

# Worthy of Notice

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF  
[www.wa-lcthf.org](http://www.wa-lcthf.org)

**November 2008 Newsletter**

Vol. 9, Issue 4

Tim Underwood, Editor

[tljtj@q.com](mailto:tljtj@q.com)



---

## President's Message:

Heading into the holiday season, we need to take stock of the past year. Many things have happened in our lives, some more devastating than others, that left deeper scars than we care for. But we are resilient; we adapt and move on much as the Corps did on their epic traverse of North America. We also try to solve issues with common sense and knowledge gained from our experiences, again, much as the Corps did. There are many similarities in our lives today with those of the Corps in 1805. Though it was a military venture, the members had their own feelings and emotions when it came to national holidays. Perhaps Thanksgiving was less a holiday then, not referenced at all, but Christmas, New Years and Independence Day were definitely mentioned and observed. This is a time for us to embrace and enjoy our families and friends and to rekindle old friendships and enjoy our good fortunes as the Corps did when they finally reached the Pacific Ocean and had their winter quarters completed.

During a recent chapter outing (see page 2), it became evident that both of the Pacific Northwest chapters were losing members. True, a drop in overall membership across the Foundation "Trail" was expected after the bicentennial – and it happened! We still need to maintain a steady level of membership in order to continue our efforts of maintenance, identification and education along The Trail. The greatest help would come by encouraging young people to join our efforts, especially those still in school learning about our American history. What better way to teach than by experiencing an event in the field? Most of you who have joined us on a field outings have enjoyed them. Why wouldn't the younger folks? Please help the chapter and the foundation by encouraging others – young and young-at-heart – to join with us in our "undaunting" task to preserve this important historical epoch. Membership dues are due in January. Perhaps you can add some new names to our roster for a stronger chapter in the future. Contact Rob Heacock at 509-924-4020 or [heacock1@mindspring.com](mailto:heacock1@mindspring.com).

We have a couple of outings coming up. Please check the schedule on the back page and make your plans to attend. Thanks.

Tim Underwood, President

## A “Good Situation:” The Third Alternative

The wind was blowing, but not too much. The sky was clear but for a few lacy clouds. The temperature was crisp but the sun made it very comfortable. California? No!! Not even eastern Washington. The Columbia River Gorge on a beautiful late October day just east of Hood River, OR; Mosier to be exact. A group of 33 – a good number – hearty souls had gathered in the parking area of the old historic Mayer mansion off old US-30 listening to one of the group, Roger Wendlick, explain the mornings’ activities, giving a synopsis of why he felt so strongly about this site and how he first discovered the reference to the third alternative for a winter camp site.

The gathering was the fall meeting of the Oregon and Washington chapters at Mosier where Roger had identified the “good situation” that was Captain Clark’s third alternative for a wintering over location. After leaving their previous evening’s camp near the present-day Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Clark noted the Ortley Pinnacles and Memaloose Island – he called it “Sepulchar Island” – in the river. He also noticed on the “lard” side, i.e. the larboard or left side, a line of lush green vegetation wending its way down the hillside to the bench above the rivers’ edge. This was in great contrast to the otherwise dry brown that is so evident at this time of year – the date having been October 29<sup>th</sup>, just four days later than we were at the same site 203 years later!

Roger had been interested in the Gorge area and Lewis and Clark for years, since growing up in the White Salmon area. He was re-reading (or was it re-re-reading?) the Moulton Journals and something jogged his memory about a possible “third site” for a winter camp that Clark had mentioned on the morning of October 29, 1805. He marked “good situation” and an asterisk on his map scrap (map 78 in the Atlas) at a spot just below “Sepulchar Island” and above a creek that is now Mosier Creek. Ordinarily this simple statement would be overlooked as just so much scribbling by Clark to jog his memory at a later date when he is working on his final product. And considering that most people stop at :”the Vote” and subsequent camp at Ft. Clatsop, they forget that there were two other choices for a winter camp, Steigerwald Lake near Washougal – the site that became “Provision Camp,” – and above, in the “neighborhood of the falls.” Herein begins the confusion as the term “neighborhood” is a particularly nebulous word. To explain, Clark was indeed referencing the “Timms,” or Celilo Falls. However, in his usage of the term *neighborhood*, he is including an area that stretches 20 or more miles from a specific location, sometimes more! For those who read the journals too tightly, a reference such as this is lost through the cracks when today’s standards of the American English language are applied. (A great help in reading and understanding the mindset and word usage of the 1800s can be attained by reading the *Lewis and Clark Lexicon*.)

By not reading so tightly and cross-referencing with the maps, Roger found the reference “good situation” on Clark’s map at a location that fit the mileages in the journals for the camp, Memaloose Island, the site and the creek below. Taking this information into the field, Roger was able to identify a spring mentioned (remember, as a military unit, they were always on the lookout for clean potable water sources.) and a site that fit the mileages both up and downstream. He located the site area next to a small impoundment at the base of the spring, the site now occupied by one of the many orchards of the immediate area. By using USGS topographic maps, a 1935 aerial photo and Clark’s map and journals, Roger located “lava fingers,” the springs and the old 1884 Union Pacific railroad grade that were part of the area.

Our trek down to the site was through private property owned by Portlander Tom Garnier, who graciously allowed the Chapters and members of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge to access the shoreline for the purpose of viewing the site. Once all the peripheral geographic locations were identified, discussed, questioned and reconsidered, including the old railroad tunnel that several of us

scrambled through, we moved over to the back side of the present railroad grade to an area that drains the above-mentioned spring. Though now a small impound pond behind the grade fill, the area can still be readily recognized much as Clark saw it in 1805. It doesn't take a great deal of imagination to visualize an open area along the riverbank with little vegetation except where the spring waters wind their way down the hillside to a small beach. With the old lava humps and the few scattered trees in place, the site could have been a fairly well-protected spot. Alas, though, we will never know if it would have worked, but it is always fun to speculate what might have been.

The site certainly could have been an eligible spot, a "good situation," though it probably would have had its own set of problems. Timber to build huts and/or a fort would have had to come from far up the hillside or from across the river. Game would have been scarce as well as fish. Even though most of the natives along this stretch of the river lived on the north bank for safety reasons (the marauding Paiutes!), the Corps would certainly have been visited – perhaps inundated! – by them during the day. Again, this is only speculation, based on what we know from the journals and hindsight. Since it was never an issue, we must content ourselves with the fact that we have identified, within reason, another Lewis and Clark site. For this, we have to be grateful to and appreciative of Roger's sleuthing lest we lose another site to the "progress" of contemporary man.

---

## Donation "Official:" Harry Hubbard Collection now at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, members gathered in the afternoon following the "Good Situation" hike, at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center in Stevenson, WA for a chance to ask Roger Wendlick questions, hear about the annual meeting in Great Falls and witness the "official" exchange of the Harry Hubbard collection with the CGIC. On hand to receive the collection was Sharon Tiffany, Executive Director of the CGIC, the Skamania County Historical Society president and Tim Underwood, Chapter president.

Late last year, the chapter purchased the collection of the late chapter-member Harry Hubbard of Seattle. The collection included a complete first-edition set of Dr. Gary Moulton's *Lewis and Clark Journals*. At the annual meeting in Tacoma last February, the officers and board were interested in placing the journals in a reputable facility where they would be properly cared-for and available to members and the researching public. The whole collection is available for use along with other material kept in the Emory Strong Library, part of the CGIC museum. Sharon has asked that anyone wishing to use the resources contact the museum at: CGIC, P.O. Box 396, Stevenson, WA 9868-0396, at least a week ahead of the date you plan to be there so all the arrangements can be made. Please note, this use is limited to on the premises only; this is not a library system, but a research facility.

We are, indeed, fortunate to have this facility available to us that is willing to care of and make available this tremendous resource.

On behalf of the chapter, *Thank You* Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center!

---

## Christmas at Ft. Clatsop

Again this year, there will be a "Christmas" celebration at Ft. Clatsop involving both the Oregon and Washington chapter members. The date is Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at **4:30** in the Netel Room of the Ft. Clatsop Visitor's Center. The meal will be "pot luck" with the Oregon chapter providing a ham for the main entrée. Bring what you can for the meal. Utensils are a good idea, too. And beverages!

The main speaker will be David Szymanski, Superintendent at Ft. Clatsop. Other staff members may also provide information as well.

The dinner will be early enough for most of us to get home before too late. But then, why not spend the weekend on the coast? There are lots of things to do and see in the winter. Plan to attend this fun event.

## “Ocian In View” – 2008

Typical of an 805 Lewis and Clark November on the Pacific coast, the 2008 “Ocian In View” did not disappoint. The southerly Pineapple Express slammed into the coast Friday night dumping buckets of water. The wind and warm rain subsided for the Saturday tours - only to resume on Sunday. Not to be deterred by the elements, members of the chapter “proceeded on” to attend the events scheduled by the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, in partnership with the Pacific County Friends of Lewis and Clark.

The program “Before and After the Lewis and Clark Journey To The Pacific Ocean” had a varied schedule of events and lectures for the attendees. Plus, some chapter members explored the Lewis and Clark sites and sights to complete their weekend on the Pacific Coast. No matter how rigid one studies the journals, there is always another place to visit and explore in the Ilwaco/Astoria area.

When the Lewis and Clark Expedition made their way to the coast, they encountered the Chinookan people of the Lower Columbia region and were impressed by their maritime abilities and their vessels. After more than sixty years, a Chinookan canoe of the Scarborough design can occasionally still be seen on the Columbia River. Recently, the canoes of the Columbia have become known as the *Kamin* or Chinook canoes. More importantly, the tribe has several canoes that play an important role in their ceremonies and in the community of the Chinook people. These canoes are regarded as members of the tribe.

*Tenas Leloo* (Little Wolf) is a one-person canoe that traveled with Corps II during the bicentennial. The 12 foot long canoe has been on most of the Lewis and Clark Trail from Astoria to Washington, D.C. *Squahswal* (Ocean Eel) is a 6 or 7 person canoe that is the Chinook tribal canoe. The 24 foot long canoe is used by the tribe in their ceremonies and participated in the bicentennial observance of the expedition’s time on the coast.

### Chinook Cove at Chinook Point

A descendant of William Clark is presently replacing the canoe that was taken by the Corps when it returned upriver in 1806. It will be a 35 foot long Chinook canoe. A canoe of this size is difficult to build because of the scarcity of old-growth Western Red Cedar. Today, a 50 foot long, 12 foot wide, 20 person “war” canoe of the Nootka design would take a huge tree to build.

A life-sized replica of a California Condor was dedicated after the lecture by David Moen, research associate with the Oregon Zoo. The condor with its 9-foot wing span is posed on the ribs of a whale and both are attached to a basalt rock weighing 40,000 pounds. The sculpture is at the Port of Ilwaco Covered Pavilion, a safer location than where it was by the port’s docks. A large bronze sculpture has also been completed for “Dismal Nitch.” It has not yet been placed at the rest area near the Astoria Bridge because of the concern for its safety from metal scavengers. After the destruction of the Sacagawea bronze sculpture at Fort Clatsop, precautions are being taken to assure the protection of these beautiful art pieces.

The photo above is of Chinook Cove on the west side of Chinook Point where Ft. Columbia is located. This narrow cove was a perfect spot for the natives to “dive into” when being pursued, or when they wanted to surprise foreigners. The opening is just large enough to get a canoe through but without being seen easily.

Despite the weather, the weekend on the coast was a rewarding experience for students of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. There is always something to learn before and after the Corps’ journey to the Pacific Ocean.

(Article and photo provided by Doc Wesselius after their trip to the “Ocian.”)

**WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER**  
***Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation***  
128 Galaxie Road  
Chehalis, WA 98532

**January 2004 Newsletter**



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.