

Of Special Interest

- CALCTHF Awarded Trail Stewardship Grant
- Dan Slosberg to be featured at Spring gathering in Claremont
- Patrick Gass's daughter provides insight into his final years
- Biddle-Clark Interview



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Roosevelt County Library in Wolf Point, Montana, Reports Progress On CALCTHF Trail Stewardship Grant Project

by Andrea Hayes (Librarian, Roosevelt County Library), Philippa Newfield, Phillip Gordon and Ken Jutzi

In September 2011 the CALCTHF was awarded a \$3,700 Trail Stewardship grant by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. The project is a joint project between the CALCTHF and the Roosevelt County Library in Wolf Point, Montana. The funding comes from the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project which, as you may recall, was created during the Bicentennial with proceeds from the sale of Lewis and Clark commemorative coins by the U.S. Mint.

For those of you who don't know where the Roosevelt County Library is, it's located on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Wolf Point, Montana, right on the Missouri River in the northeastern corner of the state and 100 miles from the nearest Walmart.

As advocacy and education are integral to Trail Stewardship, the project will take a multi-faceted approach to stewardship through the development of permanent displays and educational programs for adults, teens, and children. Venued at the library, all displays and programs will be designed to involve Native American and other members of the Roosevelt County community. The project also involves acquiring Lewis and Clark books and videos to add to the library's existing collection.

(continued on page 2)

Philippa Newfield Joins Foundation Board

CALCTHF member Philippa Newfield (San Francisco) was elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors in October of 2011 to fill a vacancy. An anesthesiologist by profession, Philippa is an art enthusiast, including that associated



with the expedition and the trail. She and her husband Phillip Gordon (our immediate Past President) have traveled the trail from the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Columbia and

they look forward to exploring the Eastern Legacy. Philippa brings a fresh perspective to the Board's deliberations and is already actively engaged with Foundation issues. She will be attending her first face-to-face board meeting next month in Great Falls, Montana.

CALCTHF Spring Gathering

*Dr. Beanes and
 the Star Spangled Banner
 (featuring Dan Slosberg
 as Dr. Beanes)*

**1:30-4:00 PM
 Saturday, 25 March 2012
 Claremont Public Library
 Claremont, California**

Doors Open at 1:00 PM

(see pages 8-9 for additional details)

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

The first part of the project is to create an eye-catching permanent display featuring journal entries written while Lewis and Clark traveled through northeastern Montana. These will be combined with photographs corresponding to the location of the entries. The entries and the photographs will cover the “top” part of the wall. The bottom half will feature a painted Missouri River scene with a small child-friendly boat alongside it suitable for role-playing. Travel brochures, Lewis and Clark pamphlets, and information about local Lewis and Clark sites and events will also be available near this area. A Lewis and Clark quilt featuring the Native Americans, plants, and animals of northeastern Montana will be on display immediately adjacent to the permanent Lewis and Clark exhibit.

The second part of the project is an educational program that will offer a “Discover Lewis and Clark” series for younger children that will be filled with information and fun activities. Plans are also being made to run lecture, video, and craft programs for community adults and teens that will be both informative and entertaining.

The project involves several sub-projects. These are the creation of a mural; the construction of a child-sized pirogue; the making of a quilt; collecting and presenting photographs of local flora and fauna; the development of two family education programs; framing and blogging contests; the development of a children’s education program; and the acquisition of Lewis and Clark books and videos to add to the Roosevelt County Library’s collection. The following describes the progress made to date for each of these sub-projects.

Mural: The mural, by Wolf Point artist Nathan Beaudry, has been completed and is on display in the Library (see page 3).

Pirogue: The child-sized boat, by Wolf Point carpenter Mike Dunn, has not yet been completed.

Quilt: Local quilters, Judy Holum and Nancy Sietsema, are in the planning and design stage. Instead of a more traditional “earthy/outdoors” look, they envision bringing Lewis and Clark into the “21st Century” with a more contemporary design and palette of colors.

Photographs of Local Flora and Fauna: Wolf Point photographer Lisa Dunn plans to photograph the flora and fauna described by Lewis and Clark when they were in the area. They did, however, also describe a light dusting of snow - but it has not snowed as yet in Wolf Point. Ms Dunn has devised a journal-like framework for the

individual photographs in which the relevant passage from the journals will be quoted on the left-hand side and the photograph will appear on the right-hand side (see page 3). These will be of large format suitable for display in the library.

Family Educational Program 1: The library is planning two family programs. One program will feature a movie with a discussion to follow. Local historian Bob Saindon has accepted the library’s offer to be the main speaker. Not only is he well qualified to address some of the Native American aspects of the program, but the library also plans to invite a Native American who has a background in history to join them. The National Geographic movie “Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West,” has been previewed by the library staff and so far it looks to be a good one to showcase. It is about 40 minutes long which would make a nice introduction to the discussion facilitated by Mr Saindon, with a question and answer session to follow. The library is also considering an additional movie.

Family Educational Program 2: The second program will feature Richard Baker who is with the Humanities Montana’s Speakers Bureau. He will present “An Evening with Pierre Cruzatte’s Ghost.” Forrest Mount and his group also have consented to appear in attire reflecting the trappers and mountain men of Lewis and Clark’s era. We are thinking of serving some sort of stew or chili along with fry bread to represent the culinary as well as the historic aspects of the times.

Framing Contest: The library is planning to send out letters to all of the teachers in the Wolf Point area explaining the Lewis and Clark Framing Contest by the third week in February. It will also be publicizing the contest in the local newspaper, on the radio, and on their website (<http://www.rooseveltcountylibrary.org>) to spread the word and to solicit the participation of adults as well as teen agers. The library was given 1,200 posters of “Sacagawea and Pomp” and 800 posters of “The Portage” about a year ago. Framing these will be the basis for the framing contest. Friends of the Roosevelt County Library will be invited to judge the posters. The Framing Contest’s posters will be on display and the winners will be announced at the second Family Educational Program.

Blogging Contest: This is intended to encourage children and teen-agers to imagine what Lewis and Clark might have written had they been writing with the Internet in mind. Formulation of the guidelines for this project have yet to be completed.

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Children's Educational Program: This will probably be the last project completed for the grant. It is envisioned that this will be an addition to the Library's Summer Reading Program ... something for the kids to do later on in the year. The library has spoken to Shawn Kenelty recently and she is excited about coming up with the sessions and craft ideas. It has also purchased *Lewis and Clark for Kids: Their Journey of Discovery with 21 Activities* by Janis Herbert which has some great recommendations in it. The library is also in the process of deciding whether to run the program every day for a week or twice a week for multiple weeks. They are also in the process of identifying Native American crafters, storytellers, and dancers, who would also come in and work with the children.

Books and Videos for the Library's Collection: A list of Lewis and Clark-related books and videos that the library plans to order has been developed.



Roosevelt County Library

Wolf Point artist Nathan Beaudry prepares to hang his Lewis and Clark mural



Lisa Dunn

Framework designed by Lisa Dunn for pairing the Lewis and Clark journal entries with a photograph of the local animal or plant described (display will not include her logo)

Bay Area Book Discussion Group Meeting November 20, 2011

by Mary Ann Kvenvolden

This gathering was attended by ten of our members plus one guest. Those in attendance were Pat and Walt Hartinger, Phillip Gordon and Philippa Newfield, Ruth Newfield (Philippa's Mother), Joan Saczynski, Virginia Hammerness, Barbara Dorr, Mary Mueller, and Keith and Mary Ann Kvenvolden.

Our assignment was to select an article from any issue of *We Proceeded On* and share with the group what he/she learned or found particularly interesting about the article. Topics discussed included:

Search for the Northwest Passage; Struggle for French Identity on the Frontier; Jefferson and the roots of his presidential Indian policy; recent publication of the North American Journal of Prince Maximilian of Wied;

Companion Journeys—David Thompson; comparison of Homer's "Odyssey" to the Corps of Discovery; and the L&C Expedition's "Mackenzie Connection." On the less serious side, two members mentioned that they were reading "Lewis & Clark for Dummies" and the novel "Sacajawea."

We met at the home of Virginia Hammerness in San Jose, and she graciously served us a lovely supper of soup, salad, and dessert which allowed us more time to visit and enjoy each others' company.

We all felt that we learned a lot from the discussions of the various articles and related topics. In fact, the group agreed to use the same format when we met again on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at the Kvenvolden home in Palo Alto.



Scenes from November Bay Area Book Discussion Group meeting

Mary Ann Kvenvolden

**A Daughter of Patrick Gass Provides Insight
Into the Last Years of His Life**

by Kathryn L. Downing Smith

Editor's Note: This letter, a family treasure, was written by Kathryn L. Downing Smith. Her husband, James Simeon Smith Jr., was a grandson of Patrick Gass. Kathryn and James took care of James' mother, Annie Jane Gass Smith, who was the second youngest daughter of Patrick Gass, towards the end of her life¹. Likewise, Annie had taken care of Patrick Gass during the last ten years of his life². The letter is thus based on firsthand information of his last years. No one knew him in those years more intimately than Annie. A copy of this letter was graciously provided to the CALCTHF by longtime CALCTHF member Kathleen R. Wade (Woodside, CA). Kathleen is a great granddaughter of Patrick Gass. Kathryn L. Downing Smith and James Simeon Smith Jr. are her parents.

Ventura, California
April 16, 1925

Dear Pearl,³

We were certainly [sic] glad to get your fine letter, also the picture of the kiddies. I suppose some one was having a party, or do you just have a party like that all the time at your house?

I should like to be of assistance to you in preparing your talk for the seminar. I should certainly think I needed all the help I could get if I had to talk for two hours on any subject and think I would need an ambulance to get home in afterward. It is fine that you can do the work that you are doing and I think you are wonderful to do it.

I have talked to Mother [Annie Jane Gass Smith] for about an hour this morning. She wants to loan you her book "Life and Times of Patrick Gass"⁴ which as you will see was presented to her by her father [Patrick Gass] and was written during his lifetime by the author who interviewed grandfather. Mother seems to remember things more as they are told in the book than as she heard grandfather tell them, though perhaps the book is such a faithful portrayal that there is little else to be added.

[n] height he was medium, had gray-blue eyes, and dark brown hair. I think mother must be very much like him in build and complexion. You will see the resemblance in their faces and you will recall mother's stinky build, and she is very light on her feet. She must be like him in disposition too, for I have never heard her complain of

her deafness and is even tempered, always making the best of hard circumstances, quiet, methodical, and persevering. She says that of all her children, Walter⁵ is most like Grandfather Gass both in appearance and disposition. Grandfather was not so heavy as Walter.

The last twelve years of his life he lived with Mother. He was sociable and like[d] company. Many people came to hear him tell of his experiences on the expedition. He always spoke with praise for Lewis and Clark but Mother cannot recall any anecdotes. He had a black cat which he named "Sacagawea" for the Mandan Indian woman who accompanied them.

Mother's farm was four miles from Wellsburg, and, up to four years before his death when he became helpless, he walked weekly to Wellsburg to get the "Wellsburg Herald" for which he subscribed. At home he read the paper, [and] cared for the small children (Winfield⁶ and Elias⁷, and later Ella⁸). He was exceedingly fond of children. The boys he held, one on either knee, and sang to them "Yankee Doodle," queer Irish songs, and nonsense rhymes. This is one of them:

"A blue bird sat on a hickory limb;
He winked at me and I winked at him;
I up with my gun and broke his shin
And away the feathers flew!"

On the last line he would make an outward waving gesture with his hands. Winfield was "The General." Elias he called "Daddle" which was the sound the child made when he first began to talk. Ella was "The Lady of the Lake."

He helped Mother about the house, hoed the garden, built fences, and [did] all sorts of little jobs about the place.

Ten years before his death, or rather when he was ninety, he was baptised [sic] in the Ohio River and became a member of the Christian Church. Mother said there was a very large crowd there to see him baptised, one Sunday afternoon. Mother says that after he came to live with her he never drank⁹, though I suppose there is no denying that he became an addict during his military experiences and there is evidence of plenty of liquor having been consumed by all of the men on the expedition.

Although his pension and sole income during his later years was but \$96 a year he gave \$10 to Bethany College. He remarked to Mother that it would never do him any good but might benefit some of his descendants.

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When the boys would waste bread, he would say to them “See here, boys, I have seen the time that I would have run a mile for that piece of bread.”

He was helpless the last four years of his life, or nearly so. His chair sat by his bed and he would get from one to the other. He was also during that time practically blind and deaf but very patient. He never complained except that when Mother mopped, it gave him rheumatism, or rather made his “rheumatics” worse. He could talk until the day before his death and died as though going to sleep. He was buried first in the little family plot on the farm but when a railroad threatened to go through the spot fifteen years later, the bodies of both he and grandmother were moved to the Wellsburg cemetery [sic]. As yet there is no monument. The man who has been interesting himself in getting one placed by the government died last week so I suppose nothing will be done soon.¹⁰

Going back to his earlier life, he and grandmother walked from Wellsburg to Squire Plumber's just over the Pa. line, a distance of four miles to be married. Grandmother was twenty. He used to tell his girls that “She wore a sunbonnet and a pair of coarse shoes but she was as pretty as a bunch of May posies.” The relationship to Alexander Hamilton, so far as Mother knows, has never been definitely established. Personally, I think there must have been a relationship. Grandmother's father was born in Scotland, as was also A. Hamilton's, and there [their] stock. (We have been much interested lately in reading Wiggam's “Fruit of the Family Tree,” and “The New Decalogue of Science.”) Grandmother's father was at one time very well to do and, as Mother expressed it, “owned [slaves].”

As to the pictures, Mother says there is one life size at Bethany and in the Wellsburg courthouse, but she cannot tell you to whom to write. She has an enlargement taken from the one which she is enclosing. Perhaps you would like one taken from that. The one she is sending is the best of the two small ones which she has. I am sure Charlie can give you information about whom to write for he has been there in recent years. He got for me the post card picture of the building in which Grandmother and Grandfather were married. I am enclosing it. I had it in Janets'¹¹ baby book.

I know that you cannot use much of this but it may help you to get a little more of the atmosphere of your subject and be of personal interest to you. Sorry I could not do more.

Thank you for your kindness in offering the cottage. I hope we can come, all of us, but if not all, at least Mother and Jacques¹².

My blood pressure is coming up and I hope to have the operation soon.

With love an[d] all good wishes,

Kittie

¹ Annie lived with Kathryn and James in Whittier, California, and then in Ventura, California, from 1913 to 1925. Annie died in 1926 at the age of 85 and is buried in Pasadena, California.

² Carol L. MacGregor, ed., “The Journals of Patrick Gass”, Missoula, Montana, Mountain Press, 1997, p. 303.

³ Pearl E. Brown, 2nd wife of Arthur H. Smith, James' brother.

⁴ by J. G. Jacob, Jacob & Smith, Wellsburg, VA, 1859.

⁵ Walter Smith, 1874-1933.

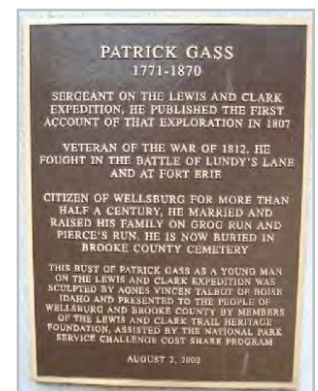
⁶ James Winfield Gass, 1858-1942.

⁷ Elias McClellan Smith, 1861-1937.

⁸ Ella C. Smith, 1864-1935.

⁹ Note: perhaps just not at home!

¹⁰ Editors' Note: Today you can find Patrick Gass's burial site in Section H of the Brooke County Cemetery in Wellsburg, West Virginia. In 2002, a monument to Patrick Gass was erected by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. See <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=21629>.



Monument to Patrick Gass
Wellsburg, West Virginia
(photos by William Fischer, Jr., May 22, 2009)

¹¹ Jeannette Smith Taranik, 1913-.

¹² James Simeon Smith Jr., 1882-1965.

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President's Message

Our Chapter's Fall Gathering on October 16, 2011, at the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto, was a delightful event in several ways. The presentation by Gwenyth Claughton, Museum Director, about her experiences working with Blackfoot Indian communities in Canada/Montana, gave us some unique perspectives on Blackfoot culture, past and present. Chapter members attending came from as far away as the Sierra Foothills and Southern California. Among them was John Hess (Somerset) who, as a member of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (DESC), has been a Lewis & Clark re-enactor during the Bicentennial years and beyond portraying Patrick Gass. Another long-time CALCTHF member, Kathleen Wade (Woodside), who is a great granddaughter of Patrick Gass, was also able to attend this meeting. She and John Hess met for the first time and, at the meeting, John accepted the donation of her collection of *We Proceeded On*. It will have a good home in John's plans for a living history museum and library.

As discussed earlier, a special Trail Stewardship grant was awarded to our Chapter on September 30, 2011. It will be used for a joint project between the CALCTHF and the Roosevelt County Library in Wolf Point, Montana. Funding comes from the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project which was created during the Bicentennial with proceeds from the sale of Lewis and Clark commemorative coins by the U.S. Mint. Many thanks to Phillip Gordon and Philippa Newfield for their time and efforts in applying for this grant which gives our off-trail Chapter a nice link to and on-going collaboration with an on-trail stewardship project.

In recent months four new members have joined our Chapter: Gwenyth Claughton and husband Fabio Lazaro (Santa Clara), David Pidcock (Vice President of the Portage Route Chapter in Great Falls), and Zeke Sicotte (Palo Alto). Be sure to see Zeke's article about his family's connections to Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau ("Pomp") on page 7. Welcome all!

One of my goals as President is to contact the Lewis and Clark descendants in our Chapter and encourage them to participate in one of our meetings or write an article for our newsletter. It certainly seems that they would have some special stories to share with us. To begin this process, please be sure to see the letter written by Kathleen Wade's mother in 1925 about the last years of

Patrick Gass's life (page 4). If any of you would like to volunteer, please don't hesitate to call me.

Plans for our Chapter's Spring meeting in Claremont, California, on March 25, 2012, are coming together nicely (see pages 8-9 for more information). Hope to see many of you there!

Other news. Tau and Ann Alpha (Palo Alto) have donated several more items from their Lewis and Clark book collection to our Chapter to sell and raise funds. Philippa Newfield has accepted a nomination to become a board member of our Foundation. She will serve along with Ken Jutzi. It is wonderful to have two California representatives on our Foundation's board and it does signify a real commitment of time and expertise to help keep the Foundation viable into the future. Last, but not least, is the good news that Ken and Jane Jutzi have recently become first-time grandparents of adorable twin boys. Congratulations!

Mary Ann Kvenvolden



Scenes from our Fall Gathering at the Museum of American Heritage in Palo Alto. Photos by Mary Ann Kvenvolden and Ken Jutzi,

An Amazing Discovery

by Zeke Sicotte

Editor's Note: The following is a letter that Zeke sent to his sons, Steve and Dan, explaining that he and they could very well be related to Jean-Baptiste Charbonneau ("Pomp"). Zeke Sicotte is a new member of the CALCTHF. He resides in Palo Alto.

Palo Alto, California

October 18, 2008

Steve and Dan,

The following is a tale of discovery that reveals that we Sicottes are related to Sacajawea's son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, known as "Pomp" when he was on the Lewis and Clark Expedition as an infant.

A bit of background is in order. Last August after we attended the OCTA (Oregon-California Trails Association) Convention in Nampa, Idaho, we returned home via Jordan Valley in remote eastern Oregon and later Winnemucca, Nevada. We had known that Pomp had died not far from Jordan Valley in the 1860s, but not much else, so when we came to a sign pointing to a Lewis and Clark site south of that town off U.S. 95, we headed in that direction. The paved road took us three miles to the ghost town of Danner, just an abandoned general store and the adobe ruins of the Inskip Stage Station built in 1863. The site of his death is a fascinating place to visit. His remains and tombstone are there along with several others in a tiny cemetery beside the road. There is an historical plaque marking the site and across the road are the crumbling adobe walls of the Station. Pomp's grave was covered with several Indian trinkets and decorations. He has not been forgotten.

What has all this have to do with us? I became intrigued with all of the above and when I got home I Googled Wikipedia to find out more about Pomp and his French Canadian father Toussaint Charbonneau. When I learned that Toussaint was born in Boucherville (1767), the home of our Sicotte ancestors from 1690 to 1862, I nearly fell off of my chair. This wasn't the first time that I had learned of someone who had Boucherville roots (Steve's wife Francine's Poirier ancestors for example) but to find that Toussaint had been born in that village of 3,000 people on the south side of the St. Lawrence River was truly amazing. It seemed as if all Quebecois were somehow connected to our ancestral village!

The coincidences continued. The Wikipedia article went on to say that Toussaint's second great-grandmother, Marguerite Denoyen, was the sister of Jacques Denoyen, a fur trapper. Bingo! Jacques Denoyen was the guy who

rescued Abigail Stebbins from the Deerfield Massacre in 1704, was at her side during the freezing winter trek to Montreal escaping Deerfield, married her and took her to Boucherville where she proceeded to have 13 children. I had previously traced my paternal second great-grandfather, Pierre Sicot (1793-1834), through maternal lines to Jacques Denoyen and Abigail Stebbins.

Catherine [Marguerite]¹ Denoyen, Jacques sister, began the line that produced Toussaint and his son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau "Pomp." Pierre Sicot (born in 1793) was a contemporary of Pomp, who was born in 1805, twelve years later. The relationship is called collateral and not direct. Since the generations generally followed the same time intervals, Pierre Sicot and Pomp were fourth cousins.

I prepared a genealogy chart, matching the five generations back to the Denoyen Family. In addition, I have engaged in a bit of genealogical whimsy by adding a listing of the relationship of Pomp to subsequent Sicotte generations. I have not been able to find out whether Pomp ever married, or whether he had children², but given the usual habits of the French Canadian trappers and voyageurs of living with Indian women, it is highly likely that there are many contemporaries of ours who can trace their lineage back to Pomp and to Sacajawea.

Nevertheless, remote as the connection is, I think that it makes a good story. I believe that I can say with certainty, Steve and Dan, that you can claim Pomp as a cousin, albeit a fourth cousin five times removed.

That is what I call fun with genealogy.

Dad

¹ *Editor's Note 1: According to Susan Colby, the lineage that produced Toussaint Charbonneau and his son "Pomp" began with Marguerite Denoyon, Toussaint's great grandmother, not Catherine Denoyon. Catherine may be a typo as Zeke correctly refers to Marguerite in the previous paragraph. Except for this reference to Catherine Denoyon, Zeke's discussion of Pomp's lineage is consistent with Colby's. See "Sacagawea's Child, The Life and Times of Jean-Baptiste 'Pomp' Charbonneau", The Author H. Clark Company, Spokane, Washington, 2005, p. 183.*

² *Editor's Note 2: There is no know record of Pomp ever having married. However, there is evidence that he fathered a child with an Anastasia Fries, a German soldier's daughter, while he was in Europe with Duke Friedrich Paul Wilhelm of Wurttemberg, Germany. However, the son, Anton Fries, died within three months of birth. See page 4 of the July 2010 (Vol. 10, No. 2) issue of "Golden Notes".*

CALCTHF
Spring
Gathering



CALCTHF
Spring
Gathering

THE
**STAR-SPANGLED
BANNER**

Honoring the forthcoming 200th Anniversary of
Our National Song.



THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Told in its entirety

BY DR. WILLIAM BEANES,

Without whom there would Be No Anthem.



Mr. Daniel SLOSBERG, having spent a number of Years researching the subject, has written a delightful, enlightening and music-filled program addressing three tributaries of American history — the War, the Flag, and the Song — which flow together in September of 1814 when lawyer and poet FRANCIS SCOTT KEY boards the British warship H.M.S. Tonnant to seek the release of his imprisoned friend, Dr. William Beaness. While yet on board, Mr. Key witnesses the grand victory of our Valiant American Soldiers in the Battle of Fort McHenry. This Great Triumph, and the glorious sight of our National Emblem flying o'er the fort, moves Mr. Key to compose his singular and properly esteemed poem, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," now widely known as "The Star Spangled Banner."

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.



Dr BEANES SHALL RELATE

The little-known but fascinating source of

our Anthem's Melody;
The History of our Nation's Flag;

**AND HARROWING TALES
FROM THE WAR OF 1812.**

Dr. BEANES & the STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

is a 45-minute program suitable for audiences of all ages.

Presented by Daniel Slosberg, Los Angeles, California

CALCTHF Spring Gathering
Dr. Beanes and the Star Spangled Banner
(featuring Dan Slosberg as Dr. Beanes)

Saturday, 25 March 2012
1:30-4:30 PM
(doors open at 1:00 PM)

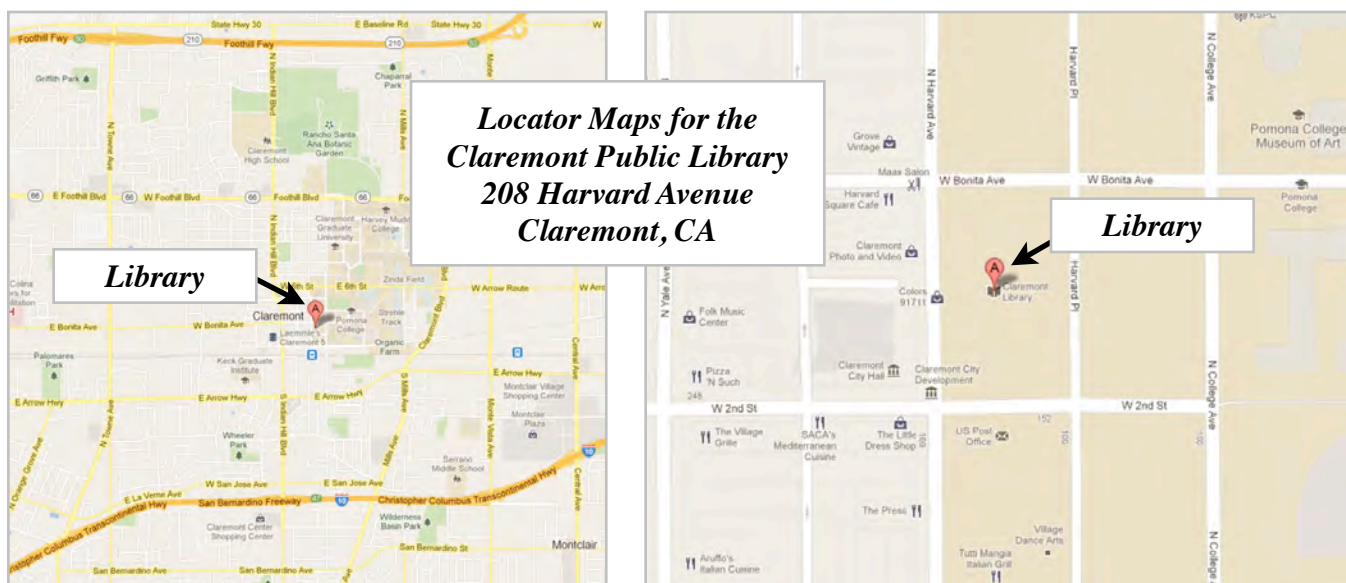
Claremont Public Library
208 Harvard Avenue
Claremont, California

Most people know that Frances Scott Key wrote our National Anthem after watching the British bombard Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. But why was Key there in the first place? And Key didn't compose that melody, so where did it come from? And why did Fort McHenry happen to have the largest flag in the country, one large enough for Key to see from his vantage point on the Patapsco River miles from the fort?

In this program, you'll learn about ...

- the War of 1812 and how events in that war led Francis Scott Key to be in the midst of the British fleet attempting to rescue his friend, Dr. William Beanes.
- the history of "To Anacreon in Heaven," the melody to which Key set his poem and the many other songs written to the same tune, including Key's warm-up for the Star-Spangled Banner, "When the Warrior Returns."
- the history of the flag Key's song commemorates, the huge banner that Baltimore flagmaker Mary Pickersgill constructed to fly above Fort McHenry.
- how all these things came together to put Francis Scott Key, an anti-war lawyer and occasional poet, in the right place at the right time to give us the gift of our National Anthem.

The program will include music on fife, fiddle and saltbox. Dr. Beanes himself will appear throughout the presentation. The program is suitable for audiences of all ages.



The Biddle-Clark Interview

by Arlen J. Large¹

For heart-tugging historical melodrama, nothing can top the reunion of Sacagawea and her brother Cameahwait when the Lewis and Clark Expedition met his band of Shoshones in the mountains of Montana. Readers of Nicholas Biddle's 1814 narrative of the expedition must have gone misty eyed at his recounting of the scene where the young woman was called upon to act as an interpreter at a meeting of the captains and the chief:

She came into the tent, sat down, and was beginning to interpret, when, in the person of Cameahwait, she recognized her brother. She instantly jumped up, and ran and embraced him, throwing over him her blanket, and weeping profusely. The chief was himself moved, though not in the same degree. After some conversation between them she resumed her seat and attempted to interpret for us; but her new situation seemed to overpower her, and she was frequently interrupted by her tears.²

Now in reconstructing this scene years after the event Biddle had access to the written journals of both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, plus the accounts of Sergeants Patrick Gass and John Ordway. But these accounts of the August 17, 1805, incident are quite sketchy. Lewis merely noted that Sacagawea "proved to be a sister of Chief Cameahwait" and that her reunion with her people was "really affecting."³ Clark wrote only that the chief was "the brother of the woman with us."⁴ Gass reported the party "had a talk with the Indians"⁵ whom Ordway said "appeared verry friendly"⁶. Neither sergeant mentioned a brother-sister reunion.

So where did Biddle get all that human-interest detail about the embrace, the blanket, Cameahwait's macho reserve, the weepy conference? Did he make it up?

No. Biddle had another source: William Clark himself, in person. With Lewis dead, Clark in 1810 needed someone more literate than himself to write an authorized account of the expedition. He offered the task to Biddle, a young Philadelphia lawyer, who could use the expedition's journals as a basis for the narrative. The idea of a face-to-face interview to flesh out the details was Clark's.

Writing from his father-in-law's home at Fincastle, Va., Clark urged Biddle to come for a visit. "If you will come it may enable me to give you a more full view of those parts [of the journals] which may not be thirily explained," Clark said. "Such parts as may not be full, I can explain and add such additional matter as I may recollect."⁷

In March, 1810, Biddle caught the stagecoach that went through Fincastle once a week and settled in for an intensive three weeks of reading the journals and quizzing Clark about them. The author asked the explorer to recall the appearance of the land in many places along the Missouri. There were exhaustive questions about Indian dress and customs. Biddle took it all down, including the tear-jerking details of the Sacagawea Cameahwait story,⁸ using both a notebook of his own and some blank pages in a Lewis pocket journal. Carrying all the documents with him, Biddle left for Philadelphia on April 14 and began piecing everything together for his book. He made good use of those invaluable verbal recollections of Clark, greatly enriching the lore of the expedition as we have it today.

There is for example, a 1908 Charles Russell painting of an incredulous Minnetaree chief rubbing his moistened fingers on the chest of Clark's slave, York, to see if the black color would come off.⁹ Now, readers of the written journals know that the Indians were fascinated with York, who in turn seemed to enjoy the attention. But there's nothing by any of the journalists specifically describing that finger-rubbing incident painted by Russell.

The story comes from the Biddle-Clark interview. The Biddle notes taken at Fincastle describe a visit to Fort Mandan by a Minnetaree headman named Le Borgne. Biddle wrote down: "the Borgne said that some foolish young men of his nation had informed him that there was a black man in the party & wished to know if it was true. The negro was brought up. The Borgne was astonished - examined him closely - spit on his hand & rubbed to in order to rub off the paint."¹⁰ Biddle put that tale in his book almost word for word.¹¹ It was, incidentally, a second-hand account. Clark's journal entry for that date shows that he was away from Fort Mandan on other business during the Le Borgne visit.¹² Somebody - maybe Lewis, maybe York himself - told Clark about the finger-rubbing when he got back to the fort and Clark passed the yarn along to Biddle at Fincastle.

In July, 1810, Biddle in Philadelphia was still plugging away at the writing job with all the frustrations of an investigative reporter trying to weave together a story from several sources. He wrote a barrage of follow-up questions to Clark, insisting on "as much accuracy as possible." A sample query: "Describe if you can a game among the Mandans which is mentioned in Ordway's journal, but which a gentleman told me Capt. Lewis described to him as resembling billiards very much."¹³

Clark didn't reply until the following December: "can't describe the Game among the Mandans mentioned in

Ordway's journal if Shannon cant no one in this country can the Interpreter¹⁴ who is now with me cant describe it, it resembles Billiards very much."¹⁵ There. Biddle had *another* eyewitness to the expedition to coach him. George Shannon who, after having lost a leg in a post-expedition Indian fight, was sent by Clark to Philadelphia to stay at Biddle's elbow. It's hard, however, to trace Shannon's specific contributions to the book with any certainty. In describing the Mandan game, Ordway wrote that it was played upon an outdoor area as "Smothe as a house flour."¹⁶ As Biddle finally doped it out, he described the playing area in his book as being "covered with timber smoothed and joined so as to be as level as the floor of one of our houses."¹⁷ Ordway reported no smoothed timbers and Clark's recollection was no help. Perhaps Shannon had seen them and told Biddle; perhaps Biddle just inferred it from Ordway's general description.

Biddle's productive three weeks at Fincastle nailed down a lot of points that would have been mysteries if scholars had only the surviving journals to rely on. However, the interview itself is involved in the old uncertainty over the rendering of the name of Cameahwait's tearful sister. Exhaustive textual analysis of the Captains' handwritten journals has convinced many leading authorities on the Expedition that her name should be spelled and pronounced Sacagawea, with a hard "g".¹⁸

Nowhere in his notes of the interview with Clark did Biddle write the woman's name, but it is reasonable to speculate that he heard Clark pronounce it many times and carried it away in his memory. In working over Lewis's handwritten journal, Biddle at one point penned in the word "Sah ca gah we ah"¹⁹ as if to give the name a standardized spelling for his future use. Yet, Biddle in his book published four years later spelled it Sacajawea, raising the baffling question of what he actually heard at Fincastle. What a pity that Biddle, setting out for one of history's most interesting interviews, forgot to bring his tape recorder.

¹ Editor's Note: This article is a reprint from an article that appeared in the August 1980 issue of WPO (pp. 7-8). Arlen J. Large was the 5th president of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (1974-1975). As a reporter for the "Wall Street Journal", Jim enjoyed an exciting and rewarding lifestyle. His job assignments and his hobbies took him to all fifty states and all seven continents. He was a prolific contributor to WPO with forty-one feature articles to his credit.

² Biddle, Nicholas; Allen, Paul (Editors), "History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark", Bradford and Inskeep, Philadelphia, PA, 1814, Vol. I, pp. 382-383. In the Coues Edition, Vol. II, p. 510. In the Hosmer Edition, Vol. I, pp. 407-408.

³ Thwaites, Reuben G. (Editor), "Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806", Dodd, Mead & Co., N.Y., 1904. Reprint Editions: Antiquarian Press, N.Y., 1959; Arno Press, N.Y., 1969. Vol. II, p. 361.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 366.

⁵ McKeehan, David (Editor), "A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery ...", (The title page reads: "By Patrick Gass - One of the Persons Employed by he Expedition". McKeehan produced this paraphrastic version in 1807 from Gass's original journal which is not extant.) In the 1904, Hosmer Reprint Edition, p. 126; in the 1958, Ross & Haines Reprint Edition, p.145.

⁶ Quaiife, Milo M. (Editor), "The Jounals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway", The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1916. Reprint Edition, 1965, p. 267.

⁷ Jackson, Donald (Editor), "Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents", Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana, 1962. Second Edition, 1978, p. 494.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 519.

⁹ Snyder, Gerald S., In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 1970, pp. 106-107.

¹⁰ Jackson, *op. cit.*, p. 539.

¹¹ Biddle/Allen, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 168. In the Coues Edition, Vol. I, p. 243. In the Hosmer Edition, Vol. I, p. 180.

¹² Thwaites, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 270.

¹³ Jackson, *op. cit.*, p. 553.

¹⁴ Clark is referring to the Expedition's interpreter Toussaint Charbonneau.

¹⁵ Jackson, *op. cit.*, p. 563.

¹⁶ Quaiife, *op. cit.*, p. 144.

¹⁷ Biddle/Allen, *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 143. In the Coues Edition, Vol. I, pp. 213-214. In the Hosmer Edition, Vol. I, p. 153. In the Biddle/Allen, Coues, and Hosmer editions, the entry appears as December 19, 1804. Ordway's journal (Quaiife, *op. cit.*, p. 172.) has this entry made for December 15, 1804.

¹⁸ Anderson, Irving W., "Sacajawea, Sacagawea, Sakakawea?", South Dakota History, Vol. 8, No.4, Fall 1978, pp. 303-311.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 305.



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