



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Commemorate the Bicentennial of Lewis and Clark

This fall marks the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark’s momentous cross-country journey of exploration, which led to many scientific, geographical and cultural discoveries for the United States. And it all began in Missouri.

President Thomas Jefferson instructed Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to follow a water route to the Pacific Ocean to map the continent, collect plant and animal specimens and foster relationships with American Indians. In the spring of 1804, the pair embarked, leading a U.S. Army “Corps of Discovery” from the banks of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in St. Louis. The group traveled in a keelboat, which was 55 feet long and 8 feet wide, and two smaller boats. They sailed, rowed and sometimes waded their way along the river, and if they made it 14 miles, it was a good day.

On Sept. 23, 1806, Lewis and Clark brought their two-and-half-year trek to an end upon once again reaching St. Louis soil. A wealth of knowledge about the land and its cultures had been gained. None of the discoveries would have been possible had it not been for the extensive planning and recruitment process that took place pre-embarkment. The exploratory crew made several stops in southeast Missouri during the course of preparation, and one of those was in Cape Girardeau on Nov. 23, 1803.

Lewis wrote about the residents of the town of Cape in his journal, and he described his meeting with Cape community founder Louis Lorimier, who invited Lewis to dine with his family. The dinner was at Lorimier's home,



known as the "Red House," a reproduction of which is now open to the public in Cape Girardeau's downtown on the Mississippi River.

During this same time, Clark journeyed up the river two miles and camped at the site of Old Cape Girardeau, which is today known as Cape Rock Park. Two days later, the exploratory party came to Apple Creek, which was the largest stream they had yet to come to on the Missouri side above the Ohio River. The creek was the northern boundary of the Cape District and had the highest population in the Upper Louisiana area.

The time period during which the Lewis and Clark's transcontinental expedition took place signifies one of the most valuable eras in U.S. history. This is why Missouri as a state and various communities throughout have established commissions to rekindle the spirit of discovery and promote awareness of the expedition's historical significance.

This past session I sponsored a resolution calling for the extension of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, pledging Missouri's support for officially recognizing the eastern portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail. The eastern portion left out of the original trail runs from Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Kentucky along the Mississippi River in southeast Missouri to St. Louis.

Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of Lewis and Clark's travels includes various events, including activities honoring the return of the explorers to Camp River Dubois, the aftermath of their discoveries, and the more than 50 Missouri campsites along the way. If you want to see a landmark in the expedition that is close to home, visit the Red House Interpretive Center, which was built by the Cape Girardeau Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. The Red House hosts an early 1800's exhibit reflecting the lives of the early settlers of the Old Cape Girardeau District. The Red House Interpretive Center is open for visitors every Saturday beginning March 4, 2006 through December 2,

2006 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students.

If you're interested in taking part in any of the historical commemorative events, visit the Missouri Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission online at www.lewisandclark.mo.gov/ or the National Council for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial at www.lewisandclark200.org .

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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