

## TWO STRAWBERRY ISLANDS

When the Lewis and Clark expedition was journeying to the Pacific Ocean they reached the head of the Cascades of the Columbia River. Clark, accompanied by Joe Fields, walked ahead to view the rapids. They went as far as Beacon Rock, where the tide-water was noticed. On that day, October 31, 1805, they picked strawberries on what is now known as Hamilton Island below the Bonneville dam which is now being constructed. This is a long low island, below the lowest rapid and between it and Beacon Rock. They gave the name Strawberry Island, which is shown on the maps and the identity can not be questioned. It was mentioned in the compilation made by Nicholas Biddle, published by Paul Allen in 1814.<sup>1</sup>

Sergeant Patrick Gass was a member of that expedition and in 1807 published his journal with a long title as a member of the expedition of Lewis and Clark. Copies of this valuable book reached the lower Columbia River, and all early mention of the journals of Lewis and Clark referred to this book. Since Gass never visited Hamilton Island, but had accompanied the expedition which portaged south of Bradford Island, alongside and just above the Bonneville Rapids,<sup>2</sup> he appears to have heard the name Strawberry Island, and so applied it to that island which he well knew.<sup>3</sup>

Gabriel Franchere,<sup>4</sup> Alexander Ross<sup>5</sup> and Alexander Henry<sup>6</sup> each mention Strawberry Island, but refer to Bradford Island and not to Hamilton Island. The journals of Lewis and Clark had not then been printed.

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis and Clark, October 30-Nov. 2, 1805. See also Index of R. G. Thwaites, *Original Journals*, 1905, N. Y. Maps. Vol. 3, p. 172. Vol. 8, No. 32, part 2. No. 34, near right hand lower corner. Also Biddle-Allen compilation, 1814, Vol. 2, p. 250.

<sup>2</sup> Travelers landed on the Oregon side of the Columbia at the foot of Bonneville Rapid, and portaged to the narrow channel south of Bradford Island, where Alexander Stuart was wounded in 1814. They then navigated the river to Sheridan Point on the Washington side, the site of the blockhouse during the Cascade massacre in 1856. From there they portaged to the island where Bradford's store was built. Survey of the route may be found in David Thompson's *Journal*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 15, pp. 111-12. Compare with pp. 61-2, and Barry, *Washington Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 21, pp. 294-6.

<sup>3</sup> Patrick Gass, *Journal*, April 9, 1806. "In the evening we came to a large rapid at the lower end of Strawberry island."

<sup>4</sup> Franchere, *Narrative*, N. Y., 1854, pp. 113-4, 214, 215.

<sup>5</sup> Alexander Ross, *First Settlers*, London, 1849, pp. 109, 247, 267.

<sup>6</sup> Elliott Coues. *Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry*, N. Y., 1897, pp. 801, 802, 806, 808.