

Wagon Tracks

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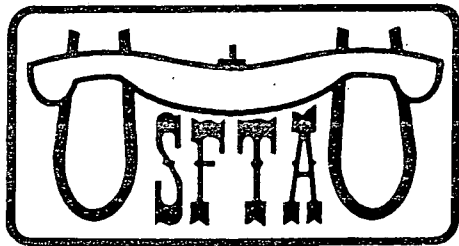


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WAGON TRACKS

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOLUME 7

NOVEMBER 1992

NUMBER 1

THE DIARY OF PEDRO IGNACIO GALLEGO WHEREIN 400 SOLDIERS FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF COMANCHES MET WILLIAM BECKNELL ON HIS FIRST TRIP TO SANTA FE

by Michael L. Olsen and Harry C. Myers

[Michael Olsen is professor of history at New Mexico Highlands University at Las Vegas, and Harry Myers is superintendent of Fort Union National Monument. Both are acknowledged scholars of the Santa Fe Trail and frequent contributors to WT. Their discovery and preparation of this significant document is a substantial contribution to Trail historiography. They plan to gather more material about Captain Gallego and present that, along with the story of the discovery of the diary, at the 1993 SFTA symposium.]

FOR over a century historians have speculated about the circumstances surrounding William Becknell's journey across the plains in 1821, including such issues as where he was heading and the route he followed into New Mexico. Almost exclusively they have relied on Becknell's own account of his trek. But other documentary evidence exists in the diary of Militia Urbana Captain Pedro Ignacio Gallego, who with his troops encountered Becknell's party near present Las Vegas, New Mexico, on November 13, 1821. This diary has lain untranslated and unappreciated in the Mexican Archives of New Mexico for over 100 years. It challenges some previously held views of Becknell and his expedition. It is presented here with a short introductory narrative, annotation of its salient points, and commentary on the precise geographical information it provides.

William Becknell has been credited with being the "Father of the Santa Fe Trade," having initiated successful trading contact and the first legal commerce with New Mexico from the United States in 1821 and, the following year, opening a wagon route later known as the Santa Fe Trail between Missouri and New Mexico. This set in motion over a half century of commerce and cultural exchange between New Mexico and eastern trade centers

and contributed to the acquisition of the region by the United States during the Mexican War. Gallego's diary, published here for the first time, sheds new light on Becknell's initial journey to Santa Fe.

The summer of 1821 was a difficult one for New Mexico Governor Don Facundo Melgares. Navajo Indians beset the territory's scattered settlements from the west. In August, Comanche Indians from the eastern plains raided San Miguel del Vado. There were rumors of revolution in

On Nov. 13, 1821, Captain Gallego recorded: "Left Ojo de Ber-nal about 9 a.m. Followed the usual formation. About 3:30 p.m. encountered six Americans at the Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre."

Mexico itself. To meet the Indian threat, Melgares fielded several companies of troops.¹ One was that under the command of Pedro Ignacio Gallego of Abiquiú. Originally dispatched against the Navajo, Gallego's company was redirected to investigate the plunder of San Miguel by Comanches. It was on November 13, 1821, while following the trail of these Indians, that Gallego met the Becknell party at Puertocito, on Piedra Lumbre Creek, just south of present Las Vegas.

Several important questions concerning Becknell's exploit continue to surface. For example, did Becknell have prior knowledge that Mexico was about to lift its trade restrictions (or knowledge of the Mexican revolution for independence from Spain which made the removal of trade prohibitions possible)? Trade had been closed to Americans and other outsiders with New Mexico and the rest of Spain's

NEW SYMPOSIUM DATES, PLANS TAKING SHAPE

DONALD C. Hill, coordinator for the 1993 symposium to be hosted by Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site and the city of La Junta, CO, recently announced new dates for the conference: September 23-26, 1993. This change resulted from conflicts with other meetings (which would impinge on lodging space) and requests by several SFTA members that the symposium be held in late September as have all previous gatherings. Bent's Old Fort's "Indian Encampment" will be scheduled for the same time, providing symposium participants with the benefits of this special program. All members are invited to mark these dates on their calendar and make plans to attend.

Hill announced that the theme of the 1993 symposium is "The Mountain Route: A Corridor Through Time." Hill said "the Mountain Route was a cross-roads of people, where nations and cultures met, interacted and changed one another. Commerce along the Santa Fe Trail was changed by politics and business; people along the Trail changed through interracial marriages, new religions, and an exchange of customs."

Among the topics to be explored at the symposium include (1) Why the Mountain Route? (2) Nations of People. (3) Attitudes of Peoples in Contact. (4) Commerce and People on the Trail. (5) Politics and Peoples of the Mountain Route. (6) Significant Others: The people or events seldom talked about. (7) Life and the Land: The interaction of people with the landscape. Coordinator Hill extends an invitation to any individual wishing to present a paper at the conference to submit an abstract. Please send proposals or inquiries to Donald Hill, Supt., Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194 East, La Junta, CO 81050. Supt. Hill may be reached by phone at (719) 384-2596.

**SFTA SYMPOSIUM
BENT'S OLD FORT & LA JUNTA
SEPTEMBER 23-26, 1993**

(continued on page 15)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

SFTA recently signed a supplement to the cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to provide assistance with the preparation of wayside exhibits for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail (SFNHT). By the terms of the subagreement, to last for three years, SFTA has agreed to assist NPS "in attaining the management objectives and implementation actions set forth in the Comprehensive Management and Use Plan" for the SFNHT, "abide by" NPS "project priorities in allocating cost-share funds for projects," execute a NPS approved "written agreement with each cooperating management entity," "help forward all plans, designs, and specifications" to NPS "for review and approval," secure permission from NPS "in writing for any proposed logo use," and help "ensure... that all volunteers are properly enrolled in the Volunteers-in-Parks Program and are properly supervised in accordance with NPS policies and guidelines."

By provisions in the subagreement, NPS has committed a total of \$16,000 for the first two wayside exhibits: (1) Harley Park Overlook at Boonville, MO, and (2) Autograph Rock, Cimarron County, OK. The City of Boonville is the site cooperator for Harley Park, and the Cimarron County Historical Society and the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter of SFTA are the site cooperators for Autograph Rock. The cooperators "must cover no less than 60% of the total cost of a project, which for projects under this subagreement shall total at least \$24,000." The NPS will provide SFTA with a priority list of other projects.

With this subagreement, SFTA will fulfill some of the terms of the earlier-signed cooperative agreement with NPS by assisting with the wayside exhibits. If anyone would like further information, please contact me at 7811 NE 10th #202, Midwest City, OK 73110.

—Bill Pitts

NEW TRAIL POSTER

SFTA, through special arrangements with Fort Union National Monument, recently published an attractive poster reprint of Nick Eggenhofer's oil painting, "Wagon Train at Wagon Mound." Eggenhofer donated the scene of a caravan passing the famous New Mexico landmark, Wagon Mound, to Fort Union many years ago. The poster, approximately 17½ x 25 inches, is suitable for framing. Prints may be ordered from SFTA Last Chance Store, RR 1 Box 31, Woodston, KS 67675, for \$9.50 postpaid. Quantity discounts are available to museum shops and bookstores. This handsome reproduction will make a nice gift for Trail aficionados. Orders received by December 10 will be delivered in time for Christmas.

ISABEL DOERR CAMPBELL

by Bill Pitts

Mrs. Isabel Doerr Campbell passed away on September 12, 1992, at Larned, KS, at the age of 90. Mrs. Campbell was a lifetime standard bearer for the Santa Fe Trail. For almost two decades, she was the president of the Fort Larned Historical Society which built and maintains the Santa Fe Trail Center at Larned. She and her family donated the hill where the Trail Center stands. The hill itself was the camping spot for wagon trains waiting to cross Pawnee Fork.

Everyday Isabel drove out to the Trail Center to check on its construction and its growth. Her guidance and moral support smoothed many of the rough spots in the development of the Trail Center. She and her late sister, Polly, worked together on many projects relating to the Trail Center.

Isabel saw that the activities of the Trail Center related to activities of communities all along the Trail. Under her leadership, the board created an advisory board whose members are appointed to assist the elected board in the growth of the Trail Center. The endowment fund and the biennial Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous were two of the projects initiated while she was president of the board. The membership grew rapidly under her administration to include members in almost every state in the Union and several foreign nations. She had the knack of organizing so that everyone involved knew they were important to the business at hand. Her kind word and gentle persuasion will be greatly missed. She was truly a boss lady.

Mrs. Campbell was a writer and was awarded a Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas Authors Club in 1990. She received an SFTA Award in 1987 for her work concerning the Trail. In 1991 the Santa Fe National Historic Trail presented a recognition plaque to her for contributions toward the preservation of Trail history. As the old Santa Fe Trail surrounded her in life, it now surrounds her forever. She is buried beneath the ruts of the Trail in the Larned Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Santa Fe Trail Center at Larned.

OLD ARMY SONG IN PRINT

DON Rickey, author of the acclaimed *Forty Miles a Day on Beans and Hay: The Enlisted Soldier Fighting the Indian Wars* (1963), published an annotated reprint of the sheet music of "The Regular Army O!" in 1962, the song which concludes with "Forty miles a day, on beans and hay, In the Regular Army O!" Rickey recently granted SFTA permission to reprint his reprint which has long been out of print, and it is available from SFTA Last Chance Store, RR 1 Box 31, Woodston, KS 67675, for \$1.00 plus .50 postage. Quantity discounts are available.

BUFFALO SOLDIER MEMORIAL AT FORT LEAVENWORTH

by Michael E. Pitel

U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell and U.S. Senators Nancy Kassebaum and Robert Dole of Kansas, dedicated a memorial to the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Leavenworth, KS, in July. Some 10,000 spectators applauded the 14-foot high bronze sculpture of a Black Cavalry trooper, carbine raised, atop a wheeling steed. The \$850,000 sculpture, funded by private donations, was created by Texas artist Eddie Dixon.

The memorial honors the contributions of the 9th and 10th Cavalry that helped defend the American West following the Civil War, including the Santa Fe Trail. Gen. Powell conceived the idea for the monument while stationed at Fort Leavenworth. About 100 elderly Black men who were among the last Buffalo Soldiers in the U.S. Army attended the ceremony, which coincided with a national convention of Buffalo Soldiers at Leavenworth. The units were phased out after WWII.

Leavenworth's first Black museum was also dedicated that weekend. Housed in a pre-Civil War home, the museum features Buffalo Soldier uniforms and memorabilia, plus other artifacts of Black history going back to the days of slavery. Fort Leavenworth, established in 1827 and still an active post, was connected the Santa Fe Trail by several routes of travel. It was command headquarters for troops that guarded the Trail from 1829 until the Trail closed in 1880. It was the point from which supplies were shipped to military posts along the Trail and much of the American West.

WAGON TRACKS is the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association, a non-profit 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. Inquiries can be directed to the appropriate addresses below. Annual subscriptions are obtained through membership in the Association, whose dues are fixed per calendar year. Checks should be made payable to the Santa Fe Trail Association and sent to the secretary-treasurer.

Membership Categories

Benefactor	\$1,000
Patron	\$100/year
Institutional	\$25/year
Family	\$15/year
Individual	\$10/year

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MORE ON WATROUS

by Marc Simmons

THE fine article on Samuel B. Watrous by one of his descendants, James E. Romero, Jr. (Aug. 1992 WT) provides the first in-depth account of this important Santa Fe Trail figure. Here are offered a clarification and some additions to that valuable piece.

William B. Napton, in his *Over the Santa Fe Trail, 1857* (reprinted by the late Jack D. Rittenhouse in 1964 and by the Friends of Arrow Rock in 1991), wrote this upon leaving Fort Union: "On the route to Las Vegas we found a large adobe ranch house, probably a hundred feet square and sixteen feet high, the solid walls being without openings on the outside, except two large doors. The ventilation and light were secured through the openings inside the hollow square [that is, the interior courtyard]. There was an extensive buckskin tailoring establishment there, where they were manufacturing quantities of buckskin clothes of various patterns, and I was surprised at the skill displayed in making the garments. The clothes were made to fit with tailor-like precision and exactness. Clothes of buckskin were generally worn at that time by the inhabitants of New Mexico, by the natives especially."

We have never known who owned this house and business nor their precise location. Now with Romero's reference to Samuel Watrous developing "a tanning business and manufacturing deer skin clothing," it seems safe to conclude that this operation was his, and it was located at La Junta. The family tradition, quoted by Romero, that the tanning was carried on at "the places near Taos" would seem to be in error, unless Watrous started in that business even before he came to La Junta.

In fact, the placers were not in the vicinity of Taos, but rather south of Santa Fe in the Ortiz Mountains. Much of the gold from there was taken east on the Santa Fe Trail. An early record said that from the Ortiz Placers, "William B. Tipton helped move Mr. Watrous' family and possession to La Junta in the fall of 1849." This was the man for whom Tiptonville was named and who married Watrous's daughter, Mary.

The following article appeared in the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, March 17, 1886:

A PIONEER SUICIDES

S. B. Watrous, Sr. Goes To His Death Under Peculiar Circumstances

S. B. Watrous, Sr. committed suicide in

his room at his home ranch, near Watrous station this morning at 5 o'clock by shooting himself through the head twice with the same weapon used by his son, who killed himself a few months ago, and since which time the father, who was about 70 years of age, has been greatly troubled. . . . [He] was well known throughout the Territory as the business associate of Hon. C. W. Wilden-stein. It is said he was a believer in Spiritualism.

Romero's account of Watrous being shot in the course of a family quarrel could well explain the "peculiar circumstances" noted in the newspapers. In any case, Samuel B. Watrous was an important personality on the Santa Fe Trail and in New Mexico history and more research needs to be done on his life . . . and death.

TRAIL PAVILION DEDICATED

ON September 13 the new Santa Fe Trail Pavilion in Harmon Park in Prairie Village, KS, was dedicated, with SFTA members Polly Fowler of Independence, MO, and Craig Crease of Shawnee, KS, participating. Crease was the main speaker and summarized the history of the Trail in the area. The pavilion is located near ruts of the Trail in an addition to the park. It was a major struggle to preserve this small section of Trail from a housing development, a battle won by a group of "Citizens to Save the Park." A bond victory in 1989 permitted the purchase of the 3.7 acres, saving the ruts from destruction. The dedication was truly a day of celebration for those who won the fight and for everyone who supports historic preservation.

SFT PROMOTED IN ENGLAND

by Michael E. Pitel

A vacation for two British residents along the Santa Fe Trail from Kansas to New Mexico was the grand prize at a six-state, seven-week "American Encounters" promotion by London's prestigious Harrod's Department Store in September and October. The New Mexico Department of Tourism and the Kansas Department of Travel & Tourism participated in the high-profile overseas venture, which included tastes of native foods, samples of arts and crafts, and \$360,000 in advertising.

A gala opening reception for New Mexico, which kicked off the entire affair, attracted several London-based international news media and tour operators. New Mexico's award-winning Trail brochures were also available for up to 30,000 shoppers each day at the store, Britain's largest retailer. Sometime next year two travelers from Britain will enjoy a free trip on the Trail.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ADT TRAIL-BLAZER DAY

by Linda Peters

[Linda Peters, Lakin, KS, is a charter member of SFTA and a teacher at Deerfield elementary school.]

THE Deerfield elementary students helped put the American Discovery Trail on the map on Friday, September 11. The students, teachers, and many parents were bused west of Deerfield and walked east and north on county roads escorted by the Kearny County sheriff and under sheriff. They walked approximately one mile and ended up at the grade school in Deerfield where refreshments were served.

They were participating in the American Discovery Trail Trail-Blazer Day, a national promotional event. The ADT is a transcontinental hiking and biking trail which follows closely along the route of the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas. Many other people across the nation were out on September 12, according to Kansas coordinator Dick Dilsaver of Wichita, to celebrate Trail-Blazer Day and to publicize the ADT. Legislation has been introduced in Congress to make the ADT part of the National Scenic Trails System. For more information, please contact Dick Dilsaver, 304 Stratford Rd, Wichita, KS 67206.

OKLAHOMA'S THIRD ANNUAL TRAIL TOUR

HEAD 'em up and move 'em out! This cry was heard but the caravan did not start in Missouri and did not end at Santa Fe. The 26 modern "wagons" left Boise City, OK, early on the morning of October 3, with 137 Trail travelers on the third annual Santa Fe Trail Tour of Cimarron County. Contemporary "pioneers" from Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas braved the dust and heat to visit Willowbar Crossing, Trujillo Springs, Flag Springs (Upper Springs), Signature Rock, Autograph Rock (Cold Springs), Camp Nichols, and, for the first time, the junction of the Aubry Route and the Cimarron Route. Speakers during the day included Dan Sharp, Phyllis Randolph, Joan Walton, Bob Kohler, Mary & Leo Gamble, and David Hutchison. They helped bring history to life with their narrations at the different sites.

As the "wagons" arrived back in Boise City after dark, the dusty travelers were heard to say, "Hope to see you again next year." This annual tour is conducted by the Cimarron County Historical Society and most of the sites seen can only be visited at this one

time. The tour is conducted the first weekend in October and reservations are limited. Information may be obtained from the Cimarron County Historical Society, PO Box 655, Boise City, OK 73933.

VISITOR ETHICS CRUCIAL

[The annual tour of Trail sites on private property in Oklahoma helps emphasize the importance of visitor responsibility at historic sites. SFTA members Mel and Mary Cottom, Manhattan, KS, sent the following item which originally appeared in the Laramie, WY, Boomerang, and was reprinted in Wyoming History News (Nov. 1991). The article refers to a tour in Wyoming, but the message is relevant to Trail travelers and visitors at all such properties. Our behavior is vital and could jeopardize access to historic sites.]

ONE of the most popular and "looked-forward-to" events of a Laramie summer is the annual Albany County Ranch Tour, initiated by Dr. Robert Burns over 40 years ago. Currently sponsored by the Laramie Kiwanis Club and the Albany County Historical Society, it has grown steadily and this year included over 350 people from 22 states and three foreign countries.

However, this very success may prove its undoing due to the thoughtless, if not downright ignorant actions of a few people who gather artifacts on the sites they visit. On the last tour a few persons were gathering so many that they had to use plastic bags to hold them. One elderly, well-dressed gentleman was walking and stooping over in a sort of bobbing motion picking up items in both hands as fast as he could walk, as if someone were going to steal one of his tidbits. Later, when I had moved closer to the speaker, he brought his loot to a young man near me, who put it in a plastic bag, already half full. Then the "picker" returned for more.

Aside from the impact on a historic site, such actions are illegal. This was private land and these things belonged to the owner. (It is also illegal to remove artifacts from public land.) Many people regard open land or an unoccupied building as fair game, and feel they are justified in taking whatever they can find. This is not true, in fact removal of anything from land that does not belong to you is, quite simply, stealing. You are a guest on that property, invited or not, and removing artifacts is no different than taking towels or items from a private home you are visiting.

It is such irresponsible actions that

have forced many ranchers to close their lands to the public, often with the aid of padlocked gates. After several years of fruitless attempts to protect their land and animals from the inroads of such heedless people, a rancher does, indeed, get "grouchy" and unpleasant confrontations result.

One of the first, and often most difficult steps in organizing such an activity as the ranch tour, is to get the permission of the landowners to come onto or cross their land. The landowner faces several hazards not the least of which is fire set by a careless smoker. Ranch barns and sheds are full of interesting and often valuable things and knowledge of where they are makes the landowner vulnerable to an unwelcome return visit. A group visit of 350 people can also be damaging to the land itself.

Thus the rancher must, in effect, accept the word of the organizers that the members of the group will conduct themselves in a responsible way and as privileged guests. Needless to say, a few incidents such as happened on the last tour may make the landowners reluctant to give permission to visit the ranches and the tours will be over.

Actually, taking artifacts from a site is stealing from all of us. This is part of our heritage, and bits of crockery or old nails can help the archaeologist or historian piece together the picture of who lived there and what they did there, adding to the story of our rich history.

Preservation boards, historical societies, nor community organizations can do it all—it is everyone's job to help protect our heritage.

BALLAD OF F. X. AUBREY

by S. Omar Barker

[Diana and Joe Stein, proprietors of La Galeria de los Artesanos bookstore in Las Vegas, NM, sent this ballad written in 1929 by the late S. Omar Barker. It has been printed in other places, now out of print and rare, and is reprinted here as a part of Trail lore. Francis Xavier Aubrey, a trader who opened the important Aubrey Route of the Trail in the early 1850s, was also famous for his rapid rides over the Santa Fe Trail, including the record he set on a trip from Santa Fe to Independence in 1848, which was never broken and about which the ballad was written. Aubrey's name was often misspelled as Aubrey and his first name was sometimes mistakenly given as Felix.]

A Ballad of Felix Xavier Aubrey

Straddle the saddle and touch and go. . .
Many the tales that the old men know.

This is a tale that the old men tell,
Grizzled old riders who know it well:

Felix Xavier Aubrey, sir,
Talk of the trail and knight of the spur,
Up on a horse at the dawn of day,
Dusting the trail out of Santa Fe;
Wolfing the miles from mountain to plain,
Twelve days once and eight again,
So he has ridden this trail before,
No he will make it in six, no more!
All for a bet of a thousand, gold,
Aubrey rides out of the Plaza old.
Independence is far away—
Eight hundred miles, so the trail men say.

At Pigeon's Ranch and Pecos Town
Freighters cheer as he gallops down.
Changes of mounts all day still find him
Leaving the long miles strewn behind him.
Out of the hills he hits the plains,
Drizzled and muddy with autumn rains.
Coffee gulped at the Point of Rocks. . .
Dolly, his mare with the slender hocks. . .
Will ow Bar on the Rabbit Ear. . .
Relay horses await him here. . .
What? Not a horse, nor meat, nor bread?
Indian tracks, and a dead man's head!
Lung-spent, Dolly labors on,
Far to the banks of the Cimarron.

Saddle to saddle . . . his legs feel strange,
Numb and dead as he makes the change.
One he rides and two he drives, . . .
Finally only one survives.
Soon it too has fallen, sick,
For the mud is heavy and deathly slick.

Coyote-like he trots the trail,
(Even afoot he will not fail!)
Twenty miles to the Arkansas. . .
Old men tell the tale in awe. . .
Thew-sore, hungry, weak of blood
Aubrey swims its swollen flood,
Straddles a saddle where horses wait.
Galloping hoofs sing: "Late . . . too . . . late!"

Dizzy with sleep till the reins drop loose,
He rubs his eyes with tobacco juice.
His last horse down at Big John Springs,
He swaps for a mount, and up he swings.

Gallop and gallop and gallop to win. . .
Late in the night at Nolland's Inn,
Aubrey draws and fires his gun,
Signalling out that his bet is won!
Down from the saddle they see him sway,
Six days' ride out of Santa Fe!

Straddle the saddle . . . the horseback clan
Tell this tale of a riding man:
Felix Xavier Aubrey, sir,
Wolfing the trail in the days that were!

MARKETING THE TRAIL

A group of students enrolled in the Advertising Campaigns class at the School of Journalism, University of Kansas at Lawrence, have taken as a course project the promotion of tourism along the Santa Fe Trail. The concept was promoted by SFTA member Ron Wright of Emporia, who is in the motel business and is associated with the Kansas Dept. of Travel & Tourism. The six students engaged in the exercise (Scott Loewen, Jason Kinzy, Jon Kruele, Stephanie Testinger, Scott Piper, and Yonaniko Salin) are developing a plan to "market the Trail." In preparation they traveled to Council Grove, visiting Trail sites along the way, interviewed people who have traveled the Trail, and mailed a questionnaire to many SFTA members in Kansas.

The project includes preparation of advertising campaigns, such as billboards, brochures, bumper stickers, T-Shirts, magazine spots, and newspaper ads, and the development of a marketing plan to promote the Trail in various media. When the students turn in the term project, however, that will not be the end of the story. Wright intends to use the plan to encourage the Kansas Dept. of Travel & Tourism to devote more attention to promoting the Trail. In addition, he will present the design to the legislature and seek funds to implement it.

SFTA members who receive the questionnaire are encouraged to cooperate. If anyone has suggestions or questions, they are invited to contact Scott Loewen, 1838 Tennessee #3, Lawrence, KS 66044 (913) 841-6645. Ron Wright will report on the consequences of the project later.

POST OFFICE OAK

—LETTERS—

Editor:

On a few occasions in the past I have been scolded for not having a sign indicating the exact location of Ralph's Ruts. A few visitors find the sign at U.S. Highway 56 directing them three-fourths mile north but have difficulty identifying exactly where the Trail is located.

That situation has now been remedied. Located near the parking area, provided by the Rice County Highway Department, visitors will now see two tall posts bearing a sign which says "Santa Fe Trail" and a walk-in gate on which is printed "Ralph's Ruts" (photo enclosed).

Visitors now have access to the Trail

through this gate near the parking area and, in most cases, we will no longer drive vehicles into the pasture. The parking area is about 25 feet by 150 feet and should accommodate as many as 15 automobiles or three commercial buses.

Ralph Hathaway
RR 1 Box 28
Chase, KS 67524



I am sure everyone appreciates the improvements, and we all thank SFTA Ambassador Ralph Hathaway for his generosity in making these excellent Trail remnants accessible to the public.

Editor

Editor:

I recently learned that John Dick of Goessel, KS, is writing books about the Trail. I had the opportunity to see one of his books and discovered errors right off. He appears to be a self-proclaimed "expert" on the Trail. One of his claims, for example, is that the volume of traffic on the Trail included 1,000 wagons and 20,000 head of cattle per day going past any given point. What do you think of his book? Serious Trail buffs might want to look at it very carefully. I wonder if the gentleman has heard of SFTA and *Wagon Tracks*?

John E. Wiebe
911 W 4th St.
Newton, KS 67114

I have not seen Mr. Dick's book. He never sent us a review copy. So far as I know he has never been a member of SFTA. It would be a good idea for you to extend an invitation to him to join.

Editor

Editor:

I thank SFTA and *Wagon Tracks* for supporting our annual Santa Fe Trail Bike Trek. This year we had nearly 50 riders from the following states: Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho,

Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, and one from Manitoba, Canada. With this kind of interest, we hope to continue the project.

Willard Chilcott
885 Camino Del Este
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Editor:

Richard Flint presented a most interesting paper at the Coronado Conference in Las Vegas, NM, on August 23, 1992. He pointed out that, in addition to chain mail and Coronado signatures on rock, the following items are distinctive to the 1541 Coronado Expedition: copper crossbow boltheads resembling nib pen points, crossbow parts and accessories, short copper or brass lacetips called aglets resembling bolo tie tips, Nueva Cadiz trade glass beads (plain or twisted, with a square cross section), Clarksdale brass cascade bells, greenish gold obsidian blade fragments and fluted columnar obsidian cores, side and basal notched projectile points resembling Harrell points, flat sandstone comals or griddle stones, Aztec polychrome ceramics with cherry-red interiors, and cotton armor, bows, wicker back packs, and hemp sandals carried by his 800 to 1,300 Mexican Indian allies.

SFTA members are encouraged to look over their collections for any of these items and let the Coronado Trail Association, Richard Flint, PO Box 216, Villanueva, NM 87583, know of any possible Coronado items and their location. Waldo M. Wedel would be happy to arrange for the Lawrence-Livermore Lab. to date wrought iron chain mail. Coronado may have passed over or very near portions of the Santa Fe Trail.

I would like to photograph American Indian rock art, petroglyphs and pictographs, near the Trail.

Nancy Robertson
PO Box 1516
Raton, NM 87740

Editor:

We are renewing our family membership for 1993. We thank you for promptly sending *Wagon Tracks*. This quarterly is more and more interesting.

Hanna & Hermann Bender
Schaumburger Str. 93, D-6230
Frankfurt am Main 80, Germany

Editor:

I recently joined SFTA and want to obtain back issues of *Wagon Tracks*. I am making plans to take a leave of absence from my job and backpack the Trail from Old Franklin site to Santa Fe. My wife and I recently conducted

an automobile reconnaissance of the eastern portion of the Trail. I can hardly wait to get started. My intentions are to publish two books from the trek, a narrative and a book of photographs.

Mike Penner
717 W Elm St.
Olathe, KS 66061

Good luck with your venture. Please keep WT informed about your planned trip. Back issues are available for \$2.00 each, postpaid.

Editor



CONVERSE OF THE PRAIRIES

—BOOK NOTICES—

Waiting and Working: Women of the Boone's Lick Frontier, videotape (VHS). Washington: FOF Productions, 1991. \$16.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Order from FOF Productions Pocket Videos, 1832 Kenyon St. NW, Washington, DC 20010.

"It is in the little incidents of life that the interest in existence really lies, not in just its grand results." This concluding quotation was the essence of the skillful, dramatic, and musical performance "Waiting and Working" presented at the 1991 SFTA symposium at Boonville, MO. Drawing upon newspapers, letters, diaries, and contemporary music, talented writers and performers Carla Waal and Barbara Oliver Korner, within the framework of a grandmother reminiscing with her granddaughter, transform themselves into historical characters, bringing to life such women as Mary Easton Sibley (wife of George Sibley), Mother Duchesne (who began the first free school for girls west of the Mississippi), Susan Shelby Magoffin and Marian Sloan Russell (travelers on the Trail), and others. They also included vignettes of a teacher and homemaker.

Men were at times subjects of the performers' dialogues, and they also portrayed several men. Thomas Hart Benton defended the appointment of Ann Hawkins Gentry, a widow with 13 children, as postmaster of Columbia, MO, in 1838. George Sibley and a school board member were also represented. This memorable performance is available on a 55-minute video. The history of the Boone's Lick area and the Santa Fe Trail, as well as the portrayal of Magoffin and Russell, make it of special interest to SFTA members.

—Bonita M. Oliva

NEW LIGHT ON JOHNSON'S RANCH

by Marc Simmons

[Simmons wrote this article for his "Trail Dust" column that appears in several newspapers. He has kindly agreed to share it through WT.]

EVERY time I get to thinking that there's little more to be learned about the Civil War in New Mexico, the subject having been written to death, some new chunk of information unexpectedly turns up and proves me wrong.

Just last week, for example, I received by mail from Colorado Springs a self-published book from Anthony G. Johnson entitled "Legacy of A Santa Fe Trail Teamster." In a note, the author informed me that his volume, a genealogy of the Johnsons, had been printed mainly for family members.

I had met Mr. Johnson a dozen years ago when we both happened to be doing research at the New Mexico State Library in Santa Fe. He mentioned that he was searching for data on his great-grandfather, Anthony D. Johnson. Had I heard of him?

When I looked blank, he added that Anthony D. was owner of the famous Johnson's ranch, stage station and cantina located at Cañoncito, N.M., on the Santa Fe Trail about 15 miles east of Santa Fe. That bit of information caught my attention immediately, for while Johnson's Ranch is often noted in history books, virtually nothing has been known about its owner.

Johnson's trailside establishment was one of three ranches that figured prominently in the action surrounding the Civil War Battle of Glorieta Pass, March 28, 1862. The first was Martin Kozlowski's Ranch, situated at the eastern entrance of the mountain pass, which served as headquarters for the Union Army. This site has been studied by historian Col. Francis Kojencki of El Paso.

The second was Pigeon's Ranch near the pass summit where the main battle took place. The National Park Service is preparing to launch research here, as it will soon add the ranch to its battlefield preservation program.

The third site, Johnson's Ranch, at the western end of Glorieta Pass, was the location of the Confederate camp. At the time of the battle, this camp, being far to the rear, was left lightly defended. That provided an opportunity for Union leader Col. John M. Chivington to lead a flanking party over Glorieta Mesa and seize and burn the Texan supply train. He also ordered the killing of some draft mules that could not be driven away.

But what about ranch owner An-

thony D. Johnson and his family, known to be strong Union supporters? Where were they while Confederate troops occupied their property? Until now, the answer to that question has not been available.

According to the great-grandson's book, at the first appearance of the Southerners, the Johnsons fled up into the hills and camped in the cold March weather until it was safe to return home.

In their absence, they found that Confederate soldiers had completely looted the house and ranch. Everything that could not be carried away had been piled in the yard and burned. For the family, the invasion proved an economic disaster.

After the war, Anthony D. Johnson filed a claim against the U.S. government for his losses. The listing included a horse, two oxen, 20 bushels of corn, 40 gallons of molasses, one barrel of whiskey worth \$80, clothing, personal possessions and damage to his ranch buildings. There is no record to show that his claim was ever paid.

Evidently, the Johnsons recovered and got back into business operating their stage stop and cantina on the old Santa Fe Trail. Anthony D. also had acquired wagons and was running his own freight service, hauling goods to and from Fort Union on the edge of the plains.

In late 1869, the family pulled stakes and moved to Trinidad, Colo., just north of Raton Pass. Later, Johnson used his wagons and teams to haul ties to the construction site of the advancing AT&SF Railway.

In early January of 1879, Anthony D. Johnson went to Las Colonias, N.M., on the Pecos River to make a delivery. Returning alone in his wagon, he was attacked and killed by two highwaymen at the Rock Crossing of the Canadian River, five miles east of Springer.

His body was hidden in the brush near the ford and never recovered. The culprits were captured and brought before a federal judge in Santa Fe. The trial record has not been found, and their fate is unknown.

We do know, however, what happened to the historic building at Johnson's ranch that saw duty as a stage station and for a few days sheltered men of the Confederacy. In 1967, it was bulldozed to make way for construction of Interstate 25 connecting Denver and El Paso. With that event, another small piece of our history disappeared forever.

BOGGSVILLE: A TRAIL SETTLEMENT

by Phil Petersen

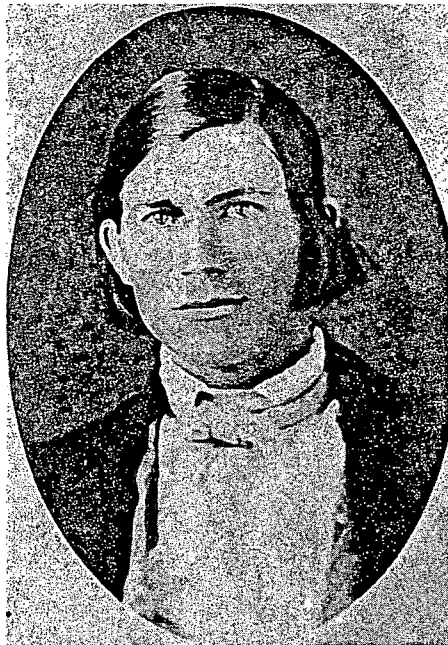
[This is twenty-fourth in a series on historic sites and museums along the Trail. Phil Petersen, La Junta, CO, is a charter member of SFTA and the chairman of the Boggsville Revitalization Committee which is overseeing the restoration of the historic community.]

THE history of Boggsville began, long before the settlement came into existence, with the story of its founder, Thomas O. Boggs. Tom was the first son of ten children born of the second marriage of Lilburn W. Boggs. Tom was the descendent of famous pioneers. Lilburn, born in December 1785 in Lexington, Kentucky, had served in the war of 1812 under Governor Isaac Shelby before moving to St. Louis in 1815 or 1816. His first marriage in 1817 to Juliannah Bent, the eldest daughter of Judge Silas Bent and a sister to Charles and William Bent, established an early connection between the Bent and Boggs families. From that first marriage came two sons. Juliannah died in 1820 when the boys were very young.

Lilburn Boggs's second marriage, in 1823, was to Panthea Grant Boone, a granddaughter of Daniel Boone of Kentucky. Tom was born August 21, 1824, on the Neosho River among the Osage Indians. At that time his father was running a trading post for the American Fur Co. About 1829, the year Charles Bent apparently joined in the commerce with Santa Fe, Lilburn Boggs tried his hand at trading along the Santa Fe Trail but apparently was not successful.

Young Tom Boggs was exposed to the world of Indian life and trading practically from his life's beginning. During his early years he learned to communicate with five different Indian tribes of the western Missouri region. He lived for a time with his uncle, Albert G. Boone, near Independence, Missouri. There he saw many a trade caravan outfitted for the Santa Fe Trail and was introduced to many of the traders. The boy began to look forward to the day when he could join a trade caravan to a distant and exciting frontier. By age sixteen, Tom had a good notion of what he wanted from life. His father was involved in state politics and had been the governor of Missouri, 1836-1840, but that was not the type of life Tom wanted. He was not even interested in staying at the family farm just outside of Independence.

In the summer of 1841, Tom left the family farm and joined James Wiley



Tom Boggs at an early age (Courtesy of Pioneer Museum, Colorado Springs).

Magoffin's wagon train which was bound for Santa Fe and Chihuahua. It was reported that the young man left on a neighbor's fine horse. Tom supposedly told the neighbor that his father would pay for the horse, but Tom's father knew nothing of the deal. Tom did not go all the way to Santa Fe, however, but left the caravan when he met up with a trader who was returning to Bent's Fort. Tom apparently knew the trader, for he joined him and headed for Bent's Fort on the Arkansas. They soon lost their horses and had to walk and carry their saddles the greater part of the way. Tom's introduction to the frontier West certainly must have convinced him that pioneers had to be tough to survive. It was probably a lesson he learned well, for he survived many challenging adventures.

At Bent's Fort, Tom began his training as a trader. His previous experiences with the Indian tribes of the Missouri made it easy for him to learn additional tribal languages of the plains Indians. It was at Bent's Fort that Tom first met Kit Carson, who proved to be his trusted friend, confidant, and kin by marriage. He undoubtedly went on hunting trips with Carson and learned the ways of the mountain man. When Tom was not engaged in trading, he worked as a teamster or stockman. It was no secret that the grasses of the high plains provided excellent forage for livestock.

As the area around Bent's Fort became overpopulated with grazing stock, it became necessary to establish ranching practices throughout the region. Tom had an opportunity to learn about the harshness of the region between Bent's Fort and Taos. He learned to understand the rigorous country and how to make use of it for his own benefit. He worked with John Hatcher in establishing a farm east of present Trinidad, CO, and on Ponil Creek in New Mexico, and he learned that irrigation could change this arid land.

Tom became a first-rate plainsman. In 1846 in Taos he married the fifteen-year-old stepdaughter of Charles Bent, Rumalda Luna. Rumalda was also the niece of Kit Carson's wife, Josefa. Rumalda was with Charles Bent when the Taos uprising took his life in January 1847. During the siege, Tom was running dispatches for the army which was engaged in the war with Mexico. During one of his trips, Tom encountered a severe snowstorm on the trail somewhere near the present Kansas-Colorado border. He suffered many hardships before he returned to Taos to find that his father-in-law had been killed. A short time after this, Tom and his family went to California where his father and other members of the family had moved to the Sonoma Valley in 1846. Sometime later, Tom brought his family back to New Mexico, where he worked for Lucien Maxwell. Maxwell considered Boggs to be one of the best stockmen he knew. Tom had by now gained much experience living on the plains and dealing with the Indians of the region. He always dealt with them fairly. Tom eventually began to search for a place to settle down, a place he could call home.

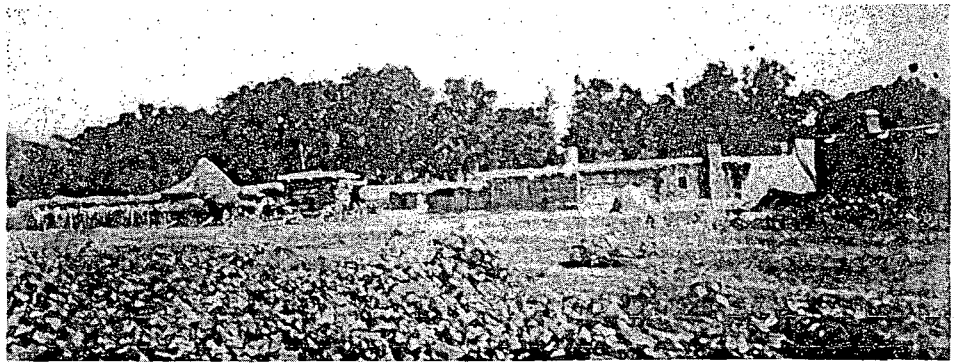
Tom was encouraged by his old friend William Bent to move to a site near Bent's Ranch in 1862. The ranch and stockade had been occupied by William Bent since about 1858. He had retired from trading at Bent's New Fort at Big Timbers and was settling at the mouth of the Purgatoire. Ceran St. Vrain and Cordillo Vigil had obtained a large grant of land called the Vigil-St. Vrain Land Grant, also known as the Las Animas Grant, comprising more than four million acres, from the governor of Mexico in 1843. Although Vigil was an uncle to Rumalda Boggs, it was St. Vrain who offered Boggs a part of the grant on which to settle. It would be years before Boggs could perfect title, but he claimed more than 2,000 acres of the grant.

When Boggs came to the Purgatoire River to settle, he brought others with him. L. A. Allen and Charles Ritc and family joined Boggs. Both of these men had been involved with Boggs in Taos and had been in the mercantile business. Ritc was also Boggs's brother-in-law. The men first built log huts and cabins, or jacals. Perhaps they also occupied older buildings previously used as stock line camps from the period when Boggs was stock foreman for Bent. The first structures they built were close to a sharp bend in the Purgatoire on relatively low land. After settling in they began at once to build a ditch to divert water from five miles upstream. By 1868 more than 1,000 acres was under irrigation.

When Boggs and friends came to the Purgatoire, the land which they claimed under the Las Animas Grant had been set aside as part of an Indian reservation for the Arapahos by the U.S. government in the treaty of Fort Wise in 1861. It was evident the government did not recognize the claims of the grant. This posed no problem to Boggs, as he lived at his new settlement in peace with the local Indian tribes. Boggs and friends built no fortifications on the site that was now being called Boggsville. By the mid to late 1860's, many new neighbors settled near Boggsville and a cultural unity began to develop by people who all had the same thing in common, a desire to survive on a hostile frontier.

Boggs and his friends were doing well, raising mostly sheep, cattle, and forage crops. By 1866 it was evident that the Purgatoire River would soon take away the banks which held the first settlement of cabins. Boggs built a large, adobe New Mexican-style house upon higher ground to the west of the original settlement. He added two separated rooms to the house in about 1868. This nine-room adobe house was a mansion when compared to the little adobe house where they lived on the first site.

In the spring of 1867, Fort Lyon (formerly Fort Wise) was moved, and a new facility was built on the north side of the Arkansas River about four miles from Boggsville. The army's move brought more prosperity and people to the Boggsville area. An old friend and trader, John W. Prowers, soon arrived from his ranch near Old Fort Lyon. Prowers had worked in the vicinity since about 1856, first taking a position with the Indian agent at Bent's New Fort. Prowers had been the sutler at Old Fort Lyon and, by 1863, was well established in the cattle business. In 1861 he married Amache Och-Kenee, the daughter of a sub-chief of



"Boggs Ranch on the Purgatory," photograph by Alexander Gardner in 1867.
(Courtesy of Missouri Historical Society)

the Southern Cheyenne. Her father was called One-Eye by the white people, and he was killed at the Sand Creek Massacre in November 1864.

Prowers built a large two-story adobe house near Boggs in 1867 and moved there, though he controlled many interests elsewhere. His brother-in-law, John Hough, also came in 1867 and shared the old Boggs house with Kit Carson for a short while. Hough brought mercantile goods and he and Prowers set up a trading house. During the time Prowers occupied his large house, it was used as the first courthouse for Bent County in 1870. (By 1874, Bent County was expanded to cover over 9,000 square miles.) It served as a school until the first public school could be built at Boggsville in 1871. It may have served as the trading house, or Prowers may have had another store building nearby.

Dr. William A. Bell, in a book written in 1870, described Boggsville. Bell, although he was a botanist, worked as a photographer on an expedition and survey in search for a southern railroad route to the Pacific Ocean. The party was at Boggsville on July 22, 1867. Bell wrote the following about the settlement and the people who lived there:

"On leaving Fort Lyon the surveyors crossed the Arkansas River about half a mile below the mouth of the Purgatoire, in a boat which had just been built; while the wagons, and those who were mounted, passed over an eccentric ferryboat, which an energetic Yankee had established four miles above [this would have been Casy's Crossing where the Bent's Fort Motel now stands]. By an ingenious system of ropes and pulleys he was enabled to take advantage of the strong current of the river to propel his heavy boat, in either direction, from side to side without assistance in this way, one by one, our train of twenty wagons and three ambulances passed over in safety. Three miles farther we crossed the

Purgatoire, to join the surveyors on the eastern bank, over a bridge built by the settlers who lived in this part of the valley. It was a great pleasure to us to find farms and settlements here, for they were the first we had met since leaving civilisation. The banks of the Purgatoire are well-timbered on both sides, not by single rows of cottonwoods, but by groves of many kinds of trees - boxelders, willows &c., amongst which the wild vine, the hop and other creepers grow luxuriantly, and give abundance of refreshing shade. The inhabitants of this little settlement formed a wonderful mixture of races; and when curiosity to see my camera had brought the inhabitants from their adobe houses and log huts, it would have been difficult to find a more motley group. . . . On crossing the river we found a large well-filled ranch on the opposite side, which had just been built by two enterprising Yankees [Boggs and Prowers]. Here we could buy everything - cloths and candles, bowie-knives and groceries, canned fruits and Mexican saddles, powder and shot, boots and shoes, caps and crinolines, Worcestershire sauce, whiskey, and drinks without end. This well-stocked storehouse, raised up in the wilds, to which everything has to be carried hundreds of miles by wagons through Indian Country, speaks more for the extraordinary energy and foresight of these Western traders than any panegyric I could write. The circumstances which caused these two enterprising traders to invest their all in such a venture was simply this: - they recognized the great fertility of the Purgatoire valley."

The countryside surrounding Boggsville was in a turmoil during the 1860s. The plains Indians were hostile, and for good reason. Boggs and Prowers were friends with them and always treated them fairly. Others did not. Prowers's association with them, through his wife Amache, helped a great deal. However, Boggsville was raided in September 1868 and two

people were killed and livestock were lost.

By early 1869 the wild town of Las Animas City was established across the Arkansas River from New Fort Lyon. William Craig and others felt it was time to capitalize on the army and the growing prosperity of the region. A new bridge was soon built across the river and travel on the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail, located north of Fort Lyon, made a big shift. The road south of the river which passed just south of Boggs's house became heavily traveled. Many a freight wagon passed Boggsville during this period. The West was being settled at a fast pace and people passing through Boggsville saw for themselves the success that was possible, that which Boggs and friends had already enjoyed for a time.

The early story of Boggsville would not be complete without the mention of one of the most famous personages of the West. In the late fall of 1867, Kit Carson moved to Boggsville. He was not new to the site, for he had claimed other lands in the vicinity and also kept cattle near Boggs. He had recently retired from military service in New Mexico, where he had achieved the rank of brigadier general, and moved into an adobe house belonging to Boggs in order to be near Fort Lyon. The post surgeon at Fort Lyon could care for Carson's failing health, while the famous frontiersman was among friends and relatives. Carson's wife, Josefa, was expecting their seventh child. On April 13, 1868, she gave birth to a daughter, Josefita, but the mother never recovered. She died on April 27. Kit was becoming more ill daily and was soon moved to the doctor's house at Fort Lyon. He died on May 23, 1868. Carson and his wife were buried nearby, and both were later moved to a cemetery at Taos. Boggs took six of the seven Carson children into his home and reared them until they went off to school or elsewhere.

Boggsville served as a center of trade, culture, education, and protection in a hostile land until other towns began to develop. In 1873 the Kansas Pacific Railroad built a branch line from the town of Kit Carson, CO, south. They bypassed Las Animas City and Boggsville in order to establish their own town, West Las Animas. Prowers soon moved to the new town to operate a forwarding business from the end of the track. The eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail was then at the new town. Prowers kept his interest in ranching centered at Boggsville until 1883. The accelerated expansion of the West brought a great change for

Boggsville. In a few years it returned to just another center for farming and ranching, common by the late 1870s. Boggsville served its purpose well. Boggsville demonstrated that different ethnic groups could work together in harmony and prosper. Boggs left in 1877 but held onto the land until 1883.

John Lee, a wealthy Irishman, purchased Boggsville from Boggs. The old schoolhouse was crumbling and many of the other buildings were probably vacated, the residents moving on to bigger and better adventures. Lee preserved or kept up repairs on some of them, but let others fall or disappear from the scene. In 1885 the old Trail route was abandoned to a new road coming directly from the north side of the nearby Boggsville cemetery and entering the site between the Boggs and Prowers houses. The old Trail remained a farm road, but travel no longer passed through. The grand avenue of trees on the old Trail that once welcomed the visitor from the East was no longer a sight to attract people of the faster-paced society that developed. Lee was gone by 1898 or even earlier and the property became a tenant farm, crumbling under the lack of care by those who did not own and could not afford to preserve it. Historical value was not a priority during the first half of the 20th century when southeastern Colorado was a tough place to survive in, let alone prosper.

By the early 1950s, Boggsville was in poor shape. Most of the historic structures were gone except for the Boggs house and one-third of the Prowers house. The Carson house and barn had tumbled into the fickle Purgatoire after the turn of the century and other floods lowered the land on which the original settlement once stood. The famous avenue of trees died of old age or lack of care and the site became less recognizable as each year passed. Many of the buildings had been replaced over the years, serving a much smaller farming business. Most of the original 2,040 acres of the derivative Mexican land-grant claim had been sold off in the 1930s. Much of the land surrounding the settlement had been re-leveled and some historic ditches moved. The historic Trail completely disappeared under the plow. The main entrance road was changed again in 1926 when Colorado Highway 101 was built. Since the late 1940s the Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County has tried to acquire the site to protect it. About all they were successful at was the erection of a suitable monument near the entrance on Highway 101.

By December 1985 their dream fi-

nally came true. Through a generous gift from the Alta Page family, 110 acres including the historic site became theirs. But decay had taken its toll. The Boggs house was mostly all there, but in very poor shape. All the other early buildings, more than 20, that once graced Boggsville were gone. After the reality of the dream came the sudden shock that the Society had a monumental task ahead. We had no idea of the amount of work it would take. All we knew, however, was that we wanted the job done right.

The Society formed the Boggsville Revitalization Committee (BRC) to oversee preservation of this important historic site. The Society had already experienced a few hard bumps on the road to preservation by not knowing the proper things to do. Fortunately and soon, however, we were directed by efforts of the National Trust For Historic Preservation. We soon had the site put on the National Register of Historic Places in October 1986. Through the National Trust and many others since, we were put on the right track. We had a structures study made of the Boggs and Prowers house to determine exactly what we had inherited and what we should do to begin stabilization.

We did not do too much for the next year or so as far as the physical site was concerned except clean it up and remove about ten truck loads of trash and wire. We planned and built a kiosk at the end of the existing access road. As this work was being done, the serious study of researching the history of the Boggsville site began in earnest. From the research it was realized that the parking lot and kiosk were too close to the historic site. The historic site had grown beyond all that had been previously known by the Society and the community. So much had changed.

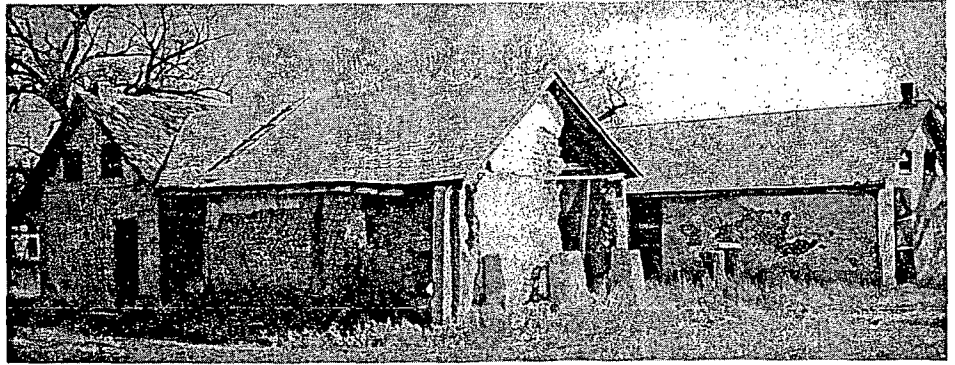
The BRC determined it was time to develop a better mechanism by which to preserve and develop the project. A major grant was received through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and other local support to begin development of a master plan. Through the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, a twenty-five-year-plus plan was developed. This plan, with the exception of a few minor changes, has been the guiding tool for this project. Project goals were set and additional information has been added to enhance the final outcome. The main thrust of this project is to develop an accurate participatory and historic settlement as found during the period 1866-1873 at Boggsville. Not all structures are planned, but the major his-

toric buildings will be preserved and others reconstructed.

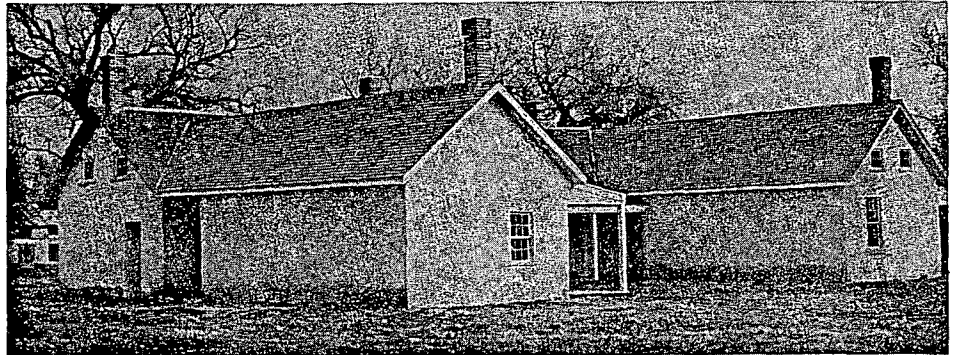
As the planning was proceeding during 1989-1990, archaeological investigation of the site also moved forward. Boggsville, with so much of the original features missing, is basically an archaeological site. The pace is slow in determining what was once on the site, mostly due to lack of funds. More so, it's the timing of the money. We needed money for stabilization before the Boggs or Prowers house fell in, yet not much could be done without thorough study of the archaeological aspects. While planning and archaeology proceeded, the BRC erected twenty-two interpretive signs along walking trails through the historic site. From these signs, much can be learned about Boggsville and its time. The freedom of the open, practically uninterrupted space is most pleasant to the busy passerby.

By the late summer of 1990, the Boggs house was ready for its rebirth. The architects and engineers were ready. The BRC served as its own contractor for the Boggs house project in an effort to stretch the construction dollar and, if failing in the reconstruction, we had no one else to blame. We hired experts for certain things, such as laying adobe and plastering. Our own hired crews worked under guidance of the architect and we got the job done. We began the reconstruction/revitalization work in late August 1990. The flooring and floor joists were removed. One system of jacks held up the ceilings and roof, while another system of jacks supported the existing walls. The inadequate stone foundation was removed and a new concrete foundation poured. New stabilized adobes were used along with as many original adobes as could be salvaged and the walls were carefully built back up to the existing original undisturbed walls. Some of the interior walls had to be repaired, and one was replaced with its original adobes after having fallen down. The west wing, which was built in 1868, had to be mostly reconstructed except for the original roof structure.

After the walls were completed, the roof was reset and leveled. A new shingle roof was completed as well as the five tall red brick chimneys (which had completely disappeared) as Boggs had originally built. In one protected area where the roofs join, one can still see the original pine shingles that Boggs had installed before adding on the west wing. Next, the magnificent open porches were reconstructed. New lumber had to be cut to the original dimension of 1866 and to find lumber with



Boggs House, February 1987.



Boggs House, November 1991.

few knotholes was a challenge in itself. Many of the floors in the west portion of the house had to be redone with new lumber, though four rooms still have the original floors. The porch floors, columns, rafters, and sheathing had to be completely reconstructed. The style of construction in the original sheathing was quite different than the conventional construction of modern times and proves most interesting when viewed today. The use of square nails also helps maintain the appearance of originality in the reconstruction.

The final major work consisted of applying lime plaster to the exterior of the Boggs house. Boggs did much to protect his house when he installed lime plaster on the exterior walls. This was a common practice farther east in Missouri. The common New Mexican method of adobe construction was to plaster with mud. The continued maintenance required by mud plaster was apparently something Boggs did not wish to endure. None of the exterior was painted except the east side of the house, the formal entrance. On the plaster was painted a soft mauve color and black painted ashlar lines were added to give the appearance of stonework. The front porch columns were also more ornate, tapered with crowned woodwork.

Since its resurrection not much has

been done to the Boggs house except to refinish one room back to the original festive painted ceiling, white walls, and cream white trimmed woodwork. The other rooms await future funding. The BRC is not in a hurry here because touring the interior, as is, and reviewing the construction process itself has proved an interesting concept in interpretation.

The next major challenge is the preservation of the Prowers house. This two-story adobe structure, with only one wing remaining of an original three wings, will be a more difficult challenge than the Boggs house. The Prowers house is leaning to the north almost three feet at its northwest corner. If we had not braced it up in 1987, this building probably would have collapsed by now. So far it remains stable. In addition, due to weather exposure and continued decay, it became necessary to completely cover the Prowers house in the summer of 1992. Some archaeological study has been conducted over the past year to determine the location of the missing features of the house. As funds become available, more work will be done until the entire Prowers house is completed. The BRC anticipates enough funds by the early winter of 1992 to proceed with restoration of the Prowers house.

Among other projects planned, when time, money, and more help arrives, is

the reconstruction of the Carson house. After archaeological work clears the way, the BRC will build a replica of that structure. The historical integrity will be kept in mind, but being a total reconstruction, and probably not on the original site, it will perhaps be more interesting than authentic. When completed, it will be used as a hands-on interpretive center where visitors can come and have dinner with old Kit. Perhaps they will be able to sleep in one of the rooms and wake up the next morning to the sounds of the 1860s. There visitors may relive the history of the Santa Fe Trail route that once passed Boggsville.

The Pioneer Historical Society of Bent County and the Boggsville Revitalization Committee take this opportunity to thank the many supporters along the Trail for their interest in and support of Boggsville. It takes the interest of the SFTA and many others to make real dreams such as this one come true. When the next symposium meets in Colorado, September 23-26, 1993, we hope to see many of you at Boggsville. Many interesting events are being planned. Feel free to visit historic Boggsville at any time. For more information, contact the BRC at P.O. Box 68, Las Animas, Co. 81054.



HOOF PRINTS

—TRAIL TIDBITS—

Marc Simmons and Adrian Bustamante flew to Spain in July, along with a number of Indians, to present lectures at a conference on Southwest Indians as part of the quincentenary. The conference was at Phillip II's 16th-century palace, El Escorial, and was attended by Queen Sofia. Simmons reported that, following his presentation, "I glanced down at the queen to get her reaction. She smiled at me and winked!"

Fort Larned National Historic Site was the subject of a widely syndicated Associated Press article in September. In October Fort Larned was praised in an editorial in the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon*. Visitation at the site is also reported to be up for 1992. Planning for the new visitors' center is underway.

William Childress had a piece on the Trail in a recent issue of *Touring America*, including mention of Fort Larned,

Fort Union, Bent's Old Fort, Council Grove, Pawnee Rock, and Wagon Mound. He also praised Gregory Franzwa's work for and writings about the Trail.

Congress recently passed legislation which was signed by the president to add the California Trail and the Pony Express Trail to the National Historic Trails System. This action has been pending for several years, supported by OCTA, SFTA, and other trail groups. The National Park Service will mark and help preserve the routes.

Norma Gene Young, Boise City, OK, has designed a handsome brochure on Cimarron County Oklahoma, featuring the Cimarron Route of the Trail. The brochure was funded by the Cimarron County Historical Society. SFTA and the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter provided encouragement and advice.

A one-hour audio tape describing historical sites in Council Grove has been produced by the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau for sale to the public. Written and narrated by SFTA member Ron Parks, curator of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove, the tape focuses on the Santa Fe Trail. Other topics include the Kansa Indians, Neosho River, Cottage House Hotel, Padilla Monument, and the stone barn east of town. The tape sells for \$3.00 and may be ordered from the Council Grove Convention and Visitors Bureau, 313 W Main, Council Grove, KS 66486.

Plans are now being made to celebrate National Trails Day on June 5, 1993, the 25th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. A theme of "Trails for All Americans" has been adopted, and all trail organizations (historic and scenic) are encouraged to plan special events for the day. For more information, please write National Trails Day, 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036 or call (202) 833-8229.

Several items from WT have been picked up and published in *Pathways Across America: A Newsletter for National scenic and Historic Trails*, published by the American Hiking Society in cooperation with the National Park Service. A recent issue carried the story about refurbishing DAR markers and an announcement of the Santa Fe Trail Bike Trek. *Pathways Across America* is sent free to qualified individuals and organizations. The ad-

dress is PO Box 20160, Washington, DC 20041-2160.

An hour-and-a-half TV documentary on the Donner Party appeared on PBS on October 28, an excellent piece of work produced by Ric Burns with the help of experts, including members of OCTA. Similar in format to Ken Burns's Civil War series, it was an outstanding presentation.

OCTA celebrated its 10th anniversary at the August convention in Rock Springs, WY. This superb organization, the model for SFTA, welcomes members who are interested in the Oregon and California trails. Send dues, \$30 per year individual or \$35 family, to OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519.

SFTA charter member Sue Richardson, Clayton, NM, wrote a nice series of articles about the Santa Fe Trail for the Clayton newspaper in September 1992. Mrs. Richardson has long been active in the Union County Historical Society, having served as its president for many years, is an active in the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter of SFTA, and a member of the SFNHT Advisory Council.

A theater group known as Pocket Theatre has been working closely with the Kansas City Museum, presenting programs on various topics for museum visitors. Included is a play, "On the Santa Fe Trail," which tells the story of the Trail and calls attention to Trail exhibits in the museum. The play has been especially effective in drawing the attention of young people to the history of the Trail.

Your editor and Bonita recently had the distinct honor to spend an evening with award-winning author William Least Heat-Moon, whose *PrairieErth* provides a close look at Chase County, KS, and nearby areas, including some material on the Santa Fe Trail. In addition to autographing books and exchanging compliments, a lively discussion of Trail and Kansas history was the reward.

Dave Webb, author of the excellent *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail*, is completing a new book entitled "Kansas Characters." A number of people associated with the Trail are included. Among the 400 plus people featured is a sketch of SFTA Ambassador Paul Bentrup who gives special meaning to the word character.

JAMES BRICE'S TRAIL REMINISCENCES, PART III

[This is the final installment of James Brice's Reminiscences of Ten Years Experience on the Western Plains. Again, special thanks are extended to SFTA member Robert Brice, Independence, Missouri, and to all the Brice descendants for permission to reprint this significant and rare publication. The entire text will soon be reprinted, with spelling corrections and footnote identifications, as a separate booklet. Readers are invited to send information they may have about any of the individuals and incidents mentioned by Brice.]

July, 1864, Cheyennes, Kiowas, Arapahoes and some Comanche and Hickory Apaches were camped a mile north of Fort Larned, garrisoned with Kansas troops and a section of a Wisconsin battery in charge of Lieut. Croker, and Capt. Reed was commanding officer. The combined Indian tribes went on the warpath, commencing at Fort Larned and running off a large number of horses and the beef cattle belonging to the post. I lost twelve head of young cows, my private property, worth \$300, that was taken with the beef herd. I gave the claim to Major Wynecoop, Indian Agent, to present to the Indian Bureau. When I made inquiry at the Indian office I was informed that there was no record of it and I never got anything for my cows. Two weeks before the Indians commenced their depredations I was afraid of their treachery and warned the man that I had herding the company's mules, when I signaled to him to run the mules to the corral as fast as he possibly could. He was on the lookout and complied with my instructions. When I got the mules secured I applied to the commanding officer for arms and ammunition for all the men I had at the mail station. He gave me all I asked for and invited me to bring my family to the post, where they would be out of danger. I thanked him for his kind invitation and told him I had a sufficient force when they were armed to protect ourselves and the property in my charge belonging to the mail company. When I got the guns and ammunition I started on a double-quick with the men I brought with me to carry them. When we came within a hundred yards of the mail station we saw two Indians running the two soldiers that were herding the beef cattle, until they came to our corral twenty yards from our dwelling house. Seeing that we were prepared to resist their further approach, they gave up the chase and returned to their villages,

acting as sentinels and riding back and forward in front of them until all the tepees were taken down, then they went along with the Indians and tepees, fleeing from danger as fast as they could. It looked as if the Indians had prearranged for a general attack along the line of the Santa Fe Trail for 150 miles at all the points at the same time.

While they were depredating at Fort Larned, a train loaded with flour for the government was captured about the same time between Great Bend and Allison's Ranch, on Walnut creek, known then as Fort Zara and garrisoned with troops, killing all the teamsters and taking off and carrying away the wagon covers and cattle belonging to the train in sight of a government post. The Eastern mail coach came along a short time after these murders were committed and found one of the teamsters scalped and left for dead. The mail party put the teamster on the baggage in the front boot of the coach and discovered before they reached Larned that there was life in what they at first believed to be a corpse. He was taken into the hospital, where he remained until he was able to return to his people in Missouri, where he married and raised a family.

I met one of his sons a short time ago, who told me his father was the only living scalped man in the United States. His name is McGee, and he has several children living in this city. I have heard him tell how the Indians would put their spears between his toes and stab him to see if he would move, in order to make sure he was dead before they left him. The wagon train that the Indians captured was hauled to Fort Larned and the flour piled in heaps and covered with tarpaulins on the parade ground. The heavy rains wet the top sacks, caused by taking off the wagon covers. The commanding officer called a board of survey, who condemned the flour and it was sold at public auction. A short time after the sale Col. Foster, from the Commissary Department at St. Louis, came to Fort Larned to investigate and find out why the flour was not assorted, keeping all that was good and selling what was damaged. He stopped at the mail station three or four days while he was examining the Commissary Department at Fort Larned and invited me before he left, if I should reach St. Louis during the time he was stationed there, to not forget to call on him at the Southern hotel. That was forty-three years ago. I trust and hope

he is still enjoying good health and happiness.

A little Mexican with his squaw and papooses was camped with the band of Apache Indians that had their villages near Fort Larned, his wife being one of that tribe. He came to the mail station every day before the Indians went on the warpath. He told me he was stolen from Chihuahua when he was a baby. His name was Ta Too. He looked like all Indians, only he wore a pair of ill made canvass pants in place of a breech worn by all blanket Indians. He would scrub, sweep and wash dishes, doing everything neatly that I put him at. When the Indians commenced their depredations at Larned Ta Too was at the mail station and could not reach his family. Fearing the soldiers on his way to the village would take him for one of the Indians and kill him, I told him he could stop with me until he found a Mexican train that would take care of him. He seemed so devoted to his family that he would get up in the night and walk in his sleep, raving about his squaw and papooses. The heavy rains and melted snow off the mountains caused Pawnee creek to overflow its banks at the point where the mail station was located. Ta Too told me if he could get across the creek he would find his family. I got a wash-tub and put what bread and meat in it he could handle: he took off his spare garments, putting them in the tub with his rations, and jumped into the creek, swimming to dry land safely. I rolled the line into a ball and threw it across the creek. He caught it and pulled the tub with all it contained. Placing the line in the tub, I hauled it back and he waved his hand "Bye, bye!" I thought I was through with Ta Too, but I was mistaken. Five or six days after he left I noticed unusual commotion about the fort, horsemen riding out to meet what they believed to be an Indian. It was Ta Too returning without his family. He told the soldiers by signs and Spanish that he was coming to see me. The commanding officer came to inquire of me about the supposed Indian. I told the gentleman I would like he would take charge of him. He had him brought to the post, where they put him to chopping wood. On my way to the settlers' store I had to pass where he was at work and he told he me was sick and not able to work. I informed Dr. Clark, the post physician, who ordered him to the hospital, where he was only a few days when a Mexican freighter was admitted to have one of his limbs amputated and

he was put to wait on him. When the freighter was able to travel he took him along with him in his ambulance. Before he left he came to bid me "bye," forty-three years ago.

Sitting one evening in front of the mail station, a poorly clad and barefooted man came along. I invited him to take a seat and asked him where he came from. He replied, "Denver." "How long were you in Denver?" "While I was getting a drink of water; I got in one end of town and out the other." "Where are you going?" "Mister, please ask me no more questions." I apologized for being so inquisitive and kept a close eye on the stranger. After a pause of fifteen or twenty minutes, I asked him if he would like to have something to eat. He said he would and that he was very hungry. My wife prepared some food for him and I brought him into the dining room and remained with him until he finished his meal. A lady from the post was visiting my wife and told me if she knew what size shoe would fit him she would send me a pair to give him. I told her the size and she sent the shoes. I gave them to him and he examined them as carefully as if he was buying them from a shoemaker and returned them to me, saying that he would not wear shoes with a double sole. These were new shoes, the same as those worn by the soldiers. I sent them back to the lady with his objections. Indians were not friendly in those days. I told him I would send him on the stage to the settlements fifteen miles north. One stage goes the Smoky Hill route to Leavenworth and the other keeps the regular mail route to Kansas City, and I told him he could ride whichever way he wanted to go. He said he did not know which way he would take until he came to the junction and preferred walking. This poor, coatless, barefooted creature had traveled from Denver to this point, a distance of 450 miles, carrying an empty sardine box between his two old shirts for use as a water cup, and through an unsettled territory. His only chance for food was the freighters or emigrants that he would meet, and it might be several days before he would get anything to eat.

Setank and Dehosin were the leading chiefs of the Kiowa Indians when I first began to run with the Santa Fe mail. The former was said to be vicious and always inclined to the warpath. Dehosin was said to be the opposite and always advised his people against going to war with the government. After that Santanta became a power in his tribe and had a bad reputation. Kicking Bird was said to be a good Indian by white men that knew him and



GENERAL SHERMAN TREATING WITH THE INDIANS

would some day become influential with his people and the government. I knew both of them personally. Indian annuities in those days were carried by freighters with mule or ox wagon trains, the only transportation obtainable. When they were not arriving quick enough to suit some of the young desperadoes they would talk saucy. When told if they made any trouble the government would chastise them, they would reply that the government had all it could attend to to frighten its own people, referring to the Civil War at that time. I was station agent at Pawnee Fork, Kansas, for six years for contractors who had the carrying of the United States mails from Kansas City, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, regulating my hours of labor by the sound of the bugle at Fort Larned from reveille to taps. Buffalo were so numerous in the summers of '62 and '63 that the commanding officer would have soldiers with blank cartridges detailed to drive them off the reservation in order to preserve the grass for the stock belonging to the post. When I was conductor running with the mail I saw three coyotes attack a lone buffalo on the Arkansas, opposite old Fort Mann. One kept jumping at this head as if trying to catch his nose and two kept jumping at this hamstrings until they severed them. Then he became powerless, falling down, and they pounced upon his body and began to

devour him.

Black Kettle, chief of the Cheyennes, Mimick, War Bonnet, Stand in the Water and many other of the Cheyenne tribe were regular visitors at the mail station. Little Wolf, Little Raven, chief of the Arapahoes; Boka, Granda, Navy, Knock-Knee, Left Hand—the latter three could talk English. I knew all of those Indians personally. They believed they had a right to some consideration on account of the mail wagon running through their territory and they came many a night to stop at the mail station expecting the same courtesy as a guest at a hotel. In the early part of President Lincoln's first administration General Sherman was treating with the Indians at Fort Larned, between the post and the mail station. The leaders of the different bands and their squaws would assemble and sit on the ground in a circle three deep, facing the commissioner. Squaws in the rear, subs next, leading chiefs in front. The speaker would stand up, fasten his buffalo robe around his body, leaving his arms free, addressing the general through his interpreter, John Smith, and telling him his people wanted their goods given to them on the prairie, then they could see if everything was taken out of the wagons. When their annuities were put in the store rooms the doors were locked and they could not tell if they

got all the goods the "Good Father" sent them. They agency was then located at Fort Lyon, Colorado.

In the summer of 1868 an ox train belonging to Pool & Owens was attacked by Kiowa and Cheyenne Indians a short distance from Fort Lyon on the Arkansas river. A Mr. Blynn with his wife and baby was traveling as passengers with the train en route for Lawrence or Topeka, Kansas. Indians made a dash, cutting the train in two, taking the part that Mrs. Blynn and her baby were in; her husband being in the part held by the owners of the train. The poor man was said to be almost crazy about the fate of his wife and baby getting into the hands of those blood-thirsty demons and he did everything in his power to obtain troops to rescue them, but he could not get the desired force and they remained in the hands of the Indians until they were murdered by those savages when they were attacked by the troops of General Sheridan in his winter campaign of 1868. The baby was brained against a tree and the mother shot through the forehead, the weapon which no doubt brought welcome release from their brutal and savage treatment. One of the soldiers who went through all the winter campaign with General Sheridan's command told me that he killed the Indian that shot Mrs. Blynn. Michael and Lawrence Smith, brothers, of Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, employees of the Santa Fe Mail Co., were murdered by Kiowa Indians on the Santa Fe Trail, in October, 1859, at Jones' Point, two and a half miles southeast of where Fort Larned was located, and are buried at the former point. Patrick H. Cahill, Washington, D.C., one of the Santa Fe mail drivers, was murdered by Indians ten miles east of the upper Cimarrone Springs, October 15, 1859, while traveling with General Fonteroy's command en route for Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is buried near the former point.

In 1868 I entered into contract with Messrs. Barlow & Sanderson, overland mail contractors, to cut, cure, bale and deliver 800 tons of hay at three of their mail stations fifty miles apart in the then territory of Colorado. I was at great expense buying hay presses, rope for bailing the hay, mowing machines, rakes and all other utensils necessary to comply with my obligation. Paying freight from St. Louis on the machinery and railroad fares for the men I brought from Kansas City to carry out my agreement. Carrying men and machinery by wagons from the terminus of the railroad to the hay field, 150 miles. Reaching Fort Lyon, I

informed General Penrose, the commanding officer, telling him I did not wish to intrude on the government reservation. He referred me to Wajor Quirk, quartermaster, who designated the point where I could commence work, twelve miles east of the post. September 12th Little Raven's band of Arapahoes made a raid on my camp, running off forty-five head of large work mules, the only means I had to deliver 560 tons of hay which was ready for transportation, to complete my contract, which was 240 tons short of completion. The loss of the mules caused a delay of two and one half months before I could find transportation, incurring a direct and unavoidable expense of \$3,900 in wages and maintenance of the men, which was a total loss, having no work for them to do on account of the loss of the mules. I had to take care of them until I could find transportation to send them to their homes and families, as I agreed when I employed them. The only transportation I could procure in the sparsely settled country, a long distance from railroads, to deliver the hay, was an ox train at a cost of \$3,000, caused by the loss of the mules. The hay was weighed as it was delivered and showed how much the contract was short.

After General Sheridan's campaign against the combined Indian forces—Kiwias, Cheyennes and Arapahoes—they were put on a reservation. September, 1869, I went to Camp Supply, Indian Territory, and informed Mr. Darlington, the Indian Agent, of the depredation. He sent to the reservation after the Indians for the purpose of finding out what band committed the deed. They came to his office and had his chief clerk take down their statements through the interpreter. The Indians who stole and run off the mules acknowledged that they committed the depredation, and that they were all good mules and that they sold them to buy provisions to subsist on. Mr. Darlington brought me, his clerk, interpreter and the Indians before the adjutant of the post and had all the facts testified to. The mules were appraised by well known citizens who saw them and who testified that they could not be replaced at where they were stolen for less than \$250 per head, or a total of \$11,250. After carefully enumerating my actual losses, I made out my account: Mules, \$11,250; wagon train for delivering the hay, \$3,000; wages and maintenance of the men, \$3,900; total, \$18,150. I gave the account to Mr. Charles Ewing, Washington, D.C., for collection, instructing him not to accept less than the full amount of my

account; that I was damaged \$5,000 over the amount of my account for loss of time and the breaking up of my business.

The Honorable Secretary of the Interior allowed \$9,000 on July 21st, 1870, in care of Mr. Charles Ewing, for mules and expenses. That is the entry on the books at the Indian Bureau. Mr. Ewing gave me a treasury warrant for \$6,000, retaining \$3,000 for his services, assuring me that it was only partial payment; that he gave no receipt for the amount he received and saying that Congress did not appropriate a sufficient amount to pay this class of claims in full and he had to take his proportion. When I applied to the Indian officer to know the status of my claim, I was informed that Mr. Ewing gave no receipt for any amount, but the inference was the \$9,000 awarded by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior was in full for the claims. I did not charge the Indians with attorney's fee or prospective earnings. I charged only the appraised value of the property and the actual money expended, caused directly by the loss of the mules. The acknowledgement of the Indians with my account is on file at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and will show that the Indians lived on the proceeds of the sale of my property almost two years, while I was deterred from business on account of the loss of the mules. The case was presented to the Court of Claims June 25th, 1891. Copies of the opinion of the Honorable Judge, delivered December 7th, 1896, can be obtained in the file of the Court of Claims.

My friends who were familiar with the case advised me to send a history of the claims to the Hon F. M. Cockerel, then Senator. I did not know the Senator, but I sent him a history of the case, with affidavits of well known gentlemen—Hon. Robt. T. VanHorn, Hon. John W. Henry, Hon. Jules Edgar Guinotte—vouching to my reputation for truth and veracity. He introduced a bill for my relief for \$5,250 December 7th, 1899, reducing the original balance \$3,900, and advising me to send him a few affidavits of persons who saw the mules. I sent him affidavits of well known gentlemen who saw them and knew their value. Hon. John W. Moore, Hon. Wm. R. Benard, Mr. Paterson Steward, Mr. Emerson Hays, sustained the judgment of the appraiser, making eight affidavits, including four on file at the Indian office, establishing the value of the property, but the case remains in the hands of the committee Mr. Cockerel had it referred to. The guardians of the nation has thrown a shield around its Indian wards effec-

GALLEGO DIARY

(continued from page 1)

tive to prevent his being subjected to any process similar to those existing against the whites, enacting laws making the white man pay twice the just value of the property taken or destroyed by him belonging to Indians, and if such offender shall be unable to pay a sum at least equal to said just value whatever such payment shall fall short of the said just value shall be paid out of the treasury of the United States (1 Statutes at Large, page 470, Sec. 4). The provisions granting indemnity to Indians for losses occasioned by the white persons have never been repealed. It is still an existing enactment and is contained in Secs. 2154 and 2155, United States Revised Statutes.

My account of \$18,150 is filed at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with the statement of the Indians who committed the depredation, and its number, 748, giving the Indians credit for the \$9,000 allowed by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior. There is still a balance due me of \$9,150. My expense was \$900 more than I received from the award allowed by the Honorable Secretary. The \$3,000 which Mr. Ewing claimed as his fee will show the gentlemen who examine the evidence in the case that my expenditures were \$3,900 over the balance of my account and as yet I have received no compensation for my property. A former member of the House of Representatives, some years ago, introduced a bill for my relief, to let me see the interest he had taken in my claims. After the adjournment of Congress he would tell me I had a just claim but Congress would not allow it, as it was already settled by the Court of Claims.

I informed my Representative friend of a case I saw in one of the daily papers, where the government was sued in the Court of Claims by a ship-building company of Philadelphia and the court decided in favor of the government. The claimants appealed the case to the United States Supreme Court and that honorable tribunal sustained the judgment of the Court of Claims; then the claimants appealed to Congress, and that honorable body, seeing the justice of the claim, allowed it. Hon. William Warner, United Senator from Kansas, is a resident of Kansas City 42 years. I knew him almost the entire period and I have confidence in his honesty, ability, and statesmanship to have my claim taken up and acted on; then the honorable gentlemen who examine the case will see the long standing injury that has been inflicted on my by the wards of the nation and recommend to allow whatever is justly due.

colonies until Mexican independence in September 1821. There was a question also about the route the Becknell party followed, especially from the Arkansas to the vicinity of present Las Vegas.

Becknell, of course, was not the first American in the opening decades of the nineteenth century to attempt trade with New Mexico. That earlier expeditions had been accorded a less than cordial reception in Santa Fe was common knowledge on the Missouri frontier. Zebulon M. Pike, in 1806-1807, had been leading a military venture, so his fate may not have served as a warning, but what of the party of James Baird and Robert McKnight, imprisoned in Mexico from 1812 to 1821? Or of Auguste P. Chouteau and Jules De Mun (also DeMunn), who during the summer of 1817 spent 48 days incarcerated on the plaza in Santa Fe and had \$30,000 worth of their goods confiscated?² H. M. Chittenden, in his early landmark history of the fur trade, surmised, "The outrageous treatment of Chouteau and DeMunn in 1817, and the knowledge that a party of Americans (McKnight) even then were languishing in the dungeons of Chihuahua, seems to have deterred further adventure in that direction until the overthrow of Spanish power in Mexico in 1821."³

In the face of such odds, why did Becknell think he would fare any better? The question of who in Missouri knew what about Mexican independence, and when they knew it, is unclear. Becknell, in advertising for companions with whom to mount an expedition, said only that he was headed westward. Consequently, historians have advanced several explanations. Josiah Gregg, in *The Commerce of the Prairies* (1844), took Becknell's advertisement at face value and asserted that he actually intended to trade with plains Indians and "accidentally" fell in with "a party of Mexican rangers."⁴

Max Moorhead, who edited a later edition of Gregg's book, echoed Gregg in *New Mexico's Royal Road* (1958). In Moorhead's rendition, "Becknell . . . meant only to hunt, trap, capture wild horses, and barter with the Comanche." After ten weeks on the plains, Moorhead stated that Becknell and his men "happened upon a detachment of troops from New Mexico." This interpretation was long accepted, although Henry Inman, so notoriously inaccurate about so much of the lore

of the Santa Fe Trail, concluded in his late 19th-century book that Becknell, after trading the previous year with the Comanche, "determined the next season to change his objective point to Santa Fe."⁵

In his *Opening the Santa Fe Trail* (1971), Marc Simmons also advanced the view that Becknell planned all along to go to Santa Fe. In so doing he inaugurated contemporary debate on Becknell. Simmons concluded that, "an assessment of available evidence clearly shows that Captain Becknell intended from the very first to visit the New Mexico settlements."⁶ As David J. Weber noted, with this essay "Simmons argues . . . an interesting new interpretation that subsequent writers cannot ignore."⁷

Weber also contributed to the inquiry through his many perceptive publications on New Mexico and the Southwest. In one article, he attempted to determine the dates when the Spanish government in Santa Fe knew officially of Mexican independence and, hence, of the lifting of trade restrictions.⁸ The last in a series of revolts against Spanish rule in Mexico came under Augustin de Iturbide early in 1821. Iturbide embodied his conservative vision of an independent Mexico in his Plan of Iguala, February 24, 1821. Weber noted that New Mexicans had some inkling of new rebellion in Mexico and the Plan of Iguala as early as May 1821.⁹ By early September New Mexico had reports of widespread support for Iturbide, though his forces did not occupy Mexico City until September 27. Chihuahua had joined the revolt during the summer and, under orders from Durango, Governor Melgares in Santa Fe administered an oath of loyalty to the new government on September 11. News of Iturbide's occupation of Mexico City reached Santa Fe by November 30, but Governor Melgares did nothing to mark independence until ordered to do so in a dispatch which he received on December 26. Meanwhile, Becknell arrived in Santa Fe on November 16, 1821.

Becknell's biographer, Larry M. Beachum (writing in 1982), declared, without citing any document as proof, that in 1821 "Becknell was also aware that a new revolt had begun in Mexico." Beachum concluded that "Becknell's arrival in New Mexico seems to have been no accident; he prepared as thoroughly as possible with that end in mind." Whether hints of Mexican independence circulated in Missouri

during the spring of 1821 might be determined by a close examination of regional newspapers. Simmons claimed that "between February 24 and the following June 25 when Becknell published his advertisement [for men to accompany him], more than sufficient time had elapsed for news to reach Missouri of the state of Mexican affairs."¹⁰

Becknell, who left Franklin, Missouri, on September 1, was not the only trader to set out for New Mexico that year, suggesting some general conception of changing conditions in Santa Fe. An expedition under John McKnight and Thomas James headed down the Mississippi from St. Louis on May 10, and thence went up the Arkansas. This group arrived in Santa Fe two weeks after Becknell. Jacob Fowler and Hugh Glenn, with another party, left Glenn's trading house on the Verdigris River in east central Oklahoma on September 25 and reached southeastern Colorado in mid-November; from there Glenn and four companions went on to Taos and Santa Fe.¹¹

It is interesting to note that all of these men, Becknell included, had financial difficulties at the time. Simplistically put, trade with and trapping in New Mexico may have represented a chance for them to recoup their fortunes. They may have been desperate enough to take the risk of being rebuffed or even incarcerated in New Mexico. If that is the case, some of them did find treasure at the end of this particular rainbow.

Beachum ascertained that "Becknell's financial problems culminated in at least five law suits . . . in late 1821 and the first months of 1822, all while he was on his westward journey." Thus, he concluded, "Becknell's journey west was clearly an act of desperation. He was hundreds of dollars in debt and his salt business was in ruins. . . . Everything he cherished was at stake." From a financial perspective, Becknell's first venture to Santa Fe brought relief. Beachum noted that "Becknell returned from New Mexico with enough valuables to repay at least part of his debts."¹² The profit motive must have been an important factor in Becknell's first trip, as well as his second trip to Santa Fe in 1822.

Weber advanced one further interpretation on the question of how those three parties that arrived in Santa Fe in late 1821 and early 1822 may have learned about Mexican independence. He suggested that all three may have encountered New Mexicans on the plains and thereby heard of the lifting of trade restrictions. In Becknell's

case, however, Weber may have misread Becknell's journal. Becknell reported his first encounter with New Mexicans on November 13. As the Gallego diary indicates, this meeting was at Puertocito near present Las Vegas, not on the Arkansas as Weber would have it.¹³

Another debatable aspect of Becknell's first trip to New Mexico, as noted above, has concerned the possible route the party followed. The Gallego diary is quite precise on locations concerning Becknell's party as far north as the Rio Colorado (Canadian River) in New Mexico. Gallego himself marched from Abiquiú to Bosque de Santo Domingo on the Rio Grande, then crossed to Galisteo and San Miguel del Vado. From there he traveled to Ojo de Bernal and Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre, where he met Becknell. He and his men then attempted to trace Becknell's trail. They followed it north past the Mora and Sapello rivers but lost it at the Rio Colorado. This information, along with a careful reading of Becknell's journal, helps to better determine Becknell's route and, perhaps, to correct an error that has dominated Trail literature for more than 60 years.

In 1930 Robert L. Duffus published a book, *The Santa Fe Trail*, a popular overview of the history of the route. While Duffus summarized in excellent prose the available information about the Trail, he also repeated some errors and made some uninformed suppositions. One of those suppositions was that Becknell's party had entered New Mexico via Raton Pass.¹⁴ He apparently assumed that Becknell followed in 1821 what became known many years later as the Mountain Route of the Trail. Such a conclusion, however, was not consistent with either Becknell's journal or the landscape. Nor is that conjecture consistent with the recently-discovered Gallego's diary.

Had Becknell crossed into New Mexico at Raton Pass, his journey to where he met Captain Gallego would most likely have been along the eastern side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. There are several major problems with that routing. First, where Robert Duffus had Becknell crossing Raton Pass, Becknell in his journal¹⁵ stated that he had insurmountable cliffs to ascend. On his way into Santa Fe on the same journey, Becknell says that he crossed mountainous country. Why did he, if he was at the Raton Mountains, say he only had cliffs to ascend?

Becknell next said that two days later his band crossed the Canadian River, which also had rugged cliffs which they overcame with considerable diffi-

culty. Two days south of the Raton Mountains would put Becknell's party at a location east of the Canadian River, where the only difficulty in crossing the river with horses was the quicksand in the river bottom. Perhaps Becknell had misidentified the Canadian and was actually crossing a different stream. The third problem is that, after surmounting the cliffs and crossing what he called the Canadian River, Becknell recorded that his party encamped a night without wood and water. That was unlikely if they did cross the Canadian, but it was possible if Becknell had labeled another river, as will be suggested below, as the Canadian. Given the terrain and other information gleaned from Becknell's journal, it is improbable that Becknell's party had come over Raton Pass.

When the pieces do not all fit together, perhaps another route is more plausible. Because of the general nature of Becknell's journal, any suggested alternate routing must be somewhat speculative. But the available evidence strongly indicates that Becknell and his five men, if they were indeed headed for Santa Fe, took a route other than Raton Pass between the Arkansas River and Puertocito Piedra Lumbre. The following excerpts from Becknell's journal, accompanied by an innovative interpretation of the evidence of the way his party headed south from the Arkansas River, may shed some light on Becknell's route and, at the same time, set the stage for the significance of Gallego's diary.

Becknell Journal: "On the 21st we arrived at the forks of the river, and took the course of the left hand one. The cliffs became immensely high, and the aspect of the country is rugged, wild and dreary."

Becknell, in preparation for his journey, met with others at the home of Ezekiel Williams. When employed by Manuel Lisa,¹⁶ Williams had been out on the Plains and could give valuable advice.¹⁷ But perhaps the only tangible and most valuable item Becknell could take to show the way would have been Zebulon M. Pike's "Chart of the Internal Part of Louisiana." This map was published with Pike's account in 1810. If Becknell's intention was to enter Santa Fe for trade, Pike's account of his 1807 adventures in Mexico and his description of the route would have been required reading. In fact, Jacob Fowler of the Glenn-Fowler expedition, hard on the heels of Becknell in 1821, was carrying either Pike's map or his book which included the map.¹⁸

A comparison of Becknell's journal with Pike's map shows that both par-

ties crossed to the south side of the Arkansas in the vicinity of Great Bend, Kansas; and continued up the river. A notation on Pike's map stated: "Above the first Fork of the Arkansas the bank becomes very rough which altho' narrow (the fork) carries a quantity of water of a red colour, and is the left branch of the Arkansas, which connects with the Red River of the Mississippi, which is extremely easy distinguishable in ascending; as from a few miles above nearly in a parallel line, is a high Ridge bearing off at right angles from the main River."¹⁹ Becknell, describing his course, used terms similar to those of Pike. This first fork, or left branch, was the Purgatoire River.²⁰ Becknell headed south up the Purgatoire River, it being the left branch of the Arkansas. He kept to the left, following Chacuaco Creek, a tributary of the Purgatoire. On October 26 the group saw large flocks of mountain sheep which were described in the journal. Then they encountered the cliffs.

Becknell Journal: "We had now some cliffs to ascend, which presented difficulties almost insurmountable, and we were laboriously engaged nearly two days in rolling away large rocks, before we attempted to get our horses up, and even then one fell and was bruised to death."

As the cliffs lining the creek began to close in, Becknell realized he had to get out of the creek valley. Only the year before, Major Stephen Long and his party, on an exploring expedition to determine the sources of the Red River, went up Chacuaco Creek to where they "arrived at a part of the valley beyond which it was found impossible to penetrate."²¹ Long's party had to backtrack and were finally able with great difficulty to emerge from the canyon. Becknell apparently had the same experience.

Becknell Journal: "At length we had the gratification of finding ourselves on the open plain; and two days travel brought us to the Canadian fork, whose rugged cliffs again threatened to interrupt our passage, which we finally effected with considerable difficulty."

Once out of the canyon of Chacuaco Creek, there is indeed a plain which is fairly level. Depending on where a party left the creek and how many miles it traveled per day, it was possible to spend two days traveling to the Dry Cimarron River. Becknell apparently came to the Dry Cimarron and called it the Canadian, an error that had been made before. Edwin James, a member of the 1820 Stephen H. Long exploring expedition, had called the Dry Cimarron "the most remote

sources of the great northern tributary of the Canadian river."²² If the Long party misnamed the Dry Cimarron, Becknell could have made the same mistake. John M. Tucker, in his description of Long's route, related (with a quotation from the report) the difficulties that party had in crossing the Dry Cimarron: They "arrived at the cliff bounding the south side of the valley at a distance of 3 miles from their camp. This 'mural barrier' they found impassable 'except at particular points, where it is broken by ravines. One of these we were fortunate in finding without being compelled to deviate greatly from our course, and climbing its rugged declivity, we emerged upon the broad expanse of the high plain.'"²³ Thus Long's difficulty in crossing the Dry Cimarron was matched by Becknell's difficulty in crossing the Dry Cimarron and each called it the Canadian.²⁴

Becknell Journal: "Nov. 1st, we experienced a keen northwest wind, accompanied with some snow. Having been now traveling about fifty days . . . our horses are so reduced that we only travel from eight to fifteen miles per day. We found game scarce near the mountains, and one night encamped without wood or water. On the 4th, and several subsequent days, found the country more level and pleasant discovered abundance of iron ore, and saw many wild horses."

Traveling southwest from the crossing of the Dry Cimarron, Becknell and his party would have passed through an area of old volcanoes, lava flows, and intrusive peaks. Such features would include Sierra Grande, Capulin Volcano, Laughlin Peak, Palo Blanco Peak, Eagle Tail Mountain, Tinaja Peak, Sugar Loaf Mountain, and Johnson Mesa-Raton Mountains in the northern background. In this area there are places where wood was scarce and, in November, some creeks were dry. They probably crossed the Canadian River north of the Rock Crossing (or possibly at the Rock Crossing itself), heading for the Sangre de Cristo Mountains which would have been in sight for several days. The mountains would have been a natural target, since Becknell and his men knew they would have to cross this range to reach Santa Fe. It is also likely that they were looking for the "gap" in the mountains and the trail which would lead them to Taos and on to Santa Fe.

Becknell Journal: "After several days' descent towards Rock river, on Monday the 12th we struck a trail, and found several other indications which induced us to believe that the inhabi-

tants had here herded their cattle and sheep. Timber, consisting of pine and cottonwood, is more plentiful than we have found it for some time."

Becknell's Rock River was most likely the modern Canadian River. He does not mention crossing Rock River in 1821, but the next year, when bringing wagons across the Trail, he reported that the "greatest difficulty was in the vicinity of Rock river, where we were under the necessity of taking our waggons up some high and rocky cliffs by hand." Gregg's 1844 Map of the Indian Territory, which was included in *Commerce of the Prairies*, shows the routing of the "First wagon Route to Santa Fe."²⁵ That route cut south from Cold Spring, passed south of Rabbit Ears, crossed Ute Creek, and crossed the Canadian in the vicinity of what is now Conchas Lake. There are deep canyons along both Ute Creek and the Canadian. However, the most likely candidate for Becknell's "Rock River" is the Canadian. And, although Gregg is not always completely accurate, a crossing here was indicated by the Marmaduke Journal of 1824.²⁶ The crossing in the vicinity of present Conchas Lake was a traditional gateway to the plains long before Becknell came through, and a road crossed there as late as 1877.²⁷ That he crossed it farther upstream in 1821 was, perhaps, an indication that Becknell, as he should have, recognized the Canadian both above and below its great canyon.

The corridor through which Becknell traveled between the Arkansas River and the point where he met Gallego had been used before. In 1706, Juan de Ulibarri on his way to El Cuartelejo crossed the Dry Cimarron in the same vicinity as did Long and Becknell. In 1804 and again in 1805, Pedro Vial on his way to the Pawnee Villages forded the Dry Cimarron in the same vicinity.²⁸ The Hugh Glenn-Jacob Fowler and Thomas James expeditions, which arrived in Santa Fe in 1821 on the heels of Becknell, joined together to journey home in 1822. They left from Taos, passed through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and headed northeast. They skirted the mesas at the head waters of the Dry Cimarron, forded the Purgatoire, and camped on Chacuaco Creek, before heading northeast across the country. Thus, if Becknell asked Ezekiel Williams how to get to Santa Fe (which he surely did if he intended to go there), Williams might have told him to follow the Arkansas River, take the left fork and keep to the left branch, cross the Canadian (Dry Cimarron) fork and head southwest to the mountains, follow a creek to the gap in the mountains, and

cross over to Taos. The corridor through which Becknell and his men probably passed into New Mexico had been in use for over a hundred years.²⁹

By November 13, 1821, Becknell, a desperate man with dreams of riches in Santa Fe, had brought his small party of tired, dirty, and discouraged men into the province of New Mexico. On that day they met New Mexican troops under command of Militia Urbana Captain Pedro Ignacio Gallego. Gallego's brief diary of his activities, so long buried, reveals a new perspective and additional details on that historic encounter and the opening of the Santa Fe trade.

Diary of Pedro Ignacio Gallego³⁰

A diary kept by Captain of the Militia Urbana,³¹ Don Pedro Ignacio Gallego,³² of an expedition undertaken at the command of the political chief of the Province of New Mexico, Governor Don Facundo Melgares, commencing at the Plaza of San Raphael de Abiquiú,³³ from the day indicated in the present year, November 2, 1821.

2 . . . At about 3 a.m. on this morning, in obedience to superior orders, the horses, kept according to instructions, were rounded up and prepared for the march, with the company of 148 men under my command. These men include those who should observe general written orders given by the commanders of the various company divisions, and men appointed for service, assigned as follows: Company No. 1, militia men and citizens from Cañada,³⁴ to guard the cattle, under the command of Second Lieutenant Don José Manuel Salazar; Company No. 2, 25 men from the central Río Arriba,³⁵ acting as vanguard. The company halted at the Cuesta del Cuervo Espin³⁶ a little after 5 p.m. Nothing further occurred. At 6 p.m. the Alcalde, Don José Jaramillo, appeared with 63 men. Nothing more happened.

3 . . . Departed from the Cuesta del Cuerpo Espin at about 5 a.m. The company proceeded in the accustomed manner until about 6 p.m. and halted at the Vallecito de los Indios.³⁷ Nothing further to report.

4 . . . Began marching from the Vallecito de los Indios about 4 a.m. Traveled in the usual formation to the Pueblo of Xemez,³⁸ stopping at about 5 p.m. Nothing further to report. A soldier, José Francisco Sanchez, of the militia company from San Buenaventura,³⁹ presented himself with an official communication from Governor Don Facundo Melgares,⁴⁰ requesting that I proceed to El Vado⁴¹ with my company.⁴² Nothing more to report.

5 . . . Began marching from the Pueblo of

Xemez in the direction of El Vado in compliance with the order from Governor Don Facundo Melgares, dated October 29, 1821. Halted at the Bosque of Santo Domingo⁴³ a little after 3 p.m. About 4 p.m. Manuel Chávez, commander of the company from Río Arriba, informed me that a member of his company, Diego Gonzales, wounded José Lucero by throwing a hat at him. I sent the Second Lieutenant of the Militia Urbana, Don José Manuel Salazar, and the Corporal of the company of volunteer militia, Miguel Quintana, to look at the wound. They swore to me and said that having thrown the hat, Diego Gonzales then punctured José Lucero in the chest with the point of a flint. Diego Gonzales turned himself in to the Sergeant José Maria Sandoval and was arrested and imprisoned.

6 . . . Began marching from the Bosque of Santo Domingo about 5 a.m. Left behind two sick people, the citizen wounded by Diego Gonzales and an Indian from Santa Clara who is ill. Turned them over to Diego Martin, a citizen of Cañada, with orders to keep them in his care or turn them over to the Alcalde⁴⁴ of Cañada. Halted at Galisteo⁴⁵ at about 4 p.m. Nothing further to report.

7 . . . Left Galisteo at about 4 a.m. in the usual manner and with the usual arrangement of the company. Halted at about 8 a.m. in the Cañon de San Cristobal de Sortiada.⁴⁶ Resumed marching at about 2 p.m., stopping at the Mesa del Ojo de la Baca.⁴⁷ Nothing further to report.

8 . . . Left the Mesa del Ojo de la Baca at about 6 a.m. and halted at about 2 p.m. at Poblacion del Vado⁴⁸. Nothing further to report.

9 . . . At Poblacion del Vado. About noon we were reunited with companies from Jemez, Alameda⁴⁹—with 77 men, and Santa Fe—with 45 men. Nothing further occurred the rest of this day. Later we were reunited with 50 cavalymen of the garrison.

10 . . . At Poblacion del Vado. On this day I relieved from duty 20 men of the cavalry garrison.

11 . . . Halted this day at Poblacion del Vado awaiting orders. Nothing further to report.

12 . . . About noon I ordered all the cavalymen to assemble in the Plaza, to march into the wilderness⁵⁰ with my company, consisting of a force of 445 men: 123 armed with guns and the rest with bows and arrows. [We had] 356 pack animals. I gave general orders to the commanders of the various companies. Halted at Ojo de Ber-

nal⁵¹ at about 4 p.m. Nothing further occurred.⁵²

13 . . . Left Ojo de Bernal about 9 a.m. Followed the usual formation. About 3:30 p.m. encountered six Americans at the Puertocito de la Piedra Lumbre.⁵³ They parleyed with me and at about 4 p.m. we halted at the stream at Piedra Lumbre.⁵⁴ Not understanding their words nor any of the signs they made, I decided to return to El Vado, in the service of your excellency.⁵⁵ At this point Vicente Villanueva⁵⁶ presented himself. Nothing further occurred.

[Becknell Journal: "On Tuesday morning the 13th, we had the satisfaction of meeting with a party of Spanish troops. Although the difference of our language would not admit of conversation, yet the circumstances attending their reception of us, fully convinced us of their hospitable disposition and friendly feelings. Being likewise in a strange country, and subject to their disposition, our wishes lent their aid to increase our confidence in their manifestations of kindness. The discipline of the officers was strict, and the subjection of the men appeared almost servile. We encamped with them that night, and the next day about 1 o'clock, arrived at the Village of St. Michael, the conduct of whose inhabitants gave us grateful evidence of civility and welcome."]]

14 . . . This day about 1:30 a.m. Vicente Villanueva presented himself to me with five citizens of El Vado, to serve as an interpreter. Learning nothing new I left them [the Americans] with him, to present themselves to your excellency.⁵⁷ Then, at about 6 a.m. I resumed my march, separating a party of 100 men under Corporal Lucero,⁵⁸ with the intention of following the trail of the Americans. Halted at about 3 p.m. at the Cañon del Pecos⁵⁹ and at about 4 p.m. the party under Corporal Lucero returned, having lost the trail of the Americans at the falls of the Río del Sapello.⁶⁰ Nothing further occurred.

15 . . . Left the Cañon del Pecos at about 5 a.m. in good order, detaching a party of 100 men under Corporal Lucero with orders to follow the trail of the foreigners. Halted at about 4 p.m. at the point where the Río Sapello joins with the Mora.⁶¹ A little after 4 p.m. the party under Corporal Lucero rejoined us; he traced the trail of the foreigners to a point below the Sierra de la Gallina.⁶² The trail of the "hostiles" [Indians] who threaten us runs in a northerly direction to the gap in the Sierra de Taos.⁶³ Nothing further occurred.

16 . . . Began marching this day about 6 a.m., separating the party of 100 men under

Corporal Lucero with orders to follow the trail of the foreigners. Halted at about 4 p.m. at the Rito del Capulin,⁶⁴ where Corporal Lucero was camped with his detachment. He lost the trail at the Río Colorado.⁶⁵ At the ford of the Rito del Capulin I noticed traces of the Indians who attacked El Vado.

17 . . . Left El Rito del Capulin at about 5 a.m., dividing the men with the horses under Sergeant Antonio Garcia, with orders to cut across the land to where the foreigners might have come through.⁶⁶ Halted at El Aguague del Lobo⁶⁷ at about 4 p.m., where I again encountered traces of the same Indians who plundered El Vado. At about 5 p.m. we reunited with the detachment under the Sergeant mentioned above, who did not find evidence of the trail. Nothing further occurred.

18 . . . Left El Aguague del Lobo at about 6 a.m., dividing a party of 150 infantry under Juan Lucero, ordering him to go up the Mesa de Rayado⁶⁸ to identify all the places where the Indians might hide. Halted at El Ojo de la Mesa de Rayado⁶⁹ about noon. About 6 p.m. we reunited with the party under Corporal Lucero, who did not find any sign of the Indians on the mesa. Nothing further to report.

19 . . . Left El Ojo de la Mesa de Rayado at about 5 a.m. Reunited the whole company and halted on the Río Colorado⁷⁰ at about 4 p.m., where I encountered the trail of the Indians. Nothing further to report.

20 . . . Left the Río Colorado at 6 a.m. in the direction of the Sierra Grande,⁷¹ following the trail of the Indians, and halted at Los Cerritos del Aire⁷² about 4 p.m. Nothing further to report.

21 . . . Left Los Cerritos del Aire about 5 a.m. Traveled one league; about half way the Sergeant of the rear guard came and reported two animals were worn out. About 2 H leagues further on the commander of the company from Río Abajo,⁷³ Don Eutivio Real, presented himself, asking permission to hunt some buffalo which could be seen at the edge of the river.⁷⁴ Forty men went on the hunt and provided the camp royally with meat. After traveling about 4 leagues, we lost the trail halfway between the Sierra Grande and the Jicara.⁷⁵

The remainder of the diary is missing from the Archives.

NOTES

1. John P. Wilson, *Military Campaigns in the Navajo Country, Northwestern New Mexico, 1800-1846* (Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press, 1967), 12-13.
2. Frank B. Godley, "James Baird, Early Santa Fe

- Trader," *The Bulletin of the Missouri Historical Society*, 3 (April 1959): 171-193; & George S. Ulibarri, "The Chouteau-DeMunn Expedition of New Mexico, 1815-1817," *New Mexico Historical Review* (hereafter NMHR), 36 (Oct. 1961): 263-273.
3. Hiram M. Chittenden, *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* (2 vols.; reprint; New York: R. R. Wilson, 1936), II, 148.
4. Josiah Gregg, *The Commerce of the Prairies*, ed. by Milo M. Quaife (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1967), 6-7.
5. Max L. Moorhead, *New Mexico's Royal Road, Trade and Travel on the Chihuahua Trail* (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1958), 60; & Henry Inman, *The Old Santa Fe Trail, the Story of a Great Highway* (Topeka: Crane & Company, 1899), 38. Inman, characteristically, had the date of Becknell's expedition wrong, having him depart in 1812.
6. Marc Simmons, *Opening the Santa Fe Trail* (Cerrillos: Galisteo Press, 1971), 3.
7. David J. Weber, ed., "William Becknell as a Mountain Man: Two Letters," NMHR, 46 (July 1971): 259 fn1.
8. David J. Weber, "An Unforgettable Day: Facundo Melgares on Independence," NMHR, 48 (January 1973): 27-44.
9. Ibid., 29.
10. Larry M. Beachum, *William Becknell: Father of the Santa Fe Trade* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1982), 21-22; & Simmons, *Opening the Santa Fe Trail*, 3.
11. Thomas James, *Three Years Among the Mexicans and Indians* (Chicago: The Rio Grande Press, 1962); & Harry R. Stevens, "A Company of Hands and Traders: Origins of the Glenn-Fowler Expedition of 1821-1822," NMHR, 46 (July 1971): 181-221.
12. Beachum, *William Becknell*, 22-23, 33.
13. David J. Weber, *The Taos Trappers, the Fur Trade in the Far Southwest, 1540-1846* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971), 53; & Weber, *The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846, the American Southwest under Mexico* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982), 126, 128.
14. Robert L. Duffus, *The Santa Fe Trail* (New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1930), 68. Duffus was apparently the first to propose that Becknell crossed over Raton Pass. Almost all others who have written since have accepted this routing without question. Duffus's book remains an excellent overview of the Trail.
15. Becknell's Journal has been published several times since its first appearance in the *Missouri Intelligencer*, April 22, 1823. These include *Missouri Historical Society Collections*, 2, 57-75; [William Becknell], "The Journals of Capt. Thomas Becknell from Boone's Lick to Santa Fe, and from Santa Cruz to Green River," *Missouri Historical Review*, 4 (January 1910): 65-84; & Archer Hulbert, ed., *Southwest on the Turquoise Trail, the First Diaries on the Road to Santa Fe* (Colorado Springs: Stewart Commission of Colorado College and Denver Public Library, 1933), 56-68. The quotations from the journal included here are from the *Missouri Historical Review* (1910), although the other editions contain the same journal entries.
16. Manuel Lisa was an early fur trader and partner in the St. Louis-Missouri Fur Company. Among many other activities, he attempted to open trade with Santa Fe in 1812. Ezekiel Williams was part of the party Lisa sent toward Santa Fe. Along the way Indians attacked them and killed all except Williams.
17. Beachum, *William Becknell*, 19; & Weber, *The Taos Trappers*, 44.
18. Fowler, while traveling up the Arkansas on November 13, passed a fork in the river and in his journal commented that he supposed it to be "Pikes first forke." Unless he had the map memorized, this is strong evidence that he had the map in hand. Elliott Coues, ed., *The Journal of Jacob Fowler* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1970), 47.
19. Donald Jackson, ed., *The Journals of Zebulon Montgomery Pike with Letters and Related Documents*, Vol. I (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1966), map between 388 & 389.
20. Ibid., 349 fn132.
21. John M. Tucker, "Major Long's Route from the Arkansas to the Canadian River, 1820," NMHR, 38 (July 1963): 195-196, quoting from the account of Edwin James who accompanied the expedition.
22. Ibid., 202.
23. Ibid., 205.
24. In all fairness it must be noted that both Jacob Fowler and Thomas James in 1821 and 1822 identified correctly the Canadian River. Both started from the Arkansas River generally between Fort Smith and Fort Gibson. This is the area where the Canadian River flows into the Arkansas River. James identified the river early in his journey to Santa Fe, and Fowler identified it in 1822 coming over the mountains just west of Rayado. Each may have had the correct information by virtue of being or residing near its mouth and information from various Indians. Coues, *Journal of Jacob Fowler*, 117; & James, *Three Years Among the Mexicans and the Indians*, 106.
25. "Map of the Indian Territory, Northern Texas, and New Mexico showing the Great Western Prairies, by Josiah Gregg," in Josiah Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies*, also published separately by the Santa Fe Trail Association, 1990.
26. Hulbert, *Southwest on the Turquoise Trail*, 74. Hulbert stated that, on July 22, Marmaduke was at Las Vegas because he mentioned being at Juan Peno's. Las Vegas had no permanent residents in 1824, but a Juan Pino was having sheep herded on the land for which he applied for a grant. The area of the grant was to the west of the crossing and present-day Conchas Lake, near Pino Spring and Pino Creek in San Miguel County. G. Emlen Hall, "Juan Estevan Pino, 'Se Los Coma': New Mexico Land Speculation in the 1820s," NMHR, 57 (January 1982): 31.
27. Wheeler Map, sheet No. 78 (A), which essentially is the Las Vegas sheet.
28. James H. Gunnerson, "Documentary Clues and Northeastern New Mexico Archeology," *New Mexico Archeological Council Proceedings*, VI, 48-56, 68-72, gives convincing evidence of the route of Ulibarri and Vial. Vial's journals are more accessible in Noel M. Loomis and Abraham P. Nasatir, *Pedro Vial and the Roads to Santa Fe* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 428-438, & Abraham P. Nasatir, "More on Pedro Vial in Upper Louisiana," *The Spanish in the Mississippi Valley, 1762-1804*, ed. by John F. McDermott (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1974), 100-119.
29. While this seems convincing evidence of Becknell's route, the authors would like to hear differing views.
30. The diary is found in the Mexican Archives of New Mexico (MANM), Twitchell Collection, #3 & 120, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives (NMSRCA), Santa Fe, New Mexico. The editors express their sincere thanks to the translation team of Michael Olsen and Charles Truxillo, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM; Jan Garcia, Las Vegas, NM; Lucy Romo, Fort Union National Monument; and Richard Salazar, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe, NM.
31. The "Urban Militia" was an elite unit, "theoretically controlled and funded by the national government, [which] functioned as a reserve force for the regular army." Weber, *The Mexican Frontier*, 116. For this expedition, the militia was joined by other New Mexican and Indian volunteer units, which was the usual procedure. Wilson, *Military Campaigns*, 12-13.
32. Gallego was Alcalde of Abiquiú at least from 1816 to 1832. In early 1822, Gallego was chosen as an elector to help choose the first legislative body of New Mexico, and in 1826 he was elected a member of the Territorial Deputation. Malcolm Ebricht, "Manuel Martínez's Ditch Dispute: A Study in Mexican Period Custom and Justice," NMHR, 54 (January 1979), 27; Spanish Archives of New Mexico (SANM) I, Twitchell No. 1061, SANM II, Twitchell No. 2688, NMSRCA; & Rev. Lansing Bartlett Bloom, "New Mexico under Mexican Administration 1821-1846," *Old Santa Fe*, I (Oct. 1913 & Jan. 1914): 146, 246.
33. Abiquiú is located in Rio Arriba County, on the Chama River, about 40 miles northwest of Santa Fe.

34. A 1779 map shows a jurisdiction (Alcaldia) of Cañada and a town named Santa Cruz de la Cañada. It is likely that these troops were from the town, which was the second established in New Mexico by De Vargas in 1695. Miera y Pacheco map of 1779 in Alfred B. Thomas, *Forgotten Frontiers: A Study of the Spanish Indian Policy of Don Juan Bautista de Anza, Governor of New Mexico 1777-1787* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1932), 86.
35. "Central Upper River" would have been in the vicinity of the Rio Grande north and west of Santa Fe. Ibid.
36. Porcupine Hill or Peak.
37. "Little Valley of the Indians," is 13 miles northeast of Jemez Pueblo. T. M. Pearce, ed., *New Mexico Place Names* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1965), 174.
38. Jemez Pueblo is about 50 miles directly west of Santa Fe.
39. Chimayo (east of Española) was known as San Buenaventura de Chimayo. The militia unit was probably from there, perhaps comprising part of the group from central Rio Arriba. San Buenaventura was also the name of the church at Cochiti Pueblo, and the volunteers could possibly have been from there.
40. Facundo Melgares, a native of Spain, was no stranger to the Great Plains and American incursions into New Mexico. In 1806, in anticipation of Zebulon Montgomery Pike's expedition, Melgares led a detachment of 500 troops and over 2,000 horses and mules which ranged as far north and east as the Pawnee nations between the Kansas and Platte rivers. Melgares also ultimately commanded the troops who accompanied Pike to Chihuahua. Pike had a high opinion of him, as did Becknell, who found him "to be well informed and gentlemanly in manners; his demeanor was courteous and friendly." Melgares was governor (or interim governor) of New Mexico from 1818 to 1822. Ralph E. Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexico History*, 2 vols. (Cedar Rapids: Torch Press, 1911), I, 458, 469, 480; & Zebulon Montgomery Pike, *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi, and through the Western Parts of Louisiana* (Philadelphia: C. & A. Conrad, & Co., 1810), 228-229, 250; Becknell Journal, 77.
41. "The Ford" was San Miguel del Vado located on the Pecos River. This "ford" was used long before Coronado first entered the country in 1540. San Miguel, as it is better known, was settled by Indians and Mestizos in 1790 and, in 1821, was the eastern frontier town of New Mexico.
42. A search of the SANM and MANM at the NMSRCA has not produced this document. There is, however, a document which is attributed to Melgares, dated October 29, 1821, which seems to be only a second page.
43. "The Bosque de San Domingo" was undoubtedly at the Santo Domingo Pueblo on the Rio Grande, 25 miles southwest of Santa Fe.
44. *Alcaldes* headed municipal districts, or *alcaldias*, of which there were fourteen in New Mexico in 1822. Weber, *Mexican Frontier*, 19.
45. Galisteo is about 20 miles south of Santa Fe.
46. "San Cristobal Canyon" runs east from Galisteo.
47. "Vaca Spring on the mesa" is about 20 miles southeast of Santa Fe.
48. The command marched from Vaca Spring over Gorieta Mesa to the present-day town of Rowe, and followed the Pecos River Valley to the "frontier town" of San Miguel del Vado.
49. Alameda is about seven miles north of Albuquerque. It was a Spanish settlement at the time.
50. The "wilderness" was the eastern plains of New Mexico.
51. Bernal Spring is about 25 miles southwest of Las Vegas, present town of Bernal, New Mexico.
52. Becknell recorded that on Nov. 12, "[W]e struck a trail, and found several other indications which induced us to believe that the inhabitants have here herded their cattle and sheep." There were no settlements east of San Miguel in 1821, though pastoralists from there tried but failed to establish a new community on the Gallinas River near present-day Las Vegas that year. "The meadows" of the various river bottoms throughout this area were frequented by herders, as illustrated in the diary of Captain Francisco Salazar, whose company of troops was camped near the confluence of the Mora and Sapello rivers during the second week of May 1821. They, too, were tracking Indians. Salazar encountered both wandering cattle and cattlemen in this vicinity. Diary of Captain Francisco Salazar, SANM II, Twitchell No. 2978, NMSRCA, Santa Fe.
53. "Puertocito" is known today as Kearny Gap, about two miles south of Las Vegas. "Piedra Lumbre" (flint stone) creek is called today Agua Zara through the gap. There has been much speculation about the size of Becknell's group. Ralph E. Twitchell thought there were five men altogether, while Marc Simmons has put the number as high as thirty. Twitchell, *Leading Facts*, II, 103; & Simmons, *Opening the Santa Fe Trail*, 2. With only five other men, Becknell was lucky he did not encounter Indians. This is another point which emphasizes that Becknell was bound for Santa Fe. Ezekiel Williams undoubtedly would have warned Becknell about the danger to his small party from Indians who could easily overwhelm them.
54. Gallego probably moved east through the gap and met Becknell and his party on the plains. If they returned to the gap to camp, it was probably on the western side where there was wood for fires and shelter by the Crestone.
55. With these words, Gallego was probably disobeying an order from Melgares, thinking that this was important enough to do so and that he would be forgiven.
56. Vicente Villanueva was Alcalde at San Miguel del Vado in 1818. SANM II, Twitchell No. 2755, NMSRCA.
57. Becknell found a "Frenchman" in San Miguel who could interpret for him and accompanied the group of Americans into Santa Fe, where Becknell arrived on the 16th. He had an interview with Governor Melgares who said he would like to see more American trade.
58. Corporal Juan Lucero was no ordinary soldier. He accompanied Pedro Vial to Natchitoches in 1788 at a young age, perhaps 15 or 16. He was with Vial on his attempted expedition to the Pawnees in 1805, was sent to make peace with the Kiowas in late 1805, returned to the Kiowas twice in 1806, met with the Cuampe and Flecha Rayada tribes in 1807 near present-day Colorado Springs, Colorado, was on an expedition to the Arkansas River from November 25, 1808, to March 5, 1809, accompanied expeditions to the Comanches in 1810, 1816, and twice in 1818, and made a trip to the "Indians" in 1819. He was described in 1806 as a native of New Mexico, "of very good conduct, of spirit and demonstrated valor, of knowledge in the field and of a disposition suitable of command; his height, 5 feet, 1 inch; 17 years, 20 days of service. He knows how to read." It is estimated he was 49 or 50 in 1821. Lucero was not only a good soldier, but an excellent frontiersman by any standards. Loomis and Nasatir, *Pedro Vial*, 449-454; & Alfred B. Thomas, "Documents Bearing upon the Northern Frontier of New Mexico, 1818-1819," *NMHR*, 4 (April 1929): 156.
59. "Pecos Canyon" is present Pecos Arroyo just east of Las Vegas. Gallego probably accompanied Villanueva part way back to San Miguel and then returned to Las Vegas. The reason to choose present Pecos Arroyo for Gallego's "Cañon del Pecos" is that, during his expedition, Gallego and the troops marched an average of 16.8 miles a day or approximately 1.17 miles an hour. It would be totally out of line to march from the river valley of the Pecos, close to San Miguel, to La Junta in the next day's travel, a distance of about 38 miles in one day.
60. The diary reads: "las caídas del río del Sapeyo." "Caída" can be translated as "falls, drop, or descent." "Rapids" might be the best translation, even though the location on the Sapello River cannot be pinpointed. The Sapello River heads in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Rociada, New Mexico, and joins the Mora at present Watrous, New Mexico.
61. Present Watrous, New Mexico, known as La Junta during Santa Fe Trail days. The Mora River heads in the mountains above Mora, New Mexico. Its valley was used to travel from Picuris Pueblo over the mountains and out onto the Plains.
62. The "Turkey Mountains" are about 10 miles north of Watrous.
63. The "gap in the Taos Mountains" is where the Rayado River comes out of the mountains west of Rayado, New Mexico. For most Spanish expeditions to the plains, this was where they came out of the mountains from Taos and headed for Laughlin Peak. A trail also ran from here to Point of Rocks, New Mexico, which was used by *Cibolleros* and later Santa Fe Trail travelers.
64. Based on past distances traveled, "Chokecherry Creek" had to be within 20 miles of La Junta. There are a couple of possibilities, but present Vermejo Creek, south of Wagon Mound, New Mexico, is the best candidate based on the next two days' travel.
65. "Red River" is the present Canadian River. Although we do not know exactly where Becknell crossed this stream, it was likely between present-day Springer and Maxwell, New Mexico.
66. In essence, Sgt. Garcia was sent across the Canadian River in the direction of Laughlin Peak, which is about 13 miles southeast of Capulin, New Mexico.
67. The location of "Wolf Spring (flowing)" is not known. Based on the travel of the next day, it could be placed about 10 miles south of Rayado on what would later be called the Mountain Route of the Santa Fe Trail, at the mouth of what today is called Aguaje Canyon.
68. Rayado and Gonzalitos Mesas are prominent landmarks southwest of Springer, New Mexico, with Rayado Mesa closest to the mountains.
69. "The Spring of Rayado Mesa" is at present Miami Lake, about 3.5 miles southeast of Rayado.
70. They were at a crossing of the Canadian essentially somewhere between Springer and Maxwell.
71. "Big Mountain," known as Sierra Grande today is about 5 miles slightly southwest of Des Moines, New Mexico. They were following the corridor of the Indian-Spanish trail to the plains.
72. "Windy hills" are the Chico Hills, just north of Chico and south of Laughlin Peak.
73. "Lower River" of the Rio Grande, means this company came from the vicinity of Albuquerque, Belen, or was perhaps the group from Alameda.
74. No matter which way traveled, the river has to be present Carrizo Creek, which was known as Rock Creek in the time of the Santa Fe Trail.
75. The "Jicara" was probably a reference to the Jicarilla River, which is probably present Ponil Creek. Gunnerson, "Documentary Clues," 57.

CAMP TALES

—CHAPTER REPORTS—

Cimarron Cutoff

President David Hutchison
West Star Route Box 35
Boise City, OK 73933

Guest speaker at the fall meeting was Jerry Cline of the Elkhart office of the National Forest Service, Cimarron National Grassland. Members and guests met at the Morton County historical museum in Elkhart on Oct. 26. Cline told of NFS work at Point of Rocks, where three interpretive signs, a parking area, and steps were placed on the side of the Rock and a trail laid to the base. The recreation area for tourists had new picnic tables and other conveniences added this summer. Limestone posts mark the Trail across the Grassland. Future plans include a companion walking trail along side the Trail ruts. Use of the picnic area is free,

but overnight campers must pay a fee.

Chapter President David Hutchison conducted the business meeting following the program. It was voted to raise chapter dues to \$2.50 per year, the increase will cover expenses of printing and mailing a quarterly newsletter.

Edgar White reported on the museum and that the NFS would like to have an addition for its use. Leo Gamble told of work on a new Baca County, CO, museum located in the courthouse, a small area formerly occupied by the sheriff and his family. Paul Bentrup read from a document signed by Bill Pitts, president of SFTA, and John Cook, NPS executive, concerning the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter and Cimarron County (OK) Historical Society (including an apparent commitment to raise money for Trail projects). The president of the latter organization had not been notified of its involvement in the matter. Ambassador Bentrup will seek clarification of this document. Bentrup also announced the change in dates for the 1993 symposium at Bent's Old Fort and La Junta to September 23-26. The next chapter meeting was set for Boise City, OK, on January 18, 1993.

Texas Panhandle

President Charles H. Pitts
3316 Palmer Dr
Amarillo, TX 79106

No report.

Wagonbed Spring

President Edward Dowell
521 W. Janice
Ulysses, KS 67880

The fall meeting at Hugoton on October 8, 1992, was attended by 30 members and guests. President Dowell reported on a visit by NPS personnel John Conoboy and Lisa W. French and Kansas State Historical Society archaeologist Martin Stein, who are considering whether to enlarge the site of the National Historic Landmark at Wagonbed Spring and if Stein should conduct an archaeological dig there. Dowell and several other chapter members met with the visitors including landowner Harry Joyce.

Paul Bentrup read a communication signed by Bill Pitts concerning future plans of the NPS for development of Oklahoma Panhandle Trail sites. He also told of the first meeting of SFTA in Trinidad in September 1986. Cimarron Cutoff Chapter member Edgar White reported at length on work of the National Forest Service on the Cimarron National Grassland at Point of Rocks in Morton County. Some of the changes were placing of more picnic tables and fencing part of the area. He

said that Ramon Powers, executive director of the Kansas State Historical Society and state preservation officer, had recently visited the site. Marjorie Persinger, secretary, gave a report of the Trail tour on October 3 conducted by the Cimarron County Historical Society in Oklahoma. Several chapter members were on the tour. The next meeting was scheduled for January 14, 1993, at Ulysses.

Heart of the Flint Hills

President Donald B. Cress
RR 1 Box 66
Council Grove, KS 66846

No report.

End of the Trail

President Carlton R. Damonte
7221 Vivian Dr NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

On August 29, 50 members convened at Pecos National Historic Park for a field trip and picnic, followed by a business meeting. After watching a film on the Pecos area, narrated by Greer Garson, the group drove to nearby Kozlowski's Ranch. Park Ranger John K. Loleit served as guide.

Kozlowski was a Polish immigrant who established this site sometime after 1846. For years it served as a stage station on the Trail. It was also a forage station for the army. During the Civil War it served as Union headquarters during the engagement at Glorieta Pass in 1862.

At the site, Loleit used an aerial photograph to orient members to the surrounding area, showing the location of Trail ruts and a large pool of fresh water. The availability of water was the reason Kozlowski chose this spot for his ranch. An unexpected treat for the group was the presence of Marc Simmons, renowned Trail historian and chapter member. In front of the building that served as Kozlowski's ranch house is a DAR marker that was placed in 1910. Marc captivated his audience with a 20-minute talk on the significance of the marker and the story of DAR markers in New Mexico and their locations. After viewing the sites at Kozlowski's ranch, the group returned to the Pecos NHP picnic area for lunch. Plans were made for the final field trip of 1992.

On September 13 chapter members hosted a reception for visiting tourism representatives from states along the Trail. The representatives were attending a conference sponsored by the New Mexico Tourism Dept. and headed by Mike Pitel. The event was held at the historic home of Jean and Ed Cook. The group enjoyed a pleasant evening of conversation and food. Special thanks are extended to the Cooks for



Marc Simmons at Kozlowski's Ranch, pointing to the DAR marker beside the ranch headquarters while speaking to the End of the Trail Chapter in August.

their hospitality and to the members who provided food and refreshment for the occasion.

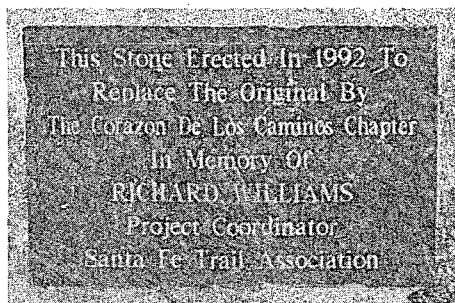
The final field trip for 1992 took place on October 3. Mike Pitel guided 37 members on a 2½-mile trek through the Camino Corrales section of Trail ruts within the city of Santa Fe. The high point of the tour was the ruts on the land of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Ballen. Mr. Ballen also gave a guided tour of his beautiful estate. The Ballens are owners of the La Fonda Hotel.

After seeing the article in the last issue of (WT) on the "Route of the Trail Through Glorieta Pass," we contacted Burt Schmitz in California. We now have a dialogue going with this "Trail authority." Schmitz plans to come to Santa Fe sometime next summer. We hope to schedule a field trip, with him as our guide, and invite other chapters to participate. More on this later.

Corazon de los Caminos

President LeRoy LeDoux
PO Box 94
Wagon Mound, NM 87752

The August meeting was attended by 24 members and 9 guests. President LeDoux and the chapter were honored with two plaques from the Southwest Regional Office of the National Park Service for "invaluable assistance in promoting public interest in the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and . . . efforts to help preserve the Trail resources in New Mexico for the enjoyment of future generations." Norman Quillin of Albuquerque gave a presentation on Kit Carson's armory. He showed four antique rifles and ex-



This plaque was placed at the base of the Isaac Allen gravestone at Point of Rocks in July. (Photo by Leo Gamble.)

plained their history. Following his talk, the history of Watrous was presented by Alfredo Paiz, José Lopez, and Harry Myers. It was an interesting and informative program.

In September 18 members and 9 guests gathered in a beautiful fall setting in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos near the Mountain Route of the Trail for a barbecue and meeting at San Juan Bautista de Los Hueeros, a church built in the 1860s and recently restored by the descendants of the original five founding families of the village: Chávez, Vigil, Arguello, Pacheco, and Salazar. These settlers were blond, hence the name "Los Hueeros." The Jicarilla Apaches respected the settlers, and the settlement prospered. Today 15 families still live in Los Hueeros. When they were renovating the church floors, they discovered several grave mounds.

On October 18 the chapter met at the Bueyeros, NM, church in the beautiful Ute Creek valley. Fifteen members enjoyed a potluck lunch with church members in honor of the priest who was leaving. Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Gonzales told the history of the church and the area. It was noted that Major Stephen Long and his party came down Ute Creek in 1820. Titian Peale, a member of that party, sketched a black-tail deer with one of the four local buttes in the background. It was also noted that William Becknell crossed Ute Creek nearby in 1822, bringing the first wagons across the plains to Santa Fe. After the meeting members went to one of the four buttes which has a grave atop it and a view of the butte that Peale sketched. After a visit to a second butte, where a mass of renewal is held each year, the members journeyed home on a pleasant autumn afternoon.

Wet/Dry Routes

President Joanne VanCoevern
4773 N. Wasserman Way
Salina, KS 67401

No report.

Mountain Branch

President Roberta Cordova
202 East Sixth St.
Trinidad, CO 81082

No report.

Dodge City/Fort Dodge

No report.

Missouri River Outfitters

President Roger Slusher
1421 South St.
Lexington, MO 64067

On August 8 the chapter met at the Rice-Tremonti house in Raytown, MO. Roberta Bonbowitz, an active local historian, told about the 1840s house which was built by Archibald Rice. That prosperous farmer sold goods to many travelers on the Santa Fe Trail which passed nearby.

On October 18 Polly Fowler led a trek along the route of the Trail from Buckner, MO, to Independence. Some highlights were the cemetery at Sibley near Fort Osage, the site of the Blue Mills built by the Aull brothers of Lexington, and the old Independence landing, which was an active warehouse and outfitting center in the 1830s.

The Outfitters would like to extend a cordial invitation to any SFTA members living in Missouri and eastern Kansas to join our chapter. Annual dues of \$10 should be sent to our treasurer, Glenda Sours, 629 N. Mahaffie, Olathe, KS 66061.

Quivira

President Wayne Smith
RR 1 Box 44
Raymond, KS 67573

The newly-formed Quivira Chapter has applied for official recognition and affiliation with SFTA. At an organizational meeting at Lyons, KS, on September 21, representatives from Barton, Rice, and McPherson, wishing to help preserve, protect, and publicize the portion of the Trail crossing the three counties, adopted articles of incorporation and bylaws, and elected officers and directors. This portion of the Trail was previously not covered by any local chapter. The action was the culmination of informational and promotional meetings held during the summer at Ellinwood, McPherson, and Lyons.

Officers are President Wayne Smith, Raymond; V-P Duane Embers, McPherson; Secretary Carol Near, Lyons; Treasurer Betty Romero, Lyons; and the directors are Robert Yarmer, Ellinwood; Robert Button, Great Bend; Nancy Martiney, Lyons; Pat Hall, Hutchinson; Bruce Palmer, Lindsborg; and Britt Colle, McPherson. Evelyn Miller, Ellinwood, is the

reporter.

All members of SFTA, regardless of residence, are eligible for membership in the Quivira Chapter upon payment of annual dues of \$10.00, which may be sent to Betty Romero, Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 West Lyon, Lyons, KS 67554.

DAR ESSAY CONTEST

KANSAS DAR State Regent, Ruth Keys Clark, wants to focus more attention on the Santa Fe Trail during her term in office. As part of this effort, DAR State Historian, Mrs. Charley L. Shoemaker, has announced a Santa Fe Trail essay contest for sixth and seventh graders in the state. She said, "I want to create more interest in the historical Trail that is so much a part of the heritage of Kansas." Eligible students are invited to send an original essay of not more than 600 words on any phase of the Santa Fe Trail. An award will be given to the winning essay. Teachers and librarians may be consulted to help locate information. Dave Webb's *Adventures with the Santa Fe Trail: An Activity Book for Kids and Teachers* is recommended as a resource. The deadline for entries is January 15, 1993. Please send essays to Mrs. Charley Shoemaker, 121 Ave C West, Kingman, KS 67068. *Wagon Tracks* has offered to print the winning essay.

COUNCIL TROVE

—DOCUMENTS—

BECKNELL'S PREPARATIONS

William Becknell's plans for a venture "westward" in 1821 were printed in the *Franklin Missouri Intelligencer*. Two items that appeared over his name follow, taken from Cordell Tindall's special issue of the *Intelligencer* prepared for the 1991 symposium.

Issue of June 25, 1821:

An article for the government of a company of men destined to the westward for purposes of trading for Horses & Mules, and catching Wild Animals of every description, that we may think advantageous to the company.

Sec. 1. Every man will fit himself for the trip, with a horse, a good rifle, and as much ammunition as the company may think necessary for a tour or 3 months trip, & sufficient cloathing to keep him warm and comfortable. Every man will furnish his equal part of the fitting out for trade, and receive an equal part of the product. If the company consist of 30 or more men, 10 dollars a man will answer to purchase the quantity of merchandise required to trade on.

No man shall receive more than another for his services, unless he furnishes more, and is pointedly agreed on by the company

before we start. If any young man wishes to go the trip and is not in a position to equip himself, if he chooses to go for any person that may think proper to employ and equip him with every necessary required by this article, the employer shall receive an equal dividend of the benefits arising from our trade. There will be no dividend until we return to the north side of the Missouri river, where all persons concerned shall have timely notice to attend and receive their share of profits. It shall be necessary that every man shall be bound in a penalty of fifty dollars, to be recoverable in any court in the state, and the money appropriated to the use of the company. If he signs and does not perform the trip, unless some unavoidable accident occurs; in such a case timely notice must be given to any officer belonging to the company, and it shall be the duty of the officer to discharge such a man on his giving satisfactory proof that it is not in his power to comply with this article and the officers shall fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

It is requisite that every 8 men shall have a pack horse, an ax, and a tent to secure them from the inclemency of bad weather.

I think it necessary for the good order and regulation of the company that every man shall be bound by an oath to submit to such orders and rules as the company when assembled shall think proper to enforce. It shall be my business to apply to the governor for permission to proceed on as far as we wish to go. Signers to the amount of 70 will be received until the 4th of August, when every man wishing to go is requested to meet at Ezekial William's on the Missouri, about five miles above Franklin, where we will procure a pilot and appoint officers in the company.

Issue of August 14, 1821:

A company of 17 men met at Ezekial William's farm on the 4th of August destined to the westward. W. Becknell was chosen unanimously as Captain of the company. On 18th inst. we are all to meet at Mr. Shaw's in Franklin, where two Lieutenants will be elected. We have concluded that thirty men will constitute a company sufficiently strong to proceed as far as we wish to go. All those who signed their names to the first article, and did not appear on the 4th of this month, are excluded from going in this company, and excused from paying any fine. On the first day of September, the company will cross the Missouri at Arrow Rock. Any persons who wish to go will do well to meet at the plain appointed on the 18th. No signers will be received after that day.

IRA CLAFLIN ON THE BATTLE OF GLORIETA PASS, MARCH 28, 1862

Professor Michael Olsen, New Mexico Highlands University at Las Vegas, recently found the following report of the

Battle of Glorieta Pass at the National Archives. Lieutenant Ira W. Claflin, Third U.S. Cavalry, author of the letter, commanded a Union artillery battery during the engagement. The letter, dated May 18, 1862, was addressed to Captain Gurden Chapin, Assistant Adjutant General. So far as can be determined, this letter has not been published before. The original is located in Dept. of New Mexico Misc. Records, 1849-1866, Box 1, Record Group 393, National Archives. The original spelling has been preserved, but some punctuation has been added for clarification.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the action of my Mountain Howitzer Battery in the engagement at Pigeon's Ranch on the 18th of March 1862.

Upon learning that the enemy was prepared for our advance I was ordered by Colonel Slough to take a position a few hundred yards in front of Pigeon's, which I did, and opened and continued a fire for several minutes. At this point two of my cannoniers deserted to the enemy - Jones and Miller of the Col. Vols.

Receiving an order from Captain Chapin I next took a position on a hill near and directly opposite the Ranch, which position I maintained till in the afternoon ascertaining that the enemy was preparing to charge my battery in such force as would render its capture certain. I relieved and joined Captain Ritter in the canyon below with whom I operated until the close of the engagement. I did not get an order to retire from Col. Slough but was advised rather than ordered by Captain Chapin 7th Infantry to do so, Col. Slough not being present on that part of the field.

At this, the third position, one man was killed, one Sergt. and two privates wounded.

From this position we retreated and kept up an active fire till the force was concentrated and the train moved, when the whole force retired to Kozlowski's.

My detachment behaved with the greatest coolness and courage. I cannot express too warmly my admiration of the conduct of Lieut. Shoemaker and Mr. Dalton, who were serving with the Battery as well as Captain Thompson. The enthusiasm displayed by Capt. Robbins of Co. K, 1st Regt. Col Vols. and his men, in saving one of my pieces when the carriage was broken, attracted the attention of all who witnessed it.

The conduct of Lieut. Harding and about forty of his men, especially while protecting the batteries before retiring to our last position, deserves the highest praise and won for him a reputation with his comrades of which his regiment and company may well be proud. By himself and about forty of his men I am convinced the safety of Captain

Ritter's Battery, as well as my own, was at least secured while preparing to retreat to the last position we occupied.

HELP WANTED

I need help in documenting Simpson Everett (Jack) Stilwell's presence on the Santa Fe Trail during the years 1863 through 1866. Stilwell gave testimony in the Supreme Court case, *The United States vs Texas*, in 1894 (the case made the South Fork of the Red River the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma). Stilwell stated, "In 1863, I went out to New Mexico from Kansas City over the Arkansas route to a point above Fort Dodge, there crossed and took what was known as the Cimarron route which went past Wagon mounds into Las Vegas, Las Vegas being the first town we struck. . . . I made several trips from New Mexico to Kansas City and Leavenworth in 1864, 1865, 1866, wintering in New Mexico. In the wintertime we used to come down on buffalo hunts, down the Canadian River and in on the head of Wolf River and through that country, over the Beaver north of there so I became pretty familiar with that country."

Stilwell stated that he visited Santa Fe several times and, during his stay in New Mexico, learned to speak the "Mexican language." He described three routes across the plains, the "Northern Route" (Mountain Route), "Middle Route" (Cimarron Route), and the "Southern Route" (Crooked Creek Trail): "The first route that I shall describe is what we call the 'Southern Route.' Leaving Santa Fe, coming in through Apache Canyon, pass the old ruins of the church; pass San Jose, San Miguel to Tocalotel [sic] just west of Las Vegas about eighteen miles; then to Anton Chico; then to Gallenas Springs; then to old Fort Bascom on the Canadian, or what is in that country called Red River - Rio Colorado, down the river on the south side to a place called Atascosa; there crossing to the north side traveling almost parallel [sic] to the river bearing a little to the north to the creek on which Adobe Walls is situated to the north and a little east to the heads of Wolf River; the same direction over to Beaver; from there to the Cimarron; then Crooked Creek; the Mulberry and the Arkansas, crossing the Arkansas and connecting with the main trail from Kansas City and Leavenworth west. . . . My acquaintance and knowledge of these different routes was gained from traveling them; also it was perfectly natural we discussed every route as to which was better, shorter, more convenient, and above all the safest from Indians."

I would appreciate help with documenting Stilwell's presence on the Trail from the New Mexico end or the Kansas City end. Jack signed his name "S. E. Stilwell." He was born in 1850 and would have been a teenager in the 1860s. He later served as a guide and scout for the army on the southern plains.

Clint E. Chambers
5104 18th Place
Lubbock, TX 79416

I am seeking information or any sources of information on Rabbit Ears Creek Camp located on the Cimarron Route of the Santa Fe Trail. Any photographs of the camp and area descriptions would be appreciated. My great-great-grandfather, Alexander Morgan, died (cause of death unknown) and was buried at this camp on Aug. 23, 1847, while serving in the Mexican War with Capt. B. W. Smithson's and Capt. D. D. Stockton's Co. K, Third Regiment Missouri Mounted Volunteers. I will be grateful for any help.

Terry J. Rawe
420 Butchart Dr.
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T6R 1R1

I am in the process of cataloging all the DAR markers in Kansas, going to each site, taking pictures, determining original and current locations, etc. I use the book by Mrs. T. A. Cordry of the DAR and an article in the 1907/1908 publication of the Kansas State Historical Society, both of which describe the placing of the 96 markers in Kansas. So far I have been quite successful, but a couple have me stumped.

Do any readers know what became of marker #36 in McPherson County? It was located in the middle of the west

boundary of Sec. 10, Township 20 South, Range 3 West, which is now just south of McPherson and west of I-135. There is a marker just a mile southwest in Sec. 9, but it is on the original location. Also, what became of marker #39 in McPherson County? Cordry lists it as located at Windom, the KSHS placed it at the northwest corner of Sec. 20, T 20 S, R 5 W, and Margaret Long gave a different location in her book. Is this the maker that is now located on the McPherson/Rice County line along road #443 five miles south of U.S. 56? Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Steve Miner
7432 Rockwood Rd
Wichita, KS 67206

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.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

City of Prairie Village, Attn: Mayor, 7700
Mission Rd, Prairie Village KS 66208

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Annie & Arthur Hodgson, PO Box 666,
Lyons KS 67654
Michael Metzger, RR 1 Box 276, Council
Grove KS 66846
Dale E. & Donna J. Oliver, 1822 Apollo,
Great Bend KS 67530
Lori & Kent Thomas, 3100 McCormick Ave,
Wichita KS 67213

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Alexandra Aldred, Bent's Old Fort NHS,
35110 Hwy 194 E, La Junta CO 81050
Robert S. Allen, PO Box 939, Raton NM
87740
Jay S. Arnold, PO Box 18842, Baton Rouge
LA 70893

Nelson L. Bond, 18050 S Tamiami Trail
#11, Fort Myers FL 33908
Charlie Cashion 7656 S Centaur, Ever-
green CO 80439
Ruth Keys Clark, PO Box 153, Winchester
KS 66097
Helen M. Geer, 101 W Marcy St #203,
Santa Fe NM 87501
Mary Jo Hays, Rt 9 Box 69A, Santa Fe NM
87505
Kathryn Myers, 10 Wilmar Orchard, Quincy
IL 62301
Leon K. Olsen, 1825 E Dunkerton Rd, Wa-
terloo IA 50701
Michael J. Penner, 717 W Elm St, Olathe
KS 66061
Judy Sutton, 12116 W 93, Lenexa KS
66215
Russ Yeager, 1719 Kent Pl, Topeka KS
66604

TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section. Please provide location, date(s), time(s), activity, and address and/or phone number for more information. Remember this is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in February, so send information for March and later to arrive by January 20. Thank you.

Dec. 11-12, 1992: Traditional Holiday Celebration, Bent's Old Fort NHS.
Dec. 12, 1992: Christmas Open House, Fort Larned NHS.
Jan. 14, 1993: Wagonbed Spring Chapter meeting at Ulysses, KS, 7:00 p.m.
Jan. 17, 1993: Wet/Dry Routes Chapter meeting at either Offerle or Kinsley. Leo E. Oliva will be guest speaker. Contact Joanne VanCoevern at (913) 825-8349.
Jan. 18, 1993: Cimarron Cutoff Chapter meeting, Boise City, OK.
Jan. 20, 1993: Deadline for next issue of *Wagon Tracks*.
Sept. 23-26, 1993: Santa Fe Trail Symposium, Bent's Old Fort and La Junta, CO. Contact Don Hill, Bent's Old Fort NHS, 35110 Hwy 194E, La Junta CO 81050 (719) 384-2596).

WAGON TRACKS
Santa Fe Trail Association
RR 1, Box 31
Woodston, KS 67675



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Please check the expiration date of your membership on your address label. If it says Dec 1992, please renew by Jan. 1, 1993. If it says Dec 1993 or later, you do not need to renew at this time. Thank you.

PRESORTED

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