GEORGE ROGERS CLARK,
THOMAS JEFFERSON,
AND THE WEST

Contents

Message from the President 2

The Jefferson River Canoe Trail Project 5


Letters: Visitor at Fort Clatsop 10

46th Annual Meeting Registration Material 11

George Rogers Clark: Jefferson’s First Emissary in the West 15
By Carolyn Gilman

End Notes: Jefferson Letter Offered at Auction 31

Along the Trail: Sioux City Road Trip Inside back cover

On the cover: The petition of Jones and Clark is paired with portraits of Clark and Jefferson from Carolyn Gilman’s feature article. See that section for captions and credits.

Along the Trail—Sioux City, inside back cover

We Proceeded On welcomes submissions of articles, proposals, inquiries, and letters. Writer’s guidelines are available by request and can be found on our website (www.lewisandclark.org). Submissions may be sent to Robert Clark, WSU Press, P.O. Box 645910, Pullman, WA 99164-5910, or by email to robert.clark@wsu.edu.
We Proceeded On

February 2014 • Volume 40, Number 1

We PROCEED ON is the official publication of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. Its name derives from a phrase that appears repeatedly in the collective journals of the expedition. ©2014

E. G. Chuinard, M.D.,
Founder, We Proceeded On
ISSN 0227-5-6706

Editor
Robert A. Clark
Washington State University Press

Volunteer Proofreaders
H. Carl Camp and Jerry Garrett

Publisher
Washington State University Press
Pullman, Washington

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
Wendy Raney, Chair
Cascade, MT
Barbara Kubik
Vancouver, WA

Jay H. Buckley
Glen Lindeman
Provo, UT
Pullman, WA

H. Carl Camp
J. I. Merritt
Omaha, NE
Pennington, NJ

Robert C. Carriker
Robert Moore, Jr.
Spokane, WA
St. Louis, MO

Carolyn Gilman
Gary E. Moulton
Washington, DC
Lincoln, NE

James Holmberg
Philippa Newfield
Pullman, WA
San Francisco, CA

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
Membership in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is open to the public. Information and applications are available by writing Membership Coordinator, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403 or on our website.

We PROCEED ON, the quarterly magazine of the Foundation, is mailed to current members in February, May, August, and November. Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:
Student: $30
Individual $49
Individual 3-Year: $133
Family/International: $65/$70
Trail Partner: $200
Heritage Club: $100
Explorer Club: $150
Jefferson Club: $250
Discovery Club: $500
Lifetime: $995, $2,500 and $5,000

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation. Individual membership dues are not tax deductible. The portion of premium dues over $40 is tax deductible.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When President Jefferson authorized the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory, he had a vision of what our nation could become. To help fulfill that vision, we all know he assigned Meriwether Lewis to lead an exploratory expedition whose primary mission was to find the headwaters of the Missouri River and to find a possible route to the Pacific Ocean. Captain Lewis, with mission in hand, thought about the journey ahead and developed his action plan for success. He already knew something of what might be required, but there were many uncertainties. What unknowns and dangers would he encounter? How long would he be gone? What skills would he need and how would he acquire them? How many men would be needed and how would he care for and feed them? What would it take to move forward every day to reach his goal? I’m sure he spent many sleepless nights developing what we today would call an “action plan.”

Although I believe the Corps of Discovery had a little bit of Lady Luck on their side, I can’t help but conclude that much of the success of the expedition was attributable to Lewis and Clark’s preparations and their ability to think and plan ahead. They restricted their actions to only those that were required to accomplish their mission.

This is one of many important lessons I have learned from studying this historic expedition. In order to achieve your mission, you must have a clear vision that can be accomplished through well-thought-out actions focused on the mission. I believe the work of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation should put this into practice. This is why I have asked our Board of Directors to take additional time this year to review our organization’s vision and mission. It is imperative that we validate the best uses of our staff and volunteer time and our funding to accomplish our mission.

The original purpose of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, as spelled out in our incorporation papers in March 1969, is still remarkably relevant today:

“…To encourage, support or undertake, individually or jointly with the federal, state and local governmental agencies, and others the construction, dedication, and maintenance of public markers and monuments, parks, and rest and recreation areas adjacent to the Lewis and Clark Trail; the publication and distribution of journals, books, and similar material; such other projects as may be appropriate to stimulate and increase public knowledge and awareness of the historical, social and cultural significance and heritage of the Lewis and Clark trail; the facilities available for those studying or retracing the Lewis and Clark Expedition; and the natural wealth and beauty of our land.”

Over the years, this original vision and mission have broadened to emphasize the equal importance of the significance of the story as a teaching tool. This dual mission is well embodied in our motto: “Keepers of the Story—Stewards of the Trail.”

The Board will be revalidating and refreshing our mission and vision statement and developing an action plan for the next two to three years. Hopefully it will help us set the stage for leading us into the fiftieth year of our organization in 2019. It is important
for everyone to know that I am not advocating any major changes, but it is time to reaffirm that, of the unlimited choices of things “we could do” as an organization, your membership dues and donations are being most effectively used to fulfill our mission. While most people don’t find it very exciting, this type of planning work is important to the health and sustainability of an organization. As is always the case, the end product is always better when people who are interested in the outcome get involved. We will provide opportunity for members to share your thoughts and advice throughout the year. Look for updates on the web (www.lewisandclark.org).

As a final note, I want to remind you of our annual meeting which will be held this summer in Richland, Washington, hosted by the Washington Chapter. Registration and informational materials are included in this issue of We Proceeded On. Attending our annual meeting is always the best way to interact with your Board of Directors and other members. I hope you can attend!

I am excited about this year’s venue on the Columbia River. Not only is the area rich in Lewis and Clark and Native American history, but the location provides lots of additional opportunity to entertain your family beyond participating in our Lewis and Clark adventures. Since many of our members have asked that our meetings provide a broader variety of activities in conjunction with the meeting, the Washington Chapter has attempted to do just that. In addition to the lectures, tours, and site visits planned, the Tri-Cities offer members opportunities to enjoy golf, bike riding, water sports, and wine tasting. So please plan to join us and your fellow Lewis and Clark friends in Richland, Washington, in August. See you there!

The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial years of 2003-2006 were commemorated in many different ways. Hundreds of events and festivals were hosted by communities across the country where creative commercial products honoring the commemoration years were too numerous for one person to collect. New books were written, old books reprinted, and new public facilities were constructed providing new and improved access to historic places along the rivers and trails of the expedition’s route.

It took years of planning to organize a commemoration of such diverse potential and enormous scale. The National Council of the Bicentennial, organized in 1994, did an extraordinary job of corralling the tremendous diversity of voices, focusing all the “what if’s” into a slate of “signature events” demanding a standard of inclusivity for all voices to be heard and to participate.

Although the commemoration years are long over, the council’s legacy will live on. One of the ways their influence is still being felt today is through the Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project.

While the council was not responsible for the production of the official bicentennial commemorative coin (authorized by Congress and produced by the U.S. Mint), it was the council that did the legwork and legislative heavy lifting to get a final bicentennial piece of legislation passed by Congress, authorizing the U.S. Mint to pass on the proceeds of the sale of the coin to worthy non-profit organizations. Much credit can be given to Bob Archibald, then president of the council, for making this happen.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation was extremely fortunate to be the recipient of $1.6 million of the profits held by the U.S. Mint in 2006. The current policy, application, and operating guidelines for this endowment are governed by the “Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Trail Stewardship Policy,” which was approved by the Board of Directors on March 16, 2012, and revised April 20, 2013. This policy is based on Public Law 109-232 passed June 15, 2006, and further refined by a Fund Agreement and Guidelines signed by the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, The Missouri Historical Society, and the Foundation in December 2006.

The language in the law specifically states that it is for “the purpose of establishing a trust for the stewardship of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.” The fund agreement further refined the definition of trail stewardship “as preserving, protecting and interpreting the natural, historic, educational and cultural resources of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Examples of trail stewardship include heritage site monitoring, protection of cultural resources, coordination and sponsorship of stewardship projects and programs, archiving and documenting bicentennial stewardship projects, and interpretive programming along the trail.”

By Margaret Gorski

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s Trail Stewardship Grants: A Bicentennial Legacy
The “Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail” was established by Congress in 1978. That legislation designated “the Trail” to be the route taken by the expedition from St. Louis to Ft. Clatsop and back. The Advisory Committee that was appointed in 2011 fine-tuned the guidelines and recommended, with Board approval, that the grants also be made available to projects along the Eastern Legacy route. The reasoning behind that recommendation was because bicentennial events did occur across the country in the Eastern Legacy states, and legislative efforts are ongoing to incorporate the Eastern Legacy route as part of the officially designated Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

The fund agreement spelled out that it be managed as an endowment with the requirement that at least the average annual rate of return be made available for the purposes of trail stewardship spelled out in the agreement. It took the foundation several years to establish a grant-making protocol. Despite the fact the market declined considerably at about the same time the first grants were awarded, the Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Endowment has provided, in its first four years, over $153,000 in support of 45 grants in thirteen states across the country. Projects have included interpretive signs, educational events, interpretive center exhibits, site restoration, land acquisition, and even a bilingual children’s activity book.

There has been much debate among Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members about the definition of “Trail Stewardship.” It is not an easy phrase to define. The Advisory Committee struggles each time a grant application is reviewed. To help the committee be consistent, grant ranking criteria have been developed. It is critical that the foundation be conscientious, deliberative, and transparent in carrying out the responsibility of spending this precious money according to the rules spelled out in the agreement; hence the ranking criteria were developed based on the provisions in the fund agreement. In general, projects that protect historic and cultural resources with tangible benefits, or provide new public access to historic sites along the trail and Eastern Legacy route, are weighted more heavily than those projects with short-term intangible benefit. Projects with strong partnerships, Native American, and youth group involvement are also preferred. Although applications from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation chapters are favored, grant applications are received from other nonprofit organizations with compatible goals are welcome, since the goal of the endowment is to benefit the trail, not just the foundation.

The selection of the foundation as the recipient of this funding was an honor and a privilege. The organization takes very seriously the responsibility to spend it wisely and according to the intent of the agreement. It is a wonderful legacy of the bicentennial which will keep on giving long after our memories of those commemorative years have faded.

If your chapter or organization is interested in learning more about how to apply, visit: www.lewisandclark.org. Applications are accepted during October every year. Grants are usually awarded by the end of the year.

Margaret Gorski is President of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and Chair of the Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee.
The Jefferson River Canoe Trail Project

From the journal of Meriwether Lewis at the Three Forks of the Missouri:

Sunday, July 28, 1805. ... Both Capt. C. and myself corresponded in opinion with respect to the impropriety of calling either of these streams the Missouri and accordingly agreed to name them after the president of the United States and the Secretaries of the Treasury and state having previously named one river in honor of the Secretaries of War and Navy. In pursuance of this resolution we called the S. W. fork, that which we meant to ascend, Jefferson's River in honor of Thomas Jefferson, the Middle fork we called Madison's River in honor of James Madison, and the S. E. Fork we called Gallatin's River in honor of Albert Gallatin.

In the 1960s when “Ding” Darling planted the seed for the idea of a national trail commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the nation was just beginning to see the environmental downside of industrial prosperity. His beloved Missouri River was being altered by pollution and dams; his favorite pastime of duck hunting was threatened. By “preserving” the route in some way, it was his hope that future generations would be able to enjoy the Missouri River as he had growing up in Nebraska.

His concept of designating a “wildlife and recreational ribbon” along the expedition’s route is exactly what a small group of people are trying to do for the Jefferson River, at the headwaters of the Missouri River in Montana. Members of the Jefferson River Canoe Trail Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation are working on a conservation and recreation project to establish a network of backcountry campsites on private and public lands along the entire length of the Jefferson River. It is their hope to work in concert with public and private landowners to improve access and use of the river so that everyone can learn about Lewis and Clark history and be able to enjoy the rich wildlife and scenery that still abound there. By providing an opportunity to personally experience the region’s solitude and beauty, the chapter hopes people will be inspired to work together to voluntarily protect the river from streamside impacts and development.
pressures that could irreparably alter the river for future generations.

Montanans are fortunate; they live in one of the few states with stream access laws that allow the public to tra-
verse through private property on rivers for water-based recreational purposes, pro-
vided they stay below the high water mark. Enjoying open space and having access to the rivers to hunt and fish has been a tradition for generations of Montanans. When few people lived there, ranchers commonly allowed locals to cross their prop-
erty to get to the riv-
ers or to gain access to public land on the other side. But as more and more people move into Montana and build their “mountain dream home,” people find they no longer have access to the places they have always used. Out-of-state landowners and developers are posting “no trespassing” signs, reduc-
ing public access to the river.

From its headwaters to its terminus at Three Forks, the Jefferson River is lined by private property. Public access is found at only a few developed fishing access sites. The Jefferson River Canoe Trail Chapter seeks to acquire backcountry campsites along the river accessible only by water, or if by land, then only by non-motorized travel. By acquiring the rights to picnic or camp above the high water mark in a few strategic locations, float-
ers would be able to enjoy a multi-day trip along the river when stream flows are high enough. That means work-
ing with willing private landowners, the Bureau of Land Management, and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to
develop a handful of sites that are a day’s float apart. The Jefferson River Canoe Trail Chapter to avoid future maintenance and user problems by developing them as primitive, boat-in only campsites.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation has supported their efforts by providing two grants to build an accurate inventory of property boundaries along the river and to help pay for the printing of maps and brochures that will enhance public visibility for the project.

Completing the vision will require leasing or fee title, or conservation easement acquisition of a few pieces of key property for campsites, and require working with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to open some fishing access sites to overnight camping. By establishing and promoting the Jefferson River Canoe Trail, it could be an added tourism amenity to the communities of Three Forks and Twin Bridges, as well as a step towards preserving another piece of the “last best place” by guaranteeing recreation access to the river to keep future generations connected with the land and its history. The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is proud to support this project and pleased to be able to provide funding through its Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Endowment.

To learn more about this project visit www.JeffersonRiver.org.

From Margaret Gorski, Trail Heritage Foundation Bicentennial Trail Stewardship Committee Chair. Text adapted from The Jefferson River Canoe Trail Chapter’s Map 1-Upper Jefferson Map written by Thomas J. Elpel.

**L&C Roundup**

**Vandalism to Pompeys Pillar**

Despite warning signs and video cameras, a Minnesota man climbed over a boardwalk railing to etch names on historic Pompeys Pillar along the Yellowstone River in Montana.

Just about three feet from the famous July 25, 1806, signature of Captain William Clark, a fresh signature, including two names, a heart and the date, can now be seen carved in the sandstone. Clark’s inscription is the solitary physical evidence of the Corps of Discovery’s passage by the sandstone rock in 1806, during its return from the Pacific.

The interpretive signs at the monument inform visitors they are under surveillance. Authorities report that alarms regularly sound, sometimes in response to wildlife, sometimes merely because a visitor hangs too far over the protective railings. But vandalism is rare. Not so in this case.

Though the monument’s visitor center is closed for the season, and vehicle traffic is prohibited starting in the fall, walk-in access is permitted year-round. Defacement of the monument can result in felony prosecution. The BLM is now consulting with the U.S. Attorney to help identify the next steps to be taken in the investigation of this offense.

The monument’s security system alarm went off on October 10, during the partial government shutdown, and a deputy of the Yellowstone County Sheriff’s Office responded after being notified by the Bureau of Land Management’s law enforcement officer who had received notification of the alarm. The suspect, whose defacement had yet to be discovered, was stopped in the vicinity and questioned. His contact information was retained.

On October 17, when federal employees returned from furlough caused by the shutdown, an employee shoveling snow on the boardwalk noticed the new graffiti, which read “Cole + Shpresa 10/10/2013,” accompanied by a heart symbol.

The Bureau of Land Management has identified Cole Randall as the suspect, and Randall owned up to having committed the act of vandalism. The confessed vandal says it was all just a misguided declaration of love.

In an email sent to a Billings Gazette reporter, Randall said “I humbly apologize to the people of Montana and to every American who was affected by my foolishness.” In the email, Randall said he and his wife stopped at Pompeys Pillar on their way back to Minnesota, after their honeymoon in California.
In the email, Randall said he and his wife were on their honeymoon but it was cut short when she discovered a “suspicious lump on her breast.”

“During the entire trip home, I was scared... Terrified actually,” he wrote. When they stopped at Pompeys Pillar, he continued, he was inspired by a description that said “for generations, Americans passing by this place have left their marks upon the rocks.”

Against his better judgment and his wife's advice, he said, he carved the inscription, thinking that if something were to happen to his wife, “I could come back to this place years from now and see her and my names together. Stupid? Yeah. Misguided? Definitely.”

In any case, he said, their names would be removed from the monument and “I will be prepared to face the consequences of my actions.”

Friends of Pompeys Pillar Executive Director Jonathan Peart said, “This belongs to all of us. To you, to me, to every American out there. And to deface this is just a senseless act of vandalism and violence to something that has historical and cultural importance.”

For those wondering about all of the other names, historical or not, etched in the stone at Pompeys Pillar, Peart says they were all put there before Pompeys Pillar fell under federal protection in 1991.

The Friends of Pompey’s Pillar believe it will cost between $4,000 to $5,000 to remove the graffiti. Peart says the BLM does not have those funds in its budget.

Compiled from multiple sources.

Grants Sought for Development of Lewis and Clark ‘Descent Trail’

BY MICHAEL HOWELL

The University of Montana Anthropology Department is sponsoring two grant applications to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. One grant, if successful, would help clear and install signage on the trail that the Lewis and Clark Expedition used in its descent into the Bitterroot Valley on September 4, 1805, as they made their way to Ross's Hole where they met the Salish Indians. The second grant, if awarded, would begin the initial site investigation of the possible camp site on Coulter Creek where the expedition may have spent the night prior to its descent.

The “Descent Trail” begins on a narrow bridge of land connecting two ridgelines located above the present day Lost Trail Ski Area. According to Bitterroot Valley resident Ted Hall, who has been a leading advocate of the project, this is one of the places where a person may be pretty certain that they are walking in the footsteps of the original Corps of Discovery. Two other spots along the descent trail have also been identified as “in the footsteps” portions of the trail, where the unique topography forced the expedition members to pass over those exact locations.

The $7,500 grant from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, if awarded, would be used to pay a yet to be named project manager. Grant sponsor Kelly Dixon of the University of Montana Anthropology Department is donating her efforts along with many other people and organizations. Trail engineering work is being donated by Ted Hall and Jon Turk. Scott Grasser, of Lost Trail Ski Area, is also partnering with the effort, as are the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Trapper Creek Job Corps, Bitterroot Chamber of Commerce, the Como School Historical Group and the Bitterroot Backcountry Bicyclists.

The National Smoke Jumpers Association has volunteered to do the bulk of the work involved in the trail clearing project. The association's board agreed at a recent meeting in Portland to place this project on the list in its Trail Project program for the coming year. For over a dozen years the organization has done trail clearing projects around the nation.

The second $7,500 grant proposal would be used to investigate the possible campsite along Coulter Creek where the Corps may have spent the night of September 3, 1805, prior to its descent. The goals of the initial non-destructive site analysis will be to age map the trees in the site vicinity with coring, to carbon date some manmade features at the site, to carbon date three fire pits at the site and to initiate infrared mapping for disturbed soils at the site. A final report will include recommendations for future analysis of the site if justified by the initial findings.

From the Bitterroot Star, Posted on October 22, 2013.
www.bitterrootstar.com
Ilwaco’s Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum (CPHM) in southwest Washington held the Lewis and Clark bicentennial-inspired ‘Ocian in View’ Cultural Weekend, November 8 and 9, 2013.

Incorporating historic sites along the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean, the weekend included a keynote talk, wild game dinner, interpretive bus tour, traditional Chinook dinner, and an open house.

“The lower portion of the Columbia River is abundant with history, starting with the rich indigenous culture, into Chinook Tribal trade with ships from England, France, Spain and America, through the Lewis and Clark expedition, the building of forts and two lighthouses, commercial fishing, canneries, and more,” said Betsy Millard, Executive Director, Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum. “While the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum, Knappton Cove Heritage Center and Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center are here year round, it’s great to dedicate a weekend to the fascinating history of this region.”

Scott Tucker, new Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park was the keynote speaker, offering a talk entitled “Lewis and Clark, Beyond the Bicentennial: Looking for the next generation of storytellers.”

The Chinnook Tribe hosted their annual Chinnook Tribe Salmon Dinner, including regional seafood, salad, Indian fry bread, dessert, and beverages.

The ‘Ocian in View’ lecture was launched in 2000 to highlight activities of the Corps of Discovery on the north side of the Columbia River (present day Long Beach Peninsula, Washington).


New Books on Lewis and Clark

We have received three books that may be of interest to Lewis and Clark aficionados:

Phil Scriver’s Lewis and Clark at the Great Falls of the Missouri is a self-published, 34-page paperback that summarizes the experience of the Corps of Discovery in June 1805. Enhanced with numerous color photographs, the publication also includes sections on area tours and interpreted sites, early markers, and the portage around the falls. A free map that goes with the book shows the location of thirty-seven Lewis and Clark sites in the area with interpretive signs. This handsome book can be obtained through Amazon or from the Portage Route Chapter store. $12.95

Native American Women: Three Who Changed History by Gloria Stiger Linkey offers brief biographies of Sacagawea, Marie Dorion, and Watkuese whose lives intertwined. Dorion traveled with the Astorians, and Watkuese was the Nez Perce woman who played a critical role in urging her people to give aid and sustenance to the corps when it exited the Bitterroots. The 79-page paperback includes illustrations by Sally Steidel, as well as color plates and a bibliography. It is available from Seacove Publications, 561 Bonnie Court, Seaside, OR, 97138. $14.95.

William P. Sherman: Citizen, is a brief biography produced by the Portage Route Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, first published in 2004 and reissued in this revised edition in 2011. Sherman was a well-known philanthropist, decorated veteran, and enthusiastic student of the Lewis and Clark story. He served as president of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation. The 102-page paperback highlights his contributions to his country, preservation of our national heritage, the advancement of Western art, and the history of Catholic missionary work in the Pacific Northwest. The book is available from the Portage Route Chapter for $10.00.
We visited Fort Clatsop, and the video they shot from the helicopter (a first for Fort Clatsop, according to one of the Park Rangers) generated images from perspectives that no one has ever seen before. Sample footage from the trip (that does not include the Fort Clatsop video) can be viewed at http://vimeo.com/77153576. Lewis and Clark would have loved it!

The photos accompanying this letter show the helicopter in action.

Bob Gatten
Greensboro, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Clark,

As a historical interpreter and guide at Pompeys Pillar, I get asked quite frequently why the name was changed from Pompeys Tower, as Clark wrote in 1806, to Pompey’s Pillar.

I know that William Clark asked Biddle in 1814 to accept the challenge of editing and preparing the journals for publication. Clark also asked George Shannon to help with this assignment. My first question to the readers of this journal is: “Why did William Clark and Mr. Shannon allow the name change?”

Two seasons ago I had a visitor who had traveled the world. He told me he had been to Egypt where on a tour, he was taken to a rock column called “Pompey’s Pillar,” supposedly named after a Roman General from the time of Caesar, but actually a monument to the Roman Emperor Diocletian erected in about 300 A.D. Of course we know our famous rock formation was named after “Pomp,” Sacagawea’s son.

Now, a second question. Pomp in Lemhi Shoshone language means “Little Chief,” and during the expedition era, a popular tune called “Pomp, my little dancing boy” is regarded as the reason the baby received his nickname from Captain Clark. Is there positive evidence to how the boy was nicknamed? In my Lewis and Clark studies I have come up with no tangible evidence for the source of “Pomp,” and why Captain Clark chose the affectionate term for Jean Baptiste Charbonneau.

Nancy Kemler
Roundup, MT 59072

To the editor:

In the WPO issue just out there is a mistake on page 7 regarding the coin candidate labeled number 1. It states that the Nez Perce offered Lewis and Clark horses. Not true. The Lemhi Shoshone traded horses to Lewis and Clark... The leader, Cameahwait, was Sacagawea’s brother. The Nez Perce kept Lewis and Clark’s horses for them while they were on the Pacific Coast in 1805/6 and returned most of them to Lewis and Clark when they were on the return trip and needed them for a land journey across the Bitterroots. Thank you for your attention to this.

Dick Brooks
Phillips, Maine

[From the editor: Most of the items in the section of our journal titled “L&C Roundup” are gathered from a variety of news sources, and may contain errors or omissions. Our intent is to keep our readers informed about current news topics related to the Corps. Several other readers pointed out errors in the content of the coins as designed and presented by the Citizens Coin Advisory Committee. We appreciate our readers keeping us informed of articles and topics that might be included in this section of the journal.]
46th Annual Meeting
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

“The Great Columbia River”
August 3-6, 2014, Richland, Washington

“the natives showed me the enterance of a large Westerly fork which they Call Tâpetêt...”

In this image by Northwest artist Roger Cooke, two Sahaptian-speaking men show Captain William Clark and his two-man party the confluence of the Columbia and Yakima rivers. Clark called the Yakima River both the Tâpetêt and the Tapteal; the name [tâptat] comes from a Yakama village further up the river. Painting on board in watercolor, ink, and pencil by Roger Cooke, 2003. Courtesy, Washington State Historical Society.

The 46th annual meeting will be in Richland, at the mouth of Clark’s Tâpetêt River.

Don’t miss these highlights:

• Pre- and post-meeting tours
• Golf Tournament
• Pacific Northwest Living Historian’s Encampment
• Dutch-Oven Cooking Class
• Young Explorers Program
• Entertaining Speakers

For more information, see the FAQ sheet on page 18.
# Preliminary Program

**Friday, August 1**
- All-day Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Exploring the Columbia River—Pre-Meeting Excursions (See flyer, page 15)

**Saturday, August 2**
- All-day Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Exploring the Columbia River—Pre-Meeting Excursions
- “Fore”—First Annual Foundation Golf Tournament (See flyer, page 16)
- Pacific Northwest Living Historians Encampment at Columbia Park

**Sunday, August 3**
- Registration
- Vendor’s Fair
- Pacific Northwest Living Historians Encampment
- Exploring the Columbia River—Pre-Meeting Excursions (See page 15)
- “Have Food Will Travel: Cooking with the Corps”—a Dutch Oven Cooking Class (See flyer, page 17)
- Afternoon Programs
  - The Art of Re-Enactment (John Orthmann of Pacific Northwest Living Historians)
  - So—you Want to Write for We Proceeded On (Bob Clark, editor)
  - Chapter Websites from A to Z (Kris Townsend)
  - Funding Your Trail Project: Trail Stewardship Grants (Steve Lee)
- Chapter Officers Meeting
- New Members Welcome
- Reception

**Monday, August 4**
- Wellness Walk
- Welcome and Business Meeting
- Young Explorers (9 am to 4 pm)
- Break for refreshments, prizes and Vendor’s Fair
- “The Ice Age and the Corps of Discovery”—Dr. Bruce Bjornstad
- Awards Lunch
- Afternoon Programs (with break for refreshments, prizes and the Vendor’s Fair)
  - “The Next Naturalist: David Douglas and the Corps of Discovery”—Jack Nisbet
  - “The Firearms of the Corps of Discovery”—Mike Carrick
  - “Robust Young Backwoodsmen: Corps of Discovery’s Relevance to 21st Century Youth.” —Dick Scheuerman
- “The Great Columbia River”—An Evening with Sgt. Patrick Gass
- Chapter and/or Committee meetings (optional)

**Tuesday, August 5**
- Wellness Walk
- Day at Tamástslikt Cultural Center (programs, demonstrations, tours; traditional salmon lunch)
- Dinner on Your Own
- Chapter and/or Committee Meetings (optional)

**Wednesday, August 6**
- Wellness Walk
- Day at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretive Center (programs, demonstrations, tours; Northwest picnic)
- Banquet
  - “The Rhyme of the Great Navigator: Captain Cook in the Journals of Lewis & Clark”—David Nicandri
  - Invitation for the Foundation’s 47th Annual Meeting

**Thursday, August 7**
- Exploring the Columbia River—Post-Meeting Excursions (See page 15)
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation  
46th Annual Meeting  
“THE GREAT COLUMBIA RIVER”  
August 3-6, 2014 • Richland, Washington

Meeting Registration Form

Please print neatly and clearly!

Name[s]:________________________________________________________________________________________

Name[s] on Name Tags: __________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

[Street/Apartment/P.O. Box]

City: ___________________________________________  State: ________  Zip: ____________

Phones: [home/cell] ____________________________   [work/cell] __________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________________________

[Note: We will send your registration confirmation by email. If you do not have an email address; it will be mailed
to you.]

Emergency Contact Name: ______________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Relation: ______________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Phone: _________________________________

Please check all that apply:

☑ Descendant of Corps of Discovery [Member’s Name]: _____________________________________________

☑ First Time Attendee

☑ New Member

☑ Special Requests/Needs: _________________________________

Please specify [i.e., vegetarian, limited mobility, hearing impaired]

☑ Chapter Memberships: ______________________________________________________________

One t-shirt/person is included in the registration fee. Please circle your t-shirt size:

Adult S M L XL XXL

Adult Tall S M L XL XXL

Young Explorers S M L

(Additional t-shirts will be for sale during the meeting.)
We Proceeded On February 2014

Registration Fee: $375 x _____ $ _________________
Late Registration Fee [After June 15, 2014]: $425 x _____ $ _________________
Young Explorers: $250 x _______ $ _________________
Golf Tournament [See page 16; $65.00/golfer] $ _________________
    My golf handicap is ________
Dutch Oven Cooking Class [Limited to 30; $40.00/person] $ _________________
Membership Dues [if not currently a member] $ _________________
TOTAL DUE $ _________________

Payment information

❑ Check enclosed [Payable to: Washington Chapter LCTHF—2014 Meeting]
❑ Visa
❑ MasterCard
❑ Discover
❑ American Express

Card Number: __________________________________________ CCV Number: ________________
Expiration date (mm/yy): _____________________________________
Name on card: ______________________________________________

Address your statement is sent to:
❑ Same as mailing address above

Street: _____________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________________________ State: ________ Zip: _________________

Mail your completed registration form to:
    Washington State Chapter—2014 Annual Meeting
    601 3rd St., Suite 521
    Clarkston, WA  99403

Or register online at www.wa-lcthf.org
Pre- and Post-Meeting Trips

Available trips (please check number of people)

- Jet Boat trip—Hanford Reach National Monument—4½ hours: $110 _____ people
- Jet Boat Trip—Snake River, Ice Harbor Dam, Wallula Gap—4 hours: $105 _____ people
- Bus Trip—Patit Creek and Fort Walla Walla Museum—8 hours: $65 _____ people
  [includes lunch]

Desired dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>All day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dietary or other needs__________________________________________________________

Name(s): _________________________________________________________________

Mailing address: ___________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ________ Zip: ______________

Daytime phone: __________________ Evening/cell: __________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________

Emergency Contact Name: ____________________________

Emergency Contact Relation: _____________________________________________

Emergency Contact Phone: ________________________________

- Number of attendees signed up will determine each trip’s availability. All trips may not be available on all dates. You will be contacted if changes are needed.
- Jet boat trips provided by Columbia River Journeys in Richland, Washington at 509-734-9441 or their website at http://www.columbiariverjourneys.com/. Boats will depart from dock adjacent to the Courtyard by Marriott.
- Buses will pick you up for the Patit Creek trip at the Courtyard by Marriott.
- If you have any questions please call, the pre- and post-meeting trip planner, Jeanne Newton at (509) 947-1278 or Rob Heacock at (509) 202-3504.

Mail completed forms by June 30, 2014, with check payable to Washington Chapter LCTHF—2014 Meeting to:

Jeanne Newton—46th Annual Meeting Trip Coordinator
139 Westbourne Loop
Burbank, WA 99323
WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

Cordially invites you to the
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation’s
First Annual Meeting Golf Tournament
at
Columbia Point Golf Course
Richland, WA
Saturday—August 2, 2014

Tee Time will be 9:30 AM
Cost is $65.00 per person, including golf carts

Duffers and pros, young and old are welcome to play this beautiful course at the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers!

Golfers—take note:
❖ We need four groups of four for a total of 16 players for the tournament at this fabulous price.
❖ We will play a scramble best ball.
❖ There will be a no-host lunch at the clubhouse following the tournament.
Have Food Will Travel: Cooking with the Corps

If you are what you eat, then what would you have eaten if you explored with the Corps of Discovery? Join us as we learn what Lewis & Clark ate, as well as how to cook it in Dutch ovens, and then eat it!

Limited to the first 30 people to register (12-years-old and up)

In addition to period-correct recipes (with some modern help), participants will receive hands-on Dutch oven cooking instruction and leave full of food and memories.

Date: Sunday, August 3, 2014
Time: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cost: $40 per person (includes instruction, recipe handout and meal—prepared by participants)
Place: Marriott in Richland, Washington
Pre-registration is required. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes during the workshop for safety.

Participants will have the option to purchase Dutch ovens and accessory equipment used for this event at the end of the workshop. Any equipment and ovens not purchased will then be offered for sale during the conference. Prices will be posted during the workshop.

This workshop is being taught by Luann Sewell Waters, an LCTHF member from Oklahoma.

She has done TV programs, seminars and workshops on wildgame and Dutch oven cooking throughout the U.S. She also teaches college credit courses in Pioneer Food History and Food Preparation.
Frequently Asked Questions for the 46th Annual Meeting

Just as Captain Meriwether Lewis asked many questions of the nation’s leading savants as he prepared for the journey of a lifetime, so will you, a member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, be asking questions of your hosts, the Washington State Chapter, as you prepare for the Foundation’s 46th Annual Meeting—“The Great Columbia River”—in Richland, Washington on August 3–6, 2014.

1. Where will we establish our camp?

   The 46th Annual Meeting will be at Columbia Point in Richland, Washington. Columbia Point is at the confluence of the “Tap-teal” [present-day Yakima] and Columbia Rivers. We have selected the two Marriott-owned hotels at Columbia Point, as well as Anthony’s Event Center for meals and programs. The conference rate is $119.00/night + taxes. You can make your reservations by calling the hotel’s toll-free telephone number or by using the Marriott’s website.

   Courtyard by Marriott
   480 Columbia Point Dr.
   Richland, WA  99352
   509.942.9400
   1.800.321.1211
   www.richlandmarriott.com
   The Courtyard by Marriott offers many amenities, including a pool, microwaves and small refrigerators in each room, and complimentary WiFi. Meals are available for a modest price at the in-house Waterfront Bistro.

   TownePlace Suites
   591 Columbia Point Dr.
   Richland, WA  99352
   509.943.9800
   1.866.539.0036
   The TowneSuites offers studios and one or two bedroom suites, with fully equipped kitchens, living rooms and a complimentary breakfast. They also have a pool.

   You may also log onto the Washington State Chapter’s website, www.wa-lcthf.org/2014 and follow the links to the Marriott’s website.

2. My husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, and I are bringing our “teepee.” Where can we camp?

   There are five campgrounds near Columbia Point. You will want to contact the campground directly with your inquiries or your reservations.

3. We just can’t decide whether to bring our pirogue or our “barge” or to travel overland by horse? What do you recommend?

   For the first time in many years, you have a number of travel options. Of course you can drive or bicycle. Or you can fly into Pasco, and catch a taxi ($23.00 one-way) to our meeting venues. AMTRAK stops in Pasco, as does Greyhound. Pasco is just nine miles from Richland. If you prefer, bring your pirogue or “barge”—Columbia Point Marina is right outside the meeting venues.

4. Just as Meriwether Lewis brought his Newfoundland dog, Seaman, with him, we too would like to bring our “Seaman” with us.

   Please ask your hotel or campground what their pet policies are. Columbia Point Park is next to the hotels and the event center. Dogs on leashes are welcome in the park.
5. If we run out of supplies—coffee, drams of rum, parched corn, Dr. Rush's pills—where can we go?
   There is a nearby shopping center with a large grocery store [Winco], a sporting goods store, a Dollar Store, Starbucks, and other smaller shops and restaurants.

6. As Sergeant Patrick Gass, I would like to have an evening meeting with my squad. Is that possible?
   We have set aside time on Monday and Tuesday evenings for the Foundation's chapter and committee meetings. You can use your hotel suite, or the hotel bar/lobby area, or patio or near-by Columbia Point Park. The TownePlace Suites has a bar-b-que area, as well kitchens and living areas.

Some of the campgrounds have group use facilities and/or group camp areas [i.e., Columbia Sun RV Resort].

7. My name is George Lawton, and I'd like to sell my hand-crafted fishing lines, lures, and reels to attendees like Private Silas Goodrich at the meeting. How do I set that up?
   The Vendor's Fair will run Sunday and Monday, August 3rd and 4th. Vendors and exhibitors, including Foundation chapters, should contact the chapter's Vendor Chair, Hal Stoltz at: elkstalkeroriginals@gmail.com, or 425.672.4334, for information about the Vendor's Fair, tables, and table fees.

8. We see that many of the speakers are also well-respected authors. Will they be available to autograph their books?
   We are making arrangements for meeting attendees to be able to purchase the speakers' books, and we are asking them to be available to autograph their books. Those authors include Dr. Bruce Bjornstad, Jack Nisbet, Dick Scheuerman, John Caskey and David Nicandri.

9. After our long journey to Richland, we want to stretch our legs, just like the two captains occasionally did. Where can we go and what can we do?
   There will be many opportunities to stretch your legs during the 46th annual meeting!
   —Janice and Jerry Wilson will be leading their fitness walks during the annual meeting.
   —There is the 23-mile Sacajawea Heritage Trail for walking, biking and roller-blading!
   —Past President Larry Epstein will be leading a bike ride one day. Check at the registration table for details.
   —The Columbia and Yakima Rivers are great places to kayak, canoe, or paddleboard.
   —At the registration table, we will have information available for bicycle and kayak rentals.
   —Check out the Washington State Chapter's first annual golf tournament! Golf the award-winning Columbia Point golf course for just $65.00/person during the chapter tournament on Saturday, August 2. See the attached flyer for more information.
   —Take a stroll over to the Pacific Northwest Living Historians encampment at Columbia Point Park.
   —Jump in the Marriott's pools!

10. According to the Preliminary Program, we will be on our own for dinner Tuesday night. Where can our squad's cook find a pot of elk stew, some parched corn, camas-bread beer, and a dessert of fresh berries?
    There are a number of great restaurants and brew pubs, all with a variety of prices and selections, in the area around the two Marriott hotels. We will have information about each one at the registration table. You can also pick up fixings for a picnic at Columbia Point Park or al fresco dining at the Marriott at Winco, the near-by grocery store. But please—no hunting the geese at Columbia Point Park!

11. Speaking of cooking, my squad's cook could really use some cooking lessons. Can you help me?
    Join Luann Sewell Waters for her class, “Have Food Will Travel: Cooking with the Corps of Discovery” in the parking lot of the Courtyard by Marriott on Sunday morning, August 3. The class is limited to the first 30 people; the $40.00 fee will cover food, recipes, and cooking instructions. Participants will have the opportunity to purchase their Dutch ovens and accessories. See the attached flyer for more information.

12. What will the weather be like . . . “f [fair] or r [rainy] or c a s [clear after showers]”?  We will be visiting Tamástslikt Cultural Center in Pendleton, Oregon, on Tuesday and Sacajawea State Park/Interpretive Center in Pasco, Washington, on Wednesday. You may learn more about these sites at:
   www.tamastslikt.org
   www.stateparks.com/sacajawa
If you had quizzed people as late 1930 about the contributions of the Clark family to American history, William was not the Clark most people would have mentioned. At that time, William’s older brother George was by far the most famous member of the family. In the late nineteenth century, the American conquest of the land between the Appalachians and the Mississippi was considered one of the central stories of the American Revolution. George Rogers Clark was called “The Hannibal of the West,” and was compared to George Washington. Statues to him were erected, novels were written, and a national monument was built in Vincennes, Indiana, and dedicated by Franklin Roosevelt.

Then, after the 1930s, George fell out of fashion. Now his fame is eclipsed by his younger brother’s.

There are reasons why historians have been reluctant to touch George Rogers Clark in the last forty years. He is a more difficult person to explain than William was, and harder to like. In the 1970s, historians portrayed him—with much truth—as an anti-Indian racist and an advocate of genocide. That he became embroiled in the plot of Citizen Genet and ended up destroying himself with alcohol and bitterness were exhibited as proof of his unworthiness to be called a hero.

But dismissing George Rogers Clark as a sociopath or alcoholic is too easy. It is far more interesting to attempt to understand him. Viewed as a whole, George was a complex man who was deeply scarred by warfare. He is a tragic figure, but his was a particularly American kind of tragedy. He was, above all, a man of the Middle Ground—the blended society that existed on the frontier before the Revolution. The term “Middle Ground,” coined by historian Richard White in his 1991 book of the same name, is often misunderstood to mean a frontier where Indians, French, Anglos, Africans, and other inhabitants all got along in some kind of idyllic multicultural mix. That was never true. In fact, much of the intercultural interaction in the West of that era took the form of warfare. But war is a kind of communication, too. European and Indian customs of warfare were very different, and Clark stood right on the boundary. In his most successful moments he crossed over and acted as an Indian war chief: he used their tactics, employed their methods to create group cohesion, shared their sense of honor and justice, terrorized his opponents into believing in his savagery, and even committed what Europeans regarded as atrocities. At the same time, he could put on a uniform and transform himself into a Virginia gentleman.
His tragedy was that his own success led to the destruction of the mixed society that created him. The America that came to exist in the Kentucky he defended was an alien society where he could not thrive. No man was more skilled at spanning the difficult boundary between warrior and soldier, but when that boundary ceased to exist, so did his vocation.¹

And so Clark was a hero in the Greek sense: a man of genius whose own talents and flaws inevitably destroy him.

To readers familiar with the story of Lewis and Clark, there is another striking thing about the life of George Rogers Clark: the eerie similarity between his story and that of Meriwether Lewis. Focusing on those similarities, one finds a common thread running through both of their lives: the role of Thomas Jefferson.

Jefferson admired both Clark and Lewis as men of action and frontiersmen. He used both of them as instruments to expand the United States westward. After they had accomplished extraordinary feats for him, he thrust them both into treacherous political positions where their skills did not translate well. He encouraged both of them to incur heavy expenses in accomplishing his pet projects, and both of them ended up deep in debt and under investigation by a subsequent administration. Facing financial ruin, both of them turned to alcohol and self-destruction. And in both cases, Jefferson seems to have been strangely oblivious of his role in their fates. It is hard not to conclude that Thomas Jefferson left a trail of collateral damage in the form of ruined lives along the road to his empire of liberty.

George Rogers Clark, like Meriwether Lewis, was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, a few miles away from Shadwell, Jefferson’s boyhood home. The Clark family soon moved away, however, and Jefferson and Clark did not meet as adults until 1776. In August of that year, the red-haired, charismatic young Clark knocked on the door of Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia, and presented him with a document and a dramatic story. The document was a petition from the residents of Kentucky, and it declared:

The Inhabitants of this Frontier part of Virginia...support...the present laudable cause of American Freedom, and...most ardently desire to be looked upon as a part of this Colony....And as those very People would most Cheerfully Co-operate in every measure tending to the Publick Peace, and American Freedom, they have delegated two Gentlemen, who was chosen by the Free Voice of the people...as our Representatives.²

The two men elected, George Rogers Clark and John Gabriel Jones, had walked through drenching rain all the way from Kentucky down the Wilderness Trail to the Cumberland Gap. Crossing the mountains, they had gotten caught by the unexpected outbreak of a war with the Cherokee Indians. Finding all the settlements deserted, and hearing shots from nearby Indian guns, they had taken refuge in an abandoned cabin, ready to defend their lives. They were rescued by the fortunate arrival of a party from a nearby station. They then continued on to present their credentials to the Virginia Assembly in Williamsburg, hoping to be admitted as delegates.³

Jefferson had just returned to Virginia from Philadelphia, where he had spent a less life-threatening summer writing the Declaration of Independence. When he came to Williamsburg that fall to take his seat as a member of the House of Delegates, he no doubt heard of the two frontiersmen who had arrived in town from the far West. When he met them, he immediately took charge of the legislation necessary before they could be
admitted to the Assembly: the creation of a county of Kentucky.

It would have been interesting to be in the room when Clark and Jefferson met, to see which of them bedazzled the other. From what they later wrote, it seems Jefferson was the most impressed. Clark was only twenty-four years old, but he was already a forceful personality. Moreover, he had cultivated a uniquely Western persona to present to the world. It was a hybrid identity: half natural man, half gentleman. In an early description of him during Dunmore’s War, we find him going into battle clothed only in Indian breechcloth, leggings, and war paint. Later, he would adopt this same dress, and the threatening manner that went with it, to overawe the residents of Kaskaskia, to impress the Spanish lieutenant governor of St. Louis, and (most famously) to defraud the British commander Henry Hamilton into believing in Clark’s utter barbarism. To Jefferson, Clark appeared as a tough and resolute frontiersman; and yet at the same time he could stand up before the Virginia Council of State to plead eloquently on behalf of Kentucky. This was a new sort of man, equally skilled in two worlds, that of Europe and that of the wilderness. In the 1790s, Daniel Boone would become the popular-culture version of the frontiersman, and journalists and novelists would both hit upon it as a genuinely American identity. Clark’s earlier variant on the role of New American Man was a bit more autocratic, a bit more Virginian. But for men like Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, it worked.

So Clark himself was a new thing under the sun. But in addition to that, imagine the appeal his story had in that summer of 1776. Consider this passage from a book published that same year, Thomas Paine’s Common Sense:

Let us suppose a small number of persons settled in some sequestered part of the earth, unconnected with the rest… In this state of natural liberty, society will be their first thought… Some convenient tree will afford them a State-House, under the branches of which, the whole colony may assemble to deliberate on public matters… In this first parliament every man, by natural right, will have a seat.

Paine’s fable is a popular-culture retelling of the social contract theory originated by philosopher John Locke. In Locke’s more sophisticated version, it was the basis for the revolutionary ideology that Jefferson had relied on earlier that year in writing the Declaration of Independence. The argument was that governments originate out of a natural human desire to cooperate for the common good. But the fact was, neither Locke
nor Paine nor Jefferson had ever seen it happen. It was more a parable than an empirical observation.

And then, on the faraway banks of the Kentucky River, it happened. Clark and his friends had seemingly done something iconic: from a state of nature they had assembled to institute a form of primitive democracy among themselves.

In fact, it was true. But unsurprisingly, it wasn't the whole story. The whole story was much more murky and complex than the parable implies. But that doesn't discount the myth, because myths motivate people the way reality doesn't. Jefferson might not have gone out on a limb to defend the reality of Kentucky—but to defend the myth? That was another matter.

To understand the reality of Kentucky a little better, it is necessary to step back and look at the issue of the trans-Appalachian West in 1776. The most controversial question at that time was, how was the West going to be developed?

When most Americans looked west, they imagined the past repeated on a new stage. The Atlantic seaboard had not been populated by disorganized hordes, or by a government-run public-works project. America's orderly development had been privatized, contracted out to wealthy individuals or companies that were granted control over particular regions by the Crown. They provided incentives for migrants and controls that kept society from breaking down: a governor, courts, land offices to register deeds, sheriffs to keep order, in some cases a clergy. In 1776 a variety of companies had sprung up to serve the same role beyond the Appalachians. They were like developers of subdivisions today, only on a grand scale. They expected to make money doing it.

When Jefferson looked west, he imagined something radically new happening. He didn't project the past onto the West, but the future. He imagined that people would move west individually, on their own initiative, and civil society would spontaneously spring up among them without any intervention from outside authorities. Self-rule was the natural state of society, or so Locke maintained. It might be necessary for established democracies like Virginia to protect the fledgling democracies for a time, but they would eventually mature, stand up on their own, and break free. In fact, Jefferson wrote in his notes for the Virginia constitution that they should become “free and independent of this colony and of all the world.”

As a member of the Continental Congress in 1776, Jefferson had seen lobbyists from several land companies approach Congress for confirmation of their titles to western lands. Their techniques of lobbying left him deeply suspicious that they were sources of corruption threatening the republican virtue of Congress. Jefferson read the bylaws of one company, called the Transylvania Company, and he saw vestiges of feudal bondage in the quitrents settlers would pay and the executive authority of the unelected proprietors. The private companies came to represent for him the European system of subservience replicated once more beyond the mountains.

George Rogers Clark had come to Williamsburg in 1776 because of opposition to that same Transylvania Company made up of a group of North Carolina investors headed by Judge Richard Henderson. The company had purchased a tract of land in Kentucky from the Cherokee Indians, and hired Daniel Boone to guide a party of migrants over the mountains. Once there, they founded the town of Boonesborough and set up a land office to sell off tracts. But they soon alienated the
other inhabitants of Kentucky by raising land prices and insisting that people actually settle on their land and plant corn, instead of flipping the property to new buyers in the East. So Clark and the young firebrand lawyer John Gabriel ("Jack") Jones organized an opposition. It was a stroke of political genius for them to couch their protest in revolutionary terms that echoed the Declaration of Independence being written almost simultaneously in Philadelphia.\(^8\)

Jefferson, Clark, and generations of historians framed the ensuing battle as a principled conflict between the model of developing the West for the private gain of wealthy investors, and the model of developing the West as a land of small freeholders who owed no allegiance to aristocrat landlords. Only recently have we realized it was something slightly different: a struggle of small-scale speculators against large-scale speculators.

The showdown came in the Virginia Assembly session of October 1776. Richard Henderson showed up to argue his case, supported by Tidewater aristocrats who themselves had investments in western land companies. They framed it as a case of unwarranted government interference against private enterprise. After all, the Transylvania investors were not doing anything illegal or immoral. In their own eyes, they were providing a useful public service, by helping to promote orderly settlement of the West as opposed to a chaotic, uncontrolled free-for-all. If they made money, what was un-American about that? And what gave the state of Virginia the right to step in and tell them to stop?\(^9\)

But Jefferson rallied the western delegates, and Clark hinted darkly that Transylvania would “afford a safe Assylum to those whose Principles are inimical to American Liberty.” To avoid the nightmare scenario of harboring a Tory enclave at their backs, the Assembly created Kentucky County, Virginia. By asserting the sovereignty of the state of Virginia beyond the mountains, they effectively quashed the colony of Transylvania.\(^10\)

The next time Clark and Jefferson teamed up was exactly one year later. This time the threat to democracy was no longer aimed at Kentucky, but farther west, at Illinois.

Illinois at this date defied our popular stereotype of the West as a trackless wilderness. In fact, after crossing the Appalachian Mountains in 1777, the land became more settled and more European the farther west you went. When you reached the Mississippi River, you would have found yourself in a place resembling a little piece of rural France transported to America. The first French towns there were founded around 1700. Almost eight decades later the river bottom for about one hundred miles north of the Kaskaskia River was almost continuous farmland, pasture, and orchard. There were roads, churches, and mills. The people there prospered by exporting farm produce, mining lead, and conducting commerce with the Indians. The west side of the Mississippi was claimed by Spain and the east side was
nominally under British control, but there were no British soldiers there—only a single harried bureaucrat named Philippe Rocheblave, who had received neither money nor orders from Britain for about two years.11

In summer of 1777, the Continental Congress approved funding for a military expedition to descend the Ohio River and seize control of Illinois, then continue on down the Mississippi to attack the British forts at Mobile and Pensacola. It was not to be commanded by George Rogers Clark. The mastermind behind the plan was a Pennsylvanian named George Morgan. He was the United States’ Indian agent in the West, but also a land company investor. He had been part of a group that proposed a colony in Illinois in the 1760s, and he was now fighting a very public battle with Virginia over a different colony, named Indiana. His main opponents in Virginia were George Mason and Thomas Jefferson.12

When the Virginians heard of the military expedition Morgan had gotten through Congress, they became alarmed. Illinois lay within the boundaries of Virginia’s original royal land grant, and if the Continental Army were to seize it, as planned, Virginia would lose any claim to it. They probably feared, with good reason, that this would open the door to Pennsylvanian land companies like Morgan’s. If Virginia wanted to defend its western lands and people, it would have to do something decisive.

At this moment, George Rogers Clark showed up in Williamsburg. He was already exhausted by war. That summer of 1777, Britain had changed its longstanding policy of trying to persuade the western Indian tribes to stay neutral, and had started actively arming them and encouraging them to create a diversion along the western borders of the United States. The result was a summer of incessant war, in which settlers were driven back, towns abandoned, and both Boonesborough and Harrodsburg reduced to armed forts. As major of the Kentucky County militia, Clark had spent the summer directing the defenses. He said, “The defence of our Forts the procuring of provitions and when possible surprising the Indeans...burying the dead and dresing the wounded seemed to be all our business.”13

At the end of the summer he was supplanted in command by an older man, John Bowman, who arrived from Virginia with a colonel’s commission in contrast to Clark’s as mere major. Clark flatly refused to serve under him, and left for the East. The arrival in Williamsburg of a footloose military hero from Kentucky was a godsend to the Virginians who wanted to defend their western lands. Clark wrote, “At Williamsburg I Remained a considerable time...making Remarks of every thing I saw or heard that would lead me to the knowledge of the disposition of those in power.” He seems to have absorbed much of Jefferson’s thinking about the Revolution and the role of the West, and Jefferson absorbed his. It must have been something of an echo chamber when they were together: they reinforced one another’s ideas, not always for the better.14

Together, Clark, Jefferson, and Mason came up with a plan to save Illinois. They used a ploy Jefferson would rely on again when he wanted to get money out of Congress for a pet project: they introduced a vaguely worded bill to the Virginia Assembly, authorizing an expedition to the West, but lowballing the cost and neglecting to state the true purpose. It worked, just as it would in 1803. With an appropriation in the works, Clark then went to Governor Patrick Henry with an implausible argument that Illinois constituted a threat to Kentucky. Henry was skeptical, but after some persuasion he authorized Clark to seize the Mississippi River for Virginia before the Pennsylvanians could get there.
Clark set off from Pittsburgh with a band of about 175 adventurers to conquer Kaskaskia, a town of about 1,500 inhabitants. The story of how they managed to bamboozle the French residents into joining them is a classic tale. According to Clark, he did it by putting on his Indian persona until he had thoroughly terrorized the town, then suddenly switched to his Virginia gentleman persona. The French habitants were so relieved to find they weren’t going to get plundered and massacred that they embraced the American cause and cried, “Vive la liberté!”

Once he had occupied the towns of French Illinois, Clark was faced with a dilemma: what was he supposed to do with them? He didn’t have the men, money, or orders to rule or defend them, but he also didn’t want to retreat. He wrote to Virginia for instructions, and in the meantime he borrowed money to feed, clothe, and house his men, and to carry on diplomacy with the Indian tribes.

All his plans were disrupted that fall when Henry Hamilton, the British lieutenant governor of Detroit, mounted an expedition to retake Illinois. The British only got as far as Vincennes before winter set in, but that was far enough to cut off Clark. Now there was no retreat for the Americans; either they had to flee across the Mississippi River into Spanish territory, or attack. Clark chose to attack.

The story of Clark’s midwinter march to Vincennes is one of the best war stories of all time. It has been told so often there is no need to repeat it here. Unbelievably, considering all he was up against, Clark was able to retake Vincennes without losing a single man. He captured Hamilton and all his officers, inflicting a humiliating defeat on Britain.

By the time the news of Clark’s victory at Vincennes arrived in Virginia, Thomas Jefferson had been elected to replace Patrick Henry as governor, and he had the pleasant task of taking credit for the victory. For the next two years, Jefferson and Clark entered into a close partnership—Jefferson as governor, Clark as his man in the West.

Even at this early point in his career, Jefferson had big plans for the West. To him, it was not simply real estate; the West was critical to the future of the United States, because it represented a solution to the central problem of democracy. Patrick Henry expressed that problem to him in a letter in 1780. He said: “Do you remember any instance, where Tyranny was destroyed and Freedom established on its Ruins among a people possessing so small a Share of Virtue and Public Spirit? I recollect none; and this more than the British Arms, makes me fearfull of our final Success.”

Democracy’s fatal flaw was that it required a virtuous and vigilant citizenry to guard against the constant pull toward despotism and corruption. Every one of the founding generation worried about this problem, but they came up with different solutions.

James Madison relied on constructing an elegant governmental mechanism that would balance the selfish tendencies of one group against those of another so as to cancel each other out, or at least hold them in check. You couldn’t make humans perfect, so you created a system that harnessed their bad tendencies to create a good result.

Jefferson had a more visionary solution: he thought humanity was perfectible, and that civilization was leading inevitably in that direction. Provided with a proper environment, a new type of citizenry could be raised with the characteristics essential for democracy: self-reliance, independence, and virtue. By “proper environment,” of course, he meant freehold agriculture. This is why he wrote Madison so famously, “our governments will remain virtuous as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America.” Jefferson anticipated that westerners would be the next step in humankind’s moral evolution. The admiration he expressed for Clark was not just personal. It was, in a sense, scientific. Here was empirical proof that the western environment created men that married the
best traits of the Indians with those of Europe, “com-
bining policy with enterprize,” as he wrote of Clark.16

To Jefferson, the West was a grand scientific exper-
iment in the cultivation of humankind. This explains
the urgency with which he defended the West in the
Revolution. It was not just the future of Virginia rid-
ing on the outcome; it was the future of the United
States, of democracy, of mankind. The West was, as he
wrote Joseph Priestly, a “new…chapter in the history
of man.”17

Clark fed the flames of Jefferson’s enthusiasm for
the West by sending back descriptions much like Meri-
wether Lewis would write twenty-five years later: “Its
more Beautiful than any Idea I could have formed of
a Country almost in a state of Nature…. On the River
You’ll find the finest Lands the Sun ever shone on; In the
high Country You will find…large Meadows extending
beyond the reach of your Eyes Varigated with groves of
Trees appearing like Islands in the Seas covered with
Buffaloes and other Game; in many Places with a good
Glass You may see…half a Million of Acres.”18

There were two critical components of Jefferson’s
plan for the West. One was to establish a Virginia-style
democracy in Illinois in order to “inculcate on the peo-
ple the value of liberty, and the difference between the
State of free Citizens of this commonwealth and the
Slavery to which Illinois was destined.” The second
cornerstone of his program was the establishment of a
fort on the banks of the Mississippi, the westernmost
boundary of the United States. It was not just meant
to protect Illinois; it would declare to both Britain and
Spain that the United States was in the West to stay. It
would be called Fort Jefferson.19

Jefferson put in Clark’s hands the creation of an
entire military infrastructure to defend the West. Start-
ing with nothing but a handful of half-literate frontiersmen, Clark was asked to whip together all
the administrative structure of an army: quartermas-
ters, commissaries, artificers, officers, and even wash-
erwomen to keep the men uniformed, armed, dis-
ципlined, and fed. At its height the Illinois battalion
manned five forts spread over a three-hundred-mile
radius, with headquarters at Louisville. But defend-
ing an empire isn’t cheap, and there wasn’t a shilling
in the Virginia state treasury to pay for it all. Virginia
had been financing its eastern war by printing paper
money, and its economic house of cards had collapsed
in the midst of 16,000% inflation. By 1780 the state’s
credit was worthless, and Clark’s entire western de-
partment was built on credit.20

Jefferson was in denial. He wrote Clark minute
instructions about the construction of Fort Jefferson
as if money were no object, just as he would later write
Meriwether Lewis an unsupported letter of credit.
Clark improvised madly to find ways of accomplishing
what Jefferson wanted. In the Clark papers at the Mis-
souri History Museum are stacks and stacks of IOUs
he wrote in hopes that Jefferson would cover them
all; leafing through them, you get a sense of looming
disaster. During the year of 1780, Clark built Fort Je-
fferson and fought back two British counterstrikes, one
aimed at Illinois and the other at the heart of Ken-
tucky. Two of the battles that year were the largest of
the war in the West, each involving over a thousand
men. Between May and September he was barely in
the same place for more than two weeks at a time, but
he still set off for Virginia to confer with Jefferson over
the winter.

When Clark arrived in Richmond, he found that
Jefferson had no more men or money than before, but
was still cooking up another project for him. Jeffer-
son wanted to attack Detroit, the headquarters of Brit-
ish operations in the West, and he had already been
writing letters to get George Washington’s coopera-
tion. Clark wanted to attack Detroit, too, but he must
have been a little wary of Jefferson’s promises by now,
because he had some conditions. He wanted a promo-
tion and a guarantee of two thousand men to com-
mand. Jefferson agreed, and sat down on Christmas
Day, 1780, to write him a set of detailed instructions,
outlining the objectives of the expedition, just as he
would later do for Lewis. Clark set out soon after. But
in the end, Jefferson was not able to produce either a
permanent promotion or the two thousand men. Clark
spent all spring fruitlessly trying to recruit men around
Pittsburgh, and finally set out with a force of only 350.
When he reached Louisville he received the news: Jef-
fferson had been voted out of office, and the Virginia
Assembly had passed a bill calling for the new gover-
nor to cancel the Detroit expedition. They had also
appointed a commission to investigate the finances of
Clark’s Western Department.
Jefferson wrote to Clark, “That you have enemies you must not doubt, when you reflect that you have made yourself eminent. If you meant to escape malice you should have confined yourself within the sleepy line of regular duty. When you transgressed this...you made yourself a mark for malice and envy to shoot at.”

But that was not all that was making Clark a target. As Jefferson’s man, he had inherited Jefferson’s enemies. Moreover, he was standing firm in defense of Virginia’s rule in the West at a time when there was strong sentiment in Kentucky to break away and either form a separate state or join with Spain. Clark considered it his duty “to Suppress all such proceedings[.] I consequently shall loose the Interest of that party.”

Clark’s last year in command of the western war, 1782, was dominated by divisiveness. The new governor of Virginia was Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and father of William Henry Harrison. He was supportive at first. Under his instructions, Clark built a fleet of gunboats to patrol the Ohio River; the largest one was seventy-three feet long at the keel, propelled by forty oars, and had “false gunwales” that could be raised on hinges to form a shield in case of attack—a design later used by Lewis on his keelboat. But in August, the Kentucky militia suffered a devastating defeat when they impetuously charged into an Indian ambush at Blue Licks. In the coverup that followed, Clark became the scapegoat for not having been there to prevent the disaster. In 1780, Clark had been the idol of Kentucky. By 1782, they were accusing him of incompetence, corruption, and alcoholism. Harrison, who had never met Clark, believed the worst. The next spring he wrote Clark, “The conclusion of the war...will render the Services of a General Officer in [the West] unnecessary, and [you] will therefore consider yourself as out of Command.”

It was the end of Clark’s military career. He was thirty years old, out of a job, and on the brink of financial ruin. He had gone far out on a limb to make Jefferson’s dream a reality in the West, and now his countrymen sawed off the branch behind him. He had never been defeated in battle; what defeated him was an inability to make the transition from a military leader to a politician.
Astonishingly, George Rogers Clark never blamed Thomas Jefferson. In fact, when George learned that William was being considered for another wild Jeffersonian scheme to explore the West, he expressed encouragement. But he was a ruined man. Unable to live up to Jefferson’s impossible expectations, he turned to self-destruction by alcohol, and by 1803 he was like the ghost of a former time.

It is easy to see similarities between Jefferson’s two emissaries to the West, George Rogers Clark and Meriwether Lewis. But there was one important difference: Lewis knew Clark’s story. In 1809, when he found himself in a similar situation—under political attack, under government investigation, all his heroism forgotten—he had the spectre of George Rogers Clark hanging before him, and the thought that he might end up the same way. It may give us an insight into what was going through his mind in those dark days.

In Greek tragedy, a hero is a person who embodies his nation or people. He need not be perfect; on the contrary, he is often a flawed mix of human and divine. By this measure, George Rogers Clark qualifies as a hero. He embodied the paradoxes of a nation struggling toward a great moral vision through compromise with an imperfect world of people. The question he poses to us is: are we going to fall prey to our flaws, or are we going to transcend them to keep this project of democracy going? It is still our great national challenge, just as it was in his time.

Carolyn Gilman is author of Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide (2003) and Land of the Blended Heart: The American Revolution on the Frontier (forthcoming), on which this article is based. She works at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution. This paper was first presented at the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting in 2012.

NOTES


4. Seineke, George Rogers Clark Adventure, 5.


10. Seineke, George Rogers Clark Adventure, 182.


20. Here and below summarizes a story told in more detail in Gilman, Land of the Blended Heart.


22. For the gunboat design, see James Alton James, ed., George Rogers Clark Papers 1781-1784, Illinois State Historical Library, Collections, v. 19—Virginia Series, v. 4 (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library, 1926), 64, 137; for the quote, 245.
Two great ways to explore the Trail!

**Missouri River Expeditions**

Grab a paddle and board one of ROW's 34' Canoes to travel the waters that Lewis & Clark paddled nearly 200 years ago, hiking and exploring along the way.

ROW provides all equipment, professional guides, gourmet dining and a luxury camping experience.

*Over 1200 people, ages 5 to 87 have enjoyed this trip!*

"The expert help of ROW's strong, young canoeists who prepared our camps and doubled as cooks extraordinary made the trip as enjoyable as it was easy."

–Gary Moulton, Editor, Lewis & Clark Journals, University of Nebraska Press.

www.ROWadventures.com

**River Dance Lodge**

The ideal location for exploring the Historic Lolo and Nez Perce Trail. Located along US Hwy. 12 on the Clearwater River 2 1/2 hours west of Missoula, Montana. The resort offers 8 hand-crafted log cabins with private hot tubs and spectacular views. Enjoy fine dining and a superb wine list at the Syringa Café. Bring your family or friends to explore the Trail or go on one of our whitewater rafting or gentle float trips. There's also hiking, fishing, biking and more!

www.RiverDanceLodge.com

WE PROCEEDED ON

(Back issues, 1974–current)

All back issues of our quarterly historical journal are available. Some of the older issues are copier reproductions. Orders for a collection of all back issues receive a 30 percent discount. Order your missing issues to complete your set.

Call 1-888-701-3434, mail your request to P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403, or order at york@lewisandclark.org.

$10 originals or cds

$4 shipping & handling

Advertise your L&C products and services in WPO!

**RESERVATION DEADLINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Reservation</th>
<th>Ad Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February (Winter)</td>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>January 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May (Spring)</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>April 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August (Summer)</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>June 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November (Fall)</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AD RATES**

- **FULL PAGE** (7 1/4" x 9 1/2"): $400 b&w/$500 color
- 2/3 page vertical (4 1/4" x 9 1/2"): $300 b&w/$400 color
- 1/2 horizontal (7 1/4" x 4"): $250 b&w/$300 color
- 1/3 vertical (2 1/4" x 9 1/2"): $150 color/$300 color
- 1/3 square (4 1/4" x 4 1/4"): $150 color/$300 color
- 1/6 vertical (2 1/4" x 4 1/4"): $75 b&w/$100 color
- Inside back cover (7 1/2" x 9 1/2"): $500
- Inside front cover (7 1/2" x 9 1/2"): $500
- Double spread, inside: $800

To reserve ad space, contact york@lewisandclark.org

Email your 300-dpi jpeg or high-resolution pdf with embedded images and fonts by the due date for that issue to WPO editor Robert Clark, robert.clark@wsu.edu.

**ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS**

- Foundation members receive a 15% discount
- Repeat advertisers receive a 10% discount
- If you pay in advance, we can offer additional discounts as long as the following conditions are met:
  - Advertiser must place a minimum of at least 2 ads within 12 months in the same calendar year or at least 2 consecutive ads if the ads fall in different calendar years. Payment must be received 30 days in advance of the ad deadline for the first scheduled ad. Multiple ads must be paid for 30 days in advance of the deadline for first advertisement. Payment must be in cash, check, or money order. NO CREDIT CARDS accepted.
  - Discounts:
    - 2 ads earn an additional 2% discount
    - 3 ads earn an additional 3% discount
    - 4 ads earn an additional 4% discount
    - 5 ads earn an additional 5% discount

For example, a Foundation member who runs ads in the May, August, and November issues of WPO would receive an 18% discount on the total bill if paid by cash, check, or money order.
Jefferson Letter on Lewis & Clark Offered at Auction

by Stephen J. Gertz,
Booktryst, a nest for book lovers
http://www.booktryst.com/

A historically rich and highly significant signed letter from Thomas Jefferson to Dr. William Eustis of Massachusetts, a political ally, was offered at auction by Sotheby’s in its “Fine Books and Manuscripts, Including Americana” sale, December 5, 2013. The estimated pre-sale value is $500,000–$700,000. [The final hammer value was not available when this issue of We Proceeded On went to press.]

On two pages dated June 25, 1805, Jefferson, three months into his second term as President, refers to politics and the decline of the Federalists, news from Meriwether Lewis, information on the Indians encountered by the Corps of Discovery, receipt of a barge with Indian tribal deputies sent back by Lewis, the new Michigan Territories, trade with the Indians as a means to peace, negotiations with Spain, the French and British navies
We Proceeded On in American waters; it just goes on. It is a supremely rare historical document, and, further, one of only two letters by Jefferson discussing the Lewis and Clark expedition to come to auction in over sixty years.

The letter was part of the collection of Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady of the United States. Jefferson composed it on a bifolium of wove paper watermarked "J. Larking."

Dear Sir  

Washington June 25 05

Your two favors of the 2d & 10th inst. have been duly received with respect to Mr. Avery, as he was to obtain the testimonies of his character in the Eastern states, & was himself in the same place with Genl. Hull in whose gift the office of Marshal for Michigan was, I left him to satisfy General Hull himself on that point, & thought it best to add no bias by expressing any wish of mine to the General. I therefore did not write to him on the subject. — I believe, with you, that the Boston maneuvre has secured the death of federalism at the end of the present year. The steady progression of public opinion, aided by the number of candid persons who had voted with them this year, but will be displeased with this measure, cannot fail to join Massachusetts to her sister-states at the first election. The arrangement you suggested in your letter of the 10th could not be adopted, because a prior one had been initiated. The person appointed is very distant & will not be here till Autumn. Within a month from this time our annual recess will take place, for the months of Aug. & Sep. I have the pleasure to inform you that one of Capt. Lewis's barges returned to St. Louis brings us certain information from him. He wintered with the Mandanes, 1609 miles up the Missouri, Lat. 47 Long. 107° with some additional minutes to both numbers, all well and peculiarly cherished by all the Indian nations. He has sent in his barge 45 deputies from 6 of the principal nations in that quarter who will be joined at St. Louis by those of 3 or 4 nations between the Missouri & Mississippi, and will come on here. Whether before our departure or after our return we do not yet know. We shall endeavor to get them to go on as far North as Boston, being desirous of impressing them correctly as to our strength & resources. This with kind usage, and a commerce advantageous to them, & not losing to us, will better secure their & our peace & friendship than an army of thousands.

I receive with due sentiments of thankfulness the invitations of my Eastern friends to visit that portion of our country. The expected visit from the deputations of so many distant nations of the Indians, provisional arrangements with Spain in lieu of the permanent ones proposed, in which we are not likely to concur, the presence of English & French fleets in the American seas, which will probably visit & perplex our harbors during the hurricane season will not permit me to be so far from the seat of government this summer. Add to this that should I ever be able to make the visit it would probably be more generally agreeable, when there shall be less division of public sentiment than at present among you.

Accept my friendly salutations, & assurances of great esteem & respect

Th. Jefferson

Jefferson’s mention of General William Hull refers to his recent (March 22, 1805) appointment of the soldier-politician as governor of the newly created Michigan Territory as well as its Indian agent.

At the time Jefferson wrote to Eustis the Federalists (who lost the presidential election of 1804) were in decline, having little support outside of New England. They would not regain strength until 1812.

William Eustis (1753-1825) was an early American physician, politician, and statesman from Massachusetts. A practicing doctor, he served as a military surgeon during the American Revolutionary War (notably at the Battle of Bunker Hill), and resumed his medical career after the war. He soon, however, entered politics, and after several terms in the Massachusetts legislature, Eustis served in the United States House of Representatives (March 1801–March 1805) as a moderate Democratic-Republican, the party of Jefferson. He later served as Secretary of War (1809–1813) under President James Madison. In 1823 he became the 12th Governor of Massachusetts.


Editor’s note: The letter featured here was published in Donald Jackson, ed., Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents 1783-1854 (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1978), and has been known to historians for some time. You can also read Jefferson’s copy of it on the Library of Congress web site, http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mtj.mtjbib014851 (accessed December 12, 2013.)
Along the Trail

Sioux City Road Trip
The journey expands at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center/Betty Strong Encounter Center

By Marcia Poole, Director

The Lewis & Clark Expedition often is described as one of America’s greatest road trips. Since opening in 2002, the Sioux City (Iowa) Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center/Betty Strong Encounter Center has embraced that description with exhibits, programs and activities about the explorers’ time in the present-day, tri-state region known as “Siouxland,” from late July to early September 1804.

The Center’s road trip, however, does not end in September 1806 with the explorers’ return. It continues, fueled by a permanent mission to encounter the past, present and possible future of Siouxland’s diverse people and natural resources.

Traveling back
The Interpretive Center travels back to the explorers’ time in the area with animatronics of Lewis, Clark, Seaman, and a prairie dog. Hand-painted murals, stamping stations, computers, and a traditional Native games exhibit offer entry points for learning.

Visitors “enlist” by stamping one of nine expedition roles in their Visitor’s Journal. The Center’s Wall of Honor offers a brief biography about each member of the expedition.

After learning about members of the expedition, visitors encounter an ailing Sgt. Floyd whose symptoms suggest a ruptured appendix. His treatment is described in the context of the time. His burial with “all the honors of war” is commemorated by an animatronic Lewis and Clark who regret they could not save the young soldier.

The burial scene is complemented by the story of Floyd’s original gravesite, marked by a “seeder post,” and the dedication of his present and fourth resting place, a 100-foot sandstone obelisk.

Historical connections
The interpretive journey continues with the election of Pvt. Patrick Gass as Floyd’s replacement, and the court martial of deserter Pvt. Moses Reed. Visitors learn that a group of Otoe-Missouri Indians visiting the explorers’ camp considered Reed’s flogging excessive punishment.

Exhibits about Siouxland’s natural resources come next. A contemporary Lakota painted buffalo robe has historical connections to Native peoples who decorated once plentiful animal hides with symbolic designs and pictographic art. The painted buffalo robe also connects to non-Natives who encountered this art form, including Lewis & Clark.

In the “The Buffalo Dance” mural, Ho-Chunk artist Henry Payer, Jr. imagines encounters between Native peoples of the Great Plains and the Corps of Discovery.

Additional exhibits, the Keelboat Theatre, and live programs inform visitors.

A changing world
“Encounters,” the second Henry Payer Jr. mural, connects the Interpretive Center and the Encounter Center. The mural interprets encounters in a changing world along the Missouri River.

“The Changing River” exhibit travels from that “wild Mighty Mo.,” through the exploration and steamboat years, the coming of the railroads, and efforts to create a navigational channel.

In the Encounter Center, visitors find changing photo exhibits on an array of topics.

Programs and activities change frequently. Program topics have included: Native cultures; heritage music, dance, food, entertainments and architecture; immigrants and languages; agricultural history, natural history, and Missouri River issues; transportation and auto-racing history; plays and films; writing workshops; global positioning system (GPS) adventures; and near-forgotten cemeteries.

The Center’s benefactor, Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD), some half-million visitors, and dozens of program presenters, artists and scholars have influenced the Center’s road trip. When it comes to possible encounters, we see no end in sight.

Location: Exit 149 off Interstate 29; 900 Larsen Park Road, Sioux City, Iowa 51103; www.siouxcitylcic.com; 712-224-5242. Open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday–Friday; 9 a.m.–8 p.m. Thursday, April–September; noon–5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. www.facebook.com/sclangdc
Sail to the heart of the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Sail the Columbia & Snake Rivers aboard the 62-guest National Geographic Sea Bird or Sea Lion. Explore with a historian, naturalists, a geologist, and Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor. Visit recreated Corps of Discovery campsites, hike to a scenic waterfall, explore the shoreline by expedition landing craft, and dine on fantastic regional specialties from sustainable farms and wineries along our route.

The week-long expedition sails throughout September and October. And on the September 23, 2014 departure, you’re invited to join Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, a renowned Corps of Discovery expert; and on October 10, 2014 travel with and learn from National Geographic photographer Rich Reid on an expedition that focuses on photography at the peak of autumn colors.

Call 1.800.EXPEDITION or your travel agent for details or learn more at expeditions.com/lewisandclark
Tipi Encampment
Native Drummers
Discovery Day Camp for Children
Kids Trading Post
Live Music
Buffalo Kite Flying Exhibition
Native Games
Float Trips on the Scenic Missouri River
Programs every hour

MOST EVENTS ARE FREE!

FAMILY FUN ON THE BANKS OF THE MISSOURI!
Annual Lewis & Clark Festival
JUNE 20–22, 2014 ~ GREAT FALLS, MONTANA