

Worthy of Notice



W A S H I N G T O N S T A T E C H A P T E R , L C T H F

2010 DUES: STILL ONLY \$15.00!

Just a reminder that if you haven't mailed in your 2010 dues, please do so at your earliest convenience (form is on page 7). Your membership helps support the activities of the Washington Chapter throughout the year.

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ANNUAL FOUNDATION MEETING IN LEWISTON AUGUST 1-4

Nez Perce Country will be the location of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

The Corps of Discovery spent a full month in 1805 and two months in 1806 among the Nez Perce nation. This is an opportunity to see the places described in the journals and learn from Nez Perce people and local



Lewis and Clark experts as well as nationally known speakers.

It's not too late to attend this year's meeting. The organ-

izers of the Annual Meeting have graciously kept registration open at the reduced price of \$325. To register by phone call Chuck Raddon 208-476-3123. To register by email - follow the directions of the LCTHF website:

www.lewisandclark.org

Lodging information can also be found on the website.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LCTHF / BSA PARTNERSHIP

An exciting partnership has been formed between LCTHF and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Each Chapter has the opportunity to design and create its own badge and badge

requirements. These will be on display at the Centennial National Boy Scout Jamboree in July.

The potential for connecting new generations with The Story is huge.

The initial contact this year could grow exponentially as there will be boys there from every state and they will be given the beautiful brochure developed

(Continued on page 7)

Lewis descendants denied exhumation

Charlottesville (VA) Daily Progress
Saturday, June 26, 2010

Lewis descendants suffer setback in ongoing bid to exhume body
By Bryan McKenzie

The National Park Service has reversed a previous decision allowing Meriwether Lewis' body to be exhumed in an attempt to determining how he died.

The decision, backed by Department of the Interior officials, cites policies prohibiting disturbing graves that are not "threatened by destruction."

Family members had hoped their decade-long effort to have Lewis' remains studied was going to come to fruition. They hoped to determine whether he committed suicide, as the official account states, or was murdered, as many historians have come to suspect.

"We're terribly disappointed," said Howell Lewis Bowen, an Albemarle County resident and direct descendent. "We've worked with the park service through three administrations — Clinton and Bush and now Obama — and we thought we were finally getting somewhere."

The park service has consistently opposed the proposal. The bid to exhume was approved by a Depart-

ment of the Interior official in January 2008 during the second term of President George W. Bush, noting that the family is united behind the exhumation and that the examination could shed light on historic issues.

The proposal had been denied during the Clinton and first-term Bush administrations.

A letter from the park service in June 2009 affirmed the service's intention of cooperating in a study on the effects of exhuming the body. The study was required prior to final approval.

That cooperation ended in April when Department of the Interior officials decided to re-review the exhumation proposal after a reported Congressional query into the plan.

"I have reviewed the prior approval and in consultation with the National Park Service and the office of the solicitor, have determined that no compelling arguments exist that are sufficient to overturn [park service] management policies," wrote Thomas L. Strickland, assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. "The information proposed to be gained (determination of cause of death) does not add to the commemoration of Governor Lewis' accomplishments. While a dispute over the circumstances of his death might

be a matter of some public interest, it is not necessarily a sufficient reason to ignore [park service] policy."

Park service officials declined to say who in Congress contacted the Department of the Interior about the proposal.

Historians are of two opinions regarding Lewis' death. Testimony at an official inquest at the time had conflicting stories. He is believed by some to have shot himself at least twice in an attempt to commit suicide, once in the back of the head and once in the side.

Other accounts indicated three gunshots, including one to the forehead. Still other accounts say he also cut himself with a razor besides being shot, but all accounts indicate he lived for 12 to 24 hours, remaining conscious for most of that time, before he died.

Others believe the nature of the gunshots and the fact the Lewis was an accomplished marksman indicate that he was murdered. They point fingers at a possible plot run by political enemies of Lewis, who was then serving as governor of the Louisiana Territory under President Thomas Jefferson.

Park officials say exhuming Lewis' remains could damage other graves in the cemetery. They said there

are 109 other graves, including some that have yet to be located.

"The exhumation of any human remains is a serious act and should be performed in circumstances where the benefits clearly outweigh the impacts," said William Reynolds, of the park service. "It's not clear that the exhumation would result in a clear understanding of his death and the could result in harm to other graves during the process."

Bowen said the request is not to restore Lewis' reputation.

He noted that Lewis is not famous for his demise but for his part in exploring the American continent as part of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"The results don't change his place in history and it doesn't really matter to us whether the committed suicide or not," Bowen said. "We just want to know what happened. If he committed suicide, that's fine, let him rest. If he didn't, if he was murdered, that opens up a whole new area of scholarship. He is an important part of American history and there is technology available that may be able to determine how he died. The only opposition to it seems to come from the National Park Service."

ADDITIONS TO FISHER COLLECTION HELP DEFINE FUTURE EXHIBITS

By Kevin Kirkey, Archives and Research Associate, Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation

The members of the Lewis & Clark Expedition ventured deep into the heart of America before emerging on its western coast-line. Their exploits uncovered the land's character and helped define its boundaries. Our friend John Fisher has, like Lewis and Clark, searched the far reaches of America and uncovered items characteristic of the 1800s.

Those artifacts that form his collection acquired by the Foundation will define the Interpretive Center's Lewis & Clark Exhibit as the best in the country.

Recent visitors to Fort Mandan were entertained and enlightened by Fisher as he provided some interpretive programs during his July visit to Washburn. He also brought with him some recently collected artifacts.

The John Fisher Collection's

growth includes items of a personal or recreational nature. Musical instruments, cooking and eating utensils, spurs, bibles, a few trade goods such as fish-hooks and coins, and much, much more.

Some of the more interesting pieces include: a wonderful example of a belt ax, typical of the ones most Expedition members carried when they left Camp Wood, a backgammon game, perhaps like the one mentioned by Lewis on December 26, 1804 at Fort Mandan, and a betty lamp that could have burned the

whale oil attained on the Pacific shore.

The future expansion of the Interpretive Center's exhibits will utilize this amazing collection of objects while telling the epic tale of an extraordinary group of people and their journey.

This article is from the August 2009 issue of *The Wintering Post*, The Official Publication of the Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation. John Fisher is a member of the Washington State and Idaho Chapters.

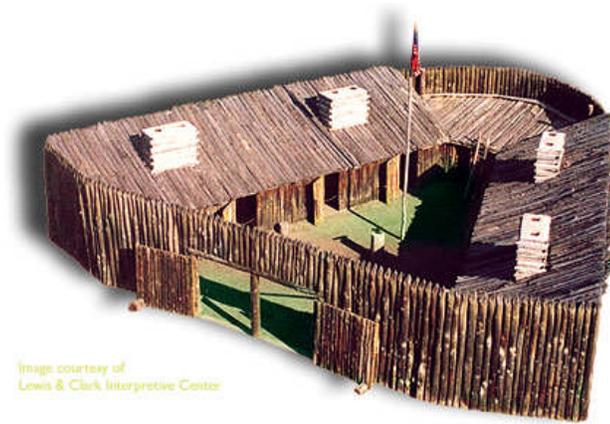
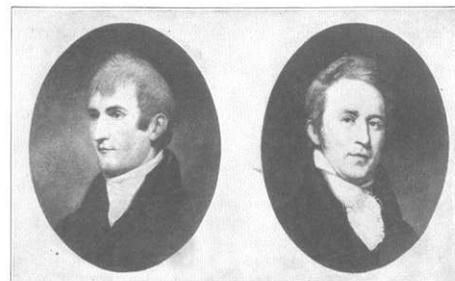


Image courtesy of Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

CURRENT OFFICERS

- President: Jill Stephenson
- Vice President: A.G. "Doc" Wesselius
- Secretary: Robert Heacock
- Treasurer: Nick Giovanni

FORMER OFFICERS



LEWIS AND CLARK

Bringing History to Life: Lectures About Historical Projects in the Lewis & Clark College Special Collections

By Tom Laidlaw

(Due to limited space, this article will be presented in three parts, beginning with below with Part 1—Eds.)

An enthusiastic audience gathered in Miller Hall Auditorium to hear three prominent Lewis and Clark Scholars Dr. Gary Moulton, Roger Wendlick, and Dr. Stephen Dow Beckham.

#1 - "Onomastics of an Indian Woman" by Gary E. Moulton, Thomas C. Sorensen Professor Emeritus of History, University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Moulton is the editor of authoritative edition of the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Dr. Moulton said even he had to look up the word. Onomastics is the study of names, and his talk was about the different names given to Sacagawea on the expedition. He asked us how many references there were to Sacagawea, and most of us guessed low. Moulton went through the journals and picked out every reference, not only

by name, but also by any reference to her or what she was doing. There were 251. can you believe it? It often happens, he said, that when people work together they begin to refer to each other in terms of greater or less respect. But he detected no change in the references to Sacagawea.

Gary also told us that he was back going through the journals again, after taking some time off to take himself and his wife many places Lewis and Clark "Did Not Go".

This time he is going to do the story as a narrative, in the manner of Biddle. But

there would be a little difference in approach. In his modern edition of the journals he said he did not refer to Thwaites, because he did not want to be influenced. I think we have all benefitted from that. He was going to do the narrative without consulting Biddle for the same reason, but a friend suggested that he should. As Moulton put it: "Biddle had something I don't have -- George Shannon." And he found the "smoking gun" of Shannon's contribution in Biddle's description of Nov. 15, 1805 at Station Camp. Whimsically he stated: "Maybe we have George Shannon's long lost journal."



Dr. Gary E. Moulton working at Lewis and Clark College.

THE SALTMAKERS RETURN

SEASIDE, OR., AUGUST 20-22

From www.seasidemuseum.org

The Saltmakers Return, sponsored by the Seaside Museum and Historical Society in conjunction with Ft. Clatsop Nat. Park and the city of Seaside, celebrates the 1805-06 Lewis & Clark Expedition by making of salt on the Seaside beach. The 1st-person interpretation will take place on the third weekend in August. Visitors will be representing Clatsop Indians who are com-

ing to the salt camp to trade wild berries, fruit, meat and other 1806 trade goods for beads and bright pieces of metal.

You will be met by professional first person character interpreters who will prepare you for your journey back to the 1806 salt camp. When you arrive at the sign "You are now entering the year 1806," you will find men in costume, on the beach in Sea-

side Oregon, performing first person interpretation of the Salt Maker they are portraying. These men have studied their historic character, and they perform the part in the jargon of 1806. Who do they do their performance with? You, the visitor! The first person interpreters will be scooping ocean water out of the surf, bringing it to the Salt Camp and actually making sea salt.

CHAPTER NAME BADGES

Members of the Washington Chapter can still order name badges. The badges are of the same design as the Chapter logo. The price for one name badge is \$12.50; the price for two or more is \$10.50.

To order, please do the following:

- 1) Make checks payable to **Awards West - PrintWares, Inc**

- 2) Mail checks to:
Tim Underwood
128 Galaxie Rd
Chehalis, WA 98532

- 3) Print your name the way you want it to appear on your name badge

- 4) Specify whether you want a pin back or magnetic back.

In Memoriam

Jeanette Downing Taranik, a great-granddaughter of Patrick Gass, passed away on March 18th in Auburn, WA. She was very active in the early organization of the LCTHF. Our sympathies go out to her family.

HORIZONS WEST

Being a big fan of Lewis and Clark as well as a fan of old time radio, I was recently surprised to discover a 13 episode radio series about the Corps of Discovery. The radio show is called Horizons West and is in the

public domain and is available at no charge at several sites on the internet. The web addresses are very long and don't lend themselves to be printed in a newsletter, but I will ask Tom Laidlaw to add a link to one

of these sites onto our homepage (see page 8 for our web address). For those of you fully aware of this series, I apologize, but it is a very well-written and well-acted radio drama and I just wanted to share it.



HIGH POINT TO THE WEST

BY ROB HEACOCK

Captain Clark wrote this phrase on October 15, 1805. He refers to Captain Lewis ascending the hills to get a better feel for their location as they were still in the deep Snake River Canyon.

The events of the prior day started well enough as they passed Monumental (*Ship*) Rock, and then several rapids. Captain Clark figured they had traveled 15 miles when Droulliard's canoe swamped on a rock at what is now Pine Tree (*Cave*) Rapids, below Windust Park at Burr Canyon. Several items came out of the canoe, and though most were recovered they still lost bedding, shot pouches, tomahawks and a *'kittle'*. This necessitated spreading the recovered gear out on an island to dry where they also camped for the night.

They awoke the next day to *'Some frost this morning and Ice'* which would mean a slow drying process. Knowing they were in for a late departure would have provided Captain Lewis an opportunity to view the surrounding area, though he had to first climb out of the confining river canyon they have been in for the last four days. But where did he go, and where would be a vantage point to see 'a high point to the west'?

Captain Lewis knew that they were east to northeast of their destination, the mouth of the Columbia River. Various Expedition members had written in the last few days that they thought they were on the Columbia River, when actually they were on the Snake River. But regardless, they were aware of the general direction they had to travel. So when Captain Lewis left the island

campsite and laundry facility, he likely would have canoed to the west shore, which is clearly higher than the east shore. The current and basalt bluffs with limited locations to land would have taken him slightly downstream, which would have placed him in the area of the *'cave'* that is listed on his map of the area. This cave may have been the one adjacent to the current rock quarry and is not visible unless the viewer is in close proximity, so Captain Lewis may have walked that area. From that location a walk up the draw to level ground would place him at an elevation of 700 feet above the river, and in the area of Neff-Jones Road. But from that area there is no view to the west, but only to the southeast looking at the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla, also mentioned in this journal entry. Clearly this would not have satisfied Captain Lewis' curiosity. Continuing to the nearest high ground, again assuming a southwest course toward his desired direction and high ground, Captain Lewis may have gone to a rise adjacent to the current microwave tower, this time about 950 feet above the river.

From that area, today covered with dryland wheat, there still is no southwest view though a portion of the Snake River they traveled the previous day to the northeast and the Blue Mountains to the southeast are visible. But traveling only another mile west leads to a location that is the highest the area, an unassuming rise to an elevation of 1515 feet or about 1115 feet above the river and noted on a modern 7.5 minute topographic map as *'Anspaul'*.

From this location, the western view is impressive. This can be best seen from a nearby informal road pullout along the Pasco-Kahlotus Road at mile marker 27.2. The top of the Captain Lewis' possible viewpoint Anspaul is just a short distance away to the northeast, adjacent to mile marker 28.0.

The expansive view covers the southern Columbia Basin, from Wallula Gap to Ellensburg. Rattlesnake Mountain looms only 56 miles away, and it's bulk hides Mt. Adams, but on a clear day the top of Mount Rainier is visible, being 136 and 149 miles away respectively. Captain Lewis knew that he was looking for snow covered peaks identified by Lt William Broughton in October 1792 as part of Captain Vancouver's expedition, and may have felt that one of the mountains he was seeing was either his destination, or that it was at least geographically related.

Upon Captain Lewis' return to the campsite, this notable development would have been mentioned to Captain Clark, as it was certainly material to their goal of being 'back on the map'. Captain Clark only provided this brief notation, as he may not have had much more information. It is not clear if Lewis only noted Rattlesnake Mountain or if the weather allowed him to also see snow covered Mt Rainer, but knowing it was significant Captain Clark did include it.

Thanks to the property owners Duane and Anita Lathim for allowing access to Anspaul.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE LCTHF / BSA PARTNERSHIP (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

during the Bicentennial by the Army Corps of Engineers and the opportunity to view badges from their home state. They hopefully will be returning home with the desire to learn this new badge.

Several chapters have completed programs (patch design and/or the requirements for

earning the patch): the design for the Oregon Chapter is below.

Washington State Chapter is not among the participants; however, we would like to change that. We have the Badge requirements in draft form, thanks to Peggy Barchi, a new member from Maple Valley, WA. What is missing is someone to design the patch, and someone willing to commit to the job of liaison with the local BSA Councils and Troops, doing the on-going paperwork and follow-through.

The badge design should not be too difficult. It would probably basically be our Chapter logo and whatever is

required by BSA to make it official. We do have examples of a badges to work from.

This is the opportunity for someone, or more than one someone, to step up and take on this responsibility. I can't honestly tell you that it will be easy. It will be a work-in-progress and some of it you may have to make up as you go along. The program will only grow over the years, and this is your chance to be in on the ground-floor of an awesome endeavor.

Contact Jill Stephenson, President, jills@harboret.com if you have questions or wish to volunteer for either or both of these jobs.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone*(H) _____ (W) _____

E-mail * _____

Chapter Membership

\$15.00 per year (Jan—Dec) for any person, family, firm, association, or corporation.

Please make check payable to:

Washington State Chapter LCTHF, inc

Mail to: Rob Heacock, Membership chair
13908 E. 27th Ct.

Veradale, WA 99037

Dues are kept as low as possible to encourage wide membership. Please consider making supplemental donations to help support the organization.

Please mark if address has changed.

*Optional –will be included with membership roster

Note: If you have recently renewed your membership, thank you. Please disregard this notice.

The above dues are for the Washington State Chapter only. Bylaws recommend that Chapter members be current members of the National Foundation. Annual dues are: Individual: \$49.00 per year, Family: \$65.00 per year. Membership includes the quarterly magazine WE PROCEEDED ON. Submit dues to LCTHF, inc. P.O. box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

WE ARE ON THE WEB

**The Washington Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage
can be found on the web at the following address...**

www.wa-lcthf.org

**Washington State Chapter
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
19033 102nd Ave SE
Renton WA 98055**

July 2010 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.