



EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Margaret Long, M.D.

Margaret Long began her medical career in New York City in 1903 and moved to Denver, Colorado two years later to recover from tuberculosis. She established a medical practice, became affiliated with hospitals specializing in tubercular conditions, undertook epidemiologic research and helped found a sanatorium for indigent women. She also became one of the leaders in the women's suffrage movement in Colorado.

After moving to Colorado Dr. Long developed a passionate interest in the history and settlement of the West and began writing historical articles and books. She made vacation trips to Death Valley between 1921 and 1929. She and a friend who accompanied her were the first women to enter Death Valley alone. Their trips led to Long's first book, *The Shadow of the Arrow*, published in 1941, which traced the route of the emigrants of 1849 and described the hardships they experienced on the way to the gold fields in California.

Biography

- Born: 1873, Boston, Massachusetts
- Died: 1957, Denver, Colorado
- Physician, historian and social activist

Achievements

- Graduate of Smith College and Johns Hopkins University Medical School
- Prominent physician in Denver, Colorado
- Noted Western historian and author
- Leader in women's suffrage movement in Colorado

Automobile Logs of the Smoky Hill and Other Pioneer Trails in Colorado, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, was published in 1943. *The Smoky Hill Trail* was first published in 1943, followed by *The Oregon Trail* and *The Santa Fe Trail*, published in 1954. The latter three books were a trilogy with the same subtitle, *Following the Old Historic Pioneer Trails on the Modern Highway* and provided detailed directions, mile-by-mile and turn-by-turn, on how to reach the sites and markers she had located along the historic trails.

Dr. Long also wrote a collection of poetry, published as *Enchanted Desert* in 1942, and edited volumes of family papers.

In 1944 the State Historical Society of Colorado awarded Dr. Long its first Citation for Distinguished Historical Service in recognition of her work on the Smoky Hill and other trails. In 1954 the American Pioneer Trails Association awarded her its Citation for "distinguished service to the cause of preserving our Western trails and the traditions of American pioneers."