The Washington State Chapter 24th Annual Meeting will be a virtual meeting this year. The first presentation will begin at 9:00 AM Pacific Time. Bill Garvin, Vice President of the Chapter, will present a talk titled *Layers of History at Middle Village/Station Camp.*

Robert Heacock, our Chapter Secretary, will follow with *Captain George Vancouver in Puget Sound.* Rob’s presentation will be about the 1792 mapping of Puget Sound and the San Juan islands, which was an integral part of Nicholas King’s 1803 map — a crucial document carried by Lewis and Clark. The Chapter business meeting will follow the speakers.

The virtual Chapter meeting will be held online using the Zoom platform. The meeting link is as follows:

Meeting ID: 893 7993 5651
Contact a chapter member for passcode.

You can start to log into the meeting at 8:30 AM Pacific Time.
New Beginnings: Reorganization

On New Year’s Day at Fort Clatsop – 215 years ago – Lewis wrote “This morning I was awoke at an early hour by the discharge of a volley of small arms, which were fired by our party in front of our quarters to usher in the new year.” Did you ring in the new year in an appropriate manner?

I’m sure all of us are ready for the new beginning this year brings. And as you know, this year will also bring a new beginning for the LCTHF and our chapter.

Since I last updated you on the progress of our reorganization, we (representatives from the Washington, Oregon and Idaho chapters) have had Zoom discussions; phone calls; a few small, socially-distanced meetings; and many, many email conversations as we worked to merge the vision for our northwest chapters with the needs of the national organization. I thank our chapter members for expressing your thoughts and suggestions. Our foundation president, Lou Ritten, has been continually involved in our efforts; we thank him for his help and leadership. Our current approach is similar to the version you’ve seen, with some minor changes necessitated as the reorganizational efforts evolved.

The following two paragraphs are a distillation of how our proposal provides positive changes for our northwest chapters. Of course, there are many details not included in this listing, but I hope it gives you an accurate glimpse of our chapter and our new region in the near future.

**The proposed reorganization will:** create a set of about ten regions encompassing all 50 states; allow for foundation activities and officers to be covered by insurance; increase membership for national and our chapter; centralize membership bookkeeping; allow for a broad range of membership costs and benefits; ease communication between the foundation and its members; reduce administrative burden on chapters; include the production of a region newsletter, website and calendar of events; and increase visibility of our organization and activities.

Our chapter will benefit greatly from reorganization. **We can:** retain leadership teams; maintain our individual identity; remain responsible for our own annual budget; continue to hold quarterly meetings; plan and carry out programs, projects and activities; keep a chapter newsletter and website if desired; and benefit from increased membership.

I look forward to the day our plans become reality, but to reach that point we have work to complete. At our February 6 Annual Meeting we expect to elect two chapter members to join the region team, which will eventually include two members from each of the three northwest chapters, and a treasurer selected by the six members. We also need to make a minor change to our bylaws to allow the present Washington Board of Directors to continue for a few more months until the region office is operating. After that, our chapter will need to hold an election for our 2021 set of officers and reorganize our own operations, including our bylaws, to mesh with the newly created regional structure.

When the work is done, it will be a day to celebrate. We can all cheer: Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!

Steve Wang
The journals of the Corps of Discovery are characteristically full of tangled grammar and spelling. Historians of the expedition are often challenged with the journalists’ word metathesis (interchange of lettering or sounds) to determine a word’s orthography (correct spelling). Scholars of the expedition must also rely upon the “Compact Version of the Oxford English Dictionary” to discern the etymology (origin and development) of an archaic word. “Lexicon of Discovery” by Alan H. Hartley is also universally referenced in the study of Lewis and Clark.

In addition to the journals of Captains Lewis and Clark, other journalists of the expedition can provide supplementary information on smaller details of the expedition. On July 12, 1804, while the expedition was traveling up the Missouri River, Private Joseph Whitehouse wrote, “we found a horse of pybald colour.” What color of horse was he referring to?

Captain Lewis helped solve the riddle. During the 1806 winter at Fort Clatsop he summarized the domestic animals and native wild animals observed between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. He wrote, “some of the horses are pided with large spots of white irregularly scattered and intermixed with black brown bey or some other colour, ...” Again, what color of horse was he describing?

Deductive reasoning deciphered the question on the color of the horses the two journalists wrote about. Whitehouse misspelled “piebald” and Lewis used a shortened version of a word describing a horse’s color. Piebald is a British word for a specific color combination on a horse’s coat. The term originated from a mixture of “pie” from “magpie” and “bald”, meaning “having white patches” or “spots.” A piebald horse has a 50-50 distribution of large irregular unpigmented (white) patches on a dark pigmented background of hair. The striking color combination noted by the journalists is unique in the absence of descriptions for most of the horses engaged during the expedition. Horses being part of everyday life during the nineteenth century were not dwelled upon in the journals. The remarkable piebald horse was undoubtedly popular with Native Americans.

Alan “Doc” Wesselius is a past President of the Washington State Chapter.
The exploration of the north-west coast of North America in 1792-1794 by British Captain George Vancouver was an epic example of seamanship, discipline and constant dedication to the task of coastal mapping in the labyrinth of bays and inlets of this coastal area. It was also one of the world’s epic feats of endurance as the longest sea voyage in history covering a span of more than four and a half years, eclipsing those of Ferdinand Magellan, Francis Drake, and even James Cook’s third expedition. So it is no wonder that Vancouver is held in such high regard throughout England and North America.

The results of Vancouver’s expedition was also important to that of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as his detailed mapping found its way into Nicholas King’s map of 1803, which was itself commissioned by Thomas Jefferson and carried by Lewis and Clark.

When on the northwest coast Vancouver observed but did not recognize the opening of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean. Yet did he recognize the opening of another major waterway, the Fraser River on the southern British Columbia coast. These two omissions would have been helpful to his mission of mapping, exploring and claiming discoveries for the Crown. They have resulted in some criticism, but allowances have been made on these issues. However, while in Puget Sound, Vancouver inexplicably took it upon himself to proceed on his own mapping expedition, which actually duplicated a major portion of the work by his officers and crew, wasting valuable time and resources.

While HMS Discovery and HMS Chatham were anchored at Contractor’s Point in Discovery Bay, which is west of Port Townsend and Port Hadlock, Vancouver and his men surveyed Hood Canal. After departing Discovery Bay on May 17, 1792 they had a brief landing at Protection Island, and then proceeded down Admiralty Inlet to what is now Puget Sound. The Chatham departed to explore the San Juan Islands, with the Discovery eventually anchoring west of West Seattle’s Alki Point in between Restoration Point and Blake Island. It was in these few days that Vancouver sighted and identified Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens, two landmarks on the King Map that were so important to Lewis and Clark on their outbound journey.

The process of mapping the coastal areas was to anchor their ships and send out smaller ship’s boats, by oar or sail, to do their detailed surveys. This included a standardized method of keeping the mainland on the starboard or right side of their small boats. Thus, they would travel in was in effect a counterclockwise direction, eventually returning to their starting point.

While Chatham was in the San Juan Islands, Discovery 3rd Lieutenant Peter Puget, master Joseph Whidbey, naturalist Archibald Menzies and other crewmen set out from Restoration Point at 4:00 AM on May 19 in the Discovery’s smaller boats with the task to map the area south of their anchorage, wherever it may lead them. With provisions for a week, they headed south down Colvos Passage on the west side of Vashon Island.

After making various stops, Puget departed his final camp at Hunter’s Point on the morning of May 25th and then went to what he called ‘Friendly Village’ at the head of Eld Inlet near what is now Evergreen State College near Tumwater. Puget then explored adjacent Budd Inlet at Olympia and had breakfast and decided to proceed directly back to Discovery. While on their lengthy return at 8:00 PM one of Puget’s men briefly noted behind them a campfire on the northern portion of Ketron Island, adjacent to present Steilacoom. They thought that this fire was related to a camp by local natives. Puget and Whidbey arrived back at Discovery at 2:00 AM on May 26.

(Continued on page 5)
Vancouver’s Unnecessary Excursion (cont.)

Vancouver departed *Discovery* on his own survey trip in the early morning of May 25th and proceeded down East Passage alongside Des Moines and the mainland shore. He stopped for lunch at Brown’s Point, just north of Tacoma and Commencement Bay and then made their evening camp at the northern end of Ketron Island, mentioned above. Vancouver’s campfire was apparently the one briefly noted by Puget’s crew. Vancouver did mention that he had briefly seen sails of two small boats that evening, but the boats were not close enough to identify or hail, and Vancouver felt they were native canoes.

The next day Vancouver departed and proceeded to make several stops in the Sound, unaware of the efforts made by Puget and Whidbey, and apparently not suspecting that the two small boats he had seen were Puget and Whidbey concluding their surveys. The areas that were duplicated by Vancouver were far flung locations of Budd Inlet at Olympia, and the head of Case Inlet at Fair Harbor. Vancouver returned to *Discovery* at 9:00 PM on May 28. *Discovery* weighed anchor at Restoration Point and departed for the northern Puget Sound and San Juan Islands at 8:30 AM on May 29.

So let us consider what the result would have been if the two surveying parties would have had a good view ahead of each other, where opportunity and curiosity could have prevailed, as opposed to a fleeting view in their rear view mirror. Certainly Vancouver would have cut his excursion short and returned to *Discovery* with Puget and Whidbey. Hindsight is always helpful, but there seems to be no clear reason for Vancouver to duplicate the work of his capable and qualified officers and crew, aside from a desire to place his own personal stamp on the survey results.

Robert Heacock
September, 2020
Liberty Lake, Washington

Source: A Discovery Journal - George Vancouver’s First Survey Season – 1792 by John E Roberts, Trafford Publishing, 2005

Robert Heacock serves as Secretary of the Washington State Chapter. He will make a presentation about Captain Vancouver during the Washington State Chapter virtual Annual Meeting on Feb. 6th (see page 1).

Also Worthy of Notice

FOUNDATION EVENTS

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation invites you to take advantage of exciting opportunities for a variety of activities in 2021. These include:

- 2021 Photo Contest
- Virtual 5K Walk/Run Fundraiser
- White Cliffs Canoe Trip
- 2021 Annual Meeting

Visit the LCTHF website for more Foundation news and information!

lewisandclark.org

FREE DAYS IN WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Friday, March 19 — State Parks’ 108th Birthday
Saturday, April 3 — Springtime free day
Thursday, April 22 — Earth Day
Saturday, June 5 — National Trails Day
Saturday, June 12 — National Get Outdoors Day
Sunday, June 13 — Free Fishing Day
Wednesday, Aug. 25 — National Park Service Birthday
Saturday, Sept. 25 — National Public Lands Day
Thursday, Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
Friday, Nov. 26 — Autumn free day

For more information on state parks and to find a park to visit, go to the official Washington State Parks website.

parks.state.wa.us

The Royal Canadian Mint honored the importance of HMS Discovery in the history of North America with a gold coin in 2016
Tall Tales with Rob
Travels on the Washington State Trail with Robert Heacock

CAPE HORN

Yes, there are two locations named Cape Horn on the Columbia River. For now we will talk about the one where the Expedition camped on November 6, 1805, just one day prior to their notable view from Pillar Rock.

The maps and journals do not give enough specific information to be sure where their camp was. But the two leading contenders are Waterford or Eagle Cliff, both on the east side or upriver from the actual point of Cape Horn at river mile 48. Each is under a high cliff and also have adjacent streams for fresh water.

[Clark]
November 6th Wednesday 1805
The Indians leave us in the even-
ing, river about one mile wide hills high and Steep on the Std. no place for several Miles suffciently large and leavil for our camp we at length Landed at a place which by moveing the Stones we made a place Sufficently large for the par-
ty to lie leavil on the Smaller Stones Clear of the Tide [17]
Cloudy with rain all day we are all wet and disagreeable, had large fires made on the Stone and dried our bedding and Kill the flees, 

Chapter Name Badges
Members of the Washington Chapter can still order name badges. The badges have the same design as the Chapter logo. The price for one name badge is $17.00; the price for two or more is $13.50 each.
To order, make checks payable to Awards West - PrintWares, Inc.
Mail checks to: Tim Underwood, 128 Galaxie Rd, Chehalis, WA 98532. Print your name the way you want it to appear on your name badge and specify whether you want a pin back or a magnetic back.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) ____________________________________________

Street _____________________________________________

City _______________________________________________

State ______ Zip ___________________

Phone (H) _______ (W) ___________________

E-mail * _________________________________________

*Dues Amount: $15.00 ☐ ☐ $20.00 (please check one)

Note: If you have recently renewed your membership, thank you. Please disregard this notice.
The mission of the LCTHF is to stimulate appreciation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition’s contribution to America’s heritage and to support education, research, development and preservation of the Lewis and Clark experience.