

From some of the Indians at Buffalo, I purchased a bark canoe and paddles, and made the necessary outfit, and resolved to push on up Lake Erie, and pursue the Lake route to Green Bay, and employed two young men to accompany me. In consequence of a severe storm, and the rock-bound shores of the Lake, I changed my course; I had my canoe transported across the country on a wagon to Chautauqua Lake, where again launching my frail bark, I descended the Lake, its out-let into French creek, and finally entered the Alleghany. Continuing down the river, I stopped at Pittsburg, Wheeling, Marietta, Limestone, now Maysville, Cincinnati and Louisville, only long enough to rest, and procure needful supplies. Thence I kept on down the Ohio, and crossed the Mississippi on the 10th day of August, 1808, when I turned my course up the Mississippi by land to Cape Girardeau and St. Genevieve; at which latter place, I well remember seeing Henry Dodge, then sheriff of that county, and since so distinguished in the West. Passing up to St. Louis, thence to Florissant, Portage des Sioux, and St. Charles, I then became acquainted with the celebrated Daniel Boone and family, together with nearly all the leading French families of these several Missouri settlements.

Spending the ensuing autumn and winter at St. Louis, New Madrid, and the various settlements in then Upper Louisiana, in viewing the country; I early the next spring procured from Edward Bates (father of the present Hon. Edward Bates, of St. Louis), an accomplished Marylander, then Secretary of Louisiana Territory, and in the absence of Gov. Meriwether Lewis, acting governor, a license to search for gold and silver anywhere within the limits of that territory, then supposed to extend to the Pacific—still resolving to reach that distant ocean.

I at once fitted myself out for a long journey, and engaged Peter Spear and William Miller to accompany me in this adventure. I fully explained to them the dangers to be encountered, and if successful, I agreed that we should equally share the profits of the enterprise. We started from the extreme western settlement of Cape Girardeau county, on the head of St. Francis