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## ABSTRACT

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson guided a piece of foreign diplomacy through the U.S. Senate, the purchase of Louisiana territory from France. Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis, his personal secretary, who possessed frontiersman skills to explore the territory. Lewis, in turn, solicited the help of William Clark, whose abilities as a draftsman and a frontiersman were strong. This lesson, using the Lewis and Clark Expedition as an example, focuses on the power granted to the president and the Senate in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution, the power to make treaties with foreign nations. The lesson correlates to the National History Standards and to the National Standards for Civics and Government. It furnishes 13 primary source documents, both print and photographs. The lesson provides historical background about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and presents seven diverse teaching activities for the teacher to implement in the classroom, such as having students do research from print and online sources and having them read relevant books or journals. (Contains a written document analysis worksheet and a photograph analysis worksheet.) (BT)



National Archives and Records Administration



# THE CONSTITUTION COMMUNITY

Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

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## The Lewis and Clark Expedition

By Douglas Perry

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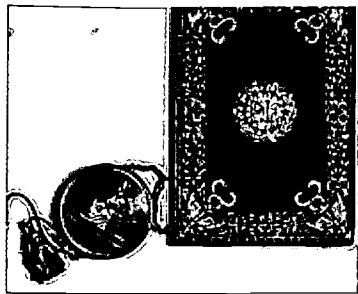
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2001

The Constitution Community is a partnership between classroom teachers and education specialists from the National Archives and Records Administration. We are developing lessons and activities that address constitutional issues, correlate to national academic standards, and encourage the analysis of primary source documents. The lessons that have been developed are arranged according to historical era.

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# The Lewis and Clark Expedition

## Constitutional Connection

This lesson relates to the power granted to the president and the Senate in Article II, Section 2, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution, the power to make treaties with foreign nations.

## This lesson correlates to the National History Standards.

**Era 4** -Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- **Standard 1A** -Demonstrate understanding of the international background and consequences of the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and the Monroe Doctrine.
- **Standard 1C** -Demonstrate understanding of the ideology of Manifest Destiny, the nation's expansion to the Northwest, and the Mexican-American War.

## This lesson correlates to the National Standards for Civics and Government.

**Standard III. B.2.** -Evaluate, take, and defend positions on issues regarding the major responsibilities of the national government for domestic and foreign policy.

**Standard IV. A.1.** -Explain how the world is organized politically.

**Standard IV. B.2.** -Evaluate, take, and defend positions about how United States foreign policy is made and the means by which it is carried out.

## Cross-curricular Connections

Share these activities with your history, government, and language arts colleagues.

## **List of Documents**

1. President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning relations with the Indians ( page 1 , page 2 , page 3 , page 4 )
2. Message of President Thomas Jefferson laying before the Senate the conventions with France for the cession of the province of Louisiana to the United States
3. Message of President Thomas Jefferson concerning the cession of the province of Louisiana
4. French Exchange copy of the Louisiana Purchase Treaty--Convention for Payment of Sums Due by France to U. S. ( page 1 , cover ) A transcription of this document is also available.
5. Letter to James Madison, secretary of state, announcing that Louisiana was purchased from France
6. Receipt for wine and kegs purchased by Meriwether Lewis
7. Receipt for 131 rolls of pigtail tobacco purchased by Meriwether Lewis
8. List of Indian presents purchased by Meriwether Lewis
9. President Thomas Jefferson's message to Congress communicating the discoveries of the explorers Lewis and Clark ( page 1 , page 2 , page 3 )
10. Photograph: Overlooking the Columbia River at Corbett, near the Cascade Locks on the Lewis and Clark Trail, 1973
11. Photograph: Early morning view of the Missouri River near Atchison, Kansas, 1974 . The scene was described by Lewis and Clark as having much tall grass and abundant game.
12. Photograph: Rolling hills in the outskirts of Atchison, Kansas, 1974 . The tall grass prairie was described by Lewis and Clark and painted by George Catlin between 1830 and 1850.
13. Photograph: Close up of Indian petroglyphs mentioned in the journal of Lewis and Clark located on a limestone cliff at the mouth of the Nemaha River near Troy, Kansas, 1974 .

## **Historical Background**

In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson guided a splendid piece of foreign diplomacy through the U.S. Senate: the purchase of Louisiana territory from France. After the

Louisiana Purchase Treaty was made, Jefferson initiated an exploration of the newly purchased land and the territory beyond the "great rock mountains" in the West.

Jefferson chose his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, an intelligent and literate man who also possessed skills as a frontiersman. Lewis in turn solicited the help of William Clark, whose abilities as draftsman and frontiersman were even stronger. Lewis so respected Clark that he made him a co-commanding captain of the Expedition, even though Clark was never recognized as such by the government. Together they collected a diverse military Corps of Discovery that would be able to undertake a two-year journey to the great ocean.

Jefferson hoped that Lewis and Clark would find a water route linking the Columbia and Missouri rivers. This water link would connect the Pacific Ocean with the Mississippi River system, thus giving the new western land access to port markets out of the Gulf of Mexico and to eastern cities along the Ohio River and its minor tributaries. At the time, American and European explorers had only penetrated what would become each end of the Lewis and Clark Trail up the Missouri several miles to the trapper headquarters at Fort Mandan and up the Columbia just a bit over a hundred miles to a point a little beyond present-day Portland, Oregon.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition paddled its way down the Ohio as it prepared the Expedition to be launched officially from Camp Wood, just outside St. Louis, in the summer of 1804. That summer and fall the company of explorers paddled and pulled themselves upstream, northwest on the Missouri River to Fort Mandan, a trading post, where Corps of Discovery set up camp, wintered, and prepared for the journey to the Pacific.

When the spring of 1805 brought high water and favorable weather, the Lewis and Clark Expedition set out on the next leg of its journey. They traveled up the Missouri to present-day Three Forks, Montana, wisely choosing to follow the western-most tributary, the Jefferson River. This route delivered the explorers to the doorstep of the Shoshone Indians, who were skilled at traversing the great rock mountains with horses. Once over the Bitterroot Mountains, the Corps of Discovery shaped canoe-like vessels that transported them swiftly downriver to the mouth of the Columbia, where they wintered (1805-1806) at Fort Clatsop, on the present-day Oregon side of the river.

With journals in hand, Lewis, Clark, and the other members of the Expedition returned to St. Louis by September 1806 to report their findings to Jefferson. Along the way, they continued to trade what few goods they still had with the Indians and set up diplomatic relations with the Indians. Additionally, they recorded their contact with Indians and described (and at times drew) the shape of the landscape and the creatures of this western world, new to the white man. In doing so, they fulfilled many of Jefferson's wishes for the Expedition. Along the way, William Clark drew a series of maps that were remarkably detailed, noting and naming rivers and creeks, significant points in the landscape, the shape of river shore, and spots where the Corps spent each night or

camped or portaged for longer periods of time. Later explorers used these maps to further probe the western portion of the continent.

The Expedition of the Corps of Discovery shaped a crude route to the waters of the Pacific and marked an initial pathway for the new nation to spread westward from ocean to ocean, fulfilling what would become to many Americans an obvious destiny.

Over the next two centuries the new Americans and many immigrants would wash across the central and western portions of what would eventually become the contiguous 48 United States. This wave of development would significantly transform virgin forests and grasslands into a landscape of cities, farms, and harvested forests, displacing fauna such as the buffalo and squeezing the Indians who survived onto reservations.

## Teaching Activities

1. Using books, encyclopedias (both electronic and print), and other resources, guide students in accessing basic information about the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and Manifest Destiny. Ask them to compile their research into a chart listing the main players, significant events, and important dates.
2. Divide the class into four groups. Distribute documents 1-3 to group A, documents 4 and 5 to group B, documents 6-8 to group C, and documents 9-13 to group D. Direct students to analyze the documents and photographs using the Written Document Analysis Worksheet and the Photograph Analysis Worksheet developed by the National Archives staff. Ask one representative from each group to describe his or her set of documents to the class and discuss what each document reveals about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and how it relates to Manifest Destiny. Add this information to the chart created in activity #1.
3. Regroup the students, assigning one student from each of the four groups in activity #2 to each of the new groups. Then assign one of the questions below to each of the students. Allow students 5-10 minutes to free-write an answer. Then direct them to discuss their answers with their group. Suggested questions include the following: What do these documents tell us about the history of our country? What do they reveal about U.S. foreign policy at the opening of the 19th century? What value to the west did Jefferson see in the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition? How large was the commitment of the United States government to the Lewis and Clark Expedition? What attitude toward the Indians does Thomas Jefferson reveal in his writings to Congress? What is Manifest Destiny? How was it defined in the 1800s in the United States? How was this idea made evident during that time? What record do we have of it today? Are the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition consummate examples of Manifest Destiny? In what way is it evident in the landscape of the Lewis and Clark Trail today? How is it still operative in American society today?
5. From William Least Heat Moon's *PrairieErth*, ask students to read a selection on pages 12-13 that describes the tall grass as it exists today and how it existed in abundance

during the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Then, from an edition of the journals of Lewis and Clark, direct students to read entries from June 7 to July 14, 1804; these entries describe the tall grass prairies along the Missouri River. Ask students to write a journal entry comparing their own experiences with open space to the experiences of Lewis and Clark. The following questions can serve as writing prompts: Is there any relatively virgin land nearby the town or city where you live? If so, what does it look like? When was there virgin land in this location? Did anyone describe it? What do these changes in the landscape reveal about American society? Instruct students who live near the trail to write a description of the area today and compare how the landscape looked as described by Lewis, Clark, and others.

6. Ask student volunteers to share their journal entries from activity #5 with the class. Lead a class discussion about development. Ask students to research whether in their state any area of virgin wilderness has been kept in a pristine condition and protected from development. If so, ask students to list the steps that were taken and the people and organizations who worked to ensure this protection. If not, ask students to determine and list the steps that would be necessary for such protection.

7. Direct students to do one of the following projects: a.) Read from *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West* by Stephen Ambrose (Simon and Schuster, 1996) b.) Read selections from one of the editions of the Lewis and Clark journals c.) View the Ken Burns documentary on the Lewis and Clark Expedition d.) View and read text, photographs, paintings, and archival material from two recently published books: *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery: An Illustrated History* by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns (Knopf, 1997) and *Lewis & Clark: Voyage of Discovery* by Stephen Ambrose with photographs by Sam Abell (National Geographic Society, 1998). When they have finished, ask them to convey the information they learned either by addressing one of the discussion questions listed in activity #3 in a 500-1000 word essay or by giving a 15-20 minute presentation to the class, using visuals and sharing specific entries from the Lewis and Clark journals.

The documents included in this project are available online through the National Archives Information Locator (NAIL) database, control numbers

NWL-233-PRESMESS-7AD1-1  
NWL-46-PRESMESS-8BB1-1)  
NWL-46-PRESMESS-8BB1-2  
NWCTB-11-ITA-PI159E9-TS(EX)86B  
NWL-223-PRESMESS-8AD1-2  
NWCTB-92-NM81E225-LEWIS1  
NWCTB-92-NM81E225-LEWIS2  
NWCTB-92-NM81E225-LEWIS3  
NWL-233-PRESMESS-9AD1-1  
NWDNS-412-DA-5653  
NWDNS-412-DA-14639  
NWDNS-412-DA-14635  
NWDNS-412-DA-14665



NAIL is a searchable database that contains information about a wide variety of NARA holdings across the country. You can use NAIL to search record descriptions by keywords or topics and retrieve digital copies of selected textual documents, photographs, maps, and sound recordings related to thousands of topics.  
<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

Documents related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition are also featured in the online American Originals Exhibit.  
<http://www.nara.gov/exhall/originals/expand.html#expansion>

This article was written by Douglas Perry, a teacher at Gig Harbor High School in Gig Harbor, WA.





## Written Document Analysis Worksheet

1. TYPE OF DOCUMENT (Check one):

- |                                     |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper  | <input type="checkbox"/> Map           | <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter     | <input type="checkbox"/> Telegram      | <input type="checkbox"/> Congressional record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patent     | <input type="checkbox"/> Press release | <input type="checkbox"/> Census report        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorandum | <input type="checkbox"/> Report        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                |

2. UNIQUE PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF THE DOCUMENT (Check one or more):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interesting letterhead | <input type="checkbox"/> Notations        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handwritten            | <input type="checkbox"/> "RECEIVED" stamp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typed                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seals                  |   |

3. DATE(S) OF DOCUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

4. AUTHOR (OR CREATOR) OF THE DOCUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION (TITLE): \_\_\_\_\_

5. FOR WHAT AUDIENCE WAS THE DOCUMENT WRITTEN? \_\_\_\_\_

6. DOCUMENT INFORMATION (There are many possible ways to answer A-E.)

A. List three things the author said that you think are important:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why do you think this document was written?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. What evidence in the document helps you know why it was written? Quote from the document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. List two things the document tells you about life in the United States at the time it was written:

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E. Write a question to the author that is left unanswered by the document:

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## Photograph Analysis Worksheet

### Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

PEOPLE

OBJECTS

ACTIVITIES

### Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

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### Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

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B. Where could you find answers to them?

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Confidential.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

As the continuance of the Act for establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes will be under the consideration of the legislature at it's present session, I think it my duty to communicate the views which have guided me in the execution of that act; in order that you may decide on the policy of continuing it, in the present or any other form, or to discontinue it altogether if that shall, on the whole, seem most for the public good.

The Indian tribes residing within the limits of the U.S. have for a considerable time been growing more & more uneasy at the constant diminution of the territory they occupy, altho' effected by their own voluntary sales: and the policy has long been gaining strength with them of refusing absolutely, all further sale on any conditions. insomuch that at this time, it hazards their friendships, and excites dangerous jealousies & perturbations in their minds to make any overture for the purchase of the smallest portions of their land. a very few tribes only are not yet obstinately in these dispositions. In order peaceably to counteract this policy of theirs, and to provide an extension of territory which the rapid increase of our numbers will call for, two measures are deemed expedient. First, to encourage them to abandon hunting, to apply to the raising stock, to agriculture, and domestic manufactures, and thereby prove to themselves that less land & labour will maintain them in this, better than in their former mode of living. the extensive forests necessary in the hunting life, will then become useless, & they will see advantage in exchanging them for the means of improving their farms, & of increasing their domestic comforts. Secondly to multiply trading houses among them, & place within their reach those things which will contribute more to their domestic comfort, than the possession of extensive, but uncultivated wilds. experience & reflection will develop to them the wisdom of exchanging what they can spare & we want, for what we can spare and they want, in leading them thus to agriculture, to

Document 1: President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning relations with the Indians, Page 1

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manufactures & civilization, in bringing together their & our settlements, & in preparing them ultimately to participate in the benefits of our government, I trust and believe we are acting for their greatest good. At these trading houses we have pursued the principles of the act of Congress, which directs that the commerce shall be ~~liberally~~ carried on liberally, & requires only that the capital stock shall not be diminished. we consequently undersell private traders, foreign & domestic, drive them from the competition, & thus, with the good will of the Indians, rid ourselves of a description of men who are constantly endeavoring to excite in the Indian mind suspicions, fears & irritation towards us. a letter now inclosed shews the effects of our competition on the operations of the traders, while the Indians, perceiving the advantage of purchasing from us, are soliciting generally our establishment of trading houses among them. In one quarter this is particularly interesting. The legislature, reflecting on the late occurrences on the Mississippi, must be sensible how desirable it is to possess a respectable breadth of country on that river, from our Southern limit to the Illinois at least; so that we may present as firm a front on that as on our Eastern border. we possess that is below the Yazoo, & can probably, acquire a certain breadth from the Illinois & Wabash to the Ohio. but between the Ohio and Yazoo, the country all belongs to the Chickasaws, the most friendly tribe within our limits, but the most decided against the alienation of lands. The portion of their country most important for us is exactly that which they do not inhabit. Their settlements are not on the Mississippi, but in the interior country. They have lately shewn a desire to become agricultural; and this leads to the desire of buying improvements & comforts. in the strengthening and gratifying of these wants, I see the only prospect of planting on the Mississippi itself the means of it's own safety. Duty, has required me to submit these views to the judgement of the legislature, but as their disclosure might embarrass & defeat their effect, they are committed to the special confidence of the two houses.

**Document 1: President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning relations with the Indians, Page 2**

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While the extension of the public commerce among the Indian tribes may deprive of that source of profit such of our citizens as are engaged in it, it might be worthy the attention of Congress, in their care of individual as well as of the general interest to point in another direction the enterprise of these citizens, as profitably for themselves, and more usefully for the public. The river Missouri & the Indians inhabiting it, are not as well known as is rendered desirable by their connection with the Mississippi, & consequently with us. It is however understood that the country on that river is inhabited by numerous tribes, who furnish great supplies of furs & peltry to the trade of another nation, carried on in a high latitude, through an infinite number of portages and lakes, shut up by ice through a long season. The commerce on that line could bear no competition with that of the Missouri, traversing a moderate climate, offering according to the best accounts, a continued navigation from its source, and, ~~possibly~~ <sup>possibly</sup> with a single portage, from the Western ocean, and finding to the Atlantic a choice of channels through the Illinois or Wabash, the Lakes and Hudson, through the Ohio and Susquehanna or Potomac or James rivers, and through the Tennessee and Savannah rivers. An intelligent officer with ten or twelve chosen men, fit for the enterprise and willing to undertake it, taken from our posts, where they may be spared without inconvenience, might explore the whole line, even to the Western ocean, have conferences with the natives on the subject of commercial intercourse, get admission among them for our traders as others are admitted, agree on convenient deposits for an interchange of articles, and return with the information acquired, in the course of two summers. Their arms & accoutrements, some instruments of observation, & light & cheap presents for the Indians, would be all the apparatus they could carry, and with an expectation of a soldier's portion of land on their return, would constitute the whole expence. Their pay would be going on, whether here or there. While other civilized nations have encountered great expence to enlarge the boundaries of ~~geographical~~ <sup>geographical</sup> knowledge, by undertaking voyages of discovery, & for other literary purposes, in various parts and directions,

**Document 1: President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning relations with the Indians, Page 3.**

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our nation seems to owe to the same object, as well as to it's own interests, to explore this, the only line of easy communication across the continent and so directly traversing our own part of it. The interests of commerce place the principal object within the constitutional powers and care of Congress, and that it should incidentally advance <sup>the geographical knowledge of our own continent</sup> ~~the interests of agriculture~~ cannot but be an additional gratification. The nation claiming the territory, regarding this as a literary pursuit which it is in the habit of permitting within it's dominions, would not be disposed to view it with jealousy, even if the expiring state of it's interests there did not render it a matter of indifference. The appropriation of two thousand five hundred dollars "for the purpose of extending the external commerce of the U.S." while understood and considered by the Executive as giving the legislative sanction, would cover the undertaking from notice, and prevent the obstructions which interested individuals might otherwise previously prepare in it's way.

*Th. Jefferson*

Jan. 18. 1803.

**Document 1: President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning relations with the Indians, Page 4.**

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~~Mr. Young~~ 182 Henry  
Gentlemen of the Senate.

In my message of this day, to both houses of Congress, I explained the circumstances which had led to the conclusion of conventions with France for the cession of the province of Louisiana to the United States. Those Conventions are now laid before you, with such communications<sup>\*</sup> relating to them as may assist in deciding whether you will advise and consent to their ratification.

The Ratification of the Treaty of the Consul of France is in the hands of his Charge des affaires here, to be exchanged for that of the United States, whenever before the 30<sup>th</sup> instant it shall be in readiness.

Thomas Jefferson

Oct. 17. 1803.

Note \* The communications by which the Convention with France was concluded are the following:  
~~The Convention of 1803. The Treaty of 1803. The Convention of 1803. The Treaty of 1803.~~  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1803  
 Letter from Mr. D'Orleans to the Secretary of State 27<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803  
 Letter from the Secretary of State to Mr. D'Orleans 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1803

**Document 2: Message of President Thomas Jefferson laying before the Senate the conventions with France for the cession of the province of Louisiana to the United States.**

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To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

In my communication to you, of the 17<sup>th</sup> instant, I informed you that Conventions had been entered into with the government of France for the cession of Louisiana to the United States. These, with the advice and consent of the Senate, have now been ratified, & my ratification exchanged for that of the First Consul of France in due form, they are communicated to you for consideration in your legislative capacity. you will observe that some important conditions cannot be carried into execution but with the aid of the legislature; & that time presses a decision on them without delay.

The ulterior provisions, also suggested in the same communication, for the occupation & government of the country, will call for early attention. such information, relative to it's government, as the time & distance have permitted me to obtain, will be ready to be laid before you within a few days. but as permanent arrangements for this object may require time & deliberation, it is for your consideration whether you will not forthwith make such temporary provisions for the preservation, in the mean while, of order & tranquility in the country, as the case may require.

Th. Jefferson

Oct. 21. 1803.

**Document 3: Message of President Thomas Jefferson concerning the cession of the province of Louisiana.**

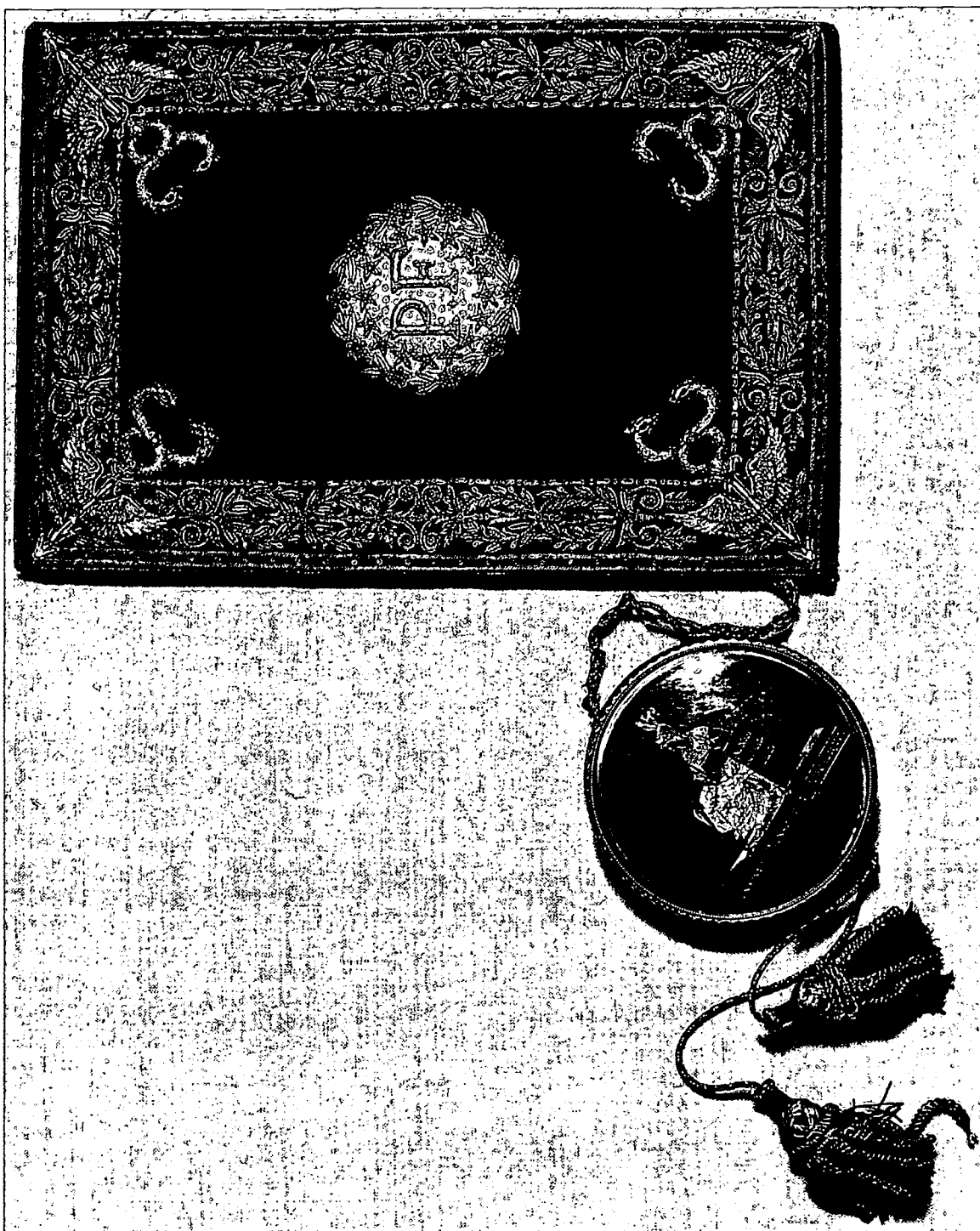
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Article 18.

Le présent instrument sera ratifié en bonne et due forme, et les ratifications  
seront remises à un tel jour, et à un tel lieu, que les plénipotentiaires de ces  
deux puissances conviendront, en l'absence de tout autre lieu, possible.  
En foi de quoi, les plénipotentiaires susdits ont signé et apposé leurs sceaux  
et cachets, le jour et au lieu susdits, et ont affirmé, et ont juré, en la forme  
suivante: Nous, soussignés, plénipotentiaires de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre,  
en l'absence de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre, nous sommes convenus  
et avons arrêté, de nous conformer à tout ce qui est contenu dans les articles  
susdits, et de les exécuter de bon cœur, et de nos vœux, et de nos efforts.  
Et nous avons signé, et avons apposé nos sceaux et cachets, et avons affirmé, et  
avons juré, en la forme susdite, le jour et au lieu susdits.  
En foi de quoi, les plénipotentiaires de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre,  
en l'absence de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre, ont signé et apposé leurs  
sceaux et cachets, le jour et au lieu susdits, et ont affirmé, et ont juré, en la  
forme susdite, le jour et au lieu susdits.

En foi de quoi, les plénipotentiaires de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre,  
en l'absence de nos royaumes de France et de Navarre, ont signé et apposé leurs  
sceaux et cachets, le jour et au lieu susdits, et ont affirmé, et ont juré, en la  
forme susdite, le jour et au lieu susdits.

Document 4: French Exchange copy of the Louisiana Purchase Treaty--  
Convention for Payment of Sums Due by France to U. S., Page 1.



**Document 4: French Exchange copy of the Louisiana Purchase Treaty--  
Convention for Payment of Sums Due by France to U. S., Cover.**



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*Note: The three documents transcribed here are the treaty of cession and two conventions, one for the payment of 60 million francs (\$11,250,000), the other for claims American citizens had made against France for 20 million francs (\$3,750,000).*

## THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

### TRANSCRIPTIONS

#### TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic in the name of the French People desiring to remove all Source of misunderstanding relative to objects of discussion mentioned in the Second and fifth articles of the Convention of the 8th Vendé miaire an 9/30 September 1800 relative to the rights claimed by the United States in virtue of the Treaty concluded at Madrid the 27 of October 1795, between His Catholic Majesty & the Said United States, & willing to Strengthen the union and friendship which at the time of the Said Convention was happily reestablished between the two nations have respectively named their Plenipotentiaries to wit The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Said States; Robert R. Livingston Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States and James Monroe Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy extraordinary of the Said States near the Government of the French Republic; And the First Consul in th e name of the French people, Citizen Francis Barbé Marbois Minister of the public treasury who after having respectively exchanged their full powers have agreed to the following Articles.

#### Article I

Whereas by the Article the third of the Treaty concluded at St Ildefonso the 9th Vendé miaire an 9/1st October 1800 between the First Consul of the French Republic and his Catholic Majesty it was agreed as follows.

"His Catholic Majesty promises and engages on his part to cede to the French Republic six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and Stipulations herein relative to his Royal Highness the Duke of Parma, the Colony or Province of Louisiana with the Same extent that it now has in the hand of Spain, & that it had when France possessed it; and Such as it Should be after the Treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States."

And whereas in pursuance of the Treaty and particularly of the third article the French Republic has an incontestible title to the domain and to the possession of the said Territory--The First Consul of the French Republic desiring to give to the United States a strong proof of his friendship doth hereby cede to the United States in the name of the French Republic for ever and in full Sovereignty the said territory with all its rights and appurtenances as fully and in the Same manner as they have been acquired by the French Republic in virtue of the above mentioned Treaty concluded with his Catholic Majesty.

Art: II

In the cession made by the preceding article are included the adjacent Islands belonging to Louisiana all public lots and Squares, vacant lands and all public buildings, fortifications, barracks and other edifices which are not private property.--The Archives, papers & documents relative to the domain and Sovereignty of Louisiana and its dependances will be left in the possession of the Commissaries of the United States, and copies will be afterwards given in due form to the Magistrates and Municipal officers of such of the said papers and documents as may be necessary to them.

Art: III

The inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated in the Union of the United States and admitted as soon as possible according to the principles of the federal Constitution to the enjoyment of all these rights, advantages and immunities of citizens of the United States, and in the mean time they shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and the Religion which they profess.

Art: IV

There Shall be Sent by the Government of France a Commissary to Louisiana to the end that he do every act necessary as well to receive from the Officers of his Catholic Majesty the Said country and its dependances in the name of the French Republic if it has not been already done as to transmit it in the name of the French Republic to the Commissary or agent of the United States.

Art: V

Immediately after the ratification of the present Treaty by the President of the United States and in case that of the first Consul's shall have been previously obtained, the commissary of the French Republic shall remit all military posts of New Orleans and other parts of the ceded territory to the Commissary or Commissaries named by the President to take possession--the troops whether of France or Spain who may be there shall cease to occupy any military post from the time of taking possession and shall be embarked as soon as possible in the course of three months after the ratification of this treaty.

Art: VI



The United States promise to execute Such treaties and articles as may have been agreed between Spain and the tribes and nations of Indians until by mutual consent of the United States and the said tribes or nations other Suitable articles Shall have been agreed upon.

Art: VII

As it is reciprocally advantageous to the commerce of France and the United States to encourage the communication of both nations for a limited time in the country ceded by the present treaty until general arrangements relative to commerce of both nations may be agreed on; it has been agreed between the contracting parties that the French Ships coming directly from France or any of her colonies loaded only with the produce and manufactures of France or her Said Colonies; and the Ships of Spain coming directly from Spain or any of her colonies loaded only with the produce or manufactures of Spain or her Colonies shall be admitted during the Space of twelve years in the Port of New-Orleans and in all other legal ports-of-entry within the ceded territory in the Same manner as the Ships of the United States coming directly from France or Spain or any of their Colonies without being Subject to any other or greater duty on merchandize or other or greater tonnage than that paid by the citizens of the United States. During that Space of time above mentioned no other nation Shall have a right to the Same privileges in the Ports of the ceded territory--the twelve years Shall commence three months after the exchange of ratifications if it Shall take place in France or three months after it Shall have been notified at Paris to the French Government if it Shall take place in the United States; It is however well understood that the object of the above article is to favour the manufactures, Commerce, freight and navigation of France and of Spain So far as relates to the importations that the French and Spanish Shall make into the Said Ports of the United States without in any Sort affecting the regulations that the United States may make concerning the exportation of the produce and merchandize of the United States, or any right they may have to make Such regulations.

Art: VIII

In future and for ever after the expiration of the twelve years, the Ships of France shall be treated upon the footing of the most favoured nations in the ports above mentioned.

Art: IX

The particular Convention Signed this day by the respective Ministers, having for its object to provide for the payment of debts due to the Citizens of the United States by the French Republic prior to the 30th Sept. 1800 (8th Vendé miaire an 9) is approved and to have its execution in the Same manner as if it had been inserted in this present treaty, and it Shall be ratified in the same form and in the Same time So that the one Shall not be ratified distinct from the other. Another particular Convention Signed at the Same date as the present treaty relative to a definitive rule between the contracting parties is in the like manner approved and will be ratified in the Same form, and in the Same time and jointly.



Art: X

The present treaty Shall be ratified in good and due form and the ratifications Shall be exchanged in the Space of Six months after the date of the Signature by the Ministers Plenipotentiary or Sooner if possible.

In faith whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have Signed these articles in the French and English languages; declaring nevertheless that the present Treaty was originally agreed to in the French language; and have thereunto affixed their Seals.

Done at Paris the tenth day of Floreal in the eleventh year of the French Republic; and the 30th of April 1803.

Robt R Livingston [seal]  
Jas. Monroe [seal]  
Barbé Marbois [seal]

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**A CONVENTION BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC**

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic in the name of the French people, in consequence of the treaty of cession of Louisiana which has been Signed this day; wishing to regulate definitively every thing which has relation to the Said cession have authorized to this effect the Plenipotentiaries, that is to say the President of the United States has, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate of the Said States, nominated for their Plenipotentiaries, Robert R. Livingston, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, and James Monroe, Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy-Extraordinary of the Said United States, near the Government of the French Republic; and the First Consul of the French Republic, in the name of the French people, has named as Plenipotentiary of the Said Republic the citizen Francis Barbé Marbois: who, in virtue of their full powers, which have been exchanged this day, have agreed to the followings articles:

Art: 1

The Government of the United States engages to pay to the French government in the manner Specified in the following article the sum of Sixty millions of francs independant of the Sum which Shall be fixed by another Convention for the payment of the debts due by France to citizens of the United States.

Art: 2

For the payment of the Sum of Sixty millions of francs mentioned in the preceeding article the United States shall create a Stock of eleven millions, two hundred and fifty thousand Dollars bearing an interest of Six per cent: per annum payable half y early in London Amsterdam or Paris amounting by the half year to three hundred and thirty Seven thousand five hundred Dollars, according to the proportions which Shall be determined by the french Government to be paid at either place: The principal of t he Said Stock to be reimbursed at the treasury of

the United States in annual payments of not less than three millions of Dollars each; of which the first payment Shall commence fifteen years after the date of the exchange of ratifications:--this Stock Shall be transferred to the government of France or to Such person or persons as Shall be authorized to receive it in three months at most after the exchange of ratifications of this treaty and after Louisiana Shall be taken possession of the name of the Government of the United States.

It is further agreed that if the french Government Should be desirous of disposing of the Said Stock to receive the capital in Europe at Shorter terms that its measures for that purpose Shall be taken So as to favour in the greatest degree possible the credit of the United States, and to raise to the highest price the Said Stock.

### Art 3

It is agreed that the Dollar of the United States Specified in the present Convention shall be fixed at five francs 3333/100000 or five livres eight Sous tournois.

The present Convention Shall be ratified in good and due form, and the ratifications Shall be exchanged the Space of Six months to date from this day or Sooner it possible.

In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have Signed the above articles both in the french and english languages, declaring nevertheless that the present treaty has been originally agreed on and written in the french language; to which they have hereunto affixed their Seals.

Done at Paris the tenth of Floreal eleventh year of the french Republic/  
30th April 1803 ./

Robt R Livingston [seal]

Jas. Monroe [seal]

Barbé Marbois [seal]

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## CONVENTION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The President of the United States of America and the First Consul of the French Republic in the name of the French People having by a Treaty of this date terminated all difficulties relative to Louisiana, and established on a Solid foundation the friendship which unites the two nations and being desirous in compliance with the Second and fifth Articles of the Convention of the 8th Vendémiaire ninth year of the French Republic (30th September 1800) to Secure the payment of the Sums due by France to the citizens of the United States have respectively nominated as Plenipotentiaries that is to Say The President of the United States of America by and with the advise and consent of their Senate Robert R. Livingston Minister Plenipotentiary and James Monroe Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Said States near the Government of the French Republic: and the First Consul in the name of the French People the

Citizen Francis Barbé Marbois Minister of the public treasury; who after having exchanged their full powers have agreed to the following articles.

Art: 1

The debts due by France to citizens of the United States contracted before the 8th Vendé miaire ninth year of the French Republic/30th September 1800/ Shall be paid according to the following regulations with interest at Six per Cent; to commence from the period when the accounts and vouchers were presented to the French Government.

Art: 2

The debts provided for by the preceeding Article are those whose result is comprised in the conjectural note annexed to the present Convention and which, with the interest cannot exceed the Sum of twenty millions of Francs. The claims comprised in the Said note which fall within the exceptions of the following articles, Shall not be admitted to the benefit of this provision.

Art: 3

The principal and interests of the Said debts Shall be discharged by the United States, by orders drawn by their Minister Plenipotentiary on their treasury, these orders Shall be payable Sixty days after the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty and the Conventions Signed this day, and after possession Shall be given of Louisiana by the Commissaries of France to those of the United States.

Art: 4

It is expressly agreed that the preceding articles Shall comprehend no debts but Such as are due to citizens of the United States who have been and are yet creditors of France for Supplies for embargoes and prizes made at Sea, in which the appeal has been properly lodged within the time mentioned in the Said Convention 8th Vendé miaire ninth year, /30th Sept 1800/

Art: 5

The preceding Articles Shall apply only, First: to captures of which the council of prizes Shall have ordered restitution, it being well understood that the claimant cannot have recourse to the United States otherwise than he might have had to the Go vernment of the French republic, and only in case of insufficiency of the captors--2d the debts mentioned in the Said fifth Article of the Convention contracted before the 8th Vendé miaire an 9/30th September 1800 the payment of which has been heretof ore claimed of the actual Government of France and for which the creditors have a right to the protection of the United States;-- the Said 5th Article does not comprehend prizes whose condemnation has been or Shall be confirmed: it is the express intenti on of the contracting parties not to extend the benefit of the present Convention to reclamations of American citizens who Shall have established houses of Commerce in France, England or other countries than the United States in partnership with foreigner s, and who by that reason and the nature of their commerce ought to be regarded as domiciliated in the places where Such house exist.--All agreements and bargains concerning merchandize, which Shall not be the property of American citizens, are equally ex cepted from the benefit of the said Conventions, Saving however to Such persons their claims in like manner as if this Treaty had not been made.

Art: 6

And that the different questions which may arise under the preceding article may be fairly investigated, the Ministers Plenipotentiary of the United States Shall name three persons, who Shall act from the present and provisionally, and who shall have full power to examine, without removing the documents, all the accounts of the different claims already liquidated by the Bureaus established for this purpose by the French Republic, and to ascertain whether they belong to the classes designated by the present Convention and the principles established in it or if they are not in one of its exceptions and on their Certificate, declaring that the debt is due to an American Citizen or his representative and that it existed before the 8th Vendémiaire 9th year/30 September 1800 the debtor shall be entitled to an order on the Treasury of the United States in the manner prescribed by the 3d Article.

Art: 7

The Same agents Shall likewise have power, without removing the documents, to examine the claims which are prepared for verification, and to certify those which ought to be admitted by uniting the necessary qualifications, and not being comprised in the exceptions contained in the present Convention.

Art: 8

The Same agents Shall likewise examine the claims which are not prepared for liquidation, and certify in writing those which in their judgement ought to be admitted to liquidation.

Art: 9

In proportion as the debts mentioned in these articles Shall be admitted they Shall be discharged with interest at Six per Cent: by the Treasury of the United States.

Art: 10

And that no debt shall not have the qualifications above mentioned and that no unjust or exorbitant demand may be admitted, the Commercial agent of the United States at Paris or such other agent as the Minister Plenipotentiary or the United States Shall think proper to nominate shall assist at the operations of the Bureaus and cooperate in the examinations of the claims; and if this agent Shall be of the opinion that any debt is not completely proved, or if he shall judge that it is not comprised in the principles of the fifth article above mentioned, and if notwithstanding his opinion the Bureaus established by the french Government should think that it ought to be liquidated, he shall transmit his observations to the board established by the United States, who, without removing documents, shall make a complete examination of the debt and vouchers which Support it, and report the result to the Minister of the United States.--The Minister of the United States Shall transmit his observations in all Such cases to the Minister of the treasury of the French Republic, on whose report the French Government Shall decide definitively in every case.

The rejection of any claim Shall have no other effect than to exempt the United States from the payment of it, the French Government reserving to itself, the right to decide definitively on Such claim So far as it concerns itself.

Art: 11

Every necessary decision Shall be made in the course of a year to commence from the exchange of ratifications, and no reclamation Shall be admitted afterwards.

Art: 12

In case of claims for debts contracted by the Government of France with citizens of the United States Since the 8th Vendé miaire 9th year/30 September 1800 not being comprised in this Convention may be pursued, and the payment demanded in the Same manner as if it had not been made.

Art: 13

The present convention Shall be ratified in good and due form and the ratifications Shall be exchanged in Six months from the date of the Signature of the Ministers Plenipotentiary, or Sooner if possible.

In faith of which, the respective Ministers Plenipotentiary have signed the above Articles both in the french and english languages, declaring nevertheless that the present treaty has been originally agreed on and written in the french language, to wh ich they have hereunto affixed their Seals.

Done at Paris, the tenth of Floreal, eleventh year of the French Republic.  
30th April 1803.

Robt R Livingston [seal]  
Jas. Monroe [seal]  
Barbé Marbois [seal]

[

City of New Orleans Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 1803.

Sir

We have the satisfaction to announce to you, that the province of Louisiana was this day surrendered to the United States by the Commissioners of France; and to admit that the flag of our Country was raised in this City amidst the acclamations of the inhabitants.

The enclosed is a copy of our instrument of ratification which was signed and exchanged by the Commissioners of the two governments, and is designed as a record of this interesting transaction.

Accept assurances of our respectful  
Consideration.

William C. C. Claiborne

James King

The Honorable  
James Madison  
Secretary of State.

City of Washington.

Document 5: Letter to James Madison, Secretary of State, announcing that Louisiana was purchased from France.

In full to the order of  
 Capt Lewis - (D. of David Jackson)  
 30 Gallons Strong Sp. Wine @ 2.33 1/2 \$ 70 7  
 6 Iron bound Kegs — 1.20 4.20  
 \$ 74.90

Duplicates, Received the above articles.  
 Meriwether Lewis  
 Capt. U.S. Army Regt Druff

Document 6: Receipt for wine and kegs purchased by Meriwether Lewis.

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Received of *Thomas Griffin*  
 130 Mills Pigtail Tobacco of 13 D-2/1/1-1/2 5.50  
 Reg  
 Ex. 2. 1871  
 June 3<sup>d</sup> 1868  
 Mass Whelan  
 1. 1. 1868  
 5. 6. 105  
 \$14.25  
 100

Duplicate, Received this above articles.  
 Meriwether Lewis.  
 Capt. U. S. Army.

Document 7: Receipt for 131 rolls of pigtail tobacco purchased by Meriwether Lewis.

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# Indian Presents

12 Pipes, Laminated	8 3/4				18
6 in. Sticks, Short Iron	6 1/2				1 62
1 Pipe, Flannel 47 1/2 in.	12 1/4	5	12	0	14 94
11 1/2 in. Blankets, 4 1/2	13 1/2	22	5	9	59 83
1 doz. Ivory Combs	3 00	1	5	0	3 38
2 Gally Ind. S. Sicks	7 1/2	1	5	1 1/2	3 75
2 1/2 in. Head caps	21 00	8	18	9	23 17
1 1/2 in. Sewing Cloth 22 1/2	28 1/4	21	18	9	55 50
3 doz. Jan. Hats	6 3/4	7	1	6	19 87
6 lbs. Binding	9 1/4	4	8	5	11 19
2 Cans Bands	1 3/4	1	8	6	3 50
4 doz. Buttons, Buttons	8 1/4	2	0	0	5 33
12 doz. Pocket Looking Glass	12 1/4				5 19
15 doz. Buttons do do	3 1/2				3 99
8 doz. Buttons do do	11 1/4				12
2 doz. Monocles	3 1/4				2 94
2 doz. Red Striped Tapes	1 1/2				2 50
72 1/2 in. Striped Satin Ribbon	3 1/4				3 62
3 lbs. Red Bands	3 1/2				2 01
6 papers Small Balls	1 1/4				4 02
1 box with 100 larger do	1 1/2				2 25
73 Buttons Bands 4 1/2	20				41
3 1/2 doz. Turkish Bands 4 1/2	9 00				3 75
1 doz. Knives	5 1/2				30
1 doz. Knives Case	5 00				3 86
2 1/2 doz. Lockets	8 1/2				25 50
8 1/2 lbs. Red Bands	20	4	0	0	10 67
2 doz. Lenses	19 1/2	2	16	0	70 14
8 Brass Knives	12 1/2	2	11	0	6 80
17 1/2 in. Brass Knives	1 1/2				62 07
500 Braces	5 1/2				6 00
72 Rings	32 1/4				20 00
2 Green Mills	14 1/4				
15 doz. Snuff	5				18 97

496 82  
 13  
 507 55

Document 8: List of Indian presents purchased by Meriwether Lewis.

To the Senate & House of Representatives of the United States

In pursuance of a measure proposed to Congress by a message of June 18 1803 and sanctioned by their appropriation for carrying it into execution, Capt Meriwether Lewis of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Infantry was appointed, with a party of men, to explore the river Missouri from its mouth to its source, traversing the highlands by the shortest portage, to seek the best water communication thence to the Pacific ocean. Lt Clark was appointed second in command. They were to enter into conference with the Indian nations on their route, with a view to the establishment of commerce with them. They entered the Missouri May 14 1804 and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Nov took up their winter quarters near the Mandan towns, 1609 miles above the mouth of the river, in Lat. 47° 21' 27" North, & Long. 99° 22' 15" West from Greenwich. on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1805 they proceeded up the river in pursuance of the objects prescribed to them; a letter of the preceding day April 7 from Capt Lewis, which was communicated during his stay among the Mandans, he had been able to lay down the main according to courses & distances taken on his passage up it, corrected by frequent observations of Longitude & Latitude, & to add to the actual sound of this portion of the river, a general map of the country between the Missouri & Pacific, from the 36<sup>th</sup> to the 54<sup>th</sup> degrees of Latitude. These additions and from informations collected from Indians with whom he had opportunities of communicating during his journey & residence with them.

Document 9: President Thomas Jefferson's message to Congress communicating the discoveries of the explorers Lewis and Clark, Page 1

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copies of this map are now presented to both houses of Congress. With these I communicate also a statistical view, procured and forwarded by him, of the Indian nations inhabiting the Territory of Louisiana, & the countries adjacent to its Northern and Western borders, of their commerce, & of other interesting circumstances respecting them.

In order to render the statement as complete as may be, of the Indians inhabiting the country West of the Mississippi, I add Doct. Sibley's account of those residing in & adjacent to the Territory of Orleans.

I communicate also from the same person, an account of the Red river, according to the best information he had been able to collect.

Having been disappointed, after considerable preparation, in the purpose of sending an exploring party up that river in the summer of 1804, it was thought best to employ the autumn of that year in procuring a knowledge of an interesting branch of the river called the Washita. This was undertaken under the direction of Mr. Dunbar of Hatcher, a citizen of distinguished science, who had aided, and continues to aid us, with his disinterested & valuable services in the prosecution of these enterprises. He ascended the river to the remarkable Hot Springs near it, in Lat.  $34^{\circ} 31' 41''$  Long.  $92^{\circ} 50' 45''$  West from Greenwich, taking its course & distances, & connecting them by frequent celestial observations. Extracts from his observations, and

**Document 9: President Thomas Jefferson's message to Congress communicating the discoveries of the explorers Lewis and Clark, Page 2**

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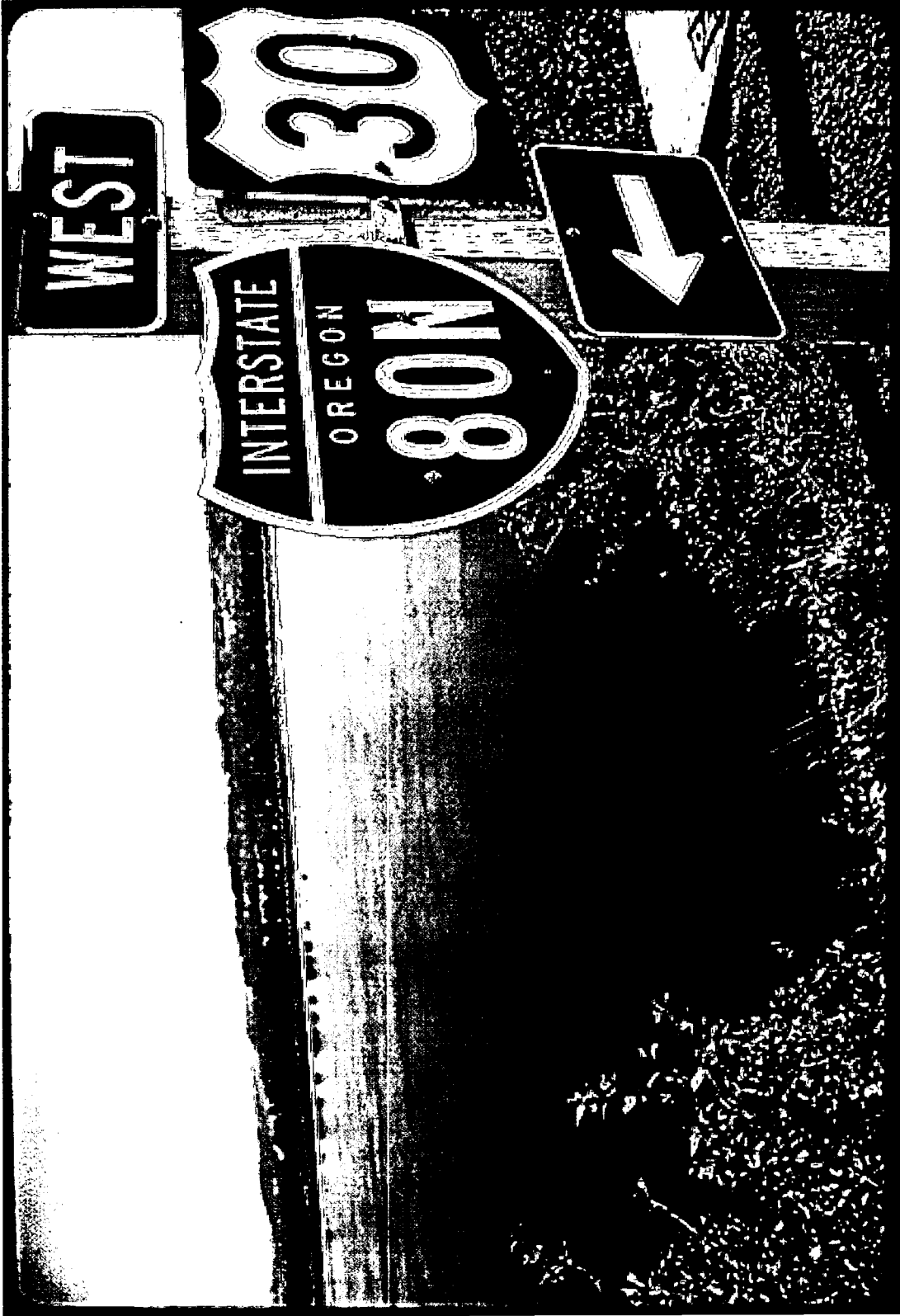
copies of his map of the river, from it's mouth to the Hot-  
-springs, make part of the present communications. the ex-  
-amination of the Red river itself, is but now commencing.

*Th. Jefferson*

Feb. 19. 1806.

*Mr. Jefferson  
I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your letter of the  
17th inst. in relation to the  
discovery of the mouth of the  
Red River. I am very glad to  
hear of it, and shall be  
pleas'd to see the map of it  
when you shall have the  
opportunity to send it to me.*

**Document 9: President Thomas Jefferson's message to Congress communicating the discoveries of the explorers Lewis and Clark, Page 3**

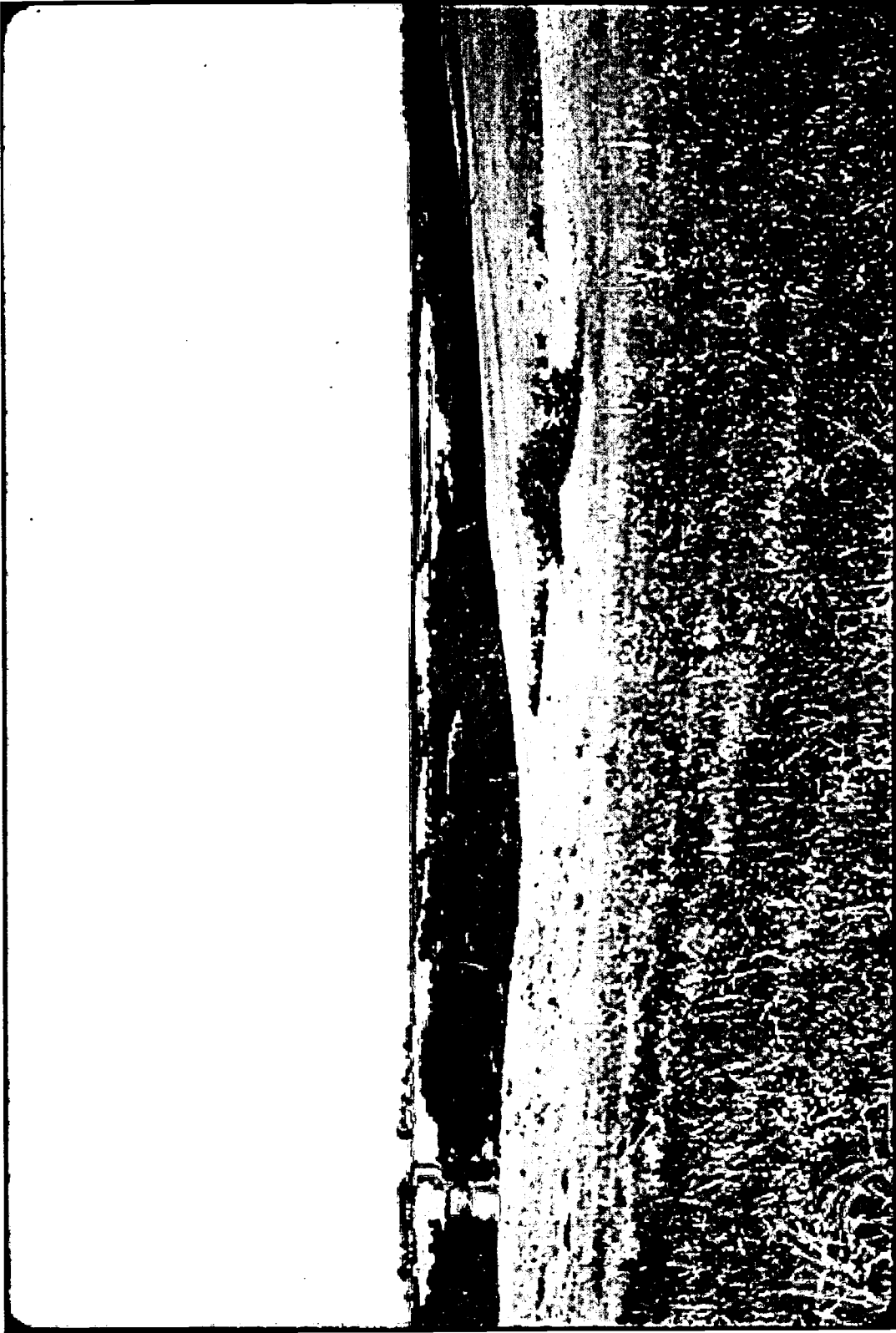


Document 10: Photograph overlooking the Columbia River at Corbett, near the Cascade Locks on the Lewis and Clark Trail, 1973.



**Document 11: Photograph – Early morning view of the Missouri River near Atchison, Kansas, 1974. The scene was described by Lewis and Clark as having much tall grass and abundant game.**

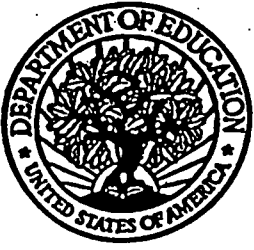




Document 12: Photograph – Rolling hills in the outskirts of Atchison, Kansas, 1974. The tall grass prairie was described by Lewis and Clark and painted by George Catlin between 1830 and 1850.



**Document 13: Photograph: Close up of Indian petroglyphs mentioned in the journal of Lewis and Clark located on a limestone cliff at the mouth of the Nemaha River near Troy, Kansas, 1974 .**



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