

**August 28, 2008**

**A History**

**Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter  
National Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation**

**From:** Dan Sturdevant [mailto:dan@sturdevantlawoffice.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2008 11:28 AM

**To:** gjulich@gw.co.jackson.mo.us; jlewin@magiccablepc.com; Cheryl Thorp

**Cc:** twoseabergs@msn.com

**Subject:** FW: Chapter historys

Dear Cheryl, Jackie, Gordon

Our national foundation would like us to do a local chapter history. Anyone want to do a 10 year history?

Since we are I think the four presidents of the organization and since each of us has responded to an email to do a history of some sort, let me suggest that each president write something for those years.

Let me suggest we each write 2 paragraphs. Please send it to me and I will copy and paste and circulate back to you. If we get something minimal, at least we'll have that. I'm suggesting only 2 paragraphs because if it's more than that, it may never happen.

I guess that would be, without looking at the records, hopefully you can remember better than me:

1. Cheryl 1997 through 1998;
2. Gordon 1999 through 2000
3. Jackie 2001 through 2003
4. Dan 2004 through present.

Dan Sturdevant

The following mostly copied and pasted by Dan Sturdevant from Cheryl Thorp, Gordon Julich and Jackie Lewin:

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**From Cheryl Thorp August 2008**

**History**

**Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter  
National Lewis and Clark Heritage Trail Foundation**

In early May 1997, Stan Lawson (not sure of his title at that time) of the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce and I attended a meeting of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission in Nebraska City, NE. Stan and I were the only attendees directly employed in the tourism industry.

At that point in time, I sensed a significant distrust of the tourism industry by trail preservationists and Bicentennial Commission members. Question: how could the trail's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration bolster public awareness, encourage public education and, yet, emerge from the commemoration intact and in good physical condition? The tourism industry needed to reassure Bicentennial planners that post-bicentennial trail integrity was critically important to them as well.

What was apparent to both Stan and myself was that regardless of bicentennial plans, it would be the tourism industry that would be answering visitor questions, giving directions, etc. Stan and I left the Nebraska City meeting determined to try to organize a chapter covering those communities on both side of the Missouri River from the Iowa border to Lexington, Missouri.

Stan recruited representatives from the Kansas side communities and I recruited from the Missouri side. Richard Williams, of the National Park Service stated that the Missouri-Kansas River Bend Chapter was the only chapter to date that was formed by tourism industry professionals as opposed to historians.

Stan was responsible for the push to created a Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. Organization of the Missouri Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission was already under way.

The local chapter spent the next eighteen months recruiting board and chapter members, developing chapter bylaws, planning membership programs and

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FROM GORDON JULICH ON JULY 28, 2008

My memory is pretty sketchy for events almost 10 years ago. However I remember two early meetings, prior to forming the chapter. The bicentennial was just beginning to be on the "radar". One meeting was at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence. Dick Williams who was the "Trail Manager" for the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail met with about 15 of us. At this time the LCNHT's office was in Madison, WI. He told us of some of the preliminary plans being put forward for the bicentennial. I believe that Ron Laycock possibly was at this meeting. Ron was on the Foundation's board of directors at the time and worked with groups wanting to form chapters. I also remember a meeting in Leavenworth in their community center building. It was a pretty large meeting with about 30+ people. The chapter was close to being formed and there was a rather lengthy discussion on what the name should be. It was at this gathering that the River Bend moniker was adopted.

Key participants at this time included Cheryl, Stan Lawson, Jackie Lewin, Marci Bennett among others. I remember Marci Bennett at several meetings. Marci and Cheryl were both appointed to the Missouri Bicentennial Commission. I also remember that the chapter's first application was rejected as it was written with a heavy "marketing/tourism" emphasis. I rewrote this to an education/public benefit emphasis and it was accepted. Stan was instrumental in getting the newsletter out and did a good job. Cheryl and I

both attended the Foundation's annual meeting in 1999 in Bismarck. It was at this meeting where we officially received our "charter".

I can remember hosting a breakfast at Fort Osage with Michelle Boussard where the community did the pitch for a signature event. It was shortly after this that I remember Karen Seaberg becoming involved. Karen, as was others, were instrumental in getting Kansas City the Signature event.

I can also remember that the chapter was the "host committee" for the National Council's annual planning meeting in 2001. Everybody rose to the occasion putting many hours of time in making it a successful event. The Airport Hilton was the conference hotel. It was during this meeting that the Lewis & Clark statue by Eugene Daub was dedicated. Stephen Ambrose was at this meeting.

I can remember only a couple chapter meetings during my term as chairman. That period was extremely hectic for me between the Foundation, local chapter, Signature Event and Fort Osage Education Center planning.

Hope this helps.

Gordon

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jackie Lewin [mailto:jlewin@magiccablepc.com]

**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2008 9:12 PM

**To:** 'Cheryl Thorp'; 'Dan Sturdevant'; Gordon D. Julich

**Cc:** twoseabergs@msn.com

**Subject:** RE: Chapter historys

My memory of the beginnings of the River Bend Chapter stem from a meeting in 1997 in St. Joseph of area people interested in the Lewis and Clark bicentennial. This must have been after Stan and Cheryl attended the Nebraska City meeting. After that, meetings were held in various locations between St. Joseph and Fort Osage to generate interest. Attendance was quite large. It was fun to meet the people along the trail who had studied and were so enthusiastic about their local areas. In addition to the Chapter, several local groups began to form which increased the reach of the Chapter. In St. Joseph, Barb and her husband Ron were very instrumental in promoting River Bend Chapter. After Ron's unexpected death, Barb kept up the work and in 2001 received the Trailblazer Award from the St. Joseph Convention and Visitors Bureau for her work on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. She was then serving as secretary of River Bend Chapter.

I do recall that during Gordon's term, the chapter began to compile a list of Lewis and Clark related sites in the northwest Missouri/northeast Kansas area. I believe this was at the request of the State Bicentennial Commission. This was really a neat project.

In 2001, the Chapter programs consisted of "Digitally Mapping the Missouri river of Lewis and Clark by Jim Denny, Jim Baker who spoke about the "Corps of Discovery II," Steve Allie on the Corp of Discovery as an Army expedition and a meeting at which Pete Cuppage spoke at the Grinter Place State Historic Site.

In 2002, Gil Nichols spoke at Lewis and Clark State Park about "Art & Antiquities of North American Indians, Kyle Carroll presented a display on how to build a dugout canoe at a meeting in St. Joseph, Ann Rogers discussed her book, *Lewis and Clark in Missouri*, and the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce sponsored a meeting with Dan Sturdevant speaking about Kaw Point. A walking tour of Kaw Point followed. About this time, Pete Cuppage began compiling a speakers list for the Chapter.

In 2003, Dr. Donald Mathews gave a first-person presentation of York, Nancy Lewis and Anne Mallinson provided samples of food in "Fare for the Expedition" held in St. Joseph, Atchison hosted a meeting with a program presented by Rex Garrelts and Mark Viets who bicycled the Lewis and Clark Trail, and Jim Harlan spoke about the "Lewis and Clark Historic Landscape Project. Also during that year, the chapter hosted a reception at the opening night of the Chautauqua in KCK.

I don't recall chairs other than Cheryl, Gordon, me and Dan. Could the man you spoke of be between Cheryl and Gordon?

From Gordon Julich

Jackie, Your memory is impressive. I do not believe there was a chairman between Cheryl and myself. I do remember attending a meeting in St. Louis, possibly in 1997, it might have been in 1996. It was at the Missouri Historical Society and was attended primarily by representative of the state. It seems like there were a couple NPS people there, but don't remember Dick Williams being there. I think I was possibly the only person there from western Missouri, Bob Archibald had convened the meeting. It was my understanding that this meeting possibly was the impetus that eventually lead to Gov. Carnahan establishing the state commission in 1998. Although this is not directly related to our chapter, I feel that the bicentennial "movement" helped spur interest locally. Especially in consideration of the anticipated tourism component.

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**From:** Cheryl Thorp [mailto:CTHORP@co.platte.mo.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2008 12:30 PM  
**To:** Dan Sturdevant; Gordon D. Julich; Jackie Lewin  
**Cc:** twoseabergs@msn.com  
**Subject:** RE: Chapter historys

Gosh, Gordon, I had totally forgotten about the national foundation meeting.

I remember attending National Foundation meetings in Bismarck, ND (2 times-?), Pierre, SD & Great Falls, MT.

Dan, I've added and filled in some more on my copy below. Please use this version.

I'm thinking that it was the chapter that wrote the National Park Service Grant for 12 or 13 Lewis and Clark site signs. That was a collaborative effort among St. Jo CVB, Atchison Chamber of Commerce & Platte County CVB (we have 6 sites in Platte County).

Gordon and Jackie, didn't we have another president in there somewhere---that retired Army officer who worked for ADT --- Patterson or something like that?

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### ***July 28, 2008 Dan Sturdevant***

A History of Lewis and Clark Missouri Kansas Riverbend Chapter Years 2004 through 2008

Each of these years featured at least 4 Lewis and Clark Programs. Most programs were close to the Missouri River on a riverbank. The annual all day bus trips led by Ross Marshall proved entertaining and successful.

- 2004      The big bicentennial. The chapter supported the national Foundation with a booth the Journey 4<sup>th</sup> National Commemorative Signature Event at Berkeley Riverfront Park. Personally, my wife and I attended the Atchison Kansas July 4 Signature Event and it was nothing short of terrific. The Discovery Expedition of St. Charles replicated the expedition and the chapter supported the DESC, although we had our separate programs that usually did not involve the DESC. "Journals Nightly" programs on the riverbank, about 11 miles north from the previous night,. Attached will be a sheet showing the 11 programs, starting June 23, 2004 at Ft. Osage, with the speakers and subjects shown.  
Our chapter numbered about 150 people who paid, although many were on a one-time pay basis and then would drop off membership thereafter.  
  
The Foundation's national president was Gordon Julich, member of the chapter.
- 2005      The keelboat of DESC returned to Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point in May.  
Our 4 Riverbend chapter programs continued.  
  
The Journals Nightly Programs were offered for Foundation awards the Portland Oregon Signature event. But the "Montana Mafia" members on the Foundation awards committee saw to it that Montana events won, our Journals Nightly program not awarded.
- 2006      "Journals Nightly" programs held with the return trip 200 years, concluding with the September 15, 2006 program at Lewis and Clark Point, 8<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson, where about 100 people attended. Attached is a list of the programs, starting at Amazonia, Missouri on September 11 and coming south from 50 to 75 miles south each day.

The Chapter board voted to hold annual commemorative programs on June 26 at Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, and September 15 at 8<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson.

The chapter newsletter, "On the Trail" having been done for I guess 10 years by the great Stan Lawson, passed upon Stan's moving on to Keith Krieger. The quality of the newsletter continued with Keith.

Also a website was set up especially to help communications. And email blasts were used, greatly increasing the contact ability and probably increasing the numbers in attendance at any given meeting..

Paid membership had dropped to roughly 120.

2007 4 plus programs.

Regional Foundation program in April 2007, led by Jennifer Scott, held at the Discovery Center at 48<sup>th</sup> and Troost in Kansas City, featured Gary Moulton, editor, talking to about 75 people. About 125 attended altogether at some portions during the day.

2008 4 plus programs.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, through Ken Wilk, asked for the chapter's opinion as to where the Corps' 7 foot steel Lewis and Clark Pointy Guys statue should be given, as the Corps didn't have a specific used once the Bicentennial ended. The board voted to place it at Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point. It is now in a shed, waiting placement in concrete apparently under the control the Friends of Kaw Point Park.

The Foundation's national president was Karen Seaberg, member of the chapter.

The annual national Foundation meeting was held in Great Falls Montana, a very fine program. Attendees who are chapter members: Karen Seaberg, Gordon Julich, Lorna Haynesworth and Dan Sturdevant.

A book club was formed with Jil Brown as chairperson and 6 people met at Latteland at Briarcliff West to discuss Christian's "Before Lewis and Clark."

In August 2008, the membership is probably about 80 of which maybe 30 are regularly interested. We are keeping about 110 on the Membership Directory, so about 30 whose dues may be late, because we know if we drop somebody like UMKC professor Bill Worley, we will lose touch with him and he to us.

Dan Sturdevant