

# Worthy of Notice



WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER, LCTHF

## TRAVELING THE WASHINGTON TRAIL WALLULA GAP DETOUR BY DOC WESSELIUS

**2013  
DUES:  
STILL  
ONLY  
\$15.00!**

Just a reminder to send in your 2013 dues. If your mailing or email address has changed, please fill out the form on page 7 and mail it along with your check. Your membership helps support the activities of the Washington Chapter throughout the year.

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Leaving the Corps of Discovery's camp of April 27, 1806, Captain Lewis reported, "at a distance of fifteen miles passed through a country similar to that of yesterday; the hills at the extremity of this distance again approached the river and are rocky abrupt and 300 feet high." Thus began a detour around Wallula Gap for the corps on the its homeward bound journey; leaving the northern banks of the Columbia River and travel-

ing cross-country around Wallula Gap to return to the river again.

Scant information on the detour route is recorded by the journalists of the expedition and the route is not marked on Captain Clark's

course map. Captain Lewis reported, "we ascended the hill and marched through a high plains for 9 miles when we returned to the river,". The Walla Walla Indians were not at this fishing camp but

Chief Yellepit arrived to guide the corps to his camp located up-river. Captain Lewis' account continues, "we continued our march accompanied by Yellepit and his party to the village which we found at a distance of six



Yellepit Guide Identifying the Walla Walla River

*(Continued on page 4)*

## WASHINGTON CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2013 - TACOMA WA.

The Washington Chapter of the LCTHF will hold its Annual Meeting on Feb. 9, 2013, at the Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA. The meeting will begin shortly after the museum opens at 10 a.m.

David Nicandri, former Director of the Washington State Historical Society, will be the featured speaker. He will preview the program which he will present at the 2014 LCTHF Annual Meeting.

**Elections of officers will also be held**, including the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If anyone is interested in holding office or making a nomination, please contact the election coordinator, Tim Underwood: Phone 360-748-7396; e-mail at [tljtj@q.com](mailto:tljtj@q.com); snail-mail at 128 Galaxie Road, Chehalis, WA 98532.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barb Kubik

During the mid-September 2012 meeting of the Washington State Chapter—Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, chapter members gathered at the Greenwood Memorial Terrace in Spokane, Washington. There, we placed an arrangement of red, white and blue flowers and ribbons, and a small, 15-star, 15-stripe flag on the grave of Benjamin Patrick Brierley, the great-grandson of Sgt. Patrick Gass.

Benjamin Patrick Brierley was born on February 3, 1877 to George Brierley and his wife, Rachel Maria Gass Brierley, the youngest daughter of Sgt. Patrick Gass and his wife, Maria Hamilton Gass. Rachel was just 11 months old when her mother died of complications from measles. Her 75-year old father struggled to raise the six surviving children, Benjamin, William, Sarah Anne, Annie Jane, James, and little Rachel. The younger children were “boarded out;” in return for bed, board and a modest education, the children worked for Wellsburg, [West] Virginia-area families.

It is possible Rachel named her first-born son, Benjamin Patrick Brierley, for two family members, her oldest brother, Benjamin F., and her beloved grandfather, Sgt. Patrick Gass.

According to various descendants, Benjamin Brierley and his brother Robert worked as traveling salesmen for the Chicago Copy Company of Wilmette, Illinois. The company, founded by Edward B. Thurtell and his brother Alfred, was a successful photography company. Traveling salesmen like the Brierley brothers offered families enlargements of treasured photographs, as well as retouching and general cleaning and a selection of wood frames. The brothers often returned to their parents’ home in Washington, Pennsylvania for winter holidays.

The two brothers’ work for the Chicago Copy Company may explain why there are at least six known and slightly different images of Benjamin Patrick Brierley’s great-grandfather, Patrick Gass.

According to well-known Corps of Discovery genealogist Donna Potter Phillips, in 1905, Brierley married Margaret Green; the marriage ended in divorce. Like his great-grandfather Patrick Gass, a volunteer with the post-Revolutionary War military, the Corps of Discovery, and the First Regiment Infantry during the War of 1812, Benjamin Patrick Brierley registered for the draft, prepared to travel to Europe during WWI.



On January 4, 1935 Brierley died at the Pennington Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Today, part of historic, elegant Davenport Hotel stands on the site of the Pennington Hotel. According to the death certificate, the 57-year old died of “acute alcohol poisoning.” Descendants say they were told Brierley was killed in a hit-an-run automobile accident in downtown Spokane. The funeral arrangements were made by Owen Buxton, one of Rachel Gass Brierley’s grandsons, and Benjamin’s cousins. Buxton, the son of Rachel’s daughter Sally Ann Brierley Buxton, was living and working in the Renton, Washington-area at the time of his cousin’s death.

Information for this article comes from the genealogical research of numerous descendants of Sgt. Patrick Gass, including Darlene Fassler and the Buxton and Taranik families, Donna Potter Phillips, Larry Morris, and two editors of Sgt. Patrick Gass’ journal--Carol Lynn MacGregor and Gary E. Moulton.

## IN MEMORIAM: LEE EDTL AND BOB DOERK

Good Morning Friends:

As *Worthy of Notice* goes to press this month, we have learned of the passing of two stalwart volunteers of our own Corps of Discovery.

On October 9, Leland “Lee” Edtl passed away in Longview, WA. Lee was a founder of the Washington State Chapter, and an early board member. He was also the long-time Cowlitz County representative to the now-disbanded Governor’s [Washington State] Lewis and Clark Trail Committee. Lee’s research, drawings, and expertise in the Corps of Discovery’s boats, from bullboats to keelboats to pirogues and dugout canoes, was invaluable as the Governor’s Committee worked with the state historical society and OTAK to create 58+ interpretive markers and kiosks along our state’s portion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail during the Bicentennial.

Lee was also an active volunteer with the Cowlitz County Historical Society and St. Rose de Vitero Catholic Church, where he served as a deacon at the time of his death.

Lee is survived by his wife Mary and six daughters.

On December 20, Bob Doerk, past president of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation passed away in Great Falls, MT. Bob served two terms as the Foundation’s president [1989-1991]. During Bob tenure, he strengthened the organization’s committee structure—youth and education, publishing, fund-raising, and development. With Bob’s encouragement, the Foundation published Dr. James Ronda’s essays as a *We Proceeded On* supplement, *Westering Captains*. Bob guided the Foundation’s membership in the newly-formed Partnership for the National Trails, which in 1990 was a small consortium of 17 national scenic and historic trails! Bob remained an active supporter of the story and the trail, and was a thoughtful and frequent book reviewer for *We Proceeded On*.

Bob is survived by his wife Mary of Fort Benton, MT.

Lee and Bob believed strongly in the Foundation, their local chapters, in the story and the trail, and in “building a heritage”—our heritage. As we look to 2013, let us continue to follow their lead, building that story, that trail, that heritage.

Barb Kubik

### CHAPTER OFFICERS & BOARD

President: Barb Kubik - Vancouver WA

Vice President: Steve Wang - Olympia WA

Secretary: Robert Heacock - Spokane Valley WA

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## TRAVELING THE WASHINGTON TRAIL WALLULA GAP DETOUR (CONT.)

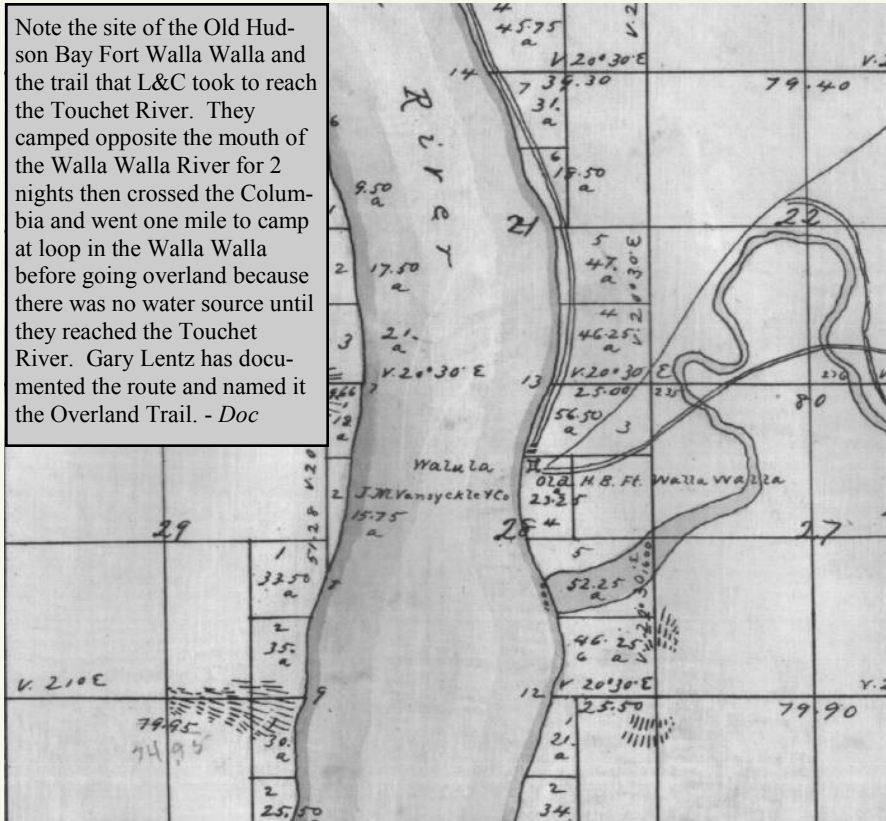
miles situated on the N. side of the river at the lower side of the low country ...”

the detour route taken over two hundred years ago by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. A long-time resi-

dent of Finley challenged my statement, “Nobody knows where the trail across the Horse Heaven Hills was.” She retorted, “The locals know where the trail was and I’ve lived up there most of my life.” It did not take much to accept a two day guided tour of the supposedly undocumented route taken by the Corps of Discovery.

The first lessons learned were to be consistent with local colloquialisms and place names. Yellepit is pronounced “You-lip-it” by Native Americans and today’s local residents. Also, Yellepit and Yellepit Station are two different places on the Columbia River. The last bit of information helped to recognize the ancient Native American trail used to reach Columbia River fishing sites. Most of the ancient trail has been obliterated by today’s agribusiness, particularly dry-land wheat farming, except in steep, difficult terrain. Without a guide having knowledge of the region’s history and topography it would be difficult to retrace the route used for centuries by Native Americans and

Note the site of the Old Hudson Bay Fort Walla Walla and the trail that L&C took to reach the Touchet River. They camped opposite the mouth of the Walla Walla River for 2 nights then crossed the Columbia and went one mile to camp at loop in the Walla Walla before going overland because there was no water source until they reached the Touchet River. Gary Lentz has documented the route and named it the Overland Trail. - Doc



1884 Cadastral map of Columbia-Walla Walla rivers confluence

Historians have also been particularly reticent about details and route of the cross-country trail taken across the Horse Heaven Hills. Gary Moulton, editor of *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, has a brief footnote on the location of the April 28th and 29th Walla Walla tribe’s campsite, “This village was in Benton County, opposite and below the mouth of the Walla Walla River, probably south of the present Yellepit way station, at a site perhaps now under Lake Wallula.”

Pure serendipity offered an opportunity to travel horseback across the Horse Heaven Hills to research



The author at Yellepit Habitat Management Unit

## WALLULA GAP DETOUR (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 4)*

taken by the expedition.

The Native American trail through today's Switzler Canyon avoided the rough terraces between the Columbia River and the escarpments of the high-plains. The trail followed a wide arroyo, also a wildlife migratory route, to the ridge overlooking the Native American village site of Yellepit. Before the impoundment of the river by McNary Dam the town site of Hover was located on the fertile river flat. Today, Yellepit Pond, created by railroad construction, dominates the geography of the Yellepit Habitat Management Unit.

The ancient trail along the ridge went down a gentle slope to the south end of the flat river bottom. It was converted to a wagon road by early pioneers; old bridge abutments can still be found in the canyon. At the north end of the flat river bottom the trail continued north after climbing to the ridge again; avoiding the basalt outcrops and terraces along the river. Just as Captain Lewis described the trail, now a cattle corridor, drops to the river again at Yellepit Station.

Fifteen large mat lodges were located at the fishing camp on an expanse of level, treeless prairie; across the river from the mouth of the Walla Walla River. The corps spent two nights at the Native American village and was entertained by 550 Walla Walla and Yakama tribal members before crossing the Columbia River and continuing overland to the junction of the Clearwater and Snake rivers.

*Allen "Doc" Wesselius is a retired veterinarian. He is also a former President and longtime member of the Washington Chapter of the LCTHF.*



**Arroyo leading to Yellepit Pond**



**Bridge abutment on old wagon road to Hover**

### CHAPTER NAME BADGES

Members of the Washington Chapter can still order name badges. The badges are of the same design as the Chapter logo. The price for one name badge is \$12.50; the price for two or more is \$10.50.

To order, please do the following:

- 1) Make checks payable to **Awards West - PrintWares, Inc**

- 2) Mail checks to:  
Tim Underwood  
128 Galaxie Rd  
Chehalis, WA 98532
- 3) Print your name the way you want it to appear on your name badge
- 4) Specify whether you want a pin back or magnetic back.

## SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2012 FIELD TRIP – SPOKANE BY ROB HEACOCK

The Spokane 2012 field trip started in Cheney at 10:00 under the watchful gaze of the larger than life plaster statue of Sacajawea, with Jean Baptist swaddled on her back. Located in the rotunda of Showalter Hall, the statue was presented to Cheney Normal School (now Eastern Washington University) by the Class of 1916. The Chapter board meeting was held at 11:00 AM which will be summarized separately.

We then traveled to Greenwood Memorial Terrace, where we were greeted by Mr. John Caskey, who provided us with

very interesting commentary about the significant historical nature and unique features of Spokane area cemeteries. We also made an offering of flowers to the grave of Ben Brierley, grandson of Sergeant Patrick Gass. Brierley died in Spokane January 4, 1935.

We then met Mr. Caskey at the 'Rock Chapel' at Fairmont Memorial Park, which has now been utilized as a flag museum. The Flag Museum is in keeping with the strong traditions of local cemeteries displaying the American flag at important occasions such as Memorial Day.

After an evening repast, we met at Spokane Falls Community College for a presentation by Barb Kubik entitled "Sah-gah-gar we a: Stories, Statues and Symbols".

Before our Sunday morning departure, we met for a tour of the Spokane House Interpretative Center at Riverside State Park. This was the site of the original fur post in the area, established in 1810 by Jacques (Jaco) Finlay at the request of David Thompson and the North West Company.

### WASHINGTON CHAPTER BOARD MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2012

Washington Chapter Board meeting minutes, September 15, 2012

The meeting commenced at 11:30 AM in the rotunda of Showalter Hall on the Eastern Washington University campus. Present for the meeting were Kim Fitzsimmons, Robert Heacock, Barb and Rennie Kubik, Nick and Kathy Giovanni, Bonnie Chew, and Don Popejoy.

The Treasurers Report was provided by Nick Giovanni, to be published separately. The Chapter brochure and website, and upcoming Heritage Days September 28/29 at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center were discussed briefly, and then Barb and Rennie

Kubik presented information on the Foundation 44th Annual meeting they attended in Illinois.

Discussion was also held on the status of the Washington Chapter hosting the Foundation 46th Annual meeting August 3-6,

2014 in Richland. A planning meeting will be scheduled soon.

The meeting was ended at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Heacock  
Secretary, Washington Chapter

### VOLUNTEERS CAN EARN A FREE DISCOVER PASS

Volunteers who work 24 hours on agency-approved projects can earn a complimentary annual pass. Three agencies - Washington State Parks, the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) have developed policies for the complimentary Discover Pass. Volunteers play a key role in keeping state managed recreation sites maintained and open. For more information, contact:

- Washington State Parks information line — (360) 902-8844.
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Volunteer Program Coordinator — (360) 902-2802.
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources — [www.dnr.wa.gov/volunteer](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/volunteer). (Follow the link to the volunteer calendar)

# MERIWETHER: AN AMERICAN EPIC

MERIWETHER, a new video game about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, has launched a Kickstarter campaign to garner the funds it needs to finish production. The game puts players in the role of Meriwether Lewis. Players will have to ford rivers, stave off hunger and thirst, protect themselves against wild animals, council with the Native American tribes, and document all of the flora and fauna unknown to Western science they come across, all while maintaining the morale of the soldiers and interpreters who comprise the Corps of Dis-



commitment to historical fidelity, with the help of detailed critique and advice from our own Barb Kubik.

Sortasoft is seeking \$35,000 on Kickstarter to help with the expense of making MERIWETHER. As of Dec. 28, more than \$22,200 has been raised; the deadline is 11:59 p.m. EST on Jan. 6, 2013. To learn more about the project,

covery.

Besides creating a fun and challenging game, Sortasoft, the company behind MERIWETHER, has made a

please visit their Kickstarter page by going to [kickstarter.com](http://kickstarter.com) and searching for "Meriwether." Alternately, you can use this direct link: <http://kck.st/112mjFE>

**THE ADVENTURES OF LEWIS & CLARK SERIES WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF WORTHY OF NOTICE**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## Chapter Membership

\$15.00 per year (Jan - Dec) for any person, family, firm, association, or corporation. Please make check 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. Please consider making supplemental donations to help support the organization.

Please mark if address has changed.

\*Optional –will be included with membership roster

**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: \$49.00 per year, Family: \$65.00 per year. Membership includes the quarterly magazine WE PROCEEDED ON. Submit dues to LCTHF, inc. P.O. box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**January 6:** Deadline for MERIWETHER fund-raising campaign (see page 7).

**January 19 - 20:** “Wintering Over” living history event, Fort Clatsop, Lewis and Clark National Historic Park, Astoria, OR.

**February 9:** WA Chapter Annual Meeting, election and board meeting, Tacoma (see page 1).

**April 10:** Deadline to submit nominations for LCTHF Foundation Awards. For more information: [www.lewisandclark.org/LCTHF2/Foundation\\_Awards.html](http://www.lewisandclark.org/LCTHF2/Foundation_Awards.html).

**May 25 - 27 (Memorial Day weekend):** Tri Chapter meeting and Camas Festival on Weippe Prairie (more information to follow in the Spring issue of *Worthy of Notice*).

**July 29-August 1:** 45th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, North Dakota.

**August 3 -6, 2014:** 46th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Tri-Cities, Washington. (Much more information to follow).

Visit our Washington Chapter website...[www.wa-lcthf.org](http://www.wa-lcthf.org)

**Washington State Chapter  
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation  
19033 102nd Ave SE  
Renton WA 98055**

**January 2013 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.