

First American Soldier to Give His Life for the West



Captain Meriwether Lewis.

Captain William Clark.

LEADERS OF THE FAMOUS EXPEDITION—From steel engravings in Elliott Coates' "History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition."

EROWNING that overlook the splendid bluffs that one of the Missouri river and the city, inside the southern limits of Sioux City, rises a beautiful shaft, at whose base is a tablet of bronze detailing that it was erected in honor of Sergeant Charles Floyd, member of the Lewis and Clark exploring expedition. It is only a few weeks since the capstone was put in place at the top of the shaft; only a few days since the scaffolding was taken down. On Thursday, May 20, Memorial day, the shaft was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. It is the joint tribute of the state of Iowa and the govern-



MONUMENT TO SERGEANT CHARLES FLOYD—Photo for The Bee by Studio Grand, Sioux City.

ment of the United States to the first American soldier who lost his life in the great empire-making adventure of Thomas Jefferson. If a more suggestive inscription were to be asked for the tablet it might well be engraved with such words as these:

* To the Memory of the First Soldier Who Gave His Life in Carrying Out the Plans by Which Thomas Jefferson Laid the Foundations of the Greatness of the American Republic.

If Thomas Jefferson had not been occupied with such affairs as writing the Declaration of Independence, representing the young republic at the court of France, adopting a constitution and serving as president of the nation, he might have been the commander of the expedition which left the bones of one of its expedition on Floyd's Bluff. Long before American independence was achieved Jefferson was a believer in a republic that should include North America. After the revolution, when he was at the court of France, John Ledyard, a Connecticut Yankee and adventurer, who had traveled almost all over the world, came to Jefferson.

Ledyard's Long Trip.

"I want to travel from St. Petersburg across Russia and Siberia," he said, "and thence, crossing Bering straits, down the western slope of the American continent, across the Oregon divide, down the Missouri and up the Ohio. I want to circumnavigate the globe as nearly as it can be done by land. I will lay claim to the far west in the name of the American republic; I will give it the right of discovery; to claim the Missouri valley, the Pacific slope and the great northwest part of the continent."

Jefferson, already confident that sooner or later the republic would be able to crowd Europe out of the west-

ern valleys, joined in the plan. He secured for Ledyard passports from the czar of Russia and with an expedition of such venturesome spirits as himself the Yankee started across the steppes of Russia and Siberia. He actually got almost to the Bering straits. Then he was forced to give it up. He returned, and the expedition was a failure. Jefferson was sorely disappointed. Ten years later, when he was president, he had the good fortune to be able to send the expedition, but he started it at the other end of the route, and for the purpose of exploring what by that time, in the due development of his ambitions, had been made part of his country. Jefferson had many of the instincts of an explorer and adventurer, but greater things than mere topographical and geographical exploration were destined for him.

Hands for a Great Fact.

The Floyd monument is really a commemoration of the Lewis and Clark expedition. After he had bought Louisiana from Napoleon, Jefferson set about to explore it. There were wonderful stories told of the new region. The opponents of the purchase—and they were many—pointed out the ridiculousness of such an acquisition. The country was inhabited by millions of savages, who could never be civilized. It was a great desert, dotted by inaccessible mountains; civilized men could never occupy it. To buy it would be to assume responsibility for the Indians and the adventures who would dispute for its possession. These arguments won many. The Jefferson crowd, however, was not without imagination. The story was told that up near the headwaters of the Missouri was a wonderful mountain of salt. It was a hundred miles long, and no man could tell how high it was. Composed of pure crystals of rock salt, it glittered in the sun like the gates of paradise, and no man could turn his eyes upon it when it shone in the full splendor of a summer afternoon's sun without injury to eyes not used to such supernatural beauty. Here was all the salt the world could want in all time; and salt was a mighty desirable thing in those days, before the supply got so large that two able-bodied trusts, working overtime, could not control it! The mountain of salt argument actually had a large influence in determining public opinion in favor of the purchase of Louisiana. Jefferson had his way. He and Napoleon, at least, were two men who could see far

enough into the future to have this day established. England that will one day be able to take possession of all the country from the sources of the Missouri to the Gulf. The Louisiana purchase, it should be understood, did not include anything on the western slope; indeed, it was a very hazy proposition as to what it did include, but Jefferson proposed to stretch it as far as possible. Arrived on the coast, the company was to take the first ship across the Pacific—there were occasional fur trading vessels sailing that way—carry his party around the world, and come home by the Cape of Good Hope. Nowhere in its annals of exploration is there record of so magnificent an adventure as was planned for this band of frontiersmen.

enough into the future to have this day established. England that will one day be able to take possession of all the country from the sources of the Missouri to the Gulf. The Louisiana purchase, it should be understood, did not include anything on the western slope; indeed, it was a very hazy proposition as to what it did include, but Jefferson proposed to stretch it as far as possible. Arrived on the coast, the company was to take the first ship across the Pacific—there were occasional fur trading vessels sailing that way—carry his party around the world, and come home by the Cape of Good Hope. Nowhere in its annals of exploration is there record of so magnificent an adventure as was planned for this band of frontiersmen.

Concerning Charles Floyd.

Of Charles Floyd, frontiersman, adventurer, hunter, Indian fighter, soldier and untimely martyr, not much is known. He came of an old Kentucky family and it is not even known certainly who was his father. Mr. Elliott Coates, historian of the Lewis and Clark expedition, conjectures that Sergeant Floyd was the son of another Charles Floyd, who is credited with deeds of daring in the frontier wars which Kentucky waged for its existence. George Rogers Clark, leader of the expedition into Indiana and Illinois which assured to the new colonies the control of that territory, was a friend of the Floyds. Colonel John Floyd was one of these defenders of the frontier. He was killed by Indians in 1783, in ambush at Floyd's Station, Ky., and his body was carried from the field by his brother, Charles Floyd. This Charles Floyd is believed by Mr. Coates to have been the father of Sergeant Floyd.

George Rogers Clark was the brother of William Clark, one of the two captains whom Jefferson placed in the control of his expedition to explore the new territory. The other commander was Meriwether Lewis, a Virginian, who afterward became governor of the new territory. There is much mystery concerning the manner of his death. Called to Washington while he was governor to explain some apparent discrepancies in his accountings of public funds, he either committed suicide or was murdered one night near the hamlet that has since become Nashville, Tenn. At that time it was believed he committed suicide, but latterly developments have led to the conclusion that he was murdered. Certainly this is the more charitable and satisfactory conclusion regarding one who had rendered such service to his country. He had been President Jefferson's private secretary two or three years before the expedition was organized and Jefferson sent him with the expedition.

In order to prepare himself for the service Lewis went to Philadelphia, studied navigation, botany and the elements of zoology. He equipped himself as best he could to study the flora and fauna of the new country and his discoveries in these regards were of great value later.

Objects of the Expedition.

It was a sturdy little company of twenty-eight men that set out from St. Louis in the fall of 1803 for a trip around the world. For that was what Jefferson designed. Lewis, chief in command, was armed with letters of credit from the Washington government. He was instructed to follow the Missouri to its sources, take astronomical observations daily in order to secure exact locations, write complete reports on the country, the Indians, the animals and the plant life. He was to cross the Stony mountains—the Rockies were then so called

and take possession of all the country from the sources of the Missouri to the Gulf. The Louisiana purchase, it should be understood, did not include anything on the western slope; indeed, it was a very hazy proposition as to what it did include, but Jefferson proposed to stretch it as far as possible. Arrived on the coast, the company was to take the first ship across the Pacific—there were occasional fur trading vessels sailing that way—carry his party around the world, and come home by the Cape of Good Hope. Nowhere in its annals of exploration is there record of so magnificent an adventure as was planned for this band of frontiersmen.

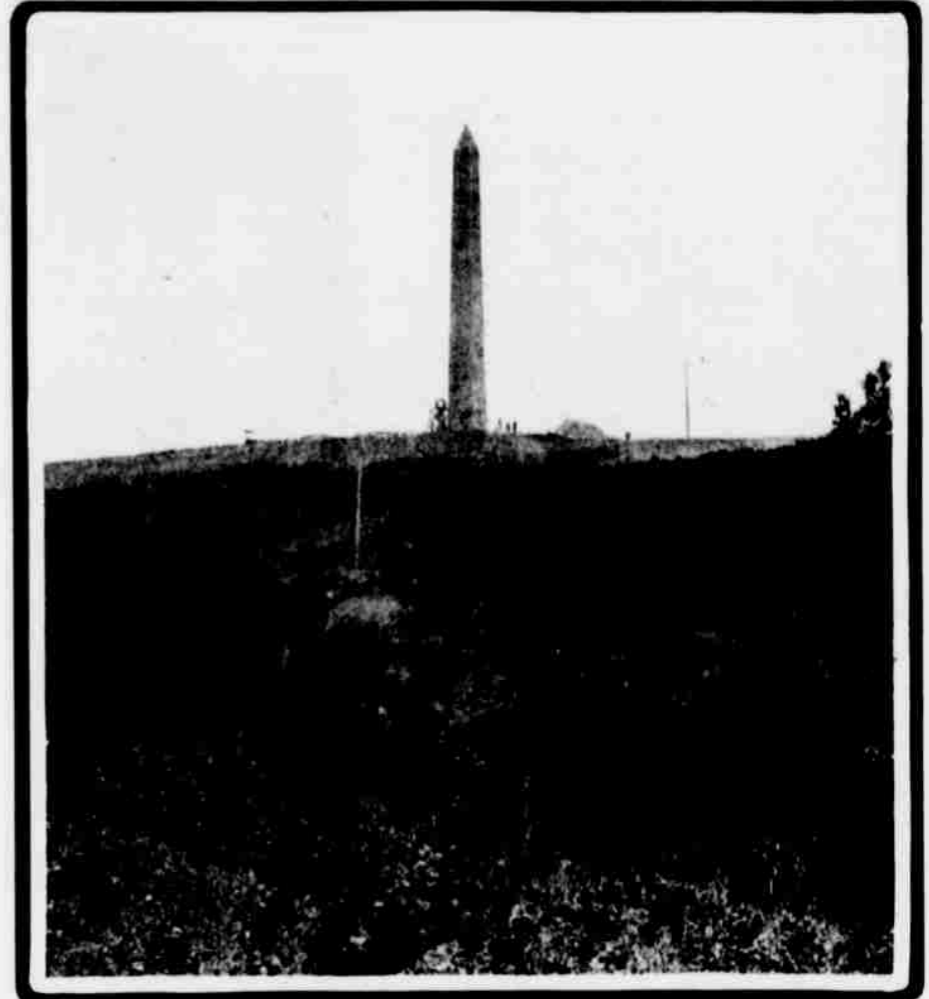
Floyd's Connection and Death.

Sergeant Charles Floyd was a civilian and must have been of good family that he could secure appointment as a non-commissioned officer in this expedition. He is mentioned in the Lewis and Clark history only as "one of the nine young men from Kentucky" who joined the party. The

ent city of Sioux City. Here Floyd was taken ill with a trouble that affected his bowels. Everything possible was done for him, but he died on the afternoon of August 20. He is mentioned in Lewis' journal as a good officer and a useful man.

Building His Monument.

The first soldier to give his life in the new territory was buried on the top of a great bluff overlooking the Missouri. A great post was placed over his grave, bearing his name. It seems remarkable that in the midst of an unknown continent, inhabited by savages, a spot thus marked should not have been lost. Yet, when the frontiersmen began to push their way into this section several decades later the cedar post was found where Lewis had directed, a few miles below the mouth of the river named for the dead soldier, Floyd's river, the name it still bears. Once found the tradition that underneath that decaying post lay the bones of Floyd



VIEW OF SERGEANT'S BLUFF, SURMOUNTED BY FLOYD MONUMENT—Photo for The Bee by Studio Grand, Sioux City.

real start up the Missouri was made in the spring of 1804, in two large barges. The history of the trip, compiled from the various journals kept by Patrick Gass, by Lewis and Clark and by Floyd himself, is a voluminous work in two great tomes. Council Bluffs derives its name from a great council held on the bluffs where the city now is, with leading chiefs of the Indian tribes in the country. Almost without exception the ablest leaders succeeded in maintaining friendly relations with the red men, and the powwow at Council Bluffs resulted in a long distribution of peace and in the distribution of large quantities of cheap jewelry among the aborigines. The party came on up the Missouri and about the middle of August, 1804, was just below the site of the pres-

erved for many years more before the grave was opened. A new post was placed over the grave, but no more. It was not until 1895 that the bones were taken up. They were then moved to another bluff, four miles nearer the present city, and reinterred. Then came the movement to secure a monument over them. Hon. George D. Perkins, then in congress, secured an appropriation of \$5,000 from the federal government; the Iowa legislature gave \$5,000 more as a result of the efforts of Senator E. H. Hubbard of this city; nearly \$5,000 more was raised by the Floyd Memorial association. Colonel H. M. Chittenden, chief of the corps of federal engineers for the upper river, was architect

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

Fac Simile Pages from Fisher's Narrative Account of the Lewis and Clark Exploring Expedition

INTRODUCTION.

xi

ESTIMATE

Of the produce of the several Mines.

"Mine a Burton	-	550,000lbs	
mineral, estimated to produce 66 2-3, is	336,666 2-3lbs		
lead, at \$5, is		18,333 33	
To which add \$30 (on 120,000lbs manufactured) to each thousand, is		3,600 00	
			21,933 33
"Old Mines, - 200,000lbs mineral, estimated to produce 66 2-3, is	133 333 1-3lbs		
at \$5 per cwt, is		6,666 67	
"Mine a la Mott, 200,000lbs lead, at \$5 per cwt, is		10,000 00	
"Suppose at all the other mines 30,000lbs lead, at \$5, is		1,500 00	
			18,166 67
Total amount, is			\$40,100 00

"When the manufacture of white and red lead is put into operation, the export valuation will be considerably augmented on the quality of lead."

statements were evidently intended by the author to support his assertion that "This (the fur) trade would give employment to an immense number of inhabitants, and the country is sufficiently luxuriant for the population of an immense colony." Apparently Mr. Fisher was an ardent expansionist and supporter of President Jefferson's plan. But what would he say if permitted to compare his tabulated statement of the commerce of the Missouri valley and the mineral output of the west of his day with the figures of the present? A more vivid object lesson in material growth could hardly be furnished than is afforded by this

The following statement of the Commerce of the Missouri, is made by a gentleman, which will sufficiently show the advantages that arise from it.

"The products which are drawn from the Missouri, are obtained from the Indians and hunters in exchange for merchandize. They may be classed according to the subjoined table:

	D	C	D	C
Osters, - -	1228lbs	at 1 20	14737	20
Attors, - -	1267lbs	4 00	5068	00
Foxs				
Pouha Foxs, }	802 skins	0 50	401	00
Tigars Cats, }				
Raccoons, -	1248 skins	0 25	1062	00
Bears, black }	2514 skins	2 00	5022	00
gray & yell. }				
Puces, - -				
Buffaloes, -	1714 skins	3 00	5142	00
Dressed cow hs,	189 skins	1 50	283	50
Shorn deer sks,	9692lbs	0 40	38770	40
Deer skins, }	6581 skins	0 50	3490	50
with hair, }				
Tallow & fat,	8313lbs	0 20	1662	60
Bear's oil, -	2310 galls,	1 28	2372	00
Muskrats, -				
Martens, -				
			\$7791	20

"The calculations in this table, drawn from the most correct accounts of the produce of the Missouri, during fifteen years, make the average of a common year 77,971 dollars.

"On calculating, in the same proportion, the