the Buffalo," draws on the symbology of the late nineteenth-century Ghost Dance to revisit the vision of regeneration that guides preserve management.


REVIEWED BY ROGER L. NICHOLS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Having completed their impressive editing of the actual journals of Lewis and Clark, Gary E. Moulton and his staff have turned their considerable skills to completing the saga of the 1804–1806 expedition by editing the journals kept by some of the enlisted men on the trip. These two volumes include the records of three of the enlisted men known to have written any. All three were sergeants and clearly had more time and perhaps a better command of English than many of their companions. The accounts of John Ordway and Patrick Gass trace the full extent of the expedition. In fact, Ordway’s narrative even has entries for the few days that William Clark failed to write anything. Sergeant Floyd died during the summer of 1804, so his journal is by far the shortest of the surviving records.

Not much is known about any of the three journalists. Neither Lewis nor Clark mention much about any of these men, which may indicate that the officers thought that their subordinates were doing their work well. Of the three, John Ordway provided the most thorough account by an enlisted man. He had served in the First Infantry in Illinois before volunteering for the expedition. After returning to St. Louis in 1806, he settled in Missouri as a farmer. By 1817 he had died. Charles Floyd joined the explorers from civilian life. He was a cousin of Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor and may also have been related to William Clark. Apparently an able man, although he lacked military experience, Floyd was the only one of the explorers who died on the job. His death came in August 1804 as the party worked its way up the Missouri between Iowa and Nebraska. His grave stands at Sioux City, Iowa. Patrick Gass, the third of these journalists, had served with Ordway in the First Infantry in Illinois. He appears to have been a carpenter. Lewis and Clark chose him as sergeant when Floyd died. After returning east in 1807, he published his account independently.
over objections by Meriwether Lewis. His original journal did not survive, so this account is taken from that 1807 work.

As a group, the three journals repeat and overlap each other and those kept by Lewis and Clark. That was the plan, as President Thomas Jefferson had urged the officers to keep multiple copies of their records to ensure that some narrative would survive the rigors of the expedition. As enlisted men, the sergeants paid more attention to routine duties such as rowing the boats, serving guard duty, building shelters, and hunting than did the captains. They offer the same fractured spelling and interesting descriptions of what they saw and did as can be found in the Lewis and Clark journals. They comment on many of the same things that midwesterners do today. Obviously the weather gets a lot of attention, but they also comment on the wide variety of animals, birds, and fish they saw. Several entries mention “troublesome Musquetoes” that plagued them daily as they passed between Iowa and Nebraska.

In these two volumes, as in the preceding ones, the editorial aim has been to provide readers a clear and accurate text supported with modest notes and commentary. Because the previous volumes traced the entire course of the expedition, they already identified most of the places and events in the narrative. Here the focus is to note people, places, animals, and plants. For the latter two, both the popular and the scientific names are given. When the sergeants offer new data, the editors give it more thorough explanation than when they are repeating what has already been noted. For example, these two volumes do not include comments identifying the daily stopping places, nor do they explain all of the geographic features unless they need specific clarification. On the other hand, they do identify all of the Indian groups and individuals that the explorers met.

Readers of these volumes of the expedition journals will have to refer to previous ones if they want to get the complete data on some of the places, people, or events being mentioned. While that may be a minor annoyance, it seems that the editor’s decision not to repeat the earlier detailed notes is a good one. People who are interested enough to read this material will recognize many of the places and events because of their previous coverage. The editors hoped to present the sergeants’ journals in a readable and interesting format, and they have succeeded in doing just that. Iowa readers interested in early American frontier exploration will find these two volumes interesting and informative.