

Robert E. Gatten, Jr. Bicentennial Council Papers

Inclusive Dates:

1995-2001

Name and Location of Repository:

William P. Sherman Library and Archives Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Great Falls, MT

Collection Processed by:

Dick Smith, 2007

Finding aid prepared by:

Jill Jackson, 2003. Revised by Shelly Kath, May 2016.

Collection Number:

AR 006

Name of Creator:

Dr. Robert E. Gatten, Jr

Extent:

2 linear feet

Biographical/Historical Note:

Dr. Robert E. (Bob) Gatten, Jr joined the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) in 1983 after reading Roy Appleman's book *Lewis and Clark, Historic Places Associated with their Transcontinental Exploration* published in 1975. His first experience with Foundation members and the Lewis and Clark Trail itself was in 1986 as he travelled the trail from the mouth of the Marias River to the Pacific coast. The first annual meeting Bob attended was the 1989 meeting in Bozeman, Montana where he presented on the work being done by the Bicentennial Committee on which he served.

In addition to service on the Bicentennial Committee Bob was elected to the board of directors in 1991. In 1992-1993 he served as Second Vice President. From 1993 to 1994 he was First Vice President (President-Elect). He served as president from 1994 to 1996. He held the position of Immediate Past President from 1996 to 1997. In 1999 Bob was the organizing president of the Carolina Chapter. He served as Chapter President for a few years. He was chair of the Trail Stewardship Grants Committee in 2008, 2011 and 2012. In 2011 Bob started the Foundation History project (to view the files visit www.lewisandclark.org and go to the Foundation History on the About US tab). Bob chaired the Awards Committee in 2013. Bob Gatten was the second person in the history of the organization to serve as

President for two years. Bob Doerk was the first two-year President of the Board of Directors.

While he was President, Bob hired the Foundation's first Executive Director. It was a half time position that the person worked from their own office or home. The organization did not have a headquarters yet. Bob wrote the first application for a Challenge Cost Share Grant to the National Park Service (NPS) to strengthen ties between the Foundation and NPS. He presided over the 1995 annual meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia. January 19, 1993 Bob hosted a luncheon meeting in Charlottesville for local LCTHF members. He hoped he could encourage them to establish a local chapter and host an annual meeting. Jane Henley was at that meeting and influential in both establishing the Home Front Chapter and hosting the 1995 meeting. She also served on the LCTHF Board of Directors and as Board President.

Until 1990 the annual meetings of LCTHF were planned, organized, and led by the president of the LCTHF. After 1990 the Chair of the Annual Meeting was given the task of planning and organizing the meeting and the President could focus on LCTHF.

National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council

In December of 1987 Jerry Garrett was asked by President John Montague to chair a planning committee to focus on the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Early work of that committee is noted in the minutes of the August 6, 1988 Board of Directors Meeting. In December of 1988 Bob Gatten offered to serve on the Bicentennial Committee. The committee sent recommendations to the Board of Directors, but the Board only received and considered those recommendations once a year. Harry Hubbard led an effort to get permission from LCTHF Board of Directors to solicit a separate 501(c)3 corporation focused on planning the Bicentennial. In 1993 Harry Hubbard, Stu Knapp, and Bob Gatten incorporated the Bicentennial Council later known as the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. This left LCTHF free to focus on their mission of being Keepers of the Story and Stewards of the Trail. It also opened opportunities to expand the range of people involved in the planning process. Harry, Stu, and Bob reached out to American Indians belonging to the nations Lewis and Clark encountered, they recruited historians and directors of state historical societies. They wanted to involve as many federal, state, local agencies, and local organizations as they could. They wanted the commemoration to have a national scope. They envisioned that it would include as many Native American Tribes as possible. Their goal was for the commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial to be accurate, educational, and inclusive.

Scope and Contents:

This is a collection of Robert E. Gatten, Jr.'s papers from his time serving on the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial the materials included date from 1995 to 2001. Papers from his service on Board of Directors of the LCTHF

from 1998 to 2000. The collection includes National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial annual meetings, committee work, correspondence, meeting minutes, meeting notes, handouts, and reference materials in four document boxes.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged alphabetically by series, then subseries and chronologically within series/sub-series. The first series deals with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and contains four folders worth of material that is arranged with the most recent material at the front. The second series deals with the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. It is divided into six subseries.

Subject Terms:

Bicentennial Committee
Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Date Acquired:

2004

Acquisition Source:

This collection was donated to LCTHF by Bob Gatten.

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for use.

Use Restrictions:

LCTHF does not own copyright to all the materials in the collection. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation:

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Robert E. Gatten, Jr. Bicentennial Council Papers 1995-2001
AR 006

Box Listing:

Box 1

Series 1: Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (4 Folders)

Folder 1: Lewis and Clark Foundation 1999-2000

Folder 2: Lewis and Clark Foundation 1998-1999 Part 1

Folder 3: Lewis and Clark Foundation 1998-1999 Part 2

Folder 4: Lewis and Clark Foundation 1998-1999 Part 3

Series 2: National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (3.5 Boxes)

Sub-Series 1: Bicentennial Council Board (1995-1999)

Folder 5: 1995-1996 Part 1

Folder 6: 1995-1996 Part 2

Folder 7: 1995-1996 Part 3

Folder 8: 1996-1997 Part 1

Folder 9: 1996-1997 Part 2

Box 2

Folder 1: 1997-1998 Part 1

Folder 2: 1997-1998 Part 2

Folder 3: 1997-1998 Part 3

Folder 4: 1997-1998 Part 4

Folder 5: 1997-1998 Part 5

Folder 6: 1998-1999 Part 1

Folder 7: 1998-1999 Part 2

Folder 8: 1998-1999 Part 3

Folder 9: 1998-1999 Part 4

Folder 10: 1998-1999 Part 5

Folder 11: 1998-1999 Part 6

Box 3

Sub-Series 2: Bicentennial Council Governance (1998-2000)

Folder 1: 1998-1999

Folder 2: 1999-2000

Sub-Series 3: Hearing (1999)

Folder 3: Chenowith

Sub-Series 4: Bismark Annual Meeting (1999)

Folder 4: Part 1

Folder 5: Part 2

Sub-Series 5: Board/Executive Committee (1999-2000)

Folder 6: 1999-2000 Part 1

Folder 7: 1999-2000 Part 2

Folder 8: 1999-2000 Part 3

Box 4

Folder 1: 1999-2000 Part 4

Folder 2: 1999-2000 Part 5

Folder 3: 1999-2000 Part 6

Folder 4: 2000-2001 Part 1

Folder 5: 2000-2001 Part 2

Folder 6: 2000-2001 Part 3

Folder 7: 2000-2001 Part 4

Sub-Series 6: Personal Essay

Folder 8: *Perspectives on the History of the Lewis and Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation* by Dr. Robert E. Gatten, Jr.