

The author weaves an interesting narrative of western events during the first several decades of national independence. That narrative includes all of the important characters and issues. Kentucky leader George Rogers Clark, Louisiana Territorial Governor and Army General James Wilkinson, former Vice President Aaron Burr, and a host of lesser characters all receive attention. Their efforts to gain personal power, position, and wealth make a fascinating, but oft told, story.

In this context, the author examines Jefferson's western interests from the year the nation gained its independence in 1783 until his time in the White House ended about 25 years later. Whenever possible, she relates his every action to this obsession with expanding the national borders, but rarely differentiates between major or minor incidents. While claiming that Jefferson would use a Spanish attack on the Lewis and Clark Expedition as a justification for a war of aggression, she ignores his total lack of response when Spanish troops halted Thomas Freeman's 1806 Red River Expedition near the Texas border. As the author flits from one conspiracy theory to another in her analysis, the narrative includes repeated attacks on Jefferson as self-serving, scheming, and untrustworthy. Jefferson certainly had plenty of faults, but neither her logic nor her evidence supports her conclusions. This book will remind readers of Iowa and midwestern history of how fluid and exciting events of the early national era were in the region. However, they need to be careful about accepting some of the charges leveled here.

Interpreters with Lewis and Clark: The Story of Sacagawea and Toussaint Charbonneau, by W. Dale Nelson. Denton, TX: University of North Texas Press, 2003. x, 174 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

Reviewer Ryan Roenfeld has worked as a museum guide at the State Historical Society of Iowa's Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs. His primary interests relate to various developments in the Missouri River valley.

W. Dale Nelson never lets his wide-ranging research interfere with the narrative pace of this informative and interesting biography of Toussaint Charbonneau and his Shawnee wife, Sacagawea. Instead of the expected glamorization, the author presents a balanced view that does much to resurrect the role played by Charbonneau, whom William Clark once characterized as a "man of no particular merit." Nelson corrects many misconceptions concerning the role Charbonneau and Sacagawea played as they accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey from the Mandan villages to the Pacific Ocean and

back. And that's just one episode in the more than forty years Charbonneau spent on the Missouri as a trader, guide, and longtime government interpreter.

At the same time, Nelson also examines the controversies concerning Sacagawea, whose place in history grew to almost mythic proportions but whose heritage and ultimate fate remain in dispute. Nelson presents much material to dispute Grace Hebard's theories about Sacagawea's ultimate fate. The book also details the equally interesting life of Charbonneau and Sacagawea's son Baptiste, the European-educated fur trader who led the Mormon Battalion to California.

Although rich with Missouri River lore, there is little in the book that directly relates to the stretch between Sioux City and Hamburg. Nonetheless, W. Dale Nelson has produced a fine book sure to be appreciated by anyone with a passing interest in the history of the Missouri River.

Lewis and Clark by Air: A Pictorial Tour of the Historic Lewis and Clark Trail, by Bob Webster and Mike Webster. Pryor, OK: ViaPlanes, Ltd., 2003. 272 pp. Illustrations, maps, glossary, index, CD-ROM. \$35.00 cloth.

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Released just in time for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration is this coffee-table quality book by two brothers and self-described "amateur explorers" who flew over the Lewis and Clark trail in just three weeks in June 2002. The book's strongest point is the more than 500 photographs taken with a unique Aircam aircraft that took six months to build.

The photographs of the modern trail are interspersed with brief descriptions and corresponding excerpts from the Lewis and Clark journals. (The enclosed CD-ROM features additional journal entries along with more images of the Webster brother's journey across the continent.) Of particular interest is the contrast in scenery, with views of almost pristine wilderness and recognizable landmarks such as Missouri's Tavern Rock amidst the modern sprawl of highway and railroad bridges, industrial complexes, reservoirs, and riverside communities, from the sprawling Kansas City skyline to the tiny hamlet of Big Sandy, Montana. The book also provides graphic evidence of the effects that channelization has had on the lower Missouri, as the river's ecology has been drastically transformed from floodplain forest and prairie into orderly fields of corn and beans.

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