

The Following are Some of the Projects Completed by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter

Marking the Fort Hays/Fort Dodge Road:

When the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter first formed, Dr. David Clapsaddle was in the middle of a project to research, document and mark sites along the Fort Hays/Fort Dodge Military Road. As the railroad progressed westward, the various points where the railroad had reached became the trailhead for the ever-shorter Santa Fe Trail. For a short time, Hays, Kansas, became the Santa Fe Trail's easternmost trailhead, leading to significant military and civilian travel between Ft. Hays, Ft. Dodge, and on to Santa Fe. It was also decided to take on Dr. Clapsaddle's project on as a chapter.

Traveling Educational Displays:

Mildon Yaeger, Bob Rein and David Clapsaddle put together the chapter's first "traveling display" in 1992. This display depicted the 58 historic sites that the Chapter had marked. The display contains commentary and photographs and was exhibited in various locations before being permanently housed at the Edwards County Museum in Kinsley, Kansas.

A second traveling display traces the evolution of transportation on the Santa Fe Trail, and features commentary and artifacts related to the various beasts of burden used to transport trade goods to and from New Mexico. Included in the display are a pack saddle, harness hames, a stay chain, ox shoes, an American ox yoke, a Mexican ox yoke, and an ox chain. This display is also housed at the Edwards County Museum in Kinsley.

Educational Teaching Trunks:

This project has proved to be very successful with area teachers and students. At the present time, the Chapter has three units that are available for classroom, or presentation, use.

In 1994, David Clapsaddle developed a "Learning Box", complete with text and a number of artifacts, to be used as a teaching tool for elementary teachers. A series of overheads have been prepared showing scenes from the book *Tree in the Trail*, by Holling Clancy Holling. The book tells the story of the Santa Fe Trail through the experiences of a cottonwood tree. The box was field tested by Mrs. Shirley Stein and was loaned to teachers to be used in their classrooms. Included in the wooden box are various items that are mentioned in the story, such as a medicine shield, buffalo tail, feathers, etc. The intent of this box is to have the instructor, or presenter, read the story, while showing the colorful illustrations from the book which have been copied in the form of overheads. Then, as each item from the trunk is mentioned in the storyline, participants can pass around the artifacts from the trunk and actually look at and feel

them. This brings the story to life and keeps participants intrigued at what they will get to see next.

After the first trunk was put together and proved to be so successful, David Clapsaddle wrote a children's book titled *Robert's Trunk*. This story revolves around the experiences of a ten-year old boy who accompanies his merchant father from Westport, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1850. Along the way, Robert collects artifacts and objects of natural wonder as mementoes of his journey, and stores these keepsakes in his little trunk. Dr. Clapsaddle has located replicas of Robert's mementoes, which are presented in a nineteenth century trunk. Just as in the first trunk, these keepsakes assist the teacher in bringing the story to life. It also helps move the Santa Fe Trail from the abstraction of a dim and distant past to the tangible world of touch and sight.

Another learning box was added in 2005. This children's story, also written by David Clapsaddle, is titled *I Heard a Coyote Howl*. The November, 2005, issue of the Santa Fe Trail Association's publication, *Wagon Tracks*, observed that:

The instruction will be derived from a booklet written by David Clapsaddle, the title of which is that of the unit. The booklet tells the story of General Winfield S. Hancock's expedition in April 1867 when the Cheyenne and Sioux village west of Fort Larned on the Pawnee Fork was destroyed by order of General Hancock as a reaction against both tribes for refusing to meet in council with him.

The story is narrated by a twelve-year old Cheyenne boy named Box Elder. His perspective is somewhat different from that of other descriptions written by older white men who witnessed the same event. The unit will be taught to all fourth grades in USD 495 at Larned, Kansas. Learning activities will help the students gain a basic understanding of a Cheyenne's youth development to adolescence, when he was expected to make a transition to adulthood as a Cheyenne warrior. A number of artifacts, including a shield, moccasins, and parfleche, all made of buffalo rawhide, will be used as tangibles to enhance the learning.

Self-Guided Auto Tour of the Santa Fe Trail in Pawnee, Edwards, and Ford Counties, Kansas:

This booklet lists the 59 markers placed on the five separate routes of the Santa Fe Trail by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter in 1991-1993. With each listing are odometer reading and directions to each site, along with commentary on historical significance of each location marked. David Clapsaddle compiled the information, Joanne VanCoevern did the typing and layout and Larry and Carolyn Mix checked the odometer readings. Funding was made possible by a grant from the Larned Convention and Tour Committee.

Self-Guided Auto Tour of the Fort Hays/Fort Dodge Road:

This booklet provides a map of the road plus historical background of the 18 separate sites marked, as well as directions to them. Those who worked on this project included:

David Clapsaddle, script; Joanne VanCoevern, typist; Carl Immenschuh, graphics, Louis Van Meter, odometer readings and Mildon Yeager. Printing costs were shared by the Society of Friends of Historic Fort Hays, The Fort Dodge/Dodge City Chapter and the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Publishing of “A Directory of Santa Fe Trail Sites”

This compilation was the culmination of a ten-year study related to the various route of the Santa Fe Trail in the Wet/Dry area between Forts Larned and Dodge and the Fort Hays/Fort Dodge Road that served as the eastern end of the Santa Fe Trail during 1867-68. Each of the 105 sites researched by the Chapter is identified on the original township survey maps that showed the various routes as they appeared in the early 1870's. Each site is also identified as to location, GPS., topographical evidence, physical evidence, historic description and distance as measured from another site as documented by contemporary accounts. Each site is also identified as to legal description and landowner. The book was produced in loose-leaf fashion to allow for easy corrections. Each marker has been paginated according to its own numbering system, which will allow deletions or additions in an expedient manner. The directory is replete with historic maps, contemporary photographs, and modern photographs, all of which enhance the attractiveness of the directory. David Clapsaddle was the directory's Compiler. Others who helped him were Chapter members Lee Kroh, Joanne VanCoevern, Larry & Carolyn Mix, Richard Ford and Howard Losey.

Henry Booth Project:

Henry Booth was the principal organizer of Pawnee County and the City of Larned, Kansas. A project was approved at the spring meeting in 1994 to construct a mobile display with 19th century photographs depicting the life and times of Henry Booth. In addition, nine locations associated with Booth were marked and a brochure detailing these markers was prepared by David Clapsaddle and Ida Yeager. The mobile display and supervision of the installation of the markers was done by Mildon Yeager and was assisted by Jim Vratil. Contributors toward this project included: The Larned Convention and Tourism Committee, Clay Ward Portraits of Great Bend, KS, the Larned Kiwanis Club and the Larned Rotary Club. A dedication of the markers of this project was held July 4, 1994.

A. H. Boyd Project:

Albert Henry Boyd, operated the trading ranch on Pawnee Fork east of Fort Larned and later opened the Dodge House in Dodge City, Kansas in conjunction with George B. Cox, Larned's first postmaster. In 1994, the Chapter approved a project that featured a mobile display of commentary and 19th century photographs depicting the life the A. H. Boyd. Contributors to this projects included: Fort Larned National Historic Site, the Santa Fe Trail Center, Clay Ward Portraits of Great Bend, Mildon Yeager and David Clapsaddle.

Marking of the 1825 Santa Fe Trail Survey Sites:

The Chapter marked the various campsites used by the Sibley survey party in 1825. Directions, pictures, maps and documentation on these sites is included in the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter project of "A Directory of Santa Fe Trail Sites."

Booth Grave Stone Project:

Markers were placed at the grave sites of Lucia Booth, wife of Henry Booth and Nathaniel Booth, Captain Booth's son born in 1870 at Fort Larned.

Mexican War Soldiers Graves Memorialized:

Two white marble headstones were set to commemorate Pvt. Nehemiah Carson and Pvt. Arthur Hughes who died en route to Santa Fe at the start of the Mexican War. Carson died at Pawnee Rock on July 13, 1846 and Hughes died two days later. Hughes' stone will be placed next to that of Pvt. Robert Easley, previously commemorated, at the Pawnee Fork crossing.