

# Wagon Tracks

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Volume 28

Issue 1 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 28, Issue 1 (November 2013)

Article 1

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2014

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 28, Issue 1 (November, 2013)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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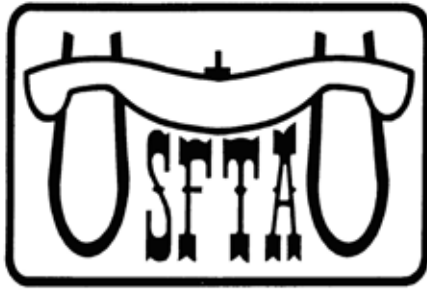
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### Recommended Citation

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# WAGON TRACKS

volume 28 • number 1

November 2013

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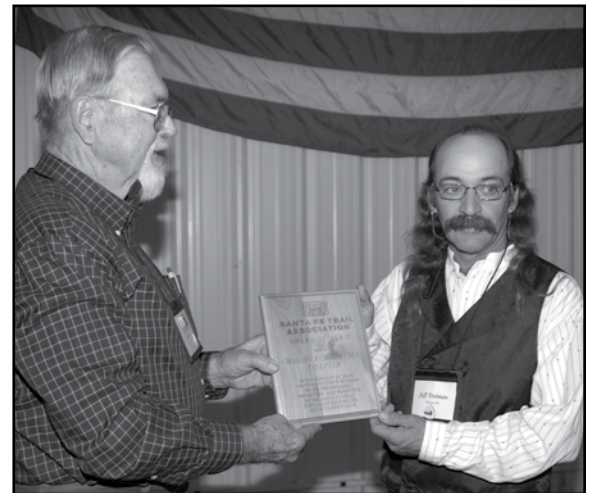
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## Awards Presented at Ulysses Symposium

"Surviving the Plains" at the Symposium in Ulysses this September was easy with Jeff Trotman's expert planning and leadership. The challenges Trail travelers faced were apparent in the terrain, and highlighted in the presentations.

At the awards dinner on Saturday, Jim Sherer and Roger Slusher were honored posthumously with lifetime service awards. Sandy Slusher was present to receive Roger's award; Nancy Sherer was attending the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame ceremony. See related story on page 4.



*Leo Oliva, awards committee chairman, presents an Award of Merit to Jeff Trotman, Symposium organizer.*

Other awards presented were:

**Awards of Merit:** **Hal Jackson**, publication of book, *Boone's Lick Road*; **William Unrau**, publication of book, *Indians, Alcohol, and the Roads to Taos and Santa Fe*; **Haskell County Historical Society**, museum exhibits and funding educational field trips for county schools; **Wagon Bed Spring Chapter**, hosting the 2013 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium

**Marc Simmons Writing Award:** **Noel Ary**, article "Life in Early Day Dodge City," in the November 2011 issue of *Wagon Tracks*

**Education Awards:** **Charla Adcock**, promoting education about the historic Santa Fe Trail and teaching westward expansion at St. George Elementary School in the Rock Creek School District of Kansas; **Nate McAlister**, promoting education about the historic Santa Fe Trail and teaching the westward movement at Royal Valley Middle School, Mayetta, Kansas

**Heritage Preservation Award:** **Joe Swanson Family**: preservation, protection and promotion of the Santa Fe Trail, especially trail remnants on their property in Rice County, Kansas

**Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award:** **Mary Jean Cook**, for lifetime achievement in the preservation, protection and promotion of the Santa Fe Trail, especially many Trail publications (books and articles).

**Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award:** **Rod Podszus**, service as board member and communications leadership ♦



**President**  
**LaDonna Hutton**

## President's Message

We "Survived the Plains" and did we ever! What a wonderful experience we all had in Ulysses. Jeff Trotman and Shelley and their helpers were wonderful hosts. Thanks to the Wagon Bed Spring Chapter for their many hours of work to host the Symposium. It was well-organized, the food great, the talks informative, and the weather perfect. It was truly a weekend of laughing, listening, looking, and learning.

On a personal note, I too survived the weekend as the SFTA President. Don't know about you all, but I truly felt Roger's spirit with us. The SFTA Board of Directors meeting on Thursday was extremely productive. Excellent reports from Directors and Committee Chairmen as well as the National Park Service made the day informative and enjoyable. We will all be working toward our goals as stated in the SFTA Strategic Plan. As a

result of discussions, there will be lots of exciting work and communication before the board meets again in the spring.

It is my pleasure to welcome the new Santa Fe Trail Association Board members: Marcia Fox, Secretary, and Directors Linda Colle, Shirley Coupal, Faye Gaines, Larry Justice, Kevin Lindahl, Sara Jane Richter, Pat Palmer, and Mike Rogers. We appreciate your willingness to serve our association and look forward to your input and working with you on Santa Fe Trail Association business. On a similar note, I want to thank the outgoing board directors for their hard work and dedication to the Santa Fe Trail Association: Clint Chambers, John Atkinson, Tom Pelikan, Bonita Oliva, and Mike Dickey. I feel certain we will be working with you in other capacities and seeing you all along the Trail.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to promote the Santa Fe Trail Association at several events:

September 6 – A Smithsonian Institution and Colorado Humanities Show in Trinidad, Colorado. Trinidad was one of only six cities in the nation selected for this fine exhibit. I, along with several members of the Bent's Fort Chapter, staffed a SFTA information table at the event. Many visitors stopped by our booth and I feel certain there will be several new members as a result.

September 14 – Save the Southwest Chief meeting in Pueblo, Colorado. The National Association of Railroad Passengers and the Colorado Rail Passenger Association hosted this important and informative meeting at the Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center in Pueblo. We heard from Amtrak executives, legislators, city council people, county commissioners and many dignitaries on this issue. The loss of Amtrak along our Santa Fe Trail would be a major blow to communities in Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. This was a standing-room only meeting and the consensus in the room was that every effort will be made to save our "Trail" Train, the Southwest Chief.

September 21 – Pedal The Plains Event in Southeastern Colorado. Again, several of the Bent's Fort Chapter members and I had the opportunity to promote the SFTA at Bent's Old Fort, a rest stop along the route. With over 700 bicyclists visiting the site, you can imagine how much literature and information we distributed from our exhibit. Of course, the bicyclists loved the Santa Fe Trail maps we gave them.

In addition, I continue to represent the Santa Fe Trail Association on the Bent's Fort and the Southern Fur Trade Symposium planning committee. Under the leadership of John Carson, this event is taking shape and will be a fantastic experience. Save the dates: September 23-26, 2015, conveniently planned so you can catch this event immediately following the SFTA Symposium in Santa Fe, NM, September 17 – 20, 2015.

It is my pleasure to serve as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association and continually promote the Santa Fe Trail at these wonderful events. Hope to see you along the Trail soon. ♦

## SFTA Board of Directors

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## Joanne's Jottings

by Joanne VanCoevern, Association Manager

### National Park Service Shutdown [NPS is now operating again, but this shows the impact of the government shutdown.]

Many of you may be asking, "How is the National Park Service shutdown affecting the Santa Fe Trail Association?" The Santa Fe Trail Association entered into a new Cooperative Agreement with the National Park Service earlier this year. That Cooperative Agreement is in effect from 2013 to 2018 and is **not** affected by this government shutdown. Nor is the yearly funding task agreement for Fiscal Year 2014. Those funds are in place and SFTA can still plan on continuing with the projects, such as geocaching, education, website development, and the signage placement program. However, even though that funding is there and can be used by SFTA for our projects, we will have to wait until the government decides to let NPS get back to work to get reimbursement for some categories. With NPS employees furloughed, manpower to verify our reimbursement request is not available.

As you may have noticed, NPS websites have been taken down, so the Santa Fe National Historic Trail site at [www.nps.gov/safe](http://www.nps.gov/safe) will only give you the following message: *Because of the federal government shutdown, all national parks are closed and National Park Service webpages are not operating. For more information, go to [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov).* With this website off-line – there is no access to the Junior Wagon Master program that SFTA's education created. Neither is there any access to our four partner NPS sites – Fort Larned, Bent's Old Fort, Fort Union and Pecos National Historic Park – nor access to their websites or their planned events.

The cancellation of these events is having a big impact on these sites. For example, Fort Larned had to cancel the very popular candlelight tour and Bent's Old Fort had to cancel their Fur Trader's Encampment, also a very, very popular event. These cancellations affect their total visitation counts and their revenue, and cause a loss of revenue to the communities in which they are located. Perhaps the biggest negative impact of the government shutdown being felt by SFTA comes from the furlough of all NPS employees at the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Inter-Mountain Region office in Santa Fe. Without our partner staff in Santa Fe, all projects that SFTA and the NPS are working on together have come to a screeching halt.

These projects include all interpretive wayside projects, such as the new kiosk being installed at the McPherson Museum; all signage plans, requests for quotes for signs, and planning for new sign plans is delayed; the Jr. Wagon Master program is not available on-line and requests for patches for fulfillment of the program cannot be answered; work on the Santa Fe Trail media tour has been delayed; questions about historical research directed to the NPS cannot be answered; preservation concerns cannot be discussed; planning for cooperative events, such as the planned Dedication at Bent's New Fort, cannot have involvement from NPS staff; NPS staff cannot travel to scheduled events, such as meetings, conferences and workshops; and all work on any other cooperative projects will be put on hold until the NPS staff can come back to work.

So, YES, the government shutdown is definitely affecting SFTA and our ability to work on projects funded by our fiscal year 2014 funding task agreement. However, your SFTA staff, the Board of Directors, chapters, and members are still proceeding with our projects, holding meetings, and continuing with our goals to preserve, protect and promote the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Your Association is still actively working on the geocache project, trying to increase membership, and providing great programs at the chapter level, as well as many other projects.

### Geocache "Santa Fe National Historic Trail Geo Tour" Progress

To date, 95 percent of the geocache boxes have been placed along the Santa Fe Trail. When completed, there will be 70 caches, each with its own GPS coordinates and geocaching.com identifying number. The geocaching task force is putting the finishing touches on the passport program to accompany the Geo Tour; prizes have been ordered and received for completion of the passport; a new website page is being designed for geocaching on the SFTA website; a webpage is being designed for the geocaching.com site for the SFNHT geo tour; and data is being entered onto geocaching.com for each of the 70 caches that will include historical information and photos for each site. At this time, we are hoping for a launch date in November, 2013. An e-mail blast will be sent to all members to alert you of details as we get closer to the launch date. ♦

WAGON TRACKS (ISSN 1547-7703) is the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. Letters and articles are welcome. 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. Submissions may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. Complete submission guidelines are at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org). Annual subscriptions are obtained through membership in SFTA.

#### Membership Categories

Life:\$1,000 Patron:\$100/year Business:\$50/year Nonprofit:\$40/year Family:\$30/year Individual:\$25/year Youth,18 & under:\$15/year Dues are per calendar year. Make checks payable to the Santa Fe Trail Association, send to treasurer.

**Visit us on the web at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org)**

## SFTA Board Election Results Announced

The results of the 2013 election were announced at the Board of Directors meeting and the general membership meeting in September in Ulysses, KS.

Elected are:

President, Roger Slusher

Vice-President, LaDonna Hutton

Secretary, Marcia Fox

Treasurer, Ruth Olson Peters

Directors: Linda Colle, Shirley Coupal, Faye Gaines, Larry

Justice, Kevin Lindahl, Sara Jane Richter and Mike Rogers.

Due to the untimely demise of Roger Slusher, LaDonna Hutton has moved from Vice-President to President. The office of Vice-President was filled, per the bylaws, by the Board with the selection of Mike Olsen. Pat Palmer, also per the bylaws, was elected by the Board to fill the director vacancy left by the resignation of Allen Wheeler. All directors now serve in at-large positions. The complete list of board members is listed on page 2.

## SFTA Bylaw Amendment Passed

At the general membership meeting held Ulysses, KS on September 28, 2013, the following bylaw amendment was passed:

*1. The Association Manager, hereinafter referred to as the Manager, is the principal employee of the Board of Directors. The Board shall appoint the Manager and determine the contractual arrangements for that position.*

*2. The Manager shall transact much of the business of the Association in the name of the Board. The Manager shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board and all standing committees without the right to vote.*

*3. The Board shall conduct an annual review of the Manager.*

## Trinidad Museum Has Winter Hours

The Trinidad History Museum, located at 312 East Main Street, Trinidad, CO, has announced its winter schedule, effective for October 1, 2013-April 30, 2014.

The gift shop, book store, Davenport Gallery and the tourist information center will be open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be open on Saturdays December 7, 14 and 21. The history and garden walk are free self-guided outdoor tours Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Maps are at the side street iron gates and gift shop front door. The Baca House and Santa Fe Trail Museum may be available by appointment for groups of six or more people. The Bloom Mansion is closed for restoration. Everything will be closed on Sundays, major holidays, November 28-30, and December 24-January 5. Call 719.846.7217 or visit [www.trinidadhistorymuseum.org](http://www.trinidadhistorymuseum.org) for information. Schedule is subject to change.



## Sherer Inducted into Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame

Jim Sherer, Santa Fe Trail scholar and advocate, was posthumously inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame in Dodge City on September 28, 2013. A resident of Dodge City, KS, he was honored in the Cowboy Historian category.

His wife Nancy received the award on his behalf.

He was one of six legendary Kansas cowboys who were honored for their contributions to the western life style. Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame inductees are selected by committee in five different categories: Working Cowboy, Cowboy Historian, Cowboy Entertainer/Artist, Rodeo Cowboy and Cattleman/Rancher. Each inductee has contributed significantly to the western heritage lifestyle and preservation of the cowboy culture in Kansas. They personify cowboy ideals of integrity, honesty and self-sufficiency. They have state-wide historic significance and are a native or current resident of Kansas.

## Gold Rush Book by Olsen Available

SFTA member Dr. Mike Olsen recently completed a book-length study for the National Park Service entitled *That Broad and Beckoning Highway: The Santa Fe Trail and the Rush for Gold in California and Colorado*. It is available as an Ebook on the website for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail at <http://www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/trailwide.htm>. Or, enter "Santa Fe Trail Gold Rush Study" into a search engine such as Google, to find the book.

## Dodge City Section of NPS Mobile Tour Completed

The National Park Service in conjunction with the Santa Fe Trail Association is creating a mobile tour of the Santa Fe Trail. The first segment, the Dodge City area, is complete and available for use. Access the tour online at [www.oncell.mobi](http://www.oncell.mobi) or download an app for iPhone or Android smart devices from the site. A number of national parks are listed on the website, so scroll down till you find the Santa Fe Trail listed. View audio, video and photos for each Trail location near Dodge City. The tour can also be accessed via a phone call to 505-428-6429, with information available by entering a stop number.

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



## Trail Preservation Efforts Continue

by Faye Gaines, Preservation Committee Chair

I am sure most of you are tired of hearing about the Watrous tower. Now we are done! A document was discovered that proved Plateau Cell of Clovis, N.M. had filed, had a hearing and was approved in 2002, SHPO (State Historic Preservation) had also signed off, so that ended the litigation. However, Plateau said we had spent time on all this confusion and offered the Association \$2,000, which I accepted. This was done on a telephone conference call, which included Joanne.

More confusion came with the trail crossing near La Junta, Colorado. I met with the Front Range Pipeline Company because there was some concern that they had not strictly followed Section 106. They agreed to a meeting the next week so they could trench at the approximate location of the trail, to see if it could be found. Present were archeologists from our Association (Richard Carrillo), and the Park Service and Forest Service. A swale that had filled with sand was discovered; we believed we had located the Trail. This was a great experience for me. The trench was then covered.

Front Range Pipeline was also crossing Trail ruts north of Boise City, Oklahoma. Jeff Trotman, our mapper, and Morse Alexander, a knowledgeable Trail Nut and member of Santa Fe Trail Association, met on the side. An older pipeline had gone through and destroyed part of the Trail. There was about half of it left. Front Range agreed to bore underneath. A report from Morse says, "The pipeline crossing in Cimarron County, Oklahoma was done properly. Hardly can tell where they went."

The efforts of the Dodge City Chapter to save Point of Rocks continue to be a hard fight. They are doing all they can, and I say, "We've got your back. Keep us posted on how we can help."

Piñon Canyon efforts are ongoing. They wanted our support to enlarge a storage area. I did some inquiring and was told a judge had ruled there could be no enlargement of anything existing so felt this should be our stand. I am sure it is not that simple.....we will wait. Vigilance will save the Trail. ♦

## Simmons Presents Marian Sloan Russell

Dr. Marc Simmons, noted New Mexico and Santa Fe Trail historian, presented a series of three lectures on "Three Exceptional New Mexicans" in September and October at the Cowboy Church of Santa Fe County, New Mexico. The lectures featured Marian Sloan Russell, Juan de Oñate and Charles F. Lummis. Recordings of the lectures can be heard at [www.cowboychurchofsantafe.org](http://www.cowboychurchofsantafe.org) by clicking on "archives".

Mark your calendars for Rendezvous 2014  
September 18-20, in Larned, Kansas

## Save the Dodge City Point of Rocks

by Bill Bunyan

The Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter is trying to save as much as possible of the Point of Rocks located just west of Dodge City. The Kansas Department of Transportation is planning a four lane highway from Dodge City to Cimarron and if they take the maximum as planned, the Point of Rocks would be destroyed. Our chapter is asking for them to take the minimum needed for a four lane and possibly put a wall alongside the Point so the maximum ground could be preserved, as well as the Dodge City sign on top of the Point. The Point and sign serve as the west gateway to Dodge.

You can help by writing letters to Steve Rockers, Road Design Leader, Kansas Department of Transportation, Eisenhower State Office Building, 700 S.W. Harrison Street, 13th floor, Topeka, Kansas 66603, or Governor Sam Brownback, State Capital Building, Topeka, Kansas, 66603, in support of our efforts to preserve as much as possible of this important spot on the Santa Fe Trail, as well as the Great Western Cattle Trail and the Cherokee Trail. Gary Kraisinger of the Great Western Cattle Trail Association has developed a model of how to save much of the Point of Rocks. ♦

## Partnership for the National Trails System

by Ross Marshall, SFTA Representative to PNTS

### PNTS 14th Long Distance Trails Conference:

Scheduled for November 2-6 in Tucson, AZ, this conference's theme is "*Weaving the tapestry of America's cultures, histories and landscapes,*" which will embrace and interpret the three PNTS Decade Goals. It will involve mobile workshops, plenary sessions and individual tracks entitled "*Outreach,*" "*Trail Protection and Completion*" and "*Organizational Capacity.*" Registration information is on the [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org) website for what should be an outstanding National Trails System event.

**Hike the Hill:** Planning is already in progress for the Partnership's annual Hike the Hill week February 8-14.

**Volunteer manhours and expenses reports:** As usual, Congress is very impressed with the Partnership's totals of volunteer manhours and dollar contributions (the Gold Sheet) by National Trails System organizations.

Our SFTA totals for 2012 were \$1,704,000, which is quite impressive. The totals for the entire National Trails System were \$39,300,000 for 2012 and for the last 17 years has totaled over \$358,000,000. No wonder Congress is impressed. **Please note that these are not the same totals that we have been collected for NPS a couple of months ago.**

We appreciate very much every chapter, committee chair and board member turning in their volunteer totals this past January. **Please plan to accumulate these totals for 2013.** ♦

## 85 New Trail Signs Placed

by Joanne VanCoevern

The Santa Fe Trail Association, through our cooperative agreement and funding task agreement with the National Park Service, continues to place Santa Fe National Historic Trail signage along the Trail. During 2013, the following signs were ordered:

- 60 signs, LaFayette and Saline Counties, MO
- 14 signs, Santa Fe County, NM
- 20 signs, City of Santa Fe, NM
- 20 signs, NRA Whittington Center near Raton, NM
- 25 signs, Las Animas County, CO and
- 12 signs to direct visitors from Ft. Larned NHS to the detached rut site

Directional arrow signs were also ordered for these areas.

National Historic Trail Site ID signs have been ordered for:

- Kearney County Museum
- Charlie's Ruts
- Indian Mound
- French Frank's
- Ralph's Ruts
- Kern's Ruts
- Black Jack Park Ruts
- Las Vegas Interpretive Center
- Herzstein Museum
- MRO Chapter area
- City of Council Grove

2013 has also been a very busy year in placing interpretive wayside exhibits along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. All ten interpretive waysides in Council Grove, a wayside at New Santa Fe, a wayside in Minor Park, as well as three waysides at the Dodge City rut site were replaced due to their deteriorating condition.

Wayside signage has been placed or will soon be placed at:

- Kaw Mission in Council Grove (1)
- Dodge City Chapter area (2)
- Fort Marcy, Santa Fe, NM (4)
- Bent's New Fort, (5) through a Challenge Cost Share grant NRA
- Whittington Center, near Raton, NM, (2), funded by a donation from Plateau Communications as part of a mitigation settlement for a cell tower placed near the Santa Fe Trail.

Also scheduled to be completed by the end of the year are three new kiosk panels, located at the newly constructed McPherson Museum. That is a total of 32 new wayside exhibits placed along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail this year. Add that to the 23 waysides placed in 2012, as well as the 20 Kiosks panels, and that brings the total of new interpretive wayside exhibits to 75. With the addition of ten new kiosk exhibits throughout New Mexico placed by the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway of New Mexico, the total is 85 new interpretive exhibits along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail – pretty impressive! ♦

## NM Wayside Exhibit Project Completed

by Dennis Ditmanson

Travelers along the Santa Fe Trail National Scenic Byway can now gain Trail information from 15 newly installed exhibit panels in 11 locations in Northeast New Mexico. Installation of the panels marked the close of a multi-year project, funded through the New Mexico Department of Transportation, which included an informational brochure that will be available in information centers along the route. The exhibits can be found at the Santa Fe Visitor Information Center, the church in San Miguel del Vado, Kearny's Gap, the railroad station in Las Vegas, near the Watrous House in Watrous, Wagon Mound, Springer, at the Point of Rocks turnoff from Highway 56, near Grenville, on the east side of Clayton, and at the New Mexico Visitor Center in Raton.



Byways activists, pictured from left to right: Alexandra Connor, Tidewaters Graphics, Carol Ditmanson, Grant Administrator, Faye Gaines, Byway Alliance President, Martha McCaffrey, CCHP

Working closely with the Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation (CCHP), the Alliance also erected Byway route signs throughout Northeast New Mexico, updated a Byway website, and completed a revision of the Byway Corridor Management Plan. Alliance President Faye Gaines expressed appreciation to CCHP for acting as the fiscal agent for these projects; to the New Mexico Department of Transportation; to DOT Region 4 personnel in particular for their ongoing support; and to Alexandra Connor of Tidewater Graphics for going "above and beyond" in the development of the exhibits. "Without the dedicated support of many individuals and agencies," Gaines added, "these projects simply wouldn't have happened." ♦



Two types of site id signs



## Plan to Rob Wethered and Brevort Foiled by Carson

*The (Liberty, Mo.) Weekly Tribune*

November 8, 1850

From the *Independence Messenger*

### From the Plains

We had the privilege on Wednesday of greeting once more our friends, Samuel Wethered, of Baltimore, an old trader, and Newton Williams, of Boonville, on their return from Santa Fe.

From them we learn that a plan was laid to rob them of their means, which, fortunately was stopped in good time and one of the marauding parties arrested. Below we give Mr. Wethered and party's statement and expression of regard for Kit Carson's conduct towards them:

Mr. Editor: The undersigned desire through your paper to call attention to a noble and disinterested act of benevolence on the part of the old Mountaineer "Kit Carson," which entitles him to a much higher place in the mind of the public than he has already attained. Our party left Santa Fe in the beginning of the present month with a train of wagons under the charge of Mr. E.P. Horner, intending to accompany them pretty nearly to the States. At Cotton Wood, about 200 miles from Santa Fe, we were surprised at 11 o'clock at night of 12th inst., by the arrival of Kit Carson in command of 12 dragoons and Capt. Ewell

and Lieut. Johnson in command of 28 men. Mr. C. stated that he came to arrest a man by the name of Fox (who was asleep). Fox, when awakened, gave himself up, saying that it was well that Mr. C. had as many men as he had. Mr. C. then stated that a man living at the Riado had made a disclosure to the effect that Fox had endeavored to persuade him to join the train in order to rob Mr. Wethered and Elias Brevort. He told him that Mr. Wethered was taking a large amount of money to the States, and Mr. Brevort \$3000 in silver. Mr. Brevort had received at the Riado \$3000 for some wagons and oxen. Fox said that a number of men were engaged with him and that their plan was to raise an Indian alarm, kill Mr. Wethered, Williams, Brevort and an Indian in Brevort's employ, then secure the money. As soon as this disclosure was made Mr. Carson asked the officer at the Riado for an escort and travelled a distance of 150 miles in 28 hours in order to apprise us of our danger, fearing Fox had already accomplished his purpose. It seems Fox knew that Mr. Wethered had received a considerable amount of gold in Santa Fe and had purchased provisions for four men and had engaged Mr. Brevort to haul them. Fox followed the wagons to the Riado, knew the receipt of \$3000 by Brevort, left Riado saying that he was going to Taos, turned off the road, hired a guide and joined us at Red River. It is supposed the plan was concocted in Santa Fe. Mr. C. remained with us until the next morning and offered to escort us back to the settlements, but we concluded to go on in advance of the train - which we did with 12 men and without molestation. Remuneration was offered to Mr. Carson, who at once remarked that "his heart was not like some men's and that he knew how to feel for others in danger." This act of kindness reflects greatly to the credit of Mr. C., for we were entire strangers to him with the exception of Mr. W., and to him we wish to tender our thanks and assure that we will always feel under great obligations to him. We hope the public may appreciate his worth and the greatness of soul he has always manifested.

Murray J. Tuley,  
S. Wethered,  
Edward B. Horner,  
Elias Brevort,  
Geo. W. Martin,  
Newton Williams,  
Oct. 30, 1850

*Contributed by Gary Lenderman*



## 2012 SFTA Hall of Fame Inductee

### Stephen Watts Kearny

Stephen Watts Kearny joined the Army during the War of 1812 and rose to the rank of captain in 1813. After the war, he was sent to the West and took part in several exploring expeditions. In 1826 he was put in command of Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis and soon reached the rank of major. When the First Dragoons were organized in 1833, he was made lieutenant colonel, and in 1836 he was put in command of the regiment with the rank of colonel. He also served as commander of the Third Military Department headquartered at Ft. Leavenworth and directed several military expeditions that served along the Santa Fe Trail. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1846 and led the Army of the West over the Trail to occupy New Mexico and help take California. 516 pack saddles, 1,556 wagons, 3,658 mules, and 14,904 oxen supported his expedition. Before leaving for California, Kearny established a government for New Mexico, leaving Governor Charles Bent in charge. Gen. Kearny is considered by many to be the most significant U. S. soldier to serve on the Santa Fe Trail.



# An Estranjero's Proposal, 1832

by Robert J. Tórréz

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One of the fascinating elements of New Mexico's Mexican period (1821-1846) regards the activities of the *estranjeros*, (the term can be translated as "strangers" but the proper usage here is "foreigners") that came to New Mexico to trade along the Santa Fe Trail and who often took up long-term or permanent residence. While many of these foreigners became prominent in local and territorial affairs, local residents and officials were often puzzled and dismayed by their aggressive nature and found it necessary to develop laws and practices to deal with these foreigner's demands and expectations.

One such situation developed in 1832 when George Pratt, a United States citizen residing in Santa Fe, submitted a proposal to the territorial *diputación*, or council, asking for a thirty year concession of land sufficient to establish a saw mill (*un molino de rajar tablasón*) and a tannery near Santa Fe at the site known as "corral viejo (old corral)." If he was granted the concession, Pratt proposed to return the land to the municipality, along with any improvements, at the end of thirty years. Following standard procedure, the council referred the request to the *ayuntamiento*, or municipal council, of Santa Fe, which would have had jurisdiction over the site in question.<sup>1</sup>

The extant archives do not indicate what, if any action the *ayuntamiento* took, but the proposal was apparently referred back to the *diputación* for further review. The council considered Pratt's proposal at its 16 July 1832 session. It seems, however, that the request led the legislative body to discuss the troubling fact that a number of foreigners were already illegally utilizing the water, timber, and other resources in the mountains around Santa Fe. The proposal developed by Juan Rafael Ortiz concluded that the activities of these foreigners were detrimental to Mexican citizen's use of the community's *ejidos*, the common lands and pastures, and should be forced to shut down or at least charged a fee for such use.

On 18 July 1832, a committee consisting of Antonio Sandoval, Padre Antonio José Martínez, and Julian Tenorio submitted the following recommendations to the council:<sup>2</sup>

Most Excellent Sir:

The commission charged by your Excellency regarding the exposition of Mr. [Juan Rafael] Ortiz for the imposition of fees (or taxes) on the manufacture of *aguardiente* (whiskey or hard liquor) and lumber mills returns the following reflections:

It is clear and evident that in the practice (or exercise) of the said manufactures of whiskey, the foreigners who have these, consume community (or common) resources to a greater extent than citizens utilize for their use. For example, a house that consumes wood, at the most, suffices with

three of four carts each month. A still that manufactures whiskey consumes 12 - 15. Considering the benefits of what they produce from a *fanega*<sup>3</sup> of grain that gives 32 - 40 *quartillos* of whiskey, and this computes, if sold at 3 *reales*, to 12 -15 pesos per *fanega*, which at the time of harvest, costs them 1 or 2 pesos at most, and this paid in products at twice the price they are traded. They then collect this money (cash) for their whiskey, which hinders further business (or trade) that our citizens could have with this resource.

As well, the lumber mills can be looked at in almost the same terms because in certain ways these prejudice the citizens that have this occupation for their livelihood.<sup>4</sup> Finally, it must be considered, that even if the stated advantages were not so in the two types of industry noted, some fee should be imposed because they are foreigners that benefit from our resources, such as is regularly done by law in the states of our Republic.

As such, the commission rules (decides) that such duties (taxes) should be extended to all the manufacture of whiskey and lumber mills in all the territory under the following articles, subject to the deliberation of your Excellence:

That each manufacturer of whiskey pay 3 pesos / month;

That foreigners that cut lumber (split boards) pay 2 pesos/month for each saw they operate;

That the collection and accounting of these fees be assigned to a person of confidence chosen by the respective *ayuntamiento*, to whom will be granted 10% of what he collects in the district where such establishments exist;

That what is collected from these in the capital pertain to the *fondo de veneficencia* (benevolent fund) and what is collected in Taos, where there are such establishments, and in other districts where they may be placed, it is destined for the municipal funds of the same;

That the charges be effective from now provisionally while it is passed in due form to the Supreme Government for approval or denial;

That this said exposition and the recommendation of this commission be submitted to the Supreme Government for the purposes of the previous article;

And lastly, a copy of the above be forwarded by his Excellency's secretary to the political chief (*gefe político*) so he can carry them out as per article five.

I have not seen a record that shows whether these specific recommendations were approved or if Pratt's proposal was accepted at this time. Since the council had no authority to impose taxes or legislate in any meaningful manner, it is likely the proposal was forwarded to higher authority in Mexico to

await their determination. A form of approval may have come at some point because by 1836, the municipal regulations issued by the Santa Fe's *ayuntamiento* (municipal council) include license fees for foreigners who wanted to cut timber around the city. Article four of the regulations specifies:

Every foreigner that seeks to cut lumber in the hills around the district and within the limits of this jurisdiction for the construction of factories or other industries shall request beforehand a permit from one of the 3 constitutional *alcaldes* and pay for said license 5 ps. And said license to be valid for 1 month and they shall pay an equal amount when they seek revalidation for a new cutting.<sup>5</sup>

It seems that officials in New Mexico had begun to realize that the activities of foreigners were impacting their environment and the economic livelihood of its citizens. While they felt it was necessary to do something about it, it may have already been too late.

### Endnotes

1. 26 April 1832 session of the diputación, *Calendar of the Microfilm Edition of the Mexican Archives of New Mexico, 1821-1846* State of New Mexico Records Center (Santa Fe, 1970). Legislative Records, 1822-1846. Microfilm roll 42, frame 551. Hereafter cited as MANM.

2. Report of Diputación Territorial, 18 July 1832. MANM: Legislative, 1832: April 25- August 21, 1832, Diputación Territorial, proceedings. Microfilm Roll 14, frame 956. Translation by the author. Parenthesis are used to denote words that may have more than one meaning in English.

3. In practice, the *fanega* was a colonial measure of approximately two and one-half bushels. In 1852, the New Mexico Territorial Legislature set the standard fanega at 2.3030 bushels, or 2.866 cubic feet. "An Act for the Adoption and Establishment of Standard Weights and Measures," *Laws of the Territory of New Mexico, 1851-1852*.

4. The wording here has a double meaning, indicating this activity competes with citizens who produce lumber and reduces availability of trees used by wood cutters for firewood.

5. "Plan de Arbitrios that the constitutional ayuntamiento of Santa Fe has developed and sanctioned for the internal management of the capital district and its departments, 9 June 1836." MANM: 1836 Legislative: February 16 –August 12, 1836, Ayuntamiento proceedings, jurisdiction of Santa Fe. Microfilm Roll 21, frame 844. Translation by the author. ♦

*Robert J. Tórrez served as the New Mexico State Historian from 1987-2000 and is a former president of the Historical Society of New Mexico.*



*Leon Ellis studies 1939 aerial photos of Santa Fe Trail ruts at the Haskell County Museum.*



*Celebrating a history teacher who loves the Trail are Karla French, Marcia Fox, Nate McAlister who teaches in Mayetta, KS, Janet Armstead, and Chris Day.*

### Symposium 2013

*Sandy Slusher accepted a lifetime achievement award on behalf of her husband Roger, and (below) Hal Jackson receives an Award of Merit for his book Boone's Lick Road from Leo Oliva, awards committee chair.*



*Ruts at Bear Creek Pass*



# Surviving Disease on the Plains

by **Clint Chambers**

presented at the 2013 Symposium in Ulysses, KS

In 1859 US Army Captain Randolph B. Marcy authors *The Prairie Traveler, A handbook for overland expeditions*. First published in 1859 by the authority of the War Department, it includes maps and illustrations and itineraries of the principle routes between the Mississippi and the Pacific.

Captain Marcy describes various routes to the West, the organization of companies, wagons and teams, stores and provisions, clothing, arms, marching, water, the selection of camps and sanitary considerations.

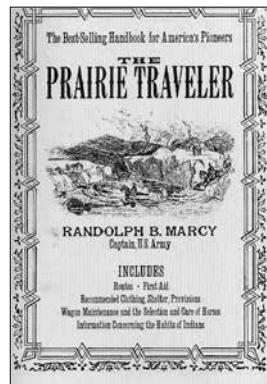
The military experience is that “Camp Disease” most abounds near the muddy banks of large rivers, swamps and ponds, and on ground recently stripped of wood. The streams of the great prairies have sparse growth of wood and vegetation on the banks, and this precludes the generation of malaria (bad air). Malaria fever and cholera are considered “camp diseases.” The crowding of 10-12 men in a tent with poor ventilation promotes the development of these diseases.<sup>1</sup>

All who travel for any considerable time through a country where they cannot procure fresh vegetables or transport desiccated or canned vegetables might develop scurvy. Citric acid is very portable and can be mixed with sugar, water and essence of lemon to make lemonade, which prevents scurvy.<sup>2</sup>

The problem that both physicians and travelers encounter in the nineteenth century is that only the names for the diseases with their signs and symptoms are known. If the etiology or cause of disease remains unknown then only the symptoms are treated. Malaria, typhoid fever, dysentery and diarrhea, smallpox, measles, Asiatic cholera, and scurvy are all threats to travelers on the cross country trails.

Early theories of disease and treatments by the physicians often adversely affect their patients. In “heroic” or allopathic medicine, health is governed by the Four Humors Doctrine of the ancient Greeks; i.e. blood, phlegm (mucous), yellow bile and black bile. If the humors are in balance then you are healthy. If the humors are not in balance sickness results and body fluids must be removed to return the system to balance. This is accomplished by emetics to produce vomiting, cathartics to empty the digestive tract, blistering agents then lancing, sweating and bleeding. All of these methods of treatment could do more harm than good.

In the early nineteenth century, most infectious diseases are



considered miasmatic disease: disease produced by the accumulation of bad-smelling, decaying animal or vegetable matter which poisons the atmosphere. Specific agents causing infection are unknown as are the concepts of transmission of infection through water or contamination of food through handling. The knowledge of the role of intermediate hosts such as mosquitoes, fleas, and lice is still in the future. A few diseases are known to be contagious and spread directly from person to person on contact: smallpox, measles and syphilis.

Before the Civil War, medical practice is in the “dark ages.” After the Civil War, practice improves and progress is made. The discovery of bacteria as the cause of infectious disease in the 1880s revolutionizes public health. Antisepsis and the development of anesthetic agents make surgery safer.<sup>3</sup>

## MALARIA

The only specific remedy known to treat malaria is Peruvian bark and its derivative quinine. The symptoms of malaria are described in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*: “He had a fever when he was in Spain and when the fit was on him I did mark how he did shake.” Malaria treatment is discovered by Jesuit priests in the 1630s in the bark of the cinchona tree growing in the foothills of the Andes in Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia. Later cinchona tree plantations are established by the British in India and by the Dutch in Indonesia. In France, Pelletier and Caventou isolate quinine from Peruvian bark in 1820.<sup>4</sup>



In the American West, Dr. John Sappington of Saline County, Missouri near Arrow Rock on the Santa Fe Trail uses quinine to treat malaria and develops “Dr. Sappington’s Anti-fever Pills” in 1832. Dr. Sappington believes that quinine is specific for malaria fevers and should

be administered with the onset of the disease. In addition, he opposes the practice of bleeding and purging. Doctor Sappington made travel safer on the Santa Fe Trail by making available his anti-fever pills containing one grain of quinine, three-fourths of a grain of licorice and one-fourth grain of myrrh, with some oil of sassafras for flavoring, at nominal prices.<sup>5</sup>

Susan Shelby Magoffin wrote in her diary on November 17, 1846 at San Gabriel: “For the past three weeks I have been sick with fever... Doctor. Simpson ... came to my relief ... the chief cure was Doctor Sappington’s Pills.... One box cured me or at least broke the fever.”<sup>6</sup>

Many civilians and troops carry quinine on the trail knowing that it could cure malaria.<sup>7</sup>

## TYPHOID FEVER

Typhoid fever is one of the nineteenth century's worst killers. Though it is abated somewhat with sanitation measures, it still remains a significant public health problem. Only in the twentieth century did we learn that the typhoid bacteria can be transferred by an asymptomatic healthy carrier working as a food handler.<sup>8</sup>

Typhoid is a common affliction of those who travel overland trails. The disease usually results from drinking contaminated water. Travelers are forced to get drinking water where they find it. They usually camp around a spring. The springs and water holes are often in low spots and allow human waste to drain into them. For those with typhoid fever there is no curative medicine. Patients are placed in wagons and recover or die depending on the strength of their immune system.<sup>9</sup>

Children and young people are especially susceptible. A tragic typhoid fever death occurs at Fort Concho, Texas, in September, 1878 with the death of 13-year-old Edith Grierson, the only daughter of Colonel Benjamin Grierson, commander of the Tenth Cavalry.<sup>10</sup>

Dysentery and diarrhea are now labeled as bacillary or amoebic according to the causative agent. In the prebacterial era the terms applied to diarrhea are severe, persistent, or resistant to therapy.

During the Mexican War, The First Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry marches over the Santa Fe Trail via the Cimarron route to New Mexico. In the quarterly report dated December 31, 1847, Doctor Thomas B. Lester reports that in the unit of 420 troops stationed in Santa Fe there are ten cases of acute dysentery and seven cases of chronic dysentery. Two troopers with acute dysentery and one with chronic dysentery die.<sup>11</sup>

## SMALLPOX

Smallpox is an epidemic viral disease. From 1775 to 1782 smallpox ravages the greater part of North America, spreading from Mexico north to Canada and from the east coast to the west coast. It finds new hosts, multiplies rapidly and travels vast distance. More than 100,000 die and survivors are left scared and disfigured. Smallpox's relationship to man is both parasitic and paradoxical. Its only host is mankind. Man survives to become immune or dies. In order to survive the virus must find new victims through immigration or childbirth.<sup>12</sup>

Smallpox is fatal to the American Indians and many Hispanics in New Mexico also contract smallpox. Vaccination (inoculation with cowpox) is discovered in 1796 by Edward Jenner and is highly effective in preventing smallpox. Introduced into

the United States at Boston in 1800, the vaccination becomes widely practiced. The United States Army during the Mexican War 1846-1848 is protected by vaccination. George Bent reports a smallpox epidemic at Bent's Fort in the early 1830s. Many Mexican masons working there die. Smallpox always represents a threat to the unvaccinated who travel the Santa Fe Trail to the New Mexico settlements.<sup>13</sup>

## MEASLES

Measles usually occurs in children. In an earlier era, people live in rural districts in widely separated homes. Many reach adulthood before contracting the disease. During the War with Mexico, measles occur in the troops at Fort Leavenworth in 1846-1847. There is a high incidence of mortality in adults in a usually nonfatal disease.

On May 5 1847, Lieutenant George Gibson visits Fort Marcy's cemetery in Santa Fe and is depressed and sadden to see 300 new graves of troops and teamsters. Measles is a disease that helps fill up the cemetery.<sup>14</sup>

## CHOLERA

Cholera epidemics occur in the United States in 1832, 1849 and 1866. Cholera is the classic epidemic disease of the nineteenth century just as plague is in the fourteenth century. It flourishes in the east coast cities, and then crosses the continent with the Forty-Niners. Before 1817, cholera epidemics occur only in the Far-East. During the nineteenth century, cholera spreads through almost the entire world. Cholera thrives in filth and where want exists. The symptoms of cholera include rice-water diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, dehydration, cyanosis, shock and then death. In 1883 the German Robert Kock isolates the organism causing cholera, *Vibrio cholerae*. In the human intestine the vibrios can produce acute disease. If untreated, the result is 50 percent mortality. Cholera, like typhoid, can spread via any pathway leading to the digestive tract. Unwashed hands and uncooked fruits and vegetables are responsible for transmission, but sewage-contaminated water causes the worst epidemics.<sup>15</sup>

A cholera epidemic occurs at Fort Riley, Kansas in the summer of 1855 where civilian construction crews are working. The post commander is Major Edmund A. Ogden and in charge of the hospital is Assistant Surgeon James Simons. Tragedy occurs on August the first when the epidemic's fatal diarrhea strikes Major Ogden, who dies on August the third. Everyone panics. Doctor Simons deserts the hospital and his patients, and flees east to the Saint Mary's mission with his family. A local civilian physician takes over until relief arrives from Fort Leavenworth in the form of Lieutent Eugene Carr and Doctor Samuel Phillips. The epidemics subsides, but between 75 and 100 persons are buried in the post cemetery.<sup>16</sup>

In 1867, in Kansas at least 146 deaths occur from cholera in forts and troops en route across the state. Many civilian deaths also occur, but these deaths go unreported. This epidemic, a brief and tragic interlude in Kansas history, reflects the raw



Edith Grierson (Unknown)

conditions in the frontier outposts, the recent flooding contaminating water sources, and the introduction of cholera from eastern cities.<sup>17</sup>

## SCURVY

Scurvy is prevalent in the Army of the West on their march from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe in 1846. Large wagon trains accompany the troops with the usual army food but there are no anti-scorbutics. The soldiers develop "shin splints" manifested by swelling and subcutaneous hemorrhages of the legs. In severe cases the soldiers are unable to walk and are transported in the wagons. Symptoms that follow include paleness of the complexion, depression, fatigue on exertion, swelling and bleeding from the gums, and bruises secondary to subcutaneous hemorrhage. Lieutenant George R. Gibson of the Company B of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry in his journal records that he develops "splints." He is unable to walk and must ride a wagon horse on the way to Santa Fe.<sup>18</sup>

Treatment of scurvy includes a diet of fresh fruits, vegetables, cabbage, potatoes and watercress.

## CHILDBIRTH

Childbirth on the plains and trail could present difficulties and dangers. One of the best known obstetrical complications is Susan Magoffin's spontaneous abortion on her nineteenth birthday in 1846 at Bent's Fort.<sup>19</sup>

Army wife Lydia Spence Lane tells of death in childbirth of a young army wife, a descendent of Molly Pitcher, from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on an army wagon train bound for New Mexico in 1860. Riding day after day in rough lumbering government wagons proves fatal to her. The child is born and lives but the mother dies, probably of hemorrhage from a retained placenta. She is buried on a little hill above the camp, with Lieutenant Joseph Wheeler reading the burial services at the grave.

After the start of the Civil War all military dependents return to the States. In this crossing, Lynda Spence Lane finds the grave undisturbed. She finds no flowers. She only collects blades of grass and pebbles to return as a sad souvenir to the sorrowing family and friends in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.<sup>20</sup>

## TRAUMA

In addition to infectious disease, trauma on the trail is an ever-present cause of disease, especially animal bites.

Marian Sloan Russell as a girl made five round trip crossing on the Santa Fe Trail with her mother. On one trip she had a contact with rattlesnake at Diamond Spring as she leaned against an adobe wall with a hole in it. Fortunately for Marian and Santa Fe Trail historians this contact did not result in a bite but left "Maid Marian" ill for days from shock and fright.<sup>21</sup>

In August 1868, Albert Barnitz writes to his wife about a rabid grey wolf attacking personnel at Fort Larned, Kansas. The animal bit a guard, a hospital patient, and Lieutenant John P. Thompson. The wolf misses when he lunges at several women and is killed by a sentinel guarding the hay stack. The wolf is felt to have hydrophobia and Indians say they have never seen one bitten by a mad wolf recover. The rabies vaccine would not be developed until 1899. Patients with rabies usually suffered a very painful death.<sup>22</sup>

As a new Army wife, Lydia Spencer Lane makes six trips to and from New Mexico over the Santa Fe Trail between 1856 and 1869. Her husband is usually assigned to posts along the Rio Grande River. Mrs. Lane makes the trips with her children. In her trips over the trail she encounters the following events that could cause her or her fellow travelers trauma. She recounts the following events:

a Kansas cyclone, severe lightning, and a rain storm that floods her tent;

difficult and dangerous crossing of swollen rivers;

Army mules run off at Cow Creek and the wagon train must use slower oxen to complete the journey to Fort Union;

a near runaway of her ambulance mules following a clap of thunder.;

a prairie fire that burns her ambulance, and her and her children's clothes and bed clothes;

Lieutenant James Casey's wife, Delia, has a serious accident in which an ambulance turns over, fracturing her ribs, which cause her great pain all the way to Fort Union; and

the drowning death of an enlisted man who attempts to swim the Arkansas River at flood stage.<sup>23</sup>

To Lydia Lane and her children trauma is always a threat on the trail.

## VENEREAL DISEASE

I now touch on a subject that is taboo in mixed company in the nineteenth century but in the twenty first century we can mention it in the presence of ladies. When the Army of the West reaches New Mexico the climate is very healthy but venereal disease is present as gonorrhea and syphilis.<sup>24</sup> The troops in New Mexico soon learn that: If you spend a night with "Venus" then you may have to spend the rest of your life with "Mercury."<sup>25</sup>

## TODAY

Today we have a much better chance of surviving disease on the Plains than did people of the nineteenth century. They did not know the causes of disease as we do today. We know that malaria is not caused by bad air but is a blood parasite carried by the Anopheles mosquito. We take quinine pills, get the



small pox immunization, boil drinking water, have a large supply of water and a variety of food, wash hands when preparing food, take along some citric acid, and avoid crowds and dirty campgrounds.

Many of the bacterial and parasitic diseases of the nineteenth century are controlled today by public health measures, vaccines and antibiotics.

Our new challenges are worldwide viral disease epidemics and mutant strains of antibiotic resistant bacteria. As one problem is solved usually another problem arises. ♦

## Endnotes

1. Randolph B. Marcy. *The Prairie Traveler*. (Cambridge: Applewood Books, 1986.): 68, 54. First published in 1859.
2. Marcy, 33.
3. Volney Steele. *Bleed, Blister, and Purge, A History of Medicine on the American Frontier* (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2005): 1-3, 8, 9.
4. Mark Honigsbaum. *The Fever Trail: In Search of the Cure for Malaria* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001): 57.
5. Michael Dickey. *Arrow Rock, Crossroads of the Missouri Frontier* (Arrow Rock, MO: The Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., 2004): 170-172.
6. Stella Drumm, ed. *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982):163-164. First published in 1926, this classic of the Santa Fe Trail has been often reprinted.
7. Thomas B. Hall. *Medicine on the Santa Fe Trail* (Arrow Rock, MO: the Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., 1987): 90.
8. Judith Walzer Leavitt. *Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996): 7.
9. Hall, 91.
10. Bill Green. *The Dancing Was Lively: Fort Concho, Texas: A Social History, 1867-1882* (San Angelo, TX: Fort Concho Sketches Publishing Company, 1974.): 91
11. Hall, 92.
12. Elizabeth A. Fenn. *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-1882* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2001): 3, 5-6.
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14. George Rutledge Gibson. *Over the Chihuahua and Santa Fe Trails, 1847-1848: George Rutledge Gibson's Journal* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981): 39. Robert W. Frazer, editor.

15. Charles E. Rosenberg. *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962, 1987): 1-4.

16. George E. Omer, Jr., "An Army Hospital: From Dragoons to Rough Riders – Fort Riley, 1853-1903," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 33:4 (Winter 1957): 337-367.

17. Ramon Powers and Gene Younger. "Cholera on the Plains: The Epidemic of 1867 in Kansas," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* 37:4 (Winter 1971): 351-393.

18. Robert Dorian. *Dead without a Fight: Diseases and Their Treatment in the Mexican War* (Lees Summit, MO: Fat Little Pudding Boys Press, 1998): 7-8.

19. Drumm, 68.

20. Lydia Spencer Lane. *I Married a Soldier* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987): 90-91.

21. Marian Russell. *Land of Enchantment: Memoirs of Marian Russell along the Santa Fe Trail* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1984): 66-67..

22. Robert Utley, ed. *Life in Custer's Cavalry: Diaries and Letters of Albert and Jennie Barnitz, 1867-1868* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977): 177-178.

23. Lane, 59-61, 85, 90-91, 120, 136, 155.

24. Hall, 118-119.

25. Steele, 116.

*Dr. Clint Chambers, MD, is a general surgeon. He served in the US Air Force for 22 years and upon retirement entered into private practice in Lubbock, Texas. He now works at the Community Health Center of Lubbock. He served as a member of the SFTA Board of Directors for nearly 10 years.*

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*Coming next issue: "Lower Spring or Wagon Bed Spring" by Karla French*

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*Learn how you can obtain these special SFTA geocaching coins by going to our website [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org) and search under "geocaching." Coming soon--after November 15!*



## Cyber Ruts: Researching on the Internet — More Maps

by Mike Olsen

In 1907, the Colorado State legislature appropriated \$2,000 “to pay the expenses of a survey of the Santa Fe Trail and erecting suitable monuments to mark the same. . . .” This action capped the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Colorado, along with their sisters in other trail states, to commemorate the history of the trail.

Several months ago I began to wonder how the DAR ladies in Colorado managed to convince legislators to support their efforts. What tactics did they employ, or – as we might say today – what “spin” did they use? As I began to investigate I got side-tracked because I learned that once the project was completed, the Colorado State Engineer’s Office prepared a map showing the route of the Santa Fe Trail in Colorado and the location of the DAR markers. This sounded exciting.

Turning to the Internet and my trusty source for finding books, maps, and manuscripts, “World Catalog” (see “Cyber Ruts” in *Wagon Tracks*, August 2012), I quickly learned that Tutt Library at Colorado College, just two miles from me, had a complete run of the reports of the state engineer. I quickly made the trek downtown and Jesse Randall, head of Special Collections at Tutt, soon had the *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the State Engineer* on the desk in front of me. I hit pay dirt in *Part II – Maps and Bridge Drawings*. There it was, Map #10, “Map showing location of Santa Fe Trail markers.” Fifteen minutes, and \$2.50 later, I had a copy. As she handed me my copy, however, Jesse remarked, “You know, Mike, this map may have been digitized.” In my elation I shot back with, “Oh no, nobody has looked for this map in 100 years. This is a real find.”

At this point, you can see where this column is headed. When I got home I duly went to Google and typed in the name of the map. To my astonishment, .0001 seconds later, it popped up. It had been digitized by the Kansas City Public Library. Kansas City? For a Colorado map? What was going on here?

This “Cyber Ruts” column is devoted to finding digitized maps which relate to the history and heritage of the Santa Fe Trail, such as historic military maps, maps from nineteenth century atlases, official state maps, and others. The topic has been touched on before in this column, for example in the last (August 2013) issue of *Wagon Tracks* in Steve Schmidt’s guest article. Steve cited two Internet map sources in particular that he has found helpful and interesting – the David Rumsey Map Collection and the U.S. Geological Survey’s “Historical Topographic Map Collection.” Thanks, Steve.

Here are some sites for maps I have found valuable, along with hints on finding digitized maps in general:

**A Collection of Digitized Kansas Maps.** <http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/maps>

This is my preferred “go to” site when I start looking for a map. It offers hundreds of maps dating from 1556 to 1900. On its homepage, click on the Kansas map icon. On the next page, in the search box, type “Santa Fe Trail.” You will get a list of 58 maps with thumbnails of the maps and descriptions of their contents. For example, here are the details for one of the maps listed. ( I am giving a lengthy example here of what to expect when you access any digitized map, because the cataloging information often is quite detailed and helpful, but I won’t do this for other map collections discussed below since the format followed in most cases is usually the same.)

The title of this particular map is “Topographical Map of the Road from Missouri to Oregon commencing at the mouth of the Kansas in the Missouri River and ending at the mouth of the Wallah Wallah in Columbia.” It was published in 1846. The description provided by the entry for the map reads, “Includes topographic features. Indicates locations of forts... Includes Route to the Great Salt Lake and the Trail of the Pawnee Indians. Identifies Santa Fe Trail as Route from Santa Fé to Independence. Shows Frémont’s routes of 1842 and 1843. Shows Oregon Trail identified as Pawnee Trail and Emigrant route from the mouth of the Platte. Indicates Native American inhabitation. Presented in seven sections, numbered I through VII. Each section includes chart of meteorological observations and remarks describing fauna, flora and other trail observations, and excerpts from Frémont’s report.” As on most map sites, you click on the thumbnail picture and then can zoom in and get a portion of the map in such detail that, if you had the real map in front of you, you would need a magnifying glass to see it.

**Kansas City Public Library.** <http://www.kclibrary.org>

Now, what about that Colorado State Engineers map at the Kansas City Public Library? One division of this library is its “Missouri Valley Special Collections.” Thousands of items there have been digitized, including – at this writing – 860 historical maps. To access these maps, go to [www.kclibrary.org](http://www.kclibrary.org), choose the dropdown menu “Research Resources,” follow the link to “Search Digital Catalog,” and on the next screen click on “Maps.” You can browse the collection or, in the search box, type in “Santa Fe Trail.” If you do, there are 18 maps to choose from, though there are undoubtedly, as with any map site, other maps related to trail that aren’t specifically identified as such.

**Fray Angélico Chávez History Library.** <http://www.palaceofthegovernors.org/library.html>

As might be expected, the History Library at the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe has a wealth of material, including maps, related to the Santa Fe Trail and the long period of Spanish and Mexican rule in New Mexico. Here, go to the library homepage as noted above and click on “Digital Collections.” Then click on “Maps” (again, as of **this writing**, there

are 713 available). One of the maps you can choose is the “Map of Colfax County, 1876.” Intriguingly, it shows a “Freight Road to Santa Fe,” which looks suspiciously like the “Fort Union – Granada Road” since it is depicted as swinging around the east side of Capulin Volcano.

**Denver Public Library.** <http://digital.denverlibrary.org>

The URL listed here will take you directly to the digital collections homepage of the Denver Public Library, including material in its famous Western History Collection. The maps at Denver Public, obviously, concentrate on the history of Colorado and Denver. As this page says, “The Digital Collections contain a range of maps of Colorado and individual towns including Denver, Central City, Colorado Springs and many other. Many birds-eye-views are included.” Nonetheless, these maps can particularly illuminate, for example, the role of Denver, Pueblo, and the Arkansas Valley in the use of the Santa Fe Trail during the “Pike’s Peak or Bust” gold rush of 1859. Or, using another example, one map available is the “Sketch of Capt. Gunnison’s route to Sept. 20th 1853 Central Pacific R. Road exploration,” taken from U. S. Senate Executive Document no. 29, 1st Session, 33rd Congress, 1853-1854.

**Pike’s Peak Public Library District.** <http://ppld.org>

Penrose Library, located in downtown Colorado Springs, houses the Pikes Peak Public Library District’s Division of Special Collections. PPLD, as everyone calls it, has just begun digitizing its map collection – there are only six maps up on its site as of August 2013. The collection itself, as the website says, will consist of, “Historical maps depicting Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak region, Colorado and the West.” To access it, go to [www.ppld.org](http://www.ppld.org), click on “Regional History,” and then on “Digital Collections.” Click anywhere on the page that appears and you will find the section for “Maps.” There are several reasons to mention this collection here. First, as might be surmised, I spend a lot of time at Penrose Library on Santa Fe Trail research. The map collection there is outstanding. So keep an eye on the website as more maps are added. Second, several months ago when I was at the library, Dennis Daily, Special Collections Assistant, was in the process of digitizing a map for the library’s site. He showed me the process, especially how the software, used by most libraries which are part of the World Catalog family, provides a regularized template for describing and cataloging a map. It was a fascinating lesson for me. Needless to say, putting a map up on the Internet is labor-intensive. Thank you to all the digitizing librarians out there.

To end this column, I will just add a few more sites but not comment on them at length. The **Kansas State Historical Society**, on its “Kansas Memory” website (<http://www.kansas-memory.org>) provides 195 digitized maps; under “Collections” click on “more” and then on maps. The **Oklahoma State Historical Society** (<http://www.okhistory.org>), under “Research Center” then “Maps,” has a wide range of items which, for the Santa Fe Trail researcher, emphasize the southern plains region; for example, you can bring up a “Map of the Route Pursued by U. S. Troops from Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Santa Fe, New

Mexico, 1849.” This map is of U. S. Army Captain Randolph B. Marcy’s march, as the map’s title further reads, “Via the South side of the Canadian river in the Year 1849 whilst serving as an escort for a party of California emigrants.” And finally, if you really want to trek the digitized map trail on your own, go to **Google** and type in “digitized map collections.” You will get a list of hundreds of sites, from Harvard University to the personal web pages of web-techie historians.

And finally, this is the last premeditated “Cyber Ruts” column. Over the past year or so, I have covered a variety of ways to access the “virtual” Santa Fe Trail. As the online possibilities for research continue to explode, I may return with additional columns. In the meantime, emulate William Becknell in your excursions on the Internet. He had only a vague idea of where he was going, but he went anyway, and when he got there it was well worth it.

Happy digital trails to you.

## 2012 SFTA Hall of Fame Inductee

### James Kirker

James Kirker came to New York from Ireland in 1810 and served on a privateer in the War of 1812. He moved to St. Louis in 1817 and worked for John McKnight whose brother Robert had led an expedition to Santa Fe in 1811 and been imprisoned. James made his first trip to Santa Fe in the 1824 caravan led by Becknell and Marmaduke along with Robert McKnight and Augustus Storrs. In 1825 James left Franklin in a caravan led by Storrs. After trapping through the winter, he returned to St. Louis before heading out in the 1826 caravan that included the runaway Kit Carson. Kirker then worked in the Santa Rita copper mines operated by McKnight until 1834, but he was also helping Apache raiders sell stolen cattle and buy guns, so he was wanted dead or alive by the Mexican government. In 1837 Gov. Armijo hired him and some Shawnee friends as mercenaries against the Apaches, paying them for each scalp taken. Kirker then arranged a peace with the Apaches which lasted from 1842-45 when Kirker was hired by the governor of Chihuahua to again fight the Apaches. That ended in 1846 when he became a scout for the U. S. Army and was a great help in winning the Battle of Sacramento to take Chihuahua. He then opened a hotel in Santa Fe before he went to California where he died in 1852 after joining the gold rush.

# Low-Level Aerial Photography of the Santa Fe Trail

by *James S. Aber and Susan W. Aber*

Earth Science, Emporia State University, Kansas

For most of its route, the Santa Fe Trail crosses the vast prairie expanse of the Great Plains region. The relatively subtle features of the prairie are often overlooked by landscape photographers in favor of more obvious mountains, sea coasts, deep canyons, and tall forests. Nonetheless, the seeming simplicity of the Great Plains contains rich and diverse environments, both natural and cultural, and some photographers have found this beauty (1, 2, 3). Terry Evans was among the first to explore the aesthetic aspects of prairie aerial photography from a manned airplane (4). Small-format aerial photography (SFAP) has been applied in recent years for documenting all types of natural and human resources (5, 6). Many kinds of film or digital cameras may be utilized to acquire photographs in visible and near-infrared portions of the spectrum. Manned or unmanned platforms include ultralights, paragliders, balloons, blimps, model airplanes, kites, and other aircraft that typically fly at heights of just a few hundred meters (7). We have developed SFAP for environmental, historical, and scientific purposes (8, 9).

In particular, we employ kites and a small helium blimp as our lifting platforms to collect aerial photographs up to 500 feet (150 m) above the ground using light-weight radio-controlled camera rigs (Figs. 1, 2, 3). The same camera rigs are utilized for both platforms. One of us (JSA) normally flies the kite or blimp and observes the camera with binoculars, while the other (SWA) operates the radio control to take photographs (Fig. 4). The camera may be rotated, tilted, and maneuvered in order to acquire views in all possible directions and vantages relative to a ground target and sun position.

Manned aircraft are restricted by FAA regulations to a flying height above 500 feet (1000 feet in urban areas); whereas, our tethered platforms remain below 500 feet. Such low-height, high-resolution images reveal ground features in surprising detail from a bird's-eye view that is difficult to achieve by other means (10). Our methods have proven especially useful for depicting natural and cultural landscapes of the Great Plains (Fig. 5). SFAP has established a niche for revealing human burials and archaeological features as well as displaying historical monuments, renovations, and restorations (7).

## SFAP on the Santa Fe Trail

During its thriving existence from 1821 until 1880, the Santa Fe Trail crossed largely unsettled territory that still possessed much of its original prairie vegetation, undisturbed soil cover, and natural water courses. The pre-settlement human impact was relatively limited and largely restricted to the vicinity of towns and cities at its eastern and western ends as well as scattered military forts and trading posts along the way. Territorial, state, and national status changed many times as history surged back and forth along the trail. As tens of thousands of

people made the journey, uprisings and massacres happened, military forts and civilian trading posts came and went, and the Mexican-American War and Civil War were fought.

In spite of this rich history, most relicts of the Santa Fe Trail have been erased by the passage of time and subsequent human activities along much of its former course. Settlement and increasing human population led to growth of cities, widespread agriculture, diversions of water, mining and drilling, railroad and highway routes, and many other alterations of the landscape. As a consequence, few original traces of the Santa Fe Trail remain nowadays, although some portions and surviving structures are marked and well preserved (Fig. 6).

We have undertaken a multi-year project to document selected portions of the Santa Fe Trail using small-format aerial photography to depict the current status of the main trail route along with its shortcuts, branches, side roads, connecting trails, and related features. The territory extends from the Missouri River ports across the Great Plains to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and Rio Grande Rift including many physiographic regions and environmental conditions. The Santa Fe Trail connected with the Old Spanish Trail, which continued westward along multiple mule caravan routes eventually reaching Los Angeles (11). The following small-format aerial photographs illustrate representative features along the Santa Fe Trail and connecting routes.

## Kaw Point, Kansas-Missouri

(Fig. 7) – The junction of the Missouri River and Kansas River was one of the key geographic focal points in the exploration and settlement of the United States and is now the location of the Kansas City metropolitan area. Since prehistoric times, this vicinity has served Native Americans, colonial Europeans and finally the United States as a transportation and development center (12). This region represents a major transition in ecological zones from the hardwood forest of the east into the prairie grassland to the west.

## Kansas City, Missouri

(Fig. 8) – From the Westport Landing on the Missouri River, the trail followed what is now Main Street southward past the Union Station and up the slope onto the prominent hill, where the Liberty Memorial now resides, and continued southward approximately along Broadway. A surprising number of physical traces, especially ruts, can be found in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

## Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

(Fig. 9) – When Fort Leavenworth was founded in 1827, it was sited where the Missouri River flowed against the western side of the valley, from whence keelboats and later steam-powered riverboats could unload supplies onto a slope leading to high ground. This landing was the beginning of the Military Branch of the Santa Fe Trail that was utilized during the Mex-

ican-American War. During the following decades, the Missouri River experienced many changes as a result of repeated flooding. A large meander loop gradually migrated downstream leaving the historic riverboat landing at Fort Leavenworth as bottomland.

### **Black Jack Ruts, Kansas**

(Fig. 10) – Distinct, multiple trail ruts are visible in the Ivan Boyd Prairie Preserve about three miles east of Baldwin City in Douglas County. When in use, these ruts became muddy at times and eroded into deep tracks. As a particular track became too deep or impassable, wagons switched to adjacent paths, and the process was repeated. At this location the trail descends across a sloping hillside underlain by easily eroded shale and sandstone. The 18-acre prairie preserve is now surrounded by agriculture and suburban development.

### **Wilmington, Kansas**

(Fig. 11) – Wilmington in Wabaunsee County was founded in 1858 with 30 houses and various businesses at the point where the Leavenworth Military Road joined the main Santa Fe Trail. During the Civil War, it was the home base for Company A, Santa Fe Battalion of the Kansas State Militia. Surviving structures include a stone school house and church both built in 1870.

### **Lehigh vicinity, Kansas**

(Fig. 12) – Across central Kansas, the modern landscape is a patchwork of cropland and pastures depending on soil conditions and slopes suitable for farming or grazing. Trees are sparse and mixed grass prairie is the dominant vegetation. Santa Fe Trail ruts are preserved a few miles north of Lehigh in Marion County on private property as multiple ruts that display a braided pattern.

### **Point of Rocks, Kansas**

(Fig. 13) – The most important choice of direction took place in southwestern Kansas, where the trail diverged into the Mountain and Cimarron routes. The Mountain Branch was longer and more arduous, but had dependable water along the way. The Cimarron Cutoff was shorter and potentially faster, but water supplies were scarce and unreliable. Along the Cimarron Cutoff, Point of Rocks is a distinctive landmark in the southwestern corner of Kansas, and nearby Middle Spring was an important spot for water. Company E, the Mormon Battalion passed along this portion of the trail in 1846 following President Polk's request for assistance during the Mexican-American War. Considered the longest infantry march of all time, the battalion walked from Council Bluff, Iowa to San Diego, California (13).

### **Bent's New Fort, Colorado**

(Fig. 14) – The fort is situated on a sandstone bluff next to the Arkansas River along the Santa Fe Trail Mountain Route about eight miles west of Lamar, Colorado. The fort was built in 1853 by William W. Bent as an Indian trading post. It was then sold to the U.S. government in 1859. The following year additional buildings were erected one mile to the west, and named Fort

Wise, and then renamed Fort Lyon in 1861. The latter was relocated still farther west in 1867. Little remains of the fort today, which is located on private land with walk-in access to the public.

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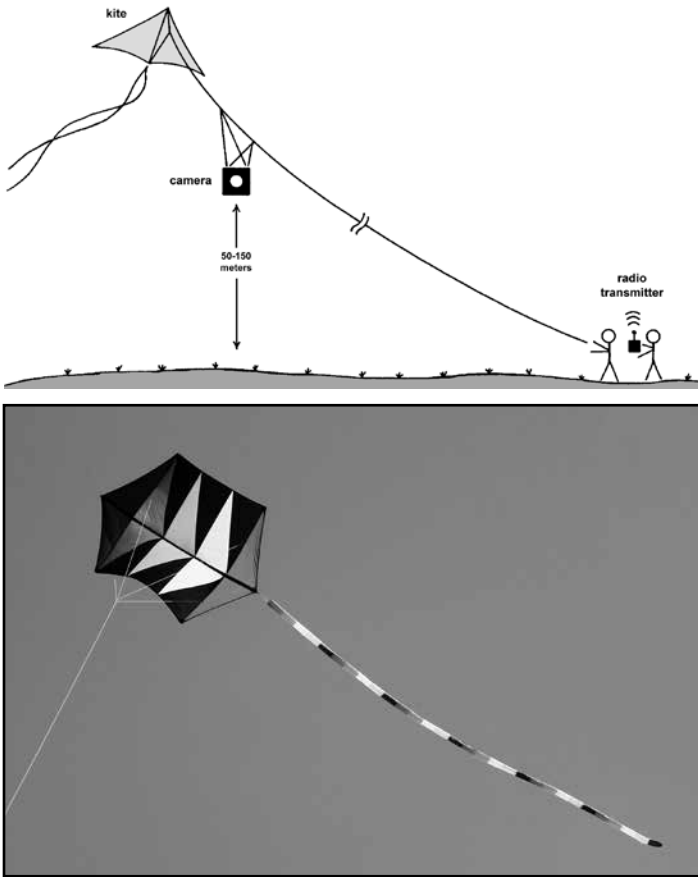


Figure 1. Cartoon (above) illustrating the basic operational setup for kite aerial photography; not to scale (7). Large rokkaku kite (below) that we use most frequently; tail is 20 feet (~6 m) long. Photo by JSA.

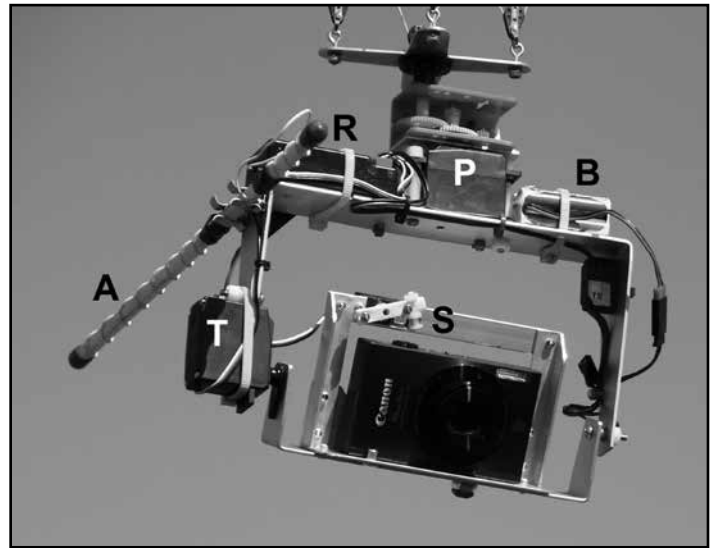


Figure 3. Close-up view of radio-controlled rig for Canon Elph 10-megapixel digital camera. A – antenna mast, T – tilt servo, R – radio receiver, P – pan servo, B – battery pack, S – shutter servo. The whole rig and camera weigh 1.3 pounds (~0.6 kg). Photo by JSA.

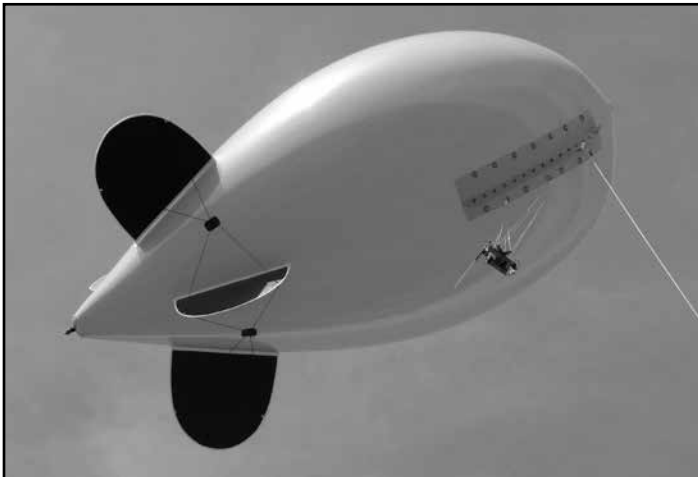


Figure 2. Helium blimp for aerial photography with a camera rig attached to the keel; tether line to right side. The blimp is 13 feet (~4 m) long. Photo by SWA.



Figure 4. The authors conducting kite aerial photography from a public township road in Gray County, southwestern Kansas. Self-portrait (2006).



Figure 5. Ralph's Ruts in Rice County, central Kansas. Low-oblique view looking eastward displays broad, multiple, parallel swales that cross the pond. These ruts are revealed by differences in prairie vegetation and shadows cast by low October sun. The ruts are carved in unconsolidated sediment of sand-hills terrain. Blimp aerial photograph by JSA and ESU students (2013).



Figure 6. The Mahaffie house and farmstead are well-preserved on the Santa Fe Trail in Olathe, Kansas. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Photo by JSA.

*James S. Aber, professor of geology at Emporia State University, taught a class this fall about the Kansas Santa Fe Trail. The class visited several sites along the Santa Fe Trail in different physiographic regions with the intent to observe, describe, and interpret the origins of the landforms along the trail. Ancillary data included digital elevation models (DEM), Landsat imagery, and other GIS datasets, as well as small-format aerial photography (SFAP).*

Figure 7. Eastward view over Kaw Point toward downtown Kansas City, Missouri on the right horizon. The location of Westport Landing was just behind the modern Broadway Bridge marked by asterisk (\*) according to Franzwa (15, map 11). Blimp aerial photo by SWA and JSA (2004).



Figure 8. Looking northward from the Liberty Memorial toward the downtown skyline, Kansas City, Missouri. Approximate position of the Santa Fe Trail marked by asterisks (\*) according to Franzwa (15, map 11). Blimp aerial photo by JSA and SWA (2012).



Figure 9. Missouri River bottomland at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. View westward showing the old river channel (c) as it existed when the fort was established in 1827. Asterisk (\*) marks the approximate position of the original keelboat and later steamboat landing (16), which was the beginning of the 1846 Military Road of the Santa Fe Trail (15, map 19). Missouri River on far left side. Kite aerial photograph by JSA (2001).



Figure 10. Overview of Black Jack Ruts in the Ivan Boyd Prairie Preserve near Baldwin City in Douglas County. Multiple curved and branching trail ruts are incised into soft sandstone and shale. These ruts are revealed primarily by shadows cast by low October sun; some ruts are deep and prominent, others are shallow and subtle. Narrow foot trails cross the site; note people in upper left for scale. Kite aerial photograph by JSA and ESU students (2013).



Figure 11. Wilmington was an important site on the Santa Fe Trail in southeastern Wabaunsee County, Kansas. The military trail from Fort Leavenworth joined the main Santa Fe Trail at this location. Little remains today, however, beyond a stone school building (s), a church (c) and a few residents. No traces of the Santa Fe Trail are visible in the plowed and terraced fields. Approximate position of the Santa Fe Trail marked by asterisks (\*) according to Franzwa (15, map 29). Kite aerial photograph by SWA and JSA (2013).



Figure 12. Santa Fe Trail ruts extend from the right side (small pond) across the scene toward the left side near Lehigh in Marion County, Kansas. Multiple ruts interlace with each other in a braided pattern. The circular features are fairy rings in the prairie grass. Kite aerial photo by SWA and JSA (2012); access courtesy of Steve and Glenda Schmidt.



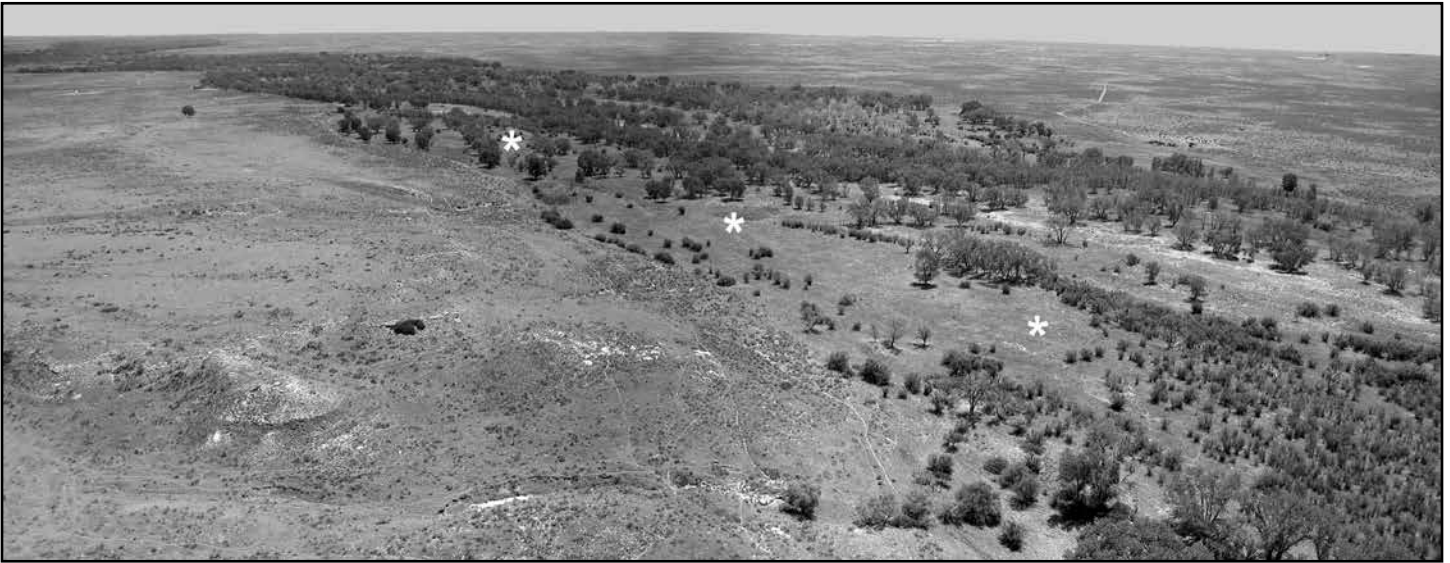


Figure 13. Panoramic view above Point of Rocks looking northeastward toward Middle Spring in the left distance. Dry valley of the Cimarron River supports a corridor of trees nowadays. Approximate position of the Santa Fe Trail marked by asterisks (\*) according to Franzwa (15, map 58). Kite aerial photograph by SWA and P. Johnston (2006).



Figure 14. Remains of New Bent's Fort walls and building foundations are clearly visible at scene center and to left. Sandstone bluff and Arkansas River appear across the top of view, and kite flyers are standing to right center. Kite aerial photograph by SWA and JSA (2013). ♦



## BOOKS



## Comanche Empire

Hämäläinen, Pekka, *Comanche Empire*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008, 500 pp. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index, abbreviations.

*Reviewed by Margaret Sears*

*Comanche Empire* is two intertwining stories, one from the Comanche perspective, the other from that of the Spaniards and all others who resided in the Southwest. Pekka, in readable style, walks the reader through the Comanche's fantastic history. They came onto the plains from the Great Basin in the early 1700s, first entering recorded history in 1706 when the Taos, NM pueblo notified the Spanish government that the village expected an attack—which never materialized—from the Ute Indians and their new allies, the Comanche. It was this coalition that led the Comanche on the road to amassing great power unparalleled anywhere in the Southwest. Further, it was the Utes who introduced them to the horse, their primary source of power, and to European crafts such as guns, knives, needles, and pots.

The Comanche quickly learned that the Great Plains provided the finest forage and weather for their horses. By the late 18th and early 19th centuries, they owned nearly four horses per capita. They were “Lords of the South Plains,” controlling a fluid territory larger than that of any other local culture. Known as Comanchería, it extended 600 miles north of Texas and 400 miles east of New Mexico. The Comanche empire—for it was an empire—never attempted to replicate a European-style imperial system, the difference being they sought to coexist, control, and exploit rather than conquer and colonize. Comanchería was inhabited by more than 20 tribes or sub-tribes whose fortunes were linked to the Comanche through cooperation, dependence, and extortion, with individual groups moving in and out of the territory as their situations changed. Pekka illustrates this system with a series of fine maps depicting the empire from 1500 to 1874, visually expressing what countless pages of text could not achieve nearly as well.

The Comanche have long been perceived as only a nomadic people. However, at least half of the year they lived in nearly stationary villages. This was not simply a response to their hunting and herding lifestyle, but to allow for centers of power and production to develop, both functions necessary to sustain an empire.

Relations between Spain and the Comanche during the two and a half centuries of the former's occupation of Mexico vacillated across the spectrum of human relations. It was during Juan Bautista de Anza's reign as New Mexico governor (1779-1787) that an alliance between the two powers was forged, lasting until Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, although

not without occasional tiffs. Surprisingly, the limits of the alliance would be determined by the Comanche, not the Spanish. The nerve center of the Southwest was the western Comanche territory, not Santa Fe.

To Euro-Americans, the most revealing sign of Comanche power was the spread of their language. By the turn of the eighteenth century the language of choice at Southwest trade fairs was Comanche, and the midcontinent was being re-created in their image, not the other way around. They had evolved into a market-oriented embryonic capitalistic society. Yet from the outset, the Comanche nation seemed to lack a clear center necessary for an imperial power. It dominated because of its informal social organization, not in spite of it, so it seems. Such criticisms waged against the Comanche aside, the Republic of Texas Indian Commissioner lauded them as “the most perfect democracy on the face of the globe; everything is managed by primary assemblies, and the people have the right to displace a chief and elect a successor at pleasure.” (p.271)

In 1821 Mexico won independence from Spain, and its doors were opened to the outside world. Immediately, American merchants began a vast trading relationship with Santa Fe, which soon extended as far south as Mexico City. An even more critical event was the change when the Mexican government significantly reduced customary gifts to the Comanche that had been in place for decades. In conflict with this view, Pekka also states that during this period the New Mexico government went to great lengths to protect its alliance with the tribe.

Historians have ascribed Mexico's subsequent surrender to the U.S. military and material superiority, but are missing a critical element, that being that Native American *expansion* paved the way for American incursion by destabilizing Mexico's far northwest, culminating in the Mexican-American war (1846-48).

The Mexican-American War marked the climax of 150 years of Comanche power. The U.S. became the supreme power over the southwest, brushing aside all the peoples who had called it home for centuries. Quoting Pekka, “freighting along the Santa Fe Trail grew into a large-scale industry in the early 1840s . . . along the Arkansas corridor, destroying vegetation, polluting springs, increasing erosion, and driving out the bison from their last ecological niches in the valley.” (p.296) Concurrently, settlers streamed westward in an uncontrolled flood, indiscriminately pushing aside Native Americans. The Comanche population in the late 1840s was 20 thousand, half of what it was at its peak in the late 18th century. By the mid 1850s it had retreated further to less than half, and by 1870 to less than five thousand, and collapsed.

“Comanches had ruled the Southwest for well over a century,” again from Pekka, “but left behind nothing to mark their dominance.” (p.342) He speculates that such was caused by the absence of a tightly structured system continually threatened by political and societal conflict, and no desire to politically control territory, only the resources it possessed. Americans wanted legal title. When the system began to crumble, so did

the empire. Over the last few decades historians have altered their thinking that Native Americans were, in Pekka's words, either "bit players in imperial struggles or tragic victims of colonial expansion" (p.6) to the current portrayal of them as "full-fledged actors" in the shaping of early America. But this "revisionist" turn is not complete. Pekka succeeded in correcting that view. Specifically, he casts the Comanche as "full-fledged humans . . . neither shapeless nor formless . . . neither savage nor nationless." (p.345)

Pekka's work flows easily and almost every sentence is quotable. Enhancing the text is an excellent collection of nine maps sketching the Comanche empire from 1500 to 1874, visually expressing what countless pages of text could not accomplish nearly as well. Often, new information was introduced. To wit: of the over 20 tribes inhabiting Comancheria, only several were familiar to this reviewer: Wichita, Lipan Apache, Kiowa. The maps were extremely helpful in locating their territories. Unfortunately, neither the maps nor the numerous illustrations are listed in the table of contents. Pekka's research is reflected and supported in 78 pages of notes. As expected, an excellent condensed New Mexico history is joined with the primary topic. The author introduced four of the eight chapters with brief synopses, which improved understanding, and would have been appreciated if adopted throughout the book.

Pekka's most accurate analysis of the Comanche, for this reviewer, states, "American imperialism in the Southwest can be understood *only* (reviewer emphasis) if placed in the context of the indigenous [Comanche] imperialism that preceded it." (p.142) It is not likely that most Americans understand, let alone accept this.

This book is destined to become central to our history and understanding of the Comanche. It is highly recommended. The reader will forever be indebted to Pekka for opening an exciting door to the southwest and the major players who trod the Great Plains. ♦

## 2012 SFTA Hall of Fame Inductee

### Luz Maxwell

"Luz" Maxwell's father, Charles Beaubien, traveled the Santa Fe Trail to Taos in 1823. He became a merchant, married the daughter of a wealthy Alcalde, and became a friend of Charles Bent. He and his partner, Guadalupe Miranda, received the Beaubien-Miranda Land Grant in northern New Mexico (1842-1845) which included 1.7 million acres on the Mountain Route of the Trail. A young mountain man and buffalo hunter named Lucien Maxwell married Beaubien's oldest daughter "Luz" in 1842. After the Mexican-American War, Lucien and "Luz" developed the grant, first at Rayado and then at Cimarron. Soon they had a prosperous ranch as well as a general store and a grist mill. All Trail travelers stopped there for generous hospitality at no charge.

## Chapter Reports

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

### Missouri River Outfitters

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The past few months have been very active and exciting ones for MRO. We made our formal presentations to the county commissioners in both Lafayette and Saline counties and received the approval and support of the commissioners for placement of Local Tour Route signs for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail on the roads under the two counties' jurisdiction. Their approval included the full cost of labor, hardware and metal posts required to complete the installation of the 54 signs. The signs are currently under production in Utah and hopefully will have arrived by the time you are reading this. Historic Site signs were also secured for the Burn's Swales, the Weinreich Ruts, and the Arrow Rock Ferry Landing. These signs are currently under production and should arrive sometime in mid-October.

In September, MRO placed another of their stone markers at the 85th and Manchester Swales site, bringing the total stone markers placed by MRO to 21. In our continuing effort to mark and interpret the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, MRO has added an interpretive sign at the site of the Weinreich Ruts.

On September 14, MRO held a membership/board meeting at Arrow Rock, MO. We were joined by members of the newly formed Boone's Lick Road Association. Rich Lawson gave the attendees a tour of the Arrow Rock Ferry Landing from what was once the river's edge to the top of the bluff over-looking the site of Fort Cooper and Franklin to the east and the trail as it headed out onto the prairie to the west. This newly-designated site on the National Register of Historic places is truly one of the most significant sites on the entire Santa Fe National Historic Trail. We are extremely proud of all the work (and money) that Rich has spent to make sure this site is preserved for future visitors and historical researchers of the trail.

MRO has worked with SFTA to place more Geocache boxes along the trail. Completed this month were: Arrow Rock Ferry Landing, Upper Independence Landing/Wayne City Landing, the National Frontier Museum Center, the Archibald Rice Home and the Mahaffie Stage Stop in Olathe, KS. Five more are scheduled to be placed during the month of October.

As we enter into a new fiscal year MRO will mark the Local Tour Route in Howard and Cooper Counties as well as complete the signage of the MoDot-controlled roads across Lafayette and Saline Counties. MRO has also resubmitted a request to the National Park Service through SFTA for the funding of a kiosk and interpretive panels at the Salem Park at the intersection of MO Hwy 24 and Blue Mills Road in Independence, MO. This site will connect the Lexington, MO area with the Square in downtown Independence, MO and will also be the point where the Oregon and California National Historic Trails first joined the Santa Fe National Historic Trail at Blue Mills Landing on the Missouri River.

Finally, MRO has agreed to co-host the September 28-30, 2017 Symposium along with the Douglas County Chapter of

## Chapter Reports, *continued*

SFTA. Plans are already underway and we look forward to holding the 2017 Symposium in Olathe, Kansas.

### **Douglas County**

President Roger Boyd  
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Baldwin City KS 66006  
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rboyd@bakeru.edu

The Douglas County Chapter held a potluck on September 15. The program was on the escape route of Quantrill's raid on August 23, 1863. His band of 400 men passed within two miles of Baldwin City after burning most of Lawrence, KS on his way back to Missouri.

The chapter continues to install new signs for local historic sites, many related to the Trail. We are also preparing for new road signs to be delivered and installed. Recently we updated our chapter site on the SFTA website. We are thankful to the State Historical Society for getting the local "Santa Fe Trail Park" on the north side of Baldwin City added to the state and federal historic register.

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

Carol Retzer  
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Lyndon KS 66451  
785-828-3739  
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### **Cottonwood Crossing**

Steve Schmidt  
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wfordok@yahoo.com

The next chapter meeting will be held on Thursday November 21 at the Goessel Community Building, 101 South Cedar, Goessel, KS. The meal will be catered, by reservation only, at 6 p.m. followed by a short business meeting at 7 p.m. Immediately following the business meeting, Jim Hoy, Emporia State University, Center for Great Plains Study, will speak on "History of the Range Cattle Industry and the Cowboy in the Flint Hills." Following his presentation, since this will be the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, there will be a time of reminiscing.

In other news, the chapter recently reprinted its Marion County Local Tour brochure. That means that we have

distributed approximately 10,000 brochures thus far and have another 11,000 on hand to distribute.

The Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, Quivira Chapter, and national SFTA are working with the McPherson Museum to place a SFT historic interpretive kiosk on the grounds of the new museum which is currently under construction in McPherson, KS. The museum building is now complete, exhibits are being constructed, and they are ready for the interpretive plaques to be installed. This is a highly visible location on US Hwy 56 through McPherson.

Steve and Glenda Schmidt's "French Frank's Trail Segment" has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Quivira**

President Linda Colle  
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The residents of Sandstone Heights Nursing Home in Little River, Kansas along with over 20 members and guests of the Quivira Chapter of the SFTA, welcomed the musical group Prairie Larkspur on August 24. The group, comprised of Chris Day and Janet Armstead, entertained with music from the days of Fort Larned and the Santa Fe Trail. Prior to the program, the chapter hosted an ice cream social. Both activities were thoroughly enjoyed.

The Chapter had hoped to bring a program about the Kaw Nation to the new McPherson Museum in October. However, the logistics for the program have not yet been worked out and it appears that the program will have to be moved out to 2014. We hope that this program will be the beginning of a relationship with the Kaw Nation.

The Quivira Chapter's final program for 2013 will be on November 23 at the Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg, Kansas. Marla Matlin will present "Christmas on the Frontier" to help us get into the holiday spirit.

The McPherson Museum kiosk bases were picked up in August. Depending on the government shutdown, we hope to get the panels completed and installed this fall. We are continuing to identify additional sites which need additional signage.

Three of our landowner's sites have recently been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, which is our country's official list of historically significant properties so we are very proud of that. They are: Kern Rut's across the road from Ralph's Ruts west of Chase, Kansas, owned by Ed and Carolyn Kern; The Fry Ruts southwest of Windom, Kansas (with the silhouette), owned by Steve and Jodene Fisher; and Swanson's Swales, also south of Windom, Kansas, owned by Joe Swanson and family

### **Wet/Dry Routes**

Dr. David Clapsaddle  
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The fall meeting of the Chapter convened on October 20 at Larned's Episcopal Church. The good ladies of the church served their famous chicken and noodles. On display were scrapbooks of the chapter's historical newspaper clippings. We discussed the Melgares Monument. Fort Larned Ranger Roy Hargadine presented the program saluting Frank Baldwin, who was twice awarded the Medal of Honor. Baldwin, who served as Fort Larned's commander, was presented a Tiffany-manufactured sword by the admiring sergeants of his company. The sword is now on display at the Fort Larned National Historic Site.

The winter meeting will be on January 19 at the Kinsley Municipal Building. An election of officers will take place and the Faye Anderson Award will be presented. For additional information call David Clapsaddle.

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

Bill Bunyan  
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Dodge City KS 67801  
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The chapter has been working hard to save as much of the Dodge City Point of Rocks as possible. Vice-president Mike Strodman is leading the charge for the chapter. We have done TV interviews and are meeting with KDOT officials and county commissioners to try and get a compromise in the highway width. We are working with the Kansas Chapter of the Great Western Cattle Trail, as the point was also a landmark for that trail.

## Chapter Reports, *continued*

Chapter member Milam Jones alerted president Bunyan to some significant ruts right in Dodge City and after viewing them, they were found to be as clearly visible as any ruts on the trail of the dry route from the Larned area to the Caches camp site which was used prior to the Fort Dodge area camp site. The ruts probably date from the late 1820's and are very well defined.

The sign for Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame recipient Robert Wright has been ordered and will be paid for with funds from the Jim Sherer Memorial Fund. The sign will be placed in Wright Park. The sign board for Chilton Park is in the planning stage with Dr. Oliva writing the text for Major Chilton and Thomas Fitzpatrick, the men who conducted the treaty with the southern plains tribes in 1853 at Fort Atkinson.

The National Geographic program, "The Diggers," was in Dodge City in early September to dig at the site of Fort Atkinson. Numerous musket balls and fragments of wagon metal were found and chapter president Bunyan acted as a historical consultant. The program will air this winter. The NPS Historic Trails Media Tour for the Dodge City-Fort Dodge-Cimarron area of the trail is up and running on the web, I-Pads and smart phones. It will be a great resource for trail buffs.

The chapter's summer meeting was a field trip to Elkhart and their Point of Rocks. Twenty-one members and two guests visited the Morton County Museum and Middle Spring and Point of Rocks. A big thank you to the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter for a great day. President Bunyan, Susan Bunyan and vice president Strodtman attended the National Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Ulysses.

The fall meeting will be held at Boot Hill November 3. The chapter will supply the fried chicken and members will bring side dishes. Our program will be presented by Mark Barry portraying Wild Bill Hickock. The program is being paid for by a stipend from the National Santa Fe Trail Association's speakers fund.

Our annual Christmas party with our guests, the Kansas chapter of the Great Western Cattle Trail, will be held at Boot Hill this year on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

### Wagon Bed Spring

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### Cimarron Cutoff

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lbe@elkhart.com

Thirteen members and a number of guests attended the summer Cimarron Cutoff Chapter meeting that was held in Clayton, NM, at the Herzstein Museum on July 13. Steve Cormier entertained the group with stories, music and poetry about the early trail days. Eleven people toured parts of the Santa Fe Trail after the program.

We have 49 paid members. Members were reminded to pay their dues to the Association if they haven't already done so. Members voted to send \$250 in memory of Roger Slusher to the SFTA Center to be used as his family requested. We had eight active members attend the excellent Symposium in Ulysses.

On October 19, the fall meeting was hosted by the Oklahoma members at the Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City. After a noon meal, we heard a program by Scott Brosowske titled "Historic Indian Trade Along the Santa Fe Trail." Scott is the executive director of Courson Archaeological Research (CAR) in Perryton, Texas, and is very knowledgeable on this subject.

We had a good visit with the Dodge City/Ft. Dodge Chapter on Saturday September 14. More than 20 members from the chapter toured the MCHS Museum and the Trail. Five people from Clayton and 11 from Elkhart attended. 42 people traveled to Middle Springs and Point of Rocks where retired ranger Joe Hartman and CNG Ranger Lance Brown discussed the Trail in the Cimarron National Grassland and answered questions from the group.

### Bent's Fort

Pat Palmer  
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gpatpalmer@hotmail.com

In July the Bent's Fort Chapter (BFC) met in La Junta to hear Lee Whitely tell about his adventures traveling the portion of the Cherokee Trail (not to be confused with the Cherokee Trail of Tears) in Colorado from Pueblo to the Wyoming border. The Trail originally taken by the Cherokee Indians in 1849 and afterwards used by many gold seekers, traders and emigrés went from Oklahoma through Kansas then north along the Colorado Front Range and on to California.

August found us traversing Southeast Colorado from the graveyard of Charles Autobees near Boone, Colorado to viewing the excavated remains of the original El Pueblo trading post near the Pueblo Museum. Stops at historic locations in between included viewing the site of Ft. Reynolds and where Zebulon Pike encamped along the Arkansas River in 1806.

More than 30 members of the BFC traveled to Ulysses, KS in September for the SFTA Symposium where we learned more about the skills it took and hardships one had to overcome as a traveler along the Santa Fe Trail. While we are still saddened by the passing of Roger Slusher, we were pleased to see our own LaDonna Hutton accept the honor of serving as President the SFTA. We were also pleased to learn that our member Rod Podszus had received the Ambassador's Award. Congratulations, Rod!

In August, joined by Tom and Peggy Ferguson of the Corazon Chapter, LaDonna and Charlie Hutton, Vince Gearhart, Pat Palmer, and Kevin Lindahl of the BFC continued to place geo-cache boxes along the Santa Fe Trail route. It sounds like it was just as much fun placing them as it will be to find them.

Upcoming events include the dedication of Bent's New Fort just west of Lamar on October 19 and a weekend field trip to Taos, NM November 1-3.

### Corazon de los Caminos

Dennis Schneider  
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For both the August and September tours, Corazon members joined with the End of the Trail Chapter. In August the group went to San Miguel del



## STFA Annual Membership January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Life \$1000, 1 time or 3 installments  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Patron \$100/year  
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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to donate to the Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research Fund. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to donate to the Marker Fund. ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Olsen 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.**

Vado and made an additional visit to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church at Villanueva. San Miguel was settled in 1794 and the first church was completed in 1812. The village was the "port of entry" for early travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. Remains of the old custom house and river crossing can still be seen. The ladies of the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church have stitched a Bicentennial Tapestry, depicting the history and traditions of the community.

The September tour took us to Los Luceros north of Espanola. The site was occupied by the Tewa Indians as early as the 800s, then settled by the Spanish in the 1600s. It became a stop on the Camino Real.

Lolly and Don Ming hosted the chapter's October tour of the Granada-Fort Union Military Route. Lolly showed the large array of artifacts and arrowheads found on the ranch and told of the rich history of the region. Then we drove to areas of really exceptional ruts of the military trail.

November is business meeting and election of officers for the next two years. We will meet at the Hillcrest Café at 12 noon November 9. Jesus Lopez will present a program about the history of Las Vegas.

Unfortunately, participation in our Chapter has been dwindling. We hope to start

afresh in the new year and invite each of you to join us when you can.

### End of the Trail

Joy Poole  
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Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505-820-7828  
[amusejoy@msn.com](mailto:amusejoy@msn.com)

On September 8, 50 Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Trek riders departed from the Santa Fe plaza. Our fall field trip on September 21 was at Los Luceros. This fall the Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byways installed a kiosk on the Santa Fe Trail at the NM Visitor's Information Center.

Our November 16 meeting will feature a presentation by Irene Blea titled "Culture and Commerce on the Santa Fe Trail." This is a NM Endowment for the Humanities presentation and co-sponsored with a Santa Fe Trail Speaker's Bureau grant.

Mike Pitel, Margaret Sears and Joy Poole met with Corey and Christine from the NPS following a request from Steve Burns to identify trail segments in Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. Various maps were viewed and the publication *An Archaeological and Historical Study of Old Pecos Trail* by Tim Maxwell and Stephen Post was provided. The group may later take a field trip.

Geocache boxes were delivered by Jeff Trotman. Three of the five have been placed. Joy Poole gave a presentation on October 15 to Boy Scout Masters in the region about the SFTA Geocaching project. Boy Scouts can now earn a merit badge on Geocaching.

Mike Pitel has been rewriting a walking tour of downtown Santa Fe featuring Santa Fe Trail sites.



Dan Sharp presented "Guns of the Santa Fe Trail" at the Symposium Saturday night September 28.



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



## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## EVENTS

**November 1-3: Taos, NM.** Bent's Fort Chapter field trip. Contact Pat Palmer, 719-931-4323

**November 2-7: Tucson, AZ.** PNTS conference. [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)

**November 9: Las Vegas, NM.** Corazon Chapter. "History of Las Vegas."

**November 16: Santa Fe, NM.** End of the Trail Chapter. "Culture and Commerce on the Santa Fe Trail."

**November 21: Goessel, KS.** Cottonwood Crossing Chapter. "History of the Range Cattle Industry and the Cowboy in the Flint Hills."

**November 23: Lindsborg, KS.** Quivira Chapter. "Christmas on the Frontier."

**December 6-7: Bent's Old Fort, CO.** Holiday celebration. [www.nps.gov/beol/planyourvisit/events.htm](http://www.nps.gov/beol/planyourvisit/events.htm)

**December 6- January 4: Trinidad, CO.** History Museum winter wonderland and Santa Claus. [www.trinidadhistorymuseum.org](http://www.trinidadhistorymuseum.org)

**December 11: Independence, MO.** MRO board meeting

**December 8-13: Albuquerque, NM.** NPS workshop on Interpretive Design and Planning

**December 14:** Bent's Fort Chapter, board meeting

**January 19, 2014: Kinsley, KS.** Wet/Dry Chapter meeting.

**March 14-16, 2014: Independence, MO.** Spring retreat with OCTA and Lewis and Clark boards

**September 18-20, 2014: Larned, KS.** Rendezvous

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



*Belinda Schlesener of Emporia, KS, won the raffle at the Symposium in Ulysses: a Jersey steer skull painted by Eva McPhail and donated by Mike Strodtman.*