

Discovery and Investigation

of the

Lewis & Clark Campsite (Salmon Fishery)

of

Sgt. John Ordway

May 29-30, 1806

**Steve F. Russell, Ph.D., P.E.
Historic Trails Research
Ames, Iowa
2009**



THE VIEW from the Snake River looking northeast toward Cougar Rapids Bar shows where Steve Russell found the site of an Native American longhouse near Lewiston, Idaho.

Steve Russell Locates Lewis and Clark Expedition Site

Archaeologists believe they have found the Nez Perce Indian village where three members of the Lewis and Clark expedition spent two nights and one day on an ill-fated fishing expedition.

In the spring of 1806, while expedition members were camped along the Clearwater River waiting for mountain snows to melt, Sgt. Ordway was dispatched to fetch salmon from the nearby Salmon River. Historians have speculated over the route that Ordway and Pvts. Robert Frazer and Peter Weise took. But until recently, historians didn't know exactly where the men descended into the lower Salmon River gorge and Hells Canyon or precisely where the Nez Perce village stood.

It was widely understood they left Long Camp near Kamiah and **climbed up** a steep ridge, probably near Susie Creek, to the Camas Prairie. According to Ordway's journal, the men crossed the prairie and descended to a Nez Perce village on the Salmon River. But they arrived ahead of the spring salmon run. So the men and their guide, Chief Twisted Hair, headed for another fishing site and the Nez Perce village on the Snake River.

Steve Russell, a now-retired electrical engineering professor from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and former graduate of White Sulphur Springs High School, and an expert on historic trails, started searching for the route several years ago. He deduced the men likely descended to the Salmon River via a ridge between Deer and Eagle creeks. When they didn't find the fish they were after he thinks they hiked down the Salmon and then up Wapshilla Creek to the ridge of the same name and descended

Cottonwood Creek. From there, he says, they dropped down to Big Cougar Bar.

The topography there matches that described by Ordway in his journal. When Russell flew over the site a few years ago he noticed some depressions on a bench above the bar. He figured that is where the longhouse, also described by Ordway, stood.

This year the archaeologists, led by Ken Reid of the State Historical Preservation Office at Boise, conducted a dig there. They uncovered clues that a longhouse did stand at the site and it was there in the right time frame to match the Ordway trip.

"The dimensions match what Ordway described and the context fits what he said about it," Reid said. "All circumstantial evidence points to it."

Reid and his colleagues found a handful of artifacts that tied the longhouse site to the right era. They include a small bead that is the same kind Lewis and Clark and the fur trappers that **foliowed them** used as trade currency with the Indians. They also found the head of a tack that early explorers and mountain men used to decorate their tools and weapons. Also unearthed was the lid of a tea canister. The canister is dated 1822, some 18 years after Ordway would have been there. But it shows the site was one visited by white people and Reid said the longhouse likely persisted until about 1863, when the tribe signed its second treaty with the federal government and most Indians were moved to the reservation at Lapwai.

"The first 20 years after Ordway would have been the height of the fur trade and a lot of people came through here," said Skip Miller, an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest

Service.

None of the artifacts can be directly linked to Ordway. But Reid points out Ordway and his men only spent two nights and one day there and during this part of their cross-country journey the men were wearing pants and shirts made of buck skin.

"There were no uniform pieces or buttons to lose," he said.

Before Reid and his colleagues unearthed a single scoop of dirt the historians used high-tech equipment to map the small bench where they believed the longhouse once stood. The map allowed them to surgically excavate the site while leaving most of it undisturbed.

"We've been able to keep our excavation very low and disturb as little as possible," said Travis Pitkin, an archaeologist with the historic preservation office,

The equipment measures magnetic charges in the soil and can detect where the ground has been disturbed and where earth has been piled. The high-tech tools also measure the electrical conductivity of the soil. The conductivity changes where soil has been heated from fire. So they were able to produce maps that showed things like the outline of the house, where fire hearths were located and where artifacts like the tin tea canister lid were hidden.

"The whole goal is to take an X-ray vision of the subsurface," said Ken Kvamme, an archaeologist from the University of Arkansas who specializes in the use of geophysics. "It kind of gives the diggers more to work with."

While the archaeologist can't prove for certain the spot near Cougar Bar is the one visited by Ordway, Frazer and Weise say the evidence they unearthed along with the topography of the site makes it a sure bet. That made their trip there a fruitful one.

It was more than Ordway got out of his journey. He and his men traded for salmon there but for some reason didn't cook the fish before returning to Long Camp - a three-day journey. By the time they reached the Clearwater River the meat had spoiled.



ARCHEOLOGISTS WORK on the location of the longhouse visited by members of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Photos by
Steve F. Russell

CAMPSITE PERSPECTIVES

What makes a campsite? What makes an historic campsite? Why do some people enjoy searching for, finding, and exploring historic campsites? Why do so many people enjoy hearing about it? Does it matter in the long scheme of things? I really don't know the answers to these and other questions about the general fascination with Lewis and Clark sites but the salmon fishing camp of Ordway is a good example.

Campsite history might be a good place to start, beginning with the fractures of tectonic plate surfaces and the creation of great rivers like the Salmon and Snake. Years of erosion that are too many to easily comprehend have created the landscape of Hells Canyon and Cougar Rapids Bar. With rivers came water to drink and fish to eat – essential survival items.

Great floods like the Bonneville and the Missoula would certainly qualify as major influences on the selection of a campsite on the river. So would ease of access and availability of food and shelter. Even in recent times, just before the construction of dams on the Snake, spring runoff floods caused great havoc with the lower areas within the canyon walls. Any use of the river in spring or early summer would have to take this into account – especially in the building of a semi-permanent Long House.

The first human inhabitants of this area would quickly learn to adapt to the changing conditions of the river and the methods of accessing food sources and shelter – or they would die!

With all these issues to consider, we come to the last few hundred years and the fishery at Cougar Rapids Bar that existed when Sgt. Ordway visited it, May 29-30, 1806. The location was being used because it was a good place to harvest salmon as early as possible in the spring. It was important enough to have justified the building of a Long House in which several families could live. It had to be high enough above the river canyon to be protected against spring floods. And it would need to have available food sources nearby. How much of the year did people live there and what did they eat?

Places like Cougar Rapids Bar do not often escape modern encroachment and development. The bar has seen much activity in the past 100 years. Homesteaders combed the Salmon and Snake River hills looking for land to scratch out a living and used the bar. There was a sheep camp there for many years. Livestock have grazed the bar and surrounding hillsides for decades, stomping and eroding out historic trails and other artifacts of earlier times.

Given all these things, it seems impossible that we could still discover a site like Ordway's fishing camp. And yet – I'm 99% confident that Cougar Rapids Bar is the place and the pit up on the side hill is the site of the Long House. Perhaps someday, history will prove that this is right.

RESEARCH BEGINNINGS

How did I get involved in the story of Sgt. John Ordway's salmon fishing trip to the Salmon and Snake Rivers? Here is the story.

I began the scholarly portion of my historic trail research on the route of Lewis and Clark (L&C) in 1986. The first effort was concentrated along the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark and expanded to include the L&C route between Lolo and Clark Canyon Dam in Montana. In those early years, I planned to stop the western end of my research at the Weippe

Prairie. But, as the years went by, I gradually expanded the research to include all of the route between Lewiston, Idaho and Clark Canyon Dam, Montana. However, I had not yet considered including the Nez Perce trails followed by Sgt. John Ordway in his search for salmon to supply the expedition needs over the Lolo Trail.

All of this changed during an Idaho State Historical Society Summer Teacher's Institute in July of 1991 when I had a chance to spend most of the day with Merle Wells, the Idaho State Historian. Merle and I discussed my work and length and he pointed out that I was ignoring Ordway's trip – which was true! He explained that the Ordway route had never been adequately researched by him or anyone he knew. He said he was also doubtful of Ordway's campsite locations proposed by John J. Peebles in 1966. This included the proposed salmon fishing camp (May 29-30, 1806) at Wild Goose Rapids on the Snake River.

Merle asked me if I would put my research effort into the Ordway trip and I agreed that I would put a fresh set of eyes and thoughts into the task. After this meeting, Merle and I talked a couple of times on the phone but not about the Ordway route. He sent me a copy of his Lolo Trail, Register of Historic Places, application to review and provide improved accuracy. I decided to concentrate on that. My progress was painfully slow and Merle passed away before my research on either the Lolo Trail or the Ordway route was published. We never again talked about Ordway but I think he would be pleased at what has transpired.

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY METHODOLOGY

The discovery of a campsite is not a simple process. Many factors go into the selection of possible (probable) campsites. Once the possible (probable) sites are chosen, they must be tested somehow and reduced to the most probable site. In the case of Lewis & Clark sites, we don't have the luxury of saying that a given site is 100% correct, not withstanding even a National Historic Landmark designation. I'll attempt to explain my approach to campsite discovery because it is the only approach I know.

My approach to finding campsites has been different from other Lewis & Clark scholars. I first work to find the trail that was traveled and then look for the campsite locations appropriate for the trail location. Lewis and Clark gave many geographic clues in their journals and I take full advantage of these. Ralph Space once told me he thought that was a good approach and the reason for my successes.

I begin my work on any particular segment of the Lewis and Clark Trail by doing an in-depth study of the original journals and maps. Then, I prepare a draft map of the trail courses, distances and various ordered geographic clues from the journals. The use of ordered geographic clues is essential to this work and I spend considerable time insuring that the order is correct. This estimated trail route is then entered into a computer database in preparation for the field work. Next, I study my extensive collection of National Archive maps covering the period 1840-1890 to see if there are any trails documented in the same area as the estimated trail route. If I find some, I correlate them with the computer database and further refine my estimate of the trail location. For example, the Ordway route has some segments in common with the trails used in the 1877 Nez Perce War. At this point, the existence of the tread and its location is in doubt because logging, road building, and ranching activities may have obliterated it in various locations.

The next phase is to do ground truthing through extensive field work. I spend several

weeks each summer traveling the trail and searching for any trail tread segments that may still exist. I map existing trail tread segments using GPS and a GIS database system. Where no tread exists, I use an interpolation method to place the tread along the most topographically probable route between existing tread segments. Finally, I iterate the tread location determined by either the journal data or the ground truthing data until I have determined the trail location as accurately as possible. This end result becomes my final estimate of the trail location. The campsite locations are determined by geographical clues and availability of water, food, and a suitable site that is big enough and not too steep.

The last phase is independent research verification or refutation. Sometime another trail researcher may confirm or dispute my research. It is great when two researchers can agree exactly but it has been my experience that they agree only approximately. In the Lewis & Clark Lost Trail Pass Workshop I participated in several years ago, all researchers chose a different location for the September 3, 1805 camp.

One of the best independent research verifications of a trail or campsite location is to have it investigated and verified with methods of archaeology and geo-science. I feel fortunate that this has happened with the Cougar Rapids Bar site. It is very satisfying and I am grateful to Ken Reid and the large team of people he assembled in 2006 and 2007 to examine the bar and do the excavations, survey, and geophysics necessary to confirm it as the most probable Ordway salmon fishing site.

ORDWAY TRAIL AND CAMPSITE RESEARCH

My field explorations of the Ordway route and campsites finally got started in the late 1990s. I have explored the entire route wherever there is public access or where I got permission from private land owners.

I first explored the route from Kamiah to Wapshilla Ridge without help from others. This is a laborious and primitive process I use to get totally oriented with the land, its topography, and how they relate to the journal accounts. My detailed work began with an investigation of the route across the prairies and across Wapshilla Ridge. Initially, I traveled the length of Lawyer Creek to determine the practicality of the route and compared it to the sparse journal accounts. The journal mileages indicated that they went up on the prairie at Suzie Creek so I received permission from Flying B Ranch (west of Kamiah) to explore that ridge and I talked to the horse wranglers to find out what trails they used as access.

They informed me that the route they often used to get to the prairie above was to go up the ridge to the west of Suzie Creek (it fits the journals). Using the nearest access roads, I traveled the route and eventually determined what was the best topographic locations for the trail according to my knowledge of trail routes. Its location was documented with GPS and GIS.

In the early 2000s, I fine-tuned my estimates of the trail location and campsite locations. For exploring the route from the crossing of Lawyer Creek, through Icicle Flat, and to the head of Deer Creek, I had help from the Ilo-Volmer Historical Society and Dick Southern of Craigmont. Dick provided lodging and transportation while he showed me the old pioneer towns and wagon roads to orient me to some of the uses the country had seen in the last 100 years. I also learned about the extensive system of railroad beds and logging roads. After becoming familiar with the country and its geography, I made several additional trips along the route, recording locations with GPS and GIS.

In July of 2001, I made a 3-day float trip down the Salmon and Snake Rivers with a party led by Chuck Boyd (Salmon River Experience, SRE) and Jim Fazio (University of Idaho Professor and past President of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation). During this trip, I was able to get a good look at the topographic and trail situations at the mouths of Maloney, Deer, Cottonwood, and Big Cougar Creeks. We hiked up the ridge at Maloney and hiked up the creek at Deer Creek. I was able to see from these explorations approximately where the trails were located on the lower ends of these creeks. The float trip also familiarized me with the ease/ruggedness of the route down the north side of the Salmon between Maloney and Wapshilla Creek.

On the Snake River, we stopped at the mouth of Cottonwood Creek and I was able to hike around and search for the trails coming down off of each ridge. I had chosen Cougar Rapids Bar as Ordway's fishing camp but wanted to make sure it was more appropriate than the mouth of Cottonwood Creek¹. Unfortunately, we did not have time to explore Cougar Rapids Bar but I was able to note the topography by observations from the river.

In 2001, I also made an exploratory trip with John Barker, Sam McNeill, and my daughter Rebecca, along Wapshilla Ridge and down Cottonwood Creek. Our group was able to explore the area with off-road vehicles. We went down the upper part of Cottonwood Creek and crossed over the ridge into the Big Cougar Creek drainage. There were several trails in this area but most of them looked like settler trails or cattle trails. I did find some trail segments that headed down the steep ridge system on the south of Big Cougar and toward its mouth. I believe that this is the trail system followed by Ordway. The route is very practical except for the short, and very steep pitch down to the Snake River. This is the trail segment that Ordway called "the worst hills we ever saw a road made down."

In the summer of 2002, using grant support from various sources², John Barker, Sam McNeill (Idaho Department of Fish and Game), and I were able to explore the more difficult and less accessible segments of the route. We made hiking trips using 4-wheel-drive vehicle access to explore the routes at Deer Creek. We also took helicopter flights to explore the entire route from Big Cougar Bar to the top of the ridge east of Maloney Creek.

The view of the trail system from the helicopter was outstanding. We were able to see the faint traces of old trail mixed with cattle trails, mining trails, homesteading trails, and various water ditches. I recorded the various trail waypoints with a hand-held GPS and then transferred the data to the GIS system I used to make the maps. The helicopter also transported us to places where we could hike down the trail route to the Salmon River. I asked the pilot to fly lower and slower at Cougar Rapids Bar because I was seeing what looked like pits that might be the long house site.

On Friday, June 14, 2002, Sam, John and I met at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Region 2 office in Lewiston and set out for Craig Mountain and the Deer Creek area in a Fish & Game 4-wheel-drive. We explored and documented the roads and trails on both ridges above the Deer Creek Mines. I recorded information with the Garmin 12XL GPS. We also hike

¹ Elmer said Cotton

² These grants were for the purpose of documenting the Ordway route to use in a brochure being prepared by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The brochure was printed in July of 2004. Grant support was obtained from the Bonneville Power Administration, Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Committee, and the Idaho State Historical Society.

in to the Deer Creek Mine on the trail used by Ordway. There were two trails leading to the bottom of Deer Creek so we explored both.

On Saturday, we traveled by helicopter from Lewiston to Maloney Creek. We rode the helicopter to where the road to the Fish and Game Cabin and the old Deer Creek Mine makes a sharp switchback. The first hike John and I took was down the west side of Deer Creek from south of the Deer Creek Mine to the mouth of Eagle Creek. We stayed along the side hills on a trail that had been used for homestead access. I later discovered that the true trail was further down the slope of the hill. It was a very hot day and I got very sick³.

For our second hike, we were joined by Eric Barker, outdoors editor for the Lewiston Tribune. The helicopter dropped the three of us off at a lower point on Hoover Ridge where we hiked to the mouth of Deer Creek. On that hike, we could clearly see the old Nez Perce Trail along the side hill on the west side of Deer Creek. Our main goal in exploring Hoover Ridge was to discover where Ordway had crossed over it on May 31st, 1806. We were able to find good tread evidence on the west face of the ridge and just above the mouth of Deer Creek. This route was recorded using GPS and has been transferred to the GIS mapping program.

We took Sunday off but the next week we made a 4-wheel-drive trip down Eagle Creek, down the Salmon River, up to Wapshilla Ridge and back to Lewiston via the Zaza Road. The route between Deer Creek and where Cottonwood Creek canyon reaches Wapshilla Ridge, is the Ordway trail route.

After these field explorations and my extensive GIS research, I was very convinced that my work was correct and that I had found the trail and campsites used by Ordway.

On May 31, 2006, I accompanied a group of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts to the Ordway salmon fishing camp of May 29-30, 1806 for a tour of the site. We took a jet boat from Lewiston to Cougar Rapids Bar at the mouth of Big Cougar Creek. The trip was cost shared among the participants and a grant from the National Park Service to the Winchester Museum. The trip was organized by a working group of volunteers from the Winchester Museum and the Ilo-Volmer Historical Society at Craigmont.

Our tour group explored Cougar Rapids Bar and looked for probable long-house sites. We met a team of archaeologist led by Ken Reid, Idaho State Archaeologist. They were investigating various sites along the river as probably Ordway sites. I took photos of the event and the geographic features of the bar prior to the archaeological dig at the Long House site high on the bar. The switchback trail from Wapshilla Ridge above, came right into the Long House site. It was an amazing experience for me.

In June of 2007, I was invited by Ken Reid to meet the team of scientists working on the Cougar Rapids Bar Long House excavations, survey, and geoscience testing. John Barker transported John Fisher and I to Ken's camp at Cache Creek where we met several people and then proceeded to the Long House site. Ken toured us around the site and explained all that was going on and what they had found (Appendix B describes the results of their work). I am pretty confident that we have found the exact Long House site described by Ordway. I camped with the group at Cache Creek and then departed the next day by hitchhiking on a jet boat back to Lewiston.

³ I had to go to the emergency room in Lewiston and get treated for dehydration and a sinus infection. I felt so bad that it was one of those "please shoot me now" situations.

FIRST PUBLICATIONS OF RESULTS

John Peebles first published a 1966 monograph of the Lewis and Clark Trail in Idaho⁴. He included maps, journal text, and commentary about the trail and campsite locations. His large-scale map of the Ordway route but with such little detail, the campsite locations cannot be determined from the map. In the text on page 31, he includes a paragraph on Ordway. He states, “Figure 5 shows their route west up Lawyers Creek, south along Deer Creek, west up China Creek, and down Coral Creek to the fishery at Wild Goose Rapids.”

I have not studied other publications that may apply to Ordway’s trip and I may be unaware of some that exist.

In July of 2003, I published a research report⁵ (48 pages, 13 maps) detailing my conclusions about the Ordway route and campsites. This report was distributed to the people that supported and cooperated in my efforts as well as the Idaho Fish and Game, the Bureau of Land Management, the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude, the Idaho State Historical Society, and the Library at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Great Falls, Montana.

A large map on an 8-page, fold-out, brochure⁶ was prepared during 2003-04 and distributed to various agencies and historical groups. The brochure has a large map showing Ordway’s route and campsites to a scale that makes it possible to visit the trail and campsites. Narrative in the brochure describes the Ordway trip and provides guidance on how to visit the sites.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE LONG HOUSE SITE

The summer of 2006 was the first season of investigation by a team of archaeologists and supporters led by Ken Reid, Idaho State Archaeologist. That summer, they began a survey of the Snake River, exploring candidate locations for the Ordway salmon fishing camp. Their explorations included Cougar Rapids Bar, and several adjacent bars up and down the river. Since there are historical Indian habitation sites on every bar on both sides of the river, this task was quite time consuming. But in the end, they decided that Cougar Rapids bar was the best site and had a Long House depression that was close to the dimensions given in Ordway’s journal.

In the fall of 2006, Ken Reid of the State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society, and others submitted a proposal to the Governor’s Committee on the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial for a second season of fieldwork at Cougar Bar in 2007. This grant, and other funding sources made it possible to do an extensive investigation and dig at Cougar Rapids Bar and its Long House site.

The second, and final, season of investigation was at Cougar Rapids Bar, from June 4 to

⁴ John Peebles, *Lewis and Clark in Idaho: Trail and Campsites in Idaho*, Idaho Historical Series, Number 16, December, 1966 (out of print).

⁵Russell, Steve F., *Ordway’s Salmon River Fishing Expedition: Research Results for Summer 2002*, HTR Technical Report No. 01A03, Historic Trails Research, Ames, Iowa, July 1, 2003.

⁶ Lewis & Clark Expedition: Sgt. Ordway’s Salmon River Fishing Expedition; Researched and written by Steve F. Russell, Ph.D., Iowa State University; published by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, IDFG Region 2 office, Lewiston, Idaho, July 2004.

June 14, 2007. A group of people with all types of backgrounds, sometimes numbering twenty or more, helped with the explorations, excavations, and scientific measurements conducted at the site. The Idaho SHPO Quarterly Report for April/May/June 2007, reported that “Cougar Bar test excavations, survey, and additional geophysics successfully completed in partnership w/Nez Perce THPO, IDFG, ISU, CWU, WWNF (HCNRA), ISHS.” Future goals for the Idaho SHPO were given as: “Complete collections and feature analysis of 10NP454 (Cougar Bar) site” for the third quarter of 2007.

CONCLUSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

There was little publicity about the Cougar Rapids Bar work in 2006. Ken Reid tried to get news media interested but it did not happen. However, in 2007, the story was picked up by Eric Barker of the Lewiston Tribune and put out as an Associated Press (AP) news release. The story was picked up by many other news media and put out in print and on the Internet. Ken and his colleagues have made several presentations on their work at Cougar Rapids Bar; including a television news special. (See Appendix A and B)

Newspaper coverage.....

This discovery would not have happened without the efforts of many people. Merle prodded me to do the research. The FS bought the land (look up land records). Ken Reid did the archaeology. Etc etc.

2006

State Historic Preservation Office Idaho State Historical Society Quarterly Report July-September 2006. 1) In August Ken met with Nez Perce Tribal Historic Preservation Office staff and with Keith Petersen of the Governor’s Committee on the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial before submitting a proposal for a second season of fieldwork at Cougar Bar in 2007.

2007

Idaho SHPO Quarterly Report January/February/March 2007. **(Planned)** Complete Phase 2 fieldwork at Cougar Bar: 1.) ground-truth intramural geophysics signals in lodge depression; 2.) survey trail tread between Cougar Bar & Wapshilla Bar. **TRAVEL:** Ken, Travis, Suzi to Cougar Bar – Wapshilla Bar in June for fieldwork.

2007

Idaho SHPO Quarterly Report April/May/June 2007. Cougar Bar test excavations, survey, and additional geophysics successfully completed in partnership w/Nez Perce THPO, IDFG, ISU, CWU, WWNF (HCNRA), ISHS. **TRAVEL:** 2nd season at Cougar Bar in Hells Canyon, June 4-15 (Ken and Travis). **3rd quarter goals:** Complete collections and feature analysis of 10NP454 (Cougar Bar) site.

2007

33d Annual IAS Conference, September 30, 2006 at Boise State University.
Dr. Kenneth L. Kvamme from the University of Arkansas opened the conference as the Society’s

distinguished guest speaker. The topic of his presentation was “From the Dakotas to Hells Canyon and Beyond: Archaeological Geophysics on the Lewis and Clark Trail.” His presentation was informative, interesting, and often very funny. Dr. Kvamme specializes in remote sensing and other high tech methods for archaeological prospecting. He worked with State Archaeologist Ken Reid to identify the location of a long house near Cougar Bar in Hells Canyon. The day before the conference, he conducted a hands-on workshop with remote sensing equipment for archaeologists.

2008

Ken (with Morris Uebelacker of Central Washington University) prepared a presentation for a symposium on the Wasden site, and with Ken Kvamme of the University of Arkansas, a summary presentation on the Cougar Bar project, both for the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

2008

Ken (with several coauthors) prepared a presentation on Cougar Bar and one on the Walter Ferry burials for the Northwest Anthropological Conference annual meeting in Victoria, B.C.

2008

Ken took a team that included trustee Earl Bennett, HCNRA archaeologist Skip Miller, and Doug Petcash from Channel 7 into Cougar Bar for a television special to be aired in May. An extramural sediment sample that will help clarify the high levels of calcium carbonate associated with Hearth 1 within the long house was extracted for lab analysis.

2008

SHPO 2nd Quarter Trustees’ Report April-June 2008. Ken co-presented two papers on the historic burials at Walters Ferry and the Sergeant Ordway fishing lodge at Cougar Bar at the Northwest Anthropological Conference in Victoria, B.C.

2008

Kenneth Reid and Kenneth L. Kvamme “‘We Amused Ourselves Showing Them the Power of Magnetism’: Geophysics and the Search for Sergeant Ordway in Hells Canyon, Idaho.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Vancouver, British Columbia, March 29, 2008.

2008

Skip Keith Miller, Ken Reid, Kenneth L. Kvamme, William Jerrems, Morris Uebelacker, Deborah L. Olson, Daryl E. Ferguson “Test Excavations at 10NP464: Ground Truthing the Geophysics Signals for a Corps of Discovery Site in Hells Canyon, Idaho.” Presented at the 61st Northwest Anthropological Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, April 26, 2008.

People and Organizations

Eric Barker, Outdoors Editor, Lewiston Tribune.

John Barker, Barker River Trips, Lewiston, Idaho

Deloris Jungert Davisson, Winchester Museum, Winchester, Idaho.

Daryl E. Ferguson

William Jerrems

Dr. Kenneth L. Kvamme, Field Archaeology, Director of the ArcheoImaging Lab, Professor of Anthropology, University of Arkansas.

Sam McNeill

Skip Keith Miller, Archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

Deborah L. Olson

Kevin Peters, ranger/interpreter, Hells Canyon

Travis Pitkin, Archaeologist with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Dr. Ken Reid

Dr. Steve Russell, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Iowa State University.

Dick Southern, Ilo-Volmer Historical Society, Craigmont, Idaho.

Morris Uebelacker, Field Archaeology, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Geography, Central Washington University

Ilo-Volmer Historical Society

Winchester Museum

Nez Perce Tribe

APPENDIX A.

News article on the discovery and investigation of the Long House site at Cougar Rapids Bar in the Hells Canyon of the Snake River. This article originated with the Lewiston Tribune and was picked up from the AP news by the Moscow-Pullman Daily News.

Corrections to the Article

1. Peter Weiser, not Weise
2. Dr. Steve Russell was at Iowa State University, not the University of Iowa

Moscow - Pullman Daily News
Northwest Weekend 7A
June 23 & 24, 2007

Archaeologists follow trail to Lewis-Clark camp

Associated Press

HELLS CANYON, Idaho — Archeologists have uncovered a Nez Perce Indian village believed to be the site where three members of the Lewis and Clark expedition spent time on an ill-fated fishing trip.

Historians have speculated for years about the route that Sgt. John Ordway and Pvt. Robert Frazer and Peter Weise took when they were sent to fetch salmon for the expedition in the spring of 1806.

The rest of the expedition was camped along the Clearwater River waiting for mountain snows to melt when the three men descended into the lower Salmon River gorge and Hells Canyon. Based on Ordway's journal, historians have suspected the men left Long Camp near Kamiah and climbed a steep ridge to the Camas Prairie before reaching the Nez Perce village on the Salmon River.

The men arrived ahead of the spring salmon run, so they headed for another site on the Snake River, guided by Chief Twisted Hair. The men stayed there a few days, trading for salmon at the new site before making the three-day journey back to the main camp. But for some reason, they forgot to cook the fish before making the return trip, and the meat spoiled before they got back.

Steve Russell, a now-retired electrical engineering professor from the University of Iowa and an expert on historic trails, started searching for the route taken by the men several years ago. He realized that the topography along Wapshilla and Cottonwood creeks and the Big Cougar Bar match that described by Ordway in his journal.

This year, a team of archeologists led by Ken Reid of the Idaho Historical Preservation Office began excavating the site. They found clues that a longhouse — as described by Ordway — did stand there, during the same period that Ordway would have been in

the vicinity.

"The dimensions match what Ordway described and the context fits what he said about it," Reid said. "All circumstantial evidence points to it."

So far, a handful of artifacts have been found at the site, including a small bead like those Lewis and Clark used as trade currency with the Indians. They found the head of a tack that early explorers used to decorate their tools and weapons. And they found the lid of a tea canister, dated roughly 18 years after Ordway's presumed visit. The canister lid shows that the longhouse likely persisted — and was visited by white people — until about 1863, when the tribe signed its second treaty with the federal government and most Indians were moved to the reservation at Lapwai.

"The first 20 years after Ordway would have been the height of the fur trade and a lot of people came through here," said Skip Miller, an archaeologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

Nothing found at the site can be directly linked to Ordway, however. The three explorers are believed to have spent two nights and one day there, and the men were likely wearing deerskin pants and tunics at the time, Reid said.

"There were no uniform pieces or buttons to lose," he said.

The archeologists used special equipment to detect where the ground had been disturbed, where the soil had been heated from fire, and where the earth had been piled. The data allowed them to produce maps that showed the outline of the longhouse and where some artifacts were hidden.

"We've been able to keep our excavation very low and disturb as little as possible," said Travis Pitkin, an archaeologist with the historic preservation office.

Information from: Lewiston Tribune,
www.mtnbune.com.

APPENDIX B.

ARTIFACTS, Volume 23, No. 2, Idaho Archaeological Society, Inc., October 2006

Searching for Sergeant Ordway

**By Ken Reid – State Historic Preservation Office and Intermountain Chapter
& Steve Guerber - Idaho State Historical Society**

An archaeological survey in Hells Canyon has used modern technology to verify the site of the only cultural feature in Idaho that can be linked directly to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Although camping locations used by the Corps of Discovery are known, no specific location had previously been identified where a structure had existed at the time the expedition visited the state some 200 years ago.

The early summer survey during which the discovery was made was coordinated by the Idaho State Historical Society. It all but confirms where three members of the expedition met with members of the Nez Perce Tribe in 1806, while on a "side trip" seeking food. Until now, the exact location was in dispute among historians and expedition buffs.

"There was always the thought that a shallow surface depression overlooking Cougar Bar and the Cochran Islands near the north end of Hells Canyon might be the site of the longhouse settlement mentioned by Sgt. Ordway in his journal," said Dr. Kenneth Reid, state archaeologist and administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office of the ISHS. "We were able to use 21st-century geophysics to confirm the feature was a longhouse."

Technicians were able to produce a detailed floor plan of the longhouse site by comparing contour maps of the site with high-tech imagery generated by remote-sensing equipment, which uses magnetic gradiometry and susceptibility, and electrical resistance and conductivity, for measurements. In May of 1806, Capt. Meriwether Lewis sent Sgt. John Ordway with two companions from the expedition's "Long Camp" near Kamiah back to the Salmon and

Snake Rivers to collect enough salmon to provision the corp's return trip over the Bitterroot Mountains. Ordway's party spent two nights and a day trading salmon with the Nez Perce at the site.

According to Dr. Reid, survey results show a lodge depression that matches Ordway's description of a longhouse at the location, with a central row of hearths running down the middle like a row of buttons on a blouse. The positioning, shape and size of the mapping show dimensions that match Ordway's description. The overall patterns of construction conform closely to descriptions of other Nez Perce longhouses provided by Lewis and Clark, and other expedition members in their journals.

The survey was funded by a grant from the Idaho Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee and took place over a two-week period, which coincided with the bicentennial of Ordway's late-May arrival in Hells Canyon.

A team of archaeologists and volunteers assembled by the ISHS for the project included representatives of Wallowa-Whitman and Salmon-Challis National Forests, Central Washington University, Idaho State University, the Archaeo-Imaging Lab at the University of Arkansas, and private firms Idaho Power Company, Kleinfelder, Inc., and Rain Shadow Research, Inc.

Dr. Reid said subsurface testing to "ground truth" the survey's findings are now being planned in cooperation with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Exact location of the site is being withheld by the U.S. Forest Service in an effort to reduce the potential for unauthorized digging and other exploration related to searches for possible artifacts.

Appendix C.
Courtesy of KTVB.com

“Archaeologists Find First Physical Link in Idaho to Lewis & Clark in Hell's Canyon”

Artifacts, Idaho Archaeological Society, Inc. Volume 25, No. 2, October 2008, (See Artifacts Volume 23, No. 2 (Fall 2006) and Volume 24, No. 2 (Fall 2007) for related stories)

It's an important and intriguing discovery deep in the heart of Hell's Canyon. Archaeologists believe they found a tangible link to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Along a stunningly beautiful stretch of the Snake River sit the ruins of a centuries old Nez Perce fishing village.

Archaeologists discovered something there that concerns just two days in May of 1806, and a visit by three members of the Lewis and Clark expedition. As we found out, one house in the village may have served as the first ever bed and breakfast in Hell's Canyon. The Nez Perce tribe lived here - thrived here - for centuries. "You're living within an area that provides you your life from the water and the fish on up to the top of the ridges, all of your food is on the hills," said ranger/interpreter Kevin Peters. The Nez Perce had everything they needed, and the Lewis and Clark expedition needed what the Nez Perce had... salmon.

On their way back home in May of 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition camped near Kamiah waiting for the snow to melt in the Bitterroot Mountains. Meriwether Lewis sent Sergeant John Ordway and two other men to the Snake River on this route to trade for salmon with the Nez Perce - food needed for their mountain crossing. Ordway wrote about the side trip in his journals. "We passed a large lodge and descended the worst hills we ever saw a road made down," the journals read. And their arrival in the village. "At length they invited us in, spread robes for us to sit on, and set roasted salmon before us and some of their white bread which they call uppah. This lodge is a hundred feet long and 20 feet wide and all in one."

State Archaeologist Dr. Ken Reid with the Idaho State Historical Society headed the project to investigate this site at Cougar Rapids Bar. "This is the depression of the lodge right in front of us, and this is the slope where they were probably waiting while the fish was being prepared," said Dr. Ken Reid. Using high-tech instruments to look below the surface, Dr. Reid's team mapped the rim of the multi-family home and the hearths, or fireplaces, running down the middle. Dr. Reid and his team dug small test pits in the hearth and the raised mound on one side of the house, and found artifacts - with carbon dates back to the early 1800s.

They found half of a blue glass bead, two brass tacks, and a tiny arrowhead. This evidence combined with Ordway's journal descriptions of the village, plus other research on the possible routes to the Snake River, make Dr. Reid very confident this is where Ordway and his men stayed two nights trading for salmon.

Dr. Reid says they know of Lewis and Clark campsites in Idaho, but nothing remains of them - no physical traces. This is the only place that has a structure associated with it - a footprint left behind. "We did not have until this project any actual sites that we could pinpoint to specific days and specific people of the Lewis and Clark expedition," Reid said. "It's a double pleasure to find an archaeological site that is still pretty much intact in a setting that's intact."

Hell's Canyon... a harsh place, a bountiful place, for the Nez Perce hundreds of years ago... and for modern day archaeologists. Despite the importance of the trip to Idaho history, its importance to the Lewis and Clark expedition ended up being pretty minor. That's because most the 17 salmon the Ordway party traded for spoiled before they got back to the main camp.

PHOTOS