

# Camp River Dubois Dispatch

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

Volume 9 Issue 3

## **Manager's Corner:** by Brad Winn

Happy September everyone, didn't we just talk? Does it seem like to anyone else that summer just flew by?? I don't know if that is a good or a bad thing or maybe just I lost track of time?! (It is probably the latter.) I am hoping for a nice long Fall season. As many of you know I am a fan of the cooler weather so bring on the cooler temps and some great Fall colors.

I wanted to thank everyone for an especially busy summer! We seem to just motor along regardless of the size of the group or number of buses, the length of the Kids Camp, or the number of outreach programs we do, you always answer the call when we need you most. What I think our new friends with IDNR are figuring out is something that the staff and I already knew. And, that is the passion, dedication and selflessness that our volunteers and Society members put forth every year to make our site shine! I am truly blessed to have the pleasure of working with all of you on a daily basis. Honestly, you are the drive that helps keep pushing me to constantly look for ways we can improve and do better. (Yes I know the light bulbs in the gallery are bad, but they are COMING!!)

We are a showcase site along the National Lewis and Clark Historic Trail and that is no small part due to your promise to this site to make what we are. I hope we have done you good service to the level of commitment you have shown all these years. I am very close to a significant announcement regarding our repairs to Camp River Dubois and I am hoping that will just continue to see the dominos fall into place from there to see us to the finish line. We will proceed on as we always have!

P.S. – Don't forget this is the Bicentennial year for the State of Illinois, be sure to let folks know our part of that statewide History.

## **President's Corner:** by Rex Maynard

### ***Jefferson's Written Instructions to Meriwether Lewis on June 20, 1803: Summarized and Paraphrased for the Modern Reader***

and "*To Meriwether Lewis, esquire. Captain of the 1<sup>st</sup> regiment of Infantry...*"

Your past duties as the secretary to the President has made you aware of the confidential message sent to Congress, the act they passed and their understanding of it. You know their reply and more importantly, what they meant. Act accordingly.

To accomplish this goal, scientific equipment has been provided. Anything else will have to come from the War Department, even the 10 to 12 men you employ under your complete command. While you are still in the states, let us know what's going on, but we do not plan on micromanaging.

The European agents you meet should treat you with respect as their governments have been officially notified of your presence and goals. The French passport should provide you safe passage at the beginning of your journey, and the English passport will allow all the English "in country" traders to help you - that is - if they will.

Your mission is to explore the Missouri River beginning at its mouth on the Mississippi, following it west to its source, and then finding

the most commercially-viable way to reach the Pacific. Create detailed maps using both the previously mentioned scientific equipment and dead reckoning. Plot significant points accurately so that later travelers will recognize those landmarks. This procedure should continue from the Mississippi to the Pacific. Also keep the raw data of your observations so that more experienced scholars can check your work. Make multiple copies and use different types of paper to insure the safety of your records.

We need to know everything we can about the native people you encounter so that we can take the greatest advantage of trading opportunities. Nothing you can learn about them is too much, including: languages, customs, occupations, arts, tools, clothing, diseases, etc., etc., etc.

Take note of the geography, geology, climate, flora, fauna, etc., etc., etc. While you're at it, find out what you can about the rivers that flow south to Mexico (Rio Grande) and California (Rio Colorado). Don't worry about the territory to the north, except, what you can find out about the source of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers and how to get there and back.

Be nice to the native people. Let them know who we are and what we want: peace, trade and mutual benefit. Invite them to visit us, and welcome any of their young people to come live with us and be educated - all at our expense. Introduce them to the vaccination of cow pox so that they may be protected from the devastating Small Pox.

If your reception is not friendly, by native people or foreign nations intervening, do not take chances. It is better that you return to us with limited information than for your group to perish. Err on the side of safety. Communicate with us by means of St. Louis or Illinois-based traders or by trustworthy traveling natives. Send us copies of your journals as the weather permits, with delicate parts in code.

If you reach the Pacific, determine if the fur trade could be diverted to the head of the Missouri rather than having to circumnavigate South America. Search for seaports, and if

possible send two of your expedition back by ship with copies of your notes. If you fear for your safety on the land route, return the whole company by ship around South America or even Africa. Use the letters of credit and seek assistance from American consuls in Java, the French Isle (near Madagascar) or the African Cape of Good Hope. If you come back overland, double check the observations you made on the way out.

Upon your return to the States, pay off your men and assure them of a soldier's grant of land from the Congress. You shall bring your reports immediately to Washington. You are authorized to appoint and dismiss a chain of command which would succeed you in event of your death on the trip, and they shall inherit all powers and authorities that have been vested to you.

*“Given under my hand at the city of Washington, this 20<sup>th</sup>. Day of June 1803*

*Th: Jefferson, Pr U.S. of America”*

For the letter in Jefferson's original words:

<https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/jeffersons-instructions-to-meriwether-lewis>

### *Thoughts on Jefferson's Instructions*

At a glance, the letter of instructions President Jefferson sent to Lewis seems short and sweet. Just a few handwritten pages would be the guidelines of an expedition expected to last merely two summers and an overwintering camp between. What is unwritten is the understanding these two men had developed while serving together for more than two years, with Lewis living in the President's House as the president's personal secretary.

It would be accurate to say that Lewis was the President's Chief of Staff, with the understanding that Lewis was the *only* member of the staff. Jefferson wrote to his daughter Martha that, “Capt. Lewis and myself are like two mice in a church” as the two of them lived in the spacious 23 room building that would later be called the White House. That fact underscores the exclusivity of their relationship. If Jefferson

needed ink and paper, it was Lewis that obtained it. It was Lewis who copied and delivered messages to Congress. When Jefferson pondered a policy question and needed a researcher or a sounding board, it was Lewis who discussed these things with him late into the night. In his letter asking Lewis to reside in the White House and serve as his private secretary, Jefferson told him, "... you would be one of the family." (One of Jefferson's grandchildren was named Meriwether Lewis Randolph.) Whether it is deemed a boss/employee, mentor/learner, or father/son relationship, they were close and constant companions.

We are unable to know the key words in the letter that brought to Lewis's mind particular conversations, ideas, or values that Jefferson shared with him. Our close personal friends and compatriots know the story behind the words we use, our own idioms. It is sufficient to say that Lewis would read this letter much differently than you, I, or anyone else in history. In a subculture of two people, only the two would understand the words and phrases for the idiomatic meaning. At the very least, it could have caused Lewis to give greater gravity to certain instructions than to others.

That is not to say that Jefferson relied on "a common understanding" between the two of them. In all of his brilliance, Jefferson's stream of his consciousness letter covered nearly every aspect of the expedition. Jefferson's stream of consciousness was more organized than the most studied narratives of others. Even in his absolute trust of Lewis and his promise that Lewis's movements in the United States "will not be noticed here..." he exhibits a tendency to micromanage, to obsess with details.

For instance, he emphasizes longitude and latitude observations five different times. He asks Lewis to report on over 25 different topics concerning each of the (as it turns out) over 50 Native Americans tribes. He instructs Lewis to investigate over 20 features of the geography on all the environments he encounters. Jefferson wants information on four major rivers that might be within 500 miles of where Lewis was

going. And, he said, keep me informed of your progress as best you can.

As daunting as that list seems, Lewis was also instructed to negotiate with each of the Indian nations he encounters and make trade agreements, arrange for visits of native leaders to the President, and offer educational opportunities to their youth. While he was there, he might as well inoculate the people against small pox. Take note of any commercial competition and how they operate. And, he said, keep me informed of your progress as best you can.

If Lewis met insurmountable opposition, Jefferson continued, he was to return with any of the data he had already collected. "...err on the side of your safety, & to bring back your party safe, even if it be with less information." He continued with a big "if, then" statement, "Should you reach the Pacific ocean" investigate how we might funnel the west coast trade through the Missouri River system. Safeguard your findings and send a copy back by sea, if at all possible. In essence, he furthered authorized Lewis to circumnavigate the globe if he deemed it expedient. He also authorized Lewis to create a command structure that could carry on in case of his death.

The sheer volume of Jefferson's expressed expectations stagger the mind. Some have posited that Jefferson's enormous to-do list for Lewis, combined with Lewis's need for the President's approval as a father figure, led him to bouts of paralyzing angst. Long periods of journal silence have been referred to as evidence of his depression. If Lewis was alive today, perhaps psychologists could accurately analyze his thinking, but perhaps not. As it is, we can only speculate.

Perhaps a better question would ask if the President's instructions were reasonable. As amazing as Thomas Jefferson was, he did not have extensive experience travelling in the wilderness; he never crossed west of the Virginia Blue Ridge. He did not have experience leading troops (as a matter of fact he had a great distrust of the military). His experience with Native Americans was extremely distant and guarded.

He was a genteel southern gentleman who lived a genteel southern life with a European flavor. The fact that he was interested in the west at all is a great irony. He was the ultimate in armchair explorers. All the instructions he gave Lewis were based on the assumption of a team of one officer and 10-12 enlisted men.

Lewis, on the other hand, had travelled greatly, led troops, and interacted with Indians. From the outset of the expedition, he seemed to feel great flexibility in changing the makeup of the expedition. At Harper's Ferry Arsenal he prepared for a dozen men, but eventually tripled that number when it seemed to be the obvious course of action. They made good faith efforts at celestial navigation, but it was Clark's dead reckoning map that was the jewel of the expedition. Clark himself was an aberration to the plan. He was a co-commander when Jefferson only thought of an order of succession. Lewis's decision to include Clark came early in the process. He wrote Clark and offered the equal partner captaincy the day before Jefferson penned his instructions to Lewis. A practical Lewis, aided by the counsel of Clark, made field decisions that the idealistic President could not even imagine.

It is possible that Jefferson knew that his "wish list" was impractical, but decided to shoot for the stars and hope for the moon. It is possible that once Lewis was out of the orbit of Washington he began to consider the practical gravity of the decisions he was making. It is also possible that Lewis knew all along that this trip was into a different world, but did not broach his objections to the President's plans. It is even possible, that Jefferson, the consummate politician, gave Lewis verbal carte blanche to pursue the enterprise in the best way he saw fit. If only we knew the understanding between Lewis and Jefferson.

## ***STORE OF DISCOVERY NEWS:***

*by Vicki Clifton*

After several years as store manager, Karen McDanel has stepped down and I, Vicki Clifton, became the store manager as of 1 July 2018. Karen did an outstanding job and I will try to uphold the tradition. She will continue to volunteer in the store.

Karen is sponsoring the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Craft Fair at the Lewis & Clark State Historic site and sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Society of America. Some of the entrants are fellow L&C Society members, so please come and support the society and craft fair.

Christmas is only a few months away, so stop by and do your shopping early.

## ***Benjamin's Blurb:*** *by Benjamin Pollard*

Hello All!

This summer has been a great one with lots of fantastic visitors and programs. I have learned a lot in the few months that I have been here. While I have not met everyone yet, I am certainly working on it.

In my blurb in the last newsletter, I mentioned working on a Facebook page and other web presence tools. I can happily report that the Facebook page is up and running: [www.facebook.com/LewisandClarkStateHistoricSite](http://www.facebook.com/LewisandClarkStateHistoricSite) . You can expect updates on upcoming events, videos, pictures, news articles about the site, and interesting factoids about Lewis & Clark history. Hopefully it will be a refreshing mix of news and information that will keep the page interesting.

So far the Facebook page has over 200 likes (people that follow the page for updates) and has seen some great interaction with potential visitors. My hope is that once we build up a nice sized following, the page can easily get information about events and the site to people in nearby communities. If you have not already liked and shared the page, I hope you will consider it.

I have also started work on updating our Google and TripAdvisor information. Site hours and information should be easier to find when people search for the site. Fortunately, Lewis & Clark SHS already has a pretty good reputation with 4.6/5 stars on Google and 4.5/5 stars on TripAdvisor. Visitors to the site have definitely enjoyed themselves and learned something new along the way.

***Upcoming Special Events:***

**\*Music Festival:**      Date: Sept. 8, 2018  
    Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Coming up soon is the Music Festival, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 till 4pm. All of your favorite musicians are returning this year, except for the Harmans, who had another commitment.

***Music Schedule for Sept. 8, 2018***

Morning

Lindell Blackford, Scott Miller, Nancy Lippincott, Wayne Schell, Charlie Pool/  
 Lobby all day  
 Stanley Horton/ gallery  
 Farm House Buds/ porch or cabin

Afternoon

Alton Dulcimer Players/ porch or theater  
 Lobby group continues

**\*Volunteer Dinner:**

Date: October 11, 2018  
 Time: 5:30 p.m.

The Volunteer Dinner is again at Julia’s Banquet Center in our usual suite. Julia’s is located at 101 Eastgate Plaza, East Alton, Illinois. The date is October 11, a Thursday evening. Doors open at 5:30. Food will be served at 6:00. Your invitation will be coming soon.

***\*Lewis and Clark Society Arts and Crafts***

***Fair:***                              Saturday, October 13, 2018  
    Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Lewis and Clark Society of America in conjunction with the Store of Discovery is holding its first Annual Craft Fair. Vendors will be selling many different items:

Handcrafted Baskets	Crocheted Items
Pottery	Peanut & Cashew
Brittle Wall Hangings	Apple butter
Baby Blankets	Needlepoint
Embroidery Towels	Wish Dolls

Vendors will be located in the lobby and multi-purpose room. Please plan to attend and support the Society and the vendors.

***\* Celebrate the Tradition of St. Nicholas***

Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018, 10p.m. – 4p.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 4<sup>th</sup> century telling the story of this generous and benevolent Christian Saint who became the inspiration for Santa Claus. St. Nicholas will be portrayed by retired Cahokia Courthouse staff member Jeff Winter. 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.

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

Dec. 8 & 9, 2018. 10a.m. - 4p.m.

This special event celebrates the 215<sup>th</sup> 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 like Bob Mitchell will be inside displaying rocks and minerals, Mark West exhibiting 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> century antique tools. Steve Bollini will be presenting animal furs the men of the Lewis & Clark expedition acquired while wintering in Camp River Dubois. Ken Porter will be displaying his accouterments and beads of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The War of 1812 artillery unit will display and interpret their cannon. Ed Dulaney of the First Royal Regiment of Foot will be presenting Colonial Wars and Western Expansion. Ken Gaffney will be crafting stone pipes from soap stone. Also, in case of emergency, Dr. Imes will be ready. Now, Dr. Imes' knowledge only covers 19<sup>th</sup> century medicine, but I hear he is very fast at removing small frost bitten fingers and toes.

**Volunteer News:** by Cindy Upchurch



**Java, Luna & Zia posing out by the garden**

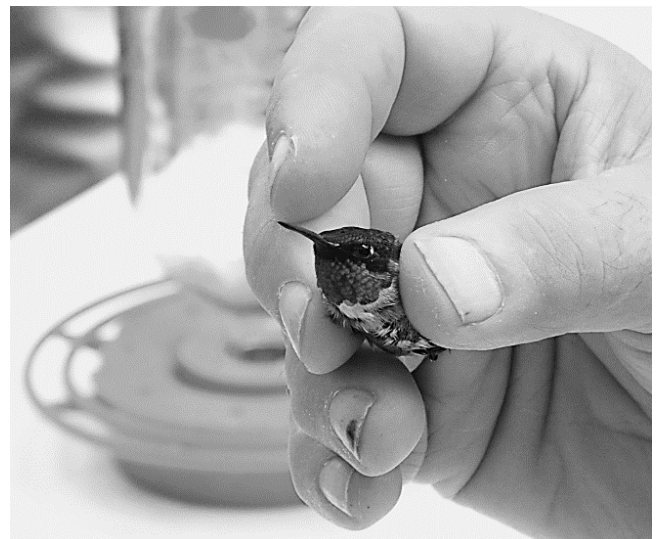
July 14, the site placed several new bricks in the monument area. One brick commemorated Marjorie Barban, volunteer and retired Board President. Luna and Java, the Newfoundlands, were honored for their

volunteer service. The visitors loved when the dogs were here.

After Labor Day, the site will be open 5 days a week. If you have been volunteering on Monday or Tuesday, we'll find a new session. A big thank you to all who pitched-in to assist in covering the extra days this summer.



**Mike Stout teaches the students from this year's class of "Junior Explorers," about the soldiers' fatigue uniform worn on the L&C Expedition.**



**This Hummingbird was captured and banded at the Hummingbird Festival in July. There were roughly 100 visitors that attend this year's event.**

# 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](http://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** \_\_\_\_\_

*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](mailto:LCSA@CampRiverDubois.com) or by mail to:*

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

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