Journal of Phinehas Stevens.

Travels to Canada in 1752

Capt Henry Stevens, Stevensville, Burnet, Vt

April 27 1759 — I set out from No. 4 for Canada
my son Samuel with me. Came two miles below fort
Dummer and lodged at Caleb How's.
28th. Hired said How with two horses for which I paid
two dollars. came to Deerfield and lodged at Col. Hinsdells
29th Went to Hatfield where I met with Mr Wheelwright
and returned with him to Deerfield the same day. we here
we remained preparing for our journey till
May 4th. Then set out and came as far as Taylor's 12 miles. paid 1 Dollar
5th. Came to fort Massachusetts accompanied by Capt. Moses Rice
6th. After making a present to the soldiers of 1 dollar. we set
out accompanied by Capt. Williams till noon then took our
leave of him and came to Albany the same day. heard an
account of three soldiers being drowned in the morning
of said day belonging to the fort at Albany
7th We spent this day in visiting and consulting with some
of the chief men of the place how to proceed on our journey
to Canada
8th. We agreed with an Indian to assist us with his son on our
journey and also engaged Mr Sanders the Mayor of the city
to provide all things necessary for our journey
9th We sent a man to Schenectady to buy a canoe for a suitable
one was not to be had in Albany
10th Lord's day Preceding day Season
11th The two Indians came from Stockbridge in order to go
with us
12th Fixed our canoe and got all things in readiness for our journey
13 I set out from Albany with Heywood and Samuel &
the two Indians came with our canoe and loading sixteen
miles and lodged at Jacob Foots a Dutchman.
14 I hired the said Dutchman to carry our baggage in a
wagon to Stillwater six miles. I with the two Indians
came up the Swift water in the canoe. then took the loading
and came to Saratoga and lodged. 24 miles this day.
Mr Wheelwright came on horseback this day from Albany and
lodged at Saratoga
15 I came with the canoe 3 miles above Lydius and lodged
at the foot of the falls. Mr Wheelwright lodged at Lydius
it rained at night

May 16th. Col Lydies joined Mr Wheelwright, and met the canoe at the place where we take our departure from the Hudson River with five horses which assisted us in carrying our baggage. We came this day half way over the carrying place and lodged by the branch of Wood river. It rained hard at night

" 17 We came to the Lake St Sacrement (Lake George) about noon with all our baggage Col Lydies with the two men with him turned back. After we had mended our canoe we embarked and came eight miles and encamped on the west side of the Lake. Showery weather

18 Came over said Lake and lodged at the

19 Carried our baggage over said carrying place then embarked and came to the french settlements. three miles south of Crownpoint. Lodged in a frienchhouse a very stormy day. wind at head and rain

20 The storm continued at North east and rained We came to Crownpoint at two o'clock P.M. the commandant received us kindly

21 It stormed and we remained at said fort

22 The storm having abated we set off from the fort at six o'clock P.M. in a large batteau. accompanied by a French officer and five soldiers. Came about two miles and lodged on the east side of the Lake in a french house. N.B. The commander of the fort fitted us out with all things necessary for our journey

23 Set out very early in the morning. Cloudy and some rain but not much wind. Came about thirty miles. The wind freshened up at North east. we put into the mouth of a river on the west side the Lake at which place there is a fine pine plain After we had refreshed ourselves we embarked and came twelve miles and lodged on an Island

24 Lord's day. The wind blew up at south. we hoisted sail at daylight. the wind continued in our favor till after noon which brought us within sight of fort Lemotte. then the wind shifted into the North west We then took down our sails and rowed till four o'clock P.M. which brought us to the south end

of the above said island in sight of a number of French houses. but the wind being so very high and having a large bay to cross we turned to the west shore. a little before night the wind fell and we crossed said bay three miles to a french house and lodged

25 Set forward early in the morning came fifteen miles and stoped at a french house on the east side just above an island below said island it is called Chamble River here we refreshed ourselves &c. then embarked and came eighten miles to St John fort immediately upon our arrival the officer of the fort sent an express to for horses and carts to convey our baggage from here

26 about ten oclock in the morning the two carts came after dinner loaded our things into the carts and came off. The officer Mr Wheelwright & myself rode on horses sent for that purpose came to a little before night it rained the most of the way

27 A large batteau and a number of hands were made ready which brought us to Montreal. We arrived at the Governours about ten in the fore noon after he had received our passport letters &c we re ~~turned~~ to Madam Curtis where we took up our lodging. then returned to the Governours and dined, after this we visited the comissary and several other Gentlemen

28 And so till the 30th. we spent in making the best inquiry we could where our prisoners were

31 Sabbath day it rained at night

June 1st We dined with the Governour and at night supped with an officer. This day a schooner arrived from Quebec and have a hint as if she bring news of a large army being ato go to Sebuctoo and also that a mutiny had hapered among the Seters at Quebec

2d Had the news of the Indians killing and taking our of our people

3d Dined with the comissary

June 4th Mr Longlorscan and his wife came to visit us
" 5 Nothing remarkable
" 6 Mr Wheelwright and I wrote a letter to Governour Phips and several other letters for New England
" 7 Sabbath day very hot weather
" 8 Mr Wheelwright went to Connewaga with a number of French Gentlemen
" 9 Had fathe news of more mischief being done on our people and that three ~~of~~ prisoners were brought to Crownpoint
10 Paid a visit to the Governour who told us that he had no account of any prisoners being brought to Crownpoint. at night we supped at Mr. St
this day three men and a woman a pass from the Governour and set out for New England. the men said they belonged to the province of Pennsylvania
11 Nothing remarkable
12 I visited this day was told by John Durble that the mischief the Indians had done on the English was at River and that there were six in company. two made their escape, two were killed and two taken prisoners. At night I was taken with a terrible
13 I kept house with the same distemper
14 Sabbath day, two small schooners arrived at Montreal from Quebec loaded with flower which must certainly denote a very great scarcity. for the most of the supplies for that place are in time of plenty carried from hence. This day dined at Madam Lestorskes. supped at a Gentleman house near the same place
15 Levose a frenchman who lately came from Albany, came to visit us. gave us an account of two negroes being taken at a place called Canterbury on Merrimack River one of which he saw at Crownpoint. bought by the commander of said fort for four hundred Livers. The other made his escape the first night after he was taken. He also informed us that he saw eight Indians set off from there for war who told him that they designed for some of the English settlements for if they must fight the English they would not go so far. they looked upon them to be all of one ~~nation~~ people

June 16 1752. It thundered and rained a small matter in the morning. Mr Wheelwright set off for Quebec about twelve o'clock with Mr Deplas the High Sheriff. We have repeated accounts of the Twee Deuces Indians doing upon the french traders in the westward which put the in Montreal into consternation. There is nothing that can ~~distroy~~ hurt the Country so much as to distroy the trade in those parts for their income from thence seems to be the dependence of the whole country. Past numbers are employed in that business. We are told that two hundred of large birch canoes and batteaus have gone up the river this spring some five & some six men each so that upwards of a thousand men are already gone upon that business.
There method of carrying on said trade is for the chief traders or factors to remain in that country for three or four years and have supplies sent them yearly it is said that some of these traders go 3,000 miles but their supplies are not sent so far they go no farther than some of the french forts that are in those parts so these ramblers are obliged to return once a year to said fort for a new supply. Could our people be so well spirited in time of war as to go and distroy those forts it must in a short time impoverish Canada that they must fall an easy into our hands

17 a soldier was shot for deserting from some of the french forts in the west. This day I received a letter from Mr Handcock a prisoner at St Francis taken from Chebucto.

18. It thundered and rained a small matter but the drouth is very great. The wheat in this country suffers very much There is intellegence from Quebec that several vessels have arrived there from France loaded with flower and pork

19 I received a letter from the Missionary of St Francis and another from the abovementioned woman a number of Indians came to town at night 'tis said that they have brought two scalps & two prisoners but it wants confirmation

20 I went round the town to find a good gun. The scalps above mentioned were brought from the west and it is said that they are Indian scalps

June 21st Sabbath day hot and dry
22nd. A number of the chiefs of the St Francis Indians came to Montreal & shewed me the respect as to come the same day and pay me a visit
23 After dinner the Governour sent for me to appear before him and his council to receive a message from the chiefs of the St Francis Indians I accordingly did and after there spokesman had made his speach he delivered me a large belt of wampam which he said that I must deliver with his message to the Governour at Boston The same day I gave my old Indian a hat price ten livers he being one of the chiefs above mentioned
24 I sent a letter to one of the at St Francis by an Indian
25 I had a hint from an Indian as if a belt of wampom was come into this country from some of the six nations in order for a treaty with some or all the tribes of Indians here. There are numbers of the tribes of Indians coming to Montreal every few days
The drought is now very extraordinary. the wheat in this country it is thought has received so much damage already that a crop cannot be expected this year and as they had but a very small crop last year the calamety of this country must certainly in a little time be very great
26 Something likely for rain but very hot and dry
27 A small matter of rain fell in the morning in the afternoon windy and dry. The great probability of a scarcety causes a sadness in all faces. in the evening it clouded up and bid fair for rain but broke away with but a small sprinkling
28 Sabbath day and kept as a day of rejoicing them for the birth of a young prince born in France they have lately had news of they went in procession and fired all their cannon viz. 33 in number
A black cloud came up at night but no rain
29 I paid my respects to the Governour he informed me of a great difficulty at Chebucto but did not let me know what it was about
30 4 large bark canoes containing nine or ten Indians each

July

came to Montreal It is said that thou Indian's place of abode is 1800 miles from hence. There came also a batteau with nine or ten Frenchmen to town from a French fort west of our English Governments 900 miles; from thence they brought with them an Englishman who deserted from some of our Indian traders from Philadelph his name is Jonathan Cafavour There also came 4 canoes from Albany

July 1st 1752 A large number of Indians came to town from Becanco an Indian town on the south side of the great River near Three Rivers. This day a number of women came to the Comissary for bread and upon his refusing to let them have any one of them took him by the throat Exceeding hot and dry weather

" 2nd. I received a letter from Mr Wheelwright at Quebec informing of his speedy arrival. At Montreal the weather is yet exceedingly hot

" 3rd. Mr Wheelwright returned from Montreal from Quebec brought with him two men taken at New Meadows last Summer. Great numbers of Indians are daily coming to town to receive their presents from their fathers as they term it

4th Two of the Ottawa Indians being almost drunk fell out to such a degree that one stabed the other with his knife so that he expired in a few minutes. An old Indian that set by and see the action ordered a lad of about 14 or 15 years of age (being a near relative of him who was stabbed) to charge his gun and be ready to kill the other as soon as the first was dead. The boy accordingly did it with deliberation. The French people that were standing by told the murderer to make his escape he moved off slowly. The boy stood with his gun in his hand till his Kinsman was quite gone and as soon as he saw him fetch his last breath he went after the other with as much calmness as if he was in persuit of some game. when the murderer saw the lad after him he endeavoured to hide himself but the boy was so lucky as to see him lie down in a peice of wheat. the boy went as near as he thought necessary

and then fired and gave him a mortal wound but he retained so much strength that he rose up and pursued the boy but not far. The old Indian that gave the boy his orders seeing that he was not killed out right ran with his knife and gave him several stabs so that he died immediately. So in half an hours time they were both ~~killed~~ dead. this was transacted just without the walls of Montreal

ly 5. Two prisoners were brought to town from St Francis viz. Seth Webb & Amos Eastman. we bought them at 300 livers each and ten livers each for the charge of bringing them to Montreal

6. I received a letter from the Missionary of St Francis

7. Mrs. Honor Hancock a prisoner taken from Sebecto was brought to Montreal whom we bought at 300 livers and 30 livers for the charge of bringing her hm

8. Mr Wheelwright and I went to visit a captive girl named Elisabeth Cody she lived in the hospital south of the town

9. A great number of the St Francis Indians came to Montreal and brought with them some of our captive boys. There came up a smart thunder shower at night and for about half an hour it rained hard so that the water ran in brooks in the streets

10. Mr Wheelwright and I paid our respects to the Governour in the morning after noon I bought 2 guns price 67 livers each of which Mr Wheelwright paid 66 livers 15 sol. The heat increases very much

11 an exceeding hot day being by the riverside I saw the French people digging out of the bank ice which was hove up in the winter and covered by the bank falling down upon it. They use this ice to preserve their fresh meat

12 Sabbath day hot and dry clouds of smoke are rising in all parts of this country - a surprising sight at this time of year. 2 small barks arrived from Quebec. This day saw a man in his name was Johnson and that he

had an uncle in Boston named George Johnson and a kinsman. one Wm Thompson His father he says lives in Edinburg Scotland and is a man of note

July 13 Mr Wheelwright and my self went before the Governour with a Dutch girl taken in war named Elisabeth Cody and an English boy named Solomon Mitchel 12 years old taken about one year ago Upon their refusing to go home the Governour would not give them up. The same day John Starks was brought to town by his Indian master he was taken a hunting this spring. He was given up to us for an Indian pony in his place for which we paid 515 livers

14 We took our leave of the Governour and the rest of the chief officers and made all things ready for our return to New England

15 We set out from Montreal for New England brought with us eight prisoners viz. 2 from Sebucto. Thomas and Honor Hancock. 2 men from New Hampshire Amos Eastman & John Stark taken a hunting. - Joseph taken west of Pennsylvania. From Massachusetts Edmund Hinckley Samuel Lambert & Seth Webb. we came this day to Laprara. it rained a smart shower as we crossed the river & some in the night

16 Set out from thence & came to St Johns - our baggage was brought in carts. An officer is sent with us who is ordered to conduct us to the first English land. We remained at St. Johns until 5 o'clock PM. then set out with a batteau and a bark canoe came 18 miles and lodged

17 Embarked very early in the morning. came about 45 miles. met several canoes from Albany it rained some showers

18 Embarked early in the morning wind at head and some rain we came to the mouth of the Otter Creek and turned a shore to lodge but the small flies were so pleanty that we could not sleep. we embarked again about 2 at night wind in the northeast and some hard showers of rain. we hoisted sail and came to Crown Point about sunrise. I would note that my old Indian master came in the canoe with me and that the greater part of the St Francis Indians have left their town for want of provision and are on the road to the Dutch Settlement. We remained at Crownpoint all day

being Sabbath day, the wind blew hard all day
but we could not prevail with the Indians to go with us
being none here but of the St Francis tribe. the negro which
the Commander of the fort bought of the Indians, taken
from Canterbury we cannot get for the same money we suppose
he bought him for the Gentleman he gave 600 livers
for him. We have been informed that he gave but 400
The Captains Lady told us that she was offered him for that
money

20 The Indians we had agreed with to go with us to
Lyders failing us and not coming obliged us to remain
at the fort all day. just at night I agreed with two other
Indians so that Mr Wheelwright & 5 of our people set
off at sun set I that rest lodged at the fort

21 I with the people left with me set off from Crownpoint at 10
in the morning accompanied by an officer and 4 souldiers
who brought us in 2 log canoes we came all night up
the land arrived at the carrying place at the
west end of the great bay west of the mouth of wood creek
at Eight the next morning we slept and refreshed our-
selves till two after noon then bound up our packs
and set forward came about one mile & passed by a
family of Indians came seven miles and encamped

23 In the morning I missed my sword which I had left
at the place where we first took up our packs: sent
two men back they found it with the Indians above
mentioned. We came this day to Col. Lyders. met with Mr Wheel-
wright who came by the way of the Lake St Sacrament. he
was obliged to leave the canoe and loading on the carrying
place. the Indians leaving him he came to Lyders for help

24 I went with Lyders son & three horses to assest in getting our
baggage to Hudson river I hired two Mohawks to carry
the canoe. Brought our things to the river. & returned to
Lyders that night met great numbers of the St Francis
Indians coming to Albany with beever

25 Came from Lyders to Saratoga & lodged at Mr. Kelbins
the two Mohawks that brought our canoes over the carrying
place came thus far with us for which we paid them
six dollars

July 26 1752 Sabbath day Mr Wheelwright and his man came on
horse back to Albany I with the canoe and the rest
of our people came within 10 miles of Albany and paid
three dollars for the carrying our things by the bad water
27 Came to Albany about noon remained there the rest of the day
28 I remained at Albany upon the desire of a number
of the St Francis Indians who this day had a sort of a treaty
with the Dutch traders they met at 10 in the fore noon
made a small speech to the Dutch in which they manifested
a great desire for peace. then delivered a belt of wampum
& a pack of beaver. The Dutch desired their attendance at
three P.M. They accordingly met when the Dutch
made their speech in which they gave them free liberty
to come and trade without molestation & that the road
way open. Then made them a present of a belt of
wampum & two , two kegs of rum, tobacco
&c. The Indians received them thankfully
29 — I set out from Albany with my son Came to the
first house on Hoosuc River and lodged at Mr
Heywood. & the 7 prisoners who came on the day
before lodged at fort Massachusetts
30 — I came to Capt Rice's where I overtook the above said
men. Here we all lodged
31 — Came to Deerfield and lodged
Aug 1st 1752 I sent an express to Boston with the letters which
came from Canada. And four of the prisoners
went down the Country road for home. three of
which belonged to the Eastward, The other at
Lebanon. I came with the rest of the people
to Northfield
2nd Lord's day Went to meeting. After meeting I came
to Hinsdell's fort with my son & Joseph

Aug 2nd 1752 } The two Hampshire men set off for Winchester

3 Came with my son to No 2. Left with Col. Hinsdell. William Heywood remained at Northfield to hunt for his horse which left him at the carrying place

4th Came to No 4. Found my family all well, my wheat all reaped

5th & 6th My people finished reaping my oats

7 I began to secure them

8. a paper was drawn up & signed for me to go to Newhampshire - Aug - 9. Lords day - 10th a day of rain - I prepared for my journey - 11th I set out for Portsmouth. Came to Col Hinsdale's Fort. 12 Stopped the greater part of the day at said Fort to get my linen washed. Came to Northfield at night. 13 went to Deerfield to get my clothes. & returned same day to Winchester, where I met Capt Hubbard we lodged at Major Willards. 14th we came to Esqr Canada's & lodged at Col Berry's house; it rained the most of the day. 15. to Lunenburg 16 Lords day. 17. Hubbard & I in company with Mr Bellows came to Col. Blanchards at Dunstable & lodged - 18 after dinner, I set out from thence & came to Chester & lodged at Capt Dolfard's 19. said Capt set out with me - came to Portsmouth I remained there till the 24 in which time I lodged a petition with the Governor & Council for the Township of No 4. I came from Portsmouth to Ipswich & lodged with Mr Rogers.

25. Came to Boston by way of Cambridge & Roxbury
26. at Boston I lodged with Mr Lynard - 3
27. I set from Boston & came as far as
Marlborough - 28 to Rutland - 29 at Rutland
30 Lords day. 31. came from Rutland to
Hardwick; Sept 1. came to Halfield - 2
to Deerfield - bought a trunk of Major Hinsdale
in which I put my clothes & sent them to
Northfield - The next day which according
to act of Parliament is the 14 - I came to
Col Hinsdales fort. - It rained some -
15. I came to Kilbarns at fort No 3. I lodged
16 Home to No 4. 17. Lords day: from the 18
to the 23, exceeding dry weather. The great
Rain is thought to be as low as has been
known there many years past - Some
of our people are gone down to Deerfield
& Halfield this week - viz Doct Hastings
& wife Joseph Willard & Solomon Hastings
wife - Thomas Putnam & Isaac Parker
Came with a canoe of salt. Joseph
Woods was out of the fort this week. I
this week began to fale timber for a house.
24 Sabbath day. 25 - I sawed timber for clapboards
&c - a great supply of rain at Night -
The water stood in puddles next morning.
26 rained part of the day. 27. hard
frost at night. 28 Began to make a road at
the south end of my house lot. Ebenr
Putnam & his brother Laberee set out on

a journey 29. I finished the above said road
the whole cost me above seven days work.
30. It rained hard afternoon. Oct 1 Lords day. Stephen
Farnsworth had an ox killed by the fall of a tree.
2d. Wright had a barrel of rum brought to the
fort. I bought a three acre lot of Joseph
Wood. 3d Elijah Grout left me & set out
for home - 4. I fell timber &c. 5th I began to hew
Timber for my house - 6th I gathered my corn
7. I carted my corn. 8 Sabbath day & rained
hard all day. 9th Storm continued - 10th At
husking pleasant weather; but clouded up at
night & bid fair for more rain. 11. It
rained most of the day. 12 finished husking &
sorting my corn - 13. It rained part of the
day. it is now a very wet season - 14 Lieut.
Rollows came to No 4. 15 Sabbath day. 16. I fell
timber &c. 17. Stephen Daily came to town.
18. I hewed timber with six scorers. The boat
came to the falls with salt, rum, &c.
19. Hewed timber with 8 scorers. 20th hewed with
six. Doct. Hastings & wife returned home.
+ Ruth Parker came home 21. hewed with 6 hands
22 Sabbath Day. 23. hewed with six. do. our
people are yet busy at harvesting. 24 five hands
hewing. 25 do. this day two hands rum brought
to the fort. 26. rained hard most of the day.
27. 4 hands at scoring - drew part of the timber.

+ Wife of No 4.

Oct 28. I finished hewing in the forenoon — three at scoring. afternoon the carpenters went home. — 24 tableats

October 29th (1752) Sabbath day. 30th I drew my hay out of the Great meaddow. our cattle are now all let into the meaddow. 31st there fell a small snow in the morning about two inches deep but went off before night. November 1st 2d & 3d I drew timber for my house &c. fine pleasant weather we are now set out for Martins. 4th fine weather. 5th Sabbath day very rainy for the season I had a Cow calve. 6th drew timber &c 7th Davis came in the morning father Henry with him began to frame my house the same day 8th framing. Deacon Adams & family came to W.O.H. 9th framing Lieutenant Johnsons wife was brought to bed of a Daughter. 10th At framing. this day a number of men from Woodstock came to W.O.H. 11th for noon it rained obliged us to ly by afternoon at framing. began to raise the sides of the house 12th Lords day our people begin to assemble together for the worship of god 13th At framing the lower part of the house is almost up. 14th framing. a small snow fell at night. 15 I began to to raise my house. 16th I finished. Wheeler & old Mr ~~Hutson~~ Neetman raised the same day. Davis & Henry went home. 17 & 18th Nothing worth notice. 19th Lords day. 20th I sent ~~Bro~~ my son Bros. down to Hatfield in company with several others. a Stormy day

21th The Storm continued. 22d I worked at my cellar 23d I went to No 3 to help Lieut Hillones raise his house & barn. a Final snow fell at night 24th we finished raising the above buildings and returned home cold for the season

(The end)

A. Short description of the City of Montreal in Canada

Viz It is built on the south side of a Great Island called the Island of Montreal. this Island is said to be fifteen leagues in length and — in breadth. Called the most fruitful part of this country mostly inhabited by Jesuits first on by the Priests & nuns. for they own the Greater part of the land. the City is about three fourths of a mile in length and about ~~ten~~ one one hundred rods wide in the widest place It stands on the side of St Laurence River — I mompassed round with a wall 16. or 18 feet high. the wall on the river side stands about three rods from high water mark. the town lies upon a decent of land. so as that from the water side to the upper part on north westerly side of town is up hill but not very steep. there is but two streets that go through the length of the town and so about nine or ten cross streets, This town contains about 400 dwelling houses besides Publick Buildings There is five Chapels or Churches viz one for the

Bare foot Friers. One for the close ~~friers~~ to which joines ~~the~~ the Hospital. One do for the holy sisters. ~~and one for the holy sisters~~ and one for the Jesuites and one which is called the Great Church where the Priests say Mass. There is one more yet without the wall on the south side joining to the Kings Hospital. N B, The walls of the City are not so wide at the north end as at the south part the north are about 30 rods wide. here is the Battery on a nick of land which commands all the City – (the end)

Number and distances of the Carrying places and Rifts in Hudson River from Albany to the Carrying place from said River to the Lake St Sacrement, The first swift water begins 12 miles from Albany and holds about one mile and next is seven miles further up and holds for 4 or 5 miles to the lower end of still water it then holds good water 16 miles to — then one 1/2 mile to a short carrying place then two and one half miles to an other carrying place 1/2 mile over then seven miles to Col Lyders house then three miles to the next carrying place one mile ~~and~~ over, said three miles all swift water after we one over 2d carrying place then seven miles to where we leave said River. mostly bad water. we leave said River at the foot of a great fall (the end)