

# Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

March 8 , 2025



Black Eagle Falls  
2013 Kris Townsend



*Richard Hunt*  
*Executive Director*  
*Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance*

## Unraveling Trail Mysteries: The “Pointy Man” & Jean Baptiste Charbonneau

One of the best parts of working with the Lewis and Clark Trail is uncovering fascinating historical details that challenge and inspire. Two recent discoveries sparked my curiosity, and I invite you to help solve these mysteries.

## Quick Links

[LCTA Annual Gathering](#)  
[Kansas City](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

While preparing for a presentation, I revisited the *Administrative History of the Lewis and Clark Trail Foundation*, funded by the National Park Service. I found the origin story of the iconic “pointy man” image—Bob Davenport’s famous painting of Lewis and Clark (that hangs in the LCTA office in Great Falls).

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

[Apply for LCTA](#)  
[Trail Stewardship Grants](#)

[AIANTA Tourism Scholarship](#)

[Oregon Cultural Trust Grants](#)

[Missouri River MR340 Race](#)

[Hawken Classic Rifle Weekend](#)

The references place its setting 18 miles north of present-day Omaha, likely from the Iowa side, pointing west. Now, my curiosity is piqued. Where exactly did Davenport stand when he painted this image we so closely associate with the Trail? I'm determined to find out.

The second mystery comes from our Trip Inspirations project, which connects key sites along the Trail, including Jean Baptiste Charbonneau's grave in the Oregon high desert. He died while en route to the Montana goldfields, traveling by stagecoach. But what route did he take? Did it cross Donner Pass to Reno, then north along modern U.S. 95—or was there another path?

Now, I turn to you, fellow trail enthusiasts—if you share my curiosity, help me unravel this mystery! Do you have insights into Charbonneau's final journey? Have you stood where Bob Davenport once painted? Let's put on our history sleuthing caps and "proceed on" together.

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Watch  
[York: Before the Expedition](#)

Before the legendary Lewis and Clark Expedition set forth, York had already spent a lifetime in Clark's shadow. Yet, on the trail, he became more than a servant—he was a hunter, a scout, and a key figure in the Corps of



Watch  
[How Meriwether Lewis Trained for the Greatest Expedition in American History](#)

Prior to setting out on the legendary Corps of Discovery expedition, Meriwether Lewis didn't just pack his bags and head west—he prepared like a true explorer. His journey



Watch  
[Looking West](#)

In 2024, the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance awarded a Trail Stewardship Grant to the Shenandoah University Center for Immersive Learning (SCIL) to embark on an unforgettable cross-country exploration of the Lewis and Clark Trail. Four

Discovery's survival.

The world of early America was one of stark contrasts—freedom and bondage, privilege and oppression. York and William Clark grew up side by side, but their paths were preordained—one as the master, the other as the enslaved servant.

Join us as we uncover the powerful and often-overlooked story of York—the enslaved explorer who helped shape history but was nearly forgotten by it.

began in Philadelphia, where he studied under some of the brightest minds of the time, members of the prestigious American Philosophical Society.

From medicine to astronomy, botany to navigation, Lewis absorbed critical knowledge that would help him and his team survive in the uncharted wilderness. Join us as we uncover how this crash course in science and survival shaped the success of the Lewis and Clark Expedition!

students and their instructor set out to capture the essence of this historic journey, bringing it to life through a compelling series of video episodes.

Join us for Episode One: *Jefferson and Looking West*, where Lewis and Clark interpreters and scholars set the stage for the Corps of Discovery's daring expedition. This episode introduces the vision, challenges, and camaraderie that shaped what could be considered the greatest buddy movie of all time.



## Women's History Month

Every March during [Women's History Month](#) and throughout the year, the National Park Service and partners commemorate the role of [women in American history](#). Visit any of the more than 400 national parks across the country or join a ranger program to learn more or reflect on women's contributions of past and present.

## 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 this edition we share with you the story of two grants for 2025 that will help educate the public, particularly schoolchildren, about the Lewis and Clark Expedition as well as today's importance of cultural awareness and homelands.

## Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

In Sioux City, Iowa, the [Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center](#) received a \$7,500 grant to fund public performance related to its Wall of Unsung Heroes project that, when completed in the spring, will depict



lesser-known expedition members and Native Americans who assisted the explorers. The goal is to reach audiences from diverse demographics and backgrounds, with an emphasis on disadvantaged and at-risk youth in the local community.

The performances will feature the [Many Moccasins Dance Troupe](#), indigenous music from the Wall of Unsung Heroes project, and a professional hoop dancer, [Starr Chief Eagle](#), a member of the Sicangu (Rosebud) Lakota Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

One of the Midwest's best known hoop dancers, she is part of a generation of women bringing their talents to what was originally a male practice.



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## Nez Perce County Historical Society and Museum

In Lewiston, Idaho, the [Nez Perce County Historical Society](#) received a \$1,500 grant to help with honorariums for schools and nonprofit organizations to host events featuring quality Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce speakers.

The events will take place along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in north-central Idaho. The grant will help the historical society and museum's speakers bureau continue its tradition of many years of providing quality speakers who help educate the public.

Topics will range from information about Nez Perce tribal homelands and culture to the

importance of trail stewardship.



Sacajawea Fountain

### Monday Afternoon Sessions

Monday afternoon sessions will take place from 2-3 p.m. and repeat from 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

#### "Beyond the Icons: Harnessing Montana's Rural Heritage to Elevate Rural Communities"

This session explores how Montana's cultural heritage, both its storied past and evolving living traditions, can ignite interest and investment in rural tourism destinations often overshadowed by the state's iconic landmarks. Drawing on global success stories and local examples, we will illustrate how heritage-driven storytelling and experience development encourage visitors to pause, immerse themselves and uncover the distinctive appeal of these smaller communities. Panelists will offer insights and strategies for turning rural heritage into a compelling draw. Participants will learn how to highlight their community's unique cultural assets and current traditions, ultimately inspiring travelers to linger longer, spend more locally and engage more deeply. By embracing cultural authenticity, rural destinations can evolve from mere pass-through points into meaningful and enriching travel experiences.

#### Speakers:

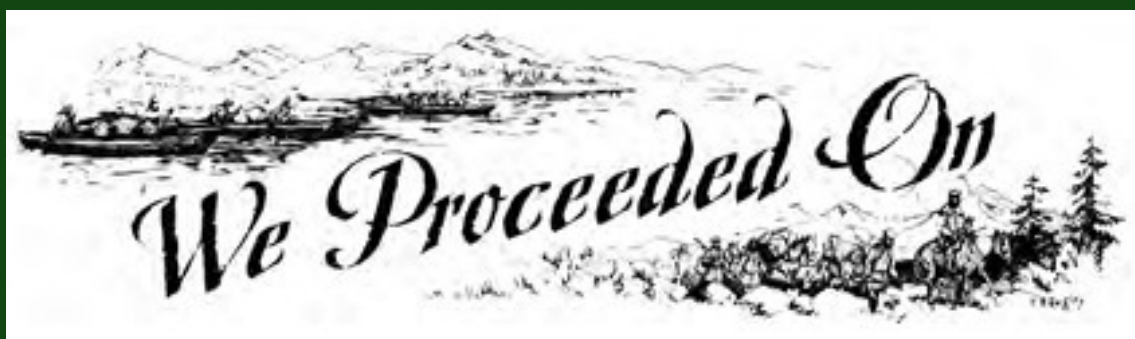
Chris Seek, [Solimar International](#)  
Lailani Upham, [Iron Shield Creative](#)  
Richard Hunt, [Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation](#), [Lewis and Clark Trail Experience](#)  
Avery Hughes, [Central Montana Tourism](#)



### Montana Governor's Tourism Conference

LCTA Executive Director Richard Hunt will be a featured speaker at the Governor's Tourism Conference in Helena, MT, this April, joining a panel discussion on Heritage Tourism. He will highlight the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience, an innovative program that leverages tourism as a dynamic gateway to historical and cultural interpretation.

### [Montana Tourism Conference](#)



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!

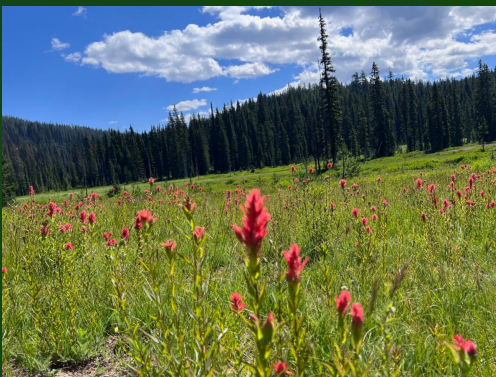
Read the article  
[Seeking Sacagawea](#)



Read  
[We Proceeded On](#)  
August 2023

*This was no Virginia or Kentucky belle who would expect a gentleman to tie her bonnet and ease her way through the American wilderness. This was a healthy, vital, clever, generous, resourceful, and thoughtful woman who had essential field skills that no member of the Corps of Discovery could emulate. The simple truth is that without Sacagawea the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition is impoverished. It's much less interesting. We need her to deepen this story and give it more magic. In some sense we continue to aggrandize her (as usual on our own terms), but her centrality to America's love affair with Lewis and Clark is undeniable. We continue to colonize her, I believe, to serve our mythological and narrative purposes. For what could be better than an Indian princess who helped us conquer the continent and died in a calico dress? Trauma. Resilience. Resourcefulness.*

Clay Jenkinson



## 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](mailto:idahoclarkie@gmail.com).

## New Trip Inspirations on the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience

### St. Charles to Columbia, Missouri

Catch the KATY Trail



On May 21, 1804, the Expedition departed from St. Charles, reaching the mouth of Montreau Creek on June 7th, near what is now Rocheport. Traveling westward from St. Charles, you can trace their path on both sides of the river....

**Stops:** 10

**Distance:** 212 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

### Columbia, Missouri to Kansas City

Blue Highways



Join us as we follow the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail through western Missouri and into Kansas. Starting in Columbia, we'll explore the historic Booneslick Country, named for Daniel Boone's sons' salt works, where Lewis and Clark noted the...

**Stops:** 7

**Distance:** 158 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

### Kansas City to Mound City

The Platte Purchase



Embark on a journey through history along the Missouri River, where explorers, pioneers, and traders shaped the American frontier. Begin at Kaw Point, where Lewis and Clark once camped, then cross the Fairfax Bridge and wind through the scenic river....

**Stops:** 7

**Distance:** 122 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)



## Peace Medal Unveiling April 12

An original Jefferson Peace Medal on loan to the Mead Museum will be unveiled on April 12th as part of the *Journeying Forward: Connecting Cultures* exhibit.

The 4-inch Jefferson Peace Medal is extremely rare and a historically significant artifact from the early 19th century. This medal is one of less than 5 on display in the world!

Make the Mead Museum part of your summer travel schedule to visit and view this rare piece of American History!

Unveiling April 12

Noon to 4pm

[www.meadbuilding.org](http://www.meadbuilding.org)

82 Mickelson Drive  
Yankton, South Dakota

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



#### Sugar Creek Missouri River Cleanup 2025

**Date:** April 12, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** LaBenite Park, Route 291, Independence, MO, USA ([View on Map](#))

Missouri River Relief is returning to Sugar Creek's reach of the Missouri River once again! With the Kansas City metropolitan area being not too far upstream from LaBenite Park, this area is no stranger to trash each year. This community cares about their river and we are excited to head...

<https://riverrelief.org/events/sugar-creek-missouri-river-cleanup-2025/>



#### Prince Maximilian and Karl Bodmer: Touring the Wilderness of North America

**Date:** April 12, 2025

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Lewis and Clark (Camp River Dubois) State Historic Site, Lewis and Clark Trail, Hartford, IL, USA ([View on Map](#))

Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Brian "Fox" Ellis will share a slice of the people, landscapes, and natural wonder of North America in the 1830s in this program at Lewis & Clark State Historic Site. This program will take place on April 12 at 2 PM in the Interpretive Center Theater...

<https://campdubois.com/events/prince-maximilian-and-karl-bodmer-touring-the-wilderness-of-north-america/>



#### Willard Family Reunion

**Dates:** April 14, 2025 - April 20, 2025

**Location:** Concord, MA, USA ([View on Map](#))

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, from Simon Willard's arrival in America in...

<https://www.ourwillardfamily.org/>

## Celebrate America's 250th

America's River Roots is a signature event to kick off America's 250th celebration, scheduled for October 08-12, 2025 on the Cincinnati, Covington and Newport riverfronts.

### [America's River Roots Celebration](#)



**OCT 2025**  
**08 THRU 12**



## Explore National Parks for Free in 2025!

In 2025, the National Park Service invites everyone to explore America's natural and cultural treasures—free of charge! On six special days, entrance fees will be waived at more than 400 national parks, making it the perfect time to visit. Whether you're planning a family adventure, a scenic road trip with friends, or a solo escape into nature, these fee-free days offer an accessible way to experience breathtaking landscapes and rich history.

Mark your calendar for 2025's free entrance days:

April 19 – First Day of National Park Week

June 19 – Juneteenth National Independence Day

August 4 – Great American Outdoors Act Signing Day

September 27 – National Public Lands Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

With at least one national park in every state, adventure is closer than you think.

Plan your visit and experience the beauty of our public lands!

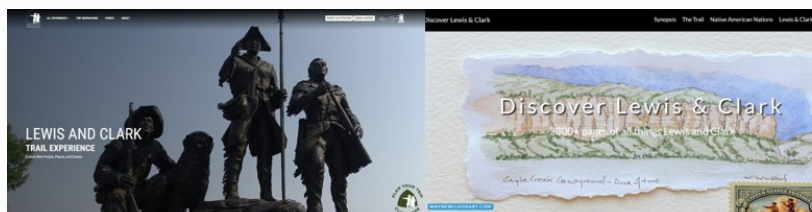
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[lewisandclark.org](http://lewisandclark.org)



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