



On The Ohio . . .

**The Newsletter of the Ohio River Chapter
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation**

www.lewisandclark.org

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Message from the President

Hello to all. I was in Arizona for four months at my youngest daughters. I took the train. What a great trip out and back—wonderful scenery. The food was as good as you could hope for in a fine restaurant. Tom Williams took me to the station and picked me up. It was a real thrill going past Camp Dubois where CJ Lanahan, John Becker and I lived the winter of 2003-04. Several others who were there for a week or two, but we were the only ones who lived there the entire winter.

I had the opportunity to go to the Grand Canyon Chapter meeting up in Tucson while I was there and so seriously regretted that they voted to disband. There have been times I've felt that we didn't have the interest we should have for our Ohio River area, but after seeing what happened there, it makes me feel very proud of our chapter and what we have accomplished. I feel that anyone who doesn't know anything about history doesn't know where he or she is going. I am so proud of our little chapter and sometimes wonder if others couldn't take some lessons from us. We have established some good traditions. As best I can, I hope to continue those traditions for the remainder of my term.

While I was in AZ, I had the opportunity to speak to three school classes. Their curriculum does not allow for the history of Lewis and Clark in the middle school, but does allow for the economics of it, so I brought out that we borrowed the money from England to pay for the purchase of Louisiana, how we made money by selling portions of the land. This also gave us ownership so we could control or try to control trading with the Indians. The school allowed me to talk about reenacting and how to prepare for it. The kids seemed to get more excited learning how to get into reenacting than anything else. My youngest granddaughter was in one of the groups. Her name is Shannon. You can try to guess where that came from. I was thrilled to see the look on her face while I was talking and then to see how the kids mobbed her afterward. Actually, there were three mobs. One ran out the door, one wanted to talk to me, but the greatest one was those who wanted to talk to Shannon after learning she was a descendant.

I am really looking forward to the spring meeting. I have been to most of these places several times and am really looking forward to going back. The fur trade was very important to the US economy long before Lewis and Clark as well after. Thanks to Stan and Nancy Spencer for all their work on the meeting.

I also want to thank Tom and Kay Williams for the work they have done on the patches for and with the Heritage Girls. The patch looks great. I have two granddaughters who have belonged to the Heritage Girls for several years and are hoping to be the first in the US to earn the patch.

Your Most Obedient Servant
Bob Anderson

The Ohio River Chapter invites YOU to its

Mackinaw Meeting

What: ORC Northern Michigan Meeting
When: May 13 - 14, 2011
Where: Mackinaw City, Michigan
Why: To investigate the fur trade, Northwest Passage and influence of the French

Headquarters for meeting:

Mackinaw Beach and Bay All Suites Resort, 929 South Huron, Mackinaw City, Michigan, 49701 Call 231-436-8621 or 800-468-7736

www.mbbresort.com

\$59.99 plus tax per night. All rooms have 2 large bedrooms each with a TV separated by a bath. Rooms are blocked until April 13, 2011 (unless sold out).

Mention Lewis and Clark for the special rate. Cancellation 3 days prior.

Cost: No registration fee. There will be costs for lodging, meals and state historic park entry fees.

For more information: Stan Spencer
spencer6845@yahoo.com
(269) 795-2062

You must tell Stan if you are going to be at this meeting. He has to have a count of attendees.



TENTATIVE ITINERARY
Northern Michigan Meeting for the Ohio
River Chapter of the Lewis and Clark
Trail Heritage Foundation
Straits of Mackinac, Mackinaw City,
Michigan
May 13-14, 2011
Regular Meeting and Program

Friday Evening

3:00 - 5:00 P.M. Check-in at meeting headquarters hotel:
Mackinaw Beach and Bay All Suites Resort
929 South Huron
Mackinaw City, Michigan 49701
231-436-8621 or 800-468-7736
www.mbbresort.com
\$59.99 plus tax per night
Rooms blocked until April 13, 2011
Mention Lewis and Clark meeting for special rate
5:00-7:00 P.M. Dinner on your own
7:00 P.M. Reception and evening program in the hotel meeting room:

Welcome - Stan Spencer, president-elect, ORC
Special display: Equipment from the Lewis and Clark Expedition presented by Richard Hennings from Charlotte, Michigan

Guest speaker: Ron Lacock from Minnesota

Topic: The Dorians and the Fur Trade

Follow up speaker: Jerry Robertson

Topic: The Provenance of Artist John Cylmer's print of Maria Dorian

Overview of next day: Stan Spencer, view DVD "Video Tour of Mackinaw Area"

Saturday Morning

Free complimentary breakfast at the hotel for guests
Breakfast brainstorming session led by Jim Keith
Topic: Hosting the 2012 LCTHF Annual Meeting in Clarksville, Indiana
Everyone is invited to offer input.
9:00 A.M. Business meeting in the hotel meeting room
10:00 A.M.-Noon Tour historic Marquette Mission Park and Museum of Ojibwa Culture:
500 N. State Street
St. Ignace, Michigan
(906) 643-9161
Admission: \$2.00 per person

Possible stop at Father Marquette National Memorial (north end of Mackinac Bridge)
Meet at outdoor pavilion for short talk by Lou Ritten from Illinois

Topic: Father Marquette, the Relevant Jesuit

Saturday Afternoon

12:00-1:30 P.M. Lunch in the hotel meeting room featuring a special Michigan delicacy—the pasty
2:00-4:00 P.M. Tour Colonial Fort Michilimackinac Park under the Mackinac Bridge
Admission: \$10.00-11.00 range
231-436-4100

www.mackinacparks.com

Saturday Evening

6:00 P.M. Dinner at Audie's Restaurant
\$5.00-15.00 range

314 N. Nicolet

Mackinaw City, Michigan 49701

231-436-5744

www.audies.com

8:00 P.M. R&R back in the hotel meeting room

Informal discussions

Just for fun: Lewis and Clark Charades for a prize!
and "Far Horizons" for a prize!

For more information, contact: Stan Spencer
President Elect

Ohio River Chapter

LCTHF

269-795-2062

spencer6845@yahoo.com

Sunday (May 15): Optional Post Trip #1

Take ferry of your choice to Mackinac Island.
Spend the day on the island visiting Fort Mackinac and other sites, bicycling, carriage riding, eating fudge, etc.

Monday (May 16): Optional Post Trip #2

Spend the day at the very rustic and humble Spencer cottage in northern Michigan on Intermediate Lake in Antrim County located between the towns of Central Lake and Bellaire.
Address of Spencer cottage:
459 N. Intermediate Lake Road
Central Lake, Michigan
cell phone 616-340-6888
Pontoon Intermediate Lake and learn the history and ecology of the area from your guides and hosts, ORC members Stan and Nancy Spencer.

Numerous lodges and resorts are located within ten miles (i.e. Shanty Creek or the Bellaire Inn). For more information, contact either of the following:

Shanty Creek Resorts
www.shantycreek.com

800-678-4011

Standard rate approximately \$146.00 plus tax for 2 people (10% AAA discount available)

Bellaire Inn
728 East Cayuga Street
Bellaire, Michigan 49615
www.bellaireinn.com

231-533-7777

Standard rate approximately \$65.00 plus tax (no discounts)

Tuesday (May 17): Optional Post Trip #3

Enjoy a personalized guided tour of Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. Your hosts will be ORC members Doug and Margaret Wozniak from Beulah, Michigan, in Benzie County. The tour will begin and end at their home.

Address of Wozniak home: 930 Bluewater Drive
Beulah, Michigan 49617
231-882-0435

The Best Western Scenic Hill Resort is located in the area. For more information, contact the following:

Best Western Scenic Hill Resort
1400 US Highway 31
Beulah, Michigan 49617
231-882-7754 or 800-439-7080
www.bestwestern.com

standard rate \$77.39 plus tax

Numerous accommodations are also available in the Traverse City, Michigan area that would place you half way between the Spencer cottage and Wozniak home.

Meal Information:

Friday evening - On your own.

We will eat at Darrow's Restaurant
303 Louvingney Street, Mackinaw City, MI 49701, (231) 436-5514 and suggest it to you if you have no other ideas.

Saturday noon - On your own or join us for pasties at the hotel meeting room.

Pasties are a traditional food eaten by the miners

who came to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Wives would make a thick crust and fill it with meat, carrots, potatoes, turnips, etc., fold it into a crescent shape, seal it and heat it in the morning. After wrapping in a cloth, it would stay warm the entire day. Pasties come with veggies only or chicken or beef. Please indicate on the form included if you would like to join us for the pasty lunch. (NOTE - pasties are not something all would like. Stan, for instance, will be joining us, but he will bring his own sub. You can join us if you want with any food you may bring.)

Saturday evening - Audies Restaurant - full menu, but noted for its Lake Michigan whitefish.

Sunday - on your own

Monday noonish - burgers and brats at Spencer's cottage. Please indicate below if you're coming.

Tuesday 10 A.M. - With the Wozniaks at Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. Please indicate below if you're coming:

Please reply by April 15 by email or USPS to:
spencer6845@yahoo.com or Stan Spencer, 6845 N. Whitneyville Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

REGISTRATION

Your Name:

Number planning to attend the Mackinaw meeting: _____

Saturday noon pasties lunch (pasty, drink, cookie)
Cost: \$7.00. Indicate number and type. Payment will be by cash at the beginning of Friday's evening meeting.

Veggie _____ Chicken _____ Beef _____

Monday at Spencer's cottage: Donation for lunch and soft drinks with any profits to the national LCTHF. Number visiting _____

Tuesday at Wozniak's house: Nominal charge to be determined. Number visiting _____

Critical information for Stan—Please send!!

The Significance of the Fur Trade in American History

(A Book Review)

Dolin, Eric Jay. Fur, Fortune, and Empire: The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2010, 443 pages, \$29.95.

History is not just what happened in the past. On the contrary, it is the selection, analysis and writing about the past. Above all, history is a matter of interpretation, which is based upon theory. Once in a great while, a theory comes along that attempts an overall explanation of social life, politics, economics, and/or human experience. This is known as “grand theory.” Two such grand theories are Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution and Frederick Jackson Turner’s frontier hypothesis. Perhaps without realizing it, now Eric Jay Dolin has presented another possible grand theory, i.e. we are the way we are because of the fur trade. Indeed, North America developed the way it did because of the fur trade. Rivalries between the Dutch, French, British, Spanish, Russians, Americans (both native and European) occurred because of the fur trade. Wars such as the French and Indian, American Revolution, War of 1812, and Mexican War were all fought in large part because of the fur trade. From roughly 1600 until 1900, the political, economic, and social climates of North America and later the United States were all shaped primarily by the abundance and scarcity of three animals, namely the beaver, sea otter, and buffalo.

This book was a generous gift to the reviewer from our own Lorna Hainesworth, communications officer for the Ohio River Chapter, after she heard the author speak and promote his new book this past summer in Great Falls, Montana. Apparently Lorna wanted to thank my wife and I for setting up the ORC’s forthcoming northern Michigan meeting in Mackinaw City in May 2011. Because one of the themes of the meeting is the fur trade, I also suspect Lorna thought I should brush up on the topic. I set the book aside because I was still heavily immersed in teaching my last class ever and reading about school reform. Little by little, however, I dabbled in the book and finally realized that I was reading a non-traditional and unorthodox environmental history of the United States. Just as Frederick Jackson Turner proposed

that our sense of nationalism, independence, and democracy came from the frontier experience, Eric Jay Dolin was now suggesting that at least 300 years of American history was strongly influenced by our relationship with our environment and, in particular, fur-bearing animals.

With 15 chapters and 90 pages of exhaustive endnotes, Dolin provides numerous examples to support his epic history of the fur trade in America. Beginning with beaver in colonial America, topics examined include but are not limited to Astoria, mountain men, John Jacob Astor (the richest man in America), sea otters in the Pacific northwest, and buffalo on the Plains. Dolin challenges accepted views of our nation’s past. For example, I had always been taught that the good Pilgrims and Puritans established a foothold in the New World because of “God and cod.” Dolin would change that to “the Bible and beaver.”

One chapter is devoted to Lewis and Clark and the role the expedition played in fur trade. Portraits of the captains are featured in full color on glossy pages in the middle of the book. (It is interesting to note that Clark’s portrait is larger than that of Lewis.) The role of Pierre Dorion, Sr., trapper and Sioux interpreter for Lewis and Clark, is mentioned as furthering the intense competition between Astor’s then Pacific Fur Company and Manuel Lisa’s Missouri Fur Company to secure the services of his son, Pierre Dorion, Jr. In addition, the amazing story of Marie Dorion is recounted. (Note: The Dorions will be examined further during our Mackinaw meeting.) Apparently even mountain man Jedediah Strong Smith had a Lewis and Clark connection. According to legend, when Smith was about age 16, a family friend gave him a copy of the recently published history of Lewis and Clark’s expedition, which captured his imagination and sparked his interest in the West.

No book is perfect. One glaring factual error occurs on page 212: “President James Monroe declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812.” On the very next page, thank goodness, the author states correctly that James Monroe was Secretary of State. In addition, one glaring omission in the book is the complete lack of any mention what-so-ever of Michilimackinac as the hub for Astor’s northern fur trade empire after the reorganization of the American Fur Company in

1817. Michilimackinac was settled in the first place because of furs. In 1634, Jean Nicolet became the first Frenchman to see Mackinac Island. It was because of the coureurs de bois that St. Ignace was established as the second oldest white settlement in Michigan as a fur trading settlement. (Note: This omission may be addressed in person by those who wish to visit Astor House on Mackinac Island during post trip #1 during the Mackinaw meeting.)

To this reviewer's knowledge, *Fur, Fortune, and Empire* is the most exhaustive one-volume comprehensive history of the fur trade ever written. In fact, it may be the best study of the subject from coast to coast since the 1961 two-volume set by Paul Chrisler Phillips, *The FurTrade*. Dolin ends with the near extinction of the buffalo around 1900 and the rise of the conservation movement, i.e. Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, et al. The author holds a Ph.D. in environmental policy and planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As such, it is merely speculation but he possibly would invite the reader to pursue this topic through both the age of conservation and perhaps into the current age of environmentalism and thereby confront the controversial concept of limits.

In order for a grand theory to become popular, much depends upon the timing of its introduction. Are readers ready for a different perspective? Whether valid or not, grand theories tend to spark and influence further investigations. Hopefully, *Fur, Fortune, and Empire* will do that. Theory is derived from formal education, reading, and informal discussions with colleagues and friends. This is precisely why the Ohio River Chapter holds periodic meetings including the one in and around Mackinaw City, Michigan, in May 2011. Because I know enough to know that I don't know it all, I'll be there.

Stan Spencer

*President Elect, Ohio River Chapter
Middleville, Michigan*

Bob Anderson will be bringing a couple of boxes of "give-away" books that were presented to him by Elizabeth Whalen. The books formerly belonged to her sister Mary Jane, a long-time member of the Foundation, now deceased. Mary Jane's interest in history also included Custer so there are books on him as well.

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)

The United States National Trails System began in 1968 with just two scenic trails, the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. In 1978 the category of historic trails was added and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) began. The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) connects member nonprofit trail organizations and federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails within the National Trails System. Trail partners include Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF), Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Mormon Trails Association, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, National Pony Express Association, Oregon-California Trails Association and Santa Fe Trail Association to name just a few of the more readily recognized names. Federal partners include the National Parks Service, the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, American Byways and the Federal Highway Administration, to name a few of these.

PNTS will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the legislation that created National Trails System in 2018. In preparation for this event, PNTS began the Decade of the Trails in 2008 with a series of goals to be achieved by the time of the half-century milestone. An update on these goals was published in PNTS's most recent quarterly magazine called *Pathways Across America* for Winter 2010-2011. The LCTHF and the LCNHT were features on 20% of the pages in this issue. Pictures included ones from the Cumberland Gap Regional Meeting, the Boy Scout Jamboree and the Illini Chapter Chicago Regional Outing. Articles accompanying the pictures describe our (LCTHF) activities and accomplishments relative to the goals set for the Decade of the Trails. This is an outstanding publication.

Some copies of *Pathways Across America* for Winter 2010-2011 will be available in exchange for a donation at the next chapter meeting in May 2011. To get on the PNTS mailing list, contact Julia Glad at 222 S. Hamilton Street Suite 13, Madison, WI 53703 or call 608-249-7870, or write to PNTSCommunications@gmail.com.

Lorna Hainesworth

Special Invitation to Mackinaw Meeting For Our Friends Near and Far

You are cordially invited to attend yet another fantastic meeting of the Ohio River Chapter in May, this time at the Straits of Mackinac in gorgeous northern Michigan (see itinerary and RSVP form elsewhere in this newsletter).

The site of our spring meeting is the furthest north our chapter has ever met. Even with the price of gas, the scenery, the fellowship, sharing, and overall pleasant learning experience will be worth the ride. If it seems a bit further than usual to travel for a chapter meeting, please remember all the times we Michiganians ventured to sites along and south of the Ohio River.

Inquiries regarding this “open” meeting have come from states as far east as Pennsylvania and as far west as Idaho. We have plenty of room so look over our schedule, plan your trip, and please RSVP.

Will you be at the Main meeting?

Do you want to sample a pasty?

Will you hang around for a day or two after the meeting itself?

See the registration form on page 4 above. If you have questions or need further details, please feel free to contact me at 269-795-2062 or spencer6845@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you at another successful and memorable ORC meeting.

Stan Spencer

President Elect

Ohio River Chapter

LCTHF

Email Note:

If you have not already done so, please send an email to Lorna Hainesworth lornament@comcast.net, Ohio River Chapter Communications Officer indicating that you are willing to receive your next *On The Ohio* (OTO) newsletter via email. The newsletter would come in the form of a PDF (which will probably be about 1MB in size) attached to an email addressed to you. The benefits of receiving your OTO newsletter via email are that the chapter saves money on paper and postage. Your Communications Officer uses less time in distributing the newsletter. Any pictures included in the newsletter will be in color. You have less paper to deal with and maybe we save a tree or two. Please be sure to write to Lorna as soon as possible, but no later than June 1, 2011.

[Clark]

May 14, 1804

Monday 14th a Cloudy morning fixing for a Start Some provisions on examination is found to be wet rain at 9 oClock many of the neighbours Came from the Countrey mail and freemail rained the greater part of the day, I set out at 4 oClock to the head of the first Island in the Missouri 6 Miles and incamped, on the Island rained. I refer to the Comsmt. [commencement] of my Journal No 1.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

1. 2011 LCTHF Annual Meeting—First Encounters—Omaha, NE & Council Bluffs, IA Metro Area, July 30—August 3, 2011. Email mouthoftheplatte@cox.net for more information
2. 2012 LCTHF Annual Meeting—“Nine young Men—Celebrating the Life of Sergeant Floyd, Clarksville, IN, July 29—August 1, 2010, Contact tourism@sunnysideoflouisville.org

Ohio River Chapter LCTHF
Lorna Hainesworth
9704 Tulsemere Road
Randallstown, MD 21133-2212