



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

July 2012

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 43

During this time in history:
(January 1804 - April 1806)

(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 the observations of Sgt. Charles Floyd, one of the "Nine Young Men from Kentucky" and the only member of the Corps of Discovery to die on the Expedition.

May 14, 1804, Camp Dubois, IL, Sgt. Floyd: "...Capt. Clark set out at 3 o'clock P.M. for the western expedition. The party consisted of 3 sergeants and 38 working hands which manned the bateau and two pirogues..."

July 4, 1804, near Atchison KS, Sgt. Floyd: "...A snake bit Joe Fields on the side of the foot which swelled much; apply barks to it...passed a creek on the south side...as the creek has no name and this day is the 4th of July we name this Independence Creek...an extensive prairie open and high which may be seen six or seven miles...I call it Joe Fields snake prairie..."

July 21, 1804, at the confluence of the Platte and Missouri Rivers, Sgt. Floyd: "...Sailed past the mouth of the great river Platte on the south side. It is much more rapid than the Missouri...the sand rolls out and forms large sand bars in the middle of the Missouri. About 2 days and a half up the Platte 2 nations of Indians lives, the Oto and Pawnee. This river is not navigable for boats to go up it..."

July 31, 1804, near the present town of Fort Calhoun, NE, Sgt. Floyd: "We lay by for to see the Indians who we expect here to see the captains. I am

Cont.-See "Gray Column" on pg. 2

WISCONSIN BECOMES FIRST REPLICIA TRAIL STATE

Wisconsin Becomes First (and only?) Replica Trail State By: Jim Rosenberger

In the January 2012 issue of "Field Notes" I wrote about the development of a Lewis and Clark Replica Trail (LCRT) in Grand Marsh, WI. You may recall the effort was the result of scholastic achievement at Grand Marsh Elementary School and the hard work and leadership of teachers Paul Timm and Virginia Fritz. On May 25, 2012 I had the honor and privilege of attending the dedication of the Replica Trail along with Chapter members Jerry and Nancy Anderson, volunteers and others involved in the development of the Trail, and teachers, staff and students of Grand Marsh Elementary School. (See left)



Representatives of the Grand Marsh Elementary School at the Trail Dedication. This project parallels the goals of the Badger State Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

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Accomplishing the development of the Replica Trail is impressive and I can only describe the time I spent at Grand Marsh as inspirational and at times, emotional.

The dedication started with a presentation at the school by Virginia and Paul including a power point presentation by Paul which showed their trip on the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail and then pictures of the development of the Lewis and Clark Replica Trail. During

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very sick and has been for sometime but have recovered my health again..."

August 18, 1804, the last journal entry by Sgt. Floyd: "Our men returned and brought with them the man (deserter Moses Reed) and brought with the grand chief of the Oto's and 2 lower ones and 6 warriors of there nation."

August 20, 1804; near Council Bluffs, IA, Capt. Clark: "Sergeant Floyd much weaker and no better; as bad as he can be, no pulse and nothing will stay a moment in his stomach or bowels...Sgt Floyd died with a great deal of compo-sure. Before his death he said to me, 'I am going away, I want you to write me a letter'. We buried him on the top of the bluff ½ miles below a small river to which we gave his name. He was buried with the honors of war much lamented; a cedar post with the name 'Sgt. C. Floyd died here 20th of August 1804' was fixed to the head of his grave. This man at all times gave us proofs of his firmness and determined resolution to do service to his county and honor to himself. After paying all the honor to our deceased brother, we camped in the mouth of *Floyds River*..."

The following from: *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition-A Biographical Roster of the Fifty-one Members and a Composite Diary of Their Activities from All Known Sources* by Charles G. Clarke

SERGEANT CHARLES FLOYD

Born in Kentucky, son of Robert Clark Floyd, and a grandson of William and Abadiah (Davis) Floyd. He was one of the first to enlist in the party, which he did on August 1) 1803, in Kentucky, and is therefore listed as one of the "Nine young men from Kentucky." He was a cousin of Nathaniel Pryor, also one of the party. Captain Clark called him "A man of much merit." He kept a journal which is published in Thwaites' edition of the Lewis and Clark journals. He died on August 20, 1804, of what has since been diagnosed as a ruptured appendix - the only man to die on the expedition. He is buried at Floyd's Bluff, on the Missouri near Sioux City, Iowa. He was posthumously awarded a land grant, which was deeded to his brother, Davis, and two sisters, Elisabeth and Mary Lee Floyd.

the presentation and all through the dedication ceremony, it was emphasized to the children that the LCRT was their trail; it's planning and development was made possible due to their scholastic achievement.

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After the presentation we "moved out" to dedicate and hike the trail which is located just north of the school. The trail runs east and west and an emotional dedication was held at each entrance. The east entrance is dedicated to, "all those whom we have lost to breast cancer, especially Jan Rhinehart, a teacher, a friend, and an avid lover of the outdoors". Ms. Rhinehart was a teacher and friend to many of those in attendance and her daughter, who is now also a teacher, was the official ribbon cutter to open this east entrance.

We then hiked the ¾ of a mile to the west entrance and found we were accompanied by our old Lewis and Clark nemesis, 'musketeers in great abundance'. The west entrance is dedicated to, "all of those from our military who have died while serving our country, especially PFC Ryan Larson. We thank them for protecting the freedom that we enjoy". PFC Larson was a former student and a soldier from the area who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in Afghanistan a little over a year ago. Larson's mother did the official ribbon cutting to open the west entrance.

The Trail is well groomed and is not a difficult hike. The westbound trail and the Clark eastbound return trail are each about ¾ of a mile long with the Lewis route being an additional .8 of a mile. The trail represents the rivers the Corps of Discovery traveled and is mostly flat. By coincidence, as you approach the area of the trail where the Great Falls are, you ascend a small hill, just as if you were entering the area of the Rocky Mountains as the Corps of Discovery did. There are signs to guide you along the trail, explaining where you are in your "expedition". The signs, which were made by area high school students, are extremely well done; I would go so far as to say they are as well done as any other signs I have seen along the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail including National Park Service signs. There are benches along the trail so you can sit, rest and take in the scenery.

The trail will be used for history, science and physical education classes. It will be open to the public for activities like hiking, cross country skiing, etc. No motorized vehicles will be permitted. I have no doubt the LCRT will make an impact in bringing Lewis and Clark history to students. As we hiked from the east to the west entrance of the trail a group of students was ahead of us, leading the way, and another group was behind us. As we neared the west entrance, the students ahead of us yelled "Ocean in View!" and without hesitation the students behind us responded, "Oh the Joy!". It was awesome!

A huge amount of volunteer work went into the development of the LCRT and involved educators, students, agencies and community businesses. It was impressive to see how the community got on board to get the trail completed. As a group, we consider history important because it tells us who we are and how our culture developed. Here is an instance where the study of history, along with the leadership of Paul Timm and Virginia Fritz, encouraged an entire community to come together and complete this project.

In appreciation for all the work they did to develop the LCRT and on behalf of the Badger State Chapter and Lewis and Clark Trail

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Heritage Foundation, I presented Paul Timm with a framed poster of the Foundation logo art print and Virginia Fritz with a set of coffee cups with the logo on them.

It is important that the Badger State Chapter continue to support the LCRT and the Chapter board of directors will be exploring ways in which we can do this. I am hopeful that in the near future we can plan a field trip to Grand Marsh and tour the replica trail. One thing all Chapter members can do right now is let their local schools know of the existence of the replica trail so the schools might incorporate it into their history classes as a learning tour about Lewis and Clark.

Badger State Chapter President's Message

July 2012

By: Old Jim Rosenberger

Not being totally committed to the technological age we live in, and as June turned into July, I found it necessary to turn the page of my desk calendar to the new month. It was then that I was reminded I have a milestone birthday in July. I will be turning 70 years of age.



I found myself reflecting about the years past and I could not help but think of the words of a man I look up to and for whom I have a lot of respect; Meriwether Lewis. He celebrated birthdays on the expedition and on August 18, 1805, while at Lemhi Pass, he reflected on his life. I have always felt his journal entry for that

day was a beautiful description of a man looking back on his past years and also looking forward to the future. I think many of us can relate to his reflections and I would like to share his journal entry with you again:

“This day I completed my 31st year and conceived that I had in all human probability now existed about half the period which I am to remain in the sublunary world. I reflected that I had as yet done but little, very little indeed, to further the happiness of the human race or to advance the information of the succeeding generation. I viewed with regret the many hours I have spent in indolence and now sorely feel the want of that information which those hours would have given me had they been judiciously expended. But since they are past and cannot be recalled I dash from me the gloomy thought and resolved in the future to redouble my exertions and at least endeavor to promote those two primary objects of human existence, by giving them the aid of that portion of talents which nature and fortune have bestowed on me, or in the future to live for mankind, as I have heretofore lived for myself.”

As you are probably aware, many Lewis and Clark scholars look at this journal entry as insight into Lewis's death in 1809. I don't agree with their thinking but for those of you who may, I want to reassure you I am not depressed and I plan to live as many years as the good Lord will give me. I am way beyond 31 years of age and have lived more than half of my time in the “sublunary world” but like Lewis, I will “at least endeavor” to live for mankind. I hope we all do.

Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives - Part 2 (See April Field Notes for Part 1)

We know that both Lewis and Clark were in the Army in 1795. We also know that after being court-martialed and found not guilty, Meriwether Lewis was reassigned to a rifle company commanded by William Clark. Clark was Lewis's commanding officer for approximately six months before he resigned his commission and left the army. Why did William Clark leave the army?

Perhaps some of the best insight into Clark's decision to resign his commission is given by authors Jay Buckley, William Foley and James Holmberg. In “William Clark, Indian Diplomat”, Jay Buckley comments, “...Clark pondered whether he wanted to pur-

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sue a military career. He felt that he had been unfairly passed over for promotion, despite all of his efforts to prove his mettle... George Rogers advised him to resign from the army because of the poor health of their parents and the pressing financial and legal concerns of the family...and because there were economic opportunities that he could pursue. Following his brother's counsel, William resigned from the army as a first lieutenant on July 1, 1796..."

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William Clark

In his book, "Wilderness Journey, the Life of William Clark", William Foley comments, "Many factors influenced his decision to leave the service: poor health, a desire to improve his financial prospects, a yearning to try his hand in the world of commerce, and a sense of obligation to his aging parents and his brother George, who increasingly stood in need of his assistance. Most of all, Clark's prospects for advancement in the army seemed unpromising. Though to his way of thinking he had performed his duties ably and always acquitted himself honorably, his superiors had failed to accord him the recognition he coveted and expected. Such disappointments rankled, even though the always circumspect Clark confided his thoughts only to close family members."

In "Dear Brother, Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark", James Holmberg writes, "After four years in the military, the appeal of the soldier's life waned for Clark...The excitement of battle was replaced with the tedium of garrison life. Promotion would be slow. Clark suffered from bouts of ill health. His aging father John Clark needed help running the family plantation. William hoped to enter lucrative commercial trade. He despaired of ever rising to a degree of fame and fortune in the army and believed that commerce might provide them. Did family expectations influence him? Perhaps. Success in both military and business pursuits had been achieved by Clarks, Clark relatives and Clark associates."

But what were William Clark's thoughts and feelings as he considered remaining in the army or resigning? What were some of those thoughts that author William Foley says Clark confided "only to close family members?" Here was a young man pursuing a career and wanting to achieve personal and financial success. Wouldn't it be interesting to read his thoughts and plans for the future? But where would one find such documented information? During another visit to the Wisconsin State Historical Society archives, while reviewing Jonathan Clark papers in the Draper manu-

scripts, I came across copies of letters written by William Clark which give some insight into Clark's consideration and planning.

In a letter dated May 25, 1794 William Clark comments, "I have made a small application for a corps of riflemen. If I get it, then I shall continue in service, if not, I will resign." Here is an indication that Clark is considering other options if the "politics" of the military do not give him his transfer. In fact, within six months Clark sounds disgruntled with army life when he writes to his brothers Jonathan and Edmund on November 25, 1794.

To brother Edmund he writes; "I have some intention of resigning and get into some business in Kentucky or on the Mississippi, my wish is on the Mississippi. I think there is a great opportunity for an extensive and successful trade in that River could a man form valuable connections in New Orleans which I make no doubt could be accomplished, particularly at this early period."

His comments to his brother Jonathan seem to indicate certain events have soured William Clark's opinion of the military; "...I am sorry to inform you that the Army has become disagreeable to me and could I get into my business in a civil capacity I would bid adieu to this unthankful, unpolished Service. I have determined to resign. I seek for some more honorable employment for my youthful days..."

Yet William did not make a hasty decision, he did not resign his commission until July 1, 1796 and in a letter dated August 24, 1796 informs brother Jonathan; "...I have resigned and can give you but little of the news of the Army..."

So like any young man today, William Clark was thinking about his future, was looking for the right opportunity and wanted to get in on the ground floor. Little did he know that in a few years he would be back in the Army and be co-commander of a unit of men conducting our country's greatest expedition of western exploration.

Authors Buckley, Foley and Holmberg accurately describe Clark's considerations in resigning his commission in 1796. But to be able to read Clark's own words' describing what he felt was important to his future is, to me, something very special. But then, for the Lewis and Clark addict that I am, it would be.

Jim Rosenberger

The Men of Lewis and Clark and the War of 1812 - Part 2

(See April Field Notes for Part 1)

By: Jack Schroeder



William Clark was serving as both Indian agent for the Louisiana Territory and as a general in the territorial militia when the War of 1812 began. His jurisdiction was an enormous area with very few white settlements or military posts. Gathering reliable information about activities in this area was a difficult task.

Clark was always eager to interview traders and travelers who had returned from outlying regions with news of recent developments there. He learned from their reports that the British were increasing their agitation of the northern tribes against the American presence. The frequent letters he sent to Washington D.C. were a main source of intelligence for the national leaders.

The resourceful Captain Clark also used members of the expedition to inform himself about native movements and actions. He trusted the former members of the Corps, and he remained in contact with them as much as he was able.

Expedition sergeant Nathaniel Pryor had obtained a license from Clark to trade with the Winnebago Indians at a lead mine near present-day Galena, IL. Pryor was also tasked with gathering information about the activities of the influential Shawnee chief Tecumseh and his brother The Prophet.

Tecumseh was leading a large confederacy of Native tribes in an effort to stop the U.S. expansion into Native territory in modern-day Indiana.

On November 7, 1811 The Prophet and his warriors attacked soldiers under the command of General William Henry Harrison at the battle of Tippecanoe. The result was that each side had about 60 killed and twice that many wounded.



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 State Chapter Picnic Report/Exposé

By: Jack Schroeder

Photos by Bruce Fuller



Chapter members who attended the annual picnic at the Catnip Hollow bison ranch on Saturday, June 16th were amazed to find themselves swept into a near-riot.



The trouble began when the winner of the first drawing was announced, and he was President Rosenberger's son, Justin. Murmurs of discontent rippled up and down the

picnic tables. Cries of "Fraud, Cheat, and Nepotism!" rose from the membership.

Three large dogs that had been brought in to assist in crowd control were not available to help restore order, as they were lying under the dessert table waiting for something to fall off.

In an effort to quiet the unruly crowd, Jim's son pushed the winning ticket into the pudgy little fist of Jim and Mary's grandson, Malcolm, and claimed that the little tyke had won the prize. At this point a man named Paul who was previously not a member or guest, but who had followed the signs to the picnic, wondered if lunch was ready.

Just when it looked like pandemonium would ensue, the little guy selected the plastic badger cup as his prize. Waving it in the air he said, "Juice!" This gesture of innocence disarmed the crowd, and everyone sat back down to await the selection of the next winner.

Our host, Mark Koeppel, and several invited out-of-town guests also won prizes. Vice-president Schroeder was heard to say, "For crying out loud, it's a free drawing! So what if it's rigged?"

On the buffet line, bean dishes were well represented. All made a nice compliment to the bison stew. The dessert table featured more cookies and fewer chocolate items than in previous years.

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The weather was hot, of course, Continued from Page 5

but a lively wind and plentiful shade made for a very comfortable experience. We stayed into the mid-afternoon as Mark regaled us with anecdotes of his life as a bison rancher. The herd drifted into the upper pasture, giving us a lovely image to round out the day.



B.S.A. – LCTHF/Badger Chapter Patch Award

The Badger State Chapter has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America and Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Patch program for about a year and a half. In April of this year the Badger Chapter was proud to award our B.S.A./LCTHF Chapter Patch to our first out of state Scout.



Donovan Ochs

Donovan Ochs of Williamsburg, Michigan completed 3 requirements to qualify for the Scout Recognition Program and be awarded our Chapter patch. Donovan is 14 years old and is a Life Scout, which is a level just below an Eagle Scout. He started with Cub Scouts in 2005 and in Boy Scouts in 2008. Donovan read books about the Expedition, did research on Sgt. Patrick Gass and kept his own journal, which was a required activity, to earn the patch. Along with his family, Donovan visited Lewis and Clark sites such as Monticello, Charlottesville, VA and Harper's Ferry

It is our hope that the Boy Scout patch program will bring Lewis and Clark history to young people and make them aware of the Expedition's importance to our Nation's history and that the people and events of the Expedition will be a positive influence in their lives. Donovan's analysis and writing seems to indicate we are on the right path.

Donovan has given us permission to reprint his journal. Unfortunately, due to space limitations, not all of Donovan's entries can be presented here. However, I think you will be impressed with the following entries and the insight Donovan has as he becomes acquainted with the Lewis and Clark Expedition and puts his thoughts down in his journal.

Donovan recognizes the short comings and issues of our country's social structure and culture in the early nineteenth century:

3/28/2011: "Read "Sacagawea, Indian Interpreter to Lewis & Clark by Marion Marsh Brown". Most of the book is about the expedition. History on Sacagawea is interesting. Just like York, Sacagawea does not have much worth at this time in history. Neither had rights and both are thought as property. Both pull their weight during the expedition and participate in a historic journey. Being a "servant" or "slave" is beyond my thinking. Sacagawea didn't have a choice but made the most out of it and was able to pull through. From reading different books it sounds like it almost cost her, her life."

What was life like in 1803 compared to today? Donovan makes some astute observations:

6/19/2011: "As I pack for our trip to Colorado I think about Lewis & Clark. I can't imagine packing for a journey with so many unknowns. I have peace of mind knowing that if I forget anything Mom and I can pop into Wal-Mart. I am only packing for myself for four days. Lewis & Clark were traveling with fifty people going to an unknown territory, unknown conditions, and for an unknown amount of time. I was worn out getting ready for the trip with packing my suitcase. It was truly a different mind set back then. Their experience as military men was an asset. They were able to live off the land where we can go to a store. The country was unsettled where today it's hard to find a quiet corner."

6/21/2011: "Traveling by airplane and car today. Technology is everywhere. Unlike Lewis & Clark, I have the ability to use my cell phone and connect with anyone in the world. Lewis & Clark were on their own, total lack of organized communication. They had to travel out ahead and scout things out then ride back and report. Today text or call. They created the maps that we use today. Today we use GPS and Mapquest. Plenty of food. Food courts in airports. Restaurants and grocery stores on every corner. Room service at the hotel."

The study of Lewis & Clark leads us to many other areas of history and it did so for Donovan.

July 2, 2011 is Donovan's birthday and his family is visiting the civil war battlefield at Gettysburg. His journal entry the next day relates the impact of visiting this battle site.

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7/3/2011: "We finished the tour of Gettysburg in the morning. Continued from Page 6 The final stop was at Pickett's Charge. Even though that there was a 148 year difference, you can smell the powder. You can hear the cries of men. You can tell that after 148 years you can still feel death and suffering there. Went to the reenactment of Pickett's Charge. We leave for Michigan tomorrow."

Donavan finds that we don't know everything about the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Perhaps in the near future, a young man like Donovan will do further investigation and bring us answers:

7/6/2011: "Watched Lewis and Clark technology DVD. I think it was interesting because it talked about how they traveled and what they had. One question that I can't figure out is what happened to the keelboat and iron boat. Some say the keelboat was used as a

barge. Some say that the iron boat was traded or it is still there. No one knows the answers."

Donavan Ochs did an excellent job in completing the required qualifications and keeping a journal of his activities to earn the B.S.A./LCTHF patch. The Badger Chapter is proud to have awarded this fine young man our patch. We wish him well in all of his future efforts and we hope to cross paths somewhere, sometime along the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail.

***"When they shook hands,
the Lewis and Clark Expedition Began"***

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
2012 Annual Meeting-July 28-August 1, 2012
Clarksville, Indiana / Louisville, Kentucky
<<http://lewisandclarkfallsoftheohio.com/>>

Email Notice

Field Notes is posted on line, in color, before the paper edition is mailed out. Every issue, some of these e-mail addresses "bounce" because people have not notified us of changes, or because your e-mail address is not set to allow our messages to arrive. Be sure that this is not happening to you.

Treasurer's Report

The Badger State Chapter had \$2996.48 in the Treasury as of July 1, 2012. Chapter membership remains at 78.



Seaman Says – July 2012

October 15, 1803: We have descended the Ohio River and landed on the North bank of the river at a town named Clarksville. Captain Lewis introduced me to a Mr. William Clark who he says is a good friend and will be co-commander of our little expedition. This Clark fellow seems to be well qualified for the job but it is his older brother, Mr. George Rogers Clark, who intrigues me.

It seems this George Rogers Clark was a hero in a war the humans fought some twenty years ago and since then has also fought against Indians and was nearly involved in a war with the Spanish, but it did not develop.

At times George Rogers seems angry or bitter towards people but I sense in him a good man, an honest man with a strong character and very good leadership qualities. He has given good advice to my Captain Lewis and his brother William. He gives very good insight for dealing with Indian Nations and leading men and obviously has excellent survival skills. I would put my trust in him should he be leading our expedition. But my Captains are also good leaders and as such, are good listeners and readily accept good advice. We will have a successful expedition.





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