

**LEWIS AND CLARK IN NEBRASKA, NORTHWEST MISSOURI, IOWA
AND SOUTHEAST SOUTH DAKOTA
1804-06**

INTRODUCTION

As a student of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, I wanted to visit and identify Lewis and Clark related items close to the sites they explored in our area. Directions to and description of locations, some journal quotes, and item contact data is offered to help the traveler locate and imagine the Expedition as they passed this area.

President Thomas Jefferson's, "Military Tour of Duty" later known as "The Lewis and Clark Expedition," or "The Corps Of Discovery" was led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The permanent party of Army soldiers left the Confluence of the Missouri River in three boats on May 14, 1804. They returned from the Pacific Ocean to St. Louis September 23, 1806. While passing present Nebraska, Iowa, Southeast South Dakota, and Northwest, Missouri they spent 59 days, July 11 to September 8, 1804. On their return voyage in

1806 they spent eleven days, August 31 through September 10.

John and I traveled the Trail from the Confluence of the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. Our Great Plains area offers many important Lewis and Clark related discoveries for the United States.

While in our area the men would be traveling territory already known by Northern Europeans, and meet Native Americans who were previously trading with white men. Yet, several **FIRST'S** took place. I will mention those we noticed.

Sources: Volume two and three of "The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark," edited by University of Nebraska Professor, Gary Moulton. Personal travel experiences, travel brochures, and other research was also used. Corrections and additions are most welcome.

**RULO, NEBRASKA TO THE OMAHA- COUNCIL BLUFFS METRO AREA
JULY 11 - JULY 28, 1804**

On July 11, 1804, the Expedition crossed the current Nebraska-Kansas state border. When we toured this section, we dipped into Kansas to the small community of White Cloud a few miles below Rulo, Nebraska. The Kansas Society of Daughters' of the American Revolution placed a Lewis and Clark marker near the river at the junction of U.S. 7, and Main Street. It reads, "*July 10, 1804 ... " a butiful bottom plain of about 2000 acres....covered with wild rye & potatoes...intermix't with the grass, we camped.... opposit a yellow Clay Clift."* Today, a cliff is near by, and the low 'bottom plain' lies across the river.

Going north on highway 7 from the border of Kansas and Nebraska, about three miles south of Rulo, you pass over the Big Nemaha River. Looking east is a grand view of the Nemaha flowing into the Missouri River. The Corps camped July 11-12, 1804 on a sand island covered with willows and took observations, rested, and looked for local Indians.

Clark took five men in a pirogue up the Ne-ma-haw (Nemaha) that measured 80 yards wide at it's mouth. This river is more narrow today. After leaving the thick foliage along the rivers edge Clark and the men walked into "*an emense prarie.... affording one of the most* This prehistoric Oneota Village, known today as "The Leary Site", is in the far southeast corner of Nebraska.

pleasing prospects ever beheld." The journals reveal the men's expressions of awe as they enter the vast prairies that spread into today's Montana.

While walking about three miles to the mouth of a small creek (Roys Creek), Clark observed, "*a meadow topped with Mounds or antent Graves which to me a strong evidence of this Countrey haveing been thickly Settled.*" Archaeologists later proved it was 'thickly settled' with ancient peoples, just as Clark had speculated.

William Clark was the **FIRST** to leave written word of these mounds. The **FIRST** scientific visit, I am aware of, was in 1915 when F. H. Sterns of the Peabody Museum at Harvard University visited the site. These unique cultural findings of the trans-Missouri movement of early Oneota peoples into the Eastern Plains, became the object of several later state excavations. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974. The Nebraska Historical Society and the Smithsonian Institute house some artifacts for scientific study. The most recent scientific article written appeared in the August 2002 issue of "Plains Anthropologist Magazine." pp 251-264. [call# E78G73P52: UNO Library]

From Rulo go south on U.S. 7 five miles to a black top road and church sign, then right one mile to the church.

Take another right following the winding gravel road that drops into bottom lands and passes a large hill with a fenced Indian cemetery. About 2.7 miles from the church the road curves left. On your left is a large field stone displaying a bronze national historic marker. If you cross Roys Creek bridge, you missed it. In July of 2003 the 'dig site' was inside a fenced farmer's bean field with no mound evidence. Private property.

The large hill (mound) with the Indian cemetery is very likely the mound Clark described: "*I assended the highest of the mounds for an extenisive view of the surrounding plains...one of the most pleasing prospects I ever beheld.*" The Reservation of the Sac-Fox-Ioway Native Americans is to the south. Their tribal museum and the White Cloud Casino is west of White Cloud, Kansas. The Leary site can also be accessed via I-29 from Missouri through White Cloud.

When the men floated back down the Nemaha on July 12, 1804, Clark wrote, "*on the side of a clift Sandstone 1/2 me (mile) up & on Lower Side I marked my name & day of the month near an Indian Mark or image of animals & a boat.*" Various stories abound regarding Clark's signature. Among them, "it eroded or washed away, was destroyed during coal mining days, a rubbing taken later was transposed somewhere, or Nebraska archaeologists examined the cliffs years ago and found nothing." I am not aware of any written report that clearly verifies that no signature remains, yet the general belief is that the signature is gone.

There is one known surviving L&C signature, that of Clark's May 25, 1806, written on Pompeys Pillar in Montana. This signature in sandstone was re carved to preserve it in 1928. Early Indian writings are almost invisible today. Is it still possible that the signature of Clark in Nebraska was so faint it was missed by the searchers. Some cliffs remain and are on private land.

Heading north the Corps passed today's tiny Rulo, Nebraska. In 1939, the town of Rulo placed a bronze plaque on a large boulder below a hill (point). The plaque states, "*they made camp at the foot of the cliff which can be seen from the point, carving the above inscription ("Lewis and Clark 1804") across a sandstone ledge.*" This wording suggests the people in 1939 did not use Clark's journal reference. The words "*Lewis and Clark 1804,*" was not written. Today this large boulder sits on the north side of U.S. 159 below a high 'point' (hill), about a block west of the Missouri River bridge.

A Nebraska Historical Society Marker is close to the bridge. It depicts the events that took place in this area, including the military trial of Private Alexander Willard for sleeping on his post. "*guilty of every part of the* On the 15th they saw great qualities of grapes, plums,

charge...one hundred lashes on his bear back at four different times in equal propation."

'Camp Rulo River Club' restaurant offers a delicious buffet, salad bar, soup, a wide river view, and very reasonable prices. There is live entertainment some weekends. [Rulo location: Via U.S. 75, or from Missouri I-29 exit 79 west on U.S. 159.]

Using the present course of the river Gary Moulton puts the July 13, 1804 camp in eastern Richardson County, Nebraska. They "*passed an island situated on a bend in the river.*" This bend may now be the 625-acre oxbow lake in Big Lake State Park, in Missouri. [Off I-29 Exit 84, on Missouri 118 & 111. Ph: 660-422-5432. Fishing, w/e camping pads.] They camped on a sand bar near present Big Lake State Park (an oxbow of the 1804 river), also near Rulo on their return September 10, 1806.

In 2004, two State of Missouri L&C panels were placed west of a picnic pavilion near the main entrance of Big Lake State Park. They depict campsites of July 11-13, 1804, the September 10, 1806 camp site, and trade on the Missouri River. [Exit I-29 onto 118 west to 111, south to park. Camping fishing, boating offered.]

South of Big Lake is Squaw Creek Wild Life Refuge. It offers bird watching. [Exit 84 off I-29 at Mound City, Missouri. Follow L&C signs:] In 2004 a L&C panel depicting the events of July 12-13, 1804, titled "Marked my name," was placed here. Funded by Missouri State Dept. of Natural Resources and the National Wildlife Refuge. Exact location not documented.

In 1804-1806 the Missouri River was about two miles wide in some areas, and was not controlled. There were many sandbars and islands upon which the Corps beached their boats. The bars came and went, and river borders changed as state boundaries were formed. Today's channelized river is about 600 yards wide along most of the 385 mile Nebraska border. Many 1804-06 camp sites are difficult to identify. Some are under water or on private land.

Frequent prairie fires were caused by nature or set by Indians to improve fresh vegetation growth for game, which resulted in better hunting. These fires kept tree growth scarce except along the river banks. Controlled fires today result in more tree growth than in 1804.

On July 14, 1804, Sgt. Ordway reported "*we proceed on past a creek called Neash-na-batto-na.*" The Nishnabotna River mouth was down stream further in 1804. Today it borders private farmland.

two kinds of wild cherries, berries of different kinds,

hazelnuts, and gooseberries. The wild fruits and nuts that were plentiful then are still found, but in more rare quantities. They camped near today's Nemaha, Nebraska above today's spectacular hardwood forested Indian Cave State Park. Three signs at an overlook in the park describe the Expedition in this area. A magnificent view of the Missouri River and hardwood trees, similar to that of 1804, greets today's visitor.

"Richardson County on the Lewis and Clark Trail," banners abound throughout the park. Lewis and Clark, and intriguing local history is found in this small museum. The park contains over 20 miles of wooded hiking trail, and wooded RV sites w/e. Indian Cave is one of several Nebraska State Parks or State Recreation Areas designated as Lewis and Clark sites administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Department. [South of Nemaha on highway 67 then east on S64E. A small daily fee per car, or yearly sticker is required. Ph: 402-883-2575 or 471-2024]

North of Indian Cave State Park, near the camp site of July 15, lies historic Brownville, Nebraska, settled in 1854. It was a major steamboat landing and trade center. Historic homes, curio shops, and a unique winery are open to the public. Docked along the Missouri River is the 'Meriwether Lewis' steam paddle boat that is now a museum that houses Lewis and Clark information. A Nebraska State Historical Society Marker depicting the events of July 15, 1804 is located in the river side park near the boat. [Located off U.S. 136 in Nebraska or Exit 110 west off I-29] [Brownville Historical Society. Ph: 402-825-3331.]

On the 16th Clark recorded, "*we passed under a cliff of sandstone, (Indian Cave Sandstone)...a number of Burds nests in the holes & crevices of this rock which continues 2 miles.*" These were likely their **FIRST** Bank Swallows. Their descendants are still found along river banks. On the 16 and 17th of July, 1804 they camped along today's Nishnabotna River south of today's Hamburg, Iowa, and across from today's Peru, Nebraska, to fix Capt. Lewis's chronometer. This important tool was to measure longitudes and latitudes.

This area, now private farms, was again their campsite on September 9, 1806. A panel depicting, "fat catfish caught" is at the Watson, Missouri public boat ramp along the Nishnabotna River. [Exit 116 I-29 2 miles west to Watson, Missouri, four miles south. Follow the new L&C directional signs.] See "Lewis and Clark In Missouri brochure for directions to four other L&C panels at public areas in Northwest Missouri. Missouri and Kansas have excellent directional signs to all Lewis and Clark sites.

The Steamboat Trace Bike and Hiking Trail" is a designated National Lewis and Clark site. The 22 mile

On the 16th of July, Capt. Clark began recording descriptions of unique hills, now known as, Loess Hills (pronounced Luss.) "*This prairie I call the Ball pated prairie from a range of ball hills parrell to the river from 3 to 6 miles distant & extends as far up the down as I can see.*" This day Pvt. Gass recorded, "*The river is two miles wide with rapid water.*"

The peculiar soil of the Loess Hills covers nearly 15 miles wide and approximately 200 miles along the western edge of Iowa, and northwest Missouri. In 1804-06 these hills were mostly treeless grass lands. Today, many hardwood trees dot the hills. The Loess Hills National Scenic Byway has plans for a Visitor Center near I-29 and U.S. 2. [Loess Hills Hospitality Association. Ph: 800-886-5441]

Two signs funded, by Iowa Natural Resources Dept. are located at the overlook in Waubonsie State Park. They depict Loess Hills history and the "*Open Boundless Praire*" from the journals July 18, 1804. [I-29 Exit 10 onto U.S. 2 east about 5 miles, to park entrance.]

On the 18th of July they passed today's Nebraska City where the new seventy nine-acre Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center opened July 30, 2004. Their main focus is on the Expedition's scientific discoveries of flora, fauna, and animals. It is one of six sites to receive a 2004 cost share L&C interpretive panel sponsored by The National Park Service and the Mouth of The Platte Chapter of Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. They were designed and made by the Big Muddy Workshop. The panel placed near the Keelboat replica depicts Lewis's dog Seaman and events in this area. [off U.S. 2 west of the river] [Ph: 402-873-4293. Entrance fee].

A bronze statue of Thomas Jefferson with the prairie dog and magpie stands in the Center foyer. The keelboat was built for the IMAX film, "Lewis and Clark Great Journey West." Much of it was filmed near Ponca and Niobrara State Parks in Nebraska. Funded by the Walter Scott family of Omaha, and created by the National Geographic Society, it is showing in many locations around the country.

A bronze statue of Lewis, Clark, and Seaman greets the visitor as you enter the drive to the Center. Partly privately funded with a National Park Service Partnership, the Center ties into the educational greenery theme of National Arbor Day founded by Nebraska City's J. Sterling Morton in 1885. His home and grounds are a State Historical Park. [Ph: 402-873-6866]

trail runs along an old railroad bed past Peru to Brownville, Nebraska. It offers some river views. The

north access is one mile south of Nebraska City off U.S. 75. [Turn east on paved OPPD Power Plant road about 3 miles to the parking lot. Trail head kiosks are on your right. Contact Nemaha Natural Resources. Ph: 402-335-3325.]

The 'River Country Nature Museum', 114 So 6th Street exhibited a special 2005 display on the "Birds of Lewis and Clark. It included a diorama and a mapped location of these birds. [Larry Falk 402-873-9360]

The camps of July 18 and 19, are located on private farm land in today's Fremont County, Iowa. On the 20th of July the Corps was near Weeping Water Creek when Clark wrote, "*I killed a verry large yellow wolf.*" Moulton footnote states: "possibly the now extinct grey wolf and very likely discovered by Lewis and Clark." This was the **FIRST** one killed and examined. The camp site was near Spring Creek, Cass County, Nebraska. [No public access]

On the 21st, about three miles below present Plattsmouth, Nebraska, all the journals made note of the beginning of timbered high lands on the larboard side. One hill in particular, known today as King Hill, Clark described: "*a highland covered with timber... limestone & seminted rock of Shels & c.*" Pvt. Ordway: "*In this hill is semented rock and limestone, some fine springs.*" Pvt. Whitehouse: "*We came to a remarkable hill lying on the water side which measur'd 200 feet from the surface of the water.*"

Today, King Hill is on private land. A public road once followed the old river channel to a limestone quarry at the base of the hill. This hill was an important early land mark for Native Americans and later early settlers. The timbered hill, remains much as it did in 1804. It can be viewed by the public at a very far distance when looking to the south from the Plattsmouth Missouri River bridge.

They proceeded on and came in view of the river they knew as, "*The Great River Platte.*" Lewis wrote, "*the steady, regular, and incessant velocity of this stream, is perhaps unequaled by any on the earth.*" Lewis was obviously very impressed with the Platte. He wrote more details about it than any of the rivers he described in his codex report sent to President Jefferson in April of 1805. (See "The Definite Journals of Lewis and Clark," pp 347-349 Vol 3.) The Captains later used the Platte to compare with other rivers, as they traveled west. Both men explored this river some distance up stream.

Pvt. Whitehouse writes: "*The mouth three quarters of a mile wide, a beautiful river joined on both sides by fine praries.*" The intriguing Platte River prompted the Nebraska Chapter of the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, to call their Chapter the "Mouth of

The Platte" (MOP). A Nebraska Historical Society Marker depicting the Corps passing the Platte River is located at the weigh station, at the south end of the Platte River bridge on highway 75.

The Platte empties into the Missouri river on the Federal Schilling Wildlife Refuge, Plattsmouth, Nebraska. [Take U.S. 75 to Plattsmouth, then follow Lewis and Clark directional signs east on Main Street, cross the railroad tracks, turn left at the Wildlife Refuge sign. Follow the two-mile one way rock road to the small confluence parking lot.]

Today there is less water in the Platte due to dams and water usage, and the Missouri flows faster. However, the confluence of these rivers still offers a grand view unobstructed by development. Two National Park cost share Mouth of the Platte interpretive panels are placed here. One displays a copy of George Catlin painting of the confluence in 1832. The other is the official Lewis and Clark Trail sign found along the trail.

Glenwood, Iowa is the hometown of reknown Lewis and Clark historian Donald Jackson.. Many of his papers and books are housed in the town library. [ph 712-527-5252] A replica Indian hut is at the town museum. [Exit 35 off I-29 east on U.S 34 to U.S 275 north to Glenwood.]

A short distance north of the Platte River, on July 21, 1804, the Corps passed the small Butterfly River on the larboard side, known as Papillion Creek today. Their camp above it was near today's Catfish Lake Restaurant and Lounge. Good catfish dinners here. A National Park Mouth of the Platte cost share interpretive panel is located in a relaxed setting outside the restaurant that is about a 1/2 mile from the river. It depicts the wolves seen in the area.

The restaurant is located east of the Strategic Air Command Military Base (SAC). Catfish ponds are near by. [1006 Cunningham Road, LaPlatte, Nebraska, (South of Bellevue). From the south off U.S. 75, turn east on La Platte Road to Cunningham. Turn east to the restaurant lane entrance. From the north, from downtown Bellevue, Nebraska, off highway. 370/Mission St., turn south onto Hancock to Cunningham.]

The "White Catfish Camp" of July 22-25 was their **FIRST** camp of longer than two nights. Clark wrote, "*We camp on SIS above a small Willow Island and much nearer the Adeste (Oboes) town than the mouth of the Plait.*" They camped here again, on their return, September 8, 1806. Moulton note: "*the white catfish caught there on August 24 may have been a white channel catfish, if so, it was a **FIRST** discovery by the Expedition.*" This camp site is commemorated at the "Western Historic Trails Center," Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Two Mouth of The Platte, National Park cost share panels are placed along the foot trail behind the Center. A third panel depicting trade routes is placed at the end of the foot trail by the river. Inside the Center, displays depict major trails west. A good selection of Lewis and Clark items is for sale in this official Iowa Visitor Center, and Lewis and Clark site. A small sized replica keelboat is on permanent display. [I-80 exit 1-B south on 24th Street to the Center's drive entrance. Ph: 1-712-366-4900.]

Recent Global Positioning river channel changes may reveal the actual camp was nearer the private Gifford Nature Farms and the Fontanelle Forest, Bellevue, Nebraska. The National Park Service recently declared Fontanelle Forest as an official National Lewis and Clark site. Some Lewis and Clark displays are inside, and outside their visitor center. [Location: from Omaha take U.S. 75 (Kennedy Freeway) to Chandler Road, east to Bellevue Blvd, south to Fontanelle Park. Ph: 402-731-3140]

The men delayed at Catfish Camp to dry out some. Clark and five men walked 18 miles to the Otoe village, crossing the Elkhorn River, to where it meets the Platte. They saw fresh Indian signs, but the occupants were away on their annual hunt. Today the village site is near Yutan, Nebraska on private property. [No public access] A Nebraska Historical Marker north side of hy 77 just west of road going north into Yutan.

A Nebraska Historical Society Marker depicting the Otoe village site and the Expedition's visit there, is placed in Two Rivers State Recreation Area. Proceed to the picnic area just before Cottonwood Campground. A Mouth of The Platte National Park cost share panel, "Our Wish To Cultivate Friendship," stands amid a flower garden setting. [Park location southwest of Venice, Nebraska. Fishing, swimming, boating, camping, cabins. Take U.S. 275 west of Omaha. Ph: 402-359-5165].

The Corps left White Catfish camp the 26th of July and camped on the starboard side along today's populated Council Bluffs, Iowa, shore. No public access.

Several Missouri River communities, from Bellevue, Nebraska to Fort Calhoun developed the idea for the "Lewis and Clark Riverfront Interpretive Trail." (bike/foot). The displays were funded by several entities and supported by The Mouth of The Platte Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation Chapter.

Bellevue submitted a children's Lewis and Clark third through sixth grade art contest to teachers. Of over 2000 The new National Park Regional Headquarters building

entries, 700 children's colorful drawings were reproduced in tile on two sides of eleven 65' by 8' panels, for the Lewis and Clark Icon Interpretive Trail. [Location Haworth Park. Take hy 370 to Mission, south to Payne Drive, south to the parking area beyond the boat docks. Ph: 402-293-3122, RV camping, and Missouri River boat access.] In 2004 six L&C and river history panels were placed along a bike and foot trail that passes the Childrens Art Wall.

Nine impressive art Icon structures with panels, and seven separate historic panels depict various Lewis and Clark data and river history. The most southern Trail Icon and 2 panels are at Lauitzen Botanical Gardens parking area, 100 Bancroft Street, Omaha: Others will be mentioned as we move north along the trail. [See the "Lewis and Clark Interpretive Trail" brochure: 402-444-5900]

A six-piece Trail Icon and panels with the theme, "The Expeditions Struggle for Daily Survival and Documenting the Lands Resources," are located near the parking lot of Iowa's Western Trails Center.

On the 27th of July, they camped on a bend of the river near present Eppley Airport Omaha. No public access. Capt. Clark and Pvt. Reuben Fields took a pirogue down river to explore these unusual mounds. Clark writes: *"those mounds I found to be of Diffirent hight Shape & Size, Some composed of Sand Some earth & Sand...all of which covered about 200 acres of land..."*

According to Matt Sitting Bear Jones, a Missouri-Otoe descendant, this site was a very large Otoe village vacated for about fifty years in 1804. The structures had fallen and were returning to natural earth mound shapes. Clark and Reuben Fields came ashore to explore the "mounds" near present Douglas Street I-480 bridge.

On May 3, 2003, a Nebraska Historical Society Marker depicting the events of July 27, 1804, was dedicated at Omaha's new River Front Lewis and Clark Landing Park. This marker, purchased by members of the Mouth Of The Platte Chapter of the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, stands on the wooden program platform near Ricks Boatyard Cafe. A pirogue replica sat near by. [Exit off Douglas Street under I- 480 to Ricks 345 No 6th Street, fine food, with relaxed views of the Missouri River.]

William Clark's descendant, Peyton "Bud" Clark, in full 1804 Army dress uniform, was in Omaha for the sign dedication and city festivities. Gary Moulton, editor of the Journals, was also a featured guest.

north of Ricks Cafe houses the Lewis and Clark National

Parks Trail Headquarters, and book store. A Trail Icon and panels are located 300 Riverfront Drive near Ricks. A Six-piece Trail Icon and panels are at Millers Landing [Abbot & Gallop Drive intersection-turn left at Miller Landing sign and right to River Star parking.]

More Omaha Council Bluffs River Front Trail Icon and panel locations: (1) Dodge Riverside Golf Club Restaurant, 2 Harrah's Boulevard. Exit 53A off I-29 west. Council Bluffs, Iowa.: (2) Levi Carter Park, across from Eppley Air Port Abott Drive between Locust and Carter Lake Boulevard . Icon and panels along Carter Lake shore.

A Nebraska Historical Society Marker depicting the camp of July 27, 1804, is in NP Dodge Park, Omaha. [Exit 13 I-680 Mormon Bridge east to Pershing Drive. North 1 mile to park entrance. Drive to Y & follow signs to public boat docks. L&C sign is on the left in a small grass island across from a picnic shelter before reaching the Missouri River.] An icon sculpture and 2 panels located at Omaha's N.P. Dodge Park entrance.

Joslyn Art Museum owns approximately 400 original watercolor and sketches, and other memorabilia of Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer, and scientist Maximilian of Wied, Germany. They copied 34 Lewis and Clark maps for their 1832-33 Expedition up the Missouri River. The Maximilian Maps, in this collection, were used by Gary Moulton when editing the journals. Copies of these maps have been published. Joslyn offers a rotation display of a few sketches in this valuable collection. [24th and Dodge Street, Omaha, Ph: 402-342-2376]

On the far north end of Council Bluffs, Iowa, the Lewis and Clark Monument City Park sits high on a bluff. Clark noted July 28, 1804, "*We passed a bluff on the S.S*

side... the first high land above the Nodaway rivelet..." They passed the Nodaway twenty days earlier on July 8, 1804. This monument was funded by Colonial Dames of America in 1935. It depicts, in two large cement wall carvings, the anticipation of the coming council meeting, and the gifts of watermelon brought by the Indians.

This site offers the visitor the impressive monument, an interpretive sign, the high wooded hill similar to 1804, foot trails, picnic tables, and a grand view of the Missouri river valley to downtown Omaha. A River Front Trail artist Icon and 2 panels are also located here. [Exit I-29 at 25th street exit drive Nash Street along freeway to Big Lake Road, continue under the nine-foot high railroad bridge. Follow signs to 8th Street to Mynster Springs road, turn left to Monument Road. Or follow highway 6 to 8th Street and follow signs north.]

The "Lewis and Clark Journey Through Stamps 2004-2006 exhibit" at Girls and Boys Town Stamp Center commemorates the Louisiana Purchase, and many aspects of the Expedition. [137th & Dodge Road, Omaha. Ph 402-498-11 40 or 800-625-1400] December, 2004 "Bicentennial Lewis and Clark Expedition" Ice Sculpture Display on Conagra Campus, Omaha.

The Center For Plains Studies University of Nebraska, where Gary Moulton spent twenty years editing the Journals, is located in Lincoln, Nebraska. In front of the building are four life size bronze statues depicting Lewis, Seaman, Clark, a Plains Indian, and young Sacagawea holding a 15 star flag. They stand erect on individual flat limestone boulders. [Location: SW corner of "Q" and 11th Street downtown near the UNL campus. Sixty miles west of Omaha off I-80]

OMAHA, NEBRASKA AND COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA TO SIOUX CITY, IOWA JULY 29 - AUGUST 21, 1804

A short distance north of present Omaha-Council Bluffs, on July 29, 1804, Clark wrote, "*we passed much fallen timber apparently the ravages of a Dreadful l harican which had passed obliquely across the river.*" Unfamiliar with tornadoes, they were likely viewing for the **FIRST** time, the destruction from a Nebraska-Iowa tornado. From July 30 to August 3, 2004, they camped on a prairie below a timbered high cliff. They raised their flag and waited for Indians to return from hunting.

While here Joe Fields killed and brought in the **FIRST** badger, a zoological specimen Lewis stuffed and preserved to return to President Jefferson. On the 30th they recorded, "*Serjt Floyd very unwell...*" the first indication of Sgt. Floyd's illness. The **FIRST** great

egret was scientifically documented by Lewis. They found more plants and flowers not common back home.

Late afternoon on August 2, four Missouri and three Otoe appeared in camp. On August 3, 1804, the **FIRST** Council with Indians was held. The Captains presented their **FIRST** Peace medals in todays Nebraska. A goal was to secure U.S peace with tribes and peace between warring tribes. Gifts exchanged included watermelons given by the Otoes. According to Matt Sitting Bear Jones, a descendant of the Otoes, a genetic seed search is in progress to locate the original species of watermelon raised by the Otoe in 1804. Was it from Africa, Mexico, or of local origin? Otoe legend says they were small, the size of a cantaloupe, and of local

origin.

On August 3 Clark recorded, "*The situation of this place which we call Council Bluffs.. is hansom elevated.. Spot well calculated for a Trading establishment.*" In 1819, the furthest west U.S. Outpost, named for Col. Henry Atkinson, was built. Today, reconstructed fort buildings, a visitor center, and re-enactments are available at Nebraska's Fort Atkinson State Historical Park near Fort Calhoun. One of fifteen National Bicentennial Signature Events of the National Lewis and Clark Trail was held July 31 through August 3, 2004. [P.O. Box 240, Ph: 402-468-5611]

The Washington County Historical Association led by Jim Morley, raised mostly private money, to built six life size walk around statues entitled, "First Council." These bronze sculptures by Oreland C, Joe, depict Capts. Lewis, Clark, an Otoe, a Missouri Indian, an interpreter, and Lewis's dog Seaman in a Council sitting. A fifteen star flag flies overhead on a rustic log pole. Several interpretive panels stand among a sea of tall prairie grasses, that surround the statues. It sits behind Fort Atkinson's Visitor Center, and is among the most impressive sculpture displays I have seen along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

A Nebraska State Historical Society Marker depicting the camp of July 30 to August 2 is placed at the trail head to the statues. A copy of the video detailing the discovery of the original peace medals and letters of 1804, housed in the Oklahoma City History Center, is shown here. Also a Lewis and Clark story film.

For three days, August 1 to 3, 2003, Fort Calhoun hosted a pre 2004 Signature Event to dedicate the statues. William Clark's birthday dinner of beaver tail, elk, and deer meat, fiddle music by Pierre Curzatte, portrayed by Daniel Slosberg of Los Angeles, California, classroom discovery talks, plus other festivities abound.

The elite Corps of Discovery military re enactors from Frontier Army Museum, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, [Ph: 313-684-5604] pitched their 1804-06 tent replicas on the fort grounds and visited with visitors. These volunteers are considered the most accurate land military group. They gained their skills from military archives, and the book, "Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the U.S." by Baron Von Stuben. It was written for the Revolutionary War, and republished for the U.S. military in 1794. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was the **FIRST** U.S. military event not conducted for war.

Washington County Pioneer Museum, the oldest in Nebraska, is designated an official National Lewis and Clark Trail site. There is a painting of "The Council" by local artist, Alton L. Larsen, a Lewis and Clark

Diorama display, and watermelon painting by Catherine Breslin Flavan, that was displayed at the Centennial in St Louis, Missouri, in 1904. It was donated by Mary Breslin Sully maternal granddaughter of the artist There is an excellent collection of prairie pioneer artifacts. [Northwest corner of US. 75 and Monroe Street in Fort Calhoun - donation's- ph: 402-468-5740]

In August 1904, a seven-ton granite boulder was removed from a farmer's field and placed in Fort Calhoun. A bronze plaque placed on the boulder stated "Lewis And Clark 1804-1904 Daughters of American Revolution." In 1919 the boulder was moved to it's current location in Westmarket Square Park, corner of Monroe and 15th Street. The plaque was rededicated during "First Council" Event 2004. Nebraska State DAR regent, President General of the National Society of DAR, Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns, and Congressman Doug Bereuter, were present.

Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge is also on the National Lewis and Clark National Trail. The last Interpretive River Trail Icon and panels are near the parking lot to the foot trail to the Missouri River. [From Ft. Atkinson drive about three miles southeast to Refuge. Ph: 402-468-4313]

In August 2004 a steel symbol of a peace pipe and feather quill "X" symbolizing the meeting of the two cultures, was placed below the cliff at Fort Atkinson. A stop here, on your way to Boyer Chute provides a view below the bluffs, and how the Council site may have looked in 1804.

After the morning council meeting on August 3, 1804, the men proceeded up river and camped a short distance south of present Blair, Nebraska. A Nebraska Historical Society Marker depicting the camp of August 3 and 4 stands on the west side of U.S. 75 about 2 miles south of Blair.

There is an Iowa Natural Resource Lewis and Clark sign depicting the Camp of August 3, 1804 at the nearby Wilson Island State Recreation Area boat ramp. [From Iowa I-29 Exit 75 west on U.S. 30 to 2nd De Soto Refuge & Wilson Island sign. From Blair, on U.S. 30 to signs then one mile to the refuge It is about 4 more miles to the boat access. Entrance free, camping w/e fee]

On the 4th of August they were below present De Soto Bend National Wild Life Refuge, Iowa. The former river channel is now an oxbow lake that harbors bird species seen by Lewis and Clark. The Visitor Center holds a display of mining supply cargo found on the sunken 1865 steamboat Bertrand. There were no Lewis

and Clark signs in 2004. [Federal Golden age card or fee required. Ph: 712-642-4121]

In 1996 Iowa Department of Natural Resources purchased several Lewis and Clark interpretive panels. They were funded by grants from the National Park Service Midwest Trail Region, and cost share funding from the Iowa Historical Society Resource Development Program. These waist high fiberglass panels are printed in five colors. They are placed at Missouri River public boat access areas between Wilson Island State Recreation area north to Snyder Park south of Sioux City, Iowa. [source WPO August, 1996]

Pvt. Moses Reed deserts on August 4, 1804 when he asked to go back to the Council camp to retrieve his knife. The August 4 camp was north of De Soto Bend, northeast of Blair. They camped there again on September 7, 1806. No public access. August 5, 1804, found them camping near Soldier River, Harrison County, Iowa, across from the Washington-Burt County, Nebraska, boundary. Lewis kills and scientifically documents the **FIRST** aquatic bird, the Least Tern, now on the endangered species list. No public access.

On August 6, 1804, they camped between Soldier and Little Sioux Rivers on the starboard (Iowa) side. The Remington Missouri River boat access displays a Iowa Natural Resource panel. It depicts this camp and the loss of the keelboat flag during a violent storm.

They camped here again on *"September 7, 1086, after traveling 44 miles, killing three elk and dinning heartily."* The boat access offers a primitive wooded area with a natural view of the Missouri River. The wild elk that roamed across Nebraska in 1804 are now limited to a small herd in the western pine ridge country. [Exit 89 off I-29 go approximately 5 miles on gravel road via Ivy Lane to Boontrail. Driving south watch for small faded boat sign. Go right next road about 1/2 mile to the river]

On September 6, 1806, the return camp was between the August 6 and 7, 1804, campsites. On August 7, 1804, six men were sent to bring back Pvt. Moses Reed dead or alive, with hopes to also find civilian interpreter La Liberte. Gary Moulton notes the August 7th camp was probably on the Iowa side a few miles below the mouth of the little Sioux River.

A grand view of the Little Sioux confluence with the Missouri River is available. An Iowa Natural Resource panel is near Woodland Park boat access and picnic shelter. It depicts the events of August 8, 1804. They passed the Little Sioux River and see, *"great numbers of feathers floating down river for three miles we came* A Visitor Center is planned to house the life size boats,

upon an Island filled with incredible numbers of white Pillican....they appear to cover seveal acres.." On this date Lewis killed and scientifically described their **FIRST** white pelican. [I-29 Exit 95 at Woodland RV Park, turn right follow road west between the Little Sioux River and the north border of the RV Park.]

Pelican Island is gone and few if any Pelicans stop in this area today. The majority migrate through De Soto Bend Wild Life Refuge. Gary Moulton notes that the camp was likely in Harrison County, Iowa, but channel changes may put it in Burt County, Nebraska today. Across the river from Iowa's Little Sioux River Confluence is Nebraska's Pelican Point State Recreation Area, with Missouri River access and primitive camping. In the summer of 2004 a National Park, Mouth of Platte interpretive panel was placed near the river boat access in this State recreation area. [U.S. 75 downtown Tekamah, Nebraska courthouse. Follow state park signs east onto a gravel county road 4 miles, then 4 miles north and one mile east to the river. Ph: 402-329-4053]

In 2004, the town of Tekamah hired local artist, Linda Ferrens, to paint portraits and scenes from the Expedition in ten windows of the VFW Hall. The murals cover 1500 sq feet. They include an area map of the Platte, and Missouri River branches to the South Dakota border, to the western panhandle of Nebraska. Thirteen wooden barrels display local plants in the adjacent Mural Garden. [Mural & Garden location: Northwest intersection of US 75 and highway 32 downtown Tekamah.]

About ten miles north of Little Sioux boat access is Iowa's Huff Wagner County Park boat access. [Exit 105 on I-29, 2 1/2 mile west-southwest.] It offers a natural view of the river, picnic facilities, and camping w/e \$12.00 per night. This Natural Resources exhibit is titled "Prairies & Pelicans." It displays Clark's comments, *"misquitors so thick in the Plains I could not keep them out of my eyes,.... Capt Lewis killed a Pelican on Pelicans Island."*

A travel bulletin at the north bound I-29 Rest Stop south of Onawa, Iowa mentions Lewis and Clark activity. A major stop along the Lewis and Clark Trail, is Iowa's Lewis and Clark State Park that includes Blue Lake, an oxbow of the 1804 Missouri River. The first authentic reproduced keelboat and red and white pirogue boats were built, and are kept there. This is the home site of the boatwright Butch Bouvier.

and depict a boat theme. The annual Lewis and Clark

Festival, second weekend in June, offers re-enactments, history presentations, food, keelboat rides, etc. Free admission. An interpretive panel near picnic shelter depicts the difficult navigation through fog and snags in this area. It is entitled, "Coupe A Jarck," a place where the river cut through and shortened the river by several miles."Part of this cut formed Blue Lake. [I-29 Exit 112 west to the Park: Ph.1- 712-423-2829]

Gary Moulton puts the camp of August 9 near Guard Lake. Park employees state that Guard Lake is a tiny spot in a private farmer's field a short distance south of the park. Another opinion is that the 9th site was just north of the park. A large Redwood sign, "CAMPSITE OF LEWIS AND CLARK AUGUST 9, 1804" stands on the east side of Blue Lake. [Take Dogwood Loop road to first set of lake houses, turn left to sign. The return camp of September 5, 1806, is thought to be near today's Guard Lake.]

On August 10, 1804, they camped on the starboard side across from the grave of Marhar (Omaha) Chief 'Blackbird'. On the morning of August 11th the Captains took ten men to the burial site. "*We landed at the foot of the hill on which BlackBird the late King of the Mahar (Omahas) was buried 4 years ago.....*" The grave area is west of the river on private Omaha Reservation.

The "Blackbird River Valley Overlook" shelter has several interpretive panels depicting local Indian history. The Missouri River and valley below the bluffs is similar to what the explorers saw. [The shelter sits along U.S. 75 between Decatur and Macy, Nebraska.]

The campsite of August 11, 1804 at the edge of today's small Badger Lake a few miles east of today's Missouri River. A large Redwood sign, "CAMPSITE OF LEWIS AND CLARK AUGUST 11, 1804," stands generally unknown along a lonely county road. River changes cut off the 1804 bend leaving a small oxbow lake in a private field. The wooden signs for camps of 9th and 11th were erected and funded in the 1970's by Iowa's Monona County. [I-29 Whiting, Iowa, exit 120 east 3/10 mile to gravel Catalpa Road, north 2.5 mile to a "T" intersection, turn left 3/10 mile to the sign and Badger Lake.]

Also off I-29 Exit 120, go approximately 4.5 miles west to the Lighthouse Marina Missouri River access and campground. There is a small replica light house, and a Iowa Natural Resource panel that depicts the camp of August 11.

On the 12th they traveled over 18 miles around a large bend, and discovered their camp site of August 12 was only 974 yards from their camp of the 11th. The 12th Clark wrote, "*A prairie Wolf came near the bank and*

barked at us like a large feist Dog." Little known to science at the time, they referred to the coyote as a prairie wolf throughout the journals. This was possibly the **FIRST** coyote the men had seen.

The August 13 to 20, 1804, camp was a few miles south of today's Dakota City, Nebraska, or near Sergeant Bluff, Iowa that was named for Sgt. Floyd who was buried on a nearby bluff. The men named this camp, Fish Camp, for more than 1000 fish were caught here in two days. Among those caught here were, "*Pike, Salmon* (possible brook trout), *Bass, Perch, RedHorse Cat, and a shrimp*" (probably a crayfish). On the 13th, the Corps visited an important Omaha (originally known as Marhars) village named "Tonwantonga."

This village was about one mile north of present Homer, Nebraska. A Nebraska Historical Society Marker stands two miles north of Homer along U.S. 75/77. It depicts this Omaha Village, Chief Blackbird, and Lewis and Clark's stop at the village August 13-19, 1804.

Four roadside panels and an Omaha earth lodge were scheduled to be constructed near the current Historical Marker. Panels include data about the Lewis and Clark's Fish Camp of August 13-19, 1804, the Council, and Moses Reed's desertion trial. 2006 the panels are up but Mandan hut is not. I have not seen these. [Sponsored by Lewis and Clark Scenic Byways, and Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D.]

The Corps waited southeast of the Tonwantonga village August 13-19, 1804 for the men sent for the deserters to return, and for the Omaha and Otoe to come back from their hunts. On the 17th Pvt. Moses Reed came in with the Otoe Chiefs. LaLiberte, the interpreter, evades capture and faded into obscurity.

The Expedition's **FIRST** and only military trial for desertion is held the 18th. Pvt. Reed's is sentenced to run the gauntlet with 500 lashes, and was permanently expelled from the Expedition. He was sent back to St Louis in the Spring of 1805 with the keelboat.

The 18th is Capt. Lewis' 30th birthday. The Council meeting is postponed while the men celebrated. The 19th brought continuing speeches for peace between the Omaha and Otoes. Note! video about the discovery of 1804 medals and letters from President Jefferson is shown at Fort Atkinson.

Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historic Park contains fossilized remains of over 10 million year old mammals that died after a volcanic eruption. An exhibit of eight similar fossils found in the Plains of Northeast Nebraska and Southeast South Dakota by expedition members, and quotes from the journals, was displayed through the Bicentennial. [About 100 miles west of South Sioux

City, Nebraska via U.S. 20 to 2 miles west of Royal, Nebraska, follow sign north 6 miles. Fee. ph:402-893- The Iowa Natural Resource exhibit, at Iowa's Snyder Bend County Park boat access, depicts the August 13-19 Fish Camp. [I-29, Exit 134 south of Sioux City, Iowa. Go west to Bigalow campground, go past Brown County Park Recreation Area and continue on gravel 285th to Snyder Park. The sign is near the boat access. At the far end of the park, about 2.8 miles from I-29.]

South of Sioux City, Iowa the I-29 southbound rest stop, and Welcome Center is a designated Lewis and Clark site. Several panels depict L & C events in the area. Free Lewis and Clark data in the Center. [Exit 141 off I-29]

On August 20, 1804, Capt. Lewis wrote, *"At the first Bluff on S.S. Sgt Floyd died with a great deal of Composure".... We camped in the mouth of the river."* They named the bluff and the river Floyd. It is believed today that he died of a ruptured appendix. He was the **FIRST** soldier to give his life in service west of the Mississippi River, and the **FIRST** and only member of the Expedition to die. Re-enactment of this event is held annually at the monument around Aug. 20th. The Floyd River flows under I-29 in South Sioux City, Iowa.

The 100 ft monument, and several interpretive panels stand on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River Valley. Built in 1901, it stands on the south edge of Sioux City, Iowa. It was the **FIRST** registered National Historic Landmark. While returning, on September 4, 1806, the men visited Floyd's grave and camped at "Fish Camp" of August 13-19, 1804 [Monument: I-29 exit 143, East to Bus.75, North about 2 miles.].

In 2002 the 8,750 square foot, "A Day In The Life of Lewis and Clark," Interpretive Center opened in Sioux City. Dozens of interactive displays depict historically

SIoux CITY, IOWA TO LYNCH, NEBRASKA AUGUST 21- SEPTEMBER 7, 1804

Shortly after the burial of Sgt. Floyd on August 20, 1804, the corps proceeded on. On the 21st Clark wrote, *"I found a very excellent fruit resembling the red current"* It was their **FIRST** buffaloberry "nutt", new to science.

A Nebraska Historical Society Marker is located along U.S. 20 one mile west of Jackson. It depicts the events of August 21 and 22, 1804, including the reference to *"a place high up the Sioux River where a creek .. passes through cliffs of red rock which the Indians make pipes of.... when the differernt nations meet here.. all is Peace."* Pipestone Creek led to the quarry all Indians

2000, www.ashfall.unl.edu]

accurate daily life of the men. Lewis and Clark talking mannequins re-enact the military burial service held for Sgt. Floyd. Outside the center a large bronze sculpture of the Captains and Lewis's dog Seaman stands near one of the tallest flag poles in the U.S. A nylon 15 star 30 X 50 ft. flag flies from the 150 ft pole. The flag weighs 38 lbs and cost \$3,386. The sculpture was made by Pat Kennedy. This center was funded mostly by river boat casino grant funds. Next to this Center is the retired "Sergeant Floyd" tug boat. This boat museum houses excellent Lewis and Clark information. [Directions to both free museums: Exit 149 off I-29 at Hamilton Blvd, to Larsen Park along the Missouri Riverfront]

The Southern Hills Mall in Sioux City, displays thirty-eight, eight foot murals entitled, "An American Adventure." The scenes, painted above mall shops, depict the entire Lewis and Clark journey. Floor level signs below each painting describe each scene. Artist Geoff Elson created this award winning display. In 2003 a free interpretive booklet of the murals was available at the mall information booth. [Location: Sergeant Rd. and Lakeport I-29 exit 144 U.S. 20/75. For Lewis and Clark Sioux City information, Ph: 800-593-2228]

Across the Missouri River in Cottonwood Cove Riverfront Park, Dakota City, Nebraska, are three Lewis and Clark panels on a wooden deck, overlooking a grand river view. They depict the Corps passing Nebraska, the death of Sgt., Floyd, and the August 13 to 19, 1804 Fish Camp. [The park has a few campsites. Location: Dakota City off U.S. 77 east on highway 35 (Broadway) to 14th to Hickory St.]September 3, 1806 the camp was up river from Sioux City in Union Co. South Dakota or Dakota Co., Nebraska.

shared. It is now Pipestone National Monument, Pipestone, Minnesota. [U.S. 75, & MN 23, and 30]. During the 21st and 22nd of August, 1804 they passed by today's Ponca State Park, nestled among high hardwood bluffs in Nebraska's northeast corner. Today the visitor can see nearly the same wild river view of 1804 from top the park cliffs. There is a spectacular River valley view from the Three State Overlook with Lewis and Clark interpretive panels. Several pristine Missouri River scenes for the National Geographic IMAX, "Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West" were filmed here. From the park to Gavins Dam west there are 59 river miles designated a National Scenic and

Recreational River.

The "Missouri National River Resource and Education Center," opened in Ponca State Park October, 2003. It offers data on the Missouri National River, and Lewis and Clark displays. Druzacks Cafe, 102 West 3rd Street, Ponca offers excellent home style food and good prices. [Ponca park is two miles north of Ponca. Take spur road 26E off highway 12. It offers, wooded trails, swimming pool, cabins, and camping. Ph: 1- 402-755-2284.]

On August 22, near today's Elk Point, South Dakota, and a few miles east of today's Missouri River, the soldiers elected Pvt. Patrick Gass Sergeant, to replace Charles Floyd. This was the **FIRST** U.S. election held west of Mississippi. Eight flags, with panel explanation of governments that represented this area, fly impressively in Elk Point Heritage Town Park. A historical marker, and five interpretive panels depict local historical events. A bronze bust of young Patrick Gass is part of this impressive display. [1-29, Exit 15 to Elk Point. Follow main street to Harrison Street, and signs north to the park. Picnic/camping offered.]

Elk Point annual Heritage Days Festival, held around August 22 includes the re- enactment of Sgt Gass's election. Eugene Gass Painter, Sgt Gass's grandson, 90 years old in 2005, annually depicts his famous ancestor. [Edgar's Pioneer Drug, & 1950's Ice Cream Soda Fountain, downtown main street for details and purchase a small booklet depicting the life of Sgt. Gass.]

On the 23rd of August Pvt. Joseph Fields, killed their **FIRST** buffalo. "*Cap Lewis took 12 men had the buffalo brought to the boat...*" They passed the river they named White Stone (Vermillion). They camped below present Vermillion, South Dakota in Dixon County, Nebraska, or Clay County, South Dakota. A Nebraska State Historical Marker on highway 12, three miles west of Newcastle depicts campsites of August 23, 24, 25, 1804.

On the 24th August Captain Lewis examines the, "*burning Bluffs.... blue Clay Bliff ... about 180 or 190 feet high ... under rugged Bluffs.... has been lately on fire and is yet verry Hott Great apparance of Coal, & imence quantities of Cabalt in side of that bluff...*" Until the late 1800's scientists believed the bluff was a true volcano caused to erupt when the river flooded, pouring water onto molten rock. By 1900 they knew the eruptions were caused by the oxidation of shale that yields sulfuric acid. When water is added it becomes so hot the shale is ignited. The site mostly collapsed during the 1878 flood, that left a sharp drop off the bluff. The Missouri River is further from the bluff today.

This site is called the "Ionia Volcano," named after the

nearby defunct town site of Ionia, Nebraska. A small turn around at the top of the volcano bluff offers a wide view of the river bottoms and distant river. Trash below the bluff may be the reason the land owner was seeking permission before going to the site. [Newcastle, Nebraska, highway 12, go north 2.4 mile on Rd 3835 to the fork. Turn right on Rd. 887 for 1.8 miles through agriculture land]. A Nebraska Historical Society Marker in Newcastle's, town park depicts the Ionia Volcano site. [Along highway 12.]

Near Maskell, Nebraska, U.S. 19 runs north to cross the new Missouri River bridge to Vermillion, South Dakota. It opens the Lewis and Clark Trail to visitors wanting to visit sites in both states. Just before crossing into South Dakota is Mulberry Bend National Park Missouri River Overlook. River history interpretation was planned in 2003. The spectacular river views of this section of the Missouri National Recreational River is much like the men saw it.

On August 25, across the river from the burning bluff volcano, was a mysterious mound the Native Americans called "The Mountain of Little people or Spirit." They thought it was populated by small devils in human form that would kill anyone who approached it. Curiosity of the Captains prompted a long walk to the mound. Finding no devils, they saw "*great number of birds hovering about the topthey were ceteching a kind of flying ant..*" possibly their **FIRST** Harvester Ants.

In 2002 the state of South Dakota and the National Park Service purchased this site, and began plans to sow original prairie grasses, and develop a foot trail to the mound. A historical marker stands along U.S 19 pull out where people generally viewed the distant mound that is still surrounded by open fields. In 2002 we walked across corn stubble fields to the mound. The bronze plaque, placed in 1921 by the Daughters of American Revolution, was missing from a large field boulder sitting on top of the mound. [Nine miles north of Vermillion, South via South Dakota 19]

On August 26, Shannon and Drouillard were sent to find two lost horses, beginning the saga of lost Pvt. Shannon. The main party camped, "*on an island across from a small creek,*" (Today's Bow Creek), and the site of an old Mahar/Omaha village. The island is today's undeveloped Goat Island that is opposite Nebraska's neatly manicured Brookey Bottoms County Park. A boat access, picnic tables, private campground, and a small housing development occupy the park. [One mile west of Obert, Nebraska, highway 12, north on gravel road past the memorial for the five Wiseman children killed by Indians in 1857.]

In 2004 Goat Island, which had no name in 1804, was designated a Federal Recreation Site for boaters floating the fifty-nine mile Missouri River Canoe Trail. Experienced boaters on this river trail, maintained by Nebraska Game and Parks, can see that river area much like The Corps of Discovery saw it.

On the 27th of August, 1804 the boats passed the Yankton River and entered what the Captains called the chalk bluffs. *"Three miles above this bluff we set the prairie on fire to let the Sioux know we wished to see them."* Principal chiefs were invited to council with them at a bluff called Calumet. Drouillard came into camp without Shannon or the horses.

Between the 28th and 31st of August 1804, they camped below the Calumet bluffs in present Cedar County, Nebraska, to wait for a council with the Yankton Sioux. Calumet was a French term for ceremonial Indian pipes smoked by the participants in this council. The site was about a mile west of present Aten, Nebraska, the home of Murdo's river front restaurant a dinner stop for superb walleye and salad bar. Inside and outside seating offers a grand view of the river, and Gavins Dam about a mile west. [Murdo's on highway 121 about 1.5 mile west of the junction of highway 121 & U.S. 81. Ph: 402-667-7873]

The Calumet Bluffs are along the shore of Lewis and Clark Lake. Near by, Nebraska's Gavins Point Dam Visitor Center, offers Lewis and Clark information, an excellent film, and a view of Calumet Bluffs to the west. A huge chunk of the bluff was lost during the dam construction in the 1950's. On their return, September 1, 1806, they camped below the cliffs on the South Dakota side. A developed foot trail reportedly leads to the top of these cliffs from Lake boat access with sign at top.

On the July 29th: *'Shannon appears to be ahead with the horses. Pvt. Colter, a first rate runner sent out with provisions for him'.*

On August 30, 1804, Sgt. Pryor and interpreter Pierre Durion brought Indians across the river to the south side to begin talks that ended on August 31. As pre arranged, Durion and his son remain with the Yankton Sioux. His grave is located in Yankton, South Dakota. August 31 was the **FIRST** mention of pursh breadroot (potato), a staple of the Plains Indian. September 2, 1806 their camp was below the mouth of the James River in South Dakota or Nebraska.

The privately funded Corps Of Discovery Welcome Center, built in 2001, sits a few miles north of Crofton, Nebraska along U.S. 81. It offers a scenic overlook of the Missouri River Valley, displays on area history,

Lewis and Clark data, and a Nebraska Historical Society marker. The Center is near The Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area, South Dakota west of Yankton. The Nebraska State Recreation Area Weigand, Nebraska, is west of Dam County, Rd R54C off Nebraska 121. Ph: 402-388-4169. Both offer RV camping and boat marinas.

The camp sites of September 1 and 2, 1804, are up river under Lewis and Clark Lake. On September 3, 1804, they saw signs of the two men ahead, but Colter had not overtaken Shannon. Sgt. Gass writes, *"there is no timber...continued prairie both sides ...view delightful,"* Clark writes, *"Seveeral wild goats seen in the praries."* This is their **FIRST** view of the pronghorn antelope.

On the 3rd of September, they camped on the western end of today's Santee Yankton Reservation, Santee, Nebraska. [Santee is north of highway 12 on Rd 55D.] A South Dakota researcher documented this campsite can be seen from the top of a hill near Santee. At present there is no public access planned by the Santee Tribe.

They passed today's Brazile River on September 4, 1804, and approached the mouth of Que Courre (rapid) River. It is known today as Niobrara taken from the Indian name, Niubthatha, meaning wide river. Clark wrote, *"This river is 152 yards wide at the mouth & 4 feet Deep Throwing Sands like the Platt (but more coarse).... forming bars in it's mouth."* They found the Niobrara was light in color like the Platte, had a very rapid current, and not navigable because of heavy shifting sands.

The campsite of September 4, 1804, likely lies within Nebraska's Niobrara State Park. A fifteen star American flag flies from a rough pine pole on top of a similar hill Clark describes: *"I walked on top of the hill forming a Cliff Coud with red Ceeder an extenisve view from this hill."* Take the park road to the rental cabins, to the foot trail, that leads to the covered kiosk erected in 1988. Signs depict Ponca history and Lewis and Clark data.

A short grass trail leads to the flag and a spectacular view of the confluence of the Niobrara River. More exceptional views of the Missouri National Recreation River is available at the park's highest point at the park lodge deck. [Park location a mile northwest of Niobrara on highway 12. Cabins and camping : Ph: 402-857-3373]

Niobrara State Park offers the visitor an opportunity to float a short section of the Missouri National River in nearly the same condition the men of the Corps of Discovery viewed it. A two hour boat ride for \$14.00 September 2003 offered us a close up view of some of the unobstructed scenes the National Geographic IMAX film. The IMAX's white cliff scene where Lewis nearly

fell to his death on May 23, 1804, was also shot just west of Standing Bear Bridge. [Bridge via highway 37 The boat trip starts from Verdel Landing Nebraska State Recreation Area. [Co. Rd. 518 off highway 12] As the park van transported us to the boat landing, we drove over Ponca Creek, and were near the site of the 1804 Ponca village the Corps visited. Our 11 passenger U.S. coast guard approved inflatable raft, took us about five miles up the Missouri National Recreation River. We pass the "*large island they call No Preserves where they stop to make ceeder mast.. and camped on the upperpoint of on September 5, 1804.*"

This Island is approximate three miles long, and is now known locally as Four Mile Island, as it looks longer than it actually is. It is also called Motacek Island, the name of it's first long time owner, the father of current Niobrara Park Superintendent. It is owned today by a Florida resident, and remains fairly primitive.

Shortly after passing this island the "Little Pearl's" 75 hp motor was turned off by our coast guard trained river pilot, and we quietly floated back. Our pilot related Lewis and Clark, and local area history. Beaver are abundant. We spotted a lone bald eagle. A large hole in one cliff recently housed a bob cat. The river was about four feet deep below the cliffs that may have been a buffalo jump, as buffalo bones are still found by scuba divers. Experienced braves would wait below on horse back to drown an injured buffalo. Lewis and Clark saw their **FIRST** large buffalo herds along today's Nebraska-South Dakota border.

The men stopped for breakfast, September 5, 1804, along South Dakota's Chateau Creek (L&C Goat Creek), and across from today's Verdel boat landing. Clark wrote: "*On the S.S side ..saw several wild goats on a Cliff & Deer with black tales.*" Shields and Gibson were sent to the Ponca Towns near today's Verdel, Nebraska. Lewis wrote: "*Shields informed us he saw several black tailed Deer near the Ponscar Village...*" This day in South Dakota and Nebraska they saw the **FIRST** deer they would name Mule for it's large ears.

On the 5th "*one of our hunters brought us a beautiful serpent,*" the **FIRST** bull snake which Lewis described fully. Sgt. Ordway wrote: "*tracks on the N.S seen of the 2 men and horses.*" Pvt. Whitehouse penned, on September 6, "*Colter joins us had not found Shannon... hunters that returned that evening had not Shannon...*" Private Shannon is not mentioned again until he is found on September 11.

On August 31, 1806, the men entered present Nebraska on their return, and camped on "No Preserve Island."

from Niobrara, to South Dakota.]

Camp site of September 6th, 1804, was on the plains of South Dakota, a few miles below Boyd County, Nebraska.

A few miles west of Niobrara, along highway 12 lies the small town of Lynch. This is the home of 'The Tower' or 'Old Baldy' where the men see their **FIRST** prairie dog September 7, 1804. It resembled a 'barking squirrel. Clark wrote: "*we landed near the foot of a round mounting....resembling a dome . Capt Lewis and myself walked up to the top which forms a cone... about 70 feet higher than the highlands around it. it's base is about 300 foot... near the foot of this high nole we discovered a village of annamales the french call Prarie Dog.. killed one and caught one a live...*" The prairie dog avoided capture for several hours. It was the only live specimen, other than a magpie to survive the trip from Fort Mandan, in April 1805, to President Jefferson.

'Old Baldy' on private property. In 2004 an agreement with the land owners was reached to allow a small parking area along the county road in view of Old Baldy. The site still looks nearly as it did in 1804. An interpretive sign, funded in part by Boyd County, was placed near the parking area in 2004. This unique hill sits among the rolling 'highlands' of Boyd County's picturesque river valley. In 2004 is was designated a National Historic Site. Descendants of Captain Lewis's prairie dog still live in a prairie dog town on the west side of Old Baldy.

LeRoy Purviance's, Ponca Valley Oil Co. on Main Street in Lynch, is the information center for this site. . A stop there for good directions is recommended. The stuffed Lynch Dawg \$16.00 and Lynch Dawg T shirts are also available. [Ph: 402-569-2706] An inexpensive town camp ground with electricity, and lodging in the refurbished abandoned small hospital is available in Lynch. [Follow "Tower" signs on posts. Drive about seven miles north from Lynch's main street on the county gravel road.]

While in the area we met local folks who invited us to their home, and offered us a boat ride for a view of Old Baldy from the river. Rain and wind prevented that treat. Our close up view of the Missouri River from their home revealed a less muddy and churning river than when Lewis and Clark went by. The dams above have taken out sediment and left it cleaner and clearer. Private property owners along the river section from Gavins Point west enjoy colossal undeveloped views. Excellent river valley views await the public who reach the river from public docks.

While visiting the Lynch area we highly recommend the small unique "Nebrask Inn," in Gross, Nebraska (pop.3). Isolated among the scenic hills on the northern edge of Nebraska, you will see vehicles of locals and beyond parked in front of the small rustic brick building that serves excellent inexpensive food. A large American flag flies from a pole in the middle of the gravel road at the intersection of this tiny incorporated town site. [take U.S. 281 north from highway 12 at Spencer, Nebraska to the Gross sign pointing east on county road to Gross.

Or when at Old Baldy do not return to Lynch, follow the county road northwest to Gross.

Outside of Lynch along hwy12 a Nebraska Historical Society marker depicts the events in this area. The Lewis and Clark Trail along the border of Nebraska ended September 8, 1804. The river turned north into present South Dakota.

FINDING PRIVATE SHANNON TWELVE NORTHEAST NEBRASKA COMMUNITIES FORM TOURIST TRAIL TO FIND WOODEN STATUES OF PRIVATE GEORGE SHANNON

Private George Shannon, the youngest member of the Corps, became lost from the Expedition north of present Wynot, Nebraska, August 26, 1804. From August 27 to September 5 there are journal reference attempts to find him.

Shannon was found on September 11, 1804, near present Snake Creek Recreation Area, South Dakota sitting along the river bank nearly starved. He found the two horses, and left the lame one behind. He had assumed he could not catch the Expedition members he thought were ahead of him. He resigned to wait for a fur trading boat to pass. The men sent to find him could never catch up since he was pressing hard ahead of them to catch the boats.

This incident is a favorite Lewis and Clark tale. In 2002, twelve small northeast Nebraska communities formed a plan to place a life sized, wooden statue of George Shannon in their town park or business district. Each statue sits among a unique landscaped area depicting a Shannon related incident in the journal. Niobrara includes a large building mural.

The Lewis and Clark buff is invited to come to these communities to find their Pvt. Shannon, visit a participating business, and collect the stamp matching that town's statue. At the first stop pick up a stamp sheet with the participating community names, businesses, and statue location clues listed. When all twelve stamps are collected, the last community will give you a nice 12 by 18 inch poster of artist, Ray Kelly's, drawing of Pvt. Shannon, with the two horses. Edward R. Cook's original poem, "Lost On The Lewis And Clark Trail," is also on the poster.

Population of participating towns range from 59 to 1600. Communities involved are Wynot-St.James-Bow Valley-Helena area, Crofton, Lindy Country Club,

Santee Ohiya Reservation Casino, and Niobrara all located along Nebraska highway 12. Hartington, Bloomfield, Center, and Verdigre are on Nebraska 84. Winnetoon is on 554B off Nebraska 14. Creighton is on Nebraska 59 and Wausa on Nebraska 54. Private Shannon was never far enough inland to pass by the location of any of these communities. Yet, visiting them, observing their enthusiasm, and finding the statues is a fun and unique Lewis and Clark activity.

A stop at the National Registered Historic 1912 Argo Hotel, Crofton, Nebraska, is recommended. It offers Bed and Breakfast, or try a fine meal among a historic and personal atmosphere. [Ph: 800-388-2525]

In tiny Winnetoon we met Joe Serres, the chain saw artist, who created these unique statues. Known as, "The Carving Cowboy" he will carve most anything for you. [Ph: 402-358-3641] His wooden artistic creations abound along Winnetoon's recreated old Main Street. Winnetoon is a must stop. [For guided tours of Winnetoon contact Gayle at Ph: 402-847-3368]

If you feel lucky, visit the Santee Reservation Ohiya Casino. The Lindy Country Club is the only Country Club in Nebraska without a golf course, but they serve homemade food and cold beverages. A Nebraska State Historical Marker depicting the Campsite of September 2, 1804 is part of their Private Shannon statue display. In 2004 the town of Verdell, added a wooded statue of Captain Lewis. Interpretive panels for each of the 13 statues have been erected.

Compiled and revised by Evelyn Orr, Omaha, Nebraska 2003-06

Note! some signs and sites in South Dakota not included, as they were not visited.