Lewis and Clark—Indiana Connections

William Clark

Meriwether Lewis

Vincennes

Clarksville

Louisville

Falls of the Ohio

The Indiana Historian A Magazine Exploring Indiana History
Focus

As the marker here indicates, the state of Indiana has an important, recognized connection to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. That connection is being reinforced with a National Signature Event in Clarksville in October 2003.

There is more to it than that, however. What many people forget is that until the party left its winter camp in May 1804, it remained in Indiana Territory, governed from Vincennes by William Henry Harrison. Harrison and Vincennes were an important juncture for contact between the party and President Thomas Jefferson.

Some core members of the expedition party—the so-called “nine young men from Kentucky”—left with the party from the Falls of the Ohio, which referred to both Kentucky and Indiana Territory across the Ohio River. The lives of these men—and their roles on the expedition—are briefly reviewed in the chart on pages 12-13. Some of these men had personal, military, and/or family connections with each other and with Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who trusted them for this mission. Lewis, Clark, Harrison, and Jefferson had close ties and confidence in each other through military experience, family and other networks, and their visions for the future of the new United States. These connections helped make the expedition succeed and helped advance Jefferson’s vision during and after the expedition.

The specific focus of this issue of The Indiana Historian is Indiana connections. The organizing unit is a timeline occupying pages 3-11. Also on these pages are maps, biographical sketches, excerpts from letters, and newspaper articles which enlarge upon the timeline. Blue dates on the timeline indicate that items are included specifically related to the timeline entry.

Timeline references and other selected materials are intended to enhance an understanding of the importance of the Falls of the Ohio area at the start and its part at the end of the expedition. They are also intended to indicate the involvement of Governor Harrison and Indiana Territory—including the area that is now the State of Indiana—with the expedition.

The essay on page 14 provides a brief overview of the context of the expedition, especially with regard to the American Indians and Jefferson’s vision.

There are extraordinary primary resources on the expedition, including Moulton’s thirteen volumes of the journals and Jackson’s two volumes of the letters of the expedition. Holmberg’s recent volume of letters from William Clark to his brother Jonathan provides additional valuable insights. The Resources section on page 15 indicates many of the basic sources documenting the expedition and its importance in United States and world history.

Indiana’s citizens should take pride in the role that Indiana and Indiana’s men played in this monumental event.
Background—
July 4, 1776 through October 1, 1800

July 4, 1776. British colonies in North America declare independence.


December 4, 1783. (Annapolis, Md.). Thomas Jefferson writes to George Rogers Clark asking if he is interested in leading an expedition to explore the West (Jackson, 2: 654-55).

February 8, 1784. (Richmond, Va.). George Rogers Clark declines to lead western exploration but offers some advice (Jackson, 2: 655-56).

Summer 1786. Jefferson encourages John Ledyard’s plan to travel across Russia to Siberia, cross the Bering Strait to North America, and return to Washington. Ledyard does not succeed (Ambrose, 69).

July 13, 1787. Northwest Ordinance establishes and provides system of government for Northwest Territory.

1793. Jefferson and the American Philosophical Society sponsor French botanist, André Michaux, to find a convenient route to the Pacific Ocean. Michaux is found to be a spy and is called back to France (Ambrose, 70-71).

May 7, 1800. Congress splits Northwest Territory into two territories: Indiana Territory and Northwest Territory.

May 13, 1800. William Henry Harrison is appointed governor of Indiana Territory.

October 1, 1800. Napoleon’s secret treaty with Spain returns the territory of Louisiana to France.

September 3, 1783. After the American Revolution, the United States was surrounded by foreign territory, Spanish to the west and British to the north. Thomas Jefferson had continuing concerns about the security of the U.S. from foreign aggression, which helped to guide his vision and his actions before and during his presidency.

February 8, 1784. George Rogers Clark to Thomas Jefferson “Your proposition respecting a tour to the west and North west of the Continent would be Extreamly agreable to me could I afford it . . . . It is what I think we ought to do. . . . Large parties [however] will . . . . allarm the Indian Nations they pass through. Three or four young Men well qualified for the Task might perhaps compleat your wishes at a very Trifling Expence” (Jackson, 2: 655-56).

In 1779, Clark led the successful campaign against the British at Fort Sackville (Vincennes). He helped settle the site of Louisville (1778) and established Clarksville (1784) at the Falls of the Ohio.
March 4, 1801. Jefferson is inaugurated President of the United States.

1801. Alexander Mackenzie’s Voyages from Montreal . . . to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans: In the Years 1789 and 1793 is published in London. He urges Great Britain to find suitable passage to the Pacific Ocean and to extend its fur trade into the northwestern interior (Ambrose, 74-75).

December 12, 1802. (Falls of the Ohio). George Rogers Clark writes Jefferson promoting his brother William for service to the government (Jackson, 1: 7-8).

January 18, 1803. Jefferson submits a confidential request to Congress for $2,500 to explore the Missouri and the way to the Pacific Ocean to expand fur trade and geographical knowledge of the continent (Jackson, 1: 10-14).

February 28, 1803. Congress approves Jefferson’s request for money to explore the West (Jackson, 1: 14).

February 28, 1803. Jefferson writes to Benjamin Rush describing the expedition and naming Meriwether Lewis as leader. He asks Rush, a prominent physician, to help prepare Lewis for the trip (Jackson, 1: 18-19).

William Henry Harrison
William Henry Harrison was born in Virginia in 1773. He joined the U.S. Army in 1791, served with General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794), and was present at signing of Treaty of Greenville (1795). From Vincennes, he served as governor of Indiana Territory from 1800-1812, negotiating treaties with Indian tribes for millions of acres of land. Harrison commanded the U.S. Army in the Northwest during the War of 1812, defeating the British at the Battle of the Thames. He served in both houses of the U.S. Congress representing Ohio. He was elected President of the U.S. in 1839 but died of pneumonia one month after his inauguration in 1840.

Meriwether Lewis
Meriwether Lewis was born in Virginia in 1774. At age 18, he was managing his plantation in Virginia. He joined the militia in 1794 and the U.S. Army in 1795. Lewis served with General Anthony Wayne and was present at the signing of the Treaty of Greenville (1795). He served in a rifle company commanded by Captain William Clark. Lewis was promoted to captain in 1800, and, in 1801, President Thomas Jefferson asked him to serve as his private secretary in Washington. Jefferson appointed Lewis to head the expedition to the Northwest in 1803. Lewis was appointed governor of the Louisiana Territory in 1807. He committed suicide in 1809 leaving the journals of the expedition unpublished (Ambrose, 19, 21, 29, 37, 42, 45, 50, 59, 80, 415, 465, 467).

February 28, 1803.
Thomas Jefferson to Benjamin Rush
“I wish to mention to you in confidence that I have obtained authority from Congress to undertake the long desired object of exploring the Missouri & whatever river, heading with that, leads into the Western ocean. About 10. chosen woodsmen headed by Capt. Lewis my secretary, will set out on it immediately & probably accomplish it in two seasons. Capt. Lewis is brave, prudent, habituated to the woods, & familiar with Indian manners & character. . . . It would be very useful to state for him those objects on which it is most desirable he should bring us information. For this purpose I ask the favor of you to prepare some notes of such particulars as may occur in his journey & which you think should draw his attention & enquiry” (Jackson, 1:18-19).
Expedition Preparation—April 20, 1803 through July 24, 1803

April 20, 1803. (Lancaster, Pa.). Lewis updates Jefferson on preparations for the trip—plans for recruiting men, the purchase of boats, obtaining weapons (Jackson, 1: 37-41).

April 27, 1803. Jefferson writes Lewis enclosing a rough draft of instructions for Lewis to consider and suggest changes (Jackson, 1: 44).

April 30, 1803. United States purchases territory of Louisiana from France for approximately $15 million.


June 19, 1803. (Washington). Lewis writes to his longtime friend William Clark giving him an overview of the expedition to the West and its objectives; he invites Clark to join him with equal pay and rank (Jackson, 1: 57-60).

June 20, 1803. Jefferson drafts written orders for Lewis to follow after the expedition leaves U.S. territory (Jackson, 1: 61-66).

July 15, 1803. (Pittsburgh). Lewis informs Jefferson that he has arrived in Pittsburgh and that all is well (Jackson, 1: 110).

July 18, 1803. (Clarksville). William Clark writes Lewis accepting his invitation to join the expedition to the West (Jackson, 1: 110-11). See August 28, 1803 letter p. 6.

July 24, 1803. (Louisville). Clark writes Lewis re-affirming his acceptance of Lewis’ invitation and informs Lewis that he has engaged some possible recruits for the trip (Jackson, 1: 112-13).

William Clark
William Clark was born in Virginia in 1770, the younger brother of General George Rogers Clark. In 1785, his family settled in Jefferson County, Kentucky. In 1792, Clark was appointed second lieutenant in the U.S. Army; he served under General Anthony Wayne and participated in the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794). He was the captain of a rifle company in which Meriwether Lewis served. Clark resigned from the army in 1796 to focus on family affairs. In 1803, Lewis invited him to help lead the expedition to the Northwest. In 1807, Clark was appointed chief Indian agent and brigadier general of the militia for Louisiana Territory. He served as governor of Louisiana Territory. He died at St. Louis in 1838 (Holmberg, Brother, xxvii-xxx; Ambrose, 45).

June 19, 1803. Meriwether Lewis to William Clark

“From the long and uninterrupted friendship and confidence which has subsisted between us I feel no hesitation in making to you the following communication under the fullest impression that it will be held by you inviolably secret . . . .

During the last session of Congress a law was passed in conformity to a private message of the President . . . . to give the sanction of the government to exploring the interior of the continent of North America, or that part of it bordering on the Missouri & Columbia Rivers. This enterprise has been confided to me by the President . . . . I will now give you a short sketch of my plan of operation: I shall embark at Pittsburgh . . . when descending the Ohio it shall be my duty by enquiry to find out and engage some good hunters, stout, healthy, unmarried men, accustomed to the woods, and capable of bearing bodily fatigue in a pretty considerable degree: should any young men answering this description be found in your neighborhood . . . learn the probability of their engaging in this service . . . .

. . . If therefore there is anything under those circumstances, in this enterprise, which would induce you to participate with me in it’s fatigues, it’s dangers and it’s honors, believe me there is no man on earth with whom I should feel equal pleasure in sharing them as with yourself; I make this communication to you with the privity of the President, who expresses an anxious wish that you would consent to join me in this enterprise” (Jackson, 1: 57-60).

July 18, 1803. William Clark to Meriwether Lewis

“I received by yesterdays Mail, your letter of the 19th . . . . The enterprise &c. is Such as I have long anticipated and am much pleased with—and as my situation in life will admit of my absence the length of time necessary to accomplish such an undertaking I will cheerfully join you in an ‘official Charrector’ as mentioned in your letter, and partake of the dangers, difficulties, and fatigues, and I anticipate the honors & rewards of the result of such an enterprise, should we be successful in accomplishing it. . . . My friend I do assure you that no man lives whith whom I would perfur to undertake Such a Trip &c. as your self” (Jackson, 1: 110-11).
Expedition Preparation Continues—August 3, 1803 through September 11, 1803

**August 3, 1803.** (Pittsburgh). Lewis informs Clark that he has received Clark’s letters agreeing to accompany him; as soon as his boat is completed, he will set off for the Falls area. Lewis indicates that John Conner in February 1803 offered to go on the expedition as interpreter. Conner had not answered Lewis’ letter of acceptance. He asks Clark to contact Conner. He announces that the treaty for purchase of the territory of Louisiana was received in Washington July 14 (Jackson, 1: 115-17). See John Conner this page.

**August 21, 1803.** (Louisville). Clark writes to Lewis that he has “engaged . . . the best woodsmen & Hunters . . . in this part of the Countrey . . . .” He agrees to write to Conner (Jackson, 1: 117-18).

**August 26, 1803.** (Falls of the Ohio). Clark writes to Jefferson describing the departure from Pittsburgh and the trip down the Ohio River to Wheeling (Jackson, 1: 121-23). See September 1, 1803 Lewis Journal this page.

**September 11, 1803.**

**William Clark to Meriwether Lewis**

“Agreeable to your wish I sent an express to the Delaware Towns on White River . . . . Connor has a very large assortment of goods on hand and cant accompany us . . . . He says that if he had “nothing to do at the present time I would not oblige him for the sum I offered him (300) pr. & should not think himself too much recompensed for 5000$ even if he was able to leave his home” (Jackson, 1: 123).
Expedition Begins—
September 28, 1803 through December 5, 1803

September 28, 1803. (Cincinnati). Lewis writes Clark that his trip to Cincinnati was difficult. Two young men with him may be likely recruits for the expedition (Jackson, 1: 124-26).

October 14, 1803. Lewis arrives at Louisville (Holmberg, Timeline).

October 15, 1803. Lewis’ boat passes through the Falls of the Ohio. James Patten, from Clarksville, is a possible pilot (Holmberg, Timeline; Holmberg, Brother, 137). See items this page.

October 24, 1803. Jonathan Clark spends night in Clarksville with brother William (Holmberg, Timeline).

October 26, 1803. (Clarksville). Captains Lewis and Clark, the “nine young men,” Clark’s slave York, and others leave on the expedition (Holmberg, Timeline; Moulton, 2: 59).

November 11, 1803. Lewis’ Journal: Expedition party reaches Fort Massac, Indiana Territory (Moulton, 2: 85).

November 13, 1803. (Vincennes). In answer to a request from Clark, Harrison sends a copy of a map of the Missouri River and the Mandan country (Jackson, 1: 135-36).

November 28, 1803. (Vincennes). In answer to a request from Clark, Harrison sends a copy of a map of the Missouri River and the Mandan country (Jackson, 1: 135-36).

By September 24, 1803, there was a law of the Indiana Territory authorizing the Governor to appoint qualified pilots to guide boats through the Falls of the Ohio. Note the boat route on the Falls map above and the experience below. Indiana pilot Davis Floyd was the brother of Charles Floyd. Pilot James Patten was Nathaniel Pryor’s father-in-law. Either of these pilots could have guided Lewis’ boat through the Falls. Charles Floyd and Pryor were first cousins and two of the “nine young men” of the expedition (Philbrick, 63-64; Holmberg, Brother, 137, 159).


November 28, 1803. Lewis’ Journal: Lewis leaves Clark in charge of the boat. He leaves December 5 on horseback for St. Louis to meet with the Spanish commandant (Moulton, 2: 117-18).

December 5, 1803. Clark’s Journal: Clark and party land near Bellefontaine, Indiana Territory to pick up additional provisions (Moulton, 2: 125-26).

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October 18, 1803. Thomas Rodney’s 1803 Journal from Delaware to the Mississippi Territory

“I went with the batteau, with the pilot Patton and a steersman and Buckanan, through the Falls [of the Ohio]. We hung a minute on a rock above the brig and struck twice after but went through safe . . . .

I must now say a few words more about the Falls. They are a terrible place to pass through when the water is as low as now. For the first time I had a dread of wrecking our boat. The rocks are so craggy, the channil so crooked, and the water so furious and rapid that it requires the utmost care and dexterity to avoid the danger. There are several islands in the Falls and a large island and several sand bars below and riffles for 2 miles below, so that indeed there is 4 miles of rapid[s] and difficulty; but the pilot only conducted us the first two and we came safe over the others” (Smith and Swick,124-25).
Expedition Continues—December 7, 1803 through May 21, 1804

May 14, 1804. Clark Journal
“Set out from Camp River a Dubois at 4 oClock P. M. and proceeded up the Missouris under Sail to the first Island in the Missouri and Camped on the upper point opposit a Creek on the South Side below a ledge of limestone rock Called Colewater, made 4 1/2 miles, the Party Consisted of 2, Self one frenchman and 22 Men in the Boat of 20 ores, 1 Serjt. & 7 french in a large Perogue, a Corp and 6 Soldiers in a large Perogue. a Cloudy rainey day. wind from the N E. men in high Spirits” (Moulton, 2: 227).

June 3, 1804. Amos Stoddard to Henry Dearborn
“Captain Lewis, with his party, began to ascend the Missouri from the village of St. Charles on the 21 Ultimo. . . . [He] began his expedition with a Barge of 18 oars, attended by two large perogues; all of which were deeply laden, and well manned. I have heard from him about 60 miles on his route, and it appears, that he proceeds about 15 miles per day—a celerity seldom witnessed on the Missouri; and this is the more extraordinary as the time required to ascertain the courses of the river and to make other necessary observations, must considerably retard his progress. His men possess great resolution and they [are in the best] health and spirits” (Jackson, 1: 196). Note: Stoddard was civil and military commandant of Upper Louisiana. He assisted with preparations for the expedition; several of his men went on the expedition (Moulton, 2: 145n).

December 7, 1803. Clark’s Journal: Clark and party arrive at the landing at Cahokia, Indiana Territory (Moulton, 2: 127-28).

December 12, 1803. Clark’s Journal: Clark and party land in Indiana Territory across from the mouth of the Missouri River. On the south bank of the Wood River, Clark establishes the winter camp for the expedition, called Camp Dubois (Moulton, 2: 131-32). See map this page.

March 10, 1804. At St. Louis, France transferred Upper Louisiana to the U.S. Captains Lewis and Clark likely attended the event (Moulton, 2: 174).

March 26, 1804. Secretary of War Henry Dearborn writes to Lewis to inform him that Clark’s military appointment can be no higher than lieutenant but his compensation will be the same as Lewis’ (Jackson, 1: 172-73).

May 6, 1804. (St. Louis). Lewis sends Clark his commission as lieutenant and suggests that they let no one know that Clark is not a captain, the rank held by Lewis (Jackson, 1: 179-80).

May 14, 1804. (St. Louis). Lewis sends Clark his commission as lieutenant and suggests that they let no one know that Clark is not a captain, the rank held by Lewis (Jackson, 1: 179-80).

May 14, 1804. Clark’s Journal: Clark and the party of 38 men set off from Camp Dubois, Indiana Territory up the Missouri River (Moulton, 2: 227).

May 21, 1804. Clark writes to his brother-in-law in Kentucky that Lewis has finally joined the party at St. Charles after being detained in St. Louis with arrangements to send Osage chiefs to Washington. They continue up the Missouri immediately, heading for winter camp at Fort Mandan (Jackson, 1: 195-96). See June 3, 1804 letter this page.
Expedition Continues—
October 1, 1804 through August 9, 1805

October 1, 1804. Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory, is also named administrator of the District of Louisiana (Clain, Reel 1, p. lxxxvii).

October 2, 1804. Harrison leaves Vincennes for St. Louis to set up a new government in the District of Louisiana (Clain, Reel 1, p. lxxxvii).

April 7, 1805. (Fort Mandan). Small party is sent back to St. Louis with specimens for Jefferson, letters and gifts, and Indian chiefs to visit Washington; Clark included letters to his brother and Harrison (Moulton, 3: 327-32). See other items this page.

May 22, 1805. (St. Louis). Pierre Chouteau writes to Harrison requesting instructions for conducting the Indian chiefs from Fort Mandan on to Washington (Jackson, 1: 242-44).

May 27, 1805. (Vincennes). Harrison writes back to Chouteau agreeing that the Indians’ trip to Washington should be postponed, if the Indian chiefs agree, until cooler weather arrives (Jackson, 1: 247-48).

May 27, 1805. Harrison writes Secretary of War Dearborn to inform him of the possible travel of Indian chiefs to Washington. Harrison also relays that Clark has sent him a letter saying that all is well (Jackson, 1: 246-47).

July 4, 1805. District of Louisiana made a separate territory; General James Wilkinson is named governor (Clain, Reel 2, p. xlili).

August 9, 1805. Zebulon Pike, commissioned by Wilkinson, begins expedition to explore the source of the Mississippi River, which was another of Jefferson’s priorities.

April 2, 1805. William Clark to William Henry Harrison
“By the return of a party which we send from this place with dispatches, I do myself the pleasure of giving you a summary view of the Missouri, &c.

... The country on both sides of the Missouri ... has ... extensive fertile plains, with but very little timber, and that little principally confined to the river bottoms and streams. ... this country abounds in a great variety of wild animals but a few of which the Indians take, many of those animals are uncommon in the U. States, such as white, red and grey bears, long ear’d male or black tailed deer (black at the end of the tail only) large hare, antelope or goat, the red fox, the ground prairie dog, (burrows in the ground) the braroca, which has a head like a dog, and the size of a small dog, the white brant, magpye, calumet eagle, &c and many other are said to inhabit the rocky mountains” (Jackson, 1: 227-30).

April 2, 1805. William Clark to Jonathan Clark.
“I send to you three Boxes containing the following articles viz: 1 Shirt worn by the mandan Indian women . . . made of the Skins of the Antelope or goat, 1 pr. Chiefs mockersons with white Buffalow Skin tops (a white buffalow Skin Sels in this Country for about fifteen horses) 2 pr. of Summer & 1 pr. of winter mockersons Com all of Buffalow Skin, The Skin & horns of an Antelope or goat . . . 1 pr. of Mandan legins of the Antelope Skins, The Skins of 2 Burrowing Dogs or barking Squiresl . . . . The Skin of a Brarow, which burrows in the grown 2 white har Skins . . . . Some Specimens of the Corn of this Country . . . . Ricara Tobacco Seed, the flour, leaves & Stems of which they Smoke. . . .

3 horns of the mountain Ram all Small one a faun . . . much prized by the Indians [one for Govr. Harrison] a parchment Case Dressed and used by the mandans to carry their valuable articles in . . . 1 Skin of a Red fox . . . . a Specimen of Indian artachokes common in the plains . . . 1 Small pot in the Mandan fashion. 1 Spoon of the horn of the mountain Ram” (Holmberg, Brother, 84-86).
Expedition Returns—
September 23, 1806 through October 30, 1806

September 23, 1806.
Lewis to Jefferson
“It is with pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of myself and party at 12 O’Clock today at this place [St. Louis] with our papers and baggage. In obedience to your orders we have penetrated the Continent of North America to the Pacific Ocean, and sufficiently explored the interior of the country to affirm with confidence that we have discovered the most practicable route which does exist across the continent by means of the navigable branches of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers. . . .

We view this passage . . . affording immense advantages to the fur trade. . . .

With respect to the exertions and services rendered by that esteemable man Capt. William Clark in the course of late voyage I cannot say too much; if sir any credit be due for the success of that arduous enterprise in which we have been mutually engaged, he is equally with myself entitled to your consideration and that of our common country. . . .

The rout by which I purpose traveling from hence to Washington is by way of Cahokia, Vincennes, Louisvill Ky. [etc.]” (Jackson, 1: 319-25).

September 23, 1806.
Clark’s Journal
“descended to the Mississippi and down that river to St. Louis at which place we arrived about 12 o’Clock. we suffered the party to fire off their pieces as a Salute to the Town. we were met by all the village and received a harty welcom from it’s inhabitants &c. . . as the post had departed from St. Louis Capt Lewis wrote a note to Mr. Hay in Kahoka to detain the post at that place untill 12 tomorrow” (Moulton, 8: 370-71).

September 24, 1806.
(St. Louis).
Clark’s Journal: Clark writes to his brother Jonathan informing him that the expedition has returned to St. Louis and describing part of the journey (Jackson, 1: 325-30).

September 24, 1806.
(St. Louis).
Clark writes to his brother Jonathan giving possible time of arrival in Louisville by way of Vincennes and giving permission for his letter of September 23 to be published in the newspapers (Holmberg, Brother, 115-18). See p. 11, October 9, 1806 item.

October 10, 1806.
William Bratton’s discharge
“To all whom it may concern

Know ye, that the bearer hereof William Bratton, private in a corps destined for the discovery of the interior of the continent of North America, having faithfully discharged his duty in said capacity so long as his services have been necessary to complete the objects of a Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, is in virtue of the authority vested in me by the President of the United States hereby discharged from the military service of the said States; and as a tribute justly due the merits of the said Willm. Bratton, I with cheerfullness declare that the ample support which he gave me under every difficulty, the manly firmness which he evinced on every necessary occasion, and the fortitude with which he bore the fatigues and painful sufferings incident to that long Voyage, entitled him to my highest confidence and sincere thanks; while it eminently recommends him to the consideration and respect of his fellow Citizens.

Meriwether Lewis Capt. 1st U.S. Regt. Infty.” (Jackson, 2: 347)

October 10, 1806.
(St. Louis).
Clark returns his commission as lieutenant to Secretary of War Dearborn; it was accepted February 27, 1807 (Jackson, 1: 347).

October 10, 1806.
(St. Louis).
Members of the Corps of Discovery are officially discharged from service (Holmberg, Brother, 116-17). See Bratton this page.

October 26, 1806.
Jefferson writes Lewis of his happiness at the safe return of Lewis, Clark, and their men (Jackson, 1: 350-51).

October 30, 1806. (Vincennes).
Lewis sends Bills of Exchange to Secretary of War Dearborn for payment. One is for $500 owed to George Wallace, Jr., a merchant in Vincennes and a contractor for army rations (Jackson, 1: 349).
After the Expedition—
 November 5, 1806 through March 1807

**November 5, 1806.** Lewis and Clark and their entourage arrive at the Falls of the Ohio (Holmberg, *Brother*, 117).

**November 8, 1806.** Jonathan Clark, Lewis, and William Clark attend a family celebration at William Croghan’s Locust Grove estate (Holmberg, *Timeline*).

**Circa November 11, 1806.** Lewis and most of the party, including two Indian delegations, leave Louisville for Washington (Holmberg, *Timeline*).

**December 2, 1806.** Jefferson revises his Annual Message to Congress to report on the return of the Lewis and Clark expedition (Jackson, 1: 352-53).

**Circa December 15, 1806.** Clark, probably with his slave York, leaves Louisville for the East (Holmberg, *Timeline*). See January 22, 1807 letter.

**February 28, 1807.** Jefferson nominates Lewis to be Governor of Louisiana Territory and Clark promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Clark’s promotion is not approved. However, in March, Clark is appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for Louisiana Territory and brigadier-general of militia for the territory (Jackson, 1: 376).

**March 3, 1807.** Act passes U.S. House and Senate compensating Lewis, Clark, and their men with land and double wages for service on the expedition (Jackson, 2: 377-78).

**After March 3, 1807.** Eight of the expedition members sign a petition to Congress asking that their warrants be acceptable immediately for land in Indiana Territory or Louisiana Territory where several of them already reside (Jackson, 2: 378-80).

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October 9, 1806. This newspaper also included Clark’s entire letter of September 23, 1806 to his brother Jonathan summarizing the expedition.

January 22, 1807. William Clark to Jonathan Clark

“I arrived here [Washington] on Sunday evening and Sence that time have been engaged in formal visits to the heads of departments and partakeing of the Sumptious far of maney of the members . . . . my old western friends do not forsake me and appere happy that they have it in their power to pay me much respect which appers to be the general disposition of every member of Congress with whom I have become acquainted. . . . a Commite is appointed to bring in a bill giving Compensation to the Party on the late Expedition. I think the Comite will report 2 Sects. of Land to Capt. Lewis and my Self each, and half a Section and half pay to the men, the most of the members appear favourable to a liberal appropriation . . . . . I most probably will return to your house in Public Service but what Situation I Shall be in is not yet determined on” (Holmberg, *Brother*, 119-20).

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Circa November 11, 1806. Lewis and Chouteau with a Mandan chief and a group of Osage chiefs arrived in Frankfort, Ky. November 13. Lewis left for Washington via the Old Wilderness Road November 15. Chouteau headed east through Lexington, Ky.
Introducing the “nine young men from Kentucky” and York, Clark’s slave

The “nine young men” were the first recruits for the permanent party; they departed from Clarksville, Indiana Territory with Lewis, Clark, York and others on October 26, 1803. The information for this chart has been gathered from a variety sources. The citations—and in some cases additional information—are included in the Web database version of this chart at <www.IN.gov/history>.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth/Death</th>
<th>Service/Pay</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Bratton</td>
<td>7/29/1778–11/11/1841</td>
<td>10/20/03–10/10/06 35 months, 20 days $178.33 1/3</td>
<td>Rank: Private. Duties: Blacksmith, hunter. On May 11, 1805, Bratton shoots a bear, but it chases him. He rejoins the Corps; they track and kill the bear and dress it. They render eight gallons of bear’s oil and store in kegs. On May 24, 1806, Bratton is unable to walk from the pain in his lower back; he endures a severe Indian sweat treatment administered by John Shields, which cures him almost immediately. In Clark’s journal on July 17, 1806, he calls a large creek Brattens Creek, presumably after Bratton. After the expedition, he lives in Kentucky and fights in the War of 1812. He marries Nov. 25, 1819. On Nov. 8, 1822, he enters land in Wayne Township, Montgomery County, Ind.; he holds several public offices there. On Nov. 11, 1841 he dies and is buried in the pioneer cemetery, Waynetown. See also p. 10 of this issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Colter</td>
<td>circa 1775–circa 1813</td>
<td>10/15/03–10/10/06 36 months, 26 days $179.33 1/3</td>
<td>Rank: Private. Duties: Hunter. On June 18, 1805, Colter is chased by white [grizzly] bear and forced into the Missouri River to escape. In Clark’s journal on Oct. 8, 1805, he mentions a creek that is named after John Colter. According to Clark’s journal on Aug. 15, 1806, Colter is allowed to leave the party and return up the Missouri River with some trappers. He is given that privilege “as we were disposed to be of service to any one of our party who had performed their duty as well as Colter had done.” Colter spends four years as a trapper and is apparently the first white man to see what is now Yellowstone Park. He settles in Mo. and marries; he dies of jaundice in 1813.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Field</td>
<td>circa 1780–1807</td>
<td>8/1/03–10/10/06 38 months, 10 days $191.66 2/3</td>
<td>Rank: both Privates. Duties: Two of best marksmen and hunters. The trust and confidence Lewis and Clark had in the Field brothers is confirmed in the over 220 references to them in the journals. On July 27, 1806, Joseph, Reubin, Lewis and others are in a skirmish with some Blackfoot Indians; one or two of the Indians are killed. This is the only recorded incident in which members of the expedition take the lives of any humans. Lewis indicates that Joseph and Reubin are “Two of the most active and enterprising young men who accompanied us. It was their peculiar fate to have been engaged in all the most dangerous and difficult scenes of the voyage, in which they uniformly acquitted themselves with much honor.” How Joseph dies is not clear; he and his brother are in St. Louis in the spring of 1807, his death is confirmed in October 1807, and Clark later indicates that he was “killed.” Little is known about Reubin’s life after the expedition. He settles in Ky. and marries in 1808.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reubin Field</td>
<td>circa 1781–early 1823?</td>
<td>8/1/03–10/10/06 38 months, 10 days $191.66 2/3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Floyd</td>
<td>1782–8/20/1804</td>
<td>8/1/03–8/20/04 12 months, 20 days $86.33 1/3</td>
<td>Rank: Sergeant. Duties: Appointed one of three sergeants in command of a squad, Apr. 1, 1804. While Lewis and Clark are in St. Louis in Apr. 1804, he is in charge of their quarters and the supplies. By 1799, Floyd’s family moves to Clarksville area; he is appointed first constable of Clarksville Township. He dies from an apparent ruptured appendix near present Sioux City, Iowa, where he is buried. Floyd’s River, Iowa bears his name. Lewis commends him as “A young man of much merit. His father, who now resides in Kentucky, is a man much respected, though possessed of but moderate wealth. As the son has lost his life whilst on this service, I consider his father entitled to some gratuity, in consideration of his loss; and also, that the deceased being noticed in this way, will be a tribute but justly due to his merit.” Floyd is the only man in the party to die on the expedition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Birthplace</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Gibson</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathaniel Pryor</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Shannon</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1836</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Shields</td>
<td>Rockingham Co., Va.</td>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>Caroline Co., Va.?</td>
<td>circa 1772–1820s</td>
<td>Private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

York, as Clark’s slave, is not assigned a particular role, but he “performed his full share of the duties with other members of the party,” including hunting. York is the first African American to cross the U.S. from coast to coast. “Yorks dry river” and Yorks 8 Islands are named after him. York cares for Charles Floyd as they try to save his life in 1804. Indians, who have never seen a black man, are astonished by York. He was Clark’s companion from childhood and was inherited by Clark from his father in 1799. After the expedition, York remains Clark’s slave until possibly 1816; his relationship with Clark is described in several letters from Clark to his brother. York was married to a slave with a different owner before the expedition; he and Clark have problems after the expedition because York wants to be near his wife in Louisville. In an 1832 interview, Clark says York died of cholera sometime before 1832. Robert B. Betts, In Search of York (2nd ed., 2000) is a biography of York, updated and with an epilogue by Holmberg.
Extending America’s Reach

The Lewis and Clark Expedition did not take place in vacuum. It occurred because of President Thomas Jefferson’s long fascination with the western lands and his vision for the young United States. Objectives to achieve that vision focused on economic and security concerns. One strategy involved acquisition of American Indian lands within the borders of the U.S. so that Americans could have more land on which to settle. The expedition was another strategy for achieving the objectives.

A document which addresses both strategies is Jefferson’s confidential message to Congress, January 18, 1803, which resulted in the authorization of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (Jackson, 1:10-14). The message was related to reauthorizing trading posts for Indian tribes, and it served as a useful vehicle for proposing this American voyage of discovery.

In that message, Jefferson first makes the case to Congress that Indians must be enticed to assimilate and become part of the U.S. He cites the following reasons for action:

- growing Indian unrest regarding land sales,
- the need for Indians to abandon hunting and assume domestic occupations requiring less land, and
- the need to increase government trading posts to drive out for-profit commercial traders.

Jefferson then proposes an expedition to explore the Missouri River to the Western ocean, “the only line of easy communication across the continent.” He cites as benefits:

- the Indian tribes and their extensive fur trade,
- the possibility of “conferences with the natives on the subject of commercial intercourse,” and
- admission of American traders to the area.

He notes that the geographical knowledge gained will “be an additional gratification.”

On February 27, 1803, the day before Congress approved the expedition, Jefferson wrote a private letter to William Henry Harrison, Governor of Indiana Territory. Jefferson laid out his policy with regard to American Indians in similar terms to the message to Congress but more bluntly. He feels this system “will best promote the interests of the Indians & of ourselves, & finally consolidate our whole country into one nation only.” He tells Harrison that they must concentrate on “the purchase and settlement of the country on the Mississippi from it’s mouth to it’s Northern regions, that we may be able to present as strong a front on our Western as on our Eastern border.”

Jefferson indicates that he has sent Harrison the authority to conclude treaties with the Indians in the Indiana Territory and tells him to move quickly to obtain any land possible (Clainin, Reel 1, pp. 519-24).

Part of Jefferson’s concern was the situation in the Spanish territory of Louisiana on the western border of the U.S., which was about to be occupied by the French. The U.S. purchase of Louisiana from the French in the spring of 1803 provided a major impetus to Jefferson's vision.

The map on this page demonstrates how well Harrison accomplished Jefferson's order in the Indiana Territory. At the same time, the Lewis and Clark Expedition solidified the U.S. ownership of the territory of Louisiana, explored the western lands that would later become part of the U.S., and gathered extraordinary scientific information.

After the return of the expedition, Lewis was appointed governor of the Territory of Louisiana, and Clark was appointed superintendent of Indian affairs for that same territory. At that time, Harrison was still governor of Indiana Territory. All three men continued to be agents of Jefferson’s policy to extinguish the land claims of American Indians and to protect the U.S. from foreign aggression.

Jefferson’s vision, however, underestimated the desire of Americans to work and live in the lands to the west and the resistance to assimilation among most Indians. Harrison’s Treaty of Fort Wayne in 1809 added to the increasing unrest among the Indians and strengthened the efforts of Tecumseh and the Prophet to unify the Indian tribes against the Americans.
Note Regarding Resources: Items are listed on this page that enhance work with the
topic discussed. Some older items, especially, may include dated practices and ideas that
are no longer generally accepted. Resources reflecting current practices are noted whenever
possible.

Bibliography
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  Over fifty letters, most discovered in
  1988, written by Clark before, during,
  and after the expedition provide
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  provides context before, during, and
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  York, 1904-1905.

  The journals and other documents are
  transcribed literally; many new items
  were added that had not been available
  for the Coues edition. There is an
  extensive index.

Internet Resources:
• Falls of the Ohio State Park <http://
  www.fallsoftheohio.org>

  Located in Clarksville, Indiana; is an
  official site on Lewis and Clark Na-
  tional Historic Trail. Has information
  about the Falls of the Ohio Lewis and
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• Gillette, Lance, comp. Bibliography of
  the Lewis and Clark Expedition <http://
  www.olypen.com/gillette/lance/bibliogra-
 phies/lewis.htm>

  Highlights Indiana’s important role in
  the expedition and lists events to
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• Jefferson’s West <http://www.
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  From Monticello, provides good
  information and timeline of expedition.
• Lewis and Clark Expedition, Ameri-
  can Treasures in the Library of Con-
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  mation on an exhibition at the Library of
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  In October 2003, Clarksville hosts the
  second of thirteen national signature
  events commemorating the expedition.
  The George Rogers Clark home site is
  featured.
• Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foun-
  dation, Inc. <http://www. lewisandclark.org/>

  Brings public attention and apprecia-
  tion to the expedition’s contribution to
  America’s heritage; supports education,
  research, development, and preservation
  of the Lewis and Clark experience.
• National Council of the Lewis and
  Clark Bicentennial 2003-2006 <http://
  www.lewisandclark200.org>/

  Celebrates the achievements of the
  expedition and promotes the natural,
  historical, and cultural resources that
  are part of the Lewis and Clark story.
  Provides national timetable of commemo-
  rative events.
Maps carried by Lewis and Clark on the expedition represented the most current geographical information about North America north and west of the Mississippi River. The map to the left was published in London in 1802 by Aaron Arrowsmith. This map was used by Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis to plan the expedition; a copy was also carried with Lewis and Clark on the expedition. The map below is a redrawn copy published in 1814 of the map drawn by William Clark as a result of the expedition. This map was a major accomplishment and contribution of the expedition.

To get an idea of the enormous amount of geographical information gathered by the expedition, locate the intersection of imaginary lines drawn from the arrows on the top and right sides of each map. On both maps the intersection is the western tip of Lake Superior. On the Arrowsmith map, note the relatively empty space from the lake to the Pacific Ocean. On the Clark map, that space is filled with rivers and mountains previously unrecorded.