



Meriwether
Lewis

Field Notes



William
Clark

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

October 2012

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 44

**During this time in history:
(January 1804 - April 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.)

Journal entries discuss Sacagawea's presence and activities with the Corps of Discovery.

November 11, 1804, Ft. Mandan, ND, Clark: "...Two Squaws of the Rocky Mountains, purchased from the Indians by a Frenchman (Charbonneau) came down..." (This is the first recorded meeting between the Captains and Sacagawea.)

April 7, 1805, Ft. Mandan, ND, Clark: "...We set out on our voyage...our party consisting of... interpreter, Charbonneau and his Indian Squaw to act as an interpreter and interpretress for the snake Indians...*Sah-kah-gar we a...*" (This phonetic spelling is the only time Sacagawea is mentioned by name in any North Dakota journal entries and even this entry may have been entered after the Expedition returned.)

April 30, 1805, Roosevelt County, Montana, Clark: "...I walked on shore today; our interpreter and his Squaw followed. In my walk the Squaw found and brought me a bush something like the current, which she said bore a delicious fruit and that great quantities grew on the Rocky Mountains..."

May 8, 1805, near today's Ft. Peck Dam, Montana, Clark: "...In walking on shore with the interpreter and his wife the Squaw gathered, on the sides of the hills, wild liquorish and the white apple, as it is called by the engages, and gave me to eat. The Indi-

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

A "WALK IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS" ANNUAL MEETING



Badger chapter members did their individual version of the "Last Train to Clarksville" (remember the 1966 song by the Monkees?) and in their separate vehicles traveled safely to the annual gathering of students of Lewis and Clark history in Clarksville, Indiana.

If there were any doubts about what contributions the "Eastern Legacy" would make for an expanded Lewis and Clark Historic Trail, those doubts were banished forever at the 44th annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, held in Clarksville July 29 through August 1, 2012. Lewis and Clark history abounds along the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi River.

On Sunday July 29th and prior to the opening of the annual meeting, an optional tour was given of Trough Spring which was built in 1802 and was the home of Jonathan Clark, William Clark's oldest brother. When Lewis and Clark returned to the Falls of the Ohio in November 1806 they used Trough Spring as their base of operation in Louisville. Clark often stayed at Trough Spring when he visited Louisville after his move to St. Louis. The house has had many owners and has changed in appearance but the original core building remains. Imagine! Walking on the floors and standing in places where Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Jonathan Clark, and who knows how many other people had stood discussing the Expedition and speculating on what the future held for them.

On Monday evening we repeated this feeling of excitement and awe when, after enjoying a barbeque dinner at Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

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-ans of the Missouri make great use of the white apple dressed in different ways..."

May 14, 1805, Valley County, MT, Clark: "...A squall of wind struck our sale broad side and turned the pirogue nearly over...the articles which floated out was nearly all caught by the Squaw who was in the rear..."

May 20, 1805, Sacagawea River, MT, Lewis: "...a handsome river of about fifty yards in width discharged itself into the Musselshell River...this stream we called Sah-ca-gar me-ah or Bird Woman's River after our interpreter, the Snake woman.

From Wikipedia:

Early life reliable historical information about Sacagawea is very limited. She was born into an Agaidika (Salmon Eater) tribe of Lemhi Shoshone between Kenney Creek and Agency Creek about twenty minutes away from present-day Salmon in Lemhi County, Idaho. In 1800, when she was about twelve, she and several other girls were kidnapped by a group of Hidatsa (also known as Minnetarees) in a battle that resulted in death among the Shoshone of four men, four women and several boys. She was taken as a captive to a Hidatsa village near present-day Washburn, North Dakota.

At about thirteen years of age, Sacagawea was taken as a wife by Toussaint Charbonneau, a Quebecer trapper living in the village. He had also taken another young Shoshone named Otter Woman as a wife. Charbonneau was reported to have purchased both wives from the Hidatsa, or won Sacagawea while gambling.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Sacagawea was pregnant with her first child when the Corps of Discovery arrived near the Hidatsa villages to spend the winter of 1804-05. Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark built Fort Mandan. They interviewed several trappers who might be able to interpret or guide the expedition up the Missouri River in the springtime. They agreed to hire Charbonneau as an interpreter when they discovered his wife spoke Shoshone, as they knew they would need the help of Shoshone tribes at the headwaters of the Missouri.

Lewis recorded in his journal on November 4, 1804:

"a French man by Name Chabonah, who speaks the Big Belly language visit us, he wished to hire and informed us his 2 squaws ("squaws") were Snake Indians, we engage him to go on with us and take one his wives to interpret the Snake language..." [sic] Charbonneau and Sacagawea moved into the Expedition's fort a week later. Clark nicknamed her Janey. Lewis recorded the birth of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau on February 11, 1805, noting that another of the party's interpreters administered crushed rattlesnake rattles to speed the delivery. Clark and other European Americans nicknamed the boy "Little Pomp" or "Pompy".

For additional information see:

<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacagawea>>

Note: The Badger State Chapter Meeting in Menomonee Falls is/was centered on studying Sacagawea and her contributions to the Expedition.

Park, we toured the cabin home

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of George Rogers Clark which is on a hillside overlooking the Ohio River. Here was where Lewis met Clark, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition began. Here is where William lived with his older brother, George Rogers, and worked to help solve his brother's financial problems. Here is where Lewis and Clark returned after the Expedition and discussed the Expedition with George Rogers Clark. And now we stood in the same location as these great men.



While at the Park we also attended the dedication of a concrete replica of the Expedition's keel boat, which is a piece of master workmanship and will be an important part of the Park for a long time.



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Do you remember Meriwether Lewis mentioning the “Camera Obscura” while at the Great Falls and wondering what it was? Well, thanks to John Stealey we were able to see one in action. I won’t even try to explain how it works or what it looks like; all I can say is that it was a real education and if you get a chance to see one, take the opportunity.

On Tuesday we boarded buses for historic Vincennes, Indiana. In 1732, Vincennes was the first city in Indiana and from 1800 to 1813 served as the capital of the Indiana Territory. We visited Grouseland, the home of then territorial governor, William Henry Harrison and again were able to walk on the floors and stand in the rooms where Lewis and Clark visited with Governor Harrison on their way from St. Louis to Washington City.



Other historic personalities such as Aaron Burr have also walked the halls of Grouseland. We also toured George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, the site where Clark took the British Fort Sackville in 1779. Once more we walk in the steps of great men.

Wednesday we were on the move again and visited Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky, the home of



William Croghan and Lucy Clark Croghan, the sister of William Clark. In 1806 Lewis and Clark displayed many trophies and artifacts of

the expedition in the Ballroom at Locust Grove. We were again tracking the steps of these great men and standing in the places they once stood. To add to the feeling a re-enactor playing George Rogers Clark, and always in time period character, would discuss the happenings of the day or the difficulties he was having since the amputation of a leg in the winter of 1809. George Rogers Clark lived at Locust Grove from 1809 until his death in 1818.



“George Rogers Clark” discussing his situation in life with Field Notes Editor Bill Holman
(Photo by Tom Strauss)

During all of our tours and in all of the lectures we attended we saw, heard and learned about the history of the Clarksville area but our annual meeting hosts did an excellent job of relating all this history back to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It seems obvious that the legacy of the eastern travels of Lewis and Clark must become a part of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail so that the Trail will tell the entire saga of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Badger State Chapter Members at the final banquet
(Photo by Dave Sorgel)



Badger State Chapter President's Message

October 2012

By: Jim Rosenberger

Our new fiscal year began October 1st and we are tabulating our Chapter election results and processing membership renewals. We have a number of possibilities for Lewis and Clark related projects within our own state so please renew your membership and support our Chapter so we can continue to bring Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery into "Badger Land".



The Newberry Library Exhibit "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" came to a close at Marquette University in April. The presentations were all very well done and had very good attendance. The Lewis and Clark Replica Trail in Grand Marsh, WI was dedicated in May and as I have mentioned in previous articles in "Field Notes" it is an impressive program, as is the trail itself, and I hope to get a Chapter tour there in the near future as well as have our Chapter help the trail founders promote and improve the Trail.

All this Lewis and Clark activity caused me to reflect on how important history is to us. Some people may disagree with me, saying history is just a "social study"; a study of the past and that science, math and etc. are what are important in our every day lives; more important to our economy. But I think history brings us to all those elements of our education. Perhaps, sometimes, in a round about way, but history gets us there.

When I became interested in Lewis and Clark history (thanks to my wife Mary, who gave me a Christmas gift of Stephen Ambrose's book, "Undaunted Courage") I immersed myself in the study of the Expedition and the men. But with Thomas Jefferson being the driving force behind the Expedition, one can't help but do some study about Jefferson and that leads to the study of other founding fathers and then on to the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, western expansion and on and on. You can't help but improve your awareness of what principles our country was founded on and hopefully this starts us on a path of becoming better informed citizens.

Many of us probably scan over the journal entries describing plants and animals but for others, this may be

the beginning of an interest in those subjects or in environmental studies. Similarly, journal entries on the Captains taking measurements of distance, latitude and longitude etc. may very easily relate to using math in our daily lives and perhaps to developing career paths in our ever changing and more technical society. The many references in the journals to meetings with various Indian Nations gives insight into the importance of learning about cultural differences and can prompt us to learn more about this important aspect of living in a worldwide community.

Studying the life and times of the Corps of Discovery continues to take me on many new "expeditions" of learning. History is a study of the past but it can also open doors to help us live better lives in the present and to build a better future. OK, you might be able to say that about any course of study, I guess it depends on your interests and your preferences. For me it's history that does it and it all started with Lewis and Clark.

Badger State Chapter Quarterly Meeting

When was Sacagawea born? How old was she at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition? How was her name pronounced? How often was her name actually mentioned in the journals? Why was she on the Expedition? Where and when did she die? These and other questions surround the story of Sacagawea.

Join us at the
Menomonee Falls
Library,
W156N8436 Pil-
grim Road, Meno-
monee Falls, WI



on Saturday October 20th and join us in a discussion about the mystery of Sacagawea. 2012 is the 200th anniversary of the reporting of Sacagawea's death at Fort Manuel in South Dakota and we take this occasion to have our Chapter Vice President, Jack Schroeder lead us in a discussion of the many facets of Sacagawea's life and her death.

A business meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. for an update on Chapter and Foundation activities. At 11:00 A.M. we will begin to explore the legend of Sacagawea. Join us and bring a friend to what is possibly one of the most interesting segments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Plan to join us for lunch at a local restaurant.

Horror in the Later History of L&C (This article rated <R> for violence)

Shortly after the death of Meriwether Lewis, President Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Governor Lewis had from early life been subject to hypochondriac affections. It was a constitutional disposition in all the nearer branches of the family of his name, and was more immediately inherited by him from his father. While he lived with me in Washington, I observed at times sensible depressions of mind, but knowing their constitutional source, I estimated their course by what I had seen in the family.”



Author Intends to
Remain Anonymous

Meriwether Lewis’s younger half-brother John Marks suffered a debilitating mental breakdown some years after Lewis’s death. He fled his family’s attempts to have him confined, and disappeared without a trace, never to reappear.

Tragic events occurring in the winter of 1811 – 12 may have caused Jefferson, who was related to the Lewis family by marriage, to fear that madness may also have cursed his family. The following gruesome tale of mental illness and alcohol abuse illustrates not only the horrors visited upon slaves, but also the corrosive effect that slavery had upon the morality of slave owners.

The president’s sister Lucy was married to Charles Lewis, the grand-uncle of Meriwether Lewis. The couple moved from Virginia to Smithland, Kentucky, in 1808, to escape heavy debt and personal sorrows, and to build a new life. Unfortunately, their troubles followed them, and she died soon after the move. Her oldest son Randolph became the family leader, but



Lucy Meriwether Lewis Clark

he and his wife also died soon after, a bitter reminder that life was hard and short on the American frontier.

The next oldest son was Lilburn Lewis, a widower with five children of his own. He took on the responsibility for raising his sister’s three unmarried daughters. Lilburn was a heavy drinker who often caroused with his younger brother Isham. Isham had moved in with the family in Smithland after being unable to find work in St. Louis and Natchez despite his family’s connections.

1811 was one of the most bizarre years in history for natural phenomena: floods, droughts, tornadoes, and hurricanes all assailed the country. A comet appeared in April and remained visible all year. The passenger pigeon population exploded to record numbers, and mobs of squirrels ran into the Ohio River and drowned by the thousands.

On December 15, 1811, Lilburne and Isham were drinking in the kitchen one afternoon when a 17-year-old slave named George accidentally broke a pitcher of water. Enraged, Lilburn called in all the slaves to watch and then, using a hatchet, he tied the terrified boy to the floor and decapitated him. Lilburne ordered the remaining slaves to cremate George’s dismembered body.

At 2:15 a.m. the next morning, a magnitude 8 earthquake occurred, centered in New Madrid, Missouri Territory. In Kentucky, the quake came with a roar



that threw settlers from their beds and caused major damage to fences, bridges, cabins, and brick buildings. In the Lewis cabin, the earthquake caused the chimney to collapse around the fire, revealing George’s dismembered body.

The brothers made the other slaves rebuild the chimney and hide the remains in it. However, an aftershock occurred on Feb. 12, 1812 that caused a partial collapse of the chimney where George’s remains had been concealed. Then things got really strange.

A neighborhood dog retrieved the young man’s decomposing skull during the night. In the morning, neighbors found the skull in open

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view in a roadway where the dog had dropped it. They determined it was the head of slave George, who was missing, and learned that he had been murdered. The torturous murder of a slave was illegal in Kentucky at that time.

Lilburne and Isham Lewis were arrested and charged. After they were released on bail, on April 9, 1812, Lilburne convinced his brother to make a suicide pact. They pledged to shoot each other, but when they attempted to do so, only Lilburne died. Isham was held on investigation as accessory to the suicide, but he made a successful escape from jail, and disappeared into the wilderness. There is some evidence that he joined the army, and died in the Battle of New Orleans.

Thus did two nephews of Thomas Jefferson scandalize the new nation, and enter history in one of the most Halloween-worthy stories of all time.

The incident is recounted in full by Boynton Merrill, Jr. in his book "Jefferson's Nephews: A Frontier Tragedy".

The poet and novelist Robert Penn Warren explored the scandal in his book-length poem "Brother to Dragons, A Tale in Verse and Voices".

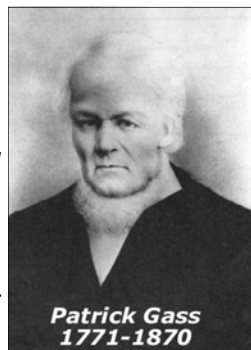
I am indebted to Francis Hunter for excerpts from her work: "Murder and Madness in the Lewis Family".

V.P. - J.S.

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

Dear Cuzzin Bill,

From time to time I will try to send you some interesting bits from my journal. I surely hope I can get someone interested enough to publish them when we return to the United States. These are from my notes as we built Fort Mandan and winter was setting in:



Thursday 1st Nov. 1804. At 3 o'clock P.M. we returned down the river, to look for a place where we

could fix our winter quarters. At dark we had descended 9 miles and came to a bottom covered with cotton wood, where we encamped.

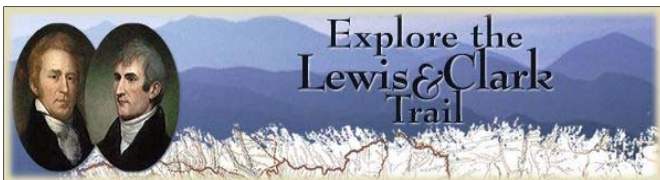
Friday 2nd Nov. Captain Lewis, myself and some of the men, went up to the first village of the Mandans, who gave us some corn. Captain Clarke and the rest of our party, having dropt half a mile lower down the river, began to clear a place for a camp and fort. We pitched our tents and laid the foundation of one line of huts.

Saturday 3rd Nov. A clear day; we continued building, and six men went down the river in a periogue to hunt. They will perhaps have to go 30 or 50 miles before they come to good hunting ground. The following is the manner in which our huts and fort were built. The huts were in two rows, containing four rooms each, and joined at one end forming an angle. When raised about 7 feet high a floor of puncheons or split plank were laid, and covered with grass and clay; which made a warm loft. The upper part projected a foot over and the roofs were made shed-fashion, rising from the inner side, and making the outer wall about 18 feet high. The part not inclosed by the huts we intend to picket. In the angle formed by the two rows of huts we built two rooms, for holding our provisions and stores.

About the 16th, the weather became very cold, and the ice began to run in the river. We sent a Frenchman down to enquire about the hunters and periogue. He and one of the hunters returned to the fort, having left the periogue and the rest about 30 miles below. The Frenchman was sent down again with a rope, and returned by land. On the 19th the hunters came up with the periogue loaded with the meat of about thirty deer, eleven elk and some buffaloe. In the cold weather we moved into the huts, though not finished. From the 20th to the 27th we had fine pleasant weather, and on the evening of the latter finished the roofs of our huts. These were made of puncheons split out of cotton wood and then hewed. The cotton wood resembles the lombardy poplar, and is a light soft wood. The largest trees are in thickness about eighteen inches diameter. On the night of the 27th the snow fell seven inches deep, and the 28th was stormy.

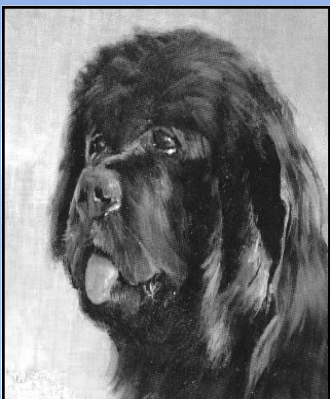
Your cuzzin, **Patrick Gass**

(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 – October 2012

January 6, 1806: We are as comfortable as we can be in our new structure which we call Fort Clatsop. Our interpreter's wife, Sar-Ka-Ga-We-A, has become insistent that she be allowed to travel with



Captain Clark's party to find the location of a dead whale which was recently reported to us.

This is very unusual for the maiden to be so outspoken. She has always been quiet when in the company of her husband and has been eager to help our party. She has located roots and berries to supplement our diet of mostly meat and at times has given us direction as to our location. She has demonstrated strength and love by carrying her baby every day of our travel and keeping him safe

When we were at the Great Falls she had been ill and disobeyed Captain Lewis's instructions to not eat to excess and she became ill again. But she did not speak out; she only ate when she should not have. Now she spoke very strongly, through interpreters, to Captain Clark, and was very impatient to be permitted to go see this huge fish. She felt she had traveled as long and hard as any of the men; that she had never seen the ocean and had never seen a fish of this size and should be allowed to accompany Captain Clark's party. She spoke so strongly that Captain Clark relented and she will accompany them to see the fish.

As the party departs I make a commotion by barking and running back and forth between the party and our Fort. My Captain Lewis understands my intent and gives the command for me to join the party. Sar-Ka-Ga-We-A has taught me an important lesson; if something is important to you, you must speak up.



Newsletter articles

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

Email Notice

Field Notes is posted on line, in color, before the paper edition is mailed out. Every issue, some of these e-mail addresses "bounce" because people have not notified us of changes, or because your e-mail address is not set to allow our messages to arrive. Be sure that this is not happening to you.

Treasurer's Report

The Badger State Chapter had \$3906.04 in the Treasury as of October 1, 2012. Membership Renewals are still coming in.



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