



February 2012

Mountain Man Monthly

The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

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Mountain Man Monthly

Editors

The Webb's

Monthly Meeting

March 1 @ 7:00 p.m.

Flute Demonstration by Karen

Club mailing work party

Club Paper Shoot - March 4

Club Primitive Shoot - March 18

Daylight Saving Time Begins March 11

Congratulations TOM GABOR

CSMLA 2012 Muzzle Loader

of the Year!!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide			
WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 1	annual mailing preparation & Flute presentation by Karen
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 4	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 18	pistol @ noon; range @ 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 1	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 5	37 th annual shoot preparation
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 15	pistol @ noon; range @ 1:00 pm
Colorado Squirrel Rifle Championships	Buckhorn Skinners Range near Loveland	April 28 & 29	snow dates: May 19-20. .40 caliber or smaller event
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 3	last run-through for the shoot!!!
NO CLUB SHOOTS	IN MAY.....	NO monthly club	shoots during May
37 th Annual Shoot & Rendezvous	Florence Mountain Park	May 26-28	lots of fun, work, and best shoot in the state!!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 3	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 7	review the 37 th annual shoot
Colorado NMLRA Territorial Matches	SPVHS Range Ft. Lupton, CO	June 15-17	lots of shooting; sponsored by Buckhorn Skinners & Ft. Lupton
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 17	pistol @ noon; range @ 1:00 pm
High Country Hideaway All Shotgun Shoot	Blue Valley Range @ Kremmling, CO	June 19-22	all shotgun event with more than 50 matches for all shotgunners!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 1	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	July 5	monthly meeting of the group
Graingers Primitive Camp Out	Grainger's near Victor, Colorado	July 14 & 15	club campout & lots of shooting; chili cook-off & potluck on Sat.
Sierra Madre ML Rifle Club MtnMan Rendez	south of Saratoga, Wyoming	July 27-29	public invited. Info: Joe Morrison (307) 329-7944
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	August 2	come and see what happens!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	August 5	change up in schedule due to paper camp out

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 632-7690 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org



PAST THINGS

Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. Regular Monthly Meeting February 2, 2012

The February meeting was a busy one. The group first finished the stapling and addressing of the January issue of the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Due to printer errors, this issue was a little late. We also finished up the mailing work for the March-April issue of the *Poke and Stroke*. With everyone helping with the stapling, taping, and addressing, the task went very smooth and faster than just one individual trying to do it all. Thanks to all of you who helped us with this “paperwork”!!!!

There were 18 folks present for the first work meeting for the publication of the State’s newsletter, the *Poke and Stroke*. Work was begun on stapling, taping, labeling, stamping, and getting this issue ready for the post office to deliver. We also collated, stapled, taped, labeled, and stamped the *Mountain Man Monthly* for it’s postal delivery. Thanks to all who worked and helped us to get these newsletters on their way.

The meeting portion began with a welcome to our friends and visitors. Good to see Michelle Blanchard at this meeting. With her work, she doesn’t often get to be with us and it was very good to see her. Also good to see Randy Ruyle here. He’s the wonderful “horse-maker” that has created the rocking horses for our annual event.

Only about 35 minutes late, Joy began the business portion of the meeting. We welcomed Randy Ruyle and Michelle Blanchard to the meeting. Good to see both of them as it has been a while.

Memorial Day event is fast approaching. Need to be working on selling those shoot book ads. Also need to be working on getting the committees going and making sure we have all the stuff we need. Fred and Petra LaChance have again offered to let us use their facilities for our work party which has been scheduled for May 5th. This is an important event where we paint, string, stamp, count, and get the preliminary shoot stuff done. Then we all set down to a potluck lunch that is worth the wait. Bring your eatin’ irons and food to share and come join us.

The minutes from the January meeting are in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Even though we haven’t read them yet, they are available. Joy asked if there was a motion to accept these minutes as printed in the newsletter we are working on and available on the web page. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Doug is still putting together the Boy Scout event for us to do in May. Anyone interested in helping with this please get with Doug as soon as you can so that we complete all the required paperwork.

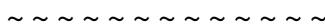
Treasurer Gwen provided us the income and outgo information for the month. Time for our insurance to be paid. Also starting some of the outgo for the Memorial Day shoot so funds are dropping. Gwen also noted that it is tax time and if the group agrees, she will file our taxes for us. Motion made, seconded, and passed for Gwen to keep us in good standing with the IRS. There being no questions raised about the report, a motion was made to accept the Treasury Report. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Reminders of the Winter Convention and such were given. No primitive shoot in February.

Ted Beaupre told us that we have had 38 renewals and 5 new memberships. Again he reminded all that the dues for 2012 are due and they remain only \$15 for the whole family. Motion was made to accept the membership report. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Then we began the fun part of the meeting; sharing food and opening the white elephants. Yes, those pesky white elephants charged through the room and we all had a great laugh at the things they did!!! If you missed this, you missed a really fun time. Gwen has the most extraordinary luck in getting the most active of all the elephants in the room.....maybe the third time will be a charm, Gwen!!!

Primitive Report began with Doug noting “Yes, we had one!” Randy and Merrill helped Doug get things going and as usual, Mariah showed up and played her hand in the shoot. Doug also noted that the pistol he shot in the last match was a “semi-auto flint”



as the flint was in his pocket. He also noted that he will be conducting classes at the State's Annual Trade Show and Convention so he expects to see us in at least one of those classes.

Memorial Day Report: We have begun work on the 37th annual Memorial Day Shoot and Rendezvous. Things are already progressing and it's time to help get this off the ground. Ad kits are available so let's get started selling ads. Flyers are ready for distribution and we will be taking some to the Annual Trade Show and Convention for sharing there. Work day party has been set for May 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the LaChance home. Thanks Fred & Petra for allowing us to do our stuff at your home.

Old Business: Doug advised that he had met with the Boy Scouts about their demo on April 21st. He explained to them how we do our shoots and demonstrations. They require one certified instructor per 3 shooting scouts. Joy is completing her certification so that we will have the required amount. In order for Joy to complete her certification she will need five volunteers to take the class. She will notify us when the materials have been received and the class can be held. Plenty of volunteers to help Joy get her certifications.

New Business: Doug advised that the annual Women on Target class will be May 6th. He told us how excited the ladies were with the muzzle loading part of the session and asked us to help out again this year.

There will be a Ladies' Only NRA certification course for the CHP on June 2 & 3rd, with a followup on the range on the 9th. Cost will be \$100 per participant and is limited to ladies only. Details to be forthcoming as time draws closer.

Don Stoner advised that the next gun show will be on March 10 & 11 and he will not be there. Ted Beaupre is the contact if you will help at this one. Don also showed a wooden name tag that is available for \$4.00 each if you are interested.

Ken West advised that we do need a Range Officer for the March paper shoot pistol match. He will not be available to do this one.

Joy thanked Doreen for all the work she puts into the two newsletters. They are informative and we do appreciate her work. Joy had samples of a couple of other club newsletters that are basically only two

pages and don't have much in them. We are proud to have such good newsletters for the group!!!

It was noted that Todd Schainost can't make the shoot on Sunday, February 5th. We'll need someone to help with this shoot, providing that Melchert's rule does not preclude the shoot. Come on out and help us have a grand time.

Upcoming events were noted for all. Once again we reminded everyone that there will be no Primitive shoot in February due to the Annual Trade Show and Convention in Denver.

The meeting was then turned over for the fun and festivities of the annual white elephant gift exchange. Twelve members had brought their favorite elephant and they were displayed on the table. Ken West drew #1 so he got to make a final choice from all the ones once they were opened. We had some wonderful elephants in the room: a dehorner, antler, metal roosters, aspen box, eggies, duck hunter accessories, Jack Sparrow poster, patches, holster, reindeer dolls, and Humphrey. If you weren't there to enjoy the fun of Humphrey and the fact that Gwen again got the most animated of the elephants in the room, you missed a jolly good time!!!! The laughter continued for several minutes as we watched Humphrey make his rounds.

Motion made for adjournment and was seconded and unanimously approved! So done!

Respectfully submitted,
Temporary Scribe Doreen Webb

PAID YOUR DUES???

SPORTSMAN'S DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE.....

March 22 is the Sportsman's Day at the Legislature beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Colorado State Capitol: Old Supreme Court Chambers on the second floor. This is an opportune time for all of us to

get updates on issues that affect us as hunters and anglers in Colorado. You can meet the Caucus Chairs and elected officials. This is also an opportunity for us to meet other sportsmen in representing us for these important issues.

If you have the time and can do it, please attend this event. There is a free lunch provided, and it will give you an opportunity to show our leaders that we are concerned about our hunting and fishing rights and the issues surrounding them. If you can't go, at least contact your state representative and senator and encourage them to participate in this event.

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PAPER PISTOL MATCH February 5, 2012

By: Ken "Suds" West

The cold weather seemed to keep a lot of sensible people away from the match. The wind was mild, which made the shooting conditions better than expected. Three of us shot pistol. The scores were:

Doug Davis	92
Jim Murray	86
Ken West	66

Jim has joined that non-exclusive club of those of us who have been out-shot with their own pistol! He wished me to point out that he shot by NMLRA rules and Doug shot by club rules; which I take as a challenge to a rematch!!!!

Editor's Note: Seems as though Doug who shoots a lot of those modern "suppository" pistols in his course offerings, is doing a rather good job with the primitive

pistols that the regular Pistoreros use. Seems you can teach an old Doug new tricks!

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## Primitive Chapter News

by: Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

There really is no primitive chapter news this time, due to the CSMLA Annual Trade Show and Convention being on the same weekend. CSML members were in force and support for that event. Thanks to everyone who attended.

The February paper shoot was run by the Primitive Guys, kind of. Madam President and the Primitive Exec. picked out targets since the Paper Range Office Todd was out-of-town. We shot the X target at 25 yards; 100 yard bull and the 100 yard buffalo at 50 yards; and the 25 yard pistol and 200 yard musket at 100 yards. The idea was to give people with "new" guns a chance to see where they were hitting.

It is good to note that three of the attendees of the previous night's Muzzle Loading Clinic came to this shoot. Welcome to those new shooters!!!

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Scores are:      |       |
| Doug Davis       | 238xx |
| Marlin Johnson   | 211   |
| Randy Ruyle      | 203x  |
| Merrill Radstock | 172   |
| Steve Bingham    | 162   |

To allow time for the new folks to get set up and do a little benching, the 25 yard target was shot 10 times.

Welcome to Dave and Lanie and Mary. Joy and Mary teamed up and had a good time.

Dave and Lanie brought their in-lines which they had never shot. Interesting for our group to see some of these in-lines and work with the folks on shooting them.

Set-up for this shoot went well with the help of Jim Murray, Ken West, and Merrill Radstock. We are storing the target boards between shoots due to Mariah having such a profound effect on us and them. Fred LaChance's brackets really make it easy to place the target boards. Thanks Fred!!!!

Tear-down went just as easy. Steve Bingham, Randy Ruyle, and Merrill Radstock helped in pulling the target board sand putting them back in the shed. If I missed anyone that helped, please accept my apologies.

Thanks to all who came and shot!!!

**We go back on Daylight Savings Time on March 11. Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. You wouldn't want to be late for all the fun at the various shoots and things!!!!**

## **2012 ANNUAL TRADE SHOW AND CONVENTION**

Hey folks! If you didn't make it to the 2012 Annual Trade Show and Convention sponsored by the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association, you missed a really good time. Those of us who were there, had fun, renewed old friendships, shopped, ate, saw several in our CSML group receive awards, and had a blast!!!! If you missed this, you missed lots of good things.

The location was an easy one to get to; right off I-70 and Quebec. The hotel staff were great and made us feel right at home. We had the whole lower level of the building to ourselves and we filled two trade rooms. Those of us that spent the night had great rooms with those adjusting "Select Comfort" beds that you could change to suit yourself. The water was hot, flat screen televisions, and the food at the hotel was great as well. Green chili and eggs for

breakfast was out-of-this-world and very savory.

At the banquet on Saturday night, our very own **TOM GABOR** received the 2012 Muzzle Loader of the Year award. Congratulations to Tom!!! We all think - - - no, we KNOW he deserves it and has worked hard at lots of things to earn this award.

Marlin Johnson won an award as a gun builder, Barb Johnson won for the Postal Match, and Petra LaChance won at the Master's Shoot. Our friend Duane Jones was given one of those coveted green berets for outstanding service to the CSMLA and he has definitely earned it!

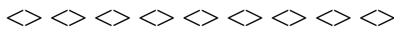
Ken West won the drawing for the .40 caliber flintlock half-stock rifle. Since he wasn't there, Doug Davis did call him on his primitive cell phone and let him know he won. While the whole room was sure that pistol-shooting Ken would not want the rifle, he surprised us all by telling Doug that he would at least like to see and hold his winnings. We are taking bets that Ken finds this barrel a bit longer and harder to hold than his short ones!!!

The auction for the evening was a fun time. Doug Rightmire was once again the auctioneer and added his flair for being a silver-tongued devil. He had three young volunteers that helped show the items and we thank these guys for their help: Blake Schainost, Cody Klensorge, and Chace Paterson. These guys even modeled some of the items and gave them quite a bit of flair that helped encourage the bidders to let loose with the greenbacks. (We're fairly certain that there are pictures that document some of this.....)

If you didn't make this year's event, plan now to go to the one for 2013. While there is a cost to attend, it is a once-a-year event. It allows us to renew old friendships, see things that we haven't seen before, and share camaraderie with others of the same bent as us. The more of us that stay at the hotel, the better the rates for the whole convention are. The more of us that stay at the hotel, the more perks we can get. It all helps us to do a better job and provide more for the whole event. We're hoping to have it at the same place and on the same weekend in 2013. Mark your calendars now.....and start saving to go!!!!

## March Meeting.....

Don't forget that our regular club meeting will be on March 1 at the American Legion hall. Karen Emanuelson will be bringing her collection of Native American flutes and some of the music that she has and sharing that with us. It will be a very interesting meeting and we want to have everyone there to support Karen!!!



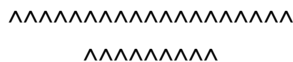
## REMINDERS.....

All ads for the shoot book are due at the April meeting which will be on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ad kits are available from Joy or Doreen.

We also ask anyone who has an event in the shoot book to review that event and let us know if there are changes to the information that is in the shoot book. Everyone needs to look through the book and see if we have missed anything or need to add or clarify anything that is in the book now. Please send or give your changes to Doreen as quickly as you can.

If you know of a trader or someone that has goods to sell at the annual shoot, please contact Gwen Blanchard and help her get them to our event. Gwen has trader packets and is willing to help get the word out.

Muzzle Loading rifle for deer/elk/moose is September 8-16, 2012. Plains Deer is October 13-21 and Pronghorn is October 21-29.



## Toussaint Charbonneau's Kitchen

By: W. Raymond Wood

Toussaint Charbonneau's reputation as an icon of the western fur trade is solidly based on a host of accounts by contemporary traders and travelers that augment his famous marriage to Sacagawea. Little or nothing, however, is said of his culinary accomplishments, despite the fact his mincemeat

pies were once described as "charming," and that the meals he prepared at Fort Clark were lauded as "superb" and "excellent." Even Meriwether Lewis alluded to him as their "wriighthand cook." Where did the frontiersman pick up his talents as a chef?

Charbonneau's life (about 1758 to about 1840) intertwines so many strands of western history that his biography is a virtual recapitulation of the essential elements of much of that history. Born in Canada in about 1758, nothing is known of his life until he emerges as a young man of about thirty-four as a trader in central Canada. He spent several years with the North West company, including a posting at Fort Esperance on the Qu'Appelle River between 1793 and 1795. He later moved to the middle Hidatsa village in present day North Dakota, where he took up life as a resident trader and where he purchased and married two Lemhi Shoshone women, Sacagawea and Otter Woman.

After the Lewis and Clark expedition, he was employed by Manuel Lisa for the Missouri Fur Company, and was a member of Lisa's party that built and occupied Fort Manuel.

Lisa in 1812-13. He was later a member of an expedition to Spanish Santa Fe in 1815, where he was briefly imprisoned. He subsequently served as an interpreter for many Great Plains explorers, including Major Stephen H. Long and Prince Paul of Wurtemberg, and for Prince Maximilian while he was employed at Fort Clark by the American Fur Company (Hafen 1966). None of these experiences, however, provide us with an answer to "Where did he learn to cook?" Though Charbonneau was looked down upon by Meriwether Lewis, and often is reviled by students of the Lewis and Clark expedition, William Clark had a positive attitude toward the man (Cleary 2000).

John Macdonnell's diary of activities at Fort Esperance, on the Qu'Appelle River, mentions nothing of Charbonneau's cooking activities for the years 1793 to 1795, but the absence is expectable, for Macdonnell's diary is a business account devoid of such homely details as life at the post (Wood 1994). Nor did other writers who dealt with Charbonneau have anything to say of the meals he cooked; Prince Maximilian, for example, is silent on the matter (Maximilian in Thwaites 1906).

The Frenchman, though hired as an interpreter, apparently cooked while he was with the Corps of Discovery, and his services in this respect appear to have been well regarded. Meriwether Lewis described his cooking duties on occasion while the expedition was passing through Montana. On May 9, 1805, after passing Big Dry Creek, Lewis killed a buffalo cow, and from it they took both meat and "*the necessary materials for making what our wriighthand cook Charbono calls the boudin blanc, and immediately set him about preparing them for supper; this white pudding we all esteem one of the greatest delicacies of the forest.*" (Moulton 1987, 4:131).

Boudin blanc, as Lewis described it, was prepared by their "right-hand cook" using about six feet of the lower intestine, stripped of its contents and stuffed with chopped meat, suet, some flour, and seasoned with salt and pepper. It was then boiled, and fried in bear grease until it was brown. It was a

favorite food on the frontier.

On June 25, 1805, Lewis also tells us, without further elaboration, that Captain Clark “made Charbono kook for the party”. On July 3, 1805, he further comments, after portaging around the Great Falls, that the Indians had told them they “should shortly leave the buffaloe” country. “This I much regret for I know when we leave the buffaloe that we shal sometimes be under the necessity of fasting occasionally and at all events the white puddings [boudin blanc] will be irretreivably lost and Sharbono out of imployment” (Moulton 1987, 4:332, 354).

But the information on the Frenchman’s kitchen skills are best illustrated by Francis Chardon’s journals at Fort Clark, where the trader recounts some of the menus for the meals that Charbonneau had prepared for the fort’s personnel. There were times when the men at the fort ate well, especially afater steamers had arrived with their annual supplies, but when supplies were low after a winter, spring often brought hardship when bison and other game were scarce. Indeed, on May 4, 1835, Chardon wrote, “I fear for my Indian horses - - as they are in very poor condition - - and no grass for them to eat - -eat a Rat this evening for supper - - - We are almost as bad off as the Horses.” Whereas the fort was overrun with Norway rats, surely here he is speaking of a muskrat.

The Frenchman’s role as a chef at Fort Clark is mentioned seven times in the journals (two of them for holidays), though he must have cooked on other occasions that did not enter Chardon’s memoir, for that document covered parts of six years. Unfortunately, no recipes are preserved for any of the dishes he served. As far as I am aware, nothing in the way of a recipe for any serving other than pancakes was recorded by Prince Maximilian or other contemporary visitors to the Upper Missouri, though many references exist to individual items that reached the fur trader’s tables.

Chardon says nothing of the scheduling of meals, but times and servings are mentioned for other posts in the region. They varied widely. During the winter of 1851 meals were served in the dining room twice daily at Fort Berthold, one at six in the morning and the second at four in the afternoon. The energy-enhancing ability of coffee made it a favorite at most meals, which were seasoned principally by salt and pepper, though one inventory for fort Clark lists “Kentucky Mustard.”

In 1858 cooks at Fort Atkinson (Fort Berthold II) served three meals a day. Breakfast was served before daylight, at five or five-thirty: coffee and biscuits with fresh or dried bison meat; dinner at noon consisted of biscuits, beans, or rice, and “dried buffalo meat, sometimes hashed if too rant to eat boiled, or baked into a pie,” and bison meat followed at six o’clock - - when it was available. On New Year’s Eve a feast was consumed that consisted of “Stewed oysters, stewed peaches, stewed rabbit, bangs (sardines), molasses & coffee, every thing set out in the most approved style (Boller 1966: 152-53, 185).

Charles Larpenteur described a holiday “feast” at Fort William, at the mouth of the Yellowstone River. It consisted of “half a pint of flour to each man [and] one cup of coffee, one of sugar, and one of molasses, to four men. A feast was made from these ingredients, consisting of thick pancakes, the batter containing no other ingredient than pure Missouri water, greased with buffalo tallow; but as I had had nothing of the kind for upward of six months, I thought I had never tasted anything so good in my life.” (Larpenteur 1989:43).

The roster of Charbonneau’s meals at Fort Clark begins on Christmas Day, 1834, when the old Frenchman apparently was helped in preparing his menu by unnamed assistants: [Thursday, December 25, 1834] Christmas comes but once a year, and when it comes it brings good cheer. But not here! As every thing seems the same, No New faces, No News, and worst of all No Cattle, last Night at ½ past 10 O’Clock we partook of a fine supper Prepared by Old Charbonneau, consisting of Meat pies, bread, fricassied pheasants Boiled tongues, roast beef - - and Coffee - - the brilliant assembly consisted of Indns Half Breeds, Canadians, Squaws and children, to have taken a Bird’s eye view, of the whole group, seated at the festive boad, would of astonished any, but those who are accustomed to such sights, to of seen in what little time, the Contents of the table was dispatched, some as much as seven to nine cups of coffee, and the rest in like proportion, good luck for the Cooks that they were of the Numb er seated at the table, or their share would of been scant - - as every one had done Honour to his plate - - (p. 18).

[Friday, August 28, 1835] Old Charbonneau, gave us a superb supper of Coffee and Mince Pie, the pie was charming. (P. 46).

[Thursday, September 15, 1836] Charbonneau gave us a feast of Mince pie and Coffee - - which was excellent (p. 80).

[Wednesday, November 23, 1836] Charbonneau gave us a feast (p. 89).

[Friday, January 6, 1837] This being a Holliday with the French, Old Charbonneau gave us an excellent dinner of Pudding, Pies, fried & Roasted Meat &c &c (p. 93).

[Tuesday, July 4, 1837] Charbonneau gave us a dinner, as a celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July (p. 120).

[Sunday, July 16, 1837] Charboneau gave us a jackson dinner, of Pot pye, and pudding (p. 121).

Two of these events were recognized holidays: the Fourth of July and the Feast of the Epiphany, or Little Christmas, which is he oldest of the Christmas feasts. It is celebrated on January 5 as the major feast of the season by many Christian churches. A third event was the July 16 “Jackson dinner.” References in Chardon’s journal to then-President Andrew Jackson has led scholars to believe he may have been with Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans in 1814, though no documentary support for such an association has ever been found. It is nevertheless clear that Chardon held “Old Hickory” in very high esteem, though the reason for the July 16 dinner is not clear.

So we return to the question, where did Charbonneau learn to cook? Perhaps he obtained a beginning in his home, but since we know nothing of his whereabouts or activities for more than a quarter century, it is fruitless to speculate. Had he learned culinary skills in eastern Canada, however, the experience would have ill prepared him for the challenges of cooking in the primitive conditions in the western reaches of the continent.