

***On the Ohio (and Elsewhere):
A History of the Ohio River Chapter of the
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation,
1997-2011***

Chronology

by

***Stan and Nancy Spencer
ORC Founding Members***

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| Summer 1996 | Initial discussion between Jon Stealey and Jim Holmberg of forming an Ohio River Chapter occurs during LCTHF Annual Meeting in Sioux City, Iowa. |
| Summer 1997 | The conversation regarding the formation of a Midwest regional chapter continues during a small informal group discussion late one night during the LCTHF annual meeting at Skamania Lodge near Stevenson, Washington, along the Columbia River. Jon Stealey and Tom Williams shake hands aboard the Columbia River paddle wheeler and agree to mail out “feelers” to all area LCTHF members as soon as possible after returning home. LCTHF furnishes a list of all members in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Tom and Jon meet at Findlay, Ohio, and mail letters to all area members. |
| October 25, 1997 | Thirty-two members attend first chapter meeting held at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville Kentucky, hosted by Jim Holmberg. |
| May 2, 1998 | Second chapter meeting held at University of Findlay (Ohio), hosted by Jon Stealey. Members view Stealey collection of Trail photos and tour Mazza Children’s Book Museum. |
| August 29, 1998 | Meeting at George Rogers Clark National Memorial in Vincennes, Indiana |
| November 8, 1998 | Tour of Capitol Square and the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus |

May 22, 1999 Meeting at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, hosted by Jim and Paula Mallory

August 2, 1999 Annual meeting of the LCTHF in Bismarck, North Dakota

October 8, 1999 Launching of the pirogues on the Ohio River, Louisville

March 24, 2000 Kick off to the Bicentennial meeting at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hosted by Stan and Nancy Spencer. Keynote address by Stephen Ambrose. ORC members who win lottery for the few tickets provided to us by the museum enjoy his talk. Bud Clark also presents to a full house the next day. Campsite display by Bob Anderson. Jon Stealey photographs on display. Captain Lewis attends (Skip Jackson).

Spring, 2000 Inaugural issue of the chapter newsletter "On the Ohio" is published by Brad Brakke, communications officer. Other officers include:
 President - Jon Stealey
 Vice President - Jim Holmberg
 Treasurer - Skip Jackson
 Secretary - Tom Williams
 President Elect - Jim Mallory

Ongoing (2000) ORC participates at school board association conventions in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky as well as the National School Boards Association convention in Orlando, Florida.. Blue bead bracelets serve as conversation starters and giveaways. Those contributing include Bod Anderson, Brad Brakke, Polly Brown, Jim Holmberg, John Holmberg, Skip Jackson, Steve Knowles, Jim Mallory, Bob Pilkington, Jon Stealey, Kay Williams, Tom Williams, Margaret Wozniak and Doug Wozniak.

Jim Mallory makes ORC cool name tags available for \$9.00. He also develops the Lewis and Clark exhibit for school board and other meetings, i.e. the Falls of the Ohio Lewis and Clark River Festival held for several years on the Louisville waterfront prior to the Bicentennial.

Summer 2000 23 ORC members attend national meeting in Dillon Montana. Memorable moments include smoke everywhere due to forest fires and crossing the Lemhi Pass on a tour bus. Jim Mallory tastes the cool waters at the source of the Mighty Missouri.

Tom Williams and Jon Stealey are elected to the LCTHF National Executive Board. Tom serves one year to finish out another board member's term and Jon is elected for two, three year terms.

September 17, 2000 ORC members meet President Clinton in the White House as William Clark is awarded a captain's commission posthumously. In addition, York is commissioned an honorary sergeant. Those attending include Bob Anderson, Bud Clark, Jim Holmberg, Jon Stealey, and Tom Williams.

October 21, 2000 Meeting held in Indianapolis at the Eiteljorg Museum of the American Indian and Western Art and at the Indiana Historical Society building. At dinner, Shane Blackman of Indiana University speaks about William Clark's life after the Expedition.

Winter 2000 ORC website is launched by Jim Scott (lewisandclarkontheohio.org)

ORC receives challenge cost share grant from the National Park Service (\$4973) for promotion of the eastern portion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Officers now include:

President - Jim Mallory
Vice President - Polly Brown
Secretary - Margaret Wozniak
Treasurer - Skip Jackson
Communications - Brad Brakke

Spring 2001 "The Eastern Legacy of Lewis and Clark" map/brochure is published as a joint project of the National Park Service and the Philadelphia and Ohio River Chapters. Frank Muhly of the Philadelphia Chapter and Skip Jackson of the ORC are the key people in the development of this publication.

May 19-20, 2001 Meeting held in Marietta, Ohio, and Wellsburg, West Virginia (burial site for Patrick Gass)

August 2001 32 members attend the LCTHF annual meeting in Pierre, South Dakota

October 20, 2001 Meeting held at Big Bone Lick State Park, Kentucky, to coincide with Salt Day Festival. Jim Holmberg speaks about William Clark and York at Bib Bone Lick and James Fitzgerald shares "NASA

Aerospace Education Program: Lewis and Clark Space Today.”

- April 13, 2002 During ORC spring meeting in Waynestown, Indiana, William Bratton historical marker is dedicated at Old Pioneer Cemetery. Effort is spearheaded by Esther Duncan. Author James Alexander Thom is the featured speaker.
- May 2002 After 10 years of intensive research by Jim Holmberg, a collection of 55 letters of William Clark to Jonathan Clark is published by Yale University. It is titled *Dear Brother*.
- Summer 2002 ORC hosts the LCTHF 34th annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Mary Margaret Clark grave marker, purchased by the chapter and the Kentucky Historical Society, is dedicated at Cave Hill Cemetery. Teacher Stan Spencer presents Power Point on the interdisciplinary connections of the Lewis and Clark story. Approximately 40 ORC members attend.
- August 1-4, 2002 Planned by Tom and Kay Williams. Bob Anderson, Ludd Trozpek, Carol Lynn MacGregor, and others, some ORC members participate in post-meeting Patrick Gass bus tour along the Ohio River. At Wellsburg, West Virginia, tour group dedicates a bust and marker for Patrick Gass and markers at Brooke Cemetery pointing the way to the Gass grave site.
- October 19, 2002 Fall meeting held in Greenville, Ohio, site of the Treaty of Greenville witnessed by both Lewis and Clark. During the business meeting, attendees are asked to introduce themselves and share their recent activities relative to the Lewis and Clark Expedition. For the next hour or more, topics explained include the following: Patrick Gass, Mary Maxwell Bratton, Nathaniel Pryor, George Drouillard, the St. Charles chapter’s bicentennial boat trip, trail travels, seasonal interpretation work, school curricula for grades K and 5, Monticello posters and teaching materials, the Lewis and Clark IMAX movie, the second signature event at the Falls of the Ohio, beading, and countless readings. Extreme dedication, devotion and engagement by ORC members is revealed.
- 2003-2004 Bills are introduced in both houses of Congress to recognize the eastern states as part of the Sea to Sea Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.
- January 2003 Because of the efforts of some ORC members and others, Indiana

residents are offered special Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorative license plates.

January 18, 2003 ORC members attend official bicentennial kick off at Monticello in 17 degree weather. Bob Anderson says a prayer which helps him survive the two hour ordeal of standing at attention overlooking Jefferson's west lawn during the re-enactment by the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles.

Spring 2003 Historical Markers program continues in high gear thanks in part to enthusiastic ORC members and at \$30,000 grant from the National Park Service. Markers include the following:

- Meriwether Lewis - Marietta, Ohio
- John Shields - West Point, Kentucky
- John Colter - Maysville, Kentucky
- Charles Floyd - Louisville, Kentucky
- York - Louisville, Kentucky
- M. Lewis and W. Clark - Big Bone Lick State Park, Kentucky
- Patrick Gass - Vincennes, Indiana
- William Clark - Shelbyville, Kentucky
- William Clark - Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Meriwether Lewis - Cincinnati, Ohio
- George Shannon - Lexington, Kentucky
- M. Lewis and W. Clark - Frankfort, Kentucky
- Robert Frazier - Henderson, Kentucky
- Wayside marker also dedicated at Wheeling wharf noting Lewis' 1803 visit there

May 17, 2003 ORC meets at the Cincinnati Museum Center Annex, Union Terminal, and Cincinnati Fire Museum. Officers at this time include:
President - Skip Jackson
Vice President - Polly Brown
Secretary - Julie Parke
Treasurer - Jerry Robertson
Communications - Brad Brakke

August 2003 Annual meeting in Philadelphia draws ORC members where Jon Stealey receives Distinguished Service Award from the LCTHF

August 31, 2003 Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (manned in part by some ORC members) shoves off from Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, on the Ohio River, for a three year bicentennial voyage.

- October 2003 Bicentennial signature event held at Falls of the Ohio. Special exhibit and reception is hosted by the Filson Historical Society.
- October 14, 2003 Statue of York unveiled on the river front in Louisville
- October 25, 2003 ORC meeting held in Clarksville, Indiana. Members hear fascinating talk by Missouri Historical Society curator Carolyn Gilman about her hunt for Lewis and Clark artifacts and her monumental publication, *Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide*.
- Winter 2004 Thanks to the efforts of Tom Williams and Jon Stealey, official ORC patches are made available for \$5.00 as a fund raiser for the chapter.
- May 15, 2004 ORC meets in St. Charles Missouri, and Wood River, Illinois, as part of a national bicentennial signature event. Jon Stealey introduces Wendy Rainy, newly hired national coordinator and liaison to the various chapters. LCTHF pulls out of signature event because of lack of funds; ORC members set up and man booth through the festival. Jon Stealey, Esther Duncan, and a few others keep the Foundation name in front of the public.
- Fall 2004 (?) Planned by Polly Brown, ORC meets at Fort Miegs (state park) near Fallen Timbers and Toledo, Ohio. ORC members meet for dinner in Toledo at the restaurant made famous by Klinger on the television show M*A*S*H.
- May 21, 2005 ORC meets at the Indiana State Museum and Conner Prairie Historical Village near Indianapolis. Officers at this time include:
 President - Jerry Robertson
 President Elect - Tom Williams
 Vice President - Jerry Wilson
 Treasurer - Brad Brakke
 Secretary - Esther Duncan
 Communications - Stan and Nancy Spencer
- August 6-10, 2005 LCTHF Annual Meeting held on the campus of Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Although national attendance is down somewhat, 23 ORC members enjoy all-day trip on the Columbia River, a salmon cook-out, and a historically accurate final banquet.
- October 8, 2005 ORC meets in conjunction with the Mississinewa 1812 Living History Event near Marion, Indiana. After viewing battle re-enactment, visiting with owners of Newfoundland dogs, and listening

to an informative presentation on the medical aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, Jerry Wilson gives Stan Spencer up for dead after he passes out and is rushed to the Marion hospital.

April 7-9, 2006

ORC hosts outstanding Eastern Regional Meeting in and around Washington, Pennsylvania. Members visit Fort Necessity National Battlefield, Friendship Hill National Historic Site (home of Albert Gallatin), and the grave of Sgt. Patrick Gass in Wellsburg, West Virginia.

During this period, ORC officers are:

Tom Williams, president

Jerry Wilson, vice-president and programs

Esther Duncan, secretary

Brad Brakke, treasurer

Stan and Nancy Spencer, communications

Directors are Polly Brown, Jim Holmberg, Jim Mallory, Jerry Robertson, and Margaret Wozniak.

August 4-6, 2006

Special ORC summer meeting meets at Grand Chain Lodge in extreme southern Illinois along the Ohio River to study vital recruiting and preparation for the Corps of Discovery. Sites visited include Fort Massac, Cantonment Wilkersonville, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers confluence, old Fort Defiance, old Fort Jefferson, and the Cairo (Illinois) Custom House Museum. Planned by teachers Jerry and Janice Wilson, this gathering sets the standard for future multi-day ORC meetings.

September 17-19, 2006

LCTHF Annual Meeting held in St. Louis to dovetail with the final Bicentennial Signature Event, "Currents of Change." ORC members help celebrate the safe return of the expedition.

April 20-21, 2007

ORC Monroe, Michigan meeting "Remembers the Raisin!" Planned by Stan and Nancy Spencer and Tom and Kay Williams, the meeting includes a tour of the River Raisin Battlefield where William Bratton was captured in 1813, "Outfitting the Expedition" at Cabela's, four perspectives on George Drouillard presented by a national panel of Jim Thom, Paul Drouillard, Barbara Lehman, and Roger Wendlick, and presentations by Bud Clark.. As part of their "family reunion," Drouillards attend from across the country as their ancestor was born in the regional area. Reception is held in their honor at the Monroe County History Museum.

- August 2007 LCTHF Annual meeting held in Charlottesville, Virginia. Those ORC members who attend are special guests at Monticello and the University of Virginia
- October 19-21, 2007 ORC meets at Big Bone State Park near Union, Kentucky, and celebrates William Clark's dig for mega-mammal bones at the request of President Thomas Jefferson for study at the American Philosophical Society. Jon Stealey demonstrates his handmade camera obscura, a replica of the one Jefferson purchased in 1794.
- April 26, 2008 ORC meets in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and visits the Lincoln Museum, the Fort Wayne Historical Society Old City Hall Museum, and the Allen County Public Library Geneology Center. ORC officers at this time include:
 President - Jerry Wilson
 Vice President - Bob Anderson
 Treasurer - Brad Brakke
 Secretary - Skip Medley
 Communications - Stan and Nancy Spencer
 Board of Directors consists of Esther Duncan, Jim Mallory, Jerry Robertson, Tom Williams, and Margaret Wozniak.
- May 8, 2008 President Bush signs Public Law 110-229 (S-2739) authorizing the Department of Interior to conduct a feasibility study related to extension of the Lewis and Clark National Heritage Trail. The Ohio River Chapter has been a supporter and leader in this initiative from day one.
- June 2008 ORC member Dr. Claudia Crump awards twelve teachers Lewis and Clark "Ambassador" certificates after they complete an intensive three week institute at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany supported in part by the Ohio River Chapter.
- August 10-13, 2008 LCTHF Annual Meeting held in Great Falls, Montana. Besides taking part in the normally exceptional activities, the Spencer family gets more than they bargain for when their raft overturns on the Missouri River float trip. Their granddaughters are sucked under a "shelf" but are rescued by local volunteer Russ Waring. The next day, the granddaughters are presented certificates of bravery and Biddle Bears by the LCTHF.
- August 2008 ORC members Jerry and Janice Wilson and Jerry and Linda Robertson win the 2008 national Lewis and Clark Fitness Challenge

for eating well, practicing good fitness, exploring the trail, picking up litter, and bringing new people to Lewis and Clark. For their efforts, they are awarded walking sticks.

- September 26-28, 2008 ORC co-hosts fall regional meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Its theme is surveying and cartography. Planned primarily by our own Lorna Hainesworth and Richard Prestholdt from the Philadelphia Chapter, the meeting rivals any national meeting for its meticulous precision and international scholarship.
- May 8-9, 2009 ORC meets in St. Clairesville, Ohio, near the West Virginia border and focuses on the early life and family of George Shannon. Lorna Hainesworth introduces an unknown letter written by Meriwether Lewis to William Linnard in Philadelphia on June 6, 1803, which corrects some misconceptions and fills in some critical gaps regarding the preparation phase of the expedition. Her scholarly findings are published that summer in *We Proceeded On*.
- September 5, 2009 ORC holds unusual summer meeting in Springfield, Ohio, during the fair at New Boston which portrays a typical day in the time period 1780-1810. Lorna Hainesworth continues her national campaign to replace the word “buffalo” with the more correct word “bison.”
- October 3-7, 2009 LCTHF Annual Meeting held in Olive Branch, Mississippi (near Memphis) and along the Natchez Trace in Tennessee. It commemorates the death of Meriwether Lewis and officially brings to a close the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. Attendees enjoy an outdoor meal of beef stew and bread served at Grinder’s Stand.
- May 8-10, 2010 Some ORC members attend Illini Chapter’s regional outing in Chicago. Highlights include a private viewing of the Joseph Whitehouse Journal at the Newberry Library and a historic bus tour of Chicago.
- May 22, 2010 ORC spring meeting held in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, site of the Battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, Fort Randolph and the grave of Shawnee Chief Cornstalk. New officers elected include:
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| President | Bob Anderson |
| President-Elect | Stan Spencer |
| Vice-President | Jerry Wilson |
| Secretary | Kay Williams |
| Treasurer | Skip Jackson |
| Communications | Lorna Hainesworth |

Directors

Jerry Robertson, Tom Williams, Margaret Wozniak, Jim Keith, and Janice Wilson

- July 29-August 6, 2010 LCTHF Annual Meeting held in Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington. The focus is on the Nez Perce and their encounter with the Corps of Discovery.
- November 5-7, 2010 ORC co-hosts the regional meeting at the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park where members walk in the footsteps of Lewis, Clark, and Sheheke.
- May 13-15, 2011 Open ORC meeting held in Mackinaw City, Michigan, and the Straits of Mackinac where the focus is on the Northwest Passage, the fur trade, and the French influence upon the Lewis and Clark Expedition.