

Dear Sir In your issue of the 2nd March
is an article you kindly inserted giving
an account of myself and some reminiscences
of my career. As many of the statements
given in your article are not quite accurate
I send you these few lines, which, if you should
think of interest your readers, you are at
liberty to publish!

I am not a German but an American
Citizen. My father was an Englishman
and emigrated to the States in 1824 when
I was some 10 years of age. He at once
took the necessary papers and became
a citizen of the U. S. States. I being at the
time in the hospital for and became
a citizen. I have before me a Diploma given
me in the year 1850 in recognition of my
services in St. Louis and was awarded a prize for
the best landscape in the Exposition, and
have been always known as an American
Artist. As to my English being a

a decided German accent is a
thing quite starting.

Your humorous description of my mis-
hap is amusing; but enough as I now
wish to give you some accurate information
which may prove interesting.

In the year 1846 I first conceived the
idea of printing a great ^{of my designs} book
from the Hall of St. Anthony, the Hall
of Mexico, and made a preliminary tour
to decide which views should be taken.
After many difficulties had been
surmounted I at last started in May
1848 on my upward journey, taking with
me a tool chest and all that I thought
would be necessary to build a house
for my purpose, hoping to find among
the Garrison of the Fort some Carpenter
who could help me, but among the whole
of the men there was not a single Carpen-
ter, and I had to do my own work.

giving me day to make a sketch of the Falls. I took an old Indian with me who was employed about the Fort as translator and messenger. As he seemed very much interested in what I was doing I asked him if the Indians had a name for the Falls, and he answered in his broken English that he could give me no help. The name is *Mere ha hah* and the height is 20 feet. You understand?

I thought this name so poetic that I adopted it and meeting shortly after with the surveying party under Prof. Deane, I related the fact to him & he asked me to make a statement, in writing, of what I had told him and embodied it in his next report to the Geographical Bureau, which was adopted the name, as they wish to preserve the Indian names when possible. This is the true history of the circumstance. I kept a very careful journal of the journey and embodied them in a work I afterwards published in 1855. Called Lewis' *Journal* as it was called at first. It has now become exceedingly rare & as the publishing house made a very bad failure and only one copy of the work remains. The English Edition

Leon! S. Eastman took a great interest in my undertaking and rendered me much useful assistance, he being a very clever artist himself. The boat was built on two of the largest Canoes I could procure. They were some 50 feet in length and were secured by stout beams some 3 feet apart, on this platform, some 8x10 feet, a cabin was built, in the center for carrying provisions the and rigged with a Syrian sail and rib. It made a Boat admirably adapted to my purpose as it was quite steady and from the top of the Cabin, I could sketch with ease and see over the country on both sides of the River. I named my Boat the *Mere ha hah*, and hereby hangs a little historical incident as to this name. I am the person who first used the name and it occurred in this way. Between the Falls of St. Anthony and Fort Snelling, a small stream entered the River with a very pretty water fall of some 20 feet in height.

This is the true history of the circumstance. I kept a very careful journal of the journey and embodied them in a work I afterwards published in 1855. Called Lewis' Journal as it was called at first. It has now become exceedingly rare & as the publishing house made a very bad failure and only one copy of the work remains. The English Edition

I arrived in St. Louis after a very
pleasant but exciting voyage of 5 months
in October and placed my Boat in charge
of a Friend intending to resume my trip
in the Spring to St. Helena, and the Gulf.
but unfortunately in May, ¹⁸⁴⁹ occurred the
great fire in which some 300 houses and
buildings were burned among them
including the Boat the Men he had
with him and incident I bring my narra-
tive to a close -

P.S. You are in error about the Garrison in
the late part. They had been suddenly with-
drawn and he had left at the mouth of the Misson
river where a war had broken out between the
followers of De Witt Hunt and the Government.
By permission of the parties in charge, I was
permitted to occupy the Fort during my stay
there. This was the only time I slept under a
roof after I left Fort Snelling, and my
particulars.

Wm. Lewis - Printed by
21 Alexander St.
my present residence

Dear Sir In your issue of the 2^d March 1842
is an article you kindly inserted giving
an account of myself and some reminiscences
of my past. As many of the statements
given in your article are not quite accurate
I send you these few lines, which, if you should
warrant interest your readers, you are at
liberty to publish.

I am not a German but an American
Citizen. My father was an Englishman
and emigrated to the States in 1814 when
I was some 10 years of age. He at once
took the necessary steps and became
a citizen of the U. States. I being at the
time an orphaned child he made me
a citizen. I have before me a diploma
granted me in the year 1815 in recognition of my
services in St. Louis and was awarded a prize for
the best landscape in the Exposition, and
have been several times an honorary
subject. As to my English name or

a decided German name I should
think quite strange.
Your humorous description of my
"Hafp-a-dun" is very amusing. I now
wish to give you some additional information
which may prove interesting.

In the year 1846 I first conceived the
idea of painting a great picture ^{of my country} from the
Hall of St. Anthony. To the Hall
of Mexico, and made a preliminary tour
to decide which views should be taken.
After many difficulties had been
surmounted I had last started in May
1848 on my upward journey, taking with
me a tool chest and all that I thought
would be necessary to build a house
in my purpose, hoping to find among
the Governor of the Fort some carpenter
who could help me, but among the whole
of the men there was not a single carpen-
ter, and I had to do it myself.

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going one day to make a sketch of the
Falls. I took an old Indian with me
who was employed about the Fort as house-
holder and mechanic. As he seemed very
much interested in what I was doing I
asked him if the Indians had a name
for the Falls, and he answered in his broken
English - "He call him name as have
you know Water is Water in our talks and
he talk is to ought. You understand?"

I thought this name so poetic that I
adopted it and meeting shortly after on
the descending party under Fort Bowen, I related
the fact to him. He asked me to make a
statement, in writing, of what I had told him
and embodied it in his next report to the
Geographical Bureau, which was adopted
the name, as they wish to preserve the Indian
names when possible. This is the true history
of the circumstance. I kept a very careful
journal of the journey and embodied therein
a work I afterwards published in 1855
1855 "Col. Lewis' Journal with his notes
on his expedition to the Rockies
and the North Pacific Ocean
and now become exceedingly rare -
as the publishing house made a very bad
paper and only one copy is of the work
in that condition. The British Edition is

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* John Eastman took a great
interest in my undertaking and rendered
me much useful assistance, he being a
very clever artist himself. The boat was
built on two of the largest canoes I could
procure. They were some 50 feet in length
and were secured by stout beams some
3 feet apart, on their platform, some 8 x 10
feet, a cabin was built, with boards for
covering for cannon the and rigged with a
Span sail and his. I made a boat
admirably adapted to my purpose as
it was quite steady and from the top of the
Cabin, I could stretch with ease and see over
the country on both sides of the River. I named
my boat the Mere-ha-haha, and hereby
hangs a little historical incident on to this
name. I am the person who first used
the name and it occurred in this wise
In near the Falls of St. Anthony and Fort
Buckling, a small stream, entered the River
with a very pretty water Fall of some 20
feet in height

I arrived in St. Louis after a very
pleasant but exciting voyage of 5 weeks
in October and placed my Boat in charge
of a Friend intending to resume my trip
in the Spring to St. Charles, and the Gulf.
but unfortunately in May, ¹⁸⁴⁹ occurred the
great Fire in which some 300 houses and
25 steamboats were burned among them
also my little Boat the Men had had
with the sad incident I bring my narra-
tive to a close to -

P.S. You are in error about the Garrison in
the old Fort. They had been suddenly withdrawn
and sent to the Fort at the mouth of the Misso-
uri, where a war had broken out between the
followers of Black Hawk and the Government.
By permission of the parties in charge I was
permitted to occupy the Fort during my stay
here. This was the only time I slept under a
roof after I left Fort Snelling, until my arrival
at St. Paul.

H. Lewis - Printer
21 Alexander St -
my present residence

[Letter press enclosure, Lewis to Upham, Aug. 21, 1902]

Dear Sir

In your issue of the 2nd March /02 is an article you kindly inserted giving an account of myself and some reminiscences of Davenport. As many of the Statements given in your article are not quite accurate I send you these few lines, which, if you think would interest your readers, you are at liberty to publish!

1st I am not a German but an American Citizen. My Father was an Englishman and emigrated to the States in 1829 when I was some 10 years of Age. He at once took the necessary papers and became a Citizen of the U. States. I being at the time under age shar'd the benefit also and became a Citizen. I have before me a Diploma given me in the year 1859 in an exposition held in st Louis and was awarded a prize for the best Landscape in the Exposition, and have been always known as an American Artist. As to my English having a decided German accent that is some thing quite startling.

Your humorous description of my mishap on the sand bar is only partly true altho' well told; but enough as I now wish to give you some accurate information which may prove interesting.

In the year 1846 I first conceived the Idea of painting a great moving Panorama of the Mississippi from the Falls of st Anthony to the Gulf of Mexico, and made a prilliminary tour to decide which views should be taken. After many difficulties had been surmounted I at last started in May 1848, on my upward

journey, taking with me a tool chest and all that I thought would be necessary to build a Boat suited to my purpose, hoping to find among the Garrison at the Fort some Carpenter who could help me, but among the whole of the men, there was not a single Carpenter, and I had to do most of the work myself.

Con^l S. Eastman took a great interest in my undertaking, he being a very cleaver Artist himself. The boat was built on two of the largest Canoes I could purchase. They were some 50 feet in length and were secured by stout beams some 3 feet apart, on this a platform, some 8 x 11 feet, a Cabin was built, with Bunks for carrying provisions &c and rigg'd with a Square Sail and Jib. It made a Boat admirably adabted to my purpose as it was quite steady and from the top of the Cabin, I could sketch with care and see over the Country on both sides of the River. x note x I will send you photo of my Boat and on my scenes [?] of vessels, ^{and} (also one of myself, the Builder. I nam'd my Boat the Mene-ha-haha, and hereby hangs a little historical incident as to this name. I am the person who first used the name and it occur'd in this wise Between the Falls of St Anthony and Fort Snelling, a small stream entered the River with a very pretty Water Fall of some 29 feet in height. Going one day to make a sketch of this Fall, I took an Old Indian with me who was employ'd about the Fort as Translator and messenger. As he seem'd very much interested in what I was doing I asked him if the Indians had a name for the Falls, and he answered in his broken English oh yes. We call him Mene ha hah. You know Mene is Water in our talk and ha hah is to laught. You understand?

I thought this name so poetic that I adopted it and meeting shortly afterward the Surveying party under Prof Owen, I related the fact to him. He asked me to make a statement, in writing, of what I had told him and embodied it in his next report to the Geographical Bureau, which at once adopted the name, as they wish to preserve the Indian names when possible. This is the true history of the circumstances. I kept a very careful Journal of the journey and embodied them in a work I afterwards published in Dusseldorf in 1855 Call'd Lewis' Illustrated Mississippi with 45 color'd plates which has now become exceedingly rare as the Publishing house made a very bad failure and only some 300 copies of the work were published German. The English Edition never, so far as I know, was ever issued altho' I corrected the proof for the same.

I arrived in St. Louis after a very pleasant but exciting voyage of 5 months in October and placed my Boat in charge of a Friend intending to resume my trip in the Spring to N. Orleans, and the Gulf, but unfortunately in May 1849 occur'd the Great Fire in which some 300 houses and 20 steamboats were Burnt among them also my little Boat the Mene ha hah. with this sad incident I bring my narrative to a close.

P. 3 You are in error about the Garrison in the old Fort. They had been suddenly withdrawn and sent to the Port at the mouth of the Wisconsin where a war had broken out between the followers of Black Hawk and the Government. By permission of the parties in charge I was permitted to occupy the Fort during my

stay here. This was the only time I slept under a roof after I left Fort Snelling until my arrival in St. Louis.

H. Lewis -- Düsseldorf
24 Alexander Str.
my present residence