

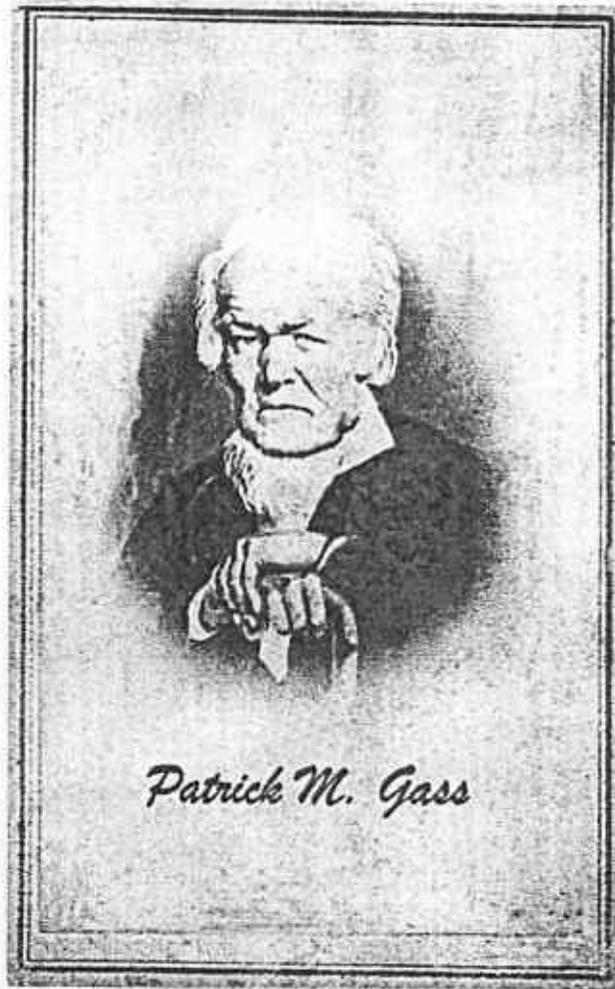
Patrick Gass

b. 1771. d. 1870.

Last surviving member of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Brooke Cemetery, Wellsburg, West Virginia, USA

Specific Interment Location: He is buried high up the hill, near the top of the cemetery, to the left of a set of steps located on the highest road in the cemetery. Bear to the right as you go into the cemetery to get on the road that runs near his grave.



Patrick M. Gass

This picture appears courtesy of: Meryl Wieder

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

FLOYD SUCCESSOR (continued)

and the couple had seven children. The youngest, Rachel Gass Brierly, would become Painter's grandmother.

Painter was invited to the re-enactment by the organizers of Elk Point's first Heritage Days festival, celebrating the city's role in the Lewis and Clark saga. The re-enactment is organized by veteran mountain man re-enactor and Elk Point resident Ole Olson.

"I don't know whether they'll let me vote or not, but it's a great experience for me to be here," the robust Painter said with a grin Friday. He had just visited the site in Heritage Park where historians believe the election might have taken place. A berm there was likely the bank of the Missouri before the river changed course after one of its many great floods.

Sunday will be 195 years to the day, Aug. 22, that the 30 members of the expedition stopped for dinner and elected Gass to be their third sergeant. He would be responsible for one of the corps' three 10-member units all the way to the Pacific and back. One of three men nominated, he won with 19 votes.

Painter, a career production engineer for Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, now farms about 400 acres near Avella with one of his sons. His wife of 60 years died this spring. Painter has 11 grandchildren, all out of college now.

None has quite caught Painter's passion for their family history. Yet. They talk about it a little and he tells the stories.

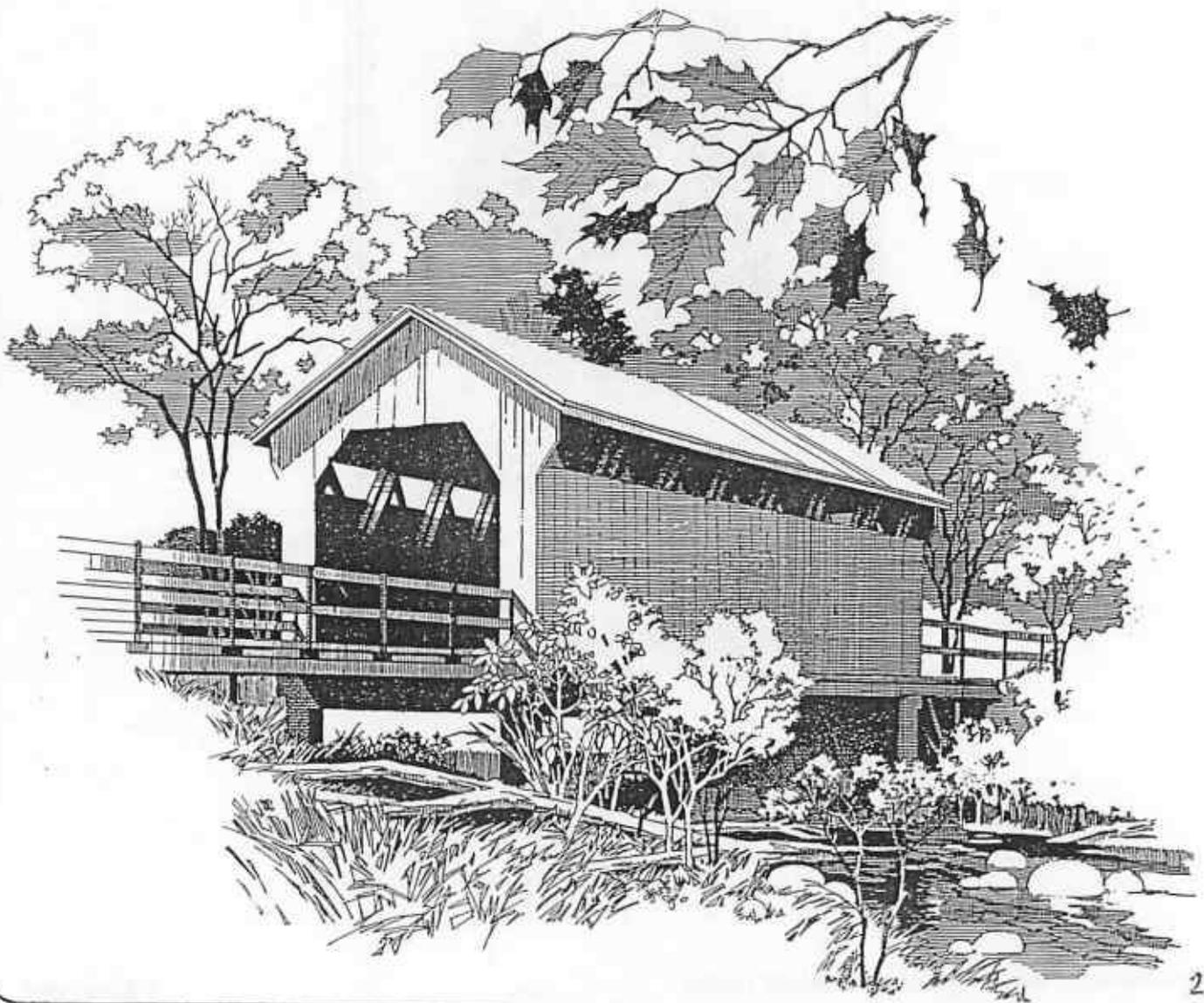
"They're too young," Painter said. "You don't get interested in

this stuff until you pass 40 and start asking questions."

One granddaughter shows promise, however.

And, Painter now has two great-grandsons and two great-granddaughters. They're 3 months old, 2 years old and 4 years old, but no doubt their great-grandfather will teach them the significance of the Gass name before they start school.

The re-enactment of the first American election west of the Mississippi River will take place in Elk Point's Heritage Park at 3 p.m. on Sunday. It is part of a celebration that begins Saturday with pioneer activities; Indian song, dance and hand drum entertainment; a military encampment; teepee tours; authentic costumes; and demonstrations of period crafts.



Grave of Patrick Gass

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY



This picture appears courtesy of: anonymous

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



This picture appears courtesy of: anonymous

COPIES REFERENCE ONLY

Heritage Days This Weekend In Elk Point

An added bonus to the Elk Point Heritage Park grand celebration to be held in Elk Point on August 21 and 22 is the appearance of Patrick Gass' Great-Grandson, Eugene Gass Painter of Avella, Pennsylvania.

Word has been received that Painter will participate in the festivities and the mock election to be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 22 in the Elk Point City Park.

When Sgt. Charles Floyd died during the Lewis and Clark expedition, Partick Gass of Pennsylvania was elected to replace him at the first election held west of the Mississippi River on August 22, 1804 at Elk Point.

Some of the entertainment for the weekend will be: Porter Williams doing on going interpretations of York; Necklace Family which features songs, dances, drum group

interpretation and Featherstone which features song and dance and hand drum, Jackie Bird combines English lyrics and Indian vocal traditions with rock drums, keyboards, guitar and native instruments.



This was just one of the many different displays on hand last weekend during the Elk Point Heritage Days. Cabins and Teepees were set up for viewers to walk through and observe. Many people were on hand to answer questions.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

End of the Lyin'

When young we add a year of two,
At middle age, subtract a few;
We're old when we have reached the
stage
We brag about our true age.

.....Dorothy Heller