



# Northwest Trails

Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association

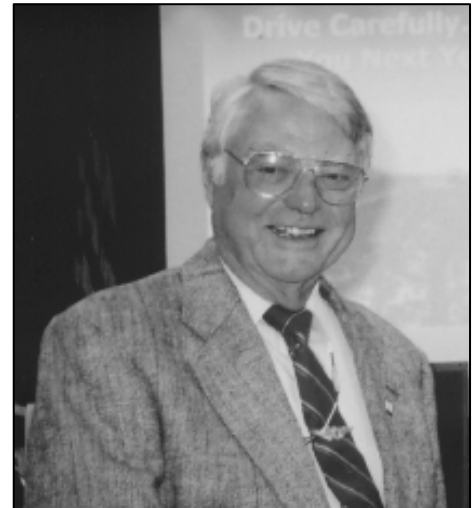
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## Gregory Mathew Franzwa 1926–2009

Gregory Mathew Franzwa, 83, passed away from cancer at his home in Tooele, Utah, on March 29, 2009. He was born in Carroll, Iowa, on February 27, 1926, to Fred W. and Mabel Henderson Franzwa. He is survived by his wife, Kathy, and his three children: Theodore C. Francois, Hemet, California; Christian N. Franzwa, Lynnwood, Washinton; and Patrice A. Smith, Bailey, N.C. He leaves two brothers, Sterling “Rusty” Franzwa, Glidden, Iowa, and Frederick A. Franzwa, Rochester, N.Y. His stepmother, Jane Franzwa, lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Franzwa became a professional musician while a sophomore in Glidden High School, playing trumpet with local dance bands. He joined the U.S. Navy’s V-5 flight training program while awaiting graduation in May 1943, and was called to active duty on October 5, 1943. He was released to inactive duty in August 1946, as a Lt. (JG), in the United States Naval Reserve. He attended Iowa State College from September 1946 to May 1947 and the State University of Iowa from February 1948 until receiving a bachelor of journalism degree in August 1950. He



He moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in October 1950, and opened his firm, Gregory M. Franzwa Public Relations in 1955, a firm which remained in business until his move to Tucson, Arizona, in 1991.

He founded the highly successful Tiger Rag Forever Jazz Band in the early 1960s, and the 1926 Jazz Band, an all-star group, also in St. Louis, in the late 1970s. He joined the Old Pueblo Jazz Band in Tucson and remained its leader until moving to Tooele, Utah, in 2005.

His first book, *The Old Cathedral*, was published by the St. Louis Archdiocese in 1965. His second, *The Story of Old Ste. Genevieve*, was the first to bear the imprimatur of his firm, The Patrice Press, in 1967. *The Oregon Trail Revisited*, first published in 1967, established Franzwa’s reputation as a premier scholar of the history of overland emigration to the American West. The Patrice Press continued to publish Franzwa’s works, as well as that of many other scholars. In 1996 the author began his state-by-state series of hardcover books on the Lincoln Highway. The six states west of the Mississippi River are now in print with his 21st book, *The Lincoln Highway: Illinois*, in process.

He was the principal founder of the Oregon-California Trails Association in 1982, and ten years later, in October 1992, he founded the Lincoln Highway Association. He married his soulmate, Kathleen A. Colyer on December 23, 2000, after a storybook romance centered on the Oregon Trail. His remains were cremated and scattered over the Oregon Trail. At his request, there will be no services.

## NW Chapter Directory

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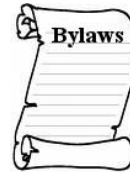
## President's Message

I was unable to attend the Annual Meeting in early March, but I understand it was the typically good gathering of friends and scholars. I wish I could have been there, but work dictated otherwise. I am confident that vice-president Jim Tompkins conducted the meeting admirably. Thanks, Jim.

I do want to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to Jim and Sallie Riehl for their receipt of the Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award for 2009. They were recognized for their considerable and ongoing work on COED. I sincerely appreciate all that Jim and Sallie have done for OCTA and the chapter.

Finally, I want to remember Gregory Franzwa who passed away March 29. Greg was the catalyst in the founding of OCTA and the glue that held OCTA together in its earliest years. He was diagnosed with lung cancer last summer and survived that surgery and follow-up therapy very well. He attended the mid-year Yuma Symposium in January and looked relatively good, despite loss of considerable weight. A couple of weeks after that meeting, however, we learned he had pancreatic cancer, a condition he was unable to conquer. He, his Patrice Press book display, and his wife, Kathy, were fixtures at all OCTA conventions. He will be missed.

—Roger Blair



## Bylaws Amendment

At the Annual Fall Meeting on September 19, a proposed amendment to the chapter bylaws will be voted on. The change will allow the Board to address issues when they come up with current-day tools. The proposed change is as follows:

### Article VI, Chapter and Board Meetings

#### Section 2. Chapter Board Meetings

(a) There shall be a Fall meeting of the Chapter Board held prior to November 1. Additional Chapter Board meetings may be called by the President as needed. **[Amend to add sentence:] Chapter Board meetings may be face-to-face meetings, via teleconference, or via email.**

# NW OCTA Annual Meeting in Oregon City



## **Ezra Meeker Historical Society**

PO Box 103

Puyallup, WA 98374

253-848-1770

[www.meekermansion.org](http://www.meekermansion.org)

The Jackson County, Oregon, 4-H has planned a reunion for the weekend of June 13-14, 2009, in the Jacksonville area, as part of the Jackson County celebration of Oregon's sesquicentennial. The Ezra Meeker Historical Society has been asked to bring the Meeker wagon.

While Ezra Meeker, an 1852 Oregon Trail traveler and the so-called "Savior of the Oregon Trail," can not be definitely documented as having traveled or marked the Southern or Applegate Road, he spent one quarter of his life preserving and marking the Oregon Trail as he knew it. The Ezra Meeker Historical Society has as its mission preserving our local history and its links to the Oregon Trail.

Prior to his 1906 Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition, Ezra Meeker rebuilt several wagons out of parts of earlier ones. The actual wagon he took on his expedition is in the Washington State Historical Society Museum; we have the other.

To celebrate the centennial of the Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition, the Ezra Meeker Historical Society and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) sent a joint expedition from Puyallup, WA, to St. Joseph, MO, where our arrival in St. Joe coincided with the 2006 OCTA Convention. The expedition traveled the length of the Oregon Trail with twelve people, two oxen, and a covered wagon. We stopped at twenty-two locations where we offered a program, featuring the oxen and wagon, and presentations about and "by" Ezra Meeker. These events were viewed by hundreds of people, and many more crowded around our caravan wherever we stopped.

Our group traveling to Jacksonville will be smaller. We will take the wagon, but we will not travel with oxen, although we are always happy to share set-up space with oxen. We have a commitment from an actor who portrays "Ezra Meeker" to travel with us, and we will bring a presentation about Meeker's efforts to mark the Oregon Trail. Total presentation time, including wagon set-up and tear down would be about three hours.

This trip is planned around the need to be in Jacksonville on the weekend of June 13-14. Therefore, our available days in other places cannot be weekends. With that in mind, we offer for your consideration our program at a few key locations, both coming and going. Certainly, one of those places could be Oregon City, and another might be at the end of the Southern or Applegate Road, near Dallas. We will schedule as many as we can in the time available, first come, first served.

We are not expensive but neither are we free. We will be happy to stop and perform for a contribution to our gas expenses.

POINT OF CONTACT for this project is Andy Anderson, President of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society, 253-845-4502, or [historyandy@comcast.net](mailto:historyandy@comcast.net).

# Pioneers, Trails, and Oregon 150

A Joint Expedition of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), traveling from Puyallup, Washington, to Jacksonville, Oregon, with the Ezra Meeker wagon, and a party of five pioneer reenactors. In Grants Pass and Jacksonville an ox drover and his yoke of oxen will join us.

## Speakers/topics

**Ray Egan**, interpreting Ezra Meeker, the Champion of the Oregon Trail: "O, the Pioneers."

**Andy Anderson**, historian of the Ezra Meeker Historical Society: "Ezra Meeker in Oregon."

**Dave Welch**, former National Trails Preservation Officer for OCTA: "The Oregon Trail Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."

## June 10 – Oregon City, Oregon Trail Museum

1 p.m. – closing

## June 11 – Salem, Mission Mill Museum

10:30 a.m. – closing

## June 12 – Grants Pass, Josephine County Historical Society

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

## Saturday, June 13 – Jacksonville

10 a.m. – city parade  
Afternoon – performances

## Monday, June 15 – Champoeg State Park

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Join us in your pioneer period attire!**





# **Westward Oregon!**

## **A Sesquicentennial Celebration**

### **May 29-30, 2009**

### **at Tillicum Ranch**

Brought to you by the Des Chutes Historical Museum in partnership with Deschutes County and Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District. Information is at [www.deschuteshistory.org](http://www.deschuteshistory.org), and click on Westward Oregon.

### **What is Westward Oregon?**

Westward Oregon is a two-day living history event designed to highlight what life was like in 1859, when Oregon became the 33rd state in the union. Re-enactors will bring to life cavalry, pioneers, and tradesmen headed west to the newest state in the union. This event has something for everyone—history buffs, schools and families looking for a wonderful weekend event.

Westward Oregon consists of several events, including a stagecoach run between Sisters and Bend. The Westward Oregon major events will be held at Tillicum Ranch, ten miles west of Bend on Couch Market Road, just off Hwy 20. Other events will take place in Sisters, Tumalo State Park, and at the Des Chutes Historical Museum in downtown Bend.

### **Ride the Stage!**

Ever dreamed of riding across the West in a stage coach? Now is your chance! This is a one of a kind experience for the die-hard history buff. Tickets purchased entitle the rider to a two-hour, ten mile leg of the route from Sisters to Bend. The route will begin in downtown Sisters, will head toward Bend along largely unpaved roads, and pass sites of historic interest such as Tumalo Dam.

Inside and Roof Seats, \$100.00 each leg. Six inside seats are available on each leg. Every seat is a window seat, although you may have to share space with mail bags. Four roof seats are available on each leg.

Passengers who choose to ride on the roof must be fairly agile. The roof of the coach is about nine feet off the ground, and the passenger must be able to climb that high, using footholds on the wheels and coach body. Two seats face forward, looking over the stage driver's head and the horse team. Two seats face backward, looking over the rear "boot" of the stage.

"Shotgun" Seat, \$150.00 each leg: Only one shotgun seat is available on each leg. (Historically, a passenger had to be invited by the stage driver to sit next to him "at the helm.") Passengers who choose to ride shotgun must also be nimble enough to climb up to the seat, which is out in the weather.



Tickets can be reserved now by calling Kelly at 541-389-1813 or emailing [info@deschuteshistory.org](mailto:info@deschuteshistory.org).

# First Child Born in Oregon

*By Stafford Hazelett and Stephenie Flora*

NOTE BY STAFFORD HAZELETT: John C. Jackson's *Children of the Fur Trade* (Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1993; Reprint, Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2007) analyzes a huge number of primary sources, including Hudson Bay Company archives and Harriet C. Duncan's 6-volume *Catholic Church Records of the Pacific Northwest*, to trace the history of Metis (part-Indian) French Canadians.

**c.1785** Red-headed Indian met by Lewis & Clark in 1805 was Jack Ramsay, the son of a British sailor and a Chehalis woman, per Robert Jones article in *Oregon Historical Quarterly (OHQ)* Fall 1997 – The Identity of the *Tonquin*'s interpreter for the Astorians and survivor of the attack along Vancouver Coast. Also see: *The Chinook Indians: Traders of the Lower Columbia River*, 1976 book by Robert H. Ruby and John A. Brown, page 101: "One of those who came was a man of some twenty-four years, of light complexion with a freckled face and red hair – very possibly Jack Ramsay, son of the English sailor-deserter and a Chinook mother."

**1811** December 30, boy, Pierre and Marie Dorion, died January 1812 (Oregon) [No Descendants].

**1815** July 1, Ellen Matthews, daughter of William W. Matthews (an Astorian from New York by the *Tonquin*) (first husband) and Ki-la-ko-tah, daughter of Chief Coboway of Clatsop Indians, (Oregon), 1829 married George Barnston (HBC employee, born c.1800, Scotland), one son born in Canada, died unknown (descendants unknown).

**1818 or 1819** date unknown, Louis Labonte Jr., son of Louis Labonte Sr. (an Astorian overlander) (second husband) and Ki-la-ko-tah, (Oregon), married three times with 12 children, died 1911, has living descendants per website, updated February 18, 2009.

**1835** June 14, Francis Ermatinger Newell, son of Robert and Kitty Newell, (west of South Pass, probably Wyoming), no known children, no known date of death.

**1837** March 14 or 15, Alice Clarissa Whitman, daughter of Dr. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman (Washington), drowned 1838/39 age 2 years ) [No Descendants].

**1837** November 15, Elizabeth "Eliza" Spalding, daughter of Henry and Eliza Spalding (Washington Territory, Idaho), married Andrew (4 children), died 1919 June 21; descendants living in 2002.

**1837** Jason Lee White, son of Dr. Elijah and Mrs. White, (Oregon) died 1838 [No Descendants].

**1837** Helen Mar Meek, daughter of Joe and unknown (Nez Perce) Meek, (probably Wyoming or Idaho) died 1847, November/December [No Descendants].

**1838** March 30, William Moore Newell, son of Robert and Kitty Newell, (west of South Pass, Wyoming), died 1855 March 29, no children) [No Descendants].

**1838** June 23 or 26, infant son, Rev Jason and Anna Lee, (Oregon), died at birth [No Descendants].

**1838** August 21, Anna Maria Lee Shepard, daughter of Cyrus and Susan Shepard, (Oregon) married Josiah Newhall (1 child), died unknown, 1 grandchild living in 1937.

**1838** November 3, Henry Johnson Perkins, son of Henry KW and Elvira Perkins, (Oregon), married 1.) Emeline Long (no children) 2.) Mary Helen Dustin (4 children).

**1838** December 7, Cyrus Hamlin Walker, son of Rev. Elkanah and Mary Walker, (Washington), married, 3 children, died 1921, descendants uncertain in 2005.

**1839** March 20, John Henry Dix Gray, son of Rev. William and Mary Gray, (Washington, Idaho), married Laura Ward Bell (9 children), d: 26 OCT 1902; descendants living until 2006 at least.

**1839** June 1, Helen J. Leslie, daughter of Rev. David and Mary Leslie, (Oregon), died 1890; never married; [No Descendants].

**1839** October, Courtney Walker Meek, son of Joe and Virginia (Nez Perce) Meek, (Wyoming), married Belle, died 1896, 1 child Josephine born 1880 Washington County, Oregon, per census.

**1840** March 17, Marcus Whitman Newell, son of Robert and Kitty Newell, (west of South Pass, Wyoming), died 1866 March, no children ) [No Descendants].

**1840** May 24, Abigail Boutwell Walker, daughter of Rev. Elkanah and Mary Walker, (Washington), married, 12 children, died 1918, many descendants living in 2005.

**1840** June 25, Mary Jane Munger (id. by Warren Forsythe), daughter of Asahel and Sarah “Eliza” (Hoisington) Munger (id. by Stephenie Flora), (Washington), married Darius Smith 1852 April 18 Washington County, Oregon, no known children, alive at 1870 census. [Darius Smith, born in New York, arrived in Oregon on August 30, 1850].

## Emigrant Families of 1847

A database of emigrant families of 1847 (with a lot of source document citations and explanations) is being entered by Torrie Large. The database, named oregon1847, is at <http://wc.rootsweb.com>. The exact URL is:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=REG&db=oregon1847&id=I1289>

The easiest to remember is [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com), and then go down to lower left of that home page where Family Trees (Worldconnect) section is located. Then after clicking on WorldConnect main page, type in the database name “oregon1847.”

Another way on [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) Family Trees section is to click on “Search Family Trees” and search for an 1847 emigrant or two with unusual surname starting with A to F (Torrie types in a few more surname letters every month).

The above site is more family-tree-oriented than many emigrant sites. Stephenie Flora’s award winning site is at <http://www.oregonpioneers.com/ortrail.htm> and includes an 1847 emigrant list. I found her URL by googling: Stephenie Flora Oregon, but I have gradually learned the unusual spelling of her first name over the years!

—See y'all on the trail soon I hope, Tuck Forsythe, Ellensburg WA



# NW OCTA Mapping and Marking Annual Report

*By Stafford Hazelett*

The primary project for 2008 was the inventory of landowners on and along the Oregon Trail in Oregon. The volunteers were Randy Guyer (Baker), Jim Hamilton (Morrow), Paul Masseur (Wasco), Henry Pittock (Umatilla and Wasco), William Symms (Gilliam and Sherman), Mike Walker (north Malheur), Board members Wendell Baskins (Morrow) and Jenny Miller (Umatilla), and Stafford Hazelett (south Malheur and Union). The volunteers reported 250 hours of work. Expenses of the project are reimbursed by a grant from the National Park Service. The data will be filed with the National Park Service and with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The 2008 State Historic Preservation Office Heritage Conference was in May. Glenn Harrison and Stafford Hazelett attempted to give reports on the condition of the Oregon Trail in Oregon but were interrupted by representatives of wind energy proponents from Sherman County who deny the existence of the Oregon Trail across Sherman County. Five new sites for inclusion on the National Park Service's list of High Potential Historic Sites along the Oregon Trail were described.

One wind energy project being developed in Sherman County by Iberdrola, a company from Spain, is trying to place a monument along Old Highway 30 west of Biggs Junction where the monument to the "First Look At The Columbia" is located. The developer has not applied for the necessary permit and is trying to force the location on the local community over their objections. I am working with folks at Sherman County to try to get the new monument placed inside the project area and to call attention to the impact of the windmills.

An inventory of documents, maps, and other objects belonging to the NW Chapter was completed and filed. The maps and other large flat objects are now stored flat in a map file cabinet. The documents are filed in a separate

place for OCTA materials. The records of the project to place markers along the California National Historic Trail, Applegate Trail-South Road to Oregon in northern California were brought to Oregon to be stored with the other records of OCTA marking projects. An article with maps was submitted to the newsletter. One copy of a map created by Northwest OCTA members of the Free Emigrant Road in the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests was received this year and is filed with the other maps. The Free Emigrant Road map does not have documentation and does not meet OCTA's standards according to the MET manual but does indicate where people who might create a MET-quality map might start searching for traces of the emigrant trail.

Two energy transmission projects were proposed along the Oregon Trail roughly between Boardman and Ontario. I spent time with representatives for the archaeological surveyors for both projects with 2 days devoted to field studies. Both projects expected to conduct archaeological field surveys this year but both have been postponed indefinitely due to economic issues.

For the next year, the first step for OCTA mapping and marking is being formulated by the new National Chairman of Mapping and Marking, Dave Welch, along with the chairmen of chapter mapping and marking committees and other involved members. The plan is to set standards and extend training in the standards to more members.

~ NW OCTA Field Trip ~

Cascades Portage

Saturday, April 25, 2009

**Cascade Locks, Oregon, and  
Stevenson, Washington**

**Hosted by Jim Tompkins  
And Rich Herman**

Contact Jim Tompkins  
[tompkins@bctonline.com](mailto:tompkins@bctonline.com)

503-632-4557

## *Northwest Trails*

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Material may be submitted via email or on disk or as email attachment in Word or Text format.

Pictures can be sent via email, on disk (JPG format), or originals for scanning. Please send pictures separately from text document.

MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avarad Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **UPCOMING NW OCTA ACTIVITIES**

**April 25** – Cascades Portage field trip hosted by Jim Tompkins and Rich Herman.

**June 6** – National Trails Day – does not currently have an event, but may have a one-day marking event.

**June 10–15** – Ezra Meeker Wagon in Oregon, hosted by the Ezra Meeker Association.

**August 18–22** – OCTA National Convention in Loveland, Colorado. A chapter meeting will be held at the convention.

**September 19** – Chapter picnic in Washington hosted by Joyce Bolerjack.

## *Northwest Trails*

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