

Wagon Tracks

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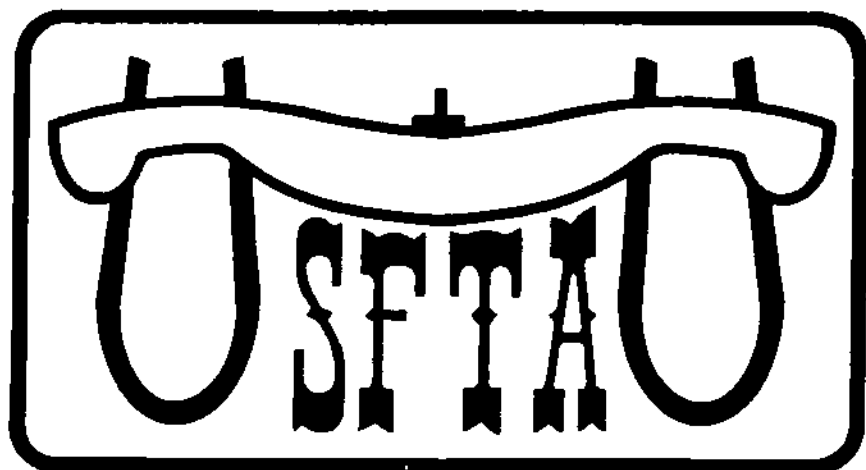


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WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOLUME 21

NOVEMBER 2006

NUMBER 1



President Joanne VanCoevern

SFTA BOARD CHANGES

JOANNE VanCoevern, Salina, KS, became president of SFTA upon the resignation of George Bayless in August 2006. John Atkinson was selected by the board to serve as vice-president, and Michael Dickey was elected to fill Atkinson's position as Missouri Director.

SFTA BYLAWS AMENDED

THE SFTA bylaws were amended by vote of those attending the membership meeting at Larned on October 28. Except for the proposal to reduce the size of the governing board, the proposed amendments (sent with the last issue of *Wagon Tracks*) were adopted. Anyone wishing a copy of the revised bylaws should send a request to Linda Revello at the headquarters office, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned KS 67550.

NEW SFTA WEB SITE

THE new SFTA web site is now online at <www.santafetrail.org>. It is still a work in progress. Each chapter has its own page; there are selected articles from *Wagon Tracks*; and the Last Chance Store is online to take orders. Membership dues may also be paid online.

**SFTA BOARD MEETING
LA JUNTA, COLORADO
MARCH 17, 2007**

HISTORIC TRAIL THREATENED IN COLORADO

THE U.S. Army has requested authorization to add more than 400,000 acres to the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeast Colorado. This includes some 60 miles of the Santa Fe Trail, as well as ranches and small towns. The Bent's Fort Chapter and many members of SFTA have joined in the protest to this threat to the Trail and many other natural and historic resources. See the insert in this issue and join the effort to fight against this threat.

RENDEZVOUS 2006

THE biennial Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at Larned, October 27-29, was devoted to commemoration of Zebulon Montgomery Pike's Southwest Expedition, 1806-1807. The fine programs were enjoyed by 200 participants. The SFTA board and general membership meetings were held during the Rendezvous.

Tours were provided to Pike sites in the Larned area and to the Stern-



Ben Bailey and George Elmore provided the honor guard for the dedication of Pike Plaza at Larned, October 29, photo courtesy of Larry Mix.

berg Museum of Natural History in Hays. Speakers included Jared Orsi, Donald Blakeslee, Leo E. Oliva, William Howell, Craig Crease, Mike Olsen, and John Patrick Michael Murphy.

A highlight of this Rendezvous was the dedication on October 29 of the Pike Plaza in Larned, a project of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. This is only the third Pike monument in Kansas and will remind visitors and residents of the importance of Pike's remarkable Southwest Expedition.



Dedication of Pike Plaza in Larned, with Roy Pike addressing the audience. Note the 1806 flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes. Photo courtesy of Larry Mix.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ON August 15, 2006, George Bayless resigned as president of SFTA. As provided in the bylaws, I accepted the duties of president. I have served on the board as a director for eight years and as vice-president for 11 months. I was a founder and first president of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. After being involved with SFTA since 1990, I am honored to become president of an organization that has so many exciting things happening.

In 2003 the SFTA board, chapter representatives, and representatives from the National Park Service met in Trinidad, Colorado, and developed a strategic plan to chart a course for future protection and interpretation of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. This plan addresses purpose and vision, visitor experience goals, a range of recommended actions, and future steps to be taken to implement the plan. This plan is expected to provide guidance for SFTA and the NPS for several years, with yearly reviews to monitor progress and achievements and to review priorities. If you would like to see this plan in its entirety just type in Santa Fe National Historic Trail Strategic Plan into the Google search engine, or your favorite search, and it will direct you to the PDF file.

Our next SFTA board meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2007, in La Junta, Colorado, where we will again look at the strategic plan and see how we are progressing. We will look ahead and determine if we need to set some new goals. As a result of this strategic plan, several projects are underway along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

Our newly-revamped web site is up and running. Although we still have plans for additions, one important part is already working. The Last Chance Store, managed by Leo and Bonita Oliva, is online. You can look at all the Last Chance Store has to offer, order it, and pay for it online. It works fantastic. In addition, memberships may also be paid online. Please visit our new web site at <www.santafetrail.org>.

Along with developing a new web site, another top priority of the SFTA in the strategic plan is to take an inventory of the Santa Fe National

All matters relating to *Wagon Tracks* should be directed to SFTA Editor Leo E. Oliva, PO Box 31, Woodston KS 67675.

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VISIT SFTA ON THE INTERNET

<<http://www.santafetrail.org>>

Historic Trail. In August the first part of this inventory was made by Association Manager Clive Siegle, SFTA members Craig Crease and Ross Marshall, and NPS representatives John Conoboy and Andrea Sharon. Along the way they received help from local experts, including Dub Couch, Don Cress, Britt and Linda Colle, Steve Schmidt, David Clapsaddle, Larry Mix, Jeff Trotman, Faye Gaines, Hal Jackson, Billie Mock, and Morris Alexander. The purpose of this inventory is to document what is out there, determine what shape it is in, make recommendations for the site, and to document what new discoveries, markings, etc., have taken place since the last inventory. The second part of this inventory will be completed in November. When finished, a database will be developed with the information, and there will be several thousand digital images that can be used for various projects.

The Gardner Kiosk project is progressing forward and should be completed by early summer. Plans are underway for a formal dedication to take place around September 15, 2007. Watch for more details in future *Wagon Tracks*. The idea behind the kiosk projects is to encourage the traveler to visit Santa Fe National Historic Trail sites in both directions as well as to interpret the site of the kiosk. Other areas of the Trail are under consideration for future kiosks. We hope to develop brochures to be made available to travelers at these kiosks.

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Membership Categories

Life	\$1,000
Patron	\$100/year
Business	\$50/year
Nonprofit Institution	\$40/year
Family	\$30/year
Individual	\$25/year
Youth (18 & under)	\$15/year

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Another major project designed to bring attention to the Santa Fe National Historic Trail is a signage program being developed cooperatively between SFTA and the NPS. These signs will bring attention to Trail sites, as well as local auto tours and marking projects that have been completed by the various chapters of SFTA. The primary goal of this project is to achieve "product identification" by placing the Santa Fe National Historic Trail logo along the entire length of the Trail. Travelers will recognize the logo and realize they are traveling along a corridor of national importance. Individuals can promote the Santa Fe National Historic Trail with products available from the Last Chance Store, such as a lapel pins or patches that can be sewn onto shirts, jackets, and hats.

Another very successful Rendezvous was held at Larned. Speakers on various topics related to Zebulon Pike were the emphasis. Our first speaker was Dr. Jared Orsi, a recipient of one of SFTA's scholarly research grants. His presentation is a fine example of how the grant program is designed to work. The staff at the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site, as well as members of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, are commended for putting together another successful Rendezvous, with good speakers, food, and fellowship.

The SFTA has received a \$25,000 donation from the El Paso Pipeline Company to help us with preservation projects. This money has been set aside and will be used on as "as needed" basis for various preservation issues. The preservation committee has been asked to consider ideas for projects. If you know of sites that are being threatened, please contact our preservation chairperson Faye Gaines.

The expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site is still considered to be the number one threat to a large portion of the Santa Fe Trail. SFTA has been writing letters and making contacts. We are still pursuing other possible actions to help preserve this area of the Trail.

The SFTA board has authorized creation of a "Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame." A committee has been formed to propose details for this

project. The basic idea is to bring recognition to those who have had a major influence on the Santa Fe Trail, both historic and today. The committee will establish guidelines and solicit nominations. Those selected will be inducted at each annual membership meeting, with an illustration and text to be placed in the "hall," expected to be housed at the Santa Fe Trail Center headquarters. Watch for more details on this.

In closing, I thank all of those members, committees, board members, chapters, etc., for taking time to volunteer for the SFTA. What brings us all together is a love of the Santa Fe Trail and its history. The excitement that was apparent at the recent Rendezvous is invigorating. It helps us remember that even after 20 years as an organization, we still have more to do. Through the help of all our members, we will continue to work toward the goals of the SFTA—to preserve, protect, and promote the entire Santa Fe Trail.

—Joanne VanCoevern

MANAGER'S COLUMN

THE new SFTA web site is up and running and the old one has gone to wherever in cyberspace ancient sites go when their webmasters flick the "off" switch. When we threw the switch on October 12, it was sort of like 12:01 a.m. on New Year's Day: out with the Old, in with the New.

Those of you who make the journey to <www.santafetrail.org> will find a number of enhancements to the site that will bring us on par with contemporary sites like the NPS Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail sites, or OCTA and Lewis and Clark (O.K., maybe not Lewis and Clark, since during their ramblings through their bicentennial they seem to have discovered both the source of the Missouri River and more Federal bucks than Thomas Jefferson's entire national budget for 1804—some of which ended up on their two drop-dead beautiful sites).

But what the heck, we didn't even have to tow a 55-foot keelboat upstream across half of the Northern Plains to get our site spiffed up. We have, for instance, put the Last Chance Store online. Ever see those TV ads that tout how, thanks to the miracle of the web and some big software or networking partner, some e-

business in Sioux City can "go global" and start peddling books to someone in Singapore? Taking a cue from the fact that the Santa Fe Trail was one of America's first international super-highways of trade, the best-stocked specialty bookstore on things Santa Fe Trail just went global and opened up shop on our new site. And for those of us who live in Santa Fe instead of Singapore (and even for those who do live in Singapore!), and are ready for phase two of our global business venture, the Last Chance now takes credit cards and PayPal for your ordering pleasure. You may now join the SFTA or renew your dues via the new site.

Soon to be added is a master calendar of events along the Trail, a guide for everyone interested in attending and, we hope, a way to avoid or at least reduce scheduling conflicts. For this to work, all chapters and other planners of Trail programs will have to report all dates to be included and consult the master calendar before scheduling any meeting. It will be wonderful if this calendar can prevent the scheduling of chapter meetings at the same time SFTA is hosting a meeting.

There will also be a comprehensive "For Educators" curriculum guide taking shape soon on there as well. Each chapter has its very own page to strut their stuff on (although at this point some are struttin' right along, some are shuffling right along, and a few, unfortunately, aren't even hobbling right along, but then as the old Trail adage goes, "Santa Fe wasn't built in a day").

What a web site does is it puts a face on us as an organization for the world to see—both literally and figuratively. With one click, there we are, staring out at new-found acquaintances as we pose before freshly-set markers, or attentively listening to a learned speaker at a chapter meeting, or dancing in period clothes at a symposium shindig. Our web site tells every one of our accomplishments, our hopes, and our visions for the Trail. With the simple click of a computer's mouse, it's us. On the world's computer screen. In real time. In their face. In their head. Our time to tell the Trail's story, and invite them along.

—Clive Siegle

BARBARA LEE HILLEY

SFTA member Barbara Lee Hilley of Santa Fe, age 70, an avid bicyclist, had an abrupt and tragic accident while cycling with a group from the New Mexico Touring Society in Albuquerque on July 11, 2006. A piece of metal lying in the bike lane flew up as she rode over it and jammed the spokes against the metal and bike fork, stopping the bike instantly and throwing her forward over the handlebars to land on her head and neck, causing severe spinal cord injury and quadriplegia. She held four degrees, including her RN, two Bachelor degrees, and her Master's Degree in Southwest History. Barbara was also a member of the Old Spanish Trail Association and the Camino Real Trail Association. Condolences are extended to her husband, Dr. Bob Hilley, family and friends.

PATRICIA HEATH

SFTA Ambassador Pat Heath, a charter member of SFTA, died at Lakin, KS, July 8, 2006, at age 83. A native of Chicago, she lived in Edmond, OK, from 1951-1982, where she worked for a dental supply company. She moved to Lakin in 1982, where she served as director of the Kearny County Museum, 1991-2005. She was a very active member of SFTA, the Kearny County Historical Society, and the Fort Larned Old Guard. She participated in two bus tours of the Trail and attended most symposiums and rendezvous. She volunteered as the Lakin hostess for the Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Tours. She was a great friend of the Trail.

Pat was named a SFTA Ambassador in 1997. She received the Kansas Museum Association Distinguished Service Award in 2005. She is greatly missed by many friends along the Trail. Survivors include her son, Michael Ustick, and daughter, Linda Peters and her family, all of Lakin. Sincere sympathy is extended to her family and friends. Memorials may be sent to the SFTA.



DONOR HONOR ROLL

MANY members have responded to various pleas for additional donations to assist SFTA with its many projects. Please note that SFTA membership forms (including the form on the web site) include a place to make additional donations to support SFTA. Special thanks is extended to the following for recent donations.

Memorial Gifts: all in memory of Pat Heath

Charles & Barbara Allen
Steven & Mary Davidson
Stephen & Suzanne Germes
Clara Goodrich
C. & M. Matthews
Ted & Dorothy Morgan
Bruce & Linda Peters

SFTA SYMPOSIUM 2007 LAST CHANCE EVER?

by John M. Carson

THIS could be your Last Chance Ever. The U.S. Army has requested that the Department of Defense acquire an additional 418,000 acres for the expansion of the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site. If this request is approved and funded by Congress, the area from approximately 15 miles south of La Junta to some 10 miles north of Trinidad, Colorado, may no longer be accessible to the public. This will make nearly one-half the Mountain Route in Colorado unavailable to visitors.

Thus the 2007 Symposium at Trinidad may be one of the last times the public can visit the Trail sites in this area. The symposium planning committee is preparing three major tours into this endangered region. One will visit sites in the present Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site. Another will travel north of Trinidad along the Mountain Route. The third will follow the Granada-Fort Union Military Freight Route in Colorado. There will also be a number of tours in Trinidad.

Dr. Marc Simmons, "Father of the Santa Fe Trail Association," will open the symposium as the keynote speaker. Other presentations will deal with such topics as the Buffalo Hide Trade, the Military Freight Route, and area merchants, families,

**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY: PLAN A
BEQUEST TO THE SFTA**

and personalities who were deeply involved in the development of the Trail and area. The symposium will conclude with Sunday services and a presentation about Marion Sloan Russell at her gravesite in Stonewall.

There will be food, music, art exhibits, and contests galore, along with a "Kid's Day" for area youth and symposium attendees. Registration and more information will be included in the February 2007 issue of *Wagon Tracks*.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 27-30, 2007 and help preserve this important piece of the Santa Fe Trail and our nation's history. Write, call, meet with your local, state, and federal officials and anyone else of influence so this will not be one of the last opportunities to have access to this historically-significant region.

CAMINO REAL TOUR MARCH 1-12, 2007

HAL Jackson, retired SFTA president and author of the new *Following the Royal Road: A Guide to the Historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*, is offering a guided tour of a portion of that international historic trail in northern Mexico. The theme is "Following the Footsteps of Juan de Onaté." This trail was opened by Onaté in 1598, and the Santa Fe Trail connected to it at Santa Fe in 1821. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was recently added to the National Historic Trails System and is administered in the U.S. by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The tour begins March 1, 2007, across the bridge in Cd. Juarez, and goes south from there with overnight stops at Chihuahua, Parral, Durango, Zacatecas, and Torreon. The cost for this 12-day tour is \$1,100, including all hotels and most meals. There will be entertainment in several cities. This guided tour, led by Dr. Jackson and Maestro Luis Urias Hermosillo of Chihuahua, is a great opportunity for trail folks who want to experience the Camino Real but have trepidations about travel in Mexico.

For details, including itinerary, maps, photos, and registration information, go to <www.tourelcamino.com>. You will never find a similar guided tour.

DON SANTIAGO KIRKER, THE KING OF NEW MEXICO

by Hal Jackson

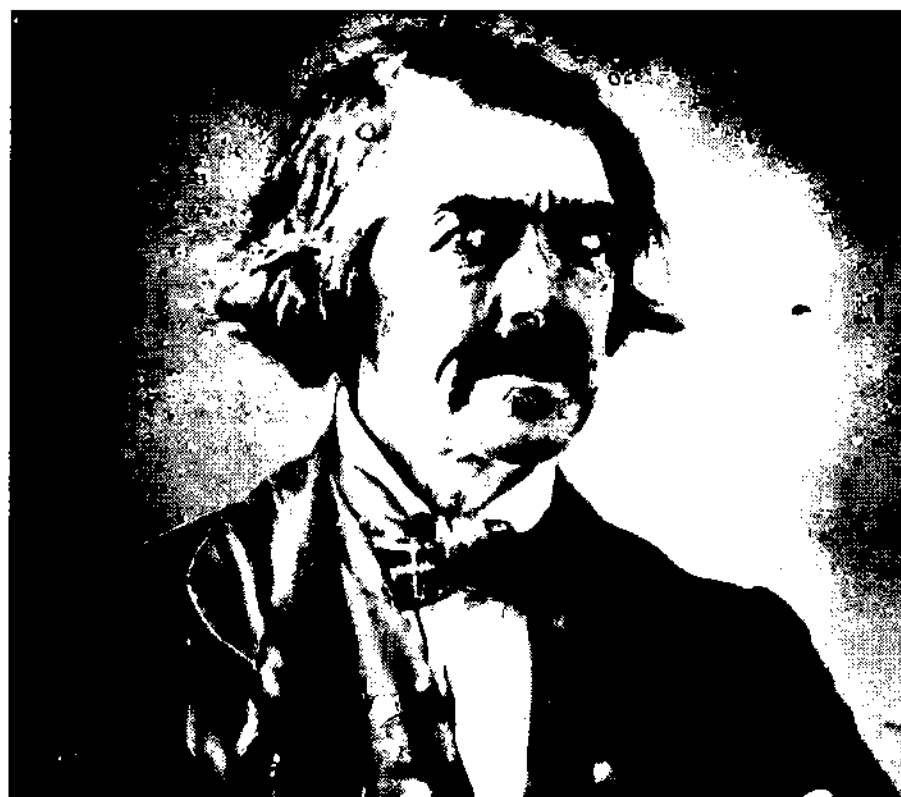
[Jackson recently completed two terms as SFTA president. His book, *Following the Royal Road*, was recently published by the University of New Mexico Press.]

OF all the interesting characters to travel the Santa Fe Trail, and there is a sizable collection of such, none surpasses James Kirker who traveled up and down the Trail many times between 1824 and 1850. I, like many of you, ran into Kirker in footnotes that I read in Josiah Gregg, Max Moorhead, and other writers on Trail topics, where he was usually described as an Irish adventurer making his living in New Mexico and northern Chihuahua. Moorhead described him as a “notorious borderland adventurer.”

Kirker especially caught my attention when I read George A. F. Ruxton's *Adventures in Mexico* while researching my book on the Camino Real. Ruxton, a British citizen, left Mexico City in 1846, heading north on the Camino Real for New Mexico and beyond. Ruxton's book is especially recommended because he traveled north, against the grain so to speak, just at the time the war between Mexico and the United States was taking place. His descriptions of Comanche attacks along the trail in Mexico are chilling, and it truly was a miracle that he survived to write his book.

When Ruxton reached the city of Chihuahua and described the hundreds of Apache scalps hanging from the portales across from the cathedral, I realized that here was a special story. These scalps were the direct result of a raid by James Kirker and his small army of Shawnee Indians and other adventurers. Kirker did it for money, and the Mexicans were more than happy to pay him and display the trophies in front of the church. No remorse here.

Upon completion of my task on the Camino Real, I immediately turned to learning more about James Kirker and what would lead someone to do what he did. There are two biographies of Kirker (see bibliography at the end of article). Besides these I read other sources, especially those that would shed some light on the



Santa Fe Trail and people such as Kit Carson, Manuel Armijo, and the McKnight family.

Here is the strange story of Santiago Querque, the name given him by the admiring Mexicans. Reserve judgment on this character until you finish reading this version of his life and times.

Kirker's Early Years

James Kirker was born in a small village near Belfast in 1793. He was part of that group of people called the Borderlanders in the British Isles. These people had lived along the troublesome English-Scottish border and, as their numbers grew and agrarian reform progressed, many moved to Northern Ireland. In fact, the many problems of Northern Ireland today are a direct result of the mainly Protestant Borderlanders who arrived on the scene in the eighteenth century. Many of these same folk moved to North America, beginning in the eighteenth century. Andrew Jackson was the first president to spring from this Borderlander well. When Americans state that their roots are Scots-Irish, they refer to the same tough-as-nails folk.

To avoid being drafted into the British army to fight in the Napoleonic wars, James Kirker sailed for the United States, arriving alone in New York City in 1810 at the age of 16. In 1812 James joined the crew of a privateer that sailed to prey on British vessels during the War of 1812. Privateers were commissioned to patrol the oceans to intercept British ships and were allowed to keep the cargoes of such captured vessels. Kirker served on the *Black Joke* and, after many escapades off the Brazil-

ian coast, returned to New York City.

Serving on a privateer had risks and advantages for a young immigrant. The principal advantage was that Kirker immediately became a United States citizen when he entered service. The disadvantage and risk was that, if his ship were captured, he might be treated by the British as a traitor. Many young seamen on American ships were “enlisted” or “impressed” into service in the British navy during the War of 1812.

In New York City Kirker met and married a young widow, Catherine, who owned and operated a grocery store. With his new wife he fathered a son, James B. Kirker. Shortly after the birth of his son, Kirker headed west with some other Irish men that he knew. Kirker, as did most other Irish immigrants, had many friends and relatives who could help him in his new life in America. He had, for example, kin living in southeastern Pennsylvania as well as a cousin David Kirker in St. Louis, about whom more later.

St. Louis

Kirker arrived in St. Louis in 1817 when he was 24 years of age. His arrival was about the time the first steamboat made it up the Mississippi to St. Louis—the *Zebulon M. Pike* docked in St. Louis on July 17, 1817. James began working for John McKnight of the firm McKnight and Brady, another pair of Irish friends. It was Irish like McKnight and Brady who wielded most of the economic power in St. Louis at this time. Their business empire included banks, ferries, and a shipping company, in addition to a fleet of boats and various hotels and warehouses.

About 1819 Kirker went into business for himself, opening a grocery store. His cousin, David Kirker, was the principal clerk in the store. James had heard the story, as nearly everyone in St. Louis had, of the Robert McKnight (Robert was John McKnight's brother) party that had traveled to Santa Fe in 1812 and had been immediately arrested. The traders, apparently 10 men in total, had been taken south to Chihuahua

City by 1814, tried and convicted of violating Spanish law prohibiting foreign traders in Spanish territory. We know some of what happened to the party because James Baird told his story, and it was carried through his family until made known in 1959 (see Golley, 1959). Baird was sold to a man in Durango where he tried to escape but was captured and placed in solitary confinement for nine months.

Robert McKnight, after whom the party was named, ended up in Galeana (see map) during his confinement, doing mining work, and he also opened a mercantile store in that town. Generally the authorities would release prisoners to various communities where they were expected to serve out their time. It cost money to incarcerate someone and was easier to assign them to a type of internal imprisonment. The focus here is on McKnight and Baird because both later used their imprisonment to their advantage.

Finally, in late 1820, the men in the McKnight party were released and allowed to return to the United States. In January, 1821, three men from the McKnight party arrived in St. Louis. Robert McKnight was not among the three stragglers, and his brother John decided to send a party to New Mexico in search of his brother. This party, the John McKnight venture, included Thomas James and James Kirker's cousin David. It had become a business venture as well as a "rescue" mission, and James may have sent some goods with his cousin David. The party left St. Louis May 10, 1821, and headed down the Mississippi thinking they could reach Santa Fe by water.

Their original plan was to descend the Mississippi to the Arkansas River, ascend that river to Santa Fe. (We sometimes laugh at Pike's bungling in 1806-1807, but here we are in 1821 and people still don't know which river goes where.) Luckily the party encountered Hugh Glenn, who informed them they could not make it by water. They switched to horses and headed west. They ran into a large group of Comanches in present Oklahoma. These Indians would not allow them to pass because they had an agreement with the Spanish to protect this frontier from encroach-

ment. It was very tense for the McKnight party until a squad of Mexicans, note the word "Mexicans," arrived to allow them to pass. It was just at the time the Spanish lost power in Mexico and the new Mexican government had opened the province of New Mexico to trade with foreigners. An aside here is that David Kirker behaved badly at this confrontation and had shown cowardice which may have later haunted James Kirker.

The McKnight party left St. Louis before William Becknell left Franklin, Missouri, on his trip to Santa Fe in 1821. The former arrived in Santa Fe a few weeks after Becknell, so Becknell is remembered as the "opener" of the Santa Fe Trail. Becknell, on his return to Missouri, noted that "two other men joined his party at San Miguel del Vado." One of these was David Kirker, James's cousin. Robert McKnight was later found and returned to St. Louis.

James maintained his business in St. Louis the next few years with at least one adventure to the upper Missouri River with the William Ashley-Andrew Henry partnership in 1822. He returned to St. Louis in 1823, by which time the Santa Fe trade was booming.

First Kirker Trip on the SFT

In 1824 Kirker made his first trip to New Mexico in a party of trappers and 80 or so traders. William Becknell and M. M. Marmaduke were the leaders of that caravan which used the Cimarron Route opened by Becknell in 1822. Kirker was counted among the trappers, but he carried some trade goods in addition to his trapping equipment. Also in this caravan were Augustus Storrs and Robert McKnight. It was Storrs, you recall, who responded to Senator Thomas Hart Benton's questions about trade on the Santa Fe Trail, and Storrs response, published in 1825, became an important source of information about the early trade on the Trail.

It is not clear whether Kirker returned with the Becknell-Marmaduke party or remained behind to trap beaver. He was back in St. Louis by early 1825, where he sold his furs and took care of some financial matters concerning his businesses in that city. In May 1825 Kirker was in

Franklin preparing for his second trip on the SFT, this one commanded by Augustus Storrs.

Arriving in Santa Fe, Kirker may have applied for and received Mexican citizenship. There is no clear evidence that Kirker actually obtained Mexican citizenship at this time, but he was later issued permits to trap beaver in the 1830s. Such permits were only issued to citizens of Mexico. His citizenship is important because between 1825 and 1847 he used all three nationalities (British, American, Mexican) to his advantage. He became, chameleon-like, the nationality that gave him the most benefit. Kirker spent the winter 1825-1826 trapping in present southern Colorado, returning to St. Louis in the spring to sell his pelts.

Kirker and Kit Carson

Kirker made his next trip west in the summer of 1826, joining a westering party at Fort Osage. A complete list of the participants of this party is lacking, but Stephen Turley owned much of the merchandise. McGaw, Kirker's first biographer, has Kirker as a wagonmaster in the party. It seems that Andrew Broadus was a member and, if he was included, so was a young man named Kit Carson. Carson mentions in his autobiography witnessing the amputation of Broadus's arm after a gun mishap. If Carson and Kirker were both in this party, it was the beginning of a long acquaintance between the two frontiersmen.

Santa Rita and Mexico

Kirker arrived in Santa Fe in 1826 with the Turley train and kept traveling south to the copper mine at Santa Rita. Santa Rita del Cobre was a copper deposit discovered about 1799 and worked from that time. At the time of Kirker's arrival the mines were operated by Robert McKnight and Steven Courcier. Kirker made Santa Rita his home base until 1834, a span of 8 years. He wore many hats during this important period. He trapped along the Gila River in winters, led copper ore trains from Santa Rita to Chihuahua City on the Copper Road, and even did some prospecting.

Most of Kirker's trapping was accomplished without benefit of a Mexican license. To market the contraband pelts Kirker would meet an

American merchant going north on the Camino Nacional (the old Camino Real had, of course, been renamed after 1821). These traders transported his pelts to Independence or St. Louis for eventual sale. This shadowy business of Kirker's slowed when James Baird, a member of the 1812 McKnight group who had returned to Chihuahua and become a Mexican citizen, led a campaign against illegal trapping. Baird reported the trapping scheme to the authorities and it was slowed if not halted entirely.

The Indian situation in northern Chihuahua and eastern Sonora deteriorated during the 1820s and 1830s. The Mexicans, in 1821, inherited the Spanish policy of trading food and supplies for peace. It was "Peace by Purchase" during the colonial period and had worked reasonably well from the 1590s to the end of Spanish rule. For a variety of reasons, the Mexicans did not maintain good relations with the Apaches or Comanches. Apaches had been living near the many presidios where they obtained their rations. Certainly some young Apache bloods would wander off once in a while to accomplish a little "harvesting" of Mexican communities, but in general this system worked in a sort of Golden Age from 1780 to 1821. By 1830, after the Mexicans had stopped giving rations, most Apaches had abandoned the sedentary life near the presidios and returned to one of harvesting the Mexicans.

This change in circumstances led to warfare that lasted, in Mexico at least, until the 1890s. Apaches raided ranches, towns, and even cities where they would steal horses and mules, and the livestock would be traded to entrepreneurs such as Kirker who would sell them to American traders. (You have probably read in Gregg and Webb how the traders who bought the livestock would arrive in El Paso where the Mexican owners, to the Americans' chagrin, would reclaim them.)

What Kirker and others were using for currency in their Apache trading was arms and ammunition. By 1840 the Apaches were far better armed than the Mexican opponents, who usually depended on a bow, club, or lance to protect themselves. Much of the northern portion of the

state of Chihuahua was depopulated during this period with attacks even reported in the streets of the capital Chihuahua City.

Kirker Finds Refuge at Bent's Fort

In 1832 a treaty was signed at Santa Rita between the Chihuahuans and Apaches. The Treaty of Santa Rita actually helped Kirker and others because now the "barterers" could trade with the Apaches without fear of breaking any Mexican laws. The Mexicans, somewhat naïvely, assumed that raiding would stop and the Apaches would become farmers.

Kirker married a young woman from southern Chihuahua state at El Paso del Norte in 1831. He had not divorced Catherine, his wife in New York City, so he was committing bigamy. Petra, the first of many children from this union, was born at Janos in 1833.

By 1835 Kirker, by then commonly known as don Santiago Querque, was recognized for what he really was: a gunrunner. The Mexican government labeled Kirker an outlaw and put a price of \$800 on his head. James eluded the Mexican troops sent after him and in September 1836 joined a traders' train headed back to Missouri. Kirker abandoned the caravan at Bent's Fort which put him out of reach of the Mexican authorities whose northern boundary was the south side of the Arkansas River.

Kirker remained at Bent's Fort for about 20 months. He traveled west into the Rockies to trap and generally "hung around" the fort. He met a large number of displaced eastern Indians, both Delawares and Shawnees, while at the fort. Some of these Indians followed him the balance of his life, including his final trip to California. One very important Indian whom he befriended was Spybuck, part Shawnee and part French, who became Kirker's chief lieutenant in battles to come.

The Scalp Hunter

Manuel Armijo became governor of New Mexico in August 1837 and quickly rescinded the arrest warrant that was out for Kirker. He invited Kirker to return to New Mexico. Kirker immediately returned to Santa Fe where he was reunited with his wife and children.

Kirker was again welcome in New Mexico because the Apaches began a series of attacks on Mexican settlements, the first being at Santa Rita in January 1837. Soon after that attack the entire borderland of Chihuahua and Sonora was defenseless. Kirker returned at the same time a new form of mercenary warfare began. One could obtain a "*permiso*" (permission) from the government which allowed the holder to raise a private army. These armies were expected to locate and attack hostile tribes, recover stolen livestock, and receive prizes or premiums for their successes.

In April 1837 an American named John James Johnson attacked and killed 20 Mimbrenño Apaches in southwestern New Mexico. Johnson had clearly set a trap for the Indians and this single battle signaled the beginning of the War of Apache Scalps which lasted until 1891.

In late July 1837 a fund of \$100,000 was established to help eradicate the Indian menace. It was seen as a fight to the death—the Mexicans believed they must exterminate the Apaches or they would be exterminated by them. The plan was to pay \$100 for each male scalp, \$50 for each female scalp, and \$25 for each captured Indian child.

All these arrangements took place while Kirker was at Bent's Fort, but many Mexicans in Chihuahua state had Kirker in mind to carry out the program. Robert McKnight, especially, wanted James to return and help out.

Kirker raised a small force of 23 men, including several Shawnees (Spybuck among them), in 1838 to provide relief for Santa Rita and allow supplies to get there from Chihuahua. The Copper Road connecting the mines with the capital was completely shut down by the Apache uprising, and it was the hope that Kirker could reopen it. His party found an Apache village with 247 residents near Galeana in May, which they attacked. There were 55 warriors killed, nine women captured, and Kirker destroyed the village. This was the opening salvo in the "Kirker Wars."

Between battles in the Kirker Wars, James continued to trade with various Apache groups. There was

no one Apache "nation," but instead each small group negotiated on its own. It is conceivable that Kirker could destroy one group and still do business with another group. James continued to get livestock from the Apaches in return for rifles and ammunition. There were many in Mexico who believed that Santiago Querque had directed several Apache attacks on Mexican settlements.

The Andrew Daley Affair

Josiah Gregg told the story of the murder of an American, Andrew Daley, by two Mexican men, Salvador Barela and Diego Martín, in February 1838. The murderers were captured but soon released by Governor Armijo. At the time New Mexico lacked a real penal system and since it cost money to incarcerate prisoners they were often simply let go. Money for the New Mexican authorities was a commodity in short supply.

The American community in Santa Fe was outraged at the release of the murderers. Since James Kirker was in Santa Fe at the time, he led a posse to recapture Barela and Martín. On July 4, 1838, Kirker and others delivered an ultimatum to Armijo at the Palace of the Governor, demanding justice. Armijo countered by stationing a company of militiamen in the plaza to intimidate Kirker. This was an unwise move on Armijo's part because Kirker assembled his own men and other volunteers to march on the plaza. The Armijo militia melted away at the sight of Kirker's force. A quick decision by Armijo was that he should perhaps listen to appeals for justice.

Barela and Martín remained in jail a few years before being released again. Ralph Smith, the second Kirker biographer, pointed out that Kirker's actions in the plaza demonstrated he was the most powerful person in New Mexico. He could easily have taken over control of New Mexico had he wished. The only known portrait of Kirker has "Don Santiago Kirker when King of New Mexico" written on it.

Battle at Ranchos de Taos

Matt Field tells the next story about Kirker, and that saga was published in the New Orleans *Picayune*. Kirker took his band north from Santa Fe to Taos instead of go-

ing south to punish the Apaches raiding in Chihuahua. This northern swing would pit him against Jicarilla Apaches and perhaps some Utes.

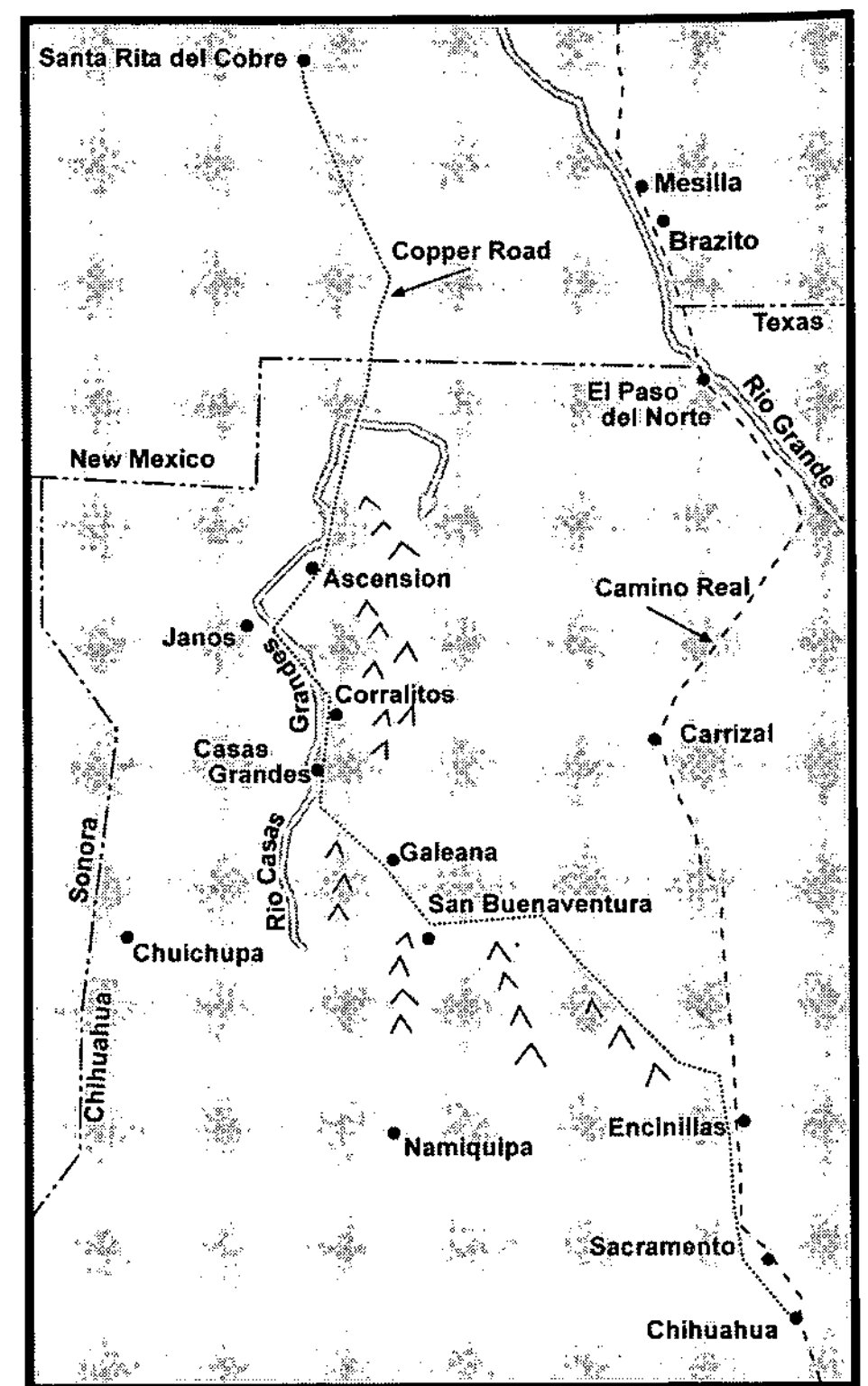
Kirker and fifty of his followers were camped near the small community of Rancho de Taos. (This small village is just south of Taos and has the famous and picturesque church located in its plaza.) Apaches raided Kirker's camp, stealing horses which they took up the canyon to the southeast. Kirker and his men quickly followed and went up to high ground above the Indians. Kirker and his men stopped the Apaches with a volley of shots. The Jicarillas that survived the ambush headed back to Rancho de Taos where they entered the plaza and tried to gain entrance to the church, thinking they would be safe there.

Kirker continued his attack, killing more Apaches until the Indians asked for mercy. Kirker allowed the few survivors to leave, perhaps hoping they would spread the word concerning the danger of stealing livestock from Kirker. Forty Indians had been killed in the episode. For a more detailed version of events by someone on the scene read Field's account.

The Second Kirker War

The conflict at Rancho de Taos is considered the opening salvo in the second Kirker War. Armijo, still smarting from Kirker's dominance at Santa Fe in the Daley affair, was not at all pleased with Kirker's action against the Jicarillas. To Armijo the problems were in Chihuahua and not New Mexico, and that was where Kirker ought to go.

Don Santiago passed into Chihuahua in November 1839. With him were 59 Delawares, Shawnees, Americans, Englishmen, and Frenchmen. This would have been his usual contingent of borderland ruffians at this time. Although Kirker was generally welcomed to Chihuahua, there were some in the government who were opposed to a foreigner leading a ragtag army in their state. The opponents to Kirker thought that the Mexican militia and army should be able to control the Apache menace. Time and time again the Mexican forces had demonstrated they were unable to stand up to the Indians.



So it was that in the fall of 1839 Governor Trias and Kirker embarked on a *proyecto*—a project—to contain the Apaches. Kirker agreed to raise an army of 200 of whom 50 were to be Mexicans. Kirker and his men were to receive a small amount of money for each day served but the real money would come from killing Indians. He was to get 50 pesos for each male over age fourteen killed or delivered as prisoner. For women and children he would receive 25 pesos. For proof of the deaths Kirker brought back scalps. Scalping was a tradition brought west by the Indians from the eastern U. S., such as the Delawares and Shawnees accompanying Kirker. This method of accounting soon became the accepted manner in Chihuahua.

In January 1840 Kirker moved north along the Copper Road to Casas Grandes. Hearing of a large Apache encampment north of Casas Grandes, he took most of his force to La Boca Grande (near Ascensión, see map) where he attacked the camp at dawn. Ten warriors were killed and he captured 20 women and children plus he recovered more than 70 head of livestock. Kirker returned to Chihuahua City and then began moving into the Bolsón de Mapimi, a very large and arid region southwest of the capital. He was reported in Parral in February, near which his party

killed 15 warriors and captured 20 more.

Kirker and his band moved north from Parral and were next in action at the Laguna de Santa María in northern Chihuahua. In an attack on May 8, 1840, they killed six warriors and captured thirteen others. They also rounded up over 120 head of livestock and repatriated eight barrels of *aguardiente* that the Apaches had stolen from Mexicans. (*Aguardiente* is a distilled drink from grapes somewhat like a brandy.)

Finally, in June 1840, Mexican authorities grew tired of Kirker's freelancing and canceled his contract. James apparently took the cancellation in stride for he was next found in Chihuahua trying to settle some unfinished business. In 1836 James had been robbed by certain Navajos and Zunis of pelts and goods worth \$5,000. The goods had been recovered soon after by then governor Pérez. Pérez, according to Kirker and others, had sold these pelts and goods without reimbursing Kirker. James went to court to gain redress. His appeal was not successful at this time.

Security work for McKnight occupied Kirker during late 1840. He was attempting to keep the Copper Road open so ore could be sent south to the mint in Chihuahua and supplies could make their way north to Santa Rita del Cobre.

Late 1840 and early 1841 saw some of the worst times in Chihuahua and Sonora. If the Comanches are added to the mix, then the states of Coahuila, Durango, and Zacatecas must be added to the list of the unfortunate. The situation reached a point where Kirker was called out of "retirement" to join the governor, García Conde, in yet another *proyecto*.

James worked at bargain rates during this *proyecto*. For each dead Apache he was to receive five silver pesos and two-and-a-half pesos for each mule recovered. As Ralph Smith said in his biography of Kirker: "no student of the borderlands would seriously accuse James of profiteering at these rates."

Kirker Peace

Finally there was a period of peace following the signing of the Kirker Treaties in April of 1842. Smith re-

fers to a document called the Kirker Protocol which outlined the Apache demands. Almost every one of these eight protocols made reference to transgressions by either Don Santiago Kirker or Don Roberto (Robert McKnight). This Kirker Peace from 1842 to 1845 allowed James to find other employment—employment not in the line of fire in Chihuahua.

In southwesternmost Chihuahua state (180 miles from Chihuahua City) was an isolated mining town called Guadalupe y Calvo. This was the birthplace of Kirker's wife Rita. James, Rita, and three children (Petrá, Rafael, and Santiago José) went there probably in early 1843. The mines were operated by five British citizens who hired James to protect the mines. He was to guard the miners and their families as well as keep the roads safe for travel. These mines produced copper, silver, and gold.

It was here among his new British friends that James renewed his request for financial redress from Governor Pérez. Only this time James used his British background and wrote to the British consul general in Mexico City. Kirker's appeal worked no better this time and the consul general would not support him. It was pointed out that Kirker had obtained licenses to hunt as a naturalized, *i.e.*, Mexican citizen. Therefore, he had given up his British citizenship and the consul general could not help him.

Back in the Scalp Hunting Business

The "Kirker Peace" lasted from 1842 until the spring of 1845. Kirker himself is not mentioned in any official documents or newspaper accounts during that span. After his stint at Guadeloupe y Calvo, Kirker most likely moved north to his part-time home at Corralitos, a ranch north of Casas Grandes. There are some fanciful stories of several battles with Apaches that Kirker was supposed to have been in, but these are not supported by the facts.

During the Kirker Peace not all was entirely peaceful. Some minor Apache raiding occurred, especially at times the Mexicans failed to provide the agreed upon rations. Recall that Apaches were not the only problem facing the Mexican government at this time. The Comanches made

annual treks from their homes in Texas, crossing the Rio Grande at two spots in the present-day Big Bend National Park, to harvest livestock in southern Chihuahua, Durango, and Zacatecas. The Comanches were far better organized and presented an even bigger problem than did the Apaches, and they had no truce with the Mexicans.

In December 1845 Chihuahua Governor Ángel Trías issued an order to increase defenses of Chihuahua. Don Santiago was called upon to help in the defense of the northern portions of the state. In late December James and about 170 armed men—Shawnees, Delawares, and Mexicans—attacked an Apache encampment west of Galeana. The Apaches were aware of the impending attack, but Kirker's force won a victory nevertheless. A meeting after the battle between Apache leaders and Mexicans seemed to assure a temporary peace. After some give and take—the Mexican in charge wanted peace, not extermination—a minor skirmish occurred and the Apaches left the scene.

Early 1846 found the situation, if possible, worse than ever. Apaches were continuing to attack Mexican settlements where they would kill, plunder, and run off the livestock. Kirker was told to go to one of the worst-hit towns, Namiquipa, which had been hit by Apaches two weeks before Kirker and his band arrived on March 4, 1846. From Namiquipa Kirker headed west following the Apache trail. He recruited men for his small army as he went, mostly Tarahumara Indians. Now he really had an all-American army composed of Delawares, Shawnees, Tarahumaras, Americans, and Mexicans.

On March 20 Kirker attacked an Apache village at Chuhuichupa, a location only a few miles east of Sonora and on the western slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Only one Apache was killed but a great amount of cattle, bridles, saddles, and other goods were captured and distributed to the victors.

The campaign in the west only infuriated the Apaches, leading to more Apache attacks. On May 19, 1846, over 200 Apache warriors hit Janos, killing one, kidnapping two, and stealing over 300 head of livestock. And Janos was the site of a

presidio!

We now have a confluence of events. First, the Apaches were gaining strength and devastating the Chihuahua countryside. Second, war with the United States was at hand with an invasion on the horizon. James was to be involved in both sides of that story.

The Last Kirker *Proyecto*

On May 24, 1846, the Chihuahua government called for another Kirker-style attack on the Apaches. This really was the last straw. The Indians were clearly winning the war and drastic measures were necessary.

The call for help brought forward only one volunteer: Don Santiago Kirker. He was to raise troops in any manner he chose and Mexicans, for the first time in a bounty situation, were to be included. Again, the bounty was 50 pesos for each Indian killed or captured.

In early July something happened in Galeana, north of San Buenaventura. It is known that at least 130 Indians were killed. Mexicans from nearby communities of Casas Grandes and San Buenaventura had been asked to help in the attack. Kirker and his men were at Galeana as well. It is not clear from official reports and newspaper accounts what role Kirker played in what was really an unprovoked attack on a group of Apaches who said they were at Galeana seeking peace.

Now this story turns full circle. It began with a recounting of Ruxton's comments about scalps hanging from the portales at Chihuahua. The scalps noted by Ruxton were those taken at Galeana. Ruxton gave his version of events at Galeana that differ from official accounts. First, Ruxton has Don Santiago "sending several kegs of spirits" to the Apaches to "prepare them" for his attack. This certainly can't be true as Apaches would have sensed a trap if whisky had been sent by Kirker.

Galeana becomes the signal battle in the Kirker story. There are several versions (including Ruxton's) and these are discussed in detail in Smith. Smith does not take sides in the issue but simply points out inconsistencies in the several tales. Kirker was at Galeana, Mexicans likely did most of the killing, and

Kirker and his Delawares and Shawnees did the scalping. James, with scalps on poles (according to Ruxton), entered Chihuahua to an ecstatic crowd. Victory celebrations did occur in the capital on July 10, 1846. The scalps were still up as late as November 10 when Ruxton left Chihuahua for New Mexico.

The Galeana battle was the last in Mexico for Kirker (at least against Indians). What was the result of the many Kirker wars against the Apaches? Scalp hunting and the bounty system are repugnant to most Americans, but were these strategies effective? William Griffen, in his detailed study of the northern border wars between 1832 and 1849, felt the Mexican policies were counter productive. His detailed analysis showed three times as many Mexicans killed by Apaches as Apaches killed by Mexicans or men like Kirker. This author feels that the Spaniards learned early on, in the struggle for the Silver Road in Zacatecas, that peace by purchase was a superior strategy: provide the Indians with necessary goods at select points and they will slowly acculturate into the majority population.

Did Kirker (and others) use cunning and surprise in their attacks on Apache camps? Of course they did. Both sides used the same tactics. Kirker, in an interview in 1847, claimed he and his men killed 487 Apaches while losing but three men. Even if we grant Kirker the remarkable success that he claimed, we have to think about what happened as a result of his success. Smith's assessment of Kirker was that "his expeditions likely provoked more suffering, as a result of retaliatory raids, than they prevented."

The American Invasion

After Galeana and the celebration in Chihuahua, Kirker went northwest to await further orders from the governor. The biggest concern of the Mexicans at this time was not the Apache threat but the invading American army under Stephen Watts Kearny. Kearny occupied Santa Fe on August 18, 1846, a scant month after Galeana.

These were challenging times for Kirker as his services were sought by Mexicans and Americans. James Wiley Magoffin had been instrumen-

tal in orchestrating the peaceful occupation of Santa Fe by the Americans. From there Magoffin traveled south in an attempt to replicate his peace dialogue in Chihuahua. He was arrested and incarcerated in Chihuahua. Kirker likely met with Magoffin, either in El Paso del Norte or in Chihuahua after he was incarcerated. James, as you know by now, would be an asset to whichever side he joined.

For whatever reason(s), Kirker decided to join the American side and presented himself and some of his Delawares the evening of the battle of Brazito (Christmas day, 1846) just southeast of present-day Las Cruces. He was welcomed by Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan and made guide and interpreter. The Americans, however, did not completely trust Kirker and kept a close eye on him.

Marching downstream along the Rio Grande, Kirker predicted the U. S. forces would not meet any organized resistance. Doniphan and the other officers were skeptical of Kirker's prediction, but it turned out to be correct as did his future predictions. He knew the country and he knew the Mexicans very well. The Mexican forces defeated at Brazito had passed through El Paso del Norte and hurried south to Chihuahua City.

The impact and involvement of Kirker was really quite extraordinary. Reading one source about his exploits makes one wonder, but many people confirm that Kirker was a very important figure as Doniphan marched toward Chihuahua and the battle at Sacramento.

On February 8 Kirker guided a group of Missouri Volunteers and over 300 traders' wagons out of El Paso del Norte. The traders were shortly thereafter required to organize themselves into an infantry battalion. Some fifty wagons escaped from Doniphan's control and made it to Chihuahua with their cargoes.

Kirker and some troops were sent ahead of the main party to reconnoiter Carrizal, on the Camino Nacional. Carrizal was a presidio and the thought was that it might still be fortified and garrisoned. There were no Mexican soldiers at Carrizal when Kirker arrived, and he and the

American soldiers occupied it.

In late February he went on to the hacienda at Encinilla owned by Governor Trías. He found that the Mexican troops had left the night before he arrived. The next hurdle was to be a major one as Mexican forces, all 4,220 of them, were entrenched at a spot at the ford of the Rio Sacramento. The site was directly on the Camino Nacional, the old Camino Real. It may be that one of Kirker's Delaware or Shawnee companions provided the plan of battle for Doniphan. If a good plan had not been adopted it would likely have been a Mexican victory because the Mexican artillery completely covered the Camino.

Kirker and a companion named Squire Collins met over several bottles of whisky the evening before the battle. There was some disagreement between the two men that may impact events of the battle. McGaw wrote that the argument was over the courage lacking in James's cousin David Kirker. Recall that David had acted in a cowardly manner in 1821 in the McKnight expedition. At any rate Doniphan interceded and advised them to save their fighting for the next day.

The battle plan adopted called for a swing to the right (off the Camino Nacional) and then a charge up a small embankment which allowed, if it could be carried out, the army to attack on the Mexicans' left flank. This plan also meant that most of the Mexican artillery would not be a force in the battle because it was focused on the Camino Real which the Mexicans assumed the Americans would be forced to use (for a map of the Sacramento battle site see Jackson, *Following the Royal Road*).

Kirker challenged Squire Collins to join him in silencing the battery remaining on the American right. Thus we have Kirker, Collins, and one of the traders, Major Samuel Owens, leading the charge. Owens must have had a death wish (he did, in fact, have family problems) for he was garbed all in white. The charge worked to perfection and the Mexicans were totally bewildered. Owens was killed in the charge, the only American death the day of the battle. Several of the American wounded died later. The entire Mexican front broke and within an hour the battle

was over, the Mexicans in full retreat, a retreat that passed through Chihuahua City and did not stop for a hundred miles beyond. Doniphan's army easily occupied the city.

Don Santiago remained with Doniphan in Chihuahua and later went with the army to Saltillo and the meeting with General John E. Wool. Kirker expected to be paid for his services when he reached Saltillo, but neither he nor any of the traders ever received any pay for their service.

Doniphan, his troops, and Kirker continued south to Matamoros on the Rio Grande where they caught a boat for New Orleans. After a short voyage to that city, Kirker took a paddle wheeler up the Mississippi to St. Louis where he arrived on July 1, 1847.

Kirker Heads West Again

While Kirker was in St. Louis he gave an interview to Charles Keemle of the *St. Louis Saturday Evening Post and Temperance Recorder* (this interview can be read in McGaw). In the interview Kirker told Keemle his life story in 13 paragraphs. Included in the interview was a likeness of James from a daguerreotype taken by T. M. Easterly in July 1847. Someone wrote or scratched "Don Santiago Kirker, the King of New Mexico" at the bottom of the likeness.

James was anxious to return to the Southwest and find out what had happened to his family which he left behind in Mexico when his adventures with Doniphan began. He went west with the Third Regiment of Missouri Mounted Volunteers, reaching Santa Fe in mid-October 1847.

Apparently James entered the hotel business in Santa Fe, for this fact was mentioned in the *Santa Fe Republican* in December. His family, meantime, continued in El Paso del Norte, Mexico, and James could not bring his family north. Trías was still governor of Chihuahua and there remained a price on Kirker's head.

Kirker next was at Taos and employed (this time he would receive some pay) as a scout for the U. S. Army. The first action James saw was when he and the company to which he was assigned went to res-

cue a trader named Munday who was surrounded by a band of Utes on the south side of Raton Pass. Munday's goods were stolen but he came out of this scrape alive.

Kirker's last-known skirmish with Indians took place on July 23, 1848, when he was with Major John F. Reynolds and 150 men who went north from Taos to punish a group of Jicarilla Apaches and Utes. The battle was at Cumbres Pass in southern Colorado just north of the present town of Chama, New Mexico. There were 36 Indian warriors killed; the Americans lost two men.

Once again James had trouble getting his full pay, this time from the U. S. Army. It was a question of exactly when Kirker's scouting duties ended and amounted to the sum of \$207. It was Lieutenant L. Hart, acting assistant quartermaster, who gave James the bad news about the disputed pay. Hart and James ended up going to Washington, D. C., arriving in December 1848. Kirker appealed the ruling, without success, to Senator Thomas Hart Benton. The senator could not help him but the trip to the capital had been paid for out of Lt. Hart's pocket so James came out of it with a free trip to the capital.

Kirker Gets Gold Fever

President Polk had addressed Congress in December 1848, telling them (actually confirming rumors) about the gold strike in California earlier that year. Thus, the Forty-Niners began the rush to the West in January 1849. Some men, and there were a few women, went by way of Panama, others around the Horn, and yet others across Mexico. We are here concerned with those traveling overland, either the northern route of the Oregon-California trails or the Santa Fe Trail, the preferred route in winter.

Kirker left Washington in January 1849, arrived at St. Louis on January 24, and left St. Louis in late April heading up the Missouri on a steamboat to Independence Landing. Somewhere along the way, either on the steamboat or at Independence, Kirker was persuaded to guide a group of wealth seekers to California. This next episode of his life was documented in a book by one of the participants, Charles Pan-

coast.

Pancoast was a Quaker and a member of the group that engaged Kirker, the Peoria Pioneers. Another group, the Jacksonville Pioneers, tagged along with Kirker because of his reputation as a mountain man and Indian fighter. On May 15, 1849, Kirker and entourage departed for the West by way of the Santa Fe Trail.

It really was an interesting trip. Remember, his clients were all greenhorns with no trail experience. They were not skilled at shooting, hunting, or protecting themselves. If the trip were not so dangerous, their escapades might be humorous. The first major event occurred June 10 near Fort Mann on the Arkansas River when the caravan met Chief Buffalo Heart and a large contingent of Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Kiowa warriors. The chief showed Kirker a letter that he carried from Indian agent Thomas Fitzpatrick and relations improved. It was all James could do to keep someone in his own group from panicking and firing a weapon. Eventually the party moved on untouched.

From Fort Mann and the encounter with Buffalo Heart, Kirker led the caravan to a point near today's Pueblo, Colorado. These were gold seekers and James thought they could find the metal here in the Rockies. They panned the Arkansas and the Greenhorn rivers with little success and each day without gold their faith in James diminished.

Next, James led the party south, letting them pan other streams, but his mind was certainly on his home in New Mexico. Crossing Raton Pass, Kirker used the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail to arrive at the small community of Rayado. At this time Rayado was the home of Kit Carson. According to Pancoast's account, Carson was in Rayado when Kirker and group arrived. Pancoast described Carson's home as a "two story log affair, surrounded by adobe walls for purpose of fortification."

There were a dozen or so Americans and Mexicans plus 20 Indians at the Carson home too. Apparently Carson was somewhat reserved when the party arrived, and Pancoast described him as "very garrulous" in the evening.

Next day, James led the party south on the Santa Fe Trail, later passing through San Miguel del Vado. From there, the usual crossing of the Pecos, he went southwest, leaving the SFT and found a camp for the party at Galisteo, south of Santa Fe.

James soon departed the Galisteo camp and went to Santa Fe to be reunited with daughter Petra. This was in the summer 1849; the *Santa Fe Republican Extra* noted that James Kirker was back in the city. James never returned to the Galisteo camp and the party left without him to go to California on August 8.

The Final Chapter

It is not known what occupation Kirker enjoyed between the summer of 1849 and the fall of 1850. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. Article 11, added to the treaty at the insistence of the Mexicans, required the Americans to prevent the Indians in the United States from raiding across the border into Mexico.

At the conclusion of hostilities, the Americans withdrew their forces from the border area and never met their obligations under Article 11. Apaches mostly lived north of the border in the United States but made their living raiding Mexican communities, returning north to sell the stolen livestock to Americans, many on their way to the California gold fields and in desperate need of the animals.

Thus the Mexicans were on their own in the struggle against Apache incursions. Quirquismo, Kirker-style warfare and rewards, continued in Mexico for decades. According to one source the last scalp bounty paid was in 1886, although raiding continued until 1891.

There is no evidence that James Kirker returned to fighting Apaches on his return to New Mexico in 1849. It is highly unlikely that he would risk crossing the border since he was still a wanted man. He moved to California in early 1850, settling in Contra Costa County just north of Mt. Diablo, near the Carquinez Straits. He had left his wife and family in Mexico and New Mexico but was accompanied by a handful of Delaware Indians. It is known that he was in San Francisco on October

29, 1850, attending a celebration of California's newly-acquired statehood. After the celebration James boarded a ship named the *Sagamore* which was to take him to his home. A ship's boiler exploded killing 50 people. James, although hurled into the air, survived. Kirker died in the fall of 1852 at the age of 59.

Kirker's Families

His first wife Catherine and son James B. Kirker continued living in New York City. James, the son, never married but did serve in the Civil War as a captain in the Irish Legion. He retired a major in June 1866. He died in 1868, survived by his mother. Catherine died a wealthy woman in the city in 1870. It is not known if either ever heard from James or read about him.

As to James's family by Rita Garcia, many of his descendants are still living in southern New Mexico. His daughter Petra married Sam G. Bean, older brother of noted Texan Judge Roy Bean. Sam Bean worked to bring all of the Kirker clan out of El Paso del Norte to Mesilla, New Mexico. Mesilla (at that time west of the Rio Grande) became part of the United States after the Gadsden Purchase was made in 1853.

The three sons of James (Rafael, Santiago, and José) joined Sam and Petra in Mesilla. The four children (another died young) about which something is known had many children and many descendants still live in southern New Mexico.

Thoughts on Kirker

What is one to think of this man of the West, James Kirker? On one hand he was a bigamist, abandoned two families, and killed by his own admission over 450 Indians. On the other hand he tried to make the Southwest safer for settlers (in his own mercenary way) and he contributed to the American cause in their war against Mexico. He did take scalps as they were required by Mexican law in order that he be paid for his services. Recall that three times as many Mexican settlers lost their lives to Apaches as did Apaches to men like Kirker.

Smith, in his biography of Kirker, outlines in detail the positives and negatives about James. He concluded, as I will, with the following: "However, enough information about

him exists to show that the history of the American West was more dramatic because of his coming this way. He makes it easier for us to understand why Theodore Roosevelt said that the Scotch-Irish were 'bold frontiersmen'—and to comprehend why Matt Field said that James Kirker was 'a man of great enterprise and skill.'"

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THE MEMOIRS OF JARED L. SANDERSON, "STAGECOACH KING," PART V

[This is the final installment of these memoirs, the property of SFTA member David J. Dunning and printed here with his special permission. Anyone wishing to use any of the material in these memoirs must secure permission from him, PO Box 264, Elkins NH 03233, (603) 526-6939, e-mail: <dunmark@tds.net>. Thanks to Dunning and his family for sharing these for publication. For introductory information, please see the first and second installments.]

On Maxwell's Ranch, a tract of land ninety miles square, through which the trail ran. It took all of five hundred men to work this land. The house itself was a very grand one for that time and locality.

Maxwell owned some of the finest horses in the country and lived in every way like a ruler on this grand, though somewhat wild estate.

At times we were delayed on account of storms, and we always tried if possible to put up at Maxwell's. It was in reality a little village, complete in every respect. Large stone eating houses, stables and with it all an air of hospitality seldom seen. To a traveller taking this trip for the first time it was a great and pleasant surprise.

Maxwell himself, was a man of wonderful magnetic powers, and held sway alike over high and low, the traveller, the Mexican, the Indian. His possessions were princely. Immense flocks of sheep, forty thousand at one time, grazed on his land with little Mexican boys as shepherds, with the regulation Collie dog. He raised immense crops of hay and grain and being able to grind the wheat himself, owning his own gristmill, which he brought across the plains from St. Louis, added largely to his income.

He owned cattle by the thousands, yes, by the tens of thousands and horses by the thousands. There was a good market for all he raised, as he supplied all the forts in this neighborhood, and the stage company was no small customer of his. All of our passengers on our coaches were his paid guests, and the amount of feed for our horses and mules at the various stations near by was a large trade for him. He was very generous



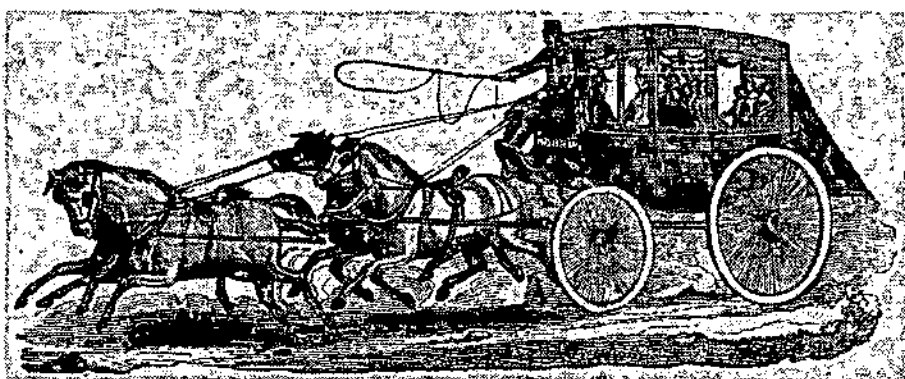
Jared L. Sanderson, age 91.

to everyone, and gave us the privilege of establishing other stations on his land with grazing pasture for our animals. He was a man with lots of money always, yet never seemed grasping or desirous of taking advantage of anyone. I remember several instances showing the largeness of his nature, a few of which I will record.

At one time, one of my messengers came in with several packages of money from his eastern markets. One of the packages had in some way become broken, and showed its contents plainly — a package of greenbacks. The messenger was much disturbed and was profuse with explanations. Maxwell took the other parcels from him, and pushing the broken one back to the messenger said: "There, don't worry, keep that for yourself, I think its worth that to cross the plains and bring that amount safely to me."

He did not seem to care for money for his individual use, he made it easily, and valued it as a token of success, and as a means to help others with. He was more like a kind father to the many shiftless, carefree Mexicans who shared his bounty.

At another time I was going on to Santa Fe, and Maxwell was on the coach. It was a six mule team, and the leaders were beauties and very fast, they skimmed along barely touching the ground. Maxwell wanted them, and asked me if I would sell them. Knowing I could re-



Stagecoach stamp used by Sanderson's Overland Stage Company.

place them at my next station, I said I would. "How much?" he asked. I replied "Six Hundred Dollars." There was no questioning on his part, but he immediately replied "I'll take them," and when we reached Las Vegas, he paid me the money. He started with them to Fort Stanton, ninety miles due south of Vegas, and reached there in twenty four hours. I kept on to Santa Fe, but the next time I saw him, he said, "Well, Sanderson, those mules are all right, I made the trip in quick time." He was a bold reckless driver, but never met with accident.

In 1867 there were discoveries of gold on the Maxwell Ranch, and the travel on our coaches was largely increased. It became such a rush we were obliged to add more coaches and the times were lively for all.

Prospectors rushed in, and for a while it was a bustling time. Some found good values, while many went back and sought new fields. Speculators took hold, and all of that genial pastoral atmosphere was lost in the made rush for gold. Maxwell sold out, and went to Fort Stanton, which place he made his home until he died. He was a kind hearted, generous man of noble impulses, born to be a ruler of men.

One hundred miles further on we reach Fort Union a large and well equipped government fort. These forts were supplied by us with mail and were themselves of great protection to us.

We journey on to Las Vegas, seventy five miles, a sort of big Mexican Ranch or Ranchers town. It was always somewhat of a pleasurable change to reach this town. There was a different phase of life here. The people were more alive and more varied in nationality and speech. The greater part of the population, however, were Mexican, with some Indians, a few Spanish, and some Americans. It is about seven miles from here that the mud baths are located. Even at this time they were

well known all over the country and sufferers came from all parts of the country for the cures they are noted for.

The Indians held these waters in high esteem and used to sit by the hour with their feet in the mud up to their knees. Rheumatism and all blood diseases were helped.

Everything then was crude and primitive. Log cabins and tents were often seen. Later years brought forth its improvements. The railroad company secured the springs and built large and commodious bathhouses, and on the top of the hill, a few minutes walk is the Montezuma or Phoenix Hotel, first named Montezuma, but after the fire, an even more beautiful hotel was built there, it was called The Phoenix.

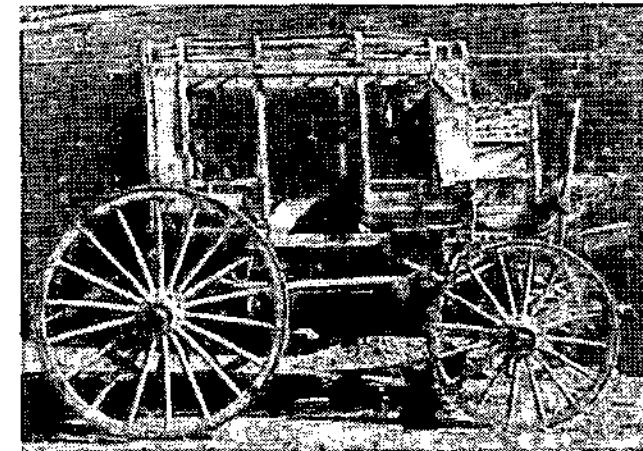
The name Las Vegas means "The Meadows," and it is a very fertile and beautiful spot on the hill where the hotel stands. The view is very fine. It is reached by a separate driveway and at every turn it looks to a stranger as though each succeeding view was more beautiful and extensive than the previous ones.

The families at the surrounding government forts make this place their home, when it was not considered safe for them to stay at the forts.

In the sixties this little city had quite a little business, mostly done by the Jews, while they relied upon the Indians and Mexicans for the trade.

It was here that a most interesting affair took place right among our own people. Among the passengers on the Overland Coach from Kansas City was a very beautiful young lady named Morton, from New York, who was suffering from lung trouble. Believing that the climate of New Mexico would benefit her, she left all behind, and came to Las Vegas. When she arrived there and saw the condition of the people, the desire to help them possessing her, she at once established schools, and whenever she found talent or a desire to improve oneself, she spared neither time nor money to help them.

I did not see her again for about a year, and was amazed at the change in her. She had grown strong and well, and in place of the shrinking delicate girl, was a robust, confident woman. Then I realized what had



Remains of a Sanderson stagecoach, reputedly used on the Santa Fe Trail.

brought about such a change. The wonderful climate had much to do with it, the absence from the many calls and duties of high civilization was a help, but as much as all else was the constant association with healthy natures and a forgetfulness of self and personal matters in the benefitting of others.

Las Vegas is now quite a city, has churches and schools and stores, but the work and influence of this seeker of health will never be forgotten.

Most of the people here were poor and ignorant, living in mud houses, sleeping on untanned skins of animals, the flesh of which has provided them with food. The dress was usually simply a petticoat and I have often seen them doing their simple family washing in the creek or river which runs through that city.

About fifty miles this side – east – of Santa Fe, is one of the garden spots of America. It was when I knew it one of the stage stations of The Overland Route. It lies in a beautiful valley with a fine growth of trees and a clear sparkling brook running through the land close by the house which was a adobe building, a remnant of former long ago Spanish occupancy. It was this place in early days the Spaniards first selected as the site for the City of Santa Fe, and beside some buildings for residence they built a large church or cathedral. This was all deserted for many years and ran to ruin and decay. Then a Pole named Kollooskie [Martin Kozlowski] took up this land and cultivated it and made a most attractive spot. The mountain trout caught and served fresh from the stream to the tired traveller, game of all kinds, sometimes it was bear meat, wild sheep, deer, antelope and even squirrels, and perhaps quail, for all of these abounded here, and Kosloskie was an ideal host and spared nothing in the entertainment of his guests, beside giving them a warm hearty welcome.

When the Santa Fe railroad pushed her engines into the front

ranks of travel, and crowded out into the background of life, the old stage coach, Kosloskie's ranch was left as one of its chief mourners, and in the very whisperings of its pines and the murmuring of its clear, well stocked stream, sighed for the days that were no more. Even the trout in those waters are not disturbed now for the train rushes by in its mad haste to reach Santa Fe. Weeds and sunflowers have taken the place of the well tiled garden of the Pole. Everything is still and only breathes of a past unknown to the present generations, and we unconsciously hum the words: "And the place that knew them shall know them no more.["]

Santa Fe the southern end of this route, was in 1860 a crude little city of about 4000 people, mostly low caste Mexicans or greasers, as they are called. The houses or huts in which they lived were of clay or mud called adobe. The streets were irregular and narrow and nothing attractive or inviting.

Father [Jean Baptiste] Lamy was the Bishop and all of the population was Catholic.

It was here, at this time, I received one of the pleasantest and most elaborate welcomes that I ever had. On the approach to Santa Fe of my private carriage, the general in charge of the Post sent out a company of cavalry with a band of musicians to escort us to the city where a fine banquet awaited us. The residents were in gala attire, and the whole city presented a holiday appearance. It was the first American outfit that had entered the city of Santa Fe for many years. [This is simply not true. Trade on the Santa Fe Trail had been growing since 1821, and stagecoach service had been regular into Santa Fe since 1850.]

Although my passenger list numbered but from ten to twenty daily, it soon changed the aspect of the city and the character of its population. Stores were established, mostly by Hebrew merchants, there was but one American firm, that of Johnson & Co.

The industry, the perseverance of the Jew, led largely to the advancement of this city's growth and importance.

Seligman Speilgelburg [Spiegle-

berg] soon had large and beautiful stores.

All of the farming was done by the most primitive methods. The Mexicans plowed, using a forked branch of the cottonwood tree. Immense flocks of sheep and goats were raised, the lower class Mexican living largely on the meat of the goat. It formed a large part of their sustenance. Such is the climate here that they are allowed to roam all winter in the hills.

Labor was cheap, in fact they did not know the value of money. A pretty bauble would content a greaser for his days work.

There were many relics of former civilization. We often found large stone houses crumbling to pieces. These homes looked as though in their day they had been well built. Occasionally an idol was found buried in the walls of the house. I have in my possession an old brass candle stick given me in 1865 by Bishop Lamy of Santa Fe, said to be 400 years old. It was formerly in the alter of an old Cathedral.

Mining, that had in former years been of such large return to the Spaniards, was then at standstill, and Santa Fe had reverted from its former glory in early days to the crudeness ever existing with the Indian and Mexican, only awaiting for the American to re establish the civilization and progression lost, when the Indian tired of his subjection to the rule of the Spaniard and never wanting anything but native's independence, asserted their rights and drove the Spaniards from the land.

There is a strange feeling that comes over one as they look at the ruins of a lost people, who years gone by have lived and enjoyed all the benefits of civilization, even as you and I today.

Ten miles south of Durango, we saw plainly all the signs of a system of irrigation, now so prevalent in the west.

I saw whole streets of houses gone to decay. Everything was neglected, forsaken and dirty. Scorpions lurked in every corner.

It was in Santa Fe in 1856 that Bishop Lamy established his mission and commenced his great work among the Mexicans.

SAMUEL PARKER: A FLEETING GLIMPSE

by David Clapsaddle

[Clapsaddle is president of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter and a frequent contributor to Wagon Tracks.]

THE lives of some frontier characters are well chronicled by way of journals, military records, newspapers, and family accounts. Others have only a paucity of data to document their lives. Such is the case of Samuel Parker who briefly appears in a local county history, a single letter from the commanding officer at Fort Larned, and one solitary sentence from *Fort Supply: Indian Territory*, a history of the post established in 1868. These few references provide a fleeting glimpse of Mr. Parker.

Compiling a centennial history of Pawnee County in 1876, Henry Booth, former post trader at Fort Larned and the principal founder of Pawnee County and the City of Larned, wrote in his verbose style, "In the meantime the Star of Empire was rolling westward, and in 1864 Samuel Parker, the advance courier of the hardy pioneers,—who were to develop this country and cause it to blossom as a rose—arrived and built a ranch on Pawnee Fork about one and a half miles above its mouth."¹

The year was 1864 and the location was just west of the Wet Route Crossing of the Santa Fe Trail on the Pawnee River. Not content with a single enterprise, Parker moved upstream about three miles to open a second ranche in 1865 near the Dry Route Crossing of the Santa Fe Trail on the Pawnee River three miles east of Fort Larned. In time, Parker sold the ranche to partners identified only as Fortat and Fletchfield who in turn sold out to Dwight and Wagginer. Finally, in 1867, Wagginer assumed full ownership of the ranche. In the same year, unidentified Indians raided the ranche, driving off the stock and burning the building. Thinking discretion to be the better part of valor, Wagginer sold the burnt-out remains of the ranche to A. H. Boyd and moved to safer quarters.²

How long Parker maintained the ranche near the Wet Route Crossing is not known, but he was still there

in 1867 according to the following letter.

Hd Qs Fort Larned, Kansas.

March 6th, 1867

To the Asst. Adjt. General Hd. Q. Dist
Upper Arkansas.

Sir,

In compliance with Gen. Orders No. 3 Hd Qs Dist Upper Arkansas, I have the honor to make the following report:

On last Thursday, the 28th of February, a small party of Cheyennes went to a ranch; kept by a man by the name of Parker, six (6) miles below this Post, and ordered him to cook supper for them. He had to comply and they, on finding he had no sugar to give them, threatened his life and would undoubtedly have killed one of his men, if he had not concealed himself. . . .

I am Sir Very Respectfully Your Obedt.
Srvt.

Henry Asbury, Capt 3rd US Infantry
Bvt Maj USA Commanding³

The next notice of Parker comes from court-martial records of May 21 and June 22, 1869, when 2nd Lt. B. F. Bell, 10th U. S. Cavalry, was arraigned and tried at Fort Harker on various charges. The 4th specification of Charge I reads, "In that 2nd Lieutenant B. F. Bell, 10th Regiment U. S. Cavalry, a person in the land forces of the U. S. did wrongfully and knowingly sell, convey, or dispose, to one Samuel Parker, one mule, the property of the U. S. furnished for the military service of the U. S. This at Fort Zarah, Kansas, on or about the 1st day of April, 1869."

The 2nd specification of Charge II reads, "In that 2nd Lieutenant B. F. Bell, 10th Cavalry, a commissioned officer in the military service of the U. S., having loaned or disposed of, to Samuel Parker, one mule, the property of the U. S., when called upon by his commanding officer to have the said mule returned to the government corral, replied that said mule was lost, which reply was willfully false and intended to deceive, within the knowledge of said Lieutenant Bell. This at Fort Zarah, Kansas, on or about the 5th day of April, 1869."

The 4th specification of charge III reads, "In that 2nd Lieutenant B. F. Bell, 10th Cavalry, a commissioned officer in the military service of the U. S. did say to one Lossé, a beef contractor for the Subsistence Department at Fort Zarah, Kansas, when asked by said Lossé to settle a dispute between him, Lossé, and one Samuel Parker, relative to the kill-

ing of two cattle, each of the parties claiming said cattle, the following words: 'If there is any money in this thing, I will decide in your favor,' or words to that effect, thereby intending to convey to said Lossé, the idea that if he, Lossé would bribe him (Lieutenant Bell), he (Lieutenant Bell) would decide in his (Lossé's) favor. This at Fort Zarah, Kansas, on or about the 27th day of February, 1869."

The 1st specification of charge IV reads, "In that 2nd Lieutenant B. F. Bell, 10th U. S. Cavalry, a commissioned officer in the military service of the United States, did, in an official communication addressed to his commanding officer, say: 'I consider Mr. Parker's present arrest an outrage and an injustice,' referring to an arrest made by his commanding officer. This at Fort Zarah, Kansas, on or about the 7th day of April, 1869."

The court found Lt. Bell not guilty on the above-mentioned specifications in Charge I. As to the specifications in charge III, the prosecution, in both instances entered a *nolle prosequi* (refuse to pursue). The court found Bell guilty in the above-mentioned in charge IV and in other charges not here discussed. Resultantly, Bell was "dismissed and cashiered" from the U. S. Army. While Parker, a civilian, was not a subject of the court-martial, at least on one occasion he was placed under arrest by Fort Zarah's commanding officer.⁴

In September 1869 Parker was in residence at Fort Supply, Indian Territory, where he had secured a contract to supply hay to the post. Evidently, he had other business interests, as Robert Carriker reported, "Samuel Parker, post hay contractor, was discovered to be doubling as a whiskey runner; trading his potent wares to the Indians for horses."⁵

As to the character of Samuel Parker, it would be safe to conclude that he did have a certain entrepreneurial streak as observed in his various places of residence at or near U. S. Army posts. On the frontier of the 1860s, opportunities for commercial ventures of any kind were largely limited to army posts and trading ranches. Such is seen in Parker's ranches near Fort Larned, his legal and illegal activities at Fort Supply, and whatever pursuits he

followed at Fort Zarah. As such, the author's speculation is that Parker may well be an archetype of those men who exploited the few resources available on the 19th-century frontier.

NOTES

1. Henry Booth, Centennial History of Pawnee County, unpublished, 1876, Santa Fe Trail Center Library.
2. David Clapsaddle, A. H. Boyd: *Entrepreneur of the Prairie* (Larned: Tiller and Toiler, n.d.).
3. Henry Asbury to AAG Dist. Of the Upper Arkansas, March 6, 1867, Letters Sent, Fort Larned, Fort Larned National Park Archives.
4. General Court-Martial Orders No. 56, Fort Larned National Historic Site Archives.
5. Robert Carriker, *Fort Supply: Indian Territory* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), 44.

CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES —BOOK NOTICES—

Hal Jackson, *Following the Royal Road: A Guide to the Historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006.. Pp. xviii + 227. Illustrations, maps, suggested readings, appendix, index. Paper, \$19.95, plus shipping, available from Last Chance Store.

Hal Jackson has produced a model guidebook for El Camino Real from San Juan Pueblo north of Santa Fe, NM, to Mexico City. The volume is enhanced with 56 maps, 50 illustrations, and several sidebars with detailed information about specific topics, including Juan de Oñate, acequias, genizaros, Jornada del Muerto, and mining of silver.

Approximately half the book is devoted to the Royal Road in the U.S. and the remainder to the route in Mexico. There is an appendix with information about travel in Mexico.

The directions, historical details, and maps are so precise and clear that any traveler will be able to find the Camino and an amazing array of historic sites. The entire historic road is worthy of attention, and this handsome volume is the essential guide to finding and enjoying the rich heritage of El Camino Real. There are special pleasures to be experienced at places where Oñate camped or crossed a stream. A trip to Zacatecas is recommended to everyone. Read this book and join Jackson's tour next year (see p. 4).

ITEMS LISTED IN MALCOLM CONN'S STORE LEDGER, COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS, 1859

MALCOLM Conn's "Stone Store" was a leading emporium on the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove, Kansas Territory. His two-story store was built in 1858, and Conn closed his business in Council Grove in 1864. For the story of this enterprise, see Mark L. Gardner, "Malcolm Conn: Merchant on the Trail," in *Wagon Tracks*, I (Feb. 1987): 7-8, also available at the SFTA web site under "Best of Wagon Tracks." The information below is taken from Conn's store ledger for the period May through December 1859. This is the only known ledger that survives from the business.

It was saved by Emily Conn Asendorf, trader Conn's granddaughter, and discovered by her son, James Conn Asendorf (who attended the Council Grove SFTA symposium) after her death. It had been stored in her home in Carthage, Missouri. The ledger is a bound leather book with lined paper. The first few pages were made into a scrapbook by subsequent members of the Conn family. The rest of the entries are mostly legible, intact, and in good condition. The exterior leather is fragile and crumbling.

The 1859 ledger was transcribed by Katie Davis Gardner, great-great-granddaughter of Malcolm Conn. The transcription was typed by her work study student from the University of Colorado, Angela Elorreaga, at the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. They tried not to duplicate objects listed but did restate them if an adjective set something substantially apart from the way it was listed in another area. The listing is in order as items appeared in the ledger, and no attempt was made to group items by type. Every effort was made to retain all abbreviations, original spelling, punctuation, and capitalization found in the ledger. A blank space (underlined>) indicates words found to be illegible. Occasionally they have put their interpretation in parentheses next to an abbreviated word, such as "Pikes Peak" for P.P. This list is printed to shed more light on the types of goods that were traveling on the Trail as well as offered for sale to traders, settlers in Council Grove, and the Kaw Indians who used the store as a trading post.

Special thanks are extended to Katie Davis Gardner and Angela Elorreaga for compiling and sharing this information.

Items Listed in Conn's Store Ledger

1 Bottle Claret
coffee
cotton hose
pearl buttons
tobacco
buckskin
1 box matches
books
socks
goose neck hoe
file
awls & handles
pocket knife
mackerell
tin bucket
cod fish
yds. Calico
nails
robe
cowbell
molasses
curry comb
sugar
salt
bacon
undershirt
candles
soda
bobbin silk
box & lid
shoes/ child shoes
razor strap
braser
cake soap
shaving brush
pills
tea
hat
platter
bushel dried peach
apples
ticking
cotton socks
postage stamps
child's stocking
gingham
cheese
fancy shirt
3 c stamp
stamped envelopes
days of labor
looking glass
box shaving cream
2 yds. Casinett
5 yds. Chick
box pills
bottle pectoral
hanks thread
garters
yds. Check
calico
flour
muslin
buttons
Irish linen
Salt
Eggs
Vest
peppermint

sack
rifle
butter
1 pr. Pants
crackers
pickles
bowls
tin cups
1 quart
letter paper
rice
kid gloves
spools thread
whiskey
1 tin milk strainer
bacon
1 pr. Books
1 box caps
1 jug
3 yds. Grey Flannel
vinegar
paper sacks
spade
2 doz. Glass
ladies shoes
cloths line
rope
starch
silk cravat
pr. Moccasins
1 white shirt
lariat
mdse. Rtn'd (merchandise returned)
hoe
2 papers garden seed
1 paper tacks
9 yds. print
1 pr. Drawers
1 yd. Drilling
3 papers of tobacco
writing paper
bottle ink
steel pins
1 bundle envelopes
comb
ball wrapping twine
1 flash & powder
castor oil
par egoril
1 bottle smiths tonic
1 bottle brandy
bacon ham
cigars
1 horse
wash tub
1 pr. Overalls
ball cotton twine
sponge
bell
linen coat
1 tub
starch & indago (indigo)
lock
1 ox whip
corn meal
axe handle
3 yds & ribbon
silk lining
1 yoke cattle
1 pipe & stem
set cups & saucers
½ lb. Alspice
butter laddle
tea pot
1 pr slippers

bridle
 pr. Gloves
 bottles morning call
 quinine morphine
 lumber
 raisins & candy
 12 in. file
 1 pr. Cork soles
 1 leghorn hat
 1 _____ carriage
 1 box mustard
 5 primmers (school books)
 Stationary
 2 school books
 Bitters & quinine
 1 bottle bitters
 2 ox yokes & bows
 1 pr. Calf boots
 2 sets knives & forks
 1 dr. cup (drinking)
 1 drawer lock
 1 _____ plates
 1 bar lead
 1 paper pins
 thimbles
 beans
 spring scales
 bolts & screws
 ladies garters
 needles
 2 yds towling
 4 yds table spread
 crackers & herring
 whet-stone
 grain cradle
 1 bottle Hales diarrhea mixture
 1 fancy coat
 pistol flask
 hatchet
 well bucket
 bottle gargling oil
 1 steer
 1 plow
 1 pick
 1 bottle Jamaca ginger (Jamaica)
 1 pr. Spurs
 cotton socks
 1 _____ martingales
 turpentine
 Tartaric acid
 Syringe
 Red oxide murcury (mercury)
 Jack knife
 Pine lumber
 1 molasses pitche (r)
 spool floss
 Robe & Fur a/c
 3 yds. Overall stuff
 3 yds. Check
 4 sheins silk
 2 ½ yds. Gila Plaid
 2 ½ yds linen
 1 pr. Linen pants
 1 belt
 1 oz. Blue Mass
 2 lights glass
 1 lb. Ginger nuts
 1 lg. Kettle
 1 box linament
 1 bed cord
 1 paper court plaster
 Ammunition
 14 lbs. dry hide
 # 5 plows
 # 12 breakers
 pepper sauce
 tomato catsup
 BlackBerry Brandy

Chery
 Cove Oysters
 Sardines
 Herring
 Box Pie Fruit
 Sacks Salt
 Pie plates
 1 sack dairy salt
 loaf sugar
 Norden map
 Riding whip
 Stirrup lariat
 1 can powder
 1 box Eleys Caps
 1 Buck shot
 1 knife scabbard
 2 brooms
 ½ # sage
 2 yds. Cambric
 2 yds. Swiss edging
 Raisins
 1 Brush hair
 1 maps P.P. (Pikes Peak)
 Hay rakes
 Ladies Slippers
 1 box cream tartar
 1 Ladies Belt
 1 box hair pins
 1 spoon
 1 canteen short
 11 # meal
 1 fine comb
 1 box Spts Nitro
 2 stooped pails
 1 box Bitters
 1 box tonic syrup
 1 goods box
 1 bed tick
 1 cow
 1 steer
 Saddle
 Labor
 Mule trade
 Digging basement
 Freighting
 Pony
 Ox
 Horse
 7 otter skins
 2 mink skins
 24 cat skins (& making cat robe)
 1 over shirt
 Memo book
 Pocket memo
 Molasses barrels
 1 ¾ yd. Twill cloth
 Bridle
 1 ½ yd. Gingham
 1 can tomatoes
 13# dried meat
 Smoking tobacco
 Chewing tobacco
 1 stick timber
 Empty barrel
 10# tallow
 1 pony traded for wagon
 1 money belt
 Dinner
 1 little skin (from robe & fur)
 1 tin bucket
 1 well bucket (to Indian Ed.L.)
 1 yard white drilling
 Ploughs
 Fancy moccasins
 Sircungle
 1 sett Double Harness
 Horsehire
 1 blanket

8# sugar
 2 plug tobacco
 1 Bot. Ink
 1 paper hooks & eyes
 1 spade
 2 bus. oats
 1 barn frame
 3 yds. blue drill
 Old lumber
 1 churn
 1 box Wrights pills
 1 chek cout
 2 ½ yds. osnabury
 1 linen coat
 Horseshoe nails
 1# almonds
 ¼ # cloves
 Matches
 1 glass syringe
 Scythe stone
 1 Hdkf (handkerchief)
 5 glass tumblers
 potatoes
 store pipe
 Cowbell & strap
 2 yds. Book Muslin
 2 yds. White Ribbon
 1 doz. Screws
 11 ½ # skillet
 1 coffee pot
 5 bowls
 1 wash basin
 1 tea pot
 1 2nd Hand Halter
 1 set teaspoons
 Calomel
 1 box Laudanum
 ½ # starch
 ½ set knives
 3 plates
 1 pair suspenders
 1 silk Hdkf
 1 neck Hdkf
 2 yards Vailing
 1 lawn necktie
 1 collar
 1 cow & calf
 1 froe
 1 can peaches
 1 bot Whiskey
 1 pair candle Moulds
 Wicking & spoons
 1 box Seidlet & Powders
 Mosquito Web & net
 1 wagon cover
 11 large wolfskins
 59 small wolfskins
 35 coon skins
 4 otter skins
 2 wildcat & Badger skins
 1 hoop skirt
 1 razor
 1 box yeast powder
 1 bot. Kathairun
 1 set plates
 1 set cups & saucers
 1 yd. Domestic
 Shaving outfit
 Printing cards
 Boards
 Plank
 Lumber
 6 yds. pant stuff
 1 doz. Buttons
 1 Gimlet
 1 set hoops (barrel)
 36 Deer Hair
 coffin

hollow auger
 Timber
 Lumber & trimming for coffin
 Siff back saw
 Hooks Hinges
 Curry comb & brush
 1 # Grain pepper
 Repair of plow
 Commission
 2 earthen jars
 1 faucet
 Bot. Turpentine
 Varnish
 Set Books
 1 auxle
 8 yds. lawn
 2 chalk lines
 1 wash board
 4 ½ yds. Factory
 3 yds. Jeans
 1 wooden pait
 1 copy book
 44 ½ yds. Sheeting
 1 pr. Calf boots
 1 bot. Extract lemon
 1 # figs
 1 canteen
 1 fiddlestring
 1 blank book
 bot. Lemon syrup
 paint & oil
 1 oz. Gum Arabic
 Tobacco
 Hats
 Fabric
 Tools/hardware
 Boots
 Butter
 Pills/ bitters/medicine
 Flour
 Molasses
 Soup
 Mackerel
 Crackers
 Twine
 Soap
 Candles
 Salt
 Coffee
 Apples
 Ammunition/powder
 1 pr. Drawers
 1 quire foolscap (paper)
 1 jug
 3 fans
 1 box Shallenberger pills
 1 pr. Mitts
 1 paint brush
 1 doz. Coffin screws
 3 yds. velvet
 15 ft. Black Walnut Lumber
 1 bot. Jamaica Ginger
 9 yds. Lawn
 2 doz shirt buttons
 1 pr. Gloves
 1 Palmleaf fans
 1 Ladies Collar & sleeves
 4 window sash
 Groceries
 1 bot. Oil spike
 1 Water keg
 1 shaving outfit
 1 whip lash
 Looking glass
 2 Jaconet
 1 yd. Berage
 2 Thimbles
 1 box Ayers Pills

2 pr. Kid gloves
 2 fawn skins
 Writing materials
 Ma
 Repairs on gun
 2 ½ yds. Oregon Sheeting
 Epsom salts
 1 bot. Expectorant
 1 bot. Sweet oil
 Calomel & Opium
 2 Bench screws
 3 Quires Sand paper
 1 bot. Sasparilla
 1 bot. Vermifugu
 Hand axe
 1 bot. R.R.R.
 1 metallic faucet
 1 box Palmflowers
 1 bot. Pain Killer
 1 Cholera mixture
 3 rolls Wadding (shotgun)
 1 gal. Fish oil
 1 can
 1 pr. Brogans
 1 Shut (Paste Board)
 1 amt. Bill for storage
 2 tin tumblers
 2 Rakes
 2 Snaths
 1 oz. Rhubarb
 ¼ oz. Bark
 1 Tromel
 1 Stone jar
 3 lead pencils
 25 corn sacks
 Candles
 1 red cord
 9 yds. Cotton
 1 box Blacking
 1 Whet stone
 1 pr. Gaiters
 1 bot. Tonic Syrup
 1 box Sardines
 2 Hickory Shirts
 1 melon
 1 knife
 2 powder flasks
 3 yds. Hickory
 ½ # Hemp twine
 1 Shovel
 1 Wash pan
 1 pr. Stirrup irons
 1 Ball Candle Wick
 1 square
 1 chisel
 1 paper Tacks
 1 Scythe & Snath
 1 woolen shirt
 2 Hay Forks
 2 # Buffalo meat
 1 Mexican Saddle
 1 oil stone
 1 bus. cornmeal
 1 Gun Sock
 4 Watermelons
 1 bot. O.B.B. (Bitters)
 1 Shot Gun
 4 yds. Flannel
 Solace Tobacco
 1 pr. Kip Boots
 Bitters Ginger & Calomel
 3 ½ yds. merino
 1 Blacking brush
 1 box blacking
 1 Gun Tube
 1 Bed stead
 1 pr. Boots
 1 pap. (paper) Con'd Powders

1 shot belt
 2 pr. Amer. Blue Blankets
 1 box palm flowers
 4 packs envelopes
 1 Vinegar Cruitt
 1 oz. Assoefetida
 1 bottle castor oil
 1 bottle Mustang Linament
 1 can Oysters & Crackers
 1 Cross Cut Saw
 2 yds. Cassinett
 2 Chambers
 8 # Butter Crackers
 1 # Starch
 10 # Gals. Vinegar
 10 # Crushed Sugar
 1 Lead Pencil
 1 Blk
 5 Foot Scrapers
 1 Bushel Apples
 To Making 3pr. Gloves
 Aloes and Rhubarb
 2 Bars Lead
 Buffalo Jug
 2 # Imperial Tea
 1 # Allspice
 2 plush caps
 1 pt. Peals foot oil
 1 Chomi (??) & Powder & Sulpher
 1 Hammer
 2 yds. Lindsey
 ¼ yd. Velvet
 6 Bottles Jaynes Alterative
 30 Watermelons
 1 Wooden Spicket
 1 Britch Clout
 1 Sand Stone
 13 # Shoulder Bacon
 1 Grey Horse, Troughs & Tack
 amt. Pd. For repair on Buggie
 1 pair Brass Bullet Moulds
 10 yds. Danask Curtain
 3 pr. Children Hose
 1 Roll Feuetting (Ferreting)
 ½ # Best Tea
 3 # Brass Kettles
 1 # Copperas
 1 Rifle
 9 Mail Registers
 41 # Harrow Teeth
 11 # Sheet Iron
 Paper Saleraters
 1 pr. Moccasins
 ½ Gall. Tar
 1 pr. Knitting needles
 1 Grey overcoat
 1 pc. Wood /o nailing wagon tongue
 1 3 pt. Blanket
 1 box Said litz Powder
 Buckskins
 1 Bot. Stomach Bitters
 1 Pad Lock
 1 Adds Eye Hammer
 1 Boot Box
 4 oz. Jallop
 1 pr. Cot. Drawers
 4 Deep Dishes
 1 pr. Buck gloves
 1 # Ground Pepper
 1 Bot. India Chulagagen
 1 Butcher knife
 1 Bot. Blk. B. Brandy
 1 Box Sardines
 2 Bottles Corn Whiskey
 Cloves
 ½ # Alum
 1 ox whip
 1 ½ yds. Delaino

2 small white dishes
 Frying Pan
 2 Log Chains
 Boreax
 Smoothing Plain (Plane)
 Hand Saw
 2 Quires Sand Paper
 3 Bottle Pale Brandy
 ½ yd. Satinet
 Buttons and Tape
 Hauling
 1 Reain Map
 1 Stirrup Strap
 1 Tin Lantern
 1 Lariat
 1 pc. of Store Pipe
 2 Mill files
 1 paper finishing nails
 4 yds. Bleached Muslin
 1 pc. pasteboard Trimmings
 2 oz. Pow'd Aloes
 1 Small Tin Bucket
 1 ½ inch Auger
 10 Gal. Linseed Oil & Can
 1 Key White Lead
 1 Paint Brush
 3 ¾ gals Turpentine & Can
 1 Sash Brush
 1 Bot. Ess: Lemon (Essence of Lemon)
 1 Pckg. Isinglass
 10 # Sheet Iron
 1 Can Lobsters
 1 pr. Gauntlets
 1 pr. Mitts
 1 Door Lock
 1 Belt
 2 ½ yds. Lindsey
 25 grains Quinine
 4 chairs
 1 Pair Otter Gloves
 pen & holder
 ½ # Saltpeter
 1 pair Congress Gaiters
 1 revolver
 1 Doz. Fine cut Tobacco
 2 Cupboard Locks
 1 pr. Buck lined gauntlets
 1 Ladies Belt
 1 Gravel Screen
 5 Shingles
 1 But. Bucks Sarsaparilla
 1 pr. Suspenders
 1 Sett Coffee Cups & Saucers
 1 Pork Barrel
 ½ # Sulpher
 1 Pair Yarn Socks
 16 Bunches Wadding
 24 inches Butts
 1 Scoop Shovel
 1 Comfort
 1 Bottle Rossess Pills
 Nutmegs
 1 Long Plane
 1 Mop Handle
 1 pr. Pants short
 1 Box Tin
 1 Doz. Strycnine
 1 50 ft. Fuse
 Gum Camphor
 4 ½ yds. bleached muslin
 1 yd. Allafranco
 1 Coffee Boiler
 1 ½ Window sash
 1 Chamber Pot
 1 pr. Drab Gauntlets
 48 ft. Walnut Lumber
 101 ft. Pine Lumber
 1 Gold Watch

1 yd. Fancy Flannel
 16 # Putty
 1 Boys Cap
 1 # Tea
 Goods box
 1 Butcher knife
 1 Stiring Plow
 1 Old Stone
 6 ps. Solace
 67 ½ # Green Hide
 2 Locks for Cellar
 1 axx & helve
 1 full suit of clothes
 1 # candles
 1 can oysters
 1 coffee mill
 4 tin plates
 4 tin cups
 1 tin pan
 Frying Pan
 1 skillet
 1 wooden Bucket
 32 Bus Meal
 12" butts, screws, locks
 1 doz clothes pins

THE CACHES —MUSEUM NEWS—

Paula Manini, editor

This column lists events and news from Trail sites, museums, and related organizations. Please send information following the format below. Be sure to include your address, phone number, and e-mail. The next column will list hours and activities scheduled for March through May. To be included, send information to Paula Manini at the Trinidad History Museum (see below) by January 10, 2007..

Arrow Rock State Historic Site

PO Box 1

Arrow Rock MO 65320

Telephone: 660-837-3330

E-mail: kborgman@iland.net

Websites: www.arrowrock.org;

www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm

- Visitor Center and Museum: call for winter hours.
- Christmas Folk Singing: December 3, 4 pm, Federated Church
- Christmas Candlelight Dinners: December 2, 9, 16, Arrow Rock Tavern. For reservations call 660-837-3200.

Barton County Museum & Village

PO Box 1091

Great Bend KS 67530

Telephone: 620-793-5125

Website: www.bartoncountymuseum.org

- Open Wednesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm; Saturday, 1-5 pm.
- Ghosts of Christmas Past in December; call for information.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

35110 Highway 194 East

La Junta CO 81050

Telephone: 719-383-5010

E-mail: rick_wallner@nps.gov

Website: www.nps.gov.beol

- Call for off-season hours and programs.

Boggsville Historic Site

PO Box 68

Las Animas CO 81054

Telephone: 719-456-1358

E-mail: boggsville67@yahoo.com

Website: www.bentcounty.org/site-sandcelebrations/historic/htm

- Open 10-4 daily for self-guided walking tours.

Boot Hill Museum

Front Street

Dodge City KS 67801

Telephone: 620-227-8188

E-mail: frontst@pld.com

Website: www.boothill.org

- Museum open 9 am-5 pm Monday-Saturday, and 1-5 pm Sunday. Admission charged.
- Boot Hill Cemetery, Boot Hill & Front Street. Open Monday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm and Sunday 1-5 pm.
- Santa Fe Trail Ruts nine miles west of Dodge City on US Hwy 400; markers and observation point. Open during daylight hours.

Cimarron Heritage Center Museum

PO Box 214

Boise City OK 73933

Telephone: 580-544-3479

E-mail: museum@ptsi.net

Website: www.ptsi.net/users/museum

- Open Monday-Saturday, 10 am-12 pm and 1-4 pm.

Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation

PO Box 728

Las Vegas NM 87701

Telephone: 505-425-8802

E-mail: historic@cybermesa.com

- Holiday Home Tour: Friday, December 1, 5 pm-8 pm. Tickets \$10 (\$5 children).
- Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair: Saturday, December 2.
- Third Annual Winter Fiesta, Electric Light Parade, and Luminaria Display: Saturday, December 2, at Luna Community College.
- United World College Winter Concert: Sunday, December 3

Friends of Arrow Rock

309 Main

Arrow Rock MO 65320

Telephone: 660-837-3231

E-mail: kborgman@iland.net

Websites: www.friendsar.org; www.arrowrock.org; www.lyceumtheatre.org

- Christmas Folk Songs: Sunday, December 3.
- Candlelight Dinners at Huston Tavern: December 2, 9, 16. Call for reservations.
- Village Holiday Lights: electric candles illuminate the village throughout December.

Fort Union National Monument

PO Box 127

Watrous NM 87753

Telephone: 505-425-8025

E-mail: debbie_archuleta@nps.gov

Website: www.nps.gov/foun

- Open daily, call for hours.
- Located 8 miles north of Interstate 25 at the end of NM Highway 161.

Gas and Historical Museum

Stevens County Historical Society

PO Box 87

Hugoton KS 67951

Telephone: 620-544-8751

E-mail: svcomus@pld.com

- Call for off-season hours and tours.

Herzstein Memorial Museum

Union County Historical Society

PO Box 75 (2nd & Walnut Sts.)

Clayton NM 88415

Telephone: 505-374-2977

E-mail: uchs@plateautel.net

- Call for off-season hours.

Historic Adobe Museum

PO Box 909 (300 E Oklahoma)

Ulysses, KS 67880

Telephone: 620-356-3009

E-mail: ulyksmus@pld.com

- Call for off-season hours.

Jefferson Nat. Expansion Memorial

11 N Fourth Street

St. Louis, MO 63102

Telephone: 314-655-1631

E-mail: tom_dewey@partner.nps.gov

Website: www.nps.gov/jeff

- Gateway Arch and Museum of Western Expansion open daily, 9 am-6 pm.
- Library open 8 am-4:30 pm.
- Old Courthouse open daily 8 am-4:30 pm.

Koshare Museum

Otero State Junior College

115 West 18th Street

La Junta, CO 81050

Telephone: 719-385-4411

E-mail: tina.wilcox@ojc.edu

Website: www.koshare.org

- Winter hours (through April): Tuesday, Thursday, Friday-Sunday, 12-5 pm, and Monday and Wednesday, 5-9 pm.
- Winter Ceremonials: Authentic American Indian dances. Show tickets include visit to the Museum. Performances December 27 & 31 at 4 pm; December 29-30 at 7 pm; and January 6-7 at 7 pm.
- Trading Post: online at website.

Morton County Hist. Society Museum

370 E Highway 56 (PO Box 1248)

Elkhart KS 67950

Telephone: 620-697-2833

E-mail: mtcomuseum@elkhart.com

Website: www.mtcoks.com/museum

- Open Tuesday-Friday 1-5 pm; weekends by appointment.

Otero Museum

706 W. Third St.

La Junta, CO 81050

Telephone: 719-384-7406

Cell phone: 719-980-3193

E-mail: oteromuseum@centurytel.net

- Call for off-season hours.

South Platte Valley Historical Society

PO Box 633

Fort Lupton CO 80621

Telephone: 303-857-2123

Website: www.spvhs.org

- Call for information and hours.

Trinidad History Museum

(Colorado Historical Society)

312 E Main (PO Box 377)

Trinidad CO 81082

Telephone: 719-846-7217

E-mail: paula.manini@state.co.us

Website: www.coloradohistory.org/hist_sites/trinidad

- Santa Fe Trail Museum open Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm.
- Baca House & Bloom Mansion open for groups of 12 or more with reservations
- Museum Bookstore open December 1-23, Monday-Saturday, 10 am-4 pm and by appointment.

POST OFFICE OAK

—LETTERS—

Editor:

Thanks for the great 20th Anniversary issue of *Wagon Tracks*! I really appreciated the historical columns from Marc Simmons, Ruth Olson Peters, and Hal Jackson because they helped me, a relative newcomer to the organization, match a name with a deed from the past. I think it's great to remember and give credit to the founders and early laborers of SFTA, many of whom are still active and contributing today.

Rod Podszus

PO Box 7539

Colorado Springs CO 80933

Editor:

Congratulations on an outstanding 20th Anniversary issue of *Wagon Tracks* and on your 20th anniversary as editor. Kudos also to Bonita for her work on the issues over the years. I received the issue yesterday and finished reading it this afternoon. It is an amazing gather-

ing and compilation of Council and Association history that is important to all of us in the SFTA. I know I will refer to it time and again, just as I have with many of the issues in my collection, beginning with volume one, of this valuable quarterly. Your efforts have contributed immeasurably to the vitality and longevity of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and its parent organization.

Phyllis S. Morgan
6001 Moon St NE #1923
Albuquerque NM 87111

It is writers such as you, Phyllis, who make WT a significant publication. I am only the editor who gathers and assembles, and enjoys. —Editor



HOOF PRINTS

—TRAIL TIDBITS—

La Junta, CO, has a Pike monument, a ceramic medallion sculpture of the explorer, similar to the larger bronze sculpture located at the Historic Arkansas Riverwalk in Pueblo. Both were created by artist Ken Williams.

The historic Trail building near Overbrook, KS, known as Simmons Point Stage Station, continues to deteriorate. Although it is on the national register, owner George Maichel has no plan to restore the building. If no one makes the effort, this important Trail site will soon be gone.

The New Mexico Santa Fe Trail Scenic Byway Alliance provides information and services, including publications and tours. Membership is available (\$10 for a *member*; \$25 for *pioneer*; \$50 for *explorer*; \$100 for *scout*); send to NMSFTNSBA, HCR 63 Box 313, Raton NM 87740.

The Colorado Department of Transportation has agreed to place four signs in Las Animas to direct visitors to Boggsville Historic Site.

Richard Loudon, who recently resigned from the SFTA board because of health problems, is undergoing therapy at the Life Care Center in Pueblo, CO. John Carson is filling in for Richard as coordinator for the 2007 Symposium.

SANTA FE TRAIL CROSSING OF MISSOURI RIVER AND THE BIG ARROW ROCK DISCOVERED

A Santa Fe Trail crossing of the Missouri River and the “big arrow rock” have been discovered by Rich and Deborah Lawson on their property in Saline County, Missouri. The site was discovered near their bluff-top property perched on the south side of the Missouri River, just north of historic Arrow Rock, Missouri.

After a great amount of research the couple discovered that this was the place noted during Lewis and Clark's expedition as “being a good place to cross the river, a good place for a town.” This was the place spoken of for the next 200 years as “the Arrow Rock.” As part of the greater Boone's Lick area this land daily recorded the footprints of Nathan and Daniel Boone, Kit Carson, William Clark, and many other notable statesmen and frontiersmen. If Missouri was the crossroads of the nation, as numerous authors suggest, then Arrow Rock and its Santa Fe Trail crossing was in fact an epicenter of America's commerce and growth in the early 1800s.

Ignoring the river brush, poison ivy, and snakes on the bluff, Rich said he was in awe of the incredible tall shade trees and a hilltop that was begging for a big log cabin. Unaware of the property's rich history, one day he wondered, “just how close did the river come to our newly acquired bluff?” Rich asked a good friend, Dr. William E. Foley (educator, author, and historian), how that might be determined. Dr. Foley had just released his book *Wilderness Journey*, so Rich knew he could point him in the right direction and he did. Dr. Foley suggested the information they sought was contained in the Harlan and Denny book *Atlas of Lewis and Clark in Missouri*. Locating a copy, the Lawsons soon discovered the river certainly did lap right up on their property and likely backed up in the valleys on the north and south sides. Rich noted with interest the comments logged by Lewis and Clark during the expedition and realized no doubt the Indians had been crossing here for hundreds of years. Suspicions still had not registered in regards to the Santa Fe Trail. They didn't know nor even suspect the historic importance of this site.



Rich & Debbie Lawson in the foreground of the location of Todd's Ferry, the Missouri River Crossing for the Santa Fe Trail, discovered on their property north of Arrow Rock, MO, in Saline County. In the 1820s the Missouri River flowed just behind them.

Rich says he didn't know how time-consuming information gathering would be, yet he found it both fun and rewarding. After much travel and reading hundreds of documents, he found that Judge David S. Todd, the first judge of Howard County, was the first owner of the river property. Todd bought the property from the state when land ownership was authorized in Missouri. It is interesting to note that David S. Todd's father was General Levi Todd, a well-known warrior in many early American theaters. He also was an uncle of Mary Todd Lincoln. One might wonder if politics had anything to do with a Howard countian purchasing property in Saline County that just happened to be so strategically located.

Devouring more historical documents, notations about licensing for “ferries” kept surfacing. In one of many early 1800's surveys Rich noticed that one of the license applicants owned land directly across the river from David Todd's ferry landing. At this point the thought occurred to him, “my gosh, if this was in fact an important crossing, it may well have been the crossing for the Santa Fe Trail.” If this were correct, then arguably David Todd's property was the first stop and one of the first gathering points on the Santa Fe Trail. Travelers left Franklin, Mis-

souri, led by William Becknell, passed by Cooper's Fort, crossed the river, gathered up the wagons on Todd's land, and headed up the gentle slope crossing the Todd property heading west to the Grand Pass. Rich says he has now pieced together that early route from his research and found that the Boone's Lick Road crossed onto the property on the north side of the Missouri where the ferry was located. The Santa Fe Trail overlaid it. Rich also believes a portion overlaid the Osage Trace, an age-old Indian highway.

They did not let themselves accept their initial suspicions. Their research indicated there were many ferries and this particular ferry may possibly hold no acclaim whatsoever. Rich backed into the information, researching all the ferries, assuming that any of them may have been the Santa Fe Trail crossing. Ferries which were not strategically located were eliminated first. Then, tracking license renewals, Rich quickly found that most of the ferries were in operation perhaps for only a season then never reopened. The ferry at the Todd location appears to have been in existence the longest and to have been operating prior to David Todd's ownership, some suggest as early as 1811. There is a long list of license applicants, including Todd himself. Records indicate that, even

though Todd owned the ferry, most of the time it was licensed by other people. In formulating a list of those license holders it could be that some of the Becknells, organizers of the Santa Fe Trail, held license for a period of time.

Crossing the river was treacherous and no doubt some who tried to cash in on the boom in Boone's Lick discovered it was not an easy business. The license identified the landing site, yet with the heavy current of the Missouri River a ferry operator no doubt often landed wherever he could. It is a fact that both Howard and Saline counties couldn't build roads fast enough to handle the river crossing traffic. David Todd then began buying up land on the north side of the river, including the ferry landing in Howard County. It is interesting to note that the Howard County elections were held at the ferry landing on at least one occasion, pointing out the importance of this ferry site. None of the river ferry sites should be confused with the Arrow Rock Landing.

The Arrow Rock Landing was not the ferry crossing point for the Santa Fe Trail. Runaway ferries may have landed there in desperation, but the Arrow Rock Landing was typically for the heavy steamboat traffic going up and down the river moving people and cargo from port to port. The Arrow Rock Landing is a significant historical site itself and presently is in discovery mode. More information can be found about Arrow Rock and the Boone's Lick area in Michael Dickey's *Arrow Rock: Crossroads of the Missouri Frontier*. His research and attention to detail makes a most informative account.

There has been long-standing confusion and speculation as to which bluff in the Arrow Rock area was the "big arrow rock" and which is the "little arrow rock." The "arrow rock" that Lewis and Clark spoke of, the "arrow rock" that is noted in hundreds of documents as a place of dynamic commerce, the "arrow rock" that is described by numerous early travelers—Bourgmont, Maximilian, and Duke Paul—is in fact the bluff on the Todd property just north a few feet and visible from Todd's ferry landing. A court document issued by Judge Todd commanded attendance, for the purpose of testimony, at his

ferry house in Saline County at "the big arrow rock."

Rich says this was an unexpected but pleasant find. This is the "*Pierre a Fleche*" (Rock of Arrows) noted on the 1732 map by cartographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville. On June 9, 1804, William Clark reported seeing several small streams or creeks joining the river below a bluff and the Prairie of Arrows. Small streams are on both the north and south side of the Todd property and the Prairie of Arrows is adjacent on the west of the Todd property. The huge rock bluff was no doubt an impressive sight to river travelers. It jutted out into the river and would have been easy to identify as "arrow rock" whether traveling up or down stream. Rich believes that when the bluff is cleared of river brush one will also be able to see that the bluff is shaped like an arrow head. Time will tell!

Although some of the face of the bluff was blown away during a quarrying effort in the 1900s, one can still identify pockets of flint which local Indians gathered to make arrow heads. These flint deposits were spoken of by several early explorers and travelers. Numerous floods and a couple hundred years of commerce and farming have left little evidence of the once active riverfront.

Rich, a limited partner with Edward Jones Investments, and Deborah, a teacher at Sterling Elementary School in Warrensburg, MO, intend to apply for certification as Trail property owners and provide suitable signage at the site. Studying the Santa Fe Trail is a regular unit of history and discovery covered by Deborah in her classroom.

Clearing away the brush along the bluff will again expose a natural feature spoken of in many early documents and more clearly expose "The Crossing" on the Santa Fe Trail.

COUNCIL TROVE —DOCUMENTS—

A TRAGIC FANDANGO STORY

Emily Kieta's "New Mexico Fandango" article in the May 2005 issue mentioned very few instances of violence at those gatherings. Some, however, at least in later years, resulted in fights and killings. The following incident occurred after the

Trail had been replaced by the railroad.

SFTA member Richard Poole forwarded a note from Ned Smith Raun, Stillwater, OK, who told of an 1881 fandango that ended in a gun fight, with three persons killed, including Raun's great-grandfather Albert "Frank" Smith. Raun noted that newspaper reports indicated "alcohol and insults were flowing freely, and the result was simply that some people got killed." The following article from the Las Vegas *Daily Optic*, January 17, 1881, was provided by SFTA member Alma Gregory. It is not a pleasant story. Thanks to Poole, Raun, and Gregory. The article appears as originally published.

A BATTLE AT A BAILE.

A Fierce Fight at a Mexican Fandango Ends Three Lives
And Stirs Up Another Bitter Feeling Between the Races.

Another very unfortunate misunderstanding between the American and Mexican factions occurred on Saturday evening at a baile, or dance, given by the latter named people of Las Mula, this county. The place is located on the Rio de la Paco, a tributary to the Rio Pecos and is some six miles

EAST OF OLD PECOS TOWN.

And distant about three miles from McPherson, a tie camp, at which a gang of Walsen & Levy's tie choppers are stationed. All of the above named places are in San Miguel county near its western boundary, and in an air line from Las Vegas cannot be over thirty or thirty-five miles in an almost westerly course. From the circumstances gathered by an OPTIC reporter, it appears that among the Americans who attended the fandango were two conspicuous young men named

"DOC" HODGES AND FRANK SMITH.

As is too frequently the case, a bitter feeling against the whites was engendered among the natives, and in the course of a few brief minutes a "free for all" row took place, and the sequel is that oft-told tale—human blood spilled to satiate the demands of unruly passions and life, held so dear to every one, taken to pay the awful penalty.

JUST HOW IT HAPPENED

Is not known to our informant, other

than that the two young Americans were murdered in cold blood, and that they, in self-defense, shot and killed one Mexican and wounded three others. The firing was quick and fatal. Hodges was shot twice through the head and once through the chest, and his body "snatched" by the infuriated populace. The remains were found outside of the pueblo yesterday,

BURNED ALMOST TO A CRISP

by a fire set by his enemies. Poor Smith was seen to fall in the *melee*, and when his friends rallied they could find nothing of him. Fearful that he had been killed outright, and his body hidden away, a diligent search was kept up all day yesterday, but to no avail. Early this morning a few unfaltering friends proceeded with the hunt and were successful in finding the remains in a piñon forest.

THE HARROWING SPECTACLE

That met their startled gaze was indeed a sad one. There upon the white snow lay what was left of their companion of two days previous—stiff in the cold embrace of the monster, Death. The corpse was perforated with bullets and the skull crushed in by heavy stones.

SUCH BEASTLY CRUELTY

Seems almost incredible, but the facts are more revolting than pen can portray. The indignation of the hardy tie choppers of Glorieta mountain is running at fever heat and war may result. The causes leading to the assassination of the two American victims of the fracas could never have justified their horrible fate, let it have been as aggravating as possibility could have allowed.

PIKE'S COLUMN

[This special column will continue as a series in Wagon Tracks until the close of the Pike Southwest Expedition Bicentennial activities in 2007. It features documents, articles, bibliography, and notes which tell the story of Pike, his expeditions, and related topics. Submissions are solicited for this column.]

There is one item for this issue, the fifteenth installment of Pike's journal. Keep informed with the Pike Bicentennial plans at <www.zeublonpike.org>.]



PIKE'S JOURNAL, PART XV

This reprint of Pike's journal of the expedition of 1806-1807 continues, starting with the entry for April 28, 1807, when they left Chihuahua.

Pike's Journal

28th April, Tuesday.—In the morning Malgares waited on us, and informed us he was to accompany us some distance on the route. After bidding adieu to all our friends, marched at a quarter past three o'clock, and encamped at nine o'clock at night at a spring—stony—passed near Chihuahua a small ridge of mountains, and there encamped in a hollow.

This day as we were riding along, Malgares rode up to me and informed me that the general had given orders that I should not be permitted to make any astronomical observations. To this I replied, that he well knew I never had attempted making any since I was conducted into the Spanish domains.

29th April, Wednesday.—Arrived at a settlement at eight o'clock—plenty of milk, &c. When about to make my journal, Malgares changed color, and informed me it was his orders I should not take notes, but added, you have a good memory, and when you get to Cogquilla you can bring it all up. At first I felt considerably indignant, and was on the point of refusing to comply; but thinking for a moment of the many politenesses I had received from his hands, induced me merely to bow assent with a smile, and we proceeded on our route, but had not proceeded far before I made a pretext to halt—established my boy

as a vedet, and sat down peaceably under a bush and made my notes, &c. This course I pursued ever after, not without some very considerable degree of trouble to separate myself from the party.

Arrived at the fort of St. Paul at eleven o'clock, situated on a small river of the same name, the course of which is north-east by south-west. At the time we were there the river was not wider than a mill stream, but sometimes it is three hundred yards wide and impassable. Distance 30 miles.

30th April, Thursday.—Marched at six o'clock, and at eleven arrived at the river Conchos 24 miles—beautiful green trees on its banks. I was taken very sick at half past ten o'clock.

Arrived at night at a small station on the river Conchos, fifteen leagues up said river. Distance 43 miles.

1st May, Friday.—Marched up the Conchos to its confluence with the river Florada [Rio Florido], 15 leagues from where we left the former river, and took up the latter, which bears from the Conchos S. 80° and 50° E. On its banks, are some very flourishing settlements, and they are well timbered. A poor miserable village [Santa Rosalia] at the confluence. Came ten miles up the Florada to dinner, and at night stopt at a private house. This property or plantation was valued formerly at 300,000 dollars, extending on the Florada from the small place we slept at on the last of April, 30 leagues up said river. Distance 45 miles.

Finding that a new species of discipline had taken place, and that the suspicions of my friend Malgares were much more acute than ever, I conceived it necessary to take some steps to secure the notes I had taken, which were clandestinely acquired. In the night I arose, and after making my men charge all their pieces well, I took my small books and rolled them up in small rolls, and tore a fine shirt to pieces, and wrapt it round the papers and put them down the barrels of the guns, until we just left room for the tompons, which were then carefully put in; the remainder we secured about our bodies under our shirts. This occupied about two hours, but was effected without discovery, and without sus-

pitions.

2d May, Saturday.—Marched early, and in four and a quarter hours arrived at Guaxequillo [Guajoquilla, present Jiménez]; situated on the river Florida, where we were to exchange our friend Malgares for captain Barelo [Captain Mariano Varela], who was a Mexican by birth, born near the capital, and entered as a cadet at Guaxequillo near twenty years past, and by his extraordinary merits (being a Creolian) had been promoted to captain, which was even by himself considered as his ultimate promotion. He was a gentleman in his manners-generous and frank; and I believe a good soldier.

3d May, Sunday.—At Guaxequillo the captain gave up his command to Malgares. At night the officers gave a ball, at which appeared at least sixty women, ten or a dozen of whom were very handsome. [This was Pike's fourth fandango.]

4th May, Monday.—Don Hymen Gulo [Guleo] arrived from Chihuahua, accompanied by a citizen and the friar, who had been arrested by order of the commandant general, and was on his way to Mexico for trial.

5th May, Tuesday.—The party marched with all the spare horses and baggage.

6th May, Wednesday.—Marched at five o'clock; ascended the river four miles, when we left it to our right and took off south 60°, east eight miles. [Pike left El Camino Real.] Our friend Malgares accompanied us a few miles, to whom we bad[e] an eternal adieu, if war does not bring us together in the field of battle opposed as the most deadly enemies, when our hearts acknowledge the greatest friendship. Halted at ten o'clock, and marched again at four. No water on the road; detached a Spanish soldier in search of some, who did not join us until 12 o'clock at night. Encamped in the open prairie; no wood or water except what the soldier brought us in gourds. The mules came up at eleven o'clock at night. Distance 30 miles.

7th May, Thursday.—Marched very early, wind fresh from the south. The punctuality of captain Barelo as to hours was remarkable. Arrived at half past nine o'clock at a spring, the first water from Guaxequillo. The mules did not unload, but continued

on 9 miles to another spring at the foot of a mountain—good pasturage round it—mountains on each side all day. Distance 28 miles.

8th May, Friday.—Marched at five miles due west, through a gap in the mountain, then turned S. 20° E. and more south to a river about twenty feet wide—high steep banks; now dry except in holes, but sometimes full and impassible. Halted at seven o'clock and sent on the loaded mules. Marched at five o'clock, came 10 miles and encamped without water. Distance 18 miles.

9th May, Saturday.—Marched between four and five o'clock and arrived at Pelia at eight. This is only a station for a few soldiers, but is surrounded by mines. At this place are two large warm springs, strongly impregnated with sulphur, and this is the water obliged to be used by the party who are stationed here. Here we remained all day. Captain Barelo had two beeves killed for his and my men and charged nothing to either. Here he received orders from the general to lead us through the wilderness to Montelovez, in order that we should not approximate to the frontiers of Mexico, which we should have done by the usual route of Patos, Paras, &c.

10th May, Sunday.—Marched past one copper mine now diligently worked. At this place the proprietor had 100,000 sheep, cattle, horses, &c. Arrived at the Cadena, a house built and occupied by a priest. It is situated on a small stream at the pass of the mountains called by the Spaniards the Door of the Prison, from its being surrounded by mountains. The proprietor was at Sumbraretto, distant six days march. This hacienda was obliged to furnish accommodations to all travellers.

Marched at five o'clock and passed the chain of mountains due east 12 miles, and encamped without water. Distance 31 miles.

11th May, Monday.—Marched and arrived at Maupemie at eight o'clock, a village situated at the foot of mountains of minerals, where they worked eight or nine mines. The mass of the people were naked and starved wretches. The proprietor of the mines gave us an elegant repast. Here the orders of Salcedo were explained to me by the captain. I re-

plied, that they excited my laughter, as there were disaffected persons sufficient to serve as guides should an army ever come into the country.

Came on three miles further, where were fig-trees and a fruit called by the French La Grain, situated on a little stream which flowed through the gardens, and formed a terrestrial paradise. Here we remained all day sleeping in the shade of the fig-trees, and at night continued our residence in the garden. We obliged the inhabitants with a ball [fifth fandango], who expressed great anxiety for a relief from their present distressed state and a change of government.

(continued next issue)

CAMP TALES

—CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

President D. Ray Blakeley
PO Box 222
Clayton NM 88415
(505) 374-2555

The chapter held a short business meeting following the Santa Fe Trail Tour hosted by the Cimarron Heritage Center on October 7. A special program was presented by Larry Melton, "The Eastern Part of the Santa Fe Trail—Missouri."

Texas Panhandle

Inactive.

Wagon Bed Spring

President Edward Dowell
602 E Wheat Ave
Ulysses KS 67880
(620) 356-4525

No report.

Heart of the Flint Hills

President Carol L. Retzer
4215 E 245th St
Lyndon KS 66451
(785) 828-3739
<carolretzer@direcway.com>

No report.

End of the Trail

La Alcaldesa Joy Poole
125 W Lupita Rd
Santa Fe NM 87505
(505) 820-7828
<amusejoy@aol.com>

The chapter joined the Santa Fe Westerners for a field trip to Forked Lightning Ranch within Pecos National Historic Park on September 23. On October 14 the chapter sponsored a field trip to El Camino Real Visitor Center and Fort Craig Na-

tional Historic Site, both south of Socorro. The November 18 meeting was at the El Dorado Community Room, with program by Joy Poole on recently-discovered memoirs and diaries of the Trail.

Corazón de los Caminos

President Bill Soderman
1003 Fifth St
Las Vegas NM 87701
(505) 425-9435
<bs38sod@hotmail.com>

Another year on the Trail comes to an end. We have had lots of field trips this year, some to familiar places and some to places not previously or recently visited. Plans are being made for next year and we hope to have our Events Calendar posted on our chapter's link on the new SFTA web site before the first meeting in March.

For information in the interim, please contact President Bill Soderman, Vice-President Faye Gaines at 505-485-2473, or Henri Vander Kolk, program chairman, 505-660-1781.

Our first meeting next year will be March 17, 1 p.m., downstairs at Charlie's Spic & Span Bakery in Las Vegas. Harry Myers, our new secretary and newsletter person, will speak about the Long Walk.

Wet/Dry Routes

President David Clapsaddle
215 Mann
Larned KS 67550
(620) 285-3295
<adsaddle@cox.net>

Sixty members and guests met for the summer meeting of the chapter on August 20 at the Clapsaddle residence in Larned for an old fashioned ice cream social. Announcements were made with regard to progress on the Zebulon Pike Plaza, the Larned Chamber of Commerce Coffee Hour to be held at the Plaza on August 24, and the Faye Anderson Award. Reports were made with regard to the placement of interpretive markers at Hogan's Ruts and the Pawnee Fork Crossing on the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road. Also discussed were registrations for the Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, the poster contest, and a committee to decorate for the brunch to be served at the dedication of the Zebulon Pike Plaza on October 29. Anita Graves was appointed to serve as chair of the decoration committee.

Preliminary plans were made for day trips to acquaint new members with the SFT in the chapter's area. The chapter voted to share the expense of placing markers at the Cimarron Crossing with the Dodge City/ Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter. Larry Mix presented a history of the chapter's marking program.

Following the business session a well-received program on 19th-century photography was presented by George Elmore, Ranger at Fort Larned National Historic Site.

The chapter met in conjunction with the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter on November 12 at the Dodge City Public Library. Reports were given on the dedication of Zebulon Pike Plaza, the day trips being conducted on the Santa Fe Trail in the chapter's area, and the Santa Fe Trail Poster Contest. President Clapsaddle reported on his visits to the St. Nicholas Elementary School and the Kinsley/Offerle Elementary School where he introduced the fifth-grade students to the poster contest and presented a program on the Trail. A report was also given about the recent presentation of Robert's Trunk the Dodge City schools. The Trunk is scheduled to be presented in the St. Nicholas, Kinsley/Offerle, and Larned schools in the near future.

A report was also given on the marking project. Small plaques in memory of deceased members were recently installed on existing markers to honor Cecil Johnson, Ron Nelson, Dr. Richard Dryden, and Howard Losey. In the future the same plaque will honor Louis Van Meter and Charles and Margaret Mix. The limestone markers and the interpretive sign for the Cimarron Crossing have been prepared and are ready for installation.

In other business, information regarding trips in the Larned area to visit Henry Booth locations and Santa Fe Trail sites to be conducted in the spring of 2007 was discussed. Also, in conjunction with Santa Fe Trail Days, an interpretive program by Larned's First Ladies will be presented at the Little Red House on May 1, 2007.

President Clapsaddle announced that six images from the recent exhibit during the Rendezvous, "Cross-

ings on the Santa Fe Trail in Kansas," will be on display at the Buckboard in Larned.

The chapter voted to discontinue the biennial seminar previously conducted in conjunction with the Fort Larned Old Guard annual meeting.

The winter meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2007, at Kinsley. A covered-dish dinner will be served, officers elected, and the Faye Anderson Award will be presented.



David Clapsaddle & Bill Bunyan installing survey camp interpretive sign.

Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

President Bill Bunyan
2207 McCoy
Dodge City KS 67801
(620) 227-8203

The summer meeting was a field trip to Elkhart, Middle Springs, Point of Rocks, and Morton County Historical Society Museum.

Working jointly with the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, our chapter helped place interpretive signs at the Point of Rocks site west of Dodge City, Lower Crossing, two Sibley survey sites, and Forts Mann and Atkinson.

The chapter met jointly with the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter on November 12 in Dodge City. New officers were elected for the coming year. The program was provided by Larry Corpus on "Diseases at Fort Larned, 1860-1861."

Missouri River Outfitters

President Roger Slusher
1421 South St
Lexington MO 64067
(660) 259-2900

<rslusher@yahoo.com>

The next chapter meeting is December 3 with a potluck lunch at the home of Roger and Sandy Slusher in Lexington, MO. Contact the Slushers for details.

Quivira

President Janel Cook
815 S St John
Lyons KS 67554
(620) 257-2918
<cqmuseum@hotmail.com>

On June 10, 2006, the chapter met at the Barton County Historical Society Museum in Great Bend. Bob Button presented information on the archaeology of Fort Zarah. Afterward the group spent a little time touring the museum before Bob took the group out to the original sites of the two forts.

On July 8, 2006, students from the Kansas School for the Blind visited the Little Arkansas Crossing complex. Britt and Linda Colle, Wilmer and Hazel Ekholm, Bernice Bengston, and John Conoboy from the National Park Service were on hand to provide the tour. Wilmer Ekholm brought out his entire collection of artifacts for the students to see and touch. The students were especially excited to visit the Marker Cottonwood where they joined hands to form a ring around the tree to get an idea of its size. They also threw stones into the Little Arkansas River and ravine to listen to the sound. This gave them an idea of how deep the ravine was. The students visited the Swanson Swales. For the more visually impaired students, a rope was stretched across the swales on the ground. The students were able to follow the rope and walk out among the swales. The rope also allowed them to feel how deep the swales really were. The students left to continue their trip west where they would encounter several other trails on their way to a convention in Salt Lake City. The Quivira Chapter is grateful to the Kansas School for the Blind for allowing their students to experience the Santa Fe Trail. They were a great group of kids and sponsors and we enjoyed meeting them.

On August 14 the chapter welcomed back Jack and Patricia Fletcher, who discussed the intersection of the Cherokee Trail and the Santa Fe Trail in McPherson



Last summer the oxen from Bent's Old Fort made a trip on the Trail, accompanied by a number of hikers (photo by Cynthia Holling-Morris of Gallery West Photography; Colorado Springs).

County. The meeting was co-hosted by the Cottonwood Chapter and was held at the Galva Community Room. The meeting was made possible by the work of Linda Andersen, director of the Galva Museum, and the members of the Galva Historical Society. We had at least 90 people in attendance to hear the Fletchers' presentation.

On August 27 Britt and Linda Colle accompanied John Conoboy, Andrea Sharon, Craig Crease, Ross Marshall, and Clive Siegle through the Quivira Chapter region on their trip to inventory all the Trail sites.

The chapter manned a booth at the Family History Fair in Salina on September 16. The event was sponsored by the Mormon Church to promote researching our ancestors. The theme was "Trails of Our Ancestors," so the Santa Fe Trail tied right in. This was a great opportunity to let some new faces know about the SFTA and the Quivira Chapter. The NPS brochure with the nice map of the Trail was a great conversation piece and most of the people who visited the booth took the opportunity to take one. We were also promoting the Rendezvous in Larned and had several inquiries about the events.

Cottonwood Crossing

President Steve Schmidt
1120 Cobblestone Ct
McPherson KS 67460
(620) 245-0715

The chapter board met June 22 in McPherson to plan future meetings. On July 24 a special board meeting was held in Lost Springs with members of the Sheilds family, owners of

the land where Lost Spring stage station was located. Discussion centered on possible development and changes at the site.

On August 14 a joint chapter meeting was held in Galva with the Quivira Chapter. A large group enjoyed the dinner and program by Jack Fletcher about the Cherokee Trail and where it joined the Santa Fe Trail south of Galva. Many people later went to the Empire marker two miles south of Galva and supposed location of the Running Turkey Rancho.

A board meeting on August 24 at McPherson made plans for a field trip to Diamond Springs with the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter. The tour, led by Don Cress of Council Grove on September 23, visited Diamond Springs and Six Mile Stage Station. After the tour they had dinner at the Hays House in Council Grove.

The board met October 12 in Newton to plan additional programs. On November 9 the chapter met in Galva. After dinner and a short business meeting (including election of officers for another year), the program was presented by Leo E. Oliva, "The Santa Fe Trail and Kansas Territory."

Bent's Fort

President Charlie Hutton
18300 Rd EE.5
Rocky Ford CO 81067
(719) 254-7266

Recent activities include a tour of the Manifer Ranch, educational meeting at the Otero Museum, and the dedication of the monument at

Pike's First View Site.

The chapter continues with planning for the 2007 Symposium in Trinidad, September 27-30, 2007 (see article on page 4 of this issue). The chapter is leading opposition to the army's proposed takeover of additional land for the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site (see insert in this issue).

NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue. Those received after this printing will appear in the next issue. If there is an error in this information, please send corrections to the editor. We thank you for your support. Membership rosters are available for \$5 postpaid from Last Chance Store.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Tarabino Inn B&B, 310 E 2nd St,
Trinidad CO 81082

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Charles Loomis, 1148 E Queens
Place, Kansas City MO 64131

Nancy & Howard Ziegenhorn, 5400
Windsor Rd, Fairway KS 66205

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Mike Dickey, PO Box 44, Arrow Rock
MO 65320

Harv Hisgen, 10060 Blue Sky Tr,
Conifer CO 80433

Wes Jackson, 2440 E Water Well Rd,
Salina KS 67401

Susan Pieper, PO Box 430, Rocky
Ford CO 81067

Ron Silverthorn, 37600 S Camino
Blanco, Wickenburg AZ 85390

Paula Steves, PO Box 2064, Angel
Fire NM 87710

Ernest Witucke, 9863 W Hawaii Dr,
Lakewood CO 80232

TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date, time, and activity. This is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in February, so send information for March and later to arrive by **January 20, 2007**. Other events are listed in articles and chapter reports. Thank you.

Dec. 1-2, 2006: Holiday Celebration at Bent's Old Fort, 719-383-5010.

Dec. 3, 2006: Missouri River Outfitters Chapter meeting at Slusher home in Lexington, MO.

Dec. 12, 2006: Annual Christmas Party at Cimarron Heritage Center Museum in Boise City, OK, 7:00 pm.

Jan. 14, 2007: Wet/Dry Routes Chapter meeting, Kinsley, KS.

Mar. 1-12, 2007: Tour of Camino Real in Mexico, led by Hal Jackson; details at <www.tourelcaminoreal.com>.

Mar. 17, 2007: SFTA Board meeting, La Junta, CO.

Mar. 17, 2007: Corazón Chapter meeting, Las Vegas, NM.

Sept. 27-30, 2007: SFTA symposium, Trinidad, CO.

LAST CHANCE STORE ONLINE

THE SFTA Last Chance Store is available online at <www.santafe-trail.org>. The list of items is expanding. Printed lists of offerings are no longer included in *Wagon Tracks*. A printed list will be sent to anyone on request: LCS, Box 1, Woodston KS 67675, <lcs@santafe-trail.org>, or 888-321-7341.

FROM THE EDITOR

We enjoyed seeing many Trail friends at Rendezvous. The Pike Plaza in Larned is a great addition to places to stop and visit along the Trail. The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter gets things done. Thanks also to the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned National Historic Site for an outstanding Rendezvous.

It has been an honor for me to present eight Pike programs in three months. There are more to come. The Pike Bicentennial has brought attention to a great American explorer whose accomplishments have long been overshadowed by Lewis and Clark. Just like the Santa Fe Trail, Zebulon Pike lives on!

Please visit the new SFTA web site <www.santafetrailorg> for Trail history, chapter information, Last Chance Store, and taking care of membership online.

Chapter reports for *Wagon Tracks* should be sent via e-mail or as an attachment directly to the editor by the deadline (20th of the month prior to the month of issue). These will be edited for style and space available. It is not your editor's job to go through chapter newsletters to see if something could be in *WT*.

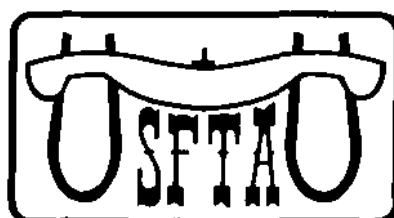
Harv Hisgen from the American Discovery Trail attended Rendezvous, and we hope to have more information about the ADT (which includes a major portion of the Santa Fe Trail in Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado) in *Wagon Tracks*.

Best wishes for the holidays and Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

Santa Fe Trail Association
PO Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675

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