

Carolina Chapter Newsletter

A Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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November 2015

President's Note

There is no better time to be in the North Carolina mountains than late October when the fall leaves are at their most beautiful. Thus, our October meeting in Asheville had the perfect setting for a meeting that highlighted the William Bartram Trail and included a visit from the Executive Director of the LCTHF. Kudos to chapter member Carol Arnold for organizing an outstanding meeting at which eleven chapter members were present, along with an equal number of interested visitors. More on the meeting later in this newsletter.

As we approach a new year, I encourage all chapter members to think about the following: first, show your support for the Carolina Chapter by paying your yearly dues; second, join and support the national organization which needs your help to stay strong; and finally, think about programs and activities that our chapter can hold and carry out next year. Please share your suggestions with me as we plan for 2016.

Our 2016 winter meeting is planned for March 5, and the national meeting will be held in July in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, within driving distance for most of us. Chapter member Tom Gasque is planning the March 5 meeting.

I wish a very happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to a special group of people - Carolina Chapter members.

Trent Strickland, President



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FALL MEETING

The October 24-25 fall meeting was held in Asheville, N.C., and included a presentation on William Bartram, a guided walk at the N. C. Arboretum, and a visit to the Smith McDowell House Museum. In addition, Ms. Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, traveled from Great Falls, Montana to the meeting and gave an update on all the Foundation news at the national level.

Dr. Dan Patillo, Professor Emeritus of Western Carolina University and a noted expert on William Bartram, presented a program on William Bartram's botanical achievements and how his work was similar to that of Meriwether Lewis. The title of Dr. Patillo's presentation was "Lone Bartram Travels in the Southwest Is Similar to Lewis' Into New Territory."

On Sunday afternoon chapter members toured the Smith McDowell House Museum located on the campus of Asheville Buncombe Community College. The Museum was host to an exhibition on William Bartram entitled "Bartram's Journey: The 1775 Journey of William Bartram to Western North Carolina." Chapter members were treated to a surprise visit by Dr. Patillo who gave a short talk/demonstration on how plant specimens were preserved. October 25th being Dr. Patillo's birthday, chapter members helped him celebrate over refreshments.

Chapter member Carol Arnold planned and took care of all the details for what turned out to be an excellent meeting.

From the Journals

November 15, 1805

About 3 o'clock the wind lulled, and the river became calm, I had the canoes loaded in great haste and Set Out, from this dismal nitich where we have been confined for 6 days passed, without the possibility of proceeding on, returning to a better Situation, or get out to hunt, Scerce of Provisions, and torents of rain poreing on us all the time— proceeded on passed the blustering point below which I found a butifull Sand beech thro which runs a Small *river from the hills* below the mouth of this Stream is a *village* of 36 houses uninhabited by anything except flees, here I met G. Shannon and 5 Indians. Shannon informed me that he met Capn. Lewis at an Indian Hut about 10 miles below who had Sent him back to meet me, he also told me the Indians were thievish, as the night before they had Stolen both his and Willards rifles from under their heads, that they Set out on their return and had not proceeded far up the beech before they met Capt Lewis, whose arival was at a timely moment and alarmed the Indians So that they instantly produced the Guns—I told those Indians who accompanied Shannon that they Should not Come near us, and if any one of their nation Stold anything from us, I would have him Shot, which they understoot verry well. as the tide was Comeing and the Seas became verry high imediately from the *Ocian* I landed and formed a camp on the highest Spot I could find between the hight of the tides, and the Slashers in a Small bottom this I could plainly See would be the extent of our journey by water, as the waves were too high at any Stage for our Canoes to proceed any further down.

The Lewis and Clark Herbarium

By Trent Strickland

The recent chapter meeting in Asheville with its focus on William Bartram led me to take a look at the history of the Lewis and Clark Herbarium or plant collection. Among the many achievements of the expedition is the Herbarium, which can be found today in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; London, England; and Charleston, South Carolina. One can easily wonder why the surviving plant specimens of the expedition are in three locations. Therein lies a most interesting tale of what happened to the specimens after they were brought back East in 1805 and 1806.

First, we must give credit to the man most responsible for collecting and preserving the plants. That person is Meriwether Lewis. In fact, William Clark is credited with collecting only one of the more than 200 plants in the collection. According to Gary Moulton, Lewis was a natural, blessed with the qualities most important in a naturalist. Especially impressive, states Moulton, are Lewis' botanical writings.

In the spring of 1805 the keelboat under the command of Corporal Richard Warfington returned to St. Louis from Fort Mandan with a priceless cargo of specimens, artifacts, and written descriptions of what had been observed and learned during the prior year. More than 60 plant specimens were part of the keelboat cargo and, along with the other materials, reached the nation's capital in August. Later in the year President Jefferson turned over the plants to the American Philosophical Society (APS) in Philadelphia where they were placed in the care of the noted botanist, Benjamin Smith Barton. Soon after being received by the APS and Barton, 30 of the specimens were lost.

Meanwhile, Lewis and Clark were moving westward and collecting plant specimens as they proceeded on. Plants collected from Fort Mandan to the falls of the Missouri were cached as was necessary because of the long portage required to move upriver past the falls. The same is true for the plants collected from the falls of the Missouri to Camp Fortunate. Sadly, both of these caches were damaged and the plant specimens lost creating a huge gap in the expedition's plant collection.

Lewis continued to collect plants as the expedition explored to the Pacific and returned to St. Louis in 1806. He brought these plants with him as he traveled to Philadelphia seeking help with all the scientific data he had collected. Lewis turned to Benja-

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The Lewis & Clark Herbarium - continued

min Smith Barton for assistance with the plant collection. Because of poor health or lack of interest, Barton was unable to help Lewis who then turned to a young German botanist named Frederick Pursh who had come to the United States in 1799 and had worked for Barton. Lewis turned over the entire collection to Pursh paying him in advance to prepare drawings and to assist in arranging the collection. Pursh worked on the collection for the next year but never had further contact with Lewis.

In 1809, before moving to New York, Pursh turned over the collection to Bernard McMahon, a Philadelphia seed merchant and gardener. Also in this year, Lewis died in Tennessee on his way back to Washington from St. Louis.

In 1811 Pursh moved to London, England, and began working for one of the world's leading botanical collectors, Aylmer Bourke Lambert. Pursh secretly took with him to England some of the expedition's plant collection.

Back in Philadelphia, William Clark had assumed the task of preparing and publishing the expedition's journals and related materials (i.e., plant collection). He located the plant specimens still held by McMahon and forwarded them to Barton for study. Barton was never able to prepare the plant collection for publication and, consequently, a planned third volume of the expedition's journals and materials (including drawings and descriptions of the plants) was never published.

But, maybe that is not the full truth. For you see in 1814, after working in A. B. Lambert's herbarium for several years, Frederick Pursh completed a book entitled Flora of North America. Push's book was published in England in 1814 and included 130 plants from the Lewis and Clark expedition. Included also were 24 engravings of 27 plants in his book, 13 of which are associated with the Lewis and Clark expedition. Flora of North America was a significant early effort to name and describe plants of western North America.

1814 was also the year that a two-volume Nicholas Biddle ghostwritten edition of the journals was finally published in the United States. It is interesting to note that the hoped-for botany volume that was never added to the Biddle edition was published in England while the United States and England were at war.

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The Lewis & Clark Herbarium - continued

So, in 1814 the Lewis and Clark plant specimens were in London, England, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It appears that in 1818, Nicholas Biddle placed the expedition journals with the American Philosophical Society (APS) and about that time the plant specimens were also given to the APS by Biddle, Clark or Barton.

Pursh's Lewis and Clark plant specimens in London became part of A. B. Lambert's large collection. Lambert devoted his life to botany and at his death in 1842 had a collection from all over the world that numbered about 50,000 items. Lambert had spent all of his money on his plant collection and at his death left no provision for the care of his herbarium. In 1842, Lambert's huge collection was auctioned off in a three-day sale at his home in London. Included in the auction were the Lewis and Clark plants.

At the sale was a young American named Edward Tuckerman who was on his first trip to Europe. Tuckerman had earned degrees in law and divinity but had a greater interest in botany. Late in the day and after many bidders had left (and for a small amount of money), Tuckerman purchased two lots of botanical materials one of which contained what has been described as "the jewel in the crown" for Lewis and Clark enthusiasts. Lot number 256 contained 150 items that Pursh had carried from Philadelphia to London. Tuckerman took the plant collection and materials back to the United States and eventually became a professor at Amherst College. In 1856 Tuckerman donated the Lewis and Clark plant specimens and material to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

But, at the 1842 London auction, Tuckerman did not purchase all of the Lewis and Clark materials that were auctioned. Lot number 262 contained Pursh's herbarium of mostly North American Plants that eventually ended up in the Kew Gardens or Royal Botanic Gardens, as it is officially known. The very large Kew Gardens is today considered to be the premier botanical institution in the world. In the 1950s a study of Pursh's work identified 11 specimens at Kew from the Lewis and Clark collection.

Back in Philadelphia the Lewis items given to the American Philosophical Society in the early 1800s were largely forgotten until a botanist, Thomas Meehan, from the Academy of Natural Science, found the items stored away, probably untouched for almost a century and partially damaged by beetles. Meehan convinced the APS to send the plants to the Academy of Natural Sciences for proper care. When this was done, the Lewis items joined the items donated by Tuckerman and the expedition collection was almost back to what it was when Lewis passed it on to Pursh in 1807.

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The Lewis & Clark Herbarium - continued

Recently, an expedition specimen was discovered in the Charleston Museum, Charleston, South Carolina. The specimen, *Symphoricarpos albus* (no. 165), was identified as one of the missing Pursh plants. The plant specimen came from the collection of Stephen Elliott who was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, and graduated from Yale in 1791. Elliott, an avid collector, likely acquired the plant specimen while traveling in Pennsylvania in 1808.

Today there are 239 plant specimens in the Lewis and Clark Herbarium at three locations. Two hundred and twenty-seven are at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Eleven items are at the Kew Gardens in London and one item is at the Charleston Museum, Charleston, South Carolina.

(The above is an attempt to share with chapter members some of what I learned about the expedition plant collection. The sources are Gary Moulton's Introduction to Volume 12 - Herbarium volume of The Definitive Journals of Lewis & Clark - Volume 12 and H. Wayne Phillips' book Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I encourage you to look to Moulton's Introduction to Volume 12 for the full story of the Lewis and Clark Herbarium.)



Ohio River Chapter President Chuck Crase discusses the Wilderness Road at the Levi Jackson Family Cemetery, near London, Kentucky. See Tom Gasque's article on the next page for details.

The Wilderness Road

By Tom Gasque

On October 2-4, 2015, Alice and I joined eighteen members of the Ohio River Chapter for its fall meeting in Berea, Kentucky. The main focus of the meeting was the Wilderness Road, which ran from western Virginia to central Kentucky and was the main land route between the East and the rapidly growing settlements in both Kentucky and Tennessee.

Those who had attended the 2010 regional meeting in Cumberland Gap saw that portion of the road that crossed the Appalachian Range. Once past the Gap, the road divided, one route going south along the Cumberland River to Nashville, the other north toward Lexington. Near present-day Mt. Vernon, Kentucky, the road forked again, one road leading to Louisville to the west and the other to Boonesborough, on the Kentucky River to the east.

It is known that both Meriwether Lewis and William Clark used this road when they traveled between St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

Daniel Boone first blazed a trail through the mountains in 1775. Until the 1790s, the trail was passable only on foot or horseback. Even so, thousands of settlers used the trail. By 1796, the trail had been improved so that wagons could make the trip.

Today, modern highways follow either on or close to the Wilderness Road. In central Kentucky, portions of the old road, looking like abandoned country roads, can still be seen. Our group traveled the area between London, Kentucky, just north of the Laurel River, and Fort Boonesborough, on the banks of the Kentucky. Berea is about in the middle of this route.

First, though, on Friday afternoon, our group had a tour of Berea College, a liberal arts college of some 1,600 students, founded in 1855 to educate young people from the Appalachian region. The students pay no tuition, but all work at a variety of jobs, including at the fine old Boone Tavern Hotel, where we met and stayed. Among the jobs are mountain-based crafts, which are sold all over the world. We visited the well-equipped wood shop, the broom shop, and the weaving room, where students were hard at work.

On Friday evening, after dinner in the hotel dining room, we watched an excellent video, "Daniel Boone and the Opening of the American West," written and narrated by Kent Masterson Brown. The story of Boone and his explorations was told through actors representing Boone, his family, his friends, and his enemies.

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The Wilderness Road – continued

On Saturday, led by Chapter President Chuck Crase, we drove south to begin our exploration at the Levi Jackson Wilderness Road State Park. Levi Jackson had arrived in this area in 1802 with his partner John Freeman and claimed a huge tract of land awarded to Freeman for his service in the Revolutionary War. They built an inn and tavern to serve travelers heading west. It is likely that Lewis and Clark stayed there. In 1931, descendants of Jackson and Freeman donated about 900 acres to create a state park. Members of the Jackson family are buried in a cemetery close to the Wilderness Road. Within the park is another cemetery with the remains of a party of fourteen families massacred by Indians in 1786.

Our route took us along several highways, including U.S. 25, which closely follow the old road, with frequent stops to read signs marking the trail. Passing back through Berea, we stopped for lunch and then headed toward Fort Boonesborough, another state park. In 1775, Daniel Boone established a fort and town here and within the year there were twenty-six houses and four blockhouses. Little remains today other than a stone enclosure marking the site, but nearby is a full-scale reconstruction of the fort with structures and implements of the period. The park also includes a number of campsites. We looked at the outside of the fort but since our time was limited, we didn't go inside.

After dinner, again at the Boone Tavern Hotel, the chapter held a business meeting. Their next meeting will be in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in March 2016. After breakfast on Sunday, we said our goodbyes and headed for our home in flood-drenched Columbia, S.C.; fortunately, we did not suffer any damage.

Lewis & Clark HBO Series Shuts Down Production

On August 3 HBO stopped production of the highly anticipated six-hour miniseries *Lewis and Clark*. The series was to star Casey Affleck as Lewis and Matthias Schoenaerts as Clark. Executive Producers include Tom Hanks and Brad Pitt.

The reasons for the shutdown included both internal and external factors. The series was being filmed in Calgary, where poor weather and nearby forest fires led to production problems. In addition, Director John Curran and Director of Photography Rob Hardy were fired when production shutdown due to creative differences.

HBO says it plans to resume production in 2016 or 2017, but the series is currently without a director. The availability of some of the actors for next year is also unknown, so there are currently more questions than answers as to when and if the series will be filmed.

Calendar of Events

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEWIS & CLARK?

FALL MEETING

The next Carolina Chapter meeting is scheduled for March, 2015 in Salisbury. Tom Gasque is presenting the program, and directions are at the right.

OTHER MEETING NOTES

The 2016 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Harper's Ferry, WV on July 24-27, 2016. See www.lewisandclark.org for details. Available rooms at the conference hotel are filling rapidly. You may reserve a room by calling The Quality Hotel and Conference Center at (304) 535-6302.

Swap and Share

If you have a Lewis and Clark book or item you would like to share with other chapter members, please bring it to the October meeting.

Membership Dues

Members are reminded to please pay their yearly dues, which are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. You can bring your payment to the next meeting, you can mail your dues to our Treasurer, Jim Hendrix, at P.O. Box 2094, Cashiers, NC. 28717, or you can mail them to Trent Strickland, 306 McLean Street. Hamlet. NC. 28145.

Directions to Ryan's in Salisbury

The March 5 meeting will be held at Ryan's in Salisbury. Information and directions are as follows:

Ryan's
730 Jake Alexander Blvd S
Salisbury, NC 28147
(704) 639-1811

From I-85 North:

Take Exit 75 Jake Alexander Boulevard/Highway 601 North. At the top of the ramp turn left. Ryan's Steakhouse & Buffet will be on your right, immediately after Waffle House and a gas station.

From I-85 South:

Take Exit 75 Jake Alexander Boulevard/Highway 601 North. At the top of the ramp turn right. Ryan's Steakhouse & Buffet will be on your right, immediately after Waffle House and a gas station.

Things to Do in Salisbury

The North Carolina Transportation Museum is located less than 7 miles and 10 minutes from Ryan's. The museum is open on Saturdays in March from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Go to the museum's website for more information.

The historic Hall House is also open beginning March 1 for Saturday afternoon tours.

This newsletter was produced by the Carolina Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. To submit or suggest articles for upcoming issues, please contact Russ Eagle at RussEagle@mac.com. Digital photos for publication are welcome as well.

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Russ Eagle: Newsletter Editor

