

AMERICAN JOURNEYS COLLECTION



Jefferson Suggests
Transcontinental Expedition
to George Rogers Clark,
1783

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Dear Sir

Annapolis Dec. 4. 1783.

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I received here about a week ago your obliging letter of
Oct. 21. 1783. with the shells & seeds for which I return you many
thanks. you are also so kind as to keep alive the hope of get-
ting for me as many of the different species of bones, teeth & tusks
of the Mammoth as can now be found. this will be most accep-
table. ^{Pittsburg & Philadelphia or Winchester will be the sweet}
channel ^{from which} I find they have ^{successful} subscribed a very large sum of money
in England for exploring the country from the Missisipi to Califor-
nia. they pretend it is only to promote knowledge. I am afraid they
have thoughts of colonising into that quarter. some of us have been
talking here in a pebble way of making the attempt to search that
country. but I doubt whether we have enough of that kind of spirit
to raise the money. how would you like to lead such a party?
tho I am afraid our prospect is not worth asking the question.
The definitive treaty of peace is at length arrived. it is not
altered from the preliminaries. The cession of the territory West
of Ohio to the United States has been at length accepted by Congress,
with some small alterations of the conditions. we are in daily
expectation of receiving it with the final approbation of Virginia.
Congress have been lately agitated by questions where they
should fix their residence. they first resolved on Trenton.
the Southern states however contrived to get a vote that they

would give half their time to Georgetown at the Falls of Patu-
mac. Shall we consider the matter as undecided between the
Delaware & Patamac. we urge the latter as the only point
of union which can cement us to our Western friends when they
shall be formed into separate states. I shall always be
happy to hear from you and am with very particular
esteem Dr Sir

~~Yours friend & humble servant~~
Yours friend & humble servant

H. Jefferson

Gov. Jefferson
Dec. 4-1783.

Massachusetts Bay

a Western Expedition
mentioned - I think
suggested to Condit.

Final Treaty of Peace

Future seat of Govt.

Massachusetts
of Jones

From J. George Rogers Clarke