

CORAZON de los CAMINOS
HEART OF THE TRAIL CHAPTER
SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2012

ATTENTION!!
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Apollonio Ortiz will present the program April 28 at 1 p.m. at Elida's Café in Springer, 801 Railroad Ave. He will talk about his genealogy and the history of New Mexico. Board meeting at 11 with lunch from the menu. The date was changed because Mr. Ortiz had a conflict with an appointment for minor surgery at the VA Hospital in Albuquerque. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to the program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I do not know about you, but I am excited to hear the Ortiz talk scheduled for April 28, 2012, 1:00 p.m. at Elida's Café in Springer. I am also thankful that this is a Saturday, which gives us a little more flexibility. Therefore, I would like to call a board meeting at 11:00 a.m. to take care of some unresolved issues. We need to let the town of Springer know one way or another regarding the proposed museum project, so let's not procrastinate on our decision. Doyle has been working on a brochure for all the area museums, and may need us to grant approval to finalize the project. Our upcoming activities may need to be worked out for more specifics, such as time, place, and preparations for participants, etc., and you may have other concerns. I am looking forward to seeing all of you. Please spread the word!
Dennis

FIRST TOUR IN MAY

The first auto tour of 2012 will be Saturday, **May 19** when we will meet at Point of Rocks Ranch and follow the Trail east. Meet at 10 a.m. and bring a lunch. Faye Gaines will guide us to points of interest including the area believed to be site of the White Massacre and a part of the Trail near Sophia being considered as a national historic site. Faye says it is one of her favorite spots on the Trail.

NOTES FROM MARCH BUSINESS MEETING

Chapter members voted to ask Faye to act as President Emeritus this term. There are several new officers who feel the need of her counsel. She accepted

There was discussion of the proposal made by past president Paula Steves to support the Santa Fe Trail Interpretive Museum in Springer. Danny Cruz, mayor of Springer has received a grant, which will enable the Museum to be open for the summer. Mr. Cruz suggested in reply to Paula's offer that Corazon donate money for a web site and signs for the Museum. Total cost for the year would not exceed \$850. Proposal was tabled and will be voted on at the April meeting.

Doyle Foreman was appointed to obtain information concerning the publishing of a brochure featuring all of the museum in the area.

ROGER SLUSHER AS JAMES AULL

Roger Slusher, president of the SFTA, presented his program about James Aull at the March meeting. His wife Sandy accompanied Roger to our meeting.

John Aull who came from Delaware began the first significant business in Lexington, MO in 1830. His brothers James and Robert who also became prosperous merchants soon joined him. Their chain of stores outfitted mountain men and Santa Fe Trail traders and were often the centers of communities.

James as the wholesale buyer for the firms made yearly trips back East to buy goods for the coming season. Because hard money was almost non-existent except for that generated by the Santa Fe trade, most purchases were made by a line of credit. A risky business became more risky when President Andrew closed the Nation Bank. Aull survived the panic of 1837 by consolidating his holdings to one store and dissolving the partnership with his brother.

However, in 1846, James joined Samuel Owens in a trading venture over the Santa Fe Trail. It was not a good time for such an undertaking as war with Mexico was looming. The wagon train was overtaken by General Kearny who ordered the train to follow the slow-moving army to Santa Fe.

They sold some of their merchandise in Santa Fe but Chihuahua was their original destination and they continued the trek. When the traders met up with Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan's Missouri Volunteers he conscripted them into the "Traders' Battalion" under the command of "Major" Samuel Owens. Owens was killed in the Battle of Sacramento.

James decided to stay in Chihuahua to dispose of the rest of the goods. He opened a store there but he was killed by Mexican robbers the following summer. He was buried in Chihuahua.

Frontier Merchant of Mid America by Lewis L. Altherton is a reference.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Chapter continues to need someone to keep the 2012 scrapbook. Will you volunteer?

Many of you have already paid your dues. Just in case, I am again attaching a membership form.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 20-21...SFTA Board of Directors meet in Ulysses, KS. Faye and Tom and Peggy Ferguson plan to attend.

APRIL 28, SATURDAY...Corazon meets in Elida's Café in Springer, 1 p.m. presentation by Apollonio Ortiz

Dixie