

THE HISTORY OF THE GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH DAKOTA BEFORE 1804

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What was earliest known about the Dakota region is derived in some degree from tradition but particularly from the reports of travelers and the maps based both on reports and observation.

The first expeditions to the Dakota region of which the explorers themselves have left records were from the north by the Le Verendrye's family made forever memorable to us by the plate dug up at Fort Pierre on February 13, 1913. Their account is frequently so vague as to leave considerable uncertainty about their route. There is still controversy whether the plate had been placed by them where it was actually found. Before their journey all is more or less conjectural.

Parkman and others declare that the French had ascended the Missouri as far as the Mandans at a much earlier date than Le Verendrye. Parkman, a *Half Century of Conflict* Vol. II, p. 21, says: "The French had explored the Missouri as far as the site of Ft. Clark and the Mandan villages." Burpee, in his *Search for the Western Sea*, p. 248, says in reference to this declaration of Parkman's: "There is no substantial ground for this statement of withholding from Verendrye the honor of first reaching the upper waters of the Missouri."

Before Le Verendrye there were two other explorers who may have touched Dakota soil. One of these is Daniel G. Duluth who visited the Indians in the neighborhood of Mille Lac. He left behind him three of his men who visited a tribe of the Sioux further to the west. On Hennepin's map of 1683 in this western region appears the legend **Tinthonha ou gens des Prairies**. The name is very naturally interpreted as the Tetons, also called on early maps, Tintons. Accordingly it is conjectured that Duluth's men crossed over what is now Minnesota and may have been the first white men to enter Dakota near Big Stone Lake.* See Kellogg's *French Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest*, pages 210-211.

*On a map of Vaugondy, 1750, Miss Basin, 205 Le Tinton is the source of St Peter's River.

Doane Robinson is convinced that Le Sueur, while he was wintering near Mankota, visited the Sioux Valley as early as 1701 or earlier. Whether Du Luthi's men or Le Sueur actually visited Dakota they certainly derived information about the region from Indians and possibly from white trappers.

Still another expedition may have reached South Dakota, that of the Mallet brothers* in 1739, the year following Le Verendrye's visit to the Mandans. Winsor**, it is true, extends their journey no farther than the Platte, and he is probably correct. They tell us their distances, 100 leagues from the Illinois to the Missouri village, 80 from there to the Kansas, 100 to the Otocatas, 60 from there to the mouth of the river of the Panimahas in the Missouri. From there the discoverers took their departure across country 29 May 1739. They returned on their steps nearly parallel to the Missouri, then along the Platte, almost always to the West, reaching a river they think is a branch of the Arkansas, and ultimately to Santa Fe. Little that is precise can be made of the Mallet's record. The distances are too great or the places too uncertain. The Kansas river according to Mackay is about 100 leagues above the mouth of Missouri; Mallet puts the Kansas at 180 leagues from the Illinois; from the Kansas to the Omahas by Mackay is about 145 leagues, according to Mallet the Panimahas are 160 leagues from the Kansas. The distance and direction to Santa Fe, 265 leagues from the Panimahas, would suggest a region not so far north as the Niobrara. It seems doubtful whether the Mallet brothers reached South Dakota. Yet if they did not, at least their account bears testimony that others did. For their own course they say is a departure from the customary. Others thinking to find New Mexico at the source of the Missouri have ascended to the Ricaras more than 150 leagues from the Panis. By 1739 then the Rikara, at a distance of more than 400 leagues up the Missouri, must have been a people familiarly known to travellers.***

*Murgery, *Collection of Documents* (in French) vol. 6, *Rocheuses 1679-1754 Explorations des affluents du Mississippi et decouvert de des Montagnes* 455-62.

***Mississippi Basin*, p. 200.

***J. L. Morton ed. *History of Nebraska*; it is held that Mallet reached the Niobrara; part of Mallet is translated. De L'Isle gives the name Panis to the Platte.

There are also other ascents of the Missouri recorded. One of these makes mention of distances that would justify Parkman's claim.* This is a report of one Lemaire, a missionary dated 15 January 1714. The Missouri has been ascended, he says, more than 400 leagues without seeing any Spanish habitation and it is only at about 500 leagues that there is news of savages who fight with them. He thinks La Hontan a pleasant writer of fiction.

Another account is in a memoir of Sieur de La Renaudiere** dated 23 August 1723. He gives distances. His interest is chiefly in mines. A Canadian, La Fleur, trading with the Mahas, saw some bits which they called white iron. He made them promise to hoard this metal for him against another voyage, "which made them open their eyes." Then leagues above are the Ricaras, allied with the Mahas. They report that there mountains of a prodigious size and a quantity of little brooks and rivers, ou le sable sur lequel elles coulent est jaulne. A reference to the Black Hills? If so, the first, as also the first mention of the Rikara. A visit to the Ricaras is also recorded in 1734.***

*Margry, 6, 185-6.

**Margry, 6, 392-6.

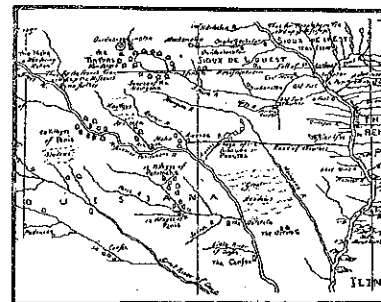
***Margry, 6, 455; also S. D. Hist. Col. 7, 403.

Here might be listed other early partial ascents of the Missouri.

1703. A party left Kaskaskia to go up the Missouri, fate unknown. Winsor, Mississippi Basin, p. 78.
1704. One hundred Canadians were scattered along Missouri, Margry 6, 180.
1705. One Laurain tells of ascending the Missouri, Margry, 6, 181.
1706. Two Canadians returned from two years "couru de village a village dans le Missouri." Margry, 6, 182.
1708. Nicholas La Salle proposed a trip up the Missouri. Je Scais positivement, he says, of the finding of silver. Some Canadians have ascended about 3 to 400 leagues to the Northwest and the West without finding the source. Margry, 6, 182.
1709. Mandeville reports "abondance de bocufs et de vaches." Margry, 6, 184.
1710. These savages appear to have reached the Western Sea. One could reach that sea "en passant chez les Sioux ou les Assenipouals, ou par le Missouri, qui est une grande riviere qui va toujours a l'ouest." Raudots lettre, *50, Margry, 6, 14.
1717. It is believed that at the source of the Missouri in the mountains there is a branch falling into the Western Sea, by which there would be a short route to China and Japan. "The Missouri est la veritable source du Mississippi which ought legitimately to be called the Missouri." This account, he stresses, is not from a single traveller; it is from the reports of several questioned separately. Hubert, in Margry, 6, 187-190.
- 1 APRIL, 1723
1723. Le Pere de Charlevoix proposes to send two Jesuits to plant a mission among the Sioux, largely with the idea of getting the Indians-Assiniboines and others who might be taken captive—certain light on the route to the Western Sea. He wrote again about it on May 11 and June 26, but no mission on the Missouri seems to have been established. He also had in mind the direct ascent of the Missouri to its source near the Western Sea.

An examination of the maps tends to confirm Parkman's declaration. Maps much earlier than 1743 show detail for the Missouri in South Dakota that does not seem to be mere guess work. On a map of De L'Isle's is printed, in about the latitude of the Big Bend this legend: "Les Francois n'ont remonti le Missouri que jus quicy," translated, "Thus far the French travelled up the Missouri and no farther." *This map, translated into English by John Senex, was used in connection with Law's Mississippi Bubble literature and must have been widely familiar. The copy found in South Dakota History Vol. II, p. 50, called John Law's map, is dated 1723, but Senex's first copy was doubtless a few years earlier.

The most striking feature of the maps of De L'Isle and Senex alike is a highway from the mouth of the Wisconsin



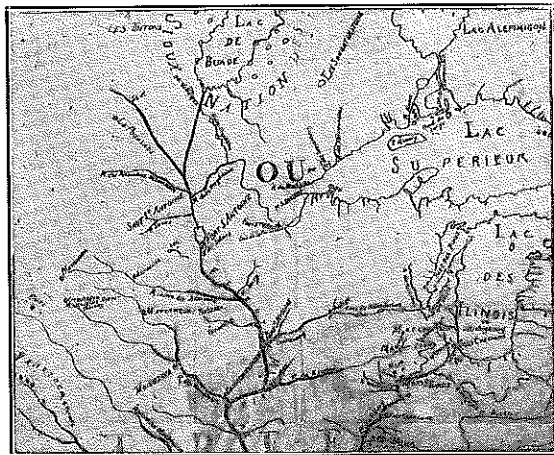
directly west terminating on a river, in Le L'Isle's map unnamed, in Senex's called the Rooyer. This highway is called the Chemin des voyageurs, by Senex, Road of Travellers. On these maps the South Dakota region of the Missouri is substantially correct as far as the Big Bend which is not shown; that is, there are two northern tributaries nearly parallel to the course along the southern border of South Dakota.

The Dakota region might be considered in three parts, the valley of the Missouri, the eastern boundary or the valleys of the Sioux and of Big Stone Lake and the Black Hills region. The Missouri suspected of affording a passage

*The most accessible of De L'Isle's maps (for this region) is that printed (in part) in Neill's History of Minnesota and copied in South Dakota History, Col. Vol. II, p. 44. This is from a map dated 1718 (State Historical Society of Wisconsin has a copy.) Other of his maps are as early as 1702.

to the western sea, gave to the Dakota region the interest of the course of the Missouri above its nearly east and west course along the southern border of South Dakota.

The earliest maps which make any attempt to express a knowledge of the upper Missouri valley are those of Franquelin and date twenty years and more before De L'Isle's. Parkman describes Franquelin's map in LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West on page 455-7. He praises in particular the map of 1684, which may be found in Jesuit Relations, Vol. 63. The map of 1688 shows much the same features. Portions of the 1688 map have been reproduced from a copy in the Wisconsin Historical library in Kellogg's



French Regime. Winsor, in the Mississippi Basin, on page 77 reproduces a Franquelin map dated, according to the Library of Congress, in 1708. These maps were based in part upon reports of LaSalle's explorations including his discovery of the mouth of the Mississippi River. It is interesting to note that the southern course of the Mississippi on these maps is very much deflected to the west. Of the Missouri, Franquelin had very little information. Its lower course is a delta-like network of streams. He marks as the chief tributary from the north the Otoutantes River where no such stream now appears. Possibly this Otoutantes River

should be interpreted as the Missouri itself, Franquelin having perhaps applied the name Missouri to streams that are now counted as western tributaries. The northern reach of the river is to the latitude of Green Bay. The Des Moines river appears on these maps; otherwise west of the northern portion of the Mississippi, there is very little detail and what there is far from correct. The 1688 map shows the Tintons west of Lake Buade (Mille Lac), very much northwest of Lake Superior.

Probably it is safe to say with Parkman, Half Century, II, p. 8: Before 1700 little or nothing was known, except from reports of Indians, of the country west of the Mississippi.

De L'Isle claims for his map that they are based on the reports of explorers. It is well known that he derived information from Le Sueur, probably also from other contemporary explorers now unknown by name. Le Sueur had been with Perrot perhaps in 1683*, at least in 1698 in his ascent of the Mississippi from the mouth of the Wisconsin. See Wisconsin Historical Col. vol. x, p. 298f. Le Sueur completed a fort near Mankato Oct. 14, 1700, carried on some explorations in the region, collected what he thought was copper ore, and doubtless secured a good deal of fur. Robinson is convinced that his trading trips took him as far as the valley of the Sioux, perhaps to Sioux Falls and that Sioux Falls is the western terminus of the Chemin des voyageurs. S. D. Hist. Col. 9, pp. 336-9. That this river by Senex is called the Rock is no objection to this interpretation; it would simply mean that at that time the name Rock was applied to the more important stream and not until later limited to the eastern branch. But the account of Le Sueur's 1700 expedition is in Margry so detailed as concerning his relations with the Indians that one can hardly believe that the writer would have omitted anything so significant as Le Sueur's excursion to the far West, the more so he has constantly in mind the Mahas and the Ayouez who dwelt in the Sioux

*Margry, 6, 72: C'est par le Riviere des Ouisconsins que M. Le Sueur vint pour le premiere fois dans le Mississipi, en 1683, pour aller dans le pays des Sioux, ou il a demeure sept ans en diverses fois. But Margry questions whether this date, 1683, is not a copyist's error.

Valley and speaks of the Missouri itself several times as a western limit to the wanderings of the Sioux.*

This much is certain that from near the beginning of the eighteenth century the southeastern boundary of South Dakota has been known under the name of the Rock River. This much is probable that traders or adventures, mostly unknown, had ascended the Missouri above the mouth of the James. But it is doubtful whether any trader had from the South reached the Mandans until after the journey of La Verendrye.

The elder Le Verendrye** with his two sons visited in December, 1738, les Mantannes, usually identified with the Mandan Indians. In 1742 the sons started out to seek for the Western Sea. From the Mandan villages they journeyed southwest, saw certain mountains, became acquainted with various Indian tribes and on their return reached the Missouri River in March, 1743. Here they planted a leaden plate on March 30 and in a few days returned to the Mandan villages. This lead plate was discovered on a hill overlooking the Missouri at Fort Pierre on the 16th of February, 1913. These travelers left no map and in general gave no latitudes.***In consequence the identity of the Mandans and their location, even the site of the burial of the lead plate has been questioned.

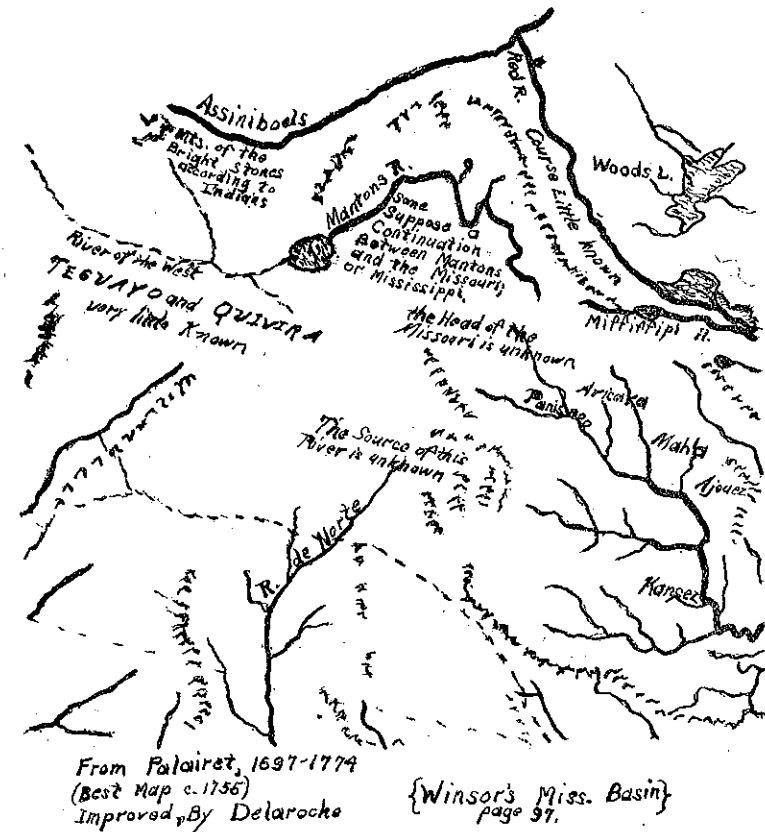
Even on the geographers of the eighteenth century the effect of their discoveries was rather to puzzle than to enlighten. On the map of the region, by Palairret, made about 1755, reproduced in Winsor's Mississippi Basin page 97, appears a westward flowing river called Manton's River. "Some suppose a communication between Manton River and the Missouri or Mississippi," reads the legend Palairret places on the map. Also, just below, "The head of the Missouri is

*On Le Sueur see Margry, 6, 55-92.

**On their expedition see Parkman's Half Century of Conflict; Winsor's Mississippi Basin page 200-203; Burpee's Search for the Western Sea, 1908; South Dakota Historical Collections, Volume 7, 1914; Mississippi Valley Historical Association Proceedings, 7: 246, 1924; Mississippi Valley Historical Review 3: 143-160; 368-399, 1916. Margry, v. 6, pp. 583-632, contains the French documents, except the detailed account, in the form of a letter, of the expedition of 1738. This is found in Canadian Archives. Report. 1889.

***Libby (Mississippi Valley Hist. Review, III, p. 154) has a copy of a map of the Mantannes with a note indicating its supposed identity with the Missouri. Libby also refers to another map of 1772 showing "Manton's River which is supposed to be the same as the Missouri."

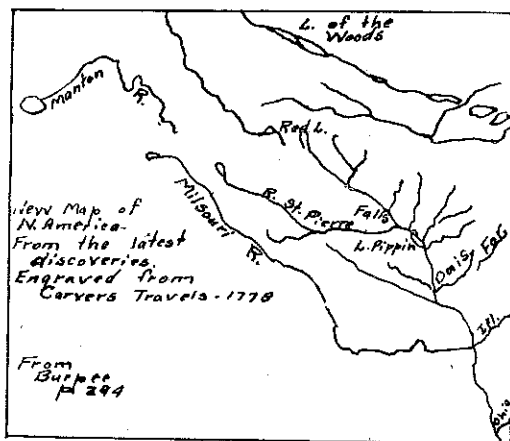
unknown." The Journal of LaVerendrye had contained the remark, "I discovered these days a river flowing to the west. All the lakes and rivers of which I have had any knowledge go to Hudson Bay, Northern Sea, except the Manton River." South Dakota History Vol. 7, page 348. Also, "The nearest to the Panamas that the river appeared to go was according



to the compass, southwest by south, by signs given to them; the lower part may go to the sea southwest by west." Page 342.

This last remark is derived from what the Indians told the explorers regarding the river near which the Mandans lived. Whether LaVerendrye thought this river different from the Missouri is not altogether clear. Certainly in the

account of the expedition of 1742-3 mention is made twice of the Missouri river. Moreover the phrasing is such as would be used by one familiar with the river named.*



Particularly interesting in this connection are the maps of Peter Pond. Pond was a native traveler from Connecticut. He wintered near Mankato in 1774 and spent most of the time in this northwest region until about 1790. Several of

*The following maps show direct influence of the discoveries of LaVerendrye: The mappers have not resolved their doubts thus introduced.

Map by Jefferys dated 1762, Winsor's Mississippi Basin, page 195. This contains the legend copied from Palaiet, "Some suppose a communication between Manton's River and the Missouri or Mississippi."

Map by S. Dunn dated 1774 in Winsor's Westward Movement, page 214.

A map by Russell dated 1778 in Winsor's Westward Movement, page 537;

Carver's map, printed 1778, although Carver spent the winter of 1766-7 on St. Peter's River, in Burpee's Search for the Western Sea, page 294.

It is noted that all of these maps are English, even Palaiet being an English school master of French birth.

On the other hand these maps following make no mention of the Mandans and do not show the Manton River:

Map by LeRouge, 1746, in Winsor's Mississippi Basin, 215;

Vaugendy's map, 1750, id page 205;

A map in the Gentlemen's magazine, 1755, id., p. 321;

Vander Aa's map about 1763, id., p. 427.

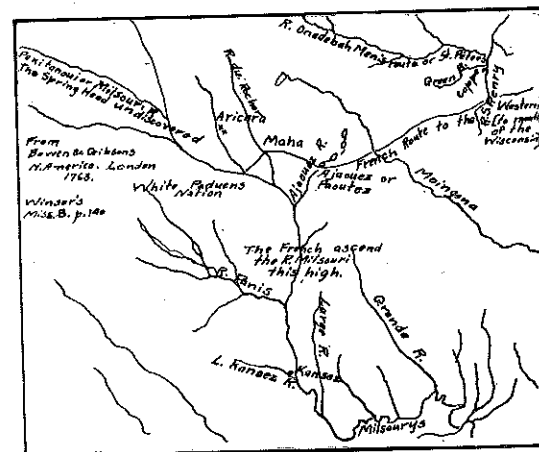
A map from the Commissaires du Roi, 1757, id. p. 321.

Other maps of the 18th century may be mentioned.

Hermann Moll's map of North America (knowledge prior to the Treaty of Utrecht), undated, about 1730, shows the Missouri with one tributary. He shows Lontan's Riviere Longue connected with the Mississippi. Found in Burpee, Search for the Western Sea, p. 112.

A map copied by Winsor, p. 79, from Potheric's Histoire de l'Amerique, dated 1722, except for a much abbreviated Missouri, leaves the entire region west of the Mississippi bare from the Missouri to the latitude of Lake Superior. Winsor, p. 140, copies a map from a History of North America by Bowen and Gibson, date 1763, which in its South Dakota region is much like De L'Isle's. He shows the Niobrara, unnamed, which also appeared in De L'Isle and Senex, and the two northern tributaries of the Missouri, one named the R. de Rocher, and a high way called the French route to the Western—(Indians) (lost in the margin) runs from about the mouth of Ouisconsin, says Winsor, or Lake Pepin to Sioux Falls (on the Rock) then southwest to the mouth of the James (unnamed).

his maps are printed in Davidson's History of the Northwest; one also is found in Burpee's Search for a Western Sea and portions of one or two in Winsor's Westward Movement. On



one of the maps, reproduced by Davidson, appears this legend:

"Here upon the Branches of the Missouri live the Mandans who bring to our factory at Fort Epinett* on the Assinipoets River Indian Corn for sale. Our people go to them with loaded horses in twelve days." Here the reference is probably to the years before 1780, as after that date Pond appears to have spent his time north and east of the Assininibonie region.

On the map the Missouri River itself is not shown but near a range of mountains appears this legend, "Hereabouts the Missouri takes its source out of the Mountains."

These maps of Pond's are usually dated 1785. One of them on that date was presented to Congress. It is to be noted then that Pond knew the Mandans, that trading visits to them were a thing of custom** and that they were located upon the Missouri River. Pond's knowledge was first hand and he may never have heard of the illusive Manton's River and its connection with the Western Sea.

*Ft. Epinett is shown on the Pond map in Davidson, p. 32, also on p. 42.

**Davidson p. 46: "How much earlier (than 1780 when Ft. Aux Trembles was attached) the English traders were on the river it is hard to say."

Burpee's language, p. 352, "Half a century elapsed between the expedition of the LaVerendrye to the Mandans and the first recorded visit of English traders from the Assini-boine to the Missouri," is misleading. Even if the trips were not recorded they seem for a time to have been frequent. Burpee, himself, makes mention of a trip in 1783, another in 1795. Davidson notes another trip in 1793, by David Monier, a Northwest Company clerk. On the return Monier and Morgan were killed by the Sioux.

James Mackay's language also indicates an established and customary trade. "In the beginning of the year 1787 I made a Voyage in the River Catapoi (Tributary of the Assiniboine) in the North, to the Mandanies on the Upper Missouri, it took me seventeen days to get there, but I believe in the Summer it might be done in five days. On my arrival****I saw some Guns and Ball in their Possession, which they said they had traded them from white people. I remained ten days with them.***In the course of the year *93 and *94 the English traders sent from the post they have on the River Assiniboine, several of their hirelings, to the Mandaine Nation on the Missouri, but as the persons were sent by different Employers and Traders,**in consequence they found themselves on an opposition.***They paid Double**for their Peltries." Extracts from Mackay's Journal, Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc. 1915, p. 192. See also Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 8,155.

In 1795 comes testimony indicating a trade so well established that white men for sixteen years had been stationed with the Mandans. A man found by Santiago Leglise (Jacques d' Eglise), in his testimony before Zenon Trudeau, Commandant at St. Louis, July 4, 1795, told of his traveling in October, 1794, with five others, led by Rene Jessaumi (See Lewis and Clark) at the greatest speed in order to reach the Mandans before other traders who were established at that fort. There they found a Canadian Menard "who had been sixteen years with the nation for the purpose of trading with it." Mississippi Valley Historical Review 14, p. 64. "All the nations, particularly the Mandans and the Gros Ventres, were well provided with guns----since they traded directly or indirectly with the English." Thus by 1778 at least trade over the northern route was established and thence kept up continuously. It is not incredible that trade communication had been almost continuous, now by the French, now by the English, from the days of LaVerendrye.

***Mackay's Journal is accompanied by some notes by John Hay of Cahokia; engaged in fur trade; died Belleville 1843. He lists the forts on the Assiniboine saying he wintered there 1794-5. He thinks the distance to the Mandans has been overestimated. "It can be done in 5 days from Catapoye and seven days from Pine fort with loaded horses that have to walk it almost all the way, I have been credibly informed that Indians on a Spy party will do it in 2 1/2 days. ***It is due south from Mouse River.

In 1793 John McDonnell (Burpee, p. 350-3) mentions a party of traders leaving Fort Esperance for the Missouri and in May, 1795, speaks of another party returning from the Mandans. Ft. Esperance had been built by Robert Grant in 1783 on the Qu'Appelle, a tributary of the Assiniboine, across the border to the North. Burpee gives a detailed account of the expedition by David Thompson, astronomer and fur trader, who set out from McDonnell's house on the Assiniboine November 28, 1797. Burpee compares Thompson's account of the Mandans with that of Lewis and Clark. Thompson made careful astronomical calculations and prepared a map. His narrative is printed as volume 13 of the Publications of the Champlain Society.

The story of the approach from the South is more intricate, at least the allotment of credit is more difficult. The outstanding importance of the expedition of Lewis and Clark 1804-6 has tended to cast into the shadow all other undertakings. Yet there are at least five other men whose travels at the end of the 18th century must be recorded. These are Jacques d' Eglise, James Mackay, John Evans, J. B. Trudeau, and Perrin du Lac (at the beginning of the 9th century.)

Jacques D'Eglise gives an account of his expeditions to the Governor at New Orleans, Carondelet, on June 19, 1794, given in translation in Miss. Val. H. Rev. XIV, p. 59-61. He had received his passport in August, 1790, and returned first in October, 1792. "More than eight hundred leagues up the said Missouri he had found eight locations of a nation about which there was some knowledge under the name of the Mandan, but to which no one had ever gone in this direction and by this river." Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 14, p. 57. This would seem to have been in 1792. He started on a second journey in March, 1793 but reached only the Arikaras. In 1794 he made petition for the exclusive trade with the Mandans on the ground that he had discovered them, p. 60-1. This monopoly he did not obtain. In 1794 he failed in another attempt to reach the Mandans, but planned another trip in

1795, whether successful or not is unknown. In 1794 he had relations with Trudeau.*

James Mackay, a Scotchman, in Canada before 1787, is said by Miss Abel (Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 8: p. 155) to have come to Missouri in 1793. In 1794 he entered the employ of the newly organized St. Louis company known as The commercial company for the discovery of the nations of the Upper Missouri, really a trading company granted a monopoly by the government. In the years immediately following he made important discoveries. Miss Abel (Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 8. 156) prints an extract from Am. State Papers Pub. Lands, 6:718 in which Mackay says that from his travels of 1795 and 1796 he had brought memoirs, and particularly a map, such as never appeared before of this unknown part of the world. The fate of this map is uncertain. Table of distances up the Missouri to the White River (1797) has been printed in Miss. Val. Hist. Rev. 10:428-46.**

John Evans***accompanied Mackay in 1795 and was sent by Mackay in 1796 to continue the ascent of the Missouri. Geog. Rev. I:340. A special interest was attached to

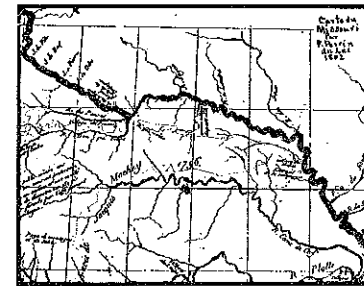
*J. Munier may have anticipated D'Egliso in reaching South Dakota from the south. He is said to have discovered the Poucea just above the Niobrara in 1789. From 1794-8 he held a monopoly of the Poucea trade. S. Dak. History Col. 7, p. 404.

Miss Abel thinks Mackay's personal knowledge was confined largely to the region south of the White River. But he himself (Journal, Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc. 1915, p. 193) says: "I remained in the Missouri until the year 1797 on the trip authorized by Z. Trudeau in 1795. *I explored the country as the Mandaine Village about 5 or 6 hundred leagues above the Entrance of the Missouri by 47.48 north latitude and about 111 de: West longitude." Hay by the way thinks the Mandans much farther south, but so he does the Mouse River.

Evans's Journal in part is found embedded in Mackay's Wis. Hist. Soc. Proc. 1915, p. 196: The 23 Sept. I arrived at the Mandaine Village which is situated about 10 leagues above the Rikara on the same side (south) of the Missouri.The 29th September***I took possession of the English fort belonging to the Carda Traders, and**hoisted the Spanish flag." Evans must have been a doughty capable Weichman and he handled the situation with spirit. "The 5th October arrived several Canada Traders.***I did not**oppose their arrival**I nevertheless found a means to hinder their Trade and some days after absolutely forced them to leave the Mandaine Territory.***The 13th March, 1797 arrived at the Mandaine Village from the North a man named Jussom Rene Jessaume, known to Lewis and Clark***the said Jussom advised the Indians to enter my house under the Mask of friendship, then to kill me and my men.***Some Days after Jussom came to my house***and tried to discharge a pistol at my head***The Indians immediately dragged him out**and would have killed him had I not prevented them**this man**disgusted on the ill success of the Execution of his Black Designs, left the Mandanes with his men." Evans's knowledge, at least by report, extended far beyond the Mandans. He says the East chain of the Rocky Mountains is about 170 leagues west of Mandans. He names the Yellowstone and tells of a tributary to Missouri from the north, near the Yellowstone, called Riviere dufoin (hay)*they say it is a larger and fine River in which there are more Beaver and Other than in any other part of the Continent." He names the lower western tributaries of the Missouri, the, White, The Shayenn, The La Bombe. Both Evans and Mackay must have been superior men.

Evans because of Jefferson's reference to his map. Jefferson wrote to Lewis on January 13, 1804: "I now enclose you a map of the Missouri as far as the Mandans . . . said to be very accurate having been done by a Mr. Evans by order of the Spanish government." The fate of this map has been uncertain and Evans is thought to have been dead before 1800.

In 1794, the year before the ascent of Mackay and Evans, J. B. Trudeau, or Truteau, was sent up the river by the same St. Louis company. Trudeau's Journal, part of which Jefferson supplied to Lewis, has come to light (except for the period March 25 to May 24, 1795) and has been printed. The second portion, May 24 to July 20, 1795, has been printed in Mo. Hist. Soc. Col., 1912; the first part appeared in Am. Hist. Rev., Vol. 19 (1914) 299-33. The whole in English appears in S. Dak. Hist. Col., VII pp. 412-74.



Perrin du Lac, a French traveller, spent the summer of 1802 from May 18 to Sept. 20 on the Missouri River accompanied by an old trader. He published a book, in French 1805, in English 21807, called Voyage dans les deux Louisianes, accompanied by a map. A reprint of this map is found inside the back cover of S. Dak. Hist. Col., Vol. VII, 1914. Miss Abel thinks the old trader was J. B. Trudeau.

Recently there came to light in a Washington office a map of the Upper Missouri. It is undated; some of the notes upon it suggest that it may have been in the possession of Lewis and Clark. Miss Abel concluded that it is probably the map referred to by Jefferson as the Evans map. The map is printed in Geog. Rev. I, p. 344. For detailed discussion

of all the questions involved see the accompanying article by Miss Abel.

The map of Perrin du Lac shows a good deal of detail for the Platte and Nebraska region marking the routes of Mackay. It appears likely therefore that Perrin du Lac with the help of Trudeau worked over Mackay's map of 1795-6.

Before the advent of Lewis and Clark then the outstanding incident in a study of the geography of the Dakota region is the work of the La Verendrye family, for North Dakota the expedition of 1738 introducing to the world the Mandans, for South Dakota the expedition of 1742-3 ending with the placing of the leaden plate discovered at Fort Pierre in 1913. Before them expeditions to our country are matters of inference only or are so bare and meager in their records as to have little significance. Yet somehow enough became known to lead to the making of maps reasonably usefully accurate for the Missouri valley in the southern half of what is now South Dakota. That is, maps after 1700 (before that date the maps reveal no accurate knowledge) give to the Missouri the east and west course, which characterizes the south of the Dakota region, with two or three tributaries coming into it from the north, the easternmost one called the Rock river, the name still held by a tributary of this river, altho the main stream is now known as the Big Sioux.

Inasmuch as these details appear on the maps of De L'Isle, who it is known derived information from Le Sueur, it is natural to give to the latter credit for the information whether derived at first hand in journeys not recorded or from notes carefully made on the reports of Indians and unknown trappers.

After LaVerendrye, until nearly the end of the century, the chief characteristic of the maps is the puzzle of the Manton River, added, because of LaVerendrye's discovery, to confusion already existing from the influence of La Hontan's Riviere Longue and the obsession felt by all that a great Western Sea lay just beyond the margin of the known, to be made known by that one voyager fortunate enough to penetrate a little further than his predecessor.