

### Of Special Interest

- Highlights from the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting
- Pala Indian Band to Buy Warner Springs
- DVD of Grinder's Stand Ceremony is Now Available
- Plans for Spring Gathering



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### A Lonely Hero and a Lonely Grave (Governor Meriwether Lewis)

by Clay Jenkinson

*The Bismarck Tribune, October 11, 2009*  
(reprinted with permission)

**Wednesday, the Natchez Trace, Tenn., 72 miles from Nashville. Dusk.** Today I had the great honor of carrying the North Dakota state flag at the final event of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial.

All week several hundred members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation have been meeting in Olive Branch, MS, to commemorate the life of Thomas Jefferson's friend and protégé Meriwether Lewis. Lewis (1774-1809) died in the early morning hours of Oct. 11, 1809, at a lonely inn on a backwoods trail that connected Nashville with Natchez on the Mississippi River.

Today we rode buses to the site of that crude hostelry, where a solemn commemorative parade and graveside ceremony took place. An estimated 1,200 people attended the service. It was a perfect, sunny, warm fall day. A dozen state flags were part of the procession, including our own.

Hero Meriwether Lewis almost certainly committed suicide 200 years ago this week. He was 35 years old. Though he had led the most successful exploration in American history, Lewis was a deeply troubled man in the summer of 1809.

He was ill (probably with an advanced case of malaria), mentally unbalanced, nearly bankrupt, and overcome with fear that he had failed to meet Jefferson's expectations, both as the governor of Upper Louisiana, and as an enlightened explorer. Though he had been back from what he called "my late tour" for three

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### Pala Indian Band to Buy Warner Springs Ranch

by Onell R. Soto

*San Diego Union Tribune*  
December 2, 2009

(reprinted with permission)

More than 100 years after government agents marched the tribe out of its ancestral village, North County's Pala Indian band is getting it back, using \$20 million in profits from its casino to buy what is now known as Warner Springs Ranch.

The tribe, San Diego County's largest, said it plans for the ranch to continue operating as a resort. "We're going to keep it the way it is and run it like a business, make it successful," said Pala Chairman Robert Smith, noting that the tribe is already in the hospitality business through its casino.

The tribe said it has no plans for a casino at Warner Springs, 65 miles and seemingly a world away from downtown San Diego. The 2,522-acre resort features its namesake hot springs, horse trails, a golf course, a landing strip, tennis courts, a dining hall and 250 bungalows, including 17 adobe casitas in which the Pala's ancestors lived. Straddling state Route 79, it is located next to the tribe's old cemetery and a small church built in 1830 by missionaries to the Indians.

Purchasing the ranch seemed out of reach for years. "It was like a dream for myself and the tribe," Smith said. "Fifteen years ago, I never thought we'd be able to do it." Pala began to set money aside for the purchase in 2001, after opening the casino on state Route 76, hoping to regain what it lost at gunpoint following a U.S. Supreme Court decision, Smith said. "We're pretty lucky that when the

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full years, he had not written a single page of his projected three-volume account of his discoveries.

Lewis was en route to Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia at the time of his death. In his bags were financial records that he hoped would convince the War Department that - as territorial governor - he was not guilty of administrative malfeasance. He was also carrying the elk skin-bound journals of the expedition.

His intention was to travel to Philadelphia in the hope that he could overcome his appalling writer's block and get an account of his journey into print before Jefferson's patience was entirely exhausted.

At Grinder's Stand, on the edge of Chickasaw Indian Territory, at approximately 3 a.m. on Oct. 11, 1809, Lewis apparently shot himself twice, first in the head and then in the abdomen. He died, according to eyewitness accounts, shortly after the sun came up.

As I write this, on a tour bus returning to the conference headquarters, people are speaking in low tones as we look out on the melancholy afterglow of an October sunset. We all were powerfully moved by the commemorative ceremony today, during which a bust of Lewis was unveiled, and representatives of half a dozen organizations laid wreaths at Lewis' grave, a broken column over rough foundation stones.

Our own David Borlaug, president of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at Washburn, was one of the most prominent figures in the national event. He joined other former presidents of the Trail Heritage Foundation in laying a wreath on Lewis' grave.

Earlier in the week, the emeritus president of Monticello's

Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Dan Jordan, publicly declared that it was Borlaug who first suggested that Monticello host the first national signature event of the bicentennial (January 2003).

Two beloved figures in the Lewis and Clark world offered remarks at today's commemorative service. One was Bud Clark, the great, great, great grandson of the expedition's co-captain William Clark. He spoke of what he called "one of the most extraordinary friendships in the history of the American military."

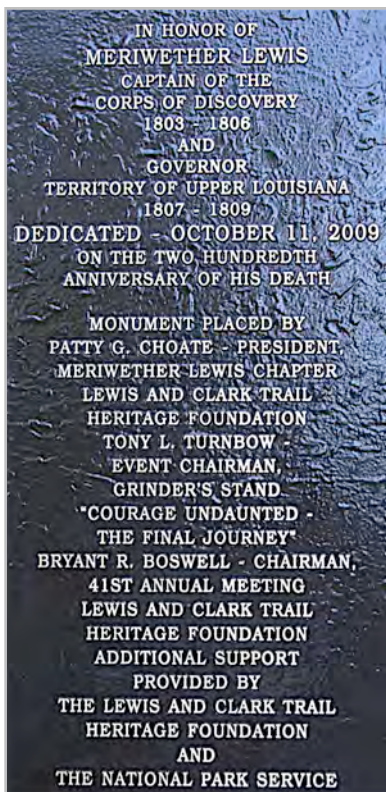
He quoted Lewis' letter of June 19, 1803, inviting Clark to join the expedition, followed by Clark's response, which, he said, contained "two invented words and four spelling errors." William Clark was a notoriously slipshod (some say creative) speller, who somehow found it possible to spell the word "Sioux" 28 different ways in the expedition's journals.

The second short address was by Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, the daughter of the late Stephen Ambrose, who did more to lift the Lewis and Clark Expedition to national prominence than any other individual, with the possible exception of documentary filmmaker Ken Burns. Even now, 13 years after its publication, "Undaunted Courage" is almost universally regarded as the best narrative of the Lewis and Clark Expedition ever written.

The late great Stephen Ambrose died of lung cancer in October 2002, just as the bicentennial was being launched. His daughter Stephenie, also a historian, told the audience at Grinder's Stand that her father was surely hovering about the site today.

Her voice broke, and many in the audience wept, when she said, "When Lewis came to this place he had much on his mind. Without doubt, he was not at peace and in many ways was in severe distress. It was not a place any who knew or loved him would have foreseen as his final stop."

This year's Trail Heritage conference was entirely devoted to the life and death of Lewis. Although most scholars, including the authoritative Ambrose, have unhesitatingly concluded that Lewis died by his own hand, an outspoken minority of historians, and about a



*Plaque presented to the National Park Service (NPS) by the LCTHF during the national memorial ceremony held at Grinder's Stand*

Ken Jutzi



*Peyton "Bud" Clark and the bronze bust of Lewis presented to the NPS by the LCTHF*

Ken Jutzi



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third of the Trail Heritage membership, believe he may have been murdered instead.

Several sessions of the conference were devoted to the controversy, which has a little of the feel of Kennedy assassination disputes, including a robust debate about such forensic questions as whether an expert marksman like Lewis could “miss” while attempting to shoot himself in the head with a pistol. Murder diehards demand that Lewis’ body be exhumed so that forensic anthropologists can examine his skull for powder burns, traces of lead, and bullet trajectories. For a variety of good reasons, the National Park Service has declined to dig Lewis up.

A new biography of Lewis by Tom Danisi and John Jackson<sup>1</sup> offers an intriguing new theory. Danisi told a rapt audience that Lewis did in fact shoot himself, but not to commit suicide. His malaria was so advanced, so unbearably painful, Danisi said, that Lewis shot himself merely to extinguish the pain. His self-inflicted death cannot really be called “suicide,” any more than the people who jumped out of the Twin Towers on 9-11.

My own view, for what it is worth, is that Lewis committed suicide in the traditional sense of the term: because he could not write the book, because he felt that his governorship was ending in failure and collapse, because he had disappointed the man he most wanted to please, because he could not seem to find a woman who wanted to marry him, and - significantly - because he had peaked too early. When you have discovered the source of the “heretofore deemed endless Missouri River,” what’s left?

As I write these final paragraphs, it is pitch dark. Most of the folks on my bus are asleep. The only light on the bus is the glow of my computer screen. This has been a wonderful day. I’m operating on reserve battery power. As things blink out at the end of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial, I feel two equally powerful emotions.

I am terribly sad to know that the great commemorative journey has now - by any measure - come to an end. And I am so proud to have carried the North Dakota flag across the finish line.

*Editor’s Note: Clay Jenkinson is the Theodore Roosevelt Center scholar at Dickinson State University, as well as Distinguished Scholar of the Humanities at Bismarck State College. He is the author of numerous books related to Lewis and Clark including “The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Completely Metamorphosed in the American West”, “Lewis and Clark in Iowa”, and “A Vast and Open Plain: The Writings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in North Dakota,*

*1804-1806”. He frequently performs first person interpretations of Jefferson and is the host of the Thomas Jefferson Hour, a weekly broadcast on PBS radio (see <http://www.jeffersonhour.org/> for broadcast schedules). During the LCTHF’s 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, Clay portrayed Meriwether Lewis during a re-enactment of Lewis’ arrival at Fort Pickering and served as a moderator for panel discussions on the manner by which Lewis died. CALCTHF member Jennifer Windmiller carried the flag for Washington State. Photos and captions have been added by the editor.*

<sup>1</sup> Thomas C. Danisi and John C. Jackson, “Meriwether Lewis”, Prometheus Books, 2009.



Joe DeKalb (State of Tennessee)

*Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, Missouri (DESC) participants, including CALCTHF member Sid Stoffels (Garden Valley, CA) (third from left)*



Joe DeKalb (State of Tennessee)

*Expedition plant specimens carried to Lewis’ gravesite by LCTHF Chapters. CALCTHF’s was carried by Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre, CA)*



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## Highlights from the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

3-6 October 2009

Olive Branch, Mississippi, and Fort Pickering (Memphis), Tennessee



Top to bottom, left to right: Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (DESC) encampment outside meeting hotel in Olive Branch, MS; Cruise to Fort Pickering onboard the Memphis Queen III; reenactment of Meriwether Lewis' arrival at Fort Pickering (Lewis is portrayed by Clay Jenkinson); Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre, CA) and Sid Stoffels (Garden Valley, CA) in Hohenwald, TN, where attendees had a wonderful lunch before heading to Grinder's Stand; Jane Lewis Sale Henley (Weems, VA) and Butch Pash (Placentia, CA), discussing their common ancestry while Ed Babcock (Claremont, CA) listens in; CALCTHF dinner table during the period dance.



Highlights from the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
7 October 2009  
Ceremony at Grinder's Stand, Natchez Trace, Tennessee



Top to bottom, left to right: Attendees gather for the commemoration ceremony; “Bud” Clark, Bryant Boswell and Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs; reenactment of Lewis’ arrival at Grinder’s Stand; procession to the gravesite and 21 gun-salute; Bust of Lewis donated to the NPS by our Foundation; Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Palo Alto, CA) with Jimmy Mohler (creator of Meriwether Lewis 2010 calendar) and a member of the Fife and Drum Corps from St. Louis, MO; Keith Kvenvolden (Palo Alto, CA) and Ken Jutzzi (Camarillo, CA) near Lewis’ gravesite; dinner and period music provided for Foundation members after the ceremony.



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economy was good, we put away for when this opportunity came up,” he said. “It’s such a good feeling to know we could accomplish it.”

The purchase still has to go through escrow, Smith said, but the decision a couple of weeks ago by two-thirds of the resort’s owners was the biggest hurdle. The resort is held by 2,000 individual ownerships, most sold for \$30,000 or more to families from Southern California and beyond in the 1980s with the promise of having the option to stay at the resort. If the sale goes through, each ownership will get about \$10,000.

“We’re one step closer, optimistically, to getting back our original homeland,” Smith said. “It’s been a long process.”

The vast majority of the 900 or so Pala tribal members consider themselves Cupeños, meaning they trace their history to the place they know as “Cupa,” where their ancestors lived for centuries near a bubbling hot spring northwest of Julian.

Many recall relatives who, in 1903, were uprooted and marched 39 miles in three days with all their belongings to the Pala Indian Reservation. By order of the federal government, they joined the Luiseño Indians living there. [For a moving description of this forced relocation see the July 2009 edition of *Golden Notes*, pp. 6-7.]

The Pala consider that federal action their own “Trail of Tears,” a reference to the removal of about 16,000 Cherokee from the Southeast to what is now Oklahoma in 1838. Thousands died during the trip and as a result of the relocation.

In the Cupeños’ case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1901 that they didn’t have title to the land they had long occupied. The court ruled the title belonged to John G. Downey, a former California governor and successor to a 48,000 acre Mexican land grant given to an Easterner named Jonathan Turnbull Warner.

In the ensuing years, the stagecoach stop became a Hollywood hangout, with celebrities such as writer F. Scott Fitzgerald and actors and directors including Charlie Chaplin, Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy and John Wayne spending time in the resort’s adobe casitas and near pools filled with water from the natural sulfur springs.

In the 1980s, San Francisco hotelier and developer A. Cal Rossi turned the ranch into an ownership resort, with those who bought having the ability to stay and the responsibility for part of the upkeep. While initially successful - 1,400 shares were ultimately sold - the resort

fell victim to changing times. Families spent less and less time there. Some stopped coming and paying their dues.

By last year, despite deferred maintenance, dues had risen to \$382 a month, and owners couldn’t find anybody willing to buy their share. It took the better part of the year to get two-thirds of the owners to agree to a sale, with the tribe ultimately buying 40 or so ownerships to get to the necessary number.

The tribe told owners they would have the opportunity to return to Warner Springs Ranch, but as paying customers, said Richard Bye, president of the resort’s board.

“The majority of the board is happy with it,” Bye said. “It’s the people that count, and over two-thirds of them assented to the sale.”

The decision to sell wasn’t difficult for owner John Meana of North Carolina, who inherited part of an ownership share from his late brother. “I’m not able to use that out there, but I keep writing the check,” Meana said. “The Pala Indians need their property back, and I don’t want to pay for it anymore.”

### DVD OF GRINDER’S STAND CEREMONY IS NOW AVAILABLE

A DVD of the only national memorial service ever held for Meriwether Lewis is now available. This DVD contains comprehensive coverage of the commemoration ceremony held at Grinder’s Stand on October 7, 2009. This ceremony was part of the Foundation’s 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, “Undaunted Courage ... The Final Journey of Meriwether Lewis”, which commemorated the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, at the age of 35, along the Natchez Trace on October 11, 1809.

Length: 1 hour 49 mins

Price: \$15.50 (includes shipping and handling)

**To Order Your Copy**  
**Send a request, along with your check or money order, to:**

**Stevens Video Services**  
**612 North Poplar Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 1221**  
**Pierre, SD 57501**

Main Phone: (605) 224-7521 Cell Phone: (605) 280-2135

~ ~ Please Note ~ ~

*This is not a Hollywood style DVD. The DVD contains a collection of archival footage taken during the Grinder’s Stand ceremony. It contains no descriptive information or scene selection choices.*

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## Bay Area Book Discussion Group Investigates the Death of a Hero

by Pat Hartinger

At a previous meeting our discussion group had decided to read one of the books, articles, or websites regarding the life and death of Meriwether Lewis. On September 13, 2009, eleven of the members met in the Los Gatos home of Pat and Walt Hartinger. Joining us, were Philippa Newfield and her mother, Ruth Newfield, who was visiting from New York, and the California Chapter's President-elect, Phillip Gordon. The group appreciated their enthusiastic and knowledgeable participation.

A variety of books and other sources were used to fuel a lively discussion regarding the death of Meriwether Lewis. Among them were the two newest titles, one by Thomas Danisi with John Jackson, *Meriwether Lewis*, and one by Kira Gale with James E. Starrs, *The Death of Meriwether Lewis, A Historic Crime Scene Investigation*, as well as the older, *Suicide Or Murder?* by Vardis Fisher. Needless to say, no conclusion was reached, but all were still wondering if there will be an exhumation of the Lewis grave site.

California Chapter member Tau Alpha has donated his Lewis and Clark book collection to the Chapter. Keith Kvenvolden has catalogued the books and brought them to the meeting in the back of his car for members to view. A discussion followed about the benefits of using the collection as a fund raising project for the Chapter.

*Editor's Note: Various methods are being investigated as to how best to sell Tau's books as well as various other items which have been previously donated to the Chapter for fund raising purposes. Methods include a silent auction at one of our Chapter gatherings and listings on eBay.*

## President's Message

Phillip Gordon

I am honored to be your newly-elected President of the California Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and would like to tell you how I came to this.

In 2003 my wife and I attended a family wedding in Austin, Texas. During the "down time" between festivities, we went to the Johnson Presidential Library. The featured exhibit was about Lewis and Clark, undoubtedly organized as part of the run-up to the Bicentennial. We vividly recall opening the NPS's brochure of "The Lewis and Clark Trail" and tracing the path up along the Missouri across the mountains and on to the Pacific, and saying, "We could do this. We could follow the Lewis and Clark Trail."

Thus began a series of journeys numbering ten and stretching across five years, taking us to most places along the trail a number of times. As our niece observed, "You've spent more time on the Lewis and Clark Trail than Lewis and Clark!" Along the way we've seen a lot of the country, learned a lot of history and geography, met a lot of interesting people, and made some new friends.

Our charge now, in this post-Bicentennial era, is to generate continued interest in and enthusiasm for the story of Lewis and Clark and all its historical implications and to preserve the Trail for current and future travels. The California Chapter has played an important and ongoing role in this stewardship through its local and state-wide meetings, participation in national events, dissemination of important information to our members, and support of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. For the future we plan to continue all these aspects of our mission, increase our membership, and create fundraising opportunities to enable us to continue the work.

## SPRING GATHERING

**Morro Bay Natural History Museum Auditorium, Morro Bay State Park  
(20 State Park Road, Morro Bay, California)**

**Saturday, 20 March 2010**

**1:00-4:30 PM**

**(doors open at 12:45 PM)**

CALCTHF member and Foundation Board member, Lorna Hainesworth, will speak on the "Lewis to Linnard Letter", heretofore unknown to most Lewis and Clark authors, scholars, aficionados, students and fans. The contents of this letter serves to fill in several critical gaps and correct a few misconceptions regarding the preparation phase of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition. After Lorna's talk, we will view video highlights of the only national memorial service ever held for Meriwether Lewis, part of the recent 41<sup>st</sup> annual meeting

**"Undaunted Courage ... The Final Journey of Meriwether Lewis"**

*(to obtain directions, a listing of Morro Bay Area lodging, and a detailed agenda see the 2010 Calendar page of our website)*

# California Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.



**LEWIS & CLARK  
TRAIL HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

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Treasurer Keith Kvenvolden  
Secretary Mary Ann Kvenvolden

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Ken Jutzi

### **Keepers of the Story**

### **Stewards of the Trail<sup>SM</sup>**

Golden Notes is published on a semi-annual (January and July) or quarterly (January, April, July and October) basis depending upon the availability of source material and funding to cover our printing and mailing costs.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF, c/o Golden Notes Editor, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011-1767, or email to [calcthf.GN@verizon.net](mailto:calcthf.GN@verizon.net).

Newsletter Editor  
Ken Jutzi

## **About the Foundation**

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF), Inc. was created to stimulate public appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's Heritage. The foundation serves as advocate, interpreter and protector of the trail.

The Foundation works with Native American tribes, site tourism bureaus and 32 federal agencies including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S.D.A/Forest Service.

The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), corporation. Memberships include subscriptions to *We Proceeded On*, the Foundation's scholarly publication, and *The Orderly Report*, the Foundation's newsletter. Both are issued quarterly. Individual memberships are \$49 and your contributions above that are tax deductible.

You are encouraged to learn more about the Foundation and to join. You may do both by visiting the foundation's website at [www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org) or by contacting a member of the California Chapter.

## **About the California Chapter**

The California Chapter is one of 39 Foundation chapters located throughout the country. We work in partnership with the Foundation to stimulate public awareness and appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's contributions to America's heritage. We actively support education, research, development, and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience, and we seek ways to support trail stewardship. We also have fun! To learn more, or to join, please visit us at: <http://web.mac.com/calcthf>.

### **Treasurer's Report**

**Funds on Hand (as of 12/31/09): \$2,750.01**

## **Collateral Descendant of Meriwether Lewis Joins CALCTHF**



*Our newest Chapter member, Butch Pash (Placentia, CA), compares ancestral notes with Jane Lewis Sale Henley (Weems, VA), a fourth great grandniece of Meriwether, during the Foundation's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in Olive Branch, Mississippi.*