

And What We Can Do Now
To Prevent Future Tragedies

Tuesday, November 22nd

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December 18, 1805

William Clark

rained and Snowed ... The men being thinly Dressed and mockersons without Socks is the reason that but little can be done at the Houses to day. at 12 the Hail & Snow seased, and rain Suckceeded for the latter part of the day

December 18, 1805

Patrick Gass

Snow fell last night about an inch deep, and the morning was stormy.

December 19, 1805

Patrick Gass

This was a fine clear cool morning, and we expected to have some fair pleasant weather, but at noon it became cloudy again and began to rain.

December 20, 1805

William Clark

Those people ask generally double and tribble the value of what they have to Sell, and never take less than the real value of the article in Such things as is calculated to do them Service. Such as Blue & white beeds, with which they trade with the natives above; files which they make use of to Sharpen their tools, fish hooks of different Sises and tobacco. Tobacco and blue beeds they do prefor to every thing.

December 21, 1805

William Clark

rained as useal all the last night, and contd. moderately all day to day without any intermition, ... dispatched two men to the open lands near the Ocian for Sackacome, which we made use of to mix with our tobacco to Smoke which has an agreeable flavour.

December 22, 1805

William Clark

Sergt. Ordway, Gibson & my servent Sick, Several men complain if biles, and bruises of differant kinds.

We discover that part of our last Supply of meat is Spoiling from the womph [warmth] of the weather notwithstanding a constant Smoke kept under it day and night.

December 24, 1805

William Clark

Cuscalah the Indian ... he laid before Capt. Lewis and my self each a mat and a parcel of roots Some time in the evening two files was demanded for the presents of mats and roots, as we had no files to part with, we each returned the present which we had received, which displeased Cuscalah a little. He then offered a woman to each of us which we also declined axcepting of, which displeased the whole party verry much -- the female part appeared to be highly disgusted at our refuseing to axcept of their favours &c.

December 24, 1805

John Ordway

hard rain as usal. we finished covering our huts and made fires in them. Some of the men moved in them this evening.

December 25, 1805

William Clark

at day light this morning we we[re] awoke by the discharge of the fire arm[s] of all our party & a Selute, Shouts and a Song which the whole party joined in under our windows, after which they retired to their rooms were chearfull all the morning. after brackfast we divided our Tobacco which amounted to 12 carrots one half of which we gave to the men of the party who used tobacco, and to those who doe not use it we make a present of a handkerchief. ...all the party Snugly fixed in their huts. I recved a pres[e]nt of Capt. L. of a fleece hosrie [hosiery] Shirt Draws and Socks, a pr. Mockersons of Whitehouse a Small Indian basket of Gutherich, two Dozen white weazils tails of the Indian woman, & some black root of the Indians before their departure. The day proved Showerey wet and disagreeable.

we would have Spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we any thing either to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites, our Diner concisted of pore Elk, so much Spoiled that we eate it thro' mear necessity, Some Spoiled pounded fish and a fiew roots.

December 25, 1805

Patrick Gass

Was another cloudy wet day. This morning we left our camp and moved into our huts. At daybreak all the men paraded and fired a round of small arms, wishing the Commanding Officers a merry Christmas. In the course of the day Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke collected what tobacco remained and divided it among those who used tobacco as a Christmas-gift; to the others they gave handkerchiefs in lieu of it. We had no spirituuous liquors to elevate our spirits this Christmas; but of this we had but little need, as we

were all in very good health. Our living is not very good; meat is plenty, but of an ordinary quality, as the elk are poor in this part of the country. We have no kind of provisions but meat, and we are without salt to season that.

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