

Peter Skene Ogden

Peter Skene Ogden was a famous fur trapper who worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. Following are two excerpts from his travel journal into "Snake Country." [Changed for easier reading using ChatGPT.] Original found at <https://user.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/ogdn2526.html>

Saturday, March 25

The Snake people [a Native American tribe] kept traveling. I had no idea there were so many of them. The Plains Snakes, said to be about 1,000 men, go to the Spanish settlements each year to trade and sometimes steal horses. The Lower Snakes number at least 1,500 men, not including women and children. The Blackfeet steal many horses from them, and they do the same in return. They have about 150 guns. We keep our own horses guarded day and night. Thirteen of our traps have already been stolen by local people. Today we caught forty-five beavers.

Original

Saturday, March 25th. The Snakes continued to move. I had no idea the Snakes were so numerous. The Plains Snakes, said to be 1000 men, annually go to the Spanish settlements to trade and steal horses. The Lower Snakes are not less than 1500 men, independent of women and children. The Blackfeet steal great numbers of horses from them; they retaliate in kind; they have 150 guns. Our horses are well guarded, day and night. No

less than 13 traps stolen by the natives. Forty-five
beaver this day.