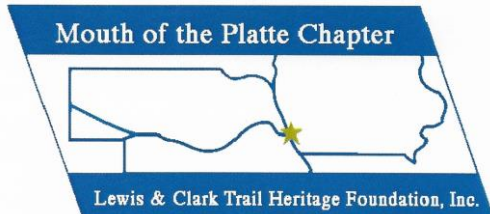


Mouth of the Platte Chapter Newsletter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

"Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail"

May 2022 Edition



Dear Mouth of the Platte Members,

Quite a bit happening behind the scenes at Mouth of the Platte. I will comment on a few of them; be certain to get details on these and much more in the rest of this great newsletter and at our monthly dinner meetings and at Wednesday morning study group.

Harlan Seyfer, backed by Bonnie Seyfer, Keith Bystrom, and National Park Service folks Karla Sigala and Caitlin Campbell, are making great progress on our "signage project." They are visiting sites, developing information on geographic features and site conditions, and Caitlin and Karla have drafted some great artwork upgrades and wording for the new or enhanced signs along the Lewis and Clark Trail in our area. We are hoping for an update – with pictures – for our July dinner meeting – details at a later date.

Keith Bystrom is working hard to get the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) reorganization implemented. The new Northern Plains Region organization is coming together. Look for more on this as the new Region gets active.

Related to the LCTHF reorganization, your Board has held several discussions on how Mouth of the Platte will reconcile its membership with the new LCTHF structure. We plan to have a proposal to the membership by the fall Annual Business Meeting of MOP.

Shirley Enos keeps tabs on the boat-building activities and other Lewis and Clark stuff going on with Butch Bouvier and his protégés – Sterling and Isaac Fichter. Lots happening there. Shirley also has a regular display at the Lewis and Clark Center in Nebraska City. Special thanks to Shirley for posting pictures on the Mouth of the Platte Facebook page on these special happenings.

Thanks to Ann Woolard for all the work and for the great information she puts in the MOP newsletter. Lots more stuff going on with Lewis and Clark than I can cover here - "tough" editor!!!! Hope you find something that interests you in all of these offerings. Heads up! June 21 dinner meeting at Gorat's features our own Jack Christ!!! Details coming soon.

Proceed on,

Don Shippy, President

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The Number One Highlight of the LCTHF Board Meeting in April was the tour of L&C sites at or near Great Falls, Montana. The local Portage Route Chapter provided guided tours to us visiting Board members on Friday before the meeting and on Sunday after the meeting. Although I had seen the various falls sites on my 2017 Retirement Adventure, we saw many additional sites and were provided insightful information that only a knowledgeable guide can provide. Thanks to Portage Route members Lee Ebeling, Norman Anderson, Phil Scriver, and Bill Bronson for providing that useful guidance to us.

We first drove about an hour East of Great falls to Decision Point where L&C had to decide which river to follow – the channel heading Northwest (that they later named the Marias River) or the channel heading Southwest, which turned out to be correct after the captains carefully and scientifically evaluated each option.

Near Decision Point, Lee took us to another high point of land where the Portage Route Chapter had developed an interpretive site describing the ancient path of the Missouri River that had flowed into Hudson Bay prior to the ice age changing the topography of the area. We also stopped near Loma, Montana, to view three Buffalo up close and personal.



Lee Ebeling explains Decision Point

We were glad a strong fence separated us from the Buffalo.

Driving back toward Great Falls we stopped at Ryan Dam on the Missouri River. This is the iconic location where Lewis has been painted looking up at the almost 100-foot drop of water that put “GREAT” in the name Great Falls. It is also where Lewis knew that the Corps of Discovery would need to portage around the Great Falls to continue their journey. After leaving Ryan Dam, we saw the locations of the other four falls that Lewis discovered also must be portaged to stay on their path to the Pacific Ocean – Crooked Falls, Rainbow Falls, Colter Falls (now submerged) and Black Eagle Falls.

We stopped for lunch at the local Fuddruckers Restaurant and enjoyed hearty Bison Burgers before proceeding on. Our guides took us to our first stop on the Portage Route - the Staging Area just above the Portage Creek where the Corps put their dugout canoes on wheels and pushed/pulled them up through the coulee to the level plain above from the Lower Portage Camp at river's edge (on private property and difficult to access even today). The Staging Area has several interpretive signs installed by the Portage Route Chapter.

From there we returned to our hotel – The Staybridge Suites – on the bank of the Missouri River in downtown Great Falls. Next to the river was a great walking path that included L&C Interpretive Signage and a Grizzly Bear iron mesh statue marking the location where Lewis encountered a Grizzly Bear and escaped by jumping in the river.

On Sunday, our Portage Route guides took us to a few other sites. Right near our hotel where the railroad crossed the Missouri River was an ancient Buffalo Crossing. This was a shallow rocky part of the river where buffalo would be safe in crossing the Missouri River when migrating from their North grazing land to their more Southern grazing land nearer Wyoming and the Great Plains. Nearby was Broadwater Overlook Hill, a city park where the Portage Route Chapter was instrumental in erecting a heroic-size bronze statue sculpted by Bob Scriver, showing Lewis, Clark, York, and Seaman.



Keith at Broadwater Overlook Bronze Statue



Norman Anderson explains Upper Portage Camp

We followed the river as it bent south to the Upper Portage Camp near what is called White Bear Islands. The Portage Route Chapter has developed an interpretive site from a high vantage point where a visitor can park, view the area guided by numerous interpretive signs and even see a replica of Lewis' "iron boat" experiment. This is the end of the 18-mile, 30-day portage taken around the Great Falls of the Missouri River by the Corps of Discovery.

Finally, our Portage Route guides took us across the river and about eight miles upstream where a landowner has offered to sell them a site on the river where Clark had built dugout canoes after the failure of the "iron boat." They currently are in negotiations with the landowner, but hope to conclude the deal and create one more additional L&C site along their Portage Route segment of the trail.

As Study Group pushed through the brutally cold ragged end of another Iowa/Nebraska winter, we continued to warm ourselves at the fires of the Expedition, though those fires were fueled less and less by the wood of trees and more by brush in the higher, drier elevations of Montana and Idaho. On March 2 we commenced Volume 5 of *The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark: Through the Rockies to the Cascades* (Gary Moulton). During a significant part of our readings from July 28 to August 26, 1805, the Captains and/or men were separated from one another in an effort to find something: the correct fork of the Missouri River to take west into the mountains, game, one another, water deep enough for the pirogue and canoes, and Indians with horses and information. There was, in fact, a growing sense of concern on several counts. The season was getting later and later, the Indians seemed to know of and be avoiding the Expedition, and the men were suffering: the river water was cold, they didn't always have enough to eat, and they shivered through some nights so cold that two blankets were not enough. At long last, contact was made with the Shoshone and at least a modicum of trust established by means of connecting Sacagawea with her brother, Chief Cameahwait; sharing game with the hungry natives; Clark's arrival on the river at an opportune moment, just as Lewis said would happen; and the interchange of gifts between natives and travelers. Though the men "arrived at the extreme source of the Missouri...drank of the water and consoled themselves with the idea of having at length arrived at this long wished for point" (170), the reality of the rugged barrier still remaining to be surmounted was now fully in view. Cameahwait was persuaded NOT to break his word about helping, and horses sufficient to carry the luggage were purchased from his followers.

Three special guests visited Study Group during this quarter. One could be better termed a special member returning after a long health-related hiatus: Evelyn Orr. The other two are new friend Tiffanie Culp Wright and her gorgeous 8-year-old female Newfoundland, Miss Texas. As it turned out, Tiffanie was also an old friend to member Steve Wymore, for they knew each other at Lewis Central as pupil and teacher. Miss Texas impressed us with her calm demeanor and doe-eyed affection. As a stand-in for Seaman, she was the star of the show on March 16.

Surely as satisfying as living the Expedition vicariously is the growing appreciation Study Group members have of the path each has followed or is following to bring us all together. Here are just a few facts we have learned about each other: Lew and Denna started a national wrestling tournament. They taught us that a soufflé (food) is not the same as a *souplex* (sounds like sou-play: a wrestling move). Denny was a crew chief on an F-111. Steve (AKA Superman) serves Council Bluffs as a member of the Cosmopolitan Club. On the Friday before Ash Wednesday, Jim and his sisters have a long-time tradition of celebrating their Scandinavian heritage by eating *aebleskivers* (pancake balls) and *Medisterpølse* (Danish onion sausage). Betty lived in Montana for 20 years. She created a Power Point presentation on Sacagawea and read the *Journals of Toussaint Charbonneau**. Shirley is sewing the flag for the new barge at MRBVC and listens to Native American flute music while she's doing it. Tom and Ginny have pursued their interest in history to places as disparate as Laura Ingalls Wilder's house in De Smet, South Dakota, and Jericho's Winery in Seward, NE (loosely based on Ben Franklin's group by the same name). On the one hand, Keith's grandfather (Keith Neville, 1917-1919) was governor of the State of Nebraska. On the other hand, Keith's mother had a pet blue heron. As a self-styled "Old Cowboy," Don says his favorite painter is Charles Marion Russell. As former Lewis Central staff, Paula has an affinity for all things history and science. She keeps us apprised of PBS offerings on everything from Ben Franklin to mountain men and the Driftless to juru spiders. Ann finally quit bringing her mother's birding materials (banding and teaching resources) to Study Group! -ADW

*See article page 21: *Journals of Toussaint Charbonneau*

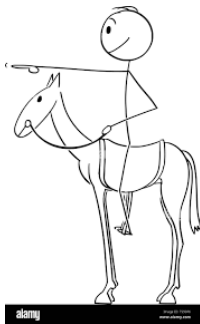


Steve's birthday cake



Tiffanie Culp Wright with Miss Texas

"Antelope are curious. If you put up a flag in the field, they'll come to check it out."



(Don)

"Percussive maintenance on electronics doesn't work."



(Shirley)

March 26, 2022 (Joslyn Art Museum): Joslyn Docents

Topic: *The Art of Karl Bodmer*

Article submitted by Keith Bystrom

On Saturday, March 26, 2022, twenty-four MOP members met for our March luncheon meeting at the Joslyn Museum of Art in Omaha to view the exhibit, ***Faces From the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer***. Arriving at noon, members socialized and ordered their Grab & Go meals at Café Durham in the Atrium of the museum. At 1:00 we were divided into two groups, each led by a docent knowledgeable of the over sixty beautiful portraits created by Karl Bodmer during his visit to America as a companion to German Prince Maximilian of Weid. The artwork had been recently conserved by Joslyn curators and included individual portraits of Indigenous members from the Omaha, Yankton, Lakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Assiniboine, and Blackfoot communities that they encountered along the Missouri River during 1833-1834. The exhibit also included filmed interviews featuring Indigenous elders and cultural experts. The docent guides were highly informative and provided interesting background on the Native Americans featured in the portraits and their culture. All in attendance agreed with the catalog that described the exhibit as a “compelling exploration of the most influential depiction of Indigenous North America in the nineteenth century.”

NOTE: The Joslyn Museum closed on May 1, 2022, for a major construction project that will add a new Exhibit Hall focusing on contemporary Modern Art. The construction project will also include a remodel of existing space. The museum will reopen in 2024.

April 20, 2022 (Gorat’s Steakhouse): Butch Bouvier, Isaac Fichter, Sterling Fichter

Topics: *Expedition Barge & Pirogues, Lewis’ Iron Boat, Butch’s 2022 Timeline Event*

There’s something about a skill that most do not possess that makes a holder of that skill an object of awe and wonder. Some might even say reverence. MOP members had among us such a man on a Wednesday evening in April: Butch Bouvier builds boats. Butch got his start in 1984 with two outdoor events: 1) Little Sioux Scout Park wanted programs for kids focused on forges, lathes, and woodworking tools, and 2) Lewis and Clark Park near Onawa wanted a boat model for their summer Lewis and Clark festival. At that time, Butch began to research the Expedition’s boats and hasn’t ever quit. As the brains behind the early enterprise, Butch realized he’d need extra muscle, so he chalked a life-sized boat outline on a prominent parking lot and handed around a sign-up sheet to recruit volunteer help. In building the first boat, Butch discovered his life’s work: promoting the advancement of history teaching in the public arena. Butch’s boat-building career has been chronicled elsewhere. Suffice it to say that eight full-sized barges and 14 pirogues later, Butch is still at it.

Tonight we were particularly interested in the newest barge, recently installed at the entrance to the Missouri River Basin Visitor Center (MRBVC) in Nebraska City. This project entailed the replacement of a similar boat originally constructed as a movie prop, which boat had outlived the lifespan of the materials used in its construction. The project grew to include replacement of the original exhibit platform and surround that had suffered deterioration. Butch recruited brothers Sterling and Isaac Fichter as his main craftsmen. Sterling holds a history degree from Missouri Western State University and moonlights as an historical mountain man re-enactor (see article p. 12 on STFS annual meeting). Isaac holds a degree in diesel mechanics from Southeast Community College. Together, the Fichters

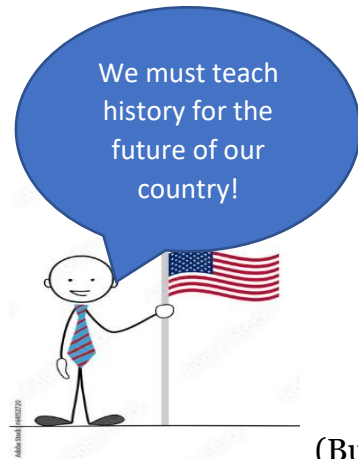
farm 900 acres in Fremont County near Randolph, Iowa. The barge began to take shape in a building on their farm in December 2021, being formed in four separate sections that were later fit together on-site at MRBVC. In the process, the brothers learned about boat building and Butch learned about their farming operation. Butch styled it a “perfect blend” of personalities and skills. In all matters, the men strove to apply a common-sense design approach, based on well-reasoned arguments as to why they did what they did. As finish work, Sterling researched and created cargo boxes. Isaac applied about 80 tubes of seam caulk. The barge’s final details, including a Gary Lucy-designed authentic flag sewed by MOP’s own Shirley Enos, will be added before its May 21 dedication ceremony. (see p.13)

Eventually Butch turned the presentation to Lewis’ iron boat, where we learned that Lewis may have gotten his inspiration for the iron boat from books on Chinese junks found in Jefferson’s library. It was most likely constructed of $\frac{1}{8}$ ” X $\frac{3}{4}$ ” iron from England, the same iron used for decorative purposes in the early 1800s. Butch believes that the hull was shaped in catenary curves and was constructed in (theoretically) watertight compartments. In practice, glue of beeswax, bear grease, and charcoal proved inadequate to seal the Expedition’s elk skins, and Butch found out the hard way on wife Cathy’s stove that it didn’t smell very pleasant, either. Lewis cached his boat at the Great Falls on the outward-bound trip, dug it up on the return trip, and it has since been lost to history. Butch’s iron boat replica is housed at the Lewis and Clark State Park Museum near Onawa, Iowa. (see p. 27)

Finally, Butch talked about enlarged plans for the second annual Timeline Event at Rock Hill Windmill Event Center on August 27-28. As last year, this \$5,000 undertaking will feature mountain men, civil war soldiers, an Expedition pirogue, and a blacksmith and forge. In addition, there will be information on the Underground Railroad, and negotiations are underway to add a York re-enactor. Donations toward this event may be made by contacting Butch at keelboat@longlines.com. In all, 23 people were present at this meeting, including special guests Cathy (Mrs. Butch) Bouvier, Lyndsay (Mrs. Isaac) Fichter, and Christiana (Mrs. Sterling) Fichter with infant daughter, Emmalynn. -ADW



Sterling, Isaac, Butch



(Butch)

Follow this link to:

[Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aerial Photography Project](#)

Topics: *The U.S. financial milieu during the period of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, the U.S. Central Bank, and Open Letters of Credit issued for the return of the Corps*

Most of us got involved with Lewis and Clark because of ADVENTURE and WIDE OPEN SPACES. It was only later that we realized the Expedition didn't happen just for fun. Jerry Dirks presented the rest of the story in a talk that should have been titled "Follow the Money." Jerry began with talking about the widespread post-revolution economic disruption that led to the devaluation of the Continental Congress' "Continental Currency" and to its competition with state-issued currencies. The new nation's leaders needed to: 1) re-establish commerce and industry, 2) repay war debt, 3) establish a national currency and restore its value, and 4) lower inflation. In December 1790, Alexander Hamilton presented to Congress a plan for a "National Bank" similar to the Bank of England. In February 1791, Hamilton's bank proposal became law for a 20-year trial run. Over the next 14 years, the new bank opened branches in Philadelphia; Boston; New York; Baltimore; Charleston; Norfolk; Savannah; Washington, D.C.; and New Orleans, all major port cities. Since most federal revenue of the era came from tariffs and customs duties, these locations made it easier to collect those taxes. New Orleans was particularly important because it sat at the mouth of the river system serving the interior of the continent between the Rockies and the Alleghenies. With a river passage to the west coast and a central bank branch on the west coast, the nation would have enjoyed financial hegemony over the entire continent. Now, we can see why the Expedition to the Pacific Ocean was so crucial to the future of the nation: we needed to control the port bank that would eventually collect taxes at the mouth of the Columbia River.

The Bank of the United States started with \$10 million: \$2 million from our government and \$8 million from private investors (i.e., foreign governments, not British), which made it the largest corporation of any type in our country. Through its bank network, the Bank collected taxes, secured government funds, made loans to the government, paid the government's bills, and managed Treasury interest payments to European investors. The Bank also accepted deposits from the public and made loans to private citizens and businesses. Notes issued by the Bank of the United States were the only ones accepted as payment of federal taxes (state currencies not accepted). Unlike today, this central bank did not actively control monetary policy, hold the reserves of other banks, regulate banking, nor act as a lender of last resort for other financial institutions. Yet, it encouraged a relatively stable national currency backed by substantial gold reserves. In the year after the establishment of the central bank, Congress passed the Coinage Act of 1792, which introduced the U.S. dollar at par with the Spanish silver dollar and authorized the minting of coins on a decimal system: mill (\$0.001), cent (\$0.01), dime (\$0.10), and eagle (\$10).

With this information as background, Jerry pointed out that it was dangerous and physically impossible for Lewis and Clark to carry enough trade goods or coin to the west coast to pay for their return trip. This is why Jefferson issued them an "open letter of credit" drawn on the government's resources held by the central bank. Such a document was a "blank check" form of the general "letters of credit" commonly in use during that era and was well understood by European ships' captains encountered on the Pacific coast. Though Lewis did not use this document to secure return passage for his men, he did use it in other ways on their return trip. Unfortunately for Lewis, the political and financial picture had changed before the federal government paid the expenses he incurred. A reduction in trade led to increasing national debt, the pro-bank political party had fallen out of favor, and Treasury Secretary Albert Gallatin pressured War Department accountant William Simmons and, through him, Lewis, to justify expenditures. Lewis experienced a government audit and lawsuits were brought against him. Lewis died in 1809. In 1811, Congress failed to renew the Bank's charter.

Interesting figures from Jerry's presentation follow (today's value in parenthesis): Louisiana Purchase \$15 million (\$383,773,008.85), Lewis and Clark initial funding \$2,324 (\$59,459.23), Expedition expenses submitted \$38,722.25 (\$990,703.63), and amount Lewis owed government \$9,685.77 (\$247,809.14).

Thank you, Jerry, for a fun and informative evening! -ADW

MOP Board Meeting Minutes Summary

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MOP Board met 3/1/2022, 4/5/2022, and 5/3/2022

Treasurer's Report: The most recent treasurer's report included checking balance of \$8,428.29 (\$7,500 of this is LCTHF grant for Interpretive Wayside project) and savings balance \$2,849.79.

Membership: Keith Bystrom continues in his role of LCTHF Northern Plains Region board member and provides regular updates. The region has received 2 checks from national and needs to decide how to disburse these funds. There needs to be some clarification on how lifetime memberships and 3-year membership funds will be paid out by national to the region. MOP board has also discussed how to manage honorary memberships as well as provide an opportunity for participation in MOP to those who do not want to join the national organization.

Dinner Meetings

February dinner meeting -- Tom Conley presented; celebration of Pomp's Birthday

March dinner meeting – guided tour of the Bodmer exhibit at the Joslyn Art Museum.

April dinner meeting – Butch Bovier and his boat builders presented on the Nebraska City keelboat, the iron boat and the Time-Line event in August.

May dinner meeting – Jerry Dirks presented on *Financing the Expedition*.

The board has scheduled a dinner meeting at Gorat's for June. There is discussion about Camp White Catfish in July being held at Tish's (changed to Mills Co. Museum). Fall meetings at Tish's.

Lewis & Clark Interpretive Wayside Exhibits

Harlan Seyfer continues to work with the park service and various community agencies to replace Lewis & Clark signs that have deteriorated or were damaged by the flood. It is the board's hope that Karla and Caitlin, who have been working with Harlan, will be able to present on this project at a future MOP meeting.

Relationship with Cass County Historical Society and Nebraska City Lewis & Clark

Center: Harlan Seyfer and Keith Bystrom continue to provide updates to Cass County board.

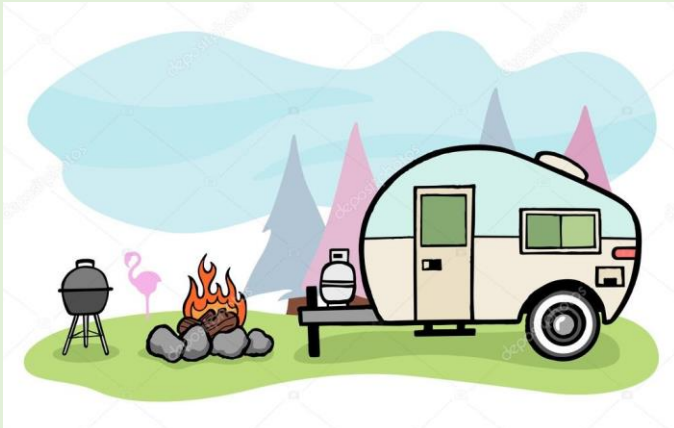
Karla and Caitlin traveled to Nebraska City to explore creating a sign for the keelboat exhibit.

Study Group: Study group continues to meet weekly and is well attended.

Newsletter: Ann Woolard continues to publish newsletter which will also be posted on LCTHF website.

Brochure and Facebook Page: Shirley Enos has been posting keelboat activities on the FB page.

Submitted by Peg Miller Evans, MOP Board Secretary



Congratulations
on your
retirement,
Peg!

LCTHF BOARD NEWS FROM GREAT FALLS MEETING by Keith Bystrom

MOP Member Keith Bystrom traveled to Great Falls, Montana, for the LCTHF Board of Directors Spring Meeting during the weekend of April 22nd to 24th. This was the first “in-person” meeting of the LCTHF Board since 2020 due to the pandemic. Keith enjoyed meeting other Board members and especially appreciated getting to know the new Executive Director, Sarah Cawley, who has been on the job since 2020. A productive weekend was accomplished. On Friday night, a dinner was held for all board members, staff, and guests at the Celtic Cowboy, a restaurant and bar in a renovated building that is the second oldest building in Great Falls. We ate in a basement dining room that originally served as a stable for the old hotel. On Saturday, the Board met at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on the Missouri River. The Agenda included reports from the Executive Director and various Committee Chairs, Financial Reports, and policy discussions, and concluded with a Board Diversity presentation led by local educational consultant, Dugan Coburn, who has accomplished wonderful programs for including indigenous cultural understanding within the Montana Public School system. Meeting highlights included:

- **Update on the plans for the 2022 Annual Meeting in Pittsburg** (August 7-10), with the Heinze History Center providing the central location for presentations and with excursions planned to Fort Pitt and a dinner cruise on the Ohio River.
- **Announcement of 2023 Annual Meeting:** June 26-30 in Missoula, Montana, with tours tentatively planned to Travelers’ Rest, Lolo Pass, Lost Trail Pass, and Flathead Reservation.
- **Good financial news:** Financial position is strong with Revenues being slightly over budget and Expenditures substantially under budget.
- **Approval of the Governance Committee report** for the proposed slate of Board Officers and candidates for board membership that will be voted on prior to the Annual Meeting,
- **Booking news:** The LCTHF Traveling Exhibit, *Reimagining America: Maps of L&C*, is fully booked for 2022, but there are open slots for 2023 and 2024. The full schedule is available on the LCTHF Website (lewisandclark.org).
- **Outreach success:** The Outreach Committee reviewed its eight major goals for 2022 and has been successful in providing nationwide distribution of the LCTHF Calendar of Events, promoting Lewis and Clark related zoom events, and creating Blog articles for publication to members and interested persons.
- **Donation Policy discussion:** A proposed LCTHF policy and procedure for accepting Large Donations (Over \$5,000) was reviewed and will be further developed in the future.
- **Amendment of organizational chart:** The LCTHF Organizational Chart was amended to include the Regions under the Vice-President – Membership Resources.
- **Insurance discussion:** A discussion was held regarding Liability Insurance that has been procured from Philadelphia Insurance that will cover the LCTHF and its Regions. Further discussions will be necessary to develop processes: 1) for providing coverage for High-Risk events and 2) for obtaining the necessary Regional Board approval for Chapter related events.
- **New scholarship competition:** The Education and Scholarship Committee proposed a new idea for a competition at the college student level for researching and writing a scholarly paper related to Lewis and Clark for the purpose of attracting younger people to LCTHF and encouraging a new generation of serious scholarship.
- **Annual Review** of the Executive Director’s performance by executive session of the LCTHF Board.



Dugan Coburn discusses indigenous culture program

On May 1, Sergeant Floyd/Tri-State Chapter welcomed five members of the MOP Chapter to their Spring meeting held at the Aalfs Downtown Library in Sioux City. (Keith Bystrom, Shirley Enos, Denna & Lew Massey, and Ann Woolard)

President Denny Leonard opened the meeting at 2 p.m. The following reports were presented:

- Brad Holder – Secretary's report (Minutes of the previous meeting)
- Mike Berger – Treasurer's report
- Denny Leonard & Keith Bystrom – Northern Plains Region news
- Dan Whitlock – Update on the Floyd River Campsite Project. To wit: COVID has caused expenses for the project to grow, so Dan is still looking for \$4,500 to buy an appropriate flagpole and flag and \$4,500 to install the flagpole. (Direct donation inquiries to whitlock@longlines.com) One of his fund-raising events is a May 24 cooperative arrangement with Sioux City's Texas Roadhouse (5130 Sergeant Road, Sioux City) in which the restaurant has agreed to donate 15% of dinner receipts to the Campsite Rock project. Required coupons are available from Dan Whitlock. As an aside, Dan said the 99-rock Freedom Rock Project auctioned off rights to a final rock project. For an undisclosed sum, Des Moines Adventureland won the bid for rights to the 100th rock.

When the business meeting adjourned, we turned our attention to Mountain Man John Colter (AKA Sterling Fichter).

Here is what we learned:

Colter was born in 1770 in Kentucky or Virginia. He joined the U.S. Army on October 15, 1803, in Maysville, Kentucky. Though he did supply some game for the Expedition, he was "not a top-four hunter." He saw Spirit Mound. He went in search of the missing hunter, George Shannon, when Shannon was lost. He wintered with the Expedition at Fort Mandan in 1804-05 and at Fort Clatsop in 1805-06. On the 1806 return to civilization, the Corps encountered trading partners Dixon & Hancock at the Knife River Villages on the Missouri. Colter did the math: as a private he was making \$5/month, while as a trapper he could make \$5/beaver pelt. He asked for, and received, permission from the Captains to be excused from the Corps for the remainder of their journey. The Captains held a vote among the men to make this decision; the men voted to let Colter go, with the understanding that none of the rest of them would ask for a similar concession.

Colter wintered on the Yellowstone (1806-07) with Dixon & Hancock. In 1807 he separated from them and headed downriver. En route, he encountered Manuel Lisa's fur-trading group, including trapper Edward Rose and Expedition members George Drouillard and John Potts, headed upriver. He decided to join them and returned upriver with them. They erected Fort Raymond at the mouth of the Big Horn River. As a trade emissary to the Crow tribe, Colter may have been the first Euro-American to see the Yellowstone area (Colter's Hell).

The following year, Colter was hunting with Potts on the Jefferson River. They heard a roar, which turned out to be several hundred Blackfeet warriors. Because Potts resisted the natives, he was immediately "made a riddle of" (killed). When the natives asked Colter if he could run, he answered "No," so they made him strip and sent him running, barefoot and naked. They planned to pursue him as human quarry. Colter ran miles through the cactus and rocks, outrunning all but one native. Finally, with blood running like sweat from his body, Colter turned, the native warrior tripped and broke his spear, and Colter managed to escape by killing him. With no other covering than the Indian's blanket, Colter made his way hundreds of miles downstream to Fort Raymond. Colter never set his own words to paper, but his story was written three times by three others who heard it directly from him.

Finally, in 1836-37, Washington Irving wrote a version of it.

In sum, witnesses to Sterling Fichter's re-enactment of John Colter were well pleased with the program. To have Sterling appear in mountain man garb, leaning on his long rifle, erased 200+ years and the library's concrete walls. Thank you, Sterling, for making John Colter live again. Thanks to Lynn Davis for the refreshments (Lynn's Christmas Crack recipe follows) and thanks to SFTS for the gracious welcome.

- ADW

Christmas Crack

Preheat oven to 400*

Ingredients: 35 Saltine Crackers, 1 c butter, 1 c brown sugar, 2 c semi-sweet chocolate chips, ½ c chopped pecans
Line 10"X15" baking sheet with aluminum foil. Spray with cooking spray. Place crackers in even rows. Set aside.
In a saucepan over medium high heat, melt the butter & brown sugar. Whisk & let boil a few minutes.
Pour over saltines, spread out, & bake in oven 5 minutes. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let sit.
Spread chocolate & sprinkle pecans over. Let harden. Cut into pieces & serve.

On the banks of the MO,
 There's a place that I know
 Where the people are ever so fine.
 They have given their lives,
 Both the husbands and wives,
 To "acknowledge" a barge with square chine.
 (Since to "celebrate" now
 Some will never allow,
 For that word crossed a "cultural line.")
 Be the word what it may,
 We all gather today
 To break open a bubbly wine
 On the bow of the boat –
 Even though it won't float –
 That's a symbol of progress divine.
 Yes, the men of the Corps
 Pushing to our west shore
 Made one nation expand, brine to brine:
 Manifest destiny
 For the land of the free,
 Of the prairie, the plains, and the pine.
 Let's step back to the barge,
 Fifty-five measures large,
 Where a pennant and canton recline;
 Shirley painted and sewed
 And spent hours on the road.
 Part the clouds, then, and let the sun shine!
 Sixty-five guests arrive
 To hear Doug read, alive,
 Captain Clark's journal entry, "[I] dine'
 With Ducete in Saint Charles
 Where we settled by parles¹
 The last matters we had to refine."
 Though the clouds threaten rain,
 Guests sip flutes of champagne
 To the man and the keelboat's longline.
 No man other meant here
 Than our own Butch Bouvier,
 Mastermind of the craft's redesign.
 Friesen's also a name
 That will garner great fame
 For it graces Discovery's shrine.
 Just one ritual more
 Is to hear the gun roar
 And to watch smoke and rigging entwine.
 Christening now complete,
 With the crowd on its feet,
 Raise a toast to the fleet: I raise mine!
 Let us next go inside,
 Where exhibits abide,
 With our whiskey and fruit of the vine.
 We can mingle and sit,
 Make new friends, chat a bit
 And examine the wares – there are nine.
 First the berries stacked up,
 Next a relishes cup,
 Then potatoes and biscuits combine
 With the fish and roast beast;
 We enjoyed quite a feast –
 Helped ourselves to the food on the line.

Brightly verdant spring peas--
 We just eat what we please;
 Menu items our heroes enshrine.
 Pots of coffee are hot,
 Hungry diners do not
 Miss a lick on a single fork tine.
 First Bill Schenk thanks us all
 Who respond to the call,
 And his list, at the end, numbers nine:
 Erv and Nancy and Jim,
 Peggy, Nancy, again,
 Gary, Doug, Sara, Fred, all are fine.
 Next he lists all the staff --
 Pardon me with a laugh --
 Let not those I've forgotten repine.
 Mr. Schenk, of the board,
 Has to make himself heard:
 Unlike Biddle, he loathes the red line.
 From July of "O" – "4,"
 When it opened its door,
 All too soon came the day to consign
 Ownership of the view
 To the clear-sighted few
 And its care to the locals assign.
 Revenue's not enough
 To take care of the stuff;
 Gifts of money became its lifeline
 To do planning advance
 And not leave things to chance
 Nor to let operations decline.
 To help programs stay new,
 We must raise what is due:
 More than one million, thrice, that is, trine.
 Thus, the need is revealed
 And donations appealed;
 All the bidders with purpose align.
 Auctioneer of the night,
 Candace Rehmeier, might
 To her rival, Miss Crocker, resign.
 Though this last burned a bun,
 It was all said in fun;
 The effect of the jest was benign.
 First to Ponca State Park
 To hear Prairie Dogs bark,
 Though we all know they're not a canine.
 Then a riverboat cruise;
 You can kick off your shoes
 As you survey Nebraska coastline.
 Third is golf, stay and play,
 Buyer chooses the day,
 But it doesn't include the airline.
 Fourth is dinner on deck --
 Just watch out for your neck,
 For the ropes make a type of clothesline.
 Next: this man made his mark
 Writing Lewis and Clark,
 And my book has his name on the spine;
 Gary offered a meal
 And a taste of his zeal
 For the acts that succeed his byline.

Sixth is naming the trail;
 When thy bid doesn't fail,
 Then the right of its name
 choice is thine.
 Next is choosing to glamp
 When you head out to camp;
 Your Nebraska State Parks
 will define!
 Eighth is Poco Young's part,
 He made grizzly bear art,
 So the purchase you make is
 ursine.
 Twenty dollars, the chance
 To recoup this advance,
 For the losers we all give a
 whine.
 Let us all be as you,
 Last man standing here who,
 Giving back, celebrates his
 compline².
 As we say our goodbye,
 There's a glow in the sky,
 An impression of light
 opaline.
 Surface waters like glass
 Where the hero ships pass;
 To the world, odyssey
 riverine.

¹Talks

²Service of evening prayers

by Ann Dunlap Woolard

Donations through:

Doug Friedli, Executive Director
 Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark
 Visitor Center
 P.O. Box 785
 Nebraska City, NE 68410
 402-874-9900

Photos: pp. 32-33

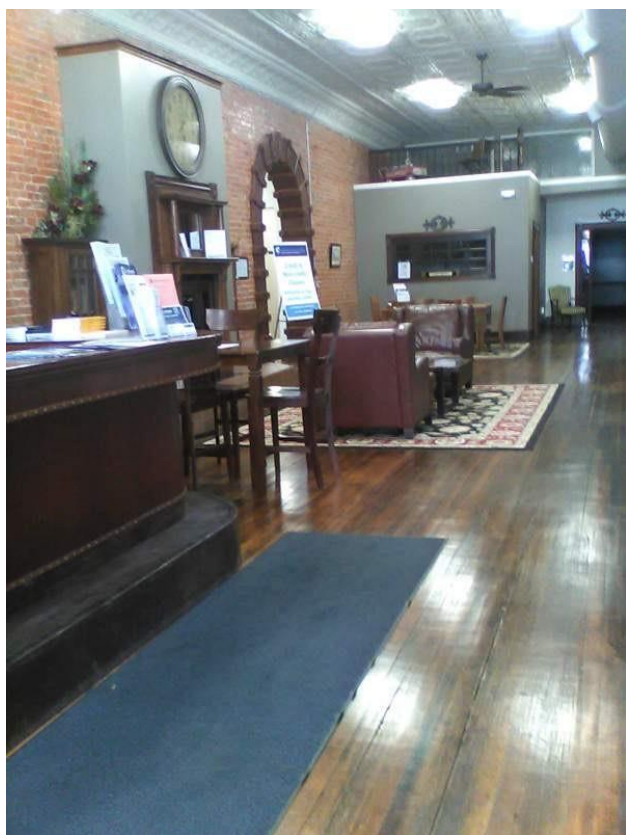
Portals. Authors have made use of them for centuries: C.S. Lewis, Robert Louis Stevenson, Madelaine l'Engle, J.K. Rowling, to name a few. By means of a wardrobe or mirror, magic feather or magic fireplace, a person is transported to another time or place, to alter history, to meet historical figures, to gain new insight, or simply to participate in an historic moment. Such is the effect of beholding the 2002 Harriet Otis painting *Lewis and Clark Expedition at the Confluence of the Platte & Missouri Rivers*, currently housed at Southeast Community College (SCC) Learning Center, Dovey Building, 537 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE.

How can a painting have such power? In this case, its power resides in immediacy; we stand among the overgrowth on the Missouri riverbank, gazing across luminous water toward two vessels making their way upstream. We expect the third to round the river bend at any moment. Verdure of the scene is consistent with what we Nebraskans/Iowans know of any plains summer, specifically July 21, 1804. It is a Saturday. "Gentle breeze from the SE." (Clark, Volume 2, p. 401) The sail is in evidence on the wind-assist barge. Scud clouds appear to hurry across the scene from right to left beneath a heavy layer of blue-grey rainclouds, broken only on the riverine horizon by an arch of gold sky. Centered in a glowing swath of heavenly, cloudless calm and its illumined aqueous reflection are our explorers. "Proceeded on very well...a large Sand bar on the S.S. [starboard side] above and opposite the wooded high land." (Clark, p. 401) For our eyes, it's all there. But the soundtrack is missing: grasshoppers sawing, songbirds warbling, grasses and leaves sighing, voices of young men singing to synchronize their strokes, the creak, squeak, and thud of wood on wood as the party poles and rows against the sliding current. Laughter. Heat. This afternoon, our skin is oiled with sweat and humidity, but at 7 p.m. tonight the front will pass with steady rain, the wind change to hard from the northwest, and there will be a drastic temperature drop. And the wolves will find us camped upstream of Papillion Creek on the larboard side of the mighty river road to the West.

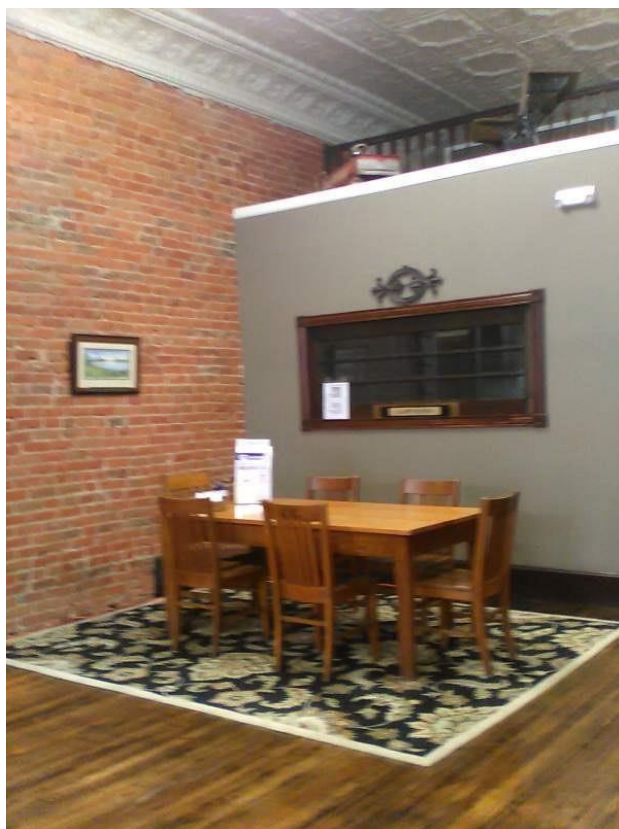
This is youth and adventure at its finest. What better host for such a tribute to our nation's history than SCC Learning Center, an institution dedicated to the education of a new generation of scientists and philosophers, politicians and parents?



This painting is on loan to SCC from the Mouth of the Platte Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Harriet Otis created this water color in 2002 as part of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She was paid \$500 for a painting that now is worth an estimated \$2,000. In November 2007, at the close of the bicentennial celebration, MOP loaned the work to the Western Heritage Trails Center in Council Bluffs, where it remained until moisture problems at the Trails Center necessitated its removal. MOP considered several other organizations before finally agreeing with SCC to place the painting for display in the SCC Learning Center Commons area. The painting remains the property of MOP Chapter. MOP wishes to express its sincere appreciation to SCC for safeguarding Harriet's "Scene of Visionary Enchantment."



SCC Learning Center Common Room
(Otis painting on brick wall beyond arch)



Otis Painting on Brick Wall
(1886 Dovey Building in Plattsmouth, NE)

The Artist

Harriet Ann Friar Otis (June 10, 1928 – March 19, 2016) was born in Chicago, Illinois, and attended Grinnell College. On February 2, 1950, she married William L. Otis, also a Grinnell graduate. Harriet combined two of her loves, travel and art, to connect with people from around the world. Harriet's art studio was her favorite space. She created her drawings and paintings from sketches inspired by her travels and the people she met. She died six years ago at the age of 87. Harriet's philanthropic interest was in education. She would be pleased to know that her painting now hangs at SCC to inspire the next generation of students.

See the Calendar on Page 30
for more information
about events in Plattsmouth!

Thanks to Lyn Belitz of SCC Learning Center and Harlan Seyfer for input on this article. -ADW

Lewis & Clark's White Pirogue

Harlan Seyfer

On display at the foot of Plattsmouth Main Street is a full-scale replica of Lewis & Clark's white pirogue, built by Butch Bouvier of Onawa, Iowa. Construction was sponsored by the Mouth of the Platte Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, and it is now owned by the Cass County Historical Society. Of Lewis & Clark's tiny fleet, the white pirogue travelled more miles than any other of their craft. For most of those miles it flew their command pennant as their flagship.^[1]

Initially the expedition flotilla consisted of three vessels: the 55 foot "keelboat" and two pirogues, one more than 40 feet long, the other less. Frustratingly, no pirogue measurements are mentioned in the famous journals.

In the Expedition's Journals, Lewis first mentions a perogue while headed down the Ohio River to the Mississippi on September 4, 1803. "The Perogue has been loaded as [has] been my practice since I left Pittsburg ..." ^[2] The problem was – and is – there were two pirogues on the expedition, which were called at times by different generic names (e.g., barge, canoe, perogue). Both spellings are correct, *perogue* used by the explorers,¹ and French *pirogue* used today. The vessel Lewis mentioned in September was probably purchased at Wheeling and was probably the red pirogue.^[3]

So what is a pirogue? The word is French with Spanish roots.^[4] A standard reference, *The Lewis & Clark Companion*, defines it as "a flat-bottomed, open-water craft used by [Lewis & Clark] sometimes with a small sail, and outfitted with a rudder and modified to include a blunderbuss gun at the bow."^[5] The authors were applying their definition specifically to the two craft used by the Corps of Discovery. According to Butch Bouvier's definition in his book *Brown Water*, around 1800 the term *pirogue* was "loosely used to describe small inland water way craft; often dugouts and small canoe type craft, but sometimes larger craft. Generally understood today as a double-ended, flat bottomed canoe type craft about twenty feet long."^[6] We might add to either definition that a large pirogue was rowed, not paddled like a canoe.

Expedition historian Gary Moulton added a note to Lewis's September journal entry, "Lewis seems to have used the terms 'pirogue' and 'canoe' interchangeably."^[7] Lewis's ambiguity is compounded by the fact that the Corps of Discovery constructed a total of 13 dugout canoes.^[8] Lewis had a somewhat casual attitude towards the craft as 'just' an everyday work boat that the expedition borrowed.^[9] Both Lewis and Clark would come to have mixed feelings about their doughty little white pirogue,

In July of 1803 Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of War Henry Dearborn sent orders to officers commanding Fort Kaskaskia on the east side of the Mississippi above the mouth of the Ohio River, "You will be pleased to furnish one Sergeant & Eight good Men who understand rowing a boat to go with Capt. Lewis ... They should be furnished with the best boat at the Post."^[10]

The "best boat at the post" was what would become known as the white pirogue. The expedition undoubtedly took charge of the craft in early April 1804.^[11] Interestingly, several sources describe the two pirogues as being painted by the expedition to distinguish each from a distance; thus the red pirogue and the white pirogue.^[12] However, a search of the Captains' and Sergeants' journals online could not find a reference to painting either pirogue before departure.^[13] While the pirogues were undoubtedly painted, Bouvier points out that "just because they were called the red and white pirogues does not mean they were painted those colors. ... It could have been little more than a red or white flag as its designation."^[14] Interesting observation.

¹ Actually twelve different spellings appear in the journals: *parogue*, *pearogue*, *peerogue*, *perague*, *peregoue*, *periaugue*, *perioque*, *perogu*, *perogue*, *pierogue*, *pierouge*, *perogue*. None of these is the correct French *pirogue*.¹

Moulton presents a convincing argument that the white pirogue was built upstream on the Ohio River from poplar wood and brought downstream.^[15] Other than that, we know almost nothing of the white pirogue before Lewis & Clark picked her up (by the way, the French noun *pirogue* is feminine).

As noted, by mid-April 1804, the Expedition was in possession of the white pirogue. We know that, since at that time someone (probably Clark) sketched the white pirogue, most likely to determine the distribution of its cargo.^[16]

At the Platte

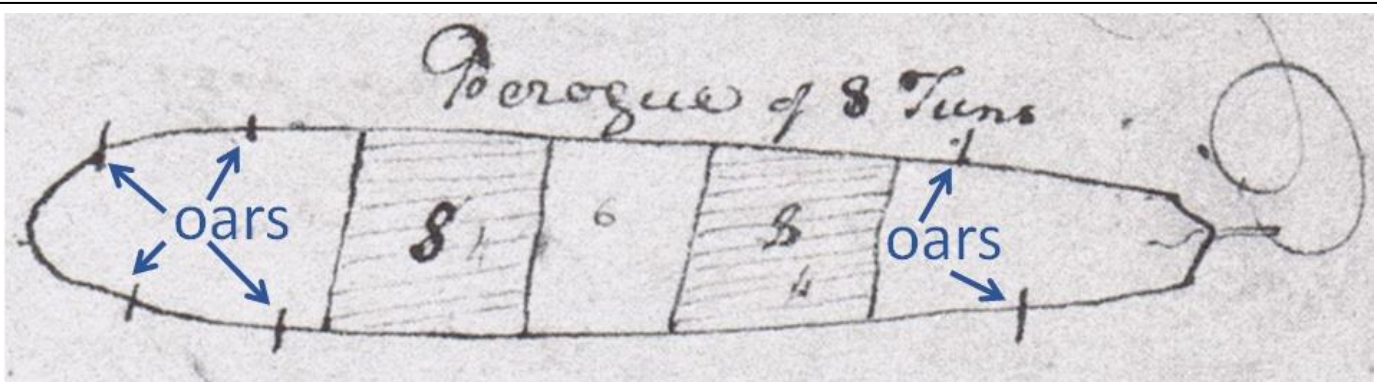
After wintering over in the future North Dakota, the Captains sent the keelboat back to St. Louis with dispatches on April 7, 1805. On November 6, 1804, Thomas Jefferson wrote to Lewis's brother Reuben, "we have lately received thro a channel meriting entire confidence, advice that on the 4th of Aug. he [Lewis] was at the mouth of the river Plate, 600 miles up the Missouri."^[17]

In his journal entry for 21 July 1804, Captain Clark recorded (retaining his creative spelling),

Capt Lewis and My Self with 6 men in a perogue went up this Great river Plate about [one] miles, found the Current verry rapid roleing over Sands, passing through different Channels none of them more than five or Six feet deep, about (900) 600 yards Wide at the mouth. I am told by one of our Party who wintered two winters on This river that "it is much wider above, and does not rise more than five or Six feet" Spreads verry [wide with many Small islands Scattered thro' it] and from its rapidity & roleing Sands Cannot be navigated [by] Boats or Perogues.^[18]

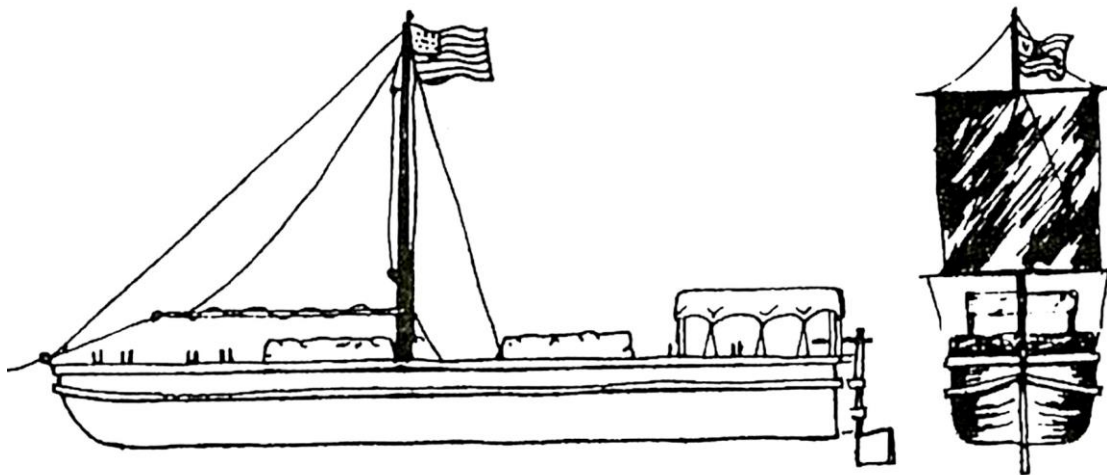
Sergeants Floyd, Gass, and Ordway along with Private Whitehouse all wrote journal entries on 21 July, but not one of them mentions a side trip up the Platte River.^[19] So it is probably safe to assume that none of them were on the excursion. The keelboat and red pirogue drew substantially more water than the white pirogue, hence the Sergeants and Whitehouse remained with those boats, while the Captains took the shallow-draft white pirogue to explore the Platte. Six rowers would have been sufficient to make the one-mile foray, about halfway between the today's mouth of the Platte, and the Highway 75 Platte River Bridge.

There was no time for farther exploration. They returned to the Missouri River and proceeded on.



Captain Clark's drawing of the "Perogue of 8 Tuns" appears to have been made to illustrate how its cargo was to be distributed. Two stowage areas are shaded and labeled with an "S". The lightly written numbers (4-6-4) may refer to tons capacity in each area. If so then the central area has a capacity of 6 tons, giving a total tonnage of 14. On an earlier replica of the pirogue, Bouvier was able to simulate a 13 ton cargo [Bouvier, p. 3]. The present writer has marked the locations of oars in blue, which probably alternated on each side to provide room for the rowers.

To contact the author: Plattsmouthhistorian@gmail.com



Drawing of White Pirogue by Bob Saindon (1976)

Its length was 37 +/- 2 feet; width 7 to 8 feet. The cargo and sail arrangement can be seen. This is a fairly accurate representation differing only in minor details from the replica.

Endnotes

1. Saindon, Bob, "The White Pirogue of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," *Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting* (Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Great Falls, Montana, 15-18 August 1976), p. 15
2. Moulton, Gary E. (ed.) and Thomas W. Dunlay (asst. ed.), *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 2, August 30, 1803–August 24, 1804 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986), pp. 70-71. [hereafter, Moulton, Vol. 2]
3. Moulton, Vol. 2, pp. 71-72n1, 75.
4. A good starting point for a history of the word pirogue is John Francis McDermott, *A Glossary of Mississippi Valley French; 1673-1850* (St. Louis: Washington University Studies, 1941), pp. 118-119.
5. Tubbs, Stephenie Ambrose and Clay Straus Jenkinson, *The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discover*, forward by Stephen E. Ambrose (New York: Henry Holt, 2003), p. 244.
6. Bouvier, Butch, *Brown Water: A Narrative of My Personal Journey in the Wake of Lewis and Clark* (Onawa, IA: privately published, 2015), pp. 166-167; Bouvier's book is available from the Lewis & Clark Missouri River Basin Visitors Center, PO Box 785, Nebraska City, NE 68410. Phone # 402-874-9900. [hereafter Bouvier]
7. Moulton, Vol. 2, pp. 71-72n1.
8. Boss, Richard C., "Keelboat, Pirogue, and Canoe: Vessels Used by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery," *Nautical Research Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (June 1993), p. 81.
9. Bouvier, p. 6.
10. Jackson, Donald (ed.), *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents 1783-1854* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1962), pp. 103-104, 237n7. [hereafter, Jackson, Letters]
11. Osgood, Ernest Staples (ed.), "Document 10," *The Field Notes of Captain William Clark, 1803-1805, Edited with an Introduction and Notes by Ernest Staples Osgood*, Yale Western Americana Series, 5 (New Haven: Yale, 1964), pp. 29-31, 209-210.
12. Mussulman, Joseph, "The Red and White Pirogues," (ed., Clay Jenkinson) *Discovering Lewis & Clark*, < www.lewis-clark.org/article/3072 > (access 2022-05-15)
13. *Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, < lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/journals > (access 2019-09-24).
14. Bouvier, p. 8.
15. Moulton, Gary E., "A Note on the White Pirogue," *We Proceeded On (WPO)*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (May 1986), p. 22.
16. Moulton, Vol. 2, pp. 196, 201n5.
17. Jackson, Letters, p. 215. For a discussion on who might have carried the August 4 news downstream refer to Moulton, Vol. 2, p. 437n2 and to Jackson, Letters, pp. 216-217n1.
18. Moulton, Vol. 2, pp. 402-403. I have simplified some of Moulton's notations – Harlan.
19. "July 21, 1804," *Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, University of Nebraska at Lincoln*, < lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/item/lc.jrn.1804-07-21 > (access 2022-05-15)

“What is man without the beasts? If all beasts were gone, man would die from great loneliness of spirit, for whatever happens to the beasts also happens to the man.” --Chief Seattle

These are words taken to heart by the National Buffalo Foundation, whose educational and scientific work led to the creation of the traveling exhibit housed at Nebraska History Museum during spring 2022. Researchers estimate that in 1800, just prior to the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the North American bison herd numbered 30 million head. For generations, Native Americans had lived alongside this largest land animal in North America, harvesting the beast as needed for shelter and sustenance, but honoring it as spiritual kin. Though it was never intended to do so, the passage of the Corps of Discovery opened the way to the unraveling of this respectful symbiosis of indigenous peoples and their cultural mainstay.

To outwit their quarry, Natives enticed the bison with salt, disguised themselves with hides, pursued the creatures on snowshoes, or drove them into keyhole-shaped “pounds” or over cliffs. None of these methods led to wholesale slaughter. Neither was any fragment of the animal wasted. After the introduction of the horse by Europeans, the Omaha tribe was among the first to hunt bison on horseback, the success of which led to an increase in wealth among some tribes, but had a relatively insignificant impact on the overall herd numbers.

Once Euro-Americans entered the mix, however, horses, guns, railroads, and a devil-may-care attitude among vastly increased numbers of human predators motivated by fame and fortune led to the decimation of the herd. By 1882, North American herds were virtually eliminated. In 1887, a government expedition specifically charged with counting bison found NO bison in Montana. Zero. The mighty bison, symbol of freedom, wildness, and power, was hunted almost to extinction for what? Hides and tongues. Most of the carcass lay in the sun to rot. Somewhat later, the bone pickers came around to gather the bleached skeletons for bone ash fertilizer, charcoal, black ash pigment, glue, and ash for bone china. (See photo) Many of us think of bison hides as being transformed into clothing, but bison leather hide belts also drove machine shops for such businesses as Lukens Steel Company, which manufactured large steel plates for the burgeoning ship building industry. (Photo: Bison Bone Pile at Michigan Carbon Works in 1880s.)



(Yes, those are two people standing atop and beside the bone pile!)

The power of this museum exhibit lies in connecting visitors with resources that help them understand the forces which turned around this horrible human misjudgment. Starting in the 1870s, certain men began to sound the alarm: Greenburg Lafayette Fort, George Bird Grinnell, William Hornaday, and Theodore Roosevelt. Influential independent conservationists and ranchers led the

way: the Dupuis family, Charles Jesse (Buffalo) Jones, Michel Pablo, and Charles Russell. Also influential in re-training public opinion on this matter were artists featured in this exhibit: George Back, Christian Eisle, Martin Garretson, Miles Maryott, Alfred Jacob Miller, Emmet Robbins, C. M. Russell, and others.

Comeback was slow. Although total current herd numbers are difficult to gauge with precision because herds are documented in different overlapping ways, North American bison herds now comprise about 400,000 head, thanks to such organizations as the Intertribal Bison Cooperative, the National Bison Association, the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior. About 20 states have bison organizations, including the Iowa Bison Association, the Kansas Buffalo Association, and the Missouri Bison Association.

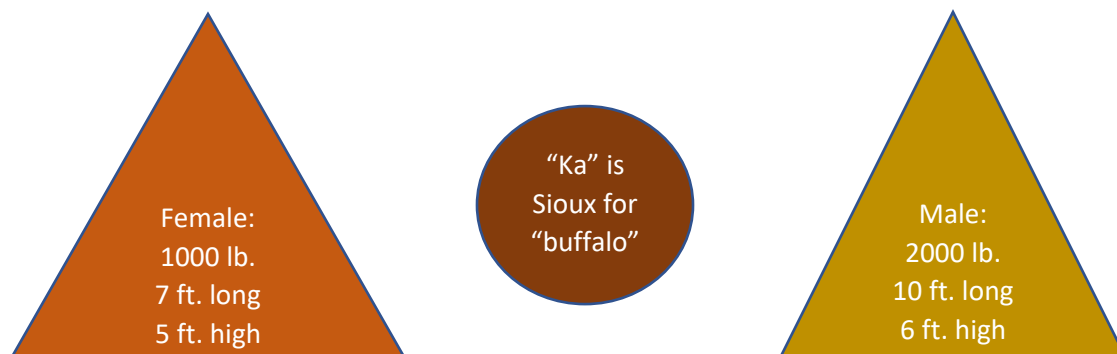
Through experimentation, ranchers are succeeding in stabilizing market value for their bison meat and other products, which encourages investment in herds. In the U.S. there exist three buffalo auction venues: Custer State Park (South Dakota), Kansas Buffalo Association, and North Dakota Buffalo Association.

For further information on the bison, national mammal of the United States, see:

- National Buffalo Foundation.org
- www.bisoncentral.com
- PBS documentary *Good Meat*
- Buffalo Hall of Fame, Jamestown, North Dakota (article submitted by Ann Dunlap Woolard)



Hide painted by Blackfeet artist Darrell Norman



No, not really! In the Donald Jackson book *Letters of the Lewis & Clark Expedition with Related Documents 1783-1854*, there's an entry explaining that Jean Baptiste Charbonneau (Pomp) was occasionally erroneously referred to as "Toussaint" Charbonneau. (see insert below: Jackson, pp. 638-639) Jean Baptiste was also listed as "Toussaint" in certain school records. When **Betty Smallen** came to Study Group one day in early April and said she had read the *Journals of Toussaint Charbonneau*, I wrote it down as gospel. I assumed she was talking about Pomp writing about his very interesting life (world traveler, speaker of multiple language, companion of royalty). Later, I asked Betty if she'd be willing to write a summary of the book for the newsletter. Boy! Did she have a laugh on me! There is no such book! **APRIL FOOL!** Good one, Betty! I owe you.... ADW

404a. Clark's List of Expedition Members

[c. 1825-28]

Men on Lewis & Clarks Trip

Capt. Lewis Dead
 Odoway Dead
 N. Pryor at Fort Smith
 Rd. Windser on Sangamah Ills.
 G. Shannon Lexington Ky.
 R. Fields near Louisville
 Wm. Bratten near Greenville Ohio
 F. Labieche St. Louis
 R. Frazier on Gasconade
 Ch. Floyd Dead
 P. Gass Dead
 J. Collins do.
 J. Colter do.
 P. Cruzate Killed
 J. Fields do.
 S. Goodrich dead
 G. Gibson dead
 T. P. Howard
 H. Hall

Alr. Willard Mo.
 Geo. Drulard Killed
 Tous. Charbono Mand[ans]
 { Se car ja we au Dead¹
 { Tousant Charbon[o] in
 { Wertenburgh, Gy.²

[638]

2. For "Tousant" read "Jean Baptiste." Clark had a hand in rearing and educating three of Charbonneau's children: Jean Baptiste and Lizette, who were the son and daughter of Sacagawea, and Toussaint, who was the son of Charbonneau by his other Shoshoni wife. Here Clark inadvertently lists Toussaint as the boy who is in Württemberg, Germany, as the ward of Prince Paul. In 1824, when Paul returned to Germany after a trip up the Missouri, he took the young Jean Baptiste with him. The two returned to St. Louis in 1829.

If you have read a book recently that would be of interest to Lewis and Clark aficionados, please e-mail us a short summary.

Cass County Historical Society, 646 Main St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (402-296-4770)
 Fontanelle Forest, 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005 (402-731-3140)
 Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park, 201 W. 7th Street, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023 (402-468-5611)
 Glenwood Public Library, 109 N. Vine Street, Glenwood, IA 51534 (712-527-5252)
 Johnson County Historical Society, 3rd & Lincoln Streets, Tecumseh, NE 68450 (no phone)
 Johnson County Museum, 401 Broadway Street, Tecumseh, NE 68450 (no phone)
 Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402-342-3300) **CLOSED until 2024**
 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters, Omaha Visitor Center, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, NE 68102 (402-661-1804)
 Mills County Historical Society, 20 Lake Dr., Glenwood, IA 51534 (712-527-5038)
 Nebraska Historical Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402-471-4782)
 Sarpy County Historical Museum, 2402 Clay St., Bellevue, NE 68005 (no phone)
 Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Ctr, 900 Larson Park Rd., Sioux City, IA 51103 (712-224-5242)
 Sergeant Floyd Monument, 2601 S. Lewis Boulevard, Sioux City, IA
 State Historical Museum of Iowa, 600 E. Locust St., Des Moines, IA 50319 (515-281-5111)

Thank you for your Donations!

To MOP:

- An anonymous donor covered the costs of the meals for our April 20 speakers!
- Paula Imes



Thanks to Keith Bystrom, Shirley Enos, Harlan & Bonnie Seyfer, and Dick Williams for their work in securing the LCTHF grant of **\$7,500** for our Mouth of the Platte Lewis & Clark Marker Revitalization Project

Thanks to Andy Woolard, who converts photos for use in this publication!

Study Group has read about the music of Lewis and Clark. Click to check out this modern Pierre Cruzatte, [Nigal Stanford](#), who uses sticks, fire, lightning sand, and water with his music.

Thanks to the folks who submitted articles to this issue and to the staff at Willa Cather Library who enabled its publication!

Easy Daytrip
Missouri River Basin Visitor Center:
2nd Saturdays with a Soldier

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Chine (noun): (1) the backbone or spine of an animal,
(2) a piece of the backbone of an animal, with the adjoining parts, cut for cooking,
(3) a ridge

Chine (noun): a cleft; a deep ravine

Chine (verb): to cut through the backbone or into chine pieces

Maybe you have seen this word before and have known these meanings, but did you know that “chine” also refers to the angle where the side of a pirogue meets the bottom of the craft? There are both square chines and rounded chines. That’s what I learned from soldier Mike Bowman at the May 14th **2nd Saturday with a Soldier**. Mike was hanging out at Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center (MRBVC), answering questions and swapping stories. Bill Hayes was also present earlier, but he had to leave before I arrived. I caught him in April, though, while he taught a little tomahawk throwing as George Shannon of Expedition fame. Eleven Boy Scouts and their leaders were having a ball, trying to hit Bill’s outdoor target. It’s not as easy as Bill makes it look!



Shirley Enos, Mike Bowman, Denna & Lew Massey

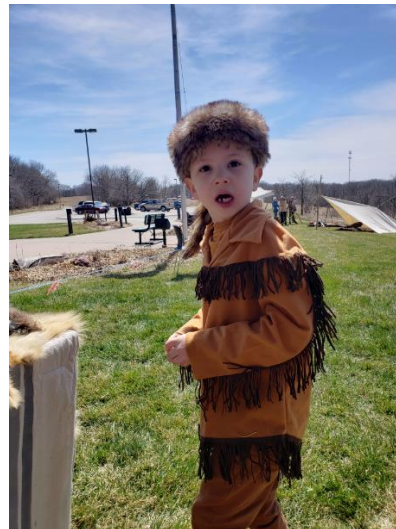


Eating Pemmican

On both Saturdays, Shirley Enos had her wares spread out under a blue canopy, braving the heat and wind so that MRBVC visitors could examine furs and pelts, beads and bones, turtle shell pouch and antler buttons. She’s been doing this since 2011. In April, on down the lawn, half a dozen mountain men had set up their canvas “wedge” tents and were just “living the life.” They displayed and sewed skins. They lounged on their bedrolls. They kindled a campfire and Denny Leonard made molten lead shot in a “bag” mold. They cooked pork and deer on a small griddle. They interacted with visitors. Mountain man John Williams shared homemade pemmican (2:1 deer meat to beef tallow). Mountain man Phil Boyer explained his Crocket Cap and walnut hull-dyed frock coat. Phil’s everyday job is as Wetlands Manager at the Bob Brown Conservation Center in Missouri. When he’s not attending the annual mountain man rendezvous, he bands ducks. Mountain man Missouri Jim brought his buffalo roll, and I heard about mountain man Matthew Fennwald. When he’s not re-enacting, Matthew makes art for the Contemporary Long-rifle Association (CLA). Mountain man Brian Hovorka drove up from St. Joe. Mountain man Sterling Fichter (AKA John Colter) talked guns and game, as well as boat building. His 5-year-old junior mountain man son, William, stole the show around the campfire in his buckskins and ‘coon skin cap.



This is how to pass the torch!



The Future

Further down the hill, Butch Bouvier hung out on his newest “barge,” never happier than when engaged with a curious visitor. When the Boy Scouts tired of tomahawk throwing, Butch and Tyler Hartman let them try their hands at making rope. When Tyler isn’t making rope, he’s a blacksmith instructor at Camp Cedars and he fixes vintage electronics. Let me be straight on this: not one of the folks I’ve mentioned was selling anything today but ideas.



Near the MRBVC, Doug Friedli (MRBVC director) and Monroe Pruett (Americorps VISTA volunteer) helped the boy scouts make “seed bombs,” walnut-sized milkweed seed and mud balls intended to be thrown by hikers and bikers into roadside ditches to propagate butterfly-nourishing milkweed plants. If a visitor wanted to take these home for use, the finished dry product was available for sale in the MRBVC gift shop, but the observant visitor took the recipe home for free.

Almost as much fun as the scheduled activities were the visitors themselves: William Lenz (Hunter Run Farm: Classic Quail Hunts and Game Birds, brought pheasant to the mountain man campfire. (I mean, who does that???) Contact William for top-o-the-line hunting dogs. One couple with children shared info about a relative who re-enacts Meriwether Lewis at Fort Clatsop, Oregon. And, of course, the Fort Leavenworth Boy Scouts (Troop 66) taught us Boy Scout practices. These young men spent the weekend camped at the MRBVC. Because of COVID protocol, each scout now provides his own tent. Troop 66 carries its cooking gear in two hand-crafted plywood boxes (see photo). A quick transformation of the box yields a cooking surface with power and light. Their menu on Saturday night: walking tacos. The fellows of Troop 66 were well-behaved, attentive, and thoughtful participants in the day’s activities.



Leonard ready to pour lead shot



Troop 66 Cooking Box

If you are worried that you've missed out, rest easy. **2nd Saturday with a Soldier** continues once per month all summer. The next such event is Saturday, June 11, from 10-4. Bring some kids--of ANY age! For more info, see www.lewisandclarkvisitorcenter.org. - ADW

The Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Re-enactors



Saturday with a Soldier

June 11, 2022

10:00 to 4:00 pm

at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail & Visitors Center
100 Valmont Drive, Nebraska City, NE 68410

In the 1930s, my father was a child who always carried a pocketknife. On his family's visits to relatives in the area of Lyons, Nebraska, Uncle Harry White regularly offered to trade pocketknives with Dad, sight unseen. Though skeptical, my father would always agree to trade. Dad said it wasn't until he was an adult that he realized that he ALWAYS came out ahead in these trades. Uncle Harry's trading mantra was:

WHOLE HANDLE,
WHOLE BLADE,
WHOLE KNIFE,
OR NO TRADE!

Editor's Desk:

Have you ever bought a battery-operated watch and seen the tiny clear plastic tab sticking out the back of the housing? You're supposed to pull the tab to draw out a thin film of plastic that lies athwart the battery compartment, keeping the battery from completing its circuit to cause the watch to run down before purchase. Of course, the watch doesn't work if it's run down, but neither does it work if you don't know to pull the tiny tab to set the battery free to do its "thing."

I see history education as similar to this watch in suspended animation. What a world of use can be made of history knowledge if we just learn to pull the hidden tab! Somehow, we adults have to pull the tab with and for our children. We have to find the unique issues that light their fires to know more. So often, that tab is discovered by a parent, a teacher, or a librarian, but we Lewis and Clark aficionados have a role, too. During **2nd Saturday with a Soldier**, I have watched Shirley Enos satisfy the curiosity of both children and adults as they lovingly fondle her furs, pelts, and beads. Kudos to the parents who brought the children, and kudos to Shirley, who nurtures the flame. I have listened to Butch Bouvier talk about taking time to lift a lone child onto his reconstructed watercraft and answer her questions, sending her away afterwards as an emissary of history to her family and playmates. I have watched the soldiers and the mountain men and the blacksmiths and the boat builders become torch-bearers for history by educating themselves and then making themselves available to the curious public, instead of warming some easy chair in their own comfortable dens. God bless you all!

Not everything in life is knowable. Our children will find that out in due time. But history can be known to a great degree, and what can't be known about it is also illuminating. Nuggets of truth discovered through history education empower us to deal with the present and future of our lives and our nation. For example, people who know that one of Jefferson's elections was a protracted and hotly contested event can treat the 2020 Biden/Trump election debacle with more equanimity. People who know that Jefferson had reasons to withhold from the general public for a time the true nature of the Expedition may regard pronouncements of our current administration with more circumspection.

Folks, life all comes down to relationships. Let us incline ourselves to parents and home-schoolers, teachers and librarians, and children we already know, and let us reach out to those who cross our future paths. As Helen Stiner Rice said, "Strangers are friends we haven't met." Relationships open doors. Open doors educate. Education leads to informed choice. The future of our nation depends upon these small beginnings. PULL THE TAB!

Ann Dunlap Woolard, Editor
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JUNE FEATURE:

LEWIS AND CLARK FESTIVAL AT LEWIS AND CLARK STATE PARK



For more information click here: [Friends of Lewis and Clark Facebook Page](#)

*The untented Kosmos my abode,
I pass, a willful stranger;
My mistress still the open road
And the bright eyes of danger.*

*By Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)
Songs of Travel. Youth and Love.*

JULY FEATURE: Camp White Catfish Dinner

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Tuesday, July 19, 2022

5 pm Social Hour

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Topic: Historic Trail Marker Revitalization

Location: Mills County Historical Museum

2 Lake Drive

Glenwood, Iowa

Chef: Steven Hunt, Museum Director

Skilled in European Cooking

Formerly Chef for Marriott Corporation

Menu

Baked White Catfish*

Old-fashioned Candied Carrots

Potato Anna

Claremont Salad

Sally Lund Rolls

Chunky Apple Cake with Rum Sauce

Lemonade, Iced Tea, Coffee

(Beer/wine/alcohol available, but not included)

Reservations* required by July 12, 2022

Contact: Ann Woolard (402-342-7524 or firedogpoet.yahoo.com)



\$25 Payment to Jim Christiansen by Friday, July 15

173 Bennett Ave., Apt 1180, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

The Museum will be open for your enjoyment free of charge 4:30 – 9.

Directions:

Take I-29 South to Highway 34

Turn East (Left) on Highway 34 (Locust Street)

Turn East (Right) on Sharp Street

Turn Right at the Museum Entrance

***If you cannot eat fish, you may request chicken, pork, or vegetarian at time of registration.**

TIMELINE EVENT AT ROCK HILL WINDMILL EVENT CENTER

Need a chance to stretch your legs? This free event is just the ticket: **A Walk Through Time**. On Saturday, August 27, or Sunday, August 28, turn your buggy down Highway 66 west from Plattsmouth and head north on 60th Street to the Rock Hill Windmill Event Center (5910 Ranch Road). You can tie up your horse within a stone's throw of the Windmill and saunter around the grounds, taking in the spectacle to your heart's content. For folks who like to listen, there's a shady outdoor theater for sitting and absorbing the words of a series of speakers on 1800s topics: Lewis and Clark, mountain men, civil war soldiers, pioneer settlers, and more. For folks who like to wander and look, there are fresh-air exhibits of 1800s gear, guns, furs, trade items, uniforms, tents, and foods. Check out the log cabin and the old western storefront. There's a working forge. What a pleasure to kick back and watch the blacksmith (Dean Slader) at his art! Go solo or go hand-in-hand. Bring your own lawn chair, if you like, or there are plenty of other places to sit in the shade. Dozens of re-enactors have spent years studying their historical characters so they can satisfy your curiosity. They not only look like their 1800s counterparts, they can answer all those questions you're dying to ask.

Captain William Clark (Randy Rumelhart)

Private John Colter (Sterling Fichter)

Private George Shannon (Bill Hayes)

Trader Peter Sarpy (Daryl Draper)

Civil War Soldiers with cannon

Captain Robert Baker from Camp Missouri (Fort Atkinson)

Mountain Men

When you're ready to eat, there's a grill in the air-conditioned event center ready to fill you up. While you eat, check out the table-top displays inside. Guaranteed, you'll go home at 5 pm, glad you came, and rest well in your own bed that night, dreaming of adventure. More information: keelboat@longlines.com.

THERE'S A CHILD SOMEWHERE WHO WANTS TO WALK THROUGH TIME WITH YOU!



The Future is something which everyone reaches
at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he
does, whoever he is.

-The Screwtape Letters

By Clive Staples (C.S.) Lewis
(1898-1963)

Mouth of the Platte Chapter Activities

Weekly:

Lewis and Clark Study Group

(You need not be a MOP member to attend study group.)

Meets: Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

600 Bluff Street

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Contact: Jim Christiansen (402-657-4600)

Monthly:

MOP Chapter Dinner

Meets: Third Tuesday of the month

5 pm Social Hour

6 pm Dinner

7 pm Speaker

June 21: Jack Christ at Gorat's Steakhouse

Location: 4917 Center St., Omaha, NE

July 19: Camp White Catfish Dinner

Location: Mills County Historical Museum

2 Lake Drive

Glenwood, Iowa

Topic: Historic Trail Marker Revitalization

August 16: Speaker TBD at Tish's Restaurant

Location: 1207 S. 35th St., Council Bluffs, IA

Contact: Don Shippy 402-740-7851 or shippydv@msn.com

MOP Chapter Board Meetings

Meets: First Tuesday of the month

June 7: 6 p.m. (Ann's house)

July 5: 6 p.m. (TBD)

August 2: 6 p.m. (TBD)

September 6: 6 p.m. (Ann's house)

Annually:

June: Lewis and Clark Festival

June 10-12: Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa, IA

(see p. 27)

July: Camp White Catfish Dinner

July 19: Mills County Historical Museum

2 Lake Drive

Glenwood, IA

(see p. 28)

Upcoming One-time Events:

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Our Chapter:

July 19: Camp White Catfish Dinner (see p. 28)

Location: Mills County Historical Museum

Time: 5 Social, 6 Dinner, 7 Speaker

Other Chapters:

June 4: Sgt. Nathaniel Pryor Program: Gary Moulton,

Osage Tribe, Graham Cemetery

Pryor, Oklahoma (S. Plains)

June 13-20: Painting of Floyd Campsite Rock at Chris (tentative) Larson Park near Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center (Sgt. Floyd/Tri-State)

August 20: Dedication of Floyd Campsite Rock (SFTS)

(Contact: Dan Whitlock, 712-259-4010,

whitlock@longlines.com)

August 20-21: Sgt. Floyd Encampment/Burial Ceremony,

(Contact: Denny Leonard: 712-210-2772,

leonard1796@yahoo.com) (SFTS)

National Organization:

LCTHF 54th Annual Meeting: August 7-10, 2022

Location: Pittsburgh, PA, Info: lewisandclark.org

White Cliffs Canoe Trip 2022 (Info: 406-454-1234)

Cost: \$1500 member/\$1600 non-member

\$500 Deposit due: May 31, 2022

Balance due: June 15, 2022

More Info: lewisandclark.org, 888-701-3434

Other Organizations:

Fort Atkinson Living History: June 4-5, July 2-3, Aug. 6-7

Historic Downtown Plattsmouth Association:

June 17-August 5 (6-9 p.m. Fridays) Music on the Plaza
Farmers' Market

July 23: Christmas in July

Joslyn Art Museum Special Exhibition: Closed

Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center:

June 11, July 9, Aug. 13 (10-4) 2nd Saturday with Soldier

August 18: (5-7 pm) Business after Hours:

Celebrating the Captains' Birthdays

Nebraska History Museum Special Exhibition:

Archeology

Rock Hill Windmill Event Center:

August 27-28: (9 am-5 pm) Time Line Event (see p. 29)

Location: 5910 Ranch Road, Plattsmouth, NE

Board Contact Information:

President: Donald Shippy

Vice President: Keith Bystrom

Treasurer: Jim Christiansen (402) 657-4600

Secretary: Peg Miller Evans (402) 490-3051

Board Members at Large:

Harlan Seyfer

Ann Dunlap Woolard

LCTHF Contact Information:

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

P.O. Box 3434

Great Falls, MT 59403

Phone: 406-454-1234 / 1-800-701-3434

Fax: 406-727-3158

www.lewisandclark.org



SHIRLEY'S FLAG

From Feasting and Fasting with Lewis and Clark
by Leandra Zim Holland

Total meat (in tons) consumed by the Expedition

Deer/antelope/bighorn sheep: 29.2 tons

Elk/horses/colts: 29.4 tons

Bison: 12.9 tons

Bear: 2.8 tons

Beaver/dog/wolf/coyote: 3.0 tons

Small animals: 0.2 tons

Birds: 0.2 tons

Fish: No estimate given

Thanks for this information, Shirley Enos!

To submit articles for publication or to comment on any aspect of this
newsletter, please contact the editor

Ann Dunlap Woolard

firedogpoet@yahoo.com



Monroe lights outdoor candles.
Nancy Friesen does the christening. (below)



Doug reveals the boat's name: Erv Friesen
The Traditional "Huzzah" shot. (below)



History is OUR Story





Mouth of the Platte Chapter
% Jim Christiansen
173 Bennett Ave, # 1180
Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51503