

Oregon Chapter



Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

May 2021

- **President's Corner:**
Glen Kirkpatrick
- **York Bust installed**
Surreptitiously in Mt.
Tabor Park
- **2021 National Meeting:**
Clarkston, Washington



President's Corner



Dear Chapter Members,

As a geologist, I marvel at William Clark's maps and have used them to navigate my kayak from Bonneville Dam to Fort Clatsop. In doing so, I have developed a deep appreciation and understanding of what he notes on his maps. A significant and amazing example of Clark's mapmaking and observational skills is his careful mapping of the location of sand bars observed as the Corps descended the Columbia River. Cartographic recording of these sand bars meets the geologic definition of a delineated rock formation, so Clark can claim credit for making the very first geologic map in Oregon and Washington. This mapping and his Journal entries both provide evidence to present-day

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York Bust Installed Surreptitiously in Mt. Tabor Park

Soon after vandals toppled the Gutzon Borglum statue of Harvey Scott on Mt. Tabor, an anonymous artist placed a bust of York on the empty pedestal, complete with interpretive label. See p. 2 for the text. Park officials have kept it in place for the time being. In less than a month, the pedestal had been vandalized with graffiti and the interpretive label torn down.



In a night-time installation, a mystery artist and friends placed a larger-than-life bust of York atop an empty pedestal in Mt. Tabor Park. The artist modeled it after a Ghanaian friend, reflecting York's possible heritage. It drew nationwide coverage during Black History Month.

York

The first African American to cross North America and reach the Pacific Coast.

Born into slavery in the 1770's to the family of William Clark, York became a member of the 1804 Lewis and Clark Expedition. Though York was an enslaved laborer, he performed all the duties of a full member of the expedition. He was a skilled hunter, negotiated trade with Native American communities, and tended to the sick. Upon his return east with the Corps of Discovery, York asked for his freedom. Clark refused his request.

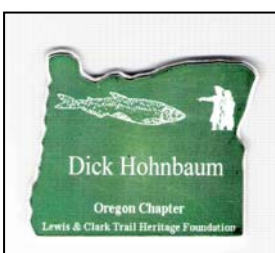
The date and circumstances of his death are unclear.

The panel text accompanying the York bust placed under cover of darkness in Mt. Tabor Park in February, 2021.



Oregon Chapter Name Badges

Send \$10 and your name (as you want it to appear) to **Ellie McClure**, 17760 S.W. Cheyenne Way, Tualatin, OR 97062
Ellie.McClure@or-lcthf.org



CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

EXPLORE MORE!

Thelma Haggemiller leads **Explore More!**, a series of chapter trips which include a Lewis & Clark connection but also help members learn about other historical and cultural events that happened since that time.

Watch this newsletter, your mail, your e-mail, and especially the chapter website for more information and details.



Chapter members tour the Oregon Vault in May, 2019. The Gresham storage facility holds most of the extensive collections of the Oregon Historical Society. Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk (right) explained the accession and de-accessioning policies and provided a tip-of-the-iceberg view of several types of collections.

Chapter Initiatives — PNW Region

Our chapter is planning the combination of administrative functions with our sister chapters in Washington and Idaho into a Pacific Northwest Region.

Oregon Chapter officers **Glen Kirkpatrick** and

Ted Kaye have volunteered to serve as the regional board's vice chair and treasurer, along with two representatives each from the Idaho and Washington Chapters.

Our current plan has the combination occurring at

the end of our fiscal year at September 30, 2021.

The resulting regional newsletter will replace the individual chapter newsletters in 2022.

A single website will list information for all three chapters.



2021 Chapter Events — Check the Website!

May 15, 10-3+ Pillar Rock. Joint meeting with the Washington Chapter: presentation by **Mike Rees** & cannery tour.

June/July Dedication of the NeCus Park artwork, Cannon Beach.

August 7, Noon Summer picnic at Lewis & Clark Circle, Washington Park, Portland.

Pandemic precautions have constrained our in-person meetings—we plan more in the fall.

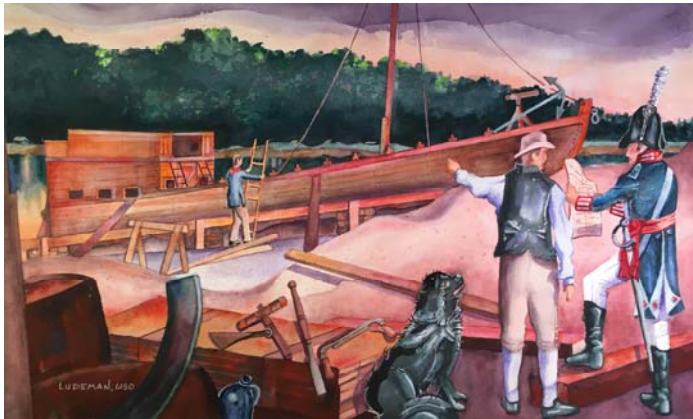
Watch your e-mail and visit our website for more details on all upcoming events:
www.or-lcthf.org



Steve Ludeman's L&C Art

Chapter member **Steve Ludeman**, combining his love of art and L&C history, plans a series of 20 paintings for LCTHF, telling the story of Lewis & Clark on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

Below is the first. When completed, the exhibition will be "an artist's view of the Corps of Discovery, Eastern Legacy". We look forward to the full series.



"Final inspection": Captain Lewis beginning his final inspection of the new keelboat in the Pennsylvania boatyard.

President's Corner ... continued

(Continued from page 1)

geologists that the explorers had missed a recent major eruption of Mt. Hood.

On Clark's map shows no sand bars in the Columbia upstream from the confluence with the Labiche (Hood) River (red arrow). Below this confluence, Clark maps sand bars (blue arrows). This is direct evidence of an eruption of Mt. Hood that deposited volcanic ash that came down Hood River into the Columbia (just as the Toutle deposited volcanic ash in the Columbia after the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens). This is corroborated by Lewis's Journal entry of April 14, 1806: *the bed [of the Columbia] is principally rock except at the*

entrance of Labuish's [Hood] River which heads in Mount hood and like the quicksand [Sandy] river brings down from thence vast bodies of sand.

Whitehouse provides more detail on November 3, 1805, when he arrives at the Quicksand [Sandy] River delta: *The mouths or entrance*



Chapter Board

Officers:

Glen Kirkpatrick, President '21
Lyn Trainer, Vice Pres. '22
Mark Johnson, Secretary '21
Ellie McClure, Treasurer '22

Directors:

Alec Burpee '21
Thelma Haggemiller '22
Mary Johnson '21
Ted Kaye '22
Roger Wendlick '21
Jon Burpee, *ex officio*
Hannah Crummé, *ex officio*
Larry McClure, *ex officio*

Please contact **Glen Kirkpatrick** (e-mail address below) with interest in Chapter service. We have four open positions.



www.or-lcthf.org

There is far more L&C information available on our website!

Please check it for the latest updates on Chapter activities and for photos of our events.

We're sending fewer postcards, so watch the website for updates.



Pioneers in Oregon reported eruptions of Mt. Hood in 1859 and 1865. Like Mount St. Helens, Hood is only asleep and someday will likely wake up with future eruptions.

An eruption of Mt. Hood was witnessed by the aid of glasses from Portland on Friday last. Immense clouds of ashes filled the air, through which, at times, flashes of fire were perceptible. Terrible land slides were also frequently seen; and with the snow which has been melted away from the side on which the eruption took place, the appearance of its summit is entirely changed.

Pioneer and Democrat, Olympia, WT. 8/26/1859.



Sons & Daughters of Oregon Pioneers: a sister group

Descendants of pioneers who arrived in the Oregon Country before 1859 form today's SDOP. Through its annual banquet (February) picnic (July), and museum visits (April, June, September), members celebrate and explore Oregon history.

SDOP invites our chapter members to join in.

Not descended? You can join as a "Friend". **Learn more at oregonsdop.org.**



Your most humble and obedient servant,
Glen Kirkpatrick
glen9774@gmail.com



**Lewis & Clark Trail
Heritage Foundation
Oregon Chapter**

17760 S.W. Cheyenne Way
Tualatin, OR 97062

www.or-lcthf.org

The next national meeting:
Clarkston, Wash., September 11-13, 2021
see www.lewisandclark.org



Melissa Darby on “Old John and the Spider Skillet” – February 2021

Anthropologist **Melissa Darby** explained the origins of a L&C artifact to 21 members in a recent virtual presentation.

Old John, a Klickitat Indian who lived on the lower Columbia River near present-day Sandy Oregon, said he was a boy when the first “Bostons” on the Columbia River gave his father a cast-iron three-legged “spider” skillet. It was donated to the Oregon Historical Society in 1905 by one of Old John’s neighbors.

Darby showed evidence suggesting that this skillet was part of the equipment of the Corps of Discovery. One of its maps shows marks likely made when the skillet was placed on it as a paperweight.

Darby is an affiliated research faculty member in the Anthropology Department at Portland State University and an authority on the ethno-history of the native peoples of the lower Columbia River.



Melissa Darby links Old John and the spider skillet to Lewis & Clark.