

Mr. Chester E. Faris, of Albuquerque, N. Mex., an eminent authority on Indian history, has perhaps, a more extensive library and knowledge of Sacajawea and the Lewis and Clark Expedition than any other individual. Mr. Faris, like Dr. Hebard, became actively interested in this Shoshone woman while attending the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. A few years later he went to the Wind River Reservation (then known as Shoshone) and was in charge of the Indian Service educational program for a decade. Through this period Mr. Faris was diligent in pursuing first-hand study of the famous woman, for at that time a number of Shoshones were living who were personally acquainted with Sacajawea or Basil's mother, as she was called during her later years. From these Shoshones, Mr. Faris heard frequent accounts of her life experiences on the expedition and his continued study on the subject leads him to support the Wyoming burial location.

Dr. John Roberts, an Oxford University student and trained missionary who came from England to the Wind River Reservation in 1883 to establish the Shoshone Indian Mission, officiated at her burial. Dr. Roberts served the Shoshones continuously in the mission work until his retirement, at which he continued to reside at the mission. He died recently, June 22, 1949, in his ninety-sixth year. He identified her grave in 1909 at which time the cement marker bearing the bronze tablet given by Timothy F. Burke, of Cheyenne, Wyo., was erected. The inscription reads:

Sacajawea, died April 9, 1884, a guide with the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1805-1806. Identified 1909 by Rev. J. Roberts who officiated at her burial.

The parish register of burials shows the following: "(Date) A. D. 1884, April 9th, (Name) Basil's Mother (Shoshoni), (Age) One hundred, (Residence) Shoshone Agency, (Cause of death) Old Age, (Place of Burial) Burial grounds, Shoshone Agency, (Signature of clergyman) J. Roberts." (See Indian Office Library and National Archives files: Sacajawea.)

In 1924, Dr. Charles Eastman, a full-blood and educated Sioux Indian was assigned by the Interior Department through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to investigate and locate the final burial place of Sacajawea. The final burial place of Sacajawea is located at Fort Washakie, Wyo., according to the conclusions reached by Dr. Eastman.

Dr. Eastman's report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated March 2, 1925, on his said assignment, is fully set forth, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, March 2, 1925.

THE COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

MY DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER: In pursuance of your instructions of December 13, 1924, relative to investigation and locating the final burial place of Sacajawea or Bird Woman, I entered upon the investigation by the 1st of January 1925. As by instructions, I proceeded from Pawhuska, Okla., to Fort Washakie, Wyo. I fully realized the importance and delicacy of this investigation, therefore I secured special interpreters before I entered upon the work. Mr. James E. Compton, who understood not only the Shoshone language but the Bannocks and he is a well-educated Carlisle man; not only this, but is well versed in the modern history of his people.

Mr. R. P. Haas, the local superintendent, gave every help possible to find and meet such persons as I thought would give any material evidence concerning "Bazille's mother" as she was commonly known in her later days, although she was also known as Porivo, Chief Woman. She was also known by the name of Wadziwiper and Poheniv or Grass Woman. Wadziwiper means Lost Woman, who claims to be or others claim for her that she is Sacajawea or Bird Woman, the interpreter and guide of Lewis and Clark Expedition.