

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

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

Manager's Corner: by Brad Winn

Well so much for my wild predictions! We are now officially a part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, specifically the Historic Sites Division of the Office of Land Management. Though I am truly sad to see the demise of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency I am optimistic for the future with our new home.

Many of you have asked me what this means for us. I can honestly tell you right now that is still yet to be determined. For now however we will continue to operate much like we always have. I have heard no talk about changing hours, days of operation, staffing or even admission charges. My assumption is that much of this will be determined over the course of the coming winter months. We have been warmly welcomed by our new colleagues in the IDNR and though I have yet to meet in depth with our new regional land managers or the other superiors I intend to continue to advocate for our sites. There has been a great deal of deferred maintenance over the last many years due to a lack of budget and uncertainty.

From what I have heard already, I am greatly heartened by the promise of a budget after two long years! We have also been asked for improvement projects and equipment requests. It has been many, many years since we have had the opportunity to make these kinds of request. My first priorities will be getting the bulbs fixed and back on fully! I am sure many of you will agree that this is a good step in putting our museum in the best possible light!?! Eh, HA!

We have a busy fall event and outreach schedule ahead. Thank you all for a great summer and all your continued hard work. I have said it many times, but we could not do it without you! I look forward to where this new path will take us as we "proceed on"

President's Corner: by Rex Maynard

Farmers in the Dell:

As a gardener who uses heritage (non-hybrid) seed and organic (old-time) methods, I often envision myself living and gardening in other historical eras. I have a keen interest in reading Clark's Field Notes detailing the five months spent in the American Bottom and his encounters with farmers and their produce. Arriving in December at the beginning of winter, the Volunteer Corps of Northwestern Discovery needed foodstuffs for immediate consumption and to pack for their upcoming voyage. While most of the supplies were provided by highly prized government commissary contracts, Clark was able to finagle some extras from the locals.

News of their arrival must have travelled fast, four days later two gentlemen in a pirogue drew up to their river landing. Mr. Gilbert, a trader in the valuable frontier commodity of salt, stepped off the boat. He was followed by Mr. Griffith, who farmed a few miles up the rivers. Samuel Griffith was originally from New York and settled in Spanish-controlled Missouri by 1795. Perhaps he was lured there like Daniel Boone with the promise of free land and *laissez-faire* authorities. Clark labels the Griffith farm on his Field Notes map on the narrowest isthmus of land between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, accessible to both.

Griffith demonstrated initiative and salesmanship. On December 23rd, he was back with a present for Captain Clark and a load of turnips for sale. Clark agrees to buy the turnips at "3/ a bushel." I can only assume it was 3 cents a bushel (3/100 of a dollar). Turnips are a fall crop -I planted mine on August 1st and plan on harvesting in early November - so these root vegetables were not too long out of the ground. Turnips could be boiled and mashed, stewed with sugar, or even eaten raw. It was also used to feed livestock. It had been the common person's staple until the discovery and development of the potato

from South America. Clark and his men would have been very familiar with this tuber.

Other discussions surely ensued, because Clark sent John Shields back with Griffith to buy some butter. (Hey, how can you eat mashed turnips without butter?) When Shields returned on Christmas day, he had 4 lbs. of butter and a wheel of cheese, another possible dressing for hot mashed turnips. Captain Amos Stoddard turned up his nose at the frontier cheese making effort, saying it "...is of an inferior quality."

The turnip dish was served up alongside the wild meat the hunters secured. According to Captain Stoddard, who had recommended the site of the camp, "The forests are filled with about fifty species of indigenous animals..." Regular hunting parties brought back deer, turkey, possum, rabbit, grouse and at least one bear that tasted suspiciously like pork.

On January 8th, a neighboring French speaking family came to visit the camp and trade. Clark exchanged some metal and trifles for some onions, when the couple mentioned that they had lost a hog a few days earlier. (It was a customary for the *habitants*, the original French settlers, to let their livestock forage at large in winter when there were no crops to protect.) Clark immediately suspected his men were involved. Some days earlier, Collins and another grouse hunter brought in meat they tried to pass off as bear, but they didn't fool anybody. They then gave the story that they found a hog "hung up in the woods." Since the men were not currently in camp, the captain decided to put off the investigation into the incident.

The next day Collins took Clark to the place where "he found a Hog Skined & Hung up, the Crows had devoured the meet..." That seems to be the last thing written about the incident. We do know, however that the French couple's visits are recorded again on February 5th and April 1st. We have no idea if they were just being sociable or if they were seeking restitution. It is possible that someone else killed the hog, took what he wanted and left it hanging, but the lie that it was bear meat casts doubt on the hunter's innocence in the matter. It was on this excursion with Collins that Clark discovered the Indian Mounds near South Roxana which were destroyed in the early 1900s by the construction of the Shell Oil Refinery. Only one mound survived and is preserved in Dad's Club Park. Clark also fell through the pond ice and after exploring the mounds

returned to the Camp where he discovered his shoes frozen to his feet.

Swine were not the only livestock pastured in the American Bottom lands. American émigrés did not have to ask the question, "Where's the beef?" They brought it with them. On January 1st, a neighboring farmer, Joseph Vaughn of the Wood River area, offered to sell beef at \$4.00 a hundredweight on credit, or \$3.50 for cash. At that time and place, cows usually were raised to be about 600 lbs, and would dress out to a usable 300 to 400 lbs. Sedgewickville, Missouri cattle raiser Randy Shrum states that today the average brood cow weighs about 1200 to 1500 lbs. and has the same dressing ratio, 55 to 60 per cent. Vaughn was hoping to get \$12 to \$16 per beef. Clark records the offer, but gives no response.

Unfortunately for Farmer Vaughn, Captain Whiteside, leader of an American settlement called New Design between Kaskaskia and Cahokia, had the Army contract all sewn up. A Revolutionary War veteran, William Whiteside had probably been dealing with the U. S. Government by supplying the army posts for up to 10 years. Not only did he have the contract, he was selling beef at \$3.00 per hundredweight, 25 per cent cheaper than the offer Joseph Vaughn made. Whiteside made several appearances at the camp that winter, at one time selling them 12 lbs. of beef tallow for 6 cents/lb. Tallow has many uses: prime ingredient in shortening, making pemmican, lubrication for muskets, and candles. For all we know, this tallow was made into the candles that were eaten while crossing the Bitterroot Mountains.

Other farms and farmers made their appearance in the Field Notes. Virginia born David Badgley, a Baptist Preacher who started the initial Baptist Church in Madison County, came with "Potatoes fowls & -" to trade on January 28th. That same day, a "Mr. Anty Coxe" (Andy Cox?) came to inquire about his horses, whether they were lost or loaned, we do not know. There is no indication of a "bear meat/horse meat" incident. Messieurs Hanley and Kane (Cane, Koehn?) from Kaskaskia sent butter and milk on February 5th. The Morrison farm, owned by a Kaskaskia entrepreneur and managed by Patrick Heneberry, was responsible for providing "Teem and Corn" - oxen and cart - in the earliest days to help pull the felled timber to the building site of the camp. It has been speculated that a man named Ramey, who greatly irritated Clark as a source of drunkenness of

his men, was a farmer who was converting his corn into moonshine.

STORE OF DISCOVERY NEWS:

by Karen McDanel

Sales for the store have picked up the last couple of months. Hopefully we will continue on the upward trend.

We have new items in the gift shop. There are new books both for adults and children. We now carry decals/stickers of the keelboat and the camp. New t-shirts are ordered with Meriwether Lewis' quote about Camp River Dubois being considered as the point of departure for the expedition. We also have new coffee mugs in stock.

We are still looking for new volunteers and wish to thank Barbara Adelman for joining our forces. Remember all Society members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

Upcoming Special Events:

****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. As always, our local favorites will be performing in the lobby.

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

Saturday, September 9, 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.

****Volunteer Diner:***
October 6, 2017. 5:30p.m.

The last few years we have dined at Julia's in East Alton and will this year as well on October

6...doors open at 5:30, food served at 6. Watch for your invitation.

****Arrival at Camp River Dubois:***

Dec. 9 & 10, 2017. 10a.m.-4p.m.

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.

Retirement News:

Pam Imes will be retiring December 31, 2017. Pam has worked for state of Illinois for 33



years. She started out as an historic site interpreter for the Vandalia State

Courthouse then moved to Cahokia Mounds, and has worked for the Lewis & Clark site these past 15 years.

When she started with the state she worked for the newly established Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). Today there is no IHPA and Pam will be retiring from DNR. Best of luck to Pam. Oh! She will be doing Education Day and the Departure Event for 2018 and Brad hopes forever. "NO!" I wonder who said no.

Volunteer News: by *Cindy Upchurch*

During the Music Festival, at 1:00pm, we will have a small ceremony out at the monument and acknowledge those volunteers that have sadly passed away this year. They are: Ron Goldsmith, Bill Higgins, Sheryl Evans, Anita Eftimoff, John Currier, and Joyce Bort.

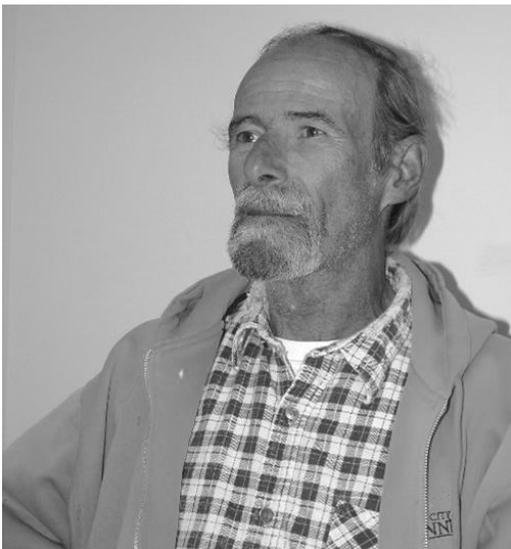
On August 21, Pam, Irma and I went south to Fort Kaskaskia to help with the Solar Eclipse crowd. It was an enthusiast crowd, perfect weather and a clear view. Turned out just terrific. The site looked great too, all mowed. Let's do it again in 2024. Wherever you were, I hope you enjoyed the eclipse as well.

At the front desk, on the back of chair, there is a new shawl handmade by Pam. The desk is normally a cold spot and the shawl is for volunteers to keep warm. It is deeply appreciated.

It won't be long till we'll say goodbye to Bob Mitchell and James Torti. The season is drawing to a close quickly.

L&C Tribute:

****Bill Higgins***

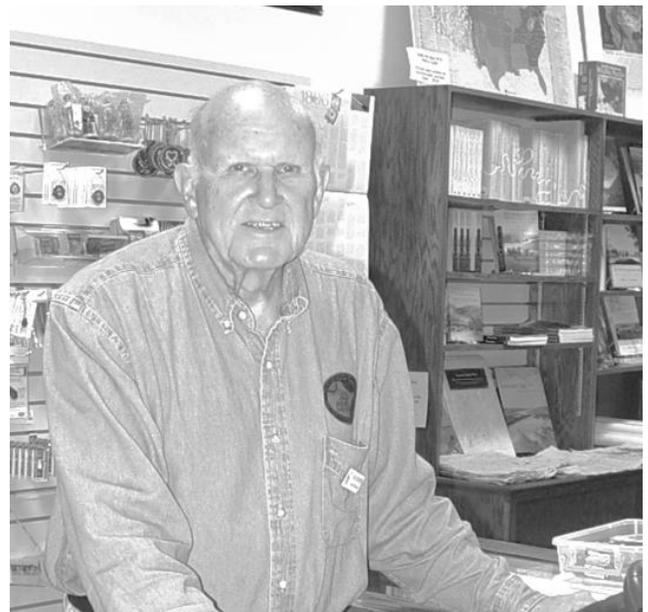


William James Higgins, Jr, 67, of Mitchell, IL died on Saturday, August 5, 2017 at his home. He was born on November 24, 1949 in St. Louis, MO to **William** James and Susie Elizabeth nee: Brenen

Higgins. **William** married Sandra Adams on August 30, 1986 in Mitchell, IL.

Bill Higgins started in May of 2001 and was the first "Full" time staff member hired. He spent the first year almost single-handedly clearing and reclaiming the area down by the Confluence memorial. Bill gave tours during the building construction, mowed dirt and some grass when we first seeded, worked long hours during the Bicentennial and basically did about anything asked of him. He moved on in 2005 to work for Jennings, MO seeking fulltime employment but never lost his appreciation for this place he helped to literally get off the ground.

****Ronald L. Goldsmith***



Ronald L. Goldsmith, 81, died at 4:11 p.m. Monday, Aug. 7, 2017, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. Ron started volunteering for the Store of Discovery in 2005 and became its manager for nine years. Ron masterminded and oversaw the transition of operating through JNPA to operating the Store of Discovery through the Lewis & Clark Society of America. Over the years Ron's innovated ideas improve the store and increased profits to record highs. He will be sadly missed.

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

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