



EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Jere L. Krakow

Jere Krakow had a distinguished career with the National Park Service (NPS), beginning as a park historian at Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1983. He worked on projects that included histories of parks, parkways, the Wilderness Road, and maps of national historic trails.

In 1995 he was named Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region that administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program.

After retirement in 2007 he became active in OCTA and other trail organizations. He was a member of the OCTA board for six years and served as National Trails Preservation Officer. He also served as the organization's liaison to the Partnership for the National Trails System and received the Greg Franzwa Distinguished Service Award in 2017, OCTA's highest honor.

An Oregon Trail marker near the farm where he grew up in Nebraska inspired his lifelong interest in Western American history and the trails.

After graduation from Peru State College, he received a master's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate from the University of Colorado.

From 1967 to 1983 he was a professor of history at Missouri State University, where he taught courses in American History, American Indians and the west.

During his career at NPS he had a long interest in the preservation of the Alcove Spring site in Marshall County, Kansas. His efforts led to its designation as a certified Historic Site on the Oregon National Historic Trail.

Alcove Spring is widely regarded as the most significant historic site on the trail in Kansas and he expressed a desire for his ashes to be scattered there after his death. In June 2019 a service took place at Alcove Spring at which the Krakow family invited those in attendance to participate in the scattering of the ashes.

Biography

- Born 1938, Davenport, Nebraska
- Died 2017, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Married Jan Lillethorup, 1960

Achievements

- Historian, university professor
- Distinguished career with the National Park Service
- OCTA board member and National Trails Preservation Officer