



# TRACES

*Quarterly Newsletter of The Wet/Dry Routes Chapter,  
Santa Fe Trail Association*

**WINTER 2010**

## **WINTER MEETING**

The Chapter's Winter Meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2010 at the Kinsley Municipal Building, 1:15 p.m. Chili will highlight the lunch; and your editor will be in contact with members to bring pie, relishes, crackers, etc. and to take reservations. Service and drinks will be provided. The officers for 2010 will be elected; dues for 2010 will be received; and the Faye Anderson Award will be presented. The program will be presented by Faye Gaines, owner of the Point of Rocks Ranch in northern New Mexico. Point of Rocks was one of the major landmarks on the Santa Fe Trail. Mark your calendar for the meeting.

## **DUES**

Members are reminded that 2010 dues of \$10.00 are now payable to the membership chairman, Alice Clapsaddle., 215 Mann, Larned, Kansas 67550. Dues may be paid at the January meeting.

## **END OF THE TRAIL**

We are saddened to report the loss of Wallace Cherry. Members will recall that Wallace and Betty paid for the United States Flag flown at the dedication of the Zebulon Pike Plaza. Wallace will be missed.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

The Chapter is pleased to welcome Roger Fox as its newest member. Roger, from a long time farm family, is a lifelong citizen of Pawnee County.

## WET/DRY ROUTES CHAPTER FALL MINUTES

The fall meeting of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter convened at Fort Larned National Historic Site on November 1, 2009 for a fine meal served by the ladies of Larned's Episcopal Church. Fifty-one members and guest were in attendance including President Steve and (Glenda) Schmidt and Vice President Sharon (George) Schutte from the Cottonwood Crossing Chapter. Also present was President Jim (Nancy) Sherer from the Fort Dodge/Dodge City/Cimarron Chapter. Sherer spoke to the Chapter's placing copies of the republished pieces of literature printed by the Wet/Dry Route Chapter in all the schools and libraries of Ford and Cimarron Counties. He also remarked upon the several speaking engagements generated by the project and the 2011 Symposium to be held in Dodge City.

Announcements were made relative to the Award of Merit presented to the Chapter at the recent Santa Fe Trail Symposium and the two new series initiated by President David Clapsaddle: in the Great Bend Tribune, *From Trail to Rail*, a study of the railroads impact on the Santa Fe trade and in the Larned Tiller and Toiler, *A River Runs Through It*, a study of the Pawnee River. Also discussed was the "Traveling Trunks" project sponsored by the Fort Larned National Historic Site. The trunks have been used in the Larned and Pawnee Heights School Districts and are scheduled for the Lewis and Jetmore in November and December. Other districts scheduled to use the trunks during 2010 are McPherson, Holcomb, Kinsley/Offerle, and Junction City. Doug Anderson, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Northside Elementary school in Larned presented the program telling of his students participation in the Traveling Trunks Project.

The Chapter approved expenses for the winter meeting: travel for the speaker and food stuffs for the potluck dinner. The winter meeting will be conducted at Kinsley, 1:15 p.m., January 24, 2010.

**WINTER MEETING  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING-KINSLEY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010  
1:15 P.M.**

## ARTICLES

The Larned *Tiller and Toiler* continues to print weekly articles by David Clapsaddle, President of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter. Following a series title *Morning Drill* devoted to the establishment of Fort Larned, the *Tiller and Toiler* initiated *A river Runs Through It*, a series related to the Pawnee River. Clapsaddle chose the title from his days at Missouri, Montana where indeed the Clark Fork River does bisect the city, the inspiration for the book and movie so titled. The Pawnee River likewise passes through the south edge of Larned.

## CHEYENNE BOTTOMS BOOKLET PUBLISHED

The wetlands in Barton County, Kansas have garnered much attention in the last few years with the addition of the Kansas Wetlands Education Center at the Cheyenne Bottoms Refuge. Regardless, mid-1850's accounts of the wetlands are rare. However, David Clapsaddle, President of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, has identified three such accounts which speak to travel through the wetlands in 1839, 1860, and 1862. The 1839 account is that of Frederich A Wislizener, a St. Louis physician and naturalist who passed through what he called "the great swamp" on his return trip to Missouri by way of Bent's Fort subsequent to an expedition to Fort Hall. The 1860 account is that of Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, journalist with the Kiowa and Comanche Campaign led by Maj. John Sedgwick. The third account is that of Percival G. Lowe who was responsible for the delivery of 600 horses and 120 six mule wagons from Fort Riley to Fort Union. All three accounts, in one way or another are related to the Santa Fe Trail

The accounts have been compiled into a booklet title *Braving Cheyenne Bottoms: A Trilogy* and published by the Hoisington Main Street Center. The booklet will also be available at the Kansas Wet Lands Education Center on Highway 156 North of Great Bend, Kansas.

## TRAVELING TRUNKS EXPANDS

As described in the Autumn 2009 of the *Outpost*, the Fort National Historic Site initiated the "Traveling Trunks" project in September, 2009. Originally designed for fourth grade classes, the project at the request of administrators and teachers has been expended to other grade levels. The following schools have participated in the program at this writing: Larned, Kansas Northside Elementary; Lewis, Kansas Elementary; Pawnee Heights/Hanston Elementary at Burdett, Kansas; and Jetmore Elementary School. Schools scheduled for the program in 2010 includes Kinsley/Offerle, Kansas Elementary; Macksville, Kansas Elementary; Lincoln Elementary, McPherson; Spring Valley Elementary, Junction City, Kansas; Holcomb, Kansas Middle School. Other schools will include; Holly, Colorado Elementary; Granada, Colorado Elementary; and Parkview Elementary, Lamar, Colorado. By the close of the 2010 spring semester, 795 students will have participated in the project. David Clapsaddle is the facilitator.

## **LITTLE RED HOUSE**

Plans are presently underway for another traveling trunk, The Little Red House. Scheduled for third grade classes at Larned's Northside School in January, the trunk represents the chest used by Capt. J. P. Worrell during the Civil War. Worrell and his family took residence in the Little Red House in 1873, the same year that his sixteen year old daughter Isabel taught Larned's first school in the saloon room of the same building. Northside students will take a field trip to the Little Red House when the weather warms up.

**DUES OF \$10.00 FOR 2010 ARE NOW PAYABLE**

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215 Mann  
Larned, KS 67550**