

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

3rd Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volume 8 Issue 1

Manager's Corner:

by Brad Winn



Happy Early Spring everyone?! Did the groundhog lie this year when he said we were expecting 6 more weeks of winter? Did Pam's persimmon seed fib when it showed us a spoon this fall predicting a snowy winter?

The trees are starting to bud, the grass is getting greener and Cindy has already brought in fresh daffodils from her garden at home. Just what in the Sam Hill is going on? Perhaps my clearest indicator that spring is almost here is the number of school groups that are starting to line up for the season. Here is hoping for a nice long comfortable spring and long lines of buses bringing area children to visit.

On a slightly more serious note, 2016 marked our lowest record attendance ever for a full calendar year. This statistic floored me as it seemed that we indeed had a busy calendar year with visitors, coupled with the increased amount of outreach and events that we conducted. Though I would count the year as a success overall, we really need to focus on increasing our numbers in 2017. Cindy, Pam, Mike and I have been brainstorming this winter to see what we can do to alter our events lineup to either modify or add new activities in an

attempt to "freshen things up" and for many of you who have helped us thus far along those lines, Thank You!

I cannot stress enough the importance of our attendance numbers in this uncertain fiscal and administrative time in Illinois. Sites are also being scrutinized regarding the amount of donation funds being brought in. More and more the IHPA is being forced to lean on this Historic Site fund to assist in our overall agency wide operation. While I can see a path forward through the budget crunch I can predict that it will rely heavily on the value of these donations. To that end the Lewis and Clark Society and the Store of Discovery was one of, if not THE, first support foundation to step forward and offer the option of electronic donations through the gift store. I want to thank the Board and the Store staff for helping facilitate this option. The IHPA is developing a protocol that we will be implementing soon to make this a reality. I have confidence that this will greatly improve our donation numbers.

Why bring all of this up? Because as always, we continue to need your help, support and input. You have been an absolutely essential part of our operations since day one and will continue to be a large part of that in the future. We welcome your input and ways that we can expand our numbers to reach more and more folks in 2017. If you have ideas for outreach, events or other means of increasing our presence let us know. You continue to be our best ambassadors as often the first smiling impression we make on our visitors but you are the best link into the surrounding community. My office is always open, let me know what you think we can do to grow in this early spring of 2017.

President's Corner: by Rex Maynard



We remember Lewis and Clark as consummate explorers - prepared and thoughtful - fulfilling a mission of discovery for discovery's sake. They incorporated scientific research, Indian diplomacy and mercantile opportunities as

goals. With great deliberation they crossed the North American continent, and only lost one expedition member. We uphold them as great examples of what success looks like in the adventure of discovery.

Some great discoveries, however, have been made without such careful thought. Over 250 years before the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the first crossing of the South American continent was made almost accidentally by a captain intent on military glory and plunder. A Spanish conquistador by the name of Francisco de Orellana stumbled his way east across the continent chased the entire way by starvation, death, disease and hostile natives, which included some female warriors. (Guess how that big river in South America got its name.)

Orellana was a cousin of the Pizarro family, five Spanish conquistador brothers of whom the most well-known is Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of the Incan Empire. Francisco Pizarro had arrived in Peru at the end of a long and bloody Incan civil war; where with trickery, technology and bloodthirsty cruelty he subjugated a disjointed empire of 12 million inhabitants with a handful of armored Spanish soldiers. These soldiers "could ride their Iberian mounts with panache and wield their Toledo swords with deadly efficiency." (River of Darkness, Buddy Levy) They quickly overpowered the developing nation who had roads but no wheel, gold but no steel, complex government bureaucracies but no written language.

Orellana had joined Pizarro's army on the west coast of South America in 1533. He gained favor with Pizarro by his military prowess (losing an eye in the process), and was granted land in what is now Ecuador. Gonzalo Pizarro, a half-brother of Francisco, came to Quito as the governor with the assigned mission to find the "Land of Cinnamon" rumored to be east, across the Andes Mountains. Of course, in the back of everyone's mind, they hoped to find the elusive "El Dorado," a kingdom so rich that its prince was said to clothe himself with gold dust every morning and wash it off in a lake at night. El Dorado literally means "the gilded man" and originally did not refer to a city, but to the person who ruled the city.

The Governor left with an army of 220 mostly mounted Spaniards, 4,000 enslaved *indigenas*, and thousands of pigs and dogs to search for the spices. He had appointed Orellana as second in command, ordered him to gather soldiers, and catch up with him. Crossing the Andes was a terrible ordeal. High elevation weather and active volcanoes with subsequent earthquakes and landslides decimated this group on the mountain trails. By the time Orellana caught up with him, the Governor lost a majority of the *indigenes* from death and desertion. They had eaten all their pigs and most of their dogs and horses. They were desperate for food, and the arrival of Orellana did not help matters.

Upon entering the rain forest, they were met with an overabundance of new problems; perils at every turn. The heat was ever stifling to these men in armor, draining them of the will to move. The jungles were full of carnivorous animals, poisonous plants, swarming insects and tribes aggressively defending their territory. Anacondas, caiman and piranhas lurked in the rivers. But the rivers were a marvel in themselves. Starting from the melting snows of the Andes and flowing east through the equatorial jungle where it rained most every day, the flowing waters raged and subsided, sweeping whole trees and sometimes entire groves of trees downstream.

Where others saw problems, Orellana saw opportunity. Using the leftover horseshoes and other metal they could scrounge from their luggage, they had made nails to build their boat. The two-masted boat, a brigantine, had been

christened the “San Pedro.” He convinced the Governor that they should use the boat and send a squad of soldiers down this river (Rio Coca) to find supplies and bring them back to main body. Orellana said good-bye to his commander, promised to return with foodstuffs and left with about 60 men floating downstream in the San Pedro and stolen canoes. The two men never met again.

Orellana was different from his Spanish conquistador brothers in many respects; he was not a typical conquistador. While he was very proficient in warfare, he did not see a sword as an answer to every conflict. To his men, he was more of a leader than a dictator. He treated the indigenous people with much more respect than was common and he had a gift for understanding and speaking new languages. Most important, he thought more strategically than situationally. That is not to say that he was man with modern sensibilities - he was still motivated by greed and glory, but he was without some of the rougher edges.

The flotilla eased down the Rio Coca without finding any perceptible prospects for victuals to take back. They were desperately looking when they were swept into the rapid current at the confluence with much bigger Rio Napo. They continued on for several days without finding sustenance, when they realized that they had gone too far down the Napo to get back to the Governor in the promised time. The struggle against the current would have been extraordinarily difficult and to try to hack their way through the jungle was impossible, and they still had nothing to take back.

Despondent and weak from hunger the men sat listlessly in their watercraft when they heard drums. They landed at a village on the shore, through diplomatic gestures of peace, Orellana was able to procure food and cooperation from the villagers. The Governor Pizarro, a typical conquistador, would have started a war. The village was called Imara.

It was at Imara, the decision was made. Captain Orellana and his crew were going to continue downstream. Friar Carvajal, journalist for the trip, records that the men presented a petition to Orellana to continue downstream and he complied. It was there that he decided to build

another boat, but felt he was about wear out his welcome at Imara. They left Imara on good terms, going downstream to find place for boat construction, passing several tributaries along the way until they came to the biggest river they had yet seen.

It was the Marañon, the original European name of the Amazon. Descending it, they began encountering friendly villages until they came to the biggest yet, the village ruled by the Aparia the Great. At this site they built another larger brigantine and named it the “Victoria.” Warned of dangerous nations downstream, the two brigantines proceeded until they were forced to fight at Machiparo against thousands of warriors.

At Machiparo, Orellana had a flash of insight and told his men. “We don’t have to die here, this is no longer a mission of conquest, it is a mission of exploration! We can come back next year, more prepared to win.” (Ibid) With that new philosophy, he implemented a plan that would get them to the Atlantic Ocean. They would continue down the middle of the channel, making observations as best they could. When they needed to stop or replenish their supplies, they would pick as sparsely populated area as possible. From the tribes they would: accept gifts when offered, trade when they could, kill and steal if the other options did not work out. Time after time, they were forced into the third option, which often turned into pitched battles.

With the fortified brigantines, steel swords, crossbows and matchlock firearms, they were more than a match for native groups ten times their size. Word of their coming raced down the river, and tribe after tribe awaited them with massed troops. Armadas of canoes dogged them day and night. The Amazon River became a gauntlet offering death at every turn. The men were frequently injured, malnourished and sleep-deprived.

At Machiparo, where the shoreline was populated for 180 miles, they encountered warriors with flattened heads wielding atlatls, whistling arrows and manatee hide shields. One tribe of Omaguas sent out witchdoctors before an attack. They were painted white and spewing ashes out of their mouths and casting incantations. Later down river, another people sent out musicians with their warriors. Yet another enemy appeared to be

tattooed black from head to toe, with short cropped hair. They attacked with poison arrows giving one Spaniard a long agonizing death.

Some of the fiercest warriors were the vassals of an inland tribe ruled by a queen named Conori. According to Friar Carvajal, “amid the throng of warriors there appeared ten or twelve extremely tall women warriors, with pale white skin and long hair twisted into braids and wound about their heads.” (Ibid.) He describes them as “robust” and each one “doing as much fighting as ten Indian men.” These women warriors would kill any of their allies that tried to retreat. When the Spanish were able to kill 7 or 8 of these women, the enemy lost their nerve and retreated. Carvajal says that natives from many tribes gave testimony of this female tribe. He called them “Amazons,” from the Greek legends of a land of female domination. This was the most sensational thing he reported to Europeans, and this became known as the land of the Amazons.

When they were three hundred miles from the Atlantic, they started feeling the effects of the tides. When Orellana started noticing this tidal effect, he beached the boats on a deserted shore and performed maintenance and modifications that would make them seaworthy. Exiting the Amazon, they sailed north along the South American coast. They were separated in a storm and the Victoria sailed into the Dragon’s Mouth, dangerous shoals near Trinidad. After a week of extricating themselves from those treacherous waters, they found the 8 square mile island of Cubagua, the first Spanish outpost in the New World. They were greeted by the crew of the San Pedro, which had arrived two days before.

The differences between the Orellana voyage down the Amazon River and the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the western United States far outweigh the similarities. The greatest similarity would seem to be the information preserved by each expedition’s chroniclers. Both confirmation and denial of previous beliefs were verified. The reports of new lands and new possibilities awakened more interest and created more fervor for the exploration of the western hemisphere.

Lewis and Clark were rewarded by their government and immortalized in our fiction and nonfiction. Orellana was not so well treated by

Spain; he did not get the support he needed. He died on an attempt at the Amazon from the Atlantic before he could even find the main channel. He did not find El Dorado, nor even a crystal skull as purported by the Indiana Jones movie.

Exploration that has been well conceived and well planned adds knowledge to the collective human understanding, as proven by Lewis and Clark. But even accidental and haphazard ventures performed with selfish motives can increase our understanding of the world. Orellana will be remembered as an accidental explorer who revealed previous unknown geography and people to the world.

STORE OF DISCOVERY NEWS:

by Karen McDanel



The Store of Discovery has added a few new items in the past couple of months. We are carrying more hand-craft items, doll kits and counted cross

stitch pictures. We have also added a few different stuffed animals for kids. We welcome your input on what types of items you would like us to carry.

Last year was a good year for the store. We were well ahead of 2015 in sales and hope that trend continues this year. Being open seven-days-a-week was profitable and we look forward to that again this summer.

As always, we are in need of volunteers. If you can spare 4-8 hours a month, it would be appreciated.

Upcoming Special Events:

*** Volunteer Open House:** March 19, 2017.
Time: 2 p.m.

Come join us where the journey began. Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is looking for potential volunteers to become honorary members of the Corps of Discovery; meeting and assisting the public, as they visit the historic site.

Volunteers help to administer the desk, assist in the exhibit gallery and work in the Store of Discovery. Specialty positions are available, such as gardening, outreach and special events.

Open house is March 19 at 2 pm in the multipurpose room. RSVP to 618-251-5811, ask for Cindy or Karen.

***Vintage Base Ball:** May 6, 2017
Time 10 a.m. until Done



Lewis and Clark will host its second Vintage base ball games on Saturday May 6, 2017. They will start at 10:00 a.m. Bring your own chairs. The Store of Discovery will be selling chips and drinks.

***Point of Departure:** May 13-14, 2017
Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Re-enactors will portray military life while artisans demonstrate life in the American Bottoms during the early 1800s.

***Hummingbird Festival:** July 22, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

In cooperation with professional and licensed banders, hummingbirds will be caught and banded, with an opportunity for ‘adoption’.

***Music Festival:** Date: Sept. 9, 2017
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Musicians will perform traditional music of the late 1700s and early 1800s. 10:00-4:00 p.m. Local favorites, The Harmans, will perform 11 & noon.

***Frontier Dog Walk:** Sept. 16, 2017
Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Saturday, September 16, stop by the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site and Confluence Tower for the fourth annual Frontier Dog Walk! Walk along the river levee from the L&C State Historic Site to the L&C Confluence Tower.

***Arrival at Camp River Dubois:**
Dec. 9 & 10, 2017. 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.

Volunteer News: by Cindy Upchurch

Volunteers can sign up for a field trip to the National Great River Research and Education Center near the Melvin Price Lock and Dam. The group is limited to 12. Right now, we still have

room for more volunteers. Everyone has been curious about this site. The volunteers will meet at the L & C site at 9:30, March 17. The tour at the Great River Research and Education Center starts at 10.

In case visitors ask, yes, the confluence area is open again; just in time for fishing season.

Mark your 2017 Calendar: May 29, (Memorial Day) and September 4, (Labor Day) which we will be open. On October 9 (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans Day) and November 23 (Thanksgiving), December 25 (Christmas) we are closed.

Announcement: Total Solar Eclipse

August 21, 2017

Where to view this event? Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, 4372 Park Rd., Ellis Grove, IL 62241. Phone for information: 618-859-3741 Free Parking at Ft. Kaskaskia.

What time does the event start? The event at Ft. Kaskaskia does not have an official start time. Thousands of people are looking forward to this astronomical event, so you may need to be at Ft. Kaskaskia and hour or two before the eclipse to have your choice of viewing area seating.

When will eclipse start? Partial phase starts at 11:50 a.m. and totality starts at 1:18 pm for a duration of 2 minutes 37 seconds. (You can only safely view the eclipse by using solar eclipse glasses with an optical density of 5 or greater.)

What do I need? Bring your own chairs and supplies.

Announcement: Education Day and Point of Departure: May 12-14, 2017

The 12th Education Day and the 15th Point of Departure are well under way. I have again this year been very blessed with over 50 volunteers and artisans to help make these events possible. We are having 750 fourth graders that are very eager to learn and participate with each of their presenters.

My one big wish is for NO RAIN. It goes so much smoother and everyone is happier, or at least the students don't mind the rain, but everyone

else is a little disgruntled. It all works and we always have a memorable time.

It really is a beautiful sight to see all the buses, students and the set-up of the stations. Once everyone gets to their first station, it is so satisfying to watch, as it all comes together. Hope to see everyone Saturday and Sunday.

L&C Tribute: John Currier



John G. Currier, age 67, of Edwardsville, Illinois, passed away Wednesday, November 23, 2016. John was born November 22, 1949, in Fall River, Massachusetts, and married to Karen (Tripp) Currier. They were married on October 4, 1975, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

John was employed by Emerson Electric and the General Electric Company, and a graduate of Boston College (BS) and Webster University (MA). He was also a Vietnam veteran graduating from the U.S. Navy's Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. He enjoyed golfing ~especially with his children~, appreciated music (he attended Woodstock, too!), history, reading, and was active in the Boy Scouts as a scout leader in Wisconsin. John was passionate about photography, being well known for his photography business in the early 80's, Yukon Productions, based out of rural Waukesha County. John and Karen volunteered at the L&C State Historic Site.

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** _____

This newsletter is a publication of the Lewis & Clark Society of America, Inc., and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site. All Society members and Site volunteers are invited to contribute articles or photographs to the newsletter. Articles published do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of the Lewis & Clark Society of America, its Board of Directors or its Officers. The Camp River Dubois Dispatch will be published on a quarterly basis and mail March, June September, and December. Please submit by email to LCSA@CampRiverDubois.com or by mail to:

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

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The Lewis and Clark Society of America

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