

SPANISH TRACES



Volume 23 ♦ no. 2

Autumn 2017

Red Creek Analysis

White, Gambel, Yount

Cajon Pass Tour

OSTA Conference

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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 through 1848, traders and pack mules followed the OST on typically 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.oldspanishtrail.org

The OSTA website is the place to go for both general and comprehensive background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail, and a bibliography of relevant books with links for purchases of books and other OSTA merchandise from the Association. There is also 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 links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites, where public documents and maps related to the OSNHT can be found. Memberships (new or renewal) may be paid on the OSTA website, and donations, both general and for specific projects, can be made through the OSTA website as well.

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 **November 10, 2017**. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Editor.

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On the Cover: *Mission San Gabriel Arcángel, San Gabriel, California. Founded in 1771 by Franciscan priests, including Fr. Junipero Serra, this is the second location of the mission. The complex at this site began to be built in 1775 to minister to the Kizh/Gabrieleño/Tongva tribe. In 1834, it was "secularized" by the Mexican authorities. While the church stayed an active parish, the remainder of the complex was left to deteriorate but continued to serve as a convenient inn for travelers and traders along the Old Spanish Trail and California's El Camino Real.*

Photo: John Hiscock



Ashley J. Hall
OSTA President

Our last two OSTA board meetings were held in Phoenix, Arizona, and Salt Lake City, Utah, during the first half of this year, where we met with trail administrators for the federal and state governments. Both meetings were very successful.

As I near the end of my tenure as president, I want to convey to you the many happy memories Lorna and I have created along the Old Spanish Trail. Likewise, in my final "Presidents Corner," I wish to express my deep appreciation to the entire OSTA membership for your support and participation. My terms as president have been very rewarding.

OSTA is blessed to have many highly talented, capable, and energetic people on the OSTA board.

The OSTA leaders and participants in Arizona have provided a host of

experiences and foresights. Reba Grandrud, Earl Fosdick, and Paul Ostapuk, along with others, joined us at the Crossing of the Fathers, the 1776 inscription tours on Lake Powell, and the board meetings in Page and Phoenix.

Likewise, in California we have experienced the gracious hospitality of Paul McClure, Nelson Miller, Jack Prichett, Jim Day, Alex King, and Nancy Melendez at Barstow Days, tracing the Old Spanish Trail through the Cajon Pass, and retracing the history and settlement of Agua Mansa, established in the early 1830s by OST trader families.

In Colorado, we have walked part of the North Fork of the Old Spanish Trail with Vicki Felmlee, Jonathan Carr, Doug Knudson, Mark Franklin, Chris Miller, and others as we attended the annual OSTA conferences in Cortez and Grand Junction, along with our visits to Fort Uncompahgre. Our meetings and workshops with Dr. J.J. Jefferson regarding Native American sacred trees have been some of my most memorable experiences as OSTA President.

New Mexico has felt like a homecoming each time we have traveled to the "enchanted" state. Our meetings, annual conference, visits, and workshops in New Mexico with Margaret Sears, Pat Kuhlhoff, Dr. Robert Hilley, Ruth Friesen (*Spanish Traces* Editor), Mark Henderson, Dennis Ditmanson,

and others have been life experiences with many happy memories. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding between OSTA and the New Mexico BLM.

The settlement and military service of my great-grandparents along the OST in Southern California and in southwestern Utah, including guarding of Cajon Pass in the Mexican/American War in 1847, settlements of Parowan, Paragonah, St. George, Gunlock, and Enterprise in southwestern Utah in the 1850s, encouraged me to learn, understand, and appreciate OST history and attend the events of marking the trail in September of 1950. With this early experience, I became acquainted with the history of the settlements and success of the Santa Fe traders along the OST.

I am most grateful to Al Matheson, who has taught me a great deal about OST history and identifying and preserving the Trail. He opened the door at Southern Utah University that allowed OSTA and SUU to sign an agreement with SUU Special Collections Library to be the repository for all OSTA information, publications, and records. (SUU is close to the center spot between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, making it a perfect location as the OSTA Repository). We also deeply appreciate Stephanie Moulton for her efforts as the President of the Fish Lake Chapter and her willingness to assume the role of Utah State Director fol-

President's Corner

lowing Al Matheson's years of faithful service. People like Dr. Leo Lyman of St. George, Mayor Dave Orton of Richfield, Ken Frye of Kanab, and Ed Geary of Green River, along with many others, have become close friends during our journeys here.

With Nevada being my home, I have saved this until last because of people like Dr. Liz Warren of Goodsprings, Nevada, the late Col. Hal Steiner, who researched and wrote *The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert*, and others like Stan Plum and Glenn Shaw who taught me so much about the OST and its historic value in the settlement of the West. They became my closest friends and colleagues as we traveled the OST by boat along the original route, now under Lake Mead on the Colorado River, by airplane thanks to OSTA's Nevada Chapter member Kent Davenport, and by truck/car as we traversed the OST many times through Nevada to Emigrant Pass, Resting Springs, California.

The OSTA members of Nevada have become like family: Stan and Debi Plum, Gary Boyd, Glen Shaw, Monte Hall and his wife Jon Wall, Nicole and Joe Dominguez and their family, Cori and Steve and their family, Teresa and Ben Wellborn and their family, Truman and Megan Hall and their family, and A.J. Hall and his family, plus many more.

I especially want to thank the 22 Boy Scouts who conducted their

Eagle Projects along the OST by replacing and setting the GPS for each of the 27 replacement markers that were initially installed in 1964 as part of Nevada's Centennial Celebration. We also want to thank the Nevada BLM, Clark County Commission, the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson, the media, Back Country Horsemen, Special Collections Library at UNLV, and many others who have helped.

Lastly, OSTA will ever be grateful to John Hiscock, OSTA Manager, for his untiring efforts to assist us as we meet present and future challenges. Indeed, we should be thankful to all of the present and former OSTA managers for their efforts to move the Association forward along the Old Spanish

Trail.

It is my hope that OSTA will continue to strive toward the summit of its future, while remembering and memorializing in *Spanish Traces* the history of the Trail through articles, photos, and projects accomplished that brings light and happiness to those who enjoy an original Trail of the West.

Let us recommit ourselves to focusing on protecting, preserving, and educating the public on the Old Spanish Trail and its value in the history and settlement of America's Southwest.

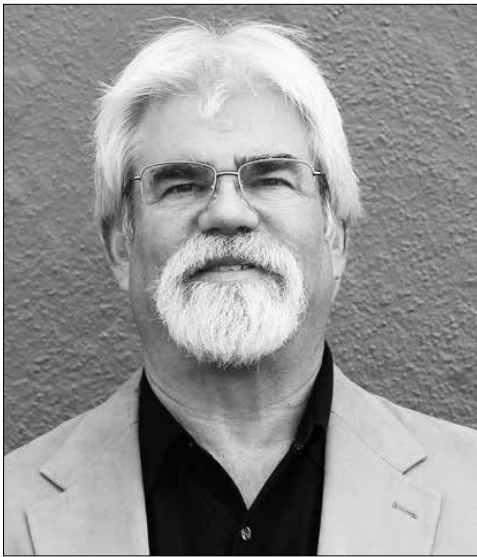
Happy Trails to each of you.

Ashley Hall

Read a Self-Guided Tour of Cajon Pass on Page 30.



The Mormon Rocks site is Stop 13 on the Cajon Pass tour. Photo by Nick Cataldo.



John W. Hiscock
Association Manager

I hope the summer of 2017 finds you all healthy and active, and hopefully includes some personal time and adventures along, or associated with, the Old Spanish Trail and the Association's efforts.

Spanish Traces, issued three times each year, is one way I have to **communicate with you** as members. Other ways include through our Board and state directors, through your chapter officers, our occasional electronic newsletter, e-mail, our website information, and our Facebook page. But in the words of the famous playwright George Bernard Shaw, "[t]he single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." I desperately want to improve communications and shared information within the Old Spanish Trail Association and quell any illusions on my part or others that communication and knowledge are pervasive. I ask for your help in the following ways:

Trail Dispatches

- If you need information, or have information to share, contact me directly - by e-mail (ostamgr@gmail.com), or telephone (435-689-1620).

- Engage with your chapter leadership or state directors to share and receive information and ask them to share local information with me.

- Consider following the Old Spanish Trail Association on Facebook. This real-time social media outlet is presently our most vital tool in sharing OSTA information. It's easier than you may think.

So, here is the written and printed word.

The months since the last edition of *Spanish Traces* have been busy, to say the least. We have had two Board meetings which included social gatherings to solicit new members and partners. Cohesive and sustainable internal Association policies have been developed and adopted, and administrative business conducted. There have been numerous interactions with our federal Old Spanish National Historic Trail Co-Administrators (the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service) and federal land managers. Significant project work on Trail promotion, signage, and interpretation has been accomplished. Efforts assuring Trail stewardship and protection always keep us busy.

Board meetings were held in early

April in Phoenix, Arizona, and mid-June in Salt Lake City, Utah. One of the purposes for holding these two meetings in the major metropolitan centers of each OST state was to hold collateral informative gatherings soliciting new OSTA members and partners in locations where related institutions and population are greatest. This endeavor was somewhat successful in Phoenix, and taking lessons learned into account, extremely successful in Salt Lake City. OSTA leadership forged or strengthened relationships with academia, federal and state agency representatives, other conservation groups, and individuals. A big thank you to Ms. Sherry Plowman, National Park Service Superintendent of the Southern Arizona Group in Phoenix, and Mr. Chris Merritt, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer of the State of Utah for making their facilities available for these events.

Much administrative business of OSTA was also accomplished in the associated Board meetings. A new five-year Strategic Plan was finalized and approved. New, well-defined policies on OST/OSTA logo use, different aspects of membership management, OSTA archival repository, a new Research Committee charter, the leadership/administrative website, Board recruitment/Board building and OSTA conference planning committees, and updates to OSTA travel policy were all approved.

Leadership and staffing changes continue within OSTA. Fish Lake Chapter President Stephanie Moulton has accepted an interim appointment as Utah State Director on the OSTA Board following the resignation of long-term, stalwart Board member Al Matheson. Ms. Moulton will remain Fish Lake Chapter President as well and is a nominee for election to a full term as Utah State Director. Since Al Matheson has also stepped away as Southern Utah Chapter President, Gerald (“Jerry”) Van Iwaarden has taken over that position. Regretfully, Bob Hilley has found it necessary to resign as New Mexico State Director on the Board. A search is underway for a replacement. After nine months as OSTA Membership Coordinator, Emily Schrepf, faced with overwhelming commitments, also steps aside from that position. A search is on for this important position. (With three changes in this position in the past year, some degree of difficulty with renewal reminders and membership tracking has understandably taken place. If you feel that you have been affected, please contact me as Association Manager.) Huge thanks to Al Matheson, Bob Hilley, and Emily Schrepf for their contributions.

As always, the federal OSNHT Co-Administrators, Aaron Mahr of the NPS and Rob Sweeten of the BLM, or their delegates - in the case of the NPS, John Cannela, took part in the aforementioned OSTA Board meetings. At those meetings and otherwise, those federal administrators informed

and collaborated on various fronts. Unfortunately, the Administrators reported that the release of the final Comprehensive Administrative Strategy for the OSNHT has been further pushed back and is currently expected in October. Little substantive information about changes to the Draft CAS has been shared, nor has OSTA been consulted on such changes.

Through further efforts with Co-Administrator Sweeten, OSTA has conditionally received the entirety of the long-sought 2011 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contracted study on National Historic Trails, including the OSNHT, titled, “National Historic Trails Inventory - Final Field Inventory and Protocol.” This study can now be referenced by OSTA leaders and researchers under limited and certified distribution by the Association Manager to ensure protection of certain sensitive aspects of its content.

Work is ongoing on the negotiation of the fifth annual financial assistance agreement from the NPS for 2017 - 2018. This task agreement will be the final year under the overarching five-year-long financial assistance agreement with the NPS, presumably with renegotiation of that overarching agreement in 2018. These five-year and one-year incremental subsidiary agreements are the primary source of funding for OSTA’s operations.

Positive headway on many different projects along the OST through the efforts of OSTA leaders and

members is taking place.

Further steps have taken place on a grant project from the BLM, Arizona, and in partnership with Arizona Strip, Arizona; Saint George, Utah; Kanab, Utah; and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. This grant provided OSTA with funding to make recommendations to the federal OSNHT Co-Administrators and field office managers on alignment of the OSNHT across Utah/Arizona borderlands, and signage, interpretation, and recreational use of the Armijo Route of the OSNHT. Although originally designed as a potential five-year study with five years of funding, it appears that the funding for years 2-5 will be cut back or eliminated. Nevertheless, OSTA representatives, led by Paul Ostapuk, are committed to doing their best to effectively produce as many relevant and good recommendations as possible.

An important and potentially huge partnership has been initiated with the Western National Parks Association (WNPA) and its Gateway to Nature Center at the El Pueblo de Los Angeles city historical monument in downtown Los Angeles, at the western terminus of the OSNHT. This partnership was forged by WNPA and OSTA Director-At-Large Alexander King. In partnership with the City of Los Angeles, NPS, and the U.S. Forest Service, WNPA now operates the Gateway to Nature visitor center at the site, distributes published information on national parks and forests in the region and on the

two national historic trails directly related to El Pueblo - the OSNHT and the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT. Space for programs and talks (which King has provided and is scheduled for more) is available, and discussions concerning OSNHT signage and interpretive waysides are underway.

Other information, research, and interpretive accomplishments include:

- Progress on consultation on an OST film and related digital products undertaken by the Museum of Moab (formerly the Dan O'Leary Museum).

- Planning, funding, and agreement with California State University, Dominguez Hills Archaeology Department, on a first-phase archaeological survey and recordation of apparent grave sites along the OST in the Eastern Mojave Desert, spearheaded by Tecopa Chapter President Jack Prichett.

- Completion of interpretive waysides for OSNHT recreational retracement trailheads at Orchard

Mesa and Coffman Road in Mesa County, Colorado. This effort was funded by National Park Foundation Active Trail Grant funds and cooperatively effectuated by OSTA's Colorado State Director Vicki Felmlee, Interpretive Association of Western Colorado Manager Chris Miller, Mesa County, City of Grand Junction, and the NPS.

- Publication of an article on the Armijo Route of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, titled "Following the Ghosts of Mules and Men" by Laurel Anderson in *Etched* magazine, with consultative assistance from the Association Manager and Red Pueblo Chapter president Jeff Frey.

Chapter building projects are also progressing, led by Alexander King in promoting a Los Angeles area chapter (sorely needed and missing) and Conchita Marusich and Cecelia Peña in promoting a Descendants chapter. Watch for more on these efforts, or better yet, volunteer to help. The recently formed Agua Mansa Chapter in

the Riverside, California, area has blossomed, is energetic, and involved in public information and OST and related site conservation. Thanks to the many similarly active OSTA chapters. Nevertheless, I'm sorry to say that not all OSTA chapters are active or communicative. Have you checked on your chapter's governance and contributions lately?

Finally, I would like to bid a respectful near future farewell to OSTA President, Ashley Hall, ending his term in October. President Hall has graciously given me great leeway in doing my job as your Association Manager, with much appreciation. I'm sure we'll continue to receive productive input from Ashley in the future. Kudos and thanks to him.

See you at the October 2017 annual conference. We'll have much to discuss.

Archives Bazaar in Los Angeles

The 12th Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 21, at the Doheny Memorial Library on the USC University Park Campus.

A broad range of institutions and archives will participate. For more information see <http://laassubject.org/archives-bazaar>.

Indian Marker Trees Information at Barstow

Dr. James Jefferson will present a display about Indian marker trees during the OSTA Conference in Barstow on Saturday, October 7, at the Desert Discovery Center. The display will be visible to attendees at the Old Spanish Trail Days in addition to attendees of the OSTA conference.



Follow the Old Spanish Trail Association on Facebook and get the most current news plus interesting historical information. It's easy!

Chapter Reports

North Branch Chapter

Don Moyer, our new chapter vice-president, is a 62-year-old native of the Western Slope of Colorado, whose family has lived on the Western Slope for many generations. He has lived in Grand Junction with his wife Sue for the past 25 years. He was raised in Meeker and graduated from Western State College in Gunnison in 1977. Working as an independent land-man, he has done title research and leasing for oil, gas, and mining companies. Don is an avid student of Western history, including the era of the Old Spanish Trail. He joins North Branch Chapter President Jonathan Carr, who is serving his second term.

Beautiful, informative wayside (interpretive) signs are being installed on both North Branch trailheads. Funded through a National Park Service grant, the signs will tell the story of the North Branch in Mesa County. These are welcome additions to the Trail.

Two events this fall will put the spotlight on the North Branch. Colorado Old Spanish Trail Days will be held September 16 in Delta, and the Second Annual Back to the Trail will be held October 8 with a foot race hosted by Monument Striders. More information on these events as they develop can be found at ostacolorado.org.

La Vereda del Norte Chapter

A geological field trip led by geologist Steve Nicolais took chapter members and friends to the dramatic landscapes of English Valley, north of Del Norte. The chapter frequently has field trips focusing not only on the history of the Trail through the San Luis Valley, but also informative events about the ecology, environment, and archaeology.

--Vicki Felmlee, Colorado Director

Salida del Sol Chapter

The April annual meeting held at Joe's Diner was a great success with over 20 folks attending. With Doug Knudson from the Colorado Del Norte Chapter as our speaker, we discussed the road guide project.

Our June meeting was a working meeting to look at maps and choose areas of the OST to research and photograph for the road guide project. There are 400 miles of the trail in New Mexico, so there is much from which to choose. Contact Pat Kuhlhoff at pglk@cybermesa.com if you are interested in researching a portion of the trail in New Mexico. We'll send you the process we are using to research.

Our August 19 field trip will be a day-long outing to the San Luis Valley, where Doug Knudson and the Del Norte Chapter folks will share the OST with us. The October 21 meeting program is yet to be determined.

On November 25 we will have a special field trip to Abiquiu Village for St. Tomas Feast Day mass and dances. We'll depart Santa Fe at 9 a.m., carpooling from the north end of De Vargas Mall parking lot. The mass begins at 10 a.m. and dances are from 11 a.m. with a noon lunch for all guests.

Bob Hilley, our New Mexico OSTA Director, has resigned and moved to Oregon to be near family. We wish him well in his new state. We are currently looking for someone to fill the State Director's position. Someone with devotion to the preservation of the Trail and who will be willing and able to attend two board meetings a year plus the annual meeting of OSTA should take on this position. If you are interested, please contact Pat Kuhlhoff, SDS Chapter President, or Association Manager John Hiscock at 435-689-1620.

--Pat Kuhlhoff

Tecopa Chapter

Since 2008, the Tecopa Chapter's trail committee has been locating, following, and GPS-recording segments of the Old Spanish Trail (OST) and the later Mormon Road (MR) wagon trail. The area covered lies between the California/Nevada state line on the east and the canyon of the Amargosa River to the west (see below).

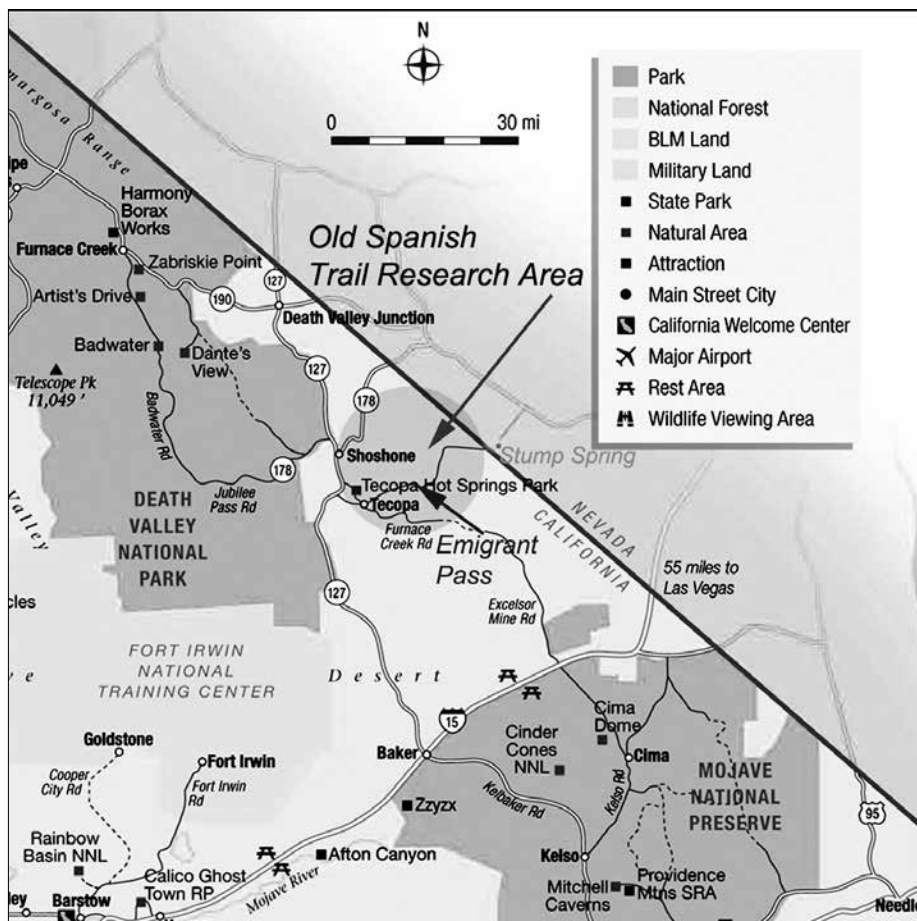
The trails recording began from Emigrant Pass, a location where all trail scholars agree that the mule trace and the wagon trail are both visible. Since 2008, the trail recording process has captured more than 30 miles of the OST and the MR. This work has been supplemented by substantial archival research into numerous traveler accounts from 1848 and 1849.

This detailed research has revealed a network of mule traces and wagon trails, leading from four springs at the foot of the Spring Mountains in Nevada, converging at Emigrant Pass, and then leading to Resting

Springs, with branches again leading to the Amargosa River canyon. One key finding: the actual traces and wagon trail do not correspond to the route shown of the OSNHT's current official map (<https://imgis.nps.gov/html/?viewer=nht&layerTheme=4&ex=-13353338.2193447,3621304.48485922,-11652146.66592,5053886.84563797,102100>).

The chapter will present the results of this research, laid out in a detailed map, at OSTA's 2017 conference, in Barstow, California. The chapter then plans to turn over the actual GPS data to the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management as an update to replace the erroneous route shown on the OSNHT's current official map.

--Jack Prichett



The Old Spanish Trail and the later Mormon Road wagon trail are being mapped by the Tecopa Chapter. The area covered lies between the California/Nevada state line on the east and the canyon of the Amargosa River to the west.

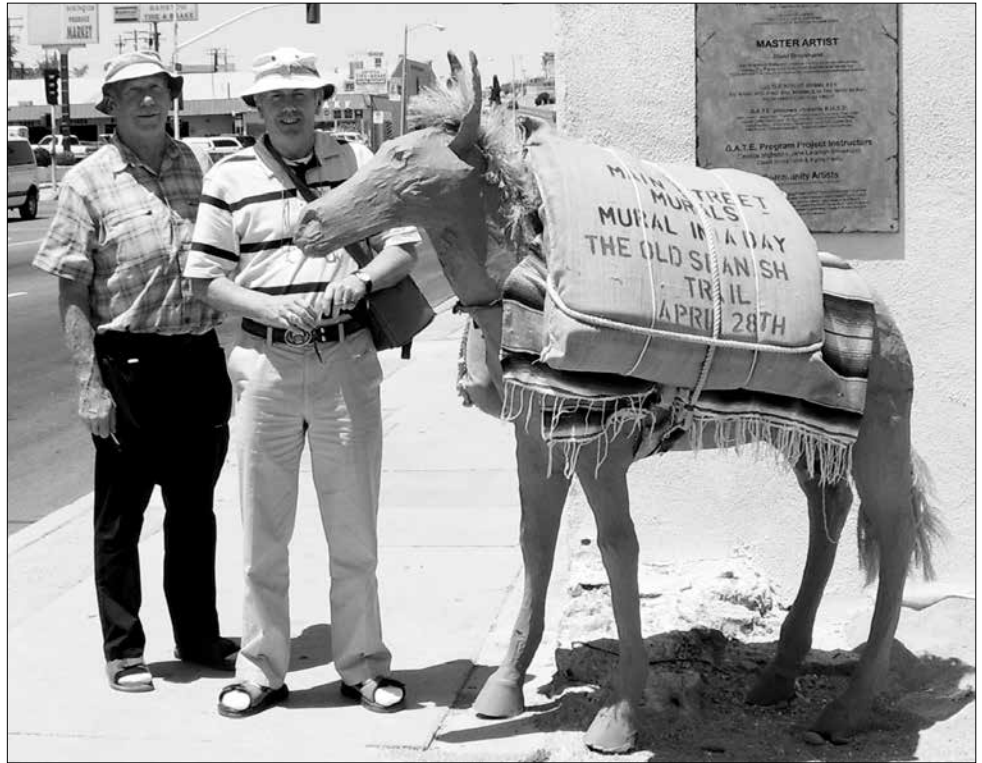
William Workman Chapter

The President and members, both full and honorary, of the William Workman Chapter residing in the far-flung outpost of Cumbria situated in Northern England, United Kingdom, await with anticipation the next issue of our wonderful publication *Spanish Traces*.

We send greetings to President Ashley Hall and the officers of the Association and all our other friends of many years standing.

President Bill Ramsay and Secretary David Fallowfield have flights booked for attending the annual meeting at Barstow in October, together with reservations at the Quality Inn, and very much look forward to being there and participating once again in the conference agenda and renewing friendships and making new ones.

--David Fallowfield



Bill Ramsey, left, and David Fallowfield on Main Street in Barstow at the OST mural dedication in June 2007

Descendants Chapter Forming

We invite you to become a charter member of the Descendants Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) and be part of its formation. The Chapter will include descendants as well as others interested in learning more about those who traveled over the Trail during the late 1820s to the 1850s. It will primarily be an internet based, far-flung chapter. Under the OSTA bylaws, at least ten OSTA members avowing interest in joining the new chapter are required before chapter approval.

If you are interested in joining, contact Conchita Thornton Marusich or Cecelia Peña at conrik1@aol.com or ceceliapena@hotmail.com.

Once the chapter is approved by the Board, you can officially join. You can be part of several chapters, including the Descendants Chapter, at the same time and only need to pay \$5 extra for each additional chapter beyond the initial chapter you specify when you join OSTA.

Conchita and Cecelia are both descendants of OST travelers, Conchita a descendant of William Wolfskill and Cecelia a descendant of Juan Felipe Peña who traveled with the Wolfskill Expedition in 1841.

OSTA Research Committee Seeks Members

By Tom Sutak, Chair, OSTA Research Committee

The Research Committee is always looking for qualified trail researchers who are interested in joining the committee. Anyone with experience in trail history research or mapping who is interested in joining the Committee is encouraged to contact us at ostarescom@gmail.com for further information.

What does the Research Committee offer to OSTA members and others? We serve as a resource for our members and the public who are looking for information about the Old Spanish Trail. We can often refer someone doing research to the proper source material or to other experts who can help them in their research. In addition, we serve as a resource to review written material for publication in our journal or in other locations. We intend to expand and annotate the bibliography material located on the OSTA website. We assist internal and external authors with OST-specific information. We hope to be able to expand our services in the future.

The Role and Function Statement of the Research Committee was recently approved by the OSTA Board of Directors and states in part: "The mission of the Research Committee is to provide support to members, institutions and others researching the history and location of the Old Spanish Trail and OSNHT and to vet, propose and assist in research studies that will enhance knowledge about the Old Spanish Trail and OSNHT. The Committee may conduct research on trail related topics. Upon request, the Committee will also evaluate research papers for publication." In addition, the statement calls for the Research Committee to work collaboratively with the National Park Service in its efforts regarding the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

The Research Committee is composed of OSTA members in good standing or agency OSNHT Co-Administrator staff. Members shall be recruited by the committee chair, committee members, and the OSTA Board. Members shall be selected based on their research experience, interest in fostering additional research

contributions, or their participation in research activities of OSTA.

Members shall be confirmed by majority vote of the existing membership of the Committee. Members shall serve until resignation or removal by majority vote of the committee or OSTA governing board.

In addition, ex-officio members of the committee include a liaison board member designated by the board, the OSTA president, Association manager, the editor of *Spanish Traces*, and advisors appointed by Federal Trail Administrators (NPS and BLM). The Chair of the Research Committee, who serves a three-year term, is elected by its members and approved by the OSTA Board liaison to the Committee, with input from OSTA chapter leadership and the OSTA Board.

The Committee has also discussed compiling a roster of subject matter experts who are willing to be resources for specific trail related questions. Persons on this list can either be OSTA members or non-members; they need to have some specific subject matter knowledge and be willing to volunteer to share their expertise. Some suggested areas of interest are: trail archaeologists, geologists, experienced packers and mule handlers, nutritionists, genealogists, medical professionals with knowledge of pioneer medical practices, and similar subjects. In addition, the Committee will be working with OSTA chapter officers to determine who in their areas has specific knowledge of trail routes and would be willing to serve on the roster. If you know of anyone who could serve as a volunteer subject matter expert, please pass that person's contact information on to us at ostarescom@gmail.com.

If you have questions about your OSTA Research Committee or need assistance in locating research material, don't hesitate to contact us at ostarescom@gmail.com or contact OSTA through its website oldspanishtrail.org/

Board Members Sought

Two OSTA Board openings have recently occurred. One is the result of a lack of volunteer candidates for the position of Treasurer on the Board. The other is a result of the recent resignation of former New Mexico State Director Bob Hilley.

The Board is seeking individuals who would be willing to serve in these positions via appointment. An appointment for the Treasurer position would be for the entire current two-year term for that position, beginning in October and running through summer 2019. An appointment for the New Mexico State Director position would be for the balance of the existing term for that position, through the summer of 2018, when an election for a succeeding, normal three-year term will occur.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer position include: overall knowledge of, and participation in, Board actions on nationwide OSTA policies and endeavors; knowledge and oversight of all OSTA fiscal matters; drawdowns of federal grant funds into the OSTA bank account as coordinated with Association Manager; review, and preparation as necessary, of annual OSTA IRS tax returns and other tax forms in coordination with Association Manager; alternative signature authority on OSTA checking account; administrative oversight of OSTA Quickbooks online

accounting system (actual bookkeeping is done by Association Manager); and administrative oversight for OSTA online PayPal account (assignment of individual staff access and other administrative items).

Responsibilities of State Director Board positions include: overall knowledge of, and participation in, Board actions on nationwide OSTA policies and endeavors; knowledge of OSTA issues and efforts in their particular state; knowledge of and advisory action on OSTA Chapter goals and actions in their particular state; OSTA promotion, and membership, partnership, and fundraising advocacy.

Nominees do need to be paid members of OSTA at the time of their appointment (which means they can be from outside the organization currently - they just need to join before Board appointment.)

Additional information and insight can be provided from existing Board members and the Association Manager.

We need you, or your suggested nominees! Please contact OSTA President Ashley Hall - 702-592-3953, ashleyhall1@cox.net; or OSTA Association Manager, John Hiscock - 435-689-1620, ostamgr@gmail.com.



Connectivity With You - Our Members

More than ever, it is extremely important

that we have the best and most up-to-date contact information for all OSTA members. We are frequently faced with irresolvable communication issues, membership issues, and *Spanish Traces* delivery issues due to old or erroneous contact information. And, as is true with most organizations in today's society, we can communicate with you and



keep you informed much better and more frequently, and resolve membership and delivery issues if we have accurate e-mail addresses for as many members as possible. Please consider providing complete, accurate, and legible contact information (mailing address, telephone number, e-mail address) when starting or renewing your membership in OSTA. If you have any questions or concerns about us having correct contact information, please contact the Association Manager (ostamgr@gmail.com, 435-689-1620) and include current, correct information. As always, your personal information will not be shared outside of OSTA administrative and leadership circles.

Fort Uncompahgre Receives NPS/BLM Certification



Fort Uncompahgre by Dan Deuter

The NPS and BLM just awarded Fort Uncompahgre, Delta, Colorado, the first certification as an interpretive facility located along the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. There are plans in the works to dedicate the Fort Interpretive Center located at 440 North Palmer Street on September 16 during the first Annual "Colorado Old Spanish Trail Days," celebrating Mexican heritage. The Fort will be working with the National Park Service and the City of Delta to identify the locations of new signs.

Fort Uncompahgre was the only trading post along the entire Old Spanish Trail between Santa Fe and Los Angeles. Constructed in 1828 by Antoine Robidoux, a French-American, the Uncompahgre Post was the first of its kind west of the Rocky Mountains. The American Indians treasured the goods and luxuries the Post offered as much as the trappers did, once they were introduced to them and the goods became available. The post of Robidoux, in fact, did a majority of its business with the Ute Indians, there not being many free trappers in the area in the early years of the trade.

Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center is a replica of the historic 1830 trading post that was located on the south bank of the Gunnison River approximately two miles down-river from the present-day location. The post operated between 1828-1844.

The Interpretive Association of Western Colorado, which operates the Fort, recently received funds from BLM to refresh the large kiosk located at Wells Gulch just west of Delta, Colorado. Both sides of the existing kiosk will be replaced with 6 x 4 foot signs. One sign will focus on the Old Spanish Trail and the other the newly designated Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area.

See www.Fortuncompahgre.org for additional information.

REMINDER OSTA Board Election

Remember, your votes for OSTA Board positions must be submitted by August 31, 2017. Ballot cards were delivered with the Spring 2017 edition of *Spanish Traces*. They should be mailed to Lorraine Carpenter, PO Box 1080, Waxhaw, NC 28173.

Candidates are Vicki Felmlee for President; Nancy Melendez for California State Director; and Stephanie Moulton for Utah State Director. Biographical sketches of each candidate were included in the Spring edition.

“Moving Forward, Looking Back” Exhibit Concludes

By Alex King

Spanish visual artist and journalist Janire Najera’s touring exhibit, “Moving Forward, Looking Back: Journeys Across the Old Spanish Trail” concluded when its showing at Chapman University in Orange, California, closed in June. Ten selected works generously donated by Najera will stay at Chapman for rotation in the university’s permanent collection of art. The remainder of the exhibit will be mounted in The Classroom Museum of the Spanish Resource Center at Hollywood High School in Los Angeles, California. See www.hollywoodhighschool.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=453851&type=d&pREC_ID=981161. See also www.mecd.gob.es/eeuu/oficinasycentros/centros-recursos/eeuu-Los-Angeles/presentacion.html

Part of a network of such Centers sponsored by the Spanish Embassy’s Education Council, the Center at Hollywood High School is a gathering place for Spanish teachers, bilingual education teachers, students of all educational levels, administrators, and other people interested in the knowledge and diffusion of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures.

The original exhibit was a result of Najera and photographer Matt Wright’s 2014 journey across the Southwest blogging, interviewing, and photographing Spain’s extant colonial legacy. The project was sponsored by Spain Arts & Culture, www.spainculture.us/. Subsequently, a touring exhibition was formed featuring large-format photographic images and the video interviews. Najera also created a slim book, *Moving Forward, Looking Back: Journeys Across the Old Spanish Trail*. They both debuted in Washington, D.C. in April 2015.

Subsequent installations of the exhibit were at Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom, in October 2015; Bilbao, Spain, in November and December 2015; and Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the National Hispanic



Chapman University transfers "Moving Forward" exhibition to Spanish Resource Center at Hollywood High School. From right to left: Ms. Natalie Lawler, Curator, Chapman University; Mr. José Manuel Gil Osle, Canciller, Consulate General of Spain in Los Angeles; and Maria Teresa Pedraz, Education Advisor, Consulate General of Spain in Los Angeles. Photo courtesy Education Office of the Consulate General of Spain in Los Angeles.

Cultural Center in 2016. It was on display at Chapman University in Orange, California, from February through June this year.

The original blog, in addition to its video interviews, virtual galleries and 3D virtual tours of the exhibit at several of its venues, and additional information is still available on the project’s website, www.movingforwardlookingback.us/

[Information for this article graciously provided by Janire Najera; Natalie Lawler, Curator-Art Collections, Chapman University; and Teresa Pedraz, Education Advisor, Education Office, Consulate General of Spain.]

New Documents Uncovered Of Old Spanish Trail Merchants In California

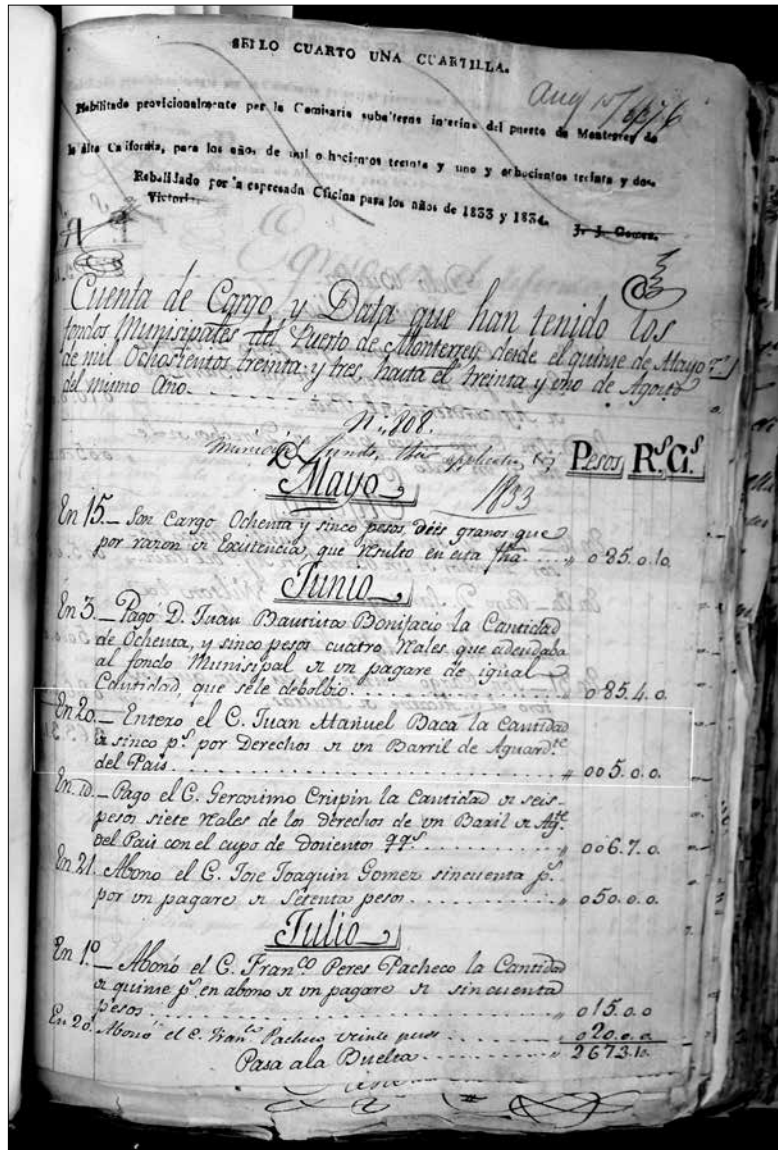
By Alex King

Recently, genealogical researcher Anthony Ray photographed selected documents in the Spanish-Mexican Archives of Monterey (County). Several reveal some of the earliest evidence of certain Old Spanish Trail merchants in California. Here are two examples.

The first is a ledger page of charges and dates for the port of Monterey, Alta California, for the months of May through July 1833.

Manuel Baca's entry on June 20th is new information. It is the earliest documentation of him in California found so far. It is fully seven years earlier than previously known documentation and eight years before his move there with his family in the Rowland-Workman Party.

The second is an interesting communication written August 10, 1833, from the Comandante of the Presidio of Santa Barbara to the Alcalde Constitucional in Monterey, informing him that Santiago (James) McKinley was carrying a promissory note from Francisco Armijo to his son, Antonio Maria Armijo, regarding the payment of a debt.



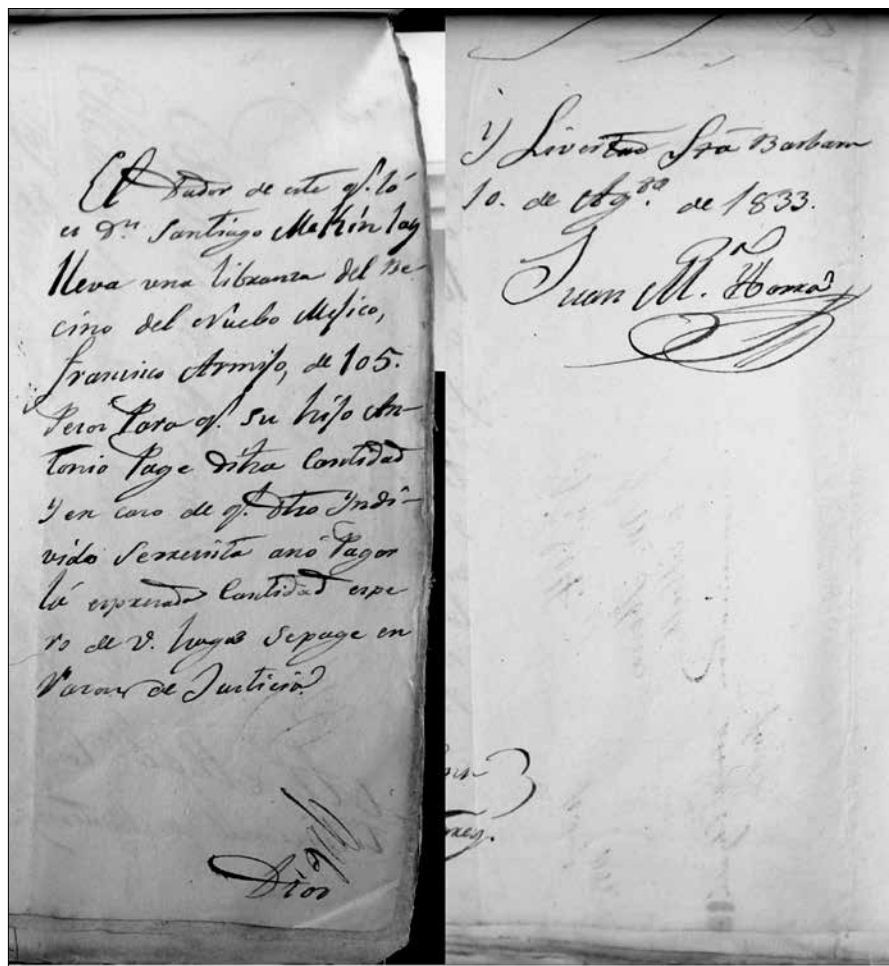
Above: Highlighted is the entry of June 20, 1833, recording a charge to Juan Manuel Baca of 5 pesos for "the rights to a barrel of local brandy." [Page 976 from the Spanish-Mexican Archives of Monterey (County). ["No. 808 – Municipal funds. Their application in 1833." – May to July 1833]. Photo by Anthony Ray. Reproduced by permission of the Monterey County Historical Society, Salinas, California.]

Here's a transcription of the letter:
*"El D[e]udor de este q.^{le} ló es
 D.ⁿ Santiago McKinlay lleva una
 libranza del Be-cino del Nuevo
 Mejico, Francisco Armijo, de 105.
 Pesos Para q.^{le} su hijo Antonio
 Page di[c]ha Cantidad y en caso
 del q.^{le} d[ic]ho Indi-vido[sic] ser[]
]resista a[]no pagar lá espresada
 Cantidad espero de U. hagas se[]
 page en Varon de Justicia.
 Dios y Livertad, Sta Barbara, 10
 de Ag.^{to} de 1833.
 [s/] Juan M.^a Ybarra"*

And this is its translation:
*"The debtor, who is Don San-
 tiago McKinley, brings a promis-
 sory note from the New Mexican,
 Francisco Armijo, of 105 pesos
 so that his son, Antonio, will pay
 that amount and in case that said
 individual resists paying the exact
 amount, I expect that you will
 compel him to do so as a man of
 justice.*

*God and Liberty,
 Santa Barbara, 10 August 1833
 [s/] Juan Maria Ybarra"*

Francisco Armijo was likely either in Santa Barbara or Los Angeles at that time. Antonio Armijo was probably in Monterey. Santiago McKinley was not only carrying the promissory note, but also was the person owed the money. (McKinley was a Scotsman who jumped ship in Santa Barbara in 1824 and thereafter became a trader in Los Angeles and later in Monterey.) *



Above: Antonio Maria Armijo and Francisco Armijo mentioned in correspondence written August 10th, 1833, between Juan M. Ybarra in Santa Barbara to the Alcalde Constitucional in Monterey. [Portions of pages 926 & 927 from the Spanish-Mexican Archives of Monterey (County). ["No. 804 – J. M. Ibarra to Alcalde. Communication about litigation for debt." – 10 August 1833]. Photos by Anthony Ray. Reproduced by permission of the Monterey County Historical Society, Salinas, California.]

Alex King is an OSTA Director-at-Large who resides in California. He has been a lay researcher of the early genealogy and history of California and the southwest United States for over 30 years and is a member of several heritage, history, and genealogical societies.

Final Dating Analysis Results from Red Creek

By Bob Leonard

Red Creek is located just south of Interstate 70 where the OST made its way to Wasatch Pass from Castle Valley and the Green River. The approach to the pass is impeded by a large gully called Tommy Hollow (Beckwith 1855, et. al). Westbound pack trains and eastbound caravans were required to skirt the head of the drainage in either Tommy Hollow or Red Creek Canyon. Two miles south of I-70, the hollow becomes shallow and offers a crossing point for livestock.

Geomorphologist Bill Eckerle of Western Geoarch Research, LLC, excavated a test pit in the trail corridor adjacent to the crossing point (Eckerle and Sadie 2017). Seven soil samples were taken every 5 cm. and sent to the Department of Geology at the University of Utah. The samples were tested for pollen and *Sporormiella*, a spore associated with livestock dung.



Tommy Hollow crossing point. Photos by Bob Leonard

According to Kenneth L. Peterson, Ph.D (2017), ". . . there is a hint of a bimodal pattern in the *Taraxacum* or dandelion pollen spectra. This pattern is unusual for two reasons. The first is that *Taraxacum* type usually never occurs higher than about 2% because they are insect pollinated plants. Such pollen is produced in lower numbers than that of wind pollinated plants. Secondly, to register at such a high pollen percentage (6-8%), the plant must be very

prolific near the pollen sampling site."

Simply, insects are attracted to dung and pollinate dandelions while in the area.

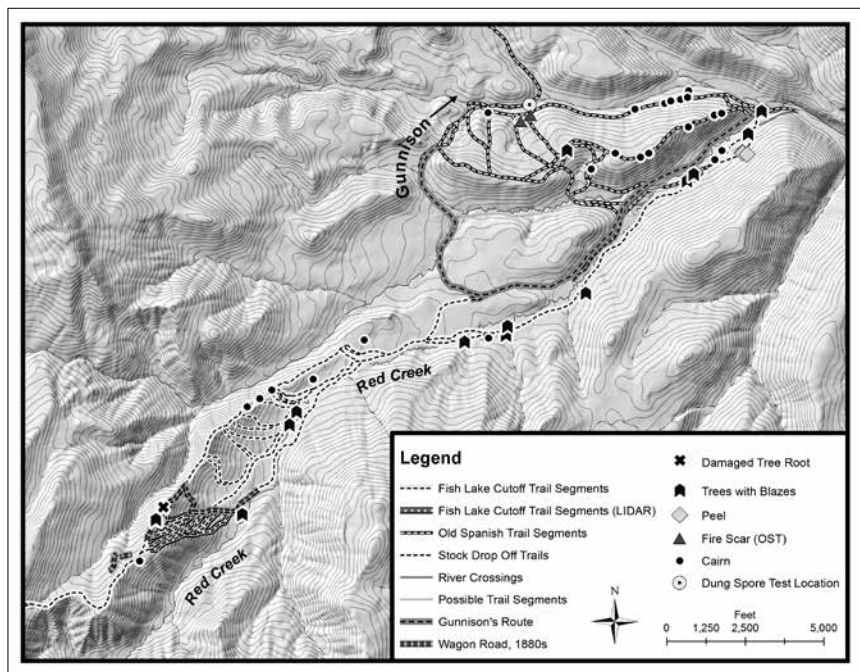
The *Sporormiella* spore was also found in the samples from 5 cm. to 35 cm. The spike was in the upper levels, and this reflects the hundreds of thousands of sheep and cattle that have used these ranges from 1875 to the present. The Old Spanish Trail was used only for 20 years or less. However, the dandelion pollen and spore were found all the way to the bottom of the pit. To quote Dr. Peterson,

"The fact that the dung spore occurs in every single sample suggests the time period represented by the sediment column likely includes the time when the Old Spanish Trail was being used. This interpretation is reinforced by the hint of a bimodal distribution of dandelion type pollen."

The overall pollen analysis suggests that the present environment of piñon, juniper, sagebrush, mahogany, Douglas fir, and ponderosa pine is very close to the vegetation on the Old Spanish Trail landscape.

The trees also have a wonderful story to tell. Most archaeologists view injuries to trees as CMTs or culturally modified trees. The overwhelming majority see injuries as peels made by American Indian people looking for starvation food, medicine, or glue in the cambium layer between the bark and the heartwood. This certainly happened and is well documented (Allen and Skousen 2009). CMTs, by their very definition, can represent something more than just a source of supplies.

Early on, we were confused by our CMTs in the Red Creek area. The first indication was a 1795 date recovered by Stan Kitchen, Ph.D. of the Rocky Mountain Research Station from a blaze on an old piñon tree. The injury was not caused by a porcupine, and we thought it had to be a cross because many OST travelers were Catholic. What we now think is that it is an intersection marker alerting trail travelers to the



Location of tree blazes, cairns, fire scars and LIDAR target.

crossing of two trail corridors. At this point, we began to examine older trees much more closely, especially ponderosa pines and Douglas firs. We found CMTs in and above Red Creek and Tommy Hollow.

In Tommy Hollow, near the *Sporormiella* sampling site, two trees were discovered with significant fire scars. The scars, on the uphill side of the tree, suggest



Fire-scarred tree in Tommy Hollow. The scars date to the 1830s and 1840s and lie near a brushy trail that goes up and over the ridge.

that the fires burned from the sagebrush in the bottom of the hollow. Intriguingly, one fire dates to 1832-33 and the other to 1841-42. Both fires originated at the beginning of a trail that crosses the ridge into Red Creek. The trail traverses very brushy areas and passes within sight of the intersection blaze. Utes are known to have intentionally burned areas to encourage specific plant regrowth, but this area is in the hinterland between the tribal areas of the Sanpete and Sheberetch Utes. It is possible but unprovable that the OST travelers were burning brush, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

The most remarkable array of tree blazes along any one of the three trail corridors in the Red Creek/ Tommy Hollow area is found on the east terrace of Red Creek. Twelve tree blazes were found on the edge of the sagebrush terrace where the timbered slope of Red Creek terminated. All blazes are facing either California-bound or New Mexico-bound traffic. Seven of the 12 blazes have been dated and range from 1802 to 1818. Four additional CMTs were found above the terrace-slope intersection, and all date to 1836, early season, and have been classified as peels. Three blazes, dated 1829, 1836, and 1839, lie between the east terrace and west ridge corridor and face the ridge as if intended to get traffic over to the east terrace. A massive-looking ford across Red Creek is found

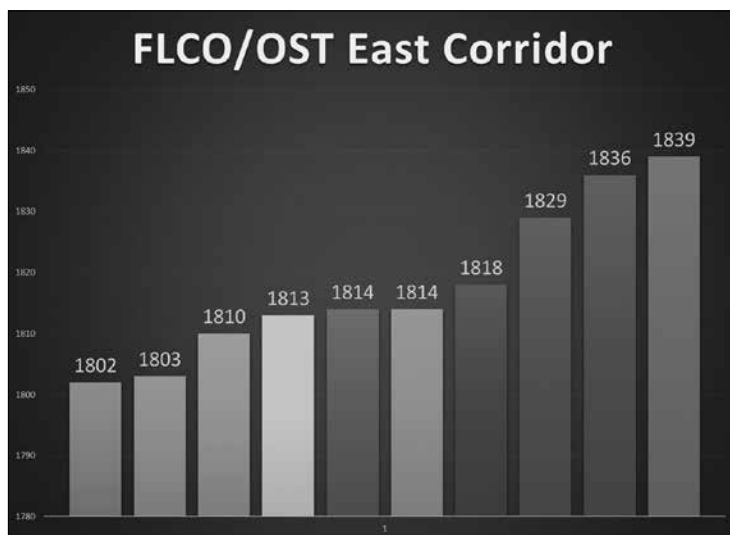


Figure 4: Tables showing the blaze dates on the east terrace and west ridge corridors. They have been taken from ponderosa, Douglas fir, live and dead trees, and a root. Two distinct period of use are indicated: 1795-1818 and the 1830s and 1840s. These dates do not include the four peels or the two fires.

between these two geographic points. Two blazes, because of their poor condition, remain undated. The dated blazes strongly imply that, in part, the OST was following earlier trails.

As a note on the methodology for identifying blazes, all mature ponderosas and Douglas firs (i.e., +200 years) were noted on the east slope of the canyon up to 400 feet above the sagebrush terrace. From the mouth of the canyon for a distance of two miles along Red Creek, mature trees were examined for CMTs and marked with a 1.25-inch brass tag five to six feet above the ground on the east side of the trunk. Mature trees were GPSed with a Trimble Nomad. No CMTs, except the blazes and the four peels, were found. The peels were all cut in 1836 and are within 100 feet of one another.

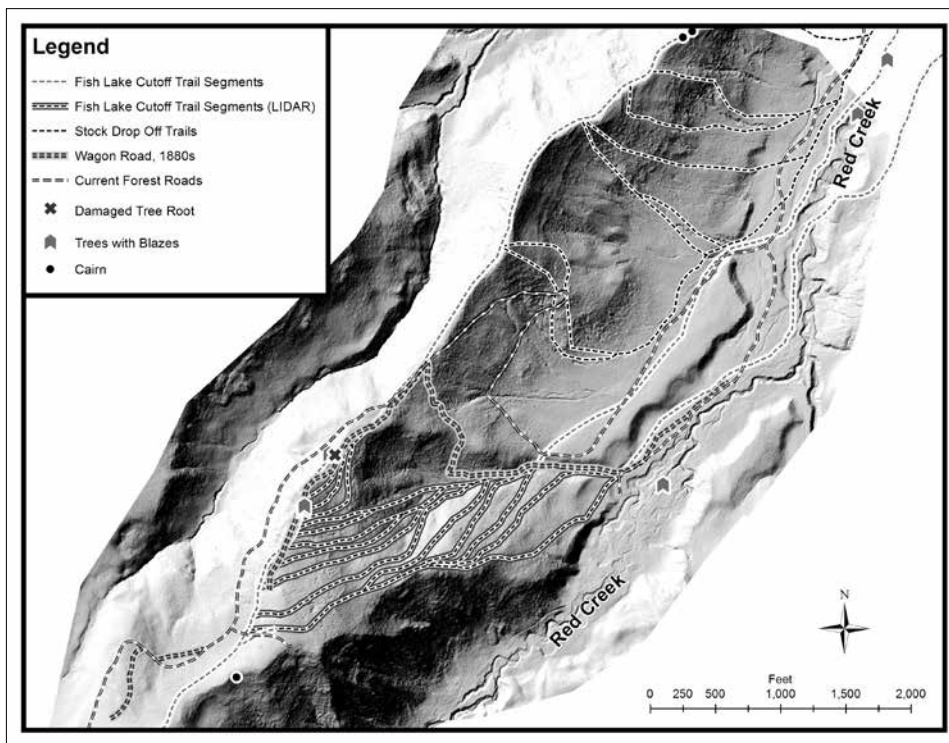
So to whom do the earlier trails belong? There is substantial evidence that the Spanish knew of the trails to Utah Lake (and Fish Lake) from at least the late 1700s (Hill 1930). Turn left at the intersection blaze and you go to Fish Lake. Turn right and you are on your way to Utah Lake. The trail to Fish Lake and beyond (i.e., Grass and Circle valleys) was probably used by slavers, traders, trappers, and prospectors. Sandra Jones (2000) writes of two peaks in the slave trade: 1804 and 1842. Fish Lake and the valleys

beyond would have been good hunting grounds for native slaves. Spanish “gold” tales abound about Mt. Marvine north of Fish Lake. Whatever they were doing, the Spanish were in central Utah 19 years after the Dominguez-Escalante party passed through Utah.

Later, during the period of the OST, travelers and their pack trains and herds were trailing through Red Creek in great numbers. Surprisingly, a LIDAR flight delineated a 750-foot wide corridor beginning at the last tree blaze on the east terrace and climbing a 30% to 40% slope up to the rim of Red Hole. LIDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed



This is a blaze on the east terrace of Red Creek. It has been dated to 1810 (fall) or 1811 (spring).



LIDAR removes the layer of vegetation and looks at the ground surface.

laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system—generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. The LIDAR data was collected by the U.S. Geological Service.

The new information, combined with the data collected over the last seven years, indicates a strong Spanish presence in the Red Creek and Tommy Hollow areas. Their destination was most likely Utah Lake and Fish Lake and the valleys beyond. The corridor has been identified by a limited number of traces on a slope, linearly patterned cairns, tree blazes, and a hoof-damaged root. Dung spores and dandelion pollen demark at least one crossing point across the Tommy Hollow gully.

OST traffic began in the 1830s (our 1829 date is probably a burn scar) and simply followed an established trail system. The Fish Lake Cutoff, although higher in elevation, led travelers to grass, water and fish. Trade goods found in the Moon Ridge Site (42SV2929) on the north end of Fish Lake document commerce between trail travelers and Natives.

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Bob Leonard worked for the Forest Service from 1975-2015, beginning as an historic archaeologist. He was the Heritage Program Manager of the Fishlake National Forest from 1980 until his retirement in 2015.

24th Annual National Conference

October 5-8, 2017

Quality Inn

1520 E. Main Street, Barstow, California 92311

Theme: Pathways From the Past Lead to the Future

The Conference will explore links from the historic period of the Spanish Trail to the present. The people that traveled the Old Spanish Trail settled and established numerous communities in California. For the western portion of the Old Spanish Trail, west of Parowan, Utah, historical routes have evolved into the Salt Lake Road, Arrowhead Highway, U.S. 91, and Interstate 15.

Costs: Preregistration fees are only \$75 for OSTA members, which includes all presentations, Friday buffet lunch, field trips, reception, and refreshments. Student rates and one-day rates are also available. See the online registration form on the Old Spanish Trail Association website: www.OldSpanishTrail.org, for more details.

Accommodations: The Quality Inn, 1520 E. Main Street, Barstow, California 92311, is hosting the conference. Reservations at the Quality Inn are available at a discount rate of \$75 per night for occupancy by 1-2 persons (includes free cooked-to-order hot breakfast). Please call Quality Inn at (760) 256-6891 to make reservations individually. We advise making reservations as soon as possible. Make sure to mention you are with the Old Spanish Trail Association to receive the discount rate.

There are a variety of other hotels in Barstow and nearby Lenwood (location of the Barstow Outlet Center) ranging from \$40 to \$135 per night. Camping is also available.

Conference Tracks: This year's conference will have two tracks of presenters providing 18 presentations on Friday and Saturday, October 6-7, sharing different aspects of the Old Spanish Trail and the people that traveled it. Presentations will be in adjoining meeting rooms so that participants will be able to easily shift between meeting rooms to hear the presentations of their choice. See the speaker schedule on the Old Spanish Trail Association website: www.OldSpanishTrail.org

Field Trips. A variety of optional field trips will be provided on Thursday, October 5, and Sunday, October 8. In addition, conference participants will be able to celebrate the fifth annual California Old Spanish Trail Day at the Desert Discovery Center on Saturday, October 7. The anticipated field trips include:

- Trujillo Adobe and Agua Mansa Cemetery – Thursday afternoon. Earliest settlement in Riverside County.
- Town of Daggett – Thursday afternoon. See the location of Old Spanish Trail, a blacksmith shop, stone hotel, and museum. Daggett was also the terminus of 20-mule teams.
- Bitter Springs – To be determined. Since the Springs are located on Fort Irwin, we are working with the U.S. Army to allow access to this stop along the Old Spanish Trail.
- Fifth Annual California Old Spanish Trail Day at the Desert Discovery Center - Saturday
- Main Street Mural Tour - Saturday morning, departing from Desert Discovery Center
- Forks in the Road - Sunday morning. Where two major branches of the Old Spanish Trail split, also other visible traces of the trail.
- Inbound and Outbound Self-Guided tours of significant locations along the Old Spanish Trail - Thursday and Sunday

Other Information: Please watch the Old Spanish Trail Association website, www.OldSpanishTrail.org for further information and updates regarding the Conference. If you have questions, or need more information, please contact Nelson Miller, 2017 Conference Chair, at nemiller47@yahoo.com.

Old Spanish Trail Association 2017 National Conference – Schedule, Friday & Saturday

October 5-8, 2017 – Barstow, CA (Also Optional Field Trips Thursday & Sunday)

Theme: Pathways from the Past Lead to the Future

The Old Spanish Trail (OST,) often following Native American trails, established the path for roads, highways, railroads, and interstates.

(Schedule subject to change without notice. Presentations will be in adjoining meeting rooms for easy access to the session of your choice.)

Friday, October 6			Saturday, October 7	
9:00	Opening Remarks & Setting (1850's Survey Maps showing the OST) – Ashley Hall & Nelson Miller, Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA)		8:00	General Meeting – Old Spanish Trail Association membership
10:00	Emigrant Pass Mule Trace Report – Jack Pritchett, OSTA	Brfg./Trng. on Establishing Partnership Site Certifications – Frank Norris, NPS	10:00	Old Spanish Trail Day at the Desert Discovery Center
11:00	<i>Break - Refreshments</i>			
11:15	Jefferson Hunt, First Wagon Train along OST – Tom Sutak, OSTA	Brfg./Trng. on Developing Sign Plans for OSNHT Segments – Coreen Donnelly, NPS		
12:15	<i>Buffet Lunch (included with Conference registration)</i>			<i>Lunch on own</i>
1:30	Links to the Arrowhead Highway, 1st all-weather road L.A. to Salt Lake City – Leo Lyman, OSTA	Status of Sign Plan for Mojave Desert OSNHT – Zack Pratt, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	2:00	Celestial Navigation Along the Old Spanish Trail – Al Matheson, OSTA
2:30	Economic Opportunities and Factors of OST – David Earle	Personality Vignettes of Travelers on the OST – Angela M. Reiniche, NPS intern	3:00	Slave Trade along the OST – Cliff Walker, OSTA
3:30	<i>Break - Refreshments</i>		4:00	<i>Break - Refreshments</i>
3:45	OST Settlement in the 'Inland Empire' - Agua Mansa Cemetery & Trujillo Adobe – Nancy Melendez, OSTA	Archaeology along the Mojave Desert OST – Jim Shearer, BLM	4:15	OST Settlements and Settlers throughout California – Alexander King, OSTA
4:45	Discovering the Travelers and Descendants of the OST – Conchita Marusich, OSTA & Cecelia Peña, OSTA	Reliving the Old Spanish Trail Ride 2015 – Richard Waller, OSTA, & Otis Calef	5:15	<i>Break</i>
6:00	Reception - Mojave River Valley Museum w/ Buzzard Rock Ramblers		6:30	Banquet – [\$25 + Conf. registration required]
7:30	<i>Dinner on own</i>			



24th Annual National Conference, October 5-8, 2017

Quality Inn, 1520 E Main Street, Barstow, California 92311

Register Online at www.OldSpanishTrail.org

Or complete this form and mail to: Pat Schoffstall, 1030 Flora Street, Barstow, CA 92311

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) Member ____ Yes ____ No

(See special membership/conference fees below)

Conference Fees include conference registration, speakers on Friday and Saturday, refreshments, Friday buffet lunch, Friday evening reception, and field trips (unless otherwise noted). Self-driving directions will be provided to field trip locations.

OSTA members registration * ____ per person @ \$75 each

New members SPECIAL. Join OSTA and save! ____ per person @ \$95 each

Your one year, individual OSTA membership (normally \$25) included with registration (at a \$5 discount). **

Non OSTA members registration ____ per person @ \$85 each

Special full-time Student registration ____ per person @ \$40 each

Friday one day only registration – OSTA member ____ per person @ \$64 each

Non-member ____ per person @ \$69 each

Full-time student ____ per person @ \$32 each

Saturday one day only registration - OSTA member ____ per person @ \$24 each

Non-member ____ per person @ \$29 each

Full-time student ____ per person @ \$12 each

Thursday Dinner (optional) - Idle Spurs Steakhouse * ____ per person @ \$25 each

(Please check your preference[s]) ____ top sirloin ____ salmon ____ pork ribs ____ broiled chicken ____ vegetarian

Saturday banquet ____ New York steak, ____ salmon, ____ vegetarian * ____ per person @ \$25 each

(Please check your preference[s])

TOTAL – Please make checks payable to: Old Spanish Trail Association \$ _____

Hotel Reservations: Reservations at the Quality Inn are available for \$75 (includes free cooked-to-order hot breakfast) per night for occupancy by 1-2 persons. Please call Quality Inn at 760.256.6891 to make reservations individually. Make sure to mention you are with the Old Spanish Trail Association to receive the discount rate.

**Individual OSTA membership is \$25 per year. Membership includes three issues of Spanish Traces, OSTA's periodical of technical papers, news, book reviews, local chapter information, and updates, advocacy, education, leadership, and management opportunities.

Scammers and Schemers Plague Owner of Rancho Muscupiabe

By Nicholas R. Cataldo

The rancho period in California—the years from 1833 through 1846 when land previously owned by the Spanish missions was secularized by the Mexican government and granted to wealthy and politically influential “Californios”—is often romanticized as a time of fiestas and laughter, as the rich and famous enjoyed life.

However, this was also a turbulent time that was full of adventure, drama...and considerable greed.

One of the financially-wrought victims during this period, which coincided with one of the most crooked jobs of surveying in California history, was Michael White.

According to a biography of White, *California All The Way Back to 1828* authored by Tom Savage for the Bancroft Library, (1877, published by Glen Dawson, Los Angeles, 1956), White, who was born in Kent, England, in 1801, began his colorful career while apprenticed at age 13 to the master of a whaling ship. Life aboard ship took White to ports in Mexico, California (where he was an early pioneer on Catalina Island and in San Marino), and the Sandwich Islands.

During the 1830s and 40s, White rode with the annual mule caravans traveling between New Mexico and California along a heavily

used trade route known as the Old Spanish Trail. Later he took part in the battles of Cahuenga Pass and Chino during the Mexican War. Like many veterans, White subsequently participated in the California Gold Rush in 1849.

Michael White also played a major role in the early history of San Bernardino County in Southern California, unfortunately with a somewhat tragic ending.

Starting in the mid-1830s, Mexico, now independent of Spain and in total control of California, started secularizing (breaking up) mission landholdings and distributing them to private landowners. During the early years of secularization, the sons of Don Antonio Maria Lugo, who were owners of the Rancho San Bernardino, and Juan Bandini, owner of the Rancho Jurupa, were desperately seeking ways to protect their livestock from raiders.

In 1843, they found their man (or thought they had) in Michael White. They persuaded California’s governor, Manuel Micheltorena, to give White, a self-proclaimed Indian fighter and Mexican citizen, one league of land located near the mouth of the Cajon Pass. “Miguel Blanco,” as Mexicans referred to White, received the eighth and last Mexican land grant in San Bernardino County. Rancho Muscupiabe, as the grant was called, represented a somewhat simplified name for the

nearby Indian settlement of Amuscupiabit.

The original land grant was bound on the west by the sycamore trees on the west side of Lytle Creek, on the north by Cajon Canyon, and by a line drawn from Cerrito Solo (Slover Mountain) to the mouth of Devil Canyon. The line separated Rancho Muscupiabe from Rancho Agua Caliente, a land grant dating from the Spanish era.

According to *California All The Way Back to 1828*, White built a fortress-like house on a piedmont between Devil and Cable canyons at the junction of the Mohave Indian Trail and the Old Spanish Trail. The Mohave Trail was an ancient Indian footpath that extended from the Indian settlements along the Colorado River to the Pacific Ocean, a distance of nearly 300 miles.

According to the testimony by Jose Ignacio Cuadela, who worked on the rancho, during a deposition taken by Commissioner G. Thompson Burrill (Ca. Land Commission Case No. 561), White built a strong cabin constructed with heavy timber and mud. He also planted fruit trees, crops, and a vineyard. After he built the house, White started cutting timber for making carts. He brought 20 head of horses and mares and about 40 head of cattle.

White’s rancho was established

to protect other landowners from attackers. White's job was to head off Indian and outlaw stock thieves who used the Mohave and Old Spanish trails to get in and out of the San Bernardino Valley.

Unfortunately, White's tenure on the Rancho Muscupiabe was a brief one. Not only did he fail to stop raids into the valley, he lost his own livestock as well. Things got so bad that his family, which included six children, was only with him for about six weeks, and after nine months White "high-tailed it" as well.

According to his granddaughter Esther V. Rockoff, in 1853 White built a small adobe home in present-day Rialto. He stayed there while safely overseeing his land at a distance. The adobe was moved from its original location on what is now Walnut Avenue to Lilac Park (now Bud Bender Park) where it remains today.

Following the end of the Mexican War, the United States established a land claims commission to determine ownership of the former land grants. In 1853, White was awarded half of Rancho Muscupiabe and his attorney the other half. But White's problems were far from over.

White sold his share of the rancho to Henry Hancock, a land surveyor. Hancock in turn passed the land to his brother, John Hancock. When the cagey Henry Hancock surveyed the Rancho Muscupiabe in 1867, he "managed" to increase

the size of the land grant from about one square league (4,400 acres) to 7 square leagues (about 31,000 acres). In other words, White had sold half a league, which now was inflated to seven times that area.

When California's Governor Manuel Micheltorena awarded the land grant to Michael White 10 years earlier, he described it as "one league—a little more or less, bounded on the north by the foot of the mountain, on the south by the Agua Caliente, and on the west by the sycamores which are on the other side of the stream called the Arroyo de los Negros (later known as Lytle Creek)." Agua Caliente (meaning warm water) referred to the Agua Caliente Mission Rancho (near Slover Mountain).

When the California surveyor-general appointed Henry Hancock to make a final survey of the Rancho Muscupiabe, he said, "The decree not mentioning quantity, I have, for your guidance, referred to the original grant in the *expediente* (the collection of papers relating to the grant), and find that the tract is to contain one league a little more or less. You will be governed accordingly."

Hancock should never have been the one doing the surveying, since he had once owned the grant and then conveyed it to his brother. In doing so, he conveniently chose to use "Agua Caliente" at what is now Warm Creek (in Highland) rather than the Agua Caliente Mission Rancho (Slover Mountain)

as the southern boundary. This allowed him to expand the rancho from one league to seven leagues. He claimed that the rancho's southern boundary extended to Agua Caliente—even though it was the wrong Agua Caliente!

An 1868 decision by California's surveyor-general to approve Hancock's questionable and inflated survey unleashed complaints. The uproar sparked litigation that extended until 1890, nearly 50 years after the Rancho Muscupiabe was created. In 1871, the U.S. Interior Department rejected Hancock's overly generous boundaries and ordered a new survey. But the state's surveyor-general, citing costs and time delays, prevented the resurvey. In 1872, when a land patent was issued, Rancho Muscupiabe was determined to be seven square leagues, once and for all.

But the dispute would not die. In an 1885 letter to the U.S. Justice Department, San Bernardino landowner A.N. Lancaster demanded an investigation. "If furnished with ample proof of fraud in obtaining of the Muscupiabe grant will the Department investigate it?" Lancaster asked. "I can furnish proof thereof. The original application (never complied with) was only for 1 league."

Even William A.J. Sparks, commissioner of the government's General Land Office, said it was his "conviction that a fraud upon the public domain has been perpetuated."

The Justice Department agreed. In *U.S. v. Hancock*, it made its case. As surveyor, Hancock had ballooned a grant from one to seven square leagues. Meanwhile, after acquiring a half-interest in the grant from White, Hancock had sold it to his brother. The case, the department argued, had conflict of interest and corruption written all over it.

In 1890, the U.S. Supreme Court had the last word in the Rancho Muscupiabe case. In rejecting an appeal of a lower court's decision, the court ruled that suspicion of fraud and actual fraud were two different things. While it may have appeared that the Hancocks were up to no good, the court said that it could find no evidence of actual fraud.

Moreover, the court said it would be essentially impossible to return to the original, one square league size of the Muscupiabe grant. Decades had passed, the grant had split up, and there was no convenient way of undoing any damage that might have been done.

Michael White, the original owner of the Rancho Muscupiabe, whose fortress-like house has long since been obliterated, died at the age of 84 in 1885, five years before the court's decision. White believed Americans had treated him badly and swindled him out of lands and other property. In old age, he was reduced to poverty on his San Isidro ranch near Mission San Gabriel. His ranch was sold in order to take care of outstanding debts.

In Search of Michael White's House

San Bernardino County has a fascinating heritage, with a variety of well-known sites spread throughout the region. Yet there are little-known, fascinating historic treasures ---you just need to work a bit to know where they are. One of these gems is Michael White's Rancho Muscupiabe.

I've known about White for quite some time, but only had a general idea of the rancho's location. I would make it my mission to find out as precisely as possible where his home was located.

My research started about 30 years ago while reading *Heritage of the Valley*, authored by George W. and Helen P. Beattie (Oakland: Bio-books, 1951, 1939). Field Notes in the 1872 Muscupiabe patent, which appeared on page 59, contain the statement:

"running from station N. 17, 90 chains to station 18....from which a house bears S. 41 degrees E., distance about 20 chains...."

In 1908, Mr. L. Friel made a resurvey for a portion of the northern boundary of the Muscupiabe, and in his report said:

"The remains of the old house is still in existence, and upon information obtained from Mr. (Samuel) Martin, who lives (since 1873) nearby, I proceeded to the remains of the old house and ran N. 41 degrees W., and at 24 chains I arrived at station No. 18...."

Mrs. Samuel Martin, widow of Friel's informant, confirmed this fact to author George W. Beattie in 1933 while he was writing *Heritage of the Valley* that the old house was the one occupied by Michael White.

By this time, I understood the general location but was confused with the discrepancies in the measurements (20 chains) in the 1872 grant patent and (24 chains) in the 1908 resurvey. Considering one chain is equivalent to 66 feet, the difference of 4 chains is 264 feet.

Over the years, two of my fellow historian friends—Richard Levin (1985) and John Hockaday (1999) went out to determine the site using those two surveys as a blueprint. However, the locations they came up with were vague and conflicted with each other.

After years of being content with simply pointing to the foothills while teaching my local history classes, I yearned to find out once and for all where Michael White's house was located. Oh, if only I could meet with someone who had the same burning desire!

Fortunately, I became good friends with Hank Mitchell, who lives about a mile from me and who, as it turned out, was even more determined to find the location than I was.

Starting in 2009, Hank, Andy Lyman (a mutual friend with the same interest), and I became well-versed with chains and station locations. Thanks in part to another mutual friend, Bob Hedeman, we also

became acquainted with compass points, GPS based on Google earth measurements, and satellite angles.

During our exploration, Hank, Andy and I crawled through thick brush at #17, stopped at #18--a 4x4 steel post filled with concrete embossed with (SBSR35T2NR5WS-26RM) and then #19--a 4x4 steel post filled with concrete embossed with (SBSR34T2NR5WS26RM).

We decided to do our exploring based on 20 chains, as that was the measurement documented in the original 1872 Muscupiabe Patent, which also contained the description of the “piedmont” as documented in the biography, *California All The Way Back to 1828*. We also used “magnetic north” (as used in original patent), as opposed to “true north” during our calculations.

As much as we would have liked to discover the exact location of White’s home, we knew a realistic goal was to place history with a description of “about,” not to the point of “here was the cabin doorway and the dimensions.”

Our conclusion is that we have placed Michael White’s cabin in an area of accuracy to be within plus or minus one-fourth acre, and to be accurate beyond the map would necessitate the owner of this land (which is on private property) to give permission for a professional archaeological expedition to unearth any possible clues from the dirt.

Nick Cataldo is a contributing western history writer for magazines and newspapers and has authored several books.



Clockwise from top: Nick Cataldo at concrete post at Station 19; Station 19; Nick pointing toward vicinity of White's house from Station 19. Photos courtesy of Nick Cataldo.



Tour the Old Spanish Trail in Cajon Pass, California

By Alex King

This is a self-guided tour from north to south, showing the main and alternate routes of the OST. Allow from 6 to 9 hours to do the entire tour. It covers nearly 90 driving miles. **BEGIN in Hesperia, California.**

STOP 1 – VICTORVILLE FAN: [near 11400 El Centro, (Oak Hills) Hesperia, CA]

The many parallel ridges sloping up from the Mojave River to the edge of the Cajon are a geological formation known as the Victorville Fan. [The name “Mojave” is a Native American word of uncertain meaning applied as a label of a people, language, and several regions and geographical features; but its spelling varies widely as “Mojave,” “Mohave,” and even “Mohahve.” This article uses the particular spelling found at or most frequently about the particular feature or site mentioned.] “The Victorville Fan is a northeast-sloping alluvial fan that formed between 1.7 and 0.5 Mega annum (Ma) (Early to Middle Pleistocene) (Miller and Morton 2006). The original sediment source for the fan was in the San Gabriel Mountains, but due to movement along the San Andreas Fault, the fan is now located north of the San Bernardino Mountains. Unlike most alluvial fans, the Victorville Fan was cut off from its mountain headwaters sometime between 0.78 and 0.5 Ma (Enzel et al. 2003). At this point, deposition of new sediment on the fan ceased and

a regime of sediment recycling and down-cutting ensued (Enzel et al. 2003).”

STOP 2 – the MAIN OLD SPANISH TRAIL, approaching the edge of the Cajon: [view from TURN-OUT at 6238 Caliente Road, (Oak Hills) Hesperia, CA] The shortcut that became the main route of the Old Spanish Trail south from the Mojave River left it at Lane’s Crossing near Oro Grande, then proceeded across the Victorville Fan, then along this small valley to the north rim of the Cajon.

STOP 3 – CAJON SUMMIT: [OVERLOOK – end of dirt continuation of Mariposa Rd. south of Larimore Rd. in the San Bernardino National Forest] Overlooking the Cajon from the north, the main OST transited over the edge of the Cajon near today’s brake-check area on the southbound I-15 across the gap between roadbeds and hooked east across the northbound I-15 before joining the canyon to your right. Later, the “upper” end of the John Brown’s Toll Road (1861–1881) ran along the same alignment. In the late 1860s, Brown built his “improved” road—the first engineered and maintained route through the Cajon Pass—but chose the canyon east of the ridge to your left. Later, that was the same alignment used by the 1914 National Old Trails Highway and early Route 66.

[NOTE: From here, you might attempt to continue down the Forestry road, go south to Highway 138, then pick up the Tour at “Stop 10,” below. BUT you will miss Stops 4-9; and you should drive this Forestry Road only if the weather, your vehicle’s condition, and the U.S. Forest Service allows it. Check in advance with the San Bernardino National Forest, Front Country Ranger District



Tour Stop 2: View of the main route of the Old Spanish Trail just before it reaches Cajon Summit from the north, looking southwest from the turnout at 6238 Caliente Road, (Oak Hills) Hesperia, CA. The Cajon and the San Gabriel Mountains beyond are obscured by clouds. Photo: Jack Prichett

at the Lytle Creek Ranger Station: 909-382-2851.

To drive this road: continue east on the dirt road to Forestry Rte. 3N45 (connecting Oak Hills with Highway 138) and turn right (south). You will descend into the Cajon along the 1874 “improved” wagon road. You will also see paved remains from the early Model T days when the thoroughfare was known as The National Old Trails Highway. You will end up at Stop 10.]

STOP 4 – SUMMIT VALLEY route: [ANTELOPE WASH – crossing near 16300 Ranchero Rd., Hesperia, CA]

An alternate to the main OST route, Antelope Wash and Summit Valley were used especially by the Chaguanos and others illegally driving horses and mules eastward.

STOP 5 – ARMIJO’S (5th to last) CAMPSITE: [HESPERIA LAKE PARK – use parking lot at southwest entrance - 7500 Arrowhead Lake Rd., Hesperia, CA] Somewhere in this vicinity, Antonio Armijo’s expedition camped. Low on food, they were just five days away from reaching Mission San Gabriel. It is where he recorded: “*Nos comimos un macho de D Miguel Valdes*” (we ate a mule belonging to Don Miguel Valdes). Luckily help arrived the next day by way of men and supplies coming from the San Bernardino Estancia in today’s Redlands, California. Look also for the plaque about the “Mojave Trail.”

STOP 6 – FORKS OF THE MOJAVE (farthest east on the tour): [SADDLE DIKE EMBANKMENT at MOJAVE FORKS DAM – park off the side of Arrowhead Lake Road and be careful crossing the road to the dam]



See photo on back cover of *Spanish Traces*.

The “Mohave Trail” was a millennium-old route used by Native Americans and later was the earliest, then an alternate, route of the OST. It followed the Mojave River and over the mountain to the San Bernardino Valley. In 1776 Francisco Garces came through this valley. Gabriel Moraga and Fr. Nuez passed this way in 1819. Jedediah Smith came through this valley in 1826 and 1827. And Antonio Armijo did the same in 1830 and 1831. Look south from the dam. The “Mohave Trail” ascended the far mountains to the San Bernardino Valley on the other side. Today’s Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail meets the valley floor just east of where Deep Creek (aka the East Fork of the Mojave River) meets the West Fork of the Mojave River, seen south of the dam. The Pacific Crest Trail continues south along the eastern foothills, then west along the foothills seen in the distance.

STOP 7 – “MOHAVE TRAIL,” GUAPIABIT, and LAS FLORES: [PILOT ROCK OHV STAGING AREA (on Rte 2N33), San Bernardino National Forest/Silverwood Lake Recreation Area] The ancient Indian trail from the Colorado River to the coast, called the “Mohave Trail,” led up the Mojave River into the mountains and climbed Sawpit Canyon to the summit of the range then down to the San Bernardino plain. Today’s Silverwood Lake covers a portion of that trail. The Pacific Crest Trail runs east-west below the dam. Look to the north. Across Hwy 138 is Las Flores Ranch. At or near this place was once located a Vanyume Indian village called Guapiabit, where in 1808 the Franciscan Fray Zalvidea baptized two old men and three aged women. The Mojave Trail section of the Old Spanish Trail ran north along the base of the hills across the valley to the west. By 1851, when the Mormons came with wagons through Cajon Pass, the old Mojave Trail here was little used. The beautiful valley you’ve just traversed and that you can see from this site

Tour Stop 3: Nelson Miller speaks to the tour group on the summit of the Cajon at the first overlook off Forestry Road (part of Forest Route 3N45), the dirt continuation of Mariposa Rd. south of Larimore Rd., just inside the northern boundary of the San Bernardino National Forest. View looking west, with the north-bound lanes of Interstate 15 visible in the background. John Hockaday believes the main route of the Old Spanish Trail passed near this spot. Photo: Jack Prichett

is due to be heavily developed in the near future.

STOP 8 – HORSETHIEF CANYON: [SILVER-WOOD COUNTRY STORE at southwest corner of Hwy 138 and Summit Valley Rd. - 12077 Hwy 138, Hesperia, CA]

Which is Horsethief Canyon? Both the valleys to the northeast and to the east have been called either Summit Valley or Horsethief Canyon at various times. Today the valley from here to central Hesperia is called Summit Valley and sometimes Antelope Valley. The valley running east is labeled Horsethief Canyon, and a narrower valley nearly paralleling it to the south is called Little Horsethief Canyon. Both valleys were used by horse and mule thieves on the OST. They were used by Antonio Armijo and William Wolfskill & George Yount in 1830 and 31. Later in the 1830s, 40s, and early 50s, horse thieves led by notorious Ute Indian chief Walkara, as well as trappers such as Thomas “Pegleg” Smith and Jim Beckwourth, came through the Cajon Pass this way, bent on raiding Southern California ranches.

STOP 9 – CAJON PASS: [SUMMIT OHV STAGING AREA - off of Cleghorn Rd. south of Hwy 138] Overlooking the upper Cajon from the east. The word “cajon” means draw or drawer in Spanish. The Cajon is essentially an arm of the San Bernardino plain extended completely through and between two mountain ranges, the San Gabriels on the west and the San Bernardinos on the east. To your far right is the summit of the Cajon, where the northern Cajon valley transitions to the high desert. The summit is actually north of both mountain ranges!

STOP 10 – SPLIT OF THE MAIN ROUTE & HORSETHIEF CANYON ROUTE / UPPER TOLL HOUSE SITE in Crowder Canyon: [south of where Parker Ranch Rd. (Rte 3N48) meets HWY 138, (Cajon Junction) Phelan, CA]

Near this location, the route to Horsethief Canyon went east while the Main Route of the OST continued north. Later, for a few years beginning in 1861, a tollhouse was located at this site that was also used as a stagecoach stop. Surviving fruit trees and debris indicate its use as a ranch in later years. The 1914 National Old Trails Highway also came through this spot.

STOP 11 – SANTA FE – SALT LAKE MONUMENT

& COYOTE CANYON: [near 3396 Wagon Train Rd., (Cajon Junction) Phelan, CA –the southern dead-end of that road]

The Old Spanish Trail reaches the bottom of the Cajon here. It is now marked as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Both it and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail share the same exact route in this narrow canyon. Early travelers called the nearby gorge the Upper Narrows or Coyote Canyon. This passage was part of an Indian trail, the Old Spanish Trail (1830s and 40s), the Mojave (Government) Road, John Brown’s Toll Road (1860s and 70s), the National Old Trails Highway (1914), and Route 66. The obelisk that is the Santa Fe-Salt Lake Monument was erected here 100 years ago. It commemorates what is now better known as the Mormon Road.

[Food can be had within walking distance in Cajon Junction.]

STOP 12 – AMUSCOPIABIT SITE/THE WILLOWS: [From the end of the same road, descend to the creek (follow the Pacific Crest Trail) and walk west under I-15 on that Trail. You will emerge on the other side, cross up out of the creek and 500’ to the west. DO NOT STRAY FROM THE TRAIL. Because of fire damage from the 2016 Blue Cut Fire, do not trespass onto the lightly fenced property] This site just west of Cajon Creek was once a Serrano Indian camping settlement called Amuscopiabit. Located on the floor of the Cajon near where Crowder (or “Coyote”) Canyon begins its ascent, this was a welcome stopping place on the OST after pack trains had traversed the Mojave Desert and descended into the Pass. It was called The Willows or Willow Grove later by pioneer travelers on the wagon road and even later on the National Trails Highway. Also on the property is a remnant of the 1914 highway and the Stoddard-Waite Monument erected in 1912, which you cannot access without trespassing. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS. The Pacific Crest Trail skirts the northern and western boundaries of the property.

STOP 13 – MORMON ROCKS: (farthest west on the tour) [north side of Hwy 138 @ intersection with Lone Pine Canyon Rd., Phelan, CA –this is WEST of I-15] The rocks are recognizable to nearly everyone who has ever traveled the freeway from the Cajon Pass to Las Vegas. See photo on page 5 of this issue. The sandstone was

pushed up by a sub-fault of the San Andreas Fault and further revealed by the Mojave Block changing direction in slope toward Death Valley rather than the ocean. Older maps of the area show the formation being called the Rock Candy Mountains. Local legend has it that the rocks were named for the Mormon pioneers who camped here after their descent from the pass ridgeline.

Return east on Hwy. 138 and merge south onto I-15. Take the next exit, Cleghorn Road. Turn right, then follow the road left. You are now going south on Cajon Blvd., which is old Route 66.

STOP 14 – LOST LAKE: [near 9100 Swarthout Canyon Rd., San Bernardino, CA]

A unique “sag pond” on the San Andreas Fault. To get there, turn right (west) off of Cajon Blvd. You will be crossing several train tracks. Often engineers of north and southbound trains stop in this area; but you should be able to drive between the engines, which can be quite an adventure! Be aware, due to the 2016 Blue Cut Fire, the Lake and its parking area may be locked. You may also check in advance with the San Bernardino National Forest, Front Country Ranger District at the Lytle Creek Ranger Station: 909-382-2851.

STOP 15 – BLUE CUT TRAIL MARKER: [about 625 N Cajon Blvd. (Historic Rte 66), (Cosy Dell) San Bernardino, CA on north side of Cajon Blvd., south of Swarthout Canyon Road]

“...Where the San Gabriel Mountains end and the San Bernardino Mountains begin.” The OST wended its way along Cajon Creek to the north of the marker. The marker is at a former rest stop on old Route 66. Cosy Dell was a little further north along the highway.

STOP 16 – SPLIT OF MAIN ROUTE, MOHAVE TRAIL, and ROUTE TO POLITANA & SAN BERNARDINO ESTANCIA / SYCAMORE GROVE MARKER: [N/E corner of Glen Helen Regional Park, near 2450 Glen Helen Rd, (Devore) San Bernardino, CA]

The earliest route of the OST continues southeast from here toward La Politana and the San Bernardino Estancia in Redlands. But the Main Route of the OST flows west along what is now Glen Helen Parkway, becoming the shortcut of the OST to Pomona past Red Hill in Rancho Cucamonga. And just east, the Mohave Trail route

concludes its descent over the mountain. Standing here, one can look toward the south side of the San Bernardino Mountains and visualize the trail down a ridge between Cable and Devil Canyons. In 1819, somewhere in this vicinity was an Indian Rancheria called by Father Nuez “Santisma Trinidad.” On June 11, 1851, Mormon colonists camped at Sycamore Grove in a little pass nearby and stayed there until December. That site is now a housing development just west of Glen Helen Park. In the late 1850s, George Martin and his family established a way station here on the Cajon Pass Road that served for many years as the first stop north from Cucamonga or San Bernardino.

STOP 17 – SITE OF MICHAEL WHITE’S HOUSE on Rancho Muscupiabe: (farthest south on the tour)

[within private property north of 4455 W Meyers Rd., (Verdemon) San Bernardino, CA]

In 1843, plagued by raids of Indian horse thieves through the Cajon Pass and over the Mojave Trail, the Lugos of San Bernardino arranged for land at the mouth of Cajon Canyon to be granted to an Englishman, Michael White, as Rancho Muscupiabe. In return he was to help in the defense against these raids. He built a fort-like house just south of the mouth of Cable Canyon and the trail intersection. However, the venture was not successful and it was soon abandoned. The site is near the southern edge of the clump of trees you can see in the distance. PLEASE DO NOT TREPASS.

END in northern San Bernardino, California.



Nick Cataldo, leader of the April 8, 2017, tour of Cajon Pass, speaks to the group. Photo: Jack Prichett

A Teenage Naturalist on the Old Spanish Trail: The Letters of William Gambel, 1841-1842

By Paul R. Spitzzeri

While the Old Spanish Trail was mainly used for about two decades between 1829 and 1848 as a trading route between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Los Angeles, California, and there was occasional use of it by settlers heading to Mexican Alta California, there are some anomalies among those who took to the trail.

One of the most remarkable of these is William Gambel, who while still in his teens went off on an improbable solo journey through the American Southwest as part of his developing vocation as a naturalist. Thanks to a biographical sketch prepared by his nephew, Dr. William J. Middleton, we have some information about Gambel.

He was born in Philadelphia in June 1823 to a namesake father who migrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania and served in the American army during the War of 1812. Gambel's father had twin sons by his first wife. After she died, he married Elizabeth Richardson, who also had Irish ancestry. Three children came from this marriage, including two daughters and William. When William was eight years old, his father died, and his mother took care of the family by teaching.

From an early age, young Gam-

bel showed a talent for Latin and Greek and was an excellent student. His interest in the natural world led to his becoming a protégé to Thomas Nuttall, one of the best-known botanists and ornithologists of the time. In spring 1839, at age 15, Gambel joined Nuttall in field work throughout the southeastern states and New England, as well as in Canada. Middleton wrote that "through two summers he accompanied Nuttall in his travels and a warm friendship grew up between them."

With this apprenticeship-of-sorts under his belt, Gambel "became an enthusiastic Naturalist and devoted much of his time to the study of ornithology." While it is not known exactly why Gambel traveled out to Missouri and then took the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico, it is assumed that he was looking to conduct field work in areas that were not examined in detail before.

In the summer of 1841, he arrived in Santa Fe and had his first opportunity to write his mother and apprise her of his activities since he left home. The first of two surviving letters is dated 25 July. In early September, he was able to secure a spot with what has commonly been called the Rowland and Workman Expedition (or Workman and Rowland Party), which contained approximately 65 Americans, Europeans, and New Mexicans.

The group, which included intended settlers in California, persons who were looking to go to Mexico, Oregon, China, or to the United States, some who evidently were just looking for some adventure, and Gambel with his unique purpose, followed a regular trade caravan. The trip took about two months over the 1,200-mile trail. The expedition arrived in the Los Angeles area about the 5th of November, a date well-remembered by William Workman, an Englishman, because it is Guy Fawkes Day, a British holiday.

A little over two months later, from Los Angeles, Gambel wrote the second letter to his mother, informing her of his plans to leave California in the late summer and return home (He also wrote Nuttall to inform him of his cataloging of about a dozen birds, four of which were not previously known to scientists back east—three of these were found near Monterey). That intent, however, was scotched by an unexpected opportunity.

According to Dr. Middleton, Gambel "made large collections of the Birds and Flora of California which he described in papers to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia" but, in the course of this work, "his party had trouble with the Indians on the coast and sought the protection of the U.S. [Navy] Fleet then on that coast." Commodore Thomas Ap Catesby

Jones, in fact, was under the mistaken impression that war was declared between the United States and Mexico, though that threat had been looming, and in October 1842 seized Monterey, the capital of the department of Alta California. Quickly learning of his error, Jones immediately released prisoners he'd taken and ordered his ships to embark from the port.

According to Middleton, "Commodore Jones commanding the fleet was in need of a secretary and offered the post to Gamble. On the fifteenth of November 1842 he subscribed to the oath and took up his work with the Commodore." It seems that either Gambel was unable to find passage on a ship in the late summer or was so involved in his field work that he decided to delay his return.

In any case, Gambel remained with Jones until the latter yielded his command in early 1844 and then served for two other commanders until the summer of the following year. Middleton wrote that "his position gave him many opportunities to add to his collection of specimens of natural history of the Pacific Coast," including the coasts of North and South America, Hawaii and other Pacific islands, and these and his reports were sent back to the Academy in his hometown. While at sea, in August 1843, Gambel was elected to membership in the institution, and he also studied medicine with the ship's surgeon.

By late 1844 or early 1845, Gam-

bel returned to the East Coast and enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania to study medicine, receiving his M.D. with the class of 1848. That accomplished, he married in the fall and became recording secretary of the Academy. Middleton stated, however, that "Philadelphia did not offer opportunity for a prompt entry into a profitable [medical] practice so with the gold fever of '49 the Wanderlust again attacked him."

In April 1849, Gambel left his wife in Philadelphia, sent medical books and implements by ship, and took the California Trail overland. Middleton wrote, "on reaching the Rio de las Plumas in upper California he fell in with a party which was suffering with Typhoid Fever and after rendering them what service he could he himself went down with the disease and died." Gambel was just 26 years old, but had accomplished a great deal in the field of the natural sciences, including work done before and after he used the Old Spanish Trail in 1841.

What follows are transcriptions of the two letters the author found in November 1994 at the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. These extraordinary documents give a rare glimpse into the world surrounding use of the Old Spanish Trail, especially for a teenager awed by the hardships of travel in what became the Southwestern United States.



Santa Fe, New Mexico, July 25th
1841

Dear Mother,

This is the first opportunity I have had of writing to you, by the company which returns this fall it has been so long since you have heard from me that you must nearly have forgotten me, but this different from with me when standing Guard of in among Indians. I would often think of home—the dangers I was in. I sometimes feel sorry that I left it. We met about half way the whole body of the Arrapaho [sic] Indians consisting of about 500 warriors but we by giving them a great many presents got clear of them without fighting and when approaching the Rocky Mountains we met with the Putaw [sic] Indians about 400 warriors which attacked us and as being only 90 men in all had a great deal of trouble to get clear of them, they fired on us nearly all the forenoon from the hills that were around us, but at too great a distance to do any harm although the balls would fall within a few feet of us sometimes. We also suffered much from want of water sometimes having to do without it for two days, however, I have got through with safety not even with a cold pour lying on the ground with nothing by [but] the sky above the earth below and perhaps Indians around us for near 3 months, but now I am only half way to where I am going. But you must not mind it shall get home safe and in due time if God is willing. It is to California I am

going straight across the country to there and from there to Sandwich Islands and from there a five months voyage round Cape Horn to the no[rthern] states. When I get to California I will write to you but will take the letter 5 or six months to go to you, besides the time I am going from here to there which will be 3 perhaps, so you heare from me again in about 8 or 9 months and see me back in perhaps 10 months. It is a very long while but I cannot help it as I cannot go in railroads but dog led on a mule from morning to night. I shall not start from here for a month yet since if another company goes in this fall I will write to you again from here. Give my love to my sisters and every body who may enquire after me. I expect against [when?] I get back nobody will know me or I them. I am now in a different country now having to speak the Spanish language altogether. I have studies it a great deal and now can speak pretty well. The manners and customs are also very different but any thing suits me. I would as soon live here nearly as in Philadelphia. On the road here the Buffalo were very abundant on the Arkansas [sic] river. I saw at least ten miles square black with them as thick as sheep. It is the finest meat in the world and we lived on it all the way out. My letter is full so you hear from me again, believe me every your affectionate son

Wm Gambel

[Included with the letter in the microfilm at Bancroft was a re-

ceipt, dated April 15, 1841, from William Clarke for a mule sold to Gambel for \$60. On it, Gambel wrote, "She proved a very faithful and excellent old animal though her ears were so long. I sold her in Santa Fe for \$25 and she went back home again [Missouri] over the same weary road. W.G."]

Pueblo de los Angeles
Upper California
January 14th 1842

My Dear Mother,

It has been so long since you heard from me you have perhaps given me up for lost, but thank God I am yet safe, though so far from home. In my letter from Santa Fe in New Mexico, I apprised you of my intentions of coming here, and though it was a long and dangerous journey, I have got through without sickness or accident. We left Santa Fe the 1st of September and arrived here the last of November going through three months travelling over Rocky mountains, barren deserts, worse than those of Arabia, sometimes having to do without water 2 & 3 days at a time, and towards the last almost starving in want of provisions, suffering also innumerable other difficulties, which I have not time to mention, but am glad I have got through them safe and am in California on the banks of the broad Pacific basin from where I shall go home in a vessel perhaps round Cape Horn. If not I will go to Panama and from there across to the west India Islands [Carib-

bean] and from there home. But it is some time yet to that for I most probably shall stay here until August or September next before I leave.

I have not time at present to write you a long letter as a vessel has arrived in the port of St. Pedro about 30 miles from here and sails in the morning so that I have but just time to write a few lines to you, Mr. Nuttall, and my friend James Curtin, to let you know that I am yet in the land of the living. I sincerely hope you and my sisters are all well and have been so since I left, and hoping you are also getting along well. As for me I have enjoyed the best of health, not having been sick a day since I left, though I have been knocked about in all kinds of weather, and have lived almost as rough as an Indian.

California is a fine rich country and to which many western [eastern?] people is now commencing to emigrate, and in a few years I expect it will be under the Government of either the British or Americans. They raise an immense number of Cattle and horses here which you can buy for almost nothing, a good fat ox costing 3 dollars and you can take the hide to a store and sell it for 2 dollars so that the meat only costs a dollar. The best horse also can be bought for from 5-10 dollars and mares from 1 dollar to 2 dollars. If our Yankee farmers were here they could soon make their fortune instead of cultivating the poor rocky soils of Conneticut [sic] and Vermont.

I am sorry I have not time to say any more at this time although I could fill 20 letters. But by the next vessel going off the coast I might write some long letters. Until that time believe me your

Affectionate Son
Wm Gambel

PS Give my love to my Sisters and tell them not to give them too quick to any young fellows they may come across.

Yours
W.G.

Paul R. Spitzzeri is the Museum Director of the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum, City of Industry, California.

Gambel's namesake legacy is a rich one: Gambel's Quail [Callipepla gambelii] and Mountain Chickadee [Poecile gambeli], both of which Gambel first discovered for science. Both are California residents. Named for him are a subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow, and a formerly recognized subspecies of White-fronted Goose—both winter in California. Also named for him are a genus of lizard and Gambel's oak, both of which he discovered. In addition he first collected and scientifically described several California birds.

--www.towhee.net/history/gambel.html



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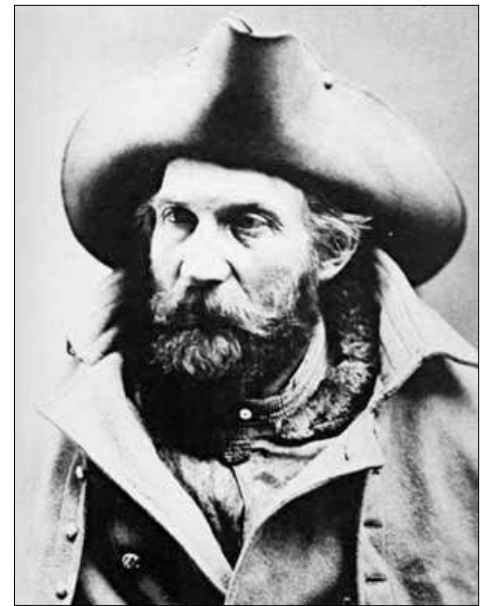
Harry Yount: Guide for Hayden Survey, First National Park Ranger

By Harry Murray

Harry Yount, like his uncle George Yount, grew up in eastern Missouri. Both made their mark in the west in the 1800s. George Yount was a fur trapper in present-day Taos, New Mexico, in the 1820s. In 1830 he joined with William Wolfskill in a beaver trapping venture and headed into California. Their trapping expedition wasn't very successful, but they ended up creating what became the main trade route of the Old Spanish Trail.

Born in 1839, Henry S. Yount [Harry] grew up in Missouri's Harmony Township, about 75 miles southwest of St. Louis. Harry Yount headed west to Wyoming Territory in 1866. For several years he participated in geological surveys, and as a result of his knowledge of the Yellowstone National Park area became the first park ranger.

Harry Yount served in the Union Army during the Civil War, first enlisting in Company F of Phelps's Infantry Regiment in Rolla, Missouri, on November 18, 1861. On March 5, 1862, Harry was wounded in the leg and captured as his company approached the community of Pea Ridge in Arkansas. After being held captive for 28 days he was released in a prisoner exchange. Later, on August 8, 1862, Harry joined Company H of



*Harry Yount portrait
in the Yellowstone Collection*

the 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry. Harry remained in this cavalry unit for the remainder of the war, rising to the rank of company quartermaster sergeant.

After his July 1865 discharge in Little Rock, Arkansas, Yount was hired by Captain Gregg in Nebraska City, Nebraska, as a bullwhacker on a wagon train taking supplies to Fort C.F. Smith in Montana Territory. Traveling west across the plains along the Platte River, the wagon train arrived at Fort Laramie in Wyoming Territory on July 7, 1866. They continued north on the Bozeman Trail to Fort C.F. Smith. Near the Big Horn River, Indians harassed them for several days. Harry fired several shots at an Indian who came too close, killing the Indian's horse. The Indians

bothered them no more.

Harry continued working as a teamster on the Bozeman Trail and in 1868 worked for Hodgebone and Bussard at Wyoming Station, a point along the Union Pacific Railroad tracks north of Laramie, delivering finished ties and cordwood to the railroad. He also saw employment for several years as a scout, trapper, hunter, and guide, and became acquainted with Lakota Chiefs Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, Shoshone Chief Washakie, and Cheyenne Chief Dull Knife. He befriended one of Dull Knife's sons and they often visited and hunted together.

Between 1872 and 1879, Yount spent seven summers as a guide and hunter for the U. S. Geological Surveys conducted by Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden in what would become the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. Each year the survey team would be divided into two or three divisions so as to cover a greater area.

Late in the season of 1874, Harry's party encountered deep snow in northwest Colorado. Some of the men, having lost their instruments, became disoriented and delirious, and Yount told pack train leader Chunky Johnson to strap those trying to wander off to their mules. Yount then guided the party to Morgan's Ranch on the Yampa River in Colorado. Several in the party described the sighting of Morgan's Ranch as the first sight of civilization after nearly five months camping in the

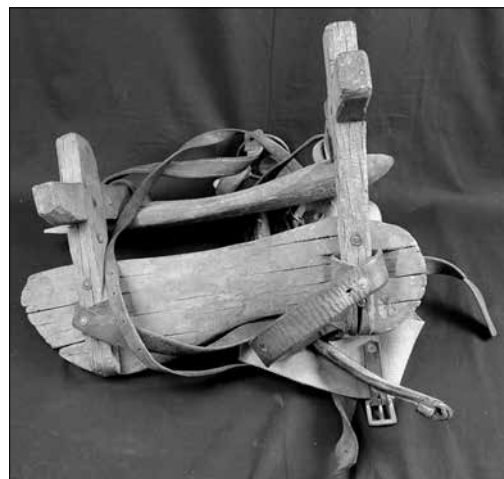
wilderness. Here they rested for a while before heading north on the road to Rawlins, Wyoming Territory, a journey of 120 miles. They reached Rawlins on November 28, 1874. Here the First Division of the survey team boarded the train to return to their starting point in Denver, Colorado, arriving on December 2nd. Perhaps it was during this trip that Yount got the nickname Rocky Mountain Harry.

After dark on August 25, 1878, Bannocks raiding through Yellowstone National Park attacked Yount's Henry Lake camp, causing Yount, topographer Allen Wilson, and others to flee into the woods. Nobody was hurt, but the Bannocks ran off with their animals and food supplies. It took Yount's party three days to reach the expedition headquarters in the Upper Geyser Basin. That same summer when Yount and Wilson were trying to reach the summit of the Grand Tetons, Harry slipped on a glacier and slid down the ice toward a large crevasse. Yount's buckskin pants froze to the ice and stopped his skid, but, according to Wilson, Harry was still clinging to the icy rock like "a starfish hanging to a breakwater" before Wilson threw him a rope to rescue him. They eventually reached a point 100 feet from the summit, where they had a view that Harry described as the most spectacular he had ever seen.

During the winter months, Yount often hunted and trapped in the Laramie Range. In the early 1870s he collected and provided study

specimens, including mountain lions, foxes, wolves and sage grouse, for the Smithsonian Institution. He would crawl into grizzly bear dens to hunt the formidable beasts. He was always prepared with powder and ball for a second shot, but once he had to hurriedly reload in the dark to shoot an angry third bear. The grizzlies often weighed more than 800 pounds so he used a mule team to drag the carcasses from the dens. Yount kept hunting grizzlies, usually employing a .40-90 Sharps, until his mid-60s. In June 1892 he brought five grizzly skins into Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he expected to get a \$250 bounty on each hide.

Yellowstone National Park was established in March 1872 and officially became the country's first National Park. Ferdinand Hayden had been one of the leading proponents of Yellowstone National Park. In 1877 Congress provided Superintendent Philetus Norris,



Harry Yount's pack saddle, ca 1880. Photo courtesy Wyoming State Museum, Dept. of State Parks and Cultural Resources

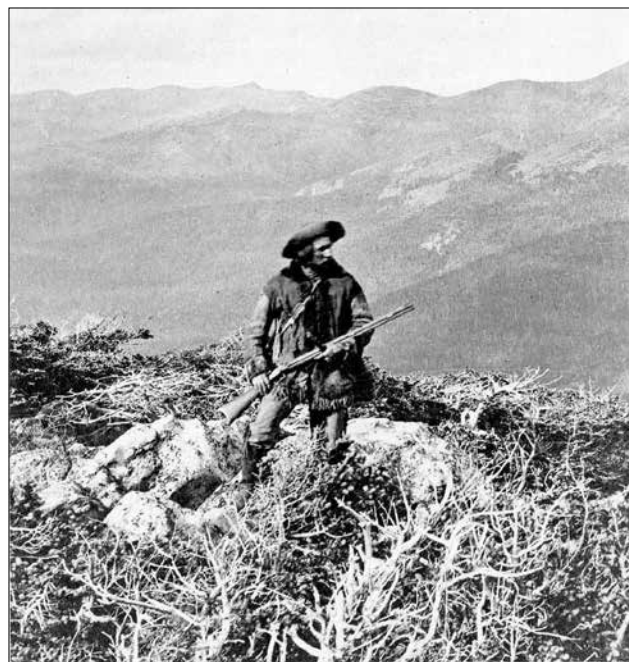
with some funding to improve operations. Poaching and vandalism remained a problem, however, so in 1880 U.S. Secretary of the Interior Carl Schurz hired Harry Yount as Yellowstone's first gamekeeper. Yount, though, was mostly a protector of wildlife when he was the Yellowstone gamekeeper starting in July 1880. He built a cabin at the juncture of the Lamar and Soda Butte valleys where he could protect the wintering herds of buffalo and elk.

His written reports to Superintendent Philetus Norris and the Department of the Interior Secretary Schurz during his short tenure stressed that the task of protecting the wildlife was too great for one man. He called for "a small, active, reliable police force, to receive regular pay during the spring and summer at least, when animals are likely to be slaughtered by tourists and mountaineers." He added: "It is evident that such a force could, in addition to the protection of the game, assist the superintendent of the Park in enforcing the laws, rules, and regulations for protection of guideboards and bridges, and the preservation of the countless and widely scattered geyser-cones and other matchless wonders of the Park."

While Yount served for only 14 months, his early work at Yellowstone helped inspire the creation of the National Park Service (NPS). On Aug. 25, 1916, a bill signed by President Woodrow Wilson mandated that the NPS "conserve the

scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The creation of the National Park Service in 1916 was largely the result of a campaign spearheaded by businessmen/conservationists Stephen Mather and J. Horace McFarland, along with journalist Robert Sterling Yard. Mather became the first director of NPS. In the 1920s the NPS' second director, Horace Albright, recognized "Rocky Mountain Harry" Yount as the "father of the ranger service, as well as the first national park ranger." But as the "first ranger" at Yellowstone years earlier, Harry Yount had done his part by setting standards and exemplifying the spirit of the future service.

After Harry left Yellowstone in September 1881, he prospected and homesteaded in Wyoming. With others, he developed a marble quarry near Wheatland, Wyoming, in 1892, but he sold his interest long before the quarry became profitable. In 1898 he homesteaded along Halleck Creek in Albany County and brought watermelons, corn, and other vegetables to market in Cheyenne. By 1912 Harry had sold his place there and settled in Wheatland, where he



*Harry Yount, Berthoud Pass, Colorado, August 1874.
Photo by Hayden photographer William Henry Jackson*

remained until his death from heart failure on May 16, 1924. As an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), Harry was buried in a GAR plot at Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1994 the National Park Service began presenting the Harry Yount Award to employees who have shown excellence in the park ranger profession. Younts Peak, in the Absaroka Range southeast of Yellowstone National Park, was named for Harry Yount.

Harry Murray also wrote "Yellowstone's Yount Was First Park Ranger" and "The Taos Trapper Who Made His Mark" in the August 2016 and February 2016 issues, respectively, of Wild West Magazine.



West fork of the Mojave River

Pictured is Cajon Pass tour stop 6 (see page 31). The view is southward from Saddle Dike Embankment on the Mojave Forks dam. The West Fork of the Mojave River is marked by an arrow. The path visible in the foreground is the likely alignment of the “Mojave Trail” portion of the Old Spanish Trail. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail hugs the foothills just off the left of the photo. Photo: Jack Prichett

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