

The Mouth of the Sandy River

Introduction:

The Corps of Discovery's journey through the Pacific Northwest in the fall of 1805 and again in the spring of 1806 was a journey through many confluences—of people and cultures, flora and fauna, and geology. On November 3, 1805, the Corps of Discovery arrived at another of these important confluences, that of the Columbia and Sandy rivers. In their journals, they described the "*handsom*" river and the "*butifull*" countryside, the mysterious "*quick sand*" at the mouth of the Sandy River, and the plant, animal and bird life they saw.¹

Today, the Corps' journals, maps, and sketches are a snapshot of a land of confluences—of volcanic activity, of cultural contact between native residents and Euro-American explorers and traders, and of riverine conditions. Two hundred

¹Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 10—The Journal of Patrick Gass, May 14, 1804–September 23, 1806* [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996], 165-166.

The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 11--The Journals of Joseph Whitehouse, May 14, 1804–April 2, 1806 [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997], 382-384.

In using the word "*handsom*," Sergeant Patrick Gass and Private Joseph Whitehouse meant the river and the countryside had the appearance of health, strength and beauty. All the journal-keepers frequently used the word, "*handsom*," to describe people, rivers, and the countryside.

years later, these journals are still a snapshot that helps us understand this confluence.²

The "quick Sand river" :

The night of November 2 found the Corps of Discovery camped on the south side of the Columbia River, near today's Rooster Rock State Park [Oregon].³ The next morning, a fog so thick they "*could not See a man 50 Steps off*" delayed the Corps' departure until 10 am. Guided by their "*Indian friends*" who had camped with them the night before, the Corps canoed slowly and cautiously down the Columbia River.

That morning, Captain William Clark chose to walk along the broad sandy beach on the south side of the river. After a three-mile hike, he reached the upper, or eastern, mouth of a small river which he described as the:

²See for example:

Daniel Botkin, **Our Natural History: The Lessons of Lewis and Clark** [New York: Berkley Publishing, 1995]

Keith G. Hay, **The Lewis and Clark Columbia River Water Trail: A Guide for Paddlers, Hikers, and Other Explorers** [Portland: Timber Press, 2004]

Kenneth C. Walcheck, "Ecological Insights of Meriwether Lewis," **We Proceeded On**, May 2007 : 20-27.

³Gary E. Moulton, ed., **The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 6—November 2, 1805–March 22, 1806** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990], 8-10 [fn. 8].

Martin Plamondon II, **Lewis and Clark Trail Maps: A Cartographic Reconstruction, Volume III** [Pullman: WSU Press, 2004], 48.

*"enterance of a river which appeared to Scatter over a Sand bar, the bottom of which I could See quite across and did not appear to be 4 Inches deep in any part."*⁴

Deceived by the river's shallow water and sandy bottom, Clark started to wade across, only to find himself mired in quicksand. He was rescued by the timely arrival of the rest of the party.

Two of the Corps' hunters, John Collins and François Labiche, had been successful that morning, so the Corps paused at the "enterance" of this river for a mid-day dinner of goose and venison. The two captains, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis, took time to walk up the sand-filled, "verry Considerable Stream" for about one and a half miles. Clark called it the "quick Sand river," and noted the mouth of the river was separated into two channels by:

*"an Island of about 3 miles in length on the river and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide, composed of Corse Sand which is thrown out of this quick Sand river."*⁵

So much sand was thrown out of the mouth of the Sandy River and into the Columbia River, that the Columbia's current was pushed up against the river's north bank and the area around the mouth of the Washougal River. Clark thought the

⁴Moulton, Volume 6, 12.
Plamondon, 49.

⁵Moulton, Volume 6, 12.

Sandy River resembled the Platte River, another shallow, sandy-filled river with a "*bold Current*."⁶ Clark's maps of the confluence of the two rivers clearly show a sand-laden river and the large sand island that split the mouth of the Sandy River into two channels.⁷

Private Joseph Whitehouse was the only journal-keeper to note the depth of the quicksand at the mouth of the Sandy River:

*"We . . . halted to dine at the Mouth of a River, which came into the Columbia River on the South Side. The mouths or entrance of this River is filled with a quick sand, which we run a pole 8 feet down, & had no solid bottom and it emptied itself by several Mouths."*⁸

What should have been the simple confluence of two rivers, the Columbia and the Sandy, was not. Instead, in the early 1800s, this was a confluence of river history and volcanic history. Although the Corps' journal-keepers may not have understood the "*quick Sand*" at the confluence of the Columbia and Sandy rivers, we now know their detailed, scientific descriptions of the Sandy River's sand-

⁶Moulton, **Volume 6**, 11-12.

⁷Gary E. Moulton, ed., **The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 1—The Atlas** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983], Maps #79, and #88. Plamondon, **Volume III**, 49.

⁸Moulton, **Volume 11**, 383.

clogged channels are a record of 18th century volcanic activity on Mt. Hood's southwest side.

Beginning about 1720, Mt. Hood intermittently erupted. This particular, sporadic, decades-long volcanic activity was far different than Mt. St. Helens' explosive eruptions in 1980. Fast-moving pyroclastic flows of hot rocks, gas, and ash, as well as flows of lahars, fast moving slurries of mud and water from glaciers and snow fields, moved down the southern and southwestern flanks of Mt. Hood, in an area now called Old Maid Flats. The flows filled the upper mountain tributaries and then the Sandy River with volcanic debris.⁹ It was this debris from the most recent volcanic activity [c. 1780] that caused the two captains to name the river, the "*quick Sand river*."

The following spring, the Corps spent a week camped near the mouth of the Washougal River.¹⁰ Looking across the Columbia River from their campsite, they could see the upper mouth of the Sandy River. Still curious about the river, Clark and Lewis queried visiting Kiksht-speaking people about the river's geography:

⁹Kenneth A. Cameron and Patrick Pringle, "Post-Glacial Lahars of the Sandy River Basin, Mount Hood, Oregon," **Northwest Science** 60, no. 4 [1986]: 225, 234-7

¹⁰Gary E. Moulton, ed., **The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Volume 7—March 23-June 9, 1806** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1991], 38-41. Plamondon, 49.

The Corps' campsite of March 31-April 6, 1806 was located near the Port of Camas-Washougal [WA], at Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach.

" . . . three Indians encamped near us and visited our fire we entered into a kind of a Conversation by signs, of the Country and Situation of the rivers. they informed us that . . . quick Sand river was Short only headed in Mt. Hood which is in view and to which he pointed. this is a circumstance we did not expect as we had heretofore deemed a considerable river."

Lewis added:

*" this information was corroborated by that of sundry other indians who visited us in the course of the day."*¹¹

The two captains were puzzled. Based on their own understanding of the geography of western rivers, they believed the Sandy River was a large river, flowing into the Columbia River from far to the south, possibly from mountains in the Spanish California. Yet, according to the Native Americans who shared their geographic information with the two captains, the Sandy River was a short, sand-filled river of little importance.¹² On April 1, the two captains:

¹¹John Logan Allen, **Passage Through the Garden: Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest** [Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975], 335.
Moulton, **Volume 7**, 41, 48.

See also **Lewis & Clark's West: William Clark's Master Map of the American West**. New Haven: Yale University, 2007 [1810].

¹²For a thorough analysis of the nation's geographic knowledge of the west in 1800, see:

John Logan Allen, **Passage Through the Garden: Lewis and Clark and the Image of the American Northwest** [Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975].

"dispatched Sergt. Pryor with two men in a small canoe up quicksand river with orders to proceed as far as he could and return this evening."

Sergeant Nathaniel Hale Pryor and his small party canoed up the Sandy River for about six miles. Once past the island that split the mouth of the river into two channels, Pryor found the main channel was about 300 yards wide. The river itself was about 50 yards wide, turbid and swift flowing, and just six feet deep, with a quicksand-like bed. The river's banks *"were low and at present overflows."*¹³

Private Joseph Whitehouse explored the Sandy River for about four miles. Like Pryor, he found the river filled with sand bars and islands. He thought the river was about 350 yards wide, with *"only 50 Yards of Water the remainder being entirely a Quick Sand."*¹⁴

It would appear the Corps of Discovery saw the Sandy River at a time when the river was still flushing its channel of the volcanic and lahar debris carried

¹³Moulton, **Volume 7**, 49, 51.

Very probably, Pryor and his party canoed up the Sandy River as far as present-day Dabney State Park.

¹⁴Moulton, **Volume 11**, 438.

down the river from Old Maid Flats.¹⁵ Volcanic eruptions from both Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens would continue to darken northwest skies and to clog northwestern rivers for many years.

Records of volcanic activity throughout the Cascade Range, from Mt. Shasta to Mt. Rainier, can be found in the journals of many early explorers, as well as in thousands of years of geologic evidence. Numerous oral histories of the Columbia River tribes tell of spectacular explosive eruptions, smoke-filled skies, lands laid waste, and changing river channels, "*years and years ago*."¹⁶

The Shah-ha-la People:

President Thomas Jefferson had instructed the two captains to learn all they could about the Native Americans they met. The president viewed the tribes as important trading partners and from a business sense, he was eager to learn all he could:

¹⁵Cameron and Pringle, 235.

Stephen L. Harris, **Fire Mountains of the West: The Cascades and Mono Lake Volcanoes** [Missoula: Mountain Press, 1998(1988)], 178-179.

Cynthia A. Gardner, et. al., "Mt. Hood—History and Hazards of Oregon's Most Recent Active Volcano," **US Geologic Survey Fact Sheet #060-00** [www.pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2000], 2-4.

Jim E. O'Connor, "The Evolving Landscape of the Columbia River Gorge: Lewis and Clark and the Cataclysms on the Columbia," **Oregon Historical Quarterly** 105, no. 3 : 40-45.

¹⁶See for example the story of Mt. Hood in Ella E. Clark, **Indian Legends of the Pacific Northwest** [Berkeley: University of California Press, 1953], 15-16 or Frederic Homer Balch, **Bridge of the Gods** [1890].

*"The commerce which may be carried on with the people inhabiting the line you will pursue, renders a knowledge of those people important. You will therefore endeavor to make yourself acquainted, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey shall admit, with the names of the nations & their numbers . . . and articles of commerce they may need or furnish, & to what extent."*¹⁷

Jefferson asked the two captains to acquire information about the tribes' populations, occupations and tools, food, clothing, customs, and languages. The president created a list of approximately 300 English words, and asked Lewis to collect as many words as he could in native languages. The list included words associated with daily life [house, fire, tobacco], family relations [wife, husband, son, daughter], the weather [fog, rain, frost], and animals [beaver, raccoon, elk], as well as numbers from one to twenty-one.¹⁸ Lewis packed a number of these blank vocabularies, and he used them frequently.

The Corps of Discovery learned the people living on the lower Columbia River spoke Chinookan languages. From The Dalles, Oregon down the Columbia River to

¹⁷Donald Jackson, ed., **Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents, 1783-1854** [Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978], 62.

¹⁸Reuben G. Thwaites, ed., **The Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Volume 7** [New York: Arno Press, 1969 (1905)], 408-409; insert.

the mouth of the Cowlitz River, people spoke Kiksht, or Upper Chinook; from the Cowlitz River to the Pacific Ocean, the people spoke Kathlamet and Chinook.¹⁹

The word "Chinook" comes from the Salish language spoken by the Chehalis people of present-day southwest Washington. The Chehalis used the word *čínúk* to refer to both the people and to a village on Baker Bay, a part of the Columbia River estuary.²⁰ The word also refers to the tribal language, Chinook, and to a multi-lingual trade language, Chinook Wawa.

Chinook Wawa was created as a straightforward language to facilitate communication between the many trading partners along the northwest coast—the Chinook, the Chehalis [Salish], the Nootka and others. As Euro-Americans sailed into the area in the mid-1700s, the language expanded to include French, Spanish and English words.²¹

¹⁹David H. and Katherine S. French, "Wasco, Wishram, and Cascades," in **The Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 12—The Plateau**, ed. by Deward Walker, Jr. [Washington DC: Smithsonian Institute, 1998], 360.

Michael Silverstein, "Chinookans of the Lower Columbia," in **The Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 7—Northwest Coast** ed. by Wayne Suttles [Washington DC: Smithsonian Institute, 1990], 533.

L. C. Thompson and M. D. Kincade, "Languages," in **The Handbook of North American Indians: Volume 7**, 41.

²⁰Silverstein, 544.

Edward H. Thomas, **Chinook: A History and Dictionary of the Northwest Coast Trade Jargon** [Portland: Binfords & Mort, 1970(1935)], 10.

²¹Thomas, 29-30.

During their descent of the Columbia River in early November 1805, the Corps visited with many Kiksht-speaking people. Canoes filled with Kiksht-speaking people often passed the Corps of Discovery, traveling up and down the river to trade, to hunt, and to fish.²²

Just below Beacon Rock, the Corps passed a village of nine large, well-built houses. On his map, Clark noted the village was the home of the "*Wah-clallah Tribe of the Shahala Nation*."²³

On November 4, the Corps of Discovery stopped at another Sha-hal-la village. This large village of 25 houses was located on the site of today's Portland [Oregon] International Airport. On his map and in his journal, Clark called the village residents both "*Sha-ha-hd*" and "*Skil-lute*." The word Sha-ha-la may come from a Kiksht word, *šáxl(a)*, meaning upriver and *šáxlatkš*, meaning those upriver, or those living upriver.²⁴

²²Moulton, **Volume 6**, 9, 13.

²³French and French, 375-376.

Moulton, **Atlas**, Map #79.

Gary E. Moulton, ed., **The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Volume 5—July 28–November 1805** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1988], 371.

Moulton, **Volume 6**, 8; 475.

The people were probably Kiksht-speaking Watlala; Euro-American settlers would call the people Cascade Indians.

²⁴French and French, 374, 376.

Moulton, **Volume 6**, 10 [fn. 11].

Fifty-two large canoes with raised bows sat on the river bank in front of the village. Twenty-four of the houses in the Sha-ha-la village were temporary homes, "thatched with Straw, and covered with bark." One house was "built of boards . . . about 50 feet in length and covered with broad Split boards."²⁵

Whitehouse thought:

*"This village was by far the handsomest of the kind that we had yet seen. It was situated on a rising piece of ground, & lay along the River. The bottom land near this place is cover'd with Cotton wood & pine timber, the Soil tolerably good, & the River had a pleasant appearance."*²⁶

In early April of 1806, Clark and seven men took some time to explore the Willamette River and Sauvie Island. With their Sha-ha-la guide, the party visited the guide's home in a small stand of evergreen trees on the south side of the Columbia River. Clark identified the Kiksht-speaking residents of this

²⁵French and French, 368.
Moulton, **Volume 6**, 17.
Silverstein, 537-538.

²⁶Moulton, **Volume 11**, 385-386.

village a few miles downriver from the confluence of the Columbia and Sandy rivers as "*Ne-cha-co-lee*" or "*Nech-e-co-kee*."²⁷ The *Ne-cha-co-lee* lived in one large house with seven apartments. The house was quite unlike any other the Corps had seen on the Columbia River, and Clark not only described the house in great detail, but also sketched it:

"the residence of our Pilot . . . consists of one long house with Seven apartments or rooms in Square form about 30 feet [square] each room opening into a passage which is quit[e] through the house . . . the house is built of bark of the White Cedar . . ."

He thought 100 people lived in this large, well-built apartment complex.²⁸

Clark estimated there were 2,800 Kiksht-speaking Shahala and Skillute people living on both sides of the Columbia River, from the Cascades of the Columbia River to the mouth of the Cowlitz River, including those near the confluence of the Sandy and the Columbia rivers. The land and climate supported

²⁷Moulton, **Atlas**, Map #79.

Volume 7, 56-57; 61 [fn. 17], 64-65; maps on p. 63, 69.
Silverstein, 534.

Clark's name, *Ne-cha-co-lee*, may come from a Kiksht word, *ni-čáq[w] li*, meaning "a stand of pines." The village site is a part of today's Blue Lake Park. Extensive archaeological work was done at the site in the mid-1980s [see Dale Archibald, "Blue Lake Park, Multnomah County, Oregon, Archaeological Report," **Report of the Oregon Historical Society** (to Multnomah County Parks, 1984)].

²⁸Moulton, **Volume 6**, 478.

Moulton, **Volume 7**, 64-65.

an abundant variety of natural resources—plants, fish, waterfowl, and elk—which in turn supported large communities of native peoples.²⁹ Clark wrote:

*" . . . the Countrey is low rich and thickly timbered on each Side of the river, the Islands open & Some ponds . . . emence numbers of fowls flying in every direction Such as Swan, geese Brants, Cranes also great numbers of Sea Otter in the river.—"*³⁰

"The Columbian vally:"

Gradually, the two captains began to call this "*rich & estincive*" countryside "*the Columbian vally wide & butifull*"³¹ and as the Corps of Discovery paddled back up the Columbia River in the spring of 1806, Lewis more clearly defined the valley. As the party passed the upper end of Deer Island on March 29, Lewis noted:

²⁹Moulton, **Volume 6**, 475, 483.

³⁰Moulton, **Volume 6**, 13.

³¹Moulton, **Volume 6**, 457.
Plamondon, 48-55.

Clark and Lewis's '*rich and extensive*' Columbia Valley was a 70-mile long valley, stretching from Phoca Rock [a prominent rock formation in the Columbia River, near present-day Cape Horn, WA and Bridal Veil, OR] west to Deer Island [down river from St. Helens, Oregon]. As Lewis noted on March 30, the valley lay between the Coast Range and the Cascade Mountains.

*"The upper point of this Island may be esteemed the lower side or commencement of the Columbian valley."*³²

Whitehouse wrote:

*"the country appears to be good, the Soil rich and the game tollr. Pleanty."*³³

While camped near the mouth of the Washougal River, March 31-April 6, 1806,³⁴ Lewis described the habitat, range, and seasonal growth of a number of different plants he found growing in this "*Columbian vally*," including wapato [*Sagittaria latifolia*], chives [*Allium Schoenoprasum*], Oregon grape [*Berberis nervosa* and *B. aquifolium*], and salal [*Gaultheria shallon*].³⁵

During the winter at Fort Clatsop, Clark described a berry soup, made of roots and "*Dried berries which is common to this Countrey which the natives Call Shele wele.*" The Chinook word is actually *sálex*, from which we have the plant's name today, salal. Lewis thought the word was "*shallon*" and on February 8, he described the Chinookan-speaking people's use of the berries. He provided a detailed scientific description of the

³²Moulton, **Volume 7**, 26.

³³Moulton, **Volume 11**, 384-5.

³⁴This camp, at today's Captain William Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach, was directly across the Columbia River from the upper mouth of the Sandy River. The Corps' hunters canoed across the Columbia to hunt deer and bear along the Sandy River.

³⁵Jim Pojar and Andy McKinnon, **Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast—Washington, Oregon, British Columbia & Alaska** [Vancouver BC: Lone Pine Publishing, 1994], 53, 95, 337.

shrub, its leaves, and its berries, sketched a small, two-leaf branch, and collected a specimen. On April 2, Lewis noted he thought the "*shallon*" or salal grew no further east than the Sandy River.³⁶

The Corps of Discovery were willing to try most any plant and animal they found or were given by generous Native Americans, including wapato, dried salal berries and Oregon grape, and fresh wild chives. Canoeing up the Columbia River in late March of 1806, the Corps found:

"a speceis of small wild onion growing among the moss on the rocks, they resemble the shives of our gardens and grow remarkably close together forming a perfect turf; they are quite agreeably flavoured as the shives."

Later, they Corps found more chives growing near the mouth of the Sandy River.³⁷

On March 31, Lewis noted:

³⁶Moulton, **Volume 6**, 118-120 [fn. 3]; 287-290.

Moulton, **Volume 7**, 55, 60 [fn. 6, 7]

Gary E. Moulton, ed., **The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 12—Herbarium of the Lewis & Clark Expedition** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999], Specimen #74.

Today, Lewis' specimen of salal may be seen at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

³⁷Moulton, **Volume 7**, 26, 31 [fn. 7], 46.

*"wappetoe . . . dose not grow on this river above the Columbian valley . . . Indians . . . frequently visit this valley at every season of the year for the purpose of collecting wappetoe which is abundant and appears never to be out of season at any time of the year."*³⁸

"wap-pa-to"

When the Corps of Discovery stopped at the Sha-ha-la village on November 4, 1805, they received a warm welcome from the residents. One man invited the Corps into his lodge, and gave them:

*"a roundish roots about the size of a Small Irish potato which they roasted in the embers until they became Soft."*³⁹

Clark noted the Sha-ha-la called the root, "*wap-pa-to*." Clark believed the wapato was similar to a root the Chinese cultivated, which he called "*common arrow head*" or "*Sa-git ti folia*." The scientific name for the wapato, or broadleaf

³⁸Moulton, **Volume 6**, 38.

³⁹ Paul R. Cutright, **Lewis & Clark: Pioneering Naturalists** [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1969], 259, 265.

Moulton, **Volume 6**, 17, 20 [fn. 15].

Pojar and McKinnon, 337.

Richard E. tucker, **A Potato Chronology** [Gabriels, NY: Tucker Farms, 2008].

Clark's "Irish potato" was a small white potato with a rough brown skin. Potatoes were first introduced in this country in the early 1600's, and within one hundred years, potatoes had become a staple food crop in parts of New England.

arrowhead, found in the Pacific Northwest, is *Sagittaria latifolia*. *Sagitta* is a Latin word for arrow, a reference to the plant's arrow-shaped leaves. *Latifolia* is another Latin word, and refers to the plant's wide leaves. Clark's Chinese "common arrow head" is *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, and is found in Asia and Europe.

The Corps thought wapato looked and tasted like potatoes, and in the trade language of the lower Columbia River, Chinook Wawa, the word wapato has come to mean "potato."⁴⁰

Clark thought the wapato had "*an agreeable taste and answers verry well in place of bread.*" Other journal keepers agreed with Clark. Sergeant John Ordway noted they "*bought . . . Some excellent roots nearly like potatoes*" and Sergeant Patrick Gass wrote:

"*The roots are of a superior quality to any I had before seen: they are called whapto; resemble a potatoe when cooked, and are about as big as a hen egg.*"⁴¹

⁴⁰Thomas, 102.

⁴¹Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition: Volume 9—The Journals of John Ordway, May 14-1804-September 23, 1804 and Charles Floyd, May 14-August 18, 1804* [Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995], 249.
Moulton, *Volume 10*, 166.

The two captains purchased four bushels of wapato and divided the roots among the party. During their five-month stay on the lower Columbia River, wapato would become an important part of the Corps' diet of root vegetables, elk, and fish.

One day, Clark wrote they "*purchased a few wapato roots for which we gave armbans, & rings . . . those roots are equal to the Irish potato, and is a tolerable Substitute for bread.*"

On March 2, 1806, Clark noted:

"*This evening late Drewyer, Crusat & Wiser returned with a most acceptable Supply of fat Sturgeon, fresh anchoves and a bag Containing about a bushel of Wappato. we feasted on the Anchovies and wappatoe.—*"⁴²

At Fort Clatsop, the two captains came to better understand the habitat where wapato grew well, and the root's value as a trade item. On January 22, 1806, Clark wrote:

"*. . . the most valuable of all their roots is foreign to this neighbourhood I mean the Wappetoe The Wappetoe, or bulb of the Sagitifolia or common arrow head, which grows in great abundance in the marshey grounds of that butifull and fertile vally on the Columbia commencing just above the quick Sand River and*

⁴²Moulton, **Volume 6**, 79: 370.

The three traders that day were George Drouillard, Pierre Cruzatte, and Peter Weiser.

*extending downwards for about 70 miles. this bulb forms a principal article of traffic between the inhabitants of the vally and those of their neighbourhood or Sea coast.*⁴³

Today, during a walk along the Columbia River shoreline near the river's confluence with the Sandy River, a field of wapato spreads out along the marshy ground that was once the eastern channel of Clark's "*quick Sand river.*" Gardeners can purchase wapato roots from nurseries specializing in northwest plants or water plants, and with the proper marshy ground, wapato can be grown in today's "*Columbian vally.*"

Conclusion

Approximately 25 miles of the Corps of Discovery's 56-mile long "*quick Sand river*" is now considered wild, scenic, or recreational. The 12.5 mile stretch of the Sandy River between Dodge Park, at the confluence of the Sandy and Bull Run rivers, and Dabney State Park, has been designated an Oregon State Scenic Waterway and a federal Wild and Scenic River.⁴⁴

⁴³Moulton, **Volume 6**, 229.

⁴⁴Barbara Taylor, **Salmon and Steelhead Runs and Related Events of the Sandy River Basin: A Historical Perspective**, [Portland: Portland General Electric, 1998], 6.
www.rivers.gov/wrs-sandy

As Portland General Electric removes two of their dams and the dams' support systems from the Sandy River, the river will flow free for the first time since 1912. It is thought, with careful management and the removal of these two dams--Marmot Dam on the Sandy River [2007] and the Little Sandy Dam on the Little Sandy River [proposed]--the spawning habitats for wild steelhead and salmon on will improve.⁴⁵

From the glaciers of Mt. Hood to the shores of the Columbia River, the Sandy River remains a confluence--of geology, native plant and wildlife habitats, and tribal cultures.

⁴⁵Taylor, 2-3, 22-24, 49.

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