
CAMP DISPATCH

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PREPARATION FOR DISCOVERY,

February 7 & 8

Pam Imes and Michael Stout attended a two day seminar in St. Charles, sponsored by the Greater Saint Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau, the St. Charles Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission, and the Time Traveler Living History Resources. The main focus of the seminar concentrated on the civilian dress of the Lewis & Clark era. Speakers included Ted Mueller of Chester, Illinois who sounded a lot like our very own Dennis Nichols. Fritz and Kathleen Kannik provided authentic, documentation and patterns of historic clothing and Bea Reid, St. Clair Shores, Minnesota who is a historic seamstress and researcher who specializes in ladies' hats and caps. Bea has produced historic clothing for the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Sandra Altman gave an interesting seminar on "clothing accuracy." Sandra has produced clothing patterns based on actual clothing found in many private and museum collections.

FRENCH COLONIAL STUDIES

February 28

The French Colonial Studies is a group dedicated to investigating the French colonization of the Illinois Country. Recently their research has included Lewis & Clark's involvement with these French American communities and how they supported the expedition. On February 28, the French Colonial Studies offered dinner, music, and interpretation at the Interpretive Center. Tony Gerard, a professor of biology at Shawnee Community Collage, portrayed Jean Baptiste La Junesse. Jean was one of the French boatmen who joined the expedition. Tony did his interpretation of Jean in what is known as first person. First person interpretation involves the presenter to assuming a character role or presenting their character as if they have become that person.

Later Traveler's Dream performed. Traveler's Dream is a duo of singer/songwriters and musicians Denis Wilson and Michael Lewis. The music takes listeners on a journey through 300 years of life and living in the American Midwest. The European and homegrown songs from the Midwest's early history give voice to the experiences of French-Canadian voyagers, colonial soldiers, and pioneer families.

SCHOLAR DAY FIELD TRIP

February 21

This particular Saturday saw a little over 700 high school scholars (St. Clair and Madison counties) visited the Interpretive Center and Camp River Dubois. From 9 am to 3:30 pm the students were treated to a live musket fire, learning trunks, trivia questions, and Camp River Dubois. At one time it was reported that there were 15 yellow school busses in the parking lot. Add these students with the normal Saturday 600 visitors, we had 1,300 people visit this day.



Tell a Friend or Loved One!

Volunteers Wanted 618-251-5811

THE LADY

By
Melba Schmidt

I was born in the Pittsburg area and launched on the Ohio River. Instead of putting a handsome figurehead on my prow, they mounted cannon on my nose.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

Did you know that the keelboats are not christened? You've heard of the Robert E. Lee, the Dixie Queen and the Sultana. But even with my epic journey no one has called me by name. Well, maybe some epithets but, not by name.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

They loaded my ample hold unevenly so that I wallowed very embarrassingly on the Mississippi.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

They wrestled me over sawyers and bumped me into snags. And they repeatedly scoured my generous hips with very abrasive sand.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

And, Captain, I know that wasn't whiskey you poured into the river that dark night over my starboard side!

Is that any way to treat a lady?

When the current tried to push me onto my side, so I could take a rest, those strong young backs up-righted me and forced me to struggle back to work.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

And didn't I bristle when the Teton Sioux demanded tribute? Of all the nerve!

Is that any way to treat a lady?

I carried our flag just as proudly as any other soldier. I am a soldier too, you know. But there is no military grave marker for me. O one knows where or when I died. They lost me.

Is that any way to treat a lady?

Replicated here is this beautiful place thousands of visitors look up in amazement at how tall I am. They are impressed by my sturdiness. Some even tenderly touch the gentle curve of my side with respect and admiration. How wonderful to be treated like a lady! So why did they make me wait for two whole centuries?

Is that any way to treat a lady?

PAM'S NEW NEWS:

Congratulations!!!!



I just want to let everyone know that as of March 16th I tied the knot and became the new Mrs. Pam Imes. I took a two week vacation and went to Jupiter Beach and married Paul Imes.

Who? Paul is a Site Technician II at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site.

The weather was beautiful every day except the day we got married and it rained. They say that's good luck because afterwards we looked out over the ocean and saw a double rainbow.

We visited the Cardinals and saw three Spring training games and the Cardinals won them all, not like opening day in St. Louis. We also enjoyed a wonderful ride on an air boat. The days went real fast and before long it was time to come back to work.

BACK TO SCHOOL

By Pam Imes

On April 3, 2004, I went to New Salem and worked with Barbara Archer. Barb teaches cooking classes there. There were 10 of us trying to learn the art of cooking, over an open fire. Boy, did she have her hands full. We made beef stew, roasted chicken with dressing (in a reflector oven), green beans, cornbread, biscuits, pumpkin and a squash pie. We started around 8:45 and at 1:00 we all sat down and ate our first fully cooked meal that we prepared over an open fire. Everything looked and tasted delicious!!!!!!

That's great! Pam had a wonderful time and was educated in the colonial ways of cooking!!!! Now the site staff and volunteers will be expecting a great Thanksgiving dinner this year. Right Pam?



Notice:

Volunteers, if
you are
planning to be
a part of the
May Departure
Special
Event...Call
Pam Imes
at
618-251-5811.

Thank You Note:

The L&C SHS' staff, members of the Lewis & Clark Society of America and L&C volunteers wish to thank the National Park Service (NPS).

The NPS has provided funding for the outfitting of Camp River Dubois through their 2003-04 Challenge Cost Share Projects. Matching funds for these projects were provided by the Lewis & Clark Society of America.

A big... THANK YOU... to the NPS and the Lewis & Clark Society of America!!!!

MEN WANTED!

We Need Your Help Immediately

Volunteers are needed to portray the men of the detachment or civilian "Country People." They are needed Wednesday through Sunday. Shifts include 9:30 am – 1 pm, 1 pm – 4:30 pm, and/or 10 am – 3 pm.

- You must be willing to make an enormous commitment of yourself to this endeavor.
It must be as if this was to become a new hobby.
- The L & C site can provide basic historical clothing during our first year of camp operations. There will be a supply of clothing for volunteers to borrow, as needed.
- These temporary historic clothes are on loan and you will be given ample time to purchase your own historic clothing. This is where the enormous commitment comes into play. We have a limited supply of historic clothing and this supply must be available to offer to new volunteers.
- If you have a desire to portray one of the men of the L & C epic journey, call Mike and be prepared to answer "who am I" and "what am I doing here?"

Call Mike, Pam, and/or Cindy
618-251-5811

Volunteer News:

Cindy Upchurch

April was busy with volunteer training on Saturdays. We like to thank the volunteers who came and to the guest speakers who discussed river history, May events, Lewis and Clark history, and society membership. It was a time to meet fellow volunteers and review volunteer skills and site policies.

April 24 was set aside for volunteers interested in being stationed at Camp River Dubois. So far, we have about a dozen volunteers who are interested in interpreting the camp. Having volunteers stationed at the camp allows us to open more of the bunkhouses for viewing. The site wants to provide visitors an opportunity to view military and civilian life from 1803-1806. If you are interested in being a camp volunteer, contact Cindy at 618-251-5811.

May's Signature Event is quickly approaching. For volunteers that are working May 13 (Eve of Discovery), just park in the front parking lot as usual. For volunteers working May 14-16, we will be mailing you an official parking pass to allow you to park in the driveway behind the building. The previous Volunteer that was mailed out should be discarded.

Parking Passes: I will be turning in the final Volunteer List to the Bicentennial Commission staff about May 1. Besides the volunteer having an official parking pass, traffic control will have your name on their list also. Parking space is tight and the front parking lot will be closed during May 14-16 to allow space for the Corps of Discovery and shuttles. Normally, volunteers arrive at 9:00 am. I would suggest arriving earlier during the Signature Event.

During a previous special event, many of the volunteers and staff parked at Hartford City Hall and car pooled to the site. We may consider doing a car pool again.

Many volunteers are staying all day during the Signature Event. Instead of having lunch catered inside the Visitors Center, it has been suggested that you received a lunch voucher to use at the outdoor vendors. There will be vendors with contemporary, as well as period food. This suggestion would provide you more food choices, as well as an opportunity to step outside the Visitors Center and see the events.

Again, thank you for all your help and patience with the school groups and enthusiasm in assisting with the Signature Event.

The Boss' Corner:

Brad Winn

Well if you ever had any doubts as to whether or not the word is spreading about our site stop by this April or early May! We are averaging 500 plus school kids a day (just looked for the frazzled stares on some of our staff and volunteers as proof) and the crowds are really picking up for the weekends as well. Looks like our expectation for the size of the crowds for this Bicentennial year are going to be true, so hang on and enjoy the ride!

I am happy to announce that we are on schedule to re-open the confluence site by the start of the Bicentennial Signature Event. The area has been redesigned, and the monument as we once knew it is unfortunately now gone. We have moved the center rock and flagpoles and will be adding a new wayside marker to compliment the newly laid out site. Parking and traffic flow will be a bit different now, but we will offer a much larger green space and I am looking forward to many a group picnicking and enjoying our spectacular view of the confluence.

Finally I want to say again THANK YOU to the volunteers and staff for all your hard work, dedication, patience, and enthusiasm. I am overwhelmed daily by all that you do to make this site what it is, the best on the Lewis and Clark Trail, and one of Illinois' premiere historic sites. I am proud and honored to be working along side all of you. Have a great Bicentennial and be proud of all that you have helped build.

CALENDAR EVENTS:

May 13-16: Signature Event, LCSHS, Hartford, IL

May 31: Memorial Day Site is open.

June 19-20: Kids of Discovery

September 18-19: L&C Music Festival

October 16-17: Men at Work

December 11-12: Arrival at Camp River Dubois

For more information call Cindy Upchurch at 618-251-5811.