



Meriwether
Lewis

Field Notes



William
Clark

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

July 2011

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 39

During this time in history: (July-August 1804)

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

Journal entries reflect travel through the area of today's Omaha, NE the location of this year's annual meeting of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

July 26, 1804, Camp White Fish, Clark: "...The wind blustering and hard from the South all day which blew the clouds of sand in such a manner that I could not complete my plan in the tent. The boat rolled in such a manner that I could do nothing in that. I was obliged to go to the woods and combat with the mosquitoes. I opened the tumor of a man on the left breast which discharged half a pint..."

July 29, 1804, Pottawattamie County, Iowa, Clark: "...caught three very large catfish, one nearly white. Those fish are in great plenty on the sides of the river and very fat; a quart of oil came out to the surplus fat of one of these fish... Willard, in attempting to cross a creek on a log, let his gun fall in; R. Fields dived in and brought it up..."

July 30, 1804, near the present town of Ft. Calhoun, NE, Lewis: "This day Joseph Fields killed a Braro (Badger) as it is called by the French engages. This is a singular animal not common to any part of the United States; its weight is sixteen pounds; it is a carnivorous animal..."

August 2, 1804, near Ft. Calhoun, NE, Clark: "...At sunset, six chiefs and their warriors of the Otos and Missouri's, with a French man by the name of Far Fonge, arrived. We shook hands and gave them some tobacco and provisions; they sent us water melons..."

August 3, 1804, Clark: "...After breakfast we collected those Indians under an awning of our main sail; in presence of our party paraded and delivered a long speech to them... After hearing what they had to say, delivered (two of) a medal of second grade to one for the Otos and one for the Missouri present and 4 medals of a third grade to the inferior chief, two for each tribe... after Capt. Lewis's shooting the air gun a few shots (which astonished those natives) we set out and proceeded on..."

An Army Travels: Feeding the Corps of Discovery

Changing the Cooks! By Jack Schroeder

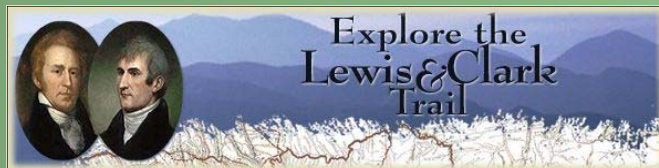


All of the members of the Corps had particular skills which contributed to the success of the journey. Sgt. Gass provided leadership in the construction of the semi-permanent forts and shelters because of his civilian experience as a carpenter. John Shields' skills as a gunsmith kept all of the men armed with working weapons, which were critical to self-defense and hunting.

It is not recorded whether any of the cooks of the expedition had previous experience in food preparation. And yet the cooks were accorded a precious privilege not given to the others. They were excused from serving any watches. This is not a small matter.

Standing watch is a standard part of all military service. Sleeping soldiers are very vulnerable. Vigilant sentinels are required at all times to detect any early signs of danger. To that end, all enlisted men are expected to stand rotating watches, normally of two hours duration. Each person wakes his replacement before being relieved.

The importance of maintaining the watch is illustrated by the court martial of Private Alexander Willard on July 12, 1804. Accused of "Lying down and Sleeping on his post whilst a Sentinel, on the night of the 11th", Willard's offense was, according to regulations,



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punishable by death. Hence, **Continued from page 1** the captains themselves constituted the court, instead of a panel of enlisted men as was the case with lesser offenses.

On being found guilty, Willard was sentenced to receive 100 lashes on his bare back. This trauma is so harsh that the captains directed the punishment to be administered with 25 lashes at four different times. It was considered a leniency that he was allowed to remain in the party.

There is no substitute for sleep in recovering from a day of hard physical labor. Needless to say, the prospect of getting up at 2 am. to serve a two-hour watch, after which one wakes the rest of the ungrateful members of the Corps and prepares for a full work day is dreadful. Cooks were spared that particular privation.

This privilege was granted in recognition of the special requirements of the cook's position. Ordinary soldiers on the expedition worked very hard all day most of the time. Their relaxation came in the evening: before, during, and after supper. The cooks were not relaxing at those times. They were busy preparing, serving, and cleaning and storing provisions and equipment. In compensation, the cooks were excused from standing all watches.

That is why it becomes significant that John Collins was replaced by Peter Weiser as the cook for Sgt. Pryor's mess on August 12, 1804. None of the journalists described the circumstances of this change. Therefore we shall rely on speculation, conjecture, and wildly unsubstantiated assumptions to fill in the details. (The following is based largely on the writer's experience as a cook for the Sigma Chi fraternity.)

Hungry young men are not too concerned about the subtleties of fine dining when dinner is served. They want food that is served on time and in sufficient quantity. Food options and choices are not important. The food must be safe, reasonably tasty, and not too different from their expectations. Quantity is valued above special quality. They are satisfied to be full.

So it is unlikely that Collins was sacked because his food wasn't good enough. Dispersal of provisions to the messes was such that each cook received an equal ration. Cooking techniques were determined by the equipment and the nature of the food. There wouldn't have been much difference between what was served by the different cooks.

Therefore timing is the only variable that could have cost Collins his job. Hungry soldiers want just one thing: To eat now! If one cook was consistently slower in fire-building, butchery, and other preparations, the men of his mess would have looked around and said, "Why are they eating, and we're not?" Mealtime is a particularly bad time to be the subject of group anger.

The conclusion is that Collins was simply too slow, a shortcoming that continues to cost young cooks their job. He lost his privileged position, but he escaped the lash. Later journal entries show that Collins was regarded as an able hunter.



Jack Schroeder

In our next issue, we will address a question raised by this column: What is the difference between dinner and supper?

Report From the Lewis and Clark Heritage Days Festival

By: Jack Schroeder



Each year on the third weekend in May, St. Charles Missouri honors the memory of the beginning of the expedition of Lewis and Clark. This year I attended several events at the festival.

The Discovery Expedition of Saint Charles is camped in Frontier Park on the banks of the Missouri River, and the Lewis & Clark Boathouse is just steps away, where the Discovery Expedition of Saint Charles boats are on display.

Captain William Clark recorded the arrival of the Corps in St. Charles on May 16, 2003, "...at 12oClock a number Spectators french & Indians flocked to the bank to See the party. This village is about one mile in length...and about 450 inhabitants chiefly French, those people appear pore, polite & harmonious."

The modern-day residents appear quite prosperous now, but they are still polite & harmonious. They are proud of their history, which includes being Missouri's first capital. However, when I was there, most of the cars I saw were turning into the parking lot of the Ameristar Casino at the entrance to the city.



The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles at Belle Fontaine

My main interest was finding more information about the way in which the Corps of Discovery was fed. I was disappointed in this regard because the encampment of modern-day re-enactors does not include cooking from the era, either as a practical matter of feeding themselves, or as a demonstration. I see an opening there for a man of my talents.

Several of the women knew fragments of the historic cooking methods and ingredients. The Trinity of corn, beans, and squash were well-known as staples of the plains Indians. The reliance on dried salmon in the Pacific Northwest was well-known. For the most part however, readers of this newsletter are far more knowledgeable than the St. Charles group about how the Corps was fed.

So I changed my line of inquiry, and I asked them how they fed themselves in their modern camps. I noted that I had once seen a large supply of Subway sandwiches being delivered to the mess. Yes, they said, they did purchase provisions from the local settlers

and merchants as needed.

The group appears at non-L&C events too, such as Civil War and other historic encampments. I learned that the organizers of some events provide pot luck meals prepared by members of the sponsoring community. The re-enactors greatly approve of this arrangement.

At a previous camp, a local farmer had provided a large supply of "water millions." This treat proved so welcome that a tradition was born, and now the tasty fruit is a part of every gathering. In fact, ice-cold slices were passed around while I was there, and they were a perfect antidote to the windy, 89 degree weather.

I learned that, as with most human activities, there is a competition. With historic re-enactors, the competition is for authenticity. Actual artifacts are more esteemed than reproductions. Hand-stitched garments lend more prestige than those which are machine-sewn. Most of the work that is done to be authentic is done by the women, although the men strut around in their hand stitched buckskins as if they were peacocks.

Captain Clark also recorded in his journal on May 20, 2003, "...Capt Lewis and several gentlemen arrive from St. Louis thro a violent Shoure of rain..." Some things don't change. On the day I was in St. Charles, at the other end of the state a tornado destroyed a large part of Joplin, Mo. Several tornadoes from that system touched down ten miles from the St. Charles campsite just three hours after the campers had disbanded.

L&C trip to Mackinaw City, MI May 13 – 15, 2011

Submitted by Mary Strauss,
Badger Chapter Member

When the Ohio Chapter offered an excursion for anyone in nearby states to join them at the Straits of Mackinac for their Northern Michigan meeting, we decided it was time to visit that area. Ohio President Elect, Stan



Spencer, made arrangements at the Mackinaw Bay and Beach All Suites Resort and all 30 of us enjoyed the hotel as our personal rooms had a view of the Straits from our private porch and had lots of space to spare.

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The meeting's goal was to investigate the fur trade, Northwest Passage, and influence of the French in the early years of our country.

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The first night the group had arranged for an impressive display of artifacts of the fur trading years from the collection obtained by Richard and Sandy Henning. Their friends, George and Carol Bolton added to it, and they all came in period costumes. I signed their register with a large quill pen. Richard's goal is to obtain items similar to all the ones taken by the Corps of Discovery. Among the items we saw was a model of the keel boat, a blunderbuss, rifle pouch and powder horn. There was a 1775 musket copy, cannon, espartoon, pocket pistol, and gifts from Indian tribes as would have been brought back to show President Jefferson. Each of us gladly accepted the replica 1803 US silver dollar given for attending.

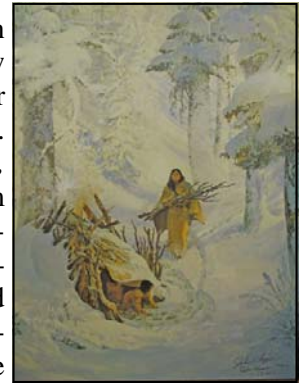


Ron Laycock of Benson, Minnesota, former President of the Foundation 1994-95, spoke to us about the Dorian family and their role in the Fur Trade and offered duplicate items to us from his extensive collection. For a donation to the L & C Trail Heritage Foun-

dation, Tom Strauss acquired a hand-forged axe with a hammerhead on the other side.

Pierre Dorian, born in 1750 in Quebec, was the first settler of South Dakota. In 1804 he lived with the Sioux in SD and on June 12th he met Lewis and Clark. They could have used him as an interpreter when Coulter's horse was stolen, but they left Mr. Dorian behind. He had three sons, all who dealt in the fur trade, and Pierre Jr. was the first white man to reach Astoria, WA after Lewis and Clark.

The Ohio Chapter honored "Mr. L&C Laycock" as a historian and legislator. The next speaker was Jerry Robertson, on the topic of "The Provenance of Artist John Clymer's print of Maria Dorian, wife of Pierre". Jerry had won in a raffle an artist's drawing of an "Iowa Indian Lady", but knew little about it. When he later came across a print by J. Clymer called *Marie Dorian, Winter Refuge* it struck him that his drawing was the actual artist's sketch of the subject of the painting. He told how the Dorians were members of the Astor's fur trade company, and his wife was fending for their sons in a hut



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Seaman Says – July 2011

August 8, 1804; Having now counseled with the Oto and Missouri Nations we proceeded up the Missouri River and on up past the River Sioux where we came upon a rather amazing sight; a huge flotilla of feathers came towards us from up river. There were so many of these feathers they covered the width of the river to approximately sixty or seventy yards. My Captain Lewis appeared to be amazed by the science of all this but I thought there might be some enjoyment in this event.



I jumped from the keel boat into the mass of feathers and you can imagine the sight as my splashing and frolicking sent feathers flying in every direction. The men of the Corps cheered me on and thought I put on quite a performance. Upon returning to the boat I was, of course, covered in the feathers but this helped Captain Lewis in getting specimens for his scientific observation.

A few miles up river we came across the source of these feathers; an island covered with a huge flock of Pelicans. Their numbers were, as Captain Lewis exclaimed, "almost incredible". My Captain desired a specimen of this bird and so I volunteered for science. I again dove into the water and swam to the island, thinking I could retrieve one of the birds. Alas, they flew off prior to my arrival but in doing so, my Captain was able to bring one down with his rifle and I retrieved that one for him. Imagine our amazement when we found this bird had a bladder like pouch attached to its lower beak and that it could hold five gallons of water.



To date, I rather enjoy contributing to scientific studies.

in the bitter cold of 1814 after leaving the main camp near the mouth of the Boise River when “bad Snake” Indians were coming to hunt the Astorians down. Marie’s husband, Mr. Dorian, had been killed, and she loaded the remaining injured man on horseback along with her children. He later died, and it took them three months to reach safety across the snow-choked Blue Mts. down to the Columbia River.

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We closed Friday night’s meeting with chatting and nibbling the homemade treats offered by a member. It was a great start to the weekend’s events.

Saturday morning we enjoyed the complimentary hotel breakfast before heading out in the light rain with fellow Badger member, Mark Nelezen, for our group visit to the historic Marquette Mission Park and Museum of Ojibwa Culture. It was a trip back over the Mackinac Bridge and into St. Ignace, where we were greeted by two tribal members and shown the fine artifacts of the museum and taken in two groups for a campfire talk

in the long house. 11,000 years ago as glaciers receded Mackinac Island was formed and 10,000 years ago Native Americans were here. We



learned that in the Objibwa language, “mackinac” means turtle (the island resembles a turtle in water) and “Kinnickinnic” means tobacco. Lou Ritten, of both the Illinois and Badger chapters, gave a fine review of how Father Marquette, born in Laon, France in 1637, came to this area as a missionary from Quebec and with only two canoes explored future Wisconsin and south on the Mississippi River as far as Caskaskia, IL with Joliet in 1673. Marquette loved the St. Ignace area and as told through Native American lore, he is buried close by after his untimely death May 18, 1675 in perhaps the Ludington, MI area on the return trip.

In attendance was Ohio Chapter member Bob Anderson. He had been a re-enactor during the Bicentennial and had traveled down the Ohio River with the L&C Corps. Bob made a presentation to Tony, our Ojibwa guide, of kinnickinnic from all the eastern ar-

reas Bob passed through. Overcome with emotion, Tony was so grateful for the symbolic gift, and told us to tell our grandchildren about this moment. He had his peace pipe along, and as Lou spoke to us, he smoked the combined tobacco and ceremoniously blew smoke over the fire, on the entrance timbers, and with his bird wing fan, added spirit from these new areas to the dwelling.



After lunching on the traditional Upper Peninsula miner’s “pasties”, we gathered at the Mackinaw City shoreline location of Colonial Fort Michilimackinac (with the parking lot

actually under the east end of the Mackinac Bridge). We viewed the Commander’s Quarters, the Guard House, store, and enjoyed the re-enactor Regiment group, The King’s Eighth, who



were living in the guard house for a few weeks. They answered our many questions and demonstrated shoot-



ing the muskets, even enduring the backfiring due to the rain. We took a group photo after they fired the cannon. Back at the entry we shook off the raindrops and mayflies that gathered

on our outerwear, and returned to our hotel.



(To be cont’d in the next edition of “Field Notes”)

Badger State Chapter Picnic Set For Saturday, August 13, 2011

Dr. Mark Koepl and Sheryl have once again generously offered to host our annual picnic at their bison ranch, Catnip Hollow. Last year's gathering at the same place was a great success, and this year we will repeat the most popular events.

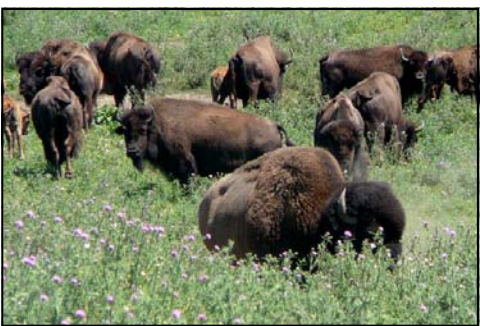


There will be bison burgers and bison stew featured in the potluck lunch. There will be bison watching as well as Q&A with Mark about these noble animals and their culture. And of course the ever-popular Free Raffle will take place, with attractive Lewis and Clark merchandise offered as prizes.

Last year's picnic was among the most popular of the year's meetings, and those who attended are not likely to miss this one. If you missed it, don't miss it again. There is a very pleasant space indoors if the weather turns hostile, so this event will occur rain-or-shine.

There will also be numerous bison products and meats available at the special L&C discount. Hides and skulls as well as bison jerky, sausage, roasts, steaks, and processed items will be offered for sale.

People will start arriving at noon, with lunch at 1:00 pm. Maps and directions will be sent in a later message. Come out and spend a few relaxing hours with



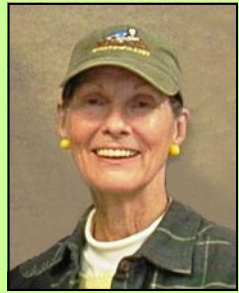
your friends and fellow members.

It's free!

Pictures from 2010 picnic on the Bison Ranch



Meriwether Lewis at Cumberland Gap...



...a special presentation by Lorna Hainesworth next October. You can get advance information now by downloading the meeting flyer that is posted in the Files of our on line message board at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LewisandClark-BadgerChapter/>



Badger State Chapter President's Message

July 2011

By: Jim Rosenberger

As most of you probably know, I serve on the board of directors of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation as a director at large. I have been on the Foundation board for just a bit over one year and it has been a real education as to what is all involved in managing the affairs of a national organization dedicated to the history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Our main topic has been planning for the future of the Foundation.

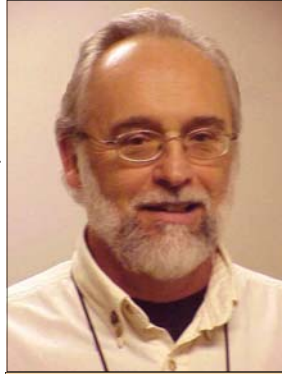
Newsletter articles



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.

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We have all probably heard the phrase, "change is good" and often times a lively debate follows. Some of us would agree with the premise that change is inevitable and it usually improves things. Some of us would just as soon keep things the way they are. I think the reality is that change takes place whether we like it or not or whether we recognize it or not and we just need to manage it.



Jim Rosenberger

Changing times are also requiring that the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation consider making some changes. For many years the Foundation has raised its operating income from primarily two sources; membership dues and government grants. Foundation membership has fallen from around 3,500 during the bicentennial years to a current level of around 1,300 members. Naturally, income from membership dues has fallen drastically. With budget cuts in all government agencies, government grants are in the process of becoming a thing of the past. We have already seen how reduced funding has impacted our Foundation staff and ability to provide membership services. This means how the Foundation operates and where it will get operating income will have to change.

Those of you who are Foundation members have received correspondence from the executive committee of the board explaining the efforts the board is currently making. You have also received a letter from four dissenting members of the board attempting to explain issues they have with how change is being handled. I think that our past board communication, among board members and with the total membership, should have been better and that we may be attempting to much too fast. But beyond that, I support what the executive committee and board majority is attempting to accomplish.

While we hope to make changes to funding sources etc. we will continue to promote growth in the Trail such as the current "Eastern Legacy" program. We will work to increase membership, especially in the area of youth programs. We will continue to have our annual and regional meetings the same as we have in the past. Our commitment to our members and our Chapters will continue as will our commitment to the American people in telling the Lewis & Clark story

and protecting the Trail so our Nation understands the important contribution Lewis & Clark made in building our history and character.

Some of these changes will require that we make changes to the by-laws of the Foundation and these changes will be voted on by the membership. Foundation members will receive correspondence about these proposed changes and some will be voted on at this year's annual meeting. If you have not registered for the annual meeting as yet, I encourage you to do so; this will be one of the most important annual meetings the Foundation has ever had.

I support the efforts of the Foundation board. I believe that in order for us to have a dynamic, forward thinking organization, change has to be made. I believe we are on the right path.

Treasurer's Report

The Badger State Chapter had \$2976.23 in the Chapter Treasury as of July 1, 2011, and membership is now at 74. Thanks to everyone for supporting your Chapter.



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