

Agreeable to drink: The third leg retracing the Dunbar-Hunter expedition on the Ouachita River
December 26th – 31st, 2007

By

Ed R. Williams,

President: Early Arkansas Reenactors Association (EARA) & Captain: Keelboat *Aux Arc*.

Introduction



Aux Arc at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

“...The water of this river is extremely agreeable to drink and much clearer than that of the Ohio; in this respect it is very unlike its two neighbours the arcansa and red rivers...” (Berry, Beasley, & Clements, 2006 p. 42) So reports William Dunbar on Monday, November 5th, 1804. By mid-afternoon the on next day the expedition had reached modern day Monroe, Louisiana. During this 2007 retracing trip, the *Aux Arc* crew did not drink the waters of the Ouachita River, but they did enjoy the beauty and serenity of the landscape, the daily sunrises & sunsets, the stars at night, the camaraderie of each other, and the wonderful people of Louisiana.

The trip this year was completed by Ed “Dr. Creekwalker” Williams, Laurine “Rubbing Bubbles” Williams, Mary Alexander (aka, Harry Von Slackard), Harvey Alexander (aka, Pvt. Skumm), Andrew “Moses” Downs, Robert Rogers, Bob Rogers, Tim Richardson, Earl Harrell (aka, Didymus Houston), Robert Carroll, and Larry Layne, Esq. In addition, Chuck “Tripod” Martin joined the keelboat crew for a Friday afternoon trip. Finally, EARA members Michael Bethea and Norajean “Medicine Women” Harrell joined the trip for a daylong event at Monroe, Louisiana. Our thanks to the Switzer brothers (Bruce & Ovid) for the chili supper on Wednesday night, the Hobson brothers (Bobby & Ronnie) for letting us camp at their RV park on Thursday night, the City of Monroe for letting us camp at Forsythe Park Friday & Saturday night and helping with the press release, to the Concordia Sentinel, Monroe News Star, Shreveport and Bossier City Newspapers, and the two TV stations in Monroe for the press coverage, and the Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, for letting us stay at Bawcomville recreation area on Sunday night.



Visitors on the *Aux Arc* at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Dunbar-Hunter Expedition of 1804-1805

The William Dunbar and George Hunter expedition explored and officially documented the Ouachita River from the confluence of the Ouachita, Black, and Mississippi rivers to the hot springs located in present day Hot Springs, Arkansas. In addition to Dunbar-Hunter; servants, slaves, family (i.e., George Hunter's son), and a complement of soldiers left St Catherine's landing south of Natchez in mid October 1804 and by mid November had arrived at current day Monroe, Louisiana. At Monroe, the original vessel was stored and a vessel with a shallower draft was leased. The expedition arrived near the hot springs in early December, spent the next four weeks making scientific studies and notations, and left the first week of January 1805. The expedition exchanged boats at Monroe and arrived back at Natchez by early February 1805. Official reports of this expedition were the first look at the Louisiana Purchase.

Retracing Dunbar-Hunter 2007

62 miles from Finch Bayou Recreation Area to Prairion Recreation Area

Tuesday, December 25th, 2007

Mary & Harvey Alexander arrived in Little Rock at 9:30 PM on a flight via Schenectady, New York. Preliminary loading of Ed's truck with cooking gear, wood water barrels, water jugs of 22 gallons total, tents, poles, stakes, swivel gun & accouterments, and food was completed. A follow-up phone call to Bob Rogers, Fort Worth, Texas, reviewed meetings times for the next day. Plans were for all to converge on Finch Bayou Recreation Area, located about 10 miles southeast of Marion, Louisiana at 3 PM on Wednesday.



Andrew Downs: Photo by Tim Richardson



Larry Layne at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Wednesday, December 26th, 2007

After packing the gear from the Mary & Harvey and Earl Harrell into the truck, at 10 AM, Ed and Earl headed for Chuck Martin's house to hook up to the keelboat. Judy and Andrew Downs arrived at Ed's house at 9:30, with plans to follow Laurine down to Finch Bayou. Since, Ed and Laurine do not have a vehicle that holds more than two people. Laurine switched her Miata for the son-in-laws' Mazda 3. Thus this portion of the caravan included two cars and a truck. Earl and Ed left Chuck's with the keelboat in tow at 11:30 AM. Since Chuck lives in northern Pulaski County, the plan was to meet up with the other two cars at Sheridan, Arkansas. The remaining crew from Arkansas, Tim Richardson and Robert Carroll, were to meet at Larry Layne's house in rural Grant county and take one vehicle, Tim's, to Finch Bayou. A call to the Layne's house indicated that this group had also left at 11:30 AM and given the distance, were an hour ahead of the group leaving from Pulaski County. Earl and Ed met up with Laurine and Judy in the outskirts of Sheridan, Arkansas.

It began raining at about noon and continued raining hard for about two hours, turning then to drizzle. Tim arrived at Finch Bayou at 2:30 PM, with Bob and Robert Rogers arriving shortly after 3:00 PM, and the final three vehicles arriving at 3:30 PM. Ovid & Bruce Switzer (with Ovid's chili makin' trailer), plus David Cathy & John Creach had already arrived, had setup a tarp, started a fire, and were cooking chili. Prior to supper we set up two tents.

Since the ground was saturated from the rain, we looked for the highest ground without fire ants. We did have a very short discussion as to whether fire ants were active in the cold and rain. A kick into one of the mounds answered that question, yes. The highest and driest ground was a platform mound where the toilets were located. We setup Andrew Down's tent for himself and Ed's large wedge tent for seven folks (Harvey, Mary, Ed, Laurine, Bob, Robert, and Earl). Since Tim had a crew cab truck, Tim, Larry, and Robert Carroll choose to sleep in Tim's truck. In a small way of gratitude to the Switzer brothers, Laurine had stopped on the way down and purchased a bottle of 101 Wild Turkey and green label Jack Daniels as gifts for the two brothers and these were presented just before we ate. We had also unloaded from the truck items which rain would not damage (e.g., water barrels) in preparation for tomorrow's trip. Ed slept next to the tent door that night and was only stepped on once by folks headed to the toilet. The ground was soft, in fact during the entire trip not a single rock was found in our way of sleeping. The soft sandy ground did help.



Tim Richardson at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp



Chuck Martin at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Thursday, December 27th, 2007

Very early in the morning at least two barges passed the recreation area, at what sounded like full throttle. No problem for all to awake up early. Ed arose and was dressed by 6:00 AM to clean out the keelboat cabin of oars, tiller, sail, life jackets, etc. to prepare for the trip and to access the bilge. There was about 2" of water in the bilge from the previous day's rain. Ed was soon joined



Andrew Downs at the tiller with Robert Rogers: Photo by Tim Richardson

by Laurine, Bob, and Andrew to help pump and sponge out the bilge. Bob started the two historically correct charcoal braziers to cook breakfast. The remaining crew from the toilet mound packed up their gear and broke camp. Breakfast was bacon and oatmeal. Judy Downs had spent the night in Monroe and joined us around 7:30 to help load the keelboat and see us off. We stepped the mast and launched the keelboat *Aux Arc*, leaving Finch Bayou Recreation Area at 9:05 AM (air temp – 44 degrees, water temp – 43 degrees).

We had two rowing teams, A & B. Team A was Tim, Larry, Robert Carroll, and Harvey Alexander. Team B was initially Ed, Bob, Earl, and Andrew. However, we had several folks at the helm to steer the *Aux Arc*, but the main duties fell to Andrew and Robert Rogers. Both did an excellent job pointing the *Aux Arc* in straight lines, cutting across bends in the river, and not wasting the energy and time of the rowers. Special thanks to Harvey and Bob in guiding these two tillermen. Thus, Mary and Laurine filled in for Andrew on Team B and for others folks on Team A. We stuck to the plan of each team rowing an hour then off an hour. Earl did take a triple shift on Friday of the trip and has not been the same. Since we had two Roberts on the crew it was decided to name Robert Carroll, "Robert the Older" and Robert Rogers, "Robert the Younger." Throughout the trip, both teams were entertained by Laurine playing the penny whistle and Mary & Bob singing songs and telling stories.



Mary & Harvey Alexander at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Robert the Older had brought his GPS and it indicated that the Ouachita River had a current running at a 2.5 mph. Thus, this not only made rowing easier, but also, increased our ground speed to a steady 5 mph. We had about 15 river miles to travel to the boat ramp at Sterlington, Louisiana. The plan was to stop at the ramp, tie off, and talk with the town folks that had come down to see us. We had a cookie break mid-morning and for lunch we had crackers smeared with cream cheese, hard sharp cheddar cheese,

bananas, oranges, apples, and some very fine dry cured sausage brought by the Mary & Harvey from a German meat store in Schenectady, New York. As we neared Sterlington, Ed shot off three rounds from the swivel gun, the last shot within sight of the ramp. We arrived at the ramp around 1:15 PM and stayed about two hours. In all, about 150 people came down to see the *Aux Arc* and to talk with the crew.

Sterlington Mayor Vernon Breland had published an article about the *Aux Arc* in the town's weekly newsletter. The Monroe newspaper was there and shot a video of the *Aux Arc* coming in. They also shot a bunch of still shots, and interviewed Tim and Ed (<http://www.thenewsstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712280313>). Channel 10 from Monroe arrived and shot an interview with Tim, but Tim later said he ran down the camera battery (<http://www.region10.com/news.php?id=5308>). In addition to this press coverage we also had a full page article the previous week in the Concordia Sentinel (<http://www.concordiasentinel.com/print.php?story=113>), an article in the Shreveport and Bossier City newspapers (<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071227/NEWS01/712270330/1002/NEWS>) and the Daily Advertiser of Lafayette, Louisiana (<http://www.theadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=DI&Date=20071227&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=712270802&Ref=PH&Params=Itemnr=1>).



Ed & Laurine Williams at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Several folks brought pictures of the first lock and spillway at Sterlington and Andrew sold the Mayor a railroad spike tomahawk he had hand forged. A lady told us that the descendents of Don Juan (Jean-Baptiste) Filhiol, who owned Fort Miro at modern day Monroe and was granted large tracts of land, had a number of Filhiol possessions, including a small cannon and his writing desk. After about two hours we cast off and traveled additional mile downstream to an RV Park owned by the Hobson brothers (Bobby and Ronnie) arriving at about 4:00 PM.

There was a boat ramp, but no dock,

so we tied up to the shore. Several townspeople followed us down in their vehicles and also some new folks came down to view the *Aux Arc* and talk with us. These folks warned us that a line of thunder storms was to arrive later in the evening. The Hobson (Bobby & Ronnie) brothers came down to welcome us and to show us where the bathrooms were located. Bob, our cook for the trip, cooked us a supper of potato soup with a side vegetable of fried cabbage and sausage. After supper, Tim broke out a package of this year's fruit cake made by Karol Wheat and a jug of homemade blueberry wine made by Mark Hoelzeman. Ronnie Hobson brought us down some firewood for a campfire and later came back



Robert Carroll at Sterlington, LA: Photo by

<http://www.nelamoms.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=DI&Date=20071228&Category=NEWS01&ArtNo=712280802&Ref=PH&Params=Itemnr=11>

with his grandson to see if we had in fact started a fire as his brother Bobby asserted that the firewood was too wet to start. Harvey, Bob, Earl, and Robert the Younger had the fire started and while not the hottest due to the wet wood, the fire did give us some comfort for the early evening.



Bob & Robert Rogers at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth Camp

Kind reader, you may have noticed in the *Introduction* that several crew members have names in quotations or aka and these additional names are bestowed upon folks as a result of some outrageous behavior, a unique occupation that defines who they are, or a peculiarity of their personality. Thursday night one of our crew members was bestowed a camp name. Andrew got the camp name of "Moses." The afternoon we got in at the RV Park Andrew took it upon himself to find a better flag staff for the American flag mounted on the rudder, as the one we had at times

allowed the flag to dip in the water. Bob had first replaced the staff at Finch Bayou and that proved as did the original staff to be too short. Andrew did a great job in getting the staff and flag installed, great initiative on his part. In addition to the flag staff Andrew had cut a large staff for himself (later informed this was ironwood). By that time it was after dark and Andrew walk up to the campfire stretched out his arms, with the staff in hand, in the firelight, and proclaimed in his best Charlton Heston voice, "Let my people go." We all looked in shock at this figure shrouded in the fog and firelight and someone proclaimed "It's Moses." We setup up another tent, in preparation for the rain, to store items we did not want to get wet and Andrew decided to sleep in the *Aux Arc* cabin, so we had two tents setup, seven in one and three in the other. The rain did come, stating at 11 PM, with the thunderstorms soon after. Sleeping in a tent you can clearly see the flashes of lightening and count out to see how close the storm is. At one point, there was a flash and boom simultaneously and it appeared that a sun had appeared overhead.



Norajean Harrell at Monroe, LA: Photo by Worth



Earl Harrell rowing: Photo by Tim Richardson

Friday, December 28th, 2007

The rain abated in the early morning and we all stirred by 7:00 AM. Cooking pots left out indicated a good 2" of rain and of course there was 2" of rain in the bilge. Larry pumped and sponged out the bilge. Only the tents were wet, all else stayed dry. The braziers were fired up with coffee, bacon, and oatmeal with dried nuts and fruit for breakfast. In spite of the rain and wet canvas we did not leave that late, 9:30 AM (air temp – 49 degrees, water temp – 49 degrees). We had about 22 river miles to travel to Monroe. B team began the day rowing and the Ouachita River current was still at least 2 mph. The winds began to shift from due north to northwest and at times from the west resulting in the crew raising and lowering the sail as the keelboat turned away and into the wind. We were in phone contact with Michael as to their progress in making it down to Moon Lake, a Corps of Engineers ramp on the east side of the Ouachita River. During our trip down to Monroe we saw lots of buzzards, ducks, a fox, a coyote, and a deer swimming across the Ouachita River about 300 yards in front of the *Aux Arc*. We had cookie breaks both mid-morning and afternoon and picked up Chuck at Moon Lake at 1:00 PM. We had to first fight a strong headwind then wind abeam and then a swirling tail wind to get out of Moon Lake. Again as we approached Monroe, Ed fired off the swivel gun three times. As we pulled in sight of Forsythe Park we saw that Norajean Harrell had already setup her tent and the smoke of her cooking fire was visible. Arriving at 4:30 PM, there were about 2 dozen folks to welcome us to Monroe and the Park. We set up two tents and settled in for a supper of pea soup, bread, and cookies. The Park lights were on all night and cast a rather eerie glow onto the tent. All were tired after the long day. Earl and his wife Norajean settled into her tent, with six folks in the large tent, three in the medium wedge tent, and Andrew in the keelboat cabin.



Michael making rope at Monroe, LA: Photo by Ed Williams

Saturday, December 29th, 2007

Michael came by at 7 AM to pickup Tim, Ed, Laurine, and Bob to drive back to Finch Bayou Recreation Area to get our vehicles. We arrived back at Forsythe Park at 9:30 AM. The educational program was to run from 10:00 AM to 4 PM. At 10:00 AM Ed counted 125 people either on the dock or in the camp area. It was estimated that about 1,500 people came to visit us that day. Tim had set up shop to demonstrate the various measurement instruments used in the early 19th

century, (e.g., sexton) and also gave talks about the natural resources in the Ouachita River valley, and the scientific experiments Dunbar-Hunter expedition performed at the hot springs located in today's Hot Springs, Arkansas. Larry talked about hunting in the early 19th century, Michael had his rope making machine setup and making rope with the kids, Chuck demonstrated the various firearms used on the keelboat (e.g., blunderbuss). Mary and Laurine talked with people about music, living history, and life on the river. Norajean demonstrated and talked about camp cooking, Ed and Harvey talked about the swivel gun and shot off blank rounds every half

hour. Bob, Robert the Younger, Robert the Older, and Andrew gave tours of the *Aux Arc*. The entire crew was busy and engaged the entire day. In addition, a fellow reenactor from the Ruston, Louisiana, John Colvin, came over to help us out. David Cathy and his daughter Maggie, both who met us at Crossett last year and David helped with the chili supper this year, and Worth Camp, who went on a special errand for us at Calion, Arkansas during the first trip, came by to see us. We had a fine lunch of roast chicken, crackers with cream cheese and oysters, fruit, and of course cookies. Two relatives of George Hunter, Dorothea Girault Garrett and her nephew Shepard Girault Montgomery, came down to see us. Shepard or Shep is from Jackson, Mississippi and Mrs. Garrett, interestingly enough, has a sister that lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, a Mrs. R. C. Limerick. After the trip, Ed asked Shep to review his lineage to George Hunter and Shep replied:



Phoebe Hunter: Photo supplied by Shep Montgomery

“Dr. Hunter was my fourth great-grandfather on my mother's side - I think that is the correct way to put it. My great great grandfather, John Frances Girault (1821-1889) was married to Caroline Proctor Laidlaw (1831-1887). Caroline's mother was Phoebe Georgiana Hunter (1794-1878), the daughter of Dr. Hunter and Phoebe Mary Bryant, who had seven children altogether. I am 'doubly related' to Dr. Hunter through another daughter of Dr. Hunter, Deborah Starr Hunter (born 1798, Philadelphia). Her daughter, Deborah Bennett (1832-1911), was the mother of Carmelite Lesassier (1859-1933) my maternal great-grandmother. Apparently, the Hunter and Girault families of New Orleans knew each other well in the post 1815 period, as there is at least one other marriage on record between the families, Ann Mary Girault (1797-1819) and George Heriot Hunter (1789-1831), who accompanied Dr. Hunter on the expedition.

Children of Dr. Hunter and Phoebe Bryant:

- 1.) Mary Ann Hunter - born 9 Dec 1787, Philadelphia; died 26 Mar 1826, New Orleans
- 2.) George Heriot Hunter - born 26 Aug 1798, Philadelphia; died 13 Aug 1831, New Orleans.
- 3.) Priestly Hunter - born 11 Dec 1791, Philadelphia; died 2 Aug 1792 Philadelphia.
- 4.) Peggy Hunter - born 12 July 1793, Philadelphia; died 9 Oct 1794 Philadelphia
- 5.) Phoebe Georgiana Hunter - born 31 Aug 1794 Philadelphia; died 20 Feb 1878 New Orleans
6. Deborah Starr Hunter - born 10 Aug 1798 - Philadelphia
7. William Wallace Hunter - born 16 Apr 1803 Philadelphia...

...I'm attaching a photo of a portrait of Dr. Hunter's wife, Phoebe Mary Bryant Hunter (16 Feb 1760 - 3 Jan 1844) that hangs in the Poydras Home in New Orleans (<http://www.poydrashome.com/history.html>). " (e-mails from Shep Montgomery, January 6th, 2008)

It had been decided prior to the trip to eat at a real restaurant Saturday night and the choice was Gabbeaux's, a New Orleans style eatery, in West Monroe situated on the Ouachita River. All but Tim, Bob, and Robert the Older went to Gabbeaux's and feasted on shrimp, Po Boy sandwiches, fried oysters & catfish, gumbo, and Cajun style burgers. Upon retuning to camp, there were several reenactors, Richard Gentry being one, from the area who showed up to share our campfire and stories.

Sunday, December 30th, 2007



Larry, Tim, Harvey, & Robert at oars: Photo taken by Earl Harrell



Larry & Robert in the Tim's wedge tent: Photo by Tim Richardson

Since Norajean was to head back to Little Rock this day, we took the remainder of the vehicles to Prairion Recreation Area. Prairion was our take out stop for this year's trip and having the vehicles already there will be very helpful. Norajean shuttled the drivers back to Forsythe Park. We had 13 miles to travel that day to Bawcomville Recreation Area. As a result, the crew wanted to stop at Gabbeaux's restaurant again for lunch. We left Forsythe Park at 9:30 AM (air temp. – 44 degrees, water temp. – 44 degrees). A sad story unfolded after we left the Park. It was reported to the police that a car was seen in the water at Forsythe Park, not far from where we were camped, at 12:36 PM. The car was pulled from the water around 2:00PM and it was discovered a young lady was in the car

(<http://www.thenewsstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007712310309>).

Prior to leaving, Ed had made arraignments with the bridge control people to raise the three bridges that we had to cross under. At least two of the bridges, when closed, were within a foot of the *Aux Arc* mast. Signals got crossed, especially for the railroad bridge, thus to stay on time, we lowered the mast. A month ago we had converted the mast to a folding mast to make it easier to step, plus, to lower and raise quickly and easily when we had a low bridge to go under. We had 1.5 miles to travel to Gabbeaux's, plus lower the mast, so, we arrived at the restaurant at 11:15 AM. Gabbeaux's opened at 11:30 AM. The food was excellent, with particular interest and pleasure expressed for the restaurants bread pudding dessert. One of the reenactors that had joined us for our campfire the night before came along as a guest on the *Aux Arc* and friends, the family of Alvin Hart, was waiting for us at Gabbeaux's and had even rigged a gang plank from the dock to shore. Upon leaving the restaurant, at 12:30 PM, we shot off the swivel gun, headed down river past the last bridge, and raised the mast arriving at Bawcomville at 4:30 PM. There

were about two dozen folks at the ramp. Some did come just to see us, others were there fishing, or taking out their boats. All were intrigued by the *Aux Arc* and asked lots of questions. Several of us scoured the nearby forest for downed limbs for a campfire and found an abundance of Spanish moss for tinder. Bob fired up the brazier for a supper of turkey stew and Laurine broke out another fruit cake sent to her by her sister in Illinois. After supper, Bob brewed up a pot of hot cocoa and we sat around the campfire telling stories, singing songs, and discussing our trip to this point as tonight was our last night on the river. Apparently this recreation area is a popular spot for folks late at night and very early in the morning to create doughnuts on the pavement and ride ATV's. On several occasions folks came by to yell all kinds of things at our tents and took off, only to be replaced at a later time by doughnut makers, and those backing down the ramp to wet the rear wheels of their "high performance" trucks and squeal tires up the ramp. Tim, Larry, and Robert the Older observed one vehicle pull down the ramp, with a couple teenagers getting out of the truck and walking towards the *Aux Arc*. The three flew back the flap of the tent and as Tim put it "...if they had been wild deer the wild frightened children gasp and began screaming more unintelligent words and ran back..." (e-mail Tim Richardson, 1/4/2008) The interesting thing is that some of the *Aux Arc* crew are light sleepers and others heavy, thus, to some of the crew the stories about the previous night were incredulous, but amusing to all.



Sunrise at Bawcomville Recreation Area: Photo by Tim Richardson

Monday, December 31st, 2007

The last day of the year and of our trip. The morning frost was the heaviest of the trip, making the deck of the *Aux Arc* slick and dangerous. The morning sunrise was particularly beautiful. We had our earliest start of the trip, leaving Bawcomville at 8:45 AM (air temp. – 43 degrees, water temp. – 49 degrees). Interestingly enough, while we always departed after sunrise, it was common for the Dunbar-Hunter expedition to leave before sunrise and then stop after several hours for breakfast. Ed broached this subject of leaving at 6 AM with the crew, while on land, and was met with blank stares. Always wait until the *Aux Arc* is underway before the Captain is to declare those types of major changes in rowing, sleeping, and eating. The wind again was

coming from the south, but the velocity had picked up to where white caps were forming. We had only 12 miles, but, as a result of the strong head wind, at times, we needed six instead of four rowers. Mary, Harvey Laurine, and Robert the Younger pitched in to help when the wind really picked up. We arrived at Prairie recreation area at 12:30 PM and were greeted by another two dozen folks. We met Glen Gore from the Ouachita Foundation and a very kind lady provided the no-driving crew members with some beer. We pulled out the *Aux Arc*, unloaded and sorted out the gear, lowered the mast, and prepared to head home. Tim concluded that we had traveled 62.73 river miles and had stroked the oars 55, 202 times. We had coordinated with Judy Downs for Andrew to ride back with Ed in the truck so that she did not need to drive all the way from Pocahontas, Arkansas to Prairie, but rather to Chuck's house. We left the recreation area at 2:00 PM. At Monroe, Laurine and Ed got separated, but soon joined up again just before Bastrop, Louisiana. Tim made it through Monroe, but had a sugar attack and turned back for another round of bread pudding at Gabbeaux's. Bob had to drive to Fort Worth, Texas. All made it safely home, with Ed the last arriving home in Little Rock at 8:00 PM after dropping off the *Aux Arc* at Chuck's house.

Prologue

We met so many wonderful people in Louisiana and met several folks who live further down the Ouachita River with hopes of seeing us again in the next several years. What we are experiencing is the ability to view the Ouachita River from a perspective of a slow pace, living, sleeping, & eating amongst the loess hills, Spanish moss covered forests, and wildlife, and making our own judgments and determinations on the modern features of this marvelous river. From Prairie recreation area it is 177 river miles to the Mississippi River. The trip in 2008 will take us to Old Duty Campground with a stop in Columbia, Louisiana. In 2009 we will end up at Jonesville lock & dam, Louisiana with stops at Harrisonburg and Jonesville, and in 2010 we hope to reach the Mississippi river.

References

Berry, T., Beasley, P., & Clements, J. (Eds.). (2006). *The forgotten expedition, 1804-1805: The Louisiana purchase journals of Dunbar and Hunter*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

In addition to entries from the *Aux Arc* log, Tim Richardson, Laurine Williams, Judy Downs, and Norajean & Earl Harrell contributed information for this paper.

Additional Photos



Laurine, Mary, Larry, Harvey, Bob, Robert the Younger, Ed, Andrew, Norajean, Person unknown, Earl, Robert the Older, Tim:
Photo submitted by Tim Richardson



Mary and Laurine rowing with the B-Team: Photo by Ed Williams



B-Team telling stories (Robert the Older, Tim, Larry, and Mary: Photo by Ed Williams



Bob and Andrew at oars: Photo by Ed Williams



Laurine entertaining us with her penny whistle: Photo by Ed Williams



Two Roberts: Photo by Ed Williams