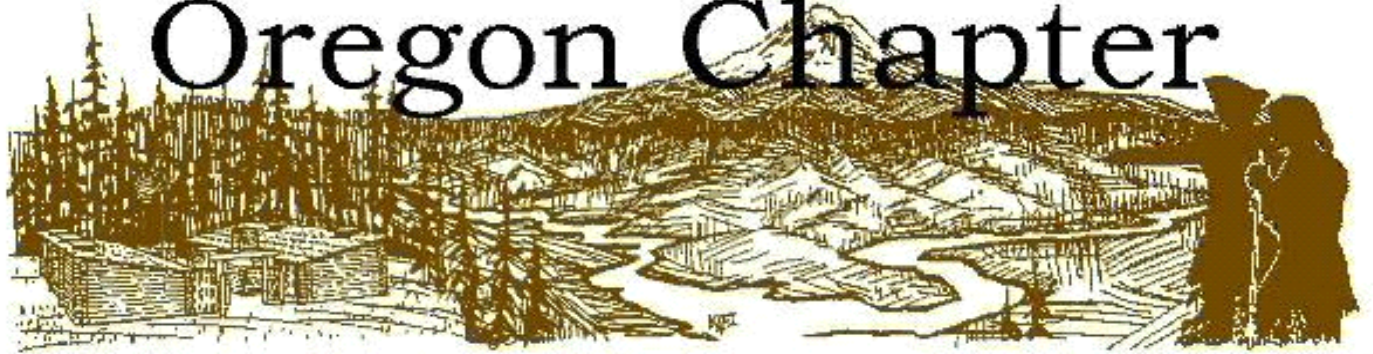


Oregon Chapter



Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Sept. 2019

- **President's Corner:**
Glen Kirkpatrick
- **Touring the Oregon Vault – May 2019**
- **Chapter Name Badges**
- **2019 & 2020 National Meetings**



President's Corner



Dear Chapter Members,

As the Corps of Discovery ascended the Missouri River on June 2, 1805, the river split into two branches. The left branch [Missouri] came from the NW, was 372 yards wide, clear, shallow, and swift, and had a rocky bottom. The right branch [Marias] came from the N, was 200 yards wide, muddy, deeper, and slower-moving, and had a muddy bottom. Correctly identifying the right branch as the true Missouri would be critical to the Expedition's success—choosing the wrong branch would cost it valuable time needed to get over the Rocky Mountains before winter set in.

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Touring the Oregon Vault – May 2019

Kerry Tymchuk, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society, gave 25 chapter members and friends an inside tour of the Oregon Vault.

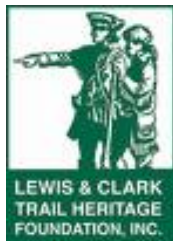
Housed in a nondescript warehouse at an unpublicized location in Gresham, the 100,000-square-foot storage facility holds the bulk of the OHS collections. The tour included explanations of the Society's accession and deaccessioning processes as well as tips-of-the-iceberg views of manuscript, vehicle, costume, native artifact, and film collections.



The Oregon Vault, the Gresham facility storing most of the extensive collections of the Oregon Historical Society, hosted the Oregon Chapter in May. The fascinating tour, led by OHS executive director Kerry Tymchuk, began with an examination of Sanborn Maps of Portland (above). Chapter president Glen Kirkpatrick failed to find his “white whale”—the very large whalebone inscribed by Meriwether Lewis—but vowed to continue his search (see p. 2).



Do our eyes deceive us, or is this a huge beaver fall? This tree, at least 18 inches in diameter, stood at the Corps' November 5, 1805 campsite near Prescott Point (see p. 4). Chapter members marveled at its size during their visit to the site.



Oregon Chapter Name Badges

Send \$10 and your name (as you want it to appear) to **Ellie McClure**, 17760 S.W. Cheyenne Way, Tualatin, OR 97062

Ellie.McClure@or-lcthf.org



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE MORE!

Thelma Haggemiller leads **Explore More!**, a series of chapter trips which include a Lewis & Clark connection but also help members learn about other historical and cultural events that happened since that time.

Watch this newsletter, your mail, your e-mail, and especially the chapter website for more information and details.



On a tour of the Oregon Vault in May, Glen Kirkpatrick examines whale bones hoping to find the lost artifact associated with the Lewis & Clark Expedition which he'd seen on display in 1976.

Larry McClure Receives Top Foundation Award

The national Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation owes **Larry McClure** a huge debt of gratitude. In recognition, it will present Larry with its Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor that it bestows, at its annual meeting this month in St. Louis.

Larry has organized two national meetings (2005 & 2018); helped reconstitute the foundation board as secretary in 2011 after all the other officers and the executive director resigned; and served in many other capacities, including 20 years on our board (& pres. 2007–10).



2019 Chapter Events — Check the Website!

Oct. 12 1:00 PM
Melissa Darby speaks on Sir Francis Drake's 1579 landing on the Oregon Coast: West Linn Public Library. Her new book is *Thunder Go North: The Hunt for Sir Francis Drake's Fair and Good Bay*.

Dec. 7 4:00 PM
Holiday dinner at Fort Clatsop. Bill Gavin & Rachel Stokeld speak on "The Archaeology of Middle Village".

Prospective 2020 Events:

- Charbonneau interpreter

- Old John & the Spider
- Portland L&C campsites and commemorations
- Confluence sites

Watch your e-mail and visit our website for more details on all upcoming events:
www.or-lcthf.org



L&C in OHS's Experience Oregon

The Oregon Historical Society's new permanent *Experience Oregon* exhibit prominently features the Lewis & Clark story.

A significant display interprets the Expedition's importance to Oregon history through three Expedition artifacts and extensive images and other items.

Views of the OHS L&C display: Right: Artifact case with Expedition-related items, including the Spider (cooking pot), Housewife (sewing kit), and Whalebone Fragment (inscribed "M LEWIS"). Below: Whalebone Fragment. Lower Right: Interpretive wall.



President's Corner ... continued

(Continued from page 1)

The expedition camped there for 11 nights while the captains deliberated carefully. After evaluating all the available information, Lewis told the men the decision: to ascend the left branch of the river. Lewis wrote: *The entire party [including their best waterman, Cruzatte] thought the right branch was the true Missouri. They said very cheerfully that they were ready to follow us any where we thought proper to direct but that they still thought the other river was the [Missouri] river and that they were afraid that the South fork would soon terminate in the mountains and leave us at a great distance from the Columbia.*

So why did the Captains go against the opinion of the entire party?

I believe it was principally due to very keen *geological observations* of the stream bed that, with secondary supportive information, convinced the captains that the left fork was the true Missouri. The rest of the party's opinion was largely based on the nature of the right fork. It was muddy and turbulent like the river downstream that they had been ascending since they left St. Louis. However, the Captains considered the evidence differently. Clark observed that left branch *is perfectly transparent runs very rapid but with a smooth unruffled surface it's bottom*

Chapter Board

Officers:

Glen Kirkpatrick, President '19
Lyn Trainer, Vice Pres. '20
Mark Johnson, Secretary '19
Ellie McClure, Treasurer '20

Directors:

Alec Burpee '21
David Ellingson '20
Thelma Haggemiller '19
Mary Johnson '21
Ted Kaye '19
Zachariah Selley '20
Roger Wendlick '21
Jon Burpee, *ex officio*
Hannah Crummé, *ex officio*
Larry McClure, *ex officio*

Please contact **Glen Kirkpatrick** (e-mail address below) with interest in Chapter service. There are two open positions.



composed of round and flat smooth stones like most rivers issuing from mountainous country.

Evaluating the rocks in the rivers carried downstream on each branch is a simple geologic concept, but it was actually a quite brilliant observation.

This is a lesson for all of us. When making important decisions we need be of independent mind, observe carefully, listen to others, evaluate all the information, and then proceed on with confidence.

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Glen Kirkpatrick
glen9774@mail.com



www.or-lcthf.org

There is far more L&C information available on our website!

Please check it for the latest updates on Chapter activities and for photos of our events.

We're sending fewer postcards, so watch the website for updates.



20 years ago Ted Kaye coordinated the installation of L&C interpretive panels the length of the Columbia. Weathered, vandalized, partially outdated, they may need replacing. Contact Ted.Kaye@or-lcthf.org to offer to help.



Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers: a sister group

Descendants of pioneers who arrived in the Oregon Country before 1859 form today's SDOP. Through its annual banquet (February) picnic (July), and museum visits (April, June, September), members celebrate and explore Oregon history.

Next event: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 9/28/19. SDOP invites our chapter members to join in.

Not descended? You can join as a "Friend". Learn more at oregonsdop.org.



Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Oregon Chapter

17760 S.W. Cheyenne Way
Tualatin, OR 97062

www.or-lcthf.org

The next national meetings:
Sept. 21–25, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri
Aug. 2–5, 2020 in Charlottesville, Virginia
see www.lewisandclark.org

Save Trees

To stop receiving this newsletter in printed form and receive it in electronic form only, please alert:

Ellie.McClure@or-lcthf.org



L&C Sites near Prescott Beach, Oregon – August 2019

In August, 15 chapter members gathered at Prescott Beach Park, along the Columbia River in Columbia County, near two Lewis & Clark Expedition campsites.

After a board meeting and a potluck picnic, they heard **Roger Wendlick** describe the Corps' local history using William Clark's map. Afterwards they trooped downstream to the November 5, 1805 campsite, across the railroad tracks in Laurel Beach Park (closed), then

journeyed upstream to the vicinity of the March 27, 1806 campsite. Both have been altered by dredge spoils and the railroad, but the Columbia River itself looks much as the Expedition saw it.



Chapter treasurer Ellie McClure presents a tribal-made miniature basket as a thank-you to the speaker, Roger Wendlick.



Roger Wendlick describes the Expedition's local experience.



Chapter president Glen Kirkpatrick points out the Corps' campsite of November 5, 1805, downstream from Prescott Beach Park.