

# Washington State Chapter, LCTHF, Inc.

## *Worthy of Notice*

July 2004 Newsletter

Vol. 5, Issue 3

Tim Underwood, Editor



-- Dedicated to the Memory of Pam Anderson --

### **President's Message**

*"One always has time enough, if one will apply it well."* - Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

With the approach of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in the Pacific Northwest we will all have to apply our time well. The observance will occupy much of our time in the next two years; in both participation and volunteerism. There will be many proceedings that we will each have to prioritize in order to attend the scheduled events. There will also be many occasions for everyone to become involved and volunteer their time to help commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition's two hundred year anniversary.

Many of our chapter's members have already become involved with various tours, displays, lectures, and meetings pertaining to Lewis and Clark that have recently taken place in the Pacific Northwest and nationally lately. The list is extensive - I would like to thank each and every one of you that have contributed your time and efforts in your involvement with the Lewis and Clark story. Your contribution has not only been a public service but will result in a successful commemoration of the expedition. Your participation will only become more involved as the bicentennial observance proceeds towards the Pacific Northwest.

Weekly I get invitations to attend a Lewis & Clark event - an advantage of being chapter president. However, the disadvantage is that one can not possibly attend all the events that are being planned for the bicentennial. There is not enough time - even if you apply it *well!!!* I'm sure that each of you is faced with this dilemma - which event to attend, how much time and expense can I afford, and so on? We will all have to make these decisions in the next couple of years as we select the Lewis and Clark events we want to be a part of. It is always exhilarating to see our chapter's members at the various Pacific Northwest Lewis and Clark events.

The annual LCTHF meeting this year in Bismarck will get many of us out on part of The Trail that we do not often get an opportunity to visit. It will also be an occasion for the Pacific Northwest to promote our 2005 meeting in Portland. As usual there will be chapter meetings scheduled as part of the foundation's events. Time and place announcements will be made during the convention - hope to see you there!

Our next chapter event will be a meeting and tour in eastern Washington. In the past this has always been an informative meeting pertaining to part of The Trail that many students of Lewis and Clark have missed. Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend the meeting - a wonderful time of year to visit eastern Washington.

The next couple of years are going to be busy with Lewis and Clark events. Your participation will make the occasions memorable. See you on The Trail!

Doc Wesselius  
President - WA St Chapter  
LCTHF

## Summary of May 1, 2004 Meeting

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting at Clark College's Foster Auditorium in Vancouver, Washington.

The OCTA annual meeting will be held August 8-15 2004 at Fort Vancouver. Contact Dave Welch for further information at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net)

Kerry Jeffreys of the United States Postal Service announced the times and locations of the introduction of the new L & C postage stamps. Those will be May 14, 9:00 AM at Cape Disappointment Interpretive Center and 12:00 at Fort Clatsop. (It should also be noted that for our raffle, Cheryl Essary donated a full page of pristine 1954 L & C Stamps that she had recently obtained). There will also be activities on May 14 in Pacific County around the theme of Destination Pacific.

Corps II will consist of activities in 7 different communities around the state in 2005 and is being coordinated by Lauren Danner. To provide assistance, contact Lauren at [ldanner@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:ldanner@wshs.wa.gov)

Keith Hay made available copies of his new book *The Lewis and Clark Columbia River Water Trail*. This book has been a project of the Washington Chapter, and Keith has spent 5 years on the project. The book covers the last 146 miles of the lower Columbia, starting below Bonneville Dam and provides information on historical, cultural and environmental issues.

Larry McClure has been involved in planning for the 2005 National meeting to be held at Lewis & Clark College in Portland. Please contact Larry if you can provide assistance for this meeting.

Our Treasurer's Report by Muff Donohue shows a balance of \$2,292.46

Martin Snoey reported on the progress of L & C memorabilia that is being developed which will benefit the Chapter. It is hoped that the first items can be viewed in early July.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of a panel discussion made up of Bill Lauman, Tom Laidlaw and Murray Hayes. Bill discussed the fur trade as the driving force for the opening of the West, and the competition with the English and Alexander McKenzie. Tom provided information on Francois Rivet, who was born in 1757 in Montreal. He joined L & C in St Louis and left the expedition at Fort Mandan. He was noted for his ability to dance on his hands. August 21, 1806, he again met the L & C group, this time on the return trip. In 1809 he lived with the Flatheads, and then lived for 16 years in the Clark Fork area. In 1829 he was the manager of Fort Colville, and in 1838 he was in St Paul, Oregon and was involved in the historic vote at Champoeg as part of the provisional government. Murray spoke on Pierre Dorian who spent 77 days with the expedition, and was an interpreter with the Yankton Sioux in South Dakota. His wife was Madame Dorian, herself a notable figure in Washington history.

Roger Daniels finished the morning session by giving us some background of the Captain Clark Park at Cottonwood Beach in Washougal. This is the camp that was called "Provision Camp" where the Corps spent 6 days gathering provisions to get them to the Nez Perce lands. This was also the camp from which Captain Clark went back down the Columbia to explore the lower reaches of the Multnomah River (present-day Willamette River), a river they missed going both directions because of its being behind some islands.

Following directions, we reconvened our meeting at the parking lot of Cottonwood Beach where Roger gave us a "verbal" glimpse of what is planned for the new park, the only park in the country named for Clark! In its present state, we could still get a pretty good idea of what the camp area looked like in 1806. Historians are reasonably certain that where a planned living history "camp" will be placed is within 400 yards of where the actual camp was located. This is based on the location of a creek outlet, the still extant meadow and the two outlets of the Quicksand (today's Sandy) River across the Columbia. A good day was had by all!

## Meeting Our Heroes...

When Captains Lewis and Clark found themselves faced with more barriers ahead instead of a smooth easy portage from the Missouri to the waters of the Columbia, they were dismayed, sure, but did not give up. They continued on to find a way to complete their assigned mission. This kind of fortitude is quite rare in today's society. Yet, there was one among us who persevered despite greater obstacles than a few mountains. Martin Plamondon II was just such a man, a man who forged onward in spite of the barriers set before him.

Having set a goal to *re-create* the entire Lewis and Clark Trail route in a format that modern-day explorers could use to find The Trail, Martin, a cartographer, set about 30 years ago to retrace what was still there, and use old maps and charts and other resources to create a set of 627 individual maps that retrace the whole trail. These maps have now been bound into a 3-volume set that will help modern explorers follow the whole 7400 miles with much more ease than the Corps ever thought possible. This would seem to a somewhat undaunting project, to be sure, for most anyone. But when such barriers as congenital heart problems – times 3, breathing problems from working around an anhydrous ammonia printer (for printing maps) too often, and digestive problems that caused him to lose weight rather than gain or maintain it, it is a wonder at all that he was able to maintain a life, let alone complete the project!

Though many maps are available for parts of The Trail, no one has until now has created these type of high-quality maps that cover the whole route. This took a special person; a cartographer, an astute observer, a determined person. This describes Martin. One who smote adversity on a good day, and fought it on a bad day. This was Martin. When most would have given up, he *proceeded on!*

After all, he was the descendent of a pioneer family and, as he loved to note, the great, great, great nephew of Simon Plamondon, an Hudson's Bay Company engage who helped settle the Cowlitz Prairie in the 1830s. Martin was also a former Washington State Chapter and National Foundation member, former chairman and member of the Governor's Washington Lewis and Clark Trail Committee, author and recipient of several awards from the Foundation.

But alas, the end comes regardless. Martin has now joined our heroes, having passed away in late May. He will be missed. He will also be well-remembered for his many contributions to the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Even more, however, will the respect for his arduous fight for life.

Martin Plamondon II  
1945 - 2004

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### *Lewis and Clark Trail Maps – Volume III*

Pullman – Glen Lindeman, Editor-In-Chief of WSU Press, has announced that volume III of this historical atlas and travelogue is now available having just come off the presses in late June. This fine work may be purchased at your favorite booksellers, or directly from WSU Press in Pullman.

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### *Carving Exhibit at Lewis County Museum...*

**Chehalis**—The Lewis and Clark woodcarving exhibit created by the Capital Woodcarvers and the Pacific Northwest Woodcarvers groups opened at the Lewis County Museum with a gala grand opening on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Though the exhibit has been shown at several locations already, this showing is unusual in that all of the pieces that were created for the exhibit are on display, something that most venues cannot accomplish. The Lewis County Museum is located in the former Northern Pacific train depot in Chehalis where there is ample room for "spreading out the display" stated exhibit curator, Karen Johnson. Exhibit coordinator George Eisentrout also expressed delight at the prospects of showing the whole exhibit as it was meant to be displayed. The four panels and almost one hundred carvings are spread out over a 35-foot area, plenty of room for everyone to see!

If you are in the Chehalis area this summer, swing in to the old depot and spend an hour viewing the excellent display of carvings, plant specimens, furs and pictures of Lewis and Clark in Washington. The museum is located at 599 NW Front St.

## Lukens vs. Girandoni

NOTE: The following is a letter from Chapter member Mike Carrick of Turner, OR refuting the information in the April issue of WON that the air gun shown members at the annual business meeting was THE gun carried by Lewis on the journey. In so doing, Mike does present information that could very well be accurate and wholly reliable. If it is, then this will be one of very few controversies that will be solved regarding the Expedition. Ed.

All good historians recognize that cherished beliefs sometimes may have to be revised as new historical information comes to light. For many years no one knew exactly which air gun was carried by Lewis on the Expedition. It was assumed by historians that it probably was the type which had a large round ball hanging beneath the barrel to serve as an air reservoir. Then, in 1976, a researcher found a listing for the "air gun carried by messers Lewis and Clark" in the estate sale of a Philadelphia clockmaker, Isaiah Lukens. From this hint, it was assumed that Lukens (a known maker of air guns) must have been the source of the air gun Lewis carried.

Then, about three years ago, the journal of Thomas Rodney came to the notice of Lewis and Clark historians. Rodney spent some time with Lewis near Wheeling, West Virginia during the time Lewis was bringing the keelboat down from Pittsburgh. Lewis demonstrated the air gun to Rodney, and Rodney wrote a clear description of what he had seen. The Lukens gun could not possibly have been the one Rodney described. Rodney wrote of seeing a repeating air gun that could fire 22 shots in one minute. From his description, firearms historians recognized that he had seen a repeating air gun on the principle of the Girandoni Austrian military repeating air gun first made in the 1780s.

Some writers have impugned Rodney's veracity, but they have misunderstood comments made by the journals' editor. The editors did write that Rodney used "creative exaggeration and rich embellishment" in some of his writings. But the editors specifically are referring to Rodney's exaggerated recollections of the "important" role he played in the Revolutionary War and in the Continental Congress. They are not speaking about this journal of Rodney's trip to assume President Jefferson's appointment of Rodney as territorial judge and land commissioner of the Mississippi Territory. A few pages farther on, the editor writes "Rodney's notes...constitute...a significant record of the establishment of law on the American frontier...Rodney's journal is among the most detailed of the early nineteenth-century travel accounts by Americans...As a traveler, Rodney is closely observant and unquenchably curious...Rodney's journal entry stands as the most detailed contemporary account known to exist...Seemingly missing nothing, he soon proved to be an astute recorder of all that he saw..." Additionally, Rodney's descriptions of his meetings with Meriwether Lewis are corroborated by Lewis's journal accounts of the same meetings, even to the minor detail of sharing a watermelon.

Rodney described the operation of Lewis's repeating air gun. Two Girandoni experts in England confirm that this is just what would be written by an observer of that style of repeating air gun. How could Rodney come up with an accurate description of a very rare air gun if he hadn't seen it? Moreover, why would he make up only that when everything else he wrote of his encounter with Lewis is corroborated by Lewis?

After the annual LCTHF meeting in Philadelphia last year, I spent two days in the wonderful research facilities available in Philadelphia. I found documentation that Lukens started his career as an apprentice clockmaker with his father in Horsham, PA. Lukens did not come down to Philadelphia to open his shop until 1811. His shop was not a retail store as we might imagine it, but was a machine shop, and bachelor Lukens slept above the shop. From studying his advertisements in contemporary sources, I speculate that Lukens probably didn't even start making air guns much before 1810-1812.

In Philadelphia, I was very fortunate to obtain a copy of the complete listing of the 694 items in the estate sale. Lukens did not make the great preponderance of the items listed in the catalog. There are 16 air guns and air canes, 23 partially completed air guns and air canes, a couple of rifles, a few pistols including a revolving English pistol, and other parts of guns. Of all those air guns, only the one "used by Messers Lewis and Clark" is "a great curiosity." I think it is a curiosity because it is the only repeating air gun in the collection.

So, there is NO evidence that Lewis carried a single-shot air rifle and no evidence that he carried a gun by Lukens. There is a credible eyewitness report that Lewis had a repeating air gun, so it could not possibly be the gun shown at your meeting.

A description of Lewis's air gun, information as to its possible origin, and an animated illustration of the operation of the internal mechanism can be found at [www.lewis-clark.org](http://www.lewis-clark.org). Click "new for April" and open "Captain Lewis's Medicine Gun."

You can reach Mike at: Mike Carrick, 8226 Enchanted Ridge Ct., Turner, OR 97392  
503-364-3221 or 503-364-3375 (fax) ; Mike@MikeCarrick.com

(Thanks to Mike for his input on this "touchy" matter. Edited for WON, 2004)

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## November 7, 1805: To See or Not to See?

NOTE: The following article is by Jeff Davis of the Oregon Chapter relaying his research on whether or not the Corps could see the "ocian" when they stated that they could. See if you might agree. Ed.

*"Great joy in camp we are in View of the Ocian, this great Pacific Octean which we been So long anxious to See. And the roaring or noise made by the waves brakeing on the rocky Shores (as I suppose) may be heard distictly"* The pendulum has swung back and forth over the past two centuries on the accuracy of this statement.

Eager to sight the long-anticipated Pacific Ocean after a year and a half of hard cross-continental travel, Thomas Jefferson's Corps of Discovery were eighteen and a half statute miles from open ocean at their November 7, 1805 evening camp where the above statement was supposedly written. To claim they saw the ocean from this distance was a remarkable claim in itself, but Nelson Biddle, the first editor of their journals, claimed they saw it further up the river earlier in the day. He editorialized in 1814, with input from probably Clark himself, that they got their first glimpse of the ocean November 7<sup>th</sup> *"in the morning when fog cleared off just below last village just on leaving the village of Warkiacum...."*

Journal entries reveal they passed two "Warkiacum" villages on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Biddle's rather tangled statement leaves us confused as to which of the two villages he was referring. He claimed it was the *"last"* village, but also mentions passing it in the morning.

Clark didn't mention when they reached or left the second village, but it was definitely late in the day, based on all the activity and delays preceding their arrival.

Gass's entry for this day offers no clues of any substance. Ordway only mentioned arriving at the first village at 10:00am. Whitehouse provides the best information. According to his journal, they arrived at the first village at 10:00 am and then continued on, arriving at the second village *"towards evening."*

Biddle must have meant the last village upstream from the November 7<sup>th</sup> campsite, which would have been the first village they encountered that day – the one they passed the morning of November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The upper "Warkiacum" village was in the vicinity of Cathlamet, WA. When they passed out from behind the islands below that village into the open Columbia, they would have been a staggering 28 statute miles\* from the true mouth of the Columbia!

It is clear from the journal entries that, in both cases, they made their observations from the river and not atop surrounding cliffs.

Could they really have seen the mouth from either distance? Clark apparently thought so. But, a century later, the pendulum swings in the other direction.

Reuben Thwaites, while editing the journals in 1905, observed in a footnote to Clark's November 7 entry, *"The ocean could not possibly be seen from this point, although during a storm the breakers might be heard. The explorers probably mistook the great bay of the river, which just below this point widens to fifteen miles, for the expanse of the ocean."*

For nearly a century, the popularity of Thwaites's journals framed public skepticism of Clark's claim. He must have been mistaken, seeing only the wide estuary at the mouth of the Columbia.

Then, in 2002, the pendulum swung back in favor of Clark. In his book *In Full View*, L&C researcher and historian Rex Ziak, who spent many years studying the expedition's movements around the mouth of the Columbia, presented a remarkable observation. After looking at old nautical charts of

the mouth of the river drawn in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ziak spotted something that apparently nobody else had noticed, the jetties!

The north and south jetties at the mouth of the Columbia were built between 1890 and 1895 to alter the flow of the river, deepening the shipping channel and allowing easier access to the river for ocean-going vessels. One side effect of the mammoth construction effort was the accretion of enormous deposits of sand around the jetties, both north and south of the mouth. While the channel was made safer in the middle of the river, the mouth narrowed considerably over the ensuing 10 years. By 1905, it was impossible to look toward the ocean from their November 7<sup>th</sup> campsite and have an unrestricted line of sight out to the open ocean. Thwaites took one look at a post-jetty map and immediately called Clark's statement into question.

But Ziak used a chart published in 1876 to visualize what Clark saw. He immediately realized that Clark could have, in fact, had an unobstructed line of sight out to open ocean from the north shore of the Columbia on November 7<sup>th</sup>, with no drifting sand or silt blocking a straight line drawn on a map of the time. Was this belief destined to hold sway for another century?

Not this time. There are too many people studying every tiny detail. In 2004, the pendulum swings again.

Thwaites and Ziak both overlooked one geographical feature that would have made it impossible for Clark to have seen open ocean from 18 miles upstream. Even assuming an unusual lack of fog, clouds, salt spray, dust and sand, he could not have seen *over the horizon!*

The farthest a 6-foot-tall man can see on a level surface is about 3.2 statute miles. Of course, high terrain features surrounding the mouth of the Columbia would have been easily visible for much longer distances. According to Clackamas Community College (Oregon City, OR) physics instructor Steve Brown, using data found in Bowditch's *American Practical Navigator*, Table 8, Distance of the Horizon, waves outside the mouth of the Columbia would have to have topped 200 feet for Clark to have seen them from the November 7<sup>th</sup> camp! From 28 miles upriver, those waves would have to have been at least 450 feet high! It is well-known that the entire expedition complained bitterly over the welcome Mother Nature prepared for them on their arrival at the western ocean. But, even in the wildest of storms, waves don't approach those extremes. According to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website, that provides data from an observation buoy near the mouth of the Columbia River, the highest waves recorded between 1984 and 2001 did not top 40 feet, and those approaching that height were rare. There is no reason to believe that waves 200 years ago were any different.

Clark and company had an unobstructed view out over the lower Columbia on November 7, 1805, but they did not see the sea.

\* A statute, or "land mile," is 5,280 feet as compared to a nautical mile, which is 6,076 feet.

(Thanks to Jeff for this insightful research data. Edited for WON, 2004)

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## **"Lewis & Clark Among the Canadians"**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will be held August 4-7, 2004 in Bismarck, ND. During the festivities, one activity at the get-together is the silent auction where the proceeds are earmarked for a specific need. This year's proceeds will be used for purchasing storage cabinets and the associated archival materials for storing and protecting a complete set – all 627! - of Martin Plamondon's maps used for his extraordinary three-volume set of map books, the last one being available now from WSU Press. Before his passing (see page 3), Martin agreed to donate a complete set of the finished maps to the Foundation's library. These maps are of the highest quality and should be properly taken care of. In line with this thinking, Auction Chair Barb Kubik has asked - is encouraging! - those attending the meeting to bid often and bid high!

Please consider this as a show of respect for our late chapter member. Without his tremendous efforts, we would all be the poorer for being without. It was truly his gift to the Foundation and all Lewis and Clark enthusiasts – scholars and laypeople alike. This is the least we can do in his remembrance.

*Don't Miss Out on the Highlight of 2004...*  
The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

“Lewis & Clark  
Among the Canadians”

August 4-7, 2004  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Discover how much North Dakota has to offer, with Fort Mandan, the Knife River Indian Villages and the On-a-Slant Mandan Village!

**Fascinating Speakers and Sites...Walk where Lewis & Clark walked and experience the 200-year tradition of North Dakota hospitality!**

Refer to the registration materials in the February WPO, or go online at [www.fortmandan.com](http://www.fortmandan.com) to print out the information.



Call 1-877-462-8535 for more information,  
or e-mail [info@fortmandan.org](mailto:info@fortmandan.org)

## Future Meetings and Other Events

September 24-26, 2004 – The fall meeting of the chapter is tentatively planned as a boat trip up the Columbia to the Yakama River, the trip Captain Clark took while the Corps was camped at the Snake – Columbia confluence. Unfortunately, at press-time, final arrangements have yet to be made. Please watch for complete information in the September WON.

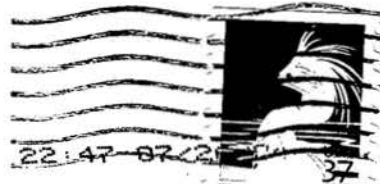
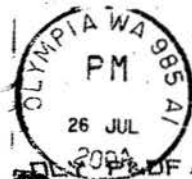
February 5, 2005 – Annual Chapter Business meeting at the Washington Stat Historical Society Museum in Tacoma.

Through September 3, 2004 – Friday evening "Lawn Chair" programs are being presented at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Great Falls, MT. Topics range from humor to grizzlies and plants to people. Each week will be a different program, beginning at 8 pm and lasting about 45 minutes. The programs are free to the public. For more information, contact Paul Lloyd-Davies at the Center at 406-727-8733,

Through November 15, 2004 – Maryhill Museum in Goldendale, WA has a special Lewis and Clark exhibit open now called "A Passion for Plants: before and After Lewis and Clark." A rich array of objects and works of art celebrate the passions inspired by those plants. Plant photos, study specimens and Native American items made from or decorated with native plants will be on display. A Native Plant Garden was dedicated at the opening of the exhibit.

Maryhill is open daily from 9am to 5 pm. For more information, contact Lee Musgrave at 509-773-3733.

**WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER**  
**Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation**  
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July 2004 Newsletter



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.

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