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Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

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OCTA's *Emigrant Names* Compact Disk Available

The *Emigrant Names* compact disk is now available from OCTA, offering a searchable database of more than 66,000 names of individuals mentioned in documents left by those who participated in the westward emigration.

The CD enables users to search a portion of OCTA's Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) for names mentioned in the 2,263 emigrant documents that have been surveyed by COED volunteers.

The *Emigrant Names* CD is available for order directly from OCTA. Price is \$29.95, plus \$3.85 for Priority mail postage and handling.

"While the CD is an important milestone for OCTA, it is not the end of the journey," said Bob Kabel, interim chair of the OCTA COED Committee.

"It represents only those emigrant documents, including diaries, that have been surveyed in a process that started more than 15 years ago. There are many more documents to be surveyed, many yet to be discovered and many new sources to be investigated."

As the Users Guide for the database explains, the greatest shortcoming of the program is that it may include mentions of no more than 10 percent of all emigrants who made the overland journey between 1832 and 1899.

"We can only increase these percentages by locating new documents to survey," the Guide says. "If you have information about a diary or other document that could be surveyed and is not listed, please let us know. Each addition improves the software for everyone."

By using the *Emigrant Names* software, researchers can search for a specific name during a specific time period and be pointed to specific primary documents, including manuscripts, diaries and other publications.

Much of the information on the CD was compiled by a team of more than 200 volunteers, headed by former COED Committee chair Kathy Roubal and COED software manager Chuck Dodd. Since their resignation in mid-2002, Kabel has served as interim COED chair to bring the project to market.

Emigrant Names software for OCTA and COED was developed at no cost to OCTA by Looking Glass Analytics, an



Olympia, WA firm owned by Kabel's son, Joe, with programming and technical assistance from Mark Terjeson, Mason Burley and Joe Kabel. In addition, the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program has long provided partial financial support for COED efforts.

All COED data is based on hand-written surveys of emigrant documents by OCTA volunteers. Those surveys can contain explanatory and supplementary notes that are not suited for inclusion in the electronic database. The hand-written surveys are being scanned, in part to make the use of survey information more convenient. It is the intention of OCTA to eventually provide access to the surveys through a members-only mechanism or for a fee.

The *Emigrant Names* CD can be ordered by contacting OCTA Headquarters at (816) 252-2276 or (888) 811-6282. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051. The CD is currently available in a PC format only and is compatible with Windows 95 or later.

From the Editor's Desk . . . by Bill Martin



A common thread through most of the years that OCTA has been around has been the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents. Virtually everyone has applauded its ideal. Many have praised its progress. Others have wondered what was taking so long. Mostly, we patiently waited the fruit of COED's labors. Well, the wait is over.

I wish I could tell you as I write this who came up with the idea of COED, of listing all of the names mentioned in overland journals and diaries. (I'm sure someone whose OCTA experience and expertise exceed mine will tell me, and I'll share that.) And I wonder if the person who first said we should have a list of every person who crossed the trails really knew how much trail dust he or she was about to kick up,

But the fact is that OCTA today has a searchable program available to anyone who wants it. It is a remarkable achievement in which we can all take pride.

There are two things to keep in mind while we're patting ourselves on the back, however.

First, the *Emigrant Names* CD is no one's "baby." Certainly individuals like Kathy Roubal and Chuck Dodd and Shann Rupp deserve plaudits for nurturing it for so long, and Bob Kabel should be thanked for bringing it finally to market. But I believe they would be among the first to say the real credit belongs to the hundreds of volunteers who helped survey the diaries and journals to give us the database to work with.

Second, as impressed as we may be with *Emigrant Names*, we've only just begun, as imposing and intimidating as that thought may be.

The names on the database available through the software represent only a small percentage of the men and women and

families who were on the trails. There are thousands more out there, just waiting for us to find them. And there are lots of places to look. Undiscovered diaries and journals. Contemporary newspaper accounts. (If you want a challenge, consider surveying eastern newspapers from the 1850s, looking for letters from emigrants. Where do you begin? Where would it end?)

Clearly, OCTA has made an enormous contribution to the public availability of history with the *Emigrant Names* CD. (And remember, it represents only a portion of the material COED has generated. Still in development is a researchers' tool offering more complete information.)

COED today is at a pivotal point in its development. *Emigrant Names* represents a jumping off place. Its greatest need now is for a wagon master willing to take it to the next step. Any volunteers?

On a personal note, I've enjoyed editing *News From The Plains* for six years, but when my current contract expires in October it will be time to give someone else a chance.

I'm grateful for the opportunity it has given me to get involved in OCTA activities and to meet a lot of people with a sincere love of the trails. Above all, it has added greatly to my own appreciation for our emigrant heritage.

That said, I believe *NFP* can benefit from a fresh perspective. On page five, there's information about how to apply for the editor's position. If you want to know about the work involved and the expertise required, e-mail me and I'll try to answer your questions.

— Bill Martin



News From The Plains

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Western History Collection

Submission Guidelines

News From The Plains welcomes news, features and photos related to the work of OCTA and its members and to the preservation of our trails heritage. Material is due 30 days prior to publication dates. Material should be sent either on a computer disk (in Word or text format; please make sure you include a hard copy) or via e-mail.

Pictures are appreciated and can be sent via e-mail, on a disk (jpg format) or originals for scanning.

Next Deadline Is March 1, 2003

From The President . . .

by Randall Wagner



There is some good news on the national legislative scene.

First, a bill authorizing the Old Spanish Trail as the newest National Historic Trail has passed both houses of congress and been signed by President Bush. The Trail passes through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California.

Old Spanish Trail supporters have been working on this legislation for more than 10 years.

The National Park Service worries about the impact this newest NHT will have on budget and personnel, but I tend to think that anything that expands the NHT system and increases public awareness of historic trails will be good for all of us in the long run.

Second, OCTA-endorsed legislation to authorize the addition of various branches and cutoffs to the Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer NHT systems passed the Senate in the closing hours of the last session (see story on page six). The Senate bill is somewhat different than the House-passed version however, and there wasn't time remaining in the session to conference the differences.

What that means, according to Bill and Jeanne Watson, is that the bill will have to start over in the new Congress. The good news is that it should be on a fast track, having already been studied in committees and passed all down the line. Every OCTA member should let their Senators and Representatives know that this legislation is vital to the National Historic Trails program and urge their support.

The saga of the future of OCTA's bookstore at headquarters operation at the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence continues. Jim Budde and Kathy Conway have had frequent meetings with City of Independence officials over the past four months and there still is no resolution of the issue.

Some in Independence are thinking in terms of a major rebuilding of the NFTC into something similar to the Baker City or new Casper interpretative centers. They even brought Edna Kennell from Casper to Independence to talk to them about problems, pitfalls and procedures in such an undertaking. On the other side of the fence are those that only want to cut NFTC losses and reduce the obligation the facility currently has on the City of Independence budget.

At this time, nobody knows how this will all come out. I have a feeling that our book store operation is in serious jeopardy and that the future of our entire headquarters operation in connection with the NFTC is in question. At the very least, some major revision of the agreement between OCTA and the City of Independence is needed, and probably long overdue.

I will keep the membership informed as this all shakes out. I'm not yet ready to start looking for a new headquarters location, but that could become a forced option in the future.

By the time you read this, a final draft of the job description for the new OCTA position of Association Manager will have

been circulated to all officers, directors and the Headquarters Manager.

Adding this position is a major move for OCTA, something that has been discussed in almost every Board meeting for the past decade, yet it has generated very little comment from the membership. If anyone has opinions, input or strong feelings, I would sure like to hear from them.

At least two members of the Board of Directors are concerned that the proposal to pay the Association Manager's salary through a National Park Service grant (at least for the first few years) is a step toward giving up the organization's independence and volunteer status. I look at it as a chance to get the return of some of my tax dollars in support of a cause I believe in, not much different that any of the numerous challenge cost share grants OCTA has received from the NPS over the years.

All of these topics, and more, will be discussed in detail at the Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting at OCTA headquarters in Independence on March 7-9, 2003. As always, the meeting will be open to the membership. Those required to attend include all officers, Board members and committee chairpersons with action items on the agenda. Chapter Presidents are invited and encouraged to attend.

All requests for Board action and agenda items are due by February 1. Director and Committee Chair reports are due by January 13. Members can contact any officer or board member with their items for consideration. Reports should be E-mailed directly to headquarters. Agenda item requests should be sent directly to <RWagnerfoto@aol.com>.

Finally, the annual fund drive to raise the money needed to finance OCTA's many preservation-related activities is now underway. The organization needs, and seriously appreciates, your support. Contributions at any level are welcome. Please give whatever you comfortably can.

-- Randy Wagner

From Headquarters . . .



Happy New Year 2003! We are delighted to report that this month you will receive the long awaited 2003 Membership Roster! For the first time, the Roster includes e-mail addresses, where available.

Soon to appear on our web-site is a "Member's Only" section. It will have member names and addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. This section will be updated frequently; thus, a beneficial tool for the many changes to our membership data.

Our thanks to Lesley Wischmann, Mark Wheeler and Bob Wier for their time and expertise in adding this welcomed feature to the OCTA-trails.org site!

We no longer have to wait for the *Emigrant Names* compact disk (name search software). It's here! Available: On-Line OCTA Bookstore! With the CD comes an excellent User's Guide. When you receive your copy, please turn to page 14 in the User's Guide. Here you will see what a tremendous volun-

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From the National Trails Preservation Officer



By David Welch

For those of you that have been following the effort to obtain National Historic Trails status for all of the alternate routes and cutoffs of the main trails, we can report some progress (see separate story on page 6).

Bill and Jeanne Watson have been carefully helping to move legislation through Congress that

would authorize feasibility studies for the additional routes. In November the Senate approved the legislation, but with some small differences from the previously passed House bill.

Bill and Jeanne are optimistic that the differences can be resolved quickly when the new Congress convenes in January. Much of the background material needed for the feasibility studies has already been prepared.

As some of you may know, OCTA member Jere Krakow of the National Park Services Long Distance Trails Office has received a promotion. He will assume the title of Superintendent, National Trails System Program, Intermountain Region of the NPS.

As such, he will be responsible for management of the Salt Lake City and Santa Fe Offices with oversight of seven National Historic Trails: Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express, Santa Fe, Trail of Tears, and El Camino Real De Tierra Adentro. The historic Route 66 highway program is also included and he will be manager of the Old Santa Fe Trail Building in Santa Fe that houses the trail program.

Upon assuming his new job, Jere noted "communication, collaboration and coordination are the key elements in accomplishing the work of the Intermountain Region trail program. My role will be to articulate that and insure that it is a focal point. This translates into working together for the common good of the national trails. To accomplish this means to develop, maintain and strengthen partnerships with trail associations, landowners, managers of trail resources including agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service, state and local governments and State Historic Preservation Offices."

Our best wishes to Jere and his staff. We hope his involvement in other trails will not dilute his continued efforts on behalf of the Oregon and California Trails.

While recently reviewing the Comprehensive Management Plan for the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails, I was reminded of a process that we have probably not fully utilized. It is "site certification."

Site certification helps ensure that sites or segments outside federal jurisdiction met the basic preservation, interpretation, or recreation functions prescribed in the National Trails System Act and other criteria.

The certification program is one of the most important ways in which the federal administering agency can foster partner-

ships with nonfederal landowners (state, local and private) throughout the trail corridors.

The certification process is (1) identification of possible sites or segments with a landowner interested in furthering the protection and interpretation of the site and (2) documentation of resources and planned interpretive programs.

The National Park Service will provide technical assistance on issues related to cultural or natural resource compliance and environmental impacts. The National Park Service and the applicants would also determine management objectives for each site or segment, and management responsibilities would be outlined. For smaller sites and segments, the application could replace more detailed management planning and formal cooperative agreements.

On completion of official certification, the public would be informed through appropriate trail information programs if the site or segment was available for public use and enjoyment.

Certification is not permanent; it can be renewed subject to satisfactory performance of the terms of the agreement.

While it requires considerable effort, the certification process is a great way to make additional resources available for a local trail project. Contact me (welchdj@attbi.com) or Jere Krakow for more information.

OCTA Website Update Underway

The OCTA website – www.octa-trails.org – is in the process of being updated – and may in fact have a brand new look by the time this issue of *News From The Plains* arrives in your mailbox.

Mark Wheeler has been working on new and expanded features for the makeover, including a new "Members Only" section that will include a searchable membership roster.

"Continuing expansion of the website will be a 'work in progress' for a while," Wheeler said. It is the first substantial revision in the website in several years.

Wheeler urges members to check the site often for updates and new features.

National Leadership Positions Available

An opportunity to serve OCTA in a national leadership position may be as close as a phone call or an e-mail away.

The Nominating and Leadership Committee is requesting that OCTA members interested in serving on the OCTA Board of Directors or as an Association Officer contact committee members for information.

Also, members are urged to help identify OCTA members they feel would be good candidates for any leadership position, including serving as chair of the many OCTA committees.

All Board members serve "at large," so being selected by geographic location is not a requirement.

Four Board positions and several officer positions, including the position of vice president, are to be elected during 2003. Board positions are filled during the spring elections and the Board of Directors will elect officers at its August meeting.

"OCTA's continued success depends upon finding and electing good people to lead the organization," said Committee chair Dick Pingrey. "It is both a privilege and a responsibility to serve as an OCTA officer or on the Board."

For information about leadership positions, contact Pingrey or committee members Vern Gorzitze and Bill Webster. Contact information:

Pingrey – (509) 697-4765 >rjpingrey@email.msn.com<

Gorzitze – (801) 484-9623 >vergor@inconnect.com<

Webster – (661) 665-8006 >bonnybill@aol.com<

Candidates for Board positions will be asked to submit short statements of qualifications and will need written endorsements from three OCTA members. The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2003.

Applicants Sought For OCTA Publications Posts

OCTA is now accepting applications for three positions associated with production of *News From the Plains* and the *Overland Journal*.

OCTA will accept applications for the editor's positions for either of the publications and a position as graphic designer for the *Overland Journal*.

These are contract positions that include modest fees for services. Existing contracts with the current editors expire on October 1, 2003.

"Editors Bill Martin of *NFP* and Robert Clark of the *OJ* are to be commended for their hard work on behalf of OCTA publications and have been encouraged to reapply for their existing positions," Publications Committee Chair Candy Moulton said.

"Bob Clark has indicated that he is likely to reapply to continue as Editor and Graphic Design Supervisor of the *OJ*, but Bill Martin has advised the Committee that he does not plan to continue as the editor of *News From The Plains* when his current contract expires," Moulton added.

Job descriptions for each of the positions are available from OCTA headquarters.

Individuals interested in applying for the positions as *Overland Journal* Graphic Design Supervisor, *Overland Journal* Editor or *NFP* Editor should send a letter of interest, resume and work samples to OCTA at P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519.

Clearly mark on the application which contract you are applying for. Applications must be received by May 1, 2003. The OCTA Board of Directors will award the contracts at its annual meeting in August.

Volunteers Needed For Endowment Planned Giving Effort

OCTA is looking for volunteers to serve as points of contact for the planned Special Endowment Fundraising Drive, with a special focus on planned giving.

One of the key components of the drive, planned giving takes many forms, but generally it is a gift to OCTA from a member's estate.

Gifts of this type are extremely important because a small gift from an estate can be a large gift to OCTA and will help insure the future of the organization.

At this time, the Special Endowment Fund Drive Committee is looking for one or more volunteers to help answer general questions and supply pre-printed information to OCTA members. It will not involve any direct solicitation, but will

help make information available to members who want it.

Training will be provided for the volunteers, who will be supplied with professionally produced booklets that deal with giving to charitable organizations.

The committee has discussed its plans with professionals, who recommend that detailed questions be referred to appropriate qualified persons. The volunteer coordinator will help distribute general information. Those who want detailed information will be asked to contact personal tax or estate planning professionals.

For more information, contact Fund Drive Committee Chair Dick Pingrey at (509) 697-4765.

Manhattan, Kansas — August 10-16, 2003

Visit >www.KANZA-OCTA.org< for details.

Trails Legislation Update

The long process of obtaining congressional approval for feasibility studies on proposed trail segments to be added to the National Trails Act continues in Washington, D.C.

The Senate gave its final approval shortly before it adjourned in November, but it was too late for anything to be done in the House of Representatives. Supporters remain hopeful for quick action when the new Congress convenes in January.

S-213 would authorize feasibility studies for a list of Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express routes to determine if they meet the National Trails Act criteria for addition to these trails.

We represented OCTA and testified in support of that bill, along with Pat Hearty, the National Pony Express Association and others. The Partnership for the National Trails supported us and Cherokee National representatives stood in support during the hearing.

At hearings before the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks last March, concerns were raised about allowing the Secretary of the Interior to designate the qualified routes, bypassing Congress's prerogative to designate new trails or routes.

The bill was modified to specify that new routes would be approved by Congress, but the Secretary of the Interior could designate qualifying routes or trail segments that are already part of an existing National Historic Trail.

Shortly after the subcommittee completed its markup, all bills pending before the Committee were held up by a Senator over a non-trails related bill.

In its final minutes before adjournment, the Senate by unanimous consent passed a package that includes its version of the feasibility studies bill. Willing Seller provisions were limited to the Ice Age, North Country and Potomac Heritage Trails.

Extension of the Lewis & Clark Trail east to Clarksville, IN and Louisville, KY was approved. In the final hours of the 107th Congress, the Old Spanish Trail was authorized as the 15th National Historic Trail.

Although the package passed by the Senate was too late for the House to act, it was a significant step forward.

We are working with legislative staff of Congressman Doug Bereuter of Nebraska and Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah for identical bills to be introduced in early January when the 108th Congress convenes. These should receive priority treatment for passage by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee and House Resources Committee without the need for Senate-House conference and possibly without hearings.

We will be in Washington, D.C. in early March for Trails Advocacy Week and expect more information to report to OCTA's Mid-Year Board meeting.

— Bill & Jean Watson,

Mapping Committee Report

By Frank Tortorich
OCTA Mapping Chair

At the Reno convention Kay Threlkeld and Jere Krackow, both of the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office, and I conducted a "mapping workshop."

Well, as it turned out, the word "workshop" was a poor choice of words. "Seminar or presentation" might have been a better title. Several folks came thinking they were going to get a hands-on how-to workshop and went away disappointed. We even asked for a two-hour block of time so that we could get it all in. We were wrong there as well, since we still didn't have enough time to cover what we had planned.

It was my goal to update everyone on the latest development with the GPS (Global Positioning System) program and data dictionary that the Long Distance Trails Office (LDTO) has been setting up for several years.

One of the misunderstandings occurred when Kay was asked if the mapping work using the smaller hand-held units would be of use. Kay's response was "no."

However, Kay was thinking about the GIS (Geographic Information System) component that is generated when using the larger GPS units. This information is collected in the field as "Features" and each Feature has "Attributes" logged into the data collector. The data collector is the hand-held unit that has memory built into it so that the features and attributes can be typed (logged) in along with the GPS point from the satellites.

An example of a feature might be "Wagon Wheel Marked Rock." The feature's attribute(s) might be: polished, polished with rust, grooved, grooved with rust. There is also space to enter limited typed comments such as heavy rust or rust on two sides.

I want to assure everyone that the work you have been doing with or without the small hand-held GPS, is of great value. We need the 7-½ minute quads of each segment of the Trail. This has to be done before the GPS/GIS program can be conducted.

After all the segments of Trail are mapped so we know where the Trail is located, we can then go out and walk the Trail with the larger GPS units. At that time, we can do the data collection, adding all the features and their attributes.

Now, because satellites are not exactly fixed in the sky, some of the GPS readings may not be exactly accurate for the Park Service's computer mapping program. The larger GPS units can then be taken back to a "fix station." There are fixed stations in all areas of the country. These fixed stations can take the signal from the wandering satellite and correct the error collected in the field. This can be accurate to within 50 cm or roughly 18 inches. This is what is referred to as a differential correction.

One of the problems Kay is having with the system is with the Data Dictionary. This is the programmed information in the data collector that lists the Features and Attributes. On first glance this seems pretty simple. The agencies (BLM, NPS and the Forest Service) have been all trying to come up

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Nominations Deadlines Approached For OCTA Awards

Service Awards

Nominations will soon be due from OCTA members for OCTA service awards and Friend of the Trail awards to be presented at the August convention in Manhattan, KS.

The success of OCTA is due to the many dedicated volunteers who work to improve and strengthen the organization, preserve existing trail segments and historic resources, and educate the public about OCTA and America's historic trails.

Our awards program is a small way to recognize and thank these individuals for their dedication. Please take a few minutes to nominate one or more deserving individuals or organizations for their untiring efforts and many hours of service.

Deadline for receipt of nominations is June 1.

Categories include the **Meritorious Achievement Award**, the highest award OCTA can grant in recognition of long-time service and significant contributions to OCTA. Only members can qualify for Meritorious Achievement.

The **Distinguished Volunteer Award** is bestowed on OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA goals and projects. Only OCTA members qualify.

To recognize contributions to OCTA or trail preservation in general, the **Distinguished Service Award** is granted to organizations, businesses, government agencies, individuals, or others who contribute or participate in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education.

The **Friend of the Trail Award** is presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, educating the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the historic resources.

National Certificates of Appreciation are appropriate for individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certifications are for efforts of national scope; more regional or local efforts should be recognized by appropriate OCTA chapters.

Letters of nomination for all but the Outstanding Educator Awards should be sent to **Roger Blair**, Awards Committee Chair, at **524 NW 3rd Street, Pendleton, OR 97801**.

(Please note that the address listed in the most recent issue of the membership directory is long outdated and nominations sent to the address on Horn Street, may not be received.)

E-mail nominations are welcome: rblair@oregontrail.net.

Nominations submitted should clearly and comprehensively identify specific endeavors and qualifications of the candidates. Secondary letters of support from other OCTA members are not necessary, unless they provide additional qualifying background beyond the information provided in the initial letter of nomination.

Express your gratitude for one or more of the many deserving members or organizations by nominating them for an OCTA award and public recognition at the convention awards banquet.

-- Roger Blair, Awards Chair

Education Awards

The deadline for nominations for the 2003 OCTA Outstanding Educator Awards is March 29, 2003.

The awards program recognizes outstanding achievement in educating students of all ages about westward migration. The awards will be presented at the 2003 Awards Banquet on Wednesday, August 13, during the OCTA National Convention in Manhattan, KS.

Nominations are open to any individual and/or group of educators or institution that has contributed significantly to education about the 19th century westward overland migrations.

The work may reflect a whole unit or a special project within a unit or course. Awards will be for curriculum used during either the 2001-2002 or 2002-2003 school year.

Awards may be presented in up to five categories, including elementary-primary/intermediate grades, middle school/junior high, high school, post secondary/college or adult education, and museum/institutional.

Recipients receive a \$250 honorarium, a framed certificate, convention registration and room and board for the day of the awards banquet.

For nomination forms or other information, contact OCTA headquarters at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051, phone (816) 252-2276 or OCTA Education Awards Chair William E. Hill, 91 Wood Road, Centereach NY 11720, phone (631) 585-2592.

— Bill Hill, Education Chair

Mapping

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with a common Data Dictionary for their GPS/GIS programs. All agencies have different needs than the LDTO has for the Historic Trails. The process has been held up for some time. I believe that Kay has taken the project on herself and is now working to develop a data dictionary for our mapping (GPS/GIS) use.

I had hoped that we would be able to set up an all-day, pre-convention mapping workshop at the Manhattan Convention, but Kay has told me that the new data dictionary may not be fully operational by convention time.

The dictionary needs to be screened for errors, down loaded into data collectors, etc. (etc. is everything I don't understand about all this) and then field tested before we can start training OCTA mappers in the GPS/GIS program. I'm hoping for at least a full day workshop for the 2004 convention in Vancouver WA.

Bottomline, please keep marking Trail on those 7-1/2 minute quads. Please feel free to contact me for help. If you need quad maps and your chapter can't afford them I have a maps and a budget to help out.

Please contact me at 12544 Eldel Road, Pine Grove, CA 95665 Phone/FAX 209-296-7242 or email >wagonwheel@volcano.net<

A Short History of the OCTA Endowment Fund

If you are an avid reader of *News From The Plains*, you have probably noticed an increased number of articles about OCTA's endowment during the last several issues. You may have even wondered how our endowment was started and what all the fuss is about.

The truth is that the idea of an endowment for OCTA is not new. In fact, this concept has been around just about as long as OCTA has! During our early years a "life membership fund" was started, not specifically intended as an endowment, but more as a means of raising some sorely needed cash to help pay the bills so that OCTA could survive.

Much of the credit for our "life membership fund" can be attributed to OCTA's first Treasurer, the late Jim Bowers, who was instructed to collect a one-time payment of \$300 and to place these funds in a safe place in case of a life or death financial crisis.

Jim did so and when members of the OCTA Board asked for some portion of these funds, he refused to part with any of the accumulated funds. Apparently, Jim did not agree with some of the intended uses of these funds and it was well known that he often referred to certain Board Members as "Big Spenders."

Over Jim's seven-year tenure as Treasurer, about 40 members signed up for life memberships and these revenues were invested in CDs, so that by 1989 the fund had grown to almost \$27,000. Of course, it sure helped that the Board allowed Jim to raise the entrance fee several times during this period.

Jim stepped down as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting in Boise and I can clearly recall his parting words of advice to me as the incoming Treasurer: "Whatever you do, Budde, don't let the Big Spenders get their hands on that life membership money!"

Well, I suppose that those original dollars are still there, working for OCTA, along with many more. Over the next ten years, additional life memberships were added, OCTA started an Annual Fund Raising Drive, and an almost decade long string of successful conventions were held by hard-working Chapter members.

Gradually, we moved into a blend of CDs and mutual funds, but with increased size and continuing growth it soon became apparent that OCTA would be wise to place these funds under the guidance of a professional money manager.

In the fall of 1999, we transferred over \$400,000 to the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and what had started as a life membership fund in 1983 had now become the Oregon-California Trails Association Endowment.

The establishment of an endowment does not signal the end of our efforts; it marks the beginning of a new phase, and that phase mandates that we build up the endowment.

Our current endowment will provide a limited degree of financial stability and security, but we must continue to build the endowment to a level where the endowment will produce a more substantial flow of funds that we can utilize to supplement our annual budget.

Ideally, it would be nice if we had an endowment of suffi-

cient size to produce an annual return that would cover each year's annual budget. We don't live in an ideal world and we cannot rest on our past accomplishments or ignore our responsibilities to preserve emigrant trail history.

It is for these reasons that OCTA's Board authorized a special endowment drive committee to seek ways of building up our endowment fund. This is why you have seen a gradually increasing number of articles in the NFP.

Jim Budde, Member, Special Endowment Drive Committee

OCTAns Attend Trail Conference

Over 110 registrants representing 22 National Historic and Scenic Trails, including OCTA, attended the 8th Long Distance Trails Conference held in Fort Smith, AR in October.

Among the attendees from OCTA were Bill and Jeanne Watson, co-chairs of OCTA's Trail Liaison Committee; Jim and Judy Budde, who managed the registration table; and Ross Marshall.

Also in attendance from the National Park Service Long Distance Trails Officer were Kay Threlkeld and Jere Krakow, newly appointed Superintendent of Long Distance Trails for the Intermountain Region. Both are OCTA members.

A full schedule of workshops and plenary sessions was held supporting the theme of *Telling our Trails' Stories - Educating the World about the National Trails System*.

Recent federal policy developments, multi-year planning and budgeting, how to interpret our trail stories, storytelling dynamics and how to build better partnerships to promote public awareness were some of the sessions' topics.

A special guest was Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budgets. She spoke at a luncheon on the basic elements that foster effective partnering between public agencies and private group partners on each of our trails.

In addition, we participated with Trail of Tears Association conferees in an all-day tour of Trail of Tears sites. Included were the Cherokee Nation historic sites in Tahlequah, OK and the nearby Cherokee Heritage Center. The historic Murrell Home and Fort Gibson were also on the itinerary.

At the Partnership's Leadership Council meeting, there was a clear focus on the necessity of multi-year planning by the federal agencies and trail support groups like OCTA.

At the Awards Dinner, OCTA Board member Edna Kennell received the Outstanding Achievement Award for her leadership in helping to establish the new National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, WY. Jere Krakow received the Outstanding Government Partner Award.

New Partnership officers are: Chair, Derek Blount of the North Country Trail Association; Vice-Chair, Ross Marshall of the Santa Fe Trail Association; Secretary, Kent Wimmer of the Florida Trail Association; and Treasurer, Liz Bergeron of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. (Liz replaces Jim Budde, the Partnership's long-time Treasurer.) Bill Watson, OCTA's representative to the Partnership, who is completing his term on the Executive Committee, chaired the Nominating Committee.

— Ross Marshall

Headquarters (Continued From Page 3)

teer effort this COED product has been.

In addition, donations of time, programming, technical assistance and a NPS Challenge Cost Share grant are all a part of the equation. Thank you Bob and Barbara Kabel for transforming an OCTA dream into a reality.

We know of several showings of OCTA's new video *Saving a Legacy: The Oregon-California Trail*. Larry Fritz premiered "his" video in November to a group in Quincy, CA. Bill Watson, with an "advance" copy, in October shared our film at the 8th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Fort Smith, AR. Bill remarked that there were nothing but positive comments about this production.

Many of OCTA's chapters have already purchased copies for their meeting programs and check-out privileges for other community groups. Public Relations Committee Chair John Krizek, who spearheaded the production of the video, is interested in hearing any feedback from such showings.

There are also other ways to spread the word about OCTA and trails preservation. We are happy to report that Suzanne Vinduska of our Headquarters office is representing OCTA while she volunteers her time and talents as a member of the Education Committee for the Lewis and Clark Signature Events in Kansas City in 2004.

- Kathy Conway, Headquarters Manager

OCTA Fund Drive Underway

The Annual Fund Raising Drive for OCTA trails preservation efforts is now underway.

Last year nearly 250 members contributed nearly \$20,000 to help meet the challenge of preserving the emigrant trails.

Donations can be earmarked for several specific uses, including:

Endowment – to enhance OCTA's long-term financial stability

Annual Fund – for headquarters operations, staff development and special needs.

Designated Funds – Supplemental funding for specific projects, including Preservation, Archaeology, Graves & Sites/Trail Marking, COED, Trail Mapping, Special Publications, and Education.

Contributions can be sent directly to OCTA at P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051. Contributions can be made in cash or with a VISA or MasterCard. All gifts to OCTA are tax deductible.

For more information or if you have questions, contact OCTA Vice President Richard Pingrey, annual fund drive chairman, at (509) 697-4765, e-mail >RJPingrey@email.msn.com<

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OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 1019 / Independence, MO 64051-0519 / (816) 252-2276

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ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OCTA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE FULL EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

For The Visitor: A Short Primer On Kansas Trail History

By Jim Bradley

What would you call the greatest migration in American history? It began in 1847 and continued until the railroads opened the west to easier settlement near the end of the Civil War. The great migration was the Oregon-California Trail.

It began with a crossing from the west bank of the Missouri River, then wound across what would become northeast Kansas and into Nebraska. This became known as the Independence Road.

There was also a trail that began at St. Joseph (Missouri) and went west past Seneca and Marysville, joining the Independence Road northwest of Marysville. This became known as the St. Joe Road.

The Independence Road followed the Santa Fe Trail southwest from Westport until near present-day Gardner. Here the trail turned northwest and continued generally toward Topeka.

Near Topeka the trail crossed the Kaw River and continued onward to St. Marys. Also, at times the trail continued westward from Topeka to Uniontown, near Willard, on the south side of the Kaw, then crossing near the present-day bridge over the Kaw; thence, to St. Marys.

From St. Marys the trail continued to the Red Vermillion River crossing that was maintained by Louis Vieux, located about four miles northeast of the town of Louisville, in Pottawatomie County.

Here the trail took a more northwesterly tack and continued to Cannonball Creek (now Rock Creek) just south of Westmoreland. From here it branched in two directions, one to the



northwest and one to the north.

As the trail went north/northwest it crossed into southern Marshall County, crossing the Black Vermillion River southwest of Frankfort. It continued on northwestward to Alcove Spring and the Independence Crossing of the Big Blue River located about six miles southwest of Marysville.

The St. Joe Road passed through what is now Marysville, it crossed the Big Blue River west of the city and proceeded to the northwest, where it merged with the Independence Road.

After crossing the Big Blue River, the trail continued northwestward, past the Cottonwood Crossing, east of Hanover near the Hollenberg Station, and on in a northwesterly direction, crossing into Nebraska at the state line west of Lanham.

Once the Independence Road crossed into Nebraska, it followed the Platte River northwestward in Nebraska, crossed into Wyoming, Idaho, and into Oregon ending at Baker City, Oregon. In southwestern Wyoming the trail branched southwestward into Utah, Nevada, and into California.

KANZA Convention Tours Will Visit Swales, River Crossings

Three tours are planned during the Manhattan convention to see the swales left from the Great Migration. These three tours are:

Kansas River Crossing. This tour will start at the Kansas Museum of History, where you will be able to visit the museum and the research library. It will continue along the trail where we will stop and walk the Fitzgerald swales, visit the Herbert Green Memorial to view the swales and the site of "mass Indian burial," then on to the famous Louis Vieux Cemetery.

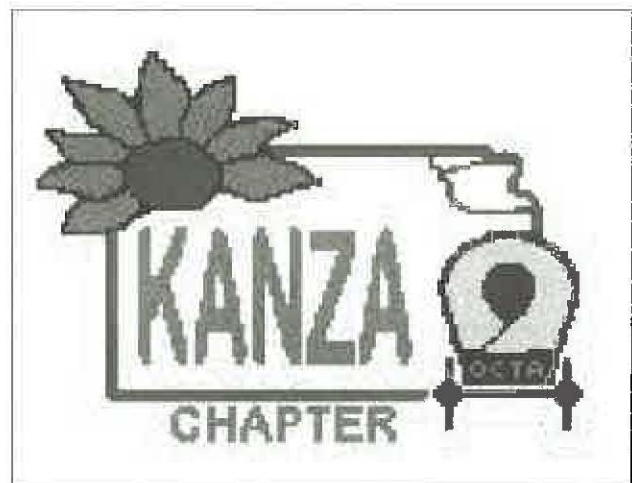
Cannonball Run. This tour will start at the Vieux Cemetery, with a stop at Scott Springs to view the covered wagon and oxen, sculpted by our own Ernie White. We will also visit the S. M. Marshall gravesite and take you to view the swales in Rosemary's Meadow northwest of Blaine.

Between the Blues. This tour will take you to visit trail sites between the Big and Little Blue Rivers in Marshall and Washington Counties. It starts at the Lower Blue Crossing, then goes across the river to Alcove Spring. We will then travel north, visit the Historic Trails Park west of Marysville and the Matsin gravesite. Before we reach the junction of the Independence and St. Joe Road, we will stop and view the swales (14 wide) and a couple of emigrant graves on the

Pacha property. The bus will then travel to the Cottonwood Creek Crossing and the Hollenberg Station.

In addition, on the last day of the convention, Fort Riley will host tours of the historic fort, its museums, Cavalry Charge, and a barbeque.

-- Jim Bradley



Trails, Swales, Forts, Pancakes, Books & Banquets

Planning is moving ahead for the OCTA 2003 Convention, August 12-16 in Manhattan, Kansas.

The convention theme is "Trails, Tallgrass and Trials." Visitors will enjoy a pancake breakfast, buffet lunches, the Awards Banquet and a barbecue on Saturday. The program includes three pre-tours, three convention tours and two post tours. There are fifteen speakers and eight workshops.

The convention coincides with the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, the 160th anniversary of the Oregon Trail, the 150th anniversary of Fort Riley (highlighted by a Saturday tour), and the 140th anniversary of the Quantrill raid on Lawrence, KS.

You are going to see swales you didn't know existed.

Sights include the Bluejacket crossings on the Wakarusa to Pappin's Ferry, Kaw River crossings, Louis Vieux ferry and champion elm, Roushi and Marshall graves, Alcove Spring, the Independence crossing on the Big Blue, and Cottonwood Ranch.

A special exhibit at the Kansas State Historical Society Museum is planned, as is an evening tour of an immaculately restored Victorian theater. Other special tours include the Underground Railroad, Konza Tallgrass Prairie Bison tour and a special hiking tour in some of the nicest swales in Kansas.

Speakers' topics will include Native American topics, diaries, trail branches, local trails, military history, OCTA history, cholera, trail personalities and a photo tour of interesting murals along the trail.

The presenters are from a broad cross section of authors, educators and first-rate trail buffs.

Workshop topics include archaeology, women's clothing, black powder guns, quilts, COED, collections, chapters and conventions.

A raffle and a silent auction will delight you with some very special merchandise. Chapter meetings, the bookroom and Authors' Night will also be part of the events.

If you can find time, Manhattan has some good dining places and a museum of fine art. A linear park offers hiking if you want to keep up your exercise. There are plenty of hotels, motels and campgrounds nearby.

If you are driving, you will find Manhattan just a few miles north of Interstate 70 in eastern Kansas.

Questions? Give us a call. Chapter president Ken Martin (785) 744-3333 or convention chair Vern Osborne (785) 494-2449 will be happy to answer your questions.

Keep up to date on the convention web site at KANZA-OCTA.org. E-mail any of the members listed on the web page.

-- Glenn Larson



Author Don Coldsmith Will Keynote Convention

Kansas native and author Don Coldsmith will be the keynote speaker at the Manhattan OCTA Convention in August.



Coldsmith has written 40 books, many of them historical novels, and has been a finalist for the Western Writers of America Golden Spur Award six times.

There are more than six million copies in print of *The Spanish Bit Saga*, a series that focuses on the Indians of the Great Plains from the time of first contact with Europeans.

Coldsmith was born in Iola, KS and graduated from high school in Coffeyville. He earned a doctorate in medicine and had a family practice in Emporia, KS for 30 years until he closed it in 1988 to devote his time to writing.

Coldsmith is a past president of the Western Writers of America. He has been named a Distinguished Kansan by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. In 1995, he won the Edgar Wolf Award for lifetime contributions in literature. He is a frequent speaker and lecturer on topics dealing with the Great Plains and the American West.

His keynote address to OCTA will concern Native American use of the trails, following up with pioneer use and modern use.

Visit OCTA and the
OCTA Bookstore
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News From The Chapters

Wyoming



OCTA's Ron Lund, left with Dru Bower of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming

Southwest

The SWOCTA Trail Turtles used the fall mapping week to visit the Southern Trail area from just west of the Pima & Maricopa villages to Painted Rock State Park. Emigrants referred to the Pimas as the Pimo Indians and the Painted Rock petroglyphs as hieroglyphics.

Doyle and Fiona Reed covered this area years ago to set up the Anza Trail corridor. This was before the GPS was available to more accurately locate the trail on the topographic maps. We were able to refine the maps Doyle had previously prepared.

Since the Tompkins' home in Chandler, AZ is within an hour of where we planned to begin, that was our meeting place on the evening of October 9. We also returned to this base after three days of mapping to shower, re-supply and have an evening out before returning to the field for another three days of work.

The desert heat picked that week to return for a last visit and by mid-afternoon many of the days were too hot to continue. The nights, however, were mild and enjoyable.

This part of the Southern Trail between the Pima villages
(continued on page 13)

Dru Bower of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW) spoke at the Wyoming Chapter meeting in November. She gave an enlightening presentation of the problems their association has with permitting oil and gas well sites.

Both the BLM and environmental groups are her big worry. President Clinton, in the waning hours of his administration, declared the viewshed theory for the four Congressionally designated trails that would protect the trails from oil and gas development if the drilling site could be viewed from the trail.

Dru related that she quickly realized what this would do to oil and gas development in Wyoming. Since the trail goes through prime areas of oil and gas activity, a ten mile withdrawal would be horrendous to work with. With no roads or drilling allowed in this area, much of Wyoming's production would be severely limited.

Then she learned that there was an outfit named OCTA which was organized to protect the trail. She thought that this was just another environmental group that she would have real trouble with. She contacted Wyoming OCTA and presented her fears. Our members immediately told her that the trail must be protected, but that we were not in existence to prohibit reasonable drilling near the trail.

It did not take long for the oil companies represented by PAW to contact OCTA and invite us to inspect areas they intended to drill. A new cooperation and understanding soon developed between PAW and Wyoming OCTA.

The Bush Administration dropped the 10-mile viewshed policy and the drilling activity reverted to the original 1/4 mile width on each side of the trail. Bower strongly stated that PAW would respect and protect the trail and invited us to advise them when we think viewshed needs to be discussed.

She indicated that PAW has real problems with local administrators of the BLM and with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). To define rules more clearly the BLM is working on a new trails management plan.

Dru indicated that working with Wyoming OCTA has been a pleasant and educational experience. It was suggested that Bower present the views of the Petroleum Association of Wyoming at a national OCTA meeting, emphasizing that the trail and the oil and gas industry can live together to the benefit of both.

-- Lee Underbrink & Pinky Ellis

Southwest (cont'd from page 12)

and the Yuma Crossing of the Colorado was heavily used as several alternate trails came together to journey this last part of the Gila River Valley. Just west of the Pima Villages, the river turns north before returning south and then west again.

This is even today called the Gila bend, with the Arizona city of Gila Bend at its western end. It was a 45-mile stretch of desert with no water. Wagon parties would spend a few days in the Pima and Maricopa villages, trading for food and preparing for the *jornada*, or dry journey, ahead.

Several years ago, the OCTA mid-year board meeting was held in Tempe and those in attendance had the chance to travel parts of the trail we mapped during our week.

As we made our way across the *jornada*, water was consumed in large quantities. On our first day, Thursday, we hopped-scooted along, following the trace still visible. Our first night we camped next to the trail, less than a mile from the large Butterfield Land Fill near Mobile. Fortunately, the southeast corner of the mile square land fill has destroyed only a small amount of the trail, but the view shed is impacted both east and west for miles due to the height of this man-made "mountain." We also learned that this facility begins work at 4 a.m., with trucks coming in and backing up to unload - "beep -beep - beep." A rather early alarm clock.

On Friday we found the two-track road contains carsonite markers placed every tenth of a mile to inform us we are following the variety of trails that passed through the area. The only problem is, the actual trail is anywhere from under the road to about a fourth mile away. So much for authenticity.

The second night we camped just east of Butterfield Pass,



Markers at the location of the 1851 Oatman Massacre. The Oatman family was traveling alone when attacked by Yavapai Indians, killing all but 3 of the family.

- Photo by Ken White



The Trail Turtles stop for a well-earned lunch in the shade of the palo verde trees.

— Photo by Judy DeVault

also known as Pima Pass. We could still see the land fill, but fortunately were far enough away to miss the early wake-up call. However, it was a Saturday morning and soon the weekend four-wheelers showed up. Then 100-plus boy scouts came hiking through. The pass area is very popular with the city folk and the signage increased. After lunch we came upon a group target shooting and the automatic gunfire was enough to make us leave the area to return after the weekend.

On Sunday we went to the Painted Rock area, mapping from where the trail comes out of the river valley west of Gila Bend and heads for Painted Rock. We mapped about two miles by lunch and the heat was too intense to go out again. Some drove over to see the Oatman Massacre site a few miles to the west. Camping that night was at the state park.

Monday morning was spent finishing up in the Painted Rock area, having lunch in Gila Bend and returning to the area west of Butterfield Pass where we had avoided the target shooters. All was quiet with the weekend over and nary a person or vehicle interrupted our work. Camp that night was at a place called Happy Camp, site of a Butterfield Stage Station.

Our last morning of work, Tuesday, we continued to work west, almost finishing the *jornada*. This area is definitely desert, the saguaro cactus adorns the landscape, along with other varieties of thorned wonders. Even in this time of drought, the desert has beauty. Emigrants commented on the plants they had never seen before, even though their journey was getting desperate.

It was another fruitful week of mapping the Southern Trail. A short trip was planned for late November, returning to an area along the Rio Grande in New Mexico. The Elephant Butte Reservoir water level is so low it has exposed trail areas we want to see while we can.

We mourn the death of chapter member Bob Lee of Thatcher, Arizona. His attendance, support and encouragement to the chapter will be greatly missed.

— Rose Ann Tompkins

Gateway



Gateway officers, left to right, Carole McClellan, Suzette McCord-Rogers, Sandy Smith, Bob Hamilton, John Atkinson, and Paul Dittmore.

The Gateway chapter elected its 2003 officers at its annual membership meeting and dinner held at the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph.

Officers for 2003 are: President John Atkinson; Past President Bob Hamilton, Vice President Carole McClellan; Board Members Pete Duncan, Millie Humphreys, Suzette McCord-Rogers, Sandy Smith, and Glenn Calhoun. Serving as committee chairs are Paul Dittmore, Preservation, and Jackie Lewin, Communications.

The membership meeting completed a year that included two field trips along the St. Joe Road and three educational programs for the public. New board members are in the process of planning for 2003.

-- Jackie Lewin

Crossroads

The Utah Crossroads chapter closed out its trail activities for the year with a memorable two-day field trip to Mountain Man rendezvous sites, with a 22-vehicle caravan guided by Dr. Fred Gowans.

A side trip to the Lombard Ferry crossing on the Green River and the Simpson's Hollow burned wagons site, was an added bonus to a great road trip – and all on paved surfaces!

A Saturday evening presentation by Fred at the Pinedale Mountain Man Museum and the stop at the Pierre's Hole Battle site on Sunday were special events on the well-planned field trip.

The beautiful October weather on Sunday with the scenic beauty of the snow-capped Wyoming and Teton Mountain Ranges made this outing a perfect way to end the year's field activities.

On October 26, the Fort Douglas Military Museum presented the 140th celebration of the founding of Fort Douglas. Long time Utah Crossroads member and military history buff, Charles Hibbard, presented a symposium on the History of Fort Douglas at the event. Chuck is also well-versed in the history of Wendover Army Air Force Base and the B-29 and Atomic Bomb training that took place there.

In September, Crossroaders Boyd Blanthorn and Roy Tea, with the assistance of two scout leaders and three scouts from the Weston, Idaho, area, placed five iron-rail markers at Bartelson-Bidwell trail sites in Idaho.

As project manager, Roy has effectively involved several Boy Scouts working on their Eagle Scout project in the Crossroad Chapter's iron-rail trail marking program. Us old guys need all the young, strong bodies we can get!

Chapter elections will be held in January during the first meeting and lecture of the new year, and the results will be published in the next issue of *NFP* and Utah Crossroads newsletter.

Crossroads Editors Jerry Dunton and Angie Larkin have announced that the chapter newsletter will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Utah Crossroads wishes all OCTA members and chapters a happy, productive and fun-filled trail year.

- Al Mulder

Trails Head

On November 14, the Trails Head Chapter held its annual election of officers for the coming year in conjunction with a chapter meeting. The slate of officers was presented to the membership and then a vote taken.

Officers for 2003 are as follows: Dick Nelson, President; Eva Allen, Vice President; Jim Lee, Secretary; and Jim Budde, Treasurer.

A short program was presented by Dick Nelson on his experiences while on a trek with the Wyoming Chapter on the Sublette Cutoff last summer.

Trails Head will begin a mapping project using the MET Manual guidelines starting in 2003. The area to be mapped will focus on Jackson County in Missouri and Johnson County in Kansas. Both of these counties are in the Greater Kansas City Metro area. The project will require many man hours of work but should be a fun and educational chapter activity.

A board meeting was slated for January to start planning chapter activities for the year. When spring arrives, we plan to be ready to get out on the trail with a trek or two and other events as the year progresses.

-- Dick Nelson

KANZA

An Oregon-California Trails Association marker has been placed at the Susan Haile gravesite, northwest of Kenesaw, Nebraska.

When Susan Haile died in 1852, her grave was not a lone grave along the Oregon California Trail. Many emigrants had died and were buried in the midst of the "cholera corridor."

At the dedication, a lecture about deaths along the Oregon Trail was followed by the dedication of the marker at the gravesite.

Dr. Richard Fruehling of Grand Island, Nebraska, presented a public lecture, "Death on the Oregon Trail" at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Kenesaw Senior Center. Dr. Fruehling discussed medical knowledge and practices along the pioneer trails.

Ann Reaves a great great granddaughter of Susan's, along with her husband H.D. Reaves, of North Carolina, attended the lecture and unveiled the OCTA marker at the dedication ceremony.

Local OCTA members in attendance were: Charter member Gilbert Adrian, Steve and Carole Meyer, and Will Locke all of Hastings, Nebraska, and Ken and Arleta Martin from Oketo, KS.

Susan was born in Cape Girardeau, MO. She married Richard C. Haile in 1836 in Sumner County, TN. They settled in Lafayette County, MO, about 1840 and had five children by the time they left for California in 1852. Her husband had been a 49er and, after two years in the mines, returned to Missouri for his family. Susan died on June 2. Richard and the children continued on to California and settled in Solano County.

— Arleta Martin



Susan Haile descendent Ann Reaves and her husband, H.D. Reaves, help unveil the grave marker.

Northwest

Sixty-one Northwest chapter members and friends took part in an end-of-summer picnic, held on an unseasonably warm late September afternoon at Fort Borst Park along the Skookumchuck River in Centralia, WA.

The potluck picnic included a presentation by Chuck Hornbuckle on the Cowlitz Trail from Fort Vancouver to Puget Sound, appropriate because the trail went directly under the kitchen in the building where the picnic was held.

After lunch, National Trails Preservation Officer Dave Welch provided a report on Oregon Trail preservation efforts.

In October, 15 hikers explored the Free Emigrant Road near Crescent Lake. Participants included OCTA members, members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council, representatives of the Forest Service and Jere Krakow of the National Park Long Distance Trails Office.

Meanwhile, planning is underway for a May 3-4 tour of fur trader, missionary, soldier and settler sites in Stevens County, to be led by Lethene Parks.

Starting in Spokane, the tour will include stops at Tshmakain, St. Paul's Mission, Fort Colville and a presentation on migration into the area by Oregon Trail emigrants and their descendants.

— From the Northwest Trail Journal newsletter

CA-NV

The California-Nevada Chapter's 2003 Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 5 College of the Redwoods in Eureka.

The Symposium will include a Saturday evening banquet at the Ingomar Club, located in the historic Carson Mansion.

For details on the program, contact Tom Hunt at 1936 H Street, Eureka CA 95501 (707) 442-1839.

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"I urge all OCTA members to make use of this wonderful new tool, to help tell the trails story." Randy Wagner, President

Executive producer: John Krizek
Written and directed by: Larry Fritz



Funded by the National Park Service



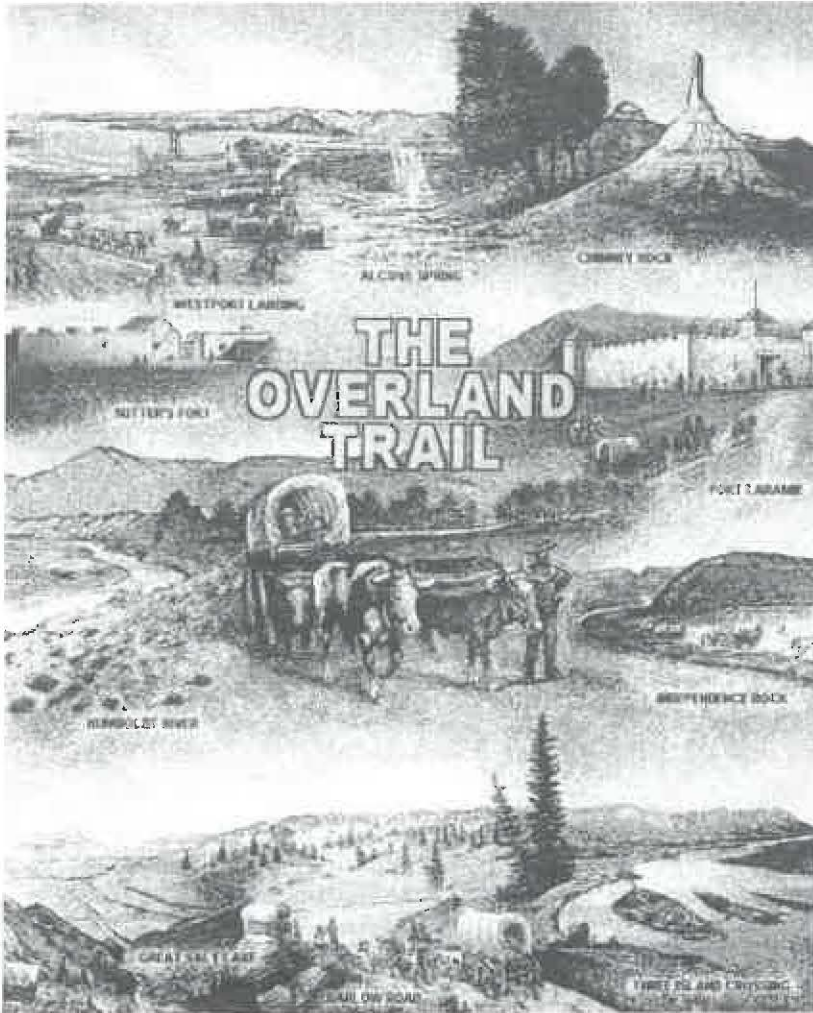
Produced by the Oregon-California Trails Association

For more information visit: www.octa-trails.org and www.nps.org

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Census of Overland Emigrant Documents COED Volunteers

Bringing the *Emigrant Names* software to market is a wonderful landmark for OCTA. And while we are far past the "jumping off point" for the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents, COED truly is a project that may never be completed. Remaining to be surveyed are journals and diaries that have yet to be discovered, reminiscences that have yet to be catalogued, and much more. Consider, for example, the amount of work that might be involved in surveying newspapers of the Overland era.

We should already be thinking about the work in front of us, but we shouldn't be blamed for taking a deep breath and taking great pride in the fact that the *Emigrant Names* CD that is now available for mass distribution. We know it will be a tremendous resource for anyone with an interest in the Overland epic.

It would not have been possible without the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by OCTA members and friends of OCTA. Everyone deserves a handshake and a salute, but the best we can do for now is offer this list of OCTA volunteers who contributed to the development of the COED database. We suspect the list isn't complete. If your name isn't on the list and you think it should be, please let us know.

Trudy Ackerman, Judy Allen, Karen Anderton, Will Bagley, Adah Bakalinsky, Pat Barrett, Lynn Baskins, Mike Bateman, Eddie Bateson, Sara Bettencourt, David Bigler, Betty Bisbee, Victor Bolen, Henry D. Boppart, Pat Brace, Rochelle Brannian, Dr. Greg Bronchos, Randy Brown, Helen F. Bryant, Don Buck, James Budde, William C. Bullard, Larry Bunse, Mary Ann Burrows, Arlene C. Buschert, Ed Buschert, Carol Ann Buss, Florence D. Carlsen, Marion N. Carter, Lyndia Carter, Robert Carter, Joy L. Cassidy, Marguerite Christopherson, Kathy Conway, Jane P. Coverstone, Doug Crary, Eloise Crary, Howard Crockett, Helen Crowley, John Dailey, LuAnn Darling, Doris Dart, John Davis, Fred DeGregory, Paul Dietzman, Chuck Dodd, Pat Doerner, Ann B. Doolen, James A. Doubleday, Susan Badger Doyle, Sandra S. Dragoo, Cecelia Dromgoole, Dorothy Duffin, Reg Duffin, Charlene D. Duncan, Fred Dykes, Elizabeth Ebbott, Buzz Eckenburg, G. W. Edwards, Deborah J. Ellis, Cherie Evanhoe, Elizabeth M. Ferris, Shirley Fraker, Gregory Franzwa, John R. Gibson, Cherie Gilpatrick, Laura Glasspoole, Evelyn Gorthy, Dale Gronewald, Randall E. Ham, Robert J. Hamilton, Virginia Hamerness, Andy Hammond, Joanne C. Hammond, John A. Haner, Phyllis Harding, Glenn R. Harrison, George Hesse, Carol Hight, Levida Hileman, William E. Hill, Fenwick Hill, Mary Holden, Helen V. Holmes, Arthur C. Hope, Jean Howe, Eleanor M. Huggins, Thomas H. Hunt, Vivian Hytrek, Sue Jacobson, Jim Jarrett, Pat P. Jensen, Ralph Jenson, Grace L. Jeschke, David H. Johnson, Elizabeth C. Johnson, Leona C. Johnson, Lois E. Johnson, Lois M. Johnson, Larry Jones, Barbara Kabel, Bob Kabel, Bea Kabler, Sherry Kaseberg, Kent Kemmerling, Bergita R. Kennedy, Edna Kennell, Nona Kimball, Norine D. Kimmy, Wendy

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