



# Northwest Trails

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

**Volume 37, No. 2**

**Spring 2022**

## President's Message

Spring has arrived (so they say), but we are still experiencing cold weather here in the Willamette Valley. However, our chapter business is still moving forward. The April ZOOM meeting was presented on the 9th, and Robin Baker gave a very interesting look at his extensive study of the wagon chutes along the Barlow Road. I appreciate his method of overlaying various maps so that we can see the many theories of where the road was coming down the west side of Mt. Hood. It isn't an easy task to find remnants of the road 176 years after it was opened.

The work on the book collection at the storage unit is still going forward. The existing books have been sorted by subject and the harder work of listing what we have is moving forward. Many thanks to Phyllis, Rich, and Sherrill for their help in organizing the collection. It will take several months for us to list everything, and maybe we will have the inventory available by the time we have a chapter meeting in September.

We are making plans to have an in-person chapter meeting this coming September. We will be looking for a place to meet near The Dalles. I hope that several of you are planning to attend the OCTA Convention in Casper, Wyoming August 28 – September 2, 2022. It will be the 40th Annual Convention for OCTA.

The Chapter still needs a Vice-President and a Preservation Officer. Please let me know if you are interested in filling one of these positions.

Oregon Trail remnants are at risk in all the states it passed through at this time of new and expansive power projects. In Oregon the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line project along with the many wind projects along the Columbia are on the route of the Oregon Trail. We need to keep track of where these projects are and how they affect the remaining sections of the trail. Our main mission is to preserve what is left of the trails by working with the various companies and state and federal entities to mitigate the destruction of existing remnants.

Sallie Riehl, President

## Treasurer's Report

By Glenn Harrison

### NW OCTA Finances to 4/15/22

Beginning Balance 10/1/21	\$23,518.92
Income to 4/15/22	\$1,915.00
Expenses to 4/15/22	\$4,659.41
Balance on 4/15/22	\$20,774.51

## NW Chapter Directory

**President**  
Sallie Riehl

**Vice President**  
TBA

**Treasurer**  
Glenn Harrison

**Secretary**  
Jenny Miller

**Directors**  
Andy Anderson

Polly Jackson

Dave Welch

**Chapter Website**  
Sharon Brown

**Communications Chair**  
Marley Shurtleff

**Mapping Chair**  
Robert Baker

**Membership Chair**  
TBA

**Preservation Officer**  
TBA



## Northwest OCTA

## Volunteers Needed for Two Upcoming Events

I just crawled out of my burrow and saw the sun. That means it must be time to get out and do something. We have two upcoming events that I need to get some volunteers to help out at our information tables. In both cases, we have showcased the Oregon Trail and especially the Barlow Road by having maps and books for the visitors to look at and to answer questions.

The Philip Foster Farm is having an event on Saturday, May 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Besides myself, I need one or two others. They are located at 22912 SE Hwy 211 in Eagle Creek. Their website is [philipfosterfarm.com](http://philipfosterfarm.com) if you would like more information on what they do. There are usually about a dozen vendors selling a variety of goods. This is actually their "Sawmill Day," so there will be exhibits about them. Usually there are some historical or genealogy society folks around also. All of the farm's facilities will be open to visit.

Secondly, the Oregon Lavender Farm will be having their annual Clackamas County Lavender Festival on Saturday June 25 and Sunday June 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. I'll need quite a few volunteers for this event. You can pick either day, or both days, and also morning or afternoon. They are located at 20949 S Harris Road, about 8 miles east of Oregon City. For more information, go to their website at [www.libertynatural.com](http://www.libertynatural.com). The Barlow Road passes through the SW corner of the farm and is marked with Carsonites, but the ruts are not very obvious. This is a really nice show and tell time for us to talk with folks about the Oregon Trail. In fact, several local landowners have stopped to tell us they think there may be ruts on their property, and thanks to them we have located three or four segments that we had not found before. There are usually about 50 vendors, wine and beer, about four food carts for lunch, plus live music.

Please contact me if you would like to help. Thanks.

Henry Pittock  
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# 2022 Northwest OCTA Event Calendar

<b>April</b>	4/7 – Wood Lot Road Exploration (Baker) 4/9 – 10:00 am NW Chapter Meeting. Laurel Hill Chutes, Robin Baker (Z)
<b>May</b>	5/7 – NW Chapter Meeting (Z), 1:00 PM, Frank Tortorich, “California Borders” 5/21 – Philip Foster Farm (Pittock) 5/10 – 5/13 Emigrant Springs Field and Deadman Pass Field Research (Baker)
<b>June</b>	6/4 – Gate Creek East Hike (Baker) 6/11 – NW Chapter Meeting (Z) 1:00 PM, Family History Presentations 6/18 – Gate Creek West Hike (Baker) 6/25-26 – Lavender Farm Family History Days (Pittock) TBD Barlow Cutoff Exploration (Baker)
<b>July</b>	No July Zoom meeting 7/4 – Local Fourth of July Events 7/9 – Laurel Hill Hike (Baker) 7/17 – Barlow Pass Exploration (Baker) 7/23 – Barlow Pass Hike (Baker) 7/31 – Steilacoom: Orr Home, Museum, Salmon Bake
<b>August</b>	No August Zoom Meeting 8/28 – OCTA Convention, Casper, Wyoming TBD Barlow Road Immigrant Springs Exploration (Baker)
<b>Sept</b>	No September Zoom meeting 9/? – Chapter Meeting at The Dalles
<b>Oct</b>	10/2 – Steilacoom Apple Squeeze 10/? – NW Chapter Meeting (Z). Presentation TBD
<b>Nov</b>	11/12 – NW Chapter Meeting (Z). Presentation TBD

## Membership News

We have been fortunate to gain several new members since the first of this year. We welcome the following persons to the chapter:

Camille Bradford; Craig and Kirsten Henry; Sharon Karr; Margaret Randolph; Mary Ellen West; and Robert Woodard.

We are pleased to have you as our members. Please join us whenever you can for our special ZOOM meetings. Let us know when you have questions about the trails and about any special outings or meetings that we will have during the year. We hope you enjoy our quarterly newsletter *Northwest Trails*, and you will find our contact information there. If you have an article that you would like to contribute, or a story about your ancestors who came on the trail, we would appreciate hearing about it. We hope to meet you in September when we have our chapter meeting.

Sallie Riehl, Acting membership chair

# A Nugget from the Research Trail

By Roger Blair

*For me, a great enjoyment of researching for an article or book are the “rabbit holes” that attract my attention (and much too much time). These usually have no relationship to the subject I am researching. In researching, there are usually many diversions, some purely interesting, others a window into the time period, and still others sad or funny. The following is a quite funny article I came across that seemed a bit exaggerated, yet provides a little insight into the male aspect of marriage—or is it the female aspect?*

*This story is presented exactly as published.*

## A Marital Soliloquy

As our wedding anniversary is drawing near, I can't refrain from glancing back at the hill of life we have been climbing up. Nearly fifteen years have passed since the journey was begun and now at the respective ages of forty and thirty-five we are nearing the divide and will soon start down the incline side, looking down the side we just came up. The trip don't seem to have been altogether an unpleasant one; of course, there were occasional “storms” and “mutterings” and rough and rugged places that were difficult to cross, and which have left a mark like the dots on a map that indicate the capitals. That almost grown-out scar on the left side of my head was caused in the dim past, by the premature explosion of the frying pan. Viewing the circumstances from this remote distance, I don't blame her much. It happened before I had learned it was unsafe to call her “flap-jacks” “sore-eyed dyspeptic breeders.” A great change has come over my appetite since then. Perhaps from lack of training in our earlier married days, if I thought the victuals were not properly cooked, I said so; I don't say so now. The hair on top of my head there was once awfully thin, but I believe it is coming in again. The grip in her fingers is not nearly as strong as it used to be. We have fared fairly well, considering we didn't have much to begin with. Luxuries we neither cared much for, unless when presented by kind neighbors, then of course, it would have been a breach of good manners to refuse them. I am willing to give her credit for the able manner in which she has managed to provide the table with bread and meat. I, too, have not been tardy in doing my share. As long as the ditch ran, we were never scarce of water. I remember well the time she put “kerosene” instead of “brandy” in the mince meat. I tried to remonstrate with her, but it was no use; she said it was the stuff I had brought from town and if I had drunk the brandy I could eat the kerosene, and eat it I did. That restless, anxious habit I have of rolling my eyes around was acquired before we got our cushioned furniture, and let me say right here, and I say it in the kindest spirit, if you young married men will profit by my experience, if by any possible means, the first thing you do furnish your house with cushioned furniture; when it hits, it don't hurt half as bad as the old-fashioned hardwood kind. We have two daughters well on the way to womanhood, and if one of them don't make some youth's hair thin and gray long before he has reached the age of maturity, then she will not have the close resemblance of her mother that I think she has.

Willis

“Meditations on the Muddy,” *East Oregonian*, January 8, 1889, p. 3

## NPS Study Now Online

The NPS-contracted research study “First Year in Oregon, 1840-1869: A Narrative History,” which was completed in October 2021, is now available online.

[https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/upload/3195\\_FirstYearInOregon\\_HistResearchAssociates\\_Full-FINAL\\_210928.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/upload/3195_FirstYearInOregon_HistResearchAssociates_Full-FINAL_210928.pdf)

Below is a summary of the study:

### **First Year in Oregon, 1840-1869: A Narrative History**

When dealing with events as significant as overland migration along the Oregon Trail, it is easy to focus on the broad outlines without delving deeper into the lived experiences of historical actors. In October 2021, the National Park Service, National Trails office (NTIR) received the “First Year in Oregon, 1840-1869: A Narrative History”—an attempt to explore what exactly awaited the thousands of emigrants who reached Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Where did new arrivals stay? What did they eat? Did Oregon meet their expectations? The full report, completed by a contractor, spans over 200 pages and addresses these questions and more. Notably, the study also highlights the effects of Oregon’s settlement on non-white communities, such as the Kalapuyan and Chinookan people eventually forced by the US government to leave the Willamette Valley.

After traversing the roughly 2,000-mile Oregon Trail, overlanders arrived at their destination: the fertile and rain-soaked Willamette Valley. The first year in Oregon presented challenges for new arrivals: Where would they sleep? What would they eat? Could they count on anyone to help them? How might they work to earn food, clothing, or money?

This narrative history describes how overlanders survived their first year in Oregon and how the first-year experience evolved from 1840 to 1869. While many arrived in Oregon City in the 1840s, or in Portland in later years, they settled far and wide across the Willamette Valley, Umpqua Valley, Red River Valley, Clatsop Plains, and other parts of Oregon and Washington. They often spent their first winters in temporary accommodations with friends, relatives, or strangers willing to rent rooms, and they only later found land where they could build their own houses and live more permanently.



## *Northwest Trails*

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MASTHEAD: Replica of *The Old Oregon Trail* bronze relief sculpture created in 1924 by Avarad Fairbanks for Oregon Trail monuments.



## **40th OCTA Convention**

*Leaving the Platte*

**August 28–September 3  
2022**

**Casper, Wyoming**

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