



Meriwether Lewis

Field Notes



William Clark

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

January 2012

Wisconsin's Chapter ~ Interested & Involved

Number 41

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. Hugh McNeal while on the Expedition. *See McNeal bio on page 4.

January 11, 1804, Camp Wood, IL, Clark: "... One man, McNeal, (lost) out last night; he separated from the hunting party about 7 miles from this place, he returned this evening..."

August 12, 1805, Lemhi Pass, Montana, Lewis: "...I halted a few minutes and rested myself. Two miles below, McNeal had exultingly stood with a foot on each side of this little rivulet and thanked his god that he had lived to bestride the mighty and heretofore deemed endless Missouri..."

August 15, 1805, Lemhi Pass, Montana, Lewis: "...I found, on inquiry of McNeal, that we had only about two pounds of flour remaining. This I directed him to divide into two equal parts and to cook the one half this morning in a kind of pudding with the berries as he had done yesterday and reserve the balance for the evening..."

January 8, 1806, the whale site, Oregon coast, Clark: "...I heard a howling on the opposite side of the river...I suspected perhaps some of my party was over after the squaws; by examining I found McNeal was not in camp...I sent over Sgt. Pryor to know the cause of the alarm which he was informed that a plot was laid to kill McNeal for his Blanket and clothes...A squaw had attempted to stop McNeal (from coming over) and finding she could not, she then alarmed the men..."

April 24, 1806, above the mouth of the John Day River, Oregon, Lewis: "We were up early this morning and dispatched the men in search of our horses, they were all found in a little time except McNeal's. We hired an Indian to search for this horse; it was one in the evening before he returned with him.

On the Trail of Lewis & Clark in Wisconsin

By: Jim Rosenberger

Since the bicentennial celebration we all have worried about a loss of interest in Lewis & Clark history, then something happens which shows the magic of the story of the Corps of Discovery is alive and well.

I received an email from Don Peterson at the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation headquarters in Great Falls, MT telling me of a Mr. Paul Timm who had inquired about the signs which appear all along the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. Mr. Timm lives in Friendship, Wisconsin and Don thought I might be interested in contacting him. I did email Mr. Timm and found something truly impressive was taking place in Wisconsin relative to Lewis and Clark.

Paul Timm is a physical education teacher in Grand Marsh, Wisconsin. He and fellow teacher, Ginny Fritz received a grant from Fund-ForTeachers.org because Grand Marsh Elementary was a Wisconsin School of Promise/Recognition for two consecutive years. This past summer, with the help of this grant, Paul and Ginny, along with their spouses, traveled the entire Lewis & Clark Trail by motorcycle. They traveled nearly 7,000 miles in 22 days, visiting many of the sites, interpretive centers and museums along their route. Like the Captains, Paul and Ginny had to improvise along the way, especially when they confronted Mother Nature in the form of the flooded Missouri River.



Cont'd on Page 2

Upon their return Paul and Ginny started on a project to bring cross-curricular activities to their students. “We wanted to incorporate physical education with history and science”. To accomplish this they blazed a replica of the Lewis and Clark Trail through one of their school forests located just north of Grand Marsh Elementary School. The westbound trail is .75 miles, the Clark return trail is also about .75 miles and the Lewis route is about .8 miles. Signs will be placed along the trail to indicate where you are and what historical significance the location has. Community schools, businesses, teachers and students are working together to have the trail completed by spring.

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The trail will be used for history, science and physical education classes. It will be mostly used for hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing. The trail will be open to the community and no fees will be charged. Since it is school property, it is considered public land and the hope is that the community will use it as much as the school. Paul and Ginny would like to see Grand Marsh use the trail for a yearly celebration similar to Westfield’s Rendezvous Days.

It is exciting, not only to see this enthusiasm and interest in Lewis and Clark history here in Wisconsin, but also to see the effort being put forth to utilize the story of the Corps of Discovery for the education of our students. Our Chapter has offered any assistance we can give to help accomplish this and Chapter members will be updated as progress is made.

You can read about their motorcycle trip on their blog at: <http://corpsofdiscovery2.blogspot.com/>

Upcoming Quarterly Chapter Meetings

The New Year is upon us and we are forging ahead with plans for our quarterly meetings. Here is what has been developed so far. Mark these dates on your calendar and be sure to attend. Meeting announcements will be sent out with details.

Saturday, February 11, 2012: the McLane Meeting Room of the Fond du Lac Public Library, 32 Sheboygan St., Fond du Lac, WI 54935.

Our business meeting will be interesting as we discuss various items to include potential projects for our Chapter with the Wisconsin Historical Society, a replica of the Lewis and Clark Trail in Wisconsin and our upcoming involvement with Marquette University’s

presentation of the Newberry Library exhibit, “Lewis and Clark and the Indian Country”.

In 2011 the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, for the first time, gave out Chapter grants for work being done by chapters. They have indicated this will become an annual commitment to qualifying Chapters. This has the potential for our Chapter to accomplish Lewis and Clark oriented projects in Wisconsin.



Our guest speakers will be chapter members, Tom and Mary Strauss. They will tell of their chance meeting in 2006 with re-enactor and author-to-be, Roger Wendlick, a meeting which really increased their interest in the Corps. His 2009 book, “Shotgun on My Chest, Memoirs of a Lewis and Clark Book Collector” tells the incredible tale of one common man’s pursuit to amass the greatest collection of Lewis and Clark books ever assembled. Driven to near financial ruin time after time, Roger accomplished his goal and later sold his massive collection to the Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Tom and Mary were given a private showing of the collection and will share their experiences.

Saturday, April 14, 2012: (TENTATIVE- planning in progress) De Forest Public Library, De Forest, WI

Lorna Hainesworth will return as guest speaker to tell us about Meriwether Lewis’s return trip to Washington D.C. and his stop at the Cumberland Gap to conduct a survey of the line dividing Kentucky and Tennessee. Why was the survey conducted? How was the survey performed? What were the results?

Many of you will recall Lorna’s presentation to our Chapter about the discovery she made of a heretofore unknown letter written by Meriwether Lewis. Her current presentation is equally as well researched and her presentation will be equally as informative and entertaining.

Plan to join fellow Chapter members at both of these meetings.

Badger State Chapter President's Message

January 2012

By: **Jim Rosenberger**

After an up and down year like 2011, I can only say, "welcome 2012" and I hope things improve. I don't need to review the economic and political challenges we probably all faced in 2011 and, to be honest, I don't think I would really want to attempt it.



Jim Rosenberger

As I explained in my July 2011 message the Foundation was facing some challenges due to the resignation of "in-line" president positions and not having staff in the Great Falls, MT office. The good news is that all board positions are now filled. Jay Buckley has taken the position of Foundation President and new board members are Bob Gatten (President-Elect), Margaret Gorski (Vice President), Jerry Garrett (Treasurer), Clay Smith (board member) and Philippa Newfield (board member). Don Peterson has been doing a great job working in the Great Falls office until our director is hired and I am happy to say that process is well under way.

We have a new editor for "We Proceeded On" but it will take some time to get back on our normal schedule of publishing issues. As you know, the last few issues have been quite late in getting to the membership and this may continue through this coming summer. WPO has had difficulties due to the Foundation board of directors not giving adequate priority to replacing our last full-time editor, Wendy Raney, and instead, retaining part time editors. We now have Caroline Patterson as a full time editor and she is working to get WPO back on schedule. As I mentioned, this may take a little time so I hope you will be patient and supportive while we work to accomplish this.

I am happy to report that things are going well for our Badger State Chapter. During 2011 we held our quarterly meetings and had very interesting programs. We had another great time at our annual picnic thanks to Mark Koeppel and his cooperative bison herd. We have again reached a level of 75 members and I want to thank all of you who have renewed your membership and those of you who have recently joined us. Your membership will make it possible for us to continue to tell the story of Lewis and Clark locally and

support the Foundation in telling our story nationally.

We are working with Marquette University Libraries in presenting the Newberry Library/American Library Assoc. exhibit "Lewis & Clark and the Indian Country" this spring and hope to work on projects with the Wisconsin State Historical Society. We have recently learned of a "replica" Lewis & Clark Trail being built in north central Wisconsin and are hopeful we can support this effort.

So I think things are looking good for our Chapter in 2012. I hope that carries over to the Foundation, our economy and our Nation. Your Chapter board of directors would like to extend wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous New Year.



**Photos from
Cathy & Don Wagner's
presentation to
Badger Chapter
members,
Menomonee Falls,
Wisconsin, on
October 15, 2011,
as Sacagawea
& Charbonneau**



Bison Burgers

Dietary fat does not add flavor to meat, but it adds a quality of palatability. Butchers generally feel that 20% fat is about right for sausage-making. The most expensive ground beef, often sold as ground sirloin, has a 5 % fat content, and cheaper cuts may have 20% or even 25% fat. Ground bison is very low in fat. Measurements indicate that bison meat contains only 2 or 3 % fat.



Jack Schroeder

This makes bison a healthy and nutritious replacement for ground beef. However, this low fat content may cause the bison meat to become dry unless cooking methods are adapted to preserve the natural moistness of the meat.

If you crumble some ground bison into a pan

and start to heat it, you will soon see a lot of water released into the pan. The heat causes the muscle fiber to contract, and the water is forced out.

To minimize the loss of moisture, bison cooks often use lower cooking temperatures and shorter cooking times to prepare the dish. This is very effective, but many people don't want their burgers cooked only to a rare or medium rare condition.

At our Chapter picnic last summer, the bison burgers were prepared with the addition of bread crumbs into the meat mix. Meatloaf and meatballs are made using this technique, also for the purpose of retaining moistness and tenderness.

Corn bread was used in our burgers for their flavor and

as a gesture to our Lewis & Clark theme. Any fresh dry crumbs would work equally as well in your kitchen.

Badger Chapter Bison Burgers

Crumble two pounds of ground bison into a large mixing bowl. Add one cup bread crumbs and seasonings. These can vary according to your taste, but for the picnic the seasonings included one tablespoon each paprika, chili powder, salt, ground black pepper, and one raw egg.

Mix all the ingredients thoroughly with your fingers. Try to keep the mixture loose, and don't squeeze with your fists. Form the meat mix into six balls, and gently

flatten the balls into patties about an inch thick.

These patties can then be grilled as ours were, or they can be baked or fried. They will cook faster than ordinary hamburger, so when you think they are not yet ready, they probably are. Take care not to cook past your desired degree of doneness.



Bison meat naturally has a depth of flavor that satisfies our palate without the fat. Adjust your cooking techniques, and bison will become a welcome addition to your menus.

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 HUGH McNEAL (NEEL; NIEL; O'NALL)
*(See column on page 1)

He was born and raised in Pennsylvania, but probably lived in Kentucky at time of enlistment. He was an excellent hunter and a faithful man to the expedition. A man of this name was in the 1st Infantry in August 1803, when that unit went up the Mississippi to establish Fort Madison. Hugh McNeal apparently remained in the army for he is on the muster rolls as of September 1811. Clark lists him as dead by 1825-1828

Remembering Norma Kolthoff



Sadly, we must report to Chapter members that on November 11, 2011 Chapter member Norma Kolthoff passed away at her home in Madison, WI. Norma was an active member of and contributor to the Badger State Chapter.

Norma was an extremely accomplished lady obtaining her bachelor's degree in zoology, her master's degree in nursing, a second master's degree in zoology and her Ph.D. in physiology. She traveled the world, from South America to Alaska and beyond. Her activities included hiking the Inca trail to Machu Picchu in the

Peruvian Andes, rafting through the Grand Canyon and sailing on a "Tall Ship" through the islands of the South Pacific.

Norma gained national recognition as a leader, consultant, and presenter in advocating the need for systematic study of critical problems and issues in nursing. In 1971 Dr. Kolthoff joined the faculty of the School of Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and contributed significantly to the development of the school's curricular and research programs. Among her many accomplishments was her designing of the first physiology research laboratory for the school of nursing and being instrumental in introducing research methodology at the undergraduate level.

In her retirement, Norma, became an avid student of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and traveled many segments of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. She joined the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and was a charter member of our Badger State Chapter of the Foundation. Many of us have fond memories of sitting and discussing the Corps of Discovery with Norma and her sister-in-law, Mildred Kolthoff of Naperville, IL, at Foundation annual meetings and Chapter quarterly meetings. Norma donated her many Lewis and Clark books to our Chapter and they were subsequently donated to the newly built Dr. V. Strode Hinds Library in Onawa, IA.

We are thankful for having been allowed to share time with Norma Kolthoff.

Seaman Says – January 2012

January 9, 1805: We have settled into our Fort Mandan for the winter. The men have established somewhat of a routine in maintaining the Fort, hunting and primarily working at keeping warm in what has become quite frigid weather. Our Captains fill much of their time with writing letters, reports, and in their journals. I find time to spend with the children of the villages.

The children are well cared for and I must say are a hearty stock. They all contribute to the well being of the People; the girls working with their mothers to provide food and lodging and the boys to help the men hunt and protect the villages. Like me, the children become quickly acclimated to the cold weather and actually seem to enjoy it. As the men of our party attempt to stay warm they are often in awe of the outdoor activity of these children and I have become an important part of their play.

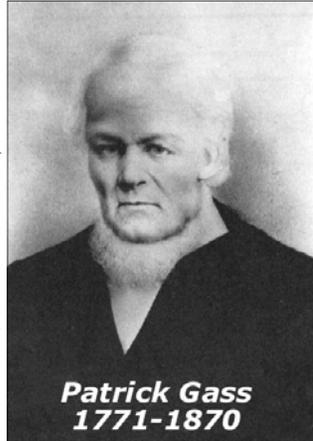
Some of the children take turns in riding me and I think this will be helpful when they must learn to ride horses. We play a sort of tag tackle where the children try to catch me and push me over or I chase them and gently nudge them into the snow. Sgt. Pryor has constructed a small version of the bull boat and attached a harness for me to pull children through the snow. They seem to especially enjoy dashing through the snow. We make the best of our winter days as we await Spring.



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 after the first of the new year of 1806. This winter is not as cold as last, but the cold was easier to bear than the conditions here.



Wednesday 1st Jan. 1806. The year commenced with a wet day; but the weather still continues warm; and the ticks, flies and other insects are in abundance, which appears to us very extraordinary at this season of the year, in a latitude so far north. Two hunters went out this morning. We gave our Fortification the name of Fort Clatsop. In the evening our two hunters, that went out this morning, returned and had killed two large elk about three miles from the Fort.

Thursday 2nd. This also was a cloudy wet day. Fourteen men went out in the morning and brought the meat of the elk into the Fort.

Friday 3rd. The weather is still cloudy and wet. I set out this morning with one of the men to go to the salt works, to see what progress those engaged in that business had made; and why some of them had not returned, as they had been expected for some time. We proceeded along a dividing ridge, expecting to pass the heads of some creeks, which intervened. We travelled all day and could see no game; and the rain still continued. In the evening we arrived at a place where two of the men had killed an elk some time ago. Here we struck up a fire, supped upon the marrow bones and remained all night.

Saturday 4th. The morning was wet; but we proceeded on, and passed the head of a creek which we supposed was the last in our rout to the salt works. Immediately after passing the creek, the man with me killed an elk; when we halted and took breakfast of it, and then went on. We got into low ground, passed through a marsh about 1/2 a mile in breadth, where the water was knee deep; then got into a beautiful prairie

about five miles wide, and which runs along the sea shore about 30 miles from Point Adams on the south side of Hayley's Bay, in nearly a southwest course and ends at a high point of a mountain, called Clarke's view on the sea shore. Through this plain or prairie runs another creek, or small river which we could not pass without some craft: so we encamped on a creek and supped on the elk's tongue, which we had brought with us.

Sunday 5th. This was a very wet day. We killed a squirrel and eat it; made a raft to cross the creek; but when it was tried we found it would carry only one person at a time; the man with me was therefore sent over first, who thought he could shove the raft across again, but when he attempted, it only went halfway: so that there was one of us on each side and the raft in the middle. I, however notwithstanding the cold, stript and swam to the raft, brought it over and then crossed on it in safety; when we pursued our journey, and in a short time came to some Indian camps on the sea shore. The rain and wind continued so violent that we agreed to stay at these camps all night.

Tuesday 7th. Another fine day. About noon Captain Clarke with 14 men came to the salt-makers camp on their way to the place where the large fish had been driven on shore, some distance beyond this camp. The Indians about our fort had procured a considerable quantity of the meat, which we found very good. The 8th was a fine day and I remained at camp. The 9th was also fair and pleasant; and about noon Captain Clarke and his party returned here; the distance being about 17 miles. They found the skeleton of the whale which measured 105 feet in length and the head 12. The natives had taken all the meat off its bones, by scalding and the other means, for the purpose of trade. The Indians, who live up there are of another nation, and call themselves the Callemex nation. They are a ferocious nation: one of them was going to kill one of our men, for his blanket; but was prevented by a squaw of the Chinook nation, who lives among them, and who raised an alarm. There is a small river comes into the sea at that place. Captain Clarke and his party remained at the camp all night, during which some rain fell.

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.)

For Your Thought

By: Phil Scriver

Sometimes when we read an account of some bit of history we may not really digest what we read or maybe not quite understand what the writer is saying, so we just pass on to the next item of interest. Here is a passage I have been guilty of basically ignoring.

On July 15 as the Expedition was making ready to depart the Great Falls area Lewis lamented: "...we *find it extremely difficult to keep the baggage of our men within reasonable bounds; they will be adding bulky articles of but little use or value to them.*"

This comment was just a few days after the iron boat failed and two cottonwood dugouts had been made in its place. Lewis had recorded on July 10 that they had dug a cache at the upper portage camp and deposited the iron framed boat, some papers and a few other articles of but little importance.

On the 15th he also acknowledged that a good part of the extremely large load for the dugouts was the supply of dried meat they had accumulated. Bear in mind they had not met anyone to trade with since leaving Mandan.

The question posed for your thought is: "What were the men collecting that Lewis found so useless?" The only answer I can come up with is that Lewis was showing some 20-20 hindsight and thinking about activities during the past winter with the Mandans. The men mingled freely with the Mandans so there could well have been a certain amount of "souvenir collecting" done.

Military men have engaged in that activity, probably as long as there have been armies. Certainly during WW II more than one Japanese flag or sword found its way to the United States in some American soldier's duffel bag.

What kind of "articles" do you think the men were adding?

(Printed by permission from the January 2012 Portage Chronicle)

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.



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.



Explore the
Lewis & Clark
Trail

Treasurer's Report

The Badger State Chapter had \$3964.30 in the Chapter Treasury as of January 1, 2012. We now have 75 members.



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