



Mouth of the Platte Newsletter

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Volume 2012, Issue 2

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June 2012

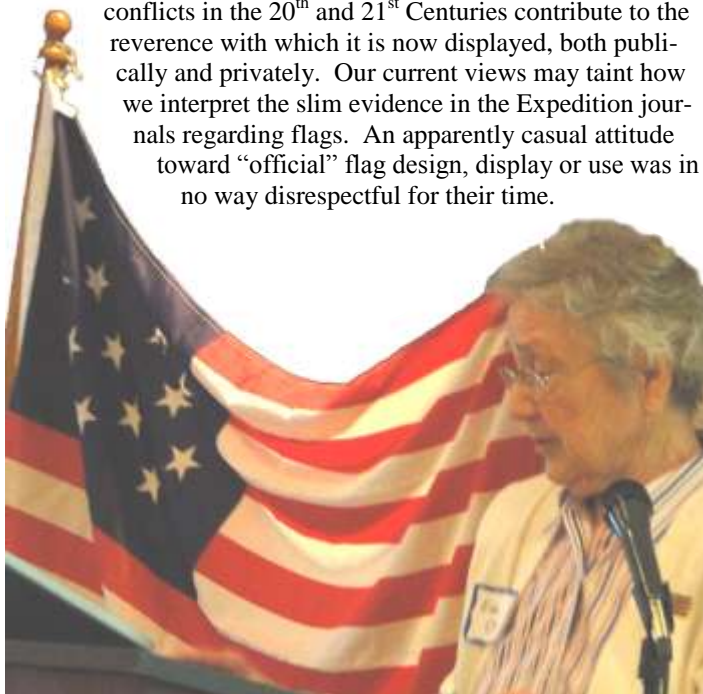
“New Glory?”

On March 20, Evelyn Orr treated 30 Mouth of the Platte members to the results of her extensive and intensive research into the “Flags of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.” Her efforts had sprung from a number of questions: “What US flag design(s) did Lewis and Clark carry? What was the military flag etiquette at that time? Did they fly the flag at every camp? Were there differences among the flags used in councils and on a daily basis?” Not confining herself to the Expedition journals, Evelyn dug into the US Flag’s earliest days. Information was retrieved from the National Archives, Library of Congress and Smithsonian publications to substantiate her findings. Revealing the “truth” regarding the flags of the Expedition may never be achieved due to the lack of standardized practices prior to the 20th Century.



Diverging from the cross-hatched British Union Jack, alternating red and white stripes were authorized by the June 14, 1777 resolution of the Continental Congress. Thirteen stars were specified in the blue field, but many early flags had the eagle from the national seal. The myth of Betsy Ross was revealed, as was Washington’s preference for six-pointed stars. “Colors” flown from boats often retained the triangular shape of nautical pennants, which reflect the utilitarian beginnings of flags as communication aids between ships.

The symbolism attached to the Flag of the United States stems largely from attitudes and events over the last 125 years. It was not regularly flown over the Capital until 1894; the first protection act was passed by South Dakota in 1897. Global conflicts in the 20th and 21st Centuries contribute to the reverence with which it is now displayed, both publicly and privately. Our current views may taint how we interpret the slim evidence in the Expedition journals regarding flags. An apparently casual attitude toward “official” flag design, display or use was in no way disrespectful for their time.



“It was so bad...”

submitted by Della Bauer

The Missouri River is back in its banks, which pleases us all, but we remain curious and want to know, “Just how bad was it?” Jolene Hulsing, interpreter with the US Army Corps of Engineers, presented a PowerPoint program that answered that question about the 2011 Missouri River flood at the April Mouth of the Platte dinner meeting. The opportunity to see and compare “before and after” pictures was a shocking eye-opener. Aerial photography of the flood also made stories and pictures from other media more alive and realistic. Now I understand why a lady on a flight into Omaha for the annual meeting said, “I thought the pilot was taking us into the ocean.”



It is hoped there won’t be a repeat performance by the river within our experience. Jolene’s program was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Trivia: In the Eye of the Beholder?

submitted by Della Bauer

May 15 was Trivia Night for Mouth of the Platte Chapter members at Anthony’s Steakhouse. There are numerous Lewis and Clark Expedition trivia books for sale in history and book stores, *but* the answers to a few of the questions are *not* always correct. Naturally, there are a few disagreements, especially in the area of interpreting the question(s) correctly.

Evidently our study group sessions are a great way of learning as Shirley Enos was the winner of the contest, followed by Neal Ratzlaff. Shirley has been in the chapter only two years, and is a great student of Lewis and Clark. Keep it up, Shirley!!

Mouth of the Platte Chapter
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage
Foundation, Inc.



**Keepers of the Story....
...Stewards of the Trail**

Monthly meetings held third Tuesdays
Social time, 5:30
Dinner 6:00
Program about 7:00

2011-2012 Meeting Schedule:
20 December
17 January
21 February
20 March
17 April
15 May

Annual events:

June: Lewis and Clark Festival
Lewis and Clark State Park
Onawa, IA

July: White Catfish Camp
Western Historic Trails Center
Council Bluffs, IA

Tuesday Morning Study Group:

9 a.m., most weeks
Western Historic Trails Center
3434 Richard Downing Ave.
Council Bluffs, IA

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President's Note:

On the 24th of April I had total knee replacement surgery on my left knee. Surgery day came and went with a blur of activity in my room I was only partially aware of. Each of my remaining hospital days brought more strength and mobility and confidence. On the fourth day post surgery I was sent home. What my dear doctor didn't explain to me was that some people have an adverse side effect from anesthesia which causes emotional distress. Now add to this little surprise, my family history of depression. This all hit me hard when I returned home.

What popped in to my head, my first day at home, as I sat in my recliner, foot rest fully extended and my left knee packed in ice was, "What if it doesn't get any better than this?" A thought only someone wrapped in depression could have. Irrational thinking for sure but if you know anyone suffering from depression it doesn't have to make sense. At that very moment I thought of Meriwether Lewis and the unfortunate incident when he was shot by Cruzatte. I wondered what was going through his mind as he spent endless hours on his stomach in a boat, watching the Missouri swirl by, "What if it doesn't get any better than this?" Lying there he could clearly see that his adventurous assignment into the unknown, his "Darling Project," would soon be at a close. What should he do now? Yes, the journals needed to get published, so many little details to finish off and close the books. BUT the giant all consuming venture was done.

Did Lewis have anxiety attacks? Did he suffer sleepless nights? Cold sweats? Malaria most assuredly played a part in his suffering a well.

For me there are medications to get me through the rough spots and I am doing just fine. I know Captain Lewis suffered mentally for a long time. I only wish he had the medical help we enjoy today that helped pull me up out of the dark hole.

If he had lived as long as William Clark, what a different history we would have.

Shirley Enos, President



Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation



44th Annual Meeting:
July 28 – August 1, 2012
Hosted by the Ohio River Chapter

Falls of the Ohio:
Where They Met, Departed
and Returned

Headquartered at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Indiana, this year's event includes five days of outstanding events, seminars and road trips. Follow the "Old Buffalo Trace" to: Trough Spring (home of William's brother Jonathan), Grouseland (home of President Harrison) and the George Rogers Clark Memorial.

Speakers include: Carolyn Gilman, special projects historian of the Missouri History Museum and co-author of *Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide*, speaking on "George Rogers Clark, Jefferson's First Representative in the West." Bill Smith, the author of a book on Davis Floyd, will present "The Fabulous Floyds." Other topics include: "Mr. Jefferson and the Giant Moose" and "Venereal Disease and Mercury on the Expedition."

The meeting registration fee is only \$250 until June 15, when it rises to \$299. More information can be found in the February issue of *We Proceeded On*, on the LCTHF website, or at the host website at: www.lewisandclark2012.com

Mouth of the Platte Chapter: Lewis and Clark Family Days

Western Historic Trails Center
3434 Richard Downing Avenue
Council Bluffs, Iowa
712-366-4900

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Free admission

Sunday, June 24, 2012

1:00/3:00/4:00 p.m. Short film on Lewis and Clark
2:00 p.m. Evelyn Orr, Mouth of the Platte Chapter
*The Four Attempts by the Spanish to Stop
Lewis and Clark*
1:00–4:30 “Make and take” crafts for kids of all ages
1:00–5:00 Demonstrations and hands-on activities of
1800s life:
Lace making, Native American beading,
mountain man life,
Lewis and Clark replica Army items

Saturday, July 21 and Sunday, July 22, 2012

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
In concert with annual White Catfish Camp
Living History Weekend

Butch Bouvier and his keelboat, the boats of Lewis and
Clark

John “Lizard” Wilcox, mountain man campsite

Crafts for kids of all ages both days

Educational presentations and films

Sunday craft demonstrations are as listed for June 24

Sunday, August 26, 2012

Program not finalized at press time.
Tentative focus: American bison,
or preparing for the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Off To A Good Start

submitted by Shirley Enos

The Lewis and Clark Country Family Days got off to a good start on Sunday, April 22. We were blessed with great weather for the day if a little windy. The crowd was small but being the first of these events it was difficult to gauge expectations. Many families who participated in this event plan to return for related activities scheduled through the summer.

Activities opened with a short film on the Expedition which ran several times during the afternoon. Matt "Sitting Bear" Jones spoke on "The Otoe and Missouri Nations Encountered by Lewis and Clark and the Loss of Their Culture." Jones gave an informative and thoughtful talk about his people and the circumstances which caused the loss of so much of their culture. The Otoe and Missouri nations consisted of many clans each responsible for the keeping of certain ceremonies, knowledge and history. Through the death of so many clan members and elders from disease, there were few people to carry on important ceremonies or to remember the history. After his presentation, Jones responded to many thought provoking questions from the audience. His passion for the subject was clear as the discussion well exceeded the 45 minutes scheduled.

Mouth of the Platte member Chet Worm, formerly with the Army Corps of Engineers, ran original TV footage of the 1952 Missouri River Flood hosted by Walter Cronkite. Chet displayed several empty gallon milk containers to demonstrate a cubic foot of water which is how water flow is measured.

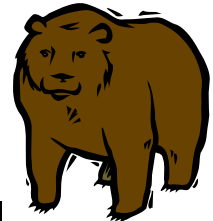
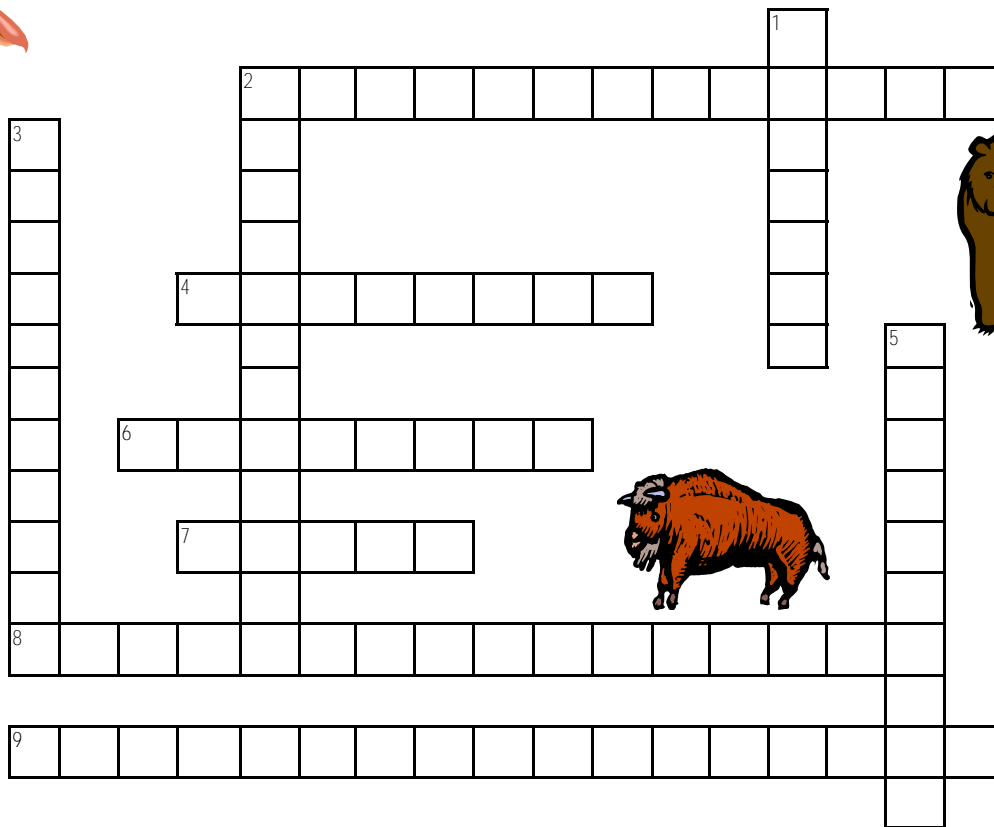
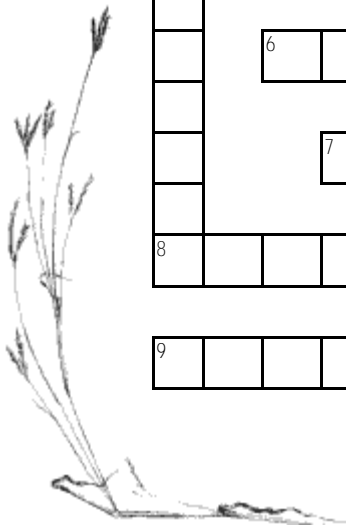
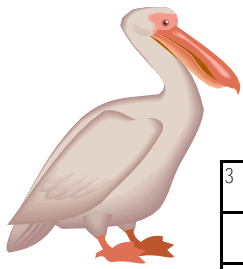
This exhibit was popular and Chet answered many questions about the floods of 1952 and 2011.

Demonstrations of crafts from the early 1800s and hands-on activities were available throughout the afternoon. The Omaha Lace Society demonstrated the home industries of lace making and tatting. Several varieties of Native American Beading were on display, with opportunities for people to try their hand at each. Chapter member Evelyn Orr interpreted the 42 replica items in the Army Corps of Engineers Lewis and Clark Trunk which represents army life as it was for the Corps of Discovery. A range of crafts for “make and take” items were participated in by kids of all ages.

This was the first of five Mouth of the Platte sponsored events to be held on the fourth Sunday of each month, April through August, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs, Iowa. These Family Days are geared toward people who know little about the Lewis and Clark and Corps of Discovery history. The goal is to educate in a fun way and increase the public's knowledge of the extraordinary historical figures that passed through our area and left so many stories for us to tell. We thank the Western Historic Trails Center, especially manager KC Hummel, for hosting the Mouth of the Platte Lewis and Clark Family Days. To learn more about how you can contribute to the remaining events, contact Shirley Enos at 402-291-4386, or email mouthoftheplatte@cox.net.

The Prairie

KC Hummel



ACROSS

- 2. **Large white waterfowl flew over Clark's head**
- 4. Huge amount of feathers from these birds were seen on the river
- 6. Only he died on the trip
- 7. Supermarket of the Plains
- 8. Opening of another river into the Missouri south of Council Bluffs/Omaha
- 9. Versatile tree growing in damp areas along streams



DOWN

- 1. Large, fierce land animal had the Corps on the run
- 2. Caught in this area and had a camp named for it
- 3. This grass made the prairie wave like an ocean
- 5. Barking squirrel



MOP Calendar:

Monthly MOP dinner meetings go on hiatus in June so members may attend the many Lewis and Clark, and related, activities in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. A brief calendar appears on the last page, and further details (and useful links) can be found on the Lewis and Clark Country website (www.lewisandclarkcountry.org).

Saturday, July 22

White Catfish Camp MOP Picnic and Silent Auction

Information on donating auction items, meal menu and cost to be sent by email (or post for those without).

Program will be an open member discussion of important chapter issues!!

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Monthly dinner meetings resume

Riverside Grille, Council Bluffs

Social time 5:00 p.m. Meal service 6:00 p.m.

Program, menu choices and pricing details will be sent.

The Tuesday Study Group continues to learn through the summer on a reduced schedule of monthly meetings.

June 12, July 10 and August 14
9:00 a.m.

Western Historic Trails Center
3434 Richard Downing Avenue
Council Bluffs, Iowa

The weekly schedule resumes in September.

Battlefields of Nebraska

submitted by Ruth Hunolt

Tuesday, April 24, the study group headed to Rebecca's Indian Trading Post in Bellevue. Our speaker was Thomas Phillips, author of *Battlefields of Nebraska*. The book resulted from Phillips' extensive research, which was also apparent in his excellent presentation. We were amazed at the number of conflicts between the Indians and the settlers who claimed land here and other pioneers passing through on the way west. There were many small skirmishes with ranchers, the railroad, pony express and white travelers. The conflicts were compounded by the army fighting the Civil War in the East and not being available to protect either the settlers or Indians. Study group coordinator, Ava Hastert, related that an incident between her ancestors and the Indians was included in the book.

Thanks go to Mary Langhorst for arranging this study group outing which included lunch at the Belle Vue Café.

Phillips, a Nebraska native, rose to the rank of colonel during 36 years in the military. He now resides in Lincoln with his wife and writes books on the military, American history and baseball. The paperback *Battlefields of Nebraska* book was published by Caxton Press and is distributed by the University of Nebraska Press (www.nebreskاپress.unl.edu).

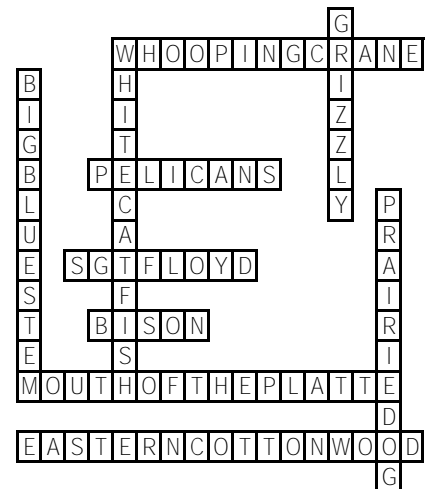
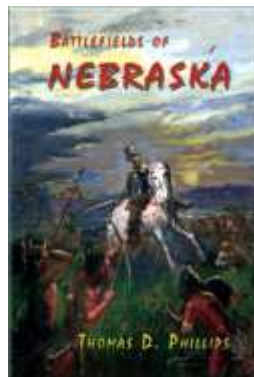
Study Group Rocks the Boat



submitted by Della Bauer

For the past several months, members of the Tuesday Study Group have focused on "Preparing for the Expedition," a topic that has not been exhausted even after 11 years of study. The subjects I decided to discuss were the boats needed to set out—keelboat, pirogues, and the iron boat. Canoes and bullboats would later be a part of the journey across the continent.

After many hours of preparation, I presenting the topic to the class and opened the discussion. Several questions were discussed, but one continues to be debated. Was the iron boat put in the water at Harpers Ferry? More reading is needed to determine the likely answer. Without sufficient thought, I asked who paid for the keelboat. Evidently I could not see the "forest for the trees" and did not consider that the Corps of Discovery was a military mission, and of course, the government/tax payers paid for the boat!



Summer 2012 Lewis & Clark Events

For further events, information and helpful links, visit the Lewis and Clark Country website: www.LewisandClarkCountry.org

JUNE

- 8-10 28th Annual Lewis and Clark Festival
Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa, Iowa
712-433-1505
- 22-24 19th Annual Indian Day Celebration and Contest
Fort Randall Casino
Pickstown, South Dakota
605-487-7871

JULY

- 21-22 Lewis and Clark Reunion 5
Lewis and Clark Missouri River Visitors Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska
www.mrb-lewisandclarkcenter.org
605-356-3336
- 26-29 146th Annual Homecoming Celebration
Veteran's Memorial Park
Winnebago, Nebraska
www.winnebagotribe.com

AUGUST

- 18-19 Sgt. Floyd Burial Reenactment and Encampment
Burial reenactment, 6 p.m., Saturday
Sgt. Floyd Memorial
Sioux City, Iowa
www.siouxcitymuseum.org
- 18-19 Lewis and Clark Heritage Days
Reenactment camp, demonstrations
Elk Point, South Dakota
605-356-2310
- 22 Reenactment of Gass election
Elk Point, South Dakota
www.elkpoint.org

SEPTEMBER

- 4-6 Discovery Expedition of St. Charles
Lewis and Clark Missouri River Visitors Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Surveyor's Historical Society Annual Meeting

September 12-15, 2012

Holiday Inn

Council Bluffs, Iowa

MOP members have an opportunity to examine the navigation and mapping skills used by Lewis and Clark at the annual meeting of this national organization. Similar to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, this group has within its mission the preservation of knowledge and artifacts from the past as a means of educating current and future generations.

Presentations closely aligned with Lewis and Clark are listed for informational purposes. The full schedule and information on registering for one or all days are available at www.surveorshistoricalsociety.com.

Thursday, September 13

- Fort Atkinson/Lewis and Clark State Park
- 7:45 Bill Weikel
Equipment and Methods of Lewis and Clark for Navigating, Surveying, and Mapping
- 8:45 Bill Weikel
Looking for Council Bluff
- 9:45 Darrel Draper
George Drouillard
- 10:30 Tour of Fort Atkinson
Lunch at Lewis and Clark State Park
- 1:30 Butch Bouvier
Keel Boat Experience

Friday, September 14

- Holiday Inn, Council Bluffs
- 8:00 Milton Denny
GLO Surveys Along the Missouri River Affected by a Changing River
- 11:45 Darrel Draper
Daniel Freeman: America's First Homesteader
- 1:00 Don Borcharding
Captain Andrew Talcott's account of his journey to, design of, and surveys at Fort Atkinson-1819/1820

Saturday, September 15

Venues throughout Council Bluffs/Omaha area
Activities focus on railroads and their expansion into the West. Details omitted due to lack of space.

Mouth of the Platte, Inc.
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