



# FAST FACTS

## Lewis & Clark in Kansas

- Lewis and Clark spent two weeks traveling through what is now Kansas in June-July, 1804.
- The expedition arrived on June 26, 1804, at the mouth of the Kansas River near modern-day Kansas City, Kansas, where they camped three nights. It was the longest period of time the expedition remained in one place in what is now the Kansas City area.
- The expedition departed Kansas on July 11, 1804, near present-day White Cloud located where the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri converge.
- On their return trip two years later, the expedition camped September 14, 1806, on one of the Isle de Parque Islands south of modern-day Leavenworth/Fort Leavenworth. That same day, Capt. Lewis collected the expedition's last plant specimen – a raccoon grape leaf – near the point where Three Mile Creek empties into the Missouri River.
- The first recorded court martial after departing from St. Charles, Mo., was held when the expedition camped at the mouth of the Kansas River. Two privates were charged with getting drunk on duty.
- An entry in Lewis and Clark's journal described the Kansas landscape near present-day Atchison as "one of the most butifull Plains, I ever Saw open & butifully diversified with hills & vallies all presenting themselves to the river covered with grass and a few scattering trees..."
- The expedition celebrated the first Independence Day in the American West near Atchison on July 4, 1804. It marked the 28th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- In honor of Independence Day, the expedition fired their cannon twice and gave the men an extra ration of whiskey. The explorers also named two creeks as a tribute to that day – Fourth of July 1804 Creek and Independence Creek. Both creeks still flow through Atchison County today.
- Expedition member Joseph Fields was bitten by a snake in what is now southern Atchison County. Capt. Lewis treated the wound with a poultice of bark and gunpowder and Fields recovered.
- Four eastern Kansas communities along the Missouri River – Kansas City, Leavenworth/Fort Leavenworth, Atchison, and White Cloud – will commemorate the Lewis and Clark expedition with a series of events that are part of the Heart of America commemoration, "A Journey Fourth." The event on July 3-4, 2004, is a bi-state, multi-city salute to the famed expedition and features living history programs, parades, reenactments, and spectacular fireworks.