

## Journaling in 1805.

by Annabel Wildrick

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Lewis and Clark wrote detailed journals on their trip. So did some of the members of the Corps of Discovery. Today, we are lucky to be able to read their words--about 140,000 words altogether.

As you read, you'll find some strange spelling. In those days, different people might spell the same word in different ways--often spelling it the way it sounded to them. For example, in the journals, the word mosquito--which they often wrote about!--was spelled more than 15 different ways.

\* February 11, 1805--Lewis: [Sacagawea] was delivered of a fine boy.... Mr. Jessome informed me that he had ... administered a small portion of the rattle of the rattle-snake, which he assured me had never failed to produce the desired effect, that of hastening the birth of the child.

\* June 14, 1805--Lewis: A large ... brown bear ... crept on me within 20 steps before I discovered him.... In short there was no place by means of which I could conceal myself from this monster until I could charge my rifle; ... he pitched at me, open mouthed and full speed, I ran about 80 yards and found he gained on me fast.... I ran haistily into the water about waist deep, and faced about and presented the point of my espontoon, at this instant he arrived at the edge of the water within about 20 feet of me; the moment I put myself in this attitude of defence he sudonly wheeled about as if frightened, declined the combat on such unequal grounds, and retreated with quite as great precipitation as he had just before pursued me.

June 14, 1805--Lewis: My fare is really sumptuous this evening; buffaloe's humps, tongues and marrowbones.

November 1, 1805--Clark: The[y] press the female childrens heads between 2 bordrs when young untill they form the skul as they wish it which is generally verry flat. This amongst those people is considered as a great mark of buty, and is practised in all the tribes we have passed on this river more or less.

\* November 7, 1805--Clark: Great joy in camp we are in viuew of the Ocian, this great Pacific Octean which we been so long anxious to See. And the roeing or noise made by the waves brakeing on the rocky Shores ... may be heard distinctly.

December 1, 1805--Clark: The emence Seas and waves ... roars like an emence fall at a distance, and this roaring

has continued ever Since our arrival ... Since we arrived in Sight of the Great Western (for I cannot Say Pacific) Ocian as I have not Seen one pacific day Since my arrival in its vicinity, and its waters ... breake with emenc waves on the Sands and rocky coasts, tempestous and horiable.

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