



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

July 2009

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 31

**During this time
in history:
(Mar.-Aug. 1804-1806)**

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

March 27, 1804, Camp River Dubois, Clark: "... Saw large insects which resemble mosquitoes but doubt whether they are really those insects or the fly which produces them, they attempted to bite my horse but I could not observe that they made any impression with their beaks..."

July 27, 1804, White Fish Camp, Clark: "...A beautiful breeze from the N.W. this evening which would have been very agreeable, had the mosquitoes been tolerably pacific, but they were raging all night..."

July 12, 1805, The Great Falls, Lewis: "... Mosquitoes extremely troublesome to me today nor is a large black gnat less troublesome, which does not sting but attacks the eye in swarms and compels us to brush them off or have our eyes filled with them..."

July 13, 1805, The Great Falls, Lewis: "...I sent a man to the canoes for my mosquito bier, which I had neglected to bring with me, as it is impossible to sleep a moment without being defended against the attacks of these most tormenting of all insects..."

July 24, 1805, Near the Three Forks of the Missouri River, Lewis; "...Our trio of pests still invade and obstruct us on all occasions, these are the mosquitoes, eye gnats and prickly pear (cactus), equal to any three curses that ever poor Egypt labored under..."

August 4, 1806, at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, Clark; "...Mosquitoes excessively troublesome, so much so that the men complained that they could not work at their skins for those troublesome insects. I find it entirely impossible to hunt in the bottoms, those insects being so numerous and tormenting...I determine to proceed on to a more eligible spot on the Missouri below at which place the mosquitoes will be less troublesome and the buffalo more plenty..."

Independence Day on the Trail



By: Jack Schroeder



In the years 1804-1806, the Corps of Discovery observed three Independence days.

A brief account of their activities on each Forth of July may be instructive in showing how they had been changed by their experiences on the trail.

The keelboat and the pirogues had traveled nearly 400 miles by July 4, 1804. The effort to move upstream against the fierce current had been grueling. The exhausted men were no doubt disappointed to learn that the nation's Independence would not be celebrated with a rest day.

That day began with the boom of the cannon. The midday meal was taken opposite a river which the captains named Independence Creek. The creek retains that name today, unlike most of the place names which members of the expedition bestowed.

Captain Lewis treated Joseph Fields for a snakebite on his foot, which "sweled much" according to Sgt. Floyd. That evening the captains ordered an extra gill (4 oz.) of liquor distributed. Clark recorded the scene with some of the most lyrical language that he

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ever used in the journals.

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“The plains of this country are covered with a Leek Green Grass, well calculated for the sweetest and most norushing hay - interspersed with cops of trees, Spreading ther lofty branches of Pools Springs or Brooks of fine water. Groops of Shrubs covered with the most delicious froot is to be seen in every direction, and nature appears to have exerted herself to buitfy the Senery by the variety of flours Delicately and highly flavered raised above the Grass, which Strikes & pro-fumes the Sensations, and amuses the mind ...in a country thus Situated far removed from the Sivilised world to be enjoyed by nothing but the Buffalo Elk Deer & Bear in which it abounds & Savage Indians.”

While Clark enjoyed his reveries, the men fired the cannon again to end the day.

This pleasant scene is contrasted by the circumstances of July 4, 1805. The Expedition had just finished another incredibly difficult task; the month-long 18 mile portage around the Great Falls. Summer and the good travel weather were slipping away, and they had already seen that the Rocky Mountains which they had to cross before winter were snow-capped even now. Several more days were being wasted in a vain effort to get Lewis' collapsible boat to work.

Still Lewis wrote that morale was high. “. . . all appear perfectly to have made up their minds to succeed in the expedition or purish in the attempt. We all beleive that we are now about to enter on the most perilous and difficult part of our voyage, yet I see no repining; all appear ready to met those difficulties which await us with resolution and becoming fortitude . . .”

He continues, “we had a very comfortable dinner, of bacon, beans, suit dumplings & buffaloe beaf &c. in short we had no just cause to covet the sumptuous feasts of our countrymen on this day. Our work being at an end this evening, we gave the men a drink of sperits, it being the last of our stock. The fiddle was plyed and they danced very merrily until 9 in the evening when a heavy shower of rain put an end to that part of the amusement tho' they continued their mirth with songs and festive jokes nd were extremely merry until late at night.”



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.

Lewis also records the description of a loud, irregular booming sound like a cannon fired at a distance. It was heard by all of the men both day and night, sometimes as a single sound, and sometimes as several discharges in quick succession. This phenomenon has never been explained.

There was no booming from real or imagined cannons on July 4, 1806. The captains had split their command the day before, with Clark taking 20 men and 50 horses down the Bitterroot River toward the Yellowstone, and Lewis taking 9 men and five Nez Perce Indians up the Clark's Fork toward the Marias River.

Lewis wrote of the sad parting of the guides, “these affectionate people our guides betrayed every emotion of unfeigned regret at separating from us; they said they were confidint that the Pahkees (their name for their enemy, the Hidatsa) would cut us off.”

The Nez Perce had very graciously hosted the Corps for the previous two months. Sgt. Gass records, “it is but justice to say, that the whole nation to which they belong, are the most friendly, honest and ingenuous people that we have seen in the course of our voyage and travels. After taking our farewell of these good hearted, hospitable and obliging sons of the west, we proceeded on.”

Lewis and his party travelled through the beautiful valley of modern-day Missoula, and entered a steep, narrow valley favored as an ambush site by the Blackfeet and now known as Hellsgate Canyon. The group, “. . . encamped in a handsome bottom on the river where there was an abundance of excellent grass for our horses. The evening was fine, air pleasant and no mosquitos.”

Captain Clark led his party down the Bitterroot River, and wrote, “This being the day of the decleration of independence of the United States and a Day commonly Selebrated by my

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country I had every disposition to **Cont. from pg. 2**
Celebrate this day and therefore
halted early and partook of a Sumtuous Dinner of a fat
Saddle of Venison and Mush of Cows (roots).”

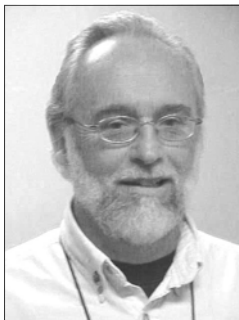
Most noteworthy of the changes in the expedition as shown in the journals is the evolution of the attitude the Corps had toward the Indians. In the first summer, Clark thought it remarkable that such a beautiful landscape should be in a place only visible to animals and “Savage Indians”. Two years later Lewis describes parting from the Nez Perce as nearly tearful.

This interior evolution can be visualized by their appearance. When they left St. Charles in 1804, they were brightly dressed in the feathers and brass of their uniforms, and harboring attitudes of superiority toward the natives they would meet. When they returned 28 months later, they were indistinguishable in dress and complexion from the people they had grown to respect and admire.

Jack Schroeder

President’s Message July ‘09

I take great pride in being a member of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and the Badger State Chapter, as well as the other chapters I belong to. Each time we have a meeting, picnic or a field trip; each time we accomplish one of our goals, like our financial commitment to the Foundation; each time a member does a presentation on Lewis & Clark, I feel a strong sense of pride in our organizations and what we do.



Jim Rosenberger

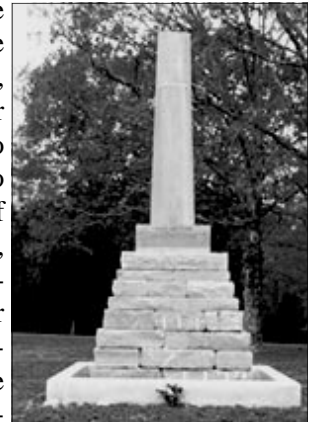
There are times and events that take place when the sense of pride is so strong, I can get down right emotional and tears come to my eyes. One such event was in 2002 at Wellsburg, West Virginia when my wife, Mary, and I were part of a contingent of Foundation members on tour and took part in a ceremony at the grave site of Sgt. Patrick Gass and the dedication of a bronze likeness of him in Wellsburg. Another time was June 14, 2005 in Great Falls, Montana when Mary and I joined a group and, 200 years to the date, followed Meriwether Lewis’s trek from the Great Falls to the Medicine River (today’s Sun River). After last years annual meeting it was a canoe trip through the

White Cliffs area of the Missouri River with Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs serving as our historian.

But I suspect my pride will be at its highest at this years Foundation annual meeting in Olive Branch, Mississippi and especially at the commemorative ceremony at Lewis’s grave site near Hohenwald, Tennessee.

Stop and think what Meriwether Lewis accomplished for his country in his brief lifetime. Secretary to President Thomas Jefferson, leader of the first official expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase and beyond, then governor of this territory, with all of its political complications. Any yet, upon his death, as far as we know, there was no ceremony to commemorate his life or his achievements, no ceremony of farewell or ceremony of thanks. But that should all be corrected at this year’s annual meeting.

On October 7, 2009, there will be a commemorative ceremony at Grinder’s Stand, on the Natchez Trace near Hohenwald, Tennessee, to pay long overdue tribute to the life and achievements of Meriwether Lewis. Finally, Captain Lewis will be honored by his countrymen for all he has done for his country and it will be, in large part, because there is an organization like the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. I am extremely proud to be a member of this organization and of what we accomplish. I hope you share this pride and if you are not a Foundation member, I hope you will soon make the commitment and join.



I strongly urge you to register for the annual meeting and take part in this once-in-a-lifetime event. I will look for you at the meeting, if I can see you through the tears.

**=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.

April Meeting Discusses the Death of Meriwether Lewis

A panel consisting of (L to R) Todd Berens, Jack Schroeder, (Jim Rosenberger, moderator) and Jim Gramentine, did an excellent job of discussing the mystery and controversy surrounding the death of Meriwether Lewis at our April Chapter meeting at the Brown Deer Public Library.



One can say the only facts are that Meriwether Lewis died of gun shot wounds at Grinder's Stand on October 11, 1809 and that there were no witnesses. Beyond that, things get a bit foggy.

Mrs. Grinder told what she heard and saw but in later years seems to have changed her story. Is her account dependable? Did changing times and attitudes help the development of a conspiracy theory or was there a real conspiracy to murder Lewis? Are the reports of Captain Gilbert Russell, commander of Ft. Pickering, and James Neelley, Indian Agent for the Chickasaw Nation, dependable or are they suspect? Will an exhumation of the body of Lewis help solve the mystery?

Our panelists and members in attendance had an open dialog about all these issues and more. In the end, we took a poll and a slight majority thought Lewis probably committed suicide. It was pretty much a tie vote as to if the exhumation of Lewis's body would help solve the mystery or not.

Perhaps another, future meeting is needed to continue the discussion. For now, this group is ready to settle for a delicious lunch.



On the Banks of the Mississippi

June 20, 2009 found the Badger State and Minnesota Chapters on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River renewing friendships, exchanging our Lewis & Clark experiences and just partaking of good "Chaptership". The drive to Red Wing, MN was beautiful, the picnic site was fantastic, the weather cooperated and there was enough food to feed the Corps of Discovery. 7 Badger members and about 20 Minnesota members attended the picnic.



Either through miscommunication, misdirection or high water, the "Surly Surveyor" did not make it into our camp but we had great fun reading the Lewis & Clark cartoon captions submitted by members. You will recall the cartoon was this picture of the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin with two drawings of the pointing finger Lewis & Clark, one pointing West and the other East. Here are a few examples of the humor:



"I don't think coming up the Mississippi River is the short-cut they kept telling us about."

"Where the heck are we?"

"Hey, I think we missed Minnesota!"

"I say we head West. There's nothing around here but badgers and the Vikings have already explored this territory!"

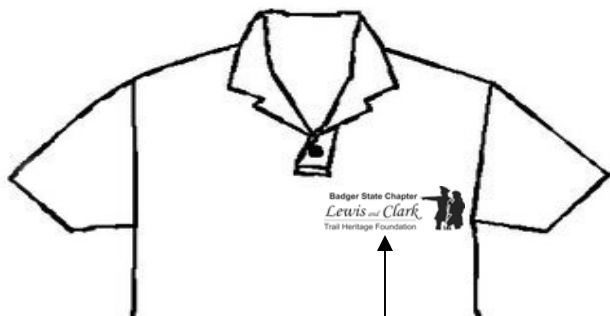
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“The Marias is this way. No, no, **Cont. from pg. 4** the Marias is that-a-way!”

“Why the surprise? We’re men, we never ask for directions!”

Many thanks to the Minnesota Chapter for putting the picnic together. It was a great day and I think everyone in attendance felt we need to continue having these joint outings.

Badger Chapter Apparel Survey



Badger State Chapter
Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation



In the January, 2009 issue of “Field Notes” we announced that apparel was available from Lands’ End with the Lewis & Clark logo on it including the Badger State Chapter logo. Our next step is to determine if we want a standard item of apparel that all Chapter members might wear as a group to meetings, field trips, picnics and etc.

In order to accomplish this it is important to involve our entire Badger State Chapter membership in the decision process. Below are a few questions regarding chapter apparel which will help guide us in making a decision. We would appreciate each member taking a few minutes to review the questions and then email or regular mail a copy of the questions with your responses. Email to punkinz@tds.net; regular mail to Jim Rosenberger, 803 Arbor Vitae Place, Verona, WI 53593. Please do this now, because if you put it off, you may never get a “round tuit”.

Should the Badger State Chapter have a standard item of L & C apparel? _____

Would you wear an item with the Chapter logo? _____

Would you purchase a Chapter item of apparel? _____

What cost would you consider reasonable? \$ _____
Select one of the following items you would consider best for this purpose:

Polo shirt: _____ short sleeve _____ long sleeve _____

T shirt: _____ short sleeve _____ long sleeve _____

Denim shirt _____ short sleeve _____ long sleeve _____

Cotton shirt _____ short sleeve _____ long sleeve _____

V neck sweater _____ short sleeve _____ long sleeve _____

V neck sweater vest _____ short slv. _____ long slv. _____

Wind breaker jacket _____

Fleece vest _____

Baseball cap _____

What color or color combination would you like the Chapter to select _____

Based on the results of this survey, if the membership would like a standard item of apparel for the Chapter, we will contact you again relative to the item selected, size, cost and making a group order with Lands’ End.

Badger State Chapter Logo

The Badger State Chapter has adopted this newly designed logo to use on Chapter correspondence, etc. It is available as a JPG, and may be used by Chapter Members after requesting permission from the Chapter Directors.



Time is running short! Be sure you’re registered so that you don’t miss “*Courage Undaunted - The Final Journey*”. This is the final Bicentennial Commemoration, and will be held October 3-7 in Mississippi & Tennessee. Find all of the details at the website of The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. www.lewisandclark.org

Fall Badger State Chapter Meeting

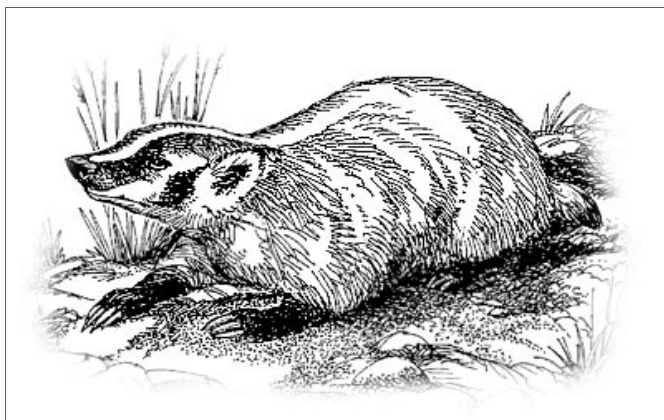
Our Fall Chapter meeting will be on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at the De Forest Public Library, De Forest, WI, just North of Madison.



We are happy to have chapter member Lorna Hainesworth visit us from Maryland and speak to us about her research and discovery of a letter written by Meriwether Lewis on June 6, 1803 to William Linnard, military agent for the Schuylkill Arsenal in Philadelphia.

The letter is a new discovery and sheds new light on Lewis's activities in preparing for the expedition. Ms. Hainesworth will also discuss the routes Lewis traveled during the Spring and Summer of 1803.

A meeting announcement will be sent out as we get closer to the date but be sure to mark your calendar for November 7th now.



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" (Note: Lewis, Clark, & York were featured in issue #16)

PRIVATE WILLIAM E. BRATTON (BRATTEN)

Born, July 27, 1778, in Augusta County, Virginia, of Irish parentage. He probably is a son of George Bratton, or of George's brother, James, who were sons of Capt. Robert Bratton and his wife, Mrs. Annie (McFarland) Dunlap. Robert Bratton came to America from Donegal, Ireland, about 1740, and later settled in Cowpasture, Augusta County, Virginia. I give these clues to William's ancestry because there is yet some confusion as to just which of the brothers was William's father.

It is reported William's family migrated to Kentucky about 1790, and on October 20, 1803, William enlisted under William Clark for the expedition. Hence he is usually listed as one of the "Nine young men from Kentucky." His middle name may be Elliott, for it appears this was his mother's name. This "E" was adopted during his Indiana years to distinguish him from another William Bratton, probably his cousin, who also lived near Waynetown, Indiana, and with whom he has often been confused.

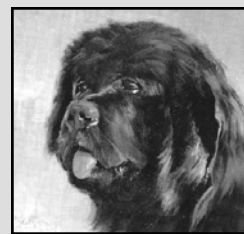
William E. Bratton was over six feet tall, square of build, very straight and erect, rather reserved, economical, of fine intelligence and the strictest morals. At an early age he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, possibly his father, or uncle, James, and later became an excellent gunsmith and blacksmith on the expedition. In these capacities, and as a hunter, he was a useful man.

After the expedition had reached the mouth of the Columbia River in November 1805, Bratton and four companions were assigned to salt making at the seashore. They produced enough salt for the expedition's winter requirements as well as enough to last them for the return trip to the states. While working at this exposed task, Bratton became seriously ill of lumbago. He became so weak that he could hardly walk, although the captains did everything in their power to help him. At long last, on May 24, 1806, an Indian steam bath was constructed as a forlorn hope of saving his life. This

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Seaman Says...

August 25, 1804: Captains Lewis and Clark along with a few of the men and myself started off on a trek to visit a hill upon which the Native Nations say some small people spirits live, sometimes referred to as "Spirit Mound".



It is a very hot and humid day and I find myself with little energy to make this walk. The captains interpret my attitude as being affected by the heat and fearing I will become exhausted, send me back to the boats. It is true the temperature and humidity are uncomfortable but my heart is not in the effort needed to make this trip.

My mind remains on Sgt. Charles Floyd who died just five days ago and we do not know what caused his untimely death. Sgt. Floyd was a talented leader of men and himself a fine man, certainly too young to leave us. Since becoming ill the black man called York and I had watched over Sgt. Floyd and attempted to bring him back to health but we were unsuccessful in our efforts. The sergeant was my friend, one of my family of explorers and I will miss him. Will we lose others from our Corps? I will devote myself once again to preventing this.



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proved effective, and soon Bratton was able to resume his duties. Bratton's conscientious service was attested to by the discharge he received at the end of the expedition.

After the expedition, Bratton returned to Kentucky. He lived there for a time, but returned to Missouri where he lived near John Ordway for a few years. He enlisted from Kentucky for the War of 1812, and was one of those surrendered at Frenchtown (now Monroe, Michigan) on January 22, 1813. He sold his warrant for land to a Mr. Samuel Barclay in 1816.

When aged forty-one, he married on November 25, 1819, Miss Mary H. Maxwell (1796-1875) and they resided for a time at Greenville, Ohio. By the year 1822, in June, William located on some land at Waynetown, Indiana. They were the parents of eight sons and two daughters, one of whom, Griselda Ann, married a Mr. Stephen Fields. It was she who gave the first brief biographical data to Olin D. Wheeler, who incorporated this data into his roster found in his *The Trail of Lewis and Clark*. William E. Bratton was elected the first justice of the peace of Wayne township in June 1824, and he served in that capacity for five years. Meanwhile he raised his large family, and now the many Bratton descendants are spread over the United States. Apparently one of the sons, S. Bratton, came to California during the gold rush of 1849.

William E. Bratton died November 11, 1841, at Waynetown, Indiana, and is buried in the pioneer cemetery there. A monument marks the final resting place of this important man.

Treasurer's Report

The Badger Chapter has \$2,940.01 in the Chapter Treasury as of July 1, 2009, and 70 active members.



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