

**The Journal of
Rev. Daniel S. Butrick**

May 19, 1838 - April 1, 1839

**CHEROKEE
REMOVAL**

Monograph One

**The Trail of Tears Association
Oklahoma Chapter**

Monday. [December 3rd]

We started soon in the morning. The ground was mostly covered with snow & frozen rain. We traveled about 12 miles, and camped within half a mile of Hopkinsville. Here we attended the Monthly concert at the tent of br. James Pridget.

Tuesday. [December 4th]

Travelled 12 miles, but found no convenient place for camping on account of water. A small spring however, and a pond, furnished a partial supply. We pitched our tent a little one side, for retirement, and endeavored to give thanks to our kind Heavenly Father for all his mercy to us on this journey & all our lives. O how great has been his kindness, his mercy is unspeakable.

Thursday Dec. 13.

Within ten miles of Ohio River, or Golconda.

Last week on Thursday [December 6th] we passed Isaac Bushyhead, Colo. Powell, and another man, left sick about three weeks before by Rev. Jesse Bushyhead's detachment. Isaac's father and sister Susan were with him.

As we camped about two miles beyond, I returned and spent the evening with them; and was pleased to find them disposed to converse on religious subjects. As I was about leaving, Mr. Bushyhead requested me to pray with him, as I was myself desirous to do. Sixty persons had died out of their detachment previous to their arrival at that place.

During the night a Cherokee woman died in the camps. Though she had given birth to a child but a few days before, yet last evening she was up, & no danger was apprehended, but in the morning she was found dead, with the infant in her arms. As the man living near was not willing to have her buried there, and as no plank could be obtained for a coffin, the corpse was carried all day in the waggon, and at night a coffin was made, and the next morning she was buried near the graves of some other Cherokees who had died in a detachment that had preceded us.

Also on Saturday night of last week an infant, a few months old, died with the bowel complaint. The corpse was interred after meeting on the Sabbath.

Our meeting was appointed for the Cherokees, but white people crowded in, so that no room was left for the Indians: and finding my congregation made up of white people, I spoke to them on the subject of missions, and gave a brief history of the Cherokee mission.

Near the place of meeting was a man sitting by a fire, afflicted with the bowel complaint. I did not think of his being dangerous, yet yesterday about noon he died. I went to the tent, & learned that he was a professor of religion, & seemed willing to die. He was a brother of Jesse and Josiah.

We learn that the young man burnt on the mountain, when drunk is dead.

On Friday of last week [December 7th], we passed through a very beautiful village called Princeton. In the midst of this town we were saluted by a young clergyman, by the name of Payne. He knew us from a former acquaintance at Brainerd. When he was a boy, his pious mother went with him to that mission and spent a number of months. At his request, we dined with him.

About a mile from this village, in full view, is Cumberland College, an institution belonging to the Cumberland Presbyterians. This is a handsome building.

On Tuesday of this week [December 11th] we arrived at this place about noon, but found some of Mr. Wafford's detachment still on the ground. As the conductor himself drinks, the company makes but poor progress. They have long been a hindrance to Mr. Taylor's detachment, so that we have often performed but half days travel.

About sunset, the man who died yesterday was buried near the bank of the creek on which we camped.

Friday. [December 14th]

Last night a child about 12 months old died. This is the 15th death since we crossed the Tennessee River. We travelled about 6 miles, and camped 2 miles from Ohio River.

Saturday. [December 15th]

Early in the morning the detachment started for the river, and commenced crossing about 10 O'clock. The weather was pleasant and still, affording us a favorable opportunity for crossing the river.

As we were now passing out of a slave state into a free, we reflected on the pleasure of landing where all were in a measure equal and free.

But we had scarcely landed when we were met with volleys of oaths from every quarter. I turned to one boat to make a few purchases, but heard such awful profaneness within, that I quickly turned away to another. On entering it I had scarcely time to speak to the owner, behind the counter, before I was obliged to hear from his unhallowed lips the same infernal language. I told him the cause of my turning from the other boat, and my regret at being compelled to hear the same from his mouth, and urged him to desist from such a practice.

On going up from the boats into the village, called Golconda, it seemed to be made up chiefly of groceries, and little boys in the streets had already learned to lisp the infernal language. I almost longed to be back in the still, quiet towns of Kentucky. I could but think of the unhappy fate of Mr. Lovejoy, who fell a victim to the principles of slavery, in a state of nominal freedom.

Those of us who crossed first went on to the place designated for camping about a mile & a half from the river. I immediately commenced gathering wood for the sabbath. Having done this, & commenced making preparation for supper, we were told by a white man living near, that that was not the place for camping, but we must go beyond the next plantation.

We therefore harnessed, & leaving our fire & wood, went on with other waggons to the place specified. Here we found a man of Wafford's detachment still on the ground drunk. That company left here this morning. We now again selected a place for our tent, & put it up, and gathered wood for the sabbath. My dear wife had also made her tea, when word came that we must not camp there, as the owner would not allow the Cherokees to cut or burn any wood. Mr. Taylor also who was yet behind wished the detachment to [go] farther & camp on public land. It was now nearly dark, Saturday night, and we were quite tired and hungry, yet we could only prepare for another encampment, about a mile distant. We had now no time to prepare wood, but found dry bushes etc. near our tent, so as to answer our purpose for the night.

Sabbath. [December 16th]

As but few waggons arrived at this place last night, they kept coming in today. But about half the detachment crossed the river yesterday, and as the Ferryman seems determined that the others shall come over today, Mr. Taylor considered it his duty to go back and see the detachment all over, and of course we had no meeting. This is the first sabbath since we left Brainerd, on which we have not had public worship.

About noon a number of white people came to our tent, & I gave them a brief history of the sufferings of the Cherokees. The afternoon and night were stormy.

Monday. [December 17th]

The rain still continues. Two or three Cherokees came in last night drunk, cursing &

blaspheming in an awful manner. Today again, one of them returned, raging like an infernal spirit, but was soon seized by the Cherokee light horse & bound.

Tuesday. [December 18th]

As we do not start today, it is thought best to move onto dryer ground. My own health failed, had a high fever in the afternoon, and took an emetic [vomit inducer]. After the operation of this, I was seized with a severe pain in my right side, which increased till sometime in the night, when the physician bled me, and put a poultice of mustard seed on my side, which afforded relief.

Wednesday. [December 19th]

We travelled about 6 miles, and camped. Had a comfortable night.

Thursday. [December 20th]

As several waggons and some sick persons are still behind, we wait today for them.

This morning a little child about 10 years old died.

Previous to starting on this journey, I determined to let it be a journey of prayer, and to devote much time every day to that sacred duty, but instead of this, I have very strangely neglected prayer. In the morning our time is employed in taking our bed etc. from the little waggon in which we sleep, to the large waggon which carries it, replacing the seat, getting water, cooking breakfast, putting up things, harnessing etc. Soon we are hurried on by the waggons we accompany to the next encampment. Here we have to undo what we did in the morning, put up our tent, get wood, and water, prepare supper, fix our bed etc.. We often become much fatigued by the time we get our fire prepared.

I know that all this cannot justify a neglect of prayer. I think my own heart is more peculiarly depraved, especially as respects impatient & angry feelings. And further, I have no pleasing anticipations about arriving at the Arkansas. Mr. Worcester will doubtless wish to sustain, or at least, excuse Mr. Boudinot in the course he has taken; and as the A. Board have received Mr. Boudinot as an assistant missionary at the west, they doubtless look over his conduct in making the treaty, yet the mission churches in the nation do not, and by attempting to crowd him into their favour, without any acknowledgement on his part, we should only prove, or seem to prove to them, that we were interested with him, and plunge the mission of the A. Board like lead in the mighty waters.

Mr. Taylor said long ago, if I mistake not, that he could not commune with Mr. Boudinot. Br. Mills, an elder in Haweis church said the same, and would not attend the communion when Mrssrs. Chamberlain & Potter held it at Mr. J. Ridge's, because he was opposed to the measures they were taking. Maj. Lowrey, an elder in Willstown church had spoken decidedly against the measures adopted by the treaty party. Knowing the minds of the church, I felt that the case called for a thorough and candid investigation by some ecclesiastical lady, and therefore I gave the brethren of Brainerd church an opportunity to express their feelings on the subject, hoping that this might bring the case before some council or presbytery, by which it might be examined and decided in a proper manner, though it is very doubtful whether I live to reach that place.

The little boy who died last night was buried today in a coffin made of puncheons.

Friday. [December 21st]

We proceeded six miles to a very pleasant spot, to remain till Monday.

Saturday. [December 22nd]

This morning two children died with the bowel complaint. Towards night the wind arose, and the air turning cold, I did not attend the prayer meeting.

Sabbath. [December 23rd]

We have peculiar cause of gratitude for the preservation of the last night. The wind blew a gale nearly the whole night, and seemed to threaten almost certain calamity, both by scattering the fire through the leaves and tents, and also by throwing limbs, trees etc. upon our heads. But those eyes which never slumber watched over us, and preserved us in safety, though we had but little sleep.

The weather is now piercing cold, so that we despair of holding any public meeting. I consulted Mr. Taylor and we concluded to hold a prayer meeting in some tent; and accordingly met in the tent of br. J. Pridget.

Monday & Tuesday. [December 24th & 25th]

Travelled about 12 miles.

Tuesday about noon, the linch pin came out of one end of the fore axletree, the wheel came off and the end of the axletree, falling on the frozen ground broke, so that we had much trouble to get on to a waggon maker 6 miles forward. My dear wife had to walk considerably, & I became quite fatigued.

We now called for lodgings at the house where we were to get our work done. The house was rather open & contained but one room, yet the family at length consented to our stay. Here our bodies were refreshed, but our souls pained. The workman, the man of the house, came home a little before night in a high state on intoxication, & almost every word was accompanied with an oath. We hastened to bed, not considering it possible to have family worship. None of this family can read or write. The workman, i.e. the waggon maker is about 60 years old, and presents an awful spectacle. There are five adults in the family, yet none, to read. The woman says also that their preacher himself sometimes gets drunk. He is a Schismatic, or Bible Christian. He does not exclude any from the church, not even for drinking, because he says, all must grow together till the harvest.

Thus far the citizens of Illinois appear more & more pitiable. They seem not only low in all their manners, but ignorant, poor, and ill humoured. They have no slaves, but in general, as far as we have seen, they seem to be hankering after these leeks of Egypt, and because they cannot have slaves, let their work go undone. We see nothing like schools in the country.

Wednesday. [December 26th]

The morning is excessively cold. Rode to the encampment, one mile, and found our dear Cherokees comfortable in their tents. Saw Mr. Taylor, he says they will remain today where they are.

It is said the detachments now at the Mississippi are stopped by floating ice, and Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment is stopped by the same means at the Ohio R.

After breakfast my dear wife accompanied me to the camps, where we put down our tent, prepared wood for the night, but on returning for our carryall found it would be wet to sleep in, and therefore we were obliged again to sleep at the house.

Thursday. [December 27th]

We proceeded with the detachment about 6 miles, where we camped for the week. Here the snow increased to three or four inches, and the weather was excessively cold.

Friday & Saturday [December 28th & 29th].

Afflicted with a fever afternoons & a cough during the night. So also on the Sabbath was unable to attend meeting. Our dear br. Wilooka had a meeting.

It is distressing to reflect on the situation of the nation. One detachment stopped at the Ohio River, two at the Mississippi, one four miles this side, one 16 miles this side, one 18 miles, and one 3 miles behind us. In all these detachments, comprising about 8,000 souls, there is now a vast amount of sickness, and many deaths. Six have died within a short time in Maj. Brown's company, and in this detachment. Of Mr. Taylor's there are more or less affected with sickness in almost every tent; and yet all are houseless & homeless in a strange land, and in a cold region exposed to weather almost unknown in their native country. But they are prisoners. True, their own chiefs have directly hold of their hands, yet the U. States officers hold the chiefs with an iron grasp, so that they are obliged to lead the people according to their directions in executing effectually that Schermerhorn treaty.

Monday, Dec. 31.

This morning we were permitted to read the texts for the last day of the year. O what a year it has been! O what a sweeping wind has gone over, and carried its thousands into the grave; while thousands of others have been tortured and scarcely survive, and the whole nation comparatively thrown out of house & home during this most dreary winter.

And why? As coming from God, we know it is just. But what have they done to the U. States? Have they violated any treaty? or any intercourse law; or abused any of the agents or officers of the U. States? Or have they refused to accomodate U. States citizens when passing through the country? No such thing is pretended. For what crime then was this whole nation doomed to this perpetual death? This almost unheard of suffering? Simply because they would not agree to a principle which would be at once death to their national existence, and that a few unauthorized individuals might at any time, set aside the authority of the national council & principal chief, and in opposition to the declared will of the nation, dispose of the whole public domain, as well as the private property of individuals, and render the whole nation houseless & homeless at pleasure. Such a treaty the President of the U. States sanctioned, the Senate ratified, and the military force was found ready to execute. And now we see some of the effects.

The year past has been a year of spiritual darkness. We have had but few happy seasons, and as for myself, I have by no means been faithful to my trust. I have wanted faith & love & zeal. A great part of the time my heart has been grieved to hear the awful profanements and see the scenes of wickedness which have been brought before us.

Tuesday. Jan. 1, 1839. [New Years Day]

Thus we enter on a new year in this wilderness about 25 miles from the Mississippi. I say wilderness, because, though many people are settled around us, yet we, Indians, have a little spot of woodland assigned us, in which we must reside as really as if all the region were a wilderness. White people come to sell & get gain, but not to invite any to a friendly roof.

Last evening a young man died by the name of Ramsey. A white man, who has had charge of one of Mr. Taylor's teams, he is said to have been deranged ever since we came to this spot. He was taken to a house in the neighborhood, where he died. About 4 o'clock this afternoon he was buried. I spoke a few words at the grave on the subject of death & the swiftness of time, and prayed with the assembly. I felt thankful that I was able to attend and speak a word for God on the first day of the year, but my health was such that I hastened back to our tent, where we had also prepared a small shelter of boards. This was particularly grateful as the night was rainy. I am now obliged to have our fire wood cut, and almost everything done

which we need out doors. O how kind the Lord is in providing all things to keep us from suffering.

The mercies, as well as the judgments of the year past demand peculiar attention, as we proceed to take our leave of it. Though we have been distressed on every side, yet we have not been destroyed. And though by my favor from God, from the dear Board that supports me, & the poor Cherokees, who still bear with me, yet thus far I am kindly permitted to labour in the mission field and I would plead this privilege while I shall be able to labour.

The health of my dear wife the year past calls for the most unfeigned gratitude to God. During almost the whole of last winter, I was confined to the house with sickness. She arose first in the morning, saw to fires being made, and to all the domestic concerns of the house. By this means without hiring help we proceeded with the school boarding ten children and the teacher and attending to the constant flow of company that called on us. Thus also through the whole summer and fall, her labours have been peculiarly trying; and since we have been on this journey, for three long months, she has slept in a waggon or a tent, & been exposed to cold & wet, and at present has to go forward again, and take care of me in my ill health, yet she has not sunk under her burdens. The Lord has sustained her, & blessed be His Name. O that her health, spiritual & temporal, may be still preserved.

The little boy also that has lived with us has also enjoyed uninterrupted good health. O what could we have done in these times of distress, if the Lord had also afflicted us with sickness! O what unspeakable gratitude is due for his mercies past. And O how kindly has he dealt with us since we set out on this journey. During the three months we have been thus in the wilderness, no tempest has been let loose to throw down the many trees hanging over, and no flashing lightning to frighten the timid. And very seldom have we experienced any special inconvenience from rain. Though some have been sick, & fallen on the way, yet many still survive, in circumstances calling for gratitude. O thou dear redeemer, do help us to praise Thee, and may thy kindness still attend us.

Wednesday. [January 2nd]

Was quite sick. Able only to visit a few other sick persons.

Thursday. [January 3rd]

Confined mostly to our tent by ill health; rode a short distance to purchase a few articles of food. Found a delightful family. Will the Lord remember them in mercy.

Saturday. [January 5th]

Rode out a few rods - saw Mr. Taylor in pursuit of some to assist in burying a little boy of about 9 years who died last night.

Saturday.

The detachment is still waiting. My dear wife is now unwell, afflicted with a ague [periodic malarial fever & chills]. Her strength has been declining a number of days. I am also scarcely able to walk.

Sabbath. [January 6th]

A number of our Cherokee brethren came to our camp, so that we held a meeting about noon. I endeavored to speak from Exod. 20:2. It was encouraging because we had so long been unable to meet with our dear friends.

Monday. [January 7th]

Early this morning a blind man by the name of Archy died with the bowel complaint. He had no family but lived with two of his sisters. It is said they did not pay that attention to him which his condition required. I had not known of his sickness, nor even heard of the man himself, till I heard of his death, though he has been all the time in the detachment. He was buried about dark near the tent where he died.

Today, most of the detachment left this place for another about one mile & a half distant, as there is a plentiful supply of water, whereas here we have it to fetch about half a mile.

About noon I visited a sick man in the neighborhood who is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. He seems resigned to the Divine will.

At candlelight several brethren Cherokees came to our tent, where we held the monthly concert. We were rejoiced in being able to attend this meeting on the first Monday in the year.

Tuesday. [January 8th]

We went to the new camp ground & pitched our tent near those of br. McPhaerson & Mr. Burns. Got a black man to cut some wood for the night.

About sunset I married Mr. Robert D. Blackstone to Miss Loisa C. England, at her fathers tent.

Wednesday. [January 9th]

My dear wife is scarcely able to walk about. The weather is now warm & debilitating and her strength seems to decline.

Thursday. [January 10th]

Visited the camps - find a large number sick and unwell. War Club, our old friend, gave us some slippery elm bark to use for the bowel complaint.

Friday. [January 11th]

There was some rain last night, yet in the morning, it abated so that I kindled a fire before the tent, but soon a very powerful rain commenced, and the water ran in streams through the tent, and considering the state of our health, we had great cause of gratitude that we took no new cold. At length the rain ceased, & the ground dried away so that we prepared our breakfast.

During the day I visited our dear br. George Hicks detachment, found him well. Saw also our dear brs. Levi Woodward, & Frank. It is said that upwards of thirty have died out of this detachment since they started.

Saturday. [January 12th]

This morning was also ushered in with a severe rain, so that I had to get up and go directly into the rain to make a fire. My dear wife is evidently much affected by these exposures.

We learn that Judge Brown's and G. Stills detachments have already crossed the river, and that Mr. Wafford's will probably commence crossing tomorrow.

Sabbath. [January 13th]

Last night was also rainy and this morning during a heavy rain we had considerable difficulty in making a fire. The rain subsided before noon so that we held a meeting at br. J. Pridget's tent. I spoke from Rom. 4:8,9.

O how consoling the thought that salvation is all of grace. If the least worth or merit

were required as a condition of acceptance, I could only yield at once to eternal despair. I am not only unworthy, but unworthiness itself, not only devoid of merit, but deserving all evil, yet, if while we were sinners, without strength, Christ died for us, will He not also, without our merit, from the same free grace, grant those favours necessary to complete that salvation which He has begun.

I also endeavored to encourage our poor brethren & sisters, in their present state of poverty and distress, to take hold of this free salvation, and come with boldness to the throne of grace.

Monday. [January 14th]

The night was again rainy, but the morning more pleasant.

Soon after breakfast I went to Mr. Taylor's tent to enquire when we should proceed on our journey. He thinks of starting tomorrow.

When we camped a mile & a half back, a young white man, a waggoner, was sick at the house of a Mr. Gore a few days, where he died. Mr. Taylor showed me Mr. Gore's bill against the young man's estate, which he had paid, viz. for a coffin (a very ordinary one) four Dollars. For some grave cloths & burial, ten Dollars, and for the use of a bed eleven Dollars, in all twenty five Dollars.

Mr. Taylor also spoke of some trouble which Mr. Hicks had lately experienced. A very aged Cherokee belonging to Mr. Wafford's detachment, fell back into that of Mr. Taylor's, the other side of the Ohio River; and crossed the river with us. One of our company viz. Little Broom broke his waggon and remained at Golconda a day or two, and this old man remained with him. At length, however, the old man left him, & Little Broom came on. Soon after this Mr Hicks' detachment crossed the river & pursued his journey. Sometime after this the citizens near the river found the old man dead, and buried him. They then followed Mr. Hicks with a charge of 39 Dollars for burying, though the corpse was hauled to the place of burying with a log chain & a yoke of oxen. Mr. Hicks told them the old man belonged to another detachment, and that of course he was under no obligation to pay any charges against him. The men on hearing this returned, obtained a warrant, sheriff etc. and returned on the sabbath and took Mr. Hicks back to a little town called Vienna, where after some debate he was acquitted. The man who was the principal in this prosecution, is suspected of having killed the old man himself.

It is also stated that some of his neighbours saw lately two young Cherokees well dressed lying dead in a branch below his house, and went to him and told him of it. Not long after, they went to bury the bodies, but they could not be found. Yet when Mr. Hicks detachment camped near the place, & left their encampment, Mr. Hilderbrands company coming after, found one of the bodies of the young men, as they now suppose, lying on the campground. Though the body seemed to have been some time dead, yet from all appearance it had lain in that place but a short time. It is supposed this man put it there, to induce the belief that it died out of Mr. Hicks detachment. These two young men are said to have belonged to Mr. Stills detachment, to have had a considerable amount of property, and to have stopped at Golconda, as the detachment went on.

Thus, the citizens of this state seem thus far to display a more mean & niggardly disposition than I have ever found in any other part of the union.

Mr. Hicks detachment started today, and passed us about one mile. Some of his waggons however had been unable to get up on account of the mud. Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment came up within about a mile of us, excepting some waggons mired down in the mud.

Wednesday. [January 16th]

Just before breakfast our dear brethren Blunt & Parker called. They had been commissaries in Mr. Foreman's detachment, but was obliged to return on account of the ill health of br. Blunt, before completing the journey.

Thursday. [January 17th]

Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment passed on, so that we are now left behind.

A number of Cherokees were drinking today at the house of a white man, and the light horse went to stop them, when the drunkards jumped onto their horses & fled. The light horse pursued them. The drunkards rode up to Mr. Burns tent, when one of them, W. Goodmoney, sprang from his horse, seized a gun & instantly discharged it, evidently intending to kill one of the light horse men; though the ball passed through the fore leg of his horse. The light horse then seized him and took him to Mr. Taylor's tent.

Friday. [January 18th]

We understand that there is [to] be a council of Cherokees. W. Goodmoney is fined \$120 for shooting the horse.

Sabbath. [January 20th]

Yesterday spent some time visiting the sick & at candle light, held a prayer meeting at the tent of br. Mills. Today a good number assembled, and I attempted to hold up to their view the great, the good & kind works of our Divine Redeemer while he tabernacled in the flesh, taking text for my text. "He hath done all things well." At candlelight held a meeting again at br. Mills tent.

Monday. [January 21st]

After remaining at this place two weeks, today we proceeded on our journey four & half miles, where we camped. Here we had a pleasant night. The elements were still & quiet, and the stars sparkled with peculiar luster; and by means of an old tree, fallen long ago & broken by the wind, we were furnished with wood. This was peculiarly grateful because I was unable to chop.

My dear wife and myself are both troubled with a diarrhea. I have also been troubled with a swelling I feared would become dangerous.

Today, the twenty first of January, I trust I experience some relief. I tried to give thanks to God and feel determined, if relieved, to devote this day yearly to thanksgiving & prayer.

Tuesday. [January 22nd]

Today we travelled about five miles, and stopped where Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment had this morning left their fires burning, and soon gathered wood ready cut for the night. Here the company before us left one of their number to be buried by her friends, who stopped for the purpose.

We also learn that last Friday night, a woman in the same company was killed by the fall of a tree, and two others wounded. The tree fell on them, it seems, when asleep. O how kind, how infinitely kind the dear, the condescending, the infinitely condescending Redeemer is. He guides us like the kindest shepherd, He carries us in his bosom. O who can praise Him according to his infinite kindness. Eternity will only afford time to give Him thanks.

Wednesday. [January 23rd]

We travelled again five miles, and camped two miles beyond Jonesborough.

This is a pleasant little village, and its moral character much better than that of any we have seen in the state. The weather is pleasant & in the middle of the day warm.

Thursday. [January 24th]

As we do not travel today, I concluded to devote the day to fasting & prayer.

This morning a young woman died near us. She had come in Mr. Hilderbrand's detachment till that came near us, when her father in this company took her to his tent. I had not seen her, nor known of her being in the company.

Friday. [January 25th]

We proceeded seven miles to the bank of the Mississippi River. At this place a sand bar in the middle extends probably half across the bed of the river, leaving two sluices of about an equal width on each side. Therefore it is like two rivers, crossed by two ferries, that is, two sets of boats, one conveying passengers to the bar, and the other from it. But three waggons and a carryall crossed today.

We fixed our tent on the bank of this great River, one of the wonders of creation.

Soon after we arrived, our attention was arrested by the passing of a large, beautiful & grand steam boat. Neither my dear wife, nor myself had ever seen one before. Of course the appearance was quite imposing. We have long been looking forward to this river; and numbers who crossed the Ohio with us have not lived to arrive at this.

O how kind our dear heavenly Father has been to us. Though some affliction has fallen to our lot, yet O how light & with what peculiar kindness it has been laid upon us. O thour dearest Lord, wilt thou still be our Saviour and our friend, all our journey through. O how vast, how boundless the grace which has thus far sustained us. And now, O thou Dear Redeemer, having brought us to gray hairs, shall thy kindness now cease, and must we be left to sink because we are unworthy? O may we not, even now, roll ourselves, all our burdens upon thine arms? Thou only canst sustain us. O do take us & let us walk with God. This is all our desire.

Saturday. [January 26th]

Through Divine goodness, we were conveyed safely over the great river, though we had to wait some hours on the sandbar when the wind blew almost a gale. But when we landed on the western bank, we found that the waggon carrying our tent, bed etc., had not come over, and of course we were obliged to seek shelter in some house and as a kind Providence ordered, a man came to the camps who lived near, and conducted us to his own dwelling, where we received a kind reception & happy rest for the night.

Sabbath. [January 27th]

As the weather was cold & but few families were over the river, we had no meeting. But improved the day at the house of our host, in reading conversations, etc.

Monday. Bainbridge Cape Girardeau Co. Mo. Jan 28 - 1839.

Last night it commenced raining, and the storm, snow & rain continues today. That will render it very unpleasant for our dear Cherokee friends to cross the river, but yet this reminds us of the gratitude we owe to God for providing us a shelter, especially as my dear wife is so unwell.

Towards night Messrs. R. Brevard & Judge Obannon called on us & kindly invited us to make their houses our homes while we might be detained. This we gladly accepted, & on Tuesday went to Mr. Brevard's & on Thursday to Judge Obannon's, returning again to Mr.

Brevard's on Saturday morning.

In these two families we found everything we needed to refresh our bodies & comfort and revive our drooping spirits. This kind Providence was very probably the means of saving the life of my dear Elizabeth, if not my own also, as I had been afflicted with the same complaint.

About noon Mr. Brevard's father, a pious man, called and conducted us to his house, where we were entertained in the most hospitable manner. Their unwearied attention and the abundance of their liberality call for a better reward than we can render. The Lord will repay them a thousand fold. O may his richest blessings ever attend them & their dear children and servants.

Mr. Brevard's, Feb. 12 - 1839. [Tuesday]

Went to the camps. We learn that some of our dear Cherokee friends crossed the river yesterday, and it is hoped we shall be able to go forward day after tomorrow.

Feb. 12. [Tuesday]

We are told the detachment will probably be able to proceed on the journey tomorrow. It will then have been three weeks since our arrival on the other bank of the river. About half the detachment [had] crossed when the ice began to run and so filled the water as to stop the boats near three weeks. During this time five individuals have died, viz. one old Cherokee woman, one black man, & three Cherokee children, making in all since we crossed the Tennessee River 26 deaths.

Thursday Feb. 21.

Eleven miles west of Farmington & 80 miles from the Mississippi River.

Last Friday [February 15th] we left the hospitable roof of our kind benefactor, Mr. Brevard. He accompanied us about a mile, when we took our leave of him, and proceed forward with the detachment.

We went to Jackson 12 miles and Mrs. Butrick & myself spent the night with a son of the friend we left this morning. The son seems to possess all the generosity of the father. Some of the detachment arrived before & some after us, & went on a mile or two to the place of encampment, but we were sorry to see some stopping to drink in the town.

Saturday. [February 23rd]

We proceeded to the encampment, & spent much of the day, but on learning that the company was to travel the next day, Mrs. Butrick & myself went on 6 miles to the house of a Methodist preacher by the name of Crane. Here we arrived about dark and met with a very cordial reception. We found also two other Methodist preachers with him, and a pious layman from Illinois, and had a peculiarly pleasant evening.

Sabbath. [February 24th]

Mr. Crain & myself held a meeting at his house, while the other two ministers fulfilled an appointment several miles distant. At candlelight one of the brethren who was abroad today preached an evening lecture. Thus the day was indeed a pleasant & refreshing season.