



Meriwether Lewis

# Field Notes



William Clark

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

January 2007

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 21

## During this time in history: (January 1, 1804-1807)

(The source for all Journal entries is, "The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition edited by Gary E. Moulton, The University of Nebraska Press, 1983-2001.)

January 1, 1804, Camp Wood – Clark: "...A woman come forward wishing to wash and do such things as may be necessary for the Detachment. Several men come from the country to see us & shoot with the men...I put up a dollar to shoot for...the country people won the dollar..."

January 1, 1805, Ft. Mandan – Clark: "The day was ushered in by the discharge of two cannon. We suffered 16 men with their music to visit the first village for the purpose of dancing...I ordered my black servant to dance, which amused the crowd very much and somewhat astonished them, that so large a man should be active and etc..."

Sgt. John Ordway: "...we fired a swivel and drank a glass. About 9 o'clock 15 of the party went up to the 1<sup>st</sup> village of Mandans to dance, as it had been their request. Carried with us a fiddle & a tambourine & a sounding horn...A Frenchman danced on his head and all danced round him for a short time...They (Mandan) brought victuals from different lodges & of different kinds of diet; they brought us also a quantity of corn & some buffalo robes which they made us a present of..."

January 1, 1806, Ft. Clatsop – Lewis: "This morning I was awake at an \_\_\_\_\_"  
("History" - Continued on pg. 3)

## Meriwether Lewis Acknowledged



By: Jim Rosenberger

As many of you know, during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial years I produced a page-a-day desk calendar of the Lewis & Clark Journals. It was a labor of love based on my passion for Lewis and Clark history and it turned out to be a real learning experience because I had to read all the Journals as well as other resource material to decide what should go on each calendar page. 2006 was a real challenge because the Journals end in September 1806 and I had to fill the

remaining calendar pages with something. I ended up using a lot of different resources but found many excellent items in "The Letters of the Lewis & Clark Expedition with Related Documents" edited by Donald Jackson, University of Illinois Press, 1978. As a result of this research, I found there was a Meriwether Lewis I had not fully recognized; a man with more character, honor, devotion to duty and friends than I had ever realized. One area where I think this comes out is in Lewis's dedication to his men after the Expedition.

**Trivia Question of the Month**  
(The answer is somewhere in this issue.)

Which member of the party did Lewis describe as:  
"...entitled to no particular merit..."

Don't miss  
"Seaman says..."  
on page 4



Meriwether Lewis was devoted to his men and to his friendship with William Clark. In his letter of September 23, 1806 to President Jefferson he says, "...With

Continued on Page 2

**Continued from page 1** respect to the exertions and services rendered by that estimable man, Capt. William Clark, in the course of the late voyage, I cannot say too much; If, sir, any credit be due for the success of that arduous enterprise in which we have been mutually engaged, he is equally with myself entitled to your consideration and that of our common country..." Lewis's devotion to Clark continues with numerous comments about Clark's contribution to the Expedition and the fact he should be treated equally with Lewis in any praise or rewards.

Also in Lewis's September 1806 letter to Jefferson he adds the comment, "... The whole of the party who accompanied me from the Mandan have returned in good health, which is not, I assure you, to me one of the least pleasing considerations of the voyage. In his report of January 5, 1807 to Secretary of War, Dearborn, Lewis goes further; "...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...entitles them to my warmest approbation and thanks..."

Lewis even mentions two men who did not make the trip to the Pacific coast, Corporal Richard Warfington and Private John Newman. We know Corporal Wafington performed his duty "...with punctuality which uniformly characterized his conduct..." so his mention does not come as a surprise. But Private Newman was court martialed for "mutinous expressions". All the same, Lewis points out Newman's conduct "...previous to this period had been generally correct and the zeal he afterward displayed for the benefit of the service was highly meritorious..." and recommends Newman for additional compensation. Lewis acknowledges that Joseph and Reuben Field had "...been engaged in all the most dangerous and difficult scenes of the voyage..." and re-

fers to them as "...two of the most active and enterprising young men who accompanied us...in which they uniformly acquitted themselves with much honor..."

There are a number of instances in the Journals where both Lewis and Clark comment on the contributions of Private John Shields to the Expedition. Likewise, in his report to Dearborn, Lewis acknowledges Shield's "...skill and ingenuity..."

George Drouillard is referred to as "...a man of merit..." for all his skills as a hunter, woodsman and interpreter, especially for "...his knowledge of the common language of gesticulation..."



At the same time, Lewis refers to Charbonneau as "...a man of no peculiar merit..." but goes on to say "...was useful as an interpreter only, in which capacity he discharged his duties with good faith..." And at the same time Lewis refers to Jean-Baptiste Lepage saying "...entitled to no particular merit..." Was Lewis being critical of

these men or simply offering an evaluation of their work? The answer may be in the use of the word "merit". One definition of merit is "a reward or honor given for superior qualities or conduct". Perhaps Lewis is simply saying these men performed their duties as expected while Drouillard exceeded expectations and deserved meritorious mention or reward. How was the word "merit" used and what did it mean in 1807? I would suggest that Lewis was simply giving an evaluation of his men as any good commander would do.

Lewis and Clark scholars often comment that Meriwether Lewis was the leader of the Expedition but somewhat removed from the men; William Clark related to the men on a more personal basis. That may have been, but it is clear to me that Meriwether Lewis felt very close to his men and stood by them even after the Expedition was concluded. His code of duty and honor would allow him to do no less.

**("History" - Continued from pg. 1)**

early hour by the discharge of a volley of small arms which were fired by our party in front of our quarters to usher in the New Year; this was the only mark of respect which we had it in our power to pay this celebrated day. Our repast of this day, though better than that of Christmas, consisted principally in the anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1807, when, in the bosom of our friends, we hope to participate in the mirth and hilarity of the day...At present we are content with our boiled elk and wapato and solacing our thirst with our only beverage, *pure water...*"

January 1, 1807, Washington City: On this date, Captain Meriwether Lewis met with President Thomas Jefferson and, while no record of this meeting is known to exist, they must have discussed the expedition for hours. It is known that the map drawn by the Captains was spread on the floor of the President's house and both Lewis and Jefferson were on their hands and knees examining it.

**Excerpts from Messages on the Badger Chapter Group On-line Message Board**

On November 20, Jack Schroeder posted:

"At the quarterly meeting in Milwaukee the generosity of many members resulted in a successful raffle... Profits from the raffle have allowed the chapter to purchase a unique recording of four hours of interviews with Stephen Ambrose regarding his research in writing *Undaunted Courage*. Mr. Ambrose was recorded during his guest residency at the University of Wisconsin by Wisconsin Public Radio in 1996."

On January 1, Bill Holman replied:

"Jack, we want to use this venue to publicly thank you for these CDs, so other members realize how great they are. Over this last weekend, we made an auto trip to central Minnesota and the CDs occupied our minds for most of the 375 miles. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to them, and the reproduction was excellent.

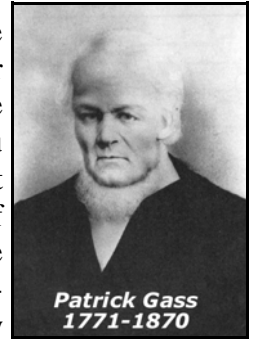
For Christmas, Marcia's daughter and SIL gave us the whole book of *Undaunted Courage* on CDs, and we are now calculating how long a trip we will need to take to listen to the whole thing."

You can find these and other messages about Lewis and Clark activities at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LewisandClark-BadgerChapter/>

**Letters from my cousin, Patrick Gass,  
With the Corps of Discovery**

It's good to be back in the United States after the 3 year adventure. I'll still try to write from time to time, and fill you in on some of the things that happened during the journey. If I concentrate on getting these notes organized, I might manage to be the first one to get my journals published.



As I write this, it is the first day of the new year of 1807, and I am reminded of where I was on each of the last three New Years Days.

January 1, 1804: I had not yet begun to keep a written journal, but the memories are as if it was only yesterday. On this date, we were wintering at a fort that we had built near the mouth of the river du Bois, or Wood River. It is a small river which falls into the Mississippi on the east side, about a mile below where the Missouri enters on the west.

January 1, 1805: We were wintering over at the second of the three forts that we built during our time together. I suspect that my experience as a carpenter was one of the skills that was taken into account in choosing me as a member of the Corps. There were times that I wished I hadn't been chosen, but now that we are safely home, I am proud to have gone. This fort we called Fort Mandan, and it served us well as we were far enough north that the winter was very severe. I drew the picture below when Captain Clark and his men were building a line of huts for the fort.



**Cousin Patrick Gass - Continued on page 4, column 2**

## Seaman Says...January, 1807



We return to the beginning of Seaman's Journal and adventure for his continuing insight into America's most important journey of exploration:

August 29, 1803; I have been selected for service by one Meriwether Lewis, Captain 1<sup>st</sup> United States Regiment Infantry, and given the name "Seaman". I have decided to maintain a journal to record my life with my new companion for future generations of my species.

Contrasted to 'Homo Sapiens' I am a member of 'Canis Familiaris' and more specifically of the Newfoundland breed. My family history can be traced back to Europe and Spain and the Newfoundland name comes from the Canadian Province where my relatives and ancestors worked on fishing boats, hauling fishing nets out to sea and back and retrieving objects or people who fell into the water.

In quiet moments together with Capt. Lewis, he informs me of an Expedition he will lead into unexplored territory and he has enlisted my services to assist him. I hear other humans refer to me as Capt. Lewis's 'pet' and they ask what purpose a 'pet' serves on his voyage of discovery.

Most of the voyage will be on water, in boats, and Capt. Lewis believes many of the party will be accustomed to land travel but will be in great danger on water. Therefore, in addition to being a hunter and security guard, I will be the primary, perhaps the only, safety factor on our boats to recover the men, should they fall into the water.

I am equally at home on land or in water, am protected by an insulated fur coat which repels water, have webbed feet, swim with a breast stroke rather than the 'dog paddle' of lesser breeds and have a lung capacity to swim long distances in

any body of water. I have become an important part of Capt. Lewis's preparations for the Expedition.

Pet? No doubt Capt. Lewis and I will become close companions but, due to my abilities, I trust my future will hold much more than that.



### Cousin Patrick Gass - Continued from page 3

January 1, 1806: We were near the ocean, in the fort that we called Fort Clatsop. Even though it was not as cold as the winter before, it was the most miserable winter I have ever spent. Every day seemed wetter than the one before, and the ticks, flies and other insects were merciless. It is a time that I would almost rather forget.

Your cuzzin,  
**Patrick Gass**

(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger Chapter member and the editor of the Badger Chapter's "Field Notes," is the second cousin four times removed, of Patrick Gass. He has offered these "letters from the trail", which must have been held up in the mail.)

### 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@att.net](mailto:punkinz@att.net) or Bill Holman at [wghmch@chorus.net](mailto: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.

### =We're On The Web=

"Field Notes" is also available on the Internet. If you are only receiving it as a black and white copy, you will enjoy it a lot more with some pages in color, and you'll be the first to receive it. To get on the list to receive the link, drop an e-mail to Bill Holman at: [wghmch@chorus.net](mailto:wghmch@chorus.net) ...we'll send you a link where you can find it and share it with your friends.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Jim Rosenberger**

Looking at the calendar it tells me it is that time again – a New Year. It is time to look back over the past year to review our efforts to see how we have done and to face and plan the New Year with new hope and resolve. No resolutions though, that is just for personal planning. For the Badger State Chapter,

let's just stick with resolve.

2006 marked the final year of Bicentennial Signature Events with the grand finale in September at St. Louis. For the Badger Chapter, we had meetings in Madison, La Crosse and Milwaukee with great speakers such as John Kaminski on Thomas Jefferson, Wendy Raney about the future of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and Francis Paul Prucha, S.J. on Presidential Peace Medals. I continue to feel that the high point of the year, as far as meetings are concerned, was the La Crosse get together with the Minnesota Chapter. In 2006 we experienced membership growth and our treasury is in good shape.

This is also our one year anniversary of our newsletter's new look, having named our Chapter Newsletter "Field



**Father Paul Prucha  
addressing the Badger  
Chapter in Milwaukee...**

...about (left)

**Presidential Peace Medals**



Notes" with the January 2006 edition. Our thanks go to Bill Holman, editor, for his continuing efforts of producing not just a fine newsletter but also an educational publication. Thanks also to fellow Chapter officers Mary Butts (secretary) and Marcia Holman (treasurer) as well as board members Jerry Anderson, Harriet Peppard and David Sorgel for their work, creativity and support. All of these members have also agreed to serve another term in their respective positions and were re-elected at our November 2006 meeting. I am happy to announce that Jack Schroeder was elected to serve as Vice President. Jack has the interest and passion that all of us share for the Lewis & Clark story and I look forward to working with him on meetings, field trips, etc.



**Jack Schroeder**

For 2007 we hope to hold our Chapter meetings in January, April and October as well as a social, picnic, get together in June and a field trip in September. Plans are developing and we will keep you advised as they are completed. If you have comments, thoughts or ideas on content, location, topics or speakers, please let me or any officer or board member know. Additionally, the Foundation Annual Meeting will take place in Charlottesville, VA, August 5-8.

Of course, starting a New Year means my annual plea to all of you to continue your Chapter and Foundation memberships. Now, more than ever, we need a strong base of members who continue to support the Lewis & Clark Historic Trail, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and tell the epic story of Lewis and Clark. Your membership is what holds all these efforts together so please respond positively to your membership renewal request.

I believe our Badger State Chapter had a great 2006 and I look forward to an even better 2007. We will give our best efforts to providing you a quality Lewis and Clark experience. Join us for the journey.

# An Army Travels: Feeding the Corps of Discovery

By Jack Schroeder©

## Hearth Cookery: Part Three

One reason we enjoy studying and discussing the voyage of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery is that we all share images and stories of the journey as they were taught to us in school. Even today, children learn about Lewis and Clark as if it were one word. The term is so engrained in us that we begin to squirm and fidget with discomfort when we hear the phrase Lewis and Hooke. And yet, when William Clark's enthusiastic letter of acceptance was slow in arriving in Washington D.C., Captain Lewis was near to inviting Lt. Moses Hooke to join the expedition as a replacement.



In talking about hearth cookery we also share an image so pervasive and enduring that each of you will instantly conjure the same picture. You have already done so when you read the term *hearth cookery*. Although very few of us have ever seen one, in our minds we all imagine the same blackened kettle hanging over the flames in a fireplace. That image is one of the greatest icons of early American history.

The bubbling kettle was the central source of strength for families in Post-Revolutionary America. It was the means by which mothers fed their families. It was the essential device for converting game and produce into nourishment and pleasure. The cooking kettle changed fatigue and hunger into energy and contentment. It is not an exaggeration to think that the kettle in the hearth was necessary for survival itself. Small wonder that we still remember it

Kettles suspended over open fires were indeed commonly used by cooks, but because heat control was so difficult, kettles were used mostly for

boiling. Larger or smaller flames would change the vigor of the boil, but not the temperature. The kettles could be raise or lowered in many cases by suspension from lugpoles which were permanent or temporary poles built across the top of the fire-box. Chains and "S" hooks were used to control the height of the vessel above the flames. In prosperous homes or commercial kitchens hinged cranes were built into the fireplace jamb. The arm of the crane could swing out from the fire for easier access to the pots and kettles.

Most of hearth cookery however did not take place in a kettle over an open fire. The main problem is that flames, although they are dramatic and romantic, are not a good source of controlled heat. Flames tend to flare up and die down, and even constant tending cannot assure even levels of heat. That is why the majority of hearth cookery was done and is done over the hot coals provided by the fire.

Coals provide a uniform heat that lasts a relatively long time. They can be easily replenished from the fire. They do not pose the same degree of danger of accidentally spreading the fire, and they are easier to handle than the fire itself. Additionally, coals are less likely to add soot, ashes, or unwanted flavors to the dish that is being prepared. Not incidentally, cooking utensils are much easier to clean when they have been used over hot coals rather than open flames.

Once a fire has been built to provide coals (and heat and light to the room), the next essential element in hearth cookery is heat control. This is accomplished by varying the height of the cooking vessel over the coals. This can be done by using trivets. Trivets are usually made of three legs supporting a rim or circle. Pots and pans are placed on the trivets above the coals. Longer legs mean lower cooking temperatures. Spiders are cast iron frying pans which have legs built in for this purpose. In frontier cabins rocks or bricks were used to elevate the vessels. Cooks of the era were able to prepare extraordinary dishes because this method of heat control was very nearly as good as that which modern stoves can achieve.

"Hearth Cookery" - Continued on page 7

**“Hearth Cookery” - Continued from page 6**

The method of cooking over coals is still practiced in America today. One of the outdoor living skills taught to Boy Scouts is campfire cooking, and the preferred method is the “keyhole” fire. A small circle is edged with rocks to contain the fire. That is the circle of the keyhole. The circle is interrupted at one point, and a short trench extends from the break and is also edged with rocks. Mature coals from the fire are raked into the trench, and a grill or kabob sticks are placed over the coals. These are used to cook the food while the fire produces fresh coals.

Equally at home in a frontier cabin, Boy Scout camp, or modern kitchen is this hearty winter soup. Resourcefulness and adaptability are the skills best suited to a cook in any of these situations. Modify this recipe as your taste, pantry, and purse allow.

In a large fire-blackened kettle or saucepan start 6 cups of water to boiling. As it heats, chop one medium onion, 3 stalks of celery, three carrots, and a small green bell pepper. Throw them in the water. Add a bay leaf and a bouillon cube. If you like, add a pound of stew meat; beef, pork, bison, elk, etc. When it boils, turn down the heat, and skim the foam off the top. Simmer one hour, and then add two diced russet potatoes or half a rutabaga or both, a fistful of fresh chopped parsley, and a 28 oz. can of diced tomatoes. Return dish to a boil, skim again, and simmer for 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

One nice change would omit the meat, and instead add a drained and rinsed can of garbanzo or navy beans for the last 10 minutes of cooking time? Serve with a whole grain roll for lunch, or add a salad and call it dinner.

Next Time: The last Hearth Cookery article.

“Only a fool argues with a skunk, a mule, or a cook.” . . . . A cattle drive saying.

**All ways, Jack**



**Monticello - Annual Foundation Meeting  
August 5-8, 2007 - Don't miss it!**

**Treasurer's Report**



As of Jan. 4, 2007 we have \$3,034.95 in the Badger Chapter Treasury.

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