

Lewis and Clark Expedition

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about a mile²⁷ wide but not deep; as the timber or sawyers²⁸ may be seen scattered across the whole of its bottom. At twenty miles' distance we saw on the south ²⁹ an island, called by the French L'Isle Chance, or Bald Island, opposite a large prairie, which is called Bald-pated prairie, from a ridge of naked hills which bound it, running parallel with the river as far as we could see, at from three to six miles distance. To the south [west] the hills touch the river. We camped a quarter of a mile beyond this in a point of woods on the north [east] side. The river continues to fall."³⁰ They traveled twenty miles that day. The next day, July 17, they remained in camp in order to make observations and to correct the chronometer, which was run down. The latitude, which they record, places this camp, which is on the east side of the river, at a point about seven miles south of the southwest corner of Iowa. The journal says, "Captain Lewis rode up the country and saw the Nishnabotna, ten or twelve miles from its mouth, at a place not more than 300 yards from the Missouri, and a little above our camp. It then passes near the foot of the Bald Hills and is at least six feet below the level of the Missouri. On its banks are oak, walnut, and mulberry."³¹

27 Thwaites makes the journal say "about two miles wide."—Thwaites, Vol. I, Part I, p. 81.

28 A sawyer is a snag or timber so fixed in the water that it oscillates or boles up and down, under the varying stress of the current, and forms a special danger to navigation. A firmly embedded snag is called a planter.

29 This is really west, as they always call the bank on their left, as they go up the Missouri, the south, and the one on their right, the north.

30 Coues, Vol. I, p. 47.

31 Coues, Vol. I, pp. 47-8.

On Wednesday the 13th day of January instant, the freeholders and other inhabitants of this town are to meet in Faneuil Hall, to receive the report of the committee appointed to consider some measures for employing the poor of the town. As the committee have matters of importance to lay before them, it is desired there may be a general attendance of the inhabitants.—*The Boston Chronicle*, January 11, 1763. (In the newspaper collection of the Historical Department of Iowa.)

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