

Dear Sir Washington July 2^d 1803

Since I had the pleasure of your acquaintance
in Philadelphia in 1791; I had supposed you were
returned to Europe, I have lately however been told that you
at present
reside at St. Genevieve St. Louis. I cannot therefore omit the
satisfaction of writing to you by Capt Lewis an Officer in our Army
and for some time past my Secretary, as our former acquaintance
was a mixt one of Science and business, so is the occasion of renew-
ing it. You know that the Geography of the Missouri and the most conveni-
ent water communication from the head of that to the Pacific Ocean is a
desideratum not yet satisfied, since coming to the Administration of
the US I have taken the earliest opportunity in my power to have that
country explored, and Capt Lewis with a party of twelve or fifteen men
is authorized to do it, his journey being merely literary, to inform us
of the Geography and Natural History of the Country. I have procured a passport
for him and his party from the Minister of France here, it being agreed between
him and the Spanish Minister, that the country having been ceded to France
her Minister may most properly give the Authority for the Journey. this was
the state of things when the passport was given which was some time since,
but before Capt Lewis's actual departure we learn through a channel of unquestion-
able information the whole that France has ceded the whole country of

Louisiana to the US by a treaty concluded in the first days of May. 1803
an object as important and useful as this I am sure you will not be
careful as to the authorities on which the journey is undertaken and
that you will give all the protection you can to Capt Lewis and his party
in going and returning. I have no doubt you can be particularly useful
to him, and it is to solicit your patronage that I trouble you with this
present letter praying you at the same time to accept my friend
salutations and assurance of my high respect and consideration—

Th. Jefferson

Mr Deysouse Commandant of Upper Louisiana