

gentleman who urged my dear wife and me to remain at Montreal. However to this we could not consent as we had fully determined, to push our way, with as little delay as possible to Little York, Upper Canada.

On the 1st of June, 1829, we arrived at Montreal and were immediately busily engaged in landing our families and goods, securing a Durham boat to convey us up the river to Prescott, that being the only mode of conveyance. These objects accomplished, we occupied the Durham boat's warehouse that night, ready to start on our journey with tomorrow's rising sun.

On June 2nd we commenced our journey from Montreal. Those traveling the same route at present can form no idea of the hardships and trials we had to endure with a large family. In the first place the large number of passengers was so out of proportion to the capacity of the boat, that when all were aboard, we had merely standing room, could neither sit nor lie down. Also there was no accommodation aboard for sleeping. So that the greater part, especially the men, had to walk during the day and had often to help with the ropes, to drag the boat up the rapids of the river, and at night, while she lay to by the river side we had to take our beds and beg of the inhabitants the privileges of allowing us to lay them down and sleep in their barns or out houses, which were very scarce, as along the St. Lawrence from Lachine to Prescott the land is poor and very sparsely populated; and in addition to all this, the wheat crop the previous year had been unsound, and a partial failure, so that flour and bread was scarce and dear, and could hardly be obtained for love or money—which made it extremely difficult to forage for a family, for we had our own victuals to procure.

After passing Cornwall, a passenger, C. Dixon, who had a young family, joined me in hiring a double team and wagon and we sent on our wives and youngest children, some forty miles to Prescott, while with the rest of the family, I continued with the boat.

On June 7th, Sunday, our boat lay to, because the Captain could procure no oxen to help to drag it up the rapids, the magistrates having warned the farmers that if they lent their teams on the Sunday, they would be fined. We had our quarters at a large farm house, and slept in the kitchen. There were a few scattered