

# Wagon Tracks

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Article 1

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2015

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 29, Issue 1 (November, 2014)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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# WAGON TRACKS

*The Quarterly Publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association*

volume 29 ♦ number 1

November 2014



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## On The Cover:

### Ceremony Honoring Those Who Died on the Trail

The Chavez marker near Jarvis Creek in Rice County, Kansas, was the site of a brief memorial service on September 19 honoring those who died along the Santa Fe Trail, including Don Antonio Jose Chavez. Chavez descendants participating in the ceremony included Anthony Juarez, great-great-great-great-grandson, and Nicki Gillmore, great-great-great-great-granddaughter of Antonio Chavez.

Don Antonio José Chávez belonged to a Spanish family that had been prominent in New Mexico since it was created as a province in 1598. His paternal grandfather, Don Pedro, arrived in New Spain in the late 1500s and left Zacatecas with the Juan de Oñate Expedition to colonize New Mexico, and was one of the founders of Villa Santa Fe in 1610.

Don Antonio was the second of four sons born to Don Francisco Xavier Chávez, who had large holdings of land and livestock. The Chávez family was involved in sheep-raising, gold and silver mining, and commercial freighting and trade, traveling the Santa Fe Trail and El Camino de Real. The Chávez family traveled the Santa Fe Trail to Independence and beyond, and returned with goods to be sold in New Mexico and farther into Mexico.

The Santa Fe trade continued without interruption until the year 1843, when there was planned military activity along the Santa Fe Trail by the armed forces of Texas, who claimed the north boundary of Texas to be the Arkansas River. In November 1842 it was reported in Santa Fe that Texan forces were planning to attack Mexican traders passing over the Trail in the coming spring. Giving little heed to that rumor, Don Antonio José Chávez started from Santa Fe, destined for Independence, in February 1843. He took with him five servants, his personal conveyance, two wagons and fifty-five mules. He carried some twelve thousand dollars in gold and silver, and some bales of furs. Severe weather was encountered, the month of March proving unusually cold. The men were frost-bitten, and all the mules save five perished in the storms. By the 10th of April, Chávez had come to the waters of Owl Creek in present-day Rice County, KS. There he was intercepted by a company of fifteen men commanded by one John McDaniel who had organized his band on the frontier of Missouri for the purpose of attacking the Santa Fe caravans under the

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### 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

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volume 29 ♦ number 1 November 2014

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Some of the 2014 Rendezvous presenters relax after dinner at Fort Larned National Historic Site. Top left; Dr. Mike Olsen, Dr. Susan Boyle, Dr. Alice Ann Thompson. Bottom left; Dr. Robert Tórrez, Dr. David A. Sandoval

Photo: Ruth Friesen

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## President's Corner *by LaDonna Hutton*

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PRESERVATION, PROTECTION and PROMOTION--Three words we can all keep in front of us. It has been so gratifying to me to learn of all your activities, treks and projects along the Trail that do just that: preserve, protect and promote. The Santa Fe Trail Association is fortunate to have such active chapters and dedicated members. A big thank you to all of you.

On a sad note, the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Bent's Fort Chapter, the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists and all of southeastern Colorado lost a prominent historian, Richard Carrillo, who passed away September 21, 2014. Richard was truly a "gentle giant" in our midst, who loved to share his passion for history and his extensive knowledge with us. He will be sorely missed. A related article is on page 26 of this issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

September 18-21 found many of us attending the 2014 Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous in Larned, Kansas. "Hispanics and The Road to Santa Fe" proved to be an extremely interesting theme for the many activities, speakers and treks. A huge thank you to the planning committee, the Santa Fe Trail Center personnel and the entire community of Larned.

The Santa Fe Trail Association board of directors, committee chairs, National Park Service personnel and chapter presidents met September 18 prior to the Rendezvous. In addition to hearing reports from all, the board passed a couple of new business items. The Santa Fe Trail Association now has an official song, "The Trail to Santa Fe," by Annie Wilson. Through extensive research with Steve and Glenda Schmidt's assistance, Annie has composed and performed a beautiful tribute to the Santa Fe Trail. A slight



dues increase was approved for the first time since 1989. Also, a fact-finding project was approved to explore the possibility of holding the 2019 SFTA Symposium in St. Louis.

2015 will be an election year for the Santa Fe Trail Association. Sandy Slusher is the Nomination Chair. If you are interested in running for office, serving on the Board of Directors or working on a committee, please contact Sandy at [rslusher@yahoo.com](mailto:rslusher@yahoo.com).

Over the last few months, I have been busy with the Bent's Fort Chapter activities and have had the privilege of promoting the Santa Fe Trail in several capacities:

August 8-10, 2014, forty-nine members of the Bent's Fort Chapter traveled to Las Vegas, New Mexico, for a wonderful weekend of treks, tours, presentations and tons of fun.

Plans for the 2015 Bent's Fort Fur Trader's Symposium are progressing. A group of us recently met to work on grant applications with lots of input from the Santa Fe Trail Association. Registrations are beginning to roll in. You can register online at [www.2015fts.org](http://www.2015fts.org).

Early in September I had the opportunity to trek sections of the Santa Fe Trail with Astrid Liverman, the State and National Register Coordinator for History Colorado; Mike Taylor, National Park Service; Michelle Stevens, U. S. Forest Service and Rebecca Goodwin, Otero County Historian. They were making final site visits along the Santa Trail for nomination of sites to the National Register.

Happy Trails!

*LaDonna Hutton*

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### ***On the Cover, continued from page 2***

supposed direction of the Texans. Chávez was made captive and taken off the trail. He was robbed, and his effects were divided among the group, seven of whom immediately set out for Missouri with their portions of the spoil. The others decided to murder Chávez, shooting him in cold blood. They then packed their loot upon Chávez's mules and also departed for Western Missouri. Information of what they had done soon came to the Missouri authorities, and several of them were arrested. Some of the guilty escaped, including three of the actual murderers. But John McDaniel was tried at St. Louis and hanged for his crime. The United States was caught up in the middle of an international conflict between Mexico and Texas which threatened the

important trade with Mexico. The action taken and swift justice to punish the murderers helped resolve the situation.

Don Antonio Jose Chavez is one of 12 Santa Fe Trail people who were inducted into the 2014 SFTA Hall of Fame. See the complete list on page 8.

Pictured in the photo on the cover are Brigitte Juarez, Nicki Gillmore, Anthony Juarez, David Sandoval, Father Robert Spencer of St. Paul's Catholic Church, and Christa Phillips. ♦

*Photo: Ruth Friesen*

## Joanne's Jottings

by Joanne VanCoevern, Association Manager



### Boy Scouts on the Trail

The Boy Scouts of America have long had a relationship with the Santa Fe Trail by traveling along it, hiking and camping on portions of it. Many have enjoyed a stay at the premier Boy Scout Camp at Philmont Scout Ranch, near the Santa Fe Trail towns of Cimarron and Rayado, New Mexico. Individual Scouts have also worked with local chapters to fulfill requirements

for Eagle Scout projects. After the article "What you need to know about earning the Historic Trails Award" by Mark Ray was published in the March-April 2014 issue of *Scouting* magazine (available on-line at <http://scoutingmagazine.org/2014/02/need-know-earning-historic-trails-award>), SFTA has been approached by troops seeking to fulfill the requirements for the National Historic Trails Award. The award of the National Historic Trails Badge is designed to foster an appreciation of the ideals, principles and traditions that have helped make our country strong. It also connects Scouts with a local historical society or association. The requirements to achieve this award include that the members of the unit must plan and participate in a historical activity involving either a historic trail or a historic site. Specifically, they must: (1) locate and study a historic trail or site, (2) hike or camp two days and one night along the trail or near the site and (3) work with an adult group, like the Santa Fe Trail Association, to restore and mark all or part of the trail or site. If the trail does not need to be restored, or marked, there are suggested alternatives that the Scouts can do. The primary requirements to STUDY the trail and WORK on the Trail fit nicely with the goals of the Santa Fe Trail Association as determined by our strategic plan.

Recently, Boy Scout Troop 683, Derby, Kansas, contacted the Association, and Linda Colle, Quivira Chapter President and SFTA board member, immediately stepped forward to help the Scouts earn this award. She made arrangements for the troop, with ages ranging from 12 to 17, to hike and camp at Swanson's Swales, in Rice County, Kansas. Plans are to have the Scouts help the Quivira Chapter on their project of installing several new Santa Fe National Historic Trail Historic Site ID signs, which will fulfill the portion of the requirements of working with an adult group to mark part of the Trail. SFTA also provided the SFNHT Badge, pin and educational materials to show our appreciation for them choosing the Santa Fe Trail for the Boy Scout's National Historic Trails Award. Another troop made arrangements to hike and camp near the Stone Corral area in Rice County,

Kansas, the weekend of October 10-11. This group of approximately 30 scouts also received help from the Santa Fe Trail Association and Linda Colle in meeting the requirements of the National Historic Trails Award. They also received the SFNHT Badge, pin and educational materials.

SFTA hopes to expand our efforts of working with the Boy Scouts of America. If you know a Scout or a Troop Leader, be sure to share this information with them and have them contact SFTA for help on this worthy National Historic Trails Award.

### Partnership for the National Trails System Workshop

SFTA sent representatives to the National Historic Trails workshop held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 27-30, including Ross Marshall, Larry Justice, Greg VanCoevern and Joanne VanCoevern. This year's workshop theme tracks focused on social media, preservation and capacity building. In addition to speakers, a half-day and a full day mobile workshop took participants to Echo Canyon and Pilot Valley. The social media track focused on how to use social media to fundraise; develop interest, support and membership; and how to use it to support preservation efforts. During the preservation track, participants learned how to partner with national and local land trusts and agencies; how to preserve critical sites and segments in areas of energy development; and how to develop trail corridors for preservation and recreation. How to build membership, strengthen the volunteer base, recruit leadership and develop partnering relationships were discussed during the capacity building sessions.

### Plans Moving Ahead with Symposiums

Rendezvous 2014 is now history and we are looking forward to the next big SFTA Symposium in 2015, hosted by the End of the Trail Chapter. The planning committee has created a special website to keep us updated on this event: [www.3trailsconferencesantafe.org](http://www.3trailsconferencesantafe.org). This website will also provide you links to hotels providing discounted group rates. **We encourage attendees to make hotel accommodations early.**

Larry Short, Events Chair, reported at the recent SFTA board meeting that plans are moving ahead for Symposium 2017, which will be held in Olathe, Kansas. At the same board meeting, approval was given for a task force to pursue a fact-gathering trip to consider the possibility of Symposium 2019 to be held in the St. Louis, Missouri, area. The task force, consisting of LaDonna Hutton, Mike Olsen, Larry Short and Joanne VanCoevern, will travel to St. Louis in late April to meet with possible partners in the area, check out venues, discuss topics and report the results back to the board. ♦

## NPS Announces Retirements

The National Park Service, National Trails Intermountain Region announces the retirements of three staff members in their Santa Fe office. Sharon Brown, Chief of Trail Operations, and Dr. Susan Boyle, Historian, will retire in December. Otis Halfmoon, American Indian Liaison, has transferred to a new position with Special Projects in the Washington, D.C. office. No replacements have been announced at this time. Brown and Boyle were recognized at the Santa Fe Trail Association Rendezvous and thanked for their close relationship with the Association.

## New NPS NTIR Website Announced

The National Trails Intermountain Region of the National Park Service has recently acquired its own webpage at [www.nps.gov/ntir](http://www.nps.gov/ntir). Each of the nine distinct national historic trails and the historic road preservation program the NTIR administers has a feature page with links to more information. The website will be the central information hub for the wide range of partners who manage lands or stories along these historic routes.

## Holiday Open House at Kaw Mission State Historic Site

Visitors will enjoy a nostalgic frontier Kansas holiday season 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, December 4, at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove, Kansas.

The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society and the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., and is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the Kaw Mission State Historic Site at 620-767-5410, e-mail [kaw-mission@kshs.org](mailto:kaw-mission@kshs.org), or visit [www.friendsofkawheritage.org](http://www.friendsofkawheritage.org).

## Holiday Celebrations at Fort Larned and Bent's Old Fort

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, in La Junta, Colorado, offers its Holiday Celebration December 5-6. Festivities include evening candlelight tours. For reservations for the evening tour, phone 719-383-5026.

On December 13, a Christmas Open House will be held at Fort Larned National Historic Site, 1767 KS Hwy 156, Larned, KS. 620-285-6911.

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## Partnership for the National Trails System

*by Ross Marshall, SFTA Representative to PNTS*

### National Historic Trails Workshop October 27-31:

Sponsored biennially by PNTS, this year's workshop is being held the last week of October in Salt Lake City, Utah. Several of our SFTA members are planning to attend. By the time you read this article, it will be over but I will report on it in the next *Wagon Tracks*.

**Reinvestment Proposal:** The proposal as summarized in the last *Wagon Tracks* article was adopted at the September meeting of the National Trails System's Leadership Council. That body is made up of all the representatives from all the trails organizations, including me from SFTA.

Briefly, this action will provide badly-needed funding for our PNTS office, which leads all of our Partnership work with Congress, agencies (like the National Park Service) and other government committees that in turn provide the NPS funding we have and other benefits.

This will be the first dues increase for our member organizations since our Partnership's dues structure was started about 15 years ago. For over two decades our Partnership has functioned with minimal staff and on a minimal budget. For most of the time there has been just one full-time person; more recently, additional part-time staff nearly equal another full-time person's hours. This level of staffing is no longer adequate to meet the increased responsibilities,

demands and expectations for the National Trails System that is fostered by our Partnership's success.

The PNTS is greatly valued by the Federal administering agencies as the voice representing the citizen-based components of the National Trails System community. This funding will provide the manpower for our Partnership to take advantage of the many open doors for trail projects across the country for many years to come and organizations like SFTA will feel the benefits.

**Hike the Hill:** Planning is already in progress for the Partnership's annual Hike the Hill week February 7-13. Roger Boyd and I will attend representing SFTA.

**Volunteer hours and expenses reports:** As usual, Congress is very impressed with the Partnership's totals of volunteer hours and dollar contributions (the Gold Sheet) by National Trails System organizations. Our SFTA totals for 2013 were \$1,608,646, which is quite impressive. The totals for the entire National Trails System were \$36,000,000 for 2013 and for the last 18 years has totaled over \$389,000,000! No wonder Congress is impressed.

Thanks to every chapter, committee chair and board member for turning in his or her volunteer totals every year.

**Please plan to report these totals for 2014 at the end of the year.** Please note that, although there is similarity, these are not the same totals that SFTA collected for NPS's VIP report a couple of months ago. ♦



left to right: Doyle Daves, Alice Clapsaddle, Bill Bunyan, Ron Parks, Clara Lee Stafford of La Junta DAR, Mike Olsen, Jodene and Steve Fisher, Linda Revello, Beverly Howell, Ruth Olson Peters. Photo: Ruth Friesen

## SFTA Annual Awards Announced

Winners of the annual Santa Fe Trail Association awards were announced by Dr. Leo Oliva at the Rendezvous awards dinner on September 19 in Larned, Kansas. Those honored are:

### Award of Merit

1. La Junta, Colorado Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution: more than 100 years protecting the Trail, marking the Trail, and preserving the site of Bent's Old Fort (owning that site from 1920-1954)
2. Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter SFTA: saving Point of Rocks at Dodge City
3. Santa Fe Trail Center (Fort Larned Historical Society): decades of trail preservation, protection and promotion, and outstanding trail museum, archives and education center
4. Mike Olsen: ebook, *That Broad and Beckoning Highway: The Santa Fe Trail and the Rush for Gold in California and Colorado*
5. Wet/Dry Routes Chapter SFTA: Melgares marker and promotion of Hispanic heritage of the Trail

### Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award

Bill Bunyan, President, Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter

### Louise Barry Writing Award

1. Ronald D. Parks, *The Darkest Period: The Kanza Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014.
2. William Patrick O'Brien, *Merchants of Independence: International Trade on the Santa Fe Trail, 1827-1860*. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2014.

### Gregory M. Franzwa Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award

Mike Olsen

### Ralph Hathaway Memorial Heritage Preservation Award

Steve and Jodene Fisher (Fry Ruts), Windom, Kansas

### Marc Simmons Writing Award, vol. 27, *Wagon Tracks*

Doyle Daves, "Jesus Gil Abreu: Santa Fe Trail Traveler and Man of Affairs in Territorial New Mexico"



## Baker University Opens Santa Fe Trail Exhibit

Old Castle Hall on Baker University's Baldwin City, Kansas, campus recently opened an exhibit featuring objects related to the Santa Fe Trail as it passed through Douglas County.

Two of the featured items, a teapot and a key, were from a hotel in Palmyra for trail travelers. The exhibit also highlights the now non-existent Santa Fe Trail settlements, like Palmyra. All that remains of Palmyra, now the Palmyra Township, is a sign, a well and a fire department on the north side of town.

Built in 1857-1858, Old Castle Hall, 511 Fifth Street in Baldwin City is the first college building in Kansas and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Now a museum, Old Castle houses artifacts from early Kansas, Methodist and Baker history. Tours of Old Castle and the featured exhibit are by appointment, and the exhibit is scheduled to remain until spring.



## Album: Sky & Water, Wind & Grass

### Disc A-13. Trail to Santa Fe

© words & music by Annie Wilson 2014

*Album Note: This song takes us on the epic trading trail which crossed the Flint Hills from 1821 to 1866. I am thankful for the careful research and kind help of Steve and Glenda Schmidt, who own Marion County land with real Santa Fe Trail ruts going across it.*

These ruts you see before you where the land is sunk and bowed,  
Are remnants of the pathway to Nuevo Mexico.  
Near sixty years the wagon trains passed along this way,  
As wealth and power moved along this trail to Santa Fe

Across the wide Missouri/back in eighteen twenty-one,  
This "commerce of the prairies" had only just begun.  
They traveled west with cloth and shoes, mirrors, buttons, beads;  
Returned with gold and silver and donkeys for the East.

No this was not a one-way trail for emigrants bound west;  
These travelers were merchants seeking markets that were best.  
They wagered fortunes, bet their lives against the desert sun,  
Going back and forth to Santa Fe and past the Cimarron.

Cross-the rolling wide "green ocean," Kansas prairies fed them well.  
A sea of grass without a tree as many diaries tell  
They camped along at water holes a day's walk in between  
And passed by herds of buffalo the likes they'd never seen

Nine hundred miles they traveled far beyond the bluestem grass,  
Past sandy plain, blue desert sky, and rugged mountain pass,  
To that valley of adobe homes and Mission San Miguel,  
The Plaza, and Palacio, and Santa Fe's sweet bells.

When war broke out with Mexico, the Army filled the trail  
With goods for all its western forts and bags of precious mail.  
Each day you'd hear the hoof-beats of the oxen and the mules,  
The creak of wood and leather as they'd lift their iron shoes.

Comanche, Kaw, and Kiowa, the Cheyenne, and Osage  
In sadness watched as thousands rode this trail they first had made.  
Every day more people came like sands upon the shore  
The buffalo were hunted out and the-Indians grew poor

But the lifeblood of this trading trail would soon no longer flow.  
Steel rails had reached Pueblo lands within New Mexico.  
In eighteen eighty Santa Fe's first railroad cars came through;  
So-the oxen and the mule trains on this trail were finished, too.

Today the story lies between these ruts of hooves and wheels,  
Of lives and fortunes gained and lost in ventures mercantile.  
That will to trade and wander to places far away  
Led all those souls to follow the trail to Santa Fe.



## SFTA Approves Official Song

At the Association board meeting on September 18, the board approved the designation of an official song, "Trail to Santa Fe" by the Tallgrass Express String Band. The lyrics, written by Kansas Flint Hills Balladeer Annie Wilson, were developed with the historical knowledge of Steve Schmidt, Cottonwood Crossing Chapter President. The music can be sampled, and CD purchased, at [www.tallgrassexpress.com/TrailSantaFe.html](http://www.tallgrassexpress.com/TrailSantaFe.html)

## 2014 Hall of Fame Inductees

The following Santa Fe Trail personalities were inducted into the Association's Hall of Fame on September 19. More information about them will appear in upcoming Wagon Tracks. Don Antonio Jose Chavez is highlighted in this issue on page 2.

Charles Autobees

Don Antonio Jose Chavez

Robert Hall Chilton

Joseph Bainbridge Doyle

Thomas Fitzpatrick

Charlotte

Dick

Edmund Guerrier

Albert (E.A.) Reynolds

Dr. John Sappington

John Simpson Smith

Thomas (Tom) Tate Tobin

## Rawlinson-Terwilliger Home Recognized as Santa Fe Trail Certified Site

By *Kenneth W. McClintock*

The Terwilliger Home, 803 W. Main St., Council Grove, Kansas, has been recognized as a Santa Fe National Historic Trail Certified Site, the 12th such site in Council Grove. Ken McClintock, local historian and Secretary of the Historic Preservation Corp., said that the historic character of the site derives from the Terwilliger Home being the last house Santa Fe-bound freighters and travelers passed leaving Council Grove as late as 1863, and, conversely, being the first house they saw approaching from the west.

McClintock noted that the original route of the Santa Fe Trail angled northwesterly from the Last Chance Store, passing about 1 1/2 blocks north of the Terwilliger Home. An alternate route, approximately following Main Street in front of the Home, was established during the Mexican War, in 1846, when the U.S. Army constructed some culverts west of town to create a short cut following Elm Creek to the Wilsey area.

From the front porch of the Terwilliger Home, one could have watched the last wagon train pass through Council Grove in the fall of 1866. It was then that the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division (renamed the Kansas Pacific Railway in 1869) reached Junction City. The next spring, Santa Fe freighters offloaded at the railhead and primarily followed the Fort Riley to Fort Larned military road to Ellsworth before turning south to access the Santa Fe Trail.

Since the "period of significance" of the Santa Fe Trail through Council Grove ended in 1866, the National Park Service has recognized the site as the "Rawlinson-Terwilliger Home". McClintock's research found that the stone house was constructed in 1860-61 by Abraham and Mary Rawlinson, whose family occupied the property until it was sold to William Riley Terwilliger in 1870.

Census records show that Abraham Rawlinson was a carpenter in 1860, and a teamster in 1865. McClintock said that it is logical to assume that at least some of his trips were over the Santa Fe Trail. There also were roads from Council Grove to Topeka, Fort Riley and Fort Scott during that era. It is not known by whom he was employed, or whether he was self-employed. Circumstantial information suggests that he may have driven wagons between Council Grove and Augusta after Council Grove merchants William Shamleffer and Chester James founded Augusta in 1868 and supplied their Augusta store from their Council Grove store.

Terwilliger also had associations with the Santa Fe Trail



during its "period of significance," although it has not yet been determined where his place of residence, or his place of business, was during that time. Terwilliger first obtained a tract of land in southwest Morris County in 1859, but he was operating a livery stable in Council Grove by 1860.

When Dick Yeager's Missouri bushwhackers camped at Council Grove in May, 1863, with the intention to burn the town, Terwilliger was one of the handful of men who accompanied the Federal Marshal to the bushwhacker's camp to arrest one of their number for attacking a Union soldier. Yeager's gang had been plundering and burning houses along the Santa Fe Trail en route to Council Grove. After being talked out of burning Council Grove (by Council Grove merchant Malcolm Conn), Yeager and his bushwhackers proceeded to Diamond Springs, where they killed the storekeeper, wounded his wife and burned their store to the ground.

Each month a short article is displayed on the dining tables of the Trail Days Café and Museum. The articles are synopses of some person, place or event in Council Grove history. A notebook contains copies of the more-than-60 articles displayed to date, more than one-third of which are related to the Santa Fe Trail. A number of artifacts and photographs related to the Trail also are on display.

Presently on display are copies of four sketches of Council Grove scenes drawn by Irish artist William J. Hinchey as he traveled the Santa Fe Trail in 1854. McClintock has analyzed the drawings and determined the likely locations of the scenes depicted. Explanatory captions have been placed with each sketch, together with a copy of Hinchey's self-portrait, a biographical sketch of the artist and entries from his diary pertaining to the Council Grove area on his return trip in 1855. ♦

## Letter to the Editor

Aug 24, 2014

To the Editor of *Wagon Tracks*:

Thanks to Phyllis Morgan for another fine article in *Wagon Tracks* (Aug 2014, "Mosquitoes and Buffalo Gnats on the Santa Fe Trail").

Another example of the misery insects could cause was the Sibley Expedition of 1825-27. In travelling from St. Charles to Franklin, Missouri, on his way to Ft. Osage to begin the survey, Sibley had to travel at night. On June 30, 1825, he records, "The flies are so bad in the Grand Prairie that it is impossible to travel through it in the day without very great injury to the Horses. Even at Harrison's we were obliged to keep the Horses Shut up Stables. At Sunset we left Harrison's, wagons & all."<sup>1</sup>

In performing the survey of the Santa Fe Road from Ft. Osage to Council Grove in 1825, Sibley states: "Saturday, 30th July. ...the flies very bad." And, "Sunday 31st July. The day extremely hot and the flies worse than usual."<sup>2</sup> The surveyor on his map of the expedition even noted at a point 52 miles from Ft. Osage that they "traveled in night."<sup>3</sup>

After reaching Council Grove, Sibley stated, "The manner that I was obliged to travel from Fort Osage to this place, fighting the flies, if I rode in the day time, without a moment's cessation, or else feeling my way in the dark as I traveled by Night, made it impossible for me to notice the Country as particularly as I wished and intended if I had been able."<sup>4</sup>

In his official report, Sibley stated, "...and the journey for the first 160 miles [in 1825], was attended throughout,

with difficulty and embarrassment, arising chiefly from the annoyance of the green flies of the Prairies, which obliged the Party to travel much in the Night, frequently leaving the direct route in order to find Shelter from the flies during the day.... This irregular way of traveling not only harassed the horse and Mules excessively, but Rendered the Satisfactory view and Survey of the county impractical at the time, and a Subsequent examination necessary."<sup>5</sup>

The flies so interfered with the survey, that after returning from New Mexico in 1826, the first 160 miles west of Ft. Osage were re-surveyed by Sibley in 1827.<sup>6</sup> Yes, although small, insects can cause a lot of misery, inconvenience and expense.

### References:

1. Gregg, Kate L. Editor, *The Road to Santa Fe – The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley*, University of New Mexico Press, 1952 Second Paperback Edition (with 1995 Preface by Marc Simmons), p 51.
2. Ibid, p 55.
3. See [www.santafetrail.org/about-us/scholarly-research/sibley-survey/supplemental-information.html#sectional](http://www.santafetrail.org/about-us/scholarly-research/sibley-survey/supplemental-information.html#sectional) , Front of Page 2 (map mile 0 – 74; Near Ft. Osage mile 0) accessed August 24, 2014.
4. Gregg, p 57.
5. Ibid, pp 197, 198.
6. Ibid, p 203.

Steve Schmidt,  
President, Cottonwood Crossing Chapter

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## Calling All Trail Buffs, Writers, Scholars and Students: Research the Santa Fe Trail

The 200th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail is coming in 2021. Do you have a story to tell about the old trail or a research interest in its heritage? Be it history, genealogy, biography, art, literature – or any other of the many aspects of the trail, now is the time to dig into your particular interest. The Research Committee of the SFTA is here to answer questions, offer suggestions and help you in any way that it can.

To encourage research, the Santa Fe Trail Association offers grants of up to \$1500 per year. In addition, an award of \$500 per year is given for the best undergraduate and graduate scholarly paper submitted by a student attending a community college or a four year college or university.

If you just have a question about the old trail, or have an idea you want to pursue, or want to get started writing, you can contact Mike Olsen, chair of the SFTA Research Committee at [mpolsen1@comcast.net](mailto:mpolsen1@comcast.net) or 5643 Sonnet Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. Information on SFTA Scholarly Research Grants, including an application form, is available at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org). Click the "Research" option on the homepage.

Applications for grants for 2015 are now being accepted. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2014. Funds may be used for supplies and materials; services such as literature searches, computer use, and/or technical assistance; copy fees and travel. Funds may not be used for the purchase of equipment.

## New Mexico Historical Society Invites Papers

The Historical Society of New Mexico invites proposals for papers and presentations for the 2015 New Mexico History Conference, to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 7-9, 2015. **Deadline for submissions is November 30, 2014.** Papers on any aspect of New Mexico history, the Southwest or Borderlands are welcome. However, individual papers and full sessions related to the history, development and growth of Albuquerque and the middle Rio Grande Valley, to include the surrounding counties of Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia and Cibola, will be given special consideration.

Conference sessions are 1½ hours (ninety minutes) in length. Most sessions will consist of oral delivery of three papers or presentations, each approximately 20 minutes in length, including a moderator's introduction and questions from the audience. Proposals for individual presentations should be limited to one page in length, and must include presenter contact and biographical information, presentation title, a brief synopsis and any technical support needed. Proposals for single presentations will be matched with similar topics to constitute a full session. The Program Committee invites proposals for topical sessions occupying the full 1½ hour period. These should include a proposed title for the session, names of presenters, titles of topics, a moderator, and contact information for all panel members.

Proposals may be submitted as attachments to email at robertjtorrez@msn.com or by mail to HSNM Program Committee, P.O. Box 1912, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1912. Notification of acceptance will be sent on or about January 1, 2015. To learn more about the Historical Society of New Mexico visit [www.hsnm.org](http://www.hsnm.org) or if you have questions contact Robert J. Tórréz, program chair, at [robertjtorrez@msn.com](mailto:robertjtorrez@msn.com) or 505-836-9699.



## El Palacio Magazine Seeks Trail Articles

The editor of *El Palacio*, Cynthia Baughman, is actively seeking articles about three historic trails that have ties to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and to each other for the Fall 2015 issue. The Steering Committee for the "Three Trails Conference 2015: All Roads Lead to Santa Fe," which is scheduled for September 17-20, 2015, in Santa Fe, would like to make sure that you know about this opportunity. The three trails are El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro or "the Royal Road to the Interior Land" (1598-1882), the Santa Fe Trail (1821-1880), and the Old Spanish Trail (1829-1848).

"Articles should be new, original scholarship on the trails," Baughman advised, "and not an overview of previously published material. Authors are encouraged to query us in advance with a one-paragraph description of their project, and clips, scans or links to previously published work." She would publish up to four major articles (1,800 to 3,000 words) about the trails in *El Palacio's* Fall 2015 issue. Shorter articles (800 to 1,200 words) would fit in the quarterly's editorial departments like Research Notes or In The Collections. Shorter articles, for example, might involve a state Historic Site's ties to one or more of these trails. The deadline for the Fall 2015 issue is March 2015, but queries should be made as soon as possible and no later than December 15, 2014. (505-476-1146; [cynthia.baughman@state.nm.us](mailto:cynthia.baughman@state.nm.us)).

In addition to *El Palacio*, the *Santa Fean* has indicated an interest in proposals for stories/articles about the trails prior to the Three Trails Conference in September 2015. Bruce Adams, editor of the *Santa Fean*, is particularly receptive to hearing proposals soon. ([editor@santafean.com](mailto:editor@santafean.com)).

The *New Mexico Magazine* may be interested as well. They recommend reading its writers', photographers' and multimedia guidelines on their website before submitting any story idea proposal. ([www.nmmagazine.com/guidelines](http://www.nmmagazine.com/guidelines)).

For more information about the conference, which is being jointly sponsored by the nonprofit El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Santa Fe Trail, and Old Spanish Trail Associations, go to the conference website, [www.3TrailsConferenceSantaFe.org](http://www.3TrailsConferenceSantaFe.org).



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

# "Our Friend Melgares" Spaniards And Mexicans And The Santa Fe Road

by Leo E. Oliva

presented at *Rendezvous in Larned*, September 18, 2014

People from New Spain and Mexico, even from Spain, were important to the history of the Santa Fe Road, now commonly called the Santa Fe Trail. Too often we, I mean those of us who write and speak about this historic overland route, are guilty of looking only or almost entirely at the Anglo-American side of the story, as though everything was done by citizens of the U.S. and the people of Mexico were only the market for commodities transported over the Mexican Road. We honor William Becknell from Missouri as the man who opened successful trade without acknowledging that New Mexico Governor Facundo Melgares welcomed him and other traders from the U.S., reversing the mercantilist policies of the Spanish empire that prohibited all trade outside the empire (New Spain had existed for the benefit of Spain and no one else).

This *Rendezvous* will look at Spaniards and Mexicans who were important to the background and history of the Santa Fe Road, an attempt to provide some balance to our history. It is an honor for me to provide the introduction to this conference and talk a little about Facundo Melgares, the Spanish soldier we now honor, thanks to the Wet/Dry Chapter, with a marker dedicated to his memory today. Melgares and the many other Spaniards and Mexicans we will hear about during the next two days will help us to remember that the entire route of the road to Santa Fe was developed in lands once within Spanish territory, and for the first 25 years of successful commerce between the U.S. and Mexico over this overland route everything south of the Arkansas River and west of present Dodge City was Mexico. It was an international road. It was only after the war between the U.S. and Mexico, 1846-1848, when the U.S. acquired nearly 3/5 of Mexico, that the Santa Fe Road was entirely within U.S. territory. Even after that, Mexicans from New Mexico were important to the freighting industry until the railroad completely replaced the old wagon road in 1880. It should be noted, too, that Mexican labor helped build and maintain those railroads. The Spanish/Mexican real coin was legal tender in the U.S. until 1857. Mexican children were sent over the road for education in the U.S. And even now, Mexican immigration continues a story of multi-cultural economic and social development in a region that once belonged to the ancestors of those immigrants, a blending of cultures that has been going on for two centuries.

After looking at Spaniards and Mexicans important to the

background and history of the Santa Fe Road during this *Rendezvous*, I hope we all have a better understanding of the importance of Hispanics in the history of this great overland route and region through which it passed.

**Spain had an interest in the Great Plains** of North America, especially the Indian tribes living in the area, and sent exploring expeditions into the region to meet with Indians and find routes of travel between New Mexico and the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Spain sent troops to counter French influence with Plains Indians. After the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 (the boundaries of which were not settled until 1819), Spain sent military expeditions to counter U.S. explorers, including Meriwether Lewis and William Clark (1804-1806) and Zebulon Montgomery Pike (1806-1807). Spanish officials arrested traders from the U.S. who traveled to New Mexico prior to Mexican independence in 1821. After mentioning several of these operations, I will focus especially on Lieutenant Facundo Melgares.

*The entire route of the road to Santa Fe was developed in lands once within Spanish territory, and for the first 25 years of successful commerce between the U.S. and Mexico ....It was an international road.*

We all remember that Francisco de Coronado, Spanish explorer, came to the Great Plains in 1541 (six decades before there was a successful English colony on the Atlantic coast of North America). Coronado was seeking gold which he did not find, and he reduced his large force to some 30 men in present Texas and made a quick march into what

is now central Kansas, visiting people he called Quivirans near present Lyons. Coronado was accompanied by the priest, Padre Juan Padilla, who returned the following year as a missionary to the Indians and was killed by them. Coronado gave a very favorable report about present Kansas, noting that the region would be good for farming and ranching. But he found no gold, and Spain lost interest. We will visit the Coronado Quivira Museum in Lyons on Friday afternoon.

Later, in 1598, Juan de Oñate led Spaniards and Indians from Zacatecas to New Mexico and established the first European settlement there. In 1601 Oñate led an expedition to present Kansas, bringing eight wagons to haul supplies, and he met several tribes of Indians. No settlements followed. Spain knew a lot about this area but had little interest until the French began trading with the Indians in the early 1700s. Then Spain saw a need to make friends and trade with Plains tribes to help keep the French from encroaching on Spanish settlements. This became more important after war broke out between Spain and France in 1718.



**Fearing the French might be organizing** the Plains Indians to attack New Mexico, Spain sent a military expedition in 1720 under Lieutenant General Pedro Villasur to investigate French influence on the Plains and seek ways to counter it. With some 100 Spanish troops and Pueblo Indian auxiliaries, a Spanish trader, and a priest (Fray Juan Minguez), Villasur hoped to trade with Plains tribes and capture some French traders to learn what French plans might be. They marched across part of present southeast Colorado, north-west Kansas and much of Nebraska. Near present Columbus, Nebraska, they were attacked by a force of Pawnee and Otoe Indians who had guns supplied by France. Villasur and 45 of his men were killed and others were wounded. The survivors quickly retreated to Santa Fe. Spain lost interest in the Great Plains after this terrible defeat.

After the French were eliminated from North America at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the lands west of the Mississippi River that had been claimed by France were handed over to Spain. Spanish interest in the Great Plains revived. A few Spanish merchants began to trade with Plains tribes, and Plains Indians began to travel to New Mexico to trade. In 1792-1793, Pedro Vial (a French native who became a Spanish citizen) traveled from Santa Fe to St. Louis and back to help open a route of trade and increase trade relations with the Indians.

In 1794 Spain reversed its longstanding policy of not providing arms to the Plains Indians, and delivered some arms to several tribes and encouraged them to resist any people from the U.S. who came their way. And they were coming. There are at least 40 people identified in Spanish records as coming from the U.S. into Spanish territory in the decade prior to Pike's expedition. This was cause for alarm to a nation that wanted to keep its borders closed and was fearful of U.S. expansion. They also feared the U.S. was wooing the Indians of the Plains, which they were. Spain needed those tribes as a buffer zone to protect the settlements of northern New Spain.

Then renewed warfare in Europe, especially the rise of Napoleon and his capture of much of Spain, prompted Spain to transfer the land west of the Mississippi, Louisiana, to France in 1800, and Napoleon hoped to build a new American empire. When his troops were defeated by the slave uprising and yellow fever in Hispaniola (his sugar plantations), Napoleon sold Louisiana to the U.S. in 1803. No boundaries were defined, and a new contest began between the U.S. and Spain over control of this region.

**President Thomas Jefferson began preparations** to explore portions of this region before the purchase was signed, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806, was sent all the way to the Pacific Ocean and back. Spain sent out four expeditions to try to find and capture Lewis and Clark.

In the late summer of 1804, after hearing of Lewis and

Clark expedition from Gen. James Wilkinson (double agent), General Nemesio Salcedo, commandant at Chihuahua, directed New Mexico Governor Fernando de Chacon to send an expedition to stop Lewis and Clark or at least check on them. Pedro Vial and José Jarvet (both French-Americans who had moved to New Mexico, assumed Spanish first names, and worked for the Spanish government) and a party of soldiers traveled across the Plains to a Pawnee village in present Nebraska, arriving there in early September 1804. There they learned of Lewis and Clark, tried to persuade the Pawnees not to change allegiance from Spain to the U.S., and returned to Santa Fe in November. In the autumn of 1805 the new New Mexico Governor Joaquin del Real Alencaster sent Pedro Vial and José Jarvet again to visit the Pawnees and to check on Lewis and Clark. They were to spend the winter with the Pawnees, gather information about Lewis and Clark, try to persuade the Pawnees to capture Lewis and Clark on their return trip, and return the following spring with chiefs of several Plains tribes for the purpose of building a better alliance with them against the U.S. But Vial and Jarvet and their armed escort of 48 soldiers, with four Frenchmen who had recently come to New Mexico from the U.S., were turned back by hostile Indians, never identified, on the Arkansas River, and the expedition returned to Santa Fe. Spain feared the loss of Indian allies on the Plains, their protection for northern New Spain, and they feared the expansionist energies of the U.S., especially since the boundary question was unsettled. A third Spanish expedition to the Plains failed when the soldiers deserted.

***The fourth expedition sent from New Mexico to stop "Captain Merry" .... led by Lieutenant Melgares in 1806 .... was "the largest Spanish force ever sent onto the Great Plains."***

The fourth expedition sent from New Mexico to stop "Captain Merry" was led by Lieutenant Melgares in 1806. It was "the largest Spanish force ever sent onto the Great Plains." Melgares, with sixty soldiers, had been sent by General Salcedo from the presidio of San Fernando de Carrizal some 75 miles south of El Paso to Santa Fe, at Governor Alencaster's request, to help deal with the Indians who had stopped Vial and Jarvet from reaching the Plains. Melgares carried with him orders to turn back the Thomas Freeman-Richard Sparks (and naturalist Peter Custis) expedition on the Red River, if that had not already been accomplished by other troops from Texas, and then proceed northward to try and intercept Lewis and Clark and meet with several Plains tribes (particularly the Pawnee, Omaha, and Kanza) to seek closer ties with them and urge them to reject overtures from the United States. Melgares set out on June 15, 1806, with 105 soldiers, 400 New Mexican militia, 100 Indian

allies, and more than 2,000 horses and mules. The size of this force was designed especially to impress the Pawnees, whose loyalty to Spain seemed to be wavering, and secure their cooperation against U.S. citizens.

According to Pike, who later appended information about the Spanish expedition to his journal, Melgares was from an aristocratic family in Spain, was a career army officer and “had distinguished himself in several long expeditions against the Apaches and other Indian nations.” Pike noted, “He was a man of immense fortune, and generous in its disposal, almost to profusion; possessed a liberal education, high sense of honor, and a disposition formed for military enterprise.” Melgares was born in 1775 (age 31 in 1806) in Villa Caravaca, Murcia, Spain, and received an education and was trained as a military officer. He was a man whom Pike admired, often referring to him as “our friend.” Pike was of similar background (although not wealthy), born in New Jersey in 1779 (age 27 in 1806), son of a career army officer and himself a career officer. Pike mistakenly believed that Melgares had been sent out to search for him rather than Lewis and Clark.

**At Santa Fe the Spanish expedition** was provided equipment and supplies for six months. The large force traveled down the Red River but did not meet up with the Freeman-Sparks expedition which had been turned back by troops from Spanish Nacogdoches, led by garrison commander Francisco Viana, by order of General Salcedo. Melgares did meet some bands of the Comanches, who were still aligned with Spain, and held council with them. Melgares then headed northeast to meet with the Pawnees when approximately one-third of his force signed a petition requesting that they proceed no farther and go back home (problem of supplies for such a large army). Melgares reacted quickly and harshly, as Pike reported.

He halted immediately, and caused his dragoons to erect a gallows; then beat to arms. The troops fell in: he separated the *petitioners* from the others, then took the man who had presented the petition, tied him up, and gave him 50 lashes, and threatened to put to death, on the gallows erected, any man who should dare to grumble. This effectually silenced them, and quelled the rising spirit of sedition.

When they reached the Arkansas River, Melgares left 240 of his men with many worn-out horses in camp southwest of present Larned, Kansas, near where we dedicated the monument this evening. He took the remaining troops and proceeded to the Pawnee village on the Republican River southwest of present Guide Rock, Nebraska, where he met with leaders of the Republican and Grand Pawnees, “held councils with the two nations, and presented them the flags, medals, &c.” Pike saw those gifts when he visited the same

village. The Pawnees opposed Melgares’s plans to proceed to the Missouri River, or so Chief Sharitarish (White Wolf) told Pike. The Spanish troops returned to the Arkansas, picked up the remaining soldiers and continued upstream until they left the river to return to Santa Fe, where they arrived October 1, 1806. They followed a large portion of what would become the Road to Santa Fe.

They brought with them the ten-year-old, half-Pawnee son of José Jarvet, as well as two Frenchmen (Andrés Sulier and Henrique Visonot) met at the Pawnee village. Jarvet’s son was sent to live with his father, and the Frenchmen were sent to meet General Salcedo in Chihuahua. The Melgares expedition, as with the three previous attempts to find Lewis and Clark, had failed in that mission. He may not have accomplished his mission to the Indians either. His experiences and observations, however, would prove valuable to Pike and his reports, and thereby to the opening of the commercial Road to Santa Fe.

**On July 15, 1806, Pike and his party** left Fort Bellefontaine near St. Louis with the 51 Osages they were escorting to their villages and a few Pawnees. With Pike were 23 men.

Pike returned the Osages to their village in western Missouri, arranged a meeting between Osages and Kansas which led to more peaceful relations between those two tribes, and visited the Pawnees at their village on the Republican River. The Pawnees were being courted by the Spanish and Anglo-Americans but made no firm commitments to either. Pike faced a tense situation when he requested the Pawnees to lower the Spanish flag recently presented them by Melgares and raise the flag of the United States, but this was done. Pike wisely told the Pawnees to keep the Spanish flag so they could hoist it if Spanish troops returned.

Several days later Pike pushed on, following the route of Melgares to the Arkansas River. There, near present Great Bend, Kansas, on October 28, Lieutenant Wilkinson took five of the soldiers and two Osages and attempted to navigate down the river to Arkansas Post in hastily-built canoes. They had a very difficult trip and some of the men deserted. Pike and the remaining 15 men, including interpreter Baroney, Dr. Robinson and thirteen enlisted men, followed the Spanish trace up the Arkansas. Pike never met up with the Comanches as specifically ordered by General Wilkinson, but that may have been to his benefit since they were powerful, had ties to Spain, and were enemies of the Pawnees Pike had visited.

Pike’s mission changed as he marched farther up the Arkansas to the mountains. His primary goal was now exploration, seeking the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red rivers, both considered important in settling the boundary of the Louisiana Purchase (as in fact they turned out to be).

This assignment seemed fairly easy, since the mouth of each river, where it entered the Mississippi, was well known. It was assumed, mistakenly as Pike and many other explorers were to learn, that the headwaters of both rivers would be found in the western mountains. What was not understood is that the Red River does not rise in the Rocky Mountains (its sources are on the plains of Texas) and that an attempt to move from the source of the Arkansas south through the mountains would lead not to the Red River but to other tributaries of the Arkansas and, farther south and west, to the drainage of the Rio Grande to the Gulf of Mexico, not to the Mississippi.

**Pike kept track of the “Spanish trace” left by Melgares** and troops, and could easily have followed their tracks to Santa Fe had that been his goal. Actually, Pike carried with him a map showing a route from the Pawnee village to Santa Fe, but Santa Fe was not his destination. Pike continued toward the Rocky Mountains, entered present Colorado on November 11, 1806, and took time to attempt to climb the mountain he called Grand Peak (later named Pikes Peak in his honor), which he first sighted on November 15, noting it “appeared like a small blue cloud.” Pike tried to ascend the Grand Peak with three companions, November 24–27, without success (although they did climb another peak nearby, Mt. Rosa).

The expedition pushed on. After much struggle in winter weather, Pike and his companions reached a point near the source of the Arkansas and while wandering around lost also found the headwaters of the South Platte River in mid-December. Their suffering intensified as the snow accumulated and they searched to the south for the source of the Red River. They believed they had found it when they arrived at the Rio Grande on January 30, 1807, and built a small stockade during early February in which to survive the rest of the winter on a tributary, the Conejos River. On February 7, Dr. Robinson left to go to Santa Fe, where his arrival led to the dispatch of troops to bring in Pike and his few soldiers. On February 26 José Jarvet and Pedro Vial, in advance

of a platoon of soldiers, made first contact with Pike at his stockade. They were immediately followed by fifty Spanish dragoons and fifty mounted militiamen, led by Lieutenant Ignacio Saltelo, who took the explorers to Santa Fe to meet Governor Alencaster.

**On March 3 Pike was in Santa Fe.** After meetings with Governor Alencaster, Pike and seven of his party were escorted on toward Chihuahua and General Salcedo the following day. On March 7, at Albuquerque, Pike was rejoined by Dr. Robinson, who explained that he had recently been placed under the charge of Lieutenant Melgares. Robinson informed Pike that Melgares had led the Spanish troops to the Pawnees. He also told Pike he would find Melgares to be “a gentleman, a soldier and one of the most gallant men you ever knew.” The next day, March 8, they met up with Melgares at the village of San Fernandez. Pike wrote, “He received me with the most manly frankness and the politeness of a man of the world.” He continued, “Malgares finding I did not feel myself at ease took every means in his power to banish my reserve, which made it impossible on my part not to endeavor to appear cheerful; we conversed [in French] *as well as we could* and in two hours were as well acquainted as some people would be in the same number of months.”

With admiration, Pike further described his new acquaintance. “Malgares possessing none of the haughty Castillian pride, but much of the urbanity of a Frenchman; and I will add my feeble testimony to his loyalty, by declaring that he was one of the few officers or citizens whom I found, who was loyal to their king.” Pike was honored when Melgares told him his private possessions, including his papers, would not be confiscated or abused by him or his troops. That evening Lieutenant Melgares hosted a fandango for his new guest at San Fernandez. Pike was a guest of honor during at least five fandangos while detained in Spanish territory, an indication that he was treated more as a respected visitor than a prisoner.

*The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter erected a memorial to honor Facundo Melgares who “rightfully should be known as the grandfather of the Santa Fe Trail.” The memorial was dedicated during the Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous in September 2014, and is located four miles southwest of Larned on US Highway 56. The entire project was funded and installed by Wet/Dry Routes Chapter members. Pictured are Dr. David Clapsaddle, Chapter president, and Dr. Leo Oliva, who wrote the memorial inscription.*

*Photo: Ruth Friesen*



From March 9–21, on the road to El Paso del Norte, Pike rode daily in company with Melgares, visiting while they traveled and in camp each evening. After laying over a day at El Paso, the party, accompanied by an escort of dragoons, continued on to Chihuahua City, arriving there April 2. There Melgares introduced Pike to General Salcedo who examined Pike's papers and confiscated some of them. While Pike remained a guest of the government in Chihuahua, until April 28, he had almost daily visits with Melgares, met the lieutenant's wife and her parents (her father, Alberto Maynez, was a captain in the army), visited with several government officials, and continued to gather information that was useful to his reports. Lieutenant Melgares also accompanied Pike when they left Chihuahua to go across Texas and return to the United States at Natchitoches in Louisiana. On May 6, at a point beyond Guajuquilla (now Jiménez) where Captain Mariano Varela replaced Lieutenant Melgares as commander of the party, Pike and Melgares parted. Pike wrote, "Our friend Malgares accompanied us a few miles, to whom we bad[e] an eternal adieu, if war does not bring us together in the field of battle opposed as the most deadly enemies, when our hearts acknowledge the greatest friendship."

**The two enemies had truly become friends.** Pike presented Melgares his shotgun and Melgares presented Pike an *escopate* (carbine) and cartridge box. Pike brought back two grizzly cubs and presented them to President Jefferson.

Pike's party continued across Texas and arrived at Natchitoches, where his original orders directed him to conclude his expedition, on July 1, 1807. His journal of the expedition was first published in 1810, bringing information about the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountains and northern New Spain into public view. When published, Pike attached appendices which provided detailed reports on the route he traveled, brief summaries of the Indians of the Plains and a lengthy appendix about New Spain.

His report on the Plains contained praise for the Arkansas River as a route of travel, with abundant game and only scattered Indian tribes to obstruct passage. He thought this route could become the best overland road to the Pacific Ocean.

The appendix on New Spain was more detailed and, in the long run, more important than what he wrote about the Plains. Pike included information about the geography, economy, government, population, society and culture of the internal provinces, especially New Mexico, Biscay (Nueva Vizcaya, now the states of Chihuahua and Durango) and Coahuila. It seems clear that much of what Pike wrote about travel across the Plains to New Mexico, about the economy of Northern Mexico, as well as about the ge-

ography and culture of the region, came in large part from his conversations with Melgares, as well as his own observations.

From Melgares, Pike gained information about several Plains tribes of Indians, including tribes Pike never met, such as the Comanches. It is impossible to determine how much of the information Pike presented in his journal and reports was enhanced by his numerous conversations with Melgares, but it appears to be considerable. Pike, with the assistance of Melgares, helped the United States win the contest for control of the Louisiana Purchase, sealed by treaty in 1819.

Pike's observations, plus information gleaned from Melgares, made it clear that New Mexico was far removed from the source of supplies coming up El Camino Real from Mexico City, and his descriptions of a trip across the Plains demonstrated to enterprising merchants in the U.S. how close they were to northern New Spain and that profits could be made by taking commodities to New Mexico. Some were willing to risk arrest and confiscation of merchandise, part of Spanish policy to keep outsiders from trading with the empire. Pike's 1810 report of trade opportunities promising good profits inspired enterprising merchants to attempt to open trade between the United States and northern New Spain, especially after the war for Mexico's independence began under Padre Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla in 1810, a revolution which, incidentally, Facundo Melgares helped crush the following year as part of the royalist army.

**Pike's report on New Spain** was undoubtedly read or known by every trader who set out from the U.S. to New Mexico, beginning with the Robert McKnight and James Baird party in 1812 through William Becknell's successful trading venture in 1821, and including fur-trade ventures of Auguste P. Chouteau and Jules de Mun in 1815–1816 and again in 1817 when they were arrested by Spanish troops. Two years later, it should be noted, Luis de Mun (brother of Jules and an officer in the U.S. Army) wrote a detailed report on New Mexico, relying mostly on Pike's publication with additional information from his brother. He described three possible routes through New Mexico's mountains, including one through San Miguel del Vado and Glorieta Pass, which later became the route of the Santa Fe Road. David Meriwether and his slave Alfred reached Santa Fe in 1819. A trading venture led by Thomas James and John McKnight reached Santa Fe a few weeks after Becknell in 1821. The fur-trapping expedition of Hugh Glenn and Jacob Fowler followed the Arkansas into present Colorado in 1821, and Glenn entered New Mexico early in 1822. News traveled fast that Mexico was independent and traders were welcome.

***Pike, with the assistance of Melgares, helped the United States win the contest for control of the Louisiana Purchase, sealed by treaty in 1819.***

It is safe to conclude that Pike, with the help of Melgares and others in New Spain, provided the solid information that stimulated attempts to open trade, which became successful when Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821 and the restrictions on trade with foreigners were removed. When Becknell's small party arrived in New Mexico in 1821 with a pack train of trade items, they were welcomed at Santa Fe by Governor Facundo Melgares (who had been a friend to Pike and respected Americans, in part, because of that relationship). Becknell quickly sold his commodities at great profit and returned to Missouri where he outfitted the first wagons for a trading trip to Santa Fe in 1822, and many others followed. As David Clapsaddle suggested, if Becknell is the father of the trail, Facundo Melgares should be considered the grandfather for making it possible. Thus the Melgares sign dedicated today.

The Pike expedition, 1806-1807, the Melgares expedition that preceded it, and Pike's published reports of both helped set in motion a series of events that ultimately resulted in the annexation of Texas in 1845 and the war with Mexico, 1846-1848, which brought the entire Southwest, more than half of Mexico, into the United States. Still today, unfortunately, Zebulon Montgomery Pike does not receive the recognition he deserves (being known primarily for a mountain that bears his name), and very few people have ever heard of Facundo Melgares, two enemies who became friends during the contest for control of the Louisiana Purchase and changed the course of history of North America.

**Mexico was much more than just a market** for commodities delivered via the Santa Fe Road. In 1823, citizens of Taos in New Mexico helped a party of traders, led by James Baird, Samuel Chambers, and others who had been caught in a blizzard the previous winter and stored their trade goods in the Caches near present Dodge City, retrieve those goods (including an encounter with Pawnee Indians). In 1824, soon after the route was opened to successful commerce, merchants in Mexico entered the trade, buying commodities in the U.S. and Europe and shipping them via the Santa Fe Road to Mexico. It should be noted, too, that the market in New Mexico, with its small population and limited wealth, was soon saturated and traders had to seek markets farther south in Chihuahua and beyond.

During the summer of 1824, New Mexico Governor Bartolome Baca sent a special delegation of 26 men from Santa Fe to meet with the Pawnee Indians to arrange a peace settlement. The Pawnees had been trading partners with Spanish New Mexico from the 1780s to the early 1800s. That friendship broke down as the United States entered the Great Plains and opened trade with the Pawnees. When the Santa Fe Road was opened, the Pawnees saw new opportunities for plunder. When traders from Mexico entered the trade,

they hoped for better relations with the Pawnees. That was apparently the purpose of the special delegation, which met with the Pawnees at Council Bluffs (in present Nebraska) sometime in August. With assistance from U.S. troops at Fort Atkinson and U.S. Indian Agent Benjamin O'Fallon, the Mexican delegation reached an agreement with the Pawnees. This was a rare instance of international cooperation for the benefit of traders on the Santa Fe Road. Despite such agreements, the Pawnees periodically harassed travelers on the Trail for many years.

In 1826, a Mexican merchant named Escudero took eight wagons loaded with merchandise from Missouri to New Mexico. By 1839 more Mexican merchants were engaged in this trade than merchants from the U.S.

***If Becknell is the father of the trail, Facundo Melgares should be considered the grandfather for making it possible.***

Family names involved in the Santa Fe trade include Chávez, Escudero, Abreu, Perea, Alvarez, Garcia, Albo, Elguea, Cordero, Archuleta, Gutiérrez, Sandoval, Aguirre, Romero, Armijo, Baca, Olivares, Porras, González, Lucero, Córdoba, Pino, Ribera, Flores, Alarid, Gallegos, Armenta, Harmony, Domingo, Martínez, Ochoa, Pacheco, Luna, Manzanares,

Barela, Maldonado, Sanchez, Otero, Montoya, Trujillo, Silva, Fuentes, Ortiz, Perez, Jacquez, Sena, Palacios, Torrez, Esquivel, Valencia, Salazar, Senecal, Valdez, Martinez, Delgado, Yrizarri, Herrera, Aragón, López, Tafoya, Vigil and Ulibarri.

**There were hundreds of unidentified Mexicans** who served as teamsters, muleteers, herders and other jobs along the trail. We have the memoirs of one of these laborers, José Librado Gurulé, who worked on the trail in 1867 when he was 16 years old. He was gone 11 months, during which his party spent some time working on the railroad, one-third of his caravan died of cholera, and, when it was over, he received total payment of \$8. He brought home a suit from Kansas City and was proud to be the first man in his village, Las Placitas, to have a store-bought suit.

Also, it should be noted, the murder of Antonio José Chávez by Texas freebooters in 1843 on the Santa Fe Road near present Lyons in Kansas touched off an international incident involving Mexico, Texas, and the United States, and led to the U.S. sending two military escorts and Mexico sending one escort that year to protect the Mexican merchants and freighters on the road. The Santa Fe Road was a military road as well as a route of commerce.

There is much more to the story of Mexicans and the Santa Fe Road, which we are going to hear in the next two days, but this gives you an introduction and early history of the historic route. The Anglo-Americans sometimes referred to this overland route as the Mexican Road, and that name should give us a better idea that this was an international road that involved Spaniards and Mexicans as well as Anglos



and Indians.

Marc Simmons provided our watchword for SFTA 28 years ago with his resounding "The Santa Fe Trail Lives On!" It is now time to pay tribute to the Mexican side of this important overland route, to honor the Mexican Road, and I say "Viva el Camino Mexicano!" "Viva el Camino Mexicano!"

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Photo:  
Shirley Coupal

## Vandalism on the Santa Fe Trail DAR Markers

By Shirley Coupal

*KSDAR Honorary State Regent, SFTDAR Restoration Project Coordinator, SFTA Board of Directors*

Vandalism to the SFTDAR markers is a rare occurrence, but it does happen. These large Osage Red Granite markers have sat along or near the historic Santa Fe Trail for over 100 years. For the most part the markers have faded into the surrounding landscape and been left alone. We would like to keep it this way. We want to prevent the Santa Fe Trail DAR markers from being used for target practice or any other acts of vandalism by making the public aware of their historical significance.

At least 190 DAR markers transverse the trail; over 100 of them are in Kansas. In the past year, several of the markers have been placed in the National Register of Historic Places including the one mentioned below. This is an honor and guarantees their continued existence. The Kansas markers are the exclusive property of the Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution and National Society DAR Kansas Chapters.

By 2007, many of the markers were hard to read from a distance, they needed cleaning and re-lettering, and some needed new bases. What cost \$16.00 each in 1906 now cost over \$300.00 per marker to restore. In other words, the stones have become priceless. A similar new stone would cost several thousand dollars. The Kansas Daughters raised the funds through their Adopt-a-Stone program and a grant from the National Park Service. The project was tentatively finished in 2010. The markers could be viewed from a distance and looked spectacular. However, it became an on-going process. Like anything else that is over 100 years old, it takes more than one cleaning and re-lettering to accomplish a lasting restoration.

To keep tabs on their current status, we have been doing periodic surveys. The latest was July 4, 2014. The State Line (Kansas) SFTDAR marker, which is part of the National Register of Historic Places on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in the Cimarron National Grasslands, had been further vandalized. During our last inspection in July 2012, the State Line marker had been moved closer to the Kansas/Colorado state line, the lithochroming had peeled off, the stone broken from its base, and dragged to face northwest. It has now been used for target practice and has three bullet holes. See photo on this page.

The United States Forest Service district management has been contacted about some additional safety measures. Our conservator missed this one being repaired during the summer of 2013. They will return to re-lithochrome, re-set the marker facing east and reseat it to the base. ♦



## *Wieduwilt Swales in Kansas City, Missouri*

*A dedication of new markers and signage was held in October at the Wieduwilt Swales Park. The swales have been named in honor of Paul and Sharon Wieduwilt who own the upper portion of the swales and have been outstanding stewards in helping maintain the site. The majority of the Wieduwilt Swales are currently owned by the Barnes Enclosure/Cave Spring Association.*

*Photos: Larry Short*



## *Happening Along the Trail*



*Quivira Boy Scout Troop 683 from Derby, Kansas, visited Little Arkansas Crossing and helped trim weeds.*

*Photo: Linda Colle*



*Bent's Fort Chapter trip to Las Vegas, NM. Above, tortilla-making; below, Pat Palmer with wagon; below left; mural at Hispanic Resource Center at Pueblo, CO library.*

*Photos: Dotti Russell*



## Traveling Armadillos Geocaching Team Completes SFTA GeoTour

*By Patrick and Christiana Farabee*

Our family of five makes up the Traveling Armadillos Geocaching Team. For any geo-muggles (non-geocachers) who might be reading, geocaching is high tech treasure hunt using a handheld GPS or smartphone. The treasure found is usually in the form of things like Hot Wheels, Pez dispensers, McDonald's toys, etc. These treasures are kept safe in a watertight container. Yes, we are using satellite technology to locate Tupperware in the woods! The true draw, however, isn't the stuff (although our kids might disagree) but the amazing adventures it opens up. You find parks you never knew existed, interesting landforms, hidden hiking trails, and museums or historical sights. Our family has been caching for four years and we love it! So when we first learned that the Santa Fe Trail Association placed 73 geocaches along the trail, we knew that we had to try to find them all.

The trip began, like most of our vacations, by each of us choosing an activity that was most important to us. For Captain Armadillo it was the trail itself. Our navigator (aka Mom) wanted to experience a Santa Fe sunset and each of the kids chose activities like roadside attractions, fishing and museums. We decided to try to travel as authentically as possible, within reason, and so we loaded up our van with camping supplies and food. The plan was to take two days to go down to Santa Fe making time to do the National Park tours, then explore the many museums and attractions in Santa Fe for three days, and finally take two days to come back home.

Excitement was high as we hit the trail and just as the kids' attentions were starting to wane with the familiar landscapes and towns, the space between buildings began spreading out and getting shorter. Then the span between



*Swearing-in of three new Junior Park Rangers at Fort Union National Park*

houses grew until our scenes consisted of glass-smooth stretches of prairie and farms punctuated by rippling hills like ocean waves. We were enchanted by the natural beauty and couldn't help but wonder if this was really so different from the view the merchant pioneers experienced. It felt like we'd stepped back in time and anything might happen. We couldn't wait to start finding the caches.

The caches were fantastic. The kids loved how easy they were to spot and all the great swag inside. They'd each packed a small backpack with caching supplies and were eager to trade out items. Soon Hot Wheels were replaced with Santa Fe buttons, small figures switched for Santa Fe pens and bracelets, and bouncy balls were traded out for postcards where we enjoyed writing about our adventures and mailing the cards to family and friends along the way. Beyond those treasures, we were delighted with jewels like our first jackrabbit sighting, walking in actual ruts cut into the land by the wagons that had originally traveled the Santa Fe Trail and fantastic tours through Bent's Old Fort, Fort Union and Pecos National Historic Parks. One great surprise came in the form of a landowner who knew the history of his particular section of ruts and had aerial maps of his part of the trail. It was so awe inspiring to see how the traders changed our country's landscape as well as our history.

We felt like we were making history ourselves as we travelled the geo-trail. It was so much fun to post pictures and logs on geocaching.com for our geo-pals to follow. It encouraged some of our friends to follow in our path and we actually got to meet with Looking4caches for some ice cream in Dodge City, Kansas, as we headed home and they were headed west. The Santa Fe Trail Association was able to keep track of us using the online logs that we posted as well. Their kind and thoughtful members even shared



## Successful Youth Expo Held in McPherson

*By Linda Colle, Quivira Chapter President*

The first Santa Fe Trail Youth Expo was held on October 4 in McPherson. What a great event! We had 70 kids and 23 adults registered for a day of fun exploring the Trail. With this number, we decided that everyone could attend all sessions. The day went smoothly beginning with Steve Schmidt's presentation of Santa Fe Trail 101. Then the morning was divided into three sessions. Ellen Jones' traveling trunk presentation told the story of "A Long Way to Santa Fe." Prairie Larkspur (Chris Day and Janet Armstead) got the kids moving and dancing in their session on music and games of the 1800s. Greg VanCoevern and Rex Abrahams introduced the group to the military life of the cavalry and infantry soldiers.

During lunch, the kids had an opportunity to hear the recently adopted Santa Fe Trail song, although it was hard to hear over all the lunchroom noise. Four sessions were held in the afternoon. Jeff Trotman and Shelly Hampton demonstrated cooking on the Trail with a Dutch oven. Marcia Fox introduced the trade on the Trail and showed items that were traded. Joanne VanCoevern shared information about the Santa Fe Trail geocaching adventure. The Native Americans were also present with Dannie and Minnie White's demonstration of Arapahoe life with their authentic teepee and artifacts. Some participants stayed on for the optional geocaching exercise. Each participant, youth and adult, received a picture of themselves to take home. They also received a t-shirt, information about the Wagon Master program, additional handouts about the Santa Fe Trail as well as membership information.

At the end of the day, participants filled out an evaluation of the event, commenting on what they liked, what they didn't like and what they would like to see in future events. The favorite activities for the kids were the military and the Native American sessions. Several participants indicated that they would like to see the real Santa Fe Trail and others asked to have horses at the next event. The McPherson County 4H Extension Agent, Lindsey Friesen, was a key to the success of this event. She did a great job organizing the kids and volunteers and overseeing the lunch activities as well as taking registration and preparing the copies and bags for the kids to take home. This event would not have been possible without her help and guidance along with the work done by the volunteers and presenters who made the event a great success. Thank you all.



*Dannie and Minnie White demonstrate Arapahoe life.*

*Photo: Linda Colle*

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### *Geocaching, continued*

cell phone numbers with us in case we found ourselves in a bind and needed some help. That spurred our kids to ask who helped the original travelers of the Santa Fe Trail. They couldn't wrap their minds around not having any technology available. So when we ended up having a tire blow out and were out of cell phone range, we all learned together how important kind deeds from passing strangers can be. The kids decided that must be why the early travelers went in groups....to help each other. So with the help of new friends we lost a little time heading back but were able to locate all 73 geocaches and get our passport filled and submitted.

The adventure didn't end there. Checking the mail became a highly sought-after job as we were all so excited to get our completion prizes shortly after returning home. We gathered around the kitchen table to open the box and carefully removed each item passing it hand to hand. As our young-

est gazed over our treasures she looked up at us and smiled. "We really did it." Pride glowed on each face and we weren't surprised at all when the kids asked what other historic geotours we could take.

We want to thank the Santa Fe Trail Association for creating this geo-tour. We know how difficult it can be to maintain geocaches. It would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the many volunteers along the Santa Fe Trail. Through these efforts another generation will learn about the importance this trail played in the development of our great nation. Many, many thanks, and we hope that others will follow your example and offer more amazing learning and exploring opportunities like this one.

For more information about the geotour go to [www.geocaching.com/adventures/geotours/santa-fe-trail](http://www.geocaching.com/adventures/geotours/santa-fe-trail) ♦

## Fort Marcy Military Reservation: A Brief History

By *Matthew J. Barbour*

*Manager, Jemez Historic Site, Former Historical Archaeologist,  
Office of Archaeological Studies*

On August 15, 1846, General Stephen Watts Kearny stood on top of a Las Vegas, New Mexico, roof. It had been four months since the outbreak of the Mexican-American War. Addressing the crowd, he explained the intentions of the United States as an army from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, continued to march down the road towards the provincial capital of Santa Fe. "From the Mexican Government you never received protection. The Apaches and Navajos come down from the mountains and carry off your sheep, and even your women, whenever they please. My government will correct all of this. It will keep off the Indians."<sup>1</sup> Three days later, on August 18, Kearny's army, comprised of 300 dragoons, 500 Mormons and 1,000 Missouri volunteers, captured Santa Fe without "firing a gun or shedding a drop of blood," unofficially ushering in the beginning of US jurisdiction and the American Territorial period in New Mexico.<sup>2</sup>

A day later, Kearny ordered a reconnaissance of Santa Fe to select a site for a fort to headquarter the US garrison. Initially, troops were housed in those buildings of the Spanish Presidio, located immediately north of the plaza, not in complete disrepair. Then on August 24, only six days after arriving in Santa Fe, construction began on a star fort and blockhouse overlooking the city.<sup>3</sup> The general named this new symbol of US dominion Fort Marcy after President James Polk's secretary of war, William Marcy.<sup>4</sup>

With New Mexico secured and progress on Fort Marcy proceeding on schedule, General Kearny struck out in October from Santa Fe for California, leaving Colonel Sterling Price to oversee the fort's completion. Winter came, and work continued as local *adoberos* labored alongside soldiers, renovating the presidial barracks into a post hospital. By January 19, 1847, the majority of work on Fort Marcy was

finished when word was received that Charles Bent, the first governor of New Mexico Territory, had been killed in the Taos Revolt.<sup>5</sup> Colonel Price ordered the 1st Dragoons from Fort Marcy to suppress the uprising. On February 4, after a failed attempt to breach walls using mountain howitzers, the dragoons hacked through the adobe walls of the Spanish mission to gain entrance to Taos Pueblo. The battle which ensued resulted in the death of 150 Taos Indians and Spanish insurgents at the cost of seven US soldiers. Known as the Taos Revolt, the uprising marked the end of Pueblo Indian hostilities against the US government.<sup>6</sup>

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, signed on March 25, 1848, made Fort Marcy and the Mexican province of New Mexico the territory of the United States. Now officially under US jurisdiction, Fort Marcy became headquarters of the 9th Military Department, later to be known as the Department of New Mexico, which encompassed the present states of New Mexico and Arizona, with Lieutenant Colonel John Washington assuming command of the 9th Military Department. On September 9, 1849, Washington left with a detachment of dragoons from Fort Marcy on the first US expedition into Navajo Land. After killing Chief Narbona, the expedition ended with the signing of a peace treaty at the mouth of Canyon de Chelly.<sup>7</sup>

Arriving back at Fort Marcy in October, Lieutenant Colonel Washington was replaced by Colonel John Monroe.<sup>8</sup> Peace with the Navajos allowed the US garrison of the 1st and 2nd Dragoons, 3rd Infantry, and 2nd Artillery stationed at Fort Marcy to focus on the Jicarilla Apache and Ute raids along the Santa Fe Trail. The army, however, proved ill equipped to stop the lightning-fast raids occurring more than 100 miles east of the fort. In many instances, having found a cold trail, the soldiers functioned primarily as gravediggers for the dead.<sup>9</sup>

### Old and New Problems

On April 1, 1851, Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Sumner became commander of the 9th Military Department. To combat the Indian attacks more effectively, Sumner moved his command and Fort Marcy's garrison, with the exception of one artillery company, to work on construction of Fort Union, calling Santa Fe "that sink of vice and extravagance." Unsatisfied with Fort Union, and due to increasing Native resistance west of the Rio Grande, Sumner moved his command again the following year to the Post at Albuquerque. In his yearly report Sumner suggested the abandonment of the New Mexico Territory altogether.<sup>10</sup> Command of the 9th Military Department would transfer back and forth between Albuquerque and Fort Marcy in Santa Fe until the Post at Albuquerque's closure in 1867.<sup>11</sup>



1847 Presidial barracks renovated to post hospital



Meanwhile, work began at Fort Marcy on what was to be a new capitol building to replace the antiquated Palace of the Governors. Work on the building was halted less than a year later, in 1853, when funds for the project dried up. Construction continued at the post, however, and by 1859 Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Johnston reported the presence of a military barracks, mess hall, bakery, hospital and guard-house.<sup>12</sup>

At the same time, Fort Marcy continued to function as a combat post. In 1854 hostilities between the US and the Jicarilla Apaches had erupted into open warfare. In July a peace delegation of Jicarillas arrived at Fort Marcy to discuss terms of surrender, which culminated in the end of the Jicarilla War and settlement of the Jicarillas along the Chama River.<sup>13</sup> By January 1855, however, Fort Marcy had found a new enemy to combat—the Mescalero Apaches began to raid into the Galisteo Basin with greater frequency.<sup>14</sup> This continued until the spring of 1860, with the discovery of gold near Pinos Altos, New Mexico, when Fort Marcy and many other posts along the northern reaches of the territory witnessed a substantial decrease in troop allotment due to the need to combat the Apaches, who challenged US dominion along the Gila River.<sup>15</sup>

Further complicating matters was an outbreak in hostilities between US armed forces and the Navajos. To suppress these new hostilities, Major Edward Canby was given command of a massive punitive operation with forces from all major US military installations in the territory. Their goal was to destroy the Navajo way of life. From October 13 to 28, 1860, they did precisely that, slaughtering large quantities of livestock and burning homes and fields along the Chuska Mountains before settling in at Fort Defiance to await further orders and prevent further attacks on US interests in the area.<sup>16</sup>

## The American Civil War

News of the American Civil War reached the post at the end of May 1861. War efforts against the Navajos were quickly abandoned as (now) Colonel Canby and Union sympathizers rushed back to Fort Marcy.<sup>17</sup> At Fort Marcy, Canby quickly began to raise two regiments, the 1st and 2nd New Mexico Volunteer Infantry. Confederate forces struck on July 25, when Confederate Lieutenant Colonel John Baylor invaded from El Paso, quickly capturing Mesilla and proclaiming it the capital of the Confederate State of Arizona. In response, Canby and his New Mexico volunteers left Fort Marcy to take up position at Fort Craig. There, on February 20 and 21, 1862, Union and Confederate forces clashed in the battle of Valverde, which resulted in the Confederate capture of six Union artillery pieces and a full-scale retreat of federal armed forces.<sup>18</sup>

Led by Brigadier General Henry Sibley (a soldier who had served under Canby at the battle of the Chuska Mountains,

and who was a relative through marriage), the Confederate force continued to march north, quickly capturing Albuquerque before setting its sights on Fort Marcy and Santa Fe. On March 4, Major James Donaldson, who had been left in charge of the post, ordered an immediate evacuation, deeming Santa Fe indefensible from the Confederate onslaught.<sup>19</sup> Six days later, Sibley's troops occupied Fort Marcy and then turned towards its next objective, Fort Union.<sup>20</sup>

East of Santa Fe, on March 26 and 28, the Union Army clashed again with Brigadier General Sibley, this time under the command of Colonel John P. Slough, at the battles of Apache Canyon and Glorieta Pass. After the destruction of Confederate supply trains by Major John Chivington, Confederate troops were forced to retreat south. On April 10, US soldiers under the command of Captain George Howland reoccupied Santa Fe and found about 250 sick and wounded Confederate soldiers, as well as some deserters, remaining at Fort Marcy.<sup>21</sup>

Colonel Canby and the New Mexico volunteers clashed for a second time with Confederate forces, under the command of Colonel Thomas Greene, at the Battle of Peralta south of Albuquerque on April 15.<sup>22</sup> Shortly afterwards, Canby left the territory for assignment elsewhere.

## Carleton, Carson, and the Navajo

On September 18 General James Carleton entered Fort Marcy and assumed command of the Department of New Mexico.<sup>23</sup> With the Confederate threat ended, Carleton set his sights on the Navajos and Mescaleros, whose raids had gone unchecked during Confederate turmoil within the state. Trained as a dragoon, Carleton saw limited use for 1st and 2nd New Mexico Infantry regiments and quickly collapsed the two units into the 1st New Mexico Cavalry under the command of Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson. From Fort Marcy, Carleton dispatched Carson and five companies of the 1st New Mexico Cavalry to reactivate Fort Stanton and "pacify" the Mescalero Apaches.<sup>24</sup> Carleton, noted for his cruelty during the Civil War, told Carson before leaving:



1859 building

There is to be no council held with the Indians, nor any talks. The men are to be slain whenever and wherever they can be found. The women and children may be taken prisoners, but, of course, they are not to be killed. If they beg for peace, their chiefs and twenty of their principal men must come to Santa Fe to have a talk here; but tell them fairly and frankly that you will keep after their people and slay them until you receive orders to desist from these headquarters.<sup>25</sup>

The policy was pursued with such intensity that by November 24, the Mescaleros capitulated to all demands made by Carleton and were resettled at Bosque Redondo under the watchful eyes of the newly founded Fort Sumner. In April the following year, Carleton pressed the same demands upon the Navajos during a conference at Cubero, New Mexico. Navajo chiefs Delgadito and Barboncito rejected the demand. In response, on June 15, 1863, Carleton ordered Kit Carson and the 1st New Mexico Cavalry from Fort Marcy to proceed to Fort Wingate, where they were to begin to "prosecute a vigorous war on the men of this tribe (Navajo)." The Navajos were to be given no respite "until it is considered, at these headquarters, that they have been effectually punished for their long-continued atrocities."<sup>26</sup>

What followed was a blood-soaked six month campaign fought by the 1st New Mexico Cavalry and numerous Ute, Hopi, Jemez and Zuni auxiliaries against the Navajos. Carson led a scorched-earth policy in which the US Army sought to steal livestock and burn homes and fields, like the strategies used by Colonel Canby four years earlier. The 1863–1864 campaign culminated in the Battle of Canyon de Chelly, fought between January 12 and 14, 1864. Carson and a detachment of the 1st New Mexico Cavalry raided the canyon, killing 23 Navajos and forcing another 1,500 with no means of subsistence to surrender at Fort Canby in the following weeks.<sup>27</sup>

Nearly three-fourths of the Navajo tribe, over 8,000 people, were forced to resettle in Bosque Redondo. Defeated, the Navajos were never again to rise in opposition to the US government. Colonel Carson, soon to be promoted to brigadier general, returned to Fort Marcy.<sup>28</sup> Carson's deeds

were hailed as acts of heroism, and parades were given in his honor in Santa Fe.

### The Later Years

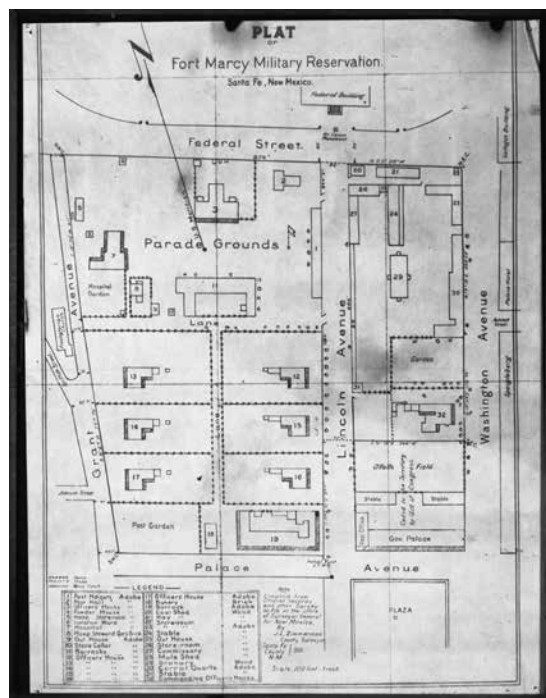
At Fort Marcy numerous improvements were occurring at the post by 1866, including the first telegraph line and the addition of Lincoln Avenue, which was constructed through the center of the military reservation connecting the planned capitol building and the plaza.<sup>29</sup> In 1867, Colonel George Getty replaced Carleton as the commander of what was now called the District of New Mexico. He renamed Fort Marcy the Post at Santa Fe, decommissioning the star fort and blockhouse overlooking the city.<sup>30</sup> Further cutbacks were required due to legislation on March 3, 1869, which cut US Army strength from 54,000 to 37,000 soldiers, further cut to 30,000 in July 1870. This downsizing was witnessed at the post in Santa Fe in 1871, as many of the officers' quarters, no longer required to support such large quantities of soldiers, were converted to office space and residences for married soldiers and laundresses.<sup>31</sup> Rumors of the decommissioning of the post began to grow.

Fort Marcy was reactivated in 1875 due to perceived inadequacies of frontier posts during the Red River War of 1874. Most of the structures at the post were renovated with peaked roofs, wood trim, and porches. The hospital, which had once functioned as a presidio barracks, was demolished and replaced with a new structure and surrounding support facilities such as a hospital steward's quarters, isolation ward and storeroom.<sup>32</sup>

Work on Fort Marcy was further bolstered by economic developments within the Territorial Capitol. A mining



1875 renovation



boom culminated in the creation of the Los Cerrillos Mining District in 1879, and the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad entered Santa Fe on February 9, 1880. The 9th Cavalry Band, an African American regiment, played in the background as Governor Lew Wallace pounded in the golden spike tying Santa Fe to Las Vegas, New Mexico.

Later that same year, the blockhouse, abandoned since 1867, was burned down.<sup>33</sup> A reward was offered for the capture of the arsonist who started the fire, but no one was ever caught. Then, in 1887, a resident of Silver City, Mrs. Tassie Wilson, reportedly found \$2,300 worth of Spanish coins buried under the walls of the abandoned star fort. For several weeks after the discovery, large numbers of Santa Fe citizens attempted to find their own cache, destroying most of the fort.<sup>34</sup> However, the gold find was never independently verified. This "gold fever" may have been sparked by a sensationalized newspaper article coupled with urban myth.

By 1888, the 10th Infantry, famous for their work during the Colfax County and Red River Wars, was stationed at Fort Marcy. The 10th Infantry's hero status was played up with numerous dress parades and press coverage by local papers. Coinciding with the arrival of these new troops was completion of the capitol building in 1889. No longer needed as a statehouse, the building became the Federal Courthouse.<sup>35</sup>

## Closure and Revival

In spring of 1891 the War Department ordered the 10th Infantry and New Mexico District headquarters moved to Fort Stanton, with the Fort Marcy Military Reservation transferred to the Department of Interior to be sold at auction.<sup>36</sup> The City of Santa Fe quickly incorporated in response so that the reservation could be granted to the municipality.<sup>37</sup> However, only nine months later General Alexander McDowell McCook, by direction of the president, ordered regimental headquarters, the band and two companies of the 10th Infantry to reoccupy the city. Their role: to train new recruits at the territorial capitol before assignment to various posts in the Southwest.<sup>38</sup>

During this last phase of US Army occupation, \$1,300 was received from the U.S. Treasury to be expended on much needed yet unspecified improvements at the post. Three years later, in September 1894, word of fort closure once again came to the forefront of public attention as the US government expressed its intentions to close Fort Marcy. Despite public objections from General McCook and Governor William Taylor Thornton, Fort Marcy ceased to be a military post on June 15, 1895.<sup>39</sup> Over the next two years, government officials debated who should inherit the land. Two options were the use of the land as an Indian reservation or a national sanitarium.<sup>40</sup> However, during this period US Army Reserve troops continued to occupy the post along with squatters.

The outbreak of the Spanish-American war on April 25, 1898, further reinforced the use of the fort by US Army troops when Governor Miguel Otero called for volunteers for a cavalry regiment that would become known as Roosevelt's Rough Riders. The New Mexico component was to consist of four troops, designated E, F, G and H, and was officially mustered into service on May 6 and 7 as the 1st US Volunteer Cavalry. Gathering at Fort Marcy, the regiment headed to Cuba, where it won several distinguished victories, such as the battles at San Juan and Kettle Hills, before being decommissioned on September 14, 1898.<sup>41</sup>

Later, a Gatling gun squad led by Major Fred Mully trained on the reservation. The squad was housed in the old armory and received money for improvements in March 1900. However, a year before, in 1899, the first portion of the post had been given to the public, when the old post bakery was converted into a kindergarten.<sup>42</sup>

On January 5, 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt transferred the remainder of the Fort Marcy Military Reservation land to the territorial governor of New Mexico, Miguel Otero. The property was then bequeathed by the governor to the City of Santa Fe. The majority of the property was sold to private individuals; the remainder was given to the Santa Fe Board of Education.<sup>43</sup> With the transition of the property from federal to municipal jurisdiction in 1904, military activities in the area ceased. Today, only the Federal Courthouse and Post Office, dominating the northernmost reaches of the Fort Marcy Military Reservation, are still under US government regulation. Operating for nearly 60 years, the post played a pivotal role in the administrative and military control of New Mexico Territory. Remnants of its architecture and design, such as Lincoln Avenue, are still visible in the downtown Santa Fe area and repercussions of Fort Marcy's role in New Mexico history are still felt in many communities today.

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### In Memoriam

**Richard F. Carrillo** died on September 21, 2014, at his home in La Junta, Colorado. He was 69 years of age. As a young man, he developed a keen interest in historical archaeology at Bent's Fort in the mid-1960s, and earned a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Kansas in 1971. He worked for the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, where he first met his mentor, eminent historical archaeologist Stanley South.

Following his return to Colorado in 1981, Richard performed historical archaeological studies throughout the American West, becoming recognized as one of the foremost regional scholars on the history of southeastern Colorado and the Santa Fe Trail. He founded Cuartelejo HP Associates, Inc., and was owner and principal of the firm until his death. For many years he spearheaded the research and management of the historic site of Boggsville.

Richard authored and co-authored numerous reports and academic papers, and was a contributing author of several notable publications. He taught classes at Otero Junior College and Lamar Community College, and served on the Colorado Historic Preservation Review Board, as well as on boards and committees for many archaeology and preservation related organizations in the state. His outstanding contributions to the field of archaeology were recognized by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, who named Richard a Fellow in 2013, and in 2014 he received the Stephen Hart Award for Archaeology from History Colorado.

Donations in Richard's memory can be made to the Boggsville Historic Site, PO Box 68, Las Animas, CO 81054. Online condolences may be made at [www.PeacockFH.com](http://www.PeacockFH.com).

## BOOKS



### **The Darkest Period: The Kanza Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873**

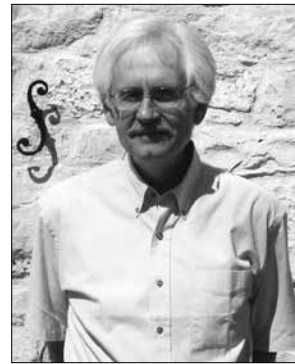
Ronald D. Parks, *The Darkest Period: The Kanza Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. xv + 317 pp. \$34.95 cloth; available from Last Chance Store for \$33.00 postpaid.

**Reviewed by Dr. Leo Oliva**

There are few books about the effects of the Santa Fe Road on American Indians and none comparable to this excellent study detailing the impact on one particular tribe. For the Kanza people (Kanza is the preferred spelling by the tribe for which Kansas is named), the relocation to a much smaller reservation along the Neosho River and the historic trail in the area of Council Grove in 1846 resulted in a period of slow annihilation, truly their “darkest period” as expressed by Chief Allegawaho in 1871. From the time of their move to this “last homeland” until their final removal to present Oklahoma, tribal population declined by more than 60 percent. They gave up more than two million acres of land, and it was their land that Euro-Americans wanted more than anything else.

Ron Parks, retired administrator at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove, is uniquely qualified to tell this sad and tragic story while, at the same time, portraying the rich culture of the Kanza, including their close relationship with the natural environment, an environment that was largely changed or destroyed during this 27-year period. Parks writes, “The Kanzas’ prairie homeland was plowed, game disappeared, ancestor’s graves were violated, and groves were cut down” (p. 6). Parks knows the history of the Kanza people as well as anyone can know it today. He knows the history of the Santa Fe trade, of Council Grove, of Manifest Destiny (which is one focus of this book), of Federal Indian policy, of Indian agents and missionaries, and the rapid settlement of Kansas after the territory was opened to non-Indian settlers in 1854. His research is thorough (there are 37 pages of endnotes and the bibliography fills 16 pages) and his finely-crafted narrative is impeccable. He investigates more than what happened by seeking to find out why things happened to the Kanza and assessing the significance of those events. This is analytical history at its best.

Parks appraises many forces affecting the Kanza on their new reserve, including the growth of Council Grove as a center of activity on the Santa Fe Road, Kanzas’ trade with Council Grove merchants, Mexican War, gold rush to California, warfare with other tribes, diseases (especially cholera and smallpox brought to them via the Santa Fe Road), alcohol, racism, adverse weather, opening of Kansas Territory,



### **City Of Council Grove Honors Ron Parks**

Mayor Steve Shephard recently presented Ronald D. Parks with the key to the city in recognition of Parks’ recent book publication and many contributions locally to preserve the heritage of the Kanza, or Kaw, Indians during the period of

time the tribe lived in the Council Grove area. At the same time, Mayor Shephard declared the week of Sept. 14-21, 2014, Kaw Heritage Week in Council Grove in a resolution stating, “May appreciation be extended to Ron Parks for his contributions to our understanding of Kaw heritage and the history of Council Grove; and, that recognition be extended in honor of his outstanding achievements, which in turn bring honor to Council Grove.”

Parks also received the Louise Barry Writing Award from the Santa Fe Trail Association for this book.



gold rush to the Rockies, establishment of Kaw Mission, Civil War, assimilation policies, bad agents, ruthless traders who kept them in debt, encroachment of Euro-American settlers on their reservation, violation of sacred places, and desecration of graves of their dead. There was wholesale disregard for the rights of indigenous people.

The Kanza were caught between two destructive forces: white settlers disrupted their farming and enemy tribes disrupted their hunting expeditions. The destruction of their traditional economy brought poverty and hunger to the Kanza. They were forced to resort to begging and thievery to survive. As their numbers diminished they suffered social disintegration. Parks concludes one chapter with this summary sentence: “The ramifications of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny and many of its attendant pathologies—lawlessness, greed, whiskey, violence, and racism—were inevitably visited upon the vulnerable and marginalized Kanzas” (p. 119).

Parks assesses tribal leadership, proposed treaties that were not ratified, allotment of tribal land to individuals, attempts to establish schools for Kanza children, effects of dwindling bison herds, coming of railroads and removal to Indian Territory in 1873. It is not all negative, however, and the efforts of some agents, medical doctors, teachers, merchants and others who tried to help the Kanza survive are included. Kanza men served in the Union Army during the Civil War. The balanced history is enhanced with fine maps and illustrations, and this volume of documented details of the destruction of one tribe along the Santa Fe Road is highly recommended. ♦



## Get Ready for 2015

*By Larry Justice, Membership Chair*

We are roughly two months from the new year 2015. You know what that means – a time for renewal of membership in the Santa Fe Trail Association. This article is not an attempt to belabor the need for all of us to renew, but the string around our finger to help us remember the importance of renewal.

If you have not already received a renewal letter entitled “Time to Renew,” you will receive the reminder along with a member survey in the next few weeks. Every member will receive the renewal letter. If you have already renewed for 2015, we ask you to take the membership form, give it to a friend or colleague and encourage him/her/them to become a Santa Fe Trail Association colleague. Here is a suggestion for encouraging someone to join. *“The more members we have, the greater the resource for preserving, protecting and promoting the Santa Fe Trail so ‘The Trail Lives On’.”* Many remember the posters of Uncle Sam pointing his finger with the caption “We Need You.” That is the spirit we need to capture as we renew and find new members.

What are the benefits of SFTA membership? First, every member receives a subscription for the award winning *Wagon Tracks*. Second, every member can have access to

the SFT E-Blast email. So, be sure to include your email address on your renewal/membership form. Third, membership helps in the process of protecting the Trail. The utility and energy companies are not necessarily “The Bad Guys.” Simply, they may be ignorant of trail locations and the importance of preservation. There have been occasions where those companies continue to work with the preservation process as they have unearthed unknown trail locations where the Trail was filled in by the effects of the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Fourth, membership continues to help children and adults become educated about the importance and value of the Santa Fe Trail in the 19th Century and beyond. Fifth, camaraderie that develops from membership opens doors to great friendships with people who desire to know more about our nation’s history and their heritage. Sixth, membership continues to help our national leaders understand the needs of passionate citizens “back home.” Last, but not least, SFTA members who carry their membership to local chapters along the five state region strengthen the respective area citizenry, businesses and education entities to learn more about the value of the Trail.

So, renew today. Seek out new members. Watch for the forth-coming renewal letter and survey. Develop your relationships with fellow members. Renew BEFORE January 1, 2015. And continue to share with all you meet:

*The Trail Lives On*

## 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  
816-912-1598 ♦ ldshort@comcast.net

We are again approaching the end of another successful year. We have seen our first joint meeting between SFTA, OCTA, the Lewis & Clark Association and the National Park Service. This meeting has led to greater cooperation among the various organizations. As a result of working together with OCTA, we were able to purchase the local tour route signs through Raytown, which have been installed. Historic Site signs have been installed at the Archibald Home in Raytown and at the Wieduwilt Swales in Kansas City, Missouri.

A dedication of the new MRO stone marker, the NPS interpretive panel and the newly installed NPS Historic site sign was held on Saturday, October 4 at the Wieduwilt Swales Park. The swales have been named in honor of Paul and Sharon Wieduwilt who own the upper portion of the swales and have been outstanding stewards in helping maintain the site. The majority of the Wieduwilt Swales are currently owned by the Barnes Enclosure/Cave Spring Association. Lou Austin, local trails activist and enthusiast, provided the dedication ad-

dress and the event was attended by members of MRO, SFTA, OCTA, the Kansas City Missouri Parks Department and the Kansas City Council. A reception was held at the Barnes Enclosure/Cave Spring Pavilion following the ceremony.

OCTA has completed the joint signage of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California National Historic Trails from the Upper Independence/Wayne City Landing south through Sugar Creek and Independence where the three trails enter Raytown. Plans are already in the works to complete the signage from the southern edge of Raytown on to the Missouri/Kansas State Line.

In addition we have secured many replacement interpretive panels that had been damaged or were just faded due to age along the Trails. With our partnerships we can be much more effective in our interpretation and maintenance of our Santa Fe, Oregon & California National Historic Trails from Franklin, Missouri, to Gardner, Kansas.

After Saline and Lafayette Counties in Missouri installed their local tour route signs, MRO designed and has published a turn-by-turn driving brochure of the original trail starting in downtown Arrow Rock, Missouri, and proceeding west following the trail to the Lafayette/Jackson County, Missouri, line. Educational funds were utilized for this project.

Moving forward we are continuing progress with our new open-air kiosk at Salem Park in eastern Jackson County.

## Chapter Reports, *Continued*

MRO, SFTA and the National Park Service are currently working with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department to install interpretive panels at the park. There will be three panels which will depict the areas east of the area, such as Fort Osage and Lexington, the story of the Blue Mills Landing and other local historic sites. The third panel will include the story of what travelers will encounter to the west of the site as it heads into Independence. This has been a two-year project and we expect completion by the fall of 2015.

I encourage all of our members to contact me with any suggestions or comments on how to improve MRO and make it more responsive to what you expect and desire as a member.

### **Douglas County**

President Roger Boyd  
PO Box 379, Baldwin City KS 66006  
785-594-3172 ♦ rboyd@bakeru.edu

The Douglas County Kansas Chapter had their fall potluck dinner at the Black Jack Cabin on Sunday September 21. The evening speaker was Kerry Altenbernd with the Black Jack Battlefield Trust. Kerry gave an update on the progress of preserving and developing the battlefield site and its story.

### **Heart of the Flint Hills**

President Sharon Haun  
704 Hockaday Street, Council Grove, KS 66846  
khaun@tctelco.net

### **Cottonwood Crossing**

President Steve Schmidt  
1120 Cobblestone Court, McPherson KS 67460  
620-245-0715 ♦ wfordok@yahoo.com

For various reasons, the September Chapter meeting was cancelled. The next Chapter meeting will be November 20 in Goessel.

Several chapter members attended the 2014 Rendezvous in Larned, Kansas. As usual, the programs were excellent and a good time was had by all. This is a high quality event at a very affordable price.

Several chapter members assisted the Quivira Chapter which hosted the Santa Fe Trail Youth Expo held at the McPherson 4-H Building all day October 4. Workshops included Rex Abrahams and Greg VanCoevern on SFT-era infantry and cavalry; Joanne VanCoevern on social media and geocaching and Steve and Glenda Schmidt with an overview of the history of the Santa Fe Trail. The Cottonwood Crossing Chapter also provided money to help sponsor the event. All involved appeared to have an enjoyable time. The parents seemed pleased with the program content, and contacts were made with local educators. Hopefully, we can get more of the Santa Fe Trail story into the schools.

Stolen signs and broken sign posts were recently replaced throughout Marion County on the Marion County Local Tour and the Crosses Here series of signs. Thanks to George Schutte, Doug Sharp and Steve Schmidt for materials and labor. Extra signs and posts were already on hand from the initial construction of the sign projects.

Steve Schmidt participated with Joanne VanCoevern, SFTA Manager, and Aaron Mahr and Kristin Van Fleet with the National Park Service in meetings in Topeka with the Kansas Department of Transportation (SFT sign issues), Kansas State Historical Society (ways for SFTA to be more involved with KSHS reviews, and communication tower and electric transmission line issues), and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (about cooperation in promoting the SFT throughout the state). The meetings were very productive.

### **Quivira**

President Linda Colle  
724 Penn Drive, McPherson KS 67460  
620-241-8719 ♦ blkcolle@swbell.net

The Quivira Chapter had a great turnout for the program on the Kaw Nation on Saturday August 16 at the McPherson Museum. Nearly 40 came to hear three speakers on the 189th anniversary of the signing of the Kaw Treaty. Crystal Douglas, anthropologist and the Kanza Museum Director, discussed the history of the Kaw Nation from the earliest period up until the time they moved to Council Grove in 1847.

Sharon Haun, president of the Heart of the Flint Hills SFTA chapter, described the impact of the movement of the nation west and the impact to the Kaw and their new home near Council Grove from 1847—1873. Pauline Sharp, Kaw Nation member and vice-president of the cultural committee, shared pictures of her family and related stories of the Kaw today. Pauline is the granddaughter of Lucy Tayiah Eads, first female chief of the Kaw. Pauline also shared a new online tour that will soon be available to help us learn more about the Kaw history and language. Several audience members also received door prizes that Crystal provided from the Kaw Nation.

The Quivira Chapter sponsored the break during the Rendezvous visit to the Coronado Quivira Museum on September 19. What a great group we had to hear Tony Juarez speak about his ancestor, Don Antonio Chavez! Later that evening, Quivira Chapter members Steve and Jodene Fisher were awarded the Ralph Hathaway Memorial Heritage Preservation Award by the Santa Fe Trail Association. The award was presented by Leo Oliva, chairman of the awards committee, during the annual banquet in Larned. Steve and Jodene maintain the Santa Fe Trail Ruts in their pasture on Rice County Avenue P, known as the Fry Ruts, named after Jodene's dad, Wayne Fry. The land has been in the family for four generations and is well known for the silhouette of the ox-drawn wagon, which was presented to the couple by their family.

The Quivira Chapter has received their order for the site identification signs for the various sites identified in the chapter. We have been contacted about an Eagle Scout project so this will be an excellent opportunity to get our signs installed and work with the Boy Scouts. Speaking of the Scouts, we had a great group of Scouts, Troop 683 from Derby, Kansas, visit the Little Arkansas Crossing area on the weekend of September 6-8. They hiked around the area and trimmed weeds around our markers and we really appreciate their help.

### **Wet/Dry Routes**

Dr. David Clapsaddle  
215 Mann, Larned KS 67550  
620-285-3295 ♦ adsaddle@cox.net

Eighty members and guests met on August 17 at Country

**SFTA Annual Membership January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015**

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 Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research 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*

Living for the summer meeting and ice cream social. The following were recognized for their work in promoting the Santa Fe Trail: Doug Springer, Mike Gilmore, Jim Missunas, Steve Durler and Dale Otte. Members of the Perez family were recognized and thanked for their donation to the Melgares marker. Chapter members were encouraged to attend the Labor Day festivities at Fort Larned National Historic Site celebrating the 50 years of acquiring the property from its ranching and farming days.

The program featured period music from the 19th century which included solo pieces by Nate Bauer (member who is an 8th grader), Alice Clapsaddle and Lorna Singer as well as a sing-a-long with the group, followed by the ice cream social.

Members attended the Melgares marker dedication on September 18. Member Dale Otte was presented with the Faye Anderson Award for his dedication and preservation of the Santa Fe Trail. Otte was the primary builder of the Melgares marker. In addition, during the Rendezvous 2014, the chapter received the Award of Merit from the Santa Fe Trail Association in recognition of significant contributions to the preservation, protection and promotion of the Santa Fe Trail, especially recognition of the Hispanic heritage with the Facundo Melgares marker.

The fall meeting will be held on November 2 at 1:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church, 8th and Main St., Larned, Kansas. Following the chicken noodle dinner and business meeting, Ron Parks will present the program on his new book on the Kanza Indians. The winter meeting will be held in Kinsley, Kansas, beginning with a fried chicken dinner at Straits Café, followed by the business meeting and "Radio Show" program at the Kinsley Municipal Building.

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

President Bill Bunyan

PO Box 1656, Dodge City KS 67801

620-227-8203 ♦ [dchawk38@gmail.com](mailto:dchawk38@gmail.com)

The Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter held its fall meeting on Sunday, September 21, after fried chicken and member-supplied side dishes were served. Dr. Leo Oliva spoke to our chapter about the Fort Hays - Fort Dodge Military Road and its significance to the Santa Fe Trail and the area. Many chapter members then journeyed to the Warner Ranch located on Highway 283 for the dedication of the new signboard, which was donated by the Wayne Strodtman Memorial Fund.

Another signboard south of Dodge City is in the works in conjunction with the Great Western Cattle Trail Association. Our portion will highlight the lower crossing which followed the Mulberry Creek, going west.

Four chapter members attended Rendezvous in Larned where our chapter received an Award of Merit for working to preserve as much as possible of the Point of Rocks, west of Dodge City. The association presented chapter president Bunyan with the Paul Bentrup Ambassador Award for working to preserve, protect and promote the Santa Fe Trail.

Four chapter members also journeyed to the 150th anniversary of the First Battle of Adobe Walls in the Texas Panhandle, on Saturday, October 4. Presentations by John Carson, great-grandson of Kit Carson, and Kiowa Indians who were descendants of the Indians who fought the U.S. Army under Kit Carson's leadership were the highlights of the day's events, along with the firing of two mountain howitzers which were the type used in this battle. The howitzers were supplied by Fort Larned. The battle was fought to help protect the wagons on the Santa Fe Trail, as the Indians were severely harassing

travelers on the Trail during the Civil War.

The chapter Christmas party with the Great Western Cattle Trail Association will be held on Tuesday, December 16 at Boot Hill at 6:00 p.m. The winter chapter meeting and election of officers will be held on Sunday, February 8, and Association Manager Joanne VanCoevern will speak about geocaching on the Santa Fe Trail. Our spring meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, May 3, where we hope to have State Historical Society representatives talk about what is needed to put Fort Dodge on the National Register.

### **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

Nine members attended a May outing with Faye Gaines. The group began their day at the Point of Rocks Ranch with Faye as their tour guide. They toured her ranch and areas along the Trail on the way back to Clayton, New Mexico, where they spent the night. The next day the group headed down the Trail toward McNee's Crossing and ended with a tour of Autograph Rock. All members enjoyed Faye's knowledge of the areas, learned a lot and recommend everyone take a tour with her.

Twenty members and guests attended the summer chapter meeting that was held at the Herzstein Museum in Clayton, New Mexico. The meal and business meeting were followed by an excellent presentation by Edward Wallace as James Beckwourth. The program was called "From Slave to Superstar." Beckwourth was a slave who became a blacksmith, hunter, trapper, trader, scout and guide as well as Chief of the Mountain Crows.

One hundred forty-one area 5th grade students attended the OWLS program on October 8, held at Middle Springs on the Cimarron National Grassland. Students learned about fire ecology from the Forest Service, toured the soil tunnel trailer with the NRCS, learned about reptiles and amphibians with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, learned a history of the Santa Fe Trail from the Morton County Historical Museum and the Forest Service, and a little about skins, skulls and tracks from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The station about the Santa Fe Trail was the favorite stop for most of the students. Funds from the education grant were used for interpretive supplies in the form of food used along the Trail and a kit to build a fort when they got back to the classroom. One student visited the museum afterward and picked up a Junior Wagon Master program booklet.

Our fall meeting was held in Boise City on October 11 with a trip out on the Trail. On November 8 our meeting will be at the Morton County Historical Society Museum in Elkhart, Kansas, at 6 p.m. Shirley Coupal will discuss the history of the DAR marking project, and a period meal will be provided. 620-697-2833 or mtcomuseum@elkhart.com. Free.

### **Bent's Fort**

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

The Bent's Fort Chapter has truly been "busy 'lil critters" this summer. July 12 found the chapter meeting at the Historic Grand Theatre in Rocky Ford where we heard Mark Gardner, named the nation's best author by *True West Magazine* in its Best of the West issue for 2014, speak of the Santa Fe Trail connections with Jesse James, Billy the Kid, and other notables.

August 8-10, forty-nine members of the Bent's Fort Chapter traveled to Las Vegas, New Mexico, for a wonderful weekend of treks, tours, presentations and tons of fun. September found over 20 of our members attending the 2014 Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous held in Larned, Kansas. Our chapter was well represented with several of our members speaking. In October, the chapter toured the Davidson Ranch in southeastern Colorado. It was a fantastic trek.

Many of you have inquired about our President, Pat Palmer. He completed five weeks of radiation and chemo at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs. After a few weeks off, he started chemo treatments July 7 in Lamar. He has had eight chemo treatments spaced over two-week periods and celebrated the last chemo treatment on October 13. He reports he is feeling well and has recently been back out on the Santa Fe Trail. Please keep him in your prayers.

### **Corazon de los Caminos**

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

I have noticed over the years that it is always a faithful few who you can count on to be present or get things accomplished in our chapters. I'm satisfied that this is true of all our groups. These people are the backbone of each chapter and we could not exist without them. And to each of you, we are truly thankful. Our chapter met on October 12 at the Rock Crossing of the Canadian. Our fall business meeting and speaker presentation is scheduled for November 8, but details are currently being revised. In January we shall plan another exciting year. Some of our local officials, politicians and especially leaders at Philmont Scout Ranch, have been pushing hard to save the train service in northeast New Mexico. Colorado and Kansas have done great work too. The railway and Trail are intrinsically related and vital to the welfare of our area. At present, it is looking like, if efforts continue, that maybe their efforts will be rewarded. Have a great fall.

### **End of the Trail**

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



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



## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## EVENTS

**November 2: Larned, KS.** Wet/Dry Chapter. Ron Parks, *Kanza Indians*.

**November 8: Bent's Fort Chapter, CO.** Bob Silva discussing his book, *Lead in Trinidad*.

**November 8: Elkhart, KS.** Cimarron Cutoff Chapter. Shirley Coupal: History of DAR marking project, plus period meal.

**November 8: Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, CO.** Native American Heritage Day highlights the stories of the Plains Tribes. Evening program: "The Night the Stars Fell" in 1833. [www.nps.gov/beol](http://www.nps.gov/beol) 719-383-5026.

**November 20: Goessel, KS.** Cottonwood Crossing Chapter.

**November 20: Las Vegas, NM.** Glimpses of the Past Series, monthly presentations about the Southwest. 7:00 p.m. at Las Vegas Citizen's Committee for Historic Preservation, 116 Bridge Street. Contact Fort Union at 505-425-8025 for the complete presentation list. Free.

**December 4: Council Grove, KS.** Kaw Mission State Historic Site holiday

open house.

**December 5-6: Bent's Old Fort, La Junta, CO.** Holiday Celebration. Festivities include evening candlelight tours. For reservations for the evening tour, phone 719-383-5026.

**December 13: Bent's Fort Chapter, CO.** 2015 Planning Meeting

**December 13: Larned, KS.** Christmas open house at Fort Larned National Historic Site, 620-285-6911.

**December 16: Dodge City, KS.** Dodge City Chapter Christmas party.

**December 18: Las Vegas, NM.** Glimpses of the Past Series, monthly presentations about the Southwest. 7:00 p.m. at Las Vegas Citizen's Committee for Historic Preservation, 116 Bridge Street. Contact Fort Union at 505-425-8025 for the complete presentation list. Free.

**April 9-11, 2015: Salina, KS.** SFTA Board of Directors meeting and workshop

**April 15-18, 2015: Newton, KS.** OCTA Symposium on Santa Fe Trail, Chisholm Trail and Cherokee Trail.

**June 26-July 2, 2015: Nashville, TN.** PNTS conference (tentative dates)

**September 16, 2015: Santa Fe, NM.** SFTA Board of Directors meeting

**September 17-20, 2015: Santa Fe, NM.** 2015 conference with Old Spanish Trail and CARTA

**September 23-26, 2015: Bent's Old Fort NHS.** National Fur Trade Symposium. [www.2015fts.org](http://www.2015fts.org)

**September 18-20, 2016: Larned, KS.** 2016 Rendezvous

**September 28-30, 2017: Olathe, KS.** Symposium