

St Benton etc

Interests X

Woody Oct. June 24.
1874.

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My Dear Anna

It is difficult to sit down
to write letters when one has not heard
from home for so long & also when one
knows that so long a time must be
occupied before the letter written reaches its
destination. However I hope that within
a few weeks we may open up some
communication with St Benton on the
Missouri & get hold of whatever has found
its way so far. This goes back of the
old road to Dufferin along the line &
will be a long time en route.

We are halted here for a day or two & very

pleasant - it is for a change not to
have to get up quite so early or travel
so long. I have nothing in the way of
geology to interest me here but have
found a few plants & as William will
be delighted to hear discovered a rather good
spot for land snails.

Our usual order of march is something
like this. Up about 5, breakfast on
fried bacon bread & tea. Start about 6.
Travel four hours. Halt till about 2 P.M.
or during the heat of the day & during this
time amuse yourself by lying under the
shade of a wagon fighting the mosquitoes
if hot weather, or lying in the sun in the
lee of a wagon if cold. Reading if you
have a book or very likely sleeping.
Lunch on bread & cheese, or bacon, & tea
with perhaps some stewed dried apples.
Start again & travel three hours. Camp.
Get things arranged in tent & pick out

the piece of ground which looks the best
shape for sleeping on. Then supper a
dinner as you may choose to call it
on fried bacon &c as before.

Of course the absence of suitable stopping
places &c modifies the perfect-scheme a
good deal, & one may also have an
occasional duck to add to the bill
of fare.

My trip from Wood End was not a very
pleasant one in some ways. I began
well with the toothache which for a long
left a swollen face which rapidly increased
till one eye was nearly bumped up & it was
so difficult to chew that I had to subsist
almost entirely on soft food. However
it came to a head at last as a good
sized gum boil & then happily passed
away, leaving however still a little swell

which gradually diminishes.

We last heard of home several days ago when a man sent on with a light-rig for provisions caught us up. The injury appears to be rather a serious one & Dr Burgess fears to move him on for some time in case of inflammation affecting the brain. The hot weather has also been against him.

I should like to write to others at home & to William in Cape Breton but have really no more news. He goes so very quietly. Whenever another chance offers I will write again & then it will not be your turn.

I suppose when you get this you will hat Kamouraska & I hope to hear how you like it, & that you have spent a very pleasant summer there.

Love to all at home & hat remembering
to friends in general.

Your loving brother
George