On their return from the Pacific Ocean in May of 1806, the Corps of Discovery entered the foothills of the Blue Mountains near an ancient American Indian trail. This road, sometimes referred to as the Nez Perce Trail, once extended from the Walla Walla River to the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers. Many Plateau Indian groups, particularly the Nez Perce, Walla Wallas and Cayuse, used this road extensively for salmon fishing in the spring and summer, and for deer hunting in the highlands each fall.

A frequent mode of transportation on this road was a travois, built with two long trailing poles, one on either side of a dog or horse, and attached in front with a collar. The poles were held together behind the animal with hides supported by cross poles, forming a pocket on which possessions were carried. These devices were dragged over the trail, causing deep, parallel tracks which marked the earth. This accounts for the ruts visible on some of the eastern portions of the trail today.

On May 3rd, Lewis and Clark set up camp for the night in a grove of Cottonwood trees on Pataha Creek at the spot where the ancient Indian trail left the valley and went up the ridge to the higher plains. This campsite is located 5 miles east of Pomeroy on US Rte. 12, and part of the Lewis and Clark Trail—Travois Road are still visible from there today.

Reserve your tickets for this historical tour today!
Please call: 509-566-7079
Or
Email: deadmanc@hotmail.com
Complimentary lunch is included!

Six guests minimum, fourteen guests maximum.
$45 per person
Duration: 3 1/2 hours
Pomeroy is the seat of Garfield County, the least populated of Washington's 39 counties and is located in the Pataha Valley in the southeastern portion of the state, an agricultural region primarily devoted to dry-land wheat, barley, and grass-seed farming and cattle and sheep ranching. Pataha Creek, a tributary of the Tucannon River, flows through the center of town. Pomeroy is the only incorporated city in Garfield County.

Blessed with a wealth of charming older buildings, Pomeroy has an active historic preservation community dedicated to celebrating and maintaining these aesthetic and cultural resources. The designated Downtown Pomeroy Historic District is a 13.7-acre, eight-block area. Most buildings within the historic district date from between 1887 and 1953. On August 21, 2003, the Downtown Pomeroy Historic District was entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Pomeroy's picturesque nineteenth century Main Street and quiet small-town charm, coupled with its proximity to outdoor activities on the Snake River and Blue Mountains, fosters tourism. Residents value and celebrate the town's pioneer heritage, preserving and maintaining historic stores, houses, and farms.

The first stop on your Journey is the historic downtown area, where you will have the opportunity to visit the Courthouse, the Garfield County Museum, and the historic Seeley Theater. You can stop into Meyers Hardware and the Pomeroy Pharmacy for local memorabilia along with coffee or ice cream.

The Eastern Washington Agricultural Museum is housed in two barns on the county fairgrounds, started in 2009 after some of the county’s older residents expressed a desire to preserve the area’s farming heritage. It’s a mix of machines, farming equipment, household items, and displays showing Garfield County history.

The historic Hauswer Flour Mill in Pataha is a working water-powered flour mill built in 1879. An inspiring tour of the three story facility is followed by a complimentary lunch.