

Roger Slusher (1947 – 2013)



Roger Elliott Slusher was born on February 8, 1947 in Kansas City, MO, to Elliott and Frieda Witzke Slusher. He was united in married to Sandra Lee Huskisson on August 17, 1974, in Lexington, MO. He earned a B.S. in Education and a Master's Degree in History from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and taught at Wentworth Military Academy for 33 years, and then at Malta Bend School District for 3 years before retiring. He was the director of the Lexington Historical Museum and a board member of the Lexington Library and Historical Association. He was also a member of the Missouri Barn Preservation Association and Lexington Trails Regional Library. In the 1980's, Roger helped found the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA and served as its first president. He continued in a leadership role for the Chapter and was instrumental in Chapter projects, including marking the Trail and providing tours. He wrote a walking/driving tour of the Santa Fe Trail

in Lexington area and completed a book on the history of Lexington, *Images of America: Lexington* by Roger E. Slusher and the Lexington Historical Association.

Roger portrayed several prominent Lexington settlers for various historical organizations. To many members of the SFTA, Roger brought to life James Aull, an early trader and merchant on the Trail. At the time of his death, Roger was serving as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association. During the three years that Roger served as President, he traveled the length of the Trail, providing programs and spreading the history of the Trail, as well as the mission of the SFTA. He also took an active role in the Partnership of the National Trails System (PNTS), attending their yearly meeting in Washington, D. C. and their National Historic Trails Conferences. A highlight for Roger was being able to be part of the recent initiative to open lines of communications with American Indian Tribes that were historically located along the Santa Fe Trail and entering into cooperative projects with tribes to enable them to tell their own story about how the Santa Fe Trail impacted them. As President of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Roger felt it was a privilege to be able to present awards to those who had made a significant contribution to the mission of the Santa Fe Trail Association – to Preserve, Protect and Promote the Historical Legacy of the Santa Fe Trail. Roger passed away on July 4, 2013.