



Golden Notes

California Chapter

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

Vol. 20, No. 2
November 2020



PLEASE NOTE THESE IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES

LCTHF ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Clarkston, WA, August 1 -3, 2021 (at least partly online)

Pittsburgh, PA, August 7 - 10, 2022

For details about upcoming CALCTHF meetings and talks, see page 3

President's Column

We all as well as many of our projects have been sidelined by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the true can-do spirit of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) proceeded right on to hold a virtual annual meeting in August of 2020, unlike a number of similar organizations of comparable size that just canceled their meetings altogether. Out of this collaboration on the part of the LCTHF and the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center and Homefront Chapter in Charlottesville, VA, came an appreciation of the value of having online access remain a component of all our annual meetings—even after we are able once again to meet in person.



The California Chapter has also used technology to expand the horizons of our members and partners. Professor Jay Buckley recently used Zoom for his October 25, 2020, talk to the California Chapter and reached people who might not have attended an in-person talk under any circumstances. We will hope to make further use of these virtual gathering technologies for our chapter's educational and operational purposes.

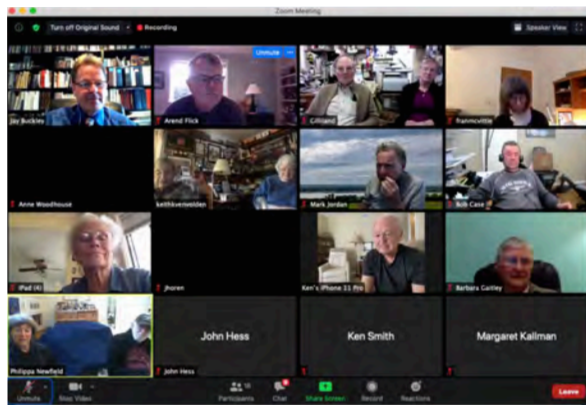
Enhancing our ability to be proactive is crucial in the face of a challenge that might make us feel helpless. We all can implement the health and safety recommendations to wear masks, wash hands, keep our distance, and avoid large gatherings. We have also harnessed technology to maintain contact during these times when it has been prudent to isolate ourselves. We can go even further to improve our lives and those of others. There is a verse in *Proverbs* that states, "And charity will save from death." Giving to charitable causes will magnify the effect of our own actions by enabling us to benefit the lives of others. In addition, individual acts of kindness toward others within and beyond our immediate circles will gladden their lives and, in buoying flagging spirits, will strengthen people's ability to maintain their health. Even employing the lowest-tech means of maintaining contact—the telephone and the US Postal Service—will go a long way toward affecting our lives and the lives of others for good.

Your obt. servant,
Philippa Newfield

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California Chapter Virtual Talk by Professor Jay H. Buckley

By Frances McVittie



Employing two centuries of Lewis and Clark Expedition-inspired paintings from the nineteenth century through today's modern works as exemplary illustrations, Professor Jay H. Buckley, in his virtual talk "The Lewis and Clark Expedition: Visualizing Their Journey through Art" to the California Chapter on October 25, 2020, described the artworks' historic context, sequential locations, and ethnography of the expedition's cross-cultural encounters.

Setting the stage with contemporaneous maps, among them cartographer Aaron Arrowsmith's 1802 map available just before the April 30, 1803, Louisiana Purchase and proceeding on to include William Clark's field maps as the expedition progressed, Professor Buckley

demonstrated the advancement of knowledge of the American Central Plains and Northwest. Eastern newspaper cartoons of supposed mythic creatures populating the unknown landscapes added humor to the introduction.

Mid-nineteenth century artists included the renowned Charles Russell (1864-1926) and William McGregor who painted under the name E.X. Paxton (1869-1941). In the twentieth century, John Ford Clymer (1907-1989) was an early painter. The American renewal of interest in the Lewis and Clark Expedition after World War II brought acclaim to Canadian Newman Myrah (1921-2010) and also to Frank Hagel (b.1933), Thomas Lorimer (b.1941), Jim Carson (b.1942), and Gary Lucy (b.1949). In our twenty-first century, young and multi-ethnic artists continue to depict Trail events and Indigenous peoples both imaginatively and accurately for today's enthusiasts.

Professor Buckley used the extensive and newly compiled artwork in narrating the human course of Jefferson's army expeditionary unit with its African-American slave, indigenous woman with baby, and *Metis* boatmen who were united in exploring the vast area previously unknown to them. Through it all, the captains fulfilled their charge to keep and authorize meticulous written and illustrated scientific records, including the new species they discovered. They did so throughout extended months of bitterly inclement weather and challenging terrain. Clearly represented artistically were the many Native American peoples the expedition encountered whose homelands they crossed and who sheltered them in their times of need.

In addition to illustrating successive dangerous events and eventually the downstream return trip eastward, Professor Buckley continued narrating past the arrival, celebration, and payout of the Corps of Discovery in St. Louis. He spoke touchingly of the lives of the captains in later years and concluded the session by generously engaging in a dialogue with his often-knowledgeable audience through a robust question and answer period.

Travel the Trail Virtually: Here's another activity while you are sheltering at home: You can explore all 4,900 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from your living room on the nps website: <https://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm> . You'll find amazing interactive maps linking sites along the Trail's 4900 miles from Pittsburgh all the way to the Pacific.

The CARES Act

The CARES Act relaxes some limitations on charitable contributions regardless of whether the individual itemizes deductions. For those who itemize their deductions, the 50 % of adjusted gross income limit is suspended for 2020.

Sacagawea: Interpreter or Guide? One, Both, or Neither?

What role did Sacagawea play as a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition? Despite the fact that we know nothing of Sacagawea first hand, writers of both fact and fiction have attempted to answer that question. One arbiter on the "fact" side was historian Bernard DeVoto, author of *Across the Wide Missouri*, *The Year of Decision 1846*, and *The Course of Empire*.

In an article that appeared in a 1954 issue of *Montana Magazine of History* (Vol 4, No 4), DeVoto, who was never one to pull his punches, averred, "Doubtless Sacajawea was a more useful member of the expedition than her worthless husband, Charbonneau. She was always cheerful, ingenious, and willing to work. She was able to direct the expedition to edible roots which they didn't know about, she sewed deerskin shirts and made moccasins, etc. When the expedition drew near the Three Forks she was able to tell them how far they were from the various places, that they were getting near the Shoshone country, etc. Once she even did a bit of what may properly be called guiding."



Statue of Sacagawea by Carol Grende in Great Falls, MT. Photo by Philippa Newfield

DeVoto goes on to write, "But though a useful member of the expedition, she was an important one in only a single respect. Charbonneau was hired for the first winter at the Mandan villages, as an interpreter for dealings with the Minnetarees, whose language he could speak. There was then no thought of taking him along when the expedition got started again in the spring. But during the winter Lewis and Clark learned that they would have to do a lot of overland travel for which they would need horses, and that they could get horses in plenty from the Shoshones. Sacajawea thereupon became valuable to them, since Shoshone was her native language and she could interpret for them—also, no doubt, because they foresaw that the presence of a Shoshone woman would be a manifest token of peace. That is the reason why Charbonneau and Sacajawea were taken along in the spring."

Sacagawea could not have been hired on as a guide, as some have written, because, DeVoto stated, "up the Missouri or beyond the mountains [were] all a blank page to her. But as they approached the Three Forks and from there to Lemhi pass she knew where she was and told them where they were." (*This article first appeared in the Minneapolis Star and then in the Great Falls Tribune.*)

Upcoming CALCTHF Events

Although it's still going to be a while before we can safely meet in person, Zoom is enabling us to gather virtually, with the added benefit that we can invite speakers to address us on issues related to the Expedition without requiring that they travel any farther than their offices. Fran McVittie describes an engaging lecture we heard in October by Jay Buckley. Below are some additional talks scheduled in upcoming months:

- * On December 13, Dan Sturdevant, past president of the LCTHF, will address us on Spain's four expeditions to stop the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- * On January 10, CALCTHF member Erin Hess will speak about the geology of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- * On February 10, Clay Jenkinson shares with us his thoughts on "getting noticed"—what gets written up in the journals, why, and by what criteria.

CalTrans CALCTHF Sign

Four members of the Elk Grove Historical Society and two CALCTHF members—Randy Mitchell and John Hess—have adopted a section of Interstate 5 to conduct litter pick-up near where expedition member Alexander Hamilton Willard is buried. CalTrans has erected a sign at the intersection of Hood Franklin Road (the overpass seen in the photo), which leads to Willard’s burial site in Franklin Cemetery, just southwest of Oak Grove and approximately sixteen miles south of Sacramento. John Hess, who took these photos, led this effort.



LCDESC Launches “Raffle on the River” for New Documentary Film Project.

The Lewis & Clark Discovery Expedition of St Charles (LCDESC) plans to facilitate remote learning by producing short films based on the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s journals.

When HBO abandoned the miniseries on Lewis and Clark, LCDESC Chairman Jan Donelson said, "If HBO isn't doing the films, why shouldn't we?" He wrote the first script, "Preparing for the Journey," hired a videographer, and corralled volunteers to act in the pilot film. [Take a look!](#) (Video Password: LCvideo)

“To narrow the scope of these short videos, we will focus on *how* they accomplished one of the greatest expeditions ever and the *why* of the purposeful intent of the expedition’s participants,” Jan added. “By concentrating on these aspects we, as living history re-enactors, can capture the ‘spirit’ of the mission and each individual.”

LCDESC Members Cole Donelson (left) and Jacob Henson (right) portray Lewis and Clark in the new LCDESC films documenting important entries in the expedition’s journals. *Photo by Ben Newkirk,*

Buy raffle tickets for “Raffle on the River” or make a donation to help LCDESC on their Journey to Educate. Please go to <http://www.lewisandclarkcenter.org/> and click on the green "Raffle/Donate Now" button to access the order form and list of seven prizes including Charles Fritz artwork and a \$200 Bass Pro gift card. Tickets at \$10 each or five for \$40 are available until late November. *From the LCDESC Newsletter*

Editor's Column: Protuberances along the Trail

Depending on where we think the Lewis and Clark Expedition really began, it may be said to have gained nearly 7000 feet in altitude from its origin at Camp Dubois (c. 500 feet above sea level) to Lemhi Pass (7373 feet) before descending to near sea level at Fort Clatsop. Along the way, of course, the party passed by and sometimes over hills, buttes, mountains, and other rock formations of various shapes and sizes. Three of these protuberances are among my most favorite spots on the trail.

For pure whimsicality, you can't beat Spirit Mound in South Dakota, whose 1280-foot summit may be reached today after a pleasant, 15-minute walk. (The mosquitoes are still sometimes troublesome, however.) Readers of the journals will recall that Lewis and Clark were so eager to visit this place—where some natives believed large-headed 18-inch "Deavels" in human form lay in wait to kill hapless visitors—that on a brutally hot August day in 1804, they hiked nine miles from the Missouri River to climb it. They survived, and proceeded on.

Much farther west, in southwestern Montana, another striking prominence, nearly 5000 feet above sea level, reassured Sacagawea in August 1805 that she was near what Lewis called "the summer retreat of her nation," the Shoshones. I have never quite been able to make out the beaver's head in Beaverhead Rock, but then I don't really see a hunter and his dogs in the stars that make up the constellations Orion and Canis Major/Minor either. But I always look forward to the drive from Dillon to Twin Bridges that passes by the rock and that my wife and I make most summers on our way from Southern California to her hometown in North Dakota. Some readers will remember that Beaverhead Rock figures prominently in Dayton Duncan's lovely book *Out West*, where he describes his journey along the Lewis and Clark trail in a borrowed camper van. As he neared Dillon, Duncan remembered that the distiller Canadian Club had buried a case of whiskey somewhere on or near the rock, releasing clues in their advertisements about how to locate it. Duncan believed he knew where to look and he actually enlisted a few locals to help him find the whiskey, without success.

Perhaps the most dramatic protuberance along the trail, though, is Pompeys Pillar, a few miles east of Billings, MT. I first climbed it—illegally—one morning in September 1991, when it was privately owned and surrounded by chain link fence. Traveling home from Dakota, we had spent the night with my (future) sister-in-law and her husband, who was the pharmacist for a small nearby town. Over dinner, when I expressed my regret that I wouldn't, as a law-abiding citizen, be able to access the pillar, Howard told me he knew the owners and not to worry—they wouldn't mind. He gave detailed instructions about where to park and enter, and we climbed the pillar the next morning without incident. He also told me that by 1970 or so, before the plexiglass had been installed, Clark's signature on the rock had worn away so completely that several men in town went out and deepened it with chisels. What you see now, in other words, is not exactly Clark's signature.



Arend Flick ascending Pompey's Pillar, September 1991.
Photo by Jackie Manning Flick

The approach of winter and this relentless virus has most of us far less mobile than we'd like to be. I had a few more serious topics in mind for this column but decided it might do us all more good to recall the pleasures of the open road and the sites along the trail itself. Let's hope it won't be too much longer before we have them again. In the meantime, there's Zoom, the journals, and for some of us, a gill or two of Canadian Club.



**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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Secretary Fran McVittie

Directors at Large

John Hess
Ken Jutzi
(two positions currently vacant)

Immediate Past President

Phillip Gordon

Golden Notes is published twice a year, in November and May. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Newsletter Editor

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Treasurer's Report

Funds on Hand as of 10/31/2020
General Operations:
\$9080.71

The National Trails System Act: It Didn't Just Happen

Editor's Note: Daniel M. Ogden Jr. (1922-2018) was instrumental in the enactment of the National Trails System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968) and the establishment of North Cascades and Redwoods National Parks. In the following remarks, abridged and edited because of space limitations, he recalls the events leading up to the passage of the National Trails System Act.

In February 1965, as Assistant Director of Planning and Research with the new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) in the Department of the Interior, I was named chairman of the "Trails for America" study and participated in drafting the bill to authorize the national system of trails. The National Trails System Act was part of a much larger effort by the Johnson administration to save the outdoors for the American people. Indeed, the trails act itself was part of the "conservation grand slam" of October 2, 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson signed four bills into law: the National Trails System Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Redwood National Park Act, and the North Cascades National Park Act.

After Johnson became President in 1963, Secretary of the Interior Steward Udall enlisted the support of Lady Bird Johnson in this effort. We worked hard to get language in a Presidential message which would call for a national trails study, and succeeded with President Johnson's message "On the Natural Beauty of Our Country" of February 8, 1965 in which he said, "I am requesting . . . that the Secretary of the Interior work with his colleagues in the Federal Government and with State and local leaders and recommend to me a cooperative program to encourage a national system of trails. . . ."



President Johnson signs the National Trails Act on October 2, 1968

In April 1965, Secretary Udall asked the BOR to lead the study and I was named Chairman. We worked diligently with our field offices and trail organizations across the nation to develop a well-rounded study. Our report, "Trails for America," was issued in December 1966. We recommended three types of trails: National Scenic Trails, which would require an act of Congress; Park and Forest trails; and Metropolitan area trails. The Administration bill was promptly introduced and hearings began on March 6, 1967.

Our study had recommended the authorization of four national scenic trails: the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Coast Trail, Continental Divide, and Potomac Heritage Trail. The House version altered the categories of the trails from the administration bill. They kept National Scenic Trails but replaced Park and Forest trails with a new category: National Recreation Trails. A fourth category was added some years later: National Historic Trails. [Ed's note: The LCNHT was among the first four historic trails established by an act of Congress in 1978.]

In closing I want to quote from my talk given to the ATC on May 21, 1967: "All of these efforts are occasioned by one central purpose—to save the out of doors for the American people. In the years ahead, we want the national trails to offer an opportunity to return to the land as our forefathers knew it, to enjoy it, and to respect it in all its primitive beauty. . . . No greater monument to our concern for our fellow human beings could there be than our legacy to the future."