



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 28, No. 1

Spring 2013

## Northwest Chapter 2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter was held on Saturday, March 9, at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, which will be the convention hotel for the upcoming 2013 OCTA Convention. Thirty-nine members attended. The meeting included a review of convention planning. After lunch Roger Blair presented a slide program on OCTA's first thirty years, which he presented at last year's 30th convention. The raffle and silent auction were successful and netted the meeting a profit of \$227.



*Roger Blair and Susan Doyle receiving the Richard and Trudy Ackerman Award for 2013.*



*Rich Herman at the Raffle Table.*



*Morning session of the annual meeting in Monarch Hall.*

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## President's Message

By the time you read this, the convention will be two and a half months away. All of the planning is nearly complete, with planning meetings May 4, June 1, and June 29 all that remain. By now the registration booklets should have arrived by mail. The registration form is also posted on line at [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). Speakers, entertainers, and caterers are all getting ready and waiting for their chance to shine. Tour scripts are written. Tour books and convention books are being prepared for the printers. Tour training is under way.

**We still have a need for volunteers.** The registration team needs volunteers for Monday evening, any time Tuesday, and for people to relieve other volunteers. The raffle team needs ticket sellers, particularly Monday afternoon. Help is needed in the silent auction room Tuesday morning, Thursday morning, and Thursday afternoon. The Oregon City and Settlements bus tours need two people each to help on the buses Wednesday and Friday. The Settlement tour on Friday and the Barlow Road hike on Wednesday each need someone to trail the bus as an emergency vehicle. Contact me at [tompkins@bctonline.com](mailto:tompkins@bctonline.com) or 503-880-8507 to volunteer or if you have any inquiries.

See you in Oregon City in July.

—Jim Tompkins



*Albany Democrat-Herald, April 7, 2013*

Carol and Glenn Harrison posed as early Oregon settlers for watercolor painters at the Albany Regional Museum on Saturday, April 6.

# 2013 OCTA Convention Program

## **Sunday, July 21**

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm Registration open  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Web Coordinators Meeting

## **Monday, July 22**

7:00 am – 8:00 pm Registration open  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm OCTA Board of Directors Meeting  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Heritage Fair  
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm Bookroom open  
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Dinner on your own  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Welcoming Reception

## **Tuesday, July 23**

7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration open  
6:30 am – 8:00 am Chapter Presidents Breakfast  
8:00 am – 10:30 am Annual Membership Meeting  
10:50 am – 11:50 am Keynote Speaker: Kerry Tymchuk  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm SDOP Descendants Panel: Jim Tompkins, Champ Vaughan, Chris Meinike, Diane Root  
3:20 pm – 4:10 pm Speaker: Ranvir Singh  
4:20 pm – 5:30 pm Workshops  
6:30 pm – 10:00 pm Awards Banquet and Live Auction

## **Wednesday, July 24**

7:00 am – 8:00 pm Registration/Information open  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Bus Tours  
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Dinner on your own  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Authors Night

## **Thursday, July 25**

7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration/Information open  
8:00 am – 11:50 am Speakers: Heidi Pierson, Kirke Wilson, Leta Neiderheiser, David Lewis  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Luncheon  
1:00 pm – 3:50 pm Speakers: Tom Nash, Keni Sturgeon, Karen Johnson  
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm Chapter Meetings  
5:15 pm – 7:00 pm Diner on your own or with chapters  
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Living History Night at Abernethy Center: Karen Haas, Ray Egan, Susan Butruille

## **Friday, July 26**

7:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration/Information open  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm Bus Tours  
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Salmon Bake at End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

## 2013 NW OCTA OUTINGS and ACTIVITIES

This summer we will concentrate our efforts on participating in and volunteering for all the activities in conjunction with the 2013 OCTA Convention in Oregon City. Field work will include practice outings for the convention bus tours in order to finalize the tour scripts and decide on bus route timing.

Several outings will give members the opportunity to visit the historic sites included in the bus tours offered at the 2013 convention. Please bring sack lunches, water, and your cell phones to help keep in contact and share information. Watch for convention details in *News from the Plains* and check the OCTA web site, [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

**Saturday, June 22:** “Tour C – Missions” car convoy will follow the proposed itinerary for the bus tour to include: French Prairie, St. Paul Parish, St. Louis Parish, Mission Bottom, and Mission Mill (Chemeketa). Additional details will be provided. Kathy Buob is the tour leader.

**Exact Date TBA:** “Tour D – Settlement” car convoy will follow the proposed bus tour itinerary to include: Aurora Colony, Hubbard Farm and Champoeg. Additional details will be provided. Glenn Harrison is the tour leader.

**Exact Date TBA:** “Tour A1 – Barlow Road” car convoy will follow the bus tour itinerary to include: Multnomah Falls, Barlow Pass, Pioneer Woman’s Grave, Government Camp, Mt Hood Cultural Center, and Philip Foster Farm. Additional details will be provided when confirmed. Roger Blair and Susan Doyle are the tour leaders.

**Exact Date TBA:** “Pre-Convention Tour” car convoy and short hikes along the Oregon Trail from Pendleton to include: Echo Meadows, Well Springs, Four Mile Canyon, John Day River Crossing E & W shore, Biggs Ruts, Deschutes River, and The Dalles. Additional details will be provided when confirmed. Roger Blair and Rich Herman are the tour leaders.

**May 4, Saturday:** The next convention planning meeting is scheduled at the Highcliffe Restaurant from 10 am–3 pm. Please consider attending and volunteer to help insure the success of the 2013 OCTA Convention.

**July 12–14, Friday-Sunday:** Barlow Road –Tygh Valley to Hwy 35. This event is being led by OHTAC (Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council). Contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net).

**July 22–26: National OCTA Convention at Clackamas, OR:** Please volunteer to help make OUR convention a success.

**Late Summer TBA:** Barlow Road between Davis Ranch and Gate Creek. Field trip to locate the road where we left off after Davis Ranch and continue into the National Forest. Additional details will be provided when confirmed. Paul Masee and Henry Pittock are coordinating this outing.

**September 6–8:** Hells Canyon area (Doug Bar and Nez Perce Trail) Enterprise, OR, in conjunction with OHTAC. Contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net).

**September 21, Saturday:** NW OCTA Annual Picnic and Fall Meeting at the Clark County Genealogical Society in Vancouver, WA.

# Nathan Pattison Commemorative Plaque Installed

*By Chuck Hornbuckle  
Photos by Suzanne Hornbuckle*

NWOCTA members Bob Kabel and Suzanne and Chuck Hornbuckle installed the OCTA plaque in memory of Nathan Pattison. The plaque was placed at Nathan's gravesite in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Tumwater, Washington, on March 18, 2013.

Nathan and his new bride of eight days Rachel Warren Pattison left their home in Illinois in early April 1849 along with Nathan's parents and siblings. Six weeks later at Ash Hollow Rachel fell victim to cholera and was buried there along the Road to Oregon.

Devastated Nathan and the family continued on to Oregon and in 1852 moved to the Puget Sound area in what became Thurston County, Washington Territory, the following year. Nathan never remarried and spent the rest of his life with his brother James near Olympia.

From the mid-1850s until his death in 1893 he served in numerous community efforts, including the local militia during the Northwest Indian concerns and as a volunteer firefighter with the Columbia Engine Company No. 1, Olympia's early Fire Department. Like many of that period, he was a member of the International Order of the Odd Fellows and became Noble Grand at one point.

For many years little was known of the young Rachel Pattison who was laid to rest in the windswept plains of what became western Nebraska. In the 1940s a trail enthusiast researching undocumented gravesites from the emigration period came upon Rachel's headstone that had been carved in 1849. His research eventually led him to Olympia, Washington, where a Pattison family descendant lived. Together they gave us what we know today. In 1990 OCTA installed a plaque at Rachel's gravesite, briefly telling her touching story.



*Rachel Pattison gravesite at Ash Hollow, Nebraska, with her 1849 headstone and 1990 OCTA plaque.*

About two years ago Bob Kabel began his quest to place a similar marker at Nathan's gravesite in Tumwater. He contacted Randy Brown, Wyoming OCTA member and gravesite coordinator for OCTA, seeking funding for the marker. Randy quickly lent his support to the project. Bob, who lives in Pennsylvania, contacted Chuck and Suzanne, who live near Tumwater, to enlist their local support. The project became a labor of love for the quartet who found the emotional ties to the young couple at times almost overwhelming. Their theme became, "Rachel and Nathan are reunited in Spirit after 160 years." NWOCTA participated in funding the marker.



*Bob Kabel supports Nathan's plaque while Chuck Hornbuckle prepares rope to temporarily secure the marker while pouring the concrete base.*

On a sunny day in March (yes, western Washington does experience sunshine), the plaque was installed next to Nathan's marker pillar. The formal plaque dedication will be held at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 21, at the end of the Cowlitz Trail auto tour. The auto tour will be a one-day pre-convention tour led by Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle during the 2013 OCTA Convention held in Oregon City.

After considerable searching, no local Pattison family descendants could be located. As a result, a special invitation is extended to all history enthusiasts to attend the dedication at Odd Fellows Memorial Park on Cleveland Avenue in Tumwater.

**Formal Plaque Dedication  
Sunday, July 21  
4:00 p.m.**

*OCTA plaque installed at Nathan's gravesite with his marker pillar in the background.*



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## Mapping and Marking

*By Henry Pittock*

We will be doing mapping and marking of Barlow Road ruts on the Eagle Creek Golf Course this summer. Since the ruts are not very extensive, and on an active golf course, we will be limited on the number of participants. We already have permission from the golf course owner to do this. Date is still to be determined, but most probably after the convention.

Maps also indicate the possibility of the existence of ruts in three or four other areas nearby. Research as to identifying property owners of these areas, and obtaining permission for access needs to be done before we can see if they are still there (I did find one and possibly a second a couple of weeks ago). There will probably be two, one-day outings for this. Dates are still to be determined, but probably in May and June.

Thirdly, we want to return to the Davis Ranch area west of Wamic and look for the Barlow Road between the ranch and Gate Creek. This will be in late summer/early fall. There will also probably be a preliminary "scouting" trip.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be part of any of these.

Henry Pittock, Mapping and Marking  
[hpittock3@mac.com](mailto:hpittock3@mac.com)

# The Ballard Family on the Oregon Trail in 1852

By Dennis Larsen

**“Yes, Dr. Ballard and I came from the same neighborhood and traveled part the way together in 1852. My wife that was with me then is with me now.” Ezra Meeker to John B. Slater (Dr. David Wesley Ballard’s son-in law), October 8, 1903, Meeker Papers, Box 6 Vol. 1.**

My more than decade-long effort to research Ezra Meeker’s life story has often led me down interesting and unexpected paths. In writing my first book about Meeker, *The Missing Chapters: The Untold Story of Ezra Meeker’s Old Oregon Trail Monument Expedition* (Ezra Meeker Historical Society, 2006), I met Edward Jay Allen. Serendipity brought Karen Johnson and me together to collaborate in the telling of Allen’s story. In the process of writing *Our Faces Are Westward: The 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward Jay Allen* (Oregon-California Trails Association, 2012), we encountered a family named Ballard who appeared in both Allen’s diary and letters. Accordingly, the family made several appearances in our book. Allen had high praise for the Ballards, and they arrived together in Portland, Oregon, on October 4, 1852.

However, the earliest mention of the Ballards appears in the trail diary of Eliza McAuley, whose family teamed with the Meekers near Eddyville, Iowa, on April 26 for the journey west. Early in April 1852 Oliver Meeker had outfitted for a trip to Oregon at his home near Indianapolis, Indiana, then traveled to Eddyville, Iowa, to recruit Ezra in the adventure. The Meekers and McAuleys crossed Iowa together, ferried over the Missouri River at Council Bluffs, and were well across Nebraska when the following events occurred.

On May 23 at Shell Creek just 31 miles into her journey from Council Bluffs, Eliza McAuley wrote:

This afternoon we met about a hundred Pawnees, returning from a hunt with sixty-seven ponies, laden with furs and dried meat. They passed by our little band of two wagons and three young boys with a civil ‘howdydo’ but meeting the rest of our train, three wagons and eight men, they relieved them of most of their clothing, knives and tobacco and stampeded a team with Mrs. Ballard in the wagon.

On June 1 at mile 221 near Elm Creek, Eliza McAuley wrote: “Dock Ballard and I went horseback riding this morning down to the river where we saw a train that had just crossed from the south side of the Platte. They report a great deal of sickness and a scarcity of grass on that side, so we feel we did well to stay on the north side.”

On June 5 Eliza wrote:

About three o’clock a light shower came up and we stopped until it was over. While waiting we witnessed a buffalo chase. Three of those noble animals were slain and in the fray a valuable dog was severely wounded.

A passage in the 1906 edition of Ezra Meeker’s book *The Ox Team or the Old Oregon Trail* picks up the tale. Meeker recalled that it was after this buffalo chase that Oliver took ill.

As I recollect this, it must have been near where the city of Kearney now stands, which is about two hundred miles west of the Missouri River. We had been in the buffalo country several days, and some of our young men had had the keen edge of the hunting zeal worn off by a day’s ride in the

heat. A number of them were sick from the effects of over heating and indiscreet drinking of impure water. Such an experience came vividly home to me in the case of **my brother Oliver who had outfitted with our Hoosier friends near Indianapolis, but had crossed the Missouri River in company with us.** Being of an adventurous spirit, he could not restrain his ardor, and gave chase to the buffaloes, and fell sick almost unto death. This occurred just at the time when we had encountered the cholera panic, and of course it must be cholera that had seized him with such an iron grip, argued some of his companions. **His old time comrades and neighbors, all but two, said they could not delay.** I said, “It is certain death to take him along in that condition,” which they admitted was true. “Divide the outfit then.” The Davenport boys said they would not leave my brother, and so their portion of the outfit was put out also, which gave the three a wagon and a team. [The two brothers in the passage, John and Jacob Davenport, were Indiana neighbors of Oliver, and likely joined the train at Council Bluffs.] . . . We nursed the sick man for four days amidst scenes of excitement and death I never hope to witness again, with the result that on the fifth day we were able to go on and take the convalescent with us and thus saved his life.

Meeker thus indicates that there were other “Hoosier friends” besides the Davenport brothers with them who had traveled from Indianapolis. Oliver’s illness and the departure of these “old time comrades and neighbors” took place just days after Eliza McAuley went horseback riding with “Dock Ballard,” so it seemed likely that Dr. David Ballard’s family, whom Meeker said in his 1903 letter “traveled part the way together” with him in 1852, was part of this Indiana contingent.

The next we hear of the Ballards is from Edward Jay Allen at Fort Boise where he was operating a ferry on the Snake River, a business he had purchased from the Meeker brothers. On Tuesday, August 24, Allen noted in his diary: “Ferried Dr Ballards train—reminded me of home—nice people—would like to know them when I get through.” The next day’s diary entry reads: “Went up awhile and sat at Ballards camp—last night—nice people—would like to travel with them—left this morning—promised to see them in Oregon City—Would like to know them there.” He also noted that the Ballards had one wagon and that he charged them a \$3 ferry fee.

In a September 12, 1852, letter to his brother William, Allen stated: “That same day, by way of contrast, we ferried over Dr. Ballard’s company—fine intelligent people whom I should very much like to know after I arrive in the country; an intercourse with them, refined and educated as they were, was a luxury after my experience of savage life; I spent a delightful evening in their camp.”

Allen’s next encounter with the Ballards was at the Columbia River Cascades, near present-day Stevenson, Washington. His Saturday, October 2, diary entry states: “Boarded at guest house—Here I found Dr. Ballard and others—told my adventures.” Allen and the Ballards stayed at the Columbia River Cascades until October 4 when the steamboat *Multnomah* arrived and transported them to Portland. Allen noted that on the way down river they had a “beautiful view of Mt. Hood—Entrance into the Willamette—shipping in the river—Portland—Yam Hill House—slept with Dock Ballard.” (The Yamhill House was a hotel/boarding house operated by Judge Jacob L. Comegys.)

The Portland *Oregonian* newspaper of October 9, 1852, supplied a list of passengers who arrived that day on the steamer *Multnomah*. Along with E. J. Allen was listed “Dr. D. W. Ballard, lady and child.” With this we were at last able to identify “Dock Ballard” as Dr. David Wesley Ballard (1824–1883) born in Bridgeport, Indiana, his wife Jane Eliza Rooker (1831–1891) and daughter Amanda D. (1851–185?).<sup>1</sup>

The doctor had an interesting history. Giving up his medical practice in Indiana, he settled in Linn County near Lebanon, Oregon. He was elected to the State Senate soon after Oregon’s admission to statehood in 1859. In April 1866 President Andrew Johnson appointed Ballard governor of Idaho Territory. He served from June 14, 1866, to July 12, 1870, the longest term of any of Idaho’s territorial

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<sup>1</sup> In *Our Faces Are Westward* we stated incorrectly that the Ballards had three children, all born in Linn County, Oregon. The ship roster indicates at least one child was born previous to that, and family genealogy records a total of nine children. [Archives.com](http://Archives.com) states that Amanda Ballard was born in Indiana in 1851.



governors.<sup>2</sup> Ballard returned to Oregon in 1870 and resumed his medical practice. He died in 1883 at age 59 and is buried in the Lebanon Pioneer Cemetery.

But my story doesn't quite end there. While working recently on an article about Ezra Meeker's 1852 Oregon Trail journey, I found this in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* (June 11, 1890: 6). "Mr. and Mrs. Meeker have today been entertaining, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Ballard of Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Dayton Ballard, of Lincoln, Neb., and friends from Tacoma. M. D. Ballard and E. Meeker came over the plains together, and they are greatly enjoying this reunion after forty years." As there was no mention of M. D. Ballard in either the McAuley diary or the Allen materials, my curiosity was piqued. Who was M. D. Ballard and was he related to David W. Ballard? A look at the 1850 Census for Marion County, Indiana, showed Martin and Dayton Ballard living there, just a few houses away from Ezra and Oliver Meeker. (Note: the Census entry misspells "Olover" Meeker.) The Meekers and Ballards were indeed neighbors. David was married by this time and living in a neighboring county.

It did not take long to confirm that Martin Davidson Ballard (1832–1907), Dayton Ballard (1835–1901), and David Wesley Ballard (1824–1883) were brothers. Martin was 19 years old and single in 1852 when he made his Oregon Trail journey. Ballard family history has him traveling in company with his older brother Dr. David Ballard and David's wife Jane, but it seems his journey was made invisibly.<sup>3</sup> Martin is not mentioned in any letters, diaries, or on the passenger roster for the *Multnomah*. We have only the 1890 newspaper mention and a biographical sketch written by his son in 1945 placing him on the Oregon Trail. According to that sketch, Martin arrived in Oregon City on his twentieth birthday, October 7, 1852, suggesting that perhaps Martin drove the oxen and wagon overland from The Dalles while his married brother took the water route to Portland.

For the next fifteen years Martin traveled the northwest from the mines near Jacksonville, Oregon, to Butte, Montana, where he ran a pack train of supplies from Portland. He fought in the Indian wars and drove cattle to Sacramento. In 1867 he returned to the East via Panama to see his aging mother and siblings who now lived in Washington, Iowa. After a few years in Iowa he moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, and opened a hardware store with his brother Dayton. Here in 1872 he met and married Harriet Eaton Page. In spring 1877 he sold his share of the hardware business and moved his family to Lebanon, Oregon, where his brother David lived. He partnered in the Red Crown Flour Mill in Albany, Oregon, until 1882 when he moved once again, this time to Seattle, Washington. Martin prospered in Seattle. In 1883 he opened the Seattle Hardware Company. He appears in the 1893 Seattle City Directory as the President of the National Bank of Commerce. In 1901 he built a rather impressive mansion on the south slope of Queen Anne Hill, which today is listed as a Seattle landmark. Martin died on April 26, 1907, and is buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Seattle.

Why did Meeker fail to mention the Ballards by name in any of his writings about that 1852 journey? Obviously he had not been pleased with the abandonment of a very sick Oliver by their "Hoosier friends and neighbors," and although he wrote about the incident in *Ox Team Days*, he was clearly unwilling to name names. Perhaps David Ballard's legacy as governor of Idaho Territory and Martin Ballard's obvious financial success in Seattle juxtaposed with his own financial failure at the time were enough to give Meeker pause. Or perhaps he had long since put hard feelings aside and simply wished to cause no discomfort to the old pioneers whom he had entertained in his home in better times. Whatever the reason, we can now confirm that the Meekers and the Ballards, old-time Indiana neighbors, did indeed travel the trail together in 1852.

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<sup>2</sup> The story of Ballard's time as governor is told in "David W. Ballard, Governor of Idaho 1866–1870." Merle W. Wells, *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 54, no.1 (March 1953): 3–26.

<sup>3</sup> "Story of his Family," written by Roy Page Ballard in 1945, <http://ballardfamily.wordpress.com/about/>

## *Northwest Trails*

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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 Avard Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



## **OCTA's 31st Annual Convention**

**July 22–26, 2013  
Oregon City, OR**

## *Northwest Trails*

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