

Of Special Interest

- LCTHF Spring Regional in Elk Grove, CA
- Fort Union's Social Life



Inside Page

- ◆ LCTHF Spring Regional Photo Collage 2
- ◆ Bay area book discussion group meets again 4
- ◆ Fort Union's Social Life 5
- ◆ President's Note 7
- ◆ About Us 8

LCTHF Spring Regional is a Memorable Experience

by Ken Jutzi

Wonderful speakers and great venues combined with lively discussion to make the LCTHF Spring Regional, "The Life and Times of Alexander Hamilton Willard", held in Elk Grove, CA, a very memorable experience. The discovery of previously unknown facts about Alexander's family activities in the Elk Grove area provided added benefits. (More to follow on this topic in a future newsletter.)

About 60 people gathered at the Barbara Wackford Community & Aquatic Complex on Saturday, 12 April 2008, to listen to Karen Seaberg (LCTHF President), Karen Willard (a direct descendant of Alexander), and three speakers from the Elk Grove Historical



Valley Oak Ballroom - Wackford Complex

Society. Although most attendees were from CA, several other states were also represented (Oregon-2, Kansas-1, Washington-1, Nevada-2, and Kentucky-1).

Speaker topics ranged from the latest Foundation happenings, to the life of

(continued on page 4)

Eight Graders in San Jose Enjoy Hands-On

Lewis and Clark Items

by Pat Hartinger



Pat's Lewis and Clark Items on Display At Holy Spirit School in San Jose

On Wednesday, February 2, 2008, both Eighth Grades of Holy Spirit School in San Jose, CA, visited their school library to view some hands-on materials that would have been used by the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The students were able to handle and use items such as a telescope, maps, and a compass, as well as several Native American items.

After a quick review of the importance of the Expedition, based on what the students had read in their textbook, they heard the story of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau (Pomp). The objective of the talk was for the students to learn about his part in the opening of the West and, especially, his years in California.

The students were surprised to learn that the Lewis and Clark story had such a connection to California. During the free browsing time, the students enjoyed the toe tapping music of our own Pierre Cruzatte (a.k.a Daniel Slosberg, Los Angeles).

California Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

LCTHF Spring Regional 12 April 2008 Elk Grove, California



Barbara Wackford Community & Aquatic Complex, Cosumnes Community Services District, Elk Grove, CA.

Opposite Left (left to right, top to bottom): Guest speakers LCTHF President Karen Seaberg (Atchison, KS), Karen Willard (Buckley, WA), Arnie Zimbleman (EGHS), Joe Fabel (EGHS Poet Laureate), and Walt Hoppe (EGHS) addressing attendees.

Opposite Right (top to bottom): Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre) at the LCTHF/CALCTHF information table with a prospective new member; Pat and Walter Hartinger (Los Gatos) at the raffle ticket table for the Peace & Friendship blankets.



Above (top to bottom, left to right): Elk Grove Hotel & Stage Stop Museum; Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Palo Alto) signing the guest register; parlor room of the museum; Donna Olovson (EGHS), EGHS President Anita Peters (seated), Nan Kaeser and Jeanette Lawson (EGHS) in the museum's gift shop; Alexander Willard's gravesite: Karen Willard, Karen Seaberg, Rodney Willard (Redlands); Veronica Ponce, Dudley and Nadine Willard, Cindy [Willard] Danner and Kai Danner (all Santa Rosa); Keith Kvenvolden (Palo Alto), John Hess (Somerset), Mary Ann Kvenvolden, Pat Hartinger, Robert Allison, Jr. (South Lake Tahoe), Walter Hartinger, Nan Kaeser, and two unknown attendees.

EGHS-Elk Grove Historical Society


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**LCTHF Spring Regional**  
**13 April 2008**  
**Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, Sacramento, California**  
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The Coloma Road
 Sutter's Fort, established by Capt. John Augustus Sutter in August 1839, marked the western end of the Coloma Road. Opened in 1847, this road ran from the fort to Sutter's sawmill at Coloma. Used by James W. Marshall in January 1848 to bring the news of the gold discovery to Sutter, it was later traversed by thousands of miners going to and from the diggings. In 1849 the Coloma Road became the route of California's first stage line.
(California Registered Historical Landmark No. 745)



Above, Sutter's Fort Tour Attendees, left to right: Robert Allison, Jr. (South Lake Tahoe), John Hess (Somerset), Robert Allison, Sr (Nevada City, NV), Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre), Helen Allison (Nevada City), Barbara and Dr. Rodney Willard (Redlands), Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Palo Alto), Lavonne and David Willard (Salem, OR), Nadine and Dudley Willard (Santa Rosa), Keith Kvenvolden (Palo Alto), Karen Seaberg (Atchison, KS), Leonard Smith, Jr. (Riverside), Karen Willard (Buckley, WA), Rachel [Willard] Smith (Riverside), and Ken Jutzi (Camarillo). Above right: Dudley and Keith listening to a park docent discuss the tack room. Opposite: John Hess and Nan Kaeser pose with another park docent.



Above, left to right: tour attendees listening to Jacqueline Ball, CA State Parks Regional Superintendent (ret), discuss the role played by Sutter's Fort during western expansion; Barbara & Dr. Rodney Willard outside Sutter's original admin building; a demonstration of early medical practices; Mary Ann, Ken, and Keith in the main courtyard; second firing of the Fort's cannon.

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Bay Area Book Discussion Group Meets Again

by Mary Ann Kvenvolden
and Joan Saczynski

The Lewis & Clark Bay Area Book Discussion Group met for the sixth time on February 10, 2008, at the home of Joan Saczynski in San Jose, California. *Voyages of Discovery, Essays on the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, edited by James Ronda, was the book chosen for this meeting. Each participant was asked to read one essay and discuss it with the group. Those participating were: Pat and Walt Hartinger, Ann and Tau Alpha, Connie Scoyen, Barbara Dorr, Irene Sampson, Mary Ann and Keith Kvenvolden, Virginia Hammerness, and Joan Saczynski. As usual with these gatherings, there was interesting discussion and a very enjoyable time of socializing afterwards.

Joan, our hostess, reported that in her ancestors' country of Poland, a Lewis & Clark Festival was held last fall. When her friend Beata Mazur of Atherton, California, went to visit her aunt in Wroclaw, Poland, in September 2006, she had no idea that part of her visit would be spent participating in a celebration of American heroes. A visit to the local shopping mall revealed it to be the venue for a very lively Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration. Each of the three levels of the mall featured Native American games, music, and dancing. One level displayed a life-sized teepee (wickiup). Especially impressive were the musical presentations and an extensive display of framed pen and ink drawings, submitted by local artists, depicting various stages of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Apparently, interest in the American West and Native Americans has always been keen in Poland. We wondered how many other European countries have featured Lewis & Clark Events!

On Sunday, April 27, 2008, the group gathered at the home of Keith and Mary Ann Kvenvolden. There the group watched a PBS video titled, *A Blackfeet Encounter*, which was filmed in recognition of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial and was funded in part by the National Park Service, the Montana L&C Bicentennial Commission, the Montana Arts Council, the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Going-to-the-Sun Institute, and Native Pictures.

This video tells the story of Lewis's encounter with young men of the Blackfeet Tribe from the perspective of present day Blackfeet people. The film reflects on the history of the tribe and discusses current issues and the

aspirations of its young people. A lively discussion and social period followed the film.

The next meeting of our group is scheduled for June 27, 2008, at Virginia Hammerness's home, when Dayton Duncan's *Out West* will be discussed.

If you would like to be notified of future gatherings, contact either Mary Ann Kvenvolden at (650) 328-0414 or Pat Hartinger at (408) 356-5363.

LCTHF Spring Regional (continued from page 1)

Alexander, to Elk Grove history ... which included a presentation on early Willard Family land holdings and activities in the Elk Grove area. Two original poems were also read, written specifically for our gathering by Joe Fabel, poet laureate of the Elk Grove Historical Society. A copy of Joe's poems are provided as an insert to this newsletter.

After a delicious potluck lunch furnished by the Elk Grove Historical Society, door prizes were awarded and a drawing for two Peace & Friendship blankets conducted. Attendees then toured Elk Grove's Heritage Park, paid a visit to Alexander's gravesite, and then relaxed at a nearby community park named in honor of Alexander while enjoying refreshments furnished by Keith and Mary Ann Kvenvolden. That evening attendees regathered to enjoy additional discussions at a local restaurant.

The next day about twenty attendees visited Sutter's Fort State Historical Park in downtown Sacramento. As we entered the fort's gates we were greeted with a cannon salute arranged specifically for our group. After hearing an outstanding overview of the role played by Sutter's Fort during western expansion, attendees took their own self guided tours of the Fort's many offerings. This included listening to park docents in period dress discuss the various activities that occurred at Sutter's Fort. After another firing of the fort's cannon, attendees gathered for lunch at a nearby popular luncheon spot before heading home.

From what I could tell, everyone had a great time! Photo collages for both days may be found on pages 2 and 3.

***Congratulations to our two Peace and
Friendship Blanket Winners!***

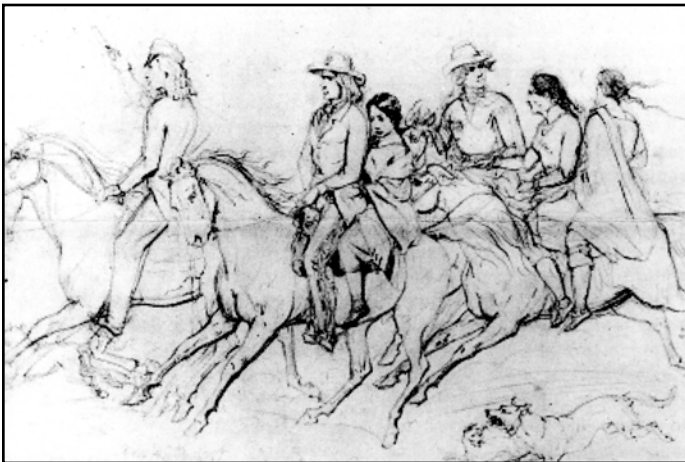
*Lavonne Willard (Santa Rosa)
Ken and Marsha Smith (Camarillo)*

Fort Union Trading Post Gem of the Upper Missouri

Part 3¹ “Fort Union Social Life”

Fur Traders and Indians

With a sketch and a journal entry, Swiss artist Rudolph Friederich Kurz² provided this delightful look at Fort Union society in 1851: One night, some employees went to a ball at the neighboring trading post and returned “as merry as it is possible for people to be who have indulged in such gaiety.” In the brilliant moonlight, hunter Charles Morgan fired his pistols. Owen McKenzie, son of Fort Union founder Kenneth McKenzie, rode so fast his wife, seated behind, had to “anxiously clasp him round!” Riding one horse, Bourgeois Edwin Denig’s younger wife and another woman challenged Kurz to a race.



Riding Home in the Moonlight
Rudolph F. Kurz, 1851

This glimpse of Fort Union’s social life reveals much about Upper Missouri society - it was diverse, energetic, and, at times, volatile.

Population, Employment, and Class

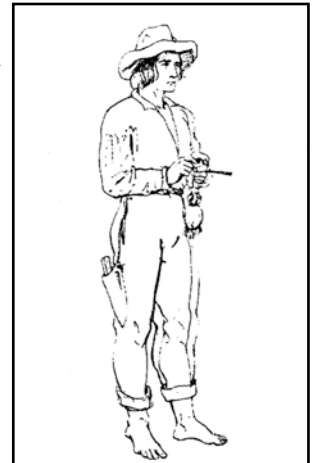
As a commercial enterprise, Fort Union had a society in which each man’s background, education, and income determined his place. The upper class was comprised of the bourgeois, French for “manager”, and his chief clerk and clerk-traders.

A partner in the company, the bourgeois earned \$1,000 a year, plus a share of the profits³. He and the chief clerk lived in the bourgeois house.

Traders did the actual trading; clerks kept inventories and accounts, took care of tools, meat, the press room, and supervised laborers. Many were European and most could read and write. Most members of upper management were of Scottish or English origin.

Those who knew Indian languages made \$800 to \$1,000 a year. Included in their salary was a suit of clothes and a top hat. They lived in the dwelling range, but ate at the head table with the bourgeois.

Interpreters were paid \$500 a year. They signed on for eight and a half months, the length of the buffalo robe trading season. Most were French-Canadian and Metis, or “mixed blood.” Engages (laborers) did the work of the fort. Craftsmen, such as tinsmiths, tailors, and blacksmiths, made items to trade; carpenters and rock masons helped construct and maintain the fort. Some built the mackinaw boats that took furs downriver to the States. Most craftsmen were paid \$250 a year, and ate at the lower table. Unskilled laborers, who earned \$120 a year, loaded and unloaded boats, hauled timber and stone, baled furs, cut ice, guarded horses, and manned the mackinaw boats.



Fort Union Engage
Rudolph F. Kurz

Hunters who provided the meat for the fort earned \$400 a year and lived in the dwelling range. They were entitled to keep the hides of the animals they killed.

Fort Union society was highly diverse: six Indian languages and ten European languages were spoken here. Most of the engages were French Canadian (the American Fur Company kept a recruiter in Montreal to hire them). Eventually, many engages were mixed bloods, sons of earlier employees and their mixed-blood wives. Black men, some slaves, also worked here. Although society was highly stratified, employees could and did rise through the ranks. Charles Larpenteur started as an engage and finished as Fort Union’s last bourgeois.

Food and Dwellings

Fort Union was a kind of company town, with the American Fur Company supplying food and housing. Status determined where an employee lived and what he ate. Food at the head table was exceptional: a good

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selection of meat and bread, often butter, cream or milk, pie on Sunday, soup and sometimes canned oysters, dried fruit, preserved herring, capers, chocolate, and almonds. At the lower table, the engages ate buffalo meat and biscuit, and drank coffee.

Living arrangements were affected by Fort Union's purpose and Indian custom. Unlike trappers, the fort's employees had permanent housing. Some engages lived in the dwelling range, where three or four families might share an apartment; others lived in their shops; others in their wives' tipis.

Family Life

From bourgeois to engage, nearly all of the men had Indian wives; Edwin Denig himself married two sisters. Some saw these marriages as permanent, committed relationships. Bourgeois Alexander Culbertson took his wife Medicine Snake Woman with him when he retired to Peoria, Illinois. Others, some with other wives in the States, were more callous, abandoning their Indian families when they left Fort Union.

Children also lived at Fort Union. One family in the 1830s had 12 children. There is no indication that Fort Union ever had a school. Some men sent their children to the States to be educated.

Marriage gave men and women the cultural advantages of two worlds. The women's cooking and sewing allowed the men to have better food and clothes than the company provided. Women enjoyed increased security and the convenience of industrial products. In some cases, they and their children received advanced education they would never have had otherwise.

Law and Order

In such a diverse group, conflict was inevitable. Kurz said every man was armed "and, though not courageous in general, touchy and revengeful." This was especially challenging because they were more than 1,800 miles from the nearest law.

The bloodiest conflict involved the Deschamps, a particularly belligerent Metis family who lived in a stockade outside the fort. They fought with other employees and eventually murdered one. In retaliation, the victim's friends killed Old Man Deschamps. On June 28, 1836, the family decided to avenge his death by killing their enemies in Fort Union. Learning of the plan, the employees took a cannon, attacked the stockade and burned it, slaughtering eight members of the family.

Much of the crime occurred because of drunken behavior. On Christmas night in 1838, one of the hunters, bested in a fight, was thrown into a fireplace and left for dead; he survived.

Without an organized government or court system, the community had to rely on itself to respond to crime. A tailor and carpenter were tried and sentenced to hang for fighting, but were given a more merciful sentence of 39 lashes instead.

Entertainment

Cultures blended especially in entertainment. For example, when the company or engages gave a dance, Indian ornaments were hung among the mirrors, candles and furs decorating the dining room. The dancers dressed in European fashions, such as the "rose-colored ball gown" from St. Louis that Edwin Denig's wife wore to one dance. The women especially liked the waltz and the cotillion.

Music was another part of fort life. For one dance, Denig played the violin, and Kurz beat the drum. Alexander Culbertson played the violin and clarinet, and Denig had a bugle, as well as a triangle. During an archeological dig at Fort Union, a jaw harp was found.

Entertainments also included a magic lantern, fireworks, and, in the 1840s, an "electrifying machine." No one described it, but some scholars suspect it was a device that someone pedaled to produce sparks or to shock unsuspecting persons. Popular parlor games included cards, various Indian dice games, and an Indian game similar to "Who's got the button?"

Indians added their culture to the social mix. In 1835, one band of Assiniboines held their Medicine Lodge ceremony at Fort Union.

People preferring more sedentary activity could read. In the 1830s, the fort's reading matter included texts on medicine, chemistry, natural philosophy, Spanish, and mixing dyes from porcupine quills. Boy's Everyday Book, Don Quixote, and the risqué classic Fanny Hill



*Women and children
at Fort Union
Rudolph F. Kurz*

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were popular choices. Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin caused much discussion at remote Fort Union when a newspaper published it in serial form.

Most fur trading posts had diverse cultures, and Fort Union was no exception. Trading furs in an isolated region, the men eased their hardships by taking Indian wives and adopting many Indian customs. A frontier brand of rough justice and relative conviviality allowed the cultures to blend and even flourish for 39 years.

Next: Part 4-The Assiniboine

¹ Most of the information in this article was obtained from the National Park Service's information sheet entitled "Fort Union Trading Post, Fort Union Social Life", Fort Union National Historic Site, Williston, ND (no date).

² Swiss artist Rudolph F. Kurz worked as a clerk at Fort Union in 1851-52. His sketches, drawings and journal were of vital importance in its reconstruction. See Kurz, Rudolf Friedrich, "Journal of Rudolph Friederich Kurz, An Account of His Experiences Among Fur Traders and American Indians on the Mississippi and the Upper Missouri Rivers During the Years 1846 to 1852", University of Nebraska Press (Lincoln), 1970.

³ The salaries listed here are representative of 1851.



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*Featuring Patrick Gass,
Carpenter of the
Lewis & Clark Expedition*



For more information contact: John Hess

6940 Fairplay Road
Somerset, CA 95684
(530) 620-5017

Mhess1863@innercite.com



Did You Know?

Although opinions vary, the Willard Family and several members of the Elk Grove Historical Society believe that Elk Grove, CA, got its name from Elk Grove, Wisconsin, where Alexander and his family lived before he migrated to California in 1852 at the age of 74. After settling in California, Alexander lived another 13 years. He died in 1865 at the age of 87, the second-to-last surviving member of the L&C expedition. Patrick Gass was the last surviving member. Gass died 5 years after Alexander at the age of 98.



(Courtesy Vicki Correia)

Border Patrol - Montana Style

President's Note

My thanks go out to everyone who helped make our recent regional meeting in Elk Grove so successful. To Mary Ann and Keith Kvenvolden for the original idea and the logistical research into what was possible; to Donna Hansen for making it possible for us to use the wonderful facilities of the Wackford Complex and to her staff who provided such fabulous support; to Anita Peters and her associates at the Elk Grove Historical Society for the cleaning of Alexander's grave marker, the great potluck lunch, the special tour of the Stage Stop Hotel and Museum, and their incredible hospitality; to Karen Seaberg who overcame difficulties associated with over a thousand American Airlines flight cancellations and traveled all the way from Atchison, KS, just to be with us; to Karen Willard, Arnie Zimbleman, Joe Fabel, and Walt Hoppe for their great presentations; to Jacqueline Ball and her associates at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park for her outstanding presentation on western expansion and their living history demonstrations; to Nan Kaeser for setting up the silent auction and LCTHF/CALCTHF information tables; to Pat and Walter Hartinger for handling the blanket ticket sales; and to Robert Allison Jr. for bringing his replica 1803 rifle and helping to setup.

Thank You!!

Ken

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**LEWIS & CLARK
TRAIL HERITAGE
FOUNDATION, INC.**

CALCTHF
P.O. Box 1767
Camarillo, CA 93011

E-Mail
calcthf@verizon.net

Website
<http://web.mac.com/calcthf>

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Golden Notes is published on a semi-annual (January and July) or quarterly (January, April, July and October) basis depending upon the availability of funding to cover our printing and mailing costs.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF, c/o Golden Notes Editor, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011-1767, or email to calcthf@verizon.net.

Newsletter Editor
Ken Jutzi

About the Foundation

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF), Inc. was created to stimulate public appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's Heritage. The foundation serves as advocate, interpreter and protector of the trail.

The Foundation works with Native American tribes, site tourism bureaus and 32 federal agencies including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S.D.A/Forest Service.

The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), corporation. Memberships include subscriptions to *We Proceeded On*, the Foundation's scholarly publication, and *The Orderly Report*, the Foundation's newsletter. Both are issued quarterly. Individual memberships are \$49 and your contributions are tax deductible.

You are encouraged to learn more about the Foundation and to join. You may do both by visiting the foundation's website at www.lewisandclark.org or by contacting a member of the California Chapter.

About the California Chapter

The California Chapter is one of 40 Foundation chapters located throughout the country. We work in partnership with the Foundation to stimulate public awareness and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's heritage. We actively support education, research, development, and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience, and we seek ways to support trail stewardship. We also have fun! To learn more please visit us at: <http://web.mac.com/calcthf>.

CALCTHF Membership Options	
Membership Level	Annual Dues
● Student*	\$8
● Individual	\$10
● Library/Non-profit	\$10
● Family/International	\$15
● Business	\$15
● Alexander Willard Club	\$20
● Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Club	\$25
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● Heritage Club	\$30
● Explorer Club	\$50
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● Discover Club	\$150
● Expedition Club	\$300
● Leadership Club	\$500

All new CALCTHF memberships include a copy of the booklet *A Charbonneau Family Portrait* by Irving W. Anderson. This booklet contains historically accurate biographical sketches of Sacagawea, Jean Baptiste "Pomp", and Toussaint Charbonneau.

CALCTHF memberships also include a subscription to *Golden Notes*, which will be published at least twice a year. Patron Level members receive their copy of *Golden Notes* in color. Memberships of more than \$10 are tax deductible.

Please send your check or money order to:

Keith Kvenvolden (%CALCTHF)
2433 Emerson Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301-4221

* Full time student (to age 21)

Treasurer's Report
Funds on Hand (as of 4/30/08): \$2,347.66

THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY

by Joe Fabel

Poet Laureate of the Elk Grove Historical Society

President Jefferson grasped the possibilities
Of a nation of states stretching to the Pacific
A feat beyond comprehension at the time.

Chosen for this challenging task of charting
Unknown native people, rivers, lands, flora, fauna
And distances was a band of hardy individuals.

Lewis and Clark planned the dangerous undertaking,
Identified equipment and supplies for this heralded
gamble to find a confirmation of the riches of West.

The mission needed the initiative and determination
Of a mixed band of experienced, intrepid explorers,
A group willing to face the unknown hazards awaiting.

Among those tasked was a tall, well proportioned
Individual possessing the needed skill of black smithy,
A physically demanding task of keeping the outfit going.

His name was Alexander Hamilton Willard, a member
Of a well respected extended family of skilled clock
Makers and hotel keepers among other noted crafts.

Willard remained a contributing member of the Corps
Of Discovery throughout the 3 years' long odyssey,
Each necessarily depended upon the skills of others.

After the Corps of Discovery returned to the known
Eastern states, Willard continued to be a productive
Citizen, participating in communities as a blacksmith.

Appreciating the bonds of family during his final years,
Willard moved to California to enjoy the home of relatives
In the Sacramento County community of nearby Franklin.

His tombstone stands proudly in the cemetery inscribed with
The reference to his participation in the Corps of Discovery,
Recalling the honors which belonged to that special few.

THEY CAME TO ESTABLISH COMMUNITY

by Joe Fabel,

Poet Laureate of the Elk Grove Historical Society

It was a time of great adjustment,
An era of transition, an occasion
Of opportunity for one and all.

Families trustingly staked their resources and
Followed a path westerly out of the chains
Of economic despair found in the East.

The Donner's, the Murphy's, the Daylor's,
The Rhoads and the Wilder's were among
Those pioneers dedicated to improved lifestyles.

All sincerely believed in the rewards of work,
And the families sought foundation and growth
In the new communities by the Cosumnes River.

These early settlers experienced cooperation
As well as friction in their quest for land
And in their search for building a solid future.

The new land holdings were often outside of the
Protection of the settled law or the offerings
Of a Court to answer transitions of usage.

Yet, those hardy individuals, man, wife and children,
Faced each day's challenges with a determined mind,
Bringing to bear their emotional and mental stamina.

Often is heard the clichè "The Stuff of Pioneers",
A reference to that spine hardening commitment
To forge a better chance, a better life for family.

Today we welcome an authentic, historical recounting
Celebrating the vibrant and proud accomplishments of those
Families who were pioneers of our Elk Grove Community.