



Badger State Chapter

Meriwether Lewis



of:
The Lewis and Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation, Inc.



William Clark

July 2004

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 11

During this time in history:
(Excerpts from the journal of William Clark, taken from Jim Rosenberger's "Daily Calendar")

July 4, 1804; Ushered in the day by a discharge of one shot from our bow piece, proceeded on...passed a creek...it has no name and this being the 4th of July, the day of independence of the U.S, call it Independence Creek...we closed the day by a discharge from our bow piece...

July 12, 1804; ...The commanding officers, Capt. M. Lewis & W. Clark constituted themselves a Court martial for the trial of...Alexander Willard...charged with lying down and sleeping on his post whilst a sentinel, on the night of the 11th...sentence him to receive one hundred lashes on his bear back at four times in equal proportion...

July 30, 1804; Joseph Field killed and brought in an animal called by the French, Brarow and by the Pawnees, cho car tooch (a Badger). This animal burrows in the ground and feeds on flesh, bugs & vegetables...

Good news! the 2005 day to day calendar has been printed. Order yours now from Jim Rosenberger, or pick one up at the fall meeting.

What Did They Wear?



(An introduction to "Tailor Made, Trail Worn" written by, and used with the permission of, Robert J. Moore, Jr.)

They can be seen on every Lewis and Clark Trail highway marker from Illinois to Oregon. The silhouettes of the explorers tell the story: Meriwether Lewis wore a tricorn hat, while William Clark wore a coonskin cap. For millions of people, this image of the famous explorers is as indelible as Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat or Douglas MacArthur's beat-up officer's cap. But the fact is that neither Lewis nor Clark, nor any of their crew wore tricorn hats or coonskin caps.

If not tricorns or coonskins, what did the men wear when they went west with Lewis and Clark on their expedition of 1804-1806? This question has often been asked by the curious who read about the journey, by artists who wish to paint or sculpt Lewis and Clark, by reenactors or actors who wish to portray them, and by filmmakers who wish to tell their story for the cinema. It seems like a simple question, yet it has never been adequately answered-and perhaps never will be. This book is an attempt to do so, based upon the best research into original materials and artifacts available at the time of its writing.

This painting of an infantry sergeant in full dress uniform, circa 1803, points up some of the differences in dress between a sergeant and corporals and privates of the period. The smallclothes for a sergeant (vest, trousers and shirt) were made of finer materials than those for the lower ranks. An infantry sergeant was distinguished by a single red worsted wool epaulette worn on the right shoulder and a sash, also of red worsted material; he was also required to wear buff colored leather gloves while on duty, and he carried a sword.
Painting by, & used with permission of: Michael Haynes

Editor's Note: While we were in St. Louis attending the symposium, we had the opportunity to purchase a book called "Tailor Made, Trail Worn" by Bob Moore and illustrated by Michael Haynes. The approach that these authors took, presents a very different way of understanding what the Corps were dealing with. We have thoroughly enjoyed this book, and are delighted that Bob is allowing us to reproduce his "Introduction," which presents an excellent capsule of how they put it together.

Bill Holman



Continued on page 2

A clear answer to what the Lewis and Clark Expedition's clothing looked like cannot readily be found in the artwork, films or costuming created between 1890 and the present. Most of the public's impressions and expectations on this subject come from images created after 1890, and not from facts gleaned from primary sources written or drawn during the years surrounding the expedition. A sentimentalized historical tradition has been formulated around the subject of Lewis and Clark's appearance through later artwork and the impressions created by modern reenactors. These recent traditions, more than real knowledge of the cut, texture, and feel of clothing of the era, color public preconceptions of how the explorers dressed.

The pervasive post-1890 artist's image of the explorers is as buckskin-clad adventurers, dressed in the "frontiersman style" clothing of fringed leather jackets and trousers. On the other extreme, however, artists like Frederic Remington depicted Lewis and Clark in full Revolutionary War-era military uniforms, even on the Pacific Coast! Beginning in the 1970s, reenactors made honest efforts to create accurate images of Lewis and Clark. Instead they have, by and large, reinforced stereo-types of the explorers as bearded, grizzled mountainmen rather than as members of a military expedition rooted in the traditions and restrictions of U. S. Army dress and decorum.

In order to make a scientific study of Lewis and Clark's clothing, these preconceptions and "traditions" had to be set aside. Primary source information had to be located, which turned out to be a difficult task. Just as we would not normally, in today's diaries, write in detail about what color shirt we put on in the morning or whether our pants have cuffs, the journalists of the Lewis and Clark Expedition did not often remark upon their clothing. In conjunction with other expedition documents, however, the journals provide tantalizing clues regarding what the expedition members wore. By examining the words of expedition members, original artwork from the 1800-1810 period, original garments that have survived, and descriptions of clothing in military records, reports and regulations, an impression emerged of how much and what types of clothing was taken along. To this information the authors added their experience and knowledge about period clothing, carried forward into logical conjecture when the record became scant.

To present the best possible information on the topic of the clothing of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, it is first neces-

sary to provide some background information about the U. S. Army of the period. Without understanding that—first and foremost—the Lewis and Clark trek was an official, government-sponsored assignment carried out by a military force, it is impossible to understand how and why the men dressed as they did. Only by comprehending the background and customs of the young and very tiny U. S. Army, the small amount of funding it received, and the sometimes shoddy and makeshift clothing and equipment it utilized, can the reader begin to formulate a picture of how the "Corps of Discovery for North Western Exploration" functioned and dressed. This is why the first four chapters of this book are devoted to the subject of the military at the time, and present specific examples of how military thinking, regimentation, and discipline influenced the expedition of 1803-1806.

The authors feel confident that they have done their very best to approach this material with open minds and to present an honest, fact-based piece of research. In addition to archival sources, expedition journals, letters, and receipts, the photographs of original clothing specimens and illustrations from period sources provide further clues and supporting evidence for this study. Perhaps, in the future, documents will be unearthed that will provide a more complete picture with more specifics on the expedition's clothing. Until then, using the known original sources, we have compiled this written and illustrated record, and take full responsibility for any errors of fact herein.

We will probably never know many details about this topic. Too little was preserved, too few letters were written, notes kept, illustrations and paintings created. The authors hope, however, that this book will provide the basic answers about what Lewis, Clark, and their crew



*A soldier of the Lewis and Clark party stands guard duty in the freezing cold at Fort Manden, wearing one of the Corps' limited supply of watch coats. A separate hood covers a Canadian cap the soldier has fashioned from fur and woolen cloth. An improvised cloth scarf and feet wrapped in rags assist in trying to ward off temperatures as low as -40° Fahrenheit. **Drawing by, & used with permission of: Michael Haynes***

wore as they made their way to the Pacific Ocean and back. Further, through studying the clothing of the period and the reasons why people wore what they wore, perhaps the reader will also gain a better insight into the many cultural groups that comprised and affected the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Robert J Moore, Jr. Michael Haynes
September 2002

THREE FLAGS FESTIVAL SIGNATURE EVENT IN ST. LOUIS, MARCH 13 TO 14

By: Harriet Peppard

In the last edition of our newsletter, other correspondents wrote about the March symposium and the national exhibition in St. Louis, so I won't repeat those activities. I will concentrate on the special weekend events. The Black History Museum had an exhibit on York, which was small but interesting. The Gateway Arch had its usual display of trail photographs, but there were also two special exhibits: one was about preparations for the journey specific to the St. Louis area and one displayed documents about the Louisiana Purchase. It is just such a thrill to see the actual items that were part of history.



Photo by: Harriet Peppard

The Three Flags Ceremony itself, held at the steps overlooking the Mississippi River on the Gateway Arch grounds, was the big event on Sunday. The three flags refer to the successive sovereignty of Spain, France, and the USA over this part of the land. Of course, this was pretty presumptuous because Native Americans lived here for a long time before Europeans came. This was recognized at the ceremony by many colorful banners representing the various tribes. The Chief of the Osage Nation (indigenous to this area) gave a prayer and the President of the National Congress of American Indians gave remarks, too. There were drumming performances by Native American, African American and Latino American musical groups to show the

rich diversity of our country. Songs were also provided by the St. Charles Fife and Drum Corps, and there were period traditional Spanish and French pieces. One of those singers is a descendant of the last Spanish governor of the territory. The Air Force Band contributed as well.

There was great attendance by the general public because the new Lewis & Clark nickels were being released for the first time and even the weather cooperated! I'll spare you the usual list of politicians, but I will say that it was noteworthy that both the Consul General of Spain and the Ambassador of France participated. This event was just days after the terrorist bombing in Madrid and the Spanish representative received a long standing ovation. I was somewhat concerned about the audience reaction to the French Ambassador in light of the ongoing dispute over Iraq, but I'm happy to report that he also received a standing ovation, though not as long as the Spanish one. In the interest of full disclosure, I should also report that security was very tight with access limited to security checkpoints and metal detectors. In the original 1804 ceremony, the Spanish, French, and American flags were successively raised and lowered, but here in 2004, each one was left flying together as the respective national anthems were played. In another throwback to 1804, there was a reenactment of Lewis crossing the river to attend the event. Dayton Duncan was the MC and he did his usual job of bringing this tremendous story to life. All in all, it was a great experience and I'm glad I was there.

Field Trip – Back to the “Show Me” State

By: Jim Rosenberger

Our 2004 Chapter Field Trip will be Friday September 10th through Monday, September 13th. This year we will be centered in St. Joseph, Missouri and travel out to Lewis and Clark sites in the area. Things are still shaping up but here is a tentative itinerary.

Saturday, September 11th we will drive to Leavenworth, Kansas and visit Lewis & Clark sites at Leavenworth Landing Park and Riverfront Park as well as the Frontier Army Museum at Fort Leavenworth. Then on to Atchison, Kansas and the Historical Society Museum, Interpretive Pavilion and Independence Creek where the expedition was encamped July 4, 1804. We return to St. Joseph and, time permitting, visit local interpretive sites.

Sunday, September 12th we will drive to Nebraska City, Nebraska and visit the new Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, scheduled to open in



Continued on page 4

July 2004. We will return to St. Joseph and again, time permitting, visit local museums and sites.

Continued from page 3

Lodging has been arranged. We will be staying at the Drury Inn, 4213 Frederick St, St. Joseph, MO; 816-364-4700 or 800-325-0720.

A block of rooms has been reserved at a special rate of \$49.99 per night (2 people-King or 2 twins, plus taxes and fees) and you can make your reservations now by phoning 1-800-325-0720, giving the hotel address and the group name, "Lewis and Clark Wisconsin Chapter". Reservations must be made by August 27th to fall within the group reservation and rate.

More details will be mailed to the membership in the near future. Why not mark down this September weekend and join the Badger Chapter field trip. It's fun and educational with a great group of people.

FIELD TRIP UPDATE; For those of you who were on last years field trip, you will recall we visited Kaw Point in Kansas City at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. We were given a tour by Dan Sturdevant and Dan explained the future plans for the Park. While at the July 4th Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Event in Kansas City, I revisited the point, now called Kaw Point Riverfront Park. In less than a year they have made tremendous progress. A riverfront boardwalk and foot paths are in place, the Point itself has been cleaned up to represent the camp site the Corps of Discovery had, including the fortification wall for protection from attack. Near the parking area an education pavilion has been erected with interpretive signs and etc. and a landscaped area called the confluence of nations plaza has been created. Additional work is continuing but this is a beautiful, must see Lewis & Clark site, should you be in Kansas City. Congratulations to Dan and his group for a job well done.

Far Horizons - The Movie

By: Bill Holman

One of the bonuses that we received by attending this Spring's symposium in St. Louis, was a special screening of the 1955 Paramount Pictures film (about The Lewis and Clark Expedition?), "Far Horizons." I wouldn't attempt to review this fiasco, but I will allow you to share the amusement of the audience by guessing who they chose to play these parts. (The answers are on page 5. No fair peeking before you guess!)

Meriwether Lewis:

A) Robert Preston B) Alan Ladd C) Fred MacMurray

William Clark:

A) Robert Stack B) John Wayne C) Charlton Heston

("Far Horizons"-continued)

Sacagawea:

A) Maurine Whiteshoes B) Nancy Davis C) Donna Reed

The descriptions provided for two scenes in the movie are:
"Clark explains to Sacagawea the importance of map pictures, but she thinks the real water & mountains are better."

"Lewis and Clark return to Jefferson in President's House 1807, with Sacajawea, and she explains that among Indians 'a woman cooks for her man, works in the fields, has his baby. That is all.'"

Important Fall Meeting Elections

This Fall we will all be paying attention to the Presidential election. However, we need to keep in mind that there is another very important election coming up. Yes, it's that time again; our Chapter officer and at least one Board position are up for election. It is important to our Chapter to have these positions filled with people interested in being "keepers of the story, stewards of the trail". If you are interested in being a Board member, President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer or would like to nominate someone you feel would be a good candidate, please provide names to nominating committee chairperson, Harriet Peppard at W6144 Victorian Dr. #5, Appleton, WI 54915-7473; Telephone 920-749-1103; email hjplewcla@worldnet.att.net.

The slate of candidates will be presented at the Fall meeting, which is now in the planning stages. We need your interest, talents and enthusiasm.

What'd Ya Know...?

By: David Bubier



One of the pleasures of being both a history buff and Lewis and Clark enthusiast is the duality (no pun intended) of looking at historic events in the context of the times. What was happening while the Corps of Discovery was "on the road" so-to-speak.

Take Monday, July 11, 1804 for example. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were on the Missouri River (Jim Rosenberger's calendar says so!) where the Nemaha River enters the Missouri just above the present Nebraska –

Continued on page 5

Kansas border. On the day prior, the Continued from page 4
10th, the narrow Missouri (about 300 yards wide at this point) caused the keelboat to run into snags twice. The strong current swung it broadside to the current, almost causing it to "bilge." Much fatigued, they camped on the south side of the Missouri on an island in the vicinity of a meadow called Prairie of the Arrows.

On the morning of the 11th, high winds forced them to stay for the entire day. The day was spent taking observations, hunting, exploring and drying out and overhauling equipment. Clark followed fresh horse tracks that day in hopes of finding Indians with which to trade and council with in order to spread the good word of the Great Father Jefferson. This was the day before they met Pierre Dorion with two pirogues, one filled with furs and the other with buffalo grease and tallow. Lewis bought 300 pounds of grease, possibly for cooking – or mosquito repellent!

In another place the bitter feud between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr culminated in their historic duel -- Monday, July 11, 1804.

Hamilton, a signer of the Constitution and the nation's first treasury secretary, had a simmering feud with his longtime rival Aaron Burr, the vice president under Thomas Jefferson. When Burr ran for governor of New York in early 1804, Hamilton denounced him as untrustworthy. Burr lost. Burr later complained about a newspaper article that reported Hamilton had expressed a "despicable opinion" of him. Dissatisfied with Hamilton's explanation, Burr, age 48 and the sitting vice president, challenged him to a pistol duel near Weehawken, New Jersey. Shot by Burr, Hamilton, age 49, returned to New York where he died the next day. Burr was indicted on murder charges in New York and New Jersey but was never tried, and finished his term as vice president in 1805.

On a more positive note, John Quincy Adams, 6th U.S. President [1825-1829], celebrated his 37th birthday on... Monday, July 11, 1804. What'd Ya Know!!

References: Lewis & Clark Journals, Jim Rosenberger's calendar, CNN.com

President's Message

In my last President's message, you may recall, I talked about our chapter's efforts to undertake a project in this Bicentennial year to advance public knowledge and awareness of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Our objective was to find a project where, even as a small chapter in a non-trail state, we could have



David Bubier

a meaningful impact and hopefully contribute to a project that had some Wisconsin connection to the expedition story.

At our April meeting, Chuck Hatfield, a member of our chapter, spoke of his involvement in the Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society and his role as project leader in the effort to publish the Charles Floyd journal and other related information in a book called *A Young Man of Much Merit: Charles Floyd and the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. Jim Holmberg, noted Lewis and Clark author, editor and researcher, has agreed to become the editor of the Floyd book. The result will be the most accurate transcription of the Floyd Journal ever made.

New information about arms and ammunition inspections, court-martial proceedings, duty rotations, the mysterious notations inside the cover of the journal and other fascinating information will be included. Mr. Holmberg will also include his research on Floyd's life before the expedition to provide a complete biography! It will also include the long-out-of-print story of the Floyd Gravesite and Memorial in Sioux City, Iowa. This will be a book every Lewis and Clark enthusiast and collector will want to have. It is sure to become a collector's item and will be produced in limited quantities. The book will be out late this fall.

The project is in need of funds, however. The Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society is a volunteer organization and has taken on this worthy task on its own initiative. The Badger State Chapter has contributed \$500 to this worthy cause and provided other avenues of support, including a letter of support for the project and our chapter's expertise and advice.

Continued on page 5



Editor's Commentary: The Far Horizons comes off more as a comedy for anyone who has any knowledge about the Corps of Discovery. If you ever have an opportunity to see it, be prepared to see Donna Reed in "blackface," and find out about Clark's affair with Sacagawea.

At the suggestion of many chapter members, we are calling on YOU to personally consider making a donation this summer or early fall to the Floyd Journal Project - Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. *You can send your contributions to Charles Hatfield, E12671 Maple Ridge Road, LaFarge, WI 54639. Please make the check payable to **Floyd Journal Project - Friends of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.** Please also note that you are a member of the Badger State Chapter of the L&CTHE. If you care to make your contribution in memory of someone, please do that. It is anticipated that Badger chapter contributors will be noted in the acknowledgements of the book.*

Continued from page 4

A second way you can contribute is to purchase one (or two?) of the books this fall. While publication will be limited, our chapter members will receive a sizeable discount on the price.

This is truly a project worthy of the Badger State Chapter and the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial! And it is worthy of your contributions and support!! Our hope is that chapter member contributions will more than match the Badger Chapter's \$500 contribution! Thank you!

David Bubier

Meeting Recap-April 24

By: Jim Rosenberger

"The best meeting yet". This was the general feeling and the comment a number of members made to me after the April 24th meeting at Marquette University. Credit for that general feeling goes to Matt Blessing who spoke on the contributions Wisconsin has made to the public interest in Lewis and Clark through the State Historical Society, and to Chuck Hatfield for his explanation and update on the State Historical Societies effort to publish a book about Sgt. Charles Floyd.

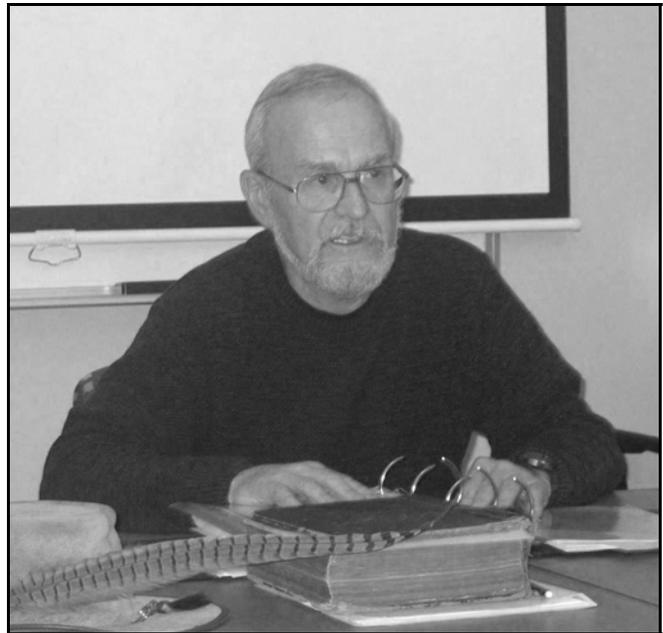
Based on an article he researched and wrote, Matt Blessing discussed the contributions of Rueben Gold Thwaites in producing the Lewis and Clark Journals at the time of the

Newsletter articles



Got an interesting article about the Lewis and Clark Expedition or someone who shares our interest in "The Journey" that you would like to share with others through this newsletter? Then write to either Dave Bubier at dbubier@merr.com or Bill Holman at wghmch@chorus.net. If you don't have e-mail, call Dave at (608) 846-8716. If you include a picture with your article, we will be happy to return it upon request.

centennial celebration of the Expedition as well the contributions made by Wisconsin personalities. Perhaps this is best summarized by the realization that the first three Directors of the State Historical Society made major contributions to this effort; Lyman Draper in collecting the papers of the Clark family and the original Floyd Journal; Rueben Gold Thwaites in producing the first edition of the actual journals as written by Lewis and Clark and Milo Milton Quaife in editing the Ordway journal and Lewis's eastern journal. We hope to see Matt's paper in the Historical Societies quarterly magazine as well as a future edition of "We Proceeded On".

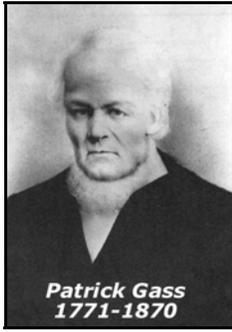


Chuck Hatfield (above) gave a fine presentation on the efforts of the State Historical Society to produce a book containing the Journal of Charles Floyd, previous articles and research on Floyd as well as Floyd family history. Chuck is leading the effort to produce this book and at last update, it is expected to be published around October of 2004. Our Chapter is convinced of the importance of producing this book and has made a contribution towards the publication costs." If you would like to "read more about it" or contribute, see David's President's Message (preceding) for details.

The meeting was an education for us all and contained so much information....well; you just had to be there.

Our second "social" took place on June 12th as a picnic at Old World Wisconsin. The weather, company, food and facilities could not have been better. We were joined by Richard Hetu and his wife Nicole who traveled all the way from New York City to be with us. Richard spoke to us about the history of the fur trade, Lewis & Clark and his recently published book about Charbonneau, "The Lost Guide, The Man Behind the Lewis and Clark Expedition". Richard's interesting and thought provoking presentation capped a truly wonderful day.

**Letters from my cousin,
Patrick Gass, with the
Corps of Discovery**



Dear Bill,

From time to time I'll try to write you a letter about what we have been doing during this time. (I will also use many of these thoughts in my Journal.)

Monday August 20. Sergeant Floyd continued very ill. We embarked early, and proceeded, having a fair wind and fine weather, till 2 o'clock, when we landed for dinner. Here sergeant Floyd died, notwithstanding every possible effort was made by the commanding officers, and other persons, to save his life. We went on about a mile to high prairie hills on the north side of the river, and there interred his remains in the most decent manner our circumstances would admit; we then proceeded a mile further to a small river on the same side and encamped. Our commanding officers gave it the name of Floyd's river; to perpetuate the memory of the first man who had fallen in this important expedition.

Your cuzzin,
Patrick Gass

(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger Chapter member and the editor of this journal, is the second cousin four times removed, of Patrick Gass. He has offered these "letters from the trail", which must have been held up in the mail.)

Mention of Gass's contributions lay in the captain's journals, not in his own. When Sergeant Charles Floyd died, apparently of appendicitis, on August 20, 1804, the men of the Corps elected Gass by popular vote to replace him. Gass received nineteen votes. Bratton and Gibson were runners-up. The captains' appointment of Gass confirmed the popular votes. Gass, a man of "capacity, deligence and integrity," had a reputation for responsibility, hard work, and good humor. Gass mentioned none of the above in his journal, an indication of his humility or, perhaps, of his laconic style.

Reference: The Journals of Patrick Gass by Carol Lynn MacGregor

=We're On The Web=

This is the 4th issue of the Badger Chapter Newsletter to be available on the Internet. If you are not on the mailing list to receive the link, drop an e-mail to Bill Holman at: wghmch@chorus.net ...we'll send you a link where you can find it and share it with your friends.

Badger State Chapter Officers:

- Dave Bubier.....President
Phone: (608) 846-8716
E-mail: dbubier@merr.com
- Jim Rosenberger.....Vice-President
Phone: (608) 845-6365
E-mail: punkinz@att.net
- Harriet Peppard.....Secretary
Phone: (920) 749-1103
E-mail: hjplewcla@worldnet.att.net
- Peggy Lapacek.....Treasurer
Phone: (608) 635-4339
E-mail: peg.lapacek@worldnet.att.net

Board of Directors:

- 1-Ray Gramentine
Phone: (262) 241-9317
E-mail: gramentine@aol.com
- 2-Tom Butts
Phone: (920) 458-4518
E-mail: tbutts@excel.net
- 3-Vacant-

Newsletter Editor:

Bill Holman
Phone: (608) 249-2233
E-mail: wghmch@chorus.net

Treasurer's Report



As of July 9, 2004 we have \$1,155.11 in the Treasury, and there are 46 paid members in the Badger Chapter.