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Recollections on Hunting in Kentucky, 1790-1791

by Hugh Bell

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Wm. H. F. Bell & the Indian - Buffalo hunting exploits. (87)

ears were up - the face cracking, an Indian lay behind a log some 15 feet off, peeped up his head, which was B. saw - dashed to ^{the gate} the gate, & swooped. The Indian knowing the danger was he instantly ^{gave a jump} jumped up & ran off.

Wm. & Nick S. Baker, ^{the Indian hunter} living on the Adobe Creek, a few miles above Clarksville, in the present county of Grant - went out over the Indian land below Panguitch on the north shore, hunting buffalo. Wm. & Nick had wounded an buffalo bull, & was following it close behind through the cane, it turned upon him; Baker turned & ran but was soon overtaken by the enraged animal, ^{one of} near his horses through his leather pants & badly going in his thigh, threw him back & striking over his head - the buffalo went on. Baker was badly shaken to clear the other way - & left the buffalo to go uncollected. This was in 1890.

This same year Hugh F. Bell his older brother joined

Dec. 250 Buffalo hunting exploits - 1790.

Bill Peterson went out hunting on Little Sioux in
Biggs Co. Ky - ~~came upon a~~ Bill Bell was pursuing
a gang of Elk, though H. Bell & Peterson got after a
gang of buffaloes, & ~~the~~ ^{the} shot buffalo bulls. Bell
went and set down upon Peterson's buffalo, & then
proposed to go & skin his first - nearby and on
their return, Peterson's had gone! By this time John
Bell returned, not having killed any of the Elk, & sided
the others in hunting up the lost buffalo. The grass
in the river bottom there was ^{standing} thick & as tall as a man's
head - the two Bulls clamped up a fallen, lodged tree &
grasped the bull lying down some 15 paces off. Called
to Peterson to shoot it - he ~~at~~ he said he wd go & stick it
- crept up behind a small black oak nine inches thick,
close to which the buffalo lay - & as Peterson was in the
hiding giving the fatal shot in the buffalo's side,
the animal suddenly bounded to his feet & Peterson

Buffalo Hunting Experiences - 1750 - 1791. ²⁵⁹ *Set.*

up the tree - clasp of limb for fifteen or 20 feet - and get some eight feet, & then from fear & exertion, or fail & gradually slip down until nearly reaching the Buffalo's horns, - who all the while kept a warfare upon the tree, completely blanketing it with his horns. - Again Peterson woke - effort & ascend - shut the old dist. height, & again give way & slide down - begging the while for the Balls to shoot the Buffalo; who, so full of laughter, could not - Seeing after his third ascension, that he could not stand it much longer, & had already rubbed the skin for his breast & face, - I shot the Buffalo, & rescued Peterson.

The next year, 1751, together with Wydale over Little River on the Barrens - they went so far, because less dangerous than near the settlements - hunting; came across two Buffalo; Hugh F. Bell shot one of them - & William took

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84. Whitney Explorers - Buffalo Elk.

after the other - the buffalo took after Belle, who mounted dashed away around a large sink hole of some ten acres, the buffalo in hot pursuit, went around twice, & the buffalo gained & had got within 20 steps when Hugh H. Bell came up & shot ^{him} down. They both thought the buffalo had no wild design, but in its fright mistook Belle's move for its mate & was followed.

~~John H. Bell~~ ^{the subsequent} But, Hugh H. & John Bell & ~~some others~~, were again out together, in the old range on Little River, came upon a gang of 3 or 4 elk - the dogs took after & mistook him, some seizing ~~it~~ him by the nose, others by the ears, while one of the dogs bounded upon his back & took post between the large antlers that ~~lay upon~~ ^{backed}, & the dog charged to his place all the while yowling into the flesh on the back of the elk - & the elk ran

The Hunter's life & customs.

Several rods with the dog upon his back, took post in a spring & there took his stand, & remained until H. H. B. came up & shot him.

The hunter, wd take with them some pack horses, to convey home the meat. When they had it, they wd take with some salt & pepper ^{or} - a camp kettle; these with their knives & rifles, ^{and} sufficed. They always relied upon the forest for a supply of good - buffalo, beaver, deer, elk & turkey. A buffalo hide, ^{hand} made into a w. be stretched across poles overhead for a covering from the damps & rains - other skins, with the hair side up wd be placed upon the ground before the fire, to be used as a kind of rug & for the bed at night - & sometimes with another hide for a covering. When upon the hunt, they wore a kind of moccasins made of buffalo hide, the hair side turned in - these would not easily saturate, at night these were taken off & thrown one side & away from the fire.

that they might freeze if the weather should be sufficiently cold to congeal meat - for the buffalo was always more all the better for being frozen. While in camp, they hunter wore ~~the~~ light tanned deer skin moccasins - now for the sake of living. The stew was a common & favorite mode - the choicest bits of buffalo, deer, elk, bear & turkey - part or all of these, as the case might be - put into the kettle, with the proper seasoning, mixed with a nice dish, leaving each to the company to choose as to kind. Stewed bear's liver, or roasted bear's kidneys, made a good substitute for bread. When hunter had a roast turkey, they had a way of cutting numerous small incisions in the body, & putting in them bits of fat bear meat & proper seasoning - this was so called. But when a luxurious meal was to be provided, it consisted of one or all of these articles, roasted beaver tail, buffalo tongue, a marrow-bone. Take a large beaver

Went to the office of the

tail, true 8 inches long & 4 broad, well seasoned, & wrapped up in a coat of ^{waxed} lard & put into a bed of ashes & covered up over night, wd. be elegantly cooked by morning. To cook perfectly after hunter's style a fine buffalo tongue - first sear it a little & peel off the outside coating, then stick it upon a spit made of a spice bush, with the lower end inserted in the earth & left to roast before the fire all night - the spice bush wd. give it a very agreeable flavor. Cooking the buffalo manors bone ^{meat} is the work of a few minutes - simply lay upon the live coals, & in a few minutes ^{the other} change sides - then cut the bone into two with the hatchet then split or hew off one side to the marrow - what rich delicious eating! Neither this, nor bear's oil in any quantity ever produces the least injurious effect - tip up the kettle after cooking bear's meat, & smelt it's self.

