

**History of the California Chapter  
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.  
(CALCTHF)**

**1995-2008**

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**History of the California Chapter  
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*Note: "PS: X-Y" means related photos may be found in the Pictorial Supplement, pages X to Y*

**1995-1996 (PS: 1-2)**

In response to an initiative that started in 1991, and continuously encouraged by Foundation leadership, the California Chapter (CALCTHF) was officially formed on August 1, 1995, at the Foundation's 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After two previously unsuccessful attempts, one in 1991 and one in 1993 a letter went out from Bob Shattuck and Eleanor Ward in the winter of 1994/1995 to all Foundation members living in California. We had 32 positive responses and set our first meeting for Saturday, January 14, 1995 at the Nut Tree in Vacaville, CA. By then we had 40 responses as interest in the Bicentennial Commemoration had taken hold. Unhappily El Nino created severe flooding in all parts of California, especially in the delta region where the meeting was to be held. We cancelled. Other duties kept us from setting up another date until Bob Gatten encouraged us to hold our inaugural meeting in conjunction with the Foundation's annual meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia. All the groundwork had been done and so it was on August 1, 1995 that we finally were formed and presented to the Foundation's membership as a full fledged Chapter. At that time we were asked to include any Nevada members but the formal name of the Chapter remained the California Chapter. That is still the case today.

Bob Shattuck was the first President, with Eleanor Ward serving as Secretary and Treasurer. The first chapter meeting was held in June of 1996 in Auburn, CA, with about 40 people attending, including guest speaker Dr. Gary Moulton and his daughter's family who lived nearby. The second meeting was held in November 1996 at the Claremont Public Library in southern California with about 32 attending. George Rion, a retired high school history teacher from San Diego, was the speaker. He discussed his trunk containing many artifacts similar to what Lewis & Clark used and demonstrated their use.

**1997 (PS: 2)**

At our next meeting, held at the Davis Public Library in April 1997, George repeated his talk. Ron Laycock, in his capacity as Foundation Chapter Liaison, was also a speaker at this meeting. There were 14 chapter members and about 40 from the general public in attendance. At this meeting, Eleanor Ward proposed a chapter project with the objectives of cleaning the gravestone of Alexander Hamilton Willard (located in the Franklin, CA) and erecting historical signs at the Franklin I-5 exit ramp and at the Franklin cemetery. Franklin is a suburb of Elk Grove, CA, and is about 18 miles southeast of Sacramento.

At the October 1997 chapter meeting held in Elk Grove, CA, we listened to a biography of Alexander Hamilton Willard compiled by Elteen Stone. There were 17 CALCTHF members and five Willard descendants at the meeting. At the meeting Eleanor Ward described her progress on getting the historical signs made. We also conducted a field trip to visit Willard's grave in the nearby Franklin cemetery where attendees admired the newly cleaned headstone. Bob Ward read Willard's obituary from the Sacramento Union of March 11, 1865. By now the chapter had 92 names on its roster.

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### 1998 (PS: 3-4)

Our next meeting was in March of 1998 meeting at the Claremont Public Library with Barbara Gaitley presenting a slide show of the Lewis & Clark Trail from the Great Falls westward. It was well received. We used the excellent display case of the library to exhibit our Lewis & Clark books and artifacts. In 1998 we also completed our chapter project to clean the Willard grave markers and install historical signs. It was a year before we had another chapter meeting other than at the annual Foundation meeting.

### 1999 (PS: 5)

In the spring of 1999, Barb Kubik, then Foundation Vice-President, gave a talk on Sacagawea at the Davis Public Library. She also brought three papoose cradles and provided handouts to explain them. In August of 1999, Eleanor started our chapter's newsletter, *Golden Notes*. We had no fall 1999 meeting.

After a short period with no president, we elected a new slate of officers at the Foundation's 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting in Bismarck, ND. Leonard Barnes, a Patrick Gass descendant, became President. At the meeting Leonard volunteered the California Chapter to assist the Philadelphia Chapter with its bicentennial kick-off meeting in 2003. Unfortunately, Leonard did not live long enough to be there himself. Eleanor and Bob Ward and Barbara Gaitley fulfilled his commitment by filling the goodie bags and working the registration table.

### 2000 (PS: 5)

By this time Eleanor had become President after another short gap with no president. In the spring of 2000 we had two well-attended meetings. In March we were at the Karpeles Manuscript Library in Santa Barbara. The museum displayed its original Spanish map of the Louisiana Territory for us. We had between 55 and 70 people in attendance. At this meeting we presented chapter member Dan Slosberg (a.k.a. Pierre Cruzatte) with a cash donation for his deerskin costume. We also viewed slides belonging to Ron Laycock taken along the White Cliffs portion of the upper Missouri River. In April we heard a talk at the USGS facility in Menlo Park on geological aspects of a section of the Lewis & Clark Trail given by chapter member Tau Rho Alpha. In November we had a meeting in Los Angeles with three presenters, Ron Laycock, Ludd Trozpek and Dan Slosberg as Pierre Cruzatte. Ludd discussed the threat to Pompey's Pillar posed by nearby construction. We voted to send \$300 to the Pompey's Pillar Historical Society.

### 2001 (PS: 6-7)

In November 2001 we gathered at the Claremont Library to listen to a presentation by chapter member and author Dr. David Peck (*Or Perish in the Attempt*) about early 19th century medical treatment. In March 2001, at the Davis Public Library, we were treated to a performance by Pierre Cruzatte (a.k.a. Dan Slosberg) ... "Pierre Cruzatte: A Musical Journey". Dan had given his presentation at several schools over a few days before our meeting and there had been a lot of local publicity. Our Saturday meeting had been publicized on the radio and, to our delight, the room was filled with over a hundred local children. Some had heard Dan earlier at their schools and had brought their parents. Also at this meeting Leonard Barnes showed slides of Pompey's grave near Danner, Oregon.

### 2002 (PS: 7)

In March of 2002 in Davis, CA, Dr. Peck repeated his presentation. Prior to the meeting a bit of drama developed. Ilene Hunter and Eleanor Ward decided to give a simple luncheon for officers and guests before the meeting at the Hunter home. They got Stouffer's lasagnas, made a good salad and had a

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dessert. It was really easy and a lot of fun. However, while getting ready Ilene opened the oven door to check the lasagnas and one fell out flipping upside down on her tile floor! She stood there appalled “What shall we do?”. A quick thinker, Eleanor said “Get your pancake turner. We’ll flip it back into the pan, sprinkle on more cheese and continue cooking - which will kill any germs!” And so they did.

In November Chapter members gathered in San Diego to see the National Geographic IMAX movie about Lewis & Clark. Sadly, in 2002 Bob Shattuck died. At his death he left an annuity and several scarce Lewis and Clark books to the Foundation. He also left several boxes of books to the Chapter which we sold as a fund raiser. From these funds we established a Chapter award in his memory - the Shattuck Award for excellence in research and writing which promotes the Lewis and Clark story (see the footnote on page 3).

### **2003 (PS: 8)**

2003 was a difficult year for the chapter as our leadership was again experiencing health problems and we were having trouble finding speakers and scheduling events. There was even some discussion about closing the Chapter. On a brighter note, Dan Slosberg gave several of his Pierre Cruzatte performances at elementary schools in Santa Barbara and one at the Samarkand Retirement Center where Eleanor and Bob Ward reside. He drew a huge crowd and was a smash hit everywhere!

### **2004 (PS: 9)**

In March of 2004 we met with Wendy Raney, then Director of Field Operations, in Ontario, CA, to discuss ways to invigorate the Chapter. In October we gathered again at the Karpeles Museum in Santa Barbara. Here we listened to a presentation by John Krist, senior reporter from the Ventura Star Free Press who, in 2002, retraced the Corps of Discovery’s route during a three-month journey by road, river and trail and put together an excellent educational web site about his experiences. At this meeting we presented Mr. Krist with our first Shattuck Award for Excellence in Writing<sup>1</sup>. Eleanor Ward was also presented with the Foundation’s Distinguished Service Award as she was not able to attend the Foundation’s 2004 annual meeting in Bismark, ND, to receive it there. At the Bismarck meeting Dan Slosberg received the Foundation’s Meritorious Achievement Award.

### **2005 (PS: 10-11)**

In February Pomp parties were being conducted all over the globe. One occurred in Sunnyvale, CA, which was attended by several Chapter members. We used the opportunity to conduct a Chapter business meeting. In August, at the Foundation’s 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Portland, OR, Ken Jutzi (Camarillo, CA) was elected Chapter President. Other officers elected were Pat Hartinger (Los Gatos, CA) (Vice President), Tau Alpha (Palo Alto, CA) (Treasurer), and Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Palo Alto, CA) (Secretary).

During October, November and December we began to intensify our efforts to gain new members and to rejuvenate the interest of existing members via improved Chapter administrative processes and increased

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<sup>1</sup> *At his death, our first president, Bob Shattuck, donated a generous part of his estate to the Foundation. The Chapter received many of his books which were sold as a fund-raiser. Some money was set aside for the Chapter to present awards for excellence in writing or for publicizing the Lewis & Clark story. Our awardees were John Krist, Ventura County Star Free Press, for his excellent articles and educational website; Bob Moore, the historian at St. Louis’s Gateway Arch, and Landon Jones, author of “William Clark and the Shaping of the West”.*

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Chapter sponsored public events. We created our first Chapter brochure; established 12 new membership levels (10 patterned after the Foundation's membership structure and 2 special levels - an Alexander Hamilton Willard Club level and a Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau Club level); developed a Chapter website; and established a Chapter sponsored public event schedule for calendar year 2006.

In November we gathered again at the Claremont Public Library and watched the film *Confluence of Time and Courage* produced by the Army Corps of Engineers. Attendees, which totaled about 50, also enjoyed the music of Pierre Cruzatte (a.k.a. Dan Slosberg) and explored a multitude of Lewis and Clark items belonging to Chapter members that were on display in the library's display case. After the film, drawings for several door prizes were conducted. This public event brought together several members of our chapter who had not seen each other for a while including four founding members of our Chapter, Bob and Eleanor Ward, Katherine Alderman, and Donna Masterson. Also on hand were members who are descendants from expedition members Alexander Hamilton Willard (Carol Benner and Dr. Rodney Willard) and John Colter (Donna Masterson). The presence of these expedition descendants enriched everyone's experience, especially those who were new to Lewis and Clark.

At the end of CY2005 we had 30 dues paying members (6 were CALCTHF members only and 24 were members of both the Foundation and our Chapter).

### **2006 (PS: 12-16)**

In January Tau Alpha resigned as our Treasurer and Keith Kvenvolden volunteered to serve the balance of Tau's term (to 9/30/07). Also in January we launched a Chapter website (<http://web.mac.com/calcthf>); began to publish an updated Chapter newsletter; and conducted a statewide survey of interests among Chapter and Foundation members living in California and Nevada (245 letters were sent out, 232 to California residents and 13 to Nevada residents). We also started a book discussion group in the San Francisco Bay area. There were 3 meetings in 2006 (Jan, May and Oct). In March Pat Hartinger provided classroom assistance to an elementary school teacher in Palo Alto in telling the Lewis and Clark story. We sponsored three Chapter events in 2006, one in Camarillo, one in Auburn and one in Palo Alto in addition to meeting at the Foundation's 38<sup>th</sup> annual convention in St. Louis, MO. In September of 2006 Pat Hartinger resigned as Chapter Vice President. That office remained vacant until October 2007.

The objective of the state-wide survey of interests was to help us develop Chapter events, projects and products/services that would be both useful and interesting to our current members as well as prospective new members. A detailed report on this survey, including the questions we asked and the results we obtained, may be found on our website at [http://web.mac.com/calcthf/Chapter\\_Survey/Chapter\\_Survey.html](http://web.mac.com/calcthf/Chapter_Survey/Chapter_Survey.html).

The Camarillo gathering in February was attended by about 20 people and featured R. L. "Bob" Rickards, a self-taught renowned local western artist, who has spent over 25 years researching, traveling and subsequently painting locations along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT). Bob's works have been displayed at Hearst Castle in San Simeon and the Fred Kavli Theatre for the Performing Arts in Thousand Oaks. His works have also been used to illustrate feature articles in *We Proceeded On* and, on occasion, have graced its cover. They also served as the feature exhibit on Lewis and Clark in the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California. Several of Bob's works were on display for attendees to view close up. Each attendee was given a color catalogue of all

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of Bob's Lewis and Clark paintings, a Bicentennial poster/calendar of The Trail, and a LCNHT pin. Of those who attended, 50% (10) were not members of either the Foundation or our Chapter. Two people joined our Chapter and one attendee renewed their membership at the patron level.

In April over eighty people gathered at the Bernhard Museum Complex in Auburn, California, to attend *The Life and Times of Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau*, an event jointly sponsored by our Chapter, the Placer County Division of Museums, and the Placer County Historical Society. Two very informative presentations were given. Pat Hartinger gave a presentation on Jean Baptiste's life - from his birth at the Mandan Villages on February 11, 1805, to his European travels with Duke Paul Wilhelm of Wurttemberg, to his death at Inskip Station in 1866 near today's Danner, Oregon. Pat was followed by Carmel Barry-Schweyer, the Curator of Archives for the Placer County Museums, who gave a presentation on what life was like in Auburn when Jean Baptiste lived there as well as on specific activities he was known to be engaged in. One interesting artifact discussed was a request, signed by Jean Baptiste, for a permit to operate a ferry on the south fork of the American River that is dated June 12, 1857. After the formal meeting, we then gathered outside the Bernhard Mansion to begin a docent led tour of old town Auburn. Included in this tour was the site of the Orleans Hotel (no longer standing) where Jean Baptiste worked as a clerk. After the tour we then gathered at the Bernhard winery to sample its offerings. On the next day some of us gathered for a tour of so called "Murderer's Bar" on the middle fork of the American River - a busy place during the gold rush days and a place Jean Baptiste was known to frequent.

In July three Chapter members (Keith and Mary Ann Kvenvolden from Palo Alto and Jerry Holley from Citrus Heights) represented the Chapter and the Foundation at the dedication of a new community park in Elk Grove, CA, named in honor of Alexander Hamilton Willard. The Willard Park celebration included a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony, lunch, and family activities. One Willard descendant, Joan Wilcox, was able to attend. She was presented with a framed plaque to commemorate the occasion. Several members of the Elk Grove Historical Society were also present. Also in July we sponsored another public event at the Camarillo Public Library where Barbara Gaitley presented a slide show entitled *Clark on the Yellowstone*.

Our last event for 2006 occurred in November at the U.S. Geological Survey's Menlo Park Campus. About 40 attendees listened to Dr. Gary Moulton discuss the living legacy of the journals, maps, and botanical specimens produced and collected by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. His message was that they are still being actively used today by humanists, scientists and enthusiasts across the continent for research, study, discovery and enjoyment. This event was jointly sponsored by our chapter and the US Geological Survey (Menlo Park Campus). Dr. Moulton, Professor Emeritus of the University of Nebraska, was in the Bay Area to inaugurate a lecture series on the American West sponsored by the Frank P. Doyle Library of the Santa Rosa Junior College located in Santa Rosa, California. He was in California at the request of CALCTHF member Nelson Weller, a benefactor of the library and a sponsor of Dr. Moulton's unrivaled journal editing accomplishments.

### **2007 (PS: 17-18)**

In 2007 we sponsored two major public events, had two gatherings of our Bay Area book discussion group (February and September), published three newsletters (January, April and July) and elected new Chapter officers and two new Directors at Large.

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In April Ken Jutzi (Camarillo) was re-elected Chapter President. Other officers elected were Robert Allison, Jr. (Vice President) (South Lake Tahoe), Keith Kvenvolden (Treasurer) (Palo Alto), and Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Secretary) (Palo Alto). New Directors at Large elected were Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre) and Nelson Weller (Healdsburg). Terms of office for Chapter officers are 10/1/2007 to 9/30/2009. Terms of office for Directors at Large are 10/1/2007 to 9/30/2010.

Also in April we gathered again in Auburn to listen to two members of the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (DESC) discuss their experiences during the recently ended Lewis and Clark National Bicentennial Commemoration. Fifty-three enthusiasts from across the state, and as far away as Cathlamet, WA, attended.

Sid Stoffels (Garden Valley, CA) and John Hess (Fairplay, CA), also members of the LCTHF and CALCTHF, delighted attendees as they discussed their expedition reenactment experiences, including some behind the scenes activities, and weaved descriptions of expedition related items they brought along into their presentation. Margaret Miller, traveling all the way from her home in Cathlamet, WA, not only came dressed in her 1796 Empire dress, but she also prepared refreshments that included period food (dried salmon and two kinds of dried berries).

After Sid and John's presentation, numerous discussions broke out as attendees wanted to know more about the expedition related items - including the flint and steel "matches", Lewis's specially designed powder canisters, and John's replica rifles.

Also in attendance was the past president of the Placer County Historical Society, George Lay, who furnished some local wine for door prizes and presented our chapter with a photograph of the recently dedicated plaque in Old Town associated with Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau.

In October we met in Oceanside, CA, to take a private tour of the San Luis Rey Mission and hear a presentation by the Flight of Discovery (FOD) of San Diego discuss their experiences during the bicentennial. It turned out to be a touch and go affair as fires, aided by low humidity, triple digit temperatures and gale force winds, burned all over SOCAL in the days prior to our planned gathering. Although a few fires burned nearby at Camp Pendleton and in Fallbrook, Oceanside itself, thankfully, remained relatively untouched - except for the influx of evacuees coming from other areas and the poor air quality caused by smoke blowing into the area. By the time of our meeting on Saturday though, Oceanside was returning to normal. Most of the evacuees had left, the wind had died down and was coming from the ocean, and temperatures were back to normal. It even sprinkled a little.

The first part of our Oceanside gathering involved a behind the scenes tour of the San Luis Rey Mission where Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau, after serving as a guide and interpreter for the Mormon Battalion (1846-1847), worked as an alcalde (magistrate) from 1847 to 1848. Our tour, conducted by a docent from the San Luis Rey Mission Museum, included the ruins of the military barracks, the Lavanderia where Native Americans washed clothes, the mission sanctuary, the mission cemetery, and the interior courtyard. In the courtyard, we gathered for a group photo under a pepper tree planted in 1830.

After the mission tour and lunch we regrouped at the Mission Branch of the Oceanside Library for the second part of our program involving two guest speakers. Unfortunately, both of our planned speakers could not attend. The fires and road closures throughout the area made meeting attendance levels and

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travel in the area too uncertain, so it was decided that Carol Bronson, Executive Director of the LCTHF in Great Falls, MT, should probably not travel. Our other main speaker, Mike Harding from the Flight of Discovery, reluctantly had to cancel at the last minute as he had been asked the previous day by the County and City of San Diego to help with aerial surveys of the fire damaged areas. Obviously this was a higher priority effort under the circumstances.

Fortunately, Jack Simmons (San Diego), a new CALCTHF member, had come to our meeting and, after being briefed on the circumstances, offered to give an extemporaneous talk about his experiences as a member of the Discovery Expedition of Saint Charles (DESC) during the Bicentennial. In addition, long time chapter member George Rion (San Diego) was also present and volunteered to discuss the Lewis and Clark items he had brought with him. Sometimes things just work out and this was one of those times!

During his talk, George announced that he had a “traveling trunk” of Lewis & Clark items and three scale models that he has used in the classroom and other venues to educate others about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He also indicated that he would like to donate these items to our Chapter. We accepted his offer. A new home was eventually found for them with CALCTHF member and elementary school teacher Deborah Dukes (Eureka, CA).

### **2008 (PS: 19-20)**

In 2008 we sponsored two Chapter events, one in Elk Grove, CA, and one in Claremont, CA, and also had a business meeting in Great Falls, MT, during the 40<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Our book discussion group met four times (February, April, June and September) and three newsletters were published (January, April and July).

In April we agreed to host the Foundation’s Spring Regional meeting and combine it with a previously planned Chapter gathering in Elk Grove entitled *The Life and Times of Alexander Hamilton Willard*. Our partners for this event were the Cosumnes Community Services District in Elk Grove and the Elk Grove Historical Society. Wonderful speakers and great venues combined with lively discussion to make this gathering a very memorable experience. The discovery of previously unknown facts about Alexander’s family activities in the Elk Grove area provided added benefits (see our July/October 2008 newsletter for details (viewable online at [http://web.mac.com/calcthf/Newsletters\\_Online/July\\_October\\_2008.html](http://web.mac.com/calcthf/Newsletters_Online/July_October_2008.html))).

At this gathering about 60 people met at the Barbara Wackford Community & Aquatic Complex to listen to Foundation President Karen Seaberg, a direct descendant of Alexander (Karen Willard), and three speakers from the Elk Grove Historical Society. Although most attendees were from California, several other states were also represented (Oregon-2, Kansas-1, Washington-1, Nevada-2, and Kentucky-1). Speaker topics ranged from the latest Foundation happenings, to the life of Alexander, to Elk Grove history, which included a presentation on early Willard Family land holdings and activities in the Elk Grove area. Two original poems were also read, written specifically for our gathering by Joe Fabel, poet laureate of the Elk Grove Historical Society.

After a delicious potluck lunch furnished by the Elk Grove Historical Society, door prizes were awarded and a drawing for two Peace & Friendship blankets conducted. Afterwards attendees went on a special tour of Elk Grove’s Heritage Park and Stage Stop Museum, paid a visit to Alexander’s gravesite, and then relaxed at a nearby community park named in honor of Alexander while enjoying refreshments



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furnished by Keith and Mary Ann Kvenvolden. That evening attendees regathered to enjoy additional discussions at a local restaurant.

The next day about twenty attendees visited Sutter's Fort State Historical Park in downtown Sacramento. As we entered the fort's gates we were greeted with a cannon salute arranged specifically for our group. After hearing an outstanding overview of the role played by Sutter's Fort during western expansion, attendees took their own self guided tours of the Fort's many offerings. This included listening to park docents in period dress discuss the various activities that occurred at Sutter's Fort. After another firing of the fort's cannon, attendees gathered for lunch at a nearby popular luncheon spot before heading home.

In November we sponsored another public event at the Claremont Library which featured two guest historians who discussed the Southern Emigrant Trail into California and the role that Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau played for the Mormon Battalion. The Mormon Battalion, part of Kearny's Army of the West, created the first wagon road along this route. The next day attendees regathered for a field trip to historical sites near Warner Springs, CA, associated with the Southern Emigrant Trail, the Mormon Battalion, and the Butterfield Stage Line. The trip, led by a local historian Phil Brigandi, included exploring trail remnants. That evening, some attendees stayed at the nearby Warner Springs Resort.

At the end of 2008 the Chapter had 79 members (77 dues paying/2 honorary). Thirty-two (32) live in Southern California (Mexican border to Ventura, CA), forty-one (41) in Northern California (north of Ventura to the Oregon border), two in Nevada, one in Illinois, one in Washington, one in Nebraska, and one in Maryland. Forty-eight (48) (62%) of our dues paying members have memberships above the individual level.