

trading post of the North-West Company. Mr. Fidler remained at Nottingham House throughout the winter, but Swain's post on the Peace River, which he had called Mansfield House, had to be abandoned in January, as the Indians refused to work for him, and without them he was unable to obtain sufficient provisions to sustain his men.

The winter was an unprofitable one for Mr. Fidler, and when the time came for taking his returns to York Factory he had only six packs of furs to show for his whole season's trade. However, on the 19th of May he left Nottingham with three canoes and nine men in the hope that when he returned in the following autumn he would be able to do better than he had done the previous winter.

On the 12th of September Mr. Fidler returned with the same number of canoes and men, the canoes loaded with trading goods. Four days later Swain left Nottingham House to build another trading post, this time on the Slave River, twenty-five miles above Great Slave Lake, which he dignified with the name of Chiswick House.

The winter of 1803-4 was hardly more profitable than the previous one, and when the time came, on the 21st of May, for Peter Fidler to leave for Cumberland House with his Annual returns he took Mr. Swain and two canoes with him, but he had very little more to show than he had had the year before. On the 24th of July he arrived at Cumberland House. After waiting here for a few days to discharge his small cargo of furs and to get an outfit of trading goods and some new men, he left Cumberland on the 3rd of August and started back for Lake Athabasca where he arrived on the 11th of September, finding, as he says in his journal, all well. On the 16th, after a delay of five days at this place, Mr. Swain continued on to Great Slave Lake, where he built a trading post on Moose Island, ten miles west of the western mouth of Slave River.

On the 24th of the following May, 1805, leaving Mr. Swain in charge of Nottingham House, he again embarked for Cumberland with seven bundles of furs all told, four from Great Slave Lake and three from the headquarters at Athabasca Lake. He took with him two canoes, with four men in each canoe, in order that he might make a quick trip to Cumberland, where he arrived on the 18th of June and where David Thompson, his old companion at the same place fifteen years before had arrived two days before him. After a stay of three days he continued on to Oxford House, where he arrived on the 1st of July. On the 3rd the Governor arrived from York Factory, but it was the 17th before the supplies for his trade arrived and it was the 19th before he was able to start again for Athabasca Lake.

On the 2nd of August he arrived at Cumberland House and on the 6th he and Mr. Sutherland left for the north-west, the latter being