Contents

Chronology  xiii

Prologue  1

CHAPTER 1
“We Descended with Great Velocity”
The Triumphant Return of the Lewis and Clark Expedition  5

CHAPTER 2
“All the Red Men Are My Children”
Lewis and Sheheke’s Visit to Thomas Jefferson  23

CHAPTER 3
“They Appeared in Violent Rage”
Pryor and Shannon’s Battle with the Arikara  28

CHAPTER 4
“He Saw the Prairie Behind Him Covered with Indians in Full and Rapid Chase”
The Adventures of John Colter  38

CHAPTER 5
“This Has Not Been Done Through Malice”
George Drouillard’s Murder Trial  49
CHAPTER 6
“The Gloomy and Savage Wilderness”
The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis 54

CHAPTER 7
“I Give and Recommend My Soul”
The Deaths of George Gibson, Jean-Baptiste Lepage, and John Shields 75

CHAPTER 8
“A Sincere and Undisguised Heart”
George Shannon’s Early Career 82

CHAPTER 9
“He Must Have Fought in a Circle on Horseback”
George Drouillard’s Death at the Hands of the Blackfeet 89

CHAPTER 10
“Water as High as the Trees”
William Bratton and John Ordway and the Great Earthquake 97

CHAPTER 11
“She Was a Good and the Best Woman in the Fort”
Sacagawea’s Death 106

CHAPTER 12
“The Crisis Is Fast Approaching”
The Corps and the War of 1812 118

CHAPTER 13
“We Lost in All Fourteen Killed”
John Collins and Toussaint Charbonneau Among the Mountain Men 127

CHAPTER 14
“Taken with the Cholera in Tennessee and Died”
The Sad Fate of York 139

CHAPTER 15
“Men on Lewis & Clark’s Trip”
William Clark’s Accounting of Expedition Members 149

CHAPTER 16
“Active to the Last”
The Final Decades of the Corps 162