

IDAHO CHAPTER LEWIS CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Joint Meeting of Idaho and Washington Chapter LCTHF

It was a perfect setting: the beautiful, cool, green Sacajawea Park outside Pasco, with the confluence of the grand, blue Columbia and Snake rivers in the background, exactly 200 years after the explorer, David Thompson planted the British flag at this site. Members of both Idaho and Washington Chapters met to hear Jack Nisbet, an authority on David Thompson, who gave a fantastic presentation. He compared and contrasted the socio-political motivations, native interactions and commercial incentives for Thompson's exploration to those of the Corp of Discovery. He expertly enabled the audience to understand that period of time and the importance of both explorations and their historical significance. Many in the audience, myself included, were impressed with the accomplishments of Thompson, who has been somewhat neglected in our historical educations. The author then answered questions from the audience and signed his books: *The Map Maker's Eye*, *The Collector*, *Sources of the River*, and other books on the inland Northwest. After the talk, members toured the wonderful interpretive site/museum at the Park and networked with fellow Clarkies. Some members had camped at the Park and enjoyed further socializing and fireside discussions with LC enthusiasts from both chapters.



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FALL MEETING IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

Date: October 1st, 2011 **Time:** 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: Idaho State Museum of Natural History, Pocatello, Idaho.

Board Meeting during lunch (12:00–1:00)
Members welcome. Members and visitors will meet after lunch to hear two speakers.

–**Thomas Jefferson and the West: Disputed Territory.** Dr. Ron Hatzenbuehler, ISU History Department

–**Geology along the Lewis and Clark Trail and how it influenced the course of History.** Dr. Paul Link, ISU Geosciences Department.

Bring a sack lunch and come at noon for informal discussions. We'll start right after lunch. Hopefully we'll finish in time to visit the museum, or do that in the morning.

Other area points of interest: Fort Hall Replica, Pocatello; Bannock County Historical Museum, Pocatello; Shoshone–Bannock Tribal Museum, Fort Hall; Museum of Idaho, Idaho Falls; Massacre Rocks State Park, Burley.

MUSING FROM THE PRESIDENT

CONFLUENCE PROJECT:

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter a notice of a gallery display of the Confluence Project at LCSC. The Confluence Project has been underway in our western neighbors since before the Bicentennial and until this summer I hadn't seen anything completed. I had included it into that group of bicentennial projects which were "Great Ideas that never got off the ground." Then, at our joint meeting with the Washington Chapter at Pasco in July I encountered the story circles at the confluence of the Snake and Columbia Rivers. It was nice standing at that point under the trees looking at the two rivers and thinking of the peoples who lived on the two rivers and all the history that traveled the rivers. Listening to Jack Nesbit tell stories about the intermountain west was a great experience. I came home thinking about the meaning of Art, and of Maya Lin as an artist. Then the "Moving Wall" came to Lewiston and there was a great deal in the news about the impact of the wall, not just on the Vietnam Vets, but on many other people it touched for a variety of reasons. Obviously Maya Lin is not just a single event artist.

Our paper carried a story of LCSC's Center for Art and History holding an exhibition on the Confluence Project, so I stopped in to see it while in Lewiston on a shopping trip. The exhibit contains models of the six project sites, but the most influential piece was a video of the whole Confluence Project. It consisted of an interview with Maya Lin while she was visiting the various sites. Not only did she visit the sites several times, but she often spent a night on site and she asked some really good questions about why our history is important.

She pointed out that when the falls was running strong and the people were fishing the noise of the falls would have been overwhelming: a noisy, active living presence you could not avoid or turn off Today the place is buried under water and a visitor is struck by the silence.

CONFLICT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Many of you have heard about a split in our officers and Boards of Directors of the National Foundation. It became very visible at the National Meeting in Omaha in August. Here's my view the background and my view of the consequences. A year ago a person with vision and money (hereafter V\$) approached the Pres/ Pres elect/ Past President and suggested that the LCTHF could be much more effective as a leader of the National Historic Trail groups and in providing oversight of the Trail Agencies. To do that the Foundation would need a significantly greater budget. V\$ suggested using utilizing modern "Lobbyist" methods in fund raising and in management. V\$ proposed that he pay a consultant to study the LCTHF and make recommendations for changes needed to become a more effective group.

The consultants made several recommendations that I know of, and many that I don't know about. Those that I know of include 1) too many small committees to manage efficiently; 2) The national office needs to be in a place of "power" and with easy air access; 3) There should be some big names with money on the board: (people who would essentially "buy" their way on the board); 4) LCTHF needs to be effective in fund raising and generate much more money (ie several times the present budget). These recommendations were presented to the board which then split into two camps with most of the executive group favoring them and most of the "at large" members opposing. The two big emotional issues were the office location and membership loss of control of the board.

At the Omaha meeting I learned that apparently nothing has been presented in writing to the board by the consultants. There have been rumors of a proposal to move the office to a donated building in a) St Louis, b) Kansas City or c) or somewhere else. The group managing the present office/ interpretive center in Great Falls wrote the Foundation a letter pointing out that the LCTHF made a 10 year commitment in the Great Falls office with some other contract clauses so that walking away would get very expensive, which seems to have killed that idea for now. My personal discussion with Bryant Boswell (then Pres elect) is that the Board proposal is that just 3 of 15 directors be appointed, not the majority of the board as feared by some members (myself among them at the time). The proposals and changes have been poorly managed, not presented in writing which has lead to fears of a "takeover." The hysterical fear of a "takeover" has led opponents to object to everything proposed regardless if its importance or its value. Minor agenda items became battlegrounds and board action is frozen. Consequently, both the proponents and the opponents have ceased to communicate with one another, and don't really listen to what the other is saying. Both sides have played games of "gotcha" killing any trust that might have existed. Both sides have become so emotionally involved they cannot present their ideas in a calm, rational, professional manner. There was talk of a membership vote in September to carry out the necessary changes. No written proposal was available at the meeting and, as of now, I still have not seen one. Several of the Executive Committee said they would resign from the Foundation if the proposal does not pass. I've been told (3rd hand - 5th hand?), that V\$ has taken a walk after the Omaha meeting because of the conflicts, so the whole issue may be mute.

Where do we stand now? I am not sure. Still nothing in writing I've seen about the vote, so I suspect it has died, and several of the key players may drop out. I personally think the LCTHF could be/ should be playing a much larger role in oversight of both NPS and USFS management of the trail. The traditional methods of running an organization that worked 60 years ago no longer will keep a group in the forefront of public attention. I don't think the leaders that tried to bring these changes will go out and start a rival organization as they demonstrably don't have the skills. But something else may arise, or things may just drift. The eastern chapters are energized, due in part I think with the extension of the trail to the east coast. That will dilute the hold the western states have held on the management of the LCTHF. By contrast the western chapters are in the doldrums after the bicentennial. The only vigorous chapter in the west is Travelers Rest which is holding monthly meetings with 60 to 100 people. The geography of Missoula & the Bitterroot valley helps them but their formula is to go beyond L&C and tie lots of "after" effects together with L&C. They are doing that well, and I think they could be a lesson for the rest of us. They also have a reenactment group that remains vigorous and provides a visible attraction for new membership. Despite my rather snide remarks above, I admire all the members of the officers and board for stepping forward to help run the organization. Board members/ officers are not reimbursed their personal expenses, and the time consumption is enormous. I personally cannot afford either the time or financial commitments to be on the national Board of Directors. My hat is off to those who have stepped forward and are keeping the organization going.



**Lewis - Clark State College
Center for Arts and History**

**Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday
11 AM - 4 PM**

208.792.2243 cah@lcsc.edu
www.lcsc.edu/museum

*This exhibition generously
sponsored by:*

**ASLCSC
Community Programs
Hells Canyon Visitors Bureau
Friends of the Center
Idaho Commission for the Arts
Art Works art.gov
US Bancorp**

Washington Chapter Coming Events:

<http://www.wa-lcthf.org/>

September 14-18 Astoria Fur trade
Encampment and re' enactment at Fort
Stevens

September 22-25 The Clark Event 2011, Long
Beach, Washington. More information
here but is by invitation only by tribe

http://theclarkevent2011.com/Itinerary_Loading.php

September 23-25 – Heritage Days, Sacajawea
State Park and Interpretative Center, Pasco,
presented by the Mid-Columbia Traditional
Arts and Music Association more information
here <http://www.mctama.org/sacajawea-heritage-days/>. This will be the Chapter
summer/fall field trip.

October 8-9, 12th Annual BirdFest and
Bluegrass at Cathlapotle Plank House

February 4, 2012 Washington Chapter
meeting at Washington State History
Museum in Tacoma

Sacajawea Park:



Lolo Trail Work Week 2011

Fifteen volunteers spent another enjoyable and productive week on the Lolo Trail this summer. With the heavy winter snows and late spring cool weather they encountered a few snow banks the 2nd week of August. But,



unlike last year they were treated to warm days and starry skies which made working on the trails especially tiring. There were quite a few trees down over this trails this year but the Forest Service Trail crew was just ahead of us with their chain saws. One day part of our crew worked with them at a spot with 27 trees across the trail, each tree more than 12 inches in diameter. The FS crew cut the logs into manageable sections and our crew rolled them down the hill out of sight. Hearing the logs bounding and crashing through the undergrowth was entertaining and satisfying.



With the late spring weather our camp at NoSeeEm Meadows provided more bugs but everyone seemed able to cope using nets, bug repellent or denial. Work this year consisted of hiking and clearing down trees from 19 miles of trails, painting one large interpretive sign, and intensive brushing about 3 miles of trail. While on the trails the crew saw a lot of the backcountry. They visited three peaks that did or still host lookouts: Castle Butte, Rocky Point and Indian Grave Peak, together with spending time at Indian Post Office, Willow Ridge and Sherman Peak.

In the future we are going to hold the work week in odd numbered years instead of annually. Consider joining us in 2013.



FROM THE LATEST WASHINGTON
CHAPTER NEWSLETTER:

June 30 article by Kim Briggeman in the *Missoulian* newspaper reports how George Knapp, a longtime member of the Travelers' Rest Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation, acquired an original Harpers Ferry Model 1803 rifle that he believes might just have been carried west by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

In 2008 George purchased an old gun at auction for \$2,500. It was a Harpers Ferry Model 1803, but it was in rough condition. It had also been greatly modified over its service life, converted from a flintlock to a percussion (cap) lock, and bored out to a larger caliber. But George was only looking for "an old clunker" to use in Lewis and Clark re-enactments as a member of the Travelers' Rest Brigade.

George was aware that the first 4,000 Harpers Ferry rifles had serial numbers. When he cleaned up the rusty gun, he found the serial number: 12. It was then that he wondered if he had found what he called "the Holy Grail of rifles." The rifle had also been drilled for sling swivels - unusual for that type, but a modification specifically listed by Meriwether Lewis.

Lewis had obtained 15 of what he described as "short rifles" from the Harpers Ferry arsenal in 1803. For many years, it was widely believed that those rifles were the Model 1803. In recent years, however, research has re-revealed that the Model 1803 did not go into production until after Lewis had gone west with all of the arms and equipment that he acquired at Harpers Ferry. Therefore, Lewis may have ordered 15 of the 1792 contract rifles already on hand at the arsenal, which

were then shortened and otherwise modified to his specifications. The debate continues, however, as some still advocate that the 15 Lewis guns could have been prototypes for the Model 1803.

Could George Knapp's rifle be no. 12 out of the first 15 Model 1803 rifles made at Harpers Ferry? Could it be one of the rifles used by the Corps of Discovery? Unfortunately, it may be impossible to verify. The early records of the Harpers Ferry arsenal were destroyed during the Civil War, and the debate over what kind of rifles were carried by the Corps continues.

George had the rifle examined by experts on antique firearms, who confirmed that is an authentic early Harpers Ferry rifle. It has been appraised at \$25,000 for insurance purposes. Travelers' Rest State Park, near Lolo, MT., opened a new exhibit on July 1st featuring George Knapp's Harpers Ferry Model 1803 rifle.

"It adds to the authenticity of the place quite a bit, which is something we strive for," said Loren Flynn, manager of Travelers' Rest State Park. "To have something that significant here is a real good addition and a nice attraction. We can't make any claims that it was with Lewis and Clark, but we can tell that story."

We may never know if George Knapp's Harpers Ferry rifle might have brought down a grizzly bear in the hands of John Shields or one of the Fields brothers, but it is certainly a fascinating piece of history. *J.O.*



Idaho Chapter Of Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

The Idaho Chapter was first chartered on October 19, 1985, and has had a strong history of involvement in Idaho teacher education workshops as well as the study of and work on the Lewis and Clark Trail. It is one of 35 chapters affiliated with the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and has hosted an Annual Foundation meeting in 1990 and will again host in 2010. Each Chapter charges a membership fee, which generally includes a local Chapter newsletter (*membership to the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is usually not included in a Chapter membership*).

The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, headquartered in Great Falls, Montana, was formed in 1969 as a result of a US Congressional Commission recommendation to form a non-profit organization to preserve the story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the route it traveled. As our parent organization, the Foundation oversees the general operation of the local Chapters & Regional Meetings, helps coordinate preservation of the Lewis & Clark Trail, and sponsors the annual meetings that are held in various historical locations throughout the US. The LCTHF charges a separate membership fee, which includes two quarterly publications: —“The Orderly Report” newsletter, and —“We Proceeded On” magazine. You must be a member of the LCTHF to receive these two wonderful publications.

Benefits of Idaho Chapter membership include the following:

- *Receive the quarterly newsletter which brings you news of Lewis and Clark related activities in and around Idaho,*
- *The opportunity to debate and vote on subjects important to chapter members,*
- *The opportunity to vote for and become an officer of the chapter.*
- *A reserve to draw upon when we want to help make some L&C thing happen. Recent examples include supplies for Pomp's grave site and monuments at Lolo Pass.*
- *Opportunity to network with fellow "Clarkies" from Idaho, Eastern Washington, and Oregon*

Idaho LCTHF Chapter Enlistment Papers

Be a part of the discovery. Together, we proceed on. Join the Idaho Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. No physicals required. Make check payable to Idaho Chapter LCTHF -- send this membership form, along with your check to: *Holly Crawley, 7325 S. 5th, St. Idaho Falls, ID 83404*

____ New Recruit ____ Re-Enlistment ____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Fees for one year membership: Scout (Student) \$5 ____ Private 1st Class (Individual) \$10
____ Platoon (Family) \$15 ____

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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KEEP IN THE LOOP BY KEEPING YOUR EMAIL AND/OR SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS CURRENT-PLEASE SEND
INFO TO JANIE
TO RENEW DUES, USE ENLISTMENT PAPERS AND SEND TO HOLLY

SEE YOU IN POCATELLO ON OCOBER 1ST , Idaho State Museum of Natural History, Pocatello,
Idaho

IDAHO CHAPTER LCTHF
C/O JANIE GOTTSCHALK
1922 SHAY HILL ROAD
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