

Camp River Dubois April the 8th 1804

Honored Parent.

I now embrace this opportunity of writing to you once more to let you know where I am and where I am going. I am well thank God, and in high spirits. I am now on an expedition to the westward, with Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clark, who are appointed by the President of the United States to go on an expedition through the interior parts of North America. We are to ascend the Missouri River with a boat as far as it is navigable and then to go by land to the western Ocean, if nothing prevents. &c

This party consists of 25 picked Men of the Army & country likewise and I am so happy as to be one of them. Will you Men from the Army, and I and all the party are if we live to return, to receive our Discharge when ever we return again to the United States if we chuse it.

This place is on the Mississippi River
opposite to the Mouth of the Missouri River
and we are to start in ten days up the
Missouri River, this has been our winter
quarters. we expect to be gone 18 months
or two years. we are to receive a great
Reward for this expedition, when we return -
I am to receive 15 dollars p^r month and
at least 400 acres of first rate land, and
if we make great discoveries as we expect
the United States, has promised to make
us great Rewards more than we are
promised &c. for fear of exorbitants
I wish to inform you that I left 200 dollars
in cash, at Kaskaskias, put it on interest
with a Substantial man by the name of
Charles Smith & Partnership which were
three more Substantial men binding with him
and Capt. Clark is bound to see me paid at the
time and place where I receive my discharge
and if I should not live to return my heirs can
get that and all the pay due me from the U.S.
by applying to the Seat of Government, I have
but no letters since Betsey got, but will write
next winter if I have a chance. yours, John Ordway
John Ordway & Stephen Ordway