

(b) Gass Journal, February 12, 1805: "One of our interpreter's wives made an addition to our number."

(c) Fort Clark Journal, October 22, 1834: "Charbonneau and his lady started for the Gros Ventres on a visit (or to tell the truth) in quest of one of his runaway wives—for I must inform you he had two lively ones. Poor old man."

Evidence points to the fact that Sacajawea did not accompany Charbonneau when he hired out to Brackenridge for the trip to Fort Manuel Liza. Her child, Baptiste, was too young to be left alone in St. Louis and at the time of the Brackenridge journey Baptiste was being educated in St. Louis by William Clark, as the entries in Clark's account books indicate. It was not the custom for Indian women to leave their children, at a young age, in the care of strangers. Another indication that Sacajawea was with her son in St. Louis is found in the fact in 1813 Luttig and later Clark were appointed as guardians for Toussaint and Lizette Charbonneau but no mention is made of the adoption of Baptiste, leading to the conclusion that he was not an orphan although Clark was taking financial care of him. Otter Woman, the mother of Toussaint and Lizette, died at Manuel Liza's headquarters on December 20, 1812, and Charbonneau failed to return to this post from the expedition, leading to the assumption that he had been lost. Therefore, guardians were appointed to care for the children. If Sacajawea was dead Clark, who was extremely interested in Baptiste, would obviously have adopted him also.

The aged woman at the Shoshone Reservation had a knowledge of the Lewis and Clark Expedition which was not generally known to the public at that time. She told James I. Patten, teacher at the agency, that she had accompanied Clark and that Baptiste was the baby she took with her on that journey. She called Clark "the first Washington." F. G. Burnett, teacher and agricultural adviser at the reservation, heard her telling of Clark's request that she lead him down the Yellowstone River, which is cited in the journals under date of July 3, 1806. Susan Perry, a Shoshone Indian woman, tells of Sacajawea telling her that she gave the men dried meat to eat when they were very hungry, as is reported in the journal. In the journal under date of January 6, 1806, Clark tells of the Indian woman going to view the dead whale found on the shore of the ocean. In later years Sacajawea told of seeing a fish as big as a log cabin.

The following references are cited:

Census Roll—Shoshone 1877 (now in the National Archives; file reference Wyoming S. 1126, 1877): This record in itself should be sufficient evidence of the Indian woman's identity. First of all being a Shoshone or Snake Indian with two recognized sons, Baptiste, the baby she carried on the expedition, and Basil, her adopted son (sister's child), all of ages and match with the Indian guide's identity. Baptiste was educated under the sponsorship of William Clark in St. Louis, and later record shows he was taken to Europe for 6 years as the guest of Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, returning to give service to the mountain men of fur and trapping companies including Carson, Frémont, Fitzpatrick, and Bridger. How could he not know his own mother? Basil held the rank of subchief. He remained with the tribal group and therefore assumed care of his adoptive mother. His lodge was next to Sacajawea's lodge who was known in her later