

# SPANISH TRACES



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Penrith Town Centre

Photo: David Fallowfield

## OSTA Plans British Tour with Workman Chapter

The Old Spanish Trail Association will join members of the William Workman Chapter in Penrith, Cumbria, England, for a tour of the area from which the Workman brothers traveled to America and the Old Spanish Trail. Beginning in Manchester, England, on June 26, the tour includes the Lake District National Park and southwest Scotland.

Seminars about the Workman brothers will be held on June 27 in Penrith, where many of the OSTA chapter members live, followed by a tour of the town's historic district.

The full itinerary is on page 13. Space is limited, so sign up now.

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# THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Old Spanish Trail (OST), one of America's long-distance pioneer trade routes, is recognized by Congress as a National Historic Trail. From 1829 to 1848, traders and pack mules followed the OST on a six-week trek from northern New Mexico to Southern California, where woolen goods from New Mexico were swapped for horses and pack stock raised on California's ranchos. Many took the trail – traders, frontiersmen, trappers, families, military expeditions and Indian guides.

The mission of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) is to study, preserve, protect, interpret and promote appropriate use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT). OSTA promotes public awareness of the OSNHT and its multicultural heritage through publications, a website and interpretive activities; by encouraging research; and by partnering with governments and private organizations. We encourage you to join OSTA, help in trail preservation, and increase appreciation of the multicultural heritage of the American Southwest.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.oldsouthspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldsouthspanishtrail.org)

The OSTA website has an interactive map highlighting scenic trail locations, and is the place to go for both general background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail including a bibliography, a listing of relevant books with links to sites where they can be purchased, and a regularly updated news page that contains links to government reports, activities of OSTA members and other news related to the trail. The web page also links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites that have links to public documents and maps of the OSNHT. Copies of the DVD *Old Spanish Trail Suite*, a CD of back issues of *Spanish Traces*, books and pins can be purchased from the site. Memberships (new or renewal) may also be paid on the OSTA website.

## Old Spanish Trail Association Membership Form

Memberships run for twelve months and include three issues per year of our journal, *Spanish Traces*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 of your membership supports your local chapter.

Indicate your chapter affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Types

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Individual</b>              | <b>\$25/year</b> |
| <b>Family</b>                  | <b>\$30/year</b> |
| <b>Sustaining</b>              | <b>\$50/year</b> |
| <b>Student</b>                 | <b>\$12/year</b> |
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Pay online at [www.oldsouthspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldsouthspanishtrail.org)  
or mail your check to:

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Email Judy with questions to  
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*Spanish Traces* is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. *Spanish Traces* welcomes submission of articles, book reviews and OST-related news. OSTA assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors. *Spanish Traces* is copyrighted to OSTA in its entirety, but copyright to individual articles is retained by the author. The next deadline for submissions is July 10, 2014. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Editor.

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## President's Corner

by Ashley J. Hall  
OSTA President

### Rendezvous Along the OST

One of our goals as President and Secretary of OSTA is to rendezvous with OSTA state directors, chapter presidents and members as we travel the Old Spanish Trail to better understand and assess their needs and help them celebrate their successes. On February 9, we successfully completed our first extended seven-day OSTA tour, covering some 1,789 miles. Following are the highlights of our rendezvous' along the Trail.

Initially our plan was to depart Las Vegas, Nevada, on Monday morning, February 3. However, to get ahead of an oncoming winter storm, we departed on Sunday evening, February 2 around 7 p.m., stayed in Winslow, AZ that night and then traveled on to Albuquerque, NM the next day. In Albuquerque we met with Ruth

Friesen, Editor of *Spanish Traces*, to discuss several items to enhance OSTA's efforts to continue the improvement of this valuable printed publication: timely OST articles, book reviews, high quality photos, and the need for OSTA members and others to continue to produce significant research on the Trail. The principal issue facing OSTA is identifying the OSTA resources needed to accent *Traces* as a premier National Historic Trail Association publication.

Second, on Tuesday, we traveled on to Santa Fe where we met with New Mexico State Director Margaret Sears and Pat Kuhlhoff, president of the local chapter of OSTA, where Dennis Ditmanson, OSTA Manager, joined us. Here Margaret and Pat briefed us on state and chapter issues, with Pat providing an excellent overview of the 2015 OSTA Conference, a joint "Three-Trail Conference" (OSTA, SFTA, Santa Fe Trail Association and CARTA, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association), scheduled for the Santa Fe Convention Center on September 17-20, 2015.

Third, in the late afternoon on Tuesday, we met with Mr. Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region Office (NTIR), and staff to review the NPS responsibility for the National Historic Trails and the administration of the OSTA Cooperative Agreement. OSTA is keenly aware of the limited funding that is available to carry out the specific mission statements and

goals associated with NTIR and the potential impact such continued funding limits could have on other National Historic Trail groups, including OSTA.

Fourth, on Wednesday morning, February 5, Margaret Sears, Lorna, Dennis and I met with Mr. Jesse Juen, Director of the NM BLM Office in Santa Fe, to review and execute the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that has been in the planning/drafting stages for the past several months. The BLM meeting also included Mr. David Evens and Mr. Gary Torres, the BLM District and Field Managers for the Farmington Area. Following the execution of the MOU, we discussed the implementation of provisions of the MOU which focused on better communication, cooperation and support between the NM BLM and OSTA.



Ashley Hall and Jesse Juen signing the Memorandum of Understanding between OSTA and the BLM.

Fifth, on Wednesday afternoon, we departed Santa Fe for Ignacio, Colorado, where we were to meet with Mr. Mark Franklin and Dr. James Jefferson, along with a group of American Indians and others at the Sky Ute Resort. Our planned travel route initially took us through Espanola, Abiquiu and Chama; however, this route was sadly interrupted by a major snow storm in north central New Mexico/south central Colorado. Therefore, we diverted our initial planned route for the safer, drier express highway between Albuquerque and Farmington, New Mexico, where we saw firsthand some of America's largest oil and natural gas fields being worked. We arrived in Ignacio, Colorado, Wednesday evening where we met Mr. Franklin and Dr. Jefferson and several Ute Tribal members and other OSTA interested individuals who are forming the new Four Corners Chapter of OSTA. The enthusiasm about the OST around the dinner table at the Sky Ute Resort that evening was contagious as we discussed OSTA's progress in that area and the local planned involvement.

Sixth, on Thursday morning, following a breakfast with Dr. Jefferson and Dr. Doug Knudson, we traveled to Durango to meet Mr. Franklin to update banking information for OSTA at Wells Fargo Bank. Once that was accomplished, we traveled to Cortez, Colorado, where we tipped our hats to the 2013 Conference Center and Holiday Inn as we passed,

and stopped to buy several packs of native beans and flour at a local grocery store. From Cortez, we drove to Monticello, Moab, Green River, and Price, Utah, over a very snowy Soldier's Summit as we dropped down into Utah Valley at Spanish Fork, Utah, before catching I-15 to reach our Utah destination of Salt Lake City. In Salt Lake, Lorna and I met with Ms. Teresa Wellborn, OSTA Archivist, to review OSTA archival files and develop a table of contents to identify the contents. Teresa outlined a pathway for the future regarding OSTA archives, in view of the options that are available to us in today's high technology world. (It rained on us the entire time we were in SLC.)

On early Sunday morning, February 9, we headed south for the warmer and dryer climbs of Las Vegas via I-15; however, we continued our storm laden OSTA tour by passing through more rain and more snow as we finally caught up with the sunshine at St. George, UT. We arrived home safely almost seven days to the hour from our departure time the previous Sunday evening. Was the trip a success? We both say our OSTA Rendezvous' along the Trail were outstanding successes.

Please allow us to express our deep appreciation to all of the OSTA members and friends we met along the Trail in our separate rendezvous' in New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. Our next trip is planned for Arizona and California sometime during 2014. We are

also planning a rendezvous with the Utah chapters on the second Saturday in June at our mountain cabin at Duck Creek, Utah, above Cedar City. All of the Utah OSTA chapter presidents, the OSTA state director and others are welcome to attend this one-day planning session. Dennis, Lorna and I will work with State Director Steve Heath, the chapter presidents and the OSTA executive committee to create a focused planning/analysis session to determine how and where OSTA might assist in growing chapters along the OST in Utah and elsewhere.

Lastly, our plan is to visit the William Workman Chapter in Northern England during the last week of June and first week of July 2014. Our visit to the UK will include meeting and celebrating with the OSTA Chapter there, and touring Northern England and Scotland before we return sometime around July 6. At present, we have nine OSTA members who have indicated a desire to travel with us. If you are interested in participating in this historical/educational OSTA tour, please let us know at [ashleyhall7@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyhall7@yahoo.com).

See you on the Trail!

**Ashley J. Hall, President**  
**Lorna M. Hall, Secretary**

**Discover the Old Spanish  
Trail Association on the web  
[www.oldspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org)**



## Manager Musings

by Dennis Ditmanson  
Association Manager

Since the last issue of *Spanish Traces* I've had the privilege of again experiencing bits and pieces of the Trail. Most recently, I spent a couple of days with the staff of the Bureau of Land Management's Farmington (New Mexico) Field Office in the Largo Canyon area and in the Glade Run Recreation Area. As you may know, this part of New Mexico is dominated by oil and gas development and I was prepared for a "scene of devastation" but in actuality I found it was possible to experience many places along the Armijo route where the pumping stations, tanks, and roads did not overly intrude on the landscape. And, with the recently developed Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM's New Mexico State Office and OSTA now in place and signed, the staff in the Farmington District is eager to

begin to work with us to identify projects which will enhance the interpretation and protection of the Trail in that overall region.

Being on the Trail also brought to mind the occasional request that I receive via the OSTA website from individuals and groups wondering where to go to "get on the Old Spanish Trail." Overall they are looking for that "boots on the ground" experience that comes with being right on the resource. Unfortunately, our Trail hasn't yet been developed to the point that we can direct potential travelers to this or that trailhead or piece of a route that can be hiked, biked, or ridden. Our federal partners in the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service are hard at work on completing the draft of the long-anticipated Comprehensive Management Plan, but I propose that the time has come for OSTA to get a head start on a couple of tasks. For example, it is standard practice for a national historic trail to have an "Auto Tour" route along which travelers can get a feel for the landscape traversed by the Trail, but not necessarily following its exact route. At the upcoming Board of Directors meeting in Kanab, Utah (April 25-26), I'm going to challenge each State Director to propose which roads in their locale should be considered for that designation. If you have some ideas, pass them along to your respective Director.

Those "boots on the ground" requests that I receive represent

one of the best constituency building opportunities we have. Getting travelers out on the trail is the first step to making them Trail advocates and supporters. So the second task is to identify one stretch of Trail in each of the Trail states that is safe, accessible, and which would afford a quality visitor experience. As members, your challenge is to think about those places which might fit the general criteria I identified. Where is the location? How would visitors get there? Who owns the land? What improvements might be needed? How might it be interpreted? Again, get your ideas to your State Director.

Both of our agency partners, the BLM and the NPS, have programs for special projects and we are often asked to submit ideas for consideration as these funds come available. Your thoughts and suggestions will be invaluable in putting together strong proposals which will compete well in this process.

I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

And, don't forget to put the upcoming conference on your calendars. October 16-19 in Las Vegas, Nevada. More information is available on our website at [www.oldspanishtrail.org](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org). See you in Las Vegas.

## Chapter Reports

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### Fish Lake Chapter

The Fish Lake Chapter received news coverage in *The Wayne County Insider* as well as the *Richfield Reaper* after the announcement of the Chapter's acceptance into OSTA in the winter edition of *Spanish Traces*. The 1878 Froiseth map of Utah was brought to our January chapter meeting by a member, where we discussed the wealth of information and misinformation available on historic maps. Chapter Vice-President Steve Taylor encouraged the group to seek information on the OST utilizing historic maps available online as well as in libraries, estate sales and local historical groups.

Representatives from the USFS Fishlake National Forest attended the meeting and we discussed partnering in the Fishlake Discovery Group (a local interpretive association) to further educate the public visiting our area about the Old Spanish Trail. Information will be provided at the Fish Lake Lodge and the USFS

Wildcat Ranger Station as well as USFS District Offices.

We plan to provide an OST Fish Lake Chapter booth at the Natural Resource Fair held by Sevier County at the Sevier Valley Center April 24 and 25 in Richfield, Utah. This will provide an opportunity for the education of our local school children as well as the general public about the Old Spanish Trail.

The scheduling and several possible locations for chapter field trips was discussed at the February chapter meeting. A proposed Red Creek field trip, conducted by Bob Leonard, USFS archaeologist, is planned for the spring when the weather allows. We plan to visit alternate routes and associated Indian, militia and Powell expedition trails in our area.

--Stephanie Moulton



*Fish Lake packers caught in the snow*

*Photo: Stephanie Moulton*

## North Branch Chapter

The North Branch Chapter has been somewhat dormant for a while. Since April 2013, efforts to revitalize the membership and to coordinate with local groups and government agencies have been ongoing.

A Memorandum of Agreement was entered into with the Loyd Files Library of the Museum of Western Colorado that will provide a permanent storage facility for North Branch material, making the chapter records available to everyone. Our thanks go to Bill Chenoweth, a founding chapter member who donated his research, and Vicki Felmlee, a former officer; they collected material that was otherwise undocumented and stored in various locations and is now made accessible as part of the Library collection.

A joint planning effort adopted by the City of Grand Junction and Mesa County includes the existing four miles of the Old Spanish Trail in all future planning. This could include future placement of signs or other references to the Trail in strategic locations. The southern trail head of the four-mile trail has signage and ample parking for people who use it for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The north trail head has new split rail fencing to delineate parking, a trash can and picnic table thanks to the City of Grand Junction Parks and Recreation department.

In February the Mostons and Colorado Director Mark Franklin attended a meeting in Delta, Colorado, to explore combining efforts with the city of Delta, Delta County, local historians, and state and federal agencies to further develop the history of the Old Spanish Trail and to publicize the Trail in an effort to increase tourist visitation to the reconstructed Fort Uncompahgre. The Fort, now located in Delta's Confluence Park, was completed by volunteers in 1990. The original fort was located somewhere downstream on the Gunnison River below its confluence with the Uncompahgre River; it was a fur trading post constructed in 1828 by Antoine Robidoux and abandoned in 1844.

--Bob and Juanita Moston

## Nevada Chapter

The NV Chapter of OSTA is very busy with the following OST Activities and upcoming events.

1. Planning/developing the program/agenda for the 2014 OSTA annual conference in Las Vegas on October 16-19, 2014. (Committee: Ashley, Liz, Richard, Glenn, Lorna and me). There will be a number of presenters, book reviews and discussions on OST issues/history.
2. Re-marking the OST through Southern Nevada, with an extension on the OST markers into southwestern Utah and at Resting Springs in California, installing seven markers by the end of April. On March 29, the NV Chapter of OSTA and the Blue Diamond history committee will replace two of the OST historic markers near the Pioneer Village of Blue Diamond on the Old Spanish Trail. Mules will be used to transport the 225-lb markers to their sites. Food and fun!
3. Development of the John C. Fremont rendezvous site located at the Hidden Valley Ranch about 50 miles north of Las Vegas adjacent to I-15, where Fremont and his company camped in 1844 at the confluence of the Muddy River and the California Wash. (Thanks to the Anderson Dairy family who approved a site on the ranch, along with their willingness to assist the OSTA NV Chapter and friends develop a usable rendezvous site for 50+ people to camp, conduct their annual rendezvous, as well as campouts for OSTA members, Boy and Girl Scouts, friends and families).
4. The NV Chapter is helping to organize a visit for OSTA members to the British Chapter in Penrith, England on a 12-day travel, tour and meetings/socials/dinners with the British Chapter members and a tour of Northern England and Scotland by David Fallowfield of the British Chapter. The British tour is set for the last week of June and the first week of July 2014.

--Nicole Marie Dominguez

## Tecopa Chapter

**“Missing” Trail Marker Found.** “I see a trail marker,” shouted Barbara Milliken. Our Tecopa chapter survey crew was spread across the creosote-sage flats of the Pahrump Valley, three-quarters of a mile from where we had left Old Spanish Trail Highway, near the California/Nevada state line.

We hurried across the gravelly flats to find one of the obelisk-shaped markers placed by “Scoop” Garside along the trail route in Nevada during that state’s sesquicentennial in 1964. Garside placed a few in California as well, continuing his trail-marking into the Golden State. What Barbara had located was one of these. It had been reported in the past, but searchers in the 2000s had failed to locate it and concluded that it was missing, probably stolen or knocked over by vandals.

But there it stood, unscathed, and right next to a set of clearly visible wagon tracks left in the post-1848 American period by travelers on the Mormon Road. Also called the Salt Lake Road, the Road was a wagon route that led from Utah to California and largely followed (often obliterating) the earlier mule trace of the Old Spanish Trail.

It was December 2013, and four members of Tecopa chapter (Scott Smith, Sarah Bennett, Jack Prichett,

and Milliken) were in the field again, after a year-and-a-half hiatus during which we were engaged as “intervenors” in licensing hearings for a huge proposed solar power plant in the Pahrump Valley (see Tecopa chapter reports in *Traces* for 2012 and 2013). The proposed plant site was only miles from where we had just found the “missing” trail marker.

Our archival research during the hearings had disclosed that travelers on the OSNHT had used not only the well-known Stump Spring in Nevada, but others to its north, creating a network of trail branches connecting the springs and leading westward from them across the Pahrump Valley. Now, at the end of 2013, plans for the plant were suspended, and the chapter was again seeking to find remnants of the mule trace and the later Mormon Road in the Pahrump Valley.

The obelisk found by Barbara marked a portion of the OST/Mormon Road, which our research had predicted, leading westward across the valley from Brown Springs. As with other segments of the earlier mule trace which we have recorded further west, this track made a beeline across the dry lake bed, straight on a course for Emigrant Pass, another key point on the OSNHT. In two days of survey we recorded and inventoried nearly five miles of this branch of the OST/Mormon Road network.

*continued on page 10*



*From left, Jack Prichett, Barbara Milliken, and Sarah Bennett stand next to the “missing” trail marker they located while surveying the Pahrump Valley, near the California-Nevada state line. Nevada’s snow-covered Charleston Peak shows in the background. Brown Spring lies atop the escarpment (whitish band), about 5 miles from the marker.*

## Tecopa Chapter, continued

**A Second Verification.** North of Brown Springs (which is now on private property) lies another water source, also used by travelers on the OST. Called “Le Rocher qui pleu,” [“the rock that rains”] by Benjamin Choteau, a French-speaking trapper, it is cited in the appendix of Hafen and Hafen’s *Old Spanish Trail*. Choteau describes it as “about 5 m. n.w. of Stump Spring.” During dry periods, it is a seep, wetting the rock face of an escarpment, but following rainstorms or snow in the Charleston Mountains, le Rocher becomes an active spring. Garside placed one of his trail markers near the seep, presumably based upon Choteau’s reference in Hafen and Hafen.

On the second day of our December field work, after recording the Brown Spring branch of the OST/MR, our four-person team wound our way to the Rocher via an unmarked, winding, four-wheel-drive road. On the escarpment’s edge, we found Garside’s marker. A steep path led us down to the seep. Even though California and Nevada were in the third year of a pronounced drought, the cliff face was still moist, providing a home to ferns and other greenery.

It was sunset, and in the twilight, we reflected on the perdurance of the trail. After more than 150 years, the Tecopa chapter’s field surveys are recording with GPS precision some of the remaining segments of the OST. Their remoteness, it seems, is what protects them.

--Jack Prichett



## California

California OSTA members and the San Dimas Corral of Westerners met for a joint meeting on March 5 in San Dimas, California. The speaker, Eric Simison, demonstrated how he took the original drawings of Rancho San Jose (Pomona, Claremont, La Verne, Glendora, San Dimas, et.al.), plotted them onto a Google map, used CAD (computer-aided design) technology, located where the actual rancho boundaries should have been, and calculated accurate acreage. The 1858 Hancock Survey of Southern California ranchos showed Rancho San Jose to be only 22,340 acres causing the then-owners to claim they had been robbed. Were they right? Simison shows its actual size at 47,136 acres.

This presentation is relevant to OSTA members because our representatives are also using GPS mapping techniques to precisely locate remnants of the Old Spanish Trail.

--Paul McClure

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*Scott Smith and Sarah Bennett inventory condition of Le Rocher qui pleu. Though there was no running water at this time, seepage was present on the rear wall behind Scott and Sarah, providing the niche for Adiantum ferns.*

*Photo: Jack Prichett*

## Salida Del Sol Chapter

In February President Ashley Hall came to New Mexico to sign an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between OSTA and the New Mexico BLM. We are all hoping to see more progress now that this has been accomplished. To date we have had one meeting with BLM in Santa Fe and another is scheduled in March.

Our chapter meeting in February was held at the La Cocina Restaurant in Espanola, where Carol Clark, Mark Henderson and Pat Kuhlhoff presented the proto travel /educational trunks (boxes) that they have been working on this winter. The smaller boxes will be available soon for members to use when speaking to groups that we are trying to familiarize with the trail. The boxes contain maps, textiles, dye stuff, ropes, plastic animals of the trail and other interesting and informative materials.

Our next meeting will be the annual meeting on Saturday April 19 at La Cocina in Espanola. The speaker

will be Tomas Romero from the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area, who will explain what a Heritage area is and how it affects the portions of the OST that go through it. SDS Chapter has received grant funding from the Heritage area for a student mural project in the Taos area.

June 21 will be an overnight field trip to the Farmington area and north with our newly activated BLM partners on the Armijo Route. More details to follow. The August field trip details will be announced when available.

The September 20 meeting will be at the Abiquiu Inn for lunch and a look at their facilities and some time at the village of Abiquiu.

The September 2015 "All Trails Lead to Santa Fe" conference planning is going well. We now have all the hotels under contract and you will be able to find information about them soon on the OSTA website.

--Pat Kuhlhoff



*Clockwise: Mark Henderson, Carol Clark discuss educational trunks, while Pat and Ron Rundstrom absorb the information.*

*Photos: Pat Kuhlhof*



## William Workman Chapter

President Ashley Hall's announcement that he is traveling to England this summer to visit our Chapter has got the members all excited. Furthermore, his intention of bringing along other OSTA members to our shores makes it doubly exciting. It brings back good memories of the visit made by Doug Knudson and 15 other US members of our organisation in May 2009 when, according to reports received, all enjoyed the experience tremendously. Once again Chapter Secretary David Fallowfield has been appointed Tour Director and, as on the previous occasion, he is receiving offers of help from the membership which he is more than happy to accept.

On this occasion, a similar but different itinerary is well into the final planning stage. The advantage of Cumbria is that not only is it a beautiful area with the Lake District National Park within its boundaries but it is also handy for other highly respected visitor locations. For example, Hadrian's Wall, part of which is in Cumbria, is a World Heritage Site. We are also reasonably close to South West Scotland, the Scottish Borders, Edinburgh, the Northumberland National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the City of York itself. Even better this time round is the fact that Ashley wants to visit and tour for 10 days instead of the six or so last time the US membership came this way, so all the areas and places mentioned above will be visited.

The group will be based initially in Penrith (population: 15,000). The main background to the history of this area is the close proximity to Scotland and the resulting Anglo-Scottish wars and raids which occurred for approximately 650 years. This was our "Wild West," arguably ten times longer than your Wild West. (See photo of Penrith Town Centre on front page.)

A good example of an historic fortified farmhouse in this area would be Yanwath Hall, situated two miles from Penrith. This will certainly be pointed out to the group early in their visit. It consists of a 14th century Pele tower (date 1322) attached to the 15th century hall range (the farmhouse). (See photo) There are 58 such Pele towers in the north of Cumbria.

This is also a good example of why David Fallowfield makes such an interesting tour guide of his native land. His family has been in the area for many centuries and his ancestor Nicholas de Fallowfield (b.1375) who was Lord of the Manor of Great Strickland visited Yanwath Hall on November 17, 1437, to witness a charter signed by Sir Henry Threlkeld (b.1398), who was the then-owner of Yanwath Hall. Remarkably, both these men are 13th great-grandfathers of David Fallowfield.

--David Fallowfield

*Yanwath Hall*

*Photo: David Fallowfield*



## Old Spanish Trail Association 2014 British Tour

**TRAVEL** – All OSTA participants will travel to Manchester, England (Northern England) via air (air cost is from **\$1,500** and up depending on carrier), with the following daily highlights:

**Day 1, June 26:** US OSTA group to be met at Manchester Airport by British OSTA hosts, check into guest house, take guided tour of Penrith historic district. (It stays light until 11 p.m.)

**Day 2, June 27:** AM: attend OSTA British venue for morning seminars, with lectures on:

- the Workman brothers in USA and
- the English background of the Workman brothers (A useful history of the area.)

PM: continue tour of historic district of Penrith; Mayburgh Henge (large Bronze Age structure), Lowther Castle, Workman homesteads in Clifton and Melkintorpe, Clifton Church, Brougham Hall and Brougham Castle (and nearby Roman fort of Brocavum).

**Day 3, June 28:** Tour North Lakes: Ullswater Lake, Aira Force Waterfall (walk), Castlerigg Stone Circle, Keswick town, Derwentwater Lake, Honister Pass, Buttermere Lake, Crummock Water Lake, Whinlatter Pass, Bassenthwaite Lake. Return to Penrith.

**Day 4, June 29:** Tour South Lakes: Thirlmere Lake, Grasmere Village (Wordsworth connections), Grasmere Lake, Rydal Water Lake, Conistone Lake (Ruskin home), Windermere Lake, Troutbeck Village, Kirkstone Pass, Brotherswater Lake and more of Ullswater Lake. Return to Penrith.

**Day 5, June 30:** Tour Southwest Scotland: 1300-year-old Ruthwell Cross near Annan, medieval Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries, 17th C. Drumlanrig Castle (one of the homes of Europe's largest landowner, the Duke of Buccleuch), driving thru the Lowther Hills to Moffat.

**Day 6, July 1:** Travel to Kelso in the eastern Borders visiting "Grey Mare's Tail" waterfall and St Mary's Loch; visit Floors Castle, home of the Duke of Roxburghe (largest occupied house in Scotland). Following lunch, we will visit Smailholm Tower, a wonderful ex-

ample of a border pele tower, also "Scott's View" (favorite vista point of Sir Walter Scott) and 12th C. Melrose Abbey before arriving at Dryburgh on the River Tweed for two nights stay.

**Day 7, July 2:** Tour of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. (One of the most beautiful old cities in Europe)

**Day 8, July 3:** Tour Jedburgh Old Abbey ruins and Mary Queen of Scots house. South via Carter Bar and thru the Northumberland National Park to Hadrian's Wall (World Heritage Site), visit various sections of the Wall, Forts, Milecastles and features of this remarkable testament to Roman ingenuity. We will also visit the Norman 12th C. Lanercost Priory which is built with stones from Hadrian's Wall. Return again to Penrith.

**Day 9, July 4:** Visit the historic City of Carlisle with a brief foray into the Yorkshire Dales National Park at the Old Pub at Tan Hill. In the evening plans are underway for a reception for the OSTA group and invited guests.

**Day 10, July 5:** Travel to the fabulous City of YORK for all-day sightseeing and then travel to Manchester for overnight hotel and the return of the US OSTA group the next morning.

**Day 11, July 6:** Return to the US.

### **Anticipated Costs for Stay in Britain for each OSTA Troup member:**

\$1310.00 USD per person (based on 16 attendees), or  
\$1355.00 USD per person (based on 10 attendees)

**Anticipated Total Costs: \$2,855 to \$3,000 each** (air, ground transportation, hotel and breakfast and some other meals/receptions/dinners).

Interested OSTA Members, please contact Ashley Hall at [ashleyhall7@yahoo.com](mailto:ashleyhall7@yahoo.com) or 702-592-3953. We presently have nine committed attendees, open for seven more – plan now to travel with us.

## Attend April 12 Marker Dedication

Resting Springs, just west of Emigrant Pass in Tecopa, California, was a major watering stop on the Old Spanish Trail and the site of the notorious Hernandez massacre, recorded by Fremont. On Saturday, April 12, the Old Spanish Trail Association and Resting Springs Ranch will jointly host a dedication ceremony to mark the installation of a new trail marker, replacing an older, damaged one. Don't miss this chance to gather with OSTA members and to visit this historic Mojave spring.

**Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Where:** On Resting Springs Ranch, 5 miles east of Tecopa town triangle, at 5000 Old Spanish Trail Highway. **Parking:** on the Ranch

**Food and Beverage:** A light lunch and beverages will be served gratis from 12:00 to 1:00, courtesy of OSTA and Pennee and David Hull of RSR

**Reservations: You must reserve in advance for admittance.** RSVP to Pennee Hull at [pennehull@hotmail.com](mailto:pennehull@hotmail.com) or by phone at 760-852-4103. Attendance is limited, so RSVP early.

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## Read *True West Magazine* OST Article

*True West Magazine Collector Issue*, March 2014, includes an article on the OST by Western writer Johnny D. Boggs. It's primarily a travel piece but does hit some interesting sites along the Trail. It may be found in local libraries or ordered from <http://store.truewestmagazine.com/true-west-magazine-collector-issue-march-2014/>

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## Old Spanish Trail Novels Sought

I am interested in fictional accounts (novels) set on the Old Spanish Trail – written for children, juveniles, or adults. So far I have found only one, Ralph Compton's *The Old Spanish Trail*. If anyone knows of other titles, please contact me at [mpolsen1@comcast.net](mailto:mpolsen1@comcast.net) or call 1-719-590-1048. Thanks. Mike Olsen, Colorado Springs.

## Follow Historic Trails on the Web

At the PNTS 14th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Tucson, Levi Davis had his camcorder out, and was recording footage of the Trail Apprentice Program. The links to the five (5) minute promo for the Trail Apprentice Program and the fifteen (15) minute full length documentary are:

**5 minute promo:** <http://youtu.be/zDCpWUXpbWA>

**15 minute full length video:** <http://youtu.be/800Nw8RR7YM>

PNTS will be burning both versions onto DVD and sharing with conference attendees over the next few months. If you have any questions about our program, or would like a copy of the DVD, please contact: Teresa Martinez at [tmartinez@continentaldividetrail.org](mailto:tmartinez@continentaldividetrail.org) or cell: 540-449-4506.

**The Old Spanish Trail** is available for viewing on Youtube as well. For a video overview of the Trail:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9W67gy8MD4>

**The BLM** has released a video of the Old Spanish Trail that they filmed in Utah. Rob Sweeten says he'd love to film the OST in every state.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xL7bVDnHf3M>

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## Prichett Letter Appears in *LA Times*

On January 12, 2014, the *Los Angeles Times* published a front-page story describing the mounting resistance to, and obstacles in the way of, huge, industrial-scale solar power plants in the desert. Jack Prichett noted, "Since I believe that the U.S. should be concentrating on implementing solar in the big cities of the Southwest United States, as well as already disturbed lands nearer the cities, I wrote a letter to the Times' editor, which was published on January 17. The following link will take you to it: <http://lat.ms/1dxliJM>

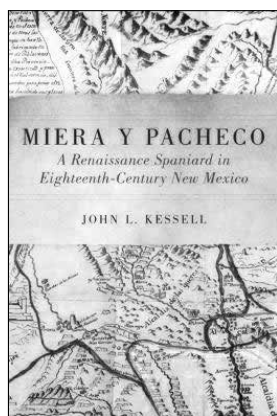
The next immediate challenge to the OST in CA is a gigantic 30,000+ acre solar/wind plant proposed for the Silurian Valley, south of Tecopa."



## Book Reviews

***Miera y Pacheco: A Renaissance Spaniard in Eighteenth-Century New Mexico*** by John L. Kessell

*Reviewed by Margaret Sears*



Kessell, John L., *Miera y Pacheco: A Renaissance Spaniard in Eighteenth-Century New Mexico*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013, 194 pp.

Don Bernardo de Miera y Pacheco was an ecumenical man, a man for all seasons, and in Juan Bautista de Anza's words, who was arguably colonial New Mexico's most eminent and accomplished governor, "*distinguido y universal*"—distinguished and universal. John Kessell, renowned Southwest author of such remarkable works as *The Missions of New Mexico Since 1776* and *Kiva, Cross, and Crown*, echoes these sentiments in this outstanding Miera biography. He identifies the many skills Miera exhibited: engineer, land investor, (failed) silver miner, merchant, debt collector, mathematician, *alcalde* (mayor), legal documents witness, and, most significantly, *santero* (religious items artist) and cartographer. Through his artful prose, it is easy to see why Kessell so admires Miera and strives to have us join him in this endorsement.

Miera y Pacheco was born August 4, 1713, in Santander, a northern province of Spain, and emigrated to New Spain in 1741, then north to El Paso in 1743, and by 1756 had moved to Santa Fe. He quickly set about to make his mark with the powerful. This apparently succeeded, for the New Mexico province governor officially installed him "as the colony's cartographer and premier religious artist", (p. 60) in Kessell's words, to map the six northern Mexican provinces, that task having been long overdue, in the governor's view. Additionally, the Miera family became established members of Santa Fe society.

Being an excellent communicator, Kessell realized

that describing Miera could best be achieved visually, and he succeeds splendidly with clear reproductions of nine maps, eight religious art works, and 60 illustrations, many which were originally created over 250 years ago. No mean task.

For over 20 years Miera produced detailed and accurate maps, mixing the "fanciful and representational," (p.48) which is evident in the images displayed in the present text. Even the margins had purpose. A sidebar in one presented statistical data Miera collected, such as village population, firearms, and livestock numbers. Again, Miera's artistic talent was evident in that his maps were produced in many colors, although, sadly, no originals have survived. His designs "stroved to achieve scientific order . . . in correct geographic space." (p.48) While that sounds so basic in today's emphasis on faithful order in all pursuits, such was not true in the 18th century when geographic fact was minimal.

This work is not simply a biography of Miera, but a fine survey of New Mexico history and the players during the mid to late 18th century, although on occasion more detail was given than may have been warranted. I would not extend that view to his description of the maps, which was detailed, adding significantly to reader comprehension. Kessell himself could turn a colorful phrase or two when emphasizing Miera's artistic talents. As one reads, one can almost hear the awe in his voice.

A weakness in the text is that occasionally the page location of an illustration is omitted when a map is referenced. Many small sections of individual maps have been reproduced. Unfortunately, detective work was occasionally required to determine which maps they related to and the purpose they served. Yet, it was worth the effort. More problematical were the many quotations that were not properly referenced to the bibliographical source. Kessell identified only the author's name in the previous paragraph. Nothing more. Proofing being a highly complex skill, I detected only one error, that being, the locations of the two Santa Barbara santos which were reversed in the illustration captions.

Of all Miera's maps, the one of greatest significance to Old Spanish Trail members, and even for cartographers worldwide, was that created on the Fathers Dominguez-Escalante expedition of 1776, which initially aimed for present Los Angeles, California, from Santa Fe, but ultimately was shortened upon the discovery that California was much farther away than foreseen. It was the first mapping of the Great Basin area.

Out of that expedition two inestimable documents emerged: Miera's map and the fathers' collaborative diary. The quality of the color reproduction of the map is outstanding. This was one of his last maps, although he continued creating santos until his death in 1785. So important was this expedition to Kessell that he devoted a full chapter, "A Vision Quest with the Friars," to this journey, describing with awe to this reviewer elaborate detail "campsite to campsite." (p.117)

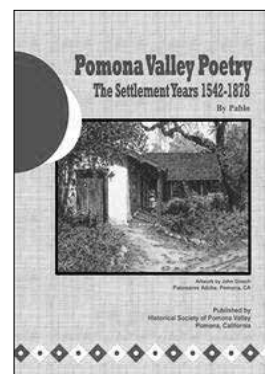
Creating santos consumed much of Miera's adult life. Kessell included illustrations of ten extant works, going to great length to obtain the best reproductions possible. The most famous is the stone altar screen created in 1761 for the Castrense, the Santa Fe military chapel. It was the only white stone altar screen in the colony at the time. Even this "most inspired religious icon" did not impress Fray Dominguez (p.xiv). His insults extended to almost every work Miera created, as well as that of other santeros. Of the carved wooden statue (*bulto*) of St. Philip the Apostle at San Felipe pueblo, he claimed that Miera over-charged the pueblo. He further declared that "although it is not at all prepossessing, it serves the purpose." (p. 75). Thus I must ask, was Dominguez prejudiced against santeros in general?

An oil-on-canvas painting of Our Lady of Light, patron saint of the Castrense, was acquired from a renowned artist in Mexico City, and placed in the lower center niche. Kessell does not explain how a painting could appropriately fit into a stone altar screen. So there it hung until Archbishop Jean Baptiste Lamy removed it in the late 19th century. It was not until even later, in 1939, when the altar found its present home

in the then new Cristo Rey church, that the niche was filled with a carved santo of Our Lady of Light.

As I became more acquainted with this exceptional man, I often returned to Kessell's final paragraph in the "Preface." He queried why Utah Lake was not renamed Miera Lake, honoring the first non-Native American to view it in 1776. "We have Escalante this and Escalante that," he moaned "and, of course, Carson National Forest. So, why not Lake Miera?" (p.xiv) Indeed, why not? This may have legitimate resonance with OSTA. ♦

### ***Pomona Valley Poetry: The Settlement Years 1542-1878***



Pablo. *Pomona Valley Poetry: The Settlement Years 1542-1878*. Infinity Publishing, West Conshohocken, 2013. 140 pages.

*Pomona Valley Poetry* describes in rhyme the development of the historic Rancho San Jose and its surrounding territory. The poems focus on the historic Rancho San Jose that included today's California communities of Azusa, Claremont, Covina, Glendora, La Verne, Pomona, San Dimas, and Walnut.

The book describes Southern California's evolution through several waves of civilization—first occupied by Paleo-Indians, then claimed by Spanish explorers, Christianized by Franciscan Fathers, settled by Mexican rancheros, and finally overrun by American gold seekers. *Pomona Valley Poetry* provides historical introductions and establishes the context for each of the poems.

"Pablo" is an alter ego for Paul McClure, OSTA's California Director.

## Hike the Hill 2014

*By Reba Wells Grandrud, OSTA Director-at-Large*

Volunteers—enthusiastic advocates for the National Trails System—once again gathered in Washington, DC, in early February to make their collective voice heard on Capitol Hill. This annual affair, started in 1998 by the American Hiking Society (AHS), is co-sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). OSTA Directors Elizabeth Warren of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Reba Wells Grandrud of Phoenix, Arizona, have served as OSTA representatives for the past ten or twelve years. Other board members also have attended over the years. The February 9-12 gathering marked the 17th anniversary of the event.

For 2014, sustainability is the key word as PNTS and its member organizations continue working on its adopted Goals for the Decade, culminating in the 50th anniversary in 2018 of the National Trails System:

Goal One: Increase public awareness of the National Scenic, Historic, and Recreational Trails;

Goal Two: Complete and enhance National Trails for public appreciation and enjoyment;

Goal Three: Build organization and agency capacity to better administer, manage, and sustain National Trails.

Official representatives of PNTS member organizations (non-profit groups who are associated specifically with the eleven National Scenic Trails and the nineteen National Historic Trails) make up the Leadership Council. Each organization has one vote. The Leadership Council elects the board and officers: president, vice president for governance, vice president for development, secretary, treasurer. Gary Werner is the Executive Director and currently is the only full-time staffer.

PNTS internal meetings are customarily held on the weekend prior to Hike the Hill (HTH). Committee meetings (Advocacy and Policy and Finance) were

on Saturday, and on Sunday morning, the Board and Leadership Council held a business meeting. In the afternoon, the meeting was expanded with affiliate members, agency partners, and other guests participating. Following issue briefings and reports from our federal agency partners, there were two discussions: trail land protection strategies, and appropriate uses for national scenic and historic trails.

The lingering effects of federal sequestration and government shut-down of last fall perhaps contributed to a smaller number of Hike the Hill attendees this year; nevertheless, Partnership business was efficiently conducted, agency briefings were well received, and discussions were enlightening and will be continuing.

Hike the Hill Week opened on Sunday night, February 9 with an AHS-PNTS reception at the Washington Plaza Hotel. A second reception was held at the hotel on Wednesday night—a retirement party for Steve Elkinton, National Trails Program Leader, who had retired on February 11, 2014, after 36 years with NPS. Steve, a best friend of the National Trails System, is also considered a personal friend by national trail volunteers throughout the 50 states.

A landscape architect, Steve Elkinton started his NPS career in 1978 with the Falls Church Field Office of the Denver Service Center, and in 1989 became the first NPS program leader in the Washington Support Office for the National Trails System. At that time the system consisted of 16 national scenic and historic trails. For 24 years, from 1990 to his retirement, Steve served as chairperson of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails. During that time he watched the trails system grow from 16 to 30 trails, doubling in mileage to surpass the interstate highway system.

In April 2013, at the International Trails Symposium in Phoenix, American Trails honored Steve with a lifetime achievement award for his work supporting the National Trails System. In November 2013, the Partnership for the National Trails System recognized Steve's significant career with an Extraordinary Trail Partner Award. And, as part of his retirement celebrations, the American Hiking Society during HTH presented him with its prestigious Lifetime Trailblazer Award. A video of the presentation is available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIJMvU9cCf0>.

Friends who wish to send best wishes to Steve are encouraged to “make a significant tax-deductible contribution to the Partnership for the National Trails System and/or the American Society. Both groups are essential for the operations of the National Trails System.”

Some of the 2013 accomplishments of the Partnership for the National Trails System are:

- Organized and hosted the 16th annual Hike the Hill advocacy week with AHS: 50+ participants from member organizations; meetings with agency leaders and key Congressional committee staff, including the 3rd Interagency Trail Lands Protection meeting.
- Prepared NSHT Collaborative Landscape Planning Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project proposal for FY2015: 120 land acquisition projects along 15 NSHT in 16 states; \$57.675 million requested.
- Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director, testified before House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee for operations and LWCF monies for national scenic and historic trails.



Steve Elkinton, Reba Wells Grandrud and Gary Werner share a moment at Hike the Hill, February 2014, in Washington, DC.

- Published and distributed four issues of *Pathways Across America*.
- Organized and staffed the 14th Biennial NSHT Conference in Tucson, Arizona (Nov. 2-7, 2013): hosted by Arizona Trail Association, Anza Trail Coalition and Anza Trail Foundation, and Old Spanish Trail Association; participation of 15 Trail Apprentices (young adults 18-25); and 220 attendees (the second-best-ever attendance).
- Advocated with senior Dept. of Energy staff to include national scenic and historic trails as environmentally sensitive areas to be avoided in the siting of energy transmission lines.
- Devised a policy regarding the siting of transmission lines to avoid or minimize damage to national scenic and historic trails.
- Coordinated intercession with US Forest Service planners to recognize the need for defining management corridors for national scenic and historic trails in Forest Planning Rule Directive.
- Supported member organizations in their efforts to prevent mountain biking use of national scenic trails that were specifically set up for only hiking and equestrian use.
- Conducted survey of national scenic trail organizations regarding mountain bike use on national scenic trails.

As the OSTA representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, I am pleased to submit this report to OSTA members and *Spanish Traces* readership. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like more information about the Partnership. It exists to connect member nonprofit trail organizations and federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails within the National Trails System. In 2013, OSTA contributed 25,945 volunteer hours and \$11,889 private dollars to our national trails system. ♦

# A Historical Guide: Salina Canyon to Enoch, Utah

by Edward Leo Lyman

Passage of Old Spanish Trail travelers through the western half of present-day central Utah was over a little-known segment of the important roadway. That route may serve as a case study of the process for establishing a correct route, even though there are but few actual related documents.

Rock inscriptions on two poorly-chosen variant routes taken by contemporary Anglo-American travelers prove that even reasonably good pathfinders were capable of straying from what would become the best known and most often used line of travel. They instead passed through less desirable mountain and canyon terrain situated both north and south of the eventually most popular and useful pack mule passageway.

Steven Heath, historian and Utah State Director on the National Board of the Old Spanish Trail Association, has followed little-known leads to extant trail markings in at least three canyons related to the variant routes through the area. These include the eventually-proven way over the high mountain ridge from one of the many places named Bear Valley, then down Little Creek to to where the name of William Knight, an early Anglo-American user of the best route, may still be seen carved in the side canyon rock, then on



*William Knight inscription, Little Creek Canyon east of Paragonah, Utha, rediscovered and photographed by Steven Heath*

to Paragonah, Iron County. Heath has done significant research to recount the man's trail experience, and his subsequent life as a San Joaquin Valley, California, pioneer (Knight's Landing). <sup>1</sup>

The rock markings on the incorrect routes are useful in helping illustrate some of the process of elimination needed to arrive at the optimum route to surmount the mountain obstacle.

Well into their arduous journey from New Mexico to California, trail muleteers exited the long and convenient west-bound Salina Canyon passageway (now also utilized by Interstate 70) near current Salina, some miles west and south of the geographic center of Utah. There the nearby Sevier River enabled the trail travelers to simply turn south and head upstream, assured of adequate grass feed and water for man and animals for almost eighty more miles (unless a party made a less-desirable choice of routes before then). Yet, in this portion of the trail corridor it would still take some time to agree upon the optimum pack mule roadway at a number of points.

The first man known through historical documentation to have taken this entire long segment of the Old Spanish Trail (from the east end of Salina Canyon all the way to California) and thus be honored as the blazer of half the entire trail was Jedediah S. Smith in 1826 and again in 1827. But as he passed through the current Joseph vicinity in southwestern Sevier County, he chose to turn right and follow the Sevier tributary, Clear Creek, up a southwest-tending route to the summit of the western branch extension of the Wasatch Mountains. The descent was through the area where just over thirty years later Brigham Young assigned later Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley's grandfather, Ira N. Hinckley, to erect Cove Fort. Smith then followed the general course of current Interstate 15 southward through current Beaver, Parowan, Cedar City into the St. George-Virgin River area in extreme southwestern Utah. Few others ever followed Smith's route, mainly because of the scarcity of water and feed for pack mules. There are only four substantial streams

coursing west from the mountains along this entire 140-mile roadway.

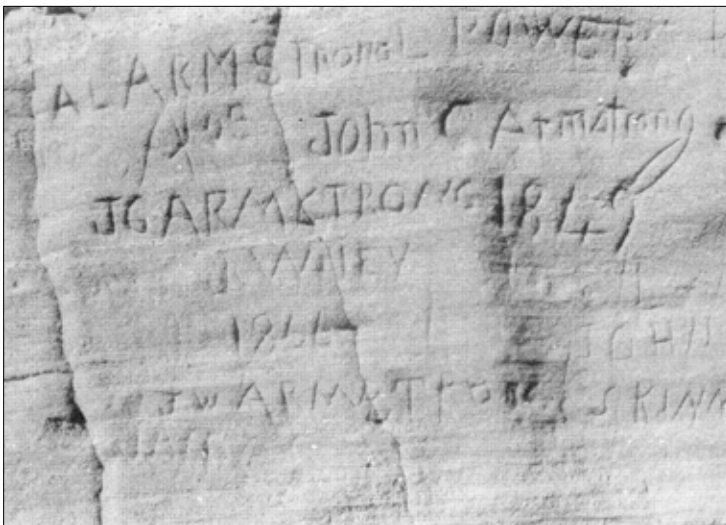
The Sevier River on the east side of the mountains offered far better feed and water, which in the greater semi-desert region were the primary considerations of virtually all muleteers. And thus the preferred pack mule route would still follow that river as far as was practicable. When, just south of where Smith left the river, it entered a rather steep-sided canyon, difficult for pack mules to negotiate, the muleteers chose to leave the river and turn south-east just west of present Monroe, Sevier County. The relatively easy trail passed through a later mining district in the low-lying Antelope Range of mountains, then tended southwestward on a good roadway heading back toward the Sevier River near current Marysvale.

Most of the later caravans continued satisfied with this best route so promptly established, which simply followed along the Sevier southward. However, several groups mistakenly chose to turn west just twenty-two miles from Marysvale, near Circleville Canyon. The groups couldn't see what by then might have been an easily-recognized (in the summer) partially packed main trail because of the winter snow when they came into that area. The first of these was Mormon apostle Parley P. Pratt, who in 1849-50 led a large group dispatched southward to perform their peoples' first re-

connaissance of the southern portion of their domain, Deseret (later Utah and surrounding areas). They made precisely the same mistake John C. Fremont would make four years later, also in the snow, of taking their wagons up a canyon into the mountains at which point passage proved virtually impossible. Eventually the men struggled through to the lower elevations farther west, into an area near the current Beaver-Iron County line (and I-15 exit 100). Their serious mistake was partially documented by the initials and names carved into the rock sides of the canyon wall after the group had commenced to regain their strength for the remainder of their journey.<sup>2</sup>

In 1854, the "pathmarker of the West," John C. Fremont, and his men experienced some considerable winter hell in the same region trying to surmount the often relatively easy mountains (except in this vicinity between Marysvale and past Circleville, near the Tusher Mountain peaks just to the west, the highest in the entire region). Thus the only truly competent map maker (other than Jed Smith) to travel this trail lived to help document his own major blunder, brought about by turning right a dozen miles too soon.<sup>3</sup>

Earlier, probably in 1829 or but slightly before that, unnamed Hispanic muleteers, probably rather effortlessly, chose the correct route through the mountain barrier by traveling some ten to twelve miles farther south before leaving the Sevier at what has long been called Spry or Orton Junction, now Bear Valley Junction on most highway maps. It is where Utah Highway 20 coming east from I-15 joins Utah Highway 89 (east of the mountains), the longtime main route intersecting Utah north to south, the best way to Grand Canyon and farther south. In the early days as well, this was designated as Bear Valley Junction, the turning point for packers leaving the Sevier, heading west generally up a grade for six miles, then turning south for 15 miles through Bear Valley, then turning west down Little Creek Canyon just after surmounting the one formidable mountain grade toward the 8,000 foot elevation and crossing the ridge-pass. Although this is one of the three highest mountain passes on the entire Old Spanish Trail, it was not particularly threatening to those negotiating it (they usually preferred it to



*Parley P. Pratt expedition inscriptions, Fremont Canyon (east of I-15 exit 100), courtesy William and Donna Smart*

several longer desert passages).

It is entirely likely that this almost unanimously-utilized route through the mountain chain was used from ancient times by Native American travelers, and perhaps even a few unauthorized and unrecorded New Mexican pack mule trains prior to when the first recorded expedition seeking the best route came through the area in late 1830 and early 1831. The Anglo-Americans William Wolfskill and George Yount, who had both become Mexican citizens during their time residing in New Mexico, were the first known to have utilized Salina Canyon on their path-breaking and path-marking journey toward California, with a brigade of up to fifteen others, mainly beaver fur trappers, who also carried some trade goods to exchange in California. They abandoned all hopes of trapping at this point on their trip because of snow and extremely cold weather.<sup>4</sup>

The seemingly most promising historical documentation of this important expedition might have been a narrative related by Yount to Reverend Orange Clark just five years after the journey, when both were residing in the Napa Valley of California. Unfortunately, much of the relevant portion of that record has apparently been lost. However, fragments of other versions of the same Clark interview have been collected at the great repository of western historical documents, the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California, where a historian, Charles L. Camp, in 1923 pieced together “The Chronicles of George Yount.”<sup>5</sup>

One portion of this recounted the “cheerless” winter trek up the Sevier, and states: “The party had missed their way, and had taken the left hand (actually going straight ahead) route, when they should have taken the right hand (at Bear Valley Junction, which they could not recognize in the snow, although there was probably already a partially-beaten trail there). Yount’s statement is probably evidence the correct route was already known and in use (although it could also be argued that it was hindsight knowledge acquired later but before the Yount interview after five years). They continued on southward up the Sevier, either all the way past Hatch town to Mammoth Creek, which if they followed it to its source would take them in the correct direction by the second best route (other than the Bear Valley way). Or perhaps the group followed the earlier-joining Panguitch Creek tributary of the Sevier which coursed northward through the site of a later town of the same name and up past Panguitch Lake. Either way, the group found themselves on a “table mountain” at the 10,000 foot elevation level, where they all suffered through “several days” of “the most terrible snowstorm they had ever experienced,” during which “they lay embedded in snow, very deep, animals and men huddled thick as possible together, to husband and enjoy all possible animal warmth, having spread their thick and heavy blankets, and piled bark and brush wood around and over them.”<sup>6</sup>

Thus they survived!

Then, after climbing at least part way up a higher

*Area now in vicinity of Fremont Junction of Highway 89 and State Route 20, and the river and mountain areas near present Panguitch, and toward Parowan-Summit, Utah. Map courtesy David Evans.*



mountain, perhaps Sugar Loaf Mountain or even Brian Head Peak, the expedition leaders chose a southwest tending route north of what was later named Cedar Breaks, across the heads of several canyons into one running closer to the desired direction, the East Fork of Braffit's Canyon, through which they descended from the mountains to a point almost directly on the preferred route of the Old Spanish Trail. So far as is known, no overland travel company ever again sought to follow this Wolfskill-Yount version of the trail. The remainder of the route to California is mainly better known than the segments just discussed (including generally west from Enoch to Antelope Springs, then south through Mountain Meadows).

Over a century later, Utah trails expert Charles Kelley, in a carelessly written (regarding historical facts) article in 1950, stated, "In 1830 William Wolfskill and a group of 15 trappers from Santa Fe decided to continue this trail [Santa Fe Trail by way of the Old Spanish Trail] into California, as Escalante had [supposedly] planned in 1776, but did not complete. . . they crossed the Green River at what is now the town of Greenriver, Utah, worked their way through the Wasatch Mountains to what is now Parowan, passed down Santa Clara [Virgin] River, crossed the desert to Las Vegas, Nevada, and into California. Beginning in 1831 their trail was used annually for trading ... until 1852 [probably 1848]." Kelley then added a note: "On one of our expeditions to hunt Indian petroglyphs, Frank Beckwith and I had been directed to Braffet Canyon, near Paragonah [Summit], Utah. While photographing these we were amazed to discover, carved on a rock, a cross with the initials "A.W.L.B" and the date "1831." <sup>7</sup> Searching farther we found other initials with the same date and on a large boulder the word "GOLD" cut in reversed lettering. There is no written history of this party of 1831 and none of the initials can be identified. The whole canyon, we learned, had been dug up in search of the gold supposed to have been buried there."<sup>8</sup>

Leroy R. Hafen, in his classic guide and history, *The Old Spanish Trail*, explains in a footnote that he was led by William R. Palmer, a good local historian, to the Braffit's Canyon (which he called Winn's Canyon) in August 1951, and saw the inscriptions there. He deci-



*Inscriptions photographed by Frank Beckwith in Braffit's Canyon near Summit, Utah. Courtesy Desert Magazine, October 1950, 22.*

phered the initials inscribed to be TW, AW, LB, & LD. He saw two date figures, "1831," and concluded that "if the initials are correctly interpreted, only one pair, LB, would correspond to the (known) name of a member (Lewis Branch) of the Wolfskill-Yount party." The date, he asserted, is certainly correct for the group, being near the first of the new year (when there). He added that they reached Chino, California on February 5, 1831. <sup>9</sup>

Steven Heath has persuasively made the case that the generally-suggested T on TW initials is actually an I. The letter I is often used for the traditional J, which in Spanish writing use had hardly any curved line at the bottom outside edge. Classic examples are the several D. Julien inscriptions found and photographed in several Utah locations. Since Wolfskill's other often-used first name was Jose, that initial might well be the brigade leader's (JW instead of TW).<sup>10</sup> Some who have recently hiked to the inscriptions have asserted that they may well have been carved as part of a celebration for having survived their ordeal in crossing the mountains.

### **The Return Trip By Way of the Fish Lake Cut-off**

Although many history and trail buffs are just beginning to learn this fact, the return journey from California back to New Mexico over most of the same

trail proved to be immensely more complex and profitable for the traders. Since the time the trail was inaugurated as a trade route by Antonio Armijo in 1829 (over a more direct route passing present Lake Powell and along the Utah-Arizona border, but which proved too difficult for common use), it has been known that California horses and mules were the most valuable trade commodity. These could generally be purchased for around \$5 per head, driven back over the trail to New Mexico for sale at approximately \$50 per head, and those traders with sufficient determination could even choose to continue on the adjacent Santa Fe Trail all the way to Missouri, then on the frontier of the United States, to sell the animals for over \$100 each. In the subsequent 18 years of Old Spanish Trail trade activity (prior to losing the region to the Anglo-Americans after the Mexican War in 1848), an estimated 20,000 head of horses and mules were driven over the trail, including 4,150 in an 1842 expedition and an expedition two years later with 1,800 head.<sup>11</sup>

Besides a very few historical documents indicating this trade, the best evidence may be the three-foot-deep parallel trail ruts (these are clearly not water erosion, but the winds blowing out the newly-pulverized rock dust each year) down the steep slope from north of Fish Lake to the Red Creek area adjacent the eastern mouth of Salina Canyon (and Interstate 70).

To trail enthusiasts, this Fish Lake Cut-off may loom as the most fascinating subject of such history experienced or recounted in recent years. Most of the relatively new information stems from its main re-discoverer, Robert Leonard, archeologist with the Fish Lake National Forest Service, Richfield, Utah, and his associates. No one should miss reading his article in the recent issue of *Spanish Traces*, featuring 170-year-old tree blaze marks recently discovered along the cut-off route.<sup>12</sup> He delivered two informative presentations, first at the national Old Spanish Trail conference in June 2012 at Richfield, Utah, featuring the physical trail remnants still visible and their discovery during the past four years; then another in October 2013 at Cedar City, Utah,

focusing on the trail blaze marks more recently discovered on piñon trunks dated around 200 years old.

The return journey to Santa Fe would doubtless have been much more demanding for the men wrangling the large herds of horses and mules. These animals would not always have followed in one continuous long line characteristic of pack animals on the outward journey. Instead, the *vaqueros* would have to keep an often much larger and less disciplined herd heading in the proper direction, likely considerably spread out from front to back, and particularly when heading down a steep mountain slope such as that north of Fish Lake, also following several adjacent parallel courses. This most important variant in the route back toward New Mexico would have branched between Circleville and Marysville from the main segment of the Sevier River, at a point long designated



*A stretch of Old Spanish Trail between Little Creek and the summit of the mountain ridge at 8,000 feet before descending through Bear Valley, Iron County, Utah. The view is looking north toward the ridge, with some of the trail rut visible in foreground.*  
Photo: David Evans

as Junction because the East Fork of the Sevier joins the main stream there. By that point in the journey, the wranglers understood that after struggling through some four hundred miles of desert, the nearly-famished animals needed to recoup their strength during a longer duration stop on better grass feed and more abundant water than they had experienced in the past two months. Thus the herding parties headed their animals eastward up the branch of the Sevier toward the abundant pasture grasses of Fish Lake Mountain, with some superior pasturage also on the way there as they passed through Grass Valley.

After following the East Fork of the Sevier some dozen miles to near where Otter Creek Reservoir is now situated, the herders turned their livestock left (north) up Otter Creek, which intersects Grass Valley from north to south. After traveling about twenty-seven miles past the later Koosharem area, the herds were pointed up the mountain grade trail toward the top of Fish Lake Mountain, where there would be more than a week allowed for leisurely grazing on the superior pasture lands, while the packers feasted on readily-available trout.<sup>13</sup>

If, as was occasionally the situation, snow yet covered the ground, even toward mid-summer, the herders could drive the animals eastward down to lower elevation pasturage in what would soon be named Rabbit Valley near the later town of Fremont, Wayne County. Either way, it was then a rather unchallenging descent to the main Old Spanish Trail on which they would then head southeastward toward current Moab, Utah and on to New Mexico.

Although the founding historian, LeRoy Hafen, from the beginning of his important study of the Old Spanish Trail understood the route through central Utah and the Fish Lake Cut-off, these segments have too long remained in the shadows of obscurity among most who have demonstrated an interest in this and other historic trails. Presently, members of the Utah chapters of OSTA and a few others have been seeking to rectify the notable gaps in knowledge, understanding and appreciation of this important portion of the routes.

## Endnotes

1. Steven Heath, "William Knight-An Early Spanish Trail Trader," National Spanish Trail Symposium, Southern Utah University, October 2007, Cedar City, Utah, published in Alva L. Matheson, ed., *Symposium Proceedings* (unpaged, by count) 72-76; copy, Sharratt Library, Special Collections, Southern University, Cedar City, Utah.
2. William B. Smart and Donna T. Smart, eds. *Over The Rim: The Parley P. Pratt Exploring Expedition to Southern Utah, 1849-1850* (Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1999), 54-73, photo in Smart adjacent 72. See also illustration 3, source cited in note 7.
3. Donald D. Jackson and Mary L. Spence, eds., *Travels from 1848 to 1854: The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970), 3 vols., 3: 458-60; Allan Nevins, *Fremont: Pathmarker of the West* (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1939, 1955) 2 vols. 2: 417-18; Solomon N. Carvalho, *Incidents of Travel and Adventure in the Far West: with Col. Fremont's Last Expedition* (New York: Derby & Jackson, 1857; reprint of, Philadelphia: Jewish Society of America, 1854; reprint University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 125-134.
4. Charles L. Camp, "The Chronicles of George C. Yount," *California Historical Society Quarterly* (1923), 2-66.
5. Camp, George C. Yount, 38-41
6. Camp, *George C. Yount*, 40-41; Iris Higbie Wilson, *William Wolfskill, 1798-1866: Frontier Trapper to California Ranchero* (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1965), 74-75
7. Charles Kelley, "Forgotten Trail of the Old West," *Desert Magazine*, October, 1950, 22.
8. As usual, whenever gold is mentioned, some writer, in this case George A. Thompson, "Lost Treasures on the Old Spanish Trail," (Salt Lake City: Westernlore Press, 1988), 76, has a garbled account of Wolfskill and Yount discovering a ledge of gold, amidst some reasonably accurate Old Spanish Trail history. It is absolutely doubtful if there is any documentary evidence at all for the gold discovery, which appears to be mainly fiction. Yet people still believe the tale and their activities (featuring dynamite) have destroyed one inscription and endangered a second. Yount, later in the decade on a fur trapping expedition in the Utah Hill area, picked up a piece of heavy rock he claimed had gold in it. His companions, including Peg-leg Smith, ridiculed him. Smith led a prospecting expedition back to the area several years later, unsuccessful in finding any ore. But the Apex gold mine later operated in that area at the end of the next century.
9. LeRoy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen, *Old Spanish Trail, Santa Fe to Los Angeles, With Extracts from Contemporary Records and Including Diaries of Antonio Armijo and Orville Pratt* (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1954), 147, n. 19; reprint, Hafen, *Old Spanish Trail* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska

Press, 1993), 147, n. 19.

10. Wilson, *William Wolfskill*, 62, for Jose Wolfskill as common Santa Fe name. See also Charles Kelley, "The Mysterious D. Julian", *Utah Historical Quarterly* 6 (July 1933, 82, showing the style of the letter "J" in a photo of inscription (of the state's first graffiti artist) from a site on the Uintah River near White Rocks, Utah; James H. Knipmeyer, *Butch Cassidy was Here--Historic Inscriptions of the Colorado Plateau* (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2002), opposite page 1, and dust jacket for the Hispanic style of J.

11. Hafen, *Old Spanish Trail*, 188, which quoted Eleanor Lawrence, "Mexican Trade Between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, 1830-1848, *California Historical Society Quarterly*, 10 (1931), and 190, n. 46 cited T. D. Bonner, *The Life and Adventures of James P. Beckwourth* 1931 ed., 321.

12. Robert Leonard, *Spanish Traces*, (the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association, OSTA), 25, Autumn 2013; See also *The Old Spanish Trail & the Fish Lake Cut-off: Recent Archaeological Discoveries on Lands Administered by the Fishlake National Forest and the Richfield BLM Office, South Central Utah*, November 2, 2009, 30 pages; National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, containing a detailed description, historic background, and many photographs (including Google), maps and professional anthropological data for the eventually-successful application of the segment of Fish Lake Cut-off Trail as a National Historic Place status site, over one hundred pages, July 20, 2010; Amended Draft of National Register nomination of segments of Fish Lake Cut-off trail remnants, April 28, 2011, approximately 100 pages. All of these and other relevant documents regarding the Fish Lake Cut-off are presently being collected to be housed in either the Richfield City Public Library or the Snow College, Richfield Branch, Library, with the collection to be open almost immediately.

13. George Douglas Brewerton, *Overland With Kit Carson: A Narrative of The Old Spanish Trail in '48* (reprinted from original edition, New York: Coward-McMann, Inc., 1930, Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1993), 108-112.

*Edward Leo Lyman is a Utah native who taught high school and college for forty years in California before retiring back to Utah. Since retirement he has written an award winning book on his great-great grandfather, the founder of San Bernardino, CA and is presently writing a history of the Southern Paiute Indians. He is a past Utah director of the Old Spanish Trails Association board and has been president of the Tres Trails Chapter of OSTA for eight years. ♦*

## **2014 LAS VEGAS, NV CONFERENCE** **The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert** **October 16-19, 2014**

**Location:** Embassy Suites, South Swenson Avenue at E. Harmon Avenue, adjacent to UNLV – All Conference meetings will be held within the Complex.

**Theme:** "The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert" in honor of author and past OSTA President, Hal Steiner.

### **Field Trip Opportunities**

**Wednesday-Noon-4/Thursday 8-Noon, 1-5 p.m.**

**Wed:** Early Tour Opportunity- Original 1829 Armijo Route, Lake Mead by Boat

**Thurs:** East: The OST from Las Vegas to Mormon Mesa – 50 miles without water (Visit all of the OST Marker locations, including the Fremont Camp Site location at Hidden Valley Ranch)

**Thurs:** West: The OST from Las Vegas to Resting Springs – visit scenic desert and mountain scenery in the heart of the Mojave Desert.

### **Agenda**

**Wednesday, October 15:** Early Arrivals Tour, Armijo 1829 route on Lake Mead, 12 to 4 p.m.

**Thursday, October 16:** Tour, Auto tour along the OST thru Nevada, 8 to 12 Noon/1 to 5 p.m.  
Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Reception at 6 p.m., Entertainment – Paiute dancers/drummers and Las Vegas/Mexico dance troop

**Friday, October 17:** Conference kick-off and welcome by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, Conference full agenda. Evening barbecue at Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park

**Saturday, October 18:** Annual membership meeting, 9 a.m. Conference sessions wrap-up, committee meetings, Dinner at Embassy Suites (sit-down), inside/patio depending on weather

**Sunday, October 19:** Tours of OST through Southern Nevada – auto/boat tours depending on weather. Placement of final OST replacement marker at OST park located at Tara and South Cimarron, in honor of the late Hal Steiner, OSTA Past President/author.

# The Historic Trail Flyers on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in 2013

by Marilyn Husser

*The Historic Trail Flyers are a loosely organized group of pilots who began flying historic trails 20 years ago in 1993 when they joined in the celebration of the Oregon Trail Sesquicentennial by flying the Oregon Trail. Since then some of the trails we have flown are the Lewis and Clark Trail, Santa Fe Trail, California Trail, Applegate Trail, Chilcoot Trail, Whoop-Up Trail and Chisholm Trail. In 2005, we flew the Armijo Branch of the Old Spanish Trail and benefited from two very interesting Old Spanish Trail Association trail guides.*

## Historic Trail Flyers at Cedar City, Utah

In 2012, following our California Trail Flight, my husband and I volunteered to organize a second flight of the National Historic Old Spanish Trail. This time we planned to focus on sites along the Main Branch and the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail (OST). We were really fortunate in finding two extremely knowledgeable Old Spanish Trail historians to serve as our tour guides. Colonel Alva Matheson grew up in the City Cedar area, was actively involved in his father's excursions to locate, preserve and mark the Old Spanish Trail, and is the president of the Southern Utah Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association. In a sense, he feels it is his responsibility to carry on where his father left off. Alva's experience as a professional pilot who flew forward air control during the Viet Nam War also added to his credibility with our group of pilots.

Our second tour guide, Jonathon Horn, is one of the founders of the Alpine Archeological Consultants. This group just completed a two-year project for BLM to locate the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail in northwest Colorado and southeast Utah. Through his explanations and presentations, we were able to see the process used to verify trail routes by looking at historic written records, studying Google Earth for visual evidence of the trail and then conducting actual field studies.



*Historic Trail Flyers at Cedar City, Utah  
Photo: Alva Matheson*

We flew our 1952 Bonanza to Mesquite, Nevada, on September 16 to begin the trip. We planned one night in Mesquite, three nights in Cedar City, Utah, and three nights in Montrose, Colorado. Thirteen total aircraft and 29 people departed Mesquite on September 17 to follow the Main Branch of the Trail to Cedar City. Alva had drawn the route on our aeronautical sectional charts so we were able to provide copies to each aircraft. Each of the low-flying planes followed the marked route, taking note of the river system and rugged terrain as we navigated around many of the same obstacles the earlier trail followers had gone around.

The official kickoff of the 2013 Trail Flight began in Cedar City, Utah, in the afternoon of the 17th, with Alva Matheson. He greeted us at the airport and served as a one-man tourist bureau for the group as he shuttled us to the motel and then to the Homestead Museum. Surrounded by the artifacts of the early settlers, we immersed ourselves in the history of the area, the difficulties and challenges faced by those trying to traverse or settle the region. At the kickoff banquet that evening we formally introduced Colonel Alva and his wife, Barbara, to the group. They would be our guides for the next two days of trail study via a charter bus. Alva used a symphonic video to introduce us to the region we would be traveling through in our two days with them. What a wonderful blend of cultural history, geography, flying and music.

Bright and early on the 18th, with donuts and other treats, we loaded our bus and headed out on the Trail. Our plan was to go west. We stopped at Iron Springs for a wagon ride, hosted by Frank Nichols, VP of the local chapter of the Old Spanish Trail, passing Younger's home.



*Flying the Iron Springs trail segment in style*  
Photo: Alva Matheson

We then continued west along the OST to the site of the Newcastle Blacksmith Shop, stopped at the Old Spanish Trail marker where most of the Jeff Hunt party broke off to take a "short cut" to California in 1849, a watering hole on the Old Spanish Trail west of Cedar City, and on to the trail site of the Mountain Meadows Massacre. At each of our stops and all along the way, Alva and Barbara told stories of the people passing along this route as well as the ones deciding to settle in the area. After traveling through Veyo and St. George, Utah, our last stop was a scenic trip through the Kolob Canyon (north entrance of Zion National Park).

Our second day with Alva was as crammed full of interesting things as the first. We saw a couple more sites along the Trail: Little Salt Lake, Paragonah, Enoch City Hall with a preserved section of the OST (later used by wagons), and OST markers in Parowan and Parowan Gap where we saw the petroglyphs and pictographs also seen by the travelers on the Old Spanish Trail. We even stopped along the way to see a dinosaur footprint (actually a casting of a print). Then a picnic lunch at Parowan City Park followed by a visit to the

ice cream parlor. Our final treat for the day was a trip to Brian Head and the Cedar Breaks National Monument. Utah is an incredibly beautiful and geographically interesting state to visit on the ground or from the air.

The Historic Trail Flyers are comfortable traveling together and have an insatiable thirst for knowledge. Their questions kept the discussions with the Mathesons going non-stop for the entire time we were with them, whether on the bus, at the various stops, or at the ice cream shop in Parowan. We learned about the difficulties associated with preserving, maintaining and marking the Old Spanish Trail.

On the 20th we departed for Montrose, Colorado, to do a field study of a section of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. Participants traveled various routes in their airplanes or vehicles. Some flew directly over the Canyon Lands, others flew over the National Historic Old Spanish Trail as closely as they could. We all arrived with stories to share and enthusiasm for the next adventures with our second guide, Jonathon Horn. We met Jonathon and two 24-passenger buses in the motel parking lot on the 21st at 8 a.m. for the next part of our tour.

Jonathon Horn's approach as a tour guide was different than Alva's. His view of the trail was through the



*Jonathon Horn points out trail features*  
Photo: Bob Bronson

lens of a researcher. We began our seven-hour day with Jonathon in Montrose on Chipeta Road near the Ute Indian Museum to see where the trappers crossed the Uncompahgre River. We had a great view of the backside of Target (retail store) on the west side of the river. Then we headed north on Chipeta Road (over the same basic route as the OST), to Rattlesnake Gulch for a walk up a hill to see traces of a trail (straight line from point to point) and evidence of the Salt Lake Wagon Road that followed the same route, but going around geographic obstacles. I even found a couple of shards of pottery on the wagon road. We stopped at Wells Gulch to see the ruts that Gunnison made on the trail in 1853, Escalante State Wildlife Area, and Fool's Hill to see segments of the Salt Lake Wagon Road. Lunch at Daveto's in Delta was great. After lunch we spent some time at the Fort Uncompahgre Living Museum (location of Antoine Robidoux's Trading Post) and heard more about the trappers of the area and the role of the Robidoux family in setting up trapper trading posts throughout the west. The Ute Council Tree in Delta was our next stop followed by the Ute Indian Museum in Montrose. The Utes and trappers saw the mutual benefit of working together on the North Branch Trail. Chief Ouray and his wife Chipeta played a major role in keeping the peace among both groups and the Ute Council Tree is where they held their meetings.

In the morning of the last day of Historic Trails Flight we toured the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National

Park, a must-see kind of place. Words fail to describe it. Then we had lunch and a tour of the Museum of the Mountain West in Montrose. This private museum is owned/operated by Richard Fike, a retired BLM archeologist. It is a truly phenomenal place. His huge collection contains buildings and objects of all descriptions. There is a fully functioning blacksmith shop, above which Jack Dempsey trained for his fights. There is a teacherage, and church and wash house to name a few. The most impressive is the large warehouse structure that is set up as the main street of an old town with an array of store fronts: apothecary shop, doctor's office, saloon, Schmidt's Cash Store. All of this to house the vast collection that includes a priceless Violano Vertuoso (only one I've ever seen) and Butch Cassidy's saddle and chaps. All I can say is, I can't believe all that we saw. We closed out our Trail Flight with the traditional "last supper" in Montrose. Jonathon Horn joined us and gave a summary presentation of the usage, development and evolution of the Old Spanish Trail. Our minds were full of all we had seen and experienced. By incorporating visits to some of the beautiful National Parks of Utah and Colorado, with our Trail site visits, we have found a truly winning combination. As we said our good-byes, we were already looking ahead to 2014.

In 2014, we will fly and study the William Clark Branch of the Lewis and Clark Trail in Montana. Our stops will be Missoula, Three Forks, Laurel, Miles City, and Sydney. ♦



*Trail flyers at the Canyon de Pillars, Kolob  
Photo: Alva Matheson*

**Stewardship Committee**  
Role and Function Statement  
Old Spanish Trail Association

Approved by Board – November 2, 2013

**OSTA Strategic Plan Mission Statement**

To study, preserve and protect, interpret and educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related historic routes.

**Stewardship Committee Objectives**

- Support the National Trails Act policy of promoting the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
- Assist in the training of volunteers to help with preservation and stewardship efforts.
- Through the OSTA Trail Stewardship program encourage chapters to collect, document, maintain and share Baseline Condition and Monitoring Data on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and closely related historic routes and their corridors in all its characteristics including vegetation, landform, landmarks, and human and natural alterations.
- Identify opportunities for recreation and interpretation and communicate these with federal land managers.
- Conduct review of projects that could threaten trail corridor integrity.
- Review all planned undertakings and actions which may alter the trail, including trail construction for visitor access and comment on behalf of OSTA membership on these actions to the individual or agency considering actions which might affect the condition of the trail.
- Support section 2(c) of the National Trails Act which states that “Congress recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation’s trails. In recognition of these contributions, it is further the purpose of this Act to encourage

and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.”

- Look for opportunities to partner and participate with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Support internal Geographical Information System (GIS) needs for OSNHT and historical trail variants.

**OSTA Elected Board Sponsor**

- Vice President of the Old Spanish Trail Association

**Committee Composition and Duties**

The Chair of the Stewardship Committee will be appointed by the President of OSTA with input from OSTA chapters and advice and confirmation of a majority of voting members of the OSTA Governing Board.

The duties of Chair shall be to coordinate activities of OSTA within the mission of the Stewardship Committee, promote communication and consensus of OSTA membership on data collection and project reviews and to assist Committee Members in acquiring notifications and conducting reviews of planned projects which may affect the condition of the OST, or implemented activities that promote preservation or public access. The term of the Chair shall be concurrent with the term of appointing President, upon resignation by written notification to the President, incapacity to serve or until removed by vote of a majority of the governing board.

Stewardship Committee representatives shall be OSTA members in good standing and agency liaisons. Each State Director is encouraged to work with local chapters to appoint suitable Stewardship Committee representatives. In the absence of chapter appointments each Director will serve as a Stewardship Committee member so that each state has representation.

The appointed Committee Members shall serve upon written or e-mail notification of the appointment by the Vice President of OSTA and the Stewardship Committee Chair. The appointment to the Stewardship Committee shall terminate at the will of the State Director, incapacity, or removal by the Committee Chair with approval of the Vice-President.

**Operating Principles**—The primary operating principle of the OSTA Stewardship Committee will be to assist OSTA Chapters and members to implement trail stewardship activities and encourage review of projects that threaten the trail. The Committee will support each Chapter in developing and implementing a Trail Stewardship Program to assure that best practices are shared and a consensus is built for a consistent approach to OSTA field monitoring and preservation activities.

The Committee will assist Chapter Officials in establishing points of contact with federal, tribal and State governments to coordinate monitoring and project review consultation through volunteer agreements and Memoranda of Understanding.

**Delegation of Authority**—All correspondence prepared by the committee or its members on OSTA letterhead or representing official OSTA position to non-OSTA entities will be signed by an elected Officer of OSTA or its Chapters, unless delegated on a case by case basis by action of the OSTA Board or Chapter Officials.

For actions which clearly affect the entire trail, or are highly controversial, the Stewardship Committee will establish a Project Review Committee under the direct Chairmanship of the OSTA Board liaison.

**Ex Officio Membership**—Federal Trail Administrators (NPS and BLM) will be invited to appoint ex-officio, non-voting advisors for all Stewardship Committee discussions, deliberations and recommendations for action. Federal Trail Managers (NPS, BLM, FS, USF and WS) will likewise be invited to have agency personal identified as a point-of-contact for each jurisdiction through which the Old Spanish National Historic Trail passes. Likewise State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices will be invited to designate a point-of-contact to be in an observer and advisory capacity for Committee activities in which they declare an interest.

**Training**—The Stewardship Committee will develop and implement workshops to encourage OSTA members to participate in stewardship activities. The Committee will disseminate information on external workshops and training opportunities which may improve OSTA membership to participate in Stewardship activities such as Partnership for the National Trail System workshops

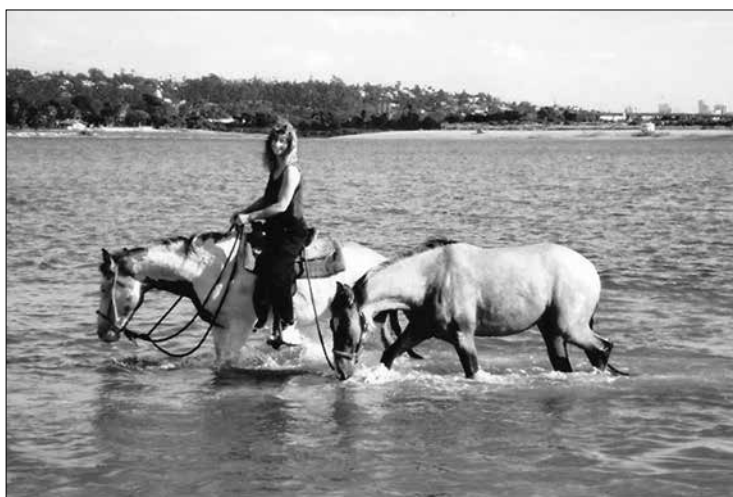
and conferences, and Forest Service sponsored workshops and Passports in Time projects, BLM-sponsored Trail Stewardship Programs and state sponsored archeological stewardship programs.

**Notifications and Databases**—OSTA will establish a moderated Stewardship Committee Bulletin Board on Facebook for which any member of OSTA in good standing may request participation. This weblog will form the basis for notification among committee members of projects which may affect the Old Spanish National Historical Trail.

### Proposed Action Items

- 1) Identify federal land contacts and chapters interested in developing a volunteer stewardship program.
- 2) Develop a regular stewardship column for Spanish Traces.
- 3) Draft a renewable energy policy statement for board consideration.
- 4) Develop an advocacy policy and communication strategy to address threats to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.
- 5) Prepare outline of proactive engagement activities and form letters.
- 6) In conjunction with Chapter Stewardship officers and the OSTA Interpretation Committee, compile a list of OST interpretive signs and trail markers
- 7) In cooperation with federal land managers begin annual monitoring of trail resources including interpretive signs and trail markers.
- 8) Develop digital archive for storing GIS information. ♦





*Lisa Wood astride her pinto mustang, Shawnee, leading Moki.*

## **New OSTA Member Plans to Ride the Old Spanish Trail**

In 2001 my mustang mare, Shawnee, and I followed the Kearny Trail from California to Santa Fe, then the Santa Fe Trail, then the Old National Road, finally ending at a friend's house in Virginia. You'd think that ride, which covered 3,000 miles over the course of five months, would get historic trail riding out of my system. But then I started reading about the Old Spanish Trail. It's farther north than the Kearny Trail, of course, covering about 1,200 miles through mountains, deserts and canyons. For my purposes, I am thinking I may skip some of the westernmost part of the trail, and will compensate for that, weatherwise, by leaving at the end of April.

The central portion of the Old Spanish Trail is the area I am most interested in seeing on horseback. It is the heart of canyon country. I'll be traveling west to east, through part of the Mojave Desert, to the Muddy River on the Mormon Plateau. Then I plan to cross the Great Basin to the Green and Colorado rivers. I may make a loop out of it, taking the southern route east and then cutting up to take the northern branch back west. My route will depend on what my research shows. This will be my third historical trail ride, but I never feel constrained to stay exactly to the historical path if safety or even scenery suggest an alternate destination is appropriate. I hope to get input and advice from this Association. This, together with my research, will help

me decide on my itinerary, though I may also make changes on the fly. This is some of the most stunning scenery on earth, and I can't wait to ride in it. I'm getting a little long in the tooth, but I figure I can just squeak one more long ride in before I turn 60 if I ride the Old Spanish Trail, or anyway a significant portion of it, in 2020. Shawnee will be far too old by then for such an arduous adventure, but her son Moki, the yellow dun on ponyline in the photo, won't be too old.

I've just begun my investigation. I have joined this Old Spanish Trail Association. My DeLorme maps of the area are spread out, collecting crumbs, on the table. I've ordered some of the literature and maps from the Old Spanish Trail website (although I may not have done it correctly, as the materials haven't arrived yet). This spring I plan to drive out, camp in my pickup, and visit some of the trail. I hope to meet other association members in Las Vegas at the October 16-19th conference. Little by little I hope to learn more about the trail, and the organization's efforts regarding the trail. I am very grateful for the information this association provides, and for the dedication of the members to this spectacular trail. Thank you for all you do.

Appreciative Trail Rider and  
New Spanish Trail Member,

*Lisa Wood*

**Remember: OSTA October 16-19 Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada**

Details at [www.oldspanishtrail.org/participate/conference/](http://www.oldspanishtrail.org/participate/conference/)