

Minnesota Chapter Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation History

The Minnesota Chapter is blessed with a small, but hardcore group of Lewis & Clark enthusiasts. Meriwether and William may never have set foot within our borders, but that has not inhibited our efforts to honor them one bit.

We have members who regularly give presentations to schools, Boy Scout groups, senior groups; teach community and senior education classes; volunteer with Wilderness Inquiry and other outdoor travel experiences or bus trips; write books and articles; organize fieldtrips; and generally work to share their knowledge and joy for all things Lewis & Clark. Not being a Trail State, we have made financial donations to neighboring Lewis & Clark centers as well as volunteered to help on National L&CTHF committees and events.

What follows is a basic, chronological recounting of our chapter from inception.

1994

- *August* Missoula, Mt. 26th Annual Meeting of LCTHF – Mike Hansen and Ron Laycock discuss forming a Minnesota chapter.
- *October 15* An organizational meeting is held at Mike and Darlene Hansen's home.

1995

- *April 8* First meeting is held at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. Mike Hansen is elected president.
- *June 9-11* First field trip is taken to Onawa, Ia. Festival
- *July 30-Aug 2* 27th Annual Meeting in Virginia. 13 chapter members attend
- *Oct 14* First Anniversary meeting held at the home of Rome and Lori Hutchings in Clearwater, Mn.
- 34 members, Mike Hansen, President

1996

- *April 27* Spring meeting held at Washburn Community Library, Minneapolis, Mn. Ruth Frick, descendant of John Colter, traveled from St. Louis, Mo. to speak on Colter. Member Tom Reichert followed with a map presentation on the route of Colter's travels.
- *June 21-23* Field trip to Fort Mandan, ND, the Knife River Indian Villages, the L&C Interpretive Center in Washburn, and Fort Abraham Lincoln. 17 attendees.
- *Aug 4-7* 28th Annual LCTHF Meeting in Sioux City, Ia. 19 chapter attendees. Several served as guides on buses.
- Ron Laycock has an article in *We Proceeded On* detailing the Lewis & Clark Sacagawea Statue in the Minnesota Capitol House Chambers.

- Jerry Holcomb has an article published in *We Proceeded On* declaring, tongue in cheek, that Minnesota is indeed a Lewis & Clark site! The 'link' was revealed in a Norwegian trapper's diary. Hmmm
- Oct chapter meeting held. Chapter voted to donate \$300 to the new Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Mt. A brick inscribed with the chapter name will be placed in the entry.
- 41 members, Mike Hansen, President

1997

- April 26 Spring meeting takes place at St John's University, Collegeville, Mn. We held a silent auction to raise additional fund. Another \$200 was sent to the National Interpretive Center in Great Falls (due to open in 1998). Mike Hansen gives a detailed talk on the Zebulon Pike Expedition up the Mississippi and his second expedition up the Arkansas River.
- June 21 Spring field trip to Pipestone National Historic Monument.
- July 25-30 29th Annual Meeting in Stevenson, Wa. at Skamania Lodge. Attendees see a preview of the Ken Burns' Lewis & Clark film during his keynote presentation.
- Aug Chapter buys a copy of the curriculum guide to donate to a school.
- 57 members, Mike Hansen, President

1998

- Chapter newsletter created! Jim Vowels and Sue Strachan serve as scribes and editors.
- April 23 Stephen Ambrose spoke at the University of Minnesota, sponsored by the Bell Museum of Natural History. Topic – "Epic of American Exploration-The Friendship of Lewis and Clark". Numerous members drove from far parts to attend.
- April 25 Spring meeting at Oliver H Kelley Farm in Elk River, Mn. The need for a chapter brochure is discussed and developed. Arden Aanestad, member and botanist, spoke on the natural history of the expedition. Chapter members voted to donate \$300 to the Lewis and Clark Elementary School in Grand Forks, ND to replace Lewis and Clark books lost in the flood during April. We formally 'adopted' the school.
- June 29-July 2 30th Annual meeting in Great Falls, Mt. In addition to a pitchfork fondue at the Great Falls, field trips were taken to Portage Creek and Sulphur Springs. We helped celebrate the grand opening of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center and found 'our' brick on the floor! Dayton Duncan gave a memorial talk, "Retracing Lewis' Walk", to attendees resting in the park next to the Missouri River. One of the most moving and emotional talks presented. 31 chapter attendees
- Sept 19 Chapter picnic held at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. Everyone brought food items the Corps may have eaten. Some liberties were taken, but we all voted to accept brownies as likely Corps cuisine!
- Oct 17 Meeting held at the Rochester Public Library, Rochester, Mn. Topic was "Lewis and Clark in Western Art". Due to the hospitality of Susan and Jerry Holcomb, food and beverage followed at their home.
- Oct 19 The "Minneapolis Star Tribune" ran an article on member Russell Bagley's Lewis & Clark brass journal clasp. It originated with Dr Elliot Coues and was given to C Hart Merian 100 years previous. Having been passed down in

the family to Mr. Bagley's cousin, he acquired it and turned in over to the American Philosophical Society.

- The chapter sponsored a 3 year membership for the Lewis & Clark Elementary School at a cost of \$80.00
- 68 members, Jim Vowels, President

1999

- *April 24* Meeting at the Oliver H Kelley Farm in Elk River, Mn. A panel discussion was held on "Lewis Death – Suicide or Murder?" and we had a presentation by our own intrepid explorers Ron Laycock and Jim Vowels. They canoed the Missouri from Ft Benton to James Kipp State Park in Montana and shared photos and tales of their adventures.
- *June 18-20* Field trip to Chamberlain, SD. Stops visited included the West Bend Recreation Area, the state capitol, Pierre Cultural Heritage Center, Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, and the Arikara Village. 15 attendees
- *Aug 1-4* 31st Annual Meeting, Bismarck, ND. Several chapter members again helped as bus guides on field trips to the Knife River Indian Villages, the L&C Interpretive Center in Washburn (viewing the Karl Bodmer collection), and Fort Mandan. The official Chapter Charter document was received – April 5, 1995. Ron Laycock continued on the Bicentennial Council, Mike Hansen served on the Scholarship & Education Team, Vol 1 of the Journals – the Atlas – was again available as a 2nd printing. Thomas Jefferson made an appearance
- *Sept 18* Peninsula Point Two Rivers Park, Anoka, Mn was the site of our Buffalo Burger Potluck.
- *Oct 23* Meeting held at the Plymouth branch Library, Plymouth, Mn. Bruce Moulton spoke on the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Stewardship Project committee of which he is a part. He explained the inventory effort. The chapter voted to send \$100 to the Grand Forks L&C Elementary School for Lewis & Clark coloring books.
- 72 members, Jim Vowels, President

2000

- Bruce Moulton updated our chapter brochure.
- *April 29* Meeting held at Oliver H Kelley Farm, Elk River, Mn. John Spencer spoke on "Sites and Sights of Beaverhead County, Montana" in preparation for the national meeting in August.
- *Aug 13-16* 32nd Annual Meeting in Dillon, Mt. This was most memorable due to the record-breaking forest fires burning throughout the west and particularly in southwestern Montana which impacted the meeting. Some views (Lemhi Pass, for example) were diminished, but we learned much from the addition of Forest Service personnel who explained events and the impact on the environment. Tours included, Rattlesnake Cliffs, Jackson, Dillon, Wisdom, Camp Fortunate, Beaverhead Rock, straddling the Missouri, and excellent talks held at the campus. The constant smoke did create some respiratory concerns.
- Minnesota and Badger Chapters held their first joint meeting.
- 29 chapter attendees
- *Oct 14* Meeting held at the Plymouth branch Library, Plymouth, Mn. Bruce Moulton presented a talk and slide show about his bike trip over the Lolo Trail from Lolo, Mt to Pheasant Camp near the Weippe Prairie, Id. Chapter voted to contribute \$50 toward expenses at the Hutchinson symposium to be held Oct 28.

- Oct 28 Lewis and Clark Symposium, McLeod County Historical Society, Hutchinson, Mn. The chapter presented a series of talks on various aspects of the Lewis & Clark story. Mike Hansen gave an introductory overview of the Corps. Arden Aanestad addressed the scientific contributions, Jim Vowels shared the photos and stories from his Missouri River canoe trip, and Arlene Kase gave a talk on the history and use of trade beads followed by a session giving school children the chance to make a bead bracelet. The Chapter members had display tables and were available to answer questions. Co-sponsored by the McLeod County Historical Society, the event was open to the public and well attended.
- 77 members, Jim Vowels, President

2001

- Chapter sends \$150 to the Pompey's Pillar legal fund for preservation of the view shed.
- April 28 Meeting at Oliver H Kelley Farm, Elk River, Mn. Lyle Bradley gives presentation on "Flora and Fauna of the Lewis & Clark Expedition". Chapter votes to contribute an additional \$100 to the Pompey's Pillar legal fund for preservation of the view shed and \$100 to the Friends of the Library in Great Falls.
- Aug 5-8 33rd Annual Meeting in Pierre, SD. HOT!! Temps over 100 degrees but a great meeting nonetheless. Picnics, Kevin Locke hoop dancing, SD Cultural Heritage Center, Akta Lakota Museum, Bad River, Big Bend of the Missouri, and one bus with no working air conditioning. President Barb Kubik presents the Distinguished Service Award to Ron Laycock for his efforts starting the network of chapters across the country. 25 chapter attendees.
- Immediately following the Annual Meeting 7 members took a field trip to the Fossil site and Old Baldy. Bruce Moulton organized and planned the trip with guide assistance from Doug Chapman of Sioux Fall, SD. Doug was able to gain access to the Mulehead Ranch which matches the site description for the 45 foot fish fossil, referenced in the Journals. After a somewhat bumpy and exciting ride Bruce, Doug, Newell Chester, Ron Laycock, and Janet Grieder made it to the bluff site. A panoramic view of the river was matched by much excitement at being on a site few have seen. Elaine Moulton, Roy Grieder, and Jeff Olson were on the trip but missed the site due to vehicle/road conditions. The trip also covered the National Prairie Lands, White River Site west of Chamberlain, Whetstone Bay Recreation Area and Old Baldy. Concern was voiced about protecting Old Baldy during the upcoming Bicentennial. It could be subject to erosion and wear if much foot traffic occurs.
- Oct 20 Chapter meeting at Camp Ripley Military Camp near Little Falls, Mn. Ray Nelson, Army Corps of Engineers, has worked on detailing the air rifle for a poster and his interest in the military aspects of the Voyage of Discovery. His presentation covered both topics. He presented us with a poster to be raffled and benefiting the chapter treasury. The vest committee presented their design idea which was voted on. Orders taken for chapter vests.
- Janet Grieder, President

2002

- April 20 Meeting held at the School of Environmental Learning, Apple Valley, Mn. Hal Stearns was our guest speaker – "Lewis & Clark: An American Epic". An attendance record was set for a chapter meeting – 62! The chapter vests

were distributed to much praise for the design and procurement effort. Made of tan cloth, the back boasts a green state of Minnesota outline with Minnesota (in brown) above and Chapter below the state. The official LCTHF logo appears on the front upper right.

- *July 28-31* 34th Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky. Trips to the Falls of the Ohio, George Rogers Clark's home, Locust Hill, Filson Society, riverboat excursion, Kentucky Derby Museum and an outdoor rendezvous were included. 20 chapter attendees
- *Oct 26* Meeting held at the Golden Valley Historical Society, Golden Valley, Mn. Even with a damp, chilly day accompanied by a malfunctioning furnace we had a great time. Bev Hinds, Sioux City, Ia, drove up to speak on the medical aspects of the Corps' journey. Bev's background as a nurse and expertise on Charles Floyd, who is buried in Sioux City, helped provide insights into the medicine of the time.
- 50 members, Janet Grieder, President

2003

- *Jan 14-19* The inaugural Signature Event of the Bicentennial is held at Monticello, Va. 10 chapter attendees
- *April 26* Meeting held at the School of Environmental Learning, Apple Valley, Mn. Newell Chester presents "The Lost Field Notes of William Clark"
- *May 16-17* Jerry Jacob, Colter descendent, and wife Florence are 2 of 400 who attend a Colter reunion in Hermann, Missouri. Jerry and Florence reported on the many and fun activities they experienced.
- *May 23-25* Field trip to SD, Iowa, and Nebraska. Bruce Moulton planned a wonderful caravanning field trip which started at the Point Gavan Dam Visitor Center, moved to Yankton, Spirit Mound (the delightful and knowledgeable Jim Peterson joined us here to share his expertise), Vermillion, W H Over Museum, Loess Hills, and the Sgt Floyd Monument in Sioux City (Floyd expert Bev Hinds shared the story of the monument's construction here), and ended with dinner. 16 attendees enjoyed a great weekend
- *May* \$500 sent to the Endowment Fund
- *Aug 10-13* 35th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. 9 chapter attendees visited the American Philosophical Society, College of Physicians in Philadelphia among other sites. The highlight was seeing the Journals. Ron Laycock, assumed national presidency for 2003-2004 and announced plans to move his extensive Lewis & Clark book and ephemera collection to Monticello's Jefferson Library. It will be designated a 'research' collection and kept intact. Eventually it will be accessible online.
- *Oct* \$300 sent to Fort Mandan Foundation in Washburn
- *Oct 18* Meeting held at the Southdale Branch Library, Edina, Mn. Elmer Odland, shared photos and the story of "Reconstructing Fort Mandan" during his years living in Washburn ND during the 1970's. Elmer was instrumental in getting funding and support for the reconstruction. The story was enlightening and humorous. We all owe Elmer a huge debt of gratitude.
- *Nov 21* Elmer and Joan Odland, and Janet Grieder attended a special showing of the IMAX National Geographic film "Lewis & Clark-Great Journey West" at the Minnesota Science Museum in St Paul, Mn. Sponsored by the ND Division of Tourism, Economic Development and Finance and private sponsors, the viewing was followed by dinner.
- 75 members, Janet Grieder, President

2004

- *April 17* Meeting held at St John's University, Collegeville, Mn. Guest speaker, David Borlaug, addresses "What the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Means to North Dakota and America".
- *May 14-16* Field trip is taken to the St Louis/Wood River area to coincide with the Bicentennial Signature Event commemorating the departure of the Corps from Camp River Dubois. 15 chapter attendees, plus Wendy Raney and her husband, visited the amazing National Bicentennial exhibit at the Missouri Historical Society (many original items together for the first time), the Arch, the traveling NPS Corps II exhibit, and the site exhibit. Rain poured down, but did not dampen our spirits or fun!
- *Aug 4-7* 36th Annual Meeting held in Bismarck, ND. 21 chapter attendees
- *Oct 16* Meeting held at the Southdale Branch Library, Edina, Mn. "Thomas Jefferson's Administration" is the subject of Mike Hansen's talk.
- *Oct 22-31* National Bicentennial Signature Event "Circle of Cultures" is held in Bismarck, ND. Lori and Rome Hutchings attend and share photos and story with chapter via email
- *Oct* Chapter receives a Volunteer-In-Parks Award from the NPS National Historic Trails for the number of hours the chapter members devoted to education and efforts to preserve and protect the trail and story.
- 84 members, Janet Grieder, President

2005

- Member John Hamilton is a finalist in the 17th Annual Minnesota Book Awards in the Children's and Young Adult Non-Fiction category for his book, Lewis & Clark: Adventures West. Of 300 entries, only 52 finalists are selected for 12 categories. Hamilton, writer and photojournalist, has authored over 50 non-fiction children's books specializing in history and science.
- Three 'snowbird' chapter members in Arizona volunteer with the NPS Corps II Traveling Exhibit.
- *April 30* Meeting held at Ridgedale Branch Library, Plymouth, Mn. Adam Cahow, retired geology professor, explains "The Geology of the Missouri River". The chapter voted to spend \$350 toward the sponsorship of a Wilderness Inquiry participant on a Missouri River trip.
- *July 1-4* Field trip to Council Bluffs, Omaha, and Sioux City. Stops were made at the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha Heritage Center, Western Trails Center, White Catfish Encampment and Fort Atkinson.
- *Aug 6-10* 37th Annual Meeting held at Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Or. The Gateway to the Pacific theme was highlighted by spectacular views, field trips, speakers and an all-time favorite concluding musical performance. Fort Clatsop, Cape Disappointment, the Columbia Gorge, boat trips and the Cathlapotle Plankhouse were enjoyed by all. 17 chapter members attended
- *Oct 22* Meeting held at the Minnesota History Center, St Paul, Mn. Patrick Coleman, acquisitions librarian for MHS, shared the Lewis & Clark related items owned by MHS. It was the first time many members were made aware our state owned such items. Arlene and Harvey Kase established the Lewis & Clark Material Conservation and Preservation Fund at the MHS for the protection of the articles. Anyone can donate to this fund and support is encouraged. The Wisconsin Badger chapter was invited to the meeting and happily, we welcomed

- 9 Badgers. An opportunity for additional visiting with the Badgers followed while dining at Joseph's Grill on the West Side of St Paul.
- 59 members, Elmer Odland, President
- Happy 10th Anniversary to us!!!

2006

- *April 29* Meeting held at Lacrosse Public Library, Lacrosse, Wi. This was another joint meeting with the Badger Chapter. Our speaker was Wendy Raney who explained her work with and for the National Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.
- *July 22* Jim Vowels attended the Bicentennial Signature Event at Pompey's Pillar
- *Aug 5* Picnic held at the Spring Lake Park Reserve. 26 attendees brought food to share. The chapter provided grilled buffalo. A silent auction raised \$340 for the chapter treasury.
- *Sept 18-23* The 38th Annual Meeting was held to coincide with the final Bicentennial Signature Event in St Louis, Mo.
- *Oct 14* Meeting held at the Southdale Branch Library, Edina, Mn. Richard Hetu, author of Charbonneau book The Lost Guide, shares his knowledge and insights into Charbonneau.
- Elmer Odland, President

2007

- *April 14* Meeting held at Northtown Library, Coon Rapids, Mn. John Driscoll brought his traveling trunk with his extensive collection of materials to explain "The Voyageurs". This was a great hands-on opportunity for members to learn about that period of history.
- *July 21* Picnic held at Fort Snelling State Park. The picnic site was near the terminus of the Zebulon Pike Expedition of 1805. Good fun, good fun, and an excellent talk on Pike by Mike Hansen.
- *Aug 5-8* 39th Annual Meeting held in Charlottesville, Va. Visits to Monticello, Ashlawn-Highland, and Montpelier provided stunning vistas! 15 chapter attendees. Current events were in the minds of many as the 35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis occurred the day before many of us left for Virginia.
- *Sept 15-15* Field trip to the Northwest Company Fur Post (1650-1830) outside Hinckley, Mn and Fort Folle Avoine Historical Park, Danbury, Wi. Where attendees were treated to a Northwest Company Rendezvous and reenactors.
- Elmer Odland, President

2008

- *Feb 2* Board meets at Arlene Kase's home to plan year's events. This is a departure from our normal practice of meeting prior to chapter meetings. It worked well for long range planning and setting up our calendar.
- *April 26* Meeting held at the Rockford Road Library, Crystal, Mn. Prof. David E Woodard's presentation is "Minnesota Indian Treaties and 19th Century American Foreign Policy, 1780-1851".
- *June 7-8* Field trip to Fort Sisseton, SD Historical Festival. Super event attended by 12 members. Interactive fun for all with exhibits, cannon shoots, a mid-1800's rendezvous featuring crafts, trade goods, food, and entertainment.

- *July 19* Picnic held at Bay Point Park in Red Wing. Yet another potluck where we had just the right mix of food items. A relaxing boat ride on the St Croix River followed. A glorious day!
- *Aug 10-13* 40th Annual Meeting in Great Falls, Mt. Beautiful weather was enjoyed by 8 chapter attendees while visiting the Falls, the Interpretive Center, Portage Creek, Gates of the Mountain and sharing a raft trip. The last provided a bit too much excitement as one rafts tipped and true heroics were displayed by L&C members to rescue the occupants.
- *Oct 18* Meeting held at the Johnsville Library in Blaine, Mn. Bruce Moulton and Karen Ekdahl gave a full report on the national meeting including national plans.
- *Nov 15* The first ever Winter Social was held at W A Frost & Co Restaurant in St Paul. This was the last hurrah before all the snowbirds head south for the winter and it gave us a chance to dress up, share some fine dining and visit one more time. 17 attendees
- 46 members, Elmer Odland, President

2009

- *April 18* Meeting held at _____ Newell Chester presented "The Travels of Maximilian and Bodmer: the Prince, the Painter, and the Indians of the Upper Missouri 1833-1834" accompanied by Bruce Moulton's slides showing the same sites today. A silent auction of Lewis & Clark related items followed.
- *June 4-7* Field trip along the Missouri river visiting sites in Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. Starting at the Platte County Historical Society 14 members were joined by Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter member Diane Pepper. Diane acted as our tour guide as we traveled to Fort Leavenworth and its Frontier Army Museum, Weston State Park, the Amelia Earhart House in Atchison and campsites along the river. In St Joseph, Dan Sturdevant and his wife joined us for dinner and gave a presentation on the Expedition's perceived threat from the Indians. We also toured the Patee House, headquarters of the Pony Express, and the Jesse James House. At Indian Cave Park we visited the site of a reconstructed village. In Nebraska City we were impressed by the hands-on exhibits and the setting of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center.
- *June 20* Summer picnic at Bay Point Park in Red Wing, Mn. Members of the Badger Chapter joined us for food, friendship and fun.
- 41st Annual Meeting in Olive Branch, Ms.
- *Oct 25* Fall meeting at the Library in St. Cloud, Mn. Ron Laycock shared his extensive collection of artifacts and articles relating to the Expedition while he spoke about "What Lewis & Clark Carried with Them on the Expedition". It was a great hands-on opportunity for attendees.
- *Nov 14* Fall Social luncheon again held at W. A. Frost Restaurant in St. Paul. Arrangements handled by Arlene Kase.
- 35 members, Karen Ekdahl, President