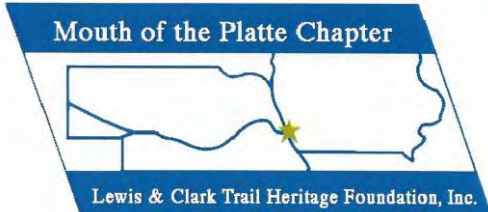


Mouth of the Platte Chapter Newsletter

Northern Plains Region
Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance
"Keepers of the Story~Stewards of the Trail"

Fall 2025 Edition



President's letter on pages 47-48

~~ Saying Goodbye to Kira and Henry Gale ~~



MOP founder Kira Gale in the driver's seat...

(Family photos courtesy of Beth Gale Jobman)



always cooking up new ideas!



Family and Friends of Kira and Henry Gale at Omaha National Cemetery

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Study Group
July-October 2025
Native Nations Encountered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition

3

Study Group members caught a new wind in their sails by means of a protracted summer break. The season saw some folks traveling, some changing domiciles, and some resting. That last category did not include Steve Wymore, however! Steve put the break to good use in preparing a book-length packet of study materials on the Osage Tribe. Thanks, Steve! It was an effort worthy of much praise!

Steve began by quoting Captain Clark on the “delightful prospect” of the confluence of the Missouri and Osage Rivers and by locating the multiple divisions of the Osage Tribe—the Grand Osage, the Little Osage, and, later, the Arkansas Osage—with respect to that river. He carried us back in time to expose Osage roots in the Ohio River valley, forward in time to reveal the critical position of the Osage in the 1800s fur trade through a unique and lucrative cooperation with the Chouteau family of St. Louis, and into the bloody fray of the Osage bow and arrow buffalo hunt (preferred by the Osage to the firearm hunt).

Steve referenced the Osage reputation as tall, statuesque, and fearsome warriors, whose leaders discouraged the use of spiritous liquors or the adoption of white men’s clothing, customs, and religions. Steve explained how pressure from other displaced tribes and from white settlers forced the Osage to surrender lands, starting with the 1808 treaty negotiated by William Clark, and continuing with subsequent treaties in 1825 and the 1860s, ending with an act of Congress in 1870, relocating the Osage Tribe to Indian Territory in the Cherokee Outlet.

Steve did not neglect to mention the discovery of oil on this last Osage reservation, which led to the 1906 Osage Allotment Act, both a financial boon to the Tribe and a liability to individual tribal members, who were subsequently victimized, swindled, and murdered by unscrupulous whites seeking to fraudulently acquire the oil headrights originally accruing to the Natives.

From roughly 5,000 members at the time of Lewis and Clark, the Osage—“Children of the Middle Waters” (variously referred to as *Ni-u-ko’n-ska* or *Wa-zha-zhe*)—now number near 10,000. Steve introduced us to notable individuals, including Clermont (distinguished chief), Tal-lee (noted warrior), three delegations to Washington City (1804, 1805, and 1806), Maria and Marjorie Tallchief (ballet dancers), John Joseph Mathews (WWI veteran), Clarence Leonard Tinker (first Native Major General and namesake of Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City), and the Code Talkers of both WWI and WWII.

Steve included a delightful array of photos and paintings of cultural artifacts and practices spanning the centuries of European/Osage contact, including a medicine bundle (*waxobe*) and an assortment of weapons. He did not neglect to describe Fort Osage, near modern Kansas City, and quote Captain Clark on the “elegant [commanding] and healthy” situation of this fort intended to protect the Osage from their Native adversaries.

Fittingly, Steve concluded his presentation with a quote respectful of the Osage tribal journey into the present: “The history of the Osage Indian Tribe is a chronicle of resilience, cultural richness, and the on-going struggle for self-determination. They have faced countless challenges, adapting to changing landscapes and advocating for their sovereignty. Their journey is a testament to the enduring spirit of indigenous communities and their unwavering commitment to preserving their traditions and heritage.”

We invite you to join this robust study group!

-ADW

Supplement to Study Group Notes Winnebago Powwow



Warrior's solemn moment before the ceremony



Early morning in the Powwow arena



Princess contestant Ava

On Saturday, July 26, 2025, I had the privilege of participating in the 159th Annual Winnebago Homecoming Celebration in Winnebago, Nebraska. The announcer said, “It is the oldest powwow on the planet,” and “relatives from all four directions are helping out today.” Since I arrived—late!—at about 9 a.m., the ceremonial flags to honor fallen warriors had already been raised three hours previously and were lazily undulating in gentle breezes playing amidst closely nestled tents and the leafy boughs of over-arching trees. Even the swallows were twittering in anticipation of the day’s festivities.

Master of Ceremonies Boye Ladd kept a pleasant patter running through the loudspeaker as he directed gaily-attired 2026 Miss Nebraska Winnebago contestants to their judging stations. He and the queue of dazzlingly-robed young ladies welcomed my questions, explaining that an important aspect of the judging focuses on each contestant’s command of the Ho-Chunk language (Ho=voice, Chunk=holy or big) and the meaning of tribal customs. Readers may explore these topics at the following two websites: www.Dictionary.HoChunk.org and www.HoChunkLanguage.com.



Sunning the Drum



Dancers enter the arena from the east



Even little children dance

I asked Boye why the various drum groups seemed to be intentionally exposing their drums to the intense summer sunlight. His answer: the warm rays of the sun tighten the drum heads for a better sound. The hand-made drums are powerful, and the people take good care of them. He also told me the flags are ceremonial funeral flags, placed on a casket until it is lowered into the ground. As the Winnebago are a warrior race of people, the flags represent fallen warriors.

When I had exhausted my questions for Boye and the young ladies, I wandered among the various canopies off the arena, examining brightly-colored wares for sale: t-shirts featuring animals of symbolic significance to the Tribe; beaded and feathered jewelry; stone, wood, metal, leather, and fabric dance accoutrements; fancy dance dresses and head ornaments; and so forth. Two awnings particularly caught my attention—those for the U.S. Army (more about this later) and for the Angel DeCora Museum and Research Center on the campus of Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago. Museum Assistant Gayle Whitewater explained her function as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with regard to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Her companion was Museum Curator Madeline Keating (a non-Native, originally from Kansas). They encouraged me to visit the museum to learn more about tribal history. (Hours 9-4 M-F, 10-2 Sat.) Contact info:

angeldecoramuseum@winnebagotribe.com

602 E. College Drive

Winnebago, Nebraska 68071

Phone: 402-257-5587

The museum is supported, in part, by a grant from The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

Shortly before noon, Boye announced that lunch would be served at the Cook Shack and that everyone was welcome to partake! He mentioned that the DeCora family was serving a light lunch in honor of Vietnam era veteran Paul DeCora, who died November 10, 2024. Hence, this was the family's first time to fly the commemorative flag used at his funeral.

At about 12:45 p.m., dance contestants began to gather on the east side of the arena. As the dancers milled and chatted on the arena apron, the air was full of the musical clamor of the male dancers' bells, secured around knees and/or ankles or attached to the legs of male regalia, excited to motion by each footstep, and the soprano tinkling of the young ladies' jingle dresses as the youngsters bounced eagerly on the balls of their dainty moccasin-clad feet, awaiting the signal to begin. Each contestant wore a tag with number and bar code. After the Invocation, and with the Host Drum beating a Winnebago Welcome Song, the dancers began to stream onto the arena, passing two tribal relatives holding bar scanners and pausing just long enough for the scanners to register their presence. Boye was careful to explain the right attitude to maintain in the arena (and I paraphrase here): This is a celebration on Turtle Island in all four directions. We maintain the arena for ALL the relatives. Natives are never, ever late! When you come into the arena you leave all bad feelings behind. There should be no animosity or jealousy or ill feeling toward one another. You are here to honor all the fallen warriors; you wear badges/patches for each branch of the military service. To have a song made in your honor is one of the highest honors that can be given. Standing during songs shows respect. The arena is healing: we pray here, we dance here, we honor here. We rehearse our history here during the song and dance. We are also here to enjoy our life in a real good way.

As the afternoon progressed, we heard songs from all the drum groups. Though I never saw a printed list of group names, these were some of the names I caught: Pawnee Yellow Horse, Ironwood, Omaha Whitetails, Santee Nation Maza Kute, South Dakota Standing Horse, Full Metal Jacket, Whitetail Boys, Lazy Bird, Little Soldier, Eagle Feather, and Meskwaki Nation. Boye praised the crowd for "feeding the drum" (ministering to the needs of the people who drum and sing).

Besides the drumming and singing contest, for which the prize was \$10,000 (sponsored by the casino), the dancers were competing for prizes of up to \$20,000. I wasn't able to stay late enough to see who the judges deemed worthy of awards, but I did witness the mid-afternoon award presented by the U.S. Army. Sergeant Major Leland Birch of the U.S. Army took it upon himself to research the history of Chief Little Priest and his Company "A" Scouts who served the U.S. government in the late 1800s. The [Tribal newspaper](#) contained this explanation:

Why: Chief Little Priest (Hug'xunuga) was a significant figure in the Winnebago (Ho-Chunk) Tribe's history, particularly during the tribe's relocation to Nebraska in the mid-19th century. Born in Wisconsin around 1829, he became the War Chief of his tribe in the 1840s. Sadly, Chief Little Priest died in September 1866 from wounds sustained during battle. His legacy is honored annually with a Memorial Homecoming Pow Wow on the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska. Little Priest Tribal College in Nebraska is named in his honor and is dedicated to preserving and elevating Ho-Chunk culture.



Sgt. Major Leland Birch presents Order of St. George Medal (Photos by Brian Chamberlain)

Sgt. Major Birch, himself, prepared the application for the award and followed that award process through to completion. He was in person at this powwow to present the Army's posthumous award to the Winnebago Tribe, specifically, the Order of St. George Medal—Bronze Category. Going forward, the medal will be on display at the Angel DeCora Museum. News media was on hand to record this first-ever award event. Coverage of the ceremony could be viewed at 2:30 the following day (Sunday, July 27) on *Indian County Today* (ICTNews.org). ICT has 20 reporters across the U.S.. The Rosebud Sioux woman reporter present this day is based out of Lincoln, NE.

-ADW



Three photos of the same warrior show the symbolic nature of the dance: this man is "scouting".



Starr Chief Eagle

Lakota Artist and Hoop Dancer Extraordinaire Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Spirit of Discovery Stage July 26, 2025

On a scorching July Saturday evening in Sioux City, on the same day as the Winnebago Powwow, this Native ambassadress was a kaleidoscope of motion and color for an hour. As she spun her multi-colored hoops, she also spun a web of connection with her audience of about 50 people. She is an excellent communicator with an intercultural goal: to be a resource for increased inter-racial comprehension. Let's break the program down into six topics.

Hoop Dancing

This is a rare dance form performed by only three families in the Midwest. Hoop dancing was practiced for over 100 years before it was discouraged by the U.S. government from 1882 to 1933. In 1978 it was specifically permitted again. [American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978] Starr's father, Dallas Chief Eagle, saw it performed in Colorado Springs and decided to learn it and teach it to her. Dancers use hoops, traditionally made of willow, to create shapes (animals, other creatures, and an unlimited number of other designs) that flow seamlessly from one to another as the dancer spins and moves on the stage, adding or subtracting hoops as needed. The drumbeat is the heartbeat of the universe. The dancer and audience both find their own meanings in the dance. Hoop colors have meaning; for instance, the multicolored hoops represent everyone in the world. Starr has a particular colored hoop that represents the event of her birth. ALL of the colors represent who she has become in her life. There is a right spiritual way to approach the hoop dance. First of all is to consider the dance as a gift, which should be shared with others. Starr said, "We dance for those who cannot dance. Anytime we create something, it is sacred. If we feel distracted, we learn to turn off the distractions. Closing one's eyes helps to do this. We do good self-care, so we can continue to be strong. We focus on good positive feelings. We put good intentions and good energy into preparing the hoops. We smudge the hoops and ourselves with sage or tobacco. We fill the hoop with prayer." Traditional regalia is made of bones, shells, and stones. Starting in the 1850s, Natives started using glass beads that they acquired by trade with the French. Dancers hand-make their own regalia, which can take years.

Starr Chief Eagle

Starr has been hoop dancing for 31 years (all of her life). She says, "Dance is the story of my life." She was born *Wichahpi Tokahe* (First Star) on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. She is a *Sicangu* (Rosebud) Lakota, enrolled at the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Chief Eagle is her

last name. Lakota names have to be earned. When she earned hers, her grandfather gave her the name Brave Star Woman (*Wichahpi Ohitika Winyan*). Her father created the tail, bridge, and ladder designs she uses in her dance, and those represent his influence in her life. She dances with her father three to four times per year. She dances for schools, camps, libraries, museums, and hospitals. Because the weather changes the hoops, she likes to dance when it is hot outside because she can move faster. If the weather is cold, the icy cold hoops hurt her hands. Starr won the 2024 first-place medallion at the Intermountain Hoop Dance Competition in Salt Lake City. She will defend her title in September 2025. There is a video of her dance on her website. In addition to dancing, Starr makes and sells jewelry made of bones, antlers, and glass beads. The music she used for today's program was from the *Black Bear Drum Group*.

Linguistics

Starr says "Sioux Nation" is an incorrect term. Some Natives don't like it because "Sioux" means enemy or snake. It is more correct to say *Očeti Šakówiŋ*, which means "Seven Council Fires" and sounds like "oh chay tee sha koh wee". Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota refer to three dialects of the language, and those three words mean "the friendly ones." The word for her hoops is *cangleska*, which sounds like "chong lesh ka". Other words that are important to know are the counting numbers (1: *wanží*--sounds like "one ee gee", 2: *núŋpa*--sounds like "noh pah", and 3: *yámni*--sounds like "yah mee"); and thank you--*philámayaye*, which sounds like "pee lah mee ya yay".

Tribal

In the past, the forceful removal of tribes resulted in many deaths. Natives weren't allowed to leave their reservation or were punished for leaving the reservation. Starr says, "Reservations are prisoner of war camps." Some people don't even know there are still tribes. There are 570 federally recognized tribes in the U.S. There are nine federally recognized tribes in South Dakota. There is a 1000-page application for federal tribal recognition. A tribe has to document a unique culture and language and give the number of people involved. Chicago contains the third largest Native community in the U.S. Some states that have large Native populations are New York, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. The organization of tribes has changed significantly over the years because tribes have moved and have both combined and split. Natives are dual citizens. Thus, Natives can participate in elections, as well as benefit from promises made to the Tribe. A parent has to enroll his/her baby in the Tribe.

Social/Cultural

One feature shared by Native tribes is respect for Nature (i.e., earth, sky, animals, and plants). It is a relationship connection between the self and Nature. Part of this worldview involves not taking any more from Nature than is needed and using ALL of what is taken (think: buffalo). Of course, buffalo meat was not the primary food source for every Native tribe. Of the Lakota, Starr says, "We are a healing people." Lakota moccasins characteristically feature geometric designs.

Others Who Shared the Stage with Starr

Leighton Long is Oglala Lakota, born in Rapid City, South Dakota. He works for the Jobs Corps as an electrical apprentice. He uses six hoops (two leg hoops and four wing hoops) and all hand-made regalia. This was his first public performance, and it was fantastic. The music he used was from the group *Northern Cree*.

Zen is Starr's 17-month-old son. Starr hand-makes his regalia. He came boldly onto the stage and danced with Starr. The crowd loved him!

Finally, Starr said, "*Tókša akhé*" (which sounds like "tōk shah kay" and means "See you later!")

(For a picture of Starr with Zen, see page 38.)

Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School 35th Annual Recognition and Remembrance Day August 9, 2025

9



Unknown. "A group of children from the Genoa Indian school pose for a class picture." *Nebraska State Historical Society, n.d.*

National History Day Project

Sometimes, truth is hard. In much the same way that Ellis Island served as a rite of passage between the Old World and the New for immigrants to North America in the late 1800s and early 1900s, Native American boarding schools in the late 1800s and early 1900s served as a rite of passage for Native children and forever changed the relationship of Native individuals to their natal roots and the land of their origins. In both passages, names were changed, language and customs were subsumed in the overwhelming flood of Anglo-Saxon hegemony, families were forever torn apart, parents and children cried, disease bred in over-crowded conditions took its toll of lives and health, despair and poverty undermined the physical and emotional well-being of even the hardest souls, and institutional expediency reigned. These two passage phenomena are more related than might appear at first glance. The principal difference between the two lies in that the first was more or less voluntary, the second rarely so. A related contrast follows: those who passed through Ellis Island came looking for land, while those who passed through Native boarding schools were losing theirs.

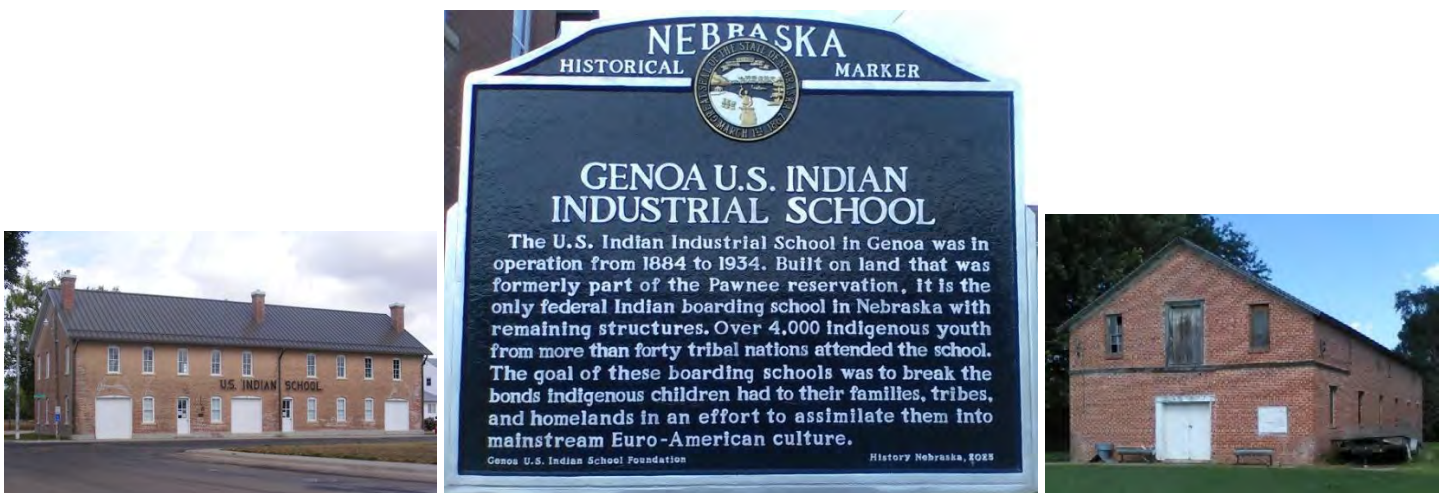
The frightening force of these truths was on full display during today's events commemorating the lives of Natives impacted by the Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School between its opening on February 20, 1884, and its closing on March 1, 1934. The resonant word of the commemoration was "trauma". Three thoughtful Hastings Public High School students—Tom Tran, Yadriel Colindres Fonseca, and Ashlin George--offered a half-hour presentation jam-packed with emotionally laden information about the heavy impact of the boarding school era on Native lives. They titled their award-winning

National History Day Website *Love Thy Neighbor: The Effects of the Genoa Indian Industrial School on Native American Rights*.

The first order of business during this presentation was to lay the foundation of official U. S. government laws, decrees, and actions toward the Natives: the 1819 Civilization Fund Act that led to the establishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1824, the 1830 Indian Removal Act, the 1851 Indian Appropriation Act (actually a series of acts between 1851 and 1871) removing Natives from their cultural land and practices, the 1876 Battle of the Little Big Horn, and the 1887 Dawes Act phasing out reservations.

Next, the students lay the foundation of this particular school, one of the largest, but not the first, of the 408 Native boarding schools in the U.S. Officials chose the Genoa site because the U.S. government already owned the Pawnee land situated there. Richard Henry Pratt became the first superintendant in 1892, even before the school opened. The number of grade levels varied year-to-year, depending on the student population. Oddly, very few photos of the Genoa school are available; the researchers had to rely on photos taken at the Carlisle School. Nonetheless, the written record reveals a strong focus at Genoa on the erasure of Native identities, of which the absent photos are but an eerie vacant mirror image.

Children came to the school in various ways. Some Native parents surrendered their children to authorities voluntarily, believing that assimilation was truly beneficial. To some Native parents, boarding school seemed like the best option in an otherwise desperate home situation characterized by privation. Others faced intense pressure to surrender children “for the good of the child,” or so that the child would better fit into the white man’s world. In most cases, enrollment was not voluntary. Whites in positions of authority even kidnapped some children.



Authorities Anglicized the children’s names—or changed them outright. Ostensibly, the Native children attended the Genoa School to get an education in Anglo culture and productive work habits. Yet, the U.S. government spent less than \$200 per Native student at the same time as expenditures for white students were near \$700 per student. Compared to the white experience, training for Native students was more of an education in slave labor: students built the school buildings, students sewed thousands of garments, students performed building repairs and maintenance, students worked the 35-acre farm, and students planted 3,500 trees. In no way were Native students prepared to enter college after graduation.



Many children's feet crossed this threshold.



Not all of them returned home.

Given the sometimes hazardous nature of the students' work, it comes as no surprise that many students—a number in excess of 86 of them—died. School conditions promoted death by diseases prevailing during the era, such as trichoma and tuberculosis. There is even a lingering suspicion that harsh punishments might also have contributed to deaths; there is at least one account of two students being punished by being tied to a buggy axle and dragged through the streets of the town.

Even the students who physically survived their school years faced a kind of soul death from the cultural stripping they endured: they frequently lived in fear of the school employees, they were made to eat carbolic soap if they spoke their forbidden Native language or engaged in forbidden cultural practices, they were frequently shunned by both whites and the members of their own Native tribes or families, and some were even banned from returning to their reservations. Some suffered a post-traumatic stress disorder similar to that of combat soldiers. Stories about life at boarding school were certainly not all negative. However, it is consistent with traditional Native oral culture that written accounts generated by former students would skew toward a rosier, more positive view of school than was shared orally and was universally experienced.

In examining the overall record, our presenters concluded that boarding schools run by the U.S. government (nine in Nebraska) represented one of many tactics—some might say weapons—used to suppress Native Americans so that the government could take their land. Why did whites need more land? There's no doubt that European immigration was both the impetus for and the realization of a U.S. government policy embracing Manifest Destiny—a flood of white civilization to accomplish the incorporation of the Great Plains into the inexorable gears of the U.S. economic machine.

The thoughts above bring us full-circle to Ellis Island. With both passages, white Europeans succeeded in re-fashioning the foreign (to them) world according to their own image. On the one hand, immigrant families of non-European extraction are rediscovering their roots due to greatly facilitated international travel and Internet research capability. Likewise, Native Americans now are slowly regaining a modicum of their cultural past. The final hard truth is that there are lots of untold histories in both cases; information is still missing. Our three young researchers encouraged all of us to nurture our empathy for others' hidden issues and never justify abuse of any kind. Amen to that.

To see the presenters' website, click [here](https://25-90513538.nhdwebcentral.org/). [https://25-90513538.nhdwebcentral.org/]

-ADW

Source: Digital Reconciliation Project
genoaindianschool.org

Lest we focus exclusively on the foregoing non-Native interpretation of Genoa Boarding School history, the following Native speakers brought us Native perspectives during the commemoration.



Ronnie Kemp of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska conducted the day’s welcome by lighting cedar and fanning the cedar smoke in and around the campus, the building, and the meeting room. Cedar is an evergreen that grows on the highest mountains. Ronnie explained that the feathers of the wing with which he fanned the smoke are like an antenna that connects us to the Creator and helps us to “tune in” for a clear picture. The cedar smudging ceremony honors the spirits of relatives lingering in and around the building, especially child relatives, which children have the mind of God and can see and hear things we adults cannot. -ADW



Ed Encinas of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska shared his path to producing Native art, from his student days at St. Augustine Indian Mission School in Winnebago, Nebraska, to becoming the prize-winning modern artist and art entrepreneur that he is. Because his grandmother, Maggie Grant Walker, attended Genoa Indian School, his mother never got the closeness, culture, or language fluency to pass on to him. When he attended St. Augustine School as a child, he said the strictness of the nun teachers made the school a tough experience for him. He went on to be a history major in Native American Studies, and he also studied art at the University of New Mexico. From a colleague in Virginia, he learned to refer to himself as a “Plains Indian”. He spent most of his adult life in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Because of the economic recession in 2008, he got a part-time job as an assistant in a NM art gallery, where he gained considerable understanding of the

Apache, Navaho, and Ute cultures. While there, a colleague introduced him to ledger art—painting done on documents (bank ledgers, money, receipts, etc.) from the 1800s. When COVID came, the New Mexico art galleries closed, so he moved back to Walthill, Nebraska, on the Omaha reservation. Now, he works at a Walthill powwow supply store (leather, beads, etc., to make cultural regalia) called “Hawatays” and enters his art in art shows. In his first year, he won “Best of Show”. In his second year, his pieces won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards. Ed says, “Art is therapeutic!” -ADW

Student Charlene Schram (Omaha Tribe) is the great- great-granddaughter of Genoa students, which qualified her to receive the 2025 Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation/Wolfe Family Scholarship (\$2,000) for service programs with which she has been involved, such as clothing drives. She will use the award to study Psychology at Brigham Young University.



Storyteller/Humanities Nebraska Speaker Jerome Kills Small

shared stream-of-consciousness memories prompted by questions from his audience. Jerome’s mother, Lavina, got pregnant with him when she was 13 years of age. Jerome was born when she was 14. As a baby, he was blind. “Who would want a blind baby?” he asked. When he was very young, living in the Indian tent village south of the tracks in Gordon, Nebraska, the couple who cared for him were not getting along. One day, a huge bird came and perched nearby on a lone weeping willow tree in the city park. This was not a good sign, and the couple split up soon afterwards. Because he could not find the two people, he put his mattress under the tree. He and three others lived under that tree for a while. He was reckless and had a dangerous attitude. He would walk on top of fences and try to fly with wings off the hayloft. He claims padlocks were invented because of him—to keep him out of the hayloft. “Those were the good old days!” After that, he went to live with his elderly maternal grandparents—people born in the mid-1800s. His name is “Jerry”, but his grandmother pronounced it “Jelly”. Since the family dog was also named “Jelly”, our speaker “knew equality” between humans and animals at an early age.

Jerome says he raised himself. He learned to work as a child. By age 6, he was driving the ’49 Chevy, even though he couldn’t reach the clutch. He and his people caked the cattle and left salt blocks and broken bales in the field. They shocked their wheat. They used a front end loader to move hay, and there were snakes in the hay. “I thought everyone lived that way,” he mused. “I was groomed to work for myself.” Grandma and Grandpa used wood chips to start a fire in a bucket. The sound of chopping wood is a “homey” sound. The old people at the supper table socialized with a kinship attitude. They lived in a boxcar at a ranch near Gordon, Nebraska. The boxcar was sectioned into rooms and had

windows like a modern “tiny home”. His room was in the back. Grandma’s room was next. They had a living room and a kitchen, too.

When Jerry was nine years of age, his mother, Lavina, came to visit him at the grandparents’ house. Remember, she was only 14 years older than he—still a young person 23 years of age. He asked her if she wanted to RAISE him. She understood the question as a contest—a RACE to the gate to see who won. She asked him if he wanted a head start. He didn’t say if he accepted or declined the head start, but she beat him in their footrace to the gate and back. She was the fastest girl in the village of Porcupine (30 miles from Whiteclay).

Subsequent to the footrace, Jerry’s grandparents enrolled him in school at the Holy Rosary Mission. He was greeted by a man with red hair who was wearing a black “dress” and who only spoke Lakota, so Jerry hid behind his suitcase. This man summoned “Mr. Murphy” to the principal’s office, and Mr. Murphy gave Jerry a locker, padlock(!) and key, and showed him the showers, the wash basins, his bed in the 3rd floor dormitory, and the grade school and high school classrooms.

The nun in charge of his 3rd grade education was Sister Rena, who pronounced his name as “Dŭh-wŏm”. She always made the students line up. In a pre-Christmas visit to the Gordon ranch, the bossman had decided that Jerome should have Christmas. There was a decorated Christmas tree and bright colored gifts. Santa Claus came and brought Jerome a pump top that spins around and a toy pop-gun with a cork attached by a string. Jerome rationalized, “I’m from the ranch. I shoot jack-rabbits. I knew rifle safety and care early. I’m a dead shot. THAT STRING HAS GOTTA GO!”

Of course, he was a dead shot with a rubber band, too. When Sister Rena let her teacher’s pet, Pickles Clifford, put the star on top of the Christmas tree, he shot it off with a rubber band. Sister Rena got him by the ear and dragged him to the principal’s office. The principal gave her permission to “punish him any way you want to,” so she made him draw a Nativity scene on the chalkboard with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, three wise men, and a donkey. Jerome drew the obligatory picture, but he put bucking rigging on the donkey. Sister Rena did not notice the embellishment, but, he said, “I always got her back somehow!”

By 5th grade, Jerome had figured out that altar boys at this Catholic school got preferential treatment when it came to food. For breakfast, they got eggs, bacon, and cereal, while the others got only mush, a bun, and some apple juice. He asked to be an altar boy and was undeterred to learn that he had to become Catholic in order to serve. That meant taking a Catechism class in addition to his regular classes. Most of the Indian boys teased him about having to learn Latin, but two boys with a rebel streak joined him in training. Those boys managed to find the Christian Brothers communion wine and shared it with him. When “Bobby” was supposed to ring the bell for morning mass and there was nothing but silence, Bobby was found passed out. The communion wine was moved elsewhere!

When it came time to be baptized, Jerome asked a tall basketball player to be his godfather and the prettiest cheerleader to be his godmother. Both agreed. “I had to do things to keep me going!”

At the boarding school, the students planted and harvested the fields. Lots of kids were not accustomed to working in the fields, but Jerome had a head start! The people who raised him had prepared him to work.

Jerome currently works for Fort Peck online. He teaches language. He transcribes oral history interviews. He is the Vice President of Lakota Youth Development. He makes dreamcatchers. He trades for feathers, since you can’t buy feathers. The feathers are for the coming-of-age ceremony. He makes his own red paint for girls on the powwow circuit. They part their hair and paint the part red to

the nape of their necks to symbolize the red road—the correct moral life of the people—the Milky Way. The number of stars represents the number of human brain cells.

He is married and has a huge log home in Kyle, South Dakota. He participates in healing ceremonies, powwows, songs, and magic rituals. He is no longer blind. The reservation medicine man, Jess Stead, fixed his eyes using eyebright and ashes of the cottonwood tree. Oh! And a little bit of LASIK surgery.

He apologizes to the Water for men polluting the water with plastic. He apologizes to Mother Earth. Jerome thinks of it this way, “The earth owns us and raises us. She takes care of us. We have to take care of her.” He listens to people and learns from them. He saves everything that is meaningful and helpful. The seventh direction teaches men to take the good out of yourself and give it to other people.

Aho, Jerome Kills Small!

-ADW



Nathan Phillips and mounted escort
(all photos courtesy of Hinxudewin)

Nathan Phillips Led Over 100-Mile Memorial Walk for Native American Boarding School Survivors and Their Families

by Hinxudewin, daughter of Nathan Phillips (Alethea Phillips)

Nathan Phillips, Executive Director and founder of the Native Youth Alliance, led a memorial walk that was over 100 miles in honor of Native American children who attended the Genoa Indian Boarding School and their families. His organization advocates intergenerational healing through ceremony, cultural arts, Indigenous rights, and environmental justice. This walk is part of that ongoing work—a journey of remembrance, resilience, and healing.

Nathan Phillips is walking in memory of his mother, Dorothy Hastings, who attended the Genoa Indian Boarding School. Dorothy Hastings later became a founding member of the Lincoln Indian Center.

The legacy of family separation did not end with the boarding school era. It continued through federal and state policies that placed Native children in foster care, often far from their communities and cultures. Nathan Phillips was taken from his family at the age of five and placed in the foster care system. Ten years later, he found his mother again through her work at the Lincoln Indian Center—a place known for cultural preservation, healing, and community support.

The walk begins at the historic Genoa Indian Boarding School in Nebraska. If you've ever visited, you may remember how the old wooden floors creak with every step. The exposed brick walls are lined

with carefully curated photos and information. A sign reads, “This house made by Indian boys only.” Among the exhibits, beautiful beadwork lies protected under spotless glass. In one room, school desks sit in neat rows, empty. History hangs heavy in the air.



Nickie Drozd, a board member of the Genoa Indian School Foundation, opened the Genoa Indian Boarding School in support of the walk. “I thought it would be a good chance for people to come view the information we have here, or maybe help them find information about their relatives,” she explains. “I think this walk is important because it’s bringing people together in remembering the children. It’s promoting healing and understanding.”

Outside, the sun bears down on a hot Nebraska afternoon. Walkers gather in the shade while horse riders saddle and paint their horses. Calvin Harlan opens the walk with a ceremony to call the children's spirits back. He speaks of Nathan Phillips with deep respect: “He’s doing as much as he can. Doing these things around the country, you know, helping others. Today, he comes home to help all of us.”



The walk concluded in Macy, Nebraska, bringing together tribal leaders, elders, youth, horse riders, and community members in a powerful closing to this year’s walk.

The Native Youth Alliance would like to thank the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa, Genoa Indian School Foundation, Shonga Ska Program, the Omaha Tribal Police Department, the Omaha Family Resource Center, Tobias Grant, and all the community members who supported us along the way.

July 22 (Catfish Lake at the Lodge Restaurant): White Catfish Camp Celebration

Topic: *Lewis and Clark Trivia Game* by Steve Wymore

Steve Wymore hit another one “outta the park” with this year’s new and improved Lewis and Clark Trivia Game. Aided by Keith Bystrom’s loan of a Lewis and Clark trivia book, Steve prepared 30 multiple choice questions in an effort to stump this well-read group. Everyone concurred that Steve’s 2025 questions were more challenging than ever before. Prizes included books, art, and sundry small items, some with a Native American theme. Among the twelve attendees this year were Terry and Micky Bolamperti, who made a truly welcome addition to our merry gathering!



Riverfront Dedication Ceremony: Front Row: Tom & Ginny Conley, Paula Imes. Back Row: Steve Wymore, Keith Bystrom

August 19 (Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha): Docent-Guided Tour of Western Art

Nine MOP adherents enjoyed a one-hour docent-guided tour of the art and artifacts comprising this well-curated collection. Leathers, feathers, beads, and bones featured prominently among nineteenth century landscapes and portraits, many of them painted by renowned western artist Karl Bodmer. After the tour, members partook of the delicious fare offered in the upscale cafeteria of the newly renovated and greatly expanded museum. Special guests today included Dean and Pam Helmick of Beaver Lake. All of the Joslyn’s permanent exhibits can be viewed by the public without charge. Thanks to Keith Bystrom for making the arrangements for this field trip.

September 23 (Denny’s Restaurant, Omaha): Keith Bystrom

Topic: *The 2025 LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City, Missouri*

Vice President Paula Imes spent a few minutes reading aloud from the journals this evening, per our custom. She reminded us of the Natives setting the prairie afire near the modern South Dakota border in 1804 to alert one another to the presence of the Corps. By 1805, Lewis and Clark had an established relationship with the Natives, so much so that Twisted Hair was glad to welcome them into his lodge. By 1806, Lewis and Clark had even persuaded Sheheke to accompany them downriver to “civilization” and had taken him to purchase white man’s clothes from a St. Louis establishment. As our featured speaker this evening, Keith Bystrom brought all ten guests a commemorative magnet from the 2025 Annual Gathering, hosted by Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter of the Southern Prairie Region, and gave us a summary of occurrences at the meeting. Besides Keith, other MOP members present at the Kansas City meeting were Mary Langhorst and Mark Schulze. In all, there were approximately 110 attendees, including Neal Bedlan, Interim Director of the National Park Service. For details of the meeting, see Keith’s President’s letter on page 47. Next year, the 2026 Annual Gathering is planned for Great Falls, Montana. Keith would be very pleased to have us all make the trip!!

MOP Board Meeting Minutes Summary August 5, September 2, and October 7, 2025

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Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$2,206.11. Savings: \$2,743.93. LCTHF Grants (3): \$13,352.59.

Membership Report: The NPR membership roster from LCTA HQ, dated July 4, 2025, shows 104 entries.

Past Monthly Meetings: July 22: 5:30 p.m. at Catfish Lake at the Lodge Restaurant in LaPlatte, NE. Program: "Masters Level" Trivia Game by Steve Wymore. So glad to see Terry and Micky Bolamperti! Attendance: 12 (p. 17)
August 19: 10 a.m. at Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. Program: Two docents divided the attendees into two four-person groups for tours of the Bodmer paintings and the Native American art. Attendance: 8 (p. 17)
September 23: 5:30 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant. Program: Keith Bystrom summarized the 2025 LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City. Attendance: 11 (p. 17)

Future Monthly Meetings:

October 21: 11:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant. MOP Annual Meeting and election of officers. Harlan and Ann have declined to run for re-election because of recent moves. Steve Wymore has agreed to be on the ballot. There are only five candidates on the ballot for six Board positions. Please come prepared to volunteer. Program: TBD
November 18: 11:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant. Program: Jim Swenson, former Director of Nebraska Game and Parks Commission—Reflections on Bicentennial events (tentative).
December 16: 11:30 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant in Omaha. Program: Holiday party (tentative).

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Wayside Exhibits:

2021 Grant (\$7,500): Most are in place. The *Wolves* sign still needs to be designed and fabricated. The *Our Wish to Cultivate Friendship* sign was damaged during installation and will need to be repaired.
2023 Grant (\$2,500): Essentially complete.
2025 Grant (\$10,000): Keith has been meeting with representatives of LCNHT, Omaha Parks, and MECA regarding salvaging Big Muddy photographs and designs to use in refurbishing the Sculpture Icons. That partnership also led to the return of Riverfront signage that was removed due to construction (p. 30--Historical Marker Ceremony)

Relationships: Cass County Historical Society: Pirogue on Main St. open during events on July 19-20 & Sept. 5-7.
Discovery Expedition of St. Charles: Brought their keelboat to the 2025 LCTA Annual Gathering in Kansas City.
Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Trail and Visitor Center: Formal dedication of Butch's new fort happened during Living History Days on September 19-21.
National Park Service Headquarters: Eleven NPS employees, including Acting Trail Director Neal Bedlan, attended the Riverfront ceremony marking the return of the L & C exhibit. (p. 30)
Omaha Parks and Recreation: Helping with the Riverfront Wayside Exhibits. (above)
Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: There is a new L&C exhibit. This was the venue for SFTS Fall meeting.

Study Group: Field trip to Ashfall State Historical Park in July. Has resumed meeting, as of September, and is studying the Native Tribes. (p. 3)

Northern Plains Region: The Fall SFTS meeting took place on Sunday, October 12, at 2 p.m. at SCLCIC. (p. 19)

Southern Prairie Region: Three MOP members attended the LCTA Annual Gathering September 14-17 hosted by SPR in Kansas City. MOP members donated a LOT of books to the auction. Thanks, particularly to Mary Langhorst and Harlan Seyfer for donations and to Keith Bystrom for preparing and transporting the materials.

LCTHF (LCTA) Board: LCTA Board of Directors met in Kansas City during the Annual Gathering.

Newsletter: Brad Holder and Denny Leonard do a good job of keeping us updated on SFTS events.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Dunlap Woolard, MOP Board Secretary (firedogpoet@yahoo.com)

Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter Fall Meeting

Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

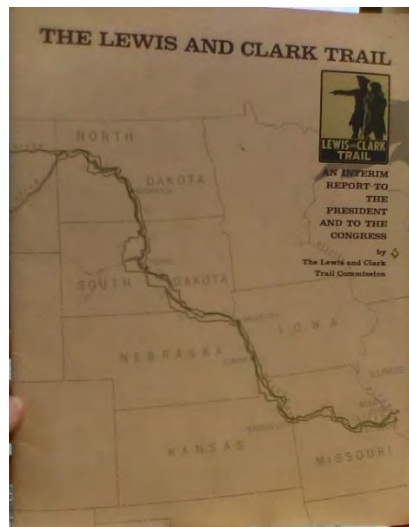
Sunday, October 12, 2:00 p.m.

This meeting occurred on a lovely fall Sunday afternoon—sunshine and temperatures in the 70s. Fourteen SFTS members drove into Sioux City from all around the region. In fact, knowing the towns from which they came and the approximate distances might encourage readers who are concerned about the decline of LCTA membership: Hinton, IA (20 mi.); Holstein, IA (45 mi.); Jefferson, SD (20 mi.); Norfolk, NE (90 mi.); Plattsmouth, NE (120 mi.); Schleswig, IA (60 mi.); and Spirit Lake, IA (110 mi.). There were also several people from Sioux City, of course. Convenience may be one factor in fostering new LCTA memberships, but it is not the only factor. These folks make the effort to come because they are motivated by a sense of community AND because they know that investing in historical preservation and sharing the wisdom and accomplishments of the past with new generations is one very effective way to instill pride in the United States and encourage young people to want to “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity” (Jefferson’s Preamble to the Constitution).

We’ll let SFTS out-going Secretary and President-elect document the nitty-gritty of the brief business meeting in his minutes, except to mention a couple of new resources members recommended: *The West* (8-part film documentary offered on the History Channel) and *Peace and Friendship: An Alternative History of the American West* (2022 book by Dr. Stephen Aron). SFTS 2026 Calendar includes SFTS Spring Meeting (April 12), demo and camp at the Riverboat (June 6-7), and SFTS Encampment and burial ceremony (August 15-16). SFTS election results: Brad Holder (President), Doug Davis (Vice President), and Mike Berger (Secretary/Treasurer, pending assent).



Ron Williams



Interim Report to the President



Ron Williams at the National Park Service Re-enactor Workshop in 2002

Ron Williams at Re-enactor Workshop

Designing and Placing Lewis & Clark Signs

Ron Williams long-time Park Ranger at Lewis and Clark State Park (1978-2000), made the trip from Spirit Lake, IA, to tell our assembled group about the history of 15 interpretive signs erected in Iowa in preparation for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. At that time, Highway 75 was in Iowa. As background, he said that a 1964 federal law established a L&C Trail Committee to identify historic locations to preserve and keep available for the public. The 1968 National Trail Systems Act led to

the establishment in 1978 of the **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT)**. This organization was to spearhead the participation and cooperation of cities, counties, and states in preparation for the L&C Bicentennial. Tom Gilbert in Omaha was the overall supervisor. Other people, such as MOP member Dick Williams, became administrators for each trail. In the fall of this same year, Ron became Ranger at Iowa's L&C State Park. As it was evident that the park needed more interpretation, Ron began working with Strode Hinds and Denny Leonard to bring that about. Strode provided the necessary textual information, Denny created the artistic interpretations (including logos), and Butch Bouvier built the boat model. In 1985, Ron established the tradition of holding annual L&C festivals in the park. Strode found buck-skinner re-enactors through Denny's connection to the Cherokee Ridge Runners. Denny created the artwork for the early festivals and attended every one.

In 1988, the National Park Service staged a National Historic Trail workshop in Fargo, ND, and asked Ron to share an account of his festival and projects with attendees with the idea of replicating his success across the nation. The Iowa DNR paid his way to the conference. By 1991, Strode was on the Iowa Governor's L&C Committee and encouraged Ron to locate more Iowa sites to run through the certification process to become official L&C historic sites. This Historic Resource Development Project (HRDP) applied for and received REAP money for 14 new or improved signs. A 15th sign at Long's Landing—White Catfish Camp—did not need improvement. With a budget of \$26,500, the project started commissioning work for text, art, and maps. After many textual re-writes by Ron, the Harper's Ferry Specialists finally said, "Just use quotes from Expedition journals." Harper's Ferry was responsible for final approval of what was done. HRDP policy required contracts with Iowans, so Denny Leonard was a natural choice to create the artwork. Rob Loudon prepared the layouts, ISU Printing Service created the signs, and local welders made the bases. The signs, themselves, were created of High-Resolution Litmus Paper embedded in Fiberglass. By virtue of preserved files, Ron was able to show us specific photos and maps.

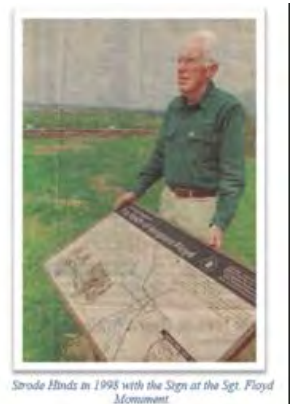
Because Strode and Bev Hinds were in charge of the August 6, 1996, LCTHF Annual Meeting, Strode took an active interest in having Ron's team meet the April 30, 1996, deadline for project completion. Despite the fact that, during those years, everyone was relying on manual document creation and paper mail communications (NO word processors! No e-mail! Hand-drawn overlays!), Ron and his team put in a lot of overtime and met the deadlines. Toward the end, some of the work was completed at Denny Leonard's home for a special reason: For Denny, the extra effort involved juggling the historic art with the needs of a family recently augmented by the birth of triplets (March 1996); for Strode, the extra effort involved forcing his aging legs to repeatedly conquer the basement steps; and for Ron, the extra effort involved acting as Park Ranger at the "Snake Pit" in the Leonard backyard! (Ask him about it!) Thank you, gentlemen, for your selfless dedication. -ADW



D. Leonard, D. Davis, B. Holder, B. Hinds
Four Presidents of SFTS Chapter



Denny Leonard's depiction of Sgt. Floyd Burial
Created for L&C Festivals at L&C State Park



Strode Hinds in 1998 with the Sign at the Sgt. Floyd Monument

Strode Hinds

Letters from Sergeant Floyd Tri-State Chapter

On Saturday, July 12, 2025, SFTS member Denny Leonard sent this photo and comment:



My sojourn in the mountains [Wyoming and the Wind River Range] included a 30-mile hike with a 26 lb. pack from South Pass to the rendezvous and riding with AMM brothers, including [this] young lad [William Akerberg] from Sweden. I am getting used to the thick atmosphere of the Midwest again after the invigorating mountain air. Denny

On Tuesday, August 29, 2025, Denny Leonard sent the following pictures:



Brad Holder, Dwight Peters, Mike Berger doing demos at the August 16-17 Encampment



Denny Leonard Jeff Troupe Bev Hinds Brad Holder Kaleb Schrock Dwight Peters Mike Berger

August 16, 2025, at the Sgt. Floyd Burial Ceremony



**Denny Leonard, Jeff Troupe, Kaleb Schrock, Brad Holder, Dwight Peters, Mike Berger
August 16, 2025: at Sgt. Floyd Burial Ceremony**



**On August 22 & 23, the SF Honor Guard helped as extras in the musical *We Will Rise Again*.
Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center**



**In September, Brad Holder and Denny Leonard held a demo camp
at the Missouri River Outdoor Expo in Ponca State Park.**



After doing the Ponca Outdoor Expo in September, 20th anniversary, I went to the Mead Museum in Yankton, South Dakota. They have a Jefferson Peace Medal on display. There are only 4 on public display across the country. I was surprised how big it was!



And here's what nine pound of meat looks like, that on the trail the Corps members ate 9 lbs. of meat daily!!! (I think I might be able to do that.) The Mead Museum is a MUST STOP. (See page 25)

Here is a flyer for the Mead Museum and the addition of the Jefferson Peace Medal!!! It was found in 1900s along a creek in the area! It would be very neat to find a historical item! It's hard to believe we are in the fall time frame. Where did the summer go? We had a pretty full summer with our Sergeant Floyd Honor Guard Group and the extra event that we did. I went on a road trip with Denny Leonard to the Yellowstone River area of Pompey's Pillar to help them celebrate their Signature Day of when Captain Clark carved his name on the side of the rock formation on July 25th, 1806 and 219 years later it still can be seen. This being my first time ever in the area, I soaked it all in!! We partook in a musical—War of 1812—*We will Rise Again*. That also was a new experience for our group. We will have our Tri State Chapter Meeting coming up on October 12, 2025. It will be held at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center at 2:00 p.m. Ron Williams will be giving a program on the history of the signage to be placed along the Lewis and Clark Trail before the Bicentennial Celebration came along. There will be a lot of history in the story. Also, there is funds to do repair work on the Sergeant Floyd's Monument in Sioux City. I'll enclose a clipping from the Sioux City Journal (9/23/25):

Council Oks Repairs for Floyd Monument—"The Sioux City Council awarded a \$96,787.50 contract Monday for repairs to the Sergeant Floyd Monument. The contractor, Omaha-based McGill Restoration, Inc., will perform restoration work on the obelisk's stonework and masonry joints, and repair cracks. McGill's bid was the lowest of four received. Before the vote, Councilwoman Julie Schoenherr said a citizen expressed concerns to her about power washing potentially causing damage to the monument. She asked if the monument would be power washed or pressure washed. Sioux City Parks Superintendent Kelly Bach told Schoenherr that power washing wouldn't go over 400 PSI (pounds per square inch). 'The difference between power washing and pressure washing is the PSI. Found hundred is about max when you do the power wash,' Said Bach, who said a home pressure washer could operate at 1800 PSI."



MEAD MUSEUM



HEAR HAUNTED STORIES OF 5 HISTORIC YANKTON LOCATIONS!!!

FRIDAY, October 17 & SATURDAY, October 18
6:00pm - 8:30pm

\$25 NON-MEMBER
\$15 MEMBER

Tickets must be picked up by 4pm on 10/18. Limit of 2 discounted tickets with current annual membership.



[About](#) [Exhibits](#) [Store](#) [Upcoming Events](#) [Become A Member](#) [Facility Rental](#) [Resources](#) [Donate](#) [Media](#)

The Mead Museum provides visitors an authentic historical experience in a beautiful 1909 building. 3 floors of exhibits to explore: an interactive **Children's Transportation Museum**, a **Lewis & Clark exhibit** – featuring a rare 4" Jefferson Peace Medal - as well as artifacts from the history of the **Yankton State Hospital** and **Yankton College**. Also, the ever-evolving outside **Heritage Park** will bring history to life through buildings such as the 1906 Gunderson school house, a Great Northern Railroad Depot and more. Temporary exhibits highlighting Dakota Territory and Yankton County history change each summer. Each December, the museum is filled with unique cheery Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and organizations for the Hall of Trees.

Winter Hours begin Oct 1st
 Monday - Saturday: Noon - 4PM
 closed Sundays

ADMISSION
 Adults (18-64): \$10
 Seniors (65+): \$8
 Children (5-17): \$5

[Hall of Trees Hours] Nov 28-Dec 31
 Monday - Friday: 10 AM - 5 PM
 Saturday & Sunday: 1 PM - 5 PM

Mead Museum Members get free admission!

Kids free during Hall of Trees!



82 MICKELSON DRIVE
YANKTON, SD 57078
605-665-3898

Noted in Passing

Dr. Henry H. Gale (November 26, 1935—June 27, 2025)

Henry H. Gale was born in Chicago, Illinois, on November 26, 1935. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1957. Henry played blindfold chess at the Grand Master level. While skipping class to play chess, he met fellow student Kira Sassaman, and she became the love of his life. He proposed within a week, Kira accepted, and they married in 1960. He graduated from the University of Illinois Medical School with his Ph.D. He started his career at Creighton University in 1966. He taught first-year dental students in the School of Dentistry and was an assistant professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine. He focused on research in muscle physiology, and he presented his finding annually at conventions across the U.S. Henry took time to accompany Kira in exploring the Lewis and Clark Trail from Washington, D.C., to Oregon and from the Canadian border to Tennessee. On July 21, 2025, Henry's funeral with military honors was held at the Omaha National Cemetery. Henry and Kira were interred together.



(Memorial Poem on page 48)



Ava Lauretta Hastert (April 16, 1924—April 14, 2025)



Bob Hastert

Ava Hastert

Ava was born on April 16, 1924, on a farm in Loup County, Nebraska, to Joy Stephen and Mabel Elsie (Cram) Bromwich. When she was 22 months old, her father was killed in a farm accident. Her mother never remarried. They lived in Broken Bow, Nebraska; Washington, D.C.; and Cheyenne, Wyoming. Ava graduated from Cheyenne High School, but she earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she was a member of several honorary societies and was one of the first women to play in the UNL marching band. After graduation, Ava taught school in Gibbon, Nebraska, before marrying her college sweetheart, Robert Hastert. For most of their married life, Bob and Ava lived in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where Ava served on the Cleveland Heights Board of Education. In the 1970s, the Governor of Ohio honored her for spearheading a drive to pass a \$14,000,000 bond to replace five school buildings and renovate other district school buildings. Ava also served in leadership positions with the Brownie Scouts, PTA, Band/Orchestra Parents Association, and other community groups. In 1995, Bob and Ava relocated to Omaha, Nebraska, to be closer to their elderly mothers. In Omaha, they became very involved with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration and other Lewis and Clark commemorative activities through membership in Mouth of the Platte Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Over the years, the Hasterts traveled the Lewis and Clark Trail from St. Louis to the Pacific. Bob and Ava also enjoyed traveling the world. In 2019, they moved to Lawrence, Kansas, to be nearer to their family. Bob and Ava were married 73 years before Bob's death in 2021.



John Dorsey Slader (March 12, 1951--August 10, 2025)

We mourn the passing of John Dorsey Slader, age 74 (Fort Calhoun, NE), who was the long-time Park Superintendent at Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, and the brother of Dean Slader of Valley, Nebraska, long-time blacksmith at both the Fort and the Sergeant Floyd Encampments. John was born in Omaha, NE, on March 12, 1951. He spent the majority of his life in Fort Calhoun, NE. He attended Chadron State College, studying history and earth science. His 40+ year career with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission saw many changes, not the least of which were the rebuilding of Fort Atkinson with its supporting buildings and the development of the living history program there. John was a commissioner for the signature event of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration held at Fort Atkinson. He also oversaw Summit Lake SRA and Pelican Point. John married Joanne Kubinski, who survives him. They enjoyed 32 years together.



John Slader Funeral with Soldiers from Fort Atkinson

Mark Weekley Retires



Mark Weekley

Mark Weekley had a distinguished career in the National Park Service, where he served as the Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail for 25 years. He worked with other staff members, volunteers, partners, and friends—notably the many American Indian Tribes and Nations—along the trail in order to commemorate and protect the Lewis and Clark NHT. He says that the people and the partners were his favorite part of the job. Mark grew up going to national parks and has always enjoyed spending time outdoors. Mark has lived his passion.

The following is an open letter, originally published in the Lewis and Clark Trail Annual Report 2023, from Mark Weekley to users of the Lewis and Clark Trail. It gives readers a flavor of Mark’s warm leadership style.

“Once again it was a great year on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and a great year at the National Park Service Trail Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska. We have an outstanding annual report that highlights the projects we have done with our many amazing partners. Trails like ours are very different than most places in the National Park Service where the parks are owned and directly managed by the Federal Government. The successful “management” of the Lewis and Clark NHT is based not on Federal ownership, but on a model of shared responsibility and collaboration with many individuals and organizations who work together to protect, promote, and study the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its trail.

“This management team is made up of a wide network of individuals and employees in local, state and federal governments as well as nonprofit organizations, Tribes, and many others. The trail’s staff and I

are proud to be a part of this network, and proud of the work done by the National Park Service and the many volunteers and partners who share in this work.

"I want to thank you for your work protecting the trail, conducting research, teaching, and sharing your time, talents, and treasure year after year. I am now in my 15th year as the Superintendent of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Like most of you, once the trail and the stories of the expedition capture our imagination, we want more. We just cannot let it go! I feel incredibly fortunate every day to work with all of you and the amazing staff here in Omaha.

"I am excited for the future! I hope you are too!

"With gratitude and kind thoughts from me to you.

"I really enjoy looking back at the previous year and recalling all the great work done by Lewis and Clark Trail staff and all the folks and organizations who combine their efforts. No one agency, organization or individual can claim the achievements that have taken place. It is always a team effort."

Mark Weekley
Superintendent
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail



Thank you, Mark, for your service to the National Historic Trail!

The Historical Marker Has Returned to Lewis and Clark Landing! 30



Neal Bedlan, Katie Bassett, Katie Swanson, Keith Bystrom Keith Bystrom: William Clark & Reuben Fields examine mounds

On Friday, September 26, members of the Mouth of the Platte Chapter (MOP) of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, National Park Service employees from the headquarters of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT), and representatives from the Omaha Riverfront Park community gathered at Lewis & Clark Landing, Omaha Riverfront Park, to celebrate the return of the Lewis & Clark State Historical Marker that had vanished during the three-year Riverfront Revitalization Project. The historical marker commemorates the exploration by Captain William Clark and Private Reuben Fields of possible Native American mounds that the Corps found in this location.

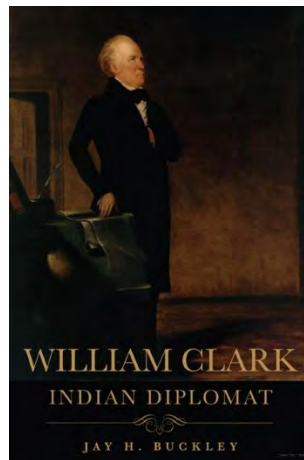


It is a privilege to collaborate with National Historic Trail Staff!

The ceremony opened with a welcome and land acknowledgment by Keith Bystrom, MOP President. Remarks followed by Katie Swanson, Park Planner with Omaha Parks & Recreation; Katie Bassett, Vice President of Parks for Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) – The RiverFront; and Neal Bedlan, Acting Superintendent of the LCNHT. Bystrom, to provide historical context to the marker’s significance on Lewis & Clark Landing Park, also read excerpts from the Lewis & Clark Journals, dated July 27, 1804, and September 8, 1806 – the dates that the Corps of Discovery explored and traveled in this vicinity of the Omaha Riverfront.

Book Reviews

William Clark: Indian Diplomat By Jay H. Buckley



This work is a close examination of William Clark's post-expeditionary career as Superintendent of Indian Affairs and Governor of Missouri Territory, year by year, treaty by treaty. For the serious student of Native/white relations, it is a goldmine of specific information. The author draws on William Clark's own words, as much as possible, to explain his actions. Where Clark is silent, the author engages in a significant amount of informed speculation. Overall, this is a well-researched attempt to present Clark accurately as both benefactor of tribes under his jurisdiction and arbiter of Native/white conflicting interests. It is also a crash course in political expediency: Clark's various offices were a job that paid his bills, and he needed to keep that job.

Many readers will be disturbed by coming to a realization of how often the Natives' trust in "Redhead" actually facilitated their exploitation.

One particular reference that caught my eye was to Thomas Hinds of Mississippi (p. 173). Hinds (January 9, 1780—August 23, 1840) was a Major General whose military career included the War of 1812, the Battle of Pensacola, the Battle of New Orleans, and the Creek War. He served in the United States Congress from 1828 to 1831. He died at age 60 in Jefferson County, Mississippi. I called our own Bev Hinds of Sioux City to see if she could elucidate any family connection with this man. Bev said she believes some Hinds relatives came to the upper Midwest by way of Mississippi, but she wasn't sure what the connection was. She directed me to call one of her sons—Mark—who lives in Sioux City and has engaged in family genealogical research. A quick phone call with Mark confirmed that he knows of the General and is already exploring the connection, even going so far as pursuing DNA confirmation. He stressed that he has no proof in hand as of this writing! He did say, however, that it is not uncommon for his known Hinds family relatives to die by age 60, as Thomas Hinds did. When news on this front becomes available, we'll share it here! -ADW

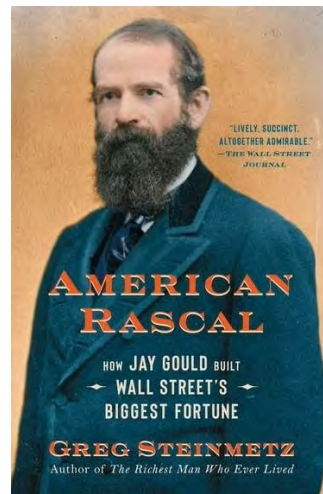


Major General Thomas Hinds

The American Rascal: How Jay Gould Built Wall Street's Biggest Fortune 32 By Greg Steinmetz



Sir Francis Baring (left), with brother John Baring and son-in-law Charles Wall, in a painting by [Sir Thomas Lawrence](#)



For lovers of history, this is a great read. This book exposes the shady practices of Jay Gould, whose late nineteenth-century wheeling and dealing led to greatly increased regulatory control of Wall Street. Lewis and Clark aficionados have an occult connection to this man:

“Luck favored Gould. In the middle of his bear campaign, the government released a report saying the Union Pacific, while still profitable, earned less than a dollar for every ten it owed the government. With debt like that, it wouldn’t take much to topple the railroad into bankruptcy. On a typical day on the stock exchange, a couple thousand shares of Union Pacific traded hands. When the government released its report, forty thousand shares changed hands and its value slipped another 10 percent. It would have lost more except for the presence of a big buyer. Adams correctly surmised the buyer was Gould. ‘The Jaybird had me,’ he wrote.

“Just as he was accumulating shares, Gould caught another break. Argentina defaulted on its debts and brought down Baring Brothers, a giant London bank famous for having financed the Louisiana Purchase. The collapse panicked the market and, because Baring Brothers was the Union Pacific’s primary lender, it was a double blow to the railroad. The share price fell further and Gould bought more shares.” (p. 250)

As it had never previously crossed my mind that there was a specific bank behind the Louisiana Purchase, I went in search of information on [Baring Bank](#). This is what I found on [Wikipedia](#) (please consult Wikipedia for detailed references):

Barings Bank was founded in 1762 as the John and Francis Baring Company by [Sir Francis Baring, 1st Baronet](#), with his older brother [John Baring](#) as a mostly [silent partner](#).^[5] They were sons of [John \(né Johann\) Baring](#), wool trader of [Exeter](#), born in [Bremen, Germany](#). The company started business in offices off [Cheapside](#) in London, and within a few years moved to larger quarters in [Mincing Lane](#).^[6] Barings gradually diversified from wool into many other commodities, providing financial services for the rapid growth of international trade, including the lucrative [slave trade](#) which enriched the family and the business considerably and allowed significant expansion of the bank's activities and prestige.^{[7][8]}

The success of Baring's was greatly influenced by establishment of a network of corresponding houses. One of the most valuable connections was [Hope & Co.](#), the most powerful merchant bank of [Amsterdam](#), at that time Europe's leading financial centre.^[9] Hope & Co played a major part in the finances of the [Dutch East India Company \(VOC\)](#) and during the [Seven Years' War](#) (1756–1763) [Thomas Hope](#) and his brother Adria profited from the Netherlands' neutral position.^[9]

In 1774, Barings started business in North America.^[10] By 1790, Barings had greatly expanded its resources, both through Francis's efforts in London and by association with Hope & Co. In 1793, the increased business necessitated a move to larger quarters in Devonshire Square.^[11] In 1796, the bank helped to finance the purchase of about 1 million acres (4000 km²) of remote land that became part of the US state of [Maine](#).^[10]

In 1800, John retired and the company was reorganized as Francis Baring and Co.. Francis's new partners were his eldest son Thomas (later to be [Sir Thomas Baring, 2nd Baronet](#)) and son-in-law, Charles Wall. Then, in 1802, Barings and Hope & Co. were called on to facilitate the largest land purchase in history: the [Louisiana Purchase](#), which doubled the size of the United States.^{[10][12]} It is regarded as "one of the most historically significant trades of all time".^[10] This was accomplished even though Britain was at war with France and the sale helped to finance [Napoleon's](#) war effort.

Technically, the United States purchased Louisiana from Barings and Hope, not from Napoleon.^[13] Baring was willing to help Napoleon in the short term because he, and British politicians who backed him, predicted that American expansion into Louisiana would ensure Barings' profits in Britain.^[14] After a \$3 million down payment in gold, the remainder of the purchase was made in United States bonds, which Napoleon sold to Barings through Hope & Co. of Amsterdam^[15] at a price of \$87.50 per \$100 face value (a discount of one-eighth). Francis's second son [Alexander Baring, 1st Baron Ashburton](#), working for Hope & Co., made the arrangements in Paris with [François Barbé-Marbois](#), director of the Public Treasury. Alexander then sailed to the United States and back to pick up the bonds and deliver them to France.^{[16][17]}

(It is worth looking at the complete Wikipedia article to see how this bank participated in other U.S. endeavors, including the War of 1812.)

American Rascal is a perfect example of the benefits of eclectic reading: The Lewis and Clark Expedition was foundational to the history of the U.S. We don't know what we don't know until we stumble on the thread of a connection!

-ADW



Exactly 222 years ago this month, Congress ratified the U.S. treaty with France to buy the whole of Louisiana. This quote from a 1972 *World Book Encyclopedia* article on the Louisiana Purchase (p. 435) neatly encapsulates Jefferson's rationale and its connection to the Baring Bank (above):

The Constitution did not authorize the acquisition of land, but it did provide for the making of treaties, so that Jefferson felt the acquisition of new territory was constitutional. He admitted that he had "stretched the constitution until it cracked." But he thought of himself as a guardian who made an investment of funds entrusted to his care. In a message to Congress on October 17, 1803, Jefferson said: "Whilst the property and sovereignty of the Mississippi and its waters secure an independent outlet for the produce of the Western States and an uncontrolled navigation through their whole course, ...the fertility of the country, its climate and extent, promise in due season important aids to our Treasury, an ample provision for our posterity, and a wide spread for the blessings of freedom and equal laws." Congress ratified the treaty on October 25, and passed laws to provide for borrowing the money from English and Dutch bankers, payable in 15 years. The United States took possession of the territory on December 20, 1803.

The Farming Game

By Bryan Jones



While we're on the subject of eclectic reading, here's a quote from another unlikely source that impinges on actors of the Lewis and Clark era:

Chapter Title: The Irrational World of Farm Finances (pp.161-162)

Nobody said this game was easy. Do not be fooled by the soft carpet, the indirect lighting, the monstrous time-and-temperature sign outside, or the quiet music playing in the background. This is not a world of conscientious caretakers of the public trust. Rather, it is a den of inveterate gamblers, most of whom are building card houses on tiny amounts of equity that would scare the wits out of a stone[d] Las Vegas junkie. Ever since **Alexander Hamilton** created the nation's money supply and concomitant banking system out of Federal indebtedness (a move so brilliant in its inception and so brazen in its execution that most folks still don't understand it), bankers have shown no reluctance to take a plunge now and then. **Nicholas Biddle**, president of the ill-fated Second Bank of the United States (the direct ancestor of our present Federal Reserve System) set out with the money he didn't have to corner the world cotton market. It was not the last time the commodity market would break a fairly bright guy. -ADW

Ponca Powwow near Niobrara



Dance leader



Potato Dance: last pair to drop it wins!

Daytrip

Madison County Historical Society Museum

212 Kent Street

Madison, Nebraska 68748

(402-649-1881) or (402-454-2313)

www.madisoncountyhistory.org

Monday – Friday 1:30 – 5 p.m. (except holidays)



For a fun afternoon, Lewis and Clark lovers can't beat Madison, Nebraska. This is a county seat with a gracious main street and a dignified sense of its 150-year history. Yet, it is also the fun-loving home of the Madison County Fair and Rodeo. The town has a realistic grasp of its place in Nebraska's agricultural economy.

In visiting the museum, the first order of business is to find it! That's not so hard, as the town is small, but the museum is not on Main Street. It's a large steel building at the corner of 3rd and Kent Steets, tucked behind the small-town trademark Carnegie Library. There is ample parking north of the building, and you'll know you have found the place by the display of muscle-powered farm equipment on the lawn. Entry is by freewill donation, and you'll earn a wooden nickel by going in, to boot! Collect ten wooden nickels, and the museum will redeem them for a gold Sacagawea dollar!

This museum is run exclusively by volunteers. On the day I visited, Marilyn Moyer gave me a guided tour. As others arrived, Marilyn welcomed them to the tour. She knows the provenance of most items, and boy! Is there a lot to see! The first thing to catch the eye is a full-wall mural of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. If visitors could see the entire surface, it would be suitable to adorn one of the Lewis and Clark museums located on the Missouri River. A wealth of collections has somewhat encroached upon its majestic river scenery since the L&C Bicentennial.

Elsewhere, antique wood-and-glass display cases house many of the members of the Corps in suspended animation. The two principal characters—Lewis and Clark—were commissioned by entertainer and singer Laurie Larsen* of Bloomfield when she was promoting the Shannon Trail at the time of the L&C Bicentennial.

*For more about Laurie Larsen's dolls, see next article, page 37.



The Lewis and Clark Mural at Madison County Historical Society Museum

The ladies commissioned to create the dolls were a mother-daughter duo, makers of custom dolls. Mom Ruby Timmerman, from Knox County, Nebraska, was an oil paint artist creating museum-quality landscapes. She worked in many mediums, including making pastel chalk drawings through her final years in a nursing home, so her job was to paint the dolls' faces. Her usual custom dolls were porcelain, while these Expedition dolls were made of vinyl. Daughter Peg Roker is now a retired seamstress, formerly sewing for wedding parties and rodeo queens. Her job was to research and design the Expedition clothing, sew the outfits, and dress the dolls. She consulted historical pictures so she could portray the officers' fancy dress uniforms as accurately as possible. After creating the dolls, Peg also used them to introduce the Expedition to schoolchildren at Reicke School on South 1st Street in Norfolk. Many thanks, Peg, for sharing your skills and memories with our readers all these many years later!

-ADW



William Clark



Sacagawea



York



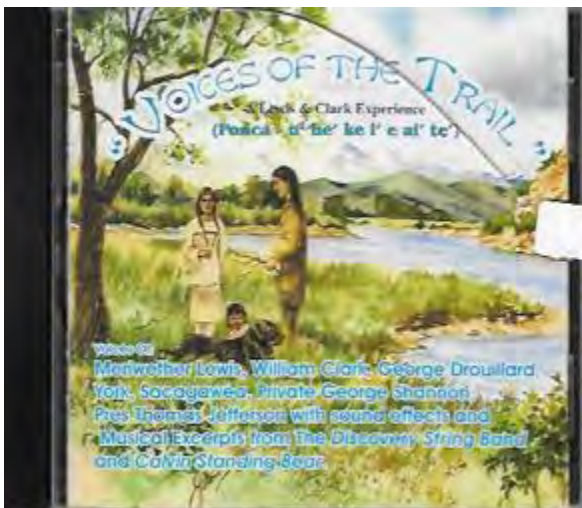
Meriwether Lewis

*The Rest of the Story—Laurie Larsen

When I contacted Laurie Larsen of Bloomfield, Nebraska, to ask her about the dolls, this story took a surprising turn. Laurie said she HAD asked someone to make Lewis and Clark dolls during the Bicentennial of the Expedition. However, she said her dolls ended up in a museum in Niobrara, along with an 8- to 10-foot “keelboat” replica (made by Crofton Woodworkers) in which the dolls formerly rode during Lewis and Clark Bicentennial parades. Laurie, herself, was part of a very active Lewis and Clark-themed group that has since thinned due to the age and health of participants (like MOP!). Laurie has maintained the Shannon Trail Facebook page for many years. We haven’t heard the end of this story. Laurie is sending us a copy of a CD her group caused to be recorded and marketed “back in the day.” She says it is voiced by re-enactors, including Hasan Davis as York. Thanks, Laurie!



Bob Anderson from Ohio, Descendant of Shannon, playing Shannon




Find Private Shannon in Northeast Nebraska follow the **Historic Shannon Trail** and find the 13 Statues and collect the 13 Shannon Stamps from any of the participating businesses displaying the **Yellow Shannon Sign**...

1. Verdigris
2. Center
3. Winnebago
4. Creighton
5. Wauwata
6. Bloomfield
7. Hartington
- 8-11. Wynaf Area
12. Crofton
13. Lindy
14. Santee
15. Niobrara
16. Verdel

Ponca & Santee Slout

And Receive This Print!



Follow the list of Pvt. Shannon and visit the National Park Service wayside signs along the trail. For more info or to order a copy of the CD email larsen@bloomfield.com or call Toll Free 1-800-201-7499. www.shannontrail.com

Special Thanks to my dear friend & Co-Captain VexLynn Knisfl - my inspiration and comrade!

In Friendship, Laurie Larsen.



LIEBATTLE CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY



RAYMOND A. WHITWER TILDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thanks!
to everyone who provided information for this issue



New Address
Harlan & Bonnie Seyfer
702 Fort Crook Rd. South Suite 344
Bellevue, NE 68005-7902
Harlan: (402) 297-0952
Bonnie: (402) 297-3245

Shared with permission—
Let's keep in touch!



NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY



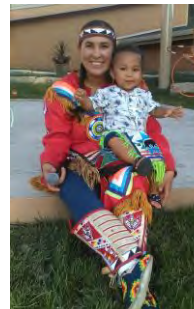
RAYMOND A. WHITWER TILDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Brad Holder with humorous sign



Indigenous Pot in Tilden Public Library (Unearthed in the Tilden area)



Starr Chief Eagle and son Zen



Dear Readers:

Editor's Desk



(photo courtesy of Hinxudewin)

39

I have a lot of respect for people who get things done. Let's start with Lewis and Clark, for example. Jefferson didn't draw them a blueprint for the Expedition. He said, basically, "This is what I want you to do. Go do it." The initiative Lewis demonstrated by planning and completing the task shows him a giant among responsible men. The fact that Lewis chose Clark as his "yoke-mate" for the job indicates that Clark had already proven his own capacity for follow-through.

This newsletter is replete with examples of people who produce. Hastings Students Tom Tran, Yadriel Colindres-Fonseca, and Ashlin George collaborated to forge an award-winning National History Day website project regarding Genoa Indian School. The staff at SCLCIC conceived and created a fresh new 40-foot Lewis and Clark exhibit lining an entire corridor in their facility, a display (text and art) that incorporates a significant amount of artwork from renowned artists Michael Haynes and Native artist Henry Payer, Jr. Ron Williams partnered with Strode Hinds and Denny Leonard to beat the clock on a gargantuan sign project. Hinxudewin submitted the account of her father's 100-mile memorial walk on deadline and offered excellent photos, too. None of these people would utter what I once heard from two government employees: "We work for the State. We're used to having things take forever!"

My physician father used to say, "If you want a job done, give it to a busy person. That person is someone who knows how to manage time and will get the job done!" This quality of leadership applies even across cultural groups who don't live by our modern clock: When it was the season to provide for The People, successful Tribal leaders did not delay to connect hunters—under disciplined leadership—to the buffalo herd. Not to do so might mean The People would starve.

So, today, I celebrate all the accomplished people featured in this newsletter. I look forward to being pleasantly surprised to see what you will do in the future! I want to be the first to extend a hand of congratulations and a pat on the back!

Ann Dunlap Woolard, Editor

fiiredogpoet@yahoo.com



Center Panel from the new display at SCLCIC: *Unsung Heroes*

Date	Event	Location
November 1	Candlelight Tour	Fort Atkinson



Cass County Historical Society Museum

646 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Nebraska

October 19, 2-4 p.m.--Fall Open House at Rock Bluff School and Hot Dog Roast—This is our annual fall event at our one room brick school house. Hot dogs and potato chips will be served. Donations are welcome to help with maintenance and upkeep of the school.

October 31, 4-5 p.m.—Trick or Treat on Main—We will be giving out apples at the Cook Log Cabin. At the museum, trick or treaters will receive a special history-related item.

December 6, 5-8 p.m.—Tree lighting in museum courtyard. Museum, Log Cabin, & Caboose open to 8.

For information contact:
 Doug Friedli
 Executive Director
 Lewis & Clark Visitor Center
 dougfriedli@gmail.com
 mobile: 402-873-2215

MISSOURI RIVER BASIN
Lewis & Clark
 VISITOR CENTER

Website:
www.LewisandClarkVisitorCenter.org
 Address:
 100 Valmont Drive
 P.O. Box 785
 Nebraska City, NE 68410
 Telephone: 402-874-9900



Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Trail and Visitor Center Events Calendar

December 30 (Tuesday): Christmas for the Birds (kids build bird feeders)

January 1, 2026 (Thursday): First Day Hike

Every time a person sets foot on this property, it has changed. Butch Bouvier and Doug Friedli talk a lot about the fort they’re building, but something about the cooperation of these two men reminds one of a beehive, instead...volunteers buzzing all over, swarms of activity, volunteers and visitors flitting in and out, the sweet aroma of friendship and cooking food, saws droning, workers daubing mud, flowery bouquets of verbal appreciation to nourish the workers, and Butch waxing eloquent. Why, folks even stick together (like honey) to accomplish great things! If there’s a downside to this comparison, it might be Butch’s hip stingers or Doug’s neck stingers last year! A person has to expect that pain for such busy idea pollinators! The Queen Bee in this metaphor is definitely the “Keelboat”. Aren’t boats always female?


Even though birdwatching lunches, bird-feeding crafts, and indoor educational programming (i.e., the Native Artifact Show) go on year-round, summer weather definitely catalyzes the outdoor endeavors. This year, in addition to monthly “Second Saturday with a Soldier” events on the lawn and annual celebrations such as the August

Captains’ Birthday Party and the September Applejack Festival with its traditional parade and living history accompaniments, the Center has undertaken to finish the Wood River Fort replica (Camp DuBois)—five cabins surrounded by immense palisade walls—AND restore a jewel of a weather-beaten old pirogue that still has a couple of generations of imaginations to fire in young explorers.


The life blood of a beehive may be nectar, but Butch and Doug can’t turn nectar into the word that sounds like honey, much as they would like to. No, what they have to do is trust the natural process. What is “the process”? Here it is. They feed visitors what nectar and honey are already there—the wonderful experiences the Center already affords—and add their unique brand of enthusiasm for the future. Those visitors then go out and do a tail-wagging dance among their friends and acquaintances. The purpose of that physical interaction is to demonstrate to their social circle the path to a rewarding experience. In bees, the process is complete when the tail-wagging-dance witnesses go in search of a specific treasure trove of fresh nectar.

In humans, communication requisite in the process is a little more complicated. Words are like pollen (“pixie dust”) that feeds the hive. So, here’s a pinch of the precious magical powder that lifted Captain Hook’s magnificent ship out of the water and made it fly into the rarified air of millions of childhood imaginations. Words can immortalize the ships and fort buildings of our illustrious Captains Lewis and Clark in exactly the same way.

Why do people come to the MRBVC?
 M—Mountain Men, Meetings, Magic, and Miracles
 R—Re-enactors, Reunions, Rendezvous, and to Remember
 B—Blacksmiths, Boats, Buildings, Birthday parties, and Butch Bouvier
 V—Vacations, to View things, to Volunteer, and Veritas (truth)
 C—Curiosity, Camps, Canons, Crafts, and Craftsmen




What elements combine to make MRBVC a successful venture?
 M—Muscles, money
 R—Room
 B—Brains and Brawn
 V—Vision
 C—Cooperation



Some of this they already have. The most pressing “don’t have” is money.
 M—More
 R—Reveal
 B—Brings
 V—Venture
 C—Capital





Having more visitors & publicity means more money for MRBVC.
 We know that
 M—More
 R—Really
 B—Bountiful
 V—Visitors
 C—Contribute because

M—Money
 R—Raised
 B—Benefits
 V—Visiting
 C—Children

And the money isn't just for MRBVC because
 M—Money
 R—Raised
 B—Blesses
 V—Volunteers and the
 C—Community



We know that one person can make a difference at MRBVC: MR. BouVier Can!



He can't do it alone. BUT having M—Many
 R—Really
 B—Beautiful
 V—Volunteers
 C—Can!

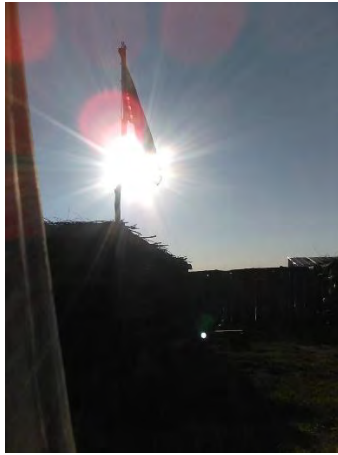
So, M—Make a
 R—Really
 B—Big
 V—Vision
 C—Come true.



If you are reading this, BEE a part of the HIVE!!!!



Butch



Busy from Sun-up to Sun-down



Doug



Front



Back



Inside



Outside



At Work



At Meals



At Rest

This Fort is the Best-Kept Secret in Nebraska City!



Sarpy County Museum
Celebrating Human Ingenuity in the Heartland.

This museum features Lewis and Clark History
There is a fabulous lengthy description of Sarpy County Museum and its mission
which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Thursday, October 16 (6:30 p.m.)—Author Talk with Scott Peck:
Against the Stream: How Manuel Lisa and Big Elk Survived the Floods of Change
(rsvp: sarpycountymuseum.org)
October—Spooktacular
December—Holiday Open House

For information contact:
Amanda Gibson
Education Coordinator
lcuser@siouxcitycic.com
712-224-5242



Website:
<https://siouxcitycic.com/>
Address:
900 Larsen Park Road
Sioux City, Iowa 51103

The following programs are for children. Each program is offered at two times: 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-1:30 p.m.

October 18: Discoveries with L & C: “Who do you choose, Captain?”

October 25: Discoveries with L&C: “It will never fit!”

November 1: Discoveries with L&C: “Oh boy...I never expected this!”

November 8: Discoveries with L&C: “I don’t know if I’m that hungry!”

November 15: Discoveries with L&C: “I’ve never seen anything like it!”

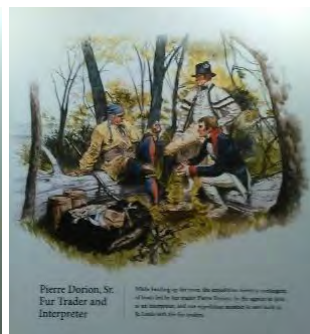
November 22: Discoveries with L&C: “It’s good to be home!”



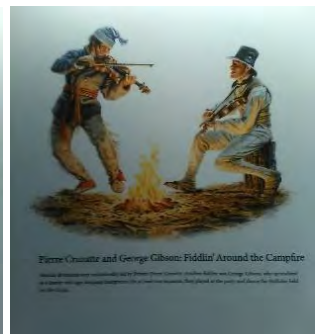
Silas Goodrich



Shannon, R. Fields, Colter, J Fields



Pierre Dorian



Cruzatte and Gibson

These are some of the panels in the new Lewis and Clark Exhibit: *Wall of Unsung Heroes*



Washington County Museum in Fort Calhoun New Director & Progress on the Addition

Washington County Museum has a new Director: Pam Eby. Eby holds a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M-Galveston and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. With more than 17 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and community engagement, she’s spent her career creating meaningful experiences for families, schools, and visitors of all ages. Prior to joining the museum, Pam served as an education program manager at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, where she led popular education events, built lasting partnerships, and helped bring conservation and history to life in fun and accessible ways.

After the fall opening of the new Vintage Radio exhibit, Eby replaced Julie Ashton, who retired after serving as the museum’s executive director since 2013. During her tenure, Ashton grew key partnerships and funding; oversaw museum renovations, including the Hunt Vintage Radio exhibit; oversaw the relocation and renovation of the Long Creek School and renovation of the historic Frahm House; led a rebranding of the museum’s logo; and installed signage throughout the county on historical buildings. “Julie Ashton’s leadership over the past 12 years has been nothing short of transformative,” said outgoing board vice-chair Leeanna Ellis. “Her vision and dedication have elevated the Washington County Museum. Julie’s legacy will continue to inspire us for years to come. We are deeply grateful for her service and wish her the best in retirement.” In retirement, Ashton will make her home in Arkansas.

Ashton was instrumental in securing MOP funding for the traveling L&C box that educators can borrow for use in the classroom. When you visit, check out the Lewis and Clark exhibit room! (Edith Neal Gallery).

Humanities Nebraska Presents The 30th Annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities October 21, 2025



Zahn McClarnon



Bird Runningwater

and

Indigenous Storytelling through Film and Television
Holland Performing Arts Center

Benefit Reception and Dinner: 5:00 p.m.

Sower Award Presentation and Free Public Program: 7:30 p.m.

Weekly:

Lewis and Clark Study Group

(You need not be a MOP member to attend study group.)

Meets: Every Wednesday, 9-11 a.m.

Primary Location: [Our Savior’s Lutheran Church](#)
600 Bluff Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa
Scheduled for 1st, 2nd, & 5th Wednesdays

Secondary Location:

[Sterling Ridge Retirement Community](#)
1111 Sterling Ridge Drive (126th and Pacific Street)
Omaha, Nebraska 68144 (402-281-0472)
Scheduled for 3rd and 4th Wednesdays

Please call Jim before coming. Sometimes we have unexpected last-minute venue changes!

Contact: Jim Christiansen (402-657-4600)

Monthly:

MOP Chapter Dinner Meetings

(You need not be a MOP member to attend dinners.)

Meets: Third Tuesday of the month (in general)

October 21: 2025 MOP Annual Meeting & Elections

Topic: Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Denny’s Restaurant
3905 S. 84th St., Omaha, Nebraska
402-393-7343

November 16: Jim Swenson

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Denny’s Restaurant
3905 S. 84th St., Omaha, NE

December 18: Holiday Party

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Denny’s Restaurant
3509 S. 84th St, Omaha Nebraska 68124

Contact: Keith Bystrom 515-451-5045 or
knbystrom68@gmail.com



Bring your Senior Discount Card!

MOP Chapter Board Meetings:

Meets: First Tuesday of the month

November 4: 11 a.m. (Harmony Court)

Annually:

July: White Catfish Camp Dinner

Upcoming One-time Events

Our Chapter: See list of Dinner Speakers at left

<https://www.facebook.com/MouthofthePlatte/>

Other Chapters:

Sergeant Floyd Tri-State:

President Brad Holder: PO Box 1804, Sioux City, IA 51102

Next meeting: April 12, 2026, at SCLCIC

Southern Prairie: SouthernPrairie@lewisandclark.org

www.facebook.com/SouthernPrairieRegionLewisandClark

President: Dan Sturdevant (816-679-5925) dan@sturdevantlawoffice.com

National Organization:

LCTA 57th Annual Meeting: June 21-24, 2026

Location: Great Falls, Montana

Event Info: lewisandclark.org

Other Organizations:

Cass County Historical Society Museum: Tues-Sat 12-4

Discovery Expedition St. Charles: M-Sat 10-5, Su 12-5

Durham Western Heritage Museum: Tu-Sa 10-4, Su 12-4

Florence Mill: 9102 N. 30th St., Omaha, NE

Fontenelle Forest: 8-5 every day

Fort Atkinson Living History: See page 40

Historic Downtown Plattsmouth Association:

historicdowntownplattsmouth@gmail.com

Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Visitor Center:

Monday – Saturday 10-4. Sunday – 12-4 pm (see p. 40)

Mormon Trail Center, Winter Quarters: M-Sa 10-5, Su 12-5

Pioneer Pathways to Zion, 1846-1890

Nebraska History Museum Special Exhibitions:

Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-4. Thurs 9-8. Sun, Mon closed.

The Indian Wars of NW Nebraska: October 16, 7-8 p.m.

[Villasur Hide Painting Reproduction \(Online only\)](#)

[Siouan Archeology \(Online only\)](#)

[Susan LaFlesche Picotte Memorial Hospital \(Online only\)](#)

[Norfolk Public Library](#) Speaker Series Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m.

Powwows in Iowa: www.powwows.com

Riverfront in Omaha: 5 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sarpy County Historical Museum: Tues-Sat 10-4. (p. 44)

Sioux City Lewis and Clark Center: T, Th, F 9-5 Wed. 9-7

Sat. 10-3, Sun. 12-3 (p. 44)

Sioux City Public Museum: Tues-Sat 10-5 Sun 1-5

Floyd Cemetery Walking Tour: Sunday, October 25, 10-11:30

[Click here for virtual tour](#)

[Native American Artwork featuring Chuck Raymond](#)

Sgt. Floyd River Museum and Welcome Center:

Permanent Exhibits

[Click here for virtual tour](#)

Washington County Museum: Tues-Fri 9-5. Sat 9-1.

Frahm House: By appointment (see p. 45)

[See What’s in Our Basement: Video tours with Faith](#)

[Click here for virtual tour](#)

Dear Mouth of the Platte Members and Friends:

It has been a busy Lewis and Clark September this Fall.

On September 13, 2025, I drove to Kansas City, Missouri, for the 2025 Annual Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) Gathering. Short of hosting the annual meeting right here in Omaha, the Kansas City location is the nearest large city along the Lewis and Clark Trail and an ideal place to learn about the travels of the Corps of Discovery. We stayed at the Marriott Hotel near the Country Club Plaza. It was a terrific location with nearby restaurants, shops and museums to satisfy everyone's interest.

To start the conference, the LCTA Board of Directors had its regular Fall board meeting. At that meeting we approved the budget for FY 26 of \$360,000, assuming flat membership levels and increased investment returns. The board approved President Bill Bronson's request to create a "Future of the LCTA" task force to review topics regarding the changing nature of our organization. Pat Traffas, who will succeed Bill Bronson as president in 2026, will serve as chair of this task force.

As usual, the welcoming reception involving all conference attendees was a fine opportunity to see old friends and meet new members. I was pleased when Mary Langhorst and her son Chris arrived. Mary had donated many nice items from her Lewis and Clark collection for the silent auction that is always held at the gathering. Another MOP member, Harlan Seyfer, had also donated to the auction from his extensive collection. I was proud that the silent auction organizers appreciated this support from our Mouth of the Platte Chapter in raising substantial auction proceeds (over \$3,000) to support the LCTA Library.



Clay Jenkinson interview on the keelboat



Mary Langhorst & Bidle



Wellness Walkers

On the morning after the welcome reception, I joined the Lewis and Clark Wellness Walkers at 6 AM, as I do at every annual gathering. Our walking route took us to a nearby park area lined with art museums and featuring gardens, ponds, ducks, fountains and green space--a beautiful place to welcome the sunrise over Kansas City. After the opening ceremony and the annual business meeting, we loaded three buses for our daily excursion. We stopped at Case Park to see a Lewis and Clark Monument erected for the Bicentennial of the Expedition. This gigantic bronze sculpture, composed of detailed likenesses of Lewis, Clark, Sacagawea, and Seaman, overlooks the Missouri River as it bends to the north. The next stop was a Chautauqua located at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers. The site is known as Lewis and Clark Campsite at Kaw Point. The living history re-enactors from The Discovery Expedition of Saint Charles had brought their keelboat and were encamped at Kaw Point. Everyone enjoyed the music, dancing, crafting and authentic 1804 displays, including a hands-on opportunity to learn how to make marbles.

The 2nd day of the conference brought interesting morning lectures and historic photographs from the Corps of Engineers regarding their bank stabilization and navigation projects between Kansas City and Sioux City, Iowa. Dr. Stephen Aron, Professor of history at UCLA and recently appointed director of the Western History Art and Culture Center in Los Angeles, presented the Moulton Lecture. The subject of Aron's presentation was his new book, *Peace and Friendship: An Alternative History of the American West*. Afterwards, we left on our next excursion - an afternoon at the Fort Osage Historic Site. About an hour-long bus ride took us to this interesting replica of the fur trade-era Fort built high on the Bluff next to a bend in the Missouri River. William Clark had

identified this perfect place for a Fort during the expedition and, after returning to St. Louis, supervised the construction of this important Fort.

On the 3rd day of the conference, the morning was filled with interesting presentations, including Clay Jenkinson interviewing Thomas Jefferson's 5th great-grandson, Richard Eppes; students from Shenandoah University demonstrating their virtual reality tour of the Lewis and Clark Trail, funded in 2024 by a Trail Stewardship Grant; author Cyndi Berck describing a portion of her recent book *A Baby on Her Back – The Story of Jean Baptiste*, in which she gave a detailed history of Pompey's life after his return from Germany. Susie Taylor, from Kansas City, presented a touching story about an exceptionally large quilt that was made for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and still is displayed in Kansas City.

The final evening brought a showing of *Big Medicine: York Outdoors*, the movie prepared by the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to emphasize York's importance to the Corps of Discovery. Following right after the movie, our final banquet incorporated our traditional awards and final remarks. As a special memorial, the Kansas City planning committee concluded with each table having the opportunity to recite a toast from the 18 toasts offered to Lewis and Clark at their "Welcome back to St. Louis" banquet in September 1804. It was a great ending to a wonderful conference and could become a tradition. Huzzah, Huzzah, HUZAH!

Back in Omaha--On Friday, September 26, 2025, MOP Chapter members, National Park Service employees, and representatives from the Omaha Riverfront Park community gathered at Lewis and Clark Landing to celebrate the return of the Lewis and Clark state historical marker that had vanished during the 3-year Riverfront revitalization project. This marker commemorates the July 27, 1804, exploration by William Clark and Reuben Fields of possible Native American mounds that they saw on the west side of the Missouri River. MOP and I appreciate the effort that Kate Boren and Katie Swanson made: these Omaha Parks and Recreation folks searched their maintenance shops and located the missing historic marker. We also appreciate the efforts of Katie Bassett from the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority (MECA). She was responsible for installing the state marker, as well as for refurbishing the weathered wayside exhibits explaining the historic context of Lewis and Clark Landing in Omaha.

Proceed On,

Keith Bystrom, MOP President

knbystrom68@gmail.com



Inscription on a tombstone in the Ponca Cemetery.

At the Ponca Powwow Arena near Niobrara