



19th century “papoose” photograph.

GLIMPSES OF A DEPARTING WAY OF LIFE: THE LEWIS & CLARK JOURNALS (1803-1806)

Writings of explorers and first European settlers form the very the earliest body of non-native American literature; beginning with Columbus’ journals, Bartolomé de las Casas’ *Brevisima relación de la destrucción de las Indias* (1452), Bernal Díaz del Castillo’s *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España* (1568), Captain John Smith’s *A Description of New England* (1616), and later *Plymouth Plantation* (1651) by William Bradford -- to name some of the most noted. By the 18th century, the wave of *new* exploration narratives and accounts (and which were not reproductions or summaries of past efforts) had largely died down; in part owing to the settling down of colonists; the Atlantic and Indian oceans being sufficiently mapped out, and to numerous wars being fought around the globe. By the 1780’s Capt. Cook’s voyages, and the published accounts that followed them, prompted interest in new expeditions, both scientific and commercial, targeting the Pacific and the west Coast of North America. Among those inspired by Cook and spurred to action was Alexander MacKenzie (1764-1820); the Scotsman who in the 1790s blazed trails through Canada to both the Arctic and the Pacific ocean, and American ambassador to France (in the late 1780s), Thomas Jefferson.

Many years before the Louisiana Purchase was even contemplated, Jefferson made several attempts to initiate and get sponsored scientifically minded exploratory attempts into North America’s continental interior, all of which resulted in failure. It was not till becoming President that he had it in his power to realize and fulfill his long mediated wish and dream, and which included hopes of finding an easy Northwest passage, preferably by waterway, to the Pacific. Indeed, not only Lewis and Clark, but Jefferson also subsequently dispatched expeditions under William Dunbar and George Hunter into lower Louisiana territory (1804); Zebulon Pike into the Middle Plains and modern day Colorado (1806-1807); and another under Thomas Freeman & Peter Custis into the Southwest, towards modern New Mexico (1806).¹ To Jefferson as much credit is due for getting European-America speedily moving westward as Lewis and Clark, or anyone else for that matter.

Though it is more than understandable that subsequent, and vehement, protest will have been voiced against white imperialistic encroachment on Indian lands, it must in fairness be remembered that the

¹ The Dunbar-Hunter outing ended up being aborted due to conflict with the Osage tribe; while Freeman and Custis’ came to a relatively abrupt end when Spanish authorities had them arrested after a few months exploring.

Natives themselves were frequently at odds with the other. Just as with whites, there were both the noble and the savage, with breeds spanning in between, and who could hardly be considered one happy family. As with the colonists only seriously joining together when Britain became the violent threat, it was only when the United States endangered the Natives similarly that a common Indian consciousness and political unity could begin to be contemplated. And yet by the time such *was* possible, as say under Tecumseh, it was then all too late to arrest the relentless and inexorable tide, and that included epidemics of small pox and measles that wiped out whole tribes. Ever wonder what happened to (such as) the Iowas, Kansas, Omahas, Missouris, whose names we are so familiar with; not to mention even more others with whom who are not, such as the Kickapoos, Ottoes, Panyas and Mandans?

But Indians aside, it wasn't as if Lewis and Clark were, either unanticipated or unaided, entering into upon a complete vacuum. The Catholic majesties of France and Spain had previously made huge leaps and all-important footholds into the western continent,² and without the French huntsmen and traders that accompanied Lewis and Clark, acting as foragers, pathfinders, and interpreters, it is *highly* doubtful that their and the missions of subsequent U.S. trail blazers could have succeeded as well as they did. Moreover, how far would anyone, white or Indian for that matter, have traveled without the horses originally brought in by Spanish conquistadors?

One of the most singular and striking aspects of the Lewis and Clark expedition is what a team effort it proved with whites of different ethnicities (including one black American, i.e., Clark's manservant named York), Indians of diverse tribes and temperaments, and as well animals too numerous to mention -- all of whom, whether they want to or no, contributed *decisively* to the final result.

As it happens, *a single woman*, in a cast of many thousands, was not least of those who helped tip the scales of manifest destiny. Like Cortes' La Malinche (aka "Dona Marina") and Capt. Smith's Pocahontas, 16 year old, pregnant Sacagawea, a Shoshone, and as has been abundantly demonstrated by documented evidence and scholarly attestation, who more than once saved the explorers from possible obstruction or destruction. As trail finder, interpreter, diplomat, she proved in valuable in times of real and possible emergency. It has been pointed out, for example, that but for her presence, Lewis and Clark's corps of discovery would have been assumed by the Indians to have been a *war party* (which, by the Indians' logic, it could not have been since a woman was present in its ranks.)

Yet none of these contributors, allies, and collaborators detract in the least from the exceptional achievement of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark³ themselves. As well as explorers, ambassadors and soldiers, their duties together included their also being chemists, geologists, naturalists, botanists, zoologists, medical doctors, surveyors, cartographers, navigators, sailors, ethnologists, hunters, taxidermists, and linguists. Even if they had made their voyage by means of modern transportation and with modern amenities, the journals and records they kept would themselves have been a phenomenal and amazing feat. How utterly extraordinary then they compiled such writings, descriptions, findings, measurements, statistics under the strains and challenges that rendered merely staying alive at times painfully difficult.

To attempt now to browse or wade through the near 5,000 pages of their, and expedition members', journals and records is, or at least can be to those willing make the effort a bracing and invigorating experience: the closest to being in the great outdoors as reading could take you.⁴ It at times seems as if, on their trek through what are now Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota,

² See *A Half Century of Conflict* (1892), chs. 15-16, where Parkman recounts the bold and decisive achievements of several early 18th century French explorers who directly paved the way for Lewis and Clark, Pike, and similar.

³ Clark was the younger brother of George Rogers Clark. Yet the elder brother to both of them was Jonathan Clark (1750-1811), an officer in the Continental Army; who was at Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, serving with the 8th Virginia Regiment. As a Major he was second in command to Major Henry Lee at the raid on Paulus Hook in 1779. It was with Jonathan Clark that Lee found himself in a dispute over rank that nearly caused the Paulus Hook mission to be cancelled almost immediately after it had set out. Lee, later, was compelled to apologize to the outranked and indignant Clark over the misunderstanding. Although Clark technically had seniority, Washington had conferred command of the enterprise on Lee, its principal planner and organizer. Clark afterward was among the gallant defenders taken prisoner at the Siege of Charleston, May 1780.

⁴ The journals, incidentally, are still recommended by outdoor survivalists and modern woodsmen for their information, practical usefulness and applicability.

Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, *Creation* itself is being rediscovered; with two new Adams, as it were, finding for the first time and giving names to lakes, streams, rivers, geological formations, flora, fauna, and other natural wonders that in Western culture heretofore had no name. So that we have in these a superb and priceless means of learning about what this country is blessed with and has to offer; though including also, sadly and in some instances, what it *had* to offer, but which it has no longer.

Lewis and Clark certainly had a clear and profound sense of their purpose, and there is very little second guessing them in retrospect when it comes to what they might have or ought to have done. However, with a frequency understandably regrettable to modern sensibility, a word used as often as just about any other is “killed;” even to a point that at times some readers will come to find it nauseating. Yes, and of course, they had to hunt for game to obtain food. Yet hunting at times served ancillary purposes of recreation, exercise, and as a way of relieving occasional monotony. Here, to give some idea of this, is one passage worth quoting.

Lewis, Sunday May 5th 1805

A fine morning I walked on shore until 8 A M when we halted for breakfast and in the course of my walk killed a deer which I carried about a mile and a half to the river, it was in good order. soon after setting out the rudder irons of the white perogue were broken by her running fowl on a sawyer, she was however refitted in a few minutes with some tugs of raw hide and nales. as usual saw a great quantity of game today; Buffalo Elk and goats or Antelopes feeding in every direction; we kill whatever we wish, the buffalo furnish us with fine veal and fat beef, we also have venison and beaver tales when we wish them; the flesh of the Elk and goat are less esteemed, and certainly are inferior. we have not been able to take any fish for some time past. The country is as yesterday beautiful in the extreme.—

Yes, there can be abundance and even over population, but surely there is something to be said for moderation, conservation and ethical considerations, even back then. Take for instance in Robert Rogers play “Ponteach” (see *Continental Army Series*, vol. 1) how the *too* taking for granted and squandering of game by white hunters is decried. As for those who lamented the too great preoccupation of Americans with guns and casual shooting there was Benjamin Rush, Lewis’ medical tutor (see article on Rush in *Continental Army Series*, vol. 2). Bartram the Naturalist in his wide-ranging travels strove to strike a more human and healthy mean between survival and extravagance. So such concerns were by no stretch wholly unknown back in the early 1800s. While it may not be fair to fault what was done then by such as Lewis, Clark, and their party, least of all to somehow single them out for blame, it is fitting for us to regret that such was seen as necessary or acceptable for them. Else why should one ever weep or mourn so over the loss of life; especially when so many of the animals Lewis and Clark saw are extinct or on the verge of becoming so?

As literature otherwise, the journals have much to recommend them and were overt and unmistakable influences on a number of the works of Cooper, Irving, and even Edgar Allen Poe.

With *occasional* exception, I have endeavored to choose as selections extracts from the more rarely seen or repeated entries of the journals, and which include some from expedition members as well as Lewis and Clark themselves. Spellings are left as transcribed from the original documents. Omitted are any entries made on or with respect to Lewis and Clark’s return trip from Oregon to St. Louis; not because such are somehow less interesting, they most certainly are not, but rather for purposes of more manageable brevity.

A most special thanks is due to “The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Online” website; made possible by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center for Great Plains Studies, the University of Nebraska Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, and University of Nebraska Press, and from which these excerpts are taken, and which you can find at:

<http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/index.html>

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## Lewis

11th September [1803]

Set out about sunrise, passed Sunfish creek 1 mile &c &c entered the long reach, so called from the Ohio running in strait direction for 18 miles in this reach there are 5 Islands from three to 2 miles in length each— observed a number of squirrels swimming the Ohio and universally passing from the W. to the East shore they appear to be making to the south; perhaps it may be mast or food which they are in search of but I should rather suppose that it is climate which is their object as I find no difference in the quantity of mast on both sides of this river it being abundant on both except the beach nut which appears extremely scarce this season, the walnuts and Hickory nuts the usual food of the squirrel appears in great abundance on either side of the river— I made my dog<sup>5</sup> take as many each day as I had occasion for, they were fat and I thought them when fried a pleasant food— many of these squirrels were black, they swim very light on the water and make pretty good speed— my dog was of the Newfoundland breed very active strong and docile, he would take the squirrel in the water kill them and swimming bring them in his mouth to the boat. we lay this night below the fifth Island in the long reach on the E. side of the river having come 26 miles

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Lewis

Novr. 16th— [1803]

Passed the Mississippi this day and went down on the other side after landing at the upper habitation on the opposite side. we found here some Shawnees and Delaware incamped; one of the Shawnees a respectable looking Indian offered me three beaverskins for my dog with which he appeared much pleased, the dog was of the Newfoundland breed one that I prized much for his docility and qualifications generally for my journey and of course there was no bargain, I had given 20\$ for this dog myself— Capt Clark and myself passed down [down or over] to the lowest point in view on this the W. [*written over N*] side of the river from the point of junction of the rivers— found below it a sand bar, and a willow point forming which in low water will prevent any vessels coming too within two or three hundred yards of the main shore or bank, though this is the place at which a fort must be erected if one is built on that side of the Mississippi within many miles of the mouth of Ohio, from this place to the upper habitation (or the point which we made from our place of observation in measuring the river) was 28 hundred and 50 yards; from the place of observation this place bore On our return which was at 5 m after 1 O'clock we were a little surprised at the apparent size of a Catfish which the men had caught in our absence altho we had been previously accustomed to see those of from thirty to sixty pounds weight we determined to ascertain the weight of this fish after taking the following measurements of it—...

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## Clark

Christmas 25th Decr [1803]: I was wakened by a Christmas discharge of found that some of the party had got drunk & fought, the men frolicked and hunted all day, Snow this morning, Ice run all day, Several Turkey Killed Shields returned with a cheese & 4 lb butter, Three Indians come to day to take Christmas with us, I gave them a bottle of whiskey and they went off after informing me that a great talk had been held and that all the nations were going to war against the Ozous [Osage?] in 3 months, one informed me that an English man 16 ms. from here told him that the Americans had the Country and no one was allowed to trade &c. I explained the thing Intention of Govmt to him, and the Cause of the possession, Drewyear [Drouillard, and who became the expedition's foremost hunter] Says he will go with us, at the rate offered? and will go to Massac to settle his matters.

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⁵ Lewis' Newfoundland dog Seaman; also referred to as Scannon.

Sergeant Patrick Gass

On Monday the 14th of May 1804, we left our establishment at the mouth of the river du Bois or Wood river, a small river which falls into the Mississippi, on the east-side, a mile below the Missouri, and having crossed the Mississippi proceeded up the Missouri on our intended voyage of discovery, under the command of Captain Clarke. Captain Lewis was to join us in two or three days on our passage.

The corps consisted of forty-three men (including Captain Lewis and Captain Clarke, who were to command the expedition) part of the regular troops of the United States, and part engaged for this particular enterprize. The expedition was embarked on board a batteau [or keelboat] and two periogues ["pirogue," a smaller, flat bottomed boats]. The day was showery and in the evening we encamped on the north bank six miles up the river. Here we had leisure to reflect on our situation, and the nature of our engagements: and, as we had all entered this service as volunteers, to consider how far we stood pledged for the success of an expedition, which the government had projected; and which had been undertaken for the benefit and at the expence of the Union: of course of much interest and high expectation.

The best authenticated accounts informed us, that we were to pass through a country possessed by numerous, powerful and warlike nations of savages, of gigantic stature, fierce, treacherous and cruel; and particularly hostile to white men. And fame had united with tradition in opposing mountains to our course, which human enterprize and exertion would attempt in vain to pass. The determined and resolute character, however, of the corps, and the confidence which pervaded all ranks dispelled every emotion of fear, and anxiety for the present; while a sense of duty, and of the honour, which would attend the completion of the object of the expedition; a wish to gratify the expectations of the government, and of our fellow citizens, with the feelings which novelty and discovery invariably inspire, seemed to insure to us ample support in our future toils, suffering and dangers.⁶

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## Lewis

Sunday May 20th 1804

The morning was fair, and the weather pleasant; at 10 oCk A M. agreeably to an appointment of the preceeding day, I was joined by Capt. Stoddard, Lieuts. Milford & Worrell together with Messrs. A. Chouteau, C. Gratiot, and many other respectable inhabitants of St. Louis, who had engaged to accompany me to the Vilage of St. Charles; accordingly at 12 Oclk after bidding an affectionate adieu to my Hostis, that excellent woman the spouse of Mr. Peter Chouteau, and some of my fair friends of St. Louis, we set forward to that vilage in order to join my friend companion and fellow labourer Capt. William Clark who had previously arrived at that place with the party destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America the first 5 miles of our rout laid through a beatifull high leavel and fertail prarie which incircles the town of St. Louis from N. W. to S. E. the lands through which we then passed are somewhat broken up fertile the plains and woodlands are here indiscriminately interspersed untill you arrive within three miles of the vilage when the woodland commences and continues to the Missouri the latter is extreemly fertile. At half after one P. M. our progress was interrupted [hole] the near approach of a violent thunder storm from the N. W. and concluded to take shelter in a little cabbin hard by untill the rain should be over; accordingly we alighted and remained about an hour and a half and regailed ourselves with a could collation which we had taken the precaution to bring with us from St. Louis.

The clouds continued to follow each other in rapaid succession, insomuch that there was but little prospect of it's ceasing to rain this evening; as I had determined to reach St. Charles this evening and

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<sup>6</sup> Originally found in Gass' *A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery, under the command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke of the Army of the United States, from the mouth of the river Missouri through the interior parts of North America to the Pacific Ocean, during the years 1804, 1805 and 1806. Containing an authentic relation of the most interesting transactions during the expedition,—A description of the country,—And an account of its inhabitants, soil, climate, curiosities, and vegetable and animal productions* (1807).

knowing that there was now no time to be lost I set forward in the rain, most of the gentlemen continued with me, we arrived at half after six and joined Capt Clark, found the party in good health and spirits. Suped this evening with Charles Tayong a Spanish Ensign & late Commandant of St. Charles at an early hour I retired to rest on board the barge...

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Clark

Sunday 20th May [NB: at St Charles]

A Cloudy morning rained and hard wind from the [blank] last night, The letter George lost yesterday found by a Country man, I gave the party leave to go and hear a Sermon to day delivered by Mr. [blank] a romon Carthlick Priest at 3 oClock Capt. Lewis Capt. Stoddard accompanied by the Officers & Several Gentlemen of St Louis arrived in a heavy Showr of Rain Mssr. Lutenants Minford & Werness. Mr. Choteau Grattiot, Deloney, LaberDee Ranken Dr. SoDrang rained the greater part of this evening. Suped with Mr. Charles Tayon, the late Comdt. of S: Charles a Spanish Ensign.

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## Private Joseph Whitehouse

Sunday 20th May 1804. Several of the party went to church, which the french call Mass, and Saw their way of performing &c.—

Sunday may 20th This day several of our party went to the Chapel, where Mass was said by the Priest, which was a novelty to them.—

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Whitehouse

Tuesday 10 [July 1804] Got On Our way at woolf River at Sun Rise the water was Strong the Morning was Clear. On the E. S. of the River whare Stopped to take breakfast the wild. Rice was plenty Groeing on the bank of the River, Straberyes, Rosies, Red And white Roed 11 Miles Campd. at [blank] the hunters Came in brought 2 deer with them—

Tuesday July 10th This morning at Sunrise we got under way from Little Wolf River, we found the current still setting strong against us, & very hard rowing to stem it, we encamped for a while to refresh ourselves at 8 oClock A. M.; we found here wild Rice, strawberry's and Red & white Roses <and Strawberry's> growing along the bank of the River, at 10 oClock A. M. we proceeded on, and in the evening encamped on the bank of the River where our hunters came in to us, having 2 Deer with them which they had killed. We rowed this day 11 Miles.—

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## Gass

Saturday 11th. [Aug. 1804] A storm came on at three o'clock this morning and continued till nine, notwithstanding which, we kept under way till ten, when we came to a high bluff, where an Indian chief had been buried, and placed a flag upon a pole, which had been set up at his grave. His name was Blackbird, king of the Mahas;<sup>7</sup> an absolute monarch while living, and the Indians suppose can exercise the power of one though dead. We encamped in latitude 42d 1m 3s 3, as ascertained by observation.

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<sup>7</sup> A "Journals of Lewis and Clark" editor notes: "Blackbird (Wazhin' gaC with cedilla lowercase symbolabe) was a notorious character along the Missouri, noted for his friendship with white traders and his strong rule over his own people. Under his leadership the Omahas rose to prominence on the eastern plains. Reports of his war deeds are mixed, but he seems to have had great authority

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## Clark

14th August Tuesday 1804

a fine morning wind from the S E The men Sent to the Mahar [Omaha] Town last evening has not returned we Conclude to Send a Spye to Know the cause of Their delay at about 12 oClock the Party returned and informed. us that they Could not find the Indians nor any fresh Sign, those people have not returned from their Buffalow hunt, Those people haveing no houses no Corn or any thing more than the graves of their ancesters to attach them to the old Village, Continue in pursuite of the Buffalow longer than others who had greater attachments to their native Village— the ravages of the Small Pox [*NB: about 4 years ago*] (which Swept off 400 men & women & Children in perpoposion) has reduced this Nation not exceeding 300 men and left them to the insults of their weaker neighbours which before was glad to be on friendly turms with them— I am told whin this fatal malady was among them they Carried ther franzey to verry extroadinary length, not only of burning their Village, but they put their wives & Children to D[e]ath with a view of their all going together to Some better Countrey— They burry their Dead on the tops of high hills and rais mounds on the top of them,— The cause or way those people took the Small Pox is uncertain, the most Probable from Some other Nation by means of a warparty

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## Sergeant John Ordway

*Friday 24th* [Aug. 1804] ...Capt. Clark went out hunting on S. S. we proceeded on passed the upper end of the Butiful Bottom prarie. there the high butiful prarie commenced which is extensive & Smooth. Back about 2 miles we are informed that their is a verry high hill called The Hills of the little <Christian> Devils<sup>8</sup> by the natives & they amagan that it is inhabited by little people with Big heads & they are afraid to go up to them for fear they will shoot them with their Bows & arrows, we passed the mouth of White Stone River, which came in above the high prarie their is large points of land covered with Timber on boath sides of the river Such as cottenwood ash Elm & C—. Capt. Clark joined us towards evening had killed 2 Buck Elk & 1 faun. Capt. Clark & Capt. Lewis & 10 more of the party in order to fetch the meat in, they returned with the meat, which was jurked at the Same time we had a fine Shower of Rain which lasted abt. half an hour, at which place we Camped on South Side. the Musquetoës Troublesome.

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## Lewis

Monday September 17th 1804

...we found the [Pronghorn] Antelope extreemly shy and watchfull insomuch that we had been unable to get a shot at them; when at rest they generally seelect the most elivated point in the neighbourhood, and as they are watchfull and extreemly quick of sight and their sense of smelling very accute it is almost impossible to approach them within gunshot; in short they will frequently discover and flee from you at the distance of three miles. I had this day an opportunity of witnessing the agility and superior fleetness of this anamal which was to me really astonishing. I had pursued and twice surprised a small herd of seven, in the first instance they did not discover me distinctly and therefore did not run at full speed, tho' they took care before they rested to gain an elivated point where it was impossible to approach them under cover except in one direction and that happened to be in the direction from which the wind blew towards them; bad as the chance to approach them was, I made the best of my way towards them, frequently peeping over the ridge with which I took care to conceal myself from their view the male, of which there was but one, frequently incircled the summit of the hill on which the females stood in a group, as if to look out for the approach of

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because of his sorcery, especially in the deaths of the enemies who were likely killed by his use of poisons obtained from traders. Legend has it that he was buried seated on the back of his horse, on the hilltop where he used to watch for the coming of his friends the traders..."

<sup>8</sup> Spirit Mound, Clay County, South Dakota, eight miles north of Vermillion.

danger. I got within about 200 paces of them when they smelt me and fled; I gained the top of the eminence on which they stood, as soon as possible from whence I had an extensive view of the country the antilopes which had disappeared in a steep reverse now appeared at the distance of about three miles on the side of a ridge which passed obliquely across me and extended about four miles. so soon had these antelopes gained the distance at which they had again appeared to my view I doubted at first that they were the same that I had just surprised, but my doubts soon vanished when I beheld the rapidity of their flight along the ridge before me it appeared rather the rapid flight of birds than the motion of quadrupeds. I think I can safely venture the assercion that the speed of this animal is equal if not superior to that of the finest blooded courser...

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### **Whitehouse**

Thursday 27th Sept. 1804. we Stayed here this day. Capt Lewis and Some of the party went over to See the Indians Camps [of the Teton Sioux]. their lodges are about 80 in number and contain about 10 Souls Each, the most of them women and children. the women are employed dressing buffaloe hides for to make themselves cloathing and to make their lodges &c. they are or appear as yet to be the most frendly people I ever Saw but they will Steal and plunder if they can git an oppertunity. they are very dirty the vessels they carry their water in is the pouch of their game which they kill and in the Same manner that they take them out of the animal. they gave us different kinds of victules to eat. Some of it I never Saw the like before. about 15 days ago they had a battle with the Mahars [Omahas]. they killed 65 men and took 25 women prisoners. they took the 65 of the Mahars Sculps and had them hung on Small poles, which ther women held in their hands when they danced. we Saw them have one dance this evening. they kept it up untill one oclock dancing round a fire about 80 of them in number. they had drums and whistles for musick. they danced war dances round the fire which was curious to us. when we came on board an axedant happened by running the perogue across the bow of the boat and broke our cable and lost our anker all hands was raised and roed the barge to Shore. the Savages ran down to know what was the matter. we told them they Said that they came to our assistance we thanked them for Showing their good will but kept on our guard all night for fear they would turn our enimies themselves.—

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### **Clark**

10th of *October Wednesday* 1804.

...the Inds. much astonished at my black Servent [named York], who made him Self more turrible in thier view than I wished him to Doe as I am told telling them that before I cought him he was wild & lived upon people, young children was very good eating Showed them his Strength &c. &c....

[separate entry for the same day by Clark]

...Those Indians wer much astonished at my Servent, They never Saw a black man before, all flocked around him & examind. him from top to toe, he Carried on the joke and made himself more turibal than we wished him to doe. (Thos Indians were not fond of Spirits Licquer. of any kind[])...

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### **Clark**

October 12, 1804

... The Ricaras [Arikaras] are at war with the Crow Indians and Mandans—&c. &— The Ricaras, have a custom Similar to the Sioux in maney instances, they think they cannot Show a Sufficient acknowledgement without [giving?] to their guest handsom Squars and think they are despised if they are not recved The Sioux followed us with women two days we put them off. the Ricarries we put off dureing the time we were near their village— 2 were Sent by a man to follow us, and overtook us this evening, we Still procisted in a refusal— The Dress of the Ricara men is Simppaly a pr. of Mockersons &



Legins, a flap, and a Buffalow Robe— Their Hair is long and lais loose their arms & ears are decerated with trinkets—

The womin Dress Mockersons & Legins & Skirt of the Skin of the Cabre or Antelope, long fringed & [roab?] to the fringes & with Sleeves, verry white, and Roabes— all were Dressed to be without hare in the Summer

Those people make large Beeds of Diferrent colours, out of glass or Beeds of Dift colours, verry ingeniously<sup>9</sup>

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Clark

October 12, 1804

2nd Chief [of the] Ricaras

My Father, I am glad to See this is a fine Day to here the good Councils & talk good talk

I am glad to See you & that your intentions are to open the road for all

we See that our Grand father has Sent you to open the road we See it

Our Grand father by Sending you means to take pity on us

Our Grand father has Sent you with tobacco to make peace with all nations, we think

The first nation who has recomended the road to be clear and open.

You Come here & have Directed all nations which you have met to open & clear the road.

[If?] you come to See the water & roads to Clear them as Clear as possible

you just now Come to See us, & we wish you to tell our Grand ftar that we wish the road to be kept Clear & open.

I expect the Chief in the next Town will tell you the Same to move on & open the road

I think when you Saw the nations below the[y] wish you to open the road— (or something to that amount:

when you passd. the Souex they told you the Same I expect. we See you here to day we are pore our women have no Strouds & Knives to Cut their meat take pittty on us when you return.

you Come here & Derect us to Stay at home & not go to war, we Shall do So, we hope you will when you get to the *Mandins* you will tell them the Same & Cleer the road, no one Dar to Stop you, you go when you please,—

The you tell us to go Down, we will go and See our grand father & here & receve his Gifts, and think fully that our nation will be covered after our return, our people will look for us with the same impatience that our Grand father looks for your return, to Give him

⁹ Regarding the intricate and elaborate process of making of glass beads by the Indians, see Lewis, March 16th, 1804.

If I am going to See my grand father, many bad nations on the road, I am not afraid to Die for the good of my people (all Cried around him.)

The Chief By me will go to the Mandans & hear what they will Say. (we agree'd.)

The verry moment we Set out to go down we will Send out my Brother to bring all the Nation in the open prarie to See me part on this Great mission to See my Great father.

our people hunting Shall be glad to here of your being here & they will all Come to See, as you Cannot Stay they must wate for your return to See you, we are pore take pity on our wants

The road is for you all to go on, who do you think will injure a white man when they come to exchange for our Roabes & Beaver

after you Set out many nations in the open plains may Come to make war against us, we wish you to Stop their guns & provent it if possible. Finished...

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### Clark

1st of *November Thursday* 1804

the wind hard from the N W. Mr. McCrackin a Trader Set out at 7 oClock to the fort on the Ossiniboin [Assiniboin] by him Send a letter, (incloseing a Copy of the British Ministers protection) to the principal agent of the Company— at about 10 OClock the Cheifs of the Lower Village Cam and after a Short time informed us they wished they would us to call at their village & take Some Corn, that they would make peace with the *Ricares* [Arikaras] they never made war against them but after the *rees* [Crees] Killed their Chiefs they killed them like the birds, and were tired [*NB: of killing them*] and would Send a Chief and Some brave men to the *Ricares* to Smoke with that people in the evening we Set out and fell down to the lower Village where Capt. Lewis got out and continud at the Village untill after night I proceeded on & landed on the S. S. at the upper point of the 1st Timber on the Starboard Side after landing & Continuinge— <Some> all night drouped down to a proper place to build Capt Lewis Came down after night, and informed me he intended to return the next morning by the perticular Request of the Chiefs.

We passed the Villages on our Decent in veiw of Great numbers of the inhabitents

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Whitehouse

3rd of November Sat. 1804

...Nothing happened extraordinary till the 30th day of November (instant) when an Express arrived from the 2nd Mandan Village, at our Fort; who informed our Officers that a hunting party of theirs was robbed, by the Sues [Sioux] & Rees [Cree] Indians on the 27th of last Month of Eight horses, and all their meat, & that they had killed one of their Men, and wounded two others, and applied to <the> Our Officers for some assistance from the fort which the Officers readily granted to them. Twenty of our Men immediately turned out Volunteers, under the Command of Captain Clark to go against those Indians, (the Sues) and the Guard at the Fort set us across the River.— Captain Clark formed his Men on the South West side of the River Mesouri on their landing; and told them off in Sections from the right, and sent a file of Men and a Non commission'd Officer on each flank, to reconitre the Woods, at the distance of nearly 100 Yards from the head of the Company.— After we had marched about 6 Miles, we arriv'd at the first Village of the Mandan Indians, with our Two Interpreters, One for the Mandans & the other for the Grovanters [Gros Ventres or French for "Big Bellies"] Captain Clark thinking that he would be reinforced by a party, from each nation, and a detachment from the Watesoons a part of the Nation, who are neighbours to the Mandan Nation, and their friends.— On our arrival at the Village, the chiefs of both nations, concluded, not to go

to fight those Indians with us, they saying the Weather was cold, and the Snow was deep, (being upwards of 18 Inches on the Ground,) and that they should put it off, 'till the next spring— The Captain halted the party two hours at this Village. he told the Chief and Warriors of the Mandan Nation; that he and his Men was on the ground and was ready to assist them, and that they should see that he and his Men could fight.— After the Captain had some more conversation with those Indians, we all took our leave of them, and started for the Fort, we recrossed the River on the ice.— between the first and Second Villages of the Mandan Indians, and came to the Fort, where we arrived at dark. this Evening, being very cold, the Officers had some Whiskey served out to the Men that was on the March which revived them much, & they all Retired to their Huts.—

Ordway

Saturday 15th Decr. 1804. Cloudy cold and Snowey. I & 2 more of the party went up to the 1st & 2 villages of the Mandans. traded for a little corn & C. they had all their corn in holes made in the Ground close in front of their lodges. although the day was cold & Stormy we Saw Several of the chiefs and warries were out at a play which they call [blank]¹⁰ they had flattish rings made out of clay Stone & two men had Sticks abt. 4 feet long with 2 Short peaces across the fore end of it, and neathing on the other end, in Such a manner that they would Slide Some distance they had a place fixed across their green from the head chiefs house across abt. 50 yds. to the 2 chiefs lodge, which was Smothe as a house flour they had a Battery fixed for the rings to Stop against. two men would run at a time with <stick> Each a Stick & one carried a ring. they run abt. half way and then Slide their Sticks after the ring. they had marks made for the Game but I do not understand how they count the game. they gave us different kinds of victules & made us eat in every lodge that we went in. they were verry friendly we returned to the fort. Capt. Clark had returned with the hunters. had not killed any Buffaloe for they are all back in the praries.

Gass

Monday 24th. Some snow fell this morning; about 10 it cleared up, and the weather became pleasant. This evening we finished our fortification. Flour, dried apples, pepper and other articles were distributed in the different messes to enable them to celebrate Christmas in a proper and social manner.

Ordway

Tuesday 25th Decr. 1804. cloudy. we fired the Swivels at day break & each man fired one round. our officers Gave the party a drink of Taffee. we had the Best to eat that could be had, & continued firing dancing & frolicking dureing the whole day. the Savages did not Trouble us as we had requested them not to come as it was a Great medician day with us. we enjoyed a merry cristmas dureing the day & evening untill nine oClock—all in peace & quietness.

Clark

*Fort Mandan on the N E bank
of the Missouries 1600 miles up Tuesday
January the 1st 1805*

The Day was ushered in by the Discharge of two Cannon, we Suffered 16 men [1] with their musick to visit the 1st Village for the purpose of Danceing, by as they Said the perticular request of the Chiefs of that village, about 11 oClock I with an inturpeter & two men walked up to the Village (my views were to

¹⁰ Identified as a Mandan hoop and pole game.

alay Some little miss understanding which had taken place thro jelloucy and mortificatiion as to our treatment towards them[]]

I found them much pleased at the Danceing of our men, I ordered my black Servent to Dance which amused the Croud verry much, and Some what astonished them, that So large a man Should be active &c. &...

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## Clark

16th *January Wednesday 1805*

...This war Chief gave us a Chart in his way of the Missourie, he informed us of his intentions of going to war in the Spring against the Snake Indians we advised him to look back at the number of nations who had been destroyed by war, and reflect upon what he was about to do, observing if he wished the hapiness of his nation, he would be at peace with all, by that by being at peace and haveing plenty of goods amongst them & a free intercourse with those defenceless nations, they would get on easy terms a great Number of horses, and that nation would increas, if he went to war against those Defenceless people, he would displese his great father, and he would not receive that pertection & Care from him as other nations who listened to his word— This Chief who is a young man 26 yr. old replied that if his going to war against the Snake indians would be displeasing to us be would not go, he had horses enough.

we observed that what we had Said was the words of his Great father, and what we had Spoken to all the nations which we Saw on our passage up, they all promis to open their ears and we do not know as yet if any of them has Shut them (we are doubtfull of the Souxs) if they do not attend to what we have told them their great father will open their ears— This Chief Said that he would advise all his nation to Stay at home untill we Saw the Snake Indians & Knew if they would be friendly, he himself would attend to what we had told him—

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Lewis

Fort Mandan April 7th 1805.

Having on this day at 4 P.M. completed every arrangement necessary for our departure, we dismissed the barge and crew with orders to return without loss of time to S. Louis, a small canoe with two French hunters accompanied the barge; these men had assended the missouri with us the last year as engages...

Our vessels consisted of six small canoes, and two large perogues. This little fleet altho' not quite so respectable as those of Columbus or Capt. Cook were still viewed by us with as much pleasure as those deservedly famed adventurers ever beheld theirs; and I dare say with quite as much anxiety for their safety and preservation. we were now about to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width, on which the foot of civillized man had never trodden; the good or evil it had in store for us was for experiment yet to determine, and these little vessells contained every article by which we were to expect to subsist or defend ourselves. however as this the state of mind in which we are, generally gives the colouring to events, when the immagination is suffered to wander into futurity, the picture which now presented itself to me was a most pleasing one. entertaing <now> as I do, the most confident hope of succeeding in a voyage which had formed a da[r]ling project of mine for the last ten years <of my life>, I could but esteem this moment of my <our> departure as among the most happy of my life. The party are in excellent health and sperits, zealously attatched to the enterprise, and anxious to proceed; not a whisper of murmur or discontent to be heard among them, but all act in unison, and with the most perfect harmony...

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## Lewis

Thursday May 2<sup>cd</sup> 1805

...every thing which is incomprehensible to the indians they call *big medicine*, and is the operation of the presents and power of the *great spirit*. this morning one of the men shot the indian dog that had followed us for several days, he would steal their cooked provision.

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Lewis

Thursday June 27th 1805.

...some Elk came near our camp and we killed 2 of them at 1 P. M. a cloud arose to the S. W. and shortly after came on attended with violent Thunder Lightning and hail &c. (see notes on diary of the weather for June). soon after this storm was over Drewyer [Drouillard] and J. Fields returned. they were about 4 miles above us during the storm, the hail was of no uncommon size where they were. They had killed 9 Elk and three bear during their absence; one of the bear was the largest by far that we have yet seen; the skin appear to me to be as large as a common ox. while hunting they saw a thick brushy bottom on the bank of the river where from the tracks along shore they suspected that there were bare [bears] concealed; they therefore landed without making any noise and climbed a leaning tree and placed themselves on it's branches about 20 feet above the ground, when thus securely fixed they gave a hoop and this large bear instantly rushed forward to the place from whence he had heard the human voice issue, when he arrived at the tree he made a short pause and Drewyer shot him in the head. it is worthy of remark that these bear never climb. the fore feet of this bear measured nine inches across and the hind feet eleven and $\frac{3}{4}$ in length & exclusive of the talons and seven inches in width. a bear came within thirty yards of our camp last night and eat up about thirty weight of buffaloe suit which was hanging on a pole. my dog seems to be in a constant state of alarm with these bear and keeps barking all night. soon after the storm this evening the water on this side of the river became of a deep crimson colour which I presume proceeded from some stream above and on this side. there is a kind of soft red stone in the bluffs and bottoms of the gullies in this neighbourhood which forms this colouring matter.— ...

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## Clark

*August 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday 1805*

a fair Cold morning wind S. W. the Thermometer at 42 a. 0 at Sunrise, We Set out at 7 o'clock and proceeded on to the forks I had not proceeded on one mile before I saw at a distance Several Indians on horsback Comeing towards me, The Intertreper & Squar who were before me at Some distance danced for the joyful Sight, and She made signs to me that they were her nation, as I aproached nearer them discovered one of Capt Lewis party With them dressed in their Dress; the met me with great Signs of joy, as the Canoes were proceeding on nearly opposit me I turned those people & Joined Capt Lewis who had Camped with 16 of those Snake Indians at the forks 2 miles in advance. those Indians Sung all the way to their Camp where the others had provd. a cind of Shade of Willows Stuck up in a Circle the Three Chiefs with Capt. Lewis met me with great cordialliaty embraced and took a Seat on a white robe, the Main Chief imedeately tied to my hair Six Small pieces of Shells resembling *perl* which is highly Valued by those people and is prcured from the nations resideing near the *Sea Coast*. we then Smoked in their fassion without Shoes and without much cerimoney and form.

Capt Lewis informed me he found those people on the *Columbia River* about 40 miles from the forks at that place there was a large camp of them, he had purswaded those with him to Come and See that what he said was the truth, they had been under great apprehension all the way, for fear of their being deceived. The Great Chief of this nation proved to be the brother of the Woman with us and is a man of Influence Sence & easey & reserved manners, appears to possess a great deel of Cincerity...

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Lewis

Saturday August 24th 1805.

...he told me that his nation had also given him another name by which he was signalized as a warrior which was Too-et'-te-con'-e or *black gun*. these people have many names in the course of their lives, particularly if they become distinguished characters. for it seems that every important event by which they happen to distinguish themselves intitles them to claim another name which is generally scelected by themselves and confirmed by the nation. those distinguishing acts are the killing and scalping an enemy, the killing a white bear, leading a party to war who happen to be successfull either in destroying their enemies or robing them of their horses, or individually stealing the horses of an enemy. these are considered acts of equal heroism among them, and that of killing an enemy without scalping him is considered of no importance; in fact the whole honour seems to be founded in the act of scalping, for if a man happens to slay a dozen of his enemies in action and others get the scalps or first lay their hand on the dead person the honor is lost to him who killed them and devolves on those who scalp or first touch them. Among the Shoshones, as well as all the Indians of America, bravery is esteemed the primary virtue; nor can any one become eminent among them who has not at some period of his life given proofs of his possessing this virtue. with them there can be no preferment without some warelike achievement, and so completely interwoven is this principle with the earliest Elements of thought that it will in my opinion prove a serious obstruction to the restoration of a general peace among the nations of the Missouri. while at Fort Mandan I was one day addressing some cheifs of the Minetares wo visited us and pointing out to them the advantages of a state of peace with their neighbours over that of war in which they were engaged. the Chiefs who had already geathered their havest of larals, and having forceably felt in many instances some of those inconveniences attending a state of war which I pointed out, readily agreed with me in opinion. a young fellow under the full impression of the Idea I have just suggested asked me if they were in a state of peace with all their neighbours what the nation would do for Cheifs?, and added that the cheifs were now oald and must shortly die and that the nation could not exist without cheifs. taking as granted that there could be no other mode devised for making Cheifs but that which custom had established through the medium of warlike achievements...

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Ordway

Thursday 29th August 1805. a clear pleasant morning. about 8 oClock A. M. a number of Indians arived here who had been gone along time from the nation one of them got Sculped [scalped] by some Indians in the prarie or plain he did not know what nation they belonged to. Some of their relations cried when they came in the village...

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Whitehouse

Thursday 29th August 1805. ...these Savages had nothing to give our men but Some of their berries. they got Some Salmon from the natives who Stayed on the River, but Suffered a great deal with hunger. the Natives tells us that we cannot find the ocean by going a west course for Some of them who are old men has been on that a Season or more to find the ocean but could not find it, and that their was troublesome tribes of Indians to pass. that they had no horses but would rob and Steal all they could and eat them as they had nothing as it were to eat. the country verry mountaineous and no game. these natives do not incline to Sell any more horses without guns in return as they say they must have one or the other for defence, as they could jump on their horses & ride off and carry their children &c. we told them they could not Spare any guns if we Should git no more horses So we put up the goods & make ready to Set out tomorrow on our way round the or between the mountains and Strike Columbian River below if possible. our hunters came in had caught 6 fish and killed one Deer.

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Ordway

Sunday 22nd Sept. 1805. a clear pleasant morning. and white frost. we were detained Some time a hunting our horses. about nine oClock at which time we Set out assended a Mountain and proceeded on came on a Small Smooth prarie or plain, and run came through it. we met Reuben fields who Capt. Clark Sent back to meet us, with a bag of Sammon and excelent root bread which they purchased from a nation of Indians who are Camped on a plain at the foot of the Mount. about 8 or 10 miles distance from this place— we halted about one hour and a half eat hearty of the Sammon and bread, and let our horses feed. then we proceeded on the two men who had been back to look for the lost horse overtook us they had found the horse and portmantaus, but had lost the horse they took with them. we proceeded on over a mountain and descended it down in to a valley which is Smooth and mostly handsome plains. Some groves of handsome tall large pitch pine timber about 3 miles further we came to a large Indian village of the flat head [Salish] nation they appeared very glad to see us ran meeting us with Some root bread which they gave us to eat. we Camped by a branch near the village. the natives gave us dried Sammon and different kinds of their food. Capt Clark joined us this evening and informed us that the[y] had been on a branch of the Columbia River where he expected it is navigable for canoes and only 15 or 20 miles from this place &C— these natives have a large quantity of this root bread which they call Commass. the roots grow in these plains. they have kills [kilns] engeaniously made where they Sweet these roots and make them Sweet and good to the taste—...

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Whitehouse

Wednesday 9th Oct. 1805... After it was dark some of the party began to play on a Violin and the others fell to a dancing, This pleased the Natives very much, & they seemed delighted at our manner of dancing, These Natives continued at our Camp all Night & one of the Women that were among them was taken with a Crazy fit. This Woman began with singing in the Indian language, and then gave all that was round her some roots, & all those who she offer'd them to, had to take them. One of our Men refused taking them from her, at which she grew Angry, and hove them in the fire, and took from her husband who stood near her, a sharp flint stone, and cut her Arms in many places, that the blood gushed out of them, she caught the blood & eat it, She then tore off some beads & pieces of Copper than hung about her neck, & gave all those round her, some of them; she still kept singing, & would at times make a hissing noise. She then ran round the whole of them, & went towards the River. her Relations followed her, & brought her back; when she fell into a fit, & remain'd Stiff & Speechless for some considerable time.— The Natives threw Water on her, & brought her too, & then [Clark] gave her some small Articles at which she seemed much pleased— ...

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Gass

[Nov. 1805] *Monday 4th.* A fine morning. We embarked early; passed two large islands, and a beautiful part of the river. The tide raised the water last night 2 feet. We went about 7 miles and came to a large Indian village, where they informed us that in two days we should come to two ships with white people in them. The Indians here have a great deal of new cloth among them, and other articles which they got from these ships. We got some dogs and roots from the natives. The roots are of a superior quality to any I had before seen: they are called whapto; resemble a potatoe when cooked, and are about as big as a hen egg. Game is more plenty here than up the river, and one of the men killed a deer this morning. At this camp of the natives they have 52 canoes, well calculated for riding waves. We proceeded on, and passed some handsome islands, and down a beautiful part of the river. We also passed a number of Indian lodges; and saw a great many swans, geese, ducks, cranes, and gulls. We went 28 miles and encamped on the north

side. In the evening we saw Mount Rainy¹¹ on the same side. It is a handsome point of a mountain, with little or no timber on it, very high, and a considerable distance off this place.

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### **Clark**

*November 9th Saturday 1805*

The tide of last night did not rise Sufficiently high to come into our camp, but the Canoes which was exposed to the mercy of the waves &c. which accompanied the returning tide, they all filled, and with great attention we Saved them untill the tide left them dry— wind Hard from the South and rained hard all the fore part of the day, at 2 oClock P M the flood tide came in accompanied with emence waves and heavy winds, floated the trees and Drift which was on the point on which we Camped and tosed them about in Such a manner as to endanger the Canoes verry much, with every exertion and the Strictest attention by every individual of the party was Scercely Sufficient to Save our Canoes from being crushed by those monsterous trees maney of them nearly 200 feet long and from 4 to 7 feet through. our camp entirely under water dureing the hight of the tide, every man as wet as water could make them all the last night and to day all day as the rain Continued all day, at 4 oClock P M the wind Shifted about to the S. W. and blew with great violence imediately from the Ocian for about two hours, notwithstanding the disagreeable Situation of our party all wet and Cold (and one which they have experienced for Several days past) they are chearfull and anxious to See further into the Ocian, The water of the river being too Salt to use we are obliged to make use of rain water— Some of the party not accustomed to Salt water has made too free a use of it on them it acts as pergitive...

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Gass

[Nov. 1805] *Sunday 16th.* This was a clear morning and the wind pretty high. We could see the waves, like small mountains, rolling out in the ocean, and pretty bad in the bay.

We are now at the end of our voyage, which has been completely accomplished according to the intention of the expedition, the object of which was to discover a passage by the way of the Missouri and Columbia rivers to the Pacifi oceanc; notwithstanding the difficulties, privations and dangers, which we had to encounter, endure and surmount...

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### **Whitehouse**

Tuesday Novemr. 19th [1805] A cloudy morning. Our hunters went out & killed 3 Deer this day, which they brought to our Camp. A number of Indians came to visit us at our Camp. They wore Robes made out of the Skins of swans, Squirrel skins, & some made out of beaver skins also— Some of these Indians Wore hats which they make out of white Cedar & bear Grass. They sold one of these Hatts to one of our party for an old Razor blade. These Indians are a handsome well looking set of People, and were far the lightest colour'd Natives that we had seen since we have been on our Voyage. Some of these Indians about 15 in number encamped near us, and staid during this night.—

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Clark

Christmas Wednesday 25th December 1805

¹¹ Journal editors: "Not Mt. Rainier, but the closer Mt. St. Helens in Skamania County, Washington." Mount Rainier is, however, correctly sighted by Clark at 25 Nov. 1805, and 6 April 1806.

...we would have Spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we any thing either to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites, our Diner concisted of pore Elk, So much Spoiled that we eate it thro' mear necessity, Some Spoiled pounded fish and a fiew roots.

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## Lewis

*Fort Clatsop 1806*

*January 1st Tuesday.* [Wednesday]

This morning I was awoke at an early hour by the discharge of a volley of small arms, which were fired by our party in front of our quarters to usher in the new year; this was the only mark of respect which we had it in our power to pay this celebrated day. our repast of this day tho' better than that of Christmass, consisted principally in the anticipation of the 1st day of January 1807, when in the bosom of our friends we hope to participate in the mirth and hilarity of the day, and when the zest given by the recollection of the present, we shall completely, both mentally and corporally, enjoy the repast which the hand of civilization has prepared for us. at present we were content with eating our boiled Elk and wappetoe, and solacing our thirst with our only beverage *pure water*. two of our hunters who set out this morning reterned in the evening having killed two bucks elk; they presented Capt. Clark and myself each a marrow-bone and tonge, <each> on which we suped...— our fourtification being now completed we issued an order for the more exact and uniform dicipline and government of the garrison. (see orderly book 1st January 1806).—

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Lewis

Tuesday [NB: Monday] January 13th 1806.

This morning I took all the men who could be spared from the Fort and set out in quest of the flesh of the seven Elk that were killed yesterday, we found it in good order being untouched by the wolves, of which indeed there are but few in this country; at 1 P. M. we returned having gotten all the meat to the fort. this evening we exhausted the last four candles, but fortunately had taken the precaution to bring with us moulds and wick, by means of which and some Elk's tallow in our possession we do not yet consider ourselves destitute of this necessary article; the Elk we have killed have a very small portion of tallow...

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## Lewis

*Saturday [NB: Friday] January 17th 1806*

This morning we were visited by Comowool and 7 of the Clatsops our nearest neighbours, who left us again in the evening. They brought with them some roots and buries for sale, of which however they disposed of but very few as they asked for them such prices as our stock in trade would not license us in giving. the Chief Comowool gave us some roots and buries for which we gave him in return a mockerson awl and some thread; the latter he wished for the purpose of making a skimming net. one of the party was dressed in t[h]ree very eligant Sea Otter skins which we much wanted; for these we offered him many articles but he would not dispose of them for any other consideration but blue beads, of these we had only six fathoms left, which being 4 less than his price for each skin he would not exchange nor would a knife or an equivalent in beads of any other colour answer his purposes, these coarse blue beads are their f[av]orite merchandiz, and are called by them tia *Commáshuck*' or Chiefs beads. the best wampum is not so much esteemed by them as the most inferior beads...

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Gass

[Jan.] *Friday 24th.* At daylight some snow fell, and there were several snow showers during the day. In the afternoon two of the hunters and some of the natives came to the fort in an Indian canoe with the meat of two deer and an elk they had killed. The Indians were barefooted notwithstanding the snow on the ground; and the evening was so bad we permitted them to stay in the fort all night.

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Lewis

Sunday February 2nd 1806.

Not any occurrence today worthy of notice; but all are pleased, that one month of the time which binds us to Fort Clatsop and which separates us from our friends has now elapsed. one of the games of amusement and wrisk of the Indians of this neighbourhood like that of the Sosones consists in hiding in the hand some small article about the size of a bean; this they throw from one hand to the other with great dexterity accompanying their operations with a particular song which seems to have been adapted to the game; when the individual who holds the peice has amused himself sufficiently by exchanging it from one hand to the other, he hold out his hands for his competitors to guess which hand contains the peice; if they hit on the ha[n]d which contains the peice they win the wager otherwise loose. the individual who holds the peice is a kind of banker and plays for the time being against all the others in the room; when he has lost all the property which he has to venture, or thinks proper at any time, he transfers the peice to some other who then also becoms banker. The Sosone and Minnetares &c have a game of a singular kind but those divide themselves in two parties and play for a common wager to which each individual contributes to form the stock of his party. one of them holdes the peice and some one of the opposite party gesses which hand contains if he hits on the ha[n]d which contains it the peice is tranferred to the opposite party and the victor counts one, if he misses the party still retain the peice and score one but the individual transfers the peice to some other of his own party; the game is set to any number they think proper, and like the naives of this quarter they always accompany their operations with a particular song. the natives here have also another game which consists in bowling some small round peices about the size of Bacgammon¹² men, between two small upright sticks placed a few inches asunder, but the principals of the game I have not learn not understanding their language sufficiently to obtain an explanation. their boys amuse themselves with their bows and arrows as those do of every Indian nation with which I am acquainted. these people are excessively fond of their games of risk and bet freely every species of property of which they are possessed. They have a smal dog which the[y] make usefull only in hunting the Elk

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Clark

Friday February 7th 1806

...The *Small Pox* had distroyed a great number of the nativs in this quarter. it provailed about 4 or 5 yrs Sinc among the Clatsops, and distroy'd Several hundreds of them, four of their Chiefs fell a victym to it's ravages. these Clatsops are Deposited in their Canoes on the bay a fiew miles below us. I think the late ravages of the Small Pox, may well account for the number of remains of villages which I Saw on my rout to the Kil a mox in Several places—.

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Lewis

Sunday February 16th 1806.

¹² Members of the expedition themselves in spare hours played Backgammon.

...The Indian dog is usually small or much more so than the common cur. they are party coloured; black white brown and brindle are the most usual colours. the head is long and nose pointed eyes small, ears erect and pointed like those of the wolf, hair short and smooth except on the tail where it is as long as that of the curdog and streight. the natives do not eat them nor appear to make any other use of them but in hunting the Elk as has been before observed.—...

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## **Lewis**

*Thursday March 20th 1806.*

It continued to rain and blow so violently today that nothing could be done towards forwarding our departure. we intended to have Dispatched Drewyer and the two Fieldses to hunt near the bay on this side of the Cathlahmahs untill we jounded them from hence, but the rain rendered our departure so uncertain that we declined this measure for the present. nothing remarkable happened during the day. we have yet several days provision on hand, which we hope will be sufficient to subsist us during the time we are compelled by the weather to remain at this place.—

Altho' we have not fared sumptuously this winter and spring at Fort Clatsop, we have lived quite as comfortably as we had any reason to expect we should; and have accomplished every object which induced our remaining at this place except that of meeting with the traders who visit the entrance of this river. our salt will be very sufficient to last us to the Missouri where we have a stock in store.— it would have been very fortunate for us had some of those traders arrived previous to our departure from hence, as we should then have had it our power to obtain an addition to our stock of merchandize which would have made our homeward bound journey much more comfortable. many of our men are still complaining of being unwell; Willard and Bratton remain weak, principally I beleive for the want of proper food. I expect when we get under way we shall be much more healthy. it has always had that effect on us heretofore. The guns of Drewyer and Sergt. Pryor were both out of order. the first was repaired with a new lock, the old one having become unfit for uce; the second had the cock screw broken which was replaced by a duplicate which had been prepared for the lock at Harpers ferry where she was manufactured. but for the precaution taken in bringing on those extra locks, and parts of locks, in addition to the ingenuity of John Shields, most of our guns would at this moment been untirely unfit for use; but fortunately for us I have it in my power here to record that they are all in good order.

---

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