

OREGON HISTORIC TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2012

Visited Oregon State Archives, Oregon State Library and the Willamette Heritage Center and toured their respective facilities.

Met with representatives of Lewis and Clark National Historic Park, Fort Clatsop, Washington State Historical Society and the Washington Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Toured a section of the Oregon National Historic Trail on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.

2012 MEETINGS

SALEM, April 27-29

April 27

Oregon State Archives, 800 Summer St. NE. Contact: Todd Shaffer

The Archives were created in 1945 and house all permanent State and County records. Other collections include military, provisional, territorial, and donation claim records. Death records for the years 1903-1961 are also kept here. "Finding aids", in the form of binders, help the researcher locate various documents. There is also an indexing tool on their website, <http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us>. The Archives do not collect personal records or journals.

A climate controlled room of approximately 50,000 cubic feet contains a vault that houses various audio and photographic elements, including photos taken by State employees during the course of their employment as well as legislative portraits dating back to the 1800s. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Shaffer pointed out that the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) maintains its own archives.

Oregon State Library, 250 Winter St. NE. Contact: Alice LaViolette

The Oregon State Library was constructed in 1938. The facility is used extensively by State employees conducting research and those interested in Oregon culture and history. The Oregon Index Alcove is a room that utilizes traditional index card drawers. The drawers are divided into three sections: Biography, Subject Heading and Special Collections. We were shown the "stack room", an expansive repository of fascinating books and periodicals. This section is not open to the public, although individuals may access its contents on a pre-notification basis. We were also given a tour of the Oregon Poet Laureates Reading Room and the Genealogy Room. Oregon Trail Immigrant Resources and

Microfilm 11 is a collection of journals, church records and various other period related documents. Contents of the Microfilm Room can be accessed online at <http://library.state.or.us>.

April 28

Willamette Heritage Center, 1313 Mill St. NE. Contact: Kylie Pine

The facility was founded in 2010 as a result of the merging of the Marion County Historical Society and the Mission Mill Museum Association. There are 14 historic structures on the grounds. The library and archives are in the former Marion County Historical Society building. We were told that indexing is an ongoing endeavor which was estimated to be approximately 20% complete. We were shown the proper use of various indexing tools, including binders and computer terminals. OHTAC member Glenn Harrison conducted a tour of the grounds and provided background information on the aforementioned structures and their significance to Oregon's history.

TRIP SUMMARY

The primary purpose of the meeting in Salem was to re-acquaint the membership with available sources of information and to learn technological changes relating to effective research. Membership consensus was positive and it was suggested that the group periodically returns to Salem to stay up-to-date on changing resources.

ASTORIA, June 1-3

June 1

OHTAC members were given an orientation by Mark Johnson and Steve McClure of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) in preparation for the following day's field research.

June 2

A tour of Dismal Nitch was conducted by Jim Sayce of the Washington State Historical Society. David Szyanski of the National Park Service (NPS) assisted in interpreting the activities of the expedition in the area.

Station Camp, approximately 2 miles north of Dismal Nitch. The name is derived from its use at the time to note a benchmark point. In this case it is the location at which the expedition was unable to proceed because of extreme sea conditions. The party camped here adjacent to a Chinook seasonal village, which has been determined to be the oldest known trading site for Euro-Asians and the Chinook.

Salt Works, Seaside. It was here that the expedition boiled down saltwater and extracted the salt. Archaeologists are confident in the location due to large charcoal deposits.

Indian Beach at Ecola State Park. Clark visited the salt works and made the difficult hike to Indian Beach, where he was told of a beached whale.

Necanicum Estuary Village. Clark visited this location and reported positive interaction with the Indians. The village is now under the management of the Nature Conservancy.

Fort Clatsop. NPS Ranger Sally Freeman conducted the tour of the facility. Fort Clatsop was built in approximately two weeks. OHTAC members viewed a documentary illustrating the wintering experience of the expedition from the Native American perspective. At the end of the day, OHTAC was given the honor of assisting in the retiring of the American flag at Fort Clatsop.

TRIP SUMMARY

The Lewis and Clark Expedition was a defining event in the exploration stage of the American western movement. It is also a rather intricate piece of history. OHTAC members were able to connect with experts in the field on this trip, gaining knowledge of how the Lewis and Clark Trail relates to the people and geography involved in this extraordinary accomplishment.

LAGRANDE, September 21-23

September 22

Met with Eric Harvey, south zone archaeologist for the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Mr. Harvey is responsible for cultural resources on approximately 1.5 million acres. We proceeded to Blue Mountain Crossing, which is approximately 13.8 miles northwest of LaGrande. Mr. Harvey pointed out wagon ruts and tree scars on a segment of the Oregon National Historic Trail. The group cleared brush and obstructions from approximately 2,000 feet of the Trail and mended a damaged fence. Mr. Harvey explained that root wads and off road vehicle traffic have contributed to Trail damage.

TRIP SUMMARY

OHTAC membership was able to view what many believe to be some of the finest remnants of the Oregon National Historic Trail in the State. The group also found merit in contributing to rehabilitation efforts. It was mentioned that such opportunities should be discussed when planning future trips.

The Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) serves as an advisory body for activities and policies relating to Oregon's 16 Historic Trails. OHTAC consists of nine citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor by Executive Order 98-16. OHTAC typically meets three times annually. These meetings consist of:

- (a) On site research of a segment of one of Oregon's 16 Historic Trails. Experts and local residents are invited to accompany the membership in order to contribute information and perspectives on the history, use and protection of the segment in question.
- (b) A business meeting to update the membership on various OHTAC related activities and to plan for future events. All OHTAC business meetings are open to the public and time is set aside on the agenda for public comment.

OHTAC members also participate in a variety of additional activities, including meetings, teleconferences, webinars and site inspections in order to assure that the organization's responsibilities are fulfilled.

2012 MEMBERSHIP

Wendell Baskins Oregon City

John Chess Pendleton (deceased June 23)

Connie Colton Baker Valley

James Ford Merlin

Glenn Harrison Albany

John Hayes Sisters

Loren Irving Bend

Leta Neiderheiser Grants Pass

Sam Woolsey The Dalles