

Carolina Chapter Newsletter

A Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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President's Note

Clara and I recently returned home after attending the annual meeting of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation held in Billings, Montana. I was pleased that five members of the Carolina Chapter were in attendance at the meeting.

The meeting title/theme was "William Clark on the Rochejhone - Exploring the legacy of Capt. Clark's 1806 survey of the Yellowstone River."

We thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the well-planned meeting - visiting with friends from all over the country, spending a day at nearby Pompey's Pillar, and learning in detail about Clark's time on the Yellowstone River. A particular focus was the work completed recently to locate and excavate Clark's Canoe Camp located a short distance west of Billings (more on the Canoe Camp later in this newsletter).

Some other topics included in the meeting agenda were locating and visiting Pryor's or Clark's Horse Crossing, Clark's surveying and mapping techniques, artist Charles Fritz's work illustrating the Lewis and Clark journals, and coyotes and wolves in Lewis and Clark's West. All in all it was an excellent meeting.

At the meeting I chatted with Jerry Wilson about a recent visit he and his wife Janice made to the "Lewis site" in Georgia. Jerry and Janice, members of the Ohio River Chapter, have been leaders at all levels of the LCTHF, and at my request Jerry agreed to write an article for this newsletter describing their visit to the "Lewis site." Thanks to Jerry for sharing with the Carolina Chapter.

The Board and officers of the Foundation are providing very strong leadership but membership continues to be lower than expected. I encourage all members of our chapter to keep their membership current in the LCTHF. Your support is greatly needed.

No specific plans are in place at present for our fall meeting. Please share with me your thoughts, recommendations, suggested program topics, and possible locations.

Trent Strickland, President



Table of Contents

- 1 President's Note
- 2 Meriwether Lewis in Georgia
- 2 Directions to Lewis Monument
- 3 Clark's Yellowstone River Canoe Camp & the Horse-Crossing Site
- 4 From the Journals: Ascending to the Lolo Trail
- 5 Charles Fritz - Expedition Artist
- 5 Calendar of Events
- 5 Dues Reminder

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

MERIWETHER LEWIS IN GEORGIA

By Jerry Wilson, Ohio River Chapter

On page 24 of *Undaunted Courage*, Stephen Ambrose wrote of Meriwether Lewis that he “lived in Georgia for three, perhaps four years. It was frontier country, and he learned frontier skills. He gloried in the experience.” Thomas Jefferson later wrote that Lewis “was remarkable even in infancy for enterprize, boldness & discretion.” When he was only 8 years old, Lewis habitually went out alone in the dead of night to hunt raccoon and possum in the forest with his dogs.

On a recent trip through parts of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, Janice and I decided to include a Lewis and Clark adventure. We knew from past studies that when Lewis was a young boy his family moved to the Goose Pond Community of the Broad River in Wilkes County (now Oglethorpe County), Georgia. Meriwether's stepfather, John Marks, and others from Albemarle County, Virginia, had decided to develop new plantations in northeastern Georgia, This extended group would have traveled as a wagon train, and I would speculate they used portions of the Great Wagon Road.

Janice and I made it a point to locate a monument placed in December 13, 1998 by the Fort James Chapter National Chapter Colonial Dames XVII Century. The monument is three-sided.

Side one of the marker partially reads: Site of Millstone Creek Community Goosepond Militia District Oglethorpe Co, (Originally Wilkes Co.) Settled in 1784 By Virginians Who Came With Colonel George Mathews To The Broad River Valley Of Georgia Immediately After The American Revolution For Several Years The Boyhood Home Of Meriwether Lewis The Explorer . . .

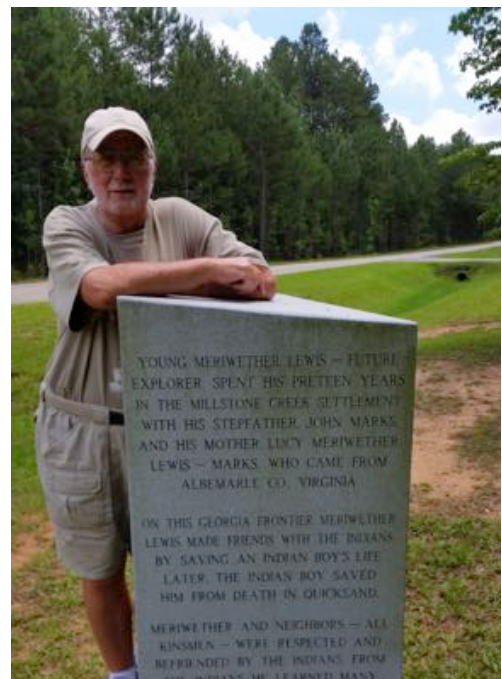
Side two of the marker partially reads: Young Meriwether Lewis Future Explorer Spent His Preteen Years In The Millstone Creek Settlement With His Stepfather, John Marks And His Mother, Lucy Meriwether Lewis, . . .

Side three has more information of the area.

The monument was difficult to locate, but we were determined and “proceeded on” until the task was completed. If anyone would like to find the site. directions are in the box below.

Directions to Lewis Monument

The monument is located at the entrance to Millstone Community Baptist Church. To reach the church one will need to travel on both Gene Smith Road and Millstone Church Road. These county roads are west of Highway 77 about halfway between Lexington, Georgia and Elberton, Georgia. To finally reach our monument destination we had to ask directions and backtrack several times. From my home in Indiana I was able to use internet sources, but of particular help was an August 2001 *We Proceed On* article by James P. Hendrix, Jr. entitled “Meriwether Lewis's Georgia Boyhood.” I would also like to thank the local Oglethorpe residents that were very patient and very helpful. Note: the marker is an approximate location of the Marks plantation. My understanding is the original plantation is near the Broad River and is now on private property owned by the Champion Paper Company. I have also been told the roads in that area are “notoriously bad”.



CLARK'S YELLOWSTONE RIVER CANOE CAMP AND THE HORSE-CROSSING SITE

By Trent Strickland

In mid-July of 1806 William Clark faced two challenges as he proceeded down the Yellowstone River with his small party (13 total including Sacagawea and Pomp). The first and most important was finding trees large and suitable enough to make canoes in which most of the party would travel down the Yellowstone to the Missouri River. The second challenge was what to do with a herd of "49 horses and one colt."

Clark was not successful in his search for trees "sufficiently large for a Canoe (sic)" so he was forced to improvise. On July 19th at a campsite on the north side of the Yellowstone near present-day Park City, Montana (west of Billings), he found trees that, when lashed together, would "be Study (sic) and fully Sufficient (sic) to take my Small (sic) party . . . down this river." Clark and his party remained at the campsite until July 24, and it has become known as the Canoe Camp site.

The site remained undiscovered for over 200 years. Then in 2011, a three-year archaeological survey began, sponsored by Montana State University-Billings and the Rochejhone Chapter of the LCTHF in Billings with support from the National Park Service and the Headwaters Chapter of the LCTHF. The survey was completed in 2014, and the results strongly indicate (prove) that the site is indeed the location of Clark's Canoe Camp.

The cover article in the February, 2017 issue of *We Proceeded On* is entitled "Clark's Yellowstone River Canoe Camp." The article gives an in-depth explanation of the archaeological survey and its finding. In addition, three articles on the survey were published in the November 2011 issue of *We Proceeded On*. The November 2011 articles are available online and the February 2017 article will be available online in February of 2018.

But what happened to the 49 horses and one colt? While camped at Canoe Camp, Clark learned on the morning of July 21st that "half of our horses were absent." He eventually deduced that Indians had stolen the horses.

Clark left the Canoe Camp site on July 24, in the two canoes which he described as "when lashed together is very Study (sic)." The remaining herd of horses followed on the north side of the river. Clark's plan all along was to have a few soldiers herd the horses east to the Mandan villages and use the horses for trade. So, later in the first day on the river Clark came to a spot he considered a good place for the horses to cross the river.

The crossing was completed and Sergeant Pryor and three men were sent east to the Mandan villages.

The horse crossing site has been located and is near Billings. It has been marked by an interpretive panel overlooking the river. The city of Billings is planning to build a park on the north side of the river to mark the horse-crossing site.

How did Sergeant Pryor's mission turn out? Well, that is a story for another newsletter.

FROM THE JOURNALS: ASCENDING TO THE LOLO TRAIL

September 15, 1805

William Clark

We set out early. the morning Cloudy and proceeded on Down the right Side of [NB: *Koos koos kee*]^[2] River over Steep points rocky & buschey as usual for 4 miles to an old Indian fishing place, here the road leaves the river to the left and ascends a *mountain* winding in every direction to get up the Steep assents^[3] & to pass the emence quantity of falling timber which had falling from dift. causes i e. fire & wind and has deprived the Greater part of the Southerly Sides of this mountain of its green timber, 4 miles up the mountain I found a Spring and halted for the rear to come up and to let our horses rest & feed, about 2 hours the rear of the party came up much fatigued & horses more So, Several horses Sliped and roled down Steep hills which hurt them verry much The one which Carried my desk & Small trunk Turned over & roled down a mountain for 40 yards & lodged against a tree, broke the Desk the horse escaped and appeared but little hurt Some others verry much hurt, from this point I observed a range of high mountains Covered with Snow from S E. to S W with Their top bald or void of timber.^[4] after two hours delay we proceeded on up the mountain Steep & rugged as usual, more timber near the top, when we arrived at the top As we Conceved we could find no water and Concluded to Camp^[5] and make use of the Snow we found on the top to cook the remnt. of our Colt & make our Supe, evening verry Cold and Cloudy. Two of our horses gave out, pore and too much hurt to proceed on and left in the rear— nothing killed to day except 2 Phests.

From this mountain I could observe high rugged mountains in every direction as far as I could See. with the greatest exertion we Could only make 12 miles up the mountain and encamped on the top of the mountain near a Bank of old Snow about 3 feet deep lying on the Northern Side of the {hills} mountain and in Small banks on the top & leavel parts of the mountain, we melted the Snow to drink, and Cook our horse flesh to eat.

Patrick Gass

Sunday 15th. Having breakfasted on colt, we moved on down the river 3 miles, and again took the mountains. In going up, one of the horses fell, and required 8 or 10 men to assist him in getting up again. We continued our march to 2 o'clock when we halted at a spring and dined on portable soup, and a handful of parched corn. We then proceeded on our journey over the mountain to a high point, where, it being dark, we were obliged to encamp. There was here no water; but a bank of snow answered as a substitute; and we supped upon soup.

CHARLES FRITZ – EXPEDITON ARTIST

BY CLARA STRICKLAND

One of the presentations I enjoyed the most at the LCTHF meeting was given by artist Charles Fritz who shared a number of his many Lewis and Clark paintings on two large screens.

He commented about each painting, pointing out that when he did a Lewis and Clark painting, he attempted to be at the same place on the same month and day and time that the explorers were there. In order to do that he has traveled extensively over the entire Trail at different times of the year.

During his talk he shared some good news about his Lewis and Clark paintings, announcing that soon they will be brought to a museum that is being constructed in Springfield, Missouri. John Morris, founder and majority owner of Bass Pro Shops, is building the museum in Springfield and has arranged for Fritz's Lewis and Clark collection to be brought to the museum soon after construction is completed.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH LEWIS & CLARK?

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE THE 50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION. IT IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 7 - 10 AND WILL BE HELD IN ASTORIA, OREGON.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING

THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS. THE DATES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA. THE DATES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED AT THIS TIME.

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>

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.

[Carolina Chapter / 306 McLean Street / Hamlet, NC 28345](#)

Russ Eagle: Newsletter Editor