
CAMP DISPATCH

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Bosses Corner ...

by Brad Winn

As the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial closes we can look back at an incredible 4 years of our historic site. It does seem like 20 years have past since we first opened our doors to the public in 2002. Much has passed since those days and we have had to grow up very fast amidst the hustle and bustle of a National event. I know for many we are now asking what will life here at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site be like after the Bicentennial. I can only look to future with an even greater degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is next for us. I know that it will take a lot of patience and hard work but given the foundation that we have already laid we cannot help but succeed.

The time spent focusing on the Bicentennial over the last several years has caused us to set aside the development of much of our other programming and educational efforts and now is the time to make up for that lost time. Our focus for the future should be towards reaching those that have yet to visit our site. We have seen a steady decrease in the number of school groups visiting over the last year, there is no reason that we should not be a field trip destination for every school in the surrounding area. Our efforts should center on outreach into schools and the community as well as a continued focus on the telling the Illinois Lewis and Clark story.

Maintaining our high level of programming and education will be all the more important in these post-Bicentennial years. I look forward to your continued hard work at keeping our site tops in Illinois and the St. Louis area and welcome your input, suggestions and critique on how we can serve the public better. Thank you for all that you have done in the last 4 years and thank you for your continued support in the future.

Volunteer News...Cindy Upchurch

Considering the last minute date rearrangement for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 98 folks were able to attend.

Joe Frazier took the honors by having over 400 volunteer hours. Sally Munie had over 300 hours served; while Ruth Schramek, George McDanel, Herbert Stout, Brandon Paul and Wilbur Cruse had volunteered over 250 hours. Thank you for your dedication to the site.

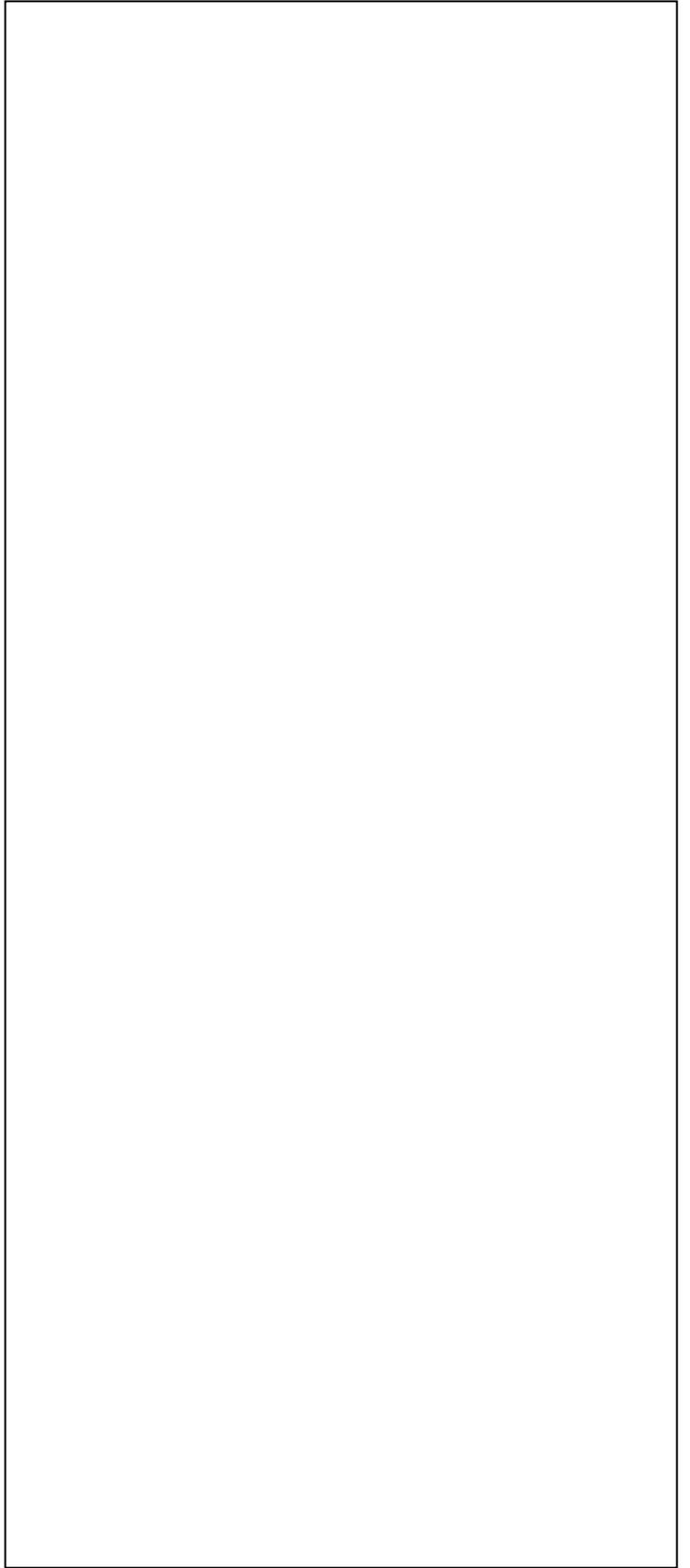
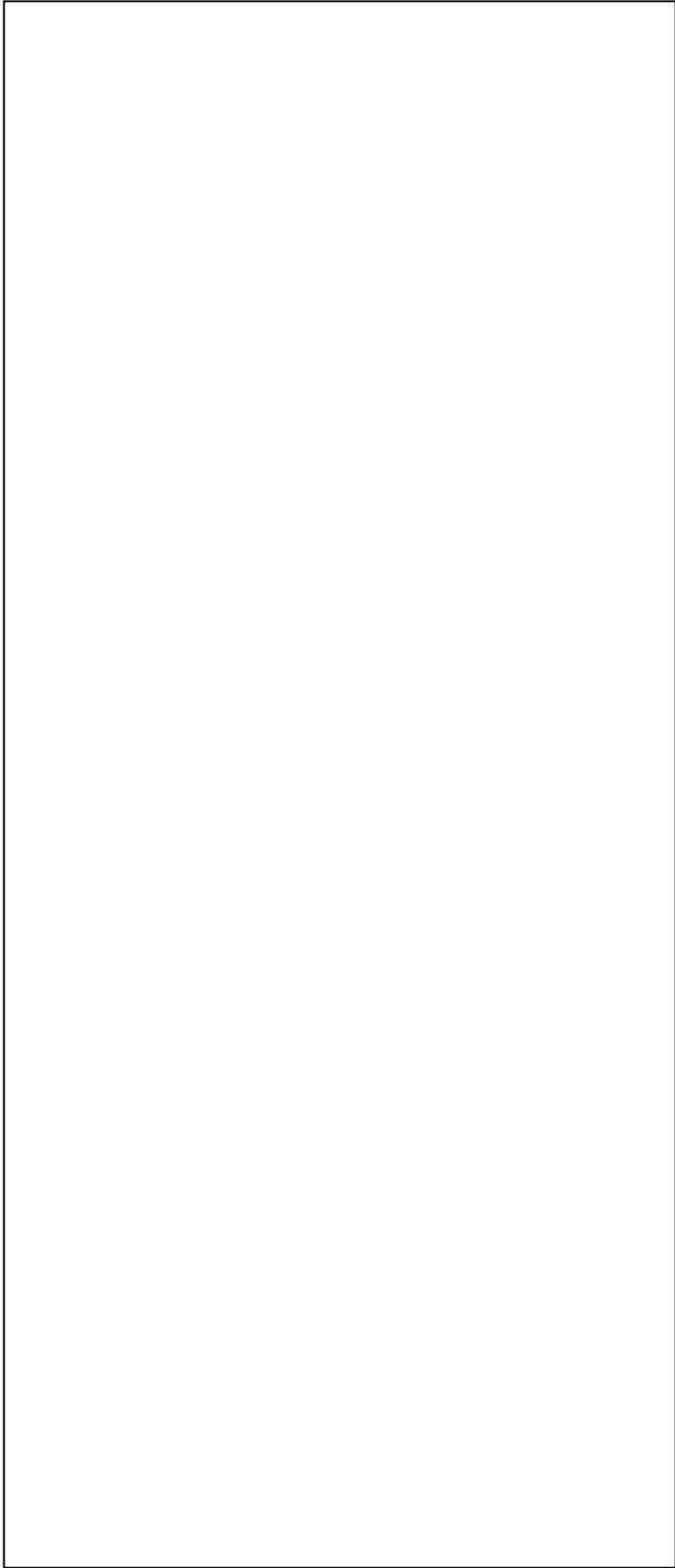
For 2006, the volunteers have donated a total of 7208 hours + attendance at the dinner for a total of 7502 hours. Again, thank you for your dedication. Without your assistance the site could not meet the needs of the visitors.

**Tell a Friend or Loved One!
New Volunteers
Welcomed!
618-251-5811**

Congratulations:

Dennis Nichols received an award for his participation in the Billings, Montana L&C Bicentennial. The award was presented by The National Taxidermists Association.

Pam Imes has received an "Award of Excellence" for her efforts in organizing the first L&C Education Day this past May. The award was presented by the Illinois Association of Museums.



Emergency Plan & Material Safety Data Sheets

by Dennis Nichols

By the end of January a new handbook will be placed at the information desk. This text will have an emergency plan for fire evacuation; what to do in severe weather situations, and how to handle harmful threats and medical emergencies. There will be an updated sheet of emergency numbers to call in case of fire, threat, medical emergency, and chemical spills.

The L&C staff will handle all possible situations, but volunteer help may be needed. It will be very helpful that volunteers familiarize themselves with the Emergency Plan & Material Safety Data Sheets book.

A situation such as this may arise; one of the bright staff members has made a very bad mistake when they discovered an open five gallon bottle of chemical waste. Instead of calling the police, they decided to bring this harmful material into the building and ask if anyone could identify the chemical. As they are walking through the front door they trip and break this bottle in the front foyer.

Oh what a bad break! What do we do? Assess the situation and dial 911, inform staff, do not assist the staff member because they may have spilled the chemical on themselves, and start removing visitors from the building by using one of the other five doors.

Please take a look at this new book.

Special Events Calendar for 2007:

Women Come by Camp River Dubois: January 20, 10am-4pm. See News Release in this letter.

Garrison Weekend: March 10-11: Experience military life of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Camp River Dubois in 1803-04.

Water Stewardship Day at the Lewis & Clark College: April 27. Mike Stout, Dennis Nichols, and Brad Winn will set up the White Pirogue for their education day. If you would like to volunteer to give these guys a hand, please call Mike Stout at 251-5811.

Education Day: May 11. This event will not be open to the public, but expecting over 1 million 4th grade students. Ok, maybe about 750 students, but it seems like a million. These students will go from station to station learning many new, but old ways of the past.

Point of Departure: Camp River Dubois, May 12-13, this event will have demonstrations: such as black smithing, candle making, soap making, coopering, cooking and more.

Kid's Day: June 9

The kids will go from station to station, like they do on Education Day; and perform task such as: pulling the log sled, using a compass, and more. At the end of all the stations the kids will each give a certificate.

Music Festival: Sept 15

Traditional music of the late 1700s and early 1800s performed by musicians in period dress.

Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire: Oct. 13-14. This is a new event and will center on several military periods in America's history. Re-enactors will represent the Spanish, French, British, and American military from 1750-1812. On the evening of the 13 we will have "Camp by Candlelight, from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:

December, 7 2007 from 5-9 pm at the Lewis & Clark College, The Commons Room.

Arrival at Camp River Dubois: Dec. 8-9

Experience the military life of the Lewis & Clark Expedition at Camp River Dubois in 1803-04. There will be a few demonstrators located inside the Interpretive Center.

Note: All events start at 10 am and end at 4 pm, unless otherwise noted.

Special Event News: Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

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“Women Come to Camp”

HARTFORD, IL –The event commemorates 19th century American women of the present day Madison County. At Camp River Dubois on January 20 Lieutenant William Clark writes “women come by.” The special event “Women Come to Camp” will be held Saturday, January 20 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site in Hartford, Illinois. The event is free and open to the public. There will be no food or drinks available for the public.

In 1790, James Gillham and his oldest son were working their land in Kentucky when they returned home to find their cabin ransacked and his family missing. It was later determined that his wife Ann who was pregnant with their fifth child, their one year old, and two other older children were taken by the Kickapoo. The search took five years and brought James to Kaskaskia in the hopes that he could make contact with an American French fur trapper and trader who may have seen or heard of his family. Ann and her children had been taken to Illinois where she gave birth, but that child and her one year old were given to two Kickapoo families to raise as their own. James had learned of his family whereabouts and proceeded in negotiations to pay the ransom for their safe return. His two youngest children refused to leave their Kickapoo families. James retrieved his family in 1795 and they lived in Harrisonville until they moved to present day Madison County in 1802.

By 1804 and after William Clark and his men of the Expedition constructed Camp River Dubois a woman on January 1 came forward to wash and sew for the men. Lieutenant Clark agreed and as standard operating procedures she would also to be given a ration of wood and food for her services. The washer women received 25 cents for sewing and washing twelve shirts as long as she supplied the soap. If the soldiers brought their own soap they were only charged 14 cents for a dozen shirts. Later that January three men of the expedition were drinking, fighting, and not following orders, and for their punishment they were order to construct a cabin for the washer woman. She worked throughout the Expedition’s stay at Camp River Dubois and when they returned on September 23, 1806, Sergeant Ordway recorded in his journal that the widow woman was still here and the place looked like a plantation. One possible theory is that a local woman named Mrs. Cane could be the Washer Woman, because on April 15, Clark wrote that he “settled with Mrs. Cane for all to this day & paid 12/c.” Mrs. Cane’s home may have been Sand Ridge Prairie near the present location Wood River and Hartford communities. This land was claimed by Jesse Cane in 1807 who could be the husband and/or the son of Mrs. Cane, because if we apply the statements made by Sgt. Ordway on his return trip referring to finding the widow woman still at their 1803-04 winter location, that could make Mrs. Cane the mother of Jesse.

These are just a couple examples of women coming to Camp River Dubois and/or new settlers moving into present day Madison County. These women work to build homes and create a future for themselves and their families. The special event “Women Come to Camp” will commemorate and honor the spirit of these women. Visitors will be guided through Camp River Dubois hearing the stories of Lewis & Clark and the Expedition. On Saturday Joanne Lenhardt will portray Ann Gillham and present her story throughout the day. Pam Imes will portray the unknown washer woman who washed and sewed for the men of the expedition. Throughout the day these two ladies and others will also be cooking, chopping wood, fetching water, and sewing while leading tours through Camp River Dubois.

