

# Great American Lives

of Nineteenth Century Missouri



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## Henry Rowe Schoolcraft



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He isn't famous like Lewis & Clark, but Henry Rowe Schoolcraft had much in common with them. In fact, it was Schoolcraft's exploration of the Missouri wilderness that earned him the nickname "Lewis & Clark of the Ozarks."

Born in 1793 near Albany, NY, Schoolcraft grew up planning to take over his family's glass factory. In school, he studied chemistry, geology, and mineralogy so he would understand how to turn minerals into useful glass objects.

At the age of 25, however, Schoolcraft's curiosity changed his plans and he left the glass business. Believing he could make money by exploring, writing books and drawing maps, Schoolcraft traveled down the Ohio River to the Missouri wilderness.

Schoolcraft and his friend, Levi Pettibone, had no experience as outdoorsmen, but they were determined to explore the Missouri and Arkansas wilderness. They explored from Potosi in eastern Missouri almost to Springfield, then turned south into Arkansas before returning to Potosi.

Along the way, Schoolcraft made notes in his journal about the minerals, plants, animals, and people he encountered. Schoolcraft and Pettibone discovered that the Ozarks were inhabited by only a few hardy hunters, their families and Native Americans such as the Osage.

After his trip through the Ozarks, Schoolcraft wrote two books. The first book was about the lead mines of Missouri. The other was the journal of his adventures and observations on the trip. These books later helped him land a job as geologist on an expedition to explore the upper Great Lakes.

During the Great Lakes expedition, Schoolcraft drew maps, took mineral samples, and of course, kept his journal. Led by General Lewis Cass, the expedition found a lake they thought was the source of the Mississippi River. They called it Cass Lake. Schoolcraft discovered they were wrong when he later found the real source of

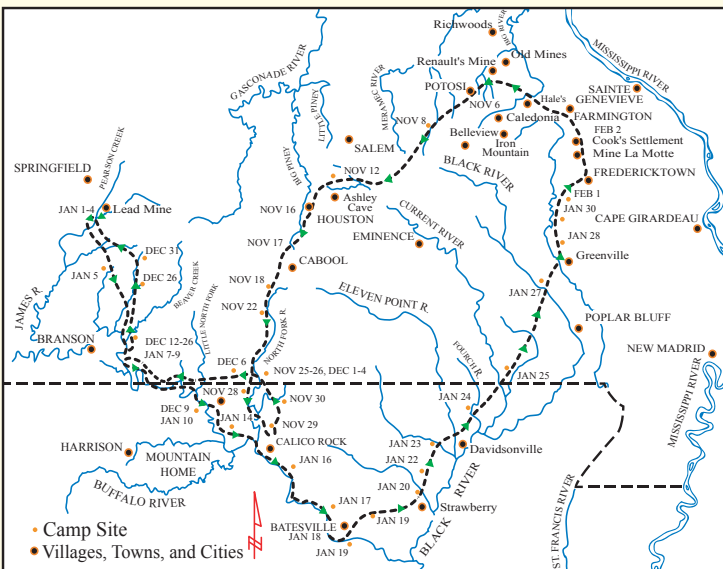
the Mississippi. He called it Lake Itasca.

Because he was good at negotiating with the Native Americans, Schoolcraft was appointed

an Indian Agent in part of what is now Michigan. He was later elected as a legislator for Michigan Territory.

Schoolcraft married Jane Johnston, the daughter of a fur trader who was half Ojibwa Indian. They had four children. He began studying his wife's tribe, their language, stories, and customs. In fact, he became interested in recording as much as he could about all Native American cultures.

After losing his job as an Indian Agent, Schoolcraft moved back east in 1841 and started writing. With the help of others who had lived among natives, he wrote many books about Native Americans. By the time he died in 1864, Schoolcraft had become one of the most famous ethnologists of his time.



### Through the Ozarks

This map shows Schoolcraft and Pettibone's route through the Ozarks. It also shows the locations of many modern cities and towns that did not exist at the time of the expedition. Use the map to answer the following questions.

1. Schoolcraft and Pettibone started their journey at Potosi on November 6th. How long did it take them to reach the lead mine near Springfield?
2. Which river did they camp near on January 24th?
3. What is the name of the cave Schoolcraft and Pettibone camped near on November 12th?
4. What large river runs along the eastern side of the map?

Answers: (1) 56 days or almost two months, (2) Fourch River, (3) Ashley Cave, (4) the Mississippi River