



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

From the Badger State Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc

April 2006

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 18

During this time in history:
Excerpts from the Journals of Lewis & Clark, taken from Jim Rosenberger's "Daily Calendar"

April 8, 1806 – Sgt. Patrick Gass: "...Some of the men are complaining of rheumatic pains; which are to be expected from the wet and cold we suffered last winter..."

April 28, 1806 – Clark: "...The Great Chief Yelleppit brought a very elegant white horse to our camp and presented him to me... I gave him my sword, 100 balls & powder and some small articles, of which he appeared perfectly satisfied..."

May 3, 1806 – Lewis: "...We came 28 miles today. It rained, hailed, snowed and blew with great violence the greater portion of the day. It was fortunate for us that this storm was from the S. W. and, of course, on our backs..."

May 22, 1806 – Clark: "...Charbonneau's son, a small child, is dangerously ill. His jaw and throat is much swelled. We apply a poultice of onions after giving him some crème of tartar and etc..."

June 3, 1806 – Lewis: "...Today the Indians dispatched an express over the mountains to Travelers Rest... We thought it probable that we could also pass but the Indians informed us that... we may pass conveniently in twelve or fourteen days..."

Contact Jim Rosenberger for your copy of the 2006 calendar.

The Reconstruction of Fort Clatsop



This note and the accompanying pictures were received by Badger Chapter members Dave & Collette Sorgel in January, from their friends, Tom and Deb Wilson, who are shown in the first picture.

Hi Dave and Collette,

These pictures were taken a couple of weeks ago of the fort. They've already finished the enlisted men's side, disassembled it and sent it to be treated. It's being built inside of our fairgrounds, then treated, and in March will be rebuilt at the Fort site. It's really cool watching it and the techniques they're using. Hope all is well.

Tom & Deb



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

When did Sacagawea die?
AND, How sure of this are you?

Don't miss
"Seaman says..."
on page 5



Sacagawea, Bird Woman of the Expedition

By: Stuart Wier

“What is reliably known about Sacagawea makes for only a brief sketch.” - James P. Ronda

Sacagawea was raised among the Agui-Dika Shoshone of western Montana and eastern Idaho. Sometime in the fall of 1800, when she was about 12 years old, she was camped with her band near the Three Forks. Women went out to pick berries. The band was attacked by a Hidatsa raiding party who killed several Shoshone and took prisoners, four boys and several women. They returned by horse to the Hidatsa villages at the junction of the Knife and Missouri rivers, about 500 miles away. Sometime before the fall of 1804, Sacagawea was obtained for a wife by Toussaint Charbonneau, himself a French Canadian trader living among the Hidatsa and having a connection to the British North West company. Charbonneau and Sacagawea lived in the Awatixa Hidatsa earth lodge village of Metaharta.

Lewis and Clark first met Charbonneau when he came to offer his services as a translator to the captains. They engaged him and his wife, both as interpreters since she spoke Shoshone. There was some expectation that the explorers would meet the Shoshone the next summer. The Shoshone, also called Snakes, were known as horse breeders of the mountains, and the explorers were planning to trade for horses. This proved to be the case: horses were essential for crossing the Rockies. Charbonneau did not speak Shoshone, nor English for that matter.

Sacagawea gave birth to Jean Baptiste Charbonneau on Feb. 11, 1805, with some assistance from Lewis who administered four rattlesnake rattles crushed in water, a recipe for difficult labor recommended by another French trader in the camp.

During the trip to the Pacific and return, Sacagawea participated fully in the expedition and was involved in several adventures, including rescuing important equipment washing out of a swamped pirogue, surviving a flash flood, and traveling with Clark to see the giant whale. She was seriously ill at the portage around the falls of the Missouri. The captains tried most every medical treatment they knew and she recovered, perhaps despite their treatments, or perhaps aided by mineral waters offered by Lewis.

Clark said, her particular value was as an “interpretriss,” with the Shoshone, and with the Flatheads, Nez Perce, and Walulas, via Shoshone prisoner intermediaries. She was not regarded as a guide and did not serve as one, except briefly in the area around Three Forks. “For most of the transcontinental journey Sacagawea was seeing country as new to her as it was new to the captains” (Ronda). She had never crossed the Rockies, or been on much of the Missouri, before the expedition. She apparently aided the party's peace-



This photograph by Edward Curtis (1868-1952) is used only to portray what Sacagawea might have looked like while accompanying Lewis & Clark.

ful mission and meetings with the natives: “The Wife of Shabono our interpreter, we find reconciles all the Indians, as to our friendly intentions. A woman with a party of men is a token of peace” (Clark). She also improved their meat-centered diet by finding prairie turnips, wild artichokes, wild licorice, Indian breadroot, and other vegetables, roots, and berries.

Sacagawea, Charbonneau, and their son, called Pompey by Clark, returned to Metaharta on August 18, 1806, when Baptiste was a year and six months old. A few days later Clark wrote a personal letter to Charbonneau offering to set him up in any of several businesses, and to keep Baptiste in St. Louis, when he was old enough, for the best of white men's education. Clark ended the letter “with anxious expectations of seeing my little dancing boy Baptieste I shall remain your Friend.”

In the summer of 1811 Sacagawea and her family did travel to St. Louis to leave Baptiste in Clark's care. On the return journey up the Missouri on a keelboat, another traveler named Henry Brackenbridge wrote the last known description of Sacagawea when she was alive, and the only description following the expedition. “We had on board a Frenchman named Charbonneau, with his wife, an Indian woman of the Snake nation. The woman, a good creature, of a mild and gentle disposition, greatly attached to the whites, whose manners and dress she tries to imitate.”

Sacagawea died on December 20, 1812 at Fort Manuel on the Missouri river in South Dakota. Trader John C. Luttig was there and wrote “this evening the wife of Charbonneau, a Snake Squaw, died of a putrid fever. She was good, and the best woman in the fort, aged about 25 years. She left a fine infant girl.” Luttig took the infant girl, called Lisette, back to St. Louis in May of 1813. Clark became legal guardian of both children shortly thereafter. Note that he accepted Jean Baptiste at an age suitable for school, but Lisette as an infant, due to the death of her mother. Luttig did not record Charbonneau's wife's name, so that record

“Bird Woman” - Continued on Page 3

"Bird Woman" - Continued from Page 2

might be ambiguous. The fact that Luttig took the child to Clark as soon as was practical, and the fact that Clark accepted her, strongly suggests that the infant girl was Sacagawea's.

Where is Sacagawea "buried?" Hidatsa burial practice was to wrap the deceased in buffalo robes and place it on a burial scaffold, (on poles), or on a platform in a tree. Years later a friendly member of her tribe may have recalled her and returned her skull to the ceremonial circle of skulls at Metaharta. The area of Fort Manuel was later washed away by the Missouri, so no location associated with Sacagawea's death or burial remains.

Toussaint Charbonneau was a U.S. government interpreter for many years until 1839. He was engaged by eminent early western travelers, including Stephen H. Long, Prince Paul of Wurttemberg and Prince Maximilian, and was painted by the artist Karl Bodmer in a group scene around 1833. No likeness of Sacagawea of any kind exists.

Lisette died in St. Louis on June 15 or 16, 1832, age 21, after receiving last rites. She was buried at the Old Cathedral. There is no record that she was married or had children.

Jean Baptiste Charbonneau lived a long and adventurous life. He was educated in St. Louis. In the spring of 1823, now eighteen, he met Paul Wilhelm, Duke of Wurttemberg, a traveling dignitary from Germany. They became friends, took a steamboat to New Orleans, and sailed to Europe. Jean Baptiste spent the next six years traveling in Europe and North Africa with the Duke. He learned to speak German, and also knew English, Hidatsa, and French. He returned to the west in 1829. He became a guide, for John C Fremont among others. He was a mountain man, California forty-niner, and magistrate. He died in 1866 at age 61 on the trail to a gold strike in Montana, and is buried in eastern Oregon with a suitable monument built in part with a LCTHF chapter initiative.

The pronunciation of Sacagawea is a common question. The captains occasionally wrote her name in the journals, and both spelled it phonetically as "Sah-kah-gar-we-a" or similar, always with a hard g (see Lewis 5/20/1805 and 6/10/05; Clark 4/7/1805 and 6/10/05). Lewis gave the translation "Bird Woman" which is the translation of the Hidatsa name Sacagawea, and that form is generally accepted now by historians who have considered the matter. Sacagawea transliterates the Hidatsa sounds which may have been spoken something like Ts'kakawea or T'sakakamea; Clark once spelled her name ending in "mea" in place of "wea." There is a Shoshone word Sacajawea, meaning "boat launcher" or "boat pusher." The spelling "Sacajawea" first appeared in Nicholas Biddle's 1814 edition of the captain's journals; it might be a misprint. Biddle read the original manuscript

journals, discussed them with Clark, and noted in them corrections and additions supplied by Clark. The Indian woman's name is nowhere altered from the original entries. There is no "je" sound in Hidatsa. Whether her name as a child was the Shoshone Sacajawea, and was later changed to Hidatsa Sacagawea as an adult, or whether Sacagawea was a new Hidatsa name, we cannot say. We do know she was a fully vested Hidatsa woman when she met the explorers, so a Hidatsa name is not unreasonable. All the evidence from the journals - which is all we have - uses the Hidatsa name Bird Woman.

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Sources:

Irving Anderson, "Probing the Riddle of the Bird Woman," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 23 (1973): pp. 2-17.

Irving Anderson, "A Charbonneau Family Portrait," *American West* 17 (1980), pp.4-13, 63-64.

William Clark, letter to Toussaint Charbonneau, August 20 1806, in Donald Jackson, ed., *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Related Documents, 1783-1854*, 2 volumes (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1968), Vol. 1, pp. 315-316.

Harold P. Howard, *Sacagawea* (Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1971)

Gary E. Moulton, ed., *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, 13 volumes (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001), Vol. 3, pp. 228-229n; p. 291n.

James Ronda, *Lewis and Clark Among the Indians*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1984), pp. 256-259. An excellent brief review by a top expedition historians.

Blanche Schrorer, "Boat-Pusher or Bird Woman?" *Annals of Wyoming* 52 (1980), pp. 46-54.

Field Notes gratefully thanks Stuart Wier, 7350 Coronado Court, Boulder, Colorado 80303 for his permission to use this article.

History & history programs
<<http://home.earthlink.net/~swier/LHSW.html>>
Lewis and Clark Expedition: Sources of Information
<<http://home.earthlink.net/~swier/CorpsOfDiscovery.html>>



Introducing Badger Chapter Member Jack Schroeder



Jack has offered to contribute a regular series to Field Notes, and this is what he shares with us about himself.

My personal background? I grew up in New Lisbon WI, class of '67. I joined the Navy Seabees for four years; "We Build and We Fight!" I went to college in LaCrosse where I met my future ex-wife. We moved to San Jose, CA where I had a career as a letter carrier. Since returning to WI, I have worked as a cook in diners, supper clubs, hotel kitchens, fine restaurants, and most recently at a Langdon Street fraternity. If you think you've had lousy bosses, try pleasing 50 spoiled teenagers.

I'm on schedule to graduate from Cardinal Stritch University in December with a bachelor's degree in business management, completing an effort I began 34 years ago at the University of Montana.

As this series progresses, I plan to reveal my association with L&C through my writing.

What's For Dinner? (when you're out in the wilderness) By: Jack Schroeder

I have asked that I be allowed to contribute to Field Notes an irregular series of short articles on how the Corps of Discovery fed itself. It is my hope that the other members will kindly share with me their insights on this matter, and that you will generously help to correct the errors and misstatements that are certain to appear in my writing.

We who are fascinated by the voyage of the Corps of Discovery come from many different backgrounds. The story is so compelling that it can be appreciated by anyone blessed with curiosity and a delight in recognizing astonishing achievements. We do not need an academic background, although many LCTHF members have one. In truth, anyone who likes a good story will be drawn to the adventures and characters in this great American epic. The great virtues to which we aspire: courage, leadership, fortitude, and fidelity to name a few, can be found on nearly every page of the journals.

My appreciation of the expedition and the personalities involved in it is linked to my career as a food service professional. I was cooking in a truck stop on the Interstate in the Spring of 1992 when I started reading Bernard DeVoto's excellent one-volume edition of the Journals. During my 30

minute lunch break I would slip into the vacant back dining room, and almost instantly upon opening the book I would be transported to another reality. Gone were thoughts of the buffet line and the balky dishwasher. In their place were images of crumbling river banks and enormous buffalo herds covering the plains as far as the eye could see.

This may explain why, when I became a full-blown Lewis and Clark enthusiast, I decided to concentrate my attention on how the Corps fed itself. My background led me to this interest in culinary aspects of the expedition. Since then I have not missed a chance to learn more about what the Corps ate, and how the food was procured and prepared and eaten. Now I find that by joining your organization I have another great opportunity to expand my understanding of this area.

Each member of the Corps had food preferences and aversions, just as each of us has them today. They are the product of psycho-social forces such as the cultural heritage, social status, and economic position of the families in which we grew up. These preferences and aversions are formed in childhood, but they are modified throughout a lifetime. (I never liked the canned spinach or asparagus my mother served, but when I had those same vegetables prepared properly from scratch I found them to be delicious.) Thus each person on the expedition brought an attitude toward what is properly edible and what is not. These attitudes changed greatly over the time the members were together.

Captain Lewis had probably the most refined palate in the group. As President Jefferson's personal secretary he shared the president's table in Monticello and in the White House. Jefferson was a notable epicure who was willing to go personally into debt to insure that his table was graced by the finest French wines and multi-course meals. In the journals Lewis makes several wistful references to the finer dining that had been his good fortune to enjoy in earlier days.

On the other hand, Captain Clark was more likely to see food as fuel. Although he was familiar with the charms of tablecloths and porcelain, he was content having a diet that was adequate for his continued health. In this way he was likely to be representative of the attitude toward food held by York and the frontiersmen who were recruited for the Expedition.

All ways, Jack

Next Time: Hearth Cookery

And don't forget: Hunger is the best sauce.

=We're On The Web=

"Field Notes" is also available on the Internet. If you are only receiving it as a black and white copy, you will enjoy it a lot more in color, and you'll be the first to receive it. To get on the 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



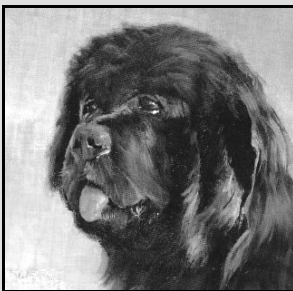
Jim Rosenberger

April 2006 might be called the Lewis and Clark month of opportunity. Foundation Regional Meetings, sponsored by local Chapters, will be taking place at various locations throughout the country (I plan to attend the meeting in Pierre, South Dakota on April 22nd. See www.lewisandclark.org for information on all meetings). On April 29th we will have a joint Chapter meeting with the Minnesota Chapter in La Crosse, WI. Wendy Raney, Director of Field Operations for the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will be our guest speaker at this meeting. (See the announcement in the next column.)

These meetings provide an opportunity to interact with other Lewis & Clark devotees but more importantly, we have the opportunity to learn what challenges face us as we enter the "Third Century". We have the opportunity to listen, evaluate, ask questions, make suggestions and share ideas about the future of the Foundation and our Chapters. This is an opportunity to have input into a successful future for a strong Foundation and for successful Chapters.

Don't let the opportunity pass you by. Plan to attend these meetings and contribute to building the Lewis and Clark Legacy as we enter into the Third Century.

Seaman Says...April, 1806



April 11, 1806; We are on our homeward journey and it seems we are beset with severe cases of misunderstandings.

When we form a campsite, the men of the Corps lay out articles to dry and etc. The local Natives, according to their customs, think these are gifts or payment for the right to pass through their country. The men of the Corps think the Natives are thieves and refer to them as such.

I decided to join three natives and visit their village in the interest of exploration. Captain Lewis, thinking I had been stolen, sent three men of the Corps to retrieve me. By quickly abandoning my intended adventure and returning to camp, I was able to prevent what I am sure could have become a violent incident.

Human anxiety to return home seems to have overridden any effort toward patience and understanding.



APRIL QUARTERLY MEETING

For quite some time, the Badger and Minnesota Chapters have wanted to have a joint meeting and our efforts have finally come to fruition.

On April 29, 2006 at the La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main St., La Crosse, WI, our two Chapters will come together for our quarterly meeting and consider issues of importance to us all. Board meetings will start at 10 a.m.; business meetings will start at 1 p.m.; and our guest speaker will begin at 2 p.m.



Our guest speaker will be Wendy Raney, Director of Field Operations of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Wendy is heavily involved in coordinating the Foundation's efforts with government agencies, other trail associations and all

of our Chapters. She is extremely qualified to speak with us regarding the challenges facing the Foundation and Chapters as we enter the Third Century of Lewis & Clark. In our post bicentennial era, how will membership be affected? How are funding and grants affected? What steps can we take to insure we remain the primary "Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail"?

If you want to stay over in La Crosse Fri. and/or Sat. night, the Courtyard by Marriott, 500 Front St., La Crosse, 608-782-1000, is downtown on the Mississippi River, only 8 to 10 blocks from the library and convenient to restaurants, etc. There are many other motels not downtown if you would prefer more modest lodging. An option that some are using is the Hampton Inn, 2110 Rose Street, La Crosse, 608-781-5100. La Crosse is a popular venue, so you would be well advised to make your reservation very soon.

Please make an effort to attend this meeting and bring your questions, suggestions and ideas.

Jim Rosenberger

Introducing Wendy Raney

Raney is the director of field operations for the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation based in Great Falls, Mont. She grew up in Livingston, MT, & now serves as the primary channel of communication between the Foundation's board of directors and its chapters and members. She coor-

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“Wendy Raney” - Continued from Page 5

dinates the Foundation’s trail stewardship projects and programs and works closely with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. She is the liaison for the Legislative Caucus of the U.S. Congress, local, state and federal governmental agencies working on Lewis and Clark projects, the Foundation’s non-profit partners and the media. In addition, she is the staff contact for the Foundation’s Cultural Diversity Panel.

Raney works with the Foundation’s 40 chapters, including off-the-trail chapters in Florida, Arizona, Texas and California. She also writes, edits and designs the Foundation’s quarterly membership newsletter, “The Orderly Report.”

She has a bachelor’s degree in history from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and a master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Raney previously worked as a business reporter for the Great Falls Tribune and was the public information officer for Montana’s elected State Auditor.

Wendy and her husband, Brent McCann, live on a ranch south of Augusta, MT.

A USA Weekend.com Special Interactive Report on the Internet

(When you go to this Website, here is what you will find:)

“After Congress approved Jefferson's plan to explore the newly purchased Louisiana Territory in February of 1803, he appointed his secretary Meriwether Lewis to lead the new exploring party, known as the ‘Corps of Discovery.’

In a journey begun with commercial and political ambitions, as well as scientific discovery, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark became the first Americans to chart the vastness of the West, see the Rocky Mountains and reach the Pacific by land.

In the careful journals that they were duty-bound to keep during the journey, they not only conveyed a sense of awe, they explained critical decisions such as how they chose members of the expedition, negotiated forks in the path and picked a winter camp.

In the pages that follow, you can pick your way through Lewis and Clark's historic steps.

You'll face six major decisions that affected the outcome of the expedition. Choose the right answers and you'll reach the end of the trail.”

How well do you know your Lewis and Clark history? Find out at:

http://www.usaweekend.com/97_issues/971102/lewis_and_clark/971102trail_intro.html

New Nickel Enters Circulation

Coin features 3rd President looking directly at viewer and an updated view of his home at Monticello.



COURTESY: U.S. MINT

A new nickel is now in circulation, and it features Thomas Jefferson appearing in a totally new view.

The front of the coin is based on an 1800 portrait of Jefferson painted by Rembrandt Peale, and the reverse is modeled on an 1938 rendition of Jefferson's Virginia home at Monticello. Whereas previous nickels featured a profile view of Jefferson, the Peale portrait shows the president looking directly at the viewer.

The nickel is the final in the Westward Journey Nickel series which commemorates the bicentennials of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. The series began in 2004 with the release of the Peace Medal and Keelboat nickels.

The image of President Jefferson's home at Monticello, by Felix Schlag, has been carefully restored by U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver John Mercanti. Previously, the U.S. Mint used a modified design of the painting for technical reasons.

A previous Jefferson nickel appeared in 2005, along with two new reverse designs of American Indians and wildlife encountered by the Lewis and Clark on their journey.



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.

Eric Lewis Swartz



We are pleased to announce the birth of Eric Lewis Swartz.

Eric was born at Meriter Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin on March 16, 2006, at the time of 1:50 PM, weighing 7 pounds 1 ounce, and measuring 19 ¾ inches Long. Eric is the son of Badger Chapter Member Keith Swartz, and his wife Sherri, and the new brother of Nathan and Heather Swartz. Welcome to the Trail, Eric.

The Mystery of Sacagawea Who was she, really?

The end of Sacagawea's life is a real mystery! The mystery begins after Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis. It is known that Sacagawea and Charbonneau lived in St. Louis in 1810-1811, and that Pomp (now six years old) was left with Clark to be educated. After that, there are two different stories about her life—and death! Some historians believe that she died in 1812, and others believe that she lived to be a very old woman.

A diary written at that time reports that Charbonneau's Snake (Shoshoni) wife died in 1812. However, Charbonneau had two Shoshoni wives, and it isn't clear which one died. Other reports said that Charbonneau was cruel to Sacagawea and that she left him.

A number of people reported seeing Sacagawea in the years that followed. Comanche Indians living in Oklahoma believed that she lived among them for about 25 years. This woman married a Comanche man and had five children. After her husband was killed in battle, she became unhappy and left the Comanches in about 1855.

During the 1860s, a number of different people reported seeing or knowing Sacagawea in Montana and Wyoming. One man reported that "everybody" around Fort Bridger knew who she was. Late in life, this woman went to live with a son and his family at the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. She died there in 1884 as a very old woman.

Why is it hard to know the truth about Sacagawea? Records were not kept well in those days. Often Sacagawea was called by a different name, or by no name at all! Clark called her Janey, and others have called her "Bird Woman." An Indian person was often called by several different names by family and friends, and these names could change over the years.

The woman at the Wind River Reservation was called Chief Woman, Porivo, and Bazil's Mother. She had a friendship medal that she said Lewis and Clark gave her, and some papers that were buried with her. She could speak French, and she told stories of a French husband and a long trip "toward the setting sun." She also told the story of the "big fish." (See Whales in the Animals section.)

Another problem is that of time. The study of Sacagawea began after Chief Woman died in 1884. After that, all information had to come from old diaries and other records, and the memories of people who had known "Chief Woman" many years before.

Now you know the mystery. Did Sacagawea really die in 1812, or was she Chief Woman, who lived to be very old? What do you think? Who was she, really?

Author unknown

Letters from my cousin, Patrick Gass,

Wednesday, May 7, 1806. We proceeded on about four miles to another Indian lodge. At this lodge the natives found two canisters of ammunition, which we had buried last fall on our way down, and which they took care of and returned to us safe. All the Indians from the Rocky Mountains to the falls of Columbia, are an honest, ingenuous and well disposed people; but from the falls to the seacoast, and along it, they are a rascally, thieving set.

(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.)

Treasurer's Report

As of April 1, 2006 we have \$2,691.02 in the Treasury. The Badger Chapter now has 74 members in good standing. Thanks to all for their interest, support, participation and encouragement.



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