

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

Teton Confrontation (continued)

The difficult confrontation with the Sioux on Sept. 25 had provided Lewis and Clark with one of their most challenging days on the river.

Neither knew what sunrise would hold for the Corps of Discovery. On Wednesday both sides reduced the tensions.

Black Buffalo of the Teton Sioux asked the captains if they would allow women and children on the keelboat while one of the captains visited the village.

Sgt. John Ordway wrote: "Their lodge (village) is very handsome in a circle about 100 cabins in number." Sgt. Gass estimated the village's population at near 900 people.

That evening the Sioux planned to put on a military show and feast for the Americans. The men agreed to stay the night and were carried into the village on white buffalo robes.

During the celebration Lewis noticed there were many Omaha captives in the village. Black Buffalo brushed aside Lewis' request they be freed.

The Corps continued feasting dining and smoked sacred pipes. The meeting ended near midnight with the chiefs spending another night on the keelboat.

Lewis & Clark remained one more day with the Teton Sioux. On Friday morning the expedition made plans to cast off for the Mandan country.

Clark conferred with Black Buffalo one more time in the keelboat's cabin when three of the partisan men grabbed the bowline. Black Buffalo intervened and declared all they wanted was tobacco.

The confrontation grew more hostile and heated words were exchanged. In the end it was chief Black Buffalo who engineered the compromise that allowed the expedition to advance.

A month later, safe with the Mandan's, both captains wrote harshly of the encounter. Their diplomacy had failed miserably. The men recognized the Sioux were still a barrier to trade on the Missouri.

Eventually the Sioux would come under American influence, but it would be many years and more difficult encounters such as those experienced by the Corps of Discovery in September 1804.

Dave Hinze is a professional historian and tour guide. He leads tours and presents at conferences on Lewis & Clark, and other topics pertaining to early American history, for the American History Education Association. For information about this series or one of AHEA's many history tours you can contact Hinze at 1-800-298-1861 or AHEA2004@yahoo.com

The glory of friendship is not the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile nor the joy of companionship; it is the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that another else believes in him and is willing to trust him.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

THURSDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (6:00-5:30) and rows for various channels (WBNS, FOX40, FOX, KOBI, ESPN, KSVI, TBN, LIFE, KTVL, NICK, KOPV, USA, ABE, SHOW2, SHOW, MAX, ESPCL, TRAV, AMC, TNT, DISN, SCIPI, DISC, ANPL, COM, CRT).

FRIDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (6:00-5:30) and rows for various channels (WBNS, FOX40, FOX, KOBI, ESPN, KSVI, TBN, LIFE, KTVL, NICK, KOPV, USA, ABE, SHOW2, SHOW, MAX, ESPCL, TRAV, AMC, TNT, DISN, SCIPI, DISC, ANPL, COM, CRT).

SATURDAY MORNING/AFTERNOON TV schedule grid with columns for time slots (6:00-5:30) and rows for various channels (WBNS, FOX40, FOX, KOBI, ESPN, KSVI, TBN, LIFE, KTVL, NICK, KOPV, USA, ABE, SHOW2, SHOW, MAX, ESPCL, TRAV, AMC, TNT, DISN, SCIPI, DISC, ANPL, COM, CRT).

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