

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St., N. W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My name is Keith Vanstone. Meriwether Lewis was my great-great-great-great uncle.

I attended the coroner's inquest held in Hohenwald, Tennessee in 1996 with my mother, who has since passed away. I have continued to support our family's endeavors to exhume and scientifically examine his remains to find the truth about the mysterious death of Meriwether Lewis. Afterwards, he would be provided a Christian burial that he had not been able to have previously.

This past year I was encouraged and excited that Assistant Secretary Laverty had decided that the exhumation and scientific examination was "appropriate and in the public interest."

The family was led to believe that if the proper procedures were followed, then the exhumation and study would be approved. However, it now seems that the National Park Service has no intention of abiding by Assistant Secretary Laverty's decision. Families of other notable Americans have been afforded the opportunity to unravel death under mysterious circumstances (i.e. President Taylor).

I have seen a copy of and endorse the letter that Tom McSwain sent you on March 13, 2009. I am hereby writing to ask for you to clear the hurdles to allow this scientific study to proceed so that we can all know the truth about the death of my uncle, Meriwether Lewis and then provide the Christian reburial of his remains.

As we approach Memorial Day, and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death later this year, doesn't this American hero of undaunted courage deserve to have the truth of his death known? Doesn't his family? Doesn't his nation?

I thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith C. Vanstone  
3803 Plantation Dr.  
Hermitage, TN 37076

✓ Copy: Locust Hill Graveyard Foundation