



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

April 2018

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 66

During this time in history: (January 1804 - August 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.)

Our journal entries deal with Expedition member, Private Peter Weiser.

January 16, 1804, Camp Wood, IL, Clark: "...The party made up a shooting match with the country people for a pair of leggings. Reuben Fields made the best shot, next was WEISER..."

March 3, 1804, Camp Wood, IL, Lewis Detachment Order: "...The abuse of some of the party with respect to the privilege heretofore granted them of going into the country...for hunting or other business, a pretext to cover their design of visiting a neighboring whiskey shop, he (Lewis) cannot for the present extend this privilege and does therefore most positively direct that Colter, Bolye, WEISER and Robinson do not receive permission to leave camp under any pretext whatever for ten days..."

August 12, 1804, Monona County, IA, Clark: "...WEISER is appointed cook and superintendent of the provisions of Sgt. Floyd's squad..."

August 24, 1805, Beaverhead County, MT, Lewis: "...I found WEISER very ill with a fit of the colic. I sent Sgt. Ordway, who had remained with him (Weiser), for some water and gave him a dose of the essence of Peppermint and laudanum which in the course of half an hour so far recovered him that he was enabled to ride my horse..."

January 1, 1806, Ft. Clatsop, WA, Lewis: "... We were uneasy with respect to two of our men, Willard and WEISER, who were dispatched on the 28th Ult. (*See note at end of column) With the salt makers and were directed to return immediately. Their not having returned induces us to believe it probable that they have missed their way..."

MORE "FORWARD INTO THE PAST" COMING SOON AT THE WILLARD SITES, WITH GROUND BREAKING RADAR



Photo of Professor Farley's ground penetrating radar being used in a cemetery, courtesy of Burlington Historical Society, Burlington, Wisconsin

As all of our members of the Badger State Chapter know, the Alexander Willard project has been for the most part, finalized. Studies of his Wisconsin occupancy have been complete, locations of his dwellings have been identified, including his lead mine. Signs of dedication have been erected in honor of him on each of the properties that he was a part of.

With all of this, there has been one area of concern that especially was a little troublesome to Tom Strauss. The project leader for this entire project. Our group, (consisting of 5 members) could not specifically locate the cabin where Willard lived on the Fever River. We had the area surveyed, combed the area with metal detectors and did several detail searches to no avail. We knew by old records and survey maps we were in the right area but no signs of the cabin.

One morning last fall, I received a call from Tom Strauss. It goes without saying that he was extremely excited about what he and his wife Mary, had just watched on TV. It was a Sunday morning program on a Milwaukee station about certain highlights of the city. This particular morning, it was about a Professor from the Lutheran College in the city. His name is Professor Ned Farley (right) and he is the Assistant Professor for the Department of Anthropology, and he was demonstrating the use of their ground penetrating radar that they use in



(Continued-See "Grey Column" page 2)

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“Gray Column” Continued from page 1

January 5, 1806, Ft. Clatsop, WA, Lewis: “At 5 P.M. Willard and WEISER returned. They had not been lost as we apprehended. They informed us that it was not until the fifth day after leaving the fort that they could find a convenient place for making salt...”

May 15, 1806, Camp Chopunnish, ID, Lewis: “...Frazier, J. Fields and WEISER complain of violent pains in their heads...I attribute these complaints to their diet of roots which they have not been accustomed...”

June 2, 1806, Camp Chopunnish, ID, Lewis: “...About noon Sgt. Ordway, Frazier and WEISER returned with 17 salmon and some roots of cows...these fish were as fat as any I ever saw; sufficiently so to cook themselves without the addition of grease. Those which were sound were extremely delicious...”

July 23, 1806, The Great Falls, MT, Sgt. Ordway: “...WEISER cut his leg with a knife so that he is unable to walk and is a bad wound...”

August 31, 1806, Charles Mix County, SD, Clark: “...2 canoes in which Sgt. Pryor and the Indians go in broke loose with WEISER and Willard in them and were blown quite across the river (Missouri) to the N.E. shore where fortunately they arrived safe...” (This is the last journal entry regarding Pvt. Peter Weiser)

*“Ulto” - Taken directly from the Journal entry. The term is used quite often by the Captains. It is an abbreviation for the word ‘ultimo’ which means ‘last month’. They also used the term ‘instant’ or ‘Inst’ quite often which meant present month.

Ground Penetrating Radar-continued from page 1

the field on their digs. In this particular episode they were looking for unmarked graves in old cemeteries where the head stones were missing.

This machine, (GPR) can detect any type of soil disturbance or abnormality and sends this information to a computer for evaluation. It will also pick up any other abnormalities such as metal objects, rock formations, etc.

After some conversation, Tom decided to contact Jim Rosenberger for his input. Jim thought it was a great idea and asked Rich Reppen and myself to follow up with the Professor. Rich was a key part of this endeavor because he happens to own the farm in which the Willard house stood. After learning of his farm’s connection to the Willard project, Rich joined the Chapter and has been a valuable asset in the project.

With all of this in mind, I contacted Professor Farley and explained to him what we have and asked if he would be interested in using his radar to look for the foundation, fire pit, garbage pile, smelter, or what ever might be left in that area.

Professor Farley was very receptive to the idea and asked to set up a meeting to talk about this. We set up a meeting for February 12 and a party of 3 (Jim R. Rich R. and myself) met with him for approximately 3 hours at the University in Milwaukee. We talked in detail about the process, the technology involved, what they would hope to find (garbage, pile, foundations, smelter, etc.) and what we might not find. No dig or scan is a guaranteed success, but he is excited about the prospect and is very willing to try.

He has set up preliminary dates to examine the area on May 4th and 5th. He will be doing this evaluation with one of his grad. students and will be able to supply us with data from this initial search. He will also be joined by Rich R., Jim R. and myself for this process. If he feels that he can be of value and help us find the cabin he would then bring in a group of his students and do a thorough study, radar scan, digs, etc. of the area. If artifacts are found, additional digs and artifact dating will also be performed. He feels this project can be of great value and importance to our history as a nation and is very excited about doing it. He is using this project as a college training course for his students and there will be no cost to our chapter for his endeavors.

Your obedient servant,
Charlie Bebow

Eastern Legacy on the Move

The United States Department of the Interior has sent the National Park Service (NPS) study of the Eastern Legacy Extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) to the United States Congress.

The NPS recommendation is to add three eastern segments to the existing historic trail. These three new segments would be from Pittsburg, PA to the Falls of the Ohio River at Clarksville, IN/Louisville, KY then to the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi River and finally to Camp Du Bois at Wood River, IL. This includes much of the trail where preparation for the expedition took place.

Representative Luke Messer of Indiana and Senator Todd Young of Indiana, with input from states along the Ohio River, are working on a final bill to be introduced to Congress. Of course, our hope is that Congress will then pass the bill and the LCNHT would be extended to include those historic segments east of the Missouri River. This is exciting news as it has taken a number of years to complete the study, have the study reviewed and made available for comment and then forwarded on to Congress.

Once the bill is introduced to Congress it will be up to all of us who cherish Lewis and Clark history, whether we are members of the Foundation or not, to support the trail extension by contacting our representatives and sen-

Continued on page 3

ators and telling them we want this bill to pass and extend the trail. The Foundation strongly supports this bill and as a chapter of the Foundation our support is included.

Continued from page 2

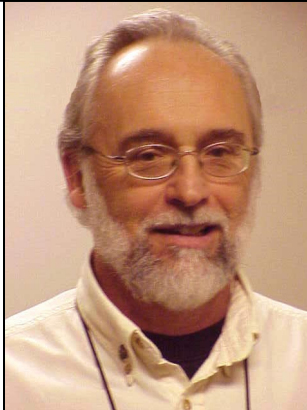
There is some disappointment that not all of the pre and post expedition sites are included in the study as submitted to Congress. However, the LCTHF has gone on record in support of the NPS three-segment Eastern Legacy recommendation along the Ohio River. The Foundation has issued a statement saying, in part "...Some LCTHF members may personally favor alternate additions to the LCNHT but the LCTHF supports the NPS Eastern Legacy recommendation. Individuals may express their personal opinion as individuals but not through official channels representing the LCTHF and our chapters."

If you are interested in reviewing information on the study you may do so by going on-line at; <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=32773>.

President's Message

By: Jim Rosenberger

Our first Badger Chapter meeting of 2018 was held on March 10th at the Waunakee Public Library in Waunakee, WI, just north-west of Madison. While we had only 13 members in attendance it was an active group and we were able to accomplish our goals.



The most important piece of business was to confirm our donation to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. As you know, this year we also held a memorial fund drive for Tom Strauss and this was combined with our annual donation to the Foundation based on the number of chapter members we have for this fiscal year. I am happy to report that this resulted in a total donation to the Foundation of \$1,400. I have already received a thank you telephone call from Lindy Hatcher, Director of the Foundation and a written thank you will follow. My thanks to all our members and especially to those of you who donated to the Tom Strauss memorial fund.

We were fortunate enough to have chapter member, Illini Chapter President and Foundation Vice President, Lou Ritten attend our meeting and bring us up to

date on National activity. One of the most exciting bits of news was that the U.S. Department of the Interior has forwarded the National Park Service's report on extending the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the Eastern Legacy to Congress. Hopefully a bill will be presented to Congress in the near future. A brief article in this issue of "Field Notes" will give you more insight.

Within the past months we seem to have developed a potential for activities our chapter can take part in. Chapter member, Charlie Bebow, gave a report on a ground radar project which may give us better information on the location of Alexander Willard's farmstead location. This also is covered in an article by Charlie in this issue of "Field Notes."

A few days after our chapter meeting I was contacted by the program director at the Waunakee Library and she was interested in whether our chapter gives presentations on Lewis and Clark history. On March 13th I met with her and discussed what we have available and it appears we may be doing at least one presentation in June or July of this year. Hopefully, we will be doing more.

Recently, chapter member John Handler presented us with a very good suggestion. John watches a PBS TV program called "University Place" and suggested our Chapter contact PBS and see if we couldn't tell the story of our "Alexander Willard in Wisconsin" project. I discussed the idea with Mary Strauss and she not only thought it was a wonderful idea but graciously took on the effort to contact PBS. She found that they would be interested in this type of program. We do have to meet some requirements and will keep you informed as to how this develops.

So, it appears we will have projects to work on and they will help promote Lewis and Clark History, our chapter and the Foundation. In the meantime, we will be conducting our normal business. We have a board of directors meeting scheduled for May 19th at the Fond du Lac Public Library. This will primarily be a business meeting for the directors to discuss our organization, its past and future but the meeting is open to members and the public. We would love to have you attend and give your input.

We will have a regular chapter meeting at the Oconomowoc Public Library on June 9th and will be sending an announcement with details prior to the meeting.

Don't forget about the Foundation annual meeting in Astoria, Oregon, October 7-10. You can review all the activities and programs as well as register for the meeting by going on-line at www.or-lcthf.org

The following article has been submitted to *Field Notes* by Chapter member Don Shurr, of North Liberty Iowa. Don Shurr, CPO, LPO, PT, is Director of Education and Director of Special Projects for American Orthotic and Prosthetics. He has been a practitioner with the company for 25



years. Don holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Iowa. He graduated from the orthotics and prosthetics programs at Northwestern University. Through his career, Don has written numerous articles and has been active in research studies with the University of Iowa Department of Orthopaedics, where he is also an instructor. Don co-authored *Prosthetics and Orthotics*, a textbook for entry level physical and occupational therapy students. He is also an adjunct lecturer in physical therapy education at the University of Iowa and a board member of the American Orthotic & Prosthetic Association (AOPA). Don and his wife, Marilyn, live in North Liberty. They have two grown daughters and seven grandchildren. We thank Don for being a member of the Badger State Chapter, and providing this excellent article to *Field Notes*, of Lewis & Clark's travels along the border of Iowa.

“Lewis and Clark in Iowa”

By: Donald Shurr, North Liberty, Iowa

Introduction

“The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Colombia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.” Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis, 20 June, 1803.

Lewis and Clark spent a total of 39 days ascending and descending the Missouri on the western border of Iowa. For 34 days in 1804, the expedition moved from the southern border of Iowa to the northern border route to South Dakota. They exited Iowa August 21, 1804 at the confluence of the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers, just a few miles north of what is now Sioux City, Iowa.

Prior to entering Iowa, a number of challenging events occurred. The mouth of the Missouri River was considered the point of departure that occurred (Jefferson letter, 1803), on May 14, 1804. The keelboat, two “Peroques,” (wc) and a party of approximately 40 sailed 4.5 miles the first day.

The early part of May in the midwest includes the rainy season. May 15, 1804, according to Lewis, included rain the “greater part of the night”. Between May 14 and July 18, 1804, when the party entered Iowa, it had rained 24 days. Also, during that time, wind caused the party to stop. Flooding rivers caused swift currents, and fallen trees produced invisible perils. One such sawyer destroyed a mast on a pirogue, causing the party to stop to repair the break.

The Missouri river was treacherous due to this flooding. In addition, the river flow dropped 2.25 ft./mile producing a heavy current, ripping trees from the banks. French boatmen, engages’, used sails, poles, oars, or ropes (cordelling) to fight the upstream resistance. And the ever present “musquetors.” (wc)

Field Notes 2

Corps of Discovery in Iowa, July 18-August 21, 1804
Just prior to their entrance into Iowa, Clark wrote of the great quantities of fruit such as grapes, plumbs, cherries of two types, and gooseberries. He also commented on a very different appearance of the land. The captains were describing the Eastern margin of the Great Plains. Clark used the words bald pate to describe the beginning of the prairie just off the river on both sides.

Of note was the absence of trees except along the riverbank and the prairie that he called endless. Bald pate also described birds meaning bald or without cover. Great numbers of deer and swarms of “Misquitors” (wc) continued to be present.

Per instructions of Jefferson, both Captains disembarked the boats and walked the shore to explore the changes in terrain. Journal entries contain comments of the absence of trees, (“treelessness”) (wc) 18-24 inch prairie grasses, numerous spring fed streams, and the presence of wolves (coyotes?) Clark observed that although the prairie appeared rich, it was parched, which he attributed to numerous prairie fires, both natural and those started by the Indians.

In his July 20, 1804 entry, he wrote about the proximity of the Pawnee village on the Platte river, about a two day

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walk, and the "otteaus a one day walk." (wc) Clark writes "as those Indians are now out on the prairies following & Hunting the buffalo, I fear we will not see them." (wc)

On July 21, 1804 Clark described the mouth of the "Great River Plate":

"This river Plat (flat) was much more rapid than the Missourie, has thrown out with large quantities of a fine coarsed Rocky Mountain sand." (wc) As one of the demands of Jefferson was to measure river currents four inches down, Clark was surprised by the velocity compared with other known rivers, and the amount of sand present at the mouth. He also found the depth of the river to be only five feet. "Captain Lewis and my Self went up some Distance & Crossed. Found it Shallow." (wc)

Field Notes 3

On July 22, 1804, Clark recorded they were 642 miles from the mouth of the "Missourie". (wc) "6 Deer Killed to Day. We deturmined to Stay here 4 or 5 days to take & make obsvts. & refresh our men also to Send Despatches back to govemnt—" "Completlly arranged our Camp, posted two Sentinals So as to Completely guard the Camp, formd bowers (shade) for the min". (wc) "Some of our Provisions in the French Perogue being wet...necessary to Dry them a few days—" (wc)

Being within 1-2 miles from known Indian villages, and needing a break for the men, Clark ordered to "Send for Some of the Chiefs of that nation to let them know of the change of Government,...The wishes of our Government to Cultivate friendship...and to present them with a flag and Some Small presents." (wc) This was Camp White Catfish near the Mills/Pottawattamie county line in Iowa and the Bellevue/Sarpy county line in Nebraska.

Throughout these 642 miles, comments written in the journals by Lewis were scarce. When he did post, the subject was either a description (in elaborate detail) of a process, as in a description of the use of an apparatus, or the result of a court martial or some other official duty. (July 12, 1804)

Between July 22nd and 27th, they emptied and dried the boats and contents, sent men to invite the Indians to visit, copied records and journals, per Jefferson's request, and allowed the men some rest and relaxation. And, they caught some catfish. On the after-

noon of the 27th, the corps sailed on following five nights of rest and repacking.

Early on the morning of July 28th, "G. Drewer (Drouillard) Came with a deer & brought in a Missouri Indian, who resides with the Otteauz...& 2 others were hunting in the Prarie." (wc) "his nation is in the Plains hunting the Buffalow." (wc) This presented problems as only the elders were left behind in camp and made talking with their current chiefs difficult. July 30th, Clark recorded sightings of many fruits, trees, tall grasses, and the killing of a Brarow (badger). It was skinned and stuffed to be delivered to Jefferson. Also on this day, "Serjt Floyd very unwell a bad cold &c" (wc) This was the first journal indication of his illness. In less than a month the only death on the expedition would occur.

August 1, 1804, was the first of three days, with busy activities. "Beever Caught" (wc) "Prepared the Pipe of Peace very flashy" (wc) "Several men geathering grapes &c...Blue Currents...goose Berry...3 deer & an Elk...Cherries, Plumbs, Rasberries, currents and grapes of a Supr. Quality" (wc) "this being my birth day I order'd a Saddle of fat Vennison, an Elk fleece, & a Bevertail to be cooked..." (wc) He was celebrating his 34 years birthday.

Field Notes 4

August 2, 1804, the hunters brought Lewis a white "Heron." Following the usual lengthy description and measurements, it was pronounced a great egret. Following several failed attempts to bring the Indian Chiefs into camp, on August 2nd "at Sunset 6 chiefs and their warries (warriors) of the Ottos, and Missoures, with a French man by the name of Far fonge (interpreter) arrived. ...gave them Some tobacco & Provisions, they sent us Water Millions ...Capt. Lewis & myself met those Indians & informed them ...we would speak to them tomorrow." (wc)

On August 3rd, "prepare Small pres(en)t for...Indians and hold a Council." (wc) This was the first Indian council held on the expedition, occurring on the Council Bluffs, north of today's Omaha. "...people express great Satisfa(ct)ion at the Speech Delivered" (wc) Moses Reed returned to camp site of August 2 looking "for his knife." (wc) He will later be confirmed to have deserted and will be caught prior to the death of Floyd.

On August 5th, Lewis journaled of Killing a bull snake and two least terns, "an acquatic bird." (ml) Lewis followed with descriptions of each, including size,

weight, colors, and habits. **Continued from page 5**
The tern lays its eggs on sand or rocks along the river and the sun incubates the eggs. "Young ones of which we caught several are covered with down of a yellowish colour...bear a great resemblance to the young quale of ten days oald ..." (ml)

The evening of the 6th of August, 1804, "dispatched 4 men to find deserter Reid." (wc) with orders to "put him to Death &c ... if he did not give up Peaceibly." (wc) Also the party was to "search for La Liberty, bring to Mahars (Omahas) Village inviting the Otto & Misouries to Speech about Peace" (wc)

Field Notes 5

On August 7, 1804, Clark and Collins hunted. Collins killed an elk. "I fired 4 times at one & have reasons to think I killed him but could not find him" - "my ball being Small I think was the reason." (wc) Throughout the journals, Clark never admitted to missing a shot or the animal. "...Misquitors were So troublesome...I could not keep them out of my eyes." (wc) Were these excuses for missing the elk?

Meanwhile, "Capt. Lewis killed a Pelican on Pelicans Island,...maney Hundreds had Collected." (wc) The next day, "one of the Soldiers Killed a Pilican ... Capt Lewis Killed one (pelican) & took his dimen-tions." (wc) Later in the day, Lewis "...saw a great number of feathers floating down the river...quantities as to cover pretty generally sixty or seventy yards of the breadth of the river... for three miles." (wc) "they appeared to cover several acres of ground." (ml) Fol-lowing another extensive description of the pelican, "...I measured the pouch and found its contents 5 gal-lons of water---" (ml) These birds were probably molting which accounted for all the white feathers! This location was southwest Monona County, Iowa and near Pelican Point, Nebraska.

On August 12, 1804, "Cap L. & Myself wen on Shore to Shoot a Prairie wolf...barked like a large fest (feist) and is not much larger." (wc) This was the first coy-ote seen by the expedition. It was not until September 18, 1804, that they actually killed a coyote, in South Dakota.

Oxbows of the Missouri River were prevalent on the trip northbound. On this day, the boats traveled 18 ¾ miles through the oxbow, but actually only traveled 974 yards as the crow flies.

A search party returned August 14, 1804, reporting no Indians were in the town. They had not returned from buffalo hunting. The party reported seeing no houses, no corn, or anything other than graves. More than half of the tribe had died in 1799, due to small pox. During the ravage, they burned their huts and killed their wives and children, burying them on the tops of high hills.

August 15, 1804, Clark and 10 men used a Brush Drag to catch 308 fish. They caught the usual fresh-water fish varieties and "Srimp." (wc) These were really crawdads or crayfish. The party also found "emince beads of Mustles Verry large & fat ... in the Beaver Pond.prosisely of Shape, Size & flavor of those about N. Orleans." (wc) August 16 1804, Capt. Lewis took 12 men and using the Brush Drag caught about 800." (ml)

The fish caught by both Captains were probably well received by the men of the Expedition. The usual meal along the river was meat, and lots of it. Records say each man ate 9-10 pounds of meat per day. Many of the men were river people who were used to many meat sources including fish. Records show the daily requirement for feeding the men was 4-6 deer or other larger animals, like elk and antelope, per day. Buffalo was farther west and was used later.

To Be Continued

This is not the end of Don Shurr's article. The conclusion of this first "chapter" will be in our July issue, and Don promises another later, telling of the story on their way back through Iowa two years later.



Seaman Says-April 2018

We continue with the post-expedition journals of Seaman, recently discovered in the minds and creative thoughts of the publishers of "Field Notes"



June 3, 1807: I find that I am tired of these large cities the humans build and live in. I prefer the freedom of roaming in open spaces as I did on our recent expedition.

This city of Philadelphia presents interesting experiences, but they have mostly to do with Governor Lewis's work. He has met and spoken with many people about producing a book, which I do not fully understand. I know about humans having books because the governor had some of them on the expedition and often looked into them at night when sitting around the fire. But other than that, I do not have an understanding of the importance of books to the humans.

We visit a number of other people to show them and talk to them about plants, animals, birds, fish etc. Again, this is interesting to watch but I do not understand the humans' fascination with this. I have begun waiting for Governor Lewis outside the entrance of the buildings where he meets these people.

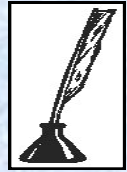
But we do not work all the time. Governor Lewis is a popular man in Philadelphia so there are many dinners and other events in his honor. Rather than attend all the events, I am pleased that the governor allows me to remain at our place of lodging with Mrs. Eliza Wood.

The governor does seem to have one good friend in a Mr. Dickerson. The two men go out nearly every evening, most times accompanied by attractive ladies. At first, I accompanied them but then began to feel I was in the way, so I go off on my own to explore other places and find new friends of my own species. I have sometimes found some open, grassy, tree lined spaces within this city of Philadelphia and when I do I feel the joy of exploring these places. I have also found locations with open water and this gives me the opportunity to jump in and swim. I enjoy this immensely as it is one of the major things I was born to do.

Governor Lewis tells me we will be departing from Philadelphia soon. I am anxious to see where this will take us and what adventures we will have.



Newsletter Articles



Do you have an interesting thought about the Lewis & 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@gmail.com. If you don't have e-mail, call Bill at (608) 249-2233. If you include a picture, we will be happy to return it upon request.

Treasurer's Report



The Badger State Chapter had \$4,362.52 in the Treasury as of April 1, 2018. We have 74 paid Chapter members, out of the 80 we had last year. Chapter members come from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Washington, Virginia, & Florida.

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