The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Incorporated in 1969 under Missouri General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act IRS Exemption Certificate No. 501(C)(3)—Identification No. 51-0187715

Officers

President
Robert E. Garren, Jr.
3507 Smokeytree Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410

First Vice President
L. Edwin Wang
6013 St. Johns Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55424-1834

Second Vice President
Clyde G. (Sid) Huggins
2363 Lakeshore Drive
Manville, NJ 07858

Secretary
Barbara Kubik
1712 S. Parry Court
Kensington, WA 98037

Treasurer
H. John Montgomery
2928 NW Verde Vista Terrace
Portland, OR 97210-3556

Immediate Past President
Stuart E. Knapp
1317 South Black
Bozeman, MT 59715

Directors at Large

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Washburn, North Dakota

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Cynthia Orlando
Astoria, Oregon

L. Edwin Wang
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Ludlow M. Weik
Mesa, Arizona

Memberships

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., is to stimulate public interest in matters relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the contributions to American history made by the Expedition members, and events of time and place concerning the expedition which are of historical import to our nation. The Foundation recognizes the value of local-oriented programs, and supports activities which enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the Lewis and Clark story. The scope of the activities of the Foundation is broad and diverse, and includes involvement in pursuits which, in the judgment of the directors, are of historical worth or contemporary social value, and commensurate with the heritage of Lewis and Clark. The activities of the National Foundation are intended to complement and supplement those of state and local Lewis and Clark interest groups. The Foundation may appropriately recognize and honor individuals or groups for their contributions to the broad field of Lewis and Clark historical research, writing, or deeds which promote the general purpose and scope of activities of the Foundation. Membership in the organization comprises a broad spectrum of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts including federal, state, and local government officials, historians, scholars, and others of wide-ranging Lewis and Clark interests. Officers of the Foundation are elected from the membership. The annual meeting of the Foundation is traditionally held during August, the sixth month of both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The meeting place is rotated among the states, and tours generally are arranged to visit sites in the area of the annual meeting which have historic association with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

About the Foundation

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Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt nonprofit corporation; 501(c)(3), IRS identification no. 51- 0187715. Individual membership dues are not tax deductible. The portion of premium dues over $30 is tax deductible.

In this issue—

Page 4—
Monument to a "Young Man of Much Merit"
James J. Holmberg

Page 14—
New Light on Some of the Expedition Engages
JoAnn Brown

Page 20—
Mount Hood/Oregon
Grape on View at
29th Annual Meeting
Barbara Kubik

Page 22—
The Almost Final Word
on Sacagawea
Irving W. Anderson

Page 24—
News Update

Page 27—
Lewis and Clark in Minnesota?
Yes, and Sacagawea Too!
Ron Laycock

Membership Information

Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is open to the general public. Information and an application are available by sending a request to: Membership Secretary, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403.

We Proceeded On, the quarterly magazine of the Foundation, is mailed to current members during the months of February, May, August, and November.

Annual Membership Categories*

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*Membership categories are subject to change. Please check the current membership information for the most up-to-date list.

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President's Message
by Robert E. Gatten, Jr.

During the past two years, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve the foundation as president. The two years have been interesting, challenging, frustrating, fulfilling, and, I hope, a time for the foundation to advance to a new higher level of effectiveness. Of course, the things that have been accomplished have occurred mostly because of the energetic work of the members of the executive committee and board of directors, the committee chairs, the chapter presidents, and many members of the foundation who have expended so much effort to meet our goals and objectives.

I am deeply indebted to a number of individuals who have made a real difference in the last 12 months in the work of the foundation. First, I acknowledge with pleasure the fine work of the executive committee: Ed Wang who has served not only as first vice president but also as chair of the finance committee and planned giving committee; Sid Huggins who has served not only as second vice president but also as chair of the planning and development committee; Barbara Kubik who has labored long and hard on many projects as secretary, co-chair of the 1997 annual meeting and, since April 1, as interim executive director; and John Montague who, as treasurer, has not only handled the “routine” tasks of paying foundation bills but also managed the foundation’s investments and greatly enhanced our bookkeeping procedures. I also would like to acknowledge the contributions of Jay Vogt, who served as executive director from November 1994 until March 31, 1996. Jay accomplished a number of important tasks for us, but his work with the South Dakota Historical Society grew tremendously because of changes in state government there; he was simply not able to continue to serve the needs of the foundation at the same time. We wish him well as he continues his important role in South Dakota.

The board of directors serves as the governing

From the Editor's Desk

Digs are in the news these days.

A coroner’s jury in Hohenwald, Tennessee, decided after a couple of days of testimony that the remains of Meriwether Lewis should be dug up to determine if he was murdered or committed suicide (see article page 24).

A second dig was Ken Karsmizki’s annual expedition to central Montana to see if he could find evidence of the expedition’s portage camp below the Great Falls of the Missouri. That summertime dig finds a little more evidence every year, but Ken is still carrying a bottle of ketchup in case he has to eat his hat if he doesn’t find solid evidence of the expedition.

Maybe the big dig this summer is at Great Falls where the groundbreaking for the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center is planned on August 16. Twelve years of planning, hope, frustration and fundraising will culminate in a shovelfull of dirt being tossed to the prairie winds. Incidentally, the newest member of our L&CHF national board is the Forest Service coordinator for the center, Jane Schmoyer-Weber. She is the one who is planning and coordinating all the nitty gritty details of the $6 million project.

A good chunk of the $3 million raised locally came from Montana Power Company. The company was in the process of developing and improving a series of recreational areas along the Madison and Missouri rivers as part of the relicensing application on its hydroelectric dams in Montana. One of our fundraising board members, Dale Gorman, convinced MPC officials that some of the money would be better spent on the interpretive center. The company contributed $1.1 million to the cause.

At the May meeting of the fund raising board,

(From the Editor's Desk continued on page 31)
Monument to a "Young Man of Much Merit"

by James J. Holmberg

Sergeant Floyd very unwell a bad Cold & c." So wrote Captain William Clark in his journal on Monday, July 30, 1804. Less than a month later, on another Monday, August 20, near present day Sioux City, Iowa, Sergeant Charles Floyd would die, the only fatality among the Corps of Discovery during its historic odyssey to the Pacific and back. The "Belligious Cholick" that took Floyd's life apparently was a ruptured appendix and resultant peritonitis. Medical science of the early nineteenth century did not understand such an ailment and it would not have mattered whether the malady struck him some 950 miles up the Missouri River or in the Philadelphia office of Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the foremost medical men of the day.¹

Floyd himself, being the good soldier he was, and apparently not wanting to complain, did not mention his illness until July 31, the day after Clark first mentioned it. Even then, he only recorded that he was "very Sick and Has ben for Somtime but have Recovered my helth again." Sergeant John Ordway noted in his journal on that same date that Floyd had been "Sick Several days but now is Getting Some better."²

The Corps continued up river unaware that the infection was working its poison on Floyd. On August 19, the journal keepers recorded that Floyd was very ill. Clark recorded that "every man is attentive to him," especially York. This is not surprising. Floyd apparently was liked by his fellow explorers; he was highly thought of by the captains; and he and York undoubtedly knew each other, even before the nucleus of the Corps of Discovery was formed with those young Kentuckians and left the Falls of the Ohio on October 26, 1803.³

During that day and night Floyd worsened to the point that Clark feared for his life. He stayed up most of the night with him but could do nothing for the fast sinking sergeant. Clark recorded that they put ashore with the intent of giving Floyd a warm bath, but before they could do so he died with a great deal of composure. Ordway and Whitehouse recorded Floyd dying about noon, while they were stopped for dinner. Gass put it at about two o'clock while stopped for dinner.⁴

Ordway, Whitehouse, and Gass also provide some information that Clark does not. Exactly where did Sergeant Charles Floyd die? All three write that after Floyd died they proceeded on to hills on the north side of the river, and there he was buried, apparently the first American to die in the service of his country west of the Mississippi River. He was buried with the "honours of war" and the "usual Serymony performed by Capt. Lewis[,] as customary in a Settlement." In his entry, Clark wrote that they "took" Floyd's body, but then crossed it out and noted the burial ceremony and rites. This would indicate that they did carry Floyd's body from where he actually died, but that Clark decided to relate only the facts of the burial instead. Gass stated they traveled about one mile. Ordway wrote that they put to on the south (or west) side of the river. All three recorded proceeding to the north (or east) side to bury him. Clark is not specific about this, but seems to indicate the starboard or north shore of the river as the side Floyd died on.⁵ Therefore, it would seem that Charles Floyd actually may have died on the Nebraska side of the Missouri and was carried upstream to the first good hills, which were on the Iowa side, where his grave would be safe from floods and have a commanding view of the countryside.

The journalists recorded that their comrade was "laid out in the Best Manner possible," and interred in the "most decent manner" that circumstances would permit. A cedar post was erected at the head of the grave with his name, rank, and date of death branded into it.⁶ While not recorded by Clark and the other journal-keepers, Floyd apparently was either placed in a crude coffin or oak slabs were driven around the inside perimeter of the grave and an oak plank or sawed timber placed on top of that.⁷

On their return down the Missouri in 1806, the party did not forget their fallen comrade. On September 4, Clark recorded that he, Lewis, and several men ascended Floyd's Bluff, as they had christened his burial site, and "found the grave had been opened by the natives and left half Cov-

All photos from the Flaxon Club Historical Society.
ered.” They filled the grave up again and continued homeward.8

In 1810 Clark added a degree of mystery and confusion to Floyd's grave site. In that year, during one of his interviews with Nicholas Biddle concerning the latter's preparation of the captains' journals for publication, he told Biddle that a Sioux chief had opened Floyd's grave and buried his son with the sergeant. His reason for doing so was so his son could accompany the white man to the other world, because the whites' future state was happier than that of the Indians. When this addition of a body to Floyd's grave occurred—if it actually did occur—is uncertain. It would seem that if the Corps had discovered another body in Floyd's grave in 1806 they would have made note of it. They did not. Therefore, a more likely explanation is that sometime between September 1806 and the summer of 1809, when Clark left St. Louis for the East, he heard this information, and subsequently passed it on to Biddle about April 1810.9

The grave of the only man to die on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with its cedar post reaching skyward, became a landmark on the Missouri. It was often remarked upon by travelers keeping written accounts of their journey on the Big Muddy. No known drawing of it was made until 1832. In that year the famous artist George Catlin stopped at the grave and sketched it. Continuing, he wrote: "Floyd's Grave" is a name given to one of the most lovely and imposing mounds or bluffs on the Missouri River... We encamped a couple of days at its base. I several times ascended it and sat upon the grave, overgrown with grass and the most delicate wild flowers... and beheld from its top, the windings infinite of the Missouri, and its

thousand hills and domes of green, vanishing into blue in distance.10

Given Catlin's eye for detail and commitment to accuracy, his painting of "Floyd's Grave" most likely can be relied upon as what was seen by those passing it in the first half of the nineteenth century. From the time of his death until the encroachment of the dynamic Missouri, Catlin's visual record of Sergeant Floyd's resting place provides a window into the past that allows us to see the young Kentuckian's grave as Clark, Lewis, Hunt, Lisa, Bridger, and countless others saw it.

In May 1839 the eminent scientific explorer Joseph N. Nicollet, accompanied by young Lt. John C. Fremont, visited Floyd's grave while exploring the area for the U.S. Topographical Engineers. He noted in his expedition report that his men replaced the signal (cedar post) blown down by winds. It is not clear whether they "replaced" it as in reerecting it or putting up a new one. It is likely that they simply put it back up. It is impossible to know whether it was the original post. Six years before Nicollet when Prince Maximilian and party ascended the Missouri, he noted that "a short stick marks the place where he [Floyd] is laid, and has often been renewed by travellers when the fires in the prairie have destroyed it."11

Eighteen years after Nicollet's visit Floyd's resting place was forever disturbed by the turbulent waters of the Missouri. In the spring of 1857, during one of its common spring floods, the Missouri undermined Floyd's Bluff, sending it plunging into its waters. The bluff was carried away to the point of Floyd's grave, almost sixty perpendicular feet above the river. The cedar post and a number of bones possibly tumbled into the river and were carried away. M.L. Jones of Smithland, Iowa, stated in 1895 that he was familiar with the grave and passed it frequently in 1854-1855, and that late in the fall of 1856 he noticed that the post, which had been almost intact, had been cut away almost to ground level. Then, in late April 1857, while traveling from Sioux City home to Smithland, he noticed that the flooding river was cutting into the bluff and that the post and grave which had been about one hundred feet from the edge of the bluff appeared gone. A closer examination confirmed the post being gone and revealed bones protruding from the bank. Word was sent to Sioux City and a party secured what was left of the bones the next day.12

Other accounts of the 1857 rescue of Floyd's remains offer additional and also contradictory information. Two statements refer to the coffin protruding from the collapsed bank, rather than oak slabs with a board placed on top over Floyd. Dr. S.P. Yeomans recollected in 1895 that a rope was tied around a man's waist and he was lowered over the edge of the bank to secure a cable to the box so that it could be raised to safety.13

Judge Noah Levering recalled that same year, that in March 1857 it was discovered that the grave was being washed away and a rescue committee gathered up the skull and other bones they found for reburial at a safer spot. It is Levering who notes the oak slab construction of the "coffin" and that the "red" cedar post—that he remembered as having been whittled down to walking stick size by souvenir hunters—had slid into the river. Six years later, in May 1901, Levering provided additional information. He recalled that Dr. Sloan of Sergeant Bluff, not M.L. Jones, discovered the danger to the grave, and when the rescue committee visited the site the next day they observed a leg bone protrud-
ing from the ground. A young man volunteered to crawl to the edge while the committee held a rope tied around his waist, and using a spade he dug out bones and pieces of the makeshift coffin. Levering carried the bones home, but his wife did not like them about the house, so he gave them to Judge Marshall F. Moore for safekeeping. In May 1857 the remains were placed in a new coffin, carried by the ferry boat Lewis Burns to the bluff, and reinferred in a patriotic and religious ceremony some 600 feet further back on the bluff with head and footboards to mark it. A couple days after recalling these events he stated that no bones were lost to the encroachment of the river. Any bones that were missing was due to wild animals disturbing the grave, as early visitors had reported.14

Almost forty years would pass before the remains of Sergeant Floyd and his grave would again become the focus of attention. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, it was Floyd's own journal, kept during his fateful journey up the Missouri in 1804, that would provide the spark for a movement that would culminate in a monument honoring him.

On February 3, 1893, while examining a pile of notebooks written by that voracious collector of early western manuscripts Lyman C. Draper, Reuben G. Thwaites discovered Floyd's journal. Dating from May 14 to August 18, 1804, the diligent sergeant faithfully kept a chronicle of the trip until two days before his death. How Draper acquired the journal is uncertain, but once he did it disappeared into his vast collection, there to lay for some forty or fifty years until found by Thwaites. Professor James D. Butler of Madison, Wisconsin, learned of the journal and presented a papers on it to the American Antiquarian Society in April 1894. The American Antiquarian Society subsequently published Floyd's journal. These events, together with the publication of Elliott Coues' edition of the Lewis and Clark journals, stirred new interest in the expedition. In the Sioux City area in particular, interest was rekindled in Charles Floyd, his death, and his grave.15

Article newspapers, especially The Sioux City Journal, carried articles regarding Floyd and his grave, and the possibility of erecting a monument honoring him. There had been discussion of a monument in 1857 at the time of the rescue and reinferment of his remains, but nothing came of it. The events of 1893 and 1894 proved to be the catalyst that achieved results.16

An association was proposed by interested Iowans in the Sioux City area in 1895 to finally honor Floyd with a monument. Detailed coverage of the plans by the Journal helped stimulate public interest and support for the endeavor. Some of these articles were picked up by the Associated Press, and together with letters of support in national publications by Elliott Coues the plan for an association was realized. August 20, 1895, was set as the date for a suitable ceremony to again reinter Sergeant Floyd's remains and to incorporate the Floyd Memorial Association. This time, unlike thirty-eight years before, a proper marker would be placed over the grave until a more substantial monument could be constructed.17

There was one problem. The grave could not be found! In the years since the 1857 burial, the head and foot markers of the grave had been broken off and their remains were beneath ground level. Already in the winter of 1867, engineer Mitchell Vincent of Onawa, Iowa, had reported the only visible sign of the grave to be a shallow six inch depression extending perhaps two feet by one foot. Mitchell was conducting railroad work on
the bluff and instructed the crew to respect the grave. He recalled that he would have liked to have formed at least a mound over the grave, but the ground being frozen prevented him from doing so. When spring arrived his good intentions were forgotten and Floyd's grave continued silent, neglected witness to the water, rail, and road traffic passing by. As the years passed less and less remained of the grave to identify it, and by 1895 there was no obvious sign of it left.\(^{18}\)

An attempt early in 1895 to locate the grave failed. The consternation caused by this situation helped stiffen the resolve of the leaders of the memorial movement. Many of them were early residents of the area. Between themselves and the help of other old settlers, many of whom attended the 1857 reburial, another attempt was made on Memorial Day, May 30, 1895. This search met with success. Using faded memories, partly confused from the changed appearance of the bluff, and a more scientific method of probing for color differences in the soil, the grave was found. Desiring other witnesses to be on hand for the exhumation, especially those who had been at the 1857 ceremonies, further digging was delayed until June 6. Further digging on that day revealed the remains of the oak head and footboards placed there in 1857 several inches below the surface. Going deeper, the moldering wood of the coffin was uncovered. A spade thrust through its rotted top revealed the skull and other bones. The identification was declared successful. Optimism for their monument project was high, and right there on the spot the Floyd Memorial Association was formed.

Upon reflection, the original intention to leave the grave undisturbed was reconsidered, and it was decided to remove the skull to town for safe keeping and then return the grave. There would be no forgetting Floyd's grave again. The journal covered the activities and founding of the Association, and plans immediately were made for reburial ceremonies on the same site for August 20, the ninety-first anniversary of the sergeant's death.\(^{19}\)

Over the next three months the Association regularly met and made all necessary arrangements. Mitchell Vincent platted the bluff and determined that Floyd's 1804 grave was now 100 feet in the air over the Missouri, and that the 1857 grave was about 360 feet from the solid edge of the railroad cut on the western side of the bluff. When erosion of the bank, the railroad cut, and the present site of the grave all were factored together, Vincent determined that the 1857 grave was southeast from the original one by about 600 feet.\(^{20}\)

At the Association's June 24 meeting John H. Charles was elected president, a position he would hold until a monument to Floyd towered over the Iowa prairie six years later. A monument was very important to Charles and he worked diligently toward achieving it. Committees were formed at the meeting with the duties of inviting Coues and Butler to be speakers at the August 20 ceremonies; acquiring the land containing the grave for a park; and procuring a suitable receptacle for Floyd's bones and a proper stone to temporarily mark the grave.

On July 6, photographs of Floyd's skull and the vicinity of the original grave were exhibited at a meeting of the executive committee. The photographer, at least of the grave view, was P.C. Waltermire of Sioux City. His services were retained for the reburial and monument exercises. It is thanks to him and his camera that we have photographs of the 1895, 1900, and 1901 ceremonies. Also at this meeting it was decided that a marble slab seven feet by three feet and eight inches thick, properly inscribed, would be ordered at a cost of $40, and that a pottery urn would be made to hold the bones. Coues' recommendation that Floyd's skull be given to a historical repository was declined, but two plaster casts of it were made, one of which was given to the Iowa Historical Society.\(^{21}\)

The day for the reburial ceremonies was fast approaching, and all the arrangements were coming together, from the slab to the train to carry the expected crowd. A detailed schedule of the afternoon and evening programs was approved; and articles of incorporation for the Association were drafted and ready for adoption.

The Association had prepared the grave site prior to August 20. The other bones had been exhumed, and they and the skull placed in two earthenware urns. The anticipated day dawned bright and warm. The train departed for Floyd's Bluff at 1:45, fifteen minutes behind schedule, crowded with some 400 passengers. An additional 100 spectators took other conveyances. President Charles, acting as master of ceremonies, opened the program. Judge George W. Wakefield, speaking on behalf of Sioux City, made a brief address. He was followed by Professor James Butler, who delivered the funeral oration. In place of a Bible, Butler held the original Floyd journal. After his address recalling that sad day ninety-one years before, George Perkins representing the Iowa Historical Society, General Hancock Post Commander Eugene Rice, the Reverend H.D. Jenkins, Elliott Coues, and Dr. S.P. Yeomans all delivered short speeches.
The two urns were lowered into the grave, a wreath and flowers were placed on them, and the grave filled in. The inscribed stone was laid over it and the articles of incorporation of the Floyd Memorial Association were signed beside it.

At eight o'clock that night the evening program began at the Sioux City YMCA auditorium. The main speaker was Dr. Coues, and after a few preliminaries, the Lewis and Clark scholar spoke on their expedition. Professor Butler followed, speaking on Charles Floyd and again displaying his original journal.22

Now that the immediate goal of a permanent marker for Floyd's grave had been achieved, the Association began looking toward its ultimate goal of erecting a monument to the fallen expedition member. Local residents were the leaders of the Association and formed the majority of the membership, but interested people from across the country also joined. Elliott Coues and James D. Butler belonged for obvious reasons, and even served as vice-presidents. Another four of the fifteen vice-presidents were descendants of William Clark. These tended to be honorary positions, with the exception of Coues, who wrote the excellent 1897 report of the Association.23

Over the next several years the board of the Association, and primarily the executive committee, worked toward making a monument to the lone fatality of the Corps of Discovery a reality. At the August 20, 1898, annual meeting of the Association it was reported that one acre of ground surrounding Floyd's grave had been fenced and planted with trees, and that a monument of the type researched (a shaft) would cost $6,000 to $10,000 depending on the material used.24

By the time of the 1899 annual meeting a $5,000 appropriation from Congress had been secured; final negotiations were underway for the purchase of twenty-one bluff top acres surrounding Floyd's grave site for a park; and discussions were being held with the Sioux City office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the planning and construction of a monument. No definite plan had been decided on, but approval was given to John Charles' motion to proceed with a seventy-five foot shaft of Sioux Falls quartzite, to be ready for dedication on August 20, 1900. This plan proved premature, and discussion continued with the Corps of Engineers.

The end of the century whose beginning had witnessed the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the dawning of a new century, proved to be the stage upon which a monument to Charles Floyd would become a reality. By May 1900 enough money had been raised to proceed with the monument plans designed by Captain Hiram M. Chittenden of the Corps of Engineers. In April the State of Iowa had matched Congress' appropriation of $5,000 for a monument. At the May 9 meeting of the executive committee, Chittenden's plan was approved. His design was an Egyptian obelisk. In a letter dated January 26, 1900, he stated that the "character of the site, ... as the purposes of the work, require a monument which shall be imposing in appearance, and visible at a great distance, dominating the entire valley in its vicinity, rather than an example of fine artistic work, whose merits, to be appreciated, must be examined close by." To this end, the Egyptian obelisk was the best choice. He also listed the types of stone—granite, limestone, and sandstone—that could be used. The captain stated that all were suitable, and while granite

Part of the crowd at the 1895 reburial of Sgt. Floyd. The two urns at the table hold Floyd's remains.
was the preferred stone, it was likely sandstone would be used due to cost restrictions. Chittenden was correct. A couple of months later Kettle River sandstone from a quarry in Minnesota was selected. While cost conscious, the Association’s executive committee and Chittenden insisted that all materials and workmanship be of good quality. The Association’s reports and Chittenden’s 1901 report to the Chief of Engineers testify to this.

By late May 1900 the plans, finances, and ceremony arrangements were all in place. The next step in the monument project was at hand—the pouring of the foundation, to be followed several months later after that had set, by the obelisk. With the planning and preparation of a military operation, all was in readiness for the morning of May 29. Using labor hired for the day from government workers doing river work and Sioux City street workers, so that he could maintain more direct control over the project, Chittenden assembled 110 men early that morning.

The force left the railroad station at seven o’clock, and half an hour later the first concrete was being poured. Everything needed already had been assembled or was hauled in during the day to keep the work progressing. This was of utmost importance because the foundation had to be poured in one day to assure that it would set as one solid mass. And solid mass it was! Measuring twenty-two feet square at the base, fourteen feet square at the top, and eleven feet high, with thirty-two heavy steel rails interlaced through it, the foundation required 138.6 cubic yards of concrete and weighed some 200 tons. Chittenden and his assistant engineer, Bathurst Smith (who the former recognized as supervising much of the work on the project in his 1901 report), kept vigilant eyes on the work’s progress. Chittenden had estimated ten hours for the work and he hit his mark almost exactly. The last shovel of concrete was deposited at 5:20, and by six o’clock the workers were headed home. It would now be only a few months before the stones began to rise skyward to memorialize Sergeant Floyd.

Following its tradition, the Association chose August 20 to lay the cornerstone of the monument. It had been decided to transfer the sergeant’s remains into the monument for permanent entombment there. Accordingly, they were exhumed yet again the morning of August 20 and placed in the center of the foundation, ready to be covered with concrete during the afternoon ceremonies.

Just as it had done on August 20, 1895, the Association and citizens of Sioux City planned suitable ceremonies for the event. The heat and blazing sun caused some of the activities to be abandoned, but the main event—the laying of the cornerstone—would be accomplished.

The parade in town to the station was abbreviated. The railroad cars, loaded with some 250 people, pulled out for the bluff just behind schedule. Those passengers were joined by hundreds of others, and while the Fourth Regiment Band, better known as Reed’s Band, played a quickstep two companies of guardsmen led a scattered procession up the hill.

The Reverend J.C. McClintock offered a blessing on the proceedings just after two o’clock. He was followed by George Perkins, speaking on behalf of the Iowa Historical Society. Perkins spoke on Floyd, his grave, and the Association. The Association’s board of trustees was unanimously reelected—to take care of some necessary business—and then the mayor of Sioux City, A.H. Burton, placed a time capsule beside the urns in the center of the monument’s base. Some sort of structure apparently housed these items, because a concrete top was then placed over them.

In a mixed military-religious ceremony conducted by the GAR Post and guardsmen, the cornerstone was laid. A final address was given and the band played “America.” Three volleys were fired in salute to the fallen soldier and the mournful sound of taps drifted from the bluff to end the ceremony.

Following the laying of the cornerstone the Kettle River sandstone blocks were laid as they were delivered. The core of the monument was filled with concrete as new courses were laid. Delivery was slow, and by the end of October only sixteen courses had been laid and Chittenden expressed doubts as to whether the work could be completed before cold weather arrived.

On November 18, the Minnesota Sandstone Company delivered the last of the stone, but by then work had been suspended for the season. At the time work was suspended on November 14, the monument had risen to a height of fifty-five feet, just over half-way to its planned one hundred feet.

Work on the monument resumed on March 28, 1901, and proceeded as rapidly as possible. The obelisk quickly rose higher despite delays caused by high winds. On April 22, the capstone of the obelisk was laid, completing the work on the shaft itself. Its final dimensions were: height 100.174 feet; base 9.42 feet square; and weight 278 tons. Six blocks were used in each course. The shaft decreased by one-third from base to top.

Related work continued after April 22. The paving work around the monument, The placement of the tablets on the east and west
faces of the shaft, the roadway from the public highway to the monument, and the steel fence all were completed by late May in time for the Memorial Day dedication on May 30. The paving work was nearly completed.

Memorial Day, 1901, in the Sioux City area was a most memorable one. The Floyd Memorial Association planned the ceremonies meticulously, wanting this day that would witness the culmination of years of effort to go perfectly. And perfect it was. At 10:15 a special train left for the monument. Once there its passengers joined those who already had arrived by other means.

Reminiscent of the scene that had been played out twice before, the participants and spectators gathered around the grave of Sergeant Floyd. New faces and old were among the crowd. President Charles, James D. Butler, carrying the precious journal as he had six years earlier, Noah Levering, who had played such an important role in the 1857 rescue of the remains and who had journeyed from Los Angeles for the occasion, the daughter of William Bratton, one of the “Nine Young Men from Kentucky,” and many others were in attendance. The crowd was estimated at 2,000.

An invocation began the dedication, followed by a musical selection, and then Captain Chittenden reviewed the facts of the project that had resulted in this almost $20,000 monument surrounded by a twenty-one acre park. He then officially offered the monument to the Floyd Memorial Association. John Charles and vice-president George Wakefield accepted the monument with appropriate remarks. The bronze tablets were unveiled, and a descendant of Thomas Jefferson spoke. The General Hancock Post then assumed control of the ceremonies and dedicated...
The view of the monument from the Nebraska side of the Missouri River. The monument stands out prominently for many miles on the prairie.

cated the monument to the memory of Sergeant Charles Floyd. Professor Butler offered a few remarks and displayed Floyd’s journal, comparing it to the monument, saying it was the obelisk Floyd had erected and his own enduring monument. A bugler then blew retreat, a three volley salute from twenty-four guns was given, and taps sounded from the bluff as the crowd dispersed shortly before noon.

Afternoon ceremonies got underway at two o’clock with a parade. It terminated at the Opera House, where the program began at three o’clock. A tribute to President Charles moved the “well loved old man” to tears. The main speaker was John A. Kasson, who spoke for about an hour on the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark, Floyd, the monument, and what it all signified. “America” closed the afternoon program.30

The celebration of the day and dedication of the monument to Floyd drew to a close that night at the Court House auditorium. There Butler delivered the evening’s address. Again displaying the journal, he recounted its importance and history, the Corps’ and especially the captains’ love for Floyd, a story of the sergeant’s hatchet, and likened the journal to “the acorn from which an obelisk grander than any oak has grown.” Long time area resident and Association officer S.P. Yeomans spoke next, focusing on the monument, its significance, and its symbolism concerning U.S. history. Noah Levering was recognized for his role in rescuing Floyd’s remains, and took the opportunity to correct an error concerning the state of those remains in 1857.

All that remained to totally complete the monument was some paving around it and the inevitable cleanup. Both were accomplished by late June, and on June 30, Chittenden settled accounts and resigned as engineer for the Association.32

Thus was completed the dream of an enduring memorial to the only member of the Corps of Discovery to die on the expedition. The Floyd Memorial Association accomplished the erection of a monument larger and more impressive than any constructed for any other member of the Corps, including Lewis and Clark. It has rescued Floyd from the near anonymity that has been the fate of most of the expedition’s members. Ninety-seven years after a cedar post was erected to mark the grave of Sergeant Charles Floyd, a stone obelisk soared above the Missouri and surrounding prairie to mark his grave; a fitting monument indeed to this “young man of much merit.”
He sleeps beneath the stately shaft
Beside the winding river.
Where prairie grasses cloth the sod
And stunted willows quiver;
The waters murmur as they flow
In a requiem, softly, faintly low.
And the west winds sigh and shiver.

No word can reach his earth-stooped ears
However loudly spoken;
To words of praise, to words of blame
His dust can give no token;
He holds his vigil on the hill,
In endless quiet, deep and still,
In dignity unbroken.

Above his solemn resting place
The meadowlarks are singing;
Around the stately obelisk
The butterflies are winging;
With reverence and peace draw near
The grave of the sleeping pioneer
While paeans of praise are ringing.

His restless feet have turned to dust.
His wanderings are ended;
But still his spirit bides with us
With courage high and splendid;
His strong example paved the way
For all the triumphs of today—
His hopes on us descended.

He sleeps beneath the stately shaft
Enwapped in solemn glory;
Eternal hills lift up their heads
About him, old and hoary;
And like a finger, pointing high,
The shaft lifts upward to the sky
And tells its deathless story.

-Will Reed Dunroy

Special thanks are extended to V. Strodle Hinds, Paul Fleckenstein, and the Sioux City Public Museum for supplying important information. Their willing assistance and cooperation made gathering the sources together much easier.

FOOTNOTES


Gary E. Moulton, ed., The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, vol. 9 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995), pp. 32-33, 391. These are the journals of Ordway and Floyd, respectively.


Moulton, vol. 2, pp. 494-496 and vol. 9, p. 41; Thwaites, vol. 7, p. 51; Gass, pp. 29-30. None of the other diarists mention a bath. 

Thwaites, vol. 7, p. 51; Gass, pp. 29-30. None of the other diarists mention a bath. 

Moulton, vol. 2, p. 495 and vol. 9, p. 41; Gass, p. 30. Gass makes no mention in his journal of being elected sergeant in place of the deceased Floyd. It is possible that he did, but that the heavy handed editor McKeehan deleted it.


Coues, pp. 13-14; Reuben G. Thwaites, ed., Early Western Travels, 1748-1846, vol. 22 (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1906), p. 278. For a full report of Nicollet's expedition see Senate Document No. 237, 26th Congress, 2nd Session (February 1841) and House Document No. 52, 23rd Congress, 2nd Session (January 11, 1845). They were published in 1843 and 1845, respectively. Nicollet also was known as Jean rather than Joseph.


ibid, pp. 15-16.

Coues, pp. 16-18; Perkins, pp. 90, 103-104, The Sioux City Sunday journal, November 26, 1950, p. 1. There are a number of contradictions in the accounts of the 1857 rescue. The account of Noah Levering, who initially was involved with the project, appears to be the most reliable. However, he does not mention certain facts and makes some contradictory statements. The bones of the lower body were recovered indicating that Floyd was buried with his head to the river. If the post and upper bones of the body were washed away, why not the skull? Coues surmised in his report that the skull, collarbone, and some rib fragments were gathered later from where they had been scattered down the bluff. Levering states that he gave a piece of the original "coffin" to the Iowa Historical Society. He also states in his 1901 letter that he believes the cedar post washed away in 1857 was not the one erected by the Corps of Discovery, but rather the third one and that it probably was placed there by Nicollet in 1839. He thinks Nicollet did not know exactly where the body lay and placed the post at Floyd's feet. Levering is mistaken in believing this. A post at Floyd's feet would mean that the lower bones of the body rather than the upper ones would have fallen down the bank. There is never a mention of the possibility of more than one body being in the grave as Clark stated to Biddle in 1810. In his remarks at the 1901 dedication Levering, apparently after further reflection, stated that no bones were lost to the river, but that wild animals had carried off those that were missing. This theory could be closest to the truth, but we'll probably never know for sure. The piece of "coffin" as well as one of Floyd's teeth is in the collection of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City branch.

apparently included the expense as part of the journal's coverage of the Floyd monument project. No complete set of monument related photographs for the this time period have been located as yet. When the journal changed ownership in the early 1970s many of the old records were discarded. Assuming that the newspaper must have had a set of Waltermire's photographs of the monument project, it is possible that they were included in this house cleaning. A query to the Iowa Historical Society met with no success re: such photographs in its collection. It is possible that papers of some of the prominent individuals involved may contain them, and if extant be found under those titles. Therefore, at this time, the photographs in the collections of The Filson Club and Sioux City Public Museum are the only known views of the 1895, 1900, and 1901 activities concerning the Floyd reburial and monument. The Filson has ten photographs regarding the Floyd grave site and monument, and the Sioux City Public Museum nine. The institutions have some of the same views, but there are eleven different views between them. The journal published six photos (three of which the SCPM does not have, but the Filson does) in its 1950 article. In addition, notes on the back of some of the photos in the SCPM collection (and not in the journal) indicate they have been published. If they actually were and if so in what is unknown. It would also seem that additional views than those at these two institutions were taken. The records of the ceremonies state that at least one view was taken for which neither institution has a photo.

22Coues, pp. 29-53; The Sioux City Journal, August 21, 1895, p. 1-2, 5. A second urn was acquired because upon preparing the grave site and remaining bones for the ceremony it was discovered that the one urn held all the bones was not tall enough to hold the leg bones. The remains reburied were: the skull with lower jaw, right femur, 18" long; a tibia, 15" long; a fibula, 14.75" long; part of the other fibula, one vertebra; one clavicle; and portions of several ribs. The inscription on the urn made by Holman Brothers especially for the remains read: "Sgt Charles Floyd/Died Aug 20th 1804./Reinterred May 28, 1857./Memorial Services August 20, 1895. The marble slab, made by M.C. Carlstrom, was inscribed: Sergeant/CHARLES FLOYD/DECEA/M Aug 20, 1804./Remains removed from 600'/Ft West and Reburied at/This Place May 28, 1857./This Stone Placed/Aug 20, 1895. The 1901 report of the Association only mentions discussion about a suitable disposition of the slab. No mention is made of what was done with it. Iowa Historical does not have the marble marker or cast of Floyd's skull in its collection.

23Coues, pp. 55-56. The records state four grandsons, but actually it was three grandsons and one son. They were: his son Jefferson Kearney Clark (1824-1900), of St. Louis; and grandsons Col. William Hancock Clark (1859-1922), of Detroit; Col. Meriwether Lewis Clark, Jr. (1856-1899), of St. Louis; and Maj. John O'Fallon Clark (1844-1916), of St. Louis. William and M. Lewis were sons of Meriwether Lewis Clark, and John of George Rogers Hancock Clark. By 1899 only William H. Clark was still on the board and he does not appear after that year.

24Perkins, pp. 13-16.
25Ibid., pp. 13-16.

27Perkins, pp. 36-38; Chittenden, p. 3831.
28Perkins, pp. 38-46; Chittenden, pp. 3831-32. The journal reports one urn being used, but two had been used in 1895. It is possible that another urn was made for the occasion, but it is more likely that both the 1895 urns were deposited in the monument. The copper box "time capsule" contained documents and printed works concerning the monument, Association, Lewis and Clark Expedition, Iowa laws, Sioux City newspapers, U.S. coins and postage stamps, GAR button, and a photograph of Association president Charles. The cornerstone was laid at the northeastern corner of the monument. On the north side was inscribed: "August 20, A.D. 1900, Madison B. Davis, Commander, Department of Iowa, Grand Army of the Republic; and on the east side "H.M. Chittenden, Captain, Corps of Engineers, U.S.A., Engineer and Architect."

29Chittenden, pp. 687, 5829-30, 3832-33. The steel fence was seven and one-half feet high. The vertical bars were one inch square, bent outward at the top and sharpened.

30Perkins, pp. 55-81; The Sioux City Journal, May 30, 1901, pp. 1, 6-7 and May 31, 1901, pp. 1, 6-7. Coues had died on Christmas Day 1899. Kasson was an Iowan. He was a diplomat, former U.S. congressman, and nationally known as an orator. Speeches of this length were quite unusual, and would have been expected from a noted speaker on such an occasion.

32Chittenden, p. 3833.
33Perkins, p. 93. This poem appeared in the May 30, 1901, edition of The Sioux City Tribune, together with an editorial regarding the monument.
On Sunday, May 6, 1804, just a few days remained before the departure of the Corps of Discovery. William Clark and the men at the Wood River campsite enjoyed the fine spring weather. Frequent target practice over the previous winter paid off that day when Corps members beat some visitors to their camp in a shooting match. Across the Mississippi River, Meriwether Lewis endeavored to tie up bureaucratic loose ends in St. Louis. And across the Missouri River, a young man named Charles Pineau, son of a Missouri Indian woman and a French-speaking man, knelt for baptism in the Catholic church of St. Charles.

Later that week, hunter and interpreter George Drouillard arrived at the Wood River camp with seven French-speaking boatmen—Charles Pineau quite possibly among them. Soon the expedition got underway. For the rest of that summer and into the fall, these "Frenchmen" helped row, pole, and tow the boats up to the Mandan country. They also helped to hunt and perhaps to identify the geography of the Missouri River valley. Unfortunately, the journals of Lewis and Clark rarely mention these men by name, much less credit them individually.

The few journal entries concerning them are sketchy at best. Because these boatmen were not soldiers, a lower standard of record keeping applied to them. A barrier of language and culture, as well as their being assigned to the red pirogue, isolated these *engages* from the rest of the party. Lewis and Clark wrote little more than their numbers (sometimes contradicting each other) and their names (with varying spelling) or simply referred to them as the "French."

On May 2, 1804, Lewis wrote to Clark that "Mr. Choteau has procured seven *engages* to go as far as the Mandanes—but they will not agree to go further..." (Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1962). Presumably these seven, plus a few more, accompanied the Corps upriver. The detachment order of May 26, 1804 assigns eight of them to a separate mess unit; around nine were discharged in early November of that year in the Mandan country and of these, two or three volunteered to winter with the Corps before returning to St. Louis. Lewis's August 5, 1807 account shows that five received back wages in St. Louis in 1805. Some were probably paid in cash upon their discharge at the Mandan villages.

Nowhere in their journals or letters do Lewis and Clark reveal where these boatmen hailed from, or the intricate ties many had with each other and with the native tribes along the Missouri River. Clues to these questions lay hidden until recently in the archives of the St. Charles Borromeo parish of St. Charles, Missouri. In preparation for its 1992 bicentennial celebration, the parish had its oldest registers translated from the French, and the data stored on computer disk. Then it hired me to research and write its history—*St. Charles Borromeo: 200 Years of Faith*. Although I had grown up in the parish and written on local history, I had little idea that the earliest registers would shed light on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Many younger parishes have deposited their early records with the St. Louis Archdiocese and its staff of archivists, but St. Charles Borromeo has always retained its original documents. This has kept these records somewhat isolated and has discouraged systematic research. My book is the first work based on the entire archival collection. Some of the information below echoes that of Mr. Anton J. Pregaldin, a St. Louis researcher who generously shared his *engage* findings with Charles G. Clarke, author of *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (1970). At that time, however, Pregaldin and other researchers did not find the registers uniformly translated, indexed, and converted to a more legible form than that of cramped and smudged handwriting in gall ink on parchment sheets.

Now that 200 years of informa-
tion is available in block print and standard English, material previously overlooked has come to light. The earliest baptism, marriage, and burial registers help explain the identities and family connections of the following engagees—Jean Baptiste Deschamps, Charles Pineau, Charles Hebert, Paul Primeau, Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse, Etienne Malboeuf, and Pierre Roy. (The spellings of Pineau and Roy differ slightly from those used by Gary E. Moulton, editor of The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I have retained the spelling used by the French-born priest who ministered to these men and their families.)

The parish archives have nothing to say about the following "Frenchmen" also associated with the expedition—Pierre Cruzatte, Francois Labiche, Baptiste Lepage, Charles Caugee, Joseph Collin, or someone called La Liberte—which suggests that these men were not from St. Charles.

The archives also suggest a composite of the engage selected. With a few exceptions, Chouteau (or whoever did the actual recruiting) seems to have looked for relatively young men with few family obligations binding them to the settled world and kinship by blood or marriage with one of the Indian tribes along the Missouri River. Although the registers show that various eastern tribes frequented the area, only men with ties to tribes out west, especially the Missouri, Arikara, and Mountain Crow, were hired. Most of these men had close ties with at least one other expedition engage, and several came back to the area afterward.

First, a little background about St. Charles and the parish of its patron saint. Reputedly founded in 1769 by a French Canadian hunter named Louis Blanchette, the settlement was known as Les Petites Cotes ("The Little Hills"), until 1791. In November of that year the
Spanish government renamed the village to honor King Charles IV, and dedicated its new log church under the protection of his spiritual patron, St. Charles Borromeo. Parish record keeping began the following year. (See “The Founding of St. Charles and Blanchette, its Founder,” by Ben L. Emmons, Missouri Historical Review 18, published in July 1924).

In 1798, Father Leander Lusson took over as pastor and remained in St. Charles until late in 1804. Though not named in the expedition journals, Lusson was the priest whose services some of the Corps members attended on May 20, 1804—there simply was no other priest in the area.

The original territory of St. Charles Borromeo parish stretched north and west into the unknown. Almost all residents of St. Charles (whom Clark estimated in 1804 at 450) were at least nominal Catholics. Most were of French Canadian and/or Native American stock with close ties to one or more of the tribes of the Missouri River valley. Few could read or write. Although the Spanish government had granted lands liberally in the hope of discouraging the itinerant life of trapping and trading, agriculture did not catch on until later. In 1804, most able-bodied St. Charles men still went upriver during the warm months to make their living among the tribes. Some stayed longer.

The first priests and laymen serving the parish frequently noted details about the people they married, baptized, and buried, particularly their age and place of origin or tribal affiliation. Unions with Indian women were common. Founder Louis Blanchette married a woman of either the Osage or Pawnee tribe, and one of his cousins—the father of engage Etienne Malboeuf—had a marriage of sorts with a woman of the faraway Mountain Crow tribe. By the time Lewis and Clark arrived, St. Charles had a high percentage of families with some Native American blood.

Among the civic leaders of the day were Francois Duquette and his wife, Marie Louise Bauvais, who lived on a hill overlooking the Missouri River. On May 16, 1804, Clark joined the couple for dinner at this “eligible Situation.” Closer to the river stood the church of upright logs, and around it stretched the parish cemetery. Although the journals do not mention the condition of either in 1804, a decade later the church was ramshackle and the cemetery almost full. After Francois Duquette died in 1816, his widow donated the grounds that Clark had so admired to the parish. The site became the home of a new St. Charles Borromeo church in 1828. Within a few years, the old log structure where Charles Pineau and the other engages had knelt was gone and the surrounding cemetery closed. No apparent trace of either remains.

Most of the engages noted in the archives made a home in or around St. Charles. Although their names are sometimes spelled in various ways (a visiting missionary, for example, renders Hebert “Eber”), they are identifiable by other details, such as the names of their spouses or parents. All of these men were absent from the parish registers during the time of the expedition. Some returned afterward and made their cross-shaped marks in the parish books. A few did not. In particular:

**JEAN BAPTISTE DESCHAMPS**

Called “patroom”—foreman—this engage was placed in charge of one of the pirogues and its cargo, a full-time responsibility which exempted him from guard duty. Deschamps was also the nominal leader of the French-speaking boatmen.

Why? The archives suggest that Deschamps may have been related
to the wife of St. Charles's top man of the time—Commandant Joseph Tayon. The Deschamps family was also one of the original families in the area. The first baptism in St. Louis occurred in 1766, to the child of a Deschamps woman.

Jean Baptiste lived with a local woman named Marie Anne Bagguette, whose family name was Tayan. The Deschamps woman named Marie Anne Baptiste. The baptism occurred in the summer, but the father was absent. As the couple had several children. At the time of the expedition, many St. Charles people owned farmland in or near Portage des Sioux.

Charles Hebert was probably in his early thirties when he left with the expedition. Married in 1792, by 1804, he and his wife, Julie Hubert dit La Croix had at least one son and two daughters. Every year or two from 1797 to 1802, the couple had their latest arrival baptized by one of the Borromeo priests, who noted in the baptism archives that the family resided in St. Charles.

After 1802, Charles Hebert and his family disappear from the records until June of 1808, when a missionary visited Portage des Sioux and baptized several children, including one of Charles and Julie. This Hebert child had been born in May of 1807. A baby sister followed later in 1808 and another in 1811; thereafter the Heberts make no further appearance in the archives. Around this time, residents of Portage des Sioux built their own church.

The long interval between otherwise frequent births coincides with the expedition. The May, 1807 birth suggests that Hebert had returned home by August of 1806, but from the parish archives it is impossible to tell whether he returned with the November, 1804 contingent or waited until the following April—his cross-shaped mark is simply absent from the books between 1802 and 1808.

**PAUL PRIMEAU**

Called "Primau," "Premor," and "Premau" by the captains, this French Canadian left the expedition along with Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse and several others on November 6, 1804 for the Arikara nation and below. He married Pelagie Bissonnet in 1799 in St. Louis. Clarke asserts that the
couple went on to have 10 children, but the family does not appear in the parish archives until long after the expedition, which suggests that they may not have lived in St. Charles.

By 1807 Primeau had fallen into debt to George Drouillard and St. Louis’s maverick fur baron, Manuel Lisa, in the amount of almost $300. Clarke states that this debt was apparently paid off in 1808.

Twenty-one years later, Paul and Pelagie appeared in St. Charles for the wedding of their son Joseph to a local girl. The nuptials took place in a large stone church which replaced the log church in 1828. Built on the tract granted by Francois and Marie Louise Duquette, the structure had a plastered interior and was considered the most elegant house of worship for miles around. A young Belgian Jesuit named John B. Smedts (a classmate of the famous Father Pierre DeSmet, who during his long career ministered to some of the same tribes encountered by the expedition) united the couple. Like most other newcomers, Smedts struggled with the hybrid French of the area, spelling the groom’s name “Primant.” And like the other engages, Paul Primeau used a cross-shaped mark to sign his name.

JEAN BAPTISTE LAJEUNESSE
Married in St. Louis in 1797 to Elisabeth Malboeuf, the daughter of a French Canadian and a Mandan woman, this boatman was the brother-in-law of engage Etienne Malboeuf. Just as the October 7, 1805 entry in Lewis’s financial records pairs Jean Baptiste Deschamps and Charles Pineau, the October 4 entry pairs Lajeunesse and Malboeuf.

The parish archives show that Lajeunesse and his wife lived in St. Charles and had at least two children by the time of the expedition. One was a boy named Jean Baptiste, for whom Etienne Malboeuf stood as godfather in 1802.

They also show that an unnamed child of Lajeunesse and his wife died at the age of six months and was buried in late November of 1805. Unless the writer erred as to the child’s age or parentage, this child would have been born in May or June of 1805, and therefore conceived in the fall of 1804. This is hard to square with the assumption that Lajeunesse spent the winter upriver.

Another child was born on March 6, 1807, but by the time she was baptized that November her father had died. One of the parish laymen buried Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse on May 4, 1807 and listed his age as “around 45.” His widow married another St. Charles man in September of that year.

Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse, Jr. evidently made his living upriver. He reappears in the archives for the 1834 wedding of a friend, and again the following spring for his own wedding. This entry, dated February 9, 1835, reveals that the trapping and trading way of life persisted in St. Charles among the old French Canadian families. The officiating priest wrote that “after one publication [of the customary three banns of matrimony], dispensation having been given from the others (the husband leaves on a trip in April), I have received the mutual consent of marriage from Mr. Baptiste La Jennesse and Madame Emilie...” The inability to sign names persisted, too.

ETIENNE MALBOEUF
Son of a French Canadian and a woman listed in his baptismal entry as “Josephe de Bel Homme of the Mountain Crow nation,” this engage came from an astonishingly well-traveled family. The Mountain branch of the Crow tribe lived in southcentral Montana—the very fringe of the world known to whites when Etienne was born.

The Malboeufs were also well-connected in St. Charles, being cousins of founder and commandant Louis Blanchette. A Pelagie Bissot—perhaps the woman who later married Paul Primeau—served as godmother to one of Etienne’s younger brothers in 1792.

Etienne and five siblings were baptized in the log church between 1792 and 1795. Although Francois Malboeuf is noted as the father of each, the mother is noted variously as a Mountain Crow called “Josephine or Savage,” as well as “Josephine Crise, Savage of the Mountain Crow nation on the Missouri,” and “Josephine, a Savage.” Etienne’s father died in January of 1804. His burial entry gives his age as about 72 years, and adds that the French Canadian had died in the home of his son-in-law, Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse. No mention is made of a surviving spouse, suggesting either that Francois survived the mother(s) of his children, or that he had not been canonically married.

Etienne Malboeuf received payment in 1805 for his services to the expedition, but whether he returned to St. Charles is not known. There simply is no further mention of him or his children in the parish archives after 1804, in contrast to the many entries of the previous decade.

PIERRE ROY
Also called Roi, Roie, and Le Roy in the journals, this engage has been one of the hardest to identify. Clarke suggests that he may have been the son of a Ste. Genevieve man named Pierre Roy, whose wife had a son by that name in 1786.

A different Pierre Roy was baptized and married in the log church and lost his wife a few months before the expedition departed. This Roy [the y in whose name
may be explainable if Father Lusson used the spelling of the Provence region of France) received baptism in 1794 at the age of 14, although the officiating priest failed to note his parentage.

On October 11, 1803, Pierre Roy, "legitimate and majority age son of Pierre Roy and the deceased Josette La Pointe...native of the Beaumont Parish, diocese of Quebec in Canada and resident of this parish" married Marie Louise Valle, "legitimate and minor daughter of Jean Baptiste Valle and Therese, Indienne, her father and mother, residents of this parish." The bride may very well have been the daughter of the trader Jean Valle who had already been upriver for about a year when he encountered the Corps on October 1, 1804 and passed along valuable information about the Cheyenne country and the Arikaras.

If so, he came by such information honestly. Roy’s mother-in-law, Therese Valle, was an Arikara. She and Jean Baptiste made their home in St. Charles, despite Valle’s frequent absences, one of which kept him from his daughter’s wedding to Roy. The bride indeed proceeded “under the authority and consent of [a local man] and her said mother...her father being absent.” Witnessing the wedding were engages Francois Malboeuf and Jean Baptiste Lajeunesse. In December of 1803, Marie Louise Valle Roy was buried in the parish cemetery. Father Lusson recorded the burial of an elderly French Canadian named Augustin Rhoc. There is no further mention of this family.

**CONCLUSION**

This sketch of Augustin Rhoc illustrates the characteristics of many, but not all, of the engages discussed above: a Native American mother or wife, affiliation through her with a Missouri River tribe, and freedom from family obligation caused by the recent death of a loved one.

St. Charles was the logical place to seek qualified boatmen. The village had more fur trappers and traders per capita than most other settlements in the Mississippi Valley. Their way of life—going upriver for many months—persisted in St. Charles after it had died out elsewhere. In the 1820s and 1830s, Pierre DeSmet and his fellow Jesuits despaired of the local men ever settling down to farming instead of abandoning their wives and children every spring to go upriver.

St. Charles was clearly the home in 1804 of Deschamps, Hebert, Malboeuf, Lajeunesse, and Roy. It may also have been the home, at least for a time, of the others discussed.

The St. Charles Borromeo archives prove that even before the expedition, many of the engages had become tightly knit. They married into each other’s families, witnessed each other’s weddings and baptisms, and nursed each other’s sick. This tradition probably continued long after the expedition.

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**About the author...**

Foundation member Jo Ann Brown is an attorney who lives in Florissant, Missouri.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**PIONEERING LINGUISTS**—Elijah Criswell—out of print. Don’t let the name fool you—an excellent account of the natural history of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Xerox copy, 522 pp. Headwaters Chapter, Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Box 577, Bozeman, MT 59715.

**ONLY ONE MAN DIED**—pb Dr. Chuinard. All about the medical situations on the Lewis & Clark Trail. $19, pp. Don Nell, Box 577, Bozeman, MT 59715.

**FULL COLOR POSTER** of the Lewis & Clark Trail Text & Graphics Summarize The Expedition. $3.95 plus $2.50 S&H. Wholesale discounts available. Patrick Press, 795 South Cedar, Coeur d'Alene, WA 99114.
The tall, impressive snow-covered pinnacle visible from many vantage points throughout the Columbia Gorge is Mt. Hood. The mountain is a part of the Pacific Northwest's active volcanic Cascade Range, and at 11,239 feet (3,426 m), Mt. Hood is Oregon's tallest mountain.

Middle Columbia River Indians called the mountain "paitu," a generic term for a mountainous form. In 1792, British sea captain George Vancouver named the mountain Mt. Hood for the British admiral, Sir Samuel Hood.

Captain William Clark first noticed the mountain on October 18, 1805, as the expedition began its descent of the Columbia River. Wrote Clark "...at the Commencement of this high Countrie on Lard Side a Small riverlet falls in [Walla Walla River]...Saw a mountain bearing S.W. Conocil form Covered with Snow." The majestic snow-covered peak remained in view for much of the expedition's journey down the Columbia River.

On October 21 Clark gave the mountain a name, "...the Concil mountain is S.W. which the Indians inform me is not far to the left of the great falls; this I call the Timm or falls mountain it is high and the top is covered with Snow."

Earlier in the day, Clark had noted that the Indians described present-day Celilo Falls as "Timm." It is possible the word is Tr'm', a Chinookan word meaning "river (falls)", and that Clark was naming the mountain for the nearby Great Falls of the Columbia River. On October 25, while the expedition camped "...on the top of a high point of rocks, which forms a kind of fortification in the Point between the river [the Columbia] & the creek [Mill Creek]..." Clark again wrote of the mountain, "...The Pinical of the round topped mountain which we Saw a Short distance below the forks of this river is S. 43° W. of us and abt 37 miles, it is at this time topped with Snow we called this the falls mountain or Timm mountain."

It was not until November 3 that Clark identified Timm Mountain as Vancouver's Mt. Hood, "...the mountain we Saw from near the forks proves to be Mount Hood." The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's 29th Annual Meeting will be July 25-30, 1997, at Skamania Lodge, in Stevenson, Washington, in the heart of the Columbia Gorge and near to Mt. Hood. Like the members of the expedition, meeting attendees will have many opportunities to view Vancouver's Mt. Hood and Clark's Timm Mountain, as they explore the Columbia River during the 29th Annual Meeting.

---FOOTNOTES---
3 Ibid., 318.
4 Ibid., 317.
6 "Moulton, 339.

Note: The evening's camp was made at "Fort Rock," in present-day The Dalles, Oregon.

Captain William Clark's "the forks" was a common descriptive name for the confluence of the Snake and the Columbia rivers, at present-day Sacajawea State Park, Pasco, Washington.

---FOOTNOTES---
Mt. Hood is the crowning glory of the Cascade Range in northern Oregon.

Meriwether Lewis is credited with the first detailed botanical description of the Oregon Grape, Berberis Aquifolium, shown in this picture.

Obituary

Long-time foundation member Donald S. Alderman died at his home in Claremont, California amid his family in April. He was 80 years old.

The annual meetings of the foundation will not be the same without Donald. He and his wife Katharine have attended every one for as far back as anyone can remember. Donald was always off at every stop—not bouncing or robust, but always carefully and thoughtfully as befitted his age and bearing. His wife Katharine was always nearby, sometimes with a mothering glance or a frown suggesting he was doing too much, more often by his side holding hands. Together they saw every campsite, read every sign, walked every portion of the trail, viewed every display, and partook of every aspect of every annual meeting.

His friends will miss the opportunity to enjoy long talks with him on Lewis and Clark subjects as well as on current issues; his humor and wit was always quick; his comments were always insightful.

Donald was a founding member of the California chapter of the foundation. At the first California meeting of the chapter on June 15, 1996, held in the gold country foothills above Sacramento, Katharine Alderman, her daughter and grandson presented the chapter with a 15-star American flag that Donald had gotten for the chapter. Although he did not live to attend that first California meeting to hear Gary Moulton talk on the history of the Lewis and Clark journals, his spirit was certainly in the room; one could imagine afterward the hand raised, the quizzical look, the careful question, "Well now, Professor Moulton, what about..."
The Word on Sacagawea

by Irving W. Anderson

Editor's Note: The following was originally written as a letter to the editor of the Great Falls (MT) Tribune on November 10, 1994. The author, Irving W. Anderson, is a past president of the foundation, and is considered an expert on Sacagawea. The letter was written in response to an article in the Tribune following the issuance of the Sacagawea commemorative stamp. I apologize for having misplaced the letter until recently, but the information is as pertinent as it was in 1994.

This letter is intended as a constructive clarification of the two widely divergent biographical views of the Shoshoni Indian woman member of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition, published in the Great Falls Tribune, October 24, 1994. The following addresses the points disputed in the issuance of a commemorative stamp for Sacagawea. The letter was written in response to an article in the Tribune following the issuance of the Sacagawea commemorative stamp. I apologize for having misplaced the letter until recently, but the information is as pertinent as it was in 1994.

Sacagawea's name was spelled by the explorers a total of 17 times. Thirteen of these were recorded by Lewis and Clark, and one was documented by Sergeant John Ordway, each in their original long-hand journals. In addition, Clark inscribed her name on three of his maps. Although their flair for inspired spelling created some interesting variations, in every instance, all three of the journalists who attempted to write it were consistent in the use of a "g" in the third syllable. The name derives from two Shoshoni Indian words: sacaga, meaning bird, and wea, meaning woman. It is pronounced Sa ca'ga wea, with a hard "g." Clark would later explain that in recording Indian vocabularies, "great object was to make every letter sound."

The"Sacagawea" spelling derives from the 1914 narrative of the journey, a secondary source published two years after Sacagawea's death. The narrative was edited by Nicholas Biddle, classical scholar who never met Sacagawea, so never heard how she pronounced her own name. Biddle worked from the captains' original longhand journal entries, correcting spelling and grammar, and substantially abridging many daily entries. It is indeterminate as to why Biddle decided upon the "Sacajawea" spelling in his 1814 narrative, when all of the primary documents available to him spelled the name with a "g."

As can best be determined, Sacagawea would have been approximately 12 years old in 1800. Her age is based upon a reconstruction of it by Captain Lewis. On July 28, 1805, at the Three Forks of the Missouri, Lewis noted in his journal that this was the area of Sacagawea's kidnapping "five years since." And later, on August 19, 1805, when the party was among her Shoshoni people, Lewis wrote that when she had been taken prisoner, she had not yet "arrived to the years of puberty...which with [the Shoshonis] is considered to be about the age of 15 or 14 years."

Factual information about Sacagawea is sparse. Except for Clark's laconic statement that Sacagawea's complexion "...was lighter than the other [Shoshoni wife of Charbonneau] who was from the more Southern Indians," none of her other literate contemporaries left a physical description of her. There is an indelible record, however, contained in the explorers' journals, and later, in fur trade diaries, that attribute to her, exemplary behavioral and character traits that were sincerely respected and admired by her associates.

A dispute has raged for nearly a century concerning Sacagawea's fate following the expedition, especially events relating to the time and place of her final hours. With respect to the latter, a popular theory evolved that purported...
Sacagawea died at age 100, April 9, 1884, and was buried at Fort Washakie, Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming. Indeed there was a celebrated Shoshoni Indian woman interred at Fort Washakie in 1884. That theory, understandably firmly time-honored by her descendants, remains unsupported by written records of any kind contemporary with her life, that linked her to the 1804-1806 exploring enterprise.

Only two antiquarian documents have been found that provide positive identification of that woman. One, created while she was living, is the inclusion of her name on the “Census Roll of the Shoshone tribe of Indians, present at the Shoshone and Bannock Agency, Wyoming Territory November 1st 1877.” The other is her official death record, dated April 9, 1884. Both of these primary documents identify the woman merely as “Bazil’s mother.” At age 100 in 1884, the Wind River person would have been born in 1784, and would have been 21 years old if it had been she who set out with the expedition in 1805. Claimed by her admirers to have been the “child captured by the Hidatsa” in 1800, that person, enveloped in a regrettable circumstance of mistaken identity, could hardly have been the girl who had not yet “arrived to the age of puberty” in 1800, that Lewis recorded in 1805.

Contravening that theory are decisive, retrievable primary records created in time and place by persons who were there, that trace an unbroken chronology of Sacagawea’s life. These conclusively pinpoint her presence at Fort Manuel (South Dakota), at the time of her death, December 20, 1812, “abed abt 25 years.” In the Graff Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago, is William Clark’s confirmation of her death, noted on the cover of his 1825-1828 daily cash accounts. Extensive archaeological investigations have been made at Fort Manuel, but no identifiable grave for Sacagawea has been found. In formal recognition of her death there, the Fort Manuel site was entered into the National Register of Historic Places on February 8, 1978, ensuring a lasting commemoration to the final chapter in the life’s role of a remarkable heroine of our nation’s history.

**Dig Up Lewis, Coroner’s Jury Decides**

After hearing two days of testimony from historians and scientists, a coroner’s jury in Hohenwald, Tennessee, voted to exhume the remains of Meriwether Lewis from his grave near the Tennessee city. But, the National Park Service says no way. NPS regulations do not allow historic burial areas to be disturbed unless threatened with destruction by development, park expansion or natural forces.

The fight to dig or not to dig may be continued in the courts.

The powers of modern science and the continuing drama of the Lewis saga did produce one piece of new evidence.

Gerald Richards, a retired FBI document examiner, said he has looked at the will Lewis supposedly wrote less than a month before his death. The will was filed in a Virginia Courthouse.

Neither the writing nor the signature is that of Lewis, Richards said. He attributed it to a clerical error in a day when copies were made by hand. Lewis left his property to his mother and the will was not disputed.

Criminal psychologist Thomas Streed who investigated more than 400 suicides during a law enforcement career in San Diego said, “My opinion is that there is very little evidence that points to Lewis being suicidal. Today I would be investigating it as a homicide.”

Among those testifying was L&CTHF member L. Ruth C. Frick who said Lewis did have cash-flow problems at the time but didn’t appear to be in any danger of going bankrupt. He was also planning to move his mother to Louisiana Territory and was planning on living there himself, she noted.

Arlen J. Large, former foundation president, spoke in favor of exhumation. He said he believes the historic accounts that paint a portrait of a fallen hero.

Large said the most telling indication that Lewis killed himself was the inaction of his two closest confidantes, President Thomas Jefferson and explorer William Clark.

“If they had had the slightest inkling that Lewis was murdered by some assassin or robber, why did they not demand that the killer be found?”

While “reluctantly” accepting the suicide theory, he added “it puts a great stain on his reputation.”

Other foundation members attending the inquest were Dick Williams from the National Park Service and Clyde G. “Sid” Huggins, second vice president of the foundation.

After hearing the testimony, the coroner’s jury made four recommendations: 1) There was little evidence to support the suicide theory; 2) exhumation; 3) work is to be done on-site and 4) remains are to be returned to the same grave site.

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**Editor’s Note:** A more complete account of the happenings in Hohenwald will be printed either in a future WPO or in a supplementary publication. Sid Huggins is seeking a full coroner’s jury report and a complete trial record for the foundation.

**Great Falls Man Wins Tourist Promotion Award**

Mike Labriola, in the forefront of the long effort to secure construction of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, has received Montana’s top award for tourist promotion. The presentation was made at the annual Governor’s Conference on Tourism and Recreation in West Yellowstone.

Labriola, executive vice president of the Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, was cited for his work helping organize a committee a decade ago with the idea of building a visitation center at Giant Springs. He was a mainstay of the group’s $3 million fund raising effort that met its goal last fall, state Tourism Advisory Council Chairwoman Maureen Averill said.

Though the project encountered many obstacles, Labriola and the Great Falls group persisted and their “dream came true,” Averill said. The center is expected to open in 1998.

Labriola also helped organize the Lewis and Clark Portage Chapter which stages a Lewis and Clark festival every June in Great Falls, and was the organizer of the Lewis and Clark Honor Guard.

A Review by Barbara Kubik

Over three decades ago Raymond Darwin Burroughs set himself upon a yeoman’s task. As a former biology professor, and as a naturalist, an author and a member of the Game Division of the Michigan Department of Conservation, Burroughs became fascinated by the epic journey of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Burroughs had read Reuben Gold Thwaites eight-volume, The Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1904) and was intrigued by the wealth of zoological and botanical information he found in the Journals. Burroughs was particularly impressed by the detailed descriptions of the mammals, birds, fish and reptiles the 33-member expedition found along its 7,500-mile journey. Burroughs’ interest in the natural history of the expedition led him to tabulate the amount of game the expedition killed. In turn, that tabulation led to The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, published by Michigan State University Press in 1961.

The press has recently reprinted Burroughs’ book, adding maps, and a new introduction and an updated bibliography. In his introduction to the reprint, Dr. Robert Carriker (Gonzaga University) provides biographical information about Burroughs and brings readers up to date with the last 30 years of

(Book Review continued on page 26)

Lewis and Clark Expedition, Indian Descendants to Gather

A gathering of descendants of Lewis and Clark expedition members and the Indian nations that once roamed the Missouri Headwaters region is planned this summer at Three Forks, Montana. “Project ’96” is set for August 28-30.

Organizer Rosie Thom said she expects members of all Montana tribes to participate as well as a few from Canada. Thom is also writing a pageant play centering on Lewis and Clark expedition member John Colter who separated from the expedition in 1806 to become a trapper in the headwaters area. Colter discovered the thermal springs area that is now Yellowstone National Park.

“It will be the first time that the Colter family will meet the Blackfeet on peaceful terms,” Thom added in a letter to WPO. “I have written the script and now have the approval of the Colter family and the commitment of various Native Americans for the event.”

For further information write Thom at P.O. Box 131, Three Forks, MT 59752 or call her at the Missouri River Gallery (406) 285-4462.

Great Falls (MT) Tribune

Harry Decker: A Man “Hooked on History”

Harry Decker will tell you that the Lewis and Clark Expedition effectively started from Frederick, Mary-

land, because Meriwether Lewis planned the famous exploration at the Hessian Barracks in Frederick. The amateur historian has been researching the Frederick area history for 30 years.

Decker, the president of the Historical Society of Frederick County is now in his 80s. He said he got involved researching Frederick history when he was a Potomac Edison employee. His boss was a Civil War buff and created a newspaper that published articles about Civil War events that occurred in PE territory.

Decker found the Lewis and Clark connection while reading letters from Lewis to President Thomas Jefferson. The letters had a Frederick dateline and mentioned the secrecy of a project on which Lewis and Jefferson were collaborating. That project turned out to be the expedition.

In a related article in the Frederick paper, Decker talks about Frederick native and expedition member John Collins. In the article, interviewer Julia Robb reports that, “Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark have passed so far into legend that they almost disappeared. More people know Davy Crockett’s name than that of the two explorers.”

The article is filled with errors such as, “The company spent the winter [of 1803] in St. Louis, Mo., and left in May, traveling by canoe down the Missouri River.”

Frederick (MD) News-Post

—Book Review—
research on the expedition’s natural history. Carriker thoughtfully includes endnotes and a bibliography for his introduction.

One of the most common criticisms of the first edition of *The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* was that it lacked maps. Michigan State University Press has added a clear and well-drawn foldout map, “Natural History Sites Along the Route of Lewis and Clark, 1804-1806,” and a smaller map, “Buffalo Noted by Lewis and Clark.” Both maps are drawn by Toni Smith.

Burroughs brought to *The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* an extensive compilation of the expedition’s observations, hunting and consumption of countless different kinds of wildlife. Whether viewing the wildlife from a distance, from hunting, fishing and trapping activities, from close examination in camp, from the oral histories and traditions of the Native Americans, or from the stewpot, the two captains frequently wrote lengthy and colorful descriptions of the wildlife they encountered, including the white salmon trout, the barking squirrel and the duckemallard.

Burroughs’ book makes for fascinating reading. Each chapter is a careful study of a particular wildlife family, from Chapter II, “Bears and Raccoons” to Chapter VII, “The American Bison” to Chapter XIX, “Reptiles and Amphibians.” Burroughs’ final chapter is entitled “Quantity and Distribution of Game Killed.” Readers will learn the expedition consumed 1,001 deer (all species), but only nine turkeys, and that they also purchased and consumed 190 Indian dogs.

Each chapter contains general information about each species, including the most current (1960) scientific name. Burroughs is no elitist; there are journal entries from the two captains, as well as two ser­geants, Gass and Floyd, and two enlisted men, Whitehouse and Ordway. But more than that, this is not a mere listing of daily journal entries, recounting this animal and that bird. Burroughs captures the expedition at its best, its enthusiasm, its joy, its awe and its excitement! A year out on the trail, Lewis enthusiastically wrote, “I went to the top of the cutt bluff this morning. [April 22, 1805] from whence I had a most delightful view of the country [with]...immence herds of Buffaloe, Elk, deer and Antelopes feeding in one common and boundless pasture.”

To these explorers and naturalists, the black­headed jay is not just blue, but “...a fine glosssey bright indigo blue Colour...” Lewis’s woodpecker is not gray, it is “Irongray.” Lewis’s detailed description of the bighorn sheep on May 25, 1805 (near the mouth of the Musselshell River) is a masterpiece of comparative zoology. The bighorn sheep is “...somewhat larger than that of the common goat...” In form, Lewis noted, the legs resembled that of a sheep, but the hoof was much like that of the Scotch goat.

In addition, Burroughs provides a brief history of the earliest known written descriptions and scientific names of many of the species in each chapter. He quotes from the noted ornithologist and editor of *The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* (1893), Dr. Elliott Coues and the works of other noted explorers and naturalists, including John Bradbury and Alexander Henry to help define and identify some of the more obscure species.

Readers should realize that this is a reprint of Raymond Darwin Burroughs’ original work and as such, the book appears just as Burroughs wrote it in 1961. Michigan State University Press has not corrected the few small errors that appear in the 51-page overview of the expedition. The reader may be left wondering, as I was, about some of the descriptive phrases the original writers used. For example, what color is “tanner’s ooze?” Or a “fine Quaker colour?” What does Lewis mean when he says the meat is “too poor to use?” Or when he compares the broar (badger) to the common fist dog and the tempspit dog? Why is the western whitetail deer called the “fallow deer” or the “longtailed fallow deer?” What is a “parroquet?”

If I were to fault Burroughs’ work in any way, it would be on two accounts. Ever the expedition enthusiast and a conservationist, my thirteen year old son raised the first issue. Many of the species the expedition described are now endangered. Some are even extinct. As a conservationist, Burroughs could have, and should have, made those kinds of identifications. Secondly, before Lewis and Clark, before Bradbury, before Townsend named each species of wildlife they encountered, the Native Americans had names for them. Lewis and Clark recorded some of those names. Even in 1960, tribal leaders and elders could have shared others with Burroughs. Those names should also be a part of the recorded natural history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Michigan State University Press is to be commended for reprinting Raymond Darwin Burroughs’ *The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. At $19.95, twice the original selling price, the book is a most welcome addition to the library of any Lewis and Clark enthusiast, as well as those interested in the natural history of early North America.

Barbara Kubik is the interim executive director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.
Lewis and Clark in Minnesota?
YES, and Sacagawea too!

by Ron Laycock
Chair, Chapter Formation and Liaison Committee

Almost everyone knows that Lewis and Clark never made it to Minnesota while on their expedition. Yet few people know that the explorers and Sacagawea are prominently displayed in the Minnesota State Capitol Building.

Perhaps the most beautiful room in the State Capitol building is the Chamber of the House of Representatives. With its ornate carvings, arched walls and domed ceiling, the House Chambers has impressed visitors for years. At the very front of this room, and the focal point of the room, is a statue of, yes, Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea!

How did it happen that Minnesota would honor Lewis and Clark in this way?

In 1938 renovations were made to the Capitol building. A wall was put in to create office space in what was a gallery. This wall became the front of the House Chambers and the setting for the sculpture of Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea.

Carl Brioschi and his son Amerigo, St. Paul sculptors, were commissioned to create a statue for the wall that would blend with the rest of the chamber. The statue they designed is known as "Minnesota, Spirit of Government" (sometimes shortened to "Spirit of Minnesota" or "Spirit of Government").

This larger than life-size sculpture consists of five figures. The central figure, a goddess on a pedestal, is holding a scepter in one hand and an open book in the other. Next to her, on your right, are two white Americans and on her left two Native Americans, one a chief, one a seated girl. The two white Americans are Lewis and Clark, the seated girl is Sacagawea.

In 1988 Ms. Sherri Fuller, research assistant of the Minnesota Historical Society, wrote Amerigo Brioschi asking several questions about the 1938 renovations to the Capitol building. One of the questions was:

"Many people on the Capitol Historic Site Programs staff have asked me to ask you how the figures represented in the statue were chosen."

Mr. Brioschi's reply was: "Much time was given to research and discussion before the overall theme was completed.

"At best, as I recall, the plan was to portray the origin of the 'North Star State' and the subjects or persons that were basically responsible for the happening.

"The main central figure represents the North Star State brought about by the exploration of Lewis and Clark which are shown at the right of the central figure as the explorer and the voyager. On the opposite side stands the Indian Chief that guided Lewis and Clark. The Indian maiden represents Sakaweta (sp), the maiden that provided good feeling among the different tribes that were confronted by Lewis and Clark as well as food and health care when needed by the expedition. This basic group made up the fundamental characters that made possible the establishing of the territory and the 'North Star State'."

Even though Lewis and Clark never entered Minnesota on their journey, Minnesota has honored them by displaying this sculpture in the most beautiful room in the State Capitol.

—FOOTNOTES—

1Copy of letter in the author's file.
2Ibid.

More information can be found in the booklet "Restoration" published by the Minnesota House of Representative.
by Steve Lee
Idaho Chapter President

At a recent Idaho Chapter campout, I displayed the Chapter's Lewis-and-Clark-era flag to add color to our event. The flag of that era consisted of 15 stars and 15 stripes. One younger member of the group asked me the significance of the flag. My response was along the lines that Lewis and Clark had taken a similar banner with them on their journey in 1804. I mentioned how the flag was unfurled on the west side of Lemhi Pass in what is now Idaho and that this event, the first unfurling of the flag outside United States territory, was recorded in the journals. However, I erred in my spiel when I stated that the United States consisted of 15 states as Lewis and Clark headed west in 1804 and I also missed as to which states were the 14th and 15th (I only batted .500).

Upon my return home, I conducted some research into the history of the flag in order to be able to answer future questions with some authority. To my surprise, I learned that when Lewis and Clark headed up the Missouri River on May 14, 1804, the Union consisted of 17 states! The following explains the evolution of the flag.

On June 14, 1777, the second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, enacted legislation which established a flag with 13 stars and 13 alternating red and white stripes. There was no instruction as to the arrangement of stars on the blue field. On March 4, 1791, Vermont became the 14th state and was joined by Kentucky the next year on June 1. In recognition of these two new states, Congress, in January 1794, ordered the addition of two more stars and stripes by the first of May in 1795. The legislation was signed by President George Washington.

Before Lewis and Clark would start their journey down the Ohio River in 1803 and return to St. Louis in 1806, Tennessee was admitted to the Union on June 1, 1796, and Ohio joined on March 1, 1803 and the 15 star and stripe version was still in use. In fact, it would get an official name during the War of 1812 when Francis Scott Key penned the "Star Spangled Banner" during the battle at Fort McHenry in 1814.

Four years after that battle, with the United States consisting of 20 states, Congress again took action and established that the number of stripes on the American flag would be fixed at 13 once again, representing the original 13 states, and that a star would be added for each new state. Effective July 4, 1818, this action also established the procedure where stars would only be added on the 4th of July. Thus the 15 star and stripe version—Lewis and Clark's flag and the "Star Spangled Banner" of Key—served the nation for over 23 years beginning over 200 years ago.

There is no law which designates the arrangement of stars. However, in 1912 for the first time the new 48-star flag's design was established by executive order. This set a precedent which has been followed with the last two additions, the last occurring in 1960.
The article in the February issue on Lewis and Clark in verse and the Benét's poem "Lewis & Clark" quoted therein, brought to mind an equally puerile effort of my own written in 1970 and with close identification with the L&CTHF.

The occasion was the first Four Winds Travel Agency's 23 day tour of the Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis to Astoria. The L&CTHF was only a few months old at the time. E.E. "Boo" McGilvra and Elfreda Woodside, who represented Montana at the formation of the L&CTHF, were on the tour. Also on the tour was Josephine Love of Astoria, Oregon. She was the lady who hand made a dozen 15 star flags and presented one to each of the governors of the eleven trail states, and one to the L&CTHF. That's the one behind the speaker's stand at each of our annual meetings.

Also with us was a young reporter from the Wall Street Journal by the name of Arlen J. Large.

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**Ballad of Lewis & Clark—1970**

It was Nappie, you know, who started the show
by offering the land all to us
For pennies an acre, we said "We'll take her"
And congress started to fuss.

Then great father Tom, with nary a qualm,
Sent his boys on a trip to the West
To look at the view and other things too.
What they saw he could never have guessed.

They started the tour in weather quite poor.
T'was raining, to be more specific,
But they didn't care, 'cause Sam paid the fare
From St. Louis to the Pacific.

Since time began, the old Mandan
Had lived along the river,
Stalked buffalo in the mud and snow
With arrows in their quiver.

Fought mighty Sioux and Pawnee too,
But friendly with the French
Kept Charboneau, that old "so and so"
Who bought the Indian wench.

When the Captains came, they found the dame
And hired her and her master.
To guide the pair from here to there
And make their journey faster.

They loaded up with lots of pup
And squash and roots and pemican,
Then headed West upon their quest
Of lands U.S. American.

With great travail, they set their sail
And labored up the river.
Pulled their boats with leather ropes,
Struggled from yon to hither.

Thru prickly pears and grizzly bears
And rattlers in the heather,
Up the big Mizzou from old St. Lou,
On the trail with Meriwether.

Past cliffs of white, each mile a fight,
To the falls of the mighty Mo.
Which they portaged 'round, and finally found
Three forks up which to go.

Now Sacagawea could finally be a Help to the foot-weary crew,
Earned her day's pay by pointing the way,
As guides are supposed to do.

Up the North fork, along with old York,
They passed by Beaverhead Rock,
On advice of the lass, they came to the pass
Which gave them a terrible shock.

So, from the Shoshones they bought a few ponies,
Made their way slowly downhill.
Birds of a feather, they traveled together.
Knowing that Sam paid the bill.

With footsores terrific they reach the Pacific
A trip they found a bit risky
To take out the kinks, They wanted some drinks
But, alas, they'd consumed all the whisky!
Albert Furtwangler take note!

*Chris Patton*
Tour to Stop in Dillon Friday

From the Dillon Daily Examiner, July 9, 1970

Mrs. Elfreda Woodside, first lady of the Beaverhead Museum, and well known for her work in historical research, will be stopping at her hometown as she travels with the 1970 Lewis and Clark tour making a 23-day trip retracing the route the explorers used during their expedition early in the 1800s.

The tour is covering nearly 4,000 miles of country from St. Louis through Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Thirteen members of the tour will reach Dillon about 10:15 a.m. and are planning a special stop at the Beaverhead Museum. They will be met by Chamber of Commerce president Wally Gallaher and others interested in the community museum and tourism.

Gallaher issued an invitation for everyone to come out to welcome Mrs. Woodside on her stop, and wish her well as she continued her long dreamed of trip along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Four Winds Tour

From: "The Madisonian," Virginia City, Montana, July 30, 1970

Another in a series of Lewis and Clark Trail tours arrives today in Nevada City. Four Winds Travel, Inc., of New York, has come up with a new idea in tours, designing them along famous historical trails. Alder Gulch is the only destination not actually on the Lewis and Clark Trail. Included on the tour were E.E. "Boo" MacGilvra of Butte, tour historian; A. Gregory, Mrs. Francis Breig, Charles Patton, Jim Large, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Barth, Elinor Griffin, Mrs. Thelma Flanagan, Mrs. Mario Ponti, Mrs. Josephine Love, David Order and tour director Bill Coble and bus driver Don Hutton.

50 Years Ago—1946

Great Falls (MT) Tribune
June 23, 1996

Bernard De Vovo, nationally known writer and author, and Wallace Kirkland, Life photographer, arrived in Great Falls, following the Lewis and Clark Trail on an assignment for Life magazine.

WPO DISPLAY ADS

Display advertising must pertain to Lewis and Clark and/or North American history such as books, art or related items for sale, and conferences, workshops or other meetings.

Black and white camera ready advertising only.

Rates are: full page-$500; half page-$250; one third page-$167; one quarter page-$125; one column inch-$67.67.

Deadline for ads is six weeks before the publication month of the scheduled quarterly issue, e.g., March 15 for the May issue.

WPO reserves the right to reject any advertising deemed unsuitable.

Advertising or inquiries should be sent to: Editor, We Proceeded On, 1203 28th Street South #82, Great Falls, MT 59405. Telephone: 406-761-4706.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—

Cont. from p. 3

body of the foundation and during the time between annual meetings provides advice and consent regarding major decisions facing the organization. I am grateful to the nine directors-at-large and the immediate past president, Stu Knapp, for their wise counsel this year.

The real work of the foundation is carried out by the members of the various committees, and I want to acknowledge the service of all committee members, and especially their chairs, for their efforts in the last year. Each deserves mention here, but space prohibits that. I must, however, mention the all-important work of the National Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, under the direction of the tireless Bob Doerk. It is because of Bob's very effective leadership that much is accomplished.

A number of individuals carry a heavy burden for keeping the foundation functioning smoothly, but often do so behind the scenes. The foundation receives a large volume of mail at Box 3434, Great Falls, and the task of collecting, opening and directing that mail has been carried out with dispatch by Bob Doerk and, since Bob moved to Cheyenne, Ella Mae Howard. The foundation receives many requests for information, and Don Nell responds superbly to each one (for a total effort of about four hours per day). Don carries out many other functions for the foundation, and I am immensely grateful to him and to Bob and Ella Mae for their many hours of fine work that keeps the foundation running smoothly. Finally, there are a number of individuals, especially past presidents, who work quietly to enhance the foundation in many ways. Their efforts make a huge impact for good on the foundation, and I am extremely grateful for their good works.

The foundation is in its second year of a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. That agreement helps the foundation and the NPS meet our common goals of educating the public about Lewis and Clark and preserving the trail. I am very grateful to Tom Gilbert and Dick Williams of the NPS for their great help in these endeavors.

The annual meeting in Sioux City promises to be a delightful one, and I want to acknowledge the fine leadership of Strode Hinds for making it happen. I hope to see you there! I urge you to keep working for the foundation and to help us meet our important goals in the coming years.

EDITOR'S DESK

Cont. from p. 3

Jane provided us with a list of items and projects for the center that have not been funded. They are things that were deleted when the federal funding for the center was cut. They include such important exterior items as a living history site, paved parking and an amphitheater. On the inside of the center, items listed included an audio visual production, a touchable topographic map of the Great Falls, purchase of Indian reproductions and a touchable boat model. Thirty items are listed and the total estimated cost is close to $2 million. So, the work of the fund raising board goes on. Contributions are happily accepted.

I would like to see all of you who subscribe to WPO at the Sioux City meeting but the city probably could not handle that large of a group, so perhaps two or three of you might want to stay home. Strode Hinds, I'm just kidding.

Washington Governor Mike Lowry signing the bill for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration. Also pictured (l. to r.): Ralph Rudeen of the Lewis and Clark Trail Committee; Michael Warner of the Heritage Resource Center; David Nicandri, director of the Washington State Historical Society, and Representative Val Ogden (D) of Vancouver, Washington. The Heritage Resource Center is a part of the Washington State Historical Society.
Capt. Wm. Clark / October 24th Thursday 1805

...At 9 oClock a.m. I Set out with the party and proceeded on down a rapid Stream of about 400 yards wide at 2-1/2 miles the river widened into a large basin...I could See the difficulties we had to pass for Several miles below...The whole of the current of this great river must at all Stages pass thro' this narrow chanel of 45 yards wide. as the portage of our canoes...would be impossible with our Strength, and the only danger in passing thro those narrows was the whorls and swills [swells] arising from the Compression of the water, and which I thought (as also our principal watermen Peter Crusat) by good Stearing we could pass down Safe, accordingly I determined to pass through this place notwithstanding the horrid appearance of this agitated gut swelling, boiling & whorling in every direction, (which from the top of the rock did not appear as bad as when I was in it; however we passed Safe to the astonishment of all the Ind. of the last Lodges who viewed us from the top of the rock....