
CAMP DISPATCH

Published at LEWIS & CLARK STATE HISTORIC SITE, (Madison County,) by Staff

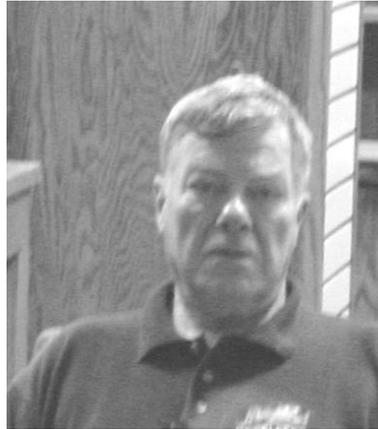
[Vol. I.]

SUNDAY, August 1, 2004

[Num. 3.]

In Memory:

On May 19, Merrill Rosenthal died of sudden heart failure while enjoying one of his favorite past-times, golf. Merrill was a retired social studies teacher from E. Alton Junior High. When the L&C Interpretive Center opened in December 2002, he was one of the first volunteers. He was a member of the Lewis and Clark Society and former treasurer. He will be greatly missed.



Thank You Volunteers!

By Cindy Upchurch

Everyone at the Lewis and Clark SHS wants to thank the volunteers for all the hours and work they donated helping with the Illinois Bicentennial Signature Event. For weeks the Interpretive Center's volunteers had answered questions and inquiries from the public about the special event, departure of the keelboat and reopening of the monument area.

May 10th through May 16th was a busy week. Wednesday and Thursday were designated Education Days, which was organized by Diane Blasa, DNR. The Eve of Discovery unfortunately was rained out, but throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday the weather continued to improve and so did the crowds. Volunteers just pitched-in and did whatever they saw needed doing; assisting in the gallery, passing out brochures and fielding questions. Some volunteers even got to bus tables for the breakfasts in the lobby.

Many volunteers went to the launch site and saw the keelboat depart on Friday. Throughout the event, volunteers had a chance to see the Festival Grounds. The Festival Grounds had everything from rocking horses to medicine men. Members of The Detachment at Camp River Dubois re-enacted early 1800s military life.

Again, thank you for helping to make the Illinois Bicentennial Signature Event memorable for everyone and for helping to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Great show despite rain

MY WIFE, Jenny, and I just returned from an extended trip to the Midwest. Our first stop was the Lewis and Clark commemoration at Hartford on May 13 and 14. Despite the rain, which caused a number of events to be canceled or modified, we had a great time. The breakfast with President Jefferson was very entertaining and the food surprisingly good. The launch of the keelboat in the afternoon was inspiring.

The wind and rain served to remind us of the hardships those brave fellows endured as a matter of course. We were unable to stay for the entire weekend, which was a shame, as the weather was improving and I'm sure we missed a lot of events.

The real purpose of this letter is to thank all of the folks who worked so hard to



put on this event. We certainly felt worse for them than for ourselves, for we could see how much time and effort had gone into preparation for these festivities. So a big "thank you" to all the Lewis and Clark volunteers, local and county officials, law enforcement, Madison County Transit workers — in short, everyone who worked to make our stay a memorable one.

Chuck Conway
Golden, Colo.

Taken from Belleville News-Democrat, Belleville, IL, Sunday, June 6, 2004

Tell a Friend or Loved One!
Volunteers Wanted 618-251-5811

The men of “The Detachment” relax after interpreting to about 1,500 visitors on May 16, during the bicentennial event.



Detachment News:

ATCHISON, KAN. — July 4th

The two weekend-long festival in Riverfront Park on the banks of the Missouri River commemorates the bicentennial of the Corps of Discovery’s visit to the area and, of course, the Fourth of July.

The parade featured children carrying flags from all 50 states as well as numerous Native American Nations. As the parade made its way through downtown Atchison the Kansas Army National Guard band played patriotic music for the crowd. Onlookers were treated to re-enactors from the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles and “The Detachment” from the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, who were dressed according to military uniforms of 1803-1806.

Dennis Nichols (Sgt. Ordway), Don Ferricks (Sgt. Floyd), Rex Maynard (George Gibson), Todd Western, Dave Duvall, and Jim Patton “The Detachment” stayed at the original L&C camp site on Independence Creek. They participated in the historical re-enactments such as: marching, cooking, shooting, and re-enacting actual events while a narrator spoke to the crowd.

By Michael Stout



THE SUMMER INTERN:

Joel Freeman is participating in the LCSHS and Illinois College internship program. Joel will be entering his senior year and will obtain his degree in international studies. Joel’s parents hope with the help of the almighty, he will complete school by the spring of 2005. He is working as an interpreter at Camp River Dubois, but as of this news letter on August 1, he will be on his way back to school. Joel has sharpened his communication skills, studied Lewis & Clark, wrote for “The Journal,” and learned how to start a fire. All-in-all Joel’s experiences were priceless. Good luck Joel from the LCSHS staff.

By Michael Stout

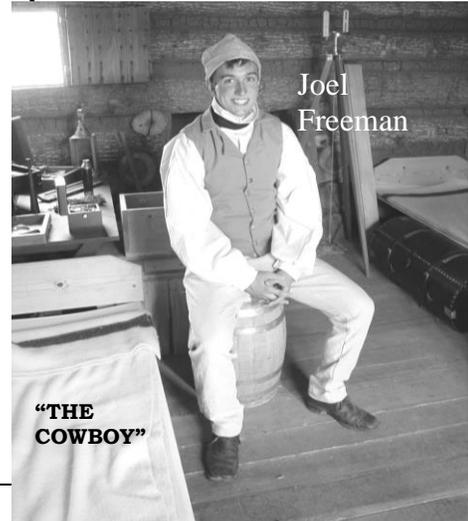


Richard Ford portraying “York” and on guard detail.

We Want Your Input!

Send in your articles, letters, book reviews, and comments to Camp Dispatch Newsletter, at L&C State Historic Site, #1 L&C Trail, Hartford, IL 62048 and/or E-Mail to clark@campdubois.com.

Please include “Camp Dispatch” in the subject line.



Tree Fund Organized

As a result of being on the prairie, the area around Camp River Dubois (and in the future The Washer Woman's Hut) does not have any trees. Joanne Lenhardt has volunteered to chair a Tree Fund to collect money to buy a tree(s) to be planted. If you would like to give a donation to the Tree Fund, please see Joanne Lenhardt or Cindy Upchurch. By Spring 2005, hopefully we can dedicate a white oak(s) (state tree) or maple trees.

Pam Imes and/or Cindy Upchurch
at
618-251-5811.

In need of...

The Lewis & Clark State Historic Site is in need of a refrigerator and stove. If you have a refrigerator and/or stove that are in need of a new home and you wish to donate it to the site's kitchen, please give Pam Imes a call at 618-251-5811.

- Staff (Dennis & Mike) will pick up refrigerator.
- A deed of gift will be given for tax purposes.

GARDEN NEWS

by Pam Imes

For the bicentennial The Lewis and Clark Historic Garden got off to a good start. First all the plants arrived and were planted with the help of the Southwestern IL Correctional Center. Everything looked fine, except for the benches that had been donated but failed to arrive on time. So I called the nursery several times and they said the benches were in transit. So by Thursday still no benches. By now I knew they would not make it in time for our BIG event. So I thought if that's the only problem that won't be bad. But on Friday it started to rain. It rained and rained so much that all my flowers were under water. In total around 4-5 inches of rain fell and the flowers were under water. So guess what? The flowers didn't all survive. All that planning and planting, trying to get everything in bloom for the event "Mother Nature" had her own plans. Somehow about one third of the flowers have survived. They are still trying to recover and time will tell if they will make it or not. But there is always next year!!!!

But the good news about the garden is that the two benches donated for the Lewis and Clark Historic Garden finally arrived. One week after the event.

Bill Higgins and myself with a little help from Mike Stout and Brad Wynn, we got the benches secured in concrete and they are now ready to sit on.

The first bench was donated by Roy and Edna Wolfe in memory of their son Alan R. Wolfe, OSCS (S.W.) USN Retired. Roy and Edna both do volunteer work at the site.

The second bench was donated by Dr. and Edward DuVivier. They both reside in Godfrey, IL. Dr. DuVivier volunteers at the site.

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 recruits.

“Signers” by Michael Stout



Erin Jones



Lisa Harmon

Janis Stauder (not pictured), Lisa Harmon, and Erin Jones are participating in a sign language practicum through Southwestern Illinois College, Belleville. Their course “Sign Language Studies/Interpreter Training Program” requires that they complete 100 hours of hands-on experience. Since May 14 they have worked side-by-side with the site’s interpreters and through some of the hottest days this summer. They have enhanced the interpretation of our programs with their enthusiasm and signing skills. The staff of L&C wishes to thank them for their efforts and invite others from this program to continue their experiences at Camp River Dubois.

Lewis & Clark

Journey to Another America

Join OASIS for a discussion about one of the most exciting expeditions of American History!

Be a part of the Lewis & Clark bicentennial celebration!

Course fee of \$25 includes a book of eleven original essays about Lewis and Clark. Class is taught by Dr. Fred Fausz

Classes held at: Alton OASIS

Famous Barr, 2nd floor
Alton Square Mall

Date: *Thursdays & Fridays,*
October 14, 15, 21, 28, and 29

Time: *10:30 am -12:30 pm*

Call (314) 539-4555 or
(618) 465-1490 to register now!
OASIS membership is free!

The Boss’ Corner:

by Brad Winn

Well the ground has dried out and the grass is growing again, as we pick up after the Signature Event. I want to begin by again saying THANK YOU for all your hard work and dedication towards making this past Signature Event a success. Despite the difficulties we experienced with the weather I feel that we were able to overcome those problems with flying colors. I am certainly proud of the way the site looked and came together to play host to such a nationally recognized event, and you are all a big part of that.

So now we have to think about life after the Bicentennial, where do we go from here? The answer is simple, we continue to grow and improve as we always have. Our fall school schedule is just around the corner and we have just finished getting the building back in shape after the last spring tours. There is a lot of room left to continue making our camp interpretation even better, and that means getting more of you out there, come on, you know you want to. We are also preparing for our Music Festival in September and a new special event we will host in October. I do not see the Signature Event as the best we can do, but rather just another example of how we are able to grow and improve. We continue to attract more and more visitors each week, and already we are seeing that folks are coming back time and again, for not just their second visit, but rather a third and fourth. Our future success will hinge on our ability as a team to continue raising the bar and draw more and more people back, to continue to stand as one of the premiere Lewis and Clark sites on the National Trail. This is however nothing new for you, we are already doing an outstanding job presenting our site to the public, let’s keep getting better!

Mark Your Calendars:

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.