

1724 Journal Entries for Étienne de Veniard, sieur de Bourgmont

June 25	Company sets out	July 22	Departure delayed by rain	Oct. 10	Descriptions of weather & landscape
July 3	Bourgmont departs by land	July 23	Horsethief strikes	Oct. 11	The Great Kansas River
July 4	Bourgmont departs by land	July 24	Departure by land	Oct. 12	The sites & sounds of the prairie
July 5	West by quarter west-northwest	July 25	Party encounters storm	Oct. 13	An abundance of wildlife
July 6	Encounter with Kansa chiefs	July 26	Reconnaissance	Oct. 14	Bourgmont shoots bison
July 7	Party reaches the Missouri	July 27	Description of travois	Oct. 15	Traveling the treeless prairie
July 8	Kansa village welcomes Bourgmont	July 28	Journey difficult for many	Oct. 16	Party gets off course
July 9	Bourgmont reaches out to tribes	July 29	Description of prairie	Oct. 17	Smoke signals
July 10	Otos respond to overtures	July 30	Bourgmont taken ill	Oct. 18	Party arrives at Padouca village
July 11	Bourgmont suffers fever	July 31	Bourgmont turns back	Oct. 19	Bourgmont addresses Indians
July 12	Kansa chiefs holds feast	Aug. 1	Bourgmont returns on a stretcher	Oct. 20	The head chief speaks
July 13	Waiting for pirogues	Aug. 2	Six leagues traveled	Oct. 21	Trade begins
July 14	Indians catch fever	Aug. 3	Back at the Kansa village	Oct. 22	Living and hunting styles
July 15	More fever in camp	Aug. 4	Bourgmont at Fort d'Orleans	Oct. 23	Leaving for base camp
July 16	Good medicine and pirogues	Sept. 6	Bourgmont negotiates with Padouca	Oct. 24	Large herds of bison
July 17	Bourgmont addresses chiefs	Oct. 2	Bourgmont's recovery	Oct. 25	Fine weather
July 18	Bourgmont negotiates with Kansa Indians	Oct. 4	Bourgmont greets Otos	Oct. 26	Frost
July 19	Osages fear sickness	Oct. 5	Bourgmont offers peace	Oct. 27	Re-crossing the Kansas river
July 20	Chief offers daughter's hand	Oct. 6	Smoking the peace pipe	Oct. 28	Traveling eight leagues
July 21	Preparing for the Padoucas	Oct. 7	Chiefs accompany Bourgmont	Oct. 29	Wolves
		Oct. 8	Landscape on way to Padouca village	Oct. 30	Rain
		Oct. 9	An 11 hour day	Oct. 31	Approaching the Kansa village
				Nov. 1	Crossing the Missouri
				Nov. 2	Leaving for Fort d'Orleans
				Nov. 5	Arrival at Fort d'Orleans

This is the main expedition's travel journal. French historians believe the journal was written by mining engineer Philippe de La Renaudière. The handwriting of his signature at the bottom of the document seems to match the writing of the journal entries. The story also seems to be written by a well-educated person and someone who was present daily. Besides Bourgmont, La Renaudière is the only member who fits that description.

June 25, 1724

On Sunday, June 25, 1724, at noon, the detachment commanded by Monsieur de Saint-Ange, ensign of the garrison of Fort d'Orleans, departed by water for the country of the Kansa tribe, and from there to go to that of the Padoucas [the plains Apache tribe], with Sergeant Dubois, Corporals Rotisseur and Gentil, and eleven soldiers: namely. La Jeunesse, Bonneau, Saint-Lazare, Ferret, Dimié,¹ Avignon, Sans-Chagrin, Poupard, Caspars, Chalons, and Brasseur; five Canadians, Mercier, Quesnel, Rivet, Rolet, and Lespine; and two of Monsieur La Renaudière's employees, Toulouse and Antoine.

¹ The original document clearly reads "Dimié." Margry (1879-88) transcribes the name as "Derbet," but we learn from the next paragraph that Derbet did not leave until eight days later, with Bourgmont's party traveling by land. Dimié is not mentioned again; he may have died in the fever epidemic that struck Saint-Ange's advance party on their way to meet Bourgmont at the Kansa village (see journal entry for 8 July).

July 3, 1724

On Monday, the 3rd of July, M. de Bourgmont departed by land, accompanied by M. La Renaudière and Bellerive, troop cadet; soldiers Estienne, Roulet, and Derbet and a drummer; d'Hamelin, Canadian; Gaillard, employee of M. La Renaudière; and Simon, M. de Bourgmont's servant; with 100 Missouris commanded by eight war chiefs and the head chief of the tribe, and 64 Osages commanded by four war chiefs of their tribe. We crossed two small rivers and arrived at our camp at four in the afternoon. We estimate we have traveled six leagues. Very warm.

July 4, 1724

Tuesday, 4. We started at four in the morning and marched until ten, then halted until three, then marched until six, by which time we reckoned we had traveled six leagues [18 miles]. Warm, but cooler on the hills. Our Indians have killed, yesterday and today, about 20 deer and several turkeys. We have crossed three small rivers. Well-beaten paths, broad prairies, hills, many trees loaded with hazelnuts along the brooks and the little valleys. Deer were there in herds.

July 5, 1724

Wednesday, 5 July. We marched this morning from four until ten. Everyone rested, and we resumed traveling at two, rested until two and resumed traveling in the afternoon. By our estimate, we traveled six leagues [18 miles], following a compass heading of west by a quarter west-northwest. We crossed some brooks and noticed clumps of trees here and there.

July 6, 1724

Thursday, 6. After setting out at four, we crossed a at about ten o'clock we crossed a beautiful river and halted on the far bank to rest until two in the afternoon. Today, we encountered two Kansa Indians who had been sent by their chief. They reported to M. de Bourgmont that the chiefs of the tribe were waiting for him on the high ground of the prairies. We marched on until four o'clock, when we met the head chief of the Kansa tribe, with six war chiefs and several other Indians, all waiting for M. de Bourgmont. They welcomed him and the Frenchmen who were with him with calumet [a long-stemmed ornamental pipe used in ceremonies] raised high and

with great rejoicing. After inviting the Frenchmen to smoke, they spread out the warmat and offered a feast consisting of the food they had all prepared. They also invited to the feast the Osagcs and Missouris. We camped there on the high ground of the prairie. All [the Indians] danced and fired guns.

We have marched all day toward the west, covering five leagues. The wind is from the north. Cool.

July 7, 1724

Friday, 7 July. We left at four in the morning and marched about a league [three miles] on the prairie before entering a hilly, wooded area with many steep climbs and descents, making it hard going for the horses. All day we marched toward the west, until at four in the afternoon we reached the edge of the Missouri River, just across from the Kansa village, and there we made our camp. We covered seven leagues [21 miles] today, in warm weather.

July 8, 1724

Saturday, 8. At about eight in the morning we crossed the Missouri River in a pirogue [dugout boat], with the horses swimming and the Indians on rafts. We landed about a fusil-shot [musket-shot] away from the Kansa village and camped. The Indians came down in a body, with their large calumets that signified peace, to welcome M. de Bourgmont. Then the head chiefs commenced their harangue and brought him two horses as a present.

Harangue of the Indian Chiefs to M. de Bourgmont:

"My father, we come to see you and to bring you our message. You see here seven chiefs. We are obeyed among our tribe and we say to you and assure you on our behalf and on behalf of all our young men that we all wish to go with you to the Padoucas and that we have no other will than yours. Thus, you may consult with us as you wish; we are leaving no one in our village except our old men, our women, and our little children. We have seen you in past years among us. You have never deceived us. You have crossed the Great Lake [the Atlantic Ocean]. You promised to return; you have kept your word to us. Thus, we love you, we hearken to you and we will follow you anywhere you wish. We have no other will than yours."

All the other chiefs made the same harangue and invited M. de Bourgmont and the Frenchmen with him to smoke with them, in order to validate what they had just said. Then they spread out a large bison robe, placed M. de Bourgmont on it, and carried him into the dwelling of the head chief. There, they repeated the same harangues and gave him presents of some peltries and food. Afterward, they carried him into the dwellings of the other chiefs, where they redoubled their harangues and began to stroke him and those who came with him: namely, M. La Renaudière and Sieur de Bellerive. They showed M. de Bourgmont every sign of friendship. Then they invited us to feast with them and took us into several dwellings to feast there as well, and after that they came to our camp to look for the other Frenchmen and took them to feast in their turn.

At five in the afternoon a Frenchman with an Indian arrived, who had come by land, sent by M. de Saint-Ange, who commands the convoy traveling by water. They reported that several of their French crew were ill with fever and unable to travel. M. de Saint-Ange asked M. de Bourgmont to send him five Frenchmen with supplies. M. de Bourgmont sent him what he had asked for and urged him to make haste, not only to arrive [at the Kansa village] in order to hasten his voyage to the Padoucas, but he also pointed out that he had 160 Indians to feed and that it was necessary to trade European goods every day for their subsistence.

July 9, 1724

Sunday, 9. At eight in the morning, M. de Bourgmont sent the five Frenchmen in a pirogue [dugout boat] with the supplies. With them he sent nine Indians, some to row, others to hunt. At the same time he sent five Missouris to the home of the Otos to advise them of his arrival at the Kansa village. The Indians still continue to seek us out to feast with them. They also invite the Missouris and Osages, in bands of 25-30 at a time.

July 10, 1724

Monday, 10. Everyone has been relaxed in our camp. Our hunters arrived at about three o'clock, loaded down with deer. At seven, the four Missouri Indians² whom M. de Bourgmont had sent to the Otos reported that they had met a band of Indians of that tribe, that they were on a hunt expressly for the purpose of preparing for M. de Bourgmont's arrival, and while waiting, they would hunt and dry the meat to give to his warriors upon their arrival. They said their chief would depart at once to find M. de Bourgmont and to speak with him.

² No explanation is given as to why five Missouris were sent to the Otos on July 9 and only four returned on July 10.

July 11, 1724

Tuesday, 11. One of the two Padouca slaves M. de Bourgmont brought with him in order to return them to their tribe died this morning at six. M. de Bourgmont has had two attacks of fever since leaving Fort d'Orleans. He has taken medicine and purged himself. Very warm weather.

July 12, 1724

Wednesday, 12. The Kansa chiefs came at about eight in the morning to get M. de Bourgmont and the Frenchmen accompanying him to take them to their dwellings to feast; afterward, they had 30 Padouca slaves brought in and had them dance before M. de Bourgmont. Very warm, but cool nights.

July 13, 1724

Thursday, 13. Our Indians are becoming annoyed at the delayed arrival of our pirogues [dugout boats]. M. de Bourgmont is very concerned. Since our arrival, the Missouri River has gone down about four feet, which leads us to hope that our pirogues will arrive soon, since the strong currents have greatly diminished.

July 14, 1724

Friday, 14. Several of our Indians are ill with the fever. M. de Bourgmont has bled five today. The Kansa Indians continue to feast us and to give us the food that is required for ourselves and our Indians.

July 15, 1724

Saturday, 15. Fourteen of our Indians have fallen ill with fever in our camp. M. de Bourgmont has prepared medicines for them. The Kansas bring us quantities of grapes from which we make wine, which we drink every day and find very good. They also come to fetch us in our camp to go with them to feast. Our hunters arrived at four this afternoon, loaded with venison.

July 16, 1724

Sunday, 16. The medicines that M. de Bourgmont gave had a good effect, so that they [the Indians] are well satisfied. The Sieur de Bellerive left this morning to meet the pirogues [dugouts], since at ten this morning an Indian arrived who had left them only two riverbends away from

here. M. de Saint-Ange arrived with the convoy at two o'clock, with some of his men sick with fever. This had prevented him from arriving earlier. The Kansas have come to meet our newly arrived men, in order to take them to their dwellings and to feast them.

July 17, 1724

Monday, 17. We started to unload our pirogues [dugouts] at four in the morning. At eight, M. de Bourgmont divided the merchandise into piles, corresponding to the presents the Kansas had given him. He ordered one lot to be kept apart for the time being as a present that he had promised to them the previous winter, when he gave them a flag on behalf of the king. When the merchandise was prepared and allotted, with each part in its place, he sent for the Kansa chiefs and immediately bade them be seated. Then he addressed them as follows:

"My dear friends, I have sent for you so that I may express the joy which I felt upon my arrival, when I saw that you have taken good care of the flag which I gave you when you came to see me. Upon arriving, I asked to see it and found it to be as white as when I gave it to you, and I exhort you to keep it thus always. I announce and declare to you that I have come from the other side of the Great Lake [Atlantic Ocean], which, as you know, I had crossed. I have returned on behalf of the great chief of all nations [the king of France] to assure all of you on his behalf that he wished and intended, without refusal on your part, to have all of you at peace and that all the tribes should obey him. Those who do not follow his orders he will have destroyed entirely. I shall leave in three or four days to go to the Padoucas to make peace with them, all for your benefit, so that you may be at peace – you, your women, and your children. You see that I bring with me the Missouri and the Osage tribes in order that they should ally themselves with them [the Padoucas] and to witness the treaty which we shall make with that tribe. You have promised me, on my arrival, to come with me to the Padoucas; that will please me. But I urge you above all to live with one another on good terms, for if you quarrel with the other tribes that come with me, you will also be quarreling with me forever. I have told you, and I repeat it once more, that I have come here to see you again on behalf of the great chief, to bring you his message, and he has ordered me and given me full power to make peace with the Padoucas, and if any tribe should act to the contrary I am to destroy it utterly. Those, on the other hand, who do his will, he will defend and protect from their enemies. And I declare to you that when you and your tribe come to visit the French, you will be able to trade with them, and they will supply you with the merchandise which you require for your tribe. For that, you have only to collect many peltries and to announce right away in your village to your people – men, women, and even children – that they may come to trade their peltries to the Frenchmen who are with me, whom I have instructed to trade with you. Bring whatever horses you have; I will trade for them and pay you well, for I need them for my voyage to the Padoucas."

July 18, 1724

Tuesday, 18. Several Kansa Indians came to our camp at 6 this morning, bringing horses to trade. M. de Bourgmont displayed the merchandise he was willing to exchange for each horse. After the Indians had looked over the merchandise, they said to M. de Bourgmont that it was not enough. M. de Bourgmont replied that he had never paid so much. After talking for a while, M. de Bourgmont had an additional two measures of gunpowder, 30 balls, six strings of beads, and four knives included in the amount he was willing to give for each horse. The Indians remained for about half an hour considering this additional merchandise, and then they said to M. de Bourgmont that it was still not sufficient. M. de Bourgmont told them that each horse was more than adequately paid for, to which they replied that some Frenchmen had come the previous year and paid double [this amount], and that a party of Illinois had come to trade for their [Kansa] horses and slaves and had offered twice as much merchandise as M. de Bourgmont was offering, and that nevertheless they [the Kansas] had not wished to trade with them, knowing that M. de Bourgmont would be needing horses for his trip to the Padoucas. They traded to

them [the Illinois] about 15 slaves, for which the latter paid double the normal price. After they had talked some more back and forth, a Kansa who had brought a horse to trade mounted it and began to gallop off toward the village.

M. de Bourgmont came out of the tent at once, appearing to be angry, and went to walk along the river. About two hours later, he forbade all the Frenchmen to trade. The Kansas, seeing this, thought that M. de Bourgmont was angry with them, and indeed they were right, for he had already spoken with the head chief of the Missouris, [asking him] to take the necessary measures for his expedition.

In the meantime, the Kansas all assembled in council from noon until about four. Then they sent 12 war chiefs, with the leading chiefs of the tribe, accompanied by more than 100 warriors, and bearing their long calumet pipe of peace. They offered it to M. de Bourgmont and to the Frenchmen with him to smoke. Then they began to weep at his feet, and they stroked him and asked him if he was angry. M. de Bourgmont replied, "No," and said that every man was master of his own property. They were well content with this reply, and they spread a large bison robe on the ground and carried him to the dwelling of the head chief, where they recommenced their harangues in these terms:

"My father, we believed that you were angry with us and that you wished to abandon us. We ask you once more to make use of us on your expedition to the Padoucas. We have learned that you wish to depart tomorrow by water in your pirogues, with the Missouris and the Osages, to go to the Otos, Iowas, and Panimahas [Skiri Pawnes] to take them with you to the Padoucas, but we beg you to make use of us. We have at least 500 warriors, who are ready to march with you and who will carry the supplies and merchandise that you have brought for your needs, and we promise you absolutely not to abandon you. Whether you make peace or war, we will not leave you; you can count on us, as much as you do on the Frenchmen that you have with you. Here are five slaves, whom we give you as a present, along with two horses and some bundles of peltries. We ask you on behalf of our entire tribe to accept them and to believe that we are your children."

M. de Bourgmont was very pleased with all of this speech and replied that he accepted their services and that they would have reason to be content, but that they must not venture to leave him when he was 50 or 60 leagues [150-180 miles] onto the prairies on the way to the Padoucas, for if that happened, he would make them regret it. They replied that they would follow him to the death and never abandon him. M. de Bourgmont turned and said to them: "Go and harangue in your village, and tomorrow bring your horses and slaves and whatever else you have to trade in order to hasten our journey as much as possible, for I wish to depart at once."

July 19, 1724

Wednesday, 19. The Kansas came at six in the morning with their horses and slaves to trade. They traded their remaining five horses to M. de Bourgmont. They traded also six slaves and some food. The Missouris have built a number of rafts on the riverbank and have taken away several sick persons whom they had at our camp. At two in the afternoon, the other Padouca woman died whom M. de Bourgmont was returning to her tribe. The Osages are very afraid of catching the disease. They say to our soldiers that they want to leave and that they are very afraid of dying.

July 20, 1724

Thursday, 20. The Kansas came at five o'clock in the morning with food supplies and their peltries that they have traded to the Frenchmen in our camp.

The Osages all left this morning because of the sickness and have returned to their village. Of the Indians we brought with us, there remain only about 20 Missouris, with their head chief, who says he will not leave M. de Bourgmont till the death.

We prepare our saddles, our supplies, and other equipment for our departure. The Kansa Indians are still full of good will. They have presented, with great ceremony, the head chiefs daughter, 13 or 14 years old, to M. de Bourgmont, that he may marry her. In this way, he would become the head chiefs son-in-law and would be the protector of their tribe.

M. de Bourgmont replied that he would accept with pleasure if he were not already married, that Frenchmen were not permitted to have two wives. They replied:

"You can do it because you are a chief."

He replied, no, he could not. and that a chief was obliged to set an example for the other Frenchmen. When the Indians had heard M. de Bourgmont, they said to him:

"Since you may not marry our daughter, we give her to your son to marry, and he will be our head chief, and thus you will be our true father. We beg you to give us your word."

M. de Bourgmont replied that his son was still too young to marry; he was only ten years old, but that when he was grown up, if his son wished to marry the head chief's daughter, he would be agreeable to it. The head chief replied that he was content and that he would keep her for a few years until he knew his [Bourgmont's] wishes. We retired to our camp.

Toward four o'clock in the afternoon, a strong wind came up, with loud thunder and with lightning. We had to cover our pirogues [dugouts] and tents [cabanes] to protect everything from the rain and the approaching storm. At five o'clock the rain came down, and a high wind [developed]. It rained and blew a gale. The storm stopped at six o'clock, but a light rain continued until seven, when the weather began to clear.

July 21, 1724

Friday, 21. All the French are busy getting the saddlery in shape and packing the supplies and gear for our journey to the Padoucas. The Kansas also are making their own preparations to go with us. M. de Bourgmont today sent three Indians – one issouri and two Kansas – to request the Otos to come to join them on the road to the Padouca country, as they had promised. We plan to leave tomorrow. Great heat during the whole day.

July 22, 1724

Saturday, 22. We were starting to load our pirogues [dugouts] at eight o'clock when a storm broke, with heavy rain, that lasted until four in the afternoon, and this has delayed the departure of our pirogues. The Kansas came looking for M. de Bourgmont and the three Frenchmen with him to join in a feast.

July 23, 1724

Sunday, 23 July. Our pirogues left at eight this morning to return to Fort d'Orleans with our sick, and the slaves and peltries that the Frenchmen have acquired by trading. We also would have departed for the Padouca country by land, but a horse was found to be missing. A search was made for it. At six in the evening, four Kansa chiefs and several old men arrived, leading two dogs on a leash, and began to weep and to stroke M. de Bourgmont. Soon they began the following harangue:

"My father, here are two dogs we have brought for you and your warriors to feast on, and at the same time, we want to tell you about the horse you have lost; we know who has taken it. It was an Iowa (Ayoois) who stole it, along with one of our women whom he has

carried off. He left last night. Three of our young men, whom we have sent after him, will pursue him to his village, and, if they catch him, they will bring you back his scalp. We pray you not to be angry with us; it is not our fault, and we wish to return to you the merchandise that you have given for the horse."

M. de Bourgmont replied:

"I really wish to believe that it is not your fault, but you should have let me know earlier because I need that horse to carry our goods and supplies."

The chiefs replied:

"You know well what we have promised you. We have enough people to carry your supplies, even if you had six times as much."

July 24, 1724

Monday, 24. We began to load our horses at four this morning. The Kansa chiefs came to our camp and had their young people take the bundles that we had not yet loaded and carry them, along with the knapsacks of the soldiers. We left at six, with drum beating, flag flying, and with all our firearms and baggage. We formed up on the high ground of the village, and then the drum began to beat a marching rhythm, and we set off.

The head chief gave the command to his camp master and began to march with us. We marched about one league and a half [5.5 miles] along a river that comes from the southwest [Deer Creek], where we came to a halt. Then the Kansa chief ordered his camp master to place the French camp on the right, with the Missouris next and their tribes [the Kansas?] in two lines, with the head of our camp facing west and the rear facing east. He explained to M. de Bourgmont:

"Do not be surprised that today we are having such a short day of travel. This is our assembly area. We are bringing with us our women and a part of our children, for we have decided among us, with your permission, to take them as far as five or six days' travel from here, where there are plenty of bison. We will kill some, and our women will dry the meat, and then they will return to our village. That will help them to live until our return, and we will continue our journey with you to the Padoucas, as we have promised."

We had a drizzle of rain this morning from seven until noon, and fine weather for the rest of the day at our camp. At four in the morning M. de Bourgmont sent M. Quesnel, Canadian, with two Kansa Indians to go to the Otos to invite the head chief of that tribe to come with a band of his warriors to join him on the expedition to the Padoucas.

M. de Bourgmont, commandant; M. de Saint-Ange, officer; M. La Renaudière, mining engineer; M. Dubois, sergeant; M. de Bellerive, cadet; Rotisseur, corporal; Ferret, Bonneau, Chalons, Avignon, Brasseur, Boulot, Derbet, Saint-Lazare, Poupart, soldiers; Hervy, drummer; Amelein (Hamelin), Canadian; Gaillard, employee of Sicur Renaudiere; Simon, servant of M. La Renaudière.³ 24 July [1724] DEPARTURE FROM THE KANSA [Village] On the 24th of July, the Canadian, M. Mercier, and Corporal Gentil left with an Indian at eight in the morning to take a pirogue to the Otos with supplies for the return of M. de Bourgmont, who plans to pass there to go to their village on his return from the Padoucas.

³Earlier, Simon was identified as Bourgmont's servant. No explanation is given.

July 25, 1724

Tuesday, 25 July. We left at five in the morning. We had marched about 2 1/2 leagues [7.5 miles] when the sky darkened and thunder and lightning began, accompanied by a strong wind. Our Indians set up camp to shelter themselves from the storm. It started with a heavy rain and strong wind, which lasted from one o'clock until three, which meant that not all the Kansas could catch up because of their women and children. I cannot tell how many, for they have not all arrived. We crossed three streams and a small river, marching west. At three in the afternoon, two of our Kansa Indians arrived who had seen a herd of deer on a rise of ground. They threw down their loads of meat and came to our camp to report that they had seen a party of Padoucas who were coming to attack them. M. de Bourgmont warned the soldiers to keep a sharp lookout, although he did not believe it was true.

July 26, 1724

Wednesday, 26. M. de Saint-Ange left at daybreak with eight Frenchmen and 150 Indians to make a reconnaissance. They went about a league [3 miles] from our camp without seeing anything, and have reported that the Indians gave a false alarm. We left our camp at eight o'clock, marched a good league, and halted for dinner. Around two in the afternoon the sky darkened, and it began to thunder and lighten. We camped there. The rain began at five o'clock in the afternoon with a gale that lasted until eight. Our compass bearing is westerly. We find on our route some depressions where there is water, beautiful prairie, hills, and little valleys, with clumps of woods from time to time on the right and left.

July 27, 1724

Thursday, 27 July. We started off at four in the morning. We marched about a league and a half [4.5 miles], then halted to eat and to wait for all the others, who were coming very slowly because of the heat and the heavy burdens carried by the Indians. We left at two o'clock and marched about a league and a half, where we found a little river that we crossed. We made camp about a fusil-shot from the said river, on the high ground of the prairie. M. La Renaudière posted himself on the trail, where all had to pass. He counted 300 [Kansa] warriors with two great chiefs [Grands Chefs] of their tribe and 14 war chiefs, and about 300 women and 500 children, and at least 300 dogs that dragged part of their baggage. They contrive this [travels] as follows: They put a skin with the hair on it onto the dogs back, and strap it on. Next they attach a breast strap. Then they take two large poles, the thickness of a man's arm and about 12 feet long, and they tie the two poles together at about a half-foot distance from the smaller ends. Using a thong, they attach the said poles to the dog's saddle. They fasten a [webbed?] circle between the two poles behind the dog, and on this they place their loads. One dog drags the skins to make a shelter big enough to sleep 10 or 12 persons, along with their dishes, pots, and other utensils, weighing around 300 pounds. The women carry loads that astonish the Frenchmen who have never before seen this tribe. They carry as much as a dog drags. Girls often or twelve years carry at least 100 pounds, but it is true that they can carry such a load for only two or three leagues. As soon as they arrive at their camp, they [the women] must build their shelters to sleep in and prepare dinner for their husbands and children. The warriors go hunting and soon kill enough deer to feed everyone in our camp. The Indians carry the knapsacks of our soldiers and supply their food. They mend their footwear [probably moccasins], and tie for them some knots [noeuds; meaning not clear]. They also fetch them their drinking water.

We still follow a compass reading toward the west. Very hot. Lovely prairie, clumps of trees here and there; woods along the streams and rivers; some hills, and some prairies from time to time.

July 28, 1724

Friday, 28, We left at four this morning. After marching about two good leagues [6 miles], we came upon a little river that we crossed. We halted about a fusil-shot beyond it. We camped for the remainder of the day in order to wait for the rest of the Indians and their children, who were having trouble marching because of the heavy loads they were carrying. Very hot. We are at present on a compass reading of west-southwest. Broad prairie, hills, clumps of trees here and there.

July 29, 1724

Saturday, 29. We left at four and marched until nine, when we halted until four in the afternoon to avoid the great heat. Then we marched until seven in the evening. We traveled five leagues and camped at the edge of a little river, in a clearing in the woods. We crossed two streams and a small river. Beautiful prairie, hills. The grass is quite short on the upland of the prairies but tall in the little valleys and along the streams and rivers. Our compass bearing is west-southwest.

July 30, 1724

Sunday, 30. M. de Bourgmont was very ill all during the night. He had everyone halt, and he took medicine at five in the morning that caused him to be uncomfortable all day, being very weak and having severe pain in the kidneys. Very hot all day. At six in the evening there was thunder and lightning, and it clouded over. The rain started at seven o'clock and continued until ten.

July 31, 1724

Monday, 31 July. M. de Bourgmont has been very ill, making it impossible for him to stay on a horse, and as he has been poorly for some time and fears he may get worse, he has decided to turn back. He has ordered a stretcher made so that he can be carried by Indians. One hopes he will be able to recover in order to finish his enterprise.

He sent a Padouca woman of about 22, who was held as a slave by the Kansas, and a big lad of about 16 or 17 – both of whom he bought from the Kansas for the express purpose of returning them to their tribe – to advise their kinsmen that they [the Frenchmen] were going to them to make peace and to say that he has fallen ill and is obliged to turn back, as they can see, but as soon as he is recovered, he will resume his journey when he is able to proceed with confidence to their country so that no enemy tribe can destroy them. M. de Bourgmont sent with them the employee of M. La Renaudière named Gaillard, who volunteered to accompany them to their homeland. He [Bourgmont] instructed the Kansas, who were still on their summer hunt and who still had three or four days of travel to reach the hunting grounds where the bison were plentiful, not to insult their guests. The Kansas promised that they would be very careful and would keep the two Padoucas with them while they were on their summer hunt, and when they were ready to return, they would detach some of their young people to conduct the two one days journey on the path toward their home, which they did.

[The words "their home, which they did" are inserted between lines and written in a different hand.]

M. de Bourgmont gave to each of these three persons who are going to the Padoucas a blanket of red Limbourg, two shirts to Gaillard, one to each of the two slaves, a small packet of vermillion, some beads, a kettle, an axe, some awls and some knives, about three pounds of gunpowder to Gaillard and balls in proportion. The latter took along a fusil [musket], which was given to him by M. La Renaudière. M. de Bourgmont gave Gaillard one of the letters he had for the Spaniards, in case he encountered any. He gave him also a passport in Spanish, signed and sealed by the hand of M. de Bourgmont, with a letter for the Spanish chaplain written in Latin. M. de Bourgmont told Gaillard and the two slaves what to say so as to make clear his intention. He has instructed Gaillard to try to bring back the Padouca chiefs, and should they not

wish to come, to wait at their village until he arrives. He is also to tell them not to be alarmed and that the Frenchmen are coming to them to make peace. Gaillard promised to follow all these instructions.

The camp where we turned back was three leagues [6 miles] inland from the Kansas River and ten days' travel from the nearest Padouca village. The Indians explained to me [La Renaudière?] through an interpreter that it [the Padouca village] was about twice the travel distance between the villages of the Kansas and the Missouris, which means 60 leagues [180 miles].

At six o'clock this evening the head chief of the Otos arrived at our camp with four of his warriors. He was coming in search of us, and he told M. de Bourgmont that he had a party of warriors waiting for him on the trail to the Padoucas. He had come to get the French commander's orders. He was very vexed to see M. de Bourgmont ill and in no condition to continue his journey.

August 1, 1724

Tuesday, 1 August. We left at five in the morning, with M. de Bourgmont on a stretcher, carried by Indians who rested themselves by turns. Returning with him are three Kansa chiefs and the chief of the Otos with his escort of four warriors. We have traveled five leagues [15 miles].

August 2, 1724

Wednesday, 2. We left at four this morning. We have traveled six leagues [18 miles].

August 3, 1724

Thursday, 3. We left at four and arrived at the Kansa village at eleven o'clock. Cloudy weather. As we were making a raft to take M. de Bourgmont to Fort d'Orleans, the pirogue [dugout] that he had sent to the Oto country arrived at three in the afternoon. It was returning because of an accident. According to those who brought it back, the boat yawed or partially capsized, causing the loss of part of the merchandise it was carrying.

August 4, 1724

Friday, 4 We left the Kansa village at eight in the morning, M. de Bourgmont in a pirogue [dugout], accompanied by Cadet de Bellerive and M. La Renaudière with a soldier, and the head chief of the Missouri with one of his warriors. We arrived [at Fort d'Orleans] on Saturday, the 5th [of August], at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. M. de Bourgmont has left all the merchandise in the dwelling of the head chief of the Kansas, with a sergeant and one soldier to guard it until his return. He has strongly urged the sergeant to inform him without fail of any news of the Frenchman he had sent to the Padoucas and to write to him anything he could learn from the Indians on that subject.

September 6, 1724

We learned today, 6 September, by a letter from Sergeant Dubois written to M. de Bourgmont at Fort d'Orleans, that the Frenchman accompanying the Padouca slaves arrived at the Padouca village on the 25th of August. Upon encountering some Padouca hunters, half a day's travel from their village, the two slaves began to make the signals of their tribe, which is to throw their robes in the air three times, and the Frenchmen saluted them three times with the flag. They came closer, and then they spoke to one another. Accompanying the Frenchman were a Kansa war chief and one of his warriors, who were greatly frightened by the Padoucas' approach, seeing themselves among a tribe with whom they had been at war for so long. But the freed slaves, whom M. de Bourgmont had bought and sent back with many presents with the

Frenchman to their homeland, did not fail to speak up and say what they had seen. These [Padouca] hunters took back the two freed slaves of their tribe, with the two Kansas and the Frenchman, to their village, and they introduced them to the head chief. They [the freed slaves] commenced to harangue and to say in public what M. de Bourgmont had charged them to say. They sang the praises of the French and told their chief that the Frenchman who was with them brought a flag in behalf of his head chief, who was coming to their country to make peace and to bring them an abundance of merchandise. They explained that en route to their village, about ten days' travel away, the French commander had fallen ill and had been obliged to turn back to be restored to health; however, as soon as possible, he would resume his expedition. In the meantime, he had sent them ahead to explain what was happening. [They said] that the Frenchman whom the chief had sent ahead with them brought [to the Padoucas] a flag that validated his word and was the mark of the successful alliance that he wished to make with them.

As soon as the harangue was finished, the chiefs took hold of the Frenchman and began to rub and to stroke him, giving great signs of friendship. They took him into all the dwellings of the village chiefs, who welcomed him most civilly, according to their fashion. They began to look at his fusil [musket], wishing to fire it but not knowing how to do so. The Frenchman showed them how to load and fire. The head chief asked for the fusil, and the Frenchman gave it to him. In return, the chief gave him a horse and a bison robe.

Afterward, 20 Padouca Indians went with the Frenchman and the two Kansas to join the Kansa Indians who were still on their summer hunt and those who were returning to their village. At first the Kansas were panic-stricken and prepared themselves to fight, but when they saw the Frenchman, the Kansas were reassured and had them participate in large feasts with them for three days. On the fourth day they [the Padoucas] left to go back to find their people. With them went 50 Kansa men and three Kansa women to the Padouca village, where they in turn were well received. Upon arriving, the Kansas gave their fusils and their robes to the Padoucas. The latter received them with great ceremony and rejoicing. They, in turn, presented them [their Kansa guests] with 12 horses and a quantity of bison robes, trimmed with other smaller skins decorated with porcupine quills, and took them to their dwellings to feast them. They [the Kansas] remained there two days. Then the Frenchman asked them to return home to carry the news to M. de Bourgmont of what had happened and how they had been received. He charged them also to tell M. de Bourgmont that the chiefs of the Padoucas wished him [Gaillard] to stay on for a time so they could take him to other villages of their tribe to introduce him there and inform them that he had come in behalf of his great chief to bring them his message, and he would explain that on the way to their country to make peace he [the great French chief] had fallen ill, and that as soon as he was better he would resume his journey.

The 50 Kansas departed for their village with five Padoucas, sent by the Frenchman [Gaillard] to escort M. de Bourgmont, and he enjoined the Kansas to take care not to insult them [the Padoucas]. They had traveled together to a point only three days journey from the Kansa villages when, toward evening, several of their Kansa tribesmen arrived at their camp bearing the news of the death of a highly esteemed woman of their village. They all began to weep and utter frightful cries and to tear their hair. The Padouca Indians were alarmed to see the Kansas behaving in this manner, and since treachery is common among Indians, and the Padoucas had been betrayed more than once by the Kansas, they feared that they [the Kansas] were getting ready to slit their throats. The five Padoucas fled during the night. The Kansas brought this news to the two Frenchmen whom M. de Bourgmont had left at the village to guard the merchandise and to relay any news to him. He [Sergeant Dubois] wrote at once to report all that had happened.

As soon as M. de Bourgmont had learned this news at Fort d'Orleans, he ordered M. de Saint-Ange, officer, with three soldiers, to ride with all haste to the Kansa village, bearing his instructions. He [Saint-Ange] left Fort d'Orleans on September 14 and arrived at the Kansa village on the 8th. When Sieur de Saint-Ange had learned all that had happened, he wasted no time in sending a report to M. de Bourgmont. The latter, on receiving the news, began to prepare to resume his voyage to the Padoucas, although he was not yet fully recovered from his illness.

October 2, 1724

M. de Bourgmont left Fort d'Orleans on September 20 by water, and arrived on the 27th at the Kansa village. He was accompanied by M. La Renaudière, an army doctor, his young son, and nine soldiers. The same day, M. de Bourgmont sent a courier to the Otos to advise the head chief to join him with a party of his warriors, in order to accompany him to the Padouca country. The Frenchman named Gaillard, whom M. de Bourgmont had sent to the Padoucas, arrived at our camp at the Kansa village on October 2nd, with three Padouca chiefs and three of their warriors. M. de Bourgmont received them with his flag flying, and went before them to give them a warm welcome. He placed his troops under arms and had them fire their fusils [muskets]. The Padouca chiefs seem very pleased with this reception, and also a bit startled. M. de Bourgmont invited them to sit down in his tent, and had them covered with red Limbourg cloth and given other presents of several additional kinds of goods that would be useful to them. Upon their arrival, the Kansa took their [the Padoucas'] bows and arrows and their bison robes that covered them, but the Padoucas were not surprised, for such is the custom of Indians, especially when they are on a diplomatic mission.

The Frenchman named Gaillard, who has brought the five Padoucas [the previous paragraph says six], reports that he left with about 600 warriors, with all their families. They were from eight villages, and more were expected to join them. Their fires had already been seen. He says he left them at four days' journey from their village and that they intended to come even closer to the Kansa village in order to obtain news of the French leader. At the same time, they sent the Frenchman with the five men of their tribe to go to the Kansa village to find out whether M. de Bourgmont had resumed his expedition. They arrived on the seventh day after their departure. The head chief of the Padoucas instructed the Frenchman and Padoucas whom he sent to the Kansas that as soon as they had news of the French chief, they were to inform them [the Padoucas] concerning his [Bourgmont's] arrival, so that he [the Padouca chief] could prepare to receive him. He has allowed them seven days' travel time to reach our camp, plus four days' stay here, and then they must hasten back to bring him news of the French expedition.

October 4, 1724

Sieur Quesnel, the Canadian, has arrived, on the 4th of October, from the Otos, where M. de Bourgmont had sent him to request the head chief to join him at the Kansa village. He brought with him another seven war chiefs of this [the Oto] tribe, who arrived with their peace calumets [ceremonial pipes]. M. de Bourgmont received them well.

October 5, 1724

On October 5th, at six in the morning, six Iowa [Ayoois] chiefs have arrived, flourishing their peace calumets [ceremonial pipes]. M. de Bourgmont welcomed them and then ordered a great fire to be made in a beautiful space in front of the entrance to his tent, at the head of his camp. After assembling all the above-mentioned chiefs, M. de Bourgmont sat down before the entrance of his tent, facing the fire. On his right, he seated the chief of the Padoucas, then the head chief of the Missouris, and the Oto chiefs, and next the Iowa chiefs and the Kansa chiefs, all around the fire, with several warriors of all these tribes, and with M. de Saint-Ange and M. La

Renaudière at his left. After everyone had taken his place, M. de Bourgmont arose and addressed all these tribes as follows:

"My friends, I am pleased to see you all assembled here today so that I may speak my thoughts to you. I declare to you that I have come here on behalf of the great chief of all the [Indian?] nations, who is on the other side of the Great Lake [Atlantic Ocean], and on behalf of the great chief on the coast [the governor general of Louisiana] to bring you their messages and to tell you their sentiments. He has given me full power to make peace with the Padoucas, and, since they are here among us, I desire that we now make an alliance with them and that henceforth you live on good terms with them and that you trade with one another, just as you do with us and with the Otos, Osages, Iowas, Kansas, Skiri Pawnees [Panimahas], the Missouris, and the Illinois."

All these chiefs arose and began to reply loudly: "We wish the same, and we have promised you as much already, and so we have no other will than yours." The chiefs of all those tribes began to offer their calumet pipes of peace to each other and to make compliments to one another, according to their fashion. They all seemed to be content.

Then the Padouca chief commenced to harangue and said to them:

"It is good, my dear friends, that we should make peace, and I believe that you do not wish to deceive us. Here you see the great French chief, who is coming to our villages to visit our tribe. I invite you to come with him. We have many horses and blue stones [turquoise]. We will be glad to make presents of these to all of you."

They replied: "The French chief will decide," and then the food that had been prepared was served. At six in the evening the Padouca danced and sang for about an hour and a half in the presence of the chiefs of the Missouris, Otos, Iowas, and Kansas, and all smoked together. They all appeared to us to be satisfied.

October 6, 1724

Today, October 6, 1724, M. de Bourgmont displayed the trade-goods and had them divided into three lots: one for the Otos, one for the Iowas, and one for the Skiri Pawnees. In each, he has placed some gunpowder, some balls, some vermilion, some knives both large and small, beads, axes and pickaxes, awls, wadding extractors, gunflints, and other useful merchandise. At the same time, M. de Bourgmont assembled all the chiefs of these three tribes and addressed them as follows: "My friends, I have gathered you all here to tell you that I wish to take all of you with me to the Padoucas so that you may bear witness to the peace that I am going to make with them. I am very glad that you have come, so that we can make our alliance with the Padoucas together. You see here five of them – three chiefs and two warriors. I hope you are well content with this." They replied loudly: "Yes, my father, we have no other will than yours."

All of these chiefs offered one another their calumet peace pipes to smoke, made speeches to one another, and showed many signs of friendship. The head chief of the Skiri Pawnees was the last to speak. He addressed M. de Bourgmont as follows: "My father, it is good that we should make peace with the Padoucas for several reasons: first, for our own tranquility; second, so that we can go on our hunts in peace; and third, in order to have horses, which will help us to carry our equipment when we go into winter quarters, because our women and children are terribly overburdened on our return."

M. de Bourgmont replied: "That is good, my friends. Tomorrow, I shall arrange everything for our departure the day after."

October 7, 1724

The 7th of October, the chief of the Kansas invited M. de Bourgmont, M. de Saint-Ange, and M. de Bourgmont's son, with M. La Renaudière, to come and feast at his dwelling. He also invited the five Padoucas, the Iowas, Otos, Missouris, and Skiri Pawnees. When all were seated on some mats around a fire in the middle of the dwelling, the head chief of the Kansas began his harangue, addressing M. de Bourgmont as follows:

"My father, I have invited you and the Frenchmen who are with you to a feast. Here are dishes that have been prepared. I was sure you would be happy if I also invited the chiefs of all those other tribes whom you see here."

M. de Bourgmont replied: "You have done well; it gives me great pleasure."

The head chief of the Kansas continued:

"My father, as you are leaving tomorrow, you have only to decide and let me know how many of my warriors I am to bring with me when we accompany you to the Padoucas."

M. de Bourgmont replied: "Bring five or six; that will be enough, for I wish to make haste because of the season."

And he said to the other tribes who were present: "You may all return home, except for two chiefs from each tribe, which is all I ask of you for the present."

And they replied: "You are the master; you have only to tell us your decision, and those who are to accompany you will make ready."

M. de Bourgmont then explained to them why he was not taking more people from these tribes with him, saying:

"You see here the five Padoucas who have come here to take back the message on behalf of all the tribes that have here allied themselves with them. You have all smoked together and have danced and drunk and eaten together in my presence several times. Furthermore, you have given me your word, which I believe you will honor."

All of the chiefs of these tribes replied:

"Yes, my father, we will keep our word, and we have no other wish than yours. Our only grievance is to see ourselves so far away from the French, for we often lack merchandise, especially gunpowder and balls."

M. de Bourgmont replied: "My friends, I shall send Frenchmen to your villages to bring you some."

They answered: "That is good, for we have many peltries, especially beaver. We will trade them with your people. They will be very pleased and so will we."

From there, we repaired to our camp to make preparations to depart on the morrow. We had a light rain from eleven in the morning until five in the afternoon.

October 8, 1724

On the 8th of October we left the Kansa village at nine in the morning for the Padouca country, with our firearms and baggage, and with flag flying: M. de Bourgmont, M. de Saint-Ange, M. de Bourgmont's son, M. La Renaudière, a sergeant and seven soldiers, the Frenchman named Gaillard who had returned from the Padouca country, M. Quesnel, the army doctor, the Canadian named Pichard, and an employee of M. La Renaudière, with ten horses to carry the merchandise. We have with us the five Padoucas who came to the Kansa village; also seven

Missouris, the head chief of the Kansas with four war chiefs of his tribe, four Oto chiefs, and three Iowas. We marched about half a league and crossed a small river. Our compass heading is west by a quarter southwest. We have traveled five leagues [15 miles]. During the afternoon, we crossed two streams. It has been cloudy all day. Prairies, hills, clumps of trees in several places. We found some woods along the streams.

October 9, 1724

9 October. We left our camp at 5 in the morning and marched until 4 in the afternoon. We had a drizzle of rain from noon until 5 o'clock. We crossed a little river and three streams. According to our estimate, we traveled seven leagues [21 miles] ... [illegible]. The compass reading was west-southwest. Frost during the night.

This morning, an hour before dawn, Gaillard and M. Quesnel, with two Padoucas, left to advise the Padoucas of our departure and our march toward their village.

October 10, 1724

10 October. We left at 5 in the morning. We marched until 5 this afternoon. We crossed two small rivers and three streams. We traveled eight leagues on a compass bearing of west-southwest. Broad prairies, clumps of trees to the right and left of the trail. Several hills with rocks on their surface. Along the streams we find also pieces of slate, and on the prairie some reddish, marbled stones that protrude one, two, and three feet out of the ground. Some are more than six feet in diameter. We have seen many deer today. Frost.

October 11, 1724

11 October. We started off at 5 o'clock. At 8 o'clock, we crossed two streams, at 10 a small river, and at 11 a stream. Thus, we arrived at the Great Kansas River, which we forded. It is only three feet deep but has a shifting, sandy bed. We were obliged to unload our floundering horses. We made the crossing from north to south. From there we continued west-southwest.

There was a little river [Mill Creek] on the right of our route, and some little hills on the left; then there were another small river and some large hills. The compass direction of this river [the Kansas River] is straight to the west [or west to east]. It enters the Missouri about 20 leagues [60 miles] from the place where we crossed. When the waters are high, the river looks as big in places as the Missouri. It is very long, according to the Indians. Both sides are wooded, with many deer, turkeys, some canebreaks, and innumerable bison. Our hunters killed two [bison] during our crossing. We made camp about four leagues from the said river. A large hill is on our left, where a smaller river runs. We estimate we have traveled eight leagues [24 miles] today. Broad prairies, hills with rocks on the surface and very short grass growing on them [the hills]. Clumps of trees here and there.

October 12, 1724

12 October. We left at 5 in the morning and marched until half-past 11, when we stopped to eat lunch. [Afterward] we marched until six in the evening, covering eight leagues [24 miles] by our reckoning. All day long we skirted large bluffs on our left where there is a little river. We crossed eight streams, all of which flow into the little river on our left. Broad prairies, hills, little valleys where there are many stones, large and small. We see quantities of bison bulls and cows, herds of stags and docs, more than 200 all together. There are turkeys along the streams and rivers, clumps of trees here and there, and many hills that from a distance appear to us like castles and forts. The grass is very short on the high upland. We have marched all day in a southwesterly direction. Fine weather.

October 13, 1724

13 October. We left at five in the morning. We marched until 10 o'clock, when we stopped for the remainder of the day to rest the men and the horses. We went a good three leagues [9 miles]. For a league or thereabouts we skirted the little river on our left, and from there we passed onto the high ground where many small streams form. Today, we saw on all sides more than 30 herds of bison. They are so numerous it is impossible to count them. There appeared to be four or five hundred at least in each herd. We see herds of deer that are almost as numerous. Our hunters kill as many as they please and choose the fattest to eat. From the others, they take only the tongue.

Continuous prairies, with clumps of trees along the streams and in the little valleys. Our compass bearing is south-west. Fine weather.

October 14, 1724

14 October. We left at five in the morning. We marched until ten, when we had to pause to let the rain come to an end, which it did at half-past 11. We left at noon and marched until six o'clock. On the high ground we encountered many springs of fine clear water, forming several streams and little rivers that drain into the Kansas River. Broad prairie as far as the eye can see, without trees, for about three leagues [9 miles]. We find some groves along several streams or along some little rivers; herds of bison in great number, as far as we could see.

In some places we found many stones on the ground and strips of exposed rock, resembling from afar tumbledown farm buildings. M. de Bourgmont, on horseback, killed a bison today with his pistol. Our compass bearing all day has been west, quarter southwest. We have made eight leagues today, in fine weather. At every meal we have as many bison tongues as we can eat.

October 15, 1724

15 October. We left our camp at five, marched until time for a break, then departed at half-past one. We crossed several streams and two little rivers. We march two leagues sometimes without seeing a tree, except for those that grow along the streams and rivers. In certain places there are broad prairies and small hills. Some rocks on the ground. We find, as usual, herds of bison. Our compass bearing has been west-southwest. We traveled seven leagues today. Frost last night but a warm sun during the day.

October 16, 1724

16 October. We left at five in the morning and marched until 11, when we halted. We left at one and marched until five. We crossed two small rivers and several dry stream beds. We find gray and black rocks on the small hills. Some big ones stick out of the ground; others are rounded and very light in color. We find few large trees now, except along the larger streams in open groves.

Our guide [identity unknown] has led us astray. In the afternoon he took us too far toward the south. We have traveled six leagues [18 miles] today. We still find many bison. Fine weather. We camped at five o'clock.

October 17, 1724

17 October. We left our camp at five in the morning. We marched about two leagues, roughly west-northwest, to regain our route; then we marched more or less due west. We halted from noon until half-past one. We marched all day toward the west, and camped at six in the evening by a small river where we found, about 400 paces from our camp, a Padouca campsite that had been abandoned about eight days earlier. We were very glad to find it because we judged that

we would soon locate them by following their trail. We covered six leagues [18 miles]. We set fire to the prairie as a signal [of our presence], so that they would reply to us at once. Our two Frenchmen who had returned have answered us by setting fire to the prairie. Thus we learned that our two Frenchmen had arrived at the Padouca encampment.

October 18, 1724

18 October. We left at five in the morning. We marched until nine, when we found a small river of brackish water. On the bank of this river we found a Padouca campsite about four days old. We marched about half a league along this river. Then we halted to eat. No sooner had we unloaded our horses than we saw a large cloud of smoke starting to rise in the west. It was our two Frenchmen, who were coming toward us with 80 Padoucas and the head chief of their tribe. We replied at once to their signal by setting fire to the prairie. Half an hour later we saw the Padoucas, with our two Frenchmen, galloping toward us, carrying the flag that the Frenchman had brought them. M. de Bourgmont at once had his troops shoulder arms, with his flag flying. First, upon their arrival, we saluted them three times with our flag, and the Indians accompanying us saluted them three times with their robes by raising them three times over their heads. The Padoucas saluted us as well, and we all shook hands. Afterward, M. de Bourgmont invited them to sit down and to smoke the peace calumet pipes, with great rejoicing on both sides. Then they mounted all our Frenchmen on their horses – some alone, others riding pillion [behind the saddle on a cushion]. They also gave mounts to the Indians who were with us to ride to the Padouca camp, three leagues away from where we met them.

M. de Bourgmont called a halt about a pistol-shot away from their camp, ordered his tent put up, and had his Frenchmen stack their arms, with a single sentinel to guard them, at the entrance to his tent. The head chief of the Padoucas began at once to harangue in his camp, and a large number of warriors appeared. They spread a bison robe on the ground and place M. de Bourgmont on it with his son, M. de Saint-Ange, and M. La Renaudière. Fifteen men then bore them to the dwelling of the head chief of the Padoucas. Then they had us feast with them, with great rejoicing, and as night fell we returned to our camp. We had traveled six leagues today, still toward the west.

October 19, 1724

19 October. M. de Bourgmont ordered his trade goods unpacked at six in the morning and divided into lots of a kind: one pile of fusils [muskets], one of sabers, one of pickaxes, one of axes, one of gunpowder, one of balls [ammunition], one of red Limbourg cloth, another of blue Limbourg cloth, one of mirrors, one of Flemish knives, two other piles of another kind of knives, one of shirts, one of scissors, one of combs, one of gunflints, one of wadding extractors, six portions of vermillion, one lot of awls, one of needles, a pile of kettles, one of large hawk bells, one of beads of mixed sizes, one of small beads, one of [fine] brass wire, another of heavier brass wire for making necklaces, another of rings, and another of vermillion cases.

When all these goods were on display, M. de Bourgmont summoned all the Padouca chiefs, with the most influential persons of their village and their tribe, who assembled at our camp. When they had all gathered, about 200 of them, M. de Bourgmont placed himself in their midst by the piles of goods, with a large flag in his hand, and began to address all the Padoucas in the presence of the Frenchmen accompanying him and the Indians who came with him:

"My friends, I ask you to listen to the reasons for my coming here to see you. I have come here to bring you the message of the king, my master, who is the great chief of all the Indian nations, in order to make peace with you and to persuade you to make peace also with all the tribes that you know to be our allies: the Missouris, the Osages, the Kansas, the Otos, the Skiri Pawnees, whom you see here with me, and who have come to bear witness that you may live in peace and harmony from now on and that you may

trade with one another and be always well treated; for whenever you come to the French, they will welcome you and will give you tobacco and food, just as they do every day to the other tribes allied to us.

"I declare and give you notice also that I wish and intend, with no refusal, that you should receive well all those tribes I have just named, when they come to see you, and that you should trade with them without trouble or greed. I declare and give you notice also that when the French come to your village to trade, or wish to pass through it to the homelands of the Spaniards, you are to make no trouble nor present any obstacle. On the contrary, I wish you to allow them to pass and return, to come and go, and that you serve them as guides whenever necessary, for which you will be paid for your efforts. I promise you also that if any of the tribes allied to us attack you, you have only to call upon the French; they will defend you and see that proper justice is rendered."

Then M. de Bourgmont presented a flag to the head chief of the Padoucas, saying:

"This flag I give to you on behalf of the king, my master, who is the chief of all Indian nations, and I urge and command you to keep it always as white as it is now, so that when the French come to visit you from now on, they will see it immaculate. I wish to say, my friends, to all of you here assembled that you must not quarrel with any of our allied tribes."

M. de Bourgmont continued:

"My friends, the merchandise that you see displayed here is for all of you; you have only to take it. It is the king, our master, who gives it to you, and who has sent me here expressly to bring you his message and to give this flag to the head chief of the Padoucas."

The head chief took the flag that M. de Bourgmont gave him and began to speak in these terms:

"My father, I accept the flag which you present on behalf of the king and yourself. I receive it with great pleasure. We have listened to your message; we wish to obey you. For a long time we have wished to make peace with the French, and from now on we will go to visit the French, and we will bring horses to trade with them. We really wish to make peace with all of the tribes you have just named. We are very glad to do so and happy that they are present as witnesses. I am well pleased that they hear and observe [this ceremony]. Thus, they may come to visit us, and we will also go to visit them carrying the peace calumet [pipe], and that will be very good. They and we will be able from now on to go on our hunts without fear. For a long time we have wished this; and so, my father, we all promise you, in the name of all of our tribe, that we have hearkened to your words and find them good. We are all content, and we promise you not to make war on any of the tribes you have just named. They have only to come to our village, and we will receive them as true brothers and allies. They may come to us whenever they wish; they will be well received.

"And to you, my father, we promise that we shall keep our word, and when the French come to see us, we shall welcome them, and, if they should wish to go to the Spaniards to trade, we will take them there. It is only 12 days' travel from our village. They come to visit us every spring. They bring us horses and a few knives and some awls and axes, but they are not like you, who give us a quantity of merchandise such as we have never seen before. We are unable to reciprocate for so many presents."

M. de Bourgmont replied: "Take all the merchandise; the King gives it to you. As for me, I ask nothing from you in return."

The head chief of the Padoucas harangued those of his tribe who were present, saying: "Behold, my children, the merchandise which the great French chief gives to all of us. Let each of you help himself." The head chief began to take his share, followed by the other chiefs and most important men and then by all the commoners of the tribe, who looked at the Frenchmen and asked them for permission to take something but hardly dared to do so. They were all astonished to see that they [the Frenchmen] gave the merchandise away free. After they had taken away the merchandise that was presented to them, the head chief began to harangue in the middle of his village. About an hour later, seven horses were brought to M. de Bourgmont as a present. The head chief of the Padoucas came to see M. de Bourgmont, with 12 chiefs of his tribe and several of his warriors. At once, he gave his hand to M. de Bourgmont and began to embrace him. M. de Bourgmont invited him to be seated at his right, and the others after him. Whereupon, M. de Bourgmont invited them all to smoke the great calumet pipe of peace.

After they had all smoked, the head chief of the Padoucas arose and began the following speech:

"My father, I have come to tell you, on behalf of our tribe, that we are very glad to see you here today with your Frenchmen in our village. Is it true that you are really men? The man and the woman whom you ransomed from our enemies and sent back to us praised you highly to me and spoke well of the French, but I never would have believed all that I have seen today if you had not come yourself. Here, my father, accept the food which the women of our village bring for you and your warriors."

M. de Bourgmont gave him tobacco to smoke, and about an hour later the Padoucas returned to their dwellings and we to our camp.

October 20, 1724

20 October. The head chief of the Padoucas came to see M. de Bourgmont at break of day, accompanied by 10 or 12 war chiefs. M. de Bourgmont invited them to be seated and then gave them tobacco to smoke. The head chief said to M. de Bourgmont: "My father, I come to invite you and the most prominent Frenchmen to my dwelling to have a feast." M. de Bourgmont, accompanied by M. de Saint-Ange and M. La Renaudière, went to the dwelling of the head chief, where we [sic] ate the food which had been prepared for us there.⁵ There was bison meat cooked in a pot, and some meat that had been dried in the sun, with dried plums pounded up with their pits and cooked in a pot. There were also others [fruits? meats?] that had been dried in the sun.

After the feast was over, the head chief accompanied M. de Bourgmont to his camp, where he assembled more than 200 Padouca warriors and a large number of women and children. The head chief placed himself in the midst of the crowd and spoke as follows:

"You see here the Frenchman whom the Great Spirit has sent to our village to make peace with us. Behold, it has been made. He has given us his message and a great quantity of merchandise without demanding anything in return. Thus we believe him, and we see clearly that he does not wish to deceive us. Let us all, men and women alike, find food for the Frenchmen, who are our friends. Here is the great French chief who has brought peace between us and our greatest enemies. Henceforth we shall be able to hunt in peace, and we will be able to visit those who up to now made war on us, and they will visit us. They will return to us our women and children whom they have taken from us and slaves in their country in exchange for horses which we will give them. The great French chief has promised this to us, and you have seen that he has sent us two loads of merchandise, without demanding any payment. He has brought back two of our people who are ill. Thus, my children" – he said, speaking to his tribe – "we are now at peace. Come, take all these men, our friends, whom the great chief has brought with him to your dwellings and feast them."

They invited all the Indians whom M. de Bourgmont had brought with him, and some of these slept in their dwellings. During our stay with them our soldiers also were feasted, with permission, one after another. They [the Padoucas] gave them a thousand caresses and offered them their daughters.

At two in the afternoon the head chief of the Padoucas, accompanied by three war chiefs and several warriors, came to our camp to visit M. de Bourgmont. As soon as he arrived at the tent of M. de Bourgmont, the latter offered his hand and invited the chief and his most important men to be seated and to smoke. About half an hour later a large number of Padoucas, with a number of women and children, gathered at our camp. The head chief of the Padoucas arose and began to harangue in the presence of the Frenchmen and the people of his tribe. He provided interpreters to explain to M. de Bourgmont what he was going to say. He began by saying to our interpreter that he would give two fingers of his hand to be able to speak directly to M. de Bourgmont. Then he began his [interpreted] harangue, as follows:

"My father, you see here a great number of warriors, but these are only a fourth of the number who are under my command. Nevertheless, I have informed them all of your arrival; you see here [representatives of] the 12 villages that are all obedient to my will. I have addressed them all, to explain the reasons for your visit and to tell them that you have come to make peace with us. They have heeded my words and yours as well. Henceforth, they will obey you, just as I will; they have no other will than yours.

"But they ask, and so do I, particularly that you send more Frenchmen to our home. We will give them horses. Within three or four months, we will have more than at present because a large number of our warriors will leave for the Spanish country to trade there. We are going to send a large quantity of bison robes. They give us one horse for three robes, but they are not like you, who gave us much merchandise without our giving anything in exchange. They trade only a few knives and shoddy axes, but they are not like you, who give us fusils, gunpowder and balls, kettles, axes, knives, blankets, awls, which are useful to us in making our moccasins, and other good merchandise that is useful to us. So you can rely on us, for we will obey you, and I declare and promise that if you should ever need 2,000 warriors, you have only to ask. Whenever you wish, I 'll call upon all of them, and they will all follow me in your service. I repeat, we are at your disposal."

M. de Bourgmont responded to this offer as follows:

"My friend, I am very much obliged to you for the proposal. We are at peace with all the tribes of this region, but if any should turn quarrelsome, I shall not refuse you." To which the head chief replied: "Very well, my father, you give me great pleasure. If you should have need of me or my warriors, you have only to let me know; I am always ready to obey you."

M. de Bourgmont had there some of his people who gave them [the Padoucas] tobacco to smoke from time to time. After having smoked for about a quarter of an hour, the head chief of the Padoucas, who was sitting near M. de Bourgmont, arose and commenced to speak again to the 300 members of his tribe and to all the Frenchmen accompanying M. de Bourgmont. First, looking at the Indians whom M. de Bourgmont had brought with him, he said:

"Ah, my friends, you are lucky, you are, you other Indians, to be near the French, for they furnish you with the merchandise you need, whereas we have nothing. It is true that we go to the home of the Spaniards, but they trade to us only some horses, a few knives, and some inferior axes; they do not trade in fusils, or lead, or gunpowder, or kettles, or blankets, or any of the goods that the great French chief has given us. Thus, the French are our true friends."

Then he grabbed a handful of earth and shouted: "Now I regard the Spaniards as I do this dirt." Turning to M. de Bourgmont, he said: "And you, I regard you as the sun." Pointing to him, he said:

"You are our true father, and thus we will obey you whenever you need us. You can depend on us. All of our tribe are pleased, and what I say to you is the truth, for I am heeded and obeyed in all the villages of our tribe. I am the emperor of all the Padoucas, and they go neither to war nor to the Spaniards without my permission. I am like you, my father; I make my people obey me, and when I need a party of my warriors to go to war, to hunt, or to go to the Spaniards, I have only to announce it in my village and to notify the other villages. At once, all my war chiefs assemble at my dwelling, and we hold a council, and as soon as I have decided what I wish to undertake, I command one or two war chiefs, if I consider it necessary, to march at the head of a number of warriors whom I have chosen for such an expedition and who do not fall, on their return, to give me a full account of all that they did during their absence."

When this speech was ended, he sat down by M. de Bourgmont, who invited him to smoke, and took in his hand a brass tobacco box fashioned in the Dutch style, belonging to M. de Bourgmont, which opens by means of little hidden springs. He [the chief] wanted to open it, but he could not accomplish this. M. de Bourgmont showed him how, and at once the chief fell in love with it. M. de Bourgmont gave it to him as a present. Then the Padouca head chief asked to trade for the blue coat M. de Bourgmont was wearing, which was lined with red and adorned with a row of brass buttons on each side, and one of his saddle pistols. M. de Bourgmont gave him the coat and the pistol, and the chief went back to his dwelling well content. Shortly thereafter we heard him speaking publicly in his village and singing the praises of the French. Afterward, he sent a horse to M. de Bourgmont.

About half an hour later a large number of women and girls filed into our camp, one after another, some carrying a plate of cooked meat, others sun-dried meat, others meat pounded up [pounded jerky], others plums cooked with the pits in them or dried in the sun. They also brought us two plates of maize they had cooked. It was all they had in the villages. In a word, one could hardly believe all the attentions these people showered upon us during our stay with them. Each morning they took the son of M. de Bourgmont into their dwellings and kept him the whole day, and they decided among themselves who would have him on a given day. In the evening they would return him to his father in our camp. The son of the head chief gave him about a dozen blue [turquoise] stones, strung together like a rosary, more or less.

⁵ The passage gives further evidence that the author of the journal was La Renaudière. Bourgmont can be excluded for the reasons given in the Historical Note to the Appendixes. Saint-Ange could not have been the journal's author because he was separated from Bourgmont's party from June 25 to July 8, when journal entries continued to be written. That leaves La Renaudière.

October 21, 1724

21 October. Rain commenced after midnight and continued until noon. At one in the afternoon it began to sleet. The head chief of the Padoucas came this morning to our camp to see M. de Bourgmont and asked him when he planned to leave for home. M. de Bourgmont replied: "Tomorrow morning."

"Very well, my father," the head chief replied, "I am going to announce it in my village, so the people will bring food for you and your warriors." At two in the afternoon the head chief came to our camp and said to M. de Bourgmont: "So, my father, you are leaving tomorrow. I pray you, remember me and all our people. Send us, without fail, some Frenchmen, as soon as possible,

and see that they bring merchandise. We will trade horses to them. We will soon have more than we do now, for after you have gone, we will go to the Spaniards to get some, and if the French should wish to go there, I will arrange for them to be conducted to the Spaniards' village."

October 22, 1724

22 October. We left the Padoucas at ten in the morning. We marched until five in the afternoon, traveling five leagues, on a course of east-northeast.

Manner of living of this tribe. In the villages of this tribe that are far away from the Spaniards, all subsist solely on the hunt, in winter as in summer. However, they are not entirely nomadic, for they have large villages with sizable dwellings. They go on the hunt in bands of 50 to 80, sometimes even 100 households together; when they return to their permanent villages, those who had stayed at home leave at once, while those returning bring with them provisions of dried meat, either bison meat or venison, killed not far from their villages. When they travel from their villages as far as five or six days' journey, they find herds of bison in great numbers, and they kill as many as they want.

Manner of hunting of this tribe. The head chief harangues in his village on the day before he wants to send his warriors off on the hunt, to urge them to be ready. They prepare to leave on the morrow. He sends out about 50 or 60 mounted warriors, armed with bows and arrows. They ride about two or three leagues from their camp, where they find herds of bison – usually 300 to 400. They start to torment them and run them hard until their tongues stick out a foot. Then they choose the fattest ones and shoot arrows into them which penetrate a foot into the animals' bellies. Choosing the fattest ones in sight, they kill like that all they want. Many of the horses are killed also. They never have colts, for their mares always abort on the hunt.

This tribe sows hardly any maize; however, it does sow a little and a few pumpkins. They grow no tobacco; nevertheless, they all smoke when they have it. The Spaniards bring them some when they come to trade, and they also bring them horses. The Padoucas trade to them dressed bison skins, as well as bison skins dressed in the hair, which are used as blankets. This tribe is very large; it extends for over 200 leagues [600 miles]. Some of their villages are near the Spaniards. They know what silver is, and they say the Spaniards work silver mines near some of their neighboring villages. They showed us the technique the Spaniards use to work their mines. The villages more remote from the Spaniards use flint knives for cutting small trees and also for skinning the animals they kill.

This tribe is not at all hostile. They are very friendly, which indicates that they have dealt with Spaniards for a long time. During our brief stay with them, they became very friendly with our Frenchmen, and they wanted very much for M. de Bourgmont to leave a few with them. They said they would take very good care of them.

In the village where we made the peace, there were about 140 dwellings, housing about 800 warriors, more than 1,500 women and about 2,000 children. Some of the Indians have as many as four wives. Also they have many dogs, which haul their baggage when they lack horses. The men entirely cover their nakedness. Most of them wear trousers of dressed skin, with the lower part pulled together [to fit into high-topped moccasins] in the Spanish manner [to fit into high-topped boots]. The women cover themselves with robes of dressed skins. Their blouses and skirts have fringe all around, made of the same material.

This tribe has hardly any merchandise from Europe and little knowledge of it. When we handled our firearms in front of them, they stood in awe and lowered their heads in fear. They are very afraid of guns. When they go to war, they go always on horseback, and they have specially

dressed bison skins that they decorate and wrap around their horses as a protection against arrows.

October 23, 1724

23 October. We left our camp at five this morning. We have traveled ten leagues [30 miles] today. Compass bearing, east-northeast. Fine weather.

October 24, 1724

24 October. We left at five and covered ten leagues [30 miles], going due east. We found large herds of bison.

October 25, 1724

25 October. We started at five and traveled ten leagues due east. Fine weather.

October 26, 1724

26 October. We left camp at five and covered ten leagues [30 miles] during the day, still traveling due east. Fine weather. Frost.

October 27, 1724

27 October. We started at five. We arrived at the Kansas River at three in the afternoon and crossed it. We camped on the other side. We have covered six leagues [18 miles]. Compass bearing, due east.

October 28, 1724

The 28th, we left at five in the morning and traveled eight leagues [24 miles] during the day, going due east. Fine weather.

October 29, 1724

The 29th, we left at five, and in our day's travel we covered six leagues [18 miles]. On the way we saw many bands of wolves. Compass bearing, due east.

October 30, 1724

The 30th, we started at five and traveled six leagues [18 miles] during the day. We went due east. We had rain during half of the day.

October 31, 1724

The 31st, we started at five, and we are half a league from the Kansa [village?]. We camped to let the rain pass. We made four leagues [12 miles] today.

November 1, 1724

1 November. We started at five and arrived at the edge of the Missouri river, where we halted [set up camp] at three. At noon, we swam the horses across [the Missouri River], and M. de Bourgmont had bullboats made to carry part of our people and the Missouri Indians down the river to Fort d'Orleans.⁶

⁶ The intended meaning, although confusingly expressed, apparently is that the party halted and set up camp at 3:00 p.m. on the *far side* of the river, after the crossing had been completed.

November 2, 1724

2 November. M. de Bourgmont has embarked in a pirogue [dugout], accompanied by six Frenchmen. The Indians, with four Frenchmen, are in bullboats. M. de Saint-Ange is under orders to travel by land with the remaining Frenchmen to take the horses to Fort d'Orleans.

November 5, 1724

On the 5th of November at midday, M. de Bourgmont arrived at Fort d'Orleans, where he had left the father of M. de Saint-Ange as commander in his absence. He [Saint-Ange *père*] had cannons and muskets fired upon his arrival and had the flag flying over the fort. Afterward, the *Te Deum* was sung in honor of the peace with the Padoucas.

November 15, 1724

We, the undersigned, having accompanied M. de Bourgmont after and during his first and second expeditions to the villages of the Padoucas in order to make an alliance between that nation and the French, and to make peace between them and the nations allied to us who were at war with the said Padoucas, do certify that this report of the said first and second expeditions is true in all its points and articles, and that we have seen and heard all that constituted the subject and the tenor of the said report. In faith of which, we have signed the present certificate at Fort d'Orleans, in the Missouri country, the 15th day of November of the year 1724.

[Signed:]

Saint-Ange, acting as adjutant

La Renaudière

Dubois

Delachenaie

Jeanty

Feret de Forge

Derbes

J. Bonneau

Henry

+ [mark of Chatcauneuf]

quenel

+ [mark of Pichard]