



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 27, No. 3

Summer 2012

## In Remembrance

### Gary Eugene Shurtleff

Longtime OCTA and NWOCTA member Gary Shurtleff died July 16. Gary was born March 29, 1937 in Payette, Idaho. During his childhood he was an avid baseball player and fan, animal lover (raising pigeons and his collie, Laddie), a voracious reader, and music aficionado.



Gary, as we'll always remember him.

Gary attended the College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho, where he started a music collection, which would eventually number in the thousands, and ran a jazz radio show. It was there that he met Marlea Roehr, whom he married after he graduated with a degree in Physics in 1961.

Gary continued to play baseball (semi-pro) and eventually transitioned into coaching. He coached Legion Baseball in both Burien and Renton, Washington. In 1972 his team in Burien took 2nd place in the state.

Gary was hired as one of the early scientific computer programmers for Boeing Company, where he worked for 38 years. Gary retired in 2003 to enjoy reading his extensive library of books on history, biography, philosophy, and religion; to listen to his large music collection; to play with his model trains; to putter in his garden; and always, to spend time with friends and family, sharing stories. He was widely considered among his family and friends as the ultimate authority on a number of topics.

Gary is survived by his wife Marley, his daughters Jennie (Peter) Struijk and Gena Shurtleff (Richard Wurdack), brothers Geoff Shurtleff and George (Linda) Shurtleff, cousins Pat Horyna and Barb (Hugh) Diener, and many well-loved nieces and nephews, extended family, and friends.

**Remembrances can be made to the Oregon-California Trails Association**

<http://www.octa-trails.org/members/memorials.php>

## NW Chapter Directory

### President

Jim Tompkins  
503-880-8507  
[tompkins@bctonline.com](mailto:tompkins@bctonline.com)

### Vice President

Rich Herman  
360-576-5139  
[buddy359@comcast.net](mailto:buddy359@comcast.net)

### Secretary

Polly Jackson  
[pnjocta@yahoo.com](mailto:pnjocta@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Glenn Harrison  
541-926-4680  
[gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net)

### Past President

Roger Blair  
541-966-8854  
[rblair@oregontrail.net](mailto:rblair@oregontrail.net)

### Preservation Officer

Billy Symms  
541-547-4489  
[wsymms@peak.org](mailto:wsymms@peak.org)

### Directors

Paul Masee  
253-858-0255  
[pcmassee@comcast.net](mailto:pcmassee@comcast.net)

Jim Riehl  
541-812-0233  
[jimriehl3@comcast.net](mailto:jimriehl3@comcast.net)

Lynne Alvord  
509-697-6818  
[lalvord@msn.com](mailto:lalvord@msn.com)

### Chapter Web Editor

Marley Shurtleff  
425-271-2485  
[shurtgarymarley@comcast.net](mailto:shurtgarymarley@comcast.net)

### Marking and Mapping

Henry Pittock  
541-752-6139  
[hpittock3@mac.com](mailto:hpittock3@mac.com)

## Grants and Partnerships

At the March 10 NWOCTA Annual Meeting, Travis Boley mentioned that he applies for cooperative agreements from the National Park Service to support OCTA efforts each year. He also commented that he expects that cost share opportunities will be offered again in the coming year.

**National Park Service.** Read about partnerships:

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.nps.gov/partnerships](http://www.nps.gov/partnerships)

This March 7 press release discusses Historic Preservation Grants:  
[home.nps.gov/news/release.htm?id=1302](http://home.nps.gov/news/release.htm?id=1302)

Preservation officer Bill Symms mentioned the many opportunities for funding through cooperative agreements and cost share grants. Here are some of the sources he suggested we could review. It is interesting to see what they offer.

**Federal Highways System.** The National Scenic Byways Program is closed for 2012 but worth checking for future years:

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/nsbp2012info.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary/nsbp2012info.htm)

**U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is in the Department of the Interior. They offer funding and grants through Partnerships:

[www.fws.gov/partnerships/index.html](http://www.fws.gov/partnerships/index.html)

**Bureau of Land Management.** Check by specific states in the section on Partnerships:

[www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/partnerships\\_home.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/partnerships_home.html)

**US Forest Service.** Check the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) by state to see Proposed Actions in our area:

[www.fs.fed.us/projects](http://www.fs.fed.us/projects)



## OCTA's 30th Annual Convention

August 6–11, 2012

Lawrence, Kansas

# President's Message

Summer is here, and if I thought it meant down time to relax, get a tan, and enjoy family events, boy was I wrong. In addition to planning classes for next year (topic: Oregon in the 20th century) and a few residual duties as immediate past president of Sons and Daughters of Oregon Pioneers, OCTA has taken a little bit of my time.

The next planning committee meeting for the 2013 Oregon City convention will be Saturday July 28th in Oregon City from 10-2 at The Highcliffe (same place as previous meetings and the annual meeting). As soon as we nail down the agenda (it is about 95% set), we need to focus on confirming speakers, presenters, volunteers, contacts, and sponsors. Committee meetings are open to all who wish to attend or want to submit their opinions in advance for consideration. I am compiling and constantly updating a comprehensive worksheet of all aspects of the convention. E-mail me for a PDF copy.

Those of us attending the Kansas convention this summer are asked to keep your eyes open to the details (the devil is in the details), with an eye to how we address the same needs or problems. What did they do right that we want to keep? What areas might we want to improve? What might we want to avoid?

We need, or soon will need, volunteers to assist our team leaders in a few areas. 1) We will soon be researching and writing tour booklets. Kathy Buob has volunteered to assist me in writing about the Willamette Valley tours, but she lives in California and may need a local flavor. I will be working on the Oregon City and Barlow Road booklets. 2) Mary Cross may wish assistance in planning and executing the Heritage Fair. 3) Tuck and Kay Forsythe may need aid in planning and running the raffle and auction. 3) Sallie Riehl may need help in planning and running the book room. 4) I'm sure that I will be in over my head in planning and running the living history night and salmon bake.

We need to make contacts for the stops along our bus trips. Places currently under consideration for the four tours include Timberline Lodge, Mt Hood Interpretive Center, Philip Foster Farm, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, McLoughlin House, Stevens-Crawford House, Museum of the Oregon Territory, St. Paul and S. Louis Catholic Churches, Jason Lee Mission at Willamette Mission State Park, Jason Lee Mission at Willamette Heritage Park (formerly Mission Mill), the DAR Newell House and Pioneer Cabin, Champoeg State History Park, Ox Barn Museum, Stauffer Farm, and Mt. Angel Abbey. We have some preliminary contacts, but not all.

We need to consider contacts for sponsorships for the topics we will be touching upon during the week of the convention—hazelnut growers, hop growers, cherry growers, winemakers, tourism agencies, genealogy societies, history societies, etc.

Not everything has been about the convention (it only seems like it). Dave Welch is planning a mapping seminar in Salt Lake City in November. Lethene Parks and Rich Herman are planning our fall picnic on September 15 in Vancouver. Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle are working on a marker for Nathan Pattison in Tumwater. Steve White of Halfway is working on funding a photography project over the Oregon Trail in Oregon by helicopter. Henry Pittock is immersed in mapping and marking projects. The Hugo Neighborhood Association and Glenn Harrison are involved with a proposed I-5 widening project affecting the Applegate Trail. As a chapter, we are a busy bunch.

—Jim Tompkins



# Oregon Trail Work Party September 22

By Glenn Harrison

On Saturday, September 22, a work party will work on a 16 mile section of the Oregon Trail in the Blue Mountains out of La Grande where small trees have grown up in the ruts, tree limbs have fallen onto the trail, and some trees have fallen across it. It is an area in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest where the Forest Rangers take children for hikes on the trail. To make it safer for walking in the ruts, and to make it more like it would have been, the debris and new growth will be cut out and removed.

OCTA members, OHTAC members, and volunteers from the community will spend the day clipping, sawing, and removing the excess material. The group will be working with Erik Harvey, South Zone Archaeologist for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

You could bring gloves, clippers, saws, and even a chain saw. Be sure to dress appropriately. We will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Forest Service Field Office, 3502 Highway 30, in La Grande. There may be an opportunity to begin on September 21. You could also stay over for a Sunday morning meeting of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council in the Conference Room at the Forest Service office. There will likely be an opportunity for group dinners on September 21 and 22. Car pools are encouraged, and you will need to make your own lodging arrangements. Once it is known who will be going, a list will be provided so that carpooling can be arranged.

If you are willing to help or have questions,  
contact Glenn Harrison  
541-619-7596 or [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net)



# Naches Trail Report

By Dave Welch

On July 11 we (myself, Wendy and Dick Pingrey) obtained access to the Army's Yakima Training Center and were able to verify the presence of the Naches Trail across the facility. There are tens of miles of MET Class 1 and Class 2 trail. The western half of the facility is relatively undisturbed despite over seventy years of military training activity in the area. The Army has an active program to protect the environment and cultural resources, so we can expect good on-going protection, especially since we have called their attention to the trail resource.

We also re-surveyed the Naches Trail through the Wenas Valley. This was a repeat of a trip taken about fifteen years ago, but it is now recorded on USGS 1:24,000 scale maps. Wendy and I also examined the route along the Little Naches where good Class 1 trail remains.

We have also been working with the National Park Service to provide "study maps" for the Naches from the base of the Blues to old Fort Walla Walla and for the Whitman route from the same point to the mission and on to old Fort Walla Walla. This work has been in support of the feasibility studies.

The Naches Trail Coalition will hold a tour of the Naches in the Bonney Lake area on September 29.

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## New NWOCTA Members

Paul Greenland, Berkley, CA  
Alida Boorn, Wichita, KS  
Bob Black, Grants Pass, OR  
Bud Shoaf, Bend, OR  
Paula Thacker, Portland, OR

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## Mapping and Marking Report

By Henry Pittock

This past March, NWOCTA, The Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society, and the Josephine County Historical Society signed a joint marking and mapping plan for the Applegate Trail in the Grants Pass area. They have recently installed 15 Carsonite posts with the appropriate labels at Applegate Trail sites; several more are planned during the summer and fall.

Glenn Harrison and I made a trip to the area on June 7 and 8 at their invitation. We met with Jim and Rene Ford, Joe and Leta Neiderheiser, Mike Walker, and Kelly Rarey and discussed the project over dinner at the Fords. The afternoon of the 7th and the morning of the 8th we visited most of the sites, taking GPS readings and photographs, and noting trail conditions.

NWOCTA and the Hugo group are in the process of determining trail classifications for each of the sites.

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## 2012 Convention Raffle & Auction

Jean Coupal-Smith, auction coordinator, is looking for donations of items or memorabilia that relate to the Trails, Tribes, and Territories theme for the silent auction, raffle, or live auction. If you would like to donate items, please contact:

Jean Coupal-Smith  
Auction Coordinator 2012 Convention  
5410 Ash  
Roeland Park, KS 66205-2146  
816 853-1012 cell phone  
*jcs1fun1@kc.rr.com* email

## Tuck's Impressions of a Convention Planning Tour

By Tuck Forsythe

2013 convention bus tour run-through today was just what I'd hoped for, even though I had to drive 450 miles round trip to attend today's Oregon City NWOCTA event.

At our meeting place, we learned how the restoration of EOTIC is, or is not, coming along these days. The NWOCTA bad news was that just 4 people attended: Shirley Evans, Tuck Forsythe, Rich Herman, and Jim Tompkins; the good news was that we could all ride in one vehicle and share all the interpretive gems handed out along the route!

Nearly every mile all day, we learned more early Oregon connections to the landscape we were traveling through. I learned that Tualitin River in Kalapuya language meant "lazy," for the very slowly meandering stream.

We made personal contacts at many of our contemplated venues, and got phone numbers for the other venues. My favorites were our sunny brown bag lunch at the Butte Store near Champoeg, visits to Aurora Colony, and Mt. Angell Abbey.

The conversational banter was lively and good hearted. But poor Shirley was kept guessing all day about whether Rich and Jim's banter was facetious, or was it serious?



Tuck at Aurora. Photo by Jim Tompkins.

## ***“1849 Rachel E. Pattison. Aged 18 June 19<sup>th</sup> 49”***

*By Chuck Hornbuckle*

Nine words carved on a flat stone along the Road to Oregon at Ash Hollow in the southwestern corner of Nebraska. Who was this young woman whose dreams ended on the lonely, windswept plains in southwestern Nebraska? What of her family? Was she married? If so, who was her husband?

Other passing emigrants, including J. Goldsborough Bruff, mentioned the marker in their diaries. Some speculated “that she was with a Missouri wagon train bound for California.” The “4” in the first “1849” (see following photo) is backwards, leading researchers to believe Bruff added those numerals during his trip west in 1849, because he typically wrote the 4 backwards. Furthermore, it was said the Pattisons were known as “educated people” who would never chisel the “4” backwards. A few years later, another emigrant died nearby and was buried beside “the girl named Pattison.”

Over the next 100 years the area was settled and the land around Rachel’s grave soon became the Ash Hollow Cemetery. The 1849 marker by the Platte River was the extent of what was known about Rachel for many years. Then in 1946 a Pattison descendant thought he might be related. W. W. Morrison of Cheyenne, Wyoming, began a personal quest to learn if he was related to the girl named Pattison. Over the next several years he wrote to numerous Pattisons in California, Oregon, and Washington. His effort finally led him to Olympia. In 1954, with the help of those Pattison descendants, he was able to confirm his relationship and, more importantly, learn the rest of Rachel’s story.

Rachel Pattison was born Rachel E. Warren on March 25, 1831, in Randolph County, Illinois. There, on April 3, 1849, she married Nathan Pattison, the second of six sons of William and Mary Pattison. Eight days later the family of fourteen left for Oregon in three covered wagons.

The company reached Ash Hollow six weeks later, on June 18. The day before, they lost three oxen that had eaten poisonous weeds. As a result, William planned an early stop to do some wagon repair work and to harness four mules to take the place of the missing oxen.

Tragedy struck at Ash Hollow. William Pattison noted in his diary for June 19, “*about 11 ocl Rachel was taken with Colara and died by 11 at night of 19 instant Medical aid was obtained from a train from Mechigan of the Dr Ormsby after burying on the left side of the hollow as you go round the bluff up the River on the second bank placing a grave stone at her head Rachel Pattison aged 18 June 19th 1849.*”

The Pattisons continued on to Oregon where they lived until 1852, when the family moved north to the Olympia area. In 1860 most of the family moved back to Oregon. Nathan, who never remarried, and his brother James and his family remained in Thurston County. In all, the Pattisons claimed more than 2,000 acres on Chambers Prairie, near the lake bearing their name.

Nathan’s name appears on an Indian War Muster Roll, January 31, 1856, in Captain Isaac Hayes’s Company E, first regiment. The *History of the Odd Fellowship in Washington to 1880* shows Nathan Pattison was initiated into the Odd Fellows (IOOF) in October 1871 and received the “Grand Lodge Degree” in 1877. Nathan’s name also appears on the Roster of the Columbia Engine Company No. 1, Olympia’s early fire department. Nathan died September 30, 1893, and was interred in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tumwater. His obituary begins with, “Another Pioneer Called to His Last Home,” and



*Nathan Pattison*

Nathan Pattison in his IOOF attire. Photo provided by Randy Brown, signature provided by Roger Easton.



Nathan Pattison's headstone in the family plot at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tumwater.

notes that he was "known and esteemed by everybody in Thurston County." According to the obituary, Nathan's health had been failing, but his death was sudden and unexpected.

In 1990 the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) placed a plaque alongside Rachel's headstone at Ash Hollow, briefly recounting Rachel's story. OCTA member Bob Kabel has researched Nathan's life and procured funding for a similar plaque to be placed alongside his headstone in Tumwater, Washington. With the dedication of the plaque, Rachel and Nathan Pattison will be reunited in spirit, recounting a life together that ended on the windswept plains, a short six weeks after their marriage.

The dedication of Nathan's plaque is tentatively planned for late 2012, or possibly during the 2013 OCTA Convention in Oregon City, depending on receipt of the plaque from the sign manufacturer. For further information, please contact the Tumwater Historical Association (THA) at 360-943-6951, or PO Box 4315, Tumwater, WA 98501-0315. If you know of any descendants of Nathan's brother James, please let THA know. We want to extend a special invitation to all Pattison descendants.



Left: Rachel Pattison's gravesite at Ash Hollow Cemetery, Nebraska. The OCTA plaque on the left tells Rachel's story. Bob Kabel photo.

Below: Close-up of Rachel's headstone, which is encased in the monument. Randy Brown photo.



## *Northwest Trails*

### **Editor**

Susan Badger Doyle  
524 NW 3rd St  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
541-966-8854  
*sdoyle@oregontrail.net*

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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**



## **NW OCTA Annual Fall Picnic**

**Saturday, September 15  
Vancouver, WA**

### *Northwest Trails*

Joyce Bolerjack  
10813 NE 20th St  
Bellevue, WA 98004