



Lewis & Clark Trail News
Bringing the Trail to Life
October 4, 2025



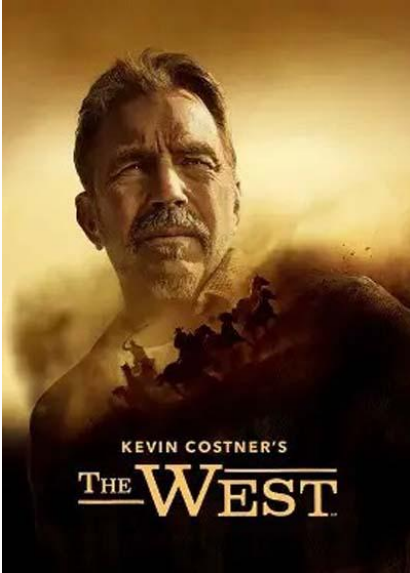
Sunrise at Eagle Creek Camp

The Corps camped at this site on the upper Missouri River, May 31, 1805. Cathy Milne captured this inspiring image which is one of 14 winning photos that are published in the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance's 2026 calendar. The calendar is for sale for \$20 as a fundraiser for LCTA programs. [Order yours now.](#)

A Documentary Worth Watching

If you have yet to watch the 8-part documentary series Kevin Costner's [The West](#), tune in. It offers a fresh epic look at a century of the West, full of gritty stories unknown to most Americans.

This is especially true in the first two episodes.



Among the commentators are Lewis and Clark historians Clay Jenkinson and Dr. Stephen Aron, both of whom gave presentations at last week's Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering.

The first episode covers the Louisiana Purchase and its importance to the fledgling United States. As Clay notes in the episode, "828,000 square miles, 575 million acres for \$15.6 million, the greatest sale in human history, three cents per acre, doubling the size of our Republic with a single stroke of Jefferson's pen. It's impossible for us to get our brains around this moment."

The second episode, "Colter's Run," focuses on the Lewis and Clark Expedition story, particularly [John Colter](#), who chose to stay in the wilderness rather than return to civilization. "When we think of a natural in baseball, (we think of) a natural athlete," Clay points out. "He (Colter) was a natural mountain man. He could read the land. He had skills most people don't have."

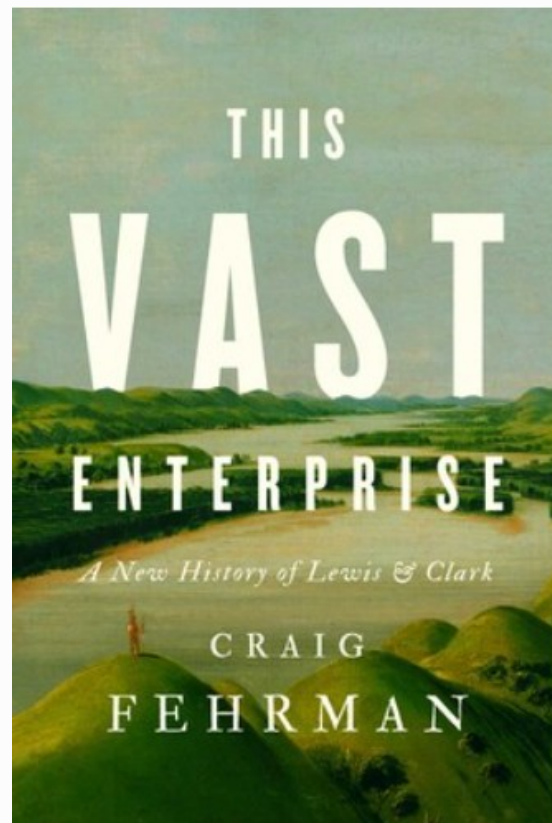
The episode explains the expedition's realization that the West was more populated than [President Thomas Jefferson](#) and other expansionists had hoped. "The biggest misconception was that the West was a virgin land," Stephen says in the episode, "(but) it was a peopled land."

The documentary airs on the History Channel and can be viewed on YouTube, Hulu, DirecTV, and [other streaming services](#).

Videocast Presentation

Join the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance for an exclusive online conversation with acclaimed historian and author Craig Fehrman. In this special event, Fehrman will introduce his groundbreaking forthcoming book, *This Vast Enterprise: A New History of Lewis and Clark* (Simon & Schuster, 2026).

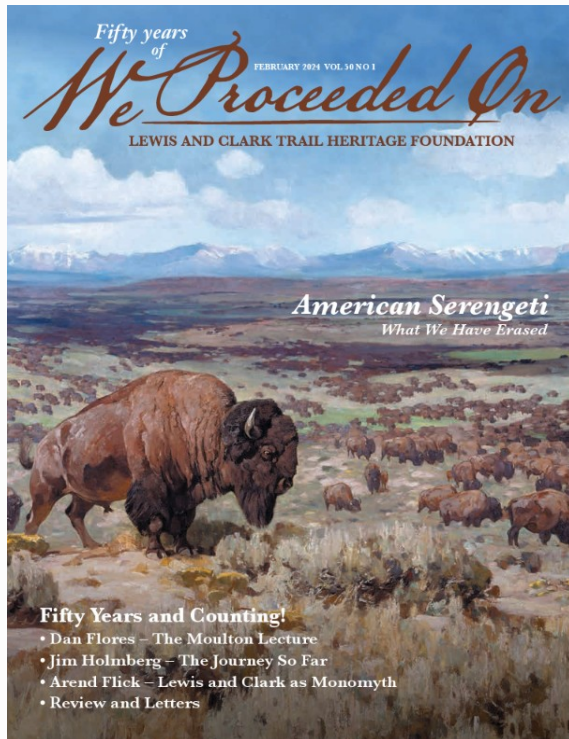
Fehrman will reveal what's truly "new" about his work—not only his discovery of fresh documents but also his innovative storytelling approach, shifting perspectives chapter by chapter. He'll spotlight John Ordway, sharing new insights into his early military career (including his work on the Natchez Trace), and fresh interpretations of pivotal Corps of Discovery moments like Camp River Dubois and the portage.



Attendees will get a rare behind-the-scenes look at Fehrman's research process, including a PowerPoint of key historical documents—such as the newspaper ad that may have led Ordway to enlist. He'll discuss how he uncovered new material, shaped his narrative, and reimagined this iconic American expedition.

Sunday, November 2, 2025 • 3:00 PM MT • via [Zoom](#)

Discover the Many Benefits of Joining LCTA



One of the greatest benefits of being part of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance is receiving our acclaimed quarterly journal, *We Proceeded On*.

This beautifully produced publication explores the stories, scholarship, and discoveries connected to the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the Trail today.

Your Membership Includes: a print subscription mailed to your door and online access to each issue

And here's a bonus: searchable PDF editions of past issues are available online for free—perfect for research, inspiration, or simply enjoying the rich history of the Trail anywhere, anytime.

[Join today](#) and start receiving *We Proceeded On*—plus all the other benefits of LCTA membership!



Oregon Black Pioneers presents

York Fest

A weeklong festival honoring York
of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Portland, Oregon
October 17–25, 2025

Fri. October 17, *The Unraveling of York* Presentation and Discussion

Vin Shambry with Todd McGrain
Alberta House

Sat. October 18, *Our Rooted Futures Festival*

The York Collective
LABS Media

Sun. October 19, *Boating with Bubba: The York River Loop Tour*

Flossin Media & Soul District Business Association
TBA

**Wed. October 22, *Big Medicine: York Outdoors* Film Screening and
Panel Discussion**

Oregon Black Pioneers, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and NEW
Multimedia
Tomorrow Theatre

Thu. October 23, *The Journey of York* Presentation

Hasan Davis and Oregon Black Pioneers
Alberta House

Fri. October 24, *York The Explorer Folk Opera* World Premiere

Aaron Nigel Smith and Dr. Renee Mitchell
Patricia Reser Center for the Arts

For ticketing information and more details about each
event, visit YorkFest.com.

Of Interest

[Uncharted Moments](#)

[Fort Pierre Depot Revival](#)

[Mead Museum](#)

Grants

[Education Materials](#)

[Archer Foundation](#)

[EQT Foundation](#)

Alliance

[Trip Inspirations](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

[Join LCTA](#)

Play Lewis & Clark Trivia



Fatigued and physically sick after crossing the Bitterroot Mountains in 1805, the expedition was aided by a Native American tribe. With this tribe's help, the explorers found a location on the Clearwater River to build five dugout canoes, using this tribe's method of burning out Ponderosa pine logs.

What was the name of the tribe?

[Submit your answer](#)

The trivia contest winner will receive a copy of *Finding Lewis & Clark: Old Trails, New Directions*, edited by James P. Ronda and Nancy Tystad Koupal. The book looks at four compelling questions about the expedition: What is the story really about? Who are the characters? What was the journey actually like? What are the consequences of the expedition?

The answer to our last newsletter's trivia contest was Kaw Point near the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers in what is now the Greater Kansas City Area. The expedition camped there from June 26 to June 29, 1804. [Learn more](#) about the expedition's time at Kaw Point.

Fourteen people submitted the correct answer. When more than one person submits a correct answer, a drawing is done. Dale Burningham was the drawing winner. He will receive a copy of *Wind Hard from the West: The Lewis and Clark Expedition on the Snake and Columbia Rivers* by the late Robert Heacock, the author, and Kris Townsend, photographer.

Annual Gathering Speakers on LCTA



Watch
[The Rivers Talk](#)



Watch
[Moulton Lecture](#)

Beautiful words and lyrics inspired by the Missouri and Columbia Rivers as testimony to the lure of the rivers over the ages, and our responsibility to those rivers today. A potpourri of words, music and images evoking the rivers as characters in the Corps of Discovery journey and beyond.

Jimmy Mohler has served as a Road Scholar Study Leader since 2016, sharing her love of history and the outdoors. After a 25-year career as a CPA and teacher, Jimmy shifted some of her professional energies to working at historic sites.

Dr. Aron is a renowned historian and compelling storyteller who believes that the best history stirs emotion—whether laughter, tears, or clenched fists—and leads to deeper reflection and understanding. In his lecture, he explores “an alternative history of the American West,” focusing on the peace and friendship ideals championed by Lewis and Clark.

He challenges us to consider how the Expedition’s legacy might offer a counter-narrative to the violence that later defined the region.

Lewis and Clark State Historical Marker Returns to Omaha Riverfront



On Friday, September 26, members of the Mouth of the Platte Chapter (MOP) of the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, National Park Service employees from Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) headquarters and representatives from Omaha Riverfront Parks community gathered at Lewis and Clark Landing, Omaha Riverfront Park, to celebrate the return of the Lewis and Clark State Historical Marker that had vanished during the three-year Riverfront revitalization project. The historical marker commemorates the exploration by William Clark and Reuben Fields of possible Native American mounds that appeared in this location.

The ceremony opened with a welcome and land acknowledgment from Keith Bystrom, president of MOP. Remarks followed from Katie Swanson, Park Planner with Omaha Parks and Recreation; Katie Bassett, Vice President of Parks for Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority (MECA) – The Riverfront; and Neal Bedlan, Acting Superintendent of the LCNHT. Bystrom, to provide historical context to the marker's significance on Lewis & Clark Landing Park, also read excerpts from the Lewis & Clark Journals dated [July 27, 1804](#), and [September 8, 1806](#) – the dates the Corps of Discovery explored and traveled in this vicinity of the Omaha Riverfront.



Bystrom gave a big thank you to Kate Boren and Katie Swanson from Omaha Parks for leading the search through maintenance sheds to locate the State Marker. He also thanked Katie Bassett and MECA for their leadership in creating and installing new interpretive signage, replacing the weather-damaged originals with updated panels. Visitors can now enjoy clearer, more engaging information about the Lewis and Clark story, check out the before-and-after photos!

The event concluded with reflections and closing remarks celebrating the collaboration that made the marker's return and new signage possible. Many attendees visited with the staff from the LCNHT who had an information tent available on the site. Visitors and residents once again have a tangible reminder of Lewis and Clark's journey and its enduring impact at the Omaha Riverfront.



LCTA Oregon Chapter Holiday Dinner

Oregon Chapter members and friends will gather Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Netul Room at Fort Clatsop for the annual



holiday dinner meeting.

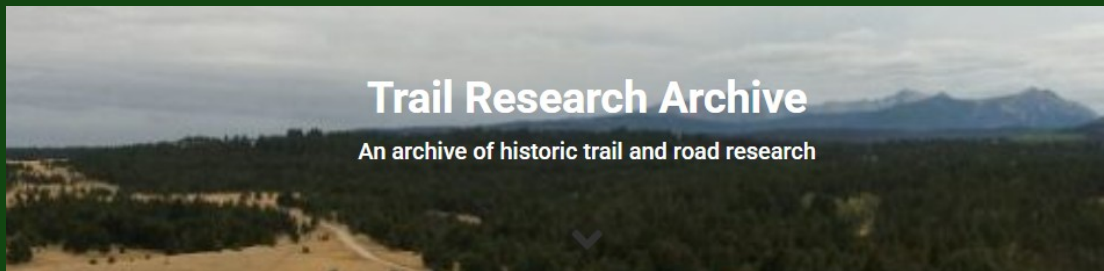
Our main speaker will be Zachary Stocks, Executive Director of the Oregon Black Pioneers and seasonal ranger at Lewis and Clark National Historic Park (Fort Clatsop). Mr. Stocks' presentation, "York, The Man", will tell the comprehensive story of York both before and after the Expedition. In addition, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Superintendent Jon Burpee will speak about developments at the park.

The dinner will be catered by Fulio's Restaurant in Astoria and will include wild caught salmon, elk meat and other tastes the Corps of Discovery would have preferred under better circumstances that Christmas in 1805.

Guests are welcome to attend.

Cost is \$20 payable at the door by cash, or a check made out to "Oregon Chapter, Lewis and Clark Trail Alliance."

RSVP by email: SlowPokeTours@gmail.com



Because We Couldn't Stop at Amazing

Just when you thought the Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance couldn't possibly deliver more value to our members and readers — hold our compass!

Thanks to a lifetime of research by Steve Russell and the incomparable web wizardry of Kris Townsend, we're thrilled to introduce TrailResearch.org. This site is an explorer's dream, packed with reference gold on the Lewis & Clark Trail, Nez Perce (Ne-Me-Poo), Mullan Road, Oregon-California Trail, and other historic routes.

Grab your curiosity and set a course for TrailResearch.org — it's a resource you'll want to bookmark, explore, and share.

Trailresearch.org

BIG MEDICINE YORK OUTDOORS

October 9, Billings, Montana
October 10, Kansas City, Kansas
October 14, Great Falls, Montana
October 15, Troy, Idaho
October 16, Lewiston, Idaho
October 18, Pendleton, Oregon
October 22, Portland, Oregon
November 1, Newburgh, Indiana
November 13, Livingston, Montana
November 19, Marietta, Ohio
December 4, Helena, Montana
February 26, St. Peters, Missouri
February 28, Seaside, Oregon



New screenings being added - check the [Events Calendar](#) for updates

National Bison Day

Join us on Saturday, November 1 as we celebrate National Bison Day at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with a dedication ceremony honoring former Bison Care Specialist Paul Simpson.

Following the ceremony, the LCTA Ohio River Chapter's Adopt-A-Bison Committee will present a check to support animal care at the

park. The current Bison Care Specialist will also lead a short ceremony about the park's bison herd, and the Ohio River Chapter will hold a brief business meeting.

The National Bison Legacy Act of 2016 officially recognized the bison as the National Mammal of the United States in honor of its ecological, cultural, and historical significance — especially to Native American heritage.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Don't miss your chance to celebrate National Bison Day with the Big Bone Bison!



[Big Bone Lick](#)

Share the Adventure!



Help us expand the community by sharing the newsletter with your network. Simply provide this [sign-up link](#) to friends, family, and fellow Trail enthusiasts.

See all the events on the [LCTE Events Calendar](#)



[Fall Frolic](#)
Salmon, ID
October 11

[Columbia Crossing 10K](#)
Astoria, OR
October 12



[Missouri River Cleanup](#)
Bonnots Mill, MO
October 25

The Last Word

The 2025 Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance Annual Gathering in Kansas City this September was truly an event to remember!

Attendees enjoyed an engaging mix of excellent speakers, immersive field trips to historic sites, hands-on Lewis & Clark virtual reality experiences, and plenty of opportunities to connect with fellow enthusiasts.



A huge thank-you to the Kansas City Planning Committee for hosting a virtually flawless experience. If you couldn't join us in person, you can still enjoy the highlights including - a [Photo Gallery](#) capturing the spirit of the Gathering, recorded presentations upcoming on our [YouTube Channel](#), including the Moulton Lecture by Dr. Stephen Aron, and Clay Jenkinson's interview with Thomas Jefferson's great-grandson, Robert Eppes.

Mark your calendars now — our 2026 Annual Gathering will be held June 21–24 in Great Falls, Montana. We can't wait to see you there!

Richard Hunt

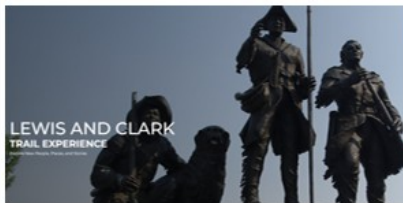
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KENTUCKY**

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