



*Meriwether  
Lewis*

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
and the  
LEWIS AND CLARK  
BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION**



*William Clark*

“A Journey Fourth”  
Fort Osage, Kansas City MO / Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison KS  
June 18-July 4, 2004  
After Action Report

**Background:** In 2000, the National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial decided to highlight some of the more nationally significant festivals and events and call them “Signature Events”. These events were to be those of nationwide historical significance, have the potential of high visitation, and be multicultural in nature. “A Journey Fourth” was designated as the sixth of these Signature Events. The event was held in numerous locations in both Missouri and Kansas.

**Corps Venues:**

All of the Corps’ participation in these events consisted of one or more of the following venues. Those venues that were used at more than one event site are discussed in detail below. Those venues specific for a given event will be discussed under that event.

COE Exhibit: The Corps was part of a contingent of agencies, communities, and vendors sponsoring a booth/exhibit. The Corps national exhibit had four parts – two backdrops (one of the L&C expedition and the other of the modern army connection), a display of the Discovery Box, a display of the prints of the five paintings of Michael Haynes that were commissioned by the Corps, and an information table.

The other type of exhibit backdrop used was one developed by the Kansas City District. This was a 3-part exhibit backdrop with a description of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on one panel, the Missouri River on another panel, and the Corps’ mitigation efforts on the third panel. It was supplemented with a display of the Discovery Box, prints of the Michael Haynes paintings, and brochures.

COE L&C Reenactors: Members of Capt. Lewis’ Company included Corps of Engineers personnel and representatives of the Frontier Army Living History Association as well as members from the “Illinois Detachment at Site #1.” The reenactors either set up an encampment or they walked around the event grounds engaging visitors one-on-one. The encampment consisted of one common tent and three small shelter tents along with the many accoutrements that would have been taken by the expedition. When in camp, Capt. Lewis’ Company posted front and rear guards, performed daily tasks around the camp (cleaning guns, repairing leather goods, etc), and finished off each day with a “whiskey” ration (water) and a dance reel. This was an extremely popular venue.

Corps of Discovery 2 – 200 Years to the Future (aka: Corps 2) – The Corps 2 exhibit itself consists of approximately 32 panels with an associated audiotape headset that discuss Jefferson's vision; Lewis, Clark, and the members of the expedition; with the remainder depicting the natural resources and the Native American influences on the expedition. In addition, Raystown Lake Project (NAB) constructed and donated a ½-size land-based replica of a keelboat. Visitors were encouraged to come into the keelboat for interpretive programs about the expedition. Rangers worked in their uniforms or their 1803 Army regimentals to provide interpretive talks and information to dignitaries and members of the public visiting the keelboat exhibit.

Tent of Many Voices (TOMV) – This is a venue associated with Corps 2 (same portable generator provides electricity for heat and lighting for both) but separate from it. TOMV has a small stage for presentations and seating capacity of 150.

**Event sites:**

1. Fort Osage, MO - This event was held June 18-22. Although the fort was not in existence when the Corps of Discovery passed through the area, Captain Clark chose the fort site and construction of the fort was begun in 1808. The event also included a groundbreaking ceremony for the site's new visitor center. Weather for the event included the threat of rain almost every day, but rain during the day was sporadic. Temperatures were in the low 80s most days with high humidity. Estimated total attendance for this event was 12,000. Corps participation was as follows.

Exhibit: At this event, the Corps exhibit was set up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Factory (trading post). Working the exhibit were Greg Miller, Kim Penner, Lora Vacca, Dave White (all NWK), Skip Jacobs (MVS), Charlotte May (NWP) and Jean Nauss (NWD). During the 5 days, there were numerous summer camp groups that attended as well as members of the general public. Roughly 4200 visitors came to see the exhibit.

Encampment: The Reenactment camp was set up below the fort on a terrace overlooking the Missouri River. A gravel footpath lead visitors down the hill through a wooded area to the camp. The site was level, grassy, and shaded by huge walnut trees. There was plenty of room for the camp, drill practice, demonstrations, and interaction with the public without being cramped. Captain Lewis' Company of the Corps of Discovery (Ken Wilk (NWK), Robby Henderson (SWF), Jon Carlson (NWP), Dave Quebedeaux (SAS), Rick Magee (NAE), and Charlie Deutsch (MVS)), FALHA volunteers, Ft. Osage interpreters, and reenactors from the Detachment at Site #1 (Wood River, Illinois) worked together to portray a typical encampment that the expedition would have set up along the route. All camp activities and demonstrations were intended to show that this was an Army endeavor from beginning to end. A guard was posted at the entrance to the camp at all times. The camp was set up according to military customs of the time. Drills and formations were conducted in a military fashion. Reenactors interpreted camp duties such as molding bullets, washing clothes, sewing, writing in their journals, repairing equipment, and practicing the manual of arms. Visitors to the camp were mostly small family groups and a few school or summer camp groups. Visitor numbers at this venue seemed to be only about 2/3 of the number the Exhibit had. One of two reasons probably contributed to this: (1) many visitors were more intent on getting

to see the keelboat of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles and just walked right by the encampment; (2) visitors had to walk down a fairly steep hill to get to the camp and many were unwilling to do that since the climb out was so steep. Overall, visitor reaction was very good and many visitors expressed appreciation for what we were doing. The heat and humidity were uncomfortable, although not unbearable and mosquitoes were our constant companions. In spite of that, there were still roughly 2700 visitors to the camp.

2. Kaw Point (Kansas City, KS) – This event was held June 25-July 4. Estimated total attendance was roughly 15,000. Kaw Point is a new park at the confluence of the Kansas River and Missouri River. However, access to the park is through an industrial area. Visitation to the site was good while the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles was encamped there. However upon their departure, attendance dropped significantly. Corps participation was as follows.

Exhibit: Three federal agencies were located in one tent at the event site – EPA, USGS and the Corps. By far, the Corps had the largest exhibit and the most crowds. The NWK exhibit backdrop was used at this event. Working this exhibit were Greg Miller, Rich Abdoler, Bob Marchi, Cynthia Dierks, Dick Lenning (all NWK); Carol Ryan (MVS); Renea Guin, Jeffery Lockwood, Brian Westfall, and Wayne Stogsdill (all MVK); and Sara Jernigan (SAM). Approximately 7,800 visitors interacted with the rangers at the exhibit.

Reenactors: the Captain Lewis' Company encampment was not set up at Kaw Point as members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles were camped there June 26-29. However, Corps reenactors did work the event doing one-on-one programming throughout the event site. Participating at various times during this portion of the Signature Event were Ken Wilk (NWK), Rick Magee (NAE), Dave Quebedeaux (SAS), Larry Spisak (LRP), Jeff Boutwell (SWF), and Tim Bischoff (MVS). Although they were not in one specific location and not all at the same time, these reenactors still drew sizable crowds. Approximately 4,400 visitors interacted with these reenactors during the 10-day event.

TOMV: Speaking at the TOMV were the following COE reenactors dressed in their 1803 Army uniforms. Rick Magee (NAE) spoke on "Recruiting for the Expedition". Dave Quebedeaux (SAS) discussed the role of diplomacy during the expedition. Jeff Boutwell (SWF) spoke on being a member of Capt. Lewis' Company. (Mr. Boutwell portrays Pvt. Robert Frazer, a member of the expedition.). Tim Bischoff (MVS) did audience participation during his portrayal and discussion of "George Drouillard, the Sign Talker". Larry Spisak (LRP) discussed "Music of the Expedition" and played songs from that time period. Attendance at the sessions was as follows: Magee (130), Quebedeaux (25), Boutwell (17), Bischoff (42), and Spisak (30).

Keelboat: The keelboat donated by Raystown Lake (NAB) was undergoing repairs during most of the event. However, it was finally brought in and on the final three days Corps rangers did short programs on the keelboat. It is unfortunate that the NPS chose the KC event to rehab the keelboat as the visitation could have been much higher than it was. Roughly 300 visitors came to the keelboat during the final days of the event.

3. Leavenworth, KS – – This event was held July 1&2, 2004. Leavenworth's Independence Day celebrations were the following 2 days so much of the town was involved in the planning for that celebration. As a result, the attendance at the L&C Festival was not as great as it could have been. Estimated total attendance was roughly 5,000. Corps participation was as follows

Exhibit: The national Lewis and Clark exhibit was used as the backdrop for the Discovery Box and brochure table. Working this event site were Susie Kline (LRP), Brad Cox, Jim Dickerson (both NWK), John Stokley (SPN), and Janet Mifflin (MVS). For this 2-day event, roughly 2,250 visitors were seen at the exhibit located at Leavenworth Landing Park.

Reenactors: An encampment was not set up at Leavenworth as members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles were camped there during that time. However, Corps reenactors did work the event doing one-on-one programming throughout the event site. Participating at various times during this portion of the Signature Event were Rick Magee (NAE), Pat Kline (LRP), and Dave Quebedeaux (SAS). Although they were not stationed in one specific location, these reenactors still drew sizable crowds. Approximately 700 visitors interacted with these reenactors during the 2-day event.

4. Berkley Park (Kansas City, MO) – – This event was held July 3&4, 2004 in a newly developed city park along the banks of the Missouri River in Kansas City MO. Parking for this event was a problem for the visitors as they were encouraged to ride shuttle buses from sites around downtown KC. Estimated total attendance was 300,000 for the 2 days. Corps participation was as follows.

Exhibit: The federal agencies were located in one tent at the event site along with The NWK exhibit backdrop was used at this event along with the Discovery Box, prints of the 5 Michael Haynes paintings, and brochures. Working this exhibit were Greg Miller, Jim Bell, Lucius Duerksen, Dick Lenning (all NWK); Greg Clemons (MVK); Don Headlee (SPA); and William Dunk (MVN). They were supported by Jon Carlson (NWP) and Ed Shirley (SWF) both members of Captain Lewis' Company. In addition, during busy times, the booth was supplemented with rangers that were also working the Kaw Point venue. Approximately 5,300 visitors interacted with the rangers at the exhibit.

5. Atchison, KS – – This event was held July 3&4, 2004. Estimated total attendance was 100,000. The turnout for the event was phenomenal considering the size of the town (~11,000). This event was scattered in Atchison from Riverfront Park down River Road roughly ¾-mile and also at Independence Creek (~7 miles outside of town). Corps participation was as follows.

School Programs: Because the Signature Event occurred during the summer when most schools are out of session, the community of Atchison decided to hold the educational component of the Signature Event April 27-29, 2004. The city sponsored a "Lewis and Clark Discovery Fair" in which many of the students from town and the surrounding area made items pertaining to the expedition and displayed them in the gym

at Benedictine College. Speakers were brought in to the college for special programming.

The Corps participation in the Discovery Fair consisted of two parts – an exhibit setup at Benedictine College and actual school programs. Wearing uniforms of the 1803 Army, Ken Wilk (NWK), Rick Magee (NAE), Dave Quebedeaux (SAS), and Larry Spisak (LRP) along with and Steve Allie, Steve Wilson, and Jeff Bender of the Frontier Army Living History Association manned the booth at Benedictine College. There were roughly 15 elementary, middle, and high schools that visited Benedictine College during that week.

Jean Nauss (NWD) made the visits to the schools. The schools visited were Bert Nash (boys juvenile detention facility)(grades 5-12), Atchison Catholic Elementary School (K-4), Atchison Public Elementary School (K-3), Trinity Lutheran School (K-8), and Effingham Public School (5-12). Presentation topics included “Animals of the Expedition”; “Hardships of the Expedition” and “The Seven Army Values.

All of the Corps programs were extremely successful and garnered the participants many thanks from event coordinators, students, and teachers.

These programs associated with the Lewis and Clark Discovery Fair generated 4,628 significant interpretive contacts (3,918 to the exhibit at the college and 710 on-site at schools) in the three days.

Exhibits: The national exhibit was used for this event. The Corps shared tent space with the winners of the L&C Discovery Fair exhibits (mentioned above). Working the exhibit were Susie Kline (LRP), Wayne Freed (NWO), Dan Cottrell (NWP), John Daves (MVS), Donnie Smith (SWG), and Jerad Pettus (NWK). 4,900 visitors to the exhibit

Film Presentation: During the Signature Event, arrangements were made to show the Corps L&C video “The Confluence of Time and Culture” at Benedictine College. Although many people had to take shuttles to the college to see the film, all comments were extremely positive. During the 2-day event, roughly 1200 people saw the film.

Encampment: The reenactment camp was not set up in downtown Atchison but rather was at the approximate 1804 location of the mouth of Independence Creek. To get to the site, visitors had to ride a shuttle bus either from town or one of two remote parking areas. As a result, although attendance and visitor contact was good, it did not reach the numbers that was seen in Atchison itself.

Participating in the encampment were Ken Wilk (NWK); Jeff Boutwell and Ed Shirley (SWF); Dave Quebedeaux (SAS); Rick Magee (NAE); Tim Bischoff and Charlie Deutsch (both MVS); Larry Spisak, Pat Kline, Gene Herrmann (all LRP); and Jon Carlson (NWP). Also participating were Steven Allie, Patrick Allie, Eric Morrison, Bob Dorian, Mike Morrison, and John Steinle all members of the Frontier Army Living History Association; and members of the “Illinois Detachment at Site #1.”

At 2pm on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Corps reenactors, dressed in their regimental uniforms, participated in a parade through the town of Atchison. During the parade, an event organizer was on the Public Address system explaining about the group and the importance of the event. Roughly ~2,800 visitors attended the parade.

At 4pm on the afternoon of July 4<sup>th</sup>, the reenactors participated in a program to commemorate the first Independence Day celebrated west of the Mississippi River. BG (Ret) Hal Stearns (MT National Guard) played the part of Gen. William Clark recalling his days on the expedition. As he read, the reenactors acted out the scene for the audience. Roughly 1200 visitors attended this program many of which came into the camp after the program was over to meet with the men.

At 8pm on the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>, three Corps reenactors (Jeff Boutwell (SWF), Charlie Deutsch (MVS), and Dave Quebedeaux (SAS)) were involved in the event flag lowering. During a very moving ceremony that included the reading of the Declaration of Independence and a toast to the Nation, these men lowered and rolled the flag (as was done in 1804) and then passed the flag to the modern Army (Kansas National Guard). This event was simulcast via Jumbotrons throughout Atchison, Leavenworth and Berkley Park in Kansas City. Roughly 300,000 people were witness to the flag lowering.

The Tent of American Voices – As the Tent of Many Voices was still set up at Kaw Point, Atchison had a different speaking venue. The Tent of American Voices was set up for a smaller audience with local speakers. Mr. Rick Magee (NAE) talked about recruitment for the expedition with a discussion of the skills and values needed for the completion of the mission. Roughly 120 persons attended his presentation.

6. Receptions: Many times during the 3-week period, the Corps was asked to participate in receptions held in various locations. Some organizers wanted only the coordinators while others wanted reenactors present. All totaled, three were roughly Participation at these events was as follows.

Case Park Reception: A reception was held Friday night, July 2 at Case Park in downtown Kansas City to open the combined KC/Atchison event. In addition to Col. Donald Curtis (KC District Engineer) Ed Shirley (SWF), Jon Carlson (NWP), and Dave Quebedeaux (SAS) were also in attendance. Roughly 500 interpretive contacts were made that night.

Taste of the Trail: A reception was held Saturday night, July 3 at Atchison. This reception was open to the public but \$50/plate. Attendees were invited to taste various items prepared by Mary Gunderson with remarks later that evening by Mr. Gary Moulton. The Corps was asked to provide four reenactors for the reception to mingle with the guests. Attending that night were Gene Herrmann (LRP) and Charlie Deutsch (MVS) along with Jeff Bender and Dave Hinkley, both with the Frontier Army Living History Association. Roughly 200 visitors were met that night.

Top of the Mound: The last reception was held during the closing of the KC/Atchison Signature Event. Attending this reception were Ken Wilk (NWD); Tim Bischoff (MVS); Pat Kline, Susie Kline, and Larry Spisak (all LRP); Rick Magee (NAE);

and Jean Nauss (NWD). Roughly 200 people attended this event and spoke with the Corps representatives present.

**Lessons learned :**

1. One item that was missing at all of the event sites was a very visible “Events Information Booth” where people could pick up a schedule of the days activities including speakers, special activities and other presentations. We need to work with the event organizers to make these events much more “user friendly”.
2. As in St. Charles, heat and humidity took a toll. At least two of the reenactors suffered from heat related problems. Although water and a light lunch were made available, there was little else for the reenactors to eat during the day. The effects finally showed late on the last day with several complaining of headaches and nausea.
3. Stringing an event out over 50 miles was very tough to handle logistics. Although daily meetings (usually mornings) were attempted, those going to Atchison had to get up and be on the road much earlier than those going into KC. However, all involved felt that the meetings were worthwhile and tried as best they could to attend.
4. Some complained that the venues were not always busy and they were just standing around. Unfortunately, there is no way to judge how busy an event will or won't be. Allowances have to be made and workers were shuttled to venues that needed the help.
5. The quality of the visitor interaction seemed to be much higher at Ft. Osage than at the other events. One of the reasons was that there was more time to give the workers a content orientation. Having the new workers listen to those that really knew their stuff helped them to do a much better job. Experienced interpreters working the exhibit, are able to teach the others by example. A basic brochure about the expedition and the Discovery Box should be provided before each event. However, each Corps member attending must take personal responsibility to know the basic story before coming to an event.
6. Attendance at Kaw Point fizzled after the first weekend. One can surmise that Corps II by itself is not enough of a draw to warrant a separately staffed Corps exhibit. The Corps sponsored reenactors doing roving interpretation at Kaw Point were very well received. Several times they were drawing large crowds when other venues at Kaw Point were not.
7. The film was well received at Benedictine College. In order to make this happen at all of the events, we might need to give all of the event organizers a review copy and ask for their help getting it into the community. It would also be good to investigate what partners will be doing sales and let Camera One know who they are so they can be approached to have them available for sale.

**Future outcome:** The next Signature Event will be First Council in the Omaha, NE area July 31-August 3. The Corps has taken on the role as the point agency for Federal

agencies attending the Nebraska event. We are working with event organizers to ensure the presence of those participating agencies with exhibits in one tent.

Jeannine M. Naus  
National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Coordinator