

Bay Company also had a post in the immediate vicinity. Horses were then in common use on the Swan River valley, for after stopping a day at this post, he and Mr. Grant started on horseback up the valley on a trail which ran for most of the distance along the north side of the river. On the second day they crossed the Swan river to the south side, and rode 6 miles to a house kept by one Belleau in a "hammock of Pines" on the bank of Snake creek, almost on the Second Initial Meridian, about 6 miles north of Fort Pelly. From here he turned southward, and continued his survey past the post of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Elbow of the Assiniboine river to the house of Cuthbert Grant, which was situated in T_p. 28, Range 31, and south-west of the present village of Runnymede, on the Canadian Northern railway.

Here he remained till October 14, when he returned to Belleau's house on Snake creek, in order, if possible, to obtain guides to take him up the Swan river, across the watershed to Red Deer river, and thence around to the headwaters of the Assiniboine river. From this date to November 28 his journal was lost, but he states, "I surveyed the Stone Indian (Assiniboine) river upward and its sources, and the Red Deer river and its sources, and from thence returned to the house of Mr. Cuthbert Grant, at the Brooks, on the Stone Indian river."

He, however, gives traverses worked out by latitude and departure which show his course to have been from Belleau's house to the upper house on Red Deer river in lat. 52° 47' 44" N. From here he turned south-westward, and continued his survey to the "upper house on the Stone Indian river," afterwards known as Alexandria, where Daniel Harmon spent five years of his life in the west, from 1800 to 1805, and which is said by him to have been "built on a small rise of ground on the bank of the Assiniboine, that separated it from a beautiful prairie about 2 miles long and from 1 to 4 broad, which is as level as the floor of a house." At a little distance behind the post are small groves of birch, poplar, aspen, and pine. From Alexandria he travelled down the river to the Elbow, and thence to Cuthbert Grant's house. Thence he continued southward to Thorburn's house on the Qu'apple river, a few miles above its mouth, in lat. 50° 28' 57", and McDonald's house, 1½ mile above the mouth of the Souris river.

The winter had now set in, when travelling on the open plains was unpleasant and dangerous, but Thompson was anxious to find out the exact positions of those Indian villages on the Missouri, where the people lived by the cultivation of corn as well as by hunting buffalo, and personal inconvenience and danger were not to be considered when compared with the satisfaction of this craving for knowledge. Besides this, some of the Indians might be induced to establish a regular trade with the North-West Company. So on November 28, 1797, he left McDonald's (Assiniboine) house with nine men, a few horses, and thirty dogs, and started south-westward across the plain. On December 7 he