

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHAPTER
LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

The South Dakota Chapter was founded by members of the Discovery Corps of Omaha/Council Bluffs and Ft. Atkinson Volunteers. Several of the members were from South Dakota. South Dakota members were involved with the White Catfish event, the Onawa L&C Festival, and the Burial of Sgt. Floyd events. Several were "movie stars" in the movies made in the 1990's about Lewis and Clark. In July of 1997, a L&C Festival was held in Chamberlain SD on the Missouri River. Several members of the Brookings Renegade Muzzleloaders who later became SD Chapter founders were participants in Chamberlain.

March 21st, 1998, the first SD Chapter meeting was held in the Bushnell SD Town Hall to form a new Chapter. Tod Wells, Jon Ractliffe, Troy Hough, Victor Lewis, Dave Huebner, Julie Huebner, Terry Hall, Leonard Andera, and Howard Dachtler were among some of the forming members. Ron Laycock was the National Representative. April 8th, 1998, incorporation papers were signed. In May of 1998 the bylaws were voted on and approved.

In May of 1998, members of the SD Chapter built a boat to use in reenactments. It was a 22' white pirogue.

In May 1998, Dave and Julie Huebner attended the Lewis & Clark Festival in St Charles MO where the Corps started their journey up the Missouri River in 1804.

In June 1998, members had a L&C camp at Fort Sisseton SD

In July 1998, a camp was also set up at the Brookings Summer Arts Festival in Brookings SD.

In Aug, 1998, we had the first Lewis & Clark Council with the Yankton Sioux at Gavins Point Dam at Yankton SD. The St. Charles MO Corps of Discovery and the Iowa/Nebraska Discovery Corps was also present.

In Sept. 1998, a camp was set up at GooseFest in Pierre SD on the banks of the Missouri River.

Dave Huebner and other SD Chapter members started doing school programs across the state of SD in preparation for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

In Aug., 2001, the SD Chapter set up a camp for 5 days on the grounds of the Ramkota Inn in Pierre SD for the National Meeting of the L&C THF. The St Charles Corps was camped with us. A small group of us reenacted the Encounter with the Teton Sioux during this camp.

In the summer of 2002, members of the SD Chapter set up a camp at EROS (Maps) Data Center near Sioux Falls SD during their Open House.

In Aug. 2002-2003, a festival was held north of Vermillion SD at Spirit Mound that the SD Chapter participated in.

In May of 2003, the SD Chapter applied for and received 501(c)3 nonprofit status with the IRS.

In Aug. 2006, some member of the SD Chapter helped with the reburial of Sgt Floyd at Sioux City IA, on the return journey.

In 2006, the Sgt Floyd Honor Guard joined the SD Chapter. Both groups suffered a decline in membership after the Bicentennial.

The Burial of Sgt Floyd, the Onawa IA, L&C Festival, the Living History Fair (Brookings SD), the Brookings Arts Festival camp, and the Election of Patrick Gass (Elk Point SD) are still being held each year. There were also some members helping with the Mobridge SD, L&C Festival. Members of the St Charles MO Corps were set up at several Yankton Councils. A couple of members went to Great Falls during the Bicentennial also.

The Council with the Yankton Sioux at Gavins Point Dam in SD was held every year until 2007, and was sponsored by the Corps of Engineers, the City of Yankton, and the National Park Service. The SD Chapter and sometimes the St. Charles Corps were asked to be present to do programs. In 2007, the SD Chapter ran the event after the other groups lost interest after the Bicentennial. The SD Chapter got a grant from Nebraska Humanities to help fund the event and hired Poncas to be the Native Americans at the Council instead of Yanktons. There will not be a Council in 2008.

In 2008, the Iowa/Nebraska Discovery Corps merged with the Sgt Floyd Honor Guard. The SD Chapter will work closely with the other two chapters on events in the area since all three groups have lost members.