

In August 1813, Luttig made an application at the orphan court in St. Louis to have guardians appointed for the children of Touissant Charbonneau, deceased, to wit: Touissant Charbonneau, a boy 10 years of age; Lizette Charbonneau, a baby girl, 1 year of age.

It appears or can be inferred that when the trouble arose at Fort Manuel, Charbonneau had left his children, presumably in care of the Indian wives of the other employees of the fort, when his wife died December 20, and as he disappeared during the attack there, the children were brought down with the remainder of the party to St. Louis.

John Luttig, in his journal expressed himself strongly against the character of Charbonneau, but he spoke of his Shoshone wife as being the best woman in the fort. He took interest in these children of the Charbonneau woman. He saw to it that they should have a guardian, therefore William Clark was appointed. Apparently he supposed that Charbonneau had been killed in the outbreak at the fort.

In the three points, Dr. Robinson holds as the essential proof that the woman who died on December 20 is the Bird Woman, I find no place in this connection where her name, Sacajawea, was mentioned nor directly referred to as Sacajawea, except in Mr. Breckenridge's observation on the boat that Charbonneau was pointed out as guide for Lewis and Clark.

That he had a Shoshone wife with him whom he naturally supposed the one accompanied Charbonneau across the continent with the Lewis and Clark expedition. It is apparent that the Bird Woman was not called Sacajawea as far as the public is concerned during this time. Up to this time Sgt. Patrick Gass's journal was the only one published in 1807. Nowhere in his report was she called Sacajawea, she was only referred to as the squaw or Charbonneau's wife.

After the revision of the Lewis and Clark journals no one knew at that time outside of Lewis and Clark and Charbonneau that this woman was called Sacajawea. Secondly, the court record shows that Baptiste, the child of Sacajawea was conspicuously absent, this means that Baptiste, had been retained in St. Louis when Charbonneau and his other Snake wife and child had gone back to the Indian country as stated by Breckenridge. Baptiste was too young to be separated from his mother and in my knowledge of the Indian mother's traits and habits are such she could not have permitted to be separated from her child at that age, especially those times. It was hard enough up to 30 years ago to get a child of 10 years to leave their Indian parents to go to school. It would have been impossible for Clark to retain Baptiste without his mother, but as he determined to either adopt or educate the boy, the youngest member of the expedition across the continent he had to provide for the Bird Woman in order to keep Baptiste in St. Louis so that he may see to his education and as he could not trust Touissant Charbonneau to take the child back up the Missouri; therefore he retains him and that is why Baptiste was not mentioned in the orphans court when Luttig applied for guardian to be selected or appointed for the children of Touissant Charbonneau, deceased, on August 1813.

The evidence given by Wolfe Chief or the Hidatsa and Mrs. Weidemann shows that Charbonneau did have two Shoshone wives and a Mandan wife besides. They clearly stated that Charbonneau took both of his Shoshone wives with him when he visited St. Louis some time in 1807 to 1808 and it is evident that he had returned with but one Shoshone wife who died on December 20, 1812. In the St. Louis court application for guardians for his children, the child of Bird Woman was conspicuously absent. It will seem then that this child had been left in St. Louis when Charbonneau returned north in 1811, but the child Baptiste would have been too young to be separated from his mother, the Bird Woman.

When the other two children of Charbonneau, namely, Touissant Charbonneau, Jr., and Lizette Charbonneau, daughter, were presented at the orphans court, John Luttig, was appointed guardian but it was scratched off and substituted by William Clark.

Miss Stella E. Drumm states in her book that Clark was absent at the time of the court procedure, but when he returned he accepted the guardianship of the other children of Charbonneau. It is natural for the Indian woman, and under the circumstances, that she would have to become the mother of those children until a certain age when they can be sent to school. This is proven by the testimony of Eagle Woman and by the statement of Mrs. Weidemann when Charbonneau married the bride, Eagle, Hidatsa maiden, in 1819 or 1820. He proceeded immediately with a company of fur traders to St. Louis, although he was supposed to have been killed in the attack at Fort Manuel by the Sioux when they killed many of Lisa's men. He turned up unexpectedly at St. Louis with