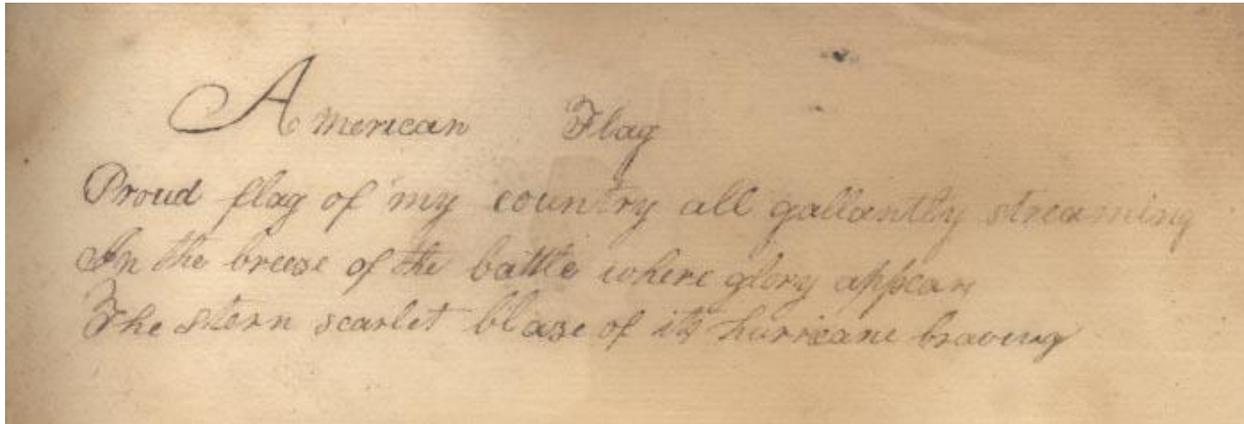


ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY OCTOBER 20



Verses on the American Flag, from Record Book of Captain John Wilson's company (Ms79-20:2:3)

On October 20, 1812, the Northwestern Brigade of Virginia militia departed from Point Pleasant and began their march through Ohio to reinforce the army of General William Henry Harrison.

CSO: SS.8.13, SS.8.14, SS.8.20, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*History of Harrison County, Henry Haymond, 975.457 H422 1973*)

1. Following the September 24, 1812 entry, use what you know about West Virginia geography to answer the following: Parkersburg is located at the mouth of the Little Kanawha River, but it is also located at its confluence with this *other* major river. They continued southwest to Belleville, likewise, located in _____ County, before arriving at Mill Creek, an Ohio River tributary south of _____ located along the Ohio River in present-day Jackson County.
2. The November 5th journal entry states that they met Indian Chiefs from *what* tribe?
3. Describe the scene of the January 23rd journal entry. What was the weather like? How was the condition of the small river described?
4. Had Ohio been admitted to the Union as a state by the time Peter Davis' journal concludes?

Think Critically: Describe the challenges faced by frontiersmen in the Northwest Territory. Why did the United States and Great Britain go to war again in 1812? The loss of the Shawnee leader, Tecumseh, combined with the United States' ability to draw a stalemate in the war and the British agreeing to cede the Northwest Territory, resulted in what consequences for the Native Americans?

Peter Davis, His Journal, 1812.

September 20.

We started from Captain Nathan Davis' and that day marched and encamped at the widow Marsh's.

September 21.

We encamped at the foot of the Dry Ridge.

September 22.

We encamped at Sharp's.

September 23.

We encamped on the bank of the Ohio about one mile below Marietta.

September 24.

We arrived at Parkersburg at the mouth of the Little Kanawha where we laid two days.

We embarked and arrived at Belleville and on the 28th. we arrived at the mouth of Mill Creek.

September 29.

We passed Letart's Falls and encamped two miles above Point Pleasant.

September 30.

We arrived at Point Pleasant where we laid until the 20th of October, there we drew our arms, knapsacks, tents, clothes and two months pay.

October 20.

We left Point Pleasant and crossed over the Ohio River into the State of Ohio and encamped in a field on the bank of the river.

October 21.

We arrived and encamped at Gallipolis which is about four miles below Point Pleasant and encamped in the town.

October 22.

We laid by and nothing particular occurred that day.

October 23.

We still laid there and we had a soldier drummed out of camp for selling government supplies.

About twelve o'clock we struck our tents and marched away. We passed through poor and uneven land and crossed Big Raccoon Creek. Went two miles and encamped in a field on the _____ at the sign of the white horse.

October 25.

We struck our tents and marched away at ten o'clock through very poor and uneven land with very few inhabitants. We reached the Sciota Salt Works, which are about twenty miles and nearly destitute of water.

October 26.

We struck and went on down Salt Creek fifteen miles and encamped in New Richmond, which is about three-quarters of a mile from the Big Sciota, and it a very rough poor country until we got to our camping ground.

October 27.

We start and it being a very rainy day, which rendered it very disagreeable and after marching nine or ten miles we had to wade the Sciota River, and from thence four miles to Chillicothe, where we encamped on the edge of the town on the bank of the Big Sciota.

October 31.

We struck our tents and waded the river, it being a cold blustering morning and marched fifteen miles and encamped on the Pickaway plains.

November 1.

We started through the plains and at the distance of four miles we passed a small town called Jefferson, and at the distance of three miles we passed another small town called Cireleville. Not far from the Walnut plains we passed some praries and encamped on a large creek, which is twenty one miles from where we encamped in the plains.

November 2.

We started and marched up the Sciota and encamped in a town called F_____.

November 4.

Marched twelve miles.

November 5.

Marched thirteen miles and encamped near a small town called Delaware situated on Whetstone River, a fork of the Big Sciota. Here we laid from the 5th. November until the 21st. of December, in which time there was nothing in particular occurred. At this place we met with General Harrison and several Indian Chiefs of the Shawnee Nation.

December 21.

Started and arrived at Norton at 3 o'clock and here we continued until the 2nd. day of January, 1813, for the purpose of guarding the stores, which was at a Fort called Fort Monroe.

January 2, 1813.

We started for upper Sandusky. The day before we started it began to rain and it continued to rain all day and a part of the night, and then it began to snow, and at 11 o'clock the snow was half leg deep. We went four miles and encamped at _____. We continued there the next day. The fourth day the snow ceased falling and we started, the snow being about knee deep, and we reached the block house in the Sandusky plains, which is eleven miles, and it being extremely cold. The next day we started very early and marched fifteen miles and encamped in the plain with the Pennsylvania troops and here we laid until the _____ of January.

About four miles from this stands a town of the Indians called Greentown. These Indians are of the Wyandotte nation. The time we laid here there came part of another Nation of the Wyandottes that lived at Greentown, it was them that fought against General _____ at the rapids of the Maumee, and after four days General Harrison concluded a peace with them by their promising to go in the front of the battle if called on.

January 23.

In the evening it began to rain. The snow began to melt and it being a level piece of ground, the water ran into our tents. We were baking and cooking and preparing to march to the Rapids. It was about three hours when our fires were all out and about three o'clock the water was knee deep in our tents, and we were obliged to retreat from our tents and build a fire on higher ground, where we continued until day, it being a very rough night. When daylight came we had to wade to our tents to hunt our baggage, which we found floating about the tents.

About 11 o'clock we started and it being very level we had to wade sometimes knee deep. We continued our march for eight miles and encamped on a piece of woodland but very low and muddy. That night it began to snow. In the morning we marched two miles and were stopped by a small river, it being very high. Here we continued two days, and in that time we built two canoes but at the expiration of the two days it was so extremely cold that the river froze completely so that it bore the troops comfortably. We all crossed safely and that day we marched eighteen miles and encamped in a piece of woodland very level and rich.

January 28.

We took up the line of march at nine o'clock and marched through very low and swampy land. The next morning we marched fifteen miles and came to where General Harrison was lying with about two thousand men from Ohio and Kentucky.

January 29.

The whole command marched seven miles.

February 1.

Marched eight miles and reached the Rapids of the Maumee. Marched four miles on the ice down the river and encamped on the South East side of the River.

Before we left camp General Harrison sent three men to Malden with a flag of truce to get leave to bury our dead at General Winchester's defeat at the River Rasin. When we stopped some of our men went across the river and found the white flag with one of the men shot, tomahawked and scalped and the other two were taken prisoners, one of them being wounded.

March 10.

This day Lieutenant _____ and another man went down the river a fowling. About two miles down the other man not being well left the Lieutenant and returned to camp. He had not left him far until he said he heard the Lieutenant shoot and after a little he heard another gun fire.

The next day the Lieutenant was found about one mile lower down shot, tomahawked and scalped and put under the ice.

March 30.

This day received my discharge and Captain John McWhorter his company and Captain L and Captain Prince and Simmons and their companies left Camp Meigs for the purpose of returning home. When we left the fort we had to wade, and we waded two miles and encamped on a branch of the river.

March 31.

March six miles and crossed C_____ River. Went eight miles further and encamped on a branch of the Sandusky River.

April 1.

Marched six miles and reached the C_____ Block House. Here we continued until the next day and our Ensign and some of our men went to the Lower Sandusky for provisions.

April 2.

This day we marched over about four miles of dry land passing two miles below Sandusky, a small town lying on Sandusky River, which the

Indians had left that day. We travelled ten miles and encamped on the Sandusky River.

April 3.

Had a hard and rough march of about 25 miles and reached Sandusky Fort.

April 4.

Marched 15 miles and camped at the Sciota Block House.

April 5.

This day we reached Fort Monroe in the township of Marlborough in the State of Ohio.

Here the journal ends and same was not continued on account of sickness.

Peter Davis was born in Srewsbury, New Jersey, September 16, 1783, and came with his parents to Western Virginia when about six years old. His father William Davis was known as "Greenbrier Billy" to distinguish him from the several other William Davis' in the neighborhood.

Peter Davis after his return from the war lived about four miles below West Union on the creek, later he moved to the West Fork River in Lewis County to a place called Westfield. About the year 1820 he moved to Greenbrier, Doddridge County.

He was for many years a minister of the Seventh Day Baptist Church and died March 4, 1873.