

Northwest Trails Journal

Newsletter and Journal of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA

January 2003

President - Glenn Harrison

Editor - Jim Tompkins

<http://www.nwocta.com>

DUES, DUES, DUES JANUARY 1 DEADLINE

With the change last year in our fiscal year, all chapter dues are due on January 1st for that calendar year (all that remains of 2003, but act soon, the year doesn't get any longer until 2004). [Be sure to read all the fine print.]

Individual memberships cost only \$10 a year! [Plus shipping and handling - that's about a nickel for an envelope and 37¢ for the stamp.] For only \$200 you are locked in to an individual lifetime membership! [That's a savings of \$10 for every year you are under age 55 - assuming you meet the actuarial statistic - and it is inflation proof against any future dues increases.]

Family memberships cost only \$15 a year (or \$300 for a lifetime deal). Corporate memberships for associations and businesses are \$20 a year or \$400 for the life of the company! [Such a deal, but sorry, you can't just call yourself non-profit, you must file the paperwork.]

So, whip out that checkbook and zip off a check to our treasurer [Joyce Bolerjack](#), while she is still at 10813 NE 20th, Bellevue, WA 98004-2907.

One other thing - to maintain your chapter membership you must also be a member of the national organization. That is a separate process and they are better at reminding you. That's \$40 for individuals and \$45 for families.

IMPORTANT!

If you got e-mail for Christmas, or decided you want the on-line version of this great newsletter, or you changed your e-mail address - LET JOYCE KNOW!

jpbolerjack@worldnet.att.net



ANNUAL MEETING OREGON CITY - MARCH 15

Beware the Ides of March! It'll be NWOCTA 2K3 at CCHS in OC on 3/15/3. In plain English - the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter will be in Oregon City on March, 15th. We will convene at 10:00 AM sharp in the Tumwater Room on the third floor of the Clackamas County Historical Society's Museum of the Oregon Territory. That is the modern, red-roofed building overlooking Willamette Falls off Hwy 99E on Tumwater Drive.

If you have not been to the third floor, you are in for the best view in the territory. If you haven't been to the Tumwater Room in the last year, you are in for a surprise - it's finished and it's beautiful!

From either direction on Interstate 205, take exit 9 and turn left on McLoughlin Blvd [Hwy 99E]. Proceed south 12 blocks through downtown Oregon City, under the Arch Bridge [built by Conde McCullough in 1922 as a warm-up for the 150 bridges along US 101]. Jog left, cross Main Street [when the light turns green], then jog right under the railroad tracks and uphill [following the County Museum signs all the way] to the next traffic light. Turn left thrice into parking lot and exit your vehicle.

Come as early as 9:00 AM to socialize. Lunch is provided by a local caterer - after all this is the only Annual Meeting we'll have this year! Cost for the day is \$13. Please fill out the enclosed form and send it to [Joyce Bolerjack](#), 10813 NE 20th, Bellevue, WA 98004-2907 as soon as possible.

In addition to the necessary reports, there will be a viewing of the new OCTA promotional video, a presentation of the new Emigrant Names CD, a preview of the new show at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center [set to open Summer 2003], and a preview of a soon-to-be-published History of Oregon City, written for CCHS by a local NWOCTA member.

Come! Meet the members of your chapter! Hear about all of the exciting outings, markings, and the upcoming 2004 National Convention at Fort Vancouver!

The meeting should be over around 2:00 PM.

The membership will be asked to vote on a new bylaws amendment. As required by our rules this is your two weeks notice of a proposed change. Proposed addition; ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES AND POSITIONS Section 2. The Elections Committee shall be composed of at least two Chapter members who shall be appointed by the President. The purpose of the Committee shall be to receive and count the ballots for Officers and Directors and to report the results to the President.

Existing numbers 2 through 5 will be renumbered 3 through 6.

[Annual Meeting Registration Form on page 7](#)

Annual Meeting location

Northwest Chapter OCTA OFFICERS



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VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE

<http://www.nwocta.com>



DO YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Please let Joyce Bolerjack know when you change your e-mail address. You can reach her at 10813 NE 20th St., Bellevue, WA, 98004 or by e-mail at jpbolerjack@worldnet.att.net.

CHEROKEE TRAIL DIARIES VOL III AVAILABLE

Dr. Jack and Patricia Fletcher have recently released the third volume of their extensive study of the Cherokee Trail Diaries. Volumes I and II are bound together in a bright red cover. Volume III covers the years 1851-1900 and is subtitled *Emigrants, Goldseekers, Cattle Drives, and Outlaws*. The 420 page text is priced at \$29.95 paper and \$39.95 hard cover, plus \$4.95 S&H. There will probably be some at the Annual Meeting, otherwise contact the authors at Fletcher Family Trust, 730 Three Crabs Road, Sequim, WA 98382-7851, phone 360-683-1958, or e-mail at jpfletcher@olympus.net [Who is the third crab?]

VIDEO AVAILABLE AT ANNUAL MEETING

Featured at the Annual Meeting will be a viewing of OCTA's newest educational tool. The twenty minute documentary video *Saving a Legacy: The Oregon-California Trail* sells for \$12 plus \$3.95 S&H from the OCTA bookstore at <http://nwocta.com/octastore>. A few will be on sale at the Annual Meeting.

EMIGRANT NAMES CD HERE

The Emigrant Names CD [EMIGRANT NAMES (Compact Disk) \$29.95 plus \$3.00 S&H available at <http://nwocta.com/octastore>] is available now by contacting OCTA Headquarters at (816) 252-2276 or (888) 811-6282. The Headquarters mailing address is P.O. Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519.

The Emigrant Names CD, packaged with a User's Guide, searches a portion of the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) database for the 66,542 names mentioned by 2263 emigrant authors who participated in the westward migration between 1832 and 1899. Information, as available, is provided on the authors, other emigrants, and non-emigrants, as well as on the locations of the surveyed documents. Emigrant Names is suited to PC computers using Windows 95 and later. A few will be on sale at the Annual Meeting.

FALL AND WINTER BOARD MEETINGS

The Board and Officers of your Northwest chapter have met twice since the last newsletter. On October 26, 2002, in Albany, Oregon, at the home of president Glenn Harrison, the agenda included, in addition to the usual reports from each of the officers and committee chairs, the appointment of a nominations committee, discussion concerning the place and date of the upcoming annual meeting, chapter awards, and a review of the draft 2003 budget. Pertinent information on reports and action is found in articles throughout the newsletter.

The winter meeting was just held January 4, 2003, at the Orr Home in old Steilacoom, Washington. [Despite what it says on our logo, we are yet to meet in British Columbia.] Besides the usual reports, the board approved the election of our newest director, Jenny Miller. A proposed bylaws change was discussed [see article p. 1 on Annual Meeting for text of change] as well as chapter budgets to take to the Annual Meeting. [If you would like copies of board minutes, treasurer's reports or budgets, the chapter bylaws, or any of the other paperwork generated at a meeting, just write or e-mail Marley Shurtleff - her address is in the column to the left.]

THAT LONG SLOW NEWSLETTER

Here we are trying to get you all to switch to receiving your newsletter by e-mail and then we send out an edition that took an entire week to download and filled your mailbox. We blew it! Our only excuse? It was all those pretty pictures.

On the other hand, the editor received the following: "How do you get such clear black & white pictures in your newsletter? Mine ... don't come out nearly as well as yours. What is the secret? Lee Underbrink, editor of the Wyoming OCTA newsletter." After sharing the "secret" with Lee, he wrote back, "I might try some of your suggestions because the pictures are sure good. Lee."

So there lies the dilemma - pretty pictures versus download time. Compromise!

WORTH LOOKING AT

Anyone receiving e-mail has seen numerous copies of jokes, homilies, patriotic or religious images, cartoons, and those ads ad nauseum. Here is one by Paul Harvey that has some relevance to the Overland Trails (although it is about dirt roads, just imagine dusty ruts): <http://web3.foxinternet.net/safe/dirtroads/dirtroads.htm>

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

Each year you are encouraged to contribute to one or more of OCTA Endowment Funds. Last year there was an article about the OCTA Endowment Funds in the April 2002 News From The Plains. You saw a letter from Dick Pingrey in the July issue of News From The Plains requesting your support. It was promoted at the August OCTA Board Meeting and at the 2002 OCTA Convention. Now you have received a letter explaining the different Endowment Funds within OCTA.

I too encourage you to donate to this important cause. Send your donation to OCTA Endowment Funds at OCTA, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051-0519. Even if you already sent a check in 2002, you might consider mailing another check. Start the year out giving.

Dick Pingrey chairs an OCTA committee that includes Jim Budde, Chuck Martin and David Welch. The goal of the Special Endowment Fund is \$100,000. This fund will need to grow to \$1 million to generate \$50,000 in earnings and provide 25% of the operating budget.

Your donations to the OCTA Endowment Funds are very important. Please increase your usual individual or family donation and send your gift soon. Together we can help build a stronger national organization.

OREGON CULTURAL TRUST

On January 3, 2003 the appropriate paperwork was submitted to the newly formed Oregon Cultural Trust, so that NW OCTA members who pay income taxes in Oregon may get an extra benefit for 2002 and beyond. The new listing will include NW OCTA as a 501(c)(3) organization able to benefit from the new provisions.

In nearly unanimous votes, the 2001 Oregon Legislature created a 2 for 1 way to make donations to support heritage. There are many groups in the state that are recognized as 501(c)(3) tax exempt organizations. The amount of your donation may be deducted from your federal taxes. But now if you also made an equal donation of up to \$500 individually, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly or \$2,500 for businesses to the Oregon Cultural Trust during December 2002, you may use that amount as a credit from the income taxes you owe

next April. It's like making a donation that costs you nothing. Donations made during 2003 will provide a similar tax credit from taxes owed in April 2004.

You may have made a donation during December 2002 to the Oregon Cultural Trust and mailed it to Bill Bradbury, Oregon Secretary of State, Oregon Cultural Trust, 136 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310. There is a 10 member board that governs the trust, which is now an added responsibility of the Secretary of State.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a new way to preserve and strengthen Oregon's culture - heritage, humanities, historic preservation and the arts. Money donated will add to money obtained from the sale of three large pieces of state surplus lands and the sale of new specially designed license plates, which are now available. The Trust has already received a \$75,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust.

Then 60% of the revenue will be invested for future growth. A third of the remaining 40% will be shared by the following existing groups:

- Oregon Historical Society
- Oregon Heritage Commission
- Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Oregon Council for the Humanities

Another third will be shared by all the federally recognized Oregon Indian tribes to support local and regional cultural projects. The remaining one-third will be used for competitive matching Cultural Trust Grants to Oregon nonprofit cultural organizations to develop programs and partnerships that preserve cultural resources.

So that planning could begin, each County Commission in Oregon was asked to form a County Cultural Committee. Of Oregon's 36 counties, 29 got their County Cultural Committee appointed. Others are in the works.

Bill Bradbury estimates that \$2 million in donations will go to the Cultural Trust by the end of 2002. It is anticipated that grant money from the Cultural Trust will be leveraged to \$90 million in cultural programs around the state. For more information see the enclosed brochure and visit the Cultural Trust website at <http://www.culturaltrust.org>.

- Glenn Harrison

THE PEOPLE OF NWOCTA

OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Jenny Miller

Last Fall the members voted and on January 4th Jenny Miller was installed as Northwest Chapter's newest Director.

In her own words - "I work as a substitute teacher for the Hermiston SD. I worked full time until my oldest [of three small children] was born in 1993. I taught fourth grade [full time] which helped spark my interest in the Trail. The summer before Travis was born, I convinced my husband to go back to Independence to follow the trail to take slides to show to my classes. I was a little bothered by all the videos that show the trail in random order so I planned my show to be in order from start to finish, getting as much of it on slides as our vacation and tolerance of each other allowed. Well, I never went back full time but do present the slide show to the classes that invite me in.

Jenny {cont.}

"I joined OCTA in 98 because the convention was held so close to my home-30 miles. I had heard of the organization but didn't know much about it. I figured it was about the best time to experience a convention. I also heard more about it through Keith May and he gave me a big nudge. I also figured it would be a good way for me to get more slides for my show.

"I love to hike along the trail, especially any new spots that I haven't seen before. I like trying to figure out how it all fits together. I also like to read books that have been written about the trail, including historical fiction, though sometimes I'm hard on the author if I don't think she's right about some things!

"I am enjoying getting to know the people in NWOCTA. I don't know that I have any goals yet because I have NEVER done anything like this before. I'm not really sure how I even got on the ballot!"

CHAPTER LOSES CHARTER MEMBER

Wilma I. Stahl was a Charter Member of the Chapter. Trudy Ackerman states she was a great help during both of our Oregon Conventions.

Wilma died October 16, 2002 in Eugene at age 76. She was born Wilma Dunn in Hudson, Kansas in 1925, graduated from Baker Catholic HS in 1943, married Paul Stahl in Weiser, Idaho in 1946, moved to Portland and then to Eugene in 1958.



2002 CHAPTER PRESERVATION REPORT

Trail Preservation includes not only corridor activities impacting the trail, but also the commitment of Northwest OCTA members to support OCTA goals, sponsor and participate in Chapter activities and very importantly, to enlist new members. That commitment is the foundation of our efforts to preserve remaining segments of the western migration roads and historic sites for the enjoyment and education of future generations.

TRAIL AWARENESS

During the past 12 months members participated in northwest events related to the emigrant period of the mid-1800s. Like Ezra Meeker, our trail excursions ranged from hikes to auto tours to airplane tours. Each of these very popular events attracted individuals outside the OCTA family and gained a few new members.

NWOCTA members "manned" displays at several community events including Thurston County, Washington's Sesquicentennial celebration in the State Capitol Rotunda in January, the Oregon Historical Society's "Wintering-In Harvest Festival" on Portland's Sauvie Island in September, and Tumwater's annual Heritage Festival in October. Also in October we were represented at the dedication of a Cowlitz Trail monument placed by the Daughters of Washington Pioneers in Tumwater's Heritage Park.

The Chapter sponsored several outings including auto tours of the Cowlitz Trail, the Free Emigrant Road, and a National Trails Day weekend of tours and presentations featuring the Oregon Trail near Pendleton. In September members gathered along the Cowlitz Trail in Centralia, Washington, for the first Chapter "End of the Year" picnic. NWOCTA members took to the air for a "Meeker view" of the Oregon Trail during the third annual "Trail Flyover".

Each of these activities increased public awareness, brought new members to the Chapter and much delight to participants. These events are important to our trail preservation efforts because they emphasize this important part of our national heritage.

TRAIL PRESERVATION

Main Oregon Trail

Jeff Pardue, a NWOCTA member employed at the Umatilla Chemical Depot near Hermiston, keeps us informed of the Depot's progress in marking and protecting trail remnants across the Depot near Umatilla.

The BLM's final decision on the City of Irrigon's waste water treatment and disposal plant preserves and marks swales located in the western five acres of the twenty-acre treatment site. Alternatives would have adversely affected identified remnants of the cut-off from the main Oregon Trail at Echo to the route from Whitman Mission along the Columbia River.

Barlow Road

A Memorandum of Understanding signed by the USFS, NPS, BLM, FHWA and the National Endowment for the Arts was signed to ensure consistency in trail marking and protection. Although the Barlow Road Management Integrated Resource Analysis and Implementation Guide was prepared in 1991 there was a lack of consistency between Mt. Hood National Forest and other jurisdictions. The new MOU pledges cooperation and consistency in trail marking and preservation.

Roger Riolo noted several disturbed areas near the Summit House in Mt. Hood NF and contacted Jeff Jaqua, Mt. Hood NF Archaeologist. Jeff said the site had been looted last September. Fortunately, most of the artifacts were recovered.

A review by the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council found many signs missing or in poor condition. The NPS has offered funding for Carsonite posts to mark the Barlow Road. Being close to a major urban area this marking project could result in significant positive public trail awareness.

Cowlitz Trail

A planned residential development in Thurston County, Washington could adversely impact one of two visible Cowlitz Trail swales. We, along with the Thurston County Historic Preservation Officer, submitted comments and offered to assist in mitigation review.

- **Chuck Hornbuckle** hornbucklecs@juno.com

FUR TRADERS, MISSIONARIES, SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS

Saturday - Sunday May 3 & 4
- Lethene Parks, leader

This tour starts in Colville and includes Tshmakain Mission, St. Paul's Mission, HBC Fort Colville, US Army Fort Colville, and a presentation on migration into the area by Oregon Trail emigrants. There will be a booklet of background and maps.

Contact **Lethene Parks** at 3214 Clark Lake Road, Hunters, WA 99137-9714, phone 509-722-6161 or a lethene@theofficenet.com as soon as possible to register.

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



*Mt. McLoughlin above Upper Klamath Lake
photo by Stafford Hazelett*

MAPPING and MARKING

Starting June 7
Chuck Hornbuckle and
Vic Bolon, leaders

Three activities are planned for this year. The first is to perform maintenance on the trail from La Grande to Hilgard June 7th - National Trails Day.

There is still work to be done marking the Applegate in California with Carsonite and Steel posts this coming year. The Applegate marking will be June 19-29 in coordination with CA/NV OCTA and Trails West.

In the future marking of the Oregon Trail from the Snake River opposite from Fort Boise is anticipated.

2003 OUTINGS

NORTHEAST WASHINGTON: Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldiers and Settlers

May 3 & 4 - Lethene Parks, leader

OREGON TRAIL FLYOVER: Snake River to Pendleton

May 31 & June 1 - Dick Pingrey, leader

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Marking the Blues

June 7 - Chuck Hornbuckle, leader

MEEK-ELLIOTT TRAIL: Vale to Wagon-tire 4x4

June 14 & 15 - Don Clark (Idaho Chapter), leader

THE RIVER ROUTE: The Dalles to Fort Vancouver

June 28 - Roger Blair and Susan Badger Doyle, leaders

FRENCH PRAIRIE: Champoege, St Paul, Mission Bottom

July 12 - Jim Tompkins, leader

NATIONAL CONVENTION: Manhattan, Kansas

August 12-16 - Kanza Chapter, leaders

FALL PICNIC: to be announced

September - Joyce Bolerjack and Marley Shurtleff, leaders

FREE EMIGRANT ROAD: Bend to Albany

October 11 - Glenn Harrison, Gary Brumbaugh, Del Spencer, leaders

THREE NEW MARKERS TO DESIGNATE UTTER-VAN ORNUM MASSACRE

The Northwest and Idaho Chapters are working on signage for the 1860 running battle between two emigrant groups and Indians that started in Idaho and concluded in Oregon. Here is the text as written by Don Shannon.

Utter Wagon Train Disaster

Near here the Elijah P. Utter wagon train was attacked by Indians on September 9 and 10, 1860. The two-day encounter resulted in the deaths of 11 emigrants and an estimated 25 to 30 Indians. The 44-member train was composed of four families with 21 children, some single men, five recently discharged soldiers and an army deserter.

The first attack occurred on the high ground just west of Castle Creek when the Indians attempted to stampede the stock. The strong position of the hurriedly circled wagons and the distribution of food to the Indians discourage

additional aggression. The train was allowed to continue on to the Snake River where the party intended to fill their water barrels. The train kept to the high ground and, while passing down to Henderson Flat, was attacked again. The wagons were circled and the fight continued into the next day.

Toward sundown on the second day, each family hitched up a wagon and left the remaining wagons and the loose stock for the Indians. But the hungry, thirsty, and wounded oxen could not advance. The attackers pressed their advantage and forced the emigrants to abandon their property and flee. A wounded Elijah Utter was shot down, and Abagail Utter and three Utter children refused to abandon him. All were killed.

The survivors escaped the attacks with only the clothes they were wearing, some firearms, and a few basic necessities. For over a week they followed down along the Snake River until they reached the Owyhee River crossing. They traveled

Utter {cont.}

some 75 miles until they could not physically go on. Some were wounded, and all were hungry and exhausted. Here eighteen children, six surviving parents, and a young man waited to be rescued.

Two weeks later, the camp was visited by a few Shoshoni Indians. They traded salmon for what few possessions the survivors still harbored and forcefully took their firearms. After receiving some salmon, the Van Ornum family, a young man named Gleason, and the two surviving Utter boys left the camp in hopes of finding a relief party. Near Farewell Bend, they encountered Indians. The three Van Ornum girls and their little brother were taken captive. The bodies of the others were discovered by soldiers, "gleaming in the moonlight," in a crater near the site.

At the Owyhee camp, four children died from starvation. After much discussion and prayer, those who remained ate the flesh of the dead in an attempt to survive until relief arrived. On October 24, an Army expedition led by Captain Frederick T. Dent rescued ten survivors. No other Oregon Trail wagon train suffered greater losses.



Starvation Camp

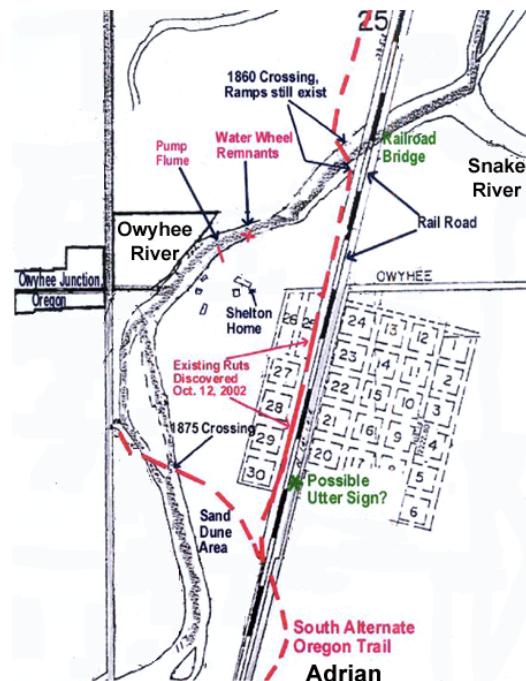
Survivors of the attack on the Elijah P. Utter wagon train by Indians on September 9 and 10, 1860, just west of Castle Butte, arrived near here on about September 18. They had escaped the attacks with only the clothes they were wearing, some firearms, and a few basic necessities. They had followed down the Snake River, often in the cover of darkness to escape detection, for some 75 miles until they could not physically go on. Some were wounded, and all were hungry and exhausted. Here, eighteen children, six surviving parents, and a young man waited to be rescued.

Two weeks later, the camp was visited by a few Shoshoni Indians. The Shoshonis paid three visits to the camp to trade salmon for what few possessions the survivors still harbored and forcefully took their firearms. After receiving some salmon, the Van Ornum family, a young man named Gleason, and the two surviving Utter boys left the camp in

hopes of finding a relief party. Near Farewell Bend, they encountered Indians. The three Van Ornum girls and their little brother were taken captive. The bodies of the others were discovered, "gleaming in the moonlight," in a crater near the site by soldiers.

Soon after the Van Ornum party left, Mr. Daniel A. Chase Sr. died. On October 13, Libbie Trimble passed away, and five days later her baby sister died. The next day Danny Chase expired, followed two days later by his brother, Albert. All four children died from starvation. After much hesitation and prayer, those who remained resolved to eat the flesh of the recently departed with the hope of preserving their own lives until a rescue party arrived.

On October 24, the Joseph Myers family of seven, Elizabeth Chase and daughter Mary, and Emeline Trimble were rescued by an Army Relief Expedition led by Captain Frederick T. Dent. Captain Dent reported: "found the remains of Christopher Trimble, who had been murdered by the Indians; his body had been much disturbed by the wolves, but sufficient remained to identify it. ... This boy of eleven years of age, deserves especial mention. He had killed several Indians in the fight. ... he then became a prisoner voluntarily with the Indians, in order that he might get some salmon taken to the camp. ... Two weeks had elapsed since his last visit; it must have been at that time he was killed."



Van Ornum Wagon Train Massacre

By October 1860 the Van Ornum party reached Farewell Bend. They were survivors of the Elijah P. Utter wagon train that was attacked by Indians on September 9 and 10 just west of Castle Butte in Owyhee County, Idaho.

The survivors had escaped the attacks with only the clothes they were wearing, some firearms, and a few basic necessities. For over a week they had followed down the Snake River until they reached the Owyhee River crossing. They had traveled some 75 miles until they could not physically go on. Some were wounded, and all were hungry and exhausted. Here, eighteen children, six surviving parents, and a young man waited to be rescued.

Utter {cont.}

Two weeks later, the camp was visited by a few Shoshoni Indians. They traded salmon for what few possessions the survivors still harbored and forcefully took their firearms. After receiving some salmon, the Van Ornum family, a young man named Gleason, and the two surviving Utter boys left the camp in hopes of finding a relief party.

Here, near Farewell Bend, they encountered Indians. The three Van Ornum girls and their little brother were taken captive.

Captain Frederick T. Dent, leader of the Army Relief Expedition, reported that a party led by Lt. Marcus A. Reno discovered, "gleaming in the moonlight, dead, stripped, and mutilated ... the bodies of six persons. ... Mrs. Vanorman had been whipped, scalped, and otherwise abused by her murderers; the boys, Charles and Henry Otter, were killed by arrows; Mr. Vanorman, Marcus Vanorman, and Gleason had their throats cut, and besides were pierced by numerous arrows. They appeared to have been dead from four to six days; the wolves had not yet molested them; decomposition was going on however, and Lieutenant Reno buried them."

The bodies were buried where they were found. Mrs. Van Ornum's body was laid to rest 4 1/2 deep, separate from the common grave containing the five remains of the men and boys. Local historian P.D. Wood rediscovered the graves and placed a small metal cross to mark the site.

Zacheus Van Ornum became an Indian Scout for the army, in an effort to rescue his nieces and nephew. The captive children were traded or stolen by other bands. Reuben was rescued by California Army Volunteers in November 1862 in the Cache Valley of Utah. The youngest sister, Lucinda, died soon after being rescued from the Indians by Northern Utah settlers. Eliza and Minerva either died of starvation or were killed while captives.

2004 CONVENTION SITE SET

After some concern about the proposed construction of a new hotel on the site of the Red Lion at the Quay in Vancouver, the hotel has been confirmed as the site of OCTA's 2004 convention. The new hotel will be constructed adjacent to a new convention center which will give us exclusive use of the riverside site.

In response to a call for volunteers, over 70 members of the Northwest Chapter have responded. Thanks very much for the show of support. Volunteers will be contacted in the next few months to set up and confirm assignments.

A preliminary plan of convention activities has been developed. The tours will feature excursions up and down the Columbia River from Vancouver. The upriver tour will reach The Dalles area and will feature both Oregon Trail and Lewis and Clark History. The down river tour will go to the Pacific and Astoria and will focus on Lewis and Clark.

Other tours will cover the Barlow Road (hiking and auto tours) and the Willamette Valley. Fort Vancouver and the End of the Trail Interpretive Center will be featured sites. Pre- and post-convention tours will cover the Cowlitz River Route and the Oregon trail from eastern Oregon to The Dalles. A riverboat cruise will conclude events.

Lethene Parks is organizing a full range of workshops, some of which may be offered in the pre-convention period. Keith May is organizing a "teacher's institute" that will permit teachers to attend and receive credit.

If you haven't volunteered and desire to do so, please contact me at my new email address: welchdj@attbi.com.

- Dave Welch

2003 ANNUAL MEETING Registration

Number of people in party _____ @ \$13 each = \$ _____

Nametags should read:

We need a firm count before the meeting, so **please** remit the above amount to NWOCTA and mail to

Joyce Bolerjack

10813 NE 20th

Bellevue, WA 98004-2907

ASAP



*Annual Meeting site
March 15, 2003
Clackamas County
Historical Society's
Museum of the Oregon
Territory*



MEEK-ELLIOTT WITH IDAHO

June 14 & 15 - Don Clark IOCTA, leader

Don Clark of the Idaho Chapter of OCTA has written a book *Traveling with the Oregon Trail Pioneers of 1853*. His next book on the Elliott party will be out soon. Don and his wife of Caldwell, ID, have made many trips across the Meek, and know where the ruts are located on much of the way.

Don has agreed to lead a 4 X 4 trip for Idaho OCTA on the Meek/Elliott route from Vale west to perhaps Wagontire area on June 14 and 15. IOCTA is hoping that NWOCTA could participate as a joint outing. Since most of the trail is on BLM lands in Oregon, they were hoping to mark some of it as they travel. A joint outing would avoid the problem of Idaho people marking trail in Oregon. This may be the first time NWOCTA has had a trail outing in this part of the state.

- Jim McGill, IOCTA

**NW OCTA
10813 NE 20th St
Bellevue, WA 98004**

DO YOU KNOW?

1. What does this list represent?

Samuel Huntington (1781), Thomas McKean (1781), John Hansen (1781-1782), Elias Boudinot (1782-1783), Thomas Mifflin (1783-1784), Richard Henry Lee (1784-1785), John Hancock (1785-1786), Nathaniel Gorham (1786), Arthur St. Clair (1787), Cyrus Griffin (1788-1789), George Washington (1789-1797)

2. When Francis Pettygrove of Portland, Maine, defeated Oregon Trail emigrant Asa Lovejoy of Boston in two of three flips of a penny to name their land claim, he chose the name Portland. What would Oregon's largest city be called if Lovejoy had won?

3. What do Burlington, Iowa; Linnton, Oregon; Sacramento, California; and Tacoma, Washington, all have in common besides being on parts of the Overland Trails system?

Answers

1. This is a list of the first eleven presidents of the United States. We start our modern numbering system from the ratification of the Constitution in 1789.

2. This is the most commonly missed trivia question in Oregon. Lovejoy favored the name New Boston.

3. All four towns were founded (begun and/or first platted) by the same man. 1843 emigrant Morton McCarver (who lived in Oregon City) began Burlington in 1834, Linnton in 1844, platted Sacramento in 1849, and began Tacoma in 1868.