



PLEASE NOTE THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES

LCTHF ANNUAL MEETINGS:

September 12, 2021 (virtual)
August 7–10, 2022—Pittsburgh, PA
2023 (dates TBD)—Missoula, MT

For details about upcoming CALCTHF, talks, see page 4

President’s Column

—Philippa Newfield

There are big changes afoot in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) of which I would like to advise our members of the California Chapter.

Reorganization: According to the reorganization plan developed by LCTHF President Lou Ritten and the Board of Directors, LCTHF members residing in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah will now be joined together in the “Southwest Region.” The reorganization of the LCTHF membership from chapters into regions goes into effect on October 1, 2021. Your membership circumstances and dues will not change, however, until it is time for you to renew your membership in the LCTHF although you will have the benefit of the changes listed below:



- 1] An expanded membership in our “home” region
- 2] Inclusion of membership in the LCTHF and a home region in one fee to be collected by the LCTHF office and then distributed to the home region. You may also join other regions for a small additional fee.
- 3] Opportunity to choose whether to receive *We Proceeded On, The Orderly Report*, and your region’s newsletter in an online or paper format with potential savings in yearly membership dues
- 4] Access to online programming originating from LCTHF, your home region, and all the LCTHF’s other regions
- 5] Members of regions will also be members of the LCTHF so that the activities sponsored by the regions will be covered by the LCTHF’s insurance.

In connection with the reorganization, the Southwest Region is seeking members interested in serving as officers and directors for our newly constituted region. We have one vacancy on the California Chapter Board of

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How We Came to Lewis and Clark

By Philippa Newfield and Phillip Gordon

In 1999 we received a brochure for a train trip across Montana and determined we could make the same journey by car. We landed in Kalispell, drove across the mountains of Glacier National Park, and descended on to the plains in Browning on the Blackfeet Reservation. From there we headed to Great Falls and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center which had just opened the year before. The entire place was a total marvel to us. Most memorable was the large introductory sign posted overhead at the very entrance to the exhibit (now unfortunately much diminished to a small wall text) that asked, "How do you plan for an expedition when you don't know where you are going, you don't know what you will need, you don't know how long you will be gone, and you don't know whom you will meet?" We realized immediately the challenges Lewis and Clark faced—and met, and we learned an incredible amount from just going through the exhibit. We thought we'd stay for perhaps an hour but the rangers wound up almost closing the place down around us.

Fast forward four years during which Phillip read *Undaunted Courage* but nothing much else happened to advance our knowledge of or interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Then in April of 2003 we were invited to a family wedding in Austin, Texas. During the down time between wedding events, we went to the Lyndon B Johnson Presidential Library where the temporary exhibit was on Lewis and Clark and featured such remarkable items as Clark's reading glasses lent by Peyton Clark. We still have a mind's eye picture of unfolding the National Park Service map of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (not an accordion in those heady days), holding it up between us, and tracing the Expedition's Missouri River journey from St Louis, across the Bitterroot Mountains into Idaho, and then from the Clearwater to the Snake to the Columbia to the Pacific. We looked at each other and said, "We can do this. We can follow the Lewis and Clark Trail." And we were off!

In June of 2003, we visited Philippa's cousin in eastern Kansas. She and her husband took us to the confluence of the Kansas and the Missouri rivers at Kaw Point. The next day they went to work and we went north as far as Yankton, South Dakota—true explorers as neither we nor anyone in our family had ever been to South Dakota. The quality of the early evening light as we walked along the Missouri was remarkable for its clarity and the glow of late sunlight on clouds. But we realized we had driven right past Spirit Mound and undoubtedly other sites important to Lewis and Clark's travels. We would need to come back in addition to proceeding on.

The trip to Yankton was the first of a total of ten trips over the course of the next five years during which we traveled from the Trail's then start at Camp River Dubois in Illinois to Astoria, Oregon. We became much more thorough in identifying and stopping at not only the Corps of Discovery sites but also other places of historic and cultural importance along the Trail corridor. We were especially intent on searching out everything of interest to us as we said, "We'll never be back here again!" Wrong. We have been to Bismarck five times, Rapid City three times, Missoula at least three times, and Great Falls almost too many times to count, among other repeat destinations along the Trail.



Philippa Newfield and Phillip Gordon in St. Charles, MO. Photo by Ethan Glaubiger

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A Tribute to Keith Kvenvolden

by Ken Jutzi

On October 1, 2021, our Treasurer, Keith Kvenvolden (Palo Alto, CA), will be retiring after completing his 8th term of service to our Chapter. This service has spanned 16 years. On July 16 he will turn 91.

Keith has had a varied and interesting professional career. He was born and grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After graduating from the Colorado School of Mines with a degree in Geophysical Engineering, he accepted a job offer from Mobil Oil and soon found himself in Venezuela performing seismic studies associated with the development of new oil fields. While there, he was drafted into the Army. So well thought of by his employer, he was later granted a scholarship to further his education and, upon discharge from the Army, attended Stanford University where he obtained a PhD in Geology in 1961. While at Stanford he met the love of his life, Mary Ann, and they were married in 1959. After graduation, Keith resumed his employment with Mobil at Mobil's research center in Dallas, Texas. While there, Keith developed an interest in geochemistry and decided to study this branch of science. This new knowledge would serve Keith well in the coming years.

The Apollo moon landing program was now in high gear preparing for a manned landing in 1969. Like many others at the time, Keith took interest in the program and decided to accept a position at NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, CA. While here, he became one of a select group of people tasked to analyze the moon rocks brought back to earth by the Apollo astronauts. When discussing this experience, Keith sometimes indicates, tongue-in-cheek, that he has never been quite the same since.

After his NASA/Apollo experience, Keith decided to take a position of Senior Scientist at the US Geological Survey (USGS) campus in Menlo Park, CA. This new position got Keith involved in ocean drilling research and he soon found himself at sea onboard research vessels. These assignments took him all over the world, from the waters off the coasts of Australia and Peru to places in the Arctic. Keith became an internationally recognized expert in geochemistry. He has published many papers in scientific journals and has been frequently asked to make presentations at technical symposiums. Keith retired from the USGS in 2002.

During the run-up to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Keith and Mary Ann became interested in the Lewis and Clark expedition and, like many others later, joined the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) in 2000. In 2005 they also became members of the California Chapter and in 2006 Keith agreed to be our Treasurer. He has held this position with distinction ever since.

While serving as our Treasurer, Keith has carried out the duties and responsibilities of this important position in an exemplary manner. Via accurate record keeping of Chapter revenue and expenses; the timely deposit of membership payments and the payment of expenses; monthly reconciliation of his records with official bank statements; the preparation of easy to understand monthly financial status reports; and the timely filing of annual federal income tax returns, Keith has continually demonstrated his trustworthiness to hold this position.

Throughout his tenure, both Keith and Mary Ann have eagerly promoted our Chapter and the LCTHF in order to maintain/increase organizational interest and membership while interacting effectively with members of our Board, other chapter members, and LCTHF headquarters staff. Both have also been fun to be around, especially during the numerous Chapter and LCTHF events they have attended. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Keith for his many years of service and wish him, Mary Ann, and their two children, the very best as he "proceeds on."



Keith exploring historic Box Canyon during a CALCTHF field trip at the Southern Emigrant Trail through San Diego County (2008)

How We Came to Lewis and Clark, *continued*

Our one regret is that we did not put two and two together and realize that there was a reason that the Lewis and Clark exhibit was traveling around the country in 2003. It was the Bicentennial! Although we attended the signature event in Astoria in 2005, we felt as if we were traveling in a parallel universe. We knew no one along the Trail and actually only went to our first Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation meeting in Lewiston, Idaho, in 2010. When we met Bud Clark, however, we thanked him for contributing to that long-ago exhibit at the Johnson Library. To which Bud responded, "Well, I'm glad to hear someone liked that exhibit." Indeed we did. It was the start of a grand passion which led to many adventures and very warm friendships. Unfortunately the marriage we celebrated in Texas did not last as long as our explorations but we were on the groom's side and he is now happily remarried. We are only thankful that we made it to the A-List in 2003. We actually didn't get invited to the second wedding but—no matter: we have Lewis and Clark and many friends along the Trail.



President's Column, *continued*

Directors which will become the Southwest Region Board of Directors. The current officers and members of the California Chapter Board are willing to serve out their terms but it would be good for the one vacancy to be filled by other members of the Southwest Region. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or have questions, please contact me at philgor@aol.com

Programming: Please see below for the schedule of upcoming Zoom talks. You will receive a link to the programs in advance of their dates.

As the pandemic abates, the Southwest Region expects to continue its online programming. In this regard, we would like to identify a cadre of members who can run an online meeting via a platform like Zoom for up to 100 participants. We will also need to determine when we would like to resume **in-person gatherings** and where we would like to meet given the geographic expanse we now cover. One consideration would be where the greatest number of members live; another is where we can identify connections to Lewis and Clark for a field trip component; another might be locating an outdoor venue if that is still a consideration by the time we actually meet. Please send me your suggestions regarding the timing, location, and circumstances of our getting together in person.

The **LCTHF's 2021 Annual Meeting** will be virtual on September 12, 2021. Included in the proceedings will be the Moulton Lecture by John Logan Allen on "So Fine a Country" – Explorers of the Louisiana Purchase before Lewis and Clark; the business meeting; and some fun surprises. The **virtual silent auction** to benefit the William P Sherman Library and Archives will run from September 5 to 13, 2021. Please watch for details from the LCTHF.

The **LCTHF's 2022 Annual Meeting** is scheduled to be in Pittsburgh, PA, from August 7 to 10, 2022. This will be an in-person gathering in the traditional format with scholarly talks, interesting field trips, a silent auction, and trivia and movie nights. The meeting hotel is the Drury Inn in downtown Pittsburgh. Look for details in The Orderly Report and the February 2022 issue of WPO. We hope you will plan to join us.

Upcoming CALCTHF Talks, all on Sundays at 2 pm PDT	
📅 July 18	John Fisher on Lewis and Clark: International Drug Dealers
📅 August 15	Arend Flick on John Marks
📅 September 26	Mark Jordan on George Shannon
📅 November	Jim Holmberg on a topic to be determined

A Dim View of DeVoto's Dim View of Sacagawea

By Mark Jordan

The November 2020 issue *Golden Notes* included Bernard DeVoto's observations about Sacagawea's role in the Expedition, mostly his attempt to diminish her role as "guide." In doing so, he seriously misrepresented the record readily found in the journals.

For example, DeVoto said she only once did anything that might have been "properly called guiding." The Journals contradict this assertion. When Clark was returning to Camp Fortunate after crossing what has become known as Gibbons Pass, Sacagawea informed Clark of the directions to take to get to the Camp: "the Indian woman . . . informed me that she had been in this plain frequently and knew it well that the Creek which we descended was a branch of Wisdom river and when we ascended the higher part of the plain we would discover a gap in the mountains in our direction to the Canoes, and when we arrived at that gap we would see a high point of a mountain covered with snow in our direction the canoes." (July 6, 1806). This was a rather thorough description of a large expanse of territory. Given the distance and the nature of the terrain as Clark described it, we can fairly guess that he consulted her a number of times along the way, which Clark certainly intimates in a subsequent journal entry: "The Indian woman *who has been of great Service to me as a pilot through this Country* recommends a gap in the mountain more South which I shall cross (Italics added; July 13, 1806). Clark gives her an unequivocal credit for a significant amount of guiding between what has become known as Gibbons Pass and the valley of the Yellowstone. As they proceed from the Three Forks, she aimed Clark to and over Bozeman Pass: "here the Squar informed me that there was a large road passing through the upper part of this low plain from Madicins river through the gap which I was steering my Course to (July 14 1806). We can be sure that neither captain recorded all that Sacagawea told them about the terrain familiar to her.



Mark Jordan

DeVoto also asserted that when they hired Charbonneau there was no thought of taking him along when the expedition got started again in the spring. But see this journal entry for November 4, 1804: "A french man by Name Chabonah who speaks the Big Belley language visit us, he wished to hire and informed up his 2 squars were Snake Indians, we engage him *to go on with us* and take one of his wives to interpret the Snake language" (Italics added). Clearly, the instant they hired Charbonneau, the captains knew they would be taking him and one of his wives to act as translator for the Shoshone encounter they anticipated. (And they got much more!) It is difficult to conceive how a historian of DeVoto's stature could have missed this entry or its import.

Again, DeVoto: "during the winter Lewis and Clark learned they would need horses, and that they could get horses in plenty from the Shoshones." Actually, they assumed they needed horses much earlier than that, given the amount of baggage they carried—they expected a short portage between the Missouri and Columbia headwaters but assumed that horses might be essential, thus the need for a Snake (Shoshone) interpreter, and the hiring of Charbonneau and ultimately, Sacagawea.

DeVoto failed to take into account instances where Sacagawea gave either captain input that we can assume from the context of what the journals describe. One example: as Clark approached the Big Hole, not finding the note Lewis left on a green pole, he had to choose whether to follow the Beaverhead or the Big Hole. There is no doubt that he turned to Sacagawea and asked if the Big Hole led to where her people resided, and she unequivocally said "Yes." (That she knew this is apparent from July 1806 journal entries.) Thus, Clark took that route.

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*Keepers of the Story
Stewards of the Trail SM*

*We preserve, promote
and teach the diverse
heritage of Lewis and
Clark for the benefit of
all people*

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Golden Notes is published twice a year, usually in December and June. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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Treasurer's Report

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Editor's Column

—Arend Flick



This is the last issue of *Golden Notes*, which for the past three years it has been my honor to edit. I took over for Keith Kvenvolden, who had been editor since 2014. Eleanor Ward started the newsletter over twenty years ago, and Ken Jutzi created the present template and edited *Golden Notes* from 2006 and 2014. You can find electronic copies of the newsletter for the past ten years or so at the CALCTHF website, along with a history of the chapter.

The good news, though, is that the newsletter is not ceasing to exist. It's merely being transformed, in light of the reorganization that enlarges what was formerly a **chapter** for Golden State residents (and other interested parties from out of state) to a **home region** that encompasses the entire Southwest, including Hawaii. We need a new name that will reflect that fact—either something generic or a nod toward whatever it might be that unites states so otherwise diverse as Hawaii and Colorado, Utah and California. About the only thing I can think of is that most of us are in areas prone to fire and drought, but I'm not sure we want to be reminded of that fact by the name of the newsletter. Let me know if you have ideas, and look for the first issue of the new LCTHF-SW newsletter in December.

While I have your attention, I'd like to invite submissions to the new newsletter, particularly from those of you from states other than California. We like to run a "how I came to Lewis and Clark" in most issues, so if you have an interesting story about how your interest in the Expedition began, please share it with us (along with a photo or two). We also like to publish "favorite places along the trail" pieces—I wrote one myself on Knife River a few years ago. Almost anything Lewis and Clark-related is fine. I also co-edit the national newsletter, *The Orderly Report*, and I'll take this opportunity to encourage you to submit material for that publication too.



A Dim View of DeVoto, *continued*

She also advised Lewis of river conditions, as well as surrounding territory, long before they got to the Three Forks as they ascended the Missouri. Lewis did not believe her, but she was correct in everything she told him. (He never acknowledged that she was correct or that he was wrong.) She identified objects along this stretch of the Missouri, the Jefferson and the Beaverhead. She gave each of the captains her view of the country and her tribe's place in it.

DeVoto—for whatever reason—had his facts wrong and his white male blinders on. That he had facts wrong is strange and unlike so good a historian. But mid-century white males refused to acknowledge that a 16-year-old could have had a significant impact on their wandering heroes. *Domage*, as Charbonneau might have said.