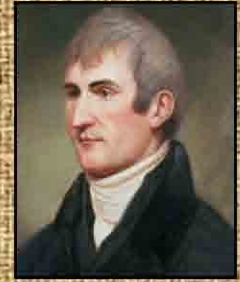




# FIELD NOTES



William Clark Meriwether Lewis

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

January 2021

Wisconsin's Chapter - Interested & Involved

Number 77

During this time in history:  
(December 1803 - January 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 the activities and feelings of the Corp of Discovery during the Christmas and New Year's days of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

December 25, 1803, Camp Wood, IL, Clark: "I was wakened by a Christmas discharge of guns and found that some of the party had got drunk (2 fought). The men frolicked and hunted all day. Snow this morning, ice fun all day, several turkey killed. Shields returned with a cheese & 4lb butter..."

January 1, 1804, Camp Wood, IL, Clark: "... Several men come from the country to see us and shoot with the men; they bring sugar, etc. to trade. I purchase sugar priced at 1/6 per pound. I put up a dollar to be shot for, the two best shots to win. Gibson our best but the country people won the dollar..."

December 25, 1804, Ft. Mandan, ND, Gass: "The morning was ushered in by two discharges of a swivel and a round of small arms by the whole Corps. Capt. Clark then presented to each man a glass of brandy and we hoisted the American flag in the garrison and its first waving in Fort Mandan was celebrated with another glass. The men then cleared out one of the rooms and commenced dancing. At 10 o'clock we had another glass of brandy and at 1 a gun was fired as a signal for dinner. At half past 2 another gun was fired as a notice to assemble at the dance which was continued in a jovial manner till 8 at night and without the presence of any females except for three squaws, the wives to our interpreter..."

(Continued-See "Grey Column" page 4)

## Chapter Meeting Zooms into the Future

By: Jim Rosenberger

We are moving into 2021 and it may just be a major year of change. We are all anxious to see COVID-19 go away and at the same time, as indicated in the October 2020 issue of "Field Notes", there could very likely be some major changes within the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

As a follow-up to the September 10, 2020 informational meeting we had with Lou Ritten, President of the Foundation, the Badger State Chapter held an official chapter meeting on October 17, 2020 to discuss the changes being considered for change in 2021. President Ritten attended this meeting also. This was also a Zoom meeting thanks to the assistance of Sarah Cawley, Executive Director of the Foundation. The purpose of this meeting was to inform as many of our chapter members as possible of the potential Foundation changes being considered and give the members in attendance the opportunity to comment on the changes and ask questions. The chapter members in attendance did seem to accept the proposed changes as a positive move. Not all chapter members could attend the meeting so we thought it would be in the best interest of the chapter to publish some of the details. Some items in this article repeat information given in the October issue of "Field Notes" but stay with us as we expand on the information given to us and as we understand it.

President Ritten began by discussing some of the challenges the Foundation is currently facing. A few of the challenges facing both the Foundation and Chapters were; a declining membership (now just under 1,000 members), an average membership age of 73, not attracting new members, a declining number of active chapters and struggling to find members willing to take chapter officer positions.

Zooming into the Future-Continued on page 2

One of the major ideas being considered is, rather than having our chapters scattered across the United States in no organized structure, geographic regions would be developed to provide a more organized body of chapters. Presently, the plan would call for the establishment of 11 geographical regions across the United States and have existing and new chapters assigned to a given region. This would be a more efficient structure for the Foundation and Chapters to operate within. (Refer to the map included with this article)

Once the Regions are in place the members within the region would elect a regional board of directors to oversee the region's operation. The Foundation would then deal primarily with the regions and business would then flow through the region to the chapters and vice versa. The region and chapter(s) would make decisions relative to their operation. As an example, existing chapters may want to merge and become one larger chapter operation. It would be up to the region and chapters as a whole, to decide if they will merge and how they will operate once they would merge. The region would then notify the Foundation of the change and the Foundation would not be involved. The idea is that the regional concept will be more efficient in that most issues will be handled in the local location rather than referring everything back to Foundation headquarters in Montana. At the same time, the Foundation can implement efficient operational procedures at their headquarters.

Another benefit of having regions is the issue of insurance. There are a number of chapters which do not have liability insurance or Directors and Officers insurance. While the Foundation has these coverages, it has been very difficult to convince insurance companies to extend coverage to chapters. It is felt, and being pursued, that it will be easier to obtain coverage for 11 regional entities rather than 20 plus chapters, some of which have their own insurance and others who have no insurance. That would mean that if a chapter had an event which needed liability insurance, they would take it to the region which would have insurance through the Foundation and, hopefully, insurance would apply to the chapter. This is an area that will probably need a lot of work.

The regional system would also benefit Foundation and chapter renewals and membership applications. In addition to Foundation renewals the Foundation could now obtain all chapter membership applications as well as chapter membership renewals and handle them through the Foundation's website. The same could apply to paper mail for new member applications or renewals; it would all be mailed to and processed by the Foundation. The Foundation would then process the new membership and/or renewal and forward the chapter money and information to the appropriate region where it would be distributed accordingly. If a membership sale is made in the region, the region will forward the information and any money due the Foundation to the Foundation. This will help build an efficient data system whereby the Foundation will have a system of all Foundation members and chapter members and the chapter they belong to. The Foundation will then be able to process all renewals for both the Foundation and the chapters, freeing up time and cost for the chapters.

One important part of this is that membership will now consist of both the Foundation membership and chapter membership. There will be this combined membership where a member always belongs to the two entities and will not belong to just the Foundation or just to the Chapter. The member can choose the chapter or region they desire to belong to and they would also become a Foundation member.

Membership dues are another important part of membership. Here is what has been discussed relative to membership dues. (All dues shown, except Lifetime dues and where noted otherwise, are annual dues figures)

1.) Basic Levels: (All levels include \$10 a year for the Home Region/Chapter or \$15 a year for Family)

a.) Educational: \$20 (\$49 3 year) for current Students and Teachers only, includes e-Orderly Report.  
Current dues: Student: \$30. No 3 year

b.) Individual: \$25 (\$70 3 year)  
includes e-Orderly Report.  
Current dues: Basic \$49. 3 year \$133.

c.) Family: \$40 (\$115 3 year) two persons at same address, includes e-Orderly Report.  
Current dues: Family \$65. No 3 year

All the ABOVE memberships can be enhanced by additional purchase(s) of their choice:

- (a) Receive paper “Orderly Report” at \$6 per year.
- (b) Receive electronic “We Proceeded On” at \$20 per year.
- (c) Receive paper “We Proceeded On” at \$40 per year. (this basically covers the cost of producing WPO)

1.) Sustaining Levels: (All levels include \$10 for Home Region/Chapter, memberships and votes for two people at National and Home Region/Chapter, e-Orderly Report for two e-mail addresses and one paper “We Proceeded On,” recognition gift)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a.) Heritage: \$100 - Current dues: \$100  | e.) Lifetime Steward: \$1,000 - Current dues: \$995    |
| b.) Explorer: \$150 - Current dues: \$150  | f.) Lifetime Captain: \$2,500 - Current dues: \$2,500  |
| c.) Jefferson: \$250 - Current dues: \$250 | g.) Lifetime President \$5,000 - Current dues: \$5,000 |
| d.) Discovery: \$500 - Current dues: \$500 |  |

(Lifetime memberships include an annual Home Region membership)

So these are some of the ideas and changes being worked on and we can expect changes of some type to be made during 2021. But once the changes are “up and running” that doesn’t mean we are finished. Once we have an efficient running organization, we will need to begin working on how to grow our membership. What processes will we need to grow membership and improve on how we tell the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and how we support the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



(Continued from "Grey Column" page 1)

January 1, 1805, Ft. Mandan, ND, Whitehouse: "This being the first day of the year, we early this morning fired off our swivels twice and immediately after fired a volley of small arms in honor of the day. Captain Lewis gave each of the party a glass of spirit, which was a short time after, repeated by Captain Clark, about 10 o'clock A.M. One of our interpreters, and one half of the men of our party; went up to the first village on the Mandan Nation, by request of their Chiefs, to dance, they having a desire to see our manner of dancing. The party had not been long arrived at this village when Captain Clark and three more of the men arrived. The men commenced dancing, which the Natives much admired, frequently signifying their approbation by a Whoop they gave. In the evening Captain Clark and some of the men returned and part of the men stayed all night at the village."

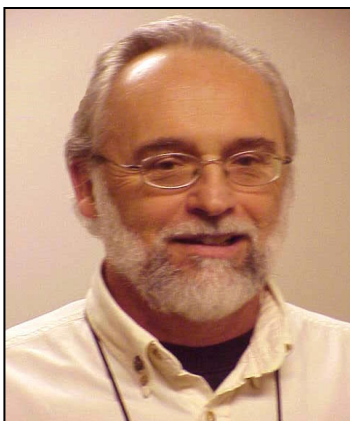
December 25, 1805, Ft. Clatsop, OR, Whitehouse: "...We saluted our officers by each of our party firing off his gun at day break in honor to the day of Christmas. Our officers in return, presented to each of the party that used tobacco, a part of what tobacco they had remaining; and to those who did not make use of it, they gave a handkerchief or some other article, in remembrance of Christmas. We had no ardent spirit of any kind among us; but are mostly in good health, a blessing which we esteem more than all the luxuries this life can afford and the party are all thankful to the Supreme Being for his goodness towards us; hoping he will preserve us in the same and enable us to return to the United States again in safety. We have at present nothing to eat but lean Elk meat and that without salt, but the whole of our party are content with this fare."

January 1, 1806, Ft. Clatsop, OR, Lewis: "This morning I was awoke at an 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 tho' better than that of Christmas, consisted principally in the anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 1807, when if the bosom of our fiends we hope to participate in the mirth and hilarity of the day..."

## President's Message By: Jim Rosenberger

Dear Badger Chapter Members;

Here we are with the January 2021 issue of "Field Notes" and COVID-19 continues to be a strong influence in the way we live. I sincerely hope that all of you, as well as family and friends, are in good health.



As we move into 2021 our Badger State Chapter appears to be in good shape. Membership renewals have been completed and we currently have 64 paid members. That is down a little from 2019's membership of 70 members but we continue to have a strong, supportive membership. Another strong point is that 47 members, or 73%, of our chapter members report being members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. At the same time, we need to continually work on building membership for our chapter and for the Foundation for the good of Lewis and Clark History and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Talking about membership brings up a topic I have mentioned a number of times in past issues of "Field Notes" and that is the upcoming chapter elections in September 2021. We will need members to step forward for at least two officer positions and one board position. Please step forward to fill these positions. Without having our Directors and Officers positions filled we threaten the operation of the Badger State Chapter.

Our chapter hasn't had much activity due to the restrictions of COVID-19 but with the vaccine coming into use that should change. You can support the chapter by attending meetings and even more so by bringing a friend. You could volunteer to give a presentation or, if you know someone that gives presentations even remotely related to Lewis and Clark, ask them to present at our meeting. If you have any thoughts or ideas of how to improve our meetings, please bring them to our board.

The same applies to our newsletter, "Field Notes". If you have a story to tell about a Lewis and Clark experience like a site you visited, a conference you attended or something you read, write a story about it and submit it to us for our newsletter. We could use some help in filling the pages of "Field Notes".

As we work our way out of this pandemic, I think we will have the opportunity to improve and expand our efforts to promote Lewis and Clark history, the Foundation and our chapter but it will take all of us, working together to accomplish this and I hope you will all "jump in" and help us.

*Jim*

## Learning During the Pandemic

Life during a pandemic like the one we are currently experiencing provides opportunities to be at home and finding new ways, with the aid of new technology, to spend ones time learning. Such was the case when I received an email invitation from the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies in Madison, WI. The email invited me to a virtual lecture by Sandra Rebok entitled “Humboldt and Jefferson; A Transatlantic Friendship of the Enlightenment”. This is also the title of a book by Ms. Rebok. Well, I knew who Jefferson was and the email told me Humboldt was an explorer, scientist and geographer who met with President Jefferson at the Whitehouse in 1804. I thought, “Wait a minute! 1804?! The Lewis and Clark Expedition was in 1804!” Did Humboldt and Jefferson discuss the expedition? Might there have been something they said or discussed which we didn’t know about? I had to find out so I quickly signed up for the program and, of course, I also ordered the book.

First, a little bit about our speaker and author. Sandra Rebok was born, raised and studied in Germany earning her Ph. D at the University of Heidelberg. Since 1998 she has been working at the Spanish National Research Council in Madrid, Spain. Ms. Rebok is an anthropologist and sociologist working in the field of history of modern science doing research that crosses national and international boundaries. Much of her work has focused on Alexander von Humboldt as he was probably one of the, if not THE, major European Scientist and explorer in the 1800’s.

Now, briefly, a little bit about Alexander von Humboldt. He was born in Germany on September 14, 1769 some 26 years after Thomas Jefferson was born. He grew up and was educated in Germany and was well schooled in geology, botany and minerology. He traveled throughout Europe and explored other countries and became well known in Europe as a result of which he was able to gain the support of King Carlos IV of Spain to lead a scientific expedition to the Spanish settlements and lands in South America. In June 1799, Humboldt departed Spain in their ship “Pizarro” and arrived in Venezuela on July 16, 1799. He would lead a five year expedition in South America, Mexico and Cuba identifying plants and animals, exploring and mapping rivers and

mountains and writing about the lives of the natives and the colonists. Except for the length of time of the expedition; some five years, all of this seems to be very much like the activities of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Humboldt had planned to make Cuba his last exploration and then return to Europe but while in Cuba he was inspired to visit the United States and President Thomas Jefferson.

With that brief background to Alexander von Humboldt, let’s look at his visit to the United States and with President Jefferson in terms of the Lewis and Clark Expedition history. To begin with, the lecture and the book emphasize the varied discussions and letter exchanges between Humboldt and Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark Expedition is not a main subject but there are mentions of the Expedition. Also, Humboldt’s visit to the United States was short; lasting only from around the end of May to June 30, 1804.

Humboldt arrived in Philadelphia on May 24, 1804 and as we know, the Corps of Discovery departed from Camp DuBois on May 14, 1804 so Humboldt never had the opportunity to meet with Lewis or Clark. But being an explorer and scientist he would have loved to meet with them and since he had just completed a five year expedition himself one has to think he could have given some insight and suggestions relative to the difficulties etc. of the Lewis and Clark’s trip. Who knows, he might have even accompanied Lewis and Clark on the expedition.

While in Philadelphia Humboldt met with a number of the important men of the city. You may recognize the names of a few them; Andrew Ellicott, surveyor; Robert Patterson, mathematician; Benjamin Smith Barton, naturalist; Casper Wistar, physician and naturalist; Benjamin Rush, physician; and Charles Wilson Peale, artist, naturalist and collector. These were the same men who trained Meriwether Lewis in medicine, nature, mathematics, surveying, astronomy, botany etc. Surely these men must have brought up the Lewis and Clark Expedition to Humboldt and discussed it in some detail. Humboldt would have been extremely interested in what these men would have told him and this might have been the very first time he heard of the expedition.

In her book author Sandra Rebok comments, “... Apparently, however, Humboldt was unaware of the Lewis and Clark expedition until

Continued on page 6

his meeting with Jefferson in 1804..." and this could be the case but I can't believe the gentlemen in Philadelphia would not have brought it up. Rebok continues that it would not be surprising that Humboldt was unaware of the expedition since, "...since the expedition was originally organized as a U.S. military operation to scout French defenses in Louisiana prior to the purchase of the new territory..." There is no further explanation of this statement and we know the men of the expedition were assembled as Lewis and Clark traveled the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Camp DuBois, IL. This difference might need further investigation.

The author goes on to say that neither Humboldt nor Jefferson kept an account of their meetings but they did become good friends and once Humboldt returned to Europe they corresponded with each other for years. Jefferson apparently kept Humboldt advised as to the return of the expedition and in a letter to Humboldt dated December 6, 1813, during the War of 1812, Jefferson comments to Humboldt:

"...You will find it inconceivable that Lewis's journey to the Pacific should not yet have appeared; nor is it in my power to tell you the reason. The measures taken by his surviving companion Clark, for the publication, have not answered our wishes in point of dispatch. I think however, from what I have heard, that the mere journal will be out within a few weeks in a 2. Vol.s8.vo these I will take care to send you with the tobacco seed you desired, if it be possible for them to escape the thousand ships of our enemies spread over the ocean. The botanical & zoological discoveries of Lewis will probably experience greater delay, and become known to the world thro' other channels before the volume will be ready. The Atlas, I believe, waits on the leisure of the engraver..."

I think we can feel the frustration Jefferson feels relative to Lewis's journals not having been published.

There is not a lot of Lewis and Clark information in the book but what is there is very interesting and it tells a wonderful story of Alexander von Humboldt and his meeting Thomas Jefferson. My curiosity was met; Lewis and Clark were mentioned with a few interesting items. The lecture and book were very interesting.

Continued from page 5

## Programs to Watch

During the COVID-19 pandemic there have been some chapters which have made a great effort to present programs to not only their chapter members but also to Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members as well as the general public. One chapter, under the direction of Dan Sturdevant, which has done an excellent job of producing and presenting programs, is the Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter. The Chapter makes the programs available by Zoom and has produced and coordinated them on various topics. A few examples are the history of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and a discussion of the book "Or Perish in the Attempt" by Dr. David Peck, and most recently, a reading and discussion of the Lewis and Clark Journal entries of the Corps of Discovery on their Christmas days on the trail.

Of course Fort Leonard Wood did not exist at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition but the Zoom program took us on a tour of the museum located at today's fort and the museum has a very interesting room dedicated to the Expedition. This was a very interesting tour of the entire museum as well as the presentation given on the history of the area around the fort.

Doctor David Peck gave a very interesting discussion of his book, which covers the medical aspects of the Expedition. At the end of his presentation an attendee asked how those of us who already had his book might obtain his autograph. Dr. Peck gave us his address and invited us to send him a label and he would sign it and send it back. I can verify that this system worked.

Foundation members Barb Kubik and Jerry Garrett reviewed where the Corps of Discovery was located at Christmas in 1803, 1804 and 1805, then read the Christmas journal entries written by various members of the Expedition and discussed their situation at each camp location. It was a great presentation, and can now be seen on You Tube, just search for "Lewis and Clark Christmases"

### Badger State Chapter Treasurer's Report:

The Badger State Chapter had \$6091.96 in the Treasury as of Dec. 31, 2020, and 64 paid up members.

Chapter members come from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, & Washington.



# Seaman Says-January 2021



*We continue with the post-expedition journals of Seaman, recently discovered in the minds and creative thoughts of the publishers of "Field Notes". Seaman writes that he believes in doing everything that he can to protect the people around him.*

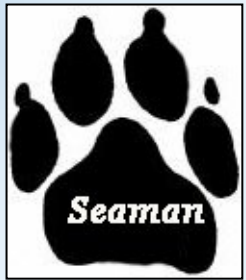
February 24, 1809: The young Meriwether Lewis Clark, just recently born, is doing very well and it is great fun watching him grow. However, I do not see him as much as I would like. At the request of Ms. Julia and agreement of General Clark, Governor Lewis and I are housed with a Mr. Pierre Chouteau, a nice enough man, with acceptable quarters. To our benefit, the Governor and I continue to dine with the Clarks, although I am now confined to the back porch. I am happy that it is only for one meal and I do get to see young Meriwether who, I must note, is now called either Lewis or M. L.

As usual, the Governor has been busy attending to the operation of this thing referred to as the "government", which I doubt I will ever fully understand. His most recent project, which takes up most of his time, is completing the work to return the Mandan Chief, Big White, to his home. I have known Big White since first arriving at the Mandan's home on the upper Missouri River in 1804, if I compute the human measure of time correctly. I spent a fair amount of time with him and will miss him but I am sure he will be happy to return to his home.

Again, I must say the most difficult part of Governor Lewis's job is dealing with his assistant Bates. In my opinion, he does not deserve the title of Mister. Bates continues to make things difficult for the Governor. He disagrees with nearly everything the Governor says or does. They write each other nasty notes and letters and I know Bates writes nasty things about the Governor to other people. I have heard him read them out loud before sending them out. I have been in the Governor's office when their discussions get so intense they move towards each other as if to fight. At this point I typically get between the two men and sometimes need to leap up on Bates, place my feet on his shoulders and show him my teeth along with a little growl. This always convinces him to calm down and causes the Governor to smile.

I continue to feel that the Governor does not belong in his current position. I think he should resign and find work he would really enjoy. From my position I continue to encourage the Governor to work on our expedition journals by placing some of the papers on his desk. The journals are in his office and I am able to put some pages in my mouth and place them on his desk. Time is passing and Mr. Jefferson would like to see the journals made available to all those who would like to read them. Governor Lewis was an excellent leader of our expedition and I am positive he would be an excellent leader with higher rank, even up to General. I am thinking more and more that perhaps he could return to the West and explore more territory. That would fit him and of course, I would be there with him, along with my partner.

*Love.*



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