

# Wagon Tracks

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Issue 1 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 30, Issue 1 (November 2015)

Article 1

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2016

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 30, Issue 1 (November, 2015)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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# WAGON TRACKS

*Quarterly Publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association*

*volume 30 ♦ number 1*

*November 2015*



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## On The Cover:

### Trail Swales Near San Miguel del Vado, NM

Soon after the Spanish Government approved the San Miguel del Vado Land Grant in 1794, settlements were established along the banks of the Pecos River. Others were founded later in the 19th century.

For American traders traveling west on the Santa Fe Trail in the 1830s and 1840s, this was one of several entry points into Mexico. The Arkansas River to the northeast was the actual border with Mexico, but until Las Vegas was founded in 1835, San Miguel del Vado was the first settlement of any note that travelers encountered. Here customs inspectors examined the wagons and levied heavy import taxes, to be paid in Santa Fe, against the goods they carried. Fees were charged according to the number of wagons in a train, so traders hoping to lessen the tax burden repacked their goods into fewer wagons before entering San Miguel del Vado.

Aware of this, Mexican soldiers joined the trains as far away as Las Vegas, twenty-five miles to the east, and under guard, escorted them into the settlement. The Mexican military had been stationed in the area since the 1820s, offering protection from Indians to those Mexican pioneers settling the San Miguel del Vado Spanish land grant.

The customs activity here ceased after General Kearny's army swept through in the summer of 1846, when this area effectively became part of the United States.

—Courtesy Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway sign

San Miguel del Vado's adobe church was built in 1805, its bell tower in 1830, and the bell in the yard is dated 1861. While the city's defensive quad is gone, the church still faces the river and its *vado* or ford, 100 yards downriver.

This area was one of the stops of the bus tours conducted during the recent Three Trails Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

*Photo: Ruth Friesen*

#### About the Santa Fe Trail Association

*The mission of the Santa Fe Trail Association is to protect and preserve the Santa Fe Trail and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with it.*

Follow us online at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org),  
Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube



*Wagon Tracks, the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), publishes well-researched and documented peer-reviewed articles relating to the Santa Fe Trail. Wagon Tracks is published in February, May, August, and November. Deadlines are the 10th of the month prior to publication. Queries are welcome. Complete submission guidelines are posted at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org). Although the entire issue of Wagon Tracks is copyrighted in the name of the Santa Fe Trail Association, copyright to the article remains in the author's name. Articles may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion.*

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# WAGON TRACKS

Quarterly of the Santa Fe Trail Association  
volume 30 ♦ number 1 November 2015

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*Dr. Moriah Istre portrays a sign language translator for Bent's Fort, as Cora studies her gestures.*



Photo: Ruth Friesen

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## President's Corner *by Larry Justice*

## A New Beginning



*"Individual commitment to a group effort -- that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."* - Vince Lombardi, Green Bay Packers

As the new president of the Santa Fe Trail Association, allow me to share a few thoughts in my first *Wagon Tracks* article.

I extend a sincere "Thank you" to LaDonna Hutton for a job very well done. Assuming the position of SFTA president was the result of circumstances none of us anticipated. But, LaDonna answered the call and served magnificently and competently as both leader and good friend to me and our Board of Directors and our chapters. Now the challenge for me is to continue the wonderful work set by LaDonna and her predecessors since 1986. Fortunately, LaDonna will continue as a member of the Board of Directors, and I know I have her support as we move forward to continue to grow and involve more and more folks in preserving, promoting, and protecting the Santa Fe Trail.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Joanne VanCoevern – and Greg – and look forward to continue to build our national association and our chapters from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. Our new vice president Larry Short and I agree that we will be a

support system and encouragers for Joanne as she continues to serve as our association manager. In addition, perhaps many do not know the special relationship we have with Aaron Mahr and the staff at the National Park Service in Santa Fe and with Ross Marshall, our representative to the Partnership for the National Trail System. Our work with NPS and PNTS is special and will continue to grow. There are and will be challenges, but we can overcome.

I have enjoyed being a member of the Board of Directors, and I look forward to a continued good relationship with our Board members. In addition, I am highly supportive of our chapters and respective leadership. I look forward to visiting the chapters and being an encourager for the local chapters to get the word out about the Santa Fe Trail, their chapter, and helping lead the chapters to new heights.

Folks, we have a good thing going. I was very pleased with the numerical growth we experienced this year. But, as you know, this is an ongoing challenge for all of us. We need to figure out productive ways to grow SFTA and the chapters with new members by impacting new relationships with businesses, museums, educational entities from grade schools to higher education, and relationships with governmental entities in our five-state region, all the while protecting and preserving the SFT. And we need to discover ways to plant the seed in the minds of young, potential future members.

In conclusion, how do I envision the next few years as your president? I didn't seek this honor, but I think I know how we need to approach the future. The image of a successful football team is applicable. The success of a winning team is more than the play of the quarterback or the calls of the head coach. I envision myself as a part of the team. A successful football

program **MUST** rely upon the 100% work of the following: skilled players, offensive and defensive linemen, offensive and defensive backfields, team members on the sidelines waiting and working toward their contribution to the team's success, the coaches on the field and in the booth, the trainers and equipment managers, the fans in the stands and watching or listening to the game through media, the band and cheer squads, the administrative staff members, etc. **ALL** are needed. **ALL** have a responsibility to perform and/or encourage. **ALL MUST** accept the victories **AND** the defeats. **ALL MUST** find ways to work with the others involved. When a play is called, every player needs to know his/her assignment and perform that assignment with integrity and to the best of his/her ability. If one element fails, all fail. Simply applied to the Santa Fe Trail Association: **all of our team must find collective and individual ways to preserve, promote, and protect the trail.** Personal agendas are not helpful. Never forget that we are a team.

When asked to serve in any capacity, bring your expertise and your enthusiasm to the table and join with roughly 650 others who share a passion for the Santa Fe Trail and its legacy as well as a desire to continue learning. I love to play golf. But, when I started playing, my goal was and is simple. Every time I play, I want to learn something new. Every time I am at Glorieta Pass, or Bent's Fort, or McNeas Crossing, or Council Grove, or Gardner's Junction, or Lexington, or Arrow Rock, I want to learn something new. Join me with enthusiasm and vigor for the sake of Trail heritage. So, as I have said in the past as your Membership Chairman on the Board, verbally and intentionally invite friends and relatives and businesses to join us as **The Trail Lives On.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. Come with me as we begin a new journey over the

## Partnership for the National Trails System

by Ross Marshall, SFTA Representative to PNTS



Leo Oliva (left) was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by PNTS representative Ross Marshall (right) on July 1, 2015: *In recognition of his outstanding leadership and achievements with the Santa Fe Trail Association, as one of the founders in 1986, being one of the leading experts on the history of the Santa Fe Trail, editing the SFT Wagon Tracks publication for 25 years, and his leadership in research, promotion, preservation and governance of SFTA and the Trail.*

**Reinvestment Initiative (Dues increase):** I am pleased to report that most of the organizations that comprise PNTS have responded positively toward the dues increase, including SFTA. By next year, I am sure that all will have been responsive. This will enable PNTS to increase its capacity, which will yield solid benefits to the National Trails System in the coming years.

**PNTS Strategic Planning:** Consistent with the above information, PNTS has initiated a Strategic Planning effort which will consider how we can most effectively respond

to both the needs and opportunities within the National Trails System as we work with our private-side partners like SFTA and our public-side partners such as agencies like the National Park Service.

**2016 National Historic Trails Workshop:** Every other year alternating with the biennial PNTS Long Distance Trails Conferences, PNTS sponsors both the National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails Workshops. In 2016, the NHT Workshop will be in Kansas City, highlighting the development of the 40-mile-long 3-Trails Corridor Retrace-ment Trail Project involving the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails. The date has been set for June 6-9.

**Volunteer hours and expenses reports:** As usual, my reminder to all of you that Congress is very impressed with the Partnership's totals of volunteer hours and dollar contributions (the Gold Sheet) by National Trails System organizations. We appreciate very much every chapter, committee chair, and board member turning in their volunteer totals for 2014. **Please plan to accumulate these totals for 2015 and send them to me at the end of December.**



### Joanne's Jottings

Joanne VanCoevern, the SFTA Manager, will report in this column occasionally, when she has special news to report. She is involved in many of the activities reported within *Wagon Tracks*.

### A New Beginning, continued

next few years with symposiums at Kansas City and Olathe in 2017 and Forest Park, Missouri, in 2019, Rendezvous at Larned in 2016 and 2018, and chapter events across the expanse of the Santa Fe Trail. And don't forget, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the SFT in 2021. By the way, did you know SFTA will be 30 years old in 2016? I hope you will start preparing for some spectacular opportunities in the months and years to come. The Santa Fe Trail Association IS making a difference in the protection, promotion,

and preservation of the trail. We must continue researching. We must continue discovering. Most of all, we must continue to have fun getting together to learn, explore the trail, and infect others about the movement East and West on the Santa Fe Trail. I guarantee, I am having fun with the best trail association in the nation.

*"If a team is to reach its potential, each player must be willing to subordinate his personal goals for the good of the team."* - Bud Wilkinson, University of Oklahoma ♦

## French Frank's Exhibit Installed



By Steve Schmidt

At long last, the French Frank's Trail Segment wayside exhibit has been installed. Work was completed September 6 with installation of the interpretive panel and stand. The site identification sign was furnished by the National Park Service. The interpretive panel was provided by funds from the SFTA, the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, and the Schmidt's.

This is the site where Susan Magoffin "nooned it on the prairie" June 27, 1846, and where Claude Francis "French Frank" Laloge operated a road ranche from 1861-66. This trail segment is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and is owned by Steve and Glenda Schmidt. It is Location 18 on the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter's Local Tour Route and is Site 0064 on the National Park Service's Mobile Tour of the SFT.

If you look closely at the photo, you will see a rut running directly away from the camera just to the left of the interpretive panel. The panel is actually located in the extension of that rut. The DAR marker was refurbished some years ago by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, and that became the inspiration for the DAR's project to refurbish all of the DAR markers in Kansas.

Stop by and see this new exhibit. If going west on Hwy 56, turn north on Diamond Road which runs N-S on the east side of Lehigh, Kansas. Go 5 miles north to 250th Rd; one mile west to Chisholm Trail Road; 0.4 mile south to 245 Rd; and 0.2 mile west to the exhibit. If going east on Hwy 56, stop at the Historic Trails Information sign at the Marion/McPherson County Line and pick up a Local Tour brochure and follow the map if the weather is dry. If the unpaved roads are wet, follow the above directions that take you up Diamond Road.

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**January 10 is the submission deadline for  
the February issue of Wagon Tracks.**

## Trail Travelers and Descendants Conference Set for June 2016

A Santa Fe Trail Travelers and Descendants Conference will be held in Las Vegas, New Mexico, on June 15-18, 2016. The conference is organized by the Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the Santa Fe Trail Association, Historical Society of New Mexico, New Mexico Genealogical Society, and Fort Union National Monument.

The focus of the conference is on the lives and stories of Santa Fe Trail travelers, with emphasis on presentations by descendants. Do you descend from a Santa Fe Trail traveler? Would you like to tell a story of your SFT traveler ancestor? Are you interested in organizing a family event during the conference? Contact the Las Vegas Committee for Historic Preservation (LVCCHP), 116 Bridge Street, Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701. Phone: 505-425-8803, email lvhistoric@gmail.com.

## Map Information Sought

Dear Editor,

I have a copy of Kenton Riddle's *Records and Maps of the Old Santa Fe Trail* including Maps 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 4a, 5, and 7, plus a thin cardboard map scale for Maps 1 and 2, 3, 4, and 5. If there is an index of maps in the book, I cannot find it. Therefore, I have three questions for *Wagon Tracks* readers.

1. Does anyone have Map 6 and who would be willing to obtain a scanned digital image of it for me?
2. Were there additional maps I have not listed?
3. Was there a scale included for Maps 6 and 7?

Thanks for any assistance.

Steve Schmidt  
1120 Cobblestone Court  
McPherson, KS 67460  
wfordok@yahoo.com

## NPS Staff Changes Announced

Due to recent retirements, the National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region has several new employees and position changes.

- John Cannella, Deputy Superintendent/Program Manager
- Mike Elliott, Planner
- Jill Jensen, Cultural Resources Specialist (Salt Lake City office)
- Kelly Shea, Administrative Officer

## Santa Fe Trail Research Encouraged with Suggestions and Grants

To inspire and encourage research, this article, in part, is reprinted from the November 2012 *Wagon Tracks*.

*By Frank Norris, National Park Service Historian*

In September 2012, a research forum comprising nearly 50 people was held in conjunction with the SFTA board meeting. They came forth with a host of excellent research suggestions, of which the following list is just a small sample:

- What do we know about artists and illustrators that depicted the trail?
- Are there more first-person accounts of trail travelers (some in letters to hometown newspapers) that haven't been uncovered, or are available to only a limited audience? Shouldn't these be compiled into a single list?
- What about the French trade along the trail during the century before Becknell's trip?
- We need to know more about the Mexican merchants that traveled the trail.
- We know far too little about the various American Indian tribes along the trail – and how the trail changed them.
- The many feeder trails to the Santa Fe Trail should be covered more thoroughly.
- What trail stories would lend themselves to children's books?
- Too little is known about the "hell-on-wheels" towns that, during the 1860s and 1870s, served as the transition points between the railroads and the trail.
- How was religion practiced along the trail?
- The trail was a business route, but too little is known about how business was conducted.

Others said that key libraries and repositories – that are likely to have new trail information – needed to be checked out. These include:

- The Spanish archives in Havana, Cuba and Madrid, Spain
- Court and other government records in St. Charles and St. Louis, Missouri
- The William G. Ritch Collection at the Huntington Library, California
- U.S. General Land Office records for the corridor east of Independence

National Park Service representatives mentioned that they encouraged a wide variety of research, and that they are

willing to consider sponsoring projects that are related to congressionally-mandated goals. The agency is most interested in projects that lead to better trail interpretation, that provide greater information about trail-related historic sites, that spotlight groups of people that are typically overlooked in trail histories, or projects that challenge widely-accepted notions of trail history.

### 2016 SFTA Research Grants Available

Applications for SFTA Scholarly Research grants for 2016 are now being accepted. A total of \$1500 per grant is available. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2015.

Funds may be used for supplies and materials; services such as literature searches, computer use, and/or technical assistance, and copy fees; and travel. Funds may not be used for the purchase of equipment.

For more information, additional requirements, and an application form, visit the SFTA website at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org). Click on the menu item for Research. The SFTA Scholarly Research Committee will review all applications and awards will be announced on January 2, 2016.

### Student Photo Contest Launched



The education committee of the Santa Fe Trail Association is sponsoring a photography contest for students. The digital pictures must be related to the Santa Fe Trail. Awards will be presented at the Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous September 24, 2016, at Larned, Kansas.

There are two age-level divisions for the contest, fifth through eighth grades and ninth through twelfth grades. Photos will need to fit the following categories of the Santa Fe Trail: landscape of sites, building sites, Trail-related museums, geocache sites, and special events along the Trail; for example re-enactors, wagons, and mule or oxen teams.

Send your digital photo to Chris Day, [dosdays2@gmail.com](mailto:dosdays2@gmail.com). Along with the photo, include a paragraph with your name, phone number, location, and description of the site, plus a few sentences about your interaction with the site. The entrance deadline is September 1, 2016.



Dear Editor;

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I extend my sincere thank yous to the Awards Committee and all others in the Santa Fe Trail Association for acknowledging my research and writing about the Santa Fe Trail, the people and animals on it, and other aspects of its history. I am deeply honored to receive the Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award, named for such an outstanding author, bibliographer, and historian. The Trail and its association have brought so much into my life, and I have written about this national historic Trail in the hopes that my works would interest others in it. Marc Simmons was correct when he informed photographer Joan Myers, who worked with him on *Along the Santa Fe Trail* (1986), the first book I read about it: "Be advised of a powerful spell that hangs over the Santa Fe Trail. It creeps up on you unaware, grabs you from behind, and you are beyond rescue. Victims innumerable have succumbed." (p. xx, Preface) I have been very happy to be one of those "victims."

Sincerely,

*Phyllis S. Morgan*



Photo: Ruth Friesen

*Reenactor at the FurTrade  
Symposium at Bent's Fort*

Dear Editor;

On behalf of all those involved in any way during the 2015 Fur Trade Symposium, we would like to express our gratitude to all who contributed in any way—before, during and now after—to the success of the 2015 Fur Trade Symposium here at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site and in La Junta, Colorado. Whether you were on the planning committee, a speaker, a Living Historian, a registrant, or just happened to visit during the event, it is because of all of you that we have received so many positive responses to the Symposium. Thank You!

*Thank You*

Surely, September 2015 will be remembered as a unique month with the Three Trails Conference in Santa Fe followed, the next week, by the Fur Trade Symposium here at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. The amount of the history of the region that was presented at both events, by leading authorities on their subjects, was simply amazing.

Without offending any other contributors, a special thank you must go out to LaDonna Hutton for her tireless work prior to the Symposium. Her willingness to tackle the registration for over 300 people is what makes events like this succeed and speaks to LaDonna's commitment to everything she is a part of. A special thanks also goes to Joanne VanCouvern for her input leading up to the conference and especially for arranging for the latest issue of *Wagon Tracks* to be included in everyone's registration packet. That gesture is greatly appreciated. Hopefully that will show folks the type of organization the Santa Fe Trail Association is, what they accomplish, and the types of projects they involve themselves in, and that will result in an increase in the membership of the SFTA. Last, but definitely not least, a big thank you to the Bent's Fort Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Without this chapter's help we would not have been able to take even our first steps in preparing for this Symposium. Throughout the planning phase and during the event, this group of dedicated souls was willing and able to help us put out the little fires that are inherent with such events.

Again, thank you to all—because of people and organizations like you, we here at Bent's Old Fort NHS were able to provide hundreds of people a glimpse into the past. Thank you.

*John Carson  
The 2015 Fur Trade Symposium*

## 2015 Santa Fe Trail Association Awards

### Awarded September 2015 in Santa Fe, New Mexico

#### Award of Merit

Recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the SFTA

*Larry Short, Britt Colle, Marion Lowe*

2015 Symposium Coordinator, *Pam Najdowski*

2015 Symposium Host Chapter, *End of the Trail Chapter*

Geo-Caching Partner, *LaFonda Hotel*

#### Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award

Awarded to a member of the SFTA who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of the SFTA, development and dissemination of knowledge of Trail history, preservation of Trail sites or artifacts, or who has otherwise promoted an understanding of the Trail.

*Greg VanCoevern*

#### Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award

Awarded to a SFTA member for extraordinary lifetime achievement in research and writing about the Trail.

*Phyllis Morgan*

#### Pete & Faye Gaines Memorial Heritage Preservation Award

Recognizes those who have preserved and protected significant portions of the Trail or sites associated with the Trail, and provided public access.

*Carolyn and Ed Kern, Rice County, Kansas*

*Friends of Rice Tremonti Home Association, Raytown, Missouri*

*Cave Spring Association, Kansas City, Missouri*

*Historic Preservation Corp., Council Grove, Kansas*

#### Educator Award

Outstanding classroom teaching in secondary education

*Joyce Thierer, Ph.D., Ass't. Professor of History, Emporia State University*

#### Marc Simmons Writing Award

For the best article in *Wagon Tracks* Volume 28 and 29

*Craig Crease, "Without a Trace: The Becknell Five" Wagon Tracks, Vol. 28*

*Dr. James A. Hanson, "The Mexican Connection," Wagon Tracks, Vol. 29*

#### Appreciation of Partner Support

*National Park Service—National Trails Intermountain Region.*

**In Recognition of Your Significant Contributions** to the History of the Santa Fe Trail, Your Publications and Your Passion For This Great International Road and Inspiration to Many

*Dr. Marc Simmons*

## 2015 SFTA Hall of Fame Inductees

#### Historic Inductees

Mamie Acuirre

Felipe Chávez

Facundo Melgares

Joseph C. Brown

Emily Fisher

Archibald Rice

#### Modern Inductees

Paul Bentrup

Ralph Hathaway

Harry C. Myers

Bill Wheatley

Grace Collier

Richard Loudon

Roger Slusher

The biographies of the modern honorees begin on page 10, and historic honorees are on pages 13 and 15. The remaining historic honorees' biographies will appear in a future issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

Photo: Ruth Friesen



*SFTA award winners, l. to r., Craig Crease, Joyce Thierer, Greg VanCoevern, Britt Colle, Phyllis Morgan, and Marion Lowe.*



## SFTA Hall of Fame: Roger Slusher

**Roger Elliott Slusher**, (1947–2013), was born on February 8, 1947, in Kansas City, Missouri, to Elliott and Frieda Witzke Slusher. He was united in married to Sandra Lee Huskisson on August 17, 1974, in Lexington, Missouri. He earned a B.S. in Education and a Master's Degree in History from the University of Missouri–Columbia, and taught at Wentworth Military Academy for 33 years, and then at Malta Bend School District for three years before retiring. He was the director of the Lexington Historical Museum and a board member of the Lexington Library and Historical Association. He was also a member of the Missouri Barn Preservation Association and Lexington Trails Regional Library. In the 1980s, Roger helped found the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA and served as its first president. He continued in a leadership role for the chapter and was instrumental in chapter projects, including marking the Trail and providing tours. He wrote a walking/driving tour of the Santa Fe Trail in the Lexington area and completed a book on the history of Lexington, *Images of America: Lexington* by Roger E. Slusher and the Lexington Historical Association.

Roger portrayed several prominent Lexington settlers for various historical organizations. To many members of the SFTA, Roger brought to life James Aull, an early trader and merchant on the Trail. At the time of his death, Roger was serving as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association. During the three years that Roger served as President, he traveled the length of the Trail, providing programs and spreading the history of the Trail, as well as the mission of the SFTA. He also took an active role in the Partnership of the National Trails System (PNTS), attending their yearly meeting in Washington, D. C. and their National Historic Trails Conferences. A highlight for Roger was being able to be part of the recent initiative to open lines of communications with American Indian Tribes that were historically located along the Santa Fe Trail, and entering into cooperative projects with tribes to enable them to tell their own story about how the Santa Fe Trail impacted them. As President of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Roger felt it was a privilege to be able to present awards to those who



## SFTA Hall of Fame: Paul Bentrup

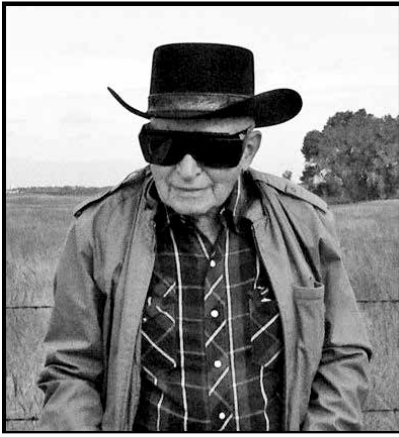
**Paul Bentrup**, (1917 – 2003), was born in 1917 to Charles and Louise Bentrup. A lifetime resident of Kearny County, Kansas, he attended two years at the University of Minnesota. He served in the U. S. Army from July 1936 to June 1937. After the service, he returned to Kearny County where he worked as a farmer and as the “old shepherd.”

When Paul's father, Charles, purchased land near Deerfield, Kansas, he realized that a section of the Santa Fe Trail was on his land. Before he died, Charles made it clear to Paul that this section of the Trail known as “Charlie's Ruts” was to be kept open to the public for all time. Paul was a faithful caretaker to these ruts along Highway 50 west of Deerfield, and one of the best friends the Trail ever had. He donated 10 acres of land containing most of Charlie's Ruts to the Kearny County Historical Society with the understanding that the land would be open for the public to walk in the ruts. Paul kept a mailbox at the turnout for the ruts and kept it supplied with a variety of historical information and a notepad for people to “sign in.” His car was always loaded with Trail information, which he readily shared.

Paul was the first person to register for the first Symposium held at Trinidad, Colorado, in 1986. SFTA awarded him an Award of Merit in 1986 and in 1987 he was named the first SFTA Ambassador. That award has since been renamed as the Paul F. Bentrup SFTA Ambassador Award to honor his achievements. For many years Paul was active along the Trail, recruiting new members, encouraging travelers to visit historic sites, and welcoming modern travelers who chose to see the Trail from horseback, mule, wagon, or on foot. When Paul passed away in 2003, he donated his Santa Fe Trail books and research materials to the SFTA. They are housed at SFTA headquarters at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, Kansas.

### Slusher, continued

had made a significant contribution to the mission of the Santa Fe Trail Association – to preserve, protect and promote the historical legacy of the Santa Fe Trail. Roger passed away on July 4, 2013.

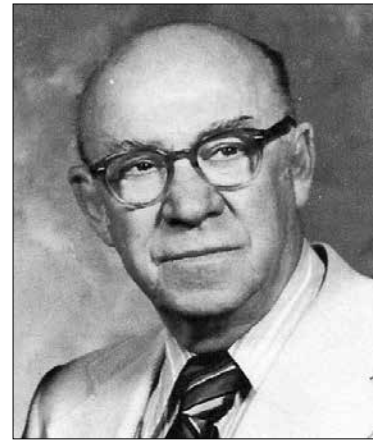


## SFTA Hall of Fame: Ralph Hathaway

**Ralph Hathaway**, (1914-2009), was born August 30, 1914, on the farm in central Kansas that his grandparents homesteaded, and except for his college years and serving in the South Pacific in World War II, he resided there until his death in 2009. The Santa Fe Trail traverses that farm, and includes deep ruts which are among some of the best preserved evidence of the Trail. After he retired from farming, the Trail and its history became his passion. He took a Kansas History class from the late Barbara Peirce at Hutchinson Community College, and offered the class a field trip to see his pasture. When they disembarked from the bus, Barbara said, "Here they are, Ralph's ruts!" The name stuck, and "Ralph's Ruts" have become known in trail circles as one of the most definitive sections of the Trail still visible.

Ralph spent countless volunteer hours for both the local historical society and the SFTA, including providing tours of the Trail sites in Rice County, Kansas, and surrounding areas. Ralph also was an avid researcher and writer, and amassed an impressive research library. One of the documents he wrote was "My Half-Mile of Santa Fe Trail," which included information on the Plum Buttes Massacre, which took place on the property. He also contributed regularly to *Wagon Tracks*. His library remains intact at his home which is now a bed and breakfast on the Trail and is known as Ralph's Ruts Retreat.

Ralph was featured in many publications for his preservation efforts, most notably in the March 1991 issue of *National Geographic*. Ralph was excited to be a part of an organization dedicated to the Trail, and always enjoyed the SFTA symposiums and other events. The Santa Fe Trail Association recognized his efforts by presenting him with an Award of Merit in 1986, naming him as a Santa Fe Trail Ambassador in 1989, and in 1997 and 2003, he received the SFTA Heritage Preservation Award. At the age of 94, Ralph elected to become a Life Member of SFTA. Ralph Hathaway passed away on June 30, 2009. After his death, the SFTA established the Ralph Hathaway Memorial Heritage Preservation Award to honor his commitment to the Trail. This award is given during Rendezvous years; the Gaines Heritage award is given during Symposium years.



## SFTA Hall of Fame: Bill Wheatley

**William C. (Bill) Wheatley**, (1902-1993), was born in Iowa and moved to New Mexico when he was 14 years old. He grew up on a ranch near Clayton, New Mexico. In 1932 he opened Clayton Automotive Service, which he operated until 1973. Bill served many years on the Clayton Fire Department and was the oldest fireman in New Mexico when he retired at age 86.

In 1947 he entered politics and served 18 years in the state legislature, 14 of those in the senate, including two terms as president pro tem. In 1966 he was acting governor of New Mexico for ten days. While in the legislature, he became interested in promoting the historic Santa Fe Trail, and he led the effort to designate U.S. Highway 56 in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, and Highway 85 in New Mexico, as the Santa Fe Trail Historical Route. He led the effort to organize the Santa Fe Trail/Highway 56 Association, forerunner of the Santa Fe Trail Association (of which he was a charter member), and he served as president and director for the Highway 56 Association for many years. He worked closely with Grace Collier, secretary of the Highway 56 Association, to organize the 1961 Santa Fe Trail caravan that followed the Trail from Missouri to New Mexico and held parades in some 30 cities with crowds up to 40,000 people. He was responsible for creation of the "Clayton Complex," a registered National Historic Landmark, which includes Trail campsites, landmarks, and geographical features in Union County, including McNees Crossing, Turkey Creek (Cottonwood Creek or Alamos Creek) Crossing, Rabbit Ears Mountain, Rabbit Ears Creek campground, and Round Mound (Mt. Clayton).

Wheatley received a Santa Fe Trail Association Award of Merit at the first symposium in 1986. In 1988 he served as a local guide for the National Park Service team surveying the Santa Fe National Historic Trail (designated in 1987). After his death in May 1993, the SFTA symposium in September that year named him "Grandfather of the Santa Fe Trail Association." The 1997 SFTA symposium in Clayton was dedicated to "the memory of W.C. 'Bill' Wheatley." He maintained his interest in the history of the Trail until his death and was never happier than when talking about the Trail and showing his magnificent photographs of it.





### SFTA Hall of Fame: Harry Myers

**Harry C. Myers**, (1950–2010), was born in Pontiac, Illinois, on June 6, 1950. Harry served honorably in the United States Army from 1969 to 1972, and was a veteran of the Vietnam War.

After discharge from the Army, he received his degree from Western Illinois University, and began a long career with the National Park Service. His first two assignments were at Fort Scott National Historic Site and Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial. In 1988, Harry was appointed Superintendent of Fort Union National Monument on the Santa Fe Trail, and his final assignment before retirement was with the National Trails Intermountain Region in Santa Fe, where he was project manager for the development of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the study of the Long Walk. It was during this time that Harry developed a passion for the Southwest and specifically the Santa Fe Trail. Over the years, Harry became a scholar and expert on the Santa Fe Trail, devoting hours to researching and visiting sites.

Harry was devoted to the Santa Fe Trail and the history of the Southwest, and during his lifetime played a huge part in the preservation, promotion, and education about the Santa Fe Trail. Harry provided significant input for the creation of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the development of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Management and Use Plan. He organized several conferences related to the Santa Fe Trail. During the years 1994–1997, Harry spearheaded the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail.

He researched and published numerous articles in *Wagon Tracks*, and was a well-known and entertaining speaker on a variety of Santa Fe Trail-related topics. In 1990, Harry was a co-founder of the Corazon de los Caminos Chapter of the SFTA. He received an SFTA Award of Merit in 1993 for his discovery of the military diary of Don Pedro Ignacio Gallego which chronicled the Gallegos meeting in 1821 with William Becknell and his party near present-day Las Vegas, New Mexico. He received SFTA's Rittenhouse



### SFTA Hall of Fame: Grace Collier

**Grace Louise Husted Collier**, (1921–2000) a Kansas native, was a great friend and supporter of the historic Santa Fe Trail. She was fascinated with its history and was active in the promotion of the route, history of the commerce of the prairies, and preservation of Trail remnants. She served as executive director of the Santa Fe Trail/Highway 56 Association, forerunner of the Santa Fe Trail Association (of which she was a charter member).

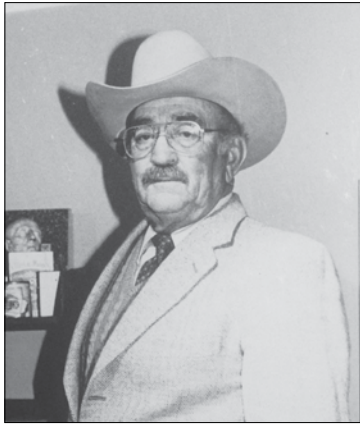
She worked closely with William Wheatley of Clayton, New Mexico, president of the Highway 56 Association. Grace, residing at Great Bend, Kansas, at the time, organized the 1961 Santa Fe Trail/Highway 56 caravan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Kansas statehood and the 140th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. The caravan followed the Trail from Missouri to New Mexico and held parades in some 30 cities with crowds of up to 40,000 people. This was the first attempt to organize an ongoing association to preserve, protect, and promote the Santa Fe Trail, and the remaining assets of the Highway 56 Association were donated to the Santa Fe Trail Association soon after it was founded in 1986.

Grace, her husband Kent Collier, and their children often traveled the old Trail, and she knew many Trail enthusiasts along the route. Grace collected Trail history and compiled an extensive calendar of events, a project deserving an annual Santa Fe Trail calendar but never published. She received a Santa Fe Trail Association Award of Merit in 1987. She always had a great love for the Santa Fe Trail and treasured her "Trail friends," of whom there were many.

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#### Myers, continued

Award in 1999 for his research, writing, and publication of his work, and in 1997 Harry was recognized as an SFTA Ambassador. Following his retirement from the National Park Service, Harry was employed as the Manager for the Santa Fe Trail Association and was serving in that capacity at the time of his death on August 31, 2010.



## SFTA Hall of Fame: Richard Loudon

**Richard Loudon**, (1920–2008), was born September 2, 1920, into a ranching family in Las Animas County, Colorado. His father homesteaded near Branson, Colorado, and Richard, his younger brother Willard, and their sister Dorothy with their families would continue the ranching tradition. Richard was proud of being a cattleman and devoted his life to the family ranch and to his small rural community. He was salutatorian at Branson High School in 1937 and would later serve for 18 years on the school board.

While most of his life's work was centered in and around Branson, Loudon's accomplishments over the course of 88 years reveal just what a remarkable man he was—as a successful cattleman, a community leader, an author, a respected scholar and historian, preservationist, and tireless advocate for higher education. He earned an Associates of Arts Degree from Trinidad St. Junior College in 1939 and went on to the University of Colorado and University of Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. Loudon served in the U.S. Signal Corps and Air Force during World War II. He returned home in 1946 to work on the family ranch, married Grace Wakefield, and they had one son, Mack.

Richard Loudon was present at the founding of the Santa Fe Trail Association at Trinidad, Colorado, in 1986 and was named SFT Ambassador at the 2007 Symposium. He assisted with the National Park Service survey of the historic route of the Santa Fe Trail in 1988 and contributed many fine articles to *Wagon Tracks* over the years. He served on the advisory council of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, the Board of Directors of the SFTA, and as President of the Bent's Fort Chapter. His reputation led to Loudon being consulted on many county and state projects. He was president of the Trinidad Historical Society and a founding member of the A. R. Mitchell Museum of Western Art.

Louden joined the Colorado Archaeological Society in the 1950s and later served as president of the society. He participated in the excavation of sites throughout Las Animas County in Colorado. In later years, numerous honors were

## SFTA Hall of Fame: Felipe Chávez

**Don Felipe Chávez**, (1834–1906), was born in 1834. A descendant of one of the most prominent families in New Mexico, he was the son of José María Chávez and Manuela Armijo. He attended the *Seminario Conciliar de Guadajara*, Mexico, where he distinguished himself, receiving awards for his academic efforts, and completed his education in 1852.

He returned home and began to help his father with the management of the family's thriving commercial operations and took charge of the entire business four years later.

Chávez was able to build on the fortune he inherited from his father because he adopted a sound flexible commercial strategy. Diversification was crucial to his success. Chávez sold American and European manufactures, he raised grains and sheep, shipped wool and precious metals, bought large amounts of merchandise, purchased real estate in New York City, and acted as a banker, commissioner, wholesaler, and retailer. He maintained economic relations with merchants in Liverpool and Manchester (England), New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, El Paso, Chihuahua, Durango, Zacatecas, and Guadalajara. He established partnerships with other New Mexicans and was an intermediary between American and Mexican wholesalers. Although he was unable to organize *Río Abajo* freighters into an association to obtain government contracts, his accounts show that the United States quartermaster office was one of the main sources of the funds he used to finance large purchases of merchandise.

Cautious, but not reluctant to take risks, he regularly requested and received information on the prices of precious metals and commodities, and on other investment opportunities. His decisions were often based on the advice he sought from business associates in New York, St. Louis, and Mexico. His meticulous record-keeping ensured that losses due to carelessness and mistakes were kept to a minimum. He invested capital where he could receive the highest possible return, yet he appeared to have been generous with kin and friends to whom he often lent large sums of money.

## Louden, continued

bestowed upon Loudon by the many organizations he served and the people who recognized his tremendous lifetime of contributions to history, community, and the educational institutions of southeastern Colorado. He was a true scholar with a rich sense of humor, much respected by everyone whose lives he touched. Richard died June 18, 2008, at the age of 87.

## Crossing The Ocean: Conservation on the Santa Fe Trail



By Noah Schlager

I looked far out across the green-waved prairie  
And drank the wine of its atmosphere—  
The black stream along the edge of the sky  
a buffalo-river moving slowly by.

Into the prairie sea that river ran  
And none of us dreamed it ever could fail:  
I saw it. I saw it! In me the dawning man,  
As if reborn, saw that mad magnificent river  
Before me as it crossed our perilous trail—

— Welborn Hope (expert from *The Prairie Ocean*)

I was born beside the Pacific, so I have no first memory of seeing the ocean. I find it fascinating to watch inlanders see it for the first time, processing just how enormous the ocean is in person. I couldn't relate to their experience until just a couple weeks ago, when while heading along the Santa Fe Trail towards Fort Union National Monument I was swallowed up by an ocean of prairie.

As the mountains recede to mounds along the horizon, you can feel the curve of the earth, as though you are standing on an enormous fisheye lens. I thought such an expanse of flatness would be about as stimulating as a parking lot, but instead some part of my brain that remembers itself to be a savannah ape was turned on. The slope of the land and color of grass stood out in my mind like a living Van Gogh painting. It was one of the most beautiful and alien spaces I have encountered. I expect the scent of sage and wildflowers will forever bring back a sense of awe and fear.

How must this have felt to the men and women who came along this trail before me? Before they even had photographs and westerns to nominally prepare them. And when they returned home, how would it feel to know that not too far back down the trail was that ocean of grass?

The Santa Fe Trail is amongst the oldest western trails. The trail stretches over twelve hundred miles of prairie, desert, and mountains. Before the trail was created, pueblo and plains tribes had developed trading routes that reached across the continent. The Santa Fe Trail stitched together many of these previously existing routes to connect Santa Fe—then part of Mexico—to Franklin, Missouri, creating one of the most lucrative trading routes of the 19th century. It became a central feature of the Mexican-American War, Civil War, and American Indian Wars, as well as the general American conquest of the West. The trail crosses through some of the most diverse terrain, cultures, and history in America. Eventually the railroad ended the economic life of the trail, and with the end of the Indian Wars its military value was over.



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*Photos, top: Prairie near Fort Union National Monument. Bottom: Old wagon and Fort Ruins at Fort Union National Monument. Pictured right: Noah Schlager. Photos: Noah Schlager*

Today the Santa Fe Trail is a part of the National Trails System. There is a unique challenge in conserving a resource like a trail, as it is both expansive and somewhat ephemeral. Unlike a park, the Santa Fe Trail passes through a variety of public and private lands. There are many stakeholders who can be very far from each other in both distance and in vision. Also, unlike a physical resource, a trail is more of an idea—like a point on a grid. There are wagon ruts and artifacts seeped into the landscape, but they are easily overlooked by the untrained eye. The trail is a lot like a river, it follows the path of least resistance, but its shores are constantly changing and shifting. All this can make sharing and interpreting the trail for the public quite difficult.

For my internship with SCA Americorps and National Trails Intermountain Region, I am assisting in the creation of a mobile media tour of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. The tour will be a sort of pocket interpreter. When you are at a site you can access information on the history, stories, culture, and ecology of where you are. I am particularly focused on designing, collecting, and producing content for Pecos National Historical Park, Fort Union National Monument, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, and Fort Larned National Historic Site. The tour will not only provide information on particular sites, but create a coherent story of the trail in its entirety. The goal is to produce a product and experience that is more than the sum of its parts, and thus connect people to the whole trail.

As valuable as individual parks and wilderness may be, they create a dualism. Inside is protected, outside is free game; inside is sacred, outside profane; inside is nature, outside is humanity. A trail obscures this; it connects much more than two points to each other. It ties cultures and environments across great spaces together. It can teach us to see how the places where we live are all connected to each other. It opens us up to see how our individual rivers all meet up in one great ocean. It also reminds us that nature and culture are dynamic and changing spaces, and that conservation is less about holding back a tide than finding that path of least resistance. It is like the Taoist ideal of wei-wu-wei, action without action. The most valuable forms of conservation don't protect in isolation, but connect people to resources in a way that keeps the river flowing.

In starting this internship, I have entered an incredible ocean. I am surrounded by incredible lands and people, and I can hardly believe I have the job to share them with others. I have had my moment of awe and wonder, and am now heading out to experience and capture incredible sites. But I hope to keep that first sight of the ocean close to me throughout the journey. ♦



## SFTA Hall of Fame: Emily Fisher

**Emily Fisher**, (1808-1898), a woman of strong character and deep religious faith, was born a slave in Kentucky about 1808. She was the daughter of Adam Fisher (1782-1860) and a slave woman. Emily was joined in a slave marriage to Rowan (or Robin) Fisher in the 1820s. A slave marriage was not legal in the South or border states. Their first child, Shelby, was born in 1827 in Kentucky. They had several more children before coming to Jackson County, Missouri, in the 1840s; all were the property of Adam Fisher. They settled on the Adam Fisher farm on Jones Road east of Independence, Missouri. The slaves lived in a double log house with two large rooms and a double fireplace with a single chimney. It was just northwest of the main house, which is still standing.

Sometime in the 1850s, not long before his death, Adam Fisher freed Emily. He left her well-situated, giving her charge of an Independence hotel, which served the people going west on the trails, including the Santa Fe Trail. Emily's hotel had a reputation for excellent service and exceptional cleanliness; this stood in marked contrast to other hotels of the day, where unsanitary facilities were the norm. The rest of Emily's family remained in bondage until January 11, 1865, when Missouri issued its own Emancipation Proclamation. Shortly after, Emily and Rowan had their marriage registered in the Jackson County courthouse on August 14, 1865.

The hotel business died during the Civil War. Her husband, Rowan, passed away in the 1870s. Based on a dream she had, Emily began marketing a healing salve as a source of income. Stories of the amazing healing powers on cuts, bruises, and other injuries and ailments were shared by many. Unfortunately, no list of ingredients survives as Emily almost certainly could not read or write. Strict laws forbade slaves to have such education.





Kicking off the conference was the arrival of three Backcountry Horsemen and their mules at the Santa Fe Plaza, who, over the course of two years, had ridden from Los Angeles to Santa Fe following the Old Spanish Trail (OST).

The El Camino Real bus tour went south of Santa Fe to see a section of El Camino Real, still visible via a difference in vegetation. Juan de Onate blazed this trail in 1598.



A unique event was the children's musical composed and directed by Dolores Valdez de Pong of Santa Fe and sponsored by the National Park Service and the Santa Fe Trail Association. Performed by 22 children in grades 2-5 from Carlos Gilbert Elementary School in Santa Fe, the play delighted the audience with depictions of the three trails in creative costumes and songs.

*Text and photos: Ruth Friesen*



## *Three Trails Conference*

### *“All Trails Led to Santa Fe”*

### *in September 2015*

The first joint conference of the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (CARTA) attracted 370 registrants, including 40 walk-ins. SFTA had the most attendees, followed by OSTA and then CARTA.

Presentations included a rare appearance by renowned Southwest historian Marc Simmons and the keynote address by New Mexico State Historian Rick Hendricks. Jack Prichett (OSTA) spoke on trail preservation; Steve Post, Matt Barbour, and Cordelia Snow gave presentations on archaeology and goods along the trails. Henrietta Martinez Christmas spoke of several New Mexico families in the era of 1598-1850, and Jose de la Cruz Pacheco Rojas, through an interpreter, presented the Mexican perspective on the creation of roads to Santa Fe. Mike Olsen presided over a group of trail travelers, reenactors representing characters along the three trails. VanAnn Moore portrayed Mary (Mamie) Aguirre in a musical theater performance Friday night.

Conference chairs were Pat Kuhlhoff (OSTA), Pam Najdowski (SFTA), and Troy Ainsworth (CARTA). A multitude of volunteers and professional partners made the conference possible.



The OST field trips were the most popular. Attendees observed a weaving demonstration in Chimayo—textiles were an important trade item—and traveled through narrow, curvy roads which followed the original trail from Santa Fe headed northwest toward the rugged terrain of northern Arizona and southern Utah.

For those who would like to learn more about the routes of these trails, a waterproof and tear resistant map of the area and its trails was created. The map includes elevation comparisons of the three trails as well as timelines and a number of illustrations of historic sites. To obtain this map, “All Trails Lead to Santa Fe,” visit <http://bit.ly/1MSnnmQ>.

The SFT tour traveled north along I-25, tracing the Santa Fe Trail past Glorieta Pass, up to Pecos National Historic Park, (photo right) and continuing to San Miguel del Vado, where attendees walked in swales of the trail. See cover photo.



# William Becknell, “Mr M’Laughlin,” and an Unexpected Road to Santa Fe

By Sheri Kerley

[Ms. Kerley was a 2015 recipient of an SFTA Scholarly Research grant.]

The 200-year anniversary of William Becknell’s historic trip to Santa Fe is fast approaching, and I believe there is some interest in identifying those few who were his companions in this endeavor. For many years, I have wondered if my great-great-great-great grandfather Charles Laughlin could have been one of those men. Growing up in the Ozarks, I loved hearing my grandfather’s stories of his pioneering family. I was intrigued by his recollections of his mother’s father telling how his Laughlin ancestors had followed Daniel Boone from Kentucky into Missouri, eventually settling in the Boone County area, until the urge to roam took them all over the western US. The story, though vague, ended with my great-great-great grandfather Laughlin returning to Missouri, to settle in Pulaski County, Missouri, about 1850. He and his family had seen it all, and the hills and rivers of Pulaski and Phelps County were better than anything else the United States had to offer. In college, I took a class on American History, which culminated in the Post-Colonial Era, and stories of Lewis and Clark, the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, and the role Missouri played as a jumping-off point for the Great Western Expansion. How had these events affected/involved my ancestors, I wondered?

**My research eventually led me** to discover that my great-great-great grandfather Laughlin was the son of Charles and Rosanna Laughlin. And, so it seems, the Laughlins did indeed come to Missouri from Kentucky. Charles’ parents were Henry and Margaret Laughlin. Henry Laughlin’s estate records show that Henry and Margaret owned land near Boonesborough, on the banks of Otter Creek, and bordering the land of George Boone, Daniel’s brother. Census records suggest that Charles was born in the early 1790s, most likely in Kentucky. By 1817, Charles was listed on the Howard County, Missouri, tax list, along with his brother John. William Becknell’s *Journal*, published in the April 1823 issue of the *Missouri Intelligencer*, reads, “My company concluded to remain at St. Michael, except Mr M’Laughlin, and we left that village December 13, on our return home...” To me, these words indicate that “Mr M’Laughlin” was someone who lived near William Becknell, and who would be at least somewhat familiar to the readers of the *Missouri Intelligencer*. Could the “Mr M’Laughlin” who accompanied William Becknell on the first successful trading expedition to Santa Fe, be my ancestor Charles Laughlin, or his brother John?

Let’s examine the evidence. Charles and John Laughlin are

the only Laughlin/McLaughlin listed on the 1817 Howard County tax list. In 1817, Howard County consisted of a large tract of land west of St. Charles County. By 1821, Howard County had been partially divided, and Charles and John were listed in Boone County. William Becknell was listed in the adjacent Howard County. As Charles and John seem to be the only known Laughlins in the area around Franklin/Boone’s Lick prior to 1821, I have to think they are strong contenders for the identity of the mysterious “Mr M’Laughlin.”

**I do have questions about the published use** of the surname “M’Laughlin”; did the author intend to refer to a person named McLaughlin or Laughlin? The primary documents that I researched contained many creative spellings for Charles Laughlin; however, none contained the Mc prefix. There was a Henry Laughlin who obtained Spanish Land Grants in the St. Louis and St. Charles areas, and I have examined many records pertaining to his claims in an effort to link him to my Laughlins. I have found his surname spelled variously McLaughlin, M’Laughlin, Laughlin and Laughlen. While I still cannot definitively link this Henry with my Laughlins, it does illustrate clearly the same individual identified as both Laughlin and McLaughlin/M’Laughlin. I conclude that this may have been a common occurrence in an era when spelling conventions were poorly defined. I suspect that a person who went by the name Laughlin during this time period might also be referred to in print as either Mc or M’Laughlin.

What would identify John or Charles Laughlin as Becknell’s partner besides proximity? Records show that John Laughlin ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the Missouri legislature during the 1821 election, as did William Becknell. Court records from 1830 in Boone County show that John was involved in at least one expedition to Santa Fe, and a partner in this enterprise was Nicholas “Old Contraband” Gentry, who is known to have made many trips to Santa Fe. However, John seems to have come to Boone County directly from Kentucky. I have no record of him being in Missouri prior to his arrival in Boone County by 1817. It is Charles’ activities in Missouri prior to 1817, as well as his wife’s family connections, that suggest to me that Charles Laughlin may have been the “Mr M’Laughlin” that accompanied William Becknell to Santa Fe in 1821.

**I can place Charles in Missouri** as early as 1813. Charles was active as a Mounted Ranger during the War of 1812. His military records show he was a private in Captain Joshua H. Burckhardt’s company of mounted militia under Col. McNair’s command, and then as a private in Capt. David Musick’s company of US mounted rangers. His place of residence was listed as St. Louis County. He is listed at one

point as “on command with Major Boone,” and also noted to have been in Portage des Sioux, as well as being stationed at Ft. Independence, and at a camp on the lower Cuivre. Charles’ presence at a “camp on the lower Cuivre” from March 31 to May 27, 1815, under Captain David Musick, indicates that he may have been a participant in the Battle of the Sink Hole, which would have given him a certain amount of respect and recognition in the area. While they were never in the exact same place at the exact same time, William Becknell also was active in the St. Charles area during the War of 1812. It is likely that William Becknell and Charles Laughlin would have known of one another due to their service.

**I do not have a record of marriage** for Charles and Rosanna, but they must have been married by 1818 when their son, my great-great-great grandfather John Jordan Laughlin was born in Boone County. Rosanna was probably born sometime between 1795 and 1797. Her mother, Elizabeth Chitwood Whiteside Bond Hubbard came to Missouri in 1797 from the American Bottoms of Illinois. She obtained land just north of St Louis in the Columbia Bottoms area in November of 1797. Her concession, granted by Zenon Trudeau, stated that she was the widow of John Bond. Remarkably, the concession, which she signed herself, was issued in her maiden name, and was finally confirmed, after extensive litigation, by the US Government in 1854. Rosanna grew up here, on her mother’s plantation. It is not clear whether Rosanna was the daughter of Elizabeth’s first husband, Thomas Whiteside, or John Bond, her second. Elizabeth’s estate papers refer to Rosanna initially as Rosanna Bond, but subsequent papers all refer to her as Rosanna Whiteside.

**It is clear that the Whiteside clan** was very active in the area of St. Louis and the American Bottoms in Illinois during the late 1790s through the early years of statehood. Whether by blood or marriage ties, Rosanna’s Whiteside uncles and cousins were involved in trading in Kaskaskia, where they were neighbors of William Morrison, had contact with John Evans of the Evan-Mackay Expedition, had contact with various members of the Chouteau family, helped Moses Austin get established in Missouri, visited Lewis and Clark at their camp at Wood River, signed and witnessed Indian Treaties with William Clark, and served at extensively during the War of 1812. Rosanna’s maternal uncle Richard Chitwood, Justice of the Peace for St. Ferdinand Township, also served during the War of 1812, and witnessed treaties with William Clark. It is interesting to note that a close neighbor of Rosanna’s family in the Columbia Bottoms was Jacques St. Vrain, father of Ceran St. Vrain, who would later be so involved in Santa Fe trade. Rosanna’s mother’s third husband, Eusebius Hubbard, conducted land transactions with St. Vrain. Undoubtedly, Rosanna and Ceran, close in age, neighbors, and belonging to the same social circle, would have known each other growing up.

Clearly, Charles Laughlin’s wife was well connected in early St. Louis society.

**Charles and Rosanna were in Howard/Boone County** by 1817. Land records indicate that their home was very near the Gentry-Threlkeld-Van Horn Tavern on the Boone’s Lick Road just west of present-day Midway near Columbia, Missouri. Charles and Rosanna were probably there before the tavern was actually built, but one of the many primitive trails criss-crossing the area gave them a pretty direct route, by frontier standards, to Boone’s Lick/Franklin, and their farm was perfectly situated to receive news from the increasing traffic to the west. It would have been roughly 20 miles to the area where William Becknell was living. There are multiple notices in the *Missouri Intelligencer* stating Charles had “taken up” free roaming horses. These notices were a legal requirement to find a possible owner before the animal could be sold. When William Becknell placed an ad in the June 1821 *Missouri Intelligencer* looking for “a company of men destined to the westward for the purpose of trading horses and mules, and catching wild animals of every description...” it is not difficult to believe Charles might have answered.

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**In July of 1822, Charles mortgaged nearly everything he owned.**

When Becknell returned to Franklin, he immediately began planning another trip to Santa Fe, leaving in May of 1822. Did Mr M’Laughlin accompany Becknell on this trip? Curiously, in July of 1822, Charles mortgaged nearly everything he owned in two transactions, one to his brother-in-law Boone County Justice of the Peace John Henderson, a Peter Austin, and a Joseph Lyons for a term of eight months. Another transaction involved Robert Cochran and Jeremiah Hall, for a term of four months. This sort of activity was common later on as individuals raised money for trading expeditions to Santa Fe; was this Charles’ reason? It would seem to indicate, however, that Charles was not with Becknell on his 1822 trip to Santa Fe, as Becknell had already launched his second trip in May, and the only known expedition after July was the disastrous Chambers-Baird expedition. Whatever reason Charles had for raising the money, it seems it was repaid, though not on time. But why did Charles raise this money? Did he catch up with the Becknell expedition? Was he with Chambers and Baird? Did he launch his own caravan to Santa Fe?

**I made an attempt to examine** the evidence to determine if my ancestor Charles Laughlin accompanied William Becknell on his first expedition to Santa Fe. While it seems Charles was in the right place at the right time, and possessed many qualities and connections that would make him an ideal candidate, I cannot yet prove that he did. But in the course of my research I found something intriguing. Court records in St. Charles Circuit Court show an individual named Pierre Vial dit Manitou living in Portage des Sioux in 1815. Additional records show him to be living there as late as 1818, and with a wife. The explorer Pedro Vial/ Pierre Vial, who actually blazed the trail from Santa Fe to



St. Louis, is believed to have died, unmarried, in Santa Fe in 1814. Could he actually have returned to the St. Louis/St. Charles area? If he did, I have to wonder about the possibility that he may have had direct contact with not only Charles Laughlin, but William Becknell as well, given that both men were active in the St. Charles area during this time frame. Evidence that Pierre Vial dit Manitou returned to Missouri will be the subject of a future article.

*Thank you for research assistance to Mike Olsen, David Sapp, The State Historical Society of Missouri, and St. Charles County Historical Society.*

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*Sheri Kerley is a Missouri native, who now calls Colorado home. She has long been interested in the early history of Missouri, and its role as The Gateway to the West.*

## Colorado SFT DAR Markers Located

by Shirley Coupal

In 1984, Mary and Leo Gamble set out to locate the Colorado Santa Fe Trail DAR markers. Most were placed in 1908 but date between 1906 to 1910. The Gamble's published a little booklet, *Santa Fe Trail Markers in Colorado*, in 1987. As far as we could determine, no one has updated this information since then. The descriptions found online are from this booklet.

Pat Traffas, Jean Coupal-Smith, and Shirley Coupal surveyed the Colorado markers in August 2015. Using the Gamble's directions, we located most of the markers in the same locations. We photographed, recorded the GPS coordinates, and logged a general description of the condition of each stone. However, a few have been moved, or the Gamble's directions were a little off. Many of the markers have the new "Santa Fe Trail Crossing" signage near the marker.

The following have new locations and are listed by name and county:

- Amity, Prowers County – US 50 to CR 30.5, turn right, 1/4 mile north of GG, on east side
- McClave, Bent County – US 50 to CR 30, turn left, 1.5 miles south of JJ, on east side of road
- Hasty, Bent County – in John Martin State Park, go through park entrance, pay fee, follow paved road to second gravel road, turn right and follow to enclosed fenced area
- Fort Lynn, Bent County – Gamble directions correct, but marker is lost in brush and weeds, very hard to see (see photo)
- Las Animas, Bent County – directly in front of Bent's Fort Inn on south side of US 50
- Four Corners, Bent County – marker is no longer on the George Baublitz's Farm. It was moved to the next farm west to an area known locally as Four Corners, private



*Pat Traffas logging the particulars on the Fort Lynn marker. This illustrates what the group went through to find the markers. They usually take hedge clippers with them, but sometimes it is too much for the clippers to handle. Photo: Jean Coupal-Smith*

property, owner lives in Denver

- Ayer, Otero County – moved to Timpas, on south-east side of US 350 across from Timpas shelter area in farm-yard at the northwest corner of house, faces west
- Simpson, Las Animas County – northwest side of US 350, directly across from Simpson RR sign, 0.2 mile northeast of CR 70
- El Moro, Las Animas County – marker sits at the southeast corner of CR 32 and CR 75, bronze plaque has been added to base

Unfortunately, we couldn't gain access to the Wootton Ranch or to the remote markers in Baca County. The Wootton Ranch has been sold in recent years and may be up for sale again. The Baca County markers are in ranch pastures. We haven't contacted the owners, who have Elkhart, Kansas addresses. This is for another trip. ♦

### Donate to the Marker Fund and Printing of Junior Wagon Master Booklets

An impressive number of new Trail markers have been installed but many more need to be placed.

Due to cutbacks by the National Park Service, funding for the printing of Junior Wagon Master booklets has been curtailed. This is an important program which introduces young people to the Trail.

Contributions for either effort can be made at the same time as you complete your 2016 membership form by checking off the appropriate box, and of course including payment. Donations also can be sent directly to Linda Revello, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned, Kansas, 67550, earmarked for the "Marker Fund" or "Junior Wagon Master Program."

## Crossroads at the Edge of Empire: Economy and Livelihood in Santa Fe during the Spanish Colonial Period

By Stephen S. Post

*Presented at the 2015 Three Trails Conference, September 18–20, 2015, Santa Fe, New Mexico*

**Santa Fe has been at the crossroads** of Pueblo, Spanish, and American cultures for centuries, serving as the northernmost capital of the Spanish Empire in the New World for more than two hundred years. Central to imperial expansion and stability in the far north were roads. The lifeblood of the colony, they carried people, goods, news, technology, and cultural trends. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth-century, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was the macro-regional link to the markets and viceregal government to the south. Early alignments of the Santa Fe and Old Spanish Trails were locally and regionally important to the movement of people and goods between isolated settlements and as avenues of external contact with the Plains Indians and beyond.

Since the seventeenth century, El Camino Real has entered Santa Fe from the west and south along what today is called Agua Fria Street. Today's Old Pecos Trail and Galisteo Roads were the main wagon roads of the Caminos de Pecos network, and what became the Santa Fe Trail was a secondary road. In the eighteenth-century, these roads carried people and goods between settlements, military campaigns against raiding tribes, and intrepid *ciboleros* and *comancheros* en route to the Plains. The Old Spanish Trail network served regional commerce bringing local and trade goods to Santa Fe for transport to the Chihuahua markets, and people and goods north to the Taos trade fairs.

**Limited to the reliance on a barter/** trade economy in a vast, arid, and often hostile land, New Mexico's colonial and indigenous populations were inex-

tricably dependent on trade with one another for simple survival. Economic gain by the governor and the landed elite relied on trade with Plains tribes for hides, meat, by-products of buffalo and elk, and captive slaves, which brought the highest value in the Chihuahua trade. For most New Mexicans and Pueblo people, the short supply of durable goods was barely sufficient to support their daily lives, yet they often traded them away for high value goods from the plains. In a colony fraught with economic inequality and very limited access to minted specie, the primary currency was products of the land, or the services or products from trades such as blacksmithing, weaving, masonry, and woodworking. When the governor's orders periodically interrupted trade fairs, it affected the elites' profit margins and denied the lower classes their meager shot at some economic advancement, droughts, disease, and other calamities negatively affected everyone.

**New Mexico in the eighteenth-** century has been a popular subject for historians. Archaeological studies are less well-represented in the literature. The discarded debris of everyday life, especially Pueblo-made pottery and domesticated animal bone, is abundant in archaeological deposits. Wills, as our colleague Dedie Snow has long reminded us, contain lists of household, luxury, hardware, and construction goods, and livestock that provide windows into economic status and stratification within the villa. Many of these trappings of wealth and prestige were heirlooms or prized possessions, which were rarely broken, worn out, or lost, or they were perishable and not detectable in archaeological deposits. For most households, such prized items were only discarded when used or broken beyond repair. By comparison, higher status or more affluent households possessed, used, and discarded a wider variety and higher frequency of

goods, foods, and implements, which they could afford to replace. For economically advantaged or prosperous households, high replacement value goods and tools were used in normal daily activities, reflecting production or mercantile pursuits.

**Thanks to excavations at two major** sites and a smaller site between 2002 and 2008 in Santa Fe by the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, and Euroamerican artifact analysis conducted by our colleague Matt Barbour, I can talk to you about the archaeology of Santa Fe's eighteenth-century economy. The three sites represent a cross-section of Santa Fe's socio-economic strata from the economic disadvantaged to the elite. The archaeological sites are the presidial barracks behind the Palace of the Governors, an elite household located here at the Convention Center where we sit today, and a residential refuse pit from a household along El Camino Real, close to where it enters Santa Fe from the southwest.

The Convention Center site excavation revealed evidence of the earliest agricultural site in Santa Fe, the remains of a thirteenth to fifteenth-century Pueblo village, an elite Colonial household, the Presidio, Fort Marcy, and use for Santa Fe High School. Historical sources indicated that during the eighteenth century, the site was owned and lived in by members of the Baca and Garvisu families, both influential in Santa Fe and the region. Archival information indicates their adobe house had two stories with two enclosed *placitas*. My 2008 study of roof plans shown on the Urrutia map identified it as one of the largest houses in Santa Fe at the time. The land was purchased from the Baca-Garvisu by the crown for the expansion of the presidio in 1791. Archaeological excavations revealed cobble foundations from three walls of the house, two large refuse

pits filled with household, construction, and cottage industry debris, a forge or blacksmithing area consisting of heavily oxidized pits and platform of cobbles and mixed debris containing slag and burned adobe, and a well. The Baca-Garvisu house and grounds were well outfitted for taking full advantage of economic opportunities derived from its location in Santa Fe's urban core at the crossroads of northern trade and commerce.

### **The New Mexico History Museum**

**site** is located directly north of the Palace of the Governors. Within the 6,200 square foot study area, 198 archaeological features spanning from 1610 to the 1930s were found in deposits five to six feet thick. An estimated 800,000 artifacts and samples were recovered. Of major importance were the buried remnants of eighteenth century barracks represented by 45 features, which included architectural remains, refuse and processing pits and dumps, post-holes, irrigation features, and miscellaneous work areas. During this period, the Palace's backyard changed from open space with gardens and orchards and an informal cemetery to a military installation with barracks, stables or workshops, and the possible quarters of American Indian interpreters or scouts. Based on the cobble foundation alignments and construction sequence, we posited the presence of at least 10,640 square feet of eight previously undocumented Presidio buildings. For much of the period between 1729 and 1791, many of the 50 to 100 presidial soldiers resided in homes spread throughout the *villa* of Santa Fe. Unmarried or unpropertied soldiers made up a smaller contingent living in the barracks behind the Palace of the Governors. These adobe-walled barracks were rudimentary, covering 400 square feet with adobe or packed dirt floors and small corner fireplaces. Even with the improved 1791 presidio, many soldiers continued to live with their families, comfortably integrated into the local community. Our record documents the unfortunate soldiers who did not find lodging elsewhere.

The late eighteenth-century site at the Santa Fe Railyard was located south of the Santa Fe River within the Guadalupe Church parish and south of El Camino Real, near its entrance into the core of the villa. At this location, archaeologists found no architecture, but encountered an unexpected, well-used refuse pit near the transition between residential and agricultural space. The immediate area was served by two acequias which brought water to crops and diverted floodwaters away from fields and houses.

**What did we learn about the economic** status of Santa Fe residents in the eighteenth century from these projects? Locally, everyone had farm products, sheep, goat, and cattle hides, skins, meats and by-products. Pottery was made and traded at a very low value by Pueblo potters. Skilled trades and specialized cottage industry provided opportunities for economic gain, creating a small middle class between a prosperous elite and the less fortunate majority. Contradictions abounded as complaints about the scarcity of iron tools and weapons were intertwined with a trade strategy that sent those same items to the trade fairs. Claims of widespread poverty and misery are tempered by the fact that New Mexicans operated under the tax and tariff radar and did not want a perception of prosperity to affect the status quo.

**First looking at the Pueblo-made** ceramic assemblages, we see the well-documented pattern of a variety of micaceous, smudged and polished red, brown, black, and gray utility and table wares available to everyone regardless of economic status. Tewa, Ogapoge, and Powhoge polychrome-decorated bowls and jars are unequally present with 12 percent at the Railyard site, 18 percent at the barracks, and as high as 30 percent at the Baca-Garvisu site. While all site occupants had ready access to daily cooking, kitchen, and table wares, the Baca-Garvisu household was using and breaking significantly greater amounts of decorated pottery, indicating a high level of integration into the local and regional economy. The low numbers

found at the other two sites support the observation that laborer and subsistence farming households were at a similar economic level as soldiers living in the barracks. Pueblo ceramics reflect a local economy that emphasized acquisition and exchange of goods between Santa Fe's residents and northern Tewa villages, with the movement of goods following the southernmost extent of the Old Spanish Trail or the northernmost extent of El Camino Real.

Metal objects, Mexican majolica and unrefined earthen wares, and Oriental porcelains are artifact classes that were less valuable in Mexico, but expensive for New Mexicans to own. The assemblage distributions across the three sites display strong contrasts. These goods entered Santa Fe through El Camino Real trade.

**The Baca-Garvisu site has by far the** greatest number and variety of metal artifacts. More than 200 metal artifacts representing 30 artifact types, including hand-forged nails, hooks, awls, a griddle handle, fasteners, and worn or cut straps point to a well-provisioned household. Excavations uncovered evidence of forge bases, as well, indicating metal-working on the property. The Palace Barracks yielded 83 metal artifacts representing 16 types, including a variety of small fasteners or personal items with a single *espada ancha* associated with meat-processing. There is variety, but not the sheer numbers and conspicuous discard of iron objects, which were more likely recycled by soldiers living behind the Palace of the Governors. The absence of metal artifacts from the Railyard site illustrates how closely their use and discard was managed by less affluent or lower class households.

A similar pattern of variety and abundance holds true for the majolica, porcelain, and unrefined earthen wares. The Baca-Garvisu site had 576 Mexican majolica and unrefined earthenware sherds and 108 sherds of Japanese and Chinese porcelains. Two types, Puebla Blue-on-white and San Elizario polychrome majolica had vessel forms representing full table settings, while



other types combined for mixed table settings of bowls, plates, cups and saucers. This is unlike any other site in the American Southwest from that period. The Palace Barracks and Railyard sites pale in comparison. The Palace Barracks yielded 107 majolica sherds with limited type and form variability suggesting occasional use, but certainly not affluence. The Railyard site had very few sherds of majolica and higher frequencies of unrefined earthen wares reflecting, perhaps, accidental breakage of heirlooms. The Railyard site household had trappings of a more affluent lifestyle, but in comparison with other sites, the assemblage is meager.

**From the archaeological data and historical sources,** there is no doubt social and economic stratification played a significant role in who benefited most from the road networks in eighteenth-century society in Santa Fe and northern New Mexico. At the Baca-Garvisu site, we see a well-provisioned household at the top of the social and economic ladder. They accumulated, processed, and refined high and moderate value goods acquired in regional and Plains trade for transport to Chihuahua in exchange for quantities of majolica and porcelain unmatched at other sites throughout the southwest. The Baca-Garvisu family took full advantage of the benefits derived from goods transported by the regional networks of the Santa Fe and Old Spanish trails, while tapping into the macro-regional economy through Camino Real commerce. At the Palace barracks, as might be expected, presidial soldiers had little means with which to participate in regional and Plains or macro-regional trade. Considering the barracks were occupied for more than 70 years, the accumulation of goods that could be interpreted as tapping into larger markets is negligible. The soldiers were supplied by the governor, who used cash surpluses gained from inequitable buying and selling for his own financial gain. The stark and harsh realities of presidial life were punctuated by the small rooms, with dirt floors, and small corner fireplaces

that soldiers called home. Soldiers, at best, participated minimally in local commerce supported by the Santa Fe and Old Spanish trails, where food and subsistence goods supplemented their presidial allotments. Finally, the household deposits from the residence along El Camino Real poignantly illustrate the realities that the majority of eighteenth-century New Mexicans faced. The road that passed their home and that they traveled for local business was a path to prosperity that they could aspire to, but likely never achieve. The larger economy of El Camino Real was embodied in the few table wares of majolica and Mexican earthen wares prized and treasured, but unlikely to be replaced when broken beyond repair. Their survival depended on the products of their gardens and corrals and the occasional ability to purchase beyond their means during years of plenty.

**With the change in government that** followed Mexican independence, El Camino Real was linked with the Santa Fe Trail extending commerce from Independence, Missouri, to Mexico City. The Old Spanish Trail became an important route for livestock trade between California and New Mexico. The elite continued to benefit from the expanded market opportunities, while those on the lower economic scale maintained a subsistence standard of living. Their lives did not change significantly for better or worse until the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad in 1880.

I would like to express my gratitude to the more than 150 archaeological professionals and crew and volunteers that worked on these projects; to Dedie Snow for more than 30 years of mentoring and support; and to Matt Barbour for his dedicated work during his tenure at the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies (OAS).

This talk was mostly based on results reported in three OAS reports. Please go to the OAS website publications link to obtain digital copies. [www.nmarchaeology.org/publications.html](http://www.nmarchaeology.org/publications.html)

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- Stephen Post was the project director and principal investigator for the NM Office of Archaeological Studies for the past 30 years. He is now an independent consultant. ♦*

## SUPPORT THE SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION WITH A LEGACY GIFT

Planned gifts provide you, as a donor, with a way to leave a legacy of support for the Santa Fe Trail Association. An appropriately planned charitable gift to the Santa Fe Trail Association not only helps care for the heritage of Trail, but it can provide significant estate planning rewards for you as well.

There are several ways to create a planned gift. You should consult with a financial adviser or estate planning professional to select a planned gift that balances your individual needs and wishes, as well as your personal circumstances and interest in the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Listed below are some ways your planned gift can make a significant impact and show how you deeply care for the heritage of the Santa Fe Trail.

### **Give an outright gift of assets during your lifetime.**

Gifts of cash are the most common method. Gifts are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Gifts of appreciated stocks, mutual funds, and other securities can have an immediate benefit for the Santa Fe Trail Association and provide ideal tax savings for the donor. Charitable gifts made from appreciated securities held for at least one year and one day provide two tax savings, i.e., a charitable deduction and avoidance of capital gains tax.

### **Give, by making a bequest in a will.**

Naming the Santa Fe Trail Association in your will is one of the simplest ways to make a lasting charitable gift. Bequests may be in the form of a stated dollar amount, a percentage of an estate, a particular piece of property, or the residual of the estate.

### **Give through your retirement plan.**

You may name the Santa Fe Trail Association as the beneficiary of a portion of your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement plan. This vehicle is a popular planned gift option, as assets from an IRA that are passed to a surviving beneficiary are subject to income taxes. Charitable gifts made from a retirement plan are deductible for estate tax purposes, so that one's heirs avoid income tax on the amount that is gifted to charity.

### **Designate life insurance proceeds.**

Life insurance is another simple way to make an enduring gift while realizing significant tax benefits. For example, you can name the Santa Fe Trail Association as the beneficiary of an existing policy, or of a paid-up policy you already own. Or if you prefer, you could name the Santa Fe Trail Association as the owner of a new policy, and your premium payments will be tax deductible.

### **Design a trust-based contribution.**

Under a charitable remainder trust, a percentage of the earnings from assets under trust are paid as income to you and your beneficiaries. Upon the death of the last beneficiary, the principal goes to the Santa Fe Trail Association. In a charitable lead trust, assets are placed in a trust for a specified period of time. The Santa Fe Trail Association receives a percentage of the income earned over this time period, after which the principal is transferred to your beneficiaries.

### **Gifts of real estate, personal property, and royalties.**

The Santa Fe Trail Association will consider gifts of real estate, personal property, and royalties. Acceptance will depend on the property's condition, debt, environmental status, and marketability. Please contact the Santa Fe Trail Association for further information.

Please join the Josiah Gregg Society of the Santa Fe Trail Association ... help us create a legacy to the history of the Santa Fe Trail.

### ***Josiah Gregg Society of the Santa Fe Trail Association***

The Josiah Gregg Society recognizes and honors individuals who notify the SFTA that they have made a planned gift to the SFTA. Planned gifts include, but are not limited to, naming the SFTA as a beneficiary through a bequest, charitable remainder trust, testamentary charitable remainder trust, insurance policy, retirement plan assets, charitable gift annuity, or reserved life estate.

To be recognized in the Society, a member must notify the SFTA president that she or he has made such a provision in an estate plan. Unless the individual wishes to voluntarily provide the information, the amount or type of gift is not required for membership.

*Thank You*

Members of the Josiah Gregg Society are Margaret Sears, Dianna R. Dunn, and Bill and Susan Bunyan.

*Add your name to the list today.*

## BOOKS



## YOUTH ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

Camilla Kattell, *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail*, (Light Horse Publishing, 2015), 213 pp., paper cover.

[Editor's note: Since this book is categorized as juvenile nonfiction, biography & autobiography/historical, it seemed appropriate to have a reader in that age range review it. Rachel Penner is 15.]

*Reviewed by Rachel C. Penner*

When I was a kid, I went to Missouri every summer to visit my grandmother. I was probably ten years old and playing with some other kids on the block when I casually mentioned I was from New Mexico. The neighbor boy's eyes got wide and he asked incredulously, "Do you have TV there?" Just as New Mexico seems to be a state that is overlooked, the Santa Fe Trail is often glossed over in American history. Most peoples' knowledge extends only to the name Kit Carson and the vague idea of covered wagons and Indians. Camilla Kattell's *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail* aims to make the story of the Santa Fe Trail more accessible through short biographies of notable historical figures who traveled the trail in the 1800s.

Ten individuals are described in this book, including Susan Shelby Magoffin, Josiah Gregg, and yes, Kit Carson. I quite enjoyed some of the stories, and felt that I learned more about the trail. All of the people anthologized here had extraordinary lives and interesting experiences while traveling the Santa Fe Trail. Each chapter details a different trail traveler, including some lesser-known people like James Ross Larkin and José Librado Gurulé. Overall, *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail* serves to memorialize those remarkable individuals who endured the hardships of life in the American west and to ensure that their stories aren't forgotten. However, there were some weaknesses in this book as well.

When looking at the bibliography, it appears that the author has used only well-known sources and has done no original research. Upon closer examination, I found that many of the words and phrases were sucked directly from the autobiographies or published stories of trail travelers. Unfortunately, for me, using descriptive phrases from the original works disrupted the author's voice and flow of the narrative. Granted, the stories are a lot more condensed than in the bibliographic sources, which is a major benefit of Kattell's book if you're looking for a quick summary of trail characters.

I enjoyed the book, but I didn't feel that it was particularly geared towards young adults. On the back cover, the genre is listed as "juvenile nonfiction," but this is not a children's book. I personally had no problems understanding the vernacular or writing style, nor would most teenagers, but I wouldn't recommend this book as an introduction to the Santa Fe Trail for a child. *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail* is just as suited for adult readers. While all the travelers covered *were* on the trail in their teens or twenties, there is no particular focus on their youth or how the trail experience differed for a young person. The biographies followed people into old age, sometimes with even more of a focus on their later years. My initial thought was that the title *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail* might be a little misleading, as some of the people were in their thirties (which, granted, seems old to me, but is probably quite young-ish for the majority of the population.)

I would recommend this book for an introduction and brief summary of many notable people who traveled on the Santa Fe Trail. Trail aficionados will already be familiar with most of these stories. For those looking to learn about life on the Santa Fe Trail, I would recommend reading one of the original autobiographies or first-hand accounts by a trail traveler, such as Magoffin's diary or William Napton's *Over the Santa Fe Trail, 1857*. I would have almost rather heard the stories directly from those who experienced them. Nevertheless, Camilla Kattell proved herself to be very effective in anthologizing the lives of ten remarkable people into a readable, condensed form. ♦

## THE SANTA FE TRAIL: A GUIDE

Hal Jackson and Marc Simmons, *The Santa Fe Trail: A Guide* (Trails Press, 2015), 340 pp., paper cover.

*Reviewed by Ruth Friesen*

If you know someone who thinks there is nothing to see on the Santa Fe Trail, hand them this book. Jackson and Simmons give explicit directions to the sites along the Trail from Franklin, Missouri to Albuquerque, New Mexico, including signs, swales, and buildings. At most locations, a brief summary of what happened there historically is given. The authors take what could be viewed by the history neophyte as a boring subject and make it come alive, like your favorite instructor at school who made you change your major because of the excitement that instructor created.

Those who own the previous editions, written first in 1984 and updated in 2001, will miss out if they don't update to this version. Additional information has been added. For example, looking at Baldwin City, I found information about Black Jack which was not in the previous editions.

Following that were text and diagrams about measuring the land, with examples of plat maps and field notes. Many of the photographs have been updated, and include new signage installed since the last edition.

The best feature of this updated edition is the format. It is printed in a larger font, which makes it easy to read and keep your place while exploring on your journey. It's printed on white paper, which helps those with older eyes. And the book stays open more easily. Although the book size is larger and thicker by about 100 pages, its ease of use is worth it.

Buy this book for the neighbor who watches your dog while you are on the trail, and offer to reciprocate as they get hooked on traveling the Santa Fe Trail. ♦



Coming in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*: Reviews of Phyllis Morgan's book, *As Far As the Eye Could Reach: Accounts of Animals Along the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880*, reviewed by Steve Schmidt, and *Revolt at Taos: The New Mexican and Indian Insurrection of 1847* by James Crutchfield, reviewed by Leo Oliva, as well as a review of Joy Poole's book, *Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard*, newly published this October.

## FIVE NEW TRAIL BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM SFTA LAST CHANCE STORE

The SFTA Last Chance Store is pleased to offer five new books about the Santa Fe Trail. The Store, managed by volunteer Leo E. Oliva, belongs to SFTA and all income goes to benefit the association and its chapters (several thousand dollars helped fund the recent Three Trails Conference). When you patronize our store you are helping SFTA. Visit the store online at [www.lastchancestore.org](http://www.lastchancestore.org).

The five new trail books are:

Hal Jackson and Marc Simmons, *The Santa Fe Trail: A Guide* (Trails Press, 2015), 340 pp., paper cover, \$20 postpaid.

Phyllis S. Morgan, *As Far As the Eye Could Reach: Accounts of Animals Along the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2015), 218 pp., paper cover, \$20.00 postpaid.

Camilla Kattell, *Youth on the Santa Fe Trail* (Light Horse Publishing, 2015), 213 pp., paper cover, \$15.00 postpaid.

Joy L. Poole, ed., *Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2015), 279 pp., cloth binding, \$30 postpaid.

James A. Crutchfield, *Revolt at Taos: The New Mexican and Indian Insurrection of 1847* (Westholme, 2015), 229 pp., cloth binding, \$30 postpaid.

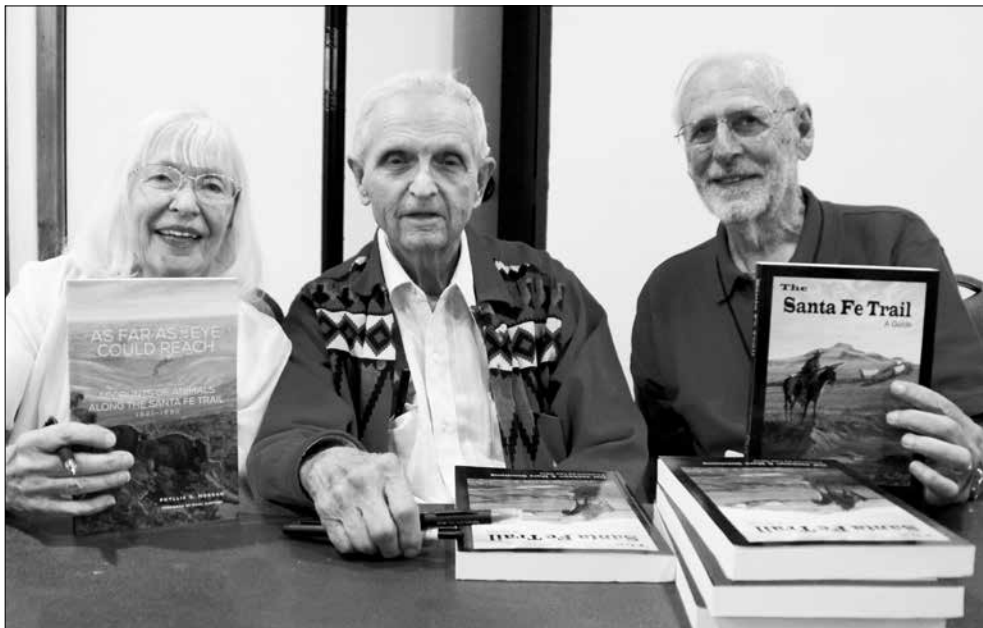


Photo: Ruth Friesen

*Phyllis Morgan, Marc Simmons, and Hal Jackson sign their new books at the Three Trails Conference in Santa Fe.*

## Chapter Reports

**Chapters are listed in order from the beginning of the Trail in Missouri westward.**

### Missouri River Outfitters

President Larry Short

3930 S Jackson Drive #106, Independence, MO 64057

816-835-4397 ♦ ldshort@comcast.net

MRO made a presentation at the annual Peach Festival in Lexington, Missouri, on August 8. We told the story of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, focusing on the Franklin, Missouri to New Santa Fe on the Missouri/Kansas state line. The presentations were held at the visitor's center for the Battle of Lexington/Anderson House State Historical site. MRO acquired four new members as a result of these presentations.

New developments have arisen with the progress of the Salem Park open air kiosk. As a result of recent MoDOT improvements to the intersection of 24 Hwy and Blue Mills Road, the Jackson County Parks Department has decided to enhance the original plans. This will require a one year delay in order to secure the needed funds for the project in the Jackson County budget. MRO, SFTA, and NPS will continue to work with Jackson County Parks as we move forward to develop this unique park in which to display our three interpretive panels plus the DAR marker.

MRO was pleased to have Steve Burns and Kristin Van Fleet in our area from August 16-21. Many productive meetings and visits were held with MRO as well as with our 3-Trails Corridor Partnership group, which includes OCTA, the Trails Head Chapter of OCTA, KCAHTA, and representatives of all the municipalities and stakeholders along the entire 40-mile corridor.

Meetings were held with NPS and MARC (Mid-America Regional Council) to continue the cooperation among all entities to complete the comprehensive plan for the multi-use pedestrian trail along the corridor. Other meetings were held to update all of the 3-Trails Corridor Partnership on the most recent progress of the trails in the greater Kansas City, Missouri area.

We also learned of the approval of our request for the National Park Service certification of the Cave Spring site at Gregory Blvd. and Blue Ridge Blvd. in Raytown and Kansas City, Missouri. The Cave Spring was located within the Barnes Enclosure. Susan Magoffin, an early trail diarist, stayed in the Barnes Home on her travels down the Santa Fe Trail. The Santa Fe, Oregon and California National Historic Trails, as designated by NPS, cross directly over the east part of this park area, and DAR marked the site with one of the granite markers in 1909. You are encouraged to visit this great site on your next trip to our area.

The Powder Mill Bridge construction continues on track to be completed in early October 2015. Once completed this MoDot project will be the longest bridge along the National Historic Trails dedicated to pedestrian traffic and will be a featured part of the 3-Trails retracement corridor, which is a

part of the comprehensive plan currently being developed by NPS and MARC.

On October 25 MRO made a PowerPoint presentation to the Lafayette County Historical Society. The program featured the Santa Fe Trail as it crosses the county, as well as the SFTA GeoTour. Opportunities such as this help promote both MRO and SFTA and enable us to educate local citizens about the importance and history of the trail.

As we approach the end of another year, we are looking forward to our annual holiday potluck dinner at the home of Sandy Slusher in Lexington, Missouri. This is a highlight event of the year with a great atmosphere in Sandy's 1844 home, where we reflect on the many accomplishments by MRO over the past year.

I want to thank all the MRO team members who have made this a very successful and productive past few months. They are a dedicated team that continues to amaze me on what they have to offer MRO and SFTA.

### Douglas County

President Roger Boyd

PO Box 379, Baldwin City KS 66006

785-594-3172 ♦ rboyd@bakeru.edu

The chapter is partnering with Baker University to preserve the Palmyra Post Office/Blood's Grocery Store that used to be located along the Santa Fe Trail but has been relocated next to the Old Castle Museum. We have also taken on the responsibility of the Clearfield School, and are refurbishing and repairing period school desks from the early 1900s.

At our annual fall picnic, local author Barbara Sue Sweetwood, who writes western fiction about independent women, was our speaker. Entertainment was provided by the Alferd Packer Memorial String Band.

The Chapter has completed its sign plan, and Douglas County staff and Baldwin City staff have started installing 48 of the signs.

### Heart of the Flint Hills

President Sharon Haun

704 Hockaday Street, Council Grove, KS 66846

khaun@tctelco.net

The Kaw Mission State Historic Site, which has a new site administrator, Mark Brooks, will be closed November through March due to state cutbacks. Because of this, the Friends of Kaw Heritage have moved their extensive book collection, including many books pertaining to the Santa Fe Trail to the Morris County Historical Society. In addition, Earl and Deanne Wright have donated their extensive collection of SFT maps and other information to the Society. These items are available for research.

Work has been done recently around the Council Oak, one of the very important SFT sites.



## SFTA Annual Membership January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Life \$1000, 1 time or 3 installments  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Patron \$100/year  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Family \$40/year  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Individual \$35/year  
☐ Business \$50/year ☐ Institutional \$50/year ☐ Youth (18 and under) \$5/year  
☐ **New member** ☐ **Renewing member**

I am a member of the following chapter \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to make a donation to assist the SFTA with programs and events.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to donate to the Junior Wagon Master Fund.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to donate to the Marker Fund.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To pay by credit card, go to [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org), and click on "Join the Organization."

The Santa Fe Trail Association is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation, and all donations beyond membership dues are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Santa Fe Trail Association**

**Mail to Ruth Olson Peters, Treasurer, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1340 K-156, Larned, KS 67550**

**Renew by mailing the above form or renew online at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org)**

If you have renewed your membership, pass the form along to a friend or colleague.

### Chapter Reports, *continued*

#### **Cottonwood Crossing**

President Steve Schmidt  
1120 Cobblestone Court, McPherson KS 67460  
620-245-0715 ♦ [wfordok@yahoo.com](mailto:wfordok@yahoo.com)

See the story regarding French Frank's Trail Segment wayside exhibit installation on page 6 of this issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

#### **Quivira**

President Linda Colle  
724 Penn Drive, McPherson KS 67460  
620-241-8719 ♦ [blkcolle@swbell.net](mailto:blkcolle@swbell.net)

The Quivira Chapter had 48 people attend the program on July 27 at the Barton County Historical Society in Great Bend. Ron Parks presented information from his book, *The Darkest Period: The Kanza Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873*. The program was well received by the audience, and Ron sold many of the books he brought. The Quivira Chapter provides a program each year at the Barton County Historical Society. This annual program benefits both groups.

As reported in the last *Wagon Tracks*, the Cow Creek/Buffalo Bill's Well sign was discovered damaged on May 9, one week after the signs were installed. Vandals attempted to pull down the sign, but before that they also used the sign for target practice. In an update to this case, the individuals pled guilty to criminal damage to property, a class B misdemeanor. They received a six-months controlling jail sentence, which was the maximum, with a year of probation, and they have to pay court costs, probation fees, and restitution for the signs, which was about \$1,200. With probation they will have to follow all the rules and stay out of trouble, or their probation could be

revoked, and the judge could make them serve part or all of their sentence. They have to pay restitution sometime during their probation, so we don't know how soon we will see any money from them. We are just in the process of ordering a new set of signs for this site. Hopefully, we can educate these people on the reasons we are installing these signs and make them more aware of the importance of these signs.

Britt and Linda Colle, on behalf of the Quivira Chapter, attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jayden Thanel in Derby, Kansas, on September 5. Jayden's project coordinated the installation of site signs at Swanson's Swales, the Fry Ruts, and the Little Arkansas Crossing/Stone Corral. We are looking forward to continuing our work with the Boy Scouts on additional projects.

The Quivira Chapter was excited about the induction of our own Ralph Hathaway into the SFTA Hall of Fame at the recent Three Trails Conference in Santa Fe. Ralph's love of the Trail and his work to preserve his section of the Trail made him an excellent candidate. Following in Ralph's footsteps are his daughter and son-in-law, Carolyn and Ed Kern. Carolyn and Ed were awarded the Pete and Faye Gaines Memorial Heritage Preservation Award for their own Kern Ruts. We would also like to congratulate Britt Colle on receiving a SFTA Award of Merit for his work for the Quivira Chapter.

#### **Wet/Dry Routes**

Dr. David Clapsaddle  
215 Mann, Larned KS 67550  
620-285-3295 ♦ [adsaddle@cox.net](mailto:adsaddle@cox.net)

The chapter met on Sunday, November 1, at the First Presbyterian Church, Larned, Kansas, with a luncheon catered by Faye Grandy of chicken noodle soup and homemade pumpkin pie. Following the luncheon, a report was given by the committee on the Susan Magoffin signage to be placed at the site of her accident at Ash Creek, July 4, 1846. The interpretive marker will be dedicated at Rendezvous 2016. The director of the Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned, Becca Hiller, presented a first person interpretation of Susan Magoffin, wearing period dress.

The marker at Sibley's Camp, recently destroyed by an errant driver, has been restored. As you know, the property now belongs to the Fort Larned Old Guard. Chapter member Doug Springer has graciously provided the skill and labor to restore the marker. Kudos to Doug.

Fifteen plus members attended the Three Trails Conference "All Trails Lead to Santa Fe" September 17-20. The chapter received the award for Facundo Melgares who was elected to the Hall of Fame, recommended by Alice Clapsaddle. Member Greg VanCoevern was awarded the Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award.

The winter meeting will be January 2016 in Kinsley, Kansas, date and time to be announced in the newsletter. The Faye Anderson Award will be presented at that time. Vice President Rosetta Graff will be the host. For additional information and reservation for the noon meal, contact David Clapsaddle at 620-285-3295. All are welcome.

#### **Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron**

President Bill Bunyan  
PO Box 1656, Dodge City KS 67801  
620-227-8203 ♦ dchawk38@gmail.com

The chapter met on September 12 at the Cowtown Club for lunch and an informative talk by chapter member Gary Kraisinger, about his new book, *The Western Cattle Trail - 1874 - 1897 - Its Rise, Collapse and Revival*. Gary authored the book with his wife Margaret, and they will be inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame as Cowboy Historians in October. Several chapter members are also members of the Kansas Chapter of the Great Western Cattle Trail Association, and we work closely with that chapter on projects.

Following our lunch and Gary's talk at the Cowtown, we journeyed south 10 miles to dedicate our new story board, which was a joint project of the two chapters. A plaque in appreciation for Steve and John Drach for allowing the storyboard on their property was placed on one of the board posts. Gary then talked about the historical significance of the site for the lower crossing of the Santa Fe Trail, The Fort Dodge - Camp Supply Military Road, and the Great Western Cattle Trail.

Another joint project of the two chapters is the placement of posts marking the Fort Dodge - Camp Supply Road. Five posts have been set so far at Fort Dodge; on 54 Highway at the Bloom Rest Area, on the Bouziden Ranch, at the Clark County Historical Society Museum, and at our new storyboard site on 283 Highway. A Great Western Cattle Trail post is located at this site also.

Our new chapter pins are in, and members will receive one when they pay their 2016 dues and attend a meeting. This will apply to members in our Gray - Ford county area. Members from a distance will also receive their pin by mail with their paid 2016 membership.

We welcome new members Kathy Hornung of Cimarron and Jack and Karin Traylor of Dayton, Tennessee. They are members of the national association and chose our chapter as a local chapter to join.

We were pleased to have Gary and Louise Hicks of Overland Park, Kansas, and the Missouri River's Outfitters Chapter, attend our September 12 meeting. They were on their way to the national symposium in Santa Fe. Chapter members Mike Strodtman, Mike and Kelly Rogers, and Debbie Calhoun also attended the symposium.

Eleven members of our chapter and the Great Western chapter staffed our joint booth at the 3-i Show, October 8-10. The two chapters will be together for our Christmas party at the Cowtown Club on Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

The next chapter meeting will be Sunday, November 8, at 1:00 p.m. at Boothill for our fried chicken dinner and all the good side dishes furnished by our members. Mark Berry will portray General Custer's scout, California Joe, who traveled down the Fort Dodge - Camp Supply Road with Custer in 1868, for the Washita campaign.

#### **Wagon Bed Spring**

President Jeff Trotman  
PO Box 1005, Ulysses KS 67880  
620-356-1854 ♦ swpb@pld.com

#### **Cimarron Cutoff**

President Leon Ellis  
PO Box 668, Elkhart KS 67950  
620-453-2286 ♦ lbe@elkhart.com

#### **Bent's Fort**

President Pat Palmer  
PO Box 628, Lamar CO 81052  
719-931-4323

As 2015 starts winding down, it is fun to look back at the wonderful activities that the Bent's Fort Chapter has enjoyed.

July 11: Lakota Indian Martin Knifechief spoke at the historical Grand Theater in Rocky Ford. Approximately 75 people attended this extremely informative presentation.

August 14: Chapter members Charlie Hutton and Don Overmyer met with the Army Corps of Engineers at John Martin Reservoir. The chapter is working cooperatively with them to place a sign on the Santa Fe Trail near the dam.

August 15: The Bent's Fort Chapter partnered with the Pueblo County Historical Society and the Rawlings Library to host a day of storytelling, cowboy poetry and music, and an original historical drama, "Secrets Into the Wind: The Women of Boggsville."

September 17-20: Over 40 chapter members attended the Three-Trails Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This conference was a huge success due to the hard work of Pam Najdowski and Pat Kulhof. From the fantastic tours, the enlightening speakers to the wonderful food and entertainment, this was an event we will remember forever.

September 23-26: Many of the Bent's Fort members were busy with the Fur Trade Symposium held at Bent's Old Fort. With 75 living history reenactors, wonderful speakers, and great treks, people came away saying "Awesome, Awesome, Awesome." Bent's Old Fort simply came alive as it would have been in 1842 during the Fur Trade heyday.

October 10: The chapter toured the Cedar Creek Ranch and Pettigrew Stage Station south of Lamar.

November 14: Dr. Paul Schmelzer and Rebecca Atkinson will speak at the chapter's education meeting. Their topic will be Sand Creek Massacre and its aftermath.

### Corazon de los Caminos

President Dennis Schneider  
828 South Euclid Ave., Cimarron, NM 87714  
575-376-2527 ♦ schneidermusic@q.com

I would like to thank our V. P. and Treasurer Tom and Peggy Ferguson for representing me at the symposium board meeting while I gained more conference hours as an emergency medical technician. Also to Faye Gaines, who always represents us and everybody else so well. I am getting varied reports on the 3-Trails symposium, but I am satisfied that it was a very worthwhile event.

Gladys and I did have the opportunity to attend all of the Bent's Fort Fur Trade symposium and it was outstanding. We were so impressed with the organization of the whole symposium. I have studied mountain men and fur trappers since boyhood, but I never realized how closely interlinked the Santa Fe Trail and the fur trade really were. You will recall that Becknell broke open the trail, which the Spanish had before limited all Americans from entering the territory. Many of these early traders became fur trappers, such as the Bent brothers, St. Vrain, Carson, etc. They are the ones who made Taos the wintering quarters and supply point of the southern fur trade, established trading posts, etc. Of course, I had read of all the furs and hides in transit to Missouri, but somehow never combined the two types of trade in my mind. William Bent, Carson, and St. Vrain all trapped together in the Gila. These friends all formed partnerships.

On October 10 we had a perfect day at the Ocate crossing. Steve Boyce was out of state, so Dixie Odom gave a wonderful talk at the Calhoun graveyard. The UU Bar Express ranch constructed a pipe fence around this site about two years ago. The gate is down and needs welding repair. We will discuss this situation soon.

Some of the Calhoun family were buried there even though they had left the area for several years. We also looked at the foundations where the buildings had been. It was hard to imagine a large two-story house, general store, bar, barn with hay loft, blacksmith shop, and a large enclosed courtyard. Calhoun imported mustangs from California and a Morgan horse from

back east and developed some very good horses. He had been burned out in Arkansas, imprisoned, escaped, and established this post after the Civil War as a stage station and trading center. After lunch we followed the trail across Apache mesa the best we could on a county road, and came out the Colmor exit after passing Charette Lakes. Fourteen people attended.

Our next meeting is November 14 at 11:00 a. m. at the St. James Hotel in Cimarron. We will have our regular business meeting, lunch, and author/historian Steve Zimmer will be our speaker. Steve has not disclosed his topic, but I'm certain it will be interesting. He has written so many books on this area, and his fame is growing all the time. Think about a January date you prefer for a planning session for all of next year's events. We will try to set the time and place at this meeting. Please come!

### End of the Trail

President Joy Poole  
125 Lupita Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505-820-7828 ♦ amusejoy@msn.com

On June 20, Lou Ann Jordan, Joyce Fox, and Kermit Hill followed the trail back to Fort Union. The day was beautiful, with lakes and green grass galore that would have delighted trail travelers of old. The big entertainment was the firing of a Civil War-era cannon, a weapon much feared by plains Indians. They also enjoyed old western songs sung by Steve Cormier.

The chapter program on November 21 at El Dorado will be titled "Crossing Paths-The Madonna of the Trail Controversy." The story stems from a discovery hiding in the New Mexico State Records and Archives DAR collection.



*Sketches of Fort Union by Lou Ann Jordan*



Santa Fe Trail Association  
1046 Red Oaks NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87122  
[www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org)



## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## EVENTS

**November 8: Dodge City, KS.** Dodge City Chapter, Mark Berry portrays California Joe.

**November 14: Lamar, CO.** Bent's Fort Chapter, Dr. Paul Schmelzer and Rebecca Atkinson on the Sand Creek Massacre

**November 14: Cimarron, NM.** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting. Steve Zimmer speaker

**November 21: Santa Fe, NM.** End of Trail Chapter meeting. Presentation titled "Crossing Paths- The Madonna of the Trail Controversy."

**December 1:** Application deadline for SFTA research grants

**December 17: Dodge City.** Chapter Christmas party.

**January TBD:** Kinsley, KS. Wet/Dry Chapter meeting

**January 10:** Submission deadline for February *Wagon Tracks*

**April 7-9, 2016: Lamar, CO.** SFTA Board meeting, NPS workshop

**June 6-9: Kansas City, KS.** PNTS/National Historic Trails workshop

**June 17-20, 2016: Las Vegas, NM.** Santa Fe Trail Travelers and Their Descendants

**September 16-17, 2016: Council Grove.** Voice of the Wind People

**September 22-24, 2016: Larned, KS.** 2016 Rendezvous

**September 28-30, 2017: Olathe, KS.** Symposium "America's First Highway of International Commerce"

**September 20-22, 2018: Larned, KS.** 2016 Rendezvous

**September 25-28, 2019: St. Louis, MO.** Symposium



*Top: Lou Ann Jordan sharing her sketches during End of Trail Chapter field trip; right, cannon at Fort Union*

*Photos: Kermit Hill*

