



## FRIENDS OF THE KAW, INC.

### Wyandotte County

#### Lewis and Clark Task Force

a 501(c)(3) organization

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#### For Immediate Release

**Date:** June 22, 2004

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### Discovery Expedition of St. Charles

#### Direct Descendents of Original Expedition Members

The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Mo., boasts a crew roster of nearly 200 people. Dues-paying members hail from 24 states and range in age from 18 to 80-something. They include teachers, firefighters, police officers, attorneys, dentists, retirees, students, and bed and breakfast owners, among others. Numerous members are veterans of the U.S. military, and some currently serve with the National Guard or Army Reserve.

Scott Mandrell, a nationally recognized living history presenter, will portray Meriwether Lewis for the national Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemoration. He is a teacher at Wydown Middle School in Clayton, Mo., and a former member of the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry "The Old Guard" fife and drum corps.

Two descendents of William Clark are members of the Discovery Expedition: Peyton (Bud) Clark of Dearborn, Mich., and Charles Clark of St. Louis, Mo., who often portrays his ancestor in reenactments.

Bob Anderson of Maryville, Ohio, and his grandson Josh Loftis are direct descendents George Shannon, the youngest member of the original expedition. Anderson was inspired to become a reenactor by the family stories he heard growing up Ohio.

"The Shannons were among the first white settlers in the area," Anderson says. "As a kid, it was always exciting to hear stories about George Shannon. He took off for those years, and the family didn't even know where he was. Then he came back and the stories he told of the expedition were passed down. Lewis told him if he proved himself going down the Ohio River and if Clark approved of him, they'd enlist him and take him along. He was young and eager for adventure, so he went." For more information about the Discovery Expedition, visit their website at [www.lewisandclark.net/](http://www.lewisandclark.net/).

Come and visit the men of the Discovery Expedition, and Seaman the Newfoundland dog, at the Lewis and Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point June 26 through 29. Events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit our website [www.lewisandclarkwyco.org](http://www.lewisandclarkwyco.org) or call 913 721-1078.

**Don't miss this event that has been 200 years in the making!**

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~Wyandotte County Lewis and Clark Task Force~

*Coordinating, creating, and implementing projects and events related to the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Wyandotte County, Kansas*