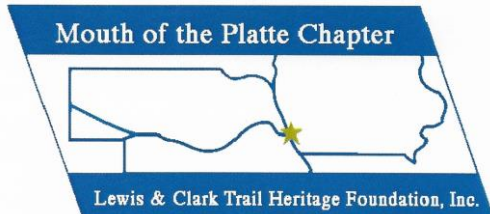


# Mouth of the Platte Chapter Newsletter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

*"Keepers of the Story~Stewards of the Trail"*

November 2022 Edition



Greetings, Mouth of the Platte Members and Friends,

Hope all are anticipating a wonderful holiday season with family and friends, as I am, including some great times with others of the Lewis and Clark experience. MOP certainly offers some opportunities with weekly Study Group sessions, its monthly luncheon meetings, and relationships with other Lewis and Clark organizations.

I'm writing this immediately following a new experience for our monthly meetings. *The Disc Store/Extra Mile* site was a gracious host, and we had plenty of good food and an interesting program by Tom Rock. Mr. Rock clearly put in quite a bit of time researching the role of his passion – knives and swords – in the story of the Expedition. Your Board, especially Ann Woolard, put lots of time and energy in organizing this event, so it was a bit disappointing that all of this was not experienced by more MOP members.

Your Board knows that its decisions cannot always accommodate all preferences, but we do give full consideration to your opinions. I received great comments from several MOP members regarding our recent luncheon/dinner meetings -- from new members and from long-time MOP supporters – I very much appreciate receiving them. These have been, and will continue to be, shared with your Board as we plan future MOP events.

One issue your Board has worked on during the past year is managing the effects of the recent Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) membership policy changes on MOP's membership. MOP's Bylaws state that MOP will conform to LCTHF policies, so your Board addressed this issue within that constraint. Copies of the revised Bylaws were distributed by e-mail to all with e-mail addresses, and others received hard-copy versions at meetings. While some of you lost voting status, your Board provided a continuing role in MOP through Honorary Membership; this includes voice in discussion of issues. MOP has received six new members through the joint MOP-LCTHF membership process. A few former MOP members were also re-instated to MOP membership through their LCTHF membership. Please let me know if you want a copy of the new Bylaws.

I hope you enjoy this great newsletter and continue to support MOP activities, including expressing your opinions – bouquets as well as brickbats – with your Board. Have a great holiday season as we proceed on.

Sincerely yours,  
Don Shippy, President

shippydv@msn.com

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During the months since readers last peaked in on Study Group (mid-August), we've finished *The Definitive Journals of Lewis and Clark*, Volume 5, and embarked on Volume 6: *Down the Columbia to Fort Clatsop*. Life takes on an odd co-mingling of past and present when a person studies history on a regular basis. I'm thinking particularly of Clark's drawings of the head-flattening techniques of the coastal Indian tribes. Study Group took a hard look at Clark's drawings of the hinged papoose board that served to flatten babies' heads. Did you happen to hear the TV news report on Friday, November 4, about modern [head-shaping pillows](#) for babies, now on the market? The FDA says they're dangerous; parents should throw them away!

Study group also took a good look at the Pronghorn encountered by the Expedition in Volume 5: Paula brought a Pronghorn trophy mount to our Wednesday morning session, laughing about the strange looks a person gets in traffic with such a "passenger" in the car. Shirley reminisced about doing the same with a bison skull. Not to be outdone, Keith described the adventure Lou Ritten had this summer, delivering life-sized papier-mâché busts of members of the Corps of Discovery to this year's LCTHF annual meeting auction. As I said...an odd co-mingling!



Sacagawea in papier-mâché



Pronghorn



Antique swords from Keith's forebears

Every person at Study Group contributes in an amazing way to making new connections...to teaching each another (see Editor's Desk p. 35 on "Solipsism"). For instance, Peg has made paper by hand. In late August, she told us about the cotton content of paper during the Lewis and Clark era...the paper of the Expedition journals. She also gave us a related fact: the American Declaration of Independence was written on paper manufactured in Britain! Ironical, isn't it? Nowadays, we push a button on a copy machine and it spits out reams of paper. Study group does a lot of that! Speaking of pushing buttons... Peg has made it possible for Mary to "attend" Study Group occasionally by FaceTime on Peg's phone.

At the same August meeting, we discussed the [odd pumpkin "bull boat" recently launched at Bellevue](#), whose carver hoped to set a new record, by traveling 38 miles down the Missouri River. Imagine what the Lewis and Clark era Native Americans would have given for a 1,500-lb. hybrid pumpkin! (Though, without a doubt, they would have preferred their sturdy hide bull boats to vegetable ones!) Since we are in beaver country in the journals, Tom brought Shirley a gift of an authentic beaver hat. On the same day, Shirley brought a sample of [Dentalium shells](#) (a form of Native American currency). Did you know the North American west coast Indians harvest such shells from greater than 60-foot ocean depths by using a type of rake with a telescoping handle?



The Corps' surroundings have changed and are changing. Just days ago, we were a-horseback (see horse article p. 26). Now we are careening from rock to rock down treacherous stretches of rapids in our dug-out canoes. We have had to do reconnaissance to see whether portions of the river are even navigable. The land is changing in other ways, too. We aren't just surrounded by mountains, now. Some of the peaks are volcanoes. Ginny brought a professional-looking photo of Mt. Hood that she had taken herself. Even though many of our number have actually seen this area in person (Jim, Betty, Don, Keith, Tom, Ginny, Steve, Denny, Paula...Wait! That's almost everyone but me!), we have to concede that much of what Lewis and Clark saw near or on the river is now covered by water, a legacy of the modern power-generating dams, such as the Bonneville.

The social environment is changing, too. Instead of the Expedition proceeding on in isolation for weeks at a time, the Native Americans are an almost daily presence: their lodges; their extensive stockpiles of pounded, dried salmon; their ornately decorated canoes; and their amazing ability to navigate violent ocean swells when our men consider the waves too dangerous. The natives communicate with us using the Chinook trade jargon, instead of Plains Indian sign language. There's a little more tendency among the Natives to permanently "borrow" the Corps' gear (i.e., Clark's tomahawk pipe), and we're sharing the Natives' fleas/lice. Even though we shoot and hook a few fish, we're certainly relying on the Natives for supplies of salmon, both fresh and dried, though we're well enough fed to turn up our noses at the spoiled. (see King Salmon article below)

While we're overjoyed to have seen the ocean, we're not so excited about the "wet, disagreeable" weather it has brought us. We've had to sleep on driftwood because the tides encroach on our camps, our clothes are rotting, the giant driftwood is beating up our canoes, and the storms have us pinned in place when we'd like to be "proceeding on" toward the ocean beaches. Stay tuned for the next installment!

-ADW



Steve's Lewis & Clark Jeopardy Game



Steve's Globe Collection



Magnetic Globe, suspended in fluid

## Supplement to Study Group: King Salmon (*Oucorhynchus tshawytscha*)

The sporting challenge and excellent flavor of its meat have made the king salmon one of the most highly prized game and commercial fish. A mature salmon will range in weight from twenty to one hundred pounds, inhabiting both fresh and salt waters. The fish shows remarkable determination in its effort to complete its hazardous migrational run.

In a determined effort to return to its spawning grounds upstream, the king salmon encounters overwhelming obstacles. A strong urge which compels the mighty fish to return is instilled at birth and serves as a driving force throughout its life. Equipped with a highly developed sense of smell, the salmon is indelibly impressed with the unique scent of its spawning grounds. Now, triggered by instinct, the great fish leisurely begins moving upstream from the ocean waters in which it spends its adult life. The scent of its destination is the compass which unerringly directs the fish back to its place of birth.

Moving downstream was relatively simple. Going upstream involves not only rushing rapids and waterfalls but also the threat of predatory animals and birds. ([Issaquah Salmon Hatchery live camera](#)) In addition to natural hazards, there is also the risk of failing to distinguish the guiding scent and so swimming up the wrong tributary—requiring an exhausting and time-consuming backtrack.

As the days pass and the salmon progresses upriver, it gradually increases its speed until it is traveling at the rate of twenty-five miles per day. Even at this speed, many days pass before reaching its destination, perhaps hundreds of miles away.

After an absence of four years, the salmon actually locates the exact area of gravel in the riverbed where it was hatched. During its long journey it performs unbelievable feats of determination, overcoming obstacles that seem physically impossible, leaping fifteen feet up the side of a waterfall and then, with skillful flops of its powerful tail, pushing itself over the top. Often many attempts must be made before clearing these formidable barriers. But the fact that the salmon is willing to expend whatever energy is necessary to achieve its goal distinguishes it as a magnificent example of determination.

Facing overwhelming odds, the king salmon doggedly fights its way upstream, returning to the spawning grounds where it was hatched years ago. This is the dramatic climax of a pattern of determination which has repeated itself all through life. The eggs which it deposits are the beginning stage of the continuing life cycle of the salmon.



Chinook (King) Salmon



Salmon eggs hatching

Each February, pale orange salmon eggs hatch after lying on the bottom of the riverbed during the winter, but tens of thousands of these eggs, one-quarter of an inch in diameter, never emerge. Lying along the gravel of the river bottom, the eggs are vulnerable to many destructive forces and the staggering mortality rate is between ninety and ninety-five percent under natural conditions.

The battle of survival is probably greatest during the embryonic stage of the salmon. Destructive forces during this time are over-exposure to light, extreme cold, exposure to air, sedimentation, and menacing parasites. In addition to these dangers, spring runoffs cause strong currents to wash away the protective gravel, and thousands more are swept downstream for waiting birds and fish to devour.

Now in their fry stage, newly hatched salmon remain under protective gravel until the yolk sac attached to their stomach is emptied of its nourishment. As soon as they emerge from beneath the gravel, they are swept by a current into a lake where they mature.

The period which the salmon spends in the lake is called the *parr stage*. The lake affords a refuge in which the young salmon develops before swimming to the ocean. During this period it feeds on plankton and insects, growing four to eight inches in length. When the parr leave their lake and enter the stream, they begin a journey to the mouth of the river and the ocean beyond. This is their *smolt stage*. Before the fish enters the ocean, it waits in the mouth of the river, allowing its body to make the

changes necessary for acclimatization to salt water. Once the king salmon moves out into the ocean, it travels in all directions. During the day it dives to depths of over one hundred feet. It swims closer to the surface during the night. In the summer the fish gain their greatest weight, as they feed on herring and other ocean fish. Salmon spend from one to four years in the ocean. A fish that returns to freshwater streams prematurely is called a “jack.” During its ocean life, the salmon travels hundreds of miles, sometimes swimming from twenty to sixty miles each day. When the urge to return to freshwater occurs, the salmon relies on the rays of the moon and sun to navigate back to the mouth of its river. Along the way it eats all the food it can, for, once it returns to freshwater, it no longer eats.

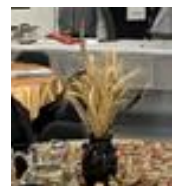


King Salmon (Chinook Salmon) in spawning phase

When the salmon re-enters its native river, its body once again experiences several changes—this time in preparation for reproduction. The female’s body cavity swells, but physiological changes are not as extreme as those of the male. The male is neither as large nor as heavy as the female. Changes in the male are more drastic than those of the female. The lower jaw grows larger and turns up at the end. The upper jaw also lengthens, turning into a curved hook. Its expanded body deepens to a dull red color. The tedious upstream journey may take as long as six months. All the way the salmon struggle against the current and go without food. When they arrive, the males battle against each other to establish territorial rights. Damage caused in these struggles is often more devastating than anything suffered during their dangerous return journey. The female sets the stage by scraping out a broad trench two feet long. The trench is known as a “redd.” When the temperature of the water is just right, 45 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the paired fish turn into the current and the female begins laying her 30,000 eggs, one thousand at a time., and the male quickly milks them. Fertilization must take place within fifteen seconds after the eggs are laid. As the male fertilizes the eggs, the female covers them with sand and gravel. After fertilization, the parents drift downstream to die.

(Source: Character Sketches, Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts (1976), pages 202-210.)

**Letter to the Editor:** “Our meeting went well yesterday. The luncheon was just delicious, things well—planned. I didn’t realize you had also brought the centerpieces and table coverings until I went over to pick up my coat and purse. Here were “the boys” folding table clothes. Everything was so appropriate.” -Mary Jo Havlicek





**August 17 (Tish's Restaurant): Shirley Enos**

**Topic: *Native American Tipis***

At this meeting, Shirley Enos gave us a peek through the Native American tipi door -- the Lakota, or Sioux, tipi in particular. Shirley set up a 4-foot scale model tipi on a rotating base to help us visualize tipi assembly and disassembly.

Shirley said the Indians of the Great Plains originally used dogs equipped with a travois or drag to pull the tipi skin and other household items from one location to the next. In the early 1700s, when horses arrived on the Great Plains, tipis were made larger, as horses could pull heavier loads. Two basic tipi styles were common: the 3-pole- and the 4-pole-based. Shirley's program centered on the 3-pole style used by the Lakota people. The 3-pole style begins with two shorter poles and one long pole. The long pole sets the base for the front of the tipi, which would face in an easterly direction or away from prevailing winds. The slope of the long pole allows for the smoke from the inside fire to rise through the elongated smoke hole. The two shorter poles set the base for the more upright, rigid back of the tipi. This strengthens the tipi against high winds. The oval 'lodge' is an aerodynamic shape, which helps keep it in place against high winds. All poles rest their tops in the crook of the tripod base and lie over each other for stability. The poles are secured around the crook with a 45-foot rope, which is used to anchor the poles to the ground in the center of the tipi, should extra strength be needed. This rope is not always anchored, but sometimes is tied to one of the support poles.

In the past, the fabric of the tipi was usually bison hides. Hides of female bison were preferred, as they were thinner and less processing was required. In many cases, one bison hide at the top back center was sewn on with the tail attached. This was done to honor these animals, who gave their lives so that the family might have a warm home. Bison cow hides, scraped thin for use on a tipi cover, weighed around 15 pounds each, making an average-sized tipi (20 hides) around 300 pounds. The measurement from the door of the tipi to the inside rear is used as a measure of tipi size: 20 feet from front to back is a 20-foot tipi. The cover, or 'skin', of the tipi is anchored to the lift pole and lifted into place at the back center of the tipi, pulled around the front from both sides, and "pinned" from smoke hole to door with 18-inch-long Chokecherry pins.



Shirley explains tipi poles



Tipi takes shape before our eyes



Pinning the tipi front



For comparison: Tipi at SF/TS Encampment

While Shirley constructed her scale model tipi, she explained points of tipi etiquette. When the tipi was unoccupied, its residents would cross two sticks in front of the door to indicate that they were not at home. When the residents were at home, individuals entered the tipi in a specific order: men first, and to the right; male guests next, to the right; females and female guests third, and to the left. This is what visitors might have seen inside the tipi: a half-wall or liner covering to 6 feet up from the ground; a painted dressed hide behind the headman, showing his accomplishments in war; a reclining chair, called a 'lazy back'; a warm, cozy fire; many furred pelts on the floor; and parfleches (decorated rawhide pouches) holding clothes, cooking items, toys, and food. Parfleches decorated with lots of rectangles indicated that the family had plenty.

Shirley mentioned that kidnappings were common among Native American tribes. Because of this, those who were taken brought with them the styles of their home tribe. Thus, many tribal designs 'traveled' from place to place, making it difficult to pinpoint origins of some designs and practices.

The tipi was tangible representation of the spiritual beliefs of its inhabitants. The floor represented the earth on which they depended for their lives; the hide cover represented the sky, where their ancestors resided; and the poles were the rails along which the smoke from their fires traveled with their prayers to heaven.

Thank you, Shirley, for this well-prepared demonstration and your insights into Native American cultures.

-ADW

Topic: *LCTHF Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

## 2022 LCTHF ANNUAL MEETING – PITTSBURGH

Submitted by Keith Bystrom

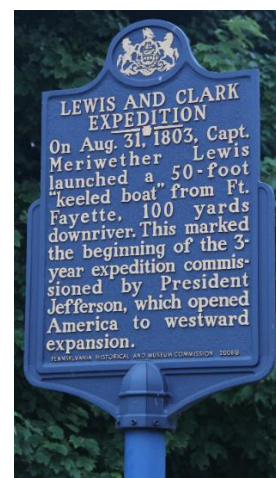


Confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to form the Ohio River

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of LCTHF was held in Pittsburgh on August 7-10, 2022: *Down the Ohio-The Journey Begins 1803*. In 2019 Congress approved the Eastern Legacy Extension Act which designated Pittsburgh as the official starting point of the Lewis and Clark Historic Trail. There could not have been a better place for LCTHF to hold its 2022 Annual Meeting, the first in-person meeting since the COVID pandemic limited gatherings across the world. Assisting the LCTHF Annual Meeting Committee were local hosts: Senator John Heinz History Center, Beaver County Historical Research and Monuments Foundation, and the National Park Service: Friendship Hill National Historic Site. It was a wonderful gathering in a beautiful location. Activities included a Trolley Tour of Pittsburgh, a Welcome Gathering under the Stars at the top of the Drury Plaza Hotel, opportunities to explore the Heinz History Center exhibits between presentations, morning wellness walks, and a concluding riverboat dinner cruise (tour) on the Ohio River.



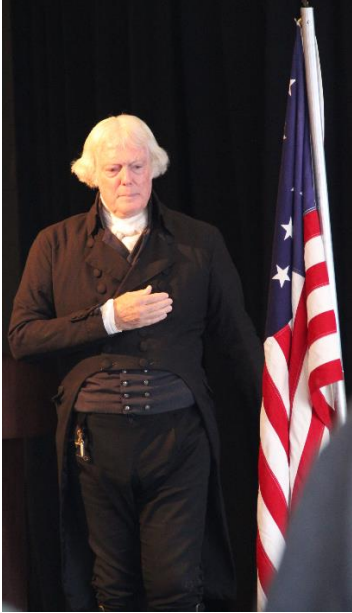
Fort Pitt Block House  
(only original structure still standing)



Fort Pitt Departure Marker



Approximately 140 LCTHF members were excited that President Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by Bill Barker) and Albert Gallatin (portrayed by Ron Duquette) joined us for many of the daytime programs.



Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson

#### Presentations included:

- The Music of Ken Burns' Lewis and Clark Film
- Washington and the French and Indian War
- Financing the Lewis and Clark Expedition
- Where and by Whom Was the Boat Built?
- President Jefferson Speaks upon the Inspiration from His Youth for Exploring the Missouri River
- Canals and the Importance of Water Transportation in the Pittsburgh Area
- Whiskey Rebellion and the Ohio Company
- Pittsburgh in 1803
- Eastern Legacy Report from National Park Service

The annual Moulton Lecture was given by James Holmberg, Special Collections Curator, the Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky. His topic, *Down the Ohio and into History*, was presented by Zoom because Jim was exposed to COVID immediately before the annual meeting.

In 2023, the LCTHF Annual Meeting will be held in Missoula, Montana, from June 27-30, an earlier date than usual. Plan to join your LCTHF friends along the banks of the three rivers that form the crossroads at Missoula and nearby Travelers Rest for another educational event.



Morning Wellness Walkers at Fort Pitt Departure Marker

## October 18 (Pizza King Restaurant): Jack Christ



Clark coin

10



Randy Rumelhart as Clark

Topic: *William Clark's Military Decisions*

Jack Christ has a profound respect for General William Clark: he says the Lewis and Clark Expedition would not have been successful without Clark. Jack began tonight's presentation on "*William Clark's Military Decisions*" with the statement, "The difference between animals and people is that animals don't ask 'Why?'" Jack wanted to help us answer the question 'Why?' about Clark's questionable military decisions regarding the British trading post at *Prairie du Chien*, with specific reference to the circumstances of Clark's own time. Jack's premise was that people make decisions in response to pressure. As a means of understanding William Clark's controversial military decisions, Jack proposed to examine the pressures coming to bear on Clark in the second decade of the 1800s.

Meriwether Lewis served as governor of the Louisiana Territory. On his death, General Benjamin Howard replaced him as governor. When General Howard traveled to the 8<sup>th</sup> Military District in the upper Mississippi Valley, William Clark became the acting governor of what was then the Missouri Territory. At that time, there were two wars in progress: 1) the War of 1812, generally fought in the eastern U.S., and 2) Tecumseh's "War of Annihilation" against whites. During the War of 1812, the British threatened our northern border and New Orleans, impressed our American sailors in the Atlantic into British naval service, and encroached on our fur trade with the Native Americans in our own territory. During the War of Annihilation, Native Americans who were defeated at Tippecanoe in 1811 allied themselves with the British and forced many white settlers to retreat eastward. The U.S. Army numbered less than 10,000 men, there was no command structure to speak of, and the Federal government sent no troops west of Detroit. General Howard was under the command of the 18<sup>th</sup> regiment near Cincinnati. Clark had command of only 241 men, three companies of Rangers (60 men), and an assortment of volunteers.

On a personal level, Clark was also under pressure. Clark had a personal financial interest in the Missouri Fur Company (which competed with the Federal factory system), and the Missouri Fur Company supplied the Federal troops (which today would be considered a conflict of interest). Clark's company traded in the Mandan area and competed with the British to attract Indian fur supplies. Clark's family lived with him west of the Mississippi, so were menaced by Indian violence, raids, and rumors reported in the newspapers.

After General Howard closed Fort Osage (near present-day Kansas City), Fort Madison (the last fort west of Lake Michigan) was burned and abandoned. Because travel and communication were so slow (two months to Washington, D.C.), Clark made the decision, without government approval, to design and build gunboats to personally take 200 men against the British trading post near *Prairie du Chien*. Clark's forces prevailed. Clark then returned to St. Louis, leaving a crew of 65 men to build a fort (Shelby), thereby establishing a U.S. military presence in the upper Mississippi Valley. What looked like a decisive victory earned Clark acclaim and a banquet with supporters toasting his campaign success. Unfortunately, six weeks later, a force of six hundred British and Indians overran the fort and its 65 defenders. After the battle, Clark's men got safe passage to return home, but the American defeat, magnified by negative coverage in the *Missouri Gazette*, had a terrible effect on Clark's reputation. Largely as a result of Clark's questionable handling of the British and Indians at *Prairie du Chien*, he lost the February 19, 1820, gubernatorial election to Alexander McNair.



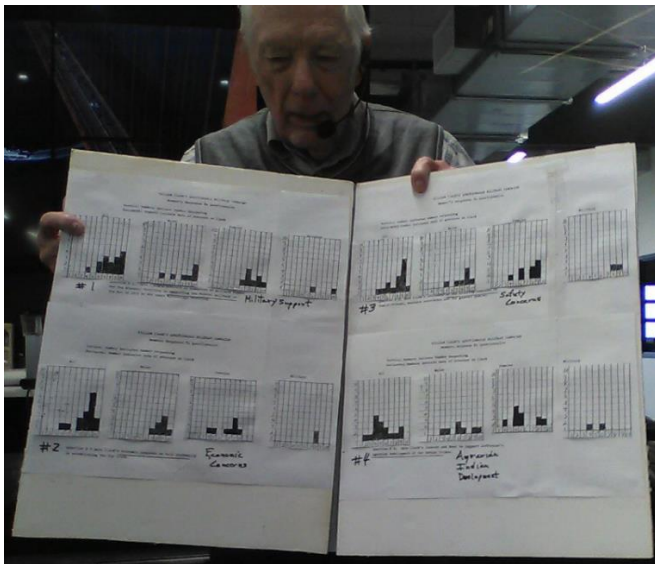
Here follows a short list of Clark's pressures:

- 1) Administration of the Missouri Territory
- 2) Economic issues, both generally and personally
- 3) Successful conduct of the non-alcohol Federal Indian factories, in the face of competition from British traders who could supply both alcohol and better European goods
- 4) The British trading post at *Prairie du Chien* (Wisconsin)
- 5) Indian hostility/violence toward U.S. citizens overrunning Indian lands in defiance of treaties
- 6) The Jefferson mandate to support agrarian development of Indian tribes
- 7) Not enough Federal troops, Missouri Rangers, and militia

At the end of his presentation, Jack asked attendees to take a written opinion survey: he asked them to rate, from one to ten, the degree of psychological pressure Clark felt to undertake the military campaign against the British trading post at *Prairie du Chien*. The survey asked:

- 1) How much pressure did he feel as commander of Missouri Territory forces to support Federal forces in the War of 1812 (Upper Mississippi Valley)?
- 2) How much pressure did he feel as a Missouri governor and as partner in a fur trading firm to stabilize the fur trade?
- 3) How much pressure did he feel to ensure the security of family, friends, business associates, and the general public?
- 4) How much pressure did he feel to support Jefferson's vision for the agrarian development of the Indian tribes?

Jack tabulated the results of his survey and presented them at the November 15 MOP luncheon. (below left)



### November 15, 2022 (The Disc Store/Extra Mile): Tom Rock (above right)

#### Topic: *Knife Making and the Lewis and Clark Expedition*

Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. These are the four elements of Native American spirituality, and they are all needed for the forging of steel blades. One could say that Tom Rock has a spiritual relationship with the co-mingling of carbon and iron in tempered steel blades because he collects antique edged weapons and he makes primitive knives. On Tuesday, November 15, he took us on a journey with Lewis and Clark that started with the purchase of 200 knives to accompany the Expedition westward in 1803. In the main, the knives that went on the Expedition were butcher knives, having a single curving, sharp edge with a drop point for piercing. They were the tool of choice for skinning game. Few originals of the 1803 knife still exist because the sharpening process wears the blade down to nothingness. Tom said at least one



authentic example exists at the Fort Clatsop National Memorial Museum in Portland, Oregon. That knife belonged **12** to the descendants of a Nez Percé chief. The butcher knives Tom brought as examples were replicas of Russell Green River knives, which were standard blades in the early 1800s because people were making knife patterns that had long been in use. Handles were made of bone, horn, leather, and wood. Today, we would call such a knife a “Bowie knife,” but that term is an anachronism. The butcher knife did not become the Bowie knife until 1827 (after the Expedition), when Jim Bowie (1799-1836) used a butcher knife to kill someone during the Vidalia Sandbar fight that took place on the Louisiana/Mississippi border. Bowie knives became the symbol of the lifestyle of frontier America. Bowie knives of the frontier period were made by many bladesmiths, including cutlers in Sheffield, England, such as William Rogers.



Butcher Knives



Jawbone knives are surprisingly comfortable to use!



Antique swords on display

Records reveal that Lewis requisitioned a naval dirk, but forgot to take it on the Expedition. He purchased a replacement at the Harper’s Ferry armory. He also brought along a spontoon, which is a type of military spear. Tom displayed three antique swords. The first was a “hangar,” a cross between a saber and a cutlass, meant to hang from the belt. Tom’s authentic Eagle Pommel hangar was a regulation sword of the Federal Period (1775-1830), with bronze guard, bone grip, and etched, curved blade. There is a mention in the Expedition journals of Lewis and Clark drawing such swords at a confrontation with native tribesmen in 1804 along the Teton River. In 1806, each man traded away his sword: Clark traded his for a white horse. On Lewis’ return to civilization, he put in for reimbursement for his sword, since officers’ swords of the time were private purchase.

The second of Tom’s antique swords was a British Model 1796 light cavalry saber, used at least into the War of 1812. It is in “battlefield found” condition and bears a King George royal cypher. The Prussians later copied this sword as the Blucher Sabre pattern of 1811. By the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), British manufacturers were creating many new sword patterns for the many branches of the British Military.

The third sword was a French saber from the Napoleonic War period (1803-1815). Our Virginia Militia imported French swords in 1779. After the Egyptian Campaign of 1798-1801, some French swords show Middle Eastern influence. Tom’s weapon carries floral etching. It is a cavalry sword with a wooden grip covered with leather and wrapped with wire, making the handle sturdier than bone, which tends to crack.



A fourth sword in Tom's arsenal is a replica of a Spanish rapier, which Tom uses for "historical fencing." It has a Bilbao hilt, which is a cross between a cup hilt and a saber hilt.

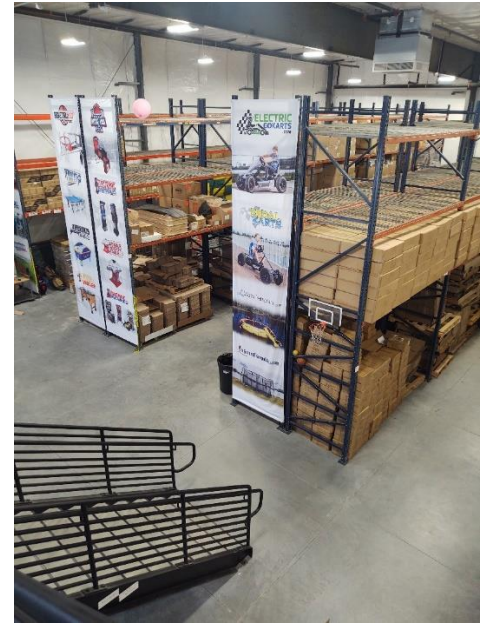
Finally, Tom answered members' particular questions regarding his hand-crafted knives. He uses antler, horn, bone, jawbones with teeth, and wood to create handles for blades that he buys from other manufacturers or acquires by trading. The handle material needs to be prepared before he drills it. For example, because bone is naturally hollow, he fills it with epoxy resin, drills it after it dries, inserts a threaded tang, and screws on a threaded cap. If he uses a jawbone, he ensures that the teeth stay put by gluing them in. Sometimes a handle requires a transverse drilled hole so that it can be "pinned" through a center hole in the tang.

Attendees wanted to know if Tom ever cuts himself. He says he's very careful: he uses blue painters' tape to cover the live edges. He uses a drill press, various belt grinders, a grinding wheel, and four work benches. Tom says the most dangerous machine in his shop is a buffer because, with one false move or inattentive moment, the rotating wheel can fling a deadly, sharp projectile in a random direction.

You may see Tom at Bellevue Berry Farm next summer. He sells his hand-crafted knives at both their [Renaissance Festival of Nebraska](#) in May and their [Midwest Pirate Fest](#) in August. Likewise, expect to see him at Omaha's [Oddities and Art Expo](#). Thank you, Tom, for a most interesting presentation!



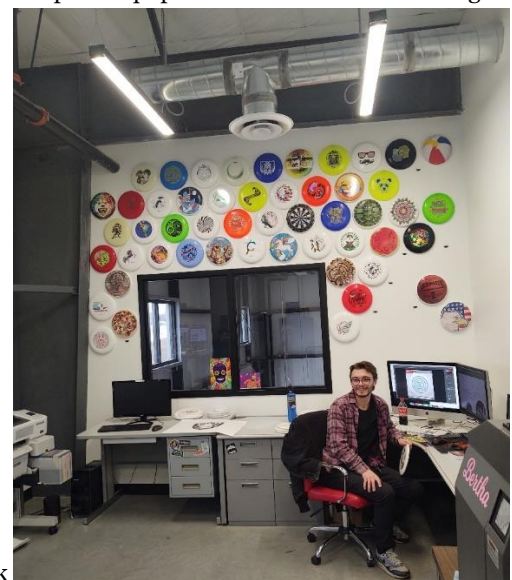
Hy Vee catered our lunch



View of sports equipment warehouse from dining room.



The Disc Store Devyn Glenn at work





MOP Board met September 6 and October 4, 2022. No meeting November 1 because of COVID exposure.

**Treasurer's Report (End of fiscal year September 30, 2022):** Checking: \$1,213.44. Savings: \$2,852.59.  
LCTHF Grant for Interpretive Wayside Project: \$6,274.45.

**Membership:** LCTHF Northern Plains Region Board President Keith Bystrom continues to provide membership updates: 116 members. Almost half of the NPR members have no local chapter. MOP President Don Shippy has sent welcome letters to five new people on Northern Plains list. The Bylaws Revision is complete. We are now waiting on LCTHF Board approval. Don will distribute Revised Bylaws to members upon approval. He will also provide a copy of the old Bylaws on request.

**Dinner Meetings:** September 20: 6 p.m. at Council Bluffs Pizza King. MOP Annual Business Meeting and election of officers and board. Program: Keith Bystrom on LCTHF Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA on August 7-10. All were pleased to see Jim Barr. Food: good. Service: efficient, used to large crowds. Screen was too small. Don will bring larger screen as needed in future. Harlan suggested we order as we arrive. Election Results: President--Don Shippy, Vice President--Keith Bystrom, Treasurer--Jim Christiansen, Secretary--Ann Woolard, Members at large--Harlan Seyfer and Paula Imes. (see summary p. 8 )

October 18: 6 p.m. at Council Bluffs Pizza King. Program: Jack Christ on "*William Clark's Military Decisions.*" Don brought a sound system, which worked well. The furnace was malfunctioning, so we FROZE. (see summary p. 10)

November 15: 11:30 a.m. at The Disc Store/Extra Mile. Program: Tom Rock on "*Knife Making and the Lewis and Clark Expedition.*" Meal catered by HyVee. (see summary p. 11)

December 20: Noon at Willa Cather Library. Program: John LaRondeau on "*In Search of the Source of the Missouri River.*" Meal catered by HyVee.

January 21 & February 21: 11:30 at Willa Cather Library. Program: TBD. Meal catered by HyVee.

March 21: 11:30 at Willa Cather Library. Program: Dr. Richard Fruehling on "*Medical Problems on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.*" Meal catered by HyVee.

**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. He has filed a request for an extension on our current grant.

**Relationship with Cass County Historical Society and Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center:** Two MOP members attended the "Business after Hours" Lewis/Clark Birthday Party at the MRBVC. Productive collaboration happened with Cass County Historical Society Museum on the "Walk through Time" Timeline Event. (see p.21)

**Study Group:** Wednesday morning attendance has been steady except for COVID exposure isolations. We took a 2-week break between Moulton Volumes 5 and 6 to play a jeopardy-style game and watch a history video.

**LCTHF Northern Plains Report:** Encounters on the Prairie has dissolved as of fiscal year end. (see summary p.16)

**Newsletter:** Ann Woolard continues to publish newsletter which is posted on LCTHF website. Next issue: February.

**Membership Brochure and Facebook Page:** Don Shippy created a great membership handout for the Timeline event. Shirley Enos and Keith Bystrom have been posting activities on our Facebook page. To post: contact a board member.

**Pending items:** 1) Ava Hastert Donation (\$500, book, notecards, Otis painting); 2) possible LCTHF grant application for an interactive kiosk, 3) possible cooperation with Southern Prairie Region/Kansas City Chapter to host 2025 LCTHF Annual Meeting.

Submitted by Ann Dunlap Woolard, MOP Board Secretary

(firedogpoet@yahoo.com)



As I conclude my first year serving on the Board of Directors for LCTHF, I want to update our MOP membership with some of the activities that I have been involved with in that capacity. The LCTHF Board meets 6 times annually, 4 meetings using zoom technology and 2 in person. We always meet on the day preceding the beginning of the annual meeting, and in the spring we meet at a location that is determined each year. This year, we met in Great Falls in April for a very informative discussion and wonderful Lewis and Clark site visits hosted by the Portage Route Chapter. Sarah Cawley, LCTHF Executive Director, provides her report to the board at these meetings. This report includes an update on the current location of the LCTHF traveling map exhibit, *Reimagining America: Maps of Lewis and Clark*, which has been traveling the country since 2021. At our recent annual meeting in Pittsburgh, the Board was pleased to meet and honor Lorna Hainesworth, the generous donor and guiding spirit that led to the creation of this important traveling exhibit. In her report, Sarah also updates the Board on fundraising activities, staffing issues such as our AmeriCorps VISTA intern program, Sherman Library funding and acquisitions, and any Trail Stewardship grant activity.

At each meeting, the Board reviews the financial situation of LCTHF. At our most recent meeting, we learned that overall revenues are favorable to the budget, and, due to lingering COVID-related lack of travel, expenses are under budget. The investment report from our investment advisor reflects a 16% market loss this past fiscal year. However, organizations and individuals are experiencing similar losses in their investment and retirement accounts, and our investment advisor indicates our results were slightly better than the benchmark indexes we use from organizations such as ours. LCTHF is currently searching for a new Board Treasurer, as our current Treasurer resigned in October for health reasons.

The Board also receives committee reports from the various committees that support the work of LCTHF, such as Education, Outreach, Library, Governance, Diversity, Awards, Finance, and Wellness committees.

Based on the 2021 reorganization of LCTHF into a regional system, the Board also reviews issues related to membership and activities related to regions. The most recent membership report from September 2022 indicates 1,085 LCTHF members, a 17% increase over the 930 LCTHF members we had in October 2021 when the reorganization was implemented. We also review social media activity. LCTHF participates in Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. The statistics indicate a 36.5% increase in overall social media followers. If MOP members need a Lewis and Clark “fix”, you should check out the LCTHF YouTube channel where interesting Zoom presentations are available for viewing.

I have enjoyed my first year as a member of the LCTHF Board. Thank you for supporting my election. Feel free to contact me at any time regarding LCTHF issues.

Keith Bystrom, MOP Vice President

### 2022 Merrill J. Mattes Award

Congratulations to MOP Board Member **Harlan Seyfer**, who received the 2022 Merrill J. Mattes Award.

The Oregon-California Trails Association presented this award to Harlan for excellence in research and writing.

His article about Mormon Trail pioneers, *The Mormon Trail of 1850*, was published in the

[Spring 2021 Edition of the OCTA Overland Journal.](#)

The Northern Plains Region (NPR) of LCTHF is slowly getting organized. The NPR Board of Directors has been meeting approximately every 2 months since October 2021. A checking account was established with U.S. Bank after the board gained approval from LCTHF to use its federal tax ID number for that purpose. Denny Leonard, Treasurer, reports that \$935 has been deposited from dues funding provided by LCTHF, and the NPR Board has approved a policy for distribution of dues funds to the existing chapters in the Northern Plains Region -- Mouth of the Platte and Sergeant Floyd Tri-State. Those funds should be sent by the end of this year.

NPR has 116 members as of September 1, 2022. The breakdown of LCTHF individual and organizational members from the states comprising the Northern Plains Region is as follows: Nebraska (29 individual – 1 organizational); South Dakota (23 – 3); Iowa (21 – 3); North Dakota (13 – 3); and Minnesota (15 – 0). There are also five members from five states outside the NPR who have chosen to be included in our NPR. They come from Idaho, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, and Maryland. As we begin our second full year under the new regional organization of LCTHF, we anticipate increasing numbers of NPR members, both new and renewals.

One of our chapters in NPR, Encounters On the Prairie--South Dakota (EOTP-SD), has been dormant for many years and, according to former president Bill Stevens, has officially dissolved as of September 30, 2022. Many of its members are active in LCTHF and will continue in NPR activities, either by declaring one of our chapters as their primary chapter or remaining as an at-large NPR member. Prior to dissolution, EOTP-SD generously donated their collection of Lewis and Clark educational posters and materials to the Lewis and Clark State Park Museum near Onawa, Iowa.

The NPR Board of Directors are: President – Keith Bystrom (MOP), Treasurer – Denny Leonard (SFTS); Doug and Lynn Davis (SFTS); Don Shippy (MOP); Bill Stevens (EOTP-SD); and Ron Laycock (EOTP-SD).

Keith reads today's journal entry at MOP dinner meeting:



View Alex's Wiles' *Waterline* photos at the Missouri River Basin Visitor Center in Nebraska City. See next page.



Meriwether Lewis  
August 18, 1774



100 Valmont Drive  
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410  
[www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org](http://www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org)



William Clark  
August 1, 1770

Visitors to the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center on the occasion of Meriwether Lewis' 248<sup>th</sup> birthday (August 18, 1774) and William Clark's 252<sup>nd</sup> birthday (August 1, 1770) were treated to a visual tour of the fish, insects, and animals which live in and near the Missouri River through Alex Wiles' stunning wildlife photography, guided by the artist himself. Alex was a zookeeper for ten years before becoming involved in conservation photography and film-making. He now works with such entities as the Army Corps of Engineers, the Audubon Society, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, the National Park Service, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to promote "[A Clear View of the Life in the Big Muddy](#)" and other projects. (This link allows you to scroll through a few *Waterline* photos.) He is purposefully documenting what is at stake in conserving the Missouri River Corridor...specifically, biodiversity. That idea is what inspired his *Waterline* photos.

One meaning of "waterline" is "water level: the line to which the surface of the water comes on the side of a ship or boat." We see exactly that in Alex's photos: he captures his living subjects interacting with the interface between clear air and pure, clean water before a stark white background. An alternative meaning of "waterline" is "watermark: a mark in paper, produced by pressure of a projecting design during manufacture: it can be seen when the paper is held up to the light." Its purpose is to distinguish paper of superior quality. Hence the title *Waterline* incorporates the symbolism of preserving what is true and right and of superior quality.

As a member of the International League of Conservation Photographers, Alex is committed to high standards of animal treatment in his wildlife photography. He tries to help the animals relax by working with their natural tendencies, such as knowing that fish like corners. He directs his subjects by positioning clear Plexiglas in the watery environment to guide the creatures' positions without actually touching the creatures himself. If an animal appears in any way stressed, Alex ceases filming that animal for the day. He has been able to document many species, such as paddlefish, pallid sturgeon, bald eagles, beavers, turtles, snakes, pelicans, mink, and bats. He informs himself on topics of concern to the creatures, such as "white nose syndrome" in bats. This is a fungal infection in a bat's nose and respiratory system. It acts like sleep apnea, in that it engenders unusual wakefulness, which causes the bat to expend extra calories, thereby depleting its energy stores and starving it.

Alex's photos have been incorporated in giant sidewalk stickers adhered to walkways approaching museums and wildlife centers of significance to Lewis and Clark, including the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center. Please see the sample pavement sticker on the previous page.

**For more information, please visit [awilesmedia.com](http://awilesmedia.com).**

**-ADW**



# FLOYD RIVER CAMPSITE ROCK DEDICATION

## AUGUST 20, 2022

18



Honor Guard crossing Floyd River



Bev Hines with the Sgt. Floyd Honor Guard



Reflecting on the past

Mouth of the Platte Chapter has watched with interest this Sergeant Floyd/Tri-State project of establishing a memorial both to Sergeant Floyd and to the Lewis and Clark Expedition in general. On Saturday, August 20, supporters gathered to solemnly dedicate the massive boulder wrapped in a United States flag and faced on four sides with colorful depictions of the drama that took place near present-day Sioux City, Iowa, in August of 1804. Master of Ceremonies was SF/TS Vice President Doug Davis. A program was presented by Project Supervisor Dan Whitlock, and ceremonies were conducted by the Sergeant Floyd Honor Guard. Supporters gathered on the east side of Floyd River for the program, then processed across the footbridge to the west side of the river to view the memorial itself. This commemoration was held in conjunction with the annual SF/TS encampment weekend and the re-enactment of Sgt. Floyd's burial ceremony. (See article and pictures on pages 19 and 20.)

-ADW



Dan Whitlock with Sgt. Floyd



Names of the artist's family in the grass.



Bev Hines at dedication



**SF/TS Encampment  
Sioux City Lewis and Clark Center  
August 20, 2022**

**19**



**Riverboat Museum**



**Patrick Gass (Dale & Joan Clark), Seaman (Sailor)**



**View of Encampment**



**Sleeping Quarters**



**Flags**



**Soldiers chatted with civilians**



**Soldier's gear**



**Lead kegs of powder**



**Period Weapons**

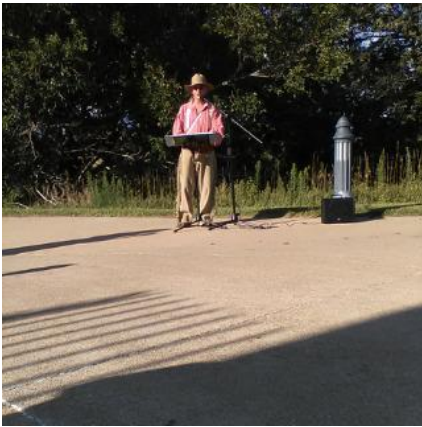


## SERGEANT FLOYD BURIAL CEREMONY

20

As the sun slipped toward the western horizon on August 20, people of all ages gathered to pay respects to young Sergeant Charles Floyd, the only man of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to lose his life during their 28-month round-trip journey from Camp DuBois to the west coast. Walt Peterson acted as Master of Ceremonies. He read from a script that was initially prepared by Bev Hines for the Lewis and Clark bicentennial observance and was updated to serve this 218<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Charles Floyd was born in 1782 near Louisville, Kentucky. His father ran a ferry service. Charles, himself, delivered mail. Charles was one of the “eight young men from Kentucky” selected for the Expedition. His reward was to be \$61.33 and a grant of 320 acres of land, what seemed “a princely sum” back then. Though he died during the performance of his duty, his sacrifice earned his grave the distinction of becoming the first National Historical Monument, and his journal, rediscovered by Thwaites in April 1894 among the archives of the University of Wisconsin, is still read and cherished today. Tonight, the Sergeant Floyd Honor Guard discharged their weapons in salute to the fallen soldier. May the brave man rest in peace.

-ADW



Master of Ceremonies Walt Peterson



The Guard Approaches



Long shadow of the monument over Guard



The Salute



The Guard withdraws



Bev Hines & Captain Clark (Rumelhart)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SGT. FLOYD/TRI-STATE CHAPTER OF LCTHF CONTACT:

DENNY LEONARD  
5212 110<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HOLSTEIN, IOWA 51025  
(712) 210-2772  
[LEONARD1796@YAHOO.COM](mailto:LEONARD1796@YAHOO.COM)

BRAD HOLDER  
31385 GRANITE AVE.  
HINTON, IOWA 51024  
(712) 541-0720  
[BRADHOLDER60@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BRADHOLDER60@GMAIL.COM)





# TIMELINE

21



Darrel Draper: Crossroads of the Western Fur Trade



Young Corpsman with the White Pirogue

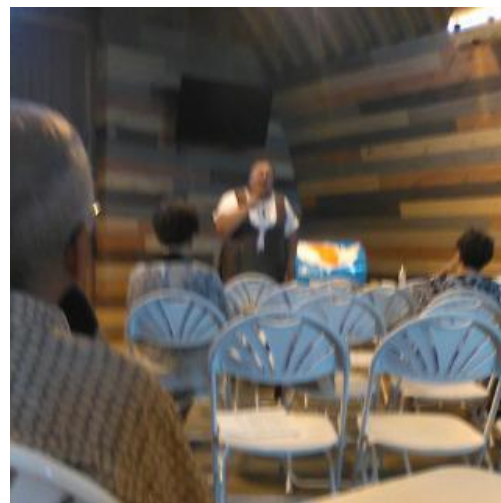
Dark Brown hat...yellow, red, and white feather with a black tip. Off-white wool jacket with bands of brown, yellow, red, and green. Darrel Draper stands before us, weaving a story of the past as thick as his fur trader's jacket: "Nebraska: Crossroads of the Fur Trade." Robert Gray's 1775 claim to the Columbia River. The 1804 ceremony that transferred the Louisiana Territory from France to the U.S. Manuel Lisa with his thousands of beaver pelts. German John Jacob Astor's vision for Fort Astoria. The discovery of South Pass for an easier crossing of the Continental Divide. The War of 1812. Ashley and Henry in the Rocky Mountain fur trade. Jim Bridger, Thomas Fitzpatrick (Broken Hand), Jedidiah Smith, Hugh Glass, and the rendezvous system. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Walla Walla Mission and massacre. Measles on the Oregon Trail (9 of 10 died). Whites spitefully spiking with laxatives a "gift" of pumpkins for the Indians. Beau Brummel ruining the fur trade with his fashion-altering silk hats. Trappers becoming guides. Twenty million bison shrinking to 1,000 in the late 1800s. Beaver being relegated to 1920s football-watching coats. Bridger's Pass the scene for pony express, the Overland Stage, the railroad, and finally, I-80. Yet...there was still a fur trader in Plattsmouth as late as the 1950s. One comes to understand that a fur trader lives on in the heart of Darrel Draper. Darrel wound up his yarn with a dramatic poem of his own invention, a rhythmic, enchanting piece called *The Men of Lewis and Clark* from his book [A Prairie Sailor](#). (\$10 from PeterSarpy@aol.com)



Bill Hayes as George Shannon



David Seay: Nebraska Territory Stories



Renae Hunt: The Unpaid Members

This man is a consummate entertainer, and he wasn't the only talented Humanities Nebraska speaker at the Rock Hill Windmill Timeline Event. Bill Hayes gave a solid performance as George Shannon of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In a separate session, Bill explained the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act and the connection of Nebraska and Iowa to the Underground Railroad. David Seay told Nebraska Territory stories, accompanied by music of his own making. Renae Hunt surprised the crowd with some little-known facts about the Lewis and Clark expedition and its unpaid members: York, Sacagawea, Pomp, and Seaman. Did you know, for instance, that the funds appropriated by Congress for the Expedition (\$2,500) were less than the annual wine budget at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello (\$3,000)? Did you know that York had to finally show his scalp through his parted hair to convince the Indians that his skin was truly black? Did you know that an Indian woman gets her name as an adult, not as a child? Did you know that Pomp grew up to guide the Mormon battalion from Iowa to California? Did you know that, in spite of his two coats of thick hair, Seaman was so bothered by mosquitoes that he cried?

Between Humanities Nebraska speakers, attendees divided their attention between Dean Slader at the forge; Sterling Fichter, Jim McCulloch, Bryan Hovorka, and Kyle as mountain men dressing deer skins; Randy Rumelhart as Captain William Clark; Dale Clark as Patrick Gass with his Seaman stand-in, Sailor; Claude Overstreet as a Civil War Soldier; Captain Robert Baker from Camp Missouri (Fort Atkinson); and Phil Lutz with a thorough explanation of the operation of a 12-lb. howitzer. Howitzers of this type were used from the 1840s Mexican War to the Spanish-American War. If I heard this re-enactor correctly, a howitzer is made of solid brass and shoots a 12-lb. solid iron ball. This type of cannon could also shoot a hollow canister exploding shell. The cannon is drawn by a team of horses and tended by an 8-man crew. Mortars travel in an arc and have a 900-yard range (accurate to 300 yards), so the sergeant who calculated its trajectory had to really know his math! Soldiers cut the fuse length according to the distance estimated to the target. The cannon has a rangefinder, too. Soldiers prepare the cannon to fire by using a corkscrew-type "worm" to draw out spent material from the barrel and a wet sponge to extinguish sparks in the barrel. After drying the barrel, they slide in a linen bag of gunpowder (but not a shell). They puncture the linen powder bag with either a gunpowder-filled quill stoppered with beeswax or a friction fuse. Then, light the fuse and – HOLD YOUR EARS! – The cannon discharges with a ROAR and a recoil of 3 to 10 yards! (Well, it *would* recoil, if truly loaded with a shell!). And what would re-enactment soldiers do without a bugler to end the day? (see next page!)





Donavan plays Taps



Andreas Map (donated by Jerry Dirks/framed by Tom Conley)



Ann Woolard as Sacagawea

Within the attractive wood-paneled event center, detailed information was available on tables attended by very pleasant people. Shirley Enos shared her extensive display of furs, pelts, bones, and beads; Cass County Historical Society Museum Board members provided information on educational opportunities in Cass County; and Mouth of the Platte members provided information on Lewis and Clark sites from Pittsburgh to the west coast, focused primarily on the Missouri corridor from Nebraska City to Sioux City, Iowa.

There is just no way to measure what we all owe Butch and Cathy Bouvier, Del Hervey, Margo Prentiss and the Board of Directors of the Cass County Historical Society Museum, and Rock Hill Windmill Event Center proprietors Gregg Eisenbarth and Cheryl Eisenbarth Leger for making the 2022 Timeline Event happen. **Looking forward to a repeat in 2023!**

### NOTED IN PASSING

“Just a little remembrance of a fine lady”

**Esther Bender** (February 20, 1935 - September 25, 2022) Born in Worthington, MN. Esther taught at Brownell-Talbot School. She was a longtime member of Emanuel Lutheran Church. Survived by husband, Robert Bender, daughters, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Esther was very active in MOP, including Study Group. She was one of MOP's "Golden Girls" for several years. Evelyn Orr remembers her this way: "In my very early days, I had a brain child idea to have a reporter interview Thomas Jefferson in 1806 about his ideas about the Expedition. Esther thought it a good idea and, with her teaching skills and my written script, we worked out a great program. I had forgotten we did that program until I recently ran across my copy of the script when preparing to move to a new location. The History group that met in the Old Market for free evening public programs set up a date. Thomas and the reporter (Esther and I) enjoyed a nice crowd that seemed to appreciate our attempt. Esther and her husband were a big help to me and a big part of preparing a smooth program. It would never have been done without them. The public responded well, but maybe that did not matter for brave folks who came out at night just to hear about history. A few of you may dig into your brain database and recall something about that little program. This public service has been long gone from the Old Market, including the building in which it was held. God bless her family and friends."

**Paul Andreas** (January 27, 1925 – October 23, 2022) Taught 31 years at Westside High School in Omaha, interacting with 7000 students. He created an historical map of Nebraska and wrote 30 articles for various periodicals. In 1984, he was recognized as the “American History Teacher of the Year.” (see map above)



**Let's honor Captain Lewis by naming the Columbia River after him!**

In *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents* (p.362), Donald Jackson writes: "Barlow... composed a poem to be read at a testimonial dinner for Lewis and Clark. After several postponements while the sponsors waited for Clark to arrive from Virginia, the dinner was held without him on 14 January 1807. Mayor Robert Brent presided, and the guests from the frontier included Lewis, Pierre Chouteau, Pierre Provenchere, and the Mandan chief Sheheke. The Barlow poem, read by a Mr. Beckley, ran like this:"

**On the Discoveries of Captain Lewis**

By Joel Barlow

January 14, 1807

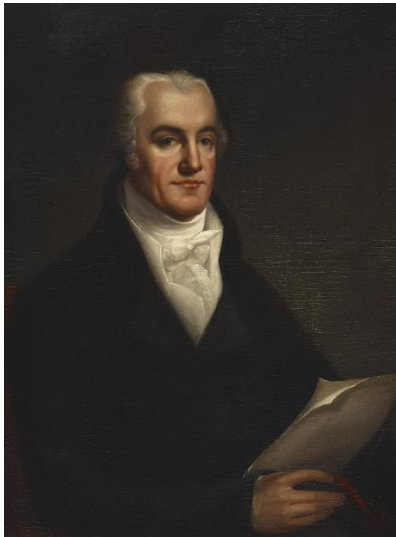
Let the Nile cloak his head in the clouds, and defy  
The researches of science and time;  
Let the Niger escape the keen traveller's eye,  
By plunging or changing his clime.

Columbus! not so shall thy boundless domain  
Defraud thy brave sons of their right;  
Streams, midlands, and shorelands elude us in vain.  
We shall drag their dark regions to light.

Look down, sainted sage, from thy synod of Gods;  
See, inspired by thy venturous soul,  
Mackenzie roll northward his earth-draining floods,  
And surge the broad waves to the pole.

With the same soaring genius thy Lewis ascends,  
And, seizing the car of the sun,  
O'er the sky-propping hills and high waters he bends,  
And gives the proud earth a new zone.

Potowmak, Ohio, Missouri had felt  
Half her globe in their cincture compest;  
His long curving course has completed the belt,  
And tamed the last tide of the west.

**Joel Barlow**

American Poet, Diplomat, Politician

Then hear the loud voice of the nation proclaim,  
And all ages resound the decree:  
Let our occident stream bear the young hero's name,  
Who taught him his path to the sea.

These four brother floods, like a garland of flowers,  
Shall entwine all our states in a band  
Conform and confederate their wide-spreading powers,  
And their wealth and their wisdom expand.

From Darien to Davis one garden shall bloom,  
Where war's weary banners are furl'd,  
And the far scenting breezes that waft its perfume,  
Shall settle the storms of the world.

Then hear the loud voice of the nation proclaim  
And all ages resound the decree:  
Let our occident stream bear the young hero's name,  
Who taught him his path to the sea.

[https://allpoetry.com/On-The-Discoveries-Of-Captain-Lewis-\(January-14,-1807\)](https://allpoetry.com/On-The-Discoveries-Of-Captain-Lewis-(January-14,-1807))

**Joel Barlow**

March 24, 1754 – December 26, 1812

Born: Redding, Fairfield County, Connecticut

Education: Yale University

Ardent Patriot in Revolutionary War

1780 Chaplain for Fourth Massachusetts Brigade  
Mason

Ardent Jeffersonian Republican

1784 Established weekly paper: *American Mercury*

1786 Admitted to the Bar

1787 Published long poem: *The Vision of Columbus*

Recruited French Immigrants to America

1795-1797 American Consul in Algiers

1809 Elected to American Philosophical Society

**United States Minister to France****February 27, 1811-November 17, 1811**

**“My Buddy Gets the Big Buck”**  
**By Thomas P. Pirotte, M.D.**

25

A tale so oft-told from armchair and fireside as to be needful of writing....

*The massive ten-pointer came bounding up the gully. Pat struggled to get him in the scope....*

We had been in the field only a short time that afternoon in December of 1991. The place was a patch of thick woods on Lincoln Branch of Mill Creek in Bourbon County, Kansas. Pat and I were friends of the owner and had hunted her place for years. Long ago I had placed a stand in the fork of an oak tree on the lip of a shallow gully, a tributary of the branch, because of plentiful rut sign. It turned out to be a lucky stand – I had killed two deer from it in years past.

Pat was hunting deer for only his third or fourth year. He grew up hunting birds and small game in northeast Nebraska, but only after some badgering on my part did he take up the chase for big game. His first was an antelope in Wyoming; he later took the field for both whitetails and mule deer in Kansas and Wyoming.

This time, though, we were stealing time to hunt together near Fort Scott, Kansas, where both of us lived at various times. Pat owned land adjacent to the property we were hunting. He had seen a good buck for just a few second on his place two weeks before season. The big boy was wise enough to have grown his big rack; we knew he'd be tough to fool. We tucked him back in the place of hopes and dreams, and concentrated on the better percentage: a doe or small buck.

Our efforts up to now had been disappointing. It seemed hard to figure movements of the deer. They had plentiful cover and were moving poorly. Neither of us had had a shot. Time was growing short, and we just had an opportunity for one more try before we had to split up for the season, so we held a strategy session. The stand was Old Faithful, but both of us could not be up one tree. We needed to get hunting in midafternoon rather than waiting for the golden hour of late afternoon. It seemed our chances were better if one man took stand and the other moved.

Pat won the toss for the stand. We moved in to the oak together, and I made sure he was up and secure. His cannon – sorry, rifle – was a .375 H&H magnum, which he had bought in anticipation of a future African safari. He was shooting Winchester Silvertip 300-grain loads.

His lights were all glowing green, so I began to move slowly away from his stand, downhill on the rim of the gully toward the creek bottom, which I knew well, but had really not seen deer there very often.

I had been separated from Pat perhaps ten or twelve minutes and had gone about two hundred yards. I was just thinking about whether to keep going, or stop in cover and see what might be moving, when I heard a resounding blast from Pat's magnum. I didn't hear another shot, so I figured he had connected, and hastened back to see what he had. The cover was so thick I had to get within sixty yards before I could even see my buddy. He was standing – make that DANCING – over something on the ground, and when he saw me he started with “I got ‘im! I got ‘im!” I had a feeling from his near-frenzy it was more deer than just meat for the freezer, but I could see nothing for the heavy brush.

I bulled through the cover to see Pat gaping at a huge buck. He was massive, symmetric, and had ten points. Later we measured a 21-inch spread. I did a double-take, and then the whooping and handshaking really started! It was a buck like few men ever see; Pat had taken him cleanly with a single shot. He recounted, when he had calmed down some, that the deer had come boiling up along the gully toward him not long after I had gone out of sight. The buck gave no sign that he had seen Pat, but it was clear he was going to go flying by the stand, and Pat didn't want a running shot. The excited hunter got him in the scope, got ready, and then whistled him. *Ten-points* paused long enough for three pounds' worth of squeeze....He was hit at the base of the neck on one side; the slug exited the opposite shoulder. We found the gouge he made with his back hooves in his last lunge. The buck had paused for the last time twenty-three yards from Pat's tree. From my position on the ground, I had seen or heard nothing of the deer until Pat's shot.

Pat was bouncing up and down so much that I knew he could not settle down to gutting the deer. I sent him tootling along to get the truck, figuring that would take up his energy. I bent to the chore myself while he was gone, marveling at the damage the big slug had done. I had my hands high up in the chest where I was working more by feel than sight, and sliced a finger. Whatever got me was so sharp that I thought it might be a broadhead from an old wound, but my assailant was a big sliver of bone blasted loose by the Silvertip....

I finished just about the time Pat returned, walking on the ground, instead of air. He had the truck as close to us as he could get. We admired the big boy again, got *Ten-point Grin* pictures of the mighty hunter – and his loyal servant – with our hands holding big antlers, and then co-oped on the grunt-groan task of deer-dragging.

We were just hunting the terrain and hoping; we had no knowledge of any specific animals in the cover. The buck only made one mistake – his last! Our strategy worked. He rushed away from me, not aware of the threat from Pat. Altogether a memorable day in the field, and a lesson that the way we hunted would move deer for a shot – SOMETIMES....!



### Remembering the Expedition on Horseback in the Rocky Mountains By William Lenz, [Hunter Run Farm](#)



We cannot deny the horse has been an instrumental part of shaping civilization. Recently, archaeologists have dated the domestication of horses to 5,000 - 5,500 years ago in Kazakhstan. This domestication enabled men to increase the speed at which they could move their hunting and gathering societies, thus improving survivability. The use of horses in Europe was first seen around 3,000 years ago.

For a lengthy period, the relationship between man and horse could easily be interpreted as exploitative, as we waged war off them and weighted their backs with our burdens. I would like to think there has always been a powerful admiration and respect by the people that relied on these noble steeds.

With the reintroduction of the horse to North America by the Spanish, there were again sweeping effects on the culture. The American West we know today would not exist had it not been for the horse. One cannot imagine the American West's stunning landscapes without mounted Plains Indians on painted Appaloosas or a cowboy astride a big Bay, moving cattle. Today, horsemanship is still an integral part of Western culture. While 4-wheeled dirt-flinging cyclopes have invaded ranches, there are still many ranches that work off horseback. The Horse Nations Indian Relay Council (HNIRC) has grown-Indian Relay competitions, a sport redolent of war games played by Native Americans when Lewis and Clark crossed the plains from 1804 to 1806.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the [2022 World Championship Indian Relay race](#) held at the [Sheridan WYO Rodeo](#), and the event was truly a crowd pleaser. The rider and three horse handlers came into the arena, painted in



tribal colors with their horses slick and gleaming. The riders started on the ground, one hand on the mane and the other fist full of reins. At the shot of the gun, riders vaulted up on the barebacked horses, bolting forward in one fluid motion like a giant cat moving on prey. The riders made three rounds of the track, jumping off and remounting on each lap. At each exchange, the crowds jumped to their feet with anticipation. The energy in the arena was palpable through each of the four races of four teams.

While my Wyoming mountain ride did not have the crowd-pleasing thrill of the Indian relay, the exploration of new land, if only to my eye, is an exhilaration to my senses I pray will never cease. My mind imagines Lewis and Clark felt this way. They must have! When speaking of retracing Lewis and Clark's journey, to call it a trek or hike seems banal; it was more of a pilgrimage. Having the pleasure over the years to cover portions of the trail by horse and foot, I can extrapolate the feelings of my latest horse adventure in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming to those of Lewis and Clark's travels through modern day Montana and Idaho. I have sauntered across the Bitterroots and Lolo trail over the years, so vividly internalize the struggles the expedition faced after embarking on that arduous trek in September 1805 with the equipment of the day. It is a task that makes me shiver, while writing this in August. To cross that stretch of mountains during those dates was very impressive, at minimum.

My recent North to South venture across the Big Horns provided considerably better weather than the expedition had in the Rockies. I slipped into the saddle on a 57-degree morning on the first day and rode all day with the mercury topping 78-degrees at best. Riding the mountains of the West begins to carry my thoughts to Lewis and Clark, Bridger, Colter, Beckwourth, Johnson, Thompson, and the scores of others when they saw the grandeur of the West for the first time. While I certainly appreciate all natural settings and have a deep fondness for my homeland, the South Carolina Low country, with the majestic live oaks and mysterious cypress swamps, I am in love with the West. The sheer expanses are mesmerizing, from painted deserts to seas of prairie grasses with wind-drawn waves and mountains of daunting rock formations studded with giant firs and pines. While books will not be written about us, and historians ponder over our journals, each of us can share the feelings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition if we continue to explore. I rode on.

At each summit we stood upon, we looked into the souls of those that came before us and stared upon a vastness so humbling it cleanses us of our arrogance. I don't envy Lewis and Clark's Expedition; rather, I desire to see the land as they saw it. I rode on.

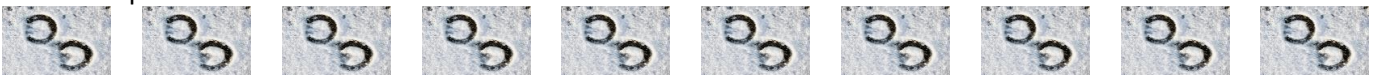
Having spent my earlier years on the ocean, I quickly learned that only the naïve or foolish claim to conquer her. Lewis and Clark would certainly think the same about the phrase today, "how the West was won." Seeing the West in her very burgeoning state, they would realize it was not a winning, just a populating. Get caught above tree line in a thunder-storm or soaked to bone as the sun drops and you will find yourself humble at the mercy of the mountains. I rode on.

The mellifluous rhythm of the hooves drove me deeper into thought: How many of these clear mountain lakes did these voyagers gaze upon? Were the millions of sparkles of light dancing off the surface as captivating to them? Did the purity of her taste satisfy both rider and horse thirst? I rode on.

My horse and I are grateful we still have these wild places, for we both have much to explore. In a small meadow of the high country, my focus narrowed as the delicate violet flower of Larkspurs (Delphinium) caught my eye. Lewis must have smiled at the sight of the first Larkspurs, Phlox and Ragwort. I rode on.

A slight chilling breeze brushed my cheek, startling me out of deep thought and announcing the start of nightly preparations. Shortly after dismounting, I hobbled my horse to graze on the lush mountain grass. I surveyed the area for a spot away from the dark timber and with just enough wind to wrangle the mosquitos, providing refuge until the night chill would subdue the stinging critters. As I write this, I decide tonight will be a cold camp; I like it that way, as the lack of fire light will preserve the view of the stars. Under a wool blanket in a canvas bedroll, I wonder if Lewis and Clark dreamed of adventures to come, as I shall tonight. What new adventure awaits each of us?

I sleep.



By Thomas D. Thiessen

On their ascent of the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark encountered a French-Canadian named Pierre Dorion (the senior, to distinguish him from his son of the same name) descending the river on June 12, 1804, possibly near Bear Creek in Saline County, Missouri. Clark described him as “an old man who had been with the Soux 20 years & had great influence with them.”<sup>1</sup> The Captains hired Dorion to serve as an interpreter for the Sioux groups that they expected to meet on their journey. He had lived and raised a family among the Yankton Sioux.<sup>2</sup> After the expedition, Dorion is believed to have served as an Indian subagent for Clark.<sup>3</sup>

Little is known of Dorion’s fate. He is said to have died sometime after returning to the Sioux in 1811, although in 1810 William Clark reported that “P. Dorion the Sac Sub Agent is dead.”<sup>4</sup>

One small detail relating to Pierre Dorion’s death may be found in a Hudson’s Bay Company’s post journal for the trading season of 1819-1820. The Honorable Company opened a trade with the Sioux Indians in the upper Red River region of eastern North and South Dakota and western Minnesota in 1816 and continued the trade into 1822. The Sioux groups with whom the company traded included Yanktons, Sissetons, Yantonnais, and eastern Dakotas from the region near the mouth of the Minnesota River. During four of these six years, the trade was conducted at a post on the eastern side of Lake Traverse along the present-day South Dakota-Minnesota border.<sup>5</sup> Post journals for two of these trading seasons (1819-1820 and 1820-1821) have survived in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives at the Manitoba Provincial Archives in Winnipeg.

The 1819-1820 post journal, written on an almost daily basis by the post clerk John Palmer Bourke, records two visits to the post by a Sioux man named Le Gros Fer,<sup>6</sup> on December 29-30, 1819, and January 20-22, 1820. The entry for December 29 reads, in part, “Le Gros Fer brought fresh meat this Indian is remarkable for having kill’d a Mr. Dorion some years back.”

The band affiliation of Le Gros Fer is not identified, but possibly he was part of the Yankton group among whom Dorion resided. It is unfortunate that this notation by Bourke does not give any information about the reason, place, or date of Dorion’s death, nor further information about Le Gros Fer other than his arrival and departure dates from the Lake Traverse post.

There is a monument to Pierre Dorion (senior) near his presumed grave site at Yankton, South Dakota, and a possible descendant claims he died in 1812 near Brownville, Nebraska.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Moulton, Gary E. *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition*, Vol. 2 (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986), pp. 294-295n2 and n3.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Harriet D. Munnick, “Pierre Dorion” in LeRoy R. Hafen, *The Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, Vol. 8 (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1971), p. 111; William Clark to William Eustis, Secretary of War, September 12, 1810, in Clarence Edwin Carter, *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, Vol. 14, The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri 1806-1814 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1949), pp. 412-414. See also Donald Jackson, *Letters of the Lewis and Clark Expedition with Related Documents, 1783-1854* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), original edition 1962, p. 220n1, and second edition 1978, p. 219n1.

<sup>5</sup>Further information on this trade may be found in Thomas D. Thiessen, “The Hudson’s Bay Company’s Trade with the Sioux Indians in the Upper Red River Region, 1816-1822” (available at [academia.edu/55632438/The-Hudsons-Bay-Companys-Trade-with-the-Sioux-Indians-in-the-Upper-Red-River-Region-1816\\_1822](http://academia.edu/55632438/The-Hudsons-Bay-Companys-Trade-with-the-Sioux-Indians-in-the-Upper-Red-River-Region-1816_1822)). After 1822, trading at the Lake Traverse post (then renamed Fort Washington) continued under the auspices of the Columbia Fur Company.

<sup>6</sup>The intended meaning of this name is unclear. Literally translated, it means “The Large Iron,” possibly in reference to an iron weapon such as a sword.

<sup>7</sup>See [www.visitanktonsd.com/about-yankton/historic-markers](http://www.visitanktonsd.com/about-yankton/historic-markers); and Lawrence J. Barkwell, *The Metis Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806* (Winnipeg, Manitoba: Louis Riel Institute, no date), p. 4.

[Cass County Historical Society Museum](#), 646 Main St., Plattsmouth, NE 68048 (402-296-4770)  
[Durham Western Heritage Museum](#), 801 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha, NE 68108 (402-444-5071)  
[Fontanelle Forest](#), 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N., Bellevue, NE 68005 (402-731-3140)  
[Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park](#), 201 W. 7<sup>th</sup> 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)  
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[Joslyn Art Museum](#), 2200 Dodge St., Omaha, NE 68102 (402-342-3300) **CLOSED until 2024**  
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[Nebraska Historical Museum](#), 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402-471-4782)  
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[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)  
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Thanks to Andy Woolard, who  
converts photos for use in this  
publication!

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

"May works be a test of  
patriotism, as they  
ought of right to be that  
of religion."  
Meriwether Lewis



Easy Daytrip  
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center  
4500 Sioux River Road  
Sioux City, Iowa 51109

30



Blue Catfish Mount (near ceiling)



Extensive egg collection (It is no longer legal to do this!)

This Nature Center is located within a few miles north of Sioux City. There is a museum at the visitor center and an extensive trail system for hiking 4 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.



Rotate the illuminated wheel to alternate between tree roots and branches.



Lighted Antler Christmas Tree



Live remote viewer

**Easy Daytrip**  
**Missouri Riverfront**  
**Sioux City, Iowa**

**31**

**Take a stroll along the Riverfront from the Memorial Rock to the Visitor Center**



Missouri River near Memorial Rock



Exercise equipment on Riverfront



Fountain on Riverfront



Benches facing the Missouri River

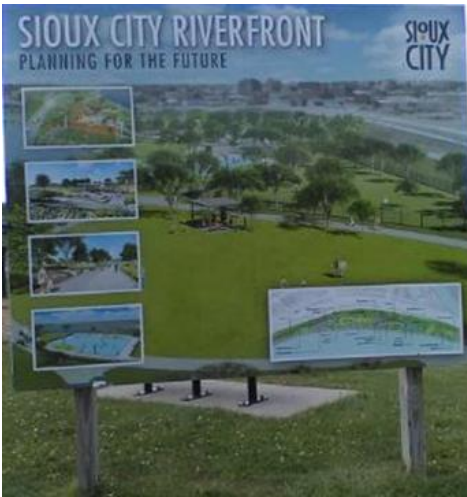


Picnic Shelter on Riverfront



Riverfront Trails





Future Plans



Toys on the Riverfront



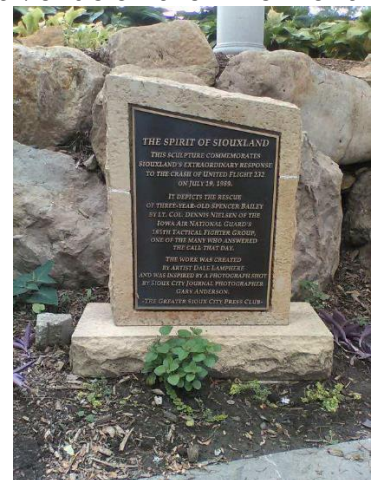
Concert Venue on the Riverfront



Bandshell



Memorial for United Flight 232 (crashed July 19, 1989)



Bridge to Nebraska



Eagle with fish



Owl and Lewis/Clark Visitor Center

This walk takes an hour and a half. You are always within sight of the Missouri River. There are activities for all ages. People eat, bicycle, fish, soak up the sun, and enjoy the greenspace. Everything is handicap accessible. There is plenty of parking. I didn't have room for the pictures, but there was also an extensive temporary outdoor art exhibit of "Scraposaurs," dinosaurs made of scrap metal.

-ADW

**Easy Daytrip:**  
**Hitchcock Nature Center**  
**27792 Ski Hill Loop**  
**Honey Creek, Iowa 51542**  
**712-545-3283**

This lovely place is on Old Lincoln Highway north of Crescent, Iowa. It's a beautiful drive, whether you approach from the south or the north. The **easiest** way to visit from Omaha is to come across the Missouri River on I-680, drive east to Crescent, and turn north at the Casey's Gas Station.

You pay either \$5 at a drop box on your way into the park area, or you purchase a Pottawattamie County Park Membership Sticker from the Nature Center. Annual membership is \$25 (out-of-county) and includes entrance to four other Pottawattamie County Parks, including Botna Bend, Arrowhead Lake, Narrows River, and Old Town Parks. There are miles of trails to explore.

The Nature Center, itself, features informative displays on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, especially the flora and fauna encountered by the Corps. The Center also has nature programming, including such offerings as "Butterfly Tagging" and training in raptor identification. Volunteers participate in the Center's Hawk Watch, counting migrating raptors during the fall migration season.

The feature that may draw the most people is the Center's verandah and Viewing Tower. For folks with mobility impairment, the verandah is a comfortable place to soak in the grand view of the Missouri River Valley stretching into the distance. For folks who like a challenge, the Tower is even better: 360 degrees of spectacular views of the Loess Hills, wind in your hair, and raptors over your shoulder!

The following is a transcription of a video in the Nature Center. The speaker is Park Ranger Chad Graeve, as he gives us a tour of the NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT. You will be as impressed as I am with the Center's conservation mission regarding this globally significant landform. -ADW

*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. -Aldo Leopold*

*A prairie basically means an area that doesn't have many trees, and it's a lot of grass. It's going to have a very high species diversity of grasses and wildflowers and sedges, but it's not just those plants and all the invertebrates that are pollinating but also the small mammals, reptiles and amphibians, the birds, the fungi that live in the soil. It's an incredibly complex array of organisms that all comprise a community. If you take them out, the community collapses.*

*My name is Chad Graeve and I was hired full-time in 1998 as a Park Ranger here, and the job has transitioned over time. It still has 'Park Ranger' in the title, but I'm focused more on managing our natural areas. When I first started working with Pottawattamie County Conservation, the mission was very much focused on outdoor recreational opportunities for people. We've grown and expanded and put more emphasis on environmental education. We're teaching people about our natural areas, and then we've also taken the next step, which is to be stewards of that natural system and to realize the importance of the human engagement in caring for the land and relating to it in a healthy manner, so that the land can be healthy and, then, in turn, so can we, because it provides everything for us.*



*"These here, this is rough Girardia. This is an annual plant that grows in these remnant prairies. And this is little bluestem, which is one of the dominant grasses you find in the prairie. We're getting ready to plant 30 acres of reconstructions in an area that was row crop. We like to plant with local eco-type seeds, stuff that grows right here, instead of buying seed from some distant place. That usually means getting out and picking by hand. The real dark ones, especially if they look split open on the tops of the pods."*

*Iowa ranks as the most altered state in the country. Prior to settlement, 85% of Iowa was tall-grass prairie. Less than 1/10 of 1 percent of it remains. So, what once covered 85% of the state is virtually gone, and we can't recreate it, so it's lost forever.*

*So, whatever we have left, we still have the opportunity to be stewards of that, care for that, and I think that's the purpose of humankind: it's to care for everything else.*

*We're going to selectively cut trees out of this edge, and we're starting with this elm right here. The woodlands are way more dense than they are supposed to be, so they need to be thinned out for their own health, but also thinning off this edge here will allow more late afternoon light to get into this prairie. It will allow more wind to move through here. These are all parts of how these systems function.*

*And so we look at the historical evidence to clue us in to what is a healthy system. We are not at all interested in going back in time to what it was. That's not even realistic. This is 2019, not 1851. But 1851 gives us some understanding of how the system functions when it's healthy. So, now we want to move forward in time to a healthy condition, not back in time. The primary thing that we are doing is just trying to pay attention to those basic biological principles. We need sunlight. We need water. We need those in the right way in the system so that the system can function. And then recognizing where our culture has interrupted processes and trying to restore those processes. Euro-American settlers started suppressing fires. Without fire, the energy and the nutrients in the system couldn't cycle like they are supposed to, and that allowed the trees to take over and shade out the plants, and that has affected the hydrology. So we can put fire back into the system. Our culture also got rid of the native grazers, so try to restore that process of grazing. In some cases we are trying to do that with cattle and goats, but, ultimately, we want to do that with bison and elk because they are the right critters for the landscape. But all this brush is starting to shade out the grass and the wildflowers, and so we cut that to get sun down to the ground so those native plants get what they need and they come on stronger.*

*We need to get sunlight back into the system. We need fire back in the system. We need the grazers doing their thing. Ultimately, though, we need a human community that interacts with and appreciates the land and respects the land and has gratitude for what the land does for us.*

*This place has taught me that we are part of the place. We are not separate. We kind of have this idea in our culture that nature is something to look at, whether it's the calendar, or out the window, or the picture on your computer monitor. But it's actually something to experience directly. It's alive. It's a dynamic system, and it's real. It's not fake. It's not artificial. It's a real experience. It's not fabricated.*

*I learned a long time ago that every person serves a purpose. I think my purpose is to be a steward of creation and also sharing it with other people and helping them connect with something that is bigger than us.*

*With the assistance of PCF, Pottawattamie Conservation protects and restores over 2,000 acres of land for public use.*

## HOUSE HEARING THIS MONTH: HONORING THE 1835 TREATY OF NEW ECHOTA

[Kimberly Teehee](#) (born October 13, 1968) is an American attorney, politician, and activist on Native American issues. She is a Delegate-designate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Cherokee Nation.

<https://www.cherokee.org/our-government/delegate-to-congress/>

### Editor's Desk:

Solipsism [Latin solus=alone, ipse=self]: In philosophy, (a) the theory that the self can be aware of nothing but its own experience and states; (b) the theory that nothing exists or is real but the self.

Jack Christ recently taught me this word. It makes me smile. Besides adding to my Scrabble arsenal, this word is great fodder for thought. While it may be true that 'self' can be aware of nothing but its own experiences and states, a quick perusal of *Familiar Quotations* by John Bartlett reveals centuries of human reflections on 'self;' these demonstrate that philosophers are hardly of one mind on the subject. The truth is not as simple as 'nothing exists or is real but the self.'

This topic actually has a LOT of relevance to Lewis and Clark; they pursued a journey that was all about discovering 'the other.' Jefferson's directive centered on the Corps making contact with Native Americans, besides documenting the plants, animals, geology, geography, weather, etc. No one could have captured the philosophy that birthed this directive more succinctly than contemporary poet Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) in *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, *canto VI*:



Friends Bev Hines and Juliana at Sgt. Floyd Monument before burial ceremony.

Breathes there the man, with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd  
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd  
From wandering on a foreign strand!  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well;  
For him no Minstrel raptures swell;  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim;  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf\*,  
The wretch, **concentered all in self**,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust, from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonor'd, and unsung.  
\*pelf=money

Jefferson wanted the Corps to show itself friendly to the Natives. Cicero (106-43 B.C.) said, "A friend is, as it were, a second self" (*De Amicitia XVII*). That quote is actually a restatement of Aristotle (384-322 B.C.): "What is a friend? A

single soul dwelling in two bodies" (*Diogenes Laertius*). He implies that two separate bodies, each perceiving its separate experience, each perceiving its self as separate, can actually be intimately related to one another. It seems that there happens a decision within the self that either allows this joining, or not. On the one hand is 'self' that is limited and closed-minded. We see that expressed by Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) in *Pensées*--"Self is hateful"-- and by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) in *The Prison and the Angel*--"Self is the only prison that can ever bind the soul." On the other hand, Tennyson (1809-1892) sees 'self' as the source of mastery in *Oenone*--"Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control, These three alone lead life to sovereign power." Shakespeare (1564-1616) turns this mastery outward in *Hamlet*: "To thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

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Reaching, again, into antiquity, we hear Epictetus (c. 50-120 A.D.) praise the liberation of self from its own self-imposed prison: "What is the first business of one who practices philosophy? To get rid of self-conceit. **For it is impossible for anyone to begin to learn that which he thinks he already knows**" (*Discourses, Book II*). Epictetus it is who also says, "Only the educated are free" (*Discourses, Book II*).

Well, there you have it! If it is true that the self can only be aware of its own experiences and states, then it would seem critical to fine-tune one's own learning apparatus, both internal and external (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual), to the highest degree possible, to pursue education with a passion, to make the most of every opportunity, and to expose oneself to methods of absorbing experience. To keep from reinventing the wheel in isolation, doesn't that mean intentionally exposing oneself to others? Always being willing to try a new experience, meet a new person, listen to a new melody, etc.? It would also mean cautiously avoiding those people/places/things that might reduce one's ability to absorb education; i.e., no psychedelic chemicals, no dependencies, no violence, no destructive or limiting habits. It also means good sleep, good nutrition, and good attitudes. It means being able to say "No" as easily and confidently as one says "Yes." Sometimes it means tagging along with others. Sometimes it means paddling one's own canoe.

What does all this have to do with Lewis and Clark? The men of the Expedition went to the West Coast and back! They opened themselves to new experiences and internal states. They opened themselves to others, also having, each, his own experiences and states to share. The 'self' thrives on words, symbols, growth, context, and meaning. That's what we Study Group folks get in a limited way from our bookish relationship with Lewis and Clark. Whether they were real, live, flesh and blood explorers, or merely constructs inside our 'selves'...we'll let the philosophers debate that *ad nauseum*. MOP members will bring to the solipsistic table all that we have experienced and incorporated into ourselves to advance the work of discovery with regard to the Expedition. Let the learning "proceed on!"

And while we're on the topic, let's hear William Evert Gladstone (1809-1898): "**Selfishness** is the greatest curse of the human race" (*Speech, Hawarden [May 28, 1890]*). The selfishness that comes to mind is that of our Federal government making treaties with the Native Americans that it never intended to keep. On the November 4, 2022, TV news, I heard that our Congress is getting ready to consider, once again, the 1835 promise it made to the Cherokee Nation to permit the tribe to have a representative in Congress. They have never had one! As modern non-Native Americans, we would all do well to remember another significant Gladstone quote: "National injustice is the surest road to national downfall" (*Speech, Plumstead [1878]*). Please click on the yellow banner above to read about Kimberly Teehee, the current nominee for the position of Cherokee Representative to Congress.

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## **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**

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

Meets: Third Tuesday of the month

11:30 a.m. or Noon (winter only)

December 20: John LaRondeau at Willa Cather Library

Location: 1905 S. 44<sup>th</sup> Street (at Center Street)

Time: Noon

Topic: In Search of the Source of the Missouri R.

January 17 & February 21: Speaker, location, Topic--TBD

March 21: Dr. Richard Fruehling at Willa Cather Library

Location: 1905 S. 44<sup>th</sup> Street (at Center Street)

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Topic: Medical Problems on the Expedition

April – October Meetings: Third Tuesday of the month

5 pm Social Hour

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm Speaker

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

#### **MOP Chapter Board Meetings:**

Meets: First Tuesday of the month

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

January 3: 6 p.m. (TBD)

February 7: 6 p.m. (TBD)

### **Annually:**

#### **June: Lewis and Clark Festival**

[Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa, IA](#)

#### **July: Camp White Catfish Dinner**

[Mills County Historical Museum](#)

## **Upcoming One-time Events:**

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**Our Chapter:** See list of Dinner Speakers at left

### **Other Chapters:**

#### **December 17: Wreath Across America (11 a.m.)**

Sgt. Floyd Monument

2601 S. Lewis Blvd., Sioux City, IA

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

[leonard1796@yahoo.com](mailto:leonard1796@yahoo.com)) (SFTS)

### **National Organization:**

**LCTHF 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:** June 27-30, 2023

Location: Missoula, MT

Info: [lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org)

### **Other Organizations:**

**Cass County Historical Society Museum:** Dec. 3

Christmas Tree Lighting: Museum Courtyard (6:30 p.m.)

**Durham Western Heritage Museum:**

Dressing the Abbey: Now to January 8, 2023

**Fort Atkinson Living History:** No events

**Historic Downtown Plattsmouth Association:**

[historicdowntownplattsmouth@gmail.com](mailto:historicdowntownplattsmouth@gmail.com)

Dec. 3: Victorian Christmas-on-Main (6-9 pm)

**Joslyn Art Museum:** Closed until 2024

**Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center:**

Monday – Saturday 10-4, Sunday – Noon to 4 pm

**Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters:**

**Timeline: Winter Quarters and Kanesville: 1804-1854**

Mormon Trails: Pioneer Pathways to Zion: 1846-1890

**Nebraska History Museum Special Exhibitions:**

Archeology, Photographers and the Plains Indians

Nebraska Unwrapped: Selections from the Collections

**Sioux City Lewis and Clark Center:**

Nov. 20: "Roads and Rails, Rivers and Trails: Traveling in the Past" with Russ Gifford (2 p.m.)

**Union Pacific Railroad Museum:**

All Set for the West: Railroads and the National Parks

"Move Over, Sir!" Women Working on the Railroad



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