

Worthy of Notice

Washington State Chapter, LCTHF, Inc.

www.wa-lcthf.org

January 2007 Newsletter

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Tim Underwood, Editor

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Washington State Chapter Annual Business Meeting

Washington State Historical Museum, Mezzanine Level

Saturday February 3, 2007 at 10:00 AM

The annual business meeting will begin at 10:00 with business notes, the election of officers for 2007 and any other outstanding issues that need attending to. At 10:30, Tom Laidlaw will present a program dealing with the first wave of the fur trade that followed Lewis and Clark into the Pacific Northwest, and how they tie in with the Corps of Discovery. Following Tom's presentation, there will be the final notes, comments and a short lunch-break (**bring a sack lunch as the eating facilities have become somewhat limited recently!**) before the chapter members are invited to attend the Governor's Lewis and Clark Committee for their meeting at the same location. This is a chance for members to see the workings of this committee and have a voice in the proceedings. This meeting will begin at 1:30.

Hope you can attend this always interesting meeting. And, hopefully, the weather will cooperate!

Washington State Historical Society Museum

1911 Pacific Avenue

Tacoma, Washington

Direction: From both north and south, take exit 133 from I-5 onto I-705 and head westerly toward the center of town. Just past the Tacoma Dome, exit RIGHT onto the SR-209 exit ramp. This is the Port of Tacoma exit. Stay in the LEFT lane as you reach the stoplights. Turn left and immediately pull into the extreme right-hand lane in order to turn RIGHT onto Pacific Avenue. Proceed approximately 500 feet and turn right into the museum parking lot. If you cannot get the parking machine to accept your money for parking, you need to pay the museum staff at the front desk. (We had several problems with this last year.)

Again, plan on attending this important meeting. See you there!

LCTHF Regional Meeting, Vancouver, WA November 4, 2006

Oregon and Washington Chapters represented

Approximately 40 members of the Oregon and Washington chapters and guests were present at the PNW Regional meeting on Saturday morning. Held at the beautiful Water Resources Educational Center in Vancouver, WA, the meeting was M-Ced by long-time member, re-enactor and bibliophile, Roger Wendlick. Among Roger's opening remarks, Roger emphasized that "the bicentennial is over, but our mission continues!" We have as big a job ahead of us as we had for the bicentennial commemoration. We still need to continue to research the story, The Trail and to educate the country about the *real* story and dispel the apocrypha that is still so prevalent.

Following Roger's remarks, Chief Cliff Snider of the Chinook Tribe offered a blessing for the meeting and the continued cooperation among all parties involved for the preservation of cultural and historical traditions associated with the Corps of Discovery and all of the Native Peoples they came in contact with

Roger then introduced Foundation President Jim Gramentine, who was here filling in for Wendy Rainey, to represent the Foundation and explain where the Foundation is at this point and give us an idea of what lies ahead for the organization now that the bicentennial has passed. Obviously we are not professionals in this field; rather, we are amateurs trying to do the best we can. We do well in the historical aspects but are struggling in the over-all administration of our diverse foundation.

The story, The Trail, the members are what the foundation stands for. However, as happens so often in volunteer organizations, budget problems will take a toll. Since the end of the bicentennial, the National Park Service has cut its budget meaning the foundation will have less to operate with until another source of funding can be found. This could be from a single outside source (doubtful!) or from a combination of inside "adjustments" and outside resources. Jim stated that the board has addressed these issues and will make cuts "equally" throughout the organization so that we may continue as much of the status quo as possible to keep as much of the organization of the past.

The Board has hammered out an operating budget but the Foundation will need to be very careful because of the short-fall. Unfortunately, one consequence of the budget ax was an increase in membership dues. A 20% increase was made on individual dues and similar increases for other categories.

On the lighter side, this is the first time – ever? – that there was a real contest for board positions. There were 5 members vying for 3 positions. Our own Larry McClure was one of the successful three. Congratulations to Larry! (Having had the good fortune to work with Larry these past few years on the bicentennial effort, I know he will represent us well. ED.)

Jim addressed the fact that chapter members did not have to be Foundation members. To this, though, he expressed the hope that many would become Foundation members when they joined a chapter, especially in this time of need for the Foundation.

Congratulations were expressed to both chapters for their work on both Blue Lake and Captain William Clark parks. (Both parks are nicely done and should be visited to appreciate what many individuals - both inside the chapters and out – had accomplished.)

Both chapters were presented with a book for our respective libraries as a "Thank You" for the work done during the bicentennial. The book, "Oceana in View! O! the Joy," is a collection of photographs of the American West by Professor Robert Sargent Fay of Landmark College in Putney, VT.

To round things out, Jim mentioned that the Foundation's quarterly journal, *We Proceeded On*, was not when the budget axe fell, thus ensuring that members will continue to receive the wonderful 5-color publication that we have come to expect since Jim Merritt took over as editor. Speaking of Jim, we offer our thanks and best wishes to him as he steps aside from the editing job. He brought many positive changes to the WPO that have really improved, and increased the interest in, the journal. It was also mentioned that Wendy Rainey is the new editor replacing Jim. Best of luck to her, as well.

The site for the 2008 annual meeting is Great Falls.

In closing, Jim invited anyone who has questions and/or concerns to e-mail him at gramentine@aol.com.

The next part of the meeting was given over to chapter notes. Larry McClure mentioned the wonderful CD that Portland photographer Brad Yazzalino has put together showcasing the Blue Lake site and the longhouse at Cathlapotle, which we were treated to viewing of the rough footage. (Brad is hoping to get the final cuts made and the finished CD out in the next few months.)

Ted Kaye, representing the Oregon chapter, mentioned several items including the state-by-state inventory of Lewis and Clark and related sites. <Oregon has started this process, and the Washington Governor's LC Committee, in cooperation with the Washington State Historical

Society, has been working on this for a couple of years already.> Most states, however, have not done this. It is important to identify and save these sites for the future. With this note, he handed out the National Park Service's inventory form and site inventory form for Oregon.

A welcome and comments for the Washington State chapter were made by Doc Wesselius. Sharon Tiffany of the Governor's Committee commented on the committee's work, starting 42 years ago, great record of encouragement and support for the Lewis and Clark story in Washington State. Finally, Larry Cotton mentioned the Federal Water Trail stretching from Idaho to the Bonneville Dam, thus connecting with the Lower Columbia Water Trail covered in Keith Hay's book on the same. He also mentioned the Sandy River Project that is working on the identification and presentation of all the fauna of the LC journey.

A poignant statement was made by Keith Hay concerning the foundation and the Lewis and Clark story; "We are not the future. The next generation is! We need to educate them, get them interested in the story." Indeed.

The main program was Dr. Robert Carriker of Gonzaga University speaking on Sir Alexander MacKenzie and what Thomas Jefferson learned from him.

Alexander MacKenzie was born about 1762 in Scotland and came to North America in 1764. By the age of 17, he had joined the Northwest Company and went "west." At the time, "west" meant anything west of the Great Lakes! (This was still 7 years before Captain Cook had established the longitude of Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They still had no idea of how wide the continent was, yet.) In 1784, "Mac" had become wintering partner and was posted to Lake Athabasca in 1787.

In 1789, MacKenzie began the long, arduous exploration of "his" river; 102 days covering 3000 miles. He had read James Cook's journals and wanted to know more about the areas Cook mentioned. Thus, he started from Lake Athabasca, followed the river downstream to Great Bear Lake, then on to Great Slave Lake (50 x 250 miles!). Enroute, he had noticed the mountains to the west, but the river was always running north! Some 910 miles to the north and the Arctic Ocean! This was not the great river he had heard about to the west of the mountains.

The return journey was very similar to the Corps of Discovery's in that it was upriver against the current for 1500 miles. Undoubtedly, he was dissatisfied with his results probably based on inadequate scientific and geographical information.

During the interim between 1789 and his second trip in 1793, MacKenzie went to London and learned more on North American geography. Included in this information were the longitudinal coordinates for Ft. Chippewyan on Lake Athabasca and Nootka Sound. From this information, he was able to figure out that it was 950 miles – as the crow flies – between them.

Back in Canada, MacKenzie embarked on his epic voyage across the northern Rockies by way of the Peace River to the upper Fraser River. He quickly realized that the Fraser was NOT the way to go being very rough in the middle section (an understatement, to be sure!). He was forced to backtrack toward today's Williams Lake, B.C. where he cached his canoes and headed west overland toward Bella Coola on the coast. After making observations and notes on the area, before he left the coast, MacKenzie inscribed a rock with the message "AM by land, 1793," then started back toward his canoes, as Lewis and Clark did 22 years later.

There are many parallels between Alexander MacKenzie's trip and that of Lewis and Clark's. These include – but certainly are not limited to – pre-trip education, keeping journals of daily activities and taking good equipment (Lewis got the wrong telescope and had no barometer or theodolite [a transit]). Both men operated on the premise that "achievements in and of themselves mean nothing," and looked upon their respective journeys as benefiting man in the greater sense.

In this vein, Alexander MacKenzie had a plan before he set out on his second trip. He set up and advanced camp at Ft. Fork, an area he had been in previously; he gathered as much information from the local natives as he could (LC at Ft. Mandan); he chose a very capable and wise man for his second-in-command, 22-year-old Alexander McKay, who later established Astoria for the Pacific Fur Company and subsequently died on the *Tonquin* at Nootka Sound. MacKenzie also chose veteran frontiersmen to carry the loads. And, they had a dog, called "our dog."

From his experiences on the fur brigades, MacKenzie knew to expect rough rapids and portages; again, thinking ahead! And when in an area unknown to him, he sought out and utilized native cartographers for their knowledge of these areas and of areas ahead. He used native guides when possible, although keeping in mind that they sometimes make mistakes (Old Toby) and that occasionally they are just the middlemen in a greater native "scam." Added to this was the fact that one village would be very friendly while the next would be very hostile and ruthless. He also took the vocabularies of tribes they encountered wherever possible.

MacKenzie knew that it was very important to be observant; i.e. notice the plants, animals, geography, climate, etc. in order to report findings for future explorers and settlers. Leave identifying marks as a claim to the land. Use rocks, trees or some type of structure so others know you have been there before them.

Most importantly, MacKenzie felt strongly that one needed to be prepared for any unforeseen circumstances that could change even the best-laid plans and timetable. Weather was always a concern in unknown areas. A sudden snowstorm in June in the Rockies can dump several feet of snow on an area in a very short time that would necessitate holing up for long periods, or even retreat to a lower level. Mother Nature could be a very unforgiving host.

In closing, Dr. Carriker queried whether Thomas Jefferson re-read MacKenzie's journals. This was because he noted close similarities – almost plagiarizing in some instances. Yes, there should have been parallels between the two journeys – some very interesting parallels – but so-much-so that it seems plagiarized?

After returning to Montreal at the conclusion of his trip, Alexander MacKenzie "withdrew" from service by 1808. As far as is known, MacKenzie never made any comments regarding the Lewis and Clark Expedition

Following a short question and answer session with Dr. Carriker, a lunch break was taken while the musical duo set up for the afternoon session. The following write-up is courtesy of Margaret Nelson, who graciously penned the review in my stead as Doc and I had to leave for other engagements.

The afternoon session was given over to a musical performance presented by Andrew Emlen and Jeffrey Reynolds playing music of Lewis and Clark's time. The first part of the program was a more cultured presentation during which the performers wore "eastern" colonial clothing; i.e. knee britches, long vests and linen shirts. The music was right from Jefferson's personal sheet music collection for violin and cello. They included pieces by Corelli (Opus 1, Sonata 5, circa 1700), Bach (Sonata in G Major) and Hayden. The mood conveyed was gracious, cultured and calm. They explained that Jefferson played the violin (until he broke his wrist) while his wife played the harpsichord and, along with their daughters, the guitar.

After a short break to change clothes, the men returned in costumes portraying the musicians of the expedition. They also changed instruments to a fiddle and a banjo. While wearing buckskins and moccasins and a self-made coyote cap or boatman's breeches and barefoot, they played the type of music that would most likely have been played during the expedition, that of the boatman's reels and drinking songs, music that they could – and did – dance to.

Andrew and Jeffrey also did a piece entirely using Jew's harps that showcased the versatility of the instrument and their individual talents. They finished off the session by singing "Shenandoah" in honor of the Missouri and those who traveled on it.

Throughout the performance, they carried on an educational dialogue to explain the music and noted their research into the clothing, music and instruments of Jefferson and the Expedition. The performance was enjoyed by all.

(Thanks to Margaret for her "report." Edited for WON, 2007.)

Hiking the Fort to the Sea Trail

By Glen Kirkpatrick

On a dark, stormy and wet November 2006 morning, Doc and Deb Wesselius met my wife, Paula, and me at the Fort Clatsop parking lot. The day was perfect to experience the Fort to the Sea trail in conditions similar to what Clark must have experienced in December of 1805. Doc and I bundled up and put on our rain gear for the hike over Clark's "dividing ridge" while Paula and Deb took off in our truck campers to leave one camper at the entrance to Camp Rilea on the west side of US 101. After dropping off the camper, the girls were going to take the other camper to a local bakery/café for coffee and conversation while Doc and I hiked the trail.

Historical Perspective

Clark established the trail December 8-10, 1805. Construction of Fort Clatsop had just started and Clark was determined to find the most direct route to the sea coast. He left on the 8th with five men. Late in the day they shot an elk and used the skin for cover to shelter them from the rain that night somewhere on the Clatsop Plains. The next day Clark proceeded to the Ocean and spent the night with the Clatsop Indians at a village of 4 lodges located on the west bank of the Neacoxie River where it emptied into the Ocean. Today, the branch of the Neacoxie that flows to the Ocean no longer exists. The location of the village is in the vicinity of Slusher Lake. Since the time of Lewis and Clark, the beach has accreted approximately 1,830 feet farther west due to the construction of the Columbia River Jetties. Clark made a second trip to the Ocean and the salt works with 12 men on their way to obtain whale meat early in January, 1806. On that trip he took another route using canoes to go out of Young's Bay and up the Skipanon River before traveling over land. Lewis never did make the trip from Fort Clatsop to the Ocean. In all, there were 31 documented trips from the Fort to the coast for salt and to hunt, either by trail or via trail and water.

The route Clark established to the sea coast follows a ridge between two creeks to the crest of the north-south "dividing ridge". From the summit, Clark's maps show two trails to the Skipanon drainage where they meet to cross the main Skipanon River. From the river crossing the route, went around the lower end of Smith Lake, and traveled southwest crossing the east and west Neacoxie River. Closer to the coast, the group encountered the branch of the Neacoxie that no longer exists that emptied into salt water.

Back to Hiking the trail

The trail leaving Fort Clatsop travels west initially across a flat area. For those who hiked the route before the trail reconstruction, the new trail avoids the clay pits and all traces of civilization have been removed. On the trail you can imagine you have stepped back in time to conditions similar to 1805. Soon the trail starts to climb the ridge between the two creeks and passes a parking lot. The trail is all nicely graveled and graded with wide foot bridges. Ascending Clark's "dividing ridge" the trail follows an old road that has been graveled. Even though it was a blustery wet day, we were dry under the forest canopy. We were soon peeling off our extra layers of clothing. Upon reaching the summit of the "dividing ridge" we came upon a viewing platform where the trees had been removed allowing a view to the sea coast.

We had traveled 1.5 miles all on a wide ADA accessible graveled trail to the viewing platform. From Fort Clatsop to this point, the route of the trail very closely followed Clark's route of December 8, 1805.

From the viewing point to the newly constructed underpass of Highway US 101, the trail is all new and takes a more southerly route than the original route taken by Clark. The trail builders can be forgiven for departing from Clark's route, because the new trail avoids all signs of modern development allowing the hikers to imagine the scene as it was viewed by the Corps of Discovery.

The descent of the west side of the "dividing ridge" is steep, but the trail is well graded, graveled, and built with great care to fit into the topography. At the base of the ridge the trail encounters wetland "slashes and bogs" as described by Clark that form the Skipanon drainage. The trail carefully circumnavigates the wetlands and crosses the creeks on well constructed bridges. All the trail work has been done with extensive use of erosion control materials and fits into the landscape beautifully.

After traveling another 2.5 miles from the viewing platform at the crest of the "dividing ridge", the trail passes under US 101 and enters Camp Rilea. Coming out of the underpass we spot Doc's camper parked at the church near the entrance of Camp Rilea where our spouses had left it. Our wives are nowhere to be seen. As I started to climb into the camper I looked down to wipe my feet. I am pleasantly surprised to see that my feet are dry and not even muddy. Doc measured a dram of spirits and poured it into coffee from a thermos and we celebrated a successful end to our hike while we waited for our spouses to return.

From the underpass the trail continues another 2.25 miles to a parking lot at Sunset Beach. This segment of the trail is through the sand and shore pine woods of the Clatsop plains. The total length of the trail is 6.25 miles.

The Fort to the Sea trail traverses varied landscapes including deep woods, the "dividing ridge," extensive wetlands and the Clatsop Plains. It avoids most modern development and approximates the historic route of the Corps of Discovery. The trail is graded and landscaped to fit harmoniously into the natural surroundings and is a great addition to Fort Clatsop. And lastly, it makes for a wonderful outing, even in the most severe weather.

(Thanks to Glen for his travelogue. Edited for WON, 2007)

National Park Service acquires Dismal Nitch

As of last fall, the land around Clark's Dismal Nitch has now been added to the Lewis and Clark National Historical Monument. In September, it was announced by the Conservation Fund that the 154 acres in Pacific County had been transferred to the NPS for its inclusion in the park system.

Dismal Nitch marked the "dramatic arrival" at the Pacific Ocean for the Corps in 1805. However, because of the miserable weather, they were pinned down at this forsaken "nitch" for 6 days while trying to get around Point Ellice and on to the coast at Cape Disappointment. Trapped in the nitch by raging storms, high waves and winds, they were forced to abandon their supplies, submerge their canoes and take refuge in the-then cedar forests. The currant hemlock/spruce forests still provide a habitat for bald eagles, bear, cougar and beaver.

The Conservation Fund organization purchased the land in 2005 from the Hancock Timber Resource Group of Portland and held it in reserve for the time when the NPS could acquire it. That the timing happened to coincide with the final bicentennial commemoration in St. Louis, the arrival home, was fortuitous.

The appropriations for this purchase came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and were secured by Washington State Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and Washington State Congressman Brian Baird. The land acquisition will "ensure that future generations can appreciate the journey of the Corps of Discovery, and will give a boost to local tourism and the economy of southwest Washington," stated Cantwell.

(Conservation Fund news release. Edited for WON, 2007.)

Membership Renewal for 2007

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, albeit a cold one, so far! The past year was somewhat low-keyed compared to the year before, but busy nonetheless. The two meetings in the field, Plucker's Meadow and Columbia Hills State Park, were interesting and informative to most attendees. Again, these were meant to be venues where "learning" was a high priority. For those who had not been to a 19th-century military encampment or had the opportunity to see "She Who Watches," our meetings provided them this past year. I would expect no less for the year 2007. There is much more to see, discuss, learn and absorb relating to Lewis and Clark in the PNW. There is also a great deal for the chapter to become involved in in keeping the story and The Trail from falling into oblivion now that the bicentennial has passed. Trying to keep the apocrypha from coming to the forefront anymore than it has already is a major undertaking, to say the least. And, there are still unknown portions of The Trail that need to be identified and preserved.

So, you see that there is a lot to be done. We need your help as chapter members to get it done. Please take a few minutes to renew your membership in the chapter and, hopefully, the national foundation. Many of you have done so already, and we thank you gratefully. But most of us need to still take care of this task. The dues have NOT changed; it is still \$15 per year per membership! Not \$15 per person or family, etc., but \$15 per membership, whether this is a single person, a family, an organization, what ever, it is \$15! This is to encourage more people interested in the Lewis and Clark story to join us. Tell a friend about us and encourage them to join in on the camaraderie!

Send you dues to Rob using the form below so you don't miss any activities for 2007.

(NOTE: If you are not sure of your status, contact Rob for clarification. He can be reached at 509-924-4020 or at heacock1@mindspring.com.)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

*Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

*E-mail _____

**Optional - will be included with membership roster*

Chapter Membership

\$15.00 per year (Jan - Dec) for any person, family, firm, association or corporation.

Please make checks payable to:

Washington State Chapter LCTHF, Inc.

Mail to: Rob Heacock, Membership Chair

13908 E. 27th Ct

Veradale, WA 99037

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.

NOTE: If you have recently renewed your membership, thank you. Please disregard this notice.

The above dues are for the Washington State Chapter only. Bylaws recommend that Chapter members 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, Inc. P.O. Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

Washington State Chapter Events

Feb. 3, 2006 – Annual business meeting at the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma, mezzanine level. The meeting will begin at 10:00 and include officer elections and a presentation by member Tom Laidlaw.

Feb. 3, 2007 - The Governor's Lewis and Clark meeting at the Washington State Historical Society Museum, mezzanine level. All chapter members are invited to attend.

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

January 2007 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.

