

Letter from Stephen Long to Captain Mason

Description

This is part of a letter written on September 16, 1816, by Stephen Long to Captain Milo Mason.

Date(s)

September 18, 1958

But I must drop my speculations and go upon my narrative. —
After planning an annual to be established somewhere in
the vicinity, and making an estimate of its expense, which on
expired 10 entire days and a considerable part of their nights,
I set out upon an expedition 250 miles up the Missouri
River, which I have performed, it being precisely three
weeks from the day I started to the day of my return.
I took bearings & distances along the River as far as
I ascended it, together with such other observations, as the
means under my control would permit, so that I think
I shall be able to give a pretty correct sketch of the River,
which has never been given hitherto, according to its Geogra-
phical bearings. — The bottoms along the ~~river~~ are generally
low and marshy, covered in most places with very good tim-
ber, consisting of Black & Blue ash, Sugar tree, Maple, Lyceum
Laurist, Cotton wood, Birch, Walnut & Hickory. — In some instan-
ces the bottoms which are more elevated, are Prairies. — The
main Bluffs are at variable distance from the River from 0 to
12 miles. — The river abounds in fish of a very good qual-
ity & of enormous sizes of their kind. — Cat fish have been
caught weighing from 50 to 100 lbs. — The Buffalo fish is
most numerous, — Pike, Perch, Trout, & Sunfish, are plenty.
— It is a sluggish stream abounding in weeds, but the best
calculated of any I ever saw for the purposes of barbed naviga-
tion, — having at all seasons, a sufficient depth of water, and
a hard sandy bottom.
Having fixed upon a site for ~~my~~ ~~quarters~~ which was the
principal object of my journey. — I returned by land from Gomorah
village, inhabited by a tribe of Pottawatomies, and situated at the
head of Lake Peoria, alias the Missouri Lake, to Fort Clarke 25
miles at the foot of the same lake. — At Ft. Clarke I crossed
the river with a small detachment of soldiers with provisions
for five days, and returned by land to this place, making upon
the route we came, a distance of 190 miles, from Ft. C. to St. Louis.
— I left the Fort with the determination to pursue a due south
course till we should arrive at the Mississippi. — But on the 6th

Accession Number 59-182-4

8x10 inches (21x26 cm) Black & White

Keywords Signatures (Writing)

HST Keywords Document - Letter; Long, Stephen; Mason, Milo

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