



Golden Notes

California Chapter

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Keepers of the Story ~ Stewards of the Trail SM

Vol. 20, No. 1
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Please send us your photos from the trail, ideas and requests for articles, thoughts about what you want *Golden Notes* to be! arend.flick@gmail.com

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PLEASE NOTE THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES

CALCTHF Zoom Meeting with President Lou Ritten, August 24, 2020
CALCTHF Northern California meeting in Palo Alto (or Virtual—TBD),
 Sunday, October 25, 2020
LCTHF 52nd ANNUAL MEETING—All VIRTUAL
 Charlottesville, VA, August 3-5, 2020
LCTHF 53rd ANNUAL MEETING—TENTATIVE
 Missoula, MT, October 4-9, 2021

The LCTHF's 52nd Annual Meeting, "Home Places and New Spaces," Is Now a Virtual Conference from August 3 to 5, 2020.



Monticello's main house and South Wing, photo courtesy Thomas Jefferson Foundation

In proceeding online with the Lewis and Clark Expedition's "Home Places and New Spaces" in Virginia, the planners have worked to surmount the challenges of our current stay-at-home situation.

Featured will be a narrated tour of the Lewis Family burial ground; a virtual tour of Monticello and Montpelier; interactive opportunities including a photography project whereby participants will create a portrait of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail—please send photos IN ADVANCE to Sarah Cawley at director@lewisandclark.org; a virtual tour of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center and their interactive program "A Vote for Democracy" where participants can make their own expedition decisions based on historic texts; and a walking tour of Charlottesville's Lewis and Clark-related sites.

Online time ranges from one to four hours each day. Live programs will be taped for later viewing. Registrants will receive easy-to-follow instructions about how to access meetings, chat rooms, and websites offering videos and meeting materials. For more guidance, Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center Executive Director Alexandria Searls will be available to answer questions. She is also offering, for a small fee, one-on-one online tutorials to enhance registrants' comfort level with the process. Please contact Alexandria at alexandriasearls@gmail.com for more information. Conference tickets may be purchased at <http://homefrontchapter.eventbrite.com/>. Your participation is vital! We look forward to going back to the future of our organization and our country together.

A Brief Tour through the History of the Journals of Lewis and Clark

The first publication of authentic news of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in book form was made by the enterprising Sergeant Patrick Gass. His *Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery* appeared in Pittsburgh in March 1807, a scant six months after the Expedition's return to St. Louis. This remained the only authoritative source for seven years until Nicholas Biddle, William Clark, and, at the end, Paul Allen finally produced the *History of the Expedition under the Commands of Captains Lewis and Clark* in 1814. The Biddle edition was reprinted abroad several times in the next four years, but curiously no additional American editions appeared during that time frame.

Elliot Coues took on the reissuing of the *History* in 1893. Coues had access to the original journals, which had rested more or less undisturbed at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia for nearly a century. To this primary-source material he added his own extensive knowledge of the West and of natural history. Coues' edition of the *History* remains of value today.

It was left to Reuben Gold Thwaites to transcribe and edit the original journals for publication. These appeared in 1904 in seven volumes with an atlas. Thwaites was able to gather together the journals of Sergeant Floyd and Private Whitehouse to supplement those of the captains for this edition. New documents came to light, however, shortly after Thwaites' edition. In 1913 Biddle's grandsons found among their grandfather's papers Sergeant John Ordway's three-volume journal and a journal kept by Lewis and later Clark from August 30 to December 12, 1803, during the trip from Pittsburgh to Camp Dubois. Milo Milton Quaife, who served after Thwaites at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, edited the preliminary journal and Ordway's journal and compared Ordway's account with those of Lewis, Clark, Floyd, and Whitehouse.

An attic in St. Paul, MN—visited by members of the LCTHF in 2016 on a tour arranged by LCTHF President Lou Ritten—was the setting of a surprising find in 1953 among the papers of General John Henry Hammond (1833 – 1890), on the staff of General Sherman during the Civil War and later an inspector for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These included the field notes written by William Clark in 1804 and 1805, with some interpolations by Lewis, and preliminary notes for the period from May 14, 1804, to April 13, 1805. They were wrapped in an 1805 copy of the Washington, D.C., *National Intelligencer* (perhaps by Jefferson or by Clark himself...?) Ernest Staples Osgood began editing Clark's field notes which were, after some litigation, ultimately donated by Frederick W. Beinecke to Yale University. Osgood completed his editing thereafter, and his book was published in 1964 by Yale University Press.



St. Paul, MN house where Clark's field notes were found in 1953

Also in 1953 Bernard DeVoto produced an abridgment of the seven-volume Thwaites edition in a single volume. This served to bring the original words of the journalists to the public in an affordable and more or less convenient edition. Through enhanced public access, the trickle of material on the Expedition became a cascade with rehashes, novels, aspect books, biographies, trail guides, photo essays, and romances that thundered through the years of the twentieth century.

It was not until 1983, however, that the University of Nebraska Press brought forth the first volume of *Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* edited by Gary E. Moulton—the atlas volume. This was followed over the ensuing eighteen years by the captains' journals and then, in turn, the journals of the enlisted men. The last volume contains the herbarium. All known journal material including the Ohio River journal of Lewis and Clark's field notes appears in this comprehensive set. (*continued on page 3*)

(continued from page 2)

Moulton’s work caps two centuries of scholarship on the Expedition and provides the foundation for entering the new millennium with a common and exhaustive base of knowledge. As Moulton has said of his endeavor, “I’m providing the public and scholars with the original sources so they can do the interpretive, revisionist work. Here are the raw materials at your hands. You don’t have to go all over the country and pore over documents.” He knows of what he speaks as the complete *Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* are now available on the internet in their entirety. Submitted by Ludd A. Trozpek

Thanks to Our Outgoing Directors-at-Large

The CALCTHF is preparing to bid farewell to Director-at-Large Board Members Virginia Hammerness and David Smith, who will leave the Board at the end of September, each having served two terms in office. Their devotion and service are much appreciated by the membership.



Virginia Hammerness

Virginia Hammerness has been a wise and generous counselor even before and certainly during her two terms in office. She frequently hosted California Chapter Lewis and Clark Book Group meetings in her home and served wonderful refreshments. Virginia also has been the designated driver, ever willing to take members in her area to chapter gatherings when she wasn’t hosting. We have visited with her at the LCTHF’s national meetings and even ran into her at the Autry Museum of the American West’s American Indian Arts Marketplace in Los Angeles, an indication of her wide-ranging knowledge of and interest in all things Western. She has been a long-time member of the LCTHF as well as having devoted many years to the chapter. The California Chapter thanks Virginia for her service and hopes she will continue to offer her insights and wisdom to the officers, Board, and chapter membership.

The California Chapter is the direct beneficiary of the fact that David Smith and California Chapter Treasurer Keith

Kvenvolden were boyhood friends in Cheyenne, Wyoming. David joined our chapter and, among other contributions, planned, organized, publicized, and coordinated the memorable 2017 spring gathering in San Diego focused on Southern California Connections to Lewis and Clark. Thanks to David’s detail-oriented approach, the library meeting venue was excellent and the refreshments sumptuous. He also prepared information packets for the participants, selected the post-event group dinner site, and recommended a hotel for the out-of-towners who traveled to the gathering. All David’s months of hard work resulted in a wonderful experience for everyone in attendance. The California Chapter thanks David for his conscientious efforts and looks forward to his ongoing and active participation in the chapter.



David Smith

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for the two positions of director-at-large for the terms beginning on October 1, 2020. Please contact President Philippa Newfield (415-387-3403) if you would like to serve or if you know people who would be interested in serving. Thank you.

Virtual Book Club?

Who would be interested in joining a Zoom club devoted to discussion of books related to Lewis and Clark, exploration in general, and/or the American West? This would also be a good way of connecting the northern and southern members of our chapter (and perhaps we could even invite in non-Californians). One (ambitious) thought is to read the journals together, perhaps “meeting” two or three times a year to discuss a chosen section. Guest speaker/facilitators might be asked to join us. If interested, contact the *GN* editor at arend.flick@gmail.com



Fran McVittie

Growing Up as Patrick Gass' Great-great Granddaughter

Lewis and Clark Expedition Member Sergeant Patrick Gass was my mother Kathleen Royal Smith Wade's great-grandfather on her father's side. This is documented in a family Bible published in 1860 that contains information about the births, marriages, and deaths in the years since its purchase. The first family date entered was the marriage of Gass' daughter Annie Jane Gass to James Simeon Smith on October 10, 1860, at Independence, Pennsylvania, when she was 19. Just two years later, owing to lung damage, Mr. Smith qualified as a disabled Civil War veteran. He was pensioned, working when able as a farmer and lay Christian preacher. Together with his wife Annie, he raised a large, active family of nine children in the states of West Virginia and the then-young Iowa.

More than sixty years later and newly widowed, Annie Jane Gass Smith moved west from Iowa in 1922 to live near her well-educated youngest son James Simeon Smith, Jr., an energetic high school science teacher, and his wife Kathryn in Alhambra, California. James' daughter, pre-schooler Kathleen Smith, especially enjoyed knowing Grandmother Annie, who was kindly and deaf, sharing cookies as they sat around her new kitchen table. Annie lived another four years there, with young granddaughters Jeanette and Kathleen close by.



Patrick Gass

Another of Annie's sons, Arthur Herbert Smith, already living in Oakland, California, soon afterwards recruited James to take a position teaching high school science in San Francisco. As Kathleen grew up, she enjoyed hearing the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. She married Norman Wade, a Tennessean, and I was born in St. Mary's Hospital next to the Panhandle in San Francisco. For my first year we lived with my grandparents in San Francisco. After several moves, my hometown became Menlo Park, to which we moved in 1957 when I was 9 years old. Just as Kathleen enjoyed hearing the story of Lewis and Clark during her childhood, so she passed the story along to us six children. We did more listening than reading, we sisters being especially impressed by the story of Sacagawea.

The California fourth grade history curriculum, even in the late 1950's, emphasized the many Native American cultures of this state, which reminded our teacher-mother Kathleen of Sacagawea, Sergeant Patrick Gass, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, westward bound. The story stayed with us. We took cross-country car trips east in 1960 and north in 1962, crossing the Missouri River and the Columbia River, respectively. While not officially seeking the Lewis and Clark Trail (which actually was not designated as such until 1978), we were excited to reach these important landmarks encountered by the Expedition.

My mother Kathleen and my sister, CALCTHF Member Edie Wade, spent time with Patrick Gass' great-grandson, our cousin Eugene Gass Painter, whom we lost recently at the age of 104, from August 1 to 4, 2002, at and near Wellsburg, West Virginia. They participated in both "Patrick Gass—His Life in Wellsburg, WV" and also "Meriwether Lewis—Down the River in 1803" and were with Mr. Painter when the new bust of Patrick Gass was added to his gravesite marker in Wellsburg!

Boating was also a shared family interest. My brother John Wade, who resides near Pescadero, California, is a Bay sailor to this day out of San Francisco. He recalled with me recently that our boats progressed from the fishing rowboats of my infancy to an over-rigged sailing kayak in San Francisco Bay to a lead-keeled Falcon Class sloop. We owned a double-hulled and canvas-decked sailing catamaran in the early 1960's and finally a used 26-foot plywood-design Thunderbird Class sloop with a spade rudder, jib, and mainsail. Berthed in Redwood City, the Thunderbird sailed the San Francisco Bay and out the Golden Gate to Bolinas Bay, with enthusiastic crews of family and friends. The love of adventuring by boat must be an inherited trait. *Submitted by Frances Wade McVittie*

President's Column: *Golden Notes*



You will be happy but not surprised to know that both the California Chapter and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) have continued to proceed on despite the limitations to commerce and personal interaction put in place to combat the novel coronavirus pandemic.

LCTHF President Lou Ritten has proposed a reorganization of the member chapters of our foundation in recognition of the fact that the level of activity now varies from chapter to chapter. A number of the chapters, California included, have a robust membership roster and a calendar of regular meetings and communications. What Lou suggests is that the chapters become reorganized regional entities. The members of the chapters that no longer function according to the LCTHF Bylaws will be invited to join another chapter, either of their choice or the one nearest to them geographically. Lou along with LCTHF Treasurer Yvonne Kean and

Sarah Cawley, the LCTHF's newly appointed executive director, met with chapters in the east and south, along the Ohio, and as far west as St. Louis before the pandemic curtailed plans for meetings with chapters on the Missouri River. Lou's hope is to visit with our members in southern and northern California near the end of August. We will notify everyone in advance of the date, time, and place if this plan comes to fruition, coronavirus pandemic permitting.

The coronavirus has not derailed plans for the LCTHF's 2020 Annual Meeting. The Home Front Chapter and the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center, in conjunction with the LCTHF's executive director, have developed a virtual event which will, however, occur in real time from August 2 to 5, 2020. See page one of *Golden Notes* for more details.

Mark Weekley, in his eleventh year as superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT), has emphasized that the Trail is a partnership and encourages all stakeholders to study the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Native Americans who helped them along the way, share the history, and work to preserve the Trail. Now that the Eastern Extension is officially part of the LCNHT, signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 12, 2019, the staff of the LCNHT is totally energized. In the words of Superintendent Weekley, they have "jumped right in" and are working to integrate sixteen states and 4900 miles into ONE trail to create a seamless experience for visitors. His goals for accomplishing this include strengthening relationships with local entities such as state parks and historic sites; revising the LCNHT brochure and incorporating the new parts of the Trail into current programs such as the sustainable tourism experience; and increasing public awareness of the LCNHT especially in the newly integrated states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Another aspect key to the successful integration of the new states will be the designation of an auto tour route along the eastern part of the Trail as part of the auto tour route for the entire LCNHT, a twenty-five year project. Superintendent Weekley is encouraging the newly included states to identify the route first. The states may then advise the LCNHT about the route they have designated which will be incorporated into the Trail. It is of historical interest that this is how the western auto tour route was designated. The states had designated the route before the LCNHT was created in 1978. After 1978, those previously designated auto tour routes remained in place and became part of the official Trail.

While the spring gathering of the California Chapter was necessarily canceled owing to our sheltering in place, we are hopeful that we can schedule a live or at least a virtual meeting in the near future. We will notify our members if and how a virtual meeting will be organized to conform to the guidelines for groups recommended by our state government. Until then, please stay well, stay safe, and stay home.

Your obt srvnt,

Philippa Newfield



**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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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF (Golden Notes), at calcthf@verizon.net.

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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.

LCTHF is the citizen support group for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail administered by the NPS. The Trail is 4900 miles long and, in running from Pittsburgh, PA, to Astoria, OR, traverses 16 states, 11 national forests, and three national grasslands.

The Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), corporation. Memberships include subscriptions to *We Proceeded On*, the Foundation’s scholarly publication, which is 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 or by contacting a member of the California Chapter.

About the California Chapter

The California Chapter is one of 32 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, and preservation of the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark and we seek ways to support trail stewardship. We also have fun! To learn more, please visit us at www.calcthf.org.

| CALCTHF Membership Options | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Membership Level | Annual Dues |
| Student (full time) | \$8 |
| ● Individual | \$10 |
| ● Library/Non-profit | \$10 |
| ● Family/International | \$15 |
| ● Business | \$15 |
| ● Alexander Willard Club | \$20 |
| Jean Baptiste “Pomp” Club | \$25 |
| Patron Levels | |
| ● Heritage Club | \$30 |
| ● Explorer Club | \$50 |
| ● Jefferson Club | \$100 |
| ● Discover Club | \$150 |
| ● Expedition Club | \$300 |
| ● Leadership Club | \$500 |

All new CALCTHF memberships include a copy of the booklet *A Charbonneau Family Portrait* by Irving W. Anderson. This booklet contains historically accurate biographical sketches of Sacagawea, Jean Baptiste “Pomp,” and Toussaint Charbonneau.

CALCTHF memberships also include a subscription to *Golden Notes*, which is published at least twice a year. Patron Level members receive their copy of *Golden Notes* in color. Memberships of more than \$10 are tax deductible.

Please join us!

To do so, send your check or money order to:

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Treasurer’s Report
Funds on Hand as of 5/31/2020
General Operations: \$7626.73