

Wagon Tracks

Volume 18

Issue 3 *Wagon Tracks* Volume 18, Issue 3 (May 2004)

Article 1

2004

Wagon Tracks. Volume 18, Issue 3 (May, 2004)

Santa Fe Trail Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon_tracks

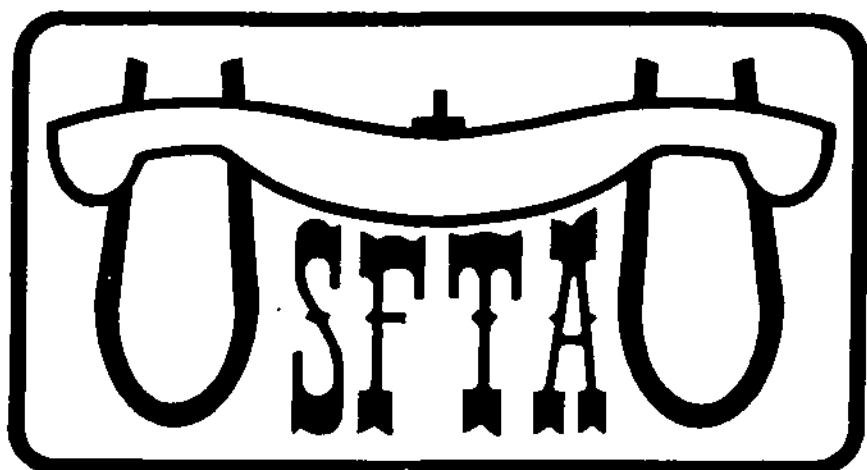


Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Santa Fe Trail Association. "Wagon Tracks. Volume 18, Issue 3 (May, 2004)." *Wagon Tracks* 18, 3 (2004).
https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon_tracks/vol18/iss3/1

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wagon Tracks by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.



WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOLUME 18

MAY 2004

NUMBER 3

NOTICE

THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR INDIVIDUALS & COUPLES WILL INCREASE FROM \$885 TO \$1000 ON JULY 1, 2004

LIFE MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

THIS is the final reminder that life membership fees increase from \$885 to \$1000 for individuals and couples on July 1, 2004. Those who have already paid 2004 membership fees may count what they have paid for this year in that life-membership fee. After July 1, 2004, all life memberships will be \$1000 (payable in one sum or three annual installments). Please consider joining the 18 life memberships which help support the endowment of SFTA.

SFT RENDEZVOUS SEPT. 16-19

THE biennial Rendezvous (sponsored jointly by SFTA, Santa Fe Trail Center, and Fort Larned National Historic Site) will be at Larned, KS, September 16-19, 2004, with the theme "The Santa Fe Trail as Portrayed by Artists & Writers of the Period." There will be a SFTA board meeting and a Public Relations Workshop for chapter representatives on Thursday, as well as a tour of a portion of the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road.

The opening event of Rendezvous will be held at the Santa Fe Trail Center on Thursday evening with an art display and opportunity to "Meet the Artists." Art representing the three major cultures of the Trail will be shown.

Several speakers and demonstrations will be presented on Friday and Saturday, including a special, extensive tour of Fort Larned National Historic Site. A tour of the remainder of the Fort Hays-Fort Dodge Road will be presented on Sunday.

Program details and registration materials will be included in the next issue of *Wagon Tracks*. Make plans now to be there.

JUNE 5, 2004

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

JUNE 21-22, 2004

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP
COUNCIL GROVE, KS

JUNE 24-25, 2004

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP
LAMAR, CO

JUNE 25-27, 2004

SIX WESTERN CHAPTERS MEETING
CIMARRON CUTOFF CHAPTER

JUNE 28-29, 2004

TEACHERS' WORKSHOP
LAS VEGAS, NM

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2004

SFT RENDEZVOUS
LARNED, KS

NPS FUNDS SFTA MANAGER

JERE Krakow, National Park Service Superintendent of Long Distance Trails, announced that the SFTA request for funds to hire a full-time manager for SFTA has been approved. A search committee (Joanne VanCoevern, Bonita Oliva, Timothy Zwick, and Hal Jackson) will draft the job description, advertise the position, and fill it as soon as possible.

FRANKLIN SITE TO BE MARKED

THE SFTA board approved \$1,000 from the Association Marker Fund to erect a pole at the site of the center of the original town square of Franklin, MO, where the Santa Fe Trail began in 1821. Permission from the landowner has been obtained to mark the location. At some point an information sign will be placed near the other markers close to the original town site (destroyed by floods in the late 1820s), explaining the significance of the marker pole and a brief history of Franklin and the founding of the Santa Fe Trail.

Special thanks is extended to landowner Bobby Biesemeyer, for granting permission for the marker, and to SFTA member H. Denny Davis for working to make this possible. A committee is at work and the marker will be placed later this year.

NOTICE

EARLY DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
JULY 10, 2004
YOUR COOPERATION IS
ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED

SIX WESTERN CHAPTERS MEETING, JUNE 25-27

THE Cimarron Cutoff Chapter will host the annual Six Western Chapters meeting with the following schedule:

June 25: Meet at the Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City, OK, 9:00 a.m., for tour of Trujillo Springs and Flag Springs, lunch at noon at Cimarron Heritage Center, afternoon tour of Camp Nichols, and evening dinner at Cimarron Heritage Center and program by SFTA board member Sara Jane Richter, "Plucky & Purty: Women of the Santa Fe Trail."

June 26: Meet at Morton County Historical Museum in Elkhart, KS, 9:00 a.m., visit Trail remnants on the Cimarron National Grassland, lunch at Middle Spring, afternoon tour of Morton County Museum and visit to Harris Gallery to watch a glass blower, and evening dinner at the Museum with program by Marla Matkin portraying Libby Custer.

June 27: Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Country Church at Morton County Historical Society Museum for church service followed by brunch.

Additional information and registration form may be found inserted in this issue. Everyone is invited and welcome.

TEACHERS' WORKSHOPS

THE three teachers' workshops for using the Trail as a classroom tool will be presented at Council Grove, June 21-22; Lamar, June 24-25; and Las Vegas, NM, June 28-29. These workshops are funded by a grant from the National Park Service. For more information contact Marcia Fox <foxm@usd320.org>.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am always happy to begin my message to you with good news. And it is good news I have. At our recent SFTA board meeting in Lyons, Kansas, we received word from Long Distance Trails Superintendent Jere Krakow of the National Park Service that our request to fund a full-time manager for SFTA was approved. This news was far beyond good! All in attendance were ecstatic at the news and our thanks go to the NPS.

A search committee has been appointed and will be carefully defining our needs for a comprehensive job description. We will distribute the job description to a variety of organizations and locations. We hope we can winnow the pool of applicants down to a small number leading eventually to interviews and a final selection. The committee is cautiously optimistic that we can have a person on board by October. If you know someone who might be interested in being our manager have them contact Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters at our headquarters office for the job description.

We also received continuing support for our headquarter's office operation at the Larned Santa Fe Trail Center. Another request that I made to the NPS was also honored. I feel that we, the SFTA and chapters, need help in communicating effectively with communities and media along the Trail. I asked for funds to host a public relations workshop at the Rendezvous in Larned this September. A small stipend will be available for two members of each chapter who attend the workshop. If you want to be part of the workshop contact your chapter president.

I received additional good news from Denny Davis in Missouri. I had asked Denny if he thought we could place a marker in the center of the town square of Old Franklin. This location, now in a farm field, is a very significant one as the square is where the SFT began in 1821 and it also connected with the Boonslick Trace coming from St. Charles, Missouri, at that point. Denny has checked with the landowner, Bobby Biesemeyer, and we have permission to mark the site. Our board approved up to \$1000 for a pole to be erected there so everyone can see the loca-

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, RR 3 Box 137, Larned KS 67550; Office Manager Linda Revello.

Telephone: 620-285-2054

FAX: 620-285-7491

E-Mail: <trailassn@larned.net>

VISIT SFTA ON THE INTERNET

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

tion of the center of the Old Franklin town square even though the site is not open to visitors, with an explanatory sign placed with the other markers near the site of Old Franklin. We will get right on this task.

If you have been considering a life membership in SFTA now is the time to act. The cost will rise after July 1, 2004. Send your check for \$885 (or split into three installments) to Treasurer Ruth Olson Peters at the Trail Center and remember that you can subtract any 2004 dues you might have paid from the total. Please join the eighteen of us who have already become life members.

Parts of the member survey will be reported on in a separate space in this *Wagon Tracks* and other sections will be included in later issues. Again, thanks to the more than 200 of you taking the time to let us know what you think of the SFTA. By the way, many of you thought that the SFTA should provide speakers for our chapters. We already do this through our Speakers Bureau. It is a very simple matter for a chapter to request up to \$250 to pay for a speaker or expenses related to a speaker's presentation. We even have a list of speakers and their topics which chapters can obtain. Call Linda Revello at the Trail Center if you want help with this. The fact that so many of the respondents did not know about this service tells me that we aren't communicating with chapters and individuals as well as we'd like. We will work on this too.

Enough for this issue, and I hope to see all of you in Larned for the 2004 Rendezvous, September 16-19.

—Hal Jackson

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 | \$885 |
| Benefactor | \$1,000 |
| Patron | \$100/year |
| Business | \$80/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: Hal Jackson, 45 Calle del Norte, Placitas NM 87043, 505-867-1742, <halitojacks@aol.com>

Vice-President: Anne Mallinson, 964 NW 600, Centerview MO 64019, 816-230-7228, <SFTAMRO@aol.com>

Secretary: Michael Olsen, 5643 Sonnet Heights, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, 719-590-1048, <olsenpatti@aol.com>

Treasurer: Ruth Olson Peters, Santa Fe Trail Center, RR 3 Box 137, Larned KS 67550, 620-285-2054, FAX 620-285-7491, <trailassn@larned.net>

2005 Symposium Coordinator: Janel Cook, Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 W Lyon, Lyons KS 67554, 620-257-3941, <cqmuseum@hotmail.com>

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

Directors:

John Atkinson, MO, 816-233-3924
Clint Chambers, TX, 806-791-

3612

Dub Couch, CO, 719-254-3000
Faye Gaines, NM, 505-485-2473
Robert Kincaid, TX, 940-684-1531
Nancy Lewis, MO, 816-229-8379
Richard Loudon, At-Large, 719-

946-5513

Emery Murray, CO 719-456-2050
Ramon Powers, At-Large, 785-

478-9526

Sara Jane Richter, OK, 580-349-

2357

Jeff Trotman, KS, 620-356-1854
Joanne VanCoevern, KS, 785-825-

8349

Stephen Whitmore, NM, 505-454-

0683

Timothy A. Zwink, OK, 405-373-

4513

W. DENNIS GAMBLE

SFTA member W. Dennis Gamble, Topeka, KS, son of the late Leo and Mary Gamble, died April 3 at age 63. He was a civil engineer with the Kansas Department of Transportation. He was a volunteer at the Kansas State Historical Society and helped restore Civil War grave-stones. He suffered a heart attack at the Kansas State Historical Society during the "Return to the Territory: A Family Adventure" festival. Condolences are extended to his family and friends. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka KS 66615.

CLEAT WALTERS

SFTA charter member Cleat Walters of Great Bend, KS, died in March. He was an active member of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. Sympathy is extended to his wife Virginia. His pleasant manner will be missed by everyone.

ERRORS CORRECTED

NO matter how careful one is or how many times things are proof-read, errors always seem to make it into print. The last issue had a couple of doozies. New Mexico Congressman Tom Udall was identified as Morris Udall, the late Congressman from Arizona and Tom's uncle. Although it was all in the family, apologies are extended to Representative Tom and to the memory of Morris Udall.

Those who attempted to reach the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter auto-tour route on the Internet were frustrated by the inaccurate address provided. The correct connection is <www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/>. I hope Larry Mix will forgive me when I say "I was Mixed up."

There was an error in the Corazón Chapter report. The chapter secretary is Joanne Sprenger, and Henry Ostrander is Public Relations and Education Outreach officer.

MAKE YOUR MARK BY
REMEMBERING THE
SFTA IN YOUR WILL

DONOR HONOR ROLL

ADDITIONAL contributions have been received in memory of Paul Bentrup and Jana Marshall, plus more donations for the special request. Also, some names were accidentally omitted from the last issue. The following donors are added to the honor roll. Special thanks to everyone who has contributed.

Belinda Adams
Janet Armstead
E. W. (Pete) Armstrong
David Avant
David Bentrup
Joe and Donna Butcher
David & Alice Clapsaddle
Norman Clark
Hal & Beverly Jackson
Margaret Johnston
Howard Miller
Morton County Historical Society
Reed & Ruth Olson Peters
Raymond Wiebe

AN APPEAL TO CHAPTER MEMBERS TO JOIN SFTA

by Stephen Whitmore

(The SFTA board, at its April 3 meeting, suggested that additional effort be made to attract chapter members who are not presently members of SFTA to join the Association. President Jackson asked board member Steve Whitmore to prepare this article for WT.)

THIS message is intended for members of SFTA chapters who for some reason do not pay their national dues. Of course, if you are reading this, you probably have paid your dues. In that case pass this message along to someone who needs it.

It's a fact that any chapter which accepts members who fail to pay national dues is in violation of national SFTA bylaws. But we shall not pursue that issue here. My point is that the Association deserves the support of everyone who enjoys membership in a local chapter. Face it: without the Association there would be no local Trail societies we call chapters. They were all founded as member societies of SFTA. It is doubtful that they would exist otherwise.

And there are plenty of good reasons to join the national Association as well as a local chapter. One of them is subscription to the important journal you are now reading.

Another is access to the wonderful Symposia and Rendezvous which SFTA with its chapters produce every year (go to just one and you will be persuaded). SFTA also offers tangible benefits to chapters. It can help pay for local programs and Trail markers. It can help technically with mapping, publicizing, and preserving the Trail. It provides 501(C)(3) nonprofit tax-exempt status to chapters not having their own tax exemption. It carries general liability insurance which covers all chapters. It provides workshops and materials about the Trail for school teachers, and it offers financial grants to support scholarly research. It is an effective advocate with government for support of National Historic Trails and the National Park Service.

In short, with national dues (which are quite modest compared to many similar organizations) you get a lot for your money. In addition, your dues make it possible for SFTA to continue its programs. But perhaps the greatest benefit of membership in the national Association is intangible. It is the connections formed with Trail enthusiasts from other places, the knowledge shared, the appreciation learned for the manifold history of our cherished Santa Fe Trail. Please join the crowd.

ATTENTION POTENTIAL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

by Janel Cook

THE symposium committee will be calling for proposed presentations this fall for the 2005 symposium in McPherson, Kansas, September 29-October 2. This brief notice is to alert potential presenters to start thinking about proposals.

The primary focus for the event is the central section of the Trail in a four-county area of Kansas: Marion, McPherson, Rice, and Barton. The timeline for subjects has been left open and range from the prehistoric period to the end of the Trail.

The committee will also consider other subject matter containing Trail issues, since new and exciting research is being done along the entire Trail. A session on the Pike Expedition of 1806-1807 will be welcome. We encourage everyone interested in making a presentation to apply this fall.

SFTA QUESTIONNAIRE

THE results of the SFTA questionnaire sent out a few months ago provide important information about the organization. More than 200 members responded, a remarkable number. Some of the basic data follows. Everyone did not respond to every question.

The geographical distribution of respondents was similar to the location of members: New Mexico = 38, Colorado = 36, Oklahoma = 11, Texas = 6, Kansas = 57, Missouri = 15, and non-Trail states = 32. The mean length of membership in SFTA is 9.6 years, ranging as one would expect from charter members (18 years) to those joining last year.

The respondents are predominantly elderly, with 136 over age 65 and 65 under that age. They classified their place of residence as city (108), small town or village (51), or rural (42). Only 40% belong to a SFTA chapter (76), while 114 are not chapter members.

The mean number of times that respondents have attended a symposium is 2.2, with 31 attending the most recent symposium in Kansas City. Of those responding, 62 have attended at least one Rendezvous at Larned. Those who did not attend the symposium gave such reasons as too far to go (44), unable to get away for that time (35), other commitments (36), health reasons (22), don't like to drive in the city (16), it was too costly (14), and not interested in the programs (12). The ratio of reasons for not attending a Rendezvous were quite similar, except for dislike of city driving.

(continued next issue)

FORT UNION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN NPS

FORT Union National Monument, located on the historic Santa Fe Trail in New Mexico, will commemorate the 50th anniversary as a part of the National Park Service on June 19, 2004. Special programs will be presented throughout the day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., including participation by SFTA members, band concert, and a special tour of the site of the first fort. The public is invited. For more information, please contact Superintendent Mitzi Frank at 505-425-8025.

WRITINGTHEWEST 2004

PUBLISHED and aspiring writers gather this summer for the 4th annual WritingtheWest workshop in Gunnison, Colorado, July 9-10. Sponsored by Western State College and Western Writers of America, this unique literary gathering provides writers of every age and skill level to learn about craft, the western literary genre, how to preserve our western heritage, and how to get into the publishing world.

Taught by successful published writers, classes include a variety of accredited subjects: Research for Non Fiction—Larry Brown; Fiction—Max McCoy and John Nesbitt; Finding Your Muse/ Poetry in Prose—Laurie Wagner Buyer; Writing for Western Media—M. J. Van Deventer; Nature Writing—John Murray, and Author/Editor Relations—W. C. Jameson. WSC English Professor Mark Todd will emcee a poetry-slam with an emphasis on performance art. Noted musician, author, and songwriter Jon Chandler will teach western songwriting.

Keynote speaker on July 9 is noted nature writer Dan Flores, University of Montana history professor. Additional speakers include author Page Lambert, *Persimmon Hill Magazine* editor M. J. Van Deventer, and musician/author W. C. Jameson. Classes are held on the campus of Western State College. Registration fee includes room and board in campus dorms.

Faculty members and professional musicians Jon Chandler, Mike Blakely and Los Yahoos, and W. C. Jameson will star in SingingtheWest, the annual western music concert on Saturday, July 10. Join in for the annual Chuck Wagon supper and faculty book sale.

For the those who would like to extend the experience into a western vacation, arrive on Tuesday July 6 and join other writers for two days of history and touring, including a trip to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison and an optional overnight pack trip on July 7.

For registration information, costs, concert tickets, and more details, please go to <www.writingthewest.com> or e-mail <lmeredith@western.edu> or <Corinnejb@aol.com>.

ARROW ROCK CELEBRATES

A special program will commemorate the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery passing of Arrow Rock, Missouri, June 8-9. The 45-member Corps reenactors, in a keelboat and two pirogues, will encamp along the river. The camp will be approximately a 3/4-mile hike from Arrow Rock. Many activities are planned. The Corps will arrive about midday June 8 and leave the next day.

On June 10 Arrow Rock will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the town, with a program by Arrow Rock State Historic Site Administrator Michael Dickey presented at Huston Tavern. The Arrow Rock Masonic Lodge Fish Fry will be June 12.

A War of 1812 Encampment will be at Arrow Rock on June 19, and a program by Archaeologist Tim Baumann, "On Finding Sibley's Fort," will be presented June 20. These are good times to visit Arrow Rock.

TRAIL HIKING WOMEN HELP MUSEUMS

by Inez Ross

THE Hiking Women, headed by Trail Boss Inez Ross, have sent a laminated poster of the Santa Fe Trail Monument to the Santa Fe Trail Museum in Springer, New Mexico, accompanied by color copies of the message boards at the Monument. The 65-ft. sculpture by Reynaldo Rivera, entitled "Journey's End," shows six mules pulling a freight wagon out of a muddy draw toward the Santa Fe Plaza. Museum Manager Carolyn DesChamps plans to frame the posters for display.

The Santa Fe traveling exhibit from Las Vegas, NM, will be on display at the Los Alamos NM Historical Museum in May. The Hiking Women will furnish a display case with artifacts they have brought home from their hikes to accompany the major display. The bones, gourds, and bits of metal will be a modern reminder of traffic on the by-gone road between nations.

The women resumed their 7-year trek from Santa Fe toward Franklin at the end of April, starting from the Gardner area and walking up through Westport in Kansas City.

BUFFALO ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL

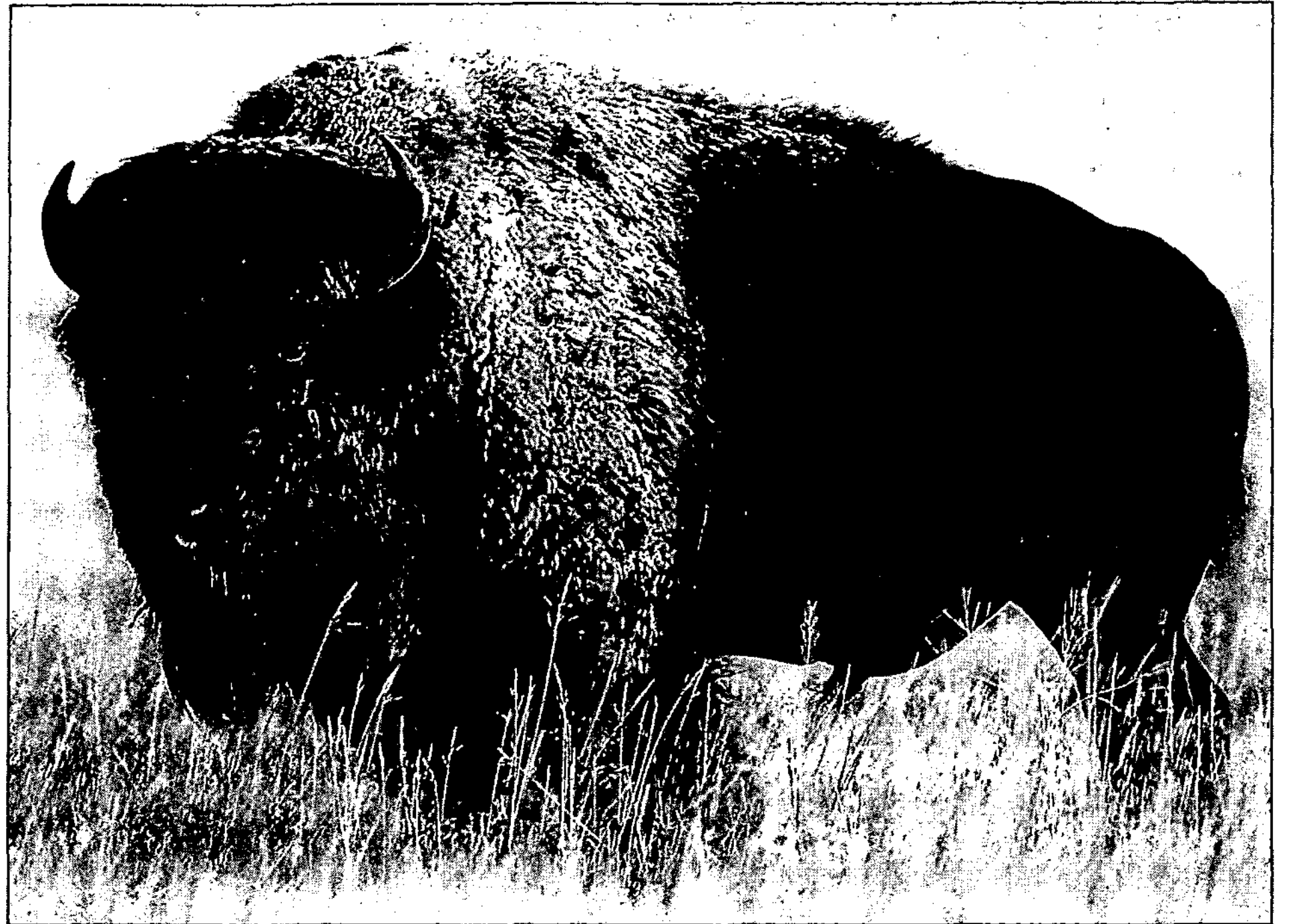
by Phyllis Morgan

(This is the seventh and final article in a series about animals along the Santa Fe Trail by SFTA member Phyllis Morgan of Albuquerque, NM. Special thanks to her for this excellent contribution to Trail history. It would be wonderful if this series could be combined into a book and published for a wider audience. Perhaps, when her schedule permits, Phyllis will prepare additional pieces for WT. She has kindly offered, if anyone is interested in having a bibliography of all her sources for this series, to provide that via mail or e-mail. Contact her at 5801 Eubank NE #295, Albuquerque NM 87111 or <Phyllismorgan1@aol.com>. Special thanks are extended to Charles G. Summers and Tom Norman for the accompanying photographs.)

BUFFALO were the most important animals on the prairies to travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. They were the focus of attention when the caravans reached buffalo country. Without them to provide the life-sustaining protein and other nutrients required for the arduous journey from Missouri to New Mexico and back again, the traders and others on the Trail as well as the early settlers on the plains would most likely not have fared as well as they did. The Indians had depended on these animals for thousands of years, and the Spanish colonists and *ciboleros* (buffalo hunters) relied on them for more than 200 years before the trade caravans followed the Road to New Mexico, beginning in the 1820s.

During the survey of the Trail in 1825, George Champlin Sibley reported: "The road, in nearly its whole extent passes over open, grassy prairie. . . . Caravans may obtain their chief Supplies for Subsistence, without difficulty or delay, from the numerous herds of Buffaloes that are almost continually passing and re-passing over the plain, crossing the Route everywhere along the greater part of the way; and many years must elapse before this great Resource will fail, or materially diminish."¹

In those days, herds of "the monarch of the plains" made a magnificent scene to behold, each animal an



Buffalo bull, photo courtesy of Charles G. Summers.

impressive member of the Animal Kingdom. The largest land mammal of North America, a male buffalo, or bull, can reach a height of 6 to 6½ feet at the shoulders, 7 to 11 feet in length, and weigh nearly a ton. Once ranging as far east as New England and the Atlantic Coast, these massively-built animals reigned supreme over the prairies and woodlands for thousands of years. Roaming is in their nature; about 300,000 years ago they roamed across the Bering land bridge from their home in Asia to North America.

This member of the bovid family, *Bovidae*, is not a true buffalo, but a species of bison. Called the American bison (*Bison bison*), it is distinguished from the true buffalo, such as the Cape buffalo of Africa and the Asian water buffalo, by the hump on its shoulders and its extra pair of ribs. The American bison has fourteen pairs of ribs, while the true buffalo has thirteen pairs. The early French explorers called them "boeufs" (meaning "oxen"), which changed over time to "buffalo."

A number of travelers on the Santa Fe Trail were aware that "bison" is the precise and scientifically correct term, but still preferred "buffalo," the name that continues to be more popular. In a country where

names and words are frequently replaced by others, because the former belonged to another time, no one has reported hearing the coin that pictures the distinctive profile of this American icon referred to as a bison nickel. Nor has anyone insisted on changing "buffalo" to "bison" in Kansas pioneer Dr. Brewster M. Higley's well-loved "The Western Home," written in 1873 and known to all as "Home on the Range." It would be unthinkable for William F. Cody fans to start referring to him as "Bison Bill." The name "buffalo" has made a deep and lasting impression on the American psyche, and it seems certain that "buffalo" and "bison" will be used interchangeably for a long time to come.

Colonel Richard I. Dodge, who commanded Fort Dodge, Kansas, from 1872 to 1873, explained why he chose to use "buffalo" in his long chapter on this gregarious animal in *The Plains of the Great West and Their Inhabitants* (1877): "I suppose I ought to call this animal the 'bison;' but, though naturalists may insist that 'bison' is his true name, I, as a plainsman, also insist that his name is buffalo. As buffalo he is known everywhere, not only on the plains but throughout the sporting world; as buffalo he lives and moves and

has his being; as buffalo he will die; and when, as must soon happen, his race has vanished from earth, as buffalo he will live in tradition and story."² These ending words are foreboding.

Colonel Dodge, Josiah Gregg, artist George C. Catlin, Indian leaders, and others foresaw the grim future of the buffalo and their demise on the plains. Some expressed their beliefs that this important animal was in danger of extermination. Most travelers on the plains, however, paid no heed, positive that the buffalo would last forever.

People following the routes of the Trail seldom overlooked describing or commenting on the sight of buffalo herds. They had heard many stories and read about them in books and newspapers. They imagined what the buffalo country would be like, but they were totally astounded by what they saw, a scene far beyond their expectations.

Lydia Spencer Lane saw buffalo on a number of occasions in her travels with her army husband. She wrote about them during a trip over the Trail from Fort Union to Kansas City, traveling with a party in ten-mule wagons for twenty-four days. She also told of one of the many perils of hunting on the land where the buffalo roamed: "In those days the whole country was covered with immense herds of buffalo; there were thousands and thousands of them; yes, a million. They never molested the trains crossing the Plains, though sometimes a great drove of them came thundering down to the road, and the wagons were obliged to halt until they passed. There was no difficulty in killing one when fresh meat was needed; but the wary hunter seldom wandered far away, as there were plenty of Indians abroad as well as buffalo. A man strayed off one day, and we knew nothing of him until night, when he came into camp, naked. Indians had caught him while hunting, taken all his clothes, even his shoes, and then turned him adrift. He kept at a respectful distance from the wagons until darkness covered him, the only mantle he had, and then came into camp. He did not care much for hunting during the rest of his travels."³

In his popular book, *The Old Santa Fe Trail*, first published in

1939, Stanley Vestal described the heart of buffalo country: "Far and wide, on every hand, the sign of those majestic animals was to be seen, and at all seasons. Everywhere the soil had been scooped into shallow, saucer-like depressions by wallowing bison . . . in any season, those wallows were an unfailing sign that buffalo ranged the country. And now, as gray wolves were seen insolently trotting along the ridges, everyone knew that the herds could not be far off. Every man in the caravan felt his blood begin to heat with buffalo fever."⁴

This feverish affliction raged across the prairies and gripped the men, young and old, as they drew closer to the far-flung region on both sides of the Arkansas River. Their expectations of shooting and killing buffalo became palpable. In the excitement, the chase would sometimes turn into riotous confusion with buffalo and hunters going in every direction, creating a dangerous situation for all. Many buffalo were killed only for sport. Marc Simmons, eminent scholar of the Santa Fe Trail, has commented: "It was a kind of primitive bloodlust that led to pointless slaying of buffalo."⁵

Philip Gooch Ferguson, among the men who traveled the Santa Fe Trail in General Stephen W. Kearny's Army of the West during the War with Mexico, caught some of that "buffalo fever." He recorded in his diary during a rest stop on July 22, 1847, "we came in sight of black-looking masses on the prairie, which some said were buffaloes, but others could scarcely believe it. There were such numbers of them. Yet buffaloes they proved to be, and forgetting our duty as scouts, we determined to give them a chase. Lindemore and I rode out to drive them down. But this proved a vain attempt, for as soon as the herd took the alarm, they broke off and could not be headed.

"Finding we could not turn the course of this living current, I determined to have a shot at them as they passed. But Black Hawk [Ferguson's horse], not fancying the looks of the shaggy animals, refused to go close to them, and I fired my musket at an old bull over a hundred yards distant while my horse was at full speed. But if I hit him, he did not mind it, as he continued on at a rolling gallop. . . .

Being nearly exhausted myself and having run my horse about six miles, I returned to the company, which was now out of sight. Thus ended my first buffalo chase, and I had fully experienced the wild excitement it inspires."⁶

Ed (William B. Jr.) Napton was eighteen in June 1857 when he left from the Westport, Missouri, area in a train of 26 wagons (two were loaded with bottles of champagne for Colonel Cerán St. Vrain, former mountain man and partner of the Bent brothers, residing at that time in the Las Vegas-Mora area of New Mexico). That year, about 12,000 wagons left the Kansas City environs for Santa Fe; 9,884 of those went to New Mexico.⁷ The son of a wealthy Saline County, Missouri, family, Napton was well-educated, a proficient horseman, and skilled in the use of guns. His health, however, was "indifferent," and his father thought the trip would help to improve it. Young Napton, seeming more mature and serious than many tenderfeet, was able to acquire a well-trained, experienced buffalo horse and looked forward to his first buffalo chase.

Napton did not have to wait long. His first chase proved exhilarating, but unsuccessful. He later wrote: "As we were drawing near the buffalo range preparations were made for a chase. The pistols were freshly loaded and butcher knives sharpened. . . . On Turkey Creek, a branch of the Cottonwood, we came in sight of buffalo, in a great mass, stretching out over the prairie as far as the eye could reach. . . . We rode slowly until we got within three or four hundred yards at the edge of the vast herd. Then they began to run and we followed, gaining on them all the time." In his haste, Napton began shooting at a very large, old bull. His shots had little effect. The buffalo, after gazing steadily at him for a few minutes, galloped over a ridge and disappeared from view. The caravan's captain instructed Napton "as to the modus operandi of killing buffalo on horseback at full speed." Resolved to try another chase, on the following day the young hunter mounted his rested, eager steed and "sallied forth."⁸

"At the left of the road, in sight, thousands of buffalo were grazing in

a vast plain, lower than the ridge down which we were riding. Opened up in our view was a scope of country to the southeast of us, a distance of ten miles. This plain was covered with them, all heading towards the northwest."⁹ Obviously a quick learner, he rode his horse up next to a fat cow and, with his second shot, brought down his first buffalo.

Napton found that he was completely surrounded by the rushing mass of animals that his shots had set in motion. "The air was so clouded with dust that I could hardly see more than twenty yards from where I was standing, near the carcass of the cow I had killed." The rushing buffalo separated as they approached him and passed on either side of him, only a few yards distant. While the herd passed by he shot another buffalo. "So, I had two dead in, say twenty minutes." After the second chase, he did not experience any problems in killing all the buffalo his company needed for food. He added: "For a week or ten days they were hardly out of sight. We found them as far west as Pawnee Rock. All told, I killed about twenty on the journey out and back. A good steak, cut from the loin of a buffalo cow, broiled on the coals with a thin slice of bacon attached to it to improve its flavor, was 'good eating,' and I soon became an accomplished broiler."¹⁰

All agreed that the numbers of buffalo were "immense" and "overwhelming." Before the opening of the Trail, Zebulon Montgomery Pike recorded in the journal of his 1806-1807 expedition through Louisiana Purchase territory: "I will not attempt to describe the drove of animals we now saw on our route [in Kansas headed west of present Cimarron]; suffice it to say, that the face of the prairie was covered with them, on each side of the river; their number exceeded imagination."¹¹ The day before, Pike had climbed a hill to watch the action as members of his party took a break to kill some cows and calves for their food supply. He wrote that the scene "gave a lively representation of an engagement. The herd, having been divided into separate bands, first charged on one side and then to the other, as the pursuit of the men on horseback impelled them. . . . The report and

smoke from the guns, added to the pleasure of the scene, which in part compensated for our detention. The cow buffalo was equal to any meat I ever saw, and we feasted sumptuously on the choice morsels."¹² [Note: These passages and other Pike comments about buffalo are found in "Pike's Column" in this issue.] Among the morsels considered delicacies were tongue, liver, marrow, and the fat anterior portions of the hump.

In 1821, during his first journey over the prairies to Santa Fe, William Becknell recorded briefly in his journal on September 24: "We reached the Arkansas, having traveled during the day in sight of buffaloe, which are here innumerable."¹³

Like Pike and Napton, most of the Trail travelers considered buffalo meat, except that from tough, old bulls, to be more savory and juicier than beef, probably because the fat is more evenly distributed in the meat. Frank S. Edwards, a Missouri Mounted Volunteer in the Mexican War, had a differing opinion, although his first impression may have been affected by the age of the buffalo and the way it was cooked. He wrote in camp at Pawnee Fork on July 15, 1846: "Here I first tasted buffalo meat. Our hunters, who were selected from the companies each morning, had been successful in killing three out of an immense herd which we had seen crossing a roll of the prairies during the day. There must have been over three or four thousand in the herd, and, from the distance, they resembled a shadow cast upon the earth from a black cloud as it passes across the sun. The buffaloes killed consisted of two old tough bulls and a nice young cow—the latter of which, Antoine our hunter had taken. . . .

"On account of the entire absence of wood here, we had to use the dry dung of the buffalo, called by the hunters *bois de vache* [cow wood] or buffalo chips, for fuel. There was plenty of it around our camp, and it had one advantage over wood—it required no chopping. It makes a good and hot fire without flame, but had a strong ammoniacal odor, which is imparted to everything cooked by it. Our buffalo meat, which we simply roasted on the live embers, of course partook largely of this flavor . . . to

tell the truth, I was much disappointed in the flavor of buffalo-meat, and would rather have a piece of good beef."¹⁴

Edwards also commented on the buffalo wallows: "The mud-holes where they roll or wallow, become, sometimes of very large size, from these living mud-scows carrying off, one after another, considerable quantities of the moist soil. . . . The rain forms them into ponds, and fish are frequently found in them."¹⁵ Wondering about such a phenomenon as fish in a buffalo wallow in the midst of plains, Edwards ended his entry: "Where do these fish come from?" Whether Edwards found the answer to that question, we will never know.

The buffalo were said to number 60 million, a number that old-timers stuck to religiously. Dale F. Lott, wildlife biologist, remarks in his book *American Bison: A Natural History* (2002): "'Sixty million bison' has long been as close to religious dogma as a secular society's beliefs can be. . . . Such importance justifies a really close look at how that figure got fixed in our collective consciousness."¹⁶ Lott tells how scientist Jim Shaw traced this number back to the works of Ernest Thompson Seton, world-famous naturalist and author of many popular books about wild animals. Seton based his calculations on Colonel Dodge's account of the herds seen during a 34-mile trip made in a light wagon from old Fort Zarah to Fort Larned in May 1871.

Dodge's description of that trip follows: "At least twenty-five miles of this distance was through one immense herd, composed of countless smaller herds, of buffalo then on their journey north. The road ran along the broad level 'bottom,' or valley, of the river. Some few miles from Zara [*sic*] a low line of hills rise from the plain on the right, gradually increasing in height and approaching the road and river, until they culminate in Pawnee Rock, when they again recede. The whole country appeared one mass of buffalo, moving slowly to the northward; and it was only when actually among them that it could be ascertained that the apparently solid mass was an agglomeration of innumerable small herds, of from fifty to two hundred animals, separated from the surrounding

herds by greater or less space, but still separated. . . .

"When I had reached a point where the hills were no longer more than a mile from the road, the buffalo on the hills, seeing an unusual object in their rear, turned, stared an instant, then started at full speed directly towards me, stampeding and bringing with them the numberless herds through which they passed, and pouring down upon me all the herds, no longer separated, but one immense compact mass of plunging animals, mad with fright, and as irresistible as an avalanche. The situation was by no means pleasant."¹⁷ He reined up his horse, an old buffalo horse accustomed to stampeding buffalo.

"I waited until the front of the mass was within fifty yards, when a few well-directed shots from my rifle split the herd, and set it pouring off in two streams, to my right and left. When all had passed me they stopped, apparently perfectly satisfied, though thousands were yet within reach of my rifle, and many within less than one hundred yards. Disdaining to fire again I sent my servant to cut out the tongues of the fallen. This occurred so frequently within the next ten miles, that when I arrived at Fort Larned I had twenty-six tongues [a prime delicacy] in my wagon, representing the greatest number of buffalo that my conscience can reproach me for having murdered on any single day. I was not hunting, wanted no meat, and would not voluntarily have fired at these herds. I killed only in self-preservation, and fired almost every shot from the wagon."¹⁸

According to Dale Lott, Seton had a keen mind for calculations. He tried every reasonable way to estimate the population of buffalo before the Great Slaughter. Since the time Seton made his decision to stick with 60 million, scientists have used a variety of approaches, including studying the land's carrying capacity, to come up with a figure. Their attempts may be more sophisticated, but the result is still speculation. Today, some biologists think that the bison population might have been closer to 30 million.¹⁹ This explains why sources frequently differ, providing estimates that range from 30 to 60 million. Lott prefers to use

"tens of millions."

Some Trail travelers recorded their thoughts about the physical appearance and behavior of buffalo. The early Spanish explorers considered them the most monstrous looking animals ever seen. Much later, Susan Magoffin jotted in her diary while nooning at Big Coon Creek on July 13, 1846: "Passed a great many buffalo (some thousands); they crossed our road frequently within two or three hundred yards. They are very ugly, ill-shapen things with their long shaggy hair over their heads, and the great hump on their backs, and they look so droll running. . . . They draw themselves into a perfect knot switching their tails about, and throwing all feet up at once."²⁰ Albert Pike, a young Bostonian, headed over the Trail on his way to Taos, described them as "heavy, unwieldy" and "seem, even at their best speed, to be moved by some kind of clumsy machinery."²¹

Although their enormous bulk, humps, large heads, long front legs, and skinny rumps may make them look awkward to the casual observer, they have impressive athletic abilities. Their long front legs give them an impressive stride to escape the fangs of their animal predators. They can swiftly pivot and turn around, gallop at over 30 miles-per-hour, and even leap tall road cuts in a single bound. Lott, who has observed them for many years at the National Bison Range in western Montana, states in his book: "They are capable, at any second, of a memorable athletic moment."²² He watched a 2,000-pound bull do a standing high jump of six feet. Buffalo can also perform standing broad jumps of 14 feet (the jumps are described as "hops"), which caused the Range to install extended cattle guards.

By the mid-1800s, Indians and buffalo were seen as impediments to the westward movement of settlers and to turning the plains into tillable farmland and range for cattle. In an unspoken national policy, the federal government formed its plan to eradicate the buffalo and remove the Indians to reservations. In 1873, Columbus Delano, then U.S. Secretary of the Interior, wrote: "The civilization of the Indian is impossible while the buffalo remain on the plains."²³ Hide

hunters, supplied with free ammunition and protected by the U.S. Army, became the instrument of that policy beginning in 1868. The hunters began shooting the buffalo in earnest in the early 1870s; it took until 1883, when the last large hunt occurred, to eliminate them. Millions of hides and tongues and tons of meat were sent East, although countless carcasses were left to rot on the land. The last commercial shipment of hides was in 1889. The bone collectors followed. The Great Slaughter had ended, and the buffalo were gone from the prairies and the routes of the old Santa Fe Trail, which had entered into oblivion in 1880.

By 1894, the only free-living buffalo remaining in the United States were found in Yellowstone National Park. By 1902, this last wild herd had been reduced by poachers to 23 animals. A few hundred other buffalo survived on private land. In an ironic turn of events two decades later, the U.S. Army, which managed Yellowstone National Park, played a role in the buffalo's return from near extinction.

These remarkable animals, revered and honored with the name "Uncle," had supplied the Indians with nearly 100% of the raw materials they needed to survive. When the buffalo were gone, the Indians were destitute without them and the swift horses they rode in their hunts. In 1882, only a decade after he saw the herd that covered the prairie for 25 miles, Colonel Dodge wrote: "Ten years ago, the Plain Indians had an ample supply of food. . . . Now, everything is gone, and they are reduced to the condition of paupers, without food, shelter, clothing, or any of the necessities of life which came from the buffalo."²⁴

Mike Fox, director of the Fish and Game Department of a northern Plains Indian tribe and the person responsible for the reservation's buffalo, told Ruth Rudner, author of *A Chorus of Buffalo* (2004): "It's kind of full circle. Right now, it's our turn to take care of the buffalo. In the very near future, they'll be taking care of us again. In the past, you know they totally took care of us." He added: "Humans have to be part of the management. In the old days, we didn't call it management. We called it survival. We'd take X number of ani-



Buffalo calf at Finney Game Refuge near Garden City, Kansas, photo courtesy of Tom Norman, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

mals. Dealing with these animals, you know that at some point you're going to have a surplus if you don't use them as they're meant to be used."²⁵

Today, buffalo are gaining a hoofhold in a number of areas where the herds once roamed in incredible numbers. Most live in national and state parks, wildlife refuges, and on private land (including the large buffalo ranches owned in several states by Ted Turner). In Kansas, where buffalo are the state animal, they can be found near the Mountain Route of the old Santa Fe Trail at the Finney Game Refuge, outside of Garden City. The oldest publicly-owned buffalo herd in the state lives at this refuge.

Although their numbers are increasing, the future for buffalo is far from secure, particularly in places where there are issues surrounding their return. One is the longstanding issue of buffalo competing with cattle for food and water. Another is the fear that buffalo are carriers of brucellosis, a bacterial disease, and may endanger cattle. Buffalo and cattle, however, generally do not graze together, and no one has yet produced a credible scientific study that proves transmission of brucellosis from buffalo to domestic livestock under natural pasture conditions.²⁶ In addition, vaccines are available to prevent brucellosis in cattle and buffalo, but so far these are not 100% effective. The lives of buffalo, as well as those of other wildlife, depend more than ever on the advocacy, ongoing efforts, and dedicated work of concerned people who want this American icon and others to survive and thrive in their natural habitats.

NOTES

1. Kate L. Gregg, ed., *The Road to Santa Fe: The Journal and Diaries of George Champlin Sibley* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995), 204.
2. Richard Irving Dodge, *The Plains of the Great West and Their Inhabitants* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1877), 119.
3. Lydia Spencer Lane, *I Married a Soldier; or Old Days in the Old Army* (Albuquerque: Horn & Wallace, 1964), 36.
4. Stanley Vestal, *The Old Santa Fe Trail* (1939; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996), 76.
5. Marc Simmons, "On the Buffalo Trail," "Trail Dust" column, *Santa Fe Reporter*, February 3-9, 1993, 24.
6. Ralph P. Bieber, ed., "Diary of Philip Gooch Ferguson, 1847-1848," *Marching with the Army of the West, 1846-1848* (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1936), 303.
7. Jean Tyree Hamilton, "Foreword," *Over the Santa Fe Trail in 1857*, by W. B. Napton (Arrow Rock, Missouri: Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc., 1991), 4.
8. W. B. Napton, *Over the Santa Fe Trail in 1857* (1905; reprint, Arrow Rock: Friends of Arrow Rock, 1991), 14.
9. *Ibid.*, 16.
10. *Ibid.*, 17.
11. Donald Jackson, ed., *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, 2 vols. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), II, 343.
12. *Ibid.*
13. William Becknell, *The Journals of Capt. Thomas [William] Becknell* (Columbia, Missouri: Missouri Historical Review, 1910), 73.
14. Frank S. Edwards, *A Campaign in New Mexico with Colonel Doniphan* (1847; reprint, Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996), 12.
15. *Ibid.*
16. Dale F. Lott, *American Bison: A Natural History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 69.
17. Dodge, *The Plains of the Great West*, 120.
18. *Ibid.*, 121.
19. Lott, *American Bison*, 76. For an interesting discourse on bison population, see pages 69-76 and 167-68.
20. Stella M. Drumm, ed., *Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico: The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin, 1846-1847* (1926; reprint, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 49.
21. Albert Pike, *Prose Sketches and Poems, Written in the Western Country* (Boston: Light & Horton, 1834), 63.
22. Lott, *American Bison*, 41-42.
23. Valerius Geist, *Buffalo Nation: History & Legend of the North American Bison* (Stillwater, Minnesota: Voyageur Press, 1996), 69.
24. Dodge, *The Plains of the Great West*, 110.
25. Ruth Rudner, *A Chorus of Buffalo* (New York: Marlowe & Co., 2003), 114.
26. *Ibid.*, 3-4.

**SANTA FE TRAIL RENDEZVOUS
LARNED, KS, SEPTEMBER 16-19**

THE WAGON TONGUE

—OBSERVATIONS & OPINIONS—

(Editor's Note: The recent movie, *Hidalgo*, was released soon after Phyllis Morgan's fine two-part article on mustangs appeared in WT. After seeing this touching story, I asked her for commentary, which follows.)

The movie *Hidalgo*, the story of a mustang and his owner (played by Viggo Mortensen) involved in a grueling race across the Arabian desert, helps tell the story of this remarkable breed of horses. I hope many SFTA members noticed this movie and had the opportunity to see it. I thoroughly enjoyed it and have seen it twice. I was at the first showing on the first day that it opened in Albuquerque. It was on a Friday afternoon, and I was surprised to see that the theatre was over half full. Everybody seemed to enjoy the movie—there are a lot of horse lovers around here! A larger number than usual stayed to watch the credits, which, to my mind, is the sign of a movie well-enjoyed, because people are interested in seeing the names of actors and actresses, the filming locations, etc.

The role of the horse named *Hidalgo* in the movie is skillfully played by a mustang named T. J. I was thrilled to read after seeing the movie that Viggo Mortensen fell in love with *Hidalgo* during the filming and bought the horse afterward. By the way, the Spanish name *Hidalgo* literally means "son of something," which I thought was an appropriate name for a mustang, whose lineage is frequently not known. *Hidalgo* is the lowest noble rank among the Spanish ranks, of which there are many.

I enjoyed the movie for the well-written story and dialogue, the adventure, the color, and excitement. It is reminiscent of the good "old-fashioned" swashbuckling films. The ending scene of *Hidalgo* joining the thundering herd of mustangs touched my heart deeply. The lack of foul language and modern-day violence were also greatly appreciated. This is a movie for all ages and highly recommended.

Phyllis S. Morgan
5801 Eubank NE #295
Albuquerque NM 87111

JEREMIAH STOKES: A CASE STUDY IN FAMILY HISTORY

by Joseph F. Meany, Jr.

(SFTA member Meany, Albany, NY, is a retired librarian and archivist. He is writing a book about Stokes. This paper was presented at the 2003 Symposium with slides, and it is adapted here without the illustrations. This fascinating biography is relevant because Stokes did serve on the Santa Fe Trail. Meany also explains some of the exciting steps in research. Special thanks to him and to Jeremiah Stokes.)

MORE than 25 years have passed since professors James Watts and Allen F. Davis first seriously suggested genealogy as a tool in the research and teaching of American history, offering as it does access into the lives of ordinary men and women.¹ Genealogy, they argued, can be so much more than the sterile recounting of successive generations. It can be the springboard to family history, i.e., using the experience of individual family members to understand the broader context of the past. This article will demonstrate the use of family history to illuminate three themes in 19th-century American history; Irish immigration, the Civil War, and the Indian Wars. In addition, it should be noted, his story has a Santa Fe Trail connection.

Many American families can trace themselves back to a Civil War soldier, a fact that is partly responsible for the enduring popular interest in that seminal event in American history. Yet traditionally it is the careers of the great military leaders like Robert E. Lee and Ulysses Grant that have been the focus of attention while the multitudes whose lives were profoundly affected by that conflict have too often remained faceless.

Recently, I came upon an individual whose life experiences perfectly illustrate my point. His name is Jeremiah Stokes, 1834-1915. My interest in Jeremiah was first aroused when I discovered his eligibility certificate for the Pension Act of 1890. This Pension Act, I knew, was the political goal of the GAR—the Grand Army of the Republic—the nationwide organization for veterans of the Union Army who had struggled and

lobbied to get a general pension for Union veterans since the 1870s. The pension certificate told me that, beginning on April 21, 1904, Jeremiah Stokes was eligible to receive eight dollars a month in consideration of his service to the republic during the years 1864 and 1865.

The certificate also provided additional information but, as is so often the case in historical research, it raised more questions than it answered. The certificate stated that Jeremiah Stokes served in Company "A," Second Regiment, United States Volunteer Infantry. Now as a Civil War enthusiast of many years standing, I had always associated the volunteer troops of the Civil War with the states; the 125th New York Volunteers, the 1st Virginia Volunteer Cavalry, and so on.

But who were these federal volunteers? Besides the regiments of the regular army (career soldiers), I also knew that the federal government did raise some special categories of volunteer troops (obligated only for the duration) during the Civil War. Perhaps the most famous of these were the regiments of United States Colored Troops (USCTs)—for the most part ex-slaves that no state would claim. There were also the regiments of the Veteran Reserve Corps (VRCs)—superannuated survivors of the Mexican-American War who were used to guard railroad bridges or as prison guards or for other limited duties. But who were these other United States Volunteers?

For a quick answer I consulted volume three, the regimental histories, in Frederick H. Dryer's *Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (3 vols.; New York: T. Yoseloff, 1959), which gave a short summary of every regiment in the Civil War. On pages 1716 and 1717, I found the United States Volunteers and notices for each of six infantry regiments. The following paragraph outlines the service of the Second Regiment: "Organized at Rock Island, Ill., October 1864. Ordered to Dept. of Missouri and assigned to duty in the District of Upper Arkansas along the Santa Fe Road from Little Arkansas River to Fort Dodge and Cimarron Cross-

ing. Stationed by Companies at Fort Riley, Salem [Salina?], Fort Ellsworth, Fort Larned, Fort Zarah, and Fort Scott, Kansas on guard duty and operating against hostile Indians till November 1865. Mustered out, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, November 7, 1865."

A possibility began to dawn on me. What was at Rock Island, a small, barren island in the upper Mississippi River? Rock Island Barracks, I knew, was a prisoner-of-war camp for captured Confederate POWs. In order to confirm my suspicions I wrote to the National Archives in Washington. The pension certificate gave me Jeremiah Stokes's company and regiment. With these the National Archives Navy and Old Army Branch was able to pull up Jeremiah's service records and provide me with a copy. The answer came in a matter of weeks. When I opened the brown envelope the first item to emerge was a photocopy of the following item, about the size of a newspaper classified ad:

"\$60 Dollars Reward

"A REWARD of \$30 will be paid for each of the following named Deserters: Private J. Stokes, about 24 years of age, 5 feet, 10 inches high, dark hair, grey eyes; born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland; by occupation when enlisted, a laborer. Deserted about the 5th day of July 1863. . . . W. R. Readick Lieut. Com'dg. Co. B, 63d Regt. Ga. Vols."

A handwritten note on the back of the copy identified the item as having come from the *Savannah Morning News* and the *Savannah Daily Republican*, both of 17 October 1863.

Well, Jeremiah Stokes was a deserter, and a fugitive for at least four months—but from whom or what? I turned to the abstracts of his service records from the National Archives and there found my suspicions confirmed. Jeremiah Stokes had been a Confederate POW when he enlisted in the Union Army at Rock Island, Illinois. His Civil War experiences were getting more and more interesting.

The abstracts showed that Jeremiah Stokes enlisted in the Confederate Army on 29 August 1862 (three

days before the Confederate conscription act was scheduled to take effect), that he received \$50.00 "confederate" as an enlistment bounty (no bounty if he had waited to be drafted), and that he was assigned to the 63rd Georgia Infantry stationed at Thunderbolt Battery.

Turning next to the Atlas accompanying the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (130 vols.; Washington DC: Gov. Printing Office, 1880-1901), I found a "Map Illustrating the Defenses of Savannah, Ga. and the Operations resulting in it's Capture by the Army commanded by Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, Dec. 21st 1864" and on it Thunderbolt Battery. Sometimes called Fort Thunderbolt, the battery turned out to be one of the river forts that guarded the city of Savannah by preventing the Union Navy from sailing up the Savannah River to attack the city. In the Civil War, it was a great place to be stationed—quiet and relatively safe.

Jeremiah Stokes continued to serve in Company B, 63rd Georgia Infantry, until June 1863 when he was reported first "Absent With Leave," changed to "Absent Without Leave," and then to "Deserted." Why, I wondered, did Jeremiah Stokes elect to desert when he did. It did not take much detective work to discover the answer. Between 5 and 10 July 1863, his company had received orders to move by rail north to Charleston where an attack by Union blockading forces was imminent. He was granted leave before shipping out; leave from which he failed to return.

He was probably smart, because we know that his company upon arrival was assigned to the garrison of Battery Wagner on Morris Island in Charleston Harbor where the Union Navy had succeeded in landing Federal troops. On 18 July 1863 the federals attacked Fort Wagner. The assault was led by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw's 54th Massachusetts, one of the first all-black regiments to enter the Union Army. Readers may remember that this was the battle depicted in the film *Glory*. Jeremiah Stokes, however, had contrived to miss the carnage. His service records indicate that he remained a fugitive until February 1864.

This explains the wanted notice that appeared in the Savannah

newspapers, although it does not explain how a copy of the wanted notice found its way into Jeremiah Stokes's service record. I believe he put it there himself (how else could it have gotten there?) to provide evidence of his lack of enthusiasm for the Confederate cause.

In February 1864 Jeremiah Stokes was carried "Present in Arrest," probably in the cells at old Fort Jackson. Jeremiah's punishment is unrecorded. We do know that he returned to duty a short time later.

By the spring of 1864, however, the Civil War was about to catch up with Jeremiah Stokes. In the East, General Grant prepared for a final offensive against Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. In the West, General Sherman stood poised to launch his own offensive from Chattanooga, Tennessee, due south into the Confederate heartland of Georgia. His objective was the capture of the Rebel industrial center at Atlanta. Confederate reinforcements were scraped together from garrison troops guarding the Atlantic coast. The 63rd Georgia was ordered to report to General Joseph E. Johnston's army at Dalton, Georgia.

In the event, Jeremiah Stokes's shooting war was to last a discrete six weeks, from the opening of the campaign during the first week in May 1864 until he was captured at Golgotha Church, Georgia, on the night of 17/18 June 1864. For this very reason I find Stokes's experience useful. It ought to be possible to put these six weeks under a microscope in order to better understand what the experience of Civil War soldiering was really like. How many miles did he march and counter-march in those six weeks? How many nights did he go without sleep? How many days was he soaked with rain? (We know that during the campaign it rained on 23 consecutive days.) How many times was he under fire and how severe was it? (We know that, during the campaign, the two armies were rarely out of contact.)

Viewed from the macro-level, the Atlanta Campaign lends itself to the classic chessboard analogy as Sherman repeatedly attempted to flank Johnston who repeatedly parried the flanking marches as he deftly fell back along the line of the Western & Atlantic Railroad. But at the micro-

level the reality was anything but an antiseptic chessboard. The reality was a succession of exhausting marches and countermarches usually at night and often in torrential rain. It meant soaked clothing, sleepless nights, mud, and the paralyzing fear that death or dismemberment lay at the end of the next retreat. And overall was the numbing knowledge of being greatly outnumbered, outclassed in resources of every kind, and overwhelmed by a relentless Federal juggernaut. Even those committed to the cause realized that resistance would ultimately prove futile, eventual defeat all but inevitable.

Sometime during those six miserable weeks Jeremiah Stokes decided to desert again and this time to desert to the enemy. His chance came in the third week of June as the Confederate Army occupied defensive positions north of Kennesaw Mountain. On the night of 17/18 June 1864, General Johnston ordered a "night withdrawal" intended to shorten and consolidate his lines. Of all tactical operations in war, a retreat—attempting to break contact with the enemy—conducted in the blackness of night, offers the most possibility for confusion. The night withdrawal of 17/18 June 1864 was no exception. And in the confusion, Jeremiah Stokes and five others slipped away. By the next day, they were prisoners of the Union Army. It was an incredibly dangerous undertaking, to surrender to these hardened Union veterans as they advanced warily through the pine scrub anticipating contact with the enemy at any moment and almost certainly primed to shoot first and ask questions afterward. Somehow it worked and Stokes and his companions were taken into custody without being killed. They were captured near Golgotha Church, a crossroads church located in a region still crisscrossed with traces of Civil War trench lines.

The prisoners' next stop was a POW collection point on the Western & Atlantic Railroad at Acworth, Georgia. From there the prisoners were shipped by rail to Chattanooga, where they were transferred to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad and moved north via Nashville and Louisville, where they were receipted by the Provost Marshall in each city. By

26 June, they had reached their last stop—the Federal Prisoner of War Camp at Rock Island, Illinois.

While Jeremiah Stokes languished on near-starvation rations in the dreary, disease-ridden, prisoner-of-war stockade at Rock Island, through the summer and fall of 1864, events were taking place in Washington, D. C., which would result in his life taking yet another unforeseen turn.

The presidential campaign of 1864 pitted incumbent President Abraham Lincoln, Republican of Illinois, against challenger Major General George B. McClellan, Democrat of Pennsylvania. As a credible “peace candidate,” committed to a negotiated settlement with the South, the popular McClellan offered an enticing policy alternative to Lincoln’s costly, and seemingly ineffective, prosecution of the war against the southern confederacy.

Lincoln’s problems did not end with his dapper political antagonist. Conscription had caused “draft riots” in New York City and other urban centers in the summer of 1863. Frustration with the lack of progress and high casualty rates meant war-weariness was rife in the large industrial states of the North whose large electoral votes were crucial to Lincoln’s reelection. By the opening of the political campaign, Lincoln’s presidency was in trouble.

It was in this context that a delegation of Republican worthies from Crawford County in western Pennsylvania called at the White House with an unorthodox proposal: to enlist Confederate prisoners willing to take the oath of allegiance to the United States and credit their enlistments against the draft quotas of certain key northern states with large electoral votes.

Lincoln embraced the idea. He was always sympathetic with schemes to restore southerners to their allegiance, and he was not above accepting some political gain from the scheme either. Thus it was that Jeremiah Stokes’s enlistment in the Union Army would be credited against the draft quota for Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

Initially the program was to be open to foreign-born Confederate prisoners whose loyalty to the South

might be less rooted. The president thought so much of the program that he sent his military aide, Captain Henry Rathbone, to Rock Island to supervise the recruiting. Rathbone was engaged to Clara Harris, the daughter of Senator Ira Harris of New York. Both would be guests in the presidential box at Ford’s Theater on the night President Lincoln was assassinated.

Recruiting went well. In all, four infantry regiments, United States Volunteers, were raised in the prison camps of the North from among foreign-born Confederate prisoners—mostly Irish and Germans. The program proved so successful that two additional regiments would be raised from among native-born southern prisoners. All were promised that they would be sent west to fight hostile Indians and would not have to bear arms against their former comrades in gray. In the West they would be called “Galvanized Yankees,” an ironic reference to the way galvanized metal changed color from gray to a bluish hue.

On 3 October 1864 Jeremiah Stokes, Confederate Prisoner of War, paraded before Captain Henry Rathbone, 12th U.S. Infantry, and swore the oath of allegiance to the United States: “I, *Jeremiah Stokes*, do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.”

Stokes undertook “to serve as a SOLDIER in the Army of the United States of America, for a period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority.” Stokes further agreed “to accept such bounty (\$100.00 union dollars), pay (\$13.00 per month), rations (salt pork, black coffee, sugar, and hard-tack), and clothing (dark or navy blue blouse and light or kersy blue trousers, campaign or slouch hat and kepi, gray flannel undershirt and drawers, shoes and socks), as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers.” The document was “Sworn and subscribed to, at *Rock Island, Ill.*

this *3d day of October, 1864.*” Stokes signed the volunteer enlistment with an “X”—*Jeremiah [his “X” mark] Stokes.*

The medical endorsement was signed by “*M. K. Gleason Examining Surgeon*”: “I CERTIFY ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.”

Rathbone completed the recruiting officer’s endorsement: “I CERTIFY ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer *J. Stokes* previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has *grey eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, is five feet Nine inches high. H. Rathbone, Capt. 12th Regiment of U.S. Inf. Recruiting Officer.*

Finally Rathbone mustered Jeremiah Stokes into the federal service: “Mustered into the service of the United States, for three years or during the war, from date of enlistment, in Company A, *2nd Regiment of United States Volunteers*, on the *3rd day of October, 1864, at Rock Island, Ill. H.R. Rathbone, Capt. 12th Inf., Mustering Officer.*”

Judging by the early date of his enlistment, 3 October 1864, and his assignment to Company A, 2nd Regiment, we may conclude that Jeremiah Stokes was among the first to accept the government’s offer. If he thought the Federal service would be more efficient than the Confederate, he was mistaken. The order of the day was hurry up and wait. Although separated from their fellow prisoners, the “galvanized Yankees” did not leave Rock Island until February 1865 when General John Pope discovered their existence.

There is not space here to explore the origins of the Indian war of 1864-1865. Suffice it to say that the tribes of the southern plains nursed grievances of long standing. The depar-

ture of a very experienced regular-army constabulary force during the Civil War and their replacement by a few very inexperienced state volunteers contributed to a series of misunderstandings and ultimately to violence.

Frustration led to atrocity. In November 1864 Colonel John M. Chivington's 3rd Colorado Cavalry, one-hundred-day volunteers, attacked the peaceful camp of Black Kettle's Cheyennes on Sand Creek, 30 miles from Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. The Sand Creek Massacre only inflamed the Indians' will to resist. Major General John Pope, commanding the Military Division of the Missouri, braced for a "bloody year on the plains." Pope was desperate for reinforcements and bombarded his superiors with pleas for more troops. He had to have them by spring 1865, when the prairie grass was tall enough to support Indian ponies and the winter encampments scattered.

Curiously, what Pope really needed was foot soldiers. The Order of Battle, dated 31 December 1864, reveals that Pope did not have a single infantry soldier in the District of the Upper Arkansas.² This meant that his cavalry companies, his only mobile force, were tied down in static duties holding isolated posts along the Santa Fe road. Competent infantry were needed to hold these posts, to provide trade protection, and to release the horse soldiers for pursuit of their highly mobile foe. Reinforcements were available from a new and unorthodox manpower pool, the newly-recruited former Rebel soldiers, among whom was a 24-year-old Irish-born Confederate prisoner named Jeremiah Stokes.

In February 1865 General Pope was authorized to use the Rock Island volunteers. He dispatched his most trusted brigadier, Alfred Sully, to Rock Island. Within two weeks Sully had the 1st and 2nd U. S. Volunteer Infantry organized and officers and NCOs appointed. To command the 2nd U. S. Volunteers, Jeremiah's regiment, Sully named Irish-born Colonel Andrew Patrick Caraher. Caraher had served in the 28th Massachusetts, part of the famous Irish Brigade, and had been severely wounded in the assault at Fredericksburg. His executive officer was

Lieutenant Colonel Josiah King, late of the 1st Minnesota, one of the most celebrated regiments in the Union Army. King had also been wounded at Fredericksburg.

Sully's selection of the company-grade officers was critical. Captain Eugene Ware concluded that all were of "undoubted courage and ability, who had been selected from among the most capable sergeants of the state regiments." Dee Brown, the historian of the Galvanized Yankees, concurred: "One of the main reasons for the success of the program was the quality of the junior officers. With few exceptions they were union army men with battlefield experience, and in general they were ambitious, energetic, and young."³ They would have to be all those things to command veterans of Pickett's Mill, New Hope Church, and Peachtree Creek.

The officers of the 2nd U. S. Volunteers organized their companies during eleven days, 10-21 February 1865, and moved out by rail, arriving in Weston, Missouri, between 18 and 24 February. At Weston, they boarded steamboats for the trip down and across the Missouri River to Fort Leavenworth landing. There they marched up the deep swale cut in the Missouri River bluffs by uncounted thousands of draft animals, wagon wheels, and tramping feet, including many wagons bound for Santa Fe.

The regiment formed on the parade ground at Fort Leavenworth on 1 March 1865 and orders were read. Their mission was to provide security on the Santa Fe road, between Fort Leavenworth and Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory. Companies "A" and "D" were detached for post duty. Regimental headquarters and the remaining eight companies would march at once for Fort Riley, 130 miles west on the Kansas River.

If companies "A" and "D" were congratulating themselves on their good fortune, they were soon disabused, for the two companies were assigned to escort a caravan of 25 army supply wagons bound for posts along the Santa Fe road. They departed from Corral Creek, near Fort Leavenworth, the first week in March 1865, just as the spring grass grew long enough to sustain Indian ponies. In other words, the cam-

paing season was about to begin. For the next nine months the "galvanized Yankees" of the 2nd U. S. Volunteers guarded isolated stage stations, provided armed escort for army supply trains as well as civilian wagon caravans and stage coaches. They garrisoned tiny exposed forts and generally served as a military deterrent to swift-moving war parties of Comanche, Kiowa, and Southern Cheyenne.

Colonel Caraher established regimental headquarters at Fort Riley and detached Company "G" to garrison the post while sending "C" Company on to Fort Ellsworth to relieve a company of the 7th Iowa Cavalry there. The remaining six companies, under Lieutenant Colonel Josiah King, marched southwest to intercept the main wagon road, possibly near Dragoon Creek. The column would have marched past the grave of Private Samuel Hunt, U. S. Dragoons, who died there in 1835, an ominous presentment to the passing soldiers.

Thirteen days out of Fort Leavenworth and 145 miles west of the Missouri River, the column reached Council Grove on the Neosho River, site of William Sibley's 1825 treaty with the Osage Indians. Little would have remained of the great stand of hardwood by March 1865.

Across the Neosho lay the great "prairie ocean." Beyond, California and the west coast were virtually cut off from the rest of the United States except by sea. In midsummer 1865, the "hostiles" were deemed to have severed the nation's overland link. The Santa Fe Trail became so dangerous that for more than a month no stagecoach or wagon caravan was able to move. Telegraph lines had long since been cut. At Council Grove the army decreed that caravans with less than 100 well-armed men wait there and combine their strengths.

Jeremiah's column proceeded west of Council Grove. They passed Lost Spring, Turkey Creek, and Cow Creek Crossing, scene of a fierce Indian battle the previous year. Next, the column reached Fort Zarah, a small military post built in 1864 to guard the Walnut Creek Crossing and travelers in the region. Colonel King relieved a company of Wisconsin Cavalry and detached Company "B" to garrison Fort Zarah and Com-

pany "K" to guard the stage station at Little Arkansas Crossing. On 9 June 1865 Company "K," escorting a train of 48 army supply wagons bound for Fort Marcy at Santa Fe, was attacked at Jarvis [Chávez] Creek by a war party estimated at some 60 warriors.

The remaining four companies marched west into the sunset, following along the Arkansas River. Beyond Fort Zarah, the column passed Pawnee Rock, a celebrated Trail landmark, where travelers who could write carved their initials or names (most of which were later destroyed by quarrying operations).

Beyond Pawnee Rock lay the Pawnee Fork and Fort Larned, established as Camp Alert in 1859. Alert was the order of the day, for they were now deep in Indian country. Lieutenant Colonel King assumed command, ordered companies "E" and "H" to garrison the post, and relieved four companies of Kansas and Colorado Cavalry. In July 1865 King issued: "Instructions to Officers Commanding Escorts," brilliantly synthesizing the tactical problems of Indian warfare: *"Never imagine because you do not see any Indians . . . that there are none in your neighborhood."*

Companies "F" and "G" proceeded west to Fort Dodge under Major William F. Armstrong, the regimental adjutant. Jeremiah and his mates delivered the last of the supply wagons. On April 9 Lee surrendered in far-off Virginia and five days later the president was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington. The news reached Fort Riley on April 17, and Jeremiah probably heard it a few days later. The Civil War was almost over.

In May Jeremiah was back at Fort Leavenworth, assigned to temporary duty in the Provost Marshal's Guard over in Weston, Missouri, keeping order among off-duty soldiers at places like "Whiskey Point" and the "Rialto." In June Jeremiah was reassigned to Captain William Humphrey as a messenger carrying dispatches between posts in the District of the Upper Arkansas. Couriers traveled alone or in small parties, risking being caught and outnumbered by hostile Indians, as Jedediah Smith had been back in 1831 and Ed Miller, that "bold and fearless rider,"

who had been caught and killed the year before near Turkey Creek. In August 1865, the month that communications with the west coast were deemed to be severed, four mounted couriers from the 2nd "galvanized Yankees," were ambushed at Ash Creek (between Fort Larned and Pawnee Rock, the crossing where Susan Shelby Magoffin suffered an upset in her carriage in 1846) by a party of hostile Kiowas. Only one escaped to tell the tale.

In June 1865, companies "F" and "G" reached Fort Lyon, Colorado Territory, the westernmost post garrisoned by Jeremiah's regiment. The men were quartered in tents, while additional construction of the fort proceeded, and guarded 70 head of government stock. The animals proved an irresistible lure for the Plains Indians. On 8 June 1865 the night guard was surprised by hostiles who escaped with the majority of the animals. Four days later a war party of Kiowas, estimated at several hundred, attacked the cantonment area directly. All the remaining animals were taken and the post was effectively isolated and under siege. Casualties were three killed and two missing. The bodies were never recovered.

In July Jeremiah was relieved from messenger duty and placed in charge of a signal gun. Provost Marshal's Guard, messenger, signal gun; Jeremiah was receiving a series of responsible duties. In September he was assigned as orderly to the headquarters of Brigadier General Samuel Curtis. For an enlisted soldier to be an orderly was high-profile duty. Orderlies were frequently in close proximity to senior officers. Personal smartness was essential and the assignment was usually reserved for exemplary soldiers. Jeremiah seems to have come into his own.

As one of General Curtis's orderlies, Jeremiah accompanied the general and his escort to the council held in mid-October in the vicinity of present-day Wichita. There he witnessed the negotiations and signing of the Treaties of the Little Arkansas that halted, at least temporarily (until the outbreak of warfare following General Winfield Scott Hancock's destruction of the Cheyenne and Sioux village on Pawnee Fork west of Fort Larned in April 1867), the in-

tense warfare on the southern plains. By autumn 1865 hostilities were concluded, regulars were arriving from the East, while the volunteers, with the war over for six months, clamored for release. On October 10 General Pope requested authority to reenlist men from the 2nd and 3rd U. S. Volunteers. He contrasted his state troops as "dissatisfied and mutinous" while his former Rebs were "good soldiers in good discipline."

Grant refused the request. In November the scattered companies marched east to Fort Leavenworth. They had faithfully performed a frustrating and thankless role involving exhausting marches in dust and relentless heat with only the occasional sight of an illusive enemy. Some had marched over 1,300 miles. "Beetle-crushers" they were contemptuously called by their more glamorous mounted comrades. Yet it was the "galvanized" infantry that performed the routine military duties that freed the horse-soldiers to gallop off in hot pursuit. They had been paid once, in June, \$13 a month. On 7 November 1865 they received their back pay and were mustered out of federal service.

Jeremiah was a free man, without obligation for the first time since August 1862, and he had managed to survive unscathed the greatest bloodletting in American history. I lose track of Jeremiah Stokes that day on the parade ground of Fort Leavenworth, a twenty-five year old in dusty army blue. Some time later he reappeared in Albany, New York, where he lived and worked until his death in 1915. How he came to settle in Albany remains a question I am unable to answer. I suspect, though, that Albany's large Irish population acted as a magnet for Irish immigrants seeking a place of like community. There was work available to Irish there, on the growing New York Central Railroad, which located its main repair facility at the West Albany Shops. There was work also in the building trades, that soon would begin construction of the New York State Capitol, a project that would provide jobs for a generation of Irish laborers.

Jeremiah Stokes married Catherine Furlong, also from Ireland, and rented a flat at number 8 Dove

Street in "Sheridan Hollow," an Irish neighborhood so called because it was said to be the birthplace of Union General Philip Sheridan. Jeremiah worked as a laborer on the construction of the State Capitol and later the State Education Building, both Albany landmarks.

Jeremiah Stokes, former Indian-fighting soldier, died in 1915 leaving his wife, a son, a daughter, and a granddaughter. Ultimately he would also have a great-grandson and two great great-grandsons. He is buried in Saint Agnes' Cemetery near Albany, certainly the only former Confederate soldier to be found there. Through the adventure of his life I hope, as a historian, to better understand the experience of the Irish immigrant and the common soldier of the Civil War and the Indian Wars, including service on the Santa Fe Trail.

NOTES

1. James Watts and Allen F. Davis, *Generations: Your Family in Modern American History* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974).
2. Eugene Ware, *The Indian War of 1864* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), 312.
3. Dee Brown, *Galvanized Yankees* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1963).



HOOF PRINTS

—TRAIL TIDBITS—

A feature article about SFTA charter member and first life member Katharine Kelley of Baldwin City, KS, appeared in the January 18, 2004, issue of the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. Kelley, a retired teacher, is 94 and continues to work at the public library on the history of the Santa Fe Trail. Congratulations to our senior member.

The third season of Trails & Rails trips on Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* between La Junta, CO, and Albuquerque, NM, began May 10 and will continue until September 7. For information and schedules, contact Amtrak at 800-872-7245.

SFTA board member Stephen Whitmore is the acting executive director of the Citizen's Committee for Historic Preservation in Las Vegas, NM. Las Vegas has more than 900

buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Mills Mansion in Springer, NM, which was placed on the list of "Most Endangered Buildings" last year through the efforts of Faye Gaines and the Corazón Chapter, has been purchased and the new owners are restoring the building to use as a bed and breakfast.

"American Lady Accompanies Santa Fe Traders on Trail," an article by Rick Bromer about Susan Shelby Magoffin's 1846 trip appeared in the November 2003 issue of *Old News*, a periodical published by the *Susquehanna Times & Magazine* of Landisville PA.

Kathy Borgman, executive director of the Friends of Arrow Rock, received the 2004 Rozier Award given by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation on March 3, 2004. This is the Alliance's most prestigious award. Congratulations Kathy!

The Friends of Arrow Rock recently lost two longtime supporters. Friends President Sue Stubbs died January 13 and Tom Hall has advanced from vice-president to president. Helen Borgman, mother of Friends Executive Director Kathy Borgman, died January 3. Sympathy is extended to family and friends.

The historic Eklund Hotel in Clayton, NM, has reopened after a \$2.6 million restoration, with 26 rooms with private baths. The saloon and dining room are also open. Room rates begin at \$85 (toll-free 877-EKLUND).

To review an online copy of the proposed management plan for the historic El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, access <www.elcamino-real.org>. For a printed copy, contact Harry Myers at the Santa Fe National Park Service Office, 505-988-6717.

SFTA President Hal Jackson is urging people in Missouri to seek designation of the Boonslick Road as part of the National Trails System. This important trail, which ran from St. Charles to Franklin, was opened early in the 19th century. The Santa Fe Trail began where the Boonslick

Road ended, providing a connection between that earlier route and El Camino Real in New Mexico.

Jere Krakow, superintendent of Long Distance Trails, has given approval for SFTA Last Chance Store to sell Santa Fe National Historic Trail pins and patches. These will be available soon.

SFTA member Diana Dunn was awarded a SFTA research grant to continue her research for a book on the Hatch family and the Santa Fe Trail.



CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

—BOOK NOTICES—

Stan Hoig, *The Western Odyssey of John Simpson Smith: Frontiersman and Indian Interpreter*. Reissue. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2004. Pp. 254. Illustrations, footnotes, bibliography, index. Paper, \$21.95.

Originally published by Arthur H. Clark company in 1974, this fine biography of Smith (1810-1871), who spent most his adult life in the West and among the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, still stands as the standard work on his life. A new preface provides additional perspective.

Many of Smith's activities with mountain men, traders, Indians, soldiers, and others occurred on or near the Santa Fe Trail. He worked at Bent's Fort, interpreted for several peace treaty negotiations, was with the Indians at Sand Creek in 1864, and witnessed a number of major happenings in the region. Hoig claims Smith "was more involved in the developments of the Central Plains between 1830 and 1871 than any other one man" (p. 15).

It should be noted that interpreter Dick Curtis is for some reason identified as John Smith in an illustration from *Harper's Weekly*, May 11, 1867; which also shows Edward Wynkoop. This confusion has appeared elsewhere and should be cleared up at this late date.

This reissue is most welcome and highly recommended.

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.

At the recent SFTA Symposium in Kansas City, this editor encountered SFTA member Mary Conrad while searching for poems at the National Frontier Trails Museum Research Center in Independence. Mary sent this selection from *Kansas Poets: An Anthology of 63 Contemporaries* (New York: Henry Harrison, 1935). Conrad deserves kudos as well for acquiring biographical data on the poet, Bernice Goudy Anderson.

Mrs. Anderson was born in Lawrence, KS, in 1894. She was educated at the Academy of Doane College from 1911-12, attended Emporia Normal Teachers College in 1914, and gained her diploma in 1917 from Washburn College (now University). She educated youth from 1914-1919 and then served her community (Partridge) as a private voice teacher and choir director.

Author of the Topsy Turvey tales, she was a life member of the Kansas Authors Club and served as president and historian of the Poetry Society of Kansas. During her life, she visited the Otoe, Kiowa, and Ponca tribes to collect American Indian lore and Trickster Tales, and the tribes gave her names; her favorite name came from the Kiowas, "Dohn-Tauga Mah," which means "True Word Woman." Her Indian lore is collected in *Indian Sleep Man Tales* (1940) and *Trickster Tales from Prairie Lodgefires* (1979).

"Pioneer House" is cast in the form a Shakespearean sonnet, uses mixed meter, employs simile, personification, and a rich appeal to the senses: "breeze," "echoes," "song," "lullabies," "coyote-howl," "the fast staccato of spring rain," and "warm sunlight on its floor." Although there were few mothers' lullabies on the

Santa Fe Trail, the poem captures a sense of what SFTA members and plains lovers enjoy—a romantic sense of our past, "looking in vain for grazing buffalo," searching and researching "the Long Ago."

Pioneer House

by Bernice G. Anderson

Like an old man burdened with memories
It squats upon a still unbroken patch
Of the prairie, and must listen to the breeze
That echoes tauntingly, a meager snatch
Of vibrant song out of the dimming past:
Strains of pioneer mothers' lullabies,
The coyote-howl at midnight, and the fast
Staccato of spring rain. Its aged eyes—
The windows seem to peer across the plains
Looking in vain for grazing buffalo
And for a glimpse of covered-wagon trains.
Deserted house steeped in the Long Ago,
Quite unaware of Progress by the door,
And heedless of warm sunlight on its floor!

KATIE BOWEN LETTERS, 1851: PART V

edited by Bonita and Leo Oliva

(Katie Bowen Letters (Bowen Family Papers, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, PA) telling of a trip to New Mexico over the Trail in 1851, continues. This section begins with her letter of June 20, still at Fort Leavenworth awaiting departure. After many delays, they finally began their trek over the Trail the following day. The letters will continue next issue.)

Fort Leavenworth, June 20th 1851
Friday morning

My dear Mother,

At last we can see our way through and we start tomorrow if nothing happens more than we can now see. Everything is done, and well done, and there are none who can be more comfortable than we are and will be if health is

continued to us. The rains are over, I think. We frequently have showers, almost every day, but they are only pleasant, but [not] these tremendous soaking storms that frustrate everything. Wednesday we drove out nine miles to see how the teams were working, and find that the new cattle are getting quite used to the yoke. At first the[y] turned themselves inside out almost, and cut up at a great rate, but they found at last that it would be much better to go quietly along and save their strength for future use. We have had a few days of very warm weather, and the muskitos are very thick in garrison. The parade is a grass plot, very thickly shaded with trees, and it is a fine place for the plagues. The first day we will be troubled probably, but as we have our netts along we don't care a fig. Maj [Daniel] Rucker has charge of the train, but after we overtake him he will probably mess with us. Then we will have five, Maj Rucker, Col Wooley [Abraham R. Woolley] (the indian agent), Isaac, his clerk & myself. Mr. Martin, Isaac's clerk is man about Shepards age and a most respectable gentlemanly person, very mild in his manners and always doing whatever he can to make all comfortable and pleasant. I hope we will be able to send you most cheering news of our progress, and shall give you a faithful account of everything. I have been packing all morning and my arms are a little tired, so you must not be astonished at the bad appearance of my writing. There is no sickness in the garrison. What cases they have had in the hospital have been from the companies of recruits that came up the Mississippi after a sea voyage from New York, and of course if cholera is anywhere it is on ship board. Capt [William T.] Sherman writes that there is very little sickness of any kind in St Louis, and no cholera. In Weston, a little town above here, on the opposite side of the river, there have been several fatal cases, and some persons who had friends here have come down to stay, because this is most always a healthy spot. It is high enough in all conscience as I can attest after climbing the hill from the Steamboat landing. I passed the 18th very quietly, remaining at

home all day and thinking of our comfort one year ago. I am so impatient to get at the bundle of letters that will be waiting for us at Santafe. They will be food and lodging for me, and I will desire no better welcome than their full pages from your hands. We have been writing to Mother Bowen, and she will feel as interested in our arrangements as you and father do. I want to know all particulars of how you are getting on during this hot summer, and whether Father takes as much interest in the farming as he always does. This is the time for fruit among you. The lady of the house yesterday brought me some gooseberry jelly that she had just finished, and I wonder that anyone will ever preserve them when it is so simple to make jelly. They are boiled in a great deal of water till all of a mush, then strained and the sugar put to the liquor. It is then boiled till strong enough and strained through a flannel into tumblers or anything you want to keep it in. The color of this I saw was like port wine, and very pleasant to eat. Father is so fond of the preserve, I wish I could send him some of this jelly. Is Susan dodging about this warm weather, and where is Shepard all this while. Holman must be at home now, and Mary Whitaker I suppose is fitting out for her journey. I would give much to see you all, and surely if we had known of this long delay we would have been in no hurry to leave home, but we did what seemed best and no doubt but it is as well for us to be here as to be traveling up these rivers at this season of the year. Mrs Haskin expects to leave here in a week or two for Pensacola. The maj thinks quartermasters duty too hard for him and he is going back to his company with the rank of captain. Mrs. Haskin does not at all like the idea of going down the river with her children at this season, but will of course go if her husband is relieved. Her baby is very large and fat, not particularly good looking, *but that is not singular*. She hears quite often from Mrs. Churchill she that was once the fat Kate Sprague. Her husband is a lawyer in Oswego and she writes that her boy is a bouncer. She never nursed it and brought it up on arrowroot

made with water. I should think it would be better than cows milk and Mrs Haskin is trying hers the same way though she gives a little milk. Most of the ladies have been very kind to me. We were out to tea last evening at the house of Paymaster [Sackfield] Maclin, Mrs. M. is an out and out Southerner and has a whole family of slaves around her. Tell Susan she would have to submit to having a little negro behind her chair if she visited where the flies and moskitos are as bad as here. It does not seem at all strange to me to see these things, and these attentions at table are very agreeable without being in the least out of place in warm climates. It is absolutely necessary for any degree of comfort or decency that the flies should not be allowed to alight in the swarms that infest this post. Our girl is every day proving herself a valuable servant. Capt Sherman writes that Maj [Enoch] Steen and Mary must have gone into the country as he cannot find them in St. Louis. She will suffer before she dies and every body else who does wrong with their eyes wide open. As for him he is a hardened old villain, and has a daughter of marriageable age who has been taught by a careful mother what a breeze she will raise, for he is smart and energetic in mind as any lawyer. My opinion of all irish is fast approaching that point Susan tells of. She says she despises the whole race, and I think they are rotten from the foundation. The men we know are bad and I dont believe there ever was an honest Irish woman or girl.

O he has got me up to write my name Kate.

[Isaac continues] 12½ P.M. I have just come in and find Katie lying in the bed sleepy, tired, hungry, & I know not what else & she says go and write the few lines that are left to Mother. She has told you of course that this day finishes our sojourn at Fort Leavenworth, that we are departing for our new home under favorable auspices, that the command that has preceded us has suffered from cholera, fifteen days incessant rain, &c. &c., that her husband has been quite sick but has entirely recovered and has lost about 20 pounds of the fair pro-

portioning that he possessed when he left Buffalo, in fact every thing even to the assurance of much comfort.

Yours ever affectionately Isaac

June 25, 1851 [on the Santa Fe Trail]

This, dear Mother, is the fifth days journey out from Fort Leavenworth and a most fortunate time we have had, fine clear cool weather and only one or two sprinkles of rain. We left the fort on Saturday about 1 oclock pm and drove thirteen miles to camp at a creek called the "Stranger" and had a good supper off [sic] boiled ham and butter biscuit and as it was rather late, went early to bed but neglected to pin up our mosquito net and the consequence was that we slept very little. The next morning we were up right early and off in time to make 23 miles. The scenery all along is charming, what is called the rolling prairie, fine grass and wood along the banks of the streams. Flowers grow in the greatest abundance and in great varieties. I wanted to get out and pick some of each kind to press, but they change in every few miles and it would not do to stop the waggon so often. Our second camping ground was as pretty a place as I ever saw, a sharp rise on the bank of a cool clear stream and no flies to trouble us. We have found delicious water thus far and tonight we have a clear sweet spring to fill our jars from. I have a stone jug covered with flannel which we keep wet and the air keeps the water cool. Isaac has a chart with all the camping places put down and marked with or without wood and water as the case may be and of course where there is none we will carry from the last place. I do not anticipate any difficulty in the want of wood and water. Last night we camped at "Soldier creek" where the ox wagons were crossing nearly all day. One of the soldiers who had been hard at work all day went in to bathe at night and got into a deep hole where he went down to come up no more. His comrades immediately went in after him but could not find him and although they watched nearly all night and dragged the stream in several places, they had to leave this morning without finding him to

bury. Today we have been crossing the Kansas or Kaw river and have not made more than five or six miles as we want to keep together and the ox teams cannot go far when they have bad streams to cross. We stop when they get tired. It was fun to see the sheep, cows and calves swimming the river this morning. There were several indians and squaws on the shore watching operations and in all respects save dress they are better looking men and women than our indians of the north. They wear their hair shaved close to the head except a line like a cropt mane running from the middle of the forehead back over the head. They wear nothing except a rag around their waists hanging down before and behind. Some wear a blanket over their bare red shoulders. Others have not a stitch of clothes on except this rag I have described. I see a great many novelties, if I could only tell you of all to make it plain. This point is fifty five miles from the Fort and about a fourteenth part of our journey. We may go sooner, but I do not expect it. For a hundred miles farther we will find this uneven ground and pleasant water but after we pass "Council Grove" the plains open out flat and uninteresting. Several families of Indians have fine farms and comfortable houses on this stream. One field of corn that we passed yesterday must have contained ten or more acres and the corn was more than three feet high. I should think four feet and the Indians were ploughing up between the rows. The men here at the ferry are french Indians and rapidly making fortunes in keeping this flat boat for accommodation of numerous travellers. I do wish you and Father could see this country. If eastern people had the patches of rich prairie ground they would make gardens of it. For a hundred and fifty miles there is a plenty of wood and water and as rich soil as ever was seen. Just as I am sitting here in the shade writing I see a big black wolf standing in the middle of the field watching the calves and sheep. Almost every day they cross the road in front of us and are always hanging around old camping places. They are bold but not very

savage. We have the greatest abundance of milk. One of our cows calved after starting from the Fort and the men who had charge nursed the calf very tenderly for several days when one day in fording a stream it got among the big cattle and drowned. Consequently we have more than our mess can use. Tell Shepard that I cannot send him a rattle snake now because we have not seen any but I enclose a piece of snake skin that I just picked up beside our tent. We are not disturbed at night by anything when the mules hold their tongues. They cry for corn sometimes and do not get so well satisfied with this grass as with hay and corn. I will keep a better account hereafter. I write this hurriedly because a man is going to Fort tomorrow and will take this. You may read it if you can. We are getting on well and will send out as often as we get an opportunity. Give much love to everybody and tell Mrs Hodgdon she shall have a page or two by & by. Ever and ever, dear Father and Mother, your affectionate daughter Katie.

Isaac sends love.

Camp Eighty five miles from Leavenworth on a creek unknown name

July 2nd 1851

My dear Father and Mother,

We have been encamped here two nights and one day waiting for Maj Rucker and his train to come up but as the roads are very bad in dry weather they are awful now, for we have had most heavy thunder storms both nights that we have stayed here and the mud holes are almost impossible for mule teams so you may judge how oxen will cut down and stick fast. They are so slow. We are all right hearty and able to enjoy whatever fare is placed before us. I have written out our journey at length but as it was done in pencil I thought I would wait till we reached "Council Grove" thirty miles from here then send you a lengthy copy. This hurried scrawl will go by a man who is on his return from the Arkansas after taking supplies out for Col Sumner. He is in somewhat of a hurry, but I will give you all particulars I can gather and send you a faithful

report in a few days. Maj Rucker will be some days coming up a distance of five miles for you have no idea of the roads. Rains, rains all the time just enough to keep the soft prairie in a muss. But we do not complain and you will see by my notes when I send them that we have had no hard time at all. It is tedious but not so very unpleasant. We have books and I try to sew a little the days we stay all day in camp. Probably we shall not move from here for several days but you shall hear from us at every opportunity. I want to send a few notes to Mother Bowen and cannot make this very lengthy. We will probably be in camp all day on the 4th and our table will not have many luxury to boast of. Col Sumner reached Arkansas on the 21st of June but I do not wish we had been with them. They had good deal of sickness. If we had got on to Council Grove a few days ago we would have met the Independence mail there and perhaps have got a letter or two before reaching Santa fe. Our servant does her duties well and I am not obliged to go out of our tent for anything. Last night we thought our tent must blow over, the wind was stronger than I ever heard, but today is fair and we hope the train may come up today or tomorrow for at this rate well be till Christmas getting to our destination. I sent you a pencil letter from Kansas river crossing and I hope you will get it soon. I wrote faithfully from Leavenworth and trust no letters may fail reaching you. We dont care much how long we are in getting there provided we are well because our time is going on and we will have all the shorter time stay in New Mexico. Well the man is impatient. I will send a long account from Council Grove, and please remember to all friends. Isaac desires remembrance to all. Do not have any misgivings. I think we will get through satisfactorily to all concerned. I think of you all very often and do want very much to have letters. Take the best of care of each other dear Father and Mother and trust in Providence that we stay not very long so far separated. Ever affectionately your daughter Katie

(continued next issue)



PIKE'S COLUMN

[This special column will continue as a series in Wagon Tracks until the close of the Zebulon Montgomery Pike Southwestern 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, and suggestions are welcome.]

There are two Pike items in this issue: (1) a note about a planned special publication and (2) the fifth installment of Pike's journal. Keep informed with the Pike Bicentennial plans at www.pikebicentennial.org/]

KANSAS HISTORY TO PUBLISH PIKE ISSUE IN 2006

VIRGIL Dean, editor of the Kansas State Historical Society quarterly, *Kansas History*, has secured approval from his editorial board to devote the Spring 2006 issue to the Pike Expedition. This will come out just prior to the events planned to celebrate this bicentennial. Plans are to include five or six articles. Leo Oliva will serve as coordinator for the Pike Bicentennial Commission.

At present three writers have submitted proposals for this issue. If anyone has a proposed article to offer, please contact Leo Oliva (see p. 2 for contact information). As soon as possible, the proposals will be presented to Virgil Dean for consideration. He will approve those found acceptable. Final articles will be due by April 1, 2005.

The Pike Bicentennial Commission hopes that other publications will consider adding Pike articles in preparation for the commemoration of the 1806-1807 expedition.

PIKE'S JOURNAL, PART V

This reprint of Pike's journal of the expedition of 1806-1807 continues, starting with the November 1, 1806, entry. They were in the present Kinsley, KS, area.

Pike's Journal

1st November, Saturday.—Marched early, just after commencing our line, heard a gun on our left; the doctor, Baroney and myself being in advance, and laying on the ground waiting for the party; a band of Cabrie came up, amongst our horses, to satisfy their curiosity; we could not resist the temptation of killing two, although we had plenty of meat. At the report of the gun they appeared astonished, and stood still until we hallowed at them to drive them away. Encamped in the evening on an island, upon using my glass to observe the adjacent country, I observed on the prairie a herd of horses; doctor Robinson and Baroney, accompanied me to go and view them; when within a quarter of a mile, they discovered us, and came immediately up near us, making the earth tremble under them (this brought to my recollection a charge of cavalry). They stopt and gave us an opportunity to view them, among them there were some very beautiful bays, blacks and greys, and indeed of all colours. We fired at a black horse, with an idea of creasing him, but did not succeed; they flourished round and returned again to see us, when we returned to camp.

2d November, Sunday.—In the morning for the purpose of trying the experiment, we equipped six of our fleetest coursers with riders and ropes, to noose the wild horses if in our power, to come among the band. They stood until they came with forty yards of them, neighing and whinnowing, when the chase began, which we continued about two miles, without success. Two of our horses ran up with them; we could not take them. Returned to camp. I have since laughed at our folly, for taking the wild horses, in that manner, is scarcely ever attempted, even with the fleetest horses, and most expert ropers, (see my account of wild horses, and the manner of taking them in my dissertations on the province of Texas). Marched late. River turned to north by west. Hills

change to the north side. Distance 13 1-2 miles. Killed one buffalo.

3d November, Monday.—Marched at ten o'clock passed numerous herds of buffalo, elk, some horses &c. all travelling south. The river bottoms, full of salt ponds; grass similar to our salt meadows. Killed one buffalo. Distance 25 1-2 miles.

4th November, Tuesday.—This day brought to our recollection, the fate of our countrymen at Recovery; when defeated by the Indians, in the year '91. In the afternoon discovered the north side of the river to be covered with animals; which, when we came to them proved to be buffalo cows and calves. I do not think it an exaggeration to say there were 3,000 in one view. It is worthy of remark, that in all the extent of country yet crossed, we never saw one cow, and that now the face of the earth appeared to be covered with them. Killed one buffalo. Distance 24 1-2 miles.

5th November, Wednesday.—Marched at our usual hour; at the end of two miles, shot a buffalo and two deer and halted, which detained us so long that we foolishly concluded to halt the day and kill some cows and calves, which lay on the opposite side of the river. I took post on a hill, and sent some horsemen over, when a scene took place which gave a lively representation of an engagement. The herd of buffalo being divided into separate bands covered the prairie with dust, and first charged on the one side then to the other, as the pursuit of the horsemen impelled them: the report and smoke from the guns, added to the pleasure of the scene, which in part compensated for our detention.

6th November, Thursday.—Marched early, but was detained two or three hours by the cows, which we killed. The cow buffalo, was equal to any meat I ever saw, and we feasted sumptuously on the choice morsels. I will not attempt to describe the droves of animals we now saw on our route; suffice it to say, that the face of the prairie was covered with them, on each side of the river; their numbers exceeded imagination. Distance 16 miles.

7th November, Friday.—Marched early. The herbage being very poor, concluded to lay by on the morrow, in

order to recruit our horses, killed three cow buffalo, one calf, two wolves, one brelaw. Distance 18 miles.

8th November, Saturday.—Our horses being very much jaded and our situation very eligible, we halted all day, jerked meat, mended mock-insons &c.

9th November, Sunday.—Marched early. At twelve o'clock, struck the Spanish road, (which had been on the outside of us) which appeared to be considerably augmented, and on our arrival, at the camp, found it to consist of 96 fires, from which a reasonable conclusion might be drawn, that there were from 6 to 700 men. We this day found the face of the country considerable changed; being hilly, with springs; passed numerous herds of buffalo and some horses. Distance 27 miles.

10th November, Monday.—The hills increased, the banks of the river, covered with groves of young cotton wood; the river itself much narrower and crooked. Our horses growing weak, two gave out, being then along empty, cut down trees at night, for them to browse on. Killed one buffalo. Distance 20 miles.

11th November, Tuesday.—Marched at the usual hour. Passed two old, and one last summer, camps which had belonged to the savages, and we suppose Tetaus [Comanches]. Passed a Spanish camp where it appeared they remained some days as we conjectured to lay up meat, previously to entering the Tetau country, as the buffalo evidently began to grow much less numerous. Finding the impossibility of performing the voyage in the time proposed, I determined to spare no pains to accomplish every object even should it oblige me to spend another winter, in the desert. Killed one buffalo. Distance 24 miles.

12th November, Wednesday.—Was obliged to leave two horses, which entirely gave out. Missed the Spanish road. Killed one buffalo. Distance 20 miles.

13th November, Thursday.—We marched at the usual hour. The river banks begin to be entirely covered with woods on both sides, but no other specie than cotton wood. Discovered very fresh signs of Indians, and one our of hunters informed me,

he saw a man on horseback, ascending a ravine on our left. Discovered signs of war parties ascending the river. Wounded several buffalo. Killed one turkey, the first we have seen since we left the Pawnees.

14th November, Friday.—In the morning, doctor Robinson, one man and myself, went up the ravine, on which the man was supposed to have been seen, but could make no important discovery. Marched at two o'clock; passed a point of red rocks and one large creek. Distance 10 miles.

15th November, Saturday.—Marched early. Passed two deep creeks and many high points of rocks; also, large herds of buffalo. At two o'clock in the afternoon I thought I could distinguish a mountain to our right, which appeared like a small blue cloud; viewed it with the spy glass, and was still more confirmed in my conjecture, yet only communicated it to doctor Robinson, who was in front with me, but in half an hour, they appeared in full view before us. When our small party arrived on the hill they with one accord gave three *cheers* to the *Mexican mountains*. Their appearance can easily be imagined by those who have crossed the Alleghany; but their sides were whiter as if covered with snow, or a white stone. Those were a *spur* of the grand western chain of mountains, which divided the waters of the Pacific from those of the Atlantic oceans, and it divided the waters which empty into the bay of the Holy Spirit, from those of the Mississippi; as the Alleghany does, those which discharge themselves into the latter river and the Atlantic. They appear to present a natural boundary between the province of Louisiana and New Mexico and would be a defined and natural boundary. Before evening we discovered a fork on the south side bearing S. 25° W. and as the Spanish troops, appeared to have borne up it, we encamped on its banks, about one mile from its confluence, that we might make further discoveries on the morrow. Killed three buffalo. Distance 24 miles.

16th November, Sunday.—After asserting that the Spanish troops had ascended the right branch or main river; we marched at two o'clock P.M. The Arkansaw appeared at this place to be much more navigable,

then below, where we first struck it; and for any impediment I have yet discovered in the river, I would not hesitate to embark in February at its mouth and ascend to the Mexican mountains, with crafts properly constructed. Distance 11 1-2 miles.

17th November, Monday.—Marched at our usual hour, pushed with an idea of arriving at the mountains, but found at night, no visible difference in their appearance, from what we did yesterday: one of our horses gave out and was left in a ravine, not being able to ascend the hill: but I sent back for him and had him brought to the camp. Distance 23 1-2 miles.

18th November, Tuesday.—As we discovered fresh signs of the savages, we concluded it best to stop and kill some meat, for fear we should get into a country where we could not kill game. Sent out the hunters; I walked myself, to an eminence from whence I took the courses to the different mountains, and a small sketch of their appearance. In the evening, found the hunters had killed without mercy, having slain 17 buffalo and wounded at least 20 more.

19th November, Wednesday.—Having several buffalo brought in, gave out sufficient to last this month; I found it expedient to remain and dry the meat, as our horses were getting very weak, and the one died which was brought up on the 18th. Had a general feast of marrow bones; 136 of them, furnishing the repast.

20th November, Thursday.—Marched at our usual hour; but our horses's loads were considerably augmented by the death of one horse and the addition of 900 lbs of meat, we moved slowly, and made only 18 miles. Killed two buffalo and took some choice pieces.

21st November, Friday.—Marched at our usual hour, passed two Spanish camps, within three miles of each other. We again discovered the tracks of two men, who had ascended the river yesterday. This caused us to move with caution; but at the same time, increased our anxiety to discover them. The river was certainly navigable here (and I think much more so,) than some hundred miles below, which I suppose arises from its flowing through a long

course of sandy soil, which must absorb much of the water, and render it shoaler below than above, near the mountains. Distance 21 miles.

22d November, Saturday.—Marched at our usual hour, and with rather more caution than usual. After having marched about five miles on the prairie, we descended into the bottom, the *front only*; when Baroney cried out *Voila un Savage*, when we observed a number running from the woods towards us, we advanced to them and on turning my head to the left, I observed several running on the hill, as it were to surround us; one with a stand of colors. This caused a momentary halt; but perceiving those in front, reaching out their hands, and without arms, crouding round, to touch and embrace us. They appeared so anxious that I dismounted my horse, and in a moment, a fellow had mounted him and was off. I then observed the doctor and Baroney, were in the same predicament. The Indians were embracing the soldiers; after some time tranquility was so far restored, (they having returned our horses all safe) as to enable us to learn they were a war party, from the grand Pawnees, who had been in search of the Tetaus; but not finding them were now on their return. An unsuccessful war party on their return home, are always ready to embrace an opportunity, of gratifying their disappointed vengeance, on the first persons whom they meet. Made for the woods and unloaded our horses; when the two partizans endeavored to arrange the party; it was with great difficulty that they got them tranquil, and not until there had been a bow or two, bent on the occasion. When in some order, we found them to be sixty warriors, half with fire arms, and half with bows, arrows, and lances. Our party was sixteen total. In a short time they were arranged in a ring and I took my seat between the two partisans; our colors were placed opposite each other, the utensils for smoaking &c. were paraded on a small seat before us; thus far all was well. I then ordered half a carrot of tobacco, one dozen knives, 60 fire steels and 60 flints to be presented them. They demanded ammunition, corn, blankets, kettles &c. all of which they were refused, notwithstanding the pressing instances of

my interpreter, to accord to some points. The pipes yet lay unmoved, as if they were undetermined whether to treat us as friends or enemies; but after some time we were presented with a kettle of water, drank, smoked, and eat together. During this time doctor Robinson was standing up, to observe their actions, in order that we might be ready to commence hostilities as soon as them. They now took their presents and commenced distributing them, but some malcontents, threw them away, by way of contempt. We began to load our horses, when they encircled us and commenced stealing every thing they could. Finding it was difficult to preserve my pistols; I mounted my horse when I found myself frequently surrounded during which some were endeavoring to steal the pistols. The doctor was equally engaged in another quarter, and all the soldiers in their positions; in taking things from them one having stolen my tomahawk, I informed the chief, but he paid no respect, except to reply that "*they were pitiful*;" finding this I determined to protect ourselves, as far as was in my power, and the affair began to take a serious aspect. I ordering my men to take their arms, and separate themselves from the savages; at the same time declaring to them, I would kill the first man who touched our baggage. On which they commenced filing off immediately; we marched about the same time and found, they had made out to steal one sword, tomahawk, broad axe, five canteens, and sundry other small articles. After our leaving them; when I reflected on the subject, I felt myself sincerely mortified, that the smallness of my number obliged me thus to submit to the insults of a lawless banditti, it being the first time every a savage took any thing from me, with the least appearance of force. After encamping at night the doctor and myself went about one mile back, and way laid the road, determined in case we discovered any of the rascals pursuing us to steal our horses, to kill two at least; but after waiting behind some logs until some time in the night, and discovering no person, we returned to camp. Distance 17 miles, killed two buffalo and one deer.

23d November, Sunday.—Marched

at ten o'clock; at one o'clock came to the third fork on the south side and encamped at night in the point of the grand forks. As the river appeared to be dividing itself into many small branches and of course must be near its extreme source, I concluded to put the party in a defensible situation; and ascent the north fork, to the high point of the blue mountain, which we conceived would be one days march, in order to be enabled from its pincinal, to lay down the various branches and positions of the country. Distance 19 miles. Killed five buffalo.

24th November, Monday.—Early in the morning cut down 14 logs, and put up a breast work, five feet high on three sides and the other was thrown on the river. After giving the necessary orders for their government, during my absence, in case of our not returning. We marched at one o'clock with an idea of arriving at the foot of the mountain; but found ourselves obliged to take up our nights lodging under a single cedar, which we found in the prairie, without water and extremely cold. Our party besides myself consisted of doctor Robinson, privates Miller and Brown. Distance 12 miles.

25th November, Tuesday.—Marched early, with an expectation of ascending the mountain, but was only able to encamp at its base, after passing over many small hills covered with cedars and pitch pines. Our encampment was on a creek where we found no water for several miles from the mountain, but near its base, found springs sufficient. Took a meridional observation, and the altitude of the mountain. Killed two buffalo. Distance 22 miles.

26th November, Wednesday.—Expecting to return to our camp that evening, we left all our blankets and provisions, at the foot of the mountain. Killed a deer of a new species, and hung his skin on a tree with some meat. We commenced ascending, found it very difficult, being obliged to climb up rocks, sometimes almost perpendicular; and after marching all day, we encamped in a cave, without blankets, victuals or water. We had a fine clear sky, whilst it was snowing at the bottom. On the side of the mountain, we found only yellow and pitch pine. Some distance up we found buffalo, higher still the new species of deer

and pheasants.

27th November, Thursday.—Arose hungry, dry, and extremely sore, from the inequality of the rocks, on which we had lain all night, but were amply compensated for toil by the sublimity of the prospects below. The unbounded prairie was overhung with clouds, which appeared like the ocean in a storm; wave piled on wave and foaming, whilst the sky was perfectly clear where we were. Commenced our march up the mountain, and in about one hour arrived at the summit of this chain: here we found the snow middle deep; no sign of beast or bird inhabiting this region. The thermometer which stood at 9° above 0 at the foot of the mountain, here fell to 4° below 0. The summit of the Grand Peak, which was entirely bare of vegetation and covered with snow, now appeared at the distance of 15 or 16 miles from us, and as high again as what we had ascended, and would have taken a whole day's march to have arrived at its base, when I believe no human being could have ascended to its pinical. This was the condition of my soldiers who had only light overalls on, and no stockings, and every way ill provided to endure the inclemency of the region; the bad prospect of killing any thing to subsist on, with the further detention of two or three days, which it must occasion, determined us to return. The clouds from below had now ascended the mountain and entirely enveloped the summit on which rests eternal snows. We descended by a long deep ravine with much less difficult[y] than contemplated. Found all our baggage safe, but the provisions all destroyed. It began to snow, and we sought shelter under the side of a projecting rock, w[h]ere we, all four, made a meal on one partridge, and a piece of deer's ribs, the ravens had left us, being the first we had eaten in 48 hours.

28th November, Friday.—Marched at nine o'clock. Kept straight down the creek to avoid the hills. At half past one o'clock shot two buffalo, when we made the first full meal we had made in three days. Encamped in a valley under a shelving rock. The land here very rich, and covered with old Tetau camps,

29th November, Saturday.—Marched after a short repast, and arrived

at our camp before night; found all well.

30th November, Sunday.—Marched at eleven o'clock, it snowing very fast, but my impatience to be moving would not permit my lying still at that camp. The doctor, Baroney and myself, went to view a Tetau encampment, which appeared to be about two years old; and from their having cut down so large a quantity of trees to support their horses, conclude there must have been at least one thousand souls: passed several more in the course of the day; also one Spanish camp. Distance 15 miles. Killed two deer. This day came to the first cedar and pine.

(continued next issue)

COUNCIL TROVE

—DOCUMENTS—

GIGANTIC CLAIM

Dave Webb, at the Kansas Heritage Center, found the following item in the *Dodge City Times*, November 24, 1877. The outcome of these claims has not yet been located. The article is reprinted as originally published:

Hon. Henry Booth, of Larned, was in the city several days this week, on "official business." Some time about the years 1863 and '64, a large amount of overland freighting was done for the Government over this country, and it seems that in settling, the freighters and the Government disagreed in regard to the distance traveled between Fort Dodge and Fort Zara[h], the Government claiming that the road traveled led straight over the country from one point to the other, while the freighters claimed that they had followed the river road. The river road makes the distance some fourteen or fifteen miles farther than the road which cuts across. As the freight was paid for by the mile, and as an immense amount of freight was carried, the matter is of considerable consequence. If it is decided that the freight was hauled over the river road[,] the Government will owe the freighters the neat little sum of a million and a half of dollars for that extra fourteen miles. Mr. Booth has been appointed by the U.S. Attorney

General to hunt up witnesses and evidence for the Government, and he came up here to get the depositions of Messrs. A. J. Anthony, A. H. Boyd and others of this place. The depositions were taken before Probate Judge Fringer.

INDIANS AT FORT LARNED, 1863

Eleanor Fry, Pueblo, CO, found these articles about Fort Larned in the *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, July 30, 1863. As these items exhibit, that newspaper was strongly anti-Indian. The articles are reprinted as originally published.

From the Arkansas.

Lieut. Col. Tappan, of the First Colorado, arrived from Fort Lyon on Thursday last, bringing a confirmation of the rumor that the Indians had assembled at Fort Larned in large numbers, and were seriously menacing that post. There were only two hundred soldiers there, while the Indians were over two thousand strong. An Indian had been shot by a sentinel, while attempting to pass through the lines, and this occurrence threatened an immediate attack by the savages, but at last accounts it had not occurred.

Col. Leavenworth, who was in command of the post, sent despatches for assistance both to Fort Scott and Fort Lyon. Gen. Schofield promptly ordered Col. Baretow, of the 3d Wisconsin Cavalry, to proceed with all haste to fort Larned, and Col. Tappan at once sent down from Fort Lyon one company and a section of the 9th Wisconsin Battery. The last force made a march of some 250 miles in four days.

It is to be hoped that these reinforcements will enable Col. Leavenworth to clean out the whole pack of savage brutes that surround him.

From Fort Larned.

Mr. Windsor, who has just arrived from Fort Lyon, brings the following news from Fort Larned. Some three or four thousand Kiowas and Camanches had surrounded the fort, and were about to make hostile demonstrations, when Col. Leavenworth brought forward a battery of 12-pounders and ordered his men to fire. Just as the order was to

be obeyed, the Indians asked a parley, and were finally persuaded to leave the vicinity. What a pity those 12-pounders didn't go off before the order was countermanded.

• • • TRAILS IN MISSOURI

Mel and Mary Cottom, Manhattan, KS, found the following two items with mention of the Boonslick Road and Santa Fe Trail in the Troy, Missouri, *Free Press*. It is interesting to note the attention given these historic routes in 1910 and 1911. The Walter Williams mentioned in the first item is most likely the editor of *A History of Northeast Missouri*, 3 vols. (1913).

The Santa Fe Trail

Item from *St. Charles Cosmos* reprinted in *Troy Free Press*, July 22, 1910

Walter Williams, dean of the School of Journalism of the Missouri University, spent the day in St. Charles preparing for a trip to Kansas City over the old Boonslick road and the Santa Fe Trail. He will leave this city Thursday morning accompanied by his son, Walter, Jr., and they will drive over the old road and as Mr. Williams says, "compare it with what it was a hundred years ago." He has two ideas in view in making this trip. One is to spend his vacation in a pleasant manner, and thinks the trip will be an enjoyable one. The other idea is to write a story of the old road—what it was once, what it is now, and what he hears and sees along the route. The story should be interesting coming from an ordinary pen, but with the push of Walter Williams behind the pen the story will be something of value as well as of interest.

Old Trails Route

Item from *University Missourian* reprinted in *Troy Free Press*, Oct. 13, 1911

The State Board of Agriculture has approved as a whole the plans for the formal opening and dedication of the Missouri Cross State Highway October 20 and 21. These plans presented by Curtis Hill, state highway engineer, have been announced. The St. Louis and Kansas City motor parties will meet in Columbia the morning of October 21 at 10:30 o'clock. Here the tour and dedication will end with the ceremonies and a barbecue in time for the persons attending to

take the afternoon and evening trains for home, or get an early start in their automobiles.

The name of the cross state highway has been changed to the "old Trail's Route." This was done to distinguish it from other cross-state highways that may be built in the future. Also the name has a significance, in that the highway covers the Santa Fe trail and Boon's Lick road.

Between Rocheport and Marshall there will be two lines. One will pass through Glasgow and the other through Boonville. These two roads do not interfere with one another, and the fact that Glasgow is on the upper side of a great northern bend in the Missouri river and Boonville on the lower side of a great southern bend enables many more persons to reach the road conveniently than would be the case if there were only one road.

The St. Louis party will leave the Planters Hotel at 8 o'clock Friday morning Oct. 20. They will stop at Cottleville, Warrenton and Mineola Springs, and arrive in Fulton at 5 o'clock, where they will spend the night. They will arrive in Columbia at 10:30 o'clock the next morning.

The Kansas City division will leave the Midland Building in Kansas City at the same time the St. Louis party leaves the Planters Hotel. When they reach Marshall they will be divided into three equal sections. One will go to Glasgow and one to Fayette by way of Slater and Gilliam, and the third section will go by way of Arrow Rock and Lamine to Boonville. These sections will meet again at Rocheport and come to Columbia together.

BENT'S RANCH ON THE PURGATORY

(A recent Bent's Fort Chapter newsletter included the following article by SFTA director Richard Loudon, reprinted here with thanks to Loudon.)

IN the fall of 1846, William Bent, the supervising partner of Bent's Fort, decided to launch a farming/ranching venture in the Valley of the Purgatory about fifteen miles east of present-day Trinidad where the river takes a looping swing to the

southeast just before entering the steep-walled Canyon of the Purgatoire.

To launch this venture he chose John L. Hatcher, a longtime employee and seasoned mountain man and Indian trader. Hatcher, along with about fifteen laborers from Taos, selected a mile-long stretch of reasonably level meadowland and began the construction of an irrigation ditch on the south side of the river. The work had barely begun when George Bent, a younger brother of William, came along and rescued the free ranging mountain man from the drudgery of ditch digging. Frank DeLisle was then put in charge of the project.

In January of 1847, the newly conquered residents of New Mexico rose up in rebellion. Among the first to be killed was Governor Charles Bent. Americans fleeing from Taos halted at the ranch, appropriating it as defensive headquarters. On the heights above the valley floor wagons were formed in a square and ditches and breast works were hastily constructed. Although DeLisle and others initially fled to Bent's Fort upon hearing of the situation, there was soon an influx of military reinforcements and frontiersmen from the Fort to bolster the little band of defenders.

The Americans soon restored control in Taos, and Hatcher arrived back in time to lend his riata for the hanging of some of the insurrectionists. In April, along with young adventurer, Louis Garrard, a herder and a wagon driver, Hatcher grazed a herd of about a hundred head of mixed cattle along the Santa Fe Trail over Raton Pass to the Purgatory Ranch.

Upon arrival they set to work completing the ditch and turned the first water in upon about sixty acres of freshly planted corn. Cabins and a barn of cottonwood logs were constructed on the north side of the river.

By late summer the Ute Indians brought the operation to a close. They stole horses and mules and ordered Hatcher and his men to leave the land upon which they said no white man had the right to settle. When he refused to leave, the Indians further emphasized their de-

mands by killing all his cattle but three. Recognizing any further resistance was foolhardy, he hitched up the remaining yoke of oxen to a cart fashioned from the hind wheels of a wagon and headed for Bent's Fort

And so ended Colorado's first ranching venture along the Santa Fe Trail.

SFTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, APRIL 3, 2004

by Michael Olsen, Secretary

(Because some respondents to the SFTA questionnaire indicated they were unaware of what the board does, more detailed minutes are included this time rather than the usual executive summary. These have been edited for publication.)

Members present: Hal Jackson, President; Anne Mallinson, Vice-President; Ruth Olson Peters, Treasurer; Mike Olsen, Secretary; John Atkinson (Missouri), Dub Couch (Colorado), Faye Gaines (New Mexico), Robert Kincaid (Texas), Nancy Lewis (Missouri), Richard Loudon (At Large), Ramon Powers (At Large), Sara Jane Richter (Oklahoma), Jeff Trotman (Kansas), Joanne VanCoevern (Kansas), Stephen Whitmore (New Mexico), Timothy Zwink (Oklahoma), Leo E. Oliva (*ex officio*).

Members absent: Clint Chambers (Texas), Emery Murray (Colorado).

Also present: Past President Ross Marshall, SFTA's PNTS representative; John Conoboy and Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service; Linda Revello, SFTA Office Administrator; Craig Crease, representing the Zebulon Pike Bicentennial Committee; and Chapter Presidents: John Atkinson (Missouri River Outfitters), Janel Cook (Quivira), Faye Gaines (Corazón de los Caminos), Vernon Lohrentz (Cottonwood Crossing), Jeff Trotman (Wagon Bed Spring).

President Hal Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the Lyons State Bank, Lyons, Kansas.

Items of business:

1. The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of September 24, 2003, were approved.

2. President Jackson presented his written report. In addition, he added that:

A. He has recently visited the End of the Trail Chapter and will be visiting meetings of the Cimarron Cutoff, Missouri River Outfitters, and the Corazón de los Caminos chapters.

B. He would like to form a committee to develop a marker denoting the town square at Old Franklin, Missouri. It was moved, seconded, and approved that President Jackson appoint a committee to develop a marker for the town square site at Old Franklin, Missouri and that this committee be authorized to spend up to \$1000 from the SFTA Marker Fund.

C. Jere Krakow, National Park Service, has designated significant NPS monetary grants in support of the work of the SFTA. These include monies: (1) to hire a full time SFTA facilitator; (2) for a SFTA board of directors workshop in public relations; (3) for travel support. In the ensuing discussion the board expressed its gratitude for these grants.

3. Vice-president Anne Mallinson presented her report. She called attention to her written remarks and added that:

A. The Missouri River Outfitters chapter has developed a Symposium Manual which can serve as a guide for chapters hosting symposia in the future.

B. She will be visiting meetings of the End of the Trail and Wet/Dry Routes chapters in the near future.

4. Ruth Olson Peters presented the Treasurer's Report, which included:

A. Final 2003 Budget Report. This report showed total income of \$73,308.97 and total expenditures of \$61,125.38.

B. December 31, 2003 Financial Summary Report. This report showed total SFTA assets as of December 31, 2003 at \$110,847.60.

C. 2004 Budget Progress Report. This report showed total income through March 15, 2004 of \$21,717.97 and total expenditures of \$14,984.74.

D. SFTA Financial Summary Report as of March 15, 2004. This report showed total SFTA assets as of March 15, 2004 at \$111,832.24.

5. President Jackson initiated a discussion of results from the questionnaire distributed to SFTA mem-

bers since the last board meeting. He noted that over 20% of association members returned their questionnaires, which was a gratifying response. Board members commented that:

A. The responses showed strong support for *Wagon Tracks* and its editor.

B. The board needs to be more aggressive in informing the members of its activities. Board member Steve Whitmore volunteered to write a summary of board meetings and activities to be published in *Wagon Tracks* and for distribution to chapters through the chapter presidents.

6. Anne Mallinson, Coordinator for the 2003 Symposium, presented a written report which included final attendance figures of 202 persons representing 14 states.

7. Janel Cook, Coordinator of the 2005 Symposium, presented a report, noting that this symposium will be a joint effort by the Quivira and Cottonwood Crossing chapters. The dates of the symposium will be September 29-October 2, 2005. The theme of the symposium will be "Meet Us Half Way To Santa Fe." The venue for meetings will be the McPherson City Auditorium. The Symposium Committee has tentatively planned tours, youth activities, and times for speakers.

8. In the absence of John Schumacher, Director John Atkinson and President Jackson presented a report for the Mapping - Marking Committee. President Jackson mentioned that mapping of the Trail in New Mexico "is virtually done." Director Atkinson added that mapping of the mountain route in Kansas is nearly complete, but the Cimarron route and alternate Trail routes in Kansas remain to be developed.

9. In the absence of Chris Day and Marcia Fox, President Jackson called the board's attention to the written report of the Education Committee. He reminded board members that he, Chris Day, and Marcia Fox will be presenting Santa Fe Trail workshops for educators in Council Grove (KS), Lamar (CO), and Las Vegas (NM) this summer.

10. Director Joanne VanCoevern presented the written report of the National Headquarters Committee. She particularly pointed out the de-

tailed sections "History of SFTC/Employee Compensation by SFTA" and "SFTA Employees and Compensation." The board expressed its thanks for the work Joanne and her committee put into developing this historical overview. It will be very helpful in future planning.

11. Director Faye Gaines presented her written report for the Preservation - Liaison Task Force. She noted additionally that talks continue with the National Rifle Association concerning the cell tower and interpretive Santa Fe Trail exhibits at the Wittington Center outside Raton, New Mexico. John Conoboy reiterated Director Gaines comments on wind farms as expressed in her report. He mentioned that Deanne Wright, of the SFTA, has done a great deal of research on the impact of wind farms in the Flint Hills and is a good resource should the question of the Trail and wind farms arise elsewhere.

12. Director Steve Whitmore reported on the activities of the Scholarly Research Committee. He sent out over 100 announcements about applying for SFTA research funds to educational institutions along the Trail and SFTA chapters. The committee received five applications by this year's deadline and awarded one grant. Approximately \$4000 is left for grants next year.

13. Ross Marshall, SFTA liaison with the Partnership for National Trails System presented his report. In addition to his written remarks he: (1) thanked board members for forwarding to him their volunteer hours working with the SFTA for inclusion in the report of volunteer hours compiled by the PNTS; the next compilation is due in January 2005; (2) stressed the vital work that the PNTS does and the need for funds to develop a new strategic plan. In response to Marshall's appeal, it was moved, seconded, and approved that the SFTA support the strategic planning efforts of the PNTS with a donation of \$500.00.

14. Director Ramon Powers reported for the Finance Committee. The board had charged this committee at its last meeting with bringing forward recommendations concerning the investment of SFTA reserve funds so that revenue could be maximized. Director Powers laid out the

committee's recommendation that a SFTA Endowment Fund now be created.

It was then moved, seconded, and approved that The Santa Fe Trail Association create an endowment fund; that the Finance Committee be authorized to invest \$60,000 of reserve funds as endowment funds; that at the September 2004 SFTA Board of Directors meeting the Finance Committee present to the board recommendations concerning the purpose of and operational guidelines for the SFTA Endowment Fund.

15. Craig Crease reported on the activities of the SFTA's Zebulon M. Pike Bicentennial Committee. He reminded board members that the objective of the committee was to raise awareness of the 200th Anniversary of Pike's Western Expedition, to be celebrated in 2006-2007. The committee's plans include: (1) encouraging ceremonies and celebrations as appropriate along Pike's route; (2) marking Pike's Route; (3) sponsoring speakers; (4) developing curricular materials for schools; (5) asking for a Pike postage stamp; (6) publishing a brochure on Pike's route in each of the states through which he passed. He added that the National Park Service has generously provided startup funds in support of the committee's activities but that corporate and nonprofit sponsors also will be solicited.

16. Chair of the Rendezvous 2004 Committee, Ruth Olson Peters, brought the board up to date on plans for the 2004 Rendezvous, September 16-19. The theme of Rendezvous this year is "The Santa Fe Trail As Portrayed By Artists and Writers Of The Period." Support will be provided by the Kansas Humanities Council.

17. John Conoboy summarized recent National Park Service activities along the Trail. He noted: (1) that the budget for the Santa Fe, Trail of Tears, and Camino Real National Historic Trails will increase overall next fiscal year; (2) that Challenge Cost Share funds have been cut; (3) that the role of the Partnership for National Trails System is a vital one and the listing of volunteer hours in support of PNTS is important; (4) that the SFT Site Certification process and application form have been

simplified; (5) that progress is being made on the SFTA/NPS strategic plan; (6) that a more aggressive policy for marking the Santa Fe Trail needs to be discussed by the SFTA and the NPS; (7) that the NPS now allows the sale of National Historic Trail memorabilia such as pins and patches by various trail associations like the SFTA.

18. Director John Atkinson presented the written report of the Gardner Kiosk Committee. He noted that work is moving forward, particularly with the design of the kiosk.

19. President Jackson announced that the spring 2005 SFTA Board of Directors meeting will be held at an appropriate site in the Texas Panhandle. Director Kincaid commented on various tours and activities which the board might undertake as part of this meeting and visit.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

CAMP TALES

—CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

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

The chapter met in Elkhart on April 17 with the program by SFTA President Hal Jackson on the Camino Real.

The chapter will host the Six Western Chapters meeting June 25-27 (see article and insert in this issue).

Texas Panhandle

President Kathy Revett Wade
1615 Bryan Place #14
Amarillo TX 79102
(806) 371-9309
<krevett@arn.net>

No report.

Wagon Bed Spring

President Jeff Trotman
PO Box 1005
Ulysses KS 67880
(620) 356-1854
<jtkb@pld.com>

The chapter quarterly meeting was in Hugoton on January 31, at "Pigs-R-Us" restaurant, with 15 members present. Some of the topics discussed were scholarly research grants available through SFTA, volunteer time logs of chapter mem-

bers, Grant County Recreation summer program at Wagon Bed Spring site, and election of officers for the Wagon Bed Spring Chapter for the year 2004.

Elected were President Jeff Trotman, Vice-President Ed Dowell, Secretary Marjorie Persinger, and Treasurer Lois Hileman. After the business meeting, Jeff Trotman presented a program, "Santa Fe Trail Association History and Aerial Photographs of Santa Fe Trail Historic Sites."

The next meeting was tentatively set for 12:00 noon, Saturday, April 10, 2004, at the Wagon Bed Spring site, with a short business meeting, some work at the site area, followed by a tour of the National Historic Landmark area.

Heart of the Flint Hills

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

A chapter committee is working on the nomination of the Wilmington School to the National Register of Historic Places.

Plans are completed for the 2004 trail ride. We gather June 11 at Eureka, Kansas. Saturday will offer two short warm up rides, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We will leave Eureka for the first camp June 13. The route promises to be scenic, but rocky. All horses will need to be shod. The ride will end at Council Grove on June 18. Again we encourage early registration.

End of the Trail

El Alcalde George Donoho Bayless
4000 La Carrera #526
Santa Fe NM 87507
(505) 983-6338

A chapter board meeting on March 1 selected officers for the year: El Alcalde George Donoho Bayless, La Alcaldesa Segunda Marilyn O'Brien; La Escribana Carol Klawa, and La Tesorera Helen Geer. Walter and Teresa Picket continue to fill a board position, and one board position is vacant.

The chapter had a joint meeting with the Old Spanish Trail and the docents of the Palace of the Governors on March 22, 2004, at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. They toured the archives and

heard about records pertinent to the trails.

On July 17 we will have a joint meeting with the Corazón Chapter at the National Park Service Building, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail in Santa Fe.

The chapter and SFTA recently lost two members. Thelma (Tee) Loftin died in December. She was a writer, most notably for the National Geographic Society. She also originated the children's TV show "Claire and Coco." Joyce Dix Remke died in February. She was an active chapter member and was much involved in the Opera Guild, Garden Club, Desert Coral, and New Mexico Museum Foundation. Both of these members are truly missed by the chapter.

Corazón de los Caminos

President Faye Gaines
HC 60, Box 27
Springer NM 87747
(505) 485-2473
<fayegaines@yahoo.com>
<www.nmhu.edu/research/sftrail/corazon.htm>

The March meeting at Union Masonic Temple in Wagon Mound brought out many Corazón members and guests. J. D. Schmidt presented the history of the Lodge and the history of Wagon Mound, followed by a delicious meal courtesy of the Daniels family. The April 18 Work Day meeting—a clean-up along the highway to Fort Union—attracted a crew of 18. We enjoyed a pizza lunch, followed by a tour of the renovated library and new archive center at Fort Union. Corazón Chapter archives recently moved into this space and are available to researchers.

Our next meeting is May 16 at 1:30 p.m. in Springer, NM, at the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Center and Museum. The museum opened its newly renovated gallery last year. The exhibit was prepared by Cimarron artist Charlotte Hollis.

On June 19 we will help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Fort Union National Monument as a part of the National Park Service. Details about the activities, including tours of the First Fort, are available at 505-425-8025.

On July 17 we shall join the End of The Trail Chapter for a tour of the National Park Service Building, 1100 Old Santa Fe Trail in Santa Fe.

Harry Myers volunteered to show us around the classic adobe building, followed by a picnic in the patio.

Chapter members will welcome Chris Day, Marcia Fox, and Hal Jackson to Las Vegas for the third Teachers' Workshop for Educators on June 28 and 29. Registration is required; contact Marcia Fox, <foxm@usd320.org>.

Soon to be scheduled is the installation of the wayside exhibit at Point of Rocks, NM. Corazón members have been working with the Long Distance Trail staff and SFTA for several years on this cost-share project.

Wet/Dry Routes

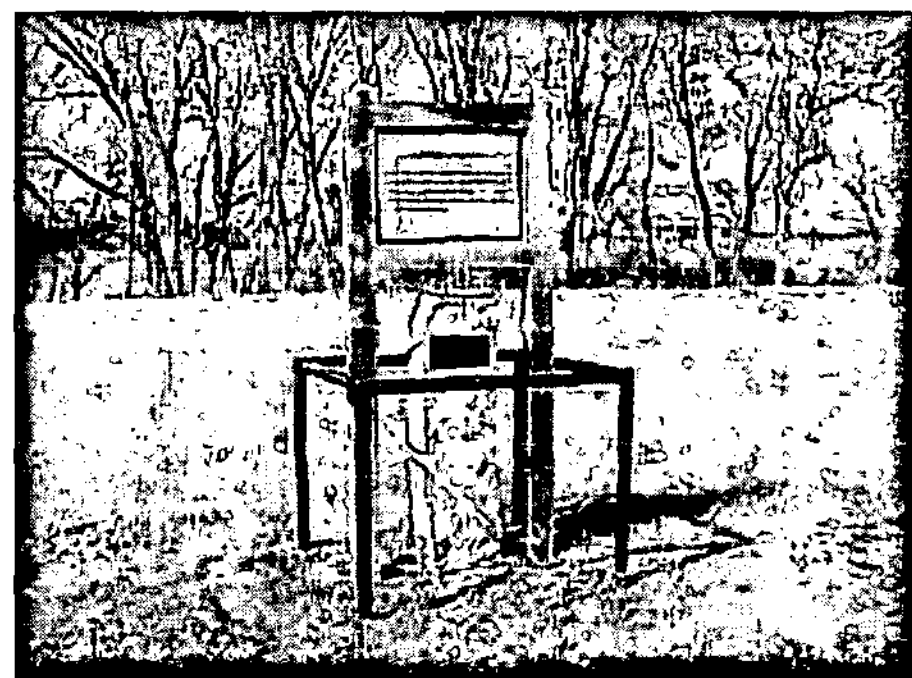
President David Clapsaddle
215 Mann
Larned KS 67550
(620) 285-3295
<Adsaddle@cox.net>
[photo]

The spring meeting was held at Pawnee Rock on April 18 with the program by Robert Yamer of Ellinwood on trade beads. After the meeting members went to Ash Creek Crossing and installed an interpretive marker.

The accompanying photograph shows the marker and the text which reads as follows:

Situated half way between Pawnee Rock and the Pawnee River, Ash Creek crossing was a well-traveled point on the Santa Fe Trail. Here on July 4, 1846, Susan Magoffin escaped serious injury when her carriage overturned in the dry creek bed. Here also in 1860, was a short-lived trading ranche operated by a Mr. Thompson. Following an attack by Kiowas in which two men were killed, Thompson abandoned the ranche.

Notice also the railing installed to protect the marker from being damaged by livestock. Other interpretive



markers have recently been placed at Parker's Rancho, Boyd's Rancho, and Sibley's Camp.

To read about all the chapter's interpretive markers, log on to <www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/> and link to A Directory of SFT Sites.

Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron

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

No report.

Missouri River Outfitters

President John Atkinson
1113 Safari Dr
St Joseph MO 64506
(816) 233-3924
<atkin@mwsc.edu>

On April 24 MRO Vice-President Mary Conrad presented a program, "The Western Migration as Portrayed in Murals." SFTA President Hal Jackson will present the next program on May 16, "Santa Fe Traders on the Camino Real."

Quivira

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

Members of the Quivira and Cottonwood Crossing chapters are working on the next symposium. Mark your calendars now and *Meet Us Halfway to Santa Fe* in McPherson, KS, September 29-October 2, 2005. The symposium will be held in the City of McPherson's auditorium with the Best Western Holiday Manor being the host hotel.

A list of area motels, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds can be found on the symposium section of the chapter's website at <www.stjohnks.net/santafetrail/>. Rooms have been reserved in four motels. Some places will not take reservations until this fall.

Cottonwood Crossing

President Vernon Lohrentz
205 N Beverly
Newton KS 67114
(316) 284-2284

The chapter met February 19 at the Stone Creek Cafe in Marion, KS. There were 33 members and guests present. Business items included approval of the revised bylaws and a financial report.

The program was given by Jim Brosemer, Marion County surveyor, who explained how Kansas was surveyed for counties and townships. He talked about mapping the Santa Fe Trail by the Sibley survey of 1825 plus other unusual mapping incidents in years past.

The chapter officers met in Newton on March 8 to plan yearly activities, including the Kansas Sampler Festival in Newton May 1-2, the May chapter meeting at Maxwell Game Preserve, and construction of the kiosk near Cottonwood Creek Crossing. The officers met again on April 15 to complete plans.

The chapter had a display at the Sampler Festival, with a restored Conestoga wagon, courtesy of Jim Donahue (Donahue Manufacturing of Durham, KS) as the centerpiece. The chapter distributed Santa Fe Trail brochures.

The next meeting is May 22 at the Maxwell Game Preserve north of Canton, KS. A meal of buffalo burgers and a tour on the prairie to view buffalo, including spring calves, is planned.

Dale Brooks has prepared plans for the kiosk to be erected at the Cottonwood Crossing near Durham. Construction is awaiting funding assistance from the National Park Service. The chapter hopes to have this kiosk installed prior to the 2005 symposium.

Bent's Fort

President Rick Wallner
Bent's Old Fort NHS
402 Santa Fe Ave
La Junta CO 80150
(719) 383-5010, ext. 24
<rick_wallner@nps.gov>

The chapter met in Trinidad on March 13, with a tour of museums (A. R. Mitchell Art Gallery, Loudon-Henritze Museum at the college, and Santa Fe Trail Museum at the state's Trinidad History Museum) led by SFTA board member Richard Loudon. There were 20 members and guests present.

The next meeting is May 22 at Boggsville, 10 a.m. The chapter will meet July 31 at Bent's Old Fort NHS.

The chapter will assist with the continuing education Summer Academy class on the Santa Fe Trail offered at Otero Junior College.

HELP WANTED

I am trying to locate the burial site of my great-great grandfather William Julian Smith of Missouri, born 1834 and killed in the Kansas area, possibly along the Santa Fe Trail. Indians reportedly killed him in the 1870s. He is listed in the 1870 Census in Tome, NM. Our family does not have records indicating where he was actually killed. His wife, Anastacia Lucero Smith, is listed in the New Mexico 1880 Census as a widow. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Joseph C. Perea
jcperea@msn.com

• • • •

The Cass County Historical Society in Missouri will co-sponsor the 4th Annual Cass County Living History Festival on October 1-2, 2004. Our focus this year will be the Lewis and Clark era, including a Living History Day for many 4th graders in the county on Friday, October 1. We will sponsor Missouri's only animal-driven parade on October 2.

We are seeking volunteers for crafts, parade entries, and living-history demonstrations. For more information, please contact me. Thank you.

Carol Bohl, Executive Director
Cass County Historical Society
816-380-4396
<cchs@iland.net>

NEW SFTA MEMBERS

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

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

Dumont Books & Maps of the West, 314 McKenzie St, Santa Fe NM 87501
First National Bank of Santa Fe, 124 W Palace Ave, Santa Fe NM 87501
Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe NM 87501

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Trinidad Historical Society, PO Box 176, Trinidad CO 81082

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Milton & Darlene English, 801 S Pearl, Pratt KS 67124
Sarah & John Fackelman, HC 69 Box 15B, Sapello NM 87745

William G. & Annette Franklin, PO Box 941, Rociada NM 87742
 Rick & Sharon Hannen, 3942 Hannen Rd, Center Point IA 52213
 Erma L. Heger, RR 1 Box 82, Hugoton KS 67951
 Doug & Lori Holdread, 1221 Alto St, Trinidad CO 81082
 Colleen & Mark Izold, 728 A Johanne Pl, Colorado Springs CO 80906
 Mike & Lori Jacobson, 713 N Sullivan, Ulysses KS 67880
 Ed & Carolyn Kern, 420 Ave L, Chase KS 67524
 Husley & Mary Lillard, 3335 S Ash, Independence MO 64052
 Robert & Katie McLeod, 221 S Shore Dr, Amarillo TX 79118
 Sid Powell, PO Box 281736, Lamoille NV 89828
 Nancy Robohn, 2118 West 23rd Ave, Emporia KS 66801
 George & LaVerna Schierling, 601 West 8th St, Newton KS 67114
 Jay & Carrie Williams, PO Box 993, Elkhart KS 67950

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Mary Beveridge, Kansas City Public Library, Periodicals Dept, 14 W 10th St, Kansas City MO 64105
 Fred Damkroger, 14895 Lake Crossing Rd, Wamego KS 66547
 Janice Davis, 853 SW Lee Ann Dr, Grain Valley MO 64029
 William H. Dopke, 1304 Maple, Dalhart TX 79022
 M. K. Farwell, 1216 Camden Way, Norman OK 73069
 Lynda M. Fort, 1675 W Patterson, Ulysses KS 67880
 Joanne Lance, 937 N Baughman, Ulysses KS 67880
 Jeanne McGuire, PO Box 480992, Kansas City MO 64148
 L. C. Melton, 1267 Old Hwy 50, Union MO 63084
 Howard C. Miller, HC 61 Box 4060, Ramah NM 87321
 Julie Nicholas, 310 Tennessee Ave, Mill Valley CA 94941
 Joan Nothern, PO Box 65, Glasco KS

67445
 Wyvonne Phillips, 20011 Old Wagon Trail Rd, Trinidad CO 81082
 Judith Sthole, 609 N Colorado, Ulysses KS 67880
 Bill Wall, 3201 S Norton Ave, Independence MO 64052

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 August, so send information for September and later to arrive by **July 10, 2004**. Thank you.

June 4, 2004: Santa Fe Trail Daze tours, Cimarron Heritage Center, Boise City, OK, 580-544-3479.

June 4-6, 2004: Old Spanish Trail Association 11th annual conference, Page, Arizona.

June 5, 2004: National Trails Day.

June 13-19, 2004: Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at NRA Whittington Center, Raton, NM. Contact Charles Phelan, 4221 N Crescent, Farmington NM 87401. Visitors welcome.

June 19, 2004: 50th Anniversary Celebration, Fort Union National Monument.

June 21-22, 2004: Teachers' Workshop, Council Grove, KS.

June 24-25, 2004: Teachers' Workshop, Lamar, CO.

June 25-27, 2004: Six Western Chapters Meeting, hosted by Cimarron Cutoff Chapter in Morton and Cimarron counties.

June 28-29, 2004: Teachers' Workshop, Las Vegas, NM.

July 3-4, 2004: Old Time Independence Day, Fort Larned NHS.

July 10, 2004: Deadline for August

issue.

July 17, 2004: Corazón and End of the Trail chapters joint meeting, National Park Service building, Santa Fe.

July 17-18, 2004: Cultural Encounters on the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union NM, 505-425-8025.

July 31, 2004: Bent's Fort Chapter meeting at Bent's Old Fort NHS, 10 a.m.

Aug. 7, 2004: CCHP Places with a Past Tour, Las Vegas, NM, 505-425-8803.

Aug. 11-15, 2004: OCTA annual convention, Vancouver, WA.

Aug. 14, 2004: Corazón Chapter meeting at Fort Union NM, 505-425-8025.

Sept. 16-18, 2004: SFT Rendezvous, Larned, KS.

Sept. 19, 2004: Corazón Chapter meeting at Loma Parada, 505-454-0683.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2005: SFTA Symposium, McPherson, KS.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many things are happening along the Trail this summer, and I hope you will be able to join in these activities. Be sure to include the September Rendezvous in your plans.

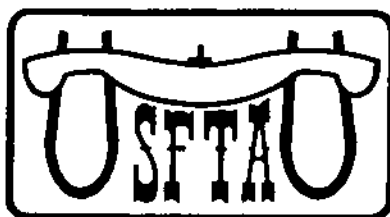
Those who have articles to submit for consideration to publish in *Wagon Tracks* are urged to send them soon. There are a couple of more symposium papers to publish next issue but very little beyond that. Thanks to everyone who has contributed over the years. Early copy is needed for the next issue.

Happy Trails!

—Leo E. Oliva

Santa Fe Trail Association
PO Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675

Change Service Requested



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 2
 WOODSTON KS 67675