

Quotes related to York In the Lewis and Clark journals

Cooking

- [June 5, 1804, Clark] "York Swam to the lsd. to pick greens, and Swam back with his greens"

Playfulness

- [June 20, 1804, Clark] "York verry near looseing his Eyes by one of the men throwing Sand at him in fun & recved into his eyes"
- [October 10, 1804, Clark] "the Inds. much astonished at my black Servent, who made him Self more turrible in thier view than I wished him to Doe as I am told telling them that before I cought him he was wild & lived upon people, young children was verry good eating Showed them his Strength &c. &c.—"

Caretaking

- [August 19, 1804, Clark] "[Floyd is sick] nature appear exosting fast in him. every man is attentive to him York [principally]"

Hunting/Gun ownership

- [September 9 1804, Clark] "Derected my Servent York with me to kill a Buffalow near the boat from a number. then Scattered on the plains . . . I Kiled a Buffalow, Y. [York] 2"
- [September 19, 1804, Clark] "I Killed a fat Buffalow Cow, and a fat Buck elk, york my Servent Killed a Buck"

Among the Native Americans

- [October 9, 1804, Clark] "the Indians much astonished at my Black Servent and Call him the big medison, this nation never Saw a black man before"
- [October 15, 1804, Ordway] "the Greatest Curiosity to them was York Capt. Clarks Black Man. all the nation made a Great deal of him. the children would follow after him, & if he turned towards them they would run from him & hollow as if they were terreyfied, & afraid of him."

Trading

- [May 27-28, 1806] "Shabano Lapage & Yourk whome we had Sent to purchase roots for ourselves remained at the Village all night. at Noone Charbono, York, and Lapage returned; they had obtained four bags of the dried roots of Cows and some bread".
- [June 2, 1806, Lewis] "Our traders McNeal and York were furnished with the buttons Capt. C and myself cut off our coats, some eye water and Basilicon which we made for that purpose and some Phials and small ton boxes which I had brought out with Phosphorus. in the evening they returned with about 3 bushels of roots and some bread having made a successful voyage , not much less pleasing to us than the return of a good cargo to an East India Merchant—".

Relationship between William Clark and York from Clark's Letters

During the Expedition

- [August 25, 1804, Clark] "we returned to the boat at Sunset, my Servant nearly existed with heat hurst and fatigue, he being fat and un accustomed to walk as fast as I went was the Cause—"
- [January 1, 1805, Clark] "I ordered my black Servent to Dance which amused the Croud verry much, and Some what astonished them, that So large a man Should be active &c."
- [June 29, 1805, Clark] "Sarbono lost his gun shot pouch, horn, tomahawk, and my wiping rod; [Capt. Clark's] umbrella and compas or circumferenter. they fortunately arrived on the plain safe, where the found the black man York in surch of the; york had separated from them a little while before the storm, in pursuit of some buffaloe and had not seen them enter the ravine; when this gust came on he returned in surch of them & not being able to find the, fo some time was much alarmed".

After the Expedition

- [William Clark to Jonathan Clark, Nov. 1808] "send York...and promit him to Stay a few weeks with his wife. he wishes to Stay there altogether and hire himself which I have refused. he prefers being Sold to return[ing] here, he is Serviceable to me at this place, and I am determined not to Sell him to gratify him, and have derected him to return. ... If any attempt is made by york to run off, or refuse to provorm his duty as a Slave, I wish him Sent to New Orleans and Sold, or hired out to Some Severe master untill he thinks better of Such Conduct."
- [William Clark to Jnathan Clark, Dec. 1808] "I did wish to do well by him—but as he has got Such a notion about freedom and his emence Services, that I do not expect he will be of much Service to me again; I do not think with him, that his Services has been So great (or my Situation would promit me to liberate him). ... I do not expect much from him as long as he has a wife in Kenty".
- [William Clark, May 1809] "York is of very little Service to me, insolent and Sulky. I gave him a Severe trouncing the other Day and he has much mended Sence. Could he be hired for any think at or near Louis ville, I think if he was hired there a while to a Severe master he would See the difference and do better."
- [William Clark, 1809] "I do not ... cear for Yorks being in the Country [Missouri] ... I have become displeased with him and Shall hire or Sell him ... I do not wish him again in this Country until he applies himself to Come and [get] over that wife of his".