

ever, they treated us kindly, and directed us to the best route, when we left them. Instead of continuing along the Lake, the old chief advised us to go a little west of south until we arrived at the Des Plaines River, then follow that, and we would find plenty of game for food, and friendly Indians who would show us the way to Fort Dearborn.

The land route between Green Bay and Fort Dearborn was only traveled in the winter season, as then the rivers are frozen over, and offer no obstruction to traveling in a direct course. So following the Indian's directions, we came to as smooth a road as I ever wish to see. It was the frozen surface of the Des Plaines River. This led through wide prairies, and some large groves. Grouse were to be seen budding on the trees, and we killed abundance of them as we passed along. The grouse, with now and then a fish caught in the shallow rapids, formed our only food for several days. Until a little northwest of Chicago, we met with few Indians, all as hungry as ourselves. But joining a party of thirty Pottawattamies on their way to the Indian agency, we obtained from them a good meal of jerked venison and parched corn.

One noon we arrived at the southern terminus of our journey—at Fort Dearborn, after being on the way more than a month. It was in January, thirty years ago, and with the exception that the Fort was strengthened and garrisoned, there was no sign of improvement having gone on since my former visit. This time I was on business, and I advanced up to the sally port with a sense of my importance, was challenged by the sentry, and an orderly conducted me to the Adjutant's office, where I reported myself as the bearer of dispatches for the commanding officer. Captain Morgan was in the office, and advancing, intimated that he was that person, and took the case of letters, directing me to await his further orders. Getting a pass, I went outside the palisades, to a house built on the half-breed system—partly of logs and partly of boards. This house was kept by a Mr. Miller, who lived in it with his family. Here Boiseley and I put up during the time we were in the settlement.