



Badger State Chapter

Meriwether Lewis



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



William Clark

January 2005

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Jan. 10, 1805 - Clark: Last night was excessively cold, the mercury this morning stood at 40 degrees below 0, which is 72 degrees below the freezing point.

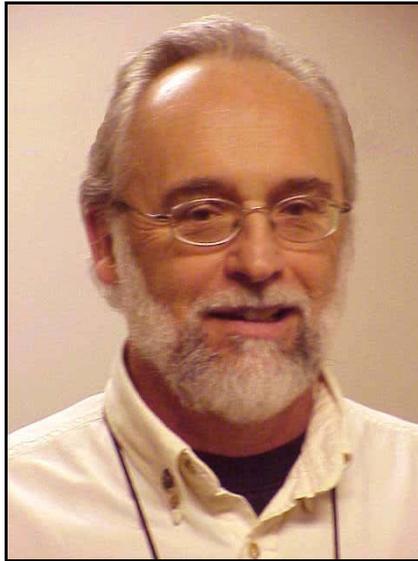
Jan. 15, 1805 - Clark: Between 12 & 3 o'clock this morning we had a total eclipse of the moon.

Jan. 27, 1805 - Clark: A fine day, attempt to cut our boat and canoes out of the ice, a difficult task, I fear, as we find waters between the ice.

Feb. 5, 1805 - Lewis: Visited by many of the Nations, who brought a considerable quantity of corn in payment for the work which the blacksmith had done for them.

Feb. 11, 1805 - Lewis: about five o'clock this evening one of the wives of Charbonneau (Sacagawea) was delivered of a fine boy.

The 2005 day to day calendar is still available. Order yours now from Jim Rosenberger, or pick one up at the meeting in Ripon. (*-page 7)



Jim Rosenberger

2004 has drawn to a close but what a year it was! There were Bicentennial Events to attend all over the country; our annual field trip to St. Joseph Missouri and the Foundation's annual meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota were fun times and thanks to speakers like Verne Huser, Matt Blessing, Richard Hetu and Elaine McIntosh, our chapter meetings provided real learning experiences.

As 2004 becomes a memory, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to outgoing chapter directors and officers. As President, Dave Bubier has led our chapter to be recognized as one of the most active non-trail state chapters in the country and brought our membership to 50 Lewis and

Clark enthusiasts. Harriet Peppard and Peggy Lapacek have worked hard at keeping our records and administration in good order. The guidance of board members Ray Gramentine and Tom Butts has been most helpful. The interest, enthusiasm, time and effort you all provided is much appreciated.

But on to 2005 and a hearty welcome to our new officers; Mary Butts, secretary; Marcia Holman, treasurer and to our new directors; Jerry Anderson, Dave Sorgel and Dave Bubier. This is a talented group, ready willing and able to serve the chapter.



Marcia Holman

It was disappointing to not have a volunteer or to be able to successfully recruit a candidate for the position of vice-president/program chair but we will continue efforts to fill this spot. Until then, your new



Mary Butts

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officers will continue to provide the programs you have become accustomed to.

As your new President my effort will be towards making your chapter membership a quality Lewis and Clark experience and to make our existence known to a wider audience with an effort to increase membership. To accomplish this we will promote our chapter at events like teacher conferences, regional society meetings, schools and working with other related organizations such as the Wisconsin Historical Society. We continue our attempts to develop new formats for socializing and meetings such as a book club, breakfast club or coffee club.



Jerry Anderson



Dave Sorgel

But we cannot accomplish this alone. I ask for your help in getting the word out to family, friends, acquaintances and organizations that we are here, ready to tell the story of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery. Give us your thoughts, suggestions and ideas on how we might improve your Lewis and Clark experience. Together we will have a great 2005.

Sharing the Expedition With Students

By: Carolyn R. Crotteau

As a Badger State Chapter member from Cameron, in northern Wisconsin, I have much history to share with fifth grade students in the area.

In the late summer of 2003, I set out on the Lewis and Clark trail starting at Sioux City, Iowa. The trip of camping and sightseeing became a historical adventure on the Corp of Discovery's Trail and took me to Iowa, the Dakotas, Montana, Idaho and Washington. The wonderful interpretive centers along the route allow one to see numerous exhibits in regard to the expedition.

Part of the curriculum for fifth grade students is of the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804 to 1806. They study how Thomas Jefferson encouraged the idea of finding a water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. The lessons includes the Louisiana Purchase and the highlights of the expedition.

When giving the presentation, I explain about President Jefferson sending Lewis to study in preparation for the trip. Some of his studies included learning about plants, animals, and navigation.

Hands on experiences are of special interest to the students. They had the opportunity to make sparks by using a piece of flint and a striker. One boy was so determined to make sparks that he scraped his knuckles in the process. As I passed around the pattern for making moccasins, along with a piece of rawhide, I demonstrated how they are stitched together. Maps and brochures also help the children see where Lewis and Clark traveled. Also used for the presentation, is a red wool blanket with two black strips that was used in the living quarters at Fort Mandan, N.D. where the Corp stayed the first winter.

My presentation includes several slides that I took on the trip. The students were able to get a better concept of the country's terrain over which the Corp traveled. Part of the slide presentation shows me on a raft trip down the Missouri River, south of Great Falls, Montana. This trip covered the same area where the Corp traveled. They also see the Lemhi Trail, the Lolo Pass trail, plus the Beaverhead Mountains were Sacagawea and the men met up with the Shoshone Indians.

I was most impressed with the interest the students showed in the Lewis and Clark saga. Usually the presentation has to be limited to about 1 hour, but with all that there is to tell, I could have talked longer. In one classroom, the teacher whispered to me that I had to quit, because the buses were coming.

Many of the students sent thank you letters to express their appreciation. Some of the comments were as follows:

- A. "I was surprised how often they had to replace their worn out moccasins."
- B. "I thought it was interesting how the Indians tried to rub the black off York."
- C. "It was amazing how they pulled the boats over the land."

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D. "It was something that only one man died on the trip. If I went on that trip I wouldn't have lasted a day!!"

After one month, my trip was finished and I had driven 5000 miles and camped in about 12 State and National Forest Campgrounds. The trip was an adventure of a lifetime and I plan to take it again in 2005. The first trip was just an introduction to what there is to see. My hope is to travel with some of the Chapter members in June of 2005 on the trip to Great Falls for the "Explore the Big Sky Signature Event."

Come along, it should be a wonderful trip. (See "2005 Field Trip to Montana" on page 5.)

Introducing Badger Chapter Member, Carolyn Crotteau

Carolyn was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin, growing up in a family that was dedicated to the outdoors. Her father was a woodsman and trapper. One of her brothers became a hunting guide in the northern panhandle of Idaho. The other brother remained on the home place raising a family as his parents did before him.



With her background in the outdoors, it seemed natural that her interests would follow along those lines. That interest found it's way to the Corp of Discovery and the study of the Western Indians. Her last trip found her traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail along the Missouri River and over the Great Rocky Mountains. It may seem strange for a lady to travel that route alone, camping and floating the river, but her early years prepared her for such a trip.

In 1979, Ms Crotteau, authored and published the Cameron Centennial History Book, covering the start, moving and growth of the old railroad town of Cameron, Wisconsin. The village was originally one mile south of where it is now. It was an interesting writing project which took almost two years to complete.

She retired recently from 27 years of working in the office of the Cameron School District. Consequently she now has the time to travel and read. This also leaves time for her to give presentations to students about the great Lewis and Clark Expedition.



Doing CPR on my Lewis and Clark attitude

By: Ken Rogers

This article originally appeared in the Sept. 9, 2004 edition of the Bismarck, ND Tribune. Harriet Peppard is a native North Dakotan, and a clipping of the article was sent to her by her mother. When she submitted it to us, Harriet wrote, "Once in a while I get 'Lewis and Clarked out', but this summarizes why I get into it again." Harriet contacted Ken Rogers, and he sent permission for us to use it.

The expedition led by the tall, brooding specter and his redheaded sidekick slowly approach. Pre-internal combustion, the ghosts of the Corps of Discovery didn't make Bismarck-Mandan for Folkfest. They're about three weeks out from crossing the plain into North Dakota. For sure, they'll be here for Halloween.

Those infatuated by history, such as myself, care. We have been chatting about Lewis and Clark like a short-stop on an endless coffee-bean high. The chatter: It's cool. It's neat. It's coming to your town soon.

A lot of other people - pedestrians, motorists and occasional cyclists - quit listening. Too much Sakakawea and Thos. Jefferson, they silently whisper. Too much buffalo tongue and dog for dinner. Too much national signature event. After talking Lewis and Clark nearly to death myself, I began to have the same thoughts.

How important is it that Lewis and Clark slept here 146 times? It might sell a hotel room. It might interest an entrepreneur in a mattress plant or pillow factory.

The Lewis and Clark loop has been playing in my head so long it seems that I can't tell the beginning, May 14, 1804, from the end, Sept. 26, 1806. Can't tell Fort Mandan from Fort Clatsop? Can't tell a pirogue from a perogie?

Enough of that rant. The expedition approaches and Bismarck-Mandan will get it on with the Circle of Cultures Oct. 22-31. And I needed to be pumped and wasn't. That's what I told myself the first week in September, when I took a little time to float the Upper Missouri this side of Fort Benton, Montana. I went there hoping to do a little CPR on my Lewis and Clark attitude. I needed to remember why I care. I wanted to be filled with the spirit, again, & floating the Missouri River, I hoped, would do just that.

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After a couple of days of sniffing sage and wood smoke, my head cleared. Twenty miles of paddling into the wind, my arms and shoulders fueled by 30 weight campfire coffee, jump-started my heart. And the stars and moon, bright and crisp in the night sky, sold me on hope once more.

Lewis and Clark stood taller in my view--the Missouri a ribbon of silver, lined with green lace. Sakakawea, Jean Baptiste and the men of Discovery, Charbonneau, too, started looking fine.

It began coming back to me. The expedition was the seed of the nation in this newly purchased territory. That part of North Dakota in the Missouri River basin, a big pie shape knifed into the southwest corner of the state, found its first official visitors from Washington in the arrival of Lewis and Clark. It's a story about a place and this place's earliest connection to the nation.

Coming to life with the story of the expedition is the story of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara. With the expedition, these peoples formed the Circle of Cultures.

A whirlwind of stories tug at me--tales of friendship, sacrifice, humor, danger, fear, science, nature, success, loss. The stories are not necessarily heroic, although a few paint the characters larger than life. Rather, the men and women in them are mostly ordinary, a few above average, according to the Garrison Keillor standard, but not amazingly so. What's amazing were the feats they accomplished together, as the expedition slogged across a remarkable land, sometimes called wilderness, from St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River and back.

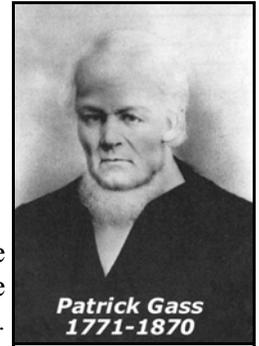
Such wonderful stories that we name spacecraft after them: Discovery. Spirit. Columbia.

True, not everything worked out. All the endings were not happy. But they were all distinctly human--real. Nor are all of the tales complete. Some still spin in the winds along the river and across the plains.

That's it. The story was what made Lewis and Clark magic for me. The story, first and foremost, takes the form of an unfolding human tale, rich in the color and shape of man and woman, of animal, of land and river. And, it's our story. I feel better now!

(Contact Ken Rogers at 701-250-8250 or krogers@bismarcktribune.net.)

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 tells about what Christmas day was like at Fort Mandan. (I will also use many of these thoughts in my Journal.)

Tuesday 25th December 1804. The morning was ushered in by two discharges of a swivel, and a round of small arms by the whole corps. Captain Clarke then presented to each man a glass of brandy, and we hoisted the American flag in the garrison, and its first waving in fort Mandan was celebrated with another glass.---The men then cleared out one of the rooms and commenced dancing. At 10 o'clock we had another glass of brandy, and at 1 a gun was fired as a signal for dinner. At half past 2 another gun was fired, as a notice to assemble at the dance, which was continued in a jovial manner till 8 at night; and without the presence of any females, except three squaws, wives to our interpreter, who took no other part than the amusement of looking on. None of the natives came to the garrison this day; the commanding officers having requested they should not, which was strictly attended to. During the remainder of the month we lived in peace and tranquility in the garrison, and were daily visited by the natives.

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.)

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.

Putting a New Face on the Corps of Discovery

We all have seen the famous portraits of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark that have for a long time represented “the face” of the men of the Corps of Discovery. Many of us have even had the opportunity to see the true faces (albeit aged) of two other men of the expedition who fortunately lived long enough to experience the invention of photography. Those two men were Sergeant Patrick Gass and Private Alexander Hamilton Willard.



The skull cast first received multiple tissue markers to help guide the sculpting. In the center is a clay head with rubber mold removed and a white plaster cast with glass eyes. At right is the completed reconstruction.

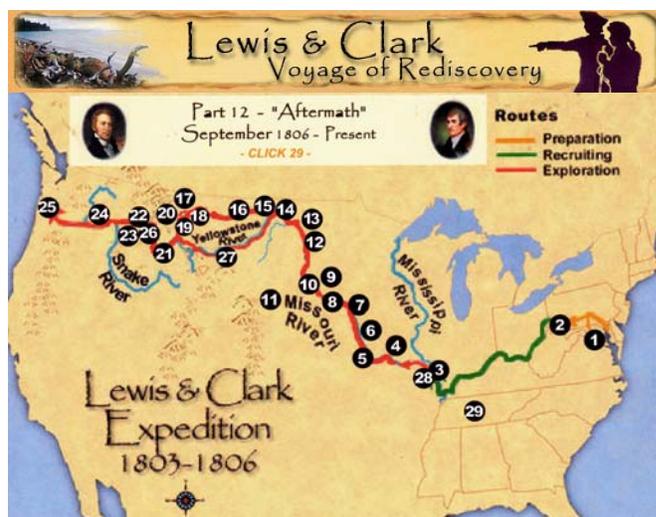
We can now add the face of Sergeant Charles Floyd to that distinguished picture gallery. As the only member of the expedition to die on the journey, he was buried in present-day Iowa on August 20, 1804. Until now, we had no idea what Floyd looked like. Thanks to the good citizens of a century ago, a cast of the young explorer’s skull was made when erosion of the river bank and years of benign neglect forced the relocation of his grave in 1901.

Recently, forensic anthropologist and artist Sharon Long used that cast to recreate the likeness of Charles Floyd. Through a series of painstaking stages, Long made the image of Charles Floyd come alive in the eyes of those of us in the 21st century! - **David Bubier**

References: Wisconsin Magazine of History, Volume 88, Issue 2, 2004-5 (inside cover); Wisconsin Historical Society. The Courier-Journal Website: Forensic anthropologist and artist Sharon Long of Laramie, Wyoming, who is a descendant of the Floyd family.

Update: 2005 Badger Chapter Field Trip to Montana!

We are slowly progressing on the proposed "hosting" of a non-trail state chapter by the Portage Route Chapter of Great Falls, Montana in June, 2005. As of this date, they have agreed to host the Badger Chapter. The Portage Route Chapter has a general membership meeting on January 16th and will discuss and decide what format the “hosting” of our chapter will take. I hope to hear back from them within a week of their meeting. I am shooting for the third week in June as the target date for the trip. **David Bubier**



“The map above is an interactive map showing points along the Lewis and Clark trail, their historical importance and changes that have taken place. Click the places of interest and more information will appear.”

This is what you will find if you go to: www.voyageofrediscovery.com

It is a wonderful website put out by the Ventura, California County Star, which offers an interactive opportunity to click on the various points along the trail and learn more about them. The site further says:

“Nearly 200 years ago, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an intrepid band of explorers across the uncharted wilderness of the American West. In anticipation of the nationwide celebration of that event, which will commence in January, The Ventura County Star and InsideVC.com dispatched **senior reporter John Krist** last year to retrace the explorers' route and examine how the West has changed since

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they first described it. This yearlong project describes what he learned during his 3 month journey by road, river and trail. The project will be published in 12 monthly installments as we follow Krist's journey. The top navigation bar offers additional features separated by medium. To read the articles along with featured materials related to each installment, click, by section, "On The Trail" located on the top navigation bar."

When It Was Over-Whatever Happened To... John Colter and John Potts By Mike Zbailey

The following article was published in the Oct. 2004 issue of the Newsletter of the "Home Front Chapter" of Charlottesville, VA, and is reprinted here with their permission.

The members of the Corps of Discovery went their separate ways, most into obscurity, when the expedition ended. This is the first in a series of stories of what happened to them when the expedition was over. Since good records were not kept on the participants after the journey was ended, some parts of their stories have different versions. If you have any questions or comments, or would like to make a literary contribution, let us know.

John Colter was born in Stuarts Draft, Virginia about 1775. When he was four the family moved to Maysville, Kentucky and he grew up on the frontier. Colter was one of the nine who joined the army in Kentucky in order to participate in the expedition. Johann Potts was born in Dillenberg, Germany in 1776 and emigrated to the United States at an early age. He enlisted in the Army in 1800 and eventually joined L & C at Camp Woods, Illinois in 1803. Colter was a hunter and a valued, although sometimes high spirited, member of the Corps of Discovery. Potts record is less known but he apparently executed his duties satisfactorily during the expedition.

Colter's Greatest Adventures

In August 1806, after three years in the wilderness and only six weeks away from St. Louis, Colter asked permission to leave the Army and join some trappers who were on their way to the Yellowstone River country of Montana. That venture proved to be unsuccessful and in the spring of 1807, Colter again headed for St. Louis. Near the Platte River he met the Manuel Lisa trapping party heading west and again he was per-

suaded to return to the Yellowstone River area. Lisa wanted the Indians to trade furs with him so he sent Colter on a mission to encourage that commerce. Colter's travels took him on a 500-mile trip through what is now Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park. Few believed his stories of thermal eruptions and boiling mud and the area derisively became known as "Coulter's Hell." In the summer of 1808, as he was traveling with some Crow and Flathead Indians near Three Forks, Montana, the group was attacked by Blackfeet Indians and Colter was wounded in the skirmish and he took several months to heal from those wounds. Even though he had all of these experiences, Colter's greatest adventure was still in front of him. In the fall, he returned to the area to trap with John Potts, who was also part of the Lisa trapping and trading operation. As they paddled their canoe on the Jefferson River, a large party of Blackfeet discovered them. They gestured for them to come to the shore. Colter complied but then Potts attempted to escape and was shot in the hip. Even though wounded he continued with the attempt and was killed by numerous arrows from the Blackfeet. The Indians then stripped Colter naked and gave him a head start as the young warriors chased him across the landscape. The cactus thorn and rocks cut his feet but he continued to run and after six miles, only one Blackfeet Indian was close to him. Colter abruptly stopped and turned and speared his pursuer with his own lance. Colter made it to the river and hid under some floating logs and the Blackfeet could not find him. But his ordeal was not over. Colter then set out for Manuel Lisa's Fort, which was 300 miles away. After seven days he arrived exhausted and burnt from the sun. Did Colter have enough adventures? Not yet. The following spring he returned to the area to retrieve his traps and had another run in with the Blackfeet and barely escaped. In the spring of 1810 he again returned to Three Forks with a large trapping party, which built a fort there. The Blackfeet constantly harassed them and several of the men were killed. Finally, Colter had had enough and he returned to St. Louis after six years in the wilderness.

The Indians then stripped Colter naked and gave him a head start as the young warriors chased him across the landscape.

Home is the Hunter

Colter had not yet received his pay for the L & C expedition and the death of Meriwether Lewis in 1809

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had complicated and Continued from page 6 lengthened the process of collecting it. Colter married Sally (Nancy?) and moved to New Haven, Missouri and began to live the quiet life of a farmer. But the adventurous Colter found that to be quite dull. When the War of 1812 began he again enlisted in the Army and served during that war. John Colter died of jaundice in 1813. (or possibly 1812). He was not yet 40 years old. His burial site is also controversial. Some say that he was buried in the church cemetery at Bridgeton, Missouri near his farm. A wooden marker on the grave deteriorated over the years and the location of the grave in the cemetery is unknown. Other stories say that when he died his wife left his body in their home and went to live with her brother. There he lay for over a hundred years until the Missouri-Pacific Railroad excavated the area to build a tunnel. Some remains were found and were identified as John Colter. These were reburied in a cemetery on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River in New Haven, Missouri. This tombstone says nothing of Colter's participation in the Lewis and Clark expedition or his Yellowstone experience. The tombstone reads:

"John Colter, Member of U.S. Volunteer Rangers, Nathan Boone's Co., Mar 3 to May 6, 1812, Died May 7, 1812."

Colter had a son named Hiram who had eight children and many of his descendants still live in Missouri. Colter Bay in Grand Teton National Park is named for him.

*Upcoming Meeting At Ripon College

Our next Chapter meeting will be January 29, 2005 at the Lane Library at Ripon College, Ripon, WI. Todd Berens, Chapter member, former Foundation Board member and accomplished historian will speak on the evolution and development of the Lewis & Clark Journals up to the 20th century and prior to the Moulton Edition. Todd and his wife, Betty, recently donated a historical collection which included out-of-print copies of the Lewis and Clark Journals to Ripon College. Board and Business meetings will be from 10 A.M. to Noon; Break for lunch at the College (all you can eat for under \$5.00) and Todd's presentation will begin at 1:30 P.M. The meeting announcement with directions, etc., will be mailed soon. Plan to attend and bring a friend.



=We're On The Web=

This is the 6th 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 January 10, 2005 we have \$1,751.43 in the Treasury.



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