

of his life during the years, 1796, 1797, 1800, 1803 to 1805, 1806, 1807, and 1821. There was also a meteorological Register kept by Peter Fidler himself from 1793 to 1807, giving the places at which he lived during those fourteen years, the readings of the thermometer twice a day, the direction and force of the wind, and general remarks on the climate, as well as occasional notes on remarkable occurrences in the country at that time. In addition to these books written by himself some other papers and journals were seen which gave some information about him and the life which he led.

From these data I am able to offer a brief sketch of Peter Fidler's life in Western Canada, and a very few items of interest out of his extended and detailed journals.

Peter Fidler was born at Bolsover, Derbyshire, on the sixteenth of August 1769, and entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company when he was nineteen years old, which would be in 1788. During the following winter he probably remained at York Factory, but in 1789 he went to Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan River, where he remained in company with David Thompson and Phillip Turner, the former of whom was one year his junior, while the latter was an enthusiastic surveyor and astronomer who had been in the service of the Company for a number of years, and who doubtless had much to do with the training of the two young men who were thus thrown in contact with him.

Where he spent the following year is not known, but it is reported, perhaps truly, that in the summer of 1791 he accompanied Phillip Turner on his expedition to survey Lake Athabasca, in which case he doubtless spent the winter of 1791-1792 with his chief at old Fort Chipewyan on the south side of the lake. Here he would have been the guest of Roderick Mackenzie of the North-West Company, though, being a young man and merely acting as assistant to Mr. Turner, he is not mentioned in any of the correspondence of Roderick Mackenzie which I have seen.

In 1792 he was back again on the Saskatchewan River at Buckingham House, the most western trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company at that time. From that post he travelled southwestward across the plains to the foot of Chief Mountain in the main range of the Rocky Mountains, and not far north of the present boundary line between the United States and Canada. Here he spent the winter, doubtless in a camp of Blackfeet or Piegan Indians, and in the following summer returned to Buckingham House, after which he ascended the Saskatchewan River for about one hundred miles, his courses and positions for these two years being laid down on Arrowsmith's map of North-Western America, made in 1795, with corrections to 1796.