



Northwest Trails

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

Volume 28, No. 4

Fall 2013

NW OCTA Annual Fall Picnic September 21, 2013 Vancouver, Washington

Thirty-eight people attended the Annual Fall Picnic at the Clark County Genealogical Society in Vancouver on Saturday, September 21. At 10:00 a.m. Steve Cornick welcomed everyone on behalf of the Clark County Genealogical Society (CCGS). The CCGS has 340 members, no paid staff, and an extensive research library manned by volunteers. We met in their meeting room next to the library room.

The first speaker was Sophie Hagan, ten years old, who wrote a trail diary by a young girl named Lottie Ives for a school project. She and her mother published the diary with illustrations. Sophie presented a slide show of her book, wearing a period dress, apron, and sunbonnet. She read the diary as slides of the illustrated pages were shown. Sophie was delightful, and in thanks the chapter bought her an OCTA membership. Welcome to OCTA, Sophie!



Sophie Hagan

Our next speaker was Heidi Pierson, NPS site manager at the McLoughlin House. Heidi was scheduled to give her talk, "Defending His Legacy: John McLoughlin in Oregon City," at the OCTA convention in July, but had to cancel due to a sudden illness. The chapter rescheduled her for the fall picnic meeting, and the audience enjoyed her interesting and excellent presentation on John McLoughlin.



Heidi Pierson

The business meeting began after a break. Before Jim Tompkins opened the meeting, Rich Herman recognized Jim for his leadership in running one of OCTA's most successful conventions. Jim then began the meeting with a discussion of the convention and asked for comments for the evaluation he will compile and send to headquarters. There were many good comments on what could be improved. Jim praised Mary Bywater Cross and Lethene Parks for the outstanding Heritage Fair, Sallie Riehl for the Book Room and Author's Night, and Kay and Tuck Forsythe for the Raffle and Silent Auction Room.

A break for a brown-bag lunch and wonderful dessert table allowed people to mingle and check out the raffle table. The business meeting resumed after lunch with several items of business, followed by the always popular raffle.

More pictures on page 3

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President's Message

I <3 Trails

Kids these days are too absorbed in social media to care about matters of substance.

Twitter trends rarely last more than an hour. #ORTrail

Facebook threads rarely last more than a day. lol



Young adults are too busy building relationships and raising families.

Items rarely remain on a news cycle more than three days. Day 5 of the crisis.

Older adults are too obsessed with maintaining a career or lifestyle. Most adults will change jobs 2–4 times. And diapers on 2.5 kids. There are over 300 channels on most cable subscriptions. Doomsday Preppers.

Retired people say they have less free time than when they were working.

Church socials, charities, board meetings, bowling leagues. The grandkids are coming over tonight.

When is the right time to recruit new members for OCTA?

It's not cool to kids.

It's too old for young adults.

It's too expensive for older adults.

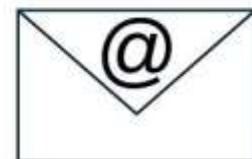
Why didn't you ask when I was younger?

OCTA is challenging the chapters to increase our membership by 10% over the next two years.

Any ideas?

Please share these ideas in a letter to the editor, Susan Doyle, at sdoyle@oregontrail.net.

—Jim Tompkins





*Steve Cornick,
CCGS.*



*Above: New member Sherry Warren
and Rich Herman during the raffle.*



*Left: Glenn Harrison at the registration
table.*



*Sophie Hagan sent this picture
along with a thank-you note.*



Attention is focused during the business meeting.

It's Time to Report Your Volunteer Time and Expenses

In order to provide an accurate accounting of our trail related activities, **please report** your hours, miles driven, and other non-reimbursed expenses to **Chuck Hornbuckle**, Chapter Volunteerism Coordinator, **by January 1, 2014.**

Volunteer activities include attending or participating in any historic trail function, program, or other activity in which you were an active participant or which you attended to learn about any historic trail. Time and personal expenses should be reported "home-to-home." These are important reports that are submitted to the Partnership for the National Trails System, and the figures are used as a basis for arguing to Congress for trails funding.

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Vale Outing

By Billy Symms

On August 29, a group of nine people met at the Vale BLM Ranger district at 9:00 for a briefing before going out on the 22 mile section of the Oregon Trail between Vale and Birch Creek, near Farewell Bend. The purpose of the outing was to evaluate that section for a proposed NW OCTA outing next year to repair, replace any Carsonite markers, place any site signs, place any new interpretive panels, determine the condition of the road for travel, and find new trail segments that have not been verified before.

The group consisted of the leaders Gail and Muriel Carbiener, Dave and Wendy Welch, Rich Herman, Henry Pittock, Billy Symms, and Jennifer Theisen and Cheryl Bradford, BLM archaeologists.

A short meeting before departure was attended by Tom Gray, head of the local historical society; Don Gonzalez, Vale District Manager; Vernon Pritchard, lead Civil Engineer; along with the other nine already mentioned. After a brief meeting going over safety and other issues on the trail and making sure we had the necessary items for travel in the area— bucket, shovel and water— we were off.

We made our way along the county road that is marked as the Old Oregon Trail Road on most maps. It is still in good shape as the county maintains it. There are several no trespassing/no hunting/no anything else signs along the way, but as long as you stay on the road with your vehicle you can pass through these areas to the BLM areas where you can get out of your vehicles and look around.

We replaced or repaired two markers, installed 15 new ones, and replaced labels on two of the markers. We also believe we discovered several new Class 1 swales, but they need to be verified. All of the large historical site signs are gone at Tub and Alkali Springs as well as Birch Creek sites. The interpretive panels at all of the sites are in relatively good condition, with a small bullet hole and shotgun blast causing minimal damage on the sign at Alkali Springs, and none at Tub Springs or Birch Creek. We had lunch at Tub Springs before going on to Love Reservoir and out onto Hwy. 201 and Farewell Bend.

Several years ago, Diane Pritchard had a group of YCC folks come in and place a fence around some Class 1 swales near Tub Mountain in a section that we had verified as the Oregon Trail in our 2005 outing in the area. The fence is in excellent condition and has not been damaged by the public or farm critters. The BLM project post was out of the ground and will need to be put back into cement. We hope to prepare an interpretative sign, for BLM approval, for that location, perhaps by next summer.

Neither Cheryl nor Jennifer had ever been on this section of the trail, so it was an excellent learning experience for them, and we think they are now better equipped to evaluate possible activities that might impact trail resources. They learned to appreciate the setting of the trail as well as the noticeable traces on the ground. We gave them the entire experience, and they had a wonderful time.

Gail has a list of all the property owners and the plat maps and will prepare a proposal for the BLM in the coming weeks. We have a solid eight miles of BLM property that needs to be covered without ever



Wendy Welch, Cheryl Bradford, Dave Welch, Gail Carbiener, and Billy Symms at Tub Mountain segment. Jennifer Theisen photo.

going onto private lands; this will take at least one week next Spring/Summer/Fall, whichever works the best.

Sarah LeCompte, at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Baker City, has a travel brochure that she wanted us to use and verify directions and suggest changes that were needed. The road is good all the way, but there are a number of discouraging no trespassing signs, private property signs, etc. that will be intimidating to many tourists. We believe additional information is needed.

There are several other signs that need to be replaced in the area as well: the signs at Keeney Pass have been shot up and are weathered and need to be replaced, the interpretive sign near the Henderson Grave site, one half mile south of Vale toward Keeney Pass, Oregon Trail Site sign with an arrow pointing to the Henderson Grave is very faded.

All in all, it was a very good outing and much was accomplished.



Gail Carbiener and Rich Herman putting in one of the famous Carsonite markers. Billy Symms photo.



Muriel and Gail Carbiener, Rich Herman, Jennifer Thiesen, Billy Symms, and Dave and Wendy Welch at Tubs Springs. Cheryl Bradford photo.

Antelope Ridge Wind Farm

It appears that every now and then the good guys get to win one. I see in an article from *The Oregonian* that EDP Renewables have withdrawn their application for the Antelope Ridge Project at this time. That will preserve for now the Ladd Hill Section of the Trail, the area coming down into the Grand Ronde Valley. The project would have greatly impacted both the setting and actual section of the ruts, as they wanted to put a road over the current section of the trail that we so desperately wanted to save. This does not mean that they cannot come back at a later date, it just means that we have won this round. The war continues, and we will have to stay ever vigilant to preserve our history for future generations.

—Yours in the Trail, Billy Symms

Nathan Pattison Plaque Dedicated

By Chuck Hornbuckle

On Sunday July 21, 2013, the plaque for Nathan Pattison was dedicated at the Odd Fellows Memorial Park in Tumwater, Washington. The plaque was unveiled by members of the Lacey Historical Society and was witnessed by more than two dozen spectators of several local historical groups.

Nathan married Rachel Warren on April 3, 1849, eight days before the family of fourteen, including his parents and siblings, left Illinois. Nine weeks later on June 18 the train of four wagons paused at Ash Hollow to make wagon repairs. The next day eighteen-year-old Rachel came down with cholera and died that night. The family placed a carved stone at her gravesite along the North Platte River and continued on to Oregon, and three years later north to Puget Sound. In 1990 OCTA placed a plaque at her gravesite briefly telling her story.

Nathan settled on Chambers Prairie near Olympia where the family claimed over 2,000 acres of land. He volunteered with the Militia beginning in 1855 and was very active in community events. He was a member the Odd Fellows organization and Columbia Engine Company No. 1, the predecessor of the Olympia fire department. In 1857 all the family except Nathan and his brother James and family returned to Oregon. Nathan and James purchased the family land and remained here until their deaths. Nathan never remarried and died on September 30, 1893, and was interred in the family plot at the Odd Fellows Memorial Park.

In 2011 OCTA members Bob Kabel, Randy Brown, and Chuck Hornbuckle began their quest to place a plaque at Nathan's gravesite, which would be similar to Rachel's plaque. Bob and Randy developed the wording, and Chuck made local contacts to gain approval for the plaque installation.



Nathan Pattison's plaque being unveiled by Lacey Historical Society Co-Presidents Shirley Dziedzic and Nora Smith-Brown.

Aurora Colony Historical Society's Patrick Harris

Did you know that on August 6, 1931, Aurora's old Pioneer Hotel was torn down? Have you read the letter dated August 6, 1861, where Dr. Keil discusses the Union and the Civil War? These historical footnotes of Old Aurora could have been lost in time, valuable documents and artifacts eaten away by hungry mice in forgotten basements or attics if not for the vision of the Aurora Colony Historical Society and the efforts of its curator, Patrick Harris.

Recently Harris was recognized for his preservation achievements at the 31st Annual Oregon California Trail Association Conference in Clackamas, Oregon. The Distinguished Service award was presented to Patrick Harris by OCTA President John Krizek at the Conference awards dinner on July 23, 2013, at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas.

Harris was honored for his 30+ years of leading efforts to preserve the unique history of the Old Aurora Colony. He has also been influential in helping to identify, document, and preserve the artifacts, memorabilia, and hundreds of family histories related to Oregon City and the French Prairie of the North Willamette Valley.

Harris developed what was to become a life-long passion for the Old Aurora Colony while serving as a Portland State University graduate school intern in the 1970s. After receiving his master's degree, he served as Old Aurora Colony Museum Director from 1983 to 1996. From 1997 to 2006, he was Executive Director of the Museum of the Oregon Territory. In 2006 Patrick was asked to come back to the Old Aurora Colony Museum as its curator. In the last seven years Harris, under the Historical Society's direction, has expanded the museum collection, created an outreach program, and expanded the database for descendants of the original Colony Families. He recruited a much-needed assistant curator and brought grant dollars to exhibits and educational



John Krizek and Patrick Harris.

programs, including the highly successful living history program for 4th grade students at the historic Stauffer-Will Farm. His primary focus continues to be the development of Aurora family history files to encourage greater appreciation for family history, while also increasing knowledge of family roles in larger historical trends. Exhibits such as the current "Festival of Blue" help to illustrate these successful efforts as well as the continued requests by scholars to use the Museum's research library.

Harris's well-deserved award gives the Aurora Colony Historical Society another reason to celebrate its fifty years (1963–2013) of "Preserving the Past for the Future." Congratulations Patrick Harris!



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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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



2014 OCTA Convention
Kearney, Nebraska
August 5–9, 2014

2015 OCTA Convention
South Lake Tahoe, California
September 20–26, 2015

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