

Francois Antoine Larocque

The “Journal of a Voyage to the Rocky Mountains” was written in 1805. It was written by Francois Antoine Larocque and describes his journey across the American West. He was a French trapper who was the first to explore Wyoming. [Changed for easier reading using ChatGPT.] Original found at <https://user.xmission.com/~drudy/mtman/html/larocque.html>

This morning, the blind man sent for me. He introduced me to the Rocky Mountain chief of the Ererokas [a band of the Crow people] and told him, in front of me, that I would be traveling with them. He asked the chief to take good care of us and spoke very kindly about us. He explained that the Gros Ventre [a Native American tribe] were unsure if they would let us travel through their land, but he promised that if we wished to go, he would make sure the way was safe. To thank them, I gave two of the Ererokas each six feet of tobacco and twenty boxes of bullets.

Wednesday, 26th. The Mandans, Souliers, little village people, and others from the nearby village [Native American groups] rode on horseback to visit the Rocky Mountain camp. They performed the same ceremonies there that the Rocky Mountain people had done here the day before. About 500 people took part, though many of their warriors were away at war.

Thursday, 27th. I gathered the chiefs from the different Rocky Mountain bands and gave them presents, which included: two large axes, two small axes, eight ivory combs, ten shells, eight fire steels with flint, four clubs, six bunches of blue and colored beads, four feet of tobacco, eight rooster feathers, sixteen large knives, twelve small knives... eight dozen rings, four packs of colored glass beads...some blue beads, and one thousand bullets with powder.

Original

This morning the Borgne sent for me, he showed me the Rocky Mountain Chief of the Ererokas, and told him before me that I was going with him & to take good care of us & he spoke very much in our favour telling me that the B. Bellys were undetermined whether they would allow us to go or not, but that we would go if we liked it for that he would clear the road before us if necessary. I gave to two of the Ererokas each 6 [feet] of tobacco and 20 Rounds of ammunitions.

Wednesday 26th. The Mandans, Souliers, little village people & the people of the Village, went on horse back and arrived to perform the same ceremonies round the Rocky Mountain Camp, as the Rocky Mountains did yesterday here, they were about 500, but a great many Warriors are absent being gone to war.

Thursday 27th. Assembled the chiefs of the different Bands of the Rocky Mountains and made them a present of 2 Large Axes, 2 Small Axes, 8 Ivory Combs, 10 Wampum Shells, 8 fire steels and Flint, 4 cassetete, 6 Masses B.C. Beads, 4 f. Tobacco, 8 Cock feathers, 16 large Knives, 12 Small do, 2 lbs. Vermillion, 8 doz. Rings, 4 papers co'd Glasses, 4 Doz. Awls, 11/ lb. Blue Beads, 2 Doz. do, 1000 balls & powder.