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 Chatsop to Musquash 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 astonish. 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 U.S. U.L. with sextant by the direct obst. 99° 26' 45". Latitude deduced from this observation [blank space in MS.] This observation may be depended on to 15' of a degree.

Far 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, shalloon, and the several evergreen shrubs of that species which bear burrys have ceased to appear except that species which has the leaf with a prickly margin. among the plants of this prairie in which we are encampd I observe the pasquequo, Shannahake, and compound fern the roots of which the natives eat; also the water cress, strawburry, flowering pea nor yet in blume, the cinquefoil, narrow dock, sand rush which are luxuriant and abundant in the river bottoms; a species of the bearsclaw of which I preserved a specimine 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.

1806] THE START FOR HOME

[Clark:] Wednesday April 29th 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 Chippinouk. to exchange our large canoes for small ones with the natives 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 exchangeling with the natives 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 Chippinouk; 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 forward to it with any destestation or horrow, so soon is the mind which is occupied with any interesting object, reconsilid to its 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 immediately 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 employed in collecting wood making a scaffold and cutting up the meat in order to dry it. about this time several canoes of the natives arrived at our Camp among others two from below with Eight men of the Shah-ka-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 whom they informed us lived at the Falls of a large river which discharges itself into the Columbia on its south side some miles below us. we readily prevailed on them to give us a sketch of
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this river which they drew on a Mat with a coal, it appeared that this river which they call Mui-nb-nlah discharged itself behind the Island we call the image canoe island, and as we had left this Island to the south in descending & ascending 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 determined to take a small party and return to this river and examine its size and collect as much information of the natives on it or near its entrance into the Columbia of its extent, the country which it waters and the natives who inhabit its banks & 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 whom 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 ere I saw 4 large canoes at some distance above descending and bending their course towards our Camp which at this time is very weak Capt Lewis having only 10 men with him. I hesitated for a moment whether it would not be advisable for me to return and delay until 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 Capt 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 Neu-cho-sce-le 1 this village is back on the South of Dimond island, and as we passed on the North side of the island both descending and ascending 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 Neve-cho-sce-ve tribe of the Shat-ha-la Nation. at this place we had seen 24 additional straw Fluts as we passed down last fall and whence 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 (V. W. Coast, ii. p. 44) thinks this is the tribe now known as Wason. — Ed. 

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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 and a little loading. I think 100 of those 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 occasionally to gather roots. I entered one of the rooms of this house and offered several articles to the natives in exchange for wappato. they were sulkey and they positively refused to sell any. I had a small piece 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 compass 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 magnet I turned the needle of the compass about very briskly; which astonished and alarmed these natives and they laid several parasels 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 & this measure alarmed them so much that the women and children took shelter in their beads and behind the men, all this time a very old blind man was speaking with great vehemence, apparently imploring his god. I lit my pipe and gave them smoke, & gave the women 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 opposite 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 descending and ascending and had not observed the aperture 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 ½ 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 Molonoma river. thence
S. 10° W. 3 miles to a place 80 yards wide which divides Wappato Island from the main star' 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' Side 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.

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.

[Clark]

Thursday April 5th 1806.

Early this morning Joseph Fields came over and informed me that Reuben Fields Drewyer and himself had killed four Elk, as the party with me were now but weak and the Indians constantly crowding 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 pieces 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 around 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 intelgent Indian man.1

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1 For this sketch see Clark's journal, April 3, p. 242, note. — Ed.
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California about Lat 37° North. I determined to return at 7 o’clock A. M. set out on my return, the men existed themselves and we arrived at the Neerchokio house in which the natives were so illly 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, women got behind their men, and the men hung their heads, I detained but a few minutes 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 illly disposed and bad people. I proceeded on along the south side met five canoes of the Shali-ha-ha Nation from the Great rapids with their wives and children decending the Columbia into this fertile valley in pursuance 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 appeared anxious to come along side was 21 men and 3 boys. At 3 P. M. we arrived at the residence of our Pilot which consists of one long house with seven apartments or rooms in square form about 60 feet each room opening into a passage which is quite large through the house. Those passages are about 4 feet in width and composed of wide boards set on end in the ground and reaching to the raft [roof] which serves also as divisions to the rooms. The ground plan is in this form the passages about 60 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 & 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 whom those people are connected. I endeavored to obtain from those

1 Clark intended to a point at or near the present site of Portland, Ore. A note in the Portland Oregonian, July 25, 1892, claims that it was within the city limits, near the railroad bridge which crosses the Willamette. — Ed.

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people of the situation of their nation, if scattered or what had become of the natives who must have peopled this great town, an old man who appeared of some note among them and father to my guide brought forward 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 dying with when a girl. From the age of this woman this destructive disorder I judge must have been about 25 or 30 years past, and about the time the Clatsops inform us that this disorder raged in their towns and destroyed their nation. Those people speak a different language from those below the Columbia in their dress habits and manners &c. they differ but little from the Quathlapiholes. Their women wear the usual as those do of all the nations residing from the Quathlapihole to the entrance 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 women wear larger & longer robes than those do below; those are mostly made of Deer skins dressed with the hair on them, they pay great attention to their aged men & women whom I observed in this village had arrived at a great age, and appeared to be healthy & blind. I prevailed on an old man to draw me a sketch of the Multnomah River and give me the names of the nations residing on it which he readily done, and gave me the names of 4 nations who reside on this river two of them very numerous. The first is Clark-a-mus nation reside on a small river which takes its rise in Mount Jefferson and falls into the Moltnomah about 40 miles up. This nation is numerous and inhabit 11 Towns. The 2d is the Cus-tocks who reside on the N E. side below the falls, the 3d is the Chir-wook who reside above the Falls on the S W. side neither of those two are numerous. The fourth Nation is the Cal-iar-poe-ock which is very numerous & in-

1 This tribe is not Chinookan, but gives name to a different linguistic family the Kalapuyan (Kalapuyan). 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.

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habitat the country on each side of the Multnomah from its falls as far up as the knowledge of those people extend. They informed 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 joined Capt. 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. Capt. 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 secrecy of Provisions above. One family continued all night and behaved themselves in a very orderly manner.

On the 3d Joseph Field returned from the woods and informed that Drewer Rubin & himself had killed four Elk. Capt. L. sent Sergt. 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 poor people appeared half-starved. They picked up the bones and little refuse meat which had been thrown away by the party. Capt. L. had the flesh of the 4 Elk which was killed on the 1st ins' dried. Some of the men of the natives who visited Capt. Lewis wore a girdle with a small skin in front and a cap of the skin of the deer's head &c.
Sketch-map, by Clark, of the Multnomah River, "given by several different Tribes of Indians near its entrance into the Columbia."