Exploring With Lewis and Clark: the 1804 Journal of Charles Floyd

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Reviewer Roger L. Nichols is professor of history at the University of Arizona. He has written extensively about western exploration.

This attractive book presents a facsimile edition of the journal of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the only man to die as a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. William Clark personally recruited the fellow Kentuckian for the Corps of Discovery, and Floyd became one of the three men appointed as sergeants. He died 99 days after the journey began, so his journal is by far the shortest of those kept on the trek.

Holmberg’s format is interesting and clear. On the left is the handwritten journal page; in the middle is a transcription of Floyd’s prose; and to the far right are the editor’s notes explaining people, places, and events. This allows readers to work their way through the original handwritten account without reading the transcription if they choose.

The editor provides a 25-page introduction in which he briefly discusses Floyd’s role in the expedition and the circumstances surrounding his death from a ruptured appendix. The rest of the introduction is of particular interest to Iowa readers. It focuses on the gravesite and later efforts to erect a permanent marker there. Those efforts began in 1857, when a Missouri River flood washed away the original gravesite, and ended in 1901, when the present monument was erected there. This edition is well illustrated and is likely to become a collector’s piece.


Reviewer James D. Folts is head of reference services, New York State Archives, Albany. He has researched and written about the legal, religious, and American Indian history of antebellum New York State.

The Stockbridge-Munsee Mohicans of Wisconsin are descended from Algonquian groups of eastern New York and western New England. In the mid-eighteenth century many Mohicans resided at a Congregational mission at Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and the Stockbridge Indians relocated to central New York in the 1780s. Stockbridge and other New York Indians negotiated with the Menominees in the early 1820s to purchase a new homeland near Green Bay, Wisconsin. In 1832