



Badger State Chapter

Meriwether
Lewis



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



William
Clark

April 2005

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 14

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

April 7, 1805 – Lewis: "... We dismissed the barge and crew with orders to return without loss of time to St. Louis...Our vessels consisted of six small canoes and two large pirogues...We were now to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width...the good or evil it had in store for us was for experiment yet to determine..."

April 25, 1805 – Lewis: "...I ascended the hills from whence I had a most pleasing view of the country, particularly of the wide and fertile valleys formed by the Missouri and the Yellowstone Rivers..."

May 26, 1805 – Lewis: "... On arriving to the summit of one of the highest points in the neighborhood...I beheld the Rocky Mountains for the first time..."

June 3, 1805 – Lewis: "... We passed over and formed a camp on the point formed by the junction of the two large Rivers (Missouri & Marias)... An interesting question was now to be determined; which of these was the Missouri..."

Calendar still available from Jim Rosenberger

Lewis and Clark Join the 21st Century

We know that our intrepid friends from the Corps of Discovery were committed to utilizing every modern tool of the 19th century in order to complete their mission. Therefore, it is altogether fitting and proper to assume that they would be most pleased to see us using every modern tool today, that we might perpetuate their great achievements.

With this thought in mind, we feel certain that we have their blessing in utilizing the Internet to set up a site, where any and all Lewis and Clark students and scholars can discuss, display, and link to, the many opportunities that are available today.

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Trivia Question of the Month
(The answer is somewhere in this issue.)

What would have been your daily wage if you had been a member of The Mounted Militia of Missouri in 1813?

New Feature Column



There were numerous journals kept during the Expedition, and each of them has contributed to our knowledge in some way. Each member wrote in their own style, and of course, sometimes focused on things in which they were personally involved. One of the members had very little to say, but was a vital part of the Expedition. Now, after years of research, The Badger Chapter is proud to announce that we are in possession of every entry in "The Journal of Seaman."

Rather than publish it in its entirety, we have chosen to print only selected thoughts in each issue of this Newsletter. Seaman had a language of his own, but we have been able to translate it, and his thoughts will regularly appear as "Seaman says...", beginning on page 4 of this issue.

Explore The Big Sky Badger State Chapter Field Trip!! June 24 to July 1, 2005



Hosted by the Portage Route Chapter of Great Falls, Montana; Arranged by Dave Bubier.

Explore! The Big Sky," is a National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event, taking place in Fort Benton/Great Falls Montana, June 1 – July 4, 2005, commemorating Lewis and Clark's expedition and the Plains Indians they encountered.

Yes! It's time for our Fun-Filled, Fabulous, Famous Field Trip (oops, Trip) again! This year we will be going to Montana for a trip lasting from Friday, June 24 to Friday, July 1. We will enjoy a major Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event that takes place over 34 days and covers the State of Montana! The website is: <www.explorethebigsky.org/> This year we have 2 options:

- Option 1 is to be hosted by our friends and fellow Foundation members from the Portage Route Chapter in Great Falls. At this point we have a host with two rooms for two couples/individuals in their home. In addition, they have a very nice tent trailer available in their driveway that could hold a couple or three or four individuals. They also have room for one RV. Another family has room for two RV's on their property in the Great Falls area. Details as to length of stay, etc., are to be discussed between the Badger Chapter member and the hosting party.
- Option 2 is to stay at the Days Inn of Great Falls. We have reserved four (4) non-smoking rooms (2 queen-size beds in each room) for the nights of June 24 thru June 30. This includes a breakfast. Discount price is \$69.30 plus tax. You may make your stay shorter or longer or look for other accommodations. Reservations MUST be made before June 22 otherwise room holds will be cancelled. Since we have only

reserved 4 rooms, they may not last until June 22, so act early. Contact: Days Inn, 101 14th Avenue NW; Great Falls, Montana 59404, 406-727-6565, <www.daysinngreatfalls.com> or <info@daysinngreatfalls.com>

Since this is different than past field trips, we must know as soon as possible who is willing to make a commitment and who prefers to be hosted, OR whether you'd rather stay at the Days Inn or some other location of your choice. Indicate whether you want a location for your RV



or tent trailer, or would prefer to stay in a private home. The dates we have as a Badger Chapter are June 24 thru July 1... you can come earlier or stay later, as you choose. Your length of stay at the host assigned will be determined between you and them for the June 24-July 1 dates. For Days Inn, tell them Badger State Chapter/Wisconsin to reserve a room from the block.

Once we know how many are interested in being hosted (and what type, RV or home, etc.) we will arrange for you to contact your host to finalize details... or attempt to find more hosts in Great Falls for us. Also, they are looking for volunteers to help out, so if you've a mind to be really involved let us know and we can refer you to a contact. Jim Rosenberger has already volunteered.

Contact by e-mail: dbubier@merr.com or phone 608-846-8716 or write David Bubier, 7061 Parkside Circle, Deforest, WI 53532-2501 AS SOON AS YOU ARE READY TO MAKE A COMMITMENT to the trip and the June 24-July 1 dates.

Newsletter articles



Do you have an interesting thought about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, or know someone who shares our interest in "The Journey?" Would you like to share it with others through this newsletter? Then write to either Jim Rosenberger at punkinz@att.net or Bill Holman at wghmch@chorus.net. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture with your article, we will be happy to return it upon request.

"Lewis and Clark return to Wash. D.C. for Presidential Inaugural" Parade

From a 55-foot keelboat to a parade float -- television viewers and inaugural parade visitors met the historic figures of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on January 20, 2005.

"A Vision of America" selected as the 2005 Presidential Inaugural Theme, highlighted the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

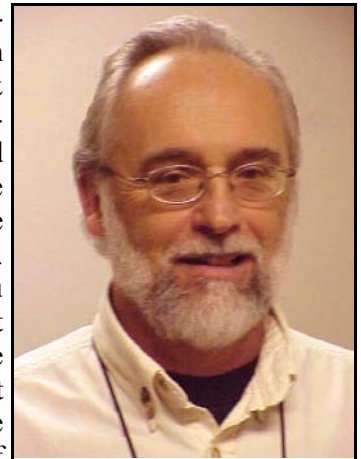
In 1804, President Thomas Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a mission to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. By November 1805, the explorers had reached the Pacific Ocean and held a historic vote. This was the first documented vote west of the Mississippi that recorded a Native American Indian woman (Sacagawea) and an African American man (York).



Pictured are: Sacagawea, a.k.a. Amy Mossett from North Dakota; Capt. Wm. Clark a.k.a. Craig Rockwell from Washington; Capt. Lewis, a.k.a. Scott Mandrell from Missouri; Sitting Bull, a.k.a. Dr. Ron, His Horse is Thunder, President of Sitting Bull College & descendant of Sitting Bull from North Dakota; Theodore Roosevelt, a.k.a. Ray Anderson from Arizona; Custer, a.k.a. Steve Alexander from Michigan. (sic) (photo by Jim Mallory)

President's Message

I would be the first person to tell anyone with an interest in Lewis & Clark to become a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the Badger State Chapter. You should belong if you believe in or care about the "Trail" and the "Story". I also believe it is your individual choice as to which, if any, of these organizations you join.



Jim Rosenberger

A debate is taking place within the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation about requiring all Chapter members to be members of the Foundation. In fact, a number of Chapters do require Foundation membership before a person may become a Chapter member. Personally, I have serious concerns about a Foundation membership requirement;

- ★ As a non-trail state, I worry mandatory Foundation membership will have an adverse impact on our Badger State Chapter membership as well as other Chapters' memberships.
- ★ What will happen to total membership at the end of the Bicentennial Commemoration?
- ★ The Foundation has not adequately explained why Foundation membership is so necessary to belong to a Chapter.
- ★ While our Foundation may mandate membership, it has not committed to reciprocating, that is, requiring all Foundation members to become a member of the appropriate state Chapter.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is a growing organization and we probably need to rethink our entire membership process. As an example, there are probably some 40 different Chapter membership applications as well as the Foundation's membership application. An opportunity exists to review the entire Chapter and Foundation membership process and de-

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velop a more efficient and responsive system. I think this is what we should be working on rather than simply mandating membership in the Foundation.

While I encourage all Chapter members to join the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, your Chapter Board of Directors has approved my request to not mandate Foundation membership for Badger State Chapter members until this issue is fully resolved by the Foundation membership. I will inform the Chapter of any changes as I learn of them. In the meantime, I ask all of you to please let me know your opinion and feelings on this issue so that I might convey the Chapter's consensus to the Foundation.

Seaman Says...

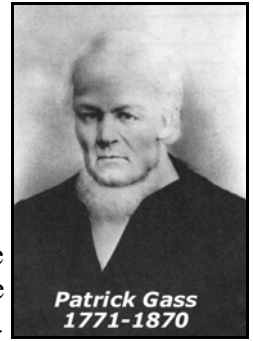


September 11, 1803: *(We found this message in Seaman's early Journals as they journeyed down the Ohio River in 1803)*

"Captain Lewis (That's what he insists we all call him) makes me take as many squirrels each day as he has occasion for. Many of them are fat and the others in the Expedition seem to like them fried. I can't imagine why someone would go to the bother, as they are delicious just as I catch them. Many of these squirrels are black. They swim very light on the water and make pretty good speed, but being of the Newfoundland breed, I am very strong and usually able to catch them. I take the squirrels in the water, kill them, and swim back to the boat with them in my mouth."



**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 period. This letter is about a day that was just short of our departure from Fort Mandan. (I will also use many of these thoughts in my Journal.)

Thursday, March 28th. Sixteen of us went up the river about six miles, where we found and cut down trees for four canoes. While we were absent an express arrived from the Rickarees village with news that the Sioux had declared war against us, and also against the Mandans and Grossventers. They had boasted of the robbery of the 14th at the Rickarees village on their way home, and that they intended to massacre the whole of us in the spring. By this express we therefore found out that it was the Sioux who had taken the horses from our men.

Your cuzzin,
Patrick Gass

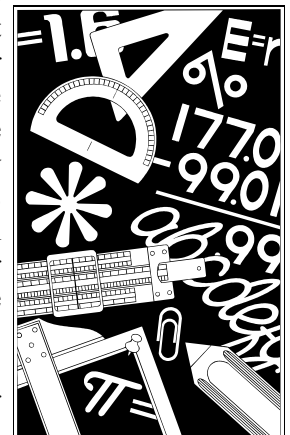
(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger Chapter member and the editor of this journal, is the second cousin four times removed, of Patrick Gass. He has offered these "letters from the trail", which must have been held up in the mail.)

What'd Ya Know...?

By: David Bubier

What has always amazed me about Lewis and Clark enthusiasts is the attention to detail they pay to every aspect of the lives of the better known personalities of the Corps of Discovery. For those of us who are driven to know all there is to know, it becomes somewhat maddening when the spotlight is turned on lesser known individuals of the Corps.

Take Private Peter Weiser, for instance. More is known



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about him than most of the other lesser knowns, yet compared to other supporting cast members of the expedition, like the "nine young men from Kentucky," it is still a sketchy biography. We know he was born on October 3, 1781 to John and Barbara Weiser, a prominent German family in Berks County, Pennsylvania in a town called Tulpehocken.

His service to the expedition ran from January 1, 1804 to October 10, 1806. His pay for that service was \$166.66²/₃. No known record exists of any marriages or children. He appears to have been a wanderer, like many other "mountain men" of the expedition. Apparently alone, he traveled west in 1807 through 1810 and spent time in the Three Forks area, following the Madison River across the Continental Divide into what is now Idaho. Larry Morris, in his book, *The Fate of the Corps*, speculates that Weiser spent the winter living alone... a far cry from the good life in Pennsylvania.

We know he was also with the group that discovered Drouillard's body at the Three Forks. By the fall of 1810 he was back in St. Louis where he filed suit against the estate of John Potts for \$499.50. Potts, a former member of the expedition and mountain man, had died at the hands of Indians.

Peter Weiser was not very successful as a mountain man, since in April of 1812 he filed for bankruptcy in St. Louis. After that we know he served in the War of 1812 from April 22, 1813 to May 21, 1813 in the Mounted Militia of Missouri. He was paid \$7.81 a day (seems high?) for 30 days of service. After that, he again headed west where the record falls silent. It is known that he was killed sometime between 1825 and 1828, but where and how is unknown.

If you follow the Snake River to western Idaho, as Weiser appears to have done, you will find the town of Weiser, Idaho on the border between Idaho and Oregon. It is located at the confluence of the Snake and Weiser River, the tributary named by Clark for Pvt. Peter Weiser, little known member of the Corps of Discovery. What'd Ya Know!!

David Bubier

Reference: Larry E. Morris, *The Fate of the Corps* (New Haven & London; Yale University Press, 2004) pages 153, 199-200.

Reference: Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

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Lewis & Clark
on-line
Message Board

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LewisandClark-BadgerChapter/>



To this end, The Badger Chapter has set up this Message Board in the Yahoo Group sites. Although, it was set up by and for our Chapter members, we want it to be a vehicle that is available to anyone who shares our interest in the "Corps." Your free membership on the board will have to be approved before you can utilize it, but this is only a formality in order to lessen the chances of spammers getting a foothold. When you apply for membership, write just a sentence or two, so that we will know that your interest is the same as ours, and that you are not someone just looking for another place to spam.

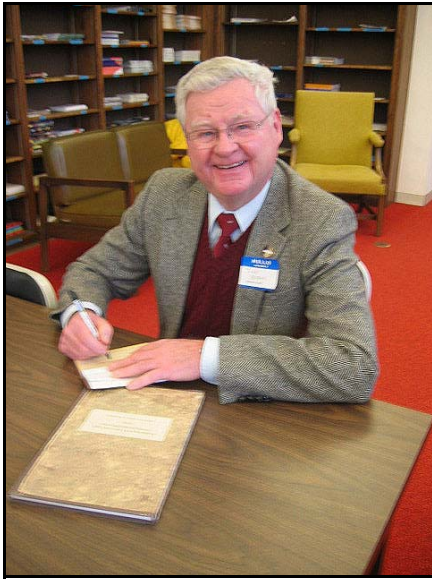
The message board can be used in various ways. When you sign up, you select whether you want messages that are posted to come to your e-mail box, singly or in digest form, or if you prefer to not receive e-mails, but go to the Group site to read the messages. If you choose the latter, it is wise to place a link to the Group site in your "Favorites," and check it regularly.

At the site, there is the message board where you can ask questions or leave thoughts of interest to the others. There is also a photo section, where you can create your own album, and upload pictures of interest to your fellow Group members. There is a file section, where you can upload documents about our activities, and a link section where you can link to on-line Newsletters, the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and other sites of interest.

The more people who "get aboard," the more effective it will be. You can find the site and place your application at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LewisandClark-BadgerChapter/> or e-mail wghmch@chorus.net and ask for a link to the Lewis & Clark message board.



Ripon College Chapter Meeting (Meeting Report by Jim Rosenberger)



We have had interesting speakers at Chapter meetings and have held meetings at interesting places. For our January 29, 2005 Chapter meeting we had both and it drew new members from the Fox River Valley, all the way to the shores of Green Bay.

Chapter member, Todd Berens, is pictured above in the Ripon College Library, as he writes a check to purchase the first copy of the newly published Floyd Journal. Todd provided an eloquent presentation on the history of the Lewis and Clark Journals up to the 20th century; the original journals to the Biddle Edition through the Coues Edition and up to the Thwaites Edition. Todd's extensive knowledge of the Journals provided us with insight into their evolution:

- The original Journals, as we now know them, are probably 3rd to 5th generation Journals, evolving from field notes to their booklet form deposited at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.
- Between 1814 and 1891, the Biddle Edition of the Journals had 27 printings of 750 to 1,000 printings per printing.
- Lewis and Clark had little, if any influence on the opening of the American West since the complete details of the information contained in their Journals was not published until the 1904 Thwaites edition.
- As Todd explained, description is not interpretation. The Journals describe what Lewis and Clark saw, it took men of science to interpret what these observations meant.

Equally as impressive were our surroundings at Ripon College. Our meeting took place in the Lane Library of Ripon College in a room dedicated to the collection of books, magazines, art work, maps, etc., on Western American History which Tom and Betty Berens do-

nated to the College. Suffice it to say that the size of the room and of the collection was beyond anything we expected to see and was very impressive. Tom and Betty should take great pride in what they have contributed to future learning resources at Ripon College.



While at the meeting, Badger Chapter members were given the opportunity to purchase their own copy of the newly published Floyd Journal. (Pictured left) This journal is beautifully designed to remind us of the period in which it was written.

And last but not least, a fine, restaurant style lunch at the cafeteria in Pickard Commons. A wonderful meal at economy prices! We hope to return to Ripon College soon for another Chapter meeting.

Badger Chapter – April Meeting

Our next Chapter meeting will be on April 30th, and we will return to the library in Oconomowoc, WI. Board and Business meetings will be from 10 AM until noon. We are anxious to hear what our members have done or have planned for Lewis and Clark activities this year. We will break for lunch at the old Main Street Depot Restaurant. Located in the Historic Stone Depot (built 1896), a restored Milwaukee Road station, this has been a favorite destination spot since 1896, and is a mainstay in Oconomowoc's history. Whether millionaires with their private coaches or the milk train on its daily run, 65 trains once passed through here each day. Sit trackside and take in this historic flavor while you enjoy lunch with the group, surrounded by artifacts of days gone by. We plan to return to the library at 1:30 for our program.



After Todd Beren's Jan. 29th presentation, numerous attendees asked to have Todd speak again and continue his history of the Lewis & Clark Journals. Todd graciously agreed but, unfortunately in mid-March, he

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experienced some serious health problems and will be unable to attend our April meeting. If anyone would like to send get well wishes to Todd, his address is: W12281 Olden Rd., Ripon, WI 54971-9734.

Since Todd will not be able give his presentation, Jim Rosenberger has graciously agreed to present a talk he recently gave at the Wisconsin Council for the Social Studies Convention in Madison, based on the convention theme, "The World – The New Corps of Discovery." Jim will examine the Lewis & Clark Expedition to see if it provides any insight to living in today's multi-cultural world.

For those who signed up for a copy of the "Charles Floyd" book published through the Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the books are here and will be available for purchase at the meeting. We have a few extra copies available at the special Chapter member price of \$34 (retail price is \$45) so if you haven't signed up for one, this is your opportunity to get a good buy on a wonderful book.

Finally, and sadly, this meeting will be your opportunity to say good-bye to Dave and Tanya Bubier. See the message that follows.

**Charter Member to
Open Badger Chapter
Branch in Florida!**



Long time charter member and past-president, David Bubier and his wife Tanya are moving to Ocala, Florida at the end of May, 2005. Once established, Dave will let everyone know their new e-mail and street address and phone number. Dave adds that he can still contribute articles to the newsletter and with e-mail continue be a thorn in Jim Rosenberger's side. Of course this will definitely require a Badger Chapter field trip in 2006 or 2007 to determine if there is any connection between Florida and Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery!!

Thanks to all of you who have made these last 6 1/2 - 7 years in the service of the Badger State Chapter such a wonderful and joyful experience. **David Bubier**

=We're On The Web=

This is the 7th 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.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 1, 2005 we have \$1,232.10 in the Treasury.



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