I thought you might like to know about this.

New exhibit on loan at the Starke County Historical Society Museum -

Eli Roscka looks over his exhibit of the replica of the Lewis and Clark medical chest which was taken on their exploration in 1803. In February of 1803, President Jefferson appointed his secretary Meriwether Lewis to lead the new exploring party, later known as the "Corps of Discovery" to explore the great northwest. "Bring back your party safe...," orders Thomas Jefferson in his instructions to Meriwether Lewis in preparation for one of the greatest explorations in United States history.

Eli has extensively researched the medicines that Lewis and Clark took with them. He says that the lists of medicines, and medical equipment procured, accurately reflect the state of the medical profession in the early nineteenth century. One third of the total cost was spent on fifteen pounds of Cinchona bark, containing quinine, an effective treatment for malaria. Another effective drug purchased was laudanum, a tincture of opium, used as a pain killer and sleeping aid. The rest of the items acquired deal with purging through vomiting or enemas. Lewis took 600 of "Rush's pills" on the expedition as a means to generate a powerful and explosive purgative. Clover, nutmeg, and cinnamon were also purchased to add to the medicine in an attempt to conceal its foul taste.

Many of the tools in this exhibit have been hand crafted by Eli to the exact specification of the tools used by Lewis and Clark.

