

## **Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED)**

COED, a committee of OCTA volunteers, has created a computer database program from surveys of original emigrant documents. Over many years COED volunteers located and surveyed trail-related writings which are now compiled into this database called "Paper Trail".

Surveys contain five major elements from the trail journeys: names of emigrants including births, deaths and marriages; locations of the original documents; routes traveled by the emigrants; locations noted by the emigrants; and encounters with Indians.

The "Paper Trail" database is a useful web-based research tool for historians, genealogists and trail hobbyists. "Emigrant Names" on CD and the web-based "Paper Trail" both use the names subset of the main database and this is available to the public.

The COED Committee maintains formal working procedures for managing committee activities, including guidance for Paper Trail users, additions of newly surveyed documents, contracts for web services, and publicity for Paper Trail. COED is part of the overall OCTA Preservation program, and the COED committee reports to the OCTA Vice President.