

Wagon Tracks

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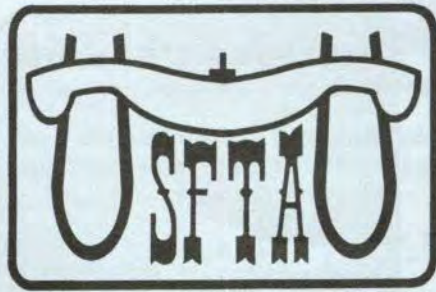


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Santa Fe Trail Association Quarterly

WAGON TRACKS

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November 2011

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Jim Sherer Leads Dodge City Symposium

Forts Mann, Atkinson & Dodge: Halfway On The Santa Fe Trail



Jim Sherer studies the enhanced and new signage at the Boot Hill Santa Fe Trail rut site. (Photo: Ruth Friesen)

Over 175 people attended the 2011 Symposium held in Dodge City on September 22 - 25, 2011. They represented Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and several other states.

Presenters included Dr. Leo Oliva, Noel Ary, Marshall Gover, President of the Pawnee Nation Business Council, Barak Geertsens, Tim Kimball, Sara Jane Richter, Mike Olsen, and guest appearances by Libbie Custer, Isadora Douglas and Jedediah Smith.

See additional details and photos from the symposium on page 16.

Research Grants Available

Deadline November 14

The Santa Fe Trail Association invites applications for a limited number of grants to be awarded from its Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research Fund. The grants, in amounts up to \$1,500, may be used for supplies and materials, research services (literature searches, computer use, clerical and/or technical assistance, copy fees) and travel. Applications are posted on the Santa Fe Trail Association website at www.santafetrail.org/about-us/scholarly-research/.

The purpose of the Fund is to stimulate significant scholarly research on the Trail suitable for publication. Consideration for the grants is open to anyone whose application fulfills the procedures required. All applications are reviewed by the SFTA Scholarly Research Committee whose members are currently Joy Poole-Chair, Leo Oliva, Ph.D. former Editor of Wagon Tracks, Rick Hendricks, NM State Historian and LaDonna Hutton- SFTA Vice-President.

Applications are due to the Committee by November 14, 2011. Grants will be awarded by December 1, 2011. FY 2012 awards are for 9 months. A report and all receipts are required from the grantee by September 1, 2012. Proposals may be sent to Joy Poole, 125 W. Lupita Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505, (505)-476-9712, or amusejoy@msn.com.



President Roger Slusher
(Photo: Rich Lawson)

President's Column: A Symposium to Remember

What a great time we had at the Symposium in Dodge City! Whether it was eating buffalo meat (or a lot of other wonderful food), touring the area, listening to really interesting talks, or just visiting with old friends, everyone seemed to be soaking up the Trail and the Wild West atmosphere. Jim Sherer and a large group of organizations and volunteers really did themselves proud. Be sure to read his report on another page of this issue.

Sandy and I started with a steak at the casino before enjoying an outstanding concert by Michael Martin Murphy. We are truly fortunate that a great musician and songwriter like "Murph" has taken a serious interest in the Trail and Western history in general. Be sure to check out "Santa Fe Trail" on his Tall Grass & Cool Water album.

On Thursday I had the honor of conducting the SFTA Board meeting. Details of decisions made will be found elsewhere in this issue. It never ceases to amaze me that we can cover so much business with so little conflict and get done on time. What a great group of dedicated, cooperative folks we have on the Board! The meeting was followed by a marking workshop by Steve Burns of the NPS aided by Steve Schmidt and Jeff Trotman, who together have a world of experience in getting the Trail marked.

Proposed Amendments at General Membership Meeting

On Saturday we started with the general membership meeting. The main business concerned two proposed amendments to our by-laws. The first one proposed changing all our directors to at-large directors in the future. Discussion centered on whether it was fair for states with more Trail and/or members to get the same representation versus whether it was fair to risk some Trail states having no direct representation. The amendment passed so all directors elected from now on will be elected at large.

The second proposal was to end term limits for the position of secretary. Again there was some disagreement as to whether term limits or the members should decide when a person leaves office. The amendment did not pass so there will still be a limit of two full terms for all officers and Board members, except for the position of treasurer. As a teacher who taught the Constitutional Convention for 36 years, I couldn't help but feel *deja vu* as I heard the same arguments that were expressed in Philadelphia in 1787.

Brooke Safford of the NPS began Saturday's presentations with a brief workshop on the Rediscovery Project now featured on the NPS website. After the day's historical presentations, at the evening banquet Leo Oliva presented name tags to all life members and a large number of other awards were presented. 23 historic Trail folks were added to the Hall of Fame. They are listed elsewhere in this issue. To put the cherry on top, Joanne VanCoevern announced that the Scholarly Research Fund is renamed the Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research Fund, and on behalf of all the members of SFTA, Joanne then presented a replica of the Native American atop the Kansas State Capitol and a blanket to Leo for his incredible 25 years of producing quality issues of Wagon Tracks.

To wrap things up, Mike Olsen took us down memory lane with a well-selected slide show and narration of our first 25 years. By the way, Joanne has written a nice history of the last five years, which is now on our website along with Marc Simmons' history of our first 20 years.

It was truly a Symposium to remember.

Roger

SFTA Board of Directors

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Joanne's Jottings: Visit Our Renovated Website

www.santafetrail.org

Have you visited our SFTA website lately? It has a new look, filled with information for SFTA members, chapters and visitors, and we are adding new content and making frequent updates. We strive to make the website a top-notch resource on the Santa Fe Trail and our Association.

So what can you find on our revised website?

- **Interactive map:** Find information about sites along the Santa Fe Trail and get a brief glimpse of some of these by visiting the Interactive Map. This map was designed by Ron Dulle and features some of his wonderful photographs of sites along the Trail.
- **Programs:** Discover the many Challenge Cost Shares grants that SFTA has managed, as well as the results of the projects. Check out the Education projects that SFTA has undertaken.
- **Chapter events:** Learn about the chapter nearest you, and others along the Trail.
- **Calendar:** Discover meetings and programs to expand your knowledge and enjoyment of the Trail. This is a great tool for scheduling and planning trips, vacations, and activities.
- **Recent News:** Read the latest information, what's happening now.
- **Grants for Scholarly Research:** Get the details and the forms to apply for grants for your research. Learn what has been funded in the past. Look under www.santafetrail.org/about-us/scholarly-research/.
- **Wagon Tracks archive:** You now have access to the first 23 years of *Wagon Tracks* with just a click of the mouse. You can also locate information on some of the research presented at SFTA's Symposiums and how you can acquire copies of these.
- **Buy Santa Fe Trail-related items:** With one click, you can visit the Last Chance Store and discover a wide variety of materials available for purchase, all related to the Santa Fe Trail.
- **Preservation, Mapping and Marking:** SFTA's policies for Preservation and Mapping/Marking are located here, as are forms needed to request funds for these two areas, and many helpful links.
- **Links to the National Park Service** and PNTS (Partnership for the National Trails System). You can also follow links to other national historic trails.
- **Links to museums and business members of SFTA:** Explore the Trail, stop at these museums and support the businesses that support us with their membership.

In the next few months, the Website Committee will continue to evaluate the website and make additions. The next area of concentration will be Education. We want to draw more people to our website, to spread the word about the Santa Fe Trail and our organization. We hope you will take some time to look at the new site and enjoy what has already been put up. After a little time on the site, we think you'll agree with Marc Simmons' declaration at the very first symposium: -- "The Santa Fe Trail Lives On!"

Editor's Notes

As you enjoy the new look of *Wagon Tracks*, you'll see some added features. On the front page is a table of contents to help you find your way through the journal. Columns in each issue will include Young People and the Trail, The Trail Today which will introduce you to a section of the Trail and what you can see there today, and a column by the National Park Service. You'll see a section on Events which may entice you to visit other chapters.

We have moved the listing of museums to the website and plan to have active links to each museum there. Likewise, our busi-

ness members and supporters will be invited to have an active link on our website. If you don't have access to the web, we'll be happy to provide you a hard copy of these lists. Call Linda or Joanne (see their numbers on the facing page) or write to ask for a copy.

I hope you enjoy this issue. If you have comments, things you'd like to see or topics you want to know more about, please let me know. Email me at editor@santafetrail.org, call me at 505-681-3026 or write me at 1046 Red Oaks NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

I'm glad to be here!

Ruth Friesen

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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

PRESIDENT INTRODUCES NEW BOARD

by Margaret Sears

President Roger Slusher introduced the newly-elected Santa Fe Trail Association's Board of Directors at the awards banquet held during the September 2011 national symposium in Dodge City, KS. Officers elected to lead the SFTA during the next two years include: President Roger Slusher, Vice President LaDonna Hutton, Secretary Sara Jane Richter, and Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters. Directors are Rich Lawson, Missouri; Linda Peters, Kansas; Rod Podszus, Colorado; Mike Najdowski, New Mexico; Karla French, Oklahoma; Davy Mitchell, Texas, and Allan Wheeler, At-Large. Directors who will continue in their present positions until 2013 include Mike Dickey, Missouri; Bonita Oliva, Kansas; Faye Gaines, New Mexico; Larry Justice, Oklahoma; Clint Chambers, Texas; and John Atkinson, At-Large. The Board at its annual meeting held prior to the Symposium appointed Tom Pelikan to complete the Colorado Director position vacated by LaDonna Hutton's election to the vice presidency.

SFTA BOARD ACTIONS

by Mike Olsen

Following are action items from the September 22, 2011 SFTA Board of Directors meeting held in Dodge City. Note that this executive summary is not official until the minutes are approved by the board. Contact SFTA Association Manager Joanne VanCoevern for further information.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that:

1. A "Mission Statement and Administrative Procedures" for the Harry C. Myers Collection, as recommended by the Harry C. Myers Task Force, be adopted.
2. Tom Pelikan be appointed as a Colorado representative to the board, completing the term of LaDonna Hutton, who has been elected vice president of the SFTA.
3. That Ross Marshall be reappointed to a two year term as the SFTA representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System.
4. That a "Director and Officer Annual Conflict of Interest Statement" for the SFTA be adopted.
5. That a "Santa Fe Trail Association Employee Protection (Whistleblower) Policy" be adopted.
6. That the offer of the End of the Trail Chapter to host the 2015 SFTA Symposium in Santa Fe be accepted.
7. That the Preservation Policy recommended by the SFTA Preservation Committee be approved.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Two amendments were proposed at the general membership meeting on September 24, 2011. The first one proposed changing all SFTA directors to at-large directors in the future. The amendment passed so all directors elected from now on will be elected at large.

The second proposal was to end term limits for the position of secretary. The amendment did not pass so there will still be a limit of two full terms for all officers and Board members, except for the position of treasurer.

VP THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT

A big thanks to all who voted for me. I consider it an "Honor" to represent the Santa Fe Trail Association as the Vice-President. Even though I am a self-proclaimed weekend historian, I feel that I will be able to serve the association in other ways. The Santa Fe Trail is truly a passion of mine and I see myself as someone who will be able to promote the Trail, assisting chapters, promoting the preservation of the Trail, and serving the Trail in any other manner needed. I could not have accepted this position if it weren't for the full support of my husband, Charlie. He and I look forward to trekking the Trail and getting to know all of you.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jim Shearer and the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter for the fabulous 2011 Symposium. The speakers were excellent, tours were great, food was fantastic, facilities were beautiful, and most of all the generous hospitality shown all of us was fantastic. Thank you!

Please feel free to contact me at 719-469-2906 or by e-mail, cnhutton@bresnan.net

LaDonna Hutton

Oliva Leads Civil War Discussion At Kinsley Library

Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the Civil War, a program of five conversations exploring different facets of the Civil War experience, will be presented by the Kinsley Public Library in conjunction with the *National Endowment for the Humanities* and the *American Library Association*. The series begins January 22 and meets once a month through April.

Dr. Leo Oliva will lead the conversation on selected readings. Informed by reading the words written or spoken by powerful voices from the past and present, the discussion centers around three books: *America's War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on their 150th Anniversaries*, a new anthology edited by Edward L. Ayers and published by NEH and ALA, *March* by Geraldine Brooks [2005], and *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam* by James McPherson.

<http://kinsleylibrary.info/CivilWar.htm>

Partnership for the National Trails System

FY12 Appropriations – Status unchanged at this writing. Still on Continuing Resolutions in Congress and we may not have actual 2012 appropriations. So it may be just status quo for National Park Service funding for the Santa Fe Trail, which is not all that bad in today's budget climate. Challenge Cost Share Program remains in limbo.

2012 National Historic Trails Workshop – Every two years this workshop is sponsored by PNTS. Final decisions are being made at this writing. The only thing for sure is that it will be in New Mexico sometime in May sponsored by the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Association (CARTA). Likely the themes will include trail preservation and historic trail heritage tourism. Final information should be out very soon. I hope some of you can go, as support groups such as SFTA meet with other trails groups and federal and state agencies to share information and gain insights about available resources.

Volunteer manhours and dollar contributions – Keep working on the totals for 2011. If every chapter, committee and leader in SFTA turns in their totals for 2011 next January, I am sure we can beat our totals for 2010 which totaled over 60,000 volunteer manhours and \$1,406,000 in donations!

2012 Trails Advocacy Week in Washington D.C. – Plans are being finalized for this very important annual event, which will be February 11-16. This is our annual combined National Trails System initiative to call on Congress members to share both what we are doing and what our needs are for not only appropriations but legislation as well. We are also able to meet with congressional appropriations sub-committees, national offices of our various agencies including NPS, administration branch committees, and just share information and encouragement with each other as we come and speak with one voice to our national leaders.

Thanks for your support for PNTS as we work very hard to support the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and SFTA.

Ross Marshall, SFTA Rep. to PNTS

The DAR marker "BEND OF THE ARKANSAS" (Tombstone Park, Great Bend, Kansas) #48 that sat near in the southwest corner of 10th & Pine in Great Bend, Kansas has been moved to the southwest corner of 10th & Frey in a small park. The GPS for this new marker location is N38-21.6788 W98-45.372. "We've always said that the only thing the DAR did wrong was they didn't put wheels on the markers they placed along on the Santa Fe Trail!" say Larry and Carolyn Mix, St. John, Kansas.



Dr. David Clapsaddle Wins NHS Award

Dr. David Clapsaddle has won the Midwest Region's 2010 George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Individual Volunteer Service for his work with Fort Larned NHS. He was selected from a number of outstanding nominations sent in by the 59 parks across 13 states that make up the Midwest Region of the National Park Service. During 2010 Clapsaddle, a retired educator and historian, has combined these interests in developing hands-on education programs targeted to promote Fort Larned and Santa Fe Trail history. Through his incredible efforts Fort Larned now offers its largest assortment of offsite school programs in the history of the park. He has volunteered over 550 hours this fiscal year by presenting education programs to more than 4,000 elementary school students, teachers, and adults in five states. The programs are also requested by community organizations such as libraries and assisted living facilities. He has developed seven uniquely different trunk programs, all imparting vital lessons regarding this era of American history.

His list of accomplishments will now be submitted to Washington to compete against all the winners from the other Regions for the best Individual Volunteers throughout the entire National Park Service. Fort Larned NHS plans a celebration soon to honor Dr. Clapsaddle.

National Park Service Interactive Map

Looking for a Google Earth-type map of the Santa Fe Trail? NPS has the answer for you. Brooke Safford, NPS GIS coordinator, gave a brief overview of the map at the Symposium. To explore this map, go to www.nps.gov/safe. This is the Santa Fe Trail page of NPS. Scroll down to the middle of the page and click on "Follow the Trail." Then scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Virtual Tour." And you are there! Or here, or anywhere on the Trail. The map is viewable with various backgrounds: street map, imagery, or topo map. Blue dots mark specific sites, and if you click on the blue dot, a white box pops up with a description of the site. Not enough information? Click on "View Additional Details" at the bottom of the box for photos and other magic. To sing Brooke's praises for the work on this, email her at brooke_safford@nps.gov.

Buffalo Grass: Larder of the Plains

by David Clapsaddle

As the Santa Fe Trail left the well-watered, wooded valley of the Missouri River, it entered the mixed prairie grass region of what was to become Kansas. The change in terrain was rather abrupt. Such was the scene that welcomed Francis Parkman.

Emerging from the Mud-Holes of Westport, we pushed our way for some time along the narrow track, in the checkered sunshine and shadow of the woods, till at length, issuing into the broad light, we left behind us the farthest outskirts of the great forest that once spread from the western plains to the shore of the Atlantic. Looking over an interesting belt of bushes, we saw the green, ocean-like expanse of prairie, stretching well beyond, well to the horizon.¹

Proceeding southwest, the trade route approached the Flint Hills, populated by the tall grasses, predominantly big and little blue stem, known to Josiah Gregg as "long grass."² Such was the herbage described by Susan Magoffin as she viewed the landscape to the west of Council Grove, "On one side to the west, is a wide expanse of prairie, as far as the eye can reach nothing but a waving sea of tall grass is to be seen."³

As the trail continued southwest, it arrived at present McPherson County, Kansas. There, the tall prairie grasses began to yield to short grasses which populated the plains, buffalo and gramma grasses. At this point, an exercise in etymology might prove helpful. Prairie is derived from a French word with reference to a meadow, grassland used to produce hay. Such stands in contrast to plains, so named for their barren appearance. It was in this area that buffalo began to appear in large numbers. These beasts, properly named bison, much preferred the short grasses to the long stem varieties of the prairie. As the trail reached the Pawnee River, Lt. J. W. Abert observed, "We have now entered that portion of the prairie that deserves to be included under the Great Desert. The grass is extremely short and wiry, angling about in all directions like the hair on a buffalo's forehead."⁴

The record is replete with references to buffalo grass. Marion Sloan recalled "miles and miles of buffalo grass."⁵ George Sibley described the pasture in present Rice County, Kansas as follows:

The grass was very thick and luxuriant of the kind called Buffalo Grass which never grows tall. I presume the valley may contain ten thousand acres. It is beautifully level and thickly set with Buffalo Grass, and looks like an immense field of Blue Grass.⁶

"a country covered with a coat of soft buffalo grass."⁷ Mead's observation is in keeping with that of Isaac Coats' description of the grass at the Cheyenne/Sioux Village west of Fort Larned in April, 1867: "The buffalo grass which was just beginning to grow was soft and velvet to our feet."⁸ George Armstrong Custer, no stranger to the plains, wrote,

On the uplands is produced what is there known as the buffalo grass, indigenous and peculiar in its character, differing in form and substance from all other grasses. The blade under favorable circumstances reaches a growth usually of from three to five inches, but instead of being straight, or approximately so, it assumes a curled or waving shape, the grass itself becoming densely matted and giving to the foot, when walking upon it, a sensation similar to that produced by stepping upon moss or the most costly of velvet carpets.⁹

Far more utilitarian than Custer's appraisal was that of Col. Richard J. Dodge.

The buffalo-grass is uninviting to the eye, being so very short that an inexperienced man in search of pasture for animals would pass it without consideration. It makes up in thickness what it lacks in length and horses and cattle not only eat it greedily, but fill themselves much quicker than would seem possible.¹⁰

While contemporary accounts generally identified all the short grasses as buffalo, such was not the case. Intermingled with buffalo grass were three different varieties of gramma grasses, blue, side oats, and hairy, commonly called bunch grasses.¹¹

Buffalo grass, as opposed to the bunch grasses, is a creeper that produces vigorous surface runners which root at the joints. The grass rarely exceeds five inches in height. The seed is produced in small hard burrs, close to the ground, but they may be produced on seed stems one to three inches above the base of the plant. Because the grass grows so close to the ground, it protects itself from over-grazing. Buffalo grass, not unlike the grammas, produces forage high in nutrients. Even in the dormant stage when the plants do not produce the slightest hint of green, buffalo grass retains its nutrient qualities in the heat of summer or in the cold of winter.¹²

The buffalo has been reported to be the larder for the plains Indians. In like fashion, one could conclude that buffalo grass was the larder for the buffalo; and with the advent of the Santa Fe Trail, wagoners were pleased to find that buffalo grass could also be the larder for their oxen, without the need for grain supplement.



Kim Kraeer & Lucy Van Essen-Fishman,
Integration and Application Network

Elsewhere, James Mead described the Smoky Hill Valley as

See Endnotes on following page

The New Mexican Customs Regulations of 1825

by Robert J. Tórréz

History books tell us the Santa Fe Trail opened in 1821, the same year Mexico gained its independence from Spain. The general impression one often gets is that soon after militia Captain Pedro Ignacio Gallego encountered William Becknell and his party that fateful afternoon of November 13, 1821¹, borders between New Mexico and the United States were magically opened, ushering an era of the free flow of people and trade between the two foreign entities.

The reality was that, as with all foreign countries, whatever commerce took place between New Mexico and the United States was regulated and closely watched by officials of the Mexican government in Santa Fe. The records of the Mexican Archives of New Mexico make it clear that by 1823 officials in Santa Fe were concerned that the *americanos* (citizens of the United States of North America) were importing goods without paying the required tariffs. Officials were especially con-

cerned that these men were hunting beaver illegally and to the detriment of local residents. Beaver trapping was a branch of industry reserved by law exclusively to Mexican citizens.

One of the earliest efforts by officials in Santa Fe to assist their customs officers along the border to cope with the influx of *estranjeros* (foreigners) is found in the instructions issued by Juan Bautista Vigil, the *administrador de rentas* (administrator of tax revenue) in early April 1825. The instructions were issued to Severino Martín and Rafael Luna, the guardians or customs officers of New Mexico's northern frontier in Taos. These consist of seven sections as follows:

1. Upon receiving notice that *estranjeros* were approaching the borders, they were to request assistance from the local chief of militia and proceed to go out to the frontier to determine if these foreigners proposed to introduce commercial goods into New Mexico.

2. At some point before these foreigners entered any settlements, they were to show their passports to prove they were persons traveling in good faith. They were to present the *guias* (permits) and invoices of the goods they wished to introduce to the territory. The packs and load were to be inspected and prohibited items identified. The travelers were to be advised that these prohibited items could not be traded or sold unless they obtained an exemption from the governor or principal customs officer in Santa Fe.

3. If their passports were not in order, the cargo was to be closely examined and compared to the published tariff listings. The goods were to be impounded and sent to Santa Fe for review by the administrator (Vigil) and the proper tariffs applied.

4. If any of the foreigners demanded the personal presence of the administrator in the field, they were to do so formally in writing and under the obligation that they were to pay for the expenses of the trip. The written request was to be sent to Santa Fe by the local customs officers along with any invoices, passports and other related documents.

5. When contraband was discovered or an *estranjero* (or local accomplice) attempted to defraud the government, the nearest judicial official was to formally open a case, take charge of the disputed goods and place the suspects under bond to assure their appearance in court. If found guilty, the person's goods were to be confiscated and subject to sale at public auction.

6. Until all these steps were taken, proper *guias* issued and approval obtained from the administrator, no goods could be sold or traded. Violation of this regulation could result in the loss of all his goods by the merchant.

Continued on page 8

NOTES: buffalo grass

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7. James R. Mead, *Hunting and Trading on the Great Plains 1859-1875* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1986), 183.

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10. Col. Richard I. Dodge, *The Plains of the Great West* (New York: Archer House, Inc. 1959), 32.

11. *Pasture and Range Plants* (Hays, Kansas: Fort Hays State University, 1959), 20-25.

12. *Pasture and Range Plants*, 25.

Customs Regulations, continued from page 7

7. If local officials had any doubts on how to proceed or deal with a situation, they were to suspend all activities until the administrator was consulted.²

Regulations such as these were observed through much of the Mexican period of New Mexico's history. Customs officials and escorts of militia or regular presidio troops from Santa Fe or the small garrisons at San Miguel del Bado or Taos were regularly sent to meet the American commercial caravans as they approached the Napeste, or Arkansas River. The idea was to meet the caravan before it had a chance to disperse or merchants had the opportunity to cache, or hide, goods in order to avoid paying tariffs. The tariffs collected every year were important to New Mexico. The revenue generated from the American merchants constituted the principal source of income for government operations during much of the Mexican period. A number of documents show how funds from these tariffs were collected, accounted for, and almost immediately paid out to cover the often overdue salaries of government officials and troops. Some of these documents show that loans made to the government by individuals (often the governor) were made with the projected income from the commercial caravans as collateral.

Although every wagon load was apparently inspected, indications are contraband goods frequently got past customs officials. In March of 1831, for example, all the stores in Santa Fe were apparently ordered closed when local officials received complaints that American merchants were selling contraband goods in their stores. Cristobal Torres, Santa Fe's *alcalde constitucional*, placed a guard at the doorway of each store while an inspection was done. Torres reported a number of items were confiscated and deposited in the Treasury building pending the steps necessary to legally declare them contraband and make them eligible for disposition at public sale.³

Robert J. Tórréz is a former president of the Historical Society of New Mexico and former State Historian, NM State Records Center & Archives, 1987-2000.

NOTES

1. See Michael Olsen and Harry C. Myers, "The Dairy of Pedro Ignacio Gallego," *Wagon Tracks* 7:1 (November 1992).

2. "Provisional Instructions to be scrupulously observed by don Severino Martin and don Rafael Luna...", 20 April 1825. Mexican Archives of New Mexico (MANM): 1825 Governors Papers, microfilm roll 4, frame 776.

3. "Deligecias (testimony or legal statements) done by the alcalde constitucional...Cristobal Torres...", 9 March 1831. MANM: 1831 Legislative, Ayuntamiento proceedings, jurisdiction of Santa Fe, Microfilm roll 13, frame 647.

*Supper served at the Dodge City Opera House after a masquerade ball, February 1885**Entrée*

Young turkey, cranberry jelly
Boiled tongue, garnished with young lettuce
Boiled ham homards en belle vue
Lobster salad with plover eggs
Salmon salad de legumes garnie
Chicken salad, Mayonnaise de langoustes en bordure
Shrimp salad aspic de crevettes
Salad a la jardinière
Salad de legumes a italienne
Salad a la russe
Ham salad al alamande
German cold salad

Relishes

Spanish olives
Pickled chow chow
French gretchens
Halford's table sauce

Desserts

Havana cream cake
Queen cake
Turkish cake
White raisin cake
Almond cake
Maderia wine cake
Chocolate cake
Marble cake
Lady cake
Bonanza cake
Pistachio cream cake
Neapolitan cake
Russian cream cake
Bararian cake
Italian cream cake
Champagne jelly cake
White jelly roll
Assorted candies
Texas pecans, paper shell almonds
California oranges, pears, apricots
Brazil cream nuts
Hot Vienna Rolls

Tea

Milk

Coffee

Life in Early Day Dodge City

by Noel Ary

Presented at 2011 Symposium, Dodge City, Kansas

Dodge City, Kansas, is a small town of about 27,000 located in the southwestern part of the state. Its name is recognized worldwide, whether in a Hollywood production, a book, or when someone yells, "Get the hell out of Dodge."

Dodge City had its beginning about 140 years ago when the Santa Fe Railroad began surveying for the expansion of its line to New Mexico. Buffalo hunters reasoned that the spot where the survey stakes exited the Fort Dodge Military Reservation would be a great place to pile hides in anticipation of the railroad's arrival. Why haul hides to the railroad when they could wait for it to come to them?

The hunters needed supplies and other materials, and merchants soon arrived to fill those needs. Almost overnight a shantytown sprang up. With a lack of wood and stone building materials, there were no permanent structures.

Canadian George Hoover and his partner J.C. McDonald opened the first business on the morning of June 17, 1872, near what is today the corner of Second and Trail streets (location of Lopp Motors, the Chrysler and Dodge dealer). By the time the railroad arrived in September, the town consisted of two general stores, one saloon, one grocery, one dance hall, one restaurant, one barbershop, one blacksmith shop, a drug store and the beginnings of Rath and Wright's mercantile store. Dodge City was in business and growing.

The newly established town was based on the buffalo business—hides, meat and bones. A newly discovered German tanning process could turn buffalo hides into usable leather. An English company ordered 500 hides and then a Pennsylvania tanner ordered 2,000 at \$3.50 each. The rush was on and the poor buffalo never had a chance.

A hunter would ride out early in the morning to scout a herd and crawl up as close as he could, downwind, usually within 300 yards. Any rock or plant was taken advantage of for concealment. Heavy rifles were used for hunting, usually a Remington, Ballard, Springfield, or Sharps, each weighing 12 to 15 pounds. The hunter usually shot from a prone position, using a forked stick or stand to support and steady the gun.

Larger herds were made up of many smaller groups and an older cow usually led each group. The following is a general description of a hunt. After a short observation, the hunter identified the leader and it would be the first one shot — ideally through the lungs. The wounded animal would often stand in place before collapsing from loss of blood. Upon hearing the report of the rifle, other animals in the herd would look to see if the leader was going to run. If not, they continued to graze. If any animal looked as if it was going to run, it was shot next. If the herd did begin running, the hunter tried to bring down the

leader so the herd would turn back on itself. The idea was to keep the herd milling about to hold the animals within range. Tom Nixon claimed to have killed 120 animals in 40 minutes using two guns. Brick Bond shot 6,183 head in November and December of 1874.

When hunters stopped shooting, skinners moved in. They staked hides out on the ground to dry, hair side down. A bull hide weighed about 50 pounds and a cowhide about 20 pounds. Once dry, hides were folded down the middle and stacked, awaiting a buyer.

Most skinners were loners who worked by themselves. They usually returned from a hunt (which might last days or weeks) wearing the same clothes they left in — but soaked in dried blood and other animal matter. Robert Wright said the term "stinker" was justly applied to them, and they were often "obstreperous" and unpleasant to be around.

During the winter season preserving and shipping buffalo meat was nearly as extensive a business as that of caring for the hides. Dodge City soon had several houses for the curing of buffalo hams and preparing them for shipment, in addition to a hide tannery and large warehouses for hide storage. Between 1872 and 1874 more than 850,000 buffalo hides were shipped from Dodge City. In 1873, over a million and a half pounds of meat left Dodge City, and during the winter of the same year, 50 carloads of buffalo tongues were shipped east.

In less than ten years the buffalo were gone. During the 1880s and 1890s, "bone-pickers" spread out across the prairie and shipped tons of bones east to be used in making buttons, handles for knives and pans, in sugar-refining, and in manufacturing fertilizer. Many early settlers made a living selling bones until their farming efforts began to pay.

Dodge was not just a quiet little western town during these times. Professional buffalo hunters were a vigorous lot, hardened to weather and danger. They had to be hardy to survive the hard, bloody work, storms, extreme weather, and occasional Indian attacks. A hunting outfit included one or more hunters and enough skinners to keep up with the killing, plus wagons to carry the equipment. The driving force was money. It was possible to make \$100 a day during the good years (around \$1,800 today.)

When the hunter got to town he worked just as hard at having fun as he had at hunting. Dodge City merchants were there to ensure he had a good time and places to spend his newly earned money. In late 1872 the town had seven saloons and several other businesses supported all or in part by the buffalo trade. The great southern buffalo herd was gone by 1879 and the northern herd by 1883. Dodge had been in the right place at the right time.

Continued on page 10

After cutting its teeth on buffalo hunters, Dodge City was ready to accommodate cowboys' wants and needs when they arrived several years later. After the Civil War, conditions in Texas were ripe for the development of the cattle industry. Men came home from fighting to ranches run down from the lack of labor. The old way of life was gone; new industries and jobs were needed. Texans saw a possible answer to their economic problems in the wild native longhorn cattle, running free for the taking. If cattle could be moved to population centers north and east of the Mississippi — where a meat shortage existed after the war — the beefs could be sold for badly needed hard cash.

Ranchers in south Texas began rounding up longhorns to sell to eastern buyers. The problem was finding an economical means of transporting them to market. Texas railroads charged higher shipping rates than lines in Kansas, so cattle were driven to railheads farther north — many in Kansas. Once again Dodge City was in the right place at the right time.

The first herds reached Dodge in 1875, and by the next year nearly 250,000 head had been driven here. By the summer of 1879, more than a million head had passed through town. Many were shipped by rail to the east, but a fair number were driven on north to be pastured on the good grass available there.

In 1880, the 164 herds that came to Dodge required the attention of nearly 2,000 men. Those cowboys used approximately 6,500 horses. A drive covered from twelve to fifteen miles a day. A cowboy earned about a dollar a day (\$90 during a drive) and often spent most of it in Dodge.

Agents went south to contract for cattle and to advertise the advantages of driving to Dodge City. By the time the herd reached its destination, the cowboy had generally planned how he was going to spend his wages. Most trail hands were young, age 20 or less, and worked hard in the heat and dust for weeks at a time. They lived with the constant threat of stampedes and other dangers possible on a cattle drive. When the drive was over and cowboys had money in their pockets — more than they had ever had in their lives — they were ready to have a good time, and they did. A long way from home, it was easy for them to believe that what happened in Dodge, stayed in Dodge. They felt there was little chance of reports of their behavior reaching their families in Texas.

Merchants and saloonkeepers knew the trail hands expected to have a good time, and were ready to provide the right ingredients. The saloons ranged from one-room shanties with dirt floors to long wooden buildings with painted interiors, ornately carved mahogany bars, mirrors, and paintings. These frontier saloons offered more than rotgut and snakehead whiskeys. Fine liqueurs, brandies, and the latest mixed drinks could be had. Ice was usually available so that beer could be served cold. If they ran out of ice, it was brought in by rail from the mountains. Cowtown drinking was not primitive. Dodge City's Old House Saloon advertised anchovies and Russian caviar on its lunch menu.

Robert Wright's store was the major outfitter in the area. In the days before Dodge had any banks, he said it was a common practice to send shipments of \$50,000 to banks in Leavenworth. Customers of most nationalities could be accommodated at Wright's. Wright could speak most Indian languages; Mr. Isaacson spoke French; Sam Samuels had mastered Spanish, German, Russian, and Hebrew.

Dodge City's position on the railroad helped foster a thriving freighting business. Distributing supplies for Dodge City, the large trade territory surrounding it, and military matériel for Fort Dodge, Camp Supply in Oklahoma and Fort Elliott, Texas, required a huge freighting capability. This meant a large outlay of horses, mules, wagons, food, equipment, and men.

During the month of February 1879, Lee and Reynolds, local freighters, moved 485,575 pounds of stores for the U.S. Army. One shipment required 100 six-mule teams for transportation. For March of the same year, an estimated 300,000 pounds of government stores were moved south. In 1883, 30,576,575 pounds of civilian and 3,576,575 pounds of government freight were unloaded at the Santa Fe depot. Moving this tonnage created a big market for draft animals. In 1883 the horse trade was estimated at 20,000 head, with 10,000 head arriving from Texas before July 1.

Dodge City no doubt deserved most of its reputation as a rough-and-tumble town. Word of mouth, contemporary newspapers, Ned Buntline and his dime novels, and twentieth-century movies and television fostered this notoriety to the point that it is still around over 130 years later.

But there was another side to the town that wasn't mentioned in the media. In the winter, when there were few cowboys around and business had fallen off, the people in Dodge "did their thing." They loved to dance. There wasn't much else to do for entertainment. The holiday season at Christmas and New Years and George Washington's birthday was an especially busy time. The *Dodge City Times* on January 5, 1878, commented about entertainment: "The principal and probably the only amusement on the frontier is dancing. It is participated in by all classes of people. We have the social hop, the masquerade, the surprise party and the dance hall fandangos. There are competitive social clubs and hops."

There were two main social clubs in 1882, the Old Folks Society and the Lotus Club. Membership in the Old Folks Society had nothing to do with age, but was made up primarily of people who had been pioneers in the development of Dodge. After one of the Old Folks Society events, the newspaper listed the names of all who were present and described the women's clothing: Mrs. Webster in blue brocade, satin, and diamonds; Mrs. Hardesty in satin brocade and diamonds; Mrs. Wright in black silk and diamonds; and Mrs. Hoover in cream-colored satin and pearls. The list continued, describing other resplendent ladies.

Several nights later the Lotus Club met for dancing and sup-

per. Again the news reported the glittering affair and described the ladies' outfits. Many of the couples belonged to both clubs, and a comparison of the news articles reveals that all but one of the women wore a different dress than she had at the first event. The men were fashionable and gaily attired in black dress coats, white satin vests, blue neckties, and diamond pins. For a costume ball held later in the season, a costumer from Kansas City came to measure people and help order costumes. The outfits arrived by train the day before the ball.

The suppers at these affairs were equally elaborate. A supper served at the Opera House after a masquerade ball in February 1885 included a dozen entrees that varied from lobster salad with plover eggs, to salmon salad, and German cold salad. For dessert seventeen kinds of cakes were on the menu, along with assorted candies, and a variety of nuts and fruits. Supper was usually served at midnight and dancing continued until 4:00 A.M. It doesn't seem possible that this world could exist in the early-day Dodge City we know from novels, television, and movies.

Small acts seemed to just appear along Front or Bridge Streets — a trained elephant, trained mouse and rat acts, tight rope-walkers, and such. Circuses were apparently quite popular; there were several advertised in the newspapers each year.

Dogs and hogs ran loose around town causing newsmen to comment that something had to be done about both because gardens and yards weren't safe from either. One paper noted that there had been 26 dogs involved in a fight the previous night in front of the depot. If things got a little quiet, Ham Bell would round up a couple of hogs and provoke a fight between them for entertainment. Dodge was always a sporting town and no doubt money exchanged hands at the end of the event.

In 1880, a man brought Mayor James Kelley a bear cub from Fort Supply in Oklahoma. Kelley raised "Paddy-the-Bear," a prominent character around Front Street. Much of the time she was kept chained in the backyard of Kelley's restaurant, where she was much admired by the children. By the time she was full grown she was the victim of many practical jokes. Pranksters loved to feed her whisky, which she seemed to enjoy. One day, after she had escaped from her chain, she hid from her tormentors by crawling through an open window into the Dodge House hotel. Paddy squeezed under a bed and fell asleep. The



room's occupant was sleeping off quite a drunk and was eventually aroused from his slumber by the rising and falling of his bed. He threw a glass tumbler under

the bed and hit Paddy. Paddy immediately stood up, carrying the bed and its occupant with her. The drunk recovered his footing, broke through a door into the dining room (improperly dressed), hollering at the top of his lungs. This story is corroborated not only by the local newspapers, but also by the memoirs of a gentleman who had lived in an Amish community south of Dodge City. Unfortunately, Paddy became mean as she got older and apparently bit someone. She was shot and killed — but here on the frontier a good, healthy bear carcass couldn't be allowed to go to waste. She was butchered, sold at a local butcher shop, and was served for Christmas dinner in many homes. Paddy's death was recounted in an eloquent obituary in the December 29, 1883, *Dodge City Democrat*.

Dodge Citians loved their pets. Several men in town had greyhounds to hunt antelope and other game. Some of the dogs were imported from England and Ireland. Troubles, favorite dog of George Hoover, was run over by a train. The town turned out for a large funeral parade, complete with the Cowboy Band. Troubles, incidentally, loved liquor. Colonel Hardesty trained his dog Tick to take a coin in his mouth, go to the butcher shop, and drop it on the floor. The butcher would then cut him a piece of meat. When Dodge Citians learned of this, they also gave Tick money and followed him to the butcher shop to watch. Finally the butcher started a credit account for Tick rather than feed him too much meat. Tick eventually had more credit than most people in town.

Someone in town owned a squirrel that was killed. The newspaper noted the death, calling the squirrel "His Squirrelship." Tom Draper had a Maltese cat worth \$350, A.B. Webster had a \$400 dog named Pearl, P.L. Beatty had an 18-pound cat, and Sam Stubbs owned an alligator.

Then, of course, there was the famous Dodge City Cowboy Band. On March 4, 1889, it participated in the inaugural parade of President Benjamin Harrison in Washington, D.C.. Band members were professional musicians who played well, and wore leather chaps, boots, spurs, bandannas, and cowboy hats. Each member carried an ivory-handled six-shooter. The director used his gun to direct the group. (Today's Dodge City High School marching band is also directed by drum majors using pistols.) The Cowboy Band played in Kansas City, Saint Louis, Denver, and Chicago. In each case, the audience was fascinated. Organized and led by Chalk Beeson, the musicians played for nearly all important occasions in Dodge City.

The West was beginning to settle down as more emigrants and farmers moved into the area. As laws were enacted and enforced, Dodge was slowly being "civilized." A slowdown in business had merchants looking for ways to revive interest in the old cattle town. Before adopting an ordinary small-town existence, Dodge had to have one last, glorious, outrageous hurrah. And what would be more outrageous than a bullfight?

In 1884 former mayor A.B. Webster proposed the idea of a genuine Spanish bullfight to celebrate the Fourth of July and once again bring national acclaim and notoriety to Dodge. Most

businessmen thought Webster's idea a good one. It would rescue businesses suffering from a slowing down of the cattle trade. A bullfight would certainly be different from the usual parade, races, prizefights, and horse cart team competition. Money was collected to finance the event, a manager hired, and corrals, chutes, and bleachers built to hold 2,500 spectators. An attorney in Mexico was contacted to secure matadors. "Doc" Barton, who had driven the first trail herd to Dodge, agreed to scout the ranges and select the most ferocious long-horn bulls he could find.

The news stories began. Reporters from New York, Chicago, Saint Louis, San Francisco, Denver, and a dozen countries booked rooms in the local hotels. The Santa Fe Railroad announced it would run excursion trains from the east and the west to bring crowds. Groups concerned with the prevention of cruelty to animals protested to the governor. There were rumors that state authorities would stop the fight. Governor Glick, however, wrote the Dodge City officials saying he would attend if the fight were held two days earlier. It was claimed that Webster received a telegram from the U.S. Attorney saying bullfighting was against the law in the United States, to which the ex-mayor retorted, "Hell! Dodge City ain't in the United States."

The Fourth arrived, the bugle sounded, and the first bull entered the arena just west of town and north of the river. True to the advertising, the bovine was full of fight. He was eventually driven back to the pens and a second bull entered. This critter was a coward, and the third and fourth bulls behaved the same way. The fifth was the worst of all. He got caught in the chute and finally had to be whipped out. The first bull was brought back and was eventually killed by one of the matadors. Newspaper accounts in the days that followed indicated local citizens weren't sure they had had a good time. It was more than century before another bullfight was held in Dodge City, but the event showed outsiders that Dodge was still wild and bucking. For all their bravado, however, the citizens knew better. The promoters had unknowingly officiated at the death of one era in Dodge and the birth of another.

Earlier, the Kansas Legislature had passed quarantine laws prohibiting cattle from southern Texas herds passing into the state east of a set line. This was to protect local cattle from splenic fever that was carried by longhorns. That line was kept just east of Dodge City for ten years, and then, under political pressure, the line was moved west to the Colorado border. This ended the southern cattle trade. It had been a grand and glorious ride for a decade. Ten years might not seem that long, but Dodge was a cow town five years longer than any of the other cattle centers.

With the buffalo gone, millions of acres of nutritious buffalo grass were available to the range cattle industry. Winters had

been mild in western Kansas and local businessmen invested heavily to develop local cattle ranching. All was well until New Year's Eve 1885. A blizzard, later known as the infamous "Blizzard of '86" came howling out of the north. It lasted nearly four days, then thirteen days later a second storm arrived. Although of shorter duration, the second snow was very heavy.

A train with 80 passengers was snowbound a few miles east of Dodge City for five days. Local businessmen who had invested heavily in cattle were financially devastated. The melting snow revealed the reality of their losses; cattle carcasses were piled three and four deep. Many of the remaining animals staggered around on frozen feet and eventually had to be destroyed. Losses in Ford County were estimated at 60 to 80 percent and many ranchers were ruined. Robert Wright, who had been known as the "Merchant Prince of the Prairie," was eventually forced to sell 7,000 acres of land for taxes.



Fire was another of early-day Dodge's downfalls. Before 1885, the town had had fires, but because businesses were literally open around the clock, blazes were discovered early and extinguished. As Dodge City matured, nighttime was rather quiet with few people out and about. Added to the fact that most buildings were built of wood and fire-fighting methods were crude, the town was subject to conflagrations. On January 18, 1885, a fire destroyed eight business houses north of the railroad tracks and several warehouses to the south. Ten months later, during the night of November 27, 1885, a blaze that began in a room over the Junction Saloon wiped out the heart of the business district, including the block that housed Wright's store and Kelley's opera house. Two drugstores, a mercantile company, three saloons, a furniture store, a jewelry store, and a hardware store also burned to the ground. Ten days later, on December 7, fire destroyed another block of buildings that included a newspaper office and several stores and residences.

With the loss of the cattle trade that had been its biggest source of income, local ranchers wiped out by blizzards, and the heart of its business district destroyed by fire, most small towns would have given up. Not Dodge. As its history proves, it has always been ready for what is to come.

In the 1870s, Charles Rath sent buyers into the prairie to bring in buffalo meat, hides, and later bones. In the 1880s, Robert Wright sent representatives as far as southern Texas to make cattlemen aware of the advantages of driving their livestock to the railhead at Dodge. When the Old West was popular in dime novels, there was Dodge with a past richer in stories and legend than any author or producer dared imagine. In the early twentieth century, Ham Bell and his committee journeyed to Hollywood to make movie producers aware of our rich

history. That trend continued on radio and television from the 1950s through the 1970s, when *Gunsmoke*'s Matt Dillon and Kitty Russell lingered at the Long Branch Saloon's bar for two decades to discuss the town and the weather and everything but love.

Dodge City's recovery began one of the biggest booms in its history, but once again, everything was right. When meat packers decided to relocate their plants closer to the Great Plains, Dodge City was in the midst of an area with plenty of cattle, irrigated feed crops, and the water necessary for a large packing operation. Today, the two local beef processing plants process 10,000 to 12,000 head each day. Their products are shipped all over the country and world.

Robert M. Wright, in his book *The Cowboy Capital*, caught the spirit and mystique of Dodge City's early days when he wrote, "Dodge City's equal never existed in all the West, not even in the mining camps of the boom days. It was a product of the frontier — of times and conditions that can never exist again."

Since its founding in 1872, Dodge City has gone by many names — "Cowboy Capital," "Beautiful Bibulous Babylon," "Queen of the Cowntowns," "Wicked Little City," "Delectable Burg." No matter what you call this town, can you find another town anywhere, which has had as interesting a history as Dodge City? It is a history that was lived by a vigorous people who enjoyed the present and looked forward to a prosperous future.

Noel Ary retired in 2000 as director of the Kansas Heritage Center in Dodge City, after working there for 32 years.

Sources of Information

There are many sources of information on Dodge City. The ones I found most helpful are the following:

Young, Fredric R. *Dodge City, Up Through a Century in Story and Pictures*. Dodge City: Boot Hill Museum, Inc., 1972

Young, Fredric R. *The Delectable Burg, An Irreverent History of Dodge City—1872 to 1886*. Dodge City: Kansas Heritage Center, 2009

Shillingberg, William B. *Dodge City, The Early Years, 1872-1886*. Norman: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2009

Wright, Robert M. *Dodge City, The Cowboy Capital and the Great Southwest*. Wichita: Wichita Eagle Press, 1913

The best source of Dodge City information is the Dodge City newspapers. Microfilm of the newspapers can be borrowed from the Kansas State Historical Society through interlibrary loan: (785) 272-8681

Certification: Creating Partnerships

by Frank Norris, NPS

Certification — which is, quite simply, a partnership between a landowner and the National Park Service — is one of the most important ways in which stakeholders along the Santa Fe Trail can protect their properties and get them recognized. If you own a property that played a role in trail history, if you have trail ruts on your property, or if you manage a museum that helps tell the story of the trail, then certification is for you. Certified partners can be private landowners, municipalities, state agencies, Indian tribes or non-profit organizations. The goal is to create a partnership with anyone that wants to help preserve, protect and interpret trail resources.

The NPS has been forging certification partnerships for many years, and some of its longest-standing partnerships were established along the Santa Fe Trail. The first partnership, in fact, was with Dan and Carol Sharp, who certified Autograph Rock in western Oklahoma in January 1991. Since then, dozens of other landowners have become partners as well, and there are now 77 certified properties along the trail — stretching from the Old Franklin Site (managed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources) to the Santa Fe Plaza (managed by the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico).

Certification is an entirely voluntary agreement. The NPS asks only that the landowner make a continuing effort to preserve, protect and interpret the resources on that person's property, and that at least occasional public access be permitted. (The owner/manager can establish visiting times, state where visitors may go on the property and set other reasonable conditions.) In return, the NPS can offer various forms of technical assistance; it will work with the landowner to plan for site protection or to develop interpretive materials such as signs, waysides and exhibits. Those who wish to sever their partnership can do so, at any time, simply by notifying any NPS trails staff person.

The partnership allows plenty of room for choice and flexibility. For example, one owner might choose to install exhibits and sidewalks and open his property to daily visitation. Another might prefer to keep her land undeveloped and limit visits to an occasional school group or researcher. The needs of both owners can be met.

The agency's Santa Fe Trail NHT website has a certification page www.nps.gov/safe/parkmgmt/certification.htm that provides additional information about certification. Included are a brief brochure, a guidebook and a sample certification agreement.

The process of becoming a certified trail partner is a collaborative effort between a property owner and the National Park Service. If you're interested in becoming a certified trail partner, please contact trails staff historian Frank Norris, frank_norris@nps.gov or (505) 988-6005, and describe the property that you would like to have considered for certification.

The Trail Today

M-A-R-I-O-N County; Really!

by Steve Schmidt, SFTA Ambassador

Yes, really! Marion County, Kansas has many Santa Fe Trail related resources and is the focus of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter (CCC) SFTA activities. You can take a tour of the County at www.santafetrail.org by downloading the Auto Tour brochure and see photos on the web-site of the 20 points of interest. The CCC is presently up-dating its auto tour route by installing the National Park Service (NPS) 'Local Tour' signs. The CCC has already completed placing NPS 'Crosses Here' signs marking each location where the Trail crosses a County road.

Steve and Glenda Schmidt's ranch northwest of Lehigh, KS lies at the west end of the "Durham Rut Complex." Beginning there at 38°25'28"N, 97°19'26"W, the swales of the Santa Fe Trail can easily be followed northeastward for about 10 miles on Google Earth. The Schmidt's ranch is where Susan Magoffin 'nooned it on the prairie' June 27, 1846. In the early 1860s, Claude Frances 'French Frank' Laloge operated a road ranch there at the Cottonwood Holes. Laloge filed the first homestead in Marion County under the 1862 Homestead Act and helped organize Marion County government in 1865. A DAR marker is located there on County Road 245 to commemorate French Frank's. Follow the swales and.....

Some 6 miles northeast is located one of the more difficult and famous stream crossing on the Santa Fe Trail --- Cottonwood Creek. This site is also commemorated by a DAR marker. The cut-downs on the west bank of the creek can still be seen.

The crossing was considered the jumping-off point onto the plains --- the buffalo and Indian country. This was the location of Moore's Ranch, the first road ranch, mail station, and post office in present-day Marion County. The CCC-SFTA, with funding from the NPS, constructed a historic interpretive kiosk there in 2005, with descriptions of the Cottonwood Crossing, Moore's Ranch, and the Pike Expedition. Follow the swales and.....

The swales are clearly visible northeastward from the Cottonwood Crossing until they disappear into plowed fields about one mile east of Hwy K-15. But farther east, about 2.5 miles west of the town of Lost Springs (plural) is the site of Lost Spring (singular) Station. Won in a card game by Jack Costello in 1859, Lost Spring Station also evolved from a road ranch to mail station to post office. Its location was adjacent to a spring of the same name, although early maps show the Lost Spring being located about a mile to the northeast. Thanks to Leo Oliva's research on Robert Morris Peck, 'Bloody Bill' Anderson and his gang can be placed at Costello's establishment in the autumn of 1861. For more details, see "Lost Spring, Marion County, Kansas, A Historical Perspective" available through the Last Chance Store.

An elaborate DAR marker can be seen in the public park in Lost Springs, and another DAR marker is located about a mile east and mile north of Lost Springs on the east side of Hwys 56/77.

So, come enjoy the Santa Fe Trail in Marion County, KS. If you forget your literature, you can pick some up at the Country Haven Inn in Hillsboro.

French Frank's Trail Segment Named Historic Site

The National Park Service (NPS) has granted Historic Site Certification to a portion of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in Marion County known as "French Frank's Trail Segment." The site is owned by Steve and Glenda Schmidt and is located northwest of Lehigh near the Waldeck railroad siding. The Schmidts and the NPS agree to work together to preserve and promote the history of the site.



Book Review: Kit Carson: The Life of an American Border Man

by John Carson, great-grandson of Kit Carson

Nearly 202 years ago a baby was born on a rise overlooking Tate's Creek, Madison County, Kentucky. Since then hundreds, nay, thousands of books, newspaper and magazine articles have been written about the boy known familiarly as Kit Carson. David Remley's *Kit Carson: The Life of an American Border Man* is the latest book-length study of the man.

According to Oklahoma Western Biographies series editor, Dr. Richard Etulain, the goal of the series is two-fold: to provide readable lifestories, and to show how these lives illustrate ... a topic, movement in a series of events. In striving for these Mr. Remley has achieved said goals as stated in his words (p. xxvii) "to encourage readers to think before making up their minds My hope is to stimulate more thoughtful writing about him.... He was, I think, a common man of mind and feeling, a human being of his day and place, misrepresented in his own time as a great white hero and in ours as just another damn killer."

Reading this biography, it is obvious to me that Mr. Remley has indefatigably sifted through the mounds of information on Kit, his associates, and the events which he was involved in, and come up with an easily-read study which illustrates the life faced by those Europeans who came and lived in the West during the Nineteenth Century. Overall, this research has been very good with the following exceptions that may jump out at one who has previously studied Kit and his times. Dealing with Bent's Fort (p. 89), it is the Southern Cheyenne who were major trading partners at the post as opposed to the Northern Cheyenne; Mr. Remley has the Taos Rebellion (p. 173) and the

murder of Charles Bent in February instead of January (19th of 1847; Fisher's Peak (p. 202) is in the opposite corner of Colorado from Durango, near present-day Trinidad; and at the 1864 fight at Adobe Walls, the Utes were acting as Kit's scouts against the tribes there, primarily the Kiowa. Thus, it was not the Utes (p.234) that set fire to ... drive the soldiers away it would have been the Kiowa and their allies.

If one is looking for a good introduction to Kit, his fellow adventurers and events in the American West during his lifetime, this will be a good place to start. Rather than getting into specific events of a part of Kit's life, Mr. Remley delves into an outline of the man's life which allows the reader to make his or her own conclusions as to what was right for Kit's time and place.

Perhaps the statement which hits the nail on the head is Mr. Remley's statement (p. 71): "but today [Kit] is marked as an easy killer, "a natural born killer," as Hampton Sides put it. This change from an iconic hero to smooth killer suggests more about the transformation in Carson's audience than it does about Carson himself."

The most disturbing, discouraging and disappointing part of the present work, though no fault of Mr. Remley's, is the present-day practice of publishers to **not** include foot/end notes to such studies. This modern-day choice of omission causes injury to their authors and cheats their readers from continuing their study of the subject at hand. Many past historic studies have been greatly enhanced through notes, which cite sources and/or add further explanation, which did not necessarily fit into the main body of the work. Without such citations, any authors' work could be called into question much easier, and the reader, with the inability to delve further into new information, is left frustrated.

Now it is the duty of publishers to their authors and to their customers/readers, that publishers do their part in providing a complete explanation of the men, women and events that made this nation what it is by going back and reinstituting the practice of including citations to their works.

Lastly, as Mr. Remley agrees in his Acknowledgements (p. xxix) with Mr. Robert Utley's (Note #15 – Chapter 18(p. 340)) in the latter's work, originally titled *A Life Wild and Perilous: Mountain Men and the Path to the Pacific*, Dr. Marc Simmons is the "real Carson scholar" and "scholars impatiently await the truly authoritative treatment [of Kit] by Marc Simmons."



Photo: Rich Lawson

John Carson, great-grandson of Kit Carson, and Kenneth Miller, great-great-grandson of Lucien Maxwell, attended the Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Dodge City.

Symposium a Success

On behalf of the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association, I want to thank everyone who traveled the Trail to attend the 2011 Symposium held here in Dodge City on September 22 - 25, 2011.

The festivities started off on a musical note on September 21 with Michael Martin Murphey presenting a great show sponsored by the Last Chance Store.

Following the SFTA Board meeting on the 22nd, the Symposium kicked off with a reception/dinner at Fort Dodge. The evening featured a meal with buffalo meat, tours of the Custer House and the Fort Library/Museum, and ended with a spectacular performance by Libbie Custer.

Friday featured presentations by Dr. Leo Oliva on Fort Mann, Fort Atkinson, and Fort Dodge and Noel Ary telling about life in early Dodge City. That afternoon the bus tours included significant sights and sites to the east of Dodge City where participants heard Isadore Douglas relate life experiences while at Fort Dodge and to the west where Jedediah Smith related his early day experiences along the Trail in this area.

On Saturday, Marshall Gover, President of the Pawnee Nation Business Council, discussed the impact of the Santa Fe Trail on the hunting grounds of the Pawnee Nation. Barak Geertsen and Tim Kimball followed with presentations about military life on the Santa Fe Trail in the 1840s. The enhanced and new signage at the Boot Hill Santa Fe Trail rut site was unveiled Saturday afternoon. This project was a cooperative venture funded by a grant from the National Park Service, Boot Hill Museum, The Santa Fe Trail Association and The Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter.

Our vendors, Patti Olsen, Last Chance Store, Ken Weidner, The Kansas Heritage Center, Ron Dulle Photography, and the Morton County Museum, reported that they had a great show. The Silent Auction was a resounding success: 45 items were donated and a total of \$1190 was raised. Dave Webb was the drawing winner of the quilted Santa Fe Trail wallhanging.

The Awards/Recognition Dinner Saturday evening featured a presentation by Dr. Sara Jane Richter about women on the Santa Fe Trail. Many awards were presented to SFTA members, 23 people were inducted into the Hall of Fame, and Mike Olsen gave an overview of the first 25 years of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

The Symposium concluded with a Trail breakfast of coffee, juice, and biscuits and gravy cooked by Leon Feldt over his wood cook stove at the Boot Hill Ruts on Sunday morning. Crisp temperatures reduced the number of participants. Following a few thoughts and singing of Amazing Grace, the group left for their trip over the Trail back to their homes. Happy Trails!

Jim Sherer, Symposium Coordinator



Steve Burns and Carol Clark show off their design work. (Photo: Ruth Friesen)

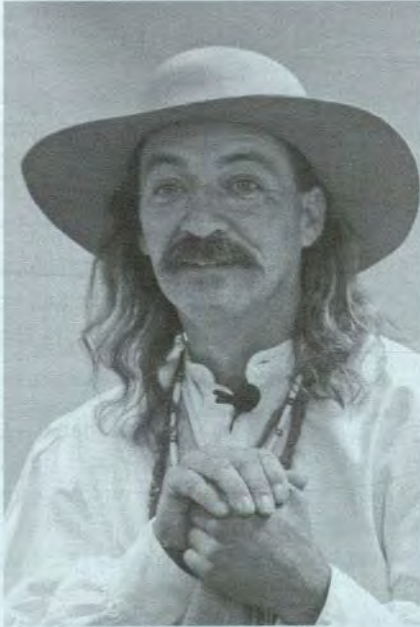


Bonita and Leo Oliva anticipate a buffalo meal. (Photo: Troy Robinson)



Nancy Sherer quilted the wall hanging won by Dave Webb. (Photo: Troy Robinson)

Forts Mann, Atkinson & Dodge: Halfway On The Santa Fe Trail



Jedediah Smith portrayed by Jeff Trotman (Photo: Ruth Friesen)



Gentlemen inspecting Greg VanCoevern's ambulance (Photo: Troy Robinson)



Joanne VanCoevern read from Isadore Bowman Douglas' diary. (Photo: Ruth Friesen)



Marshall Gover, Tribal Council President for the Pawnee Nation, gave a moving speech about the impact of the Santa Fe Trail on Pawnee Hunting Grounds (Photo: Ruth Friesen)



Libbie Custer portrayed by Marla Matkin (Photo: Troy Robinson)



Special nametags were given to SFTA Life Members present. Pictured from left to right: Greg and Joanne VanCoevern, Rich Lawson, Davy Mitchell, Phyllis Morgan, Sandy Slusher, Inez Ross, Roger Slusher, Bonita Oliva, Ross and Shirley Marshall, Linda Peters, Hal Jackson, Siva and Clint Chambers, Leo Oliva, and Nick Cirincione. (Photo: Troy Robinson)

Santa Fe Trail Association Awards 2011

AWARD OF MERIT

1. **Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter**, Host of symposium
2. **Marion County Board of County Commissioners**, Support for many trail projects in the county
3. **Gary Lenderman**
Two books of compiled newspaper articles: *The Santa Fe Trade: Selected Newspaper Articles, 1813-1846* and *The Santa Fe Republican: New Mexico Territory's First Newspaper, 1847-1849*

4. **Ron Kil**, Murals at NRA Whittington Center near Raton NM

PAUL F. BENTRUP AMBASSADOR AWARD

Michael Olsen
Joanne VanCoevern

RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL STAGECOACH AWARD

Roberta Bonnewitz, Educator and author of several books for young people about the trail

HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD

1. **Scully Partners, Doug Sharp, Mgr.**, Preservation of trail segments, Marion County KS
2. **Blackjack Battlefield and Nature Park**, Preservation of trail segments and battlefield

EDUCATION AWARD

1. **Jody Lubbers**, Fairfield Middle School, Langdon KS
2. **Lynley Remy**, Centre School District, Lost Springs KS

MARC SIMMONS WRITING AWARD

(from volume 24 of Wagon Tracks)

Doyle Daves for his series about Santa Fe traders from the U.S. who settled in New Mexico and married Hispanic women

RECOGNITION of LEO OLIVA--see back page

SANTA FE TRAIL HALL OF FAME

23 additional members were inducted into the Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame. Each inductee was briefly described, in most case by the person who nominated them.

Lucien Maxwell, the Trail merchant, was nominated and described by Harriet Freiburger and his great-grandson Kenny Miller. Mary Donoho, probably the first Anglo woman to travel the Trail, and Lewis Garrard, Trail traveler and author, were nominated and described by Phyllis Morgan.

Steve Schmidt on behalf of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter nominated and described five inductees. "French Frank" Laloge ran a road ranch on the Trail, and Ed Miller was a Trail traveler killed by Indians four miles west of Laloge's road ranch. Zebulon Pike, Jr. was an early explorer of the Trail route and a "guest" of the Spanish in Santa Fe and Chihuahua. "Jack" Costello served in the Mexican-American War and operated Lost Spring Station. Abraham Moore operated a trading ranch at the Cottonwood Crossing.

On behalf of the Quivira Chapter, Linda Colle nominated a lot of folks, and Leo Oliva briefly described each. Ashael Beach and Abijah Beach established a road ranch on Cow Creek just west of Lyons, Kansas. George Custer traveled the Trail to Ft. Larned and Ft. Dodge where he was sent to help prevent Indian attacks. Franz and Ernestine Huning were Santa Fe traders and her diary from 1863 is a good account of Trail travel.

William Mathewson was a buffalo hunter on the Trail and his wife Elizabeth helped him with their road ranch near Great Bend by going east each year to buy goods for their trading post. William Allison and Francis Boothe established a trading post at Walnut Creek Crossing. After the death of Boothe, upon the death of Allison, George Peacock took over what became known as Peacock's Ranch. Upon Peacock's death, Charles Rath took over the road ranch, also known as Walnut Creek Ranch. Charles Fuller founded the Running Turkey Ranch in McPherson County in 1855.

Bonita Oliva nominated and described Lydia Lane who traveled the Trail with her daughters in 1861 and published her story in 1893. George Sibley was the factor at Ft. Osage before being hired to survey the Trail. Francois X. Aubry was a major trader who pioneered the Aubry Route and set records for travel on the Trail.

The addition of these folks raises the total to about 40, but there are many deserving historical Trail figures who need to be added to the Hall of Fame. If you need suggestions, please contact Roger Slusher or Leo Oliva; Leo has an extensive list of suspects, plus you may know some others who should be added. Just write 100 words or so on their life and why they should be inducted, and send with a picture if you can find one to rslusher@yahoo.com.

Can I Copy Your Copy On My Website?

By Mike Olsen

As information technology, particularly relating to the Internet, has become more and more complex, the question of what can legally and “morally” be “borrowed” from the Internet has become important. Back when most of us were in high school we knew what plagiarism was and that it was wrong, but it isn’t so simple anymore.

Since the SFTA and many of its chapters have established websites and continually develop them, Association Manager Joanne VanCoevern has asked me to comment on the legal and ethical problems involved in using various kinds of material, including photographs, on a website. I helped develop our SFTA website policy (yes, we have one) back in the 1990s and have tried to keep up on the subject.

The SFTA website policy states, “any web page linked to the Santa Fe Trail Association’s websites [note the plural usage here – web “sites”] will be removed [unlinked] if it is found to be involved in criminal activities, copyright infringement, or actions that reflect adversely upon the integrity of the Santa Fe Trail Association.” Obviously, these restrictions apply to the SFTA website itself.

I am going to comment specifically on the concept of “copyright.” My *American Heritage College Dictionary* (Fourth edition, 2002, p. 316) defines “copyright” as “The legal right to exclusive publication, production, sale, or distribution of a literary, musical, or artistic work.” For instance, in general terms a photograph is an “artistic work” and is owned by the photographer, and “distribution” is certainly what the Internet does with photographs or any other form of information.

England enacted its first copyright laws in 1709. The United States Constitution addressed the issue in a clause concerning copyright and patents – both of which were protected, in the language of the Constitution, “to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts.” A more specific copyright law was passed by Congress in 1790, just a year after the Constitution was ratified. This has long been an important issue.

Through the years copyright questions have become increasingly more complex, particularly with the invention of things like photography, radio and television, photocopying machines, computers, and the Internet, just to name a few. Today there is an immense body of copyright law, and legal experts specialize in its various aspects. I am going to make just a few general comments here, but the primary point is – if you don’t own it and it is not in the “public domain,” don’t copy it, or at least don’t copy it without the permission of the owner.

Very, very generally speaking, the year 1923 is the magical cutoff date for copyrights. If a printed item (book, magazine article, etc.) was published before 1923, you can use it freely. If a photograph was published before 1923, it also is not covered by copyright. But again – this is not a universal rule. When in doubt, additional checking is necessary. Further, and very importantly, original material on Internet websites is protected by law, just as if it had been “published,” which, in a way of course, it has been by being posted on the Internet.

One additional point to note here is that, again in general, all material, including photographs, published by agencies of the United States government, is freely available for use. It is in the “public domain.” However – this material has to have been created by the U.S. government. In many cases in government publications and on government websites, material is used that has been copyrighted by someone else and the government agency is using it with the permission of the owner. For example, the “Official Map and Guide – Santa Fe Trail,” that wonderful brochure issued by the National Park Service – U.S. Department of the Interior, which we in the SFTA all know well and admire, has a number of nifty historical photographs. But look closely at those photos and you will see that the NPS has used them with the permission of their owners – in fine print you will read “Missouri Historical Society,” “Denver Public Library Western History Department,” “Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum” or “Museum of New Mexico.” Yes, the photographs were taken over a hundred years ago, but that particular photo is owned by the depository where it is held and can’t just be lifted from that museum or library website, no matter how easy it is – just one click away....

To drive home this point, although a museum or library might have 10,000 photos digitized and “up” on the web, all these institutions have some sort of “conditions of use” policy. The Kansas State Historical Society, for example, on its “Kansas Memory” website, under “Frequently Asked Questions,” has the question, “Do I need permission to use materials from Kansas Memory?” The unequivocal answer is, “The presence of digital images of historical materials from the collections of the Kansas Historical Society on the Kansas Memory website (kansasmemory.org) does not constitute permission to use such images.” All such sites as this will have information on how to get permission to use the material it owns. At the least it will ask to be credited with the use and informed that you are doing it; often a monetary fee is required. For a comprehensive example check on “Condition of Use” for the Pikes Peak Library District at <http://more.ppld.org:8080/SpecialCollections/project> (or <http://www.ppld.org> and follow the links under “Regional History.”)

The SFTA controls use of material it has created in just this way, also. We have an “Image Use Policy” which the SFTA Board of Directors adopted in 2008. It is very detailed as to

Continued on page 20

the costs of using images we own, such as the paintings done by artist Doug Holdread for the 175th Anniversary of the trail in 1997. This magazine you are reading and the material in it is protected by copyright. The policy is, in part, "Although the entire issue of *Wagon Tracks* is copyrighted in the name of the Santa Fe Trail Association, copyright to [an] article remains in the author's name."

One more comment is in order here. Besides the legal issues involved in copyright, for me there is a "moral" issue. Any material which might be "borrowed" from the Internet was created by someone. Someone had the talent or took the time to develop this material. For me it is disrespectful to use that material without permission. Call me old-fashioned, but....

Finally, and once again, the information discussed above doesn't begin to touch on the complexity of copyright issues. There are numerous websites that will provide further information and perhaps address a particular question you might have. In fact, there is even a website and web-based service that will, for a fee, "surf" the web to see if someone else is using your material so that you can take steps to stop them. So, to reiterate, if you are in doubt about using certain materials, and you don't have permission, it would be wise to find other material.

Mike Olsen is immediate past vice president of the SFTA and is chair of the Policy and Procedures Committee for the SFTA Board of Directors. He has published extensively on the culture and ethnic heritage of the historic Santa Fe Trail.

link to a Copyright Calculator

<http://librarycopyright.net/digitalslider/>

Remember Your Loved One with a Memorial Gift to the Santa Fe Trail Association

In memory of Janet Fisher: donation by Bill Dopke

Young People and the Trail

History of Santa Fe Trail Youth Trips

by Chris Day

It is hard to believe that youth trail trips from Wamego, Kansas have journeyed down and across trails since 1983. At that time, Marcia Fox was teaching sixth grade at West Elementary in Wamego, Kansas. She wanted to take the curriculum-based history lessons and somehow extend them outside the classroom. She approached her principal, Robert Manley and he suggested the Oregon Trail camping trip to Guernsey, Wyoming. He had previously taken five trips with youth and was willing to be co-director with Marcia.

Just a few months before the trip, Robert Manley asked Chris Day, who taught music at West Elementary, if she would go along as the cook since his wife was pregnant and for this reason, she could not go. Fifty-five fifth and sixth grade students went on the ten-day Oregon Trail trip leaving Memorial Weekend with borrowed tents and rented vans. Everyone survived eating campfire cooking which was Chris Day's first attempt to cook three meals a day over an open flame for seventy people.

The Oregon Trail was a wonderful trip but since two-thirds of the Santa Fe Trail runs through Kansas, the 1985 trip took the students down the Santa Fe Trail from Council Grove to Santa Fe. Every odd year since 1985, there has been a Santa Fe Trail youth trip based from Wamego, Kansas.

After the 2001 trip, Marcia Fox retired as co-director and went back to obtain a master's degree in history. Janet Armstead became a chaperone for the youth trips in 1993. In 2003, Chris Day asked Janet to step-up and be the new co-director with her.

For liability insurance, the youth trip is sponsored by the Kansas Pottawatomie County Extension and youth trail travelers are from north central Kansas. The itinerary includes traveling both the Cimarron Cutoff and Mountain Routes visiting historic forts, museums, and trail ruts. Over the years, several of the Santa Fe Trail Chapters and private landowners have become involved with the youth as they travel down the trail.

Fundraisers are set up by the co-directors so the youth can help defray some the trip costs. The students are required to attend educational classes before the trip and each student keeps a diary of their trail journey. Over the years, diary excerpts have appeared in *Wagon Tracks*.

To date, over one thousand students have taken youth trips down the Santa Fe Trail. At the 1987 Santa Fe Trail Symposium, Marc Simmons stated that "The Santa Fe Trail Lives On," and the youth will need to be the future keepers of this beloved historic trail.

Most Beautiful are the Evenings

Fischer's German-American Artillery Volunteers on the Santa Fe Trail, 1846-1847

by Timothy L. Kimball

Presented at 2011 Symposium, Dodge City, Kansas

Early in the Mexican war, on June 30, 1846, a volunteer artillery company of German-speaking immigrants marched from Fort Leavenworth, part of Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny's Army of the West assigned to seize and hold New Mexico. Unique in Kearny's command, Woldemar Fischer, a St. Louis merchant and former Prussian officer, organized these men into what became Company B, Missouri Light Artillery Battalion. The *Fischerschen* (Fischer's boys) created a stirring picture as they headed for the Santa Fe Trail in neat gray kersey uniforms and glazed black forage caps, carbines slung, sabres belted, well mounted, five limbered guns gleaming in the sun, trailed by five caissons and a traveling forge.

These "brave hearts from foreign lands" are long forgotten and seldom resurrected in the literature of the Mexican War or the Santa Fe Trail. They spoke *Plattdeutsch* and *Hochdeutsch* in various dialects, with accents from town and farm. More were from Rhine regions occupied by Prussia and Bavaria than anywhere else, but Denmark, France, and Switzerland were represented along with most of the German states. Some volunteers were well educated and acculturated, others the rawest of *Pachbauer* (tenant farmers) just off the boat. These *Auslander* (immigrants) welcomed the opportunity to show their appreciation to their adopted homeland—no criticisms of the war came from the St. Louis German community.

Fischer recruited his volunteers from his home on the corner of 2nd and Poplar streets, near what is now the south end of St. Louis' Gateway Arch. His existing militia company of German speakers, the "Missouri *Dragoner*," formed the nucleus and he quickly signed up a maximum number of volunteers. Competition was stiff to be one of the companies chosen for U. S. service. Fischer's company and one other group were equally qualified on selection day—they drew lots and Fischer won. The men equipped themselves with uniforms, horses, and tack (volunteers furnished their own mounts); those who needed help used a \$6,000 loan subscribed by St. Louis patriots and guaranteed by Fischer.

Company B began its journey from the St. Louis levee, loading themselves and their horses onto the Steamboat *Amaranth* on the morning of June 16, sailing 491 miles up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. They arrived at Fort Leavenworth landing four days later, after a wonderful trip singing, playing cards, arguing and joking, saluted by cheering throngs and salute guns as they passed the river towns. Their stay at the fort lasted only ten days. The company mustered into U. S. service, joined with Richard Weightman's "St. Louis Horse Artillery" (which became Company A of the battalion), drew its

weapons and gear as they arrived and, like the companies of Doniphan's regiment, set out as soon as minimally equipped. Some tension developed as Fischer showed himself to be a bit of a martinet, insisting on obedience to the most trivial and unnecessary orders, though the excitement of the coming expedition glossed over much of the dissatisfaction. Getting word of the company's departure, Fischer and the company *Mannerchor* (men's chorus) marched over and serenaded the Kearny family at their quarters on the muggy evening of June 27. They sang children's ditties, opera arias, comic, sweet, and sad songs; the Colonel rewarded them with his thanks and a toast of champagne.

On the morning of June 30, the company began its march to Santa Fe, congratulated at their start by Kearny and his staff. But Company B's provision wagon soon broke down a few miles outside the fort, unable to advance more than a few miles with poorly fitted collars and tack on unbroken mules. Fischer, commanding the artillery battalion in the absence of its commander, Major Lewis Clark, insisted that the company continue and abandon their dinner and tents. The provision wagon took three days to get better tack and mules and catch up; many of the company turned against Fischer for the enforced starvation and this final instance of rigid, unimaginative Prussian discipline—exactly what many emigrated to get away from. Finally the wagon arrived and cooler heads convinced Fischer that American volunteers expected more reasonable treatment.

The initiation was incomplete and it took a few more challenges until the company settled into its role as what Kearny termed "perhaps the best of the Volunteers." Kearny assigned West Pointers to both volunteer artillery companies to teach them how regulars moved over the prairie. Company B Sergeant August deMarle, a communist refugee from the Leipzig revolt of August 1845, acted as a friendly advisor to Fischer on getting along with the rank and file and the Captain mellowed somewhat. After a *Fuhrman* (artillery driver) ran his team off the Shawnee ferry into the Kaw, got fished out, and did it again on the other side, the company began to reestablish itself as the one Kearny could count on, whatever the challenge.

Two weeks later Pawnee Creek ran fast and deep as Company B and most of the Army of the West waited together for it to slacken—Kearny held back the artillery two days to keep from ruining their ammunition in the high water. Able to ford on July 17, the *Fischerschen* and the entire Army of the West began to draw on the buffalo herds for their meat; the company's *Jägerbursch* (young hunter) George Wolff, mistook the shaggy headed buffaloes for lions at first, getting lots of laughs but soon became quite adept. The company feasted on fresh meat for the next ten days.

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“American” volunteers sulked and complained as afternoon drills grew more serious with the Army of the West approaching the Mexican border, the south side of the Arkansas river, west of the Crossing. By contrast, the *Fischerschen* eagerly improved their skills and delighted in firing live rounds into the empty prairie. They looked forward to “salting the Mexicans’ soup!” Sgt. DeMarle wrote that the march left him and his comrades undaunted and though the days were often hard, “most beautiful are the evenings,” with supper, cooler air, songs with friends, and a pipe of tobacco. The company rested along the banks of the Arkansas at the end of July, 561 miles into their march, ten miles below the Army’s rendezvous at Bent’s Fort—their horses and mules would have eaten the pastures near the fort to the roots. Here mules purchased from Bent, St. Vrain & Co. replaced forty unserviceable horses of the one hundred furnished the battalion at Fort Leavenworth. Company B’s volunteers appreciated the interlude.

The *Fischerschen*’s hardest test on the Trail came as they forded the Arkansas into Mexico on August 2, 1846. They continued into the hot, dry valley of the Timpa and pulled thirty-six hard miles, with just a bit of bad water for man or beast, until 3 a.m. the next morning, twenty two hours in the saddle. The next morning as reveille blew, a house-high grass fire swept down on the camp threatening the stock and ammunition. The *Fischerschen* fought it off and saved the animals and ordnance, at the cost of burned and blistered faces and hands, singed beards and hair, uniforms full of holes. Leaving the Timpa and crossing over to the Purgatory four days later seemed like an ascent into heaven: green everywhere, flowers, sweet water, the snow-covered Spanish peaks in the distance like the mountains of the Germans’ former homes. Ascending Raton Pass, Fischer insisted on a *Spaziergang* (hike) to the foot of Raton Peak’s palisades with his friends Lts. Christain Kribben and Franz Hassendeubel. Rejoining the army after dark, their adventure inspired chief Topographic engineer Lt. William Emory to rename the prominence in Fischer’s honor, as it remains today, an honor to the company and their comrades of the Army of the West.

The Army of the West climbed almost 6,000 feet of elevation since leaving Pawnee creek. Bringing the guns over 7,754 foot high (Lt. Emory’s calculation), Raton Pass ruined many more of the light-draft horses and mules. Yoking up steers from the beef herd to draw the caisson limbers, the battalion was no longer “light” artillery. Where the town of Raton now stands, the company rested again until August 9. Even laying over, the artillery drilled in deadly earnest. Now deep in enemy territory, everyone expected a desperate fight any day. Rains came and the grass improved, though the stock still deteriorated as Kearny pushed his army to beat any reinforcements from southern Mexico into Santa Fe. At the first settlement in New Mexico, the juncture of the Sapello and Mora creeks and center of La Junta de Los Rios Land Grant (modern Watrous, NM), the soldiers, on half rations since crossing the Raton, delighted in the provisions given or sold to them by the residents they encountered. In Las Vegas, Brigadier General Kearny (he received his promotion orders earlier that morning)

and Anthony Robideaux, his translator, shared a roof top with *Alcalde* Juan de Dios Maese, proclaiming New Mexico American territory and taking loyalty oaths from the local officials. South of town at Puerto del Padre, the artillery, tired mules at the trot, portfires burning, rode on, ready for their first fight, as promised by General Manuel Armijo. Disappointment found them instead, for the 600 New Mexican militia wisely abandoned the position hours before the arrival of the larger and much better-equipped U. S. force.

In San Miguel, a lovely village on the beautiful Pecos, *Fischerschen* watched Kearny and Robideaux on another rooftop repeat his proclamation. There, stout stubborn *Cura* Jose Francisco Leyba and *Alcalde* Gregorio Vigil reluctantly took the mandatory oath on August 16. Company B moved on to Gusano and camped in the village, abandoned in terror at the oncoming enemy. Camping at Pecos the next night, the Army planned for an assault of Apache Canyon, gateway to Santa Fe and defended by thousands of New Mexico militia and three hundred Mexican regulars with artillery. In the morning the Army of the West set off, ready for a fight, though enough former smugglers filled their ranks to know many routes around Armijo’s defenses. A Mexican citizen and Taos resident for sixteen years, Captain David Waldo commanded company A of Doniphan’s 1st Missouri Mounted Rifles. Among the *Fischerschen*, Private Charles Deus left Santa Fe only the previous fall, working as a bull whacker for *Landsmann* Charles Blummer.

Wisely, the poorly armed, bitterly divided New Mexico forces fled from Apache Canyon. Out of drinking water, the Army of the West continued on into Santa Fe, twenty-eight miles of marching for the day. The Army left behind most of its wagons and caissons, stock heaving with exhaustion, some literally dying in the traces. The soundest animals were placed in the gun teams and continued on to Santa Fe. Abandoned rolling stock littered the route, safely guarded by the many volunteers with broken-down mounts of their own, too tired to walk on.

Kearny’s 1st Dragoons, five companies strong, led a triumphant march into an almost empty Santa Fe the afternoon of August 18, past the few remaining very apprehensive *vecinos*. The artillery battalion unlimbered its guns on the southern slopes overlooking the town and, signaled by the raising of the American flag over the plaza, fired a national salute of twenty-eight blank rounds. The firing terrified the few New Mexicans left in Santa Fe. That evening American soldiers went from door to door begging for food, their provision wagons left far behind. Imagine their surprise as the remaining New Mexicans often shared what food they had—hospitality being a New Mexico virtue from time immemorial. Beginning the next day details began taking the fittest animals back along the trail to recover the abandoned caissons and wagons. Stragglers continued to stream into Santa Fe for the next two weeks.

Company B spent the next ten months in Santa Fe, completing each task it was assigned. *Fischerschen* found and

retrieved the best of the artillery pieces abandoned by Armijo, peacefully brought in the Jicarilla Apaches for a peace conference with Kearny, served as engineers with the regulars in design of Fort Marcy and worked on much of its construction, erected and operated the first sawmill in New Mexico, formed the backbone of the Santa Fe garrison and provost guard, detailed 17 men to accompany Colonel Alexander Doniphan and Major Lewis Clark to Chihuahua, and provided the 26-man artillery detachment for Price's winning campaign in the Taos Rising—while Fischer and the balance of the company manned the Fort Marcy guns, mainstays of the tenuous peace in Santa Fe. As Topographic Engineer 2nd Lt. James Abert wrote, Fischer's well drilled, neatly uniformed company truly was "the star company of the Army of the West."

New Mexico became a graveyard to many of the Army of the West's soldiers, but claimed only two from Company B. Private John Mueller (another wonderful singer), died of scurvy June 19, 1847, just before the march home began. Another *Fischerschen*, Private Frederick Bielefeld, succumbed to his Taos wounds three days after that battle, Feb. 7, 1847. The company lost no other men, though the various battles in New Mexico under Price and in the detachment with Doniphan left some fifteen wounded, disabling several for life. Of almost two thousand U. S. soldiers (including Price's regiment and its extra battalion, which arrived in September) in New Mexico during 1846-47, over 220 died of disease, many in the Santa Fe Army hospital. Much of the *Fischerschen's* excellent health resulted from German discipline and cleanliness, but the attention and skill of Doctor John Luthy earned lots of credit from the men. A middle-aged St. Louis surgeon with a successful practice, Luthy enlisted as a private at Fischer's urging and tended to the company the entire year long. Most considered treatment (most often administration of copious doses of mercurous chloride, "Calomel") by the Army's surgeons in the Santa Fe hospital to be a death sentence, as it was to so many. The *Fischerschen* also benefited from a private supply of antiscorbutic bitters and pharmaceuticals donated by D'oench and Company. The practical German ladies of St. Louis contributed a chest of medicines and bandages as well.

As the company's time came to return, insurgent New Mexicans in San Miguel county sent out a message: "be ready to strike as soon as Fischer's company leaves." No new Rising occurred, but Company B considered the admonition quite a compliment. Grateful Santa Fe residents presented the company with a battle flag embroidered with its honors and emblazoned with silver stars. They appreciated the Germans' good behavior and empathy, contrasting it with the many often violent and arrogant "American" volunteers. Once back in St. Louis, the rank and file claimed that the flag honored them as the best lovers, sewn by their broken-hearted New Mexican sweethearts.

Thirty-six *Fischerschen* reenlisted in a new "for the war" Company A, Santa Fe Battalion, with Franz Hassendeubel as Captain—the largest number to reenlist of any Mexican War volunteer company. The new company (filled out with Ger-

man-speaking teamsters and soldiers from other companies) won further honors at the Battle of Santa Cruz de Rosales as part of Price's Second Invasion of Chihuahua in 1848.

Fischer made the return march on the Cimarron route of the Trail, beginning June 29 with some sixty-five men, many men taking their discharges in Santa Fe. As the company reached Diamond Springs, the Captain wrote of the newly recruited regiments and battalions passing him on their own march to Santa Fe, marveling at the parade of the damned, reflecting that "none of the oxen, few of the horses, and at least one third of the men will never return home." [ADW470820, Diamond Springs, Aug. 8]. The *Fischerschen* maintained tight discipline on their march home and suffered no attacks from the native groups ravaging the trail. Seeing an attack on Smithson's Company G, 3rd Missouri Mounted Volunteers on the morning of August 1, Fischer and his men set out to head off their stampeded horse herd, but turned back when the new volunteers began firing at Company B. Smithson and the nearby Kit Carson suffered two wounded and lost several horses.

Reaching Fort Leavenworth without further incident, Company B mustered out of service on August 19, 1847. The steamboat *J. J. Hardin* had them home in St. Louis three days later. The next day patriots and the German community welcomed Company B with a parade, complete with bands, the Phoenix fire company (to which many *Fischerschen* belonged), and the German militia companies, including, of course, the Missouri *Dragoner*. Mayor Bryan Mullanphy and Congressman James Bowlin spoke, proudly thanking the men for their victories and service. Captain Fischer happily replied. A bevy of young girls dressed in white presented the men with bouquets and entwined their new flag with wreaths. The day ended with a picnic, enjoyed by all.

Postscript: Fourteen months later, November 2, 1848, many of these men again marched these same St. Louis streets in the funeral of Brevet Major General Stephen Watts Kearny, beloved commander of the Army of the West. Kearny died two days earlier at the home of Lewis Clark, Major of their Volunteer Artillery Battalion. Militia Lt. Col. Woldemar Fischer led the city's militia companies. A solemn group of now-civilian Army of the West veterans marched under their flag in the rear of their late comrade's cortege, a custom they would observe for each other until 1882. Then, no veterans left able to march, Fischer's daughter Rosa Fischer Sigel presented it to the St. Louis [now Missouri] Historical Society, where it now rests.

Tim Kimball is working on a book about the Fischer Company from muster to discharge and has written articles and made presentations about the German-Americans in the West.

See Bibliography on page 24

Most Beautiful are the Evenings, continued from page 23

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Aug. 24, 1847, *Return of the Santa Fe Volunteers.*

Contribute to the Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research Fund

The purpose of this fund is to promote and assist scholarly research by providing grants up to \$1,500 for worthy research projects. Please send your donation to Linda Revello, SFTA Office Administrator, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K 156 Hwy, Larned, KS 67550. Checks should be made payable to the Santa Fe Trail Association. You may also pay by credit card through the Last Chance Store at the website, www.santafetrail.org. Your donation is tax deductible.

Chapter Reports

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

Missouri River Outfitters

Harry Rinacke
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hrinacke@earthlink.net

Our meeting on September 11, 2011 was at the Lexington Museum where Roger Slusher showed the new exhibit of the Osage Indians. We also got a good look at the other museum items, including a lot of farm tools of our early farmers. We could go into the Old Lexington Jail cell and have our pictures taken. After a good look at the museum Roger Slusher took us on a walking tour of Lexington main street. Boy, that Roger is a fast walker. But it was a very informative and interesting history tour.

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, MRO's covered dish holiday dinner and meeting will be in the traditional location at the Slushers' Lexington historic home.

Douglas County

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

Heart of the Flint Hills

Carol Retzer
4215 East 245th St.
Lyndon KS 66451
785-828-3739
success.retzer@gmail.com

Cottonwood Crossing

Steve Schmidt
1120 Cobblestone Ct.
McPherson KS 67460
620-245-0715
wfordok@yahoo.com

Dr. Leo Oliva presented a portrayal of Robert Morris Peck, a soldier on the Santa Fe Trail, and his experiences in Kansas Territory, Sunday October 9, in McPherson. The Cottonwood Crossing Chapter, the Quivira Chapter, and the general public enjoyed the presentation.

President Steve Schmidt and Rich Hayden of McPherson have completed their SFTA-funded Scholarly Research Project to plot on modern maps the

1825, 1826, and 1827 Sibley Expedition's survey of the Santa Fe Trail. They hope to have it accessible on the SFTA web site soon. www.santafetrail.org.

The "Local Tour" signs have been installed in Marion County after a delay caused by the summer heat; President Steve and Board members presented the Marion County Commissioners with the SFTA Award of Merit for their much appreciated assistance. Three of the "Crossing Here" signs were stolen, post and all, over the past few months. That represented a loss of about \$300, not counting volunteer time. These thefts occurred south and west of Lost Spring. The National Park Service will be providing new signs which the Chapter will install.

Quivira

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

On June 8 we hosted a Traveling Trunks program with David Clapsaddle. The Kansas Humanities Council program, *The Pawnee Tribe in Kansas*, was presented by Chris Howell on August 6. Nine of our chapter members attended David Clapsaddle's presentation to the Upper Little Arkansas River Watershed meeting on August 23, and we heard from Leo Oliva, appearing as Robert Peck, on October 9 in a joint meeting with the Cottonwood Chapter. Due to the heat, we canceled our Rice County tour in July but we are planning the tour for spring 2012.

Wet/Dry Routes

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

Due to the extreme heat, the Chapter's summer meeting was postponed and the fall meeting was scheduled for October 23. Members met at the Fort Larned National Historic Site for lunch before traveling to the Cheyenne/Sioux Village site west of Fort Larned. There, George Elmore and Leo Oliva spoke to the events surrounding the destruction of the village by U.S. Army troops in April 1867.

Youths Nate Bauer, Alli Leiker, and

Kayla Leiker are the newest members of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. All are engaged in the Traveling Trunks program sponsored by the Fort Larned National Historic Site, and are accumulating hours to earn a service award offered by Fort Larned.

The winter meeting on January 22 will be held at the Kinsley Municipal Building with lunch at 1:00 p.m. with the business meeting and program following. The Faye Anderson Award will be presented and an election of officers will be held. David Clapsaddle will present the program, J.E.B., John, and Bleeding Kansas.

Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

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jim.sherer@yahoo.com

Wagon Bed Spring

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Ulysses KS 67880
620-356-1854
swpb@pld.com

Cimarron Cutoff

Leon Ellis
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Elkhart KS 67950
620-453-2286
mtcomuseum@elkhart.com

We met at the Herstein Museum for our July meeting, where Roger Slusher portrayed James Aull. In May, SFT traveling students stopped at the Morton County Historical Society Museum and our own Owl Woman, Becky Ellis, demonstrated pine needle basket weaving. With the education grant, we paid for part of that evening and are also using the grant money for supplies for the Herstein Museum's children's education program. Our October meeting was held in Boise City. Activity on the Trail is still down due to the continued dry conditions in the Cutoff area of the Trail in all three states.

Bent's Fort

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In May, 47 members of our chapter

joined the Corazon de los Caminos chapter on a two-day tour of historic sites in northern New Mexico. July found us back in La Junta at the Otero Museum for a presentation by John Sells on stagecoaches in the American West. In August, 60 members met in Rocky Ford for a presentation by Ron Dulle on the history of the Arkansas River Valley in eastern Colorado. Mr. Dulle illustrated his talk with his personal collection of photos. In September, 22 of us trekked to Dodge City for the SFTA Symposium. In October we toured in Trinidad and dedicated a plaque to Richard Loudon, and in November we'll have our annual meeting with a guest speaker talking about Penitentes in southern Colorado.

Our group is working with county commissioners and Steve Burns at NPS to identify over 20 Santa Fe Trail crossing sites in Otero County where signs will be placed. We are also collaborating with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to survey sites along the Santa Fe Trail in southeastern Colorado. This organization has secured \$160,000 in grants to survey, study, and nominate sites along the Trail. Other groups involved in this project include SFTA, NPS, Comanche National Grasslands, History Colorado, the Colorado State Historical Fund, SHPO, and local government agencies and historical groups. Survey work will start this winter with archaeological and architectural studies to follow. The final goal is to nominate 12-14 sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

Corazon de los Caminos

Paula Steves
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Angel Fire NM 87710
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Corazon members got another perspective of the Santa Fe Trail when Martha McCaffrey presented the September program "Geocaching on the Santa Fe Trail." There are over 40 sites listed as being on the Trail and many others in the area. After the program Pat Patrick, Citizens' Committee for Historic Preservation, led a walking tour of the Las Vegas Old Town Plaza.

In October the Chapter visited the Crow Creek Ranch division of CS Ranch north of Cimarron. Linda Davis, matriarch of the family, told the history of the ranch and its founder, Frank Springer. The stage station of Sanderson Barlow was located on the property. Ruts of an alternate route of the Trail were pointed out.

Dorothy Smoker will give a Living History presentation of Luz Beaubien Maxwell at the November 19 meeting in K-Bob's Steakhouse, Las Vegas. This will be the last meeting until March 2012.

End of the Trail

Pam Najdowski
1810 Paseo de la Conquistadora
Santa Fe NM 87501
505-982-1172
pamnajdowski@yahoo.net

George Donoho Bayless
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Santa Fe NM 87502
505-920-4123
donoho28@mac.com

Our September meeting was in Cerrillos where Bill Baxter, historian and author of *The Gold of the Ortiz Mountains*, spoke with a special emphasis on the Delgado family of SFT merchants. Our November 19 meeting will be a Chautauqua performance by folklorist Enrique La Madrid of the ubiquitous Rafael Chacon.

We have been accepted to host the 2015 SFTA Symposium.

EVENTS

November 19, 2011: Bent's Fort Chapter, Annual Education Meeting.

November 19, 2011: End of the Trail Chapter, near Santa Fe, New Mexico. 1:30 p.m. Eldorado Community Center. Chautauqua Performance by Folklorist and UNM Professor Enrique Lamadrid as Rafael Chacon, a remarkable 18th century New Mexican. 505-920-4970 or pamnajdowski@yahoo.com.

November 19, 2011: Corazon de Los Caminos Chapter, Las Vegas, New Mexico. 12:00 noon at K-Bobs Steakhouse. Guest Speaker: Dorothy Smoker, portraying Maria de la Luz Beaubien Maxwell. Program starts promptly at 1:00 p.m. Paula Steves elkrun2007@yahoo.com.

November 20, 2011: Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy., Larned, KS. 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. "From Trails to War" presented by Ron Smith, author of *Thomas Ewing, Jr., Frontier Lawyer and Civil War General*, on the effect the Civil War had on the Santa Fe Trail and Western commerce. museum@santafetrailcenter.org or 620-285-2054.

December 2-3, 2011: Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Holiday Celebration. The spirit of the season comes alive with wagon rides, games, toy making and other holiday festivities. The event begins Friday evening, December 2 with candlelight tours of the fort and continues through Saturday, December 3 culminating with another evening of candlelight tours. For reservations for the evening tours, or more information, phone 719-383-5026.

December 11, 2011: MRO's annual holiday dinner and meeting, 2 p.m., at the home of Roger and Sandy Slusher in Lexington, MO at 1421 South Street. Anne Mallinson will provide music. All SFTA members are welcome, but everyone needs to RSVP to 660-259-2900 and bring a food item.

January 21, 2012: End of Trail Chapter. Rick Hendricks, NM State Historian, about the 100th Anniversary New Mexico Statehood on January 21 at 1:30 p.m. 505-920-4970 or pamnajdowski@yahoo.com.

January 22, 2012: Wet/Dry Route, Kinsley Municipal Building, lunch at 1:00 p.m. with the business meeting with election of officers and program following. Faye Anderson Award will be presented. David Clapsaddle presents J.E.B., John, and Bleeding Kansas.

April 20-21, 2012: SFTA Board of Directors Meeting and Spring Retreat, Ulysses, KS.

September 20-22, 2012: "Rendezvous," Larned, KS. Co-sponsored by the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site. SFTA Fall Board of Directors meeting and General Membership meeting.

September 26-29, 2013: SFTA Symposium, "Surviving the Plains," Hosted by Wagonbed Springs Chapter, Ulysses, KS.

Scholarly Research Grants

- November 14, 2011: Grant applications due.
- December 1, 2011: Recipients announced.
- September 1, 2012: Receipts and draft reports due.
- September 15, 2012: Final reports due.

STFA Annual Membership January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Name(s) _____ ☐ Life \$1000, 1 time or 3 installments

Address _____ ☐ Patron \$100/year

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ ☐ Family \$30/year

Phone _____ Email _____ ☐ Individual \$25/year

☐ Business \$50/year ☐ Nonprofit Institution \$40/year ☐ Youth (18 and under) \$15/year

☐ New member ☐ Renewing member I am a member of the following chapter _____

I'd like to make a donation to assist the SFTA with programs and events ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 \$ _____

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

To pay by credit card, go to 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

All memberships expire on December 31.

Renew by mailing the above form

or renew online at www.santafetrail.org

Dear Santa Fe Trail Association members,

Once again all of us are facing the opportunity to renew our membership in the Santa Fe Trail Association for 2012. As the chairman of the Membership Committee, I have the special opportunity to encourage you to "re-up" for another year. I simply am asking you to renew your membership for the 2012 calendar year using the form including in this issue of *Wagon Tracks*. Now, let me encourage you to read on regarding my special appeal to YOU.

First, I know all of us are facing challenges with economic uncertainty in our nation. The SFTA is facing those same challenges. Our National Park Service personnel have indicated they believe for now the supplement from the government will remain the same until a new budget has been approved by our Congress and signed by our President. But there are concerns for the future. That is why I want to assure you the Board of Directors for the Santa Fe Trail Association is diligent in its frugality and careful use of available funds, whether those funds are from the National Park Service or from you, a member of the SFTA.

That said, I also want to assure you that the money issue is not THE main focus. Our principle focus is **YOU**. You are in a very unique group of people. We joined the SFTA because we wanted to ensure the protection of the Trail and the education of future generations regarding the impact of the Trail on the south central and southwest part of the United States from 1821. By the time you receive this issue of *Wagon Tracks*, a

special Task Force will have met in Larned on October 29 to discuss membership. I will include a synopsis of that meeting in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

So, as a fellow student and passionate supporter of the Trail, I am asking you to do two things. First, fill out the accompanying renewal form and send it in to the Trail Association for your 2012 membership. Second, feel free to email me and give me your views regarding ways to entice new members to join us in our passion for the Trail. Along with that, I am very open to hearing your views regarding any increase in membership dues. As you think about those ideas, I encourage you to remember that the focus is your continued participation in preserving the Santa Fe Trail. I will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Justice

Membership Chairman

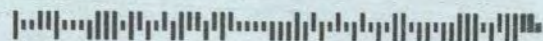
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Leo Oliva Recognized at 2011 SFTA Symposium Awards Banquet

In recognition of 25 years of service as Editor of *Wagon Tracks*, Joanne VanCovern, on behalf of the SFTA board and membership, awarded Leo Oliva an "Ad Astra" sculpture by Richard Bergen. His award is a smaller version of the one that tops the State Capitol Building in Topeka, Kansas. He also received a Pendleton Penasco design blanket, donated by Davey Mitchell.

The "Ad Astra" atop the Capitol Building is a 22' tall cast bronze Kansa Indian. The "Ad Astra," according to the website of sculptor Richard Bergen (www.bergen-sculptures.com), "includes historical aspects of the past, realities of the present, and dreams of the future to illustrate the spirit of Kansas."

Joanne also announced that the Scholarly Research Fund will be renamed as the Leo E. Oliva Scholarly Research Fund in honor of the wealth of research Leo has contributed to the body of knowledge about the Santa Fe Trail.



Photo: Troy Robinson

THANK YOU

I extend sincere thanks to the SFTA membership and governing board for allowing me to serve as editor and publisher of *Wagon Tracks* for 25 years. I especially thank all those who contributed articles, making *WT* a valued publication. The retirement gifts of the Ad Astra statue and Pendleton blanket at the symposium are treasured. The notes of thanks from many folks are greatly appreciated, especially those from the writers whose articles I was privileged to edit. The Michael Martin Murphey concert was my retirement party (funded with my salary from *WT*). I look forward to seeing you on the Trail. Thank you and happy trails.

Leo E. Oliva