

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

4th Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Society and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site Volume 11 Issue 4

Manager's Corner: by Brad Winn

So, over the years I have used the final newsletter of each year to give thanks and reflect upon the challenges and successes of the year that has just passed. I have also tried to encourage a spirit of optimism for the coming year. This year of 2020 it seems to me that this tradition is even more important to continue.

We have lost several volunteers in this past year, including many who were with us at the very beginning. With each loss it reminds me just how important all of you have become not only for what you do for the museum, but simply how significant you are in our lives. I am forever honored that you chose to come and give so much of your time, hard work, and dedication to our little endeavor. What has always seemed even more significant to me is that of your friendship. I know personally my life is that much the better for being presented with this gift of the chance to get to know you. I have and always will enjoy our opportunities to chat and visit, to share a story or two, and share in a bond with our willingness to serve and think of others. It is with a sad heart that I say goodbye to so many friends this year. I look forward to the day I hope very soon that I get to see all of you again! Your smile, warmth, knowledge, and dedication is genuinely missed.

I am also incredibly thankful, in the midst of this difficult 2020, to be afforded the chance to work closely with such amazing and talented individuals. We have more certainly raised the bar in this past year for creative and inspiring ways to keep sharing the Lewis and Clark story. The site has stepped into the 21st century and has been recognized all year long by folks along the

National Trail, in our Springfield office, and by partnering schools for the quality and consistency our programming has maintained. We are continuing to challenge ourselves to think of better and more impactful ways to share our message while maintaining social distancing all the way, while being aware and prepared of our responsibilities when we are back operating full time. The site had an amazing crew of staff this year that completed a number of much needed housekeeping efforts. The lemonade from this lemons of 2020 is that we were given the chance to complete many of these projects because of the limited staff responsibilities of operating the Interpretive Center.

As of yet, it looks like the winter of 2020-21 will see us maintain our limited access to the Interpretive Center. I anticipate that we will be reopened after the first of year and we will resume social distance tours of the exhibits and outdoors. In the meantime, Ben and I have developed some virtual outreach programming opportunities that are available to teachers who wish to schedule a classroom visit. I am not sure what the 2021 events schedule will look like, but I am hopefully optimistic that we will be able to resume some programming next year. Till then, please stay in touch, stay safe, and have a Happy Holidays. We cannot wait to see you all again soon!

President's Corner: *by Rex Maynard*

Genesis of Vaccination

“Carry with you some matter of the kine pox, inform those of them with whom you may be, of it's efficacy as a preservative from the small pox; and instruct & encourage them in the use of it. This may be especially done wherever you may winter.” –

Thomas Jefferson's Instructions to Meriwether Lewis
June 20, 1803

In 1350 BC, the first recorded smallpox epidemic struck during an Egyptian/ Hittite War, when Egyptian prisoners carried the disease into the previously uninfected Hittite Kingdom. Smallpox killed their king and devastated their country. It was a disease that decimated populations even before recorded history. It spread through the air from an infected host, and attacked the skin cells, spleen, bone marrow, and lymph nodes of its victims. It produced vomiting, high fever, and severe rashes. During the second week of infection, it was fatal to 30% of the people who contracted it. Survivors, such as George Washington who contracted it in Barbados in 1751, carried scars for the rest of their lives. It was a disease everyone took seriously and many methods were attempted to cure or prevent it. Some methods were more successful than others, even if they did not know why it really worked.

It is said that a Buddhist nun in the Sichuan province of China would collect the scabs of victims, dry them out, grind them into powder and use a straw to blow it into the nostrils of her patients. Drying them out would hopefully kill the virus and produce a weakened form of the disease in her patients. Administration of a weakened form of the virus is called “variolation.” Variolation reduced the death rate. Other methods of using the smallpox scabs (pustules) developed over the years, finally culminating in “inoculation.” Inoculation is a method where four or five slits were made in the patient's arm and Smallpox scab or pus material was rubbed in it. Hopefully, the patient would experience a weak form of the

disease allowing the body's natural defenses to create antibodies and fight it off. It reduced the fatality rate from 30% to 3% and gave the patient life long immunity. Getting people to accept inoculation was not easy.

In the early American colonies, a smallpox epidemic would occur about every 12 years. When it started in 1721, Boston was six years overdue. That meant that more children had not been previously exposed to it and were vulnerable. Cotton Mather, the Puritan leader, advocated for inoculations. There was much opposition and only Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, first American to surgically remove gall stones and a breast tumor, agreed to do it. He inoculated 248 people demonstrating the effectiveness of the inoculation. Because of his success, inoculations became more common. A heart wrenching scene in the HBO Miniseries, “John Adams” shows a doctor going from house to house in Braintree, Massachusetts, inoculating residents. Lying in the back of his wagon was a boy intensely suffering and covered in Smallpox pustules. He was the source of the pus the doctor was administering.

Seven years before the Lewis and Clark Expedition set out, a country doctor in England had an inspiration. Years earlier as an apprentice to an older doctor, Edward Jenner heard a lovely dairy maid say that she would never have the ugly smallpox scabs on her face because she had had cowpox. Cowpox, also known as kinepox (“kine” is an old-fashioned word for cow), is a disease that infects the udders of a cow and is transmissible to humans. Though it is related to smallpox, it is much, much less serious. Jenner recognized the correlation between having had cowpox and the resulting smallpox immunity. On May 14, 1796, he found Sarah Nelms who had fresh Cowpox lesions on her hand from milking a cow named Blossom. Using pustules from Sarah's arms, Dr. Jenner administered the cowpox pustules to James Phipps who had never been exposed to Cowpox or smallpox. James was the eight-year-old son of his gardener. He was the same age Jenner had been when he was variolated through inoculation. After a few days of minor discomfort, the boy recovered. Two months later, Jenner inoculated the boy with smallpox and no symptoms resulted. It worked. He

performed the experiment with several others with identical success.

Since the Latin name for cowpox is *vaccinia*, his discovery was called “vaccination.” Again there was opposition to this new technique. Jenner tirelessly promoted his discovery, and it was accepted by the world eager for a cure. British Parliament gave him an award worth about a million dollars. Napoleon, an enemy of England, gave him an award and mandated that the French army and all of France be vaccinated. Even an American President was a believer.

In a letter to Dr. Jenner on May 14, 1806, Thomas Jefferson said: “You have erased from the calendar of human afflictions one of its greatest. Yours is the comfortable reflection that mankind can never forget that you have lived. Future nations will know by history only that the loathsome smallpox has existed and by you has been extirpated.”

Thomas Jefferson promoted vaccination. In his instructions to Meriwether Lewis, he encouraged Lewis to introduce vaccine to the Native Americans he met. Missouri River natives had their numbers depleted by smallpox epidemics in 1781 and 1801. The Expedition discovered abandoned villages that had been wiped out a few years earlier. Lewis did indeed take the vaccine material, but it was too fragile and became old and ineffective on the long arduous journey. It is tragic that later leadership did not have Jefferson’s zeal for vaccination. Thirty years after the expedition, 1836 -1837, a smallpox epidemic swept across the upper plains of the Missouri. About 90% of the Mandans, as well as 50% of both the Arikaras and Hidatsas died.

It would take over a century and a half before Jefferson’s prophecy of a smallpox free world was realized. The last USA smallpox outbreak happened in 1947 New York City. 1.2 million vaccines were distributed within 10 days. Only 12 people got sick and 2 people died. A 1960’s massive worldwide vaccination campaign effectively eradicated smallpox. It has been over 40 years since a death from smallpox has been reported.

Benjamin’s Blurb: by Benjamin Pollard

What we think of as the holiday season often runs from Thanksgiving all the way to New Year’s Day – and sometimes even further into the winter. These holidays are a cultural focus and most people enjoy them as holidays and days off. The cultural holiday season is relatively modern though, think around the 1870s. It was a purposeful project of binding the Union back together following the Civil War by celebrating both holidays and New Year’s across the country. Geographical divisions and cultural traditions of the early 1800s meant that one usually only partook of either Thanksgiving or Christmas (with most agreeing to some revelry around the New Year). Northerners focused on thanks for the harvest during Thanksgiving, while observing Christmas with little to no festivity. Southerners on the other hand took little to no observance of a Thanksgiving, while hosting large celebrations on Christmas Day with mince meat pies, fresh meat, singing, and plenty of booze. While the southern tradition of Christmas sounds kind of familiar, keep in mind that there was usually only a few sparse decorations and focus was on the celebrants around you.

We can see that cultural split in the Lewis & Clark Expedition journals. Notes concerning revelry around Christmas and New Years are abundant in the different journals because most of the soldiers were southerners from Virginia and the Ohio River Valley. Even one of the few northerners of the trip, Sergeant John Ordway [New Hampshire], fails to mention Thanksgiving. He does however celebrate Christmas with food, celebratory shooting, music, and food with the rest of the Detachment. The French engages with their Catholic upbringing would likely have focused more on Christmas as well- perhaps even introducing the men to some French Christmas songs. The tune of *Adeste Fideles* (O Come All Ye Faithful) could have been known to most of the French and Americans, but not quite yet the English translation of it (it appears in the 1840s).

I’ll close this section with this lovely reflection by Private Joseph Whitehouse while celebrating at

Fort Clatsop 25 December 1805, “We had no ardent spirit of any kind among us; but are mostly in good health, A blessing, which we esteem more, than all the luxuries this life can afford, and the party are all thankful to the Supreme Being, for his goodness towards us.— hoping he will preserve us in the same, & enable us to return to the United States again in safety.”

Volunteer News: by Cindy Upchurch

When I’ve called folks, everyone seems to be healthy or fully recovered. Everyone is just staying home. It is so nice to hear everyone’s voices. But, oh my, what can one say about the end of the year? To me, I’ll remember 2020 as the year of NO... No volunteers, No special events, NO volunteer dinner and a few visitors.

I do have some sad news. Since the last newsletter, several long time volunteers have died. We will miss Arnold Sommerfeldt, Glenn Weaver and George McDanel.

Arnold volunteered in the gallery on the weekends and restored old Plymouth cars. Glenn volunteered in the gallery and would participate in special events by bringing his American Indian artifacts and tool antiques. George manned the information desk every Saturday morning and would teach flag etiquette during Education Day. So, we’ll end this paragraph in remembrance of many recently departed volunteers: Frank Nagy, Marty Pfeiffenberger, Thelma King, Jerry Bort, Arnold Sommerfeld, Glenn Weaver, and George McDanel.

Bricks for the memorial area have been ordered. See more details in the obituaries.

New puppy volunteer, Norman, is growing fast and full of energy. Dr. Sterling will be bringing the young Newfoundland when we re-open. I also understand that the Store of Discovery manager, Vicki, is expecting two new puppies in January.

From January 1, 2020 to date, the volunteers have donated 548 hours to the site. Thank you so much! We owe you dinner.

Visitor numbers are pretty good. Until the shut down, the site was enjoying good visitation. After the shut down, the grounds were open and we

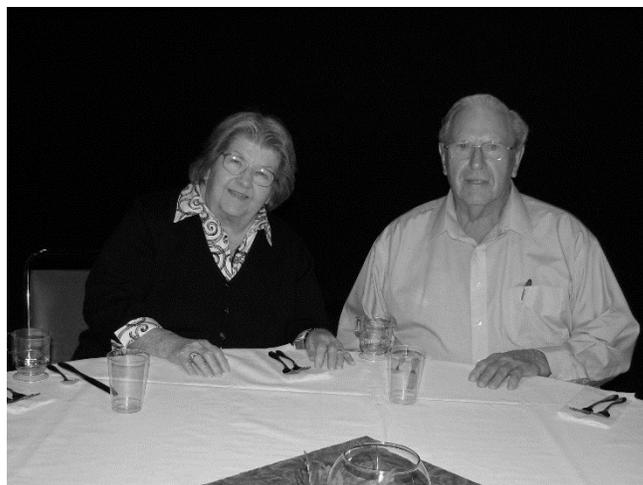
did a car count to approximate visitation to the property. So, it looks like we will end the year with approximately 64,800 visitors.

I guess the word for now is Patience. Like you, I am looking forward to getting back to the old normal in the spring. More importantly, I will be so happy to see you all again!! The site is just not the same without you here.

Below, Glenn Weaver, gallery volunteer for many years.



Kathleen and Arnold Sommerfeldt at the volunteer dinner 2010.



Karen and George McDanel enjoying the volunteer dinner.



Site News:

There has been some exciting personal news in the last few months for some of our staff. Site Superintendent Brad Winn was married to Dr. Amy Hubert on October 24, 2020. Amy works at SIUE as a professor studying genetics. While they could only have a limited ceremony, it was beautiful.



Congratulations!

There was another wedding soon after on November 7, 2020. Site Interpretive Coordinator Ben Pollard married Ramona Puskar. Ramona works at The Nature Institute as an Outreach Director and Educator. Following their passions of historic sites and nature, they celebrated a



relatively isolated honeymoon at Bishop Hill. Congratulations!

The Settlers Cabin has received some critical maintenance work these past few months. Tim DeSherlia, Kurt Braun, Brock Braun, and Brad have worked to replace the decaying base logs underneath the cabin. They had the cabin lifted with jacks as they removed the old pieces and installed new oak beams. Watching them work their magic with the saws was something else.



With these new logs and flashing, the rest of the cabin should stay in great shape for a long time. We will be stabilizing the north side of the cabin and repairing both sets of steps this winter and spring as weather permits. Thanks to the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail for the assistance in seeing this work completed.



Society News:

By recommendation from the board President and approval by the Society Board Members, all the incumbent board members whose terms were due to expire were appointed to fill their board seats from another two year term.

At Large Board Members –

Deanna Barnes
Matthew Cook
Paul Imes
Everett Loy
Barb Mihalich

All remaining 2020 board meetings and the annual general membership meeting have been cancelled. Further 2021 board member meetings have been suspended until further notice.

Upcoming Special Events:

Until further notice we are suspending all 2021 Special Events. We will closely monitor the health and safety protocols as they develop in 2021 and will do our best to offer a slate of events once the governor's guidelines have been met and we can safely reopen.

Local Historic Site News:

Our historical neighbor to the east, the Stephenson House, has a series of new vignettes on YouTube. Several videos focus on cooking recipes and Christmas songs on a pianoforte. Each vignette is videoed at the site and everyone is in period costume. Very nice, indeed!

Previous Event News: by Irma Holmes

Arrival of spring means the arrival of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds which necessitates putting up feeders to attract these colorful, aggressive, little creatures. Thus, beginning in April, and despite the partial shut-down of Lewis and Clark State Historic Site due to the Covid-19 pandemic, feeders were filled with sugar water and placed around the site. As warmer weather approached some people thought the virus would dissipate, LCSHS would reopen and hold the 11th annual Hummingbird Festival scheduled for July 11, 2020. Unfortunately, since the pandemic did not end, the festival was officially canceled; however, an unofficial banding was held. Vern Kleen, licensed bird bander and member of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders, arrived at LCSHS along with his wife and several assistants to gather scientific information about Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and to band the birds. July 11 was a beautiful day for this unofficial event, and there were a few, lucky visitors, maintenance personnel, and staff members at the site who were treated to photographing or releasing one of the 15 birds that were banded.

Store of Discovery: by Vicki Clifton

The Store of Discovery will be closed until March 2021. Though the store is closed to the public, I will be in the store this month finishing the 2020 inventory. If you have any Christmas gift items that you wish to purchase, contact the site and they will leave me a message and I can arrange a means of completing the transaction. As a reminder we still have Lewis and Clark SHS masks for sale in Red, Black, White, Royal and Navy Blue. I want to thank the volunteers who helped to man the store this summer and early Fall during the limited store hours and dates. We will see you back hopefully in the Spring!

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
 Phone: 618-251-5811

Lewis & 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** _____

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