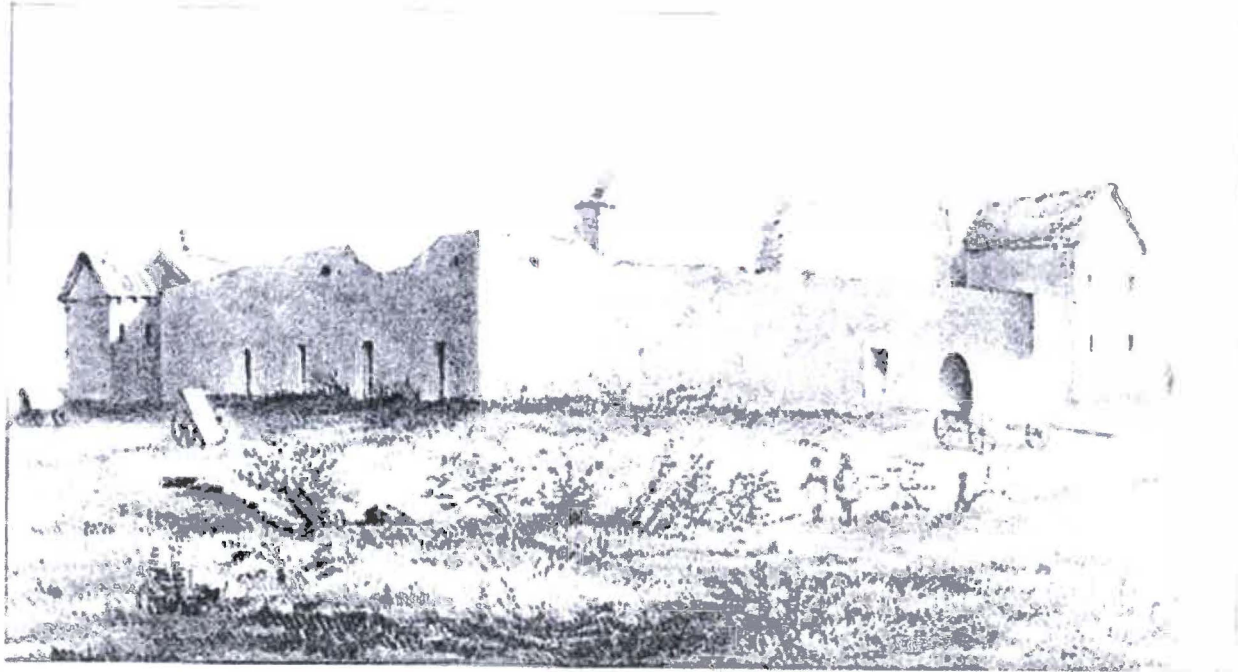


FORT HALL: CULTURES AND CHANGES



34TH ANNUAL CONVENTION BOOK

AUGUST 1-5, 2016 FORT HALL, IDAHO

Oregon-California Trails Association
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016



FORT HALL, IDAHO
Cultures and Changes



HOSTED BY
IDAHO CHAPTER

OREGON-CALIFORNIA
TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Dedication

During this Convention the Idaho Chapter of OCTA would especially like to remember three key members who passed away during the planning.

JIM PAYNE



A native Californian, Jim wore many hats throughout his life: husband, father, grandfather, aerospace engineer, vintner, 4-H leader, skier, “fast car” enthusiast, and lover of history.

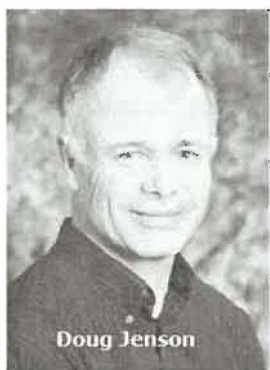
Jim’s passion for history centered on the fur trade era and western emigration.

Jim was a member of the National OCTA board of directors and served the chapter well in this position.

He had been active in IOCTA for a number of years as a chapter Director and had begun to serve as co-chairman for our 2016 OCTA convention. Jim was a great asset to IOCTA—easy to work with and always willing to participate.

We miss him.

DOUG JENSON



Doug was a long-time OCTA member and served on the national Board of Directors. He was the past-president, a former director, and a vice-president of the Idaho chapter. His passing came as a great shock to us all, given his youth and good health.

Doug was an excellent photographer and active in a local photography club. He shared with us many of the photos he had taken on the Trail.

Doug was planning to lead a pre-convention tour of the Lander Road as well as a bus tour west from Fort Hall to Massacre Rocks for the 2016 convention.

His insight, and knowledge of all things relating to the Trail are greatly missed by us all.

TONY VARILONE



Friendly, helpful, pleasant. Able to talk for hours sharing his vast knowledge of the history of the Soda Springs area.

After a long career with the National Forest Service, Tony retired in place, but never tired of working on sharing history. He was active in the Caribou Historical Society, helping to develop and write many of the fine materials available on the history of the area. He led the effort to put together the Oregon Trail Bear Lake Scenic Byway, installing many of the interpretive signs himself.

He was going to lead one of the bus tours for the 2016 Fort Hall OCTA convention. His experience would have guaranteed a great tour.

Tony’s passing was a great loss to the Chapter.

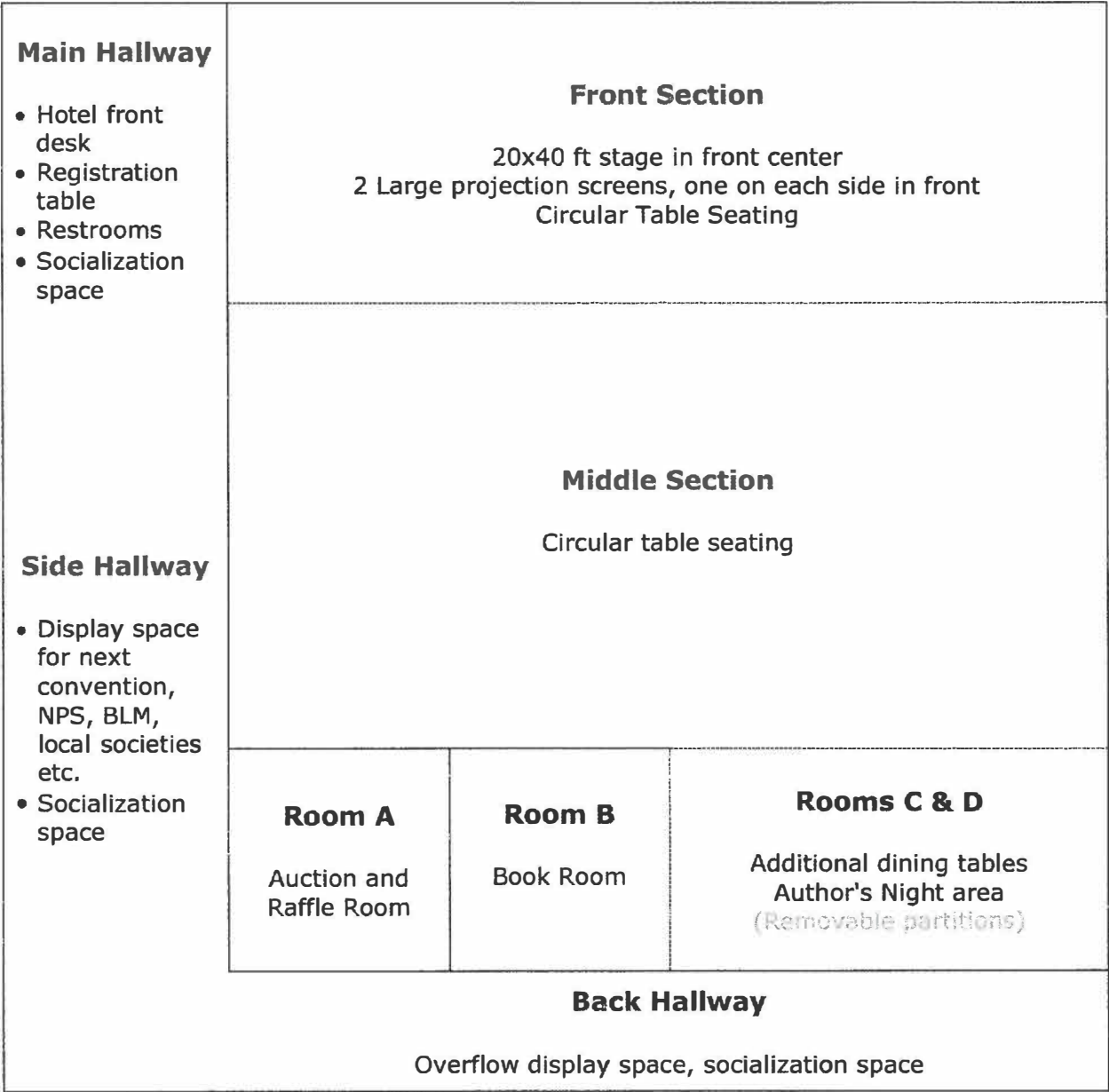
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Event Center Layout



Convention Speakers

Tuesday Speakers

HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBE

Darrell Shay, Leah Hardy, Rosemary Devinney and Leo Ariwite



Darrell Shay



Leah Hardy



Rosemary Devinney



Leo Ariwite

Darrell Shay was, until recently, the Director of the Department of Language and Culture Preservation, and has spoken frequently on Shoshone-Bannock history and culture. He has now been elected to the Fort Hall Business Council and serves as its Vice Chairman.

Leah Hardy is manager of the Original Territories and Historical Research Program. She studied at Idaho State University in Pocatello.

Rosemary Devinney is the Manager of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum. As well as speaking she encourages all delegates to visit the museum and learn more about the unique culture and history of the Shoshone-Bannock. In the museum you can see the collection of old photographs dating back from 1895, and artifacts from the site of the Old Fort Hall. During the time that we are there we should be able to see the buffalo behind the museum.

Leo Ariwite is the Language & Cultural Preservation Liaison and in this role provides for tribal educational and signage projects and serves as the intermediary between the Tribes, non-Indians and tourism development in the states of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Some of his current work involves tribal history video documentary, correction to the Nez Perce Trail, establishing the Bannock Trail, the Shoshone trail, and developing workshops in conjunction with historical societies of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

The opening talk will feature members of the Language and Cultural Preservation Department of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. Their mission is to provide an environment for the cultural enrichment and preservation of the Shoshone and Bannock languages and traditions; to preserve the ways of their ancestors; and to promote their identity for future generations.

Together they will discuss the history of the Shoshone-Bannock tribes, their way of life, their culture and how it was impacted by the coming of the fur trappers and the Oregon-California Trail pioneers and settlers.

THE IMPACT OF NATHANIEL WYETH'S FORT HALL ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUR TRADE

Jim Hardee

Jim Hardee is the author of the award winning publication "Obstinate Hope: The Western Expeditions of Nathaniel J. Wyeth, Volumes 1 & 2", and "Pierre's Hole: The Fur Trade History of Teton Valley, Idaho". He is also editor of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal, published by the Sublette County Historical Society and the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming. Not confined to works in print, Jim has also provided commentary in television documentaries, including "Taming the Wild West: The Legend of Jedediah Smith," produced by The History Channel in 2005, and "Wyoming's Original Main Street – South Pass," produced by Wyoming PBS in 2013. Jim is the director of the Fur Trade Research Center and is a presenter for many conferences and symposiums.



"The Impact of Nathaniel Wyeth's Fort Hall on the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade" examines the hunt for beaver in the Rocky Mountain West and the rendezvous system that made it possible. Wyeth entered the fur trade at the height of its operations and the trading post he built, Fort Hall, had a major impact on the waning years of the fur business. Wyeth attended four of the annual trappers' summertime fairs but mountaineers interacted with Fort Hall year-round to buy supplies, altering the need for rendezvous. Ultimately, Wyeth lost a lot of money in his attempt to capitalize on such a venture though his efforts secured the acquisition of Oregon for the United States.

DIARIES ACROSS IDAHO: Soda Springs to Fort Hall

Jerry Eichhorst



Jerry Eichhorst is President and Webmaster for the Idaho Chapter of OCTA. He lives in Boise, Idaho, and is regularly out on the Trail or lecturing on the subject of the Trail when not working for the J.R. Simplot Company. He is on a quest to gather and compile emigrant accounts of their crossing of Idaho.

This lecture will review the Oregon Trail route from Soda Springs to Fort Hall incorporating maps, pictures, and numerous diary quotes from emigrant travelers. Although there are many interesting sites in this segment, it is a stretch that most people will never have the opportunity to see in person because much of it lies on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Travel this segment through the words of the Oregon Trail emigrants and see the sites that they so vividly describe.

FORT HALL: TRADE CENTER OF A HUNGRY LAND

Will Bagley



Longtime OCTA members know historian Will Bagley well as a frequent contributor to the Overland Journal. He is the author or editor of twenty-five books on overland emigration, railroads, mining, and violence in the American West. He has completed two prize-winning volumes of "Overland West: The Story of the Oregon-California Trails"— "So Rugged and Mountainous" and "With Golden Visions Bright Before Them"—and is working on the last two, "Trace, Trail, and Wagon Road" and "The War for the Medicine Road."

After its colorful founding, Fort Hall became what Oregon Emigrant John Minto called "the trade center of a hungry land"—and thanks to Richard Grant, the Hudson's Bay Company's chief trader, the most influential trading post between the Missouri and the Pacific. Richard Grant never captured the popular imagination like Jim Bridger and Pegleg Smith, but he was a towering figure in overland history. From 1842 to 1851, he managed the Snake Country, a vast fur empire encompassing all of today's Idaho and much of Montana—and a critical spot on the roads to Oregon and California. By 1853 floods and cutoffs had undermined Fort Hall's importance, but the opening of the Lander Cutoff in 1859 and stage lines restored some of its glory.

Thursday Speakers

DISCOVERY OF SOUTH PASS

Steve Banks



Steve Banks of Dubois, Wyoming is an avid historian of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade, lecturer and re-enactor. Banks studied western American history at the University of Wyoming and has written several articles for historical journals and books. He has lectured and presented demonstrations for Education K-12, Wyoming Council for the Humanities and for other Civic Organizations. He is retired from Fremont County School District #2 where he worked as a Technology Consultant and IT Director. He is currently active in doing research with several Wyoming archaeologists on Native sites in the Upper Wind River country.

Robert Stuart was the first European-American to visit South Pass on October 20, 1812. Stuart's epic Wyoming journey is characterized by periods of bitter cold weather, episodes of starvation and deprivation, weary foot travel and an ever-present fear of Native Americans. The group struggled on in spite of daunting conditions; all seven of the Astorians in Stuart's party were tested to their limits. As with Hunt, the geography, climate, Native Americans and guides presented challenges. Joseph Miller turned out to be an unreliable guide, trying to find a southern pass through the Wind River Mountains that he had only heard about. Stuart had to take both command and responsibility as he steered a course due east to St. Louis. The most remarkable event credited to Stuart was his "discovery" of South Pass with the help of a Native American, possibly a

Shoshone. It is ironic that the Astorians, who were simply trying to elude the marauding Crow, would be the first European-Americans to traverse a passage that would become a catalyst for westward expansion. Until the "discovery" of South Pass, no explorers had found a pass that would accommodate the movement of significant numbers of people and traffic. Although it would be nearly three decades before emigrant wagon trains moved through the pass, the trail was being prepared by fur trappers in the mid-1820s using the Trails that the Native Americans had already developed. Stuart reported South Pass to John Jacob Astor but the information was put to rest as Astor had to contend with the War of 1812 and the loss of his empire. It was not until March 1824, acting on instructions from a band of Crow, that Jedediah Smith rediscovered South Pass, and the rest is history.

GOODALE' S CUTOFF

Tom Blanchard



Tom Blanchard received his graduate training in history with emphasis on U.S. and Western history at San Francisco State University. Since moving to Idaho in 1977, Blanchard has focused on Idaho history, doing projects and research in Idaho for the past thirty years. He taught U.S., Idaho and Pacific Northwest history for the College of Southern Idaho, and served on the board of the Idaho Humanities Council. He is the past Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Idaho State Historical Society.

Goodale's Cutoff left the Oregon Trail at Fort Hall, crossed the Snake River plains to Lost River, and then headed west. Camas Prairie provided an approach to the Boise region that stayed north of the broad valley of the Snake. Rejoining the Oregon Trail from Ditto Creek to Boise, Goodale's route again diverged to the north of the main emigrant road. A final reunion with the older trail came on Powder River not far from Baker, Oregon. The route across Camas Prairie, an old Indian trail, was explored originally in 1820 by Donald Mackenzie. Of particular interest is the role of the trail segments from Fort Hall to Boise in building our early transportation and mining economy, reflections of the trail in literature and nature of the lost and found history of this trail and its namesake explorer.

THE LANDER TRAIL AND ALBERT BIERSTADT'S 1859 EMIGRANT TRAIL PHOTOGRAPHS

Clint Gilchrist



Clint Gilchrist is manager of the Lander Trail New Fork River Crossing Historical Park and Past President of the Sublette County Historical Society, Parent organization of the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming. An engineer by training, but a historian by passion, Clint was born and raised in Sublette County, Wyoming on a family ranch crossed by the emigrant Lander Trail.

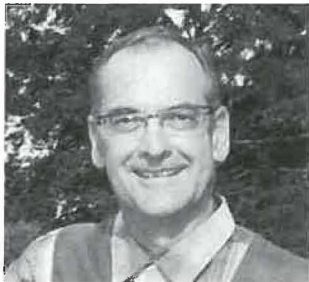
A little known artist, Albert Bierstadt, traveled the Oregon/California trail through Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming in 1859 with trail builder Frederick Lander. Inspired by the Rocky Mountains during that trip, Bierstadt would later become one of the first and best known western landscape artists. Less known, Bierstadt had an early wet plate camera during this first expedition and produced a series of stereo view photographs. The

photographs are rare and few of the images have survived. Two unpublished glass plate originals have recently been acquired by the Sublette County Historical Society showing emigrants along the Big Sandy River on the Lander Trail in western Wyoming. These are possibly the oldest surviving photographs of an emigrant wagon train and camp scene. The location of the depicted camp scene has been found and preliminary archeological investigation has recovered emigrant era artifacts. This presentation will give a background of the Lander Trail, review Bierstadt's 1859 trip, analyze the known surviving Bierstadt photographs, and summarize the archeology of the photographed camp site as well as recent archeology at the New Fork River Crossing Park.

GEOLOGIC SETTING OF THE OREGON AND CALIFORNIA TRAILS IN IDAHO

Paul K Link

Paul Link is a Professor in the Department of Geosciences at Idaho State University. He started teaching at the ISU Geology Department in 1980. He obtained his Ph.D. from UCSB by studying the Pocatello Formation. He teaches Regional Geology and Historical Geography. He was department chair from 1985 to 1991. With Chilton Phoenix he authored the book, Rocks, Rails, and Trails, which summarizes the history and geography of eastern Idaho. He has had about 90 M.S. and Ph.D. students in 35 years at ISU.



His presentation, "Geologic Setting of the Oregon and California Trails in Idaho" will be geologically and geographically based. He will consider the way that the geology of Idaho determined the courses of the rivers and how they, together with the extensive lava fields, determined ultimately the course of the Oregon and California Trails. Southeast Idaho contains two very different geologic provinces, which affected the route of the Oregon and California Trails. Link will review these two provinces, the tilted sedimentary Basin and Range and the volcanic Snake River Plain. He will discuss first-order differences in geography and ecosystems of Southeast Idaho that affected the trail migrant.

THE 1834 to 1837 TRADE RECORDS OF FORT HALL

Clay Landry

Clay Landry is an author, researcher, and speaker on the history and material culture of the Rocky Mountain Fur trade. He is also a wilderness packer, conducting horse/mule trips into the Rocky Mountains using only horse tack, clothing, guns and food appropriate and available to the fur trappers of the early nineteenth century. He is a Historical Consultant for the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale and was the historical consultant on the successful motion picture "The Revenant". He is a Research Associate and Project team member for the Fur Trade Research Center in Teton, Idaho.



When the leaders of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company failed to honor their 1834 agreement to purchase trade goods from Nathaniel Wyeth, he promised to make them regret their actions by indicating that he would, "roll a stone into their garden". In order to make good on this promise Wyeth lead his small company of men to the banks of the Snake River and began construction of Fort Hall. His idea was to use the goods rejected by the RMFC in a

competitive venture located near the heart of the beaver country. Wyeth's "stone" was therefore a small trading post built on the sandy plain between the Portneuf and Snake Rivers. Operating under the name Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company, Wyeth's Fort Hall functioned until August of 1837 when the Fort and its inventory were purchased by the Hudson's Bay Company.

The original records of Wyeth's Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company, 2 ledgers and a journal, are in the collections of the Oregon Historical Society and are available to students and researchers on micro film. The pages of these ledgers not only contain historical information on many fur trade notables such as Kit Carson, Andrew Dripps, Osborne Russell, and Robert "Doc" Newell, they also tell the tale of Wyeth's costly attempt to use Sandwich islanders as Rocky mountain fur trappers, and provide enlightening information on many material culture items purchased and used by the trappers and Indians trading at the Fort. While many of the supplies, tools, weapons and clothing listed in the Fort Hall records are typical of the accoutrements and supplies traded by the fur companies of the period, many of the items in Fort Hall's inventory were quite unique for the time and place. The Fort Hall ledgers include the first known documentation in which trappers are shown purchasing and using sweaters, rubber overshoes, gum boots, and a rubber overcoat. The products made for sale and trade by the Fort Hall tailor's shop also provide some unique insight to the outfitting of the Fort Hall trapper.

This presentation will outline the historical events which led to the founding of Fort Hall, discuss the information about life at the fort contained in the ledgers and then venture into a material culture discussion about the rare and unique trade goods available for trappers and Indians from the Fort Hall stores. The goal of this approach is to present information which should have interest to the wide cross section of convention attendees, i.e. re-enactors, professional and amateur historians, students, and museum curators.

A WIDE AND VARIED TOUR: Views of Native Americans in Western Travel Narratives

Martha Voght



Martha Voght studied the history of the American West at California State, Northridge, and various aspects of European history at University of Oxford. She is the author of several academic articles, more than sixty scripts for educational films, and seven historical novels. In her spare time, she keeps house and quilts in Bishop, California.

In American literature classes we are introduced to poetry, short stories, possibly even an essay or two from the early nineteenth century, but the textbooks ignore the real best sellers of that era: travel narratives. Americans avidly absorbed tales of distant lands —the more dramatic the author's experience the better— and particularly relished accounts of the continent that lay beyond the Missouri River. Between 1800 and 1850, dozens of books about the Far West appeared, reflecting a wide variety of authorial perspectives and purposes.

What did these accounts say about the tribal peoples of the west, and about the mountain men and early migrants? How did these writings influence the attitudes of Americans of different regions and occupations, and their expectations as they made their own plans to move west?

MAPPING THE TRAIL

Dave Welch



Dave served as OCTA's president from 1999 to 2001 and national trails preservation officer from 2001 to 2008. He also served OCTA as a chapter president and a member of the national board of directors. As preservation officer he worked on the identification and protection of key historic trail sites and segments. He has also conducted trail preservation training based upon OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Manual for each of OCTA's eleven chapters and for other interested trail organizations. He is currently chair of OCTA's mapping and marking committee and the investment advisory committee. Dave is a retired aeronautical engineer and lives with his wife Wendy in Lacey, Washington.

A common misconception is that the emigrant trails are all known and well-documented. Greg Franzwa's *"Maps of the Oregon Trail"* supports this conclusion, but it is, in fact, best considered as an excellent guide for additional research. OCTA's goal has been mapping and documentation of maps at a scale of 1:24,000. Perhaps only 10% of the trail has been mapped at this scale. This paper will describe a project undertaken by the Northwest Chapter in 2014 and 2015 to conduct a complete inventory of the trail in Oregon (over 350 miles) for the purpose of establishing a baseline of the trail's condition in 2015 and identifying quality segments for future study. The techniques of the survey and the results are summarized. They will also be reviewed for potential application in Southeast Idaho. Other chapters are encouraged to undertake similar efforts using the tools developed in the Northwest.

Pre-Convention Tours

Tour #1 Oregon Trail from Soda Springs to Fort Hall

A one-day caravan tour with a limited number of vehicles will visit numerous Oregon Trail sites between Soda Springs and Fort Hall. This tour will begin at 7:00 am at the hotel and will visit many sites through the day. Morning sites include Pyramid Spring, Wagon Box Grave, the 'man-made' captive geyser, remnants of the Soda Springs seen by the emigrants, Steamboat Spring, golf course ruts, Sheep Rock, lava rifts, start of Hudspeth Cutoff, Soda Pool, and Chesterfield. In the afternoon, the trek will enter the Fort Hall Reservation to follow the trail over Bennett Pass to the Fort Hall site. Big Spring, and The Narrows will be highlights of the afternoon. The tour will wrap up at the historic Fort Hall site before returning to the convention hotel at 6:00 pm. All vehicles must be high clearance, preferably 4WD. The road in the afternoon will be rough and extremely dusty.

Sites:

Several Soda Springs sites, start of Hudspeth Cutoff, Chesterfield, Mount Putnam, Big Springs, The Narrows, Fort Hall site

Meeting Information:

Meet in the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel lobby at 6:45 am on Sunday, July 31, to get registered and ready to depart by 7:00 am.

Tour #2 Hudspeth Cut-off

Gar Elison will lead a one-day tour with a limited number of vehicles. Hudspeth's Cutoff came into use in 1849 as a gold rush route to California. It headed west at Sheep Rock a few miles past Steamboat Spring to bypass the regular route's northward journey to Fort Hall. The route proved to be difficult with 4 mountain ranges to be crossed. Limited water and feed for animals were endured to save a few miles, yet it soon became the primary route to California. This tour will travel the middle portion of the cutoff from Arimo, Idaho to Malta, Idaho along the Hudspeth Cut-off.

Sites:

Sites include Arimo, Cedar Mountain, Dairy Creek, Little Malad Spring, Sublette Canyon, Twin Springs and the Raft River Valley.

Meeting Information:

Meet at the old gas station east of I-15 in Arimo, Idaho, at 8:00 am on Sunday, July 31.

Convention Bus Tours

Tour #3 (FTI) Trapper Sites in Eastern Idaho

Jim Hardee, noted author, fur trade historian, and IOCTA member, will conduct a tour of Pierre's Hole and numerous other early trapper sites from Fort Henry near St. Anthony to near Victor and back to Idaho Falls. Jim will share his wealth of history and stories throughout the day. Only one bus will be offered each day for this tour.

Planned sites include the Fort Hall monument, the location of Andrew Henry's 1810 trading post on Henry's Fork near St. Anthony, Pierre's Hole monument near the central area of what is believed to be the 1832 rendezvous site, and the location of the 1832 Battle of Pierre's Hole in the southern end of the valley west of Victor. It will also visit the site of the original Fort Hall.

Departure time: 7:30 am

Check-in time: 7:00 am

Tour #4 (OTE) Oregon Trail from the East

Chapter President, Jerry Eichhorst, and Dave Newberry will lead a tour of Oregon Trail sites in the Soda Springs area. Several interesting sites in Soda Springs will be visited. This tour will then go west to Sheep Rock, Soda Pool, and historic Chesterfield. Lunch will be courtesy of a Dutch Oven cook-out in Soda Springs. This tour does not visit the Fort Hall monument site.

Planned sites include Sheep Rock interpretive site, Pyramid Spring, captive geyser, Wagon Box grave, De Smet monument, Morristown overlook, Steamboat Spring, golf course ruts, start of Hudspeth Cutoff, Soda Pool, and Chesterfield.

Departure time: Bus 1 7:45 am

Check-in time: 7:15 am

Bus 2 8:00 am

Check-in time: 7:30 am

Tour #5 (OTW) Oregon Trail to the West

Gar Elison and Lyle Lambert will lead a tour of a number of famous trail sites to the west of Fort Hall. A hike of 3/4 mile on a paved trail will be required at one location. The tour will travel from the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel, heading west and south following the route of the Oregon Trail for 60 miles. A box lunch at Register Rock in Massacre Rocks State Park will feature a talk by an Idaho Park Ranger based there. Participants will have the opportunity to walk in short sections of the Oregon Trail.

Planned sites include Fort Hall site, Massacre Rocks State Park ruts, Register Rock, Coldwater Hill ruts from above and below, Raft River graves, and Parting of the Ways.

Departure time: Bus 1 7:45 am

Check-in time: 7:15 am

Bus 2 8:00 am

Check-in time: 7:30 am

Tour #6 (SCN) Scenic Idaho

Dan and Jeri Dunne will lead this tour that will leave Fort Hall and head north to view some of the best scenery of Idaho. Big Springs, Harriman State Park, and Upper Mesa Falls showcase some of the best aquatic sites that Idaho has to offer. An afternoon treat will be feeding the fish at Warm River before a scenic drive taking in the west side of the Tetons. Because of the long distances involved, this tour will have 2-hour runs at the beginning and end. Only one bus will be offered each day for this tour. This tour does not visit the Fort Hall monument site. It is planned that this bus will be equipped with a lift.

Planned sites include Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Big Springs, Harriman State Park, Upper Mesa Falls, Warm River fish feeding, west side of the Teton Mountains, and South Fork of the Snake River.

Departure time: 7:45 am

Check-in time: 7:15 am

Tour #7 (HIK) Milner Recreation Area Hiking Tour

Members of the BLM will lead this tour featuring morning and afternoon hikes. The morning hike will be down and back up a hill on newly identified ruts in Massacre Rocks State Park, while the afternoon hike will cover pristine ruts on level terrain in the Milner Recreation Area near Burley. Lunch will be served at Register Rock.

Planned sites include the Fort Hall monument site, Massacre Rocks State Park ruts, Register Rock, Milner Recreation Area ruts, and Cold Water Hill interpretive site.

Departure time: 8:00 am

Check-in time: 7:30 am

Tour #8 (RES) Fort Hall Area Historical Sites

Leo Ariwite of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe will lead a tour that will visit Oregon Trail sites on the Fort Hall Reservation. These sites include Ferry Butte which overlooks the Snake River bottoms, the Fort Hall monument, and the Tribal Museum. This is a caravan tour led by a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. This tour will be offered one time only at 1:00 pm on Wednesday and is limited to 15 vehicles.

Participants must check-in early to register themselves and their vehicles for access to the Fort Hall reservation.

Departure time: 1:00 pm

Check-in time: 12:30 pm

Post-Convention Tours

Tour #9 California Trail - Raft River to City of Rocks

John Winner of the California-Nevada chapter will lead a 3-day caravan tour of the California Trail from Parting of the Ways on Raft River through City of Rocks, a noted landmark on the trail, then on to Granite Pass and Wells, Nevada. The first night the group will camp in a park at Oakley, Idaho. The second night will be a dry camp along Goose Creek in northeastern Nevada.

Planned sites include Raft River, Parting of the Ways, City of Rocks, Steeple Pass, Junction of Salt Lake Alternate, Granite Pass, Goose Creek, and Thousand Springs.

Meeting Information:

Meet in convention hotel lobby at 7:30 am in order to get checked in and ready to depart by 8:00 am.



The California Trail at Pinnacle Pass in City of Rocks National Monument

Tour #10 Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff

John Briggs and Dan Dunne will lead a one-day caravan tour following Goodale's Cutoff across the desert to Craters of the Moon National Monument, then west across the Camas Prairie towards the junction with the main Oregon Trail east of Boise.

Planned sites include Ferry Butte crossing, McTucker Road, Big Southern Butte, Champagne Creek, Craters of the Moon National Monument, Lava Lake, Camas Prairie, and Skull Rock.

Meeting Information:

Meet in convention hotel lobby at 8:30 am in order to get checked in and ready to depart by 9:00 am.

Special Events

MONDAY

WELCOME RECEPTION

Meet and greet old OCTA friends and new people and get the feel for the convention building's layout. For your enjoyment, there will be a No-Host Bar and a reception serving an assortment of hors d'oeuvres. Please use the registration form to let us know you will attend so we have sufficient appetizers. Afterwards there will be a lite supper "Shoshone Bannock" style available by purchased ticket.

TUESDAY

DEDICATION CEREMONY

At 4:30 pm there will be a dedication ceremony for the new Oregon Trail information boards at the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum.

AWARDS DINNER

Begin the evening with a stop at the No-Host Bar followed by dinner in the Event Center. OCTA Awards Chair Dick Nelson will host the presentation of OCTA awards.

WEDNESDAY

AUTHORS' NIGHT

Everyone is invited to visit with authors in person and have books signed – purchase them in the book room or bring them from home. There will again be a No-Host bar and the event will be followed by a lite supper - Potato Bar. Please use the Registration form to let us know you will be attending.

THURSDAY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT ON SIGNAGE

At 11:30 am there will be a report by Chuck Millken of NPS on Trails signage.

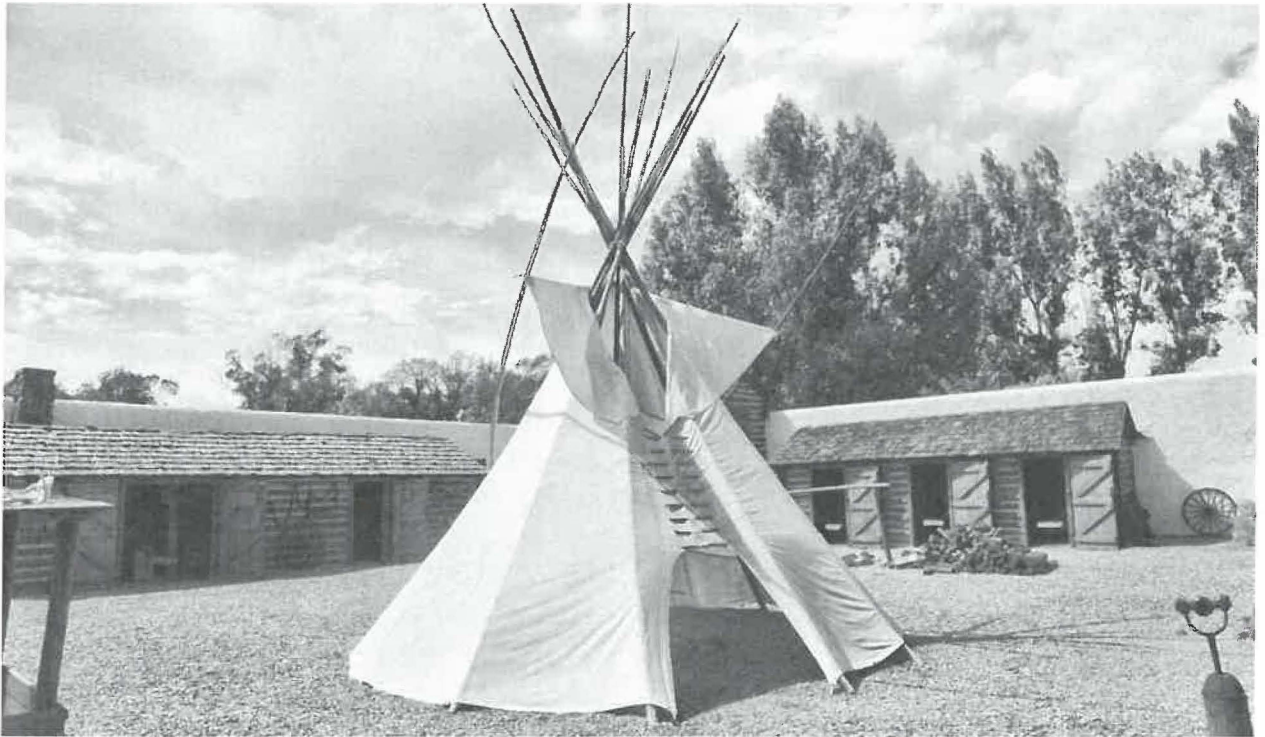
LIVE AUCTION DINNER

John Winner, as auctioneer, will continue his tradition of auctioning special items donated by folks like you.

FRIDAY

CONVENTION CLOSING BBQ AT THE FORT HALL REPLICA

Come as you are or dress in your favorite period clothing for BBQ at the Fort Hall replica in Ross Park, Pocatello. Here you will be able to see demonstrations by the American Mountain Men, to visit the Fort Hall replica and to spend time in the Bannock County Historical Museum. Convention goers are traditionally invited to celebrate another successful convention and take time to visit with each other before the final farewell to new and old OCTA friends for another year.



Book Room, Exhibits and Authors' Night

The **Book Room** is a good place to shop for books, new, used and rare, from dealers or publishers and single book sellers. There will be a number of tables of OCTA Book Store books and other store items. The Book Room is open to the public on certain days. Hours of operation are listed on the schedule. The room is located behind the Main Meeting Room.

The **Exhibit Area** is in the Pre-Function Area outside the Main Meeting Room. U.S. and state agencies, historical societies, and other nonprofits are offered a display table at no fee.

For a table Monday at **Authors' Night** during the reception, an author needs only to reserve a table to sell their own book this one night for no fee. Attendees enjoy meeting the authors and having them sign their books. Check the chapter website for a list of Authors' Night participants as they become available.

Area History

Fort Hall

[From Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series #121]

Established in 1834 as an outpost of the Snake country fur trade, Fort Hall occupied a strategic position in a key area of northern Shoshoni and Bannock Indian activity. The fort survived for slightly more than two decades, serving as a major supply station on the Oregon Trail after 1840 when westbound emigrants began to follow fur trade routes to the West Coast. After the original fort was abandoned, several subsequent posts, mostly with the same name, functioned in the area. The Indian reservation headquarters, named for the old fort, sits a few miles east of the original site of Fort Hall.

Prior to construction of Fort Hall, the Snake country fur trade had depended largely upon efforts of organized parties of trappers who ranged widely over the beaver streams each hunting season. This system, introduced by Donald MacKenzie, who became active in the Fort Hall area in 1818, prevailed throughout the important years of the Snake country and the Rocky Mountain fur trade. Each summer, various bands of trappers met at a rendezvous to dispose of their furs and get equipped for the next season. Nathaniel J. Wyeth, the founder of Fort Hall, had come west to enter the fur trade in 1832. Noting that the profits of the fur trade accrued to those who supplied the trappers at rendezvous, rather than to the fur hunters themselves, Wyeth contracted to supply the 1834 rendezvous. Setting out from St. Louis, April 28, with an expedition of 70 men and 250 horses, he brought out a stock of goods large enough to take care of the Rocky Mountain fur trade for a year. In addition, he planned to develop Columbia River salmon fishing, with prospective markets in the Hawaiian Islands and in Boston, his home base. Supported by a Boston concern (the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company) capitalized to develop his fur and fishery enterprises, Wyeth expected to develop

the resources of the Pacific Northwest on a large scale. A base of operations on the lower Columbia, near Fort Vancouver of the Hudson's Bay Company, might eventually have supplied the Rocky Mountain fur trade as well as his Columbia River salmon fisheries.

On the way to the 1834 rendezvous, held at Ham's Fork of Green River, Wyeth got into real trouble. Milton Sublette, with whom he had contracted to supply the mountain men, had to turn back to St. Louis, eventually to get a leg amputated. Wyeth's inexperienced men could not travel as fast as the regular suppliers could: before he reached his destination, the company that had previously handled the rendezvous trade passed him on the way to Ham's Fork and took over all the business again in utter disregard of Wyeth's contract. Because the Oregon country extended beyond the boundaries of the United States, civil law did not exist for mountain men on Ham's Fork. Wyeth doubted he could have done anything about the breach of contract in such a place anyway. (British subjects in the Oregon country were governed by the laws of Ontario, but no similar provision had been made for United States citizens west of the continental divide.) Anyway Wyeth had a lot of fur trade goods to dispose of before he continued on to the Columbia to get his salmon fisheries in operation. His solution was to head west to Snake River, where he founded Fort Hall to get rid of his surplus supplies. This unexpected change in plan also provided a base for operations for his fur hunters in the Snake country.

Wyeth reached the Snake on July 14 and chose a site for his fort about a hundred and fifty yards from the river, at a point several miles north of the Portneuf. His men went to work right away, erecting two houses and some horse corrals enclosed in a stockade 15 feet high and 80 feet

square. Complete with bastions for defense, his fort had a good (if possibly dangerous) location in the center of the major Indian wintering grounds of the upper Snake valley. When the fort was near enough completed for Wyeth to continue west, August 6, a dozen men, fourteen horses and mules, and three cows remained behind to occupy the only American outpost then existing in the Oregon country. Two of Wyeth's trapping parties ranged out of Fort Hall, while Wyeth and the remainder of his men proceeded on to the lower Columbia to develop his projected fisheries.



Fort Hall from National Archives

Somehow nothing in the plans of the Columbia River Fishing and Trading Company really worked out, although they were well conceived. The ship sent out from Boston to transport fish to Hawaii and New England ran into a storm off South America, suffering severe damage from lightning. The Columbia salmon fisheries proved to be a failure, although a small shipment went out. Wyeth wanted to contract with the Hudson's Bay Company to act as agent for supplying the Rocky Mountain fur trade: his plan was to transfer the trade base from St. Louis to Fort Vancouver on the lower Columbia, from which goods could be brought to rendezvous less expensively. John McLoughlin, who managed operations for the Hudson's Bay Company, was inclined to go along with Wyeth, whose plan would have delivered the northern Rocky Mountain fur trade to the Hudson's Bay Company. Company policy did not allow for such joint ventures, however, and instructions from

London finally forbade McLoughlin to get mixed up in any such promising, though unusual, enterprise. Thomas McKay already had established Fort Boise late in 1834 as a rival to Fort Hall in the interest of the Hudson's Bay Company, and McLoughlin was compelled to make Fort Boise into a company post and to compete vigorously with Fort Hall.

As Wyeth was aware, his only chance to succeed with Fort Hall depended upon supply from the lower Columbia: when he could not work that out independently, and could not manage to trade in cooperation with the Hudson's Bay Company, which already was operating from a base on the lower Columbia, he had no alternative but to clear out. In May 1836, he decided to sell Fort Hall to the Hudson's Bay Company and left negotiations of the transaction to a deputy. Another year or more went by while the deal was being worked out. Most of the traps, equipment, and horses were sold to mountain men during the 1837 rendezvous, since the Hudson's Bay Company could bring supplies to the Snake country from Fort Vancouver with less expense than Wyeth had brought them in from St. Louis. Wyeth's plan to obtain control of the Rocky Mountain fur trade by supplying Fort Hall from Fort Vancouver worked out just as he anticipated it would. But by then, Fort Hall belonged to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Assuming charge of the post, June 16, 1838, Hudson's Bay Company officials found a better source for furs. Rather than to depend upon parties of mountain men, they decided to employ the local Indians if they could persuade them to engage in fur hunting. James Douglas, visiting the new British fort, reported March 11, 1838, that the Shoshoni and Bannock "bravely maintained their independence, and now occupy a respectable position" among the Indians of the Northwest. Though they were "an exceedingly erractick people we have hopes of introducing among them more subtle habits of life and leading them to devote more of their time to Fur hunting; an object worthy of our attention, as we

are likely to derive from their exertions, more certain and extensive benefit, than we have reason to anticipate from the lawless and turbulent free white Trappers, now employed as beaver hunters. . ." Not depending entirely upon the Indians, the firm still sent out expeditions of company servants and free trappers to work the surrounding country. With the decline of the annual summer rendezvous of mountain men supplied from St. Louis, Fort Hall also served as a base for those who continued to trap the upper Snake country. T. J. Farnham noted in 1839 that "the American trappers even are fast leaving the service of their countrymen, for the larger profits and better treatment of British employment." Goods could be purchased at Fort Hall for half the price charged at American posts supplied from St. Louis; furs could be sold there for more than they would bring elsewhere. White trappers, who had access to other markets, got more for their furs than the Indians received, and paid less for their supplies.

Attempts to make Fort Hall more self-sufficient--commenced in Wyeth's time with efforts at raising onions, peas, corn, and turnips--continued under the British company. A plow was brought in 1839, but dry weather ruined the projected wheat crop. Cattle, traded after 1842 from emigrants on the Oregon Trail, thrived around Fort Hall, though. Moreover, the fur trade itself prospered at Fort Hall after it had declined in the Rockies generally; during the winter of 1842-1843, Fort Hall and Fort Boise were responsible for 2,500 beaver, which helped that season "to make up for losses elsewhere." In 1845-1846, the Snake country fur trade (1,600 beaver) still was valued at \$ 3,000. Much of the Fort Hall trade depended upon emigrant traffic by 1842, however.

Wagon trains could reach Fort Hall from the Missouri valley with no particular difficulty. Taking wagons farther west proved to be more of a problem. Henry Harmon Spalding and Marcus Whitman had brought a wagon past Fort Hall in 1846, but it reached Fort Boise only as a cart. There they had to abandon it altogether.

Hudson's Bay traders had managed to haul Spalding's wagon over the Blue Mountains to Fort Walla Walla in 1840. But they had such a hard time that they concluded that the pack trail from Fort Hall to the Columbia simply wasn't practical for wagons. Small emigrant pack trains made their way from the Mississippi Valley via Fort Hall to the Columbia in 1839-1840 and in 1841. Then in 1842, a larger group of 137 emigrants showed up with wagons. On the suggestion of Richard Grant, Hudson's Bay Company chief trader in charge of Fort Hall, they left the wagons at his post, and packed the rest of the way. Grant was able to sell them flour for the rest of their journey at half the price they had to pay at Fort Laramie; he traded for the abandoned wagons as an accommodation to the travelers. The emigrant supply trade increased enormously the next year with close to a thousand people coming through. By that time, Grant's problem, in face of desperate demand, was to keep back enough provisions to get Fort Hall through the winter. Unable to continue westward from Fort Hall without wagons, the emigrants accepted Marcus Whitman's advice to force their way through. They succeeded in getting their wagons clear to the Columbia. Each year after that brought another wave of emigrants on their way to Willamette Valley. In 1846, partly in response to continued emigrant traffic, the Snake country became part of the United States. Pending a settlement of Hudson's Bay Company claims for posts in that part of Oregon assigned to the United States, though, Fort Hall continued to function as a British post.

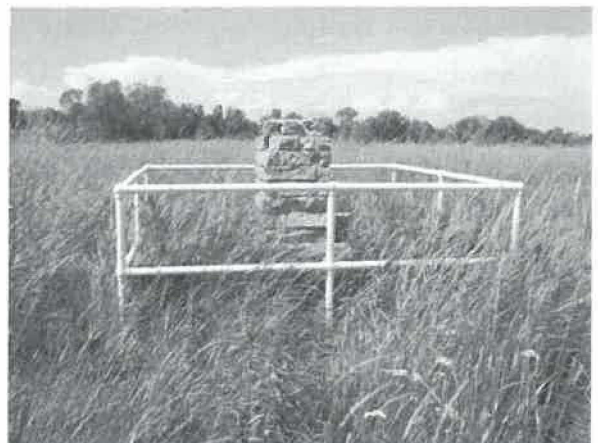
Practically a complete shift from fur trade to emigrant trade followed not long after the boundary settlement. Extensive Mormon migration in 1847 to Salt Lake gave Fort Hall an unexpected new market for several years, until the Mormon settlements became self-sufficient. A dip in emigrant wagons from 901 in 1847 to only 318 in 1848 came just before the end of the fur trade. Then the California gold rush improved the situation abruptly. Even though much of the 1849 traffic was diverted southward over

Hudspeth's Cutoff, Richard Grant estimated that 10,000 wagons rolled past Fort Hall that summer. At the same time, a force of mounted riflemen established a short-term United States military post--Cantonment Loring--only about six miles from Fort Hall in August. None of this activity encouraged the fur traders.

Declining beaver prices, combined with emigrant traffic on the Oregon and California trails, brought Fort Hall fur trade to a sudden halt in 1849. The beaver market in London had collapsed to the point that the Fort Hall rates (one Hudson's Bay Company blanket for four beaver) had become entirely too high, and the fur trade there turned out to be "more than unprofitable." Both the Indians and mountain men based at Fort Hall now could be supplied through trade with passing emigrants. Richard Grant reported February 22, 1850, that "the Indians have become Careless, and still more indolent than they ever were in hunting furs--some of the Old Ones no doubt might be enticed to hunt Beaver but that once valuable Animal having now [become] valueless, they are not encouraged. . ." The Indians, in fact, now had to hunt large animals for subsistence as well as for the emigrant trade. From 1849 on, Fort Hall had little function except as a supply post for wagon trains bound for Oregon. With Hudspeth's Cutoff (1849) diverting the California traffic, along with many of the Oregon wagons as well, to a route farther south, Fort Hall entered an abrupt decline.

Even though great Snake River floods damaged Fort Hall severely in 1853, and much of the

emigrant traffic bypassed Fort Hall, the British company hoped to continue to supply travelers on the Oregon Trail. Wagons began to haul flour and trade goods from the Lower Columbia to Fort Hall in 1853, and pack trains were discontinued altogether on the supply route in 1854. Indian trouble along the Oregon Trail broke out near Fort Boise in 1854, however, and by 1856 the situation deteriorated so terribly that Fort Hall had to be withdrawn. A decade later, a general settlement of Hudson's Bay Company claims for the value of posts in the United States was arranged. British interests at Fort Hall thus came to an end just at the time that establishment of an Indian reservation led to the development of a new and different kind of Fort Hall. By that time, Fort Hall also had become a station for stage lines hauling passengers to the new gold fields. Travelers still came by, but they no longer had to find their way through the great uninhabited wilderness that had faced earlier emigrants on the Oregon and California trails.



Fort Hall Monument

Fur Trappers

(From Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series no 444)

Fur hunters came to Idaho in 1808 from two directions: Canada and the upper Missouri, which they approached from Saint Louis. John Colter, who had come west with Lewis and Clark, returned up the Missouri to join Manual Lisa's fur trade venture while the rest of the expedition continued on to Saint Louis. In 1808 Colter may have explored Teton Valley in Idaho, along with the upper Yellowstone country, in his search for beaver. But trappers from Canada started the Idaho fur trade later that year on the Kootenai, far to the north. David Thompson, of the North West Company of Montreal, began trading with the local Indians near Bonner's Ferry, May 8, 1808, and established Kullyspell [Kalispell] House on Pend d'Oreille Lake, September 9, 1809. Coming south from a post he already had set up in British Columbia, he found convenient routes across Idaho (which had eluded Lewis and Clark) and went on to establish additional posts in Montana and Washington. Kullyspell House--the earliest trappers' outpost in that part of the Pacific Northwest later assigned to the United States--had a poor location, and within two years, Spokane House (built in 1810 west of the present city of Spokane) replaced that earlier trading center. Thompson retired from the Pacific Northwest in 1812, but his North West Company continued active in Idaho. Saint Louis trappers also made another effort in Idaho in 1810, when Andrew Henry built a winter post near Saint Anthony after fleeing across the Continental divide in order to escape hostile Blackfoot Indians in the Three Forks area. Henry withdrew the next spring, but some of his men returned to Idaho with Astorians headed west from Saint Louis later in the season.

Donald Mackenzie--who started with the North West Company, then came to Idaho as a partner in John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company, and finally returned to the North West Company to organize the Snake country fur trade--did more than anyone else to explore Idaho and to turn fur

hunting into a successful venture. Mackenzie came overland with Wilson Price Hunt's expedition of Astorian trappers in 1811. After failure of a disastrous attempt to bring canoes down Snake River from Fort Henry, he led the advance party of Astorians on a long hike to their operating base on the Pacific coast. On the way he explored the Boise region and the rough country above Snake River canyon between Weiser and Lewiston. Returning to the Clearwater, he built a winter camp among the Nez Perce near Lewiston in 1812. After failure of the Pacific Fur Company and sale of Astoria to the North West Company in 1813, Mackenzie went east, where he finally began to promote the Snake country as a trapping region. Particularly after John Reed's short-lived post on Snake River near later Fort Boise was wiped out by Bannock Indians at the beginning of 1814, the Snake country had a bad reputation. But in 1816, Mackenzie came back to expand North West Company operations into the Snake country, and by 1818 he had his Snake brigade operating from Boise to Bear Lake and the upper Snake in the Yellowstone Park region. In the summer of 1819 he held a regular trappers' rendezvous (a supply system later used regularly by William H. Ashley and his successors in the Saint Louis based Rocky Mountain fur trade) in Boise Valley, and the next winter he based his brigade of fur hunters on Little Lost River. There he managed to work out a peace agreement among the Northern Shoshoni, Bannock, and Nez Perce, in the interest of expanding the Snake country fur trade. With consolidation of the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821, Mackenzie went on to other assignments in Canada. But in 1822, Michel Bourdon led his Snake brigade to new country on the Salmon, and Finnan MacDonald took the trappers out in 1823. After some unfortunate clashes with the Blackfeet, particularly in the Lemhi, MacDonald refused to hunt furs any longer in the Snake country. Alexander Ross then led the Snake

country trappers into more new country (exploring Upper Wood River, Stanley Basin, and the Upper Weiser) in 1824, and Mackenzie's system continued until 1832, when the country was largely trapped out and fixed posts (Fort Hall and Fort Boise) soon supplanted the annual Snake expedition which had been out hunting beaver for fourteen seasons.

Competition for the Hudson's Bay Company reached the Snake country in 1824. Jedediah Smith and a small band of mountain men supplied from Saint Louis found their way to the Portneuf early that fall. There they found a detachment of Alexander Ross' Iroquois trappers who had been left "pillaged and destitute" by unfriendly Bannock warriors. Escorting the luckless Iroquois back to Alexander Ross and the Hudson's Bay Company Snake brigade, Smith and his six associates went on a long fur hunt with the British trappers. Late in 1824, Peter Skene Ogden took command of the British Snake brigade, and more than a decade of sharp competition ensued. An aristocratic, highly organized monopoly company fought a loose combine of frontier mountain men, who lived strictly according to Indian custom except for spending most of their time looking for beaver. Organized on an Indian model into several independent bands of fur hunters, the mountain men put on an energetic campaign in the Snake country and the Rockies. To hold them back from penetrating into a highly valuable beaver country of interior British Columbia (known then as New Caledonia), the Hudson's Bay Company decided to trap out the Snake country. That way, a barren zone interposed between the Rockies and the Hudson's Bay Company fur empire farther northwest, would keep the mountain men at a safe distance. Normally the Hudson's Bay Company pursued a conservationist policy to keep the beaver country in production one century after another. But the Snake country, located beyond the Hudson's Bay Company monopoly fur hunting lands anyway, had to be handled differently. From 1824 to 1832, British and Canadian trappers, helped by mountain men

by the hundred, depleted the fur resources of the Snake country.

While Jedediah Smith's small detachment of mountain men was out trapping with Alexander Ross and Peter Ogden, John Weber had a larger party in a winter camp in Cache Valley just north of the later town of Franklin. Arriving in the fall of 1824, Weber's band operated in country previously trapped by Donald Mackenzie and Michel Bourdon. From their Idaho base, Jim Bridger went out to explore Salt Lake, and for the next several years, Weber's mountain men radiated out over a wide area of southern Idaho and adjacent beaver country. In the spring of 1826, William H. Sublette and David E. Jackson took some of these men on an expedition that explored the Payette Lakes country, and that summer William H. Ashley held his second annual fur trade rendezvous, this one in Cache Valley. There, on July 18, 1826, William H. Ashley sold out his fur trade business to a new firm of Jedediah Smith, David E. Jackson, and William H. Sublette. Ashley agreed to bring supplies to the next year's rendezvous, to be held at Bear Lake. Jedediah Smith then set out for California while the other partners trapped in the Snake and Yellowstone country. Except for Smith's men, they generally returned late in 1826 for another winter in Cache Valley. Smith, Jackson, and Sublette held their next two trappers' rendezvous (1827 & 1828) on Bear Lake, and for a decade after 1826, most white trappers in the Idaho fur trade were mountain men based out of Saint Louis.

After 1826, Ogden and his Snake brigade had to spend part of their time exploring southern Oregon. Before he had finished, Ogden had pretty well trapped out the Snake country and had explored the Humboldt in Nevada, Pit River in California, and had descended most of the Colorado below Grand Canyon. When, after six annual Snake expeditions, Ogden went on to a new assignment in British Columbia, John Work took the British trappers into remote parts of the Salmon River mountains when his search for beaver (1830-1832) showed that the Idaho fur

trade had gone into decline. A protective Snake country barren zone, planned by the Hudson's Bay Company, had been realized by the time Work got through.

After 1828, the annual Rocky Mountain trappers' rendezvous shifted eastward for a time. But in 1829 and 1832, that annual fur hunters' trading festival came to Pierre's Hole--for years a major center of the Idaho fur trade.

More Indians than trappers turned up at the Pierre's Hole rendezvous from July 8-18, 1832. Altogether more than 200 mountain men (some of them independent, but most associated with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company or the American Fur Company) joined 120 lodges of Nez Perce Indians and 80 lodges of Flatheads for the summer fair and frolic. New entrants into the fur trade--expeditions of Nathaniel J. Wyeth and Benjamin L. E. Bonneville--also appeared. A battle with the Gros Ventre Indians, brought on by an Iroquois trapper, marked the end of the meeting. After a sharp fight, the Nez Perce and the trappers managed to drive off the Gros Ventre and head out for their fall hunts.

Trapping parties continued to work in the Salmon River country in the fall of 1832, and on Henry's Fork from 1832-1836. Hudson's Bay Company expeditions, and bands of American trappers employed by Nathaniel Wyeth and Benjamin Bonneville, continued to move all the way across southern Idaho each year. Permanent fur trade posts--Fort Hall and Fort Boise--gave a new stability to a generally declining Idaho fur trade from 1834 on. Wyeth built Fort Hall as an outlet for trade goods he had been unable to dispose of at the 1834 rendezvous, and Hudson's Bay Company trappers retaliated by building Fort Boise. Wyeth had to set out at Fort Hall, although the Hudson's Bay Company did not get around to taking over that post until 1838. By then the rendezvous system of supplying the Rocky Mountain fur trade had come to an end, and few trappers managed to find the rendezvous attempted in

1839. Most went into other enterprises, generally in other parts of the country; those who stayed and trapped (in spite of a severe beaver price decline) had to dispose of their fur to the Hudson's Bay Company. After 1840, though, the Hudson's Bay Company posts (Fort Hall and Fort Boise) became important stations on the Oregon Trail; traffic of west bound settlers attracted more attention than the fur trade. After Idaho became part of the United States in 1846, the Hudson's Bay Company retained Fort Boise and Fort Hall pending a financial settlement under the Oregon boundary treaty. Indian restlessness, engendered by heavy traffic on the Oregon Trail, followed by army military expeditions against the Boise Shoshoni and their associates, forced the company to close Fort Boise in 1855 and Fort Hall in 1856.

During the years of the Idaho fur trade, by far the majority of inhabitants were Indians, and the Indian way of life prevailed. Although fur trapping dislocated the Indian economy in part, some convenient Euro-American implements made life easier for the natives of Idaho. Even the white trappers lived pretty much like Indians, with the exception of a few stationed in the permanent forts. Aside from severe ravages of Anglo disease (which plagued the Indians in the early stages of fur trade contact), the Indians made out pretty well until extensive white settlement followed the fur trade and brought next to insoluble problems. But during the years of the fur trade, white exploration and trade did not disrupt Indian political, social, and cultural institutions. Though the mountain men stirred up quite a lot of friction with the Indians at times, the Hudson's Bay Company followed a strict policy of avoiding hostilities. While a number of skirmishes and battles (mostly involving mountain men and Indians) broke out during the fur trade era, most of the trouble came later. Fur hunting brought Indians and whites together in a way that could not be matched after white settlement changed the situation.

Snake River Prehistory and Historical Summary

(From Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series 295)

Nomadic peoples have lived along the Snake River for more than fourteen thousand years. Best known for their exploits in hunting elephants, giant bison, horses, camels, giant sloth, and other extinct species--as well as elk, deer, and other survivors--they had followed big game from Siberia across a broad plain that took them into Alaska during an ice age when sea level was so low that Asia and North America were one continent. Coming south past a continental ice sheet and local glaciers, several successive groups of hunters spread out over North and South America. Evidence of their occupation of the Snake region goes back for more than fourteen thousand years.

Conditions gradually changed over six thousand years of climatic modification. After much of their big game had to move to greener pastures when Snake country ranges dried up during a time when hot climate and arid plains gradually ruined their grazing lands, those who continued to occupy Snake River country developed a new way of life. Some eight thousand years ago, a transition from pursuit of big game herds to a regular seasonal migratory cycle gradually occurred. Visits to camas, bitterroot, and other natural gardens preceded trips to salmon fishing spots and buffalo ranges. Traditional winter village sites with house pits became prominent at least five thousand years ago. Pack horses obtained from eighteenth-century Spanish sources made travel easier. A network of established pack trails gave access to all parts of the Snake and Columbia area.

Two different cultural traditions met in the Snake country. Plateau peoples who depended upon salmon fisheries, big game, and root harvests operated from lower Snake and Clearwater bases. Desert peoples with Nevada

and Utah associations also hunted, fished, and dug camas, bitterroot, and similar edible vegetables. But they had a desert orientation, housing, and equipment. They used brush shelters as well as tipis, and they learned to survive in country that most people had to avoid. Snake River's extensive plains offered an avenue of communication, travel, and cultural interchange that affected both groups of inhabitants. Mountain Shoshoni and Salmon River Nez Perce also came in contact in Idaho's rugged Salmon River mountain country where Shoshoni specialists in hunting mountain sheep carried on a hesitant trade with their plateau neighbors.

Prior to white contact, Indians from a vast area met each summer for a great trade festival in a Snake River area where numerous other streams (Payette, Boise, Owyhee, Weiser, and Malheur) converge in an excellent salmon fishery. Lower Columbia peoples, Nez Perce, Cayuse, Northern Paiute, local and regional Northern Shoshoni, and more remote plains peoples such as Arapaho horsemen came in from all directions. This gathering, comparable to similar annual events around The Dalles and Cascades of the Columbia or at Missouri River's Mandan villages, provided increased cultural contact for Indian travelers through the Snake country.

When Lewis and Clark (1805-1806) found an old Indian route from navigable Missouri waters to impenetrable Salmon and Snake River canyons that forced them to detour through a difficult Clearwater mountain overland passage, a whole new cultural element came into a land whose inhabitants had seen no use in farming or similar activities. Fur hunters followed in less than a decade, and half a century of beaver trapping

made the Snake country into a disputed borderland between large British companies and bands of mountain men based out of St. Louis. Industrious trapping soon converted Snake River from a major beaver resource into a fur region. Then Oregon Trail emigrant wagons brought thousands of settlers past two Hudson's Bay Company posts--Fort Hall and Fort Boise--to farmland homes farther west. Aside from a few Indian missionaries, scarcely anyone saw much opportunity for building white communities along Snake River.

Gold discoveries in 1860 suddenly attracted thousands of settlers to mountain and valley areas which had seemed quite forbidding only a year or two before. Lewiston emerged immediately as a permanent river town, and Boise followed in southern Idaho two years later.

Irrigated farming and rail transportation led to development of a string of new communities along Snake River over another half century. Above Lewiston--a nineteenth-century steamboat settlement which finally became an inland seaport after a century of improvement of Snake River navigation--Snake River resisted a number of ill-advised efforts to extend steamboat services to Boise and Salmon Falls. But with a broad valley which provided convenient rail and highway access connecting Midwestern plains with Pacific Northwest ports, Snake River continued to serve as a route of cultural interchange between regions of somewhat different cultural orientation. Mountain barriers and river valleys still direct transportation, communication, and trade along lines that have been developed for 14,000 years or more.



The Snake River at Ferry Butte – site of Meek's Ferry

The Shoshone Bannock and Fort Hall

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall are comprised of bands of the Northern Shoshone and the Bannock, or Northern Paiute. Ancestral lands of both tribes occupied vast regions encompassing present-day Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and into Canada. The tribes are culturally related but their languages are dialectically separate.

The name Shoshone is said to come from the Indian words "*shawnt*" which means "abundance", and "*shaw-nip*", meaning "grass", or "abundance of grass".

The tribal name Bannock is said to come from the Paiute word Pannakwati (or Banakwut), which means "riverside."

Fort Hall was established in 1834 as a Trading Post for Fur Trappers and Indians alike. In 1836 the first wagons arrived in Fort Hall and by 1843 significant numbers were travelling through to Oregon and to California.

The westbound emigration along the Oregon Trail passed through Shoshone territory for over a decade without interference from the Indians, even though by 1845 the number of emigrants traveling annually exceeded that of the local population. However, in late summer when the emigrant trains were crossing the Shoshone lands, most Indians were not at home. This was when the mounted Shoshone and Bannock were hunting bison in Montana. It was the fishermen and food gatherers, with no band organization, who witnessed the emigrants passing along the Trail.

Unsanctioned attacks occurred and relations started to deteriorate. In 1863

more than 200 Shoshones were massacred along the Bear River. The attack was led by volunteer soldiers from California, and it was one of the first and largest massacres of Native peoples west of the Mississippi River.

The Fort Hall Reservation was established for the tribes by an Executive Order in 1867. The 1868 Treaty of Fort Bridger confirmed the agreement. The treaty stipulated the establishment of a separate reservation for the Bannock band, but the promises were breached and the band remained at Fort Hall with the Shoshones. Although the tribes were initially permitted to leave reservation lands for summer hunting and gathering practices, settlers rallied against it, and the Bannock Wars of 1878 ensued. Tribal members participating in the conflict were returned to Fort Hall. The population of the reservation increased when other Northern Shoshone bands were forcibly moved to Fort Hall.

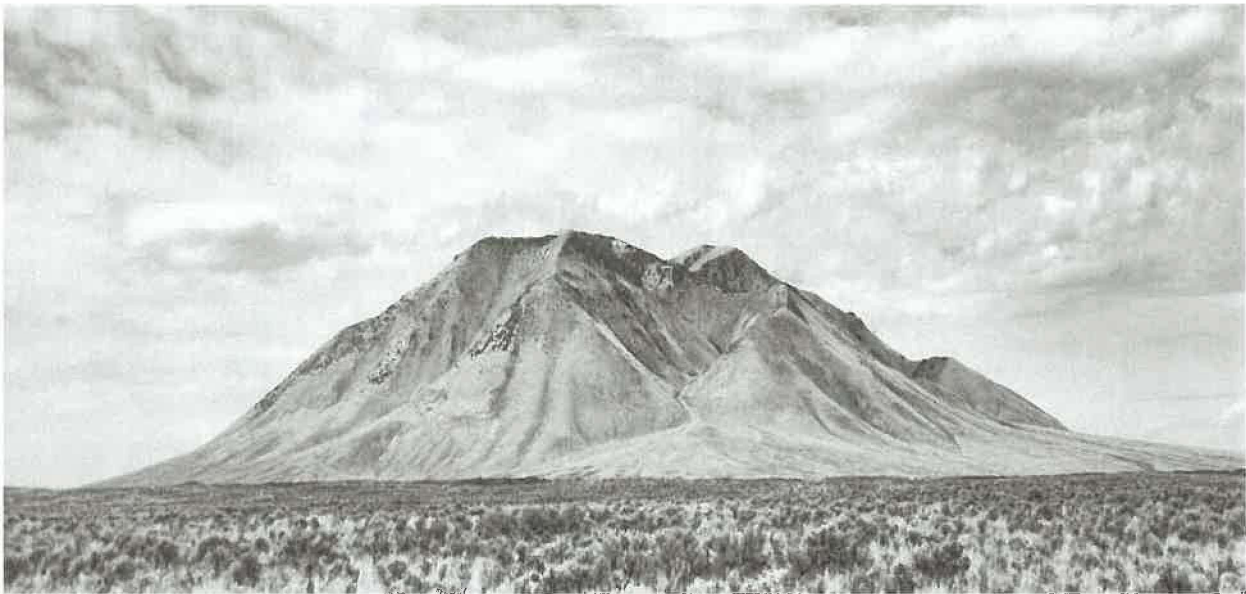
In 1888, the Tribes were forced to cede over 1,800 acres of their 1.2-million-acre reservation to accommodate development of the town of Pocatello located nearby. Around the turn of the century, Pocatello had grown so dramatically that the tribes were forced to agree to the cession of an additional 420,000 acres. For this they received approximately \$600,000. The bulk of the lands were made available to the public through a land rush, where individuals and families staked claim on designated lands during a race. On June 17, 1902, 6,000 settlers took part in the "Day of the

Run" land rush of the Shoshone-Bannock lands.

The 1887 Dawes Act initiated the allotment of the Fort Hall Reservation. This process was completed by 1914, with over 347,000 acres having been distributed among 1,863 individual land allotments (tribal members) between 1911 and 1913 alone. By the time allotment of the tribal lands was terminated, nearly 36,000 acres had been alienated from Native ownership through sales, Patents in fee or certificates of competency. Surplus lands were ceded to Pocatello or sold to non-Natives, thus creating the checkerboard pattern of land

ownership that now exists within the reservation boundaries.

In 1907, the ancestral lands of the Lemhi Band of Shoshones were terminated, and remaining families were relocated to Fort Hall. In 1936, the tribes approved a constitution and bylaws for self-government under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The tribes ratified a corporate charter in 1937. As of 1992, 96 percent of the Fort Hall Reservation was once again under Indian control, either through federal trust or ownership by individual tribal members



Big Southern Butte on Goodale's Cutoff

Emigrant Trails

The Fort Hall area was a crossroads of early travel as numerous emigrant trails and roads passed through the area. Early fur trappers traveled the Snake River, carrying their goods in dugout canoes.

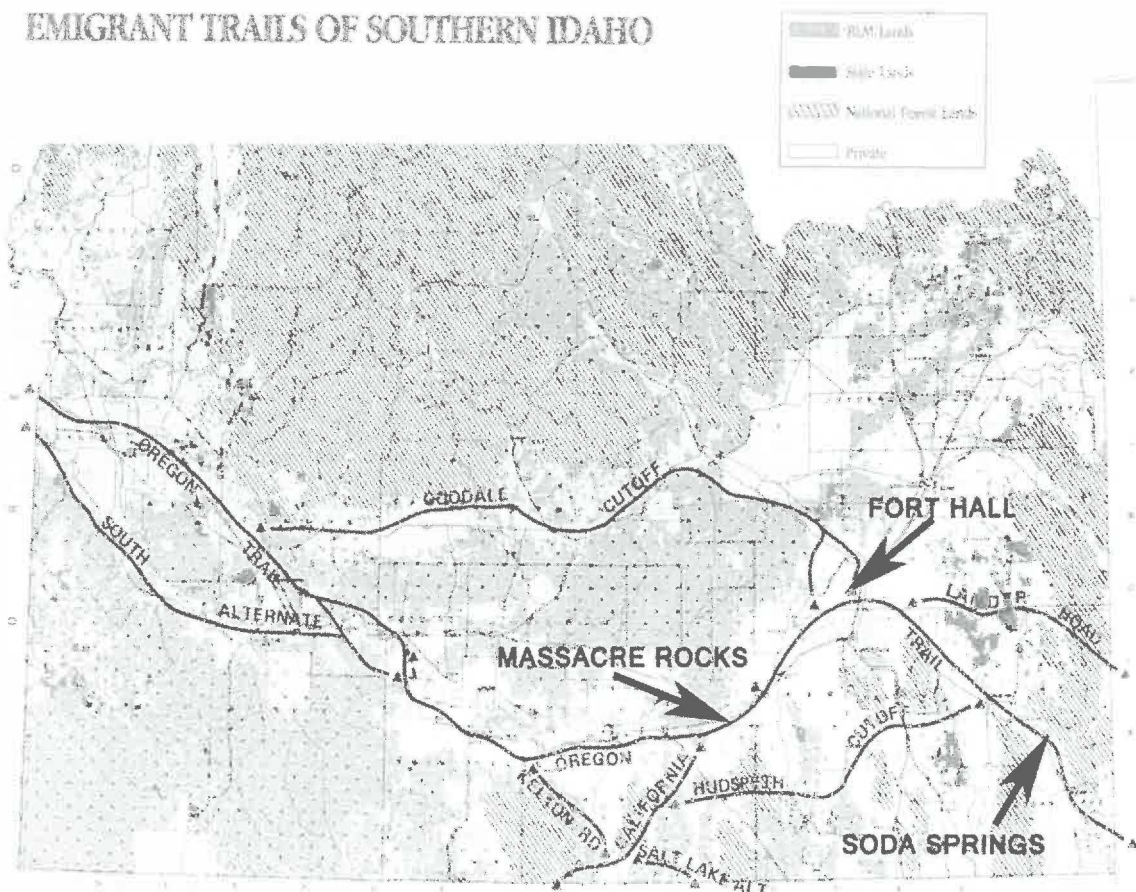
Oregon Trail travelers crossed Mount Putnam and followed Ross Fork into the Snake River valley, stopping to rest at Fort Hall, before continuing down the south side of the river past American Falls. California travelers then branched south at Parting of the Ways in Raft River valley while Oregon travelers continued west along the Snake River.

In 1849, the Hudspeth Cutoff was started west of Soda Springs as a route to bypass the travel north to Fort Hall and then back south along Raft River. It soon captured most of the travelers heading to California.

In 1854, emigrants began to cross the Snake River on a ferry upstream of Fort Hall and travel across the desert, around the volcanic area now known as Craters of the Moon, and across the Camas Prairie on the Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff. This route avoided much of the Indian difficulties along the Snake River.

Finally, in the late 1850's, the Lander Road was developed and became a primary route for westward travel into the Fort Hall area. From Fort Hall, the traditional routes to California and Oregon were followed, as well as a route north to the Montana mines. A road was also created north from Salt Lake City to Fort Hall and Montana.

All of these roads came together in the Fort Hall area, a crossroads of early travel in eastern Idaho.



Diaries Across Idaho

The following articles are presented from *Diaries Across Idaho*, emigrant diary stories compiled by Jerry Eichhorst in *Trail Dust*, the Idaho chapter newsletter.

Pierre's Hole

Nestled at the southwest foot of the Teton Mountains lies the Teton River Valley. Known as "Pierre's Hole" to the fur trappers, this beautiful valley was the site of two trapper gatherings. Joseph Meek attended the rendezvous in 1829 and described the event in his reminiscence *The River of the West*. Benjamin Bonneville described the area in *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville*. Jim Hardee's book, *Pierre's Hole!* provides an excellent history of the fur trapper era of the Teton River Valley.

...found time to admire the magnificent scenery of the valley, which is bounded on two sides by broken and picturesque ranges, and overlooked by that magnificent group of mountains, called the Three Tetons, towering to a height of fourteen thousand feet. This emerald cup set in its rim of amethystine mountains, was so pleasant a sight to the mountain-men that camp was moved to it without delay, where it remained until sometime in September, recruiting its animals and preparing for the fall hunt.

Joseph Meek

The valley called Pierre's Hole, is about thirty miles in length, and fifteen in width, bounded to the west and south by low and broken ridges, and overlooked to the east by three lofty mountains, called the three Tetons, which domineer as landmarks over a vast extent of country.

A fine stream, fed by rivulets and mountain springs, pours through the valley towards the north, dividing it into nearly equal parts. The meadows on its borders are broad and extensive, covered with willow and cotton-wood trees, so closely interlocked and matted together, as to be nearly impassable.

In this valley was congregated the motley populace connected with the fur trade. Here the two rival companies had their encampments, with their retainers of all kinds: traders, trappers, hunters, and half-breeds, assembled from all quarters, awaiting their yearly supplies, and their orders to start off in new directions. Here, also, the savage tribes connected with the trade, the Nez Percés or Chopunnish Indians, and Flatheads, had pitched their lodges beside the streams, and with their squaws, awaited the distribution of goods and finery. There was, moreover, a band of fifteen free trappers, commanded by a gallant leader from Arkansas, named Sinclair, who held their encampment a little apart from the rest.

Such was the wild and heterogeneous assemblage, amounting to several hundred men, civilized and savage, distributed in tents and lodges in the several camps.

The arrival of Captain Sublette with supplies, put the Rocky Mountain Fur Company in full activity. The wares and merchandise were quickly opened, and as quickly disposed of to trappers and Indians; the usual excitement and revelry took place, after which, all hands began to disperse to their several destinations.

Benjamin Bonneville

Steamboat Spring

Emigrant diarists looked forward to seeing the springs along Bear River in the area that we now call Soda Springs. Many referred to them as a great curiosity and commented on the quality and taste of the water. Some went to great lengths describing the mineral cones from which the springs flowed. Nearby Steamboat Spring was also mentioned frequently. A chugging sound caused by the structure of the water outlet reminded emigrants of the sound of a steamboat. Today, the town of Soda Springs has grown up around the natural springs while Steamboat Spring is under the water of Alexander Reservoir.

In July of 1852, Enoch Conyers and his wagon train from Quincy, Illinois reached Soda Springs. After a short rest, they went on to Steamboat Spring where this unusual incident takes place.

July 22—Thursday. —We started at 7 a. m. and traveled eight miles to Soda Springs. These springs are indeed a great curiosity—hollow cones nearly three feet in diameter and four feet high are formed by the mineral water. At times these cones will be filled with water and strongly impregnated with soda; in a short time, the water in the cones will disappear, leaving nothing but a reddish-colored sediment in the bottom of the cone. There are over twenty of these cones in this vicinity. A number of them are extinct. Fremont in his works gives splendid descriptions of these springs. On the right-hand side of the road is a small grove of timber and near the edge of this grove is located a clear, cold spring of water. It has no taste whatever of soda. All the other springs are strongly impregnated with soda. Many of the emigrants relish the taste of this sodawater and drink freely of it, but I cannot endure it. After remaining here for about thirty minutes we came on one mile to a point of land jutting out into the Bear River, where, a short distance from the trail on the right-hand bank of Bear River, is the famous Steamboat Spring, which can be seen from the road. One of our company, R. L. Doyle, made a wager that he could stop the flow of water from this spring by sitting on the crevice. He waited until the water began to recede, then took off his pants and seated himself on the crevice. In this position he waited for the flow. He did not have to wait very long for the flow. It came gradually at first, but increased in force every moment. Doyle soon began bobbing up and down at a fearful rate. At this stage of the fun several of the boys took hold of Doyle and tried to hold him on the crevice, but in this they failed, for the more weight they added to Doyle the more power the spring seemed to have, and Doyle kept on bobbing up and down like a cork. Finally Doyle cried out: "Boys, there is no use trying to hold the devil down. It can't be did, for the more weight you put on the more the devil churns me. I am now pounded into a beefsteak."

Source: "Diary of E. W. Conyers, A Pioneer of 1852: Now of Clatskanie, Oregon," *Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association*, Thirty-Third Annual Reunion (1905): 468-469.

Chesterfield to Fort Hall

After leaving Soda Springs, the Oregon Trail traveled west for a few miles before turning northwest up the Portneuf River valley. Shortly past the Chesterfield area, the road turned west and traveled up Jeff Cabin Creek and over Mount Putnam before dropping onto the Snake River bottoms and reaching Fort Hall. Along the way, emigrants commented on the view from the summit and often camped near Big Springs. Although part of the Fort Hall Reservation today, this route can still be traveled with the assistance of a guide.



July 24—Saturday. —We started at 7 a. m. and traveled twenty-three miles over rough, ragged, mountainous country. The hills were very steep. Water quite plenty along the road today. One good spring of water two miles after gaining the summit. Plenty of service berries to be found near the road on this mountain. Several of our company made themselves sick by eating too many. Small green willows for wood tonight. Grazing tolerable good. Good spring of water at the foot of the mountain.

Enoch Conyers 1852

[July] 12. Crossed the mountain which forms the rim of the great basin separating the waters of the Salt Lake from those of the Pacific the passage of the mountain not difficult. Came in the afternoon to an excellent spring the head of waters running into the great Western ocean continued our course down the rill until it became a beautiful mountain stream dashing over cataracts and rushing through deep and craggy ravines

13. Early this morning struck a sandy plain which continued for several miles. Travelling heavy came about 2 o'clock to excellent springs and grazing passed two or 3 creeks this afternoon beautiful meadows on every hand. Struck Lewis river and camped in sight of Fort Hall.



Rev. Robert Robe 1851

Fort Hall

Nathaniel J. Wyeth lost the opportunity to provide goods for the annual trapper rendezvous held at Ham's Fork on the Green River in 1834 because he arrived too late. Proceeding west to the upper Snake River valley, Wyeth selected a site on the southeast side of the river to build a trading post in mid-July, 1834. The trading post was named Fort Hall after Henry Hall, a financial backer of the expedition, and originally built of cottonwood logs. Fort Hall became a major trading post on the Oregon Trail and was mentioned in most diary accounts that followed this route. Traffic dwindled as travelers began to take different and often shorter routes west until Fort Hall was abandoned by 1855.

Jason Lee, an American missionary, arrived at the site as construction was starting and stayed with Wyeth for 15 days. On July 27, 1834, Jason Lee held the first public worship service conducted by an American on the overland trail on waters flowing into the Pacific. The next day, Lee conducted a funeral service. Lee's account of his visit follows.

July 15.—Arrived at the place Captain W. had chosen to build his fort.

July 16.—Twelve men went out to procure and dry meat for the journey to Wallahwallah, there being no prospect of finding buffalo below [down the Snake].

July 26.—The men returned laden with meat.

Sunday, July 27.—By request of Mr. M'Kay, whose party had now arrived, we repaired to the grove for public worship, which was the first we had on the journey. Mr. M'Kay's company, consisting of Indians, half breeds, and Canadians, attended, and many of Capt. W's. company. All behaved with the utmost decorum. Being unwell I did not preach, but gave a short exhortation. After service two of Mr. M'Kay's Canadians went out for a horse race, and while they were at full speed another, attempting to run in with them, came in contact with one of the former, who was thrown from his horse and so injured that he knew nothing after and expired before morning.

July 28.—Read the funeral service to all of both companies, who appeared very solemn. O that they would remember this, that they would think on their latter end. Two Indians from Capt. M'Kay's company came to our tent, and told us they wished to give us two horses. Suspecting that they

intended to pursue the same course that the traders say they generally do, viz., give a horse and then require more than its value in goods, I told them if they gave us horses we had little to give them in return. They replied that they wanted nothing in return. Fearing they would be displeased, if we refused, and being in want of horses, I told them that I would gladly accept their favor, and accordingly they brought us two fine white horses. Captain M'Kay had told them that we were missionaries, and it was on this account that they presented the horses. In return I gave them a small present with which they seemed well pleased. Thus we were provided for just in time of need, for two of our horses were nearly worn out, and were able to do nothing after, and we were obliged to leave them in the prairie. The name of Capt. W's. fort is Fort Hall, its latitude 43° 14' north. The place is not pleasant, the sand being frequently driven about by the wind in as large quantities as snow in the east.

July 30.—Left Fort Hall with [Capt. Stewart and] Captain M'K., Captain W., not being yet ready, and we being under the necessity of pushing on with such rapidity that we should not be able to take our cows, we judged it best to leave his company.

Townsend at Fort Hall

John Kirk Townsend was trained as a physician and pharmacist. With an interest in natural history and bird collecting, he was included as a member of Nathaniel Wyeth's expedition across the Rocky Mountains in 1834. Townsend's journal is much different from the typical emigrant journal as he provides extensive descriptions of the journey, along with wildlife and birds. Last issue I shared Jason Lee's journal at Fort Hall. Townsend's description of Jason Lee's preaching at Fort Hall follows.

The next day [July 27], being the Sabbath, our good missionary, Mr. Jason Lee, was requested to hold a meeting, with which he obligingly complied. A convenient, shady spot was selected in the forest adjacent, and the greater part of our men, as well as the whole of Mr. McKay's company, including the Indians, attended. The usual forms of the Methodist service (to which Mr. L. is attached,) were gone through, and were followed by a brief, but excellent and appropriate exhortation by that gentleman. The people were remarkably quiet and attentive, and the Indians sat upon the ground like statues. Although not one of them could understand a word that was said, they nevertheless maintained the most strict and decorous silence, kneeling when the preacher kneeled, and rising when he rose, evidently with a view of paying him and us a suitable respect, however much their own notions as to the proper and most acceptable forms of worship, might have been opposed to ours.

A meeting for worship in the Rocky mountains is almost as unusual as the appearance of a herd of buffalo in the settlements. A sermon was perhaps never preached here before; but for myself, I really enjoyed the whole scene; it possessed the charm of novelty, to say nothing of the salutary effect which I sincerely hope it may produce...

In the evening, a fatal accident happened to a Canadian belonging to Mr. McKay's party. He was running his horse, in company with another, when the animals were met in full career by a third rider, and horses and men were thrown with great force to the ground. The Canadian was taken up completely senseless, and brought to Mr. McKay's lodge, where we were all taking supper. I perceived at once that there was little chance of his life being saved. He had received an injury of the head which had evidently caused concussion of the brain. He was bled copiously, and various local remedies were applied, but without success; the poor man died early next morning...

At noon the body was interred. It was wrapped in a piece of coarse linen, over which was sewed a buffalo robe. The spot selected, was about a hundred yards south of the fort, and the funeral was attended by the greater part of the men of both camps. Mr. Lee officiated in performing the ordinary church ceremony, after which a hymn for the repose of the soul of the departed, was sung by the Canadians present. The grave is surrounded by a neat palisade of willows, with a black cross erected at the head, on which is carved the name "Casseau."

Suggested Reading List

By Jerry Eichhorst

Many emigrant diaries mention interactions with Indians along the trails in Idaho. These interactions range from passing groups along the trail, having Indians visit their camps looking for food, offering fish for trade, and offering to trade for white children, to thievery, attacks and killings. Many diarists had no encounters with Indians across Idaho, yet tribal histories tell us that all of the wagon trains were watched from hilltops in the distance. Although Idaho had several Indian attacks on wagon trains, for the great majority of encounters, the Indians were friendly and helpful to the emigrants.

First Person Accounts

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Shoshone-Bannock Indians

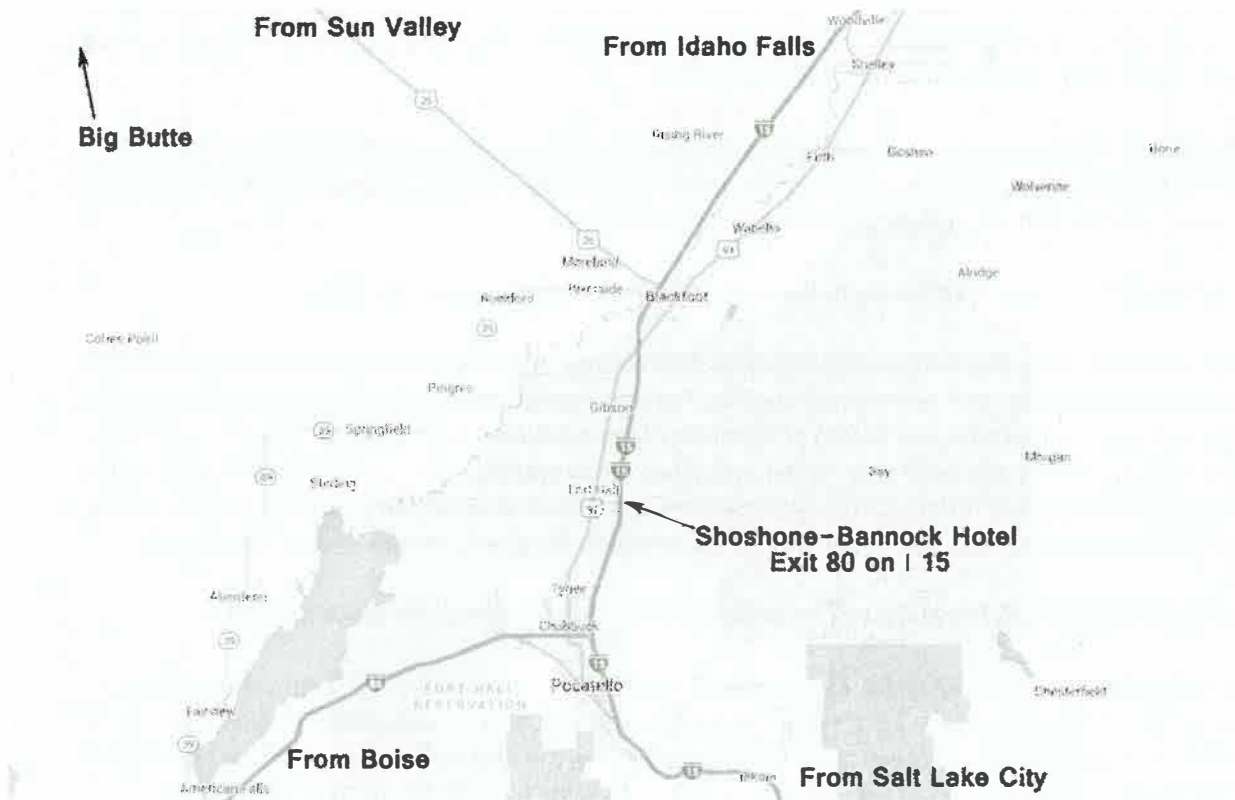
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Local Information

Map of Fort Hall and Pocatello area



Driving Directions

From the South – Take Interstate 15 N to exit 80, Simplot Road, in Idaho.

From the West – Take Interstate 84 E to Interstate 86 E then take Interstate 15 N (16 miles) to exit 80, Simplot Road.

From the East – Take Interstate 80 W to exit 66 and US – 30 W to Pocatello. Continue on US 30 – W into Idaho. Merge onto Interstate 15 N at Inkom. Continue on Interstate 15 N to exit 80.

Salt Lake City Airport (SLC) – Take I 80 E (2 miles) to I 15 N 175 miles to exit 80, Simplot Road, in Idaho. The Hotel is at the NW corner of this Junction

Pocatello Regional Airport – Take I 86 E (1 mile) then take I 86 E and I 15 N (16 miles) to Exit 80, Simplot Road.

Idaho Falls Regional Airport - Take I 15 S (1.5 miles) and head south to Exit 80, Simplot Rd. (39 miles)

An Important Note on the Sun and Altitude

Although not in the mountains, the Snake River Plain in Eastern Idaho is at an altitude of 5000 ft and appropriate precautions should be taken. This area can be windy and high temperatures in August will average almost 90° and can exceed 100°. When the sun disappears, it tends to cool quickly, so bring jackets along for evening events.

CLOTHING CODE: Dress according to your activity. Attendees usually wear casual clothes for events at the convention, although some people dress up for the Awards Dinner. At the Friday night dinner, you are invited to wear period clothing if you wish.

FOOTGEAR: All tours require you to wear sturdy shoes – no sandals or flip-flops.

PRE-CONVENTION, POST-CONVENTION AND BUS TOURS AND HIKES The OCTA conventions offer various tours: hiking, bus and private vehicle. The tours conducted during the convention are all-day bus tours to trail sites and places of historic or scenic interest. No strenuous hikes are planned. The Scenic Tour is the only one which will have lift capability. The pre-convention and post-convention self-drive tours call for high clearance and four-wheel-drive private vehicles. Check each pre-convention tour for leader contact information for any questions and further details.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS Handouts will be available at the Registration/Information Desk.

ALTITUDE AND TEMPERATURE As previously mentioned, the altitude is approximately 5000' elevation. A headache may be a symptom of **altitude sickness** or **dehydration**. Drink plenty of water, the average temperature range for August 1 – 5 in the Fort Hall area is 51° at night to 88° in the day with just ½ an inch of rain for the month most likely to be in the form of thunderstorms.

DIETARY CONCERNS Please check your ticket to ensure that your dietary concerns have been recognized. If not, please advise the Registration desk.

SUN PROTECTION Be sure to use sunscreen and wear a hat, sunglasses and a long-sleeved shirt. The less dense air of higher altitudes allows the sun to affect your skin more quickly than at lower elevations.

MEDICATIONS Be sure to pack your medications, including your allergy medications, insect repellent and treatments for insect bites. For your safety, a list of your medications will aid you in filling out an emergency medical form offered at registration check in to carry in your name badge.

LOST & FOUND Bring any items you find to and check for lost articles at the Registration/Information Desk.

Pocatello

Pocatello is named for a Chief of the Bannock Indians. There is some question as to origin of the name Pocatello. The following excerpt from Frederick W. Tender's report, to the special session of the 35th Congress In 1858-59 may give the most appropriate clue.

'When / heard that these Indians had broken out into hostilities, had stopped the United States Mail, and killed some of the emigrants who were, in small parties, endeavoring to reach California from Salt Lake City, i thought it proper to visit them taking with me "Shoshone Aleck." the interpreter, my engineers. Messrs. Wagner, Long, and Poor. Mr. Campbell, and the mountaineers Justus. Gabriel, and Williamson. On my way I procured the services of a leading warrior of the Bannock tribe, and by his kindness and discretion was enabled first to obtain an interview with ten warriors, an outlying party of the band of Poco- ta-ro or the "white Plume". (It would be easy to see *how this name could have undergone the change to Pocatello. Since Lander was probably the first person to transfer this name to a written record it. would seem likely that this city and Chief Pocatello owe their name to Lander's Interpretation*). The leader of these ten warriors laid me that he would visit Po-co-ta-ro's camp in the mountains. but that the chief's heart was bad, and that he would listen to soft words from the whites. I sent by this messenger a few small presents to Poco-ta-ro, inviting him to come to me and have a talk. He came with fifty- five mounted warriors, and treated me and my small party with the utmost respect and consideration. I have to place on record before your department the simple fact, that this young chief, known to be hostile to the whites received me with an attention which I have seldom known manifested by the wild tribes of the interior whom I have repeatedly met...

Despite Chief Pocatello's so called bad heart, he lived through the Battle Creek Massacre north of Preston. Idaho in January of 1863 in which all but 4 of his Bannock band was destroyed. He died

near the bridge on Monsieur or Michaud Creek west of Pocatello. He was buried wrapped in a blanket in a spring on the Portneuf River 2 and one half miles north of the Schilling Ranch along with his personal horse which had acted as the hearse to transport him from the farm. Nine other horses were also killed and sacrificed in the spring.

Pocatello is located at the mouth of the Portneuf Narrows which is the gateway to the Snake River Plain from the east. Emigrant wagons would have had a very difficult time following the Portneuf River valley from Soda Springs to Fort Hall, so they turned north and took a longer and steeper route through Ross Fork canyon.

Being located in a narrow valley with limited agricultural land. Pocatello did not become involved very deeply with farming, as other communities located on the Snake River Plain itself have been. Instead. It has remained an industrial and transportation center. Through the efforts of early citizens a state- supported school of higher education, the Academy of Idaho was established here in 1901. This has evolved into Idaho State University.

The Idaho State Museum of Natural History is located at the University, should you have some spare time during the convention. There are typescripts of several interesting trail diaries in the Special Collections section of the university library. Would you believe that people could be convinced to sell their stock cheaply, caulk their wagon box and attempt to float down the Snake River to Oregon? There is also correspondence from Ezra Meeker to Dr. Minnie Howard, Idaho chapter President of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association, which Meeker founded. The most unique building on the campus is Holt arena, named after Milton Holt, a prominent sports figure at the university and in Idaho. It was originally called the Mini-Dome as a little brother of the Astro-Dome. It was the first covered university stadium in the United States. It houses many events including football. basketball,

rodeos, rock concerts, and tractor pulling (if you can stand that much noise inside a tin can). The J.R. Simplot Company every spring sponsors the Simplot Games at Holt Arena. This is a track and field competition that attracts high school athletes from the western United States and Canada. From the Interstate highway, the arena appears as a giant Quonset Hut on the campus.

The first railroad through future Pocatello was a narrow gauge line. The Utah. & Northern, running from Ogden, Utah, to Butte, Montana. The line reached the Pocatello area in 1878 and a boxcar station was established at the crossing of Pocatello Creek. This was about a mile west of the convention center. A mural depicting this station is located in the Pocatello Union Pacific depot.

In 1881, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific, the Oregon Short Line, began construction on a railroad across Idaho, from the transcontinental line at Granger, Wyoming, to the terminus of the Oregon Rail and Navigation line at Huntington, Oregon, just across the Snake River from Idaho. The Oregon Short Line met the Utah & Northern near McCammon and a three rail line was laid from there to Pocatello where the routes diverged.

Pocatello was then established as a major Oregon Short Line terminal. Extensive rail road shops were built and enlarged until they were among the largest on the Union Pacific. For many years, Pocatello was truly a one industry railroad town. However, when diesels replaced steam locomotives, the major Union Pacific shops in this area were located at Salt Lake City. Many of the Pocatello shop facilities for steam locomotives, including a full circle roundhouse, have been razed. The Union Pacific president at the time said, "Do not demolish the power plant chimney, but paint 'Union Pacific' on it so it can be seen from the Interstate Highway." The Pocatello shops were the major Union Pacific facility for rebuilding freight car wheel and axle sets. Pocatello has always been a transportation and industrial center.

Extensive deposits of phosphate shale ore in southeastern Idaho have given rise to industrial plants at Pocatello and Soda Springs. The phosphate formations, from which the ore is stripped or tunnel mined, are unique and represent the remains of numerous invertebrate organisms that lived and died in an unusually productive shallow seaway. The organisms lived and died so rapidly in the nutrient-rich waters that the phosphoric material in their tissues was buried and preserved in the smelly black mud. This mud, now hardened to phosphate rock, contains not only economically important deposits of phosphate, but other trace minerals such as uranium, vanadium, and silver. Processing plants in Pocatello use phosphate ore from as far away as Smoky Canyon on Slump Creek near Afton, Wyoming. This ore is ground up at the mining site and then transported through slurry lines to an area west of Pocatello which can be seen on the Interstate to Boise and Twin Falls. Here, an acid treatment converts high grade phosphate ore into a soluble form useable for fertilizer. This process is carried out at the J.R. Simplot Company plant in Pocatello. J.R. Simplot was born in Dubuque, Iowa and raised in Declo, Idaho some 60 miles to the west. He was an eighth grade dropout and self-made millionaire at the age of 30. After beginning in the potato growing and shipping business, he developed a potato and onion dehydration plant near Caldwell, Idaho, in 1941, and sold his product mainly to the U.S. Government to feed soldiers in World War Two. A scarcity of fertilizers prompted Simplot to enter the phosphate fertilizer business with the construction (using low — cost government war loans) of Idaho's first phosphate fertilizer plant west of Pocatello in 1944. In 1946 Simplot negotiated a deal with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to open a mine on the Reservation east of Fort Hall, and in 1946 a rail line leading to the mine was built by Morrison-Knudson Company under contract with Union Pacific Railroad. The tailings from this mine (Gay mine named after J. R. Simplot's daughter) cover a portion of the Lander Road and Oregon California Trail ruts just west of Queedup springs. Tire Gay mine was

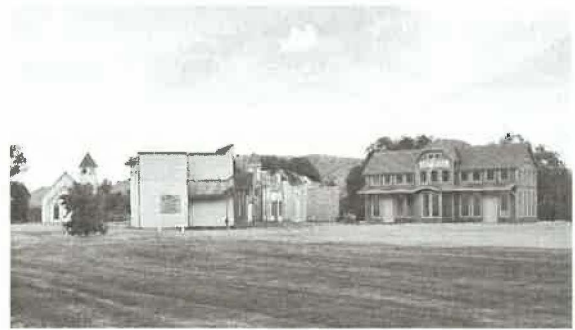
closed in 1993 and this hurt the economy of the reservation which had received royalties for 47 years. This closing made our trail nuts a bit more relaxed, as it sounded like the mine might expand and destroy more of the pristine trail ruts in this area. There have recently been discussions about using the Gay Mine railroad to establish a regional (or national) landfill at the old mining area. Others have been discussing using the rail system to carry tourists along this stretch of the Oregon California Trail.

Since only the highest grade phosphate ore can economically be used for fertilizer and since all grades of ore are removed in the mining process, a use for the lower grade ore was desirable. The FMC Corporations took advantage. They employed electric furnaces to produce elemental phosphorous until 2001. Clean-up is ongoing.

Pocatello's layout of streets and other features was dictated by the railroad around which the town was built. Its politics have reflected a newer affluent pluralistic blue collar town at the edge of Mormon country. The early community of Pocatello from 1882 until 1888, had to exist within the confines of the Oregon Short Line right of way because the Fort Hall Indian Reservation surrounded the area. The town site was too small and trespassing on the reservation was practiced by many. It provided tense situations. A treaty was signed on May 27 1887 and the Act of September 1, 1888 gave more land to the town site and the railroad.

The original Fort Hall Reservation had approximately 1,500,000 acres. In 1880 a treaty between the Indians and the government returned the southern one-third to the public

domain. This included the area around Lava Hot Springs which will be seen on one of the tours. In 1902 Theodore Roosevelt Issued a proclamation which removed the middle third of the reservation to the public domain and this caused a land rush around Pocatello and on to McCammon.



The Pocatello Facsimile Town site in Ross Park

Today, Pocatello is the fifth largest City in Idaho and has many attractions.

Old Town is the historic district of 12 square blocks by the Portneuf River. Here the splendid Victorian architecture speaks to the former glory of the City when it was the largest railroad town west of the Mississippi,

Ross Park, at the south end of the City, has the Bannock County Historical Museum, The Fort Hall replica and a facsimile town site of 1890s Pocatello. We will have the opportunity to visit these at the farewell dinner on Friday night, August 5th. There is also a zoo featuring especially the native animals of the region.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History is noted for its exhibitions on endangered species and on Idaho's fossil record.

Blackfoot and Bingham County

You can't talk about Bingham County Idaho without talking potatoes. Simply put, there is no finer potato grown anywhere in the world than the Idaho Russet, and more of them are grown

in Bingham County than anywhere in the world. They grow a lot of them, 30% of the United States production of potatoes are grown here.

Since this is potato country you should make your first stop the Idaho Potato Museum on Main street. The Idaho Potato Museum is all about potatoes. You'll learn how they're planted, how they grow, how they are harvested, and the many ways they are cooked. Don't get the idea this is all serious stuff, you'll also get to see the world's largest potato chip and a Marilyn Monroe exhibit featuring the movie star filling a burlap potato sack like no russet ever did. The museum is open from May through September and offers an additional incentive to out of state visitors; you get a free baked potato with your paid admission.

Growing that many potatoes uses up a lot of land, but somehow Bingham County has some left over for sportsmen, play, and three communities that will win your heart. If you are headed north your first stop will be Blackfoot. Blackfoot is at the confluence of the larger and better known Snake River and the Blackfoot River from which it gets its name.

Blackfoot loves parks and has 10 of them, the biggest is Jensen Grove right off Interstate 15. The 20 acre Jensen Lake provides swimming, water skiing and personal watercraft opportunities. The park contains part of a Greenway system which links the community of Blackfoot with the Snake River, part of the path crossing over the north end of Jensen Lake.

Lava Hot Springs

For an experience like no other, renew, refresh and relax anytime of the year at Idaho's most wonderful and unique recreational oasis! Lava Hot Springs is an all seasons resort located just eleven miles east of I-15 on U.S. Highway 30.

The Olympic Swimming Complex is the only facility of its kind in the Intermountain West. Two heated swimming pools cover nearly one-third acre of swimming space. The free-form Olympic size pool has 50-meter racing lanes and

Then there is the Eastern Idaho State Fair. That's the official title. It is in fact one of the finest agricultural fairs in the country. Starting Labor Day weekend and running through the following Saturday, this fair will draw over 200,000 visitors to the town of 10,000. You'll find the expected exhibits along with pari-mutuel horse racing, rodeos, carnival rides of course, and big name entertainment every night. In addition, two small stages on each end of the fairgrounds offer free entertainment acts daily. North from Blackfoot is Shelley.

At Interstate 15's milepost 98, have a look at the peaked building with the sod roof. That's a potato cellar. This part of Idaho is full of them and they are nature's most efficient system for storing the crop. To the right of it you'll see a more modern version, but these sod covered versions are original and still serviceable.

Midway between Blackfoot and Arco lies Atomic City and close by is **EBR-1 the world's first peacetime nuclear reactor**. Arco became the first city in the world to be lit by nuclear power. You can tour the World's first nuclear power plant (see ad on page 57). At EBR1, tours are self-guided. See "the hot cell," sealed from the rest of the world since 1974, and protected from you by multiple layers of oil-separated glass four feet thick. They made plutonium-239 in this blocky building. You can take pictures, try your skill at operating a robotic arm, and act out your own China Syndrome in the main control room.

a dizzying 10 meter diving tower overlooking 17 feet of clear, warm water. The second pool is an AAU size 25-yard pool. Four water slides and a splash pool heighten your fun, one is a half-tube, the other is full tube.

Lava's year round favorite is our World Famous Hot Springs. Bubbling up from an ancient volcano, 2 1/2 million gallons of hot springs water swirls through our pools daily. Our odor free naturally filtered waters are ever-changing

with no chlorine or sulfur. Our Hot Springs Complex features four outdoor pools at three different temperatures varying from 104° to 112° for personal enjoyment. There are also several hotels with hot pools in Lava.

Jump in the river and go on a wild tube ride! Enjoy shopping and dining, then stay in one of our 200 Lodging rooms or 400 Camp Sites. Everywhere is a relaxing atmosphere to help you

soak up water, sun and the mountain air. Golf, fishing, biking, snowmobiling and skiing are all available in or near Lava.

Since the town has a lot of history, naturally there is a museum on Main Street. Here you will find items and old pictures showing a very different town years ago. Come and see how the town has grown from a sage covered hill to the beautiful resort that it is today.

Soda Springs & Caribou County

Oregon Trail Oasis for Historic Tours and Recreational Adventure!

In the summer of 1937 Soda Springs was drilling a well seeking a hot water source for a swimming pool but instead found a carbonated water source that sent a geyser spraying 100 feet into the air. The citizens capped the geyser and release the flow once an hour. You can't fool mother nature, but in Soda Springs they have her working on a time clock. If you are a fan of the Guinness Book of World Records, you'll want to know this is the world's only captive geyser. If you would like to try the water for yourself, visit Hooper Springs two miles north of the center of town.



Hooper Springs

The shelter at Octagon Spring Park was built in the 1870's and renovated in 1995 to celebrate and protect the bubbling soda spring where the Oregon Trail emigrants stopped to drink the water.

Be sure to see Formation Springs and Cave located at the base of the scenic Aspen Mountains. The preserve area was established by the Nature Conservancy to protect the crystal clear pools and unique wetland complex. The water feeding these terraced pools is very high in travertine (calcium carbonate), which has created a unique geology for the area, the most impressive work is Formation Cave which is 10 feet tall at its entrance and several hundred feet long.

West of town on Highway 30 is fascinating place with a simple name. It's called Natural Area. Local weather conditions create a very cold micro-climate which has caused vegetation usually found at higher elevations to thrive. Most notable is a tree called Limber Pine, which is usually found only on mountainsides above 9,000 feet.

Kelly Park has softball fields, tennis courts, youth fishing ponds, playground, picnic tables, and several kilometers of walking trails. The walking trails serve a dual purpose and are groomed for cross country skiing in the winter.

There are also two beautiful Golf Courses to provide summer recreation. The Oregon Trail Golf Club has the original wagon ruts still intact from the Oregon trail.

Thomas Corigan Park is in downtown Soda Springs. It is home to the CONDA BUS (a.k.a. the GALLOPING GOOSE) and the DINKY ENGINE. Lovers of railroad lore will know these

to be famous locomotives. Pick up the self-guided tour brochures at the Chamber of Commerce when you get to town that will guide

Montpelier & the Trails

This is the story of the passage through the Rocky Mountains and over the Continental Divide. The great westward migration of the Oregon and California Trails stopped at Montpelier to rest and repair their wagons having just completed crossing the point on this American Continent where the creeks and rivers begin to flow westward to the Pacific Ocean. Today's traveler will notice by the number of big interstate trucks and the large railroad stop it's still the same.

Montpelier continues to be the central city in the Bear Lake valley. With a population nearing 3,000 and the home for the majority of valley businesses, the city continues to remember its roots with an eye to the future. The largest employers in Montpelier are Bear Lake Memorial Hospital and Bear Lake County School District.

Montpelier is proud of The National Oregon/California Trail Center, a living history interpretive center dedicated to the memory of our western pioneer heritage. Step into the days of the Old West and the Oregon Trail by taking a one hour 2,000 mile journey on the Oregon Trail—all within the comfort of our spacious trail



center. You and your family will become members of a simulated wagon train headed west and be guided by our Wagon Master and live cast of pioneers whose dialogue and stories will make the adventure come alive! It's the most fun you'll ever have learning history!

you to ten historic buildings and fourteen documented Oregon Trail sites.

A new trail, the Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic byway is a picture taking delight. North to Wyoming or south to Bear Lake. Tourism has flourished thanks to the city's location between Salt Lake City, Utah and Jackson Hole/Yellowstone on U.S. Hwy 89. Also, beautiful Bear Lake and its surrounding mountains and wildlife continue to draw visitors to the area. South ten miles are swimming, boating, and fishing at Bear Lake State Park and sightseeing, especially bird watching, at the 17 thousand acre Bear Lake Wildlife Refuge. Enjoy the beautiful scenery while at the Montpelier Golf Course.

Butch Cassidy and his gang robbed the Bank of Montpelier at 3:13 pm on August 13, 1896 after the 13th deposit in the amount of \$13.00, then raced out of town. For a week the posse followed but gave up the chase near Snyder Basin. No one really knows what happened to the money or for that matter exactly where the men went. After his arrest later, Meeks swore that he never got a penny of the loot. . . Meeks was the only one ever arrested. Cassidy and Lay were never brought to trial.



The Oregon-California Trail Center at Montpelier, Idaho

Convention Hotel, Casino, and RV Park

Shoshone Bannock Hotel and Events Center

I-15 Exit 80, Fort Hall, ID 83203

208.238.4800 855.746.2268



The Shoshone-Bannock Hotel & Event Center owned by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes welcomes guests to Southern Idaho's newest destination adjacent to the popular Fort Hall Casino. Completed in 2012, the deluxe accommodations include the luxurious Cedar Spa, delicious dining at the Camas Sports Grill and 15,000 square feet of Event Center meeting space. All 152 rooms are expected to be sold for the convention at a special rate.



The Fort Hall Casino is next to the hotel and event center. Featuring video games only, the casino is a popular destination for southeast Idaho. Join the Buffalo Players Club to receive offers and discounts for your stay.



Southeast Idaho's only gaming facility where you will find fast action fun, high energy excitement and the friendliest gaming atmosphere in Idaho. Over 900 of the most popular video gaming machines along with video poker can be found at Fort Hall Casino. Popular game themes include: Sweet Liberty, Game King, Monopoly, Penny Train, Fort Knox, PLUS new virtual Blackjack where up to five players can play at a time with a virtual dealer! Fort Hall Casino is a sure bet to non-stop gaming entertainment 24 hours a day!

The Buffalo Meadows RV Park is next to the casino and a short walk to the hotel.

Buffalo MEADOWS RV PARK

- Open All Year
- 37 Pull-through Spots
- 20A/120V & 50A/240V Power
- Restrooms
- Showers
- Laundry
- Full Water

- Sewer
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Horseshoe Pits
- Barbeque Grills
- Picnic Tables
- Walking Distance to the Casino
- Check out time is 1pm

A black and white photograph of a large, rustic building with a gabled roof and a chimney. The building has a weathered appearance with horizontal siding. It is surrounded by trees and a clear sky. In the foreground, there are some wooden structures, possibly picnic tables or benches.

Reservation Information

208.237.8778 ext. 3030 | Register at the cashier window inside the casino.

A logo for Buffalo Meadows RV Park. It features a stylized bison silhouette in the center, with the words 'BUFFALO MEADOWS' above it and 'RV PARK' below it, all enclosed in an oval border.

Area Restaurants

- Camas Sports Grill at the Hotel serves an American menu but includes Shoshone-Bannock specialties like Buffalo tips and, for breakfast, Fry Bread. The Buffalo is local.
- There is as well at the Casino the Buffalo Horn Grill inside the Casino and they too serve such specialties as Indian Tacos, Buffalo Burgers and Fry Bread.
- In Pocatello, some 20 to 25 minutes' drive.
- The Sandpiper restaurant at 1400 Bench Road is open for dinner only. Casual fine dining serving steaks, Seafood and pasta.
- Portneuf Valley Brewing at 615 S 1st Ave. Brew pub serves Southwestern, Pizza, Sandwiches, Salads and Craft Beers.
- Elmer's Family restaurant at 851 South 5th Avenue serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Jeri's Junbo's Cafe at 3122 Pole Line Road serves breakfast and lunch
- The Bridge Wine Bar and Restaurant at 815 S 1st Ave serves steaks, burgers and sandwiches.
- Pocatello has a number of restaurants including Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesday, Perkins, Applebee's, Texas Roadhouse, Winger's etc.
- Pocatello also has the standard fast food restaurants to include McDonald's, Subway, Wendy's, Arby's, etc.
- Tommy Vaughn's is in Blackfoot at 850 Jenson Grove Drive, 15 to 20 minutes from Fort Hall. It has a separate restaurant and a sports bar that includes a restaurant. The food is good, the menu is varied and the locals love this place.
- Big Foot Pizza serves some of the best pizza in Pocatello. Take out or delivery only.

Area Sites to See

- The Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Museum tells the story of the Shoshone-Bannock people and is across the road from the Event Hotel.
- Bannock County Historical Museum in Ross Park Pocatello. You will have the opportunity to visit on Friday as part of the farewell dinner
- Fort Hall Replica and Frontier Town is also at Ross Park and will be featured in the farewell dinner BBQ.
- Idaho Museum of Natural History at 5th Ave and Dillon St in Pocatello featuring dinosaurs and ice-age mammals
- Museum of Idaho at 200 North Eastern Ave, Idaho Falls. In its permanent exhibition features the race for Atomic Energy and Lewis and Clark memorabilia as part of the Local History section.
- National Oregon-California Trail Center and the Rails and Trails Museum at 320 N 4th Street in Montpelier, ID.
- The Idaho Potato Museum is at 130 NW Main St in Blackfoot.

- Experimental Breeder Reactor no. 1 Atomic Museum is just off US highway 26 in Atomic City between Blackfoot and Arco.
- The Franklin Idaho Relic Hall featuring Pioneer relics and photos. Main Street, Franklin, Idaho.
- Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum on Main Street in Soda Springs.
- Massacre Rocks State Park Visitor's Center will feature in the Oregon Trail West and Milner Hiking Tours.
- Bingham County Historical Museum at 190 N Shilling, Blackfoot.
- Lava Hot Springs and Mineral Pools in Lava Hot Springs.
- The Geyser Visitor Center in Soda Springs will be featured in the Oregon Trails East Tour.
- Historic Chesterfield Village on the Oregon Trail will also feature in the Oregon Trail East Tour.
- Island Park and Henry's Fork caldera.
- A little further away are Craters of the Moon National Monument, City of Rocks National Monument, Malad State Park and Three Island Crossing State Park. These all feature elements of the Oregon and/or California Trails.

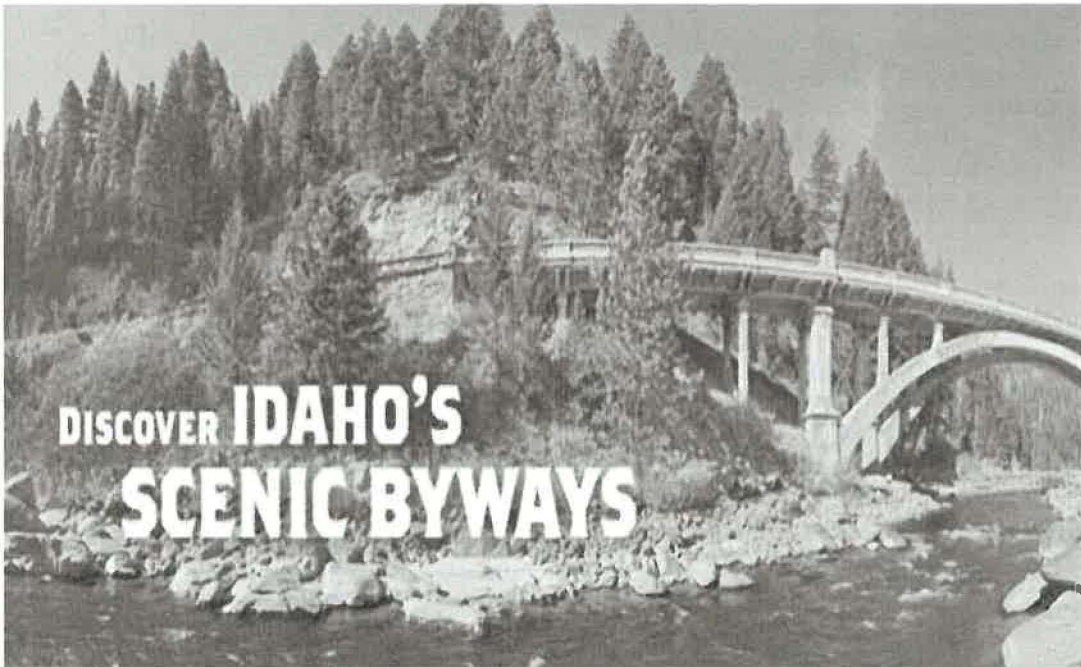
Area Fishing

There are numerous world-class trout fishing streams and lakes within 2 hours of Fort Hall. These can be fished from the bank, by wading, or by boats. Guides are available for hire in many areas, especially the Island Park area of Henry's Fork and the South Fork of the Snake River. Guided fishing trips are also available to fish the numerous rivers on the Fort Hall Reservation.

- Henry's Fork Snake River
- Henry's Lake
- Falls River
- Teton River
- Island Park Reservoir
- Warm River
- South Fork Snake River
- Fort Hall Guided Fishing

Scenic Byways

Idaho has 31 scenic, historic, and backcountry byways ranging from 36 to 140 miles in length. There are a number of scenic byways in eastern Idaho which showcase some of the beautiful mountains, rivers, and lakes of the state of Idaho. Information of a few of these is provided on the following pages. Information on all of the byways in Idaho may be found on the Idaho State scenic byway website, <http://www.visitidaho.org/scenic-byways/>. In addition, Idaho Public Television has a one-hour DVD showing all of the byways which provides a great tour of Idaho. <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2365021835/>



One byway in southwestern Idaho, the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway, was developed by a partnership of the Idaho chapter of OCTA and the Bureau of Land Management. If you are driving from the west to Fort Hall, consider following this byway from Glenn's Ferry to Boise on your return trip home. A driving guide is available on the Bureau of Land Management website at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5161089.pdf or from the BLM or Jerry Eichhorst.

Fort Henry Historic Byway

<http://www.visitidaho.org/scenic-byways/fort-henry-historic-byway/>



Begins at North Rexburg U.S. 20 Exit, onto Salem Highway, to St. Anthony Sand Dunes on Red Road and on to A-2 Road junction. Continue on A-2 north, then east to Island Park and U.S. 20.

See the first white settlement marked by the Fort Henry Monument, from which this byway gets its name. A new monument now replaces the old one at the original site. The old monument relocated in an adjoining field can be viewed from the original site. This route trails along BLM land, desert and mountain ranges where herds of deer and elk, as well as Sharp Tail and Sage Grouse can be seen as you journey along the Red Road.

Roadway

Two-lane road, no mountain passes. North Rexburg exit to A-2 in Clark County to Kilgore Store exit paved. Only gravel road includes eleven miles Kilgore to Fremont County line, then paved to U.S. 20.

When to go

Mid-April to Mid-November. In winter roads become snowmobile trails. Year around County A-2 open to U.S. 20 and Rexburg Exit to St. Anthony Sand Dunes.

Special attractions

Henry's Fork of the Snake River; Fort Henry Monument; St. Anthony Sand Dunes; Civil Defense Cave; wild game areas; historical ranches; old Idmon town site; Camas Meadows Battleground; Targhee-Caribou National Forest. Ask about summer/winter sports attractions throughout these areas. Camping: Campsites at St. Anthony Sand Dunes and Kilgore Store town site; Jacobs Island Park Ranch, all privately owned. Services: Full services: Rexburg, Parker, St. Anthony, and all communities on U.S. 20, partial services: Kilgore Store (no gas).

Mesa Falls Scenic Byway

<http://www.visitidaho.org/scenic-byways/mesa-falls-scenic-byway/>



The southern end is at Idaho 47 in Ashton, northeast 12.4 miles to the old Bear Gulch Ski Area site, then northwest along Forest Service Route 294 to the northern end at U.S. 20.

The Mesa Falls Scenic Byway begins where the Teton Scenic Byway reaches its northern end in Ashton, at the junction of U.S. 20 and Idaho 47. From there, the route travels through the town of Warm River toward its main attractions: the Upper and Lower Mesa Falls.

Roadway

Idaho 47 is a two-lane road. Forest Service Route 294 is closed in winter and becomes a Forest Service snowmobile route.

When to go

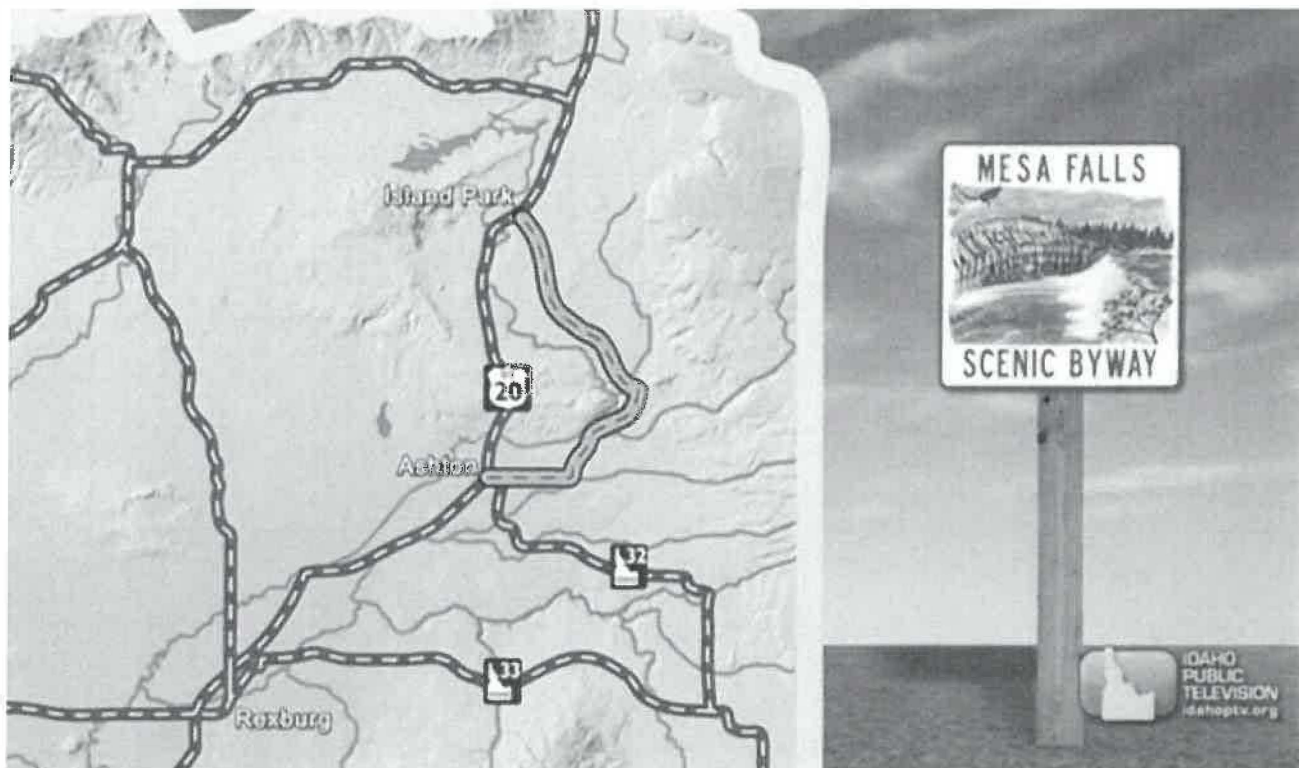
In the winter the Forest Service road becomes one of many snowmobile trails in the area. If you have a snowmobile or cross-country skis, winter is the time to go; if you don't, there is no access. Spring through fall is great by car.

Special attractions

Upper Mesa Falls; Lower Mesa Falls; Harriman State Park on U.S. 20; many trails for bikes, horses, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiles.

Camping

The Warm River Forest Service Campground is approximately 9 miles east of Ashton on the Warm River. The Grand View Forest Service Campground is located at the Lower Mesa Falls turnout.



Oregon Trail-Bear Lake Scenic Byway

<http://www.visitidaho.org/scenic-byways/oregon-trail-bear-lake-scenic-byway/>



Begins at the Utah state line and follows U.S. 89 north to U.S. 30, then north and west to Soda Springs. Then west on U.S. 30 to Blazer Highway (Old U.S. 30) through Bancroft, west and then south to Lava Hot Springs and west to I-15 at McCammon.

Bear Lake straddles the Idaho-Utah border and boasts sandy beaches, great water sports, fishing, boating, and the famous Bear Lake State Park. This byway follows Bear Lake north on U.S. 89 to Montpelier, then north on U.S. 30, where you leave the Cache National Forest and enter the Caribou National Forest.

The intersection of U.S. 89 and U.S. 30 at Montpelier is the site of the attractive National Oregon-California Trail Center dedicated to the history and scenic wonders of the 2,000-mile Oregon-California Trail, part of the largest voluntary migration ever. There, you can ride in computer-controlled covered wagons, journey nearby trails with experienced guides in period costume,

Roadway

This section of U.S. 89 is a two-lane road. It can receive heavy snowfall in winter. U.S. 30 is a two-lane road with passing lanes and one short, 5 to 6 percent grade at Georgetown Summit. Blazer Highway is a two-lane road with no passing lanes.

When to go

Year around.

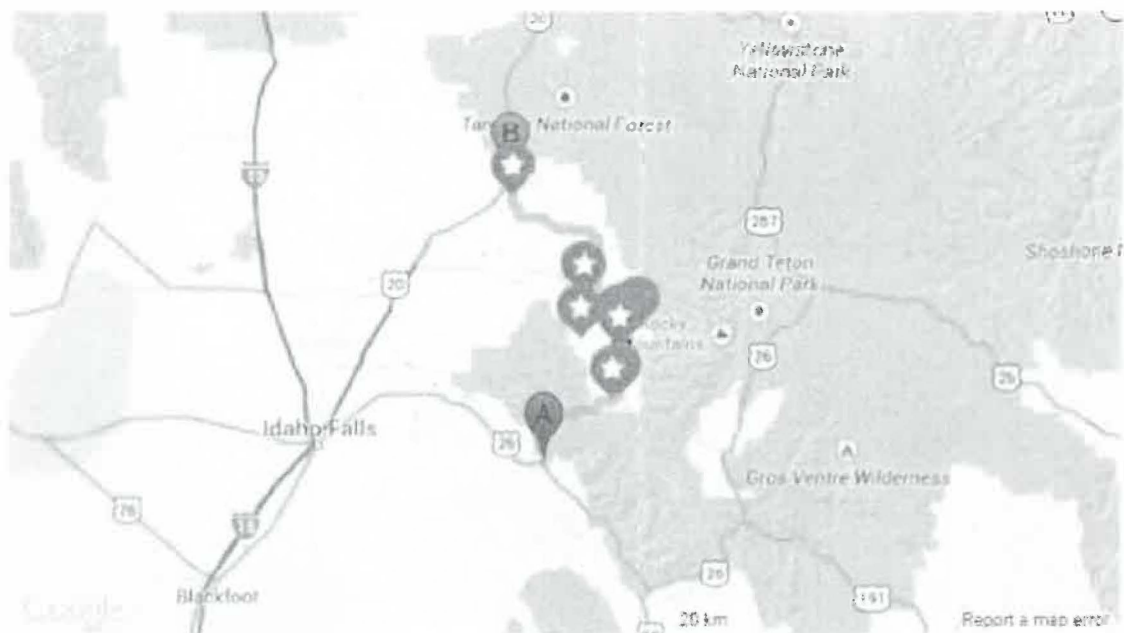
Special attractions

Bear Lake; Bear Lake State Park; Paris Historic Tabernacle; Minnetonka Cave; National Oregon-California Trail Center in Montpelier; Captive Geyser in Soda Springs; Alexander Dam and Power Plant; Chesterfield; Lava Hot Springs.

Camping

Teton Scenic Byway

<http://www.visitidaho.org/scenic-byways/teton-scenic-byway/>



Begins on Idaho 31 at Swan Valley northeast to Idaho 33 at Victor, then north on Idaho 33 to Idaho 32, north on Idaho 32 to Idaho 47, and west on Idaho 47 to U.S. 20 at Ashton.

The jagged teeth of the Teton Mountain Range are actually in Wyoming, but Idahoans prefer “the quiet side” on the western slopes, along the Teton Scenic Byway.

Roadway

Eme Creek Pass has a two-lane roadway with no passing lanes. It has 6-percent grades, some 35-mph curves, and often has a snow floor in winter. Idaho 33 is a two-lane roadway with ample passing opportunities.

When to go

Year around, but fall foliage is spectacular as are the wildflowers of late spring. Special attractions: Great Views of the Teton Mountains; Targhee National Forest; unlimited recreational activities; State Historic Markers; trails and pathways; Grand Targhee Ski and Summer Resort near Driggs.

Camping

Numerous Forest Service and private campgrounds available throughout Teton Valley.

Acknowledgements

The Idaho chapter of OCTA would like to thank the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe for their cooperation and assistance in putting together the convention. We are especially grateful to Council Vice Chairman Darrell Shay, to Leah Hardy, Rosemary Devinney and Leo Ariwite of the Department of language and Cultural Preservation Department, to Public Affairs Manager Randy'L He-Dow Teton and the staff of the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center. Other groups who provided assistance include the National Park Service, Idaho State Tourism Department, the BLM, Idaho National Laboratory, the Idaho Department of Transport, Bannock County Historical Society, Wells Fargo, Idaho Historical Society, Island Park Historical Society and Pocatello City Parks and Recreation. In addition, the following is a list of those IOCTA members and friends who have been actively involved in the planning process for the last 3 years. Our thanks to all who have helped make this convention possible.

Jim Hardee	Member	Eastern Idaho
Joanne Kent	Member	Eastern Idaho
Lyle Lambert	IOCTA VP	Eastern Idaho
Gary & Nancy Makey	Member	Eastern Idaho
Don Wind	Member	Eastern Idaho
Dave & Donna Newberry	IOCTA Director	Central Idaho
Jeremias Pink	BLM	Central Idaho
Afton Patrick	Member	Central Idaho
Jerry & Connie Eichhorst	IOCTA President	Western Idaho
John & Nancy Briggs	IOCTA VP	Western Idaho
Cathy Bournier	Idaho Tourism	Western Idaho
Paul & Lisa Dinwiddie	IOCTA Secretary	Western Idaho
Dan & Jeri Dunne	IOCTA Treasurer	Western Idaho
Dave & Kay Taylor	IOCTA Director	Western Idaho
Doug & Paula Davina	Member	Western Idaho
Lynn & Margie Houdyshell	IOCTA Director	Western Idaho
James & Dawna Fazio	IOCTA Director	Northern Idaho
Jennifer Thiesen	BLM	Out of State
Jenny Miller	Member	Out of State
Jean Coupal-Smith	Trails Head President	Out of State
Mary Ann Tortorich	Member	Out of State
Kathy Koester	Member	Out of State
Alys & Beth Webber	Member	Out of State
Gar Elison	Member	Out of State
Jim Green & Cathy Blair-Green	Member	Out of State
John Winner	OCTA President	Out of State
Bob Evanhoe	Member	Out of State
Jim Payne		
Doug Jenson		
Tony Varilone		

2016 OCTA Convention Schedule

July 31 – Aug 5, 2016

Sunday, July 31 Preconvention Tours

8:00 am Hudspeth Cutoff – 1 day
8:00 am Oregon/California Trail East of Fort Hall – 1 day
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Registration Desk

Monday, August 1

8:00 am - 8:00 pm Registration/Information Desk
8:00 am - 5:00 pm OCTA Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch for Board & Chapter Presidents
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Book Room, Raffle/Silent Auction Room and Exhibition tables set-up
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Welcome Reception, No-Host Bar
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Light Dinner Buffet (Sho-Ban feast)

Tuesday, August 2

7:00 am Breakfast Buffet
7:00 am - 6:00 pm Registration/Information Desk
10:55 am – 4:15 pm Book Room
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Raffle/Silent Auction Room and Exhibition tables
8:00 am - 9:00 am General Membership Meeting
9:00 am – 9:30 am Opening Ceremonies
9:45 am – 10:55 am Keynote Speakers: Darrel Shay, Leah Hardy, Rosemary Devinney, Leo Ariwite of the Shoshone-Bannock Language and Cultural Preservation Department
10:55 am – 11:05 am Break
11:05 am – 11:50 am Keynote Speakers continued.
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm Speaker: Jim Hardee – The Impact of Nathaniel Wyeth's Fort Hall on the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm Speaker: Jerry Eichhorst – Diaries Across Idaho: Soda Springs to Fort Hall
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Speaker: Will Bagley – Fort Hall: Trade Center of a Hungry Land
4:30 pm - 5:15 pm Dedication Ceremony of new Trail Interpretive Boards at the Shoshone-Bannock Museum
6:00 pm - 6:30 pm No Host Bar
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Awards Dinner
7:30 pm – 8:30 pm Awards Presentation

Wednesday, August 3

6:30 am – 8:00 am Breakfast Buffet

6:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration/Information Desk
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Tours
	Tour FTI: Fur Trappers in Eastern Idaho
	Tour OTE: Oregon California Trail from the East
	Tour OTW: Oregon California Trail to the West
	Tour SCN: Scenic Idaho
	Tour HIK: Milner Ruts (hike)
	Tour RES: Caravan Tour to Fort Hall Reservation led by Leo Ariwite.
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Book Room, Exhibition tables and Raffle/Silent Auction Room
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Authors' Night reception with No Host Bar
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Light Dinner Buffet (Potato Bar) & Cinema

Thursday, August 4

6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet
8:00 am - 4:30 pm	Registration/Information Desk
8:00 am - 3:00 pm	Book Room and Exhibition Tables Final Day
8:00 am - 1:00 pm	Raffle/Silent Auction Room Final Day
8:00 am - 8:15 am	Announcements
8:15 am - 9:15 am	Speaker: - Steve Banks – Discovery of South Pass
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Speaker Tom Blanchard -Goodale's Cutoff
10:15 am – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Speaker: Clint Gilchrist – The Lander Trail and Albert Bierstadt's 1859 Emigrant Trail Photographs
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Report Chuck Milliken of NPS on trail signage.
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Paul Link – Geologic Setting of the Oregon and California Trails in Idaho
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Clay Landry – The 1834 to 1837 Trade Records of Fort Hall
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Martha Voght – A Wide and Varied Tour: Views of Native Americans in Western Travel Narratives
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Dave Welch – Trail Mapping
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Chapter Meetings
6:00pm – 6:30 pm	No Host Bar
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner and Live Auction

Friday, August 5

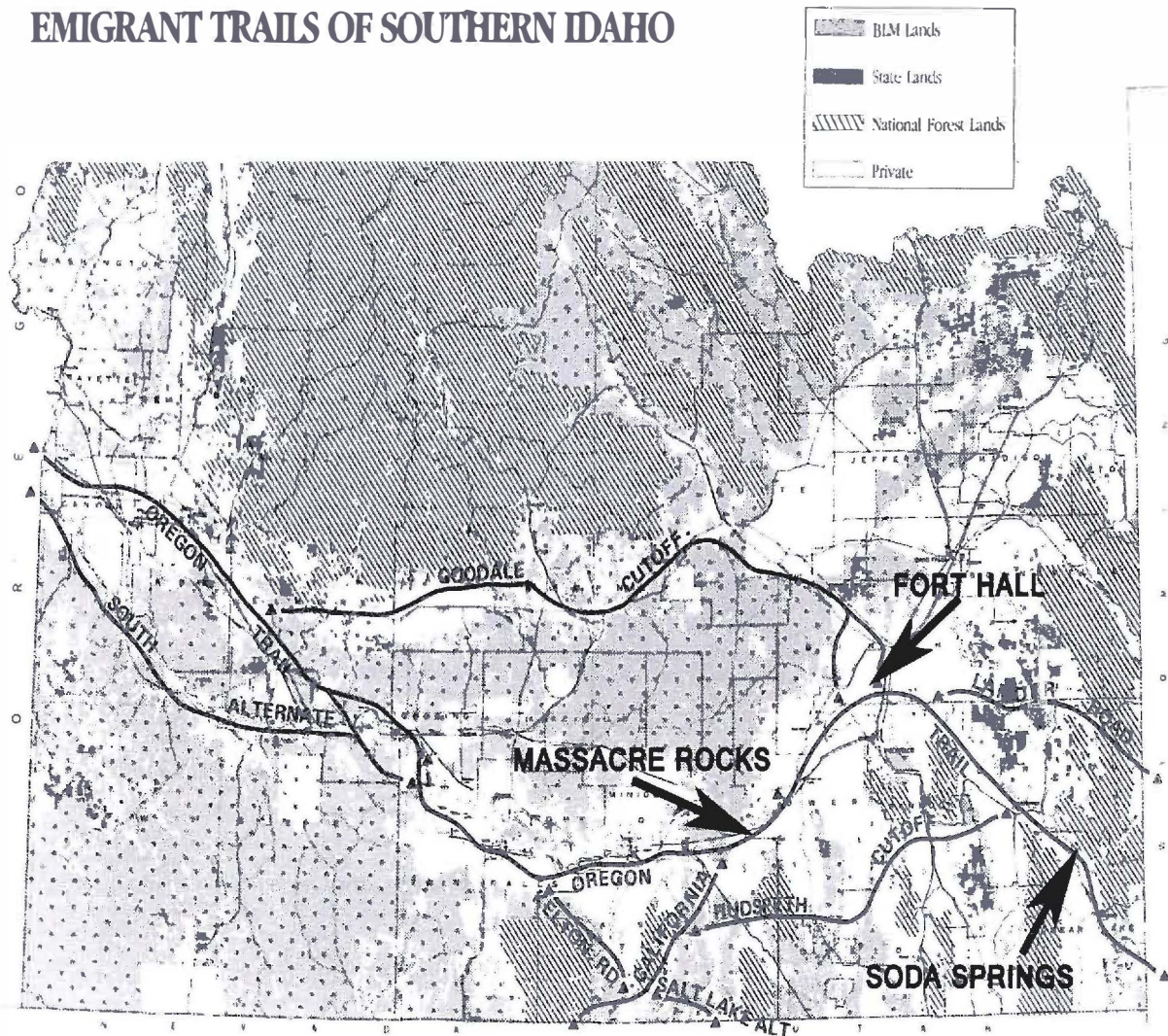
6:30 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast Buffet
6:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration/Information
7:30 am - 5:00 pm	Tours – Repeat of Wednesday tours, except for Fort Hall Reservation tour
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Celebration BBQ at Fort Hall Replica in Pocatello

Saturday, August 6 - Post Convention Tours

8:00 am	California Trail from Raft River – 3 days
9:00 am	Goodale's Cutoff from Atomic City to Mountain Home – 1 day

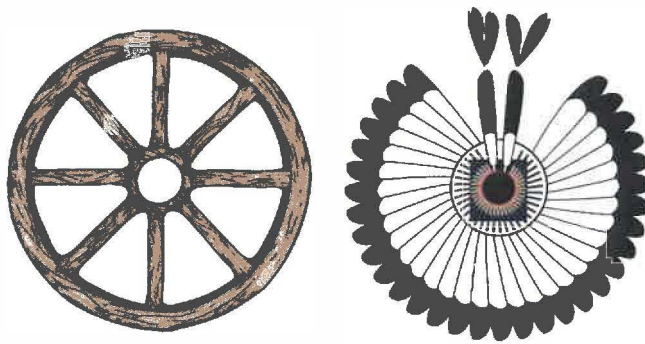
NOTES

EMIGRANT TRAILS OF SOUTHERN IDAHO



Oregon-California Trails Association

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016



FORT HALL, IDAHO

Cultures and Changes