

Carolina Chapter Newsletter

A Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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December 2019

President's Note

Christmas, my favorite time of the year – celebration of Christ's birth, family celebrations, the lights, decorations, good cheer and Santa Claus. At this time of year I enjoy thinking back to the three Christmases the Corps of Discovery celebrated at Camp Dubois and Forts Mandan and Clatsop – very different from my Christmases to say the least. Far from home and family, members of the Corps were soldiers serving their country like so many members of our armed forces have served far from home through many Christmases. So I offer up a prayer of thanks for all veterans, especially those who have served and are serving far from home and family.

I am happy to announce that we will have special visitors next February. National President, Lou Ritten, and the new Executive Director, Sarah Cawley, will visit our chapter on February 14. Details of the meeting are shared later in this newsletter. Please mark your calendar for this special meeting. Clara and I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2020.

Trent Strickland, President



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FROM THE JOURNALS: Christmas at Fort Clatsop December 25, 1805

[Clark]

at day light this morning we we[re] awoke by the discharge of the fire arm of all our party & a Salute, 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 ate it thro' mear necessity, Some Spoiled pounded fish and a fiew roots.

[Whitehouse]

Wednesday Decemr. 25th We had hard rain & Cloudy weather as usual. We all moved into our new Garrison or Fort, which our Officers named after a nation of Indians who resided near us, called the Clatsop Nation; Fort Clatsop.— We found our huts comfortable, excepting smoaking a little.—

We saluted our officers, by each of our party firing off his gun at day break in honor to the day (Christmass)] Our Officers in return, presented to each of the party that used Tobacco a part of what Tobacco they had remaining; and to those who did not make use of it, they gave a handerchief or some other article, in remembrance of Christmass. We had no ardent spirit of any kind among us; but are mostly in good health, A blessing, which we esteem more, than all the luxuries this life can afford, and the party are all thankful to the Supreme Being, for his goodness towards us.— hoping he will preserve us in the same, & enable us to return to the United States again in safety. We have at present nothing to eat but lean Elk meat & that without Salt, but the whole of our party are content with this fare.—

Visit by Foundation President and Executive Director

The national President, Lou Ritten, and new Executive Director, Sarah Cawley, of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation will visit our chapter on Friday, February 14. The meeting will be held in Greensboro, N.C., at the Libby Hill Seafood Restaurant located a short distance south from I -40, at 3011 Randleman Road. (There is another Libby Hill Restaurant in Greensboro, so please don't confuse the location.) The meeting will begin at 5:30 pm and will include a self-pay dinner.

Having Lou and Sarah visit our chapter is a special honor. Please mark your calendar and bring your spouse and friends. More information will be shared in January.

Trent Strickland's Article on Meriwether Lewis Featured in latest *We Proceeded On*

Carolina Chapter President Trent Strickland is prominently featured in the current issue of *We Proceeded On*, the official publication of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Trent's piece, entitled "The Returned Lewis," is the lead article the November issue.

Trent points out in his article that the last decade has seen a great deal of research on Captain Lewis, much of which has resulted in "negative accusations against Lewis." Clark's role, by contrast, has received comparatively little evaluation during that period, and Trent finds this disparity puzzling.

Trent calls into question a number of conclusions about Lewis made by various scholars over the last decade. He concludes with the opinion that "Lewis was a highly intelligent army officer who was assigned an important mission of great danger and complexity - a mission that he completed successfully."

To get the details and to follow Trent's line of reasoning in making this argument, be sure to see his article in the last *WPO*. Additional copies are available at LewisandClark.org.

CHAPTER DUES

For 2019

All chapter members are asked to forward their annual dues payment to Jim Hendrix, our Chapter Treasurer, at P.O. Box 2094, Cashiers, NC 28717. Dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families.

Dues payments are VERY important to the Carolinas Chapter for two reasons. First of all, they serve to fund our chapter meetings and activities. Secondly, your payment communicates your wish to become or to remain a member of the Carolina Chapter as we move forward.

In addition to the address above, Jim Hendrix can be reached by email at jamesphendrix@gmail.com or by phone at (828) 743-9711.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT CAROLINA CHAPTER MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CAROLINA CHAPTER WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, AT THE LIBBY HILL RESTAURANT AT 311 RANDLEMAN ROAD IN GREENSBORO. DETAILS ON THIS MEETING CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA. THE DATES WILL BE FROM AUGUST 2 THROUGH AUGUST 5.

Please visit the LCTHF Website at:

Lewisandclark.org

for information on other events.

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.

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Russ Eagle: Newsletter Editor