



Northwest Trails

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

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Winter 2011

Northwest Chapter 2011 Annual Meeting

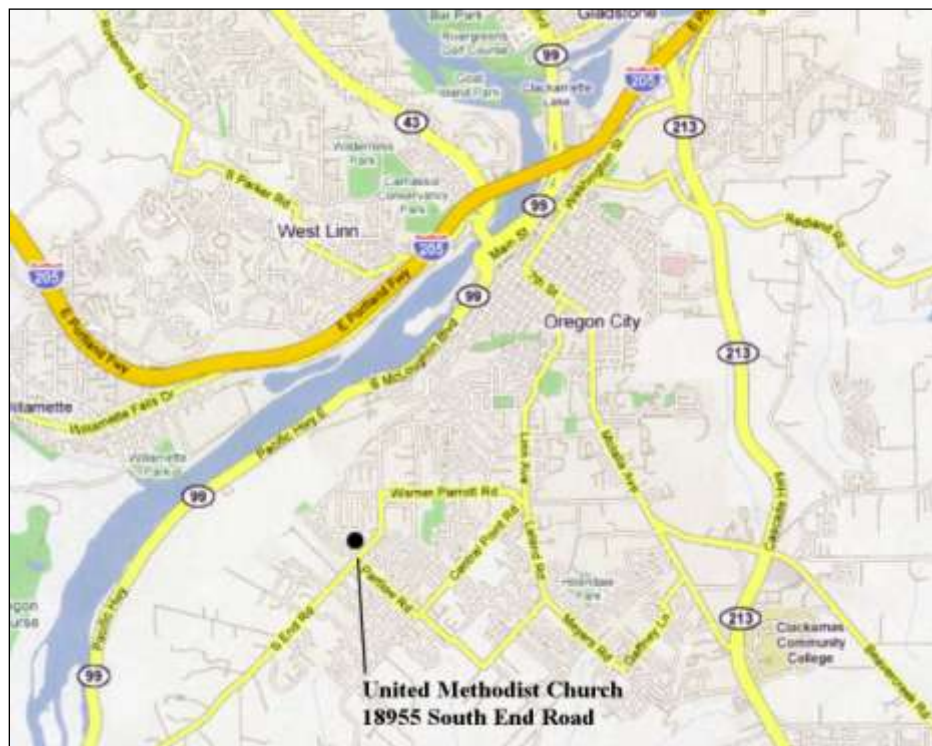
Saturday, March 5

**United Methodist Church
18955 South End Road, Oregon City**

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter will be held on Saturday, March 5, at the Oregon City United Methodist Church in Oregon City. Activities will include the annual meeting, a buffet lunch, a program, and a silent auction and raffle.

We will convene at 10:00 a.m., but come as early as 9:00 a.m. to socialize and bring in raffle items before the meeting starts. The raffle is always a great success, and we will also have a silent auction. Please bundle issues of the same title of journals or magazines together.

The annual business meeting will be from 10:00 a.m. until noon, followed by a buffet lunch. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. The program is being finalized and will be announced in the registration flyer that will be sent out in February.



NW Chapter Directory

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President's Message

NWOCTA members do many things quietly. Those include collecting Oregon Trail related materials as well as working to both preserve and make those materials available for research. Last month I signed a memorandum of understanding, along with OCTA president Bill Martin and the Oregon State Library staff.

This MOU was quietly hammered out by Glenn Harrison with the help of Lethene Parks. Most of the materials—books and other items, all relating to the westward migration—came from NWOCTA members Weldon Rau and Vic Bolon.

The Oregon State Library, located in the capitol complex in Salem, will establish an "Oregon-California Trails Association Emigrant Trails Collection" within their Northwest History collection. All documents will be cataloged, appropriately bound, preserved, and held for research in a reading room available to the general public.

On its part, NWOCTA will establish a Northwest Library Committee to monitor the collection. By policy, all materials donated to NWOCTA will be first offered to the Merrill Mattes Library in Independence, Missouri, and then to the Oregon State Library collection. Any items already held by the Mattes or OSL collections will then be offered to other OCTA libraries—currently including California, Colorado, and Wyoming. Any item not placed in any of the above locations can then be sold to benefit NWOCTA.

I for one will be leaving my Oregon Trail collection to NWOCTA.

—Jim Tompkins



NW CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS

Jim Riehl of Albany, Oregon, has been elected the new director. Continuing directors are Jenny Miller and Rich Herman.

Roster of 1847 Emigrants to Oregon

By W. "Tuck" Forsythe

Over last few years Torrie J. Large, working for Warren "Tuck" Forsythe, both of Ellensburg, Washington, computerized all the data on the entire file, which were on index cards, for "Roster of 1847 Emigrants to Oregon" by Mrs. Frances W. Milne, who created them in Pullman ca. 1968–1991. In 2006 Kay and Warren Forsythe photocopied large binders of photocopies of her index cards placed in following libraries:

Oregon Historical Society, Portland
Washington State University Libraries,
Pullman
Clackamas County Historical Museum, aka
Museum of the Oregon Territory, Oregon
City

In 2008–09 Torrie Large and Warren Forsythe computerized a family tree-oriented summary on a database named "oregon1847" at <http://wc.rootsweb.com>. For a complete list of abbreviated references, see notes for person named, "Oregon_Trail."

You can look at the entire "index" tree structure at:

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

We used a family tree format to compile families, with Mrs. Milne's data in the notes (usually of one parent of the family). Then the families were placed on a family tree, usually together with families of alphabetically similar surnames. Finally, all the alphabetical categories are assembled into a tree of all Women's card 1847 pioneer data and all Men's 1847 pioneer data—because Mrs. Milne's alphabetical cards went through the alphabet twice for parents of each gender.

Call for Nominations

By Roger Blair

Each year at its general membership meeting in March, NWOCTA recognizes deserving candidates for their efforts in protecting and promoting historic trails, as well as involvement in making NWOCTA a successful chapter. This is your chance to place in nomination some person or organization you know who is deserving of recognition.

There are award categories for deserving individuals, organizations, landowners, and agencies. The candidates do not necessarily have to be OCTA members. Do you know a landowner who has been particularly helpful in providing access to trails or preserving ruts? Is there a reporter who has promoted trail preservation through print? An elected official or government employee (federal, state, or local) who has taken on the cause of historic trails? Is there a teacher or scout group that has taken up a trail project? We especially wish to recognize our members who have devoted their time, effort, and money to trails and to making NWOCTA the great chapter that it is.

The nomination process is not onerous. You merely have to give some thought to whom you recognize as deserving of an award and contact Roger Blair, Awards Committee, to place his/her/their name in consideration. Please send your nomination(s) to Roger Blair, 524 NW 3rd Street, Pendleton, Or 97801 or email rblair@oregontrail.net.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NWOCTA VOLUNTEER HOURS AND EXPENSES FOR 2010

Submitted by
Chuck Hornbuckle
NWOCTA Volunteerism Coordinator

HOURS : 11,438.8
EXPENSES : \$23,356.04
MILES : 94,880.5

2010 Mapping and Marking Activities

Text and Photographs by Henry Pittock, Mapping and Marking Chairman

In late July Dave Welch, Paul Masee, and I did a preliminary survey at the Davis Ranch, which is about ten miles southwest of Tygh Valley. The owners, Pat and Margaret Davis, say that their ancestors said that Barlow Road ruts exist on the property. They showed us Class 1 ruts intermittently covering about a mile on both sides of Rock Creek.

The following day Dave and I did trail monitoring from Cecil to the Weatherford Monument, through the Montague Wind Farm that is under construction, and then from Klondike to The Dalles. Not too many years ago you could count the turbines by the hands-full, now you count them by the hundreds. Sad.

In late September, about six members were invited to walk the ruts westerly from the BLM kiosk at Four Mile Canyon for about two miles, accompanied by Iberdrola Renewables representatives and several landowners. We next checked for ruts on the south side of Montague Lane. At Cedar Springs we met with the landowner, then walked more ruts to the west of there.

The following day Dave and Wendy Welch and I viewed the ruts descending alongside Mud Hollow towards Biggs. We stopped at the John Day River ford and the BLM kiosk, then went back to the top of the hill where the Barlow Cutoff Road left the main trail. From there we zig-zagged across Sherman County, following the cutoff as much as possible, through Moro and Grass Valley, to its crossing of the Deschutes River at Sherar's Bridge, then on to Tygh Valley and back to The Dalles.



Margaret and Pat Davis.



*Paul Masee, Pat Davis, Rich Herman, Dave Welch.
First post we pounded at the Davis Ranch.*

The third day was back at the Davis Ranch where about a half-dozen members and the owners marked several hundred feet of Class 1 ruts to the east of Rock Creek. Approaching the creek there are remains of a homesteader's cabin/store at the base of a ramp leading down to the creek bottom. We marked there, then more ruts ascending the hill on the west side of the creek, and then intermittent Class 1 ruts for about a half-mile more all the way to the Mt. Hood National Forest Boundary. We were totally surprised by the BBQ lunch that the Davises prepared for us.

Then in October, after a very informative outing with the Oregon Historic Trail Advisory Council and the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society, the dialogue between the Hugo group and NWOCTA was

rekindled. This resulted in supplying them with forty Carsonite markers and labels for mapping and marking the Applegate Trail/South Road to Oregon in the Grants Pass area. This group, which includes roughly eight NWOCTA members, has been actively researching, documenting, and temporarily marking the trail and other historic sites for over ten years. For more information on their activities, go to <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org>.

2011 Projects

Planning is now underway for several possible projects for 2011 that will be presented to the board for their approval in the next couple of months.

- We will continue to support the Hugo group with their mapping and marking activities this year.
- Locating, mapping, and marking of the trail in the Four Mile Canyon, Montague Lane, and Cedar Springs areas in conjunction with Iberdrola Renewables/Montague Wind Power Facility LLC and landowners is anticipated.
- The Davis Ranch area offers an opportunity for more work. This could include additional posts in the marked areas and locating the crossing of Rock Creek. As this area is about one to one-and-a-half miles north of the officially designated trail, links to the main trail to the east to Wamic, and to the southwest through the Mt. Hood National Forest, should be determined.
- The largest project is one that was suggested by Dave Welch about a year ago. It would be a general survey (of less than MET standards) of the condition of the Oregon Trail from the Snake River Crossing to The Dalles, the Barlow Cutoff Road, and the Barlow Road to Oregon City. This would start with an inventory of what we already have: maps, aerial photos, still photos, marker locations, landowner lists, etc. Field work would encompass walking the trail as much as possible, noting the existence (or not) of ruts, and taking GPS readings at all markers and other significant points. The project would take several years.

Speaking of maps and markers, I am surprised that the Mapping and Marking committee has maps showing the locations of markers and their GPS readings only from La Grande to The Dalles. We have virtually nothing from the Snake River to La Grande, and nothing from The Dalles to Oregon City. If anyone has, or knows who might have, some of these, please let me know.

Likewise, I'd like to hear from you if you have any suggestions, comments, or if you would like to volunteer to help with planning or for field work later on.

Happy trails,

Henry Pittock
Email: hpittock3@mac.com



Ruts just west of Cedar Springs.

Mapping and Marking Photographs

All photographs are by Henry Pittock



Harris Creek ford on Applegate Trail.



Mike Walker on trail south of ford.



Applegate Trail ascending Sexton Mountain, just south of the pass.



West of BLM kiosk at Four Mile Canyon.



Wagon wheel groove in rock.



On ramp leading down to Rock Creek.



Another view of the ramp.

Jesse Looney Letter

Jesse Looney and his family were part of the 1843 Great Migration to Oregon. They were the first family to settle in present Linn County, but soon moved back across the Santiam River to settle north of present Jefferson in Marion County. On October 27, 1843, while at the Whitman Mission, Jesse wrote a three-page letter to his brother-in-law John C. Bond as a guide for those coming in the next few years. The letter was carried east by John C. Fremont to the area of Morrisville, Missouri. Gilbert Looney of Jefferson has the original handwritten letter. A copy is kept in the Oregon Historical Society Research Library, which was obtained from the Walla Walla Valley Pioneer and Historical Society.

Waiilatpu, Oregon Ter.
Oct. 27, 1843

Dear Sir:

I embrace the opportunity of writing to you from this far western country, afforded me by the return of Lieut. Fremont to the states this winter. He thinks that he will be at Independence, Missouri by January next, which will be in time for those intending coming next season to this country to get some information about the necessary preparations to be made for the journey.

It is a long tiresome trip from the states to this country, but the company of emigrants came through safely this season—to the number of one thousand persons, with something over 100 wagons—to this place, which is 250 miles east of the Willamette Valley, and with the exception of myself and a few others, they have gone on down, intending to go through this winter if possible.

About half of them have traded off their stock at [Fort] Walla Walla, 25 miles below here and are going by water; the balance went on by land to the Methodist Mission, 175 miles below this, intending to take water there. I have stopped here in the Walla Walla Valley to spend the winter in order to save my stock. This is a fine valley of land, excellent water, good climate, and the finest kind of timber on the surrounding mountains; and above all, a first rate range for stock both winter and summer. The Indians are friendly and have plenty of grain and potatoes, and a good many hogs and cattle.

The missionaries at this and the other Missions have raised fine crops of wheat, corn, potatoes, etc., so that provisions can be procured here upon as good or better terms than in the lower settlements at present.

Cattle are valuable here, especially American cattle. Things induced me to stop here for the winter, save my stock and take them down in the spring.

In preparing for the journey across the mountains, you cannot be too particular in the choice of a wagon—it should be strong in every part and yet should not be very heavy. The large size, two horse Yankee wagons are the most suitable wagons I have seen for this trip. You should have nothing but your clothing, bedding and provisions—flour and bacon. Goods are cheaper here than in the states. Put in about as much loading as one yoke of cattle can draw handily, and then put on three good yoke of cattle and take an extra yoke for a change in case of lameness or sore necks, and you can come without any difficulty. The road is good, much better than we expected, but is long. Bring all the loose cattle you can get, especially milch cows and heifers. Do not attempt to bring calves—they will not come through and by losing them you will be in danger of losing their mothers. I cannot urge you too strongly to be sure of plenty of provisions—do not depend on the game. You may get some, or you may not; it is uncertain.

We were about five months on the road to this place, and I had plenty of flour, etc., to do me, but most of the company were out long before they got here, and there is little or nothing in the way of provision to be had at the forts on the way. I would advise you to lay in plenty for at least five months, for if you get out on the way, you will have trouble to get any until you get here.

I would also advise you to start as soon as the grass will admit of. We might have started a month sooner than we did, and then we would have been here to have gone through with our cattle this winter. We left Independence the 22d of May and are just about a month too late.

Myself and family were all sick when we left and continued so until we left Blue River [Kansas] and the rains and mud, but when we struck the high land along the Platte [River] we began to mend and continued to do so until we are all well. My own health is better than it has been for many years, and as far as I have seen this country, I think it very healthful.

There was some sickness on the road, though not more than might have been expected in so large a company. There were five or six deaths on the road, some by sickness and some by accident, and there were some eight or ten births on the road. There was little or no sickness amongst them when we got here.

Upon the whole we fared better than expected. We found water every night but one, though it was sometimes not very good; and we always found something to make a fire, but not always good wood.

We had no interruption from the Indians, unless, indeed, they might have stolen a horse now and then to get a little something for bringing him in. Our greatest difficulty was in crossing the rivers, but we got over them all safely, except one man drowned, and he did not cross with the main company, having quit the company and gotten behind.

Mrs. Looney says prepare yourselves with good strong clothing for the road or the wild sage will trip you. This shrub is very plentiful and was hard on our teams, especially those that went before, but it will not be so bad on those that come next year, for we have left a plain well beaten road all the way.

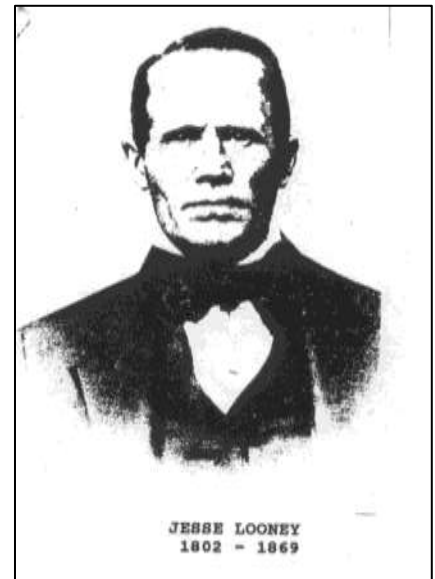
I will have a better opportunity of giving you an account of this country next spring, and want you to write the first chance. No more, but remain your brother until death.

(signed) Jesse Looney

Jesse Looney Biography

From "Emigrants to Oregon in 1843," compiled by Stephenie Flora,
www.oregonpioneers.com/1843.htm

Jesse LOONEY (1802-1869): married 1827 Ruby Crawford BOND; settled near Jefferson in Marion Co; buried at Looney Cemetery, Marion Co; was first cousin to President Andrew Johnson; raised on a plantation in Knoxville, TN; moved to Alabama as a young man and then spent some time in IL and WI before moving to MO prior to his emigration to OR; in 1850s his farm was an official stop for the CA-OR stage coach line; developed one of the largest orchards in his part of the territory, active in helping to build churches and schools; member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church; served as a member of the Provisional Legislature; father of 15 children (Susan B., Francis Marion, Fautley Roy, John Bond, Mary Ellen, Jesse Walton, Benjamin Franklin, stillborn twins, Pauline Ruby Cain, William Nathan, David Henry, Norris Humphrey, Frances Margaret, Addie Belle).



Jesse Looney (1802-1869).

Courtesy of John Gaines,

www.usgennet.org/usa/il/county/warren/bondjonmajor.html.

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



2011 NW OCTA Annual Meeting

**Saturday, March 5
at the
United Methodist Church
Oregon City, Oregon**

*A registration flyer will be sent out
in February*

Northwest Trails

Joyce Bolerjack
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