

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

1st Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

Volume 10 Issue 1

Manager's Corner: by Brad Winn

I am wondering if Lewis & Clark might have shot and ate our groundhog this year, because I think we are definitely in for more than 6 more weeks of Winter! That being said things are heating up for an active Spring and Summer season. Cindy, Mike and Ben have all be planning different events for the coming season. We have had a very active Winter thus far with outreach, both on site and most recently over cyberspace, my how things have changed since we opened in 2002.

I continue to remain optimistic that we will see some significant progress toward the reconstruction of Camp River Dubois this season. Before we all get too excited, I am quite certain that will not mean construction beginning this year, BUT I think we are closer to hopefully being able to secure the remainder of our funds and we will be finalizing the construction specs this summer.

I am excited to announce that we are going to be partnering with the National Park Service for their Every Kid in the Park (EKIP) program this Spring and next Fall. For those not familiar with this, it is a federally funded program designed to get 4th grade students into our Federal and affiliated Parks. The goal is to help them learn how protect and appreciate our parks, our history and our natural resources. Students involved in the EKIP program will receive a one year Park Pass for free admission to the hundreds of Federal Agency public lands and parks throughout the United States. For our involvement as a part of the National Lewis & Clark Trail, we will be eligible to receive support in the way of assistance to help bus students to Lewis & Clark State Historic Site as well as programing support to host educational and interpretive events associated with EKIP. Stay tuned for more on this program and if you have teachers who you think might be interested in bringing their 4th grade classes to our site but have been restricted by field trip budgets and busing costs, then this program is for them! This kind

of opportunity has only been made possible by the reputation we have in the region for active partnerships with other agencies on both sides of the river for quality educational and interpretive programming. That is only possible because of you and your hard work and support over the years.

President's Corner: by Rex Maynard *Frontier Fiddlin'*

When re-enacting the Lewis & Clark Expedition experience at Camp River Dubois, I took on the character of George Gibson, one of the Nine Young Men from Kentucky. From the journals we infer that he was a good hunter, showed leadership potential (he was a candidate to succeed Sgt. Floyd who died), and played the fiddle. I learned many things by seeking to deepen my understanding of this one individual. I learned to handle my .54 caliber flintlock rifle. I familiarized myself with the army regulations and drills. I tried to play the fiddle - I really tried - but lacked any of the natural skills much to the discomfort of those who had to hear me play. The most beautiful musical sound in the world is a well-played violin; the worst is ...me. But at least I learned a bit, at the expense of the peace and tranquility of others.

Pierre Cruzatte is mentioned several times playing the fiddle and all with much acclaim. George Gibson is only specifically mentioned once in the journals as playing. Private Whitehouse, in a Christmas 1804 Journal entry, indicates "...having Two Violins & plenty of musicians..." What were these instruments like? Violin and Fiddle are different names for the same instrument; the term indicates how it is used. Classically-trained Thomas Jefferson played a violin, Kentucky hill-runner George Gibson played a fiddle.

While musicologists determine the end of the Baroque period as the death of Bach in 1750, these transitions were not smooth and instantaneous. As late as the 1870s, Baroque style violins were being produced in Germany. However, in the rest of the world, Baroque violins were evolving to meet the needs

of the music being written for virtuoso musicians. As they entered the classical music period, violin necks were lengthened, fingerboards tilted and bridges were raised. Even the world renowned Stradivarius instruments were modified. While the Baroque violin bow bends outward when tightened, the modern tourte bows are longer and bow inward toward the ribbon made of 150 – 200 horse-tail hairs.

The violin that Thomas Jefferson played may have had significant physical differences with the frontier model carried by Gibson. It is even possible that one or both fiddlers had Travel/Practice Fiddles that have either a slimmer body or just a frame with no body. This, however, would reduce the volume of sound. We do not know.

We also do not know how the instruments were held. Artists of that day show the violin being held parallel to the body, held firmly by the left hand that also manipulated the strings. It restricted the left hand from shifting positions. Pressing it to the shoulder or neck would muffle the sound. The chin rest used now was not popularized until about 1820. It allows the player to clamp it between the chin and collarbone without dampening the sound and giving greater freedom to the non-bowing hand. Standardized tuning was not agreed upon until 1859, but Cruzatte and Gibson only needed to be tuned to each other.

Care and upkeep would have been a problem, especially on the overland excursions. Violins are delicate. They must have had a hard case for the fiddles, but that would add weight to the pack. If a part broke or cracked, it would take a skilled woodworker with a familiarity to stringed instruments to adequately repair it. Strings could be made on the fly from the intestines of mammals or they could possibly dip into the suturing supplies for catgut.

Cruzatte, with a French Canadian heritage, probably brought a song list reflecting his culture. Gibson, the Kentuckian, would have known early American music which was heavily influenced by English, Irish and Scottish folk songs. That playlist would have included reels, jigs, hymns and love songs. We might recognize the tunes, if not the names, to include: “Jefferson and Liberty,” “Fishers Hornpipe,” “Yankee Doodle,” and “Greensleeves.”

These musicians provided a valuable service to the expedition. The combined Journals mention dancing twenty-seven times. I cannot even dance with music, let alone without. The fun and frolic gave a needed release to the men. The songs remembered from home gave them impetus to successfully complete the journey and return to the states triumphantly. The unifying nature of singing together built team-ship and

camaraderie. The musicians introduced a new and foreign experience to the Native Americans whose instrumentation was limited to drums, rattles and pipes. Perhaps the expedition would have been a success without the dueling fiddles, but it wouldn't have been as much fun.

The Store of Discovery News:

by Vicki Clifton

After a pretty slow winter, we are looking forward to Spring and the increase in visitors. We have added several new items to the store, and are looking forward to including custom mugs with the LCSHS logo made at Mississippi Mud Pottery, and bowls and mugs made by Chad Travous, a local potter with the Illinois Artisans Guild. We have a nice selection of American Girl dresses and accessories handmade by Katie Dile, and beautiful baskets handmade by Irma Holmes. We will also be selling Lewis and Clark Stamps w/buffalo nickel sets, as well as a Louisiana Purchase stamp w/buffalo nickel sets. We will continue to provide diversity in our stock to provide the best experience possible to our shoppers. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Volunteer News:

By Cindy Upchurch

A field trip is in the planning stages. The trip will be April 6 (Saturday) to Bellefontaine Cemetery in north St. Louis. The two hour tour will be led by Jerry Garrett. Let's carpool to the tour from the site. Please be here at 10:15AM and we will plan to arrive at the cemetery for an 11AM tour. William Clark and other notable St. Louisans are buried in Bellefontaine. Be sure to wear your walking shoes, however part of the tour will be driving.

Let me know if you are planning on going. I will put a sign-up sheet on the back counter as the date gets closer.

Our new volunteer, Marie G., is helping out at the Interpretive Center and Store of Discovery. Welcome, Marie.

In May, our big special event comes due, Education Day and Point of Departure. If you want to assist these days, in addition to your normal assignments, let Cindy or Ben know. It is an extremely busy 3 days.

Benjamin's Blurbs: by Benjamin Pollard

Spring is not that far away, which means that Education Day and Point of Departure Weekend will be upon us soon! I'm excited to see these great programs coming back for another year. Education Day will be packed with 4th Graders from 9 local schools that will enjoy activities on the Lewis & Clark Expedition and Early Illinois History. In the program's 14th year, many of the favorite presenters will be back, and new ones are also being added. Friends from the Cahokia Mounds SHS will share American Indian Culture while The National Great Rivers Museum will share the local freshwater mussels and the early button making industry in the area. Education Day will be on May 10.

Point of Departure Weekend also promises to be a blast. Dozens of reenactors are preparing to return as we celebrate the start of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Reenactors will demonstrate soldier life, fur trading, and medicine of the early 1800s. Historic artists will demonstrate basket making, spinning, candle making, woodworking, and much more. Make sure to tell everyone and bring friends to one of the premier events at LCSHS. The weekend event falls on May 11-12 this year. Those interested in volunteering should let me know!

***New Mannequin-Full Dress Uniform:**

A Dress Uniform Worn for Special Occasions and Parade (Inspections)

Round Hat: The round hat is the dress headwear for enlisted infantry soldiers. The hat is made of wool felt and decorated with an arcing crest of black bear skin. A white tail deer tail plume, black leather cockade, and tin eagle mount to the side of the crown.

Regimental Coat: The red and blue regimental coat for enlisted infantry soldiers is made of a durable wool called Stroud. The cheaply built coats feature pewter buttons sewn onto the coat without functional button holes. Buttons from the coats sometimes display the infantry regimental number of the soldier.

Waistcoat: Waistcoats serve as a cover for the shirt. The front panels are made of wool and the back panel's linen. The proper pronunciation is "west-kit".

Full Dress Uniform and Fatigue Uniform Descriptions Researched in *Lewis & Clark Tailor Made, Trail Worn: Army Life, Clothing, & Weapons of*

the Corps of Discovery (Farcounty Press, 2003) by Robert J. Moore, Jr. & Michael Haynes.



***Alton Audubon Eagle Ice Festival:**

On Saturday, January 5, 2019 Justine Dorn and I (Ben) represented the Lewis and Clark State



Historic site at the Alton Audubon Eagle Ice Festival. This annual event was being held at the Alton Visitor Center and the Audubon Center at Riverlands.

This was a family event with games and activities, eagle watching, and a shuttle ride looking for eagles.

Upcoming Special Events:

***Vintage Base Ball:** May 4, 2019
Time 10 a.m. until Done

Lewis and Clark will host its third annual Vintage Base Ball Games on Saturday May 4, 2019. Come and enjoy a recreation of America's favorite past time as it was played in the middle of the 19th century. Four local teams will start at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own chairs and refreshments.

***Point of Departure:** May 11-12, 2019
Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Re-enactors will portray life in the American Bottoms during the early 1800s while artisans demonstrate candle making, broom making, coopering, cooking, weaving, carving, and much more.

***Hummingbird Festival:** July 20, 2019
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.



In cooperation with Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders, hummingbirds will be caught and banded, with an opportunity for 'adoption' of each bird banded.

"Bird banding is a valuable process in the study of the movement, survival and behavior of birds."

"The banding of hummingbirds is a carefully regulated process that must be performed only by trained and licensed banders."

"Purposes of Hummingbird Banding Identification makes possible studies of species dispersal and migration, behavior, life-span, survival rate, reproductive success and population growth."

"When banded birds are captured, released alive and reported from somewhere else, researchers can monitor the movements of an individual bird." HummingbirdCentral.com

L&C Tribute: Ellen Beatrice "Bea" Hard



Margaret Hamman and Bea Hard discussing the adventures of Lewis & Clark, May 11, 2003. Or, Margaret is telling be how big the fish was that got away!

Ellen Beatrice Hard, 90, passed away 6:10a.m. Saturday, November 15, 2014, at Columbia Rehab and Nursing. Born on January 1, 1924, in Hartford, she was the daughter of Charles and Dorothy (Grover) Matthews.

She had been a sales clerk at "The Fabric Store" many years before retiring. Bea had been an active member of the Hartford Library Board, a volunteer at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and a member of the East Maple Street Chapel.

On August 22, 1947, in Hartford, she married Harold K. Hard, Jr. He died May 23, 1993. They had one son, four daughters, 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren. Bea's interment is located in Medora Cemetery, Medora, Jersey Co., Illinois.

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	_____	
Life-Time Membership	\$300	_____	

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ **EMAIL** _____

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