

May 17, 1956

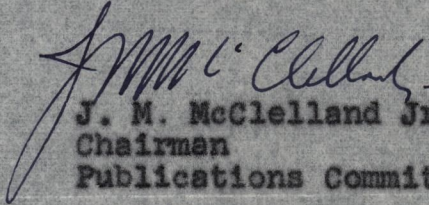
Memorandum to:

Members of Publications Committee
Washington State Historical Society

One of our members, Della Gould Emmons, returned recently from a trip in the East and she visited some libraries which have manuscript material on the Northwest area. Enclosed is a copy of her report to the committee. All of her comments are interesting and much appreciated.

Sooner or later we must get beyond the discussion stage and get down to actual decision on ~~the~~ material and find the right person to undertake the task of editing and preparing ~~the~~ material for publication.

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gl
encl.


J. M. McClelland Jr.
Chairman
Publications Committee

D.G. Emmons's Report

On April 4th I visited the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul where I renewed friendships with Willoughby Babcock, curator of newspapers, and Lois Fawcett, librarian. I had the pleasure of visits with Russell Fridley, director; Mr. Grahn, field director, and Lucille Kane, Curator of MMS.

Mr. Fridley presented me with a copy of his recent report concerning the Minnesota Historical Society in which he clearly proves that a centralized society has a better opportunity to gain public support and carry on the broadest program.

He also gave me a list of the Society's publications and at my request marked the best sellers. From a study of this list our publications' committee may well profit.

The lists of the Society's unpublished manuscripts are printed in "Guide to the Personal Papers", 1835 by Grace Lee Nute and Gertrude Ackermann and "Manuscript Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society", 1955 by Lucille Kane and Kathryn Johnson.

April 16th and 17th I spent in the Yale Library with Archibald Hanna and his secretary, Mrs. Ruth Smith, in attendance. I checked over the following:

Letters of George Suckley (item 461, Withington Catalogue)

In my opinion the Suckley material has much to offer since it would interest not only our state but the entire Northwest.

MMS 1-22 merit consideration. Suckley's 53-day trip by canoe down the St. Mary's, the Columbia to Fort Vancouver could well be reprinted. His explorations, adventures and ventures before and during the Indian Wars could be combined around one central theme. This, in my estimation, would be the ideal way to handle material which he has highlighted with human interest.

"Remarks On Board the Ship Vancouver, 1804-06," Ebenezer Clinton (item 92, Withington Catalogue)

I believe the worth of Clinton's journal lies in its account of the fur trade. I do not believe that the Vancouver was sent to return either Lewis or Clark to the East Coast. Gray, who Bancroft quotes is notoriously inaccurate. In all research on Lewis and Clark I never found a ship assigned to bring one of the two captains back by sea. However, I did find this:- Letter from William Clark to Major Croghan, dated St. Charles, May 21st, 1804. "My rout is uncertain, I think it more than probable that Captain Lewis or myself will return by sea, the other by the same rout we proceed, the time is uncertain."

Journals Kept Aboard U.S. Sloop of War Peacock. George Foster Emmons (items 166-169, Withington Catalogue)

These 3 journals display painstaking recordings. The pen sketches are truly beautiful. However, as for our publishing Emmons or any of the Wilkes--Yale Library expects to publish the best and perhaps all.

The correspondence, Journals and Papers of Elwood Evans Voluminous, is the best word to describe these writings.

An ideal publication in so far as value is concerned but it would be costly and the paramount question is-- would it sell? We should own at least one copy. Photostat?

Meriwether Lewis Anderson Collection

Some 59 letters and documents. Family letters of Meriwether Lewis to his mother in Albermarle, Virginia, in regard to his mother's affairs as conducted by Mr. Anderson of Wm. Anderson and Company. These date as far back as 1777. The collection includes the will of John Marks, step father of Meriwether Lewis, letters of Meriwether's brother, Reuben Lewis: letters to Clark; two letters pertaining to Ordway: letters in regard to the indebtedness of Whitehouse; of 5,000 acres near St Louis, dated Dec 1st 1808.

An interesting item in this collection was this:-

The American Autograph Shop, Marion Station, Pa, Dec 1939, has for sale a letter written by Meriwether Lewis to Gen. William Irvine. The letter is headed Fredericktown, April 15, 1803. It deals with preparation for the expedition and especially portable soup. Mentions the quantity Lewis needs for expedition, when he must have it and suggests prices that should be paid for its reliable production.

The above collection was not presented to the Missouri Historical Society until 1937. unpublished.

William Clark Collections

Contains easily 200 letters and documents.

These letters are family letters, one in regard to Clark's coming marriage with reference to a possible wife for Lewis; letters in regard to the expedition, fur trade, treaties with the Indians, the publication of the journals, the death of Lewis, the death of Julia, Clark's wife etc

I Made copies of many of these in 1934. I have seen but one published excepting, of course, Jeffersons letter of instruction.

On April 26th I called at the headquarters of the Colorado Historical Society in Denver. I found to my surprise a former acquaintance in charge-- Mrs. Agnes Spring-- former secretary to Dr. Grace Raymond Hebard with whom I worked on the subject of Sacajawea. Mrs. Spring will notify us if MMS come in pertaining to our Pacific Northwest.