

# Wagon Tracks

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Article 1

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2007

## Wagon Tracks. Volume 21, Issue 2 (February, 2007)

Santa Fe Trail Association

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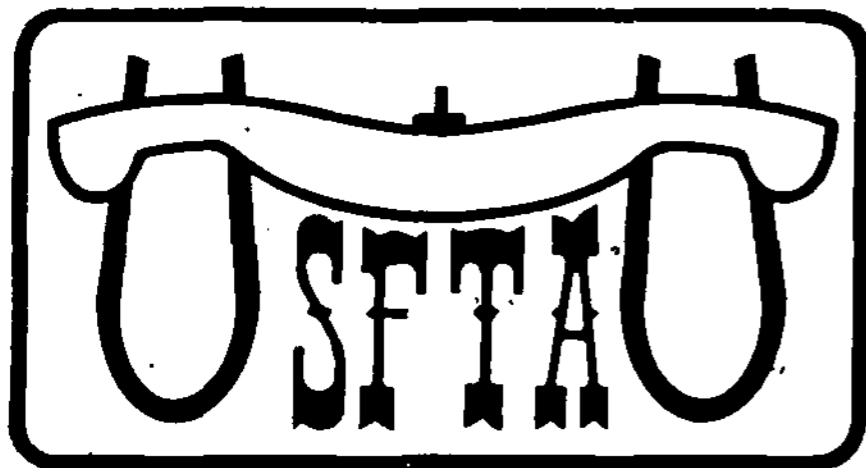
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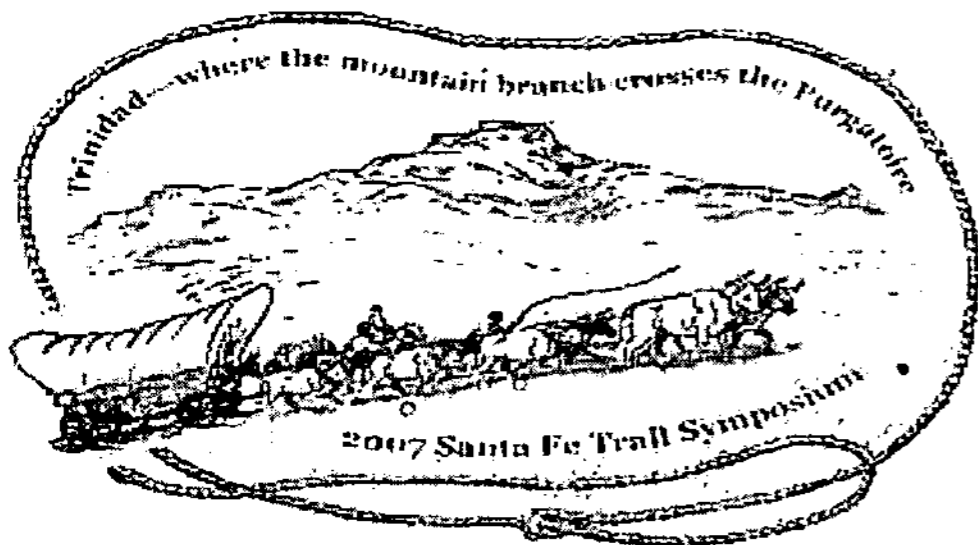
# WAGON TRACKS

**SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY**

VOLUME 21

FEBRUARY 2007

NUMBER 2



## SYMPOSIUM 2007 TRINIDAD, COLORADO SEPTEMBER 27-30

**"Where the Mountain Branch  
crosses the Purgatoire"**

IT'S time to "Catch Up" for the Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Trinidad, September 27-30. The Planning Committee cordially invites and encourages you to return to the site where the Santa Fe Trail Association planted its roots in the fall of 1986. It is hoped that this year's symposium will feature some of the old-time favorite characteristics of past symposiums along with introducing some new innovations to make this year's event an enjoyable, satisfying, and, in particular, an educational experience for all who choose to attend.

Events will commence Thursday afternoon with a series of tours being offered to registrants who wish to arrive in Trinidad before the formal presentations begin. The Planning Committee has arranged with the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site to tour the secluded, rarely accessible sites found on the present military reservation northeast of Trinidad. These sites will help tell the story of the Southern High Plains from the petroglyphs left by the earliest American Indians, who came into this area some 11,000 years ago, through the eras of the historic tribes who called the area home. Sites will be examined that illustrate the experiences of the Spanish and, later, Mexican citizens who moved through or into the area up through 1848. The American transition of the

(continued on page 4)

**SFTA BOARD MEETING  
LA JUNTA, COLORADO  
MARCH 17, 2007  
SFTA SYMPOSIUM  
TRINIDAD, COLORADO  
SEPTEMBER 27-30, 2007**

## HELP SAVE THE HISTORIC TRAIL IN COLORADO

THE U.S. Army is seeking to add more than 400,000 acres to the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site in southeast Colorado, including some 60 miles of the historic 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. For more information and to take action, please visit the web site at <[www.pinoncanyon.com](http://www.pinoncanyon.com)>.

## LARGE-PRINT EDITION AVAILABLE NOW

BEGINNING with this issue, a large-print edition of *Wagon Tracks* is available on request. The extra cost and postage will be provided by the Last Chance Store. Contact the editor, 888-321-7341.

## SFTA AND LAST CHANCE STORE ON THE INTERNET

MUCH information about SFTA, the chapters, and the Last Chance Store are available at the web site: <[www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org)>. It is possible to register for the symposium as well as order materials from the Last Chance Store online, using PayPal or a credit card. The Last Chance Store offers a monthly special and additional information each month via e-mail to everyone interested. Please contact the editor if you want to be included: <[editor@santafetrail.org](mailto:editor@santafetrail.org)>. To receive a printed copy of LCS items, call toll-free 888-321-7341.

## NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR SFTA OFFICERS AND BOARD

IT is time again to solicit nominations for SFTA officers and directors for terms beginning at the close of the symposium in September 2007. Positions open include president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and seven director positions (one from each Trail state—Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, and New Mexico—and one at-large).

Officers are elected for two-year terms and directors for four-year terms. SFTA bylaws specify that members of the board, except for the treasurer, may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The treasurer has no term limits. If someone has been appointed to complete a term because of a vacancy, the person is still eligible to be elected to two complete terms.

The following current officers are eligible for another term: President Joanne VanCoevern, Vice-President John Atkinson, Secretary Kathy Pickard, Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters, and these directors: At-Large Director Vernon Lohrentz, Colorado Director Dub Couch, Kansas Director Jeff Trotman, Missouri Director Alice Thompson, Oklahoma Director Tim Zwink, and Texas Director Robert Kincaid. New Mexico Director Faye Gaines is completing a second consecutive term and is not eligible for another at this time.

Any current member of SFTA may submit candidates for nomination. The bylaws charge the committee to seek at least two candidates for each expired or vacant position on the board and for each office.

To be considered, candidates must be a SFTA member in good standing, agree in writing to serve if elected, provide a brief one-paragraph biography which includes his/her Trail qualifications and experiences, and submit a one-paragraph statement of objectives for the SFTA.

(continued on page 4)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ONE of the best ways to get excited about the Santa Fe Trail is to get out and visit a few of the many remaining sites. I enjoyed having just that opportunity last November when my husband, Greg, and I joined up with the Santa Fe Trail Rediscovery Team in the Kansas City area. I had visited several of these sites before, but this time I got to see many that I had never seen. Having the opportunity to tag along as the Rediscovery Team set about its business was a wonderful experience and renewed my excitement for preserving, promoting, and protecting the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

There are no words to describe what it is like to stand on the banks of the Missouri River and imagine those boats coming up the river loaded with trade goods. I was also able to realize just what a difficult task it was to get those goods from the boats to the traders when I turned around and looked up the banks of the river. One of the highlights of the trip was to meet with Arrow Rock landowner Rich Lawson. Not only did he give us a guided tour of his land, he invited us into his home and prepared a wonderful lunch.

While at this Arrow Rock site, Association Manager Clive Siegle, pointed out a line of flint running through the large limestone cliff on the river's edge. Being in this secluded area made it easy to visualize American Indians coming to this site to procure flint to make arrow points and to trade. The Santa Fe Trail Rediscovery Team has been visiting sites all along the Trail. At each site they are photographing and doing an evaluation of the site. The team is compiling the information and will soon have their report ready. The digital images from this project can be used for many SFTA projects in the future.

Our education committee has had some very good news. Education Chairpersons Chris Day and Marcia Fox take a group of students on a tour of the Santa Fe Trail every other summer. As this group has grown, and time has passed, they found they are in desperate need to replace their camping tents. The Coleman Company, headquartered

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

Toll-free Phone: 888-321-7341

FAX: 785-425-6865

E-Mail: <editor@santafetrail.org>

Headquarters of the Santa Fe Trail Association are located at the office of Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned KS 67550; Office Manager Linda Revello.

Telephone: 620-285-2054

FAX: 620-285-7491

E-Mail: <trailassn@gbta.net>

Association Manager is Clive Siegle, 9908 Shoreview, Dallas TX 75238. Telephone: 214-349-7419

E-Mail: <cgsiegle@earthlink.net>

VISIT SFTA ON THE INTERNET

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

in Wichita, Kansas, is working with them on this project. We hope that as this tour group heads out this summer, they will have all new tents, thanks to the cooperation we are receiving from Coleman.

It is that time of year again when we need to be thinking about cost-share projects to propose to the National Park Service. In the past a few of these projects have been used to help fund the teacher workshops and traveling trunks as well as chapters' marking projects. If you have an idea for a project, or have questions about how they work, please contact Association Manager Clive Siegle at <cgsiegle@earthlink.net>.

It is also time to start thinking about elections of new officers and board members of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Deanne Wright has agreed to chair the nominating committee and will be seeking members to run for office in the near future. If you have a nomination, know someone who would be willing to serve, or would like to serve yourself, please contact her at <ddw@cablerocket.com>.

The Bent's Fort Chapter and residents of the Trinidad, Colorado, area are busy making plans for the upcoming SFTA Symposium, which will be held September 27-30. They are putting together a wonderful lineup of speakers, tours, and great food, so plan now to attend this great event. See the symposium information included in this issue of *Wagon Tracks* and sign up soon.

*WAGON TRACKS* (ISSN 1547-7703) is the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. Letters and articles are welcome, but they become the property of *WT* and may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. All rights reserved. Annual subscriptions are obtained through membership in SFTA; dues are set per calendar year. Checks should be made payable to the Santa Fe Trail Association and sent to the treasurer (address below).

### 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

**Editor:** Leo E. Oliva, PO Box 31, Woodston KS 67675, 888-321-7341, <editor@santafetrail.org>

**President:** Joanne VanCoevern, 4773 N Wasserman Way, Salina KS 67401, 785-825-8349, <jvancoevern@juno.com>

**Vice-President:** John Atkinson, 1113 Safari Dr, St Joseph MO 64506, 816-233-3924, <atkinson@stjoelive.com>

**Secretary:** Kathleen S. Pickard, 4001 N Crystal Springs Rd, Salina KS 67401, 785-309-0694, <kathpickard@hotmail.com>

**Treasurer:** Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned KS 67550, 620-285-2054, FAX 620-285-7491, <trailassn@gbta.net>

**2007 Symposium Coordinator:** Richard Loudon, PO Box 8, Branson CO 81027, 719-946-5513

**Publicity Coordinator:** Michael E. Pitel, PO Box 31386, Santa Fe NM 87594, 505-982-2704, <PitelTSNM@aol.com>

### Directors:

Clint Chambers, TX, 806-791-3612

Dub Couch, CO, 719-254-3000

Michael E. Dickey, MO, 660-837-3330

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Vernon Lohrentz, At-Large, 316-283-6361

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Sara Jane Richter, OK, 580-349-2357

Alice Anne Thompson, MO, 314-434-3982

Jeff Trotman, KS, 620-356-1854

Timothy A. Zwink, OK, 405-373-4513

Our spring board meeting and strategic plan retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2007, at Otero Junior College Student Center, La Junta, Colorado. The board meeting begins at 8:00 a.m., and the strategic plan retreat will follow in the afternoon. At the retreat we plan to look again at the Strategic Plan developed cooperatively with the National Park Service in 2003. We will evaluate what we have accomplished and will prioritize what is left to accomplish. In addition, we will discuss what new goals, projects, or tasks we need to add to the Strategic Plan that is used as a guide for the SFTA as we carry out our goal to preserve, protect, and promote the Santa Fe Trail. All members are welcome to attend the board meeting and retreat.

—Joanne VanCoevern

## H. DENNY DAVIS

by Gregory Franzwa

Is it with a great deal of sadness that we report the death of longtime SFTA member Denny Davis of Fayette, Missouri, on December 30, 2006. He was 79 and died of leukemia and fungal pneumonia at Cooper County Memorial Hospital. He is survived by his wife Barbara. Their only son, Tom, died of cancer a few years ago. Sincere sympathy is extended to family and friends.

Davis earned a degree in journalism at the University of Missouri and began working for newspapers. He spoke Spanish and Portuguese and served many years with United Press International, including time as bureau chief in Peru, Brazil, and Mexico. He came back to Missouri in 1978 and in 1984 he bought both weekly papers in his hometown, the *Fayette Advertiser* and *Democrat-Leader*. He published them with classic journalistic skill, endearing him to his subscribers.

Davis was a brilliant editor, and it was a rare week when one or another of his newspapers didn't contain a well-researched article on the history of the central Missouri area. He often stressed that the population of the area around Franklin in the 1820s was equal to that of the St. Louis area. Somewhere in our files there is a two-page center spread from one of his papers—a copy of an

early map of Howard County, with complete historical annotation. That wasn't an ad—it was a service to his readers. As far as historical knowledge is concerned, Howard County subscribers have to be the best educated people in Missouri. Davis wrote several pieces for *Wagon Tracks* over the years. He was inducted into the Missouri Press Association Hall of Fame in 2005.

Like many historians, Denny was stunned when the Santa Fe office of the National Park Service designated Arrow Rock as the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail. David Gaines, then head of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, refused to listen to Denny's explanation that the Trail was opened in 1821 from Old Franklin, not Arrow Rock. The promoters from the charming little town of Arrow Rock, several miles up the Missouri River from Old Franklin, had long sold T-shirts and other souvenirs hawking their historic town as the "Birthplace of the Santa Fe Trail," which rankled many historians because it simply wasn't true.

In consultation with myself, SFTA leaders, and many of his subscribers, Denny incorporated "Franklin or Bust," to convince the NPS that Franklin was where the Trail began in Missouri. When Davis showed the NPS people that Arrow Rock did not exist until 1829, eight years after William Becknell's pack train left from Franklin to open the Santa Fe Trail for some sixty years of immensely profitable commerce, the NPS reversed the stupid decision of Supt. Gaines and the plan was written to establish Old Franklin as the correct eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail.

The town of Franklin, thriving at the time of Becknell's trip, was on bottomlands, and the Missouri River had washed away all vestiges of it by the end of the decade. The improvement of river commerce and the Santa Fe Trail to the west caused the eastern terminus to be moved to Independence by 1827.

Denny continued to be of great service to the history of the Santa Fe Trail and Old Franklin. Our 1988 Santa Fe Trail survey team was escorted to historic sites by Denny, from Daniel Boone's historic Boonslick Spring to the east to the site of the Cooper's Fort on the bottom land

near the Arrow Rock crossing.

A few years ago, when SFTA President Hal Jackson suggested erecting a marker at the center of Old Franklin's town square, now just a grain field on the Missouri Bottoms, Denny and Leo Oliva developed a plan to erect a giant pole there. Denny made all the arrangements, and the marker pole was erected in March 2005 where it stands today. Denny Davis was a great friend of the Santa Fe Trail, highly respected by all who knew him, and he will be missed by many for a long time.

## DANIEL T. KIPP

Dan Kipp, Colorado Springs, a charter member of SFTA, died in early December 2006. From 1981 to 2006 he was General Manager of the Union Land and Grazing Company and oversaw the operation of two large working cattle ranches. One of these was the Fort Union Ranch surrounding the site of Fort Union National Monument and containing a long stretch of Santa Fe Trail remnants. He was a champion of SFTA from the beginning and encouraged the creation of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1987. The Fort Union Ranch remains a business member of SFTA today because of Kipp's support. He will be remembered for his stewardship of the land and the Trail. Condolences are extended to his wife Vicky and their family.

## ANOTHER CAMINO REAL TOUR, JUNE 14-25, 2007

HAL Jackson reports that his March tour on El Camino Real in Mexico, "Following the Footsteps of Juan de Oñate" (see details in last issue), is filled with a waiting list. He is offering another tour starting June 14.

For details, including itinerary, maps, photos, and registration information, go to <[www.tourelcamino.com](http://www.tourelcamino.com)>. This is a great opportunity to visit Mexico with excellent guides, and the price is a bargain.

MAKE YOUR MARK BY  
REMEMBERING THE  
SFTA IN YOUR WILL

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

(continued from page 1)

This information will be used by the nominating committee in choosing candidates. The biography and the statement of objectives (which may be edited for length) will accompany the ballot sent to the membership with the May issue of *Wagon Tracks*. Please consider running for a position on the board or finding someone else to serve.

**THE DEADLINE** for receiving suggestions for nominees and including all supporting materials is **April 2, 2007**. Send names and materials to Nominating Committee Chair Deanne Wright, PO Box 226, Council Grove KS 67846 or <ddw@cablerocket.com>.

## SYMPOSIUM 2007

(continued from page 1)

area's frontier will be highly evident from the earliest expeditions of Major Stephen Long's men and trade expeditions of William Becknell two years later through the heyday of the Trail's Mountain Route to the stagecoach era and to the later agriculture lifestyle which has been prominent throughout the area for over a century.

For those who would rather get acquainted with the City of Trinidad, there are a number of tours of the numerous museums, historic sites, and galleries in town. In an upcoming edition of *Wagon Tracks* the particulars of each of these will be offered.

On Friday and Saturday two tours along the area's branches of the Santa Fe Trail will be available to participants. One of the tours will be a 100-mile trek along the Military Freight Route in Southeastern Colorado and Northeastern New Mexico with about seven stops. The other will be a like-distance tour of the Mountain Route to the north and east heading toward the crossing of the Arkansas. There will, of course, be numerous discussions about the history of the area and specific incidents as the appropriate locations are encountered. Some of these discussions on the Military Freight Route will include the road building role of Kearny's Army of the West, Gray's Ranch, the Bents' agricultural ventures with the Hatches, Moo-

ney Hills, Becknell's Route, Trinchera and Manco Burro passes, the Willow Springs freight station, and Uncle Dick Wootton's Toll Station on Raton Pass. The Mountain Route Tour will head to the northeast out of Trinidad and examine such sites as the crossing of the Purgatoire, the various stopping and camping spots, dominated by such sites as Hole in the Rock and Iron Spring. The Timpas area and its Nature Walk will be visited and then we will move on to Sierra Vista for an exceptional view of the Santa Fe Trail and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. For both of these expeditions, the Planning Committee is working to try and make these not only educational and informative but also a true living experience for those who select to take these tours.

Thursday's activities will conclude with a reception held on the grounds of the Colorado Historical Society's Baca-Bloom Houses with food, entertainment, and plenty of time to catch up with old friends and new acquaintances.

Friday morning's activities will return to the campus of Trinidad State Junior College after a twenty-one year absence for what is hoped to be an educational experience which will satisfy and also whet the appetite of the audience. The Planning Committee has worked to build a mixed roster of outstanding speakers, both familiar and new, speaking in a formal setting or in a relaxed atmosphere. Following a discussion of Trinidad, its local history, and its many connections to the Santa Fe Trail by Roberta Cordova, Dr. Marc Simmons has consented to return to Trinidad to address the SFTA once again in his keynote presentation entitled "The Santa Fe Trail, Old And New." During the remainder of Friday morning and throughout Saturday morning, speakers from the Trinidad area and as far away as Pennsylvania will address such topics as The Military Freight Route, Hispanic merchants, local families such as the Baca Family and Hatch Family who paved the way for the Santa Fe Trail and future development of the area, and "Murder on The Trail." Historian and musician Mark Gardner will conclude the formal presentations on Saturday morning with his examination of the

Buffalo Hide Trade on the Santa Fe Trail. More specific summaries of each of these presentations will appear in the next *Wagon Tracks*. In addition, Harry Myers has agreed to demonstrate some of the old humor which would have been found on the Trail during its heyday and Marion Russell (portrayed by Noreen Riffe) and Kit Carson (portrayed by his great-grandson John Carson), have agreed to return to the Raton Pass area to tell of their experiences during the 19th century.

A major concern of the Bent's Fort Chapter, this Planning Committee, and the Santa Fe Trail Association over the past few years has been educating the youth of America on the role and importance of this vital highway of commerce. This year the area's schools have been invited to participate in "Harvesting History: A Santa Fe Trail Kids' Camp." We also extend this invitation to any of the symposium participants and/or their children. A bounty of history and culture will be available at the Baca House and the Santa Fe Trail Museum for all to enjoy on Friday. Participants will learn about American Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures during the Santa Fe Trail period. They will harvest the Baca Kitchen Garden, churn ice cream, make adobe bricks, play games, dance the Virginia Reel, dress in historic costumes, and create Trail art. They will also tour the Baca House and the Santa Fe Trail Museum. All activities will take place on Friday, September 28, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., for area fourth graders and symposium participants.

As you can see, there are numerous events, presentations, and activities scheduled for the weekend of September 27-30, 2007, when the Santa Fe Trail Association returns to Trinidad, Colorado. We invite you to examine the informational material, registration forms, and agenda on the 2007 Symposium in this and the upcoming *Wagon Tracks*. It is our sincere hope that you will be able to join us and your fellow Santa Fe Trail historians and enthusiasts at the place where the SFTA was created those short twenty-one years ago. It is time to "Catch Up!"

**PLAN NOW TO BE IN TRINIDAD  
SEPTEMBER 27-30- 2007**

## AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE JULY 1, 2007

**NOMINATIONS** are needed for the biennial SFTA awards to be presented at the Symposium in Trinidad, CO, in late September. All nominations must be postmarked by July 1, 2007. The awards are Award of Merit, Bentrup Ambassador Award, Rittenhouse Award, Heritage Preservation Award, Educator Award, Scholarship Award, and Marc Simmons Writing Award. Nominations should include details of why the person, group, or organization should receive the award and be no longer than one page. Nominations for the Award of Merit, Bentrup Ambassador Award, Rittenhouse Award, Heritage Preservation Award, and Scholarship Award should be sent to Leo E. Oliva, PO Box 31, Woodston KS 67675. Nominations for the Educator Award should be sent to Chris Day, PO Box 118, Wamego KS 66547. The Marc Simmons Writing Award, given for the best article in *Wagon Tracks*, vols. 19 and 20 (one for an edited document and the other for original research), will be selected by a special committee.

### AWARD OF MERIT (maximum of 8 awards)

This award, a recognition plaque, recognizes individuals, businesses, organizations, or groups who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the SFTA. The recipient may or may not be a member of SFTA.

### PAUL F. BENTRUP AMBASSADOR AWARD (maximum of 2 awards)

This award, a recognition plaque, is an honorary lifetime designation given to a member of the SFTA who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of the SFTA, development and dissemination of knowledge of Trail history, preservation of Trail sites or artifacts, or who has otherwise promoted an understanding of the Trail.

### JACK D. RITTENHOUSE MEMORIAL STAGECOACH AWARD (1 award)

This award is presented to a SFTA member for extraordinary lifetime achievement in research and writing about the Trail. The award includes

a recognition plaque, Santa Fe Trail Pendleton Blanket, and \$100 cash.

### HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD (maximum of 2 awards)

This award, a recognition plaque, is presented to landowners, leaseholders, or tenants of Trail ruts, remnants, structures, or sites, who have preserved and protected significant portions of the Trail or sites associated with the Trail, and provided public access.

### EDUCATOR AWARD (maximum of 2 awards)

This award, a recognition plaque and \$100, is presented for outstanding classroom teaching in two categories: elementary and secondary. Recipients are selected by the SFTA Education Committee. Each nomination packet must include a letter of nomination by someone in the SFTA who is familiar with the work of the educator, a synopsis of the teacher's work (project, unit, etc.) describing how it exemplifies creativity consistent with the Mission Statement of the SFTA, and a recommendation from the educator's immediate supervisor or administrator. Nominees need not be members of SFTA.

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD (1 undergraduate and 1 graduate)

This award, a recognition plaque, \$500, and a year's membership in SFTA, is presented for research papers about the Trail written by students at an institution of higher education. Nominations are by the professor in whose class the paper was written. Maximum length of papers is 25 pages, double-spaced, including documentation. Papers selected must be submitted to *Wagon Tracks* for publication.

## ARROW ROCK FACING HOG CONFINEMENT FACILITY

by Tom Hall

[Dr. Hall is a charter member of SFTA and president of the Friends of Arrow Rock.]

**T**HE citizens of Arrow Rock, Missouri, have learned that a landowner who operates a large-scale hog-confinement farm five miles north of Arrow Rock has applied for a permit to set up a new hog farm for 4,800 animals two miles west of Arrow Rock. The two large buildings, in

which the hogs in this operation would be confined, would be a little less than two miles west of the campground in Arrow Rock State Historic Site. The prevailing wind direction in the warm months is from the west. Odors from this hog farm would have a harmful effect on the town of Arrow Rock, Arrow Rock State Historic Site, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, the 15 businesses in the town (all of which are tourism-related), and the historic preservation and education efforts of the Friends of Arrow Rock. The Friends sponsor open-air programs for 4,000 school children annually, and a total of 150,000 people visit Arrow Rock every year.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has the authority to grant permits for these large-scale hog operations, and it is also the department that administers Missouri's state parks, including Arrow Rock State Historic Site. The Friends have communicated their opposition to granting this permit to numerous officials of the Missouri state government. An editorial in the January 14, 2007, issue of the *Columbia Tribune*, expressing opposition to the proposed hog farm, may be accessed at <<http://www.columbiatribune.com/2007/Jan/20070114Comm001.asp>>.

SFTA members are invited to voice their opposition to this threat to a major Trail site. For more information and addresses of officials to contact, please contact Friends of Arrow Rock Executive Director Kathy Borgman at <[kborgman@iland.net](mailto:kborgman@iland.net)> or 660-837-3231.

## HOOOF PRINTS

### —TRAIL TIDBITS—

The *Salina Journal*, Salina, KS, carried an outstanding feature article about Zebulon M. Pike's Southwest Expedition in the December 3, 2006, issue.

On November 15, 2006, a large monument was dedicated at the site of Zebulon M. Pike's "First View" of the mountain later named in his honor.

Hal Jackson and Leo E. Oliva will present a Pike Expedition program in Las Cruces, NM, March 18, 2007, 2:00 p.m., at Rio Grande Theatre.

## MARIE SAUTER: NEW FORT UNION SUPERINTENDENT

by Alma Gregory

[SFTA member Alma Gregory, Sappelo NM, is a writer and occasional contributor to WT. Thanks to her for introducing Supt. Sauter to our readers.]

**M**ARIE Frias Sauter became the new superintendent at Fort Union National Monument in August of 2006. She came to northern New Mexico from West Virginia where she worked at the C&O Canal National Historical Park for eleven years. No, she didn't actually drive the mules still pulling the canal boats—that was Rodney Sauter, also a National Park Service employee and the man who would become her husband.

"I am very particular about my career choices. This was an opportunity to become superintendent and was attractive on many levels," Sauter said. "I am delighted in discovering new things. I worked briefly at the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado so I had been up and down the I-25 corridor although I had not been to Fort Union. I have had lots of help from Dennis who hired me. That's Dennis Ditmanson. He is the General Superintendent of Pecos National Historical Park and Fort Union National Monument, and Superintendent of Pecos NHP."

There has been a direction in the National Park Service to group together parks and monuments for sharing resources, Sauter said. Fort Union and Pecos are part of the Intermountain Region which runs from Canada to Mexico, basically along the line of the Rocky Mountains. It includes some of the biggest parks in the system, such as Yellowstone.

Sauter said she also has had lots of support from the great staff at Fort Union—about a dozen full-time employees plus volunteers and the seasonal force, most of whom come in during the summer.

Beginning her career as a volunteer at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee in 1987, she has served at some of the most beautiful parks from the Rocky Mountains to Biscayne National Park in Florida. Shenandoah, in Vir-



Fort Union Supt. Marie Sauter

ginia, continues to be one of her favorites.

Sauter attended the year-end Corazón de los Caminos Chapter meeting in Las Vegas in November and looks forward to partnering with the Santa Fe Trail Association. One of her goals, she said, is to "take Fort Union back east—give it more exposure. After all, it really is an extension of the C&O Canal—the westward expansion runs through all of it."

She is still in "fact finding mode" about the different fort stories and the Santa Fe Trail. She credits her husband as being the real historian in the family and appreciates learning from him. He resigned from the Park Service after moving to New Mexico. They live in Las Vegas (with meow Miss Wow) where Rod, a volunteer firefighter, was recently hired as a 24/7 firefighter by the city of Las Vegas.

"Fort Union is a public site," Sauter said, "and that makes it a natural for a partnership with the Santa Fe Trail Association where many of the sites are on private land." Now she knows that a benefit of joining the Santa Fe Trail Association and a local chapter also gets her onto those private sites. Everyone in SFTA is invited to stop by Fort Union National Monument and meet Superintendent Sauter. We welcome her to the Trail and wish her well at Fort Union.

For more information on Fort Union National Monument, please visit <[www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)> or for any of the others, such as the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park, go to <[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)>.

## FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR 2007

June 9, 2007: First Fort Tours (normally closed to the public), 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. (tentative times).

July 21-22, 2007: Cultural Encounters at Fort Union (guest speakers and living-history programs and demonstrations).

August 25, 2007: An Evening at Fort Union (candlelight tours).

For more information, please contact Frank Torres at 505-425-8025.

## KAW COUNCILS 2007

The Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove, Kansas, will devote the 2007 Kaw Councils programs to "Our Fabulous Flint Hills: Flora, Fauna, Flint, Fire, Folks & Facts." Site administrator Mary Honeyman has put together a fine series, and she invites everyone to attend any or all of these presentations. All programs are free and open to the public and begin at 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 8: "The Kaw Nation Today." Betty Durkee.

Thursday, February 22: "Kansas Birds: Flint Hills in Flight," Roger Boyd.

Thursday, March 22: "Why Burn the Flint Hills: Not Just a Pyromaniac's Delight," Clenton Owensby.

Thursday, April 26: "Flint Hills Wildflowers & Grasses," Michael Haddock.

Thursday, May 24: "They Rallied on a Hill: The 1868 Cheyenne-Kanza Skirmish," Ron Parks.

Thursday, August 23: "What the Seas Left Behind: The Rocks and Fossils of the Flint Hills," Rex Buchanan.

Thursday, September 27: "They Would Destroy All the Game They Could: The Flint Hills and the Great Kansas Buffalo Hunt," Clive Siegle.

Thursday, October 25: "Santa Fe Trail Travelers' Views of the Flint Hills," Leo E. Oliva.

Thursday, November 15: "Flint Hills Cowboys: Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie," Jim Hoy.

OTHER 2007 KAW MISSION EVENTS  
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, June 16-18: Wah Shun Gah Days.

Sunday, August 19 - 6:30pm: Annual Band Concert & Ice Cream Social.

Thursday, December 6 - 6:30pm: A Kaw Mission Christmas.

## KIT CARSON, DICK WOOTTON, AND THE DEAD MULE

by David K. Clapsaddle



### ANOTHER RUT PRESERVED

FAYE Gaines, Chairperson of the Santa Fe Trail Association's Preservation Committee recently contacted David Clapsaddle, President of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, in regard to an inquiry from a concerned citizen with respect to a single rut of the Santa Fe Trail's original Dry Route which is still visible in the Hillside Cemetery three miles west of Kinsley, Kansas. The rut is one of several locations on this route where physical evidence of the Trail remains. Departing the Wet Route southwest of the Pawnee Fork crossing near present Larned at a site called Forks in Santa Fe Road, the road proceeded to Big Cow Creek one mile southwest of the cemetery and on to the celebrated Caches west of present Dodge City.

The rut marked by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter has been carefully preserved by board members of the cemetery. As explained by Ray Wetzel, cemetery sexton and Wet/Dry Routes member, a policy is in place which prohibits any graves in a thirty-foot width along the rut. However, some families which wish to have loved ones buried near the SFT have purchased lots adjacent to the thirty-foot strip.

Wetzel further states that the rut itself will become one of the roads to be developed in the rut area. Contrary to National Park Service edict, "the use of the rut as a road will ensure its longevity rather than its demise," Wetzel claims. Appropriate signage for the road is forthcoming.

Those interested in this particular site and the original Dry Route, are invited to visit [www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/](http://www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/) and link on to *A Directory of SFT Sites*. The original Dry Route has not been included in other sources, including the National Historic Santa Fe Trail administered by the National Park Service.

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

TUCKED away in the southwest corner of Barton County, Kansas, is a Dakota sandstone formation known as Pawnee Rock, perhaps the state's most prominent Santa Fe Trail landmark. Nearby is the town of the same name. Adjacent to the little municipality is a Kansas Historical Marker on K-156/US 56 which reads: "Here 17-year-old Kit Carson standing guard one night in 1826 shot his mule mistaking it for an Indian."<sup>1</sup>

The reference is to Christopher Carson, a runaway apprentice who was making his inaugural trip in 1826 on the Santa Fe Trail as a cavvy with a caravan captained by Charles Bent.<sup>2</sup> The story of young Carson shooting the mule was published in 1881 by Henry Inman in *Stories of the Old Santa Fe Trail*. Inman later included the tale in his 1897 edition of *The Old Santa Fe Trail*. It reads as follows.

"At dark the sentinels were placed in position, and to young Kit fell the important post immediately in front of the south face of the Rock, nearly two hundred yards from the corral; the others being at prominent points on top, and on the open prairie on either side. All who were not on duty had long since been snoring heavily, rolled up in their blankets and buffalo-ropes, when at about half-past eleven, one of the guard gave the alarm, 'Indians!' and ran the mules that were nearest him into the corral. In a moment the whole company turned out at the report of a rifle ringing on the clear night air, coming from the direction of the rock. The men had gathered at the opening to the corral, waiting for developments, when Kit came running in, and as soon as he was near enough, the colonel asked him whether he had seen any Indians. 'Yes,' Kit replied, 'I killed one of the red devils; I saw him fall!'

"The alarm proved to be false; there was no further disturbance that night, so the party returned to their beds, and the sentinels to their

several posts, Kit of course to his place in front of the Rock.

"Early the next morning, before breakfast even, all were so anxious to see Kit's dead Indian, that they went out *en masse* to where he was still stationed, and instead of finding a painted Pawnee, as was expected, they found the boy's riding mule dead, shot right through the head."<sup>3</sup>

A similar story appeared in *Uncle Dick Wootton* by H. L. Conard, Wootton's ghost writer, in 1890. In this account, Richens Lacy Wootton made his initial trip on the Santa Fe Trail in 1836 as a mule driver with a Charles Bent caravan. One May evening the caravan went into camp at Little Cow Creek near present Lyons, Kansas. Wootton's version of the incident follows:

"About one or two o'clock at night I heard a slight noise, and could see something moving about, sixty or seventy-five yards from where I was lying on the ground. I wasn't a coward, if I was a boy, and my hair didn't stand on end, although it may have raised up a little. Of course, the first thing I thought of was Indians, and the more I looked at the dark object creeping along toward the camp the more it looked to me like a blood-thirsty savage. I didn't get excited, although they tried to make me believe I was after-ward, but thought the matter over and made up my mind that whatever the thing was, it had no business out there. So I blazed away at it and down it dropped. The shot roused everybody in camp, and they all came running out with their guns in their hands to see what was up.

"I told them I had seen what I supposed was an Indian trying to slip into camp and I had killed him. Very cautiously several of the men crept down to where the supposed dead Indian was lying. I stood at my post and listened for their report, and by and by I hear one of the men say 'I'll be cussed if he haint killed Old Jack.' Old Jack was one of our lead mules. He had gotten loose and strayed outside the lines, and the result was that he met his death. I felt sorry about it, but the mule had disobeyed orders, you know, and I wasn't to

blame for killing him.<sup>4</sup>

The similarities between the story attributed to Carson and that of Wootton are striking. In both cases, the men were making their first trip on the Santa Fe Trail. Carson was seventeen years of age, Wootton a year older. Carson was employed as a cavvy, Wootton a mule driver. One distinct difference is that Carson shot his own mule. Wootton shot "Old Jack," a lead mule.

The author consulted eight separate biographies of Carson. All failed to so much as mention the mule-shooting incident with the exception of *Kit Carson A Portrait In Courage* by Morgan Estergreen. He wrote:

"Authors of old western romances tell of the 1826 Bent caravan's having an Indian scare at Pawnee Rock, wherein young Kit shot his mule instead of a Pawnee. This incident was also proclaimed by Jim Bridger, Buffalo Bill, Daniel Boone, and others. It was a perennial joke for the rough traders to tell of the green cavvy boy's first trip—their way of initiating the newcomer."<sup>5</sup>

Who then shot the mule? Perhaps Carson, perhaps Wootton, perhaps both. There is another possibility, perhaps neither.

#### NOTES

1. *Historical Markers in Kansas*, State Historical Society, State Highway Commission, Department of Economic Development, and the Kansas Turnpike Authority, no. 76, no date.
2. Stanley Vestal, *Kit Carson: The Happy Warrior of the Old West* (Chicago: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1928), 13-14. Cavvy comes from Spanish *caballaola*, herd of horses. The word has reference to a wrangler or herder. Winifred Blevins, comp., *The Wordsworth Dictionary of the American West* (Hertfordshire: Wordsworth Editions Ltd. Cumberland House, 1993), 48.
3. Henry Inman, *The Old Santa Fe Trail* (Lincoln: The Macmillan Company, 1897), 408-409.
4. Howard Louis Conard, *Uncle Dick Wootton* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1980), 25-26.
5. M. Morgan Estergreen, *Kit Carson, a Portrait in Courage* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962), 27.

#### POST OFFICE OAK —LETTERS—

Editor:

The story of the fatal fandango in the last issue mentioned it happened at Las Mula, west of Las Vegas and east of Pecos in New Mexico, a location which was not very specific. Af-

ter checking with several people and on the Internet, I can report that La Mula is a variant name for North San Ysidro. This is from GNIS (Geographic Names Information System, the definitive source for names in the U.S., a service of the USGS). Another variant name listed is Las Mulas. It's a settlement on Cow Creek, about 5 miles NW of Sands. Several other sources, including U.S. Soil Conservation Service, list "North San Ysidro (La Mula)."

Mike Najdowski  
1810 Conquistadora  
Santa Fe NM 87501

Editor:

This letter is in response to the insert prepared by the members of the Bent's Fort Chapter of SFTA that accompanied the November 2006 *Wagon Tracks*. I do not share the views expressed in this insert and find it necessary to discontinue membership in this association and chapter effective December 31, 2006.

I have no reason to doubt the numerous historical facts cited in this insert. Its author knows far more about the history of southeastern Colorado than I do. His historical analysis, however, is flawed. If the only reason for expanding Fort Carson's Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site was to give the U.S. Army control over a substantially greater number of acres of agricultural landscape, I would certainly agree with him.

The current population of southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, and the Oklahoma panhandle has forged a unique community among men on land that can be unforgiving. They should be praised and admired for their achievements predating statehood and territorial status.

The reality, however, is that the conflict in which we are presently engaged predates Columbus and finds its historical roots in the birth and rise to influence of Mohamed in the late seventh century AD. The intervening fourteen hundred years have seen numerous encounters between the forces of Christianity on the one hand and the forces of Islam on the other. In more than one of these encounters training alone has been the deciding factor in the outcome. What the U.S. Army proposes to do now by expanding Fort Carson's Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site is provide an area

of operations for training purposes that accurately simulates landscapes in south Asia and the eastern Mediterranean areas. Southeastern Colorado is uniquely suited for this purpose.

During October 1994 I visited Egypt, Israel, and Jordan. While traveling through Jordan I felt like I was in eastern Las Animas County, Colorado. The Juniper bushes, the dirt, even the sun were remarkable similar.

While there are those among us who believe that an end to the war in Iraq will conclude this much longer conflict between Christianity and Islam, I doubt the veracity of this belief. Adequate field training will not be the deciding factor in every future military conflict. It may, however, be one of the deciding factors in more than one future hostile encounter.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Robert Arko  
PO Box 722  
Trinidad CO 81082

*You are entitled to your opinion, but SFTA was founded to protect and preserve the Santa Fe Trail, not the nation or a particular religion. Does war justify a representative government's destruction of the history, culture, economy, and freedom of its own people?*

Editor

#### CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

##### —BOOK NOTICES—

Hampton Sides, *Blood and Thunder, An Epic of the American West*. New York: Doubleday, 2006. Pp. 461. Endpaper maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth, \$26.95 + shipping. Available from the Last Chance Store, \$29.00 postpaid.

Last fall Hampton Sides went on a whirlwind 18-city tour to promote his new *Blood and Thunder, An Epic of the American West*. Doubleday printed an initial run of 200,000 copies, the book briefly soared on the *New York Times* best-seller list, and a Hollywood movie deal is in the offing. It is nice to see, for a change, a book about the West receive so much attention.

Although one would never guess it from the title, the book focuses on Kit Carson, who becomes the central

player in Sides's narrative history of the Southwest, 1846-1868. Secondly, the Navajo Indians play a conspicuous role in the dramatic and often bloody events that highlight those violent years.

This period has been covered by numerous other writers, but perhaps none as eloquently as in *Blood and Thunder*. The author has the knack for drawing deft word-portraits of important figures, bringing them to life for readers. Especially memorable are the sketches of General Stephen W. Kearny, President James K. Polk, and Santa Fe Trail diarist Susan Shelby Magoffin.

The treatment of Carson here is generally favorable. Sides depicts him largely in sympathetic, even heroic terms. But, he refers to him in passing as "a natural born killer," which became "a cold-blooded killer" in the publisher's dust-jacket promo message.

One or the other of those unfortunate phrases crept into many of the high-profile reviews this book received. It reflects the late 20th-century popular invention that Kit Carson was utterly ruthless and a genocidal maniac.

Sides's larger aim is to show the workings of Manifest Destiny in the tumultuous Southwest, "an exceedingly tangled tale." Part of that story includes creation and development of the Santa Fe Trail as an overland trade route and inadvertently as a conduit for the transfer of cultural influences. The Trail's saga, he describes as "a compelling romance."

That a history book on the Southwest can attract a fair-sized national audience is in itself a good sign, suggesting that new titles on the subject will find a readership.

—Marc Simmons

• • • • •  
Lenore Carroll, *Uncertain Pilgrims: A Novel*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006. Pp. 219. Cloth, \$24.95 + shipping. Available from Last Chance Store, \$26.00 post-paid.

There are few novels about the Santa Fe Trail that merit respect or consideration from serious Trail aficionados, other than for pure escapist entertainment. Jon Bauman's recent *Santa Fe Passage* is a notable exception, and so is Lenore Carroll's

*Uncertain Pilgrims*. Carroll is especially interested in women in the frontier West, and her story is presented from a woman's point of view.

The main character, Carla Brancato, a single mother from Kansas City whose infant daughter and father have both died, sets out to follow her fascination with the Santa Fe Trail and frontier army posts as a way to escape, collect her thoughts, and try to get on with her broken life. Along the way she visits Forts Leavenworth, Riley, Larned, and Union, spends some time in Dodge City, Santa Fe, and a few other places before ending up in Arizona. At her first stop she meets up with elderly widower Dale Jackson (a real charmer who knows his feeble heart is about to do him in) and his son, Tom, who is taking his father on this last trek along the Trail. Dale and Carla both know the history of the Trail and the forts. At each place Carla tells the story of historic people and events (usually the story of a woman—sometimes the names have been changed and sometimes not as in the case of Libby Custer, Susan Shelby Magoffin, and Martha Summerhayes). One of the characters in the Fort Union story is Post Commander N. A. M. Dudley (please see next review below). Carroll deftly weaves some fiction into the historic tales.

Eventually Carla and Tom are attracted to each other, but each carries so much baggage (just like those who traveled the old Trail) it is very difficult for them to connect. In the end they go separate ways. It would spoil the journey to reveal all the details. You will have to read this book to find out.

This story is told well, and the tales of women along the Trail will make serious readers want to know more. Carroll, a member of the Kansas City Posse of The Westerners and the Civil War Roundtable, has done her research. The result is a good read and recommended.

• • • • •  
E. Donald Kaye, *Nathan Augustus Monroe Dudley, 1825-1910: Rogue, Hero, or Both?* Parker, CO: Outskirts Press, 2006. Pp. xiv + 99. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, appendices, index. Cloth, \$23.95; paper, \$12.95 plus shipping; available from Last Chance Store.

N. A. M. Dudley had a long and distinguished military career, beginning at age 15 in the Massachusetts militia and ending with the rank of Colonel of the First U.S. Cavalry when he retired in 1889 (advanced to brigadier general in retirement), that was filled with occasional discord and sometimes retribution by those who opposed him. As Kaye makes clear, Dudley "was a complicated character with many friends and some bitter enemies." A fellow officer wrote to a friend about Dudley's last promotion in 1885, "I guess you heard that Dudley made Colonel. The army bureaucracy is like a giant cesspool, where the biggest chunks rise to the top."

Dudley is best known for his partisan military decisions during the Lincoln County War in New Mexico, but his long and sometimes controversial career in the U.S. Army deserves further scrutiny (now available in this intriguing account). His persona is more fascinating than that of George A. Custer. Dudley compiled an admirable record in combat. He also faced hearings before courts-martial and a board of inquiry for some controversial decisions and actions. He was apparently fond of alcohol. Dudley finished his active duty as Colonel of the First Cavalry, serving in the West.

Dudley served in the Sioux Expedition led by General William S. Harney in 1857, Utah Expedition (Mormon War, 1857-1858), Civil War, and the Indian wars. In 1876 Dudley was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Ninth Cavalry (one of two Black cavalry regiments), serving in New Mexico. There Dudley and his troops were involved in the Lincoln County War. He also commanded Fort Union (the place Dudley is treated in Lenore Carroll's novel, see previous review) and served at various places on the Great Plains.

Donald Kaye provides keen insight into the actions and character of the enigmatic Dudley in this carefully researched and finely-crafted life history. This is not a life-and-times biography. Kaye assumes that most readers know about the broader picture of Western military history. He provides a bibliography for those who need more background or wish to pursue more fully some

historical incident in which Dudley was involved. He has concentrated on Dudley's story and told it well. Was Dudley a hero, rogue, or both? Read this colorful biography and decide for yourself.

• • • • •  
*The Memoirs of Jared L. Sanderson, "Stagecoach King."* Woodston, KS: Santa Fe Trail Association, 2007. Pp. X + 58. Illustrations, mileage chart, suggested readings. Paper, \$5 plus shipping. Available from the Last Chance Store for \$7 postpaid.

These memoirs appeared in the previous five issues of *Wagon Tracks* and are now available in book format. SFTA member David Dunning, owner of the Sanderson manuscript, has granted special permission for this publication. Special thanks are extended to Dunning and his family for making this available.

## SFTA FINANCE COMMITTEE

by Roberta Falkner

[Roberta Falkner, Prairie Village, KS, is a member of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter and an at-large member of the SFTA governing board. She is chair of the newly-formed Finance Committee. This is her introductory column, which we hope will become a regular feature of *Wagon Tracks*.]

I take this opportunity to introduce myself to the membership since I've not had a lot of opportunity to meet and get to know many of you. I'm very passionate about the Santa Fe Trail and its history, having grown up right on the Trail in Raytown, Missouri, only a few blocks from the Archibald Rice farmhouse built in the late 1830s. Marc Simmons and Hal Jackson, in their book, *Following the Santa Fe Trail: A Guide for Modern Travelers*, recount New Orleans journalist Matt Field's observations of the Rice plantation during a trip over the Santa Fe Trail in 1840: "About half a day's travel [from Independence] brings the Santa Fe bound traders past the flourishing plantation of Farmer Rice, where leisure travelers often linger to enjoy his sweet bacon, fresh eggs, new milk and other nutritious and unsophisticated luxuries that appease appetite without encumbering digestion."

As a child, I spent many pleasurable

hours exploring the area around Cave Spring, which is a little west and north of the Rice plantation. In *Following the Santa Fe Trail* Cave Spring is described as "a natural camping site furnished with a fine stream of water issuing from the mouth of a small limestone cave. SFT travelers in the early 1820s would have found it a good overnight stop. After Independence was established in 1827 wagon trains leaving Courthouse Square could conveniently 'noon' at Cave Spring before pushing on toward the Kansas border." As an adult I followed the Santa Fe Trail and moved across the "Kansas border" to Prairie Village.

My first official duty as a SFTA board member was to attend the board meeting in Trinidad, Colorado, in March 2006. I decided to drive from my home (a suburb of Kansas City) to Colorado so I could leisurely explore the Trail on my return trip. I made it as far as Wichita, Kansas, when I ran into an ice storm and decided to stay the night, hoping the weather would clear so I could continue my journey. As luck would have it, the roads were still icy in the morning, and after almost falling while trying to get to my parked car, I decided it would be best to return home. I love road trips and was excited about attending my first board meeting, but ice scares me to death—not only for my own safety but also for all the good people I may encounter on the roads. I was so disappointed, not only because I missed my first meeting but also because I lost out on the opportunity to meet all of you who were able to make it to Trinidad.

I was able to attend the board meeting and Rendezvous at Larned in October. It was a pleasure to meet many of you there.

As part of my board responsibilities, I chair the newly-formed Finance Committee and in that capacity recently sent, along with SFTA President Joanne VanCoevern, an end-of-year appeal letter. I asked several questions about what inspired you to join the Association and what we, as an Association, could do for you, our valued members. A heartfelt Thank You to each and every one who responded with your answers and with your generous monetary gifts (donors will be

recognized in the next issue).

If you were unable to respond to my questionnaire and would like to do so, please feel free to call me at 1-800-382-3665 and tell me which of the following reasons, in the order of their importance to you, prompted you to join the Association:

Help Preserve the Trail  
 Help Promote the Trail  
 Educate Others About the Trail  
 Learn More About the Trail  
 A Friend/Relative/Colleague Got Me Involved  
 Social Activities Through My Local Chapter  
 Hands-On Trail-Related Activities Through My Local Chapter  
 Attend a Symposium  
 Receive the Quarterly Newsletter (*Wagon Tracks*)  
 Other Benefits of Membership  
 I would love to hear from you.

I have another request of you. As chair of the Finance Committee, I want to put together an advisory group that will create investment strategies for the Association's funds. As good stewards of the funds you have entrusted to us, we want to make sure we have the best strategies in place so ensure optimal investment returns. Any of you who have a background or expertise in finance, investment banking, stock brokerage, any other related field, or just a genuine desire to help us create sound investment policies are invited to join as an advisory committee member. You don't need to live near the Kansas City area to do this. We'll get together via phone, email, or fax. If interested, please call me at 1-800-382-3665 and let me know.

At present, Rich Lawson of Warrensburg, MO, and SFTA Secretary Kathy Pickard, Salina, KS, have graciously agreed to serve in this advisory capacity, and I invite any of you with the qualifications I've outlined to join us in this important effort.

I feel privileged to be serving on the Association's board and doing my part to help preserve and promote the Trail while educating others about the momentous role the Trail played in our country's history. I hope to hear from you if you'd like to call me with your responses to the questionnaire or if you would serve as an advisory member of the Finance Committee. Thank you.

## BATTLE OF BLACK JACK ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL, JUNE 2, 1856: "FIRST BATTLE OF THE CIVIL WAR"

by William Addison Phillips, 1856

*[The Battle of Black Jack on the Santa Fe Trail east of Palmyra (present Baldwin City), Kansas, is considered by many to be the first battle of the Civil War. Although it was a minor skirmish, it was the first engagement between military forces representing the two sides in the struggle for control of Kansas Territory, the issues that led directly to the so-called Civil War, 1861-1865. At Black Jack the free-state militia was led by Captain John Brown, who was joined by another band of free-state militia led by Captain Samuel Shore, and the pro-slavery militia was led by Captain Henry Clay Pate. This engagement is commemorated at Black Jack State Park, which also contains fine Trail ruts. William A. Phillips published a book about Kansas Territory in 1856, including the following account of the battle. As part of the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of Kansas Territory (1854-1861) and the Trail, his account is reprinted here. So far as is known, this is the first time this chapter has been reproduced.]*

### INTRODUCTION

William Addison Phillips was active in the free-state cause in Kansas Territory and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He was a native of Scotland, where he was born in 1824 and spent his youth. He received an education before coming to the United States with his parents in 1839. The family settled on a farm in Illinois, where young William became interested in journalism. He worked for a local newspaper and later served as editor of the *Chester Herald* while studying law. Phillips was admitted to the bar in 1855 and left Illinois the same year.

Because he was fascinated with the struggle in Kansas Territory, which quickly turned into a violent contest over the issue of slavery, Phillips came to the territory in 1855, determined to be a strong advocate for the free-state cause. The pro-slavery men called all free-state supporters "abolitionists." Because of his newspaper background and reporting experience, he was hired as a special correspondent for Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*. Greeley

used his newspaper to promote anti-slavery everywhere and especially in Kansas Territory. In Kansas, Phillips wrote articles about the Missouri "border ruffians" who came into Kansas to vote for pro-slave candidates, gave vivid accounts of atrocities committed, and spent time traveling with free-state forces. He was a key witness for a special Congressional committee sent to investigate the troubles in Kansas Territory in 1856, and that committee concluded that the elections had been hijacked by Missouri voters and declared that the pro-slave territorial legislature, which was known as the "bogus legislature," was a fraud and an illegal body.

Of that legislature Phillips wrote: "If the outrageous fraud by which the Missourians pretended to elect representatives for Kansas astonished the world, the proceedings of the conclave of vagabonds, assembled under this mob authority, were still more astonishing. Never did a less responsible body of men assemble under the pretence of making laws." The "bogus legislature" proceeded to enact laws establishing and protecting slavery in the territory. This led to retaliation, acts of violence, organization of militia units on both sides, and warfare.

Phillips traveled for a time with John Brown's Pottawatomie Rifles, a free-state militia unit. He wrote a detailed account of the Battle of Black Jack, of which he was an eyewitness. His strong free-state opinions were published in a book in 1856, *The Conquest of Kansas by Missouri and Her Allies*, which reached a wide audience and served as a campaign document for Republican candidate John C. Frémont in the election of 1856. Frémont ran on a platform opposing the expansion of slavery into western territories, and he was defeated. Abraham Lincoln would be elected president on a similar platform in 1860.

In his book Phillips wrote, in the midst of the conflict: "But Kansas, though conquered by Missouri and her allies, is not yet subdued. Every vestige of popular liberty and constitutional privilege has, indeed, been

stricken down, but a liberty-loving people remain. Until that freedom-loving race has been 'wiped out,' there can be no peace and security for the power that has thus trampled on their rights, or for the institution of negro slavery, for the sake of which all this villany and wrong has been done. Liberty and independence do not exist in Kansas today, but a people loving these is upon her soil."

Phillips's powerful rhetoric helped persuade many readers. One of his friends later wrote, "His matchless and flaming pen and burning words, fired the hearts of millions all over the United States, awakening enthusiasm among the friends of freedom, and antagonism among the friends of slavery." Undoubtedly, Phillips would have been eliminated had he been captured by one of the pro-slavery militia units.

He continued to work for the free-state movement, supported the intervention of federal troops to bring about free elections in Kansas Territory, and helped expand settlement in the territory. In 1858 he was one of the founders of the town of Salina. He was elected a judge and served until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Phillips joined the Union Army and was appointed to the rank of major in the First Indian Home Guard. He rose to the rank of colonel and commanded the First Indian Brigade. He was a courageous officer and was wounded three times in battle. When the war ended, he came back to Kansas and was an attorney for the Cherokees who had remained loyal to the Union during the war. He was elected to the state legislature and later served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives (1873-1879). When he failed to win a fourth term, he retired from politics. He remained a friend and advocate of Indians who had served the Union, especially the Cherokees whom he had commanded during the Civil War.

Phillips died on Thanksgiving Day in 1893 at the home of his Cherokee friend, W. P. Ross, at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma. He was always proud of his role in making Kansas a

free state. He was apparently a friend of one or more of the founders Phillipsburg, Kansas, who honored him with the name of the town. His 1856 report of the Battle of Black Jack follows as he wrote it, *The Conquest of Kansas, by Missouri and Her Allies: A History of the Troubles in Kansas, from the Passage of the Organic Act until the Close of July, 1856* (Boston: Phillips, Sampson and Co., 1856), 331-342. It should be noted that, after the battle, prisoners were exchanged because neither side had facilities to hold them, and John Brown used that exchange to recover his two sons who had been captured earlier by Captain Pate.

### THE BATTLE OF BLACK JACK

Towards the close of May, 1856, Captain H. C. Pate, with his company of "Shannon's Sharp Shooters," went down towards Osawattomie. Their business may be inferred from a statement of the occurrence published in the *Lecompton Union*, by Mr. Brock, the first lieutenant of the company. He says: "We were going down to the southern part of the territory, expecting to see rattlesnakes and abolitionists, and took our guns along."

Captain Pate, however, pretended to be an officer under [U.S.] Marshal [Israel] Donaldson. Quite likely they belonged to the [territorial] "militia," as they had the United States arms belonging to the territory, but most of them, like their gallant captain, lived in Missouri. Captain Pate is a Virginian by birth. He is a good-looking fellow, and a man of intelligence. He has been engaged as an editor in Cincinnati, and has acted as the Kansas correspondent of the *Missouri Republican*; for which he provided pro-slavery versions of the occurrences in Kansas, he residing in Western Missouri. He is a violent pro-slavery man, and has been engaged in the lawless inroads on the territory ever since he has lived in the Missouri border. He was at the sacking of Lawrence, and distinguished himself chiefly by riding about on a fine horse, he being decorated with ribbons. It would be impossible to speak highly of the moral character of a man who has participated so actively in outrages on an intelligent and moral

people. He has the bearing of a gentleman, but is either the tool of a corrupt system, or is a very corrupt man.

Directly the reverse of this picture, in many respects, is a character I must now introduce,—old Captain Brown, or Captain John Brown, Sen. Captain Brown moved to the territory from the State of New York, early in 1855, but he is by birth a Vermonter. He is an old soldier, and was through the war of 1812. Tall and stern-looking, hard-featured and resolute, there is something in Captain Brown's air that speaks the soldier, every inch of him. He is not a man to be trifled with; and there is no one for whom the border ruffians entertain a more wholesome dread than Captain Brown. They hate him as they would a snake, but their hatred is composed nine tenths of fear. Although the captain is a practical man, he is one of those obtuse thinkers who have read much and *thought* more. In his opinions he is inexorably inflexible, and the world generally would pronounce him a "fanatic." He is one of those Christians who have not quite vanished from the face of the earth,—that is, he asks the blessing of God when he breaks his bread, and does not, even in camp, forget his devotions in his zeal against the border ruffians. There is not a more stern disciplinarian in Kansas; he is a regular martinet, and so carefully can he conceal his quarters, that, when you wish to find him when *he does not wish it*, you might as well hunt for a needle in a haystack as for Captain Brown. He is a strange, resolute, repulsive, iron-willed, inexorable old man. He stands like a solitary rock in a more mobile society, a fiery nature, and a cold temper, and a cool head,—a volcano beneath a covering of snow. Whether with reason or not, I cannot say, but he is regarded as a participator, if not leader in the Potawattomie affair [Potawattomie Massacre in which five pro-slavery settlers were killed in cold blood]; and, as the border ruffians desired to kill him, an object Captain Pate admits he had in view was "to capture Old Brown."

While near Osawattomie he contrived to seize two of the old

man's sons,—Captain John Brown, Jun., who was a member of the State Legislature [Topeka Constitution free-state legislature, not recognized by the Federal government], and Mr. Jason Brown. These were taken while quietly engaged in their avocations. Captain Brown, Jun., had been up with his company at Lawrence, immediately after the sacking of the place, and at the time the men at Potawattomie were killed. He had returned home when he saw he could not aid Lawrence, and quietly went to work. He and his brother Jason were taken by Pate; charged with murder; kept in irons in their camp, and treated with the greatest indignity and inhumanity. While Pate was thus taking people prisoners, without any legal authority or writs, he was joined by Captain Wood's [Thomas John Wood] company of dragoons [First U.S. Cavalry], who, so far from putting a stop to his violent career, aided him in it, and took from him, at his desire, the two prisoners, keeping them under guard in their camp, heavily ironed and harshly treated. While these companies were thus traveling close to each other Captain Pate's men burned the store of a man named Winer, a German, who was supposed to have been in the Potawattomie affair. They also burned the house of John Brown, Jun., in which, amongst a variety of household articles, a valuable library was consumed. They also burned the cabin of another of the Browns (the old captain has six grown sons), and also searched houses, menaced free-state settlers, and acted in a violent and lawless manner generally.

Not being able to find Captain Brown at Osawattomie, Pate's company and the troops started back again for the Santa Fe road. In the long march that intervened, under a hot sun, the two Browns, now in charge of the dragoons, and held without even the pretence of bogus law, were driven before the dragoons, chained like beasts. For twenty-five miles they thus suffered under the outrageous inhumanity. Nor was this all. John Brown, Jun., who had been excited by the wild stories of murder told against his father, by their enemies,

and who was of a sensitive mind, was unable to bear up against this and his treatment during the march, and afterwards, while confined in camp, startled his remorseless captors by the wild ravings of a maniac, while he lashed his chains in fury till the dull iron shone like polished steel.

To rescue his two sons from their captors became the determination of Captain Brown. Like a wolf robbed of its young, he stealthily, but resolutely watched for his foes, while he skirted through the thickets of the Merodesin [Marias de Cygnes] and Ottawa creeks. Perhaps it was a lurking dread of Captain Brown's rescuing the prisoners that made Captain Pate deliver them to the United States dragoons. The dragoons, with their prisoners, encamped on Middle Ottawa creek, while Pate went on with his men to the Santa Fe road, near Hickory Point. On the evening of Saturday, the 31st of May, he encamped on the head of a small branch or ravine, called Black Jack, from the kind of timber growing there. His camp was on the head of the ravine, in the edge of the prairie, not far from the Santa Fe road, but to the north of it. This camp was some five miles east of Palmyra, and nearly the same distance in a north north-easterly direction from Prairie city. The bottom of the ravine at Black Jack, besides the growing timber, had some deep water-drains or ruts, round which was a thicket; there were also several bogs on the spot where the camp was.

On the same night that they pitched tents on Black Jack, Pate's company attacked and plundered the town of Palmyra. That night they only got arms and a few other articles. They surprised the household of Mr. Barricklon, who keeps a store in the place, getting into the house before the inmates awoke. There were several men there, but no resistance was offered to Pate's men. Not being satisfied, the Missourians returned next morning and made a more thorough work of plundering. They took one keg of gunpowder, which was in the store, and blew it up in the Santa Fe road, just to gratify their reckless disposition. They loaded a

wagon with plunder, and started back for their camp. This was on Sunday morning.

On Saturday night Captain [Samuel T.] Shore had been out reconnoitering the enemy. Captain Shore is a free-state man, who came from Missouri. He was a member of the State [Topeka] Legislature of Kansas. He is a quiet man, but brave and resolute. He commanded the Prairie city company. The same night Dr. Graham, of Prairie city, along with a Mr. Barringer, went to Palmyra to reconnoiter. They knew that a band of Missourians was somewhere in the neighborhood, but did not know where. About nine o'clock at night the forces, coming to plunder Palmyra, came across these two men and took the doctor prisoner; Mr. Barringer escaped. The doctor was carried prisoner to their camp. They also took a Baptist preacher prisoner, the Rev. Father Moore. He was a free-state man, but came to the territory from Missouri. He was an old man, and was taken while riding down the Santa Fe road towards Westport. Some of his captors had known him in Missouri, and tormented him after they had made him prisoner, with a wicked refinement of cruelty. They knew he was opposed to drinking; so, when they had taken him prisoner, they seized his person, and, putting a tin funnel in his mouth, poured liquor down his throat,—the scoundrels swearing that they would "make the old preacher drunk." On Sunday they took another prisoner, a free-state man, who lived in that neighborhood, an Englishman named Lymer.

After dinner, on Sunday, Pate's men wanted to go over to Prairie city and plunder it. Pate attempted to dissuade them, but some of them would not be dissuaded. Amongst other things, they had stolen a number of horses from the free-state men. Prairie city is a small place yet, and, fancying that it would be easily taken, and that no resistance would be offered, six of Pate's men started on the expedition. At the time this party approached Prairie city, the people of that place and vicinity were congregated in the house of Dr. Graham, to hear preaching. They

"could watch as well as pray," however. There were some twenty men present, and most of them, after the old Revolutionary pattern, had gone to church with their guns on their shoulders. It was one of those primitive meetings which may often be found in the West, with the slight addition of its military aspects; simple and unostentatious garb; easy and primitive manners; a log house, the ribbed timbers of which gave a rough-cast look to the simple scene, with here and there the heavy octagon barrel of a long Western rifle, or the smooth barrel of a shot-gun, were visible where they leaned against the wall, ready for action. The worshippers were nearly through with their devotions, and the closing psalm was echoing through the timbers of that log house, to one of those quaint old melodies to be found in the *Missouri Harmony*, when the sacred strain was snapped by another "Missouri Harmony." A watcher entered, saying, "The Missourians!—they are coming!"

Never was a congregation dismissed on shorter notice. The holy man forgot the benediction in remembering his rifle. The six ruffians had galloped up, when the congregation, suddenly rushing out, surrounded them. Two of the number, who were a little back, wheeled their horses and galloped off, more than one bullet going whizzing after them; but, thanks to their fleet steeds, or their enemies' hurried shooting, they got off scathless, and got back and told a frightful story to Pate about the other men being killed—"horribly!" etc.

The other men were merely taken prisoners of war. One of them, however, had come very near getting his quietus. A son of Dr. Graham, a boy of about eleven years, seized his father's double-barrelled gun at the first alarm, and hurried out to the fence, and, poking his gun over the fence, the Missourians, who were thus all taken aback, being immediately outside it. The daring boy, with his Irish blood up, went within three rods of them, and, poking his gun over the fence, took deliberate aim at one of the men, and would have fired the next moment, when a free-

state man put aside his gun, and said, "Bub, what are you doing?"

"Going to shoot that fellow."

"You mustn't."

Bub shook his head and began to put up his gun again, muttering, "He's on pap's horse."

Bub remembered that his "pap" was then a prisoner in the enemy's camp, if not killed, and he felt that important interests were devolving on him, and must not be neglected. The names of three of the men taken were Forman, Luck and Hamilton; the name of the other I forget. They all live about Westport.

Through the whole of that Sunday night did Captain Brown's and Captain Shore's company hunt for Captain Pate, but their search was unsuccessful. As the gray dawn of Monday morning, June 2d, glimmered in, they had returned to Prairie city, when two scouts, Messrs. McAlliston and Hill, brought the tidings that the enemy was encamped on the Black Jack, some four or five miles off. A small party was left to guard the prisoners, and the remainder immediately took up their line of march for the enemy.

Of those who thus left Prairie city, Captain Shore's company numbered twenty men, himself included, and Captain Brown had nine men besides himself. They rode towards the Black Jack. Arrived within a mile of it, they left their horses and two of the men to guard them. They dispatched other two messengers, one to Palmyra for help, and another to Captain [James B.] Abbott's company, some eight miles off, on the Wakarusa. The remainder, twenty-six men all told, in two divisions, each captain having his own men, marched quietly forward on the enemy.

On Sunday night there were sixty men in the pro-slavery camp on the Black Jack. [Franklin] Coleman, the murderer of [Charles] Dow, and a number with him, had reinforced Pate. Late on Sunday night five or six pro-slavery men left the camp; but, on the morning of the second June, they had upwards of fifty well-armed men in martial array. Three or four wagons had been drawn up in a line, as a part

of breastwork, several rods out on the prairie from the ravine, and one of the tents was there. Such was the state of affairs when the outer picket-guard, about six o'clock in the morning, galloped in and reported, "The abolitionists are coming!"

"Where-how many?" and there were a hurrying to and fro, and seizing arms.

"Across the prairie-there's a hundred of them," cried the frightened border ruffian, whose fears had multiplied the approaching force by four, and who probably had never stopped to examine carefully or count, but had galloped off as soon as he caught the first glimpse of them.

Captain Pate's position at Black Jack was a very strong one. It afforded shelter for his men, and, except by a force coming up the ravine or stream from the timber at Hickory Point, had to be approached over open prairie, sloping up from the place where the Missourians were posted. When the alarm was sounded, Captain Pate drew up his men in line behind the breastwork of wagons.

When they neared the enemy's partition Captain Brown wished Shore to go to the left and get into the ravine below them, while he, with his force, would get into the upper or prairie part of the ravine, in the bottom of which was long grass. As the ravine made a bend, they would thus have got in range of the enemy on both sides, and had them in cross fire, without being in their own fire. Captain Brown, with his nine men, accordingly went to the right. Captain Shore, with more bravery than military skill, approached the foe over the hill to the west of their camp, marching over the prairie up within good range, fully exposed, and with no means of shelter near them.

"Who comes there? What do you want?" cried Captain Pate.

"When I get my men in line I'll show you," cried the gallant Captain Shore; and, true to his word, without waiting for or wanting any humbug parley, the gallant band poured in a volley on the Missourians, who were drawn up behind the wagons, the latter instantly re-

turning it.

Volley after volley pealed through the air, and echoed from the ravine at Black Jack away up to the dense timber at Hickory Point. Meantime, Captain Brown had hurried into the ravine on the right of Shore, and, posting his men well, began to discourse the "music of the spheres" from that quarter.

"We're whipped! We're whipped!" yelled the Missourians, before the battle had lasted ten minutes, and, breaking from the wagon, they retreated to the ravine and concealed themselves there, some seven or eight of them being wounded. One was shot through the mouth by a Sharpe's rifle bullet. He had been squatted behind the wagon wheel; the ball hit one of the spokes, shivering it, and the border ruffian, in trying the juggler's feat of catching it in his mouth, got it lodged somewhere away about the root of the tongue, or the back of his neck. Another was shot in the upper part of the breast, or the lower part of his neck, the bullet descending and lodging in his back. Another, Jim McGea, of Westport, was wounded in the most uncomfortable manner. He, with several others, who were also wounded, left their camp by the eastern side and rode away. . . .

After Pate's men retreated to the ravine, he endeavored to rally them, and a fire was kept up from the ravine where they lay concealed, and from which they could shoot in comparative security, although the bullets were whistling over their heads at a fearful rate. And soon the position of Captain Shore was found to be hazardous and critical; fully exposed to an enemy who could shoot at his men almost without running risk, they began to give way, and soon they had nearly all retreated some two hundred yards up the slope, on to the high ground where they were out of range.

Captain Shore, however, and two or three of his men, went over and joined Brown, where the force lay in the long grass, firing down the ravine. While this firing was going on, to little purpose on either side, Captain Brown went after the boys on the hill. Some few of them had

gone off after ammunition; one or two of them were sitting in the grass fixing their guns. Finding that they could not be brought up again to a charge, he led them rather nearer the enemy, and induced them to shoot at the horses of the enemy, which were over the ravine, at long shot. This he did to get up their spirits, as most of them were mere boys, and to intimidate the enemy. He returned to the ravine. The firing was still kept up. It is proper to state that Brown and Shore's men had but four guns of long range; there were only three or four Sharpe's rifles in both companies.

While the firing was going on, one of Pate's men got up and swore he would see to the prisoners. A guard had been stationed to watch the three prisoners, the tent in which they were being the most exposed part of the camp. This guard was in great trepidation. The prisoners had thrown themselves on the ground, and the trembling guard also lay down, taking care to get the person of Dr. Graham between his own precious carcass and the enemy. So matters were when the ruffian to whom I have alluded went to the tent with fierce oaths. Dr. Graham saw him approach with ferocious expression, and, just at that moment, the ruffian raised his pistol, aiming at the doctor, who gave a spring just as the piece went off; the ball hitting him in the side, inflicting a flesh wound. Graham sprang into the ditch of the ravine, and, as he did so, received another ball in his hip. He broke from the camp, and fled, fifteen pistol-shots being fired after him by the person who first attacked him and the guard. He got off without further injury, and joined his friends on the hill.

The firing had lasted three hours. Only two free-state men were wounded. One of these, Mr. Carpenter, was shot in the arm in the early part of the engagement. The other, Mr. Thompson, a young man with a great exuberance of spirits, kept springing up in the grass, shouting and firing his gun, when, on one of these occasions, he was struck by a ball in the side. Luckily it glanced off the ribs, or it would have killed him; as it was it inflicted a severe wound, and two of his

friends had to take him off the field. There were now only nine free-state men in the ravine keeping up the fire, and about as many more on the hill, three hundred yards from the enemy, who kept firing at the horses, and occasionally making a sally, but never near enough to do much mischief. Frederick Brown, one of the captain's sons, a half-witted lad, stood on the brow of the hill midway between the two divisions of the free-state force. He was in full view of the enemy, and had got a sword, which he was brandishing in the air, and shouting, "Come on!" as if he had a regiment behind him. His manoeuvres and demonstrations had a powerful effect on some of the most timid of the enemy. The pro-slavery men in the ravine were getting discouraged; they dared not venture out of their shelter, and the bullets were making ugly music in it. They knew that the free-state men might receive reinforcements at any moment. In this view of the case they began to drop off. One by one they would slip down the ravine till they were out of range, and then get their horses, which were on the eastern side, and gallop away. The free-state men had no cavalry force in the field, and no men to spare in any shape from where they were, or they would have prevented this. Some one or two of them had started off to get help the moment the party retreated to the ravine. Those who went subsequently pretended to be going for help, also; but there is no doubt their individual safety was the great consideration. One or two went off when they were wounded. In fact all the wounded pro-slavery men had thus ridden off but two, and these lay helpless, looking as if they might "go off" in another way.

The bravest man in the pro-slavery camp was a young Southerner, named James. Whether this was his first or second name I do not know; but he was a gallant fellow. The tent, where they had ammunition, was out of the ravine, and exposed to shot. To this James went, on several occasions, for supplies.

At last Captain Pate sent this James and their prisoner Lymer out with a flag of truce. These walked

up the slope together towards the free-state men, who, regarding the white flag as a surrender, ceased firing. When they reached Captain Brown, that personage demanded of James if he was captain of the company. James replied, "No."

"Then," said Captain Brown, "you stay here with me, and let Mr. Lymer go and bring him out. I will talk with him."

Thus summoned, Captain Pate came out; and, as he approached Captain Brown, began to say he was an officer under the United States Marshal, and that he wanted to explain this, as he supposed Capt. Brown would not continue to fight against him if he knew it. He was running on this way when Brown cut him short:

"Captain, I understand exactly what you are, and do not want to hear more about it. Have you a proposition to make to me?"

"Well, no-that is"

"Very well, captain," interrupted Brown, "I have one to make to you—that is, your unconditional surrender."

There was no evading this, and just as little chance to make a fool of old Brown, who, pistol in hand, returned with James and Captain Pate to their camp in the ravine, where he repeated his demand for the unconditional surrender of the whole company; which was complied with. There were only nine free-state men in the ravine, or in sight, when this was done; four of these, by Brown's orders, remained where they had been stationed. The rest, five, Captain Brown included, received the surrender of the arms and persons of twenty-one men, besides the wounded. A large number of arms were obtained, some of which had been taken from Lawrence, and some at Palmyra, twenty-three horses and mules (some of the horses had been killed by the boys when firing at them from the hill), wagons, provisions, camp equipage, and a considerable portion of the plunder taken at Palmyra, and some of that taken during the sack of Lawrence. One drum, that was taken, was riddled with bullet-holes, and all the wagons were more or less injured by the bullets.

The prisoners being now disarmed were ranged in file by the slender band of captors. The boys on the hill were induced to come in, swelling the free-state force to sixteen; and soon the remainder of those who had been in the battle when it commenced began to crowd in, as did many others. In about half an hour after the surrender, Captain Abbott, who had commanded the company who rescued Branson, and who now commanded a company from the Wakarusa, of fifty men, came up with his company. Brown marched with the prisoners and spoils for his own camp. All of that afternoon men were coming in; but the game was over. Towards night those who had started from Lawrence began to get to Brown's camp. The wounded pro-slavery men were taken to the residence of Dr. Graham, at Prairie city, and the doctor, though wounded himself, attended to them, as did others. It was expected that two of the Missourians would certainly die.

## COUNCIL TROVE

### -DOCUMENTS-

Newspaper accounts of the Trail keep turning up. Each of the following items was found in newspapers sold on eBay.

The first article reproduced here is from the *National Gazette and Literary Register*, Philadelphia, June 1, 1826, which took it "From the National Intelligencer of Monday." The credit line reads "Letter from a highly respectable source, to a Senator of the United States." Although the letter is unsigned, it was most likely written by George C. Sibley, who was in charge of the federal survey of the Santa Fe Road and was in Santa Fe at the time awaiting permission from the government of Mexico to survey the route within Mexican territory. Sibley's journal notes on February 10, 1826, that he sent a letter to Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri. Senator Benton had proposed the legislation authorizing the survey of the road. Joel R. Poinsett, who is mentioned in the letter and for whom the poinsettia is named, was United States Minister to Mexico at the time. The article is printed here as originally published.

SANTA FEE, (New Mexico,) Feb. 9, 1826.

Sir: Soon after I came here, in November, I wrote to Mr. [Joel] Poinsett, by the mail, to inquire of him, what the Mexican Government intends to do, in relation to our road from Missouri. No answer has yet been received, and I yet remain in ignorance whether this Government will sanction the measure or not. The Governor here [Antonio Narbona] has never heard any thing officially on the subject from Mexico, though he seems to be very confident that there will not only be no objection made, but that some assistance will be given, if necessary. Upon my suggestions, the Governor has recommended the establishment of one or two military posts, eastward of the mountains, to give protection to the trade upon the contemplated road, and has also advised some other effectual measure to be adopted to restrain the Indians, within the Mexican territory, from their usual depredations upon our citizens who trade here. Governor Narbona is very favorably disposed towards a liberal and just commercial intercourse between the People of the two countries, and has, I believe, made some representations to his Government, in favor of a reduction of the present rates of duties chargeable upon the merchandise brought here for sale from the United States. I am of the opinion that all these suggestions will be attended to by the Government of Mexico, in due time. It might not be amiss, however, if our Government were to interest itself a little in this matter, as I presume might be very properly done.

In relation to the duties, I consider it a matter of no small importance to our cotton manufactures, that a reasonable reduction should, if possible, be effected. Here is a market, a steady and increasing one, for a very large amount of cotton goods, such as are manufactured to great advantage in the United States. The demand for such goods is very great in this Territory, and in Sonora and Biscay, and I think it likely that the consumption might be nearly doubled, if the present very high tax were reduced to a reasonable

rate. And I think that this might be effected by making St. Louis a port of entry, ect. The duty on our white cotton stuffs, the kind most in demand, is ad valorem; but inasmuch as the officer of the customs here cannot know with any certainty the actual cost of goods at St. Louis, for want of properly authenticated invoices, the law required him to value all white goods of that description at fifty cents a yard, and thereupon to tax the duty.

Thus it often happens that the duty paid here upon white stuffs of the cheaper kinds, exceeds the original cost of the articles at the manufactories; and this amounts very nearly to a prohibition of it. I cannot doubt for a moment, that the Mexican Government will readily arrange this matter upon fair and liberal terms. I think so, because it is obviously her interest to do so.

All our coarse woolen fabrics are prohibited here. It would be greatly to the advantage of this branch of our manufactures, and those dealing in them, if this restriction were removed; and I am very sure that it would conduce very much to the comfort and advantage of the inhabitants of this section of the country. It would also, without doubt, add a handsome sum annually to the customs.

I propose to set out, about the 1st proximo, for the lower country. My plan is to go to Chihuahua, and from thence into Sonora, and westward to the Gulf of California. I have no other object in this excursion, than to collect information as to the resources of the country, as far south as it is likely that our merchants may profitably adventure. I have been informed that British goods are beginning to be introduced into Sonora by way of the Gulf of California, and that from thence they are scattered about on mules, far and near. It is apprehended by some that this will be a death-blow to the trade from Missouri. I am not at all prepared to offer any opinion yet upon this subject, or indeed upon the prospect of trade generally here. I hope, though, to be able upon my return, to speak understandingly on the subject.

A person lately from Passo del

Norte, informs me that goods have been landed (from New Orleans, he thinks,) at the mouth of the Rio Grande del Norte; that they were packed up to El Passo, about 500 miles, on mules, and there offered for sale, at much lower rates than any merchants there from Missouri could afford them at. The same person says that the Rio del Norte affords no certain navigation from El Passo to the mouth. And from all I can learn of this famous river, I am much disposed to believe, that it can never be of any use for the transportation of commodities upward, and very little indeed downward. In truth, there seems to be but little necessity for navigable streams here, while mules and labor are so very cheap. The regular and fixed price of transportation from El Passo to Taus, (370 miles) is \$7 for a load of 300 pounds.

The Louisiana project of opening the Red River for transport boats, to within sixty miles of the place, must fail; because there is no branch of that river that takes its rise so near, and I am informed that it would be difficult to find canoe navigation, upon any of its waters within 300 miles of Santa Fee! The maps are all wrong as respects the Red River; that which they represent for that river, is the Canadian Fork of the Arkansas, which has no navigation one hundred miles above its mouth.

I am not by any means disposed to credit the assertion, that goods can be brought here, or even to El Passo, from the mouth of the Rio del Norte, as cheap as by our Missouri road. Upon all these matters however, I mean to be better informed if I live, before very long.

I am, respectfully, your most obedient servant.

[unsigned]

Recently two copies of a Philadelphia newspaper were offered for sale on eBay, each containing an article about the Santa Fe Trail. These were purchased by the SFTA Last Chance Store and the articles are printed here. The original newspapers will be deposited at the Santa Fe Trail Center. It is not known if either of these articles has been reprinted before. Both contain good information.

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*

(Philadelphia), June 28, 1827:

# SANTA FE ADVENTURERS.

Fayette, (Mo.) May 24.—The following interesting letter was received by us a few days since, from our friend and fellow citizen, Col. Augustus Storrs, one of the gentlemen composing the party which lately left this vicinity, on a commercial expedition of New Mexico:

Dear Sir—Agreeably to previous arrangement, the Santa Fe Company generally arrived at the Blue Springs, the place of rendezvous, on the 15th. inst. We have in company about one hundred and five men, and fifty-three waggon and pleasure carriages. Our line of march is at least one mile in length, and is said to be extremely beautiful to the eye of a spectator, and certainly must appear formidable in the estimation of Indians. The company is the largest which has traversed this route, are in fine spirits, and do not entertain a doubt of going through in perfect safety. We have adopted our form of government, and elected officers to carry it into effect and operation. The following is a list of the officers which have been appointed. We have elected the Rev. John Pearson, chaplain, who is a gentleman of very agreeable manners, and of very handsome scientific and theological attainments; Captain, Ezekiel Williams; Aids, Presley Samuel, James Glenn; Clerk, James L. Collins; Marshall, Richard Gentry; Pilot, Joseph Reynolds; Court, Joshua Fletcher, John Dade, and James Ramsay; Commanders of Guards, E. Williams, P. Samuel, J. Glenn, S. Torley, J. Rennison, R. Stowers, L. Morrison, A. Barnes, and D. Workman.

Although a pretty general apprehension seems to have prevailed that the present company will be in danger, yet our numbers and discipline will ensure our safety. Our government is almost as complete and perfect as though we composed a full republican government; yet we can never forget the blessings of our own institutions; and I have no doubt the longer we are absent the more forcibly this idea will occur to us. If fighting should be necessary, it will be as much a matter of pride and ambition to sustain the glory of our

arms and the honor of our country, as to protect our own interests and rights.

*Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), March 23, 1833:

From the *Missouri Republican*.

City of St. Louis, Missouri, March 5, 1833.

INDIAN OUTRAGE.—Several gentlemen arrived in town on Saturday, from Santa Fe. We learn that they state, that they were attached to a party of twelve traders, all of them returning home, that they were attacked on the Canadian Fork of the Arkansas, distant about two hundred miles from Santa Fe by probably two hundred and fifty Comanche Indians; and that an engagement ensued, which lasted thirty-two hours and resulted in the death of two men. We understand that the day of the attack—about the first of January—Indians were occasionally seen about them; and that in the evening, when one of the party attempted to bring in a mule or two which had strayed some 40 yards from the main body, he was fired upon and killed. His name was Pratt, a tinner, who had resided some time in Santa Fe. Two balls and two spears entered his body.

The attack was now commenced. Immediately, the horses and mules were tied to a tree; and they, together with the baggage afforded some protection while the party were engaged in digging a trench in the sand sufficiently deep to protect them from the balls of the Indians. But before this could be done, another of the party, a Mr. Mitchell of Boone county was killed. The action lasted until twelve at night, when the Indians having ceased firing, an attempt was made to escape, but they were driven back to their old entrenchment. On the return of day, the engagement was again renewed and continued until night. By this time, their guns were considered useless by shots from the Indians, their ammunition was expended, and almost every one of the men were wounded.

They were now hailed by one of the Indians, and told, in Spanish, that they might depart, and accordingly they prepared to do so.

The Indians allowed them to proceed on their way, directly through the main body, without molestation. It could not be ascertained how many of the savages were killed, but some were seen to fall, and the Indians were observed frequently to crowd together, being a sure indication that a ball had taken effect, and that they were engaged in carrying off the body. All the horses and mules, belonging to the party, were killed. They were thus compelled to abandon every article of the baggage, and also ten or twelve thousand dollars in gold and silver. On the next day the party was divided: one branch—that which has arrived here—were to make for the nearest settlement; and the other, took a route down the river. Of the five who took the last named direction, two proceeded in advance of the rest, and reached a settlement they then returned, with others, in search of the three whose progress had been retarded; but no certain intelligence had been received of them.

The party which has arrived suffered almost incredible hardships. They were forty-two days in reaching a settlement. In all this time, they were almost without the means of procuring subsistence—were wounded and otherwise disabled—almost entirely destitute of clothing; and were, withal, compelled to perform the remainder of the journey on foot. They have not, even now, recovered from their sufferings.

• • • • •  
Lee Burke of Dallas, Texas, recently donated photocopies of two newspaper accounts to SFTA from papers he purchased on eBay. With thanks for his generosity, they are reprinted here.

From *The New York Semi-Weekly Tribune*, June 1, 1850, p. 6:

Later from Santa Fe and Chihuahua.

Correspondence of the St. Louis Republican.

Independence, May 14, 1850,

Yesterday morning, Mr. Simons, in advance of Mr. Johnson's train, arrived from Santa Fé and Chihuahua. They left Santa Fé about the 20th of last month, and without

much detention, made their way here in pretty good time. Once or twice they encountered a snow storm, but not violent enough to injure their stock or impede their progress. In company with Mr. Johnson and Mr. George Wethered and others, citizens of your place. Col. Washington [Bvt. Lt. Col. John M. Washington, Third Artillery] and command [including Bvt. Lt. Col. Benjamin L. Beall, First Dragoons and son; Bvt. Capt. Thomas L. Brent, Fourth Artillery; Bvt. Capt. Henry B. Judd, Third Artillery; 2nd Lt. Thomas G. Williams, First Infantry; and a small troop escort], consisting of about twenty men, were left at the Point of Rocks, getting along pretty well. Mr. Thos. Flournoy and mail carriers were met on the Semirone, near to Brown's wagons. Mr. Flournoy goes out with relief for his train; which you know was stopped on the Plains last fall by a snow storm.

The news received by the present company from Santa Fé and Chihuahua, is not of very great interest. The Indians between Chihuahua and El Paso are becoming more and more troublesome every day. Fulvagas's train was recently attacked—a driver of one of the wagons killed, and wagon robbed of contents. Quite a company from Chihuahua, consisting of Drs. East, Hereford, Douglass and others, left but a little while ago for California. Expected in shortly, Messrs. Lighter, Anderson, and other traders.

The ranche of Kit Carson and Boggs, between Taos and the Moro, was thrown into consternation recently, by eight Indians entering in and running off quite a number of their stock. Carson, Boggs, and two others, soon started in pursuit and overtook the party of Indians, "Hickories," [Jicarillas] attacked them, killed five of the party, recovered the mules, and fifty additional head.

Business was somewhat dull, but prospects a month or two in advance a little more flattering. American flour quite scarce and high.

Our town is yet quite crowded with emigrants; the numbers passing through greatly exceed our anticipations, and from every enumeration we can make, we are

firmly of the opinion, that they are more in number by one-third than passed through here last spring. Almost every thing they needed, they found in abundance, but have left our country pretty bare of provisions.

The health of our town and country is pretty good, not having had a case of choler, except one, an emigrant brought up on a boat, Yours, &c. in great hast.

[unsigned]

From the *Semi-Weekly Tribune* (New York), November 20, 1850, p. 1:

News from Santa Fe—The Mails—Pacific Railroad.

Correspondence of The St. Louis Republican.

Independence, Friday, Nov 11 1850.

On Wednesday afternoon, Samuel Wethered of Baltimore, Newton Williams of Boonville, and Burnet [Brevort?] of Mansas [Kansas, present Kansas City?], reached here from Santa Fe. They left about the 14th of last month, and consequently bring no later intelligence than you are already in possession of, respecting business matters, &c. in Santa Fé. On their way in, it seems a plan was laid to rob them of their means, which was happily prevented in good time. A young man by the name of Fox, in connection with some others, had arranged it that they were to travel in Mr. Wethered's company, and while out on the prairies, were at some ungarded moment to give the alarm of Indians; murder Messrs. Wethered, Williams, Brevot and his servant, and take possession of their money. Kit Carson, living at the Ryado, learned that Fox had been in that village, and attempted to persuade another person there, to go along and assist in the murderous plot—said he was going to Taos, and when out a little from the village, turned off to join Brevort and party. Carson, aware of this, obtained an escort of twelve dragoons, and accompanied by Capt. Ewall [Richard S. Ewell] and servant, Jonson and one hundred and twenty-eight soldiers; they traveled one hundred and fifty miles in twenty eight hours, to apprize the party of their danger: and take Fox a prisoner back to

Santa Fé. This they did, much to the relief of Wethered and party. It is supposed the plot was concocted in Santa Fé, from the fact that Mr. Wethered and Brevort were to bring to the States a good deal of money.

The Santa Fé mail, carried out by Waldo & Co. and the Salt Lake mail taken by Brown, Woodson & Co. started at their regular hours. I do not know whether they have asked it or not, but the Department at Washington ought to allow the contractors for the mail to Salt Lake a number of days more, in which to make their trips, otherwise it will be impossible, on account of the road, to come up to the time.

Ironsides, the prisoner brought in from Council Grove for killing, as it was supposed, Mr. Grey, was released by the Examining Court, there not being sufficient testimony to retain him in custody longer.

The vote of the County was largely in favor of appropriating \$100,000 for the Pacific Railway, if it enters their County. There is general good health in all the neighborhood.

Yours. &c.

[unsigned]

An additional note relating to the above incident, from Louise Barry, comp., *Beginning of the West* (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 972: "October 30.—Edward B. Horner's five-wagon train arrived at Independence, Mo., from Santa Fe. His party (12 men) included Samuel Wethered ('an old and wealthy trader'), of Baltimore, Newton Williams, of Boonville, Mo., Murray J. Tuley, George W. Martin, and Elias Brevoort.

"They had left Santa Fe on October 2. Some 35 to 40 discharged government teamsters were in the party as far as "Cottonwood" (N.M.)—200 miles out. While encamped there, the night of October 12, Kit Carson, Capt. R. S. Ewell, and some 40 troops arrived with news of, and in time to forestall execution of, a plot by a teamster named Fox (and some cohorts) to rob and kill Wethered, Williams, and others. Horner's party, separating from the teamsters after this incident, pushed on ahead for the States."

## TRAIL TROUBADOUR

### —Traffic in Verse—

Sandra M. Doe, Editor

This column seeks poetry which addresses the history, realism, romance, and diversity of the Trail and demonstrates authentic emotion, original images, and skill in craftsmanship. Please submit poems for consideration to Sandra M. Doe, Dept. of English, Campus Box 32, Metropolitan State College of Denver, PO Box 173362, Denver CO 80217-3362.

Ruth Obee, an environmental and open space advocate (among other things), returns to these pages with the poem, *Glorieta*, celebrating the cottonwood, the grand Big Timber of the prairie. Many Plains writers focus on the giant tree: Robert Michael Pyre calls the cottonwood *The Thunder Tree* in his memoir subtitled *Lessons from an Urban Landscape*; Mary Taylor Young, in *Land of Grass and Sky* (Denver: Westcliffe, 2003), 21, dubs the cottonwood a Samaritan, a mother, a diviner, marking the treasure of water in an arid land. She cites historian Eliot West who noted that the "Big Timbers along the Arkansas stretched for sixty miles, from present-day La Junta nearly to the Kansas Border."

Similarly, author Obee notes the mothering qualities of the tree with the herons roosting. The ability of the tree to be the Samaritan, the shelter, she notes in stanza two. In stanza three Obee notes the "discourse" of the tree, *Populous deltoides*, which is a cousin to *Populous tremuloides*, the quaking Aspen (Young, 21). The leaves sing a plains song and the "growth-rings maintain" the story of "fires and drought." Having accomplished her tree research, Obee cites varieties of the cottonwood. Only female trees produce the annoying "cotton" or "catkins," and these are "unavailable," banned from planting in Colorado, so a master gardener tells us.

Obee's reference to the cottonwood "chieftain at Fountain Creek" returns readers to the Fountain Creek Watershed near her home in Colorado Springs. Fountain Creek is the subject of the Fountain Creek Crown Jewel Project, a conjoint effort of the cities of Colorado Springs,

Pueblo, and Fountain, the Southeast Water Conservancy, the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, the Upper Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, Colorado State Parks, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Pueblo West, and many other jurisdictions, working together to direct and deliver water and "building Fountain Creek into a recreational corridor" <salazar.senate.gov/images/CrownJewelProj>.

Cottonwood groves are counted among the "visual resources that are pleasing to the eye." As plains travelers know, cottonwoods mean water. Every traveler on the Santa Fe Trail was aware of the cottonwood trees, and many wrote about them.

The poet addresses the mythology of the cottonwood tree which grows from a "walking stick." Black Elk also acknowledges this myth, and the internet addresses many trees sprouting from sticks or broken branches. We were unable to trace a specific Southwest Four Corners tree legend, although perhaps *Wagon Tracks* readers can cite sources.

Obee's reference to Fort Sumner stems from a failed government plan to intern the Apache and Navajo (bitter enemies) on forty square miles in Bosque Redondo, New Mexico, a place of poor water and fuel. Not only did the enemies have to inhabit the same small patch of earth, they also had to endure farming lessons (irrigating from the Pecos River), along with Christian education and other "civilizing" measures. The Navajo arrived after surrendering to Kit Carson in January of 1864, making the forced "long walk" for nearly two months in winter; they started from Arizona with 8,500 men, women, and children, losing two hundred along the way from cold and starvation. More died in the camp from bad water; armyworms destroyed the corn crops, and poor wood supply contributed to cold losses. The Navajo endured three years there, but according to one source <www.legendsofamerica.com/NA-NavajoLongWalk.html>, the Mescalero Apaches escaped on November 3, 1865.

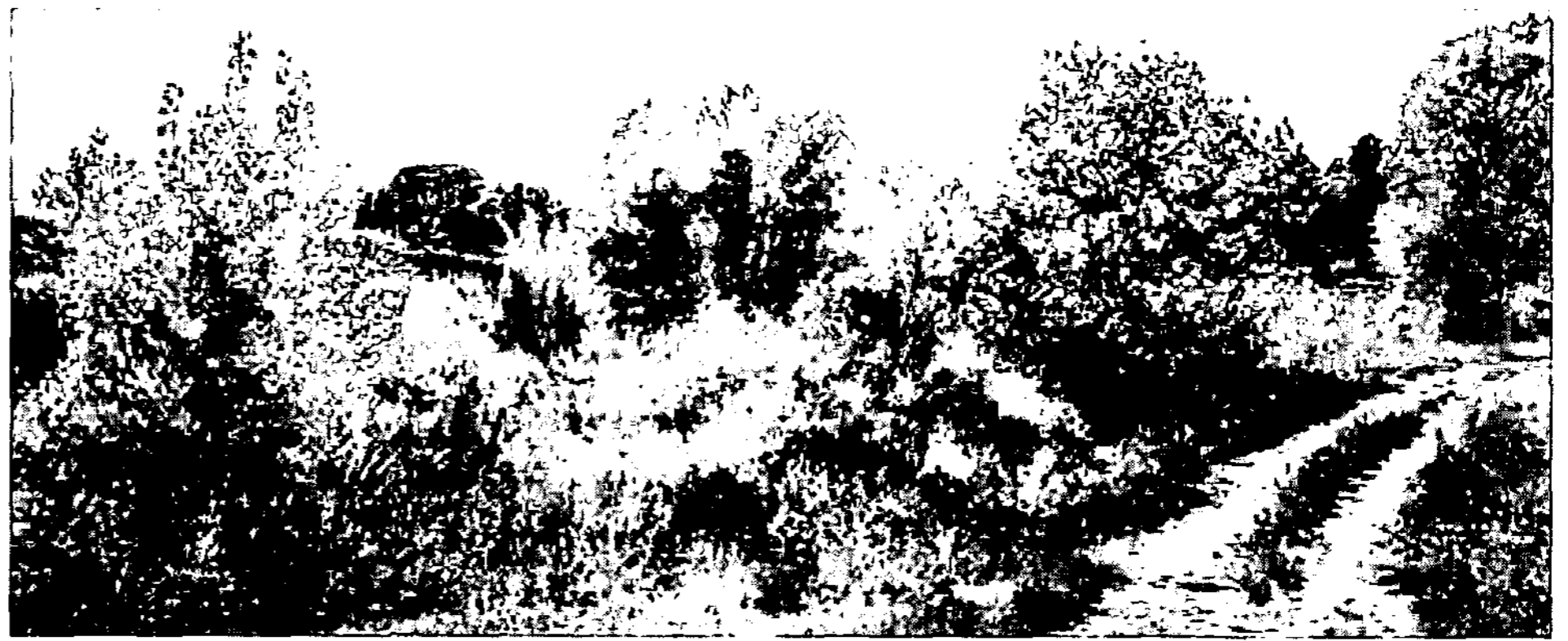
Author Obee concludes her homage to the cottonwood by lifting it up, comparing the tree to a "Spanish hymn," a *Glorieta*, even as she echoes the suffering of the Navajo and Mescalero Apaches in the trees

themselves, "a dozen gnarled and venerable old survivors...."

Ruth Obee is represented in *Pulse of the River: Colorado Writers Speak for the Endangered Cache la Poudre* (Boulder: Johnson, 2007).

[Editor's Note: Actually Zebulon M. Pike wrote about the cottonwood trees before Lewis and Clark, and Pike was in the Southwest.]

This poem is accompanied by a photo, "Cottonwood Trails" by Bill Beaudin. Born in Duluth, Minnesota, and raised in the Washington, D.C. area, Bill Beaudin has lived in Colorado and the Southwest for more than three decades. Operating with a modest arsenal of lenses for his Canon EOS IN camera—a 75-300 mm, a 28-70 mm wide angle zoom,



"COTTONWOOD TRAILS"

© Bill Beaudin

and a 100mm macro—Bill captures images which have been enjoyed by state fair goers, fine arts viewers, biology textbook readers, and environmentalists. Bill says, "After all these years, I seem to have come full

circle; still in the woods and along the waterways, enjoying the beauty as in my youth, but now trying to save the environment for our grandchildren and for all the generations to come." His photo "Cottonwood Trails," printed here with his permission, inspires us to do that, as it pairs well with Ruth Obee's "Glorieta."

### GLORIETA

by Ruth Obee

Today forty great blue herons roosted in a giant stand of cottonwoods, their large, disheveled nests, attended with patient devotion: a busy nursery for new spring clutches of eggs - one more way in which the cottonwood serves the greater community without fanfare - this grand, old emblematic tree of the Southwest first written about by Lewis and Clark.

When the pioneers, heading west, encountered a large rounded grove of wild cottonwoods along the rutted dusty trail, they blessed the earth on which they stood - for here was shelter, water for their few head of scrawny cattle, the horses, a straggle of tick-infested sheep - wood to burn for fuel, and a clear-running stream nearby that jumped with native trout.

Dark-barked, deeply furrowed - with its catkins and spreading crown, its green heart-shaped leaves that turn to yellow gold in fall; with its seasonal growth-rings that maintain an up-to-date archival history of snowfall and rain, of periodic fires and drought - with its strong, anchoring roots along the banks of a stream that hold their steady discourse ....

No other tree can lay claim to being either quite so wise or so civic minded, among the old guard of stately trees - whether it be the Lanceleaf the Fremont or the Black - than this, the tallest of softwoods found in the Southwest.

From the lightening-scarred, wide-bole-spreading, arthritically bent, more-than-century-old chieftain at Fountain Creek to the Four Corners tree in Arizona that first took root from a citizen's walking stick ... to the thousands of cottonwoods planted at Bosque Redondo in New Mexico, in 1865 by the Mescalero Apaches and the Navajo - a living memorial to their forced internment in the bitter dying fields at Fort Sumner.

*The five-mile valley road leading to Santa Fe* - records the faded, yellowing journal, written in a spidery hand, the nib of the writer's pen dipped in black ink - *was so beautiful then, with the planting of hundreds of cottonwood avenue trees by the Indians, that it prompted the name "Glorieta"* - a name that rings out even today like an old Spanish hymn, echoing over the high desert corridors, where a dozen gnarled and venerable old survivors are all that remain.

### 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 June through August. To be included, send information to Paula Manini at the Trinidad History Museum (see below) by April 10, 2007. Also, please keep sending me any changes regarding email addresses, contact people, etc.

**Arrow Rock State Historic Site**  
PO Box 1

Arrow Rock MO 65320

Telephone: 660-837-3330

E-mail: [kborgman@iland.net](mailto:kborgman@iland.net)

Websites: [www.arrowrock.org](http://www.arrowrock.org);

[www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm](http://www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm)

Visitor Center and Museum: call for current hours and events.

**Barton County Museum & Village**  
PO Box 1091

Great Bend KS 67530

Telephone: 620-793-5125

Website: [www.bartoncountymuseum.org](http://www.bartoncountymuseum.org)

• Open Wednesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm; Saturday, 1-5 pm.

**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](mailto:rick_wallner@nps.gov)

**Website: [www.nps.gov.beol](http://www.nps.gov/beol)**

- Open daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through May. For more information visit the website.

March 29: "Traders, Tribes and Travelers: The Story of Bent's Old Fort." The park's new 20-minute orientation film premieres at 7:30 at the Koshare Kiva, 115 W 18th St, La Junta. Meet the filmmaker and some of the cast.

May 7-Sept. 4: "Trails and Rails Trips" are narrated excursions aboard Amtrak's Southwest Chief from La Junta to Albuquerque.

June 7-10: "Living History Encampment" trains participants to present living history programs. Open for public viewing June 9-10. Pre-registration required; participation limited.

July 14: "Kids' Quarters." Seven- to eleven-year-old children experience the lives of a trapper, trader, laborer, craftsman, Indian, or soldier. Registration required.

October 6-7: "Santa Fe Trail Encampment" celebrates Trail traders, tribes, and travelers. Their camps, set up near the fort, will be open for touring.

December 7- 8: "Holiday Celebration" features the joys, pleasures, and pastimes at an isolated trading post in the 1840s. For reservations, call after October 16.

**Boggsville Historic Site**

**PO Box 68**

**Las Animas CO 81054**

**Telephone: 719-456-1358**

**E-mail: [boggsville67@yahoo.com](mailto:boggsville67@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.bentcounty.org/site-sandcelebrations/historic/html](http://www.bentcounty.org/site-sandcelebrations/historic/html)**

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](mailto:frontst@pld.com)**

**Website: [www.boothill.org](http://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. May 26 "Old West Fun Fest" Fun - Food - Entertainment.

Coming this summer: Stagecoach rides, Chuckwagon Dinner and Long Branch Variety Show, Can-

Can Lessons, Gunfights, Medicine Show, One-Room School, and much more. Call for details.

60th Anniversary Celebration; call for events and dates.

**Cimarron Heritage Center Museum**

**PO Box 214**

**Boise City OK 73933**

**Telephone: 580-544-3479**

**E-mail: [museum@ptsi.net](mailto:museum@ptsi.net)**

**Website: [www.ptsi.net/users/museum](http://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](mailto:historic@cybermesa.com)**

Call for hours and events.

**Friends of Arrow Rock**

**309 Main**

**Arrow Rock MO 65320**

**Telephone: 660-837-3231**

**E-mail: [kborgman@iland.net](mailto:kborgman@iland.net)**

**Websites: [www.friendsar.org](http://www.friendsar.org); [www.arrowrock.org](http://www.arrowrock.org); [www.lyceumtheatre.org](http://www.lyceumtheatre.org)**

Call for hours and events.

**Fort Union National Monument**

**PO Box 127**

**Watrous NM 87753**

**Telephone: 505-425-8025**

**E-mail: [debbie\\_archuleta@nps.gov](mailto:debbie_archuleta@nps.gov)**

**Website: [www.nps.gov/foun](http://www.nps.gov/foun)**

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

Self-guided interpretive trails (1.6 mile and .5 mile) through the ruins. Guided tours are available; groups of ten or more people need advance reservations.

Monthly "Glimpses of the Past" programs, third Thursdays, 7:00 pm, at Citizens Committee for Historical Preservation, 127 Bridge St, Las Vegas.

Dennis Ditmanson, General Superintendent of Fort Union National Monument and Pecos National Historic Park, retired in January.

Volunteers Mario Medina and Tibor Remenyik received appreciation awards in December in honor of their service.

Greg Phillipy, the new Exhibit Specialist at Fort Union, and his wife Olivia are settling in comfortably at the park.

June 9 - First Fort Tours of an area usually closed to the public. Details TBA.

**Gas and Historical Museum**

**Stevens County Historical Society**

**PO Box 87**

**Hugoton KS 67951**

**Telephone: 620-544-8751**

**E-mail: [svcomus@pld.com](mailto:svcomus@pld.com)**

- Call for hours and events.

**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](mailto:uchs@plateautel.net)**

Call for hours and events.

**Historic Adobe Museum**

**PO Box 909 (300 E Oklahoma)**

**Ulysses, KS 67880**

**Telephone: 620-356-3009**

**E-mail: [ulyksmus@pld.com](mailto:ulyksmus@pld.com)**

Call for hours and events.

**Jefferson Nat. Expansion Memorial**

**11 N Fourth Street**

**St. Louis, MO 63102**

**Telephone: 314-655-1631**

**E-mail: [tom\\_dewey@partner.nps.gov](mailto:tom_dewey@partner.nps.gov)**

**Website: [www.nps.gov/jeff](http://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, call (314) 655-1600.

**Koshare Museum**

**Otero State Junior College**

**115 West 18th Street**

**La Junta, CO 81050**

**Telephone: 719-385-4411**

**E-mail: [tina.wilcox@ojc.edu](mailto:tina.wilcox@ojc.edu)**

**Website: [www.koshare.org](http://www.koshare.org)**

- Hours through April open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday-Sunday, 12-5 pm, and Monday and Wednesday, 5-9 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](mailto:mtcomuseum@elkhart.com)**

**Website: [www.mtcoks.com/museum](http://www.mtcoks.com/museum)**

- Through June, open Tuesday-Friday 1-5 pm; weekends and other times 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](mailto:oteromuseum@centurytel.net)**

- Call for hours.

**Santa Fe Trail Center Museum & Library**

**1349 K-156**

**Larned, KS 67550**

**Telephone: 620-285-2054**

**Email: [museum@santafetrailcenter.org](mailto:museum@santafetrailcenter.org)**

**Website: [www.santafetrailcenter.org](http://www.santafetrailcenter.org)**

Santa Fe Trail Center: open 9 am - 5 pm Tuesday-Sunday.

May 4 - June 17: "Between Fences"

includes artifacts, photographs and illustrations. The Smithsonian traveling exhibit explores fences and their influence on human relationships. Speakers, book discussions, and other activities TBA.

Please note above the change of mailing, email and website addresses.

**South Platte Valley Historical Society**  
PO Box 633  
Fort Lupton CO 80621  
Telephone: 303-857-2123  
Website: [www.spvhs.org](http://www.spvhs.org)

Call ahead to visit the Donelson Homestead House, 1875 Independence School, and the Fort Lupton Museum. Call for addresses 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](mailto:paula.manini@state.co.us)  
Website: [www.coloradohistory.org/hist\\_sites/trinidad](http://www.coloradohistory.org/hist_sites/trinidad)

Santa Fe Trail Museum and Museum Bookstore: Through April 30, open Monday-Friday, 10 am-2 pm.

Baca House and Bloom Mansion: Available for groups of 12 or more people with reservations made in advance.

May 1: the museum complex opens for the season. All attractions are open Monday-Sunday, 10 am-4 pm through September 30.

## 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 sixteenth installment of Pike's journal. Keep informed with the Pike Bicentennial plans at <[www.zeublonpike.org](http://www.zeublonpike.org)>.] Please note that maps of Pike's route are on that web site.*

## PIKE'S JOURNAL, PART XVI

This reprint of Pike's journal of the expedition of 1806-1807 continues, starting with the entry for May 12, 1807, when they were near the Rio Nazas in Mexico, heading back to the United States across Coahuila and Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana.



### Pike's Journal

*12th May, Tuesday.*—Was awoke in the morning by the singing of the birds and the perfumes of the trees around. I attempted to send two of my soldiers to town, when they were overtaken by a dragoon and ordered back—they returned, when I again ordered them to go, and if a soldier attempted to stop them to take him off his horse and flog him. This I did, as I conceived it was the duty of the captain to explain his orders relative to me, which he had not done, and I conceived that this would bring on an explanation. They were pursued by a dragoon through the town, who rode after them making use of ill language. They attempted to catch him but could not. As I had mentioned my intentions of sending my men to town after some stores to captain Barelo, and he had not made any objections, I conceived it was acting with duplicity to send men to watch the movements of my messengers; I therefore determined they should punish the dragoons unless the captain had candor sufficient to explain the reasons for his not wishing the men to go to the town, in which wish I should undoubtedly have acquiesced; but as he never mentioned the circumstance, I was guardedly silent, and the affair never interrupted our harmony.

We marched at five o'clock and came on 15 miles and encamped without water. One mile on this side of the little village the road branches out into three, the right hand one by Pattos, Paras, Saltilo, &c. being the main road to Mexico and St. Antonio.

The road which we took, leaves all the villages a little to the right, passing only some plantations; the left hand one goes immediately through the mountains to Montelovez, but is dangerous for small parties on account of the savages. This road is called the route by the Bolson of Maupeme, and was first traveled by Monsieur de Croix, (afterwards viceroy of Peru.) In passing from Chihuahua to Texas, by this route, you make in seven days what it takes you 15 or 20 by the ordinary one, but it is very scarce of water, and your guards must either be so strong as to defy the Appaches, or calculate to escape them by swiftness, for they fill these mountains, whence they continually carry on a predatory war against the Spanish settlements and caravans.

We this day passed on to the territories of the marquis De San Miquel, who owns from the mountains of the Rio del Norte to some distance into the kingdom of Old Mexico.

*13th May, Wednesday.*—Came on to the river Brasses [Nazas] Rancho de St. Antonio, part of the marquis' estate. My boy and self halted at the river Brasses to water our horses, having rode on ahead, and took the bridles from their mouths, in order that they might drink free, which they could not do with the Spanish bridles. The horse I rode had been accustomed to being held by his master in a peculiar manner when bridled, and would not let me put it on again for a long time, when in the man time my boy's horse ran away, and it was out of our power to catch him again, but when we arrived at the Rancho, we soon had out a number of boys, who brought in the horse and all his different equipments which were scattered on the route. This certainly was a strong proof of their honesty, and did not go unrewarded. In the evening we gave them a ball on the green according to custom. We here learnt that one peck of corn, with three pounds of meat per week, was the allowance given a grown person.

*(continued next issue)*

## CAMP TALES

### —CHAPTER REPORTS—

#### Cimarron Cutoff

President D. Ray Blakeley  
PO Box 222  
Clayton NM 88415

(505) 374-2555

No report.

### 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>

On March 17, 1:30 p.m., at the Eldorado Community Center, Allan Wheeler will present a reenactment of William Becknell, considered the first trader on the Santa Fe Trail after trade was opened between the U.S. and Mexico in 1821.

On May 19, 1:30 p.m., Doug Peterson will present a slide show and conduct a walking tour of downtown Santa Fe on the topic of "Santa Fe-Fort Marcy as a Military Town."

### Corazón de los Caminos

President Bill Soderman  
1003 Fifth St  
Las Vegas NM 87701  
(505) 425-9435

Phyllis Morgan, author of *Marc Simmons of New Mexico, Maverick Historian* (University of New Mexico Press, 2005), was our enthusiastic speaker about Simmons and his monumental works at the 2006 year-end chapter meeting in Las Vegas. Morgan was one of four women who hiked the entire length of the Santa Fe Trail in segments with Inez Ross who has written her own books about their adventures (visit the Last Chance Store at <www.santafetrail.org>). The audience was also enthusiastic in peppering Morgan with questions regarding her travels and this acclaimed author on the Santa Fe Trail.

Vice-President Faye Gaines chaired the meeting and, on behalf of the chapter, Harry Myers presented a large, beautifully glass-framed "Certificate of Appreciation for Exem-

plary Service" to each of Gaines, Jean Hinkle, Tibor Remenyik, and Alma Gregory.

Our first meeting this year is March 17, 1 p.m., downstairs at Charlie's Spic & Span Café in Las Vegas. Myers will present the program on the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study involving the Navajo Nation and the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

Programs planned for the ensuing year are April 21, annual workday at Fort Union National Monument; May 19, Wind River Ranch near Watrous; June 16, Ocaté Crossing and Santa Fe Trail ruts; July 21, Cimarron, the old Aztec Mill Museum, and Rayado; August 18, City of Las Vegas Museum/Rough Rider Memorial Collection, Santa Fe Trail exhibit; Sept. 27-30, SFTA Symposium, Trinidad, CO; Oct. 20, Fort Union Ranch and the Turkey Mountains; Nov. 17, business meeting and Hal Jackson with his new book, *Following the Royal Road: A Guide to the Historic Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006).

### Wet/Dry Routes

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

Because of a snowstorm, the January 14 meeting was postponed until February 18.

### Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

President Jim Sherer  
1908 La Mesa Dr  
Dodge City KS 67801  
(620) 227-7377  
<sherer@cjnetworks.com>

Officer for the year are President Jim Sherer, Vice-President Don Wiles, Secretary Kathie Bell, Treasurer Dixie Oringderff, and Directors Mike Bell and Bill Bunyan. Major goals include increasing membership and getting the chapter's information on the SFTA web site. SFTA President Joanne VanCoevern is the scheduled speaker for the February 18 meeting.

### Missouri River Outfitters

President Roger Slusher  
1421 South St  
Lexington MO 64067  
(660) 259-2900  
<rslusher@yahoo.com>

No report.

### Quivira

President Linda Colle  
PO Box 1105  
McPherson KS 67460  
(620) 241-3800

No report.

### Cottonwood Crossing

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

No report.

### Bent's Fort

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

The chapter continues with preparations for the 2007 Symposium in Trinidad, September 27-30, 2007 (see article on page 1 of this issue). The chapter is supporting opposition to the army's proposed takeover of additional land for the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site; for more information see <www.pinoncanyon.org>.

## NEW SFTA MEMBERS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue. If there is an error in this information, please send corrections to the editor. We thank you for your support.

### BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

First National Bank of Trinidad, 100 E Main St, Trinidad CO 81082

### INSTITUTION MEMBERSHIPS

El Rancho de las Golondrinas, 334 Los Pinos Rd, Santa Fe NM 87507  
Lamar Chamber of Commerce, 109A E Beech St, Lamar CO 81052

### FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Jack & JJ Gilstrap, HC70 Box 3, Des Moines NM 88418  
Pam Milavec & Rich Nilles, 583 Melody Dr, Northglenn CO 80260  
Duane & Linda Moore, 1323 S Adams, Tucumcari NM 88401  
Jerry O. & Linda H. Robertson, 12106 Covered Bridge Rd, Sellersburg IN 47172  
Fred, Vanessa, & Russell Warner, PO Box 1196, Raton NM 87740  
William R. & Kathryn Wootten, 409 Willow Valley, Lamar CO 81052

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Dr. Diana L. Ahmad, University of Missouri - Rolla, Rolla MO 65409  
Vinita Brown, PO Box 317, Folsom NM 88419  
Mary Burchill, 1329 Kasold Dr, Lawrence KS 66049

Alex Chester, 12200 SW 74th Ct, Miami FL 33156  
 John S. Deiters, 10963 Copperhead Rd, Bloomfield IA 52537  
 Tasha M. Dennis, 303 Duke St, Guymon OK 73942  
 Jerry Drayer, 1606 H. G. Mosley, Long View TX 75604  
 Steven Hoppe, 4602 E La Mirada, Phoenix AZ 85044  
 Dave Long, PO Box 744, Cimarron KS 67835  
 Tony Oliver, 5577 E Mansfield Ave, Denver CO 80237  
 Abbie Reaves, PO Box 358, Folsom NM 88419

### SFTA HEADQUARTERS HAS NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

**E**FFECTIVE immediately, the SFTA headquarters office at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, Kansas, has a new e-mail address. Please make note of this change: <trailassn@gbta.net>

### 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 May, so send information for June and later to arrive by **April 20, 2007**. Other events are listed in articles and chapter reports. Thank you.

**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.

**Mar. 17, 2007:** End of the Trail Chapter meeting, Santa Fe, NM.

**April 21, 2007:** Corazón Chapter workday, Fort Union National Monument.

**May 5, 2007:** Fort Larned Old Guard Annual Meeting.

**May 19, 2007:** Corazón Chapter trip, Wind River Ranch.

**May 19, 2007:** End of the Trail Chapter meeting, Santa Fe, NM.

**June 9, 2007:** Fort Union National Monument, First Fort Tours, 505-425-8025.

**June 14-25, 2007:** Tour of Camino Real in Mexico, led by Hal Jackson; details at <www.tourelcaminoreal.com>.

**June 16, 2007:** Corazón Chapter trip, Ocaté Crossing.

**July 21, 2007:** Corazón Chapter trip, Cimarron and Rayado.

**July 21-22, 2007:** Fort Union National Monument, Cultural Encounters Program, 505-425-8025.

**Aug. 18, 2007:** Corazón Chapter meeting, Las Vegas Museum, Santa Fe Trail exhibit.

**August 25, 2007:** Fort Union National Monument, Candlelight Tours, 505-425-8025.

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

### SFTA MASTER CALENDAR NEEDS YOUR DATES

**A** master calendar has been placed on the SFTA web site, and officers, chapters, or anyone else planning a Trail event or meeting is expected to place that information on this calendar as soon as a date is set. Please

send dates to Association Manager Clive Siegle <cgsiegle@earthlink.net> as soon as possible.

### FROM THE EDITOR

As information in this issue makes clear, it is time to start planning to attend the symposium in Trinidad in late September. Those in charge have put together an outstanding offering of tours, speakers, and special events. The foundations of SFTA were laid at Trinidad in 1986. There are still 115 charter members from the first year of the organization, which was refined and expanded in 1987. At Trinidad we will be celebrating the historic Santa Fe Trail and also the history of SFTA. Put it on your calendar now and bring some friends. I hope to see you there.

The new SFTA web site continues to develop. Take a look at <www.santafetrail.org> for Trail history, chapter information, Last Chance Store, registration for the September symposium, and taking care of membership online.

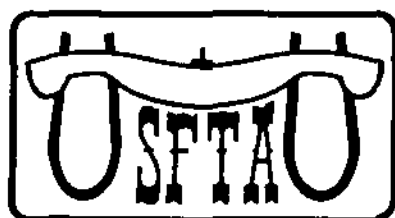
Another reminder to chapters. Your reports for *Wagon Tracks* are requested via e-mail or as an attachment directly to the editor by the deadline (20th of the month prior to the month of issue). These are edited for style and space available. I do not have time to go through your newsletters to see if something could be included in *WT*. There are more of you than of me. I want your chapter reports, but you are responsible for them.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

**Santa Fe Trail Association**  
**PO Box 31**  
**Woodston, KS 67675**

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