

Worthy of Notice



WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER, LCTHF

FALL CHAPTER FIELD TRIP CHENEY & SPOKANE, WA SEPTEMBER 15-16

**2012
DUES:
STILL
ONLY
\$15.00!**

Just a reminder to send in your 2012 dues. If your mailing or email address has changed, please fill out the form on page 7 and mail it along with your check. Your membership helps support the activities of the Washington Chapter throughout the year.

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The Washington Chapter will gather in the Spokane area for a meeting and field trip on September 15th and 16th.

Saturday's activities will begin as we meet in the lobby of Showalter Hall on the campus of Eastern Washington University, in Cheney, WA. Rob Heacock will relate the history behind the 1916 Sacajawea statue located there. A Chapter board meeting will follow, and all members are invited to attend.

The afternoon will feature a visit to the grave of Ben Bierney, a grandson of Pat-

rick Gass, who is buried in Spokane. The group



Janey at Cheney: Sacajawea points the way

will then proceed on to the Fairmont Memorial Assn. Spokane Flag Museum, where John Caskey will

give a presentation regarding the history of the Lewis and Clark Flag.

Saturday evening will be highlighted by our very own Barb Kubik, who will present a program titled, "Sah-kah-gar we a: Stories, Statues and Symbols".

For Sunday, we will visit the Spokane House Interpretative Center. Our specially arranged visit will last approximately one hour. As a unit of the Washington State Parks, Spokane House requires payment of a \$10.00 parking fee, or display of the Discovery Pass (\$30.00).

Saturday, September 15

10:00 AM: Meet near Sacajawea statue, Showalter Hall lobby, EWU, Cheney, WA. Enter at 5th and College Street, parking at 5th and F St.

11:00 AM: Board meeting at E.W.U. - all members invited to attend

2:00 PM: Meet at Greenwood Memorial Terrace cemetery, 211 North Government Way, to see grave of Ben Bierney, grandson of Sgt Gass

3:00 PM: Fairmont Memorial Association Spokane Flag Museum, 5200 West Wellesley Ave - "History of Lewis and Clark Flag" by John Caskey of Fairmont Memorial Association

7:30 PM Spokane Falls Community College [Building 18 Room 129. Building 18 faces Ft. George Wright Dr and is the only building with a clock tower.](#) "Sah-kah-gar we a: Stories, Statues and Symbols" by Barb Kubik

Sunday, September 16

10:00 meet at Spokane House Interpretative Center – Highway 291 - 9711 West Charles, Nine Mile Falls, Washington 99026 (State Parks Discovery Pass or \$10.00 parking fee required)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barb Kubik

Dear Friends:

I hope your summer is going well—that you have had good weather, good health, and good “trails of discovery!”

I have just returned from the Foundation's 44th annual meeting in Clarksville, Indiana, at the Falls of the Ohio River, where the two captains met, “. . . shook hands and the Lewis and Clark Expedition began.” It was a wonderful, fun-filled, and educational annual meeting, and I offer three **huz-zas** to everyone for a job well-done!

Some highlights from the meeting:

- Sixteen trail stewardship grants were awarded to various chapters for stream bank enhancement, clean-up, resource guides, and educational projects.
- Elita Tom of Astoria, OR received the Foundation's Youth Achievement Award for her portrayal of Sacagawea. Elita, a member of the Yakama tribe, is a volunteer at Fort Clatsop, as well as a member of the Pacific Northwest Living Historians. Watching her meet and greet Foundation members, and receive her award, I could see why she is such a popular member of the latter group, whom she called “adorable old geezers.”
- Two-hundred members from 40 different states and nine “young explorers” spent four days on our own “journey of discovery” in southern Indiana.
- Attendees received the Foundation's **Annual Report**, a colorful, upbeat message of trail stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and membership news! The report was the brain-child of our own Steve Lee. Watch for your own copy!

September 28-30, the Encounters on the Prairie Chapter [Pierre, SD] will host “Honoring Sacagawea” to commemorate the 200th anniversary of her death at Fort Manuel. There will be a number of programs, including Amy Mossett and Gary Moulton, and several field trips. I am honored to be the banquet speaker, with my program, “Sah-kah-gar we â: Stories, Statues, and Symbols.” It looks to be a great weekend, and I hope some of you will join me! For more information, check the Encounters on the Prairie website.

Many of you have asked me questions about the new Lewis and Clark Trust, created by several former Foundation leaders. I would like to think of this Trust as the kind of “advisory council” many non-profits have. The founders' goals include asking leading financial supports to lend their names, collective wisdom, and fundraising abilities to the Trust; in turn, the Trust will use the money to help the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the National Park Service, and many others to continue the work we all do to “tell the story and steward the trail.”

Now, let me ask you, our chapter members, a few questions:

The chapter's first trail stewardship grant, for \$500 for native plants and riverbank rehabilitation near Station Camp was well received. We have an opportunity to apply for a second trail stewardship grant by mid-October. **Would anyone like to suggest a project or write a proposal?**

We have an exciting fall ahead of us, as we gather in Spokane the weekend of September 15 to explore the

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

story further—the family of Patrick Gass, flags of the Corps, and a visit to Spokane House Interpretive Center. In November, the chapter will celebrate 15 years of trail stewardship, education, story-telling, and “friends, fun, and frolic” along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. **Over the next 12 months, how would you like to commemorate our 15 years?**

As the hosts of the Foundation’s 46th annual meeting, in the Tri-Cities in August of 2014, we have started planning, arranging for speakers and field trips, exploring the site, and signing contracts. The Foundation’s board of directors was very pleased with the report Rob Heacock and Rennie and I presented during the August board meeting. According to one board member, our report was “clear, concise, and thorough” and we were “well-organized.” I would like to thank:

- Rob Heacock and Rennie Kubik for co-chairing the Planning Committee
- Hal Stoltz for chairing the Vendors Committee
- Steve Lee for managing our finances and record-keeping
- Kathy Giovanni has offered to handle the on-site registration and check –in
- Doc Wesselius to help with the bus guides and commentaries

How can you help? We will need many more volunteers! Please let me know how you can help—with the “Young Explorers,” programs and speakers, the budget . . . meals!

Proceeding on in friendship on the trail . . . I will see you in September!

Proceeding on,
 Barb Kubik
 President

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SALT: A KEY INGREDIENT IN THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY'S WINTER AT FT. CLATSOP

BY TOM WILSON

As a National Park Service interpretive ranger at Ft. Clatsop (Lewis and Clark National Historical Park), I get asked a variety of questions each and every day. One of the more frequently asked questions is, "Why did the Corps of Volunteers cross the river?" Just like the chicken who wanted to get to the other side of the road, they wanted to get to the other side as well, but they certainly weren't chickens about it! What really were the reasons that prompted their decision on November 24, 1805, to cross to the south side of the Columbia River?

In November of 1805, the Lewis and Clark Expedition had traveled all the way from Wood River, Illinois to the mouth of the Columbia River. The success and completion of their journey now depended on the decision of where to build their winter quarters, and what factors should determine this decision.

So, what were the main reasons for crossing to the south side of the Columbia River and later building Fort Clatsop? After inquiring the natives as to where they could find the most game, they were informed that most of the elk were on the opposite side of the river.

Salt was important in the decision of where to winter. On November 24, the day that each member of the Expedition was consulted, Private J. Whitehouse wrote-

The greater part of our Men were of opinion; that it would be best, to cross the River, & if we should find game plenty, that it would be of an



Making salt

advantage to us, for to stay near the Sea shore, on account of (procuring) making Salt, which we are nearly out of at this time, & the want of it in preserving our Provisions for the Winter, would be an object well worth our attention. –

It's obvious why they needed a location in which game could readily be obtained. It also becomes clear that obtaining salt was a high priority.

Because of these vitally important things, elk and salt, the men decided to cross the river and select the site which would become Fort Clatsop, named after

the local natives.

As soon as the fort was finished for all practicable purposes, the officers directed five men on December 28, to begin making salt. Privates Joseph Field, William Bratton and George Gibson were sent as salt makers. Alexander Willard and Peter Weiser were sent to help them carry their supplies and set up the camp.

Throughout the journals we read about the fine qualities each of these men had. In the case of Private Field, he had a quality which especially came in handy in this situation. His older brother Ezekial had a commercial salt business in Kentucky, and it is said that he had employed his brothers. Joseph Field knew how to make salt!

Willard and Weiser, who had been sent to help carry supplies, informed the Captains that they had established the salt camp about 15 miles southwest of the Fort. This leads to the question: "Why did they go so far to make salt?" They could have gone 4-6 miles due west of Ft. Clatsop instead of the 15 miles that Willard and Weiser reported.

This is a very good question and one that we'll never know for sure since none of the men who

SALT: A KEY INGREDIENT (CONT.)

(Continued from page 4)

were sent kept journals. For many years the standard answer by many was that they needed to get as far south as possible to get away from the Columbia River’s fresh water diluting the salt content. However, I don’t think this is the answer.

It’s important to think about what was needed in order to set up a camp for salt making, as well as what the terrain was like 200 years ago. The men needed a fresh supply of water, rocks to build their oven, wood to use as fuel, as well as shelter from the violent winter storms that occur along the north Oregon coast.

Two hundred years ago, the beach due west of the fort was quite different. This was a coastal prairie with rolling sand dunes that weren’t stabilized until the 1930s. Winds often reach 50-70 MPH during winter storms and this area had no protection from the elements. The tree line was far from the ocean’s edge. On the other hand, the area that the men selected was forested nearly to the ocean’s edge. The Neacoxie River was within 100 paces as Clark had noted, from the salt maker’s camp, which gave them fresh drinking water. According to Tom Horning a geologist from Seaside, Oregon,

there were fresh water springs very near the camp that were results of several tsunamis that have occurred, dropping the land six to eight feet, creating these pools of fresh water that the men would have used as well.

Tillamook Head, which is just south of the camp would also have offered protection from the winds that blow mostly from the southwest.

Regardless of the salinity of the ocean due west of the Fort and its easier proximity, they would not have chosen that area to make salt. The site they selected had all of the essential elements that are mentioned above. These men never did anything the easy way, they did it the right way! Setting up camp due west of the Fort along a stormy, open area with sand blowing fiercely nearly every day simply would not have been wise. Remember,

they were not looking for a future site for a condominium or resort, with a beautiful view to watch the winter storms! They were looking for a place to make salt and survive while doing it.

Throughout the nearly 1 ½ months that the salt camp was in operation, the men had made a total of approximately 28 gallons of salt. Not only did this salt help in the initial process of curing the meat for consumption during the winter stay, but it also allowed them to preserve and ensure a supply of meat for their journey home.

One would find it difficult to argue the fact that the salt makers of the Lewis and Clark Expedition were worth their weight in salt!

Tom Wilson of Astoria, OR is an interpretive ranger for the N.P.S. at Fort Clatsop, a member of the Pacific Northwest Living Historians, and a retired teacher.

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.

TRAVELING THE WASHINGTON TRAIL MYSTERIOUS MISSING BUOY CAPER BY ROB HEACOCK

For many years, even decades, the mouth of the Walla Walla River at Wallula Gap has been marked by a round buoy, red in color, best visible from Hwy 730 at mile marker 5. There was no light, or other navigation markings on the buoy, it has always just been a simple, unassuming, reliable marker. It was also the landmark to orient oneself to the river mouth on the east side of the Columbia River, and the general area of the April 27-28, 1806 Lewis and Clark campsite at Chief Yellepit's village on the west side of the Columbia River.

So when a buoy was noted to be missing, what should a concerned person do? Look for clues and contact the authorities.

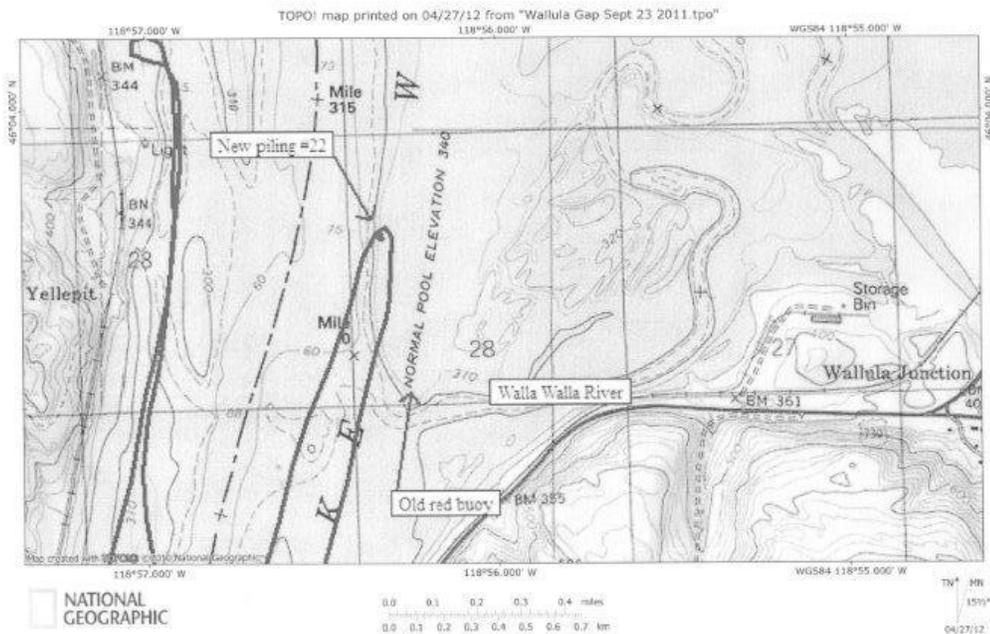
A new navigation marker, set on a piling and marked #22, was seen nearby. But where was that new

marker relative to our old friend the red buoy? A timely and scenic boat trip in September 2011 enabled us to circle the new piling marker with GPS in hand. That GPS data was in turn downloaded in a mapping program, and it showed that the new marker was 4/10 of a mile north of the mouth of the Walla Walla River and the old red buoy.

Recently I was able to discuss this with personnel at the United States Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Kennewick facility, who are responsible for maintaining the navigation markers between Hood River, Oregon and Lewiston, Idaho. They confirmed that they did remove the red buoy, and that it likely would not be returned. They also confirmed the recent placement of piling marker #22 on the east side of the Columbia River channel.

Incorporating the original cadastral survey map of the area into the mix provided more interesting information. Surveyed by 'Wm H Carlton' with a survey date of '30th Oct. 1861', the original Oregon Territory cadastral survey maps seems to be a good source of documentation and are available on the Bureau of Land Management website. The cadastral map also shows 'old H.B. Ft. Walla Walla', which was originally named Fort Nez Perce in July 1818. Superimposing the old cadastral map with the modern map with GPS data, shows that the new navigation piling #22 to be nearly exactly on the spot of 'old H.B. Ft. Walla Walla'.

So our markers have changed. And by design or not, they each provide us with a method of locating a landmark that is important to Pacific Northwest history.



THE ADVENTURES OF LEWIS & CLARK

THE MOVIE THAT NEVER WAS (PART III)

Our flight of cinematic fancy continues, as we reveal more of the cast of our imaginary film, *The Adventures of Lewis & Clark*. This time, we turn to the backbone of the Corps of Discovery: the Sergeants.

Ward Bond as John Ordway. Like Fonda and Wayne as the Captains, Bond would have been a bit “mature” in the late 1940s for the role of the Corps senior Sergeant. We don’t care. To see Bond portraying a classic “sarge” (or Navy “chief”), see him in *They Were Expendable* (1945), or in *Fort Apache* (1948).



Bond

Ben Johnson as Nathaniel Pryor. A real-life cowboy, Johnson usually

played laid back, plainspoken country boys who didn’t say much, but knew how to get the job done.



Johnson

We like him in the role of Pryor, a “young man from Kentucky” who earned the trust and respect of both his officers and his men. Watch him act and ride in *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949) and *Rio Grande* (1950), and you will definitely trust him to take the horses to the Mandans.

Charlton Heston as Charles Floyd.

both his officers



Heston

Heston once played William Clark in *The Far Horizons*, a wildly inaccurate 1955 movie about Lewis and Clark which painted Clark as a lovesick puppy who couldn’t even handle Charbonneau in a knife fight. So we give him a chance for redemption – and a tear-jerker death scene. See him re-create Colter’s Run in *The Mountain Men* (1980).

James Whitmore as Patrick Gass. A great character actor, Whitmore had over 150 film and TV credits in his long career. Watch *Battleground* (1949) to see him as a gruff sergeant who holds his squad together in the snow-bound wilderness. - J.O.



Whitmore

NEXT NEWSLETTER: THE CIVILIANS

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

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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

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 15 - 16: Chapter Fall field trip and board meeting, Cheney & Spokane (see page 1)

September 16 – November 15: ‘Gifts from our Ancestors’ exhibit at Maryhill Museum of Art

September 28 - 29: Heritage Days at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center

September 28 - 30: Foundation Regional meeting Commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Reported Death of Sacajawea, Fort Pierre, South Dakota. Contact Bill Stevens at 605-224-0223 or Bill.Stevens@eotp.net.

November 9 - 10: “Ocian in View” programs; call the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, Ilwaco WA, 360-642-3446

Memorial Day Weekend 2013: Tri Chapter meeting and Camas Festival on Weippe Prairie

Summer 2014: 46th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Tri-Cities, Washington. (Much more information to follow).

Visit our Washington Chapter website...www.wa-lcthf.org

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

September 2012 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.