

SPANISH TRACES



VOLUME 25 ♦ NO 2 FALL 2019



SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL OSTA CONFERENCE

OSTA 2019 Conference

The Annual OSTA Conference will be held
at the Southern Utah University campus in Cedar City, Utah
October 10-13, 2019

T H E M E

“Travelers Along the Old Spanish Trail”

This conference will introduce us to the diverse people who have traveled over the Old Spanish Trail, usually described as the route followed by traders and trappers from 1829 to 1848. The conference will expand this historical view and share the interesting stories of the men, women, and children who traveled the Trail.

We will hear from historians, descendants of the travelers, and other lovers of history as we explore those people who had the bravery and spirit of adventure to cross the trail called the “longest, crookedest, and most arduous pack mule route in the history of America.”

See pages 18-25 to read descriptions of the fascinating presentations that will be offered by historians, descendants, and other lovers of history.



Al Matheson leads a field trip discussion.

PAUL OSTAPUK



COURTESY CONCHITA MARUSICH

Wolfskill Boulder, which is located near Summit Utah, just north of Cedar City.

Register online at oldspanishtrail.org



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 a typically 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.

| 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 Old Spanish Trail-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. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Designer/Editor (Kitty Nicholason, kitty.n@bresnan.net).

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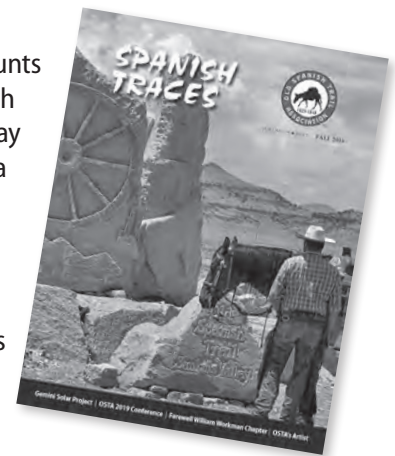
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ON THE COVER

A horseback rider dismounts to inspect the Old Spanish Trail landmark on Highway 160 between Monte Vista and Del Norte, Colorado. Photo by John McEvoy.

BACK COVER

Armijo Chapter members ride into camp, Kimball Valley, Utah. Photo by Paul Ostapuk.



WINTER 2019 DEADLINE

We would love to receive your comments, suggestions, and ideas for future issues. The deadline for submissions for the Winter 2019 issue is November 15, 2019. Send to Kitty Nicholason, kitty.n@bresnan.net.



LOS SENDEROS / Good Signs Ahead

By Lynn Brittner, Executive Director

Progress is being made for marking the Old Spanish Trail with signs. The diligence of OSTA members and our partnership with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management has helped us to move forward in placing both interpretive wayside signs and numerous road signs along the trail. I have come to learn that the process of getting to the final installation of a sign is quite involved and has numerous steps. It takes a lot of research, not to mention the long process to get jurisdiction permissions.



L to R: Ken Frye (President LVN), Doug Knudson (former LVN Chapter President), Suzanne Off (LVN Chapter member)

The 2,700 miles of the trail that connects Santa Fe, NM with California — through high mountains, arid desert, and deep

canyons — initially was mapped at a very coarse scale; it is not always accurate. In many places the route is barely discernible on the ground or is even precisely known. The accurate identification of many of these routes continues to undergo intensive research and ground truthing: expensive and time-consuming tasks that are ongoing with the team of OST members, NPS, and BLM. So why do we place such an importance on historic markers along the trail? Our signs offer stories that are designed to stimulate travel and enable visitors to understand the message of history of a forgotten culture — the Old Spanish Trail. Did you know that some families drive for the sole purpose of finding these signs, while others view historic markers as one of the most interesting parts of an educational road trip? As we speed down an open highway to see these uniform National Historic Trail signs, we might even pass by iconic silhouettes of a mule team off in the distance in the state of Utah. And we know who we can thank — Al Matheson.

Another accomplishment is from Alex King (CA At-large Director), who most recently oversaw a project funded by the National Park Foundation to replace a deteriorating OST interpretive wayside sign at the Mission San Gabriel Archangel. With cultural inclusion in mind, Alex noted that San Gabriel Valley

is home to over 60% Asians, for whom Mandarin Chinese is the primary language spoken. So, when the sign was recently replaced at the corner of the Mission Church, it was trilingual: English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. The dedication included members from the American Daughters of the Golden West, Aqua Mansa Chapter members, and others from the San Gabriel community.

Other sign plans that have been approved and are soon to be installed are in the San



Lynn Brittner and Doug Knudson

Luis Valley. Spearheaded by the local Chapter, La Vereda del Norte, members are moving forward with a comprehensive plan for interpretation and trail development for the Valley. In the pioneer spirit of taking a great OST road trip, NPS staff Cory Donnelly, Carol Clark, and I drove with LVN Chapter President Ken Frye, former President Doug Knudson, and long-time member Suzanne Off. Our itinerary was designed to cover major sights along the OST with a full checklist that included kiosks and historical markers. Starting in Alamosa we kept going for days, without too much lingering. Our expert trail guides took us to sites that included Crestone, Saguache, Rattle Snake Hill, Fort Garland,



L to R: Theresa Huerta (Director of Development & Communication at San Gabriel Mission); Nancy Melendez (OSTA California Director); San Gabriel Mayor Jason Pu; Vince Lugo; Lynn Brittner; Alex King (CA Director at large)



Lynn Brittner, Cory Donnelly

Moffat, San Luis, the Great Sand Dunes, Zapota Falls, and Cochitopa Pass — to name a few!

Full of OST historical facts, plans are being discussed for a possible kick-off meeting in the fall to discuss implementing plans and generating new ideas from the community through focus groups to interpret the San Luis Valley. ♦



L to R: Doug Knudson, Cory Donnelly (NPS), Ken Frye, Carol Clark (NPS staff)



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN / Stewardship

By Dennis Brown, OSTA Vice President and Acting President

Stewardship is an ethic that embodies the responsible planning and management of resources. For OSTA the resource is the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and all its local variations.

At the March Board meeting in Santa Fe, I suggested that the OSTA Chapters are the heart of the organization where the stewardship of the Old Spanish Trail is accomplished. That stewardship means preserving, protecting, interpreting, educating, and promoting respectful use of the trail in the six states from New Mexico to California. This is the mission of OSTA at the local and national levels. This mission is divided between the Chapters (local) and the OSTA Board (national).

Also at the Santa Fe meeting there was concern from the OSTA Chapters that the OSTA Board wasn't keeping the Chapters informed about what was happening throughout the organization or what the Board was doing. According to OSTA

policies and Board duties, it is the primary role of the State Directors to work with the Chapters in their state about how the Board expects the Chapters to fulfill their stewardship responsibilities. Apparently, this hasn't always happened. Some state directors are effective and others less so.

For OSTA, stewardship of the trail is shared between the Chapters and the Board. Thanks to Paul Ostapuk, the current Board Secretary, the Board Stewardship Committee has been re-activated to help deal with major projects such as the Gemini Solar Project in Nevada. Lynn Brittner as OSTA's Executive Director works closely with local Chapters on stewardship activities at the local level.

Also, Board members are exploring how stewardship communication can be improved. One idea (perhaps based on my statement at the Santa Fe meeting that the *Chapters are the heart of the organization*) is that State Directors be replaced by all Chapter Presidents. There are currently about 14 Chapters (the number keeps changing as some Chapters become inactive or terminated and some new ones are being formed. The Bylaws currently authorize a Board of 11 or 12 members (four officers, six State Directors, and a couple of At-Large Directors). Replacing State Directors with all Chapter Presidents

could increase the Board to approximately 20.

Even now, it is rare that **all** Board members physically attend a Board meeting. Although they can participate by phone, it makes meaningful discussions and decisions difficult. For an organization that encompasses six western states, traveling to Board meetings can strain people's time and money. Increasing the size of the Board would, in my opinion, compound the lack of onsite participation, making it difficult to achieve a quorum or have an adequate representation of Board members (even now, some of those not physically present don't participate by phone).

I think it is worth reviewing the current responsibilities of State Directors to make the role less demanding. Also, I think it is worth exploring in those states with several Chapters, that the Chapter Presidents hold coordinating meetings that include the OSTA Executive Director. Is this not an effective approach to improving communication between the Board and the Chapters? Further — it's simple and doesn't require the arduous task of amending the Bylaws.

Having a larger Board is not necessarily better. What is more effective is getting the right people on the Board. Chapter Presidents, if interested in being on the Board, can be nominated for a vacant Director position.

Effective stewardship requires cooperation and frequent communication between the organization's members (about 40% of the membership aren't members of a Chapter). Are there other ways than just *Spanish Traces* to inform non-chapter members? The Chapters deal with local stewardship and the Board addresses national stewardship (i.e., working with federal agencies, state agencies, and other trail organizations). Coordination with the Chapters is handled by

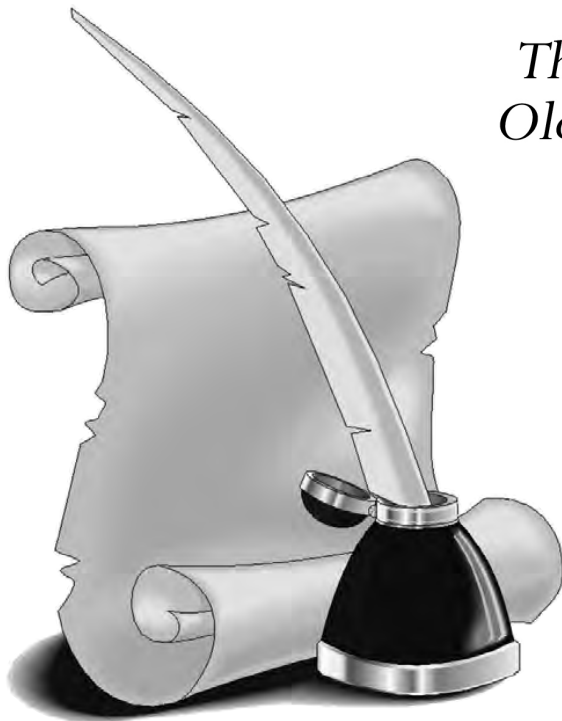
the appropriate Board member and the Executive Director. As Acting President and working with Paul Ostapuk, Secretary, we have given Lynn the guidance and she is doing a terrific job.

I constantly remind myself that the Old Spanish Trail is historically unique. It is the first Anglo European commercial trail connecting the Eastern United States and the Pacific Coast via the Santa Fe Trail. As stewards of the trail, a congressionally-designated National Historic Trail, it is our

responsibility to preserve, protect, interpret, educate, and promote respectful use of the Old Spanish Trail in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and California.

If you aren't a member of a Chapter and are interested in the early history of the American West, please consider joining one even if you don't live in one of the trail states.

I hope you will help. ♦



Thinking about giving to the Old Spanish Trail Association?

We have several opportunities for you to help your trail - research, preservation, education!

- The Pat Kuhlhoff Education Fund
- General fund for research, preservation
- Publications
- Remember us in your Estate Planning

Visit ostastore.com today

All donations are tax deductible within the guidelines, regulations, and requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Always seek the advice of your accountant or financial planner.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CASTLE ROCKS ON COVER OF SPANISH TRACES

I was delighted to see your cover photo of Castle Rocks on the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail in Rabbit Valley.

While researching travelers who passed along the OST through Cochetopa Pass on down to Grand Junction and on west in the 1850s —Gunnison, Beale and Heap, Fremont, Loring — I found it useful to use artists and illustrators to locate significant landmarks along the Trail.

Private Joseph Heger's sketches made on the Loring expedition proved to be especially useful, as did those of Richard Kern, who was the artist for the Gunnison-Beckwith survey of the proposed 38th parallel railroad survey.

I am attaching Joseph Heger's August 13, 1858 sketch of Castle Rocks. This sketch enabled me to locate the trail in Rabbit Valley several years ago. This sketch is part of the Herger collection housed in Yale's Beinecke Library.

Regards,
Dave Miller



OST RE PRAYER TREE CONTROVERSY

On December 16, 2016, the Colorado State Archaeologist issued a proclamation [the writer attached a copy] stating that the Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) called "Prayer Trees"

were not officially recognized as such by the State. This proclamation was not based on any scholarly study or method, and used only a small, biased sample. No panel of professional arborists was convened or consulted; no written documentation from any of the three Ute Tribes was provided, such as documentation of a vote by Tribal Council; no documentation by a council of Ute Elders from the three Ute Tribes was presented. This proclamation was based solely on statements by the designated representatives of the three Ute Tribes in Colorado. It is highly biased, unscholarly and unprofessional to set different standards of documentation based on ethnicity.

In stark contrast to the approach used by the Colorado State Archaeologist in making this pronouncement, the State of Texas took a more professional and scholarly approach. When the issue of Comanche Prayer/Marker Trees (culturally modified trees) was raised in 1997, a Dallas Historic Tree Coalition was formed and then grew into the Texas Historic Tree Coalition (TXHTC), funded by the state. In contrast, Colorado has provided no funding for the assessment of the CMTs. The Northern Ute Nation, on whose ancestral lands most of the identified trees stand, has no funding to send a delegation of Elders. Virtually all of the Northern Ute Elders present twenty years earlier (around 2000) for the Prayer Tree ceremonies, have passed away. Texas involved a team of professional arborists and Comanche elders to document how to distinguish trees shaped by nature and those





shaped by humans. Elders and other officials of the Comanche Nation made site visits to candidate CMTs, and an official proclamation by the Comanche Nation was made. The TXHTC has a discreet set of guidelines for identifying and marking these trees.

Texas Historic Tree Coalition arborist, Steve Houser, forcefully states that “We cannot preserve significant trees or cultures that we fail to research, recognize, or fully understand. Indian marker trees are living witnesses to the history of a past civilization and its people’s incredible way of life. These trees are a significant part of this nation’s cultural heritage and priceless cultural treasures for our current society.” (*Comanche Marker Trees of Texas*, by Steve Houser, Linda Pelon, and Jimmy W. Arterberry. Texas A&M University Press, 2016).



Photos of Ute Prayer Trees from Pikes Peak Historical Society.

I have included photos of three very similar trees. One is a Comanche Prayer/Marker Tree and the other a Ute Prayer Tree. It is well-documented that the Comanche separated from the Ute/Shoshone Nation around 1700. How can we acknowledge and protect the identical trees from one nation, and not do the same for the other?

Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

EARLY RECORDED HISTORY

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Illustrations of typical Trail Marker Sign photos by Raymond E. Janssen. The tree on the left is an example of how sometimes trees took root where the tip touches the ground.



Drawings of Comanche Prayer/Marker Trees from Comanche Marker Trees of Texas.

CHAPTER REPORT

Agua Mansa Chapter

By Marisa V. Yeager, Chapter President

The Trujillo Adobe was named a site of High Potential along the OST in the Comprehensive Administration Strategy released in 2017. Agua Mansa Chapter has partnered with Spanish Town Heritage Foundation and community partners in efforts to ready the Adobe for NPS site certification. The addition of a seating area, speakers platform, mural, and the trimming of the historic pepper trees will facilitate student groups touring the Adobe this fall during Hispanic Heritage Month. These photos were taken at the Open House on July 27 of this year.



Riverside Art Museum's award-winning mural created by at-risk students in their Creative Horizons project. The mural depicts their vision of the Trujillo Adobe in the mid 1840s.



Bedroom wall showing original adobe bricks.



Eagle Scout project creates seating area for student tours.

Agua Mansa Chapter decided to hit the road and take an automobile tour of the 27 OST sign locations they are proposing in the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino, CA). They began the road trip at Agua Mansa Cemetery, a site of High Potential as noted by the 2017 Comprehensive Administrative Strategy, for inspiration before driving the streets that will proudly show the Old Spanish Trail signs once approval is received. ♦



Seated: Peggy Pena, Donna Oldenkamp (members), Brigitte Murphy (guest). Standing: Marisa Yeager, Ed Pearson, Mike Pena, Jim Wood. Donna is a descendant of Cornelius Jensen and the Penas are descendants of Juan Felipe Pena.

CHAPTER REPORT

Armijo Chapter

By George Hardeen, Chapter President

Photos by Paul Ostapuk

The Armijo Chapter, based in Page, Ariz., held a two-day trail ride and cowboy campout June 1 and 2 on an historic section of trail between the Paria River and Kanab, Utah.

This was the first of two planned rides along this section of the trail as part of a grant agreement with Arizona BLM. A second ride is planned for the fall of 2019 with the hope of including a videographer.

Five riders began at the Old Pariah Townsite with the objective of evaluating recreational opportunities for this section of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail corridor and increase public awareness of the trail through social media.

The chapter held a pre-ride presentation as part of the Coconino Community College summer talks program. Chapter president George Hardeen

discussed what is known about this section of the trail — the sparse information Antonio Armijo included in his 1829 journal, and retracing the possible historic route west of the Paria River. This is a fascinating section of the Old Spanish trail because it's approximately 30 miles west of the former Crossing of the Fathers on the Colorado River (now beneath Lake Powell) near the location where the Dominguez



OST chapter members retrace the old route from the Paria River to Kanab, Utah.



Riders ready to depart near the Paria River. L to R: George Hardeen, James McClean, Kendall Neisess, Jeff Frey.

and Escalante expedition left an authenticated inscription on a canyon wall which reads "Paso Por Aqui Año 1776."

Because three of the four horses used on the Armijo Chapter trail ride are Navajo mustangs, the meeting at the college included a discussion of the "indigenous" Navajo horse. It is theorized that many of the original Spanish horses Navajos used in the past likely descended from those acquired after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. Many of

these Navajo horses have broad foreheads and wide-set eyes, thicker necks, large, well-shaped hooves, good teeth, heavy manes and tails, solid bone density, thick hides, and efficient immune systems. The Navajo horse tends to have high intelligence, a gentle disposition, a smooth-riding gait, excellent endurance, superb stamina, and hardiness. These horses are well-adapted to the desert environment. ♦

CHAPTER REPORT

Descendants & Travelers of the Trail Chapter

By Conchita Marusich, Chapter President

Mini-Reunion in Northern California

In April of 2019, a group of our Descendants & Travelers of the Trail Chapter met at the Los Reyes Restaurant in Vacaville, California. Genealogist Donie Nelson came over from Sacramento, Cecelia Peña drove up from Oakland, and Conchita Thornton Marusich and her husband, Rich, came from Napa to meet in Vacaville, home of the Peña Adobe. We were joined by Cricket Kanouff, president of the Peña Adobe Historical Society and Darlene Coombs-Stewart and her husband, Al. We swapped Old Spanish Trail stories over a wonderful two hour lunch filled with tacos, chile rellenos, genealogy, and historical anecdotes. We really had fun and anticipate having more of these gatherings in the future.

Travelers of the Trail Conference October 10-13 in Cedar City, Utah

Now energized by our mini reunion, we are preparing for the upcoming Old Spanish Trail Association conference that will take place in Cedar City, Utah on October 10-13. The theme this year is dear to our chapter's heart since it is called "Travelers Along the Old Spanish Trail." At the conference, we will continue to highlight our ancestors in a new



Front L to R: Conchita Marusich, Donie Nelson, Darlene Coombs-Stewart, Cecelia Peña, Cricket Kanouff. Back L to R: Al Stewart, Rich Marusich.

Power Point, "In Our Own Words," which will feature mainly the profiles that our members wrote and are currently being shown on the Old Spanish Trail Association's website. Several of our chapter members plan on attending the conference and will join the Power Point presentation. This will be an opportunity for our members to discuss their genealogy research and share family stories.

Conchita and Rich Marusich will also be giving a presentation on the Wolfskill Expedition, led by her great-great-grandfather, William Wolfskill who came over the main route of the Old Spanish Trail in 1830-31 and passed through the Cedar City area. On Sunday, OST expert Al Matheson will lead a field trip

to the Wolfskill Boulder located north of Cedar City in a forested area surrounded by lava beds and Indian petroglyphs. The date 1831 is inscribed on the boulder. It will be an exciting opportunity to see an artifact out on the Trail where the expedition actually traveled.

There are many wonderful presentations that will be given at the conference ranging from the Paiute perspective of the travelers on the trail to discussions about Jedediah Smith, Ute Chief Wakara, GIS mapping, the Ute perspective of the trail, the Dominguez-Escalante expedition, bicycling over the Old Spanish Trail and more. ***Please join us for an exciting time in Cedar City October 10-13.***

Old Spanish Trail Comes to Vacaville City Hall in California

Cecelia Peña, Vice President of the Descendants Chapter, is a docent with the Peña Adobe Historical Society. They were contacted by the Vacaville Library, begging them to change the display in the long-neglected cabinets reserved for the Adobe at the Vacaville City Hall. Apparently, the exhibit hadn't been changed since the 1960s.

As many know, the Juan Manuel Vaca and Juan Felipe Peña/Armijo families came over the Old Spanish Trail in 1841 in the Rowland-Workman Party and traveled northward to claim their northern California 44,384-acre land grant. This part of the Adobe's history was rarely shared at the adobe and now here was

a good opportunity to reach a greater audience.

Cecelia, Crickett Kanouff, and other volunteers decided to use one of the cabinets for an Old Spanish Trail display. They used some OSTA Descendants chapter materials, scoured the Peña Adobe attic for artifacts, and even made some props. Highlights include a print of *Apolonia Vaca and Nestora Peña on a Mule*, (Ann King, 2017) and a brief history of the Rowland-Workman Party, 1841, led by Lorenzo Trujillo.

The display creates more exposure for the Peña Adobe, while introducing Vacaville to the Old Spanish Trail. It took only two weeks with zero cost.

Peña Adobe (penaadobe.org),
Exhibit: Vacaville City Hall,
650 Merchant St., Vacaville, CA.
Hours: 8:30-5 M-F ♦



CHAPTER REPORT Mojave River Chapter

By Nelson Miller, Chapter President

The Seventh Annual Old Spanish Trail Day, on Saturday, October 5, 2019 from 10AM to 2PM, is once again the event for which we have been preparing. The California Legislature designated the first Saturday in October as official California Old Spanish Trail Day and ever since, the Mojave River Chapter has presented a celebration in Barstow. Again

this year, we are partnering with the Desert Discovery Center and the Barstow Field Office of the BLM. We hope the Barstow NPS office will also participate again this year. Old Spanish Trail Day will be held at the Desert Discovery Center, 831 Barstow Road, Barstow, CA. There will be a variety of booths and history presentations — especially with activities for kids — and things to

interest parents and grandparents as well. Activities will include history presentations relating to the trail: mule packing, 1800s living history encampment, weaponry demonstrations, Navajo Churro sheep, desert animals, an archaeological activity, kids' art projects, kids' games of the period, a piñata, bluegrass, a mariachi band, folkloric dance, and more. ♦

CHAPTER REPORT

Salida del Sol

By Pablo Vigil, President

On Saturday July 27, the Salida del Sol Chapter of OSTA had a Field Trip to Dixon, NM. Nine of us met at the Dixon post office. We then went to see a couple of local Dixon Cooperative Market members, Minna Santos and Jessica, to talk about the possibility of putting up a sign on their property explaining OSTA. In the end we decided to meet with the Dixon Community Center Board at a later date. Mark Henderson, Claudio Chacon,

and myself were the main spokespersons for our group.

Immediately afterwards the nine of us loaded into three 4-wheel-drive vehicles to explore the very rough and Isolated Apodaca Canyon, which is about a mile north of Dixon. We drove only about a half mile because recent rains had washed out the road. We parked and hiked the rest of the way, which actually was much more fun and informative than riding in a truck or car.



A view up Apodaca Canyon, seeking the old trail routes



Pablo Vigil

According to Mark this was the portion of OST and the Camino Real that came together to form the "Winter Road" to Taos before 1876 when the U.S. military dynamited the Rio Grande Canyon and opened the present route between Rinconada and Pilar.

We hiked for about two and a half hours in the hot sun, but we all thought it was very nice and interesting to explore this Canyon. The trail that goes up to Apodaca Pass actually drops down into Pilar on the Rio Grande and then continues on to Taos.

Afterwards we all went down to the Dixon Library and had a lunch that consisted of everybody sharing what they'd brought. Some of us wanted to explore Embudo Pass but decided it was too much for one day and it would be better to leave it for another. All in all, it was a great day! ♦



*L to R: Pablo Vigil, Claudio Chacon,
Mark Henderson, David Mickey,
Paul Krispinsky*



Paul Krispinsky, Mark Henderson, Janie Vigil

CHAPTER REPORT

William Workman Chapter / England

By David Fallowfield, Penrith, Cumbria, England

It was with extreme sadness that I had to write the following words in June 2019:

June is the month that the William Workman Chapter members renew their subscriptions. Unfortunately, the day has arrived, after 21 years of existence as the only International Chapter of OSTA, to concede that it is now unsustainable for us to continue as an independent chapter. During the past year we lost one of our Directors, Bruce Alderson, who was our first new member after we

constituted in 1998. His widow is not interested in continuing with membership. Another Director, Donald Harrison, and his wife Thelma have indicated they wish to resign as of June as they do not expect to be able to again attend the Annual Conference (as they have on a number of occasions in the past). My two grandsons Daniel and Joshua Simpson have not developed a passion for the Old Spanish Trail as was hoped — Joshua is now a member of the British Army.

I am sure you understand that the real difficulty is the recruitment of new members when we are so removed from the Old Spanish Trail states.

The good news is that myself and wife Alva will retain family membership, as have indicated John and Anne Thompson, and Bill Ramsay will renew his individual membership. All of us greatly appreciate the sincere friendships made with the US members of the organisation during this period.



Attendees from England at the OST crossing point on the Green River in Utah.

L to R: John Thompson, Anne Thompson, Shirley Bell, Maurice Bell, Donald Harrison, David Fallowfield, Bill Ramsay.

BACKGROUND

In the mid-1980s David Fallowfield and John Sharpe, both Police Officers at Police HQ in Penrith, Cumbria, England, heard stories from a colleague, Doug Workman, about 19th century US pioneer William Workman. These stories fell on fertile ears. Fallowfield had family connections in California and had visited there in 1983. Sharpe lived in the village of Clifton, near Penrith, which had been William Workman's home village. In 1987, Fallowfield and friend Bill Ramsay, who also had historical family links to California, made a visit to the state and not only pursued the Workman story further but also visited sections of the OST in California and Nevada.

In the 1990s, Fallowfield and Sharpe, both now retired from Police Service, were still in regular contact and the Workman story was frequently discussed. As a result of correspondence from Judge David Workman of Los Angeles to Sharpe, Fallowfield realised he was related to the 19th century pioneering brothers David and William Workman. After reading the Hafens' book, Fallowfield and Sharpe decided it would be an adventure to drive from Santa Fe to Los Angeles on highways following close to the OST, and this they did in November 1997, accompanied by Sharpe's wife Lorna and Bill Ramsay. While in the bookshop of the Kit Carson Museum in Taos, Fallowfield purchased Ron Kessler's book *Retracing the Old Spanish Trail – North Branch*. The group arrived in Los Angeles 5 November, which was the same day that Workman had arrived

in 1841. They then visited the Workman & Temple Homestead Museum. On returning home to England, Fallowfield wrote to Kessler, then President of the OSTA, about this English interest in the trail. Kessler replied, encouraging OSTA membership and formation of the first international chapter.

HISTORY

Following the Kessler/Fallowfield correspondence (see *Spanish Traces* – Spring 1998) an inaugural meeting was held on 13 December 1997 in Penrith, attended by John Sharpe, David Fallowfield, Lorna Sharpe, and Bill Ramsay; it was decided to join OSTA and form a Chapter, with David's wife Alva as the fifth member. Thus in January 1998 the first international chapter of OSTA came into existence, to be known — appropriately — as the William Workman Chapter. John Sharpe was President and David Fallowfield was Secretary/Treasurer.

In November 1999 Sharpe and Fallowfield attended the William Workman Bicentennial at the Homestead Museum in City of Industry, CA. Sharpe attended the National Conference in Taos in June 2000 and gave a presentation on William Workman (see *Spanish Traces* – June 2000). Later that year he stood down as president and resigned from the chapter. At the AGM in May 2001, Director Bill Ramsay was elected to the office of President, a post he held until the Chapter ceased to exist on 30 June this year. Other directors were Donald Harrison, John Thompson, and Bruce Alderson (who died in November 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- June 2006 – OSTA Annual Conference, Green River, UT attendees were Ramsay, Fallowfield, Harrison, Thompson (2), plus 2 guests.
- June 2007 – OSTA Annual Conference, Barstow, CA attendees were Ramsay, Fallowfield, Harrison (2), Thompson (2).
- June 2008 – OSTA Annual Conference, Espanola, NM attendees were Ramsay, Fallowfield, Harrison (2), Thompson (2).
- May 2009 – Visit to UK by President Doug Knudson & 15 OSTA members for Tours in Cumbria.
- April 2010 – OSTA Annual Conference, Kanab, UT attendees Ramsay, Fallowfield, Thompson (2)
- June 2012 – OSTA Annual Conference, Richfield, UT attendees Ramsay, Fallowfield, Thompson (2).
- June/July 2014 – Visit to UK by President Ashley Hall & 10 OSTA members for Tours in Cumbria.
- October 2014 – OSTA Conference, Las Vegas, NV attendees Ramsay & Fallowfield.
- September 2015 – OSTA Conference, Santa Fe, NM attendees Ramsay & Fallowfield.
- October 2017 – OSTA Conference, Barstow, CA attendees Ramsay & Fallowfield.
- September 2018 – Ramsay & Fallowfield were on sections of the OST in NV, AZ & UT and held meetings with Armijo Chapter President George Hardeen at Page and with Past Utah Director Al Matheson at Cedar City.

and had not been replaced). Fallowfield was Secretary/Treasurer throughout the existence of the chapter.

Being so far removed from the site of the OST makes recruitment of new members extremely difficult, so the officers therefore sadly have to admit that survival of the chapter is unsustainable. The William Workman Chapter was only a small component of OSTA, but was active for 21 years and did contribute to and participate in the functioning of the association. ♦



OSTA National Conference October 10-13

**Hunter Conference Center / Charles Hunter Room
Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah
351 W. University Blvd, Cedar City, UT 84720**

~ T H E M E ~

“Travelers Along the Old Spanish Trail”

There will be presentations all day Friday and Saturday,
with an OSTA Board Meeting on Thursday morning,
and Field Trips on Thursday and Sunday.

— COSTS —

Registration fees for OSTA members are \$110,
which includes lunches on Friday and Saturday,
and the reception on Friday evening at the Frontier Homestead Museum.

— MEALS —

Lunch Friday is included in registration, as is food Thursday evening
at the Homestead Museum. Friday and Saturday dinners are optional,
and lunch Saturday is on your own.

— ACCOMODATIONS —

Choose from six hotels who are offering special rates for the Conference,
ranging from \$73.99 to \$119 per night; see the list on Page 25 or on the website.
Please call the hotel of your choice and make reservations.

Register online at *OldSpanishTrail.org*
OR DOWNLOAD THE FORM, OR USE THE FORM ON PAGE 24.



PRESENTATIONS

Old Spanish Trail Seen Through Native Paiute Eyes

SHANANDOAH ANDERSON's presentation will be about the Old Spanish Trail seen through Native Paiute eyes, with focus on the Southern Paiutes. Shanandoah will talk about picture writing (petroglyphs), the Paiute interaction with the early Spaniards and its impact on her people, slavery, the original Paiute trails, and more.

Jedediah Smith

LEO LYMAN will talk about Jedediah Smith's exploration of the western part of what became the Old Spanish Trail traveling from Salina, Utah all the way to the Pacific Coast near Los Angeles. He will discuss Smith's importance in establishing the Old Spanish Trail during his expeditions in 1826 and 1827. Leo considers Jedediah Smith to be one of the foremost explorers in the history of the West.

Wild Horses

CHAD HUNTER helps manage wild horses and burros throughout Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Colorado and Montana. One of the areas has wild horses that draw their bloodlines from the old Spanish Type — the Colonial Spanish

Horse — the first horses brought to America by the Spanish Explorers in the late 1500s. Chad will talk about the how these horses came to be in the mountain ranges along the Utah/Nevada borders and how they are being managed today.

OST as a Trader's Route into Ute Indian Country

SONDRA JONES will talk about how the Old Spanish Trail began as a trader's route into Ute Indian country, and was used for decades by both traders and Ute Indians. While we often speak about the Hispanic and Euro-Americans who used the trail, less well known are the ways in which the Utes also used it. Most prominent among these was the influential Wákara, a Ute raiding chief who grew prosperous and powerful by trafficking Indian slaves, extorting gifts from travelers, and conducting audacious horse raids in California.

Wolfskill Expedition: Trailblazers on the Old Spanish Trail 1830-1831

CONCHITA MARUSICH will discuss the Wolfskill Expedition, an historic journey over the Main Route of the Old Spanish Trail led by her great-great-grandfather, William Wolfskill, in 1830-31. She will talk about

how the group of twenty trappers, survived death-defying experiences along the Trail focusing on William Wolfskill, George Yount and Ziba Branch. Conchita and her husband, Rich, will also recount stories about their travels on the Old Spanish Trail as well as share genealogical tips from their research for Conchita's book *In Search of William Wolfskill: Journey to Find the Legacy*.

In Our Own Words

THE DESCENDANTS & TRAVELERS OF THE TRAIL CHAPTER will screen a new PowerPoint presentation, *In Our Own Words*, as they continue to highlight stories of their ancestors who traveled the Old Spanish Trail. They were a diverse group, including trappers, traders, adventurers, and families all looking for a better life in California. Several members of the Descendants Chapter will be available to answer questions and share their genealogical journeys.

OSTA Stewardship: Past, Present and Vision for the Future

PAUL OSTAPUK will present *OSTA Stewardship: Past, Present and Vision for the Future* and discuss the important role of



PRESENTATIONS

volunteers including conducting trail inventories, stewardship of interpretive signs, participating in archaeological studies and providing comment at public hearings. Paul will look back on past OSTA efforts, the opportunities that exist today, and describe a vision for the future.

The Ute Perspective of the OST

There is an old Ute saying: "When the songs are gone and the stories are not told, the Earth will die." The Ute Indians have survived, and fragments of Ute oral traditions are a good beginning point for understanding how the Utes view their land and with it the Old Spanish Trail. **LYNN BRITTNER** and **NATHAN STRONG ELK** will highlight the stories told by Ute Elders and how they view the land and with it the Old Spanish Trail. Clips from the video *Ute Perspective Along the Old Spanish Trail*, directed/produced by Lynn Brittner, will also be shown.

Jedediah Smith and the Movement of Horses Along the OST

SHERI WYSONG first heard about the Old Spanish Trail 25 years ago when she learned about Chief Walkara and Peg

Leg Smith bringing thousands of horses east after raiding California ranchos in the mid-1850s. A few years later, a friend told her about Jedediah Smith, who crossed the Great Basin in 1827. Researching these topics led her to realize that they were not isolated from each other. Jedediah Smith had much more to do with the movement of horses along the Old Spanish Trail than having just traveled along sections where it would be established five years later. Sheri will be covering that topic in her talk.

Dominguez-Escalante Expedition of 1776

AL MATHESON will discuss the Dominguez-Escalante expedition of 1776. He will talk about how they were not a collection of amateur explorers but were meticulous in recording derived information and accurately recording their journey. Subsequent translators of their diaries have done them great disservice by confusing navigational concepts, inserting misleading errors, and otherwise obscuring the accomplishments of the expedition. Al will highlight discrepancies and explain conflicting terms.

Bicycling the OST from Santa Fe to Los Angeles

Even before it was designated as a National Historic Trail, **KENN AND LORRAINE CARPENTER** bicycled the length of the Trail from Santa Fe, New Mexico to the old Plaza in Los Angeles several times, passing through rough back country as well as heavily traveled major cities. The Carpenters will conduct a power point presentation of preparations for their travels, the scenery, people and wildlife met, and the weather endured. They found that the challenges of planning, logistics, self-sufficiency and fortitude strengthened their love of exploration and their reliance on each other.

OST: San Rafael Desert, the Green River, Salina Canyon

WADE ALLINSON will discuss the use of the Old Spanish Trail across the San Rafael Desert from the Green River and down Salina Canyon in Utah. He will expand on the various groups that traveled the trail from 1830s to 1860s, presenting maps, sketches, and trace trail evidence that he has been able to discover.



PRESENTATIONS

Where is Mt. Misery?

In 1847-48, during the Old Spanish Trail Period, Jefferson Hunt led a pack trip from Salt Lake City to Southern California and back. In 1849 he was the guide for over 100 Gold Rush wagons along the same route. That wagon train disintegrated as it passed through the Cedar City area but most members soon arrived at a place they called Mt. Misery. About 100'49ers managed to continue on, got horribly lost, and eventually wandered into Death Valley, giving that place its name. **TOM SUTAK** will discuss why the disintegration took place and where Mt. Misery is located.

Silhouettes and Signage on the OST

AL MATHESON will do a presentation on his silhouettes and signage program on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, looking at its origins, purposes, processes and successes.

Documentary Film About the OST

The Old Spanish Trail is a 55-minute documentary film about the historic trail, tracking the journey of Richard Waller, Otis Calef, and Jim Clark on horseback 1200 miles from Los Angeles to Santa Fe. They rode

the trail in two legs, fall of 2014 and summer of 2015. The film is directed and produced by **BENEDICTE SCHOYEN**, with music composed by her husband, Ned Clark.

Technical GIS Mapping

BRIAN DEATON, from National Park Service, will do a workshop on GIS mapping. This will be a technical mapping presentation displaying utility of ESRI's Survey123 application and commercially available smart phones to acquire location information and documentation for Old Spanish National Historic Trail assets (signs, waysides, exhibit locations, etc). Space is limited to 15 people and requirements will include smart phone, partner ArcGIS Online Accounts to have access to the application, and installed Survey123 application. More details to come regarding registration for this workshop.

Please note that this information is what was available at press time, and is all subject to change. Check the website for up-to-date information.

FIELD TRIPS/WORKSHOPS

Wolfskill Boulder in Summit, Utah

AL MATHESON will lead a field trip to the Wolfskill Boulder in Summit, Utah on Sunday, October 13, 2019. The date 1831 — written on the Wolfskill Boulder — is believed to date from the Wolfskill expedition. We will stop at Paragonah first and pass by six Old Spanish Trail locations en route to the Wolfskill Boulder.

Mountain Meadows

STEVE HEATH will guide a tour to Mountain Meadows. They will make stops at the Dominguez-Escalante Monument west of Cedar City, the Jefferson Hunt Memorial south of New Castle, and several places at Mountain Meadows. The importance of Mountain Meadows for Spanish Trail travelers will be highlighted as well as the tragic massacre at the site in 1857.

Southern Utah University Library

PAULA MITCHELL will lead a tour of the Southern Utah University Special Collections and University Archives. She will talk about the Old Spanish Trail Association Collection of papers and books that is housed in Special Collections.

SPEAKERS



Sondra G. Jones
Sondra holds a PhD in history from the University of Utah and teaches history at Brigham Young University. She is the author of *Being and Becoming Ute: The Story of an American Indian People* and the award-winning *Don Pedro Leon Lujan: The attack against Indian Slavery and Mexican Traders in Utah*.



Chad Hunter
Chad has worked with the wild horses and burros in Utah for 35 years. After graduating from Utah State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Management, he has worked for the BLM the last 25 years in Price and Cedar City Utah. He is a Wild Horse and Burro Specialist for the Color Country District



Wade Allinson
Wade is on the board of directors for the Emery County Historical Society and is actively involved in researching historical trail use in Emery County. His passion is researching and ground proofing. He is co-author of *The Elk Mountain Mission: A History of Moab, Mormons, the Old Spanish Trail and the Sheberetch Utes*.



Conchita Marusich
Conchita has been involved in the film and television industry for over twenty-five years. Conchita is currently the president of the Descendants & Travelers of the Trail Chapter, OSTA. A graduate of Vassar College, she received her masters degree from Occidental College. Rich, her husband, grew up in Northwestern New Mexico, is an armchair archeologist, and was also involved in the film industry.

Descendants & Travelers of the Trail Chapter

The presentation "In Our Own Words" was produced by Conchita Marusich, president of the Descendants and Travelers of the Trail Chapter. The PowerPoint is based on profiles written by members of the chapter about their ancestors who traveled the trail. Many of these profiles are currently shown on the Old Spanish Trail Association website <https://oldspanishtrail.org/profiles>



Paul Ostapuk
Paul currently serves as secretary for the Old Spanish Trail Association and chairs the OSTA Stewardship Committee.



Shanandoah Anderson
Shanandoah is from the Shivwits Band of Southern Paiute, Washington County, Utah, and currently living in Moapa, Nevada. She is a Cultural Consultant on Native American arts, crafts, people, places and culture.



Tom Sutak
Tom, a graduate of the University of California/ Berkeley, is a retired criminologist and business executive who has been investigating historic western trails for almost twenty years. In 2012, Tom authored a book entitled "Into the Jaws of Hell" which discusses the travels and adventures of Jefferson Hunt who pioneered wagon travel to California through New Mexico over the Southern Route and also along the southern section of the Old Spanish Trail/Mormon Road.



Benedicte Schoyen
Benedicte, from Oslo, Norway, has been a dance studio owner in Los Angeles for the past 20 years. She has many years of experience as a dancer, a choreographer, and director for TV and live shows in Scandinavia. In 2016 she released her first documentary film *Roadtrip Niger*. *Old Spanish Trail* is her second production.

SPEAKERS



Lynn T. Brittner

Lynn, Executive Director OSTA, by education, professional experience, and personal passion, has more than two decades of experience in all phases of museum development. She brought her knowledge and skills to diverse museum roles, resulting in exhibits and video documentations regarding OST.



Nathan Strong Elk

Nathan, an experienced public sector administrator and technical professional, is presently a land professional for the Southern Ute Red Willow Enterprise. As a Sun Dancer he is connected to the spiritual side of cultural history. He has worked to preserve language and traditions within the Southern Ute community in Ignacio Colorado.



Al Matheson

Al is a Space Rated Master Navigator specializing in historic Spanish navigation techniques and practices. Past OSTA Director for the State of Utah, his present endeavor is creating steel sillhouettes to identify and preserve historic OST locations while educating the public on the history and origins of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.



Paula Mitchell

Paula is the Special Collections Librarian for the Gerald R. Sheratt Library at Southern Utah University.



Steve Heath

Steve is past president of OSTA and has served as a member of the national

board of directors. He has been a presenter at several national OSTA meetings and author of a number of articles in *Spanish Traces*. He has traveled the Old Spanish Trail extensively in southwest Utah.



Leo Lyman

Leo has been both a student and teacher of the Old Spanish Trail for over 50 years. He was the president of OSTA's Tres Trails Chapter in Washington County, Utah, and served on the national OSTA board as Utah State Director.



Sheri Wysong

Sheri was born in gold rush country, descended from the pioneers of that era. The history of California is in her blood, and she and her husband own property along the Spanish Trail in Tecopa. She is a board member of the Jedediah Smith Society and devotes much of her spare time to researching his map, and how it influenced the settlement of the West.



Kenn & Lorraine Carpenter

Kenn and Lorraine are long-time OSTA members who joined in 1998 and have served in many capacities including vice-president, treasurer, secretary, membership chair, Spanish Traces editors/publishers and more. They have enjoyed a variety of sports, including mountain climbing, distance running and hiking, wilderness canoeing, and cross-country bicycling.



Brian Deaton

Brian leads the Resource Information Management team for the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist. He has worked in federal service for nine years, providing spatial data management, analysis, creation, and field collection technical expertise to internal staff and various external partners.

REGISTRATION FORM

Register online at *OldSpanishTrail.org* -OR- complete this form and mail to:
Paula Mitchell, 824 Cedarwood Circle, Cedar City, UT 84720 / Phone: 435.586.7976

Name(s) _____

City/State/Zip _____

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, lunches on Friday and Saturday, and reception on Thursday evening at the Frontier Homestead Museum.

LUNCHES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED FOR REGISTRATIONS AFTER OCTOBER 1.

OSTA Members Registration

For Friday lunch, please select either ☐ Pulled Pork -or- ☐ Potato Bar

_____ persons @ \$110 each

New Members SPECIAL. Join OSTA, attend the conference and save!

Your one-year, individual OSTA membership

*Normally \$25 included with registration (at a \$5 discount). ***

_____ persons @ \$130 each

Non OSTA Members Registration

_____ persons @ \$120 each

Special Full-time Student Registration

_____ persons @ \$60 each

ONE DAY ONLY Registration ☐ Friday -or- ☐ Saturday **OSTA member**
(LUNCHES WILL NOT BE INCLUDED FOR REGISTRATIONS AFTER OCTOBER 1)

_____ persons @ \$60 each

Non-Member _____ persons @ \$70 each

Full-time Student _____ persons @ \$35 each

Friday Dinner (Optional) Chuck Wagon Dinner at Iron Springs Resort
3196 Iron Springs Rd, Cedar City, UT 84721

_____ persons @ \$25 each

Saturday Dinner (Optional) Paiute Tribal Center, Indian tacos and entertainment

_____ persons @ \$25 each

TOTAL FEES Please make checks payable to *Old Spanish Trail Association*

\$ _____

***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.*

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The following hotels will offer special discounted rates
for the Old Spanish Trail Association Conference, October 10-13, 2019.

Participants must call the hotel directly and ask for the “Spanish Trail Society” rate.

RATES ARE BASED ON AVAILABILITY AND ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO BOOK ONLINE.

Please note that this is also the final weekend of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, so please book early.



BEST WESTERN TOWN & COUNTRY

\$73.99+tax (*within walking distance, continental breakfast included*)

189 North Main Street, Cedar City, UT 84720-2650 / 435.586.9900 or 1.800.493.0062



COURTYARD MARRIOTT

\$119 +tax

1294 South Interstate Drive, Cedar City, UT 84720 / 435.867.7300



EL REY INN

\$89+tax (*within walking distance, continental breakfast included*)

80 S Main St, Cedar City, UT 84720 / 435.586.6518 or 1.800.688.6518



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

\$119+tax (*continental breakfast included*)

1555 South Old Highway 91, Cedar City, UT 84720 / 435.865.7799 or 1.800.465.4329



SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT

\$119 +tax (*continental breakfast included*)

1477 South Old Hwy 91, Cedar City, UT 84720 / 435.586.1685 or 1.888.287.9400



STRATFORD COURT

\$79+tax (*within walking distance, continental breakfast included*)

18 South Main Street, Cedar City, UT 84720 / 435.586.2433 or 1.877.688.8884

Lorraine & Kenn Carpenter: Bicycling Over the Old Spanish Trail

Kenn and Lorraine Carpenter have enjoyed a variety of sports, including mountain climbing, distance running and hiking, wilderness canoeing, and cross-country bicycling. They found that the challenges of planning, logistics, self-sufficiency, and fortitude strengthened their love of exploration and their reliance on each other.

Presentation Description

Even before it was designated as a National Historic Trail, Kenn and Lorraine Carpenter bicycled the length of the Trail from Santa Fe, NM to the old Plaza in Los Angeles several times, passing through rough back country as well as heavily-traveled major cities. The Carpenters will conduct a power point presentation of preparations for their travels, the scenery, people, and wildlife met, and the weather endured. ♦



En route to Looking Glass Rock



Carracas Canyon, where the trail became very rocky



More desert, and on to Stump Spring



Emigrant Pass pylon, looking east over California Valley



Green River cutoff – just hoping it's dry

Proposed Gemini Solar Project Near Las Vegas Would Impact the Old Spanish National Historic Trail

By Paul Ostapuk

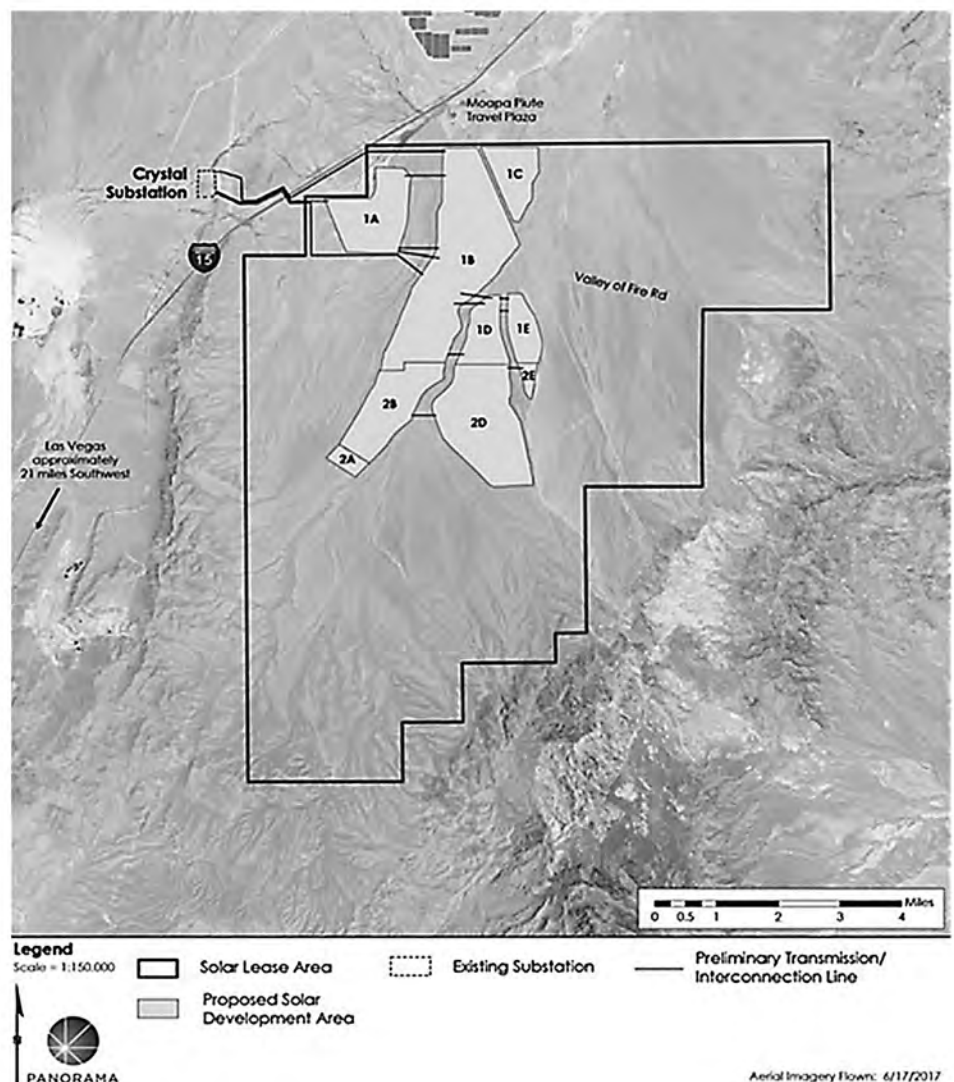
The OSTA Stewardship Committee is in the process of preparing written comments regarding the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for a \$1 billion-dollar solar project, set to be the largest in the United States and one of the largest in the world. The facility is proposed across the desert landscape located approximately 33 miles northeast of Las Vegas and south of the Moapa River Indian Reservation in Clark County, Nevada.

This photovoltaic solar farm would generate up to 690 megawatts on approximately 7,100 acres of BLM land within a 44,000-acre application area. Additional power generation would be possible depending on the number of buildable acres and future improvements in technology. NV Energy has announced the signing of a 25-year power purchase agreement for the use of the power generated by the proposed Gemini project as part of a plan to reduce the carbon footprint of power generation. According to that agreement, the solar plant is expected to be

completed and operational before the end of 2023.

During construction the project would generate up to 2,000 direct jobs. After construction, a permanent staff of seven employees is expected to operate

the facility. Integrated battery storage would also be part of the project as well as 230 kV and 525 kV transmission line connections to existing substations in the area. The solar panel array will be coupled with a 380-megawatt



Application Footprint for the Gemini Solar Project from the draft EIS

battery storage system, capable of saving over 1,400 megawatt-hours of power generated during the sunlight period each day. This stored energy would then be discharged to consumers during evening peak hours when power is most needed.

Environmental issues include impacts to the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, in particular a “High Potential Route Segment” known as “California Crossing.” This trail segment runs directly through the proposed project footprint. Adverse impacts to the trail corridor were noted by BLM in the draft EIS documents. This part of the Old Spanish Trail from the Muddy River to the springs at Las Vegas was often called the “Jornada de Muerte,” a long waterless reach of exceedingly dry desert. It was one of the most difficult stretches for both man and animals. In John C. Fremont’s journal for May 4, 1844, he noted the numerous skeletons of horses. He described it as a dry jornada, the longest of his travels, going fifty to sixty miles without a drop water.

Other environmental concerns associated with the solar project include impacts to a protected plant species (threecorner milkvetch) and a listed endangered species (Mojave desert tortoise).

Part of the EIS NEPA process will include execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement (PA) prepared by the BLM Las Vegas Field Office to address the potential adverse effects to historic sites under the National Historic Preservation Act and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail under the National Trail System Act. OSTA has requested to be a party to this agreement.

JORNADA

Noun, plural jor-na-das

[hawr-NAH-duhz]

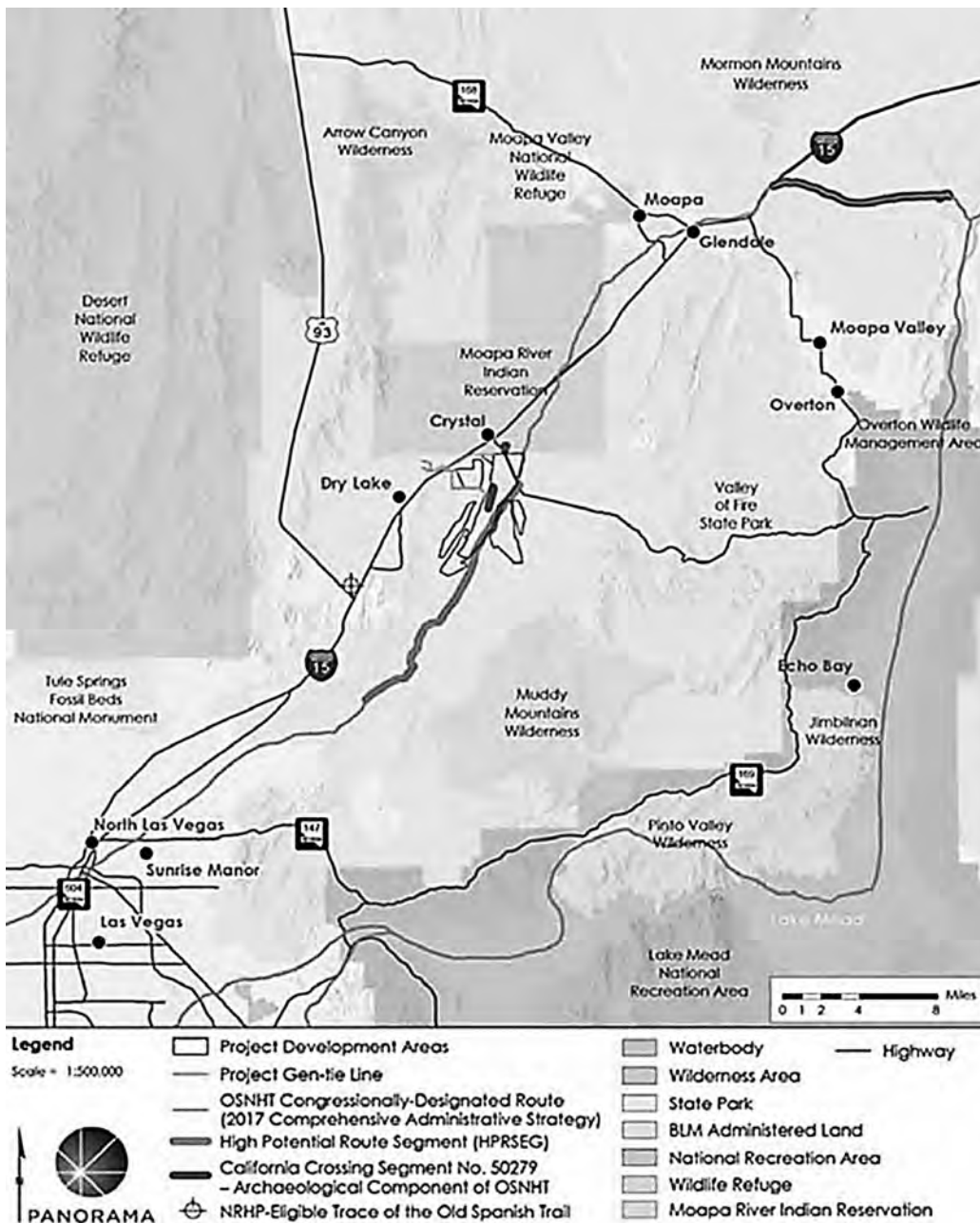
Spanish: [hawr-NAH-thahs]

Southwestern U.S.

A full day’s travel across a desert without a stop for taking on water.



Desert Tortoise (Photo courtesy Las Vegas Sun)



Location of Old Spanish National Historic Segment (California Crossing) in relation to project development areas from the draft EIS.

- OSTA members of the Nevada Chapter participated in BLM scoping meetings held in 2018 and at the recent draft EIS public hearing in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 23.
- Information about the project is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xntTQ>.
- Public comment on the draft EIS is open through September 5, 2019.
- Comments can be submitted by email to blm_nv_snd@geminisolar@blm.gov or regular mail to BLM Southern Nevada District Office; Gemini Solar Project EIS; 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.; Las Vegas, NV 89130. ♦



2019 OSTA Board Nominations/Elections

Look for your postcard
in the mail, and
don't forget to vote!

Old Spanish Trail Association
c/o Lynn Brittner
4824 Guadalupe Trail
Albuquerque NM 87107

OSTA 2019 Board Election Ballot

Ballot must be received
by OSTA Executive
Director Lynn Brittner
by September 11, 2019
MAIL TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE

PRESIDENT [CHOOSE ONE]
☐ Conchita Marusch ☐ Paul Ostapuk
 OR Write-in _____

TREASURER
 Reba Grandrud ☐ Yes ☐ No
 OR Write-in _____

DIRECTORS AT LARGE
 Alexander King ☐ Yes ☐ No OR Write-in _____
 Nathan Strong Elk (Native American Liaison) ☐ Yes ☐ No OR Write-in _____
 Nelson Miller (Conf/Events) ☐ Yes ☐ No OR Write-in _____

STATE DIRECTORS
 AZ: Earl Fosdick ☐ Yes ☐ No OR Write-in _____
 NV: Glenn Shaw ☐ Yes ☐ No OR Write-in _____
 NM: [CHOOSE ONE] ☐ Melinda Arviso-Ciocco ☐ Celinda Reynolds Kaelin
 OR Write-in _____

Did you know you can get back issues of *Spanish Traces*?

- Available back issues for \$6 per copy or \$150 for all back issues.
- In addition, a CD of all back issues is available for \$30.

MARK FRANKLIN

OSTA Retail Sales Manager
2914 Junction Street
Durango, CO 81301
970.375.7992
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The Old Spanish Trail

Story and photos by John McEvoy

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE FALL/WINTER 2018 ISSUE OF SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS JOURNAL



Millions of Americans went on a road trip this past summer. Few, if any, wondered how the roads or highways they were traveling on came to be. Besides ink on a map, the start and end points in the dashboard navigation, and the obvious gravel and asphalt, most people give no thought as to how much history lies beneath the pavement they travel on.

Many modern roads and highways follow indigenous people's game hunting and migration routes. Native Americans utilized long-established routes of travel hundreds of years before Europeans arrived. Some of the same routes originally followed by the Jicarilla Apaches, Utes and Navajo, are now highways that navigate through, around, and over the San Juan Mountains.

The ancient trail over 10,032' Cochetopa Pass ("gate of the bison" in Ute), is now State Highway 114 and was once a very important stagecoach route connecting the town of Saguache in the San Luis Valley to the San Juan mining camps like Lake City. Utes would use this as their main route over the San Juans to and from the abundant hunting and fishing grounds in the San Luis Valley.

U. S. Highway 160 was also once a mere trail that traveled through high desert landscapes and over the San Juan Mountains. It crosses the Continental Divide at Wolf Creek Pass and connects two mighty rivers; the Rio Grande on the east side, and the San Juan on the west side.

Western American history buffs are familiar with the Oregon and Santa Fe trails that were so instrumental in the taming of what was once called The Wild West. A lesser known trail, but just as important, was the Old Spanish Trail. Centuries before the Europeans came to use this route for commercial purposes, it was used by natives to connect mountain tribes with coastal tribes.

The Santa Fe Trail started in Franklin, Missouri, and went on to Santa Fe where it connected with the Old Spanish Trail which then went on to Los Angeles. There were three separate routes of the Old Spanish Trail. Each one was used at different times depending on the seasons and safety from indian attacks.

Starting in Santa Fe, New Mexico and passing through what are now Ignacio and Durango, Colorado, up to Green River, Utah and eventually ending in Los Angeles, California, the main path of the Old Spanish Trail was 1120

miles long. This trail was a primary way for Mexican and American traders to bring goods back and forth between these two major Spanish colonial outposts. At this time in history, California lacked sheep and wool to make blankets, but was abundant in horses and mules. The reverse was true for Missouri, where many future expeditions of miners, settlers, and traders would start out for California along the Santa Fe Trail.

In 1829 the Old Spanish Trail was still little more than a primitive single-track trail and wagons weren't able to be used until many years later. It was once called by historians LeRoy and Ann Hafen, "the longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America."

During the winter of 1829-1830 a 25-year-old, Antonio Armijo, set out from Abiquiu, (then part of Mexico) with approximately 60 men and a pack train of mules across the arid Colorado Plateau along the route of the Old Spanish Trail. This procession of men and animals carried woolen blankets, rugs, ponchos, and socks, along with buffalo and bear hides and



San Juan travelers today owe a debt to those who blazed the Old Spanish Trail two centuries ago. Highway 160 west of Wolf Creek Pass.

beaver pelts to trade for horses and mules.

Along the way, Armijo and his entourage encountered Native American tribes (Navajo, Paiutes, Jicarilla Apaches, and Utes) that were peaceful and helpful in making his adventure successful by guiding him safely through the high mountain desert, across rivers, and along the southern edge of the mighty San Juans. His expedition through what is now Colorado took him mostly

several miles south of what is now Highway 160, through Ute and Navajo country. It took them 12 weeks to get to California. Only a year later, simmering hostilities broke out between the Spanish and Navajo, forcing future expeditions to go further north and through a different area of the San Juan Mountains on their way to California.

To avoid this conflict, travelers followed the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. It followed

along trapper and trader routes north from Taos and up into present-day Colorado, either along the foothills of the Sangre de Cristos on the eastern edge of the San Luis Valley, along what is roughly now the current State Highway 17, or along the foothills of the San Juans along the western side of the valley near on what is now U. S. Highway 285. Both routes met at the town of Saguache. After resupplying in Saguache, travelers on the North



What characters might have looked like sitting around a campfire during an encampment in the 1870s while traveling along the Old Spanish Trail in Colorado.

Branch continued onward over 10,032' Cochetopa Pass, which has a gentle grade and low summit and was usually open in winter when other passes were closed with snow.

Colorado State Highway 114 travels over today's Cochetopa Pass (sometimes called North Pass). To cross the original Cochetopa Pass, follow the graveled County Road NN14,

"Cochetopa Pass Road" a bit further south and accessible off of Highway 114.

The first documented crossing of Cochetopa Pass by wagons was in 1825, by Antoine Robidoux, a fur trapper and trader. After Robidoux dropped down into Cochetopa Creek, he traveled north following what is now Highway 114, diverting over to what is now the ranching

community of Powderhorn and up to current U. S. Highway 50 that follows the Gunnison River.

Robidoux's route then continued west to present-day Montrose.

From the Montrose area Robidoux went north to Fort Uncompahgre, which is now the city of Delta. (There is a replica of Fort Uncomphgre in Delta and it is operated as a "Living History

Museum" where people dress in period costume and explain many facets of life from Robidoux's time). Robidoux then traveled further west on to Green River, Utah and then on to California.

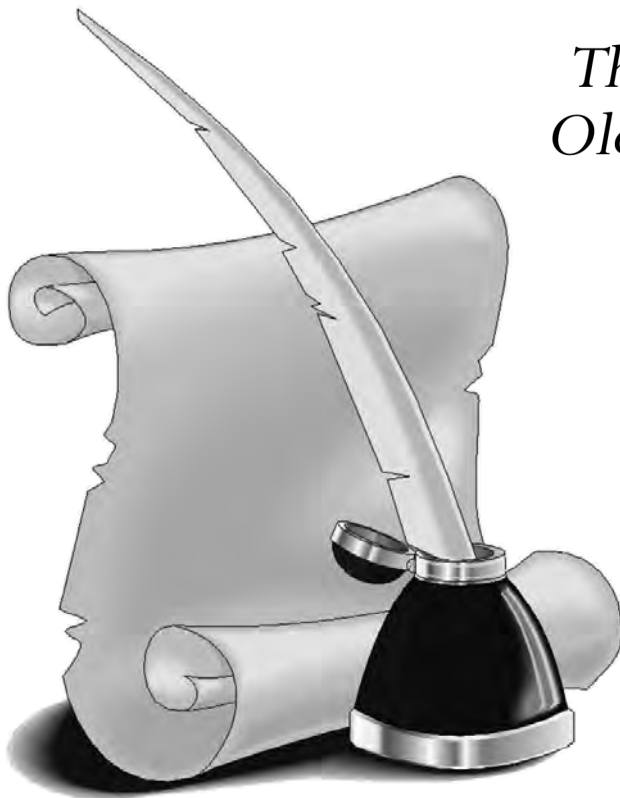
What is known as the Northern Route of the Old Spanish Trail followed the first part of Armijo's route from Abiquiu to what is now Durango and further west to Mancos. From Mancos, the trail turned northwest, bypassing the western edge of the San Juan Mountains and winding near the present towns of Dolores, Yellow Jacket, and eventually to Dove

Creek near the border of Utah and Colorado. This route effectively skirted the mountains and avoided the deep canyon country and continued to what is now Moab and eventually Green River.

By the mid-1870s, prolific use of the single track trails had expanded them into well-worn wagon roads. The discovery of gold in the San Juan Mountains brought thousands of intrepid prospectors along with the supplies and the entrepreneurs needed to sustain them, all shipped by wagons. More efficient roads were engineered and built by the army to handle

not only increased traffic by miners and settlers, but for the military that needed to protect the far flung mining towns and outposts.

Today, travelers enjoy a much different experience as they cruise over smooth pavement when they cross the San Juans at Cochetopa or Wolf Creek Passes on the Old Spanish Trail. When traveling these roads that are luxurious compared to what they were over a hundred years ago, give thanks to the original trailblazers who gave their blood, sweat, and sometimes their lives, to make it all possible. ♦



Thinking about giving to the Old Spanish Trail Association?

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Yvonne M. Halburian: OSTA's Favorite Artist

By Lynn Brittner

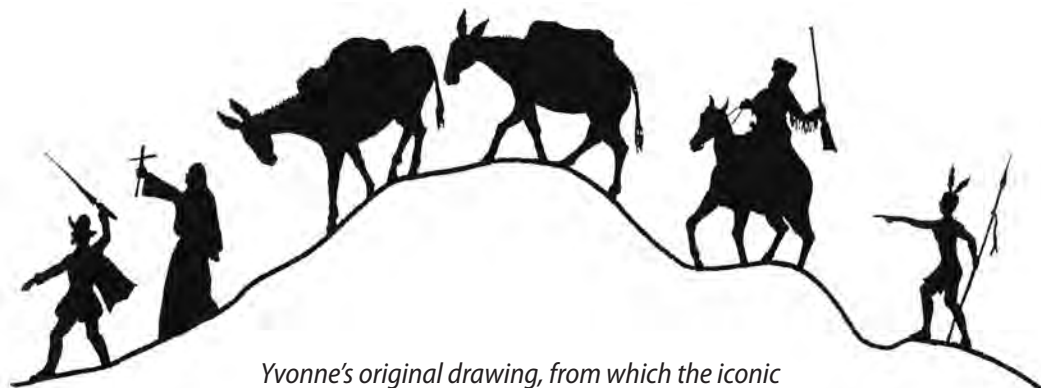
When Yvonne Halburian moved to the San Luis Valley, it was love at first sight. Upon realizing that the area was not only beautiful but steeped in history, she and her husband felt they had found the ideal place to retire. Once in the valley, Yvonne was able to fine-tune her skills as an artist and learn about the rich cultural history of the area. This was in the 1970s, and she and others started the Saguache, Colorado Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail.

Yvonne's life passion for art, her Air Force Career training as a cartographer, and her interest in the history of the valley, caught the attention of several local authors who utilized her skills. She illustrated the routes used by the early explorers traveling through the San Luis Valley, including Native Americans, the Spanish explorers De Vargas (1694) and De Anza (1779), Los Caminos Antiguos, railroad routes researched by Fremont, Gunnison, Gwinn Heap, and the Barlow & Sanderson Stage route. She aided in the research for the East and West Forks of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, which is now part of the National Historic Trail System.



When the OST chapters held a contest in Monte Vista (at the National Forest Service) Yvonne submitted a winning design in 1974 which was used for many years as the official logo of OSTA and can still be found on monuments, interpretive signs in San Luis Valley, and on a trail marker. Her logo was reproduced on articles of clothing, letterhead, books, and conference materials for nearly two decades.

Today, at age 88, Yvonne continues her passion for history, art, and natural beauty in the San Luis Valley. She considers herself a studio artist, still exhibiting in galleries throughout the valley. ♦



Yvonne's original drawing, from which the iconic mule was taken to form the center of the OSTA logo



Whimsical illustrations are featured on a collection of notecards.



Cover artwork for a Chapter publication

This excerpt was originally printed in the Winter 2011 issue of *Spanish Traces*.

OSTA Logo Archived

The OSTA Board of Directors recently decided to make a change in the OSTA logo, but not the artist. Yvonne Halburian created the former design of people and mules marching over a hill. Then a few years later (2001), she designed another logo, featuring a loaded mule, presumably headed for California.

The older design will still be seen on various materials still in circulation. It will be archived with various other drawings by Yvonne in OSTA's national archives in the Denver Public Library, and will be available in the files of the Publications Committee of OSTA.

On behalf of OSTA, President Grandrud expresses gratitude to Yvonne Halburian for generously using her artistic talents in designing maps, logos, and other materials. She has allowed OSTA to reproduce her images on clothing, letterheads, books, conference materials, and periodicals for nearly two decades.

Yvonne Halburian of Saguache, Colorado is an OSTA founder and Crampton Award winner. She and her husband Simon hosted one of the early conferences in Saguache. Yvonne served as one of the first Chapter Presidents (Saguache Chapter) in OSTA. She worked with the Colorado Director on the revitalization and geographic broadening of the Chapter, which, in 2003, led to the La Vereda del Norte Chapter.

Southern Utah University (SUU) Sherratt Library, Special Collections Unit, is now the primary archival repository for OSTA records that include documents, photographs, artwork, and objects.

Women of the Old Spanish Trail: María Barbara Aragon

By Donie A. Nelson

REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION: A REVISED VERSION OF THE ARTICLE ENTITLED, "THE MEMORABLE WOMEN IN MY TREE: MARÍA BARBARA ARAGON," NUESTRAS RAICES, V. 30, ISSUE 1, SPRING 2018, PP 29-32]

María Barbara Aragon is not my kinswoman, but she played an important role in the history of my family. My gr-gr-grandfather, José Joaquin Young was the illegitimate son of Ewing Young, the famous mountain man. Joaquin wanted Isaac Slover, one of Ewing Young's trapping partners, to sign a document that Ewing acknowledged paternity. However, Isaac Slover was killed before Joaquin reached him, but his widow, Barbara Aragon, signed the document instead.

What do we know about Barbara Aragon? Though her presence was real, her complete identity and history has been lost or erased. Barbara Aragon's paper trail is so slight that she would have been invisible if she had not married the well-known *extranjero* [foreigner] Isaac Slover, who was 15-30 years her senior. In contrast, Slover's roots can be traced to New York in the late 17th century via Calais, France and Holland in the early 17th century. Barbara's parents are unknown, her actual age is not verifiable via baptismal records. However, she is listed with Slover in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census of Los Angeles County, California, as being a 40-year-old female, born in New Mexico. Barbara was probably older than 40 because Rebecca McDowell Craver, in her book *The Impact of Intimacy, Mexican-Anglo Inter-marriage in New Mexico, 1821-1846*, states that the couple were married in Taos, Nuevo México in 1823, which would have made Barbara 13 years old if

she were 40 in 1850. I have been unable to locate that record of her marriage.

According to research by author, researcher and archivist R. Bruce Harley, Ph.D., Isaac and Barbara Aragon Slover reached Los Angeles in early 1838. Slover may have been inspired by contact with the legendary trail master **Lorenzo Trujillo** or the successful merchant don **Luis Robidoux** who had both made several trips to Southern California in the late 1830s over the Old Spanish Trail. From such men, Slover may have decided to move east from Los Angeles to the Rancho San Bernardino area, and the Slovers are first listed in the Agua Mansa area in the 1844 Mexican census. At that time the Agua Mansa community stretched from San Timoteo Canyon to the Robidoux Rancho and then west to Chino.

Presumably, the Slovers had migrated to California in 1843 but did not settle in the core Agua Mansa village. Instead they chose the foot of what became known as Slover Mountain — which is still the site of a massive limestone mining operation that can be viewed on the south side of US-10 as you head east toward the interchange with US-215. The Slovers were well known for their hospitality. One of their visitors was **Judge Benjamin Hayes**, who wrote in his *Pioneer Notes* that, "Doña Barbara, whose house one comes to first and never leaves without regret, who makes the lightest tortillas, wheat or corn, ever-cheerful Doña Barbara, from year

to year unchanged! How different from many I have known!”

Despite his age and Barbara’s concerns, Slover continued his obsessive hunting of bears. One finally killed him in 1854. Initially Slover was buried by some of his Mormon friends. One account concludes: “So they buried him on an elevation near their home.” But Barbara, who was a devout Catholic, made arrangements for her husband, who was a convert, to be buried in the newly-established Agua Mansa Cemetery on the bluff overlooking the church. The priest agreed to say a funeral mass the next day. According to a later trustee of the cemetery, there were Slover markers in the first row to the right of the cemetery entrance.

On paper, Barbara is listed as a *madrina* (godmother) in five separate records, once in Taos and four times in California, but *never* with her husband, which I believe to be unusual. After her marriage to Slover, Barbara is the *madrina* on 29 June 1828 to **María Juliana Vigil**, natural daughter of **María Ysidora Vigil** in Ranchos de Taos. The padrino is **William “Julian” Workman**, another *extranjero*, who was single at the time and later left New Mexico for California. Then 25 years later she is a *madrina* to four different children in San Salvador Parish, San Bernardino County, California, where she and Slover made their final home.

Barbara Aragon’s next “paper” appearance is more than a year before Slover’s death, at the

baptism of **José Ramon Vigil** on 29 May 1853, a son of **Bernardo Vigil** and **Margarita Martín**. **Felipe Martín** is the *padrino* and Barbara Slover is the *madrina*. About three months before Slover’s death, on 15 July 1854, Barbara Slover and a **Nicolas Rhin** are the *padrinos* at the baptism of **María Luisa Moreno**, age 2, daughter of *extranjero* don **Juan Moreno** and doña **Luisa Sandoval**. Juan Moreno or John Brown and his wife Luisa Sandoval were also immigrants from New Mexico.

After Slover’s death, Barbara is the *madrina* on 4 November 1860 for **Andres Weaver**, son of another *extranjero*: **Luciano Weaver** and his wife **Amadora Maude Applegate**, whose five known children were baptized at the San Salvador Church in Agua Mansa. The *padrino* is a “**Nicholas Klein**.” In 1861 (no day or month given), the Weavers’ son **José Bennington Weaver**, who was born 9 December 1857, is baptized and Barbara is once again the *madrina*. This time, the padrino is listed as “**Nicolas Bean**.”

The romantic in me likes to think that Nicholas Rhin/Rhein/Klein/Bean is the same person and that after Isaac Slover’s death, Barbara Aragon married this younger man, and she is the “Margaret” listed with Nicholas in the 1860 U.S. Federal Census and the “Mary” listed with Nicholas in the 1870 U.S. Federal Census. I hope they lived happily ever after. ♦



"Agua Mansa Cemetery" by Ann King



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Donie Nelson has been a member of the Old Spanish Trail Association for many years, but not as long as she has been researching

her Swedish/English/Scots-Irish/Spanish heritage (since 1979).

For over 40 years Donie worked in the entertainment industry developing motion pictures and television projects, and she brings this knowledge of storytelling to her work as a consultant who assists researchers with editing, writing, and publishing their family histories.

She is a past president of the Los Angeles WESTSIDE Genealogical Society and coordinated the publication of their book *Abbot Kinney's Venice of America*. In partnership

with the Los Angeles Public Library and the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), Donie created a monthly genealogical workshop program entitled "Genealogy Garage," which is held monthly in the History & Genealogy Department of the Richard Riordan Central Library, Los Angeles Public Library. More than 350 researchers attend this workshop annually.

Donie has served on the board of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Southern California Genealogical Society. She is a founding member of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America – Southern California Chapter, where she served six terms as President and ten years on the national board of GSHA. She is currently the editor of GSHA's quarterly journal, *Nuestras Raices*, and specializes in establishing outreach programs for genealogical societies.



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- ☐ **Agua Mansa** (Riverside/San Bernardino CA area)
- ☐ **Armijo** (Arizona area)
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By Kitty Nicholason

While porusing back issues of *Spanish Traces*, I came across this sentence: "Tasting trail foods like berries, piñon nuts, or atole can bring the trail experience to life."

I'd never heard of atole.

The issue was Volume 18 / Winter 2012, and the article was about oral history and educational outreach techniques for the Old Spanish Trail, written by Lorrie Crawford.

Of course I had to look it up right away. It's likely that many *Spanish Traces* readers are familiar with this comforting drink, but for those of you who aren't, here is the benefit of my research.

Luckily, those of us living in the southwest can usually find the exact ingredients used in the most traditional versions. But if you can't find the piloncillo, for example, just use brown sugar.

Atole (ah-TOH-leh)

Atole is a thick maize-based drink served hot. Usually it is flavored with just cinnamon and vanilla, but if you add fruit puree, it is called *atole de sabor*. And if you add chocolate, it is called *champurrado*. There is even a savory version, made with hot peppers, spices, and herbs, which is known as *chileatole*. One can expect to find it served during Day of the Dead (November 1 and 2).

It seems everyone has their own way of making atole, much like everyone has their own way of making green chile. Probably on the trail they just put all ingredients in a pot over the fire and stirred like crazy. I'm pretty sure they didn't do Version 2, which uses a blender!

BASIC INGREDIENTS

Masa harina (the flour used to make corn tortillas)
Milk
Water
Piloncillo (or brown sugar)
Cinnamon
Vanilla (whole bean or extract)

VERSION 1

1/3 c corn starch
6 c milk
1/3 c piloncillo
1 vanilla bean
cinnamon garnish

Mix corn starch and some milk; stir out lumps; put rest of milk, vanilla, piloncillo in another pot; gradually add corn starch mixture; cook, whisking constantly; strain through mesh sieve.

VERSION 2

1/2 c masa harina
5 c water
1 Tbsp cinnamon
5 Tbsp piloncillo
1 Tbsp vanilla

Use a blender to mix masa, water, cinnamon, piloncillo; bring to a boil, stirring constantly; reduce heat and whisk another five minutes; remove from heat and add vanilla.

VERSION 3

3 c water
4 oz piloncillo
1 cinnamon stick
3/4 c masa harina
1/8 tsp salt
3 c milk
1/2 tsp vanilla

Put water, sugar, and cinnamon stick(s) in a pot; bring to a boil; in a bowl, combine masa harina, salt, and milk; pour into the pot and bring to a boil, stirring occasionally; add vanilla and stir over medium heat for another 10 minutes.

VERSION 4

1/2 c masa harina
3 c water
1 c milk
1/4 c piloncillo
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp vanilla

Whisk to combine masa harina, water, milk, sugar, and cinnamon; bring to simmer, whisking often; reduce heat and continue whisking to desired consistency; add vanilla.

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The Old Spanish National Historic Trail covers six states and 2,700 miles and can be traced over several routes. Map by Interpretive Designs, LLC 2019

The Old Spanish Trail has been called the most arduous and difficult trail in the United States. With Native American historical roots, the trail was used by the adventurous and opportunists bringing textiles from Santa Fe to trade for mules and horses in Los Angeles beginning in the early 1800s. Spanning more than 2500 miles, parts of the trail were used by fur trappers and later by railroad and military surveyors.

The Old Spanish Trail Association, its members, friends, and partners, are dedicated to protecting, interpreting, and promoting the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 2002. It has often been referred to as the most arduous, difficult trail in the United States. Its designated routes cover six states and some 2,700 miles, traversing mountains, deserts, rivers, and coastal valleys. It was historically used by curious and brave, enterprising, and sometimes nefarious men, forging trade routes between the Mexican cities of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Los Angeles, California. New Mexican woolen goods were traded for California mules and horses, but the trade also included furs, hides, and even Indian slaves.

[Read more about the trail's history](#)

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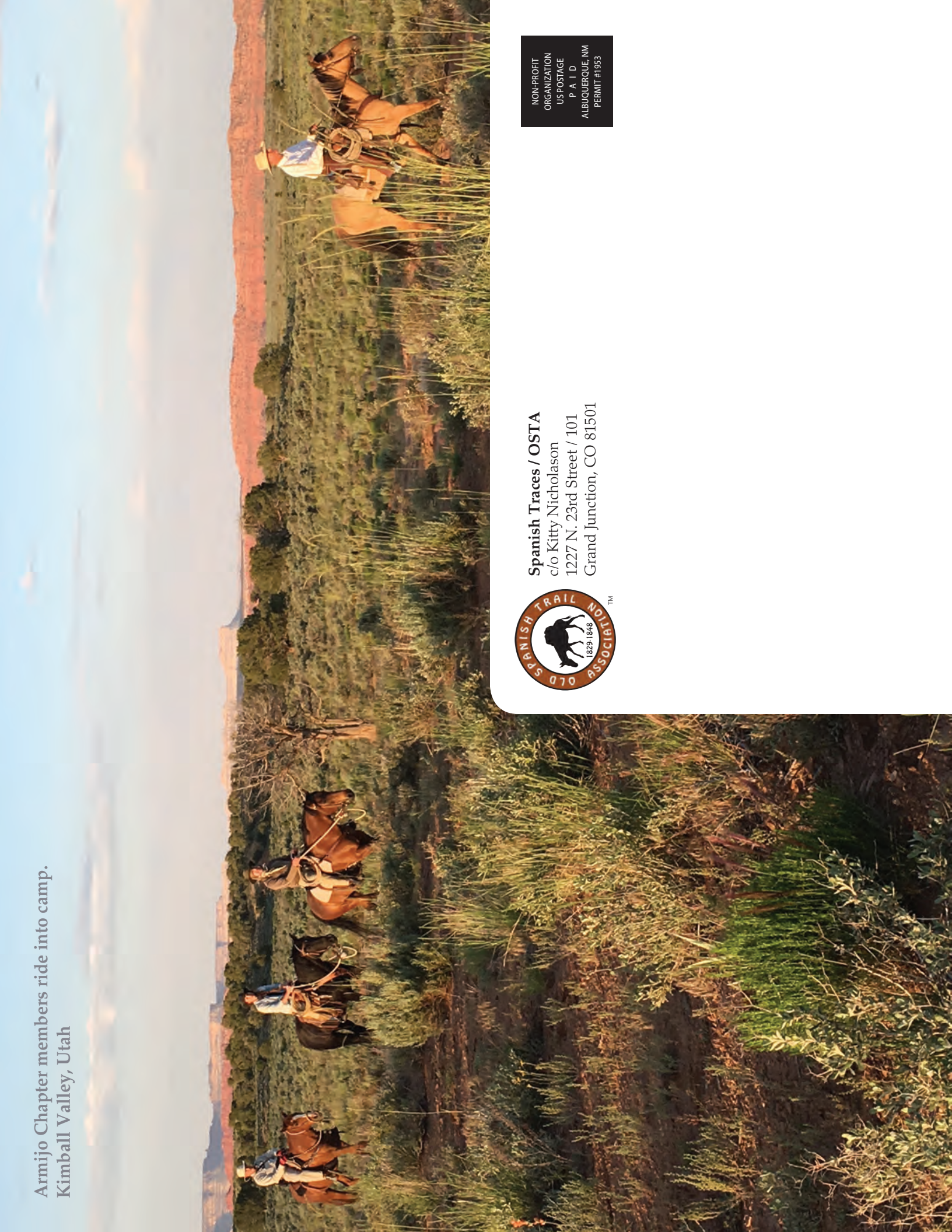
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Learn more about the Old Spanish Trail Association by visiting the website oldspanishtrail.org.

See page 42 for membership information.

Armijo Chapter members ride into camp.
Kimball Valley, Utah



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