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*Clarkia*

*Onagraceae*

*Clarkia* commemorates Captain William Clark (1770-1838) who is especially remembered for his participation in the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806, when the two friends explored unknown land west of the Mississippi (crossing the Rocky Mountains and ending up at the Pacific Ocean) thus blazing a pioneer trail. Four years as a militiaman from 1789 were followed by four as a regular army officer before he resigned his commission to manage his family's plantation. He had met Captain Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) when they were both serving in 1795 and in 1803 he accepted Lewis' invitation to co-lead the 'Corps of Discovery' which was backed by President Jefferson (1743-1826). The Expedition members numbered 33, including a French-Canadian, Toussaint Charbonneau, hired as an Indian interpreter. He was accompanied by his Shoshone wife, Sacagawea (who also acted as interpreter and guide) and these two were to prove to be invaluable additions to the party especially when help was sought from any of the Indian tribes en route. It was Sacagawea's older brother who led the Shoshones when they were helping the Expedition begin the ascent of the Rocky Mountains, not least with information and horses. Remarkably, despite the demands of crossing those mountains, the Expedition reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805. The following year, virtually retracing its steps, the party returned east to wide acclaim. Clark consolidated his Expedition records which covered his management of their supplies, his maps of its route and his observations and drawings of native flora and fauna, on his return. In 1807, with an appointment made by Jefferson, Clark began a path which would lead him to become a highly respected (by all involved) administrator of Indian affairs.