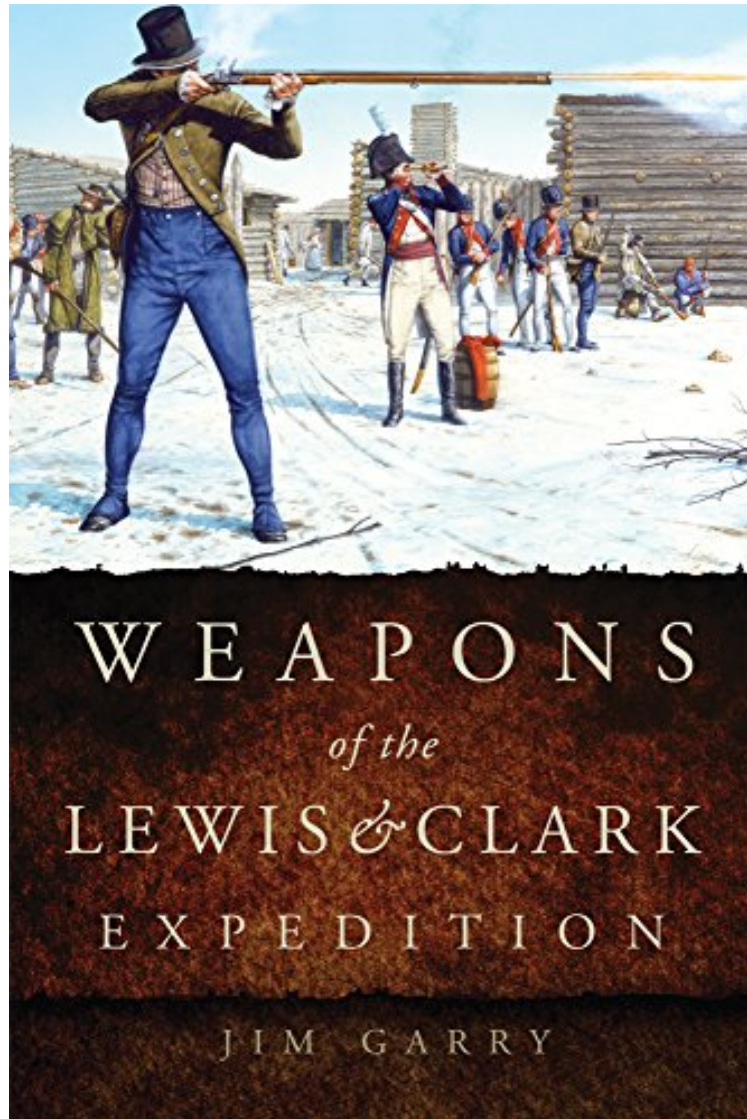


Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Jim Garry

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Jim Garry : Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not up to date information. By John W. Fisher The majority of this book has excellent and accurate information. Unfortunately it does not have the most recent research and analysis of two of the three most important weapons of the expedition. It appears that the manuscript was written several years ago and not updated prior to publishing. It does not have accurate or complete information on the 1800/1803 Harper's Ferry. (the most probable candidate for the expedition's "short rifle") The reader needs to seek information elsewhere

on the research by Ernie Cowan and Rick Keller. The author spends too much time on the air rifle that was previously supposed to be on the expedition, (the one at VMI). He does not spend enough time, nor does he have up to date information on Dr. Robert Beeman's work on the Girardoni Air Rifle. Beeman's air rifle was discovered to be the original rifle carried on the expedition by Lewis. John W. Fisher (Fisher has the most complete collection of materiel representing that carried on the expedition, most of it is period. He also acquired one of perhaps 5 extant Girardoni Air Rifles in the United States. Most of his collections have been acquired by the Fort Mandan Foundation Museum in Washburn ND and many are on display there.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Looks at a subject not really covered in the journals. By Michael Petersmeyer The journals of the expedition seem to assume that there was no need to provide documentation for the weapons carried. Answers some questions I had with respect to the materials used on the Expedition. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some good information but for the price I expected more than ... By A. Customer Some good information but for the price I expected more than a small number of tiny b w photos in it. Also some inaccurate information when the tomahawk is identified as an 'espontoon tomahawk'--its actually a spontoon pipe tomahawk. A spontoon (or espontoon) tomahawk is something different without a pipe. Seems like an important detail considering the title of the book. Would have liked the sources on some statements given by the author as well.

When Meriwether Lewis began shopping for supplies and firearms to take on the Corps of Discovery's journey west, his first stop was a federal arsenal. For the following twenty-nine months, from the time the Lewis and Clark expedition left Camp Dubois with a cannon salute in 1804 until it announced its return from the West Coast to St. Louis with a volley in 1806, weapons were a crucial component of the participants' tool kit. In *Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, historian Jim Garry describes the arms and ammunition the expedition carried and the use and care those weapons received. The Corps of Discovery's purposes were to explore the Missouri and Columbia river basins, to make scientific observations, and to contact the tribes along the way for both science and diplomacy. Throughout the trek, the travelers used their guns to procure food—they could consume around 350 pounds of meat a day—and to protect themselves from dangerous animals. Firearms were also invaluable in encounters with Indian groups, as guns were one of the most sought-after trade items in the West. As Garry notes, the explorers' willingness to demonstrate their weapons' firepower probably kept meetings with some tribes from becoming violent. The mix of arms carried by the expedition extended beyond rifles and muskets to include pistols, knives, espositoons, a cannon, and blunderbusses. Each chapter focuses on one of the major types of weapons and weaves accounts from the expedition journals with the author's knowledge gained from field-testing the muskets and rifles he describes. Appendices tally the weapons carried and explain how the expedition's flintlocks worked. *Weapons of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* integrates original research with a lively narrative. This encyclopedic reference will be invaluable to historians and weaponry aficionados.

"Anyone even mildly curious about the Lewis and Clark expedition will appreciate this remarkable assembly of information about every type of weapon the explorers carried. Much more than a catalog, Jim Garry's book is an easily read pictorial history of the use of these arms. Beyond that, it gives us, in the explorers' own words, accounts of when and how they used the weapons. No Lewis and Clark collection will be complete without this book." John D. W. Guice, editor of *By His Own Hand?: The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis*