



EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Aubrey L. Haines

Biography

- Born: August 30, 1914, Portland, OR
- Died: September 10, 2000, Tucson, AZ
- Married: C. Wilma Smith, 1946
- Historian, NPS park ranger, historic trail researcher

Achievements

- Author, *Historic Sites Along the Oregon Trail*.
- Led research and mapping team documenting the Oregon Trail as part of the process to establish the Oregon National Historic Trail.
- First official historian of Yellowstone National Park and authored a two-volume history of the park from prehistoric to modern times that remains the definitive Yellowstone story.

Aubrey Leon Haines, a Western historian and author, had a long career with the National Park Service (NPS). After graduation from the University of Washington in 1938 with a degree in forestry, he became a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park. During World War II he served in the Army Corps of Engineers (1941-1946) and then returned to Yellowstone where he was promoted to the position of assistant park engineer.

He received a master's degree in forestry from the University of Montana in 1949 and did additional graduate work at the University of Washington before returning to the NPS as a supervisory park ranger at Mount Rainier National Park in 1950. He became an assistant park engineer at Yellowstone in 1956. In 1960 Haines became the Park Historian and served in this position until his retirement in 1969. Following his retirement Haines served as a research consultant for the NPS.

Historic Sites Along the Oregon Trail, a study prepared by Haines, was commissioned by Merrill Mattes, who wrote in 1973: "There have been many Oregon Trail studies resulting in many reports and publications. To our knowledge, no others have covered the entire length of the famous trail so scientifically or have concentrated to such an extent on the question of primary routes and precise location, documentation and description of related sites."

Haines was also the author of a number of books and scholarly articles on Yellowstone and western history.