



# Northwest Trails

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

Volume 29, No. 2

Spring 2014

## Northwest Chapter 2014 Annual Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Northwest Chapter was held on Saturday, March 8, at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Following the business meeting, Dave Welch gave a presentation on the Oregon Trail Inventory Project that the NPS has authorized. Four teams will complete the field work, and volunteers are also needed to help with the paper work. After a buffet lunch, Dave continued with a description of the forms and data that will be recorded for the sites and segments. The next presentation was by Jerold Williams, a Lane County Historical Society volunteer, who spoke on the overland trail experience. The meeting ended with another successful raffle.



*Polly Jackson received the Distinguished Volunteer Award.*



*Rich Herman received the Ackerman Meritorious Achievement Award.*



*Shirlee Evans announced upcoming events for the Jane Elkins Bonney plaque.*



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## President's Message

The rainy season, with a little bit of snow this year, is about over and NW OCTAnS can come out of their burrows and enjoy the Eden at the End of the Trail.

Rich Herman, vice president and outings coordinator, has worked up another exciting season of outings. See his article elsewhere in this newsletter. Our convention is over. We discussed it and rated it at the chapter picnic in September and the annual meeting in March. It is time to look forward to the next conventions. This August the OCTA annual convention is in Nebraska and next year in California. Since the 2015 convention is in September, maybe we can have our chapter picnic that year in July and meet as a group in Lake Tahoe in September?

At the very well attended NWOCTA annual meeting in March at the Monarch Dave Welch outlined, in detail by power point presentation, the NPS project he is spearheading to inventory what is left of the trail in Oregon. He has formed four teams to look at segments and sites in Oregon and report back to NPS. He is training his team leaders and others in April at The Dalles. The teams will conduct the surveys throughout the summer. Contact Dave Welch if you are interested in participating.

Our annual hibernation is over and it's time to hit the trail!

—Jim Tompkins



*Jim Tompkins presiding at the annual chapter meeting.*

Dave Welch is coordinating the NW OCTA project to survey the High Potential (HP) sites and segments of the Oregon Trail in Oregon. Assistants are still needed for the project. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dave Welch, [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) or 360-923-0438.

# 2014 NW OCTA OUTINGS and ACTIVITIES

**April 23, Wednesday:** OHTAC is scheduled to meet with the Oregon Heritage Commission and the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries at 9:00 a.m. in Albany. At 1:00 p.m. they will depart for a tour of the Santiam Wagon Road. Contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net).

**April 24, Thursday:** Oregon Heritage Conference in Albany. Contact Glenn Harrison if you are interested. **Rescheduled Event:** Shirlee Evans is coordinating the marking of the Jane Elkins Bonney grave site at the historic Wamic cemetery south of Dufer. Randy Brown will be attending. Contact Shirlee Evans for details, 360-606-8930, [evans0575@comcast.net](mailto:evans0575@comcast.net).

**April 29, Tuesday:** Dave Welch will be conducting a training class for the leaders and attendees of the upcoming Oregon Trail survey (see below) in The Dalles at 9:00 a.m. Contact Dave to let him know you are interested in participating in the training as well as in the actual survey, if you have not already done so. He will assign you to one of the survey teams.

**Spring, Summer:** Dave Welch will be leading a project to survey High Potential sites and segments of the Oregon Trail. This will be an excellent opportunity to get involved in field work. Contact Dave Welch, [welchdj@comcast.net](mailto:welchdj@comcast.net) or 360-923-0438.

**May 17, Saturday:** Tea By the Sea benefit for Stevens-Crawford Heritage House. Entertainment by Anne-Louise Sterry, MOOT Museum in Oregon City. Contact Jim Tompkins for details.

**May 20, Tuesday (and perhaps Wednesday):** Oregon Trail marking and verification from Vale to Farewell Bend, OR. This is an opportunity to get involved in basic trail identification. Gail Carbiener is leading this outing and can be contacted at [mcgccarb@bendbroadband.com](mailto:mcgccarb@bendbroadband.com).

**June 7, Saturday:** Remembering Emma Day, book signing by Jane Kirkpatrick of the Emma Wagner Geisy book, at the Aurora Colony Museum. See Aurora website or Jim Tompkins for details.

**June 27–28, Friday-Saturday:** Emigrant Springs outing in the Blue Mountains, in conjunction with OHTAC (Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council). For details contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net).

**July 19, Saturday:** Mary Charlotte's Garden Party, 1:00–4:00 p.m., Philip Foster Farm; appearance by Mrs. Pittock and the Northwest Rose Historians.

**August 5–8:** OCTA National Convention, Kearney, NE. Watch for details in *News from the Plains* and check the OCTA website, [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org).

**Late Summer/Fall, TBA:** Field Trip to Gate Creek area of the Barlow Road, in Mt. Hood NF. This is a great opportunity for trail exploration close to Portland. Contact Henry Pittock or Paul Masee for details. We will include a visit to the Jane Bonney historic grave at the Wamic Lone Pine Pioneer Cemetery.

**September 5–7, Friday-Sunday:** Bonneville route in the John Day area in conjunction with OHTAC (Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council). For details contact Glenn Harrison, 541-926-4680, [gr.harrison@comcast.net](mailto:gr.harrison@comcast.net).

**October 11 or 18, Saturday:** Tentative dates for NW OCTA Annual Picnic and Fall Meeting, we need input and ideas from members for location and speakers. Please send your suggestions to Rich Herman, 360-576-5139, [buddy359@comcast.net](mailto:buddy359@comcast.net).

# The Well-Traveled Plaque

*By Roger Blair and Dennis Larsen*

In the course of researching and writing *Our Faces Are Westward: the 1852 Oregon Trail Journey of Edward Jay Allen* authors Dennis Larsen and Karen Johnson learned that a number of items on the OCTA plaque marking the David R. Koontz grave near Echo, Oregon, were incorrect. The plaque had an incorrect date for David's birth; it had his birth order wrong; it stated incorrectly that he was the brother-in-law of Moses Hale; it stated there were 24 wagons in the train instead of 32; it incorrectly stated that everyone in the train was related; it incorrectly stated that only five members of the wagon train carved their names into the rock wall at Names Hill, Wyoming; and finally it said it was unknown how David died.

The authors referred the new information to Randy Brown, chairman of the OCTA graves committee, and accordingly he ordered a new plaque with corrected information. In due time the plaque arrived at Randy's home in Douglas, Wyoming, but it needed to get to Echo for installation. Randy initially planned to come west to install it himself, but with one thing and another, that trip never happened. By coincidence, in September 2013, Dennis and his wife Pat traveled to Rocky Mountain National Park along a route that took them through Douglas. They met Randy for breakfast, picked up the plaque, wrapped it in towels, and stored it in a bin in their trailer for safekeeping. The plaque's grand adventure began.

It was evacuated with Dennis and Pat from the flooded town of Estes Park, Colorado, over 12,000-foot Trail Ridge Pass when record rains devastated the Colorado Front Range. It then made its way to Santa Fe and Taos where it sampled the Santa Fe Trail and spent a dark night in New Mexico after an uncomfortably close lightning strike knocked out the power. Next it ventured into Arizona and southern California and found its way to the de Anza Trail. Finally it made its way north out of California sampling the Applegate Trail and concluded this part of its journey with a run up the Cowlitz Trail from Portland to Olympia, Washington. There it sat until December when Roger Blair and Susan Doyle took the handoff and continued the relay, picking it up in the parking lot of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, heading *north* on I-5 for a Christmas visit.

After a short Christmas vacation in the Seattle area, the plaque finally arrived in Pendleton, only twenty miles from its final location. Yet the plaque was not done traveling. On a recent trip to Portland,

Roger and Susan decided to stop in Echo and install the plaque on their way. Apparently the plaque wanted to reach the end of the trail. One of the anchoring bolts for the old plaque was rusted so badly, it could not be removed. So the plaque continued on to Portland and then back to Pendleton. Finally, a week later, Roger was able to remove the rusted bolt with a chisel, and the well-traveled plaque with its updated information was installed at the end of March 2014. It seems the plaque traveled many more miles and only a couple of months longer than the pioneer whom it commemorates.



*Roger holding the old plaque after installing the new one.*

# Barlow Road Diary Quotes Needed

*By Henry Pittock*

As some of you may recall from the chapter meeting in March, Paul Masee, Rich Herman, and I did some exploration around Gate Creek last fall. Paul is planning another excursion for sometime this summer or fall, which is listed on the 2014 NW OCTA Outings schedule.

In the meantime, we are trying to get a better handle on the Barlow Road route in the vicinity of Rock Creek and Gate Creek. Stephen Dow Beckham prepared a report for Clackamas County (I believe) in 1989 and on pages 115–121 he included some diary quotes that refer to Barlow's gate (or similar terminology), along with the author's last name and date of travel. To make the list below, I used the COED database to obtain first names and titles. I have put an "\*" after the date for the ones that I already have copies of.

So I would like to ask if any of you have photocopies or typescripts or whatever of these in your possession. If so, would you please contact me by snail mail, email, or phone and tell me what you have? Right now, I'm only interested in copies of **the portion from the John Day River to Oregon City**, whether they went to The Dalles or took the Cutoff to the Barlow Road.

Please send to: Henry Pittock  
616 NW 34th St  
Corvallis, OR 97330

or email to: [hpittock3@mac.com](mailto:hpittock3@mac.com)

## **Diaries mentioning Barlow's gate (or similar terminology)**

- 1847 Crandall, Isom. Diary and papers of Isom Crandall 1847–1877.
- 1847 Harden, Absolom B. Trail Diary, 1847.
- 1848 Anderson, Wm. Wright. Overland Journal to the Pacific.
- 1851 \* Hadley, Amelia. Journal of Travails to Oregon.
- 1851 Johnson, John L. Crossing the plains.
- 1851 James, John Roger. Autobiography of John Roger James.
- 1851 Johnson, Rev. Neil. Excerpts from the diary of Rev. Neil Johnson
- 1851 James, Samuel. Diary, 1850–1851.
- 1851 \* Masterson, Martha Gay. One Woman's West: Recollections of the Oregon Trail and Settling the Northwest Country (1838–1916).
- 1851 Brandt, ?? Unknown first name. Reference to Barlow's gate is on page 25. Could not find this one in COED.
- 1852. Allen, ?. Unknown first name. Reference to gate is on page 108. Could not find this one in COED. Beckham's citation reads: (Allen, 1946: 108).
- 1852 Conyers, Enoch W. "Diary of E. W. Conyers, A pioneer of 1852, Now of Clatskanie, Oregon." Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association (1905).
- 1852 Kerns, John T. "Journal of Crossing the plains to Oregon in 1852." Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association (1914).
- 1852 Sharp, Joe H. Crossing the Plains in 1852.
- 1852 Sharp, James Meikle. Recollections. Brief account of the experience of James Meikle Sharp. This may not be the title, but a description.
- 1852 Kennedy, William Claborn. Westward Kennedys. Written 1909? Reference to Johnathan W Sharp.
- 1853 Gaylord, Orange. "Diary of Orange Gaylord to California and Oregon in 1850; A Second Trip to Oregon in 1853." Transactions of the Oregon Pioneer Association (1917).

1853. \* Knight, Amelia. Iowa to the Columbia River.  
 1853 Bond, George. "George Bond's Journal of the Family's Immigration to Oregon in 1853."  
 1853 Dinwiddie, David. "Overland from Indiana to Oregon: The Dinwiddie Journal."  
 1853 Goltra, Elizabeth Julia. "Journal Kept by Elizabeth Julia Goltra of Her Travels across the plains in 1853."  
 1854 Condit, Philip. Diary of Philip Condit.  
 1854 Condit, Sylvanus. Sylvanus Condit Diary, 1854.  
 1863 Bailey, James L. Diary 1863.  
 1947 \* Beard, Chaplain John W. *Saddles East over the Old Oregon Trail*. Published 1949.

**I also have, although not in Beckham's list:**

- 1852 \* Adams, Cecelia and Blank, Parthenia. Twin Sisters on the Oregon Trail. In *Best of Covered Wagon Women*, Kenneth L. Holmes, 2008.

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## Glenn Harrison Receives DAR Appreciation Award

At the Centennial Celebration of the Linn Chapter of DAR on Tuesday, February 11, at Saint Mary's Church in Albany, Glenn Harrison was presented the National Society DAR Community Service Award in appreciation for all he has done to preserve and promote local and Oregon history.



*Amanda Pool, Linn Chapter Regent, presented the DAR Community Service certificate and pin to Glenn at the chapter's centennial celebration.*

# OCTA Midyear Board Meeting Notes

## Independence, March 13, 2014

*By Bill Symms*

Chapter presidents need to have their treasurer's reports to National as soon as possible after September 30 each year.

We need to come up with a better plan for National Conventions. They were expecting \$30,000 from the convention in Oregon and received \$20,000, which did not cover the cost of the convention. An ad hoc committee has been formed to study the options and see what can be done to save money. In other words, what can the National office do and what can the local chapters do to help cut the costs.

Partnership for the National Trails System will probably increase our share of costs, which means that we may need to look at cost versus benefits to see if we want to stay with them. No action taken, just information for future.

There will be a new library policy by the summer conventions in regards to contributing personal library collections to OCTA and how they must be handled to get deductions from the IRS.

The National Trails Intermountain Region is working on an interactive trail map that will available sometime later this year.

When chapters get new members, the chapter Presidents will be responsible for notifying Kathy Conway at headquarters who they are so the chapter can get credit for them at the national level. Our goal is to keep the membership the current level of 1,400 people or higher. Each chapter President was sent a message by Duane Illes about their chapter quota for recruitment. Chapter presidents need to let headquarters know when someone new is recruited so the chapter can get credit toward their goal.

Article 5, Section 9 of the by-laws had to be changed to meet the new National Preservation Policy. Acted on by board and passed unanimously.

Candy Moulton, NFP editor, reported that Will Bagley's new book about South Pass will be out shortly.

Dave Welch's Oregon Trail Inventory project was discussed briefly, and I added what I knew to the mix. All agreed it was a good thing and are anxious to initiate it in their chapters.

Roger Blair, Dave Welch, and Bill Martin make up the new Hall of Fame Committee. This committee has been authorized to nominate the candidates for the first Hall of Fame award. The candidates will be voted on by the membership later this year. Five candidates will be inducted this first year. The winners will be notified at the Kearney Convention. The cost will be budgeted and paid by National. Motion was passed unanimously.

The National Frontier Trails Center is expanding. The first phase is completed and that was the purchase of adjoining land. Phase 2 is interior work and it is taking place as we speak. Phase 3 will be outside work in the future. The pioneer woman statue was stolen last year and destroyed. The perpetrators have been arrested and dealt with. All of this may necessitate moving OCTA headquarters in the future. Possibly to the old house on the property that needs a lot of work, TLC, and money. It is unclear who would have to pay for that. After seeing the house in person, I don't think we can afford to fix the house up. It would be cheaper to burn it down and build a new one.

We need to use the funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund more for projects. This comes from the royalties from off shore oil production. It amounts to \$12 to \$16 billion dollars a year but only \$900,000,000 can be used annually. Politicians don't like to share the money with outside groups, as they like to use it for their pet home area projects. It is to be used for public projects, so we need to come up with more public projects.

*In Pursuit of a Dream* – So far we have earned \$5,006.25. An anonymous donation paid off our \$10,000 endowment draw last year. Our distribution agreement expired, so we now own the complete rights to the film. We are now creating our own DVDs in-house and selling them via our website, store settings, and at events.

The 2014 National Convention will coincide with the 150th anniversary of the 1864 Indian raids in the region. There will be a pre-convention tour on 8/4. The board meeting will be 8/5 and early registration will be from 1-4 on 8/4. Bus tours will be Thursday and Saturday with tours on the Mormon Trail on the north side of the Platte River, Plum Creek, Little Blue River, 32 Mile Station, and other sites. Thursday night will be author's night. Post convention tour will be 8/10 to Julesburg. Host hotel will be the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Friday will be speakers and demonstrations, from making quilts on the trail to photos using glass negatives. There will be workshops on Friday night. Saturday will be the barbeque at Ft. Kearny, where we will be entertained by Civil War reenactments, Abe Lincoln, the Pony Express, and ancient oxen—but I don't know what they do to entertain folks.

Funding from the NPS will be greatly reduced or completely eliminated in the coming year. There are other sources out there that NPS can help find, and it will take some creativity to find the proper funding. All agencies are facing this situation of reduced funding and budgets.

NPS and Oregon SHPO are going to do an inventory of the OT Kiosks statewide and see what needs to be done to get them up to speed and looking good again.

Having a long range management plan is becoming more and more critical to get funding with all the competition for federal and grant dollars. Those who do not have one will not get the money. Partnerships with other groups are going to become critical. Maybe some groups you may not care for may become partners out of necessity. Different trails that share same corridors may need to look at combining resources, such as Oregon Trail and Lewis and Clark Trail groups, as well as local government groups and local interest groups, such as Rails to Trails and Historic Trails or Bicycle and Historic Trails.

The key to success in the Kansas City area was partnerships with local and national groups and stakeholders: NPS, City of Kansas City, Hickman Mills School District, State DOT, DAR, local and state Port Authority, local and state parks and recreation, historical societies, land donation by private owners, Federal TE Grants, Private Corporations, Three Trails West, and Pedestrian Intermodal Connector District to name a few.

Any trails plan needs to be part of a master plan as historic trails generate a lot of tourism dollars in local communities. They are part of a larger transit system and qualify for transportation dollars and highway funds. Partner with other local groups to get in plan if need be. Don't be afraid of change!!

Recent Supreme Court decision that may have some impact on Rails to Trails, large railroads such as UP, NP and others built under the Railroad Act of 1862, any land vacated by railroads will be given back to original owner. So who would that be?

DAR has some money available for signage.

In 2016 NPS will be 100 and a lot of activities are planned. We can be part of those plans if we are ready. National Trail System will be 50 in a few years, and good things will happen then. I don't know what, but we will need to be ready.

The 2015 Convention will be September 20–26 at Harvey's in State Line, Nevada. It will be costly.

Meeting adjourned.

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## **2014 OCTA Annual Convention Kearney, Nebraska August 5–9, 2014**

### **1864—Drama on the Medicine Road**

One hundred and fifty years later . . . Learn both sides of the story!

1864 was a year of trauma for trail travelers and Native Americans alike in Nebraska Territory. The 2014 OCTA Convention will examine this intense time with respect to all parties involved. Kearney, Nebraska, is uniquely situated on the westward trails and is widely recognized for its historical relationship to the Native American tribes in the region.

During this OCTA convention, participants will:

- Honor descendants of pioneers and Native Americans involved with the Drama on the Medicine Road.
- Tour various 1864 sites including Plum Creek Massacre, Martin Brothers Incident, Oak Grove/The Narrows, Genoa Indian School, and Midway Station.
- Hear the stories of 1864 from Southern Cheyenne, Lakota, and Pawnee tribal speakers; trail travelers; and settlers.
- Explore Historic Fort Kearny and The Great Platte River Road Archway.

**It is the Right Time, the Right Place, and the Right Program. Please plan Right Now to attend the 2014 OCTA Conference in Kearney.**



## *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.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



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

**1864—Drama on the  
Medicine Road**

### *Northwest Trails*

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