

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

WINTER 2013

VOL XXVIII NO. 1

## Workshop for Trails Organizations

### NPS Sets Out to Energize Groups

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

Common challenges attracted three dozen representatives from thirteen National Historic and Scenic Trails to Albuquerque, NM, in December for three days of intensive collaborative work intended to build capacity in the trails community.

Hosted by Intermountain Region Long Distance Trails Office Supt. Aaron Mahr and his staff, the workshop led to greater connection among the trails representatives, action plans for individual trails associations, and the affirmation that by working together for the whole National Trails System, the individual associations also enhance their own positions.

"We are all dealing with declining numbers of members. We are all dealing with threats to resources. We are recognizing that this is going to affect us now," Mahr said. "We are starting to coalesce into something that is much greater than our individual parts."

NPS Intermountain Regional

Director John A. Wessells told participants the workshop was one way to work toward four guiding principles in a Call to Action initiated 18 months ago by the National Park Service. Those principles are connecting people to the land, advancing the educational mission, preserving America's special places,

to preserve critical places on the Nez Perce, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Pacific Crest, Ala Kahakai, and seven other National Scenic and Historic Trails, Gary Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System said.

"This is the first time that the federal agencies have considered the needs for the the National Trails System as a whole rather than focusing on only one or several of the trails," Werner said. He encouraged the trails community to "work together ... to advocate for this funding."

Further, the U.S. Department of Energy is developing a database of critical environmental areas to avoid or minimize disruption to lands from energy production and distribution projects. DOE wants to include the location of National

Scenic and Historic Trails in the database of areas to avoid.

Calling this intention "a breakthrough," Werner said this database will enable better planning of the routes for transmission lines "to minimize



*Youth participants at the Trails Workshop shared their ideas on trail activities, events, and opportunities that would encourage younger people to become involved with trails associations. (Photo by Candy Moulton)*

and enhancing organizational excellence.

Several significant steps have already been taken. Money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund is being sought in the proposed 2014 federal budget to purchase lands from willing sellers

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# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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## News from the Plains

## Spring Issue Deadline

**February 25, 2013**

Send materials to  
nfpocta@aol.com

## 2012-13 OCTA Officers

Officers, except Preservation Officer, are voting members of the Board.

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# OCTA Publishes New Book: *Our Faces Are Westward*

By Kathy Conway  
Headquarters' Manager

In 1852, a sickly Edward Jay Allen traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and joined a wagon train en route to Oregon. Allen became exhausted by heat and insufficient water but still managed to lead a small group down the Snake River on a raft.

Following a near-fatal but exciting adventure over falls and rapids, Allen arrived at Fort Boise

where he took over a ferry operation.

After three weeks at Fort Boise, Allen struggled westward to Portland on foot, short of both food and water. Read about his trials and tribulations in *Our Faces Are Westward: The 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward Allen*.

This newest publication from the Oregon-California Trails Association relies on Allen's long-forgotten letters and is supplemented by his recently discovered trail diary,

an unpublished manuscript written later in life, and letters written to Allen by his siblings as he traveled West.

Filled with detail, poetry, and humor, these documents and 26 images bring the emigrant trail experience to life in a remarkably literate and entertaining fashion.

Edited by Dennis M. Larsen and Karen L. Johnson, *Our Faces Are Westward* has a list price of \$25. Order your copy today by calling Headquarters at 888-811-6282.

## Board Nomination Deadline February 15

By Bill Martin  
Nomination & Leadership  
Committee Chair

Nominations are now being accepted for the National Board of Directors.

Each year, elections are held for four positions on the Board. Board members are expected to provide leadership for the affairs of the

Association and attend two Board meetings, one held in conjunction with the annual Convention and a Mid-Year meeting usually held in the spring.

Financial assistance is available to help defray costs of the attending the Mid-Year meeting. Board members are also responsible for electing OCTA officers.

In order to be a candidate for the Board of Directors, all that is required is a short statement of qualifications and experience and the endorsements of three members of OCTA.

Candidacy papers should be sent to Bill Martin at [bmartinoccta@gmail.com](mailto:bmartinoccta@gmail.com).

## NPS Workshop held in Albuquerque

*Continued from Page 1*  
impacts to the National Scenic and Historic Trails."

In recent action the Bureau of Land Management has put National Scenic and Historic Trails as a stand-alone "checkoff" item on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluations, ensuring that these resources will be routinely considered, according to Rob Sweeten of the BLM in Utah. He supported the federal advocacy work of trails organizations that involves the annual Advocacy Week (known as "Hike the Hill") but said there is

more to do. "[It is] not just hiking the hill, but also hiking your way to the local BLM office," Sweeten said.

Werner acknowledged that the BLM is "far out ahead" with comprehensive policy manuals in managing the National Trails System as compared with other federal agencies.

"We need to look inward and see how we can be better partners all together and work to the betterment of all the trails," Mahr said. "There is a sense of urgency about this."

"I think we've done pretty well

during the last four years...but we need to think bigger," Wessells said. "We need our partners to be strong ... we cannot do it alone."

The workshop included sessions on leadership development and membership recruitment, youth involvement with the national trails, and sessions to encourage stronger and closer collaboration with the tribes along the trails.

Among the OCTA members attending the workshop were President Duane Iles, Vice President John Krizek, Association Manager Travis Boley, and Board Member Jere Krakow.

# Marking and Preservation Workshop Attracts 26

*By David Welch  
Chair, OCTA Mapping  
and Marking Committee*

Members of OCTA's Mapping and Marking Committee, and staff of the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and University of Utah met in Salt Lake City from October 30 through November 1 to plan mapping activities and an update to the OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails Manual.

Thirty-eight individuals participated in the three-day workshop led by Dave Welch (OCTA) and John Cannella (NPS). Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails Intermountain Region Office in Santa Fe, also participated in the sessions. Funding for the workshop was provided by the NPS through a task on the cooperative agreement with OCTA and OCTA's Loomis Preservation Fund.

Highlights included presentations by the NPS on their trail mapping program and associated resources, an overview of the current MET Manual by Don Buck, one of the manual's principal authors, and a discussion of the use of Terrain Navigator Pro mapping software by Stafford Hazelett and John Winner. Winner also presented a description of the California-Nevada chapter's guide "Planning and Executing a Mapping Project." Ron Hall described the many capabilities of Google Earth.

The BLM was represented by Ray Kelsey, a recreational planner in the BLM Salt Lake City Office. He described two new manuals that the BLM has published describing their management

approach for historic trails. The manuals (NSHT Administrative Manual 6250 and NSHT Management Manual 6280) are a significant step forward in the BLM's management of trails and their setting. The manuals may be viewed and downloaded at the Google workshop site noted below.

OCTA's mapping committee has been working with the NPS to determine the status of mapping activities across the trails. The NPS provided a summary map that illustrates which USGS 7.5 minute quads have been mapped to MET standard. Conversely, it may be used to identify areas where mapping is needed.

OCTA also maintains an inventory of completed maps. Copies are at the NPS Salt Lake City Office and the Mattes Library in Independence, MO. Please contact Dave Welch at [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) for further information.

A central issue of the meeting was the how to handle sensitive trail-related information. Sensitive information in this context is historic and prehistoric archaeological information. It was agreed that in most cases the trail location and condition did not fall under these constraints, but artifacts associated with the trail do.

OCTA's existing archaeological policy with respect to this issue was discussed and confirmed. It was noted that OCTA members who are using metal detectors to find artifacts have been following that policy, the main feature of which is the prohibition of removing artifacts from the trail. All such activities must be

conducted under the supervision of a professional archaeologist.

The last day focused on organizing the update of the MET Manual. The effort was divided into three pieces: (1) the core text of the manual, (2) old material that may be deleted or modified, and (3) new material. In the latter category are descriptive material on GPS units and mapping software.

Another new item will be a "how to" guide based upon the CA-NV chapter's "Planning and Executing a Mapping Project." The goal is have most of the revision completed by February 1, 2013. The changes to the core text and basic MET methodology will be minor. There will be some refinement, but no major changes.

Workshop presentation materials are available at

<https://sites.google.com/site/oregoncaliforniatrail/home/salt-lake-workshop>.

Other reference material like the existing MET Manual is available at OCTA's website [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) in the preservation section.

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## Looking for a New Book?

### *Our Faces are Westward*

**Available at the OCTA  
Store**

**[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)  
888-811-6282**

# OCTA to Meet at End of the Oregon Trail

*By Jim Tompkins  
Convention Chair*

Emigrants did not come to the Oregon Country just to seek a quick profit then return home. They came here to live out the rest of their lives with their families and to produce the necessary comforts to make this as productive as possible.

The day their covered wagons reached the end of the marked trail—whether it was in Portland on the River Route, in Oregon City on the Barlow Road, in Fort Steilacoom on the Naches Pass Trail or Cowlitz Trail, or in the Willamette Valley on the Free Emigrant Road or Applegate Trail—was not just the end of the trail to the emigrants. It was also the beginning of the rest of their lives.

Those Oregon Trail emigrants needed to move forward and establish a farm or a business. They needed to build a house or a store and start or continue a family. They also founded communities and cities, established or strengthened governments, and began what is today our heritage.

During the last full week of July 2013, OCTA will hold its 31st annual convention in Oregon City, OR, hosted by Northwest Chapter. The theme will be “End of the Trail and Beyond.”

Emphasis will be on the last segments of the main trail—the River Route and the Barlow Road; Oregon City—the official End of the Oregon Trail; and the Willamette Valley—where the “beyond” of the emigrants’ lives started.

There will be many of the usual activities OCTA has come to expect from conventions — speakers, workshops, field trips, the book room, entertainers, music, and the banquet. There will be an authors’ night, luncheons, an auction and raffle, chapter meetings, as well as pre and post convention tours. This year there will be a living history night featuring local reenactors. The usual end-of-convention BBQ will be a salmon bake at the Big Wagons. And, a new event this year is a heritage fair offering opportunities to learn about all aspects of heritage, from genealogy to living history, and

from historic roses to historic cemeteries.

We cannot guarantee the weather, but July in Oregon City is usually nice—not too cold (usually in the low 80s) and not too wet (usually about an hour of drizzle a week).

We can guarantee you will see friends. We also guarantee that you will have the opportunity to have a good time, see new places, and learn new things.

For more information visit our website: [http://www.octa-trails.org/chapters/northwest/news\\_read.php?newsid=145](http://www.octa-trails.org/chapters/northwest/news_read.php?newsid=145)

## Auction Items, Volunteers Needed

The OCTA 2013 Convention will be held in Oregon City, OR, the week of July 22, 2013. (Yes, July)

Again this year there will be a raffle, silent auction, and live auction. The experienced auctioneer will select the few items for the live action. As coordinators for these events, we are seeking donations of various items or opportunities of interest to OCTA people.

These might be wearables, housegoods, books, a vacation weekend—anything that might be related to the trail or general history. Your large or small donation is welcome.

Please contact us if you’d like to donate auction items, and please support these events next July!

Also we welcome volunteers for the convention, to help staff the silent-auction room and to sell raffle tickets.

Tuck and Kay Forsythe  
OCTA Auction Coordinators July 2013  
701 E. First Avenue  
P O Box 1299 (mail address)  
Ellensburg, WA, 98926  
[forsythe@fairpoint.net](mailto:forsythe@fairpoint.net)  
509-925-2356  
509-899-1343





## Marketing Plan Now Underway

By John Krizek  
OCTA Vice President

The OCTA "Save the Trail" marketing campaign announced in the Fall issue of *NFP*—featuring display advertising and a direct mail pitch aimed at the readers of *American Heritage* magazine—got off to a late start, due to a reorganization of the publication. After 62 years as a commercial publishing company, *American Heritage* went through a transition to become a nonprofit foundation. The fall issue with the OCTA ad, originally scheduled to come out in late September, was thereby delayed, and is now slated to come out as a winter issue in January.

Meanwhile the direct mail portion of the campaign ran into the increasing competition of the fall election campaign, and was delayed to avoid that crush. The OCTA mailing to 7,500 readers of *American Heritage* in the western trail states went out the second week of November. As of this deadline, responses were just beginning to trickle in to headquarters.

Marketing chairman Pat Surrena will be monitoring the progress of the effort, designed to reach out to new audiences and increase OCTA membership.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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### OCTA Publishes New Book, Expands Marketing

By Duane Iles  
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

We have wound down another year. I hope it and the holidays were all you could wish for. It is time to look forward to 2013. I hope a lot of your plans will include OCTA and our goals.

Our publications committee has been busy ensuring our great *Overland Journal* and *NFP* continue to provide us with news and information. Our latest book, *Our Faces are Westward*, has been printed and is now available. Thank you to Deborah and Jon Lawrence for their work as Publications Committee Chairs. They have stepped down and Bill Martin is now serving as the Publications Committee Chair on a temporary basis. If anyone is interested in chairing this committee, let me know.

Pat Traffas of Johnson County, KS, has taken over as chair of the History and Archives Committee of OCTA. Pat has done an extraordinary job leading Trails Head Chapter as its President, and was also a key player in making our recent convention in Lawrence, KS, a great success.

Traffas is an excellent researcher and has the advantage of living in the area of our headquarters in Independence, MO. Please welcome and support her as she takes on this important role in this long-vacant committee. The story of what OCTA does is part of the trail heritage.

Membership recruiting is in high gear. The marketing committee has a mailing sent and soon

there will be an ad in *American Heritage*.

We have begun selling Business Sponsorships with good results. For the last several months, our membership numbers have remained relatively stable. We need the help of all members to build our membership. As I have said, unless we preserve OCTA, we cannot preserve our trails and their heritage.

Preservation work continues. Fern Linton and her friends continue to do a tremendous job in Wyoming. Dave Welch led a workshop for mapping/marketing that was very well attended. Hopefully we will get a big new crop of folks working on new projects from it.

Many of our preservation issues involve wind energy. Often the development sites are on private land and no law exists to control them leaving us little recourse.

Leslie Fryman has resigned as National Preservation Officer due to her work load. She will remain as the CA-NV preservation officer. In the meantime, your board will be working on a way to fill the position. If you have thoughts, let us know.

Winter weather limits work on the trails, but gives us the opportunity to reflect on ourselves and our future. We can plan for the summer and read a good trail book, especially *Our Faces are Westward*.

If you have thoughts about any of these projects or any issue regarding OCTA and the trails, feel free to contact me.

Happy New Year!

*Tucson Symposium Includes Tours of Southern Trail Areas*

By Travis Boley  
tboley@indepmo.org

Make plans to join OCTA in Tucson, AZ, March 14-16, 2013, for the "Historic Trails Across the Southern United States" Symposium at the Arizona State Historical Society. OCTA will be partnering with the Arizona State Historical Museum to host the program, with local planning by the Southern Trails Chapter. The Museum is located at the entrance to the University of Arizona campus, and fortunately, the University will be on spring break at that time.

OCTA will hold its Mid-year Board meeting on Thursday, March 14. Also March 14 the symposium gets underway with a series of speakers and a tour of the museum. On Friday, March 15, the symposium will feature additional presentations, while Saturday, March 16, will be devoted to tours of trail resources in southern Arizona. Two tours will be offered.

Tour A will venture south of Tucson on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and later emigration routes. Travel will be along the Santa Cruz River and the 1775-76 route of the de Anza expedition, which was later used as section of the route to California by gold seekers and emigrants. Highlights will include presentations and guided tours at the following sites: the San Xavier Mission "White Dove of the

Desert;" Pima County's Historic Canoa Ranch ruins and present-day working ranch (the only Spanish land grant in the Santa Cruz Valley); Tubac Presidio State Historic Park of 1752, which was Arizona's first state park; and Tumacacori Mission National Historic Park, established in 1691 by Father Kino. A 3.5 mile level hiking path along the Anza route connects Tubac and Tumacacori.

Tour B will venture east out of Tucson to Apache Pass. This tour will be guided by our Southern Trail "Trail Turtles." Highlights include the Butterfield Stage Station and route observing the traces of the route; a hike to the famous Apache Spring; and the 1864 Fort Bowie, which is managed by the National Park Service as a National Historic Site. Participants can walk the grounds of the extensive fort ruins and visit the post cemetery. A shuttle will be available for non-hikers. The Fort Bowie museum contains one of the remaining working heliographs that were in use during the Apache wars.

Symposium topics will include California volunteers, emigrant trails, Spanish Mission horses, Butterfield Overland Mail, Cooke's wagon road, Mexico's Mormon Community, and Kearny's march with the Army of the West.

A four-page insert detailing the symposium and featuring registration materials can be found in this issue of *News From the*

*Plains*. Online registration will also be available at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

Funds from the National Park Service will be provided to OCTA for use in placing signs along the Oregon and California National Historic Trail. These are for road signs and, where appropriate, for pedestrian signs on segments of the National Historic Trail routes. They are not for interpretive wayside exhibits.

The NPS has not yet launched its sign planning tool for OCTA, but chapters can begin developing a sign plan by visiting the Santa Fe Trail National Historic Trail website at [www.nps.gov/safe/planyourvisit/sign-standards.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safe/planyourvisit/sign-standards.htm). On that site, you can view the sign types and, most importantly, the guidance for use of the various sign types and steps to creating a sign plan.

Once you have taken the above step, please contact Steve Burns Chavez at [steve\\_burns@nps.gov](mailto:steve_burns@nps.gov) and he will provide a link and log in information for use on the new sign planning web tool. This will not only enable you to use the early version but it will also allow you to make a sign plan for both the Oregon and California National Historic Trails.

**Bookmark Our Site**  
**[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**

**888-811-6282**

# Annual Appeal Now Underway

*By Kathy Conway*  
*Headquarters Manager*

Contributions for the annual campaign are steadily coming in. Our goal this year is \$20,000. So far, we have collected over \$6,000. Listed below are the names of contributors. We truly appreciate their generosity. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time to make a difference. Please mail your check to OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051 or you may donate directly by visiting our website [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

The following members contributed:

Harry Abraham  
Dr. Jay A. Aldous  
LaVon Allen  
Jim Allison  
Lorraine Bennett  
Janet F. Boom  
Kelly Breen  
Dr Bonnie Breen-Wagner  
Ray Brubaker  
Glenn and Peggy Calhoun  
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Richard and Anne Trussell  
Linda Turner  
Harold and Marge Waitman  
Gil and Mary Ward  
David and Wendy Welch  
Nelson S. Weller  
Mary Ellen West  
John and Susie Winner

## OCTA Members win Writing Recognition

**Patricia Etter** won the first place Coke Wood award from Westerners International for the best article published in a journal by a Westerner. Her article, "Son of Sacagawea on the Southern Trail," was published in *Overland Journal*, volume 29 (Fall 2011):120-129.

Etter recently created a website that annotates all her publications dealing with southern route travel and includes photographs for each article. In addition there is an annotated supplemental bibliography on southern route trails, which is also illustrated, a map, and other links of interest.

Because OCTA members might be interested, we include the link to the site here: <http://patriciaettersouthwest.com>.

**Candy Moulton** won the 2012 Caroline Bancroft History Award, from the Denver Public Library/Western Research Division given for "Best Book of the Year" for her biography *Valentine T. McGillicuddy: Army Surgeon, Agent to the Sioux*. The Arthur H. Clark Company published the book.

*McGillicuddy* was the finalist for the 2012 Barbara Sudler Award, also given by the DPL for a book of Western history written by a woman.

The Bancroft Prize includes a \$3,000 cash award. In addition to her work as editor of *News From the Plains*, Moulton is the Executive Director of Western Writers of America.





# OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

1-888-811-6282

[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

## Business Sponsorship

Your business can become OCTA's partner to **SAVE THE TRAIL**. By joining with OCTA in its preservation mission, your business is participating in saving an important piece of our national history - the emigrant trails - These trails represent all those who traversed them in creating not only a better life for themselves but the intricate paths that helped make our great nation from sea to sea. In addition, your business will demonstrate to your patrons and customers your *commitment* to this grand cause.

For a low annual price of \$50 the Business Sponsorship Benefits are:

- **Increased patronage by tourists following the trails,** including OCTA members
- **Quarterly subscription to News from the Plains -** where your business name is listed
- **Listing of your business name on the OCTA website** with links to your company's website
- **Framed wall certificate** signifying your support
- **Window decal** identifying your business as a sponsor
- **OCTA Trail Map.**



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Annual Business Sponsorship Dues \$50

To pay by check - make payable to Oregon-California Trails Association

To pay by credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover) enter number and expiration date:

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Oregon-California Trails Association is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation.

## Business Sponsors

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First Commerce Bank	902 Broadway	Marysville KS

*Please Support These Businesses Who Support OCTA*

*Do you know a business along the trail that supports our Mission?  
You can obtain more information about this Business Sponsorship  
Program by contacting OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282.*

## CALENDAR

**March 14-16, 2013**  
*Mid-Year Board  
Meeting & Symposium*  
Tucson, AZ

**April 14-17, 2013**  
*International Trail Symposium*  
Scottsdale, AZ

**July 22 - 27, 2013**  
*OCTA Convention*  
Oregon City, OR

**Visit the OCTA Store**  
**[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**  
**1-888-811-6282**



NATIONAL

## FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the **National Frontier Trails Museum** offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

311 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • [www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org](http://www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org)



## **OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

In partnership with the Arizona History Museum

### **MID-YEAR NATIONAL BOARD MEETING and SOUTHERN TRAILS CHAPTER SYMPOSIUM**

*MARCH 14-16, 2013 Tucson, Arizona*

#### **“Historic Trails Across The Southern United States”**

The Arizona History Museum is the symposium headquarters and is located next to the University of Arizona in downtown Tucson. Parking is one block west of the museum in the Arizona Historical Society garage at the northeast corner of E. 2nd Street and N. Euclid Avenue. Use the E. 2nd Street entrance to the parking garage. Parking is free for museum visitors (validated in the museum).

There are two hotels within walking distance of the museum. The Marriott is right across the street and can be reached at (520) 882-4100. The Peppertree B and B Inn is three blocks to the west at 724 E University Blvd. and can be reached at (520) 622-7167. The Best Western is less than a mile to the west at 1015 N. Stone Ave. and can be reached at (800) 780-7234.

If you plan to go on the optional tours, be sure to bring hats, windbreakers, and sunscreen. If you go on the South Tour and want to go into Mexico, be sure to bring a valid passport.

#### **Thursday March 14, 2013:**

- 8 AM - 4 PM: Registration, Lobby
- 8 AM - 4 PM: OCTA National Board, Arizona History Museum Board Room
- 9:00 AM: Opening ceremonies, Arizona History Museum Auditorium  
Introduction of guests and partnering societies and agencies
- 9:15 AM: OCTA Film “Saving A Legacy”
- 10:15 AM: Break
- 10:30 AM: David Miller, “Southern Trails From Fort Smith, Arkansas”
- 12:00 PM: Lunch on your own. [Many restaurants within walking distance]
- 1:00 PM: Tom Sutak, “Cooke’s Wagon Road Through New Mexico & Arizona”
- 2:00 PM: Carolyn O’Bagy Davis, “Fourth Wife: Polygamy & Revolution”
- 3 - 4:30 PM: Museum Tour and Book Signing
- 6:00 PM: Dinner on your own

#### **Friday March 15, 2013:**

- 8 AM – 4 PM: Registration, Lobby
- 9:00 AM: Keynote speaker Andrew J. Masich, CEO and President of the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. “Guarding the Southern Trail: General Carleton and the California Volunteers”
- 10:00 AM: Break
- 10:15 AM: Michael Landon, “Overland Routes in the Southern Half of the United States: Sources in the LDS Church History Library”
- 11:15 AM: Patricia Etter, “The Elephant in the Canyon”
- 12:00 PM: Lunch on your own
- 1:00 PM: Tom Jonas, “Kearny’s March to California”
- 2:00 PM: Cecilia Bell, “Butterfield Overland Mail – First Woman Driver”
- 3:00 PM: Break
- 3:30 PM: “Juan Bautista de Anza Emigrant Trail,” presented by the National Park Service
- 4:30 PM: Authors Book Signing and Meet the Presenters



**Saturday March 16, 2013:**

***TOURS***

**Tour A – South.** The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, an NPS Millennium Trail. Travel along the Santa Cruz River; route of the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition (1775-76) and later California gold seeker emigrant route. On-site presentations and guided tours.

1. San Xavier del Bac Mission (“White Dove of the Desert”)
2. Pima County’s historic Canoa Ranch, ruins, and present day working ranch. (The only Spanish land grant in the Santa Cruz Valley.)
3. Tubac Presidio State Historic Park (1752). Arizona’s first state park. The largest and best preserved 18th century Spanish Presidio (fort) in the world.
4. Tumacácori Mission National Historic Park. Father Kino established Tumacácori as a mission in January 1691, making it the oldest mission site in what is now Arizona.

Both parks have restored ruins, museum, and restrooms facilities.

**NOTE:** A level four-mile hiking path along the Anza trail connects these two parks. **The hike is optional. Please write in the number of hikers on the designated area of the registration form if you plan to participate in the hike.**

**Tour B – East.** (Some Hiking/walking)

1. Gold Seeker Emigrant Route
  2. Butterfield Overland Mail and Stage Route
  3. Historic Apache Spring and Fort Bowie
- (Guided by our Southern Trail Chapter “Trail Turtles”)

Highlights will include:

1. Apache Pass
2. Butterfield Overland Mail and Stage Station and route observing the traces
3. Hike to the famous Apache Spring
4. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (1864). Walk the grounds of the extensive fort ruins and post cemetery, and visit the museum. (Shuttle will also be available for non-hikers.)

The Fort Bowie museum contains one of the remaining working heliographs, a military communication system stretching from eastern New Mexico through southern Arizona and northwest to Prescott.

Additional presentations and participation by the NPS staff.

All Gourmet Wraps include lettuce, tomato, Cheddar and Jack Cheeses, and a Mild Chipotle Aioli.

Your choices are:

1. Southwest Chicken Wrap: Roasted Red Peppers, Avocado, and Ranch Dressing
2. Cobb Wrap: Bacon, Avocado, Chopped Egg, and Bleu Cheese Dressing
3. Gourmet Veggie Wrap: Portabella Mushroom, Cucumber, Sprouts, Egg, Cheese, & Roasted Red Peppers

Box lunches also include Southwest coleslaw, chips, dessert, fruit, and drink.



**Registration Form – Tucson Symposium Tucson, Arizona, March 14-16, 2013**  
(Please print or type)

Names as they will appear on the name tags:

*OCTA Member? Other organization? Name of other org.:*

#1 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

#2 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION (SPEAKERS ONLY; TOURS NOT INCLUDED):**

Individual – One Day (indicate __ Thursday or __ Friday)	\$25.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
Individual – Two Day	\$45.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
Family – One Day (indicate __ Thursday or __ Friday)	\$35.00	\$ _____
Family – Two Day	\$60.00	\$ _____
Late Registration (after February 15)	\$15.00	\$ _____

**OPTIONAL TOURS:**

**TOUR A – SOUTH, Saturday, March 16, 8 AM – 5 PM**

8 AM – 5 PM (lunch included) \$55.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choices for lunch (see previous page for choices): 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in the numbers of hikers if you plan to take the 4-mile hike \_\_\_\_\_

**TOUR B – EAST, Saturday, March 16, 8 AM – 5 PM**

8 AM – 5 PM (lunch included) \$55.00 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choices for lunch (see previous page for choices): 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total for TOURS** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Instructions:** Make a copy of this page and mail with a check for the total amount to:

OCTA  
524 S. Osage St.  
Independence, MO 64050

To pay by VISA, MasterCard or Discover, please provide the necessary information and signature on this form.

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Cancellation Policy:** Prior to February 15, 2013, the total amount will be refunded for cancellations. From February 16 to March 1, 2013, only 50% of bus tour fees will be refunded. After March 1, 2013, no refund will be made, except those granted by the Board of Directors after the symposium for cases of extreme hardship that were applied for in writing.

**Special Needs:** If you have special needs, please attach a letter outlining your requirements to your registration form. Address the letter to Duane Iles, President of OCTA, 524 S. Osage St., Independence, MO 64050.

# Bounty Potash Project Threatens Hastings Cutoff of California Trail in Western Utah

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

One of the most iconic sections of the California National Historic Trail is being threatened by a developing Utah Salt Flats potash extraction project.

OCTA responded aggressively to the announcement of plans for a potash mine, which would threaten a pristine segment of the Hastings Cutoff trail in Western Utah. Crossroads Chapter preservation officer and chapter past president T. Michael Smith, worked with National OCTA leaders to develop a news release the week before Christmas, which was picked up by some 800 news media web sites around the world.

OCTA President Duane Iles wrote an official response to the Bureau of Land Management, requesting that the proposed mining project not be allowed to get to the permitting stage.

The news became a front page story on the *Salt Lake Tribune* on New Years Day.

As noted in the press release, the proposed Bounty Potash Project 120 miles west of Salt Lake City would obliterate an irreplaceable historic and scenic resource, according to Smith.

"We are very concerned that if this project is allowed to bring potash mining into the playa between Silver Island and Donner Springs at the foot of Pilot Peak, it will destroy one of the nation's most pristine historic trail segments," according to Smith.

"Over this trail, known as the



Map by T. Michael Smith

Hastings Cutoff, pioneers such as the 1846 Donner-Reed party struggled to survive. They and others attempting this long, dry, disorienting and sometimes soft-ground route, experienced many hardships. Cattle died, wagons were abandoned. Traveling this trail became one of the greatest sagas of the American westward expansion."

The historic trail goes right through the middle of the planned project, which would cover 104 square miles. Proposed by Mesa Exploration Corporation, the project is in the exploration and permitting stage and is being reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The proposed Bounty project is 15 miles north of the Intrepid Potlatch Wendover facility, which

covers 90 square miles on both sides of Interstate 80 east of Wendover, and includes extensive brine collection ditches and solar evaporation ponds. A similar mining project by the Magnesium Corporation near the eastern edge of the salt flats damaged a portion of the trail several years ago, and was subsequently abandoned in bankruptcy, leaving an extensive scar on the landscape.

"The mining venture would not only bring extensive surface damage, it would profoundly disrupt the area's hydrology that has been stable for thousands of years, and has allowed the trail trace to survive in largely unaltered form," according to Smith.

Additional photos can be viewed at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).



# Trail Turtles Seek, Find, Map Southern Trail Routes

*Story and Photos  
By Richard Greene and  
Rose Ann Tompkins*

The Trail Turtles mapping group was out on the trail in October, again working to identify trail segments. Sixteen mappers turned out for part or all of this October 2012 trip.

This mapping trip is the beginning of an effort to fill in the “gaps” of earlier mapping trips. The idea is to work from the Rio Grande west. The goal of this trip was to complete the mapping of two trails that left the river north of what is today Hatch, NM. Diaries tell us that some emigrants went more or less straight west, missing Foster’s Hole, and intersected Cooke’s Road beyond the water stop. The other trail went more north and into Cuervo Arroyo, following it upstream to join Cooke’s Road before Foster’s Hole. Some travelers used these routes before Fort Thorn was established on the river north of today’s Hatch, and some used it after Fort Thorn was established. Joe Allen was hired by the Las Cruces BLM some years ago to map and write a report on these two trails. Joe died in 1995. Although the report was never published, his notes and a rough draft of the report are on file at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. His report was very useful in looking for these trails, along with GLO maps, trail diaries, and Google Earth images.

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10

Tracy DeVault, Richard Greene and Mike Volberg arrived in

Deming, NM, on the evening of the Oct. 9 to install an OCTA historical marker at the John Chaffin gravesite.

They met Jane Childress (BLM, Las Cruces) early that morning in Deming, NM. Jane would supervise the placement of the



*Cam Wade at the grave of John Chaffin, Cooke’s Peak in the background. This OCTA marker was placed on Oct. 10. (Photo by Charles Townley.)*

marker and make sure that there would be minimal disturbance around the gravesite.

After an hour’s drive, the group arrived at the site near the trail landmark, Cooke’s Spring. At Jane’s direction this marker was placed at ground level. It had taken us a several years to get to this moment.

While in the area we discussed the Sun Zia Power project coming through the area. Jane thought that our knowledge of the trail would be useful to show if the power line went over the trail.

The group drove through Cooke’s Pass to the Massacre Peak mass grave site of Anton Brewer and eight Mexican herders killed by the Apaches. The mass grave was a large mound of small white rocks and on top of which are scattered some big rocks – it looked like a desecrated grave.

We went on to an old mining pit and by it were some boulders with mortar holes. We then mapped a section of trail with rust and some spectacular grooves in gray rock. After that, Tracy and Richard hiked up to the top of the nearby rocky bluffs to see a cave with rocks stacked in the front. Spectacular petroglyphs and more mortar holes could be found by the cave and on the slopes. After that, we all went back to check out the Fort Cummings cemetery and stage station.

Tracy had an old 1880s photo of a buggy beside Cooke’s Spring. Tracy and Richard scrambled over a nearby rocky ridge and believed they found the location from which the photo was taken. Walking to the building built over the spring we read and looked at a photo on the marker and noticed many buildings once existed around the spring. This could be why the buggy was there. The spring was used by the Atchison-Topeka-Santa Fe Railroad to supply water for locomotives; the railroad built the springhouse.

## THURSDAY, OCT. 11

This day involved mapping in Cooke’s Canyon, in an area of parallel swales down a steep hill near the western end of the canyon. Large rocks had been stacked along the sides of the trail – in some places the rocks were stacked as high as walls. Wagons had been grinding down rocks and there were assorted metal fragments, pieces of iron, and glass. The trail had some badly eroded sections.



# Trail Turtles...Map Some More

After lunch we did additional mapping back to Cooke's Spring. There was plenty of evidence of trail on the way back: lots of rust, glass, cans, and a nice muleshoe.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 12

We left for the trip to our first mapping spot near the Double S ranch. After covering several miles on ranch roads, we parked close to the "Cardinal's Hat" rock formation. It was the start of mapping the Lower Road from Fort Thorn to where it joined Cooke's Wagon Road. We split into two groups with some going east and some going west. Tracy had provided us with all the waypoints we would be checking out on the aerials for this trip — we downloaded waypoints into our individual GPS units and would follow these waypoints on the "Go To" feature of our GPS.

For those going west the trail was easy to see until after some distance we got to a fence line about two miles out; then it disappeared. We found a solder top can. Nothing was visible at the junction of the two roads. We found two cartridges (1870s), some rust, and metal fragments on the trail. This is close to a line shack with three graves from the Lake Valley War (more on that later). The line shack has been fixed up since our last visit into a nice home with power — the three graves are in not as good shape.

The group mapping east did not find much for the first mile due to heavy grass in a low lying area, but on going up a slope the trail became very evident. Trail continued down the other side

of the slope until it was lost in a low grassy area. Evidence found included many good rust rocks, glass, horseshoes, and solder top cans.

The rancher did not want us to camp on the ranch and she suggested that we would find a good campsite at the Lake Valley historic mining town just a few miles north on Hwy 27. Several went there. The caretaker of the historic town recommended camping at the old cemetery up on



*Don Buck and Richard Greene pause to examine a trail artifact. (Photo by Charles Townley)*

the hill across from the town — so we went there.

Most everybody buried in the cemetery was born in the mid-1800s. The oldest grave births (1826 and 1827) belonged to two Civil War vets whose tombstones proudly stated their military affiliation. The two dominant families were the Nunns and Lathams who were on the same side in the Lake Valley War. (The "war" happened in 1921 and was a dispute over drilling for water on Double S Ranch land. The Nunns and Lathams challenged the Sykes family and in the shoot-out several cowboys lost their lives. The three graves on the ranch were from this dispute.)

## SATURDAY, OCT. 13

We headed back to the ranch. The rancher met Tracy and voiced her concern over so many cars. Tracy told her that we had our food and gear in the cars and we were lucky that she agreed to let us go on. Tracy promised we would stay off the grass.

We followed the same ranch road out to Cardinal's Hat and took a turn heading north just before yesterday's parking area. We eventually ended up by a corral called Outlaw Well. Several hiked up Jug Canyon to Foster's Hole. The hike was not strenuous. About 100 yards from the Hole we could see the Mormon Battalion plaque shining on the rock wall of the hole. It was worth the hike to see the incredible sight of Foster's Hole almost full of water as Cooke had described. We took photos of Dan and Gregg sitting above the pool where Cooke sat and watched his men get buckets of water out of the Hole for the animals. Some mapping was attempted, but only an old pearl handled penknife and half a mule shoe were found.

Everybody else mapped east of Outlaw Well as far as Cuervo Arroyo but found nothing. Tracy concluded that "this was not where the road went."

After lunch we drove back as far as a township corner we went past coming in. Tracy and Richard walked east down the fence line hoping to find a way to get to where we needed to map but there was no access. We would have to drive to Hatch to find a way in.

On the way out of the ranch, Tracy stopped to thank the rancher for allowing us to map. They had a



# Trail Turtles Still Mapping

good conversation and Tracy came away with the feeling that we had forged a friendship.

Some of our group toured the Lake Valley historic ghost town. The caretaker came out and answered all our questions until closing time. Here's the brief story: Lake Valley was a boom town when silver was discovered. The Bridal Chamber was the big silver mine, and ore from it was displayed at the 1882 World Exposition in Denver. In 1882 the town was considered "lawless" until the gunfighter Jim Courtright became marshal and tamed it. In 1884 the railroad came. The stage ran daily between Lake Valley, Hillsboro, and Kingston — the other mining towns in the region.

In 1893 silver lost value and Lake Valley suffered. In 1895 Main Street burned down. People started to leave. In the 1920s and into the 1950s manganese was mined for short periods. The last residents left in 1994 and Lake Valley became a ghost town and is now a historic site.

## SUNDAY, OCT. 14

Everyone met at Hatch about 8 in the morning. Our radios helped us find each other. Hatch has changed a lot since we were last here — there is a solar farm on Hwy 26 close to Hatch and it has doubled its economic activity.

We took Hwy 187 north out of Hatch and turned west onto a dirt road before crossing the Rio Grande — the river consisted of patches of dry mud and very shallow water. We were looking for the road to Arroyo Cuervo. The side road we followed paralleled

the river before turning away and leading us to a steep hill to go over the surprisingly massive earth retention dam of Arroyo Cuervo. We mapped the North Route from the Fort Thorn area.

We headed out into a bushy,



*Richard Greene at Foster's Hole.  
(Photo by Greg McEachron).*

sandy, flat heading for a pass between low lying hills. We found some rust along this bench above the wash. Eventually on this wide bench we came onto Cooke's Wagon Road where we found plenty of rust, cans, half a mule shoe, a horseshoe, and a boulder covered with rust. Encountering ribbons of trail close to the prior day's finishing point we found rust across a wash.

## MONDAY, OCT. 15

The group drove two miles back down the wash from camp to map. Our Google Earth images showed a possible trail on a bench in this area. We found nothing going west. When we went east we found rust specks (probably from cowboy horses), cowboy cartridges, and pieces of an old light blue green bottle. We ended up not far from a power line. The only indication that this could be the North Route from Fort Thorn was a musket ball Tracy found on the way back.

We went to the power line road to go south out of the arroyo. After several miles we left the power line road and took another road heading northwest until we found a suitable place to camp. It was a fabulous view from atop the mesa. A fiery sunset was another plus.

## TUESDAY, OCT. 16

Early morning found us mapping back on the South Route. We had camped almost on the trail. Right by the road we found rust on the trail going both east and west. It was the start of a good mapping day. We went in both directions on the trail. For those going west, Cardinal's Hat was visible on the western horizon. Trail evidence was found, including parallel swales going up a slope.

Those going east moved along the trail all the way to the power line road. This end point connected with our work in 2005.

Tracy, along with Neal and Marian Johns, camped at the west end of Cooke's Canyon for the night. The next morning they spent some time examining and photographing the extensive mortar holes, petroglyphs, and two small caves in the area.

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Tour the Gold Seeker Emigrant Route; Butterfield Overland Mail and Stage Route 1858-1861; historic Apache Spring and military Fort Bowie with the Trail Turtles during the Historic Trails Symposium in Tucson, AZ, March 16. *See pages 11-13 in this issue of NFP for full details.*



## Busy Fall With Projects, Awards, and Elections

*By A. Oscar Olson*

We have had a busy fall here at Utah Crossroads including fall socials, catered BBQs, work parties, a field trip, and election of new leadership. Our president is Gar Elison and our vice president is Terry Welch.

We held a BBQ Fall Social on Sept. 8 at Fort Douglas Museum where John Eldredge spoke on his discovery in Wyoming of the "Roy Rock." In the 1990s John was exploring western Wyoming for pioneer trails when he happened onto a rock on top of a hill inscribed "Roy-Died-1814." He was able to research this fur trade era story and found out who "Roy" was.

For our fall field trip in September, we gathered at Twin Springs, ID, for a day trip on the western end of the Hudspeeth Cutoff, to the trails junction near Malta, ID. It was led by Gar Elison. We had nearly 30 members attend this tour including Doug Jensen, Jerry Eichhorst, and other member of the Idaho Chapter.

On Oct. 6, we had a work day at Donner Springs, undertaking general maintenance and fence oiling.

We held a leadership meeting Nov. 2, where we discussed plans for 2013, our T-rail project, by-laws, and upcoming awards and elections. President T. Michael Smith presided over the meeting. At the fall-winter membership meeting on Nov. 8, we held elections. In addition to Elison and Welch as the new president

and vice president, we elected Drew Wanosik as treasurer. Craig Fuller will serve another term as secretary.

Many well deserved awards were also given out this year. Jesse Petersen earned "Special Recognition" for his work on the Central Overland Trail. Others to get awards were Gar Elison, T. Michael Smith, Oscar Olson, Linda Turner, E. Leo Lyman, Al Mulder, Roy Tea, Victor Heath, John Eldredge, Drew Wanosik, Craig Fuller, Joseph Liddell, Kathy Franzwa, Chuck Milliken, Ouida Blanthorn, Bryce Billings, and Ray Kelsey.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. E. Leo Lyman, who spoke about the southern trails in Utah and the relationa between the settlers and the Indians, mostly Southern Paiutes. Ray Kelsey from the BLM spoke briefly about

the possible potash mining near Donner Spring and along the California Historic Trail. Some consider this area a most important California Trail viewshed with its major National Historic Trail significance.

Jesse Petersen has a new book out on the diaries and journals of emigrants who used the Central Overland Trail.

T. Michael Smith has done much in the last two years as chapter president and preservation officer. He's written reports, done endless hours of research, and addressed concerns regarding at least five major projects that are putting our trails in jeopardy here in Utah. As a knowledgeable Mountain Meadows historian and professional archaeologist, his efforts are being studied and analyzed to this day.

## Chapter Maps Trail, Cleans Fernley Swales

*By John Winner*

*Chapter President*

Members of the CA-NV Chapter wrapped up another year of active mapping of the Emigrant Trails. Many of the mapping teams surveyed the year's accomplishments with year-end potlucks or other social gatherings and began making plans for 2013. Work plans and dates for 2013 will soon be posted on the chapter website. We encourage

more chapter members to join the fun either through field activities or assisting in data collection and research activities.

Staff from the Plumas National Forest, Forest Service Archeologist Dan Elliott, and Plumas County Museum Director Scott Lawson showed their appreciation for all of the chapter volunteer efforts and mapping skills by giving each OCTA participant a coffee mug.

*Continued on Next Page*

## Exploring the St. Joe Road

*Story and Photos  
By John Atkinson, President*

The Gateway Chapter of OCTA has always assumed that the St. Joe Road between St. Joseph, MO, and Marysville, KS, is the chapter's special responsibility for the preservation, protection of, and education about the Oregon and California Trails. To that end, over the years, numerous Carsonite posts have been installed to mark trail crossings in the Kansas counties of Doniphan, Brown, and Nemaha. Every year Gateway members have inspected and sometimes replaced or installed new markers. In 2010

and 2011 markers were checked in Nemaha and Brown counties. On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the markers were checked in Doniphan County.

October 27 was the second Doniphan County trek to take place in 2012. On May 5, a joint program with the Doniphan County Historical Society toured part of the trail. A new post was installed near Mosquito Creek Crossing, the site of many a first-night camp on the trail.

One of several visible swales left by trail traffic on the St. Joe



*Gateway Board member Corky Smith pointing out trail route near Mosquito Creek.*

Road can be found in Courter-Ritchey Cemetery, north east of Troy, KS. The program on May 5 included a talk by Paul Dittmore about how the field notes of the original 1855 surveys of the Territory of Kansas can be used to determine where the St. Joe Road crossed the mile lines then being established. The Government Land Office surveys were used to determine the proper placement of the trail crossing markers.

The May 5 St. Joe Road Tour terminated at the Doniphan County Historical Society Museum in Troy, KS, where lunch was served by the historical society. A large map of Doniphan County that shows the St. Joe Road and other historic trails of the area has been created on the floor of the museum. Jackie Lewin, a former president of OCTA and co-author of the book *The St. Joe Road: Emigration Mid-1800s*, gave the afternoon program in Troy.

## CA-NV Fernley Swales

*Continued from Previous Page*

Just north of Fernley, NV, are the Fernley Deep Sand Swales and the historic Central Pacific Railroad bed. The sand swales became one of the most difficult portions of the infamous Forty Mile Desert crossing. Although the swales are one of the best examples of deep sand swales along the California Trail the area has become a dumping ground for unwanted junk.

Each year the CA-NV Chapter hosts the Fernley Swales Cleanup to preserve this historic region. Jim and Denise Moorman organized this year's cleanup that involved OCTA members and volunteers from the Fernley City Council and BLM.



*Gateway member Ron Taylor (behind post driver) and board member Bill Leppert installing a trail marker.*



# COLORADO— CHEROKEE TRAIL—

## Historic Cemetery Along Cherokee/Overland Trail to be Preserved

*By Sharon Danhauer  
Chapter President*

On Oct. 2, 2012, the city of Loveland, CO, enthusiastically adopted an ordinance designating the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery, located on the west side of town along the Cherokee Trail, as a historic landmark. This is a milestone event in the history of the pioneer cemetery. The Loveland Historical Society became the owner of the property this summer when developer Jess Rodriquez officially gave to the society the deed for 0.73 acres of land that surrounds the original cemetery.

Members of LHS and our Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter were in attendance for the reading of the city ordinance and the presentation of the plaque. A permanent trail sign funded by the chapter with profits from the 2009 OCTA convention held in Loveland is being prepared with a public dedication to be held in May of 2013.

The historical society's future plans for the cemetery are to rebuild the stone wall and replace headstones, informally landscape it as naturally as is possible, and to conduct school and public educational tours that tell the story of Loveland's first settlers and the trails that brought them to Colorado and the West.

In other chapter news, by-laws will be put in place by the new

committee charged with that task, and a new membership committee will recruit and track membership. Camille Bradford continues to produce a nicely done digital newsletter for the chapter. Members Bruce Watson, Roger Hanson, John Murphy, and Rich Deisch attended the OCTA-NPS Mapping and Preservation Workshop from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1

in Salt Lake City.

This summer and fall the chapter welcomed new members Constance Crump, Lafayette, CO; David Seer, Denver, CO; Loren Pospisil, Bayard, NE; Joel Spandler, Mechanicsburg, PA; Pamela Milavec, Northglenn, CO; and Shannon Perry, Phoenix, AZ. We also appreciate old members renewing their memberships.

# NORTHWEST

## Mapping Emigrant Trails

*By Marley Shurtleff*

In mid-September, 30 members of NWOCTA and the Naches Trail Coalition participated in a very informative tour of a portion of the Naches Pass Branch of the Oregon Trail. The tour covered prairie and valley regions of

Western Washington from Buckley to Sumner.

Winona Jacobson of the Greater Bonney Lake Historical Society developed the tour book for the event. That book is now available for viewing online at the Naches Pass website [www.nachestrail.org](http://www.nachestrail.org). Look for "Tour Guides."



*Northwest OCTA chapter members who toured the Naches Pass Branch of the Oregon Trail. (Photo courtesy of Bernie Rhoades).*



## Chapter Explores Many Trail Areas on Organized Tours

*By Jerry Eichhorst  
I-OCTA President and Webmaster*

The Idaho chapter had several interesting and well-attended outings scattered across the southern part of the state in 2012. These activities included the spring meeting in Mountain Home with a tour of the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway, a marking outing on the North Alternate Oregon Trail/Kelton Road, a tour of Oregon Trail sites in the Soda Springs area, a tour of California Trail sites at City of Rocks, and a tour of the South Alternate Oregon Trail along the Snake River.

We also had a combined tour with the Utah Crossroads chapter on the Hudspeth Cutoff, and tours of the original Fort Hall site and the section of the Oregon Trail that crossed Mt. Putnam through the Shoshone-Bannock reservation. Many visitors attended these outings and we saw sites the chapter had not visited in some time. Thanks to all of the people who helped arrange and lead the outings.

Now it is time to briefly relax before starting to plan for next year. Several ideas are already being formulated. I will be teaching Community Education classes in Boise on March 12 and 19 with a tour of the byway or the North Alternate offered to the participants.

We are working with the BLM office in Burley to have the spring meeting in Burley on Saturday, May 4, with a presentation on the

improvements being done at the Milner Recreation Site, followed by a tour to the site and Caldron Linn.

Other activities in the works include another combined tour on the Hudspeth Cutoff, a tour to Pierre's Hole, a tour of the next

portion of the South Alternate, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of City of Rocks in September.

I hope that people will join us again in 2013 as we enjoy more of the fine remnants of emigrant travel across southern Idaho.



*I-OCTA member Jim Payne talking about Fort Hall at the site of the original fort. (Photos Courtesy of Jerry Eichhorst)*



*Oregon Trail ruts in The Narrows crossing the Shoshone-Bannock Reservation on Mt. Putnam.*

# Preserve A Legacy

By Bill Martin

There's a difference between what is on your list of New Year's resolutions and what should be on your list. Number one for most people is "lose weight, get in shape" (which coincidentally is the most frequently broken resolution). But the New Year should also trigger you to think about something just as important – writing a last will and testament.

Surprisingly, more than half of all Americans do not have a valid will in place. And when you pass away without a will, the government takes a leading role in determining how your assets are distributed. That's not a pleasant alternative. Of course, if you want to make sure you are remembered by your family, try dying without a will. They'll have lots of things to say about you!

Writing a will is not a complicated task for most people. It's always a good idea to get an attorney involved, especially if you have a large or complicated estate. But for most of us of modest means, a will doesn't have to be a detailed legal document. Almost every nonprofit organization can give you the information you need to get started.

I came across a survey recently in which people were asked what they might change if they had their lives to live over again. Some people said they would eat more ice cream and less yogurt. Others said they would work harder on family relationships. And still others, maybe those of us whose hay is nearly all in the barn, said they would pay more attention to

how they want to be remembered. In other words, what do they want their legacy to be?

The opportunity to leave a legacy on the trails we love is why OCTA established the "Trails Legacy Society." The Legacy Society is designed to encourage supporters and donors to leave a bequest to OCTA in their wills, with funds designated for OCTA Endowments.

It's an easy way to help preserve the trails for future generations. After all, the trails depend on you now, but what will happen to them when you and other members of today's greatest generation of preservationists is gone. Through the Trails Legacy Society, 100 years from now you can still be saving the trails.

Remember, the size of your gift isn't important. The important thing is that you can make a difference in trails preservation that will last beyond your lifetime.

As a member of the OCTA Trails Legacy Society you will receive a special Trails Legacy Society pin. In addition, your name (with your permission) will be printed annually in the *Overland Journal*. Plans are being made to display the names of Society members in an appropriate manner at OCTA headquarters and new members will be recognized each year during the annual convention. Importantly, it will give OCTA a chance to thank you during your lifetime for your generosity.

To learn more about the Trails Legacy Society, visit [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org) and click on the Trails Legacy Society link on the left side of the home page.

While bequests constitute 80 to 90 percent of all gifts from estates, "planned giving" professionals deal in products such as gift annuities and charitable trusts, some of which offer income during your lifetime with a gift to a designated charity upon your passing. Those interested in more sophisticated planned gifts should contact their financial advisors. Upon request, we can put them in touch with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, which manages our endowments and has a full team of professional gift planners.

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## NEW MEMBERS

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Thomas G Alexander, Provo, UT  
Zonna Barnes, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Broomfield, CO  
Jim & Diane Beason, Elk City, KS  
Terry Bennett, Layton, UT  
Martha Cieglo, Vancouver, WA  
Dick Cochran, Grants, NM  
Pam Demo, Boise, ID  
Steven M Fountain, Washington State University-Dept of History, Vancouver, WA  
Amy Butler Ghozeil, Corvallis, OR  
James Gibbs, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Walt & Margaret Hauter, Daly City, CA  
Ken & Pat Heck, Keedysville, MD  
Nancy Hevly, Seattle, WA  
Doug Hocking, Sierra Vista, AZ  
Thomas Hoffman, Grand Junction, CO  
Al Klem, Quincy, CA  
Kevin Krahenbuhl, Sioux Falls, SD  
Kent Malan, Far West, UT  
Bruce McAllister, Boulder, CO  
Marcelle Rice, Janesville, CA  
Scott Rohrs, Ram Rod/Western Trails Association, Napa, CA  
Arloha L Sriver, Spokane, WA  
Timothy Von Flue, Lake Oswego, OR

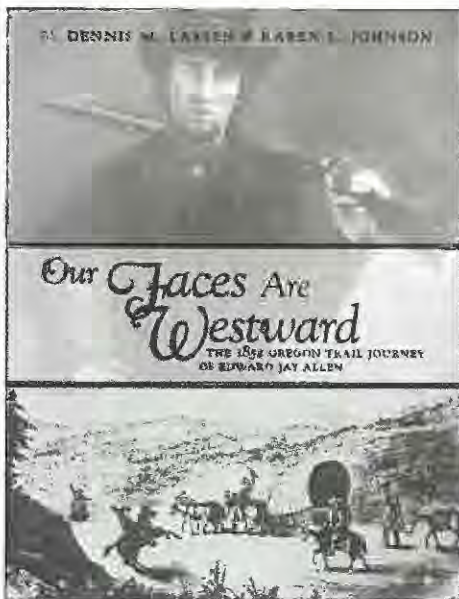


# Our Faces Are Westward

## THE 1852 OREGON TRAIL JOURNEY OF EDWARD JAY ALLEN

*At* the age of twenty-two I found myself, if the doctors' opinions were to be accepted, very dilapidated as to lungs and in a general condition of goneness that did discredit to several generations of sturdy ancestors. An outdoor summer in the hills of Westmoreland County, and its resultant benefits, gave the cue for a more extended outing, from which grew the idea of a trip to Oregon. It seemed a kill-or-cure remedy and offered adventure.

EDWARD JAY ALLEN, 1908 MANUSCRIPT



In 1852, in search of better health, a sickly Edward Jay Allen traveled to Council Bluffs, where he joined a wagon train en route to Oregon. The group took the Child's Cutoff in Wyoming to South Pass and the Sublette Cutoff. At Three Island Crossing, Allen had become exhausted by the heat and insufficient water. Crippled by a badly sprained ankle, he led a small group floating down the Snake River. Following a near-fatal but exciting adventure over falls and rapids, Allen arrived at Fort Boise, where he took over a ferry operation from Ezra Meeker. After three weeks, Allen left to struggle on foot, short of food and water, across the eastern Oregon desert to Portland.

To tell the tale of this remarkable young man, editors Larsen and Johnson rely on Allen's long-forgotten letters, supplemented by his recently discovered trail diary, an additional unpublished manuscript written in later life, and contemporary letters written to Allen by his siblings as he traveled west. Filled with detail, poetry, and humor, these documents bring the emigrant trail experience to life in a remarkably literate and entertaining fashion.

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and Karen L. Johnson  
Softcover, \$25.00

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