

## Remembering Jane Randol Jackson

Jane Randol Jackson, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Board of Directors member, passed away at her home in The Villages, Florida, August 8, 2011. A wonderful woman, Jane was one of the hardest workers and deepest thinkers on the LCTHF board. An extremely well-attended service was conducted at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. It was altogether fitting that Jane's memorial service was held on August 18, birth date of Captain Meriwether Lewis in 1774. He and Captain William Clark were figures she admired.

Jane was the co-founder of the Red House Interpretive Center and former director of the Cape Girardeau County Archive Center. The first woman to receive the *Southeast Missourian's* Spirit of America Award, Jane was a strong advocate for preserving local history. Her family, the Randols, came to Missouri in 1797 and was among Cape Girardeau's first residents. In the course of researching her family's history, she discovered the connection between Cape Girardeau's rich history the Lewis and Clark Expedition and, in particular, Louis Lorimier.

Jane served on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and assisted in organizing the bicentennial commission in Cape Girardeau, leading to the group's re-enactment and rebuilding of the Red House, a replica of Louis Lorimier's home. The original Red House, next to St. Vincent de Paul Church, had been destroyed. Many people were involved in the rebuilding of the Red House, but none was more passionate than Jane. She was the driving force that brought the entire idea from drawing board to reality—she helped raise \$130,000 for the reconstruction project and donated \$10,000 of her own money. The Red House opened on November 23, 2003—200 years to the day after Lewis and Clark arrived



to buy supplies in 1803.

Jane was a lifetime member of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation on whose Board of Director she served for many years. Jane founded LCTHF's George Drouillard Chapter and served as its president for a number of years. She also belonged to the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri, which re-enacted the entire Lewis and Clark Expedition during the bicentennial years of 2003–2006. Jane organized several major Lewis and Clark events, including boat trips, during the final



National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Signature Event at St. Louis and during the memorial commemoration of Meriwether Lewis's death during the 2009 LCTHF Annual Meeting.

Jane was the first director of the Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, serving from 2001–2007. She organized all the records and arranged them so they are very useful to the public. The archive center, an office of the Cape Girardeau County Government, maintains county records dating back to 1797. Before becoming an advocate for preserving local history, Jane touched many lives throughout her 34-year career as a high school French teacher, including four years in Vienna, Austria. She was graduated in 1968 from Southeast Missouri State University with degrees in education and French.

Now having a greater understanding of its past, Cape Girardeau is all the better, thanks to Jane Randol Jackson. Her efforts and commitment to local history will influence many generations in the years to come. Everyone who knew Jane misses her very much, but we all feel privileged to have had this extraordinary lady in our lives.

—Lorna Hainesworth