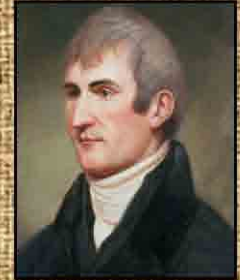




FIELD NOTES



William Clark Meriwether Lewis

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

April 2021

Wisconsin's Chapter - Interested & Involved

Number 78

During this time in history:
(May 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 Private FRANCOIS LABICHE. There are a number of variations to the spelling of his name in the Journals such as LaBuish, Labuche, Leebice, or Labieche but according to Journal Editor, Gary Moulton, LABICHE is the accepted last name. LABICHE was half Omaha Indian and son of a French Trader. He may have been recruited at Kaskaskia but the official date and place of his enlistment is May 16, 1804 at St. Charles, Missouri along with Private Pierre Cruzatte. Like Cruzatte, LABICHE was an enlisted private in the Corps of Discovery and served under Sergeant Nathaniel Pryer. At the same time LABICHE was an expert boatman and had good experience in trading with Native Nations and was a good interpreter. Lewis and Clark considered LABICHE a valuable member of the Corps.

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 Bowsman 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 21, 1804, Mouth of the Platte River, Clark: "...I am told by one of the bowmen (LABICHE) that he was 2 winters on this river above and that it does not rise 7 feet but spreads over 3 miles at some places..."

May 16, 1805, Phillips County, MT, Lewis: "... This morning a white bear tore LABICHE'S coat, which he had left in the plains."

August 17, 1805, Camp Fortunate, Beaverhead County, MT, Lewis: "...we called them (the Shoshone) together and through the medium of LABICHE, Charbonneau and Sacagawea, we com-

(Continued-See "Grey Column" page 2)

2021-1-31 Zoom meeting Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Submitted by Mary Strauss



During the time of COVID-19, it's harder to gather in-person, so many groups sought ways to meet safely and enjoy a learning experience. For Lewis and Clark groups, Zoom meetings were offered by our foundation, and the Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter had some interesting sessions. I'm including a summary of one of them.

NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCES IN THE MIDWEST

Dan Sturdevant introduced us to the Native American Experience in the Midwest featuring the Missouri-Kansas Riverbend area. This featured the Kaw Indian Site where the Missouri and Kaw Rivers meet, "Kaw Mo Confluence" in Kansas City, KS.

The expedition would have passed this area on their way to St. Louis. It was noted in Clark's June 24, 1804 Journal that it was 500 yards wide at their time of passage, while now it is 200 yds. across. They cut down trees to make a barricade to protect against Indian attack while they camped, but it was not needed.



Continued on page 2

(Continued from "Grey Column" page 1)

municated to them fully the objects which had brought us into this distant part of the country..."

October 29, 1805, Hood River County, OR, Clark: "...From the mouth of this little river, which we shall call LABICHE River, the falls mountain (Mount Hood) is South and the top is covered in snow..."

Moulton foot note: "River LABICHE" ...named for expedition member FRANCOIS LABICHE, now Hood River, meeting the Columbia at present Hood River, Hood River County, Oregon."

May 14, 1806, Camp Chopunnish, ID, Clark: "...LABICHE returned and informed us that he had killed a female bear and two cubs, at a long distance from camp towards the mountains. He brought in two large dark brown pheasants which he had also killed..."

July 22 & 23, 1806, Stillwater County, MT, Clark: "...I directed LABICHE, who understands tracking very well, to set out early in the morning and find what route the horses had taken if possible... LABICHE went out early agreeable to my directions of last evening... LABICHE returned having taken a great circle and informed me that he saw the tracks of the horses making off into the open plains and were by the tracks, going very fast.

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

16: FRANCOIS LABICHE: He has received the pay only of a private, though, besides the duties performed as such, he has rendered me very essential services as a French and English interpreter; therefore, I should think it only just that some small addition to his pay, as a private, should be added, tho' no such addition has at any time been promised by me.

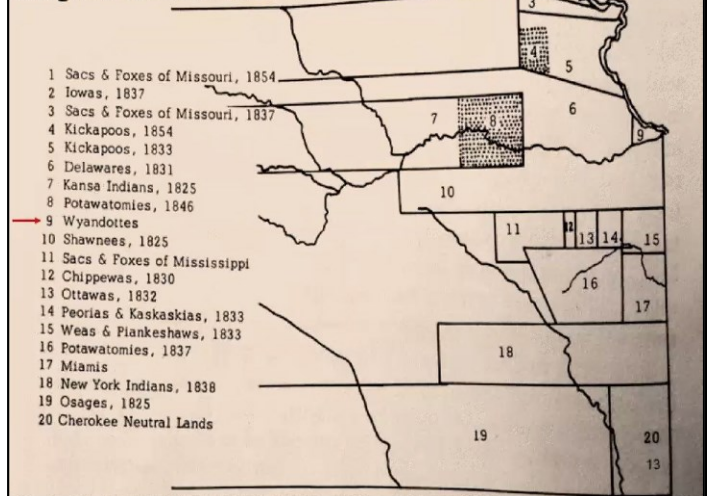
Zoom Meeting-continued from page 1

Jerry Garrett spoke on reading through the Journals to find comments on the Native Americans. They are spoken about 40 times before they reached the Teton Sioux in Pierre, SD. Clark mentions a violent encounter with that tribe in September, 1804.

Holly Zane, "She who extends her Pole", and Kristen Zane, "Floating Voice", enrolled sisters in the Wyandot Tribe of Kansas spoke next on their heritage of 30,000 years, the most traveled tribe. They are a matriarchal society, coming from the Ontario, Canada area, going to the Detroit area, Ohio, then KS because of the Removal Act of 1830.

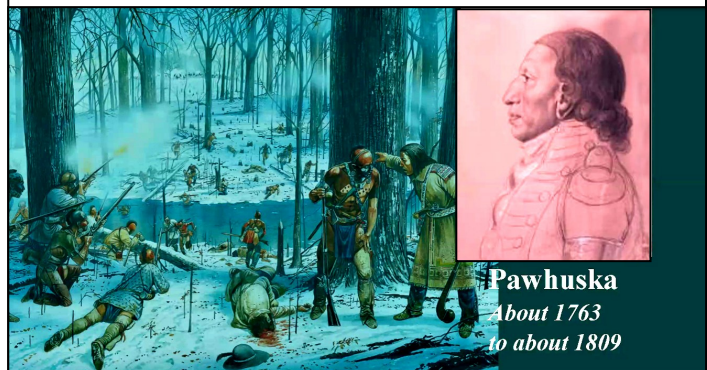
Their family were Abolitionists in Ohio and Kansas. They kept escaped slaves safe in the basement of their Wyandot Hotel during the Civil War. In 1855 the reservation was broken up and a township of Quintaro "Bundle of Sticks" was established by twelve Wyandots who protected former slaves and Native Americans. It now has landmark status. The Zane sisters say the Wyandot continue to use their language and customs.

Emigrant Tribes of Kansas



Speaking next was Deb Goodrich, a Historian in Residence at Fort Wallace Museum in Wallace, KS, making appearances on Discovery, A&E, C-Span. She is writing a book on Charles B. Curtis, a Kaw native, US Vice President to Herbert Hoover 1929-1933.

Osage native Pawhuska "White Hair" 1763-1809, meets President Jefferson around 1805 and wears a jacket given to him earlier by Jefferson when he travels to Washington. Pawhuska had defeated the Americans in the 1791 Battle of a Thousand Slain. Now he is asked to follow what American government wants.



Zoom Meeting-continued on page 3

Zoom Meeting-continued from page 2

His son-in-law, White Plume 1765-1838, a Kaw native, meets Pres. James Monroe in 1821 and signs to cede 18 million acres in 1825 of Kaw land.



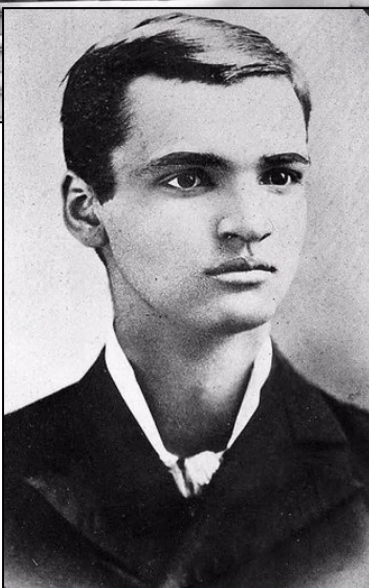
White Plume
Ca. 1765-1838

On that land future Vice President Curtis is born, descending from White Hair. Curtis can speak Kaw, French and English. He has an out-going personality and was Majority Leader of the Senate and worked well with both sides, which Deb attributes to his mixed blood heritage.



Curtis thinks it is important for natives to get dual citizenship, and proposes the 1898 Curtis Act, which sadly later is a blow to tribal sovereignty.

Then Dan Sturdevant opened up the floor to questions and participants took advantage of that time. We appreciate what the Missouri-Kansas



Riverbend Chapter has provided for us. One hundred participants were allowed to view this, so be sure to join a meeting early to be included.

Mary Strauss

Oops! "Programs to Watch" in January Field Notes had an error (Sheepishly submitted by Jim Rosenberger)

You never know when mistakes will happen but happen they do. The January issue of "Field Notes" included an article on page 6 entitled "Programs to Watch" and the article dealt with Zoom programs and especially those presented by the Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

My intent was to inform our readers about the programs and briefly describe a few of the programs to those who were not aware of their availability. I think the article accomplished that but in paragraphs one and two of the article I gave a bit of embarrassing, incorrect information.


I briefly described a tour of a fort which had a very interesting room dedicated to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Unfortunately, I made one major mistake. In the article I referred to the fort as being Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Actually, the fort being toured and talked about in the program was Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Fort Leavenworth is a U.S. Army installation located on the Missouri River in the city of Leavenworth, roughly 20 miles Northwest of Kansas City. The fort was built in 1827 and was initially called Cantonment Leavenworth and named after Colonel Henry Leavenworth. In 1832 it was renamed to Fort Leavenworth. The fort is obviously located in what we would call Lewis and Clark Country.

Fort Leonard Wood is located on the southern boundary of the city of St. Robert in the south central area of the state of Missouri. It is not near the Missouri River. Fort Leonard Wood was created in 1940 and named in honor of General Leonard Wood.

I cannot explain how I got the wrong name for the fort which was discussed in the zoom presentation. I can only guess that when I heard Fort Leavenworth I wrote down Fort Leonard Wood in my notes and that might have been because some of my old Army buddies were stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and talked about it quite a bit. Of course, it could also just be age. At any rate, my thanks to Jerry Garrett for bringing the error to my attention and my sincere apology to our readers for the error.

Badger State Chapter
Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation



President's Message

By: Jim Rosenberger

Dear Badger Chapter Members;

The March 2021 issue of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation quarterly newsletter, The Orderly Report, included some sad news. Foundation member and Badger State Chapter member Don Peterson passed away at the age of 75. The Orderly Report has a detailed obituary, but Don was a Lewis and Clark historian and a friend of our chapter and I must add a few words.

During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial I worked with Don for a time doing some of the tours in the Great Falls, MT area and he taught me a lot about touring and about the sites in and around Great Falls. He supported the Foundation and when called upon, held positions within the Foundation. Don supported the Chapters and was a member of a number of them, including our Badger State Chapter.

Don was a friend, a Lewis and Clark scholar, a true Gentleman and he will be missed.

I attended the March 21st zoom presentation by the Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter and as always, it was quite interesting and informative. The National Park Service did a presentation on "Our National Park Service: Commemorating and Protecting the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through Partnerships." They gave some history of the Park Service, talked about new programs and legislation as well as work being done on the Trail. One item caught my attention when they mentioned that existing signs along the trail had to be changed to include and show the Eastern Legacy segment of the trail. I had not thought of that and quickly checked our signs relative to our Alexander Willard project and thankfully found they were OK, no change needed.

It appears planning efforts continue by the Idaho and Washington Chapters for a 2021 Foundation annual meeting in the Lewiston, Idaho – Clarkston, Washington area. Of course, this will depend on the COVID-19 situation and the safety rules and regulations in place at that time. Things like field trips in your own vehicle, no central hotel, meals on your own and the number of attendees being limited may be necessary. We may have a zoom meeting again or possibly both location meeting and a zoom meeting; make your choice. We will just have to wait and see.

At the same time, we hope to have a chapter meeting either this Summer or Fall. This will also depend on the COVID-19 rules and regulations, availability of meeting places etc. It has now been over a year since we had a person to person meeting and our hope is to get everyone together as soon as we can. Until then, take care and I wish you all well.

Jim



A Place to Visit

Some of us may be considering taking a short trip to remove the feelings of confinement that COVID-19 has given us. Here is an idea for you to consider.

You have undoubtedly read or heard about the exhibit developed by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation entitled, "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark". The exhibit uses large scale reproductions of historic maps, photos, and explanatory text to show how America looked before and after the journey of Lewis and Clark.

The exhibit is currently at the Lewis and Clark Boat House and Museum in St. Charles, MO and will be there until April 26. Here is an opportunity to take a few days and see this exhibit and museum.

Interested? Check it out at: www.lewisandclarkboathouse.org and then "Proceed On".

Quiz of the Month

It has been a while but here is another object to test your memory. Can you identify what it is called and what it was used for? One hint; the men of the Corps of Discovery did not like it. Along with the use of the item, we include a little expedition history.



Answer: (Don't peek until you've mulled it over)

The item is what is called a "Cat of Nine Tails" or in simple terms, a whip. When a soldier was court martialled and found guilty of their offense they could be sentenced to being whipped on their back with the "Cat of Nine Tails". It is not clear if the Lewis and Clark Expedition carried and used a "Cat of Nine Tails" but the expedition was a military unit and Captains Lewis and Clark had to maintain discipline so it can be assumed they had one or something very similar to it. Men of the Corps did commit wrongdoings and they were court martialled and sentenced to being whipped, lashed or flogged. Most of these wrongdoings were

Continued on page 5

committed during the early part of the expedition. Here are examples of the men's violations of the rules;

Continued from page 4

May 17 1804; shortly after the Corps of Discovery departed, John Collins is court martialed for "1.) Being absent without leave. 2) Behaving in an unbecoming manner at the ball last night. 3) Speaking in a language after his return to camp, tending to bring into disrespect the orders of the Commanding Officer..." Collins was given 50 lashes on his naked back.

William Warner and Hugh Hall were also court martialed for being absent without leave. Each of these two men was to receive twenty-five lashes but the order was remitted (cancelled) at the request of the court.

June 29, 1804; John Collins is court martialed and charged with "getting drunk on his post this morning out of whiskey put under his charge as a sentinel and for suffering Hugh Hall to draw whiskey out of the said barrel intended for the party". Collins was found guilty and sentenced to one hundred lashes on his bare back. Hugh Hall was also court martialed and charged with "taking whiskey out of a keg this morning which whiskey was stored on the bank (and under the charge of the guard) contrary to all order, rule, or regulation". Hall was found guilty and sentenced to fifty lashes on his bare back.

July 12, 1804; Alexander Willard is court martialed for "lying down and sleeping on his post whilst a sentinel on the night of the 11th Instant". The court found Willard guilty and sentenced him to "one hundred lashes on his bare back at four different times in equal proportion and that the punishment commence this evening at sunset and continue to be inflicted every evening until completed".

On August 4, 1804, Captain Clark comments, "Mosses Reed, a man who went back to camp for his knife has not joined us." On August 5th Clark adds, "The man who went back after his knife has not yet come up, we have some reasons to believe he has deserted." Clark's journal entry of August 7th is clear, "at 11 o'clock dispatched George Drewyer, R. Fields, WM Bratten and Wm. Labieche back after the deserter, Reed, with order if he did not give up peaceably to put him to death..." and on August 17th Clark writes, "...at 6 o'clock this evening Labieche...joined us and informed that the party was behind

with the deserter, M.B. Reed..."

August 18, 1804, "We proceeded to the trial of Mosses Reed, he confessed that he deserted and stole a public rifle, shot pouch, powder, and balls and requested we would be as favorable with him as we could...which we were and only sentenced him to run the gauntlet four times through the party and that each man with 9 switches should punish him and for him not to be considered in the future as one of the party."

Running the gauntlet meant that the men of the expedition formed two lines, facing each other, and each man holds a switch of some item such as a piece of wood or an iron rod. The convicted soldier could be led by another soldier and walked between the line of men and was whipped or the convicted was made to run the gauntlet and was whipped.

October 13, 1804, Pvt. John Newman was confined for mutinous expression and subsequently court martialed. He was found guilty, ordered to receive seventy-five lashes on his bare back and "to be henceforth discarded from the permanent party engaged for North Western discovery."

February 10, 1805, on the previous night, Pvt. Thomas Howard had returned to Fort Mandan after the gate had been closed. Rather than call to the guard to open the gate, he scaled the wall. An Indian saw this and also scaled the wall. Howard was committed to the care of the guard with a determination to have him court martialed for this offense. He was found guilty and sentenced to fifty lashes but the court recommended mercy and Captain Lewis forgave Howard his punishment.

Howard's trial seems to have been the expedition's last disciplinary issue involving a court martial.

Badger State Chapter Treasurer's Report:

The Badger State Chapter had \$5750.36 in the Treasury as of March 30, 2021, and 67 paid up members.

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



Newsletter Articles

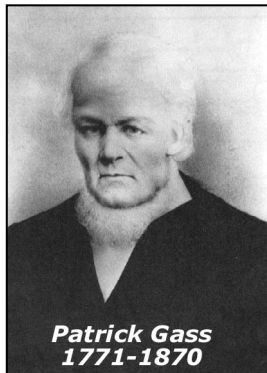
Do you have an interesting thought about the Lewis & Clark Expedition, or know someone who shares our interest in "The Journey?" Would you like to share it with others through this newsletter? Then write to either Jim Rosenberger at punkinz@tds.net or Bill Holman at wghmch@gmail.com. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture, we will be happy to return it upon request.



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 made these notes in August of 1804, before we got to Fort Mandan. I surely hope I can get someone interested enough to publish them when we return to the United States..



Wednesday 1st Aug. 1804. Three of our men again went out to hunt the horses, but returned without them. They brought a deer, and two of our other hunters killed two more."

Thursday 2nd. Some hunters went out this morning; and two of them returned with the horses and an elk they had killed. The others brought in two large bucks and a fawn. The Indians we expected came at dark; but our Frenchman was not with them. We supposed he had been lost. This place we named Council-Bluff, and by observation we found to be in latitude 41d. 17m. north.

Friday 3rd. Captain Lewis and Captain Clarke held a council with the Indians, who appeared well pleased with the change of government, and what had been done for them. Six of them were made chiefs, three Otos and three Missouris.

We renewed our voyage at 3 o'clock; went six miles and encamped on the south side; where we had a storm of wind and rain, which lasted two hours.

Saturday 4th. We were early under way this morning, and had a fair day. We passed a creek on the south side, which came out of ponds. One of our men, Pvt Moses Reed, went out this morning and did not return. Another came to us and brought a deer. We encamped on the south side.

Sunday 5th. We set out early, but a storm of rain and wind obliged us to stop two hours. It then cleared and we continued our voyage; passed prairies on both sides, and encamped on the north side. The river here is very crooked and winding. To arrive at a point only 370 yards from this place, the passage by water is twelve miles.

Tuesday 7th. We set out early this morning and continued our voyage till 12, when four of our people, (George Drouillard, William Bratton, Reuben Field, and Francois Labiche) were dispatched to the Oto nation of Indians after the man who had not returned on the 4th, with orders to take him, dead or alive, if they could see him. There is no timber in this country except some cotton wood and willows in the bends of the river. All the high

land is a continued prairie. We encamped on the north side. The musketoes here are very numerous and troublesome.

Wednesday 8th. We embarked early, passed a small river on the north side, called Little Sioux. Captain Clarke and one of the men went out to hunt and killed an elk. One of the hunters killed a pelican on a sand bar, and Captain Lewis killed another, very large. We encamped on the north bank. In the bag under the bill and neck of the pelican, which Captain Lewis killed, we put five gallons of water.

Thursday 9th. The fog was so thick this morning, that we could not proceed before 7, when we went on under a gentle breeze, and having advanced eleven miles, came to a place where the river by cutting through a narrow neck of land, reduced the distance fifteen miles. Captain Clarke and one of the men went out to hunt and killed a small turkey. We encamped on the south side, where we found the musketoes very troublesome.

Saturday 11th. A storm came on at three o'clock this morning and continued till nine; notwithstanding which, we kept under way till ten, when we came to a high bluff, where an Indian chief had been buried, and placed a flag upon a pole, which had been set up at his grave. His name was Blackbird, king of the Mahas; an absolute monarch while living, and the Indians suppose can exercise the power of one though dead.

Sunday 12th. We embarked and got under way before day light. The musketoes last night were worse than I ever experienced. We went round a bend, of eighteen miles, the neck of which was only 974 yards across; passed high bluffs of yellow clay on the south side of the river and low land on the north; and encamped on a sand island.

Monday 13th. We proceeded this morning with a fair wind; and at 2 landed on a sandy beach, near the Maha village, on the south side of the river. A sergeant and one man were sent to the village, who did not return this day.

Tuesday 14th. The sergeant and man returned from the village; but they had found no Indians there. Some of our hunters went out but killed nothing. Game appears scarce here. While at this place we provided ourselves with a new mast.

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-April 2021

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.

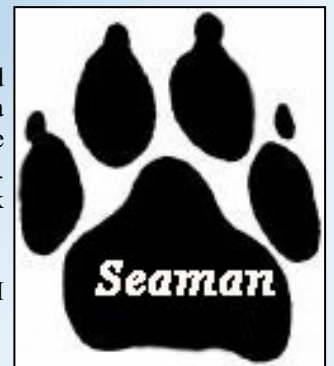
March 3, 1809: Winter is ending; the snow is melting away and it is becoming warmer outside. The Missouri River is rising and more boat traffic is taking place. My friends and my partner Angel spend more time outside. Yes, Angel and I are now partners. We are together almost all the time and our humans agree with this. We travel through the city to insure all is well and we are almost fully back to patrolling the streets and helping businesses and citizens wherever we might be needed.

I also continue to spend as much time as I can with Governor Lewis. Unfortunately, his greatest problem, Bates, continues to cause problems for the Governor and often they come close to getting in a physical confrontation but I jump between them and my growl and teeth typically convince Bates to reconsider his intentions. As of now there is little conversation between these two men. Oh, that I could also meet the Governor's second biggest problem, William Simmons in Washington City. He continues to challenge the billings Governor Lewis sends him and argues he will not pay them. I do not understand this as the bills are justified and if Washington does not pay them, the Governor will have to pay the bills out of his own money, which will harm him greatly. I would love to travel to Washington and help convince Simmons of the Governor's honest intentions.

In addition to Bates and Simmons, the Governor deals with many other important and difficult situations. As I have mentioned before, one of these is returning the Native Chief, Big White, to his Mandan people far up the Missouri River and the expedition is now scheduled for a time the humans call May. When I first heard of this trip I barked and jumped around in joy as I thought the Governor would be leading the expedition once again and it was exciting to think I would be traveling with him and the Big White and I would again see the Mandan, my old friends. But it is not to be, the expedition will be led by Mr. Pierre Chouteau and Governor Lewis and I will remain in St. Louis.

And so, I will continue to do things to suggest the Governor should leave his present position and move on. I believe he is considering some of my hints to leave as he recently presented me with a very special neck collar for me to wear. The collar is very special and as he placed it on my neck, he read an inscription which was carved into the collar. It reads: "The greatest traveler of my species. My name is SEAMAN, the dog of captain Meriwether Lewis, whom I accompanied to the Pacific ocean through the interior of the continent of North America".

The Governor gave me a hug and we held each other close. Both of us had tears in our eyes and I promised I would wear this collar forever and do whatever I can to protect him.



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