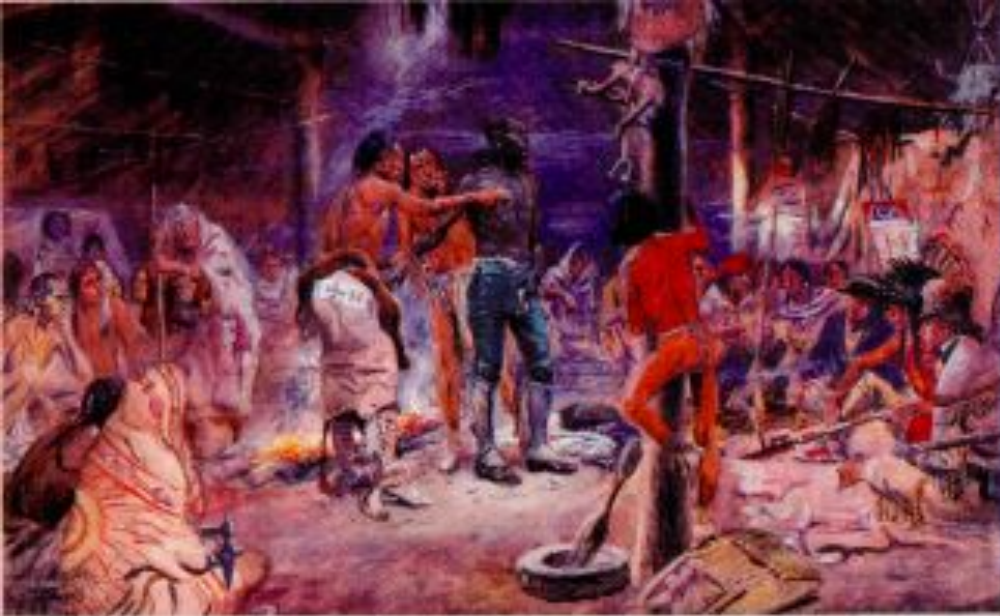


# York 1805-1806





**MAN OF CURIOSITY: Clark's servant York**



## Excerpt from the Oregonian (1992)

Another yarn features York, the 6-foot-2-inch, French-speaking slave of William Clark, The Explorer, who joined Meriwether Lewis on the 3,555-mile round-trip expedition to the mouth of the Columbia in 1804-1806. York not only went along on the expedition but also translated between Lewis and Clark and the expedition guide, Charbonneau, who spoke no English. Proving himself a skillful hunter and a man of sound judgement, York earned his freedom in 1811 and was given a six-team horse and wagon — considerably less than enlisted men of the expedition who each got 320 acres and double the pay. Serious historians generally ignored York, but fable-makers put up many stories of his popularity with Indians who, it is suggested, encouraged him to overthrow Clark and become an Indian chief.