



**RED RIVER BRIGADE**

# *The Trace*

*April 2014*



## ***From The Booshway:***

Howdy Men,

Well it's finally green up here in my neck of the woods in East Texas. That's a good thing and now that the days are a little longer I have time to do just a few more chores before I go in. We have some camps coming up for this Spring, and I am told that several of our Pilgrims will soon be sending in their paperwork for Bossloper.

The past month, in the middle of March, Jason "Coonass" Mays, Rebecca Compton and I, along with two guests journeyed to central Texas near the settlement of Lampasas to attend the South Western Regional Rendezvous. Also along were two guests, Cody Livingston and Ron, "Buckskin Billy" Butler. After several hours on the trace we arrived at our destination and rode into the rendezvous. We were at once greeted by several friends and shared the customary swig from the jug. After riding through camp for a short time, we found a suitable campsite near the horse camp. Once we unloaded the pack horse and all unsaddled, put the stock out to picket, we began gathering wood for a fire and

laying out the bed rolls.

The sun was beginning to dip below the tree line as we started to cook our supper. We spend the evening sitting around our fire and enjoying the good company. Not long after, most of us turned in for the night. It was a near full moon and we all slept under the stars. As we drifted off to sleep, we were serenaded by the sound of coyotes off in the distance. Later on that night, I woke up cold, and put on my wool shirt and threw another log on the fire before crawling back in under my blankets.

13 Mar. 2014 Thursday

I awoke early and went to check on our stock. I was greeted by a most spectacular sunrise! I made a sketch and noticed that there was frost on the gear that lay scattered about our small camp.

I soon had the fire going and set a kettle of coffee on to boil and sat down just to enjoy the quite and peaceful landscape.

Not long after, the rest of our small party began to leave their blankets and come over to the fire.

We all pitched in to prepare our breakfast and once that was finished we went out about the camp to visit and see what there was to see.



Not far from where we were camped, was Pat "Badger" Kelly in a tipi, and also we saw "Cuz" Trumble, Patsy Harper, and Blackpowder Jim Branson with his constant companion, "Dawg". I think more people know Dawg that do all the rest of us! He always brings a lot of fun to any camp. Also present was quest Dan'l Hickham.



Jim Branson had agreed to help me rework my pack saddle to better fit my wife's saddle horse that doubles as a packer.

He spent several hours a couple of days working on the project and along with materials from his and Cuz's supplies made the transformation. After a trial fitting and a few minor adjustments, it was done.

A big Thank You, to Jim for all the work.

As is getting late in the day I eat something and go off to one of the beverage tents for some libations and to see friends.

After a while I go "home" and crawl in my blankets. it is not near as chilly tonight as the previous one.

14 Mar. 2014 Friday

I awoke early as is my usual custom when at rendezvous and made coffee. After we all have our breakfast we go to see what treasures the traders have to offer. There are many things that catch the eye.

After a few trips through camp we decide to saddle up and go for a ride.

The area is rolling hills with rocks and lots of cactus.

We ride for a while and come to a spot to water the animals and take advantage of it.

We go down a trail and make our way towards the main camp.

As we ride along, we are met by lots of people curious about from where we come from and how far we have ridden. The children are fascinated by the horses.

We find a place to tie the stock and eat supper. We ride a little more, talking to people and finally make our way back to our camp. My friends and I gather at Jim's camp and tell stories and yarns for a while. It is a good time!

I go to the tavern for a couple of drinks as this will be our last night here. I listened to the music and share a few cups and I am ready to go to my camp and to sleep.

Tomorrow we will leave early.





15 Mar. 2014 Saturday

I again wake up just as the sun starts to light up the sky in the East. The weather is cloudy and looks as if rain may come.

I quickly roll my blankets and pack my panniers. The others in our group are also getting ready to make the trip out from rendezvous. After we are all mounted, we ride out together.

It has been a good rendezvous and we shared a camp with some great people.

'Till Trails Cross,  
I remain

Yr. Svt. & Brother,  
Kraig





## Ramblings from the Editor:

Most folks have read William H. Ashley, Jedediah S. Smith, David E. Jackson, and William L. Sublette, Articles of Agreement, July 18, 1826 to provide supplies to the rendezvous. But, I thought it would be interesting to compare prices on a few items from then to now. The ones listed in red are the ones that remain close to today's cost.

The lists are endless, but these few represent frequent, occasional and one time purchases, like spurs or a bridle.

**Keep in mind the median annual income for 1830 was \$69 compared to \$30,000 in 2013.**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost in 1826</u>	<u>Cost in 2014</u>
• Gunpowder	1.50/lb	16/lb
• <b>Lead</b>	<b>1.00/lb</b>	<b>1.00/lb scrap yard</b>
• <b>Shot</b>	<b>1.25/lb</b>	<b>2.00/lb</b>
• Three point Blankets	9.00 each	175-375 each
• <b>Scarlet cloth</b>	<b>6.00/yard</b>	<b>8-12/yard</b>
• Butcher Knives	.75 cents each	50-250 each
• North West Fuzils	24 each	1200-1500 each
• tin Kettles different sizes	2.00/lb	20-80 each
• Beaver traps	9.00 each	29.50 each
• Sugar	1.00/lb	1.45/lb
• Coffee	1.25/lb	7.00/lb and up
• <b>flour</b>	<b>1.00/lb</b>	<b>1.00-2.00/lb</b>
• Allspice	1.50/lb	11.99/lb
• Raisins	1.50/lb	5.00/lb
• flannels	1.50/yard	5.00+/yard
• domestic cotton	1.25/yard	5.00+/yard
• finger rings	5.00/gross	1.00 each (144/gross)
• Beads assorted	2.50/lb	1.85+per 200
• files assorted	2.50/lb	3.50+each
• Bridles assorted	7.00 each	50-375 each
• spurs	2.00/pair	20+/pair
• Horse shoes	2.00/lb	8.55+/pair
• <b>Nails</b>	<b>2.00/lb</b>	<b>20/250 count</b>
• hand kerchiefs	1.50 each	10 each
• flints	.50/dozen	1.00 each
• mockacine alls	.25/dozen	5.00 each
• Tobacco	1.25/lb	2-5.00/lb

# North Country Camp and Canoe Trip on Indian Lake

**By Wild Bill Baker**

AMM #1905H



This story was written by “Wild Bill” Baker about his trip with Ray “Poor Dog” Pillie of the Jed Smith Party. They completed Requirements 8 and 12 in 6 million acres of the Adirondack Wilderness Area of the Catskill Mountain Range in New York State.

Indian Lake is one of the many lakes located in the Adirondack Mountain wilderness area. It is around 5000 acres with many feeder streams and granite islands throughout the lake. The story is told that Chief Sabael of the Abenaki Tribe came to Indian Lake from the providence of Quebec, Canada. He was the first Native American to settle Indian Lake during the 1760's. Years later after his wife died, he

buried her body near the mouth of a stream that became known as Squaw Brook, in honor of his wife. Chief Sabael lived to be 110 years old.

**August 9, 2011:** Arrive at Big Brook Wilderness Area on Indian Lake. Setup camp in spruce and canoe lean-to. Two local natives, Mark and Elsa came into camp to greet me and we shared supper and talked about our latest adventures, not seeing each other since our last deer hunt in this area. Low of 50 degrees.

**August 10, 2011:** head to Indian Lake to find good launch area for canoe when “Poor Dog” shows up on the 12<sup>th</sup> for our trip. Clear and 40 degrees.

**August 11, 2011:** Having a great time in Big Brook Camp. Every day find something new to make char out native materials found in the forest. These woods are dark and wet 365 days of the year. Warm and 75 degrees.



**Still have 10 miles to go!**



**Our camp, home of the killer mosquitoes!**

**August 12, 2011:** Meet “Poor Dog” on Abenaki Lake and guide him to lean-to. He is ecstatic of the camp and its surrounding. We haul in his gear. That night the natives show up again with hot tasty vittles. Hot night but clear with a harvest moon. Me and Ray are sung to sleep by many owls and coyotes through the night. Full moons make great hunting for the furry’s and the feathered!

**August 13, 2011:** Me and Poor

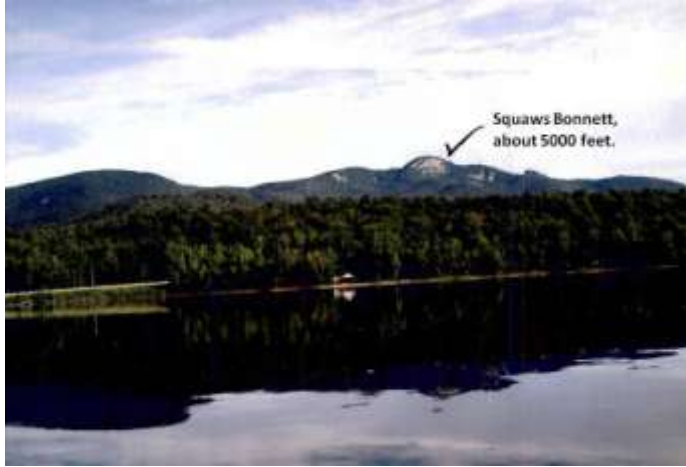
Dog leave Big Brook camp and head to Indian lake. Unload canoe and properly pack with low center of gravity for two men and gear. We start our trip at Lewey Lake. Lewey Lake was named after “French Louie” a French trapper who trapped hundreds of square miles in this remote wilderness. It was not uncommon for French Louie to pull 200 deer hides into town on his hand made sled to trade to have a two or three day spree at the bars and head back to the woods he loved, minus the 600 or 700 dollars he made on his furs. Hot and Humid.

Indian Lake runs north –south, but the problem of canoes is that the prevailing winds come from the west which can raise the hairs on your neck. The best time to paddle is early in the morning or at evening. The lake is surrounded by glacial carved mountains that are as white as snow. Me and Poor Dog paddle west of north and steer east between Pine Hill and Long Island a fairly long piece of land in the middle southern port of Indian Lake. We paddle south past Johnny Mack Bay and enter a narrow part of the lake, then as it opens up the view is spectacular. Me and Poor Dog enter Pickeral Bay and paddle into a boulder stream cove. This is our base camp. We unload on the bank and haul our truck up glacial steps stones to our new camp.

We are now in a remote area of the 6 million area of Adirondack Wilderness Area. We are surrounded by huge mosquitoes, hemlock, silver



**Pristine waters!**



and white birch. There is also huge beechnuts and spruce, plus the beautiful balsam fir which is what the mountains are famous for. After setting up camp we returned to the lake for a scout and maybe something for the frying pan! Ray "Poor Dog" caught 2 chubs and two rock bass as I paddled. We were now about a mile from the entrance of the Jessup River which feeds the lake. We paddled back to camp to collect wood. Poor Dog is

laying out tinder for our first fire. Out come the rum and the red pepper whiskey. Hot and muggy night, make smudge fire for our winged friends. By the way the mosquitoes are not shy of woodsman at all!

**August 14, 2011:** Leave camp early after coffee. Stick a chew in my mouth and paddle south towards Jessup River. Water is glimmering like glass. To the west of the lake are Driftwood Mountain, 2123 feet, and Floodwood Mountain, 2726 feet. Upon reaching the mouth of Jessup River, to the west you will pass Panther Bay. About a quarter of a mile up the Jessup the water temperature changes about 15 degrees, perfect for brook trout, but no luck. If you like snakes this is the place for you! Headed back to camp after scouting the sides of the river for moose tracks, they are here! Shit, here comes the wind and hard paddling. Covered around 10 ½ miles. Cloudy and warm, feels like heavy rain.

For supper we are having Indian corn and Poor Dogs smoked ribs. Went into woods with ax and knife and remodeled seats out of cut and carved wood for our trip back coming soon. Looking west from camp is Snowy Mountain, which is just shy of 4000 feet. It's also known as Squaws Bonnet. The loons, owls and coyotes sang for us.

**August 15, 2011:** Mosquitoes still make our life miserable, they are very sociable stingers. Poor Dog seen a mink in the cove by camp, that I named "Buggy Bay". Heavy rain all day. Make sure you carry candle stubs or you ain't gonna have fire in these woods. It's pouring, Waugh! Around 6:00, still coming down in



**Entering Jessup River**





buckets. This is a great time for the attack of the “Stinger Gang”. They did not let us down!

**August 16, 2011:** Still raining from the night before and I mean heavy, heavy rain. We covered our last fire with huge slabs of pine bark to ward off the rain from our sacred fire. As the rain ceased we started to take camp down and

**Good morning sunshine!**

load bark , for all I well knew from being on these lakes before in a canoe that when the sun makes its way up these peaks your gonna

have to deal with nasty canoe smashing winds. I told Poor Dog not to dilly dally because if we don’t start paddling now we are going to be in for hard work. About ½ mile from our landing the wind started picking up. We paddled hard and when we hit shore I grabbed and held on to my Medicine Bag.

We load the iron horse and head back to the Big Brook Wilderness Area to dry our gear out. The natives, Elsa and Mark Horse come to our lean-to so they could welcome us back from our journey. Made some char out of soaking wet dead birch. Drop a spark in the char can and it looked like a hundred stars in the heavens.

**August 17, 2011:** Me and Poor Dog will spend one more day in camp experimenting with different char from the forest.

**August 18, 2011:** Before leaving Big Brook lean-to, me, Poor Dog and Mark Horse had our last HURRAH by having a flintlock shoot-out. Mark Horse and Elsa are true North Country natives; they have no phone, no electric and are 13 miles off the main road. Totally self-sustaining and are the proud owners of Bob & Tom the draft horses and Ben, Clover and Bell their Dogs. P.S. I couldn’t remember the names of all the chickens!

Me and Poor Dog say our goodbyes with much regret and head to Blue Mountain Museum above Blue Mountain Lake, where the “Jed Smith Party”, “Warren Ferris Party” and “White Mountain Party” will join together for a three day Fur Trade Seminar for the public. This was our 11<sup>th</sup> year.

Waugh to the AMM!!

Wild Bill Baker



[www.scandinavianmountainmen.se](http://www.scandinavianmountainmen.se)

## Wolf Pack Track 2009

By: Michael "Swedish Mike" Nilsson, Charlie "Muleskinner" Blomqvist and Sebastian "Char" Scheler.



Last week of April 2009, after months of preparing animals, equipment and food the SMM was finally ready to hit the trail. Our plan was to ride from Råby (a few miles south of Torsby) to Packstation Högfall during seven days in the saddle and one days rest.

### Friday April 24.

The whole bunch gathered at Charlie's place for some last preparations for the trail. We examined the gear, looked over the animals and enjoyed the sunny weather. As always, we traded gifts and had a shot of two of whisky. Richard, who is an experienced woodsman but new to fur trade re-enactment was given his first flint and striker. A few minutes later his first fire was blazing. Convinced of their superiority he threw away his matches, never to be used again.

### Saturday April 25

We left Charlie's ranch early in the morning. A few hours past midday and a brand new bruise on Char's thigh we were finally ready to hit the trail. It felt great to finally be out in the wilderness. Camp was made on the edge of an old clearing. Dinner consisted pemmican boiled in brown water from a nearby bog.



### Sunday April 26

We got our first taste of the beautiful landscape as we climbed Gräsberget to our planned camp site. Daisy, the mule, kept our spirits high by acting out the feelings we all had after a few wrong turns on the steep trail. She simply laid down...

We finally made camp close to a small lake where Char kept his earlier made promise and plunged into the ice cold water.

At evening, Charlie, Mike and Char made

a trek up the mountain side to enjoy the view.

As darkness closed in, we all joined by the fire for a game of cards. The fire kept us warm as we discussed the existence of what is called a "shit stick", phenomena claimed superior to all other toilet paper substitutes by Richard. No conclusion was made.

### Monday April 27

Richard and Charlie woke up early after a turbulent night. In the middle of night Daisy the mule tore loose from her picket line, and in search of her master ended up standing on top of him. Kent and Char helped the bruised and confused Charlie with Daisy and went back to sleep.



After eating and packing our animals we made a short ride down the mountain where Kent and Åsa left us to head back to civilization. The remaining four re-tied a sliding pack and continued the journey.

After a rough climb in deep mud we hit a track named Hovfjällsleden. Here we noticed how Daisys crupper had started to tear through her skin. So we decided to improvise a britchen made from Charlie's belt and straps from a well smoked moccasin hide. Satisfied with the breaching we let the animals and ourselves have a noon rest. After watering the animals we all fell asleep and felt very refreshed as we rode on. Bog after bog kept us from our planned trail, and after spending three hours carrying our packs and walking our horses around one of the same we concluded that we would not reach our cache as planned. The evening turned into night before we tied up the animals, and with a mouthful of pemmican crawled into our bedrolls. This Monday would be remember as "Hell ride", and proofed how well our humble party worked in stressed and toilsome situations. Wet or dry, we still kept focused and worked together without any shouting or bad temper!



### Tuesday April 28

Rick was up early reconnoitering the surroundings and had what we called a "tingeling moment", which is a special occasion where you either enjoy your own company on a beautiful spot, or have a drink from the barrel. In this case Richard spent some time on a rock watching as a beaver did what beavers do in a nearby lake.

When he returned to camp the rest of us were busy packing, and he told us we were only about a mile or two from yesterdays cache. An hour or two later, the horses were feeding, and the four of us were

watching as the contents in our sheet iron kettle was boiling. It was soon devoured and with bellies full of rice and pemmican we filled our pipes and enjoyed the stuffed feeling.

The rest of the day was just a smooth ride with the exception of a few sliding packs. We hobbled our friends on a small grassy field and performed the usual camp chores. After some pork and rice seasoned with mustard and pepper sauce we tied the animals to their picket lines and covered up in our blankets and robes.

### Wednesday April 29

Char's mare Panchito kept interrupting our sleep during the night by kicking and digging. We still got up early, had some breakfast consisting of pork and dried apple fried in the bacon grease.

This was the coldest day so far, and as we rode along the



shore of a lake the low temperature combined with the moist air stiffened our limbs. After a few hours in the saddle we tried to pass a creek full of “sign” but had to use the modern trail to pass. Soon after we arrived at a great camp spot. A river named Manglidsälven was running within a hundred yards, and between us and the river was a small creek with clear ice cold water.

Richard and Char worked up a large pile of pitch pine, Charlie prepared our dinner, and Mike took care of our gear. As it was getting cloudy and drops started falling we decided to

make use of our tarps and erected two shelters. Just as we threw our gear under cover the rain started to pour down. Luckily dinner was ready and we enjoyed our moose stew without getting wet.

The rain only lasted for a moment, so Mike, Charlie and Char threw some traps over their shoulders and headed towards the “sign”. The traps were set and darkness soon fell.



#### Thursday April 30

Mike and Char went to check the traps while Charlie cooked a delicious breakfast. We had discovered how two frying pans could make an excellent oven which turned the biscuits into a sexual experience. Blaming other hunters and trap shy beavers the two trappers returned empty handed. After breakfast all four of us made a trek to the nearby cache and carried a few bales of hay and barley to our friends. We had decided to let the animals rest, which meant we had to do the carrying for once.

Back in camp we all separated for personal projects such as cleaning in the nearby river, mending gear or just relaxing. Char decided to make use of his skills as a carpenter and made a beaver tail paddle from a large pitch pine log and Richard made his first pair of side seam moccasins while Mike mended his pair.

By evening Richard guided Nisse, a local outfitter, to camp. After all had enjoyed the stew and biscuits the three SMM members decided to invite a fourth member to the group. Richard, a hard working farmer and experienced woodsman and horseman has now struck the path of the mountain men of the

Rocky Mountains.

#### Friday May 1

After a cold night with ice in the kettles we hit the trail early. The sun was shining and our knowledgeable guide Nisse took us across a magnificent landscape on small trails. We met a Dutch whom to our surprise knew that we were dressed as trappers which is seldom guessed by others in Sweden. “Injun?” perhaps, never “Trapper?”.



Camp was stuck close to a fine lake where the two dirty trappers Mike and Char tried to wash away the worst trail dust. We all felt a bit sad knowing this would be our last night under the stars for long time. Civilization was closing in on us whether we liked it or not.

In the middle of night we all heard the sound of strange horses. It proved to be Peter, another outfitter and good friend that would guide us to his place a days ride from where we were. Night was cold and kept some of us close to the fire.

### **Saturday May 2**

Another cold morning in the saddle. A sad day, it was hard to enjoy the scenery as we were all starting our inner journey from the 1830s back to 2009. Small rocky trails and narrow passages through the wood brought us to Peters place; Packstation Högfal, where he and his family served us sweets and a delicious pot of chili.

This was the end of Wolf Pack Track, the greatest adventure in the short history of the SMM. So far!



**Women played a role in the early fur trade, although pioneer or European were rare on the frontier. The woman of the fur trade was usually a Native American woman. Traders often took a Native American wife. The skills of Native American women made them valuable partners. They could handle horses, make and break camp speedily, cook, make clothing and, when necessary, handle weapons. In addition, they were very skilled working with leather and dyes decorating all types of clothing and bags. This month we will see how they used natural dyes to decorate.**

## **Natural Pigments**

### **By Patsy Harper**

For millennia, humans have beautified their world, adorned their bodies and clothing, decorated their dwellings, and expressed their thoughts by painting. Pigments are the basis of all paints, and have come from natural sources from the beginning of time through today.

The focus of this project is to determine sources of natural pigments and binders used prior to 1840, with methods and recipes for their use on a variety of surfaces, with an emphasis on painting on buckskin and rawhide. It will also include modern pigments and paints that can be used to replicate those old-time colors for surface decoration with a period-correct look.

Paint in its simplest form, consists of ground up pigment suspended in some sort of liquid, or binder. When the liquid dries into a film, the ground pigment is mechanically bound or stuck to the painting surface. Dyes on the other hand are chemically bound to a material generally with the use of a mordant (alum, chromium, and copper, tin and iron.) This project will focus on ground mineral pigments, binders and application methods.

The first paintings were cave paintings. Ancient peoples would decorate walls of protected caves with paint made from dirt or charcoal mixed with spit or animal fat. In cave paintings, the pigments (often carbon black or ochre) stick to the wall partially because the pigment gets trapped in the porous wall, and partially because the binding media (the spit or fat) dries, adhering the pigment to the wall. Over the years, countless graves unearthed by archaeologists, exposed bodies covered in red pigment or chunks of pigment buried alongside the bodies. Red, associated with blood, the most life sustaining of body fluids, was the

appropriate color to symbolize life's meaning and end. The word Hematite (the source of many iron oxide pigments) is derived from the Greek word "hema" meaning blood.

The predominant colors used in rock art and cave art are black (from charcoal, soot, or manganese oxide), yellow ochre (limonite), red ochre (hematite or baked limonite), and white (kaolin clay, burnt shells, powdered gypsum, or powdered calcium carbonate). All of these pigments may be used on leather or rawhide as well. Early cave art in Seminole Canyon was monochromatic, in red, and as culture grew more sophisticated, the color palette expanded.

Many colors of pigments were obtained from both organic and inorganic sources in ancient times, and used to paint various surfaces such as brain tan leather clothing and accoutrements, rawhide, the human body, etc. Blue color was obtained from powdered azurite and lapis, duck manure, and certain clays. A fine Blue-green clay was obtained from deposits near Mankato, Michigan. Organic sources of blue include Turkey's Tail, a greenish blue polypore that grows on dead decaying wood (not tannish ones). Native Americans could get Indigo from either Guatemala or Ecuador, which was traded well up onto Kansas, long before the Spanish ever set foot here. American Indigo has purple tones to it, but Indian/Japanese indigo has green tones. Berries and crushed flowers were also used to obtain blue color, by rubbing the plant material directly on the leather. Violets and Broadbeard Beardtongue (*Penstemon angustifolius* Nutt. ex Pursh) were examples of the flowers petals used for blue.

An organic source of red was Cochineal. It was native west of the Mississippi, and is produced from the bodies of small insects that grow on the prickly pear cactus. Lady's Bedstraw gives a good vermillion red color. Harvest the roots, dry them out, clean the mud etc. off of them and then grind the roots really fine, then soak them to extract the red coloring. The key here is drying the root first. Blood was also used as red pigment. Pucoon roots also yield a red pigment.

Powdered catlinite stone dust can be used as a pigment on buckskin as well. Just moisten the leather with spit first, then rub in the powdered stone pigment and let it dry. It produces a dark dusty pinkish red, as in the horse quirt below, made recently by Jack Smith of South Dakota.





Catlinite dust was also used on the exposed rawhide on this Crow-style knife sheath, also made by Jack Smith.



Grasses will produce green pigment, gathered fresh, wadded up and crushed, and rubbed directly onto the leather. Color varies with type of grass and water content. Other crushed leaves will produce green pigment as well, from the chlorophyll content in the leaf. Powdered malachite can be used as green pigment as well. Lambsquarter and pond algae can be used for greens. Yellows

can be obtained from curly dock root and sumac root. Winged dock is a nice yellow orange.

Walnut hulls, boiled or soaked in water, produce a dark brown stain that can be used to dye buckskin. Pecan hulls, processed the same way, produce a lighter golden brown stain. In Norman Feder's article on bottom tab leggings of the Sioux, he states that the brown paint used for stripes was made from powdered lignite. Lignite is a low-grade coal that can be found in many places in Eastern Montana, for example, in rocky outcroppings on eroded hillsides. It is a dark brown-black as it comes from the ground.

Native Americans used yellow and red ochre extensively as stains on buckskins garments. Here is an example of Mescalero Apache woman's skirt stained with both, from American Museum of natural History:



A Kiowa dress with Cowrie shells and yellow ochre stain on the bodice, from Sotheby's 1998 auction catalog (Note green pigment stain at the bottom hem)



Here is an outstanding Kiowa dress with green pigment stain, yellow ochre, and red ochre at the bottom.



Some of the first European and American artists to travel west used Natural pigments to paint a record of Native American tribes and their lives. Until paint was produced commercially during the Industrial Revolution, painters had to make their own paints by grinding pigment into oil. The paint would harden and would have to be made fresh each day. Due to the difficulty of transporting slow-drying wet oil paintings, many worked in watercolors or charcoal sketches in the field, and came home to make the oil paintings later from their field sketches. Often, they made their own pigments from available materials, mixing pigments with water and honey. The honey acts as a humectant to keep the paint softer and more easily mixed, and to bind it to the paper.

Binders in paint make pigment stick to the surface; similar to the way mordents make dyes stick to fabric surfaces. Various sealers may also be used after the pigment is applied. Sometimes a substance such as hide glue is used as a sizing, applied to the clean white brain tanned hide before the paint is applied, or before it is smoked to leave a white area on the hide. Paint it on the areas or lines that you want to remain white, and let it dry. Then smoke the hide and the other blank areas will turn darker but the hide-glue-painted portions will not. This technique was used on painted Buffalo Robes.

Some common binders that were used historically by Native Americans include human spit, hide glue, bone marrow fat, other animal fats such as bear grease, prickly pear cactus juice (may leave a green residue or tint), and soapy juice from yucca roots or leaves. California Indians also used a local plant called soap root (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*). Egg whites were used (bird eggs), milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.) sap and other plant saps, also urine.

If the pigment is clay based, then the only thing that would need to be done is to add water to the processed pigment to make it stick together. If the pigment is pure mineral, then a small amount of glue should be added to the water to help it hold its desired shape. A thin mixture of hide glue works well. Hide glue, which is also known as rabbit skin glue or horse hoof glue, was traditionally made from cooking down all of the left over parts after an animal was butchered. Skin, bones, tendons etc. were cooked until they were reduced to basically solids, fats and gelatin. It is the gelatin that makes the glue.

When choosing a binder, the questions you have to ask yourself are: What is the material that you are applying the pigment onto? How long do you want it to last? Will it need to be waterproof or at least water-resistant? Answers to all these questions determine the binder that will be used. The basic rule of thumb for applying pigments onto any surface is: the binder should be as similar a material you can find as the material to which you are applying it. Plant based oils, juices and saps should be used on woods and plant fibers; animal based oils, fats, egg yolks, eye and hide glues on hides, skins and bones. Experience using hide glue and milkweed sap as a binder has shown them to be water resistant on a variety of surfaces. Binders are as varied as the cultures that used them. Local materials would have been known and used.

There are several different application methods that may be used, with or without a binder. Brushing the powdered dry pigment directly into the leather with the fingers is one way. Moss or fur can be used to daub and blend. A pointed stick or bone also works quite well for drawing lines. Using different kinds of primitive brushes to apply it is another way. Brushes were made of cut animal bones, hollow bones with animal hair inserted in the end, yucca fibers bound with cordage, feathers (trimmed or untrimmed), and dried yucca leaves.

Below are pictures of some types of primitive brushes:



## Canoe For Sale

"A premium Golden 1994 aluminum canoe, 13' 6", with wood seats, and with the hull recently painted in a 'birch bark' pattern by Tim Ewert, MN canoe maker. It is an excellent one or two man canoe, with a wide beam, so it is stable. I have used it for river and lake jaunts, fishing, and beaver trapping. Priced at \$600.00, firm, to be picked up in Troup, Texas. If interested contact Paul Jones at

**[anglerpwj@yahoo.com](mailto:anglerpwj@yahoo.com)**



## Great Links:

[www.redriverbrigade.com](http://www.redriverbrigade.com) - Our awesome website under construction.

<http://user.xmission.com/~drudy/amm/moreamm.html> - you should recognize this site.

[www.turkeyfootllc.com](http://www.turkeyfootllc.com) - They have great dried food and other wares of high quality. I have ordered from them in the past and been very impressed with their products and service.

[www.powderhornsandmore.com](http://www.powderhornsandmore.com) - I have bought many powder horns from here to do scrimshaw work and final finishing for many folks. John is a class act, sends beautiful horns and his customer service is excellent. He won't send a product he doesn't want hanging from his shoulder.

[http://woodtrekker.blogspot.com/2013/09/living-off-land-delusions-and.html#disqus\\_thread](http://woodtrekker.blogspot.com/2013/09/living-off-land-delusions-and.html#disqus_thread) - This site lists caloric needs from a hunter-gatherer standpoint for long-term survival in the woods, and lists them for specific animals and specific plants. It might be of good use for folks doing their 3-days-hungry. It is very useful data.

<http://www.historicproperties.com/> - We are your online resource for buying and selling historic real estate. From projects to completed renovations, residential to commercial, west coast to east coast and now even outside the U.S.A., Federal to Eclectic; you can search our database of properties for sale. If you have a property to sell, you can list it for sale using the List a Home form and view it online within three business days.

<http://www.oldlogcabins.com/> - *Old Log Cabins* is dedicated to preserving the spirit of the American pioneer by offering original antique hand-hewn log cabins, structures and materials to our customers. We specialize in locating, documenting, and restoring these historic log cabins, barns and outbuildings. These uniquely American buildings were hand crafted by our ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries, and their original integrity and character cannot be duplicated.

<http://www.smilingfoxforge.com/index.asp> - We at Smiling Fox Forge strive to bring you the highest quality 18th century reproductions you can buy. Therefore they are neither inexpensive nor cheap! We have all discovered "**Real Quality**" must be paid for.

<http://www.naturemoms.com/homemade-vinegar.html> - How to make homemade vinegar.



## Upcoming Events

Brothers,

As a reminder from the Capitaine:

Requirement #4 (spending one full week, etc...) can only be met at one of these three (3) annual events:



<b>AMM National Rendezvous</b>	<b>Montana</b>	<b>June 28th - July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>
<b>AMM Eastern Territorial Rendezvous</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>October 4th - October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>
<b>AMM Western Territorial Rendezvous</b>	<b>Colorado</b>	<b>October 22nd - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014</b>

Local party camps, or even brigade level camps, do not qualify. Details will be in T&LR and Moc Mails as we move into the year and I will re-print them here.

### Detailed Info:

**AMM Eastern Territorial** 4-12 Oct Four miles west of Morris, Illinois on the Illinois River. Booshways: Todd Daggett (815) 735-6664, Jim Alexander (815) 697-2708 or (618) 225-2658. Horses welcome (and riders), river access for canoes, squirrel hunting allowed, fresh meat will be provided, woods walk shoot, whiskey/beer tent, flint knapping demo, beaver skinning demo, brain tanning demo, fly fishing demo.

**AMM Western Territorial** 22-28 Oct Hosted by the Jim Baker Party with Booshways: William Bailey (970) 216-3743 and Jim Sebastian (303) 910-4099 at Bent's Old Fort, Lahunta, CO. There is a planned 2 day horse ride into the fort on Tues and Thurs.

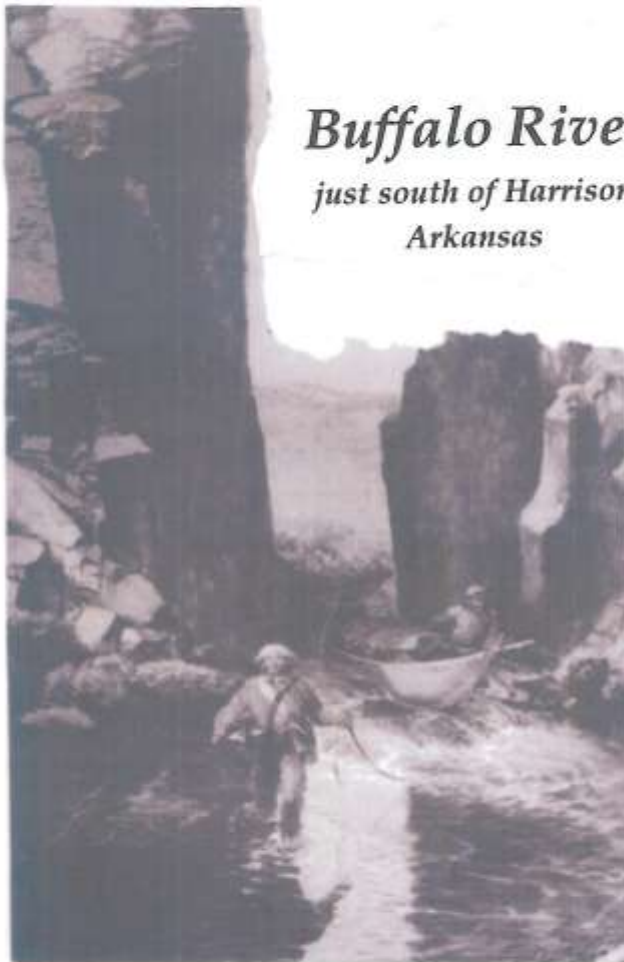
**AMM National Rendezvous** 28 June to 5 July Hosted by the Montana Brigade with Booshways: Tom Roberts ([TROBERTS135@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TROBERTS135@GMAIL.COM)) (406) 842-4001 and Glenn Goldthwait ([MTFORGE@3RIVERS.NET](mailto:MTFORGE@3RIVERS.NET)) (406) 842-7948: to be held in the Pioneer Mountains of Southwest Montana. **This is the year for PILGRIMS! Please bring your pilgrim or prospect to share our camp.** The site is on Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in the Andrus Creek Drainage. Plenty of wood, water and grass. Directions: From Dillon go south on I-15 to Clark Canyon Reservoir (exit 44), then west 19 miles on highway 324, then W-NW 19 miles on bloody Dick Road (becomes FS-181) then right 15 miles on Selway Creek Road (FS-919) then right on FS-7382 to parking. Watch for AMM signs.



## Upcoming Events

### *Five Day Float on the Nation's First Scenic River*

*May 14th thru 18th, 2014*



### *Buffalo River just south of Harrison, Arkansas*

We will begin our travels at Midday on Wednesday, May 14th at Steel Creek Access Point\Camp Grounds. A class on how to construct a Buffalo Boat will begin at noon for any interested members and the boats should be completed by that evening for trial float. Should anyone wish to make the trip in the Buffalo Boat they will be permitted to do so.

From Steel Creek to Mt. Hersey Camp ground is 42 miles. Traveling one of the Nation's most beautiful River. This portion of the river consists of gravel bars that surrounded by willows, fast moving series class 1 and class 2 rapids, the highest waterfall in mid-America and lined with 500 foot-tall cliff walls. If the weather and water are in favor, the float might continue to Woolum Camp ground for a total of 50 miles.

All travelers are responsible for their own food, canoes and floatation vests. The float will end on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 2014 at noon. Wednesday's dinner of meat, corn and biscuits will be provided.

Those interested in additional information needs to contact Bruce Day at [legacy.day@cox.net](mailto:legacy.day@cox.net). This float will be for the completion of AMM Requirements Number 8 and 12

# 2014 AMM EASTERN TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS OCTOBER 4-12



## Contact Information

Todd Daggett

Ph: (815)735-6664

Jim Alexander

Ph: (618)225-2658

Or email TDaggett to

[kjdaggett@gmail.com](mailto:kjdaggett@gmail.com)

## Directions

From Morris, IL located at  
crossroads of I80 & Rt. 47.

~ take Rt. 47 south approx. 3 mi.,  
head west on Dupont Rd. for 6 mi.,  
take Gonnam Rd. north 1mi. to site.  
(look for signs)

**The IL, WI, MN Brigade would like to invite everyone to our *Grand Encampment*.  
October 4-12, 2014**

This Rendezvous will be held 10 miles southwest of Morris, IL on the historic Illinois River. The Illinois River was a major trade route during the fur trade, as early as the 1680s. The site is just 32 miles upstream of the *Fort St. Louis* site, set up by LaSalle in 1682 as a strategic military stronghold and fur trading post. Interestingly, LaSalle was only able to secure a five year contract from King Louis XIV to trade furs with the natives and only for buffalo hides.

The privately owned rendezvous site is on approximately 800 acres of hardwood forest, grassy meadows and marshlands. This part of the Illinois country is mentioned in Pierre DeLiette's Memoirs in 1687 as being "*some of the most beautiful he's seen since the St. Lawrence River*", sorry Michigan.

- College on Period Fishing, courtesy of Paul Jones
- Various Stages of Brain Tanning throughout the week
- Beaver Skinning College, courtesy of Tom Morlock / Tom Larson
- Flint Knapping College
- Canoe in- pickup/drop off up to 6 mi. can be arranged

- Squirrel hunting & fishing available with proper licenses (call for cost)
- Horses Absolutely Welcome (Yes, riders allowed also)
- Whiskey and Ale tent for those who may need to quench their thirst
- Fresh venison and/or buffalo meat available at the whiskey tent (donations accepted)
- OPEN to the public – Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Figure there shouldn't be too many wounded from the shoots or bloodshot eyes from the ale tent this early.
- Numerous SHOOTS going on throughout the week. Better brush up on “ALL” those skills boys, you're going to need them.



We will have plenty of firewood and good drinking water, all we need are bodies. We all have busy lives and the economy is in the crapper. Over the last few weeks I have talked to a lot of brothers who have not recently been out on the ground for one reason or another. Well now is the time! Call your buddies you use to run with, blow the dust off your gear (or not), hire a sitter, borrow your neighbors car, whatever it takes- we would love to see YOU in Illinois in October.

For those of you that use a navigation device in travel, the Daggett Property borders the rendezvous site. If you plug in the address above this should get you within gunshot of the gate and the rest of you... well, look for the signs.

As always an event like this will have some upcoming costs. Anyone that has items they would like to donate for the auction or for shoot prizes (assuming some survive the shoots) please send c/o: Todd Daggett @ 2465 N. Gonnam Rd. Morris, IL. 60450

For more information please contact:

Todd Daggett	Or	Jim Alexander
Ph: (815)735-6664		Ph: (618)225-2658
<a href="mailto:kjdaggett@gmail.com">kjdaggett@gmail.com</a>		

*See you all in October!*

*Your brother,*

*Todd*

**PROPOSED**  
**RED RIVER BRIGADE HUNTING, FISHING AND  
TRAPPING EVENTS FOR 2014**

**Booshway - Cuz**

April: 25-27

Number of Brothers: no real limit

Pandale on Cuz's property before the summer heat shoot pigs, snakes, lizards and any non game animals we can eat. Bring lots of water!

**Booshway - Lucky**

June: 13-15

Number of Brothers: 6-7 Brothers plus Rob

Comanche, Texas on the property of prospect Rob Evans. Deer scout, fishing, rabbit and squirrel and Hawg hunting!

**Booshway - Many Rifles**

July: 4-6 or 11-13 July or even August

Number of Brothers: no real limit

Paul Laster could arrange another fishing trip on the Guadalupe or anyone with a place to fish/swim to stay cool.

**Booshway - Sunkasapa**

Sep: 19-21 Sep or 12-14 Sept

Number of Brothers: no real limit, but # out hunting may be limited at one time to allow safe shooting-rotate out

Rabbit and squirrel hunt: Comanche, Shiner, Naugameullers, Kraigs, any other locations available

One days squirrel ration per man in Revolutionary War was 13 squirrels! Are we that good of hunters and shooters?

**Booshway- Lucky**

Nov: 7-9 Nov or 28-30 Nov

Number of Brothers: 6-7 plus Rob with possible restriction of number who can hunt at once to allow safe shooting-rotate out

Deer hunt at Rob Evans' place in Comanche

**Booshway - Black Powder Jim**

Jan 15: Any weekend

Number of Brothers: no real limit

Trapping in Shiner or coyote trapping in Comanche at Evans' place. He wants coyotes trapped hard.

**Some of the dates have to be finalized. Please contact the Booshway for details. As the events are worked out I will put it in the Trace and e-mail out to The Trace e-mail list.**