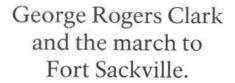


Walk with History





A companion journal for walking in your community. Feb. 5 through July 4, 2004



Presented by:

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park 401 S. 2nd St. Vincennes, IN 47591 (812) 882-1776 http://www.nps.gov.gero

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www.vincennescvb.org

George Rogers Clark 225th Anniversary Committee

George Rogers Clark and approximately 175 American and French volunteers marched across the flooded prairies of Southern Illinois during the winter of 1779. This arduous journey led to their destination of Vincennes and the British Fort Sackville. The battle that followed resulted in the capture of this key frontier post and ultimately would result in the British surrender of the Northwest Territory. For these men however, it was a daily struggle just to stay alive.

Much of what is known about the trip comes from a journal kept by Capt. Joseph Bowman. Though many entries were only one line, he was descriptive. This gives the reader an understanding of what drove this group and of the hardships they faced. The other written account comes from Clark himself. Though written approximately 10 years after the march it also provides vital information about the journey.



You now are invited to join Lt. Col. George Rogers Clark and, his right hand man, Captain Bowman on this heroic march. As you walk in your community; whether at a park; along your road; or on your favorite trail, you are asked to keep a journal of your walk just as Capt. Bowman did. You may want to include such information as who you are with, where you walk, weather conditions, and interesting things you see or do.

Throughout this booklet quotes from Bowman and Clark are matched with approximate mileage. As you add up the miles you can read about the progress of Clark's men as they also reached this point in their journey.

Instructions:

As you progress through the booklet you will find information and quotes on the left hand side while the right hand side contains open space. You are invited to keep your journal and mileage tallies on the right.

Each page has a mileage tally which represents the number of miles you are to record on that page. At the top of each right hand page is a mileage count for the start of the page and a mileage count for the end of the page. When you reach the ending number of miles - turn the page and continue your journal in the next section.

This journal must be completed between Feb. 5 and July 4, 2004. When you have walked a total of 157 miles, bring your journal to the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park visitor center located at 401 South 2nd St., Vincennes, IN to receive your patch. The visitor center is open from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Mile 0 through mile 17	Total thi	s page 17
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles
Feb. 28 - Walked with Sally and Bill		
around Gregg Park. The weather		
was cold but sun shining no one else		
at the track.	2	2
March 1 - walked on road near		
home. Dog chased me past Sam's		
house.	2	4
March 2 - Warm for March. Went		
to Ouabache Trails and hiked to		
river. Forest is very open without		
the leaves on the trees.	4	8
-110-00-00-0		
	+	

Town of Kaskaskia - Presently under the Mississippi River - 3 p.m., February 5 About forty miles south of St. Louis, MO

Father Gibault was there, to absolve the troops and address them in the glowing words the occasion naturally inspired.

Fathers and mothers, sisters and lovers turned out to bid adieu...maybe for the last time.

Because of the late afternoon start, the little army marched just a couple miles after ferrying across the Kaskaskia River.

Mile 3

Two miles east of the Kaskaskia River
- Present-day Randolph County, IL
Evening of February 5 to early February 7

Clark arranged the first camp close to the last place of supply. This made it easier to send soldiers back for anything which may have been forgotten.

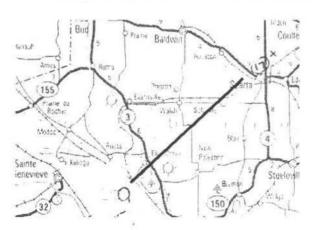
Mile 17

Present-day Sparta in Randolph County, IL February 7

"Made a good march of about nine hours." Bowman

"The road very bad with mud and water." Bowman

It was cold and drizzling rain, which caused much discomfort.



Mile <u>0</u> through mile <u>17</u> Total this pag		is page 17
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles

Present-day Coulterville in Randolph County, IL February 8

"From the flatness of the country the water rests a considerable time before it draws off." Bowman

"Notwithstanding our men were in great spirits, tho much fatigued."
Bowman

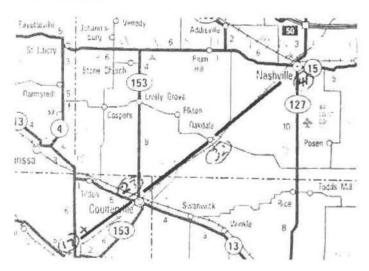
Mile 44

Present-day Nashville in Washington County, IL February 9

"Made another day's march." Bowman

"Fair part of the day." Bowman

That February of 1779 saw such warm weather that in Vincennes, Lt. Gov. Henry Hamilton wrote,"... the Peach trees are in bloom and the Apple trees are in bud."



Daily miles	s page 27 Total miles
	1

Present-day Walnut Hill in Jefferson County, IL February 10

"Crossed the river of the Petit Fork upon trees felled for that purpose. The water being so high there was no fording it." Bowman

"Still raining and no tents." Bowman. They had to leave their baggage back on the west side of the swollen stream.

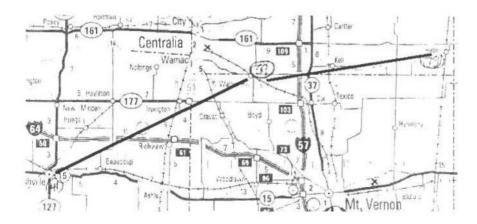
"Stormy weather." Bowman

Mile 78

Present-day Helm in Marion County, IL February 11

"Crossed the Saline River. Nothing extraordinary this day." Bowman

To put the last statement into perspective, these frontier hunters lived with the elements of nature on a daily basis throughout their lives. Walking miles in freezing water and sleeping on the ground was just business as usual...up to a point... as you will see later in the journey.



Mile 44 through mile 78 Total t		Total this page 34 Daily Total	
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles	
×	-		
	-		

Present-day Cisne in Wayne County, IL February 12

They spent the day slogging across Long Prairie and Six Mile Prairie.

A hunting party "killed a number of buffalos"...yes...in present-day Illinois! Bowman

The rain had stopped but not the mud.

"The men much fatigued...it was late in the night before the troops and baggage got together." Bowman

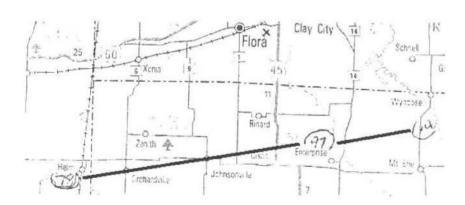
Mile 106

Present-day Wynoose in Wayne County, IL February 13

The exhausted patriots arrived early at the western bank of the Little Wabash River. It was three miles further to the Fox River and all under water from two to four feet deep.

"This would have been enough to have stop'ed any set of men that was not in the same temper that we was." Clark

Clark assigned a detail of skilled woodsmen to fashion a large pirogue (a canoe hollowed from a tree trunk).



Mile 78 through mile 106 Total this pa Notes/Journal Daily Total		s page 28
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles

Present-day east boundary of Wayne County, 1L February 14

"Finished the canoe and put her in the river about 4 o'clock in the afternoon." Bowman

"I acted as though crossing the water would be only a piece of divertion..." Clark

"...the men ware well prepared for this attempt as they had frequently waided farther in water..." Clark

"...all ideas of retreat would in some measure be done away with."

Clark

Mile 111

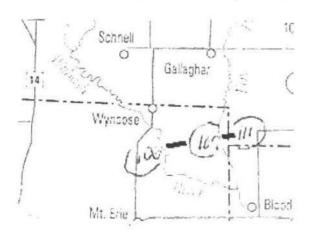
Present-day corner of Wayne, Richland, and Edwards counties, IL February 15

"Ferried across the two Wabashes, it being then five miles in water to the opposite hills...Still raining. Orders not to fire any guns, for the future, but in case of necessity." Bowman

Some men were assigned the task of building wooden platforms above the water for baggage.

The officers' "horses swam across and received their loads at the scaffold..." Clark

"Our vessel was loaded with those who were sickly..." Clark



Mile 106 through mile	111 Total t	Total this page 5	
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total	
		V	

Present-day Helena in Lawrence County, IL February 16

"Marched all day through rain and water." Bowman

"Our provisions began to be short." Bowman

It seems the wildlife had taken to the hills, depriving the troops of a ready supply of food.

"We were now as it were in the enemies country-no possibility of a retreat if the enemy should discover and overpower us..." Clark

Mile 138

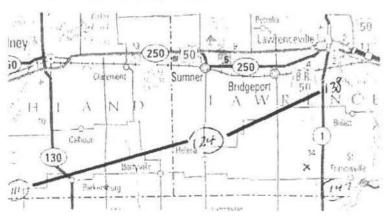
Present-day south of Lawrenceville and Billett, IL February 17

"Marched early. Crossed several runs, very deep." Bowman

"About an hour by sun we got near the river Embarras. Found the country all overflown with water. We strove to find the Wabash." Bowman

They waded south along the west bank of the Embarras... "till eight o'clock...but could find no place to encamp on. Still kept marching on." Bowman

"We found the water falling from a small spot of ground; staid there the remainder of the night. Drizzly and dark weather." Bowman



Mile 111 through mile 138	Total thi	s page 27
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles

Present-day Billett to St. Francisville, IL February 18

"At break of day heard Governor Hamilton's morning gun." Bowman

As the crow flies they were only six miles from Vincennes but it was too deep and too wide to ford.

"Set off and marched down river... About 2 o'clock came to the bank of the Wabash." Bowman

"Made rafts for four men to cross and go up to town and steal boats." They returned downcast at finding "not one foot of dry land", and no boats. Bowman

Mile 147

Present-day St. Francisville, IL February 19

The ragged troops woke up with the same empty stomachs they fell into exhaustion with the night before.

"Captain McCarty's company set to making a canoe." Bowman

A third outing in the newest water-craft found no way across the four miles of freezing rivers.

"Many of the men cast down, particularly the volunteers. No provisions of any sort, now two days. Hard fortune!" Bowman



Mile 138 through mile 147 Total this p		nis page 9	
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles	

Present-day St. Francisville, IL February 20

The 50-foot "galley" named "the Willing", which carried food, cannon, dry gunpowder and 46 men that Clark had sent via the rivers from Kaskaskia, did not arrive as planned. Clark

"Some almost in despair. Many of the Creole volunteers talking of returning." Bowman

A canoe was found and a deer killed. "Very acceptable." Bowman

At noon, five French-Canadians from Vincennes were brought to camp. They told Clark that the people of that town were well disposed toward the Americans. They said Hamilton had the same number of troops (80) that Francis Vigo had reported three weeks earlier.

Mile 149

High grounds in present-day Knox County, IN February 21

"At break of day began to ferry our men over in our two canoes to a small hill..." Bowman

They were finally on Indiana "soil."

"The whole army being over, we thought to get to town that night, so plunged into the water sometimes to the neck." Bowman

They found another hill some miles further.

"Rain all this day-no provisions." Bowman



Mile 147 through mile 149 Total this Notes/Journal Daily T		nis page 2
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles
	*	

Mile 152 Sugar Camps February 22

"Marched on in the waters." Bowman

Those who were weak and famished...went in the canoes.

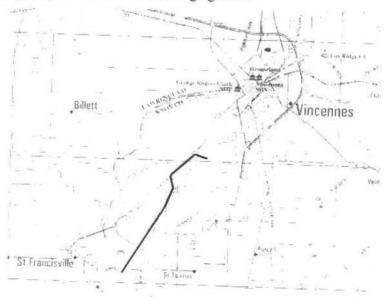
"We came one league (3 miles) farther to some sugar camps where we staid the night. Heard the evening and morning guns from the fort. No provisions yet. Lord help us!" Bowman

Mile 155 Warrior's Island February 23

The weather turned much colder. Ice formed along the mud-island the troops were camped upon. Some of the soldiers woke up frozen to the ground where they slept.

Desperate measures were called for to keep the army intact. As they waded back into the freezing waters Clark called to his trusted Captain Bowman. He ordered him "to fall to the rear with his best 25 men and put to death any man that refused to march - that we wished to have no such person among us." Clark

They grimly marched to the next high ground.



Mile 149 through mile 155	Total this page 6 Daily Total	
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles
	-	

Mile 157 Fort Sackville 8 p.m., February 23

George Rogers Clark had finally gotten his troops to a place where they "ware now in full view of the fort & town and not a srub between" them and their goal. "Every man now feasted his eyes and forgot that he had suffered anything..." Clark

The totally spent frontier band of brothers had at last come to the point where they must display their abilities as soldiers no matter how tired, frozen, or starving...

...and the rest is history!





Mile 155 through mile 157	Total this page 2	
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles
- 16 (Feb. 17) - 18		

	Extra	log page
Notes/Journal	Daily miles	Total miles
		-
*		-
		-
		1

MY DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN, it if with the most profound
pleasure that I inform you and do hereby
certify that

has traverfed 157 miles and has maintained a journal throughout the experience. I further acknowledge that this feat was accomplished between the dates of February 5 and July 4, 2004. And that the named individual has completed all other requirements necessary to earn the honor of being included and recognized as one of Clark's allies for the 225th anniversary of the surrender of Fort Sackville.

Given	under in	my h	nand year	on th Two	is (Thoufa	day of nd and
four.						

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Park Ranger