



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

April 2013

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 46

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

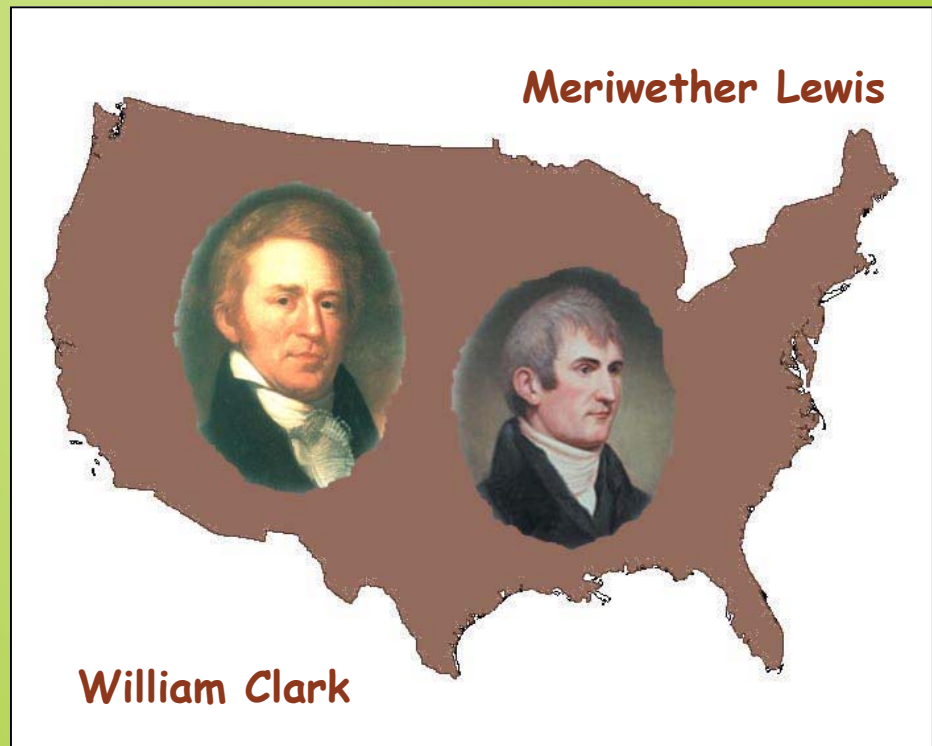
The Spring Season brings a new beginning and for the Lewis and Clark Expedition each spring meant a new beginning on their Voyage of Discovery. Journal entries describe their days of departure.

May 14, 1804, Camp River Du Bois, IL, Clark: "rained the forepart of the day. I determined to go as far as St. Charles, a French village 7 leagues up the Missouri, and wait at that place until Capt. Lewis could finish the business in which he was obliged to attend to at St. Louis and join me by land from that place...By this movement I calculated that if any alterations in the loading of the vessels or other changes are necessary, that they might be made at St. Charles. I set out at 4 o'clock P.M. in the presence of many of the neighboring inhabitants and proceeded on under a gentle breeze up the Missouri to the upper point of the 1st island and camped..."

April 7, 1805, Ft. Mandan, ND, Lewis: "Having on this day at 4 P.M. completed every arrangement necessary for our departure, we dismissed the barge and crew with orders to return without loss of time to St. Louis. A small canoe with two French hunters accompanied the barge; these men had ascended the Missouri with us the last year as engages...We gave Richard Warfington, a discharged Corporal, the charge of the barge and crew and confided to his care likewise our dispatches to the government, letters to our private

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

UNITED STATES HISTORY AS INFLUENCED BY...



A Special Badger State Chapter President's Message By: Jim Rosenberger



Since the end of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration in 2006 we have convinced ourselves that interest in Lewis and Clark History has waned. We know that membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has declined; some Foundation Chapters have dissolved or declined in membership (but, due to our supportive members, not the Badger State Chapter) and the general attitude seems to be that today, the general public has less interest in Lewis and Clark history. I have wondered if this was really the case and so, since the first of this year, I have paid

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friends and a number of articles to the President of the United States...At the same moment that the barge departed from Fort Mandan, Capt. Clark embarked with our party and proceeded up the river. As I have used no exercise for several weeks, I determined to walk on shore as far as our encampment of this evening...I could but esteem this moment of my (our) departure as among the most happy of my life. The party are in excellent health and spirits, zealously attached to the enterprise and anxious to proceed...”

March 23, 1806, Ft. Clatsop, OR, Clark: “This morning proved so rainy and uncertain that we were undetermined for some time whether we had best set out and risk the river, which appeared to be rising, or not...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 December 1805 to this day and have lived as well as we had any right to expect, and we can say that we never were one day without 3 meals of some kind a day, either poor elk meat or roots, notwithstanding the repeated fall of rain which has fallen almost constantly...”

more attention to what, if anything, I see in the media about Lewis and Clark. By reviewing various publications and special thanks to historian, author and Badger Chapter member Stephenie Ambrose-Tubbs and her Lewis and Clark Trust/Facebook postings, I was able to gather some interesting information which has convinced me interest in Lewis and Clark history continues, and perhaps we are missing opportunities to build on.

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An article in the Wisconsin State Journal discussed the first wolf hunt this past winter and in response to the question, “Does anybody eat wolf?” a Wisconsin DNR wildlife manager responded, “Not likely...it’s just not in our culture” but then added, “There are some famous cases of people eating wolves. Lewis and Clark shot 18 wolves on their trip, according to their journals and ate one. And they ate that wolf only when they were near starvation. They did eat a lot of dogs – 190 to be exact.”

The March 5th issue of the Seattle Times contains an article about efforts to protect the California Condor and that there are only 400 of the birds living today. The article points out, “The journals of the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark included a drawing of a condor seen in their travels across Washington...drawn by Lewis on February 17, 1806.”

The January 15th Sidney (Montana) Herald contained an article on wildlife conservation, including the history of the American Bison. The article points out, “In

1806, on his return trip home, Captain Meriwether Lewis noted in his journal the incredible wildlife he witnessed near Great Falls along the Missouri River. ‘The buffalo are in such numbers...there could not have been fewer than ten thousand...’

A February 27th Associated Press item talked about private industry working on plans to send a married couple on a 501 day trip into space to “slingshot” around the planet Mars, coming within 100 miles of the surface. The spokesperson said, “We call it the Lewis and Clark Trip to Mars.”

In a February 13th website travel article the author compared the mathematics of negotiating the Los Angeles freeway system to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For the Expedition it was compass points, dead reckoning and Latitude and Longitude. Driving on the L. A. Freeway is the 10, the 57, the 60, the 5, the 105 and etc. (all freeway numbers).

The “Tiger News”, a newspaper for Clemson University, wrote about wanting to see Hollywood produce more movies based on historic events and recommended one on Lewis and Clark. It observes, “Lewis and Clark were instrumental in the foundation and layout of our great nation. If not for the expedition to the coast, who knows what we might be lacking today...” They also suggest Liam Neeson to play the parts of both Lewis and Clark.

A website article talks about a new movie in production entitled “The Discoverers”, a human comedy about a dysfunctional family forced on a Lewis and Clark historical reenactment trek and discover themselves and each other along the way. Writer and director, Justin Schwarz, comments, “There are so many themes to their (Lewis and Clark) journey and his (Lewis) life that still resonate today. The idea that you can still just go into the woods and “see” the world like they did, seemed like a great starting point for a modern story.”

And just this week, I received in the mail and was asked to comment on, a new children’s book (ages 7-10) entitled “Your Life as a Private on the Lewis and Clark Expedition”. I will have this book for display at our May 11th Chapter meeting in De Forest, WI.

I must say that I was so very pleasantly surprised with the many references to Lewis and Clark in the short 3 month span of time, that I made it a point to watch for them. This has convinced me that interest in Lewis and Clark has not waned, that it is as high as ever. We need to recognize this interest as an opportunity to present the Lewis and Clark story to the public as often as we can.

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In that regard, I think our current work to support the Lewis and Clark Replica Trail in Grand Marsh, Wisconsin, develop and build recognition of Corps of Discovery member Alexander Willard's time in Wisconsin and recognizing William Clark's visits to Prairie du Chien are important opportunities for our Chapter to be working on.

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Badger State Chapter Quarterly Meeting

Plan to join us for an encore presentation by Badger State Chapter member and Lewis and Clark Ambassador Extraordinaire, Lorna Hainesworth. If you have attended Lorna's previous presentations to our Chapter you know she does extensive research, covers interesting topics and gives an excellent presentation. If you have not heard Lorna speak, you really must attend this meeting.



Lorna will speak about Andrew Ellicott, one of Meriwether Lewis's mentors and premier surveyor in the United States. In Lewis and Clark history we are only briefly introduced to Ellicott and learn very little about him. This will be an opportunity to learn more about an extraordinary man and what he contributed to his country.

Our meeting is Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the DeForest Public Library, 203 Library St., DeForest, WI. A business meeting will begin at 9:30 A.M. with Lorna's presentation at 10:30 A. M. Afterwards we will have lunch at a local restaurant.

Plan to join Lorna and Badger members for an entertaining and interesting meeting and bring a guest.



DeForest Public Library

Alexander Willard (Eventual Resident of the Badger State) First to the Pacific Coast !

As our Badger State Chapter moves forward in locating where Corps of Discovery Pvt. Alexander Willard lived in Wisconsin and documenting his life prior to, during and after the expedition, a lot of research is being done. A review of the Lewis and Clark Journals and any other book dealing with the Corps members is involved in getting to know Pvt. Willard. Sometimes one can discover the unexpected.

Currently, I am reading "The Character of Meriwether Lewis, Explorer in the Wilderness" written by Clay Jenkinson. Many of you may recognize Clay Jenkinson for his wonderful portrayals of Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis and Theodore Roosevelt as well as his enlightening presentations throughout the country and at Foundation annual meetings. This book is a rewrite of an earlier version and is a much expanded edition which includes a process of a "closer reading" of the journals to help establish Lewis's character.

One of Jenkinson's discussions deals with the concept which proposes that explorers in general, want to be the first person to discover something or be the first to arrive at a previously unexplored location, and he puts Meriwether Lewis in this category. As one example of this, Jenkinson points out that upon departing from Ft. Clatsop, Lewis wrote a letter listing the men of the expedition and the date they arrived on the Pacific coast, posting it on a wall of Ft. Clatsop for any future explorer to read. Lewis stated the date of arrival as November 14, 1805, the date HE arrived on the coast. The rest of the party did not arrive until November 17, 1805. Jenkinson points out that if Clark had questioned the earlier date Lewis's response may have been that the earlier date would "forestall any other nation's claim to the Oregon Country". But Jenkinson goes on to say, "If that were true, of course, he would have had to date the arrival November 13, 1805, when John Colter, George Shannon, and Alexander Willard became the actual first members of the expedition to reach the Pacific shore." Aha! Is this an overlooked fact about Willard? Willard was the first to set foot on the Pacific shore!

Referring to the Moulton edition of the Lewis and Clark Journals will clarify the events. The Corps of Discovery is on the north shore of the Columbia River at what Capt. Clark called, "this dismal notch". They are near, but not yet on the Pacific shore and the weather is miserable.

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November 12, 1805, Clark: "... **Continued from page 3**
3 men, Gibson, Bratton and Willard attempted to go around the point below in our Indian Canoe...they proceeded to the point from which they were obliged to return, the waves tossing them about at will..."

November 13, 1805, Clark: "...we dispatched 3 men, Colter, Willard and Shannon in the Indian canoe to get around the point if possible and examine the river, and the bay below for a good harbor for our canoes to lie in safety and etc..."

November 14, 1805, Clark: "...Colter, one of the 3 men, returned and informed us that he had proceeded with his canoe as far as they could...he saw a good canoe harbor and 2 camps of Indians at no great distance below...at 3 o'clock Capt. Lewis, Drouillard, Joe and R. Fields and Frazer set out down on the shore...they took an empty canoe and 5 men to set them around the point on a gravelly beach which Colter informed was at no great distance below..."

From the journal entries we can see that the entire Corps was at this "dismal nitch" camp and Willard was with the party that set out a day prior to Capt. Lewis's departure. Colter came back to camp to report to the captains so we know Shannon and Willard are down river on the Pacific shore prior to Capt. Lewis arriving. But how do we arrive at the conclusion that Willard was the first to step onto the Pacific shore?

A "close reading" of the journals gives us an accurate chain of events. We assemble what appear to be the factual occurrences and then by telling our story with the help of a few words our favorite historians would utilize such as; likely, must have, probably, perhaps, seem to, had to, we can imagine, and likelihood, we can establish how Alexander Willard was the first to arrive on the Pacific coast.

We know from Capt. Clark's November 13th journal entry that Alexander Willard was with the first party to depart camp and arrive on the Pacific shore. It is most likely that John Colter was put in charge of this party. He had proven his ability as a woodsman and when Capt Clark speaks of Colter's return on November 14th he speaks of "his" (Colter's) canoe so Colter must have been in charge. As the leader, Colter would probably have been seated in the stern of the canoe as this position steers the canoe, determines the speed and in general, controls the overall movement of the canoe. This is the leadership position.

George Shannon would probably be in the center position since he was the youngest member of the expedi-

tion, perhaps the most inexperienced member of the Corps and so far had been lost at least twice on the expedition. It was probably felt that he would need closer supervision and so placing him in the center position as an oarsman would seem to make sense.

This leaves Alexander Willard, who then had to be in the bow of the canoe. He had proven himself as a woodsman and as one of the Corps' blacksmiths we can imagine that he was probably quite muscular which means he had the strength to do a good job of paddling the canoe, a primary job of the bow position.

Now, as their canoe approaches the beach they want to land on, we can imagine they are fighting rain, heavy wind and high waves. It is quite likely their only thought is to get safely on shore and in all likelihood the bow of the boat would be aimed for the shore. Colter, Shannon and Willard had to be paddling very hard to maintain control and direction and probably drove the bow of the canoe directly up on to shore. In an instant, Willard must have jumped from the bow of the canoe, landing on shore and pulled the canoe further up on shore to secure it so Colter and Shannon could then safely disembark from the canoe.

From here the group must have explored the Pacific shore with Colter then departing to return to the main camp and advising the captains of their discoveries. Capt. Lewis would arrive and join Shannon and Willard on November 14th and Capt. Clark would join them later with the remainder of the Corps.

Given this order of events, it seems quite likely that Alexander Willard would have been the first member of the Corps of Discovery to set foot on the Pacific shore! At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Jim Rosenberger



Perhaps this is Alexander Willard's boot print on the Pacific shore. (And then again, perhaps it is not.)

Badger State Chapter Director Dave Sorgel's Watercolors Featured in Three Lakes Art Center

By Gay Scheffen

Water colorist Dave Sorgel is living in a landscape that is a painter's dream. He needs only to gaze out his French doors at 1,800-acre Thunder Lake to view a picturesque island and the tranquil beauty of sparkling water and forest, saturated in constantly changing light.

His home is situated on the grounds of the old Cedar Crest Resort, originally The Sky Lodge Resort in Three Lakes. The quaint cottages became condos in the 90s and, while visiting friends residing there, Sorgel and his wife, Collette, fell in love with the location and decided to move. They bought a home in 2001, remodeled and added on, and have been full-time residents at Cedar Crest for two years.

The cabin is a warm and welcoming retreat for the active pair, who are involved in many aspects of the community and giving back every chance they get. "One of the things I love about Three lakes," Sorgel said, "is the great sense of community." He is on the board of directors of the Three Lakes Historical Society and recently joined the Lions Club, while still maintaining a membership in the Elks Lodge in Madison.

We talk among treasures collected over the years; a mule deer mount from Sorgel's father, a bearskin spread across the wall, and western paintings from an artist friend. Snuggled on the couch is the family pooch, Janey. Her name reflects Sorgel's huge interest in all things connected to Lewis and Clark and their great expedition. Janey was the pet name William Clark had for his trusted Shoshone interpreter and guide, Sacajawea, who traveled with the expedition from North Dakota to the Pacific Ocean during 1804 to 1806.

Sorgel's paintings have a moody quality, sometimes lonely, always devoid of people, suggesting the questions: Who were the people here? Did they have a hard life? Why did they leave? This curiosity ties into his fascination with Lewis and Clark.

"I liked listening to Jean Feraca on public radio," Sorgel explained, "and one day she interviewed Steven Ambrose whose book on Lewis and Clark, 'Undaunted Courage,' had just come out. I started collecting books



Badger State Chapter Director David Sorgel

about them, listened to the History Channel?—when it was still history and not 'Pawn Stars!' Then I discovered that tours of the expedition were being conducted by Gary Moulton, who edited the original Lewis and Clark journals."

Sorgel was hooked and after going on a tour, became a tour driver three weeks of every summer for four years.

"I am fascinated by their story, where they traveled, how they traveled, their hardships, the journals they kept on flora, fauna, native Americans...and in 2 ½ years, traveling thousands of miles, only one member of the expedition was lost," said Sorgel.

We walk a short distance from their home down the snowy road to a small building, which was once the resort gift shop, now Sorgel's studio. He bought this old building with some trepidation as its foundation, windows and more needed major restoration.

Now it is a warm, light-filled, efficient and comfortable studio. There are bookcases filled with books on art, travel and history, family photos, memorabilia and a pronghorn mount of his father's. Although Sorgels have no children, they have thirteen nieces and nephews and a strong sense of family connection is apparent.

Sorgel was born in Mequon and began spending time in the North Woods when he was just a tyke, first at resorts and later at a home on Tambling Lake which his grandfather and father purchased in the 50s. He learned to love fishing and the beauty of God's country here.

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There were no artists in his family but his mother and grandmother both enjoyed painting. “The only thing I really liked to do as a kid in school was to draw,” he recalled.

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After high school, Sorgel attended Lincoln College in Illinois for two years and then transferred to The Ringling School of Art in Florida.

“I realized that it would be tough to make a living in fine art so I got a degree in advertising design and commercial art,” he explained.

He had learned guitar and harmonica his last year of high school and after art school, began playing in a folk/rock duo. He worked as a road manager for the band Destinations, helped out at recording sessions at the famous Chess Studios on Michigan Avenue in Chicago and took an active role in the music scene there.

Sorgel was employed as an account executive for commercial art studios and was an art director and designer. While working in Saukville, he met Collette and they were married in 1997. She had a great job offer in Madison, so they made the decision to move there and he found work as a freelance graphic artist.

The Sorgels love travel and in addition to vacations around the globe and the annual Lewis and Clark Encampments they visit, they took a photographic safari to Africa.

“One of the reasons I love watercolor is that it takes me places,” Sorgel said. “I imagine a place and as I paint, it changes. I think I paint as much as I should. It’s always hard to tear myself away.”

Sorgel retired from commercial art three years ago. His wife, Collette, is a member of the board of the Three Lakes Center for the Arts and he is an active volunteer, helping with sound set up for live entertainment and being the resident photographer for art receptions, concerts and more.

Some of his paintings will be featured in the center’s gallery during the month of April, when the gallery will be open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A wine and cheese reception was held Friday, April 5 for Sorgel and the photographer, Richard Nemish, whose work also is featured. It is open to the public.

The Sorgels take advantage of biking, hiking and kay-

aking every chance they get. They enjoy taking their nieces and nephews on trips they haven’t made with their own parents. He loves to fish and to hunt grouse and woodcock in the fall. No doubt he will keep doing volunteer work and nothing will stop him from painting his beloved watercolors. Like his heroes, Lewis and Clark, who let nothing keep them from their goal, Sorgel is an artist undaunted!

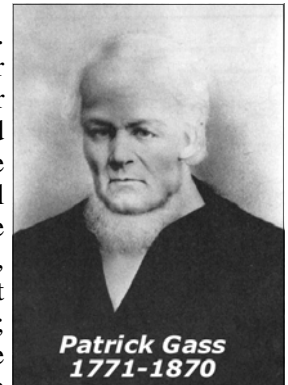
Submitted with permission of Gay Scheffen the author of the article. Photo by Collette Sorgel. It was also published in the March 20, 2013 issue of the Vilas County News-Review/The Three Lakes News.

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 finally reached the Pacific Ocean:

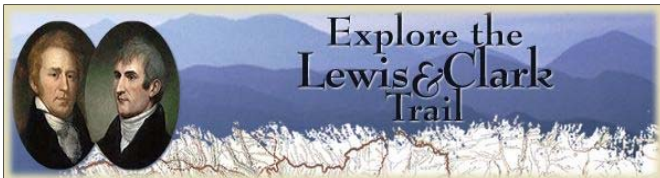
Friday, November 15, 1805. This morning the weather appeared to settle and clear off, but the river remained still rough. So we were obliged to continue here until about 1 o'clock, when the weather became more calm, and we loaded and set out from our disagreeable camp; went about 3 miles, when we came to the mouth of the



[Columbia] river, where it empties into a handsome bay. Here we halted on a sand beach, formed a comfortable camp, and remained in full view of the ocean, at this time more raging than pacific. One of the two men who first went out came to us here, the other had joined Captain Lewis's party. Last night the Indians had stolen their arms and accoutrements, but restored them on the arrival of Captain Lewis and his men in the morning.

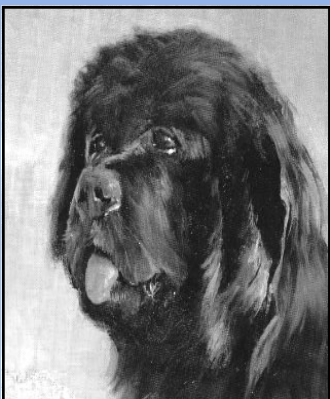
Your cuzzin, **Patrick Gass**

(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 2013

June 9, 1805: Our days are filled with continuous activity and hard labor. But in the evenings, at the campfires, relaxation takes place with dancing and singing. While dancing around the men of the party is fun, it is the singing that I truly do enjoy.



With music provided by two violins and a sounding horn, the men break into song and by matching my barking to that of the men’s voices, I am able to accompany them quite well. I have become adept at changing the volume and length of my barking to match the men’s voices and by adding a bit of whining here and there I believe I have become a fair vocalist. When the violins reach a higher, longer screeching sound I break into a high volume howl and drown out these instrument sounds primarily to save my hearing, which is quite sensitive.

When we are with the Native People, they perform dances and play music for us. Their primary instrument is the drum and their singing more in a chanting rhythm. I do not let this deter me and join in the singing by barking and whining in a shorter tempo. Most often fellow canines, who are with the Native people, listen to me for a short time and then join in with me. At other times we are joined by a local contingent of some of our brothers made up of either wolves, coyotes or fox and this produces a beautiful background chorus to our campsite music.

I must say that we do quite well and form an impressive choral group. Occasionally we receive requests to reduce our volume but for the most part our singing seems to create an attitude of enjoyment. Perhaps my singing will become a part of my legacy as a member of this fine expedition.



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 \$3981.25 in the Treasury as of April 1, 2013. There are 79 members in our Wisconsin based Chapter, and we are proud to also have members in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Montana, Michigan, Virginia, and Maryland. Thanks to you all.

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