



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

April 2007

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 22

During this time in history: (March-May, 1804-1807)

(The source for all Journal entries is, "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition edited by Gary E. Moulton, The University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001.)

May 14, 1804, Patrick Gass: "... We left our establishment at the mouth of the River du Bois...on our intended voyage of Discovery...The determined and resolute character, however, of the corps, and the confidence which pervaded all ranks dispelled every emotion of fear and anxiety for the present; while a sense of duty, and of honor...seemed to insure to us ample support in our future toils, suffering and dangers."

April 7, 1805, Ft. Mandan – Lewis: "... We were now about to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width, on which the foot of civilized man had never trodden; the good or evil it had in store for us was for experiment yet to determine... The party are in excellent health and spirits, zealously attached to the enterprise, and anxious to proceed; not a whisper or murmur of discontent to be heard among them, but all act in unison and with the most perfect harmony..."

March 23, 1806, Ft. Clatsop – Clark: "... The rain ceased and it became fair about Meridian (Noon), at which time we loaded our canoes and at 1 P.M. left Fort Clatsop on our homeward bound journey. At this place we had wintered and remained from the 7th of Dec. 1805 to this day and have lived as well as we had any right to expect, and we can say that we were never one day without 3 meals of some kind...either poor elk meat or roots, not withstanding the repeated fall of rain which has fallen almost constantly..."

How It All Began...

We frequently read excerpts of Jefferson's "charge" to Lewis, but seldom consider the total of what he envisioned for the Corps of Discovery. The following letter was written by Thomas Jefferson for Meriwether Lewis. It is reproduced much in the actual way in which it was written. Therefore the mis-spelling is the way that it originally appeared. It is interesting to think that Jefferson may have been sitting in



the library of his home of Monticello as he pondered exactly what he wanted to include in these very important instructions. When you attend the Annual Meeting of the Foundation from August 5-8, you can place yourself back where Jefferson may have first penned these words to Meriwether Lewis, over 200 years ago.

President Thomas Jefferson's instructions to Meriwether Lewis are often discussed or written about in Lewis and Clark circles but mostly with emphasis to the directive, "The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River..." How many of us have actually read the complete text of Jefferson's directive? We provide the entire directive for your review so you can see how complete a document this is as regards instructions to Captain Lewis. We provide these observations as a beginning guide:

Jefferson discusses travel outside the United States and passports from France and England as well as a chain of command should Capt. Lewis die while

Continued on Page 2

Don't miss "Seaman says..." on page 6



Trivia Question of the Month (The answer is somewhere in this issue.) Who did Captain Lewis described as "rascally"?

Continued from page 1

on the Expedition. Keep in mind these orders were issued nearly one year before the completion of the Louisiana Purchase.

Note President Jefferson's influence on planning for the Expedition; instruments to take, presents for the Indian Nations, needs for the men, taking latitude and longitude of "remarkable points", keeping a journal and how communication might be maintained back to civilization, dismissal of the men upon completion of the journey. Jefferson addresses relations with the Indian Nations in detail and gathering information even to the extent that it "...may better enable those who may endeavor to civilize and instruct them..."

The President gives guidelines for recording the geography and weather of the region and that the tributaries flowing from the south into the Missouri are of particular interest. He is interested in the source of the Mississippi and the trade routes of Canadian traders from "...the mouth of the Quisconsin (our Wisconsin River) to where it strikes the Missouri..."

Meriwether Lewis seems to have had a fairly explicit set of orders to guide him in the successful completion of the Expedition and the results would suggest he did a good job of following and implementing them. Imagine that you are Meriwether Lewis as you read this letter from your president...

"To Meriwether Lewis, esquire, captain of the first regiment of infantry of the United States of America:

"Your situation as secretary of the president of the United States, has made you acquainted with the objects of my confidential message of January 18, 1803, to the legislature; you have seen the act they passed, which, though expressed in general terms, was meant to sanction those objects, and you are appointed to carry them to execution.

"Instruments for ascertaining, by celestial observations, the geography of the country through which you will pass, have already been provided. Light articles for barter and presents among the Indians, arms for your attendants, say from ten to twelve men, boats, tents, and other traveling apparatus, with ammunition, medicine, surgical instruments and provisions, you will have prepared, with such aids as the secretary at war can yield in his department; and from him also you will receive authority to engage among our troops, by voluntary agreement, the attendants abovementioned; over whom you, as their commanding officer, are invested with all the powers the laws give in such a case.

"As your movements, while within the limits of the United States, will be better directed by occasional communications, adapted to circumstances as they arise, they will not be noticed here. What follows will respect your proceedings after your departure from the United States.

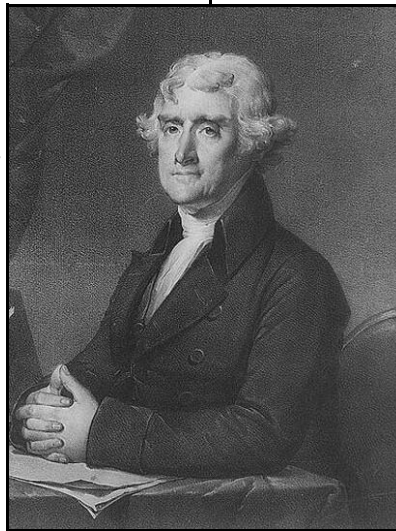
"Your mission has been communicated to the ministers here from France, Spain, and Great Britain, and through them to their governments; and such assurances given them as to its objects, as we trust will satisfy them. The country of Louisiana having been ceded by Spain to France, the passport you have from the minister of France, the representative of the present sovereign of the country, will be a protection with all its subjects; and that from the Minister of England will entitle you to the friendly aid of any traders of that allegiance with whom you may happen to meet.

"The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River, and such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river, may offer the most direct and practicable water-communication across the continent, for the purposes of commerce.

"Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri, you will take observations of latitude and longitude, at all remarkable points on the river, and especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands, and other places and objects distinguished by such natural marks and characters, of a durable kind, as that they may with certainty be recognised hereafter. The courses of the river between these points of observation may be supplied by the compass, the log-line, and by time, corrected by the observations themselves. The variations of the needle, too, in different places, should be noticed.

"The interesting points of the portage between the heads of the Missouri, and of the water offering the best communication with the Pacific ocean, should also be fixed by observation; and the course of that water to the ocean, in the same manner as that of the Missouri.

"Your observations are to be taken with great pains and accuracy; to be entered distinctly and intelligibly for others as well as yourself; to comprehend all the elements necessary, with the aid of the usual tales, to fix the latitude and longitude of the places at which they were taken; and are to be rendered to the war-office, for the purpose of having the calculations made concurrently by proper persons within the United States. Several copies of these, as well as of your other notes, should be made at leisure times, and put into the care of the most trustworthy of your attendants to guard, by multiplying them against the



Thomas Jefferson

Continued on Page 3

The direct & proper mission is to explore the Missouri river, & stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the water of the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication as for the purposes of commerce.

Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri, you will take accurate latitude & longitude, at all remarkable points on the river, & up of rivers, at rapids, at islands, & other places & objects distinguished marks & characters, as that they may with certainty be recognized courses of the river between these points of observation may be set the log line & by time, corrected by the observations themselves.

Continued from page 2

accidental losses to which they will be exposed. A further guard would be, that one of these copies be on the cuticular membranes of the paper-birch, as less liable to injury from damp than common paper.

"The commerce which may be carried on with the people inhabiting the line you will pursue, renders a knowledge of those people important. You will therefore endeavour to make yourself acquainted, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey shall admit, with the names of the nations and their numbers;

"The extent and limits of their possessions;

"Their relations with other tribes or nations;

"Their language, traditions, monuments;

"Their ordinary occupations in agriculture, fishing, hunting, war, arts, and the implements for these;

"Their food, clothing, and domestic accommodations;

"The diseases prevalent among them, and the remedies they use;

"Moral and physical circumstances which distinguish them from the tribes we know;

"Peculiarities in their laws, customs, and dispositions;

"And articles of commerce they may need or furnish, and to what extent.

"And, considering the interest which every nation has in extending and strengthening the authority of reason and justice among the people around them, it will be useful to ac-



quire what knowledge you can of the state of morality, religion, and information among them; as it may better enable those who may endeavour to civilize and instruct them, to adapt their measures to the existing notions and practices of those on whom they are to operate.

"Other objects worthy of notice will be;

"The soil and face of the country, its growth and vegetable productions, especially those not of the United States;

"The animals of the country generally, and especially those not known in the United States;

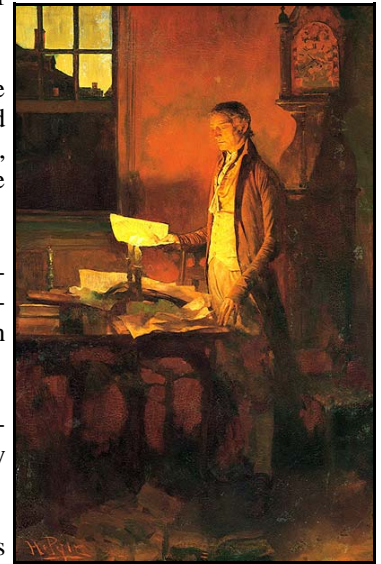
"The remains and accounts of any which may be deemed rare or extinct;

"The mineral productions of every kind, but more particularly metals, lime-stone, pit-coal, and saltpetre; salines and mineral waters, noting the temperature of the last, and such circumstances as may indicate their character;

"Volcanic appearances;

"Climate, as characterized by the thermometer, by the proportion of rainy, cloudy, and clear days; by lightning, hail, snow, ice; by the access and recess of frost; by the winds prevailing at different seasons; the dates at which particular plants put forth, or lose their flower or leaf; times of appearance of particular birds, reptiles or insects.

"Although your route will be along the channel of the Missouri, yet you will endeavour to inform yourself, by inquiry, of the character and extent of the country watered by its branches, and especially on its southern side. The North river, or Rio Bravo, which runs into the gulf of Mexico, and the North river, or Rio Colorado, which runs into the gulf of California, are understood to be the principal streams heading opposite to the waters of the Missouri, and running southwardly. Whether the dividing grounds between the Missouri and them are mountains or flat lands, what are their distance from the Missouri, the character of the intermediate country, and the people inhabiting it, are worthy of particular inquiry. The northern waters of the Missouri are less to be inquired after, because they have been ascertained to a considerable degree, and are still in a course of ascertainment by English traders and travellers; but if you can learn any thing certain of the most northern source of the Mississippi, and of its position relatively to the Lake of the Woods, it will be interesting to us. Some account too of the path of the Canadian traders



Continued on Page 4



Continued from page 3

from the Missisipi, at the mouth of the Ouisconsing to where it strikes the Missouri, and of the soil and rivers in its course, is desirable.

"In all your intercourse with the natives, treat them in the most friendly and conciliatory manner which their own conduct will admit; allay all jealousies as to the object of your journey; satisfy them of its innocence; make them acquainted with the position, extent, character, peaceable and commercial dispositions of the United States; of our wish to be neighbourly; friendly, and useful to them, and of our dispositions to a commercial intercourse with them; confer with them on the points most convenient as mutual emporiums, and the articles of most desirable interchange for them and us. If a few of their influential chiefs, within practicable distance, wish to visit us, arrange such a visit with them, and furnish them with authority to call on our officers on their entering the United States, to have them conveyed to this place at the public expense. If any of them should wish to have some of their young people brought up with us, and taught such arts as may be useful to them, we will receive, instruct, and take care of them. Such a mission, whether of influential chiefs, or of young people, would give some security to your own party. Carry with you some matter of the kine-pox; inform those of them with whom you may be of its efficacy as a preservative from the small-pox, and instruct and encourage them in the use of it. This may be especially done wherever you winter.

"As it is impossible for us to foresee in what manner you will be received by those people, whether with hospitality or hostility, so is it impossible to prescribe the exact degree of perseverance with which you are to pursue your journey. We value too much the lives of citizens to offer them to probable destruction. Your numbers will be sufficient to secure you against the unauthorized opposition of individuals, or of small parties; but if a superior force, authorized, or not authorized, by a nation, should be arrayed against your further passage, and inflexibly determined to arrest it, you must decline its further pursuit and return. In the loss of yourselves we should lose also the information you will have acquired. By returning safely with that, you may enable us to renew the essay with better calculated means. To your own discretion, therefore, must be left the degree of danger you may risk, and the point at which you should decline, only saying, we wish you to err on the side of your safety, and to bring back your party safe, even if it be with less information.

"As far up the Missouri as the white settlements extend, an intercourse will probably be found to exist between them and the Spanish post of St. Louis opposite Cahokia, or St. Genevieve opposite Kaskaskia. From still further up the

river the traders may furnish a conveyance for letters. Beyond that you may perhaps be able to engage Indians to bring letters for the government to Cahokia, or Kaskaskia, on promising that they shall there receive such special compensation as your shall have stipulated with them. Avail yourself of these means to communicate to us, at seasonable intervals, a copy of your journal, notes and observations of every kind, putting into cypher whatever might do injury if betrayed.

"Should you reach the Pacific ocean, inform yourself of the circumstances which may decide whether the furs of those parts may not be collected as advantageously at the head of the Missouri (convenient as is supposed to the waters of the Colorado and Oregon or Columbia) as at Nootka Sound, or any other point of that coast; and that trade be consequently conducted through the Missouri and United States more beneficially than by the circumnavigation now practised.

"On your arrival on that coast, endeavour to learn if there be any port within your reach frequented by the sea vessels of any nation, and to send two of your trusty people back by sea, in such way as shall appear practicable, with a copy of your notes; and should you be of opinion that the return of your party by the way they went will be imminently dangerous, then ship the whole, and return by sea, by the way either of Cape Horn, or the Cape of Good Hope, as you shall be able. As you will be without money, clothes, or provisions, you must endeavour to use the credit of the United States to obtain them; for which purpose open letters of credit shall be furnished you, authorizing you to draw on the executive of the United States, or any of its officers, in any part of the world, on which draughts can be disposed of, and to apply with our recommendations to the consuls, agents, merchants, or citizens of any nation with which we have intercourse, assuring them, in our name, that any aids they may furnish you shall be honourably repaid, and on demand. Our consuls, Thomas Hewes, at Batavia, in Java, William Buchanan, in the Isles of France and Bourbon, and John Elmslie, at the Cape of Good Hope, will be able to supply your necessities, by draughts on us.

"Should you find it safe to return by the way you go, after sending two of our party round by sea, or with your whole party, if no conveyance by sea can be found, do so; making such observations on your return as may serve to supply, correct, or confirm those made on your outward journey.

Continued on Page 5



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@att.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.

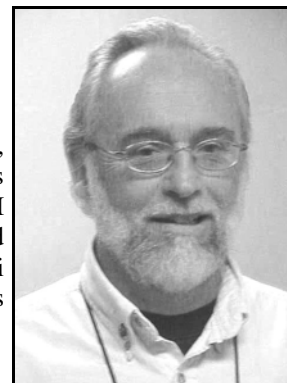
"On reentering the United States and reaching a place of safety, discharge any of your attendants who may desire and deserve it, procuring for them immediate payment of all arrears of pay and clothing which may have incurred since their departure, and assure them that they shall be recommended to the liberality of the legislature for the grant of a soldier's portion of land each, as proposed in my message to congress, and repair yourself, with your papers, to the seat of government.

"To provide, on the accident of your death, against anarchy, dispersion, and the consequent danger to your party, and total failure of the enterprise, you are hereby authorized, by any instrument signed and written in your own hand, to name the person among them who shall succeed to the command on your decease, and by like instruments to change the nomination, from time to time, as further experience of the characters accompanying you shall point out superior fitness; and all the powers and authorities given to yourself are, in the event of your death, transferred to, and vested in the successor so named, with further power to him and his successors, in like manner to name each his successor, who, on the death of his predecessor, shall be invested with all the powers and authorities given to yourself. Given under my hand at the city of Washington, this twentieth day of June, 1803."

Thomas Jefferson
President of the United States of America

Continued from page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Jim Rosenberger

Lewis & Clark in Hawaii? Well, not quite, but the story follows us wherever we go. Mary, and I were fortunate enough to spend some time on the island of Kauai this past winter and explorers seemed to follow us there.

At our rental unit I found an edition of "The Explorations of Captain James Cook in the Pacific as told by Selections of his own Journals, 1768 – 1790" edited by A. Grenfell Price. It was interesting to read how some of Cook's issues of exploration paralleled those of Lewis & Clark. At the time of Cook's voyages it was thought a vast, undiscovered southern continent existed past 40 degrees south latitude, much larger than what the Antarctic turned out to be. This type of speculation relates to theories on what awaited Lewis & Clark in the American West. In Cook's day, computing Latitude was fairly well developed but not the computation of Longitude and Captain Cook contributed to solving this problem. As we know, Lewis & Clark had their own problems with computing both of these. Captain Cook did a lot on his voyages to eliminate disease on board his ships, especially scurvy, through proper diet. Food and diet were important elements on the Voyage of Discovery.

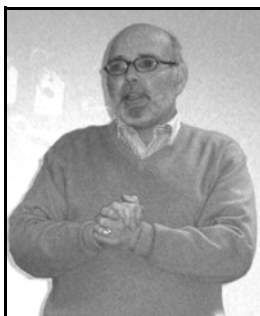
Departing from the book on Captain Cook, we visited the local Borders Book Store and ran into Foundation and Oregon Chapter member Mike Carrick. Mike, who has displayed his wonderful collection of firearms at various annual meetings, was also visiting Kauai and was soon on his way to Maui. It really is a small world. I would have thought Hawaii would be concentrated primarily on its own history but I was pleasantly surprised to find a number of books about the Expedition on Border's shelves. Lewis & Clark have actually ended up extending out beyond our west coast and into the Pacific itself.

I was also pleasantly surprised when residents and other tourists in various shops, restaurants, tours etc., would ask about Lewis & Clark or make a comment about the expedition. Now the fact that I was wearing a Lewis & Clark shirt and baseball cap probably contributed to their reason for making comments, but it was still a nice feeling. The lesson learned here is don't wear your Lewis and Clark clothing for just Chapter or Foundation events; wear them out in public and you may be surprised at the conversations they start. You may even have a chance to recruit a new member or two so while you're at it, take a few brochures along.

OK, so maybe I am a little obsessed with Lewis & Clark. But alas, I wasn't able to get a Chapter started in Hawaii. Not this trip anyway.

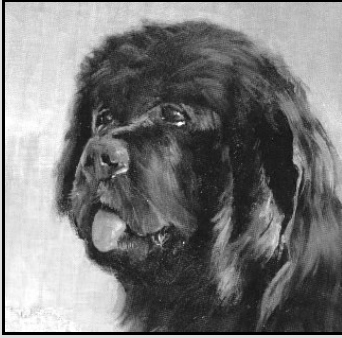
CHAPTER MEETINGS

Indian trade beads of the early fur trade and Lewis and Clark eras continue to hold their magic. This was evidenced by good attendance at our January 13, 2006 Chapter meeting in DeForest. Bob Birmingham, (pictured right) Professor at UW Waukesha, fur trade scholar and author of books on ancient Indian cultures gave an excellent presentation on the history, uses, types and value of trade beads, including examples of beads and a slide presentation.



Interest in beads was manifested by the many visitors who attended the presentation. Ron Calkins and his wife brought a fine display of their own bead collection and an excellent grizzly bear necklace. Member Jim Maginnis and his wife brought guests, Dan and Cathy Wagner who do a portrayal of Charbonneau and Sacagawea. Dan and Cathy have since become Chapter members; a big welcome to them both.

Join us April 28th for our next Chapter meeting at the Fond du Lac Public Library, Fond du Lac, WI. At 11 AM, Professor Kerry Trask, UW Manitowoc, will speak on William Clark's involvement in the Blackhawk War.



Seaman Says... (Thoughts from 1803)

We return to the beginning of Seaman's Journal for his continuing insight into America's most important journey of exploration:

October 20, 1803: My species has a keen sense to evaluate the environment we live in and, perhaps more importantly, the various life forms we must live among. I have determined that my Captain Lewis is an extremely capable and honorable leader of men. We have now met another male human, one William Clark, who, from what my senses tell me so far, will be the equal of Captain Lewis. I believe I can safely predict that these two humans will make a fine team.

I have also become acquainted with William's older brother called General George Rogers Clark, or more simply, "General". The General is definitely a leader of humans and had fate matched me with him, I can only imagine what wonders we would have accomplished. Such is fate; we will see where my current course takes me.

Masters Lewis and Clark have begun to select a cadre of men for the expedition and I sense they have made good choices. I sense strength, character and a devotion to duty in these men along with elements of merriment, folly and a zest for life. With this combination our future together will have few dull moments.



The End of the Bicentennial?

By: Jack Schroeder

Many of us followed the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition day by day from 2003 through September of 2006. We bought calendars which quoted one or another of the journals each day, or which described events that occurred to the Corps on that day 200 years earlier. Every day we had a reason to indulge ourselves in recounting the adventures and difficulties that the intrepid travelers endured.

And then it was over. Some calendars even ended with September as the last month, while others at least finished out the year. But many people thought that the spark had died out. After the party returned to St. Louis the journals ended, and everything that has been said about them since was in retrospect for events that happened in the past. The sense of an immediate, ongoing connection evaporated.



Jack Schroeder

In September of 1806 the Expedition had disbanded without any recorded ceremony. The rifles cookware, and other gear, like the keelboat before them were deemed military surplus at some point and their disposition is unknown. Military enlistments were different then. The enlisted men were given discharges and were mustered out of the military directly upon their return. The townspeople of St. Louis threw boisterous parties to celebrate the homecoming of the men whom most citizens thought had died in the unknown reaches of the American west, but it wasn't long before the members of the Corps had to begin finding new ways to make a living.

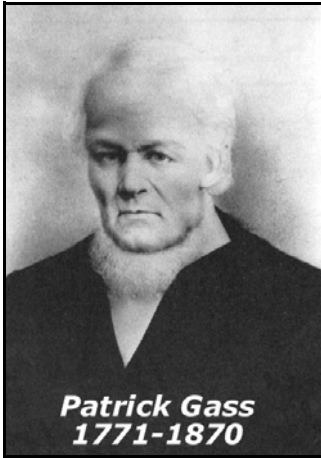
In March of 1807 twenty-two of the expedition's enlisted veterans were still present in St. Louis to sign for the land grants of 320 acres each which had been promised to them as partial compensation for their years of service. Some took their land and their double pay and settled down, got married, and raised families. Others disappeared into the mists of history and left no record of their later lives. Still others turned back to seek their fortune in the wild lands from which they had just returned.

For instance, in April of 2007, a keelboat began ascending the Missouri River. That party was led by Manuel Lisa, a Spaniard whom Captain Lewis described as "rascally". The commercial venture was fueled by the reports of ample beaver and buffalo which the L&C party brought back. At least three veterans of the Corps; Drouillard, Weiser, and Potts were on board. Some accounts include Windsor and LePage as being aboard. The prospect of a fortune in furs led them to again endure the difficult and dangerous trip up the river.

John Colter had not returned to St. Louis of course. He had been allowed to leave the Corps as they descended the Missouri River, and had joined with the trappers Hancock and Dixon in a venture to trap the Yellowstone basin. He spent the winter of 1806-7 either there or in the Mandan villages. In June 1807 while attempting to return to St. Louis he met the Lisa party, and was convinced to once again turn around and head back into the mountains.

These men and their companions became the first fur trappers and traders in the Mountain West. The term *mountain man* was given to this colorful bunch of frontiersmen, adventurers, and brigands. They have achieved a place of honor in American history and folklore as the exemplars of rugged individualism and independence. Following their story and learning their history is a very fitting way to keep the bicentennial fire burning. After all, everyday is the bicentennial of something.

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



**Patrick Gass
1771-1870**

As I write this, I remember that it was almost exactly 3 years ago, on Monday the 14th of May 1804, we left our establishment at the mouth of the river du Bois or Wood river, a small river which falls into the Mississippi, on the east side, a mile below the Missouri, and having crossed the Mississippi proceeded up the Missouri on our intended voyage of discovery, under the command of Captain Clarke. Captain Lewis was to

join us in two or three days on our passage.

The corps consisted of forty-three men (including Captain Lewis and Captain Clarke, who were to command the expedition) part of the regular troops of the United States, and part engaged for this particular enterprize. The expedition was embarked on board a batteau and two periogues. The day was showery and in the evening we encamped on the north bank six miles up the river. Here we had leisure to reflect on our situation, and the nature of our engagements: and, as we had all entered this service as volunteers, to consider how far we stood pledged for the success of an expedition, which the government had projected; and which had been undertaken for the benefit and at the expence of the Union: of course of much interest and high expectation.

The best authenticated accounts informed us, that we were to pass through a country possessed by numerous, powerful and warlike nations of savages, of gigantic stature, fierce, treacherous and cruel; and particularly hostile to white men. And fame had united with tradition in opposing mountains to our course, which human enterprize and exertion would attempt in vain to pass. The determined and resolute character, however, of the corps, and the confidence which pervaded all ranks dispelled every emotion of fear, and anxiety for the present; while a sense of duty, and of the honour, which would attend the completion of the object of the expedition; a wish to gratify the expectations of the government, and of our fellow citizens, with the feelings which novelty and discovery invariably inspire, seemed to insure to us ample support in our future toils, suffering and dangers.

Your cuzzin,
Patrick Gass

(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger Chapter member and the editor of the Badger 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.)

=We're On The Web=

"Field Notes" is also available on the Internet.

If you are only receiving it as a black and white copy, you will enjoy it a lot more with some pages in color, and you'll be the first to receive it. To get on the list to receive the link, drop an e-mail to Bill Holman at:

wghmch@chorus.net

...we'll send you a link where you can find it and share it with your friends.



E-mail Address Changes (Please change your records)

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Dave & Tanya Bubier
tetyana50@milpond.com

Treasurer's Report

The Badger Chapter now has 68 paid up members, and as of April 1, 2007 we have \$3,184.36 in the Chapter Treasury.



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