



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

January 2008

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 25

During this time in history: (December 25, 1803/04/05)

(The source for all entries is, "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition edited by Gary E. Moulton, The University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001.)

December 25, 1803, (Camp Wood) Clark: "I was wakened by a Christmas discharge (gun fire). Found that some of the Party had got drunk (2 fought). The men frolicked and hunted all day... Three Indians come today to take Christmas with us, I gave them a bottle of whiskey..."

December 25, 1804, (Ft. Mandan) Pvt. Whitehouse: "This morning being Christmas, the day was announced by the discharge of our swivels and one round from our small arms... The men then prepared one of the rooms and commenced dancing, we having with us two violins and plenty of musicians in our party..."

December 25, 1804, (Ft. Mandan) Sgt. Ordway: "...Our officers gave us a drink of Taffia (rum & water). We had the best to eat that could be had and continued firing, dancing and frolicking during the whole day. The savages did not trouble us as we had requested them not to come as it was a great medicine day with us..."

December 25, 1805, (Ft. Clatsop) Sgt Gass: "...This morning we...moved into our huts. At daybreak all the men paraded and fired a round of small arms, wishing the Commanding Officers a merry Christmas... We had no spirituous liquors to elevate our spirits this Christmas; but of this we had but little need, as we were all in very good health. Our living is not very good... we have no kind of provisions but meat, and we are without salt to season that..."

Jefferson at Home Personal Reminiscences

By: Kira Gale

The following article is from the website of Kira Gale, and is reprinted here with her permission. Kira has published a new kind of travel book—"Lewis and Clark Road Trips-Exploring the Trail Across America." You may find the information about this book, and contacting Kira through her website, at the end of this article.

I got two books at the Monticello gift shop while I was there: Jefferson at Monticello: Recollections of a Monticello Slave and of a Monticello Overseer, edited by James A. Bear, Jr. and The Wolf by the Ears: Thomas Jefferson and Slavery by John Chester Miller. You can buy the book by James Bear through the Monticello gift shop. It is an older book, published by the University of Virginia Press in 1967. The Wolf by the Ears is available through a link from my Amazon Affiliate bookstore and at the Monticello store (call 434-984-9840).



Jefferson wrote about slavery, "but as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we neither hold him, nor safely let him go, justice is in one scale, and self preservation in the other." There is a new "Wiki" site for Jefferson scholarship on the main Monticello website. This is a Wiki site where only scholars invited by Monticello are allowed to submit entries, but the public may post comments. There are many entries for both "Sally Hemmings and Thomas Jefferson" and for "Slavery" if you want to pursue these matters in further depth.

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Don't miss
"Seaman says..."
on page 3



Trivia Question of the Month
(The answer is somewhere in this issue.)
Which Expedition member was a cousin of Sgt. Charles Floyd?

Memoirs of a Monticello Slave, **Continued from page 1**

as dictated to Charles Campbell

by Isaac was recorded in 1847 in Petersburg, Virginia where Isaac was living in retirement and working as a blacksmith. The other memoir is *The Private Life of Thomas Jefferson* by Rev. Hamilton Wilcox Pierson, who interviewed Edmund Bacon, who was Jefferson's overseer at Monticello for 20 years. This book was first published in 1862. Together, the two accounts are the primary source of information about Jefferson's private life. Each man was 65 years old when their recollections were recorded.

Issac described Jefferson in this way: "Mr Jefferson was a tall, straight-bodied man as ever you see, right square-shouldered. Nary man in this town walked so straight as my Old Master."

"He kept three fiddles; played in the arternoons and sometimes arter supper....Mr. Jefferson always singing when ridin' or walkin'; hardly see him anywar outdoors but what he was a singin.' Had a fine clear voice; sung minnits (minuets) and sich; fiddled in the parlor. Old Master was very kind to servants."

"Old Master had an abundance of books; sometimes would have twenty of 'em down on the floor at once—read fust one, then tother."

Issac was trained as a tinsmith and ran one of the few money making enterprises at Monticello, a small nail factory. Monticello-made nails were used to build the nearby homes of James Monroe and James Madison. Jefferson liked to do this kind of work also. "My Old Master was as neat a hand as ever you see to make keys and locks and small chains, iron and brass. He kept all kind of blacksmith and carpenter tools in a great case with shelves to it in his library, an upstairs room."

"For amusement he would work sometimes in the garden for half an hour at a time in right good earnest in the cool of the evening."

Captain Bacon, the overseer, describes Jefferson as "6 feet two and a half inches, well proportioned and straight as a gun barrel. He was like a fine horse; he had no surplus flesh. He had an iron constitution and was very strong....He had blue eyes. His countenance was always mild and pleasant. You never saw it ruffled. No odds what happened, it always maintained the same expression."

"Mr. Jefferson was always an early riser—arose at daybreak or before." He rode his horse daily unless the weather was very bad. "He was an uncommonly fine rider—sat easily upon his horse and always had him in the most perfect control."

"Mr. Jefferson was very liberal and kind to the poor." When Jefferson returned to Monticello from Washington, crowds would come to Monticello to beg from him. He would send

them with notes to Captain Bacon, who knew them better than Jefferson, and wouldn't give them anything if he knew they didn't deserve it.

"Mr. Jefferson was the most industrious man I ever saw in my life." As overseer, Bacon was in and out of his room at all times of day or night, and never saw him unoccupied.

"He was very fond of fruits and vegetables and raised every variety of them."

Jefferson loved his grandchildren, who followed him around as he walked on the grounds and in the garden. As many as 8 or 9 of them lived at Monticello, which is really not a big house. He told them often they should learn useful employment. On Saturdays, the grandchildren would cut wood for the nail factory, earning 50 cents for a cord of wood.



Monticello Grounds today

There are many anecdotes in this fine little book that gave me a sense of what life must have been like at Monticello. I now understand why Jefferson gave his occupation as "farmer" and believed that yeoman farmers would settle the west. Jefferson's design for Monticello reflects a deep awareness of life as an integrated whole. I like to imagine him walking around the grounds of Monticello, followed by grandchildren, singing minuets as he walked, and noting every little detail of what was happening with an unruffled expression!

Kira Gale

Posted by Kira Gale on 08/25/2007

Website: www.lewisandclarkroadtrips.com

kira@lewisandclarktravel.com

Kira has a new kind of travel book with trip planning and travel maps on facing pages:

**Lewis & Clark Road Trips
Exploring the Trail Across America**

"Travel Book"-Continued on Page 3



It offers:

“Travel Book”-Continued from page 2

Trip Planning Information

Grouped attractions make it convenient for planning before a trip and while on the road. Right hand pages provide information about attractions, including website addresses, phone numbers, hours of operation, days open, and admission fees.

Driving Maps & Directions

161 maps show location of over 800 destinations. Left hand pages display each group of attractions on full color maps and give driving directions.

Over 800 Destinations on the Lewis and Clark Trail

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Centers, annual festivals, markers, statues, and museum exhibits.

National Historic Landmarks, historic homes and taverns, Indian mounds, forts, missions, historic villages, and ghost towns. Buffalo exhibits and buffalo herds.

Native American museums, casinos, stores, restaurants, resorts, hotels and motels. Pow wows and guided tours.

National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges; State Parks, and campgrounds.

Back to the river: keelboats, steamboats, riverboats, jet-boats, river rafts, canoes, ferries; walking and biking trails.

Scenic Byways & Interstate Routes

Lewis and Clark routes; alternate routes across the Rocky Mountains; America’s historic roads; back roads; interstate routes; river roads; and the National Native American Scenic Byway.

Key Guide to All 573 Lewis & Clark Historic Campsites

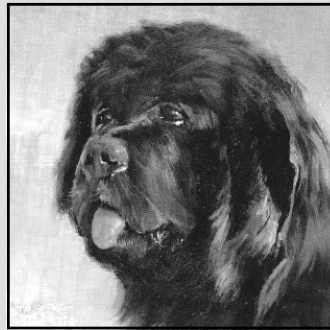
History comes alive when you see where it happened. 573 historic campsites are located on regional topo maps with a spreadsheet key guide to Lewis and Clark Journal entries, dates, and places.

America 200 Years Ago

Understanding the history and the environment of America in the early 1800’s is one of the lasting legacies of traveling the Lewis and Clark Trail. Brief essays provide information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, its members, and other topics.

Books & Other Resources

Recommended reading and websites for the armchair virtual traveler.



Seaman Says... (Thoughts from 1803)

We return to the early part of Seaman’s Journal for his continuing insight into America’s most important journey of exploration:

December 13, 1803: We have ascended the River Mississippi to a settlement referred to as St. Louis. My Captain and I are spending a good amount of time in this settlement while Captain Clark takes the men and establishes a camp on the opposite shore of the river.

I have difficulty in understanding many of the humans in St. Louis. Some speak English, some Spanish and many speak French. Most of the time Captain Lewis has someone with him to translate and how I wish that I would be so lucky to have this benefit.

The mission of Captain Lewis and myself, here in St. Louis, is twofold; to obtain supplies for the men and gather information for our trip up the River Missouri. We spend many hours trading with merchants for supplies and must always be on the alert for trickery. Some merchants seem to put personal gain and wealth ahead of the efforts and goals of their country. Information about the upper Missouri River seems easier to obtain since there is much interest in advancing trade with the Native Nations along this river. Is this solely for personal gain also?

There is also time for merriment in the form of social gatherings called “Balls”. These are receptions or dances consisting of humans in their “finery” and great amounts of food and drink. Of course I cannot enter such events but I have become quite adept at positioning myself at the entrance and conducting myself regally enough so that I obtain my fair share of praise as well as a goodly amount of food. I am learning my lessons well.



**=We’re On The Web=
“Field Notes” is also available on the Internet.**

Some people only receive “Field Notes” as a black and white copy. It is far better to get it on line, where some pages are in color. 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.

THE BADGER CONNECTION

By: Jim Rosenberger

As we read the journals of Lewis and Clark we can recognize many landmarks that identify a specific State in our Nation. We know the Great Falls are located in Montana, Fort Mandan is in North Dakota and Fort Clatsop is in Oregon. All of the "trail states", from Missouri through the Dakotas to the state of Washington are recognizable in the journals by descriptions of various geographic features. We students of Lewis and Clark history envy those states but our beloved Wisconsin is not entirely out of the picture or out of the journals.

As we know, President Thomas Jefferson's orders to Meriwether Lewis clearly state that the primary purpose of the expedition is commerce and a lot of the commerce in the early 1800's was the fur trade. Add the fact the most common mode of transportation at this time, other than the horse, was the country's waterways and you have entered into an important aspect of Wisconsin history. The Fox, Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers had been an important part of the fur trade route for some time, and Prairie du Chien located near the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers was an important center for the fur trade industry. The Wisconsin River and the city of Prairie du Chien are our geographic connections to the Lewis and Clark journals.

Certainly Thomas Jefferson knew this. In his orders to Captain Lewis he instructed Lewis, "...if you can learn anything certain of the most northern source of the Mississippi, and of its position relative to the Lake of the Woods, it will be interesting to us. Some account too of the path of the Canadian traders from the Mississippi, at the mouth of the Ouisconsin to where it strikes the Missouri..." Jefferson demonstrates that he is knowledgeable of the French-Canadian fur trade coming from the north to the confluence of the Mississippi and the Wisconsin Rivers and then on down to the Missouri River at St. Louis and is interested in learning more.



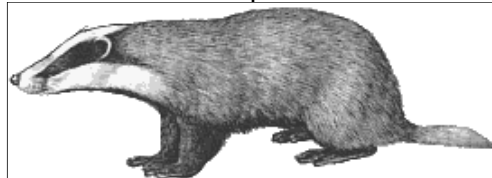
Prairie du Chien had served as a meeting point for Native and Euro Americans since the 1600's and in 1673 Marquette and Joliet explored the area. It sits at the western end of the Fox-Wisconsin River water route between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and was an important trading and meeting place. Its name is said to come from the Indian Chief, Alim, whose name apparently meant or referred to "dog" in English. When the French arrived at the prairie they named the area Prairie of the Dog or, "Prairie des Chiens". The city of Prairie du Chien is

the second oldest city in Wisconsin, predated only by Green Bay as the earliest white settlement.

Among the entries about Prairie du Chien, William Clark makes mention of the location while at Camp Wood during the winter of 1803/04. It is obvious from these entries (and the footnotes of Editor Gary Moulton) that Clark is familiar with Prairie du Chien as a trade center and perhaps even knows some of the traders there:

April 2, 1803, Camp Wood, Clark: "...in the evening Major Jarrot's boat come up on his way to Prairie du Chien loaded with provision & etc., for sale at that place..."

Moulton footnote: "Nicholas Jarrot, born in France, settled in Cahokia in 1794 and engaged in the fur trade on the upper Mississippi...Here he was bound for Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, an important trading location."



April 3, 1803, Camp Wood, Clark: "I wrote a letter to Mr. John Campbell of Prairie du Chien by Mr. Hay and the gentlemen bound to that place, those gentlemen set out at sunrise..."

Moulton footnote: "Campbell, a Scotch-Irish trader, had been dealing with the Indians at Prairie du Chien since about 1790..."

Clark also made a number of journal entries giving information he had learned about the location and history of various Native Nations as well as recommendations for future trade relationships. As an example, in his report from Fort Mandan he comments about the Sauk and Fox Nations, "... speak the same language; they formerly resided on the east side of the Mississippi, and still claim the land on that side of the river, from the mouth of the Oisconsin (Wisconsin) to the Illinois River, and eastward toward lake Michigan..." Clark then goes on to say the Sauk and Fox, "... now trade at their villages at Prairie du Chien..." and that the best place to trade with them in the future is at Prairie du Chien.

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@tds.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.

Badger Connection-Continued on Page 5

Badger Connection-Continued from Page 4

Captain Clark was continually looking for good locations for future trading posts and military forts. In his report on the Missouri River he has obviously identified the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers as an important location and comments as follows relative to troop strength:

“The number of officers and men for to protect the Indian trade and keep the savages in peace with the U.S. and each other...On the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien...82 men total...”

On September 3, 1806, as the Corps of Discovery passed Vermillion, South Dakota on their return trip from the Pacific, they meet 2 boats headed up the Missouri River to trade with the Sioux Nation. Clark makes the following entry in his journal:

“...I landed and was met by a Mr. James Aird from Mackinaw by way of Prairie du Chien who has a license to trade for one year with the Sioux...”

Moulton footnote: “James Aird, a Scotsman, had been a trader at Mackinac by 1779 and one of the earliest settlers at Prairie du Chien, in modern Wisconsin, where he was employed by Robert Dickson, one of the leading traders on the upper Mississippi...”

While not mentioned often, Wisconsin does have another connection with Lewis and Clark through the journal entries made by William Clark and obviously the primary connection is through the city of Prairie du Chien. William Clark did not know it at the time of the expedition, but Prairie du Chien would play an important part in his future as Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs of the Missouri Territory. We will talk more about this in a future article on “The Badger Connection”.

When visiting Prairie du Chien today, you will see Villa Louis, also known as Dousman Mansion. It is a National



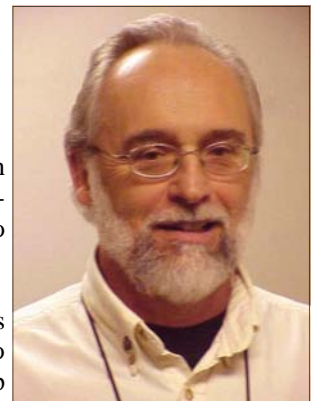
Historic Landmark located on St. Feriole island. Today the site is restored to its appearance during the late 19th Century, when it was the estate of the prominent H. Louis Dousman family. At the center of the estate is the elegant Villa Louis mansion, built in 1871. Earlier the estate had been home to Louis's father Hercules L. Dousman, and before that the land was occupied by Fort Crawford. Prior to this, in 1814, the Battle of Prairie du Chien was fought at the site by American and British troops hoping to control Fort Shelby during the War of 1812. Still farther back, the site was of importance to American Indian tribes, especially the Mound Builders, as is evidenced by the large mound upon which Fort Shelby, Fort Crawford, and the homes of Hercules and Louis Dousman have all stood. Currently the site is a historical museum operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

President's Message January '08

Another New Year has begun and I am sure we are all prepared to “Proceed On” into 2008. What awaits us?

For me, I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership in the Badger State Chapter and especially to those who made an additional donation to the Chapter and/or offered ideas and suggestions for activities and projects. Since the end of the Bicentennial, we have been able to maintain a fairly constant level of membership and that is a tribute to your dedication to the Lewis and Clark Legacy. For those few of you who have not yet renewed your membership, I ask that you do so and give us your continued support.

On the National level, one could almost say the Lewis and Clark Trail is under attack. The proposed construction of a coal fired power plant near the Great Falls in Montana remains in the news as does the development of the area around the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. We will need to



Jim Rosenberger



Great Falls of Montana today

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keep an eye on how these proposals develop and give support to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and involved local Chapters when we are called upon.

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Our annual financial commitment to the Foundation based on the number of members we have will be submitted soon. I am happy to say that a third Chapter has indicated they will follow our lead and make a member commitment to the Foundation also. I will have more on this once it is finalized.

Our meetings and field trip are always in various stages of planning and it appears our 2008 field trip will be to the Cape Girardeau, Missouri area, probably at the end of the summer. Suggestions have been made to have a local field trip in the spring or summer to a Wisconsin historical site as well as a suggestion to hold a dinner type meeting or social get together. We will also work on continuing our summer picnic tradition.

If you have comments or suggestions on these or other ideas, please let Jack Schroeder or me know.

And don't forget the Foundation annual meeting August 10-13, 2008 in Great Falls, MT. From what I have heard so far, this could be the best annual meeting yet with tours of local Lewis & Clark sites before, during and after the meeting. Information should be coming out in the near future, probably with the February issue of "We Proceeded On".

So, who was it that asked, "Now that the Bicentennial is over, what will you do?" Oh, I don't know, I think I'll be able to find some activity. How about you?

THE BADGER STATE CHAPTER January Quarterly Meeting

Our first meeting of 2008 will be January 26th at the very comfortable surroundings of the DeForest Library (lower level).



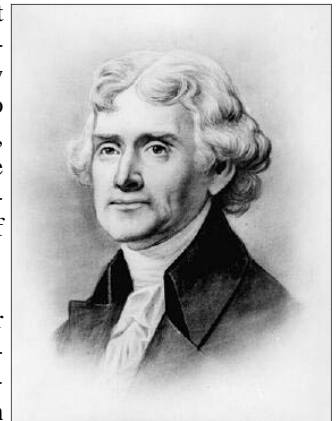
The business and board meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. Our major business item will be approval of our annual financial commitment to the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation based on the number of members in our Chap-

ter. This was a commitment we began in 2007 with the intention of repeating it every year.

At 11:15 A.M. our guest speaker will be Professor John Kaminski from the Department of History, University of Wisconsin – Madison. Professor Kaminski is the founder and director of the Center for the Study of the American Constitution. John is the director and coeditor of "The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution (nineteen volumes to date). He has conducted many seminars on the U.S. Constitution as well as written or edited sixteen other books, three on Thomas Jefferson, including "The Quotable Jefferson", Princeton University Press, 2006. We have invited John to bring books to our meeting for sale and a book signing.

John is also a new member of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the Badger State Chapter.

John will speak to us about "Thomas Jefferson's Romance with Language", how Jefferson used language to express his love for books, friends, home, family, female friends, government, retirement, old age and prospects of death.



After the meeting join us for lunch (Dutch treat) and fellowship at the DeForest Family Restaurant, 505 W. North St., DeForest, WI.

RSVP if you can, it will help in the planning.
Jim Rosenberger, 803 Arbor Vitae Place, Verona, WI
53593; 608-845-6365; or punkinz@tds.net

The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition By Charles G. Clarke

"A Biographical Roster of the Fifty-one Members and a Composite Diary of Their Activities from All Known Sources" (Continued from previous issues)

SERGEANT NATHANIEL HALE PRYOR

Born in 1772, probably in Amherst County, Virginia. He was a son of John and Nancy (Floyd) Pryor. She was a sister of Robert Floyd, and Robert was the father of Charles Floyd - also a member of the expedition. Therefore, Pryor and Floyd were cousins. He moved with his parents in 1783 to Kentucky, and was recruited by Captain Clark on October 20, 1803. He is usually listed as one of the "Nine young men from Kentucky." He married on May 17, 1798, Miss Peggy Patton, so was one of the

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few married men of the expedition. His leaders stated, "He was a man of character and ability." He probably kept a journal, but it has not yet been discovered. His journal is said to have been lost while enroute to France for publication. After the expedition returned, he was one of the party who in 1807 attempted to return the Mandan Chief, Shakhaka, to his homeland, but was prevented from doing so by the Arikara Indians. Nathaniel H. Pryor remained in the army and was a second lieutenant until 1810. He then entered the Indian trade on the upper Mississippi. In 1812 he was attacked at Fort Madison where he nearly lost his life. Two of his men were slain, but he escaped by crossing the ice of the Mississippi. He re-entered the army in 1813, and in 1814 he became a captain. He served in the Battle of New Orleans. Later, he was discharged and he then set up a trading post on the Arkansas River. He married an Osage girl, and they had several children who were all given Indian names. They lived among the Osages until his death on June 1, 1831. He is buried at Pryor, Mayes County, Oklahoma, where a monument has been erected to his honor. He is not the same Nathaniel Pryor of Pattie's Narrative. This was Nathaniel "Miguel" Pryor, born in Kentucky in 1798, and died in Los Angeles in 1850. The family relationship, if any, is not clear, for there were several other Nathaniel Pryors at this time.

PRIVATE JOHN COLLINS

Collins was born in Frederick County, Maryland. His army unit is unknown, but as he went on the muster roll as of January 1, 1804, he was possibly transferred from Capt. Russell Bissell's Company. He was one of the best hunters of the party. While at Camp du Bois, Captain Clark once noted him as a "blackguard," perhaps because he killed a farmer's pig, and then claimed it was "bear meat." Later this cloud was removed by most excellent service throughout the voyage. He sold his warrant for land to George Drouillard, in September 1806, for \$300.00 in cash. He was killed while with Ashley in a fight with the Arikara on June 2, 1823. He may be the John Collins who married Elisabeth Yager of Madison County, Virginia, and who later returned to Missouri.

PRIVATE GEORGE GIBSON

Born in Mercer County, Pennsylvania, but was probably raised in Kentucky for he is listed as one of the "Nine young men from Kentucky." He was a fine hunter, horseman and also played the violin. Sgt. Ordway states that he was an interpreter and there was some rivalry between him and Drouillard in this capacity. He married after the expedition, but died in St. Louis in 1809. He may have been one of the party under Sgt. Pryor who attempted to return Chief Shakhaka to his home in 1807, and may have been wounded then by the Arikara.

PRIVATE SILAS GOODRICH (GUTHRICH)

Born in Massachusetts. He may have been related to the Elisha Goodrich who was a land owner in St. Charles, Missouri, in 1799. His army unit is unknown, but he was transferred as of January 1, 1804, to the Lewis and Clark command. He was the fisherman of the party whose efforts very often supplied a change of diet for the men. After the expedition, he re-enlisted in the army. Clark notes he was dead by 1825-1828.



Treasurer's Report

The Badger Chapter has \$3591.77 in the Chapter Treasury as of January 1, 2008, and 72 active members.



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