



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

January 2013

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 45

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.

May 11, 1806, Lewis County, ID, Clark: "...by the assistance of the Shoshone boy (a prisoner of the Nez Perce) and our interpreters (including Sacagawea), we were enabled to make ourselves understood by the Nez Perce although it had to pass through French, Hidatsa, Shoshone and Nez Perce Languages. The interpretation being tedious, it occupied the greater part of the day before we had communicated to them what we wished. They appeared highly pleased..."

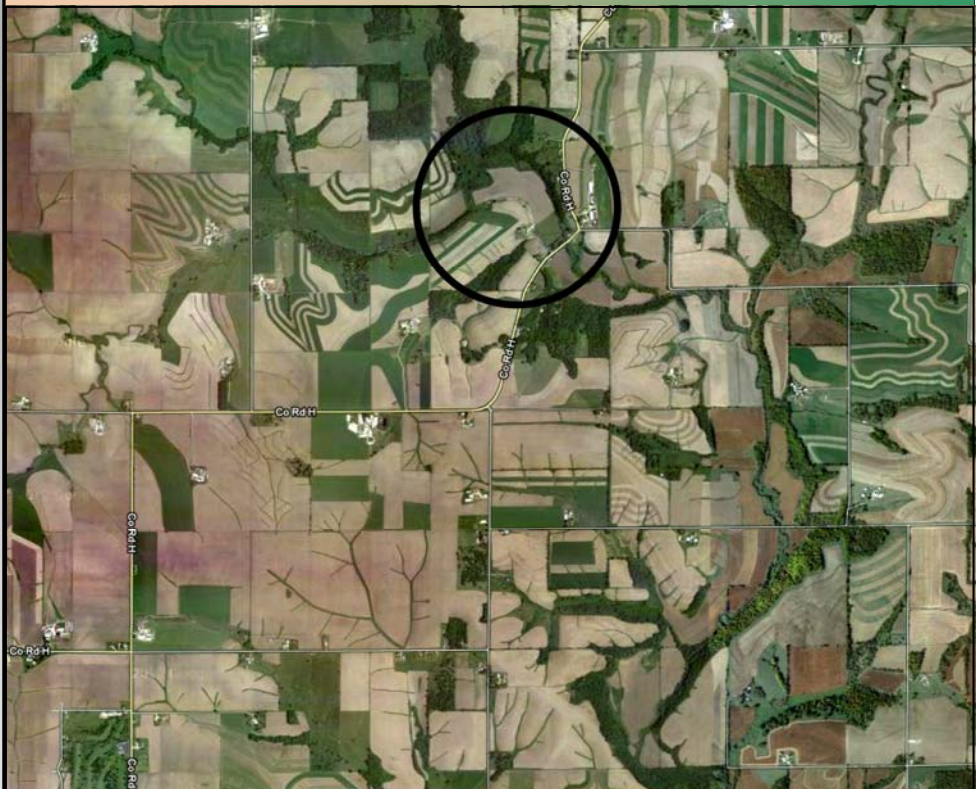
May 18, 1806, Clearwater County, ID, Clark: "...The squaw wife to Charbonneau busied herself gathering the roots of the fennel, called by the Nez Perce, yampah, for the purpose of drying to eat on the Rocky Mountains. Those roots are very palatable either fresh toasted, boiled or dried..."

July 13, 1806, near the Three Forks, MT, Clark: "...The Indian woman who has been of great service to me as a pilot through this country, recommends a gap in the mountain more South, which I shall cross."

August 17, 1806, Ft. Mandan location, ND, Clark: "... We also took our leave of T. Charbonneau, his Shoshone Indian wife and their son child who had accompanied us on our route to the Pacific Ocean in the capacity of interpreter and interpretes..."

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

WHERE IN WISCONSIN ARE YOU???



You just may have located the original homestead of Alexander Willard, after he came to Wisconsin. Be sure to attend the upcoming meeting of the Badger State Chapter on January 26, to learn what Badger State Chapter members have discovered.

Information on page 2

I offered to take his little son, a beautiful child who is 19 months old, to which they both, himself and wife, were willing provided the child had been weaned. They observed that in one year the boy would be sufficiently old to leave his mother and he would then take him to me if I would be so friendly as to raise the child for him in such a manner as I thought proper, to which I agreed..."

August 20, 1806, letter to T. Charbonneau from William Clark: "...I had not time to talk with you as much as I intended to have done. You have been a long time with me and have conducted yourself in such a manner as to gain my friendship, your woman who accompanied you that long, dangerous and fatiguing route to the Pacific Ocean and back deserved a greater reward for her attention and services on that route than we had in our power to give her at the Mandans..."

THE BADGER STATE CHAPTER of THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC

CHAPTER MEETING
SATURDAY, January 26, 2013,
9:30 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Fond du Lac Public Library;
Phone 920-929-7080
32 Sheboygan Street, Fond du Lac, WI

9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. - Business/Board Meeting; The board will be discussing and voting on our annual contribution to the Foundation. Join the discussion, voice your opinion. Congratulate Mark Nelezen on becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation.

11:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. - Break

11:15 A.M. to 1 P.M. - Get to know Alexander Willard and his connections to Wisconsin

An after meeting lunch will be held at a local restaurant.

The Badger Chapter is researching Alexander Willard and the time his family spent in Wisconsin after the Expedition. Our goal is to identify where he lived, place an appropriate marker and make Wisconsinites aware of this important link between our state's history and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Jack Schroeder, Tom Strauss and Jim Rosenberger will discuss what we have found so far as it relates to the Willard family in Wisconsin and where we hope to go from here.

Your RSVP will help in the planning and also in notifying you should we have to cancel due to the ever changing Wisconsin weather.

Bring a friend.

Jim Rosenberger,
803 Arbor Vitae Place,
Verona, WI 53593;
608-845-6365; or punkinz@tds.net

The Lost Journal of Alexander Willard

By: Jack Schroeder



The Badger State Chapter probably would not exist if the journals written by members of the expedition did not exist. The travels of the Corps of Discovery across the continent are documented to a far greater degree than other important journeys in history. The journals of Lewis and Clark are the essential ingredient in keeping alive our passion for their story.

The journal-keepers wrote the accounts of their activities despite the fatigue, discomfort, and dangers that were a part of their every day lives. The rousing adventures which still thrill us would have been lost in the mist of time if they had not been recorded by the men who lived them.

President Thomas Jefferson knew the exploration of the new territories of the Louisiana Purchase would be a profoundly important event in American history. To preserve the best account of that exploration, he directed Captains Lewis and Clark to keep written journals of their experiences. Jefferson also directed that the sergeants of the Corps keep journals to record their experiences on the exploration.

While in the winter encampment at Fort Mandan, Lewis wrote to Jefferson, "We have encouraged our men to keep journals, and seven of them do so." At the time Lewis wrote this, Gass, Ordway, Whitehouse, Fraser, and (probably) Pryor were keeping journals. The identity of the remaining journal-keepers cannot be proven, but there is a tantalizing possibility that Alexander Willard was one of them.

The evidence in support of the theory that Willard kept a journal rests on a single comment made by one of his sons nearly 100 years after the expedition. The Lewis and Clark researcher Eva Emory Dye wrote to that son, Lewis Willard while she was preparing her novel *The Conquest*, published in November 1902. She asked, "Did he (Alexander Willard) keep any journal or record of the journey with Lewis and Clark?" Lewis Willard responded in a letter written by his wife after the publication of the book. He said, "Yes. But it was accidently destroyed, much to his regret."

A typed copy of this correspondence between Eva Emory Dye and Lewis Willard is kept in the archives of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and has been witnessed by several members of the Badger State chapter.

For those of us who are hopeful that additional journals may exist somewhere, this provides a very tasty morsel to chew on. Unfortunately for serious scholars, this is thin gruel indeed. Without additional documentation, the existence of a Willard journal must remain somewhere between unproven and doubtful. But we Badger State Chapter members can mull the possibility that a lost journal may once have resided here in Wisconsin.

To learn more about the fascinating story of Alexander Willard and his life in Wisconsin, make an effort to attend our quarterly meeting in Fond du Lac later this month.

What we learned about the Sacagawea spellings in the Journals at our Menomonee Falls Meeting:



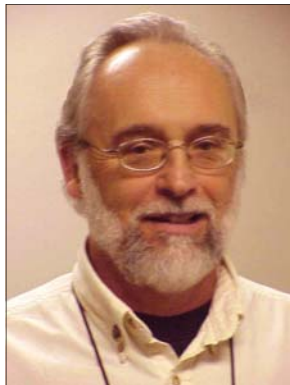
Lewis	Clark
5/20/1805 Sah-ca gar me-âh	4/7/1805 Sah-Kah-gar wea
6/10/1805 Sâh-cah-gah we â	6/10/1805 Sah cah gah weâ
7/28/1805 Sahcah-gar we-ah	6/22/1805 Sar car gah weâ
8/17/1805 Sah-cah-gar-weah	6/29/1805 Sah car gah weâ
8/17/1805 Sah cah-gar-we-ah	11/21/1805 Sah-cah-gah weah
8/22/1805 Sah cah gar Wea	Ordway
5/16/1806 Sahcargameah	6/10/1805 Sah cah gah

Badger State Chapter President's Message

January 2013

By: **Jim Rosenberger**

I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope everyone has successfully negotiated the holiday season and have begun your pursuit of a successful and prosperous 2013.



I am happy to report that our Badger State Chapter continues in good shape with over seventy members, both renewals and a few new members. Thank you to all for supporting our efforts. In addition of our quarterly meetings and annual picnic, 2012 gave us the opportunity to make our presence known in Wisconsin. As you know from previous articles in "Field Notes", we have committed to support the Lewis and Clark Replica Trail (LCRT) in Grand Marsh, WI and hope to help publicize the LCRT as well as contribute to future development of the Trail. We also contributed to the success of Chicago's Newberry Library exhibit, "Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country" which included financial support of \$350 towards the presentation, "The View from the River Bank" at Marquette University by former Badger Chapter member Dr. Herman Viola.

Through former Badger Chapter member Bob Birmingham, we learned of the effort by the Friends of Aztalan State Park to raise funds for a first-class Visitor and Interpretive Center at the Park. Our Chapter board of directors approved a \$250 contribution to the Elizabeth Parker matching donation fund and that contribution will be doubled by the Parker fund to \$500. Aztalan is, arguably, the premier historical site in Wisconsin and our Chapter board felt it was important for us to be a part of its development. We have received a very nice letter of appreciation from the Friends of Aztalan State Park.

At the very beginning of 2012, we also made an annual contribution to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation which was the sixth year in a row that we have made such a contribution. At our January 26, 2013 board meeting in Fond du Lac, our board of directors will be deciding if circumstances and our treasury will allow us to make a contribution to the Foundation in 2013.

The Badger Chapter also has a number of members who, on their own, do presentations to other groups and I want to say a special thank you to all of them for making the effort and taking the time to tell the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

For 2013, we will have Lewis and Clark projects to work on also. We will continue to support the LCRT and make every effort to partner with the founding group in Grand Marsh, WI and promote and improve the trail as well as encourage its use. We are currently beginning a project to identify and promote the South West Wisconsin location where Expedition member Private Alexander Hamilton Willard lived. (See your April 2012 issue of Field Notes for information on Alexander Willard) Chapter and board member Tom Strauss has already made good progress in identifying where the Willard homestead might have been. Our hope and ultimate goal is to erect a sign or signs designating Willard sites as a Wisconsin historical location. This will require time to research and will probably involve working with local and state historical societies and local communities as well as holding fund raising events and we are learning about how to do this as we move forward. This will probably take time, possibly a few years but I believe it is a worthwhile project and will be an important part of connecting Wisconsin history to Lewis and Clark history.

So it looks like we will have things to do in 2013 and I think we will have fun doing them as we proceed on to explore and discover.

Toussaint Charbonneau-Merit Revisited

By: **Jim Rosenberger**

One of the many interesting members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is Toussaint Charbonneau, the husband of Sacagawea. What adds to the interest is that historians have been critical of Charbonneau's character and abilities as he traveled with the Corps of Discovery. He and Sacagawea joined the expedition at Fort Mandan near today's Washburn, North Dakota and traveled with the expedition from April 1805 until the expedition's return to North Dakota in August 1806. Charbonneau served as a civilian on the expedition with his primary duty being that of interpreter but he also did some cooking and is praised by Captain Meriwether Lewis for his ability to prepare 'boudin blanc', a dish made of buffalo meat stuffed into the buffalo's intestine, "baptized in the Missouri River with two dips and a flirt" and then boiled and fried.

Continued on Page 5

Enough instances of Charbonneau's misdeeds are recorded in the Lewis & Clark Journals to develop a less than stellar reputation for him. Much of the criticism aimed at Charbonneau stems from a comment Captain Lewis made in a report to the War Department after the expedition returned in which he says Charbonneau was "A man of no peculiar merit..."

On January 15, 1807 in the city of Washington (D.C.) Lewis wrote a report to Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn, about the men of the expedition and how they had performed. The expedition was a military operation and Lewis was giving a performance appraisal of his men to his boss, Secretary Dearborn, to help substantiate the men's pay and any rewards or bonuses Lewis thought the men might have earned.*

In the report, which Captain Lewis refers to as a "Roll of the men", he lists 29 men and also mentions Corporal Richard Warfington and Private John Newman in the preamble to the "roll" for a total of 31 individuals. Of the 31 men, Lewis makes specific comments about 11 individuals. In addition to Warfington and Newman, Sgt. Charles Floyd, Sgt. Patrick Gass, Pvts. Joseph & Reuben Field, Francois Labiche, John Shields, John Baptist LePage, George Drouillard and Toussaint Charbonneau are mentioned. Only four men have the term "merit" used in the comments Lewis makes about them and they all seem to be about pay or if special consideration should be given for additional pay in the form of a bonus.

SERGEANT CHARLES FLOYD: "Deceased the 20th of August 1804. A young man of much merit. His father, who now resides in Kentucky, is a man much respected, though possessed of but moderate wealth. As the son has lost his life while on this service, I consider his father entitled to some gratuity, in consideration of his loss, and also, that the deceased being notice in this way, will be a tribute but justly due to his merit."

PRIVATE JOHN BAPTIST LEPAGE: "Entitled to no peculiar merit. Was enlisted at Fort Mandan, on the 2nd of November 1804 in order to supply the deficiency in my permanent party occasioned by the discharge of John Newman.



He performed the tour to the Pacific Ocean and returned to St. Louis, where he was discharged in common with others, on the 10th of November last. As he did not perform the labors incident to the summer of 1804, it would be proper to give him the gratuity only of two-thirds as much as is given to others of his rank." (Lewis suggested giving the remaining third of LePage's pay to Pvt. John Newman, whom LePage had replaced as a member of the permanent party, for Newman's exemplary service on the return trip of the keel boat under Corporal Warfington in 1805.)

INTERPRETER GEORGE DROUILLARD: "A man of much merit; he has been peculiarly useful from his knowledge of the common language of gesticulation, and his un-

common skill as a hunter and woodsman; those several duties he performed in good faith, and with an ardor which deserves the highest commendation. It was his fate also to have encountered, on various occasions, with either Captain Clark or myself, all the most dangerous and trying scenes of the voyage, in which he uniformly acquitted himself with honor. He has served the complete term of the whole tour and received only 25 dollars per month, and one ration per day, while I am informed that it is not unusual for individuals in similar employments to receive 30 dollars per month."

INTERPRETER TOUSSIAINT CHARBONNEAU: "A man of no peculiar merit; was useful as an interpreter only, in which capacity he discharged his duties with good faith, from the moment of our departure from the Mandans, on the 7th of April 1805 until our return to that place in August last and received as a compensation 25 dollars per month while in service."

Note how "merit" seems to relate to how each man performed their job and what pay Lewis felt the individual was entitled to. Sergeant Floyd was the leader of the men assigned to him and had paid the ultimate price in service to his county. For this Lewis felt Floyd's father should receive a

monetary reward as a tribute to Continued from Page 5 his son's performance and sacrifice or as Lewis says, "due to his merit".

LePage "performed the tour" but not the entire tour, having first joined the Corps of Discovery at Fort Mandan, so he should only get $\frac{2}{3}$ the pay. He did the job he was hired for but is not entitled to any "peculiar merit".

Drouillard on the other hand performed his duties "with an ardor which deserves the highest commendation". He also encountered "the most dangerous and trying scenes of the voyage" so Lewis may be suggesting Drouillard went "above and beyond the call of duty". Lewis seems to recommend Drouillard should be paid at a rate at least \$5 per month over what he was paid because he is "A man of much merit".

Charbonneau was hired as an interpreter; he did his job in "good faith" and was paid at his agreed wage of \$25 per month. End of story, case closed. Charbonneau is "A man of no peculiar merit".

So the word "merit" is used only with regard to these four men and for two of the men, LePage and Charbonneau, the word "peculiar" is also used. LePage is "entitled to no *peculiar* merit" while Charbonneau is "a man of no *peculiar* merit". How do we define these words?

The definition of PECULIAR includes: distinctive; exclusive; particularly unique; special; out of the ordinary; something belonging to one only, as a privilege.

The definition of MERIT includes: The state, fact or quality of deserving well. Worth, value or excellence. Something deserving reward, praise or gratitude. A reward or honor given for superior qualities or conduct: a mark, badge, etc. awarded for excellence. To deserve or be worthy of.

In Lewis's report, a person of "peculiar merit" would be someone who performed in a distinctive, special or out of the ordinary way and deserved a reward for this superior work. If a person was not of "peculiar merit" it does not necessarily mean they did a bad job, it could mean they performed their job to the expected level but did not exceed that level and therefore do not deserve a reward beyond their agreed upon pay and/or benefits such as food, lodging or all the beaver you can catch.

Of course there might be a question as to how these

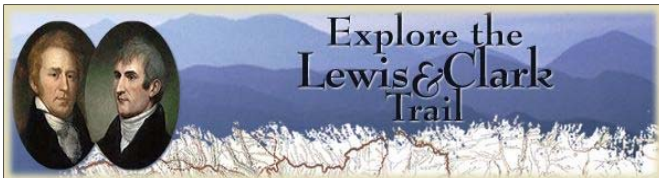
words, merit and peculiar, were defined and used in 1807 but given the above, current definitions, it is very likely that Lewis is not giving an indication of Toussaint Charbonneau's character, morals or worth as a man but rather he is simply evaluating the job Charbonneau did on the expedition in relation to the pay he received and the possibility of any further rewards for his service. Lewis's conclusion is Charbonneau is a man of "no peculiar merit" or in other words, no additional money or reward should be given to him, he deserves only what he had already been paid.



We know from other entries in the Lewis & Clark Journals that Charbonneau is a rascal and opportunist. These accounts of his conduct bring his courage and character into question but in considering only this report, by itself, as a stand alone document, Lewis's comments are relating more to job performance and pay than anything else. Not only for Charbonneau but for all of the members of the permanent party.

Also of note is Captain Lewis's closing comments in the report made under the section entitled, "General Remark". Lewis states, in part; "With respect to all those persons whose names are entered on this roll, I feel a peculiar pleasure in declaring, that the ample support which they gave me under every difficulty; the manly firmness which they evinced on every necessary occasion; and the patience and fortitude with which they submitted to, and bore, the fatigues and painful sufferings incident to my late tour to the Pacific Ocean, entitles them to my warmest approbation and thanks..." Lewis's "warmest approbation and thanks" applies to ALL those names entered on the roll and this includes Toussaint Charbonneau.

*The report used for this analysis is contained in "The Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents 1783 – 1854, second edition, Edited by Donald Jackson, University of Illinois Press 1978, Volume I. Document 236, Lewis to Henry Dearborn, Pages 364 – 373



Seaman Says – January 2013

January 16, 1806: For each winter of our travels we have built a major structure for our protection and comfort. Our first was Camp Wood, then Fort Mandan and now Fort Clatsop. Of course we have



built smaller campsites when we have remained at a location for a shorter time. Each of these, but especially our major fortifications, has taken much work to establish and maintain.

In prior journal entries I have indicated the heavy work the men are engaged in when setting up these forts and campsites as well as the amount of effort in obtaining food for the party, propelling our boats and riding our horses. But we do have periods of rest, usually in the evenings, when we can sit back and relax and the men cherish this time together.

Once the evening meal is finished and the fort is put in order, the men adjourn to the campfires to discuss the day's events, remember past adventures, or talk about what they will do when we return home to what they call the United States. We have two men who make music on what I have heard called a violin. Early in our travels, when we had strong drink, the men had a party each evening. They laughed, danced, sang into the night. Now it is more peaceful; men looking into the glow of the fire, talking quietly and the violins playing soft slow music in the background. They play with the young boy child called "Pompy" and it is this young lad's laughter that fills the air.

Slowly the men drift off to their log houses and go to sleep. Tomorrow will be another busy work day filled with activity and who knows what adventures. But for now it is peaceful and quiet and we will get our rest.



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 \$4204.32 in the Treasury as of January 1, 2013. We now have a total of 71 members.



Badger State Chapter Officers:

Jim Rosenberger.....President
Phone: (608) 845-6365 E-mail: punkinz@tds.net

Jack Schroeder.....Vice-President
Ph: (608) 204-0052 E-mail: alljackallday@gmail.com

Mary Strauss.....Secretary
Phone: (920) 602-1726 E-mail: mary@ammeinc.com

Marcia Holman.....Treasurer
Phone: (608) 249-2233 E-mail: wghmch@chorus.net

Board of Directors:

1-David Sorgel
(608) 516-1830 E-mail: davidsorgel@onthunderlake.com

2-Dick Campbell
(920) 231-8267 E-mail: rmchistory@tds.net

3-Tom Strauss
(920) 602-1639 E-mail: tom@ammeinc.com

Field Notes Editor:

Bill Holman
Phone: (608) 249-2233 E-mail: wghmch@chorus.net