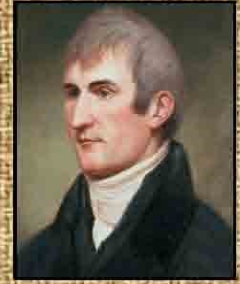




FIELD NOTES



William Clark Meriwether Lewis

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

October 2020

Wisconsin's Chapter - Interested & Involved

Number 76

During this time in history:
(May 1804 - September 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.)

Our journal entries deal with Expedition member Private PIERRE CRUZATTE. Gary Moulton describes him as "...half French and half Omaha. His official enlistment date was May 16, 1804 at St. Charles, Missouri, but he may have been recruited earlier. He was an experienced Missouri River boatman who had already participated in the Indian trade as far as Nebraska and was hired for his skill and experience...He was one-eyed and nearsighted, and his fiddle playing often entertained the party. At times he also acted as an interpreter. Lewis paid tribute during the expedition to his skill and experience as a riverman and to his integrity..."

May 26, 1804, Franklin County, MO, Detachment Orders, Lewis: "...Labiche and CRUZATTE will man the larboard bow oar alternately and the one not engaged at the oar will attend as the Bows-man and when the attention of both these persons is necessary at the bow, their oar is to be manned by any idle hand on board."

July 26, 1804, Camp White Catfish, NB, Clark: "...Sent off George Drouillard and PETER CRUZATTE with some tobacco to invite the Otto's if at their town, and the Pawnees if they saw them, to come and talk with us at our camp etc.

September 25, 1804, Bad Humor Island, SD, Clark: "...Captain Lewis proceeded to deliver a speech which we were obliged to curtail for want of a good interpreter (PIERRE CRUZATTE)..." Moulton foot note; "Apparently PIERRE CRUZATTE, who spoke the Omaha language, the tongue of his mother, and who

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The Corps and the Doctrine

By: Jim Rosenberger



From our studies of the Lewis and Clark Expedition we all know that through the Jefferson administration the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. Jefferson then sent Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the Corp of Discovery to explore the territory. President Jefferson spelled out to Lewis what the Expedition's main purpose was; to explore the Missouri River, find a route to the Pacific Coast, establish trade with the Native Nations and bring back scientific and geographic information. All of this would help build another important result. It would build strong support and argument for the Unites States within the Doctrine of Discovery.

What is the Doctrine of Discovery? Briefly, it is an international legal principal which applies to the conduct of European, Christian Countries relative to exploration, trade and colonization of Non-European, Non-Christian Countries. The Doctrine goes as far back as the Crusades and it was essentially a legal system developed by European countries and the Christian

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may have been interpreting through some Omaha prisoners of the Tetons. Ordway says, "we had an old Frenchman with us who could speak a little of the Sioux language."

October 20, 1804; Burleigh County, ND, Lewis: "...PETER CRUZATTE this day shot at a white bear. He wounded him but being alarmed at the formidable appearance of the bear, he left his tomahawk and gun; but shortly after returned and found that the bear had taken the opposite route; soon after he shot a buffalo cow, broke her thigh, the cow pursued him, he concealed himself in a small ravine..."

May 14, 1805, Garfield County, MT, Clark: "...the pirogue was under sail when a sudden squall of wind struck her obliquely and turned he considerably...Charbonneau, still crying to his God for mercy, had not yet recollected the rudder nor could he the repeated orders of the bowman, CRUZATTE, bring him to his recollection until he, CRUZATTE, threatened to shoot him instantly if he did not take hold of the rudder and do his duty...the fortitude, resolution and good conduct of CRUZATTE saved her..."

June 9, 1805, Marias River, MT, Lewis: "...We determined to deposit at this place the large red pirogue, all the heavy baggage which we could possibly do without...accordingly we set some hands to digging a hole or cellar...these holes in the ground or deposits are called by the engages, 'caches'...I found that CRUZATTE was well acquainted with this business and therefore left the management of it entirely to him...In the evening CRUZATTE gave us some music on the violin and the men passed the evening in dancing, singing etc. and were extremely cheerful."

October 24, 1805, The Dallas, OR, Clark: "...PETER CRUZATTE played on the violin and the men danced, which delighted the natives..."

October 25, 1805, Skamania county WA, Clark: "...many large rocks promiscuously in the river both above and below a large sand bar in the middle of the river. This river we call CRUZATTE'S River."

August 12, 1806, McKenzie County, ND, Clark: "...Captain Lewis with CRUZATTE and several other men were out in the bottom shooting of elk...CRUZATTE, seeing Captain L. passing through the bushes and taking him to be an elk from the color of his clothes...fired and unfortunately the ball passed through the thigh...This CRUZATTE is near sighted and has the use of but on eye, he is an attentive, industrious man and one whom we both have placed the greatest confidence in during the whole route..."

September 17, 1806, Moulton footnote 2: It has been speculated that PIERRE CRUZATTE, Joseph Field, and John B. Thompson of Lewis and Clark's party returned up the Missouri after reaching St. Louis, joined John McClallen, and were among those killed with him, although there is no clear evidence..."

Badger State Chapter
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Church to define how newly discovered countries would be handled. With the development of long ocean travel in the 14-- and 15-- hundreds it began to impact the Americas. Spain, Portugal, France and England began "discovering" the Americas and utilized the Doctrine of Discovery to claim these lands.

There are 10 elements to the Doctrine of Discovery but writing space permits listing only a few:

1-First Discovery: The first European Country to discover new lands unknown to other Europeans gained property and sovereign rights over these lands.

2-Actual Occupancy and Current Possession: A European Country had to actually occupy and possess newly found lands. This could include a fort or settlement.

3-Preemption/European Title: The sole right to purchase the land from the Natives.

4-Indian Title: After first discovery, Native Peoples lost the full property rights and ownership of their lands but they kept the right to occupy and use the land and this lasted forever unless they agreed to sell their lands. In other words, after discovery, Native Peoples did not own the land, but they owned the right of occupancy.

How does the Doctrine of Discovery fit into the Lewis and Clark Expedition? Thomas Jefferson was familiar with the Doctrine of Discovery. Initially, France and England had claimed First Discovery in what would become the United States, but England took over those lands by defeating France in war. Similarly, the United State took over the land from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi River by defeating the British in the Revolutionary War. Now the United States had actual occupancy and current possession of the land (Doctrine #2), and the sole right to purchase the land from Native Nations (Doctrine #3). At the same time, the effect on the Native People was to lose full property title to the land but they kept the right to occupy it and use the land unless they agreed to sell it.

Lewis's instructions from President Jefferson included establishing a friendship with the Native Nations including a trade relationship, and Lewis presented a lengthy speech to explain this to the Nations including the fact that President Jefferson was their "Father"; they were his "children" and were now citizens of the United States. Lewis and Clark also presented the Natives with gifts including medallions. The medals were signs of friendship toward the Indians, but they also showed Jefferson and the United States as their "Father". Additionally, the medals showed any other country or French or English trader that the United States had been here and was the dominant country under the Doctrine of Discovery.

There is a habit the men had that also demonstrates the Doctrine of Discovery. That is the simple action of leaving their name on a tree or other object. This is something the Corps of Discovery did during the entire expe-

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dition and it may have been something the men did just for fun but I believe they “left their name” to let Natives and any people from other nations know they were first and claimed the land under the Doctrine of Discovery. They left their names even while traveling through the land of the Louisiana Purchase. Lewis and Clark documented many, if not all, these events in their journals.

July 12, 1804, at the Big Nemaha River just above the Nebraska-Kansas border, Clark: “...On a Sandstone Bluff about ¼ mile up and on the lower side I marked my name and the day of the month and year...”

June 10, 1805, at the Confluence of the Maria’s and Missouri Rivers, MT, Lewis: “...We drew up the red pirogue into the middle of a small island at the entrance of Maria’s river...put my brand on several trees standing near her...” Lewis had a branding iron which had the words, “U.S. Capt. M. Lewis” on it.

November 18, 1805, Cape Disappointment, WA, Clark: “...Here I found Capt. Lewis name on a tree. I also engraved my name and by land, the day of the month and year; as also several of the men.” The Corps is now on the Pacific Coast, outside of the Louisiana Purchase.

November 23, 1805, Chinook Point, WA, Clark: “...I marked my name, the day of the month and year on beech trees and By Land. Capt. Lewis branded his and the men all marked their names on trees about the camp...”

July 25, 1806, Pompey’s Pillar east of Billings, MT, Clark: “...at 4 P.M. arrived at a remarkable rock...This rock, which I shall call Pompey’s Tower, is 200 feet high and 400 paces in circumference...I marked my name and the day of the month and year...”

It seems obvious that the men of the Corps, and especially Lewis and Clark, are marking the landscape, to insure they would leave evidence they were among the first, if not the first, to explore not only the Louisiana Purchase but also the upper west coast of the United States.

President Jefferson wanted the United States to be a coast to coast land of freedom but there were difficulties in fulfilling his wish. Other countries such as Spain, Russia and Great Britain, were attempting to lay claim to the West Coast of America.

We all know of Jefferson’s instructions to Lewis relative to the Expedition: “...Explore the Missouri River and its principal streams...by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean.” So, Lewis has orders to leave the Louisiana Purchase territory or in other words, leave the United States. In much of the “new” territory” the Corps enters, like today’s Idaho, Oregon and Washington, he can claim to be “the first country to discover these new lands (Doctrine #1).

By building permanent buildings to live in, such as Fort Mandan and Fort Clatsop, the Expedition also operated within the second element of the Doctrine of Discovery, “Actual Occupancy and Current Possession”. Under the

Doctrine, in 1805-1806 Oregon would not be considered occupied land. Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery arrived, built a Fort and lived in the Fort for at least four months and this “settlement” would be used later as an argument for the United States right to ownership of the Oregon Territory.

When the Corps left Fort Clatsop in March 1806 Lewis and Clark gave a document to chiefs in the area and left one copy of the document in the Fort. This listed the names of the members of the Corps and Lewis included the following: “The object of this list is, that through the medium of some civilized person who may see the same, it may be made known to the informed world, that the party consisting of the persons whose names are hereunto annexed, and who were sent out by the government of the U’States in May 1804 to explore the interior of the Continent of North America, did penetrate the same by way of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, to the discharge of the latter into the Pacific Ocean, where they arrived on the 14th day of November 1805, and from whence they departed the (blank) day of March 1806 on their return to the United States.”

Notice the reference to “some civilized person” and “informed world”. Obviously, the document was intended to support the knowledge that the Corps of Discovery and the United States had been here first. Unbelievably, one of the documents was picked up by a ship in June 1806, taken to China and given to another ship headed for Boston, where it arrived in May 1807.

As often as we use the term “Corps of Discovery” this is not the name used to identify the expedition in the 1800’s. Perhaps the name which got closest was in the printed journal of Patrick Gass. In the title of his journal the expedition is referred to as, “A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery”. Note, however, that this refers to “a” Corps of Discovery. There could be more, this is not “the” Corps of Discovery.

The Expedition name commonly recorded by Lewis and Clark was the “Corps of Volunteers for North Western Discovery”. Captain Lewis’s order of August 25, 1804 states: “The Commanding Officers have thought it proper to appoint Patrick Gass a Sergeant in the Corps of Volunteers for North Western Discovery”. A July 24, 1803 letter from William Clark to President Jefferson states, “I had the honor of receiving thro’ Captain M. Lewis an assurance or your Approbation & wish that I would join him in a North Western enterprise...” In August 1804, Clark signed a document as “Wm. Clark, Capt’n on an Expdn for N. W. Discy.”

It would seem that President Jefferson and the Captains planned for the Expedition to go through the Northwest of the Louisiana Purchase but also to the Northwest coast for the purpose of establishing elements of the Doctrine of Discovery.

In later years the United States and England would argue about who had rights to the Pacific Northwest. In 1823 and 1826 the United States argued that Robert Gray had made the first discovery of the Columbia River in 1792

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and in fact, had named the river after his ship. In addition, the argument was made that Lewis and Clark had further explored the Columbia River by coming from the East. They had constructed a settlement (Fort Clatsop) within reasonable time of Discovery. Other arguments were also made for the possession of the Pacific Northwest, such as Fort Astoria and adjustments in territory after the War of 1812. But it would seem clear that the Lewis and Clark Expedition made an important contribution in obtaining the land that would eventually make up the United States Northwest Territory.

President's Message By: Jim Rosenberger

Dear Badger Chapter Members;

I had hoped that my message in this issue of Field Notes would be a more positive message but it seems our daily lives remain under a strong influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and it appears it will stay that way into the future as it continues to reach new highs in the United States and Wisconsin.

Foundation Chapters have been affected by the pandemic in various ways. Our last chapter meeting was February 29, 2020 in Fond du Lac and other chapters have had similar experience. I recently received the newsletter for the Ohio River Chapter and their last meeting was also in February 2020. On the other hand, a few chapters have adjusted and are having Lewis and Clark Zoom meetings or conferences. The Missouri-Kansas River Chapter has had a number of these and is holding another conference with speaker on October 18th.

The Badger Chapter considered having our annual "Bison Bash" this Fall but in considering the state of the pandemic, the Foundation's suggested rules of operation for such an event and an email exchange with Mark Koepl, it was decided to not have the event. Unfortunately, this was the second year we did not have the "Bash". Mark also advised that he has reduced his bison herd by more than 50% this year and plans to be done with marketing meat by the end of next year.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting was a Virtual one done on Zoom technology and was well done, and you can read about it in this issue of Field Notes. You can also read about the September 10th Virtual meeting our Chapter had with Foundation President, Lou Ritten, leading the discussion. It was a very informative meeting giving us insight as to the future of our structure and operation.

As you know by now, the September 10th meeting led to a Badger Chapter Meeting to be held on October 17th at 1 P.M. CDT and it will be a Virtual meeting on Zoom. This is an official Chapter meeting and I urge you to attend. It is an important meeting for our Chapter and we really need your input. The meeting will describe poten-



tial changes in how the Foundation and Chapters will operate in the future and your input is extremely important. It is important your board of directors receive feedback and suggestions from members so the board will know what you would like to see our Chapter provide and accomplish. You have received the notice of this meeting and if you haven't registered to attend please do so by responding to the notice or email Jim Rosenberger at punkinz@tds.net.

September-October is renewal time for Chapter membership and if you haven't sent in your renewal form and dues, please do so. You do have the option of renewing for two years and that saves you the bother of renewing again next year. About half of our membership currently pays dues on a two year basis. Dues remain at \$10 per year, \$20 for two years.

I hope that situations improve by our next issue of Field Notes and in the meantime, take care and stay well.

Jim

Zoom into the Future

On September 10, 2020, members of the Badger State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation attended a Zoom meeting presented by the Foundation. The meeting was to discuss the current standing of the organizations; the Foundation itself as well as all of its Chapters and what we might do to plan for our future years.

Foundation President, Lou Ritten led the meeting and the meeting was attended by Yvonne Kean, Foundation Treasurer, Sarah Cawley, Foundation Executive Director, Chris Maillet, Customer Service and six signed in Chapter members. A few other Chapter members were able to attend the meeting but due to technical issues, could not sign in.

Chapter President, Jim Rosenberger, gave a brief overview of the Badger Chapter and then turned the meeting over to Foundation President Ritten. Lou explained that the Foundation has acquired a Zoom account which the Foundation and all Chapters can use to help continue our efforts to promote Lewis and Clark history, communicate with members and in general, keep business flowing during this time when travel and personal contact is less desirable. During the months of February and June 2020 Lou and Sarah Cawley met with half of the Foundation Chapters and intend to meet with the remaining Chapters by Zoom.

Currently the Foundation has approximately 30 Chapters with 25 of them being active but with 5 or 6 of these considering disbanding. The Foundation has just under 1,000 members and the average age of members is 73. It would seem obvious that our Foundation has to implement some type of change to continue and to grow our organization.

Leadership has attempted to identify and discuss a number of ideas which could bring about positive change to the organization and keep us moving forward into the future.

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As an example, Foundation dues have not changed since 2007. Dues could be changed to reflect a member's interests in Lewis and Clark history rather than a flat fee. For instance, a member may only want to receive an electronic copy of the "Orderly Report" and dues would be \$10 or \$15. For a hard copy of the Orderly Report dues would be \$5 more. An electronic copy of "We Proceeded On" might be \$20 and a hard copy would generate dues \$5 or \$10 higher. In other words, membership dues might reflect the interest in Lewis and Clark history a member has. At the same time, more electronic copies would result in the reduction of Foundation expenses. Currently about \$40 of a \$49 single membership goes toward the production and mailing of "We Proceeded On".

Another idea is to have the Foundation collect both Foundation and Chapter membership dues. This would save both money and time and at the same time both entities could easily promote membership in the other.

We could look at the idea of benefits we would receive by combining Chapters or even beyond that, creating regions in which chapters would coexist. Rather than having 25-30 Chapters we would have, say, 11 regions covering the United States. As an example, Wisconsin (Badger State Chapter) would be combined with Northern Illinois (Illini Chapter), Eastern Iowa, Eastern Minnesota and Western Michigan. Initially the different areas would help each other in promoting Lewis and Clark history and eventually might join together to become the Great Lakes Chapter or Region. There would be a Regional Board to guide the Region but each area within the Region would have their own structure and meetings similar to what we currently have and could also travel to other meetings etc. within the Region.

As you can see, there are many ideas for change which are being considered to improve our structure and operate to ultimately do a better job of telling the story of Lewis and Clark. Right now our job is to examine the ideas and proposals for change and be active in identifying the best choices. There will be meetings and discussions to decide on a course of action and it is important that we all take part.

Badger State Chapter Treasurer's Report:

The Badger State Chapter had \$5635.67 in the Treasury as of Sept. 30, 2020, and 70 paid up members.

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



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A Member Gone, But Not Forgotten

In the April 2020 issue of "Field Notes" I reported that Chapter member, Jerry Anderson was having medical issues which required family support, hospitalization and assisted living. It is with a heavy heart that I must now report that Jerry passed away at home on September 11, 2020.



Jerry's daughter let me know that prior to Jerry's passing he was able to happily celebrate his 90th birthday with family and friends. She also told me that Jerry had a "Natural Burial" and, as I understand it, this means, among other things, he was buried without a headstone or other marker to his grave site and was buried in a cardboard casket. That was Jerry, keep things simple and plain.

Jerry was an early member to the Badger State Chapter and for many years offered his support in time, effort and contributions. He was a consistent attendee at our Chapter meetings and events, supported our Chapter's projects and promoted the Lewis and Clark story wherever he went. A good example of his commitment is during the start of our "Alexander Willard" project, Jerry offered a sizeable donation toward the completion of the project. He was very interested in Lewis and Clark history and his library, filled with Lewis and Clark related books, demonstrates that quite well.

I personally have many fond memories of Jerry and my favorite is a 2003 road trip to Missoula, MT with him and then Chapter President, Dave Bubier, to attend the "Confluence of Cultures" conference at the University of Montana. It was quite a round trip drive with tent camping all the way. We each had our own tents and Jerry was very involved in setting up and taking down our camp sites as well as providing meals. Upon arrival, we roomed at the University of Montana and Jerry was brave enough to room with me even though I warned him I had a tendency to snore; which I did and he stuck it out.

We enjoyed the conference, attending a lot of great lectures based primarily on the Lewis and Clark Expedition meeting up with the Native American Nations of the region. We also had time to hike around the campus and see the sites, such as a large statue of a Grizzly Bear, which is the school mascot. We also hiked up a substantial hillside which has a large "M" near the peak. This required some effort by all of us and Jerry was there with us – with a smile on his face.

In total, the trip was a lot of fun and it was the type of Expedition you never forget. Jerry is a very large and important part of those memories.

Rest well old friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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.



Seaman Says-October 2020

We continue with the post-expedition journals of Seaman, recently discovered in the minds and creative thoughts of the publishers of "Field Notes". Seaman writes that he believes in doing everything that he can to protect the people around him.

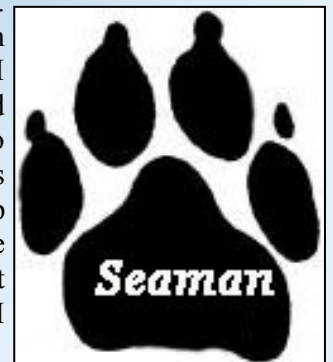


February 10, 1809: It is now one month since the wife of General Clark, Miss Julia, has had their baby, a fine, healthy boy. They have named him Meriwether Lewis Clark, a name which shows how very close the General and Governor are. Since the arrival of General Clark and his wife, the Governor and I have been living in the same house with them, although my spot is usually outside and now will definitely be. Governor Lewis is the person who found this house and obtained it with the idea of the Clarks moving in with us. That seems to have worked out, but I could tell Ms. Julia was not excited about the number of people living in the house and now the baby has arrived. The discussions about the Governor and I living elsewhere have started, which was somewhat expected, but at least we have been invited to join the Clarks for meals. Ms. Julia is a very good cook. Still, for me, it is unfortunate as I am rather taken by the child and would like to spend time with him. But the main thing is that I am with the Governor so I am quite satisfied.

As I noted previously, we now have a new President, a Mr. James Madison. I learned from Governor Lewis that when the President changes a fairly large number of other people in Washington are changed also. New people replace people who had been working in the government. Unfortunately, one of the people who is new to the Governor appears to be causing additional problems for the governor; a man by the name of William Simmons. This Simmons person apparently reviews all the paper work that Governor Lewis sends to the city of Washington, especially those concerning government money the Governor spends. I arrive at the conclusion that Simmons is quite critical of the Governor due to the fact that the Governor becomes quite upset when he reads letters he receives from Simmons and he shouts in words I am not at all familiar with but I can tell they are words of anger. Apparently, he is being told he is doing things incorrectly and spending too much of the government's money. This is something we do not really need.

We already have Mr. Bates to deal with. He continues to criticize the Governor's work and tells everyone he can that he could do a better job than the Governor. He even goes so far as to say he could do a better job at being Governor than Mr. Lewis and, while I find it unbelievable, some people accept this nonsense. And now we have Mr. Simmons, someone who is far, far away from where things are taking place and yet he too heavily criticizes Governor Lewis.

This job is very hard on the Governor. I don't think this job is the correct work for him to be doing. I wish I could speak to him, tell him to leave this work, go back to Philadelphia and publish his Journals. I have even started taking some of his notes of our travels of discovery and putting them on his desk so he would take the hint to work on them. He smiles at me and says; "I know, I know". But he is too busy to pick up the Journals. He has so much to do and more comes into his office every day. Another possibility would be for him to return to Army life if he wishes. He was a very good officer and leader. He could return to his plantation in Virginia and live a good life. I am sure he would find a good wife to help him run the plantation and make his life much more pleasant. Perhaps the best would be for the Governor and me to return to Exploring, go back up the Missouri River, head west and join the traders and Native people or perhaps explore an entirely different river. I must spend more time on developing these thoughts and find ways to express them.



A Virtual Annual Meeting

So many things have changed in 2020. So many things are different in 2020. We have all had to make some kind of adjustments in this time of Pandemic and the same is true of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

As planned, the meeting was held August 3-5, 2020 but it was a Virtual meeting. As all of you know by now, that means we attended the meeting by sitting at home and watching the meeting live through the use of our computer, lap top, iPad or iPhone. While we would have liked to have been in Charlottesville, VA to hear speakers and see sights, we knew a Virtual meeting would be a wonderful, second best way to attend the meeting and it would be much, much better than cancelling the entire meeting.

A number of the 2020 meeting attendees had also attended the 2007 annual meeting held in Charlottesville, VA so we could do a comparison of the attended meeting of 2007 to the Virtual meeting of 2020. To me, the attendance at these meetings appeared to be very close. I had recorded attendance at the 2007 meeting as 250 people. I would estimate the attendance at the 2020 meeting was somewhere between 175 to 200 people. It was hard to tell because the number of people who "logged" in to attend any particular presentation would continually change so numbers would continually change. The big difference was that you were sitting in front of a computer or whatever, essentially watching a T.V. type show take place rather than being physically at the location sitting next to fellow Foundation members.

One of the early presentations was a Virtual tour of Montpelier, the home of our 4th President, James Madison, and his wife Dolley, a supporter of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, who we "met" at our November 2, 2019 Badger Chapter meeting, portrayed by Jessica Michna. The tour of Montpelier was doubly enjoyable because when we toured Montpelier in 2007, it was being renovated & many of the rooms were under construction. Now we got to see & enjoy the entire interior. Even though Virtual, the tour was very complete and interesting.

We enjoyed a Virtual tour of the new Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center in Charlottesville. The Center is located off the Rivanna River on land which was once owned by William Clark's family. George Rogers Clark was born in a small cabin only a 20 minute walk from the Center. The Center was closed due to the Pandemic but Center Executive Director, Alexandria Searls, gave us an excellent Virtual tour.

Of course, there was a Virtual tour of Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, and it was also very well done. Even though we weren't physically there, it was still difficult to believe you were following a path in the same place Thomas Jefferson walked and lived. Even though the remains of a hurricane were coming up the east coast, Charlottesville was sunny and calm, and the outside grounds of Monticello were beautiful.

There were a number of other presenters, all doing an excellent job. And time was given for us to have breaks and lunch and you could always sign off whenever you wanted to. Having breaks and meals at home was kind of fun but you still missed the company of other Lewis and Clark attendees.

Of course, there were, at times, some technical issues but they were taken care of quickly and didn't really detract from presentations. Actually, the technical issues gave us a chance for some of those breaks mentioned above. There were a number of people who helped make the meeting a success, but I think special mention is in order for:

Sarah Cawley, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Alexandria Searls, Executive Director of Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center.

Malou Stark, Home Front Chapter and President of the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center.

The 53rd Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation annual meeting has been intended for Missoula, Montana but at this point I think that we must take a wait and see attitude and see what happens with the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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