

Lewis & Clark Trail News

Bringing the Trail to Life

December 7, 2024



Richard Hunt

Big Medicine - Bringing Black History Outdoors

This week, I had the privilege of joining the National Park Service team in Omaha and attending *Big Medicine* at [The Union for Contemporary Art](#). It was a true delight to meet [Hasan Davis](#) and witness his powerful portrayal of York.

Big Medicine highlights the story of York, an enslaved Black Man owned by Captain William Clark. York played a vital but historically underrepresented role in the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

York's significant contributions as a hunter, guide, caretaker, and intermediary during Tribal interactions are documented in the journals of the Expedition and the oral histories of Tribal Nations. Members of the Arikara Tribe referred to him as "Big Medicine" honoring his strength and the distinctiveness of his skin color.

This presentation is part of an ongoing project by the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to deepen understanding of York's legacy and the lessons it offers today. A 25-minute documentary, set to premiere in summer 2025, will be available free to stream and will be showcased at select locations along the Trail. The project also includes capturing Tribal perspectives and developing additional public content. With sufficient funding, the team aims to create a full-length feature film to further explore York's story.

We will keep you updated on viewing opportunities for the documentary. In the meantime, for those in Montana and Idaho,



YORK OUTDOORS

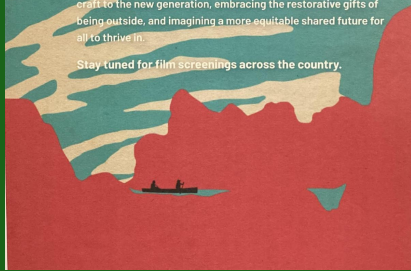


American history, outdoor recreation, and
Black joy through the lens

This transformational river expedition was captured by NEW Multimedia and directed by Emmy nominated, award-winning filmmaker Andre Lambertson. A 25-minute documentary is currently in the works by NEW Multimedia, set to be released in Summer 2025.

The themes explored on this adventure stretch across the big Montana sky, from retracing the Expedition and acknowledging how far we have come as a nation, rights and access to nature and recreation, the passing down of stories, knowledge, and craft to the new generation, embracing the restorative gifts of being outside, and imagining a more equitable shared future for all to thrive in.

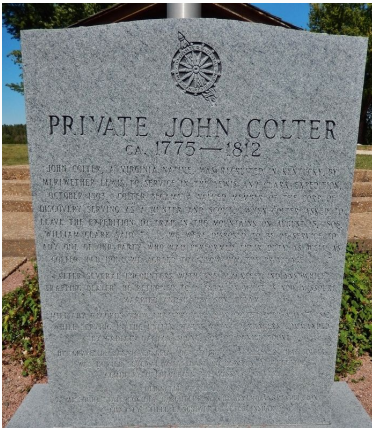
Stay tuned for film screenings across the country.



don't miss Hasan Davis' upcoming presentations at Lolo Travelers Rest (near Missoula) and the Lewis and Clark Intepretive Center in Great Falls. For details on these and other events, visit the [Events Page](#) on the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience website.



New YouTube Content



Watch [Where is John Colter?](#)

Journey to New Haven Missouri in search of the grave of John Colter.

Eventually one of the Corps of Discovery's most famous veterans, John Colter joined the expedition early, became one of its most useful hands, left it early, and yet did not get home until nearly four years after it ended. His



Watch [Point of Departure: The River Dubois](#)

The phrase "Point of Departure" originates from Captain Meriwether Lewis himself. On May 14, 1804, he wrote in his journal: "The mouth of the River Dubois is to be considered as the point of departure." That spring day, as the Lewis and Clark Expedition set out from what is now Wood River Creek, they embarked on a journey that would reshape the future of the United States.

Preparation began in



Watch [Where did Sakakawea die?](#)

We are happy to be able to bring new life to archival video footage that was recorded as part of the Tribal Legacy Project.

From 2003 through 2006, the National Park Service hosted a national touring exhibit called Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future that traveled to 22 states and set up at 95 venues to commemorate the Bicentennial of the

permanent role as an icon of Western American history came from his adventures as a fur trapper between the summer of 1806 and the spring of 1810.

December 1803, with winter quarters built at Camp River Dubois, across from the Missouri River's mouth.

Site Superintendent Brad Winn presents a captivating overview of this historic site and its impact upon American history.

Lewis and Clark expedition and its impact on American history.

Amy Mossett of the Mandan/Hidatsa Tribe recorded this segment which explores the death of Sakakawea

A Unique Opportunity

The Mead Museum, owned and operated by the Yankton County Historical Society (YCHS), provides an authentic historical experience of the Yankton, South Dakota area from pre-Dakota Territory to the modern era.

Early in 2024, an exciting addition to the Mead Museum *Journeying Forward: Connecting Cultures* exhibit was offered. An original Jefferson Peace Medal, handed out by Lewis & Clark, has been in a Yankton resident's private collection since 2014. The Mead Museum is being offered this peace medal as a long term permanent exhibition loan by the current medal owner. Added security, special exhibit case and exhibit modifications (costing \$10,217) for the exhibition is needed before the loan of the medal can be finalized. A fundraiser for this special project is currently underway by the Mead Museum with a projected finish date of April 2025.



For interest in financial support of this project, contact Crystal Mensch, Executive Director at director@meadbuilding.org, (605) 665-3898, or [Peace Medal Donation](#)

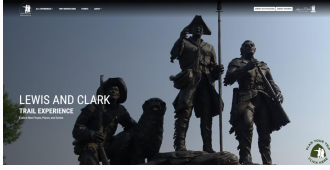
Our Network of Online Resources

The Lewis and Clark Trail Experience links authentic communities and cultures—including tribes whose connections span thousands of years

The Lewis and Clark story ties together famous people, natural history, military expeditions, Native American history, and

Our national alliance connects Lewis & Clark resources across the country, inspiring lasting public engagement and promoting a more

—to historic, vibrant and living landscapes. Be amazed at our travel website



more. Explore the 2300+ pages of all things Lewis and Clark on our educational website



knowledgeable, healthier society. Explore more at our Alliance website



TRAVEL

EDUCATION

ALLIANCE



Partner Spotlight

Fort Osage
National Historic Landmark

Apart from its connections to the Lewis & Clark expedition, Fort Osage is rich in history so much so that in 1961 it finally became registered as a historical landmark.



Built under the direction of General William Clark, joint commander of the famous Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Osage was established in 1808 as a military outpost in the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. The Fort's purpose was to provide a military presence in the territory in order to assure Spain, France, and Great Britain that the United States meant to protect its territory by military strength and to establish healthy relations with the Native American population in the territory.



These days, however, Fort Osage provides an opportunity for visitors to tour the reconstructed site and experience living history. Each year, the Fort Osage Education Center provides educational programs to thousands of students.



New Mobile APP for the Lewis and Clark Trail Experience



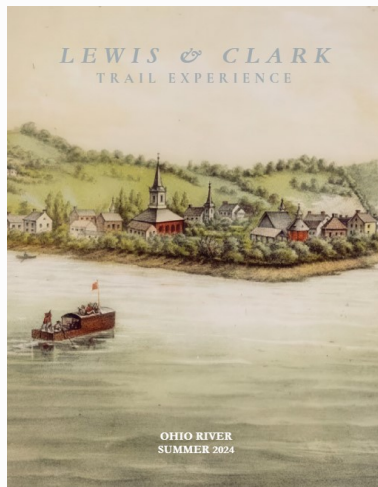
Experience the **Lewis & Clark Trail**
With Our **New APP**

Get it on
Google play

Download on the
App Store

QR Code

Scan the QR Code with your mobile device



Check out our [Digital Travel Magazines](#) This month we feature the Ohio River edition. This plus 10 additional magazines are full of interesting articles, travel tips, and links to fascinating places to visit.



COLUMBIA BASIN: CONFLUENCE PROJECT AND PUBLIC WORKS OF ART

With the Bicentennial of Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery on the horizon, cultural leaders throughout the Columbia Basin contemplated separate public art projects in their various locations. Starting in the year 1999, a gradual consensus formed to...

Stops: 12

Travel Distance: 376.8 miles

[VIEW INSPIRATION](#)

Looking for your next roadtrip? Our curated itineraries provide routes and suggestions from veteran LCTA travelers.

Check out the [current trips](#) and let us know what we should add next.

New L&C Events

EVENTS



MAPPING ST. LOUIS – 40 RARE MAPS

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2025

TIME: 5:00 PM

LOCATION: MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM, LINDELL BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS, MO, USA ([VIEW ON MAP](#))

Join Andrew W. Hahn, local author and executive director of the Campbell House Museum, for this presentation about his new book, which charts the growth of St. Louis from its founding in the 1700s to the present day. Mapping St. Louis: A History of the Gateway City in 40 Rare Maps interweaves maps...

[Event Details](#)



WINTER STORYTELLING – HASAN DAVIS SHARES THE JOURNEY OF YORK

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2025

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 6717 U.S. 12, LOLO, MT 59847, USA ([VIEW ON MAP](#))

Thomas Jefferson's Corps of Discovery included Captains Lewis and Clark and a crew of 29 men to chart a route from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. All the crew but one volunteered for the mission. York, the enslaved man taken on the journey, did not choose to go. York's...

[Event Details](#)



LAND STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 15, 2025

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2025

LOCATION: FONTENELLE FOREST, BELLEVUE BOULEVARD NORTH, BELLEVUE, NE, USA ([VIEW ON MAP](#))

The volunteer Land Stewardship crew meets on select Saturday mornings to work on various projects. Anyone is welcome to join, even if it's just one time. Bring the family and get some hard work done with us! Projects, start time, and location will be announced via email blast 10 days...

[Event Details](#)

We have a new Calendar of Events with expanded content and features. LCTA and Interpretive Partners are contributing interesting opportunities to learn and have fun along the Trail.

Last Chance for Photo Calendars

Get your 2025 calendar featuring images from the LCTA photo contest before they are all gone.

[Order Your Calendar Today](#)



lewisandclark.org



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