

A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE JOURNEYS OF DAVID THOMPSON IN NORTH-WESTERN AMERICA.

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The following brief sketch of the journeys of David Thompson has been drawn from his Field note-books and journals which are preserved in the office of the Crown Land Department of Ontario. Unfortunately some of the books in the series are wanting, leaving blanks in the record of his travels. Wherever any of these breaks occur the fact is stated, but in some cases I have been able to partially fill them in from records of astronomical observations evidently often dotted down in the book that was most convenient, or sometimes tabulated apart from his journal. This latter is especially the case in regard to his later journeys in the mountains, for which time his journal is not among the books preserved, but there is a carefully tabulated series of a great number of astronomical observations taken during these years, from which his course can be followed with considerable certainty.

For the dates of his birth, marriage and death, I am indebted to the kindness of his daughter, Mrs. Shaw, who is now living in the town of Peterboro', Ontario.

David Thompson was born in the parish of St. John, Westminster, England, on the thirtieth of April, 1770. Of his early life, all that I have been able to learn is that he was educated at Christ's Hospital, or the "Blue Coat School," London, and was perhaps for a short time a student at Oxford. When about nineteen years old he must have entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, as in October, 1789, when in the middle of his twentieth year, his journal opens at this Company's establishment at Cumberland House, on the south shore of Pine Island Lake, in the Canadian North-West Territories. He states in a letter written in 1817, that a large brass sextant of Dollond's, of 10 inch radius, and reading to 15" had been his constant com-