



Photo by Steve Lee

Photo by Steve Lee

photo by Aleria Flick



Aerial view of James Madison's Montpelier,
South Yard, and Stable Quarters

The LCTHF's 52nd Annual Meeting, "Home Places and New Spaces," Is Now a Virtual Conference from August 3 to 5, 2020.

In the spirit of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the LCTHF's 2020 meeting planners remain undaunted in the face of the limitations of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In proceeding online with the Lewis and Clark Expedition's "Home Places and New Spaces" in Virginia, the planners have worked to surmount the challenges of our current stay-at-home

situation. The virtual meeting will offer a new online space to explore while experiencing new places. Featured will be a narrated tour of the Lewis Family burial ground; a virtual tour of Monticello and Montpelier; interactive opportunities including a photography project whereby participants will create a portrait of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail—please send photos IN ADVANCE to Sarah Cawley at director@lewisandclark.org; a virtual tour of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center and their interactive program "A Vote for Democracy" where participants can make their own expedition decisions based on historic texts; and a walking tour of Charlottesville's Lewis and Clark-related sites.

Talks with real-time question and answer sessions will be given by, among others, Montpelier scholar Elizabeth Chew and Moulton Lecturer J. Jefferson Looney. Social opportunities include virtual-host chat rooms, a wine/cocktail hour, and some historic recipes for food and drink which can be prepared ahead of time.

Online time ranges from one to four hours each day. Live programs will be taped for later viewing. Registrants will receive easy-to-follow instructions about how to access meetings, chat rooms, and websites offering videos and meeting materials. For more guidance, Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center Executive Director Alexandria Searls will be available to answer questions. She is also offering, for a small fee, one-on-one online tutorials to enhance registrants' comfort level with the process. Please contact Alexandria at alexandriasearls@gmail.com for more information.

Conference tickets may be purchased at <http://homefrontchapter.eventbrite.com/>. Your participation is vital! We look forward to going back to the future of our organization and our country together.

Travelers' Rest Chapter Discusses Plans for the LCTHF's 53rd Annual Meeting in Missoula, MT, from October 4 to 9, 2021.

Travelers' Rest: Crossroads of Travel, Trade, and Time is the theme of the program that hopes to bring together scholars, tribal elders, history buffs, and trail experts who will examine Lewis and Clark's travels through this region in 1805 and 1806. Participants will explore the rugged and beautiful landscapes of Montana and Idaho and learn more about the Salish and Nez Perce Indians who helped the Corps of Discovery members succeed in their mission. Please check the LCTHF website <https://lewisandclark.org> for updates.



Footbridge over the Clarks Fork River in Missoula, MT. Photo by Philippa Newfield

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Traveling Map Exhibit. Under the leadership of historian Carolyn Gilman, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is developing a mobile map exhibit called "Reimagining America: The Maps of Lewis and Clark." The exhibit will be offered to visitor centers, libraries, schools, and historical societies throughout the country, beginning in the fall. Fundraising for the map project has already begun and will continue throughout the summer. Checks with a notation for the map exhibit can be sent to LCTHF, PO Box 3434, Great Falls, MT 59403.



Lewis and Clark map, with annotations in brown ink by Meriwether Lewis, showing the Mississippi, the Missouri for a short distance above Kansas, Lakes Michigan, Superior, and Winnipeg, and the country onwards to the Pacific. Courtesy *Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Louisiana: European Explorations and the Louisiana Purchase*

Down the Ohio 1803: The Journey Begins is the theme of the LCTHF's 54th Annual Meeting from August 7 to 10, 2022, in Pittsburgh, PA, now the start of the newly expanded Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, which traverses 4,900 miles from Pittsburgh to Astoria, OR. In partnering with the Senator John Heinz History Center and the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation, the LCTHF's meeting will focus on Lewis' preparations in Pittsburgh through talks, activities, and a cruise down the Ohio to see the river and its shoreline as Lewis may have seen them. The meeting headquarters will be the Drury Plaza Pittsburgh Downtown.

Located atop Pittsburgh's Mount Washington overlooking the Ohio River is the historic marker, dedicated in August 2019, commemorating the inception of Lewis' trip "Down the Ohio in 1803." Upriver from the sign is the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, which come together to form the Ohio River. Downriver is Brunot(s) Island, the first stop for Lewis and his crew on their westward journey.

Brunots Island is the site of the nearly tragic incident with the air gun in which a woman was shot but quickly recovered. Lewis mentioned in his journal that Blais(z)e Cenas was the person on the island who fired the air gun and inadvertently hit the woman. Cenas became a postmaster in New Orleans and is buried in that city's cemetery. Thomas Rodney, traveling down the Ohio at the same time as Lewis, also described the air gun in his journal. Rodney later became a respected judge in the Mississippi Territory. *Submitted by Jerry Wilson*



Down the Ohio in 1803. The historic marker commemorates the start of Lewis' westward journey in Pittsburgh, PA, the newly designated beginning of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Eastern Extension of the Trail was signed into law by President Donald Trump on March 12, 2019. *Photo by Janice Wilson*

Garry Bush Puts the Coronavirus Pandemic in Historical Perspective. Having taught history at Lewiston (ID) High School for 30 years, Garry is well positioned to contrast the previous epidemics that plagued the United States, among them the Spanish flu in 1918 and later polio, with Covid-19. In the era before vaccines and antibiotics, people were more accustomed to seeing this kind of devastation, especially from childhood illnesses, and consequently did everything possible to avoid contagion. Historical data from 1918 show that cities that closed businesses and had people stay home or wear masks when out suffered fewer deaths than those that did not advise their residents to take these precautions.

People a century ago, according to Garry, were quite willing to say, "This is what we have to do and we had better do it or little children are at stake here." Garry and Steven Branting, institutional historian at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, created a series of articles for the Lewiston Tribune to enable readers to look back in history and perhaps increase their understanding of the rationale for the current guidelines developed to mitigate the effects of the novel coronavirus. Garry is co-owner of Idaho History Tours, specializing in historic walking and trolley tours, and presents Lewis and Clark historic reenactments. *Submitted by Craig Clohessy, managing editor of the Lewiston Tribune*



Historian, Tour Guide, and Reenactor Garry Bush as Toussaint Charbonneau. *Photo by Steve Lee*

How I Got "Enrolled" in the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. A very long time ago I decided to study the American Indians west of the Mississippi. In the 1980's my wife Agnes and I started touring the Indians' areas. During the times we spent travelling the West, we kept seeing roadside signs publicizing the "Trail." On one trip in 1997 we decided to visit Fort Benton, MT, and took a four-day raft excursion from there to the Judith Outtake. As guided by Larry Cook and his team, that was one of the most fantastic tours ever.

Right after that, I believe, we went up to Cut Bank in search of the fight site. I asked the motel clerk how I could find the fight site. He suggested I get in touch with Larry Epstein. I called Larry and he bubbled over about Lewis and Clark. After about 15 minutes of bubbling, Larry stopped mid-sentence and said, "You ARE a member of LCTHF, aren't you?" "No," said I, and Larry threatened not to help me further unless I joined post haste. So I agreed. And Larry also sent me to a crop-duster friend of his for an aerial tour of the fight site. The young pilot charged me 25 or 30 dollars, and I got to see a lot more than the fight site. He was an Eagle Scout in Larry's Boy Scout troop and knew volumes about the area. *Submitted by Dick Brooks*



Where friends meet: On the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail of course. Taking a break along the way are LCTHF members (l to r) Dick Brooks, Dick's wife Agnes, Mill Jenkinson, Pamela Michael (standing), and Kimberly Michael.

Tribute Gifts to Honor and Remember

When you make a donation to the LCTHF you may, at the same time, designate that the gift be a tribute given in honor of or as a remembrance of someone important to you or to the LCTHF. A contribution made for any reason, whether directed to a specific fund, project, or wherever the need is greatest, becomes a tribute when you indicate your intention and the recipient's name at the time of your donation. The LCTHF values contributions made as tributes and will recognize the donors and their designees in each issue of *We Proceeded On*.

Former LCTHF Board Member Ken Jutzi Receives Special Recognition for Going Above and Beyond.



Ken Jutzi with Gary Moulton

The LCTHF is grateful to Ken for taking the lead in helping with office operations. Ken has done extensive research and spent untold hours working with our member database. He also monitors our systems closely. Ken's special brand of painstaking trailblazing

through uncharted territory, akin to Clark's cartography, is the kind of generous, detail-oriented contribution that he has been making to the LCTHF for decades. The LCTHF is in Ken's debt.

New Tax Deduction for 2020: Congress recently passed the CARES ACT. This coronavirus relief bill includes [a provision allowing individuals to deduct up to \\$300 from their taxes](#), even if they do not itemize. If you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you will be filing in 2021), you can claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations to charity that you make in 2020. Donations to donor advised funds and certain organizations that support charities are not deductible.

Calling all Shelterers-at-Home and Long-Distance Learners and Explorers: The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Has Activities for You!

Color the Trail: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail's new *Color the Trail* series invites you to get to know species of the Trail through our coloring pages. *Color the Trail: Animals* features the Trail's creatures with their names in Chinuk Wawa, Lakota, Arikara, Shoshoni, Osage, Hidatsa, Blackfoot, Nimipuutimt, and Mandan. *Color the Trail: Birds* describes species in the *Journals of Lewis and Clark*. Birds: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/color-the-trail-birds-of-lewis-and-clark.htm>
Animals: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/color-the-trail-animals-of-lewis-and-clark.htm>.



Virtual Learning Series—Fridays with a

Ranger: Put on your hiking boots, or your slippers will do . . . Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail invites you on a virtual adventure: *Fridays with a Ranger*. Journey with our park rangers every Friday from your favorite chair as they tour you through the landscapes, animals, wildlife, and people of Lewis and Clark's world and today. [FridayswithaRangerVideos](https://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm#friday)

Travel the Trail Virtually: Here's another activity while you are sheltering at home. You can explore all 4,900 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from your living room on our website: <https://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm>. You'll find amazing interactive maps linking sites along the Trail's 4,900 miles from Pittsburgh all

the way to the Pacific Ocean!

Virtual Passport Stamp: Attention stampers! Hidden somewhere on our Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail website is our new virtual visitor stamp. Click around <https://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm> to find more about the people, places, and stories of the Trail, and see if you can find the stamp.

Take a Virtual Trail Trip with the Lewis and Clark Pups: Relive the 2018 Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and International Space Station journey of the Lewis and Clark Pups by visiting the [Newfie News Blog](https://www.nps.gov/lecl/index.htm#newfie).

Participate in the Junior Ranger Program: Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail has a web-based Junior Ranger program! Visit Junior Ranger Online: <https://www.nps.gov/lecl/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm>

For additional information about the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, visit www.nps.gov/lecl and join the Twitter and Facebook conversations at: www.twitter.com/LewisClarkTrail and www.facebook.com/lewisandclarknht.

Submitted by Ashley Danielson, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

LCTHF's Online Presence: "Best in the Lewis and Clark World." Lewis and Clark and their companions have proceeded further on into cyberspace through the LCTHF's recent online upgrade and expansion accomplished with the help of Sarah Cawley, LCTHF's executive director, and Kris Townsend, LCTHF's webmaster since 2016.

Updated LCTHF website: Kris recently worked to revamp the home and interior pages of the [LCTHF website](#) into an easy-to-read format with a cleaner look and user-friendly features. He was assisted in the conceptual design by LCTHF members Amanda and Josh DeBonis, Gary Kimsey, Steve Lee, and Lou Ritten.

New Facebook page: A new nonprofit-organization page, *Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation*, was created earlier this year for LCTHF and chapter news and events. The new page differs from the LCTHF's public group page by the same name on which anyone can post any type of information. In contrast, on the new site, the LCTHF staff review and approve all items before their posting. To reach the new site, type [@lewisandclarkthf](#) into the Facebook search feature. If you type in the name "Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation," you may be taken to the public group rather than LCTHF's non-profit page.

"The new page keeps the postings more specific and organized so folks can find information quickly and easily. Hopefully that will help us reach more people. It also presents events across the entire Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the Eastern Legacy in one space on Facebook," said Sarah who created the new page. Please send the items you would like posted on this site to Sarah at director@lewisandclark.org.

New Instagram account: Sarah has also created an Instagram account to post photographs and videos about Lewis and Clark and related activities. Follow the Instagram account by typing its address—[@lewis_clarkthf](#)—into your browser. Sarah is always looking for content to post. Please send photos and videos to her at director@lewisandclark.org.

Discovering Lewis and Clark: As accessed through [lewis-clark.org](#), this site offers incredible information about Lewis and Clark, their companions, and their era for researchers, educators, and enthusiasts. *Discovering Lewis and Clark* went live in 1998. During the ensuing decades, the site continued to have 1990s design and navigation, which made it difficult to use in today's fast-paced cyber world where people are accustomed to finding information rapidly and easily.

Kris revised and created new coding to remake the site. He eliminated or combined the site's 2,400 pages into 1,400. During this past year, he added another 1,100 pages for the home page's day-to-day account of the explorers' activities. Included are footnotes and links to more information, as well as audio narration with lively music that recounts each expedition day in 1805 and 1806. The redesign was a time-consuming challenge for Kris, but well worth the effort. The site now offers a cornucopia of information highlighted by photographs and artwork.

"Thanks to the creativity and skills of Kris and Sarah, our online presence is the best in the Lewis and Clark world," said LCTHF President Lou Ritten. "Our improved and expanded web offerings will help us immensely in fulfilling our mission as 'Keepers of the Story, Stewards of the Trail.' I encourage everyone to visit these sites and recommend them to your friends. Please click on the 'Like' and 'Follow' icons and 'Share' to your heart's content to help expand the LCTHF's online presence even further." *Submitted by Gary Kimsey*

Accessing LCTHF's Online Sites

- **LCTHF website**
<https://lewisandclark.org>
- **Facebook**
[@lewisandclarkthf](#)
- **Instagram**
[@lewis_clarkthf](#)
- **Discovering Lewis and Clark**
[lewis-clark.org](#)

To contact Sarah Cawley:
director@lewisandclark.org

Chapter News

Chapter Meetings the Virtual Way. Two LCTHF chapters overcame concerns generated by the coronavirus pandemic, at least in terms of its effect on chapter gatherings, by turning to video-conferencing. In February, the Meriwether Lewis Chapter in Hohenwald, TN, conducted a video-conference meeting for members around the nation. Participants were able to talk with LCTHF President Lou Ritten, Treasurer Yvonne Kean, and Executive Director Sarah Cawley who were then in Tennessee as part of their meetings with Eastern Legacy chapters.

The Meriwether Lewis Chapter has been meeting by video-conferencing for the past two years. Hohenwald, as the site of Meriwether Lewis' grave, gets a lot of out-of-town visitors who often become chapter members. "The chapter has found that video-conferencing helps to stay in contact with them," said Crystal Nash, chapter president. How are the meetings received by members? "It's like one happy family," Crystal responded. "All we're missing is cornbread to make it perfect."

In mid-April, the Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter held its first video-conference meeting with 25 members. While most participants live in the Greater Kansas City Area, others attended from Arizona, California, Connecticut, and Nebraska. "We were pleased with how the meeting turned out," said Yvonne, also Riverbend treasurer. "It was nice to visit with people and see their faces." After members introduced themselves on screen, the nearly two-hour gathering proceeded on to general business, reports, and a book club discussion. Talk was lively; viewers liked being able to see others as they spoke. Yvonne noted that video-conferencing is a good option these days. "It's definitely a great tool to use," she said.



Missouri-Kansas Riverbend Chapter members attend their first video-conference chapter meeting via Zoom. *Photo by Dan Sturdevant*

Crystal said her chapter uses a program called FreeConferenceCall because there is no cost or limit on how many viewers can attend. Riverbend used Zoom. Although Zoom's free version stipulates a broadcast of up to 40 minutes and no more than 100 participants, the Riverbend chapter boosted these limits by purchasing an upgrade.

Crystal and Yvonne both recommend preliminary run-throughs before going live with a meeting. "Test the equipment, know how it's going to run, and practice, practice, practice," Crystal advised. Get equipment up, running, and tested at least half an hour before a meeting. Educate participants in advance of their first meeting as some may be unfamiliar with certain aspects of computers, she said.

For the Riverbend meeting, Dan Sturdevant, the chapter president, scheduled the meeting date and time through Zoom online. Yvonne sent out an email with instructions on how to join the meeting either by using a computer or notebook device like iPad and Kindle or by calling in by phone. Yvonne and Dan thought some members might have trepidation about the process, so the email also suggested contacting either of them for a test run-through prior to the meeting. "It's simple: click the link and make sure your video and audio are on," Yvonne said. "People quickly picked up how to make it work." *Submitted by Gary Kimsey*



Indiana General Assembly Adopts *HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51* on March 9, 2020, in Honor of the 250th Anniversary of William Clark's Birth on August 1, 1770.

The resolution was introduced by Representatives Matt Pierce, Edward D. Clere, Thomas E. Saunders, Matthew S. Lehman, Stephen R. Bartels, Ronald A. Bacon, Ryan D. Hatfield, Holli Anne Sullivan, Wendy M. McNamara, Randy Lyness, Randall L. Frye, Terry A. Goodin, Rita Fleming, Karen Engleman, and Sharon K. Negele and sponsored by Senators Ronald T. Grooms and Mark A. Stoops. In shepherding the resolution through the House, Representative Pierce

worked with Representative Clere to make the resolution a bipartisan effort by gaining the support of all House members from districts along the Ohio River as coauthors.

Both the Indiana Lewis and Clark Expedition Commission and Indiana Lewis and Clark Foundation number Indiana state representatives and senators among their members. They have worked for years to educate other elected officials at the national, state, and local levels about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The story of how the Eastern Extension to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail became the law of the land reached its final chapter when LCTHF Board Member Jerry Wilson met his Congressman Luke Messer in Washington, DC, during Hike the Hill, the annual advocacy program sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System and the American Hiking Society. Subsequently, Senator Todd Young (R-IN) introduced the bill in the U.S. Senate after Congressman Messer's bill passed the U.S. House. We had to wait until the next session of Congress in 2019 for the bill to pass and be signed into law by President Donald Trump. Indiana's federal and state representatives and senators stand as excellent examples of the value of working to ensure that your elected officials know the Lewis and Clark story. *Submitted by Phyllis Yeager*

Happy 250th William Clark! William Clark was probably named after William Bird Richards, his father's stepfather. Clark's father John was only nine when his own father died, and his mother remarried soon afterwards. Richards, a man of "wealth and prominence" in Caroline County, Virginia, lived long enough to know and perhaps help nurture William Clark as a young boy. Richards also must have had something to do with bringing Clark's parents together—he and Ann Rogers were cousins. He and John Clark were also cousins. It's no wonder that colonial Virginia families have been described as "a tangle of fishhooks, so closely interlocked that it is impossible to pick up one without drawing three or four after it."

William Clark spent his Virginia childhood at the heart of a large Clark-Rogers kinship network that included five (much older) brothers and four sisters, not to mention uncles, aunts, cousins, and two living grandparents. One of his uncles apparently had more than thirty children. Clark was more fortunate than Meriwether Lewis (or than his own father) in having both his parents live into their 70s. When the family moved to Kentucky in Clark's early adolescence, they were accompanied by three of William's younger sisters and met there by older brothers, including George Rogers Clark, who had already made the move. What's perhaps less well known is that a number of Clark and Rogers cousins eventually wound up in Kentucky too. Thus, a reconfigured, and apparently equally nourishing, kinship network was formed.

Clark shares a 1770 birthday with two towering figures in the Romantic movement, Wordsworth and Beethoven. But unlike the more tempestuous Lewis, Clark was not a Romantic. Perhaps due in part to his family dynamics, he was more even-keeled, his head more fully in control of his heart—so much so that his most famous utterance "O, the joy!" seems like an aberration. Because Clark married, had children, and died in his bed, he may seem the less interesting of the two captains. But he is not the less important. Jefferson needed his head and Lewis' heart to harmonize for the mission to succeed. They did, so it did. In this, his semiquincentennial year, let us raise a gill of St Louis whiskey in honor of a man without whom our organization would not exist, at least under its present name. *Submitted by Arend Flick*

Talent Along the Trail

Square Butte and the 23rd Psalm. My husband Ray and I attend Monday Night Bible Study every week with people from several different denominations. One week we discussed the meaning of the word “table” in the 23rd Psalm: “Thou preparest a **table** before me in the presence of mine enemies.” In the southwestern United States and southern Europe, the high plateaus or tablelands are called “mesas,” the Spanish word for “tables.” Even in Africa the Kiswahili word for table is “mesa.”

In Montana these high “tables” are called buttes.



Karla Yeager Smart drives Brad Hamlett's cattle to the top of Square Butte near the town of Cascade.

One of those buttes, known as Square Butte, located just west of Great Falls, MT, near the town of Cascade, is owned by Brad Hamlett. A few years ago Brad needed to stay in the hospital with his dad who was seriously ill. Brad also needed to drive his cattle to the top of Square Butte. At the time Ray and our daughter Karla Yeager Smart were at our Blackleaf Creek Ranch near Bynum. They loaded our horses in the trailer, drove the 70 miles to Brad's ranch, and helped another of Brad's friends, Lyle Heavyrunner, round up Brad's cattle and drive them to the top of Square Butte.

Atop Square Butte are 1,100 acres of native grasses that have never been plowed. Near the end of summer each year Brad drives his cattle to the top of Square Butte to graze. Ray tells me that Brad waits until late summer to give the grasses time to mature as he does not want to damage the early spring shoots. From the spring at the bottom of the butte Brad pumps water through a pipe system to watering troughs at the top. Ray has flown over Square Butte several times when Brad's cattle are there to make sure there is water in the troughs. This saved Brad from having to ride up on horseback to check.

Brad is very protective of Square Butte and has only allowed a few people to go to the top. Meriwether Lewis climbed to the top of this butte to see what lay ahead and named it Fort Mountain more than 200 years ago. The Indians may have used Square Butte as a place of refuge from the “presence of [their] enemies” as there are only two ways to access the top. The trail Ray and Karla rode to move the cattle is steep and rocky and narrows near the top. They had to dismount at this point and lead their horses while watching for rattlesnakes that hide under the rocks. Being familiar with the snakes' predilection for shade, they made sure to wear their high-top leather boots for protection. The cattle knew the way and the good grass and safety to be found at the top, so Ray and Karla had only to follow them up.



Square Butte on Brad Hamlett's ranch outside Great Falls, MT. Photos by Ray Yeager

I will never again look at pictures of Square Butte without thinking of the 23rd Psalm as a word picture of the safety afforded by a “table.” Also from the psalm, “goodness and kindness” shall surely follow Ray and Karla all the days of their life for helping their friend Brad in his time of need. *Submitted by Phyllis Yeager*

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Eugene Gass Painter, the last surviving great grandchild of Lewis and Clark Expedition Member Patrick Gass, died on May 11, 2020, in Washington, PA, at the age of 104. Born on June 12, 1915, in Independence, PA, Gene was a member of the LCTHF and participated in many reenactments of the Expedition. Gene's great granddaughter Maggie Layne received the first-ever Lewis and Clark Girl Scout Patch at a ceremony in Washington on June 9, 2019, that was attended by Gene and other family members, as well as LCTHF President Lou Ritten and members of the Lewis and Clark Discovery Expedition of St Charles.

A director of the Washington County Conservation District for 21 years and the Avella School Board for 21 years, Gene was a member of George Washington Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution, the AD White Research Society, and the Fort Vance Historical Society. In the mid-1960s he worked with Albert and Delvin Miller to prepare Meadowcroft Historic Village for its opening to the public. Gene was also a life-long member of the Lower Buffalo Presbyterian Church where he served as a Sunday School teacher, Trustee-Elder, and Clerk of Session.

In 1967 Gene and his two sons took over the family ancestral farm and operated a dairy farm until retiring in 1995. A 63-year member of Independence Grange No.179 and later of Buffalo Grange No. 1523, he had also worked in manufacturing as a Production Control Specialist for 30 years.

On February 25, 1939, Gene married Shirley Estelle Flaherty. He is survived by daughters Sue (James) Strunk and Nancy Painter; son Eugene G. (Edythe) Painter Jr; daughter-in-law Rebecca Painter; 12 grandchildren; and 16 great grandchildren. Gene was laid to rest in the Independence Cemetery on Washington Pike in Avella, PA. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.stefkovichfuneralhome.com.