

# Wagon Tracks

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Volume 26

Issue 4 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 26, Issue 4 (August 2012)

Article 1

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2012

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 26, Issue 4 (August, 2012)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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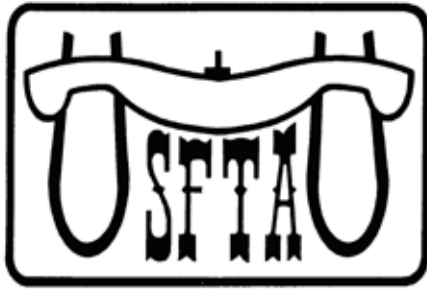
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### Recommended Citation

Santa Fe Trail Association. "Wagon Tracks. Volume 26, Issue 4 (August, 2012)." *Wagon Tracks* 26, 4 (2012).  
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# WAGON TRACKS

volume 26 • number 4

August 2012

## SFTA News

Rendezvous 2012 . . . . .	1, 7
President's Column . . . . .	2
Joanne's Jottings. . . . .	3
News . . . . .	4 - 5
Bylaw Amendments . . . . .	5
PNTS . . . . .	5
Signage Projects Progressing . .	8
Marion County Signs . . . . .	9
Internship Available . . . . .	10
Stone Corral Cottonwood . . .	14
Letter from Editor . . . . .	24
In Memoriam. . . . .	25
Chapter Reports . . . . .	25
Membership Renewal . . . . .	27
Events . . . . .	28

## Articles

Trail Markers 1905 . . . . .	10
Wagons Ho Photos . . . . .	11
Diary of Levi Edmonds, Sr.: Pat- terson and Rogers . . . . .	13
Julia Archibald Holmes: Birney. . . . .	17
Froebel Part VI: Oliva . . .	21

## Columns

The Trail Today: Pawnee Rock, Oliva . . . . .	1, 6
Cyber Ruts: Worldcat . . . .	12
Young People on the Trail: 1991 Diary: Logan and Day . . . .	15
Books: Empires, Nations and Families: Pelikan . . . . .	24
Books for Kids . . . . .	25

## Rendezvous 2012 Happens September 20-22

### *Registration Packets to be Mailed in August*

Planning for Rendezvous 2012 is in full swing as we finalize the details of the event. "Santa Fe Trail Characters-Rendezvous on the Road" is the theme for this year's seminar to be held in Larned, Kansas on September 20-22. Members of the Santa Fe Trail Association will receive registration materials for Rendezvous 2012 in August.

Principal funding for Rendezvous will once again be provided by the Kansas Humanities Council. The KHC awarded the program \$8,827 which will be used to cover honoraria, travel and per diem for speakers, facilities rental and promotion of the Rendezvous seminar. Assistance for the 2012 Rendezvous is also provided by the National Trails System Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, Fort Larned National Historic Site, and the Santa Fe Trail Center. We appreciate the support.

After the Santa Fe Trail Association's Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, September 20, the Rendezvous will open with an evening meal and program on the grounds of the Santa Fe Trail Center. A waterways marker will be dedicated and

*More on page 7*

## Pawnee Rock Site of One Session

*by Leo E. Oliva*

Pawnee Rock State Historic Site, located nine miles northeast of Larned, KS, on the north edge of the town of Pawnee Rock, will be the location for one session of the Trail Rendezvous in September. This was a major landmark on the Trail in present Kansas and was noted by numerous travelers over the years of active travel on the historic route (a number of whom took time to carve their name into the face of the rock). There are many legends about this sandstone bluff overlooking the Arkansas River Valley, a few of which are even true.



*Photo: Leo Oliva*

There are several stories in print to explain why the rock was named for the Pawnee tribe, none of which can be verified. Numerous tales of Indian attacks at or near Pawnee Rock appear to be more fiction than fact, with only a few encounters documented in primary sources.

From 1821 through 1867, when the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division (later

*More on page 6*



## President's Column: Progress on Many Fronts

This spring's Board meeting and retreat was at Ulysses, Kansas on April 19-21. Jeff Trotman and the Wagon Bed Spring Chapter were great hosts, which bodes well for the Symposium there in 2015. Before the Board meeting, folks from Kansas Scenic Byways did a presentation on how the Trail could become a Byway; although there was some interest, most Kansas folks there seemed to feel that it wasn't really needed. Please let me know if you have strong feelings on this issue.

### President Roger Slusher

(Photo: Rich Lawson)

The Board meeting covered a lot of ground with reports from officers, committees, and chapters. Motions passed will be covered elsewhere in this issue, but it should be noted that the Board expressed support for requiring a two-thirds, instead of a majority, vote to approve an amendment to the bylaws. They also supported an amendment that would formalize the power of the Board to hire employees and an amendment to allow the Board to hold electronic votes as needed. The exact wording of those proposed amendments and possibly others will be sent out in the Rendezvous materials.

In the evening our Publicity Coordinator Mike Pitel gave an excellent presentation in which he stressed that all chapters should have a publicity person and that person should develop a good relationship with the local media in order to get the best coverage possible. Mike will be advising the new Outreach Committee. Its new chairman, Allan Wheeler, then outlined his plans for a survey to be used to develop a public relations strategy for the Association.

On Saturday the Board, Chapter presidents, and other folks in attendance, with the guidance of Sharon Brown and Aaron Mahr of the NPS, put together ideas for a revision of our Strategic Plan. It was decided that our goals for the next 10 years would be centered around promoting awareness of the Trail, preserving Trail-related resources, ensuring organizational effectiveness and sustainability, encouraging public use of the Trail, and promoting research on the Trail. A rough draft will be presented to the Board in September for their suggestions before it is sent out to the membership for comments. We plan to have it voted on by the Board in the spring and by the membership in the fall of 2013. That day of hard work was followed by a great picnic at the Wagon Bed Spring.

On May 5 and 6, Sandy and I, plus some other volunteers, participated in the Kansas Sampler Fest at Liberal to publicize SFTA. Special thanks go to Greg and Joanne VanCoevern who brought their Civil War period ambulance, tent, manikins, firearms, and other Trail-related materials to really bring our display to life and to attract a lot of folks. We then went to see National Parks in Colorado and Utah before returning to La Junta for the Wagons Ho! event at Bent's Fort. Various volunteers from the area plus Greg and Joanne again helped get us some good attention. I also participated in the dedication of a kiosk with three new markers, and we got to walk three miles on the Trail with a small wagon train on Sunday.

On June 28 the Budget Committee led by Ruth Peters met in Larned. With a lot of help from Linda Revello, it only took us a few hours to lay out a proposed budget for 2013. To our pleasant surprise, it wasn't too hard to make it balance, at least on paper.

*Continued on page 3*

## SFTA Board of Directors

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## Joanne's Jottings

*by Joanne VanCoevern, Association Manager*

SFTA has a new funding agreement in place with the National Park Service for fiscal year 2013. The funding will help us to continue our Chapter Education Projects, Scholarly Research Program, Speakers Bureau Program, allow our members to attend National Trails meetings, and continue to maintain and update our website. One new item this year will be the ability to hire an intern to complete the cataloging and organization of the Harry E. Myers Research Collection at the Santa Fe Trail Center.

Two new interpretive panels are in the design phase and will be placed at the Whittington NRA Center, south of Raton, NM. One will provide information on the Santa Fe Trail that passes through the Center, and the other one will provide information on firearms of the Santa Fe Trail era.

An "Education on the Website" 2021 Task Force meeting is being planned for August 4 in Wamego, KS. At this meeting, we will develop a plan for what information will be contained in the "EDUCATION" section of our website. Ross Marshall, Faye Gaines and Jeff Trotman attended the PNTS Historic Trails workshop in Socorro, NM on behalf of the SFTA May 15-18.

Amanda Loughlin with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office continues to work on the Kansas Santa Fe Trail sites to be nominated into the National Registry. A recent survey trip included: from KSHS, Amanda Loughlin, Sarah Martin, Tim Weston, and Patrick Zollner; from NPS, Mike Taylor and Frank Norris; and your SFTA Manager, Joanne VanCoevern. Mapping/Marking Chair Jeff Trotman joined the group for sites in Ford County, KS. Hearings on the proposed sites will be held in Topeka, KS August 11.

SFTA Board of Director members, chapter presidents and/or representatives and committee chairs/members recently met in Ulysses, KS to start work on developing a new strategic plan. Facilitating the meeting was Sharon Brown and Aaron Mahr with the NPS National Trail Intermountain Region, Santa Fe. This plan, when fully developed, will serve as a guide for the Association's activities for the next ten years. Once a rough draft is presented to the board, it will be reviewed and a final version will be approved in April 2013, and then put into effect.

The Santa Fe Trail Association had a good presence at the recent Kansas Sampler Festival held in Liberal, KS and at the Bent's Old Fort Wagons Ho! Weekend. Visitors to our booth were able to view what a campsite of a military family traveling the Santa Fe Trail would have looked like. In addition, they were provided with information about the SFTA and the SFNHT. Popular items that drew people to our display were weapons of the Santa Fe Trail era and horse and mule shoes.

The newly formed SFTA Outreach committee recently conducted a survey of our membership. This was our first attempt to use e-mail as a way to contact our membership. We are very eager to get the results and learn how the membership feels about e-mail blasts and other Association matters.

*Joanne*

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### President's Column, continued from page 2

As a special note, please consider a donation or an additional donation to the 2012 special appeal for the Historical Research Fund. Thanks to all of you, about \$4,600 has been received so far, but that money is not only used to fund research projects; it also helps with the cost of organizing and storing our research materials at the Trail Center. In addition to what the VanCoevers and the Olsens did to get the materials to the Center, the staff and Martha Scanton have put in over 260 hours. Although the designated funds have run out, Martha has finished with most of Harry Myer's materials and is now working on other donated items.

Finally, please consider nominating one or more historic figures to the Hall of Fame. I have a more detailed article about that elsewhere in this issue. All the best.

*Roger*

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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](http://www.santafetrail.org)**

## Proposed Bylaw Amendments

The following amendments have been proposed for changes in the SFTA's By-Laws. These will be voted on at the General Membership Meeting held in conjunction with Rendezvous, September 20-22. The General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., during lunch at the Larned Community Center, on Friday, September 21, 2012.

### Proposed Amendment #1.

#### **Amend** Article XVIII -- AMENDMENTS

Change the sentence: "These bylaws may be amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted, by a majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual members' meeting when the proposed amendment has been sent out in the notice of such meeting" to read as follows, " These bylaws may be amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted, by a **two-thirds** majority vote of the members present and voting at any annual members' meeting when the proposed amendment has been sent out in the notice of such meeting"

### Proposed Amendment #2.

#### **Amend** Article VI - Governing Board of Officers and Directors

##### Section 11. Voting

To address the matter of e-mail voting by the Board of Directors by adding the following paragraph:

"For matters of SFTA business deemed too important to wait until the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting, an e-mail vote may suffice, providing the following steps are taken:

SFTA President must ask the Board of directors for a vote to be returned via e-mail by a certain date.

Any proposition passed by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors shall be enacted.

A written record of the votes shall be taken and included into the minutes of the next scheduled Board of Directors meeting."

### Proposed Amendment #3.

#### **Amend** Article VI -- GOVERNING BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

##### Section 1. General Powers *which now reads*

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Board which shall be comprised of officers and directors and shall in all cases act as a board. The Board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the Association as they deem proper, not

inconsistent with these bylaws.

### **by adding the following paragraph:**

The Board may hire professional staff to serve at the pleasure of the Board. Needed staff positions shall be determined by the Board, which will develop job descriptions and establish procedures to advertise and fill such positions. The board shall determine compensation and benefits for each position, establish job performance standards, and set up procedures for evaluation.

## Hall of Fame Nominees Needed

### **by Roger Slusher**

It is time for SFTA chapters and individual members to nominate historic figures to the Hall of Fame for possible induction at the Rendezvous in Larned. These folks have already been inducted: Allison, Aubry, Aull, the Beaches, Becknell, William Bent, Francis Boothe, the Bowens, Carson, Costello, Custer, Donoho, Charles Fuller, Gallego, Garrard, William Gordon, Gregg, the Hunnings, LaLoge, Lydia Lane, Magoffin, Majors, the Matthewsons, Lucien Maxwell, Miller, A. A. Moore, Peacock, Pike, Rath, Marion Russell, St. Vrain, George Sibley, and Waddell.

The figures who will be portrayed or discussed at Rendezvous and are not in the Hall will be nominated by me. They include Julia Archibald Holmes, Pedro Sandoval, Frederick Hawn, James Kirker, J. B. Hickok, Winfield Hancock, Ned Wynkoop, and Edwin Vose Sumner.

Under the new rules, only a short biography and case for induction totaling 100 words or so has to be sent to me, with a picture if possible. If you need suggestions, contact me, and I will send you a list of several hundred likely nominees compiled by Leo Oliva last year. All chapter presidents also have that list. Please let me know as soon as you decide to nominate someone to avoid possible duplicate nominations.

Ideally, I need to receive all nominations by September 1, so I'll have time to get them approved by the Hall of Fame Committee and time to construct a display about them. Starting in 2015, deceased individuals who made significant contributions to the study and/or preservation of the Trail will be eligible.

Although we have raised over \$8,000 for the Hall of Fame display at the Trail Center in Larned, it appeared that programming, software, and the computer would be too costly. Now the Hall of Fame Committee thinks we have a much cheaper, and possibly better, approach which will make an unveiling in 2014 very likely. In the meantime, we will maintain a temporary exhibit in the entrance to the Center. ♦

## Partnership for the National Trails System

*Ross Marshall, SFTA Representative to PNTS*

**2012 National Historic Trails Workshop** – This biennial workshop, sponsored by PNTS, was held May 14-18 in Socorro, NM, hosted by the El Camino de Tierra Adentro Association (CARTA). It was well-attended and well done. In fact, it will likely be the model for future National Historic Trails workshops. Faye Gaines and Jeff Trotman attended from SFTA.

We flew into Albuquerque on Monday and everyone was taken by bus for the sixty-mile drive south to Socorro along the El Camino de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail that runs from Santa Fe into Mexico. We had Jere Krakow and Hal Jackson as guides for that run. Doesn't get much better than that!

The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions started inside and then toured the trail – one day in Socorro (urban) and one day a few miles from town (rural setting). Each person was part of a team that gave reports in the afternoon with their ideas on how to develop the trail in that area, which included interpretation, preservation, and promotion of the trail.

One of the sessions addressed building and maintaining organizational capacity with volunteer members, like the Santa Fe Trail Association must continue to do, which is Goal #3 for the Decade. This is a critical issue for each of our organizations and will likely be the subject of a workshop, perhaps this fall.

**Congress:** Not much is happening in WDC, except a transportation bill was passed. This bill is not exactly like we have had in the last couple of decades because the enhancements provisions that have furnished funding for some of our trail projects have been changed somewhat - and not for the better. But at this point, the details of how it will be implemented are still fuzzy.

**Volunteer manhours and expenses reports:** (same paragraph as last issue of WT, but worth saying again). Congress is especially impressed with the large volunteer manhours and dollar contributions by SFTA members, up 20% from 2010 to over \$1,900,000, which included 74,000 volunteer manhours!

The totals for the entire National Trails System total \$34,000,000 for 2011 and for the last 17 years has totaled over \$320,000,000! No wonder Congress is impressed.

We appreciate very much every chapter, committee chair, and board member turning in their volunteer totals this past January. **Please plan to accumulate these totals for 2012.** ♦

## NPS Posts Geographical History Map

The National Park Service office is glad to note that it has recently posted, on its Santa Fe Trail website, a geographical history of the trail. It is 22 maps and captions, plus a mileage table, that together help answer the question "At any given time during the 59-year history of the Santa Fe Trail, what was the most commonly-used route between the Missouri River valley and Santa Fe?" This was a group effort, with GIS Specialist Brian Deaton drawing the maps, historian Frank Norris doing the background research, and Interpretive Specialist Lynne Mager converting all of the map, text, and tabular information to a web-based format. Please take a look at it, at [www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/map-timeline-intro.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/map-timeline-intro.htm). If you have suggestions or corrections, please let Frank know at [frank\\_norris@nps.gov](mailto:frank_norris@nps.gov).

## Cleveland Millfest to be Held Labor Day Weekend

The Cleveland Roller Mill Museum in Cleveland, NM presents the Cleveland Millfest September 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Cleveland Roller Mill Museum is a 3 story, adobe, water powered flour mill that has been turned into a local history museum. The Mill's original equipment is intact and operable for demonstration purposes.

Current exhibitions through Labor Day weekend include the "Valley of the Mills" exhibit that provides information on the mill's history, and wheat farming and milling in Mora County, as well as a historical overview of the history of western Mora County. Wheat farming and milling were Mora County's most important economic enterprises for nearly a century encompassing a time period from 1860 to 1940. A photo exhibit, "Mora County: The Early Years" includes 80 historic photographs relating to the architecture, landscape and personalities during Mora County's early years.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekends only. Admission is free except during the millfest on Labor Day Weekend. Driving Directions: From Santa Fe/Albuquerque, drive north on I-25 to Las Vegas, take exit 343 onto highway 518 and drive 32 miles to Cleveland, NM (2 miles north of Mora on Hwy 518.) Turn right at the Cleveland Roller Mill sign. Traveltime is about 1 hour 45 minutes from SF; 2 hours 45 minutes from Albuquerque. For additional information, call 575-387-2645, or visit [www.clevelandrollermillmuseum.com](http://www.clevelandrollermillmuseum.com).

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**October 10 is the  
submission deadline for the  
November issue of Wagon Tracks**



## Pawnee Rock, from page 1

known as the Kansas Pacific) reached Hays City and the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road became the main route of Santa Fe Trail traffic, almost everyone who traveled between Missouri and New Mexico passed within sight of Pawnee Rock. The list of those who mentioned Pawnee Rock includes Jacob Fowler, George C. Sibley, Kit Carson, Philip St. George Cooke, Matt Field, Susan Shelby Magoffin (who carved her name on the rock), Lewis Garrard, William Gilpin, Marion Sloan Russell, James Fugate, and many soldiers assigned to duty on the Trail. Kit Carson and Marion Sloan Russell will be two of the characters portrayed at Pawnee Rock during Rendezvous. The other presentation will be about surveying, including the government survey of the road to New Mexico, 1825-1827.

Today it is the history rather than what one can see that makes Pawnee Rock a significant Trail site. The bluff, which provided a lookout point for travelers to view some thirty miles of the Trail east and west, was reduced in height when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad and area settlers quarried stone off the top. The removal of layers of sandstone took almost all the names that had been carved there over several decades. Some visitors today take time to search for any remaining names.

A pavilion was constructed on top of the remaining prominence in 1922, and it reportedly approximates the height of the original landmark. From atop that pavilion it is still possible to see many miles up and down the Arkansas Valley. With imagination, visitors can envision wagon trains and buffalo herds passing by, maybe even a few Plains Indians, as described by Trail travelers.

The Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution placed one of its Santa Fe Trail markers at Pawnee Rock in 1906, and that marker is located at the entrance to the park today. In 1908 the property was acquired by the State of Kansas and the state park followed. In 1912 an inscribed monument of marble, sponsored by the Women's Clubs of Kansas and several other organizations, with a shaft extending thirty feet high, was dedicated. It was reported that 8,000 people gathered for this dedication.

Lightning destroyed the shaft atop this monument in 1938, and it was replaced with a six-foot shaft. With inscriptions and images incised on all four sides of the monument, this is one



Photo: Ruth Friesen

of the finest Trail markers in Kansas. The centennial of the placement of this marker was commemorated at Pawnee Rock on Memorial Day 2012, at the same time the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Pawnee Rock was remembered.

In 1941, one of many celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Coronado's Expedition to present Kansas was held at Pawnee Rock, and a plaque was placed there which reads: "Santa Fe Trail, 1822-1872, Pawnee Rock, situated on the route of the Santa Fe Trail frequently was used as a camping ground and a lookout for protection from the Indians by the brave men and women who traveled over the Trail, placed by KSDAR, 1941." A highway marker just west of the town of Pawnee Rock, containing a brief history of this important landmark, was placed at that time. A special Santa Fe Trail caravan traveled the route during the Kansas Centennial in 1961, with a brief stop at Pawnee Rock.

Pawnee Rock was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. The following year a bronze plaque was attached to the face of the bluff to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Road to Santa Fe. This plaque contains an image of a Plains Indian woman with horse and travois passing in front of the rock and the following inscription:

1821 William Becknell 1971  
Father of the Santa Fe Trail  
Pawnee Rock, Kansas  
150th Anniversary

A few years ago the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter placed a stone marker provided by the Veterans Administration to recognize Private Nehemiah Carson, First Missouri Mounted Volunteers (a regiment that served under Colonel Alexander Doniphan as part of General Stephen W. Kearny's Army of the West during the Mexican War), who died at or near Pawnee Rock on July 13, 1846, and was buried at the rock the following day. This is the only grave marker at the site.



Photo: Ruth Friesen

The Kansas State Historical Society manages the park with support from the local community, and the Society has placed eight markers at the site containing quotations from travelers who described what they saw there, plus illustrations of Trail scenes. The park was improved with picnic shelter and restrooms at one time, but vandalism made it necessary to remove the restrooms and replace the shelter. Porta-potties and seating will be available for participants during Rendezvous. The

session at Pawnee Rock in September will provide an opportunity to experience a physical connection with Trail history at this noted landmark. ♦

## **Rendezvous, from page 1**

Lonnie Burnett from Ponca City, OK, will speak on “Kaw Nation and the Santa Fe Trail.” His presentation will focus on the importance of the waterways to the Kaw Nation and how the trail impacted the lives of the Kaw Nation.

The Rendezvous will convene Friday morning at the Larned Community Center with Dr. Joyce Thierer of Admire, KS, introducing the theme.

Allan Wheeler, historian from Santa Fe, NM, will speak on “The Life of William Becknell-Founder of the Santa Fe Trail.” This first-person interpretation will cover the highlights of Becknell’s life and his many accomplishments. Wheeler has been researching Becknell for over a decade and has attempted to master what would have been Becknell’s mannerisms and vocabulary.

Dr. Ann Birney from Admire, KS, our next speaker, will portray Julia Archibald Holmes, who was the first woman to climb Pike’s Peak. Dr. Birney uses primary documents and Julia’s own letters as the basis for her first person narrative.

After the morning break, Dr. David Sandoval from Pueblo, CO, will speak on “Pedro Sandoval, In Defense of the Empire.” Dr. Sandoval’s portrayal will focus on the 1829 journey Pedro, a presidio soldier, took to the international border while protecting “Spanish refugees” who had been ordered out of Mexico.

After lunch, we will take the show on the road to Pawnee Rock State Historic Site. Steve Brosemer of Admire, KS, will be the first speaker on Pawnee Rock and will portray Frederick Hawn, Deputy Surveyor for the General Land Office, centering on the original government surveys and the geology of the areas along the trail. Having this presentation at one of the actual major landmarks along the trail will provide a unique experience for our audience.

John Carson of Las Animas, CO, the second speaker on location, will portray his Great-Grandfather Kit Carson. His portrayal will be based primarily on Kit’s autobiography, which allows the character to tell the story to a degree “in his own words.” The presentation will focus on Kit’s experiences along the trail.

Inez Ross from Los Alamos, NM, the last speaker Friday afternoon “on the road,” will portray Marion Sloan Russell, based on Marion’s book *Land of Enchantment*. Ross will speak about the adventures Marion and her soldier husband experienced on the trail, including meeting Kit Carson.

Gary Hicks from Overland Park, KS, will provide the dinner presentation Friday night when we return to the Community Center for dinner. Hicks will portray Alexander Majors, who made significant strides in advancing Christian civilization on the trail. He was also co-founder of the Pony Express and

impacted transportation and commerce.

Saturday morning we will reconvene at Larned Community Center. Our first presenter, Dr. Hal Jackson from Placitas, NM, will speak on “James Kirker: Hero and Villain.” Kirker’s actions in Mexico pose a paradox that Jackson will examine in his presentation.

Dorothy Smoker of Santa Fe, NM, next on the agenda, will present “Luz, The Land and Those Who Crossed It,” portraying Maria de la Luz Beaubien Maxwell who lived on the famous Maxwell land grant.

After the morning coffee break, Mark Berry of McDonald, KS, will present “On the Trail with J.B. Hickok,” with emphasis on the Trail’s importance both to the nation’s economy and expansion westward. This will be illustrated through Hickok’s experiences and the people he met along the trail.

The three morning speakers will participate in a panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Thierer.

Following lunch at Fort Larned National Historic Site, Rendezvous will continue at the Cheyenne & Sioux Indian Village Site where Dr. Leo Oliva of Woodston, KS, will be our first speaker. His topic is “The Hancock Expedition of 1867 and the Cheyenne and Sioux Village on Pawnee Fork.” He will speak on the significance of this site and how General Winfield Scott Hancock captured and burned the village in April 1867, which led to “Hancock’s War.”

Louis Kraft from North Hollywood, CA, next on the agenda, will speak on “Ned Wynkoop’s Fight to Save the Cheyenne-Lakota Village on the Pawnee Fork.” This presentation pairs well with Dr. Oliva’s talk as Kraft explains how Ned Wynkoop attempted to save the village and prevent “Hancock’s War.” Kraft is an outstanding speaker; you will not want to miss this talk.

After the speakers, we will return to Fort Larned National Historic Site where participants may explore the Fort before dinner.

Our dinner presentation on Saturday evening is provided by Dr. Durwood Ball from Albuquerque, NM. He will talk about how, while many historians write off Edwin Vose Sumner, frontier army officer, as a hard-nose zealot, we must look deeper to truly understand the man.

For any questions regarding this year’s Rendezvous please contact the Santa Fe Trail Center at 620-285-2054 or e-mail [museum@santafetrailcenter.org](mailto:museum@santafetrailcenter.org). ♦



## Signage Projects Progressing

by Jeff Trotman and Joanne VanCoevern

Identifying where the Santa Fe Trail was located, and learning more about the National Historic Trail resources, is beginning to get much easier—thanks to the energetic efforts of the Santa Fe Trail Association and our members and partners, especially the National Park Service Intermountain Region, Santa Fe. This is being accomplished through two of our long-term, joint goals developed in the original SFTA Strategic Plan. Those two goals were to 1. Develop a series of information and interpretive kiosks along the length of the Trail, and 2. Continue an aggressive program of mapping and identifying trail-related resources; and develop a trail-wide database.

The kiosk project initiated under SFTA President Hal Jackson took a giant leap toward completion this year. The kiosk project is designed to orient Trail travelers regarding which Santa Fe Trail resources are to the east, to the west and what is located in close proximity to the location of the kiosk. After completing the first kiosk at Gardner Junction, sites were identified for future kiosks. The kiosk at the Dodge City Rut Site was completed next and dedicated during Symposium 2011. That has been followed by four “Trails to Parks” kiosk projects that are located at, or near, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site, Fort Union National Monument, and Pecos National Historic Park. A Challenge Cost Share grant has been applied for and if granted, will add a kiosk at Salem Park, Independence, MO to the list. Work will begin this fall on a kiosk to be placed on the grounds of the new facility under construction for the McPherson County Museum, McPherson, KS. We will have these three kiosk panels in place to coincide with their grand opening being planned for September, 2013. In addition, the New Mexico Scenic By-ways program will be installing several kiosks along their portion of the Santa Fe Trail.

The Santa Fe Trail Association and the National Park Service will partner for a Mapping Workshop to be held during the winter of 2012-2013. This workshop is part of the 2021 Task Force initiative that examines various issues and challenges facing the Association and the National Historic Trail. During the workshop, attendees will collect and summarize known mapping resources and data for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. We will define what has been accomplished with mapping of the SFT, what format it is in and where it is housed. We will also discuss what other maps and/or formats may exist for the Trail and decide if they would be beneficial for our use. Following the workshop, we will develop a report for the association and Trail administrators that will outline a comprehensive list of trail mapping resources, a detailed description of alignment issues for the designated routes, and a prioritized list of future trail mapping needs. In addition, we will continue to develop project proposals to address priority mapping needs identified during the workshop and develop a plan for their completion. A review of the Rediscovery project will help

us achieve our goal of developing a Trail-wide database of resources.

Following the SFTA Chapters’ Local Tour Routes is simplified and becoming much more recognizable thanks to the cooperative signage program we have undertaken with the National Park Service. Just as someone who sees the “golden arches” knows there is a McDonald’s ahead, travelers will learn that when they see the SFNHT logo they are on, or near, the Santa Fe Trail. Local tour signs have already been placed in the area of the Quivira Chapter, the Corazon Chapter, the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter and the Bent’s Fort Chapter. An order for signs has been placed, and received, for Grant County, KS and signs are being ordered for Kearney and Hamilton Counties, KS. In addition to the county signs placed in the Wagon Bed Springs Chapter area, we will add turn signs onto the state highways to make the tour more widely visible, once we can come to an agreement with KDOT about the signs on their right of ways.

Other projects being worked on include a local tour to direct travelers from Fort Larned to their detached rut site and then back to the Santa Fe Trail Auto Tour Route; local tour signs for the eastern Missouri counties in the MRO Chapter area, and local tour signs for the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter area. Project proposals have also been given to the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter and the Douglas County Chapter. In addition to these local tour route signs, SFTA and the NPS have been busy identifying interpretive panels that need to be replaced and work has begun to address that need. Interpretive panels will be replaced in Council Grove, at New Santa Fe, and at Red Bridge in Minor Park. Also included in the signage program are directional signage to sites along the SFNHT including Fort Marcy, Gardner Junction, Point of Rocks, NM, and the Herzstein Museum in Clayton, NM.

All of these projects are designed to enhance the traveler’s experience along the SFNHT. Our goal is to inform the traveler about the Trail, where it is, and what they can see as they travel it. With each new sign that is placed, or each interpretive panel that is replaced, or each new kiosk that is finished—we are one step closer to achieving our goals. ♦



## Marion County Sign Installation Completed

by Steve Schmidt

A milestone was achieved by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter July 10, 2012 when the last of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail (SFNHT) family of signs was installed, thus fully implementing the SFNHT family of signs in Marion County. The last three signs were the Historic Trail Information sign on Hwy 56 at the Marion/McPherson county line, the Cottonwood Crossing site entrance sign, and the Lost Spring site entrance sign.

Marking a local tour route was first discussed by the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter in the early 2000s. At a Board of Directors meeting April 22, 2003 it was decided to proceed with homemade local tour signs and eventually replace them with SFNHT signs (the latter were just beginning to be discussed). Through many twists and turns, ups and downs, frustrations and successes, all SFNHT signs are now installed: Crosses Here signs, Local Tour signs, Historic Trail Information sign, and Site Entrance signs.

A big thank you goes to: the National Park Service for funding to acquire signs, posts, and hardware, with special recognition to Aaron Mahr and Steve Burns; the Marion County Commissioners for their support and encouragement, and for allowing installation of signs in the public right of way; and the members and friends of the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter for many, many hours and miles of volunteer effort to determine locations for the signs, get utility locates, assemble the signs, and install the signs. ♦



*The crew on July 10, 2012. Dick Toews, left; George Schutte and Steve Schmidt of the Cottonwood Chapter; Tom Frankenfield. Not shown is Dennis Maggard with Marion County, who took this photo.*



*Photo: Steve Schmidt*

*This project had volunteer engineering expertise that enabled volunteers to work along with the county signage department to install signs within public road rights of way. If you are planning a project to install national historic trail signs, for safety, liability, and requirements for correct installation of road signs, you are encouraged to work with the NPS and local road jurisdictions to have the road jurisdiction crews install signs within the public right of way.*

**Steve Burns Chavez, Landscape Architect  
National Park Service**

## **Santa Fe Trail Markers Proposed: *The Baldwin Ledger*, Friday, 3 Feb. 1905**

### **Recent Agitation to Mark the Line of the Pathway – BALDWIN ON THE LIST**

Monuments are springing up in various parts of Kansas for providing permanent markers for the old Santa Fe trail, which preceded the Santa Fe railroad as the connecting link between the east and west. Franklin county cannot get in on the original Santa Fe trail deal, but she has as fine a line of side trails, rich in history, as any county in the state. The original Santa Fe trail and main line on which the gold traffic to California traveled, crossed the Missouri at Westport and came west through Black Jack, through the present location of Baldwin and just missed the northwest corner of Franklin county, passing west through Burlingame. Another trail went to the north through or near Lawrence, and the two trails joined near Burlingame.

It was the traffic that came up from the south, from western Missouri and Fort Scott and even from the south, that passed through Franklin county on the way to join the great pathway to the west. This road crossed the Marais des Cygnes river at what is still known as "Fort Scott crossing," which is some three miles down the river from Ottawa. The Seventh street road runs by it, and a branch crosses it. On the east and south the train crossed the Pottawatomie near Lane at what was known as "Dutch Henry's crossing." It was here that one of John Brown's massacres took place.

Though it is proposed to mark the Santa Fe trail proper with monuments it will never be possible to define any definite track or set of tracks as the exclusive trail. When the emigrants struck the prairies west of the Missouri they spread out over the considerable territory, the various trails or paths coming together at the principal watering places. So it came about that many California pilgrims came down past the Taury Jones place, now Woodlief though the main trail did not run that way. These were first parties to introduce blue grass to this county. Seed dropped on the prairie in time soddied an entire section of ground, while all around was the prairie, and the unsettled wilderness. Taury Jones and Robert Atkinson got the idea of cultivating blue grass here from this volunteer crop that sprang up on the branch of the Santa Fe trail. The old Santa Fe well in north Baldwin will always mark this trail here. ♦

*Submitted by Richard Wellman  
Baldwin City, KS*

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### **SFTA Internship Available**

The Santa Fe Trail Association has received funding from the National Park Service for an intern position to be located at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS. This internship will be for a full-time position, for one semester, for which a stipend will be provided. Students applying are encouraged to discuss school credit with their university.

The primary goal behind this request is to continue to develop the SFTA's Santa Fe Trail Research Library, housed at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS. In order to achieve this, we are requesting an intern to work primarily with collections that have been donated to the Santa Fe Trail Association which include the Harry C. Myers Research Collection, the Gregory Franzwa Collection, the Paul Bentrup Collection and the Mary Gambel Collection, as well as various other materials accumulated through the SFTA.

This internship, and development of SFTA's research collections, aligns very well with the Strategic Plan developed in partnership between the SFTA/NPS where "Research on the SFT" was considered as one of the highest priorities. In addition, a long-term project occurring at the Trail Center is the task of entering all of the museum's collections records into a Collections Management database. The program, PastPerfect, will allow for easier access and clearer record keeping of the collections once all of the data have been entered. Because the museum has such extensive three dimensional, archival, and photograph collections, this will take thousands of hours

to complete. The Santa Fe Trail Association is joining in this project by including our collections in the SFTC database.

For those who would like to apply for this internship, a background in history or museum studies is preferred but not required; a strong interest in museums, education, or archives is necessary. Applicants who are enrolled in, or a recent graduate of an undergraduate or graduate program emphasizing history, museum studies, or closely related field, are encouraged to apply. Areas of study to be considered for this internship may include: library science, historic preservation, public history, and museum studies. "Related fields" include history, but may also include art history, anthropology, archaeology, and/or education. Experience with PastPerfect and Microsoft Office is preferred. Must be well-organized and detailed-oriented, have strong written and verbal skills, and have ability to work on multiple projects simultaneously. A high degree of responsibility and the ability to work professionally with the public are essential. Excellent organizational skills are necessary. This internship position requires the intern to have the capacity to work independently. Interns will complete projects using the resources of the Santa Fe Trail Center and the Santa Fe Trail Association.

For more information, please contact [info@santafetrail.org](mailto:info@santafetrail.org) or call the Santa Fe Trail Association at 620-285-2054 and ask for Linda Revello.



## *Wagons Ho! at Bent's Old Fort in May 2012*



Captions from upper left clockwise: John Carson and Ed Aragon lead oxen along the Santa Fe Trail near Bent's Old Fort, SFTA members walk through prairie vegetation on the Santa Fe Trail, Conestoga wagon at Bent's Old Fort, Doug Hansen demonstrates the brakes on a stagecoach, Doc Don Headlee shows a jar of leeches to a young Trail enthusiast. (photos by Ruth Friesen)



# Cyber Ruts: Researching the Santa Fe Trail on the Internet

by Mike Olsen

This column is the first in a series in which I will review the vast resources for the history and heritage of the Santa Fe Trail available on the Internet. It springs from various conversations between me, *Wagon Tracks* editor Ruth Friesen, and SFTA Manager, Joanne VanCoevern.

The resources I will discuss are for the most part in the public domain and readily accessible, though there are exceptions. In the past five years I have done probably 75 percent of my research on the trail via the Internet, so I will often use that research as examples of what to do, or not to do. I think you will be astounded, as I constantly am, at the range of materials now available electronically – even traditional Interlibrary Loan items often now are delivered in electronic form from the lending library to my computer – but more on that later.

Perhaps one of my biggest Internet research surprises (and there have been many productive finds) came when I was writing an article on Zebulon Pike, “Zebulon Pike and American Popular Culture, or, Has Pike Peaked?” I typed “Zebulon Pike grave” into Google and eventually ended up at [www.sackettsharbor-ni.gov](http://www.sackettsharbor-ni.gov), which produced the full-text minutes of a Sackett’s Harbor City Council meeting in 2003 where the exhumation of four graves, one believed to be that of Zebulon Pike (he truly is buried in Sackett’s Harbor) was discussed. That led me to the whole question of how Colorado Springs, Colorado, over the years has, from a Sackett’s Harbor point of view, tried to “steal” Pike’s remains. Interesting stuff, which – and this is the important point – I never would have been aware of otherwise except for the Internet, and even if I had been – would I have traveled to Sackett’s Harbor to consult the manuscript city council minutes? (Answer: only if I had a travel grant!)

By the by – those council minutes evidently are no longer available online – only the mayor’s newsletter from 2008 forward is posted. Sites do disappear or get “taken down,” which is why, whenever an author is citing a website in an endnote or footnote, along with the URL of the site it should be stated, “accessed on day/month/year.”

## WORLDCAT

In this first column I am going to look at the resource/database known as WorldCat. In my estimation it is the greatest research tool since the invention of the Dewey Decimal System. It is available free to the public, but also can be accessed through many libraries by card holders of those libraries. The library-accessible version is preferable, again because of that

Interlibrary Loan feature I will discuss below.

WorldCat links thousands of card catalogs from libraries around the world – all the libraries that have digitized their old card catalogs and put them online and then keep adding new items in electronic form. You never know – the item you might want may only be available in the library of a South African university (it happened to me once – needless to say, I have never seen that item). Here is how it works.

Go to “worldcat” ([www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)) and you will get a screen saying “Find items in libraries near you.” Let’s use a familiar item – Josiah Gregg’s *Commerce of the Prairies*. Enter “Josiah Gregg” in the space next to “search everything” (and they mean it – everything. . . .). When I did it (accessed 4 June 2010), I got a list of 381 items in 0.29 seconds. Not all of them are *Commerce of the Prairies*; you’ll have to scroll down and pick and choose. (There is a way around this – more later.) Select one of the *Commerce* entries and click on the title. The one I chose is the “March of America facsimile series, no. 71.” But as we know, there are numerous editions of Gregg’s *Commerce*; if you want a particular one – we’ll get to that.

Once you have chosen a particular title/entry, notice that further down that screen you can “Find a copy in the library.” Enter your zip code and the libraries closest to you that have any edition of Gregg will be listed. If you want, you can click on the library name itself – for me my nearest is Pikes Peak Library District - 6 miles away and I can even click “map it.”

Let’s say we just want a list of Gregg’s *Commerce of the Prairies*, not all the references that turned up when we first typed “Josiah Gregg” in the WorldCat search window. At the top of any page on WorldCat you will see, upper left more or less, “Advanced Search.” Click it. Now we are cooking. Type in *Commerce of the Prairies* in the “title” slot and “Josiah Gregg” in “author” and you will get a list of “about 52” titles.

Just for fun, in “Advanced Search” look down the screen to where you can choose a language. Choose “German” and click – voila! – there are three German editions listed, 1845, 1847, and 1891. Click on the 1845 edition and you will find that you can consult it at Brigham Young University, or five other libraries. Why would anyone want to know about these German editions? Well, just imagine reading an article on Gregg with the sentence, “So popular was Gregg that just a year after his book appeared in the U.S. (1844), it was translated and published in Germany.” And as WorldCat tells you, in the information on that 1845 edition on the screen, it was published in Dresden by Arnoldische Buchhandlung. That’s one way

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS), which is the preferred style of *Wagon Tracks*, uses “online,” “database,” and “website.” It’s “full-text” when used as an adjective, as in “full-text version” but “see the full text at your local library.”

researchers get cool information.

Now let's go back again to the "Advanced Search" screen, being sure *Commerce of the Prairies* and "Gregg" are entered and changing "language" from "German" back to "English". Over on the left hand side of the screen are more nifty choices. At this point the full screen is showing (there is a checked box) "All Formats." Look below that, and choose "ebook." (This is one of those great advances since the Dewey Decimal System.) There are seven choices today (4 June 2012) but this constantly changes. Anyway, you can choose one of these seven and on the next screen you will see "Find a copy on line." Then click on the "Links to this item." Now – of these seven choices available as I am writing this column, only one is going to allow me to see the full text of Gregg – Google has it available, volumes 1 and 2 – it is an 1849 edition of Gregg. (I clicked on Google, v. 1, then clicked on the title page on the next screen and got the full text.)

The other six online choices are provided by services that have to be paid for – subscribed to, most commonly by institutions like libraries and universities. Obviously, it costs money to offer the full text of an item, and there are also copyright issues (notice that the Google version is an 1849 edition – out of copyright). Depending on where you live, you might still be able to access *Commerce* full text, via these subscription services, though not on your computer.

A couple of weeks ago I wanted to see the journal of an 1849 California gold rush emigrant who traveled the Santa Fe Trail. It was originally published (only 500 copies) in 1931 and there were no copies at any library here in Colorado Springs. However, it has been scanned full text by a subscription service and was available online through that service at a local college library. That library allows public access to its electronic databases in the library. The library has a bank of computers for public use, but only if students aren't on them. I went to the library, signed on to a public computer, went to the catalog entry, clicked on the electronic database – and got the book full text, without leaving town.

By the by, again – Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies* is available full text at various sites online that aren't in WorldCat – more on that in a few weeks.

Now, to wind things up on WorldCat. Go back to the screen where you clicked "ebook." (Advanced Search, enter *Commerce of the Prairies* and "Gregg"). Notice, listed on the left hand side of the screen, that you can also get Gregg in microform, there is a thesis/dissertation, you can see what articles there might be on the book (for example, click on articles, and there is a review of *Commerce* by LeRoy Hafen in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* from 1955; it is available online from a subscription service called jstor.org), there are maps, eMaps, and a link to "Downloadable archival material," which, of chosen, eventually leads to a full text version of *Commerce* in PDF. Wow.

Let's do one more search. Go to the WorldCat "Advanced Search" screen again. This time type "Susan Shelby Magoffin" into the "keyword" slot. I get 57 items, one of which is something called "A history of women's achievement in America," and WorldCat tells me it is available as a DVD for juvenile audiences. That is part of the fun of WorldCat – you never know what is going to turn up that might be useful – you just have to search.

There are many more configurations of information that WorldCat can provide – click on the items available on the left hand side of the screen, or click on various parts of any title you might choose. Explore.

And finally – let's go back to that reference I made earlier to Interlibrary Loan and WorldCat. If you access WorldCat through a library website, rather than directly via [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), you can order an item through that library's Interlibrary Loan department with, again, just a couple of clicks. Check the website home page of your local library to see if it has WorldCat. (I know many SFTA members live in isolated regions – but sometimes you can join a library "long distance." Check into it.)

My "go to" source for Interlibrary Loan is the Pikes Peak Public Library District. I log on to WorldCat through the PPLD website (I have to give my library card number and pin number), access WorldCat, search for what I want, and if PPLD does not have the item, I can request it online through an interlibrary loan. Just a few months ago, for the first time in my experience, an item I requested was delivered to me electronically – the lending library scanned it, sent it to my library, which sent it electronically to me, I downloaded it – and no paper, no postage, and less expense, was involved.

As Samuel Morse said in the telegram he sent on March 24, 1844, "What hath God wrought." ♦

*Next column: Browsing the Library of Congress*

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## Diary of Levi Edmonds, Sr. Clarification

In the May 2012 issue of *Wagon Tracks*, "Diary of Levi Edmonds, Sr.," credit should have been given to Tracy Edmonds Patterson and Mary Kate Rogers as transcribers and interpreters of the diary. Tracy Patterson's name was omitted, and I deeply apologize for that. The diary copy was acquired from Cornell University, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections by Mary White and Mary Kate Rogers, December 2006 and transcribed and interpreted by Tracy Edmonds Patterson and Mary Kate Rogers, Final July 2011.

The original diary as well as the transcription appears online at <http://clintonilgenweb.net/history/edmonds/>. Please respect the copyright restrictions posted on that site.

*Ruth Friesen, Wagon Tracks Editor*



## Marker Cottonwood Falls at Stone Corral



The photo above of the Marker Cottonwood was taken in April 2005. Pictured are Wilmer Ekholm, Pat Hall and Britt Colle.



The Marker Cottonwood, the well-known landmark near the Little Arkansas Crossing in Rice County has met its demise. The fallen tree was viewed by Britt Colle during a tour with representatives of the Kansas State Historical Society on June 29. According to Joe Swanson, the tree fell earlier this year. The tree marked the Upper Little Arkansas River Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail and was well-known to all local Trail buffs. The trail made a quarter turn around this large cottonwood as it approached the riverbank. This “rut” is still visible. The marker cottonwood was most impressive because of its large size. The tree measured 24 feet 5 inches in circumference at the one foot level and was 27 feet 8 inches around higher up. The Marker Cottonwood was rumored to have been a guide for travelers, marking the best crossing point for the Little Arkansas River.

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## Geocaching the Santa Fe Trail: *A Treasure Hunt for the Whole Family*

Looking for a way your whole family can enjoy the Santa Fe Trail? Try geocaching.

Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches, using GPS-enabled devices and then share their experiences online.

Explore the world as you search for the cache using a GPS device or smartphone. Find the cache, sign the logbook and see what others have left behind. You may take something from the geocache, but be sure to leave something of equal or greater value so the next geocacher will have something to discover.

Currently, there are 1,434,042 active geocaches, including many along the Santa Fe Trail. Over 5 million people participate as geocachers worldwide.

To get started, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and read posts by geocachers who have found Santa Fe Trail caches by searching for “Santa Fe Trail” on the site. Browse the geocaching site to locate other interesting sites worldwide. Happy hunting!



## Young People and the Trail: Early Youth Trip Diary 1991

by *Nancy Logan and Chris Day*

Our next SFT youth trip will be in 2013 right after school is finished in May. We typically take 5th and 6th grade students from north-central Kansas. We will follow the SFT on the Cimarron Route and return to Kansas on the Mountain Route. We now have various SFT Chapters meet us along the way to show Trail sites in their vicinity plus some chapters provide us with an evening meal...big task for serving around 120 people.

During the early years of the Santa Fe Trail youth trips, we used rental vans for our travel on the Trail. Since 2001, we have traveled on motor coaches. Also, before our website was established, we would select a contact person back in Kansas and try to call this person every evening to give updates of our trip for the parents. The contact person would write a daily log and tape it to the window of the Wamego Duckwall's Store for parents to read. For the 1991 Santa Fe Trail youth trip, our contact mother, Nancy Logan, wrote a daily script about the daily contacts she made with the directors/students on the trip. The following log is her humorous approach about our daily activities on the Trail. Some editing was done by Chris Day.

### August 6, 1991 – Day 1

Theeyyy'erre off! And the chaperones apparently are too! After a rainy send-off, the stage vans rumbled into Council Grove. While at Council Grove, Wagon Masters and Trail Bosses were chosen. The sights were taken in at a leisurely pace. Then the Van Train journeyed to McPherson where they enjoyed lunch. Other attractions visited today were Indian artifacts, pit-house, petroglyphs, Rice County Museum, and Ralph's Ruts. Those who did not see these today will see them tomorrow morning before departing Lyons. Camp was set up at Tobias City Park. After partaking of barbecued chicken and all the "fixins," swimming was allowed. As Mrs. Fox became a year older today, brownies were enjoyed by all in celebration of that year, whatever one it happens to be. It was a glorious day, only one of many to come on the Trail. Our travelers are becoming accustomed to their vans and trail rules. They are eager to move on down the Trail. Tomorrow, Wednesday, groups E & G phone home.

### August 7 – Day 2

The report today was from an eleven year-old boy, aging fast on the Santa Fe Trail. The travelers continued to view the sights at Lyons during the morning. Lunch (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches) were served at Pawnee Rock. The afternoon brought them to the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned. Fort Larned was the reporter's highlight of the day. Camp was made at Gunsmoke Campground in Dodge City. The evening meal had not been consumed as of the time of the call. It seems some of the hardships of trail life are beginning to surface. Two illnesses are beginning to spread. One, the age-old illness, homesickness, is evident in the various stages. The other, a disease new to the

Santa Fe Trail, "Nintendoitis" is affecting some of the travelers as well. As the reporter was on the phone, one of the travelers in the background was heard to exclaim, "I just want to play Nintendo," one of the first symptoms of this dreaded disease. Parents, be prepared to offer positive support to your traveler if the symptoms are shared with on the phone. Tomorrow, the Van Train will journey into New Mexico. Groups F & H phone home during the evening.

### August 8 – Day 3

"Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore." Today the travelers departed for the dry land route down Highway 56 and saw much rain, wind and lightning around them. So much for dry land! They stopped at the border for photographs. They toured Autograph Rock and had planned to see McNees Crossing and the dinosaur tracks. As weather became threatening in that area, those were both skipped as the group headed to the police station to find a place to stay for the night in lieu of camping at Clayton State Park. The police were able to obtain the American Legion hall next door for our travelers for the night. It turned out to be a pleasant event. When today's reporter, Mrs. Fox (the one we don't know how many birthdays she has had) called, the travelers were all playing games, enjoying not having to set up the tents in the pouring rain, and preparing dinner of hot chicken mex sandwiches. It seems the rain did not dampen their spirits or appetites. Things really begin to pick up for our travelers tomorrow. The itinerary doesn't include so much road time, excuse me, Trail time, from now on. They will see the dinosaur tracks before departing for Fort Union National Monument in the morning.

### August 9 – Day 4

Did we say they were departing for the "dry" land route? This morning they were able to visit the dinosaur tracks before leaving Clayton, New Mexico. Between rain showers, the travelers saw Wagon Mound. They traveled on to Fort Union National Monument near Watrous. Tonight, they were going to camp at Villanueva State Park but diverted to the Junior High School instead, due to rain. Please send it to Wamego! Ironically, it is the same school district that the group stayed in two years ago because of adverse weather! The travelers are in very high spirits tonight. Tomorrow they will enter Santa Fe and be able to shop for souvenirs. Homesickness seems to have vanished. Tonight's entrée was Taco Salad. Be sure and ask your traveler about the samples of authentic trail food they received today. No calls were made home this evening but Groups A & B will be calling tomorrow evening.

### August 10 – Day 5

Saturday was a busy day for our travelers. They toured Pecos National Monument and learned about the American Indian way of life. They heard of Civil War times through re-enactors as well as learning to march, and dress right and dress left at Glo-

rieta Pass. It began to rain, so they quickly headed to Santa Fe where they toured San Miguel Church, supposedly the oldest church in the United States. Rain did not dampen their enthusiasm for shopping in Santa Fe. I wonder how much heavier the vans are now? A few succumbed to junk food and spent their souvenir money in that way. They were able to camp at Camel Rock Tesuque Pueblo RV Park and they still remembered how to set up their tents after two nights of not doing so!

#### **August 11 – Day 6**

Our travelers toured more of the historical sights of Santa Fe this morning. They saw “Footsteps across New Mexico,” a 3-D slide presentation of the history of the area. They visited Loretto Chapel where they saw the “miracle stairway.” In the afternoon, they took in El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum, and saw haciendas along the old Mexican trail. Camp was set up at Bandelier National Monument’s Ponderosa Camp Ground. Dinner included chili and veggie strips with s’mores for dessert. Very little van traveling will be done tomorrow. They will again camp at the Ponderosa Camp. Groups E & G will phone home, lines permitting.

#### **August 12 – Day 7**

Another busy day in the life of our travelers! Tours today included the Bradbury Science Museum, ancestral Pueblo ruins in Bandelier, and a hike to the Rio Grande. At the Bradbury Science Museum, they saw models of atomic bombs and cruise missiles. The chaperones were also complimented on how well-behaved our children were. Some hiked three and a half miles to see the Rio Grande and encountered a little of the wildlife. It may be termed “a close encounter of the third kind,” the reptilian kind, that is. Others took in the cliff dwellings and Indian ruins. Any of the sights that were not seen today will be seen tomorrow before departing for Taos. Camp remained at Ponderosa tonight. We didn’t even have to set up tents again. A meteorite shower occurred last night but the sky was too cloudy for the shower to be observed. Tonight is clear and any that are still awake will be able to observe the meteorite shower. I have heard from a number of parents who are suffering from “post-parting blues.” This is a common ailment among those of who have undergone a “kidectomy.” The course of this illness usually last about 11 days, accompanied with bouts of occasional tears or emotional outbursts of “it’s so quiet!”

The course of treatment prescribed usually includes a dialogue with other Trail Parents. Bear in mind, it usually seems to disappear about mid-August. The kids are fine. The chaperones are “old-hands” at this and are remarkably in tune to each and every one of the travelers. Let’s remember this and show our gratitude to them on Friday.

#### **August 13 – Day 8**

This morning was spent finishing up the sights at Bandelier National Monument and Los Alamos before heading to Taos for a late lunch. Our travelers saw some very beautiful scenery as they headed north to Raton. Deer and antelope were plentiful (I don’t know if they were playing or not; I think maybe that’s reserved for Kansas). Some even saw a bobcat on the way. They set up camp at Summerlan RV Campground and began

calling home. It began raining and the calls were cut short so the travelers could be moved into the Middle School in Raton. Who said they weren’t ready for middle school? They plan to take the tents down in the morning and start out for Capulin National Monument.

A number of parents have expressed concern that there is much illness among the travelers. There has been one case of strep throat and a couple of kids with the flu. These have been seen by a doctor and are receiving the proper care and antibiotics when called for. Phone calls home have been disrupted due to weather on several occasions. Please do not panic if you do not receive your phone call or it is short! The chaperones make every attempt to get the 24 calls made each evening but sometimes phone lines or phone availability makes it impossible to make the calls.

#### **August 14 – Day 9**

The tents weren’t dry yet this morning so our travelers went on to Capulin National Monument. After thoroughly checking out the volcano, they ate lunch. They went back and folded up their tents which were by then dry. The travelers headed on to John Martin Reservoir where they set up camp. They had tours of the dam and got to go down in it as well as being on top of it. It was a starlit night with no rain in sight, only mosquitoes. They will back-track a little in the morning to visit Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site.

Mr. Holcomb reported the ones that had been ill were much better. He said they are beginning to enjoy camp life, even the food! He suggested that they wouldn’t enjoy candy anymore but a rather loud noise from the background tells me perhaps that isn’t so!

#### **August 15 – Day 10**

“There’s no place like home.” I’m certain our travelers are thinking that as they reach the last couple of days. Although there was no report from them last evening, they were to tour Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site before heading back into Kansas. Last night they camped in Dodge City at the Gun-smoke Campground.

#### **August 16 – Day 11**

“They’re baaack!” Banners to welcome them home, favorite menu items, and plans for celebration are ready. As we greet them this evening, let us remember to thank each and every chaperone for giving their time, talents, and energy to make this trip an incredible adventure in the lives of our youth. Don’t forget to share your traveler’s journal! ♦

## Julia Archibald Holmes, Santa Fe Trail Sojourner

by Ann Birney

*Why should we care about the first woman to climb to the top of Pikes Peak? Who is she to us? After all, when Julia Anna Archibald Holmes<sup>1</sup> made her historic hike in 1858, smack dab in the middle of the Bleeding Kansas era, thousands of other young women were, like her, beginning life as an adult. Each was doing so within the influence of her geographic and historical context, her family, and her own personality. Julia was influenced by her family having moved numerous times in search of an ideal for themselves and others. Having lived with her family on sparsely-populated and multiple-contested frontiers, Julia's family was accustomed to risk. Within that context, however, most women her age found enough challenge making a living or finding a mate who would help secure a living for a family. Imagining climbing a 14,000 foot mountain, much less actually climbing such a mountain, was not a high priority. Julia's resolve to climb to the summit of Pikes Peak reminds us that often we have more possibilities, more opportunities, than we can imagine, and that each decision opens and closes doors, making other possibilities more or less likely. (Page numbers in parentheses in the following refer to Agnes Wright Spring's book—see the first endnote.)*

Julia Archibald Holmes was born February 15, 1838 in Noel, Nova Scotia to Jane O'Brien and John Christie Archibald.<sup>(5)</sup> Her father's forebears had settled the Truro area in 1762 after the English had expelled the Acadian French who had long lived in the area.<sup>2</sup> When Julia was ten and all but one of her seven siblings (an older brother, three younger sisters, and three younger brothers) had been born, her parents moved the family from Canada, probably to Worcester County, Massachusetts, where her father continued to work as a carpenter, building houses, and Julia, according to a family account, at some point helped support her family by working in a mill.<sup>3</sup>

In May 1854, after four months of fierce debate, the Kansas-Nebraska Act set aside the Missouri Compromise and mandated that voters who lived in Kansas Territory would determine whether Kansas came into the Union as a free or slave state. Abolitionists were incensed. Fuel was added to fire when Anthony Burns escaped to Boston from slavery only to be sent back under the Fugitive Slave Law.<sup>4</sup> Slavery had to be stopped. Emigrant Aid Societies were formed to sponsor a migration of abolitionists, among them sixteen-year-old Julia's parents and her seven siblings.<sup>(5)</sup> John C. Archibald was in the first Emigrant Aid party which left Boston by train on July 17, 1854.<sup>5</sup>

After settling on the Wakarusa River, the Archibalds became a stop on the Underground Railroad and Julia's father was on the list of the first eleven men who voted in a formal election on November 29, 1854.<sup>6</sup> John Brown was a friend of the family, to such an extent that Brown's daughter Annie Brown Adams named her third child and first son John Archibald Adams.<sup>7</sup> It

was Brown who, when James Henry Holmes arrived in the Territory two years later, initially to participate in a utopian community but then joining Brown's militia, introduced Julia to her future husband. Women's rights were also an important cause to the Archibalds, and



Ann Birney as Julia Archibald Holmes

Julia's mother considered Susan B. Anthony a personal friend. Anthony came to Kansas several times to influence the contents of the new state's constitution to include property, family, and education rights for women, and even, perhaps, the vote. She also had brothers who had settled in Kansas. <sup>(8)</sup>

Julia married James Henry Holmes in October of 1857. She believed that she had married a man who fit in well with her family. Both Julia and Henry were accustomed to hard work and danger. They had each made the long move out west to Kansas Territory and experienced the tensions of life in "KT" during the "Bleeding Kansas" era, when neighbors often used the politics of slavery as an excuse to kill or drive each other off. James Henry Holmes was a staunch pacifist when he came to Kansas, but inspired by John Brown he took up arms to turn back pro-slavery Missourians who were terrorizing "Free State" farmers.<sup>(7)</sup> He gave up being a captain in John Brown's guard to marry and settle down to farming north of Emporia. In this context it is easy to see that a trip down the Santa Fe Trail would be anticipated as a pleasant adventure. So when Julia's brother Albert Archibald showed up at their farm, crops having been planted but not yet needing to be harvested, they packed up and were headed north to Council Grove on June 2, 1858.

On her first trip west on the Santa Fe Trail Julia Archibald Holmes taught Albert to speak Spanish, the first step in her brother's dream of becoming a wealthy trader.<sup>8</sup> Holmes and her husband, James Henry Holmes, however, had other goals, according to her letters. They were accompanying a group of Lawrence gold-seekers bound for the foot of Pikes Peak in what was then the far western edge of Kansas Territory in the late spring and early summer of 1858. Julia Holmes said in her letters, however, that she and Henry (as he was called) went not for gold but *for adventure*. They were, she wrote to *The Sibyl*, a feminist journal, "[a]nimated more by a desire to cross the plains and behold the great mountain chain of North American, than by any expectation of realizing the floating gold stories . . ." <sup>(14)</sup>

Actually, Julia Holmes wanted to do more than “behold” the mountains. She wanted to climb to the top of Pikes Peak, to demonstrate to the world that women, especially women wearing clothing more sensible than the tightly-corseted fashions of the time, could do the same things that men could do—even the very difficult things like climbing a mountain. And although it would be hard work, she also thought it would be fun, even if she was one of only two women in a wagon train of about fifty people, and the other woman was not the least bit a feminist.

And so Julia found the trail to be, indeed, an adventure. She heard prairie wolves (coyotes) howl (“music wild and thrilling”). She saw her first buffalo (“He looked the personation of a prairie god—the grand emperor of the plain”). She had seen Indians before, of course, but out on the trail they were on horseback and were from different tribes and bands. One time a member of their party disappeared and the group feared that he had died, perhaps killed by Indians. But instead some Cheyenne men brought them a note that he had gone on to a trading post. The group made a big dinner in honor of the messengers, whom Julia thought “large, finely formed, and noble looking,” but they lost some of her admiration when they began picking lice out of each other’s hair and eating the “vermin,” “with seeming eagerness and gusto.”

She offered to stand guard at night with her husband, but the guard master refused to allow it. She collected specimens of flowers she had never seen before, and marveled at the beauty of the plains. She wrote that “With the blue sky overhead, the endless variety of flowers under foot, it seemed that the ocean’s solitude had united with all the landscape beauties. . . . [I]t made my heart leap for joy.”

To say that the Santa Fe Trail was a grand adventure is not, however, to say that Julia did not have her share of discomforts and frustrations. She immediately, for example, went into training to be strong enough to climb Pikes Peak. “At first,” she said, “I could not walk over three or four miles without feeling quite weary, but by persevering and walking as far as I could every day, my capacity increased gradually, and in the course of a few weeks I could walk ten miles in the most sultry weather without being exhausted.” And then there was the time that rain delayed the train for several days because in their excitement about finding a good place to water their oxen and horses they forgot to first cross the stream. During the first night’s rain the little stream turned into a raging torrent which was much too deep and swift for them to cross. [And she adopted a buffalo calf only to have it charge her and it “gave me such a blow . . . as to destroy the center of gravity.”] And once they reached the mountains there was “the disgusting inactivity, and monotony of camp life.” Until they climbed the mountain.

Climbing Pikes Peak was the high point of Julia’s life. She describes the process in detail in her letters. While the trip was arduous and she wrote that she and Henry were both often discouraged, once they were at the top she thought it well worth the journey:

I have accomplished the task which I marked out for myself . . . Nearly every one tried to discourage me from attempting it, but I believed that I should succeed; and now, here I am, and I feel that I would not have missed this glorious sight for anything at all. In all probability I am the first woman who has ever stood upon the summit of this mountain and gazed upon this wondrous scene . . . (3)

Some of the men in the wagon train, according to Julia’s letters, were saying that she and Henry had not reached the top of Pikes Peak, or that Julia went with a group of gentlemen who almost carried her up the mountain. This, of course, incensed her, as hard as she had worked at achieving her goal.

From their Pikes Peak adventure Julia favored going on to California, but Henry convinced her to go to New Mexico Territory. Having left on August 10th, they arrived in Taos on September 8th. (3, 46) Julia, according to her brother Albert, was immediately hired to teach merchant Peter Joseph’s children. (46)<sup>9</sup> By the next March, 1859, Julia and Henry were enroute to Barclay’s Fort,<sup>10</sup> New Mexico, near Watrous and Fort Union, where, according to her brother Albert, she had been hired to teach the Doyle children.<sup>11</sup> It is, however, confusing as to exactly whom Julia was teaching, and for whom she was working. In 1859 Fort Barclay was owned not by Joseph Doyle, whose family was probably in Pueblo, but by William Kroenig, whose wife, Rafaelita Kinkead, was Joseph Doyle’s sister-in-law. The Kroenigs’ daughter Fannie, the only child who survived infancy, would have been only three, but her mother had died, and perhaps the presence of other families involved in the farming and trading at the Fort called for the addition of an educated woman to the enclave.

At any rate, the next year found Julia and Henry in Santa Fe, but not until after their first child, Ernest Julio was born on March 12.<sup>12</sup>

It would seem that linking up with Joseph Doyle, “a good businessman” who “[b]efore his death . . . had amassed an empire”<sup>13</sup> was a smart move for the Holmes. Certainly Henry and Julia seem to have been confident in their future. In August, Henry wrote to attorney Sam Wood of their concern about the threat of losing the land near Emporia that they had left over a year before, having “delay[ed] the payment of money as long as possible . . .” Henry told Wood that financial liquidity had been important because “We are entering somewhat largely into a safe and prosperous business here, and it being time we are getting our start we need money as fast as it comes in.” He was, however, sure that they would “succeed this season beyond our most sanguine expectation in our determination to make money.” In fact, a postscript signed by both him and J. Annie Archibald indicates their immense optimism, saying that if the land did come up for sale their “first bid would be \$10,000 for we are bound to have those claims.”<sup>14</sup>

It is unlikely, however, that the Holmes fortune was made in New Mexico. It is more likely that when in 1859 Julia began sending letters about her trip to Pikes Peak to the *Sibyl* and the *Whig Press*, she was not only sharing her convictions but also attempting to earn money. Indeed, in 1861 she became a correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune*, and shortly thereafter her family began an anti-slavery, solidly Republican newspaper in Santa Fe.

But before the newspaper, Abraham Lincoln was elected President, and they went to Washington, DC to seek an appointment for Henry, leaving one year old Ernest Julio in Lawrence with his grandparents. By April 11 they were in DC where, four days later in response to concern for the President's life, Henry Holmes was among the Frontier Guard formed by James Lane. On April 18 the Guard drilled and slept "under the light of gorgeous gas chandeliers and over the brilliant-patterned velvet carpet . . . the most luxurious 'cantonment' which American soldiers ever enjoyed." (53) Henry was rewarded for being a loyal Republican with an appointment as Secretary of the Territory of New Mexico. The only problem for the Holmes family was that the other officials in New Mexico were not as disturbed by slavery as were Henry and Julia. Julia wrote to George Luther Stearns on October 26th that they had arrived on the 18th after an exhausting thirteen-day trip with the mail from Council Grove with her son clinging to her. She described the power struggle that was unleashed with Henry's appointment. The Territorial Secretary (Henry) had the power to "give the government printing to any press which he may think best," causing fear in the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, who "owns the only paper which is published in N.M. a miserable secession sheet which has hitherto drawn all its support from the government patronage but has never said one word in support of the government." "[T]hough they are very respectful and friendly to his face they are using their [sic] utmost endeavors secretly to injure him in Washington."<sup>15</sup>

The Holmes's response was their own weekly newspaper, the *Santa Fe Republican*, written in both English and Spanish. The press came from Boston to Atchison, and thence by mule team with Julia's sixteen-year-old brother Frederick, who had two years before been saved by his mother from Sheriff Brown's pro-slavery thugs.<sup>16</sup> Julia's mother's brother, Putnam O'Brien, a Santa Fe Trail trader, was listed as owner and publisher. (56)

The next letter to George Stearns from the Holmes's, at least the next one in the possession of the Kansas State Historical Society, is dated July 13th, 1862 and written by Henry from "Military Prison Santa Fe NM." His newspaper published relatively few issues, but their subject matter inflamed the authorities, and led to his arrest for sedition. While Julia was enroute to Washington to try to get support for her husband (and politically purge New Mexico), Henry wrote:

I desire to know if we cannot have a Republican Governor and a Republican Military Commander for this Territory. Are the ninety thousand

loyal and impassive [sic] Mexican citizens of this Territory to be kept under the strongest proslavery influence? Cannot we have a Republican Governor in accordance with the Chicago platform, instead of an old, miserable, imbecile, proslavery Kentuckian as we have now?

General Canby issues special orders to county judges to incarcerate intelligent human beings in the county jail for no crime but for being African slaves. Mary Taylor is now in our county jail;--to my certain knowledge living sometimes for days on corn meal gruel alone; at other times on meat alone, and with only a sheep skin to sleep on!

The Santa Fe Republican of July 12, 1862 published the charges against him, including publishing a detailed description of Fort Union, the "star" fort, which soldier complained was difficult to defend. Two notices in that issue speak loudly of the Holmes's predicament. One signed "James H. Holmes, Secretary of N.M." says, "notwithstanding my military imprisonment, the business of the Secretary's office is transacted as usual by me; but my office is temporally [sic] removed to the room next door to Captain Chains residence." The other says that the paper is to be moved to Kansas City, with issues delivered by the Santa Fe mail coach.<sup>17</sup>

Henry may have recruited a regiment of black soldiers in the Civil War (official documentation is lacking, but he did write to George Stearns requesting such an assignment). Julia and the children lived with relatives in Alabama and Tennessee.<sup>18</sup> After the War, the family settled in Washington, DC. One of Julia's proudest moments was when she attended as a delegate the National Woman Suffrage Association convention in 1869, and her mother was also in attendance as the Kansas delegate. The next year Julia divorced Henry. Her family said that he was abusive.<sup>19</sup> Certainly his ability to help her support their four children (Charles Sumner died in childhood) did not prove up.

Julia worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education from 1873 until her death in 1887. According to Agnes Spring, Julia's brother Albert said that she did Spanish translation for the Bureau. (61) This may be, but her title was "clerk" within the Division of Statistics. In the early years her title was "collector of statistics." This work is consistent with her 1870 Scribner's article on "Children Who Work" which cites "Inquiries by the United State Commissioner of Education . . . elicit[ing] facts respecting the number and condition of the [hundred thousand] poor children in this city [Manhattan] . . ." while quoting interviews with individual children, their employers, and their night school teachers.<sup>20</sup>

She was also referred to in a local newspaper as "Mrs. Julia N. Holmes, the poet," which must have given her great pleasure. She moved about a great deal within Washington, sometimes living with siblings,<sup>21</sup> and was rewarded for her work, earn-



ing \$900 her first year and \$1400 annually six years later, the same wage that men with the same title earned.<sup>22</sup> She died at age 48 in 1887, not three years after her seventeen-year-old daughter June died in a coal oil stove explosion.<sup>23</sup> She was outlived by both her mother (1900) and her ex-husband (1907), who fathered (and abandoned) two more families after the one he had with Julia.<sup>24</sup>

## ENDNOTES

1 The definitive work on Julia Archibald Holmes is Agnes Wright Spring, ed. *A Bloomer Girl on Pike's Peak 1858: Julia Archibald Holmes First White Woman to Climb Pike's Peak*, Denver Public Library, 1949. References to Spring will be numerous so I will include them in the body of the text, not in the endnotes. Also, when referring to Pikes Peak, Spring chose to use the possessive apostrophe that was used by her primary sources, while I am using the currently accepted spelling of Pikes Peak.

2 Joseph L. Wheeler, *Some of the Archibald Tribe, Especially the Family of John Christie Archibald and Jane O'Brien Archibald* (unpublished manuscript Benson, VT, 1969, accessed at the Kansas State Historical Society Research Center, call no. BBB Ar25 W564s envelope), 5.

3 Wheeler, 46. Letters and diaries of young women working in woolen mills indicate the pride they took in earning an independent living, and often in sending money to their parents—see for instance Alice Kessler-Harris, *Out to Work* (NY: Oxford Univ. Press, 1982).

4 Wheeler “The Influence of the Kansas-Nebraska Act on the Archibalds,” unpaginated, with *Tribe*.

5 Wheeler, 45.

6 Wheeler, 52, 51.

7 Clifton Holmes, interview with the author 2011.

8 While Albert did not himself become wealthy, he married Apolonia Baca, the daughter of a wealthy trader. His wife died young, but Albert and his brothers Ebenezer and Caleb became founders of what is now Trinidad, Colorado, where they were eventually also joined by their mother. Albert's account of the settling of Las Animas County is in Frank Hall, *History of the State of Colorado*, vol. 4 (Chicago: Blakely Printing Co., 1895), 190-192.

9 Pedro Jose's wife was Mary Ann Wilson, a mulatto slave he purchased in St. Louise. Their children were born in 1843, 1845, and 1847, and Catholic rites, including marriage, followed. “Fur Trapper/Trader: Pedro Jose de Tevis” “Entered by: Ceferino Auero-Baca,” [www.scgsgenealogy.com/storage/FHWC/Baca\\_Ahuero.pdf](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/storage/FHWC/Baca_Ahuero.pdf) accessed July 16, 2012.

10 [Joseph?] Doyle's granddaughter sketched the fort from memory in 1908; the sketch is at the Denver Public Library Western Collection and a copy in a file at Fort Union.

11 In a manuscript in the Trinidad, Colorado De Busk Collection, Albert Archibald says, “Before March 1859 Mrs. Holmes accepted employment with James Quinn Doyle . . . as teacher of his children . . .”(46) However, Albert probably got his generations wrong. He probably meant that his sister was working for Joseph Doyle, who built the Fort with his

mother-in-law Terecita Sandoval's third husband, Alexander Barclay. James Quinn Doyle's parents Joseph Doyle and Maria de la Cruz did not form their union until 1844, however, so it appears that while he may have been taught by Julia, his children were not. I am dependent on Charlene Garcia-Simms, “Nueva Mejicanas of Early Pueblo, Colorado,” [http://escritorio.8m.com/textOnly/cmp\\_0502.htm](http://escritorio.8m.com/textOnly/cmp_0502.htm) accessed July 16, 2012, for the genealogy, which she posted in 2005.

12 “[A] translation of some notes that Ernest Julio Holmes made in later life that indicate where he lived and what he was doing at that time,” a typescript chronology given to the author by Ernest Julio Holmes' son Theodore Holmes

13 Garcia-Simms.

14 James H. Holmes letter to S.N. Wood Esq. Aug 26th, 1859, Fort Union, New Mexico from file at Fort Union.

15 Julia Archibald Holmes, letter to George Stearns Oct. 26, 1861, manuscript collection Kansas State Historical Society; given in full in Spring (54-56)

16 Wheeler blames Quantrill, but he just gets all the press. More likely it was Jones headed to Lawrence in 1859.

17 I have yet to find any issues published in Kansas City.

18 “[A] translation . . .”; Julia Archibald Holmes letter to Frederick W. Archibald November 17, 1864 quoted in Spring, 58-9.

19 Wheeler, 13: “She found he was not an upright man and increasingly harassed Aunt Julia. So she divorced him.”

20 Julia A. Holmes, “Children Who Work,” *Scribner's Monthly*, 1870-1.

21 *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* volumes for 1871 through 1887 accessed at the National Archives, Washington, DC.

22 *Official Register of the United States, Containing a List of Officers and Employee[s]* . . . September 1877, June 30, 1879, July 1881, First of July 1885; accessed at the National Archives, Washington, DC;

23 Oak Hill Cemetery records, Washington, DC, accessed September 2011; Julia, her sister Clara, her daughter Phoebe, and June share two adjacent plots which are marked as of 2012.

24 Clifton E. Holmes, great-grandson of James Henry Holmes and Esther Deavitt (Henry's second “wife”), had all but completed a manuscript on the life of James Henry Holmes when he (Clifton) died in 2012. We await publication of his manuscript, “John Brown's ‘Little Hornet’: James Henry Holmes” and hope that his considerable library will be made accessible to the public. ♦

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## Julius Froebel's Western Travels, Part VI

by *Leo Oliva*

[Julius Froebel, 1805-1893, a German geographer and geologist, traveled extensively in Central America and portions of western North America, 1850-1856. Following his return to Germany, he published *Seven Years' Travel in Central America, Northern Mexico, and the Far West of the United States* in 1857, which was translated into English in 1859. The section of his travels over the Santa Fe Trail into Chihuahua during 1852-1853, is reprinted in *Wagon Tracks* as space is available. The first five parts appeared in May 2008, August 2008, August 2010, November 2010, and February 2011. The following portion picks up the story of his travels on September 9, 1852, at a point a few miles east of present Dodge City, KS, with his comments about Plains Indians. Fort Atkinson was located just west of present Dodge City.]

In the afternoon we descried on the opposite side of the river a large Indian encampment of tents, nearly opposite to which we pitched our *corral*; and soon a great number of men and women came riding through the river to visit us.

On this occasion several of the principal chiefs of the northern Comanches honoured us with their presence, all provided with written certificates of their names and character, given them partly by the government agents and partly by some officer of the United States army, who holds the command in these parts. These documents, which they eagerly showed us, are intended as vouchers to travellers for the character of the native chiefs, and present, in fact, a ludicrous reverse of the passport system in the Old World, being at the same time the only passports met with in the United States. The wording of these certificates reads ludicrously enough; take, for instance, the following:—"The possessor of this paper is the *Red Sleeve*, a celebrated chief of the Apaches, who is on friendly terms with the whites. Travellers will do well to show him kindness and respect, but they must at the same time be on their guard." Under this is written the *visa* of travelling traders: "The *Red Sleeve* has visited our camp, and conducted himself, with his followers, respectably." Further on: "Do not trust this fellow—he is a rascally Indian." When such a voucher is presented to you, with that taciturn gravity of which an Indian only is capable, you are obliged to control your features like an Indian, not to betray the humour of the thing—an indiscretion which might have disagreeable consequences.

On this occasion of the visit of the Comanches to our camp, beside a number of inferior people, the chiefs To-ho-pe-te-cane, or the "*White Tent*," and Way-ya-ba-tosh-a, or the "*White Eagle*," came to pay their respects. These names, and their translation, are copied from the vouchers which these grand personages presented to us. After these came an older man, distinguished as much by his noble mien as his simple dress. The latter consisted merely of a blue woollen blanket wrapped round his body. His hair was cropped short, after the fashion of the whites, and no ornament of any kind was visible. He was

accompanied by a Mexican prisoner, who acted as interpreter, and told us that this was the great chief Okh-akh-tzo-mo, who had come to visit us; and the reason he appeared in this simple dress and with cropped hair was that he was mourning the death of his son, whom the Pawnees had killed, and for whom he had not yet been able to take blood-revenge. The two younger men had appeared in our presence in the full attire of Comanche warriors, clothed in leather with richly-ornamented mocassins, their faces daubed with red paint, and their heads ornamented with eagle's feathers; their thick and long plaited hair hanging down their backs, loaded with silver plates, growing smaller downward—in the neck of the size of a saucer, at the end of the plait as large as half a dollar. These silver plates are made in Mexico expressly for the Comanches, and are an important article in the trade with these savages, which is carried on at the Presidio del Norte, at San Carlos, and at the Presidio del Rio Grande. At last an old man came into our camp who wore, over his Indian nether garments made of leather, the blue blanket-coat of a North American from the West. A pair of gilt epaulettes were attached to the coat—one on his breast, the other dangling at his back between his shoulders—by which the old Comanche prince (for such was the rank of our guest) was distinguished. His Indian highness, however, was not too proud, like the other notabilities of his tribe, to present to us a certificate of his character, in the handwriting of the commandant of a neighbouring fort, which stated that its possessor had formerly been one of the most dangerous and cruel enemies of the whites; but that he had latterly altered his disposition, and, from his influence with the Comanche tribes, was entitled to be treated with respect, but at the same time with great precaution. This man shook hands with marked formality with those whom he thought to be the chief among us, and gave us assurances of his friendship. We smoked with him, and treated him with coffee, as we had done with the others. His features were strongly marked—his brow furrowed with deep wrinkles, his nose large and arched, and over a coffee-coloured face his straight hair hung in numerous plaits, through which glistened the characteristic vacant Indian eye. He had his wife with him, a fat, elderly woman, whose face retained the traces of some beauty, and the type of the better class of Mexican families. This person had probably been stolen in her childhood; she did not dismount, but sat astride upon her horse, like all Indian women, taking no part in our conversation with the old Indian chief. Some young females of the lower class of Indians, however—one a very pretty girl—kept up an animated chat with our drivers, and evidently tried to turn their coquetry to profit.

Amongst the crowd we saw many stolen Mexican boys and girls, who seemed on the whole to be not badly treated. A light-haired, blue-eyed boy, with a fair complexion, and an open brow, must have come from a German settlement in Western Texas. When addressed in German, however, he did not answer. Another boy told us, in Spanish, that some years since he had been carried off with his sister from Mexico, and that his occupation during

his detention consisted in herding his master's horses.

In the evening, before dark, Okh-ákh-tzo-mo exhibited his authority by ordering our Indian visitors to leave the camp and return home. To some, who did not obey immediately, he applied his horsewhip. Our camp was soon deserted, and we could at length enjoy our long-desired repose.

These Comanches belong to the tribe which the Mexicans call *Cibuleros*, that is, Buffalo-hunters (from *Cibulero*, the buffalo); they live almost exclusively on buffalo-meat. They are on good terms with the Kiowas, who had a large encampment above the fort, and some of whom accompanied them on this visit. The language of the two tribes appears to differ entirely, but several of those present could speak both languages.

On September 10th we reached Fort Atkinson. It is a group of adobe [sod] buildings, with canvas roofs—something between a house and a tent. The word “fort,” in America, does not always convey the notion of fortifications: the term, here, merely signifies a permanent camp of eighty foot-soldiers; but to all these posts is attached a well-stored magazine where clothing, saddlery, ironmongery, tinware, and provisions may be obtained, from the indispensable flour and bacon up to preserved oysters and champagne. The travelling caravans lay in stores at these stations for their journey. We were, however, so well provided with the chief delicacies, that we had, in these places, to sell—not to buy.

In the Fort I saw an old Kiowa, the ugliest Indian I ever beheld. I can compare the expression of this fellow only to that of an hyæna. But he had a beauty of his own: his mouth was drawn up on one side; one of his eyes was half closed by the drooping eyelid, the other unusually wide open. He had a young Mexican woman with him, whose whole face was daubed with red paint. She begged us to purchase her, her husband asking only two mules in exchange. He had, probably to enhance her value, expended so much red paint upon her face. It is characteristic of Indian bestiality, that the hind part of the horse which the old brute rode was painted round the root of the tail as carefully as the face of his wife.

We halted a few miles above the Fort, and numbers of the Kiowas visited our camp. One of them was introduced by his Mexican interpreter, as a great “Captain,” and he showed considerable pretensions to rank. On our leaving him a short time unnoticed, being otherwise occupied, his interpreter asked, “Why don't your captains speak with him?” We then saluted him with all formality, and he sat down. “Why don't the other white men come and speak with him?” said the interpreter, pointing to our American drivers. “Because they are no captains, but my slaves,” replied Mr. Mayer [captain of the caravan], with admirable presence of mind; and this answer, flattering as it was to the Kiowa chief had the happiest effect. The man became very conversable, even cordial. With delight he told us how often he had accompanied predatory expeditions into Mexico—a “*Campana*,” as he expressed it—and how

much these enterprizes had brought him. He mentioned several Mexican localities which he had helped to plunder. “There,” said he, “*Caballos, mulas, muchachos, muchachas,—mucho!—bueno!*”—(Horses, mules, boys, girls,—much!—good!) “Here, on the Arkansas, *Nada!*”—nothing. He had three boys with him, two of them his own children, the third stolen from Mexico. The last, however, was treated by him quite as his own children. We gave him some biscuit, which he distributed equally among the three boys.

These people spoke Spanish with tolerable facility, and the interpreter of the Chief appeared to hold merely an office of etiquette. I heard groups of women and children conversing in Spanish.

It is evident that, by naturalizing Mexican prisoners, the Indian race must become gradually effaced. Anglo-American desperadoes of the worst kind, robbers and murderers by profession, join these pillaging hordes, and gain great influence over them; and if this system continues unchecked—whilst the race changes, but their occupation and mode of life remain the same—the Indian tribes will gradually be transformed into robber hordes. It is a well-known fact that foreigners of European and semi-European extraction, when naturalized among the Indians of the wilderness, are the worst and most dangerous robbers.

It is very erroneous to imagine that the Indians have a natural and instinctive hatred of the white race. A white man, otherwise qualifies, who has a taste to be naturalized among the Indians, is always received by them with welcome, and may attain to high honours in the tribe. But what the Indian hates is civilization, as much in his own race as among the whites. He makes no distinction of race in this respect, as is evident from the fact that there exists no less hostility between the settled and civilized Indians of Mexico and the savage tribes of the wilderness, than between the latter and the civilized whites. Even the Pimas, who dwell on the Gila, and form a valiant vanguard of old Mexican civilization against the Apaches and other plundering tribes of the north and east, speak of the latter in the same terms as civilized people speak of barbarians. “They are savages who do not pursue agriculture.” The antagonism, consequently, is not one of race, but of mode of life—the same which existed between the civilized States of the old Anahauac and the surrounding savages. I shall hereafter revert to this subject when speaking of the Apaches.

These Kiowas were likewise on their way eastward, on an expedition to hunt buffaloes; they eagerly enquired all particulars relative to the hunting-grounds in the east. They had quite as strong an enmity to the Pawnees as the Comanches, but seemed to be less afraid of them. They expressed the same hostility to the Mexican Apaches, whom they mentioned only with abuse.

We met, a few days afterwards, on the other side of the river, a great chieftain of the eastern tribe of the Apaches, in another troop of Kiowas, with whom he seemed to be concerting a

pillaging foray. Single tribes of the Apaches, I heard, live as far east as this district—a fact apparently not generally known. Neither the Comanches nor the Kiowas who visited us accepted brandy; but they drank coffee and tea immoderately, very much sweetened. They eat sugar in large quantities. Our guests were very suspicious; and we were obliged to partake in their presence of everything we offered them, before they touched it. The old Comanche, with his gilt epaulettes, even smoked our tobacco with hesitation, and asked whether there might not be something in it to send him to sleep. Such fears are not unfounded; it is a fact that the whites have attempted to poison whole tribes of Indians, and I have myself often heard the question discussed how this could be effected in the best manner. A story of the designed introduction of the small-pox amongst a remote Indian tribe is current in the west, and I have heard it related with every particular.

Fort Atkinson must be an interesting station for a botanist. The slight variations in height in the soil exhibit a great variety in the character of the vegetation within a very small space. Yellow sunflowers, of various kinds, red Cinnias, blue Delphiniums and Salvias, white-leaved Euphorbias, and innumerable other flowers and herbs show a varied mixture of bright colours in the tall grass. Raised only a little above this flowery meadow, on the banks of the above-described conglomerate, and between detached masses of quartz, jasper, lava, &c., is another world of plants, on a dwarflike scale,—pigmy Asters, with small violet flowers; elegant little mallows, with crimson and vermilion blossoms; low, grey, wooly Artemisias, of an alpine character, with a strong aromatic scent, similar to the *A. muttelina* of the Alps; dwarflike Asclepias; small white Syngenesistae, with only four marginal blossoms, which look like Cruciferae,—every kind of such plants in miniature, occasionally mixed with a leather-like *Opuntia*, cover the short scanty turf.

In places a gully has been washed away into the banks of conglomerate, in which gourds creep over the ground, while here and there grows an Archemone, or some other prickly plant, of which I do not know the name, in the crevices and furrows of the marl.

Whilst encamped above the Fort I followed these conglomerate banks in pursuit of a wolf, but without being able to get within shot; he at last disappeared in a cavern among the rocks. As I was examining the entrance of this hole I observed a second opening filled up with loose stones. In removing these I found in the interior, wrapt in a piece of mouldering cloth, a quantity of human bones—part of a skeleton. The skull was in good preservation, and the jaws retained a set of fine white teeth, which, however, easily dropped out. Near these remains I found a leather bag, full of red paint, the tanned hide of a stag, a leather strap, which had evidently been a bridle, and a lump of buffalo-dung. These bones had, no doubt, belonged to the corpse of some Indian, and were here not in their original place of interment. The former grave may have been disturbed, and the friends or members of the tribe have probably collected these remains, and placed them here. The bones were much

older than the cloth in which they were wrapt, and evidently the latter had never contained any of the flesh of the body. It consisted of a piece of the canvas which the caravans use for waggon-covering. The offerings lying near the bones showed the notions which the friends of the deceased entertained of a future life. The dead man, they imagined, will require in another world a leather garment, red paint, to daub himself with, a bridle for his horse, and buffalo-dung to make a fire. The absence of all weapons was remarkable.

On our journey the next day, a Kiowa, riding over the plain, came up to us, his wife and son remaining at a distance, until, seeing there was nothing to fear, he fetched them also. The man and woman had a clever and good-natured physiognomy: they both looked with great interest and evident pleasure on Mrs. M. [Mayer, wife of the caravan captain], who, with her husband, rode before me; they then came up to me, inspected my carriage with much curiosity, and asked whether I too had not a wife. On my replying in the negative they offered to fetch me a girl out of their camp; at the same time depicting in a lively manner by signs and words her charms and beauty. At last the man placed the forefinger of one hand on that of the other, adding an expressive “*Bueno!*” (good). “This woman,” he said, pointing to his companion, “is a mere common woman”—*mujer car. . . a*; “the other, young, good—*otra, chiquita, buena!*” So saying he held his fingers pointed before his breast. I replied that we were travelling further without delay, and that I could not wait for the girl; to which he answered that his wife would fetch her, and in two days they would overtake us. On my positively declining the offer they both laughed, and rode off. Probably their intention was to sell me the girl, perhaps a Mexican, whom they had made prisoner. I might doubtless have had her for a few cups of well-sweetened coffee, as companion in our next camp; for these procurers brought us the next evening a woman, richly bedaubed with red paint, who first tried her fortune in vain among the gentlemen of our party, and whom I afterwards saw amongst a group of our drivers by a camp-fire.

From numerous enquiries I made respecting the customs of the Indians, I believe that most of the tribes keep prostitutes on purpose; either prisoners or women whom some peculiar circumstance has reduced to this degraded state. It is these women who are offered to strangers. ♦

## From the Editor's Desk

In this issue we begin a new series, authored by Mike Olsen, on how to do research on the internet. We hope this information will encourage potential researchers who have not known where to begin their search or how to pursue more information with the nuggets they have already found. If you are an experienced researcher and would like to answer questions from neophytes, please contact me at [ruthsfta@comcast.net](mailto:ruthsfta@comcast.net). We want to continue the fine examples of research that have been done by our long-time members.

In keeping with the cyber times, we've received some inquiries whether *Wagon Tracks* is available online and whether a member can receive the current issue electronically rather than a paper version. If you'd like to receive *Wagon Tracks* electronically, let me know at [ruthsfta@comcast.net](mailto:ruthsfta@comcast.net). Past issues, minus the most recent two years, are available on our website [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org) under the publications tab. The more recent issues are a benefit of membership.

What topics would you like to see in *Wagon Tracks*? Are there certain Trail people or other aspects of the Trail you'd like to know more about? Are there columns or areas of focus you'd like to see? Changes to format? Let us know. Thank you for reading *Wagon Tracks* faithfully from cover to cover the minute it hits your kitchen table—oh, yes, we're sure you do!

**Ruth Friesen**

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## BOOKS



### Empires, Nations & Families: A History of the North American West, 1800-1860

Anne F. Hyde, *Empires, Nations & Families: A History of the North American West, 1800-1860*. History of the American West Series. Lincoln and London, University of Nebraska Press, 2011. Pp. 515 + notes. \$45.00.

#### Reviewed by Tom Pelikan

I'll start this review by saying that if you're looking for either a book focused on the Santa Fe Trail or a fast read, this isn't the book for you.

Anne F. Hyde's *Empires, Nations & Families*, published last year by the University of Nebraska Press, tells the history of the American West by focusing on several important families, the Choteaus of St. Louis and points west, the McLaughlins of Oregon, the Vallejos of California and our own Bents of Arkansas River country and Taos. It looks at how the men married into Native American and Hispanic families or, in the case of the Vallejos, into Anglo-American families, and how the families built trading and diplomatic relationships that straddled nations and cultures. It works to portray family leaders like William Bent, John McLaughlin, Pierre Choteau, Sr. and Mariano Vallejo as focused family men, working always to secure their families' fortunes and futures and showing how developments well beyond their abilities to influence ultimately resulted in far less secure families than any of them would have liked.

Hyde's stories are meticulously documented and cited. Reading a book like this, I use two bookmarks, one for the text and the other for the end notes. Books familiar to Western history buffs such as David Lavender's *Bent's Fort*, Bernard DeVoto's *Year of Decision: 1846* and many of Leroy Hafen's works are frequently cited, as is a great and somewhat more recent biography of George Bent, David F. Halaas' and Andrew Masich's *Halfbreed*. Hyde's work also is great at inspiring more curiosity about areas of history I don't know well, such as California and Texas. For example, in her wandering into Texas history, she writes of an agent to the Wichita and Comanche by the name of Robert Neighbor who I would dearly love to learn more about.

Hyde sometimes struggles in her effort to cover so much of Western history, including forays into the Mormon settlement of what is now Utah and the growth and development of Texas, trying to document the impact of empire on families and focusing on a few key families, that she loses track of her initial foci.

That said, it is a very comprehensive look at the entire West from 1800 – 1860 (extended a bit to cover the Sand Creek Massacre and its impact on the Bents) from the perspective of families and the roles they played in bridging cultural chasms. It is

well worth the \$45 purchase price, but unless you have a LOT more spare time than I do, you won't finish it quickly. ♦

## Books for Kids

from [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org)  
annotated reading list

Carson, William C., *Peter Becomes a Trail Man, The Story of a Boy's Journey on the Santa Fe Trail* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002). In the 1850s, twelve year old Peter takes his dog and heads west on the Santa Fe Trail to find his father, guided by "Uncle" Seth, who leads their wagon train through an Indian attack, desertion by greenhorns, a buffalo stampede, and other hardships.

Simmons, Marc, *Millie Cooper's Ride, A True Story from History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002). When settlers at Fort Cooper, Missouri, are besieged by a coalition of Indian nations allied with the British, twelve-year-old Millie volunteers to ride to nearby Fort Hempstead for reinforcements.

Simmons, Marc, *José's Buffalo Hunt, A True Story from History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2003). In 1866, eleven year-old José Arrellanes leaves his home in New Mexico, joining the ciboleros, or buffalo hunters as they hunt on the Texas plains.

Webb, Dave, *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail* (Dodge City: Kansas Heritage Center, 1989). An activity book for students and teachers but of value to anyone interested in the Trail.

## In Memoriam

Tibor K. Remenyik, 83, a resident of Las Vegas, NM passed away on Sunday May 27, 2012. He was born in Budapest, Hungary and became a naturalized American citizen in 1964. His wife Janet, Las Vegas, NM survives. After he retired from an extensive career in mining, in which he earned his PhD, he taught geology at NM Highlands University from 1984-1987. Museums and history were always an interest and a volunteer involvement, including Las Vegas and Rough Rider Museum in NM 1988-2012, Library at Ft. Union 2002-2012, and Santa Fe Trail Association 1992-2012. He was active in the Corazon chapter of SFTA. Memorials may be sent to the Friends of the Museum, P. O. Box 3311, Las Vegas, NM 87701.

### 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](http://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

Larry Short  
613 NE Newport Dr.  
Lees Summit, MO 64064  
816-835-4397  
[ldshort@comcast.net](mailto:ldshort@comcast.net)

Members of MRO will be actively involved with the OCTA Convention in Lawrence, KS on August 6 - 11 and will also participate in the August 11 unveiling of the McCoy Park Historical Trails Interpretive Panel. On September 14 and 15 we will have a booth and participate in the parade with a float at the Santa Fe Trail Days in New Franklin, Missouri.

Roger Slusher, President of SFTA, will present his program on James Aull at the unveiling of the new Historical Marker erected by the Raytown Historical Society at the Barnes Enclosure (now known as Cave Spring) signifying its prominence on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. The dedication will be at Cave Spring, Intersection of Gregory Blvd. and Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO on Monday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m.

A symposium will be held on November 10 at the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop in Olathe, KS to dedicate the new Santa Fe Trail stone markers that were installed by MRO. Details and times for the event will follow. Plans are in the making for a joint meeting with the Jackson County Historical Society for this fall.

### Douglas County

President Roger Boyd  
PO Box 379  
Baldwin City KS 66006  
785-594-3172  
[rboyd@bakeru.edu](mailto:rboyd@bakeru.edu)

The Santa Fe Trail Historical Society of Douglas County will have their annual potluck dinner on Sunday, September 30. The pot luck will start at 5:30 p.m. The Society will provide barbecue meats and drinks and the attendees are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Following the meal we will have a short business meeting and a program by Hal Van Tries on the history of the town of Black Jack and surrounding area. Everyone is welcome to come. For more information contact



## Chapter Reports, *continued*

Roger Boyd, President, at 785-594-3172 or rboyd@bakeru.edu.

### Heart of the Flint Hills

Carol Retzer  
4215 East 245th St.  
Lyndon KS 66451  
785-828-3739  
carolretzer@centurylink.net

### Cottonwood Crossing

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

The Chapter met May 17 in Goessel, KS. Chapter members enjoyed a program presented by Greg Van Coevern and Rex Abrahams, who wore period costumes depicting what Civil War cavalry and infantry soldiers would have worn, and presented firearms and other equipment the soldiers would have used. It was a great pleasure to have a number of guests attend the program, after which several asked to be put on the mailing list. On July 21 Greg and Joanne VanCoevern hosted the Kansas Corral of Westerners, featuring draft horses.

Our next chapter meetings are:  
Wednesday, September 19, Goessel, KS---Santa Fe Trail-era music presented by Chris Day and Janet Armstead from Wamego, KS.

Thursday, November 15, Goessel, KS---First person portrayal of Mother Mary Bickerdyke by Ms Adams of Ellsworth, KS, followed by the chapter annual business meeting.

### Quivira

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

Author Sandy Barnard spoke to 64 members of the Quivira Chapter, Rice County Historical Society, and members of the Elliott family on April 23. The program was on Major Joel Elliott, killed at the Battle of the Washita in Oklahoma in 1868. Nearly half the audience was related to Joel Elliott in some way. Joel's brother, mother, and sisters moved to Rice County, Kansas after Joel's death. Many members of the family are buried in the Sterling cemetery, including Joel Elliott's mother.

Representatives from the Kansas State Historical Society toured the Little Arkansas complex with Britt Colle and Joe Swanson on June 29. They reviewed the Little Arkansas River (Upper) crossing and the Lower Little Arkansas river crossing, bridge, and campsite, and Joe Swanson's ruts for possible certification.

A kiosk at the building site of the new McPherson County Museum has been approved by the McPherson County Museum Board of Directors. The site is on Highway 56 in McPherson and near Interstate 135 which passes to the east of McPherson. Funding will be done through local sources as well as SFTA marker grants. The Quivira and Cottonwood Chapters will coordinate with NPS interpretive specialists to create the necessary panels and will create a sign plan for the immediate area to coordinate with present local tour signs already in place.

Two Boy Scouts are taking on installation of the Quivira Chapter Local Auto Tour signs as Eagle Scout projects. The projects will install the signs from McPherson east to the county line and replace the signs west of McPherson which have been damaged due to road construction and farming activities. The GPS location for each sign will be documented during the project. Once these projects are done, the Quivira Chapter Auto Tour will be complete!

Quivira Chapter members attended the program on July 21 at the VanCoevern barn and shed just north of Salina Kansas. The program included the history and use of draft horses.

### Wet/Dry Routes

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

The summer meeting of the chapter was held at the Fort Larned National Historic Site on July 22. Fort Larned is engaged in a series of programs related to significant historic sites. David Clapsaddle spoke on "The Mail Station at Fort Larned." A brief business session followed the presentation.

The popular "Talking Tombstones" is being considered once again to be held at the Larned Cemetery in September. Members of the chapter will portray early Larned residents who are buried in the cemetery, while many other

members will help with the logistics of the event. For additional information call David Clapsaddle at 620-283-3295.

### Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

Jim Sherer  
1908 La Mesa Dr  
Dodge City KS 67801  
620-227-7377  
jim.sherer@yahoo.com

On May 20 we held a business meeting with 27 members and three guests attending. Joanne VanCoevern, manager of the national SFTA, reported on the Association's Board of Directors meeting on April 19 in Ulysses, KS. Chapter President Sherer urged chapter members to join the national association, stating that the journal *Wagon Tracks* alone makes it worth the cost of membership.

The Chapter's signage projects are moving ahead. Jerry Thomas has agreed to do the drawing for the Cimarron Crossing Ranch site sign and storyboard. Signage chair Bill Bunyan and signage committee members are working on other projects as well. President Sherer suggested the Chapter join Wild West Country, a Southwest Kansas organization dedicated to promoting attractions and tourism. Joining, at a cost of \$50, would not only help the Chapter promote the Trail, but would also make the Chapter eligible for grants from the Mariah Fund. A motion to do so carried.

Member Greg VanCoevern gave an informative and interesting presentation about the uniforms worn and equipment used by U.S. Cavalry soldiers before, during and after the Civil War.

Our next meeting will be August 19. Ranger Mike Seymour from Fort Larned will talk about weapons used along the Santa Fe Trail.

### Wagon Bed Spring

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

### Cimarron Cutoff

Leon Ellis  
PO Box 668  
Elkhart KS 67950  
620-453-2286  
mtcomuseum@elkhart.com

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Our summer meeting was held July 28 at the Herzstein Museum in Clayton, NM with a program by Priscilla Gutierrez.

### **Bent's Fort**

Pat Palmer  
PO Box 628  
Lamar CO 81052  
719-931-4323  
[gpatpalmer@hotmail.com](mailto:gpatpalmer@hotmail.com)

April: We held our annual community service project "Boggsville Clean-Up Day" at the Boggsville Historic Site in Las Animas. After a long winter of snow, dust, dirt, there is always a lot to do, both inside and on the grounds, to open for the season in May.

May: The premier of the "Wagon's Ho! Trail Transportation through Time" event was a big success as several chapters from the SFTA partnered with the National Park Service, Bent's Old Fort, Big Timbers Transportation Museum, Otero Museum, Koshare Indian Museum, and the US Forest Service to host events over the two day weekend. LaDonna Hutton and her team signed up some new members for BFC at the membership table. The Santa Fe Trail walk on Sunday had a great turnout from hearty trail walkers from BFC for the start of the wagon train at the Sierra Vista Overlook.

June: The tour of the Granada-Fort Union branch of the Santa Fe Trail was

attended by 24 members of the BFC and led by Lolly and Don Ming. Military supplies were hauled over this 200 mile shorter and smoother route to Ft. Union. Several interesting side stops included Toll Gate Canyon in Emery Gap, Branson & Trinchera, Colorado. This same weekend, our Vice-President, Marcia Will-Clifton, met with the Collections Manager of the Avenir Museum of Design and Merchandising at CSU-Ft. Collins. As part of her internship with the National Park Service, Marcia is helping the museums, friends groups and historical societies share resources and ideas to promote the entire SE Colorado region.

### **Corazon de los Caminos**

Dennis Schneider  
828 South Euclid Ave.  
Cimarron, NM 87714  
575-376-2527  
[schneidermusic@q.com](mailto:schneidermusic@q.com)

The brochure of the museums in the area that Corazon had published have been received and distributed. They give information about the museums in Clayton, Folsom, Trinidad, Raton, Cimarron, Elizabethtown, Eagle Nest, Springer and Las Vegas. Doyle Foreman assisted by Dr. Gene Lamm did a very attractive job in designing.

Faye Gaines and the Trail Preservation Committee are working with the FCC to address the problem of an illegal cell

tower near Watrous. Also in the works is a wayside exhibit at NRA Whittington Center, which will be partially funded by an abatement from a local cell company.

The chapter expresses condolences to Janet Remenyik and family on the death of Tibor. He was a valued and esteemed member.

Marie Sauter, also a chapter member, is leaving her job as superintendent of Fort Union National Monument. We wish her well in her new position at White Sands.

Tours being arranged throughout the summer include a barbeque and program in Wagon Mound in August.

### **End of the Trail**

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

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

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



## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## EVENTS

**August 4: Dover, MO.** Blazin the Trail. <http://dovermissouri.com>

**August 5: Pecos NHP, NM.** Feast Day - Mission de Nuestra Senora de los Angeles. Call 505-757-7241

**August 6-11: Lawrence, KS.** OCTA Conference

**August 11: Fowler, CO.** Bent's Fort Chapter meeting

**August 11: Fort Union, NM.** Candlelight tours. [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)

**August 19: Wagon Mound, NM.** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting.

**August 19: Dodge City, KS.** Dodge City Chapter meeting.

**September 8: Bent's Old Fort NHS, CO.** Daughters of the American Revolution Marker Reenactment. [www.nps.gov/beol](http://www.nps.gov/beol)

**September 9:** SFT Bicycle Trek begins

**September 14-15: New Franklin, MO.** Santa Fe Trail Days. Call 573-819-7862

**September 15: Cimarron, NM.** Corazon de los Caminos Chapter meeting.

**September 19: Goessel, KS.** Cottonwood Crossing Chapter meeting.

**September 20-22: Larned, KS.** 2012 Rendezvous, SFTA Fall Board of Directors meeting and General Membership meeting.

**September 22: Fort Union, NM.** First Fort and Arsenal Tours. [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)

**September 30: Baldwin City, KS.** Santa Fe Trail Historical Society of Douglas County potluck

**October 6: Bent's Old Fort NHS, CO.** Hispanic Heritage Day. [www.nps.gov/beol](http://www.nps.gov/beol)

**October 13: Holly, CO.** Bent's Fort Chapter meeting

**October 13: Fort Larned NHS, KS.** Candlelight Tours. [www.nps.gov/fols](http://www.nps.gov/fols)

**September 26-29, 2013: Ulysses, KS.** SFTA Symposium, "Surviving the Plains."

**Scholarly Research Grants**  
September 1: Receipts, draft reports due  
September 15: Final reports due