

fore we would reach the lake, and that the next was in a short distance we proceeded on, and arrived at it, at dusk. It is on the same stream above mentioned which at this place is considerably enlarged. This river rises in wild rice lake and empties into Sandy Lake. Here we found a spring of better water than I have tasted since leaving Detroit.

THURSDAY (above).

Before sunrise we commenced our march though some were complaining of lame knees, & others of blistered feet. One of my own was blistered from the toes to the heel, notwithstanding which I kept my pace with the rest of the party. We steered west 10 miles to a small lake, the borders of which was covered with wild rice. We passed along on the borders of this about 1 mile when we struck upon another small one, or perhaps nothing more than a pond, which was nearly divided in the middle by a sand bank. From thence on our course was N. W. 4 miles to Sandy Lake where we arrived at 12 o'clock. We struck the Lake about 50 rods below the mouth of the little Savannah. We fired several guns to bring some one from the Establishment on the opposite side of the Lake. In about an hour and a half the 2 gent. who have the care of the Est. Mr Ashmen¹ & Mr Fairbanks came over in a canoe, in which they were polite enough to take us across.

It is 4 miles to the Establishment, which is the length of the lake. Its average breadth may be 2 miles. Thus our journey instead of being light and easy and capable of being performed in less than 2 days had proved one of the most fatiguing marches I ever underwent, and even far beyond any idea I ever entertained, and had also redoubled the proof of the little faith and reliance which may be placed on the generality of Indian guides. I here learn that the path on which we started continued the whole distance & went entirely over dry land. Perhaps the guides thought to take us by a shorter rout!

¹ Samuel Ashmun, one of John Jacob Astor's fur-trade agents.— Ed.