

MORGAN FORBIS' JOURNAL

Morgan Forbis his journey to Nauches as followeth to wit, Started from home in Green County on the 9th day of November 1807 in company with Capt. Wm. Downing and Daniel Hinkle with five horses. Traveled 18 M and lodgd at Samuel Bells in Barren County. Nexte day being the 10th we traveled 23 M pasing throw Glasgo and lay at Mr. Silvester Halls on the other side of Bigg Barran River whare we rested the nexte day and on the 12th started on oure journey. That day we traveled 25 M and lay at a Mr. Henrys in Tenese State 16 miles on this side Galletin Court House. On the 13th we traveled ___ M passing throw Gallentin and lodgd at a Mr. Davises. That day I met Mr. Samuel Davidson from Lincoln in hunt of his horses that he had lost at a Sgr. Gallaspys on his return hom from Duck River and his advis me to stoop and feed at Gallaspys. Accordingly we did and he chardg me a dollar pr. bushel for corn. On the 14th we traveled 26 M crossin Cumberland River and paste throw Nashville and lay at a Mr. Crafards 8 miles on the other side of Nashville. On the 15th, being the sabeth we rested and started on our journey from there on the 16th. That day it rained extreemly hard all day. We met a Mr. Howard on his return home with a drove of horses that he had started with from Barran County to take to Nautches he had gon as fare as eighte miles on the other side of Duck River loste five of his horses got discouradgd and turned back. That night we lay at a Wm. Smiths 8 M on this side Duck River. That day we traveld 34 M on the 17th being Thursday. That day we traveled 34 ½ M meet tow Indians and lay on a creek cald Buffalow Creek three miles on the other side of the United States boundery line. That night 10 of oure horses run away. Nexte morning being the 18th Capt. Downing and myself speedly presud them and over took them in about 4 ½ miles brought them back and started on our journey. That day we traveled 22 M passing by the friste Indian Cheefs and lay at Cany Creek at Capt. Underwoods. On the 19th it rained hard on us all day. We got to Tenise River about tow hours in the night. After a journey of 40 M on the 20th we indevered to crose the river. We got 7 horses acrose and the wind rose and the river got so extreemly rough that we was obligd to wate till nexte morning the 21st before we cold get all oure horses over the river and the ballance of the day we rested paid tow dollars per bushel for corn and that night we were at a Indian dance whare the nasty durty deviles was all drunk. On the 22nd we traveled 40 M lay on a creek of the waters of Bigbay passing by several Indian towns. On the morning of the 23th 7 of our horses was gon we followed them 7 or 8 miles and got them again but not all together. When we went out in the morning early to bring up oure horses we found there was seven gone fore of mine and three of Capt. Downings. Capt. Downing and Daniel Hinkel drove what horses they found to the camp and I took the tracks of the others and persued them on foot as faste as cold run for about 4 M whare Capt. Downing overtook me on horseback and then we caught 5 of our horses and yeat tow gone and a fresh mokison track, I being perty well tired and no armes Capt. Downing presued on about 2 miles and a half further and found whare the horses had quit the road and followed about a mile further and got the horses whare the Indians had juste turned them out for they cold get them no further without going by a camp of whites or turning back and they I believe new they weare likely presued so we retruned to our camp caught the reste of our horses and presued on oure journey about 12 oclock that day It being the 24 that day we lay on Twenty Mile Creek

traveld 30 M. There we paid to an Indian 2 dollars per bushel for corn. On the 25 we traveld on oure journey traveld 32 M and lay at Woolf Franks. There we got corn for a dollar and a half per bushel. In the morning there was 10 horses gon. We followed them about one mile got them and started on our journey. That day being the 26 we traveld 35 miles and lay on Hickery Creek. That night it rained extreemly heavy and the moste hardis claps of thunder I eaver heard. My sorral horse Whale had a moste voilent actact with the collect I gave him repeated dose of medison and he got better about midnight. On the 27 we traveld 35 M and it rained upon us extreemly hard tell about 2 of the oclock in the evening then cleard up. That night we lay on a crick neare an Indian house. Oure money being almoste expended we cald on Mr. Hinkel for his money which he freequently told us he had 15 dollars. He appeard verry unwilling to git it but at length we provald on him and when he got his saddelbags before he put his hand in them he says suppose it is gon and he put his hand in them and puld out a small bundel of his duds and declard that his money was looste. I told him it cold not be possible he had not yet lookd so we took out the remainder of his plunder and to oure grate surprise there was no money. Shure a nuff then we was in a verry dilicat situation in the wilderness 235 miles from Nauches among the savage Indians and without provision for ourselves or horses. Capt. Downing took one of his blankets and we went and sold it to an Indian for som corn and a few biskets and som vension jurk. So we proseeded on oure jounry and traveld 38 miles lay in a good plase of cane. On the 28 we traveld 38 miles lay in a good plase of cane stoopt at a Mr. Beems in the Nation and goot corn for oure horses and some provision for oureselves. On the 29th we traveld 28 M lay at a Mr. Besherses whare we was treeted with the gratist kindness got plenty for oureselves and horses. Capt. Downing sold him 2 horses one for 110 dollars and the other for 55 dollars on a credit tell nexte fall. There we left Daniel to hunt the money he never loost for I an confident he never had none. On the 30 we presued on our jounry and lay on Bakers Creek traveld 34 miles and in the morning of the 31st there was three of my horses gon. I told Capt. Downing to go on with what we had and I wold stay and hunt the horses. So he took the horses on tell he came to a Mr. Smiths the firste white house and there stopt. I hunted for my horses tell about aleven oclock cold find no whare any sine of them going off from the road so I concluded they muste have took the road so I presued on about a mile and a half or two miles and I found a paper stuck on a pine tree by Capt. Downing that informed me that he had got the horses. I overtook him about 2 oclock in the evening at Mr. Smiths. It being 13 M from whare we lay that night we stayd there that day and the nexte day and on the 3rd day of Decr. we started on our journey again. Traveld 15 M and lay at a Mr. John Calferys. On the 4th of Decr. we got to Major Thomas Whites whare we rested oure horses and stayed untill the 14th. Then started in company with Wm. Mcginnis and Mr. Tibes down to Nautcha. That day we traveld 26 M lay at a Mr. Chamberlands at Union Town. On the fifteenth we rested there it being an extreem bad reaing day. On the 16th we went in to Nautcha 18 M from Mr. Chamberlands. On the 18th we moved out to a Mr. King with in foure M of town. On the 19th we parted from Mr. Mcginnes and Mr. Tibs and we movd 6 M further to a Mr. Calven Smiths whare we got an exelent punkin field for oure horses whare we stade and tooke oure Christmas and on the 26th day of Decr. being the day after Christmas I swopd my Whale horse away to a Mr. Jeshua Allexander got a young bay horse 15 hands high 4 years old and a hundred dollars in cash to bute.

On the 3rd of January I started in company with a Mr. Stephen Cobbe down to the Heights where I landed on the 5th day of said month about 10 o'clock in the morning and I saw my sister Molly and family. Together with a _____ or rather a _____ law. I must confess my astonishment was truly great when he came in to see his relation. My address to him was how do you do boye. He nodded his head to me and returned back again knowing that I took him _____. I stayed there that night and returned back next day and on my return I sold the bay horse that I got in exchange for Whale to a James Smith for \$100 and on the 7th got back to my former lodging where I stayed until the 17th waiting for Capt. Downing to sell his horses and Major Wm. McGinnis and myself was determined to start on that day but was prevented by bad weather for I never experienced a harder rain than fell that day so we being unwilling to leave Capt. Downing we agreed to wait until the 20th in hopes that he would be ready to start with us and on the 17th being Sunday I was pressed by my land Lord to accompany him to a wedding. I refused, but I could not be excused so I went with him and his Lady and was treated with a very singular respect. On the 18th I went in company to Natcha with Major McGinnis and Capt. Downing and saw a dead Frenchman lying within about fifty yards of the road. We alighted from our horses as it was in a field where the dead body lay and went up to him and from every appearance we concluded he had been dead several days. The coroner had an inquest over him and it was agreed to by them that he died drunk. On the 19th I stayed at home and on the 20th I started in company with Major Wm. McGinnis to Natcha to get biscuit and bacon for our journey and on the 21st I started home in company with the Major only and left Capt. Downing behind and gratefully to my dissatisfaction but it was impossible for him to start under tow or three weeks and I could not stay for him and this day we parted with much reluctance and I now start and Mr. Smith and the family I believe are as much affected as though they were aparting with their nearest relation. The music is playing and an escort with us as a friendly farewell. That day we traveled 24 M lay at a Wm. Lookin living in Sulstertown. The next morning being Friday the 22nd we started very early and raining. We traveled 12 miles and took breakfast at Greensville and that night lay at Major Whites. That day we traveled 32 M. On the 23rd day of January I started from there in company with Mr. John Herald, Mr. Mordiea H____t. That day we traveled 25 M and lay at Mr. Smiths the last white house. The next day being Sunday the 24 we moved early. A clear day. The Major's horse run back and we were detained till about ten o'clock that day we traveled about 36 M and lay at Smiths stand. On the 25th we traveled 40 $\frac{3}{4}$ M and lay at Mr. Beames. The next morning being the 26 we traveled 31 miles lay at a Mr. Shouts. The 27 it held in the morning then it turned in and snowed all day extremely hard all day. That night we lay at the French camp. That day we traveled 26 M. Friday the 29th it cleared up we stayed and took our breakfast. The morning being extremely cold and the snow very deep we only traveled 16 M and at an Indian house on this side the big Obion and that night there was a company of footmen overtook us and the big Obion being very full and past riding they had to cross on a log and a fine young fellow lost his umbrella, sword and one of his shoes. Saturday the 30 we traveled with great difficulty. That day we traveled 26 M scraped away the snow and camped in the woods and Mr. Herald being sick sometime and that night took extremely bad and I really expected that the next morning we would have to return him to his mother earth but we gave him some medicine and the next morning he was better. 31st Sunday morning we started from Mr. Frashers where I lost my blanket the over night

and in the morning I told them if they did not find my blanket that I would have an Indian scalp in exchange. The 2 little Indians run off immediately and brought my blanket. We traveled 8 miles took our breakfasts at a Mr. Allens. Stayed there that day being Sunday and the last day of January. Monday the 1st day of February we started on our Journey. That morning my sorrel mare was run against the best horse they had in the nation _____ carried 155' to a ditch. The horse beat her 3 feet. The bet was 20 dollars between Mr. McGinnis and a Mr. Smith. That day we traveled 26 miles lay in the woods. Tuesday the 2nd we traveled 36 miles lay in the woods. That day we experienced very high waters swam and waded from 3 to 4 miles on a stretch. Wednesday the 3rd we traveled 30 miles lay at Levi Colbards swimming Bare Creek. Thursday 4th it rained extremely hard all day. We traveled 7 miles got to Tennessee River and there stopped and took our breakfast. It still continued to rain and that extremely hard all the day and night. Saturday the 6th we got to Mr. Dobbisons the first white house and there we took our breakfast. I now begin to think that I will be at home in 6 days.

Dec. 20 - I swapped my young sorrel mare away in Washington town. Got a horse bridle and saddle and ten dollars to boot. Afterwards I sold the horse for forty dollars in Natchez.

March the 26th 1808 - then settled with Capt. Downing for expenses and there is due to him 19 dollars and 2 shillings.

Claburn County Mississippi Territory Dec. the 6th day 1807. That day we lay at Thos. Whites and rested and had our horses in a fine pumpkin field.

RECEIPT FOR STILLING

When yours still is run off let her stand about 10 minutes then take and draw forty five gallons of the hoop and put in your tub and sture in one and a half bushels of corn meal and cover it up for twenty four hours. When you want to cool off make your malt up then pour it in your tub stire frequently till your mash is thin. Then cool off.

DAVID FORBIS was born May the First Day 1795

EMILY FORBIS was born May the last Day 1828

MARY JANE FORBIS was born December the 29th 1832

WADE FORBIS was born September the 2nd 1834

MAREREGREAT EMELINE FORBIS was born December the 20th 1850

SARAH ALBATINE FORBIS was born December the 4th 1852

DORINDA W. FORBIS was born December the 9th 1854

WILLIAM MORGAN FORBIS was born May the 22nd 1856

EMILY FORBIS dec. September the 2nd 1833

WADE FORBIS died June the 22, 1857

(The above was taken from a journal written by Morgan Forbis giving an account of his trip to Natchez in 1807. The journal is in the possession of Maxie Henderson of Green County, Kentucky. It was transcribed by Judy Froggett, August, 1984.)