



the expedition of Lewis & Clark

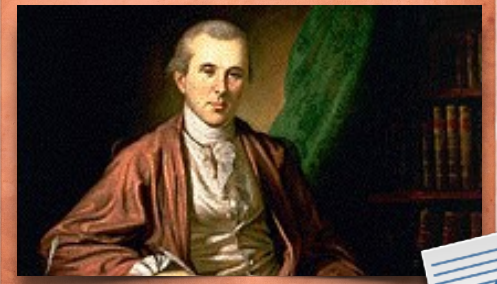


MEDICINE AND THE CORPS

Lewis as the only doctor of the expedition

When Meriwether Lewis was preparing for the expedition into the Louisiana Territory, he studied under one Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. Jefferson thought Rush perhaps the best physician in the nation and wanted the doctor to train Lewis in some rudimentary lessons in medicine. After a few weeks of such training, Lewis gathered a number of standard medicines for any number of ailments; as well as a concoction of Rush's own known as "Rush's Pills", but were generally referred to as "Thunder-clappers" for the laxative's sudden effect. The pills were a sort of "cure-all" and were liberally given. Lancets, forceps, syringes, were also present. Beside Rush's pills, over thirty different drugs were brought. Some of these included laudanum, opium, calomel, and mercury—then the standard medicine used in the treatment of syphilis. Other medicines were used especially for blistering, a constant problem among the Corps. Besides his short training with Benjamin Rush, Lewis doubtless depended upon his own knowledge of healing herbs. This sort of "frontier medicine" was to serve the expedition well during its trip to and from the west coast.

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MEDICINE AND THE CORPS

1. Who was supposed to handle the medical problems in the expedition?
2. How did he get prepared for that eventuality?
3. What were the typical remedies embarked in the expedition?

WEB SEARCH

Know more about the equipment

WEB SEARCH

1. What equipment has been prepared for the expedition?
 - Say what means of transportation they will use.
 - What scientific equipment they bring with them.
 - What they have as gifts for the Indians.
2. Make a list of all the members of the expedition and group them by category.

DEATH AMONG THE CORPS

1. What happened to Sergeant Floyd?
2. Was it possible to save him?
3. What was the principal way to treat people in the expedition? Do you think it was efficient?

DEATH AMONG THE CORPS

The first casualty of the expedition

"Sergeant Floyd much weaker and no better...Floyd as bad as he can be no pulse & nothing will stay a moment on his Stomach or bowels. Floyd Died with a great deal of Composure, before his death he Said to me, 'I am going away I want you to write me a letter.' We buried him on the top of the bluff. 1/2 Mile below [is] a Small river to which we Gave his name, He was buried with the Honors of War much lamented, a Seeder post with the Name Sergeant C. Floyd died here 20th of august 1804 was fixed at the head of his grave. This Man at all times gave us proofs of his firmness and Determined resolution to doe Service to his Country and honor to himself. after paying all the honor to our Deceased brother we camped in the Mouth of Floyd's River about 30 yards wide, a beautiful evening"

William Clark, August 20th 1804.



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