

**Coleby Chew, August 7, 1758, Journal on Trip to Fort Duquesne, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

***Journal.***

Monday August the 7th. 1758

I Set off from Rays town by order of Colo. Boquet With a party of indians & White men to make What Discoverys I could of the strenth & situation of the Enemy to the Westward & proceeded as far this night as the Shawanese Cabbins abt. 8 miles S 80 W — Tuesday the 8th. We continued our Course a long the Old Traiding Path Crossing the Alligany Ridge & encamped — at Edmunds Swamp 12 miles N. 70 W — Wednesday 9th. We marched abt. 9 miles N 60 W to Quimahony Creek at Which place we continued thursday ye. 10th. — Friday the 11th. We proceeded Early in the morning on our Way crossed the Lauril Ridge & came to & Encampment at the Loyal: hannon Old Town 15 miles N 55 W---

Saturday the 12th. We continued on our way along the Old Tradg. path Which kept for ten or twelve miles for the most part a long the low Ground of the loyalthannon, tho it sometimes turned off from the River & Crossed some Ridges & points of hills — the high land is well Timberd the Ridges not high, the low Ground of the River & in *general* of all the Creeks: Very bushy & thick. We this Day Discoverd some Very late sign of Indians 15 miles N 60 W---

Sunday the 13th. we marched very early & continued on till 10 oClock When our indians halted to Conger as they had all the Day seen a fresh sign of Indians; the low Grounds & Swamps were Very thick & Bushy: We Sent out Scouts Who continued out till Near Dark

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Which Occasioned us to Encamp there that Night. We Were informed by the scouts that the Enemy had gone on directly towards F. Duquesne: this Afternoon When the Sun was about an hour high we hear 12 Cannon fired as we imagined at F: D: 5 m: N 80 W —

Monday the 14th. We continued our march & sent out Scouts who could not discover the fresh Signs of indians Except those that had gone along the path but heard several guns fired The Path Went over a Great many Ridges Well Timberd 7 m Course Near W. Tuesday the 15th. We marched Very Early and Came in Abt. 3 miles from our camp to a large path that came from the Northward into the Old Traiding path in Which we saw the Tracks of a great many Indians going Both Ways: We imagine the guns that our Scouts heard yesterday were fired by a party that was going a long this Road. Several: horses some of Which were shod had been along this path yesterday toward F: D: The Way was good: the Ridges low & well timbered but all the Branches very thick With crab Trees & White Haws: 12 miles W: as the provision was Near spent the Indians this Night held a Council in which it was Determined that all Except my self a Serjt. & five indians should Return.

Wednesday the 16th. We sent Back those that were to Return & proceeded on our way being only seven in Number : We came to where a large party of Indians had been abt. to Days ago I imagine from the size of their Encampment abt. 100. They had Cleared five or six feet Square Very clean & had left in five pieces of Bark with two or three pipe fulls of Tobacco in Each piece : It is Abt. It is Abt. 6 miles from our last Camp to this place the path But in different Crossing many Ridges & Course Abt. N 80 W — N B : the hills End at this place & it is a plain Country from here to F : D : We here left the Old Tradg. path & went abt. 3 miles : N W : then turned : S W : crossed the path & kept a Course S 70 W till we Were within two miles of : F : D : then went to the N of W : & came to an Old indian Town on the Ohio Abt. 1½ m. Above the Fort We had a Very good View up & Down the River : We saw some Cattle grasing on an Island Down the River : We hid our selves in a thicket till the indians had conjured and painted after Which we Went Down The River Within ¾ of a m : of the F. then turned S. E. & went up on a stony Ridge where

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the Chief Warriour took his conjuring Implements & tyed them abt. the Necks of three young men indians & told them they could not be hurt : Round my Neck he Tyed the Otter Skin in Which the Conj'g. : Implements had been kept & round the Serjts. neck he tyed a Bag of Paint that had been kept with the Implements, he then told us that not one of us could be shot for those things Would turn the Balls from us — He then made us Strip ourselves of all our Cloaths Except our Breech Clouts & mocasons, then shook hands With us & told us to go & fight like men for nothing could hurt us. The first View had of the fort was from the Banks of the Ohio but a Great Distance : we saw one Batteau two Cannoes, there were indians in the latter fishing. We were there in a pasture fenced in With Trees sett one on another. We saw by the Tracks that this pasture, the farthest part of Which is only abt.  $\frac{3}{4}$  m : from F : D : was much frequented by indians. from Which I Could make no Great Discovery Except of the Number of tents till Almost sun seting at Which Time I let the Indians know that I wanted them to Accompany me to the top of a Ridge that Run Down in the forks Directly towards the F : but they disliked the proposal & refused as they were in great Expectations of geting a Scale there — however When they saw that I was Determined to go & had proceeded on towards the place they followed me — from the top of this Ridge I had an extraordinary good View as it was considerably higher than the F & scare half mile Distant from it, there were fifty or sixty tents pitched on the Ohio abt. 100 yards from the Fort & there are several houses on Monongahala. there were Neither Cannoes nor Batteaus in this that I Could perceive, nor Could I discover any New Works abt. the fort. I do imagine the men parade in the Fort as I saw them going in at Retreat Beating but from What I Saw I do not judge that they have above 300 Frenchmen, the Indians kept a continual Hooping but I Could not see their Camp unless the Tents I mentioned were pitched for them Which I judge were from the fires & the Appearance of the people at them whom by their looks, noise &c. I imagine to be Indians — I could see no Sign of a Camp or Buildings on the other Side of either of the Rivers — After Dark the Indians got to Singing & Dancing from their noise I judge them to be Abt. fifty in Number all which the Cherokees told me were Shawnese. As I have taken a plan of the place & Fort as well as I could upon a Separate paper, I shall make no mention of it here---

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This march had we kept the path would have been Abt. 12 miles the Course Abt. N : 80 W — The Ohio Runs near S : 20 : W : the monongahala at the mouth from Near : E : From the top of this Ridge I moved to another place nearer to the monongahala but could make no further Discovery From this place we went back to the Chief Warriour & after some consultion a greed to return home — upon Which we came abt. a mile & Near the Tradg path encamped — We heard the Indians singing & Dancing all night---

Thursday 17th. As soon as Day break we began our march which we continued Very fast till 1 oClock in Which time we came about 30 miles & overtook our party that was ordered back We then made a short half & refreshed our selves after which we continued our march together & came Abt. 12 miles Abt. 2 miles before we encampt we came upon some fresh Tracks that came along the path Eastwards---

Fryday the 18th. we continued on our Way pursuing the Tracks that we Came on last Night. The low grounds & Branches I mentioned in my Journal as I went towards F : D : are Very low & liable to be Overflowed & consequently Very moist & Soft so that I am a fraid a Road tho' them Will be Very indifferent for Carriages We followed the Tracks till night When we encamped abt. 4 miles from the Camp at Quimahony Creek —

Saterday the 19th. We marched Early in the morning & came to the camp Where we found that it was Ensn. Allens party that we had tracked & that they they arrived a Camp But last Night —