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President's Corner

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President LaDonna Hutton

President's Corner

It has been so gratifying to me to learn of all your activities, treks and projects along the Trail. We are fortunate to have such active chapters and dedicated members. A big thank you to all of you!

Over the last few months, I have been busy with the Bent's Fort Chapter activities and have had the privilege

of promoting the Santa Fe Trail in several capacities. Recently, I had the opportunity to present our geocache project to the Rocky Ford Rotary Club. The members were astonished to learn of geocaching as many of them had never heard of it before. Many of them said they couldn't wait to try their smart phones out and find a SFTA geocache.

The first week of June found Joanne VanCoevern and Carol Clark, NPS, in our area working on the Media Tour. It was fun taking them to the La Junta Spring and sharing a nice dinner with them.

One of the most poignant experiences I have encountered was a pilgrimage to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site with the Rocky Mountain Methodist Conference. As 2014 is the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, descendants of the survivors of the massacre invited us to learn our shared history. As many Cheyenne and Arapaho people died at the hands of cavalry troops led by Colonel Chivington, a Methodist minister, the Methodist church desires to "embark on a journey toward healing relationships with indigenous peoples." Approximately 650 Methodists journeyed to Sand Creek Massacre Site June

20. Jeff Campbell, a Santa Fe Trail member, gave an informative interpretation at the restored Eads Theater, after which we journeyed to the Sand Creek Massacre site for healing and reconciliation.

Plans for the 2015 Bent's Fort Fur Trader's Symposium are progressing. A group of us recently met to work on grant applications with lots of input from the Santa Fe Trail Association.

I hope you are all looking forward to a fantastic 2014 Rendezvous to be held September 18-20 at Larned, KS. This year's theme is "Hispanics and the Road to Santa Fe." The list of presenters, panel discussions, and tours is impressive and you will enjoy every minute.

As a side note, I thought this geocache log was a perfect example of how truly successful this geocache project is and will be:

Location: Kansas, United States
mrboo99 found SFGT: The Caches (Traditional Cache)
at 7/5/2014

Log Date: 7/5/2014

"In the fall of 1886, my gg grandfather, John Smith Anderson, used the Sante Fe Trail to transport his young family from Arkansas City to Gila Bend, AZ.

Stopping here wasn't just getting another smiley for me. It was a chance to understand how much courage he must have had moving his family to the Arizona Territory having just lost the love of his life and the mother of his grieving children. Thanks for the journey into the past. It meant a lot to me."

Happy Trails and hope to see you in Larned in September!

Rowene Aguirre-Medina
Bill & Susan Bunyan
Clint & Siva Chambers
Nick Cirincione
Barbara Clark
Mary Conrad
Mary Jean Cook
Ray Dewey
Tom & Peggy Ferguson
Jack & Patricia Fletcher
Curtis Frank
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Hall, III
Jon Heit
Bill & Jan Hill

Thank you, SFTA Lifetime Members

Theo Hunt
Charles & LaDonna Hutton
Harold & Beverly Jackson
Kearny County Historical Society
Rich & Debbie Lawson
John Mann
Ross & Shirley Marshall
Clifford Meek
Davy J. Mitchell
Phyllis Morgan
Salvatore & Annette Morreale
Larry & Linda Nelson

Leo & Bonita Oliva
Richard & Lynn Poole
Mike Rogers
Inez Ross
Laura Poole & Phil Ross
Dennis & Gladys Schneider
Clara L. & Duane Shook
Sandy Slusher
Richard M. Smith
Michael Strodman
Henry J. Trauernacht
Michael & Kathy Trier
Joanne & Greg VanCoevern
Elizabeth B. West