

Irving W. Anderson (1920-1999)



Irving W. Anderson, past president of the foundation, died at his Portland, Oregon home August 20, 1999. He was 79. "Andy," as he was known to many of the foundation members, attended the November 1970 annual meeting that inaugurated the foundation's yearly meetings. He served as secretary from 1973 to 1979 and president in 1980-81. He holds the foundation's highest award *"For Outstanding Contributions in Bringing to this Nation a Greater Awareness and Appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition."*

Irving W. "Andy" Anderson was born in Seattle on February 2, 1920. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II and later earned a B.A. in geography at the University of Washington. His entire professional career was devoted to public land and resource management in widely varying locales including Alaska, Egypt, Washington D.C., Oregon and Washington state.

With a true academic's rigor, Andy insisted on primary documentation for his, and others', works on Lewis and Clark. This extended to such details as verifying and insisting on the "correct" spelling and pronunciation of the Indian woman Sacagawea's name. The name was spelled phonetically in the journals ("Sah-ca-gah-we-ah"). He wrote many articles on this subject alone. This effort emerged in unlikely places, such as the new dollar coin depicting Sacagawea. Corresponding with the director of the U.S. Mint, Andy effectively campaigned for a correct spelling of the name.

From 1986 to 1992, Anderson was a faculty member of The Heritage Institute of Antioch University in Seattle. His course, titled *Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis & Clark Legacy*, emphasized the Columbia River estuary and its significance to the activities of the Corps of Discovery; his *Trails West* course focused on segments of the Lewis & Clark and Oregon National Historic Trails in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

With a reverence for fact, Andy would not shrink from challenging any assertions about Lewis and Clark that were contrary to the explorers' primary records, their journals. Although he was gratified by Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage* and the exposure and the financial

contributions Ambrose gave to the foundation and other Lewis and Clark endeavors, this did not deter Andy from documenting a considerable number of factual errors in the book, noting them in his published review in the Patrice Press, Tucson, Arizona.

Anderson chaired numerous state and academic advisory committees including Oregon's Lewis and Clark Trail Advisory Committee; Oregon's Committee for a Livable Oregon; and the U.S. National Park Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Advisory Council. In 1976 he chaired the Bicentennial Committee that created a Lewis and Clark Botanical Memorial in Portland's Waterfront Park.

Anderson was recognized nationally for his research, notably biographies of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, his mother Sacagawea, and his father, Toussaint Charbonneau, all of Lewis and Clark Expedition fame. Anderson's research contributions and his many reviews of recent Lewis and Clark Expedition scholarly books have been published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*; *Congressional Record*; *Montana, the Magazine of Western History*; and *South Dakota History*; together with manuscript reading/critiquing for University of Oklahoma Press. He was also the co-author of the historical and biographical texts printed in the National Park Service's Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail map brochure, U.S. National Park Service, and was coproducer of its video, *Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail*.

He is survived by his wife, Lynne; daughters Elizabeth Pfeifer and Kristine Schmidt, both of Newberg, Oregon; Katharine Anderson-White of Durham, Oregon and Ingrid of Issaquah, Washington; a son, John-Erik of Redmond, Washington; a brother, Frank of Seattle and 12 grandchildren. A memorial service was held in the Agnes Flanagan Chapel at Lewis & Clark College. Memorials for Andy can be directed to the Irving Anderson Memorial Fund at the Archives and Special Collections Department at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR 97219.

Andy's historical research and writing efforts may be found on two Internet websites:

- PBS Online: [www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/Inside the Corps](http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/Inside%20the%20Corps)
- The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation: [www.lewisandclark.org/The History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition](http://www.lewisandclark.org/The%20History%20of%20the%20Lewis%20and%20Clark%20Expedition)

-John Montague

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*Prepared by Bob Gatten, 2011*