

## Washington State Chapter, LCTHF



### *Worthy of Notice*

January 2002 Newsletter  
Vol. 3, Issue 1

#### *President's Message:*

Do you remember when you first became interested in Lewis and Clark? Remember how the only information you could find about them was in musty old books? How, when you drove around the state – or elsewhere – to see where they traveled, all the historical markers looked like they had been there ever since the Corps passed by? Maybe even put up by them on their way back to St. Louis? My, how things have changed!

These days you can't open a newspaper or turn on a television without seeing a feature on some aspect of the expedition and its upcoming bicentennial. Check out eBay to see how many Lewis and Clark items are up for bid. Turn on the radio and you will hear audio travelogues from the trail. Of course, it's all about money: selling t-shirts, books, souvenirs, videos, tours, etc. This doesn't bother me, however, because it's capitalism at work.

What *does* bother me is that some of these Lewis and Clark-oriented mainstream media presentations are long on cleverness and short on accuracy. I would bet you've all heard or read things that have made you cringe. My pet peeve is how often the only people mentioned are Lewis, Clark, Sacagawea, York, and sometimes, Seaman the dog. Once in a while it is mentioned that there were a few other guys *along for the trip!*

While I understand that the popular media has to appeal to its audience quickly, that is, to give them the basics in as short a format as possible, it is not as easy to do with as complex a subject as The Lewis and Clark Expedition.

That media coverage is incomplete can be forgiven to an extent, but the blatant inaccuracies cannot be overlooked. I don't know about you, but I've been known to get on my trusty computer and pound out a letter or e-mail to an offending newspaper or television program pointing out their mistakes. Of course by the time I'm writing to them, the damage has already been done, but I still think that they need to be told. They need to know that people know the difference between history and historical fiction, and perhaps they will take a little more care with their research on the next feature they produce. Besides, why make things worse?

With all the Lewis and Clark experts in this country and in our own chapter, there is really no excuse for misinformation about the Corps to be spread. I urge every one of you to keep an eye on the Lewis and Clark onslaught in the media, to praise the good and shake a finger at the bad. It is something that cannot be sanitized for the delicate 21<sup>st</sup> Century sensibilities. It must be told the way it happened so that we, as Americans, will know the truth - and the magnitude - of the expeditions accomplishments. Otherwise we let history repeat itself... once again, incorrectly.

But before you go off to tear through your local newspaper, I want to remind you to join us at the February 9 chapter meeting in Tacoma. Also, check out this newsletter for the details on our other upcoming 2002 meetings. I hope to see you there!

Cheryl Essary –

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#### *Reminders...*

Just a couple of important reminders.

**First:** Please find the insert in this issue for your chance to vote on officers and board members for the next year. If you will not be attending the meeting in Tacoma in February, then you can vote by filling this form out and mailing it in before the end of January. If you plan on attending, you can either vote then or mail the form in.

**Second:** Please take some time to send in your 2002 dues so that your status is current and you will not miss an issue of WON. Many of you have done so, and we thank you, but there are more that haven't. Please do so soon.

## Christmas at Fort Clatsop, 2001

Ft. Clatsop. OR – “Yes sir, I do enjoy the military, I have been in the military for about 4 years now, and I think that when our expedition returns, I will probably stay in. The military has worked out well for me, and there are not a lot of other jobs available in Virginia right now....”

Such was an exchange between members of our group of visitors and a period actor representing one of six expedition members who were stripping the inside of cedar bark for fire tinder in a damp, dimly lit room at Fort Clatsop National Memorial. Sponsored by the National Park Service and the Oregon Chapter, the Second Annual Fort Clatsop Christmas Party held on December 8<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all who attended.

FCNM Superintendent Don Striker, who mentioned the signature events being developed around the country, including those at Fort Clatsop, to help commemorate the L&C bicentennial, opened the event. (See a listing of the ten “signature events” on page 11 of this issue)

Oregon Chapter President Jay Rasmussen was next informing us about an upcoming February 24, 2002 history debate to be held at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. It was also mentioned that the L&C Bicentennial Council of Oregon was herein represented and that, after 5 years, they have grown to include over 50 member organizations!

The Idaho Chapter was well represented as a charter busload came over to the party. Idaho now has a commemorative license plate that depicts Sacagawea. The proceeds of the plate sales go to the Governor’s Lewis and Clark Committee. Of the 1000 plates allocated, 800 of them have already been sold! And with the help of federal funds, a 75-acre tract of land on the eastern outskirts of Salmon has been purchased, and development of a Sacagawea Educational and Cultural Interpretive Center is in progress at this time. The last item mentioned for Idaho was that Lewiston will be hosting two upcoming events: the National Bicentennial Council will be meeting there on April 11-14, and in June there will be a symposium at Lewis-Clark State College. (See Cheryl Essary’s write-up of last years’ symposium in the September WON.)

The Washington Chapter’s own Doc Wesselius addressed the group and rekindled the “end of the trail” debate by mentioning that the exploration ended in Washington. He also mentioned the annual meeting in Tacoma with firearms historian Mike Carrick, and the “Super Saturday” joint meeting with Oregon at The Dalles, Maryhill and the Observatory in Goldendale. (See “Future Meetings” on back page.)

Curley Bear Wagner, a Blackfoot scholar from Browning, Montana, made the final presentation. His hour-long presentation was very informative and provided a wealth of information on the history and culture of the Blackfoot Nation, beginning with their initial trading with the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1754. He gave many examples of the richness of their hunter/gatherer culture, and that they considered the mountainous area in which they lived as the “Backbone of the World.” He also mentioned that he does not mind the term “Indian,” but is glad that when Columbus ‘discovered’ the people of North America, he was not searching for the Virgin Islands!

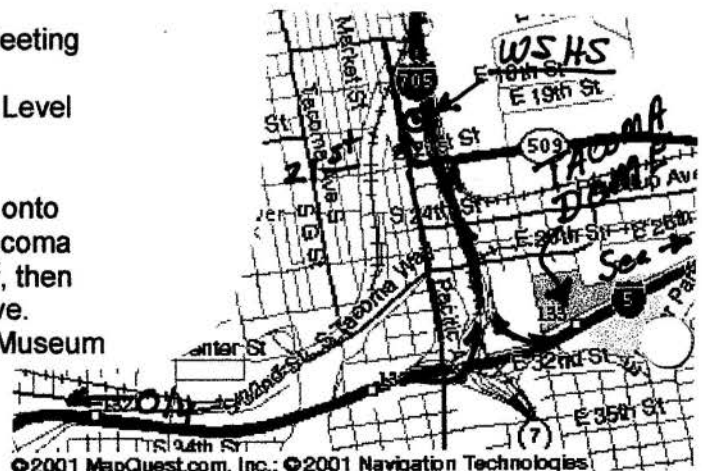
After the full program, we were able to tour the fort – each time as much a pleasure as the first – and see the re-enactments. Later, a wonderful dinner, with samples of deer, elk, salmon and even beaver, followed at the Red Lion Inn, overlooking the Columbia River. I would encourage all Washington members to make this event next year as a great way to kick off the holiday season and to experience Christmas (almost!) the way the Expedition did – rain and all!

(Thanks to Rob Heacock for this summary.)

### Meeting Notice

The Annual Washington State Chapter Business Meeting  
Saturday, February 9, 2002 @ 10:00  
Washington State Historical Museum – Mezzanine Level  
1911 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA

Driving Directions: From I-5, both N and S, take exit #133 onto Hwy 705. Exit RIGHT off of 705 onto WA-509 – Port of Tacoma – exit, keeping in the LEFT lane. Turn LEFT onto S 21<sup>st</sup>, then move to the RIGHT lane to make a RIGHT onto Pacific Ave. Proceed approximately 600 feet and turn RIGHT into the Museum parking areas.



Along the River....

### Rock Fort's Flora Revived... A Native Plant Project

*"The plain...exhibits a beauty seen particularly pleasing after having been so long imprisoned in the mountains and those impenetrably thick forests of the seacoast"*

The Dalles, OR – Native plant expert Mike Igo (Son of chapter member and Kennewick lecturer Jerry Igo) is nurturing a dream of agronomic history on an ancient pile of rocks 85 miles upriver from Vancouver. This two-acre "Eden" in the desert, a "slice of paradise," is slowly and quietly being returned to its former state in which the Corps found it in October 1805. The present state of the site, dubbed "Rock Fort" by the explorers, is nothing more than a barren, rocky outcrop in the town's industrial area next to the railroad and the Cascade Fruit Company's packing house.



*Native plant expert Mike Igo shows off some of the vegetation at Rock Fort. He is working to return the site to its native vegetative state.*

But thanks to Mike Igo, change is coming. As part of a cooperative plan involving the city and four Native American tribes, Igo is reseeding the campsite with plants that had been there for the past 10,000 years. Seventeen of these plant species were among the plants collected by Lewis and Clark and taken back east as "new discoveries." It is unfortunate that these plants are no longer there. Two centuries of "grazing, railroad and highway construction and the stamping feet of thousands of fishermen" have worn them away.

It is Igo's hope that with "tender attention," the abused landscape can coax the old plant species to reestablish. It is also hoped that they will crowd out the cheat grass and lichens that have choked out all other growing things except some willows and poison oak. However, it is a "long-term project that calls for patience and trial and error," and it "takes a little luck" too.

Igo, former president of the Oregon Native Plant Society, from nearby Mosier, OR has been working for the past two years on a \$2000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust. In addition, the Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District and local Chamber of Commerce officials are trying to obtain an \$8000 grant from the Oregon Heritage Foundation to help fund the project.

Among the plants to be reintroduced to Rock Fort are: Oregon Grape, sagebrush, prickly pear, balsamroot, golden currant, thimbleberry, salmonberry, Pestle parsnip, Saskatoon or serviceberry, slender popcorn flower, dark-leaved mugwort, large-headed clover, small-flowered collinsia, wild hyacinth, narrow-leaved collomia, Uropappas and linear-leaved phacelia.

The boosters of this project in The Dalles are trying to "polish up the historical site" for the expected thousands of tourists motoring through town during the bicentennial. The bad part is that the site today is a "notably shabby and neglected" place at the end of a dead-end road in the port industrial area.

City promoters have far-ranging plans to transform the city into a tourist destination. Their "grand plan" includes a new underpass of the Union Pacific railroad and Union Street, a paved tourist way that would link Rock Fort with Riverfront Park on the east, and the Gorge Discovery Center on the west. The building of a dock nearby to accommodate the increasing number of tour boats plying the river is in the works as well. In The Dalles itself, new murals will be added to the existing eight to show and explain the local history. The Nez Perce, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Walla Walla tribes have all been asked to help in the design of these new murals.

But the key lies in Rock Fort's restoration. William Clark, on April 16, 1806, wrote this about the area:

*"This is a great mart of all this country, ten different tribes...visit for the purpose of purchasing fish, and the Indians of the Columbia and Lewis' river quite to the Choppunish Nation visit them for the purpose of trading horses, buffalaw robes for beads, and such articles as they have not."*

The next day, April 17, 1806, Meriwether Lewis wrote the following about the area:

*"The plain is covered with rich verdure of grass and herbs from four to nine inches high and exhibits a beauty seen particularly pleasing after having been so long imprisoned in the mountains and those almost impenetrably thick forests of the seacoast."*

This is just the scene Igo would like to recreate by replacing weeds, thistles and poison oak with "waving grasses and blooming flowers."

(The Columbian September 2001)

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## *Field Notes*

"The Washington Experience of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," a guide funded by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byway Program and state matching funds is now available to the public. Commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Washington, the guide is a comprehensive accumulation of Lewis and Clark information pertaining to the State of Washington. A must for your collection and for identification of Lewis and Clark sites in our state.

"Lewis and Clark on the Columbia River," a guide by the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon, was published with the aid of the Washington State Governor's Lewis and Clark Committee and the LCTHF Oregon and Washington Chapters. The guide was prepared for the observance of the bicentennial with an emphasis on parks and interpretive sites along the Columbia River that pertain to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

(Editor's Note: I have 5 copies of each of the two above-mentioned guides. If you would like one, send an LSSAE with 57 cents postage for the "Washington Experience" guide or both; or 34 cents for just the "River" guide. Both are interesting and worth the addition to your collection, especially if you like to get out and see these sites – even by canoe!)

For those interested in the 2002 National Meeting to be held in Louisville, KY next July, you can check out the website for information. It can be found at [www.falloftheohio.org](http://www.falloftheohio.org). The theme for the July 28-31 meeting is "The Falls Foundation."

The January 3, 2001 ruling that granted the Chinook Tribe formal recognition is in peril of being rescinded by the present Administration. Interior Secretary Gail Norton recently instructed the Bureau of Indian Affairs to review the decision by the out-going Clinton administration. These instructions send the issue back to an agency staff that had earlier rejected the Chinook's attempt for recognition according to Dennis Whittlesey, a lawyer representing the Tribe.

The "policy people, the political appointees in the Bush administration, have abrogated their responsibility and are not involved in the decision-making process," said Whittlesey. "It's clear the staff is now making decisions on Indian matters.

The out-going assistant secretary of Indian affairs, Kevin Gover, overturned the staff recommendation in favor of the recognition last January. This created the 562<sup>nd</sup> tribe to be acknowledged. It would have allowed the tribe to seek land for a reservation, to seek federal funds for operations within its tribal government and allowed it to build a casino. At this point, all is in the air. (AP Nov. 7, 2001)

## *Book Notes...*

**A Life Wild and Perilous: Mountain Men and the Paths to the Pacific.** Robert M. Utley, Henry Holt and Company, New York. 1997. 392 pages.

Book review by member Charles Blair of Colville, WA

(Editor's Note: The efforts of the Chapter to recognize members for their outstanding and special contributions has now come full-circle. Member Chuck Blair was rewarded for his winning name for our newsletter with a "surprise" prize by President Cheryl Essary. Now Chuck has passed on his "prize" to the rest of us through this book review. Thanks Chuck.)

Nineteenth century historian Francis Parkman observed "I defy the annals of chivalry to furnish the record of a life more wild and perilous than that of a Rocky Mountain trapper."

Twenty first century historian Robert M. Utley describes the generation of these few Mountain Men exploring, mapping and expanding our frontier in his latest distinguished work of Western American history.

Utley tells how we bested the Spanish, French, English and Russians to assert our Continental national identity through the courage and exploits of the point men – men such as Colter, Drouillard, Smith, Provost, Young, Walker, Sublette, Fitzpatrick, Bridger, Carson and many others – all common names in Western history.

The Mountain Men filled in the blanks of terra incognita, and led those who followed to the Pacific shores, using Indian trails, mountain passes, over desert wastes and raging rivers.

Utley's treatment of the Mountain Men is not "idealistic." Many of them had never heard of "Manifest Destiny" or the Continental "visions" of John Quincy Adams or Presidents Thomas Jefferson and James K. Polk. Instead, he portrays the Mountain Men as "those who went west – or stayed in the West, as is the case with Colter and Drouillard – in order to make money by trapping beaver for the fur hat industry. This life promised adventure and the nearly total absence of authoritarian restraints. (This kind of adventure is not too different from a trip today to Alaska on the Alcan Highway or aboard a ferry.)

The book begins with a simple transfer ceremony held in St. Louis on March 9-11, 1804. This is the transfer of the Louisiana Territory from the Spanish to the French on the 9<sup>th</sup> for one day, then the transfer from France to the United States on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Representing the young nation were Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and a small detachment of the future Corps members.

Running through the annals of explorational history, the book ends with a chapter on microcomputer cartography, describing the close relationship between the historians and the geographer in telling and showing the movement west.

As much as any, I enjoyed the chapters about Christopher Houston "Kit" Carson, illiterate but accomplished as a Mountain Man, and a participant in the 16<sup>th</sup>, and last, Fur Trader Rendezvous in July of 1840. Carson scouted for Captain John Charles Fremont, who was seeking to claim California during the Mexican War territorial "free-for-all." At one point, there were three American adventurers with imperial designs vying for California. Fremont was in command of the California Battalion of U.S. troops. Commodore Robert F. Stockton was in command of the Navy's Pacific Squadron, and Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny headed the Army of the West, recently victorious in New Mexico.

There were also some independent-minded "Bear-Flaggers" who had their own ideas for the future of the territory. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) ended the Mexican War and settled the question of personal empires. In late October 1847, Carson rode into the settlement at Los Angeles with the first overland mail from Taos, New Mexico. He handed the saddlebags to Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman, who would write his own chapter in the Nation's history a decade and a half later.

As for the California contenders, Fremont became the Republican party's first Presidential candidate in 1856: Stockton resigned from the Navy and served as a democratic Senator from New Jersey: Kearny served briefly as Civil Governor of Vera Cruz and Mexico City, and had a frontier fort in Nebraska named in his honor. And the Bear became part of the display on today's California flag. The opening of the West was complete!

A Life Wild and Perilous was a surprise "prize" from Cheryl Essary and the Chapter for submitting the winning entry to name the Newsletter, Worthy of Notice. Thanks for a grand gift and a splendid read.

Chuck Blair, Colville, WA

**Editor's Note:** The following "report" concerns one of the members of the Corps of Discovery, Alexander Hamilton Willard. This report was contributed by one of our members, Tom Olsen of Camano Island, WA. Tom's niece, Laura Ann Olsen, wrote the report as a research paper while she was attending Wilbur High School. The guiding influence for this paper was Tom's mother, Allee M. Olsen, the great, great granddaughter of Alexander Willard. Laura dedicated the paper to her grandmother for her efforts in maintaining the Willard family genealogy. Please enjoy Laura's *own* words about a member of the Corps of Discovery, Private Alexander Willard.

## Dedication

To

**Allee M. Olsen**

Daughter of Margaret Willard Parker

Great, Great Granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton Willard

For a majority of the information  
here within is her effort to maintain  
The Willard Family Genealogy

### *Introduction:*

Perhaps the greatest expedition in the United States history was Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, beginning in 1804 and ending in 1806. Given the time in history, the arduous trip to the Pacific Ocean and back was one of the greatest accomplishments. While none of the participants ever gained the fame as a president or some other major role in this country, each one contributed in his or her own way to the success of the expedition. One member of the Corps of Discovery was my great, great, great, great grandfather, Alexander Hamilton Willard. This is his story as told by his great, great, great, great granddaughter.

### *The Early Years:*

Born on a warm summer evening on August 24, 1778, Alexander Hamilton Willard was the only son of Jonathon and Betty Willard. As a youth, Alexander got along well with his mother but struggled with his father's constant demands and expectations. As most young people have thought but seldom carried out, young Alexander chose to run away from home. Through a misunderstanding with his father, the "straw that broke the Camel's back" had arrived and soon after his seventeenth birthday, he stole away in the night and headed to what is now Kentucky.

Once in Kentucky, Alexander was less than honest about his age and engaged in blacksmith and gunsmith work at a livery stable. This experience would prove valuable in his assignment with the Corps of Discovery some 7 or 8 years later.

Since his father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, his childhood memories of the United States struggles for existence and recognition thoroughly encompassed his patriotic ideas. When war with France seemed imminent in 1798, Alexander quickly requested enlistment to fight, one of the first to do so. However, the crisis passed almost as quickly as it appeared.

Willard's enlistment was well worth it since not only did it keep his adventurous soul alive but paid, in those days, a twelve dollar bounty for joining and a hefty four dollars per month plus rations, quartering and clothes.

Following this service to his country, his restless soul would wander to western Kentucky to further his trade as a blacksmith. It was here he met a young Captain Meriwether Lewis, who would aid Willard in his continued passion for adventure, selecting him to be a member of the Corps of Discovery.

### *Selection of the Corps of Discovery:*

Willard answered the call of Captain Meriwether Lewis, who came to Kentucky seeking "robust, healthy, hardy young men who would be able to understand the hardship of such an arduous trip as The Corps of Discovery was to make." Even though, one hundred men failed Lewis' severe examination.

Willard's fine physique and great endurance, and his skills as a blacksmith, gunsmith and hunter made him a natural to join The Corps. So it was in 1804, Willard was officially transferred to Captain Lewis and the Corps of Discovery from Captain Amos Stoddard's Company, Corps of Artillerists. He now became Private Willard of nine singular men from Kentucky to be selected for the Corps Expedition.

Willard and others were selected because of specific skills they could contribute to the expedition. All total, they would travel more than six thousand miles, most of it through country no white man had ever traveled. Their mission was to seek and explore a water-and-portage route between the Mississippi Valley and Pacific Ocean, via the Missouri and Columbia Rivers, which might serve as an American trade artery throughout the country. The goal was the brainchild of President Thomas Jefferson.

### *The Trip:*

Captain Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark gathered the Corps members in December of 1803, near St. Louis on the Illinois side of the Mississippi on the Wood River. Here the Corps would be drilled and trained for the ordeal ahead, supplies could be gathered and equipment secured, readying for the beginning of the trip in May of 1804.

The frequent mentions of Willard in the Lewis and Clark journals would give indications of his value to the expedition. His role as a blacksmith and gunsmith was invaluable to the expedition internally as a self-help, and externally to Indian tribes encountered for trading of guns and making other things like battleaxes in exchange for corn and other goods.

While Alexander Willard's services proved valuable to the Corps, his actions often endangered Corps members. The first of many actions occurred when Willard fell asleep on guard duty one night near a Council Bluffs campsite. The actual charge, "lying down and sleeping on his post while a sentinel, on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant," a capital crime under the rules and articles of war, and punishable by death. A trial for court-martial was conducted by Captain Lewis and Lieutenant Clark. Willard pleaded guilty to lying down but not to sleeping. However, Lewis and Clark found him guilty as charged, and since this was a breach of rules and articles of war as well as tendency to the possible destruction of the Corps, sentenced Willard to 100 lashes on his bare back at four different times in equal proportions. The sentence was to begin immediately and would continue each evening until completed. The sentence was probably in place of sending Willard back to St. Louis or death since every Corps member was badly needed to fill a particular need on the trip. However, the scars were something Alexander Willard would carry to his grave, a gentle reminder of a lesson well learned.

Later in that same month of July, Willard was crossing a creek on a log and lost his gun. Thank goodness Reuben Fields was along and recovered the gun for Alexander, and spare him the disciplinary wrath of Lewis and Clark.

As good a hunter as he was, Willard met the fate of a grizzly bear attack and nearly was caught except for a trip by the camp and the help from now Captain Clark and three others near[by]. The fear was the bear might attack John Colter, the later famous mountain man, who had retreated into the river to avoid attack. The bear finally retreated and the men aided in bringing Colter ashore.

If falling asleep on guard duty, losing a gun, being chased by a grizzly was not enough, Willard lost his horse in September of 1805 which detained the expedition for a while. Captains Lewis and Clark were disappointed but patient with Willard on this occasion.

One of Willard's main jobs at Fort Clatsop, the western terminus of the trip, was to deal with the salt works – a method of gaining salt from the ocean to maintain and keep food. In preparing for departure in February of 1806, Willard was late arriving back at the main camp. Prior to returning to camp from the salt works, he had severely cut his knee with his tomahawk. But with medicine, etc. he was as good as new, to the relief once more of Lewis and Clark.

Within the tangled web of unfortunately negative incidents come several positive aspects of Willard's contributions to the Corps. After Sgt. Floyd died, incidentally the only person to die on the expedition, which was shortly after the beginning of the trip, a vote was held to see which person would replace Floyd as sergeant. Alexander Willard, George Gibson and Patrick Gass were nominated to replace Floyd, with Gass getting the greatest number of votes. However, the nominations were a sign of respect and leadership among the Corps members.

Another sign of value to the Corps was having a historical point or place named after you. Captain Clark named a Montana creek "Willard Creek" after Alexander Willard. It should be noted that it has since been changed to "Grasshopper Creek." (Pardon the personal opinion, but it seems to me by changing names, we lose a little history of the greatest expedition in the history of the United States.)

Willard proved his value to the Corps many times over, but particularly at Fort Clatsop where he and Gibson were responsible for drying and preserving meat for the immediate use, and also for the trip back to St. Louis.

Even though Willard had some real ups and downs on the expedition, perhaps he was paid the ultimate compliment when Lewis and Clark, reporting to President Jefferson upon their return to St. Louis, said this about Willard. "His service as a skillful gunsmith proved very valuable," and they commended his "boldness, intrepidity and endurance during the trip." Put another way – well-done faithful servant – characterizes Alexander Hamilton Willard's contribution to the Corps of Discovery.

#### Life After the Corps:

After the Corps returned to St. Louis, Willard was discharged on October 10, 1806. Willard's severance pay was \$166.67 or approximately \$5.00 per month for his time with the expedition.

With this money, he chose to settle in the St. Louis area and continued his close friendship with William Clark. Clark was in charge of Indian Affairs in the area and often used the trustworthy and reliable Willard to carry dispatches on dangerous missions. Once again, just as he had done on the expedition, Willard distinguished himself for courage and bravery.

Willard soon found the love of his life in seventeen-year-old Eleanor McDonald of Shelbyville, Kentucky, and they were married in 1807. Alexander and Eleanor were blessed with 12 children. They chose to name two of their sons after Lewis and Clark.

Even marriage did not slow Alexander's love for adventure and danger. Four years after he married, he fought against the great Shawnee Indian Chief Tecumseh. Then, in 1832, the Black Hawk War called. Never one to refuse service to his country, Alexander and four of his sons, Austin, George, Alexander, Jr. and Roland, left their Platteville, Wisconsin home to fight in the war.

Through the war years, Alexander lost an eye, although family tradition has no account or explanation. This adventurous spirit had survived many a scrape to conclude a successful ending to a wonderful early life.

#### The Later Years:

Willard would begin an existence as a farmer, a more quiet and reserved life than he had been used to living. His oldest son moved to California in 1849, and not to be outdone, Alexander's pioneering and adventuring spirit took charge and in 1852, at age 74, Willard and his family would board a covered wagon with 6 oxen and go west to Franklin, California, some 20 miles south of Sacramento.

Once in Franklin, some say Willard continued his blacksmith trade while others have said he was content to cheerfully tell stories of his Lewis and Clark experiences as he sat in his favorite rocking chair on the porch of his Franklin, California home. His children did help him manage the ranch and he shared his time with his grandchildren.

Quietly he lived out his rewarding days in Franklin and died there on March 6, 1865 at the age of 87. The woman he shared his life with was to die three years later and was laid to rest next to Alexander in the Franklin cemetery.

#### Epilogue:

The single lifetime of Alexander Hamilton Willard encompassed an adventurous and significant record of participation in several epic phases of American history. Between the time of his birth in the middle years of the war for American Independence and his death in the Sacramento Valley during the last weeks of the American Civil War, Alexander lived a full and active life in the varied roles of soldier, explorer, Indian fighter, pioneer farmer and overland immigrant to California in the gold rush years.

Willard outlived every member of the Corps of Discovery except Patrick Gass and Baptiste, Sacagawea's son. Interestingly, Willard and Gass were the only Corps members who lived during the discovery of photography. [The likeness of both men can still to be found today. Ed.]

His grave in the Franklin cemetery is marked by a bronze monument erected in 1957 by the State Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America. The monument reads:



ALEXANDER HAMILTON WILLARD  
 BORN CHARLESTOWN, N. H. AUG. 24, 1778 DIED  
 FRANKLIN MAR. 6, 1865. LAST SURVIVING MEMBER  
 OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION. HE  
 KEPT A JOURNAL AND GAVE VALUABLE SERVICE  
 AS A GUNSMITH.

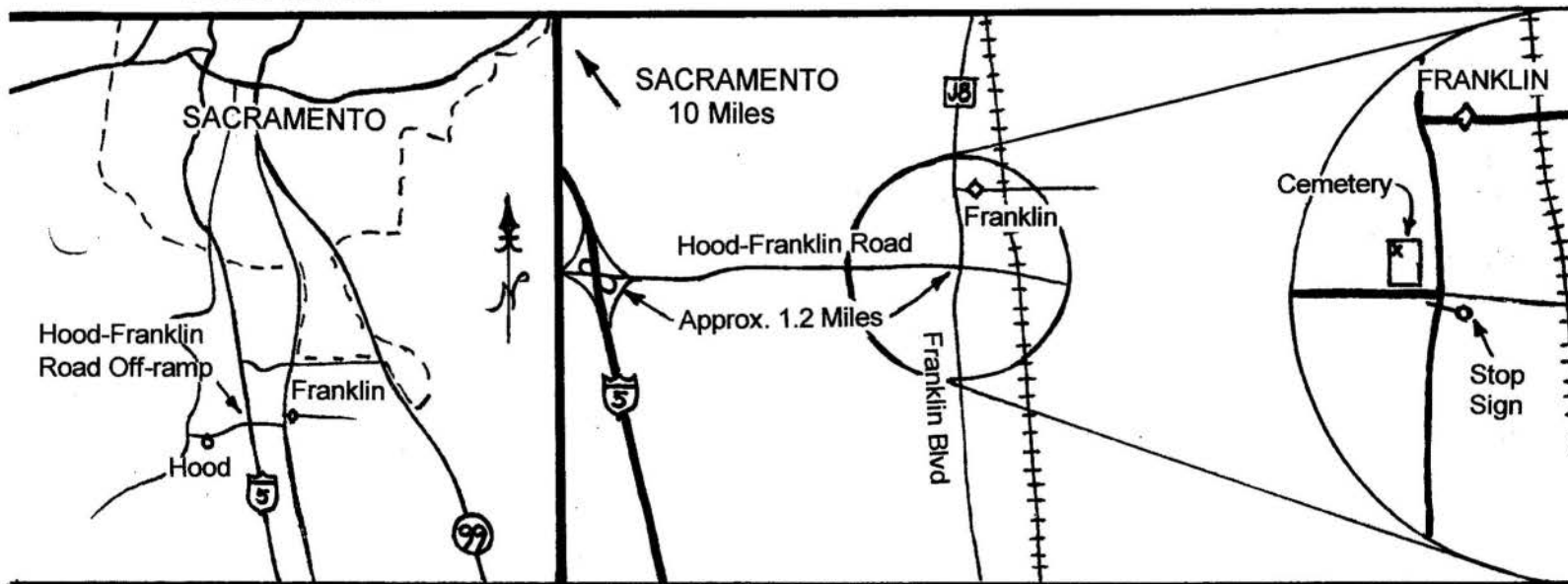
It has since been proved that Patrick Gass outlived Willard by three years. Also, there is proof his journal did exist, but it was lost in a fire.

And finally, it is a fitting tribute to Alexander Willard's contribution to the Corps in that he was the only Corp of Discovery member to reach the great land beyond the shining mountains a second time.

(Thanks to Laura and Tom for sharing this piece of their family history with us. Ed.)

Member Don Dinsmore of Vancouver was kind enough to send directions and a map, which I "doctored" for a better print, for getting to Willard's gravesite.

From the center of Sacramento, follow I-5 south approximately 10 miles to the Hood-Franklin Road off-ramp. Head EAST for about 1.2 miles to a stop sign at the intersection with Franklin Blvd. (Calif. J8). At this point, look back over your left shoulder and you will see the cemetery across the road surrounded by a chain-link fence. The Willard gravesite is in the northwest corner. Look for the bronze marker.



**Notebook Notes... The Espontoon:**

The spontoon, or more properly, the *espontoon*, is a French word referring to a type of spear or jousting weapon used in ground conflict. The English name is *halberd* or *halbert*, from the French word *hallebarde*. This 6 foot long weapon resembles the European pike, a weapon of Scandinavian origin, which was roughly twice as long, and may or may not have had flanges below the double-edged blade. Those without the flanges could be used as a spear when necessary. The base of the "half-pikes" carried by the Corps had a metal cap that could have been pointed and used as support.

The spontoons used by Lewis and Clark were used for weapons, as walking sticks, especially in rough and slippery terrain, and as props to steady their rifles. Both Captains had to

use their spontoons as weapons; Lewis to kill a rattlesnake and Clark to kill a wolf within 3 days of each other (May 26 & 29, 1805).

Use of the spontoons in this country began with the Army during the Revolutionary War era when subordinate infantry officers carried them as a sign of rank. They would also use them like a baton to "mete out discipline" when necessary. It was also their primary weapon as it enabled them to keep their eyes on the fight at all times where using a gun would require them to spend time looking at their loading process and not at the conflict. This could prove disastrous at times.

Though not used for almost 175 years, these instruments did have a long and storied history in Europe and can still be seen used by Honor Guards throughout the World.

## *From the Trail...*

### *Camas in the Touchet Valley - Again!*

Walla Walla – On November 3, 2001, Chapter members Walt and Marge Gary of Walla Walla donated 400 camas bulbs (*Camassia quamash*) to Gary Lentz, Superintendent of Lewis and Clark Trail State Park between Waitsburg and Dayton. The donation was an effort to “restore camas to that part of the Touchet River Valley. Though the plant was noted and collected by Lewis in 1806, it is gone from the valley today,” according to Walt.

The camas is, and was, a major food source for the first people of the Columbia Plateau.

On May 2, 1806, Captains Lewis and Clark, with the Corps of Discovery, traveled past what is now Lewis and Clark Trial State Park and camped just outside Dayton. They noticed “a Considerable quantity of the qua mash in the bottoms through which we passed this evening now in blume.”

On June 12, 1806 near Camp Chopunnish, Captain Clark wrote “that the quawmash is now in blume at a short distance it resembles a lake of fine clear water, So complete is this deseption that on first Sight I could have Sworn it was water.”

[Editor’s Note: Thanks to Marge and Wait for this “gift.” Anyone who has seen a field of camas will easily visualize Clark’s words of how things once were. A beautiful and wonderful harbinger of spring.]

(From Walt Gary, Nov. 2001. Edited for WON)

### *Grinder’s Stand...*

Natchez Trace, TN – Member Jack Markley of Port Angeles wrote to share his visit to Lewis’ grave at Grinder’s Stand in Tennessee this past October. Says Jack “We were nearing the end of a cross-country road trip when I realized our route on I-40 across Tennessee wasn’t far from the gravesite at Grinder’s Stand. So we detoured.”

He had heard that this was a depressing place. “We didn’t find that so – on a brilliant fall day in an oval clearing, surrounded by impressive oaks and other hardwoods in fall colors. Salute!”

The Natchez Trace Parkway provides a convenient – and thought-provoking – corridor, free of commercialism, which connects modern-day Nashville and I-40 to our past at this hallowed spot. As Jack emphasizes, “Don’t miss this spot if you travel nearby.” (See Photo at right)

(Thanks Jack, for sharing your experience.)

### *The Smoking Place...*

Powell Ranger Station, ID – Rock cairns located on the Lolo Trail were vandalized last summer. One cairn was taken apart and the rocks scattered around the area. Two other cairns were tampered with, altered and rebuilt. The Lewis and Clark Expedition stopped at “The Smoking Place,” at the request of one of their guides as it was a tradition, in 1806 on their eastward journey home across the high ridgeline route. The vandalism is a major crime perpetrated against not only the Nez Perce Indian Tribe but also American history. The matter is under investigation. For more information or to give info, contact the North Fork Ranger District at 208-476-6542.

(Thanks to Doc Wesselius for this info)

### *Cottonwood Beach...*

Washougal, WA. – Community members in Clark County have recognized the historic significance of the site and are working to develop a new park with interpretive markers to tell the story of the Corps of Discovery during their six-night stay in the area in late April, 1806. The Corps spent the time at this “provision camp” getting ready for their journey across the Columbia Plateau knowing there would be a scarcity of game.

Glen Kirkpatrick, a member of both Oregon and Washington Chapters of the LCTHF and speaker at last fall’s meeting in Vancouver, was instrumental in locating the correct location of the campsite.

(Thanks to Doc Wesselius for this info)



*Lewis’ gravesite at Grinder’s Stand, Tennessee*

## *Above the Trail, NASA Update...*

The Dalles, OR. – In the November WON, we learned that Columbia Gorge Discovery Center curator and archaeologist Ken Karsmizki was getting some much-needed help from NASA in locating Lewis and Clark campsites. Through the use of remote-sensing technology aboard aircraft and satellites, clues to the locations of some of the 600 campsites along the route can be found. By cutting the search areas down to a few acres greatly decreases the “countless hours of digging,” quite often in the wrong place.

Recently, scientists at NASA’s Stennis Space Center in Mississippi has been pouring through old maps, journal entries and archival material for information and images of the campsites that Karsmizki’s team will use for locating the sites. By combining this research material with satellite images, three-dimensional maps can be rendered that would provide a topographic image to help in the search process. Using “low-resolution imagery so that you can’t see the cities and roads, you get more of a virtual sense of what it must have looked like in those days,” says Marco Giardino, acting director of the Stennis facility.

Another technique being used is the remote sensing of the soils looking for high phosphate areas that would indicate where privies and refuse piles might have been.

In late October, Karsmizki also received help from the Air Force in the form of a “4-ton, stainless steel, track-mounted vehicle” and a smaller robot with high-tech electromagnetic sensors. These were sent to Great Falls where they were used to help locate the remains – if any – of the “iron boat,” Lewis’ failed pet project. Using these remote-controlled vehicles, the scientists covered almost 30 acres in about 4 days. Compare this to the half-acre a day with a hand-operated magnetometer and it is easy to see how the remote units were of considerable help. Now, Karsmizki will examine the data to try to locate the 36-foot long, 220-pound metal frame.

Karsmizki has been involved with several other Lewis and Clark investigations as well. For example, Fort Clatsop, Upper Portage Camp and Fort Mandan. Three years ago, his team announced the physical evidence of the Expedition’s Lower Portage campsite, about 10 miles NE of Great Falls. Three fire-rings were found 50 feet apart, in military fashion, a pushpin that might have been used by Clark for his map-making, a flawed gun-flint that may have been discarded plus hundreds of bison bones – not necessarily noteworthy in itself other than there were some that had signs of being butchered with iron tools.

The finds at Lower Portage camp came after 12 years of excavation work. With the use of the space-age technology, this job will become much easier – and faster!

All of this new technology was made available to the scientists through the efforts of David Weston, director of Aerospace and Remote-Sensing Initiatives at Montana State University’s TechLink Center. The center is financed jointly by NASA and the U.S. Department of Defense to help government researchers working with other individual researchers to carry out their projects.

What would Lewis and Clark think about all this technology?

(Oregonian, Nov. 14, 2001. Refer to “In the Air” article in the Nov. WON)

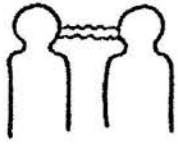
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## *National Council Announces Signature Events for 2003-2006*

The National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial has announced that ten communities have been selected as “national Lewis and Clark heritage” sites for the commemoration. Ranging from Virginia to Astoria, OR, the events will begin in 2003 with the “Bicentennial Kick-Off” in January. The following sites and dates were announced at the Council’s Omaha, Nebraska workshop in 2001.

1. January 18, 2003: “Bicentennial Kick-Off” – Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia
2. October 24-26, 2003: “Falls of the Ohio” – Louisville, Kentucky and Clarksville, Indiana
3. Spring 2004: “Three Flags Ceremony/Expedition Departure” – St. Louis, and Hartford/Wood River, IL
4. July 3-4, 2004: “A Journey Fourth” – Atchison and Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas and Kansas City, MO.
5. July 30 – August 3, 2004: “Tribal Council” – Near Ft. Atchison, Nebraska
6. Late Fall, 2004: “Circle of Cultures, Time of Renewal and Exchange” – Bismarck, North Dakota
7. July 3-4, 2005: “Discovering the Big Sky” – Great Falls, Montana
8. Fall, 2005: “Destination 2005 – The Pacific” – Lower Columbia, Oregon and Washington
9. July 25, 2006: “Clark on the Yellowstone” – Pompey’s Pillar and Billings, Montana
10. August 17-20, 2006: “Home of Sakakawea” – New Town, North Dakota

A more comprehensive listing will appear in the April WON that will have more info about each event and contact persons for more complete information. Watch for it then. Ed. (LCNHT Newsletter, Dec. 2001)

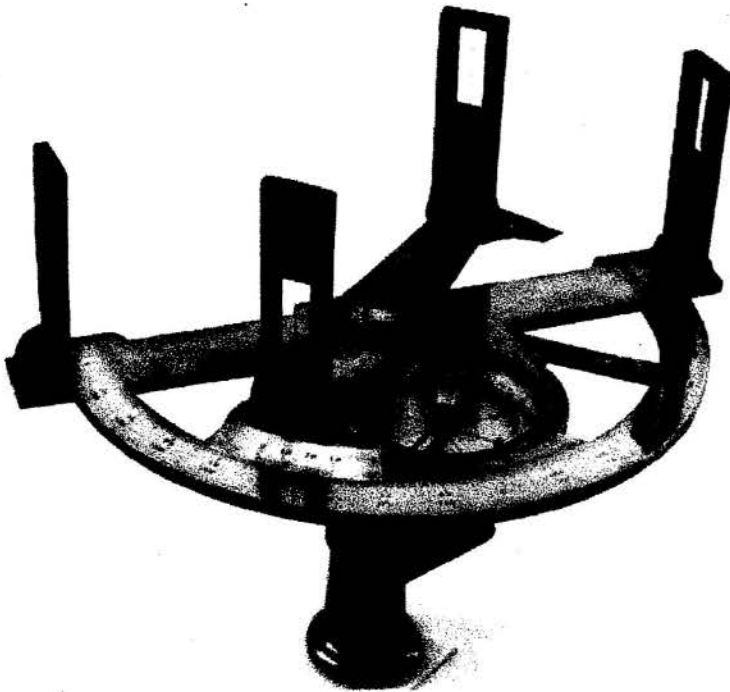


## Kumtux Wawa By Gary Lentz

### *How did the Expedition know the distances they traveled everyday?*

Muff Donohue, one of our members from Dayton, Washington, asked the question that many people have asked recently. When a journal entry says the expedition traveled 18 ½ miles, or that a river was 575 yards across, just how did they determine that? Did they pace it off?

Well, most likely they didn't continue a pace for 18 ½ miles over broken terrain or across water. They could have done a "pace" by knowing the stride of a horse, keeping track of how many times one of its legs touched the ground and multiplying the two. They COULD have done it that way, but we have no record that they did. There were other techniques the expedition employed but, as Martin Plamondon points out, sometimes they used a little bit of good old-fashioned American guesswork!



Let's begin by considering some of the techniques we know the explorers did use. They knew about the laws of trigonometry, and one of these laws states that "if you know any two angles and a side of a right triangle, you can determine the other sides." (See the drawing on next page.) By using a known baseline, a "circumferentor," (pictured left) or "circumferter" as it is sometimes spelled in the journals, and a set of trigonometric tables, it is fairly simple to calculate the values of the remaining angles. [Even a good hand compass will work for this operation when rough measurements are all that is needed. Ed.] On October 18, 1805, Clark calculated the width of the Columbia River as being 960 ¾ yards across, and the Snake River was 575 yards.<sup>1</sup>

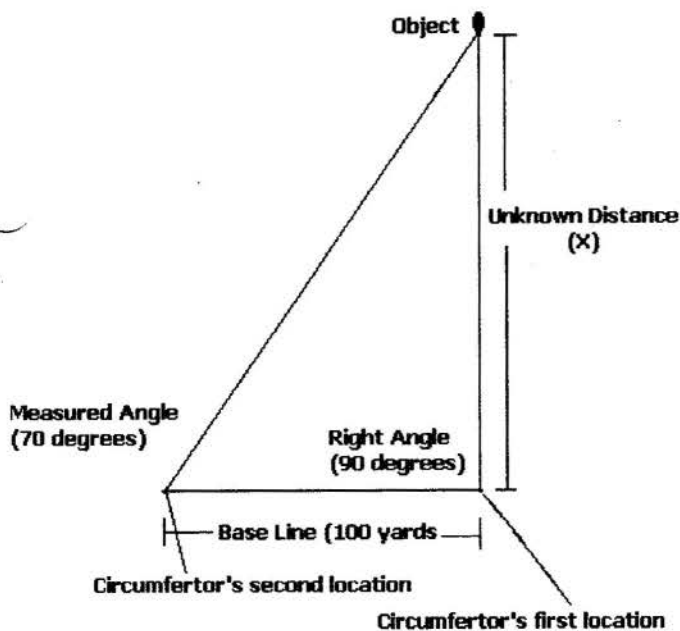
To use this method, you begin by picking an object at a distance that you want to calculate. Next, set up your circumferentor and sight the object to get a bearing. Then, turn a right angle from that bearing, i.e. 90 degrees, and using your chains or cloth measuring tape, measure out along this right-angle line bearing, the baseline, at least an estimated ("guesstimated") half the distance of the object, if possible. At this point, you know one side and one angle of your triangle. (See the drawing on next page.) Next, mark your point, then move the circumferentor to the other end of the baseline and sight back at the marker at your last set-up and read your bearing. Now turn an angle to the object and read the new bearing. You now have another angle for which you can find a value in your trigonometric tables that you brought along.

For example, suppose you had a right triangle with a baseline of 100 yards, and a measured angle of 70 degrees. What is the distance, X, to your object? Knowing that the tangent (Tan) of a right triangle is equal to the side opposite one acute angle divided by the side opposite the other acute angle, we can use our Natural Trigonometric Functions table to find the tangent value. In this case, it is:

$$\text{Tan } 70 = 2.7475^2$$

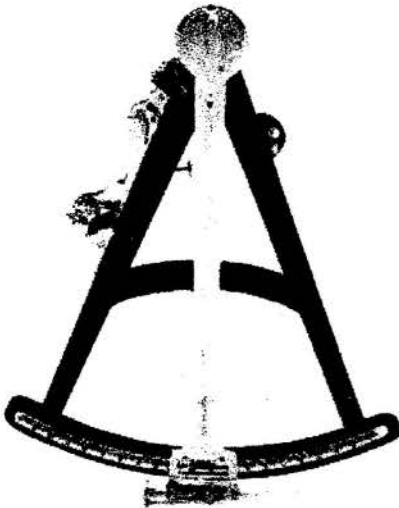
Since the tangent is equal to the unknown side divided by the known side, the formula is expressed thusly:  $2.7475 = X / 100$  yards (where X is the unknown distance of the side you are calculating, and 100 yards is the length you measured for the baseline before taking your angle reading. Therefore:

$$X = 274.75 \text{ yards, or, as Clark frequently expressed it, } 274 \frac{3}{4} \text{ yards.}$$



There were a few problems with this method. One was "parallax," the phenomenon where the apparent background of an object tends to move in relation to the movement of the observer. This could make the object you are observing appear closer or farther away. What's more, you have to have a direct line-of-sight between the observer and the object to use this method. This was seldom the case after the Corps entered the rugged terrain of the Rocky Mountains and their foothills. And it really wasn't practical for longer distances, even on the prairies where fog, dust and other atmospheric phenomena could delay or alter your observations. So, even though it might have been possible to use the circumferentor over long terrestrial distances, its usefulness and accuracy tended to diminish with more-distant objects. This is just the opposite with astronomical observations, where longer distances reduce the observer's parallax.

A sextant (below) and octant, however, used the same principle of measuring angles as the circumferentor but were more reliable over greater distances since their objects were astronomical bodies such as the sun, moon and/or certain stars. Latitude was fairly easily determined by measuring the distance above the horizon of the North Star with the aid of an artificial horizon. Clark calculated the latitude of the confluence of the Columbia River and Snake River as 46 degrees, 15 minutes and 13 9/10 seconds N. This observation is within a few seconds of what modern instruments have confirmed, thus proving what a skilled observer could produce.



Longitude, however, required an accurate timepiece, a steady hand for a prolonged set of observations and favorable atmospheric conditions (always the variable). By using another set of tables, called an "Ephemeris," and making very accurate observations with the octant and timepiece and doing a series of complicated calculations, it was possible to determine your longitude. However, since all this took a great deal of time, Lewis was instructed to make the observations and return them to the War Department for calculations.

However, if your goal is simply to measure the distance you have moved from East to West, or West to East, it is not necessary to know the time from a fixed point as you would to determine your longitude. You could measure the time elapsed from one observation point to the next, and an accurate set of observations on two consecutive days would give the difference in movement to the eastward or westward. This method does not take into account your movement northward or southward, however, but it does give some measurable idea of your movement over that period. A good observer

with a steady hand, the right sky, a good record-keeper, a good ephemeris and a prolonged period of observation might come within 1/2 a mile of the actual distance traveled under the best of conditions.

But what if it rains for several days, or other duties prevent you from taking the observations? Well, then you had to rely on your "best guess." After a while, with lots of practice, you might become very good at making estimates. Sometimes the explorer's estimates were very accurate, as our studies of the journals reveal. Sometimes, however, the guesses were "wild"<sup>3</sup> and less than accurate. Here is something for you to try the next time you are hiking on a trail, say in a Washington State Park, where the total distance of a trail is known. Try estimating your distance from one object to another. Then, add them all up at the end of the trail and see how close you come to the known distance. You might be surprised. For more information on some of these techniques in more detail, refer to Martin Plamondon II's article in the February 1991 issue of *WE PROCEEDED ON*, entitled "The Instruments of the Lewis and Clark Expedition." The article also appeared in the volume 7 number 5, September/October, 1987 issue of *PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR* magazine. (I want to thank Martin for his review of this article to insure I didn't lead you astray.)

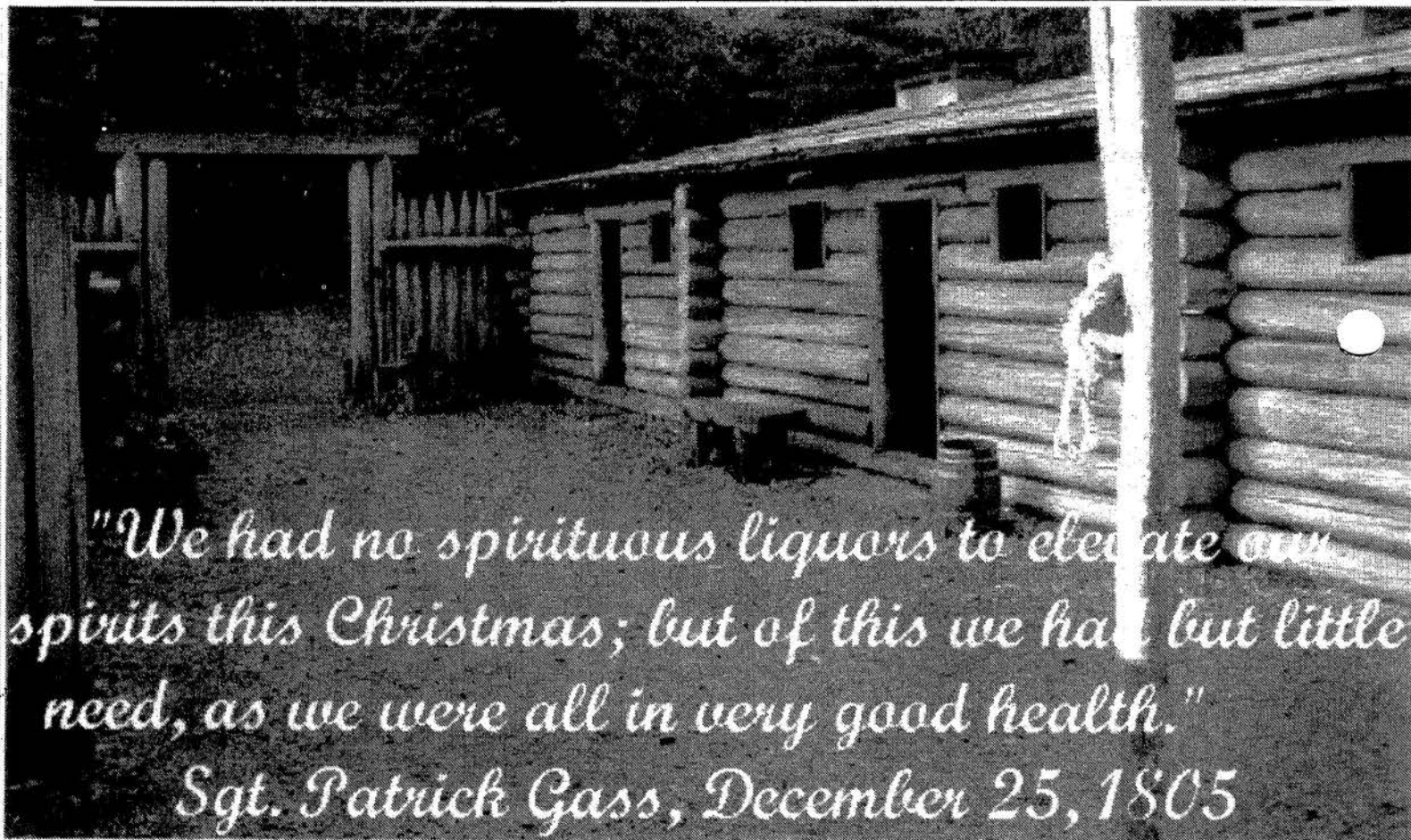
There is one other method of measuring speed and distance that should be mentioned here also. In his instructions to Meriwether Lewis of June 20, 1803, Thomas Jefferson made specific mention of the "log-line." A log-line is a 3/16-inch diameter length of line attached to a weighted pole – the "log." The pole would then be placed into the water behind a vessel and the line allowed to play out for about 100 feet. From that point on, the rest of the line was knotted and marked, and was carefully timed for about a minute. The speed of the current and craft could then be calculated by reading the distance the line had played out in that time. Special considerations could be made for more rapid or slower waters, water density or other factors, but the principle was the same.

With a little reliance on trigonometry, your skills as an observer and the proper use of your instruments, you could do a pretty good job of estimating distances. Of course, if all else failed, you could always count your horse's steps – mile after mile after mile....

<sup>1</sup> Moulton, *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, Vol. 5, p 292.

<sup>2</sup> Baez, *The New College Physics*, Appendix E

<sup>3</sup> Plamondon, personal communication



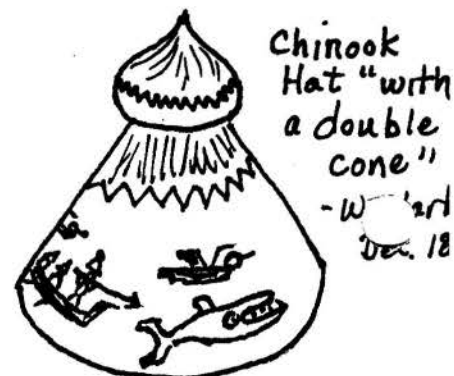
**Websites of Interest:**

[www.his.state.mt.us](http://www.his.state.mt.us) [Montana State Historical Society]

[www.ohs.org/home/default.htm](http://www.ohs.org/home/default.htm) [Oregon State Historical Society]

[www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org) [LCTHF website]

[www.lcarchive.org/wa\\_lcthf.html](http://www.lcarchive.org/wa_lcthf.html) [WA. ST. CHAP. Website]



## Logo Shirt Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Polo Shirt (white) \$15.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL  
 Quantity of each size ordered: S\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ L\_\_\_ XL\_\_\_ XXL\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Sweatshirt (gray) \$20.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL  
 Quantity of each size ordered: S\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ L\_\_\_ XL\_\_\_ XXL\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt (gray) \$12.00 each Available in Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL and Children's sizes S, M

Quantity of sizes ordered: Adult: S\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ L\_\_\_ XL\_\_\_ XXL\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Children's S\_\_\_ M\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_

Shipping costs are \$5.00 per shirt. Number of shirts\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to WA Chapter, LCTHF. Send your form and check to:  
 Don Payne, 32237 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SW, Federal Way, WA 98023 Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.

**HATS      HATS      HATS      HATS      HATS      HATS      HATS      HATS**

### Logo Hats For Sale

The Chapter has WA. ST. CHAP. Logo hats available for purchase. If you would like one of these adjustable Forest Green hats with the Yellow embroidered logo, they can be purchased for \$15.00 plus \$4.00 S&H each. Make checks payable to: Wa St Chap. LCTHF Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

No. of Hats\_\_\_ X \$19.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Send this form and your check to:  
 Hats  
 c/o Tim Underwood  
 128 Galaxie Road  
 Chehalis, WA 98532

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Optional - will be included with membership roster*

### Chapter Membership

\$10.00 per year (Jan - Dec) for any person, family, firm, association or corporation.

Please make checks payable to:

**Washington State Chapter LCTHF**

Mail to Rob Heacock, Membership Chair

Dues are kept as low as possible to encourage wide membership. In addition, members are encouraged to make supplemental donations to help support the organization.

Please mark if address has changed

The above dues are for the Washington State Chapter only. Bylaws state that Chapter members must be current members of the National Foundation. Annual dues are: Individual, \$40 per year; Family, \$55 per year. Membership includes the quarterly magazine *We Proceeded On*. Send Foundation dues to: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

## *Future Washington State Chapter Meetings*

February 9, 2002

To be held at the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, WA. This is the annual Chapter business meeting. The meeting will be held at 10:00 in the morning on the Mezzanine level of the museum. At 1:30, speaker Mike Carrick from Oregon will be speaking on the firearms of the Corps of Discovery. He will hopefully bring a few examples of his collection of authentic period arms to show, including the "Air Gun." (See directions on the front page.)

April, 20, 2002 – "Super Saturday!"

This will be a joint meeting of the Oregon and Washington Chapters. On Saturday morning at 10:00, we will meet at the Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles, OR for a program by staff archaeologist Ken Karsmizki (see article on page 11). At 2:00, the site will change to the north side of the river, to Maryhill Museum, for a lecture on the L&C overland route in the area. There will be a Washington Chapter meeting following the lecture. Then, on Saturday evening at the nearby Goldendale Observatory, Gary Lentz will give a talk on the "Stars of Lewis and Clark." *And there's more!* On Sunday, there will be a motor tour of the overland route of the 1806 return trip. Sounds like a great weekend so plan now to attend. Doc should have more information at the meeting in Tacoma, and watch for further information in WON.

June 22, 2002 (Tentative, as the final arrangements won't be made until AFTER the first of the year.)

Columbia River Sternwheeler from Cascade Locks upriver. Again, This will be a joint meeting with OR. The trip will be set up to avoid conflicts of July 4<sup>th</sup> and the National meeting in Kentucky. As mentioned above, the arrangements are yet to be finalized, but hopefully will be by the Tacoma meeting. You might plan ahead and set this weekend aside as the last time this trip was offered, it sold out in a VERY short time. And we are trying to get more spaces this time! Watch your future WONS for more information.

Possible future meetings for the Chapter include a meeting in the Spokane area and a summer camp-out in lieu of the meeting at the national convention. If you have any ideas for future meetings, locations and/or speakers that you would like to submit, send them to Doc Wesselius so they can be worked into the program.

**WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER**  
*Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation*  
128 Galaxie Road  
Chehalis, WA 98532



The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contribution to America's heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.