

SIGNMASTERS REPORT

Several attempts have been made in the past by trail groups to verify the location of the Captain's Creek Crossing of the Oregon-California Trail, which is near 135th and Evening Star Road a mile east of the Douglas County Line.



Pictured above in the bed of the Captain's Creek Crossing near the Douglas County line on August 22 is (l-r) Rob Cook, Lee Kroh, local resident Bob Miller, and Pete Cuppage.

KCAHTA played a key role in locating the actual crossing site. In 2006, when **Rob** (cont page four)

(cont from page two) **Cook, Drew Bodner and Lee Kroh** were in the area conducting the annual inspection of our signs, they met a local resident Bob Miller who has lived and farmed in the area all of his life.

He informed them that he knew where the crossing was and would be glad to show it to them at a later date. He said he and the neighbor boys would ride their horses to the crossing and had fished and swam in the creek at the crossing many times in their youth.

This past August 22, **Lee Kroh** contacted Mr. Miller and **Lee, Rob Cook, Pete Cuppage and Ross Marshall** met him at his nearby house on Evening Star Road and went to the crossing.

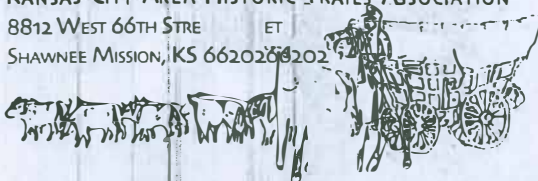
We all agreed with Mr. Miller. It had low banks and a good rock bottom of stones for 50-100 yards in both directions. It also lined up with the nearest 1855 General Land Office trail survey points. The trail proceeds northwesterly (not visible) about a half-mile through some hay fields and intercepts Evening Star Road at one of our markers.

There was an additional point of interest. A couple of diaries of the 1850s mentioned inscriptions of names on a boulder somewhere near the crossing. Mr. Miller knew nothing about such inscriptions and we could not find any boulders in the entire area. The only rocks were the countless small plate-sized flat rocks in the crossing itself.

Getting to know local landowners is indispensable in finding the trail and we appreciate Bob Miller's help in locating this important crossing.

Signmasters have reported that some signs need to be replaced due to fading or damage. We are addressing the situations. **Lee Kroh, Chair**

KANSAS CITY AREA HISTORIC TRAILS ASSOCIATION
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