

Lewis and Clark Bibliography

Books

- Allen, John Logan. *Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest*. New York: Dover Publications, 1992.
This is one of the “big 4” books from before the bicentennial. It is about our knowledge of North American geography before and after the mapping done by William Clark. The author, now retired, lives in Cody, Wyoming and is very accessible.
- Allen, Paul and Nicholas Biddle. *History of the Expedition under the command of Captains Lewis and Clark to the sources of the Missouri thence across the Rocky Mountains, and down the river Columbia to the Pacific Ocean. Performed during 1804-5-6*. (2 volumes). London: British Library, 2011.
This is a reprint of the original journal publication from 1814. It leaves out the science and mapping, but it contains information from interviews with the participants that was not recorded in any of the journals. Nicholas Biddle, notorious in his dealings with Andrew Jackson over the Bank of the United States, began his career in literature. Without him, the journals might never have been published.
- Ambrose, Stephen. *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997.
Another of the “big 4” from before the bicentennial, this book really set of the furor. It has some flaws, but is well written.
- Bakeless, John. *Lewis and Clark: Partners in Discovery*. New York: Dover Publications, 1996.
This is the first modern biography of Lewis and Clark. It is well-written and has some information not seen anywhere else. It’s a good example of the glorification of American history from the 40s.
- Buckley, Jay. *William Clark: Indian Diplomat*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010.
I haven’t seen this book, but Jay Buckley is relatively new on the scene and seems to be a passionate historian of the early 19th Century. He has written about the Louisiana Purchase as well.
- Burroughs, Raymond Darwin (ed). *The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press, 1995.
If you like a dictionary style approach to the natural history, this is a good reference for the animals of the expedition.
- Chuinard, E. G. *Only One Man Died: The Medical Aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Fairfield, WA: Ye Galleon Press, 1979.
This is the original medical book of the expedition. Factually, it repeats some myths, but generally it is well done by a life-long student of the expedition.
- Coues, Elliot. *The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (3 volumes)*. New York: Dover Publications, 1979.
Elliot Coues compiled—sometimes brutally—the second version of the journals. It started as a re-hash of the Biddle edition, but he worked from the original journals and added a good deal of information from his vast knowledge of natural history. He also gave away pieces of the original journals as souvenirs.

- Cutright, Paul Russell. *A History Of The Lewis And Clark Journals*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1976.
This covers the fascinating story of the editing, losing, collecting, and rediscovering of the journals that were scattered across the country after the expedition's conclusion.
- Cutright, Paul Russell. *Lewis and Clark: Pioneering Naturalists*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003.
This is another of the "big 4." This deals with the natural history of the expedition in terms of plants and animals. Some of the anecdotes are fascinating.
- Danisi, Thomas and John C. Jackson. *Meriwether Lewis*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2009.
This is the most recent Meriwether Lewis biography, and it is the one that focuses most on his life after the expedition—complete with a new theory about his untimely demise.
- Dillon, Richard. *Meriwether Lewis: A Biography*. Santa Cruz, CA: Great West Books, 1965.
This is the second Lewis biography. It is less lively than Ambrose, but solidly researched and includes a conclusion about Lewis's death that Ambrose disputed.
- Duncan, Dayton and Ken Burns. *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.
This is the companion to the Ken Burns PBS video. It is brief and solidly done with some nice pictures.
- Fisher, Vardis. *Suicide or Murder: The Strange Death of Meriwether Lewis*. Athens, OH: Swallow Press, 1962.
If you like a murder mystery and conspiracy, this is the book that got the ball rolling. Even though people sometimes dismiss him as merely a novelist, Vardis Fisher was a novelist with a Ph.D., so his work is well researched.
- Foley, William. *Wilderness Journey: The Life of William Clark*. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 2004.
This is the first full-fledged biography of William Clark who played a much larger role in American history than the sidekick of Meriwether Lewis.
- Gilman, Carolyn. *Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide*. Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Books, 2003.
Carolyn Gilman put together a traveling museum exhibit of Lewis and Clark items for the bicentennial. This book with its many wonderful photos of those items is the companion.
- Gragg, Rod. *Lewis and Clark on the Trail of Discovery: A Museum in a Book*. Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 2003.
This colorful little book has lots of pictures and a number of envelopes containing photo reproductions of some of the critical documents of the expedition.
- Guice, John D. W. (ed). *By His Own Hand? The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis*. Norman: Oklahoma University Press, 2006.
This is a series of essays discussing the death of Lewis from several different perspectives. L & C junkies love this kind of stuff. It's interesting and very debatable.

- Holmberg, James J. (ed). *Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002.
This fascinating window into the life of William Clark comes from a highly annotated set of letters he sent to his brother across a number of years.
- Jackson, Donald (ed). *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with Related Documents, 1783-1854* (2 volumes) Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1979. (available—mostly—on line at http://books.google.com/books?id=KqEmJgaYGIIC&printsec=frontcover&cd=1&source=gbs_ViewAPI#v=onepage&q&f=false)
This is an utterly brilliant achievement in scholarship. Jackson collected over 800 pages of letters and documents about the expedition and transcribed them for easy reading. It covers the before and after of the expedition with every primary source he could find (and not too many others have turned up since).
- Jones, Landon. *William Clark and the Shaping of the West*. New York: Hill and Wang Press, 2004.
This is the second full-fledged biography of William Clark.
- Moore, Robert and Michael Haynes. *Tailor Made, Trail Worn Army Life, Clothing, & Weapons of the Corps of Discovery*. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 2003.
Bob Moore, scholar and long-time curator at the NPS museum in St. Louis did some remarkable research in writing this book. Michael Haynes did the drawings and paintings with incredible accuracy.
- Morris, Larry E. *The Fate of the Corps: What Became of the Lewis and Clark Explorers after the Expedition*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004.
This is interesting to add some biography to the names of the expedition. Some of them had more than ordinary lives without the expedition.
- Moulton, Gary (ed). *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (13 volumes)*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003.
This is the best that modern scholarship can compile with extensive annotation. It is available in both paper and hard cover editions.
- Moulton, Gary (ed). *The Lewis and Clark Journals : An American Epic of Discovery: The Abridgement of the Definitive Nebraska Edition*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
There are several single-volume editions of the journals available. This is taken from the best complete set of journals by its editor.
- Paton, Bruce. *Lewis & Clark: Doctors in the Wilderness*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Press, 2001.
This book regarding the medicine of the expedition is probably the weakest of the three volumes on that subject.
- Peck, David. *Or Perish in the Attempt: Wilderness Medicine in the Lewis & Clark Expedition*. Helena, MT: Farcountry Press, 2002.
This is the most recent book on the medicine of the trip. It is pretty solid and much shorter than Only One May Died.

Ronda, James (ed). *Voyages of Discovery: Essays on the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society Press, 1998.

This is a collection of essays by different students of the trip. It offers different perspectives on aspects of the trip and interpretations of its meanings and accomplishments.

Ronda, James. *Finding the West: Explorations with Lewis and Clark*. Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico Press, 2001.

This includes several interesting essays in a short, quickly read volume.

Ronda, James. *Lewis and Clark among the Indians*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002.

This is another of the “big 4.” Culturally and historically, the meetings between the expedition and the Indian tribes were frequently America’s first contact with that group. Placed in the context of American territory, this was a critical moment for native people, and Ronda has a special gift of insight into these encounters.

Starrs, James and Kira Gale. *The Death of Meriwether Lewis: A Historical Crime Scene Investigation*. Omaha, NE: River Junction Press, 2009.

This is the most recent entry into the controversy of Meriwether Lewis’s demise. It is divided into several sections, one contains every primary source regarding his death.

Thwaites, Reuben Gold (ed). *The Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (8 Volumes). Scituate, MA: Digital Scanning, Incorporated, 2001.

This book has been scanned and reprinted from the best compilation of the journals until Moulton’s. Moulton had access to more material, but Thwaites does a great job in honor of the centennial of the expedition.

Tinling, Marion. *Sacagawea’s Son: The Life of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau*. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2001.

This children’s book fills in the rest of the story for the youngest member of the expedition. The rest of his life was pretty amazing.

Tonyes, John and Phil Sriver. *Edge of Survival*. Great Falls, MT: J & P Press, 2010.

This book examines the expedition from the perspective of food. How did they feed 30+ people on the move for more than two years? Some of the answers come from hands-on experimentation.

Periodicals

We Proceeded On—the official publication of the Trail Heritage Foundation. Subscription by membership in the foundation.

An American Legacy: The Lewis and Clark Expedition—curriculum guide published by the Trail Heritage Foundation.

Videos

Lewis and Clark: Confluence of Time and Courage. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This video was commissioned by the Engineers as the official video of the bicentennial. It is shot using ghosted re-enactors on site.

Lewis & Clark - The Journey of the Corps of Discovery. Ken Burns and PBS.

This is beautifully photographed and an accurate rendition of the expedition. If you know your landscapes, you can see where Burns cheated.

Web Sites

Discovering Lewis and Clark

*This is **THE** website for Lewis and Clark. Highly interactive and constantly updated, it includes work from the foremost scholars on all aspects of the subject.*

<http://lewis-clark.org/>

Lewis and Clark at the National Geographic

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/lewisandclark/>

Lewis and Clark Companion to the Ken Burns Film

This is a very good resource, especially if you use parts of the video.

<http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/>

Lewis and Clark Honor Guard

This site is now sadly out of date, but it contains good information on building the clothing and some of the equipment.

<http://www.corpsofdiscovery.org/>

Lewis and Clark Road Trips

This site can be a bit goofy, but it is usually entertaining—especially if you like intrigue and conspiracy.

<http://www.lewisandclarkroadtrips.com/about/links.cfm>

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

This is the site of the organization most responsible for maintaining and exploring the story of the expedition. Their library, located in Great Falls, is a treasure.

<http://www.lewisandclark.org/>

Teaching with Documents: The Lewis and Clark Expedition

This gives access to some primary sources of the trip.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lewis-clark/>

The Complete Journals of Lewis and Clark

This is one of the great treasures of American scholarship—the most complete text of the Lewis and Clark journals, replete with footnotes. It was a nearly 20 year project of Gary Moulton sponsored by the University of Nebraska.

<http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/>

The Maps of William Clark

This site includes images of 83 of the original maps, most of them drawn by William Clark. If you like maps and the art of cartography, this is amazing!

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/digitallibrary/lewis.html>