

Northwest Trails Journal

Newsletter and Journal of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA

April 2003

President - Glenn Harrison Editor - Jim Tompkins

<http://www.nwocta.com>

2003 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



High above the eastern bank of the Willamette River, in the third floor Tumwater Room of the Clackamas County Historical Museum of the Oregon Territory, nearly ninety members of Northwest OCTA chapter gathered March 15 for fun and fellowship. The largest gathering of members ever to attend an annual meeting caught up with old friends and exchanged news while they enjoyed sweet rolls and coffee, or watched TV screens strategically placed showing the new OCTA video, "Saving A Legacy."

Attending the meeting were several national officers, including Dave Welch, Preservation; Roger Blair, Past President; Dick Pingrey, Vice President; Lethene Parks, Secretary; and Jack Fletcher, board member.

Trudy Ackerman paid tribute to charter member Wilma Stahl who passed away recently, noting her willingness to help with chapter activities whenever and wherever she could.

Chapter officers took care of some housekeeping details (minutes, treasurer's report, membership report). Members approved a revision to the Bylaws to provide for the establishment of an Elections Committee to count ballots.

Vice president Jim Tompkins reported on the large number of excellent options planned for the 2003 season. There will be several tours that are dry runs for convention tours to be offered at the 2004 Vancouver Convention. Jim encouraged people to get involved, and sign up for the various activities. For more information on the activities, see the listing elsewhere in this newsletter. (You can enjoy the benefits of viewing your newsletter in color by requesting to receive it via email! Please contact Joyce Bolerjack if you would like to receive your *Northwest Trails Journal* in full color!)

Chuck Hornbuckle provided a report on the status of Trail Preservation in the two-state area. There seems to be very little adverse trail activity between the Idaho State Line and The Dalles. There has been a discovery of some emigrant names carved in stone near the summit of the Barlow Road; and there is concern about the impact of condominium construction near Government Camp. Traces of the Cowlitz Trail in southern Thurston County, Washington lie within a planned residential development, but work is going on with the developer to minimize any impact. Trail marking in 2002 occurred on the main Oregon Trail near Ladd Canyon, along Applegate's South Road to Oregon.

Dave Welch brought the membership up to date on the 2004 Vancouver Convention Planning. Themes for the convention will cover diverse topics from Native American culture to Lewis and Clark, the Fur Trade and Hudson's Bay Company, and the Oregon Trail itself. There will be plenty of activities for everyone, from papers to tours to workshops to reenactor presentations!

Jim Renner entertained the group with a rendition of "clawhammer style" banjo music. It was so enjoyable that the group convinced him to play a second tune.

Three recognitions were presented at the meeting. The first was to **Chuck Hornbuckle** for his dedication and hard work for many years in many capacities, in the chapter. The second was to **Tom Laidlaw** for his years of service on the National Board. And the third award was to **Jim Renner**, the 2003 recipient of the Ackerman Award, for his outstanding and long contributions to trail preservation in Oregon.



Award winners Chuck Hornbuckle and Tom Laidlaw

After an excellent catered lunch everyone settled in for various reports. Bob Kabel gave a well-rounded presentation of the design and search capabilities of the new OCTA Emigrant Names CD. Members snapped up all the copies of the CD that were for sale at the meeting.

Roger Blair discussed the establishment of the newly-created NW OCTA Awards Committee and asked for volunteers to participate. Jim Renner stepped in for Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) liaison to OCTA Eileen Fitzsimons, to explain the role of OHTAC in preserving trails in Oregon.

The final activity of the day was the raffle, in which many wonderful items donated by the membership were offered for choice, and the sale of the tickets netted more than enough money to cover the extra costs associated with putting on the annual meeting.

At the close of the day, many members waxed enthusiastic about the museum, remarking that it would be a good idea to meet at the same location again next year! We think so, too, and hope you will be able to join us there next time!

- Marley & Gary Shurtleff

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VISIT OUR
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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 jbolerjack@comcast.net

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Tom Laidlaw, probably better known as Billy Cannon for his portrayal of the only Revolutionary War veteran who also was an Astorian and HBC employee, informs us that the Sons of the American Revolution will be putting a gravestone at the St. Paul, Oregon, Cemetery for William Cannon (born William Canning) April 12th. It is to be an official government military headstone. They will be having a ceremony and everything. Tom will give a little synopsis of Cannon's life.

OCTA APPLICATIONS

Glenn has been supplied with a large stack of OCTA membership application forms. If you want one for a prospective member or need a stack to share at an event, let him know. (See the listing of officers to the left.)

And don't forget to show the OCTA video!

COUPLE HONORED

Richard and Orsola Silva were named 2002 Yreka Citizens of the Year during a recent award ceremony. Much of their community work involved research and documentation of the historic trails in northern California and southern Oregon. The Silvas are members of the NW Chapter and have been active in emigrant trail research, marking and mapping, especially along Applegate's South Road to Oregon.

The couple's achievements were also recognized by the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors who presented A Resolution of Outstanding Service. In addition a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition was presented to the Yreka couple.

HELP WANTED

ELECTIONS - With the passage of the proposed Bylaws amendment at the Annual Meeting, volunteers for the Elections Committee are needed. "The Elections Committee shall be composed of at least two Chapter members who shall be appointed by the President. The purpose of this Committee shall be to receive and count the ballots for Officers and Directors and to report the results to the President." Let Glenn know if you are interested.

AWARDS - Several awards are given at the National OCTA Convention. In an effort to give appropriate Chapter recognition to members and others who do outstanding work in preserving the trail, marking the trail, teaching about the trail, and work for the Chapter, an Awards Committee was announced at the Annual Meeting. Roger Blair has agreed to Chair this new committee. He has gathered the National guidelines and those of other chapters, so we can determine what awards to offer and the process for nominating someone for recognition. If you are interested in serving on the Awards Committee, contact Glenn.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

In making plans for the Vancouver Convention in 2004, we have discussed having Northwest OCTA members wear pioneer clothing. If you are interested in either making or purchasing clothing, here is some information you may find useful. Susan Badger Doyle is responsible for doing a lot of this research.

Amazon Drygoods has authentic patterns from the past. They are in Davenport, Iowa and can be reached by phone at 1-319-322-6800 or at their question and consultation line 1-319-322-4138. A catalog is \$5.00 plus postage.

If you would like ready made clothes you can try Wahmaker, a division of Scully, Inc. They have an extensive line of men and women's nineteenth-century style clothing. They don't have a web site for sales, but you can request a catalog online at www.wahmaker.com. Alamo Leathers sells their line at discount prices: www.alamoleathers.com/alamo/wahgenoldwes.html.

Christina May of Pendleton, Oregon has written a book called Pioneer Clothing on the Oregon Trail and has some really good information along with a list of other pattern sources. She is in the OCTA Directory and can tell you how to get one of her books.

- Wendy Welch

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Those NW OCTA members who submitted their 2002 volunteer time on OCTA projects gave a total of 3,400 hours. When valued at \$14 per hour that's a contribution of \$47,600. I am sure it was actually much more.

Each January or February every chapter president gets a request from OCTA to submit the number of volunteer hours given by chapter members during the last year. The information is helpful when testimony is given on proposed legislation or to support the National Parks budget, where we get many cost share grants. It shows what good service our volunteers are giving to support the many National Historic Trails. We get to use volunteer time to match the money given for carsonite posts and many other OCTA projects.

Earlier this year I tried to contact several people who I knew had given much time. But I didn't get to everyone and some I contacted, didn't turn in their hours. We need to do better in 2003 in collecting our volunteer time.

Basically we get to count everything related to the trail! Time spent 1) Traveling to and from meetings or other OCTA outings or activities; 2) Attending any OCTA or NW OCTA meeting including the Annual Meeting or a committee meeting; 3) Planning or participating in an OCTA outing or activity; 4) Reading trail related diaries or historical information; 5) Trail mapping or marking; 6) Planning or helping with an OCTA Convention; 7) Email conversations dealing with trail or organizational issues; 8) Preparing articles for the newsletter and much more.

That is why I suggested keeping track all year long. You may use the sheet I gave out at the Annual Meeting or your own. You might note the date, activity, and total time.

The next time there is a call for volunteer hours, everyone will be able to quickly report the time to your chapter president to get a more accurate and complete tally. We probably don't realize how much time we donate. We are just having fun!

2004 CONVENTION PLANNING

On March 16 a planning meeting was held at the Red Lion in Vancouver. The purpose of the meeting was to refine the overall convention content and format with emphasis on the tours and workshops.

At the present time we are planning three pre-convention tours, five convention tours (one of which is a hiking tour) and up to three post-convention tours. The tours will cover all four sub-themes of the convention: Native American culture along the river, Lewis and Clark, the fur trade and the Oregon Trail.

Workshops are planned on archeology, trail mapping and marking, genealogy, COED and chapter development. Lethene Parks is coordinating the workshops.

A special feature of the convention will be a teacher's institute which is being organized by Keith May. It will permit teachers to obtain college credit for the participation in the convention. Special programs are planned.

We also plan a program that will offer concurrent activities for kids. Assistance is need in planning and staffing this activity. To assist please contact Jim Tompkins at tompkins@bctonline.com or Convention Chair Dave Welch at welchdj@attbi.com.

Many have already volunteered to help. In the months to come, assignments for all will be developed. Be assured, you have not been forgotten.

Roll on, Columbia, Roll On!

- Dave Welch

SALE BILL

Having sold my farm and as I am leaving for Oregon territory by oxen team on March 1, 1849, I will sell all my personal property, except two oxen teams, Buck, Ben, Len and Jerry.

Consisting of the Following

Two milch Cows, gray mare and colt, one pair of oxen, one iron plow with wooden mold board, 800-feet of poplar weather boards, 1000 3-ft. clap boards, 1500 10-ft. rails, one 60-gal. soap kettle, 85 sugar troughs made of white ash timber, 10 gallons of maple syrup, 2 spinning wheels, 30 pounds mutton tallow, one lean made by Jerry Wilson, 300 poles, 100 split hoops, 100 empty barrels, one 2-gallon barrel of Johnson Miller whiskey 7 years old, 20 gallons apple brandy, one 40-gallon copper still, 4 sides of oak tan leather, one dozen wooden pitch forks, one-half interest in tan yard, one 32 rifle, bullet molds and powder horn, rifle made by Ben Miller, 50 gallons soft soap, hams, bacon, and lard, 40 gallons of sorghum, 6 head fox hounds all soft mouthed but one. At the same time I will sell my six negro slaves: 2 men, 35 and 50 years old, 2 boys, 12 and 15 years old, 2 mulatto wenches 40 and 20 years old, will sell all to same party as I will not separate them.

Terms of Sale

Cash in hand or note to draw 10 per cent interest with Bob Smith as security. My place is 12 miles south of Vernon, Kentucky, on McConnelly Ferry Pike. Sale will begin at 8:00 o'clock a.m. Plenty to eat and drink.

- from the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette (Oct 24, 1950)
submitted by Lyle Schultz of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

THE PEOPLE OF NWOCTA MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Winners of the Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award are selected by NW Chapter officers. Past winners are Dick and Trudy Ackerman, Joyce Bolerjack, and Lowell Tiller. This year's winner of the prestigious Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award is Jim Renner.

Jim was raised in Milwaukie. He received a Bachelors Degree in geography from the University of Oregon and a Masters Degree in cultural geography from Oklahoma State University. During his graduate studies, Jim created the Archive of Oklahoma Fiddlers through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Jim also served two terms as Oklahoma's folk-artist-in-residence taking folk music into the public schools.

Following the 1984 OCTA Convention in Oregon City, Governor Victor Atiyeh formed the Oregon Trail Advisory Council. When Jim returned to Oregon in 1989, he was hired by the Council to coordinate the 1993 Sesquicentennial of the Oregon Trail. His interview committee was Steve Corey, OTAC Chair (now OCTA's attorney); the late Oregon Historical Society Field Representative Ron Brentano; and Eileen Fitzsimons, then 1/2 time OTAC staff (now OHTAC Chair).

In 1991, the Governor's Council became part of the Oregon Trail Coordinating Council (OTCC), a private, nonprofit organization created to organize and coordinate the 1993 Sesquicentennial celebration. So Jim began working for OTCC where he directed the creation of new exhibits for the state's Oregon Trail kiosks and promoted interpretive programs and community events.

After the Sesquicentennial, Jim became the OTCC's Executive Director. Using lottery funds allocated by the Legislature and funds received from the sale of Oregon Trail license plates, the OTCC administered grants that were given to Oregon Trail interpretive centers and to projects on Oregon's four national historic trails.

When the Oregon Legislature passed the Oregon Historic Trails bill in 1995, the OTCC became responsible for promoting and developing sixteen historic trails in Oregon. Jim's testimony and legislative contacts were essential in gaining their recognition. With state recognition, OCTA and Northwest OCTA support, and the backing of the National Park Service, federal legislation is now pending to add several of these historic wagon trail cutoffs to the original National Historic Oregon Trail route.

In 1998, the OTCC concluded its work with the publication of the Oregon Historic Trails Report laying out its recommendations for Oregon's sixteen designated historic trails. The OTCC also established an endowment at the Oregon Community Foundation called the Oregon Historic Trails Fund to continue providing grant funding for trail projects. Through Jim's recommendations, a new Governor appointed group, the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) was created to oversee the sixteen trails.

Through the 1990's, Jim played an active role in OCTA. He was elected to the national OCTA Board of Directors for a 3-year-term from August 1992 to August 1995 and answered the call to be President of the Northwest Chapter of OCTA during 1994 and 1995. Then during Dave Welch's term as



Jim Renner receives a standing ovation en route to accepting his *Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award*.

OCTA President, Jim was called upon once again to accept the duties as Northwest Chapter President for 1997. He has done much trail research, led many outings, talked with many people and drafted many grant requests all in an effort to promote the Western migration trails.

In 1998, Jim became the Deputy Director of the Oregon Travel Information Council where he continues to assist with the placement and maintenance of Oregon's historic signs through his work with the Oregon Historical Markers Committee. During 2000 and 2001 Jim chaired the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council and assisted in promoting trail related outings and projects. Those reports go to the governor and are used by the legislature. He continues to serve on the OHTAC Executive Committee.

His long-time, effective service to Western trails is why Jim Renner was selected to receive the 2003 Richard and Trudy Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award at the NW Chapter Annual Meeting on March 15. His name will be added to the plaque at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center near Baker City.

- Glenn Harrison



President Glenn Harrison (r) with Meritorious Achievement Award winner Jim Renner.

OUTINGS & ACTIVITIES

2003 OUTINGS

NORTHEAST WASHINGTON: Fur Traders, Missionaries, Soldiers and Settlers

May 3 & 4 - Lethene Parks, leader

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Marking the Blues

June 7 - Chuck Hornbuckle, leader

1836 WHITMAN ROUTE HIKE: Hiking the Missing Link

June 8 - Tuck and Kay Forsythe, leaders

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

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

FUR TRADERS, MISSIONARIES, SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS

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

This will be an auto tour with CB radio communication. Meet on Saturday, May 3, at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the Fred Meyer shopping center on North Division/Highway 395 in Spokane. The shopping center is about 8.5 miles north of downtown Spokane. We'll make brief visits to several historic sites in the Chewelah area and then drive north through the Colville Valley to the site of an early grist mill, the 1826 Hudson's Bay Company Fort Colville, and St. Paul's Mission. Bring a lunch for Saturday.

We'll then return about ten miles to Colville, the seat of Stevens County. Plan to stay there Saturday night. Recommended motels: Comfort Inn (509-684-2010; 1-800-228-5150) at the north end of town or Benny's Colville Inn (509-684-2517; 1-800-680-2517) at the south end of town.

At 5:30 p.m. Saturday we'll gather at the meeting room of the Colville Library for a catered three-course dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by a brief slide show about the HBC Fort Colville and migration patterns into Stevens County.

On Sunday, May 4, meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Wal-Mart parking lot at the north edge of Colville. We'll drive south along Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake (aka the Columbia River) for brunch at the Parks residence and a look at some unusual artifacts. Brunch will be served at about 10:00 a.m.

We'll continue south and west to the site of Tshmakain Mission, then south along the route of the old HBC Fort Colville Road, and west to the site of the 1811 Spokane House fur trading post and back to Spokane. If we have time on Sunday, we may also visit Fort Spokane, at the confluence of the Spokane and Columbia rivers. We should be back in Spokane by about 4:00 p.m., perhaps an hour later if we visit Fort Spokane.

The tour will be limited to 20 vehicles, so **please send your check for Saturday dinner** (\$16 per person, including tax and tip). Register and make your dinner reservation **by April 25**. A map and booklet of background information will be available for sale at the time of the tour. Contact Lethene Parks, 3214 Clark Lake Road, Hunters, WA 99137-9714, phone 509-722-6161 or at lethene@theofficenet.com as soon as possible to register.

THE RIVER ROUTE: The Dalles to Fort Vancouver

June 28 - Roger Blair and Susan Badger Doyle, leaders

FRENCH PRAIRIE: Champoeg, St Paul, Mission Bottom

July 12 - Jim Tompkins, leader

FALL PICNIC: to be announced

September - Joyce Bolerjack and Marley Shurtleff, leaders

FREE EMIGRANT ROAD: Bend to Eugene

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

HIKING THE "MISSING LINK" THE 1836 WHITMAN ROUTE

Sunday June 8 - Tuck and Kay Forsythe, leaders

"Before noon we began to descend one of the most terrible mountains for steepness & length I have yet seen." Tuck and Kay Forsythe will lead hikers across the Meacham Creek canyon following in the footsteps of the 1836 Whitman party so vividly described by Narcissa Whitman.

We will meet at Hilgard State Park (I-84 EXIT 252) between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. Sunday June 8th. Hilgard State Park is located seven miles west of LaGrande and 45 miles east of Pendleton. The June 8 "missing link" hike is the day after the June 7th trail marking hike from LaGrande to Hilgard State Park..

We will read Narcissa Whitman's 1836 description of her side-saddle journey on horseback across this 1500 foot deep canyon and onto Horseshoe Ridge. She rode along with other Eastern U.S. missionaries, who were all being led by some Nez Perce people. Meacham Canyon should be spectacular with many wildflowers in full bloom (the leaders are both botanists). In addition, we will observe geological layers of the Grande Ronde basalt flows which were eroded thousands of years ago forming the canyon walls.

During previous 4x4 tours we could only gaze into the canyon depths from the north and south rims. On foot we will experience Narcissa's feelings as we hike the "missing link."

Although the pace will be "slow and easy", the hike should be considered moderately strenuous. An NPS ranger-naturalist with 10 years hiking leadership, Kay Forsythe will get us through safely to the end of hike. Participants should ensure they are in good physical condition.

A stout hiking staff, extra dry socks for the creek crossing, two quarts of drinking liquid, a lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a shade hat will be a necessity. Well broken-in footwear with good ankle support is highly recommended. At the end of the hike drivers will be shuttled back to the starting point at the Whitman Overlook. If you want to experience the historic hike of a lifetime contact Kay and Tuck Forsythe at Box 1299, Ellensburg, WA 98926, (509) 925-2356, forsythe@elltel.net

- Tuck & Kay Forsythe, with thanks for the historical creative writing help of Chuck Hornbuckle

OVER THE HILL TO HILGARD

Saturday June 7 - Chuck Hornbuckle, leader

“Traveled over mountains, some prairie and generally open along the road, but the greater portion covered with majestic pine and beautiful mountain scenery.”

John E. Howell, September 13, 1845

* * * * *

“We came eight miles over a rough and hilly country and came again to the Grand Ronde River again. Stopped for lunch.”

E.W. Conyers, August 30, 1852

* * * * *

It has been six years since we last visited Emilie Doane's marked grave on the windswept hill overlooking the Grande Ronde river. National Trails Day on June 7th will find us lingering by her grave, surrounded only by whispering pines, rocky ridges and open meadows. Although Emilie was not a documented emigrant her final resting place is along the Oregon Trail.

Participants will meet at Birnie Park in LaGrande early Saturday morning. Gerda Brownton and Lanetta Paul, LaGrande trail enthusiasts, will present the day's schedule and lead the hike. Each year Gerda and Lanetta organize the hike to Hilgard. Again this year we will join local trail enthusiasts for the outing. In addition, several Boy Scouts will lend a hand in marking and taking GPS readings for their achievement badges.

Participants will have the opportunity to "drive" a Carsonite post marking the route so eloquently described by passing emigrants. GPS coordinates will also be taken along the way.

Participants should bring a sack lunch, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent and wear comfortable hiking shoes. We will meet at Birnie Park at 7:30 a.m. in LaGrande.

If you have not signed up contact **Chuck** at 360-352-2113, or e-mail hornbucklecs@juno.com.

THE RIVER ROUTE: The Dalles to Fort Vancouver

June 28 - Roger Blair and Susan Badger Doyle, leaders

No information was available at press time. A special mailing will be made in late May to cover this and the next outing. Contact Roger or Susan at 541-966-8854 or e-mail rblair@oregontrail.net or sdoyle@oregontrail.net.

FRENCH PRAIRIE: Champoeg, St Paul, Mission Bottom

July 12 - Jim Tompkins, leader

More information will be available in a special mailing in May as well as the July Journal. Contact Jim at 503-632-4557 or 503-880-8507 or e-mail tompkins@bctonline.com.

FREE EMIGRANT ROAD

October 11- Glenn Harrison, Gary Brumbaugh, Del Spencer

This outing will be covered in the July and September Journals. Contact Glenn at 541-926-4680 or harrison@cmug.com.

MEEK-ELLIOTT WITH IDAHO

June 14 & 15 - Don Clark IOCTA, leader

Joint outing for Idaho and NW chapters

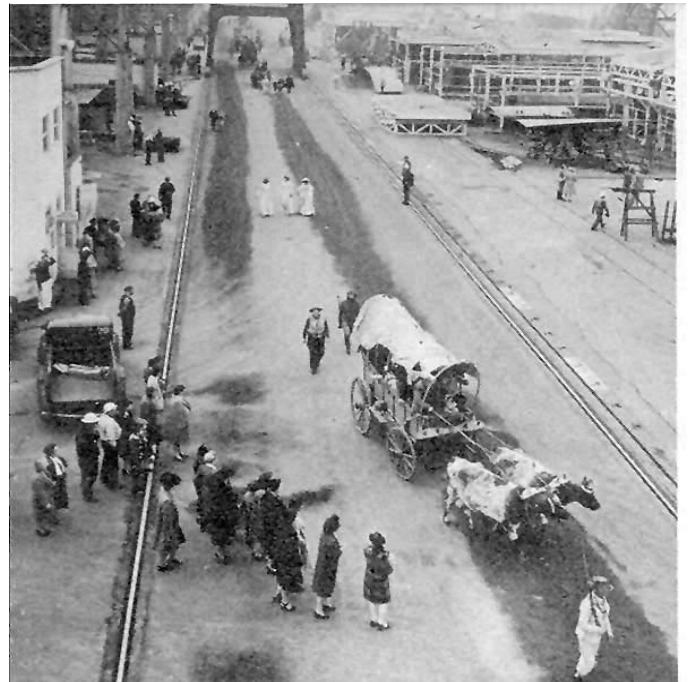
On June 14th, gather in the parking lot at Vale city park by the trail painting at 8:30 am for departure at 9:00 am. Four-wheel drive required. Bring your CB, lunch and drinks. This tour will be led by Oregon Trail author Don Clark, and local rancher from the Westfall area, Jim Alves. Don is a descendant of 42 relatives who traveled with Elijah Elliott on the cut-off in 1853. He has written *Traveling with the Oregon Trail Pioneers of 1853* and is presently publishing *Lost Wagon Train of 1853* to be out this spring. Joining the tour is Lowell Tiller, one of the authors of *Terrible Trail: the Meek Cut-off of 1845* and *Cutoff Fever* about the Elliott and William Macy use of the Free Emigrant Road.

From Vale the tour will go through the center of Oregon - to Harper, Westfall, Drewsey, the Harney Basin, Burns, Crane, Prineton, Rocky Ford, Wright's Point, and Wagentire.

Sites along the trail include river crossings, the old wagon trail, Westfall Butte, Bendire Mtn., Castle Rock, wagon ruts in the rock, Sarah Chamber's Grave (marked by OCTA), the Great Harney Basin, Saddle Butte, Windy Point, U.S. Wildlife & Bird Refuge, Rocky Ford, Malheur Lake, Harney Lake, The Narrows, Wright's Point and much more.

Motels are available in Vale and Ontario. Motels in Burns Days Inn (541-573-3828 or 1-800-303-2047) Best Inn (541-573-1700 or 1-800-237-8466) Comfort Inn (541-573-3370 or 1-800-228-5150).

Contact Don at 208-459-4183 or e-mail donzoregontrail@hotmail.com so that he will have a count of participants. Let him know if you have extra room or need to ride with someone.



“Used to most anything by this time, Swan Island shipyard workers rubbed their eyes when an ox-drawn covered wagon, which crossed the plains in 1843, made its way along Swan Island's outfitting dock during the "Oregon Trail" celebration on October 16.”

- Kaiser Shipyards newspaper, November 1943.

COED GROUP MEETS IN SEATTLE

On January 31 and February 1 and 2, Bob and Barbara Kabel hosted a COED working group in Seattle. The meeting was underwritten by the National Park Service as part of their long-standing support for the Census of Overland Emigrant Documents (COED) project.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue work on COED and to begin development of a new COED team. The meeting began with a refresher on the COED database and the survey forms and processes. Next the status of all completed surveys was discussed. The current Emigrant Names CD draws upon 2,263 documents. There are an additional 500 or so documents that are in various stages of processing that will be added to the next release. Clearing this "pipeline" is the focus of near term activities.

At the close of the meeting, each of the attendees (and their spouses in some cases), volunteered to take on a piece of the future work. Shann Rupp will continue as assignments coordinator. Rose Anne Tompkins, Pat Fletcher and Don Buck will work on the COED manual and route codes and Gary Shurtleff, Dave Welch and Carol and Hal Manhart will work on the database and programs. Sharon Manhart and Barbara Kabel are reconciling uncertainties in the "pipeline" surveys. Charlie and Nola Little are working on surveys, Cherie Evanhoe will review past correspondence and possible leads to new documents while Wendy Welch and Barbara Kabel will work on cleaning up scanned surveys for prospective sale. Mark Wheeler is going to take a long term perspective with an eye towards moving to an "electronic COED" wherein all operations from survey to product would be via the Internet. Betsy Kanago will be looking for new document sources and helping with overall coordination. Bob Kabel will continue to provide technical support of Emigrant Names.

There have been two significant achievements in the past six months. First the Emigrant Names CD has been released. Second, hand-written surveys have been scanned and may be accessed and printed as a digital image. The scanned images provide a back-up for the paper copies. The paper copies and scanned images are now in separate locations. The complete COED digital database is also stored in multiple locations to insure it is not lost via an "act of God."

There is much to be done but it was clear that we have a willing and capable group ready to go. It is anticipated that the next COED-related product will appear in about a year.

- Bob Kabel & Dave Welch

GOING TO MANHATTAN?

Volunteers are needed for the Chapter's display table at the Manhattan convention. This is an opportunity to meet one-on-one others who share our love of history and the trail. Early sign-up will help ensure your choice of hours.

The display will offer this year's convention attendees a glimpse into the excitement in store for them at the 2004 Vancouver convention.

Next year's convention theme focuses on Native Americans, the Lewis & Clark Expedition, the Hudson's Bay Company, and American emigrants.

A display is being made of photos that best depict tours and events to be offered at next year's convention. Contact either Joyce Bolerjack (425-454-7118), or Suzanne or Chuck Hornbuckle (360-352-2113).

WHY DO WE MARK EMIGRANT TRAILS?

Nearing their destination on the far side of the plains, roads chosen by the emigrants branched out like a giant fan. Some chose alternate routes because it was claimed to be "shorter in both time and distance". Later in the overland migration others found much of the favored land was already claimed. They were forced to seek out unclaimed areas.

Although travel on some branches may have been brief, the trails remains an important part of our western heritage. Each of their stories of struggle, sacrifice, and ultimate triumph needs to be heard and remembered.

These are a few of the reasons OCTA members are determined to mark and map the Trans-Mississippi migration trails followed during the last half of the 19th century.

To Mark or Not To Mark

Trail marking is not without conflict in marker placement. Some argue that markers say "here is the trail" resulting in desecration by pot hunters. The majority however, believe markers help contractors, developers, and others avoid causing adverse impacts to trail and related sites.

Marking In The NW Area

Over the last six years the Northwest Chapter has worked with the National Park Service (NPS) to mark and map segments of the Oregon and Applegate Trails.

Markers have been placed on the 120-mile segment of the Oregon Trail between LaGrande and The Dalles. Along with marker installation GPS readings were taken in order to generate accurate trail maps.

At the time the LaGrande to The Dalles segment was marked GPS coordinates were collected for about 1200 points based on the latitude and longitude coordinate system. The NPS has now settled on the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) coordinate system.

UTMs tend to be more accurate and easier to plot on maps. As a result we will, in the future, go back over this segment to obtain UTM coordinates.

Field work on Applegate's South Road to Oregon in northeastern California begun last year should be completed this year. Coordinates for that project are based on the UTM system.

Forty-nine markers were installed outside the Modoc National Forest last summer. This summer we will install posts within the Forest. Once the field work is complete all that remains to complete the NPS Applegate contract is to plot coordinate readings on maps and assemble the final report. Sounds simple but it does entail considerable office time.

Chapter Rewards

Under both of these projects participants donated the difference between actual and NPS reimbursed fuel expenses to the NW Chapter. Those donations, amounting to well over one-thousand dollars, will be used to continue our trail marking program beyond NPS funding.

Future Marking Projects

Once these two projects are complete, where do we go next? For members wanting to walk in the emigrants footsteps there are many other unmarked emigrant trails and sites in our chapter area.

Future issues of the "Journal" will describe new trail marking outings. If the project fulfills your need to "bond" with emigrants contact the project leader.

- By Chuck Hornbuckle

ANATOMY OF AN EMIGRANT NAMES SEARCH

By Lethene Parks

Hearing that I was working with OCTA's Emigrant Names CD, my friend Jim Kemp suggested that I do a search for Thomas D. Fuller, whose brief biography appeared in the *History of North Washington*, a typical county history or "mug book."^[1] In these books the information was usually supplied by the family and they often paid to have the sketch of their family included in the book. Jim said that the Fuller sketch indicated that the family had come west via the Oregon Trail.

The Fuller sketch identifies Thomas D. Fuller as the son of Arnold and Sarah (Green) Fuller, natives of Ohio. The account says that the Fullers came to Missouri in 1842 and in 1845 "took up that most unique and perilous journey, a trip across the plains with wagons. The father was captain of a train of one hundred and sixty wagons, most of which were ox teams, and was called to meet the sadness of burying his wife on the dreary plains."^[2] The family's final destination is given as "where Corvallis now stands."^[3] Not much information, but some good clues.

Using the Emigrant Names CD, I did a name search for the surname Fuller and the year 1845 turned up ten results. Two were for A. Fuller. The two documents were notice of a King Burial and letter, published in a Corvallis newspaper in 1925, and a letter of Anna Marie King, published in *Covered Wagon Women*.^[4] The document search results for the newspaper notice and letter lists the following Fuller names: A., an unnamed wife, Melinda and Tabitha. It states that the party was from Ohio and that they arrived in Oregon City on November 1, 1845. The document search results for the Anna Marie King letter lists the same arrival date, but gives little other information. Of the other eight name search results, five were for Mrs. Fuller and for daughters Malinda and Tabitha, and led to the same two documents.

Going to volume 1 of *Covered Wagon Women*, I found several pages of information about the King letter as well as the text of the letter itself. The explanatory material identifies Anna Marie King as Anna Maria Allen, whose first husband was Stephen King of Ohio. With him she crossed the Oregon Trail in 1845, in the same wagon train as the Fullers. Stephen King died in 1852 and in 1853 Maria, as she was most commonly known, married his younger brother, Solomon King; they lived a mile west of present-day Corvallis, Oregon.^[5] The King letter says that "Mr. A. Fuller lost his wife and daughter Tabitha."^[6] A footnote to the letter states that Donna M. Wojcik, in her book *The Brazen Overlanders*, identifies A. Fuller as Arnold Wesley Fuller, whose wife died on April 2, 1856, at the emigrant camp in Kansas Territory, and that nothing is known about the daughter Tabitha, who died on the way west."^[7]

Maria says of the journey west that at Fort Boisien (Fort Boise) "along came a man by the name of Meiks, who said he could take us a new route across the Cascade mountains to the Willamette river in 20 days, so a large company of a hundred and fifty or two hundred wagons left the old road to follow the new road and traveled for 2 months over sand, rocks, hills and anything else but good roads. Two thirds of the immigrants ran out of provisions and had to live on beef, but as it happened we had plenty of flour and bacon to last us through. But worse than all this, sickness and death attended us the rest of the way."^[8] She goes on to talk about the illnesses that prevailed in the wagon train and to list those who died. Toward the end of the letter Maria says that Melinda Fuller married Amos King, and identifies him as "in our family."^[9]

The other valuable clue in Maria's letter is the name Meiks. The explanatory material for the letter identifies him as Stephen Meek, leader of the Lost Wagon Train.^[10] So I checked Keith Clark and Lowell Tiller's *Terrible Trail* book on this wagon train.^[11] Sure enough, there in the roster of the 1845 Meek Train are listed Arnold Wesley Fuller and his wife Sarah Greene. She died "in Missouri—the day the wagon train was to start for Oregon."^[12] The roster also lists Arnold and Sarah's eight children, including daughters Malinda and Tabitha, and says that Tabitha died "en route to Oregon, date and place unknown."^[13] Dates and places of births and deaths, marriages and Donation Land Claim numbers are also given for all members of the family. The roster also lists the king family.^[14] The book gives a detailed account of this particular wagon train's journey across the plains.

Checking other names on the wagon train roster would undoubtedly turn up other accounts. For example, a name search for Meeks (using Soundex to account for spelling variations), male, 1845, turned up 27 results, including the two King letters. Of these results, 20 refer to Stephen Meek (with a variety of spellings) and of these, 14 probably have to do with the Lost Wagon Train. Doing a document search of the Emigrant Names CD, using "lost wagon train" as embedded words, brought up only one document, *Reminiscences of Overland Journey With Lost Wagon Train*, by Martha J. Hockersmith, but here is still

another account of that horrendous journey. A document search using key words or phrases is certainly worth doing as a way of turning up additional sources. The point of this exercise was to demonstrate that starting with very little information beyond a name, using the Emigrant Names CD, reading the documents the search leads to, and following up all clues as you go along, you can often end up with a pretty complete story of a person's journey across the plains.

[1] ***An Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan Counties, State of Washington.***

Western Historical Publishing, 1904. A standard source for information on early Eastern Washington pioneers, this book is commonly known by the title which appears on its cover, ***History of North Washington.***

[2] Ibid., p. 452.

[3] Ibid., p. 452.

[4] Holmes, Kenneth L., editor. ***Covered Wagon Women***, Volume 1, pp. 39-45.

[5] Ibid., pp. 39-41.

[6] Ibid., p. 42.

[7] Ibid., p. 42, footnote 5.

[8] Ibid., pp. 42-43.

[9] Ibid., p. 45.

[10] Ibid., p. 45, footnote 7.

[11] Clark, Keith and Tiller, Lowell. ***Terrible Trail: the Meek Cutoff, 1845.*** Bend, Oregon: Maverick Publications, 1966.

[12] Ibid., p. 190.

[13] Ibid., p. 191.

[14] Ibid., pp. 210-211.



Lucy Henderson, an eleven year old Oregon Trail emigrant, as portrayed in the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center's new film *Bound for Oregon*. Fourth and Fifth graders attending the show, starting mid June at the Big Wagons in Oregon City, now have someone their age to identify with.

The raffle, held at all NW OCTA annual meetings and picnics, has proven to be a windfall for prize winners as well as the chapter treasury. One person's surplus trail item becomes another's new treasure. The new Tumwater Room on the third floor of the Museum of the Oregon Territory in Oregon City proved to be a fine place to hold a raffle.

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