

Iron Wills and Men of Leather The story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition By DAVID C. HINZE

Proceeding On

Clark's journal ends many times with the simple entry, "We proceed on." This journal note describes the next portion of the Corps of Discovery's trip up the Missouri River.

They camped two days in late May at the Gasconade River. Hunters fanned out across the landscape and returned heavily laden with deer and waterfowl.

George Shannon, a superb hunter, but weak on his directions, became lost and the red pigroque remained behind to wait for him. A day late he finally arrived at the river.

The first three days of June found the Corps at the confluence of the Osage and the Missouri Rivers, named after the Indians who once inhabited the area.

The two captains began to fulfill the scientific aspect of their journey. The width of the rivers were noted and the two men stayed awake all night making notes regarding the latitude and longitude of the key points on the river by using the stars as their guide.

The three sergeants were required to keep a journal as well as the captains. Kentuckian Sergeant Floyd noted in his diary, "The Land is Good."

Sergeant Ordway's journal referred to the landscape of central Missouri noting, "This is a beautiful Country of land." Tragedy nearly struck the command again. Clark decided to climb a 100-foot hill containing two Indian mounds and a cave.

At the summit Clark looked out over miles of the Missouri River valley when all of sudden his footing gave way and he began to plummet over the side.

Amazingly he duplicated Lewis' actions at Tavern Cave a few days before and stuck his knife into the side of the bank and stopped his fall.

Once again, no one else in the crew, except Lewis, knew about the second brush with death by the leadership.

The expedition sailed upstream 22 miles from the Osage River. Clark decided to walk on shore when he began climbing a series of chalk-white limestone bluffs towering above the river and Clark reported being able to see thirty miles upstream.

The next day the men stumbled upon an Indian petroglyph or inscription on the rocky bluffs. Clark sketched the "Manitou" or spirit depicting the head and shoulders of a man topped with deer antlers. Sergeant Ordway simply described it as, "A picture of the Devil."

The men camped for the night near present day Booneville, Missouri at Bonne Femme Creek to repair a broken mast on the keelboat. Hunters departed and replenished the crew's larder.

Slowly, the men began to understand their roles, and the expedition was beginning to establish a routine that would serve it well into late October.

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SUNDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for Dec 14, 2003. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and program titles like 'Die Hard 2', 'Swordfish', 'Demolition Man', 'L.A. Confidential', etc.

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