

Carolina Chapter Newsletter

A Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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President's Note

Like many people this season is my most favorite time of the year. So I am enjoying all the lights, color, music, food, and good cheer of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I especially enjoy the carols and church services that remind us of why we celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

I enjoy thinking back to and reading about the two Christmases that the Corps of Discovery celebrated far from their homes at Forts Mandan and Clatsop. In 1805, at Fort Clatsop near the mouth of the Columbia River, the expedition members were not able to enjoy a Christmas feast. William Clark stated that ". . .we would have spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we any thing either to raise our Sperits (sic) or even gratify our appetites, our Diner concisted (sic) of pore Elk, So much Spoiled that we eate (sic) it thro' mear (sic) necessity, . . ."

Good food was scarce but the Corps did celebrate "the nativity of Christ." Clark reported that in the morning ". . . we were Saluted (sic) by all our party". The salute was a shout and song followed by presents of tobacco (for those who smoked) and a handkerchief for the non-smokers. Probably the most poignant part of Clark's account of the Christmas on the Pacific Coast was his sharing that he received a present from Sacagawea - "2 Doz (sic) weasels tales (sic)". A very young Shoshone Indian woman far from her home was sharing in the Spirit of Christmas by giving gifts to others.

We are truly blessed to be able to enjoy our Thanksgiving and Christmas "feasts" and all the gift giving and acts of good cheer. The 1805 expedition Christmas reminds me that our Christmas blessings were made possible through the sacrifices of many who have served and currently serve in our armed forces. So, I want to salute and thank all our veterans and those currently serving as members of our armed forces.

I also want to thank all of the chapter members who have made this year so successful. Thank you for your contributions and encouragement. I urge all members to share with me their recommendations for programs and projects that our chapter might undertake. Clara and I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and happy 2017.

Trent Strickland, President



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Carolina Chapter, LCTHF / 306 McLean Street / Hamlet, NC 28345

TWIN CITIES REGIONAL MEETING

Clara and Trent Strickland attended the regional meeting held September 17 - 19 in Minneapolis-St. Paul. Organized and led by Lou Ritten, who is president of the Chicago Chapter and a member of the LCTHF Board of Directors, the meeting was three days filled with information, learning and fun. Included in the agenda for the first day was a visit to the General John Henry Hammond house in St. Paul where William Clark's "Field Notes" were discovered in 1953. In the house we were allowed to go to the attic where the "Field Notes" were found.

Other highlights of the three-day meeting included driving by the homes of Charles Schultz, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Garrison Keillor, a visit to the Hill House Museum and the Minnesota History Center (including a special presentation), a walking tour of the Stone Arch Bridge over the Mississippi River near the Minneapolis downtown, a tour of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, a river cruise on the Mississippi, a visit to Minnehaha Falls, a tour along the Mississippi River to Lake Pepin and a visit to the National Eagle Center, a lunch at Slippery's Restaurant (some may remember the movie filmed there), and a visit to Grey Cloud Island where original Edward Curtis prints were viewed. Great food and many other sights and fun places were enjoyed. In addition, Trent was able to squeeze in a visit to the Mall of the Americas which cannot be described in a few words.

Clara Strickland

CHARLES FRITZ COLLECTION

Last September while on a trip to the Grand Canyon, Clara and I, along with our son, Jason, were able to visit the Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum of the West in Scottsdale, Arizona, to see the Charles Fritz Lewis and Clark collection. Featuring bronzes and art, Fritz's work is a stunning record of the expedition from St. Louis to the Pacific and the return. Imagine if an artist had been a member of the Corps of Discovery. Then you can get a feel for what Fritz has accomplished. He traveled and camped out along the entire expedition route from St. Louis to the Pacific Coast at least two times to complete his work. The collection is no longer at the Museum of the West. I only hope that in the future it is shown at a museum in the eastern United States.

Trent Strickland

THE JOURNALS OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION

All journal entries and references in this newsletter are from *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. 2005. U of Nebraska Press / U of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries-Electronic Text Center. 5 Oct. 2005, edited by Gary Moulton. The journals can be accessed online at:

<http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/index.html>

FROM THE JOURNALS: CHRISTMAS AT FORT MANDAN

William Clark

I was awakened before Day by a discharge of 3 platoons [1] from the Party and the french, the men merrily Disposed, I give them all a little Taffia and permitted 3 Cannon fired, at raising Our flag, Some men went out to hunt & the Others to Danceing and Continued untill 9 oClock P, M, when the frolick ended &c.

John Ordway

Tuesday 25th Decr. 1804. cloudy. we fired the Swivels at day break & each man fired one round. our officers Gave the party a drink of Taffee. we had the Best to eat that could be had, & continued firing dancing & frolicking dureing the whole day. the Savages did not Trouble us as we had requested them not to come as it was a Great medician day with us. we enjoyed a merry cristmas dureing the day & evening untill nine oClock—all in peace & quietness.

Patrick Gass

Tuesday 25th. The morning was ushered in by two discharges of a swivel, and a round of small arms by the whole corps. Captain Clarke then presented to each man a glass of brandy, and we hoisted the American flag in the garrison, and its first waving in fort Mandan was celebrated with another glass.— The men then cleared out one of the rooms and commenced dancing. At 10 o'clock we had another glass of brandy, and at 1 a gun was fired as a signal for dinner. At half past 2, another gun was fired, as a notice to assemble at the dance, which was continued in a jovial manner till 8 at night; and without the presence of any females, except three squaws, wives to our interpreter, [2] who took no other part than the amusement of looking on. None of the natives came to the garrison this day; the commanding officers having requested they should not, which was strictly attended to. During the remainder of the month we lived in peace and tranquility in the garrison, and were daily visited by the natives.

Joseph Whitehouse

Tuesday Decemr 25th This morning being Christmass, the day was announced by the discharge of our swivels, and one Round from our small arms of the whole company; about 7 o'Clock A. M. we fired our Swivels again, when Captain Clark came out of his quarters, and presented a Glass of Brandy to each Man of our party.— He then ordered the American Flag to be hoisted, which being done; he presented them again with another Glass of brandy.— The Men then prepared one of the Rooms, and commenced dancing, we having with us Two Violins & plenty of Musicans in our party.— At 10 o'Clock A. M. the whole of the party were again served with another Glass brandy they continued dancing 'till 1 o'Clock P. M. when our Cannon was fir'd off, as a signal for dinner, at half an hour past 2 oClock P. M. we fired off our Cannon, and repaired to the Room to dance, which they continued at till 8 o'Clock P. M. There was none of the Mandans, Excepting 3 Squaws our Interpreters Wives at the Fort, the Officer having requested the Natives, to stay in their Towns, which they complied with, the Officers this day named our Fort, Fort Mandan,—

Calendar of Events

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEWIS & CLARK?

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is scheduled for July 23–26, 2017 in Billings, Montana. Accommodations are available at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel, the events headquarters, and at the Clock Tower Inn. The theme of the meeting will be “William Clark on the Rochejhone.”

Swap and Share

If you have a Lewis and Clark book or item you would like to share with other chapter members, please bring it to the next meeting.

Membership Dues

Members are reminded to please pay their yearly dues, which are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families. You can bring your payment to the next meeting, you can mail your dues to our Treasurer, Jim Hendrix, at P.O. Box 2094, Cashiers, NC. 28717, or you can mail them to Trent Strickland, 306 McLean Street. Hamlet. NC. 28345.

From the Journals

December 25, 1805: Christmas at Ft. Clatsop

William Clark: at day light this morning we we[re] awoke by the discharge of the fire arm of all our party & a Selute, Shoute and a Song which the whole party joined in under our windows, after which they retired to their rooms were Chearfull all the morning— after brackfast we divided our Tobacco which amounted to 12 carrots one half of which we gave to the men of the party who used tobacco, and to those who doe not use it we make a present of a handkerchief, The Indians leave us in the evening all the party Snugly fixed in their huts— I recved a presnt of Capt L. of a fleece hosrie Shirt Draws and Socks—, a pr. mockersons of Whitehouse a Small Indian basket of Gutherich, two Dozen white weazils tails of the Indian woman, & Some black root of the Indians before their departure— Drewyer informs me that he Saw a Snake pass across the parth to day. The day proved Showerey wet and disagreeable.

we would have Spent this day the nativity of Christ in feasting, had we any thing either to raise our Sperits or even gratify our appetites, our Diner concisted of pore Elk, So much Spoiled that we eate it thro' mear necessity, Some Spoiled pounded fish and a fiew roots.

This newsletter was produced by the Carolina Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. To submit or suggest articles for upcoming issues, please contact Russ Eagle at RussEagle@mac.com. Digital photos for publication are welcome as well.

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Russ Eagle: Newsletter Editor