[?] bound 3 days on Smiths Island⁸⁴ - without Provisions &c -

⁸⁰ The *Major Tompkins*, which was built in Philadelphia in 1847, was brought from San Francisco to Puget Sound in 1854, and commenced a run among Olympia, Seattle, Victoria, and other ports as a freight and passenger steamer. However, her service was short-lived, for she hit rocks and foundered the next year.

⁸¹ *Port L'Enfer*—French for "Hell's Gate"—refers to the rise just to the southeast of False Bay; this term was later transformed to today's "Portland Fair".

⁸² The ship "Rose" has not been identified.

⁸³ Mr. Ross and family have not been identified.

Sunday 26th Beautiful clear day -
All quiet -
Antoine arrived about 11 PM - from Fort -

Monday 27th Cloudy & showery
Men & Ind^s all out at new station - erecting another park -

Tuesday 28th Weather much as yesterday showery all day -
Men & Ind^s returned late this eve.g having finished the new park
for the Old Man -

Wednesday 29th Weather unsettled but fine-
Jacob & Scudder putting up a temporary wood shed - & the Ind^s
carrying rails & posts of old standing park to put it up on another dryer
site-
Traded nine barrels potatoes from Cowitchins - 3 blks for a 2 ½ pt.
Blkt.-

Thursday 30th Weather beautifully fine & clear -
Jacob Scudder & Ind^s re-erecting standing park -

DECEMBER

Friday 1st Weather beautifully fine & clear-
Men & Ind^s as yesterday-
Page came in & reported having lost four of his ewes
poisoned - & another killed by the wolves-

Saturday 2^d Weather unchanged-
Served out rations to men of the poisoned sheep- Page found
another ewe[?] betraying[?] evidence to those poisoned yesterday-

Sunday 3^d Weather unchanged - nights very[?] frosty[?]
All quiet - Antoine left to have his child baptized.--

Monday 4th Weather fine & clear the heights --? and accompanied with
heavy frost and very --?
Jacob Scudder & Ind^s still at Park--

⁸⁴ Smith's Island is located directly south of Lopez Island, off the west coast of Whidbey Island.

Tuesday 5th Weather unchanged-
Jacob, Scudder & Ind^s finished Park - A boat from Bellingham Bay en route to Fort stopped here a short time.

Wednesday 6th Weather rather cloudy
Sent Jacob, Scudder & all the Ind^s except "Harry" off for shells-
Antoine arrived from trip about 9 PM Alexis[?] accompanies him I have received no advice[?] respecting this man & am not aware whether he is in or out of the Service.

Thursday 7th Weather gloomy & a fresh Westerly wind.--
Engaged "Polk"[?] he & "Joey" cutting small branches &c. out of new Park.

Friday 8th Cloudy with drizzling rain.--
Jacob, Scudder & Ind^s returned with a load of shells about 11 AM - got them to work unloading & then cutting wood & placing[?] the shells ready for burning- "Joey" & "Polk" cutting logs for fencing. Alexis repairing chairs &c- Baptiste commenced today with Antoine & Loma cutting Posts &c for new sheep shed-
Page brought me in today the skin of a sheep which has evidently been killed by the wolves - including those poisoned /4/ & 2 killed by the wolves besides this on the 3rd inst. - seven sheep in all lost - 6 on the 20 & 1 today

Saturday 9th Fine weather-
Served out rations of poisoned mutton & what was left by the wolves-
Mr Barnes the sheriff of W C: made an attempt to sell the sheep but not succeeding he left - notifying that the sale was postponed until the 30th inst. He left this morning for Bellingham Bay.

Sunday 10th Cloudy, rain in the morning-
Old Page has lost two more sheep from his flock poisoned & one of the Rams broke his neck fighting--

Monday 11th Weather unsettled -
Sent Jacob & Page with 4 Ind^s off to Fort I have given Mr Leod his discharge & sent him away- Scudder with Norwegian-
'Joe' cutting logs for fencing- 'Harry' & 'Polk' hauling Antoine's wood- Went out to Old Man's - saw a ewe dead in the same small Park with lambs-

Tuesday 12th Cloudy unsettled weather-
 'Joey' 'Polk' & 'Harry' hauling Antoin's wood from 'Mount
 Finlayson' over to site of the new sheep shed

Wednesday 13th Thick foggy weather & drizzling rain-
 3 Ind^s hauling firewood for all hands-

Thursday 14th Clear but cloudy -
 3 Ind^s again hauling wood for shed-
 A canoe arrived here late this eve.g[?] & reports Old Page & the
 other spreeing[?] over at Caillors[?] Point⁸⁵ or[?] in that vicinity-

Friday 15th Dense foggy all day & slow rain-
 Went out & visited[?] M^cLeod[?]
 Ind^s finished hauling wood for shed - About 3 PM Page, Antoine,
 Jacob, M^cLeod & a green[?] hand arrived - report the weather so bad
 yesterday could not cross! all my eye d - n these lazy drunken beasts-

Saturday 16th Beautiful fair clear day-
 Served out Rations to all hands-
 "Otter" called here en route to Langley & left 10 bls. salt salmon

Sunday 17th Weather fine & clear-
 All quiet- Cut old Boar-

Monday 18th Dense thick fog all day-
 Jacob & Scudder collecting the cattle to get one of the young calves
 who has had a small rope round his neck ever since summer we cut it off-
 'Harry' & 'Johny' bring salt salmon up from bottom of the Hill-
 'Joey' & 'Polk' burning lime.- Old Page brought the Rams in.-

Tuesday 19th Cloudy & every appearance of bad weather-
 "Joey" I sent in charge of the Rams- "Polk" filling barrels with
 burnt shells &c- Scudder with "Harry" & the Oxen went out to Old Pages
 - with lime &c - to rebuild the chimney- Jacob variously employed- As I
 expect the 'sheriff' here again tomorrow morning- I sent M^cLeod,
 Norwegian & Ben with their flock to pass to night & tomorrow out at new
 station so as to be out of harms way in case I have any visitors tomorrow
 morning-

⁸⁵ The location of Caillors Point is not known, although it seems likely that it is on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island.

- Wednesday 20th Weather fine-
 "Harry" out at new station hauling sand[?]- Scudder is building chimney out there- Jacob, "Polk" & "Johny" getting out firewood- M^cLeod brought his sheep in again this eve.g.- no visit from the Am^{ns}-
- Sunday 24th Returned from Fort about 4 PM-
 Found all well - except Andrew who it seems yesterday blew his left hand off-
 I found M^r Barnes & Cap^t Slater here - the former has put up another notice for sale of sheep-
- Xmas day Raining hard all day with the exception of about 2/4 of an hour - when we had a heavy fall of snow - blowing half a gale of wind S:E:-
 Served the men out with a regal & a pint rum each⁸⁶- All quiet throughout the day-
 Killed four sheep as Rations-
 Andrew suffers but little from his hand - but more for the want of sleep - which he cannot get - it was impossible to send him away to day-
- Tuesday 26th Blowing a strong South West wind accompanied with heavy rain & snow-
 Jacob & the four Ind Boys cutting & hauling firewood- Scudder attending on Andrew-
 Antoine & party returned late this eve.g- they have cut m~[?]
 10,300 shingles.-
 A Boat with two Am^{ns} put in here (at Salmon fishery) wind bound - they were --? M^cLeods sheep - but came & spoke to me afterwards about it-
- Wednesday 27th Blowing a perfect hurricane - with heavy rains.-
 Ind^s & Jacob doing little or nothing but getting firewood-
- Thursday 28th I never saw such fearful weather - blowing & raining as if the very heavens were going to fall down-
 "Harry" & "Johny" out at Old Pages hauling stones to rebuild the chimney there as soon as the weather moderates- 'Jacob' & 'Polk' getting wood- 'Joey' with Ben watching sheep in the woods as the weather is so bad they cannot be exposed in the Parks - the Rams are in my garden - &

⁸⁶ It was the Company's custom to issue their Servants a Christmas "Regale" (although Griffin spells it without the "e" at the end) of an additional ½ rations as well as some liquor (David Lavender, "Fort Vancouver and the Pacific Northwest" IN Fort Vancouver [National Park Service 1981] p. 101).

the three old ewes with the lambs I have had a place arranged under my gallery-

These two Americans are still here they cannot move - while this weather continues - I never experienced anything like the wind & rain - which we have had for the last five days - without intermission-

Friday 29th Weather still continues fearful blowing & raining incessantly - it seems now (9 o'clock) to be getting calmer-

Washed & examined Andrew's hand it is shattered to pieces-
Sent Scudder out late this eve.g to fix Pages chimney- Jacob looking after Andrew- Ind^s collecting firewood-

Saturday 30th Fine beautiful day - clear with a gentle SWest breeze-

Sent Antoine & 3 Iroquois over in the Boat with Andrew- My potato cellar after these heavy rains we found full of water - so much so that we were obliged to remove them underneath M^cLeods House the only place that seems at all dry or likely to be free of frost-

Indians collecting wood-

These Americans left likewise this morning in their Boat-

Sunday 31st Weather changeable - we had two slight snow showers-

Antoine & 3 Iroquois⁸⁷ returned from Fort- As expect the "sheriff" to night or early in the morning according to another "notice" which has been put up - I thought it advisable to send M^cLeods sheep with "Ben" the watchman to pass the night at old "Songes" village--

⁸⁷ These Iroquois were undoubtedly brought west by the Company from its association with them in their home territories in French Canada. However, it is not known if some of the other proper names mentioned earlier in the Journal are also attributed to these three men.