

ORIGINAL JOURNALS
OF THE
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
1804-1806

IN SEVEN VOLUMES AND AN ATLAS

VOLUME FOUR

*Journals and Orderly Book of Lewis and Clark,
from Fort Clatsop to Musquetoe Creek
January 21 — May 7, 1806*

nation and others residing in the neighbourhood of wappetoe Island. near the entrance of Multnomah river a considerable nation resides on the lower side of that stream by the same name. as many as ten canoes with natives arrived at our camp in the course of the day; most of them were families of men women and children decending the river. they all gave the same account of the scarcity of provision above. I shot my air gun with which they were much astonished. one family consisting of ten or twelve persons remained near us all night. they conducted themselves in a very orderly manner. the three hunters on this side of the river returned in the evening they had killed two deer, tho' they were so poor and at such a distance from camp that they brought in their skins only. the night and morning being cloudy I was again disappointed in making the observations I wished. at noon I observed the Meridian Altitude of the \odot 's U.L. }
with sextant by the direct obs: } $99^{\circ} 20' 45''$.

Latitude deduced from this observation [blank space in MS.]
This observation may be depended on to $15''$ of a degree.

Fir is the common growth of the uplands, as is the cottonwood, ash, large leafed ash and sweet willow that of the bottom lands. the huckleberry, shallon, and the several evergreen shrubs of that speceis which bear burries have seased to appear except that speceis which has the leaf with a prickly margin. among the plants of this prarie in which we are encamped I observe the passhequo, Shannetahque, and compound firn the roots of which the natives eat; also the water cress, strawburry, flowering pea not yet in blume, the sinquefoil, narrow dock, sand rush which are luxuriant and abundant in the river bottoms; a speceis of the bearsclaw of which I preserved a specemine it is in blume. the large leafed thorn has also disappeared. the red flowering currant is found here in considerable quantities on the uplands. the hunters inform me that there are extensive praries on the highlands a few miles back from the river on this side. the land is very fertile.

[Clark:]

Wednesday April 2nd 1806

This morning we came to a resolution to remain at our present encampment or some where in this neighbourhood untill we had obtained as much dried meat as would be necessary for our voyage as far as the Chopunnish. to exchange our large canoes for small ones with the nativs on our way to the great Falls of the Columbia or purchase such canoes from them for Elk skins and Merchandize as would answer our purposes. these canoes we intend exchangeing with the nativs of the Plains for horses as we proceed untill we obtain as maney as will enable us to travel altogether by land. at some convenient point, perhaps at the enterance of Lewis's River we intend sending a party of 4 or 5 men a head to collect our horses that they may be in readiness for us by our arrival at the Chopunnish; calculating by thus acquiring a large stock of horses we shall not only secure the means of transporting our baggage over the Mountains, but that we also have provided the means of subsisting; for we now view the horses as our only certain resource for food, nor do we look foward to it with any detestation or horror, so soon is the mind which is occupied with any interesting object, reconsiled to it's situation. The men who went in quest of the Elk and Deer which were killed yesterday returned at 8 A. M. this morning. we now informed the party of our intention of laying in a store of meat at this place, and imediately dispatched two parties consisting of nine men to the opposit side of the river. 5 of them below and 4 above quick sand River. we also sent out 3 others on this side, and those who remained in camp were employd in collecting wood makeing a scaffold and cutting up the meat in order to dry it. about this time several canoes of the nativs arived at our Camp among others two from below with Eight men of the *Shah-ha-la* Nation those men informed us that they reside on the opposit side of the Columbia near some pine trees which they pointed to in the bottom South of the Dimond Island, they singled out two young men whome they informed us lived at the Falls of a large river which discharges itself into the Columbia on it's south side some miles below us. we readily provailed on them to give us a sketch of

this river which they drew on a Mat with a coal, it appeared that this river which they call *Mult-nó-mah* discharged itself behind the Island we call the image canoe island, and as we had left this island to the south in decending & assending the river we had never seen it. they informed us that it was a large river and runs a considerable distance to the south between the Mountains. I deturmined to take a small party and return to this river and examine its size and collect as much information of the nativs on it or near it's enterance into the Columbia of its extent, the country which it waters and the nativs who inhabit its banks &c. I took with me six men, Thompson J. Potts, Peter Crusat, P. Wiser, T. P. Howard, Jos. Whitehouse & my man York in a large Canoe, with an Indian whome I hired for a Sun glass to accompany me as a pilot. at half past 11 A. M. I set out, and had not proceeded far eer I saw 4 large canoes at some distance above decending and bending their course towards our Camp which at this time is very weak Cap! Lewis haveing only 10 men with him. I hesitated for a moment whether it would not be advisable for me to return and delay untill a part of our hunters should return to add more strength to our Camp. but on a second reflection and reverting to the precautions always taken by my friend Cap! Lewis on those occasions banished all apprehensions and I proceeded on down. at 8 miles passed a village on the South side at this place my Pilot informed me he resided and that the name of the tribe is *Ne-cha-co-lee*,¹ this village is back on the South of Dimond island, and as we passed on the North side of the island both decending and assending did not see or know of this village. I proceeded on without landing at this village. at 3 P. M. I landed at a large double house of the *Ne-er-che-ki-oo* tribe of the *Shah-ha-la* Nation. at this place we had seen 24 aditional straw Huts as we passed down last fall and whome as I have before mentioned reside at the Great rapids of the Columbia. on the bank at different places I observed small canoes which the women make use of to gather wappato & roots in the Slashes. those canoes are from 10

¹ Bancroft (*N. W. Coast*, ii, p. 44) thinks this is the tribe now known as Wasco. — ED.

to 14 feet long and from 18 to 23 inches wide in the widest part tapering from the center to both ends in this form



and about 9 inches deep and so light that a woman may with one hand haul

them with ease, and they are sufficient to carry a woman an[d] some loading. I think 100 of these canoes were piled up and scattered in different directions about in the woods, in the vicinity of this house, the pilot informed me that those canoes were the property of the inhabitants of the Grand rapids who used them ocasionaly to gather roots. I entered one of the rooms of this house and offered several articles to the nativs in exchange for wappato. they were sulkey and they positively refused to sell any. I had a small pece of port fire match in my pocket, off of which I cut a pece one inch in length & put it into the fire and took out my pocket compas and set myself down on a mat on one side of the fire, and [also showed] a magnet which was in the top of my ink stand the port fire caught and burned vehemently, which changed the colour of the fire; with the magnit I turned the needle of the compas about very briskly; which astonished and alarmed these nativs and they laid several parsles of wappato at my feet, & begged of me to take out the bad fire; to this I consented; at this moment the match being exhausted was of course extinguished and I put up the magnet &c. this measure alarmed them so much that the womin and children took shelter in their beads and behind the men, all this time a very old blind man was speaking with great vehemunce, appearently imploring his god. I lit my pipe and gave them smoke, & gave the womin the full amount [value] of the roots which they had put at my feet. they appeared somewhat passified and I left them and proceeded on. on the south side of Image Canoe Island which I found to be two Islands, hid from the opposit side by one near the center of the river. the lower point of the upper and the upper point of the lower cannot be seen from the North Side of the Columbia on which we had passed both decending and ascending and had not observed the apperture between those islands. at the distance of 13 miles below the last village

and at the place I had supposed was the lower point of the image canoe island, I entered this river which the natives had informed us of, called *Multnomah* River so called by the natives from a nation who reside on Wappato Island a little below the entrance of this river. Multnomah discharges itself in the Columbia on the S.E. and may be justly said to be $\frac{1}{4}$ the size of that noble river. Multnomah had fallen 18 inches from its greatest annual height. three small Islands are situated in it's mouth which hides the river from view from the Columbia. from the entrance of this river, I can plainly see M: Jefferson which is high and covered with snow S.E. M: Hood East, M: S: Helians [and] a high humped mountain [Mount Adams] to the East of M: S: Helians.

- S. 30° W. 2 miles to the upper point of a small island in the middle of Multnomah river. thence
 S. 10° W. 3 miles to a sluice 80 yards wide which divides Wappato Island from the main star^d side shore passing a willow point on the Lard. side.
 S. 60° E. 3 miles to a large Indian house on the Lard side below some high pine land. high bold shore on the Starboard side. thence
 S. 30° E. 2 miles to a bend under the high lands on the Star^d Side
 10 passing a Larboard point.

thence the river bends to the East of S East as far as I could see. at this place I think the width of the river may be stated at 500 yards and sufficiently deep for a Man of war or ship of any burthen.

[Lewis:]

Thursday April 3rd 1806.

Early this morning Joseph Fields came over and informed me that Reubin Feilds Drewyer and himself had killed four Elk. as the party with me were now but weak and the Indians constantly crouding about our camp, I thought it best to send a few men to dry the meat on the other side of the river; accordingly Serg: Pryor and two men returned with Jos. Fields for that purpose. the hunters were ordered to

continue the chase, while the others were employed in drying the meat. I have had no account as yet from the party below the entrance of Quicksand river. The Indians continued to visit us to day in considerable numbers most of them were decending the river with their families these poor people appeared to be almost starved, they picked up the bones and little peices of refuse meat which had been thrown away by the party. they confirm the report of the scarcity of provision among the natives above. I observe some of the men among them who wear a girdle arround the waist between which and the body in front they confine a small skin of the mink or polecat which in some measure conceals the parts of generation. they also frequently wear a cap formed of the skin of the deer's head with the ears left on it, they have some collars of leather wrought with porcupine quills after the method of the Shoshonees. From this place Mount Hood bears S. 85° E. distant 40 miles. This evening we completed drying the flesh of the Elk which had been brought to camp. at 6 P.M. Cap: Clark returned, having completely succeeded in his expedition. he found the entrance of the large river of which the Indians had informed us, just at the upper part of wappetoe Island. the following is a sketch of the river furnished Cap' C. by an old and inteligent Indian man.¹ (add Clahnaquah

[Clark:]

Thursday April 3rd 1806

The water had fallen in the course of last night five inches. I set out and proceeded up a short distance and attempted a second time to fathom the river with my cord of 5 fathom but could find no bottom. the mist was so thick that I could see but a short distance up this river. When I left it, it was bending to the East of S.E. being perfectly satisfied of the size and magnitude of this great river which must water that vast tract of Country between the western range of mountains and those on the sea coast and as far S. as the Waters of Calli-

¹ For this sketch see Clark's journal, April 3, p. 242, *post.* — Ed.

fornia about Lat^d 37. North. I deturmined to return.¹ at 7 oClock A. M. set out on my return. the men exirted themselves and we arived at the Neerchokioo house in which the nativs were so illy disposed yesterday at 11 A. M. I entered the house with a view to smoke with those people who consisted of about 8 families, finding my presence alarmed them so much that the children hid themselves, womin got behind their men, and the men hung their heads, I detained but a few minits and return^d on board the canoe. My pilot who continued in the canoe informed me on my return that those people as well as their relations were very illy disposed and bad people. I proceeded on along the south side met five canoes of the *Shah-ha-la* Nation from the Great rapids with their wives and children decending the Columbia into this fertile Vally in pursute of provisions. My pilot informed me in a low voice that those people were not good, and I did not suffer them to come along side of my canoe which they appeared anxious to do. their numbers in those canoes who appear^d anxious to come along side was 21 men and 3 boys. at 3 P. M. we arived at the residence of our Pilot which consists of one long house with seven appartments or rooms in square form about 30 feet each room opening into a passage which is quit[e] through the house those passages are about 4 feet in width and formed of wide boar[ds] set on end in the ground and reaching to the Ruff [roof] which serves also as divisions to the rooms. The ground plot is in this form

226 feet long					
1	2	3	4	5	6

1.1.1.1 is the passages. 2.2 &c is the appartments about 30 feet square. this house is built of bark of the white cedar Supported on long stiff poles resting on the ends of broad boards which form the rooms &c back of this house I observe the wreck of 5 houses remaining of a very large village, the houses of which had been built in the form of those we first saw at the long narrows of the *E-lute* Nation with whome those people are connected. I indeavored to obtain from those

¹ Clark ascended to a point at or near the present site of Portland, Ore. A writer in the *Portland Oregonian*, July 25, 1902, claims that it was within the city limits, near the railroad bridge which crosses the Willamette. — Ed.

people of the situation of their nation, if scattered or what had become of the nativs who must have peopled this great town. an old man who appeared of some note among them and father to my guide brought foward a woman who was badly marked with the Small Pox and made signs that they all died with the disorder which marked her face, and which she was very near dieing with when a girl. from the age of this woman this Distructive disorder I judge must have been about 28 or 30 years past, and about the time the Clatsops inform us that this disorder raged in their towns and distroyed their nation. Those people speak a different language from those below tho' in their dress habits and manners &c they differ but little from the Quathlahpohtles. their women ware the *truss* as those do of all the nations residing from the Quathlahpohtle to the enterance of Lewis's river and on the Columbia above for some distance. those people have some words the same with those below but the air of their language is entirely different, their men are stouter and much better made, and their womin ware larger & longer robes than those do below; those are most commonly made of Deer skins dressed with the hair on them. they pay great attention to their aged severall men and women whom I observed in this village had arived at a great age, and appeared to be helthy tho' blind. I provailed on an old man to draw me a sketch of the Multnomar River and give me the names of the nations resideing on it which he readily done, and gave me the names of 4 nations who reside on this river two of them very noumerous. The first is *Clark-a-mus* nation reside on a small river which takes its rise in Mount Jefferson and falls into the Moltnomar aboue 40 miles up. this nation is noumerous and inhabit 11 Towns. the 2^d is the *Cush-hooks* who reside on the N E. side below the falls, the 3^d is the *Char-cowah* who reside above the Falls on the S W. side neither of those two are noumerous. The fourth Nation is the *Cal-lar-po-e-wah*¹ which is very noumerous & in-

¹ This tribe is not Chinookan, but gives name to a different linguistic family the Kalapuya (Calapooya). They inhabited the Willamette Valley through most of its extent, and have given their name to a range of mountains which form the upper watershed of the Willamette. — Ed.

habit the country on each side of the Multnomah from its falls as far up as the knowledge of those people extend. they inform me also that a high mountain passes the Multnomah at the falls, and above the country is an open plain of great extent. I purchased 5 dogs of those people for the use of their oil in the Plains, and at 4 P M left the village and proceeded on to Camp where I join'd Cap^t Lewis.

The entrance of Multnomah river is 142 miles up the Columbia river from its entrance into the Pacific Ocean.

In my absence and soon after I left camp several canoes of men women and children came to the camp, and at one time there was about 37 of those people in camp Cap^t Lewis fired his Air gun which astonished them in such a manner that they were orderly and kept at a proper distance during the time they continued with him. as many as 10 canoes arrived at camp in the course of this day. they all seemed to give the same account of the scarcity of Provisions above. one family continued all night and behaved themselves in a very orderly manner.

on the 3^d Joseph Field returned from the woods and informed th[at] Drewyer Rubin & himself had killed four Elk. Cap L. sent Serg^t Pryor and two men with Joseph Field to dry the flesh of the Elk in the woods on scaffolds with fire. the party below quick sand river did not return to day. The Indians continue to visit our camp in considerable number from above with their families. these pore people appeared half starved. they picked up the bones and little refuse meat which had been thrown away by the party. Cap^t L had the flesh of the 4 Elk which was killed on the 1st ins^t dried. Some of the men of the natives who visited Cap^t Lewis wore a girdle with a small skin in front and a cap of the skin of the deers head &c.



