




State
Historical
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Sakakawea



Sakakawea lived with the Hidatsa people in an earthlodge village on the Knife River in North Dakota. She was about sixteen years old when Lewis and Clark arrived at her village in 1804. Sakakawea was married to French trader Toussaint Charbonneau. They traveled with the Lewis and Clark Expedition when Charbonneau was hired as an interpreter. Sakakawea carried her baby on the long journey to the Pacific Ocean and back to the Knife River. The journey took eighteen months. A bronze statue on the North Dakota capitol grounds is a tribute to Sakakawea and her son, Jean Baptiste.

From a photograph in the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota of the statue by sculptor Leonard Crunelle.

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