

# CAROLINA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

A CHAPTER OF THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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## President's Note

As indicated in an earlier email, I will be resigning as President of the Carolina Chapter at the end of this calendar year. This means that our chapter will cease to function and will be delisted as a chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF). The remaining funds in the chapter treasury will be donated to the LCTHF in honor and memory of our charter members. I am very sad to take this step, but I cannot give the Carolina Chapter the leadership it deserves.

Clara and I joined the Carolina Chapter and attended our first meeting on April 8, 2020. At that time the chapter had been established about one year. We attended our first national meeting in Pierre, South Dakota in the summer of 2001, and we have attended most of the annual meetings since that time. What great fun it has been! We have traveled most of the Trail and have become friends with so many great people. As I have mentioned before to our members, I have been happy to serve as President for two reasons - one, it has been a joy to learn about and be a part of Lewis and Clark history, and two, for all the wonderful people we have met and become friends with. For us the fun and friendship will continue because we will continue as active members of the LCTHF. I encourage all members to continue to support the LCTHF. (More information on LCTHF and chapter memberships is on page 4).

In all my efforts as President of the Carolina Chapter, I have been assisted and encouraged by my wife, Clara. A very special thank you to her. Thank you to our current officers - James Hendrix, Treasurer; John Lipscomb, Secretary; and Russ Eagle, Newsletter Editor. Special mention also of Carol Arnold who served as Vice-President and ardent supporter of all chapter activities, and Jesse Alford, who served as Treasurer and is still an active member. Thanks to longtime, supportive members David Apple, Dr. Bob Cline, Tom Dillon, Tom Gasque, Marie Gay, Kenneth Mack Whitley, and Palmer Midgett.

To all members of the Carolina Chapter, thank you for your support and friendship. I look forward to staying in touch and seeing you at future LCTHF meetings.

Trent, Strickland, President

## **Early History of the Carolina Chapter**

In 1998 interest in the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was beginning to grow. One consequence was an increase in the membership of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, including more members from non-trail states such as North and South Carolina. Several people expressed interest to Bob Gatten in forming a new chapter for members from the two Carolinas.

Bob Gatten, of Greensboro, NC, had served two terms as President of the Foundation (1994–1996). He sent a letter/questionnaire to all the Foundation members who lived in North Carolina asking about their interest in forming a chapter. This led to Bob hosting an organizational meeting on February 6, 1999, that was attended by 12 interested members.

The group voted unanimously to take the necessary steps to form a chapter and agreed that this chapter would include members from both North and South Carolina, and that it would be called the Carolina Chapter. It was also agreed that three more meetings would be held in 1999 and members would work to increase awareness of and interest in Lewis and Clark history. Thus, the first meeting of the proposed chapter was held on May 8, 1999. The chapter was officially

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## **Chapter History (continued)**

Chartered by the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation at the November 13, 1999 meeting.

The charter members of the Carolina Chapter were the following: Bob Gatten, Guy Benson, Betsy Buss, Wayland Cooke, Doug Cutchins, Aubrey Gay, Marie Gay, Taylor Haynes, Don Kreger, Ben Thomas, Jack Weil, Davis North, and George Harrison.

Presidents of the Carolina Chapter have been as follows: Bob Gatten (1999 and 2000), Guy Benson (2001 and 2002), Taylor Haynes (2003–2007), and Trent Strickland (2007 to the present).

# EXCERPT FROM THE JOURNALS:

## Return to St. Louis

### September 23, 1806

#### [Clark]

*Thursday 23rd of Septr. 1806*

we rose early took the Chief to the publick store & furnished him with Some clothes &c. took an early breckfast with Colo. Hunt and Set out decended to the Mississippi and down that river to St. Louis at which place we arived about 12 oClock. we Suffered the party to fire off their pieces as a Salute to the Town. we were met by all the village and received a hartly welcom from it's inhabitants &. <sup>13</sup> here I found my old acquaintance Majr. W. Christy <sup>14</sup> who had Settled in this town in a public line as a Tavern Keeper. he furnished us with Store rooms for our baggage and we accepted of the invitation of Mr. Peter Choteau <sup>15</sup> and (par) took a room in (the) his house (of Mr. Peter Cadeaus Choteaus) we payed a friendly visit to (Mes. Choteau and) Mr (Ogustus) August Chotau <sup>16</sup> and Some of our old friends this evening. as the post had departed from St. Louis Capt Lewis wrote a note to Mr. Hay <sup>17</sup> in Kahoka to detain the post at that place untill 12 tomorrow which was reather later than his usial time of leaveing it <sup>18</sup>

#### [Ordway]

Tuesday 23rd Sept. 1806. <sup>19</sup> a wet disagreeable morning. we Set out after breakfast and procd. on Soon arived at the Mouth of the Missourie entered the Mississippi River and landed at River deboise where we wintered in 1804. here we found a widdow woman who we left here & has a plantation under tollarable good way Since we have been on the Expedition we delayed a Short time and about 12 oClock we arived in Site of St. Louis fired three Rounds as we approached the Town and landed oppocit the center of the Town, the people gathred on the Shore and Huzzared three cheers. we unloaded the canoes and carried the baggage all up to a Store house in Town. drew out the canoes then the party all considerable much rejoiced that we have the Expedition Completed and now we look for boarding in Town and wait for our Settlement and then we entend to return to our native homes to See our parents once more as we have been So long from them.— finis.

## **Chapter Organization**

Lou Ritten, Foundation President, is working on a chapter reorganization plan that will be a big help to small chapters such as the Carolina Chapter. The proposed plan might allow LCTHF members to be members in all the chapters in a member's home region. Nothing has been approved at present, but positive changes are being worked out and we should soon hear from Lou and the National Board.

What this means for Carolina Chapter members is that we will have opportunities for membership in chapters within our region of the country. The nearest chapters in our part of the country might be the Meriwether Lewis Chapter in Tennessee, the Homefront Chapter in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the National Capital Chapter in Washington, D.C.

## **Reimagining America – The Maps of Lewis and Clark**

The LCTHF has completed work on a mobile map exhibit called “Reimagining America – The Maps of Lewis and Clark.” Curated by Carolyn Gilman, an experienced exhibit designer, Lewis and Clark scholar, and LCTHF member, the exhibit promises to be a hit once gathering restrictions are loosened. It has already been reserved by sites throughout the country into 2022. One such site is the Discovery Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

This exhibit was made possible by the generous contributions of LCTHF members combined with that of the lead sponsor of the exhibit, Foundation member Lorna Hainesworth. The Carolina Chapter donated funds for this exhibit.

## **Carolina Chapter Donation to the LCTHF**

The Carolina Chapter treasury has a balance of \$874.28. This entire amount will be donated to the LCTHF in honor and memory of the charter members listed in the chapter history on page 2. [Editor's Note: While membership unanimously supported this decision, they insisted that this donation also honor Trent Strickland for his dedicated leadership of the Carolina Chapter since 2007.]

## **From the Editor**

In 2013 I attended the National Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota. As part of the registration, I was asked if I was a member of my local chapter. Being new to the Lewis and Clark world, I had no idea that local chapters even existed. I learned through Google that they existed, that there was a Carolina Chapter, and that the contact person was Trent Strickland. I emailed to Trent, and that was the start of a great experience and a wonderful friendship. Needless to say, Trent made me feel welcome not only at the next Carolina meeting, but at the National Meeting in Bismarck.

The commitment and inspiration that Trent has brought to the Carolina Chapter has been a lesson for me in leadership. Liz and I have loved our involvement and all of the friendships we have formed, and no one did more to make this happen than Trent. This is truly the end of an era.

Several members asked if they could share a few words about Trent in this final newsletter. I said yes, of course, and this time I did not bother to run it by Trent. And I feel that these tributes are the perfect way to end, so here they are.

Thanks, Trent and Clara, for all of your hard work and dedication.

Russ Eagle

## **Guy Benson**

The Carolina Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Foundation was founded about 1999 by the late Bob Gatten. Trent became the fourth president at a point when the enthusiasm generated by the bicentennial of the L&C expedition was fading, as was the membership of the chapter. Trent was able to rejuvenate interest in L&C. It was a tough job as the chapter covered two states not directly involved with the L&C trail. However, he was able to get a historical marker posted in Louisburg, NC for the birthplace of Richard Warfington, a member of the expedition. He has also had a couple of articles in WPO. He has been doing this kind of thing as president for at least 13 years.

Working with Trent over the years has been a pleasure.

## **John Lipscomb**

Being part of the L&C chapter for many years has been the highlight of my retirement years, mainly due to getting to know Trent & Clara. They kept the chapter going and it was a real pleasure knowing both of them. I hope Trent will keep in contact and we can keep in touch. I reminded him last month that we have met in Montana, twice, St Louis, Charlottesville, Tennessee, Oak Ridge, and all over North Carolina. Times were GREAT!!!

John & Salit & Johanna (Sacagawea)

## **Jeanelle Selhost**

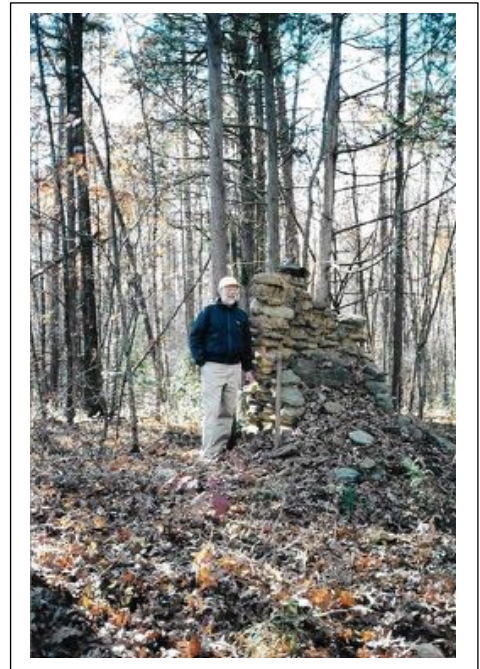
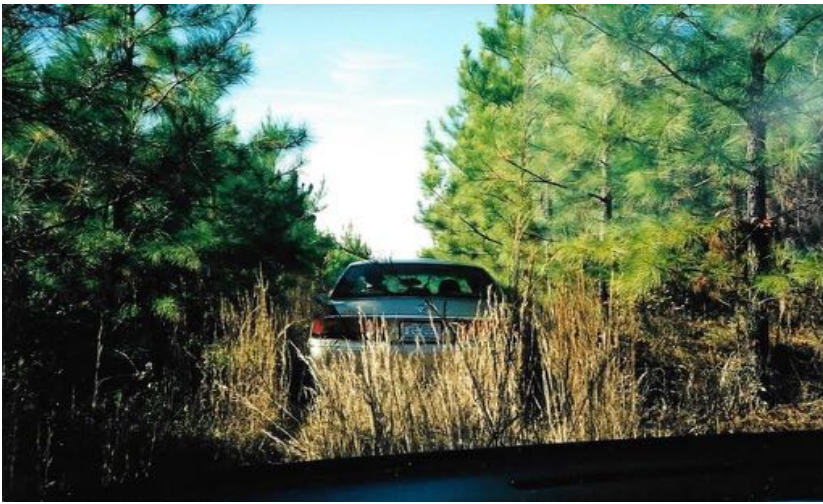
Trent (and Clara) have done a terrific job of leading the Carolina Chapter. Thank you, Trent, for your hard work and dedication over the years. The chapter has big shoes to fill. Love to you and Clara.

## **Carol Arnold**

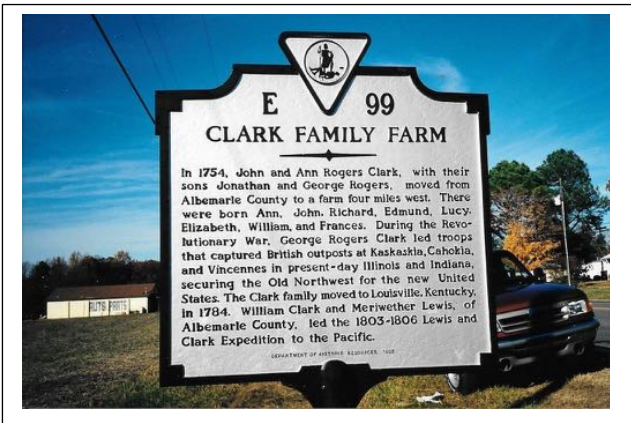
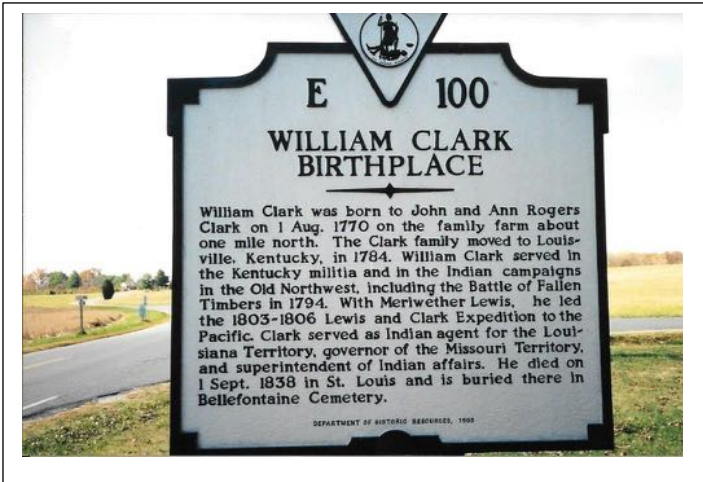
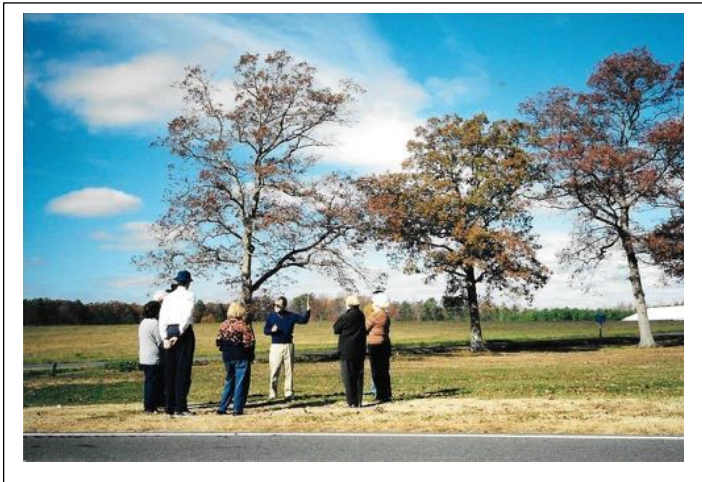
Trent and Clara Strickland will forever be a treasure of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and The Carolina Chapter. We will miss them leading our chapter as they have done so unselfishly for many years. Here is a little story about how I first came to know them.

Bob Gatten, our first Chapter President, researched and located William Clark's Birthplace and placed an historical marker near there in Caroline County, VA. In the fall of 2000, a few chapter members followed Bob and Florence Gatten through many winding country lanes to the intersection of County Roads 639 and 603 near Chilesburg, VA in Caroline County. There we sat on the grounds of the County Line Church and had a box lunch while Bob told about his adventure of getting that historical marker erected. As Trent and Clara can attest, based on their work getting the marker for Corporal Richard Warfington erected for Louisburg, NC., it took much time and work and made for a lively story. After lunch we all gathered up in cars and set off to see the birthplace. I had no idea what to expect but proceeded on expectantly. I was riding in Jack Wiel's Cadillac behind Trent and Clara's big sedan, followed by a big Oldsmobile. One sensible participant had an SUV; the rest of us were not "explorer transport equipped" for sure. After a short drive we pulled off the road at a deserted overgrown field, took some deep breaths of bewilderment and headed out across the ditch in those cars and right through the field. Soon we were engulfed in eight feet high broom sage and pine saplings. As the pines and the sage kept popping up behind Trent and Clara's bumper and banging on Jack's hood as the broom sage was slapping around the windshields, I could not help but catch the song playing on Jack's radio. It was Garth Brooks singing "I've got Friends in Low Places". Was this an omen? What kind of folks would go to this length to see a beautiful pile of broken bricks and rocks and a half standing old chimney in the middle of nowhere? Little did I know that day, but lots did I learn! Those friends and other Lewis and Clark Nuts have taken many of us far and wide across the country in search of many High and Low places that are connected to our Story of Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery. I thank Trent and Clara for all their unselfish work and for loving and telling the story of Lewis and Clark and for sharing many good High Places and Low Places on the Lewis and Clark Trail with all of us.





Thanks to Carol Arnold for these photos from the adventure she describes on the previous page.







**TRENT STRICKLAND – CAROLINA CHAPTER PRESIDENT – 2007–2020**

This newsletter was produced by the Carolina Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

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**RUSS EAGLE: NEWSLETTER EDITOR**