

Volume 1

Number 091R

**Lewis and Clark Reach Their
Destination**

Lead: Ocean in view, oh! The Joy.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: "Great joy in camp... We are view of the ocean... This great Pacific Ocean which we have been so long anxious to See." Thus William Clark announced of the end of their long trek, but this entry in his journal on November 7, 1805 was wrong. As he was to find out, he was actually viewing the huge estuary of the Columbia River whose salty and

brackish waters stretch 20 miles inland from its mouth in present day Washington state.

Clark and his partner Meriwether Lewis had been at it for over two years. They were exploring the Louisiana Purchase. On July 4, 1803 the United States reached an agreement with the French for the purchase of Louisiana and certain parts of the territory fed by the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The expedition, which was now reaching its end, had been projected as a scientific exploration before the purchase but now it was an assertion of control and an investigation of this enormous territorial purchase. The journey officially started on August 31,

1803 when Lewis in a freshly completed keel boat set out from Pittsburgh. He journeyed down the Ohio, up the Mississippi and after a winter's layover, near St. Louis. On May 14, 1804, Lewis and his partner began their trip overland to the Pacific.

Eighteen months later, on the afternoon of November 15, 1805, the party moved from its base camp 4 miles around Point Ellice to a sandy beach about a half mile southeast of Chinook Point and there for the first time they could see Point Adams to the south, Cape Disappointment to the north and beyond them the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark had reached

their goal.

**At the University of Richmond, this
is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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