

Episode 1 -Text 5

Lewis and Clark Centennial

By Lawson G. Bradley (1905)

The Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition celebrates the one-hundredth anniversary of the exploration of the Oregon Country by an expedition under command of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, of the United States army. Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, sent to Congress in 1803 a message recommending this expedition, his object being to explore the then unknown region lying between the headwaters of the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean, as well as the Louisiana territory intervening. The President's message resulted in the appropriation of a small sum for the expenses of the expedition, and Jefferson appointed his private secretary, Captain Lewis, to command the party. Lewis chose his friend, Captain Clark, to accompany him as joint commander. Lewis and Clark outfitted for their long journey at St. Louis, gathering about thirty trusted men for the expedition. The start was made from Camp Dubois, Illinois, a few miles above St. Louis, May 14, 1804. The party ascended the Missouri River and spent the following winter amongst the Mandan Indians in what is now North Dakota. On April 7, 1805, the expedition resumed the voyage up the Missouri to a point near the headwaters of that stream, and traveled by land through the mountains. They went down the Columbia River to its mouth, reaching the Pacific Ocean November 7th, having traveled more than 4,000 miles. Spending the winter in a log stockade which they built on the south side of the Columbia, in what is now Clatsop Country, Oregon, they started upon the return journey March 23, 1906, reaching St. Louis September 23d, after an absence of two years and four months. They were the first Americans who crossed the continent.

The success of the Lewis and Clark expedition enabled the United States to acquire all the territory now embraced in Oregon, Washington and Idaho and the western parts of Montana and Wyoming.

Source: Bradley, L. G. (1905). *Official Guide to the Lewis and Clark Exposition* (pp. 2). Portland, OR: Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair.

Copy of the *Official Guide* provided courtesy of the University of Oregon Library System, Special Collections.

About the Author

(Quote from H. W. Goode, President, Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition)

“The Official Guide Company (Lawson G. Bradley) has been granted the privilege of publishing the Official Guide of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition ... They are privileged to publish same under Exposition approval. This is the only official guide ... that has been authorized by the Exposition, and no other guide book may be sold upon the Exposition Grounds.”