

## **Transcript**

### **Extracts from Upper Fort Garry post journal, May – July, 1826**

HBCA, B.235/a/7, fos. 32d-46d

#### **1826**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

The ice in the rivers has attained the height that the floods reached at the highest pitch last summer, and the water in several places has overflowed the banks, and many houses are surrounded thereby. Rainy weather. Wind E.

May 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday

The water in the rivers rose above 5 feet perpendicular during the last twenty four hours, and the ice is now on a level with the highest banks, but it is still so thick and strong that even the present flush of waters have not sufficient force to break it up. Sleet rain and snow. Wind S.E.

May 5<sup>th</sup> Friday

About 2 P.M. the ice in the Red River at length broke up, with an awful rush; carrying away cattle, houses, trees and everything else that came in its way. The river overflowed its banks everywhere, and carried the ice with great velocity to a greater distance from its course, than had ever been seen by the oldest inhabitants. The house of the settlers were one instant seen standing, and the next not a vestige was to be discovered, to denote their situations. Forty-seven dwelling houses were thus carried off by the first rush, in the short space of half an hour, and many others afterwards from which the wretched inhabitants barely escaped with their lives. The waters at the same time rushed into the forts, but the banks being fortunately high, the ice only rubbed against the corner of our front bastion. The forts were also guarded by the trees on the Assiniboine Point. Apprehending an inundation we had previously taken the precaution to raise all the perishable goods and property in the stores, some distance from the ground. This necessary task occupied all hands during this morning and the whole of yesterday. On the floods entering the forts, the families, and part of the people of both establishments were moved out to an elevated situation above the forts, on the Assiniboine, and the rest of the people were placed to take care of the property in the forts. Wind S.W. blowing a strong breeze. Weather mild.

May 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday

The waters continued to increase during the last night and this day. The ice during the same time ran past without intermission in immense masses, mingled with the wrecks of houses, fences, trees, etc. Some of the people of the Settlement employed during the day removing the most valuable effects from their dwellings to high situations on the banks of the Assiniboine, while others placed themselves and property on scaffolds formed amongst the trees; and well was it for them that they did so, for before they had fully succeeded, their houses and part of their furniture, were swept off before their eyes by the icy deluge. The

havoc was terrible. Boats and canoes were now used in the forts, in passing from one house to another. The clerks and men employed raising all the property higher in the stores than it had been before; the inundation turning out to be greater than at first apprehended. About sixty families with 200 head of cattle enclosed on half an acre of ground, by the floods. Boats sent to give relief. Warm weather, with thunder lightning and rain.

May 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday

About 4 A.M. the ice in the Assiniboine River broke up, and the waters therein rose as high as those of the Red River. The immense discharge of ice poured in from the former, into the latter mentioned rivers made the scene as destructive as terrific. The whole population were again in motion, flying to such situations as might afford them a temporary security, leaving in many instances their cattle to perish, and most of their effects to be swept away, happy in escaping with their lives. Wind variable, with thunder, lightning and rain.

May 8<sup>th</sup> Monday

The rivers have become almost clear of ice, but the waters increase apace. All the Company's men and boats continue day and night in snatching from watery graves, such of the settlers as were unable to escape from their houses, from the roofs of which, several of them were taken up by our people, with such of their property as they had saved. Thus repeatedly has the Company been the means of saving the lives of this ill-fated people in this ill-fated year. Cold weather with sleet and rain, Wind N.E.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

The waters still rose, and the whole country has assumed the appearance of a large lake. The boats of the fort continue day and night, in use, saving the settlers, with their remaining cattle and effects from destruction. The wrecks of houses are constantly floating down the stream; and the tales of woe from all quarters are really heart-rending. All claim the aid of the fort, the court of which is constantly filled with a flotilla of canoes, imploring the first helping hand. Warm weather. Wind N.W.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The scene of desolation and distress in the Settlement, was if possible greater this day than yesterday, or before, as the continued rising of the floods, not only increases the alarm, but also the destruction of property. Our boats employed as yesterday. Our people encamped without the fort were from the rapid rising of the waters, obliged to pitch further up the Assiniboine River to higher ground. Tempest with darkness, thunder, lightning and rain.

May 11<sup>th</sup> Thursday

The floods continue to rise considerably throughout the last twenty four hours, and with it the anxiety of the settlers and ourselves for the safety of our lives and property. The remains of houses and fences are constantly floating down the

stream. Our boats have been solely employed by the inhabitants in removing their effects up the Assiniboine. All is bustle and confusion. Tempestuous wind, with thunder, lightning and rain throughout the night.

May 12<sup>th</sup> Friday

Matters the same as yesterday.

May 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Our people encamped on the banks of the Assiniboine River have been obliged to pitch their camp to some miles higher up that stream; their original encampments being overflowed by the rapid swelling of the waters. The forts now standing like a castle of romance in the midst of an ocean of deep contending currents, the water extending for at least a mile behind them, and they are thereby only approachable by boats and canoes. Mr. McKenzie with the few hands he keeps with him at the forts, are obliged to live in the highest stories of the highest houses. The pickets and the chimneys of the houses are falling daily, as well as the plastering of the walls, and even the houses themselves begin to totter on their foundations. It is really distressing to see such fine complete establishments, thus become, in so short a period, in the condition of a wreck. The settlers were obliged to move still higher up the Assiniboine, for safety, and most of our boats were employed by them as usual in transporting their families, cattle and property to a more secure station than their last retreat. All these harassing movements have these wretched poor to undergo at a time when famine of itself is almost insupportable. Their cup of misfortune may be truly said to be filled to overflowing this year. The wrecks of houses still float down the stream without intermission. Tempest, with thunder, lightning and rain.

May 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Our people were again forced to remove their camp still higher up the Assiniboine, to the vicinity of Sturgeon Creek. The waters rise so rapidly that the property was considered to be no longer safe in the forts, consequently, our people and most of our boats, with the help of some of the settlers, commenced removing the Company's property, with all dispatch, up the Assiniboine to our encampment there. The rest of our boats were given out to such of the settlers as required assistance to enable them to escape with their lives, and what of their effects remain, to the same place. Our new Block House, on the front side of the fort, the best in Rupert's Land, built last summer, was this morning carried off in an instant with part of the picketing. It fell with a crash like thunder, as if to extinguish our hopes for the safety of the remaining buildings. The chimneys of the houses are nearly all fallen, and the shattered walls of the buildings also begin to give way to the overpowering force of the current. The houses rock to and fro like a ship at sea, every joint opens, every beam bends. The boats were loaded from the garret windows during the day. Cloudy weather in the daytime, at night awful thunder, lightning and rain. The scene that of darkness and horror. From the tops of the houses in the fort, whatever way the eye turns, unless

where the view is bounded by the woods, nothing meets it but water and sky. A stormy lake surrounds us, over which agitated as it now is by contending winds and currents, no craft smaller than our large boats, dare venture, and scarcely these with safety.

#### May 15<sup>th</sup> Monday

Our people and boats were employed throughout this day as yesterday, transporting the Company's property from the fort to our encampment up the Assiniboine, and the roofs of our stores had to be opened to get out the same. The boats at the same time were riding on the walls. The buildings are undermining and giving way rapidly to the force of the current. Part of our craft were again given over for the benefit of the public, which they use night and day, but notwithstanding all their exertions, some poor families are obliged to remain in the water for hours, before relief can be afforded them. Weather cloudy, with thunder, lightning and rain, but more moderate than yesterday. Wind S.E. and blowing hard.

#### May 16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

All hands as during the two days past are employed in transporting the property of both forts to our encampment on the Assiniboine, which service was completed at a late hour this evening. Mr. McKenzie who has ever since the commencement of the inundation, been rocking on top of the buildings to look after the property, and giving direction in all these critical cases, also removed from the forts to our encampment in course of the night, and the forts have been abandoned as too unsafe to reside in. The only part of the Company's property that remains in the fort is the remaining stock of ball and rum. These articles are in the cellars, and being imperishable commodities, are consequently safe. The whole face of the country, both above and below the encampment, is covered with water and in this windy weather, looks like an immense lake in a storm. Strong S.W. wind. Cloudy weather, with a few light showers of rain.

#### May 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Two men were placed to watch the forts in a canoe, and give notice. The seed grain was distributed to our encampment, that the people might not perish for want of food, it not being considered prudent to withhold it any longer, as their condition from famine is truly desperate. Besides being tossed about and exposed, we can no longer secure it from the floods. It is now optional with them either to eat or preserve it for the purpose originally intended. This bone of contention being at length removed they (the settlers) now see that nothing further in the way of food (part of the requisition of four excepted) is reserved, every thing being, from the necessity of the case, fully in view, on the open plains. The remains of the contribution grain was also distributed among the poor. The waters rise at the rate of two feet in twenty four hours, but at our encampment we still have an elevation of six feet, the highest situation except one, within many miles. All the Canadian, French Halfbreed, Swiss and Demeuron inhabitants, are encamped around us, and we are only fifteen persons

in number to defend the property, which was not considered safe in the forts, from their depredations, and which there were so many plots on foot to seize, while there. Fine warm windy weather. Wind S.W.

May 18 Thursday

The waters continue to rise at the rate of ten inches in the space of twenty four hours. The people and almost all the cattle are safe both with us, and everywhere else, throughout the settlement. Our camp assumes a regular appearance. We have the waters in front, and the land above Sturgeon Creek in the rear. However some of the people being yet in terror from the rapid rise of the floods, have moved some miles from us. The sales go on as briskly as if we were in the forts. With all the exertions that people make, they catch but few fish, the current being too strong. Fortunately we have a large stock of ammunition which is of indefinite service to them, for shooting wild fowl. All hands employed drying our goods and our furs and repairing our boats. Fine weather. Wind S.W.

May 19<sup>th</sup> Friday

Business going on briskly as yesterday. The remainder of the property belonging to the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy was safely landed at our encampment, together with that of such of the Scotch settlers as have come hither for safety. The water rising at the rate of four inches in twenty four hours. Two Canadians have arrived with sturgeon from the Rapids which they will sell at 5/. each. Some freemen from beyond Pembina also arrived and report the waters to be as high there as here. High winds during the day with a dreadful storm of rain, thunder and lighting at night. Boats that were loaded yesterday, for the better securing of part of the property, were with difficulty saved from destruction in the hurricane, and many of the tents were blown down, whereby the poor women and children were drenched by the rain.

May 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Some freemen arrived from the upper part of this (the Assiniboine) river, and report that the waters in that quarter are as high as with us. The Missouri River it appears by their accounts, has overflowed its banks, so as to drive part of its waters this way. They also say that a number of the natives of that quarter have been drowned in consequence. Three boats sent for Mr. Logan and his effects. He has been the last man in his settlement to quit his habitation, having trusted the strength of the Colony Wind Mill, but which he has been at length obliged to abandon, as Old Fort Douglas, in which it stands, began to give way. The waters continue rising. Business going on very briskly with the settlers, whose wants are amply supplied, particularly in ammunition and tobacco. The butter purchased last autumn for the use of York Factory, we have been now obliged to sell at first cost to the starving community, it being also of that quality that makes it impossible to preserve, though the best we could procure in the Settlement. This is two years successively we have given Red River Butter a trial, without success, owing to its filthiness and rancidity. Strong north west wind, with

thunder, lightning and rain. Almost all buildings throughout the Settlement carried off by the floods and high winds. Many of them containing property.

#### May 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday

The people are engaging in prayer at the tents of the clergy. Cloudy weather. Wind W. blowing a strong gale. The camp got on fire, but which was soon got under, there being plenty of help, and a good supply of water.

#### May 22<sup>nd</sup> Monday

The inundation seems to have reached, at length, its extreme height, it being imperceptible, whither the water rose or fell during the last thirty six hours, and this happy circumstance seems to revive a gleam of hope in the minds of the forlorn community around us, who are attached to the soils, that their case may not yet be altogether desperate. But by far the majority of these distressed people, and even those of them who meant until lately to pass the remainder of their days in this country, are now determined to abandon it for ever. To this end they surrender their rights to their lands, without condition or reward, not thinking them worthy of either. They are also disposing of the remainder of their livestock and furniture for next to nothing. Since most mean to move off to other countries, it of course follows, that all property must fall in value. Where almost all are sellers and few buyers no other result can be expected; and such is the case here at present. Farms that would have been worth 200 £ sterling each, would not this day bring as many pence. A Demeuron was last night drowned, in a creek close to our encampment, when in quest of his cattle. Search was made for his remains, but without success. Messrs. McDermot and Nolin arrived at our camp from Pembina in a boat. They brought furs to sell, but the former most. They state the waters to be falling there, the effects of which we expect soon to experience at this place... Storms of thunder, lightning and rain. Wind variable.

#### May 23<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday

The happy discovery was made this morning, and hailed with joy by the anxious multitude, that the water has fallen two inches during the last night. This long wished for circumstance seems to bring relief to the minds of all. Those who mean to make another effort at establishing themselves in this hitherto unpropitious land, entertain hopes of having still sufficient time (if the floods abate rapidly) to raise a crop this season. And those who on the contrary are fully resolved to lose no more labour, time and expense in such a precarious perseverance, appear to be equally rejoiced at the prospect of the watery impediment being speedily removed, when they purpose, without loss of time to proceed to the United States and Canada. Sultry weather in the morning, in the evening thunder, lightning and rain. Wind variable.

#### May 24<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The sales of ammunition, tobacco and other articles, for some days past, to people preparing for their journeys to other countries, have been very considerable, and the cash and few furs amongst all the people of our camp

have been in consequence nearly all taken in. This renders it not only unnecessary, but even dangerous to remain with the Company's property, in the midst of such an impoverished and desperate mob. Their past inclination to plunder the forts, gives good reason to suspect, that at this time when they are on the eve of quitting the Settlement, without money or other means, they might be tempted, now that everything is so much in their power, to put their former plans of depredation into execution. To avoid this and to save the requisition flour, by feeding our people on fish, and to get to a place of retirement, to wind up the business of the year, out of the way of importunities of so necessitous a crowd, it has been determined by Mr. McKenzie to send all the Company's people and remaining property from this encampment tomorrow morning, to the lower end of the Settlement. For this purpose, late in the evening, everything was embarked on board the craft for an early start, but unfortunately one of the boats, that had just undergone repairs after being roughly used in the employ of the settlers made water so fast that when examined by the person in charge of it about half an hour after being loaded, it was found that much of the cargo was wet, particularly flour and twine. A widow woman died in the camp, whose death it is supposed was hastened by the hardships she lately suffered in the prevailing calamities of the times. Wind S.W. blowing a strong gale.

May 25<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Early this morning all our people (Mr. McKenzie and one man excepted) embarked on board the boats, which as already stated, were laden yesterday for the purpose, and proceeded down the stream to what was once, (when such existed) called the bottom of the Settlement, where we pitched our camp on a very high bank, alongside of the best fishing place on the river. On our way down, the melancholy testimony was too plainly presented to our view of the dreadful destruction done this disastrous season by the ice, the floods, and the late severe storms. From the Forks to this place, and as far as the eye can reach, the country is covered with water and driftwood. And in all that space there are only to be seen the remnants of twenty nine abandoned houses, which are so much shattered and dilapidated, that not above ten of them, but must be rebuilt, or repaired, should they even remain without sustaining further injury. It is said that above the Forks there is scarcely the vestige of a house remaining, or any other mark to denote that it has ever been inhabited. The destruction of property of all denominations, has been, if possible, as great as the sufferings of the people; and it may be said with the strictest regard to truth, that similar instance in either case, have never been surpassed in any other country. What words cannot express must be left to the imagination to surmise, and such must be the case in the present instance, for this year's devastations, famine and distress, in Red River Settlement, though well known by sad experience, to the unhappy sufferers themselves, can never be fully described, or brought home to the comprehension of those at a distance. Therefore further attempts at description, by me, on these melancholy subjects, appear unnecessary, since the result or consequences arising from all these accumulated calamities will be the best criterion for strangers or others to judge by.

Mr. McKenzie remains for the present above at our late encampment, on the Assiniboine, to transact business, when occasion requires, with such people as are about to leave the Country. This over, he means to take his station, once more on the shattered remains of Fort Garry to secure the rum and ball left there, when the waters subside, after which he is to join us at our present station below the Settlement, to await the arrival of Governor Simpson.

Thunder, lightning and rain towards evening. It would seem that even the elements have this season combined with the floods and famine to increase, or carry to the highest pitch, the general devastation and distress of the Settlement; for as may be seen on perusal of this journal, few days have passed since the floods commenced, without storms of wind, thunder, lightning and torrents of rain. The waters first undermined the houses, the storms beat them to pieces, and the overpowering currents swept away the ruins. The water fell three inches last night at our encampment.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Friday

All our party employed erecting large tents for the storage of the Company's property, and in drying such goods as were wet in one of the boats, as already stated, at our late encampment of the Assiniboine River, all which necessary duty was completed, and baggage safely sheltered by sunset. Sent three boats, manned by settlers who have been hired for the purpose, up to our late quarters for our livestock, which are nor deemed safe so near to the starving community there. Such a temptation there is reason to fear, is too great for them to withstand in their present famished condition; therefore must be removed as far as possible out of harms way. Procured a good supply of fish by our own exertions, and the assistance of some freeman quartered in our vicinity. Fine warm weather. Wind S.E.

May 27<sup>th</sup> Saturday

All hands at our encampment employed airing our furs, preparatory to their being packed. The people and boats sent up to our old encampment yesterday, for our cattle, returned this evening and landed the whole here safe... The waters fall at the rate of 10 inches in twenty four hours. Warm windy weather. Wind W.

May 31<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

The floods fall at the rate of 1 foot in twenty four hours, but makes, at a general view, little appearance of diminution, owing to the great extent of country inundated. The settlers seeing at length the improbability there is of their cultivated land drying sufficiently soon to enable them to secure seed for the ensuing year, have consequently commenced breaking up new ground, where such is to be found dry, in which they plant small quantities of wheat, to prevent its becoming once more extinct in the Settlement. A man and three children were drowned this morning in the rapids above our encampment, by the oversetting of their canoe. Search was immediately, and generally made for their bodies, but without success. Indeed the current runs with such velocity, that what once falls into it, it is in vain to attempt to recover. About noon we experienced a heavy

storm of thunder, lightning and rain; after which the weather became more than usually pleasant. The swarms of mosquitoes however, by which we are unceasingly tormented, prevent us from enjoying agreeably in summer, the blessings of this salubrious climate.

June 6<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

All hands continue fitting out our boats. The water falls at the rate on one foot in twenty four hours, at our encampment, though it is said not to exceed six inches above the Forks, where it is more expanded. Rainy weather with a strong S.E. wind.

June 7<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Governor Simpson and Mr. McKenzie returned from their excursion amongst the settlers. Whilst these gentlemen were at upper camp, the Swiss and Demeurons who, being discouraged with the country, from their late losses of the floods, and fearing a similar occurrence in future, made application to the Governor to leave the Settlement. In reply, the Governor left them the freedom of their own wills, and at the same time pledged the Company that they would receive every due assistance, whither they would go or stay. They decided on going, but they are so changeable and frivolous on all other occasions, we are anxious to see what course they will eventually take on the present... Fine warm weather. Wind W.

June 12<sup>th</sup> Monday

The settlers who have the means, continue to break up small plots of new ground. And plant wheat therein, solely with a view of preserving seed for another year; it being now too late in the season, as we think, to risk a regular crop of that grain. Fine warm weather. Wind W.

June 13<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

The water continues to fall at the regular rate... Windy weather with showers of rain.

June 14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Hearing that the fort is getting dry a contract of small expense was entered into with some settlers (having no men of our own to do this work) to transport the property thither. One of our men was sent ahead for the purpose of clearing out some of stores. The current is so strong that this service, it is apprehended, will not be performed with expedition. It is intended in the first instance to remove the whole of the effects above the Rapids in half cargoes, the navigation being at present very dangerous, and thence to the fort as may be most practicable and safe. Warm weather. Wind N.E

June 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Commenced removing the property with one boat from our present station to the head of the rapids in half cargoes. Fine warm weather. Wind W.

June 16<sup>th</sup> Friday

The boat only able to perform one voyage to the head of the rapids in two days; the job will consequently take longer time than we had ever reckoned upon. Rainy weather. Wind S.E.

June 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday

Some Canadians about us providing materials for building birchbark canoes to carry themselves and families to Canada. The inhabitants who mean to remain in the Settlement are following the waters as they withdraw, and as their cultivated land gets dry they (the inhabitants) plant therein barley and potatoes. The little wheat already sown for the purpose of preserving seed, comes on well, and many people now regret they did not put down full crops of grain. Windy weather with showers of rain.

June 22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

The settlers still continue putting seed in the ground in proportion, as the waters withdraw from their cultivated lands, but of which a very small part is yet dry. Wind N.W. blowing a strong gale. Weather cloudy. A settler of the name of Bannerman was this morning drowned while in the act of cropeing the river in a small canoe. His body was afterwards found, but the vital spark had fled!

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Friday

Early this morning we struck our camp and proceeded with the last of our baggage up the river towards the fort. Wind S.E.

June 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday

Continued our voyage up the river towards the fort, but made slow progress, owing to the great force of the current. Wind S.E. blowing a strong breeze. Weather cloudy.

June 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday

This morning we arrived at the fort, which we found a complete pile of ruins. We pitched along side, there being no houses yet habitable for our reception... Strong wind from N.E. Weather cloudy.

June 26<sup>th</sup> Monday

A temporary store was arranged for receiving the property. Fine warm weather. Wind W.

June 27<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

The settlers who mean to remain, continue busily employed planting what portion of their land is dry. Cloudy weather. Wind N.E.

June 28<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

Labour goes on briskly throughout the Settlement, and it may said for the first time, that the settlers are really industrious. Windy weather with showers of rain.

June 30<sup>th</sup> Friday

The duties of this place the same as usual. The crops down though limited come on well...

July 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

The last of the property safely arrived from below; and we are consequently once more with everything stationed amongst the shattered remains of the fort, after being tossed about nearly two months by the floods and storms. We are now well assured that many of the settlers have resolved on leaving the place, some by the United States, some by Canada and some to Europe by the Company's ships. Clear warm weather. Wind S.W.

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

The settlers continue as busily employed putting down their seed barley and potatoes this day, as any other of the week. Wind and weather as yesterday.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

The settlers have this day done or rather finished sowing of seed, conceiving further perseverance in this way fruitless, from the extreme lateness of the season. Most of the farms are now clear of water, and as far as possible have been planted with potatoes and barley, which constitute the principal crops this season. The quantity of land under crop is far short of that of last year.

July 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

The inhabitants are now turning their attentions towards building new houses and enclosing their crops, both houses and fences being nearly all swept away by the deluge. Commenced sales once more in our shop to the settlers; indeed the sales were never interrupted for in all our embarrassments, the business went on as regularly as when transacted at the fort. The waters continue to fall regularly at the rate of one foot in twenty four hours, and now getting within the banks of the rivers in most parts. Vegetation is uncommonly rapid. Crops appear above ground the third day after it is planted, which is no doubt owing to the moisture of the ground and heat of the weather. Clouds of mosquitoes as usual. Warm weather. Wind S.

July 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The waters are now nearly within the banks of the river in every part, and are just the height they were last year, at the highest, and even then they were uncommonly high. The people of the Settlement employed enclosing their farms, and building new houses, with as much energy as if no misfortunes had ever befallen them...

July 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Part of the settlers who have been preparing for some time past to go to the United States, set out this morning of their journey. The rest are to follow as they

get ready. The waters continue to fall rapidly as they get within the banks of the rivers...

July 7<sup>th</sup> Friday

No fish from our nets and hooks which reduces us to short allowance having nothing else to trust for subsistence. The remaining part of the people, who intended on going to the United States are busily employed making preparation for their long journey. Cloudy weather. Wind S.W.

July 10<sup>th</sup> Monday

The crops in the Settlement come on rapidly, but the hopes of many farmers, when most sanguine, are blasted, by the destruction made in their fields by a kind of insect called a grub worm, which in the course of a night destroy whole fields of barley and potatoes, leaving the ground as bare and bleak as before it was planted. Two bushels of these destructive insects were removed from an acre of land in one day, yet so many remained that the crop was destroyed the following night. Men, women and children were employed on the cultivated lands throughout the settlement, endeavoring to save as much of their crops as possible, by destroying these worms, but in most cases, proves a fruitless task. Where ever they commence their destructive operations, there is little chance to save the crop. However there are some places less infested by them than others, and even some farms entirely unmolested as yet. Some more of the emigrants set out this morning on their way to the United States, after being furnished with the necessaries for their journey from our shop. Warm cloudy weather. Wind S.E.

July 11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Morning fair; about noon a thunderstorm and water spout, of unusual force and violent burst upon us, which lasted about half an hour. Trees of the largest magnitude were broken to pieces, torn up by the roots. Part of the roof of the Protestant church was carried away, and several people narrowly escaped with their lives, being actually tossed to and fro in the air. It resembled a tornado.

July 12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

High winds and heavy rains during last night and this morning. About noon the rain ceased but the wind continued with increased violence. The last of the Swiss, Demeurons and Canadians, going to the back parts of the United States, took their departure this morning. They were furnished with a guide, ammunition, and some provisions together with many other requisites for their journey by our establishment. And all things considered they went off tolerably well provided... The party going on this direction amounts to about 130 persons big and small, say 50 men, and about 80 women and children, of which four fifths of the whole are Swiss and Demeurons, and the remainder Canadians.

July 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday

Old and young throughout the Settlement busily employed destroying the destructive insects that lay waste their fields and are blasting their last remaining hopes. Much damage is already done to the scanty crops of the settlers, by these insects but there would have been evidently still more, did the inhabitants not make it their daily occupations to destroy them. Rainy weather. Wind S.W.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday

Fine warm weather. Wind S.W. The grub worms continue to make great havoc among the crops, particularly that of the potato.

July 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday

The people of the Settlement commenced cutting hay. The crops that have escaped the destructive grub worms come on well. Fine warm weather. Wind S.E.

July 31<sup>st</sup> Monday

Some small quantities of barley are beginning to come out of the ear, as also a little of the first sown wheat, but that sown last, though it looks well, it is feared will never come to perfection, owing to the lateness of the season. The grub worms are now almost extinct, but the destruction they made while they lasted, was very great, and which will be severely felt this season of small crops. Cloudy weather. Wind N.W.