Jim Holmberg to Deliver Moulton Lecture Entitled “Down the Ohio and Into History” at LCTHF’s 54th Annual Meeting from August 7 to 10, 2022, in Pittsburgh, PA. In March of 2019 President Donald J Trump signed into law the provision that officially joined the Ohio River and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. It was a fitting addition, expanding the trail to include a key part of the 1803 portion of the Corps of Discovery’s journey. The Ohio’s almost 1000 miles offered a major route west for explorers, traders, soldiers, and settlers. Lewis and later Clark, along with the nucleus of the Corps, spent some two and a half months on the river. Information on their journey down La Belle Riviere – the Beautiful River as the French had christened it – is fragmentary, consisting of journal entries, letters, and newspaper reports. Viewed as a whole, however, they provide an informative and interesting account of this crucial leg of the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s Eastern Legacy.

Today, more than 200 years after the Corps of Discovery’s epic journey, we are still learning about that journey, those who made it, and the places they visited. We can tour those places today to walk in the explorers’ footsteps and stand where they stood. In the Moulton Lecture, Jim Holmberg will recount the events of 219 years ago and note the places that exist today as Lewis and Clark saw them.

A native of Louisville, KY, Jim holds BA and MA degrees in American history from the University of Louisville. He is the senior curator at The Filson Historical Society in Louisville which he joined in 1982. Jim writes and lectures on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, with special concentration on William Clark, York, and the Nine Young Men from Kentucky. He published Dear Brother: Letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark (Yale University Press, 2002) and has edited, written, and contributed to six Lewis and Clark-related books, a variety of articles, and entries for the Kentucky Encyclopedia, African American National Biography, and The Encyclopedia of Louisville for which he also served as editor of the pioneer-related entries.

Jim has appeared in national, state, and local television and radio programs including NPR’s Morning Edition and Weekend Edition and Louisville’s public radio station (WFPL), episodes aired on the A&E, History, Smithsonian, National Geographic, and CSPAN networks, and a number of Lewis and Clark-related documentaries. He served as chair of the Kentucky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.

LCTHF Photo Contest Open to April 30, 2022. Qualifying photos must be taken within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail corridor or at Lewis and Clark historic sites; submitted in high-definition format; and taken by the person submitting the photos. The contest is open to non-professional photographers only. The photo categories are: Landscapes; People on the Trail; Historic Lewis and Clark Sites; Public Lewis and Clark Art; and Flora and Fauna. LCTHF members may submit up to two photos each in up to three categories. LCTHF non-members may submit one photo each in up to two categories. Non-members can become members of the LCTHF and have the same submission privileges as members. All photographers will agree to the LCTHF’s right to use submitted photos for any and all LCTHF promotional and membership materials including on social media platforms at no charge to the LCTHF. The contest rules and submission forms are available on the LCTHF website www.lewisandclark.org. Please submit the completed forms and photos to Sarah Cawley at director@lewisandclark.org.
Travelers’ Rest Connection, the Nonprofit Partner of Travelers’ Rest State Park, Will Host the LCTHF’s 55th Annual Meeting from June 27 to 30, 2023, in Missoula, MT. The theme of the meeting is Crossroads at Travelers’ Rest... Trade, Travel & Time. The Corps of Discovery camped at Travelers’ Rest in both 1805 and 1806. This is where they prepared to cross the treacherous Bitterroot Mountains on their way to the Pacific and where the Corps split up to further explore Montana as they journeyed back to St Louis. Travelers’ Rest State Park now comprises the historic campsite among 65 acres of cottonwood forest in a suburban setting along Lolo Creek. The Visitor Center includes exhibits of archaeological artifacts found at the site, replicas of objects utilized by the Corps, and information about the Indigenous peoples and natural history of the area.

Recognized as the only archaeologically verified campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Travelers’ Rest has a much longer human history. This spot marked a crossroads of time-worn trails established by tribes including the Sélíš, Qlíspé, Nimíipuu, and Shoshone. Travelers’ Rest Connection, heir to the LCTHF’s Travelers’ Rest Chapter, is creating a program designed to demonstrate the Expedition’s ongoing relevance and highlight the crossroads of cultures we have here today. With one day of breakout sessions and two days of local bus tours to points of cultural and historic significance, the 2023 Annual Meeting will be more than a history lesson; it will be an opportunity to connect the past to the future.

The newly renovated Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown will serve as the meeting hotel and the venue for breakout sessions, lectures, and meals. Missoula, a unique town surrounded by mountains and rivers, offers walking trails, gourmet restaurants, microbreweries, local shops, and music venues within a block of the hotel. Please plan to meet us at the Crossroads in 2023! Submitted by Molly Stockdale, Travelers’ Rest Connection Executive Director

Lewis and Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point. LCTHF Southern Prairie Region MO-KS Riverbend Chapter Members Kay Schaefer, Dan Sturdevant, and Fred Schaefer stand where Lewis and Clark camped from June 26 to 29, 1804, at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers in the Kansas City metropolitan area (see WPO 41:1 [February 2015]: 17-20). Chapter members helped plant and maintain the native plants in the section of the 10-acre park that remains in a natural state. The seven-foot black metallic cut-out of Lewis and Clark was donated to the chapter by the US Army Corps of Engineers. “It’s always an experience of reverence to stand at the same location where you know the explorers walked,” said President Sturdevant. Submitted by Gary Kimsey. Photo by Mary Lee Sturdevant
In Memoriam: Bob Anderson. Robert "Bob" Shannon Anderson was born on February 9, 1941, and passed away on November 30, 2021. Collateral descendant of Lewis and Clark Expedition member George Shannon and member of the Lewis & Clark Discovery Expedition of St Charles (LCDESC) since 1997, Bob was active in the Lewis and Clark community and tireless in engaging family, friends, and other lovers of history. He traveled the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail before the Bicentennial to scout out camp locations and routes, according to historian Marcia Tabrams Philips, and then returned to St Charles to work with CJ Lanahan on construction of Camp Dubois and Glenn Bishop on creation of the boat and pirogues. Bob was back out on the trail with LCDESC during the Bicentennial. Throughout the preparations and reenactment, Bob enjoyed open-fire cooking for the reenactors and was known for his fried chicken.

Shannon, as Bob was known, also participated in several other historical societies dedicated to telling and preserving American history and was a proud member of the Piqua Shawnee Tribe of Alabama. The family requests that donations be made to the LCDESC’s Missouri Living History Fund. Cards may be sent to Bob’s grandson and LCDESC member Joshua Bennett aka “Young Shannon” at 346 Cart Path Lane, St Clair, MO 63077.

Back by Popular Demand! LCTHF and the Portage Route Chapter Are Again Sponsoring the Missouri River Canoe Trip Experience through the White Cliffs of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail with Montana River Outfitters. Join us from July 11 to 15, 2022, for historic camping and sight-seeing. The cost is $1,500 for LCTHF members and $1,600 for nonmembers (one-year membership included). This fee includes nightly tent set up, cot with air mattress (bring your own sleeping bag), and three delicious meals prepared for you each day while you paddle, hike, explore, read the journals around a campfire, and enjoy the pristine vistas seen by Lewis and Clark. You must be able to paddle a canoe to participate in this program.

On Thursday July 14, we will spend a half day at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls and then travel to the First Peoples Buffalo Jump. On Friday July 15, we will meet Larry Epstein at the Two Medicine Fight Site (weather permitting) for a narrated tour. Lunch will be provided on both day trips. Availability is limited so call today to reserve your spot! Please contact Svenja Turman at 888-701-3434 or sturman@lewisandclark.org. A $500 non-refundable deposit is due with RSVP by May 31, 2022, and the balance is due June 15, 2022. Don’t forget to bring your Golden Age Pass! You will also receive a tax-deductible donation receipt from the LCTHF for a portion of this trip. Submitted by Sarah Cawley

Congratulations to LCTHF and Southwest Region Member William Swagerty, Professor of History and Director of the John Muir Center, University of the Pacific, on his receipt of the Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association’s 2021 Teaching Excellence Award. Way to go, Bill!
Sioux City, IA’s Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center Features Native Culture. The Lewis and Clark Expedition traveled through land populated by a variety of tribal nations. They were charged with making friends and gathering information about their language, traditions, laws, and customs. The journals of the captains show that the Corps survived because of the different tribes’ assistance and generosity. In fulfilling its mission of “commemorating a history of encounters and creating a home for dialogue that fosters understanding and peace,” the LCIC has recognized the tribes of the Sioux City area in a variety of ways to promote harmony and understanding among all people in the region.

St Augustine Photo Exhibit. The historic St Augustine Indian Mission School is on the Winnebago Reservation, 22 miles southwest of the LCIC. Founded by St Katharine Drexel in 1909 and rooted in Catholic identity and Native American culture, the Mission enrolls more than 125 children of varied faiths and heritages. The K-8 students study traditional language and culture along with core academic basics. Beginning in 2006, 15 to 17 students have been photographed each year in their Native regalia. Lining the hallway at the LCIC are beautiful photos of these students accompanied by statements about their hopes for the future. Every year a new set of portraits is displayed in this special exhibit. The photos are also featured in a free calendar that promotes the Mission and its endeavors.

“The interpretive center’s post-Bicentennial Native cultures focus opens the door to so many opportunities for enlightenment about Native people in our area,” said Father Dave Korth, then Director of St Augustine Indian Mission, in a press release from the first exhibit in 2006. “It is an opportunity to show visitors from Siouxland and beyond our children’s gifts and talent. For our children, it is an opportunity to foster pride in their heritage.”

“Encounters” Pictographs. Contemporary Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) artist Henry Payer Jr creates the traditional Plains Native art form known as ledger drawing to interpret encounters in this region during the time of Lewis and Clark. The pictographs he created travel across the wall (right to left) from the sun to the moon and show a nomadic people intermingling, trading, courting, and sometimes at war. According to Payer, a pictograph “can tell a story better than a very detailed painting.”
Native Games. The Center’s Traditional Native Games exhibit includes more than two dozen traditional Lakota games crafted by Lakota artist Mike Marshall of Rosebud, SD. One game involves catching deer bones with a needle, much like the modern game of catching a ball on a stick. The goal of “Game of Bowls,” played with two small wooden cylinders and small stone balls, is to knock over the competitor’s cylinder.

Painted Buffalo Robe. In this exhibit, a Native woman models a contemporary Lakota painted buffalo robe over a calico dress. Alongside is a panel explaining the importance of buffalo robes. The women decorated robes for their use; the men used pictographic art to proclaim prestige as warriors and hunters. A painted buffalo robe is among the most prized artifacts from the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Later this year the LCIC will host The Many Moccasins Dance Troupe, a professional Native American dance ensemble, in celebration of the 20th anniversary and as part of their ongoing recognition of people who were in this area before Lewis and Clark, those who came after, and those who continue to make their home in Siouxland. Submitted by Theresa Jackson
Portage Route Chapter Plans to Establish Clark’s Canoe Camp Overlook Near Great Falls, MT. In the summer of 2021 Tom Gannon offered the PRC complete access to 80 acres of his property on the north side of the Missouri River about eight miles upstream from Upper Portage Camp. Harry Mitchell and Lee Ebeling visited the site with Tom to assess the feasibility of his proposal. The site is heavily forested with very large cottonwood trees – just what Captain Clark would have needed for dugouts to replace the failed iron frame boat which sank upon its trial at Upper Portage Camp. Clark had the men fell two large cottonwoods and construct the 28- and 33-foot-long dugouts in its stead.

Information regarding the location of Clark’s Canoe Camp is derived from Bob Bergantino’s GPS coordinates, the Plamondon maps, and the Expedition journals. Clark stated in the journals that the distance by land from Upper Portage Camp to the site was eight miles. Gass gave the distance as seven miles and Ordway as five miles. Proposed signage will acknowledge this site may not necessarily be the exact spot, but there are no other large groves of cottonwoods in the vicinity. Bergantino’s coordinates are within several hundred yards of this site. Tom and his brother Ed are willing to sell their land only to the state of Montana or a local entity that can ensure the area is managed as a public park for riverside recreation. LCTHF Board member and attorney Bill Bronson is currently working to obtain an easement from the Gannons to secure the PRC’s investment in providing signage, a parking pad, and an MDT-approved entryway from the existing road.

The PRC has approved a budget of $5,000 for this project and received a trail stewardship grant for $2,500. The first phase of the work includes obtaining the easement and completing the civil engineering plan for the site. The PRC plans to work on national promotion of the site and will acknowledge to the neighboring property owners that the actual site could be on their land. Submitted by Lee Ebeling
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail’s Junior Ranger Program Is Now Featured at More Than 30 Venues Across the Country. While fourth graders are the nucleus of the target audience, every visitor is invited to pick up a free Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Activity Journal and earn a Junior Ranger Badge at participating locations along the 4,900-mile LCNHT.

“This program tells an inclusive history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, beginning with tribal homelands and highlighting the diverse backgrounds of the Expedition members,” said LCNHT Superintendent Mark Weekley. “We’ve developed innovative, multimedia elements to make the program more engaging and accessible for all.”

The Junior Ranger Activity Journal just won first place in the book category of the National Association for Interpretation’s Media Awards and received recognition for thoughtful messaging and innovative online components. Visual Information Specialist and Junior Ranger Program Lead Caitlin Campbell coordinated the program, a team effort on the part of the LCNHT’s Interpretation and Education staff: Neal Bedlan, Senior Leader Interpretation, Education, Volunteer and Visitor Services; Ashley Danielson, Volunteer and Partnership Specialist; Karla Sigala, Interpretive Specialist; and Tom Smith, Education Specialist. They all worked together to develop activities and write the text. Caitlin did the graphic design and most of the artwork for the booklet. Artist Michael Haynes granted permission to use his images of Expedition members; Cynthia Martin, former volunteer artist, contributed her depiction of Seaman. While the “Interp and Ed” team led the project, everyone on the LCTHF staff helped review the program.

During the planning phase, tribally affiliated National Park Service interpreters contributed input on what they hoped children would understand as a result of the program. The team piloted a draft of the booklet at ten locations along the LCNHT and received valuable suggestions from rangers at these sites, which were then used to revise the booklet before its launch on National Trails Day 2021.

The Junior Ranger Program includes online read-along videos that offer narration and audio-descriptions of the activities, a feature helpful to the visually impaired. Families can also access the Native Names of the Trail webpage to hear plant and animal names in some of the many Indigenous languages spoken along the Lewis and Clark Trail. Three-dimensional tactile maps of the trail available at the Visitor Centers convey the scope and topography of the 4,900-mile route of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and enhance limited-vision participants’ access to map information. Kids can also become Junior Rangers from home by visiting the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Online page and completing interactive activities.

The team is now working on expanding the program to include broader audiences, among them neurologically diverse participants and non-readers. For more information on the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program and more kids’ activities please visit the Lewis and Clark Trail’s Kids & Youth Page. For additional information about the LCNHT, please call 402-661-1806 or visit www.nps.gov/lecl and join the conversation by following @LewisandClarkNHT. Submitted by Caitlin Campbell
Pompeys Pillar. Clark wrote on July 25, 1806, “this rock I ascended and from it's top had a most extensive view in every direction. This rock which I shall Call Pompy's Tower is 200 feet high and 400 paces in secumphrance and only accessible on one Side which is from the N. E the other parts of it being a perpendicular Clift of lightish Coloured gritty rock on the top there is a tolerable Soil of about 5 or 6 feet thick Covered with Short grass.” Biddle changed the name from tower to pillar when he edited the journals. Photo by Mark Jordan

BLM Plans to Preserve Pompeys Pillar. The sandstone landmark where William Clark carved his name on July 25, 1806, is deteriorating. “The main gist of it is, there are these big heavy sandstone blocks supported by crumbling shale,” explained Dave Lefevre, Bureau of Land Management’s Billings field manager. The sandstone, shale, and siltstone composition of the Pillar has made it vulnerable to degradation by wind, moisture, and temperature changes.

The BLM proposes to shore up Pompeys Pillar and preserve public access by filling cracks, bolting large rocks in place, buttressing an overhanging rock, spraying a protective silicone preservative, and removing vegetation and loose stones. The whole point, according to BLM Monument Manager John Reffit, is to preserve the historic integrity of the signatures, pictographs, and petroglyphs and ensure the safety of visitors to the site. The work, partial funding for which would come from the Great American Outdoors Act, will soon go out to bid as one of the more significant maintenance contracts issued by the BLM and could begin as early as this summer. “As far as we’re concerned, it’s a very significant site,” said Friends of Pompeys Pillar Executive Director Paul Eppinger as the only spot that has visual evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Submitted by Brett French, The Billings Gazette

Sherman Library Auction Scheduled at LCTHF’s 54th Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, from August 7 to 10, 2022. The library is seeking donations for the silent auction to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. These donations can be books, Lewis and Clark memorabilia and artwork, or physical items collected on your trips along the trail. Call 406-454-1234 or email office staff at library@lewisandclark.org to submit your donations for committee approval. The LCTHF is also considering the addition of an online component to the library auction which we pioneered during the pandemic. The library auction is the sole support received by the library so your generous donations are critical to enabling our continued availability to researchers and casual students alike. You can also make a monetary donation directly to the library at www.lewisandclark.org and designate the library as the recipient. And when you are at the Annual Meeting please be sure to bid early, bid often, and bid high!

Support for the William P Sherman Library and Archives facilitates the LCTHF’s provision of research materials. Have you ever emailed the library to ask for genealogy information? The library answers many of these types of requests every year. Have you gone to your local library to research the death of Meriwether Lewis and not been able to find materials on the shelf? Your library may request an Interlibrary Loan from our library. Our services provide nationwide access to the LCTHF’s library collection. Planning a trip to Great Falls, MT? You can pursue your research by stopping at the library to study our collections in person. We would love to show off all that our Lewis and Clark library has to offer. Want to find something to read about the Lewis and Clark Expedition? Follow us at Goodreads at Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to learn what our staff members are currently reading. Submitted by Della Van Setten, Library Technician
The Saga of Oregon’s Sea Otters. Once upon a time the Oregon coast teemed with sea otters in its nearshore waters, as it had for millennia. But starting in the 18th century the international Chinese market for sea otter fur developed as the Manchurians consolidated their rule over the country they had initially conquered in 1644.

In 1785, the first British trading ship came to the Northwest coast after publication of the journals of Captain Cook’s third voyage which described the very strong Chinese market for sea otter fur. They and subsequent traders initiated the exchange of European and American trade goods with Northwest Natives who hunted the coveted sea otter which was, as in China, highly valued for its lustrous fur. With their load of pelts, the ships sailed for Canton, where they sold the furs and bought Chinese goods to sell back in Europe and America.

The fur trade turned into a free-for-all. But the question has been asked: where was Oregon in the fur trade? Often slighted in standard histories of the era, Oregon’s role had never been documented. As a result of patient archival searches, however, we now know Oregon was fully integrated into the trade. The oceangoing European and American trade ships often wintered in the Columbia estuary and traded for furs with the Chinookan peoples of the region. The rest of the coast seems to have been less frequently visited, principally because of the lack of good harbors. But this does not mean Oregon sea otters had a respite; this was a time in which sea otters had no friends.

Fur companies, among them John Jacob Astor’s Pacific Fur Company, the British North West Company and, later, the Hudson’s Bay Company, all vied for the beaver furs that were available in plentiful supply in the region that is now Oregon. But sea otter pelts were always eagerly accepted and brought the highest prices. The final phase of the saga of Oregon’s sea otter came in the latter half of the 19th century when local hunters, both Native and Euro-American, pursued the last dwindling otter populations on Oregon’s south coast in what appears to have been a cottage industry that provided a good second income for many coastal dwellers.

The sea otter had vanished from Oregon waters by about 1910. Now the Elakha Alliance, in collaboration with tribes, federal and state agencies, fishermen, and many other parties, is seeking to return the sea otter to Oregon. A 1970 translocation effort was a failure. Elakha Alliance believes that, with more sophisticated scientific methods and collaboration, another attempt will succeed. To learn more about Oregon sea otters’ history, cultural significance, and current efforts at reintroduction, please visit the Elakha Alliance website: www.elakhaalliance.org. Submitted by Cameron La Follett
LCTHF’s Ohio River Region Celebrates National Bison Day designated in 2016 as the first Saturday in November. The American bison is the official mammal of the United States and enjoys the same status as the bald eagle. Tribes both east and west of the Mississippi River as well as the Corps of Discovery depended on the bison for their food, clothing, and shelter.

When President Donald J Trump signed the eastern extension of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail into law on March 12, 2019, Big Bone Lick State Historic Site in Union, KY, became part of the trail. Meriwether Lewis visited the site in September/October of 1803 as he traveled down the Ohio River. William Clark, along with brother George Rogers, traveled to the site after the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The Ohio River Region had already initiated its Adopt-A-Bison Program and met again on November 6, 2021, with Big Bone Lick State Historic Site Bison Coordinator Paul Simpson to present a check for another year’s feed and veterinary care for one bison in their small herd of 14 to 15 animals. The Adopt-A-Bison Committee members are Lorna Hainesworth, Skip Jackson, Ken Jutzi, Janice Wilson, and Jerry Wilson. Submitted by Jerry Wilson