

ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY FROM FORT No. 4
TO LAKE CHAMPLAIN - IN 1748
ENCLOSED IN COL. WILLIAMS'S OF 25 AUGUST 1756

*Province of the Massachusetts Bay} Hampshire County - Aug. 24th
1756. Then John Hawks and John Taylor made solemn oath to
the truth of the foregoing declaration before John Williams -*

*The difference in the foregoing from James Coss's are to a
distance from Connecticut River to the height of land I find upon
examination arises from their travelling on Different Streams
which have obtained the name of Black River and are branches of
it.*

*Lt. Matthew Ellison, now gone in the Crown Point Expedition, who
accompanied the aforesaid Hawks & Taylor to Canady likewise
kept a journal which I have compared with the aforesaid
declaration and find it agrees with it. The said Clason has often
told me he did not believe the distance from No. 4 to Crown
Point, across which country he has been diverse times, was more
than Ninety six miles, as now commonly travelled, and that he
doubted not it might be shortened with advantage- He is a
surveyor, critical and careful in making his observations - a man
of fidelity and his acct. to be depended on.*

John Williams

*Copy in Part of Hawks & others Journals of their travel to Canada
in the year 1748*

*On the 8 of Feby we the subscribers, with Lt. Matthew Ellison And
a French prisoner set out from Deerfield to go to Canada and on
the 10th arrived at No. 4 near miles up Connecticut River.*

*11th We took our departure from No. 4 aforesaid and went up the
Connecticut River about 2 miles by the mouth of Black River so
called thence travelled up the stream on the ice about 8 miles,
passed a very small fall, which makes but a small carriage.*

*12th Travelled up the stream upon the ice about 8 miles this day
we passed a steep fall but small carriage.*

13th Travelled about 6 miles up said stream on the ice.

14 Travelled up ye stream on the ice about 3 miles to ye place

where we left the stream, the course of ye stream is about NW by W. The travelling by land, we judge is pretty possible, from the mouth of ye stream to the last mentioned place – About 12 o'clock we took our departure from sd. Stream leaving it at the right hand, travelled NW about 2 ½ miles to the top of the mountain, or the Height of the Land as it is commonly called – we judge a feasible waggon road may be had from the stream where we left it, to the top of the mountain – note – we judge it to be not more than 22 miles from Connecticut River at the mouth of the aforesaid stream in a strait course to the Height of the Land. We have heard from English, French and Indians that from Connecticut River, about 6 miles N of Black River, a very good cart road may be had over to the Height of the Land, and by our own observations from the High Hills we judged it an even flat land.

14 From the Height of the Land, in a course NW by N we travelled about 8 miles to a branch of Otter Creek and thence upon the ice down said branch about 8 miles to the lower crotch of Otter Creek –

15 From thence down sd. Otter Creek 4 ½ miles to a fall where there is a carriage of not more than 40 rods – Thence down ye stream about 5 miles to the Great Falls, so called which to obtain the most convenient ground makes a carriage of 40 rods, but as it may be, of not more than ten. Thence down sd. Stream 14 miles. There we left ye Creek to go to Crown Point the whole of our course upon said creek was nearly NW by N.

16 From our last mentioned stage, we travelled West by North 12 miles to a stream thence down sd. Stream 3 miles to the mouth which is opposite to the place now called by ye French Carrilon.

17 Thence North one degree East 15 miles to Crown Point

The Spring following on our return from Canada–

23 We left the Lake Champlain seven miles South of Crown Point and travelled this and the 24th in a course nearly South East by South twenty eight miles to the Otter Creek 5 miles below ye aforesaid Great Falls where we crossed over to the East side of ye Creek – The whole of the foregoing 28 miles was good travelling.

25 & 26 We kept a course nearly South by East from where we crossed ye Creek 35 miles to the above mentioned Black River – all the way on a beaten path the Indians had made by their

*travelling down upon the Western Frontier of this Province –
Note – We judge the whole of ye last 35 miles will make a good
cart road without anything more than the cutting the trees away
that are fallen into the path. Excepting one steep hill just before
we came to ye last mentioned stream – the most of ye land we
crossed in ye two last days travel, we judged the best sort (?)
27 Thence we kept the directest course for the mouth of the
Williams's River, leaving ye common road thro fear of the Indian
Enemy –*

Deerfield Augst 23 1756

*Signed: John Hawks
John Taylor*

*This item has been reproduced by permission of:
"The Huntington Library", San Marino, California*