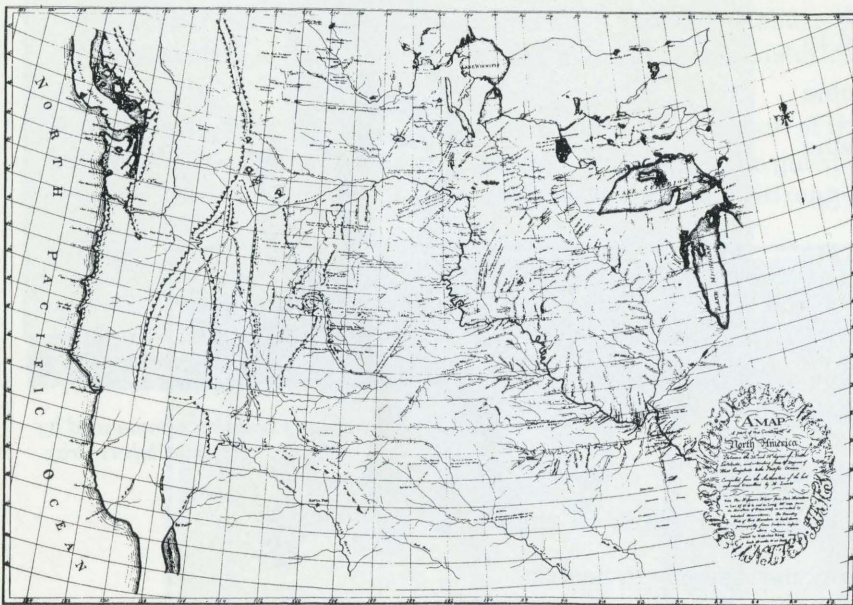


Marcus Lopez became the first black man to set foot in the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, his visit was a short and fatal one.

The Native Americans around Tillamook seemed to be friendly when they first met up with Gray's party. Later, some equipment from the explorer's camp was discovered missing, and it was assumed that the Native Americans had taken it.

Marcus Lopez volunteered to meet with the Native Americans to negotiate a return of the goods, but he was later discovered dead by fellow shipmates.



*Tracing copy of the original map by Meriwether Lewis to President Jefferson from Fort Mandan, April 7th, 1805.*

Captain Gray continued on to China with his cargo of valuable furs. He eventually returned to the Pacific Northwest in 1792, where he discovered the mouth of the Columbia River and its entry into the Pacific Ocean. While Gray was trying to find a route by water to the Pacific Northwest, Thomas Jefferson was concerned with an overland route. He had just negotiated for one of the largest land acquisitions in history, the Louisiana Purchase. Jefferson had heard rumors about the rich resources of the area and assigned Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

to head an exploring party. In 1804 the Lewis and Clark Expedition left Missouri with a group of about thirty men, including Clark's black servant, York.

Because York was a slave, there is not much information available about him. In the diaries of the expedition Clark makes mention of York's abilities as a hunter and his general resourcefulness on the trail. Legend has it that York was very popular with the Native Americans, particularly the women, who were fascinated with the color of his skin and his sense of humor. The Lewis and Clark party arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River in the winter of 1805, camped