



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

July 2013

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 47

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

July 25, 1804, Camp White Catfish, IA, Clark: "...At 2 o'clock Drouillard and Cruzatte returned from the Oto Village and informed that no Indians were at their towns. They saw some fresh signs of a small party but could not find them..."

July 25, 1805, Near Three Forks, MT, Lewis and the main party are following Capt. Clark who is attempting to make contact with the Shawnee Nation. Lewis: "Set out at an early hour and proceeded on tolerably well...we passed Capt. Clark's encampment of the 23rd...We passed a large creek today...it is composed of five streams which unite in the plain...this stream we called Gass's Creek after Sgt. Patrick Gass, one of our party..."

Clark: "A fine morning. We proceeded on a few miles to the three forks of the Missouri. Those three forks are nearly of a size; the north fork appears to have the most water and must be considered as the one best calculated for us to ascend...I wrote a note informing Capt. Lewis the route I intended to take and proceeded on up the main north fork through a valley, the day very hot..."

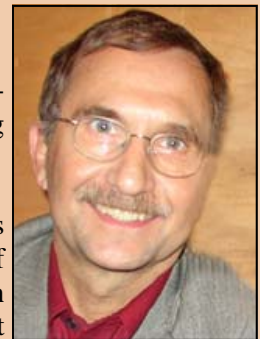
July 25, 1806, The Captains are separated; Capt. Lewis is at Camp Disappointment on Cut Bank Creek, MT. Lewis: The weather still continues cold, cloudy and rainy, the wind also has blown all day...I determined that if tomorrow continued cloudy, to set out as I now begin to be apprehensive that I shall not reach the United States

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

BADGER STATE CHAPTER MEMBERS SEARCH FOR WILLARD HOMESTEAD

By: Tom Strauss

We Set out rether later this morning than usial due owing to drizzlie wether.... (A commonplace happening to most who survived Ouesconsin's May 2013.)



The party consisted of Capt Rosenberger, Pvts Strauss and Bebow all intent on finding signs of the home of Corps of Discovery member, Alexander Hamilton Willard. Alexander and his wife Eleanor settled in what was to be called southwestern Wisconsin at least by 1828 because their tenth child, Eleanor, was born there on Dec 31, 1828. At that time that land was part of the large Michigan Territory, but soon it would become WI Territory. To help prepare for that transition, a census was taken in 1830 and it stated twelve people were living in the Willard home.

While laying out what was soon to become Wisconsin territory, surveyor Lucius Lyon wrote detailed notes in 1832 as he plotted the area where the Willard's lived . Those notes and sketches contained references to Willard's home and fields as well as a spot a few miles away marked as "Willard's Diggins." The house and field were tucked into the south side of a horseshoe bend of the Fever River Our goal was to find the precise location of those two pieces of property. As Lucius was surveying the one mile long, east-west, line between Sections 16 and 21, then in Iowa County, Michigan Territory, he wrote it was "40.30 chains to Willards fields" and at "47 chains (Lyon) left field opposite Mr. Willards House which is 600 N of line." It was so exciting to read those notes and soon found this sketch Lucius Lyon drew of Willard's field and home. Oh the joy!

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“Gray Column” Continued from page 1

within this season unless I make every exertion in my power which I shall certainly not omit when once I leave this place which I shall do with much reluctance without having obtained the necessary data to establish it's longitude. As if the fates were against me, my chronometer from some unknown cause stopped today, when I set her to going she went as usual.”

Clark: “...at 4 P. M. arrived at a remarkable rock situated in an extensive bottom on the starboard side of the river and 250 paces from it. This rock I ascended and from its top had a most extensive view in every direction. This rock, which I shall call Pompey's Tower is 200 feet high...the natives have engraved on the face of this rock the figures of animals and etc. near which I marked my name and the day of the month and year...”



Here is part of Lyon's sketch showing only half of Sections 16 and 21. To make it more clear, I digitally erased some overwriting on the word “Willard's” and the sketch of the field. Perhaps you can even make out the sketch of a cabin just up from the W in Willard. I drew the bold arrow on the left to show where he started his measurements.

Continued from page 1

Surveyors used a 66-foot long chain with 100 links to measure distances. That length was chosen because 80 chains were one mile. Lyon mentioned at 47 chains from the arrow I drew in the photo, he was opposite Mr. Willard's house. I assume his note of “600 N” means the house was 600 feet north from there and I assume it's an estimate of distance, but since he was a surveyor, it seems it would be quite accurate. So with that information, along with the LaFayette County GIS system and Google Maps, we were able to come quite close to determining the location of Mr. Willard's house.

From the notes and sketch, we can see the Willard home was nestled on the south side of the Fever River, which ran in a horseshoe pattern around his home and

fields. Unfortunately the small Fever River often floods and meanders in its course. Using surveyor Lyon's notes and Google maps, we were concerned because it appears the site of his original home is now on the north side of the river! That's where our search would start.

We set out in Jim's white, pirogue-like, SUV heading north-east of Cuba City on Lafayette County's Hwy H where we were joined by two younger men from Wisconsin – Dana Duppler and Justin Daugherty. Dana is a local builder, area historian and representative of Rich Hall-Reppen, the person who now owns the land we wished to search. Rich gladly gave us permission to search his land and hoped we would be lucky. Justin owns land on Hwy H on the north side of the Fever River, adjacent to the land we wished to search. Justin guided us across his fields down into a deep ravine leading to the river and onto land once trod by Alexander Willard.

Since we knew Alexander was a blacksmith, we hoped to find discarded pieces from his forge, so Charlie brought a metal detector. Almost immediately after making our way to our specific search area, all heads snapped around as we heard the beep of the metal detector. Turns out it was just an empty soda can.



Charlie Bebow w metal detector, Justin Daugherty, Dana Duppler and Jim Rosenberger

Unfortunately, after searching for nearly an hour, we believe the Fever River probably has deposited several feet of silt over the potential Willard site. Justin then lead us to the section 16/21 section line to look across the river at where Willard's seven or eight acre field was. As light rain started to fall we made our way

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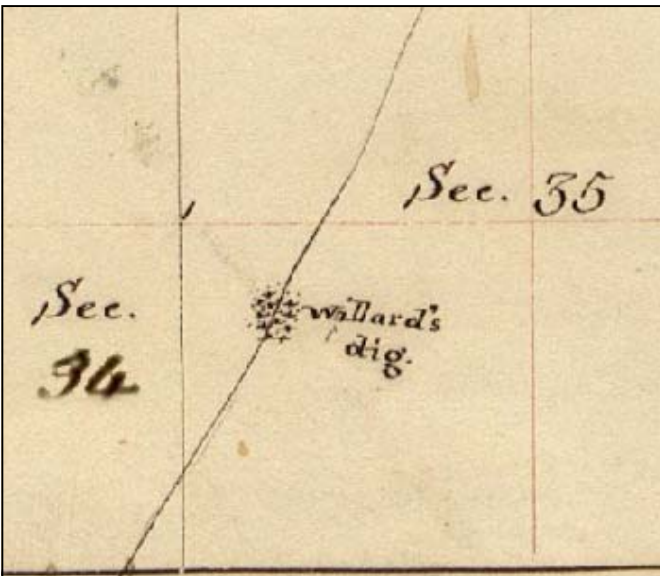
Badger State Chapter
Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation

back up the ravine to our car, Continued from page 2
 with hopes to go back in the
 future to try searching the south side of the river for
 clues.



Willard's fields are to the left – house probably to the right

Sadly we parted ways with Mssrs Daugherty and Duppler, but followed our map north a few miles to where surveyor Lyon had noted Willard's Diggings. As he measured the line between sections 34 and 35, he wrote at "30 chains, opposite Mr Willards diggings 10.00 East of Line."



His sketch shows a rather larger area for the Diggings, that smaller rectangle is one-half mile square.

His information pointed to a specific area of a huge field owned by Pat Clare and his brother. Pat readily gave us permission to search the newly planted field. Even though it was still raining, we searched the specific area of the field for any sign of a depression or anything that looked like it could be the "diggings,"

but to no avail. We widened the search area, still with no luck and we sadly were ready to give up. As we headed back to the car, I walked the area one more time and then noticed the original area was strewn with small shards of stone, unlike any other areas of the field. Oh the joy again! Stones in view. We picked a few handfuls and headed to a diner in nearby Cuba City to dry out and hoped to find some boudin blanc.



Tom Strauss and Charlie Bebow search the field

We brought a handful of stones to the May 11 Chapter meeting. Rose Ann Scott took a few to Jerry Gundersen, a geologist. Jerry wrote back stating the rocks are from the Galena formation and are made up of "chert, SiO₂, silicon dioxide and have weathered for quite some time. The Galena formation is a dolomite formation with chert, zinc, and lead are all found together. The chert is a sign that you were in the right area for lead mining. There was so much lead that they would find big chunks lying on the ground. After they took the surface lead, the work began, because they knew it was underground there. They would use a hammer and chisel (by turning the chisel 1/4 turn with every blow of the hammer) to bore a hole to put black powder in to blast the rock.

They believe the lead flowed to the area from Hot Springs, AR in hot water and filled in the crack and crevices as it cooled."

We believe the rocks, along with the detailed 1834 surveyor's notes, confirm we have found the site of Willard's diggings. Our only other challenge is to show the diggings were those of Alexander Hamilton Willard, not one of his sons; either Continued on Page 4

Alexander Jr., who was about 20 at the time of the survey and Austin, about 24. Since Wisconsin did not become a territory until 1836, and population was so low, one could put up a home anywhere they pleased or start digging for lead where it was found. Actually people couldn't buy land until the territory started issuing land patents. One of the territory's earliest patents granted, number 645 in 1839, was to Alexander Sr. for 80 acres west of, but adjacent to, the diggings. In 1845 Alexander "Sr." was granted another patent, number 5,337, for an additional 80 acres just north of the Diggins.

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It wasn't until 1848s that a patent was finally granted to an Alexander Willard and three partners for the 80 acres holding the actual diggings. This 1848 patent doesn't include Alexander senior's middle name of Hamilton, so I believe it was probably his son that bought it with partners. That was 14 years after the Willard's Diggins were identified, but we may never fully know if the Diggins were named after "our" Alexander or one of his sons, but surely he worked that surface mine and the three of us were lucky to be able to walk in his footsteps.

Our work is not yet done as we know he purchased a home in Platteville, Grant County from his son on 26 September 1846, but the Spring 1847 Census reports he still lived in Lafayette County. But the 1850 Census shows he lived in Platteville at that time, so our future goal is to find his Platteville home and perhaps also place a marker commemorating his life in Wisconsin.

One final note about why I respect Alexander Willard. In 1852, when he was 74 years old, he and his family made up a train of 49 people and moved to the Sacramento, CA area. As in his earlier voyage of discovery, only one man was lost.



PRIVATE ALEXANDER HAMILTON WILLARD

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

(Repeated from Field Notes Issue #42)

Born August 24, 1778, at Charlestown, New Hampshire. He was an only son of Jonathan and Betty (Caswell) Willard. Five feet ten inches tall, brown hair, dark eyes, dark complexion and of fine physique. He was living in Kentucky at time of enlistment from Capt. Amos Stoddard's Artillery Company. He went on Lewis and Clark's payroll as of January 1, 1804. He was a good blacksmith, gunsmith and fine hunter. He may have kept a journal, yet to be located. He married in 1807, Eleanor McDonald of Shelbyville, Kentucky, and they were the parents of seven sons (one of whom was named Lewis, and another Clark), and five daughters. They have left many descendants. In 1808 he worked as a blacksmith in Missouri. He served in the War of 1812. From 1824

to 1852 he lived at Platteville and at Elk Grove, Wisconsin. In 1852 he and his family migrated by covered wagon to California, where he died in 1865, aged eighty-seven. He is buried at Franklin, near Sacramento, California. His wife, Eleanor, died June 11, 1868, aged seventy-eight. He and Sgt. Gass lived during the discovery of photography, and is the only other member of whom a photographic likeness is known.



Alexander & Eleanor Willard

Alexander Hamilton Willard

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Born July 1777 (1777-07) Condor Corner, Town of Charlestown, New Hampshire
Died 6 March 1865 (1865-03-07)
Franklin, Sacramento County, California
Occupation Blacksmith

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Known for Lewis and Clark Expedition

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Spouse: Eleanor McDonald

Alexander Hamilton Willard (1777–1865) was a blacksmith who joined the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Biography: Alexander Hamilton Willard Sr. was born in July 1778 in the town Charlestown, New Hampshire, he was the oldest son of Lt Jonathan Willard and the only child of Betty Caswell. Alexander was the 6th generation Willard born in America from Major Simon Willard's line.

Expedition: Alexander had enlisted in a U.S. Army artillery company in 1800. During an unsuccessful search for Baker Bay, Willard and George Shannon were ordered to camp out and wait for the main party. While they were sleeping on the beach, a group of Native Americans gathered their guns leaving them unarmed. The main party returned in such a timely manner as to startle the Native Americans into returning the guns. Although Willard had redeemed himself by this point, he had previously received the harshest punishment distributed to a member of the Corps of Discovery; "Court Martial on the Trail". The charges were lying down and sleeping at his post while on guard duty: a military crime punishable by death. The punishment was issued on July 12, 1804, and consisted of seventy lashes for each of four straight days.

During a portage around the Missouri River Falls in July 1805, Alexander Willard was attacked by a "White Bear", Clark gathered three men and chased the bear off. The island nearby later became known as White Bear Island in memory of that event.

In 1806 during his stay at Fort Clatsop, both Willard and William E. Bratton fell ill, although Willard recovered, Bratton did not until after winter.

With the Corps of Discovery, he assisted John Shields as a blacksmith. In 1808, Meriwether Lewis hired him as government blacksmith for the Sauk and Fox Indians; the following year, he was appointed to the same position for the Delawares and Shawnees. He later served in the War of 1812.

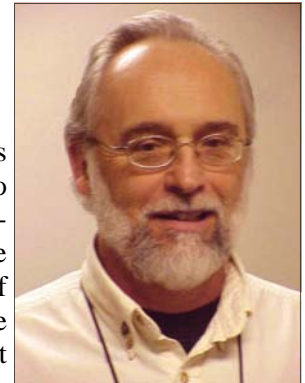
Marriage: Half a year after the completion of the expedition, February 14, 1807, Alexander married Eleanor McDonald. She gave birth to their twelve children.

Austin James Willard
George Clark Willard
Alexander Hamilton Willard Jr
Eliza Martha Willard
Roland Rudolph Willard
Christiana D. Willard
Joel Willard
Nancy Adeline Willard
Narcissa C. Willard
Eleanor C. Willard
Lewis Augustus Willard
Willis Willard

Death: Alexander Hamilton Willard Sr. died in March 1865. He is buried in Franklin Cemetery in Franklin, California, in Sacramento County

President's Message

By: Jim Rosenberger



Ah, the heat of summer is upon us and as I write this, so is the humidity, but the forecast is for more comfortable weather. The forecast, of course, tells us what the future holds and so I thought of what the forecast for our Chapter might be. Clever how I have worked my way into this topic, don't you think?

Earlier this year our Chapter nominated the Grand Marsh Elementary School in Grand Marsh, WI for the Meritorious Achievement Award given out by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and I am extremely happy to announce to you that the Foundation's Awards Committee has approved our nomination and has awarded the Achievement Award to the Grand Marsh School. The award will be presented to the School at the July 31st awards luncheon at the Foundation annual meeting in Bismarck, ND and the school will be represented by a number of people including Paul Timm who was one of the main drivers in developing the Replica Trail in Grand Marsh. This is a very exciting time for our Chapter and the Grand Marsh School and I look forward to spending time with Paul and discussing how we can be of further support to the Replica Trail.

Thanks to Tom Strauss we have made great progress in identifying the location of the homestead and lead mining area of Alexander Willard

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in southwest Wisconsin, as you Continued from Page 5 have probably already read in this issue of Field Notes. Thanks to Chuck Bebow also for pointing us in the right direction with his handy GPS.

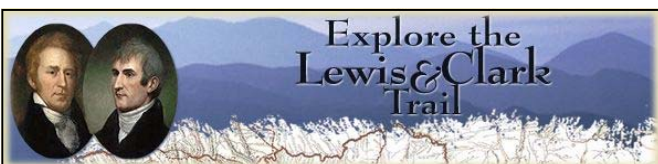
But a lot remains to be done. Our goal is to identify these locations with signs that will tell the history of Alexander Willard in Wisconsin and there are many areas of this project in which we don't have a lot of experience. Most likely we will need to meet with land owners, town and county officials and probably state officials to get direction and permission to erect signage telling of these historic places. So if any of our members have had experience with this type of activity we would appreciate your help. We will need to project costs for the signs and etc. and I anticipate we will need to develop some fund raising projects to help us accomplish our goal. But again, it will be an exciting project to complete.

In our research on Alexander Willard we have found two town roads in Iowa County named Pompeys Pillar Road and Council Bluffs Road and then found a rock tower along Pompeys Pillar Road which is named Pompeys Pillar. As yet, there is no connection to Lewis and Clark or Alexander Willard but we will continue to investigate. We have not yet gotten permission from the land owner to approach Pompeys Pillar but that is on the "to do list".

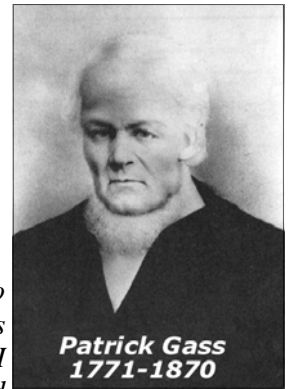
The idea of getting signs up in Prairie du Chien regarding William Clark's visits there has been moved down on the "to do list" but continues to be a project we want to work on and accomplish.

We are currently working on an annual picnic but the bison herd continues to be one step ahead of us and it appears that the picnic will take place in September or October. We will also have our fall quarterly Chapter meeting in October or November.

So it has been a busy spring and early summer and as you can see, the future holds enough opportunities to keep us busy with Lewis and Clark history. Feel free to join us, we can use the help.



Letters from my cousin, Patrick Gass, With the Corps of Discovery



Dear Cuzzin Bill,

From time to time I will try to send you some interesting bits from my journal. I surely hope I can get someone interested enough to publish them when we return to the United States. I thought you would find interest in my entries on each of the Independence Days that we celebrated on the trail:

Wednesday, July 4th, 1804. We fired a swivel at sunrise in honour of the day, and continued our voyage; passed a creek on the north side, called Pond Creek, and at one o'clock stopt to dine. One of our people got snake bitten, but not dangerously. After dinner we renewed our voyage, passed a creek on the north side, which we called INDEPENDENCE, encamped on the north side at an old Indian village situated in a handsome prairie, and saluted the departing day with another gun.

Thursday, July 4th, 1805. A fine day. A part of the men were busily engaged at the boat, and others in dressing skins for clothing, until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when we drank the last of our spirits in celebrating the day, and amused ourselves with dancing till 9 o'clock at night, when a shower of rain fell and we retired to rest.

Friday, July 4th, 1806. We had a beautiful morning and waited here some time in order to have a morning hunt, as our guides intend to return, and we wish to give them a plentiful supply of provisions to carry them back over the mountains. While our hunters were out a young Indian came to our camp, who had crossed the mountains after us. At 10 o'clock our hunters came in, but had not killed any thing. We were, however, able to furnish them with two deer and an half, from those that were killed yesterday. We then gave them some presents and took a friendly leave of them: and 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 up Isquet-co-qual-la through a

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handsome prairie of about 10 miles, after which the hills come close on the river, on both sides, and we had a rough road to pass. Having made 18 miles we encamped for the night; where the country is very mountainous on both sides of the river, which runs nearly east and west, and is a deep rapid stream about 80 yards wide.

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Your cuzzin, **Patrick Gass**

(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger State Chapter member and the editor of the Badger State Chapter's "Field Notes," is the second cousin four times removed, of Patrick Gass. He has offered these "letters from the trail", which must have been held up in the mail.)

Seaman Says – July 2013

September 7, 1804: As we ascend the Missouri River I see birds and animals which are new to me. From the excitement expressed by the humans, I must believe that they have not seen them before either. Our Captains write down as much information as they can about these species.



Today we stopped at the base of a large hill or what looked more to me like a high dome. At the base of this dome was a large colony of a new squirrel or rabbit looking animal which the French call a Prairie Dog. They live in the ground by digging holes and crawling into them whenever there is danger. The Captains ordered the men to dig into the holes and to pour water into the holes in an effort to capture some of the Prairie Dogs but they were not successful.

With my keen sense of smell I was able to identify which hole a particular Prairie Dog would enter and also which exit hole it would use. The men began digging and pouring water into one entrance hole and I waited, dug and made a general commotion at the proper exit hole. After a while this confused the Prairie Dog enough so that it ran towards the men and they were able to capture it. I feel I contributed greatly to the capture of this specimen.

My Captain Lewis is talking about keeping this Prairie Dog alive and shipping it back to President Jefferson. I do not know why he desires to do this nor do I know who this man Jefferson is.



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.

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 \$3779.73 in the Treasury as of July 1, 2013. There are 79 members in our Wisconsin based Chapter, and we are proud to also have members in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Michigan, Virginia, and Maryland. Thanks to you all.



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