

Blue Stone river. J. l. Tuesday 30th. Fair weather, set out E. 3 m. S. E. 3 m. E. 2 m. to a little river or creek which falls into the Big Kanbawa, called Blue Stone, where we encamped and had good feeding for our horses.

Remarkable rock. J. l. Wednesday, May 1st. Set out N. 75 d. E. 10 m. and killed a buffalo; then went up a very high mountain, upon the top of which was a rock sixty or seventy feet high, and a cavity in the middle, into which I went, and found there was a passage through it, which gradually ascended to the top, with several holes in the rock, which let in the light; when I got to the top of this rock, I could see a prodigious distance, and could plainly discover where the Big Kanbawa river broke through the next high mountain. I then came down and continued my course N. 75 d. E. 6 m. farther, and encamped.

Thursday 2d, and Friday 3d. These two days it rained, and we staid at our camp, to take care of some provision we had killed.

Saturday 4th. This day our horses ran away, and it was late before we got them, so we could not travel far; we went N. 75 d. E. 4 m.

Sunday 5th. Rained all day.

Monday 6th. Set out through very bad ways E. 3 m. N. E. 6 m. over a bad laurel creek E. 4 m.

Big Kanbawa, or New River. J. k. Tuesday 7th. Set out E. 10 m. to the Big Kanbawa or new river, and got over half of it to a large island, where we lodged all night.

Wednesday 8th. We made a raft of logs, and crossed the other half of the river, and went up it S. 2 m. The Kanbawa or new river (by some called Wood's river) where I crossed it, which was about eight miles above the mouth of the Blue Stone river, is better than 200 yards wide, and pretty deep, but full of rocks and falls. The bottoms upon it, and Blue Stone river are very narrow: high land rich, but narrow; the high land broken.

Thursday 9. Set out E. 13 m. to a large Indian warrior's camp, where we killed a bear, and staid all night.

Friday 10th. Set out E. 4 m. S. E. 3 m. S. 3 m. through mountains covered with ivy, and laurel thickets.

Saturday 11th. Set out S. 2 m. S. E. 5 m. to a creek, and a meadow where we let our horses feed, then S. E. 2 m. S. 1 m. S. E. 2 m. to a very high mountain, upon the top of which was a lake or pond about three quarters of a mile long N. E. and S. W. and a quarter of a mile wide, the water fresh and clear, and a clean gravelly shore about ten yards wide with a fine meadow, and six fine springs in it; then S. about 4 m. to a branch of the Kanbawa called Sinking Creek.

Sunday 12th. Stayed to rest our horses, and dry some meat we had killed.

R. Hall the farthest settler to the west of new river. Monday 13th. Set out S. E. 2 m. E. 1 m. S. E. 3 m. S. 12 m. to one Richard Hall's, in Augusta county; this man is one of the farthest settlers to the westward up the new river.

Tuesday 14th. Stayed at Richard Hall's, and wrote to the president of Virginia, and the Ohio company, to let them know I should be with them by the 15th day of June.

Wednesday 15th. Set out from Richard Hall's S. 16 m.

K. k. Beaver Island creek. Thursday 16th. The same course S. 22 m. and encamped at Beaver Island Creek, a branch of the Kanbawa, opposite to the head of Roanoak.

Line between North Carolina and Virginia. Friday 17th. Set out S. W. 3 m. then S. 9 m. to the dividing line between Carolina and Virginia, where I stayed all night. The land from Richard Hall's to this place is broken.

Gift arrives at his own house, on the Yadkin river. Saturday 18th. Set out S. 20 m. to my own house on the Yadkin river; when I came there, I found all my family gone, for the Indians has killed five people in the winter near that place, which I was informed of by an old man I met near the place.

Sunday 19th. Set out for Roanoak, and as we had now a path, we got there the same night, where I found all my family well.

Christopher Gift.

Shawane festival. Indians marriages dissolved.

An account of the Festival at the Shawane Town mentioned in my Journal, page 6. In the evening a proper officer made a public proclamation, that all the Indians marriages were dissolved, and a public feast was to be held for the three succeeding days after, in which the women (as their custom was) were again to choose their husbands.

The next morning early the Indians breakfasted, and after spent the day in dancing, till the evening, when a plentiful feast was prepared; after feasting, they spent the night in dancing.

The same way they passed the two next days till the evening, the men dancing by themselves, and then the women in turns round fires, and dancing in their manner in the form of the figure 8, about 60 or 70 of them at a time. The women, the whole time they danced, sung a song in their language, the chorus of which was,

I am not afraid of my husband;
I will choose what man I please.

Singing those lines alternately.

The third day, in the evening, the men, being about 100 in number, danced in a long string, following one another, sometimes at length, at other times in a figure of 8 quite round the fort, and in and out of the long house, where they held their councils, the women standing together as the men danced by them; and as any of the women liked a man passing by, she stepped in, and joined in the dance, taking hold of the man's stroud, whom she chose, and then continued in the dance, till the rest of the women stepped in, and made their choice in the same manner; after which the dance ended, and they all retired to consummate.

Indian women choose husbands.

N. B. This was given to me by colonel Mercer, agent to the Ohio Company, and now lieutenant-governor of North Carolina.