

Fort Southwest Point Regional Meeting

The FSWP Regional Meeting of the LCTHF was held October 17-19, 2014 in Kingston, TN. This was the first meeting of the Foundation or any of its Chapters at this important Eastern Legacy site. There were 47 Foundation members from 11 chapters representing 17 states present. The meeting was sponsored by the Carolina, Meriwether Lewis and Ohio River Chapters.

The goals of the meeting were to review the settlement of east Tennessee, study the connection of FSWP and its soldiers to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and examine George Drouillard's pre-expedition years and his recruitment of the FSWP soldiers. Signage was dedicated at FSWP that explains these events, honors these soldiers and marks the connection of FSWP to the Lewis and Clark story.



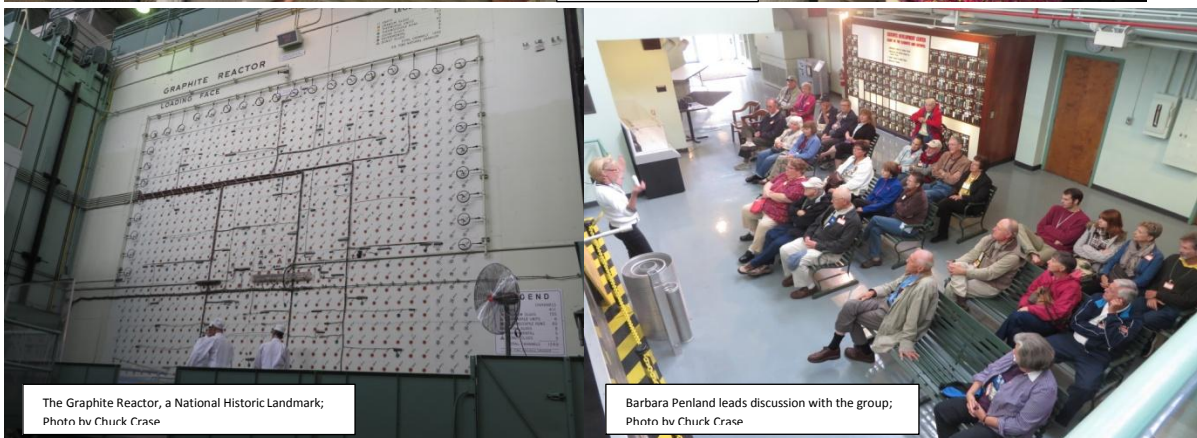
Fort Southwest Point and Museum-Visitors Center; Photo by Chuck Crase

Friday's activities started with a caravan to Oak Ridge, TN for a tour of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Barbara Penland, Tour Director, led the group on tours of the National Center of Computational Sciences, the world's first Graphite Reactor, and the Spallation Neutron Source.



Barbara Penland discusses the Computer Center, the 2nd largest in world after China; Photo by Chuck Crase

Attentive Lewis and Clarkers; Photo by Chuck Crase



The Graphite Reactor, a National Historic Landmark; Photo by Chuck Crase

Barbara Penland leads discussion with the group; Photo by Chuck Crase



A motion physicist discusses the Spallation Neutron Source and its research applications.; Photos by Chuck Crase

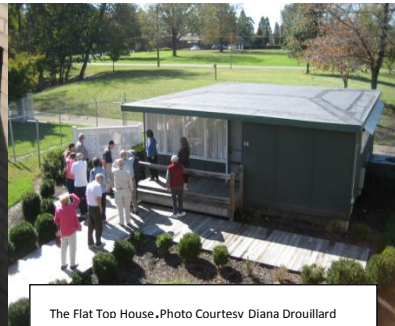
The pre-meeting tours continued Friday afternoon at the American Museum of Science and Energy. The highlight of this tour was the “Secret City-The Oak Ridge Story”. This section tells the story of the construction of the ORNL facilities and the city of Oak Ridge from the ground up. This was told using a short film, and a large display of period photos, snapshots, diagrams and some artifacts. A basic family home used in Oak Ridge is reconstructed on site. ORNL was originally named the Clinton Engineering Works to keep the intent of the project a secret.



American Museum of Science & Energy, Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard



The Secret City, Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard



The Flat Too House, Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard

Friday evening was at the Kingston Community Center. After a buffet catfish dinner, the Regional Meeting got underway. Mike Loesch, ORC, presented an update on the Trail Stewardship Grant project to install Eastern Legacy Signage. Signs are being erected along the river and the Eastern Legacy sites. The signs were on display and handouts summarizing the program were passed out to each attendee. Robert Bailey, Roane County Historian, then presented the introductory lecture on the history of Kingston, Roane County and FSWP. Robert’s talk oriented the group to FSWP and local history in preparation for the lectures and activities throughout the meeting.



Mike Loesch, Ohio River Chapter; Photo by Chuck Crase



Eastern Legacy Signage, Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard.



Robert Bailey, Roane County Heritage Commission; Photo by Chuck Crase



Skip Jackson, ORC, provides flags and opening ceremony; Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard.



Catfish Buffet Dinner Friday; Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard.

Chuck Crase, ORC, started the morning by updating the group on schedule changes and the program plan for the day. Brian Thompson, ORC, started the Saturday morning lectures with a discussion of the early settlement movement from the east coast inland and across the mountains. Brian used a power point presentation of mostly maps to illustrate the population shift, the waterways and trails they used, and the interconnection of these trails. He also outlined the reasons for the changing population migration then outlined the locations of the major Indian Nations. Trent Strickland, Carolina Chapter, then presented his paper entitled "Fort Southwest Point's Link to The Lewis and Clark Expedition". Trent also discussed the soldiers recruited from FSWP for the Expedition. Trent's paper is published in the November 4, 2014 issue of "We Proceed On" for everyone to read. Don Lawrence, Fort Agent and a member of the State Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama, then discussed the Cherokee Indian culture, traditions, history and interactions with the white settlers. This brought the group up to the Dunkin Donut coffee break.



Chuck Crase, ORC
Courtesy Diana Drouillard



Brian Thompson, ORC;
Photo by Chuck Crase



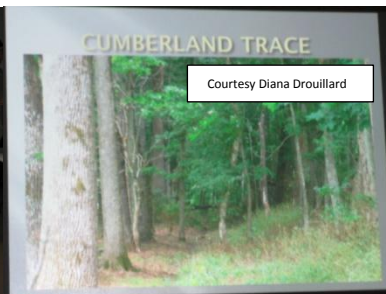
Trent Strickland, Carolina Chapter
Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard



Don Lawrence,
By Diana Drouillard



By Diana Drouillard

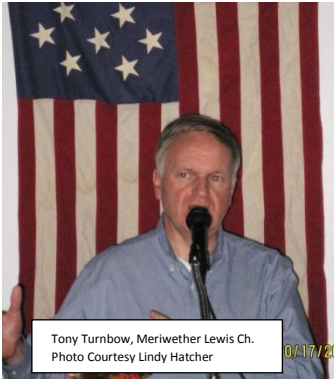


Courtesy Diana Drouillard



Ed Scholl, as "Pvt Hugh Hall"
By Diana Drouillard

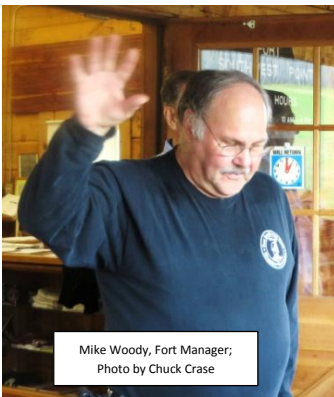
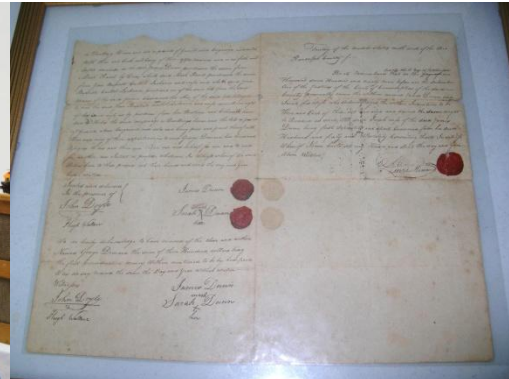
The morning presentations continued with Tony Turnbow, Meriwether Lewis Chapter, updating the group on activities along the Natchez Trace, at Grinder's Stand and the Meriwether Lewis Interpretive Center. Paul Drouillard, a Drouillard descendent and family genealogist, gave an impromptu talk on George Drouillard's pre-expedition years. Paul then took questions from the group and provided many personal observations about the Expedition's Interpreter and Hunter. Paul also displayed part of his George Drouillard artifact collection which he discussed at length. Mike Woody, Fort Manager, then closed the lecture series by welcoming everyone to FSWP for the afternoon's activities.



Tony Turnbow, Meriwether Lewis Ch.
Photo Courtesy Lindy Hatcher



Paul Drouillard, Drouillard Descendent;
Photo by Chuck Crase



Mike Woody, Fort Manager;
Photo by Chuck Crase



Skip Jackson, Ohio River Chapter,
Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard



Ellen Drouillard Boruff, Paul Drouillard, Diana Drouillard, Drouillard Descendants
Photo Courtesy Diana Drouillard

After a buffet lunch at the Community Center, the Regional Meeting continued at FSWP. Jerry and Janice Wilson led a group of walkers on a path through Kingston City Park along the Clinch River (now Watts Bar Lake) to FSWP on the route George Drouillard would have taken 1803 to gather the recruits.



View looking north from FSWP front gate over Clinch River, now Watts Bar Lake, towards Kingston, TN with hiking trail to right of lake. Photo by Chuck Crase



Ed Scholl, Trent Strickland, and Skip Jackson with Poster from Carolina Chapter's Trail Stewardship Grant Project. Photo by Chuck Crase

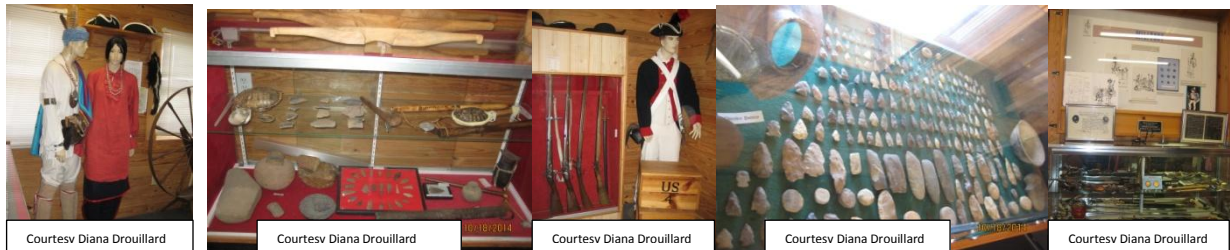


Alice Crase, ORC, staffing the Registration Desk; Photo by Chuck Crase

Julia Teuschler with the Regional Meeting Tee Shirt; Photo by Chuck Crase

Ed Scholl, Mayor Troy Beets, and the lovely ladies from the Avery Trace DAR; Photo by Diana Drouillard

The afternoon was spent touring FSWP, the Museum-Visitors Center and the Cherokee Cabin. Mike Woody and Don Lawrence were at the museum to discuss the artifacts collected during the three archeological excavations at the site. They also reviewed the historical displays telling the history of FSWP. Videos on the history of FSWP were playing in the Visitors Center. Members enjoyed self-guided walking tours of the fort. The Ladies of the Avery Trace DAR were present in period dress and were a colorful addition to the afternoon's activities.



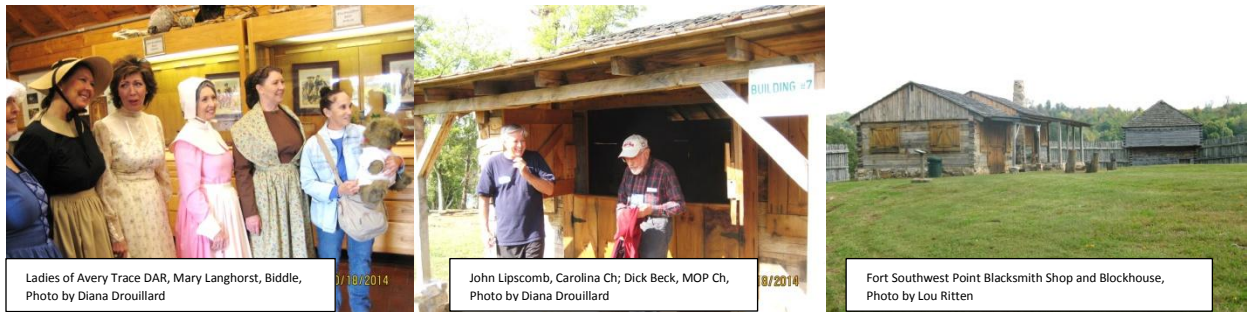
Courtesy Diana Drouillard

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Courtesy Diana Drouillard



Ladies of Avery Trace DAR, Mary Langhorst, Biddle, Photo by Diana Drouillard

John Lipscomb, Carolina Ch; Dick Beck, MOP Ch, Photo by Diana Drouillard

Fort Southwest Point Blacksmith Shop and Blockhouse, Photo by Lou Ritten



Fort Southwest Point Headquarters Building, Photo by Lou Ritten

Fort Southwest Point, South Palisades, Blockhouse, Headquarters, Photo by Lou Ritten

Fort Southwest Point Outdoor Kitchen, Clay Oven, Photo by Lou Ritten

Mayor Troy Beets gave an interesting perspective of FSWP at the dedication ceremony by pointing out that initial plans were to flatten the site for a sports complex. Instead, earth movers uncovered the fort's foundation. This finding led to the archeological studies, the eventual discovery of the original fort's foundation, the collection of artifacts, and the site preservation and reconstruction seen to date. The Mayor introduced Glen Collins, a veteran and a Hugh Hall descendent, who gave a most interesting and light hearted synopsis of his ancestor's exploits and adventures in the Corps. Mayor Beets then surprised everyone by proclaiming Saturday "Lewis and Clark Day" in Kingston. Chuck Crase accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Foundation.



Mayor Beets speaking at Dedication Ceremony, Photo by Lou Ritten

Chuck Crase accepts "Lewis and Clark Day" proclamation from Mayor Troy Beets, Photo by Diana Drouillard

Glen Collins, Mayor Beets, Rev. Larry Bolden, Photo by Diana Drouillard

Trent Strickland then led the dedication ceremony. The ceremony was to honor the recruits from FSWP as US Army Veterans and to dedicate signage obtained by the Carolina Chapter with a Trail Stewardship Grant. Three separate panels of signage were constructed, each telling a different story. One tells the history of FSWP, one describes the soldiers recruited from FSWP for Expedition, and one describes the connection and significance of FSWP to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. FSWP and the George Drouillard Recruiting Trail are now officially marked and dedicated as a part of the Eastern Legacy of the Lewis and Clark story. The FSWP Regional Meeting continues the legacy of the LCTHF; "Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail."



Chuck, Trent, Mayor Beets, Rev. Bolden at Dedication Ceremony, Photo by Lou Ritten

Visitors Center Signage; Photo by Chuck Crase

Signage at Fort entrance; Photo by Chuck Crase

Mike Loesch then presented Mike Woody, Fort Agent, signage to mark FSWP as a Lewis and Clark historic site. Mike and Page Cruz worked through the Ohio River Chapter to obtain a Trail Stewardship Grant for this signage project. Reverend Larry Bolden then gave the closing prayer.



Mike Loesch presents signage to Mike Woody, Fort Manager; Photo by Diana Drouillard

Mayor Beets, Mike Loesch, Mike Woody, Don Lawrence; Photo by Diana Drouillard

Notice Lewis and Clark signage displayed to left of entrance to FSWP Visitors Center; Photo by Chuck Crase



Saturday evening's program started with buffet dinner at the Community Center. Michael Petty, President, National DC Chapter, then gave a presentation of other non-Lewis and Clark historic sites along the Eastern Legacy Trail. Skip Jackson gave a plea for all Chapters to consider contributing to the reconstruction of FSWP through the "Buy a Log" project.



Sunday morning was reserved for chapter meetings. Afterwards, most of the group drove to Fort Loudoun on the Little Tennessee River. The group had a guided tour with a park ranger in a period army uniform. Fort Loudoun, which is completely reconstructed over the original site, was an important site during the French-Indian Wars. Some members also toured the nearby Sequoyah Birthplace Museum. Sequoyah was noted for developing the Cherokee alphabet. The museum has an array of artifacts which are displayed to tell the history of the Cherokee Indians who lived and thrived for centuries in the Little Tennessee River Valley.

Now, the long drive home.

