

On The Ohio.....

The Ohio River Chapter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

www.lewisandclark.org

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"on the river where the journey began"

Merimether Lemie Wm Clark

Presidents Message 2020 Fall

I hope that everyone is doing well and remains healthy as we all continue to deal with this COVID-19 pandemic. I have not heard of anyone in the chapter that has contacted the virus. That is very good. I want to encourage everyone to continue to follow CDC guidelines to protect yourself and those close to you from this virus. As we are waiting for a vaccine and a treatment protocol for the virus, we must learn to live with COVID-19. It is not hard. It is not rocket science. It simply requires self-discipline and the compulsion to wear a face covering, socially distance, wash your hands frequently and avoid crowds and crowded places. Assume that everyone you come in contact with has the virus, then follow the CDC COVID-19 guidelines, and you will be protecting yourself and those close to you.

I certainly regret that we have not been able to have a face to face chapter meeting since the start of the shelter in place restrictions in early March. The chapter did have two meetings in this past year, "The Handshake" event October 2019 and the meeting with LCTHF President Lou Ritten in February 2020. Both of these meetings were well attended and very successful. Hopefully, we will be able to resume in person meetings next year.

Alice and I have spent a number of days revisiting L&C sites in our local area. I have included an update summary of some of these sites in this newsletter. I will continue to offer updates on our tours in subsequent newsletters. I invite each of you to write a brief article about L&C sites you have visited or interesting activities you have experienced recently, attach some pictures, and submit the finished product to Richard Hennings

(onthio03@gmail.com) to include in our next OTO. It will make for interesting reading and will help to keep us connected during this pandemic.

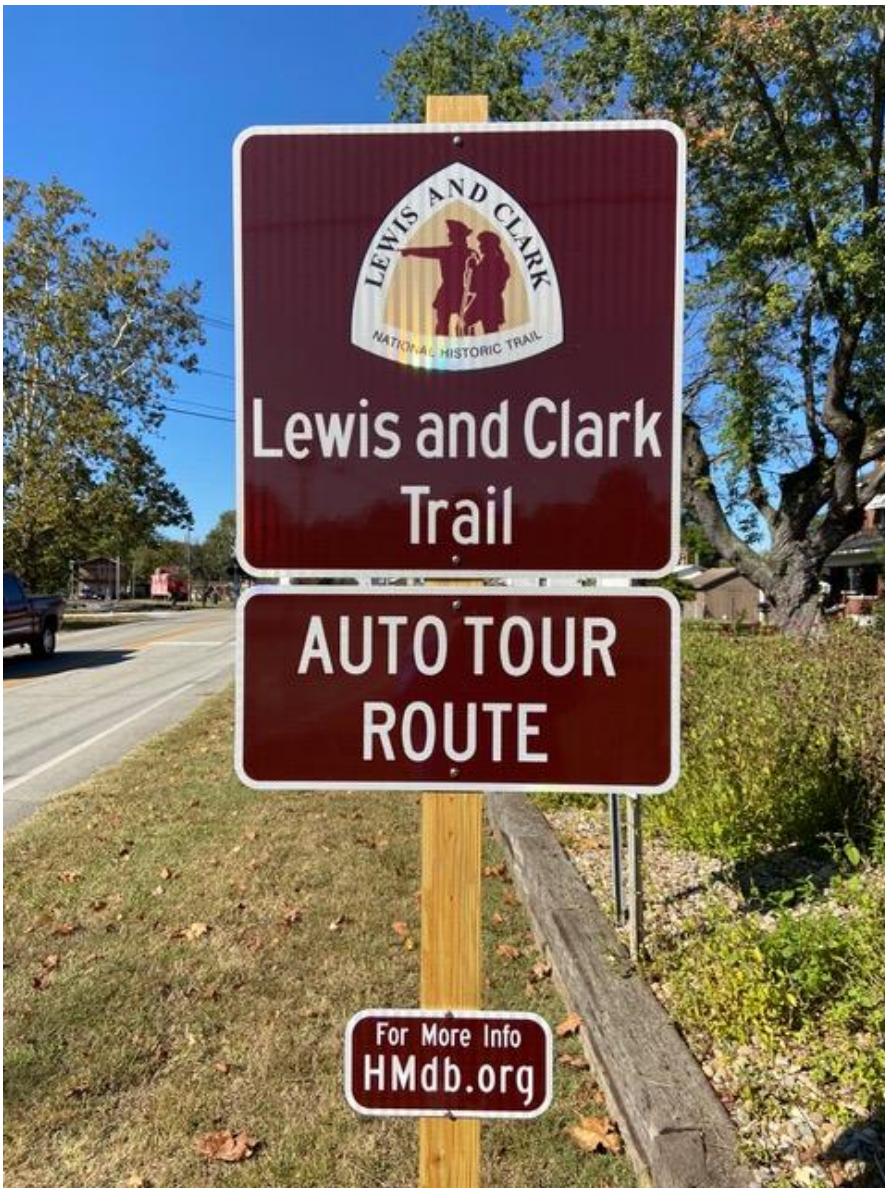
I still have some L&C logo face masks for sale. They are \$8.00 each. Let me know by email, afcecrase@roadrunner.com, if you want one.

Submitted by Chuck Crase

10/18/2020

WEST POINT, KENTUCKY

Alice and I visited West Point, KY recently and were surprised to be greeted by this brand new “LCNHT Auto Tour Route” sign. It just jumps out and grabs your attention. It looks fantastic. We have revisited several L&C sites recently and this is the first site with the new sign.





The staff at the Museum said that they applied early for this sign and they think it is the first installed in Kentucky.

Our first stop was at the West Point History Museum. Monie Matthews has been serving as the director for the last four years and has supervised a renovation and reorganization of displays. Their L&C display is centered around their bicentennial experiences and is very well done for a small museum. The Museum also has displays on the Civil War, World War I, Camp Knox which later became Fort Knox. Fort Duffield, constructed by General Sherman, has a nice display the original site with earthen fortifications that are still intact.



There are also photos and displays on the history of West Point, the historic homes and buildings, the Louisville to Nashville Turnpike, the Stage Coach line that was later replaced by the L&N Railroad and many other interesting bits of local history, all very interesting. West Point got its name from the fact that it was the western most outpost in the early settlement years of Kentucky.

Much of the history of West Point lies along the riverfront along Elm Street. West Point was basically a shipping port during its early years. Early settlers, including Thomas Lincoln (the President's father), sent mostly agricultural products down river to New Orleans. Most of the commerce centered around farming produce, like tobacco, whiskey, and grains. There are numerous historical markers along Elm Street which relate this history. These markers pay tribute to the L&C Expedition, John Shields, an 1899 Sears and Roebuck House, the railroad bridge, Morgan's Raiders, Pearman's Settlement 1776, and a Pioneer Cemetery. In the greater West Point area there are over Thirty Historical Markers.



These Historical Markers are all very interesting and help in interpretation of local history.

In addition to the L&C and Shields history there is another L&C connection. There are two buildings that were present when L&C brought their flotilla down the Ohio River in 1803. They are the James Young Brick house, 1797, and Young's Inn, 1797. Both buildings are still in use today. It is very likely that L&C were in these buildings during their stop here. Local historians think that L&C were in West Point two nights. They also think that John Shields and the Fields brothers were picked up at this West Point stop. The historians point out that the Fields family lived just across the Salt River from West Point at the time.



Fields Family lived just across the Salt River from West Point at that time.

I still believe that West Point would make an excellent chapter meeting and am hopeful that we can schedule that for late next summer. A nice weekend meeting would start with a Friday morning outing to the John Shields gravesite in the Little Flock Cemetery near Elizabeth, IN. A tour of the Patton Museum at Fort Knox would take place Friday afternoon. Saturday would be spent in West Point with a guided tour led by the Museum Director in the morning, picnic lunch at the riverside park, and a trip to Fort Duffield in the afternoon. The Chapter Meeting could be outdoors if weather permits or alternatively in the James Young House. Lodging would be in Muldraugh or Brandenburg. West Point is an interesting little river town and I believe everyone would have an enjoyable time.

Submitted by Chuck Crase, ORC-President

10/08/2020

From the Journals

Sept 17

The morning was foggy but being informed by my pilot that we had good water for several miles I ventured to set out before the fog disappeared; came on seven miles to the old Town Bar which being a handsome clean place for the purpose I determined to spend the day and to open & dry my goods which I had found were wet by the rain on the 15th notwithstanding I had them secured with my oilcloths and a common-tent which I had as well as it was possible and the canoes frequently bailed in the course of the day and night I found on opening the goods that many of the articles were much injured; particularly the articles of iron, which were rusted very much my guns, tomahawks, & knives were of this class; I caused them to be oiled and exposed to the sun the clothing of every description also was opened and aired, we busily employed in this business all hands, from ten in the morning untill sun setting, when I caused the canoes to be reloaded, having taken the precaution to put up all the articles that would admit of that mode of packing to be put in bags of oil-cloth which I had provided for that purpose and again returned to their several casks, trunks, and boxes—

my biscuit was much injured I had it picked and put up in these bags—this work kept so busy that I ate not any thing untill after dark, being determined to have every thing in readiness for an early start in the morning; the evening was calm tho' the wind had blown extremely hard up the river all day— It is somewhat remarkable that the wind on this river, from much observation of my own, and the concurrent observation

of those who inhabit it's banks, blows or sets up against it's courent four days out of five during the course of the whole year; it will readily be conceived how much this circumstance will aid the navigation of the river— when the Ohio is in it's present low state, between the riffles and in many places for several miles together there is no preceptable courent, the whole surface being perfectly dead or taking the direction only which the wind may chance to give it, this makes the passage down this stream more difficult than would at first view be imageoned, when it is remembered also that the wind so frequently sets up the river the way the traveler makes in descending therefore is by the dint of hard rowing—or force of the oar or pole.

From "the Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," University of Nebraska Press

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## FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

### The Little Flock Cemetery and the Horseshoe Bend of the Ohio River

Alice and I have been filling our Lewis and Clark emptiness with short day trips to L&C sites in our area. This day's outing was westward from New Albany, IN along the Ohio River Scenic Byway (HWY 62), which I believe is the designated route for the L&C Auto Tour Route. However, about a mile down the road left the Scenic Byway to follow the river on HWY 111 heading towards Elizabeth. It was a lovely drive through the countryside, trees just beginning to turn colors, farmers harvesting their grain crops, pastures filled with grazing cattle, stretches of the road right along the river, and no traffic. It was a beautiful drive.

#### Little Flock Cemetery

John Shield's grave and headstone are located in the Little Flock Cemetery south of HWY 11 out of Elizabeth. A dirt farm road, across from a long-abandoned farmhouse, leads off a county road to the cemetery. There are no signs along the road identifying the cemetery's location or entrance. There were old farm implements along the farm road. We drove cautiously up the road and wound through a wooded area. We passed a sign describing the cemetery, the John Shields burial site and his connection to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The grass had died down and the gravestones really stood out. The old wooden cross sign was still standing in the middle of the

cemetery. John Shield's gravestone was easy to find. The inscription on the stone was clear and easy to read. This did not appear to be the original stone and may well have been placed here during the bicentennial celebration. We could not identify any of John Shield's family members in the cemetery. There was a Julia Shields, 1811-1835 on a adjacent Meek family stone, but we could not determine the relationship.



There were other interesting gravestones in the cemetery. There were two young men who fought and died in the Civil War with the 17<sup>th</sup> Reg. Ind. Vol. buried here next to their fathers. There were several markers that indicated that individuals died at a very early age in times past.

There was the Little Flock Baptist Church nearby. The site of the church was marked by a stone marker. I have searched through the woods from the cemetery to the road but have not been able to locate the marker. I am going to do some more research on this stone.



The Little Flock Cemetery is a beautiful and peaceful resting place for a true American patriot. I hope the ORC gets the opportunity to visit this L&C site as a group someday.

### **Horseshoe Bend and the Overlook Restaurant**

After our tour of the Little Flock Cemetery we took the backroads to Leavenworth, IN to have lunch at the Overlook Restaurant. The restaurant sits on a high vista overlooking the horseshoe shaped bend of the Ohio River with views stretching for several miles upstream and downstream. There was some farmland in the bottoms across the river, but the view was otherwise that of heavily forested land lining both sides of the river. Alice and I thought that if Lewis and Clark had stood on this vista that their view then would have been very similar.



This is the Overlook Restaurant. Busy, always very busy.

I did shoot a video of the bend and it gives a better feel of how tight the turn really is. We did not get to see a tugboat with barges push by. A quiet day on the river. This is a truly gorgeous setting. The Overlook Restaurant is about 5 miles off of Interstate 64 at exit 92. Consider stopping and enjoying the view and the food your next time through. You can also check out a product of the ORC Sign Committee in the restaurant's back yard.





This is a view upstream with Alice at our picnic table



This is the view downstream. The restaurant is to the right of this frame.

2022 LCTHF Annual Meeting  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
August 7 -10  
Down the Ohio: The Journey Begins

The meeting will concentrate on events leading up to the expedition, the area of Pittsburgh in 1803 and earlier, and related sites of Meriwether Lewis in the area. The host hotel will be the Pittsburgh Drury Inn Downtown. We are all familiar with the amenities the hotel chain provides. Negotiations with the hotel have been very encouraging and will continue. At this point we have two very strong partners. They are the Senator John Heinz History Center and the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation. We are planning on possible appearances by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and other time period personalities. The highlight of the meeting will be a dinner river cruise focusing on Lewis related sites such as Brunot Island, Little Horseshoe Riffle, Logstown/Legionville and, hopefully, Point of Beginning.

Due to the pandemic lock down, stay-at-home orders and social distancing the committee has not been able to have in person meetings. However, there have been some email communication and decisions.

The committee hopes to continue meeting planning and organization once a vaccine has been developed

and distributed. That, hopefully, will be sometime in the spring of 2021. In the meantime, know that the committee will think and believe Pittsburgh in August 2022. However, we will be paying close attention to the 2020 Charlottesville virtual meeting and to the 2021 meeting in order to determine 2022. No doubt a decision on the kind of 2022 meeting will need to be determined by the summer of 2021.

In the meantime, you “Clarkies” out there may want to do some internet research to gain further knowledge of Lewis and Clark connections. If we are able to have a Pittsburgh in person meeting in 2022 we will definitely visit Fort Pitt Blockhouse, What is the connection between the William Clark family and Fort Pitt Blockhouse? Not Fort Pitt itself, but just the blockhouse. Granted, there may be several connections. I want you to find the family connection (that's a hint). Another hint. Think Locust Grove, Kentucky. If you figure it out, email me your findings. [wilsonjkw@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsonjkw@yahoo.com).

## **The Summer of Lewis & Clark Virtual Events**

Like so many “Clarkies”, and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I miss attending in person Lewis and Clark and other time period events. This past summer we had planned to explore L & C Virginia sites in conjunction with the LCTHF Annual Meeting. We missed out on traveling the Ohio River route from Cincinnati to Pittsburgh in order to help with the planning of the 2022 LCTHF Annual Meeting. We missed out driving over to Bug Bone Lick State Historic for their Lewis and Clark events. In October we will miss The Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark Handshake Festival. We will miss our trip to Mississinewa 1812 (they do have Expedition activities). We will miss our bi-annual trip on the Natchez Trace Parkway where we always stop at Grinder's Stand and Metal Ford to honor Captain Lewis. No doubt, many of you have missed events, as well. However, thanks to Zoom and other methods, we have been able to continue to get our Lewis and Clark “fixes”.

The first Zoom event, which many of you attended, as well was for the LCTHF Charlottesville Annual Meeting. This was entirely new to us, but we felt with the help of the LCTHF Executive Director Sarah Cawley, and the Charlottesville planning team, an outstanding job was performed. This was especially true because of the short time they had to prepare. Next came virtual events from the LCNHT Omaha office. I especially liked their interview with Hasan Davis. The LCTHF Kansas-Missouri Riverbend Chapter has stepped up with Zoom events. The Fort Mandan virtual with LCTHF member Shannon Kelly was very well done. Look for more Zooms from their chapter including a rescheduled Fort Leavenworth event and a book club event with Dr. David Peck, the author of *OR PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT*. I have also attended other virtual events and meetings including the Meriwether Leis Chapter meeting, the Indiana Lewis and Clark Commission meeting and the Harpers Ferry Park Association meeting. So, like many others, I am anxious for this COVID-19 to pass and to return to L & C travels, hopefully sometime in 2021.

Submitted by Jerry Wilson

## **ORC Members Receive Award**

ORC members Richard and Sandy Hennings recently received the Eaton County Historical Commission's annual Heritage Award for their more than fifty years involvement in teaching and demonstrating American history. Over that time, the couple has attended many re-enacting events throughout Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Canada. They were also the founders and host of the Living History Camp held each year during the Charlotte Frontier Days Celebration for over twenty-five years. The past sixteen years have been spent telling the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

## **Ohio River Chapter Committees 2020**

This is a current list of ORC Committees with the Chairman indicated. The date beside the committee name is the approximate date that the committee was appointed. I encourage each of you to contact the Committee chairman directly if you have a question for the committee, or want to help with the committee's work, or donate to their projects. Moving forward, I want the membership to be aware of some of the projects that the ORC is involved with and to be familiar with the committee for that project.

### **ORC-LCTHF Adopt-A-Bison Committee (10/20/2018)**

Jerry Wilson, Chairman, Lorna Hainesworth, Skip Jackson, Ken Jutzi and Janice Wilson

### **L&C Wellness Challenge Sponsored by the Ohio River Chapter (2008?)**

Janice Wilson, Chairman and Jerry Wilson

### **L&C Eastern Legacy Uniform Sign System Committee (4/27/2013 as Grant Project)**

Paige Cruz, Chairman, Mike Loesch, Lorraine Loesch, Jerry Wilson and Janice Wilson

### **ORC BSA/AHG Patch Program Committee (10/05/2019)**

Steve Driver, Chairman and Chuck Crase

### **Nominating Committee 2020**

Chuck Crase, Chairman, Richard Hennings, Sandy Hennings and Alice Crase

Submitted by Chuck Crase

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**Reminder. If you have not as yet renewed your ORC membership, please consider sending your dues payment to Skip as soon as possible. Thanks**



**Officers of the Ohio River Chapter**

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|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President      | Chuck Crase    | <a href="mailto:afccecrase@roadrunner.com">afccecrase@roadrunner.com</a> |
| Vice-President | Sandy Hennings | <a href="mailto:sandybear48813@yahoo.com">sandybear48813@yahoo.com</a>   |
| Treasurer      | Skip Jackson   | <a href="mailto:Jackson.skip@yahoo.com">Jackson.skip@yahoo.com</a>       |
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