

Book Notices

The Journals of Lewis and Clark, Volume 11, The Journals of Joseph Whitehouse, May 14, 1804–April 2, 1806, edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. xvii, 459 pp. Notes, maps, index. \$55.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROGER L. NICHOLS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

This volume completes the publication of the Lewis and Clark materials undertaken by Gary E. Moulton and his staff. As an editorial project, the work has illuminated every aspect of the explorers' epic journey. The eleven volumes now provide an extraordinarily clear picture of just what these individuals saw and experienced between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.

With the journals of private Joseph Whitehouse, the series editors take the reader with the explorers one last time. This narrative is the only surviving one kept by one of the privates. We know little about Whitehouse other than that he served in the army from the late 1790s until 1817, when he deserted. He uses the same inventive spelling and choppy prose that his companions did, and his account is often similar to those of the others published earlier. Unlike the others, however, his seems to have been rewritten daily. Perhaps his first entry was meant to be just notes to be elaborated upon later, but that is not clear. In this case the editors have not speculated about who might have written the second entry each day. The journal relates travel, hunting, housing, and weather information until April 2, 1806, when the expedition was in eastern Washington on its return trip. While there is little direct mention of Iowa, Whitehouse gives readers another lens through which to view early American exploration in the West. Here one finds adventure, boredom, backbreaking labor, danger, and excitement, all integral parts of the story. This volume is a fitting end to an extraordinary project. Readers of these volumes can see and hear the sights and sounds of a long-past era. Few authors or editors have achieved so much!

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