The survey went forward as rapidly as its difficulties would permit, and a fragment of one of Major Ellicott's diaries, whose first date is November 9, 1784, records the progress of each day, including his journey homeward.

November 9th 1784

This morning though very Cloudy I went with our Hands to the Elevation mentioned yesterday— Soon after we got there the Hemisphere was filled with fine rain and mist which not only obscured the Vistas to the East, but rendered all Knowledge of the Country useless each made use of his own Ideas to find the Encampment and every person got completely lost but by an unaccountable good fortune we all got in before dark— the Pennsylvanians were more unfortunate three of their men got Lost yesterday and lay out all last night

10. this morning went with the joint Hands to the unfortunate Elevation and though Cloudy with some rain finished the Vista fixed up the Mark— then went to a second Elevation and began another Vista- Mr. Rittenhouse and Col. Porter got lost and were brought in by the firing of Guns— Rain and some Snow

11. Finished the Vista mentioned yesterday fixed up the Mark and went to a second Elevation and determined the Direction of the Line and began falling the Timber- This Day moved our Camp- Cloudy and rain all Day— some Snow.

12. Finished the Vista begun yesterday put up the mark and went on to another Hill of a most stupendous Height— the Prospect is noble and romantic— from this mountain we could Trace our Parallel of Latitude for 40 Miles— which to a mathematician is a prospect the most pleasing of any other- fine rain and snow prevented our setting up any marks which put an end to our operations about 1 O'clock PM— the remainder of the Day Mr. Andrews and myself Viewed the romantic Banks of the South Fork of Fish Creek

The most remarkable Curiosity is a rock of upwards of 100 Yards Long 50 feet thick and 16 Yards wide Broke from its Base and Tumbled many Feet down the Precipice It appears to have happened about 5O Years ago probably occasioned by an Earth-Quake If we can have clear Weather for two Days we shall complete our operations for this season— The sun has shined but twice since this day Week and then but a few minutes He is deprived of his Beams more than half the season in this Country.—

13. Heavy Rains all last Night which yet continue and will probably all Day— The Hills which compose this Country are so exceedingly High that when it rains in the Valleys or rather Crevices or Chinks it Hails or Snows on the Elevations, this observation is intended only to include Spring and Autumn-

About 10 O'clock it ceased raining and Mr.' Andrews and myself went to the Elevation with our Hands and began to open the Vista in a short time we were joined by the Pennsylvanians— we fixed up our

marks and finished the Vista by 5 O'clock P.M. The rain then began to fall so plentifully that we were obliged to return to our Encampment— This Day five months I parted with my affectionate Wife and family in order to join in the Execution of this Important Business.

14. Being Sunday we moved our Camp to within two miles of the Observatory which we expect will be our Last Moving on this Line- Two days will in all probability finish the Parallel of Latitude— some nights past I found myself troubled with a smart Fever occasioned by continually being exposed to the Rain which has been falling every Day and night since Monday last— This Country will one time or other exceed in Grazing the continual rains keep up the Life of Vegetation and supply the Plants with a great Sufficiency of Juices—

15. This Day to our great Satisfaction we finished the Wood Cutting of the 6° West Longitude and discharged all our Hands in the Evening it only remains to measure 1' 76" of Time East from the meridian of our Observatory to complete the Business of the season this in all probability will be executed tomorrow— Cloudy with Squalls of Snow all day—

16. This morning we all went to the Observatory in order to measure East from our meridian we then fixed, the South West Comer of Pennsylvania which is a Squared White Oak Post unmarked standing some Chains East of the West End of the Vista- The Completion of this Business has given me the greatest Satisfaction possible not merely on account of the Accuracy but the prospect of a speedy return to my Affectionate Wife and Family who are continually in my mind— Tomorrow we shall set off for the Inhabitants and proceed to our good Friend Jacob Beesons and refresh some Days before we mount the mountains— Cloudy with squalls of Snow.

17. This morning about 4 O'clock we packed up our Beds and Blankets and about day Light set off for the Inhabitants— about sun down we got to Jackson's Fort- Cloudy the sun shined about 1 Hour- We had an elegant Supper provided and spent the Evening in Philosophic Sociability-