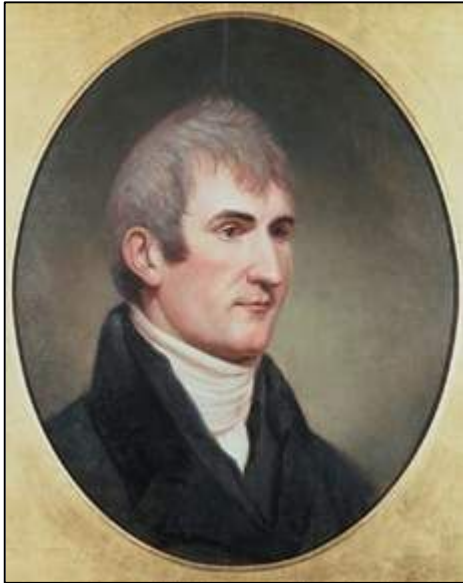


MERIWETHER LEWIS

<http://www.findagrave.com/>

Explorer. Born on a plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia, he and his family moved to Georgia when he was ten but by thirteen he was sent back to Virginia for an education by private tutors. By 1794 he had



joined the Virginia militia, and was sent as part of a unit involved in putting down the Whiskey Rebellion. In 1795 he joined the regular army and for a brief period he was attached to a sub-legion of General Anthony Wayne commanded by Lieutenant William Clark. He served until 1801 achieving the rank of captain.

Thomas Jefferson recruited Lewis as his secretary-aide that same year and he soon became involved in the planning of the Corps of Discovery expedition across the Louisiana Purchase. In 1803 Congress appropriated funds for the Expedition, and Lewis was commissioned its leader. With Jefferson's consent, Lewis offered the post of co-captain of the expedition to William Clark. The expedition took almost three years and solidified the United States' claims to land across the continent, and acquainted the world with new species, new people and new territory. Upon the Corps' successful return, Jefferson appointed Lewis governor of the Louisiana Territory and granted him a reward of 1500 acres.

In October of 1809, while en route to Washington, D.C., Lewis died by violence at a wayside inn called Grinder's Stand outside Nashville, Tennessee. No completely satisfactory explanation for his death has ever been found. Mrs. John Grinder who served as his landlady on the last night of his life reported: "... heard the sound of a gunshot and then the sound of something heavy falling to the floor... followed by the words, "Oh Lord!" ... heard the sound of another gunshot and in a few moments, Lewis' voice ... "Oh, Madame, give me some water and heal my wounds." ... [she] refused to leave the room where she had been sleeping ... she waited nearly two hours before ... [rousing] the servants. They came inside and found Lewis on his pallet ... He had been [shot] in the side and once in the head. The buffalo robe that he lay on was soaked with blood and Lewis was barely hanging on to life. ... He died just as the sun was rising." Lewis was buried there on the property.

The land is now the Meriwether Lewis State Park in Tennessee. Thomas Jefferson is credited with the inscription on Lewis' tombstone: *Immaturus obi: sed tu felicior annos Vive meos, Bona Republica! Viva tuos* (I died young: but thou, O Good Republic, live out my years for me with better fortune.) A year after his death, John Grinder, in whose home Lewis died, was brought before a grand jury on a warrant of murder. The charges were dismissed since no evidence or motive existed against him. Whether Lewis' death was suicide, as was widely believed, or murder, as contended by his family, is still an open question.

Cause of death: Apparent suicide

Burial:

[Pioneer Cemetery](#)

Hohenwald

Lewis County

Tennessee, USA

MERIWETHER LEWIS MEMORIALIZED IN TENNESSEE

HOHEWARD (AP) – Two hundred years after he died mysteriously, explorer Meriwether Lewis was honored Wednesday as a courageous hero with the memorial service he never had.

An estimated 1,200 people gathered to salute Lewis beside a monument at his gravesite in the Middle Tennessee country where he died. Lewis County is named in his honor.



Howell Bowen of Charlottesville, VA, great-great-great-great-nephew of Lewis, said it was a fitting observance for the trailblazer who explored the American West.

(Pictured: Tom Ronk, left, of Jefferson City, MO, and Jim Wallace, of Creel Springs, IL, fold the flag at the grave of Meriwether Lewis in Hohenwald, Wednesday.)

“I’m sure he’d be pleased,” Bowen said.

The Montana-based Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation organized the event, called “Undaunted Courage; The Final Journey,” the first of its kind memorializing Lewis.

He had no formal funeral.

A bronze bust of Lewis was dedicated, and representatives from 20 states carried flags in a procession to the grave where dozens of wreaths were laid.

Cameron Sholly, superintendent of the Natchez Trace Parkway along which the ceremony was held, said Lewis was “an extraordinary man.”

“He broke through frontiers of what we know as this country today,” Sholly told the gathering under bright sunshine in the rolling Tennessee hills 70 miles southwest of Nashville.

Susan Whitaker, commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, said Lewis deserves his prominent place in history.

“May our government never fail to tell this story,” she said.

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Purchase territory.

For more than two years, Lewis and Clark explored the territory and land westward to the Pacific. They mapped routes through the Rocky Mountains and collected data about wildlife, climate and natural resources.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, 8 October 2009, Page A-3.

HOHENWALD, Tenn. — Two hundred years after he died mysteriously, explorer Meriwether Lewis is being honored with a service memorializing him as a gung-ho hero.

Hundreds of people are expected to gather Wednesday to salute Lewis at a monument on his gravesite in the Middle Tennessee county where he died and that is named in his honor.

From 1803 to 1806, Lewis and William Clark explored the Louisiana Purchase territory and land westward to the Pacific. They mapped routes through the Rocky Mountains and collected data about wildlife, climate and natural resources.

Some historians believe Lewis fatally shot himself in the head in 1809. Others believe that he died as a result of a plot by his political enemies. He was the governor of the Louisiana Territory at the time of his death.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>