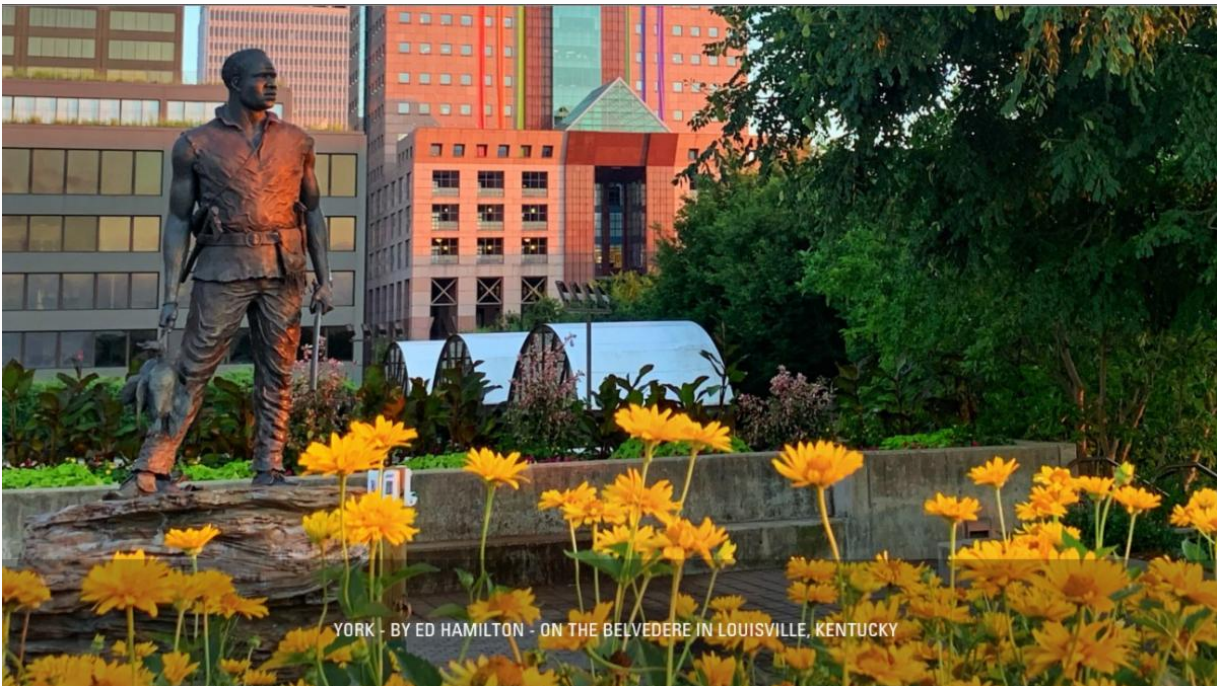

Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

February 22, 2025



Welcome to the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance!



*Richard Hunt
Executive Director
Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance*

With so many new subscribers and longtime supporters eager to stay up to date, this is the perfect time to reintroduce The Alliance.

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance (LCTA) is the nation's leading nonprofit dedicated to preserving, promoting, and interpreting the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Through education, Trail stewardship, and community partnerships, we connect people to the Trail's 4,900-mile journey, its landscapes, history, and diverse cultures—especially the Indigenous nations whose lands the Expedition traversed.

Originally founded in 1969 as the Lewis and Clark

Quick Links

[Registration is Open
2025 Kansas City Annual
Gathering](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[2024 Impact Report](#)

[LCTA Photo Contest](#)

[National Trails Day
June 7, 2025](#)

[Apply for LCTA
Trail Stewardship Grants](#)

[National History Day](#)

Trail Heritage Foundation, we adopted our new name in 2024 to reaffirm our mission: preserving and interpreting the Trail while inspiring future generations through meaningful alliances.

LCTA enhances public engagement with educational resources and digital tools:

lewisandclark.travel – Maps, trip planning, and free listings for businesses and tribal enterprises, fostering heritage tourism.

lewis-clark.org – A research hub with 2,300+ pages of articles, images, audio recordings, and historical references for deeper exploration of the Expeditions's history.

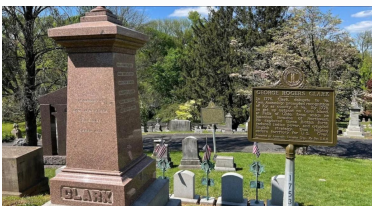
Grants & Stewardship – Supporting trail preservation, education, and interpretive resources through the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment.

Sherman Library – Housing 3,000+ rare and archival reference books for historical research.

As a membership organization, we invite you to join us in preserving the Trail's legacy. Learn more and support our mission by going to lewisandclark.org.

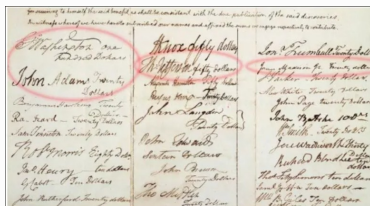
Join the
Alliance

Support the
Alliance



Watch
[Cave Hill Cemetery](#)

Join us on a fascinating journey through Cave Hill



Watch
[Four Signatures](#)

In 1793, George Washington, John Adams,



From our Alliance Partner
[Three Chiefs Cultural Center](#)

The Three Chiefs Cultural

Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, as we uncover the stories of legendary figures who shaped American history. In this episode, we explore the life and legacy of George Rogers Clark, the Revolutionary War hero known as the "Conqueror of the Old Northwest," whose final resting place is here among other notable figures.

With expert insights from Jim Holmberg of the Filson Historical Society, we delve into the history of Clark and other remarkable individuals buried in Cave Hill.

Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison all signed a subscription list—a historic fundraising document—to support an ambitious expedition to explore the American West. Jefferson spearheaded the effort through the American Philosophical Society, but the expedition never happened. However, the planning laid the groundwork for the legendary Lewis and Clark Expedition a decade later. Lost to history, this document remained hidden until an intern rediscovered it in 1979. Watch to uncover this forgotten chapter of American exploration!

Center, located on Montana's Flathead Reservation, honors the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Tribes with exhibits, a museum, and cultural activities. Rebuilt after a 2020 fire, it thrives as a hub for heritage and education.

S&K Technologies, a tribally owned corporation, provides diverse services, reinvesting profits into the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for vital community programs.

LCTA Grant Awards in Action

The Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's Stewardship Endowment Committee awarded grant funding to 15 organizations for use in 2025. These projects focus on actions that have positive impact on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the public's education about the expedition.



In total, \$79,554 in grant funding was provided from the investment interest return generated from the \$2.7M restricted Stewardship Endowment. The projects awarded for 2025 varied from historical signage and trail improvements to funding interpretive speakers, events, and restoration and preservation of interpretive installations.

The first use of grant money in 2025 occurred in February through a \$3,500 grant to the Lewis & Clark Foundation (Friends of the USFS Interpretive Center in Great Falls) to pay for the York re-enactor and author Hasan Davis to give two presentations in Great Falls, Montana. His talks, both well-attended, were organized by the LCTA Portage Route Chapter, U.S. Forest Service, Lewis & Clark Foundation, and Great Falls Public Library.

Davis inspired audiences to learn about York's humanity and legacy. York, (who was the enslaved servant of William Clark), made extraordinary contributions to the expedition's success. However, his post-expedition life was fraught with disappointments.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the room by the time he (Hasan Davis) finished," said Elizabeth Moore, Lewis & Clark Foundation executive director. "He was phenomenal. Most people know nothing about York and his life—some of the things Hasan told were heartbreaking."

2025 Trail Stewardship Grant Applications Now Available

The Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Advisory Committee solicits applications by the first of October 1 for projects that will have a demonstrable, positive impact along the pathways followed by the Expedition.

Charitable distributions for this grant program are provided by the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project.

[Grant Application](#)

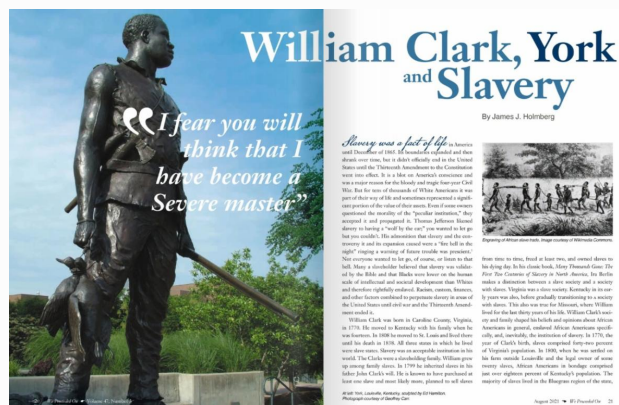


For 50 years, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance has published *We Proceeded On*—a quarterly journal named after the Captains' habit of concluding many journal entries with this inspiring phrase. Known among LCTA insiders as "WPO," this esteemed publication has become a cherished source of insightful research, compelling stories, and fresh perspectives on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

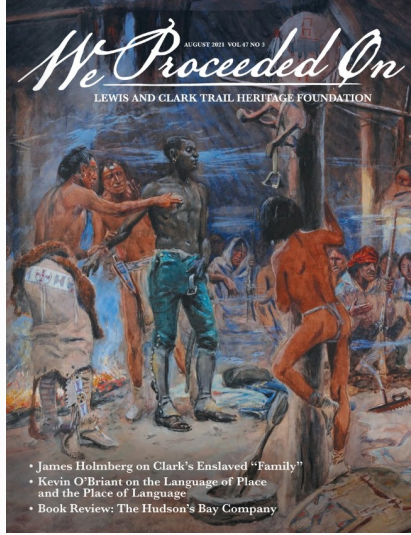
As an LCTA member, you'll receive each new edition of *We Proceeded On*, connecting you to this legacy of exploration and discovery.

Browse this complimentary previous edition and experience this rich archive for yourself—you may find it's just the inspiration you need to [join](#) and receive the latest issue!

Read the article
["William Clark, York
and Slavery"](#)



You can feel Jim Holmberg's discomfort in trying to write about William Clark's relationship with his principal enslaved man York. Mr. Holmberg seeks to explore and clarify one of the most



important dynamics in Clark's life, one that was ignored for most of American history and has only really come to the surface since the coming of the Bicentennial of the expedition. ...

We are all invested in the history of America, and we who are fascinated by the Lewis and Clark story perhaps have a deeper responsibility, because that transcontinental journey was one of the single most multicultural stories in American history. We should look upon that as opportunity, not burden, and we should not expect to get it right the first time or every time.

Clay Jenkinson

Read
We Proceeded On
August 2021



Explore & Preserve the Lolo Trail

Join Our Summer Tour!

The Idaho Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance invites you to camp along the historic Lolo Trail and help maintain its interpretive signs this summer. This self-supported trip (i.e. bring your own food and gear) includes two weekend outings:

- June 20-22, 2025 (West Side) – Camp near Musselshell Meadows and visit sites like Lewis and Clark Grove, El Dorado Creek, and Rocky Ridge.
- July 11-13, 2025 (East Side) – Camp near Powell, Idaho, exploring Lolo Pass, Snowbank, Bear's Oil and Roots Camp, and more.

This trip blends trail preservation with immersive history, retracing Lewis and Clark's rugged journey across the Bitterroot Mountains from Lolo, Montana, over Lolo Pass to Weippe, Idaho. While inspecting and repairing interpretive signs, we'll also explore some of the most significant Corps of Discovery sites along the Lolo Trail. Expect rough, dusty roads—high-clearance vehicles with durable tires are recommended. LCTA membership is not required to participate in these outings.

If you are interested in participating - contact Chuck Raddon at idahoclarkie@gmail.com.



New [Trip Inspirations](#) on the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience



Great Falls to Townsend, Montana

On their way to the Headwaters of the Missouri in July 1805, the Expedition journalists described passing through several "gates"—narrow, mountainous constrictions in the Missouri River. This trip stops at the first two, known today as Tower Rock and Gates...

Stops: 7

Travel Distance: 109.83 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)



Mouth of the Ohio

More commercial travel occurs between the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers and mouth of the Ohio than any other U.S. inland waterway. This Inspiration Trip takes you from the most southern-most point in Illinois to historic Fort Massac where the Expedition...

Stops: 8

Travel Distance: 73.31 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)



Lewiston to Jean Baptiste's Grave

This trip is not on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, but it will take you through amazing sights in order to visit the grave of the youngest member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The vast wilderness surrounding...

Stops: 5

Travel Distance: 330.22 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

Willard Family Reunion

Welcome to the Willard Family Association's 2025 Reunion—a historic event marking the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and our deep ties to the founding of this nation. Join us as we celebrate over two and a half centuries of Willard family history.

Alexander Hamilton Willard (1778–1865)

was a blacksmith and soldier who served with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Born in Charlestown, New Hampshire, he joined the U.S. Army in 1800 and enlisted in the Corps of Discovery at Fort Kaskaskia. During the expedition, Willard contributed as a craftsman, hunter, and explorer, surviving encounters with grizzly bears, canoe mishaps, and a near-fatal court-martial.

[Willard Family Reunion](#)

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the
'Shot heard round the world!'

Willard Family Reunion

April 14 – 20, 2025

Join us this April in Concord, Massachusetts, founded in 1635 by a group of English settlers led by Major Simon Willard and Rev. Peter Bulkley

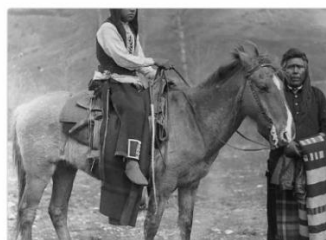
EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL!



Get all of the details and register today at ourwillardfamily.org

This announcement is funded by the Willard Family Association of America
Rick Willard, President | rickwillard@wfaa.com | PO Box 250333 Westfield, CT 06098
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The WFAA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Check out all the Events on the [LCTE Calendar](#)



LCTA Washington Chapter annual meeting

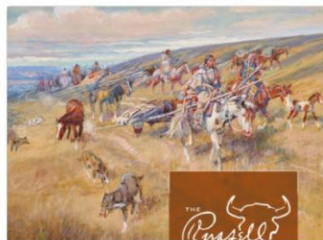
Date: March 15, 2025

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Franklin County Historical Museum, 305 N 4th Ave., Pasco, WA ([View on Map](#))

The Washington Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance will hold its 28th annual meeting March 15 in Pasco, Wash. The speaker will be Dick Scheuerman, historian and author of many books about the Pacific Northwest, from the Palus people to early agriculture and immigration. When Lewis and Clark...

<https://www.lctf.org/chapters/washington/>



Russell Art Auction

Dates: March 20, 2025 - March 22, 2025

Location: C. M. Russell Museum, 13th Street North, Great Falls, MT, USA ([View on Map](#))

The Russell Auction is an annual art auction held in Great Falls, Montana. This event is one of the premier Western art auctions in the United States, attracting collectors, art enthusiasts, and Western art aficionados from around the country. Proceeds from the auction benefit the C.M. Russell Museum, which is...

<https://cmrussell.org/experience/upcoming-events/>



Native Pop!

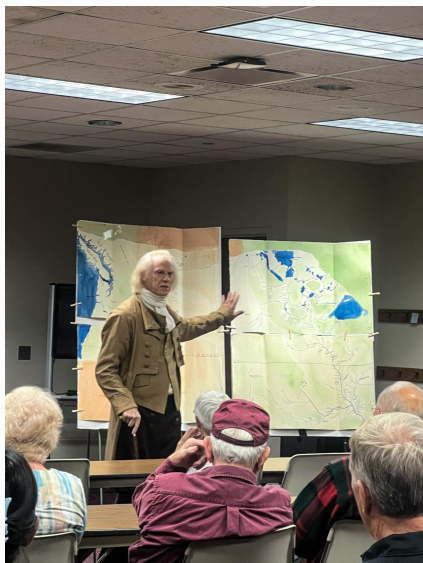
Dates: March 20, 2025 - July 19, 2025

Location: Newberry Library, West Walton Street, Chicago, IL, USA ([View on Map](#))

Indigenous people are central to the story of popular culture in the Western Hemisphere, and popular culture is important to many Indigenous people and experiences. This exhibition, drawn from the Newberry's growing collections for American Indian and Indigenous Studies, shares four centuries of Indigenous creators, athletes, activists, and fans engaged...

<https://www.newberry.org/calendar/native-pop/>

Meeting Mr. Jefferson



Each year, the National Park Service invites me to portray Thomas Jefferson at Mount Rushmore's 4th of July celebration. This summer on my return to Virginia, I offer engaging presentations for organizations interested in American history.

If your institution is interested in a presentation to meet the author of the Declaration of Independence and the visionary behind Lewis and Clark's expedition contact me:

Tom Pitz 540-223-7168

[Meet Mr. Jefferson](#)



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