

Camp River Dubois Dispatch

3rd Quarter Official Newsletter of the Lewis and Clark Society and the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site Volume 12 Issue 1

Manager's Corner: by Brad Winn

I simply cannot believe it has been almost a full year since we have sent out a newsletter. There are days where I feel like we have hit a time warp and are still in 2020, and then there is today as I sit and write this and we are celebrating Labor Day 2021! Time simply seems to move along at a steady clip.

I will say that is great to continue to see all of you again since we were allowed to have volunteers back this past Spring. I have said it before but again have to say, you don't realize how much you miss folks until they have been absent from your lives for so long. Though we are not back to normal yet, I am always anxious to see you again when I see the sign up list for the day. Thank you all for your continued dedication and commitment. I am particularly excited to again have our volunteer dinner this year. Though a smaller and more intimate affair than we have had in the past, I am looking forward to that feeling of fellowship and friendship that permeates the dinner. I hope that you will be able to join us this year as we host the dinner for the first time here at the museum.

It has been a challenging year staffing wise for us. We have a number of vacancies due to retirement or our inability to find folks willing to work part time with us. I am grateful for Cindy, Ben, Kim, Paul, Kristin, and Katelyn for their incredibly hard work this year helping keep our sites here, in Cahokia, and in Vandalia running and operating at a stellar level. I am truly blessed to have such amazing people to work with and they have by far responded to the demand to continue to maintain the high level of work needed to keep our sites operating.

I am hoping for some exciting and much needed good news to come down the pipe here in the next few months before we wrap up 2021. We are getting close to finalizing the building upgrades and repairs. I hope to be filling some staff vacancies soon. Finally, I sincerely hope we can begin the much anticipated work on Camp River Dubois. Stay tuned and be safe!

President's Corner: by Rex Maynard

May I Barge In?

For many years, Lewis and Clark aficionados thought the name of the dog was Scannon. In the journals, the Newfoundland was most often referred to as "the dog", "my dog" or "our dog." Only once was the name found in the journals, and it was problematic. It was sloppily scrawled across a page, and reasonable, intelligent people interpreted it to spell out Scannon, not Seaman. However, in his 1984 study of Montana place names, scholar Donald Jackson found a creek named Seaman's Creek and concluded that it was named after the water loving Newfie. An 1814 inventory list of an Alexandria, Virginia museum has been quoted by Jim Holmberg to record a holding of a dog collar that was engraved to "...SEAMAN, the dog of captain Meriwether Lewis..."

Today, we universally refer to him as Seaman. Every once in a while we will find an old book that refers to him as Scannon and we chuckle to ourselves at our own previous ignorance. That should, however, challenge us to think about what we "know." What other things have we commonly misunderstood? Some of the

claims made by researchers may shock us and seem contrary to common sense.

“The Keelboat was not a keelboat, it was a barge!” is an astonishing claim made by John Fisher, an educator and Lewis and Clark scholar, who gave a lecture on his ideas about the big boat at the National Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Annual Meeting in St. Louis September 2019. A similar Zoom lecture is available on YouTube as “Watercraft of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.”

All words begin somewhere. It has been claimed that the word “keel” was the first English word that was written down. It was from a 6th Century Anglo-Saxon word “cæol,” Latinized to “cyulae” which referred to a ship built with a center spine, ribs, and pegged planking sailed by the Saxons. The centerline structure allowed the ships to be long, strong, and sleek enough to slice through the waves easily. It had many similarities to the Viking Longships. Over the centuries, the word “keel” became more associated with the spined construction method rather than the Saxon ship. Today, “laying down the keel of a ship” marks the beginning of construction of a ship’s foundation. You start with the backbone.

As shipbuilding technology advanced over the centuries, the terminology evolved in meaning. By the late 1700s, keelboats became a specific type of spined riverboat. It had a curved hull that benefited by having a stabilizing keel extending under the boat. Their companions on the rivers and canals were flat bottomed, shallow drafted barges. The strongest of these were laid on a keel.

Historian Leland Baldwin of the University of Pittsburgh published a 1941 book, “The Keelboat Age on Western Waters.” He lists two types of keelboats used on the Ohio River after the Revolutionary War. Both are built on keels (spines) with ribs covered with planks. (1) The first type, the “Proper” keelboat is pointed at both ends, shallow keel (perhaps 4 to 6 inches), 40’ to 80’ long, 7’ to 10’ wide. It had a stern steering oar, drew 2 feet of water & had some sails. (2)The second is a “barge” type. It was wider, but of

similar length, flatter bottom, mast & square sail, steering rudder, cabin at stern with windows, and a draft of 3’ to 4’. These were the archetypes and down the Ohio River flowed these and their variations.

In his initial, thorough, and exhaustive lists of needs for this expedition, Lewis wanted a keeled riverboat. After that initial list, neither he nor his companions, ever again used the term keel to refer to his own vessel. They used that term of other boats they met on the rivers. Altogether, the journalists mention encountering 12 keelboats on the rivers. In the journals, they called their craft “the boat” 192 times, “the barge” 32 times, and “the bateau”, a French term, 4 times never a keelboat.

The discovery of Clark’s loose Camp Dubois Journal and Field Notes in an attic in 1953 with its side and overhead view sketches of the boat gave definitive form to the design and construction of the boat. Part of the time at Camp River Dubois the boat was pulled up out of the water to escape the river ice and exposing it’s underside to view. Clark’s sketches are greatly detailed and show the boat below the water line. He makes no effort to delineate a below water stabilizing keel.

Fisher also cites “Mr. Keelboat,” (ironically I might say) Butch Bouvier has built the majority of keelboat replicas along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Bouvier believes it was more of a barge without a stabilizing keel for very practical reasons. Testing at the University of Michigan Hydroponics Laboratory demonstrated that a flatter bottom boat was more stable. A fully loaded barge type drew only 2.5 feet of water where a similar Proper keelboat drew 4 feet. If “Mr. Keelboat” thinks it is a barge, who am I to argue?

I personally have been calling it the Keelboat for over twenty years. Should I try to change my ways? Maybe we could compromise and call it the Keelbarge? (Just kidding.) This is a conundrum we have faced before in historical studies and that we will face again. Bison are still referred to as buffalo, and that is not about to

change. We do not have to go out and repaint signs or throw away books. Simply continue honestly with the facts as we currently understand them with our best efforts. If we cannot change our interpretations to fit the facts, we are poor interpreters. We cannot be afraid of the truth, even if we do not completely understand it. And humbly remember, what we know, ain't necessarily so.

Ben's Blurbs: by Benjamin Pollard

We are often asked where the artifacts from the Lewis & Clark Expedition are in our museum. I often have to explain to disappointed visitors that we don't have any here, and that is in fact why we are an Interpretive Center rather than museum. Most of the interpretive centers along the trail don't have artifacts in their displays either. The few artifacts definitively from the Expedition are kept securely in places like the Smithsonian, American Philosophical Society, and Missouri History Museum. Notes and journals are spread out over a smattering of institutions as well.

So, why are there so few artifacts from the Expedition? Sure, time and accidents explain some losses, but what about the other causes? For one, the difficult conditions of the almost two-and-a-half-year journey destroyed articles through wear and tear. Tools and weapons were used in brutal conditions- breaking along the way, wearing out, and being fashioned into other useful items as the trip continued. Even the skilled gunsmithing of John Shields barely kept the rifles functioning after the many hunting trips that fueled the Expedition. Clothing was worn until threadbare and rotting off of soldiers' bodies. All but one of the soldiers made it back, but most of the supplies didn't.

Another reason that many of the supplies were not kept as souvenirs or artifacts is because they had some value at the time. Soldiers traded away unneeded supplies for food, fresh clothing, and booze on the return journey as they made contact with fur traders. Upon arrival in St. Louis, much of the military issued tools and weaponry were sold off as government surplus. The sale of the supplies helped offset at least a little of the

massive spending to make the Expedition a success (Lewis spent around \$40,000 when only budgeted \$2,500 from Congress).

Finally, the nature of the members of the Corps of Discovery explains why so few articles remain. Many of the newly discharged soldiers immediately headed back up the Missouri River as fur trappers and traders. This mobile lifestyle meant that only items of utility were carried along. Worn out souvenirs and nostalgic items took up too much space for these mobile mountain men. They wore out items and pawned off other keepsakes along the way. Many of the men died violent deaths on the frontier means that their gear is lost to time on the frontier.

For the more established members of the Expedition, tools of the journey survived. William Clark's compass was kept as memento of his accomplishments and given as a gift to a friend that would value it (This value saw it passed through the family until its donation to the National Museum of American History). Other family heirlooms from Clark, Lewis, and Gass have made their way into preservation.

There are few artifacts remaining from the Lewis & Clark Expedition. However, we have something arguably better - hundreds of handwritten notes and journal entries documenting minute details of the Expedition! When I'm at a history museum looking at artifacts, I often wonder what was going through the mind of its owner as the artifact was being used. Envision the wild confusion of war as a young officer wielded his saber on a battlefield. Or, consider the nervous excitement as a diplomat employs a fine gold pen to seal a peace treaty. What did they think about their role and eventual place in history? How did they respond to important moments?

With the Lewis & Clark Expedition, we don't have to turn to the few artifacts to imagine what the Detachment was thinking. We can instead go right to the daily journal entries of Lewis, Clark, Ordway, Gass, Pryor, Floyd, and Whitehouse. We don't need to imagine their thoughts and reactions. We can read them in their own words! It is a

surprisingly intimate look into the past. So, while we don't have artifacts in our Interpretive Center, we do get the opportunity to share the Lewis & Clark story as it occurred in the members own words.

Junior Rangers at LCSHS: By Kristin Fulkerson

The Junior Ranger program has debuted at Lewis and Clark SHS! This educational program is offered at national parks and historic sites throughout the U.S., and is now offered here as well. Since the program rolled out in June, it has been quite popular among our young visitors!

In one instance, two girls scouts and their mothers visited during one of the first weekends. They had been doing a road trip of the Midwest and had already done a number of Junior Ranger programs during their trip and were excited to notice the program here. When they got the books, they said that, "these are the coolest ones we've done all week." The colors and variety of activities really stood out to them and they very much enjoyed the experience.

The Junior Ranger program is for everyone too! Another visitor in July was not the typical Junior Ranger participant. A gentleman in his seventies asked for a booklet when he came in and told me how he had a new grandson whose nursery was decorated with memorabilia from the national parks. He was excited to fill out the booklet to add to his grandson's room. When he finished the booklet, I had the pleasure of swearing him in as a Junior Ranger while his daughter took a video. What an awesome memory for him to share with his grandson!

Volunteer News: By Cindy Upchurch

A volunteer dinner is planned for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Lewis and Clark SHS lobby. Doors will open at 5:15 pm, so come early and visit with friends. Food will be served at 6:00. A program will follow in the theater. The caterer is Chef Bob in East Alton.

It will be great seeing everyone again. It has been quite a while since we have all been together. There is no Volunteer of the Year award. The meal is more of a fellowship and friendship dinner.

Invitations will be coming out soon to those who are currently volunteering in 2020-21. Watch your mail box. RSVP to Cindy at 618 251 5811 and remember you can bring a guest.

Sadly, we have lost volunteers. We extend our sympathies to their families. In 2020-2021 the site lost the following volunteers and friends. They are Thelma King, Jerry Bort, Arnold Sommerfeldt, Glenn Weaver, George McDanel, Marty Pfeiffenberger, Dave Richards, Barbara Mihalich, George Mitchell, former Illinois Senator William Haine, and our beloved canine volunteer Zia. The site will miss their love of history, enthusiasm and spirit. They were all wonderful volunteers.

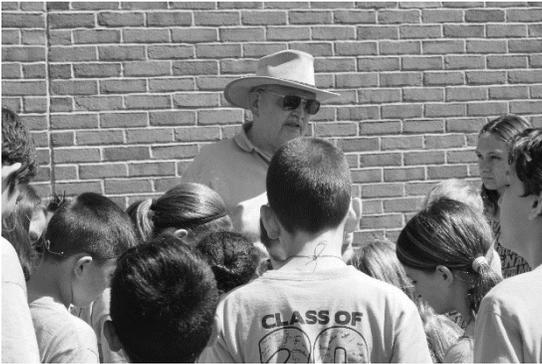


Thelma King volunteered in the gallery along with her husband Jerry.

Dave Richards volunteered in the Store of Discovery for many years.

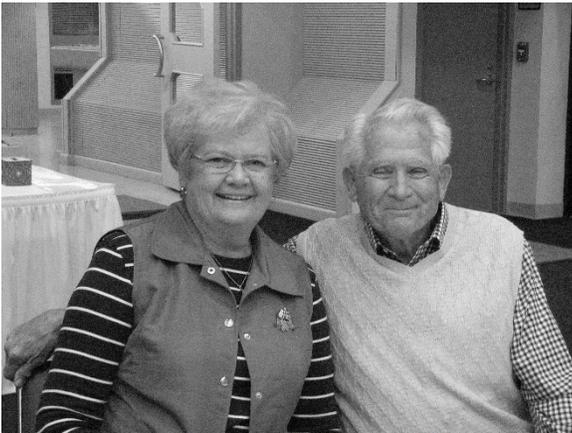


George McDanel teaching knots to students during Education Day.



Glenn Weaver volunteered in the gallery. On special events, he displayed his extensive collection of Indian artifacts.

Jerry Bort with his wife, Joyce, at a volunteer dinner. They collected donations for the local food bank during this event.



Marty Pfeiffenberger surrounded by some of her many friends. She volunteered in the gallery.

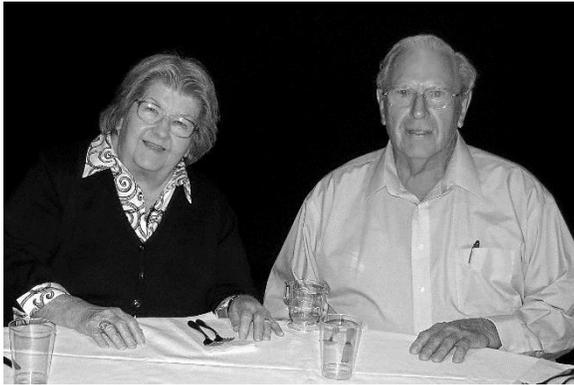


The Mitchell family, George (left), Bob and Sally getting ready to enjoy a dinner.

Zia (left) is pictured with Luna and Java, wonderful volunteer Newfoundlands.



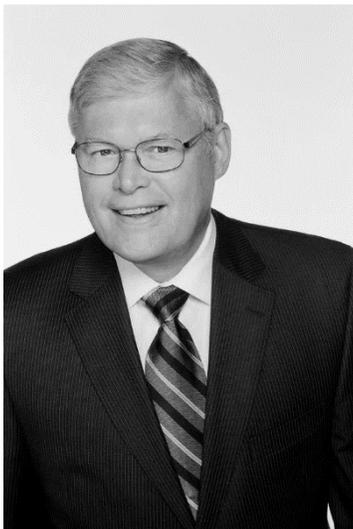
Arnold Sommerfeldt seated with his wife Kathleen at a volunteer dinner.



Barbara Mihalich was a desk volunteer on Wednesday afternoons and a society board member



A long time friend of the site, who loved history, Illinois Senator William Haine



Grant Update

On a much lighter note this year we received a beautification grant from Alton Service League. Thank you, Alton Service League. With the grant, the site purchased mulch from Collinsville Fuel and Ice. The mulch is spread at the front of the building. It certainly makes everything clean and tidy.

Katelyn Strobo and Kristin Fulkerson with a dump truck full of mulch for the front of the Interpretive Center. Again, thank you Alton Service League.



The previous year's grant from the Service League purchased the settlers' cabin garden fence.

Society News:

The Store of Discovery has changed their phone number. Please note the new number is now 618-606-0916. The Store will resume Winter hours in November, operating from 10 -2. As always if you are interested in volunteering or know someone who might be interested in volunteering in the Store, please contact Vicki at the new number.

Finally, the General Membership meeting is set for December 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. We will be voting for officers and board members as well as other general Society update. Lunch is still yet to be determined.

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** _____

This newsletter is a publication of the Lewis & Clark Society of America, Inc., and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site. All Society members and Site volunteers are invited to contribute articles or photographs to the newsletter. Articles published do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of the Lewis & Clark Society of America, its Board of Directors or its Officers. The Camp River Dubois Dispatch will be published on a quarterly basis and mail March, June September, and December. Please submit by email to LCSA@CampRiverDubois.com or by mail to:

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 Hartford, IL 62048*

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The Lewis & Clark Society of America

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