

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Philadelphia Chapter Meeting

**Survey of
Washington D.C.**

A presentation by
Chas Langelan

Andrew Ellicott's surveys today are epic stuff of *lore*. Finest American surveyor of his time, with the most accurate, exacting hand-built equipment in all the land, Ellicott was one of only *two* men this side of the Atlantic who could establish precision latitudes and longitudes from the *stars*. While other American surveyors were sighting through open-vane compasses, Ellicott laid out *his* lines using God's own Heaven.

In his legendary career, Andrew Ellicott completed Mason & Dixon's Line, laid out the Georgia-Mississippi border, the western bounds of Pennsylvania, the American boundary with Spanish Florida, the new York-Pennsylvania line, the town of Erie, obtained coordinates of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and trained young **Meriwether Lewis** --- in astronomy --- for his journey to immortality with **William Clark**.

But Andrew Ellicott's *greatest* --- and infinitely *most challenging* --- assignment of all was the **Survey of Washington, DC**.

This illustrated presentation covers the surveying, design and lay-out of the original City of Washington, from its site selection in **1790** in final approval of the city plan in **1797**, including the pivotal roles played by **Pierre L'Enfant, Andrew and Benjamin Ellicott, Benjamin Banneker, Isaac Briggs and James Reed Dermott** --- not to mention tow Virginia land surveyors --- **George Washington** and **Thomas Jefferson**.



Andrew Ellicott Park: 2824 North Arizona Street (sometimes listed as 2824 Meridain Street), south of West Street in Falls Church, Virginia.

Chas Langelan is a retired land surveyor who was the first private surveyor ever registered by the District of Columbia (1991), a Founding Charter officer of the District of Columbia Association of Land Surveyors (DCALS), past President of the Maryland Society of Surveyors (2002-2003), named Surveyor of the Year, Maryland (2003), past President of DCALS (2005-2006) and an active member of the SHS, MSS, DCALS, VAS and the Washington Map Society (WMS).

Chas currently serves on the board of directors for the Surveyors Historical Society. He gave historical surveying demonstrations at the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's Surveying and Cartography Regional Meeting in Lancaster, PA (September 2008) and at the Lewis and Clark Day in Frederick, MD (September 2011).

Meeting will be held on
Saturday June 23, 2012

at the

Holiday Inn

Philadelphia Historic District Hotel

400 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Board Meeting at 10:30 AM

Lunch at Noon (Betsy Ross II Room)

Presentation at 1:00 PM

Lunch choices are:

Coins Chopped Salad – (With choice of chicken or shrimp) Crisp Garden Greens, Tomatoes, Red Onions, Olives, Cucumbers, Bleu Cheese and Crouton with White Balsamic Vinaigrette \$20

Vegetarian Wrap – Sautéed Spinach, Roasted Red Peppers, Red Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes and Sharp Provolone Cheese in a Tortilla Wrap with Asian Slaw \$19

Turkey Classic – Shaved Smoked Turkey, Swiss Cheese, Butcher Block Bacon with a side of Honey Mustard on a Country Roll, served with Red Bliss Potato Salad \$22

Lunch includes Coffee, Tea or Iced Tea plus dessert.

RSVP Tom Brady by June 19th. Please indicate your choice for Lunch. Tom can be reached at 215-342-7614.

Parking is \$5 for attendees, in attached garage. Please show ticket at Registration Desk to receive discount. See www.septa.org or 215-580-7800 for public transport.

Ellicott set 40 boundary stones. How many still exist after more the 200 years?
<http://www.boundarystones.org>