

I started from home on the 11th of July 1846
and went directly to Chicago - I started on foot
and was two days in reaching the city the heat
was most oppressive - I Stopt at the Farmers
Hotel to save expenses but was soon sick of my
choice as a more fit place I never stop at
and would advise any one that may chance
to see this never to stop at the farmers hotel
in Chicago unless the place has changed own-
ers since I was there - I staid until Monday
morning and then went on board of the S B
Mundell & Mundell I started from home on the
11th of July and went direct to Chicago

James P. H. Mundell

Margaret

Margaret / Marg

1846

On the 11th of July with valise in hand I left my wife and children for the far west I went on foot to Chicago - after switting and toiling for two days I reached the city the weather was most excessive hot which rendered it very fatiguing walking. I put up at the Farmers hotel but was soon sick of my bargain as a more fitthy place I never stopped at and I would advise any one that may see this never to stop at the Farmers hotel unless it has changed hands since I was there. I remain in Chicago from Sunday night until Monday at 9 O'clock in the morning when I went on board the S. B. James Madison for Mackinaw. The Madison is a good boat but not the first class. We were soon under way and on the broad bosom of Lake Michigan. Our boat stood up the Illinois side of the lake we passed, Littleport, Racine, Milwaukee and Cheboygon and then stood for the Michigan shore. All the above ports we stop at Racine 25 or 30 miles before reaching Milwaukee is a beautiful place being elevated on a high piece of ground that overlooks the lake. The buildings all new and some of them handsome gave it a fine ~~pleasant~~ appearance it has a population of near two thousand inhabitants. Milwaukee is also a fine business place and has a population of about five thousand. Soon after leaving the west shore of the lake we were out of sight of land this was the first time I ever was out of sight of land I had never formed a correct idea of the lake before nothing on any side but water the heavens above and earth beneath perhaps 900 or 1000 feet below

We now had a head wind so heavy that our boat began to labour heavily to make head way - And now after six or seven hours that land could not be seen we came in sight of the Manitowish And - the wind increased until we had a pretty good gale - we were six hours in gaining the Island Twelve miles distance here we lay until sometime in the night we put out for Mackinaw - The Island and all of the Michigan Shore as far as I could see present a barren and gloomy appearance the country is covered with dwarf pine or stunted Cedar or hemlock and to me had anything but a pleasant appearance - some of the passengers tried to see beauty in the Manitowish Islands and the evergreen that covered every thing but I must confess it was but little beauty I could get out of it - Soon after getting up the morning after leaving the Manitowish Mackinaw was in view as we approached the Island the fort with its white walls and buildings on the summit of the hill became visible - The water of the Straits were so clear that we could see the bottom where the water was thirty or forty feet deep - We are now from the best account four hundred and eighty five miles from Chicago - The harbor and straits of Mackinaw are very pretty here you may see the Indian with his bark canoe as he glides over the pure waters of the bay like a sea-bird - here are several different tribes of Indians the Chippewas are the most numerous and in fact they appear to be the strangest tribe in the whole N. Western country their territory is very extensive extending from the To the Mississippi and taking the whole of L.S.

The Manomone or wild recreaters inhabit the country washed by the Manomone River. This River empties in to Green Bay. There is also the Winnebago Indians that some times come to this place to trade and perhaps others.

The great variety of fishing boats and bark canoes with their sail and oars that constantly cover the water gives to Mackinaw a very beautiful appearance. Some of the boats coming in with fish others going out some paddled by squaws and others by french and in fact here you see every body. I mean by that people from every clime for I never saw so mixed a population in my life. Every thing appears to be mixt or half-breeds. Although there appears to be blood from almost every nation it certainly appears to have a small coloring of Indian with it. Mackinaw is a very interesting place in many particulars. certainly for situation, history and wild scenery it is the most interesting Island in our country. I will quote from travelers its appearance as it is approached from Lake Huron "As you approach it through an arm of Islands, Drummond and Manitowishdink seen on our east and Boisblanc and Round on our western side. Stretching across our path in front is Mackinaw painted against the clear blue sky. The Island of Mackinaw or Mackinac or Michilimackinac is a high and bold bluff of limestone about three hundred feet above the water covered with evergreen principally stunted pine and hemlock. Its name signifies in the Indian tongue big turtle as it is something in shape of this animal. At the foot of the bluff are situated the buildings of the Town. The United States fort is very pretty and very conspicuous as we approach it from either way."

in the distance it has much the appearance of a row of white buildings lining the summit of the hill. The stars and stripes of our country waved over the fort, and the booming sound of a cannon now rolls over the waters of the straits. I had to remain here until the next day, and it gave me an opportunity of visiting or rambling over the Island. On the summit and north of the fort is a natural bridge of white limestone rock stretching across a deep chasm, from this we could look down in to the waters of Lake Huron. I saw many curiosities here which I cannot here give. This place was settled by the French as early as six hundred and seventy three. It is very singular that the Indians would allow the French to come among them and even marry with them, but when any other nation came among them they were massacred or driven from the country. On the opposite shore is to be seen the old fort of Mackinac in ruins. It was built by the English before the revolution and manned as a garrison. This fort was taken by the Indians under the command of their chief Pontiac by stratagem, and every person was massacred. After the massacre of fort Mackinac the Indians marched immediately for Detroit where was also a fort held by English, but the commander mistrusted them and saved the fort. Again I went on board the S. B. Genl. Scott for the Sault which is ninety miles distant. As we pass out of the straits for the Sault we find our selves on the waters of Lake Huron. Islands are to be seen on every side. The distance to the river from Mackinac I think is not far from thirty miles. It is a beautiful evening and the sun sets in Lake Huron and to me it was grand beyond anything I ever saw.

~~Hackmataw~~ The river St. Marys as you approach
it appears like a group of Islands and would
be difficult for an inexperienced hand to tell
where to find the river and in fact after you
are fairly in the river there is one continued
group of Islands and small lakes the most
of the way to the Sault these Islands are mo-
stly covered with a stunted growth of ever-
green trees of which the hemlock is predominant.
This is the general character of the timber-
although I noticed in some places a fine
growth of Sugar maple. The Lakes in this
river, or that this river runs through are
very pretty and abound with fish in great
abundance. Some of the Lakes are several
miles long and from one to two miles wide
around these Lakes and at different poi-
nts on the river. Indian wigwags are
seen and occasionally Squaws in their
bark canoes may be seen gliding across
the river with as much grace and ease as
the ~~they were~~ the Goddesses of the two Sylvan
retreats. While on our passage there was
an Englishman came on board with two
Squaws - I learned he was the British Ind-
ian Agent and that one of the Squaws
was his wife he appeared to prosper with
and his two Squaws were trimmed out in
fine style and no doubt were a source
of curiosity and amusement to some
Southern ladies and gentlemen that were
on board on a trip of pleasure to spend
the heat of summer at the north -
Our boat took a Schooner in tow for the Sault
as the water is too rapid for Schooner in place.

unless they have a very fair wind - Thus armed
we arrived at the Sault after having been on
board twenty four hours the boat however
lay by over night in the river on account of
the difficulty of the channel -

The inhabitants of the Sault are like those of
Mackinaw a perfect mixed set of inhabitants
to every thing appears mixed except the white-
fish which are pure and the finest I ever saw
the population perhaps may be two hundred
There is nothing remarkable at this place except
the rapids or chute which is a fall of
about twenty two feet in the distance of three
fourths of a mile here is fine fishing and
the most of the fish are taken by the Indians
and consider themselves the rightful owners
of this outlet of Lake Superior

I was fortunate in finding an excellent Schooner just
ready to sail for the Copper region of Lake Superior
we were soon under way and gliding up the river
which is about twenty miles up to the lake
from the Sault. I was surprised to see so many
vessels on the waters of Lake Superior not less
than eight were in sight our propeller
and the Julia Farmer S.B. name send out their
steam on this lake -

Our vessel stood directly for Copperharbour which is
225 miles from the Sault we were soon out of sight
of land Lake Superior appears like an Ocean
to a land lubber like myself to be twenty
hours out of sight of land with a fair wind
gives me an Idea of the vastness of this lake
I never had before - Pigeons came on board and
sat in the rigging and could scarcely be induced
to leave the vessel - they were lost in the fog

Margaret Rundel

Standards rock lays nearly on the track from Copperharbour to the Sault and is a very dangerous rock raising not more than two feet out of the water in a calm and when the sea is rough the water runs entire over it so that in a fog or in a dark night vessels might easily run on to it - The rock is only a few feet square above the water or in sight and to run on to it would be inevitable destruction this rock is thirty or forty miles from any land - on one side of this rock a line has been let down twelve hundred feet and no bottom found on the other it passes off gradual - the rock is said to be Trap-rock - After passing this rock we soon came in sight of the Manitow Island and then Keweenaw point - Copperharbour is situated on this point - As we approached Copperharbour the scenery appears bold and rocky and no entrance can be seen to the harbour until we actually enter when the harbour spreads out and we soon find ourselves in a beautiful harbour safe from the sea in any direction -

Woodenbhall ran his vessel the Algonquin in to this harbour a few years ago (I think in 40) in a gale the first vessel that ever entered this beautiful harbour - Six or eight vessels may now be seen at a time -

St. Wilkins is situated here and was manned by a small garrison until the last summer when the troops were ordered to Texas Lake Sannahoe lays back of Copperharbour and passes entirely around the fort except a few rocks at each end of the lake

The general appearance of the country at this place has a barren rocky aspect nothing can grow here but stunted Cedar, pine and hemlock and these must depend mostly on the rocks for their support for I saw no place where soil enough could be got for a potatoe patch. The rock is Trap and is traversed by veins of white Spar which contrast finely with the dark Trap rock. The Copper men of this neighbourhood have not been very successful. Mendenhall has charge of a location and some interest in it which he thinks will be valuable.

As we leave Copper Harbour and pass up the lake there is the same general appearance we pass Aggate Harbour and Eagle Harbour and arrive at Eagle River twenty miles from Copper Harbour. Here is the famous Eagle Cliff mine said to be the richest mine in the world. Whether such will prove to be the fact or not I am not a competent judge. Mendenhall has a considerable interest in this mine but do not know to what extent. Not far from this is the Copper falls mine where the great Copper rock is found. This piece of pure copper is of many tons weight I suppose no one knows how large as they have not found its size the last accounts.

There are many valuable mines in this vicinity. In the At Eagle river and vicinity the whole forest appears to have suffered from fire the whole country was black. The fire raged with such fury that it appears to me every tree must be killed for miles around. Several houses were burned and other damages sustained.

² Keweenaw point which I have just been describing is a point of land that runs nearly in to the middle of the lake from the south side — after leaving Copper harbour (which is situated directly on the point) the coast bears a little *eb. of W* for twenty miles and then bears *S. W.* so that after passing up the lake fifty or seventy miles it cannot be more than twenty five miles across to the lake directly East from Copper harbour down the lake the coast bears almost south — so that this point may be called a peninsula

Portage lake crosses this peninsula so that small boats may cross with a portage of about one mile — the distance across here may be 20 miles and to go round would be not less than 90 miles —

as we pass up the lake the coast changes its appearance instead of a Traprock coast we find the shore generally lined with a redish sand stone though in places there is a beautiful sand beach — At Portage lake I first found Mendenhall and here I took my first lesson in exploring soon after I arrived Mendenhall left and left me in charge of the company of explorers

Our company consisted of five men besides myself six in all one of the men staid at the camp and acted as cook when our work lay back from the lake 9 or 10 miles as some of it did. Each man took his blanket and provisions to last several days — Our blankets were done up in the form of a pack with our provisions in it each man having a good collar for the purpose thus equipt we were

ready for our work - After searching all day
for copper we generally camp by the side of some
stream, built a fire, cooked our supper, took our
blanket, and lay down for the night, with the
heavens for our curtains, and the earth for our
pillow, and thus we continued until our pro-
visions run out, when we would again return
to camp and renew our stock and repeat
the same thing over - I have been thus particular
in describing our manner of exploring, it being
descriptive of all of our exploring -

After spending about a month here among "Hinnas"
Wolverines and Jackalantes and floundering
among swamps and moros and climbing hills
we left these diggings and went up to Merry
river thirty miles farther up the lake to repeat
the same thing over - I might say here we found
no copper at the portage but some at Bear
river habitations - There is no game in the woods
except Beaver and Porcupines scarcely a
bird except sparrows no wild fruit no flowers
no nothing except cedar swamps of the
worst kind - After leaving this we soon found
the coast rocky - walls of red sandstone rose
from the water's edge or directly out of the water
to the height of a hundred feet perpendicular
here we had a beautiful view of these rocks as
our traveling is in a Batteau and must keep
close to the shore for safety - (I might here
state the only way of traveling in summer
is in Batteaus with sail and Oars we coast
along from place to place as business calls
These rocks have a beautiful appearance carved
and washed and worn in to the base of these
rocks and looks as tho some sea nymph

might have had her palace here - my mind became
so much excited I almost expected to see some of
those fabulized beauties peeping out at us as we
peeped along from some of those windows or loop
holes in the wall or see them sitting on the point
of some prominent rock, attending to her toilet
but I didn't see any though, nor did I hear
them sing - Rivulets of clear pure water came
rolling over these rocks from the adjacent highlands
and formed beautifull casades inviting the traveler
to view and admire their pure waters before forever
lost in the mighty Superior - Some of these
waterfalls appear to leap from the top ^{of the rock} and plunge
in the lake several feet from their base while others
cling to the rock until they reach the waters of
the lake - I regret much I cannot visit the picture
red rocks which are further down the lake than
where we first touch on the South Side - They
are said to be beautifull when viewed at a short
distance from the water, presenting a vast wall
of red sandstone rocks most beautifullly puctured
The Indians have some superstitious notions of
these rocks of which I know but little -
Nor shall I be able to visit those stupendous monu-
ments on the north shore of the lake - These rocks
are Trap and are said to raise perpendicularly
out of the water to the great height of thirteen
hundred feet - These rocks have undoubtedly been
thrown up by some volcanic action -

It is the common received opinion that this entire
trap range has been thrown up by some violent
eruption and has burst up through the upper
layer of sandstone - veins of white spar travers these
Trap rocks in every direction and nearly all copper
is found in them - Occasionally however veins of

Oars are traced some distance from the Trap into the Conglomerate rock where the two unite -

The Oars that are found are the Red, Black and Gray Oxides also, Red, Black, Gray, and yellow Sulphurs but in many places large quantities of Native Copper is found - pieces or boulders of pure Copper are sometimes found weighing many tons - of these copper rocks the one at Copper falls mine is most remarkable of which I have already mentioned - I saw one from the Antagon river weighing over sixty hundred - this piece of copper had a good deal of pure Silver in it - These Copper boulders sometimes lay in veins in the rock and sometimes they are found loose on the surface of the ground at a distance from any vein yet discovered - they appear as though they had been melted and run into masses without any form, and of course rough enough -

I will now return and pursue our course up the lake the coast is rough and rocky most of the way from Postage up to the mouth of Misery river - There is but one stream of any note and that is Gravard river this is a small stream large enough for a good small stream and furnishes a tolerable good boat harbour - We ran our boat into this stream with a pretty good sea at our heels, and got well wet as all hands had to jump in to the water to save our boat from breaking on the rocks - Here we camped for the night nor did we get away the next day the sea being too rough for our small boat -

Misery river is a muddy sluggish looking stream different from any water I have seen since I came on the lake it is however a good boat harbour and is a point where most boats stop in passing up or down after landing at the mouth of Misery, securing our boat

and getting all things ready we started for our work which lay back about ten miles from the lake. here we repeated the same thing over as at the Portage and with no better success - after spending near a month here we again pack all things up and started for the mouth of Misery - As we pass up the lake we pass Sleeping river Flint Stiel and firststiel rivers all of which are small streams but furnish good boat harbours and arrive at the Ontonogon about twenty miles distant - The Ontonogon is a fine stream and the only stream that I have seen that deserves the name of river it is 75 or 100 yds wide at its mouth and is a good harbour for small vessels having a depth of water on the bar of about seven or eight feet - This place must always be a place of considerable importance it is in the middle of the mining district and the largest river that empties in to the South side of the lake I understand there has been a new County formed and this place is fixed on as the County seat, at present the mouth of the river is held by one Jim Paul and claims the most eligible site for a town by presumption and prevents any other one from improving it - He is a notorious character he has two small houses and he pretends to keep as a Tavern and the other as a dogry to sell liquor It goes by the name of Pauls dogfall. it is one of the most miserable places I ever saw. I can scarcely express my feelings at the insult given by it to the entire waters of Lake Superior - I hope the time is not far distant when this stain will be washed from the shores of the lake - Suddenly the mine lays up the river, and as we pass up we find rich bottom lands covered with a luxuriant growth of vegetation quite different from the shore of the lake - the scenery is beautiful, amongst the trees

that line the banks of the stream is the Mountain
Ash one of the most beautifull ornament trees I ever
saw, they were loaded with brilliant red fruit
and are said to retain its fruit all winter -

The stream is broad and deep the distance I have been
up which is about five miles from its mouth.

The indians have fine sugar camps on this stream
but the pale faces or Che-moo-man are beginning
to occupy them and the red man must leave -

At this point (five miles from the lake) Mendenhall
has a warehouse where all of the goods and supplies
for the Mendenhall location are landed -

The location is five or six miles from the river here
are the best improvements I have seen since I have been
on the lake - he has seven or eight buildings for
different purposes and several acres of land cleared
last season he raises potatoes and Turnips enough
for the use of the location. They also had plenty of
cucumbers and squashes with some other garden
vegetables - This mine is conducted with order
and every thing has a business appearance -

They have a chaplain and preaching every Sunday -
their preacher works in the mine weekdays and
preaches on Sundays - The miners are all English men
from the Cornish mines of England - The Ontonagon
district, it is thought will become one of the ^{best} ~~most~~
mining districts on the lake -

Iron river fifteen miles up from the mouth of the
Ontonagon is a considerable of a stream next in
size to the Ontonagon that I have seen this is a
good boat harbour but not large enough for vessels
It is a great resort for Indians -

From Iron river to the Porcupine mountains the coast
is mostly rocky and rather dangerous coasting - For further
description of this coast see note book

From Iron river to the Porcupine mountains or to the Lone Rock is fifteen miles - Lone Rock is a detached rock situated about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the main land and raises out of the water perhaps two feet. nothing grows on the rock except some wild roses which are said to be beautiful. This rock is trap and is filled with veins of white spar it is known to all voyagers as a point in counting distances - The Indians call it Mu-ne-saw-bie - This rock is the corner of the location I have been on this winter and the mine is call: the lone rock mine -

The Porcupine Mountains are ranges of mountains or hills run parallel to the lake or nearly so at this place they approach very near the lake and are several ridges laying parallel to each other - The first ridge is Conglomerate, the second is Trap and also the third - They rise by steps the first not being so high as the next and the third being higher still so that a person on the top of the third range can overlook the others and see the lake. These hills or mountains have a gradual incline to the north and are not very steep, but their south side is very abrupt and form perpendicular walls of rock from one to three hundred feet high - In the valley between the second and third range Camp River winds its way to the lake running parallel to it for many miles - This river is a small stream of pure water of sufficient size for mill purposes - It abounds with trout in great abundance - There is also plenty of Beaver on it - The scenery is bold and grand for him who can enjoy mountain scenery - The view from some of the highest points of the mountains where Lake Superior is spread out before you on one side and the mountains with their eternal rocks and deep valleys with their small rivers and mountain lakes, on the other

presents certainly one of the most grand, and sublime pictures I ever witness. I have recently visited the Bellmont mine about five miles from the Lone Rock mine. Here I find the upheave to be greater than I have seen at any other part of the range being as near as I can judge seven or eight hundred feet nearly perpendicular. It is also the highest point of the second range ~~of~~ mountains or second ridge from the lake - being 1000 feet above Lake Superior. Myself in company with Geo. Rice in the evening ascended the highest point where we had a beautiful view of the surrounding country and of Lake Superior which was now calm and smooth as a mirror. How shall I paint that sunset scene on Lake Superior as viewed from the top of the Porcupine Mountains. I have been atop on Erie hills - we, I have heard the thunder of Lake Michigan as she in her majesty lashed her impetuous waves but never have I seen nature in all her gorgeous beauty until I viewed her at evening from these mountains. As the sun approached the crystal floor of Lake Superior the blue waters were painted and tinged with every possible hue and sparkled like diamonds. Shortly the brilliants appeared to concentrate until there was but one bright path from us to the sun and formed a beautiful bridge from earth to heaven. I had always been accustomed to seeing the sun above me but now it was below - near the water, on the water, and under the water, and now the sun sleeps in Lake Superior. The whole western skies are painted with rose and yellow and grey and reflected back on the blue waters of the lake as though ^{nature} ~~she~~ was determined to try hand at fancywork once more before retiring to rest.

We lingered here until one star made its appearance soon followed by all the bright lights of Heaven (if I may be allowed to quote from Scripture) until the whole deep blue was set with jewels.

This reminds me of that pretty vers my little girls used to repeat

Twinkle twinkle pretty Star
Can't you tell us where you are
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky

We lingered here until the hour reminded us we must try to find our way down to the cabin -
This was the last time I expect to visit this part of the mountains I therefore determined to ascend those lofty cliffs and have a morning view. Soon a darling radiance shot up from behind the mountains and the King of day made his appearance as if to greet his favourite lake -
~~on~~ ~~an~~ deep in the valley lay that beautiful mountain lake with the wild ducks sporting on its bosom or whirling in graceful circles over its shining waters. After spending an hour or two I bid adieu to this grand and magnificent Observatory of nature probably forever

CHART OF LAKE SUPERIOR,

