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JOURNAL OF ROUTE AND OCCURRENCES IN A JOURNEY TO PHILADELPHIA FROM DIGHTON, BEGUN OCT. 24th, 1778, BY WILLIAM ELLERY.

CONTRIBUTED BY MISS HENRIETTA C. ELLERY, NEWPORT, R.I.

Oct. 24th, 1778. Sat out from Dighton on a Journey to Philadelphia. Arrived at Providence in the afternoon. The black man who had engaged to attend me on the Journey, fell sick or pretended to be so. I sent an express to Dighton for a boy with whom I had talked about his going, and had refused to take on account of this same black man. The Boy was now unwilling to go. I applied to Gen^l Sullivan who accommodated me with a Soldier of Jackson's regiment. The black fellow was a married man and alas and lack-a-day, was under petticoat government, and his sovereign wanted to keep him at home to wait upon her. If I had known previously to my engaging him that he had been under this kind of domination, I should have consulted his Domina and procured her consent, before I had depended upon him, and not suffered this sad disappointment. Well—Let the ambitious say what they please; Women have more to do with the government of this world than they are willing to allow. Oh! Eve, Eve!

Oct. 27th. Reached South Kingston lodged at Judge Potter's with my wife whom I had bro't to Little Rest to pay a visit to Mrs. Champlin and her other friends.

Oct. 28th. Lodged at M^r Champlin's. This day attended upon the Assembly.

Oct. 29th. Left Little Rest, called upon Mrs. Marchant and dined at my tenant Phillips in Richmond. Reached Preston in the Evening and lodged at Harkness's opposite Mr. Hart's meeting-house; were well entertained. Here to my great comfort I found a son of Æsculapius, to whom I

disclosed my affliction. It was the same with one of Job's and under which I had rode 78 long miles with as much patience as he discovered. But it must be confessed that the Devil had smote him from the sole of his foot unto the crown of his head; whereas I was afflicted but in the middle region. But then I was attacked *a posteriori* and in a spot the most exposed in riding to injury of any in the human body. He made use of a potsherd to scrape himself withal, which must have been a *sore* trial; he had too a set of friends who insulted him and a wife who would have disarmed him of his religion and philosophy. I had with me a kind friend, W^m Redwood of Philadelphia, who had joined me at Providence in his way home, who comforted me, and I had left a wife who had encouraged me to endure affliction like a good Soldier. Upon a comparison of our two cases I find mine so much more tolerable than his, that I am compelled to ask that patient man's pardon.—To return, —the Son of Æsculapius advised me to an *Emplastrum* of *Diachylon cum gummis*; which, coinciding exactly with the opinion of Dr. Babcock, which I had taken the Day before on the case, I followed it and the next day.

Oct. 30th. Rode 35 miles, with more ease than before. We breakfasted at Lathrop's, Norwich, dined at my tenant's (Jesse Billings) in Colchester and reached Emmon's at East Haddam in the Evening. One word *a posteriori*, altho' I infinitely prefer, in which if I rightly remember I agree with that great and acute reasoner Dr. Clark the *priori* road. It is now

Oct. 31st. And I am almost well. Into whose hands this Journal may fall I know not; but humanity bids me tell the reader if ever he should be in my situation not to forget *Diachylon cum gummis*. We are at Emmon's detained by a Storm which has been brewing for more than a fortnight; but which to our comfort, is like the dram which the Gentleman presented to the Rev^d — Phillips of Long Island, the least, as he said by the dram, that ever I saw of its age in my life. This Mr. Phillips had been preaching in I know not and care not what Parish, and being much fatigued the

Gent: with whom he dined, to refresh his Spirits before dinner, presented him with a dram in a very small glass, observing at the same time, that dram was ten years old. The arch priest wittily professed that it was the least of its age that ever he had seen in his life! But as small as the storm is, it is large enough to detain us.

Mrs. Emmons, our Landlady, is one of the most laughing creatures that ever I saw. She begins and ends everything she says, and she talks as much as most females, with a laugh, which is in truth the silliest laugh that ever I heard. As man hath been defined to be a laughing animal, as Laughter manifests a good disposition and tends to make one fat, I will not find fault with laughing, let Solomon and Chesterfield have said what they may have said against it. Indeed the former says there is a time to laugh, but with the latter it is at no time admissible. However, Chesterfield when he condemns it, hath the character of a courtier only in Idea, and does not regard common life. And Horace I think says *ride si sapiis*. The *Spectator* hath divided laughter into several species some of which he censures roundly; but doth not as I remember condemn seasonable, gentle laughter. Therefore my pleasant Landlady, laugh on!

Nov. 1st. Passed Connecticut River and dined at Chidsey's on the middle road on the east skirt of Durham. Our Landlady was very kind and pleasant, the cheese and butter were excellent; but alas! they had no Cyder; in consequence of it she said with the tone of lamentation, that they should be quite lonesome this winter. The good people of Connecticut when they form the semicircle round the warm hearth, and the Tankard sparkles with Cyder, are as merry and as sociable as New Yorkers are when they tipple the mantling Madeira. From thence to New Haven is 18 miles, which we reached in the evening. The bridge in the way from Durham being broke down, we passed through North Haven.

Nov. 2nd. Breakfasted with my worthy friend President Stiles. Dined at Thatcher's 14 miles from New Haven, and lodged at Fairfield at Bucklin's which is 9 miles from

Thatcher's. We took this route because the road was pleasanter than through Danbury, and shorter.

Nov. 3rd. Breakfasted at Bates' in Norwalk which is 12 miles from Fairfield. From thence to Ridgefield where we dined is 14 miles. We should have gone through Greenfield to Ridgefield, which is a much shorter way than from Fairfield to Norwalk and so through Wilton to Ridgefield, but were told that the road was blind etc. From Ridgefield to Honeywell's in Upper Salem, where we lodged, is 8 miles.

Nov. 4th. Breakfasted at Height's about 7 miles from Honeywell's, Bated at Carman's Crumpond 8 miles from thence to Kings Ferry which is well-tended is 10 miles, and from thence to Judge Coe's Cakeat where we lodged is 9 miles. Went without Dinner this day.

Nov. 5th. Took the route through Paramus and breakfasted at a Dutchman's about 7 miles from Coe's, and were well-entertained. A little diverting affair took place here: The Children who had never before seen a Gentleman with a wig on, were it seems not a little puzzled with my friend's head-dress. They thought it was his natural hair, but it differed so much from mine and theirs in its shape that they did not know what to make of it. The little boy after viewing it some time with a curious eye, asked his mother, in Dutch, whether it would hurt my friend if he should pull his hair. The mother told us what the boy had said, whereupon my friend took off his wig put it on the head of the boy and led him to the looking-glass. The mixture of Joy and Astonishment in the boy's countenance on this occasion diverted us not a little. He would look with astonishment at Mr. Redwood's bare head, and then survey his own head, and the droll figure he made with the wig on, made him and us laugh very heartily. It is not a little remarkable that children who had lived on a public road should have never before seen a wig. From thence to Newark is 9 miles and to Elizabeth Town 6 miles, where we lodged at one Smith's. A Detachment of the Army under L^d Stirling was here. The Officers had a ball at

Smith's and kept up the dance till three o'clock in the morning. Drum, fife and fiddle, with an almost incessant saltation drove Morpheus from my Pillow.

Nov. 6th. Breakfasted 14½ miles from Elizabeth Town at a small Tavern just opened by an obliging young couple. From thence to Brunswick where we dined elegantly is 7½ miles. Bated at a corner house 10 miles from Drakes. From thence to Hyres's, Princeton, where we lodged is 8 miles.

Nov. 7th. Breakfasted at Clunn's, Trenton, and had the pleasure of seeing and conversing with my worthy friend Mr. Houston. Dined at Bristol. Fared poorly and paid highly. The most noted Taverns do not always afford the best entertainment. When a man's name is up he may lie in bed until noon.

Lodged at Bensalem, Bucks County (William Rodman's). Spent the evening very pleasantly. The next morning rode to Philadelphia and put up for a night or two at my friend Redwood's, from thence went to board with that open generous Whig Stephen Collins, and had John Collins my fellow lodger.

Dr Mac Sparaan's "America Dissected," I met with and read at Philadelphia. In the 30th page he says, speaking of his mission at Narragansett Rhode Island, "I entered on this mission in 1721, and found the People, not a *tabula rasa*, or clean sheet of paper, upon which I might make any Impression I pleased: but a field full of Briars and Thorns, and noxious weeds, that were all to be eradicated before I could implant in them the simplicity of truth. However by God's blessing I have brought over to the Church some hundreds, and among the hundreds I have baptized, there are at least 150 who received the Sacrament at my hands, from twenty years old to seventy or eighty. *Expede Herculem*. By this you may guess in how uncultivated a country my lot fell. Besides the members of our Church who I may boast are the best of the people, being converts not from convenience or civil encouragement, but conscience and conviction; there are Quakers, Anabaptists

of four Sorts, Independents, with a still larger number than all those of the Dissenters of European Parents, devoid of all religion, and who attend no kind of public worship. In all the other colonies the law lays an obligation to go to some sort of worship on Sunday; but here Liberty of conscience is carried to an irreligious extreme. There are here which is no good symptom a vast many Law-Suits; more in one year than the County of Derry has in twenty: and Billy McEvers has been so long your Father's and your Honor's Constable that he would make a very good figure on the bench of our Courts of Session and Common Pleas, and no contemptible one on those of our Courts of Assize and General Gaol Delivery."

Sat out from Philadelphia for Dighton in Company with Thomas Martin of Portsmouth in New Hampshire the 3^d Day of July, 1779.

I left behind me Sermons on the Subject of Independence, Te Deums, and a civil celebration of that important Anniversary which was to take place on the 5th of this instant. Reached Tomkins's about a mile on this side the Crooked Billet and 17 miles from Philadelphia, where we drank good Coffee and were well lodged.

July 4th. Breakfasted at Bennet's 10 miles from Tomkins's. Dined at Cowels's (Howel's ferry) upon fried Chicken, boiled ham and Peas. Our Landlord and Lady and their well-sized daughters, were very obliging. This house is 7 miles from Bennet's. Lodged at Cahil's (Quaker Town). Our beds here and at Tomkins's were clean and not infested with bugs! This day was intensely hot. This is 14 miles from the Ferry.

July 5th. Passed White's Tavern through mistake and rode a mile on, and breakfasted at a little house just by Johnston's upper mills, which are about 13 miles from Quaker Town. Dined at James's (Hackett Town). The Landlady was talkative enough. This place is 13 miles from Quaker Town. Lodged at Syms, Sussex Court House, which is 18 miles from the last Stage. No bugs!

July 6th. Breakfasted at Carey's 10 miles from the Court

House, stopped at one Perry's, a private house about 7 miles from Carey's: the weather was so *intensely hot* that we could not go any farther until the afternoon, when we proceeded and put up early at Col. Hathorne's which is 10 miles from the last mentioned Place. The 5th day of the month was the hottest day there hath yet been this Summer. I surveyed my bed according to custom before I ventured to enter it (Search first before you enter is no bad rule) and lo! a bug of enormous size displayed his huge brown bloated corps. I instantly applied the blaze of the candle to him and with many sincere imprecations offered him a burnt sacrifice to the Goddess of Impurity. This done I drew the bed from the bedstead, disposed the covering in order, and committing myself to the Lethean God, fell fast asleep. Early in the morning I awoke, shook off soft sleep, mounted my Jenny, and broke my fast at Yelverton's which is 10 miles from Hathorne's. This is a good house. From thence we rode to Hurd's about 12 miles where we dined. Here I stripped off my stocking and bathed the fourth toe of my right foot with rum. As I rose while it was yet dark, in walking my chamber I struck the said toe with great force against the edge of the foot-post of the bed and gave it a dire contusion. A coarse proverb says, "there is no help for sickness or sore-toes." I must therefore bear this as all other afflictions, with magnanimity. Under a red hot sun amidst sore toes and all the trials of a tedious Journey, the thoughts of my Jenny supports, cheers and animates me! From Hurd's to New Windsor, where the boat being ready, we passed the ferry with a fair wind and lodged at Storms's. We stopped at Major Griffin's and would have lodged there; but neither he nor his wife was at home: and his daughter and a [party] of young gentlemen and ladies who were at the house, were much more attentive to themselves and their pleasures, than to us and our fatigue. Humanity and its felicitating reflection are easily banished by the rapturous joys of Sensation! We breakfasted at Morhouse's which is 15 miles from Storms's. Morhouse received us kindly, and treated us in the best manner

he could. His house is a good one. In coming hither from Storms's we missed our way and were obliged to ride 2 miles round. It is always well where you are not quite certain of the road to enquire particularly about it. From Morhouse's to Deacon Gayler's where we dined, is 6 miles. This is a very good house and the people obliging. (N.B. Not to pass this house unless it should occasion great delay.) We stopped at New Milford a few minutes where we heard that the enemy had left New Haven; had landed at Fairfield and burnt the Town. Lodged at Blackley's in Roxbury. The people were civil, but the Bugs were so uncivil as to force me from my bed and compel me to lie on the floor.

July 9th. We breakfasted at Gilchrist's in Woodbury: about three or four miles from the former the eye is saluted with a beautiful Landscape. The side of a mountain in a semicircular form, its gentle declivity presents a charming variety of fields, woods, and buildings. In a word it yields a more beautiful prospect than any you behold between it and Philadelphia. Gilchrist's furnished us with the best dish of Bohea Tea, and the best toasted bread and butter I have eaten for a twelvemonth. But this is a chequered state of things, and good alas! is frequently attended with evil. My Surtout was strapped to the front of my Saddle, and my Saddle was placed in the entry of the house, where I thought it was secure from any defilement; but a little boy who had stuffed himself the evening before with mush and milk, seated himself on my Surtout. I put my Saddle on the horse and was just about to mount when lo! I turned my eyes downward from it with abhorrence, and to my still greater confusion, the right side of my breeches was miserably besmeared from top to bottom. I cried out for my landlady with great vociferation: She appeared and soon removed my embarrassment. But before I quit this Subject I cannot avoid remarking, that throughout the Country as you ride from Philadelphia to New Hampshire you shall seldom see a temple erected to Cloacina. From this to Baldwin's (private) in Waterbury is 10 miles: from thence to Curtis Southrington where we lodged well is 10 miles, and from

thence to Ld. North's Farmington is 11 miles—We dined at Bull's in Hartford 10 miles from North's. Had some social chat with Mr. Ellsworth and lodged at Hill's about ten miles from Hartford without Bugs.

July 10th. Breakfasted at Buell's in Hebron 8 miles from Hill's. Dined at Jesse Billing's my Tenant in Colchester. The Enemy on Monday entered N^w Haven and pillaged the Inhabit's. They were opposed by a handful of men who behaved gallantly. Of them between 20 & 30 were killed and of the Enemy it is said an equal number, and among them was an adjutant Campbell. The next day they landed at Fairfield and burned the Town. How they came to destroy this town and not New Haven is a matter of inquiry. They are now it is said hovering about New London, a considerable body of militia is collected there, and more men are ordered in. Some gentlemen of Hartford seemed to be apprehensive that the enemy would pay them a visit. I wish they might. For I presume such a body of men would muster on that occasion as would effectually prevent their return. It is thought that they mean to draw off the main army from their present post, and then to attack West Point Fort. I rather think that their intention is to keep the People in constant alarm and thereby prevent their getting in the Summer Harvest. Finding that they cannot conquer the country they are determined, agreeably to the Manifesto of the Commons, to do as much mischief as they can to make our alliance with France of as little benefit to that kingdom as possible. Miserable Politicians, by their infernal conduct they will destroy every spark of affection which may still remain in the breast of Americans, and force us and our commerce irrecoverably into the Arms of France, which have been and still are extended to receive both. *Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat.* We were detained by the rain at Mr. Billing's the afternoon, and lodged there.

July 11th. From Billing's to Lathrop's where I dined is 12 miles—after dinner drank a glass of good Madeira with Capt. Johnston.

July 12th. Met with Mr. William Mumford at Lathrop's and sat out with him for Providence. Bated at Adam's about 8 miles from Lathrop's, where I saw a girl whose head-dress was a fine Burlesque on the modern head-dress of polite Ladies. It was of an exalted height and curiously decorated with Holyokes. Lodged well at Dorrances. No Bugs! 18 miles.

July 13th. Breakfasted at Angel's 13½ miles from Dorrances, and lodged at Providence 12½ miles.

July 14th. Reached home at Dinner time 18 miles from Providence and found all well.

This Journey for the Season was exceedingly pleasant. The first four days were too hot for comfort; but the succeeding six were cool and my mare was as fresh when I got home as when I sat off. The two men who escorted me and a sum of money for the State, behaved very well and my companion was sociable and clever.