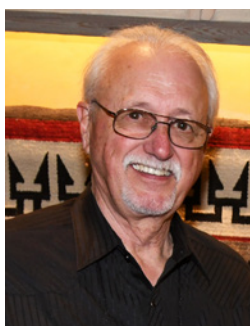




Spring 2021

Volume XXXVI, No. 2

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Recruit

Merriam-Webster defines the transitive verb form of recruit as *"replenish or to restore or increase the health, vigor, or intensity of..."* Emigrant diaries often spoke of a time when the journey was halted in order to recruit their animals. Such was required to complete

the journey with strong animals. It was also a time for travelers to wash, cook, rest and renew their strength for completing additional arduous days in order to reach their destination.

While this pandemic of 2020 and 2021 is indeed terrible, many in OCTA, have used it as time to recruit. It has become a time to refresh, a time to evaluate and a time to set our sights on the future of OCTA. With a fresh set of goals, documented in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, leadership has set about the task of identifying and recruiting expertise within our membership. Expertise enabling successful completion of our goals. OCTA has long identified twenty-nine areas of expertise required to satisfy its mission. These areas are referred to as Standing Committees. One is able to learn more about each Committee by going to the OCTA website and using the Members link. The link will take you to the Leadership Manual, Strategic Plan and Organization Chart. A clear explanation of Committee responsibilities is found in the Leadership Manual. You will also be able to review the Organization Chart and Strategic Plan.

During these days when we are unable to gather as we desire, we are able to prepare for the work that lies ahead. We seek to embark on new initiatives. Your expertise is needed now to help OCTA achieve successful completion of its goals. Initiatives include:

- Strengthening the Collections/Libraries Committee in order to identify, catalog and digitize collections.
- Increasing our Education Outreach Committee capability with additional material for schools and speakers' programs for Retirement and Community Centers.
- Enlarge the Fundraising Committee in order to secure necessary Mission funding through Grants, Estate Plans and taxwise current gifting methods.
- Expand Marketing and Public Relations initiatives to reach a larger and diverse global audience.

Each of the opportunities require leadership and an energetic team. We are grateful for those who have contacted leadership offering to provide their skill to help achieve OCTA goals. It is said many hands make light work. To that end, additional help is needed. Will you be the person to help OCTA achieve worthy goals? All aspects seek to strengthen membership, Chapters and the overall Mission.

Many of you helped see OCTA through the difficult and uncertain financial days of 2020. We are especially grateful for your financial commitment. If 2020 seemed like living in uncertainty in a hospital waiting room (hopefully not literally), let 2021 be the year we join hands in the "preparation room." Let us get ready to achieve even greater goals including: trail

and printed document preservation, reaching a larger audience with the historical legacy of our forefathers, strengthening and energizing our membership and achieving organization financial stability for the future. Your membership is the backbone of OCTA, with it the future is bright. Together we journey down the

trail to an exciting destination. Thank you for your membership, willingness to share your time, talent and resources. Hope to see you soon, on the trail in 2021.

My sights are set on gathering in Elko, NV in September.

Lee Black, President

Oregon-California Trails Association

PRESERVATION



By John Winner

National Preservation Officer

OCTA's Mission is to protect the historic emigrant trail's legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails and to work with others to promote these causes.

B2H: A 300-mile 500kV transmission line in Eastern Oregon crossing the Oregon National Historic Trail seven times. Gail Carbiener continues his tireless (?) effort to shepherd OCTA interest in this project that at times seems to be in perpetuity. At this date the timeline is as follows: Discovery goes until 3/26/2021, then responses are due 4/16/2021. Then direct testimony material on 9/17/2021 with rebuttal due on 10/29/2021 followed by In-Person hearing 1/10/2022, with arguments and responses. The Judge is scheduled to issue her Case Order on 5/22/2022. Will it ever end???

The R-Project The R Project, is a 225-mile, 345kV transmission line proposed by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), in Nebraska that crosses the Oregon-California and Mormon National Historic Trail. When the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) authorizing this project to move forward, a Petition for Review of Agency Action was filed in the United States District Court by the law firm of Eubanks and Associates. The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) was one of the plaintiffs. The case argues that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's choice to issue the ITP violates portions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

On Wednesday June 17th, 2020, US District Court Judge William J. Martinez vacated the ITP issued to NPPD and remanded the matter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further review.

Linda Tacey, OCTA's Nebraska Chapter Preservation Officer prepared a declaration of impact to the trail system. A copy of the declaration has been sent to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer and the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service. To date we have not received any action from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Long Canyon Mine Project An open pit mine project in Northeast Nevada mostly on public land administered by BLM. The project impacts the Hastings Cutoff of the California National Historic Trail. Mitigation discussions began in 2013 with Newmont Mining Corporation, BLM and the consulting parties, including: OCTA, The NPS and the California Trail Heritage Alliance (CTHA). Part of what was thought to be agreed upon mitigation included, mapping of the Hastings Cutoff, protection of the Settlers Cabin at Big Springs and the establishment of the Gravelly Ford Conservation Area to include protection of the California National Historic Trail leading to and including the Gravelly Ford Site. The protection would be through a conservation easement or similar legal instrument. **What changed!!** In July 2019 Newmont Mining Corporation, 38.5% and Barrick Gold Corporation, 61.5% entered into a Joint Venture forming a new company Nevada Gold Mine (NGM). On October 28th, 2019 in a meeting with BLM we were informed that BLM no longer intends to seek any mitigation for indirect effects resulting from the Long Canyon Project. Furthermore, BLM is now precluded from negotiating any mitigation for offsite improvements. Therefore, BLM has indicated the proposed conservation easement for the protection of the California National Historic Trail at Gravelly Ford is off the table.

Since then, OCTA and the CTHA have been working with NGM and Nevada Land Trust to continue negotiations to create a conservation easement for Gravelly Ford. What Newmont Mining Corporation originally agreed to was a CE to protect the CNHT, 50 meters on each side and 100 meters around the Gravelly Ford site. NGM seems to conceptually favor this proposal.

On October 16 & 17, 2020 a group of OCTA members spent two days mapping to OCTA MET (Mapping Emigrant Trails) standards 5 Sections of land owned by NGM. There were twelve participants for the two day outing. A report along with the MET maps were sent to NGM for review. Further discussions are now underway.

Fernley Swales In 2001 a "Historic Preservation and

Access Easement” for the Fernley Swales was created with the intent to preserve and protect a segment of the California National Historic Trail and a segment of the original roadbed of the 1868-1903 Central Pacific Railroad. The property owner entered into the easement with the Department of Interior (BLM). The easement is located just North of Fernley, Nevada. The Fernley Swales are pristine “Class 1” trail swales at the west end of the infamous 40 Mile Desert. The Central Pacific Railroad roadbed runs parallel to the trail swales.

Each year since the creation of the easement OCTA has been active in trying to maintain the integrity of the Fernley Swales. Over the years different OCTA members have taken on a leadership role in working with the property owner, BLM, the City of Fernley, Nevada and many volunteer organizations to “clean up” dumped trash. Additionally, OCTA conducts an annual photo monitoring program.

The frustration is that neither the Grantor nor Grantee wants any responsibility. Jon Nowlin, long time OCTA and CA-NV Chapter member, who oversees OCTA's interest in the Fernley Swales questioned what options were available to require responsibly and enforcement of the easement.

In January 2021, we held a virtual meeting to discuss what options OCTA could pursue to require compliance of the 2001 Preservation Easement. Here, Jon briefly outlines some of the challenges.

“What is the future of the Fernley Swales?”

The Fernley Swales is a relic corridor of American transportation history within currently undeveloped private property a mile north of the growing city of Fernley. From 1844 into the 1860s, this was the dreaded deep sands that the emigrant wagons on the California Emigrant Trail fought to reach the Truckee River at the end of their trek through the dreaded Forty-Mile Desert. The thousands of wagons left deep grooves (swales) though the sand that still can be seen today, both on the ground and in satellite images. In 1868 the Central Pacific transcontinental railroad (CPRR) was built next to the Trail, marking a new era of western migration. After the tracks were moved closer to Fernley in 1903, wagons on the Trail moved to the easier abandoned railroad grade, Within 15 years it became the route of early automobile traffic and was Nevada's first highway, Nevada Route 1, and in the early 1920s, the transcontinental Victory Highway. In 2000 the public lands containing the emigrant trail and CPRR grade were transferred from BLM to private ownership in the Wade-Fernley Land Exchange, which established a 133 acre BLM “Historic Preservation Easement” to protect a section of the Emigrant Trail and

the historic CPRR grade from development. However, uncontrolled OHV access into the easement and trash dumping have increased and threaten the preservation of the historic corridor. There are still areas of undisturbed deep swales carved by the emigrant wagons but also areas of repeated trash dumping on top of the Trail. Unrestrained OHV access continues to damage the historic CPRR grade. The BLM easement encloses about a mile of this three-mile historic corridor. The surrounding land is slated for future development of the 4,000 acre Victory Logistics Industrial Park. BLM has not had the resources to protect the Emigrant Trail and CPRR grade within the easement. The City of Fernley sees the potential for a future historic reserve or park should the city expand to the north. So a concern is how to protect the historic resources for future public use. A potential option would be to integrate the historic corridor into the plans for the future industrial park. Another might be for a concerned public entity to acquire and preserve the historic corridor with Land and Water Conservation Funds. Currently the fate of the Fernley Swales continues to be threatened.”

Johnson Ranch For several years OCTA member Bill Holmes has taken on the preservation of the Johnson Ranch Project. Recently OCTA has included this project for Land and Water Conservation Funds. The following is a summary that Bill prepared that provides a brief background of the project and funding request.

“The Johnson Ranch project includes nationally significant historic sites such as the last two miles of the Truckee Route of the California Emigrant Trail with river crossing swale, the Burtis Hotel, Camp Far West military site and the Camp Far West cemetery.

All the sites are on one landowner's (Angelo Tsakopoulos), a major developer in the Sacramento region. The property is in the city of Wheatland CA. The land will someday be subdivided into residential housing. The property owner has expressed interest in preserving the trail and historic sites. To that end, we have located the trail and historic sites and continue to do research work on them. Mr. Tsakopoulos has asked our OCTA representative, and his working group from the Wheatland Historical Society, to design and estimate the cost of a public access road and parking lot. The estimate is \$711,000. In addition, we have a plan, with no cost estimate, for a hiking trail between the sites.

We are at the point now to start working on interpretive panels (signs) for each site and trail. We estimate we will need six interpretive panels. The estimated cost, based on costs of other OCTA panels, is roughly \$21,000. We are working with California State University Sacramento (CSUS) and have a Masters

Degree student assigned to us for the project.

Why are these sites so significant? The Johnson Ranch was the first sign of civilization that emigrants moving west in 1844 would have found since they left Fort Hall. Indeed, the Donner Party survivors were given rest and nourishment here as they waited for the rest of their families to come out from Donner Lake. To this day, descendants of the Donner Party survivors honor this site. All the relief parties prepared for their journey while at the Johnson Ranch. John C. Fremont and Kit Caron passed through Johnson's Ranch several times as they explored California. General Stephen Watts Kearny and the Army of the West passed through Johnson's Ranch, staying several days in 1846, on their way east to Fort Leavenworth Kansas. Fremont was with Kearny, under arrest for insubordination. In 1849 Lt. Derby, who was at Camp Far West, estimated that 100 wagons a day passed by Camp Far West in 1849. Camp Far West was one of the first federal military sites on the west coast and was located near the Johnson Ranch and emigrant trail to keep the peace between the indigenous people and the gold seekers. The Camp Far West cemetery was first used to bury early pioneers starting in 1844, was used by the military between 1849 and 1852. Four soldiers of the 2nd Infantry, companies E and F are buried in the cemetery along with twelve other souls. The Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West erected obelisk in 1911 to honor the dead. And in 1950 built a rock wall around the cemetery and erected a flagpole."

Recently Johnson Ranch was in the national spotlight when four veteran ultra-distance trail runners reenacted the Forlorn Hope Expedition.

On December 16, 1846, 17 members of the ill-fated Donner Party set out on snowshoes from Donner Lake in an attempt to cross the Sierras to reach Johnson Ranch, 90 miles away, to get a rescue party for the remaining survivors camped a Donner Lake. Only seven of the 17 survived. The group became known as Forlorn Hope.

On December 16, 2020, exactly 174 years later, the four veteran ultra-distance runners retraced the route. five days later they were met by Bill at the Johnson Ranch site. Bill continues to spend countless hours to work with others to see that the legacy of this historic site is preserved.

Reservoir Forest Health Project 16,649 acres of Eldorado National Forest land located between Placerville and South Lake Tahoe is scheduled to undergo a variety of methods to improve forest health and fire resiliency. The project will include forest

thinning, prescribed burning, mastication, pruning, herbicide application, and conifer reforestation. The project area includes the Johnson Cutoff and Georgetown Pack Trail. The Johnson Cutoff has been MET mapped. Trail maps have been sent to Forest Service with the assurance by the archaeologist that the trails will be flagged to avoid damage.

Gerlach Geothermal Development Project Impact to the Nobles Trail. This project proposed by Ormat Technologies Inc. includes leased and unleased BLM lands and privately leased land. The project includes building two new power plants that would each produce 2.4 megawatts of electricity, an electrical substation, up to 23 total geothermal production and injection wells, approximately 4.6 miles of above ground pipelines, access roads, an approximately 26-mile long 120 kilovolt overhead power line.

OCTA has requested Consulting Party Status to review the environmental effect, including direct and indirect effects to the Nobles Trail.

Nolin Hills Wind Energy Project This Capital Power Project is a 350MW wind project currently under development in Umatilla County Oregon. The project is sited on approximately 45,000 acres located west of Pendleton, Oregon and under a long-term lease from a single landowner. OCTA raised concerns about the potential visual impacts from the project infrastructure. Through the efforts of Sallie Riehl, Northwest Chapter President and Gail Carbiener, Northwest Chapter Preservation Officer and Past President Dave Welch an agreement was reached between OCTA and Capital Power to mitigate any direct and/or indirect effects by providing a financial sum for environmental protection, conservation, and general maintenance efforts.

Other Preservation Projects

Utah: The BLM is analyzing the development of trails to facilitate outdoor recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands.

The projects would increase or improve recreational opportunities near growing communities and access to BLM managed lands. The environmental assessment analyses the designation of trails, trail heads, staging areas, restrooms, road improvements, and increased signage.

- **Lake Mountains**, Utah County. Approximately 17,250 acres.
- **North Oquirrh Management Area**, Tooele County. Approximately 5,285 acres.
- **Rose and Yellow Fork Canyons**, Salt Lake County. Approximately 1,520 acres

Utah: Lake Point Development A subdivision that has remnants of a historic trail running through, which the Crossroads Chapter has memorialized with a T-Rail marker. The subdivision landowner has set aside three acres around a grove of cottonwood trees on the trail for a park within subdivision.

Wyoming: Converse County Oil and Gas Project This project affects 1.5 million acres in Converse County, Wyoming. The impact would be to the Bozeman Trail and possibly the Childs Cutoff. Randy Brown, Wyoming Chapter Preservation Officer provided the following update:

"We've been aware of this planned development for some time, but it's impact to the Bozeman Trail is the main concern. Not much can be done up there since it is mostly private property. Already a big installation was put up near the trail crossing of Dry Fork of the Cheyenne over land where there are supposed to be graves of victims of Indian attacks.

As far as the Oregon Trail, between old and current

tank farms and the railroad, a lot of that trail was obliterated long ago. Now wind farms are the main threat, one already having been built right on top of the trail.

Idaho: Lanes Creek Forest Management Project This is a 758 acre project in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest 25 miles northeast of Soda Springs, Idaho. The purpose of the project is to improve the overall health, resilience, and long-term sustainability of the forested land. A short segment of the Lander Road is within the project area. Don Wind, Idaho Chapter Preservation Officer has submitted comments outlining OCTA's concerns and recommended protections of the historical significance of the project area.

Epilogue These are only a few of the issues that are being monitored because of potential threats to our emigrant trails. Although it seems as though the coronavirus pandemic has slowed a lot of activities that may cause threats to our trails, we still need to be proactive. Your keen awareness in your region is greatly appreciated. *More to come...*

Partnership for the National Trails System

National Historic Trails Legislation Pending

2021 is shaping up to be a significant year for OCTA and the National Trails System, with no fewer than four National Historic Trails (NHT) expected to be proposed in Congress.

Legislation to designate the Butterfield Overland Stage Route as a NHT was introduced late in 2020 but did not pass. However, lead sponsor John Boozman of Arkansas has committed to reintroducing the bill in the current session. Hopes are high with two full years to achieve passage.

OCTA is currently seeking a champion in Congress to implement the 4-Trails Feasibility Study, completed last year by the National Parks Service, which will add 26 routes totaling 7,589 miles to the California, Oregon, Pony Express and Mormon Pioneer Trails. In addition, OCTA will be asking that the legislation amend the 1978 Oregon Trail designation act to expand the "period of significance" for the trail to

at least 1860 because several important routes and segments were not recommended in the feasibility study because they fell outside the existing 1841-1848 statutory range.

Additionally, the Partnership for the National Trails System is expected to endorse legislation to create the Route 66 NHT. If designated, it would be the first fully motorized route to win historic trail designation. Also proposed is a feasibility study to create the Bozeman Trail NHT in Wyoming and Montana. The 500-mile-long trail was opened during the Civil War and closed with the opening of the Transcontinental Railroad. It is known as the last great overland emigration trail in the American West.

For information about the legislative proposals, contact Bill Martin, OCTA Legislative Chair, at bmartinocata@gmail.com.

Bill Martin, PNTS Liaison

2020-2021 OCTA Officers

Lee Black, President

Albuquerque, NM • leeblack1@hotmail.com

John Briggs, Vice President

Boise, ID • johnxbriggs@msn.com

Pat Traffas, Past President

Overland Park, KS • traffasp@gmail.com

Sandra Wiechert, Secretary

Lawrence, KS • wiechert@ku.edu

Marvin Burke, Treasurer

Northglenn, CO • mdburke@msn.com

John Winner, Preservation Officer

Placerville, CA • swinner@dataentree.com

Publication News



Spring Signals New Work for Publications

Bill Hill - Publications, Chair

In nature every season is different, yet each follows a pattern, and the same is true for both our publications and the committee.

Our *News From The Plains* continues its important

function of keeping our members up to date with chapter happenings, but Spring brings the special task of reporting on the workings of OCTA's Board, a review of the business - past and present, and, perhaps, more importantly, the plans for the future. We urge all of our members to read the articles about the recent Board meeting included in this edition and to react to them. Let the Board, the officers, and chairs know what you think. Are there items that you think may have been overlooked and should be included in the future? Can you volunteer to help out or have a special talent to offer to help OCTA achieve its goals? Is there someone that should be complimented? People spend lots of time and energy doing their jobs. Let them know they are appreciated or what improvements might be suggested. We depend on the input of the members to let us know if we are meeting their expectations and wishes. I am also asking that those who are submitting articles please send them in a timely fashion. We all look forward to receiving our publications on time, but that is only possible if our editors receive the material in a timely manner so that their publication gets out on schedule.

The *Overland Journal* continues its function of

publishing historically accurate, interesting, and informative articles about the trails and westward migration. Now, volume 37 of the *OJ* has been completed and work on Volume 38 is underway. As such, it is also the time when the committee must now review the past year's volume and select the article and recipient for the Merrill Mattes Award for outstanding writing. It can be a very difficult task. We will include the list of the recipients and articles in the next edition of NTFP. If you have the time, please consider reading some of those while you are inside at home.

It is also the time when the committee, with the assistance of the editors, reviews the finances of the publications and prepares a budget proposal for the next year to present to the Board. We plan to have that ready by June. We are asking our members' assistance in suggesting businesses that might consider advertising in the *Overland Journal*.

The deadline for individual submissions for the 2022 student calendar, entitled Emigrant and Indian Foods is April 15. A review of the submitted artwork and the final selections are typically done by the end of May. Production and printing of the calendar are done during the summer in time for the convention. We are looking forward to another successful production. Presently we are asking for suggestions for the theme for the following year. Please send your ideas for themes to headquarters or to Bill Hill. The decision should be made in June.

As of the time of the writing of this article, we do not know if any applications/nominations for the Outstanding Educator Award have been received. The deadline was March 31. Volunteers to help with this project now and in the future are still needed. *Bill Hill*

OCTA Chapter Presidents

CA-NV - Ken Johnston

5707 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, OR 97603
kljstn@msn.com

Colorado-Cherokee - Camille Bradford

11515 Quivas Way, Denver CO 80234
bradford@usa.net

Gateway - Jackie Lewin

4715 Amazonia, St. Joseph MO 64505
jlewin@stjoelive.com

Idaho - Jerry Eichhorst

2013 S. Trapper Cove Ave.
Boise ID 83709
jeichhotrails@gmail.com

KANZA - Duane Iles

PO Box 310, Holton, KS 66436
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Nebraska - Harlan Seyfer

1103 Happy Hollow Ct.
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
plattsmouthhistorian@gmail.com

Northwest - Sallie Riehl

3455 Countryman Cir NW
Albany, OR 97321
salliek@comcast.net

Southern Trails - Mark Howe

P.O. Box 12521, El Paso, TX 79913
Mlhowe1@hotmail.com

Trails Head - Lila Aamodt

5938 Reeds Rd #202
Mission KS 66202
lilaamodt@gmail.com

Utah Crossroads - Steve Allison

4040 W Kirkwall Circle
South Jordan UT 84009
sallison9999@gmail.com

Wyoming - Tom Rea

1756 S. Chestnut
Casper, WY 82601
tomrea72@gmail.com

FROM THE ASSOCIATION MANAGER



The past year of pandemic shutdowns did not mean that OCTA shut down. Our levels of volunteerism remained impressive, so much so that we were invited to tell our story to the staff of a Congressional subcommittee. When I was asked if OCTA would be interested in sharing

how we did it, I was able to quickly list a string of accomplishments from every single one of our chapters. You should all give yourselves a pat on the back.

The first thing we did was learn to adapt. OCTA's strategic plan had long called for more investments in online infrastructure. We were really able to focus on our online offerings during this downtime. Our Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter led the way with an impressive array of speakers on Zoom. If you have not yet joined them, do so. Their events are free and open to everyone. Our Gateway Chapter similarly held a Zoom program, and our Southern Trails Chapter will have held one by the time this issue goes to press.

We were able to launch a YouTube channel last year. If you have not yet subscribed, please do so. Once we get to 1,000 subscribers, we can monetize our channel. That means that OCTA will receive income every time someone views one of our videos. It is easy to do. Simply go to YouTube, enter "Oregon-California Trails Association" and hit the subscribe button. That's it!

Our YouTube Channel already features a wide array of content, from an overview of OCTA to the B2H project in Oregon. We feature the Bidwell-Bartleson Party in one video and the first sixty miles of the Butterfield in Missouri in another. In February, we debuted six new videos touching on black Americans and their roles and contributions to our trails. There are two videos on cholera cemeteries in Independence. Shortly, we will have up videos on outfitting towns like St. Joseph and Lexington in Missouri. We will also feature Lone Elm

Campground in Kansas and, over the course of several videos, the entirety of the Southern Route between Nogales and Yuma.

And we continue to seek new projects. We were able to complete the above videos due to the addition of an intern, Sam Sullivan. He has now moved on to full-time employment in Colorado, but we are seeking a new intern with similar skills. We are also partnering with Steve Brown, whose PBS show *Southwest Stories* is on hiatus due to COVID. We have worked with him to submit several grants that could potentially fund more short videos like these. If your chapter is interested in creating a video in your area, reach out to me at tboley@indepmmo.org and let us discuss how we might achieve it.

OCTA also launched an Instagram page and a Twitter account last year. You can find and subscribe to both by finding us at "octa_1836." Each of those accounts generally have unique content not found on our Facebook page, which saw its subscriber base increase from 2,000 followers at the beginning of last year to over 3,100 followers now. Our *This Day in History* posts continue to be very popular, mostly because you faithfully share our content and sometimes push some of our posts to over 10,000 views. This has the positive effect of helping us sell products and memberships, so please keep doing what you do!

I haven't even touched on all the great on-the-ground work our volunteers accomplished, either solo or in small groups. But once again, OCTA was at the forefront of caring for our nation's trails. Thank you for continuing to make us the leader when it comes to trail preservation. There are many ways you can continue to help on this front, from subscribing to Survey123, a trail app developed by the National Park Service that allows volunteers to document the condition of trail interpretation and signing, and by attending both the Elko Convention in September and the Mapping and Marking Workshop that will precede it. Continue to watch for information on all of these items in *E-News*, or write to me via email for more details. *Travis Boley*

2020-2021 OCTA Board of Directors

John Briggs, Boise, ID
johnxbriggs@msn.com

Jean Coupal-Smith, Roeland Park, KS
jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com

Pat Fletcher, Sequim, WA
jpffletcher@wavecable.com

Helen Hankins, Spring Creek, NV
helenhankins@gmail.com

Duane Iles, Holton, KS
96cruisin@embarqmail.com

Steve Knight, Carson City, NV
1knightsc@gmail.com

Matt Mallinson, Sugar Creek, MO
ms844@hotmail.com

Bill Martin, Georgetown, TX
bmartinocata@gmail.com

Chuck Milliken, West Jordan, UT
c-m.milliken@att.net

Candidates for OCTA National Board of Directors

Four candidates have announced candidacies to serve on the OCTA National Board of Directors. Four may be elected. They are Helen Hankins of Elko, Nevada, who is seeking a second three-year term; Jerry Mogg of St. Joseph, Missouri; Mark Howe of El Paso, Texas; and Pat Traffas of Overland Park, Kansas. Members should use the “clip and return” ballot at the end of this article or vote online. Elected Directors will take their positions in September 2021 for a three-year term.



Helen Hankins is President of the California Trail Heritage Alliance, an Elko, Nevada based nonprofit that works on a range of issues and projects. She is retired from a 42-year career with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, during which she served in New Mexico,

Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Alaska and Washington, D.C. She was the Elko BLM district Manager from 1995-2007 and Colorado State Director from 2010-2013. She served on the BLM National Preservation Board for two years, working with trail and other historic preservation issues in managerial positions for the BLM in Alaska, Arizona and Nevada. In addition, she was the lead BLM official involved with design, construction, and development of the California Trail Interpretive Center between 1995 and 2007.

Goals: “I am interested in continuing to serve on the national OCTA board because I embrace OCTA’s mission of trail preservation, protection and education. I believe the best way to live in the present is to understand and value the past. Working in managerial positions for the BLM for more than twenty years has given me a very broad understanding of issues related to protection and preservation of historic trails and the difficulties in avoiding or mitigating impacts to those trails. Lastly,

I enjoy the stories of the emigrants and walking where they walked.” *Endorsed by Dick Waugh, David Smythe and John Winner.*

Jerry Mogg is a retired CPA with over 50 years of experience in various roles in public accounting for firms ranging in size from international, national,



regional and local. He also worked as a professional Financial Planner, CFP, and is licensed so he could make recommendations for using securities and insurance in his financial plans. Jerry was proud of working with his clients on recommending solutions for their financial goals. He has worked in the past with a number of other community foundations in the Kansas City area as there was no local Northwest Foundation. He has worked with many nonprofit groups during his long career in public accounting. He currently serves as Treasurer of the John Whitmer Historic Association and is a member of OCTA’s Investment Advisory Committee and Audit Committee. He is a board member of OCTA’s Gateway Chapter. Jerry has an undergraduate degree from Graceland University and a graduate degree from the University of Kansas with expertise in Accounting, Auditing, and Tax. Jerry loves history. He took classes in church history and religion. Jerry participates in a number of local historic groups in the St. Joseph, Missouri area relating to the Pony Express, the St. Joseph Museum, the Patee House, and the History of Accountancy. Jerry and wife Sandra have lived in St. Joseph, MO, since 1965. They have two sons and four grandchildren. He serves as a Lay Minister in The Community of Christ and in leadership roles at World, Mission, Camp, and Local levels. He supports many other organizations within his church. Jerry is an active member of the Gateway Chapter and has attended National OCTA conventions and OCTA activities in the region. *Endorsed by: Lee Black, Camille Bradford and Duane Iles.*



Mark Howe is the Cultural Resources Specialist / Historian for the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso, Texas. His area of coverage spans the entire U.S. – Mexico border from San Diego, California to El Paso, Texas and south along the Rio Grande to the

Gulf of Mexico. Mark has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Anthropology (BA) and History (BA and MA) and working on another MA in the Harvard Extension School program. He writes about the history of the USIBWC, especially during the New Deal time frame and borderlands. Mark is a Commissioner on the El Paso County Historical Commission and the Archeology Chair. He served as President for the Southern Trails

Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association and a member of the Board of Directors for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. In 2020 he published in *KIVA*, *The Western Borderlands of the United States and Mexico – History not Forgotten*. Other publications are *Falcon Reservoir Archeology and History – Prehistory to Today* in the *Journal of South Texas*, Fall 2017. Also, *Jess Valley: An Archaeologically Significant Obsidian Source in the Southern Warner Mountains of Northeastern California*, coauthored with Richard Hughes in *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology*, 2017. At the present time, Mark is co-editing a book on New Deal Archeology in the Western United States and researching and writing other articles on history, archeology and the Border Wall for journals and other publications.



Endorsed by: Barbara Welch, Cecilia Bell and Doug Hocking

Pat Traffas grew up on a farm in Cheyenne County, Kansas. After graduating from Fort Hays State University with a degree in general

science, Pat became a registered cytotechnologist with the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. For several years she worked alongside her husband, who was a veterinarian in north-central Kansas. She has two grown children and two grandchildren.

In 2000 Pat graduated with a degree in mortuary science from Kansas City Community College. Since then she has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the states of Kansas and Missouri.

In her free time, Pat enjoys doing preservation and research along national historic trails. She is a member of: SFTA (Research Committee Co-Chair), Board of Directors SFTA and chairs the SFTA/DAR Task Force, Daughters of the American Revolution, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (Board Member), Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association (Vice President), and the Oregon-California Trails Association (Past National President). Pat values the many friends gained throughout the years and anticipates continuing the highest level of service to trails societies. *Endorsed by: Duane Iles, Bill Martin and Ross Marshall.*

2021 Official Ballot for the Election of Directors to the National Board of the Oregon-California Trails Association

All current members are eligible to vote. Membership levels with two members listed have two votes. Contact Headquarters at 816-252-2276 for questions regarding voting.

Vote for no more than FOUR Directors for three-year terms (2021-2024)

| | Member 1 Vote | Member 2 Vote |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Helen Hankins | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jerry Mogg | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mark Howe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pat Traffas | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Write-In Candidate | | |

(Please cast ballot before **June 15, 2021** by mailing to Oregon-California Trails Association, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64050)

Online Voting

Voting this year can also be completed online and will take only a few minutes of your time.

Voting must be completed by June 15, 2021. **Please click the link below to vote:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUITs90huDe3BR_U0Bi3rSoQCKIb.BweuhyNv5ufBpqh7ftQ/viewform

Thank you for your vote, OCTA Nominating Committee



Excellent News from the Cherokee Trail in Kansas

by Dr. Jack E. Fletcher and Patricia K. A. Fletcher

Most OCTAns are probably unaware of the Cherokee Trail (See cherokeetrail.org). Perhaps because they confuse it with the National Trail of Tears, perhaps that is due to OCTA's emphasis on the more familiar designated National Historic Trails – Oregon, California, Mormon, and Pony Express. OCTA's mission is to include ALL the western immigrant trails- ALL routes taken to settle the West.

The 1,300 miles of Cherokee Trail are in addition to, and in the same category as, nearly 5,000 aggregate miles of trails across Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, southern Nevada, southern Utah, and southern California – collectively known as the Southern Trails to California. But so far NOT designated as National Historic Trails. It behooves OCTA to keep moving forward including and documenting these long-overlooked additional routes so that ALL might rightfully have the privilege of National Historic Trail designation.

In central Kansas a very few residents call themselves the “Kansas Friends of the Cherokee Trail”. The coordinator is Linda Andersen. They live along 300 miles from Galva, Kansas [the point at which the Cherokee Trail joins the older mercantile Santa Fe Trail] to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, near the beginning of the Cherokee Trail.

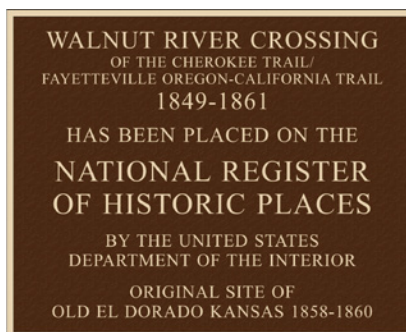
These Kansas Friends are citizens; local historians and history buffs, librarians, museum members – volunteers all. They work with landowners to promote the Cherokee Trail. They have mapped and marked, placing some 40 roadside signs; produced a handsome brochure and an auto tour guide; held meetings; led field trips; and contributed valuable documentation for the Cherokee Trail as it works its way toward NHT. Working with KDOT, in 2017 the “Friends” managed to get the trail on the Kansas Official State Transportation Map.

Member Brian Stucky gave many public presentations

in the area and wrote an article for the Santa Fe Trail publication *Wagon Tracks*. You can find it here: <https://www.a.org/publications/wagon-tracks/pdf/WT-Nov2018.pdf>

Members and landowners Mike and Monica Thompson, after four years of investigation and paper work and many sessions with the Kansas State Historical Society and state personnel, were listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places as of August 3, 2019.

The state of Kansas then worked with Thompsons to submit the river crossing nomination to the National Park Service. The acceptance and listing were confirmed on September 30, 2019.



The plaque received by the Thompsons

From the nomination the crossing is described:

“It consists of two cutdowns, one on the north side of the Walnut River and the other on the south side, with a distinct rock-bottom crossing between them...” and “...[the crossing] preserves a rare intact portion of a historic emigrant route used by those moving toward Oregon and California...”

The above is an outstanding example of “Friends...” working with partners to recognize and document an important national trail resource.

To see the PBS interview see the second segment in: “Positively Kansas Episode 805 Feb 16, 2021” at <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DClagCC-Zwg>

Butterfield Stage Historical Marker

OCTA Board Member and Southern Trails Chapter Vice President Cecilia Bell recognized that the widening of Highway 180 would impact the Butterfield Stage marker established by the Deming chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She has contacted the New Mexico Department of Transportation who are aware of the marker and are coordinating efforts to preserve it in a professional manner. OCTAn Trail Turtle Tracy De Vault has also weighed in on this project offering his expertise on saving and moving monuments like this. They will report on new developments as the project takes shape.



Camp Date Creek

By Bruce Watson

As we spend winters in Arizona, our mapping interests shift to that venue. We've established a close relationship with Tracy DeVault, one of Southern Trails Chapter's leading trail mappers. We've collaborated on several projects, including an on-site exploration of Colorado's Jimmy Camp last year. Tracy and I have recently helped organize the mapping effort of the Old Spanish Trail Organization.

Most recently we've been working together mapping Arizona's Ehrenberg to Prescott freighting road. Supplies for the territorial capital of Prescott were shipped up the Gulf of California, then by steamboat up the Colorado River to Ehrenberg. There supplies were loaded onto freight wagons and driven the approximately 150 miles to Prescott and Fort Whipple through unsettled and often dangerous Indian country. The Army established Camp Date Creek in 1867 about midway to aid in the protection of travelers along this route.

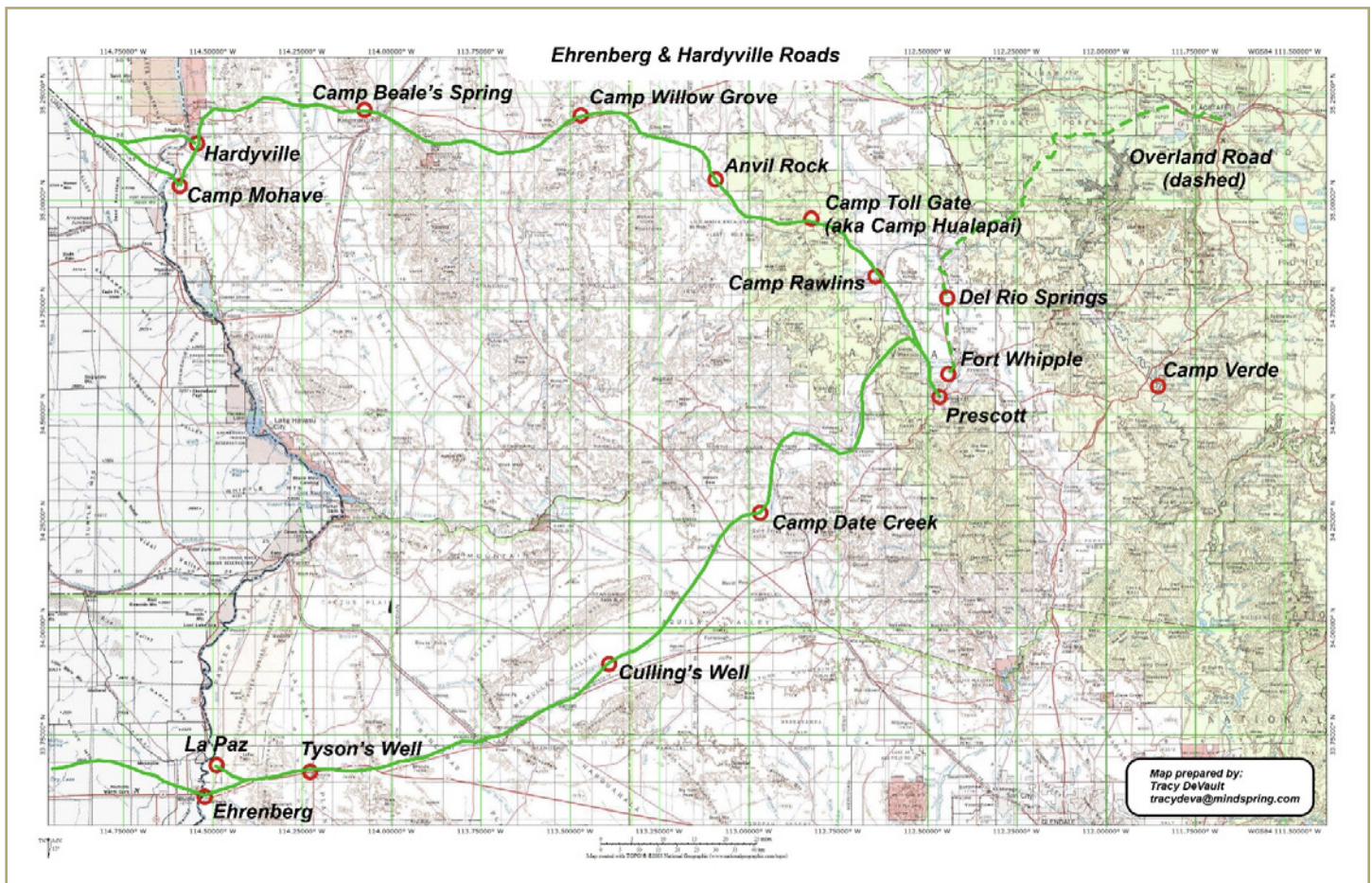
The camp was established as a result of the Hualapai War which began in 1865 due to assassination of Indian leaders and incursions into their country. The

Hualapai and Yavapai Indians were allies and fought the Americans until disease caused many to surrender, but not all.

A temporary reservation for the Yavapai Indians was established at Date Creek in 1869. An attack and massacre on a stagecoach outside nearby Wickenburg in 1871 was believed (and later proved) to have been committed by some of these reservation Indians. General Crook visited the site soon after to determine the responsible parties. During this visit to Camp Date Creek, the guilty Yavapais attempted to murder the general. In the ensuing melee several Indians were killed, the rest fleeing into the mountains. The peaceful reservation Yavapais urged the guilty ones to surrender so they wouldn't be punished for the acts of a few. The fugitives refused and were eventually tracked down and killed.

The Hualapai and Yavapai finally succumbed to reservation life and the camp was considered unnecessary and disbanded in 1874.

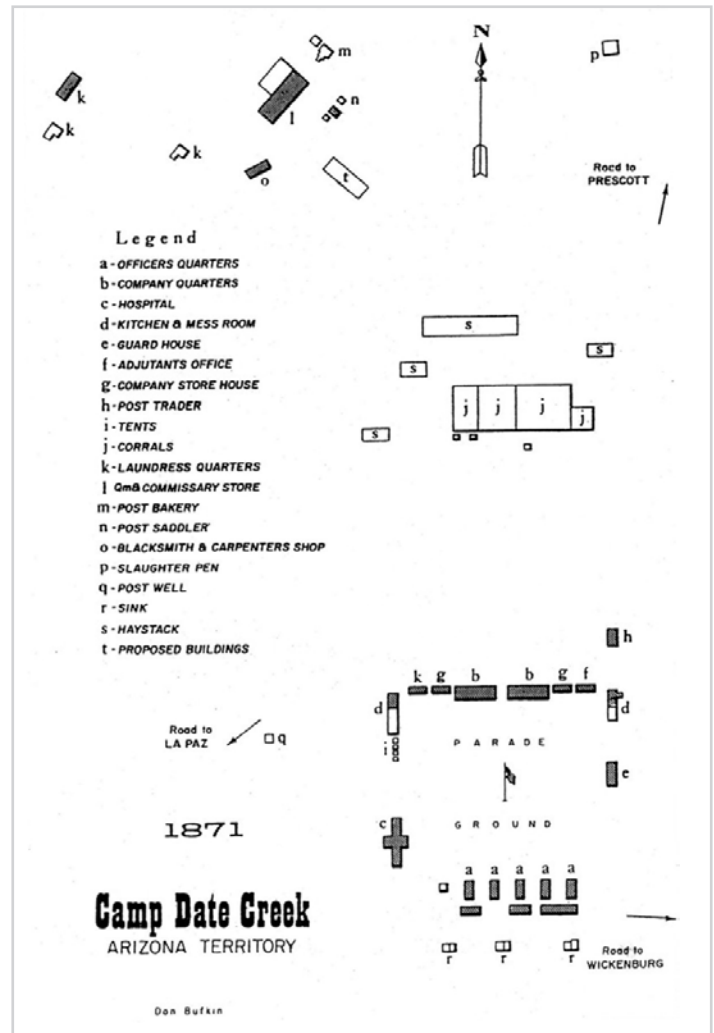
On December 16 we visited the Camp Date Creek site. It's located about 10 miles northwest of Congress,



Arizona in a raw, rocky desert alongside a mostly dry Date Creek. The only remaining evidence of any structures are the dilapidated rock walls of the sutler's store. We carefully picked our way through difficult areas of large and small lava rocks and across Date Creek wash until we reached the sutler's store, a little over ¼ mile from where we parked.

While admiring this old rock structure was entertaining, our primary goal was to look for traces of the Ehrenberg Road. Our research had provided GPS coordinates of surveyor's section line crossings, but upon arrival at these locations no visible traces were apparent. Metal detectors would have been a valuable aid, but this area is restricted in their use. There were old, rusted cans scattered throughout, which most likely dated to the camp's occupation.

Although traces of the road through the camp area remained elusive, visitation to the site enhanced our appreciation of the terrain and difficulties involved with wagon travel through this region.



39th OCTA Convention on Track for September 2021

Trail traces of the California Trail and the Hastings Cutoff are here for you to see! Basque dancers, a cowboy (or girl) poet, and a musician or two will be here to entertain you. Basque and western cuisine are on the menu. What more could you want?

Save the dates of September 13-16, 2021 for the Elko Convention. The schedule and motel information is on the OCTA website (www.octa-trails.org). Here are a few highlights:

- Bus tours to Lamoille Canyon, Fort Ruby and Ruby Valley, Gun Museum and Wells area, Long Canyon, and Gravelly Ford
- Private vehicle or van tours along the California Trail from Burley, Idaho, a visit to a prehistoric antelope trap site, a visit to Secret Pass area with Roger Gash
- Amazing world class speakers including Dr. James Armstead, Dr. Sue Fawn Chung, and Dr. Sarah Keyes as well as many illustrious and infamous OCTA historians, and Dave Vixie and his students.
- Awards Dinner and End of Trail Dinner
- Author's Night and Silent Auction

We are working to make the convention as safe as possible for you in what we hope will be close to the post-pandemic period. Options for outdoor meals, extra buses and other ideas are under consideration at this time.

We look forward to seeing you!

Want to help us be successful? Please complete the survey about the convention in the OCTA E-News!

For more information, contact Helen Hankins – helenhankins@gmail.com.



Board of Directors Meeting Report

President Lee Black opened the Zoom meeting on a hopeful stating “things are getting back to normal bit by bit”. He noted that our most pressing need is for new Chairs and Committee members.

- We have an updated org chart posted online
- Steve Knight, Helen Hawkins and Pat Fletcher will be handling Committee C.
- Bill Martin will chair the Legislative Liaison
- Duane Iles will be stepping down from the Tribal Liaison chair

Association Manager Travis Boley reported on the Spring Symposium postponement and the news that we have had an impressive fundraising effort that helped offset our losses during a difficult year.

- PNTS grant, Adwords and increased sales are helping replace lost income from 2020.
- The museum will be closed for the next 1.5 years
- Facebook followers have increased from 2,000 to 3,100 and YouTube subscribers are also growing.
- Casper is being scouted for our 2022 convention site. We are pursuing Regional symposia for Spring 2022.

John Winner reported on liability insurance changes including a requirement for more advance notice on outdoor events. The Board will address this and notify chapters of policy changes.

Our new Western Regional Representative, Isobel Lingenfelter introduced herself and covered the activities with which she is currently involved. She clearly hit the ground running and that list is long.

The Treasurer's report included good news. Due to our special drive we were able to finish a tough year with a profit. Our quarterly report was unremarkable and in the black.

Dave Welch reported that endowment funds are currently \$1.85M and investment growth is holding at a steady 7.25% per year. The committee is recommending no changes. He noted that when John Briggs becomes president, the committee will have an opening. This new person need not be a stock or funds expert.

Preservation Chair John Winner announced that there will be a Mapping Workshop on September 9-11, 2022 before the Elko Convention. Details will be forthcoming.

Bill Martin covered National Trails news including OCTA endorsement on the Bozeman Trail and a proposal for National Historic Trail standing for Route 66. Cecilia Bell and Mark Howe are continuing their

work on the Butterfield Trail.

Duane Iles, Membership chair reported that there is a continued decline in membership and that recruiting new members need to be encouraged particularly as the local level. There was discussion on the requirement that members join the national organization as an incentive to local growth. This topic was referred to committee for further discussion.

Duane also reported on the Tribal Liaison Committee and their ongoing efforts to have tribal representatives submit their stories to the *Overland Journal*. Chapters are encouraged to try to increase tribal participation. He recommended that the new head of the BLM be invited to the Casper convention.

Helen Hankins covered 2021 Elko Convention plans and the need for membership response to the survey information on planned attendance.

Superintendent Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service spoke about personnel changes within that organization. He noted President Biden's focus on COVID-19, new jobs, social justice and social equality. This will include increased tribal inclusion and outreach. He anticipated an increase in NPS funding requests.

He confirmed the ongoing OCTA cooperative agreement with NPS and welcomed Isobel to her post. He recommended following the NPS online newsletter to keep up with their projects and activities. He also encouraged member use of the Survey123 "trail inventory" app as well as the NPS app that includes all of the parks and national historic trails.

Bill Martin (PNTS) announced that the Butterfield bill will be reintroduced in March. The Four Trails bill has no leader at this time is not complete and will probably be going to the Interior Committee. It requires a sponsor to move forward and none have come forward yet.

Bill Hill, Publications Chair, is pushing to get more *Overland Journal* copies into local libraries. The theme of the calendar this year will be Immigrant and Indian Food. He is taking suggestions for tribal tie-ins. Bill reiterated his need for a person to help with awards and raffle duties.

Bill has had no suggestions for special publications. OJ Editor Bob Clark observed that special publications went dormant long ago, though now they cost less to do. No university publishers are currently doing any trail books right now and he would love to see some that change in the future.

Chapters reported in writing, uploaded into the Agenda. The complete Agenda will be made available to OCTA members through *E-News*.

Mary Conrad reported on archeology activities and recommended an Archeology Section on the OCTA website. This might cover all the "loose" archaeology-related OCTA information and links from old publications. Chapters could contribute articles, promote pedestrian surveys and record results. Efforts to get older research into print and/or digital form could be focused here. She encouraged folks who are interested to contact her at maryec1968@gmail.com

OCTA Website: Gina Sifers presented a proposal for website additions and upgrades, including the pressing need to bring the website into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. This would make the site easier to navigate for the disabled. Upgrades would include more clear and obvious links with improved color and contrast as well as closed captions on videos.

Gina also covered search engine optimization to enhance OCTA discoverability on Google and over 70 other search providers. An additional goal is to make every chapter discoverable.

Travis shared the excellent Biddy Mason video onscreen to the appreciative attendees.

Dave Welch reported briefly on mapping efforts.

Graves and Sites and the Collections Committees are working to identify where private collections are held and identify a future depository for digitized information as it becomes available.

Camille Bradford of the Hall of Fame Committee announced that full biographies of the inductees appeared in the *Overland Journal*.

Pat Traffas announced Board of Directors candidates Helen Hankins, Jerry Mogg, Mark Howe and Pat Traffas. Bios and voting information appear in this issue of *News from the Plains*.

The upcoming slate of OCTA officers include:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| President | John Briggs |
| Vice President | Steve Allison |
| Secretary | Sandra Wiechert |
| Treasurer | Marvin Burke |
| Past President | Lee Black |

Committee A reported everything running smooth.

Committee B reports that work continues on a finance reconciliation. The Board will need to sign off.

Committee C activities were covered earlier in the meeting by Steve Knight and Helen Hankins.

The Governance report in the Agenda stands as written.

Educational Outreach will restart as schools open.

Lee Black noted that OCTA application for round two PPP money was proceeding. This concluded the meeting.

News from the Chapters

CROSSROADS

Greetings from Crossroads!

So far, it has been a mild and dry winter, but we have had some storms recently. And, even though not much has been going on, we do have a few things to report. Some work projects and some individual activities are on the agenda. Terry Welch and President Steve Allison have been to Bountiful and Kaysville to examine our two trail kiosks and have determined that they need some work. Seems the last time we did anything was 2000. Of primary importance is the trail site at Lakepoint, Utah, where we installed a T-Post in 2000 when it was a vacant area. Today, development has moved in and it is no longer a vacant field. However, the developer has agreed to make a small 3-1/2 acre park to surround the T-Post and a section of a historic irrigation canal. We really appreciate cooperation like this as we can't do it alone.

Sharon Brown has retired from National as Western Regional Representative. She is being replaced by Isabel Lingenfelter. We look forward to getting to know her and working closely with her.

May will be Utah History month, and we look forward to events that we can participate in.

In other matters, we are looking forward to placing T-Posts on the SL-LA Trail which closely follows the Spanish Trail. This will take awhile.

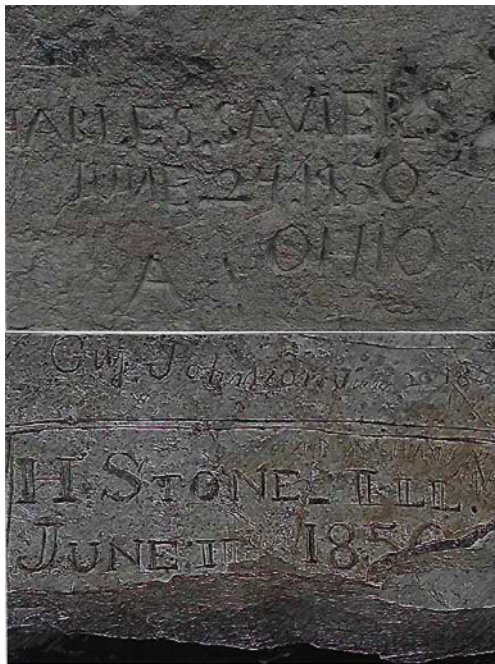
I am still working on my Crossroads timeline (a collection of photos that will document our history). This will take a while too. Field trips are also being planned.

A small group of us went up to Wyoming twice last summer to visit "Names Hill" (north of Kemmerer and south of LaBarge on US Highway 189) where hundreds of pioneer names were carved and painted during that era. (See Randy Brown's book, "Historic Inscriptions on

Western Emigrant Trails"). There are also some petroglyphs. This is a worthwhile trip. We also paid a visit to "Names Rock," a lesser place near Lyman, Wyoming. These make for a great day or weekend trip, depending upon where you're coming from. Get the book.

And, in closing, word has come out that our most prolific historian, Will Bagley, has suffered a stroke recently. We are saddened to hear this. Love him, or hate him, he has contributed much to our western history. No word on his condition at this writing.

Stay tuned – A. Oscar Olson



NORTHWEST

We have been experiencing a number of winter storms this year, and they have kept us from getting out on the Trail.

Dave Welch held a Zoom meeting in January on Mapping and Marking and it was well attended. Robin Baker has continued his work on the Barlow Road, and is now digitizing about 500 slides of the Road that were given to the Chapter by the family of one of our Past Presidents. We are planning to join the Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Trail in celebrating the history of Barlow Road this coming Spring.

We are holding a Zoom meeting of the Leadership Committee on March 6th. Plans for marking the Trail in Eastern Oregon with T-trails will be discussed as

well as tours on the Trail in the Spring. Now that the vaccinations for COVID are improving our chances of being safer, we can begin to expand our outings.

I attended the Chapter President's meeting this month and learned more about the National Park Services' National Historic Trails Asset Inventory Mobile App. I'm sure that a number of our members will want to participate in the project.

Our Membership Chairman, Chuck Hornbuckle, is still working on new memberships for the Chapter. We are still down a little bit, but the new members are expressing their interest in the Trail.

We plan to hold a general membership meeting by the end of March. Sallie Riehl

TRAILS HEAD

Notes from your Trails Head President has been a fun project during the pandemic. I have written periodically as inspiration hits. During most of the summer I reported on survey topics, all in an effort to educate myself. Then I was inspired by the Spring *Overland Journal* article by Gerald Ahnert about the Butterfield Trail that is being considered for designation as a National Historic Trail.

I hadn't been aware of this southern route of going west at the time that emigrants were more vocal in newspapers about their travel on the Oregon and California trails. OCTA's 2018 Symposium in Gila Bend caught my ear, and then the OJ article explained much more. It was densely packed with so much good material that I decided to call it to members' attention bit by bit through a Question and Answer format. My *Notes* have also called attention to the informative Zoom meetings sponsored by the Colorado-Cherokee chapter, to Travis Boley's 5K run, to Lee Black's Fireside Chat, and to anything else trail-related that might tune into something beyond our excellent *Traces* newsletters.

Just before the stretch of bitter cold hit our area, Travis Boley and I went to Schumacher Park where there is a granite DAR marker along with several wayside exhibits

and associated marker signs. We tried out the Survey123 app in hopes that we can interest other members in using this to report wayside conditions to NPS. The app automatically records GPS coordinates on your phone, so all you need to take along is a tape measure to answer some app questions; the rest is intuitive. In order to get started, you need to be assigned as an ArcGIS Online partner. I found that a challenge, though Brian Deaton's instructions did finally get the desired results.

This year 2021 marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Santa Fe Trail from Old Franklin, Missouri. There will be many observations of this anniversary in the area, and Trails Head activities will take note of such plans. Meanwhile, the digitization of the 250 quadrilateral maps on which Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association's founder Lee Kroh marked the Santa Fe Trail from Old Franklin, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico has been completed by the Kansas Historical Society, and we should soon be able to tell you how you can access them online. They are the most detailed maps of the San available anywhere.

Welcome spring! *Lila Aamodt*

GATEWAY

Gateway Chapter held a virtual membership meeting to close out 2020. As chapter bylaws state that officers are to serve two year terms, the following people will continue to lead Gateway for 2021: President: Jackie Lewin Vice-President: Carole McClellan, Secretary: Sandy Smith, Treasurer: Fred Sawin, Past President: Corky Smith, Program Committee Chair: Bill Leppert, Communications Committee Chair: Carole McClellan, Nominations Committee Chair: Dave Berger, Preservation Committee Chair: Corky Smith, Jerry Mogg, At Large Board Members: Mary Conrad, Dr. Bob Corder, Shirley Myers, Jerry Mogg, Diane Waddell, Cindy Weaver.

Gateway would like to recognize the loss of long-time member and friend Tom McCutcheon. He passed away in November at age 95. Although living in Rock Springs, Wyoming for a number of years, he maintained a chapter membership and kept in contact. Our sympathies are extended to his family.

Over the last two years, Gateway has followed a path of partnering with community groups on programs

and projects. The first project for 2021 is to prepare an exhibit on the westward movement for the Robidoux Row Museum. Construction of the historic building of three sections began in the late 1840s and was completed in the 1850s. It served as a row of seven apartments that Joseph Robidoux allowed families who purchased lots from him to live while their houses were being built. Later, emigrants to the west stayed there while waiting to begin their journey west. Bill Leppert and Cindy Weaver are

responsible for the exhibit design and Gateway members will aid in construction, labeling, and artifact collection. The exhibit is scheduled to be completed by June.

The next partnering program will be with the Remington Nature Center in early June. During the latter part of the year the chapter will focus on the commemoration

of the Santa Fe Trail with field trips. In addition, Fred Sawin and Corky Smith are preparing to work on the inventory of National Historic Trails Assets on the St. Joe Road and Pony Express Trail. *Jackie Lewin*



Robidoux Row Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri, was built by fur trader and city founder Joseph Robidoux

IDAHO

The Idaho chapter continues to remain dormant in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our primary activity has been to produce a great chapter newsletter.

We are starting projects to install directional and interpretive signs for Lane's Grave on the Lander Road in eastern Idaho, and interpretive signs at the location of Fort Boise in western Idaho. These projects will be done in partnership with the National Park Service Trails Office (NPS). The Ada County sign plan which we are working on with NPS was basically dormant for the past year due to COVID-19.

The spring chapter meeting is scheduled to be on Saturday, May 8, starting at 10 am. I suspect that it will be another Zoom meeting as I do not think that

COVID-19 herd immunity will have taken effect by then. COVID has already caused the cancellation of the annual Boise Community Education classes and likely will cause the cancellation of all in-person activities until summer or later.

We will be back out on the trails when it is safe to do so.

The cartoon below is from Grizzly Bear Magazine of 1951. Enjoy. *Jerry Eichhorst*



CALIFORNIA-NEVADA

Now that, "We've seen the Elephant," with Covid-19 rather than the Cholera scourge that killed many emigrants on the trails to California, the California/Nevada Chapter of OCTA looks forward to resuming our mission of protecting the Historic Emigrant Trails legacy by promoting research, education, preservation activities, and public awareness of the trails, and to work with others to promote these causes. With vaccines being distributed, and Covid cases dropping, we are looking forward to planning and doing more activities as we did in the past.

Helen Hankins is the chairperson for the 2021 National OCTA Convention that was postponed from last year. She reports that plans are moving forward to host the convention in Elko, Nevada, September 13-16. All of the speakers we had scheduled for last year have agreed to present this year, and a full agenda of trips and workshops are being planned.

We are also working with BLM, Trails West, Inc., Fernley City, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to do our annual Spring Survey, June 11-12, using metal detectors to determine and confirm a new trail alternative from Fernley Swales to the Truckee River that crosses some reservation land. Jon and Janet Nowlin organized and headed a Fernley Swales cleanup last September, and they will be working on organizing the trip.

Our members are voicing expectations to resume our fun and work trips on the trails and we are planning several outdoor socially distanced outings.

Tentatively planned trips include:

- Annual Spring Survey **June 11-13**.
- Nobles Emigrant Trail fun trip and campout from where it departs the Applegate and ends at Shasta City. **June 27-30**. Contact Ken Johnston kljstn@msn.com to sign up and for info.
- Henness Pass Road fun trip and campout from where it leaves the Truckee Trail to the trails end in Marysville. Contact Jim O'Callaghan jaoc@att.net to sign up and for info.
- Hastings Cutoff fun trip and campout **Sept. 20-21**. The "shortcut" that got the Donner Party in trouble. Contact Roger and Karen Gash at rgash@gmail.com.
- The Applegate Trail from where it leaves the California Trail at Lassen Meadows, across the Black Rock Desert, through High Rock Canyon, to Goose Lake. Contact Ken Johnston at kljstn@msn.com to sign up and for info.

Bill Holmes is continuing to work on establishing the Johnson Ranch and Camp Far West sites as a National Historic Site to be available for visitation and interpretive facilities. He is working with the owners of the land and with the Wheatland Historical Society in trying to preserve that history and make it available to people in the future. Dave Freeman is continuing to make interesting discoveries about Rancho Bosquejo at the end of the Lassen Trail.

Ken Johnston

COLORADO-CHEROKEE

We began a series of chapter events on Zoom in the Fall and have been pleased with the level of participation and interest. We are particularly pleased to have a means of holding events in which OCTA members and friends from throughout the country can participate. We hope to be able to resume outdoor events in the summer.

Bruce Watson and the Mapping Committee continue to be active in their projects. Bruce was recently invited to give a presentation on the Cherokee Trail to the Pikes Peak Posse of the Westerners. His article, "In Pursuit of Colorado Trails," appeared in the January 2021 issue of that group's newsletter. *Camille Bradford*

SOUTHERN TRAILS

The Southern Trails Chapter (STC) has been busy, even when not getting out in the field to explore, document and preserve. Unfortunately, we will NOT be having our annual Spring STC Membership meeting as decided in November.

Our Facebook page has been extremely active with daily announcements on Today in History posts, by our Facebook Manager, Jan Iwashita. The Facebook link is at "Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA." Our webpage is also a good source of information, which can be found on the OCTA main website and at our website, <http://southern-trails.org/>

The STC leadership has a monthly meeting the first week of each month and many emails in between to keep us abreast of activities. Please feel free to contact us for any information which can be found at our website.

September was a good month with our STC Annual Report submitted to National. Our bank account is doing well, but still need more members to join so we can continue to print two issues of Desert Tracks. We also need people to contribute for our journal. Please contact Dan Judkins or Dr. Dave Miller (Editors) for articles to submit for our next issue later this fall in 2021 or later issues.

The Silver City, New Mexico "Army of the West" sign is complete and installed. We are still hoping for a dedication ceremony, that may occur this Spring. We are hoping to join with the Continental Divide Trail group's spring opening celebration in Silver City. This will be a "Real" dedication of the "Army of the West" sign. A photo of this was in the last News from the Plains. No dedication date is set, as of now. Cecilia Bell has been receiving positive comments from the community and tourists visiting and seeing the sign. It has our logo and hopefully will be a recruiting tool for memberships.

By the beginning of October, we started to look forward to more activities in the future. Our monthly conference call had special guests OCTA National President Lee Black and Preservation Chair John Winner. Our membership is about 125 and growing.

Recently, STC Vice-President Cecilia Bell has made several presentations to local Silver City groups on the

Silver City sign, OCTA and STC. Cecilia is also handling our Membership with emails, letters, phone calls and visits, if possible. STC voted to contribute to National OCTA for Kathy Conway's 30 years of service with a donation from our general fund. We also were informed of upcoming filming of stories in the STC and emigrant stories.

John Winner, National Preservation Committee Chair discussed how STC does not have a Preservation Officer. STC President Mark Howe will help on this but we ask our membership to help step in on this for local areas or states in the STC. In unfinished business, the Arizona Marker and the fence for it is still in the works for installation. This is the Arizona marker commemorating the establishment of the Arizona territorial government at this location. The fence is stored in the Prescott Valley and this needs to be coordinated with the landowner and the Navajo Group for installation.

By November's meeting, we found that field activities in November had Dan Judkins (Desert Tracks co-editor) report that he spent 12 ½ hours with Travis Boley and a videographer as they were filming places along the Southern Trails for a YouTube program on the trail(s). They worked at Picacho, Tucson Presidio, "A" Mountain (site of an original Native American site), Tubac, the Santa Cruz Valley and Yuma. They covered sites from the de Anza Expedition, the 49ers, and the Mormon Battalion.

Southern Trails will not have a Spring Symposium due to the pandemic, so we made plans for the next election by email. Dan Judkins would help put together a short newsletter, with information on the election and asking for any nominations, and other requests to include short articles submitted by members. Any nominations should be sent to Sue Loucks.

As for meetings in 2021, we hope to be back to in person meetings by the time National rolls around. We are checking dates for something in the Temecula, California area in the fall or spring of 2022 for the STC Annual meeting. Also, the Santa Fe Trail Society 200-year celebration is in La Junta, Colorado this September 23-26, 2021. National OCTA is Elko, Nevada from September 13-16, 2021.

2021 Our first meeting of 2021 was pretty much the same as the last several months. In November, STC voted to contribute \$1,000.00 to the cost of the WRR position but was tabled and then passed at the January meeting.

In our meeting for February, we met our new WRR, Isobel Lingenfelter. Cecilia Bell talked about the future dedication of the Silver City Army of the West Historical sign. We will have a March Zoom presentation with Dan Judkins and Dr. Harry Hewitt as speakers. This will be on March 18 (Thursday) at 5 p.m. Pacific, 6 p.m. Mountain and 7 p.m. Central. The talks will be recorded to allow for future listening and membership forms will be available. STC members Dr. Harry Hewitt who will be

speaking on the Boundary Commission and border of the U.S. and Mexico by Zoom. Dan Judkins will round out the second half with the work he did on videography of sites in Arizona and what was discovered. Isobel (WRR) will issue a call for articles by May 15 for the next Desert Tracks issue. We plan on having a Zoom meeting in May with STC elections and a speaker. It will be scheduled for an hour but may go longer. Our new Western Regional Representative will be hosting this meeting.

We are looking at many different locations for the next Spring Symposium in 2022. Some suggestions are Temecula, California and Alpine, Texas. *Mark Howe*

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 AND 2019

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Assets</u> | | |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$ 60,760 | \$ 61,941 |
| Accounts Receivable | 1,334 | 2,786 |
| Inventory (at cost) | 26,171 | 26,831 |
| Investments (Endowment Funds) | 1,573,587 | 1,539,259 |
| Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization | 1,000 | 35,754 |
| Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation | 185 | 185 |
| Total Assets | \$ 1,663,037 | \$ 1,666,756 |
| <u>Liabilities</u> | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 16,278 | \$ 56,026 |
| Deferred Revenue | 19,516 | 17,516 |
| Total Liabilities | 35,794 | 73,542 |
| <u>Net Assets</u> | | |
| Without Donor Restrictions | 707,081 | 629,889 |
| With Donor Restrictions | 920,162 | 963,325 |
| Total Net assets | 1,627,243 | 1,593,214 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$ 1,663,037 | \$ 1,666,756 |

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 and 2019

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Revenues</u> | | |
| National Park Service | \$ 126,468 | \$ 130,480 |
| Membership Dues | 72,930 | 69,820 |
| Life Memberships | 5,250 | 2,000 |
| Convention and Symposium | 13,976 | 88,150 |
| Contributions and Grants | 110,586 | 59,896 |
| Investment Income - Endowment Funds | 44,214 | 26,548 |
| Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs | 3,375 | 6,406 |
| Other | 6,434 | 6,071 |
| Total Revenues | 383,233 | 389,371 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Expenses Paid from Specific Contributions and Grants | 15,044 | 14,346 |
| Board Meetings and Officers Expenses | 11,223 | 6,144 |
| Administration and Management | 214,662 | 224,584 |
| Publications | 44,429 | 50,187 |
| Film Amortization | 34,753 | 35,753 |
| Convention and Symposium | 10,590 | 77,587 |
| Committees (Preservation, etc.) & Other Expenses | 18,502 | 27,281 |
| Total Expenses | 349,203 | 435,882 |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets | 34,030 | (46,511) |

Thanks to Our Business Sponsors

For \$50 a year, OCTA Business Sponsors receive a listing on the OCTA website and in *News From the Plains*, a window decal, a framed wall certificate and an OCTA trail map. To learn more, contact OCTA headquarters at (816) 252-2276. Current business sponsors include:

Blue Mountain Diagnostic Imaging

1100 Southgate, Suite 700, Pendleton, OR (541) 276-2431

Jim Blau Insurance Agency

2661 Hub Drive, Independence, MO (816) 833-1595

Surveyor Scherbel, Ltd.

PO Box 96, Big Piney, WY (307) 276-3347

Lew Printing

227-B East College St. Independence, MO (816) 836-0219

Bite Me Barbecue

1405 Center St., Marysville KS 66508 785-619-6110

Welcome New Members

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dawn Alexander Redmond, OR | Wendy Adelseck Craft Modesto, CA | Phil Harrington Jackson, WY | Mark Shafer Tucson, AZ |
| Jennifer Auge Jackson, WY | Robert and Greg Crips Beaverton, OR | Cecil Hoosier Amissville, VA | Kevin Short Gray Court, SC |
| Mathew Barton Golden, CO | Michael Davanzo Union City, TN | Scott Johnson Pecos, TX | Lynn Soltys Hiawassee, GA |
| Kenneth Bauman Sun Lakes, AZ | Sandra Deveny WinnemuccavNV | G Pedro Kinner Stateline, NV | James Spires Huntington Beach, CA |
| Lucas Brennecke Chewsville, MD | Darrell and Connie Dorsey Grand Island, NE | Ed Krissman Jerusalem, Israel | Frank Steed Kerens, TX |
| Robert Brennecke Ballwin, MO | Jerome Durham Mountain Top, PA | Barbara Mahl Ocala, FL | Diane Stephens Riverside, CA |
| Robert and Catherine Camp Portland, OR | Grady Ferry The Woodlands, TX | Jim Mooers Bend, OR | Philip Terhorst Relands, CA |
| Sheila Cane Livingston, TX | Ellen Foster Toronto Ontario, Canada | Steven Owens Elko, NV | Thomas Tighe SparksvNV |
| Richard Coe Camden, NY | R Jack Garrett West Plains, MO | Matt and Nicole Petersen Elko, NV | Marvin Whitehill Savoy, TX |
| Michael Collings Grass Valley, CA | Doug Gerard Branson, MO | Trey Pitsenberger Garden Valley, CA | Steven Wolfe Buckeye, AZ |
| Clara Copp-LaRocque Old Lyme, CT | Richard Girard Dewey, AZ | Robert E Rucker, Sr Twain Harte, CA | David Woodbury Palo Alto, CA |
| | Bruce Goodrich Suquamish, WA | Carl Russell Aurora, CO | |

Welcome New Ezra Meeker Life Members

Donald and Dee Reinhold • William (Billy) Symms

Thank You!

Thanks to the many donors who support OCTA's preservation work through gifts to our annual fund drive and memorial gifts to those who have passed. Recent gifts include:

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Steven and Penny Allison | Linda and Craig Corwin | Cheryl and Gilbert Hoffman | Eileen McCloskey | Donald and Dee Reinhold |
| Thomas Armstrong | Lynn and Douglas Davis | Connie C. Holbrook | Vernon A. McDannald | Louis N. Ritten |
| Diane and Michael Berquist | Thomas and Carol Dietz | Chuck Hornbuckle | William Merrick | Charles and Claire Rossbach |
| Gary and Nancy Bjorge | Nancy Drew | Mark Howe | Jennifer and Gary Miller | Louise Hammer Rossi |
| Carolyn Bowser | Heather Burns Eagon and Ken Eagon | Lu Ann P. Hunter | Charles Milliken | Raymond E. Schoch |
| Camille Q. Bradford | Lou Ann Everett | Polly Jackson | Jerry and Sandra Mogg | Bernadine Scoles |
| Dr. Bonnie Breen-Wagner | Craig Fuller | LeRoy and Jean Johnson | David Monsees | Carl Sealock |
| John and Nancy Briggs | David Fullerton | Sharon Karr | Paul and Tomi Moreno | Sylvia Seymour |
| William Bundschu | David and Lorelei Gibson | Polly N Kennison | Amy Murphy | Marley Shurtleff |
| Marvin Burke | Michael D. Gibson | Jackie Lachapelle | Dick and Ruby Nelson | Gina and Jade Sifers |
| Susan Butruille | John P. Graves | Richard H. Lachmann | Donald Nevins | Peter and Elizabeth Thomson |
| Debora (DJ) | Helen Hankins | Constance Lane | Bill and Margie Nolan | Pat and Levi Traffas |
| Champagne Ph.D. | Jim Hardee | Stephen L. Larmore | Frank Norris | Lorna Waltz |
| Stephen Clark | William and Ruth Harlan | Carolyn Logan | Hiko Oda | Dick Waugh |
| Virgel Clark | Elizabeth Helmer | Catherine MacMillan | M Lethene Parks | Nelson S. Weller |
| Arnold and Merle Cole | Harry and Nelda Hewitt | Matthew Mallinson | Judson Parsons | Sandra Wiechert |
| William B. Colvin | Gary and Louise Hicks | Ross and Shirley Marshall | Stephen and Marylyn Pauley | Jon Willers |
| Mary E. Conrad | William and Jan Hill | Bill and Diana Martin | Dr. Shannon E Perry | Kirke and Anne Wilson |
| Joan Conzatti | Thomas Hoffman | Tyler Mayfield | Henry and Glenna Pittock | John and Susie Winner |
| Donald Cooper | | | | |

REMEMBRANCES

Our Friend, Kathy Franzwa



I am not sure how many people know that Greg and Kathy met at an Oregon-California Trails Association convention. Kathy had been reading Greg's Oregon Trail Revisited and wanted to meet the author. So she took an opportunity and introduced herself

to him. It seems that it was a case of love at first sight and they were soon married. Kathy quickly became a fully participating partner in the Patrice Publishing Company, which including attendance at all Lincoln Highway Association conferences.

Now to back up a few years and tell you a little about our relationship with Greg and then Kathy. Please forgive me if I don't have the chronology exactly right, but the events that I am going to mention are all clear in my mind. I first met Greg in 1994 during a field trip that was sponsored by the Utah Chapter of the LHA. He happened to be in Salt Lake City on OCTA business and was able to join us. He was living in Tucson at that time and made it clear that he was, and intended to remain, a confirmed bachelor. We developed an active acquaintanceship and when he started writing his Utah edition of his series of books on the Lincoln Highway states, he asked me to help him with it. I immediately took him up on it which resulted in our becoming very good friends. After that book had been completed and published, he asked if I would do it again for the Nevada book. Once again I jumped at the chance.

In the meantime, Greg and Kathy were married, and while we were working on the two books Nancy and I made several trips to Tucson and we stayed with them for two or three days each time. And there were the trips along the Lincoln Highway. First for research and then for promotion of the books. One trip lasted for a full week while we traveled between Wendover and Reno.

Not long after the Nevada book was finished, Greg and Kathy began talking about leaving Tucson for a cooler climate. Next thing we knew, they were our new neighbors. They had found and purchased a house just down the street from us. Now we could spend a lot more time together and our friendship grew even stronger. Meanwhile Nancy's Multiple Sclerosis was

taking its toll on her body and her mental capabilities were slowly deteriorating. When we first met, Kathy seemed to be a little reluctant about approaching Nancy, like she wasn't quite sure about how to respond to someone in Nancy's condition. But that didn't last for long. In a short time she was fully at ease and began having long conversations with her and doing little things like making sure her hair was in place, and open doors so that we didn't have to struggle with the wheelchair. Nancy has a tendency to choke on her food and Kathy took on the responsibility of keeping a watchful eye on this whenever we had meals together.

As neighbors we were able to do a lot of things together; hosting each other to dinners, taking rides along the Lincoln Highway, going on field trips with the LHA and OCTA, going to meetings of historical groups, and just spending time visiting. All in all, our lives were enriched by our friendship with Greg and Kathy.

But much as we would like it to, nothing remains the same. A few short years after moving to Utah, Greg developed cancer and died (Greg was a very good writer and he once told me to never, never say "passed away"). Kathy stayed in Utah for a few more years, but it was inevitable that she move back to Washington to be closer to her aging parents. We kept in touch fairly regularly and looked forward to visiting with her during LHA conferences and OCTA conventions. Then came the shocking news that she had been diagnosed with ALS, a disease that is always fatal within a short time. She soon lost her ability to talk on the telephone, and then she could no longer manipulate a keyboard in order to do email. The last letter we received from her was not in her handwriting.

The news of her passing came in December of the horrible year of 2020. We have been missing her for quite some time and will continue to do so for as long as we live. *Jess and Nancy Petersen*



David Jamiel

David Jamiel passed away Saturday, February 27th.

Dave served in the Elko Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. His work toward the creation of the California Trail Interpretive Center will long be remembered, especially because he was a model

for one of the statues in the Plaza of the Center. Our sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues along the trails.

He lived a full life and held as his most precious possession his testimony of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His last writing was to let family and friends know that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true and that if an individual adhered to its principles, they would find comfort and joy in this life and the next. As you remember him, may the words of the hymn "Nearer, My God, To Thee" bring peace to your heart.

David was proud of each of his children and their choices as adults to be loving and kind, caring individuals, Shari (Jamiel) Hirz, Nathan Jamiel, Jacob Jamiel, Elizabeth (Jamiel) Harper, Hannah Jamiel. He loved each of them and their spouses, Jay Hirz, Jules (Bush) Jamiel, Kris Harper, and his six grandchildren, Cassandra Harris, Logan Hirz, Damien Jamiel, Katey Hirz, Charlotte Harper, and Audrey Harper.

Despite a poor education in the Detroit Public School systems and undiagnosed learning disabilities, he was a man who worked hard to achieve a college education and graduated with honors. His passion was people, and even though he disagreed with their politics, he respected their positions and put friendship first over being right. He had many friends that shared his love for reenacting history, friends at the Broomfield Veterans Memorial Museum, his bowling league pals, friends that served a mission with him in Salt Lake City, and of course, his church family.

David is survived by siblings, Christina (Jamiel) Skicki and spouse Richard, Douglas Jamiel and spouse Bonnie, Dennis Jamiel and spouse Gail, Darren Jamiel and spouse Jennifer, Karen Jamiel and many nephews and nieces. His sister Madelaine Brock will be welcoming him on the other side.

A word from David's wife of 50 years, Shirley Jamiel: It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of my best friend and father to my five children. I feel blessed that I've had the privilege of being his best friend for the last fifty years. Having been married and sealed in the Temple I look forward to being with him for all eternity.

Chuck Dodd



OCTA HQ recently learned of the passing of long-time member Chuck Dodd. We do not yet have any obituary or service details, but wanted to pass along the news now while we wait for more information.

Chuck was a good friend to many in OCTA and renowned as an expert on trails, especially in Nevada and California. OCTA carries a couple of his books, both of which remain very popular with the general public.

From Board of Directors member Pat Fletcher

Some of us remember that it was Chuck Dodd's idea to create what became the *Census of Overland Emigrant Diaries* (COED) database. He spent years dealing with the vast assemblage of materials collected by volunteers from nooks and crannies, individuals, and small and large libraries. Attempting to do a complete *Census of Overland Emigrant Documents* from across the country, volunteers from every chapter of OCTA gleaned materials. All of the materials were sent to Chuck Dodd, who entered the ever-growing volume of material into the cumbersome computer technology of the 80s.

The end result were two CDs: *Emigrant Names 1 and 2*. As technology changed there was a broader OCTA volunteer movement that worked to move the materials forward through ever-changing technologies. They worked to standardize and quality check and scan and copy the thousands of pages from the original paper materials. The collected documents were essential to trail historians. And they continue to be.

That first idea that Chuck Dodd had, nurtured and morphed by many OCTA volunteers since the early 1980s, is now called "Paper Trail" (www.paper-trail.org) and is available not only to OCTA members but to historians and genealogists around the world. Thank you Chuck Dodd – and the hundreds of OCTA volunteers who gave thousands of hours and skills to this flagship project.

NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Published quarterly by the
Oregon-California Trails Association
(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit)
P.O. Box 1019, Independence MO 64051
Phone: (816) 252-2276 • Fax: (816) 836-0989
Email: octa@indepmo.org

Jay Lawrence, Editor
530 Ohio Avenue, Long Beach CA 90814
Phone: (562) 760-1999
Summer 2021 Issue Deadline: May 25, 2021
Send materials to: jaylawrenceocta@gmail.com

Awards Deadline is June 1, 2021

Nominations are due June 1 for the annual OCTA awards to be presented at the 2021 Convention scheduled in September in Elko, Nevada. Awards exclusively for OCTA members include the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, OCTA's highest honor, and the Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award. Non-members are eligible for Distinguished Service Awards and Friends of the Trail Awards.

Awards nomination forms can be found on the OCTA website by visiting www.octa-trails.org/activity-forms.

Questions about the awards process should be addressed to Awards Committee Chair at AudreyLynnElder@gmail.com

Where Will Your Footprints Lead?

They don't have to disappear.

You can leave a legacy that will ensure that your footprints are never erased, while helping to protect emigrant trails from disappearing forever.



Consider joining
OCTA's Trails Legacy Society

Your gift to an OCTA Endowment fund through a bequest or estate gift will help guarantee our ability to preserve and protect the trails.

Visit octa-trails.org/trails-legacy-society

You can make sure that ours are not the last footprints left on the trail.



2021 OCTA CONVENTION

ELKONV
SEPTEMBER 13-16



BUS TOURS

Long Canyon

Fort Ruby (including site tour) and Ruby Valley

Wells/Osino area (including Gun Museum)

Gravelly Ford



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Trail Days at the

California Trail Interpretive Center

Basque Dancers and Cowboy Poetry



**FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS
AND MORE INFORMATION**

www.octa-trails.org



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1019
Independence MO 64051

In this issue:

Candidates for the OCTA Board of Directors
Board of Directors Meeting Report
Camp Date Creek Exploration
Elko Convention News



NATIONAL FRONTIER TRAILS MUSEUM

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

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

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

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org