

Rocky Forge News

Volume 17, Issue 1 ~ January 2018

Next Meeting: 1/13/2018

Will it ever let up? The cold weather that is....too many days below zero! This next Saturday, January 13th, we are planning a meeting of the Rocky metal smiths. However, Mother Nature may interfere again. At this time we are on go, but look at your e-mail before you come my way. If the predictions hold true for an ice storm I don't want anyone taking any chances of an accident. Dominick will issue an e-mail notice on Friday (1/12) if the meeting is cancelled. Hope for the best.

The meeting will start as usual with coffee, tea and doughnuts at around 8:30. After a social period Rob Durrett, (alias William Bratton, Lewis and Clark blacksmith) will entertain us with his presentation of the Lewis and Clark story. Rob does a very good job and is a real authority on the subject. He was part of the re-creation of the trip by keelboat to and from the state of Washington. Many of us have heard parts of his program at the Illiana show and other events, but many of us have never heard the whole story. Looking forward to it. We will have a few guests from the West Point Church who are interested in Rob's presentation.

After Rob is finished we will have an open forge time with one coal forge and two gas forges. Of course anyone willing to brave the outdoors have access to several coal forges. We will offer assistance to our newer members and guests.

Safety will be our foremost teaching subject.

Lunch: Carol will prepare a pot of ham and bean soup so bring whatever sounds good with a bowl of soup.

Bring your tool bucket and items for Iron-in-the-Hat.

Looking forward to Saturday and keep an eye on your e-mail on Friday. Any questions call Ted at 765-491-2194. Ted

Dates to Remember

June 27-30, 2018: ABANA 2018 Conference will held in Richmond, Virginia at the Meadow Event Park.

Conner Prarie Classes

www.connerprarie.org

1/13/2018 Primitive Knife Making

1/29/2018 Basic Blacksmithing

2/1/2018 Hand Forged Knife

Blacksmith Needed

Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Indiana is looking for a blacksmith to work in Pioneer Village during the 2018 recreation season. If you have experience blacksmithing or basic knowledge and want to learn more, this might be for you. They can offer housing with rooms and shared living areas.



The position begins in mid-March, weekends only, until mid-April when the position switches to 5 days a week with days off through the week. The position ends the last full weekend in October. No benefits are available with the job. The pay rate is commensurate with experience and they can provide additional training if previous experience is limited. The workday is 9 am to 5 pm with some evenings scheduled for special events. Call: (812) 849-3534

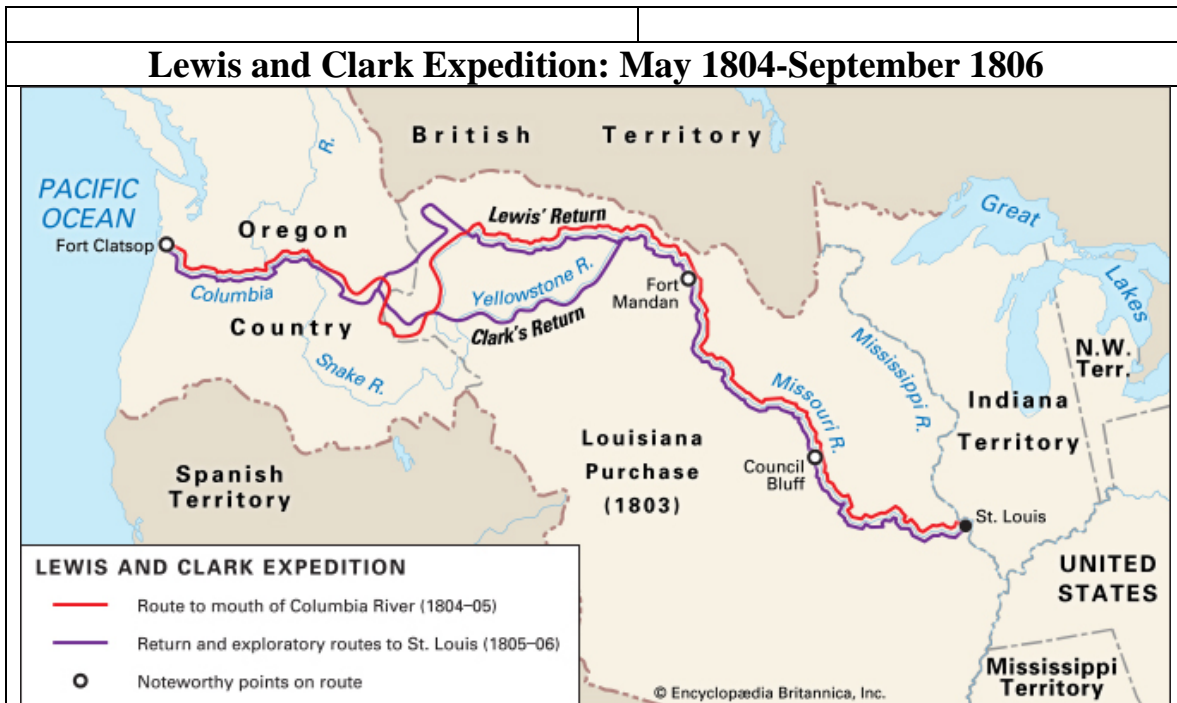
Contacts

Forgemaster: Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-491-2194 cell).

Newsletter Editor: Dominick Andrisani (andrisan@purdue.edu, 765-463-4975)

Meeting Location

At the home of Ted and Carol Stout, 8525 W 700 S, West Point, IN 47992-9258 (765-572-2467 home). Take IN25 two miles south from West Point, IN. Take a right onto West 700 South. Ted's house is the first house on the left.



**WILLIAM BRATTON
LEWIS AND CLARK
EXPEDITION MEMBER**

... ..

Bratton (1778-1841) is buried in this cemetery. With U.S. Army rank of private, he joined Lewis and Clark Expedition's Corps of Discovery near Clarksville, Indiana 1803. Corps explored lands of Louisiana Purchase and Pacific Northwest.


(Continued on other side)

**WILLIAM BRATTON
LEWIS AND CLARK
EXPEDITION MEMBER**

(Continued from other side)

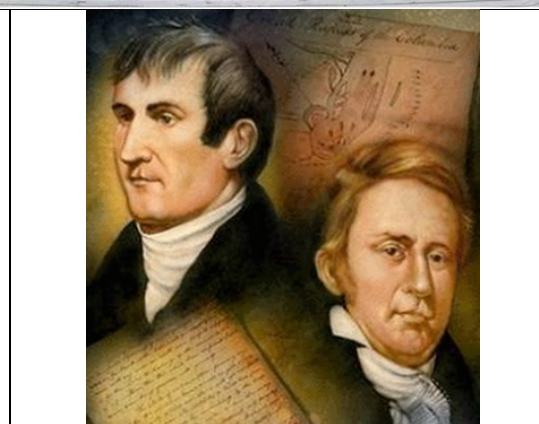
Bratton's duties included hunter, blacksmith, saltmaker. He completed entire journey; discharged October 10, 1806. Settled on farm in Wayne Township 1822; held various county and township offices, including Justice of the Peace.

INSTALLED 2005 INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU, OHIO RIVER CHAPTER OF LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, FOUNTAIN CO. PARK, FOUNTAIN CO. HIST. SOC., PINE VILLAGE LITERARY CLUB, JOHN CULVER, BARBARA HANIFORD, LOUIS & PAULINE MCKEE



William Bratton

My name is William Bratton, and like several other members of the Corps of Discovery, I was born in Virginia and later moved to Kentucky. I am 26 years old, stand over six feet tall, have a square build, and have lived in Kentucky since 1790. I was another of the nine men from Kentucky. I helped the expedition by bringing my skills as a hunter and blacksmith.



William Bratton (1778-1841, Private, U.S. Army)

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark