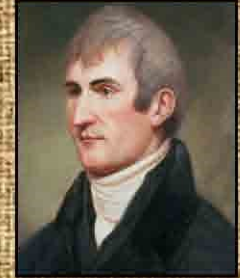




FIELD NOTES



William Clark Meriwether Lewis

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

July 2020

Wisconsin's Chapter - Interested & Involved

Number 75

During this time in history:
(November 1804 - January 1807)

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

Our journal entries deal with Expedition member JEAN BAPTISTE LAPAGE who joined the Corps of Discovery at Ft. Mandan, ND.

November 3, 1804, Ft. Mandan, ND, Clark: "...A fine morning. We engaged one man." (Note made by N. Biddle: "Canadian Frenchman who had been with the Cheyenne Indians last summer, descended thence the Little Missouri River, he was of our permanent party.")

Moulton footnote: "JEAN BAPTISTE LAPAGE took the place of the discharged John Newman and went with the permanent party to the Pacific and back. Most of what is known of him is in this entry and elsewhere in the journals. The information in Clark's Interlineation indicates that he had been to the Black Hills and on the Little Missouri River, in country that few, if any other whites had seen."

April 12, 1805, Dunn County, ND, Clark: "... One of our men, (JEAN BAPTISTE LAPAGE), who came down this river (Little Missouri River) in a canoe informs me that it is not navigable, he was 45 days descending it..."

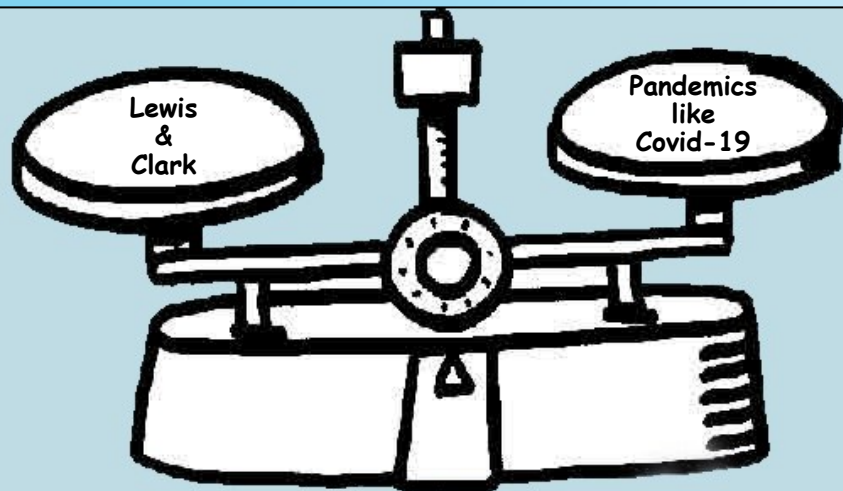
June 3, 1805, Marias/Missouri River confluence, MT, Lewis: "...I gave orders to Sgt. Pryor, Drouillard, Shields, Windsor, Cruzatte and LAPAGE to hold themselves in readiness to accompany me in the morning.

July 13, 1805, The Great Falls, MT, Lewis: "... BAPTISTE LAPAGE, one of the men whom I had reserved to man the canoes, being sick, I sent Charbonneau in his stead by water and the sick man and the Indian woman accompanied me by land..."

June 18, 1806, Idaho County, ID, Lewis: "...We set out leaving Shields and LAPAGE to collect the two lost horses and follow us..."

(Continued-See "Grey Column" page 2)

LEWIS AND CLARK AND THE PANDEMIC CONNECTION



By: Jim Rosenberger

Any plans we had for travel in 2020 were drastically changed by a tiny thing referred to as the Corona virus or COVID-19. The entire world population has had to make huge adjustments in their lives so they can protect themselves from this virus. And as of now we still don't know how long we will be dealing with this pandemic.

But this is not the first time we have had to fight a battle like this. Pandemics and epidemics have been with us in ancient times and recent times. At the end of World War I, in the years 1918 – 1920, the world was struck by the Spanish Flu Pandemic and 500 million people worldwide were infected by this flu and 50 million people worldwide died. Out of a United States population of 103 million people 675,000 Americans died.

Continued on page 2

(Continued from "Grey Column" page 1)

June 19, 1806, Idaho County, ID, Lewis: "...At 2 P.M. J. and R. Fields arrived with two deer; John Shields and LAPAGE came with them, they had not succeeded in finding their horses..."

Note; this appears to be the last time LAPAGE'S name appears in the journals. Other references to him are simply in the form of "one of the men".

July 13, 1806, Three Forks, MT, Clark: "had all the baggage of the land party taken out of the canoes and after dinner the 6 canoes and the party of 10 men under the direction of Sgt. Ordway set out..."

Moulton footnote: Ordway proceeded down the Missouri with the canoes to the Great Falls; with him were Collins, Colter, Cruzatte, Howard, LAPAGE, Potts, Weiser, Whitehouse, and Willard.

January 15, 1807, Meriwether Lewis letter to Henry Dearborn listing the men of the Expedition with comments where necessary:

"21: JOHN BAPTIST LA PAGE: Entitled to no peculiar merit.

Was enlisted at Fort Mandan, on the 2d of November 1804 in order to supply the deficiency in my permanent party occasioned by the discharge of John Newman. He performed the tour to the Pacific Ocean and returned to St. Louis, where he was discharged in common with others, on the 10th of November last. As he did not perform the labors incident to the summer of 1804, it would be proper to give him the gratuity only of two-thirds as much as is given to others of his rank."

Lewis & Clark and pandemics-Continued from page 1

In 1957-1958 the Asian Flu pandemic caused 1.1 million deaths worldwide with 116,000 American deaths out of a population of 171 million. Influenza-A arrived in 2018-2019 with up to almost 45 million Americans having the illness and up to 52,664 deaths out of a population of 326 million. But even before these fairly recent Pandemics there is a long history of traveling diseases.

As an example, Europeans had been infected with diseases for thousands of years and unknowingly passed them on to other populations. A few of these diseases were smallpox, chickenpox, influenza, malaria, measles, scarlet fever, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis and more. But there were survivors to these, and over time the population built a resistance to the diseases and medications were developed to fight them.

However, as exploration of the Americas developed, explorers unknowingly brought the diseases to the Natives of the newly discovered lands and the result was the death of thousands, if not millions, of the Native Americans. Because the Pandemics and Epidemics of the Americas can date back to 1492 and the records dealing with the early Native Americans populations were poorly kept or not kept at all, it is difficult to arrive at specific population numbers for them. There are population estimates in the 1492 era for Native Americans living in what is now the United States and estimates range from a peak low of 2 million to a high of 18 million. Regardless, by 1850 the Native population in the United States was approximately 600,000 and 250,000 in the 1890's.

In the 1600's Smallpox arrived in North America, beginning in the North East. Native American populations were ravaged as it spread west. In 1721, in the city of Boston with a population of 11,000, there were 6,000 cases of Smallpox and 850 people died from the disease. In 1793 the city of Philadelphia was struck by Yellow Fever and 10% of the city population died and many others fled the city.

Would Lewis and Clark have known about the epidemics like the Yellow Fever in Philadelphia? I think they probably would have. In 1793 Meriwether Lewis would have been 19 years old. He had returned to Virginia from Georgia in 1788, attended school until 1792 and then ran the family plantation. He joined the military in 1794. William Clark would have been 23 years old. His family had moved from Virginia to Kentucky in 1784-85 and he joined the Kentucky Militia in 1789. In the 1790's Clark traveled on the Ohio and Mississippi River. Both Lewis and Clark were active in society and I would think that through newspapers and word of mouth they would have, at a minimum, been made aware of the epidemics affecting the country and I also think this awareness helped in the planning of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Lewis and Clark were very aware that while they would be on the expedition the entire Corps of Discovery would be subject to many illnesses. In addition to physical injuries such as cuts, scratches and broken bones, the Corps would be subject to the common cold, sore throats, fevers, malaria, sunstroke, frostbite, venereal disease, snakebites and malnutrition to name just a few. Prior to the expedition, Lewis spent time in Philadelphia with various educators to learn what he could to help him lead a successful expedition. One of those was Dr. Benjamin Rush, who educated Lewis in medical aide he could give his men and we all know how well Rush's Pills worked on the men.

The journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition give us a fair amount of insight into some of the health and illness situations the Corps dealt with. As an example, we know that Lewis dealt with Malaria during most of his life and on November 13, 1803 he comments about it: "I was seized with a violent ague which continued about four hours and as is usual, was succeeded by a fever which, however, fortunately bated in some measure by sunrise the next morning".

Lewis & Clark and pandemics-Continued on page 3

Badger State Chapter

Lewis and Clark

Trail Heritage Foundation



Lewis & Clark and pandemics-Continued from page 2

One disease the captains had to deal with along the trail that we could say fell into the Pandemic or Epidemic category was that of venereal disease. A Journal entry on March 31, 1805 at Ft. Mandan, Captain Clark comments: "...All the party in high spirits but few nights pass without a dance. They are healthy except for the venereal, which is common with the Indians and have been communicated to many of our party at this place..."

August 19, 1805 the Corps is with the Shoshone Nation and Lewis makes a journal entry: "...I was anxious to learn whether these people had the venereal and made the inquiry through the interpreter and his wife; the information was that they sometimes had it but I could not learn their remedy; they most usually die with its effects. This seems a strong proof that these disorders, both the gonorrhea and lues venerea (syphilis), are native disorders of America..." A Gary Moulton footnote states, "...The question of whether the disease originated in the Americas and spread to the Old World after 1492, or was native to both hemispheres, is still a subject of debate..."

On January 27, 1806, at Ft. Clatsop, Captain Clark writes: "...Goodrich has recovered from the lues venerea (syphilis) which he contracted from an amorous contact with a Chinook damsel. He was cured, as Gibson was, with mercury...I cannot learn that the Indians have any Simples Sovereign Specifics in the cure of this disease; indeed I doubt very much whether any of them have any means of affecting a perfect cure. When once this disorder is contracted by them it continues with them during life; but always ends in decrepitude, death, or premature old age; though from the use of certain Simples together with their diet, they support this disorder with but little inconvenience for many years and even enjoy a tolerable share of health..."

Still at Ft. Clatsop on March 15, 1806 Captain Lewis writes; "...We were visited by Delashshelwilt, a Chinook chief, his wife and six women of his nation which the old baud, his wife, had brought for market. This was the same party that had communicated the venereal to so many of our party in November last and of which they have finally recovered. I therefore gave the men a particular charge with respect to them which they promised me to observe. (The charge or order to the men was to not have contact with the women and apparently the men obeyed the order.)

So in addition to caring for various illnesses, the Corps of Discovery was dealing with an existing epidemic within their own corps of men. Interestingly, at the same time, captains Lewis and Clark were also recording the impact another epidemic had on the Native American popula-

tions they would meet. Native Americans had been devastated by smallpox epidemics in the late 1700's and historical and archeological records have been recorded about the impact smallpox had on the various Native Nations they met. One of the important records that contain information about the smallpox epidemics is the journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The following are a few examples;

In an August 1804 journal entry by Captain Clark, he comments on the Omaha Nation: "...The ravages of the smallpox, which swept off 400 men and women and children has reduced the Nation, not exceeding 300 men, and left them to the insults of their weaker neighbors which before was glad to be on friendly turns with them..."

In November 1804 Clark comments on the Mandan people: "...The smallpox destroyed the greater part of the Nation and reduced them to one large village and some small ones. All the Nations before this malady were afraid of them. After they were reduced, the Sioux and other Indians waged war and killed a great many..."

Within Lewis and Clarks' "Fort Mandan Miscellany" report to President Jefferson they comment on the Pawnee group: "...In the summer and autumn of 1802 they were visited by the smallpox, which reduced their numbers to something less than 300. They burnt the village and have become a wandering nation, deserted by the traders, and the consequent deficiency of arms and ammunition has invited frequent aggressions from their neighbors, which have tended to reduce them still further..."

Within the same report the captains comment on the Chippewa Nation: "...Their number has been considerably reduced by wars and the smallpox..."

August 1805 finds the Corps with the Shoshone Nation and Captain Lewis writes: "...these people have suffered much by the smallpox which is known to be imported and perhaps those other disorders might have been contracted from other Indian tribes..."

In February 1806, Lewis comments on the Clatsop Nation: "...The smallpox had destroyed a great number of the natives in this quarter. It prevailed about 4 years since among the Clatsops and destroyed several hundred of them; four of their chiefs fell victims to its ravages. Those Clatsops are deposited in their canoes on the bay a few miles below us. I think the late ravages of the smallpox may well account for the number or remains of villages which we find deserted on the river and sea coast in this quarter..."

Lewis & Clark and pandemics-Continued on page 4

In April 1806, after departing Ft. Clatsop, Clark gives more detail: "...my guide brought forward a woman who was badly marked with the Smallpox and made signs that they all died with the disorder which marked her face and which she was very near dying with when a girl. From the age of this woman this destructive disorder, I judge, must have been about 28 to 30 years past and about the time the Clatsops inform us that this disorder raged in their towns and destroyed their nation..." A Moulton foot note explains further: "The woman was probably a survivor of the earlier of two Smallpox epidemics known to have occurred among Indians of the lower Columbian Valley before the arrival of Lewis and Clark. The first, during the 1770s, was probably especially devastating, as it presumably took hold upon the populations previously unaffected by this disease. Smallpox was then reintroduced in 1800-1801..."

It is also interesting that, in anticipation of finding the Native Americans were suffering from smallpox, President Jefferson had sent a recently developed serum along with Meriwether Lewis. Lewis was instructed to administer the serum to the Natives and instruct them in its use. Unfortunately, the serum spoiled by the time the Corps of Discovery reached the Dakotas.

So was the Lewis and Clark Expedition aware of and involved with epidemics or pandemics? I would have to say yes. While perhaps a small epidemic within the Corps and various Native Nations, they did have to treat the venereal disease. They also became closely associated with the damage done to the Native Nations by the smallpox and recorded that knowledge for future generations.

President's Message

By: Jim Rosenberger

Here it is, 3 months since I last wrote the President's Message and we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have seen the statistics on the number of cases go down and now it seems they are beginning to rise. It continues to be a wait and see situation. I truly hope that everyone is well.



As you all probably know by now, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has cancelled the annual meeting that was planned for August 2020 in Charlottesville, VA. In the event you haven't received the latest edition of the Foundation's "Orderly Report", the annual meeting will be held but it is now a "Virtual Conference" and will

be held August 3 thru 5. Since my knowledge of technology is extremely limited and rather than attempt to explain what a Virtual Conference is, I encourage you to go to the Foundation website, www.lewisandclark.org for information and instruction on the annual meeting and registering. It looks like this will be a very interesting meeting and for those of you who have never attended an annual meeting or it's been a long time since you attended one, I think this will be a good experience and from what I see of the cost of this annual meeting it will be far reduced from what the annual meeting attendance cost usually is. Again, my lack of technical knowledge and skills is what makes me nervous but my lovely wife, Mary, is well versed in that so I look forward to attending the meeting.

You might also have been planning on attending the Lewis and Clark "Hand Shake" event at the Falls of the Ohio River in October. I received email verification on June 15th that the event would be held as planned but then on June 25th received an email announcing the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center has decided to cancel this year's event due to the current conditions. This is really unfortunate, but understandable. Mark your calendar for next year.

Now a logical question might be; will we have a chapter meeting in the near future? Typically, we use the Foundation meeting as our third meeting of the year and then have the last get together in September or October. At this point we will not have a meeting in July or August and the board of directors will be reviewing the COVID-19 situation to determine if a September or October meeting is feasible and appropriate. We will keep the membership informed as we progress.

October 2020 will mark one year until our chapter 2021 elections take place. In the January 2020 issue of "Field Notes" I informed you that I would not seek re-election to the chapter President position. In addition, Marcia Holman will not be seeking re-election as Treasurer nor will Jack Schroeder seek the Vice President position and Dick Campbell will be leaving the Board of Directors. However, I will stand for a Director position; Mary Strauss has indicated an interest in standing for chapter President and Mary Jo Meyer has indicated an interest in the Treasurer's position. This means we will have open positions of one board member, Vice President and Secretary. This being the case I ask all chapter members to give serious consideration to volunteering for one of these positions. To continue the Badger State Chapter we need you! Yes, these positions involve some of your time but dealing with Lewis and Clark and related history is an interesting and rewarding pastime. Please volunteer and help us continue the Badger State Chapter mission: To encourage, support and

(Continued on page 5)

undertake projects that stimulate and advance public knowledge and awareness of the historical, social and cultural significance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

President's Message
Continued from page 4

Take care and stay well.

Jim

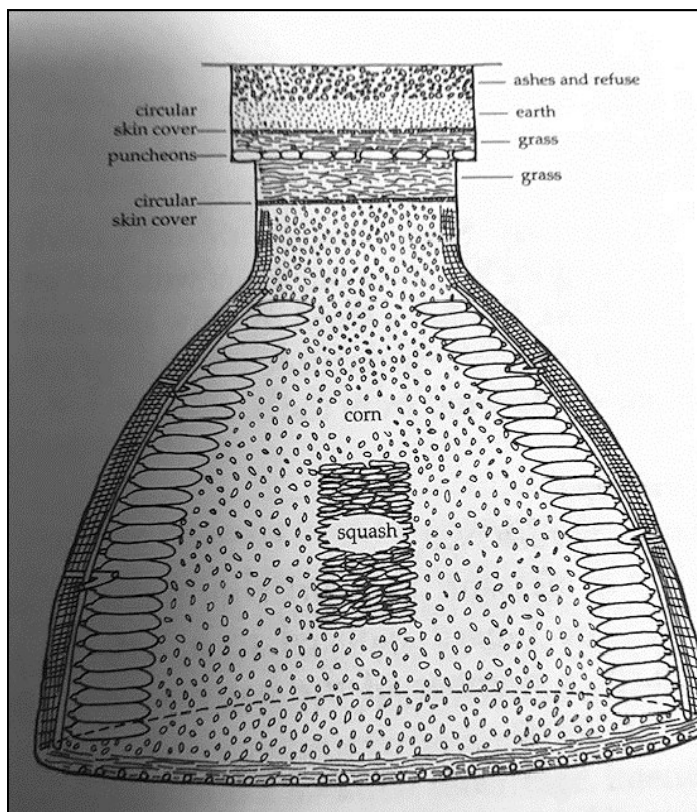
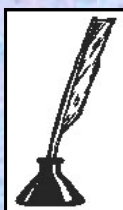
A Sign of Our Times



You might recall that back in December 2019 we had some relatively nice weather. The 22nd turned out to be a very nice day so I decided to drive south to the Platteville, WI area and check on the signage our Badger State Chapter had erected back in 2016 as part of our Alexander Willard project. I am very happy to report that all of the signs are in fine shape. I am providing "Field Notes" with one picture to not only demonstrate the signs are in good shape but also to show the open field area around this sign without the usual corn crop surrounding the sign. In past photos the corn was in full growth and I thought this would give everyone a different view. Enjoy!

Newsletter Articles

Do you have an interesting thought about the Lewis & 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@gmail.com. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture, we will be happy to return it upon request.



Another Quiz of the Month

Here is a quiz to keep your thought process active. Can you identify what the object shown is called and what it is used for? Do you know some of the locations where the Corps of Discovery located the item?

The answer is inverted below.

Answer to "Quiz of the Month": The drawing shows a "Cache". It is dug into the ground and is used for storage with the intent to return to the Cache and retrieve what was buried. Items buried could be food such as grain or dried meat or other articles such as guns, gun powder, lead, tools and baggage. Lewis had his iron boat buried in a Cache at the Great Falls, MT camp. Caches were also dug at the Marias River, Camp Fortunate while with the Shoshone, Canoe Camp while with the Nez Perce, and Willow Ridge where the Corps did their only retreat while on the Expedition.

Badger State Chapter Treasurer's Report:

The Badger State Chapter had \$5918.64 in the Treasury as of June 30, 2020, and 70 paid up members.

Chapter members come from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, & Washington.



Seaman Says-July 2020

We continue with the post-expedition journals of Seaman, recently discovered in the minds and creative thoughts of the publishers of "Field Notes"

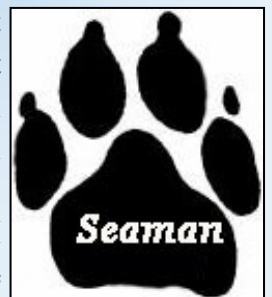


January 31, 1809: The winter in St. Louis has become milder and we are very thankful for that. My female companion, Angel, and I, along with a few close friends we have made, have become rather well known in St. Louis. Of course, I am recognized as Governor Lewis's companion but our daily activities have made us popular and friends with many of the citizens and business owners of St. Louis. We have established a system where we patrol various streets and perform work for both businesses and private citizens. We have delivered items called "merchandise" to people who are referred to as "customers"; we have guarded stores for "owners" who had to run an errand and we have even returned merchandise that has fallen off of boats into the Mississippi River. With our heavy fur, swimmer feet and strength we can easily enter the water and retrieve most of the items from the water and get them back to shore. Owners love getting their merchandise back and people love watching us accomplish this and we enjoy doing it. You might say it has made us famous. We have also been rewarded with such things as some very good food, blankets to warm us up, wood carvings to chew on, balls to chase and much more. I have heard some of the humans say that we have a good, successful business going. That may be true but for us it is simply fun.

Even though Angel and I and friends are active, I continue to share many hours with Governor Lewis. He works very hard to make things work properly in St. Louis and the surrounding territory and many people believe he is doing a very good job. But there are some who think they could do a better job, especially that monster named Bates. These people not only say bad things about the Governor but apparently write letters to people far away and accuse him of either doing things he shouldn't or not doing things at all. Then the Governor must write letters to clear things up.

At times Governor Lewis seems very sad and when this happens, he talks to me about how he feels about all these things. He thinks I don't understand him, but he does not realize that I do know his language and I attempt to show him I understand what he is saying and how he is feeling. I place my head on his lap and making sounds which I wish he could understand so he knew what I was saying. I try to demonstrate and show him that he is not satisfied with this job like he was on the Expedition. He should quit this job and perhaps go back into the Army he loved so much. He could also return to his plantation in Virginia where he could be with his family and friends and perhaps find a wife. But the Governor really wants to do a good job here and also finish the work on his Expedition Journals.

The latest challenging news is that Mr. Jefferson will no longer be President after what the humans call the month of March. Mr. James Madison will be President. I don't know how or why this happens, but it will probably bring some new challenges. Will Mr. Madison support Governor Lewis to the extent that Mr. Jefferson has done? Will Mr. Madison have different ideas on how things should be done? I believe the Governor knows Mr. Madison but does he know him as well as he knows Mr. Jefferson? I see more problems coming our way and will work harder to get the Governor to leave this job.



Lewis & Clark Replica Trail Update

You will recall that in 2012 the Badger State Chapter was contacted by Paul Timm and Virginia Fritz, teachers at the Grand Marsh Elementary School in Grand Marsh, WI, and advised us that the school had constructed a replica of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail on school property. The Replica Trail was dedicated on May 12, 2012 with Badger chapter members Jerry Anderson and Jim Rosenberger in attendance. Subsequent to that, the chapter made a commitment to support the Replica Trail.

The chapter then nominated the school for a Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Achievement Award and that award was presented to the school on July 31, 2013 at the 45th annual meeting of the Foundation held at Pierre, South Dakota. Paul Timm accepted the award on behalf of the Grand Marsh School. Since then, Paul and Virginia have retired from the school and unfortunately, over the years, interest in maintaining the trail has declined.

Recently we were contacted by the Adams County Health and Human Services Department who is working on mapping out hiking trails in Adams County and they inquired about the status of the Replica Trail. In order to respond to this request, we of course had to contact Grand Marsh School and sadly, the news was not that good.

The Replica Trail is in disrepair and unfortunately not in hiking condition. The Adams Friendship Area Schools Administrator was contacted to see if the trail could be in hiking condition for this season but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, projects have been put on hold. Additionally, the Grand Marsh School is apparently being closed and since the trail is on school grounds, the future of the trail is unknown. The School Administrator will need to meet with his Board and will then get back to us to discuss the situation.

We will keep the Badger Chapter membership informed on what we learn as it develops. In the meantime, we ask for your support and assistance if we should be asked to assist in maintaining the Replica Trail.

I want to extend our sincere thanks to chapter board member Mary Jo Meyer for taking charge of this situation and making all the contacts to get the information we need. Thanks Mary Jo, for a job well done.

Lewis and Clark Facemask

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has been approached with the idea of creating a Lewis and Clark facemask. It would be a triple-ply cotton facemask with the Foundation logo on it (see photo below). The retail price of the mask is estimated to run somewhere between \$9 and \$12.

As mentioned, this was an idea presented to the Foundation and before the Foundation can proceed with any production of the masks we need to have an idea of how many members would purchase the item. The mask would only be produced if there is enough interest in purchasing them.

If you want to purchase a mask, or masks, please contact Jim Rosenberger with how many masks you would intend to purchase and he will forward the information to the Foundation. Jim's contact information is located below.



Badger State Chapter Officers:

Jim Rosenberger.....President
Phone: (608)833-2488 E-mail: punkinz@tds.net
Jack Schroeder.....Vice-President
Ph: (608)204-0052 E-mail: alljackallday@gmail.com
Mary Strauss.....Secretary
Ph: (920)602-1726 E-mail: tormstrauss@gmail.com
Marcia Holman.....Treasurer
Phone: (608)249-2233 E-mail: mchwgh@gmail.com

Board of Directors:

1-David Sorgel
(608)516-1830 E-mail: Davidsorgel5@gmail.com
2-Dick Campbell
(920)231-8267 E-mail: rmchistory@tds.net
3-Mary Jo Meyer
(608)547-8715 E-mail: wihikers@hotmail.com

Field Notes Editor:

Bill Holman
Phone: (608)249-2233 E-mail: wghmch@gmail.com



**Badger State Chapter
Lewis & Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation, Inc
9 Hemlock Trail
Madison, WI 53717**