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Santa Fe Trail Association

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NPS TRAIL SURVEY

The National Park Service (NPS) began the planning survey of the Trail in March, which will result in a new book of maps and a volume of site inventories to be used in preparation of the comprehensive management plan for the Trail. NPS historian Jere Krakow has been the primary leader for the field work on this project, and a host of local experts (too numerous to be identified here, but who will all receive recognition in due time) have been relied upon for help along the Trail.

Gregory Franzwa, owner of Patrice Press in St. Louis, is a part of the survey team and will prepare and publish the maps. Historians Leo and Bonita Oliva are assisting with the project and site inventory forms. NPS planning expert Michael Spratt worked with the survey in Missouri before being promoted to another position within the NPS. He has been replaced by John Paige of Denver, who joined the team on the Mountain Branch in Colorado and New Mexico. Betty Burnett, editor with Patrice Press, has accompanied the party much of the time.

The survey began at Old Franklin, Missouri, and followed the Trail west toward Santa Fe. The team completed field work on most of the Cimarron Cutoff to Santa Fe in April and worked on the Mountain Branch in May. All members of the team are pleased with the amount of Trail ruts and historic sites that remain, although much has been lost during the last century. They expect to have preliminary reports and recommendations completed by the fall of 1988, when additional public meetings will be held along the Trail to gather reactions and suggestions from all interested parties. Completion of the management plan for the Trail is projected for the fall of 1989. All this work on the Trail is required by the 1987 law which added the Santa Fe Trail to the National Historic Trails System. The survey team thanks everyone who has helped with the project.

LOGO CONTEST CORRECTION

The chairman of the logo committee has moved and the address to send entries is: Bill Pitts, 7011 NE 10th St. #202, Midwest City, OK 73104. All other contest rules remain the same and the deadline for entries is still October 31, 1988. The committee is hoping for many good entries. Please send them to this new address.

TRAIL RENDEZVOUS

JUNE 2-4 AT LARNED

The program schedule for the 1988 Trail Rendezvous, June 2-4, was sent recently to all SFTA members and numerous other interested persons. A large turnout is expected for the three-day seminar, including a buffalo barbecue at Fort Larned and a field trip to Trail sites. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. on June 2. The speakers' series will be held at the Larned Community Center, 1500 Toles St., on June 3-4. The Rendezvous will adjourn by noon on June 4, and living history demonstrations will be presented at Fort Larned National Historic Site during that afternoon.

The New Mexico Highway Dept. was erecting a new sign at McNees Crossing when the NPS survey team visited the site in April. Shown here, left to right, are Union County Historical Society President Susan Richardson, Leo Oliva, and Bonita Oliva. (Photo by Gregory Franzwa.)
PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Recently I attended a meeting in Boise City, OK, conducted by David Gaines of the National Park Service (NPS). The purpose was to bring folks in that area up to date on the progress that has been made so far under the new Trail Bill. A good crowd showed up, including a number of SFTA members from New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas, as well as Oklahoma.

Some of them used the occasion to organize a Dry Cimarron Cutoff Chapter of the SFTA. I answered questions and offered encouragement. As stated in the last WT, our governing board at its next meeting (at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, June 2, 1:30 p.m.) will review and approve guidelines for those wishing to form chapters. If there is a lot of Trail interest in your area, it is not too early to begin drumming up support for a chapter.

One of the chief purposes of the SFTA is to provide information and assistance to those with some serious interest in the Trail. The Olivas and Greg Franzwa, for example, have been playing a key role in the NPS Trail survey that is now underway. Others of our officers have been nominated to the advisory council now being formed by the NPS. Also, SFTA member Joan Myers and myself have been assisting in the creation of a new logo the NPS will use on signs destined to be posted along the Trail. And our publicity director Mike Pitel has developed a marketing plan that will help local communities and chambers of commerce promote Trail activities that will stimulate local economies. So, our organization is active on many fronts.

In coming months I will be traveling a good deal, making appearances and speaking at various events along the Trail. These occasions give me the opportunity to see and meet our members and to draw new members into our ranks. Enthusiasm, I can tell, remains high everywhere and to this I can add, we have come a long way in the past two years!

Marc Simmons

NPS NEWSLETTERS

If you do not receive NPS Santa Fe National Historic Trail planning newsletters and would like to, please write to Santa Fe National Historic Trail Planning Team, Southwest Regional Office, NPS, P. O. Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728. The planning team also welcomes suggestions for preservation and management of the route.

TRAIL MARKER DESIGN

The NPS Santa Fe National Historic Trail planning team has decided not to have a logo contest for the design of markers which will designate the route. After the public meetings in November, the consensus was that the design should be developed by professionals. The SFTA was asked to help with this project. Marc Simmons and Joan Myers will serve as advisers to the NPS planning team and a professional graphic designer. The NPS Harpers Ferry Interpretive Center will provide professional support. A design for these markers is expected to be adopted sometime this summer.

SFTA PUBLICATION FAVORABLY REVIEWED

The SFTA’s first publication, Jack Rittenhouse’s Trail of Commerce and Conquest: A Brief History of the Road to Santa Fe, received favorable notice in the March 1988 issue of Book Talk, a publication of the New Mexico Book League. The short review concluded that “this reprint was a brilliant idea, for no better short history of the Santa Fe Trail has been written.” Thanks, again, to Jack Rittenhouse for donating this excellent piece to the SFTA.

1989 SYMPOSIUM

A tentative schedule for the September 28-October 2, 1989, SFTA Symposium in Santa Fe has been prepared under leadership of Symposium Coordinator Adrian Bus tamante. The theme will be cultural interchange in Santa Fe and on the Trail. Among the featured speakers being sought are Stewart Udall and Robert Utley. In addition to the sessions on Trail topics, several tours are being planned.

One afternoon will be devoted to historic sites in Santa Fe. Another day will include tours to sites between Santa Fe and Las Vegas and a visit to Fort Union NHS. A dinner and fandango are planned at Rancho de las Golondrinas. All this promises to be a delightful experience for all Trail aficionados. Plan now to attend.

RECENT DEATHS

Bob Kasparek

Bob Kasparek, NPS Regional Trails Coordinator in the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver, a member of the Santa Fe Trail planning team, an SFTA member, and a contributor to WT, died in a commuter airline crash near Durango, CO, in January. His knowledge of trails and his work with the planning team for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail will be greatly missed.

Robert Reed Frizzell

Bob Frizzell, who was born at the Frizzell Fort Larned Ranch in 1923, died Feb. 4, 1988. His family preserved the old military post, and Bob was instrumental in the transfer of this valuable historic Trail site to the National Park Service. He was a member of the board of directors of the Fort Larned Historical Society which owns and operates the Santa Fe Trail Center. He was a good friend of the Trail and Fort Larned.

NEW AREA CODE IN SOUTHEAST COLORADO

A new telephone area code, 719, became effective in March 1988 throughout southeastern Colorado. Previously all of Colorado was within area code 303. Among the many towns affected are Alamosa, Colorado Springs, Holly, La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Pueblo, Springfield, and Trinidad.

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FRENCH TRAVELERS RIDE HISTORIC TRAILS

Interest in western trails reaches far beyond the U.S., and three French enthusiasts are traveling a portion of the Santa Fe Trail with horses, mules, and a wagon. Brigitte Blanche, a writer for Cheval (Horse) magazine, her photographer husband, Gilles Dela Borde, and his brother, Herve Dela Borde, plan to trace portions of cattle trails, the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails, and other historic routes in the American West during a year-long visit.

They report that SFTA Ambassador Les Vilda's travels on the Trail are known in Europe. Ambassador Paul Bentrup has assisted them through western Kansas and eastern Colorado, and now both SFTA ambassadors will be known in Europe. The French visitors are sponsored by several corporations, are writing articles about their experiences which are being published in France, and are using Spanish Mustangs and mules provided by Gilbert Jones of Oklahoma.

OREGON TRAIL WAGON TRAIN RIDES AVAILABLE

It is now possible to take a wagon train ride on the Oregon Trail in Nebraska. Trips for one, three, or four days are available from June 6 through September 15, 1988. For further information and reservations contact Oregon Trail Wagon Train, RR 2, Box 502, Bayard, NE 69334 or telephone (308) 586-1850.

COLORADO TRAIL PLANS

Rep. Juan Trujillo of Pueblo, CO, sponsored a bill in the state legislature to mark the route of the Santa Fe Trail across Colorado, as reported in the last WT. Although state funds were not appropriated, the state will help erect signs provided by the National Park Service, local historical societies, and private donors.

Trujillo has two other projects in mind. One is a campaign to change the name of Raton Pass, over which a branch of the Trail went from Colorado into New Mexico, to El Paseo de Santa Fe. The other is a plan for a Santa Fe Trail heritage center in Trinidad close to the Purgatoire River and the downtown area, including a park and museum.

TRAIL FEATURED IN SUNSET MAGAZINE

The May 1988 issue of Sunset Magazine includes an article dealing with the Trail in Colorado and New Mexico, entitled "Mountain Men & Muzzle Loaders." SFTA Publicity Director Mike Pitel stated that Sunset has a circulation of 1.4 million, about 60% of which is in California. The four-page article was written by Asst. Travel Editor Mary Ann Reese and photographers Tony O'Brien, Norman A. Plate, and Buddy Mays. It was the result of a selling effort Pitel began more than 18 months ago. Because Sunset distribution extends east only as far as New Mexico and Colorado, the eastern portions of the Trail were not included in the article.

It appears that Midwest Living Magazine, Des Moines, Iowa, will include an article on the Missouri and Kansas portions of the Trail in a future issue. It has a circulation of more than 425,000. During May Bob Thomas of the Phoenix Arizona Republic newspaper was gathering material on the New Mexico portion of the Trail for a feature article. Pitel has been told that Travel and Leisure, a magazine with 1.1 million circulation, will carry a freelance article about the Trail in its July 1988 issue. During the second week of May, KCTV, a CBS affiliate in Shawnee Mission, KS, carried a week-long series about the Trail. KCTV is owned by Meredith Corp., publishers of Better Homes & Gardens and Midwest Living. Popular interest in the Trail continues to grow.

OLD SANTA FE TRAIL ROAD ASSOCIATION

There were several Santa Fe Trail associations before SFTA was founded, including the Pioneer Trails Association of the 1940s and the Highway 56 Association of the 1960s. Marion Rinehart of Santa Fe sent information from 1912 McPherson, KS, newspapers, located at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka, that show there was an Old Santa Fe Trail Road Association in 1912. That association was promoting an automobile road along the old Trail through Kansas. Frank A. Davis, McPherson, was the secretary. If anyone has additional information on this or other Santa Fe Trail associations, please send information to the editor of WT.

CAVE SPRINGS CENTER EXPANSION PLANS

The Cave Spring Interpretive Center, 8701 E. Gregory Blvd., Raytown, MO, is making plans for expansion. Part of the plan is the purchase of a three-acre tract that remains in private ownership, which would create a 39-acre park that includes Cave Springs. These springs were located near the Trail, and the Center preserves the site and promotes public awareness with the museum.

The other part of the plan is construction of a second building at the site, near the present museum, for educational and community meetings. This building, to be funded in part from sales tax receipts, will provide space for offices, meetings, and displays, easing the cramped quarters of the present center. No word was available on how much funding was available for these plans.

TRAIL RIDE '88

A group of living history enthusiasts, organized by SFTA board member Sylvia Mooney and others in Missouri, plans to travel the Santa Fe Trail this summer, from Arrow Rock to Santa Fe, to commemorate the designation as a National Historic Trail. They plan to start at Arrow Rock on June 4 and spend several weeks on the route, joining with some other shorter Trail rides along the way. In order to meet their schedule, a portion of the route may be driven, with the horses hauled in trailers.

The goal is to promote awareness of the importance of the Trail and to educate others about its history. Clothing and equipment will reflect the time period, and the riders are carrying messages, letters, and "orders for goods" along the route. They are anticipating an exciting and educational journey. Participants include members of several organizations, including the SFTA, Missouri Free Trappers, Rocky Mountain Fur Co., Oregon-California Trails Assoc., Friends of the Three Trails Museum at Independence, Cave Springs Association, and Independence Pioneers Chapter DAR.

For details, contact (until June 2) Anne Carter, RR 1, Box 62, Centerville, MO 64019 (816) 633-7228, or (after June 2) Jane Malinson, Box 8604, Sugar Creek, MO 64054 (816) 461-2454.

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SANTA FE TRAIL RIDE
JUNE 8-15, 1988

The annual Santa Fe Trail ride in connection with Wha-Shun-Gah Days in Council Grove, KS, is scheduled for June 8-15. It is possible to join this ride for a portion of the distance. The ride begins at Harris McGee Station on June 8, arrives in Council Grove on June 10, goes to Diamond Spring on June 12, Lost Spring on June 13, Cottonwood Crossing June 14, and ends at Canton on June 15. Wagons and riders are welcome. For further information write to Trail Ride, 130 Main, Council Grove, KS 66846 or call one of the following numbers: at Council Grove (316) 767-5826 or 767-5307; at Burlington (913) 654-3367 or 793-2466; at Allen (316) 528-3302; or Durham (316) 732-9791 day or 732-3251 night. This ride follows closely the route of the Trail.

TRAIL FESTIVAL IN TRINIDAD, JUNE 10-11

The Trinidad Downtown Area Development Co. (TDAD) and the Colorado Historical Society's Baca/Bloom houses & Pioneer Museum will combine efforts for the Santa Fe Trail Festival in Trinidad on June 10-11. Mark Gardner, administrator of Baca/Bloom & Pioneer Museum, reports that, on June 11, the museum will be open free with living history interpreters to portray the many different types of people who traveled the Trail from 1821 to 1880. The Baca House, built by Trail merchant John S. Hough in 1870, and the Pioneer Museum will be settings for presentations on the role each traveler played in the history of Colorado and the Trail.

Doug McChristian from the NPS Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe will be dressed as a Santa Fe trader and give talks and demonstrations on soldier life on the Trail. Gardner will portray a Missouri trader of the 1840s. Representing the Hispanics along the Trail will be Alexandra Aldred, supervisor park ranger at Bent’s Old Fort NHS, and Teresa Archuleta-Sagel, a traditional weaver from New Mexico. Aldred will demonstrate the adobe horno oven and explain the traditional lifestyles tradesmen learned when they reached New Mexico. Archuleta-Sagel will be in the Baca House to demonstrate colcha embroidery which was common during the period.

The impact of the Mexican War on the Trail will be explained by re-enactor John Lemons of Canon City, portraying an 1846 U.S. dragoon. Anglo women traveled the Trail, and Katie Davis of the Colorado History Museum will portray Marian Sloan Russell. Other historians and demonstrators are also scheduled.

Additional activities in Trinidad include an arts and antiques fair, art and fine craft competition, and an evening musical concert on June 10 by Liz Masterson and the Cactus Crooners (there is a charge for the concert). For more information, contact Mark Gardner, P. O. Box 472, Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 846-7217, or Jane Kurtz, TDAD Office, 105 E. Main St., Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 846-4550.

MAHAFFIE HOUSE DIG
JUNE & JULY 1988

The Mahaffie House and Farmstead, a former stage station on the Trail at Olathe, KS, will be the site of a four-week archeological dig by volunteers, supervised by William B. Lees, archaeologist for the Kansas State Historical Society. The Mahaffie House is operated by the City of Olathe; SFTA board member Michael Duncan is administrator at the site.

The focus of the investigation, which will rely entirely on volunteer labor, is to locate the site of the original 1850s house. During the dig, June 22 to July 1 and July 12 to July 21, public education will be stressed and tours offered. Volunteers interested in participating in the professionally supervised dig will be trained and offered to work from four hours up to the entire 20 days are being sought. For more information, contact William B. Lees, Archeology Dept., Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West 10th, Topeka, KS 66612 (913) 296-2625 or Mike Duncan, Mahaffie House & Farmstead, Box 768, Olathe, KS 66061 (913) 782-6972.

SF TRADE SYMPOSIUM AT BENT’S OLD FORT NHS

"Interpreting the Santa Fe Trade" is the theme for the second annual Fur Trade Symposium at Bent's Old Fort NHS, September 8-11, 1988. Otero Junior College in La Junta is a co-host. The combination of lecture sessions and living history demonstrations is designed to help educate historians, interpreters, and naturalists about all aspects of the Santa Fe Trade and how to transfer that knowledge to the public.

The following speakers are on the program: Jay Anderson, Marc Simmons, David Sandoval, T. Lindsay Baker, Jack Wise, Cathy Smith, William Gwaltney, Sam Arnold, John Burns, Dennis Ditman, Kurt Cunningham, and Leo Oliva. For additional information, contact Kurt Cunningham, 274 Holman Way AVE. E-G, Golden CO 80401 (303) 278-0185.

JOHN HOUGH TO BE HONORED IN TRINIDAD

Pioneer merchant John Hough, who built the Greek Revival style adobe home now known as the Baca House in Trinidad, will be honored by the city and the Colorado Historical Society. The plan is to erect placards on a block-long portion of Chestnut Street (originally called Hough Street) adjacent to the Baca House to recognize Hough’s contributions. See Mark Gardner’s article on Hough in the Feb. 1988 WT.
CIMARRON GRASSLANDS & TRAIL PROMOTED

A group of community leaders from southwest Kansas met recently to discuss possibilities of attracting more tourists to the Cimarron Grasslands, Santa Fe Trail, and other historic sites in the area, particularly in Stevens, Grant, and Morton counties. Since a long stretch of Trail ruts remain on the grasslands, possibilities for hiking trails, horseback riding, and even a Trail museum in the region were discussed. WT hopes to hear more about these plans in the future.

AMARILLO MEMBERS PLAN TEXAS CHAPTER

SFTA member Charles Pitts of Amarillo has led a membership drive for the Association in his area. Pitts, along with Barney Powell and Jim Jeffress, plan to establish a Texas Panhandle Chapter of SFTA. Their efforts have received good coverage in the Amarillo press. Those in the region who are interested in the chapter should contact Pitts at 106 Palomino, Amarillo, TX 79106.

TRAIL RUTS LOST & PROTECTED IN SANTA FE

Although a new golf course in southeast Santa Fe has destroyed some of the remaining Trail ruts into the city, another section of the Trail has been protected. The city Archaeological Review Committee recently approved a plan for a 3-acre housing subdivision that includes a historic protection easement for a section of the old Trail, 40 feet wide and 280 feet long. There will be no access across the section of Trail. The plan includes a protective covenant in any future lot sales. Realtor Gail Roos and Archaeologist Stephen Post are to be commended for these efforts.

TRAIL SESSION PLANNED AT MUSEUM CONFERENCE

SFTA board member Joy Poole will lead a panel, "The Santa Fe Trail Lives On!," at the Midwest Museums/Plains Plains Museums joint annual meeting at the Allis Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, KS, October 6, 1988, 1:30-2:45 p.m. Other participants in the session will be SFTA Vice President Joe Snell, and David Gaines, NPS landscape architect in the Southwest Regional Office. The session will look at developments along the Trail following its designation as part of the National Historic Trails System, and the panelists will discuss the organization and work of SFTA.

DRAGOONS AT RAYADO

JULY 22-24, 1988

Horse soldiers will return to the "Post at Rayado" 12 miles south of Cimarron, NM, July 22-24, 1988. The post was occupied by U.S. Dragoons in 1850-1851. Reenactors from several states will set up a living history encampment on the original site of Rayado which is now part of the Kit Carson Museum on the Philmont Scout Ranch.

The dragoons were the army's mounted troops on the frontier from 1833-1860. The settlement of Rayado, a point where two branches of the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail rejoined, was founded in 1848 on the Beaubian and Miranda Land Grant by Lucien Maxwell. Kit Carson also settled there for a time. Dragoons were stationed there in 1850 after Indians began attacking wagons on the Trail.

The living history encampment will feature soldiers drilling on horseback, wearing authentic uniforms, and riding saddles of the 1850s. All equipment in the camp will be authentic to the period. Activities will include saber and lance exercises on horseback, cannon practice, foot drill, and other activities that would have filled a soldier's day at the frontier post.

Interpreters will be on hand to explain goings-on to visitors. The encampment will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. There is no charge for admission to the encampment or the Kit Carson Museum. For more information, contact Stephen Zimmer, Director of Museums, or Larry Walker, Public Information Officer, Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM 87714 (505) 376-2281.

Scenes from the 1987 Dragoons at Rayado.
BENT'S OLD FORT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
by Rick Wallner

[Ed. note: This is the sixth in a series on museums and historic sites along the Trail. Rick Wallner is a Ranger with the National Park Service at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site.]

It has been called the "pearl" of the Santa Fe Trail. Many consider it to have one of the best living history programs in the National Park system. It offers the "sights, sounds, and the atmosphere of a lost world of the West." The place: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site in southeastern Colorado. This reconstructed adobe fur trading post offers the frontier enthusiast the opportunity to experience life as it may have been at an important way station on the Trail during the 1840s.

Established as a National Historic Site in 1960, Bent's Old Fort is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The site was set aside because of its significant role in America's expansion into the Southwest. For some sixteen years Bent's Fort served as a vanguard of American commerce and influence in the West. It was a place where Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo came together to conduct business, make peace, and just socialize.

Bent, St. Vrain and Co., formed by William and Charles Bent and Ceran St. Vrain about 1830, completed the adobe post on the Arkansas River about 1833. It was known as Bent's Fort, or often Fort William, in honor of its manager, William Bent. The business of the company included the beaver trade, Indian trade, and Santa Fe trade.

Rocky Mountain trappers bartered their beaver pelts and other furs for the equipment and supplies they needed to maintain themselves. As the beaver trade declined the company came to rely more on trade with Indians of the region. The Cheyenne, Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, and others traded buffalo robes for such items as kettles, beads, guns, coffee, and sugar. In addition, Bent, St. Vrain and Co. was an important freighting company on the Santa Fe Trail. Trade goods were hauled along the Trail from Missouri into Mexican territory, where they were sold by St. Vrain and Charles Bent at mercantile outlets in Taos and Santa Fe. The same method operated in reverse with goods of Mexican or Navajo origin being carried to the fort or to Missouri.

In addition to the fort's role as the base for all of these trading activities, it was an important stop on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Traders, teamsters, soldiers, writers, and tourists who passed by had a chance to sample the bit of civilization offered at the fort. This ranged from eating at a table with a white tablecloth to playing a game of three ball carom on the fort's billiard table.

The year 1846 marked the zenith of the fort's activity and the beginning of its decline. The fort warehouses overflowed with military supplies as Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West marched down the Trail to capture Santa Fe during the Mexican War. After U.S. occupation of New Mexico, Charles Bent served a short-lived term as governor before his death early in 1847 during a revolt. William Bent and St. Vrain dissolved the company soon after, and William tried to maintain trade operations out of the fort.

As merchants, settlers, adventurers, and gold seekers poured west after the Mexican War, conflicts escalated with the tribes of the plains. Supplies of wood, clean water, and buffalo steadily declined. Business became more and more difficult. In 1849, with cholera sweeping through the Plains tribes, William, disillusioned and disappointed, abandoned and burned the once mighty post.

The ruins of Bent's Fort remained a landmark on the Mountain Branch. At times other traders used the site as a base of operations. During the 1860s the fort was used by the Barlow-Sanderson Overland Mail and Express Company as a home station and repair shop for the line which ran from Kansas City to Santa Fe. Later the fort was used as range headquarters by several cattlemen, including John W. Prowers.

The last years of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century, however, saw the deterioration of the fort walls go virtually unchecked. Many adobe bricks were carried away to build barns and houses. In June 1921 a great flood of the Arkansas swept over the site, completing the destruction.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who had placed a monument at the fort site in 1912, tried to maintain interest in the fort and a possible reconstruction. In 1926 they acquired title to the site. Due to lack of funds, the DAR transferred it to the State of Colorado in 1954. In that same year the state financed a limited archaeological excavation at the site. It was realized that a true reconstruction could only be accomplished through the resources of the federal government.

Through the efforts of Colorado's Congressional delegation, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site was authorized on June 3, 1960. The NPS assumed administration of the site on March 15, 1963. A thorough archaeological investigation was made from 1963 to 1966. An archaeological excavation was undertaken in May of 1975. After the laying of some 160,000 adobe bricks, the completed fort was dedicated on July 25, 1976.

The reconstruction was based on three main sources of information. First, the archaeological evidence provided a basic floor plan. The second consisted of drawings and sketches done by people who had visited or lived at the fort. Foremost among these were the sketches done by Lt. James W. Abert, U.S. Topographical Engineers. A member of the Army of the West, Abert took sick on the trip from Fort Leavenworth and was left at the fort to recover. During his recuperation he drew several views of the fort, measured the structures, and prepared something of a blueprint. The third comprised diaries, journals, and letters of fort visitors and employees, including Alexander Barclay, Lewis Gar开端, and Susan Magoffin. The combined information from all sources resulted in

Entrance to Bent's Fort viewed from the interior, with the fur press in the foreground.
A portion of the trade room at Bent's Old Fort.

an extremely accurate replica of the original fur trading post.

Besides the fascinating building to explore, today's visitors to the fort may observe many activities, such as a trader inventorying goods or teaching Indian sign language to new arrivals, a craftsman making a horseshoe or repairing a wagon wheel, or a domestic roasting some buffalo meat or making candles. The fort is staffed by NPS personnel who portray the roles of some of the Bent, St. Vrain and Co. employees.

During the summer months, particularly, these people interpret the story of the fort and the company through living history. Guided tours are offered on summer weekends or by prior arrangement.

Bent's Old Fort NHS celebrates several special events each year. Foremost among these are: Winter Quarters, a four-day living history education experience for teachers and historians; Old Fashioned Fourth of July, an observance of the holiday as it may have been celebrated in 1846; Díez y Seis de Septiembre, an observance of the larger war in which the Army of the West and the Trail were important parts. The volume contains text on one side and an illustration (drawn by Angela Goering Miller) to color on the other. There are eleven "puzzler" questions to stretch the imagination, with possible answers at the end of the book. Despite a few factual and mechanical errors, the text is packed with Trail information. The quality of the illustrations is disappointing. This book fills a need; share one with a child.


This article is an outgrowth of Buckles's presentation at the Trail Symposium in Trinidad in 1986 and contains ideas about a management and use plan for the Trail. Buckles has done considerable work on the routes in southwest Kansas and in Colorado, and he recognizes the significance of the Aubry Cutoff which has often been neglected. He mentions the major threats to Trail remains, including erosion and "development," and urges more investigation at the actual sites along the routes as well as in written sources.

Buckles makes many significant recommendations for a management and use plan, a project currently being developed by the National Park Service as required by the addition of the Trail to the National Historic Trails system (legislation which was still pending when Buckles wrote the article). Serious Trail students should obtain and read his observations.

CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

BOOK NOTICES


This historical coloring and activity book will introduce children to the Trail. The facing pages contain text on one side and an illustration (drawn by Angela Goering Miller) to color on the other. There are eleven "puzzler" questions to stretch the imagination, with possible answers at the end of the book. Despite a few factual and mechanical errors, the text is packed with Trail information. The quality of the illustrations is disappointing. This book fills a need; share one with a child.


This reprint of the 1974 publication brings back into print one of the finest popular histories of the conflict. It provides a perspective of the larger war in which the Army of the West and the Trail were important parts. The volume presents the war as seen by ten different characters: John C. Fremont, Samuel G. French, Ulysses S. Grant, Ethan Allen Hitchcock, John T. Hughes, Robert E. Lee, James K. Polk, Joseph Warren Revere, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, and Ephraim Kirby Smith. Still as vibrant as when originally printed, this book will help serious students and interested general readers understand the tragic conflict that still affects relationships between two North American neighbors.

COMPUTER NEEDED

The SFTA sec-treas's record-keeping tasks could benefit from a computer. Many institutions are upgrading equipment and the old machines are of little market value. If you know of anyone who is upgrading, ask them donate the old equipment to SFTA. Please send information to the editor.
On May 16, 1824, a merchants' caravan departed Franklin, Missouri, bound for Santa Fe. Marmaduke kept a journal of the expedition. On May 24 he recorded, "We this evening ascertained the whole strength of our company to be 81 persons and two servants, we also had 2 road waggons [sic], 20 dearborns, 2 carts ... and one small piece of cannon." This was the first large-scale use of wheeled conveyances in the trade.

Marmaduke's decision to engage in the trade caused concern to his family in Virginia. Letters sent by his brother and a cousin early in 1824 counseled him not to go. "I am sincerely sorry that you even had such a thought," a nephew wrote on May 16, the same day his uncle left for Santa Fe.

Marmaduke recorded distances, terrain, and conditions encountered by the caravan. On June 28 they left the Arkansas River for the Cimarron and ran out of water. They were saved late the following day when five or six wells dug into a sandy ravine produced water. On June 29 Marmaduke wrote, "I never in my life experienced a time when such general alarm and consternation pervaded every person on account of the want of water."

The caravan reached Santa Fe on July 28, and trade was extremely slow. On October 15 Marmaduke wrote to John Hardeman of Franklin, "We are now engaged in vending our goods by retail which we find to be a very tedious business as the country is actually over run with goods. One remains in St. Fe, and the other with a pack endeavors to vend wherever he can in the neighboring villages. Money is exceedingly scarce in this country," Marmaduke remained in Santa Fe until May 31, 1825.

Back in Missouri, on January 4, 1826, Marmaduke married Lavinia Sappington, daughter of Dr. John Sappington, the famous pioneer physician of Saline County, Missouri. There were ten children born to this marriage, seven boys and three girls.

Marmaduke settled in Saline County, where he engaged in farming and politics. He served as county court judge and county surveyor. While surveyor, he platted the town of Arrow Rock, which is now a national historic landmark, and Marshall, the Saline County seat.

In October of 1827 Marmaduke made plans to enter into a partnership with his brother-in-law, Darwin Sappington, and Thomas McMahan of Cooper County, engaged in the trade with Mexico. A blank contract prepared by Marmaduke in Mexico, July 22, 1828, expressed his intention to send goods with "the Company that may leave Missouri safe [sic] in the spring of the year 1829."

Evidence has not been located to show if Marmaduke followed through with his intentions or if he was even involved in any other trading expeditions. Significant changes occurred in the trade from 1828 to 1830 which may have influenced Marmaduke to quit the trade. In 1828 Mexican authorities increased import tariffs.

Serious Indian trouble developed along the Trail, and Marmaduke suffered losses on the road. By 1829 Franklin had virtually disappeared into the Missouri River and Independence was ascending as the outfitting center of the trade.

Growing family and political responsibilities may also have been factors. By January 1830 Marmaduke was engaged in the mercantile firm of Marmaduke, Sappington and Co., in Jonesboro (now Napton).

Politically, Marmaduke was a Democrat, a follower of Andrew Jackson and Missouri Senator Thomas Hart Benton. In 1840 Marmaduke was elected lieutenant-governor, with Thomas Reynolds as governor. Upon the death of Governor Reynolds on February 9, 1844, Marmaduke became governor for the remainder of the term. His message to the General Assembly on November 18 showed considerable insight into the condition and needs of the state. Because of the split within the Democratic Party in 1844, Marmaduke withdrew as a candidate for governor in favor of John C. Edwards, who could carry more support from both factions. Marmaduke was a delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1845 and served as chairman of the committee on executive powers. After service in the convention, he retired to private life. He continued to be active in civic affairs and, in 1857, became the first president of the Saline County Agriculture Association.

When the Civil War came, Marmaduke declared himself a strong Union supporter. Typical of the ironies of the war, two of his sons, Vincent and John, served in the Confederate army. John, a West Point graduate, rose to the rank of major general and later became governor of Missouri in 1894.

M. M. Marmaduke died at his home near Arrow Rock township, March 26, 1864, at the age of 73. He was buried according
to the rites of Freemasonry in the Sappington family cemetery five miles west of Arrow Rock. The cemetery is now a state historic site and is maintained by the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

NOTES

3. Ibid.
5. Vincent Marmaduke to M. M. Marmaduke, January 22, 1824; Francis to M. M. Marmaduke, February, 1824; and Vincent McClanahan to M. M. Marmaduke, May 16, 1824; 1021 Marmaduke Papers F2, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-State Historical Society of Missouri, Manuscripts, Columbia (hereafter WHMC-SHSSM).
7. Marmaduke to Hardeman, October 15, 1824, 1065 Hardeman Papers F5, WHMC-SHSSM.
9. History of Saline County Missouri (St. Louis, 1881), 180, 406-407.
10. Ibid., 472; and Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, II, 4.
11. Letter of Agreement by Marmaduke, Sappington, and McMahon, October 30, 1827, and Marmaduke with Contract, July 22, 1826, 1027 John Sappington Papers F16, WHMC-SHSSM.
15. Marmaduke, Sappington and Co. Store Ledger, January 1, 1830-November 19, 1831, 1021 Marmaduke Papers F23, WHMC-SHSSM.
16. Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, II, 3-4; and History of Saline County Missouri, 407.
17. Ibid., 407-408; and Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, II, 4-5.
18. Ibid., 5.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

The request for information on USGS topographic maps containing all branches of the Santa Fe Trail elicited several responses, including a complete list compiled by C. Lee Kroh of Shawnee Mission, KS, which will be included in a future WT when there is more time and space. Theron Dosch of Littleton, CO, sent copies of the state catalogs in which the relevant maps may be found, and Robert White of the USGS in Albuquerque provided information needed to locate and order the sheets.

To obtain maps you need two booklets for each state in which you are interested: (1) Index to topographic and other Map Coverage and (2) Catalog of topographic and other Published Maps. These are available free from the following office: Map Distribution, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225 (303)236-7477. At present the 7.5 minute series (1:24,000 scale) sheets are available for $2.50 each, and order forms are included in the Catalog of Published Maps for each state. Libraries at major universities usually have USGS maps which may be consulted if you do not wish to purchase copies.

Thanks to all who responded to this request.

POST OFFICE OAK

-LETTERS-

Editor:

Please renew my membership for WT. I am surprised more Raton people do not seem to be interested, there is so much history in the area. My grandfather, Ellis E. Jones, Sr., came to Raton area in 1874. My father, Ellis E. Jones, Jr., was six years old at the time. Many important facts there. Interested.

Esther Jones Killam
5820 S. Windemere Apt. 565
Littleton, CO 80120

Editor:

I enjoyed reading Marc Simmons's "Following the Santa Fe Trail. My great-grandfather, Henry H. Jaycox, patrolled the Santa Fe Trail for the U.S. government somewhere in the 1860s to 1880s, perhaps with the cavalry. Do you know if there is a list of names of those who did patrolling and where I could write for this information?

Don V. Wright
Rt. 1, Box 1658
La Grande, OR 97850

You might begin by contacting the old military records branch of the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20408, to see if there is a military service record for your grandfather. If so, you can find out when and with what company and regiment he served. The regimental records from the National Archives could then be used to determine where and when his unit was stationed along the Trail.

Editor:

I am concerned about the Lone Elm campground south of Olathe, Kansas, and the way that country is growing it will be obliterated if we are not careful. I talked to Michael Duncan at the Mahaffie Farmstead about it.

Now about the chapter idea, I think it is a good thing. I am stuck down here in Texas and the other members down here are scattered all over Texas. Could I join the chapter in Olathe, Kansas? That is my home town.

Denny McFarland
P. O. Box 5543
Abilene, KS 79605

I'm sure you will be a welcome member of a chapter at Olathe.

Editor:

Several local historians along the Santa Fe Trail have written and self-published important books and pamphlets. Most of these appear without a most important detail: an address. The book should contain a name and address to which people can write for copies. The best place to put this is on the copyright page, which is the back-hand page that is the back of the title page. Someone may buy a copy in a bookstore at a meeting, or directly from the author. Some time later a friend sees the copy and wants to buy one. Help that person.

Jack D. Rittenhouse
P. O. Box 4422
Albuquerque, NM 87196

HOOF PRINTS

-TRAIL TIDBITS-

The Oregon—California Trails Association in Independence now has a library, or the beginnings of one, at its national headquarters. Peggy Smith, recently retired from the Missouri Valley Room of the Kansas City Public Library, is the volunteer librarian.

Paul Bentrup of Deerfield, KS, continues to seek information on the lost nun's grave and the site known as Pawnee Fort, both in the vicinity of Garden City.

Friends of Arrow Rock recently announced a total membership of 915. Information is available from the Friends, P. O. Box 124, Arrow Rock, MO 65320. The organization will help host the SFTA Symposium in 1991.

Recent word comes of the failure of a Congressional bill that would have brought the Pigeon's Ranch Stage Station and Glorieta Civil War Battlefield (15 miles east of...
Santa Fe) under federal jurisdiction. The measure may be reintroduced next year.

Fort Union National Monument in New Mexico has experienced an increase in visitors since the passage of the Trail bill and erection of new signs on I-25. The site has been giving more emphasis to the Trail in its interpretive programs.

The Oklahoma panhandle ranch on which Camp Nichols and other Trail sites are located was sold in April, and the new owner is Jim Shields of Pringle, TX. He has expressed interest in knowing more about the Trail-related sites and protecting them.

HELP WANTED

I am searching for information about John M. Hockaday and W. M. F. Magraw, mail contractors in Utah Territory during the mid-1850s. After losing the U.S. Mail contract on Route 911 (Independence, MO/Salt Lake City) during 1856, both men became involved with the Utah Expedition of 1857-1858. Any information on these two men would be most welcome.

William P. MacKinnon
2731 Bradway Blvd.
Birmingham, MI 48010
(313) 646-7570

NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue up to May 24, when total memberships stood at 575; those received after this printing will appear in the next issue. If there is an error in this information, please send corrections to the editor. If you know of people who may be interested in the Association and are not a member, please urge them to join. We thank you for your support.

PATRON MEMBERSHIPS

Lauglin Barker, 222 E. Marcy St.,
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Nancy D. Eddy, 1379 Oak Run Rd.,
Carbondale, CO 81623

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Morton County Historical Society,
Drawer O, Elkhart, KS 67950
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Cimarron, NM 87714
Pueblo Library District, Library Director,
100 E. Abriendo Ave.,
Pueblo, CO 81004
Pat & Ed Sitzberger, St. James Hotel,
Rt. 1, Box 2, Cimarron, NM 87714
Union County Historical Society, P. O. Box 517, Clayton, NM 88415

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George & Kathryn Gates, 8366 E. Piney Creek Rd., Parker, CO 80134
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Dr. Gil & Cathi Michel, 515 Washington Rd., Newton, KS 67114
Steve & June Mindock, P. O. Box 160, Woodland Park, CO 80866
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M/M Don Wells, Box 148, Boise City, OK 73933
Jeff & Jo Ann Wells, P. O. Box 1034, Boise City, OK 73933

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D. Ray Blakeley, P. O. Box 486, Clayton, NM 88415
Odalae F. Bohn, Box 805, Boise City, OK 73933
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Dennis J. Kopaz, 755 Uranium Dr. NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Jane Kroetz, 721 Pine, Trinidad, CO 81082
Susan Lewis, Box 281, Kismet, MT 59436
Orville Linck, 429 Delgado, Santa Fe, NM 87501
Brooks Mellreil, Box 1247, Elkhart, KS 67901
on June 3.

June 3–5, 1988: Rails and Trails Days, Las Vegas, NM. Contact Las Vegas/San Miguel Co. CofC, P. O. Box 1, Las Vegas, NM 87701 (505) 425–8631.

June 4, 1988: Rice County Trail Tour, conducted by Dr. George Stoner. Contact Coronado-Qui-vira Museum, 105 West Lyon, Lyons, KS 67554 (316) 257–3941.

June 5, 1988: Dedication Day, free admission to galleries and special programs, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3, Larned, KS 67550.

June 8–12, 1988: NRA Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, NRA Whittington Center, Raton, NM. Contact Larry Osborne, 740 No. First, Raton, NM 87740 (505) 455–3159.

June 8–15, 1988: Santa Fe Trail Ride from Harris McGee Station to Canton (see article on p. 4).


July 4, 1988: Fort Larned July 4th celebration, living history demonstrations, free admission, Fort Larned NHS, Rt. 3, Larned, KS 67550.

July 4, 1988: Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, special programs, admission $2 adults & children, SFT Center, RR 2, Box 286, Haven, KS 67543.

July 4–12, 1988: Kansas Santa Fe Trail Tour from Baldwin City to Cimarron. Contact Topeka Convention & Visitors Bureau, 2644 S.W. 2nd St., Topeka, KS 66609 (715) 223–2054.


Aug. 5–14, 1988: Santa Fe Trail Tour from Fort Osage, MO, to Santa Fe, NM. Contact Leo E. Oliva, Heritage Tours, P. O. Box 1, Woodston, KS 67675.

Aug. 6–12, 1988: Kansas Santa Fe Trail Tour from Baldwin City to Cimarron. Contact Topeka Convention & Visitors Bureau, 2644 S.W. 2nd St., Topeka, KS 66609 (715) 223–2644.

Aug. 13, 1988: Kid's Quarters, Bent's Old Fort NHS.

Aug. 13, 1988: Palace Rendezvous & Buffalo Roast, including living history and authentic buffalo roast, 6–10 p.m., $20 per person, Palace of the Governors, P. O. Box 2087, Santa Fe, NM 87504 (505) 827–6474.


Aug. 21, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, two slide shows by Homer Hastings—"Fort Union and the National Park System" and "Fort Union Sidelights."

Aug. 23, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, slide program by Joey Pooie—"Strolling Sobre el Paso de Ratón."

Aug. 30, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, lecture by Dr. Marc Simmons.


Sept. 3–5, 1988: Cimarron Days and Old Timers Reunion, Cimarron CofC, P. O. Box 604, Cimarron, NM 87714 (505) 376–2614.

Sept. 6, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, lecture by Joan Myers.


Sept. 11, 1988: San Juan College, Farmington, NM, dramatization by VanAnn Moore, portraying Susan Shelby Magoffin.


Sept. 28–Oct. 2, 1989: SFTA Symposium, San Juan, NM. Contact Symposium Coordinator Adrian Bucher, P. O. Box 4132, Santa Fe, NM 87502 (505) 471–8200.

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All matters relating to Wagon Tracks should be addressed to the editor:
Leo E. Oliva
RR 1, Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675
(913) 994-6253

All inquiries regarding membership should be directed to the secretary-treasurer:
Ruth Olson
Santa Fe Trail Center
RR 3
Larned, KS 67550
(316) 285-2054

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE
Every member is to receive all issues of WT printed during the year of membership. If you have not received your issues, contact the editor. While they last, additional copies of back issues may be purchased for $1.00 per copy postpaid.

FROM THE EDITOR
This issue is late because the Olivas have been on the Trail with the NPS planning team. It has been a tremendous experience to travel the Trail and search for remains, stand at the historic sites where so much happened, walk in the ruts, and visit with scores of people who know much about their section of the historic route.

From Old Franklin to Santa Fe, we were on several different branches of the Trail. The trip went quickly because of good guides all along the way, guides who were willing to share information and show us to sites we may never have found without their invaluable help. I don't know if we will ever fully comprehend all that we saw, but after more than 25 years of Trail study, mostly in the written records, it was rewarding to see the actual sites and imagine the activities of Trail days. There may be many more late issues because the call of the Trail is even stronger than before.

Happy trails! —Leo E. Oliva

SANTA FE TRAIL TOUR
August 5-14, 1988
Places are still available for the guided tour of the Trail from Fort Osage to Santa Fe, following the Cimarron Route and returning via the Mountain Route. Reservations need to be made before July 1. Price is $475 for the nine-day trip. College credit is available through Fort Hays State University. For further information, contact Leo Oliva at:

HERITAGE TOURS
P. O. Box 1
Woodston, KS 67675
(913) 994-6253