

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

3rd Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volume 7 Issue 4

Manager's Corner:

by Brad Winn

As I sit here today writing this article less than a week before Thanksgiving, I reflect on the past year and the year ahead and realize that we have much to be thankful for. We and I do mean WE survived a tumultuous year budget wise filled with uncertainty. The take away is that we made it, we remained open all year round and in fact were allowed to return to a 7 day a week operation for the summer. This made all the difference in attendance and in the gift store. We were allowed to bring back our seasonal staff again this year which is such a boon to have Bob, James and Paul back.

You all, as you always do, stepped up to meet the call for our 7 days a week, to help with my last minute programs, school groups and outreach. The story of our site and our Agency is the unwavering dedication and passion of the volunteers and staff to meet the level of expectation we have set for ourselves to put the greater good for the visitor first! We have been told to expect the same level of operational support and days open in the coming year which is a blessing to realize so far in advance. As we look toward an uncertain 2017, I know and what I'm certain of is that where ever it takes us, you all will be there with me!

A final bit of thankful news is the progress that has been made in the last few months locating and securing funds to get Camp River Dubois repaired and rebuilt. We have applied for grants from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, received a number of donations and have hopefully seen some movement on some long lost funds from our friends at the US Army Corps of Engineers. These funds hopefully coupled with the member initiative pledged toward the Camp repairs would more than get us 2/3rds of the way there toward our goal. I am once again feeling optimistic toward what 2017 will bring on us this front. Happy Holidays everyone to you and your families and a Happy and Safe New Year!

Store of Discovery News

by Karen McDanel

It has been a good year for the Store of Discovery. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their help throughout the year. We would especially like to thank Vicki Clifton, our Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

We are frequently adding new items to the store. This fall we have added glass cutting boards, coasters and porch thermometers as well as a few new children's and adult books. We also have homemade Christmas stockings, gift bags, ornaments and gift tags. If you have an idea for what you would like to see in the store, please let us know.

We invite you to visit our gift shop and do some of your Christmas shopping. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Upcoming Special Events:

*** Celebrate the Tradition of St Nicholas**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016, 12p.m. – 3p.m.

Come celebrate the Festival of St. Nicholas and his arrival in Cahokia! St. Nicholas will be visiting the Jarrot Mansion sharing holiday treats and sweets with visiting children. The tradition of St. Nicholas dates back to the 4th century telling the story of this generous and benevolent Christian Saint who became the inspiration for Santa Claus. The mansion will be decorated for the holiday season in traditional frontier French trimmings where St. Nicholas will be greeting guests and wishing them a Happy Holidays. Families are encouraged to come visit with St. Nicholas and take photos with him. Tours of the Jarrot Mansion will also be held in conjunction with this event.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to those families in need with the community of Cahokia.

The Jarrot Mansion State Historic Site is located at 124 East First St in Cahokia. For more information you can call Cahokia Courthouse State Historic Site at 618-332-1782.

***Arrival at Camp River Dubois:**

Dec. 10 & 11, 2016. 10am-4pm

The special event celebrates the 213th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's arrival at Camp River Dubois. Since Camp River Dubois has been shut down for safety reasons there will be no re-enactors outside for this event. Exhibitors will be inside displaying rocks and minerals, antique tools, and actual artifacts from the Lewis & Clark period. The War of 1812 artillery unit will display and interpret their cannon. Also, in case of Emergency, Dr. Imes will be ready. Now, Dr. Imes' knowledge only covers 19th century medicine, but I hear he is very fast at removing small frost bitten fingers and toes.

***General Membership Meeting:**

Dec. 11, 2016. 12:30p.m. Meal Time

The General Membership meeting will be Sunday, Dec 11th, 2016, at 1p.m. The meal to be catered by Jerry's Cafeteria & Catering and will be served at 12:30p.m., in the Multi-purpose Room at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site. The Menu: Fried Chicken, Corn, Twice-Baked Potato's, and rolls (maybe left over ham and green beans). Cost of the meal is \$7, to reserve a meal please contact RSVP Store of Discovery at 618-251-6244, not later than Dec 7, 2016. Someone will collect the \$7 at the door of the dinner. The meeting and election of officers will be held at 1:00p.m. (Matthew Cook, Paul Imes, Everett Loy, William Moore, Carole Rosenthal are up for reelection as at large Board Members for a two year term.) There will also be a vote on the revision of the bylaws and on the 2017 L&C Society of America's budget. There will be a program to follow and the presenter will be Mr. Ken Porter and the topic maybe Medicine of the L&C Expedition.

Volunteer News: by Cindy Upchurch

Congratulations and a round of applause for "Volunteer of the Year" Mary Papp, desk volunteer.

Joyce and Jerry Bort would like to thank everyone who brought items to the Volunteer Dinner. 112 canned items were collected, plus about \$65. The collection has been given to local food pantries.

A tip of the hat to Sherril O'Brien, who knitted by hand, the hats and gloves.

Check your calendar: the site will be closed Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31, and Jan 1, 2017.

Field Trip Information: March 17, 2017 the site has made a reservation at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center for a tour of the working river laboratory for 10:00am. This tour is limited to 12 people. In February, I'll put a sign-up sheet on the back counter.

This is the earth-friendly building not far from the Melvin Price Lock & Dam. It is a river neighbor that many of us have not had a chance to visit. Admission is free. FYI March 17 is also St. Patrick's Day.

Volunteers, if the weather is bad and you feel you cannot drive, "Don't!" Be safe and give us a call to let us know you're staying home.

The Jarrot Mansion: British Folklore Discovered in the Jarrot Mansion

By Michael A. Stout

It seems the English had another custom to fight evil and witches. Witch bottles could be buried anywhere or placed under foundations, porches, floors, hearths, walls, chimneys, etc... The bottles could be made of ceramic or glass. The wine bottle found behind the baseboard in the first floor southeast room of the Jarrot Mansion may have been placed there for protection from evil and/or to ward off hexes. It was postulated that if people believed they had become hexed they could fight back by creating a "witch bottle" throwing the curse back onto the witch that cast it. This works even if the recipient of the hex did not know who cast the spell. All the recipient had to do was create a witch bottle and simply keep a close eye on friends and neighbors to see who falls ill or even should die, then that person must be the witch. A witch (wine) bottle was discovered in the foundation of a structure located in Reigate, 20 miles south of London. Hoggard states,

"The find was identified as a witch bottle, used in England between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries to protect against evil spirits who cast hexes. Victims of spells would urinate in bottles, add pins and perhaps some hair, and then bury them under their homes, casting a vengeful curse on

witches who had injured them in the first place. The urine is a way of making the bottle contain the person again.... Sticking pins into a heart soaked with your urine would seem to be a way of fooling the witch into thinking that your heart is in the bottle, so when the witch detects you they plunge into the bottle to grab your heart and get stuck inside it and impaled on the prickly pins.”

As stated earlier the Jarrot Mansion wine bottle was discovered behind a baseboard in the southeast bedroom, first floor, and to the left of the fireplace. It was broken and pieces were missing. No hair, pins, or cork were discovered with the wine bottle pieces, and the bottle was not tested for urine residue. At the time of this discovery Michael Dunn was not familiar with British folklore and hair and pins could have easily been disregarded as trash. There was no evidence to claim that this was a witch bottle, but it could have been because of the number of other ritual deposits discovered within the Jarrot Mansion. It is not known who could have placed the wine bottle behind the baseboard. It could have been placed at the time of construction of the mansion, and it may have been placed any time after the mansion was built. Finding the 1833 dated newspaper attached to plaster in the same location as the wine bottle fragments could suggest that the wine bottle was placed behind the baseboards sometime after 1833. Witch bottles deposited in structures seems strong in England, but there are other European countries involved with this practice. The Jarrots could have placed the bottle in the wall, but one of Jarrot’s slaves could have easily adopted this practice from their owners.

Conclusion

In 1999 the author was employed as the Historic Site Interpreter for the Colonial Cahokia State Historic Sites and intrigued by the history and stories surrounding the horse skulls found within the Jarrot Mansion. The information exhibited with the first horse skull at the Cahokia Courthouse Visitor Center stated that the “builders” were responsible for the placement of this artifact and the second half of that story was of revenge. It was speculated that two decomposing horse heads were placed in the mansion to harass Jarrot and his family with the stench of rotting flesh. It is believed by this author that the builders did place the skulls into the mansion, but not for revenge. Russell E. Hicok did take legal action against Jarrot on several occasions, but Hicok won these lawsuits against Jarrot and as stated

earlier Hicok did become somewhat of a local hero. Hicok is the most likely suspect to place the skulls into the mansion, but the evidence shows they had their flesh completely removed before placement. There is no evidence of any flesh left on any of the skulls and skulls one and two do not have any gnaw marks on them to indicate the flesh was eaten away by rodents. When the author photographed skulls three and four he found no fly larva remains or rodent droppings around these skulls to indicate that the flesh was eaten away by these creatures. Russell E. Hicok was hired to put down the floor, finish trim work around doors and windows, but he did not complete this task and Jessie Davis was then hired to finish the job. That means the floor would have been the first project Hicok would have started and probably did complete before his fallout with Jarrot, which means he had the opportunity or knew of the placement of three skulls. This author has speculated that these horse skulls were not placed in their locations for the purpose of revenge against Jarrot, but to offer luck to the house and its occupants. The only question left unanswered is what was Hicok’s ethnicity? Did he come from an English family of carpenters and joiners? If so, then this fact would strengthen the case that it was Hicok who placed the skulls into the mansion following family tradition.

The witch bottle and shoe could have been placed in their discovered locations by Hicok or other workers. Also the Jarrot family, other visitors, and/or slaves, could have placed the shoe in the mansion for good luck. The wine bottle is suspect to one’s interpretation because there was no materials associated with witch bottles found within the bottle. Since Michael Dunn did not know about the contents of witch bottles, he was not looking for such materials and subsequently materials of this nature could have easily been dismissed and lost forever. If this was truly a witch bottle then the most likely person to place the bottle in this location is Jarrot or one of the Jarrot family members. Witch bottles were designed to remove hexes cast onto the recipient. Was this the case for the bottle found at the Jarrot Mansion? At this time there is no other hypothesis other than the witch bottle to explain why a wine bottle was concealed behind a baseboard. Also since witch bottles are designed to remove hexes, then Hicok and any other visitors would have placed the witch bottle in their own homes to protect themselves at that location and not the Jarrot Mansion. That same line of thought can be applied to the shoe found in the basement. Why would someone place a shoe in this location if they wanted the luck from this source? They

would have placed the shoe within their own homes to bring luck onto themselves and their families. Jarrot's house slaves could have placed the shoe and witch bottle at their discovered location for the purpose of luck, protection, and /or removing a hex. Jarrot is known to have beaten his slaves as stated earlier, and maybe they were trying to protect themselves from these beatings.

There is no certainty in any of these explanations as to how these ritual deposits got into the Jarrot Mansion, but it is important that the reader is now informed about several British customs warding off witches and hexes, and bringing luck into the home with the placement of ritual objects. It is the hope of this author to inform others about such ritual deposits so artifacts of this nature are not disregarded as just trash and tossed out as restoration debris. Who knows how many ritual deposits have been discovered and lost in the United States because there is such a lack of knowledge of these customs.

Holiday Eggnog

By Pam Imes

I thought it might be interesting to learn more about Eggnog and Gingerbread Cookies.

We associate eggnog with the holiday season, but it wasn't always so. In colonial times, hardworking farm labors and seafarers sucked it down during the day, and roadside inns and taverns served it as a fortifying drink for travelers. The basic makeup of eggnog has changed very little since then. Isaac Weld wrote in his 1799 book *Travels through the States of North America*: "The American travelers, before they pursued their journey, took a hearty draught each, according to the custom of eggnog, it was a mixture composed of new milk, eggs, rum, and sugar, beat up together."

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups heavy cream, 3 cups whole milk, ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg, 6 large egg yolks, ¼ teaspoon salt, 6 tablespoons sugar, ½ cup dark rum

1. Whisk ¾ cup cream, egg yolks, and sugar in medium bowl until thoroughly combined and

pale yellow, about 30 seconds; set aside. Bring milk and salt to simmer in medium saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally.

2. When milk mixture comes to a simmer, remove from the heat, whisking constantly, slowly pour into yolk mixture to temper. Return milk-yolk mixture to saucepan. Place over medium-low heat and cook, whisking constantly, until mixture reaches 160 degrees, 1 to 2 minutes.
3. Immediately pour eggnog into clean bowl. Stir in rum and nutmeg. Fill slightly a larger bowl with ice and set eggnog bowl in the ice bowl. Refrigerate until eggnog registers 40 degrees, 1 to 2 hours, stirring occasionally.
4. Just before serving, using stand mixer fitted with whisk attachment, whip remaining ¾ cup cream on medium-low speed until foamy, about 1 minute. Increase speed to high and whip until soft peaks form, 1 to 3 minutes. Whisk whipped cream into chilled eggnog. Pour eggnog into a glass cup then garnish the top with extra nutmeg. (Eggnog can be covered and refrigerated for up to 24 hours.)

NONALCOHOLIC EGGNOG: Reduce sugar to ¼ cup and substitute root beer for rum.

Gingerbread Cookies

Common food lore attributes a famous gingerbread recipe to Martha Washington, but according to the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at Mount Vernon, no such recipe exists. There is however, evidence that Martha loved the stuff. A bill of sale for 49 pounds of gingerbread cake, sent initially to the estate of Martha's first husband Daniel Custis, was chivalrously paid by her second husband, George.

The mistake is easy to understand because a recipe for gingerbread cake from Mary Ball Washington, George's mother, does exist. Besides the ample presence of spices, including cloves, allspice, cinnamon, and ginger, the elder Mrs. Washington added orange juice and orange zest, uncommon (and uncommonly expensive) ingredients at the time.

Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volunteer Application

NAME (Print, Last, First, MI) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU: HOME _____ WORK _____

CELL/MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

NAME OF EMPLOYER (If employed): _____

EMPLOYMENT TITLE: _____

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: _____

Do you prefer to work in the (Circle the best answer.)?

Interpretive/Visitor's Center Store of Discovery Camp River Dubois Special events

Please circle the days and times of the week you can volunteer. (Monday and Tuesday are seasonal.)

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

All Day or AM (9am – 1pm) or PM (1pm-5pm)

Number of hours you estimate you can volunteer: Weekly _____ Monthly _____

Other information you feel pertinent to your application: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY CONTACT'S NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS: HOME _____ WORK _____

CELL/MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please submit application to: Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, Attention Volunteer Program, #1 Lewis & Clark Trail, Hartford, IL 62048. Thank you for your interest in the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site. Have a great day!

Commemorating the Point of Departure Since 1957



Lewis and Clark Society of America
 #1 Lewis & Clark Trail
 Hartford, IL 62048
www.lewisandclarksociety.org
 Phone: 618-251-5811

Lewis and Clark Society of America Membership Information

The Lewis and Clark Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the immense importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The dues structure is:

Student	\$10	_____	Make checks payable to Lewis and Clark Society of America and mail to #1 Lewis & Clark Trail, Hartford, IL 62048. Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased in the Store of Discovery, located at the Lewis & Clark State
Individual	\$20	_____	
Family	\$30	_____	
Business	\$45	_____	
Non-Profit Organization	\$35	_____	

Please complete form and return to Lewis and Clark Society of America:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

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*Lewis & Clark Society of America
 Newsletter
 #1 Lewis & Clark Trail
 Hartford, IL 62048*

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