THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.
Incorporated 1969 under Missouri General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act IRS Exemption Certificate No. 501(C)(3)—Identification No. 51-0187715

OFFICERS—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President
Robert K. Doerk, Jr.
1443 Park Garden Road
Great Falls, MT 59404

1st Vice President
Winfred C. George
6340 Rosebury Ave. 2 W
St. Louis, MO 63105

2nd Vice President
James R. Fazio
2901 S. 66th St.
Yankee Ridge
Lincoln, NE 68516

Barbara Kubik, Secretary
1712 S. Perry Ct.
Kennewick, WA 99337

John E. Walker, Treasurer
18309 S. Springwater Rd.
Eastacada, OR 97023

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

DIRECTORS

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ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The purpose of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc., is to stimulate public interest in matters relating to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the contributions to American history made by the Expedition members, and events of time and place concerning the expedition which are of historical import to our nation. The Foundation recognizes the value of tourist-oriented programs, and supports activities which enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the Lewis and Clark story. The scope of the activities of the Foundation is broad and diverse, and includes involvement in pursuits which, in the judgment of the directors, are of historical worth or contemporary social value, and commensurate with the heritage of Lewis and Clark. The activities of the National Foundation are intended to complement and supplement those of state and local Lewis and Clark interest groups. The Foundation may appropriately recognize and honor individuals or groups for art works of distinction, achievement in the broad field of Lewis and Clark historical research, writing, or deeds which promote the general purposes and scope of activities of the Foundation. Membership in the organization comprises a broad spectrum of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts including Federal, State, and local government officials, historians, scholars, and others of wide-ranging Lewis and Clark interests. Officers of the Foundation are elected from the membership. The annual meeting of the Foundation is traditionally held during August, the birth month of both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The meeting place is rotated among the states, and tours generally are arranged to visit sites in the area of the annual meeting which have historic association with the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DOERK

A sense of immediacy pervades the Lewis and Clark Expedition. As I pen these words, it is 35 degrees below zero in Great Falls with a wind chill factor of -70 degrees. A vivid reminder of what it was like at Fort Mandan in December, 1804, when frostbite and frozen ink were obstacles. As we prepare for a skirmish in the Mideast, Jefferson’s problems with the Barbary pirates in 1805 come to mind. He solved his problem and we will solve ours. The superb series on PBS on the Civil War has called into question, once again, our current educational deficiencies when comparing the poignant use of English in troopers’ letters back home in the 1860s to what is written today. Now we have 47 additional “Clark letters” secure in the archives of The Filson Club, our hosts for the 1991 Annual Meeting in Louisville, August 4-7. More on these letters will appear in the May issue of WPO but it brings to mind what wordsmith’s the Expedition members were in their journal entries. Read some of Lewis’ descriptions and the sense of wonder returns. How could he be so fluent with the written word when he never had a college course? Perhaps the Civil War letters and the Lewis and Clark Journals reveal a difference between

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is open to the general public. Information and an application are available by sending a request to: Membership Secretary, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.; P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403.

We Proceeded On, the quarterly magazine of the Foundation, is mailed to current members during the months of February, May, August, and November.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES*

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* For foreign memberships add: $5/year in Canada; $10/year in Europe; and $15/year in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

** Please indicate grade and school when applying.
Okay, let's get humble right up front. November's WPO was late, late, late and your old editor will have to apologize for the delay. I can't say it won't happen again because it probably will to varying degrees, but I will make every effort to keep it somewhere near on time. For example, as I write this editorial, I am waiting for some photographs and a color transparency to come in so we can proceed on. The articles cannot be typeset until I determine where the pictures will go. I cannot determine that until I see the pictures. I was hoping to have an article on the recently discovered Clark letters, but you will have to wait until the May magazine. I am, however, able to print two of the many newspaper articles about the letters in this issue of WPO. It seems to me to be a really amazing coincidence that the Clark letters turned up just a few months before we journey to Louisville for our annual meeting. Thank God for small favors (or large ones).

Yes it is true, as Bob Doerk says in his column, I am going to run a calendar of events in WPO. But before I do that I need some events. My suggestion would be to send in the information on your particular event as far in advance as possible. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it should be comprehensive—as complete as possible on what is happening at the event. “The 27th Annual Cherry Festival—June 23-24” doesn't tell me much or catch my interest, but “Cherry Doll Parade, Cherry Pit Spitting Contest, Cherry Wine Tasting, Cherry Pig Barbeque, Tour of Cherry Hill Homes” might stir me from my couch potato position or detour me from a straight shot down the freeway.

My kind of event is one that is held in a small town in southwestern Montana every summer. The supposed purpose of the celebration on the Sunday before the 4th of July is the fact that on the return trip either Lewis or Clark stopped for lunch at the hot spring a half mile south of town. Jackson is in the Big Hole Valley. The Big Hole is a high altitude mountain valley that has only eight or nine frost-free days each year. One of the Chief Joseph versus the Army battle sites is up the valley a few miles.

Jackson is a blink and you'll miss it spot in the road. The highway is the main street of the town. The celebration is held in the middle of the highway so anybody passing through town pretty much has to stop and have fun.

The townspeople spend most of Saturday night barbequing beef over outdoor fires. There is a greased pig chase, rodeo, dancing and lots of free food. Everybody is welcome for a day of genuine country fun.

I didn't hear anybody mention Lewis or Clark but that was all right. When I wrote about it I called it the “Celebration at the Little Apple.” Small town Montana has just as much (or maybe more) fun as New York City.

My point is—let all of the readers of WPO know what is going on in your area.

My bet is we are a bunch of fun-loving people.
Highlights of the 23rd Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky

BY JAMES R. BENTLEY
DIRECTOR, THE FILSON CLUB
Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville looks forward to welcoming the members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in August.

A special series of events has been planned for you in this city, which was founded by William Clark’s brother, Gen. George Rogers Clark, in 1778. The Clark family settled here early in our history and many Clark family descendants are Louisvillians still.

While here you will see Locust Grove, built in 1790 by Col. William Croghan and his wife Lucy Clark, sister of William Clark. It was here that George Rogers Clark spent his last years and died. Lewis and Clark both were visitors here. The house is beautifully restored and is preserved with substantial acreage so that it keeps its original sense of place.

Another Clark family location is the site of Mulberry Hill, now gone, which was the home of William Clark’s parents. Preserved today as part of George Rogers Clark Park, the old family graveyard will hold particular interest.

One of the most recognized structures in America is Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby. The famous twin spires will greet you when you come to tour the Kentucky Derby Museum, which is a lavish display on racing and horses. Churchill Downs is built on land once owned by the Churchill family, which intermarried with the Clarks. Meriwether Lewis Clark, son of William Clark, was a leading figure in the development of racing in Louisville.

Clarksville, Indiana, across the Ohio River from Louisville, was named for George Rogers Clark (as is Clark County where Clarksville is situated).
Here Gen. Clark lived for many years and here Lewis and Clark began their westward journey.

The Filson Club, founded in 1884, will greet you with a reception and special exhibit. Named for Kentucky’s first historian, John Filson, The Filson Club is the oldest continuously operating historical society in Kentucky and houses great treasures of our fabled state’s history. Of special note for Lewis and Clark are extensive manuscripts of the Clark family and related Kentucky families, printed works on Lewis and Clark, a relic of the expedition and documents of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The recently discovered letters of William Clark to his older brother Gen. Jonathan Clark dating from 1792 to 1811 will be specially shown for this occasion. The Club is housed in the finest example of Beaux Arts residential architecture in Kentucky and should provide visual pleasure for visitors.

The program will emphasize Kentucky’s contribution to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. George Yater, a distinguished local historian, will speak on the nine young Kentuckians who served in the expedition. Dr. Ernest Ellison will provide a slide program on the Falls of the Ohio, where the expedition began.

Dr. Charles Boewe, the leading authority on naturalist Constantine S. Rafinesque, and Carolyn S. Denton, curator of special collections at Tran-
sylvania University, will present a lecture on naturalist George Shannon of the expedition.

James J. Holmberg, curator of manuscripts for The Filson Club, will discuss the cache of William Clark letters so recently discovered, which will be of particular interest for this group.

And John Harrod will provide music of the Lewis and Clark period for the annual banquet.

Altogether we feel this is a memorable meeting and one you will not want to miss. We look forward to welcoming you to Louisville for a very special time.

Videos and voice-over slide presentations on the Lewis and Clark Expedition are now available to the general public. Great for meeting programs, excellent for schools. Copies of We Proceeded On, the video—$11.00 per copy (postage and handling included). The 111 voice-over slide presentation—$70. Also available on loan. Send your order to:

Lewis and Clark Video
Headwaters Chapter, LCHF
P.O. Box 577
Bozeman, MT 59771-0577
The Instruments of Lewis and Clark

Why not the instruments that made it possible?

BY MARTIN PLAMONDON II

The western horizon was a cloudy gray, with the promise of more rain. The drenched men waited on the long keelboat and the two pirogues.

"Permission to fire a salute, sir, before we get under way?"

"Granted, Sergeant."

Clark shook the hands of well-wishers who had come out to see the party off but their voices were lost in the roar of the rifles. Spring green leaves drifted down from the cottonwoods overhead as Clark swung aboard the keelboat. Slowly, the men pushed their long setting poles, the heavily laden craft moved out of the small creek, crossed with Mississippi and entered the Missouri.

Thus on May 14, 1804, began the 29-month journey of The Corps of Volunteers for Northwest Discovery, better known today as the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In 1806, when the expedition returned to St. Louis, it was hailed as a great achievement in survival, and not much else. Only since the beginning of this century have we begun to comprehend and appreciate, as President Jefferson did then, the magnitude of what really was accomplished by this most comprehensive of all exploring expeditions. Five surveying and cartographic achievements are near the top of a long list of accomplishments:

1. A traverse of 4,162 miles (Clark's measurement) from St. Louis to Cape Disappointment at the mouth of the Columbia River.
2. Nearly 100 maps produced in the field showing the route of the expedition.
3. Determination of the shortest route from the Missouri across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia, verifying the information of natives.
4. Determination of latitude for nearly all important points along the route.
5. Descriptive narrative of all important physical features along the route.

The only serious failure in the area of surveying and cartography were their sightings to determine longitude, a fault of the foibles of a chronometer.

While the expedition had a professional surveyor among the enlisted men, neither of the leaders could claim the title. Meriwether Lewis had very little experience in the use of survey and navigation instruments. Most of his experience came from a few short weeks of study with noted mathematician Robert Patterson and Major Andrew Ellicott, the nation's leading surveyor of the day. Ellicott's work included laying out the capital city, Washington.

William Clark, however, had much experience as a wilderness surveyor. Having surveyed large tracts of Tennessee and Kentucky for his family, he was familiar with most surveying instruments, including the theodolite. Whether he had any previous experience with the octant and sextant is not known. If not, he took to them fairly well. There is evidence that his sightings were better than those of Lewis.

President Jefferson and the other scientific minds of the American Philosophical Society corresponded at length concerning the instruments and the geographic positioning methods to be used by the expedition. The discussions centered on four instruments: the octant, the sextant, the timekeeper or chronometer, and the equatorial...
theodolite. The octant and the sextant were instruments long used for determining the latitude of a position, usually on a ship at sea. The procedure was fairly simple. A series of perhaps a dozen sightings of the sun were made just before-and-after local solar noon to measure the sun’s height above the horizon. Obviously, bad sightings were discarded. Any pairs of before and after sightings with equal altitudes were used to compute the exact moment when the sun reached its highest point, the moment it crossed the local meridian, which was halfway between the times of the paired sightings. Using this information, they could determine the latitude fairly accurately from prepared tables. Their local time could also be corrected from these sightings.

The octant and sextant were similar in construction. Two legs fixed to each other at one end, the apex, and jointed at the opposite ends by an arc, formed the body of the instrument. It was a triangle with an arc in place of the base. An index arm pinned at the apex moved along a scale of degrees, minutes and seconds marked on the arc. A series of mirrors and a sight or small scope allowed the user to line up an upper or lower edge of the solar disc or a star with the line of the horizon (see figure). This was done by moving the index arm with one hand while the instrument was held in a steady vertical position on line with the horizon by the other hand. The instruments were provided with shaded glass for viewing the sun and usually a reverse scope for sighting the opposite horizon when the horizon under the sun or star was indistinct or obscured.

Octants were usually made of ebony, but high-quality sextants were made of brass. The additional weight helped steady the instrument during sightings, and only practice brought that about.

A distinct horizon, such as one would have from a ship at sea, was nearly impossible on land. Trees, mountains, and fog or haze usually ruled out a true horizon. In this situation, an artificial horizon
was placed in front so that the image of the sun was reflected from the artificial horizon up to meet its image coming into the instrument's mirrors. This method resulted in an angle reading that was exactly twice the altitude of the sun. The artificial horizon consisted of a trough filled with mercury, a level reflective surface, and shielded from the wind by small panes of glass. The mercury horizon was not suitable for an extended trip into the wilderness. A number of alternatives were devised, including water, talc and mirrors. Each proved effective in varying circumstances.

The scientific planners were left with the problem of determining longitude. At the time there were two usual methods. The first involved observing, with a telescope, the precise times when any of Jupiter's four major moons began and ended a transit of the planet's disc. The other used the moon like the hand of a clock moving around the earth. Its time of travel was measured against various stars and planets, which for these purposes could be assumed to be stationary. In both methods the observed differences between local time and time at a known prime meridian were used to calculate the longitude. This required a timekeeper or chronometer capable of very accurate and consistent time over the many months the expedition was in the wilderness. Such time pieces were available mainly for marine navigation. No one had ever subjected such an instrument to the moisture, dust and temperature ranges of a long land journey for the purpose of navigation.

Jefferson, having ruled out tracking the moons of Jupiter, proposed using the equatorial theodolite as the instrument for measuring lunar distances. This instrument had a scope mounted on a standard leveling platform (see figure). Above the scope was a second scope mounted on a pair of circles at right angles to each other. The upper scope was used to sight a celestial body while the lower scope remained locked on some fixed point on the earth. The angular distances were read off the scales. Jefferson was convinced the use of the theodolite would eliminate the need for the chronometer. Patterson and Ellicott did not agree, but using tact with the President, argued only that the instrument was too sensitive for such an expedition.

Lewis' final list of "Mathematical Instruments" included: a brass sextant, an octant, an Arnold's chronometer, a spirit level and surveyor's compass, four pocket compasses, a case of plotting instruments, a two-pole chain (33 feet), a log line reel and log ship for measuring a ship's speed or a river's current, and a cased measuring tape with a winding crank.

Lewis, Clark and seven of the men kept journals during the expedition. Some of these journals were lost, but during this century a number have come to light and publication. Of the two leaders, only Clark consistently kept a journal through the entire expedition. Using the log line to estimate their progress on the rivers, and the surveyor's compass to determine the bearings, Clark faithfully recorded an open-ended traverse from St. Louis to Cape Disappointment on the Pacific Ocean at the mouth.
of the Columbia River. He added to the record sand bars, islands, rapids, falls, cliffs, creeks, rivers, native villages and changes in vegetation. From that record Clark drew a series of maps in the field showing the route of the expedition. The maps were rough and lacking in artistic virtue, and unfortunately a number were later lost. But the maps that survived were remarkably good given the circumstances under which Clark labored. With the aid of native information and astounding geographical intuition, Clark's notes and maps left a vivid picture of the land through which they struggled for twenty-nine months.

Clark obviously expected that upon their return skilled cartographers would map what he so carefully surveyed and recorded. It never came to pass, as people lost interest in the expedition that failed to find an all-water route to the Pacific. However, Clark's notes and rough maps have provided a valuable basis for a unique historical mapping project. When completed, this project will comprise some 500 large-scale topographic maps, each showing a portion of the Lewis and Clark Trail for the period of 1804 to 1806. The maps are based on the Universal Transverse Mercator Projection. Clark's traverse is carefully fitted to those landmarks that still exist today. River channels are reconstructed according to Clark's record and all available topographical evidence. Many months of study and research have been necessary to reconstruct the Missouri River from St. Louis to North Dakota. Relief is shown by contour lines, and even these had to be reworked to fill in quarries and eliminate changes wrought by highways, railroads and the effects of river erosion. Events that involved the expedition have been noted, as well as the areas where new plants and animals were encountered. Campsites are depicted. Even Clark's traverse is shown in its best fit.

Some features that exist today have been added to help the map reader relate the two periods. Present day water features, dams, major highways, railroads, bridges, park, city and reservation boundaries are indicated by dotted lines. Notes referring to non-expedition features are shown in special lettering, with every effort made to sublimate this information. One almost has to look for it. The map that one sees first is of the country that Clark observed. Nearly one third of the maps now are completed.

But why undertake such a project at all, especially after 180 years? A number of reasons have kept this project going. The maps will document the entire trail, thereby preserving in some manner even those areas lost to the press of civilization and drowned behind the many dams. They will locate, with credible accuracy, the trail and sites in a manner never before attempted for the entire route. The maps will assist historians as they continue to unravel the complexities and details of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Finally, there is deep personal respect and admiration by this cartographer for another who, nearly two centuries ago, with the crude instruments of the day, sought to leave an enduring record of the land we love.

NOTES

1. John B. Thompson recruited at Wood River, Illinois. By trade he was surveyor at Vincennes, Indiana Territory.

2. In 1904, all known journals were published in original form. Editor was Reuben Gold Thwaites, LL.D. Eight volumes including an atlas of loose reproductions.

Several publishings of newly found material appeared in the fifties and sixties.

Presently being published, The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Editor: Dr. Gary E. Moulton. University of Nebraska Press. Projected as ten volumes including an oversize atlas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Martin Plamondon II is a Clark County, Washington cartographer and serves as director of the county mapping department. He is a member of the Oregon Lewis and Clark Trail Committee and continues to serve on the Washington committee. He has written a 1400 page novel on the Lewis and Clark Expedition (to be published soon, we hope) and is about one-third finished with a large scale, topographic reconstruction of the Lewis and Clark Trail. He is the program chairman for the 1992 Lewis and Clark Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Washington.
One of the projected 500 maps in Martin Plamondon's large scale topographic reconstruction of the Lewis and Clark Trail. The original of this map measures 18"x24". La Charrette was the last civilized village Lewis and Clark passed through on their journey to the Pacific. It was about 70 miles upriver from the mouth of the Missouri River.
"Lewis began the kind of jawbone reporting that the expedition explorers were to repeat over and over for the rest of their lives ..."

On August 12, 1806, Meriwether Lewis was skimming homeward on the Missouri River in present North Dakota, bearing the daily written journals of his grand expedition to the Pacific. The bowsman in his perogue spotted a camp of strangers on the river's left bank, and Lewis ordered his party to stop.

The campers were Joseph Dickson and Forest Hancock, Illinois trappers who had pushed to the Upper Missouri in search of beaver. Lewis wrote in that day's journal that he gave the bedraggled trappers some much-needed gunpowder and lead, plus an even better gift of first-hand information: "I gave them a short discription of the Missouri, a list of distances to the most conspicuous streams and remarkable places on the river above and pointed out to them the places where the beaver most abounded."

Right there, Lewis began the kind of jawbone reporting that the expedition explorers were to repeat over and over for the rest of their lives: word-of-mouth accounts of what they had learned on their tour of the Great West. This kind of unrecorded talk—campfire bull sessions, barroom yarns, refined afterdinner conversation over cognac and cigars—tends to be unappreciated by historians, who prefer things written down in documents that can be dissected and footnoted. But it was word-of-mouth reporting by all 32 of the exploring party's adults that mainly sparked the initial exploitation of the expedition's findings. The first follow-up wave of fur-business exploration that spread across the west was due more to post-expedition gossip and gab than any written documents.

Students of the expedition fret with good reason about delays in the publication of the written records carefully kept by Lewis and co-leader William Clark. Their account didn't see print until 1814, more than seven years after their return, and then only in a paraphrased version. By that time Lewis and Clark had lost any monopoly on American knowledge of the Rocky Mountains, so swift was the rush of next-step exploration by others. The actual words of the captains' journals weren't published in nearly-complete form for a whole century, and forgotten fragments are still trickling off the press even today. Not until this 20th century blossoming of the written record did historians fully appreciate the achievements of the two leaders.

That's not to say nothing at all was printed between the expedition's return to St. Louis on September 23, 1806, and the appearance in 1814 of the "official" expedition narrative written by Philadelphia lawyer Nicholas Biddle, with Clark's help and approval. In the fall of 1806 several newspapers published a bare-bones outline of transcontinental adventure, based on a homecoming letter to his family sent by Clark from St. Louis. Clark's tribe-by-tribe description of the Indians of the Great Plains, written on the road a year before, was transmitted to Congress by President Jefferson in February, 1806, and widely reprinted in various forms.

In July, 1807, just 10 months after the expedition ended, a Pittsburgh ghostwriter for Sergeant
Patrick Gass published a day-by-day account of the whole trip based on the sergeant's now-missing raw diary. The Gass narrative has been dismissed by some later writers as stilted and colorless, but it was in fact packed with references to plentiful beaver at specific places on the western landscape, using latitudes borrowed from the yet unseen captains' journals. Gass told of encounters with "very large and powerful" grizzlies, and offered one of the first descriptions of the salmon economy of river Indians beyond the Rockies.1 His book had a wide circulation both in the U.S. and Europe prior to 1814, and was gobbled up by any frontiersman who could read. At a North West Company trading post in present Alberta, Alexander Henry recorded how he spent a March day in 1810: "Put tongues to thaw, and perused Gass' Journal Across the Rocky Mountains."2

Back in Washington in March, 1807, Lewis publicly outlined plans to produce his own authoritative three-volume account of the expedition. He predicted an all-important map of the route "most probably" would appear the following October, with the first volume due about two months later. Post-expedition travelers certainly would have profited from the map plus any Lewis guidebooks appearing as early as January, 1808, especially for a rundown of unknown plants and animals in the west. Even if the first installment had appeared on time, however, the initial exploiters of the expedition's homecoming tales were already out of the starting gate. As it turned out Lewis never delivered a line of the written story. His death in 1809 dumped the job on Clark, who produced the map but dumped the writing on Bidwell, with the drawn-out results we have seen.

An even earlier unfulfilled promise of an expedition book came from Private Robert Frazer, who circulated a prospectus of the work before leaving St. Louis for the east in October, 1806. Frazer's book never saw print, however, and his presumed manuscript diary has never been found. Frazer did produce a rough map of the expedition's route, with such tantalizing notations as "much beaver" marked at the Great Falls of the Missouri. Document-oriented historians might conclude that Frazer's map was of little benefit to follow-up explorers because the drawing disappeared into private collections and is now entombed in the Library of Congress.3

Frazer's map may have been tossed in a drawer, but not Frazer himself, who was ready to bend the ear of anyone who would listen to tales about "much beaver" in the streams of Montana. The same barrage of personal recollection had to be coming from every other member of the expedition, not forgetting Toussaint Chabonneau and his wife Sacagawea. In their Knife River home in North Dakota these two impromptu adventurers were certainly telling and re-telling their story of a beached Pacific whale to envious Hidatsas and the North West Company traders from Canada who were always hanging around. Legends of early St. Louis depicted York, Clark's slave, dazzling saloon crowds with yarns about what he saw on the trip.

It was the expedition's officers, though, who naturally had the biggest audience. When Lewis and Clark returned to St. Louis from beyond the Rockies, "their accounts of that wild region, with those of their companions, first excited a spirit of trafficking adventure among the young men of the west," recalled Thomas James, a Missourian who shortly became an excited adventurer himself.4

By definition, word-of-mouth accounts aren't documented, but what was said can often be surmised from the later recorded actions of the listeners. Lewis and Clark spent close to a month in St. Louis, which in 1806 was a village of just 1,000 gossipy souls. The captains wrote their initial reports to the east, sorted their souvenirs and--talked. "Payed some visits of form, to the gentlemen of St. Louis," write Clark two days after his arrival. "in the evening a dinner & Ball."

"The daring adventure became the theme of universal conversation in the town," said a local chronicler.5 "All parties," noted Silas Bent, a resident Federal surveyor, "have joined here in expressing their high sense of the great merit of these Gentlemen."6

Among those hearing the heroes' story were the town's leading businessmen, Auguste and Pierre Chouteau. These powerful half-brothers had helped the expedition with supplies and information before its departure in 1804, and now Pierre put the captains up in his own house. Lewis and Clark also must have given a fascinating earful to Manuel Lisa, another pre-expedition supplier.
J udging by later events, Clark quite possibly showed Lisa his sketch maps of the beaver-rich spot in Montana where the Missouri divides into three forks, and the entrance of the Bighorn River passed by Clark on his return float down the Yellowstone.

In mid-October the two officers left St. Louis to give a personal account of their trip to President Jefferson in Washington. Heading out with them across southern Illinois was Big White, a Mandan chief who wanted to shake Jefferson's hand and see the promised marvels of white civilization. The party also is thought to have included such expedition veterans as Sergeant John Ordway, Private Francis Labiche, Gass, Frazer and York. Riding along, too, was a delegation of Osage Indians shepherded by Pierre Chouteau. The big, fractious Osage tribe lived west of the Ozarks and traded almost exclusively with the Chouteaus in St. Louis. The cautious half-brothers had shown only limited interest in trading high up the Missouri River.

But that was to change, and Pierre Chouteau's month on the road with Lewis and Clark was a probable factor. At wayside taverns in Cahokia, Vincennes, Louisville and many in-between campfires the talk surely was dominated by the great expedition west: the brown carpets of buffalo, the cold high Rockies, the friendly Nez Perce, the Columbia trade marts, and everywhere the beaver. Lewis knew firsthand that Jefferson envisioned a string of private American trading stations across the continent that someday would wrest the Indian trade from the British Northwesters. He could now tell Chouteau how he and Clark had actually laid the groundwork for those outposts of profit.

The travelers arrived in Frankfort, Kentucky, on November 13. There they split up, Chouteau and his Osages heading directly for Washington while Lewis and Clark detoured to see friends and relatives before reporting to the capital? On arrival in late December Lewis gave the President verbal details of the journey not covered in his written reports, including an admission that he should have taken more blue beads and brass buttons for buying supplies from western tribesmen. Jefferson summarized this conversation about Indian merchandise preferences in a memo to his Secretary of War, saying the lessons learned by Lewis could be useful to "our future explorers."

Pierre Chouteau, his head full of the same expedition lore, took his Osage delegation back to St. Louis in the early spring of 1807 while Lewis and Clark remained temporarily in the east. The Chouteaus talked over their prospects for making money from the Upper Missouri fur trade, and seized an early opportunity to plunge in. Ensign Nathanial Pryor, a sergeant with the Lewis and Clark expedition, had brought Big White back to St. Louis under orders to escort the Mandan chief to his North Dakota home. To strengthen Pryor's detail of 14 soldiers the government authorized an armed party of private entrepreneurs to travel along, promising them a period of exclusive trading rights with the Mandans. The Chouteaus decided to bankroll this 22-man private party and named Pierre's son, Auguste Pierre, to lead it. Young Chouteau had just resigned from the Army following a West Point education engineered by Lewis as a pre-expedition favor to the family.

The Chouteaus were reacting at least in part to the even quicker moves of Manuel Lisa, their crafty St. Louis business rival. According to one biographer Lisa had been "galvanized" by the expedition yarns told by Lewis and Clark in the fall of 1806. After the captains left for the east Lisa and his financial backers, Kaskaskia merchants Pierre Menard and William Morrison, assembled 50 or 60 traders and trappers to push two keelboats up the Missouri the following spring.

Lisa's star recruits were George Drouillard, John Potts and Peter Weiser, who had all seen the Pacific with Lewis and Clark. Drouillard, the expedition's ace civilian hunter and interpreter, never wrote a surviving word about the trip, nor did Potts or Weiser. But they carried volumes of savvy in their heads: how to butcher a buffalo, how to attract antelope by waving your hat, how to act when a Mandan brave offered you his wife. And they all knew the Missouri to its most distant fountain in the Rockies, including the Three Forks hotbed of beaver. None, however, had accompanied Clark on the return trip down the Yellowstone, a knowledge gap that soon would be filled.

Lisa's keelboats left St. Louis in early May, 1807. Near the Platte-Missouri junction the party met a lone canoeist. It was John Colter, a Lewis and Clark veteran who still hadn't made it back to civilization. Those two Illinois trappers the expedition met on the way home the previous August had talked Colter into joining them and going back

(Continued on page 18)
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upriver. Instead of following the Missouri, however, the Dixon-Hancock-Colter trio turned left up the Yellowstone—new country for them all. They spent the winter of 1806-07 on the rolling uplands southwest of present Billings, Montana, but in the spring Colter finally split for home.11

Meeting Lisa and his old expedition buddies at the Platte, Colter was prevailed upon to turn around again. Lisa’s party pressed on up the Missouri to the Arikara village cluster, and here the first-hand knowledge of the Lewis and Clark veterans proved outdated already. Both going and coming the expedition had been greeted cordially by the Arikaras, but now the tribe’s mood was sour toward whites. Lisa had to talk his way past a tense encounter with the unhappy Rees there, and later with some upriver Mandans and Assinibolnes as well. Added to the unexpected stiffness of the river tribes were probable words of caution from Drouillard about riled-up Blackfeet on the plains just east of the Rockies. Drouillard had been with Lewis during a terrifying hand-to-hand fight with the Blackfeet on the Marlas River, a northern branch of the Missouri, which left two warriors dead.

Lisa’s possible objective was the Three Forks country remembered as beaver heaven by the Lewis and Clark men, and they all knew how to get there by following the main Missouri. But that looping Lewis and Clark outbound route would have required a replay of the tough Great Falls portage besides risking Blackfeet attack. Quite likely Lisa had it directly from Clark during those welcome-home chats in St. Louis that a safer shortcut would take him up the Yellowstone, across present Bozeman pass and down the Gallatin River to the forks—reversing Clark’s own homeward path. And now, with Colter, Lisa had a guide with actual Yellowstone experience. Colter also could assure Lisa that the Crows along the Yellowstone route were eager to do business in furs.

Lisa therefore swerved into the Yellowstone. If he originally intended to push all the way to the Three Forks that first season, the plan was dropped as winter drew ominously near. In November, 1807, Lisa halted at the mouth of the Bighorn River and ordered his men to start building Fort Raymond.12 Of the Bighorn country Clark had written in his journal for July 26, 1806: “Buffalow, Elk, Deer and Antelopes are plenty and the river is said to abound in beaver.” Lisa didn’t have to wait for a paraphrase of this description to appear in Biddle’s 1814 book; he must have already heard all about it from Clark and Colter in person.

In the ensuing months Lisa sent both Colter and Drouillard out separately to invite Crow tribesmen to Fort Raymond to sell their furs for guns, brass kettles and other goods useful around the lodge. The two old Lewis and Clark hands roamed to the west and south of the fort, now experiencing for the first time parts of the west not seen by anyone on the expedition. During two trips Colter scouted present Yellowstone Park, while Drouillard ranged south on the Rosebud to hear Indians tell of a spooky place where thunderous booms frightened the children, something like the “medicine” booms he himself had heard during the Great Falls portage.13 Here were new word-of-mouth reports to supplement what had already been discussed in St. Louis, and they were partly preserved later in writing. On separate return trips to St. Louis, both Colter and Drouillard told Clark about their adventures and helped him incorporate their new landscapes in his big 1810 manuscript map of the entire west. Somebody also must have traced for Clark the later travels of Peter Weiser beyond the Continental Divide, because “Wiser’s River” is shown on the 1810 map as a branch of the Snake. Much of this map was engraved and published with the two Biddle volumes in 1814.

Lisa and Drouillard left Fort Raymond in August, 1808, with an impressive cargo of furs for re-sale in St. Louis; the rest of the party at last marched toward the Three Forks. The Chouteaus could only look with envy at Lisa’s haul, for their own fling at upriver trading had fizzled.

The previous year, remember, Ensign Pryor’s soldiers and young Auguste Pierre Chouteau’s trapper-traders jointly were trying to return Big White to his Mandan home. Traveling ahead, Lisa’s party had squealed past the surly Arikaras without a fight, but the Indians wanted blood by the time the Pryor-Chouteau group drew up in September, 1807. It was the turn of Pryor and one of his soldiers, George Shannon, to be shocked by the Indians’ hostility, for they too had been warmly welcomed with Lewis and Clark in 1804. This time there was shooting: four Americans were killed and several wounded, including Shannon. With the river blocked, Pryor and Chouteau had
WE PROCEEDED ON 19
to take the Mandan chief back to St. Louis. If the Chouteau family was going to dive into the western fur trade, it would need a new springboard.

When Lisa arrived in St. Louis with his Yellowstone furs in the summer of 1808, both Lewis and Clark had taken up their new official duties in that frontier village. Lewis as governor of Upper Louisiana and Clark as militia commander and Indian agent. Life moves on, and now the famous explorers sought to become rear echelon exploiters of their own grand deeds. Lisa’s success on the Yellowstone crystallized a strained commercial marriage of all the bigshots in town: the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company. Among the partners were William Clark, Manuel Lisa, Pierre Chouteau, Auguste Chouteau, Jr. (representing his father’s moneybags) and Benjamin Wilkinson (brother of the unsavory top general of the U.S. Army). Governor Lewis was widely assumed to be a secret partner; his brother Reuben was a public one.14

Today that arrangement would reek scandalously of nepotism and conflict of interest, and even by the easy standards of the times Governor Lewis soon would be accused of blurring the line between public and private business. But to the frontier go-getters in St. Louis the enterprise made perfect sense. Lewis and Clark brought to the partnership their government connections and supreme knowledge of the west, the Chouteaus anted up their money and Lisa contributed a Yellowstone fort and trading force already in place, besides his own proven skill at Indian diplomacy.

In February, 1809, Lewis lubricated the new company with a $7,000 government contract to try again to get Big White home to North Dakota. With the elder Pierre Chouteau at its head, an armed guard of 160 Missouri Fur Company recruits left St. Louis in May with Big White, later to be joined by a somewhat bigger trading party led by Lisa and Reuben Lewis. Drouillard was there again, along with two more veterans of the Pacific expedition, John Collins and Richard Windsor. Many of Lisa’s crewmen, however, couldn’t take his brassy, bossing ways, and both Collins and Windsor were among the early deserters.15

The Missouri Fur Company sailed past the Arikaras without trouble and finally delivered the Mandan chief to his home village in September. Now the firm was free to exercise a semi-monopoly on upper Missouri trading also granted by Lewis in the Big White delivery contract. Lisa built a new trading post near the Mandan-Hidatsa villages, and prepared to go back to St. Louis with Pierre Chouteau. The rest of the party was to reclaim the Three Forks beaver grounds, from which Lisa’s original contingent had been driven by the Blackfeet the previous winter.

Shocking news greeted Lisa and Chouteau on their arrival in St. Louis in November, 1809: Governor Lewis was dead, in what the frontier assumed was a tragic case of suicide. Since summer Lewis had been vexed by complaints from Washington about the Big White delivery contract’s mixture of commercial and military goals. When the War Department wouldn’t honor some of the costs, Lewis left for Washington to clear matters up. Despondent and often drunk, Lewis was found October 11 with mortal gunshot wounds on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee.

Thus was silenced an eyewitness storyteller who had thrilled listeners in St. Louis, in Washington, in Philadelphia with after dinner word portraits of the wonders of the west. Never mind the book he would never write, the expedition’s most articulate spokesman would be heard no more. Other veterans of the Pacific tour were dying off as well, their expertise as ultimate woodsmen no longer available to follow-on explorers. A year before, the Blackfeet had riddled Potts with arrows at the Three Forks; Colter escaped only by outrunning the attackers in his bare feet. Then in the spring of 1810 the Missouri Fur Company’s reinforcements, including Drouillard and Colter, went back to the Three Forks to build a fort. It was Drouillard’s first look at that handsome mountain ringed basin since the Pacific-bound expedition tarried there in 1805. Within weeks this walking guidebook, out alone with his traps, was found with his head cut off and his body hacked to pieces.

Colter had had enough narrow escapes. A comrade described the emotional Three Forks scene where Colter “came into the fort, and said he had promised his Maker to leave the country, and ‘now’ said he, throwing down his hat on the ground, ‘if God will only forgive me this time and let me off I will leave the country day after tomorrow—and be d—d if I ever come into it
John Jacob Astor
1763-1848

Photo credit: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute
again.' 16 Colter left with letters to the company's St. Louis partners describing the detachment's imperilled status, and settled into married retirement in Missouri. There he could still spin fantastic western yarns to his neighbors, but his productive days as an on-the-spot wilderness coach to fur trade tenderfeet were over.

By the summer of 1810 Peter Weiser may have been the sole remaining expedition member still active in the west, but at some point he, too, fell to the Blackfeet. 17 Clark was still in St. Louis, still doubling as government Indian agent and leading partner in Missouri Fur Company, and still dispensing advice on what travelers could expect beyond the Mandans. His advice was still good, of course, but new men now were experts on territory he'd never seen. Under continued Blackfeet pressure part of the Missouri Fur Company's Three Forks detachment came home, while more than 60 others—led by partners Andrew Henry and Reuben Lewis—headed south across the continental divide into present Idaho. Where this group crossed the divide isn't known exactly; some say it was Raynolds Pass—100 air miles east of Lewis and Clark's Lemhi crossing five years before. 18 Henry and Lewis spent the winter of 1810-1811 on a Snake River tributary now called Henry's Fork, eventually returning to boast they had found the best road yet to western waters.

* * * * *

On September 8, 1810, what could be called the second wave of western exploration influenced by Lewis and Clark began with the departure of the ship Tonquin from New York harbor. Outfitted by John Jacob Astor, a German-born fur merchant in New York, the ship was assigned to build a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River as part of an ambitious campaign to link America's fur bounty with the lucrative markets of China. On his return Lewis had advocated just such a venture, but there's no record of Astor having talked directly to either captain. In 1808 Astor apparently met with Jefferson in Washington to seek the government's blessing for the project and the President later approvingly outlined the plan to Lewis. 19

As the Tonquin left New York, Wilson Price Hunt prepared in St. Louis to carry out another part of Astor's plan. Leading a 60-man land party, Hunt was supposed to follow the Lewis and Clark route across the Rockies to the new Columbia River trading post. Hunt was a storekeeper with little wilderness experience, but he had heard first-hand the homecoming stories of Lewis and Clark in the fall of 1806, and may have seen informal sketches of their track to the Pacific. 20 He signed up men around St. Louis who had already traded on the Missouri, but none who had been with the earlier expedition. Shortly after his departure in March, 1811, Hunt ran into the now-domesticated Colter and invited him along. Tempted, Colter at last declined, after warning Hunt of Blackfeet hazards ahead.

By now, however, other guides were available who had moved beyond the knowledge of the Lewis and Clark pioneers. In May Hunt's boats met coming downriver three members of Andrew Henry's Missouri Fur Company team that had wintered in Idaho. The three—Edward Robinson, John Hoback and Jacob Reznor—agreed to take Hunt back to Henry's Fork in Idaho. Reflecting new post-expedition wisdom, they advised Hunt to cut south of the Blackfeet by leaving the Missouri River altogether and striking out overland. At the Arikara villages in July the party abandoned its boats and trotted due west on horseback. 21 Hunt's move also marked the abandonment for all time of Lewis and Clark's route as a practical path for trans-Rockies travelers. Astor's overland group crossed the divide at Wyoming's Union Pass and in early 1812 straggled piecemeal into Fort Astoria at the Columbia's mouth.

There's an important geographic sequel to the talk-driven chain of events that began with Astor's response to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Later in 1812 a small party of Astorians left the coast for an overland return to St. Louis. The group slid southward along the western slope of the Wind River range in Wyoming until it saw the heights tail away. Then on October 22, 1812, the party turned eastward across what became known as South Pass—the eventual gateway to Oregon for westbound emigrant wagons.

The War of 1812 forced a hiatus in the western fur business, with the British capturing Fort Astoria and clamping an embargo on European markets. By the time activity resumed, American fur-business explorers could at last study the
Lewis and Clark legacy in Nicholas Biddle's 1814 narrative. Jedediah Smith, who in 1824 rediscovered the South Pass from the east, is said to have carried a copy of Biddle on his legendary rambles. During the 1830s and 1840s such Oregon boomers as Hall Jackson Kelley tantalized emigrants with Lewis and Clark's paraphrased descriptions of the Pacific northwest.22

But no printed history was really needed by Lisa, the Chouteaus, Astor, Hunt and others who tapped the expedition's wealth of western knowledge. They just listened as the explorers talked, and then they acted.

NOTES

1See Patrick Gass, A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery. (Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, 1958 printing of the 1807 edition)
4Thomas James, Three Years Among the Indians and Mexicans. (Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, 1916 printing of the 1846 edition) p. 15.
11Burton Harris, John Colter, His Years in the Rockies. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1952) p. 49.
12Oglesby, Lisa, pp. 54-56.
14Oglesby, Lisa, pp. 68-70. James, Three Years, pp. 16.
15James, Three Years, pp. 272-3.
16James, Three Years, p. 65.

About the author ....

Arlen J. Large of Washington, D.C. is a former Foundation president (1983-84); a frequent contributor to WPO; a retired science correspondent of the Wall Street Journal, and continues to travel the world pursuing his many scientific interests. He is certainly ranked among the top Lewis and Clark authorities in the nation; and he serves on the editorial board of WPO. Other articles by Large that have appeared in WPO may be found in Vol. VI, Nos. 1 and 3; Vol. X, No. 4; Vol. XI, No. 3; Vol. XII, No. 2; Vol. XIII, Nos. 1 and 4; Vol. XIV, No. 3; Vol. XV, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4; Vol. XVI, No. 1, 2, 3, 4.

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Letters Help Complete Missing Pages in History of Lewis and Clark Trek

BY RICK McDONOUGH
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY COURIER-JOURNAL
November 20, 1990

Letters discovered two years ago in the attic of a home in the Cherokee Triangle will help historians fill in gaps in the knowledge about the great Lewis and Clark Expedition, according to officials of The Filson Club, Louisville’s historical society.

The 47 letters were written between 1792 and 1811 by explorer William Clark and sent to his brother Jonathan in Louisville. Both Clarks were brothers of George Rogers Clark, the Revolutionary War hero who founded Louisville.

“It’s an extremely important collection,” said C. Hayden Edwards, president of The Filson Club. Filson Club officials held the first news conference in the club’s 106-year history to announce that six descendants of Jonathan Clark had recently given the club the letters, which they said have an appraised value of “several hundred thousand dollars.”

The contributors are James W. Stites Jr., Ellen Stites Thurber, Dr. Temple Bodley Stites, William E. Stites, William A. Stuart Jr. and George Rogers Clark Stuart. Their names were not included in printed material about the letters released by The Filson Club because “we’re not looking for any great limelight,” William Stites said. “We’re excited about being able to do this,” he said.

James Holmberg, curator of manuscripts for The Filson Club, said the letters won’t rewrite any major parts of history, but they offer insight into Clark and help clarify a number of historical questions. “It’s such an addition to what we already know,” he said.

Temple Bodley, a Louisville lawyer and historian who was the great-grandson of Jonathan Clark, apparently bundled the letters many years ago and put them in a trunk, said James Bentley, executive director of The Filson Club.

When Bodley died in 1940, Bentley said, his widow, the former Jane Edith Fodsick, moved from their home on Oak Street in Old Louisville to a brick home on Bassett Avenue in the Cherokee Triangle. The trunk with the letters was discovered in 1988 in the home’s third-floor attic, where Jane Bodley apparently stored it in 1941.

Jane Bodley died a few years after the move, but she and Temple Bodley had a handicapped son who stayed in the home with the aid of a widowed housekeeper, Holmberg said. The son died, but the housekeeper stayed until two years ago, when she moved to a nursing home.

At that time several of the descendants, all grandchildren of Temple Bodley, found the trunk and the letters when they were cleaning out the home before selling it, Filson officials said.

Clark’s letters include five written during the 1804-1806 exploration of the Louisiana Territory, which had just been bought from France, doubling the United States’ size.

Meriwether Lewis, who was selected by then-President Thomas Jefferson to make the trip, asked that he be assisted by Clark, who had formerly served in the military with Lewis and was living in Louisville. According to the letters, the pair left for the expedition from Louisville, gathering supporters along the way.

Clark, who lived from 1770 to 1838, was the youngest of six sons. His letters to his brother Jonathan, who was 20 years older, are very personal and suggest a father-son type of relationship, Bentley said.

The letters will force revisions of several biographies, Holmberg said, including that of one of the key African-American players in the nation’s early history—Clark’s slave, York, who accompanied the group.

Holmberg said a 1985 book about York—In Search of York—by Robert Betts, was extremely thorough. But he said the letters explain some important events in York’s life—such as how Clark’s refusal to reunite York with his slave wife caused an irreparable rift between the two men—that Betts “had no way of knowing about before now.”
This fanciful drawing from Patrick Gass' Journal, published in 1812, shows Captain Lewis firing on Blackfeet Indians who are stealing his horse. One of the Indians is preparing to return the fire.

Headwaters of the Missouri River, 1915 photograph by Albert Schlechten.

Photo courtesy Museum of the Rockies
Letters Give Insight to Lewis and Clark

BY ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press

Indianapolis Star
November 20, 1990

Louisville, Ky.—A long-hidden cache of personal letters unveiled Monday should give historians new insight into one of the leaders of the famed Lewis and Clark expedition that explored the northern Plains and the Northwest.

The 47 letters from Capt. William Clark—five of them written during the 1803-1806 expedition into the newly acquired Louisiana Territory—are a "tremendous find," said James R. Bentley, executive director of the Filson Club, the Louisville historical repository that now owns the letters.

Among the more important illuminations are Clark's thoughts on the mysterious death in 1809 of expedition commander Meriwether Lewis and his opinion of the treacherous Aaron Burr, vice president under Thomas Jefferson, whose $15 million Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's size.

The letters, dated from 1792 to 1811, are addressed to Gen. Jonathan Clark, the explorer's older brother. Until two years ago the letters were hidden away in the Louisville attic of Clark's descendants.

Some historians have argued that Lewis, then governor of the territory he helped explore and map, was murdered on his way to Washington, D.C., but Clark's letters support the theory that his friend killed himself. "Clark clearly indicates in his letters that he believed Lewis was in an unstable state of mind and was very capable of committing suicide," said James J. Holmberg, curator of manuscripts for the Filson Club.

In one letter, Clark calls Lewis a "poor fellow" who was "much distressed" about how the public might perceive his handling of financial matters in the territory.

Holmberg said that in another letter Clark tells how Lewis had asked him and others to help sell his property and settle his debts shortly before his death.

References to Burr, perhaps best known for killing Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton in a duel, turn up frequently in the correspondence. The references focus on Burr's alleged attempts to raise an army and overthrow the government. In his letters, Clark refers to Burr as a "second Napoleon," Holmberg said.

"He told President Jefferson that Burr was a real danger and that something needs to be done about him," Holmberg said. "And something was. He was arrested."

The letters will force revision of several biographies, Holmberg said, including that of Clark's slave, York, who accompanied the group on the excursion.

Holmberg said a 1985 book about York—In Search of York, by Robert Betts—was extremely thorough. But he said new information in the letters explains some important events in York's life, such as how Clark's refusal to reunite York with his slave wife caused an irreparable rift between the two men.

The Clark descendants just recently completed the legal process of turning the documents over to the Filson Club, which now owns six of the 12 existing letters Clark wrote during the expedition. The six others are scattered in other collections. The Filson Club would not disclose what it paid for the letters.

Winifred George of St. Louis, incoming president of the 1,500-member, Montana-based Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, said it was a "wonderful" find.

"It's been some years since something new has been discovered," George said. "We often forget how important that expedition was to the entire westward development," she said.

Bentley acknowledged that the documents won't exactly rewrite the history books, but said they offer illuminating details.

"What struck me most was the insight on William Clark ... It shows a side of him that would be hard to find otherwise," he said.
Nebraska City Planning Underway  
Federal Funds Lacking for Many Trails Centers  
LINCOLN, NE JOURNAL  
December 26, 1990

More historic trails centers may be built following a $2.7 million project in Nebraska City, National Park Service officials say.

But federal funds going toward the Nebraska City center may not be available for others, officials said.

The National Trails System Act says a center can be built along each historic trail in each state through which a trail passes.

Five trails pass through Nebraska or along its borders—the Lewis and Clark, Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express. Under the act, a center could be built for each of them, officials said.

But, as a practical matter, it is unlikely that many centers ever would be set up in Nebraska, said Don Castleberry, director of the park service’s Midwest Regional Office in Omaha.

The park service could provide technical assistance for another center, but construction money likely would have to come from state, local or private sources, he said.

The park service is working on plans for a Nebraska City center. The center would concentrate on the 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition up the Missouri River, from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. The center, to be open year-round, would include an information counter, small theater, photo exhibit and artifacts, Castleberry said.

Wayside exhibits marking the Lewis and Clark trip are tentatively scheduled to be built at Indian Cave State Park near Barada, Cottonwood Coke Park in Dakota City, Ponca State Park near Ponca and Calumet Bluff near Gavins Point Dam north of Crofton.

The Nebraska City center may be built on a high point along Nebraska 2 near its crossing of the Missouri River. From there, visitors could get a good view of the river.

A plan for the Nebraska City center was to be completed near the end of January.

Some wildlife enthusiasts have proposed building a center along the Platte River between Grand Island and Kearney to tell about the Platte’s significance as a stopover point for sandhill and whooping cranes and other migrating waterfowl.

Castleberry said park service staff members have not studied that possibility, but he did not rule it out.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK #2

I have some information for you on one of the tour spots at the annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky in August. It is taken right out of a tourist brochure so don’t credit me with originality or a great deal of research.

Locust Grove, the last home of George Rogers Clark, is full of history. Major William Croghan and his wife, Lucy Clark, began developing this country seat above the falls of the Ohio River in 1790. He had ventured into Kentucky following Revolutionary War service to survey military lands with his future brother-in-law, George Rogers Clark, the first western military and civil leader. When General Clark came to live with the Crogans at Locust Grove in 1809, his successful campaigns against the British and Indians in the old Northwest Territory were legendary.

Major Croghan, prominent in Louisville affairs, purchased part of the land from James and Dolly Madison. Among visitors at Locust Grove were Aaron Burr, John James Audubon, Cassius Marcellus Clay, and three presidents: James Monroe, Andrew Jackson and Zachary Taylor. William Clark, General Clark’s youngest brother, and Meriwether Lewis told of their adventures upon their return to Locust Grove from the Pacific.

Following acquisition in 1961 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Jefferson County, nationally known experts supervised the meticulous restoration and furnishing of the mansion. Locust Grove is situated on 55 of its original 693 acres. The garden has been laid out with an axis and four quadrants. Its borders have flowering shrubs and trees known in Kentucky before 1818. Locust Grove is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and named a National Historic Landmark in 1986.
185th Anniversary

Bigger-than-life statue commemorates end of Lewis and Clark trek

BY TED MAGNUSON


LONG BEACH—It happened here 185 years ago this week.

Captain William Clark and a small band of men scrambled down from the high rocky promontory that today is known as North Head, and the Lewis and Clark expedition reached its farthest north and west point of exploration.

“I proceeded on a small sandy coast 4 miles and marked my name on a small pine, the day of the month and year,” Clark wrote.

That long ago visit was celebrated Monday when a larger-than-life statue of Clark and Captain Meriwether Lewis was unveiled in downtown Long Beach, near the spot where Clark carved his name.

The 2,000-pound bronze statue was commissioned by the town of Long Beach as the centerpiece for the tiny Lewis and Clark Memorial Park, located on the corner of Third and Pacific Avenue South.

The park was originally dedicated in 1932 by Governor Roland Hartley, to celebrate the completion of the Ocean Beach Highway between Longview and Long Beach.

The new statue was created by Stanley Wanlass, a sculptor of world renown. Wanlass, an avid student of the Lewis and Clark expedition, also created the Lewis and Clark statue at Fort Clatsop, near Astoria, and the new Lewis and Clark “Trail’s End” statue in Seaside.

The Long Beach statue is titled Mark of Triumph.

It shows Clark in the act of carving his name and the date in a gnarled pine tree. His left hand holds a Model 1803 Harpers Ferry rifle, with which the expedition was outfitted.

Taking a bit of artistic license, Wanlass has Lewis nearby, leaning against the tree (Lewis was actually several miles down the coast, near the present town of Chinook, at the time Clark carved his name in the pine on November 19, 1805)

Both men are wearing buckskins and moccasins. Both have long flowing hair and the figures are of truly heroic proportions.

“Lewis and Clark have always been heroes to me,” Wanlass said during the dedication ceremonies. “In this age of anti-heroes, it’s good to be able to point to the real thing—to have real heroes to look up to.”

Wanlass was born and raised in Utah, and graduated with a master’s degree in art from Brigham Young University. He has taught art in France, Canada, and most recently at Clatsop Community College in Astoria. He maintains homes in both Lehi, Utah, and Astoria.

Wanlass has been so successful as an artist in recent years that he no longer teaches. The Automobile Quarterly has praised him as “one of America’s foremost sculptors ... the ranking sculptor of the automobile.

The Long Beach statue was cast in Utah. It arrived by truck just hours before the unveiling.

“Two of the best foundries in the United States are Wasatch Foundry in Lehi, and Maiden Foundry in Sandy, Oregon,” Wanlass said.

David Glasson, Long Beach city manager, and Nabiel Shawa, who held that post when the project was initiated in early 1988, stress that Wanlass contributed most of his time without charging a fee.

“Most of the $100,000 cost for the statue is the foundry fee,” Shawa said. “For the actual casting—for the labor and the bronze. The fair market value for a Wanlass work of this magnitude would be in the $300,000 to $400,000 range.”

Both men also stress that this is one project that taxpayers are not being asked to pay for.

“The town of Long Beach is selling 100 bronze miniatures of the statue,” Glasson explained. “The first 30 will sell for $2,500. Because of an increase in the cost of bronze, the remaining 70 statuettes will sell for $2,800 to $3,000.”

According to Glasson and Shawa, a Wanlass sculpture of that size would normally sell for several times that figure.

“Well over $10,000,” said Glasson.

The money realized from the sale of the miniatures will pay for the project. Several have already been sold. One is on display at Long Beach City Hall. Another is in the lobby of the main branch of the Bank of the Pacific in Long Beach.

Glasson said the city is also selling 10,000 bricks that will be used to pave the park. Each brick will contain either a one- or two-line message—up to 24 characters for one line, double that for two lines. The price is either $20 or $30.
Support Needed to Help Garner Center Funds

Great Falls, MT Tribune Editorial
Friday, November 16, 1990

An exciting and visionary conceptual plan is ready for the proposed Lewis and Clark Interpretative Center a quarter mile west of Giant Springs State Park. But for those plans to go forward, Great Falls residents and history buffs must help persuade the U.S. Forest Service to ante up more planning money and then Congress to provide construction funds.

Plans call for a two-story building constructed on a slope, to take advantage of the Missouri River view but keep a low profile.

Along trails outside, native grasses and prickly pear cactus will be replanted as Lewis and Clark found them while portaging around falls in 1805. Displays will show how the men set up camp and built canoes.

Inside, a range of exhibits will lure the casual tourist and scholar alike into reliving the time, place and risks that group members faced. The culture of Indian tribes they met will be integrated fully into exhibits. That’s in marked contrast to the Custer National Battlefield, which is facing growing pains in expanding its perspective to include not only Custer, but also more about Indians who fought at Little Big Horn.

As an important stop on Lewis and Clark’s remarkable journey, the Great Falls center also would house the office and valuable archives of the private Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Together, those attributes could draw 1 million tourists to Great Falls annually.

But first the center has to be built. The conceptual study exhausted initial planning funds, and a financially strapped Congress opted not to provide more planning and development money this year.

Local volunteer Marcia Staigmiller urges supporters to write Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson, USDA, South Building, 12th and Indiana Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250, to ask for $500,000 to $1 million in highly sought Forest Service planning funds to allow the project to keep going.

Montana’s congressional delegation will be asked to work together to get Congress to approve at least another $1 million next year for utilities and relocation of the Giant Springs road before construction.

Completing the planning would put the worthy Great Falls project ahead of other proposed visitor centers when the final $7.5 million is sought for construction and exhibits. And it would put backers in a good position to seek corporate sponsors if federal money is cut back.

One strong argument for more federal money: State, local and private groups already have done plenty. Staigmiller’s figures show $8.4 million and thousands of volunteer hours contributed since the 1984 Great Falls Centennial to at least indirectly benefit the project, including land acquisition, a new state Fish and Game building and fish hatchery, a Lewis and Clark statue and overlooks built above the falls.

Cascade County Legislators Join to Set Priorities

BY PETER JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Writer
Great Falls, MT Tribune

Cascade County legislators have patched together partisan differences and agreed to work together on four and possibly as many as seven issues at the upcoming Legislature, including snaring state money to relocate a road for a federal Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

The delegation is seeking $565,000 in state money to help move the road to Giant Springs State Park farther south, away from the Missouri River, to make room for a proposed $9 million Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Meeting earlier, the delegation pledged support for a resolution asking Congress to come up with the money. But local project backers have asked the delegation to go further, and the lawmakers say they’ll try, although they’re not sure yet what state money to seek.

But having the state put aside road money contingent upon the federal government funding the rest of the project is a good idea that would demonstrate state interest and, like the state money set aside in 1989 for McLaughlin, serve as an incentive for federal money, they said.

The visitor center is expected to draw at least 250,000 visitors a year and employ 11 people full-time.
A Lewis and Clark encampment and a dugout canoe demonstration area along the Missouri River will be part of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Giant Springs, according to a Forest Service environmental assessment.

About half-an-acre of riverfront trees and brush would be thinned for the canoe demonstration area. Additional trees would be planted nearby to make up for those cut down.

Some of the 20 people who commented on the environmental study didn't want living history areas along the Missouri River in an area used by people to bird watch, jog, ride bicycles, walk dogs, and duck hunt.

The Forest Service polled 390 people inside Cascade County and 60 outside the county about their opinions. The majority felt the living history area should be along the river to make the connection to the experience of Lewis and Clark, who followed the Missouri on their expedition. However, the poll respondents felt the minimum amount of natural vegetation should be removed during development.

The interpretive center would be on a bluff above the Missouri River west of Giant Springs. Visitors would take an elevator part way down the bluff to get to the river. A switchbacked trail accessible for people in wheelchairs would lead from the visitor center to the river.

Another trail down a coulee would connect the bluff and riverfront trail, but it would not be accessible for people in wheelchairs. A third trail would go along the bluff. Existing trails in other areas would be removed. The old road to Giant Springs would be converted to a trail.

Fishermen and duck hunters are now using lands near the proposed living history area. While fishing probably wouldn't be affected, "it is possible that the hunting policy may require some modification if a living history area is located in the midst of the hunted lands and concentrations of visitors occur," the assessment says.

Jogging and bird watching wouldn't be affected, but future policies on dog walking, skateboarding and bicycling would have to be developed with cooperation between the Interpretive Center and the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, which manages Giant Springs State Park, the assessment says.

The assessment envisions two annual celebrations along the Missouri River near the living history area. The celebrations are Portage Days, which celebrates Lewis and Clark's portage around the Great Falls, and Indian Days, which celebrates the Plains Indian heritage.

Congress last year approved money to begin planning the Interpretive Center.

But Congress has yet to allocate any funds toward further planning or construction of the proposed $9 million center.

A Short Calendar of Events
Portage Route Chapter
Upcoming Events for 1991

Special events and programs include:
APRIL 18—Cascade County Historical Society Lewis & Clark program.
JUNE 28-30—Special programs for Motorcoach Tour from St. Louis organized by Ray Breun.
JUNE 28-30—3rd Annual Lewis & Clark Festival.
JULY 4—Parade participation.
JULY 12—Presentation to Constitutional Convention Members by Bob Doerk.

Other possible programs:
MID TO LATE SUMMER—Additional Camp Disappointment/Two Medicine fight site tour.
MID TO LATE SUMMER—Bitterroot Valley Field Trip.
NO DATE YET—Canoe Camp Field Trip.
SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED—Cache site dig activity.
Bev Hinds Photographs

The editor of We Proceeded On and members of the Foundation’s Publication Committee would be remiss if they did not acknowledge the fine collection of photographs detailing participants and activities at each year’s annual meeting. Once again three full pages in the November 1990 (Vol. 16, No. 4) issue of We Proceeded On are the product and picture taking craftsmanship of Foundation member Beverly Hinds, Sioux City, Iowa.

Over the years we’ve enjoyed seeing ourselves and others engaged in the many pleasant situations revealed in “picture stories” that tell of the good times so indicative of each annual meeting.

Beginning in 1974, the late Roy Craft, Stevenson, Washington, was our “dean” of photography for Foundation publications, and quite often both Roy’s and Bev’s photographs appeared together on the pages picturing annual meeting activities. What an appreciated contribution have Bev’s photographs become since Roy Craft’s passing.

We’re all indebted to Bev for taking the time and extra energy to be almost everywhere when annual meeting events and attendees are pertinent subjects for picture taking. Thank you Bev!

I apologize for the following incompletions in “The Role of the Gass Journal;”
1. On the *note, I meant to insert the reference in proper numerical order. Subsequent research supercedes this information. Forty-nine copies were listed by participating libraries in the National Union Catalog, Pre-1956 Imprints. Vol. 293 (London: Mansell, 1972) p. 242, col. 3. This number did not account for non-participating libraries, or for copies held by individuals, such as my own.
3. Note #9 should read: p. 22.
I beg forgiveness of my readers for these errors in my first publication in We Proceeded On.

Carol Lynn MacGregor

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (continued from page 2)

schooling and education that is germane to the 1990s. Yes, the Corps of Discovery has a sense of immediacy in our time and place in the world.

The Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association is published annually and contains scholarly lectures presented at the Symposium held each year on Lincoln's birthday. This brings to mind an approach that the Annual Meeting Sites Selection Committee and the Publications Committee have entertained in the past, namely, alternating our annual meetings from east to west with the eastern meetings having a more scholarly bent to them, including a seminar or two with presentation of papers, and the western meetings having a more “hands on” approach with the wonderful field trips that have become such a feature. The seminars or papers presented could be published in WPO or in a WPO supplement so they can be enjoyed by all members of the Foundation. If you are interested in such an approach, please let those committee chairman know. A complete committee roster was mailed with the November, 1990 issue of WPO.

A number of attendees at the Lewiston Annual Meeting said it would be great if a “Calendar of Events” with perhaps a year time horizon could be included in WPO. This would allow Foundation members to plan to attend events occurring along the trail such as those put on by the Corps of Discovery in Iowa and Lewis and Clark Days in Cut Bank, Montana. Marty Erickson has agreed to do this so don’t hesitate to submit your events with a few details and a point of contact. This was the space used in WPO will be limited but the word will get out.

Gear up for a great year in 1991 and see you in Louisville in August if not before!
"Wednesday August 15th Capt Clark and 10 of his men and my Self went to the Mahas Creek a fishen and Caut 300 and 17 fish of Difernt Coindes over men has not Returnd yet... Thursday August 16th Capt Lewis and 12 of his men went to the Creek a fishen Caut 709 fish Difernt Coindes

Journal of Sergeant Charles Floyd—1804