



Chapter One - by Kay Hively

"Here they come!" Andy whispered eagerly to his father. Staring out the window, Andy watched two men walk briskly up the street and step into his father's store.

Andy had been waiting many days for these men to come get their supplies. Every boy in St. Louis wanted to meet Captain Meriwether Lewis and Captain William Clark. Now the two famous men stood right in front of Andy Bates. Captain Clark smiled and said good morning. Andy was so excited he could not even answer. His tongue would not move.

The men shook hands with Andy's father, then they began taking boxes off the store shelves. The boxes were marked "cloth," "tobacco," "coffee" and "hardware." Using a pencil and paper, Mr. Bates made an account of everything.

Andy knew where the boxes were going.

News had just reached St. Louis that the United States had bought a large piece of land from France. President Jefferson had asked Captains Lewis and Clark to explore this new land which was called the Louisiana Territory. The two captains would make their exploration by boat up the Missouri River.

In their camp across the river in Illinois, Lewis and Clark had strange looking boats and a party of soldiers. Andy wished he could go with them. He had heard that great tall mountains lay beyond the sunset, and on the other side of the mountains was a great ocean. He would like to climb mountains and swim in an ocean.

After a while, Andy grew tired of watching the men, so he slipped out the front door. On the porch he found a giant dog lying asleep.

It was the largest dog he had ever seen. It had huge ears and was as black as the inside of a coal shed.

Even though the dog was lying down, its shoulders came all the way up to Andy's knees. As Andy admired the dog, he saw one big dark eye open. Andy moved to the far side of the porch.

For a long time the boy sat and stared at the dog, while the dog kept one eye on the boy. Then, just as the dog's eye closed again, Captains Lewis and Clark came out onto the porch. The big dog rose to its feet and stood beside Captain Lewis. The dog's ears reached up to his master's waist. Captain Lewis stroked the animal's head. He said the dog's name was Seaman. He also said that Seaman would go with the explorers on their journey to the Louisiana Territory.

Andy patted Seaman's head, and then watched as Captains Lewis and Clark walked back down the street toward the Mississippi River, a short distance away.

It was May, 1804. The great journey into the unknown was about to begin. Andy wondered if he would ever see the two captains again.



Classroom Extensions Things to Think About and Do -

- Andy met Lewis and Clark in 1804 in St. Louis. What do you think St. Louis looked like then? Using an almanac or the internet, find out the population of St. Louis in 1804. Draw a map of the Louisiana Purchase. For whom were St. Louis and Louisiana named?
- Do some research and find out what breed of dog Seaman was. Make an alphabetical list of at least 10 breeds of dog. Draw a picture of Seaman.

Next Week: Chapter Two - Council bluff

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Gofourth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Produced in partnership with this newspaper and the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2003.