

# The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration



Sites for the Lewis and Clark Expedition noted on the Ohio River Navigation Charts are based on historical references and are approximate locations. The misspellings are from Lewis' journal as he wrote them. In 1803, the year Lewis came down the river, it was particularly dry. Many of the sites he and his party passed are now underwater.

Meriwether Lewis journeyed down the Ohio River with boats and equipment and recruited men along the way for the western exploration. Clark joined him at the Falls of the Ohio in mid-October.

Bob Anderson (a descendant of expedition member George Shannon) has researched the sites noted on these charts. Shannon joined the expedition on trial in the Pittsburgh area. An informative resource about Lewis and Clark on the Ohio River is Gary Moulton's *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, volume 2.

The numbers listed with the information refer to the river chart number. There are three river charts for the Ohio River, and references made to one chart for the Monongahela River.



## Chart #7 Monongahela River –Elizabeth, Pennsylvania

This is the general area of the Walker Boat Yard where some historians believe the keelboat

was built. The keelboat was 55' long with an 8' beam, 32' mast, and a shallow draft. The boat was modified at Camp Dubois to include a hold 31' long, a cabin at the stern with a deck on top, another 10' deck at the bow, and lockers with lids that could be raised for protection from attack.

Lewis wrote to Jefferson that *"I was moste shamefully detained by the unpardonable negligence of my boat-builder. On my arrival at Pittsburgh, my calculation was that the boat would be in readiness by the 5<sup>th</sup> of August; this term however elapsed and the boat so far from being finished was only partially planked on one side."*



Meriwether Lewis

## Chart #224 – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 31, 1803. Lewis wrote President Jefferson that *"it was not untill 7 O'Clock on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> Ultmo. that my boat was completed, she was instantly loaded, and at 10 A.M. on the same day I left Pittsburgh"*.



keelboat

On August 31, 1803, Meriwether Lewis recorded in his journal, *"left Pittsburgh this day at 11 o'clock with a party of 11 hands 7 of which are soldiers, a pilot and three young men on trial they having proposed to go with me throughout the voyage. Arrived at Bruno's Island 3 miles below halted a few minutes."*



Air Gun

## Brunot Island

Lewis went on shore at the request of a gentleman and demonstrated his air gun. He fired it seven times for a distance of 55 yards *"with pretty good success."* One of the men on shore accidentally discharged the gun, and the ball passed through the hat of a woman 40 yards away. It grazed her temple and she was gushing blood. They thought she was dead, but she revived and was not seriously wounded to *"our enespessable satisfaction."*

## McKees Rocks

August 31, 1803. Lewis noted in his journal, *"proceeded to a ripple of McKee's rock where we were obleged to get out all hands and lift the boat [keelboat] over about thirty yards; the river is extreemly low..."* (McKees Rocks is located near the mouth of Chartiers Creek.)

## Chart #223 – Little Horsetail Riffle

September 1, 1803. The fog was so thick that drops of water fell from the trees like a gentle rain. Lewis waited until eight o'clock that morning to depart. At Little Horsetail Riffle it took two hours to pass with all hands laboring to effect a passage. Lewis wrote in his journal, *"the fogg is thickest and appears to rise from the face of the water like steem from boiling water – we passed the little horsetale ripple or riffle with much deficulty, all hands laboured in the water about two hours before we effected a passage..."*



## Chart #221 – Woollery's Trap

September 1, 1803. They camped at Woollery's Trap, a riffle. (They may have camped on the tip of the island on the north bank.) After unloading all their goods and lifting the empty boat over the Big Horsetail Riffle, Lewis wrote in his journal, *"about 5 Ocock we reach the riffle called Woollery's trap, here after unloading again and exerting all our force we found it impracticable to get over, I employed a man with a team of oxen with the assistance of which we at length got off we put in and remained all night having made only ten miles this day."*

## Chart #218 & 219 – Site of Ft. Legionville

William Clark reportedly received his military training at this fort established by Anthony Wayne.



September 2, 1803. Lewis' crew had to get out of the boat and pull it over Logtown Riffle. Lewis commented on the *"rich land"* they saw that day. He also described, *"the hills on either side of the ohio are from 3 to 400 feet which running parallel to each other keep the general course of the river, at the distance of about two miles while the river pursuing a serpentine course between them alternately washes their bases. – thus leaving fine bottom land between itself and the hills in large boddys, and frequently in the form of a simecicles or the larger segment of a circle or horseshoe form."* Lewis also notes the leaves are starting to turn to fall colors.



**Chart #216, 217 & 217A**

September 3, 1803.

Thick fog delayed their travels. They passed by “Atkins’s” Riffle and the mouth of Beaver River (formed by the confluence of the Shenango and Mahoning Rivers and meeting the Ohio River in central Beaver County.) They anchored off the site of Ft. MacKintosh where Lewis discharged “one of my hands.”



**Chart #216 – Beaver County, Pennsylvania Area**

Lewis described the riffle about three miles below MacKintosh as the worst yet. They were “obliged to unload and drag over with horses.” Lewis and his men camped in this area on September 3, 1803; which side of the river is unknown.

**Chart #213 – Georgetown Island**

On September 4, 1803, fog delayed their departure. A boat sprung a leak and Captain Lewis bought a canoe (which also leaked) in the Georgetown Island area (near the state line). Lewis spent part of the day drying out his supplies and repairing the canoe.

**Chart #212 & 213 – State Line**

Lewis noted land cleared 60 feet wide to mark the state line. They camped about two miles below the state line of Virginia (West Virginia) and Pennsylvania near the mouth of Mill Creek opposite Little Beaver Creek. Lewis describes the water as so low and clear that they could see a great number of fish – sturgeon, bass, catfish, and pike.



**Chart #206 – Browns Island**

Lewis and his men camped on Browns Island, West Virginia on September 5, 1803.

Foggy again, Lewis recorded in his journal that they made 16 miles that day and camped at the head of Browns Island (near Weirton, West Virginia). Lewis noted, “it grew very dark and my canoes which had on board the most valuable part of my stores had not come up, ordered the trumpet to be sound and they answered.” (The tin trumpets purchased in Philadelphia were used for signaling on the expedition.) They bailed water out of the leaky canoes during the night.

**Chart #204 – Steubenville, Ohio**

Lewis described The area in his journal on September 6, 1803.



Ft. Steuben

“Stewbenville a small town situated on the Ohio in the state of Ohio about six miles above Charlestown in Virginia [West Virginia] and 24 above Wheeling – is small well built thriving place has several respectable families residing in it, five years since it was a wilderness—“

They passed Steubenville about two o’clock in the afternoon, and about two miles below the town, the men hoisted the sail but still needed oxen to pull them over the riffles.

**Chart #203**

Lewis camped south of Indian Cross Creek on September 6, 1803, “about a mile and a half further” downstream from Steubenville.

**Chart #202 – Wellsburg, West Virginia**

On September 7, 1803, Lewis passed the Mingo Indian village on that foggy morning. He described “a hansom bridge” at the “mouth of Buffaloe” and a “handsome little Village containing about forty houses” at Charlestown (now Wellsburg).

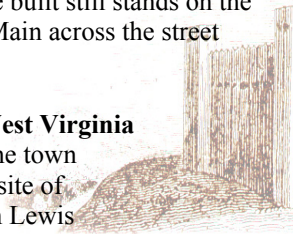


Patrick Gass, one of the sergeants of the expedition, lived in Wellsburg, died in 1870, and is buried in the hillside cemetery overlooking the town. He published a journal after his return. He outlived everyone else on the

expedition, and the house he built still stands on the corner of Tenth Street and Main across the street from the public library.

**Chart #198 – Wheeling, West Virginia**

Lewis noted in his journal the town of Wheeling and their campsite of September 7, 1803. Captain Lewis described Wheeling as “a pretty considerable Village contains about fifty houses and is the county town of Ohio [state of Virginia, now West Virginia]. It is situated on the east side of the river on an elevated bank; the landing is good, just below the town and on the same side big Wheeling creek emptys itself into the Ohio, on the point formed by this creek and the river stands an old stoccade fort [probably Ft. Fincastle renamed Ft. Henry], now gone to decay; this town is remarkable for being the point of embarkation for merchants and Emergrants who are about to descend the river, particularly if they are late in geting on and the water gets low as it most commonly is from the beginning of July to the last of September, the water from hence being much deeper and the navigation better than it is from Pittsburgh or any point above it—“



**Chart #197 – Wheeling, West Virginia**

On September 8, 1803, Captain Lewis wrote to President Jefferson. He purchased the red pirogue that was taken up the Missouri River on the expedition, and picked up goods shipped overland from Pittsburgh.



Red Pirogue

Lewis described, “my men were much fatiegued and I concluded it would be better to give them a days rest and let them wash their cloths and exchange their flour for bread or bake their bread in a better manner than they had the means of baking it while traveling; dined with Colo. Rodney and his suit, in the evening they walked down to my boat and partook of some watermellons.”

He talked to a Dr. Patterson who wanted to make the western journey but failed to show up. The expedition left without the doctor.

**Chart #195**

Lewis stopped September 9, 1803, near Riley Run on the Ohio side of the river in Belmont County.

In his journal he recorded, “about the time we landed it began to rain very heard and continued to rain most powerfully all night with small intervals: had my perogues covered with oil-cloth, but the rain came down in such torrents that I found it necessary to have them bailed out freequently in the course of the night; in attending to the security of my goods I was exposed to the rain and got wet to the skin as I remained untill about twelve at night, when I wrung out my saturated clothes, put on a dry shirt turned into my birth; the rain was excessively could [cold] for the season of the year—“

**Chart #194 – Moundsville, West Virginia**

On September 10, 1803, Lewis described the Indian mound at Moundsville. “I landed on the east side of R. and went on shore to view a remarkable artifical mound of earth called by the people in this neighborhood the Indian grave. – This remarkable mound of earth stands on the east bank of the Ohio 12 miles below Wheeling and about 700 paces from the river, as the land is not cleared the mound is not visible from the river.”





“The mound is nearly a regular cone 310 yards in circumference at its base & 65 feet high terminating in a blunt point whose diameter is 30 feet, this point is concave being depressed about five feet in the center, around the base runs a ditch 60 feet in width which is broken or intersected by a ledge of earth raised as high as the outer bank of the ditch on the N.W. side, this bank is about 30 feet wide and appears to have formed the entrance to fortified mound – near the summit of this mound grows a white oak tree whose girth is 13 ½ feet, from the aged appearance of this tree I think its age might reasonably be calculated at 300 years, the whole mound is covered with large timber, sugar tree, hickory, poplar, red and white oak, etc—“

**Chart #189 – Clarington, Ohio Area**

Lewis reported, “we got on twenty four miles this day. We passed some bad riffles but got over them without the assistance of cattle...” They camped on September 10, 1803 just above Sunfish Creek (located across the river from Clarington, Ohio).

Lewis’ campsite is apparently underwater on the east side of the river almost across from Sunfish Creek. The next day, Lewis set out at sunrise and entered the “long reach.” He described five islands from three to two miles in length each, and a “number of squirrels swimming the Ohio.”

He made his dog, Seaman, “take as many each day as I had occasion for, they were fat and I thought them when fried a pleasant food – many of these squirrels were black, they swim very light on the water and make pretty good speed –.”



**Chart #184 – Sistersville, West Virginia**

Lewis passed through this area on September 11, 1803.

**Chart #183 – The Longreach**

George Washington referred to this area as the Longreach. It stretches from about mile 133 to mile 149.

**Chart #182 – Grandview Island**

Lewis’ campsite on September 11, 1803, was just below Grandview Island in the beautiful Longreach area.



**Chart #181**

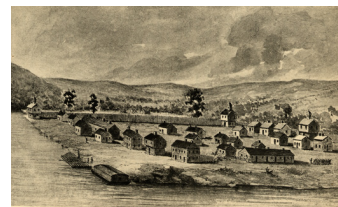
Indians used this high bluff overlooking the Longreach as a lookout point. It is now part of Wayne National Forest.

**Chart #178 – Wilson’s Island**

The men dragged their boat through the gravel-bottom channel at the lower end of the Longreach area. Lewis noted a campsite nine miles above Marietta on September 12, 1803.

**#177 – Marietta, Ohio**

On September 13, 1803, Lewis arrived at Marietta, Ohio. He observed many pigeons overhead and squirrels crossing the river. He dismissed two hands –Wilkinson and Montgomery. He described in his journal –“this evening was visited by Colo. Green the Postmaster at this place, he appears to be much of a gentleman and an excellent republican.” He also noted that two men got drunk and he had to find them in the morning and bring them back to the boat delaying their departure until 11 o’clock.



**Chart #174 – Belpre, Ohio**

Lewis described his Newfoundland dog, Seaman, catching several squirrels, and camping north of Belpre, on September 14, 1803 on the northwest shore in Washington County, Ohio.

Lewis noted in his journal passing the mouth of the Little Kanawha, and the considerable settlement in what is now the Parkersburg area, and “Bellpray” (Belpre, Ohio or perhaps Belleville, West Virginia)—“a yankee settlement.”

**Chart #171 – Lee Creek**

Lewis camped near Lee Creek in Wood County, West Virginia, on September 15, 1803. He noted a large number of squirrels in the Indian Run area.



**Chart #170 – Little Forked Run**

Captain Lewis noted a large number of squirrels crossing the river in the Little Forked Run area. There were several riffles in the area where Lewis and his men had to lift the boats.

**Chart #168 – Buffington Island**

On September 16, 1803, Lewis recorded in his journal, “thermometer this morning in the air 54 [degrees] in the water 72 [degrees] a thick fog which continued so thick that we did not set out until 8 o’clock in the morning.” He noted in his journal that he shot some squirrels while his men got the boats through the riffles at Buffington Island. They went to the north end, navigating by hugging the right bank going down the river.

**Chart #167 – Ravenswood, West Virginia**

Lewis camped in the Ravenswood area on September 17, 1803. They spent the day drying their equipment and oiling their guns.

**Chart #164 – Letart Falls**

Lewis passed Letart Falls about nine o’clock in the morning on September 18, 1803. The descent at the falls was “a little more than 4 four feet in two hundred fifty yards.”

**Chart #128 – Maysville, Kentucky**

Squire Boone family history indicates Lewis may have met John Colter at Boone’s Tavern in Maysville and enlisted him to go on the expedition.

**Chart #115 – Cincinnati, Ohio**

Lewis camped in the area that is now near the Reds’ baseball field and the Ft. Washington area in downtown Cincinnati.



*Ft. Washington*

**Chart #105 – Big Bone Lick**

While in the Cincinnati area, Lewis journeyed to Big Bone Lick to the south. President Jefferson wanted Lewis to examine and collect specimens from that area. Lewis wrote Jefferson on October 3, 1803, about his observations. He described one tusk “measuring one foot ten inches in circumference and five feet eight inches in length.”



*Big Bone Lick*

Jefferson had instructed Lewis to record plants and animals they saw on the journey and report their findings. He wanted to know if any of these animals still lived in the western regions.



**Chart #92 – Bethlehem, Indiana**

Local lore contends that Lewis may have camped about 30 miles above the falls in the Bethlehem, Indiana area in October 1803.

**Chart #87 – Louisville, Kentucky**

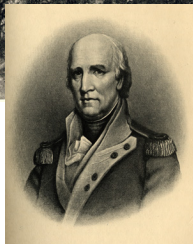


*Locust Grove*

Additional Lewis and Clark related sites in the Louisville area include Mulberry Hill, Trough Spring, the Filson Historical Society, and the Louisville waterfront.

**Chart #85 – Falls of the Ohio**

The Falls of the Ohio State Park, Indiana, has two Lewis and Clark sites – the Interpretive Center overlooking the fossil reef of the Falls and the George Rogers Clark Home Site.



*General George Rogers Clark*



A member of the expedition, Sergeant Charles Floyd, was believed to have been born around 1782 to the south of Louisville on Beargrass Creek at Floyd’s Station. The springhouse and family cemetery remain.

*Charles Floyd* Additional Lewis and Clark related sites in Jeffersonville and Clarksville, Indiana area include the Clarksville War Memorial and the Carnegie Center for Art and History. To the north, William Bratton, a member of the Corps of Discovery, is buried at Waynetown, Indiana. [Information source: Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee.]

Lewis arrived on October 14, 1803, at the Falls of the Ohio area. William Clark was living in the area with his older brother, George Rogers Clark, while he waited for Lewis to arrive.



*William Clark*

Lewis and Clark recruited, trained, and outfitted their men in this area for the western journey. Lewis and Clark departed on October 26, 1803.



**Chart #80 – West Point, Kentucky**

Expedition member, John Shields, lived in this area near the mouth of Salt River when he was recruited for the Corps of Discovery. His home site was in the Elm and Third Street area. When he returned from the expedition, he settled near Corydon.



*Kentucky View of the Ohio River*

Other expedition members from this general area included the Field brothers, Joseph and Reubin. They grew up in the Valley Station area south of Louisville. [Information source: Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee.]



*Ft. Massac*

**Chart #10 – Ft. Massac, Illinois**

Lewis and Clark reached Ft. Massac on November 11, 1803 and left about four o’clock in the afternoon on November 13, 1803. While at the fort, they hired George Drouillard as an Indian interpreter. They agreed to pay him “25 dollards pr. Month for his services.”

**Chart #9 – Metropolis, Illinois Area**

On November 13, 1803, Lewis and Clark camped south of the Metropolis, Illinois area.

**Chart #5**

About 12 noon on November 14, 1803, Lewis and Clark passed by Wilkinsonville (established about 1787 as an outpost of Ft. Massac and probably abandoned by 1804.) Lewis described a “great chain of rocks stretching in an oblique manner across the Oho.” It is located in the area that is now the site of Locks and Dam 53.



*Mississippi River View*

**Chart #1 – Confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers**

Lewis and Clark landed at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in the evening of November 14, 1803. Here the captains practiced using their equipment to measure latitude and longitude, an important task in mapping the west.

Departing on November 20, they headed up the Mississippi River not returning to the Ohio River area until 1806.



*St. Louis*

Sites for the Lewis and Clark Expedition are noted on the Ohio River charts by this symbol.

