

Four Entries from the *Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* September 7, 1804

Clark

7th September Friday 1804. a verry Cold morning Set out at Day light

N. 60° W. ^[1] 3 mes. to the pt. of a Bluff on the S. S. opsd. a pt. on the
L. S. below [w]hich there is a Sand bar
mes to a Tree in the bend to the L. S. near a mountain
West 2 ½ which is round formg a point on the riseing 70 feet higher
than the high land from its Shape & Situation resembles
a cupeleow [cupola] ^[2] passed 2 small Islds. on the S. S,—
5 ½

near the foot of this high Nole we discovered a Village of an annamale the french Call the Prarie Dog ^[3] which burrow in the grown & with the rattle Snake and Killed one & Caught one Dog alive caught in a whole 2 frogs near the hole Killed a Dark Rattle Snake with a P[rairie] do[g] in him ^[4]

The Village of those little dogs is under the ground a conisiderable distance we dig under 6 feet thro rich hard clay without getting to their Lodges Some of their wholes we ⟨pu throw⟩ put in 5 barrels of water without driveing them out, we caught one by the water forceing him out. ther mouth resemble the rabbit, head longer, legs short, & toe nails long ther tail like a g[round] Squirrel which they Shake and make chattering noise ther eyes like a dog, their colour is Gray and Skin contains Soft fur

Clark

Course Distance & refeirencs 7.

N. 60° W. 3 mes. to the pt. of a Bluff on the S. S. opsd. a pt. on L. S.
miles to a tree in a bend to the L. S. near the foot of a
West 2 ½ round mountain resembling a Cupola (1) passed 2 Small
Islds. S. S.
5 ½

Septr. 7th Friday a verry Cold morning Set out at day light we landed after proceding 5½ miles, near the foot of a round mounting which I saw yesterday resembling a dome.

Capt Lewis & my Self walked up, to the top which forms a Cone and is about 70 feet higher than [WC: wind S. E.] ^[5] the high lands around it, the Bass is about 300 foot in decending this Cupola, discovered a Village of Small animals that burrow in the grown (those animals are

Called by the french Pitite Chien) Killed one & Cought one a live by poreing a great quantity of water in his hole we attempted to dig to the beds of one of thos animals, after diging 6 feet, found by running a pole down that we were not half way to his Lodges, we found 2 frogs in the hole, and killed a Dark rattle Snake near with a Ground rat [*X: or prarie dog*] in him, (those rats are numerous) the Village of those animals Covs. about 4 acrs of Ground on a Gradual decent of a hill and Contains great numbers of holes on the top of which those little animals Set erect make a Whistleing noise and whin allarmed Slip into their hole— we por'd into one of the holes 5 barrels of water without filling it, Those Animals are about the Size of a Small Squirel < Shorter> [*X: or larger longer*] & thicker, the head much resembling a Squirrel in every respect, except the ears which is Shorter, his tail like a ground Squirrel which thy Shake & whistle when allarmd. the toe nails long, they have fine fur & the longer hair is gray, it is Said that a kind of Lizard also a Snake reside with those animals. [*WC?: did not find this correct.*] Camped ^[6]

[Ordway]

Friday 7th a fair, cool morning. *N. B.* a verry large cat fish caught. by [Goodrich](#) last night. we Set off verry eairly. the wind from N. W. we proceeded on. took breakfast at one of [Colters](#) Camps where he had a scaffal of jurk & C.— passed a Bottom prarie Back of which is a round naked high round knob ^[7] the Captains went out to look at it.— they returned in a Short time & informed us that it was a curious place as if it had been made with hands of man. [Shields](#) killed a prarie dog, ^[8] which was cooked for the Capts dinner.— the Captains went out with Some men of the party to See the Ground where those little dogs make their villages & they found more than an acre of Ground covered with their holes, they attempted to drown Several of them out of their holes, but they caught but one which they brought in alive, they are a curious annimal about the Size of a little dog, & of a grayish colour resembles them nearly except the tail which is like a Ground Squirrel. They will Stand on their hind feet & look & C.— we Camped on the South Side near the Steeple of the round knob

[Gass]

Friday 7th. We set sail early, and had a clear day: passed high prairie land on both sides; but there is some cotton wood on the low points in the bottoms. On the south side we found a scaffold of meat neatly dried. This had been left by one of our men, ^[9] who had gone out on the 26th of the last month to hunt the horses, and supposing we had got a distance ahead, proceeded up the river several days journey, before he discovered his error. [Captain Lewis](#) and [Captain Clarke](#) with some of the men went to view a round knob of a hill in a prairie, and on their return killed a prairie dog, ^[10] in size about that of the smallest species domestic dogs.

Having understood that the village of those small dogs was at a short distance from our camp, [Captain Lewis](#) and Captain [Clarke](#) with all the party, except the guard, went to it; and took with them all the kettles and other vessels for holding water; in order to drive the animals out of their holes by pouring in water; but though they worked at the business till night they only caught one of them.