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# CAMP DISPATCH

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## *Saying Good-bye to Brian Widaman*



On February 2, 2008, Brian Widaman, age 59, died of sudden heart failure while preparing for an early morning real estate class. Brian was a real estate broker with Bev George and Associates for 25 years. He was a member of the Lewis & Clark Society of America, Garden Gateway Association of Realtors and past president of Bethalto Boosters Club. He was an American war veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He earned his bachelor of science degree from University of Illinois and his master's of science-arts from Southern Illinois University. He married Gail E. Powers who preceded him in death on July 20, 2002. They had two children Richard L. and Ruth (Bushnell) Widaman. As an active member of the Lewis and Clark Society he became a member of the board and then president. He also served as the president of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission. He will be greatly missed.

## *Boss's Corner*

*Brad Winn*

Ahhh the birds of spring have finally arrived I hope (and yes!! I am also talking about my Cardinals) but of course so to have the rain clouds. We are stacking up another busy summer this year and unfortunately we have received the unfortunate news that we will not be open seven days a week this summer. With few exceptions our schedule will remain Wednesday through Sunday. I am very encouraged to see the next two months we have every weekday filled with school groups and other visiting organizations.

With school age groups in mind we are again scheduling our Lewis and Clark Explorers Camp in partnership with Lewis and Clark Community College Summer College for Kids programs. Our dates for our week long camp this year are June 23 – 27. The camp is again limited to 20 participants and is targeted for 10 – 12 year old children. The cost of the camp will be \$59 and remains one of the cheapest camps they have to offer. We hope that you will again be available to help with our camp and hope that those of you with children or grandchildren will have the opportunity to join us for that week. We will also be holding our annual Kids day on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

A new addition to our summer programs is the Lewis and Clark Segway Glide. Join us this summer and take a 3-hour tour of the Lewis and Clark history of the area (Minus Skipper, Mary Ann and Gilligan). Through a partnership with the St. Louis Science Center and Alton Convention and Visitor's Bureau starting May 1 – October we will be offering Segway rides every other Thursday from 4:30 – 8:00. We will also on Saturday May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 6 and October 4 offer the Taste of Hartford Ride which will include a meal at Hartford Ribs. Costs for the tours are \$80 for the Thursday Night Rides and \$100 for the Taste of Hartford Ride. A portion of the cost for each ride will come back to support the site and educational programming. Tours will be lead by yours truly and "Crazy Wheels" Mike Stout. We hope to see you this summer as we glide along the local Lewis and Clark Trail.

I am looking forward to another great summer!

## Maintaining Historical Authenticity

By Michael A. Stout

When choosing a historical persona to demonstrate do not assumed that if it happened on the east coast it was happening in Southwestern Illinois. A good example is the musical instrument the dulcimer. On the east coast the British Americans did have an instrument somewhat similar to a dulcimer. About 1790, the German dulcimer was introduced into Pennsylvania and the oldest known specimen dates to 1832. To the best of my knowledge there is no evidence putting this instrument in southwestern Illinois or St. Louis in 1800.

Another example is tinsmithing. One would think that by necessity there had to be a tinsmith somewhere in the French Corridor or in New Design, a British American Community south of present day Waterloo. A tinsmith could have made a fruitful living selling all sorts of crafted products like lanterns and candle holders. But tinsmithing did not arrive into St. Louis until the late 1820's. Prior to the American Revolution and War of 1812 all the tin in America was produce in England and all American tinsmiths were in New England. In 1832, a letter is sent by a young tinsmith from St. Louis to New England asking his father to send him a new and finer set of tinsmithing tools because no one in St. Louis could make them. At this time and to the best of my knowledge there is no evidence placing a tinsmith in Southwestern Illinois or St. Louis in 1800.

My last example is the production of wool in southwestern Illinois. John Reynolds (Lived in Cahokia in the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.) wrote that a man moved into the New Design in the late 1790's establishing a sheep farm with the idea of producing wool. Reynolds recorded that this endeavor failed.

When you choose to recreate a historical demonstration ask "Who am I, where am I, what year, and is there written evidence to support the endeavor I've chosen in southwestern Illinois and St. Louis?" My challenge to all, prove me wrong. For example all it will take is one primary source stating that so and so had a dulcimer or there was a tinsmith and the wool industry occurred in southwestern Illinois and St. Louis prior to 1800.

## The Store of Discovery



**Ron Goldsmith:  
Store of Discovery  
and Volunteer  
Manager**

### New Items in the Store of Discovery

Three new items of interest are among several that are being added to the inventory in the Store of Discovery. The first is a coloring book called *The Ballad of Seaman* that was written and compiled by Christine Bramstedt, a long time member of the Society. Chris developed the coloring book as a motivational tool when she taught fourth graders at Gilson Brown School in Godfrey. She has generously given the store the right to have copies of the book reproduced and sold in the store. There is a compact disc and cassette tape of the song that may be available, also. The book is being reproduced by the Really Big Coloring Book Company located in Clayton. If it becomes available in time, Chris has agreed to be available to sign copies purchased during the weekend of the Point of Departure activities, May 10 and 11.

Another book that will soon be available is a cook book being developed by David Alan Badger. David has drawn a reproduction of the camp which will be used as the cover. The book will feature a variety of recipes submitted by several groups along the Great Rivers Scenic Byway. One of the recipes was compiled by Margie Barban after consultation with Pam Imes. There will also be a 250 word historical account of Camp River Dubois.

The third item is still under consideration and will be jigsaw puzzles unique to our site. One suggestion has been a wooden puzzle with Seaman as the subject. The puzzle would contain only a few pieces and would be available for very young children. Other puzzles would contain as many as 350 pieces and would use photographs made here at the site by Mike Stout.

It will become even more necessary to seek new items for the store as present merchandise is phased out. Several items are no longer available and that number may grow as the years pass.

## **Announcements**

A book was found on the window sill of the gallery. It may belong to a volunteer. It is at the information desk.

The Store of Discovery needs your help. We sell several reproduction historical documents and would like to roll these items and insert them into paper towel rolls. We are asking all staff and volunteers to save their paper towel rolls and bring them to the gift shop.

The traveling exhibit, *Indians of Southern Illinois*, for 3 months was at Belleville Public Library. The Library staff stated that it was enjoyed and view by many patrons. Currently, it is at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site till July. Thank you to the volunteers who help collect surveys for the exhibit. These surveys are needed to enter the exhibit in the Illinois Association of Museums' competition.



The photo titled "American Pride" received honorable mention at Alton Square Mall's first eagle contest. It was the first photo contest Mike Stout has entered. Thank you Brad & Joanne.

## **Calendar for 2008:**

### **Education Day:** May 9

This event will not be open to the public, but expecting an overwhelming amount of 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Ok, maybe about 1000 students, but it seems like a million. These students will go from station to station learning many new, but historic ways of doing all sorts of wonderful games and skills.

### **Point of Departure: Camp River Dubois,** May 10-11

Demonstrators will include: blacksmithing, candle making, soap making, coopering, cooking, weaving, carving, and much more.

### **Kids' Day:** June 7

There will be stations of exploration where children will learn to make rope, fold a flag, drill as soldiers, and other fun adventures.

**Junior Explorers:** Sometime in late June we will have a week long camp for 20 explorers ranging in age from 9-12 years old.

### **Music Festival:** Sept 13

Traditional bluegrass music is performed by the Alton Dulcimer Players. Other musicians will include: drummer, harpist, cello player, and fiddler,

### **Flags over the Mississippi: Struggle for an Empire:** Oct. 11-12.

This event will center on several military periods in America's history. Re-enactors will represent the Spanish, French, British, and American military from 1750-1812.

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:** November 6, Thursday Night Form 5:30-9:00 pm at the Godfrey Lewis & Clark College, the Commons Room.

### **Arrival at Camp River Dubois:** Dec. 13-14

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 and guest speakers.

### **Christmas Day:** December 25

This year's Christmas falls on a Thursday and we will be closed on that day, and reopen on Friday the 26.

### **New Years Day:** **January 1, 2009**

This year's New Year's Day falls on a Thursday and we will be closed on that day, and reopen on Friday the 2.

### **Women Come By:** Saturday, **January 17, 2009**

The event will feature traditional open fire pit cooking, candle making, and soap making. This event is dependent on the weather. On Saturday only from 10-2, but the camp will be open until 4 pm.

## *A Sweet day to be out!!!*

*by Michael A. Stout*

On February 26, about 20 Lewis & Clark volunteers and staff headed north for Grafton. Our destination was the Richard Hindelang's family home and maple syrup operation known as the Mason Hollow Maple Syrup Sugarbush. For years Richard has tapped about 150 hard maple trees in his hollow. He stated "that the hard woods like oak and hickory seem to like the area above his hollow, because only the hard maples grow down the hollow slopes." Richard's father-in-law Bill Rister had taped several hard maples as a kid, collected sap in buckets, and boiled the sap on their wood burning stove. Bill pointed out to his son-in-law about 15 years ago that he had an abundance of hard maples on his land and the operation went from a few trees to 65 trees to more than 150 trees today with over 200 taps.



**Richard Hindelang talking with the L&C tour about Mason Hollow.**

Eastern Woodland Native Americans are credited with the discovery of maple sap, which is known as maple syrup water because it is 20% sugar and 80% water. One legend has it that a hunter hit a maple tree with his stoned ax and removed it later while working on a new watering trough. The next morning he went back to work on the trough which he had left under the tree and to his surprise the sap collected overnight. He discovered that the sap was sweet and then showed it to his family. That day his wife decided used the sap to boil meat and the hunter and his family were amazed that the meat had such a sweet flavor. It was discovered later that if sap-water when boiled down would turn into sugary syrup, but it is not known if Native Americans discovered this process because some historians believe that the ceramic technology would not have supported the high temperatures needed to boil the sap water down into syrup. Another legend concerns the creator "Glooskap." He gave the people all that was needed including a sweet tree. One day he visited the village and no one came out to greet him so the search was on for his people. He found them lazily sleeping under these sweet trees and allowing sap to drip steadily into their open mouths. Insulted by this laziness Glooskap retrieved water from the stream and poured it down every tree. He then told the people their punishment for such laziness will be work and that they will always have to work to separate the sweetness from the water. For centuries the Iroquois have believed that several young hunters had seen squirrels bite off a branch and then licked the sap. The Iroquois tried this and realized how sweet the sap was and incorporated it into their daily lives. Even today squirrels can be seen biting off branches and licking up the sap.

In the late 1600's the Canadian French explores, fur traders, and missionaries were introduced to the technique of taping and collecting sap. The French and then English used their own technology and tools to further refine the process. They used augers to bore into the trees, made wooden spiles (taps), and collected it in wooden buckets. The Europeans used their metal technology to boil down the sap in iron and/or brass kettles, but they also notice that the boiling of the sap into syrup would eventually spoil. When the water is completely boiled out of the sap all that remains is crystalline maple sugar. To the Europeans living in Canada, east coast, and along the Mississippi River making their own sugar was cheaper than buying the white sugar produce from sugarcane and the maple sugar kept indefinitely.

On February 11, 1804, Meriwether Lewis records that "The sugar maple runs freely," and on February 13 he again records that the "Sugar trees run." William Clark on February 9 receives invitations for two Balls in St. Louis. Lewis leaves his standing orders with the detachment and placing Sgt. Ordway in charge while both captains are in St. Louis. Included in these orders was this statement, "The four men who are engaged in making sugar will continue in that employment until further orders, and will receive each a half a gill of extra

whiskey pr. day and be exempt from guard duty.” No where in the journals does it state that Lewis purchased sugar and so the sugar mention in his writings is assumed to have been produce at Camp River Dubois. Monday, April 16, Clark records two 50 pound bags of sugar and on the back of one of Clark’s maps is a more detailed list of materials including two bags of sugar weighting 112 pounds. Using the 112 pound weight we can calculate how many gallons of sap it took to create 112 pounds of sugar. Seven pounds of sugar is obtained from one gallon of maple syrup and/or forty gallons of sap. It took 16 gallons of maple syrup and/or 640 gallons of sap to make 112 pounds of sugar. The four men engaged in making sugar had twenty brass kettles to catch and boiled the sap into sugar. Camp River Dubois’ sugar making process went from February and probably through March. For sap to flow it must be below freezing at night and above freezing during the day. At the present in South Western Illinois sap collecting season is between mid-January and through March. Once the sap is collected it must be boiled down within forty-eight hours or it will spoil.

Over the last 200 years many different technologies have come and gone to collect and process maple syrup. A tap can be placed into a tree about ten inches in diameter and for every ten inches another tap can be placed into the same tree, but not to exceed more then three taps for one tree. When Richard, his family, and friends started this operation at Mason Hollow they tried to carry the sap down the slops in buckets which ended in disaster because they spilled half of the sap on their way down the slops. At Sugarbush today hundreds of feet of blue tap lines (polyurethane) run from tap hole and down the hollow walls to blue plastic storage barrels. There the sap is collected and taken to the “Sugar Shack.” The shack is small 12 x 20 building engulf with steam. These sugar shacks were developed out of necessity because making maple syrup inside the home over an open fire or on a stove would create such a mess when the steam condensed back into water. In Richard’s Sugar Shack setting on top of the wood-burning stove is a special four chamber evaporator. It is designed for the purpose of removing the water from the sap and as the sap moves from chamber to chamber it becomes darker in color. The stove is stoked to keep the temperature at 600 pulse degrees. There is a two hundred gallon plastic tank that releases more sap as the water is evaporated out. Two hundred gallons of sap will produce about five gallons of syrup. The syrup is then sold in a trailer next to the sugar shack for about \$8 per bottle.

**Step 1: Tap the Trees and collect in bucket and/or plastic tap lines.**



**Step 2: Run Tap Lines from Tap to Barrel.**



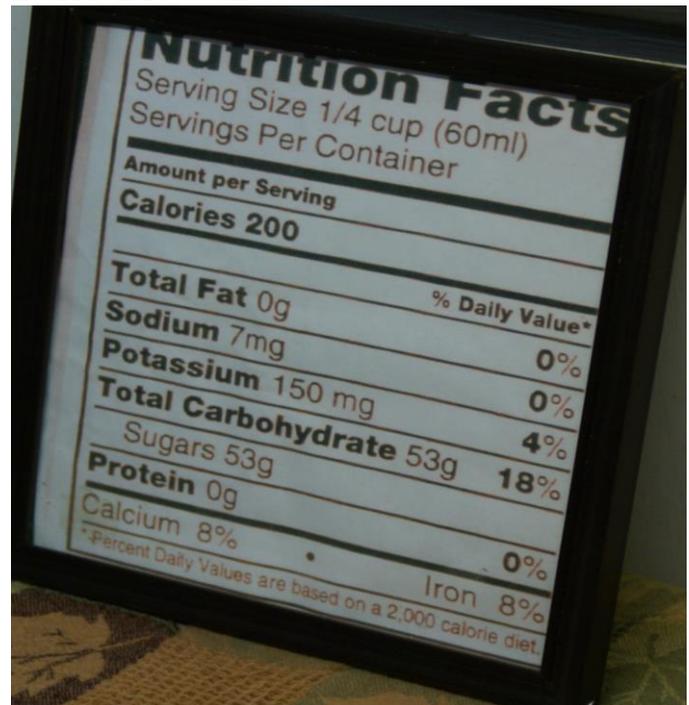
**Step 3: Take sap to the “Sugar Shack.”**



**Step 4: Boil sap down using an old wood burning stove. Richard’s friend Fred Venardors has been helping for years.**



**Step 5: Bottle maple syrup, place label and nutrition facts on bottle.**



## **“EDUCATION DAY” May 9 AND “POINT OF DEPARTURE” May 10–11 AT LEWIS AND CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE**

More than 800 fourth graders will take part in the third annual Education Day on Friday, May 09 at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford, Illinois. From 10:00 a.m. to 1:20 p.m. students from Beckemeyer School, Brighton North, Columbus Elementary, J.E.Hinchcliffe, Hartford Elementary, Holy Cross Lutheran, Holy Rosary, Kreitner Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, Pocahontas Center, and Vandalia Elementary will learn first hand about the Lewis and Clark Expedition by experiencing how the men prepared for their journey. Students will learn to fold a flag, make a fish net, feel animal hides, start a fire with flint and steel, make rope, learn about a white pirogue one of the Expedition’s boats, visit a woodworker, see how beekeeping works to make honey and wax, cooking using herbs, spinning, sewing, blacksmithing, flax work, fiber dyeing, broom making, petting Seaman, march and drill military-style, carrying water in buckets with a yoke and experiencing the history of flax, making buckets, seeing how to saw logs into planks and making a trade bead necklace or a candle to take home.

Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11 will be the sixth annual “Point of Departure” event at Lewis and Clark State Historic Site.

### **May 10<sup>th</sup>**

\*5-K Run & Two Mile Fun Run/Walk 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by Bipod. For Information, call 618-407-3643 or visit [www.bipod.com](http://www.bipod.com).

\*Trail Net Bike Ride/9:30a.m. For registration, call 314-416-9930, ext. 111 or visit [www.trailnet.org](http://www.trailnet.org).

### **May 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**

\*World Bird Sanctuary will be having performances at 1:00 and 3:00p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

\*Authors will be available for book signings:

- John Dunphy-*It Happened at the River Bend and Lewis and Clark’s Illinois Volunteer*
- Phyllis Bechtold-*Seymour Bluffs* (Children’s Books)
- Tim Raymer-*Lewis and Clark Point of Departure*

Activities for the two days will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the reconstructed Camp River Dubois. Re-enactors portraying expedition members will perform marching drills and manual labor, cooking, and engage in shooting demonstrations. Visitors may see period artisans demonstration candle making, cooking, herbs, blacksmithing, weaving, natural dying of wool, plants of the expedition, coopering, woodworking, period sewing, gun smithing, broom making, basket making and watch a sawyer cut logs.

Hartford Confluence Tower will be open for tours during this weekend. William Clark and his men arrived at what would become Camp River Dubois on December 12, 1803. The location was very close to the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the route chosen for the expedition. Most importantly, the location was in United States territory on the east side of the Mississippi River, which would honor the Spanish confirmation of the transfer of the Louisiana Territory to the United States. Construction of Camp River Dubois began immediately and by Christmas Eve 1803, the men were able to sleep indoors. While Clark oversaw the day-to-day operation of the camp, Meriwether Lewis was busy with official duties. In the spring the camp became a beehive of activities as final preparations were made. On April 1, 1804 Captain’s Lewis and Clark formally mustered into service the soldiers and other men who would take part in the expedition.

Lewis’ field notes read “The mouth of the River Dubois is to be considered as the point of *departure*.” The Expedition left on a rainy Monday afternoon, May 14, 1804 from Camp River Dubois at 4 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. For both days Hartford Ribs will be selling food and William Deutsch will be selling home made ice cream or root beer floats.

Sponsors: The BANK of Edwardsville / Creative Options Graphic Design/ Lewis & Clark Society of America / National Park Services/ Recognition Services/ The Village of Hartford/ and The Village of Pontoon Beach / St. Louis Cardinals

## HELP US AT L&C SAVE STATE FUNDS

We spend about \$500 a year sending out our news letter by standard mail. We would like to have everyone ones' E-mail address which would reduce this amount significantly. If you would like to receive a Lewis & Clark News Letter (Camp Dispatch) by E-mail, please call Mike, Pam, Cindy, and/or Brad at 618-251-5811. We really need your help!