



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

April 2012

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 42

**During this time in history:
(January 1804 - April 1806)**

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

Journal entries reflect the adventures of Pvt. Alexander Willard while on the Expedition.

February 20, 1804 Camp Wood, IL, Detachment Orders, Lewis: "... Blacksmiths will also continue their work until they have completed the articles contained in the memorandum with which I have furnished them and during the time they are at work will receive each an extra gill of whiskey per day and be exempt from guard duty; when the work is completed they will return to camp and do duty in common with the detachment..."

Moulton footnote: "John Shields and Alexander Willard were the expedition's blacksmiths..."

July 12, 1804, Big Nemaha River just above the Nebraska-Kansas border, Clark: "...Alexander Willard was brought forward charged with 'lying down and sleeping on his post whilst a sentinel...' To this charge the prisoner pleads; guilty of lying down and not guilty of going to sleep. The court, after duly considering the evidence...do sentence him to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, at four different times in equal proportion and order that the punishment commence this evening at sunset and continue to be inflicted every evening until completed."

July 29, 1804, North of today's Omaha, NE, Sgt. Ordway: "...Willard sent back to last nights camp for his tomahawk, which he left...(he) lost

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

Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives



By: Jim Rosenberger

For a long time, a couple of years actually, my wife, Mary, and I thought it would be a good project to go the Wisconsin State Historical Society and go through the archives. In particular, we thought it would be exciting to go through the Lyman Draper manuscripts and perhaps find some heretofore undiscovered document related to Lewis and Clark History. Well, this past winter we decided to give it a try.

With the help of Senior Reference Archivist Harry Miller, we were introduced to the archive room and the indexing of the Draper

Manuscripts. We quickly realized that the papers were all indexed in great detail and the chance of finding a new document was fading away. None the less, we began reviewing files and soon found documents which we thought were exciting in how they added to what we knew, or thought we knew, about Lewis and Clark and related history. The following is an example of what we thought was an exciting find and we wanted to share it with you.

One file contained copies of correspondence to and from families of expedition members written to Eva Emory Dye while she was preparing her 1902 novel, "The Conquest". I was particularly taken by a typed copy of a letter written May 30, 1901 by the wife of Meriwether Lewis Clark, the oldest son of William Clark, to Ms. Dye. Mrs. Clark relates the following:

"..I thought I would send you an account of an incident which took place during the "Black Hawk War" which is curious enough, and you may use it. As my husband, who was on the staff of General Atkinson at the time, was riding from the rear, back to the General, who had sent him thither to his commissary with a message, he became enclosed by the Troops Cavalry and had to ride slowly. He noticed by his side, on a small horse, a tall

Cont'd on Page 2

Cont. from page 1

his rifle in a large creek called Boyer and came back for help to find it. The white pirogue went back with him and got out his rifle, which was sunk deep in the mud..."

February 10, 1806, Ft. Clatsop, OR, Lewis: "...Willard arrived late in the evening from the salt works; he had cut his knee very badly with his tomahawk. He had killed four elk not far from the salt works the day before yesterday, which he had butchered and took a part of the meat to camp, but having cut his knee was unable to be longer useful at the works and had returned..."

August 4, 1806, Valley County Montana, Lewis: "...Permitted Willard and Sgt. Ordway to take their small canoe to hunt...In passing a bend just below the gulf, they were drawn by the current in among a parcel of sawyers, under one of which the canoe was driven and threw Willard, who was steering, overboard; he caught the sawyer and held it. At length he tied a couple of sticks together...and set himself adrift and was taken up about a mile below by Ordway with the canoe..."

From: *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition-A Biographical Roster of the Fifty-one Members and a Composite Diary of Their Activities from All Known Sources*
By Charles G. Clarke

PRIVATE ALEXANDER HAMILTON WILLARD

Born August 24, 1778, at Charlestown, New Hampshire. He was an only son of Jonathan and Betty (Caswell) Willard. Five feet ten inches tall, brown hair, dark eyes, dark complexion and of fine physique. He was living in Kentucky at time of enlistment from Capt. Amos Stoddard's Artillery Company. He went on Lewis and Clark's payroll as of January 1, 1804. He was a good blacksmith, gunsmith and fine hunter. He may have kept a journal, yet to be located. He married in 1807, Eleanor McDonald of Shelbyville, Kentucky, and they were the parents of seven sons (one of whom was named Lewis, and another Clark), and five daughters. They have left many descendants. In 1808 he worked as a blacksmith in Missouri. He served in the War of 1812. From 1824 to 1852 he lived at Platteville and at Elk Grove, Wisconsin. In 1852 he and his family migrated by covered wagon to California, where he died in 1865, aged eighty-seven. He is buried at Franklin, near Sacramento, California. His wife, Eleanor, died June 11, 1868, aged seventy-eight. He and Sgt. Gass lived during the discovery of photography, and is the only other member of whom a photographic likeness is known.



Alexander & Eleanor Willard

Cont. from page 1

long-haired, long legged soldier, a volunteer private, who gazed at him, as my husband is in his new fine uniform of a Lieutenant, on a splendidly accoutered horse, a noble animal provided by his Father for his use, and looking so amazed at his fine appearance; my husband spoke to the poor soldier, who asked him many questions, and found out all about him. They chatted until the ranks began to thin out and my husband said he must ride on; but feeling interested in the lank, long-haired soldier, he asked him where he was from, and to what troops he belonged. The soldier said "I am an Illinois Volunteer". Well now tell me your name and I will bid you goodbye" Said my husband. "My name", he said," is Abraham Lincoln and I have not a relation in the world." From that time, they were friends; as the good heart of my dear husband went out to the poor soldier in pity and sympathy. Mr. Lincoln's sad fate, in being assassinated, caused my husband much sorrow. The last time he saw this person was in Washington



Abraham Lincoln as a younger man

City, while marching with other prisoners after the war was over; he had been in command of Fort Harrison below Richmond, in the command of General Robert Lee, his classmate at West Point, and devoted to friend, "Bob Lee". The prisoners were marched by for the President of the United States to see and the next day the President fell by a bullet..."

We knew Meriwether Lewis Clark was on General Atkinson's staff during the Black Hawk War and traveled through Northern Illinois and Southwestern Wisconsin during that War. But we always wondered if the other, soon to be famous people involved in the war ever met each other. Here was evidence which documented a situation that showed at least some of them did meet and, in fact, would cross paths again. Mrs. Clark seemingly gives verification of her husband meeting Abraham Lincoln and apparently becoming friends. At the same time Clark appears to be a friend and classmate of "Bob Lee".

With a little research, I was able to establish that Meriwether Lewis Clark graduated from West Point in 1830 and was number 23 of a class of 42. Robert E. Lee graduated number 2 of 45 in the class of 1829. So it is possible Clark and Lee were friends at West Point.

Clark apparently was a strong pro-secessionist in his political views at the time of the Civil War and was an officer in the Confederate Army. In 1864 he assumed command of an infantry brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee. During the Appomattox Campaign, he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Saylor's Creek near Amelia Courthouse, Virginia on April 5, 1865.

Abraham Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865 and died the next day.

No, the letter wasn't a find of a long lost document but it was still exciting to read it and find that these historically important people had 'crossed paths'. It was a grand start to our "digging" through the archives. So if nothing else, we will keep looking for similar bits of information contained within a letter or other document and if, per chance, we come across a heretofore undiscovered document, well, that will just be an added benefit.

Badger State Chapter President's Message

April 2012

By: Jim Rosenberger

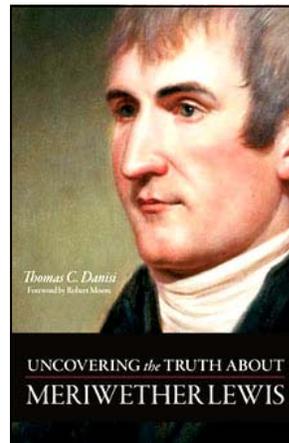
I trust that all of you have enjoyed the wonderful, early spring we experienced in March, even though now we are scrambling to cover our plants to protect them from the frost of our normal April weather. Those seemingly warm, lazy, hazy days of March gave us a chance to think of things past and present and, of course, being a Lewis and Clark addict, my thoughts turned to how the leaders of the expedition would have responded to such an early warm spell of weather in the spring of 1805.

The Corps of Discovery had just experienced what was probably a record breaking cold winter at Fort Mandan and what if they suddenly experienced the seventy and eighty degree temperatures like we just did. The Missouri River would be free of ice and the men of the Corps restless to be on their way. Undoubtedly the Captains would have had the Expedition on its way by mid-March at the latest rather than April 7, 1805.

The impact of the earlier departure and the fact that the warm weather spread throughout the Western States would have also affected the entire remaining portion of the Expedition. They would have met the Shoshone, crossed the Bitterroot Mountains, met the Nez Perce and arrived on the West Coast much earlier.

They may have even departed the West Coast and spent the winter of 1805/1806 with the Nez Perce rather than constructing Fort Clatsop. And of course they would have arrived back in St. Louis earlier than September 1806. Ah, it's fun to speculate about such things, maybe I will do some revisionist history writing.

Speaking of writing, there are two new books out about Meriwether Lewis which I think deserve your consideration. "The Character of Meriwether Lewis, Explorer in the Wilderness" by Clay Jenkinson is a study of Meriwether Lewis by utilizing a technique called "a closer reading of the journals". The publisher's comments summarize the book very nicely by stating this is "...a playful, imaginative, probing humanities study of one of the best known and least-resolved stories in American history. It is not intended to settle the questions surrounding the remarkable and fragmented Lewis, but to invite a rigorous and spirited new conversation about who Lewis was, what he achieved, and why he could not, in the end, find satisfaction." Knowing Lewis and Clark addicts like myself, this book will certainly do that.



The research done by Thomas Danisi for his new book "Uncovering the Truth About Meriwether Lewis" is truly remarkable. Danisi includes such items as the never-before published transcript of the entire court-martial proceedings of Meriwether Lewis and it portrays an entirely different situation and person than what we have previously been given. Documents from the medical records of Dr. Antoine Saugrain show that Lewis was being treated for Malaria while in St. Louis. Letters from New York congressman Samuel Mitchill to his wife give very interesting descriptions of Lewis, Jefferson and others as well as insights into the events of the times. And there is much more. In my opinion, this is the type of research and writing that should be done to carry us into and through the third century of Lewis & Clark history.

So there is your reading for the summer and in addition to that, don't forget to make your reservations for the 44th annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in Clarksville, Indiana, July 28 – August 1, 2012. You can review meeting events and register on-line at: www.lewisandclark2012.com.

Upcoming Events

Here are some dates you may want to mark on your calendar.

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 4:30 P.M.; as part of the Newberry Library, Chicago, Exhibit, "Lewis & Clark and the Indian Country, Dr. Herman J. Viola, curator emeritus, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History presents, "The View from the River Bank" at the Raynor Memorial Library, Marquette University, 1355 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI. This event is sponsored by the Raynor Memorial Libraries and the Badger State Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Friday, May 25, 2012, 9:30 A.M.; dedication of the newly created "Lewis and Clark Replica Trail" Grand Marsh elementary, 620 County Road E, Grand Marsh, WI 53936.

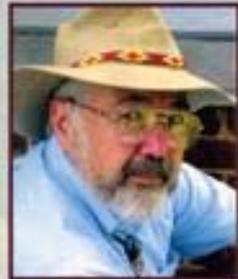
9 A.M. Presentation in Gymnasium.

10 A.M. East Trail Entrance Dedication.

10:30 A.M. West Trail Entrance Dedication.

Let Jim Rosenberger know if you plan to attend so he can notify the organizers and provide them with a total attendance number from the Badger Chapter.

July 28 – August 1, 2012; 44th annual meeting of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. For details and registration, visit <www.lewisandclark2012.com>.

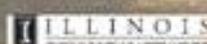
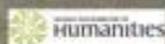


Dr. Herman J. Viola
Curator emeritus
Smithsonian Museum of
Natural History

"The View from the River Bank"
4:30-6:00 p.m.
April 25, 2012
Raynor Library Conference Center

Sponsored by the
Raynor Memorial Libraries
and the
**Badger State Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation**

Lewis & Clark and the Indian Country: Two Hundred Years of American History was organized by the Newberry Library, Chicago, in partnership with the American Library Association. The traveling exhibition is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; great ideas brought to life. Other major funding has come from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Sara Lee Foundation is the lead corporate sponsor. Ruth C. Ruggles and the National Park Service provided additional support.



The Men of Lewis and Clark and the War of 1812

By: Jack Schroeder

When the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition ended in 2006, those of us who write about it wondered what we would write about. In this column we have periodically recorded some of the adventures of the men of the Corps of Discovery in the years that followed their return to Missouri. As we like to say here, every day is the bicentennial of something.

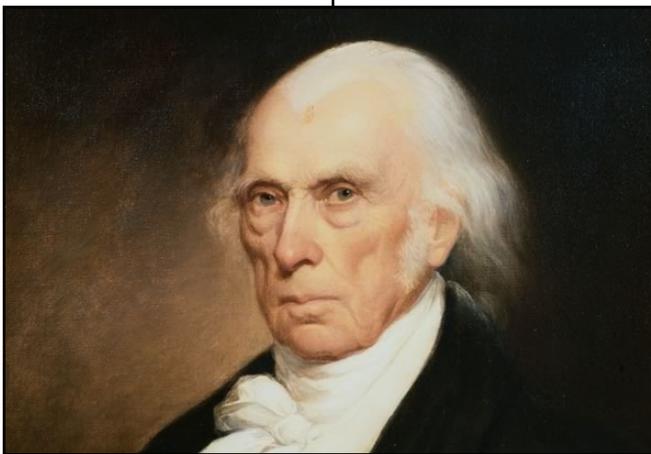


About all that most of us know about the War of 1812 is when it was fought, and we are wrong even in that. It is as if the Civil War was called the War of 1861 when nearly all of the fighting took place in later years. However, war on England was declared by the American Congress on June 18, 1812, and thus the name was born.

The bill to declare war passed by a vote of 79 - 49 in the House of Representatives, and 19 - 13 in the Senate. Because Britain was no better prepared for war than the Americans, the British delayed their own declaration until January 1813, but by then military action had already started.

The war was controversial from the start. Many Americans called the War of 1812 the "second war for independence", while others agreed with the observer who wrote, "This war commenced in folly . . . has been carried on with madness, and . . . will end in ruin."

President James Madison, who gave his name to our capital city, was in office for the period in which the war was fought. His enemies called it "Mr. Madison's War", which indicates that at least politics were occasionally more polite then. Madison, who was so successful in shaping the American presidency, was not so adept in actually filling the position. Historians



President James Madison

generally hold Mr. Madison's presidency in low esteem primarily because of his poor handling of the war.

As for the former members of the Corps of Discovery, for most of them their enlistments in the army ended when they returned to St. Louis. The records of their activities in later years are fragmentary, but it is known that some of them remained in the Army, and others re-enlisted when the War of 1812 began.

Silas Goodrich, the very capable fisherman *extraordinaire* of the Corps, was known to have remained in the Army, but the details of his later service are unknown.

Patrick Gass was a career soldier who lost an eye in the war and was discharged. He was the last survivor of the Corps, living until 1870 in West Virginia.

Nathaniel Pryor continued in the Army as an officer, resigning in 1810 and re-enlisting in 1813. After the war he married an Osage Indian woman, and lived with the Osage until his death in 1831.

William Bratton served in the War of 1812. He continued to live in the West until the time of his death in 1841.

Joseph Whitehouse rejoined the Army, served in the War Of 1812, and later deserted.

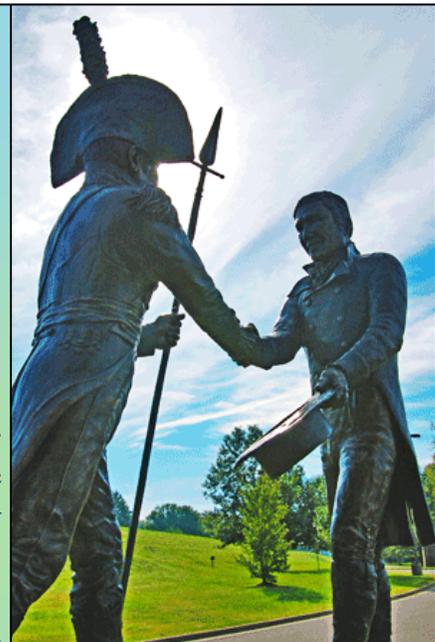
Hugh McNeal may have remained in the Army until 1811. His later activities are unknown.

Captain William Clark was the Governor of the Missouri Territory during the war of 1812. He once again led an expedition, this time against the British and Indian enemies in the upper Mississippi Valley. Upon reaching the site of modern day Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, he erected a fortification named Fort Shelby in honor of the Governor of Kentucky.

This fort can serve as an example of the bumbling by both sides in the war. Fort Shelby was built in 1814 and surrendered to British forces later that same year. Renamed Fort McKay, it was destroyed by the British commander in 1815 at the conclusion of hostilities.

***"When they shook hands,
the Lewis and Clark Expedition Began"***

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
2012 Annual Meeting-July 28-August 1, 2012
Clarksville, Indiana / Louisville, Kentucky



Falls of the Ohio:

Where they Met, Departed and Returned

Join us for the 2012 Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual meeting July 28 through August 1, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Lakeview in Clarksville. The event is hosted by the Ohio River Chapter.

Visit the Falls of the Ohio River where Lewis and Clark joined forces before setting off on October 26, 1803, on their expedition to find a route to the Pacific Ocean. The co-captains returned to the Falls of the Ohio on November 5, 1806 before parting company and returning by separate routes to report to President Thomas Jefferson on the findings of their historic expedition.

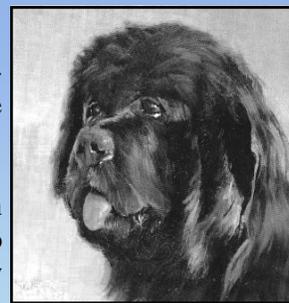
This Web site will keep you up to date on the latest information about the 2012 meeting and the exciting things you will enjoy at the Falls of the Ohio.

<http://lewisandclarkfallsoftheohio.com/>

Seaman Says – April 2012

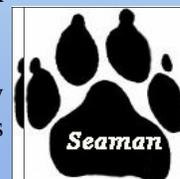
September 23, 1805: We are about to council with the Nez Perce and before my Captain Lewis begins his speech, a special program is presented to impress them. We have done this for all Native Nations we have met so far.

Our men march in formation to demonstrate their discipline and organization. Captain Lewis fires his air rifle, which makes no noise and shoots many times without having to reload. My friend York then appears to demonstrate his size and strength but mostly the Indians are amazed at his black skin. Captain Clark uses a hidden magnet to move a compass needle which mystifies the Indians. And I am a part of this show also.



When the men march I walk with them and then weave in and out among them without anyone missing a single step. A knife or tomahawk is thrown into a target and I quickly retrieve it for the thrower. I find meat or hides previously hidden by the men. Many of the Indians believe I resemble a small black bear and to this extent I sometimes charge the chiefs of the tribe, come to a stop right in front of a chief, stand on my hind legs and place my front paws on his shoulders and growl in his face, followed by a huge hug and a lick. I then give the children of the tribe rides around the camp which they enjoy very much.

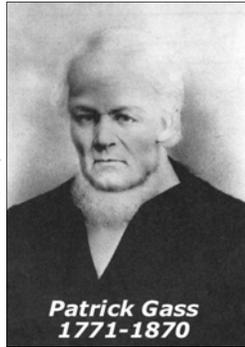
The program ends when the man, Cruzatte, starts playing his fiddle and the men dance. I enjoy being a part of the program and I believe what I do is called my "sagacity" by Captains Lewis and Clark.



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

Dear Cuzzin Bill,

From time to time I will try to send you some interesting bits from my journal. I surely hope I can get someone interested enough to publish them when we return to the United States. These are from my notes just as we started home from Fort Clatsop.

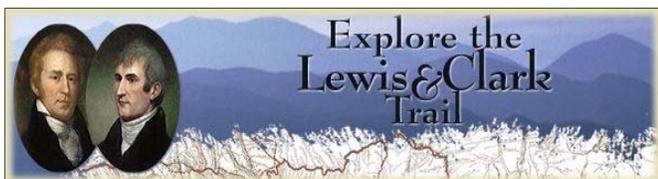


Sunday March 23rd, 1806. There was a cloudy wet morning.-The hunter who remained out last night, came in early, and had killed an elk. We were employed this forenoon in dividing and packing up our loading; and distributing it among the canoes, which were five in number, three large and two small. At noon we put it on board; and at 1 o'clock left fort Clatsop. The afternoon was fair, we proceeded round Point William, went about 19 miles, and encamped at the mouth of a creek, where we found the three hunters, that had been sent on ahead; and who had killed two elk about a mile and an half distant.

Monday March 24th, 1806. After a bad night's rest, on account of the rain 15 men went out and brought the meat of the two elk to our camp. The morning was fair and after breakfast they all embarked, except the men belonging to my canoe which the tide had left aground. The hunters went on in the small canoe ahead, and I had to wait for the rising of the tide. In about two hours I was able to follow the other canoes, and proceeded on about 12 miles to a village of the Cath-lamas where the rest of the party had halted. When I arrived we all proceeded on again, and in the evening encamped at an old village, which had been vacated.

Your cuzzin, **Patrick Gass**

(Note: Bill Holman, a Badger State Chapter member and the editor of the Badger State 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@tds.net or Bill Holman at wghmch@chorus.net. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture with your article, we will be happy to return it upon request.

Email Notice

Field Notes is posted on line, in color, before the paper edition is mailed out. Every issue, some of these e-mail addresses "bounce" because people have not notified us of changes, or because your e-mail address is not set to allow our messages to arrive. Be sure that this is not happening to you.

Treasurer's Report

The Badger State Chapter had \$3175.10 in the Chapter Treasury as of April 1, 2012. We now have 78 members.



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