

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Great Plains Quarterly

Great Plains Studies, Center for

Spring 2003

Excerpts from the Lewis and Clark Journals: An Epic of Discovery, The Abridgment of the Definitive Nebraska Edition The Journey across the Plains

Gary E. Moulton

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, gmoulton1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly>



Part of the [Other International and Area Studies Commons](#)

Moulton, Gary E., "Excerpts from the Lewis and Clark Journals: An Epic of Discovery, The Abridgment of the Definitive Nebraska Edition The Journey across the Plains" (2003). *Great Plains Quarterly*. 2395.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/greatplainsquarterly/2395>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Great Plains Studies, Center for at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Great Plains Quarterly by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LEWIS AND CLARK JOURNALS: AN EPIC OF DISCOVERY, THE ABRIDGMENT OF THE DEFINITIVE NEBRASKA EDITION THE JOURNEY ACROSS THE PLAINS

GARY E. MOULTON

Excerpted from *The Lewis and Clark Journals: An Epic of Discovery, The Abridgment of the Definitive Nebraska Edition*, edited and with an introduction by Gary E. Moulton. © 2003 by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. Available wherever books are sold or from the University of Nebraska Press 800.526.2617 and on the web at <www. nebraskapress.unl.edu>.

Please note: The following excerpts are from the journal entries of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, as well as enlisted men who kept journals on the expedition: John Ordway, Charles Floyd, Patrick Gass, and Joseph Whitehouse. The author of each entry is noted in brackets. Footnotes have been placed at the end of their appropriate entry for the convenience of the reader. Three asterisks (***) denote omission of text within a chapter or at the end of a chapter.

Gary E. Moulton is Thomas C. Sorensen Professor of American History at the University of Nebraska. He is the recipient of the J. Franklin Jameson Award of the American Historical Association for the editing of the *Lewis and Clark journals*, and he won the Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award from the University of Nebraska.

[GPQ 23 (Spring 2003): 69-91]

Chapter 1 Expedition Underway May 14-August 24, 1804

May 14, 1804

[CLARK] I Set out at 4 oClock P. M. in the presence of many of the Neighbouring inhabitants, and proceeded on under a jentle brease up the Missourie to the upper Point of the 1st Island 4 Miles and Camped on the Island which is Situated Close on the right (or Starboard) Side, and opposit the mouth of a Small Creek called Cold water,¹ a heavy rain this after-noon. [Camped in St. Charles County, Missouri, near and across from Fort Bellefontaine, St. Louis County.]

¹ Coldwater Creek, St. Louis County, Missouri.

May 15, 1804

[CLARK] Rained the greater part of the last night, and this morning untile 7 oClock— at 9 oClock Set out and proceeded on 9 miles passed two Islands & incamped on the Starbd. Side at a Mr. Pipers Landing opposit an Island,² the Boat³ run on Logs three times to day, owing her being too heavily loaded a

Sturn. [Camped below St. Charles, St. Charles County, Missouri.]

² James Piper may have owned the landing across from the now lost Charbonnier Island along with his other holdings in the St. Charles district.

³ Meaning the keelboat.

May 16, 1804

[CLARK] we arrived at St. Charles at 12 oClock a number Spectators french & Indians flocked to the bank to See the party . . . I was invited to Dine with a Mr. Ducett this gentleman was once a merchant from Canadia, from misfortunes aded to the loss of a Cargo Sold to the late Judge Turner he has become Somewhat reduced.⁴ [Camped at St. Charles.]

⁴ François Duquette must have mentioned his loss to George Turner at dinner.

May 17, 1804

[CLARK] a fine Day 3 men⁵ Confined for misconduct, I had a Court martial & punishment Several Indians, who informed me that the Saukees⁶ had lately Crossed to war against the Osage Nation. [Remained at St. Charles.]

[CLARK] George Drewyer arrive.

⁵ Collins, Hall, and Werner.

⁶ Sauk, or Sac, Indians.

May 18, 1804

[CLARK] I had the loading in the Boat & perogue⁷ examined and changed So as the Bow of each may be heavyer laded than the Stern . . . I Sent George Drewyer with a Letter to Capt Lewis Two Keel Boats arrive from Kentucky to day loaded with whiskey Hats &c. [Remained at St. Charles.]

[WHITEHOUSE] passed the evening verry agreeable dancing with the french ladies.

⁷ Pirogues were usually large dugout canoes or open boats; the captains used the terms "pirogue" and "canoe" interchangeably.

May 19, 1804

[CLARK] I heard of my Brothers illness to day which has given me much Concurrn.⁸ [Remained at St. Charles.]

[CLARK] A Violent Wind last night from the W. S. W. accompanied with rain which lasted about three hours Cleared away this morn'g at 8 oClock, I took receipt for the pay of the men up to the 1St. of Decr. next . . . I recve an invitation to a Ball, it is not in my power to go. George Drewyer return from St Louis and brought 99 Dollars, he lost a letter from Cap Lewis to me, Seven Ladies visit me to day.

⁸ It is not known which of Clark's brothers was ill.

May 20, 1804

[LEWIS] The morning was fair, and the weather pleasent; 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,⁹ 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 village 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. [Lewis arrived at St. Charles in the evening.]

[CLARK] I gave the party leave to go and hear a Sermon to day. [Remained at St. Charles.]

⁹ Amos Stoddard, Clarence Mulford, Stephen Worrell, René Auguste Chouteau, and Charles Gratiot.

May 21, 1804

[CLARK] All the forepart of the Day Arranging our party and prcureing the different articles

necessary for them at this place— Dined with Mr. Ducett and Set out at half passed three oClock under three Cheers from the gentlemen on the bank and proceeded on. [Camped above St. Charles, on an island that apparently has since disappeared.]

May 22, 1804

[CLARK] Delay one hour for 4 french men who got liberty to return to arrange Some business they had forgotten in Town, at 6 oClock we proceeded on, passed Several Small farms on the bank, and a large creek on the Lbd. Side Called *Bonom*¹⁰ a Camp of Kickapoos on the St. Side Those Indians told me Several days ago that they would Come on & hunt and by the time I got to their Camp they would have Some Provisions for us . . . Soon after we came too the Indians arrived with 4 Deer as a Present, for which we gave them two qts. of whiskey. [Camped near the mouth of Femme Osage River, St. Charles County, Missouri.]

¹⁰ Bonhomme Creek, St. Louis County, Missouri.

May 23, 1804

[CLARK] ran on a Log and detained one hour, proceeded the Course of Last night 2 Miles to the mouth of a Creek on the Stbd. Side Called Osage Womans R,¹¹ about 30 yds. wide . . . (on this Creek 30 or 40 famlys are Settled,[])] Crossed to the Settlemt. and took in R & Jo: Fields who had been Sent to purchase Corn & Butter &c. many people Came to See us, we passed a large *Cave* on the Lbd. Side about 120 feet wide 40 feet Deep & 20 feet high many different immages are Painted on the Rock at this place. the Inds & French pay omage. many nams are wrote on the rock, Stopped about one mile above for Capt Lewis who had assended the Clifts which is at the Said Cave 300 fee[t] high, hanging over the Water . . . Capt. Lewis near falling from the Pencelia of rocks 300 feet, he caught at 20 foot.¹² [Camped in either St. Charles or Franklin County, Missouri, above Tavern Creek.]

[WHITEHOUSE] passed some Plantations, which is called Boons settlement lying on the North side of the River. This settlement was made by Colonel Daniel Boone, the person who first discoverr'd Kentucky, & who was residing at this place, with a number of his family and friends.

¹¹ Femme Osage Creek, St. Charles County, Missouri.

¹² Lewis had his accident near Tavern Cave, Franklin County, Missouri.

May 24, 1804

[CLARK] passed a Verry bad part of the River Called the Deavels race ground, this is where the Current Sets against Some projecting rocks for half a mile on the Labd. Side . . . we attempted to pass up under the Lbd. Bank which was falling in So fast that the evident danger obliged us to Cross between the Starbd. Side and a Sand bar in the middle of the river, we *hove* up near the head of the Sand bar, the Sand moveing & banking caused us to run on the Sand. The Swiftness of the Current wheeled the boat, Broke our *Toe* rope, and was nearly over Setting the boat, all hand Jumped out on the upper Side and bore on that Side untill the Sand washed from under the boat and wheeled on the next bank by the time She wheeled a 3rd Time got a rope fast to her Stern and by the means of Swimmers was Carred to Shore and when her Stern was down whilst in the act of Swinging a third time into Deep water near the Shore, we returned, to the Island where we Set out and assended under the Bank which I have just mentioned . . . all in Spirits. [Camped below Washington, Franklin County, Missouri.]

May 25, 1804

[CLARK] Camped at the mouth of a Creek called <*River a Chauritte*>,¹³ above a Small french Village of 7 houses and as many families, Settled at this place to be convt. to hunt, & trade with the Indians, here we met with Mr. Louisell¹⁴ imedeately down from the <*Seeder*> [Cedar] Isld. Situated in the

Countrey of the *Suxex*¹⁵ 400 Leagues up he gave us a good Deel of information Some letters he informed us that he Saw no Indians on the river below the *Poncrars*¹⁶... The people at this Village is pore, houses Small, they Sent us milk & eggs to eat. [Camped at La Charette, Warren County, Missouri.]

¹³ Charette Creek

¹⁴ Régis Loisel was living at La Charette on Charette Creek.

¹⁵ Sioux Indians.

¹⁶ Ponca Indians.

May 26, 1804

[LEWIS AND CLARK, DETACHMENT ORDERS]
The Commanding Officers direct, that the three Squads under the command of Sergts. Floyd Ordway and Pryor heretofore forming two messes each, shall untill further orders constitute three messes only, the same being altered and organized as follows (viz)—

1 *Sergt. Charles Floyd.*

Privates:

2 Hugh McNeal

3 Patric Gass

4 Reubin Fields (2)

5 John B Thompson

+ 6 John Newman

7 Richard Winsor

+ Francis Rivet &

8 Joseph Fields (3)

9 *Sergt. John Ordway.*

Privates.

10 William Bratton (4)

11 John Colter (5)

x 12 Moses B. Reed

13 Alexander Willard

14 William Warner

15 Silas Goodrich

16 John Potts &

17 Hugh Hall

18 *Sergt. Nathaniel Pryor. (6)*

Privates.

19 George Gibson (7)

20 George Shannon (8)

21 John Shields (9)

22 John Collins

23 Joseph Whitehouse

24 Peter Wiser

F 25 Peter Crusat &

F 26 Francis Labuche

The commanding officers further direct that the remainder of the detachmen shall form two messes; and that the same be constituted as follows. (viz)—

Patroon, Baptist Dechamps

Engages

Etienne Mabbauf

Paul Primaut

Charles Hébert

Baptist La Jeunesse

Peter Pinaut

Peter Roi &

Joseph Collin

1 *Corpl. Richard Warvington.*

Privates.

2 Robert Frasier

3 John Boleye

4 John Dame

5 Ebinezer Tuttle &

6 Isaac White

The Commanding officers further direct that the messes of Sergts. Floyd, Ordway and Pryor shall untill further orders form the crew of the Batteaux;¹⁷ the Mess of the Patroon La Jeunesse will form the permanent crew of the red Perogue; Corpl. Warvington's mess forming that of the white perogue . . .

The posts and duties of the Sergts. shall be as follows (viz)— when the Batteaux is under way, one Sergt. shall be stationed at the helm, one in the center on the rear of the Starboard locker, and one at the bow. *The Sergt. at the helm*, shall steer the boat, and see

that the baggage on the quarterdeck is properly arranged and stowed away in the most advantageous manner; to see that no cooking utensels or loos lumber of any kind is left on the deck to obstruct the passage between the burths— he will also attend to the compas when necessary.

The Sergt at the center will command the guard, manage the sails, see that the men at the oars do their duty; that they come on board at a proper season in the morning, and that the boat gets under way in due time; he will keep a good lookout for the mouths of all rivers, creeks, Islands and other remarkable places and shall immediately report the same to the commanding officers; he will attend to the issues of sperituous liquors; he shall regulate the halting of the batteaux through the day to give the men refreshment, and will also regulate the time of her departure taking care that not more time than is necessary shall be expended at each halt— it shall be his duty also to post a centinel on the bank, near the boat whenever we come too and halt in the course of the day, at the same time he will (acompanied by two his guard) reconnoiter the forrest arround the place of landing to the distance of at least one hundred paces. when we come too for the purpose of encamping at night, the Sergt. of the guard shall post two centinels immediately on our landing; one of whom shal be posted near the boat, and the other at a convenient distance in rear of the encampment; at night the Sergt. must be always present with his guard, and he is positively forbidden to suffer any man of his guard to absent himself on any pretext whatever; he will at each relief through the night, accompanied by the two men last off their posts, reconnoiter in every direction around the camp to the distance of at least one hundred and fifty paces, and also examine the situation of the boat and perogues, and see that they ly safe and free from the bank.

It shall be the duty of the *sergt. at the bow*, to keep a good look out for all danger which may approach, either of the enimy, or obstructions which may present themselves to pas-

sage of the boat; of the first he will notify the Sergt. at the center, who will communicate the information to the commanding officers, and of the second or obstructions to the boat he will notify the Sergt. at the helm; he will also report to the commanding officers through the Sergt. at the center all perogues boats canoes or other craft which he may discover in the river, and all hunting camps or parties of Indians in view of which we may pass. he will at all times be provided with a seting pole and assist the bowsman in poling and managing the bow of the boat. it will be his duty also to give and answer all signals, which may hereafter be established for the government of the perogues and parties on shore.

The Sergts. will on each morning before our departure relieve each other in the following manner—(viz) The Sergt. at the helm will parade the new guard, relieve the Sergt. and the old guard, and occupy the middle station in the boat; the Sergt. of the old guard will occupy the station at the bow, and the Sergt. who had been stationed the preceeding day at the bow will place himself at the helm. The sergts. in addition to those duties are directed each to keep a seperate journal from day today of all passing occurences, and such other observations on the country &c. as shall appear to them worthy of notice—

The Sergts. are relieved and exempt from all labour of making fires, pitching tents or cooking, and will direct and make the men of their several messes perform an equal proportion of those duties.

The guard shall hereafter consist of one sergeant and six privates & engages.

Patroon, Dechamp, Copl. Warvington, and George Drewyer, are exempt from guad duty; the two former will attend particularly to their perogues at all times, and see that their lading is in good order, and that the same is kept perfectly free from rain or other moisture; the latter will perform certain duties on shore which will be assigned him from time to time: all other soldiers and engaged men of whatever discription must perform their regular tour of guad duty . . .

Sergt. John Ordway will continue to issue the provisions and make the detales for guard or other duty. The day after tomorrow lyed corn and grece will be issued to the party, the next day Poark and flour, and the day following indian meal and poark; and in conformity to that ratiene provisions will continue to be issued to the party untill further orders. should any of the messes prefer indian meal to flour they may recieve it accordingly— no poark is to be issued when we have fresh meat on hand.

Labuche and Crusat will man the larboard bow oar alternately, and the one not engaged at the oar will attend as the Bows-man, and when the attention of both these persons is necessary at the bow, their oar is to be maned by any idle hand on board.[Camped on an island opposite Hermann, Gasconade County, Missouri.]

¹⁷ Occasional term for the party's keelboat.

* * *

June 28, 1804

[CLARK] To Describe the most probable of the various accounts of this great river of the Kansas, would be too lengthy & uncertain to insert here, it heads with the river Del Norid⁴⁴ in the black Mountain⁴⁵ or ridge which Divides the waters of the Kansas *Del Nord*, & Callarado⁴⁶ & oppsoitly from those of the Missoureis (and not well assertaind) This River recves its name from a nation which dwells at this time on its banks & 2 villages one about 20 Leagues & the other 40 Leagues up, those Indians are not verry noumerous at this time, reduced by war with their neighbours, &c. they formerly liveid on the South banks of the Missouries 24 Leagues above this river in a open & butifull plain and were verry noumerous at the time the french first Settled the Illinois, I am told they are a fierce & warlike people, being badly Supplied with fire arms, become easily conquered by the Aiauiway & Saukees who are better furnished with those materials of war, This nation is now out in the plains hunting the Buffalow . . . a butifull place

for a fort, good landing place. [Remained at the Kansas River.]

[ORDWAY] I went out hunting 2 1/2 miles & passed a fine Spring Running from under the hills I drank hearty of the water & found it the best & coolest I have seen in the country.

⁴⁴ Rio Grande.

⁴⁵ Black Hills.

⁴⁶ Colorado River.

June 29, 1804

[CLARK] a Court martial will Set this day at 11 oClock, to Consist of five members, for the trial of *John Collins* and *Hugh Hall*, Confined on Charges exhibited against them by Sergeant Floyd, agreeable to the articles of War.

Detail for the Court

Sergt Nat. Pryor presd.

2	John Colter	} mbs.
3	John Newmon	
4	Pat. Gass	
1.	J. B. Thompson	

John Potts to act as Judge advocate.

The Court Convened agreeable to order and proceeded to the trial of the Prisoners Viz John Collins Charged "with getting drunk on his post this morning out of whiskey put under his Charge as a Sentinal and for Suffering *Hugh Hall* to draw whiskey out of the Said Barrel intended for the party." To this Charge the prisoner plead *not guilty*.

The Court after mature deliveration on the evidence abduced &c. are of oppinion that the prisoner is *Guilty* of the Charge exibited against him, and do therefore Sentence him to recive *one hundred Lashes on his bear Back*.

Hugh Hall was brought with ["taking whiskey out of a Keg this morning which whiskey was Stored on the Bank (and under the Charge of the guard) Contrary to all order, rule, or regulation." To this Charge the prisoner "Pleades Guilty."

The Court find the prisoner guilty and Sentence him to receive *fifty* Lashes on his bear Back.

The Commanding Officers approve of the Sentence of the Court and orders that the Punishment take place at half past three this evening, at which time the party will Parade for inspection. [Camped in the vicinity of Riverside, Platte County, Missouri.]

[FLOYD] armes and amunition enspected all in Good order.

June 30, 1804

[CLARK] a verry large wolf⁴⁷ Came to the bank and looked at us this morning, passd the mouth of a Small river 10 ms. above the Kanseis Called by the french Petite River Platte⁴⁸ (or Shoal river) from the number of falls in it . . . came to at 12 oClock & rested three hours, the [sun or day?] being hot the men becom verry feeble, Farnsts. Thermometer at 3 oClock Stood at 96° above 0 . . . Broke our mast. [Camped in the vicinity of Walcott, Wyandotte County, Kansas.]

⁴⁷ Probably a gray wolf.

⁴⁸ Little Platte River, which joins the Missouri in Platte County, Missouri.

July 1, 1804

[CLARK] last night one of the Sentinals Chang'd [challenged] either a man or Beast, which run off, all prepared for action . . . one of our French hands tels me that the French intended to Settle here once & brought their Cows and put them on those Islands,⁴⁹ Mr Mackey Says the first village of the Kanseis was a little above this Island & made use of as fields, no trace of anything of that Kind remains to be Seen on the Isds. [Camped opposite Leavenworth, Leavenworth County, Kansas.]

⁴⁹ Perhaps Leavenworth Island, Leavenworth County, Kansas.

July 2, 1804

[CLARK] we Camped after dark on the S. S. opposit the 1st old Village of the Kansas which was Situated in a Valley between two points

of high land . . . The french formerly had a Fort at this place, to protect the trade of this nation,⁵⁰ the Situation appears to be a verry elligable one for a Town . . . We made a Mast of Cotton wood. [Camped near Weston, Platte County, Missouri.]

[ORDWAY] Our flanking party did not Join us at night.

⁵⁰ The French Fort de Cavagnial was occupied from 1744 to 1764; it was about three miles north of Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth County.

July 4, 1804

[CLARK] pass a Creek on the L. S. about 15 yards wide cuming out of an extensive Prarie as this Creek has no name, and this day is the 4th of July, we name this Independance us. Creek⁵¹ . . .

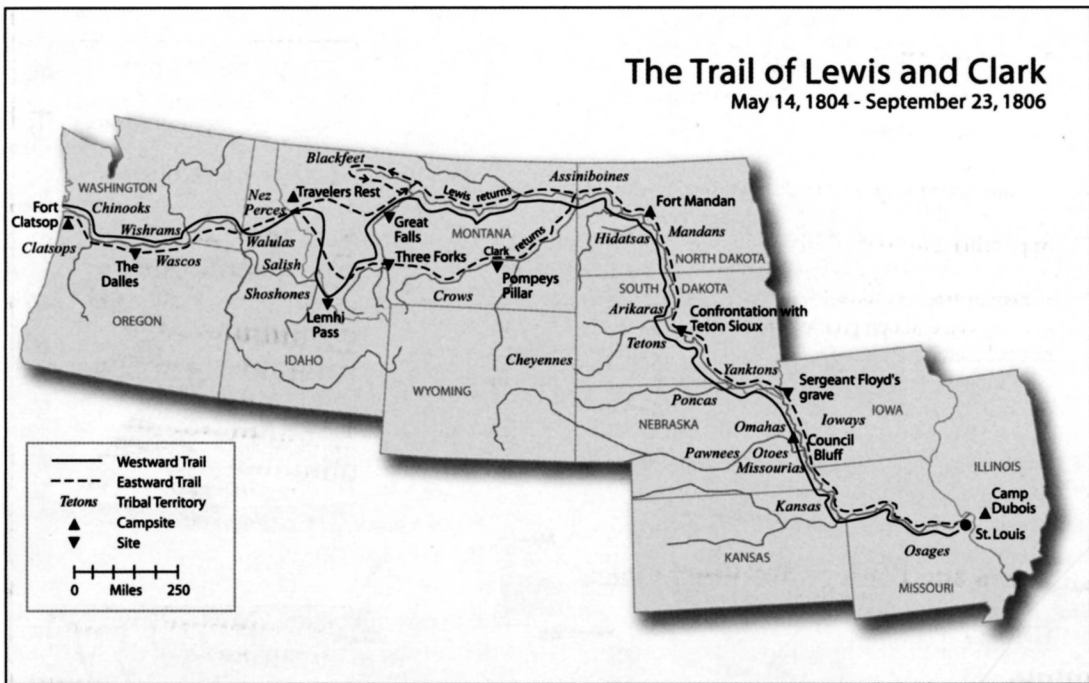
The Plains of this countrey are covered with a Leek Green Grass, well calculated for the sweetest and most norushing hay—interspersed with Cops of trees, Spreding ther lofty branches over Pools Springs or Brooks of fine water. Groops of Shrubs covered with the most delicious froot is to be seen in every direction, and nature appears to have exerted herself to butify the Senery by the variety of flours Delicately and highly flavered raised above the Grass, which Strikes & profumes the Sen-sation, and amuses the mind throws it into Conjecterng the cause of So magnificent a Senerey in a Country thus Situated far removed from the Sivilised world to be enjoyed by nothing but the Buffalo Elk Deer & Bear in which it abounds & Savage Indians. [Camped near Doniphan, Doniphan County, Kansas.]

[FLOYD] a Snake Bit Jo. Fieldes on the Side of the foot which Sweled much apply Barks.⁵²

[GASS] We fired a swivel at sunrise in honour of the day . . . and saluted the departing day with another gun.

⁵¹ Independence Creek, on the Atchison-Doniphan county line, Kansas.

⁵² Joseph Field may have had a poultice of Peruvian bark.



Source: Gary E. Moulton. *The Lewis and Clark Journals: An American Epic of Discovery*. University of Nebraska Press, 2003.

FIG. 1. *The Trail of Lewis and Clark*. Map by Sonja Barber.

July 5, 1804

[CLARK] proceeded on near the bank where the old village Stood for two miles . . . The Origan of this old village is uncertain M. de Bourgmont a French officer who Comdd. a fort near the Town of the Missouris in about the year 1724 and in July of the Same year he visited this Village at that time the nation was noumerous & well desposed towards the French . . . Those people must have been very noumerous at that time as Mr. De B: was accompanied by 300 Warriars, 500 young people & 300 Dogs of burthen out of this Village⁵³ The Cause of Those Indians moveing over to the Kanzis river I have never lernt . . . I observe great quantities of Summer & fall Grapes, Berries & Wild roases on the banks— Deer is not so plenty as usual, great Deel of Elk Sign. [Camped a few miles northeast of Doniphan, Doniphan County, Kansas.]

⁵³ Bourgmont first visited the Missouria Indians in 1714 and lived with the Missourias and Osages for a time; he made numerous trips on the Missouri.

July 6, 1804

[CLARK] (worthy of remark that the water of this river or Some other Cause, I think that the most Probable throws out a greater preposn. of Swet than I could Suppose Could pass thro: the humane body Those men that do not work at all will wet a Shirt in a Few minits & those who work, the Swet will run off in Streams). [Camped near St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri, but it is unclear whether in Kansas or Missouri.]

[ORDWAY] a whiper will perched on the Boat for a short time.

July 7, 1804

[CLARK] those Praries on the river has very much the appearence of farms from the river Divided by narrow Strips of wood land, which wood land is Situatd. on the runs leading to the river . . . Saw a large rat on the bank. Killed a Wolf . . . one man verry Sick, Struck with the Sun, Capt. Lewis bled him & gave Niter which has revived him much.⁵⁴ [Camped upstream from St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri, but perhaps on the Kansas side in Doniphan County.]

[ORDWAY] I went on Shore with the Horses in the afternoon In the North Side crossed a Creek 2 miles up in the evening. as this Creek is without name & my Describing it to my Capt. He named it Ordway Creek.⁵⁵

[WHITEHOUSE] Six Miles from whare we Started Came to the most beautifull prarie On the E. S. Whare Nature formd Some battryes And Read Outs [redoubts].

⁵⁴ Bleeding was the standard medical practice of the day; potassium nitrate ("Niter") was administered to increase perspiration and urine and reduce fevers.

⁵⁵ Perhaps Mace Creek, north of the Andrew-Buchanan county line, Missouri.

July 8, 1804

[LEWIS AND CLARK, DETACHMENT ORDERS] The Commanding Officers Do appoint the following persons to recieve, cook, and take charges of the provisions which may from time to time be issued to their respective messes, (viz) John B. Thompson to Sergt. Floyd's mess, William Warner to Sergt. Ordway's mess, and John Collins to Sergt. Pryor's Mess. These *Superintendants of Provision*, are held immediately responsible to the commanding Officers for a judicious consumption of the provision which they recieve; they are to cook the same for their several messes in due time, and in such manner as is most wholesome and best calculated to afford the greatest proportion of nutriment; in their mode of cooking they are

to exercise their own judgment; they shall allso point out what part, and what proportion of the mess provisions are to be consumed at each stated meal (i. e.) morning, noon and night; nor is any man at any time to take or consume any part of the mess provisions without the privity, knowledge and consent of the Superintendent. The superintendent is also held responsible for all the cooking eutensels of his mess. in consideration of the duties imposed by this order on Thompson, Warner, and Collins, they will in future be exempt from guard duty, tho' they will still be held on the royster for that duty, and their regular tour—shall be performed by some one of their respective messes; they are exempted also from pitching the tents of the mess, collecting firewood, and forks poles &c. for cooking and drying such fresh meat as may be furnished them; those duties are to be also performed by the other members of the mess. [Camped near the mouth of Nodaway River, Andrew County, Missouri.]

July 9, 1804

[CLARK] Camped at a point on the L. S. opposit the head of the Island, our party was incamped on the Opposit Side, their not answering our Signals Caused us to Suspect the persons Camped opposit to us was a war party of Soux, we fired the Bow piece to alarm the party on Shore, alled prepared to oppose if attacted. [Camped near the present town of Iowa Point, Doniphan County, Kansas.]

July 10, 1804

[CLARK] Crossd the river with a view to See who the party was that Camped on the other Side, we Soon discovered them to be our men . . . The men of the party getting better, but much fatigued. [Camped near the Nebraska-Kansas border, but on the opposite side in Holt County, Missouri.]

July 11, 1804

[CLARK] I joined the party on a large Sand Island imediately opposit the mouth os <Ne Ma haw River>,⁵⁶ at which place they had

Camped, this Island is Sand about half of it Covered with Small Willows of two different Kinds, one Narrow & the other a Broad Leaf.⁵⁷ [Camped in Holt County, Missouri, opposite the mouth of the Big Nemaha River, which enters the Missouri River on the Nebraska side, just above the Nebraska-Kansas state line.]

⁵⁶ Big Nemaha River.

⁵⁷ Probably sandbar willow ("narrow") and peach-leaved willow ("broad leaf").

July 12, 1804

[CLARK] Concluded to Delay here to day with a view of takeing equal altitudes & makeing observations⁵⁸ as well as refreshing our men who are much fatigued— after an early Brackfast I with five men in a Perogue assended the River *Ne-Ma-haw* about 2 miles to the mouth of a Small Creek⁵⁹ on the Lower Side, here I got out of the Perogue, after going to Several Small Mounds in a leavel plain, I assended a hill on the Lower Side, on this hill Several Artificial Mounds⁶⁰ were raised, from the top of the highest of those Mounds I had an extensive view of the Serounding Plains, which afforded one of the most pleasing prospects I ever beheld, under me a Butifull River of Clear water of about 80 yards wide Mean-dering thro: a leavel and extensive Meadow, as far as I could See, the prospect Much enlivened by the fine Trees & Srubs which is bordering the bank of the river, and the Creeks & runs falling into it. The bottom land is covered with Grass⁶¹ of about 4 1/2 feet high, and appears as leavel as a Smoth Surfice, the <2 bottom> is also covered with Grass and rich weeds⁶² & flours, interspersed with Copeses of the Osage Plumb. on the riseing lands, Small groves of trees are Seen, with a numbers of Grapes and a Wild Cherry resembling the Common Wild Cherry, only larger and grows on a Small bush on the tops of those hills in every derection. I observed artifical mounds (or as I may more Justly term Graves) which to me is a Strong indication of this Country being once Thickly Settled. (The Indians of

the Missouris Still Keep up the Custom of Burrying their dead on high ground) . . . on a Sandstone Bluff about 1/4 of a mile from its mouth on the Lower Side I observed Some Indian marks, went to the rock which jucted over the water and marked my name & the day of the month & year. [Remained in camp opposite the Big Nemaha River.]

[LEWIS AND CLARK] Capt. M. Lewis & W. Clark constituted themselves a Court martial for the trial of Such prisoners as are *Guilty of Capatol Crimes*, and under the rules and articles of War punishable by *Death*. *Alexander Willard* was brought foward Charged with "*Lying down and Sleeping on his post whilst a Sentinal, on the night of the 11th. Instant*" (by John Ordway Sergeant of the Guard)— To this Charge the prisoner pleads. *Guilty of Lying Down, and not Guilty, of Going to Sleep*. The Court after Duly Considering the evidence aduced, are of oppinion that the *Prisoner Alexdn. Willard* is guilty of every part of the Charge exhibited against him. it being a breach of the *rules and articles of War* (as well as tending to the probable distruction of the party) do *Sentence* him to receive *One hundred lashes on his bear back, at four different times in equal propation.* and order that the punishment Commence this evening at Sunset, and Continue to be inflicted, (by the Guard) every evening untill Completed.

⁵⁸ Lewis took "equal altitudes" by aiming his sextant at the sun in the morning and locking its position. In the afternoon he would sight west until the sun reached the previously locked position of the instrument. He then averaged the two recorded times (from multiple sightings in each instance) in order to obtain local apparent noon and set his chronometer accordingly.

⁵⁹ Probably Roys Creek, Richardson County, Nebraska.

⁶⁰ Part of a late prehistoric Oneota village, the Leary site.

⁶¹ May be prairie cordgrass, big bluestem, and other tall grasses.

⁶² Probably richweed.

July 13, 1804

[CLARK] My notes of the 13th of July by a Most unfortunate accident blew over Board in a Storm in the morning of the 14th obliges me to refer to the Journals of Serjeants, and my own recollection [of] the occurrences Courses Distance &c. of that day. [Camped in eastern Richardson County, Nebraska.]

* * *

July 31, 1804

[FLOYD] I am verry Sick and Has ben for Somtime but have Recoverd my helth again. [Remained at the party's Council Bluff.]

August 1, 1804

[CLARK] This being my birth day I order'd a Saddle of fat Vennison, an Elk fleece & a Bevertail to be cooked and a Desert of Cheries, Plumbs, Raspberries Currents and grapes of a Supr. quality. The Indians not yet arrived. a Cool fine eveninge Musquetors verry troublesom, the Praries Contain Cheres, Apple, Grapes, Currents, Rasp burry, Gooseberis Hastlenuts and a great Variety of Plants & flours not Common to the U.S. What a field for a Botents [botanist] and a natirless [naturalist]. [Remained at the party's Council Bluff.]

August 2, 1804

[CLARK] at Sunset Mr. *Fairfong* and a pt. of Otteau & Missourie Nation Came to Camp, among those Indians 6 were Chiefs, the principal Chiefs Capt. Lewis & myself met those Indians & informed them we were glad to See them, and would Speak to them tomorrow, Sent them Som roasted meat Pork flour & meal, in return they Sent us Water millions. [every?] man on his Guard & ready for any thing. [Remained at the party's Council Bluff.]

[FLOYD] the Indianes Came whare we had expected thay fired meney Guns when thay Came in Site of us and we ansered them withe the Cannon.

[WHITEHOUSE] They [Otoes and Missourias] are a handsome stout well made set of Indians & have good open Countenances, and are of a light brown colour, and have long black hair, which they do wear without cutting; and they all use paint in order to compleat their dress.

August 3, 1804

[CLARK] after Brackfast we Collected those Indians under an orning of our Main Sail, in presence of our Party paraded & Delivered a long Speech to them expressive of our journey the wirkes of our Government, Some advice to them and Directions how They were to Conduct themselves, the princapal Chief for the nation being absente we sent him the Speech *flag* Meadel & Some Cloathes. after hering what they had to say Delivered a medal of Second Grade to one for the Ottos & and one for the Missourie present and 4 medals of a third Grade to the inferior Chief two for each tribe. Those two parts of nations, Ottos & Missouries now residing together is about 250 men are the Ottoes Composeing 2/3d and Missourie 1/3 part . . . Those Chiefs all Delivered a Speech acknowledging Their approbation to the Speech and promissing to prosue the advice & Derictions given them that they wer happy to find that they had fathers which might be depended on &c. We gave them a Cannister of Powder and a Bottle of whiskey and delivered a few presents to the whole after giveing a *Br: Cth*: [breec cloth] Some Paint quartering⁷⁸ & a Meadele to those we *made* Cheifs after Capt Lewis's Shooting the air gun a feiw Shots (which astonished those nativs) we Set out and proceeded on five miles . . . The man *Liberty* whome we Sent for the Ottoes has not Come up. [Camped in either Harrison County, Iowa, or Washington County, Nebraska, some miles south of Blair, Nebraska.]

[WHITEHOUSE] the Indians Beheavd. well while Incampd. Neer our party.

⁷⁸ Cloth used for making garters.

August 4, 1804

[CLARK] proceeded on . . . the Banks washing away & trees falling in constantly for 1 mile, above this place is the remains of an old Tradeing establishment L. S. where Petr. Crusett one of our hands Stayed two years & traded with the *Mahars* . . . *Reed* a man who went back to Camp for his knife has not joined us. [Camped in either Washington County, Nebraska, or Harrison County, Iowa, north-east of Blair, Nebraska.]

August 5, 1804

[LEWIS] Killed a serpent⁷⁹ on the bank of the river adjoining a large prairie.

	F	Inch
Length from nose to tail	5	2
Circumference in largest part—	4	1/2
Number of scuta on belly—	221	
Do. on Tale—	53	

No pison teeth therefore think him perfectly innocent— eyes, center black with a border of pale brown yellow Colour of skin on head yellowish green with black specks on the extremity of the scuta which are pointed or triangular colour of back, transverse stripes of black and dark brown of an inch in width, succeeded by a yellowish brown of half that width— the end of the tale hard and pointed like a cock's spur— the sides are speckled with yellowish brown and black. two rows of black spots on a light yellow ground pass throughout his whole length on the upper points of the scuta of the belly and tale 1/2 Inch apart this snake is vulgarly called the cow or bull snake from a bellowing noise which it is said sometimes to make resembling that of an animal, though as to this fact I am unable to attest it never having heard them make that or any other noise myself.

I have frequently observed an aquatic bird⁸⁰ in the course of ascending this river but have never been able to procure one before today . . . they lay their eggs on the sand bars without shelter or nest, and produce their young from the 15th to the last of June, the

young ones of which we caught several are covered with down of a yellowish white colour and on the back some small specks of a dark brown. they bear a great resemblance to the young quail of ten days old, and appear like them to be able to run about and peck their food as soon as they are hatched— this bird, lives on small fish, worms and bugs which it takes on the verge of the water it is seldom seen to light on trees as quail as seldom do they light in the water and swim though the foot would indicate that they did it's being webbed . . . this bird is very noisy when flying which is done extremely swift the motion of the wing is much like that of *kildee*⁸¹ it has two notes one like the squaking of a small pig only on rather a high key, and the other *kit'-tee'-kit'-tee'* as near as letters can express the sound. [Camped in Harrison County, Iowa, across from the Burt-Washington county line, Nebraska.]

[CLARK] In every bend the banks are falling in from the Current being thrown against those bends by the Sand points which enlarges and the Soil I believe from unquestionable appearance. of the entire bottom from one hill to the other being the mud or ooze of the River at Some former Period mixed with Sand and Clay easily melts and Slips into the River, and the mud mixes with the water & the Sand is washed down and lodges on the points— Great quantities of Grapes on the banks, I observe three different Kinds⁸² at this time ripe, one Of the no. is large & has the flavor of the Purple grape.

⁷⁹ A bullsnake.

⁸⁰ A least tern.

⁸¹ Killdeer.

⁸² The summer grape, river-bank grape, and winter grape.

August 6, 1804

[CLARK] We have every reason to believe that one man has *Deserted Moses B: Reed* he has been absent three Days and one french man we Sent to the Indian Camps has not joined us, we have reasons to believe he lost himself

in attempting to join us at the *Council Bluff*. [Camped apparently in Harrison County, Iowa, about halfway between the Soldier and Little Sioux Rivers.]

August 7, 1804

[CLARK] at 1 oClock dispatched George Drewyer, R. Fields, Wm. Bratten & Wm. Labieche back after the Deserter reid with order if he did not give up Peaceibly to put him to Death &c. to go to the Ottoes Village & enquire for La Liberty and bring him to the Mahars Village, also with a Speech on the occasion to the Ottoes & Missouries— and directing a few of their Chiefs to come to the Mahars, & we would make a peace between them & the Mahar and *Souex*, a String of wompom & a Carrot of Tobacco. [Camped a few miles below the mouth of the Little Sioux River, probably on the Iowa side in Harrison County.]

[FLOYD] on the 4th of this month one of ouer men by the name of Moses B. Reed went Back to ouer Camp whare we had Left in the morning, to Git his Knife which he Had Left at the Camp . . . pon examining his nap-Sack we found that he had taken his Cloas and all His powder and Balles, and had hid them out that night and had made that an excuse to Desarte from us with out aney Jest Case.

August 8, 1804

[GASS] In a bag under the bill and neck of the pelican, which Captain Lewis killed, we put five gallons of water. [Camped probably on the Iowa side, in southwest Monona County, not far above the Harrison County line.]

* * *

August 18, 1804

[CLARK] in the after part of the Day the Party with the Indians arrivd. we meet them under a Shade near the Boat and after a Short talk we gave them Provisions to eat & proceeded to the trail of Reed, he Confessed that he “Deserted & Stold a public Rifle⁹³ Shot-pouch

Powder & Bals” and requested we would be as favourable with him as we Could consistantly with our Oathes—which we were and only Sentenced him to run the Gantlet four times through the Party & that each man with 9 Swichies Should punish him and for him not to be considered in future as one of the Party— The three principal Chiefs petitioned for Pardin for this man After we explained the injurey Such men could doe them by false representation, & explang. the Customs of our Countrey they were all Satisfied with the propriety of the Sentence & was witness to the punishment. after which we had Some talk with the Chiefs about the orrigan of the war between them & the Mahars &c. it com-menced in this way I’e’ in two of the Missouries Tribe resideing with the Ottoes went to the Mahars to Steel horses, they Killed them both which was a cause of revenge on the part of the Missouris & Ottoes, they also brought war on themselves Nearly in the Same way with the Panea Loups and they are greatly in fear of a just revenge from the Panies for takeing their Corn from the Pania Towns in their absence hunting this Summer. the evening was Closed with an extra Gill of Whiskey & a Dance untill 11 oClock. [Remained at Fish Camp.]

⁹³ Reed’s “public Rifle” may have been one of the party’s U.S. Model 1803 rifles that Lewis acquired at the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in present West Virginia.

August 19, 1804

[CLARK] at 10 oClock we assembled the Cheifs & Warriars under an Orning and delivered a Speech, explanitary of the One Sent to this Nation from the *Council Bluff*, &c.

Children When we Sent the 4 men to your towns, we expected to See & Speake with the Mahas by the time you would arrive and to lay the foundation of a peace between you and them

The Speech of Petieit Villeu Little Thief, If you think right and Can waite untill all our Warriars Come from the Buffalows hunt, we Can then tell you who is our men of Con-

sequence— My fathers always lived with the father of the B together & we always live with the Big hose— all the men here are the Suns of Chief and will be glad to get Something from the hands of their fathers. My father always directed me to be friendly with the white people, I have always done So and went often to the french, give my party pieces of Paper & we will be glad . . .

The Speech of the Big Horse I went to the hunt Buffalow I heard your word and I returned, I and all my men with me will attend to your words— you want to make peace with all, I want to make peace also, the young me[n] when they want to go to war where is the goods you give me to Keep them at home, if you give me Some Whisky to give a Drop to my men at home. I came here naked and must return home naked. if I have Something to give the young men I can prevent their going to war. You want to make peace with all, It is good we want Something to give my men at home. I am a pore man, and cant quiet without means, a Spoon ful of your milk will qui[e]t all . . .

Sergt. Floyd was taken violently bad with the Beliose Cholick [bilious colic] and is dangerously ill we attempt in Vain to releive him, I am much concerned for his Situation— we could get nothing to Stay on his Stomach a moment nature appear exosting fast in him every man is attentive to him <york prlly>.[Remained at Fish Camp.]

August 20, 1804

[CLARK] Serjeant Floyd as bad as he can be no pulse & nothing will Stay a moment on his Stomach or bowels— Passed two Islands on the S. S. and at first Bluff on the S S. Serj.' Floyd Died with a great deel of Composure, before his death he Said to me, "I am going away" ["I want you to write me a letter"— We buried him on the top of the bluff 1/2 Miles below a Small river to which we Gave his name, he was buried with the Honors of War much lamented; a Seeder post with the Name Sergt. C. Floyd died here 20th of August 1804 was fixed at the head of his grave— This

Man at all times gave us proofs of his firmness and Deturmined resolution to doe Service to his Countrey and honor to himself after paying all the honor to our Decesed brother we Camped in the mouth of *floyds* river about 30 yards wide, a butifull evening. [Camped just above the mouth of Floyd River, Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa.]

[GASS] Here Sergeant Floyd died, notwithstanding every possible effort was made by the commanding officers, and other persons, to save his life.

* * *

Chapter 2

The Middle Missouri

August 25-October 26, 1804

* * *

August 26, 1804

[LEWIS AND CLARK, DETACHMENT ORDERS] The commanding officers have thought it proper to appoint Patric Gass, a Sergeant in *the corps of volunteers for North Western Discovery*, he is therefore to be obeyed and respected accordingly. Sergt. Gass is directed to take charge of the late Sergt. Floyd's mess . . . The Commanding officers have every reason to hope from the previous faithfull services of Sergt. Gass, that this expression of their approbation will be still further confirmed, by his vigilant attention in future to his duties as a Sergeant. the Commanding officers are still further confirmed in the high opinion they had previously formed of the capacity, deligence and integrety of Sergt. Gass, from the wish expressed by a large majority of his comrades for his appointment as Sergeant. [Camped in Clay County, South Dakota, opposite the mouth of Bow Creek, Cedar County, Nebraska.]

August 27, 1804

[CLARK] G. Drewyer Came up and informed that he Could neither find Shannon nor horses,

we Sent Shields & J Fields, back to hunt Shannon & the horses . . . we had the Prarie Set on fire to let the Souix See that we were on the river, & as a Signal for them to Come to it. at 2 oClock passed the mouth of *River Jacque*, or Yeankton one Indian at the mouth of this river Swam to the Perogue, we landed and two others came to us, those Inds. informed that a large Camp of Soues, were on R. Jacque near the mouth. we Sent Sergt. Pryor & a Frenchman with Mr. Durioin the Souis interpeteter to the Camp with derections to invite the Principal Chiefs to councel with us at a Bluff above Called the Calumet. [Camped between the mouth of the James River and the town of Yankton, Yankton County, South Dakota.]

August 28, 1804

[CLARK] Capt Lewis & my Self much indisposed— I think from the Homney w[e] Substitute in place of bread, (or Plumbs). [Camped in Cedar County, Nebraska, just below present Gavins Point Dam, at the party's Calumet Bluff camp.]

[CLARK] one of the Perogues run a Snag thro her and was near Sinking in the opinions of the Crew— we came too below the *Calumet Bluff* and formed a camp in a Butifull Plain near the foot of the high land which rises with a gradual assent . . . The Perogue which was injurd I had unloaded and the Loading put into the other Perogue which we intended to Send back . . . after examoning her & finding that She was unfit for Service deturmined to Send her back by the party Some load which was in the Perogue much inju'd . . . J. Shields & J. Fields who was Sent back to look for Shannon & the Horses joined us & informed that Shannon had the horses a head and that they Could not over take him This man not being a first rate Hunter, we deturmined to Send one man in pursute of him with Some Provisions.

August 29, 1804

[CLARK] I am much engaged reriteing— at 4 oClock P M. Sergt. Pryor & Mr. Dorion with

5 Chiefs and about 70 men &c. arrived on the opposite Side we Sent over a Perogue & Mr. Dorrior & his Son² who was tradeing with the Indians Came over with Serjt Pryer, and informed us that the Chiefs were there we Sent Serjt. Pryor & yound Mr. Dorion with Som Tobacco, Corn & a few Kittles for them to Cook in, with directions to inform the Chiefs that we would Speek to them tomorrow . . . Serjt. Pryor informs me that when Came near the Indian Camp they were met by men with a Buffalow roabe to Carry them, Mr. Dorion informed ["they were not the Owners of the Boats & did not wish to be Carried"— the Sceoux Camps³ are handson of a Conic form Covered with Buffalow Roabs Painted different Colours and all Compact & hand Somly arranged, covered all round an orpen part in the Center for the fire, with Buffalow roabs each Lodg has a place for Cooking detached, the lodges contain 10 to 15 persons— a Fat Dog was presented as a mark of their Great respect for the party of which they partook hartily and thought it good & well flavored. [Remained at Calumet Bluff camp.]

[ORDWAY] we have plenty of fine fat Cat fish the most of the Time. Several large ones caught last night. The Misouri river affords us plenty of fish, & the Country plenty of all kinds of Game.

² Pierre Dorion Sr. and his son, Pierre Dorion Jr.

³ Yankton Sioux.

August 30, 1804

[CLARK] after Prepareing Some presents for the Chiefs which we intended make by giving Meadals, and finishing a Speech what we intend'd to give them, we Sent Mr. Dorion in a Perogue for the Chiefs & warreirs to a Council under an Oak tree near wher we had a flag flying on a high flag Staff at 12 OClock we met and Cap L. Delivered the Speach & thin made one great Chiff by giving him a meadal & Some Cloathes one 2d Chief & three third Chiefs in the Same way, They recvd. those thing with the goods and tobacco with plea-

sure To the Grand Chief we gave a Flag and the parole⁴ & wampom with a hat & Chiefs Coat, we Smoked out of the pipe of peace, & the Chiefs retired to a Bourey [bowery] made of bushes by their young men to Divide their presents and Smoke eat and Council . . . The Souix is a Stout bold looking people, (the young men hand Som) & well made, the greater part of them make use of Bows & arrows, Some fiew fusees⁵ I observe among them . . . the Warriors are Verry much dekerated with Paint Porcupin quils & feathers, large leagins & mockersons, all with buffalow roabs of Different Colours. the Squars wore Peticoats & and a white Buffalow roabes with the black hair turned back over their necks & Sholders. [Remained at Calumet Bluff camp.]

[ORDWAY] after dark we Made a large fire for the Indians to have a war dance, all the young men prepared themselves for the dance. Some of them painted themselves in curious manner Some of the Boys had their faces & foreheads all painted white & C a drum was prepared, the Band began to play on their little Instruments, & the drum beat & they Sang. the young men commenced dancing around the fire. it always began with a houp & hollow & ended with the Same, and in the intervalles, one of the warries at a time would rise with his weapen & Speak of what he had done in his day, & what warlike actions he had done & c. this they call merrit & C they would confess how many they had killed & of what nation they were off & how many horses they had Stole & C— they Camped along Side of us & behaved honestly.

⁴ Lewis and Clark carried certificates ("parole") to present to Indian dignitaries. The documents declared the recipient to be an ally of the United States and one who should be treated in a friendly manner.

⁵ Fusils, a type of musket.

August 31, 1804

[CLARK] I took a Vocabulary of the Scioux Language— and the Answer to a fiew quaries Such a[s] refured to ther Situation, Trade,

number War, & c. This Nation is Divided into 20 Tribes, possessing Seperate interests— Collectively they are noumerous Say from 2 to 3000 men, their interests are so unconnected that Some bands are at war with Nations which other bands are on the most friendly terms. This Great Nation who the French has given the nickname of Sciouex, Call them selves *Dar co tar* their language is not peculiarly their own, they Speak a great number of words, which is the Same in every respect with the Maha, Poncaser, Osarge & Kanzies. which Clearly proves that those nation at Some Period not more that a century or two past [were once?] the Same nation— Those *Dar ca ter's* or Scioux inhabit or rove over the Countrey on the Red river of Lake Winipeck, St. Peter's & the West of the Missippie above Prarie De chain heads of River Demoin, and the Missouri and its waters on the N. Side for a great extent. They are only at peace with 8 Nations, & agreeable to their Calculation at war with twenty odd. Their trade Coms from the British, except this Band and one on Demoin who trade with the Traders of St Louis— The[y] furnish *Beaver* Martain,⁶ <Loues>⁷ Pikon,⁸ Bear and Deer Skins—and have about 40 Traders among them. The *Dar co tar* or Sceouex rove & follow the Buffalow raise no corn or any thing else the woods & praries affording a Suffcency, the[y] eat Meat, and Substitute the Ground potato⁹ which grow in the Plains for bread. [Remained at Calumet Bluff camp.]

⁶ Marten.

⁷ Wolf.

⁸ Fisher or lynx.

⁹ Indian breadroot.

* * *

September 17, 1804

[LEWIS] Having for many days past confined myself to the boat, I determined to devote this day to amuse myself on shore with my gun and view the interior of the country lying between the river and the Corvus Creek—¹⁸ accordingly before sunrise I set out with six of my

best hunters . . . the country breakes off[f] as usual into a fine leavel plain extending as far as the eye can reach. from this plane I had an extensive view of the river below, and the irregular hills which border the opposite sides of the river and creek. the surrounding country had been birnt about a month before and young grass had now sprung up to hight of 4 Inches presenting the live green of the spring. to the West a high range of hills, strech across the country from N. to S and appeared distant about 20 miles . . . this senery already rich pleasing and beatiful, was still farther hightened by immence herds of Buffaloe deer Elk and Antelopes which we saw in every direction feeding on the hills and plains . . . we found the 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 . . . antilopes which had disappeared in a steep revezne 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 ferst 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 reather the rappid flight of birds than the motion of quadrupeds. I think I can safely venture the asscrtion that the speed of this anamal is equal if not superior to that of the finest blooded courser. [Remained near Oacoma.]

[CLARK] Colter Killed . . . a curious kind of deer¹⁹ of a Dark gray Colr. more so than common, hair long & fine, the ears large & long, a Small reseptical under the eyes; like an Elk, the Taile about the length of Common Deer, round (like a Cow) a tuft of black hair about

the end, this Speces of Deer jumps like a goat or Sheep.

¹⁸ American Crow Creek, Lyman County, South Dakota.

¹⁹ Mule deer.

September 18, 1804

[CLARK] I Killed a Prarie Wollf, about the Size of a gray fox bushey tail head & ear like a wolf, Some fur Burrows in the ground and barks like a Small Dog. what has been taken heretofore for the Fox was those wolves, and no Foxes has been Seen; The large wolves are verry numourous, they are of a light Colr. large & has long hair with Corrs fur. [Camped a few miles northeast of Oacoma, Lyman County, South Dakota.]

[ORDWAY] the Bones of the woolf was taken apart and Saved as well as the Skins . . . in order to Send back to the States next Spring, with the other curiosities.

September 20, 1804

[GASS] passed a long chain of bluffs on the north side, of a dark colour. From these and others of the same kind the Missouri gets its muddy colour. The earth of which they are composed dissolves like sugar; every rain washes down great quantities of it, and the rapidity of the stream keeps it mixing and afloat in the water, until it reaches the mouth of the Mississippi. [Camped on an island in Hughes County, South Dakota.]

September 21, 1804

[CLARK] at half past one oClock this morning the Sand bar on which we Camped began to under mind and give way which allarmed the Sergeant on Guard, the motion of the boat awakened me; I get up & by the light of the moon observed that the land had given away both above and below our Camp & was falling in fast . . . we had pushed off but a few minets before the bank under which the Boat & perogus lay give way, which would Certainly have Sunk both Perogues, by the time we made

the opsd. Shore our Camp fell in . . . at Day-light proceeded on to the Gouge of this Great bend²⁰ and Brackfast, we Sent a man to measure step off the Distance across the gouge, he made it 2000 yds. The distance arround is 30 mes. [Camped on an island in Hughes County, South Dakota.]

²⁰ Big Bend of the Missouri, Lyman County, South Dakota.

* * *

September 25, 1804

[CLARK] a fair morning the wind from the S. E. all well, raised a Flag Staff & made a orning or Shade on a Sand bar in the mouth of Teton River for the purpose of Speaking with the Indians under, the Boat Crew on board at 70 yards Distance from the bar The 5 Indians which we met last night Continued, about 11 oClock the 1s & 2d Chief Came we gave them Some of our Provsions to eat, they gave us great quantites of meet Some of which was Spoiled we feel much at a loss for the want of an interpeter the one we have can Speak but little.

Met in council at 12 oClock and after Smokeing, agreeable to the usial Custom, Cap Lewis proceeded to Deliver a Speech which we oblige to Curtail for want of a good interpeter all our Party paraded. gave a medal to the Grand Chief Calld. in Indian *Un ton gar Sar bar* in French *Beefe nure* Black Buffalow²⁶ Said to be a good man, 2 Chief *Torto hon gar*—or the *Partisan*²⁷—or Partizan—*bad* the 3rd is the *Beffe De Medison*²⁸ his name is *Tar ton gar wa ker* . . .

Envited those Cheifs on board to Show them our boat and Such Curiossities as was Strange to them, we gave them 1/4 a glass of whiskey which they appeared to be verry fond of, Sucked the bottle after it was out & Soon began to be troublesom, one the 2d Cheif assumeing Drunkness, as a Cloake for his rascally intentions I went with those Cheifs (which left the boat with great reluctance) to Shore with a view of reconseleing those men

to us, as Soon as I landed the Perogue three of their young men Seased the Cable of the Perogue the Chiefs Soldr. Huged the mast, and the 2d Chief was verry insolent both in words & justures declareing I Should not go on, Stateing he had not recved presents Suffient from us, his justures were of Such a personal nature I felt my Self Compeled to Draw my Sword, at this motion Capt. Lewis ordered all under arms in the boat, those with me also Showed a Disposition to Defend themselves and me, the grand Chief then took hold of the roop & ordered the young warrers away, I felt my Self warm & Spoke in verry positive terms

Most of the warriers appeared to have ther Bows Strung and took out their arrows from ther quves. as I was not permitted to return, I Sent all the men except 2 Inpt. [interpreters] to the boat, the perogu Soon returned with about 12 of our detumind men ready for any event this movement caused a no: of the Indians to withdraw at a distance, Their treatment to me was verry rough & I think justified roughness on my part, they all left my Perogue and Councild. with themselves the result I could not lern and nearly all went off after remaining in this Situation Some time I offered my hand to the 1 & 2 Chief who refusd to recve it. I turned off & went with my men on board the perogue, I had not progd. more the 10 paces before the 1st Cheif 3rd & 2 Brave men waded in after me. I took them in & went on board

we proceeded on about 1 mile & anchored out off a willow Island placed a guard on Shore to protect the Cooks & a guard in the boat, fastened the Perogues to the boat, I call this Island bad humered Island as we were in a bad humer. [Camped on later Marion Island, opposite Pierre, Hughes County, South Dakota.]

[ORDWAY] the large Swivel loaded immediately with 16 Musquet Ball in it the 2 other Swivels loaded well with Buck Shot, Each of them manned. Capt. Clark used moderation with them told them that we must and would go on the chief Sayed he had warriers too and

if we were to go on they would follow us and kill [us] then Capt. Clark told them that we were Sent by their great father the president of the U. S. and that if they misused us that he or Capt. Lewis could by writing to him have them all distroyed as it were in a moment the chief then let go the Cable, and Sayed that he was Sorry.

²⁶ Black Buffalo.

²⁷ The Partisan.

²⁸ Buffalo Medicine.

September 26, 1804

[CLARK] (they [Tetons] offered us women, which we did not except). [Camped about four miles north of Fort Pierre, Stanley County, South Dakota.]

[CLARK] [The Tetons] appear Spritely, generally ill looking & not well made thier legs & arms Small . . . they Grese & <Black> themselves with coal when they dress, make use of a hawks feather about their heads the men a robe & each a polecats²⁹ Skins, for to hold ther *Bais roly*³⁰ for Smokeing fond of Dress & Show badly armed with fuseis [fusils] &. The Squaws are Chearfull fine lookg womin not handson, High Cheeks Dressed in Skins a Peticoat and roab which foldes back over thir Sholder, with long wool. doe all ther laborious work & I may Say perfect Slaves to the men, as all Squars of nations much at war . . . after Comeing too Capt. Lewis & 5 men went on Shore with the Chiefs, who appeared desposed to make up & be friendly, after Captain Lewis had been on Shore about 3 hours I became uneasy for fear of Some Deception & sent a Serjeant to See him and know his treatment which he reported was friendly, & thy were prepareing for a Dance this evening

The[y] made frequent Selecitiation for us to remain one night only and let them Show their good disposition towards us, we deturmined to remain, after the return of Capt. Lewis, I went on Shore I saw Several Maha Prisoners and Spoke to the Chiefs it was necessary to give those prisoners up & become

good friends with the Mahars if they wished to follow the advice of their Great father I was in Several Lodges neetly formed as before mentioned as to the Bauruly Tribe³¹— I was met by about 10 well Dressd. yound men who took me up in a roabe Highly a decrated and Set me Down by the Side of their Chief on a Dressed robe in a large Council House this house formed a 3/4 Cercle of Skins well Dressed and Sown together under this Shelter about 70 men Set forming a Circle in front of the Chiefs a plac of 6 feet Diameter was Clear and the pipe of peace raised on Sticks under which there was Swans down Scattered, on each Side of the Circle two Pipes, The flags of Spain 2 & the Flag we gave them in front of the Grand Chief . . .

Soon after they set me Down, the men went for Capt Lewis brought him in the same way and placed him also by the Chief in a few minits an old man rose & Spoke approveing what we had done & informing us of their Situation requesting us to take pity on them &c which was answered— The Great Chief then rose with great State to the Same purpote as far as we Could learn & then with Great Solemnity took up the pipe of peace whin the principal Chiefs Spoke with the pipe of Peace he took in one hand Some of the most Delicate parts of the Dog which was prepared for the feist & made a Sacrifise to the flag— & after pointing it to the heavins the 4 quarter of the Globe & the earth, lit it and prosist presented the Stem to us to Smoke, after a Smoke had taken place, & a Short Harange to his people, we were requested to take the meal we Smoked for an hour [until] Dark & all was Cleared away a large fire made in the Center, about 10 misitions playing on tamberins long sticks with Deer & Goats Hoofs tied So as to make a gingling noise and many others of a Similer kind, those men began to Sing, & Beet on the Tamboren, the women Came foward highly Deckerated in theire way, with the Scalps and Trofies of war of ther father Husbands Brothers or near Connection & proceeded to Dance the war Dance which they done with Great Chearfullness untill 12

oClock when we informed the Cheifs that they were fatigued &c. they then retired & we Accompd. by 4 Chiefs returned to our boat, they Stayed with us all night. Those people have Some brave men which they make use of as Soldiers those men attend to the police of the Village Correct all errors³² I saw one of them to day whip 2 Squars who appeared to have fallen out, when he approachd all about appeared to flee with great turrow at night thy keep two 3 4 or 5 men at deffinit Distances walking around Camp Singing the accurrences of the night . . .

I Saw & eat *Pemitigon*³³ the Dog, Grou[n]d potatoe³⁴ made into a Kind of homney, which I thought but little inferior— I also Saw a Spoon made of a horn of an animile of the Sheep kind³⁵ the spoon will hold 2 quarts.

²⁹ Colloquial name for a skunk.

³⁰ *Bois roulé*, otherwise kinnikinnick: a mixture of barks with tobacco.

³¹ Clark's mention of Bois Brulé is in error; he meant the Yanktons.

³² The Teton soldiers were members of a warrior society, *akicita*, who acted as a constabulary.

³³ Pemmican is dried, pulverized meat mixed with berries.

³⁴ Indian potato.

³⁵ Bighorn sheep.

September 27, 1804

[CLARK] (when a[ny] of thos people Die they pierce ther flesh with arrows above & below ther elbows as a testimony of ther grief) after a delay of half an hour I went with them on Shore, they left the boat with reluctance (we Suspect they are treacherous and are at all times guarded & on our guard) They again offered me a young woman and wish me to take her & not Dispipe them, I wavered the Subject, at Dark the Dance began as usial and performed as last night. [Remained at camp north of Fort Pierre.]

[CLARK] Capt. Lewis came on Shore and we Continued untill we were Sleepy & returned to our boat, the 2nd Chief & one principal

man accompanid us, those two Indians accompanied me on board in the Small Perogue, Capt. Lewis with a guard Still on Shore, the man who Steered not being much acustomed to Steer, passed the bow of the boat & peroge Came broad Side against the Cable & broke it which obliged me to order in a loud voice all hands up & at their ores, my preemtpy order to the men and the bustle of their getting to their ores allarmd the Cheifs, togethr with the appearance of the men on Shore, as the boat turnd. The Cheif hollowered & allarmed the Camp or Town informing them that the Mahars was about attacting us. in about 10 minits the bank was lined with men armed the 1st Cheif at their head, about 200 men appeared and after about 1/2 hour returned all but about 60 men who Continued on the bank all night, the Cheifs Contd. all night with us— This allarm I as well as Captn. Lewis Considered as the Signal of their intentions (which was to Stop our proceeding on our journey and if Possible rob us) we were on our Guard all night, the misfortune of the loss of our Anchor obliged us to Lay under a falling bank much exposd. to the accomplishment of their hostile intentions P. C[ruzatte]—our Bowman who Cd. Speek Mahar informed us in the night that the Maha Prisoners informed him we were to be Stopped— we Shew as little Signs of a Knowledge of their intentions as possible all prepared on board for any thing which might hapen, we kept a Strong guard all night in the boat no sleep.

[GASS] the Indians made preparations for a dance. At dark it commenced. Captain Lewis, myself and some of our party went up to see them perform. Their band of musick, or orchestra, was composed of about twelve persons beating on a buffaloe hide, and shaking small bags that made a rattling noise. They had a large fire in the centre of their camp; on one side the women, about 80 in number, formed in a solid column round the fire, with sticks in their hands, and the scalps of the Mahas they had killed, tied on them. They kept moving, or jumping round the fire, rising

and falling on both feet at once; keeping a continual noise, singing and yelling. In this manner they continued till 1 o'clock at night.

September 28, 1804

[CLARK] when we was about Setting out the Class Called the Soldiers took possession of the Cable the 1s Chief which was Still on board & intended to go a Short distance up with us, I told him the men of his nation Set on the Cable, he went out & told Capt Lewis who was at the bow the men who Set on the Roap was Soldiers and wanted Tobacco Capt. L. Said would not agree to be forced into any thing, the 2d Chief Demanded a flag & Tobacco which we refusd. to Give Stateing proper reasons to them for it after much difucelty—which had nearly reduced us to hostility I threw a Carot of Tobacco to 1s Chief Spoke So as to touch his pride took the port fire from the gunner the Chief gives the Tobaco to his Soldiers & he jerked the rope from them and handed it to the bows man . . . I am Verry unwelle for want of Sleep Deturmined to Sleep to night if possible, the men Cooked & we rested well. [Camped on a sandbar about three miles above Oahe Dam, Stanley and Hughes Counties, South Dakota; the area is now inundated by Lake Oahe.]

[GASS] While I was at the Indian camp yesterday they yoked a dog to a kind of car,³⁶ which they have to haul their baggage from one camp to another; the nation having no settled place or village, but are always moving about. The dogs are not large, much resemble a wolf, and will haul about 70 pounds each.

³⁶ Indian dog travois.

September 29, 1804

[CLARK] at 9 oClock we observed the 2d Chief with 2 men and Squars on Shore . . . we refused to let one more Come on board Stateing Suffient reasons, observd they would walk on Shore to the place we intended to Camp, offered us women we objected and told them we Should not Speake to another teton except the one on board with us, who might go on

Shore when ever he pleased, those Indians proceeded on untill later in the evening when the Chief requested that the Perogue might put him across the river which we agreed to. [Camped on a sandbar between Stanley and Sully Counties, South Dakota, about three and one-half miles above Chantier Creek, Stanley County.]

September 30, 1804

[CLARK] the Stern of the boat got fast on a log and the boat turned & was verry near filling before we got her righted, the waves being verry high, The Chief on board was So fritined at the motion of the boat which in its rocking caused Several loose articles to fall on the Deck from the lockers, he ran off and hid himself, we landed he got his gun and informed us he wished to return, that all things were Cleare for us to go on we would not See any more Tetons &c. [Camped on a sandbar in Sully County, South Dakota, just below the mouth of Cheyenne River opposite.]

October 1, 1804

[CLARK] Sand bars are So noumerous, that it is impossible to discribe them, & think it unnecessary to mention them. we Saw a man opposit to our Camp on the L. S. which we discovd. to be a Frenchman . . . This Mr. *Jon Vallie*³⁷ informs us that he wintered last winter 300 Leagues up the Chien River under the Black mountains, he informs that this river is verry rapid and dificiult even for Canoos to assend . . . The black Mountains he Says is verry high, and Some parts of it has Snow on it in the Summer great quantities of Pine Grow on the mountains, a great noise is heard frequently on those mountains, on the mountains great numbers of goat, and a kind of Anamale with large Circuler horns,³⁸ This animale is nearly the Size of an Argalia Small Elk. White bear³⁹ is also plenty— The Chien Inds.⁴⁰ <are about 300 lodges they> inhabit this river principally, and Steel horses from the Spanish Settlements <to the S W> This excurtion they make in one month . . . This frenchman gives an account of a white booted turkey⁴¹ an inhabitant of the Cout Noie.⁴²

[Camped on a sandbar a few miles above the mouth of Cheyenne River, in either Dewey or Sully Counties, South Dakota.]

[LEWIS AND CLARK, WEATHER REMARKS] the leaves of the ash popular & most of the shrubs begin to turn yellow and decline.

³⁷ Jean Vallé, a trader from Ste. Genevieve, Missouri.

³⁸ Bighorn sheep.

³⁹ Grizzly bear.

⁴⁰ Cheyenne Indians.

⁴¹ Probably the sharp-tailed grouse.

⁴² Black Hills.

* * *

October 9, 1804

[CLARK] all the grand Chiefs visited us to day also Mr Taboe,⁴⁸ a trader from St. Louis—Many Canoes of a Single Buffalow Skin⁴⁹ made in the form of a Bowl Carrying generally 3 and Sometimes 5 & 6 men, those Canoes, ride the highest Waves . . . I saw at Several times to day 3 Squars in single Buffalow Skin Canoes loaded with meat Cross the River, at the time the waves were as high as I ever Saw them in the Missouri. [Remained at the camp between Oak and Fisher Creeks.]

[CLARK] the three great Chiefs [of the Arikaras] . . .

1st Chiefs name *Kakawissassa* (lighting Crow.)

2d do do *Pocasse* (or Hay)

3d do do *Piaheto* (or Eagles feather)

⁴⁸ Pierre-Antoine Tabeau, associated with Grave-lines.

⁴⁹ Possibly bullboats, hemispherical vessels covered with buffalo skins.

October 10, 1804

[CLARK] the Inds. much astonished at my black Servent, 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 verry good eating Showed them his Strength &c. [Remained at the camp between Oak and Fisher Creeks.]

[CLARK] we prepare all things ready to Speak to the Indians, Mr. Tabo & Mr. Gravolin Came to brackfast with us the Chiefs & came from the lower Town, but none from the 2 upper Towns, which is the largest . . . at 12 oClock Dispatchd Gravelin to envite them to Come down, we have every reason to believe that a jellousy exists between the Villages for fear of our makeing the 1st Cheif from the lower Village, at one oClock the Cheifs all assembled & after Some little Cerrimony the Council Commenced, we informd them what we had told the others before i' e' Ottoes & Seaux. made 3 Cheif 1 for each Village. gave them presents. after the Council was Over we Shot the air guns which astonished them much, the[y] then Departed and we rested Secure all night.

[GASS] The following is a description of the form of these lodges and the manner of building them. In a circle of a size suited to the dimensions of the intended lodge, they set up 16 forked posts five or six feet high, and lay poles from one fork to another. Against these poles they lean other poles, slanting from the ground, and extending about four inches above the cross poles: these are to receive the ends of the upper poles, that support the roof. They next set up four large forks, fifteen feet high, and about ten feet apart, in the middle of the area; and poles or beams between these. The roof poles are then laid on extending from the lower poles across the beams which rest on the middle forks, of such a length as to leave a hole at the top for a chimney. The whole is then covered with willow branches, except the chimney and a hole below to pass through. On the willow branches they lay grass and lastly clay. At the hole below they build a pen about four feet wide and projecting ten feet from the hut; and hang a buffaloe skin, at the entrance of the hut for a door. This labour like every other kind is chiefly performed by the squaws.

October 11, 1804

[CLARK] at 11 oClock we met the Grand Chief in Council & and he made a Short Speech thanking us for what we had Given him & his nation promisseing to attend to the Council we had given him & informed us the road was open & no one dare Shut it, & we might Departe at pleasure, at 1 oClock we Set out for the upper villages 3 miles distant . . . after being treated by every civility by those people who are both pore & Durtey we returned to our boat at about 10 oClk. P M. informing them before we Departed that we would Speak to them tomorrow at there Seperate Villages. Those people gave us to eate bread made of Corn & Beens, also Corn & Beans boild. a large Been,⁵⁰ which they rob the mice of the Prarie which is rich & verry nurrishing also Squashes &c. all Tranquillity. [Camped a few miles above Fisher Creek, Corson County, South Dakota.]

[ORDWAY] Some of the party down at the village below this last night they informed us that one of the chiefs lost all the good he Recd. from us in the River, Going home. the Skin canoe got over Set turned everyy thing out of it he Grieved himself considerable about his loss &C.

⁵⁰ Product of the hog peanut, gathered from the stores of the meadow mouse.

October 12, 1804

[CLARK] went to the house of the 2nd Chief *Lassil*⁵¹ where there was many Chief and warriers & about 7 bushels of Corn, a pr Leagins a twist of their Tobacco & Seeds of 2 Kind of Tobacco we Set Some time before the Councill Commenced this man Spoke at Some length declareing his dispotion to believe and prosue our Councils, his intention of going to Visit his great father acknowledged the Satisfaction in receiveing the presents &c. rais'g a Doubt as to the Safty on passing the nations below particularly the Souex. requested us to take a Chief of their nation and make a good pact with Mandins⁵² & nations above. after answering those parts of the 2d Chiefs Speech which required it, which appeared to give

General Satisfaction we went to the Village of the 3rd Chief and as usual Some Serimony took place before he Could Speak to us on the Great Subject . . .

The Nation of the Rickerries is about 600 men able to bear arms a Great perpotion of them have fusees they appear to be peacefull, their men tall and perpotiend, womin Small and industerous, raise great quantities of Corn Beens Simmins⁵³ &c. also Tobacco for the men to Smoke they Collect all the wood and do the drugery as Common amongst Savages. Thise <nation is> made up of <10> Different Tribes of the Pania, who had formerly been Seperate, but by Commotion and war with their neighbours have Come reduced and compelled to Come together for protection, The Currupcion of the language of those different Tribes has So reduced the language that the Different Villages do not understade all the words of the others. Those people are Durtey, Kind, pore, & extravigent pursessing national pride. not beggarley reive what is given with great pleasure . . .

Those people express an inclination to be at peace with all nations— The Seaux who trade the goods which they get of the British Traders for their corn, and great influence over the Rickeres, poison their minds and keep them in perpetial dread . . .

a curious Cuistom with the Souix as well as the reckeres is to give handsom Squars to those whome they wish to Show Some acknowledge-ments to— The Seaux we got Clare of without taking their Squars, they followed us with Squars . . . two days. The Rickores we put off dureing the time we were at the Towns but 2 Handsom young Squars were Sent by a man to follow us, they Came up this evening and peresisted in their Civilities. [Camped about ten miles above the previous camp but on the opposite shore, Campbell County, South Dakota.]

⁵¹ Perhaps another name for Pocasse, the second chief.

⁵² Mandan Indians.

⁵³ Probably Clark's version of "simlin," a term for summer squashes.