

# Corps of Discovery: The Push for Westward Expansion

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson sent the Corps of Discovery to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the Corps of Discovery. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the Corps of Discovery's journey, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sakakawea, and the push for westward expansion.

## Archival Collections

### 10085 Orin Grant Libby Papers

Correspondence, subject files, biographies, research notes, and maps. Papers relate primarily to local and family history, archeological surveys, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota, diaries, correspondence, newspaper clippings, family histories, and memorabilia, and notes and an 1863 map of the military trail of General H.H. Sibley in Burleigh, Kidder and Stutsman County (N.D.).

### 10116 Nelson A. Mason Papers

Manuscripts, correspondence, printed material, affidavits, photographs, historical records and research, and newspaper clippings relating to research on the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Sioux.

### 10149 Russell Reid Papers

Correspondence, notes, financial records, research notes, photographs, maps, bibliographies, and publications dealing with administration of the State Historical Society and state parks, ornithology, and research on the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Sully Expedition, manuscript, articles, poetry, and short stories by Clell Gannon information on the origins of North Dakota place names records of Friends of Our Native Wildlife (1919-1921), including minutes, constitution, annual reports, and a membership roster, and records of the Ladies Auxiliary to Company A, including correspondence and minutes.

### 10190 Will Family Papers

The primary creator of the collection was George F. Will Sr., and the bulk of the papers reflect Will's interest in North Dakota archaeology, dendrology, ethnobotany, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people, and the history of Bismarck (N.D.) and the Northern Plains. These interests are reflected in extensive correspondence, manuscripts, publications and research files. The collection also includes research and manuscripts by Josephine Waggoner and Melvin Gilmore, among many others.

## Useful Search Guidance

### Subjects

- Corps of Discovery
- Westward exploration
- Westward expansion

### People

- Meriwether Lewis, 1774-1809
- William Clark, 1770-1838
- Sakakawea, 1788-1812

### Locations

- Louisiana Territory
- Northern Dakota Territory
- Fort Mandan

## Journal Articles

*Fort Mandan, 1804-6*

*North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 2  
Issue 1

*Lewis and Clark in North Dakota*

*North Dakota History* Vol. 14 Issues 1, 2, 3, &  
4; Vol. 15 Issue 1

*Sakakawea*

Russell Reid – *North Dakota History* Vol. 30  
Issue 2 & 3

### **11493 Doreen Chaky Research Collection**

#### **Boxes 4, 13**

Research for the book *Terrible Justice*, numerous freelance articles, and work with the Williston Oil Reporter, as well as article drafts and notes.

### **80057 Lewis and Clark Expedition Certificate**

Certificate of friendship which was presented to friendly Indian chiefs during the expedition.

## Books

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*Lewis and Clark Lexicon of Discovery*

2004 - Alan H. Hartley

Call Number: 427.978 H332ℓ 2004

*Cooking on the Lewis and Clark Expedition*

2000 – Mary Gunderson

Call Number: 641.5978 G9755c

*Corps of Discovery*

2002 – James E. Thomas

Call Number: 813.6 T4582c 2002

*Only One Man Died: the Medical Aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*

1979 – Eldon G. Chuinard

Call Number: 917.8 C471

*The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: a Biographical Roster of the Fifty-one Members and a Composite Diary of their Activities from all the Known Sources*

1970 – Charles G. Clarke

Call Number: 917.8 C551m

*A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery: Under the Command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke of the Army of the United States, From the Mouth of the River Missouri Through the Interior Parts of North America to the Pacific Ocean, During the Years 1804, 1805 & 1806*

1807 – Patrick Gass

"Containing an authentic relation of the most interesting transactions during the expedition, a description of the country, and an account of its inhabitants, soil, climate, curiosities, and vegetable and animal productions"

Call Number: 917.8 G215

*Sakakawea and the Fur Traders*

1998—Bismarck Tribune; coordination and stories by Ken Rogers

Call Number: 917.8042 R724s 1998

*Sakakawea, the Bird Woman*

1950—Russell Reid

Call Number: 970.2 S29

*Sakakawea*

1927—Helen Crawford

Call Number: 970.2 Sa14cr 1927

## Online Resources

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[Lewis and Clark Online Exhibit](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota website

[SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

## External Resources

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[Lewis and Clark: Everything You Want to Know about the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#)

North Dakota Tourism website

[Lewis and Clark](#)

North Dakota Parks and Recreation website highlighting areas the Corps of Discovery visited in North Dakota

## State Archives

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For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2668.



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