**On the Cover: The Trail to Santa Fe**  
Official Bicentennial Artwork, by Ron Kil

In 2018 my friend John Carson asked me to paint a picture commemorating the Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial. All he specified was that I include our friend Marc Simmons in the painting, posed as a Santa Fe trader. I chose the setting as Red River Peak, a prominent landmark on the Mountain Route of the trail, south of Raton Pass. I surprised John by painting in his great-grandfather Kit Carson as Marc’s trail companion, a fitting inclusion for both John and Marc, who was Kit’s biographer. In Marc Simmons’ words, “The trail lives on!”

**Nominations Open for the SFTA Hall of Fame and Awards**

The Santa Fe Trail Association Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals who were associated with the Santa Fe Trail during its historic period, or in modern times have made a significant contribution to, an impact on, or preservation regarding the Santa Fe Trail. Hall of Fame nominations must be made for individuals posthumously.

The criteria for SFTA awards and Hall of Fame are listed at www.santafetrail.org/about-us/awards/. The SFTA website should be used to submit all nominations. If you are submitting a photo, please include the photo release with your submitted photo. All nominations are due July 1.

**Become an SFTA Partner**

The SFTA 2x2x2 fundraiser seeks 200 new “Partners” before our 200th Commemoration. We continue adding SFTA “Partners” but need many more of you to join us. The “Partners” designation and the lapel pin that accompanies it are witness to your personal support for the preservation of the Santa Fe Trail and support of the events and activities of the commemoration. “Partner” designation is not membership in the SFTA; it is support for our American history.

We challenge each SFTA chapter to encourage each of its members to help meet our goal by becoming a “Partner.” Send your $200 check made to Santa Fe Trail Association, Attn: Linda Revello, 1349 K-156 Highway, Larned, KS 67550.

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**About the Santa Fe Trail Association**

The mission of the Santa Fe Trail Association is to protect and preserve the Santa Fe Trail and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with it.

Follow us online at www.santafetrail.org, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube

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Wagon Tracks, the official publication of the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA), publishes well-researched and documented peer-reviewed articles relating to the Santa Fe Trail. Wagon Tracks is published in February, May, August, and November. Deadlines are the 10th of the month prior to publication. Queries are welcome. Complete submission guidelines are posted at www.santafetrail.org. Although the entire issue of Wagon Tracks is copyrighted in the name of the Santa Fe Trail Association, copyright to each article remains in the author’s name. Articles may be edited or abridged at the editor’s discretion.
Nestor Armijo, from the archives of the Albuquerque Museum, (PA2018.081.114), by permission. A story about Nestor appeared in the May 2020 issue of Wagon Tracks, but an incorrect photo was provided. We published a photo from findagrave.com in the August issue, but couldn’t verify its provenance. Thanks to Noël-Marie Fletcher, who found this photo.

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18-22 Bicentennial Calendar (pull-out section)
Insights from your President by Larry D. Short, President of SFTA

The many changes in our lives and with our organization caused by the Covid pandemic over the past year may have gotten us down but we are far from out!

The Santa Fe Trail Association remains strong thanks to the tireless efforts of its leadership and incredible committees. We have continued to move forward in a very positive manner to ensure that the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail will be year-long. Events will be hosted by many chapters and nearby towns over the rest of 2021 and then continue into future years as we commemorate the 200th anniversaries of treaties with the Native Americans, the first Mexican traders heading east, and the Sibley survey of 1825 which was the first official government survey of the Trail.

We encourage all of our members and friends to attend as many of the 200th anniversary events as possible. A wide range of events across the entire length of the Trail will allow participation in a good number of them. You can find a current calendar of events at our website www.santafetrail200.org. This site is updated often, and contact information for the events is provided for additional information if needed.

As part of our look forward, I have appointed a special Last Chance Store transition task force committee to delve into the future of the Last Chance Store. Leo Oliva has operated the store since its inception and now desires to retire from its management. The task force committee consisted of Chris Day—Chair, Greg VanCoevern, Vicki Gillet, Linda Revello, Ruth Peters, Leo Oliva, Joanne VanCoevern, and me. We had a series of meetings over the past months, and Chris Day, SFTA Vice President, provided the SFTA board at our April 24 meeting with a detailed report and recommendations.

Two new projects developed by the National Park Service, Survey 123 and High Potential Sites and Segments, will enhance the Trail experience for travelers and provide direction for new wayside exhibits and signage over the upcoming years. We are working closely with NPS to complete the projects in a timely manner.

The mapping and marking committee has done a superb job of getting new wayside exhibits such as the Arrow Rock Ferry Landing in the NPS queue for production. The committee, led by Matt Schulte, is currently developing a historic trail atlas which will provide answers to many questions about trails such as the original Becknell trail, the Sibley Survey route, and important connector routes. This project, when completed, will provide both a digital and printed format of the historic atlas. In addition to the history atlas, the committee is working with the team at the National Park Service to make adjustments to the alignment of the historic trail that were developed during the three mapping sessions held across the Trail over the past few years.

Working through the limitations created by the COVID pandemic has been both a challenge and a blessing. We have learned to use Zoom, which enabled our committees and staff, while not physically in person, to continue the operation of the Santa Fe Trail Association in a professional and timely manner.

The Santa Fe National Historic Trail continues to live! The Santa Fe Trail Association remains a strong advocate for the preservation, protection, and promotion of this historic Trail and will remain so long into the future.

DAR Marks Santa Fe Trail
Tickets are now on sale for the *Symphony in the Flint Hills*. The annual gathering on the prairie celebrating music, art, and the ecology of the Flint Hills, will take place at North Lakeview Pasture in Morris County, Kansas, just south of Council Grove, on June 12. Along with plans to salute the Santa Fe Trail bicentennial with world-class music in a natural setting, several members of the Santa Fe Trail Association will be among the speakers in the education tents throughout the afternoon. A sunset concert by the 80-piece Kansas City Symphony will be featured along with activities highlighting the Santa Fe Trail. For more information [www.symphonyintheflinthills.org](http://www.symphonyintheflinthills.org) or 620-273-8955.

Lewis Williams, artist, from Montrose, Colorado, is *plein air painting* his way across America by bicycle. Following National Historic Trails, he departed from San Diego, California, on March 1, traveled through Santa Fe on April 2, was at Fort Union, April 4, and at Bent’s Fort, April 8-9. SFTA supplied him information about the route along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. He continued on towards Bar Harbor, Maine. He plans for the journey to be somewhat less than 5 months in length, averaging 30 to 35 miles a day from March to August 2021. Video and written logs follow his progress. He has a vehicle/camper support along most of the journey. Follow him @paintusabybike or his website at lewisartwilliams.com or [www.facebook.com/paintusabybike](http://www.facebook.com/paintusabybike) A short video is available at [https://youtu.be/TLVSt9TRYWw](https://youtu.be/TLVSt9TRYWw).

Members of the National Stagecoach & Freight Wagon Association (NSFWA) have previously joined SFTA for events and will once again join SFTA for the “Rendezvous at Council Grove,” September 17-18. Held in the historic Council Oak Park, the weekend events will include a wagon show and competition. Entries will be judged in three categories: Farm, Military, and Freight. Jeff MacManus, President of the NSFWA and a skilled blacksmith, will demonstrate blacksmithing throughout the event. Don Werner, of Werner Wagon Works, will demonstrate wheelwrighting. Rawhide Johnson, Vice-President of the NSFWA and an expert on coaches, will be a guest speaker.

Other speakers and/or judges include David Sneed, noted historian of horse-drawn wooden wagons; Mark Lee Gardner, author of *Wagons for Santa Fe Trade*; Dr. Leo Oliva, the leading expert on the Santa Fe Trail, and Katie Gardner, curator at the Ute Pass Historical Society in Woodland Park, Colorado, and great-great granddaughter of Malcom Conn. More information about the Wagon Show and other events at Rendezvous on the Santa Fe Trail in Council Grove can be found at [www.santafetrail200.com/rendezvous-at-council-grove](http://www.santafetrail200.com/rendezvous-at-council-grove). More information about the NSFWA can be found at [www.stagecoachfreightwagon.org/index.html](http://www.stagecoachfreightwagon.org/index.html).

As early as 1902, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began the enormous project to place granite markers along the entire length of the Santa Fe Trail. In the past 120 years or so, some of the DAR markers were moved from their original placements because of highway improvements, the interest of a local population, or to protect the marker itself. It was easy to lose track of just where the markers were at times. However, in the past few decades, frequent surveys of the markers have helped to maintain an inventory and location of each marker. Please notify a member of the SFTA/DAR Task Force or your local DAR Chapter if attention is needed for a DAR Marker. The markers belong to the DAR and there is a protocol that must be followed if a marker needs to be relocated or even rededicated. There are over 200 markers along the trail, and your assistance will be appreciated in the proper stewardship of this resource.

The SFTA/DAR Task Force is here to help: MO-Anne Mallinson; OK-Charlotte Chesrow; CO-Lyne Evans; NM-Merideth Hmura; and KS-Pat Traffas. Please email DAR marker notes to traffasp@gmail.com so that efforts will be coordinated properly.

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**Help Maintain DAR Markers**

**Wagon Tracks Online**

Read *Wagon Tracks* online at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org) and at the University of New Mexico Digital Repository (This site is word searchable) [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/wagon_tracks/]
Michael Martin Murphey Concert June 11 in Council Grove

Michael Martin Murphey will be in concert in Council Grove, Kansas, on June 11. Mr. Murphey was selected as the honorary Chair of Santa Fe Trail 200 in October 2019. Murphey’s performance will be the first event of the Council Grove’s Santa Fe Trail 200 series of events commemorating the SFT bicentennial.

Marphey’s concert will start at 7:30 p.m. in the new Riverwalk Amphitheater, located beside the Neosho River, Council Grove. Tickets are $20 and are available at EventBrite, on the Council Grove event website santafetrail200.com, or on Facebook at Santa Fe Trail 200.

Additional 2021 SFT 200 events in Council Grove are listed in the Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter report as well as at the Council Grove SFT 200 website santafetrail200.com, the Facebook page, Santa Fe Trail 200, or call 541-561-1788, and also on the SFTA events page at www.santafetrail200.org.

Tour Cimarron County, Oklahoma, on June 18

The Cimarron Heritage Center in Boise City, Oklahoma, will recognize the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail with a tour across Cimarron County, visiting the sites along the Santa Fe Trail on Friday June 18. We will meet at the museum at 7:00 a.m. Buses will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. and return to the museum for lunch ($10.00 fee) at approximately 1:00 p.m., then head back on the tour to more sites. No dogs or babies allowed. Some walking will be required, so plan accordingly. RSVP is required, 580-544-3479, with the number in your party and your phone number. The cutoff date is June 12.

East Coast Connections to the Trail Abound

A recent article by the National Park Service focused on the diversity of people involved in Trail traffic, as well as the diverse geography. It mentioned the port cities of the East and the population centers of Mexico to the South. The Santa Fe Trail was truly an international trade route that made a complete circle from Europe through the United States and Mexico.

This is an important piece of our outreach this year and through 2025. I recently visited Boston and Philadelphia, researching and exploring connections to the Trail. It resulted in many new venues to share our story. The more people who realize their historic relationship to the Trail, the more interested they will be in visiting the “main body” of the Trail that our organization works so hard to preserve and interpret.

For example, the Peabody Museum at Harvard is looking through their collections for items connected to merchants on the Trail. Likewise, at the Grand Army of the Republic Museum in Philadelphia, they are researching the soldiers who were involved in the Trail’s story. There are nearly limitless opportunities and many discoveries to be made. I will be making Zoom presentations to several organizations in the Northeast over the next months.

Closer to the Trail, the National Cowboy Museum will launch a Santa Fe Trail exhibition to run from November 13, 2021, to May 8, 2022. See the exhibition overview on their website at https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/exhibition/santa-fe-trail/

As the events commemorating the 200th continue to “snowball,” let us remain mindful of the greater opportunity to inform and educate that the anniversary presents. Let us not limit our message to our neighbors, but also involve friends and family in distant locales to explore the Trail’s diverse stories and their own connections.

--Marcia Will-Clifton SFTA PNTS Representative

Partnership for the National Trails System

The first Virtual Hike the Hill was held March 8-26, 2021. The Partnership for the National Trails and the American Hiking Society (AHS) successfully converted this event into an online format. New organizations and trail-related groups were able to participate in the issue briefings and Federal agency partner zoom meetings. According to the PNTS March e-news, more than 50 Federal partners and 115 non-federal attendees were able to discuss and raise awareness for issues with the National Trails System. Perhaps next year’s event will be a hybrid event including in-person Congressional visits.

The next event for the Trails community is National Trails Day on June 5, 2021. The American Hiking Society is taking the lead on event planning for this event. Visit https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/ for more information.

A request was made of PNTS by the Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association to provide a letter of support for the Bozeman Trail Feasibility Study. The Bozeman Trail was a shortcut to the Montana goldfields from the Oregon Trail in Wyoming. Visit WyoHistory.org, “A Brief History of The Bozeman Trail” for more information on this project. As the study will probably be assigned to the National Park Service Intermountain Trails office in Santa Fe, support was very strong from PNTS. PNTS will continue to provide guidance and expertise on the process.

--Deb Goodrich, 200 Chair
Roots Run Deep on the Santa Fe Trail

Solicited and compiled by Marcia Fox, SFTA Membership Chair

In the previous issue of Wagon Tracks, a request went out for members who had ancestors who traveled the Trail to share the information. Several members have replied with their connections to the pioneers of the Trail, proving the impact of the Trail does run deep today.

Thompson Sisters on the Trail

Great-Great-Aunts of Alice Anne Thompson

The three Thompson sisters traveled the Santa Fe Trail as pioneer educators. In addition to being biological sisters, they were also members of the religious community known as the Sisters of Loretto, headquartered in Marion County, Kentucky.

The first of the Thompson sisters to travel the Santa Fe Trail was known as Sister Euphrosyne Thompson named for Euphoria, one of the “Three Graces” from classical mythology. She traveled from Kentucky to New Mexico Territory in 1858 as a member of one of Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy’s Santa Fe missionary groups. As a member of the Sisters of Loretto she was dedicated to the teaching ministry. In 1858 she volunteered to serve as a teacher for the young women of territorial New Mexico at the community’s recently opened school known as Our Lady of Light Academy located in Santa Fe. However, between 1858 and 1870 she served as the principal of the Loretto Academy in Taos, New Mexico. She also was the “superior” of the Loretto schools in Mora and Las Vegas, New Mexico. She was among the few early Anglo women who traveled the Santa Fe Trail and remained in territorial New Mexico. When she died in 1908 Governor George Curry of New Mexico was the lead pall bearer at her funeral.

The second Thompson sister to travel the trail was known as Sister Mary Alphonsa Thompson. She also volunteered to leave her Kentucky home and travel to frontier New Mexico as a pioneer educator. She planned to join her elder sister as part of Loretto’s education ministry. She was a member of Bishop Lamy’s 1867 missionary caravan. Unfortunately, she became ill while the Bishop’s caravan was just west of the Cimarron Crossing of the Arkansas River and under attack by a raiding party of American Indians. She died 24 July and was buried during the noon camp. In his haste to reach Fort Lyon, Bishop Lamy failed to create a map detailing the place of her burial so that her remains could be returned to Kentucky at a later time.

Alice Anne Thompson has devoted years trying to locate the burial site studying mileage charts, diaries, official reports, and even using ground penetrating radar teams with members of the FBI. To date, Sister Mary Alphonsa’s burial site remains unknown, but her story and the story of Bishop Lamy’s 1867 caravan are well known to trail historians.

The third Thompson sister to travel the region of the Santa Fe Trail was known as Sister Martinia. She traveled by railroad to Pueblo, Colorado, in the mid-1880s. Upon her arrival she was greeted by Captain J.J. Lambert, owner of the Pueblo Chieftain. He had been with Bishop Lamy’s 1867 caravan as the leader of a detail of troops from the Fifth Infantry who had been assigned to escort Francisco Baca’s wagon train which had joined the Bishop’s group at Lost Spring, Kansas. Sister Martinia Thompson remained in Pueblo, Colorado, teaching at the Loretto Academy until her death in 1922. As Kit Carson once said, “Them nuns do a heap of good in this God forsaken country.”

Alice Thompson lives in Golden, Colorado and has been a member of SFTA since 1995. This article was first published in Wagon Tracks several years ago. Searching for the stories of her great-great aunts inspired Alice Anne Thompson to research and collate the stories of 63 other women who traveled the Santa Fe Trail. Their stories will be shared in the forthcoming book, Women and the Santa Fe Trail: Diversity, Tenacity, Femininity on the Southwestern Frontier, co-authored with Dr. Leo E. Oliva.

Eliza St. Clair Sloan

Great-Great-Grandmother of Sally Aber

Eliza is said to have traveled the Trail five times. The first time was to avoid her husband and to join her father-in-law in California where he had gone for the gold rush. Eliza’s money was stolen between Santa Fe and Albuquerque, so she set up a boarding house in Old Town, Albuquerque. Later Eliza moved to Santa Fe and ran a boarding house on the site of today’s Fine Art Museum. Her son Will went to Bishop Lamy’s school and her daughter Marion attended the Sisters of Loretto School. Eliza finally did make it to California, where she died in 1904, possibly in Lyons, which is now part of Los Angeles.

As Sally said, Eliza was a well-known traveler of the Trail, primarily due to her daughter Marion Sloan Russell’s book, Land of Enchantment. Sally “discovered” the connection when she attended a lecture by Cheryl Foote “Women on the Santa Fe Trail in the mid-1800s.” The lecture prompted Sally to investigate further, because her grandfather was Arthur St. Clair Sloan and, as she said, “That last name is not a name usually matched!” She found the book at a museum, “The Land of Enchantment,” a memoir by Marion Russell. She also found more information about Eliza by Googling her name, which led to an article from an old issue of the Colorado Magazine.

Through further research, Sally has been able to connect with more relatives through the Clan Sinclair USA.
Sally and Bill Aber from Albuquerque are members of the End of the Trail Chapter. They joined the Association in 1995.

Ezekiel Williams

Great-Great-Great-Great-Grandfather of Tim Williams

Ezekiel was born in Kentucky about 1775 and moved to Missouri about 1800. He was a frontiersman and trapper working for the Missouri Fur Company out of St. Louis. He had numerous adventures in the west and was a friend of the Native Americans.

His involvement with the Santa Fe Trail began by being a neighbor of William Becknell. His experience with the Osage Trace, the west, and Santa Fe is not documented as being connected to the Trail, “but we are sure he may have helped plan the route and safe return of the first party” who made the trip from Franklin, Missouri, on September 1, 1821.

We have located his farm where an organizational meeting was held by Becknell on August 4, 1821, and have applied to the DAR for a monument to be placed near the location.

We believe pinpointing the location of his farm and providing the monument will be the start of recognizing Ezekiel’s involvement and hope it can lead to the erecting of a wayside exhibit in the area.

In 1827 Ezekiel moved his family to Boonville, Missouri, due to flooding at the farm. He then moved to an area south of Sedalia, Missouri, in 1839 and founded a town, naming it Cole Camp after his home settlement in Kentucky. He died there in 1844. I remember family reunions at his farm and providing the monument to be placed near the location.

Additional information about Ezekiel may be found at www.santafetrailresearch.com/research/ezekiel-williams.html

Alexander and Lucy Hatch

Great-Great–Great-Grandparents of Diana Dunn

Alexander and Lucy Hatch and their four children travelled from Lockport, New York, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, along the Santa Fe Trail in 1847-1849. They remained in New Mexico where three of their daughters also raised their families. Their son George died near Las Vegas at age 17, reportedly in a skirmish with Indians.

The Hatch family history has been well preserved by Diana. She received two SFTA research grants and made presentations at Association events:

Trinidad Symposium, 9/29/2007 The Hatch Family: Yankee Pioneers on the Western Frontier. [from Wagon Tracks, Feb. 2008--Diana Dunn presented a story about “Yankee Pioneer Families” who settled in Trinidad, and she followed up with a guided tour to three historic homes and two commercial buildings affiliated with the Hatch, McCormick, Boice, Mitchell, McClure, and West families.] www.santafetrail.org › publications › wagon-tracks

Las Vegas, Santa Fe Trail Travelers and Their Descendants Conference, 6/17/2016. The Hatch Family, Yankee Pioneers on the Santa Fe Trail

Larned Rendezvous, 9/23/2016, New Mexico Bound! The Yankee Pioneer Hatch Family’s Santa Fe Trail Journey and Territorial Life between the Mexican War and World War I.

In addition, nine of her Hatch ancestors were recognized by the SFTA, Rendezvous in Olathe, 9/30/2017. The nine left together from Lockport, New York, in 1847 and traveled the Cimarron Route of the SFT in 1848 or 1849 arriving first in Santa Fe:

- Alexander Hatch (b. 12/7/1801 in Ballston Springs, Saratoga NY; d. 3/18/1886 in Trinidad, Las Animas, CO)
- Lucy Seymour Hatch (b. 3/1/1806 in Pompey Hills, Onondaga, NY; m. 11/17/1826 in Le Roy, Genesee, NY; d. 4/20/1867 in Montgomery Park, CO)
- Helen Hatch (b. 7/27/1827 in Le Roy, Genesee, NY; m. 9/25/1845 in Lockport, Niagara, NY; d. 7/9/1906 in Pueblo, Pueblo, CO)
- Samuel L. Streeter (b. 6/3/1822 in Lockport, Niagara, NY; d. 3/16/1851 in Las Vegas, San Miguel, NM)
- Augustus Irving Streeter (b. 5/15/1848 in Venice, Madison, IL; d. 11/6/1906 in Undercliffe, Pueblo, CO)
- Flora Hatch (b. 2/3/1829 in Le Roy, Genesee, NY; m. 3/5/1849 in Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; d. 5/3/1905 in Trinidad, Las Animas, CO)
- George Francis Streeter (b. 1/15/1915 in Lamport, Baca, CO)
- George Hatch (b. 9/22/1830 in Le Roy, Genesee, NY; m. 4/19/1853 in Las Vegas, San Miguel, NM; d. 2/3/1916 in Hope, Eddy, NM)
- Alexander & Lucy Hatch Family (Trail Travelers 1848 – 1849) SFTA
Ancestor of Theodore Anthony, Col. (Ret.), US Army

Col. Anthony’s ancestor is the unnamed Monroe who, along with another unnamed scout named McNees, were killed in Oklahoma in 1828. Information about these two comes from Josiah Gregg’s “The Commerce of the Prairies.”

“The fall of 1828 proved still more fatal to the traders on their homeward trip; for by this time the Indians had learned to form a correct estimate of the stock with which the return companies were generally provided. Two young men named McNees and Monroe, having carelessly lain down to sleep on the banks of a stream since known as McNees Creek, were barbarously shot with their own guns, as it was supposed, in very sight of the caravan. When their comrades came up they found McNees lifeless and the other almost expiring. In this state the latter was carried nearly forty miles to the Cimarron River, where he died and was buried according to the custom of the prairies.”

Additional ancestral accounts were received from Pat Traffas and Grant Mallet, and they will appear in the next issue of Wagon Tracks. If you have information about an ancestor who is connected with the Trail, please send it to Marcia Fox, foxmjr2015@gmail.com.

Wagon Tracks Wins Award

Wagon Tracks placed third in the New Mexico Press Women 2021 Communication Contest in the Publications Edited category. The judges commented, “Excellent writing and relatable content that piques the reader’s desire for exploring historic trail that opened up the West and helped shape our culture and national identity. Some of the articles ran long, but overall, it is a nicely organized publication.”

July 10 is the submission deadline for the August issue of Wagon Tracks.
Edited and written by Joy L. Poole

Background:
The 1854 diary of William Baskerville is a first-hand account of his final trip eastward along the Santa Fe Trail. He worked three years as a wagon boss for Francois X. Aubry, a French Canadian trader and merchant, who was so known for his fast paced trail travel that he earned the title “Skimmer of the Plains”. The Baskerville diary is an accurate account of campsites, landmarks, mileages, trail conditions, and sources of water along the trail from Las Vegas eastward.

The late Dr. David Clapsaddle stated that overnight campgrounds required water, wood, and grass. These three components of campsites were the primary subjects throughout Baskerville’s diary in his role as Wagon Boss. The words wood and grass are written over 70 times and water conditions are recorded with over 100 entries. Distances travelled were also important. The word miles is recorded over 150 times throughout this journal, noting daily distances between campsites, meals, and water sources.

A Kansas trail friend, Steve Schmidt, notes Baskerville’s company often travelled after supper. Clearly, Baskerville, after working years for F.X. Aubry, was routinely “pushing it” faster than normal. Baskerville also did not camp at the usual places (five miles east of Lost Spring, for example, and they made a couple of dry camps). In this account, Baskerville neglects to summarize the number of wagons and animals. He states repeatedly, some 20 times, that they “yoked up,” revealing they were using oxen to pull wagons. It seems that the party was fair-sized although he doesn’t reveal the number of men in the company nor who they were. Certainly, Baskerville’s knowledge of the trail obtained from his half-a-dozen freighting trips across the Santa Fe Trail guided his decisions and safe passage across the plains.

Of note, Baskerville’s diary reveals the route traders took through central New Mexico, bypassing Santa Fe and taking a shorter route between the Santa Fe Trail and El Camino Real for the larger markets in Mexico.

During the decades of the 1840s and 1850s, as trade merchandise saturated the Santa Fe market, more and more traders would leave the Santa Fe Trail at Las Vegas and travel southwesterly towards Anton Chico and beyond, towards the Camino Real south of Albuquerque. They freighted their cargo directly to Chihuahua and points beyond to capitalize on larger markets for selling merchandise and to improve their profits.

Therefore, the diary is also important for the route through New Mexico that Baskerville traveled to lead the company of Americans home to Missouri. Using an 1851 map created by Jonathan Parke and Richard Kern, this alternative route used by Baskerville from Peralta, New Mexico, to reach the Santa Fe Trail at Las Vegas, New Mexico, is easily traced.

In 1854, Aubry, Baskerville, and members of the Chávez and Perea families had just returned from California where they had collectively sold 50,000 sheep. At the start of his diary, Baskerville and the company of Americans and Hispanos are in Peralta, New Mexico, at the ranch of Dr. Henry Connelly. Connelly was married to Dolores Perea, the widow of Don Mariano Chávez. Both the Chávez and Perea families were business associates of Aubry. Ten days earlier, Baskerville learned through an express mail sent from a Santa Fe merchant, Joseph Mercure, that his 29-year-old boss, Aubry, was killed at the Mercure Brothers store. On the return trip from California back to Santa Fe, these young ambitious men had decided to go into partnership. Now, Baskerville’s business plans were abruptly halted upon learning of his employer’s death.

As one of his final duties as Aubry’s Wagon Boss, Baskerville arranged with Don José Francisco Chávez to pay the salaries of Baskerville and the company of Americans who had decided to return home to Missouri. Don Chávez would later collect the payroll debt from Mercure, who had been appointed administrator of Aubry’s estate. Baskerville, who was obviously somewhat uncertain of his future, obtained a letter of reference from Aubry’s business associate, Dr. Henry Connelly. Baskerville valued the letter and kept it throughout his lifetime, since it was a testimony from New Mexico’s future governor of his business character and his professional reputation.

Bosque de Los Pinos [Bosque Farms] NM August 26, 1854

To whom this may be presented

The bearer Mr. Wm Basquirville [sic] is a gentleman with whom I have had much personal acquaintance, and still a further acquaintance from the information received from the late lamented F.X. Aubry with whom he has long travelled and been connected and last enable me to speak of him and recommend him as a gentleman of high merit, in every respect trustworthy,
Introduction:
In 1851, the year he turned 23, William Baskerville, Jr., who as a boy growing up near Boonville heard stories of the Santa Fe Trail and the traders who traveled over it, was hired by Francois X. Aubry as a teamster for an overland wagon train heading to New Mexico. Twenty-six-year-old Aubry had started freighting in the mid-1840s and earned a reputation for his rapid round-trip travels over the Santa Fe Trail. The two young men worked well together, energetically transporting cargo in an unprecedented three round trips annually across the trail. Surely part of Aubry’s motivation was the fact that the first merchants to arrive in Santa Fe each spring made as high as 100-percent profit on the goods sold. Conventional freighters made only one trip each season, starting from Missouri in the spring after the grass was sufficiently high for the cattle or mules to subsist, and returning before snow and cold weather made freighting difficult or impossible.

During Baskerville’s first two years of freighting, many Santa Fe Trail caravans, including Aubry’s, were plagued with cholera. In 1851, ten men in Aubry’s caravan were stricken with cholera between Pawnee Fork and the Arkansas Crossing. All but one man, Logan, a Shawnee hunter, recovered. A year later, 17 cases of cholera broke out in Aubry’s train. According to the Missouri Republican, “by careful attention to his men,” Aubry “lost only one of them.”

By 1852, the industrious Baskerville, now promoted to Wagon Boss, must have enjoyed the relentless pace of freighting cargo for Aubry as he oversaw three more trips to New Mexico. He left Independence on his first trip that year in March, before the grasses were plentiful, which often required Aubry’s company to take feed corn for the animals. Upon arrival in Santa Fe, they rapidly sold the goods and by the middle of April raced back to Missouri. Upon arrival in Independence, they immediately started purchasing merchandise and loading cargo so that within a month they left on their second trip arriving in Santa Fe on July 3, 1852. Aubrey and Baskerville sold their merchandise and obtained additional cargo within a month of their arrival in Santa Fe, and bolted back on their return to Independence, arriving four weeks later on August 25, 1852.

On their third trip west, they departed Independence in September, arriving in Santa Fe in October. Each Lightening Express trip following the Cimarron Route averaged 25 miles a day, thus completing the 800 miles of the Santa Fe Trail in one month, all in rapid succession.

In the fall of 1852, Aubry, who had formed a partnership with the Chávez and Perea families, agreed to transport sheep to the gold fields of California. He and Baskerville started making plans for their first trip to California. Using ten wagons, Aubry’s company drove 5,000 ewes and wethers along with 100 mules following the Gila Route to southern California, leaving Santa Fe on November 17, 1852.

Over six months later, Aubry’s party left California in the middle of July of 1853 with the goal of identifying a route for the construction of an Atlantic and Pacific railroad. In his journal Aubry stated, “My party consists of eighteen men—twelve Americans and six Mexicans. Messrs. Tully of Santa Fe, and Adair of Independence, have joined us for a pleasure trip. We use pack animals entirely, having neither wagon nor carriage.”

On the return trip they endured numerous obstacles, which Aubry summarized in his journal, “We have thus far had so much ill-luck to encounter, that our arrival at our destination must be much delayed. First, our men fell sick, then our provisions were damaged in the Colorado; latterly, a man shot himself through the knee; our mules’ feet, for want of shoes, are worn out; and to crown all, today, two-thirds of the party are badly wounded [including Baskerville], and all have barely escaped with their lives. We are now subsisting entirely on mule meat, and we do not get as much of that as we want. We are without salt and pepper, and in their absence, it requires a stout stomach to digest our fare. But nobody complains, and the possibility of not doing what we have set out to do, has never entered the minds of my party.”

Six weeks later, they arrived at the Pueblo of Zuni where they obtained an abundance of food. On September 10, 1853, Aubry’s party arrived in Albuquerque, whereupon Aubry immediately began preparations for a second trip to California.

With investments from New Mexico’s Hispano businessmen, Aubry and Baskerville drove 20,000 sheep for Álvarez. Francisco Perea and his men drove 10,000 sheep, Judge Otero brought 8,000 more sheep, while J. Francisco Chaves [Chávez] and others joined the group with an additional 12,000 head, with a total of 50,000 sheep. Again they went to California using the Gila route, where Kit Carson and his companions passed them on their return from California near the Pima villages of Arizona, arriving in Los Angeles on January 10, 1854.

They sold the sheep, and on July 6, 1854, prepared to leave from San Jose, California. “We leave this place today for New Mexico, with a party consisting of sixty men, and fitted out at an expense of about fifteen thousand dollars. Judge Otero, Mr. Chavis and Mr. Perea are my companions. The object of the expedition is to locate a Wagon Road from this [San Jose] valley to Albuquerque on the north side of the Gila, in the 35th parallel of latitude, or as near as practical.” The group traveled from the Great Colorado to the Hopi Villages, some 225 miles, in nine days. The party arrived in New Mexico the middle of August 1854. Near Zuni, Aubry apparently directed Baskerville...
to take the wagon and company of men to Dr. Henry Connelly’s ranch near Peralta. When they split, Aubry went on to Santa Fe.

Upon his arrival in Santa Fe on August 18, 1854, Aubry went to see the Mercure Brothers at their store located on the south side of the plaza. Richard Weightman, a prominent territorial citizen and publisher of Amigo del País, observed Aubry’s arrival on the plaza and hurried over to the Mercury store.

Weightman had interviewed Aubry prior to his departure for California in 1853 and printed a disparaging article based on his journal written during his 1852 California trip. A copy of the newspaper had reached Aubry in California. The two men soon argued. Aubry drew a pistol that misfired. In defense, Weightman produced a Bowie knife, and the two men came together and grappled. Before the Mercure brothers could intervene, Aubry’s abdomen was ripped open by the knife and the wounds resulted in his death. Aubry’s funeral was held in the parish church, and he was buried in Rosario Cemetery. Weightman, who was charged with murder, was later acquitted on the grounds of self-defense.

The Baskerville Diary
August 28 - October 23, 1854

“I send you ten dollars all the money I can spare by the bearer, all the money I can spare just now. I hope to collect some more soon. I can then furnish you with as much as you want. I am very much behind in my farm work. In the event you meet Frank Perea, tell him to hand you the five hundred dollars due me for selling his mules in Sacramento City, Cal.”

Editor’s Note: This excerpt precedes the first page of the diary. It was commonplace for correspondence and requests to be couriered by traders, often working in partnership to either collect on business accounts when meeting with associates of the Santa Fe Trail trade or to carry payments to pay off debts from credit extended to traders. Traders involved in the trade collected debts on behalf of various business associates and or advanced payments for merchandise. These trade alliances were established within the Santa Fe Trail trade long before banks were established. On the eastern end of the trail in Independence, the firm of McCoy, Waldo and Smith worked with independent freighters such as F.X. Aubry, commission merchants, and speculators, all with access to capital. On the New Mexican end of the trail, wealthy land owners were represented by various traders, including Chávez, Ortiz, Armijo, Baca, Otero, Álvarez, and Perea, freighting cargo to and from Missouri as well as to Mexico and California. According to the excerpt above, Baskerville asks for someone to collect payment from Frank Perea for a business transaction in California. The financial success of the Santa Fe Trail trade relied on the ability of traders and merchants to access the behavior of business partners and associates, which was crucial for successful transactions. Credit reporters listed J.L. Perea of Bernalillo as “one of our best and richest Mexicans” in 1851. Many American and French Canadian traders like Aubry formed business partnerships not only with Missouri suppliers but also with the Hispano ranchers and merchant families of New Mexico.

Peralta [New Mexico] Agt. 28 We left this place late in the evening. Our destination being Iseletta [sic]. After traveling two hours, our arrival at this place, here we succeeded in [purchasing] a mule and horse. After saddling and taking leave of friends, we started for the upper country. We arrived at Albuquerque Hrs after leaving this place.

September 8 We left Albuquerque yesterday evening, and arrived at the mouth of the big Canion [Canyon] at about eight this morning. The distance about ten miles. After leaving Town five miles, the grass is good and from there on to the Canion. At the Canion it is first rate, water plenty, road good.

September 9 We raised camp at the break of day and advance to the head of the Canion, there we took breakfast. This Canion is about six miles in length, road tolerable good. The water rises and sinks again in three or four different places, grass scarce. Camps can be had on three different places in this Canion. Their [sic] is a Ranch at the head of it. About three quarters [of a mile] from this Ranch stands San Antonio, a small Mexican Town which presents a dilapidated appearance and is going to [wreck] very fast. From this place we traveled about five miles passed Beckwith’s Ranch there, where we found a sufficiency [of] grass and water. This camp about fifteen miles from the mouth of the Canion. Good camps can be had near Beckwith’s Rancho. We left the Placers road at this place. The water at this camp [is] not permanent, but can always be found here in August and September. Grass permanently green. After taking supper we raised camp and advance seven miles and encamped for the night. Grass and wood plenty but no water. This camp is opposite the Placer mountains, road good.

September 10 We raised camp at the break of day and after five miles we encamped for the night, grass and water plenty, but no wood. The water at this place is not permanent. It [is] found here during the rainy season. This camp is in the first arroyo after leaving the Galisteo Road, about two miles today, road today good, most of the day spent in camp.

September 11 We raised camp at the break of day and advance fifteen miles and encamped for the night near a small Lake, situated in an arroyo. This water I am inclined to think is from a well. Grass first rate. Their [sic] is an arroyo midway between this and our camp last night which affords a little water during the rainy season, plenty of wood and grass at this place. This Lake is about thirty miles from Beckwith’s Rancho. This
Ranch is about twenty five miles from Albuquerque. Road today first rate.

September 12  We raised [camp] at the usual time and advanced about seven miles and halted for breakfast in a beautiful canyon which affords a plenty of wood and grass, but no water. We are encamped [near] a round Butte which is covered with timber and stands near the road. After taking breakfast at this place, we started again and advanced seven miles and encamped for the night near a Lake which I think only affords water during the raining season. Heavy timber at this place, grass good, road today first rate. This Lake can easily be seen during the dry season by two small buttes near the road situated thus.

September 13  We raised camp and advanced twenty miles. After traveling about four miles in the evening, we came to some small pools of water on the right of the road which afforded water a plenty for our animals. This water is not permanent, can only be found here during the rainy season. Anton Chico is about twelve miles from this water. The Town is situated on the river Pecos. We encamped about two miles East of Town, wood and grass, but no water.

September 14  We made an early start this morning and advanced eight miles and halted for breakfast. Their water is some water at this place on the left of the road, wood and grass plenty, road good. I have just said that this water is not permanent, but it is headed by a first rate spring. From this place we traveled four miles and encamped at another spring affording excellent water. Near this spring there are pools of water which suffice for stock, wood and grass plenty at this place. Las Vegas is thirteen miles [from] this spring. Road to day good and the entire road affording excellent grass for animals.

September 15  We raised camp at three o'clock and advanced about six miles and halted for breakfast. There is an excellent spring at this place which is [has] plenty of water, grass good. Here we spent [the] remainder of [the] day. It is just six miles from this place to Las Vegas, road good.

September 16  We raised camp at eight o'clock, came to Las Vegas, a small Mexican Town, from this place to Shapiro [Sapello] Creek it is fifteen miles, from the Sapello to Moro [Creek] three miles. Eight miles this side of Las Vegas there is an arroyo. At certain seasons of
the year [it] affords water and at all times furnishes grass. The night camp is the Sapello Creek seven miles. The entire road first rate, grass good. The Sapello is a bold stream of clear water. No wood between Las Vegas and the Sapello.

September 17 We raised camp at the break of day and advanced eight miles and encamped for the night, wood, water and grass plenty. This is called Wolf Creek and is eight miles from Moro Creek. Dog Creek is another excellent camp two miles east of Moro Creek. This camp affords a plenty of water, wood and grass. The wood is not very convenient, but can be had without much trouble, road good.

September 18 We raised camp at break of day and advanced to Chicken Creek, seven miles, water and grass plenty, but no wood. This water is not permanent; it can only be had during the rainy season. We left this place at one and advanced to Waggon Mound. This camp affords a plenty of water and grass, but no wood. From Chicken Creek to this place is about nine miles, road first rate.

September 19 We raised camp at the break of day and advance to the big Pond, ten miles. At this place we found no water, nor wood, but a plenty of excellent grass. This Pond only affords water at certain seasons of year, road good. We started again at twelve o'clock and advance to Ocette Creek, a distance of ten miles. Here we found an excellent supply of water and grass, but no wood. The distance from the Waggon Mound to this place is twenty miles, road first rate. There is timber half a mile before the crossing. Antelope, Deer and Bear abound in this section of Country. At the present time Antelope are very plenty.

September 20 We raised a camp at the break of day and advanced about twelve miles and halted for breakfast at the Big Pond. Here we found a little water and a plenty of grass, but no wood. From our camp of yesterday to Red River [Canadian River] five miles. From Red River to Marsh Creek four miles. From Marsh Creek to the big Pond three miles. All of the above places are good camps, only one affording wood, that is Red River, road first rate. We left this place at two and advanced about eight miles and encamped for the night. Water and grass plenty, but no wood. This camp is near a butte with some rocks piles up on one side of it on the right of the road. This water is not permanent, 3 miles west of this place there is a first rate [water] in a Cañon running from Mud Creek. There is water generally at this place though it is not permanent. Distance yesterday about twenty miles. Road good.

September 21 We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to the Point of Rocks, a distance of eight miles. Wood and water plenty at this place but grass very short. About six miles west of this place there is a couple of Lakes near the road which affords water. During the rainy season the water at the Point of Rocks is permanent. After taking breakfast at this place, we started and advanced to Whetstone Creek and encamped for the night. Grass and water plenty at this place. Distance nine miles. There are three other creeks between this and the Point of Rocks. The first about three miles. The second six miles and the third eight miles. The second, White’s Creek, affords a plenty of water, wood and grass. The others afford water during the rainy season. Grass in an abundance, road good.

September 22 We raised camp at the break of day and advance to Rock Creek, a distance of nine miles. Water and grass plenty, but not wood. After breakfast, we started again and advanced four miles and halted on a small creek which affords water during the rainy season. Grass good, but no wood. After taking supper, we started again. It is four or five miles from this place to Round Mound. The water at this place is on the left of the road, grass good, but no wood.

September 23 We raised [camp] at the break of day and advanced to the Rabbit Ear Creek, a distance of eight miles. Here we took breakfast, wood, water and grass plenty. Water permanent. We started again and advanced to the Cottonwood Creek. Here we halted just long enough to take supper. Then raised camp again. The road runs parallel with the Rabbit Ear Creek for a distance of four or five miles Creek affords an abundance of wood, water and grass and is accessible at all points. After taking supper, we started again and advanced to the point of Cottonwood Creek, where the road leaves the Creek. Here we encamped for the night, wood, water and grass plenty. Afternoon drive five miles, days total 18 miles.

September 24 We started this morning at the break of day and advanced to Magnies [McNees] Creek, a distance of ten miles. Here we found water and grass plenty, but no wood. Road good. After breakfast we harnessed and started again and advanced to Sedar [Cedar] Spring, a distance of ten miles. This camp affords plenty of wood, water and grass. Road first rate.

September 25 We raised camp at the usual time and advanced to the Cold Springs, a distance of eighteen miles. Wood, water and grass plenty at this place, road good. Midway between this place and Sedar [Cedar] Spring water can be found during the rainy season. Grass good, but no wood at this place.

September 26 We raised camp at the usual time and advanced to the Red Hill, a distance of ten miles. Grass good, water plenty, but no wood at this place. About four miles this side of Cold Spring their [there] is a spring on the left of the road. This spring affords a plenty of Water. Water and grass plenty at this place.

Continued on page 23, so that the centerfold of Symposium registration and bicentennial calendar can be pulled out.
The education committee is continuing its work on locating all of the educational trunks. We think the trunk from the Dodge City/Ft. Dodge Chapter was lost when the Heritage Center closed. We believe we have a lead on the Wagon Bed Springs Chapter Trunk.

We still need most chapters to take an inventory of their trunks and let us know what the trunks need. This has been difficult since a lot of the museums where the trunks are housed have been closed due to COVID-19. The education committee made a PowerPoint video of the contents of the trunks so teachers can see it on our website, where it will be posted closer to the time when the museums are opened.

In January, Troy Mayhem, SFTA member and teacher, requested a trunk. The closest trunk was supposed to be at Clayton. Elisa Townsend, Director of the Herzstein Memorial Museum, located the trunk. I sent her an inventory list. In the meantime, I called Morton County Historical Museum to see if I could set up a transfer of the Clayton trunk to them where the teacher could pick it up. It turns out that Morton County Museum put together their own trunk when they had trouble getting the SFTA trunk when they needed it. Since the Clayton trunk wasn’t ready to send, Mr. Mayhem was going to check out the Morton County Museum trunk. Troy Mayhem received the trunk from Morton County just in time for Kansas Day. Thank you so much, Becky and the Morton County Historical Museum crew!

In October, the executive board asked me to write an article for the E-blast encouraging educators to call on the SFTA education committee for resources for studying the Santa Fe Trail during our 200th Commemoration and beyond. This article has gone out numerous times in eblasts in November and December.

In November, SFTA was contacted by a 5th-grade teacher from the Fort Worth, Texas, area. He asked if his students could write to us as part of their letter writing lesson and part of the study of the Santa Fe Trail. We received 21 letters from three different 5th-grade classes from Castleberry Elementary School. Chris Day, Marcia Fox, and I divided the task and each child received a reply and a map. My thanks to Chris and Marcia for their help with this project.

In December, I received letters from students in Colorado (2 students), Nebraska (9), Indiana (15), and Arizona (13), forwarded from the Santa Fe Trail Center. An *A Santa Fe Trail Adventures* workbook by David Webb and a map were sent to the teacher and maps were sent to the students.

February was full of similar responses to students in Pennsylvania (7), Wisconsin (20 students in 3 classrooms), and Indiana (1).

A teacher wrote:
My kids were so excited to get their letters! Some of them are learning online, so I wanted to be sure they received their letters before I reached out to you. They couldn’t believe they got personalized responses. We read our letters aloud, and I have some plans next week to use the workbook and the maps that you sent.

Thanks to you, a simple lesson about the Santa Fe Trail turned into excitement and quest for learning more. We couldn’t be happier, and your help is much appreciated!

Thanks to the teacher in Pennsylvania, I now know that all these student letters are coming because of an “Into Reading” curriculum put out by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. They probably picked the Santa Fe Trail because of our 200th commemoration. I wish that they had picked a different book than they did. It makes for a lot of explaining.

Larry Short was asked by the NPS for help to write letters to schools. I will be writing several short paragraphs for answers to student questions which NPS will send to the students. The paragraphs will have S.F.T.A. on the letterhead.

I made a Santa Fe Trail history and Youth Trips presentation to the largest chapter of DAR in Kansas (Polly Ogden Chapter) in Manhattan on March 6. Marcia Fox and I belong to this chapter, and she helped create the presentation. It went very well and I will take a stack of Scout booklets to the next meeting, which we hope will be hybrid Zoom/in-person.

I updated and sent three PowerPoint presentations to V.P. Chris Day for possible use at Ft. Wallace. I also reviewed a book for Chris.

So COVID has not stopped interest in the Santa Fe Trail.

--Janet Armstead, Chair
# 2021 SANTA FE TRAIL SYMPOSIUM

## REGISTRATION FORM

(The 2021 Symposium is open to the public)

**NAME:** __________________________ **NAME:** __________________________

**STREET ADDRESS:** __________________________

**CITY:** __________________________ **STATE:** _______ **ZIP CODE:** _______

**PHONE:** __________________________ **EMAIL:** __________________________

## REGISTRATION (INCLUDES MEALS AS STATED BUT NOT TOURS)

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**TOTAL FOR REGISTRATION:** (Please transfer amount below.) $

## TOURS (INCLUDES BOX LUNCHES)

**SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR THURSDAY & SATURDAY TOURS**

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

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**TOTAL FOR TOURS** $

**TOTAL FOR REGISTRATION** $

**GRAND TOTAL:** (No refunds after September 15, 2021) $

______ Check # (Make Checks payable to Bent’s Fort Chapter SFTA Symposium 2021)

______ Check here if you completed an Online Registration at [www.santafetrail.org](http://www.santafetrail.org) (Credit Cards accept)

Mail Registration Form and Payment to: SFTA Symposium 2021

Attn: LaDonna Hutton

18300 Rd. EE .5

Rocky Ford, CO 81067

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:

______ Check here if you need special consideration for disabilities. Please indicate any special requirements below. If necessary, you will be contacted as soon as possible to determine the nature of your needs.
Registration is Open

Registration for the 2021 Bicentennial Symposium of the Santa Fé Trail is open through the Last Chance Store at www.lastchancestore.org/santa-fe-trail-symposium-registration/.

Don’t miss out on the only chance to commemorate the 200th birthday of the Santa Fé Trail at Bent’s Fort and at the multitude of events planned up and down the Trail. A calendar of other events can be found on the Symposium website at www.2021sfts.com and at the 200 anniversary website https://santafetrail200.org.

The 2021 Symposium planning committee has, over the last four+ years, and with the guidance of the Otero County Public Health Department, worked to meet the challenges of the last few years and will continue to put in the effort to make the 2021 Santa Fe Trail Symposium a unique experience. We look forward to you joining us this September in La Junta for this opportunity to look back at 200 years of Santa Fe Trail history and to see what the future holds for the Trail and your Santa Fe Trail Association.

Six scholars have been invited to share their research during the 2021 Bicentennial Symposium during the formal sessions at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado.


Dr. Susan Calafate Boyle, Ph.D., “The Santa Fe Merchants and Their Merchandise: Going Down to Mexico, 1825–1846.”

Mr. John F. Steinle, “Most All Proves Fatal: Pandemics and the Santa Fe Trail, 1821–1870”


On Saturday, September 25, Rebecca Atkinson, “He Said, She Said: Two Views of Life at Bent’s New Fort.”

Mr. Matthew Saionz, “There Is Very Little System or Consistency: Making Sense of Contraband Cases in the late 1820s and Their Subsequent Disappearance.”

Ms. Ashley Wheeler and staff of the NPS National Trails Office, “The Santa Fe National Historic Trail: Visions from Today and the Future along the Trail.”

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Walk with Living History

Up to fifty Living Historians will travel back to 1843 to illustrate what life was like on the Santa Fé Trail. Using Bent’s Old Fort NHS as a backdrop, these men, women, and youngsters will give you an idea of the experiences they would have had during one of the more active years of trade on the Mountain Route of the Trail.
For events at the National Park sites along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, please visit the following links: Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site—www.nps.gov/beol/planyourvisit/calendar.htm
Fort Larned National Historic Site—www.nps.gov/fols/planyourvisit/calendar.htm
Fort Union National Monument—www.nps.gov/foun/planyourvisit/calendar.htm
Pecos National Historic Park—www.nps.gov/peco/planyourvisit/index.htm

2021 Events


Throughout 2021: Weekly digital posts about the markers located in Ford & Gray Counties, KS. @santafetrail1821 or on Pinterest www.pinterest.com/santafetrail1/dodge-city-chapter-sft-markers/


February – December: Lyons, KS. Exhibit: Buffalo Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail. Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 W. Lyon St., Lyons, KS. Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com.

May 1: Sterling, KS. Pots ‘N Pedals festival, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., focusing on the Santa Fe Trail. Downtown Sterling, KS. Email: msterling@sterlingks.org or call Diana, 785-735-4443.

May 8: Colby, KS. “GC88V6V, Mingo Madness,” Geocaching event to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the geocaching hobby. 8:00 a.m. to noon, Colby Community Building, 285 East 5th Street, Colby, KS https://coord.info/GC88V6V or https://mingo2020.com/

May 22: Fort Dodge, KS. 11:00 a.m. DAR Wreath Laying Ceremony & Rededication of DAR Marker near Fort Dodge, KS. 9pwinger@gmail.com.

May 22: Dodge City, KS. Noon, following the DAR Wreath Laying Ceremony, the Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter Meeting at the Dodge House, 2408 W Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City, KS. Lunch will be on your own; a program will be presented by Deb Goodrich, SFTA Publicity/200th Chair.

June 3: Sterling, KS. 8:00 p.m. Main Street Sterling Summer Concert Series presents Jeff Davidson with a musical history of the Santa Fe Trail. 8:00 p.m. at Studio 96, 121 S. Broadway, Sterling, KS. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com.

June 4: Geneseo, KS. “An Evening on the Old Salt Road” by historian Jim Gray, the trail that connected the Smoky Hill Trail to Cow Creek Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail and passed by present-day Geneseo. 5:30 p.m., Geneseo City Museum, 907 Silver Avenue. Events include: reenactors representing the hunting camp of Smoky Hill Thompson, a local frontiersman; Kansas frontier music by Zerf (Dave Zerfas); camp stew and biscuit feed. www.santafetrail2021.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, email: quivira.sfta@gmail.com


June 5: Baldwin City, KS. “Trails and Trailblazers,” Historic sites tours and dedication of Black Jack Ruts hiking trail. Douglas County Chapter of the SFTA event. Shuttle buses leave to go to historic sites on the half hour from Baker University’s Collins Center parking lot at 6th and Fremont streets.

May 22: Fort Dodge, KS. 11:00 a.m. DAR Wreath Laying Ceremony & Rededication of DAR Marker near Fort Dodge, KS. 9pwinger@gmail.com.

June 6: New Franklin, MO. DAR Wreath Laying Ceremony, 1:45 p.m., ceremony at the Santa Fe Trail marker in downtown New Franklin, MO. Followed with presentation by Tim Williams, 5th great grandson of Ezekiel Williams. Marty Ferry, mhferry@yahoo.com or 660-537-0670.

June 7-11: Great Bend, KS. “Ride into History Camp,” 1:00-5:00 p.m. each day. Barton County Historical Museum, 85 U.S. 281, Great Bend, KS. Ride into History will share their expertise on becoming a historical performer in a week-long camp. Friday evening, June 11, performance of characters open to public. Camp registration required. $50 fee, scholarships available. Class size limited to 20. Sponsored by Quivira Chapter of the
E. Kansas Ave., McPherson, KS. Ride into History will share their expertise on becoming a historical performer in a week-long camp. Friday evening, June 25, performance of characters open to public. Camp registration required. $50 Fee, scholarships available. Class size limited to 20. Sponsored by Quivira Chapter of the SFTA. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719.

June 26: Lindsborg, KS. “Mountain Men on the Santa Fe Trail” at the Old Mill Museum, 120 E. Mill Street, Lindsborg, KS.
- 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m: Mountain Man Camp.
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m: Ice cream social.
- 2:00 p.m: Tom Nestor presents, “History of the early fur trade from the Arkansas River trade to the Rocky Mountain trade”
www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

July 3: Sterling, KS. American Legion Parade, 2:00 p.m. with the theme “200 Years on the Santa Fe Trail” Parade route: south on Broadway from Washington St. to Garfield St. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.


July 16-17: Council Grove, KS. “Gunfight on the Santa Fe Trail,” Weekend of family entertainment with vendors, old west reenactments, gunfight competition, art, trail “grub,” and music provided by 3 Trails West and Diamond W Wranglers. Kick-off July 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Neosho River Walk Park; fee charged. Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism at 620-767-5413; www.santafetrail200.com or Facebook at http://tiny.cc/rievtz.

July 18 – 31: Moundridge, KS. “Story Walk in the Park” Book: Lewis and Papa: Adventure on the Santa Fe Trail by Barbara Joosse (pages of a story are posted through the park; participants read the story as they follow the “Story Walk.”) Story Walk hosted by the Moundridge Public Library and will be posted in the Moundridge City Park on Cole Street, 24/7 for two weeks. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com.


- 6:00 p.m. for appetizers, cocktails and dinner.
- 7:00 p.m. Program by Dr. Leo E. Oliva: “What Did They Eat on the Santa Fe Trail?”
- www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

July 24: Galva, KS. Santa Fe Trail Days. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m: Galva Museum, 204 S. Main Street, display about the Santa Fe Trail, featuring a kid-friendly traveling trunk from the Kansas Historical Society about “Trading on the Santa Fe Trail.” boblinda@hometelco.net.

10:00 a.m. to noon, at the 56 Family Restaurant, 220 E. U.S. Highway 56, Galva, KS. Presenter: Tom Nestor and his teepee, cooking traditional foods from the time of the Santa Fe Trail. Activities throughout day at Woodbury Market, 305 E. U.S. Highway
56, Galva, KS, featuring the Santa Fe Trail mural created by Barb Bland on display inside the restaurant.

Events at Running Turkey Creek, a campsite on the Santa Fe Trail, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Located 1 mile east and 2 miles south of Galva, KS on 22nd Ave, just north of Iron Horse Road. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com, or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

- Cheyenne Encampment – Keven Hiebert
- Military Infantry Escort Camp – Rex and Dustin Abrahams
- Woman on the Santa Fe Trail & Fuller’s Ranch History – Emma Perera
- Cherokee Trail Connection to the Santa Fe Trail – Brian Stucky
- Empire Cemetery – Don & Sandra Unruh, Early day settlers of Empire and Galva, KS,

July 24: Canton, KS. Santa Fe Trail Days
- Trail Guide to Santa Fe Trail sites
- 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Santa Fe Trail display, speakers and refreshments, Canton Township Carnegie Library, 203 N. Main Street
- 1:00-3:00 p.m. Reenactment at Jones Cemetery- Ed Miller’s Grave, 2 miles east of Canton, Kansas, on Highway 56 and approximately 1/2 mile north.
- 6:00 p.m. McPherson County Fair Parade in downtown Canton, KS www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com

July 24: Marion County, KS. Santa Fe Trail Days. Guided walking tours at 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. at French Franks’ Trading Ranche. Tours begin off of 240th Road, 1/10 mile west of Chisholm Trail Road; enter at the green gates and follow the lane north past the containers. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

August 4-9: American Solar Challenge on the Santa Fe Trail. The American Solar Challenge is a competition to design, build, and drive solar-powered cars in a cross-country time/distance rally event. Teams compete between multiple cities across the country. Challenge starts in Independence, MO, and ends in Santa Fe, NM. www.americansolarchallenge.org/or jessica_ostfeld@partner.nps.gov.

August 10: 200th Anniversary of Missouri statehood. See https://missouri2021.org/events-200/ for events and activities.

August 14: Little Arkansas Rendezvous, KS. 10:00-4:00 p.m. Programs focus on life on the Santa Fe Trail, including Camp Grierson—Buffalo Soldiers camp; Swanson’s Swales—team and wagon from Fort Riley queuing up for crossing the Little Arkansas River; Fry Ruts—experience Native American life along the Trail and the impact of SFT; Fort Riley Color Guard maneuvers and cavalry encampment; Little Arkansas Ranch and the Stone Corral, and trade stops on the Santa Fe Trail. Have lunch along the Santa Fe Trail. Directions: From the north: Follow the signs south on Plum/31st Avenue from Highway 56 (1 mile west of Windom, KS). From the south: Go north from Hutchinson, KS, on Plum Street (31st Avenue) approximately 15 miles.

Swanson’s Swales is 3/4 mile north of Avenue P. Camp Grierson is about 2/3 mile west on Avenue P. Fry Ruts are 1.5 miles west on Avenue P. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.


August 28: Galva, KS. Empire Days, Program at 1:00 p.m. “Infantry Soldier of the 1860s,” presented by Rex Abrahams, Galva Fire Station, 300 S. Main. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

September 1: Franklin, MO, and Arrow Rock, MO. To acknowledge the departure of William Becknell and companions, Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA will host a short program at the site of the SFTA markers at Franklin. Day-long activities will be held at Arrow Rock, MO, jointly with Arrow Rock Missouri State Park (DNR) and Friends of Arrow Rock. The Arrow Rock Stock and Trading Company will do first person portrayals of the Becknell men and interact with attendees.

- 9:00 a.m: At the site of Old Franklin, Steve Hart of the Arrow Rock Stock and Trading Company will portray William...
**May 2021 Wagon Tracks**

**September 3-6: Independence, MO. Santa-Cali-Gon Days.**
September 3-6: Independence, MO. Santa-Cali-Gon Days. 2:00 p.m. First lunch shift served at the J. Huston Tavern, 305 Main St, Arrow Rock, MO. Other visitors will hear Mike Dickey’s presentation on Native American interaction with traders, the Osage Trace.

**September 4-5: Sibley, MO.**
September 4-5: Sibley, MO. 12:30 p.m. Second lunch shift at Todd’s Ferry Landing, followed by Dorris Keeven-Franke presenting a program on the Boonslick Road at the Museum, 39521 Visitor Center Drive, Arrow Rock, MO. Other visitors will hear Mike Dickey’s presentation on Native American interaction with traders, the Osage Trace.

**September 4: Council Grove, KS. “Madonna Trudge” 10:00 a.m.**
September 4: Council Grove, KS. “Madonna Trudge” 10:00 a.m. This annual event consists of a run/walk, and a Madonna “look-alike” short walk. Prizes awarded including “most authentic” Madonna statue “look-alikes”. Start and finish at the Madonna of the Trail Statue, Council Grove, KS. www.santafetrail200.com/dar-madonna-trudge or Jan at 303-775-5901.

**September 11: Raytown, MO. Raytown’s Festival on the Trails.**
September 11: Raytown, MO. Raytown’s Festival on the Trails, community events to commemorate the Santa Fe Trail 200th. Hosted by the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA, the Raytown Chamber of Commerce, the Raytown Historical Society, the Raytown Parks Dep’t., the Rice-Tremonti House, and Cave Spring Association. ldshort@comcast.net or president@raytownchamber.com.

**September 17-18: Council Grove, KS. Rendezvous at Council Grove.**
September 17-18: Council Grove, KS. Rendezvous at Council Grove including the “Voices of the Wind People Pageant,” Mountain Men Exposition, Antique Wagon Show, Blacksmith, Wheelwright, Non-motorized Parade, and participation of the Kaw Tribe. Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism at 620.767.5413 or www.santafetrail200.com or on Facebook @voicesofthewindpeople.

**September 18: Burlingame, KS. Santa Fe Trail Day.**
September 18: Burlingame, KS. Santa Fe Trail Day. Sheila Curtis, shelllicurti@gmail.com.

**September 18: Kansas City, MO.**
September 18: Kansas City, MO. The Trailside Center Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 99th & Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. The Trailside Center is adjacent to one of the trails leading to Santa Fe. Displays, speakers, and music. Trailside Center at 816-942-3581, or email margarethughes527@yahoo.com.

**September 22: LaJunta, CO. SFTA Fall Board of Directors Meeting.**
September 22: LaJunta, CO. SFTA Fall Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Otero Community College. manager@santafetrail.org.

**September 22-26: LaJunta, CO. and Bent’s Old Fort NHS, CO. SFTA Symposium.**

**September 25-26: Lyons, KS. Santa Fe Trail Events.**
September 25-26: Lyons, KS. Santa Fe Trail Events, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. including “Fair on the Square,” Courthouse Square; bike ride, horse ride—time/ location TBD; sunset at Gunsight Notch; and dedication of Plum Buttes Massacre Memorial. Supper in the Ruts at Ralph’s Ruts, West of Chase, KS, on 4th road, ¾ mile north of Highway 56. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

**Fall 2021: Lyons, KS. —Exhibit at Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 W. Lyon St., Lyons, KS. Interactive Digital Tour through 35 miles of the Santa Fe Trail sites in Rice County, Kansas, at the Coronado Quivira Museum, and on the museum’s website at www.cqnmuseum.org.**

**October 2-3: Canton, KS.**
October 2-3: Canton, KS. Maxwell Wildlife Refuge – Mountain Man Rendezvous; 2565 Pueblo Road, Canton, KS. maxwellwildliferefuge@gmail.com or Linda Colle, 620-654-7230.

**October 15-17: Abilene, KS. Smoky Hill Trail Association Conference.**
October 15-17: Abilene, KS. Smoky Hill Trail Association Conference. www.smokyllandtrail.com or Ken Cole at: cole_ken@hotmail.com.
October 17: Ellinwood, KS.
Program by Robert Yarmer, “Tales from the Trail and the Beyond”
2 p.m. at the Ellinwood Senior Center, 103 N. Main St.
www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

November 12-14: Commemoration of the meeting of Becknell & Gallegos near Las Vegas, NM. The Corazón de los Caminos Chapter of the SFTA and the Las Vegas Citizens Committee for Historic Preservation commemorate the meeting of Becknell & Gallegos near Las Vegas, NM. Events will also take place in Santa Fe, NM, presented by the End of the Trail Chapter-SFTA. Doyle Davies at davestgd@yahoo.com or 505-426-8958.

November 12 – Las Vegas, NM
• 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks: Rudy Laumbach, President Las Vegas Citizens Committee Preservation, with SFTA Corazón de los Caminos Chapter
• 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Henrietta Martinez Christmas
• 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Speaker: Christine St. Vrain-Fischahs
• 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Catered Lunch in the Plaza Hotel Ballroom
• 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Speaker: Robert Tórrez
• 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Speaker: Frances Levine
• 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Speaker: James Abreu
• 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Cocktail hour, cash bar followed by dinner
• 7:00 p.m. Entertainment: Rob Martinez

November 13 – Las Vegas, NM to Santa Fe, NM
• 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. New Mexico Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NMSODAR) Recognition, Las Vegas, NM, Plaza
• 10:00 a.m. NMSODAR Recognition, Kearny Gap, site of meeting between Becknell and Gallegos
• End of the Trail Chapter Activities:
• 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. En route to Glorieta, visit Private Museum
• 3:00 p.m. James Riding In presents “Indians on the Santa Fe Trail,” St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art, 107 W. Palace Ave, Santa Fe, NM.
• 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. Buffalo Dinner at the La Fonda Hotel

November 14 – Santa Fe, NM
• 10:00 a.m. La Llegada, The Arrival, Governor Melgares greets Becknell, arriving on horseback, at the Santa Fe Plaza. Dr. Tom Chavez portrays Gov. Melgares and Jeff Hengesbach portrays American trader William Becknell
• Late Morning – NMSODAR – Recognition of the Santa Fe Plaza Marker
Pam Najdowski, pamnajdowski@yahoo.com; 505-920-4970 or Joy Poole, amusejoy@msn.com or 505-660-1845.

November 13: Lindsborg, KS.
“On the Trail to Your Ancestors,” 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Old Mill Museum, 120 E. Mill Street. Learn how to research your ancestors who traveled the Santa Fe Trail. www.2021SantaFeTrailKansas.com or Linda Colle, 620-241-8719, e-mail: quivira.sfta@gmail.com.

November 16 marks the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of William Becknell and his trading party in Santa Fe.

2022 Events

January 30, 2022: Boonville, MO.
Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA meeting and luncheon commemorating the return of Becknell from Santa Fe. annemallinson@gmail.com or ldshort@comcast.net.

April 1-2, 2022: Dodge City, KS.
SFTA Spring Workshop & Board of Directors Meeting. 9:00 a.m. Workshop will focus on development of a new Strategic Plan for SFTA.

May 22, 2022: Arrow Rock, MO.
Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the SFTA meeting and luncheon commemorating Becknell’s second journey to Santa Fe (with 3 wagons). annemallinson@gmail.com or ldshort@comcast.net.

September 22, 2022: SFTA Fall Board of Directors Meeting. 9:00 a.m.

September 22-24, 2022: Larned, KS. RENDEZVOUS 2022. “Youth on the Santa Fe Trail” will be the theme.

2023 Events

April 14-15, 2023: Spring Workshop & Board Meeting. Location TBD.

2023 SFTA Symposium: Tentative dates Sept. 20 or 21-23 OR Sept. 27 or 28-30. Will be held in Kansas City area and hosted by the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter.

2024 Events

April 12-13, 2024: SFTA Spring Workshop & Board Meeting; location to be determined.


2025 Events

March 28-29, 2025: SFTA Spring Workshop & Board Meeting; location to be determined.

Sept. 24-27, 2025: SFTA Fall Board Meeting & Symposium. Location TBD.
Baskerville,
continued from page 14

After halting at this place two or three hours, we yoked and advanced to Simarone [Cimarron River], a distance of seven miles. Here we found an abundance of water and grass. This grass being principally of the coarse, salty kind and not very good for animals. Road good.

September 27 We raised [camp] at the usual time and advanced to the Willow Bar, a distance of five miles, an excellent camp can be had just below the place not more than half a mile. The grass is tolerable good, No wood at this place. After taking breakfast at this place, we yoked and advanced about thirteen miles and encamped for the night. Grass and water plenty. This camp is at the junction of a small creek on the North [side] of the Seminore. The sand hills are within thirty yards of the creek which affords excellent grass.

September 28 We raised [camp] at the break of day and advanced to the Middle Spring. The water at this [place] is first rate, but no wood or grass near the water. Wood is not to be found nowhere on the Simerone. Road sandy and heavy. After taking breakfast at this place we yoked and advanced ten miles. Water and grass plenty. The water is some distance on the right of the road. This camp is just twenty eight miles from the Lower Spring, and thirty eight from the Middle Spring. Road tolerable good.

September 29 We raised [camp] at the usual time and advanced about twenty two miles an encamped for the night about four miles East of the nine mile Arrou. [Arroyo], we found a Pond of water on the right of the road. This water can only be found here during the rainy season. Road good.

September 30 We raised camp at the usual time and advanced about one mile below the Lower Spring. Here we halted just long enough to take breakfast then started again and advanced to Sand Creek, a distance of ten miles. Here water can be had by digging. After taking supper at this place, we started again and traveled two miles. We found a pool of water on our left, close to the road. We [ate] at this place, and then travelled about fifteen miles and encamped for the night. No water.

October 1 We raised [camp] at the break of day [and advanced] about eight miles halted for breakfast near a tongue of water on our left. Near the road, grass good. This water is not permanent. After taking breakfast at this [place], we yoked and started again and travelling about five or six miles, we arrived at another Pond or Slough which [had] a bountiful supply of water, Grass first rate. The water may be found one mile from the road. Leave the road at a river which is about thirty miles from the Arkansas River. The water is on the left of the road turn short and travel due North about a mile. Road good, days travel about ten miles. Most of the day spent [in camp] for the purpose of travelling after night. We travelled twelve miles tonight and encamped. Grass good.

The Battle Ground is about two miles East of the Pond of water mentioned above. The Battle Ground is fifteen miles from the river. Most of the road is very heavy. Six miles.

October 2 We raised [camp] at the break of day and advanced to the river, a distance of eight miles. Here we found an abundance of excellent grass. After taking breakfast, we moved below and crossed the river. It is very wide at this place. Good crossing. We advanced about two miles below and encamped for the night. Grass first rate, wood plenty also.

October 3 We raised camp at break of day and advanced about six miles and halted for breakfast near the river. Grass good, wood plenty, road first rate. Breakfasting at this place, we yoked and travelled about twelve miles and encamped for the night. Water and grass plenty, but little wood. The camp is about five miles East of Fort Mackey. The road at this place runs near the river. This days travel twenty miles. The road between the Fort and the Upper Crossing of the river crossed hills in three difference places. The distance of the first and second [hil[ is about three quarters of [a] mile. The third and last [hill] is nine miles. In going from the Fort to [the] first Crossing we only struck the hills once. The first ford is about fifteen miles from the Fort. The other [ford is] twenty five [miles], road good. No troops at the Fort, at present.

October 4 We raised camp at break of day and advanced to Jackson's Grove, a distance of nine miles, here we halted for breakfast, Grass and wood plenty. The Grove is twelve miles below the Fort. The dry route road leave[s] the river three miles below the Fort. Good camps can be had anywhere between the Grove and the Fort. After taking breakfast at this [place], we yoked and advanced to the hole in the rock, ten miles from Jackson's Grove, Wood, water and grass plenty and first rate. The road between this place and Jackson's Grove runs on the ridge the entire distance, but camps can be had by stopping on the hill and driving the animals to the river to water. Distance of half a mile. Days travel twenty miles.

October 5 We raised camp at the break of day and advance about twenty miles and encamped for the night. Grass good. The road runs near the river at this place and again about ten miles west of this place. Both are excellent camps, road good.

October 6 We raised camp at the usual time and advanced to Coon Creek, a distance of about sixteen miles. Here we encamped for the night, water and grass plenty. This water is permanent. About four miles
west of the Creek, the river runs near the road crossing at this place.

October 8  We raised camp at the usual time and advance one miles east of Pawnee Rock. Here we found a pool of water on the right of the road Grass good. The Pawnee Rock is ten miles from Pawnee Fork and five miles from Ash Creek. After taking breakfast at this place, we yoked and advanced to Walnut Creek, a distance of twenty miles. Water, wood and grass plenty at this place. Road good. It is called thirty miles from Pawnee Fork to Walnut Creek. For eight or the ten miles West of this place, camps can be [had] on the Arkansas which runs near the road.

October 9  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to the Big Bend of the Arkansas, a distance of eight miles. Grass good, water plenty. After taking breakfast, we yoked and advanced to Plum Butte, a distance of eight miles. Here we encamped for the night, Grass plenty, but no wood or water.

October 10  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to Cow Creek. A distance of twelve miles. Good and permanent water at this place. Grass and wood plenty. The distance from the Big Bend to this place is eighteen miles. Road first rate. After taking breakfast we yoked and advance to about twelve miles and encamped for the night about one mile East of Chaves Creek. Little Cow Creek is three miles above Big Cow Creek. Owl Creek four miles, Chaves Creek ten miles, the above Creeks affords water only during the rainy seasons.

October 11  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to the Little Arkansas, a distance of ten miles. Water, wood and grass plenty at this place. Distance in from Cow Creek to this place twenty two miles. Road first rate. After halting at this place about hours, we yoked and advanced to Mud Creek, a distance of four miles. Here we encamped for the night. Grass and water plenty. Road Good.

October 12th  We raised camp at the usual time and advanced eight miles and halted for breakfast at a small arroyo [arroyo] which affords no water at this time, but water can be found here during the rainy season. Grass first rate and perfectly green at present which is an extraordinary occurrence, so late in the season as this. No wood at this place. After raising camp and travelling about two hundred yards, we came to water in the same arroyo [arroyo], rain water of course, as this is not a permanent stream. After leaving this place, we advanced six miles, and encamped for supper at Turkey Creek. This water is not permanent, but can be found here at seasons of the year. Grass first rate at this pace, but no wood.

October 13  We raised camp [SE of Canton, KS.] at the break of day and travelled about six miles and encamped for breakfast. Grass good, but no water nor wood. After taking breakfast at this place, yoked and advanced to Mud Creek, here we encamped for supper. Water and grass plenty, but no wood. This water is not permanent. After supper, we advanced to Cotton Creek [Cottonwood Fork or Creek], a distance of five miles, wood water and grass plenty. It is eighteen miles. Road first rate. Distance from Little Arkansas to Cottonwood Creek 45 miles. Entire road good. We met today the Bishop and party enroute for New Mexico, all in good health.

October 14  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to Mud Creek [on the east edge of Tampa, KS], a distance of seven miles, here we encamped for breakfast. Grass plenty, water also. After taking breakfast at this [place], we yoked and advanced to Lost Spring, a distance of seven miles. Here we took supper and then travelled five miles further. This [Lost Spring] is permanent [water], grass good, but no wood. Distance from Cottonwood [Creek] to Lost Spring fifteen miles. Road first rate.

October 15  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to Diamond Spring, a distance of eight miles. Water, wood and grass plenty. Distance from Lost Spring fifteen miles. Road first rate. About one mile West of this place [Diamond Spring] there is a small creek, the name I do not know. This creek affords water at most seasons of the year. Wood plenty, grass good. After taking breakfast at the Diamond Spring, we yoked and advanced to Elm Creek, a distance of nine miles. Wood, water and grass plenty. Road today first rate. Distance from this place [Elm Creek] to Council Grove, seven miles. After taking breakfast at Council Grove, we yoked and advanced to Rock Creek, a distance of twelve miles. Two miles East of Council Grove an excellent camp can be had at Big John's [Creek] one miles from this place their [there] is an excellent spring and wood tolerable convenient. From this place to Rock Creek, four miles. From Rock Creek to Bluff Creek five miles. Grass water and wood plenty at all the above places. Road is good.

[October 16 - No entry]

October 17  We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to Bluff Creek. Here we took breakfast, then yoked and advanced to Hundred and forty two [Hundred and Forty-Two Mile Creek], a distance of six miles. After taking supper, we yoked and travelled about five miles further and encamped for the night. Three miles East of Hundred and Forty two [Mile Creek], a good camp can be had at Elm Creek. One mile East of this place is another creek, the name I do not know. About eight [miles] from this place their [there] is another creek affording water, wood and grass.

October 18  We raised camp [Chicken Creek] at the usual time
and advanced to a creek distant about five miles. The name of it I do not know. I know it is four miles West of Switslers Creek [Switzler's Creek]. Here we took our breakfast. Then advanced to Switslers [Switzler's] Creek for supper. There are four or five creeks between this and a Hundred forty two [Hundred and Forty Two Mile Creek], and it is eight miles from this [Switzler] Creek to a hundred and ten [110 Mile Creek]. Water, wood and grass plenty at this place.

October 19 We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to a Willow Spring, a distance of ten miles. This Spring affords a plenty of wood, water and grass. This place is twenty five miles from Hundred and ten [110 Mile] Creek. Road first rate in summer. Camps can be had almost anywhere between Willow Spring and Hundred and ten [110 Mile Creek], but there is not wood between the two places. The wood at Willow Spring is some little distance from the road, a half mile perhaps. After taking breakfast at this point, we yoked and advanced to Black Jack Point, a distance of ten miles, and encamped for the night. Water and grass plenty, wood scarce. A good camp can be had at Hickory Point, five miles East of Willow Spring and another camp seven [miles] East of the same place. Wood, water and grass plenty. Road good.

October 20 We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to a Willow Spring, a distance of ten miles. This Spring affords a plenty of wood, water and grass. This place is twenty five miles from Hundred and ten [110 Mile Creek]. Road first rate in summer. Camps can be had almost anywhere between Willow Spring and Hundred and ten [110 Mile Creek], but there is not wood between the two places. The wood at Willow Spring is some little distance from the road, a half mile perhaps. After taking breakfast at this point, we yoked and advanced to Black Jack Point, a distance of ten miles, and encamped for the night. Water and grass plenty, wood scarce. A good camp can be had at Hickory Point, five miles East of Willow Spring and another camp seven [miles] East of the same place. Wood, water and grass plenty. Road good.

October 21 We raised camp at the break of day and advanced to Bull Creek, a distance of ten miles. Wood, water and grass plenty at this place. After taking breakfast, we yoked and advanced to Sedar [Cedar] Creek, a distance of ten miles. Wood, water and grass plenty at this place. Road first rate.

October 22 We started at the break of day and advanced to Indian Creek, a distance of ten miles. After Taking breakfast at this place, we yoked and advanced to West Port, a distance of ten miles.

October 23 Harris Hotel at West Port, MO.

October 24 Warrensburg, MO.

Epilogue:
The Missouri Republican dated November 4, 1854, reprinted this item filed from Independence on October 23, 1854.

ARRIVAL OF A PART OF FX. AUBRY’S EXPLORING PARTY

We had the pleasure of a conversation with Messrs. Wm. Baskerville and R.M. Williams, who arrived in this city on the 23rd inst., from Santa Fe. From them we gather the following items in relation to the last trip of the lamented F.X. Aubry, from California to Santa Fe, in New Mexico. Mr. Baskerville and Williams have been traveling with the late F.X. Aubry for the last three years; having passed over the country four times, which afforded them a fine opportunity to make observation in relation to the different routes. They described the last route as being vastly superior by any discovered hitherto - meeting no hindrance by the way, to wagon travel and a greater part of the route almost like a continuous plain; even the passes through the mountain were made without difficulty or delay.

After Baskerville returned to Missouri in the fall of 1854, he spent the winter at home. In the spring of 1855, he made another trip to California. The following letter was sent to his father then residing in Henry County, Missouri.

Fort Kearney [on the Oregon California Trail in present Nebraska] 19th May 1855

Dear Father,

I gladly embrace the present opportunity to drop you a few lines. I fully intended to have written from Independence but could not do so owing to a press of business. I confidently expected when I left home to be able to get in a mule party but was sadly disappointed. Thus far we have traveled with an ox train and a very small one at that, numbering only five wagons and nineteen men. We intend this evening to make up a party large enough to go through. Much trouble is anticipated with Indians and as we are in advance of all the emigrants we will be most likely to fall a sacrifice. Should any danger really exist and I am fearful...
there is from the information I have been able to gather from different sources.

I called on the agent of the Dispatch at Westport and paid him for your paper. You will find the receipt enclosed. I have no news that would be likely to interest you. We have had good luck so far, our mules are improving a little. My health is not first rate but better than it was when I left home. I am not able to say when we will get through as we are with oxen and compelled to travel slow but I intend leaving them as soon as we can do so with safety. I must close. Please write me at Nevada, California. Much love for all.

Yours Truly,
W. Baskerville
Mr. W. B. Baskerville

Baskerville's health continued to deteriorate. In California he was taken sick and remained ill for nearly a year, depleting his entire savings. On the advice of his physician, in the fall of 1856 he made a trip to the West Indies, and from the Islands came home by way of New Orleans, arriving late in that year. He then engaged in the mercantile business with his father in Henry County, Missouri, and continued in the business until the end of the Civil War. His daughter Judith wrote, "During those lawless days, the store was plundered by bushwhackers, who destroyed a part of the goods and carried off the rest." Baskerville had previously purchased a farm in Deepwater Township, Bates County, in 1856, when land was cheap and plentiful. He improved the tract and made his permanent home there in section 25. By 1869, Mr. Baskerville owned over 336 acres of well-improved land.

On October 31, 1870, he married Miss Mary Caldwell, born in Kentucky. Their children were Benoni R., Virginia, Martha, Judith, and Lucien B. His daughters, none of whom married, took care of him during his final years. The youngest daughter Judith wrote, "Father mentioned Captain Aubry so frequently that his name was a household word in our house. Praising him for his kind heartedness and willingness to share all the hardships that his men must endure. Father was next to Aubry in authority, and he was trusted implicitly by him. Plans had already been made to go into the sheep business in California, taking Father as a partner, when Aubry's life so tragically ended. Father took charge, paying off the men and winding up the business."

William Baskerville died in June 1914 after a long illness. His obituary stated:

William Baskerville – In the life of William Baskerville we find a God-fearing man, rich in love of family and of this fellow men. Having a high conception of honor and integrity, he was possessed of a strength of character, a personality so strong that his influence was stamped upon all with whom he came in contact. He believed in a practical, working Christianity and was always ready to help the needy and unfortunate.

He was honest, industrious, economical and charitable. The world is made better by the lives of such men and the void is never filled when such men are called up higher.

William Baskerville was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, May 20, 1828, and passed away on June 16, 1914, on the farm he had lived upon continuously for the past fifty years in Bates County, MO. He came to Missouri when eight years of age and grew up to manhood in Cooper County. Then after spending five years freighting across the plains and in California, he settled upon the farm he resided upon until his death. . . .

He was laid to rest in Snodgrass cemetery, June 17 by the side of his wife who preceded him twenty-seven years. The large number of sorrowing friends and neighbors who gathered to do honor and show respect in his remains is a grateful testimonial of the high esteem in which he was held.

Editor's Note: The 1854 Santa Fe Trail diary of William Baskerville, Jr. is in the Western History Collections of the Denver Public Library. It was given to the library by Baskerville's youngest daughter, Judith. During the editing of the diary I was fortunate to locate descendants of William Baskerville after contacting the Bates County Museum in Missouri. They introduced me to descendants of William Baskerville. Patty Bartz, great-granddaughter from Rockville, Missouri, who works at the Appleton City Museum, and Steven C. Thomas, great-grandson from Kansas City, Missouri, who provided family histories, letters, and photographs. Beyond these precious additions, Aubry's own journal, newspaper articles, and genealogical documents expanded on Baskerville's diary. In addition to the actual diary, in 1976, Dalton C. Bergen transcribed the Baskerville diary. His commentary about the Parke Map of 1851 informed the editor of Baskerville's New Mexico route.

Colleagues and authors Leo Oliva and James Moore provided guidance and research information about various people and places related to the diary. I extend appreciation to End of the Trail Chapter members Peggy Poling, Ph.D., and Kermit Hill. I'm especially grateful to Steve Schmidt, SFTA member, author, and engineer. His knowledge of the trail in Kansas provides expert guidance to ensure this editor, and therefore readers, knows where these traders were on the trail in Kansas. Finally, I appreciate the Santa Fe Trail Association awarding Scholarly Research funds which allowed me to provide information about William Baskerville, Jr. and his involvement in the Santa Fe Trail trade.

Endnotes

2. The number of men and who travelled with Baskerville are unknown, other than Richard M. Williams listed in an article reprinted in the Missouri Republican, “Arrival of Part of F.X. Aubry’s Exploring Party,” (St. Louis: November 4, 1854).


4. Baskerville’s letter of introduction was provided by Steven C. Thomas, a descendant of William Baskerville via email June 23, 2020.


6. Connelly, born in Kentucky, practiced medicine and ran a store from 1820-1824 in Liberty, MO. He made several trips over the Santa Fe Trail as a trader. He moved to Chihuahua in 1828. In 1838, he married a Mexican woman who bore three children. Sometime in 1849, he moved his family to Peralta, New Mexico, 17 miles south of Albuquerque, where his first wife died. In 1849, he married Delores Perea, the widow of Don Mariano Chávez. From 1853-1859, Connelly was later governor of New Mexico Territory during the American Civil War, 1861-1866. www.geni.com/people/Henry-Connelly-5th-Governor-of-New-Mexico-Territory/6000000017477426845, retrieved July 29, 2020.

7. William Baskerville, Jr. was born in Virginia on May 20, 1828, to Mary (Ferguson) and William Barber Baskerville. When William was nine years old, his mother died, and his father moved to Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri.


10. Ibid., 1097.

11. Aubry’s strategy to make multiple round trips along the trail earned him the moniker Lightening Express as quoted in the St. Louis Reveille newspaper dated March 20, 1848.


15. Wyman, NMHR, 12.

16. Ibid. The company was plagued with Indian skirmishes consistently along their route. Ten days earlier, an arrow passed through the collar of Dick Williams, and Peter Prudon accidentally shot himself in the right knee. On August 14, 1854, the large attack occurred after Aubry’s group stopped for breakfast near an Indian camp of Garroteros near Yuma, Arizona. Despite Aubry selecting a camp site on top of a small hill to give them an advantage in case of a fight, Aubry himself had eight wounds, five of which gave him much suffering. Abner Adair was dangerously wounded and slowed the progress of the party as they continued their journey to New Mexico. An American, Mr. Hendry, and Francisco Guzman, New Mexican, distinguished themselves. None of Aubry’s men were killed. They killed 25 Indians and wounded more. The bows and arrows they captured and destroyed apparently filled a large wagon. Finally, it should be noted that Baskerville’s injury was serious. “He was tomahawked and desperately wounded. The scar, in which a finger could be laid,” was still visible as an old man. Statement from Patrick Baskerville, Genealogy of the Baskerville Family and ome Allied Families. (Richmond, VA: Wm. Ellis Jones Sons, Inc. 1912), 87.


18. Wyman, NMHR, 27.

19. According to the list of non-New Mexican merchants from the 1860 and 1870 censuses, Henri and Joseph Mercure were Canadians from Montreal. The brothers started with a store in Santa Fe at 66-1/2 San Francisco Street. By 1870, the older brother Henri operated a store in Tierra Amarilla. www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/safe/shsa4.htm, accessed July 29, 2020 and www.santafetrail.org/chapters/endortrail/pdf/M-Pitel_SantaFeSFTWalkingTourFinal.pdf Mike Pitel, Santa Fe Walking Tour, 2016.

20. For a detailed account of the incident resulting in Aubry’s death see Marc Simmons. Yesterday in Santa Fe: Episodes in a Turbulent History. (Santa Fe: San Marcos Press, 1969), 50.

21. Page preceding the first entry in the William Baskerville diary August 28-October 23, 1854. Western History Collection, Denver Public Library.


23. Ibid.

24. The mouth of the Canyon is present day Carmel, historically known as Carmue. The Cañon de Carmue genizaro grant was established in 1818.

25. Beckwith Ranch belonged to Hugh M. Beckwith who was born in Virginia. The 1850 U.S. federal census records lists Hugh M. Beckwith, a farmer, 31 years old, married to Refugio Beckwith, 17 years of age. The value of the ranch property is $6,500 with thirteen additional men, women, and children living at the ranch. The ranch was located near present San Pedro Spring on NM Highway 14.


27. Placer Mountain and El Punto are part of the Ortiz Mountains.


29. Gaviso Arroyo in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, Ibid.

30. Buckhorn Canyon in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, Ibid.

31. This is probably Big Lake in Santa Fe County, New Mexico, Ibid.

32. There are multiple mesas Baskerville may have referred to as buttes. In San Miguel County, if Baskerville was somewhere from 25-30 miles west of Anton Chico, the formations he is referring to may be Mesa el Toro and Mesa las Mulas where there are multiple wells today. Ibid.

33. The community grant of Anton Chico was established to encourage settlement along the Pecos frontier, thus expanding the Mexican claim in New Mexico. The Anton Chico grant is situated along the northern portion of the Pecos River in north central New Mexico. Anton Chico Abajo is the largest community on the grant, and was the first permanent settlement established in the
39. During Santa Fe Trail trading days, freighters stopped here for the water provided by the Santa Clara Spring. In 1850, a war party of Utes and Jicarilla Apaches used the vantage point of Wagon Mound to watch the approach of the Santa Fe-bound stage carrying ten men and the U.S. Mail. After a furious battle, all the whites were killed and the stage destroyed. Jackson, Santa Fe Trail, 231, 234.

40. The big pond is Stony Lake in Mora County, New Mexico. DeLorme Corp. New Mexico Atlas & Gazetteer. (Canada: 2012), 17.

41. Baskerville’s party crossed at the Rock Crossing of the Canadian River, El Vado de las Piedras, which today is on private land two miles south of US Highway 56 in Colfax County, New Mexico. This famous crossing was used by Indians from early times as well as later travelers on the Cimarron Route. The crossing has a natural stone floor for a short distance only. Upstream it is sandy and hard to cross, while downstream a deep, rocky canyon makes it impossible to cross. This spot was considered to be the real entry into Mexico, and Mexican troops were sometimes sent this far to escort traders back to Santa Fe. It was also the site of several Indian raids on the caravans. Wagon ruts are still visible leading to and from this crossing. www.santafetrailresearch.com/mileagecharts/sfr-cimarron-cut-off.html, retrieved March 30, 2020.

42. Marsh Creek is Chico Creek in Colfax County. DeLorme, New Mexico Atlas, 18.

43. The butte is Black Hill. Ibid.

44. There are four “Point of Rocks” on the Santa Fe Trail - one in Colfax County, New Mexico, and three in Kansas. New Mexico’s Point of Rocks is a narrow rocky-sloped mesa with a year-round spring at its south base. It was a popular campsite for various Indian buffalo-hunting parties and Santa Fe Trail caravans traveling the Cimarron Route. Numerous teepee rings, the grave of Isaac Allen and 11 other unmarked graves, along with sweeping views of the Great Plains and the ruts of the Santa Fe Trail can be seen from this promontory.

45. Whetstone Creek could be present-day Gallegos Creek. DeLorme, New Mexico Atlas, 18.

46. The first creek east of Point of Rocks is Holko Creek. Ibid.

47. The third creek could be a dried up bed called Don Carlos Creek.

48. White’s Creek is today called Palo Blanco Creek. DeLorme, New Mexico Atlas, 18.

49. James White, a merchant, his wife Ann, daughter Virginia, a black female slave, and a few employees were traveling from Independence along the trail to New Mexico. For protection, White’s train, consisting of 13 wagons, joined Frances X. Aubry’s larger train. Upon entering New Mexico, on October 23, 1849, White decided to leave Aubry’s slow-moving larger train. White’s party departed in two Dearborn carriages to quickly transport his sickly wife and their child along the trail. Two days later on October 25, White’s little caravan along with a few riders crossed Palo Blanco creek and stopped for a noonday rest. Their small party was spotted by a Jicarilla Apache hunter, who, after observing multiple parties travelling in the vicinity, returned to the Jicarilla Apache camp south of Point of Rocks to report to his chief, Lobo Blanco. Lobo Blanco with fifty warriors hastily rode to James White camp to demand gifts for a safe crossing over their land. Two Germans traveling with the White party, inexperienced with Indian affairs, were both afraid and indignant over the demand for gifts. As one of the Jicarilla men searched through one of the German’s pack, the German became enraged and shot him. Lobo Blanco killed James White and warriors lanced the other men. Ann White, her female slave, and child Virginia were carried off by the Jicarilla warriors. The news of the massacre reached Santa Fe on October 29. The next day Aubry arrived in Santa Fe and immediately sent letters to various communities offering the unheard-of sum of $1,000 for the return of the captive women. Two weeks later, Ann White was killed when a military expedition attacked the Jicarilla camp on the Canadian River south of Tucumcari Butte. The child and Negro slave were never recovered. Doug Hocking, Terror on the Santa Fe Trail: Kit Carson and the Jicarilla Apache. (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. 2019), 82-85.

50. Rock Creek could be the present-day confluence of Carrizo Creek and Gallegos Creek, both of which have rocky creek beds. DeLorme, New Mexico Atlas, 18.

51. Present-day Mt. Clayton is the Round Mound Baskerville references, south of Grenville, New Mexico, on the Cimarron Route. It is a prominent irregular shaped landmark along the trail between Rabbit Ears Creek and Point of Rocks.

52. Mount Dora is one of the guideposts in the vicinity of Rabbit Ears Creek. Its sloping north face ends in a series of rocky bluffs or a tableland that determined the route along Rabbit Ears Creek for miles. Brown, Santa Fe Trail, 126.

53. The editor thinks Baskerville and his
men camped at Turkey Creek Camp, which is ten miles west of McNees Crossing. Cottonwood Creek is present-day Alamos [Spanish for Cottonwood] Creek which meanders north and south of the trail for miles. DeLorme, New Mexico Atlas, 18.

54. McNees Crossing is located on Corrumpa Creek. It is named for Robert McNees who was killed there while taking a mid-day nap by the creek in 1828. This site is also known for a Fourth of July celebration recorded by Josiah Gregg, the second such documented celebration in New Mexico, the first celebration of America’s Independence being recorded by Dr. Rowland Willard in 1825 in Taos, New Mexico. Brown, 126, and Joy Poole, Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2017), 56, 164.

55. Cold Spring on the Cimarron Route is in Oklahoma. Today it is enclosed within a stone spring house located on private ranch property.

56. The spring Baskerville is probably referring to is Upper (Flag) Spring. Flag Spring earned its name from a guide flag mounted on a high crag at one time. Brown, Santa Fe Trail, 119. Franzwa, Maps, 129

57. Willow Bar was at the crossing of the Cimarron just south of the present Oklahoma boundary. The water here was intermittent. Albert Spey’s caravan of September 1844 was marooned here in a snowstorm, and most of his mules died from cold and starvation. According to James Josiah Webb, it became a favorite sport of travelers to arrange the mule bones in fanciful patterns for the amusement of the next caravan. Brown, The Santa Fe Trail, 117.

58. Middle Spring located near the Cimarron River is one mile northeast of the Point of Rocks in present Morton County, Kansas. The river was normally dry, with intermittent pools appearing only after a rain, and the springs were the only sure water supply. Surveyor Joseph C. Brown noted the Middle Spring near half a mile from the creek [Cimarron River], on the north of it, near a mile below [downstream from] a sort of rock bluff at the point of the hill. Brown, The Santa Fe Trail, 113-117.

59. Today, Lower Spring is known as Wagon Bed Spring in Kansas. Reaching this spring heading west before fording the Cimarron was a much-needed source for water, some say the most important spring, along the trail for traders travelling west. It was renamed Wagon Bed when a wooden wagon was sunk into the spring to serve as a holding tank. Jackson and Simmons, The Santa Fe Trail: A Guide, 214. The earliest account of the spring was written by Surveyor Joseph C. Brown, "The spring is at the west edge of a marsh green with bull rushes. The marsh is north of the creek and near it. The spring is constant, but the creek is sometimes dry until you ascend it ten or twelve miles, where it will be found running." www.legendsofamerica.com/wagon-bed-spring-kansas/, retrieved July 29, 2020.

60. The Battle Ground refers to an engagement between Texas freebooters, led by Charles Warfield, sent to raid Mexican trade caravans on the trail in 1843. The Texans divided into two units, the other led by Jacob Snively, and they intended to rob Mexican wagon trains. They had little success. New Mexican Governor Manuel Armijo sent an advance force to counter the raiders while he led a larger military unit to protect the freights. In June, Warfield engaged the New Mexican advance of about 100 men at a point about fifteen miles south of the Cimarron Crossing of the Arkansas River. The Texans reportedly killed 18, wounded 18, and took some 60 prisoners while suffering no losses. Governor Armijo turned back when he received this information. The Texas forces decided to retreat when they learned the United States had sent troops under Captain Philip St. George Cooke to protect the Mexican traders. Snively’s force was captured, disarmed, and sent back to Texas. The other Texans also returned home. The Battle Ground became a landmark and campground that was noted by many travelers. Battleground footnote provided by Leo Oliva via an email and derived from Barry, Beginning of the West, 478-79, 701, 775.

61. The reference to the heavy road was due to the sand which made the wagons hard to pull.

62. Fort Mackey was the name given to a temporary camp near the Cimarron Crossing of the Arkansas River, founded by Colonel Edwin Vose Summer in the summer of 1850 while deciding on the permanent location for a new military post. The post was later established near old Fort Mann, just west of present Dodge City, and named Fort Atkinson. Many travelers continued to refer to Fort Atkinson as Fort Mackey. Fort Atkinson was abandoned in late summer of 1854, thus there were no troops there when Baskerville passed the site. For the history of Fort Atkinson, see Leo E. Oliva, “Fort Atkinson on the Santa Fe Trail,” Kansas Historical Quarterly, 40, No.2 (Summer 1974), 212-33.

63. Upper Crossing, as used here by Baskerville, is the crossing at present In-galls, Kansas. The Upper Crossing of the Arkansas usually refers to the crossing near present Lakin, Kansas. Email from Dr. Leo Oliva dated March 28, 2020.

64. The first ford is at present Cimarron, Kansas. Ibid.

65. Fort Atkinson, as noted, was abandoned in 1854. Ibid.

66. Jackson’s Grove was a campsite and is a famous trail landmark. Jackson’s Grove was also known as Jackson’s Island and Ferguson’s Grove. This well-known spot on the Wet Route was located in a huge stand of trees extending about a quarter-mile along the south bank of the Arkansas River. It was here that Captain Cooke confronted Colonel Snively and his Texas freebooters, who had come north with the intention of robbing Mexican caravans along the Santa Fe Trail. The American soldiers patrolled the trail more in 1843 after the murder of Antonio José Chávez earlier in the year. Leo E. Oliva, Soldiers on the Santa Fe Trail (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), 46-49, and Jackson & Simmons, Santa Fe Trail (Woodston, KS: Trails Press, 2015), 194.

67. The trail split into the Wet and Dry Routes east of Fort Atkinson. Baskerville followed the Wet Route along the Arkansas River.

68. Coon Creek Crossing (on the Wet Route) is almost one mile west of present Garfield, Kansas. From its headwaters in Ford County, Kansas, Coon Creek pursues a convoluted course to the northeast, paralleling the north bank of the Arkansas River through Edwards and Pawnee counties before finding its confluence with the Arkansas River near Garfield. Jackson and Simmons, Santa Fe Trail, 191, and www.santafetrailresearch.com/research/coon-creek-crossing.html.

69. Big Bend of the Arkansas is at present Ellinwood, Kansas. Email from Leo Oliva dated March 28, 2020.

70. The Plum Buttes were a well-known landmark. Historically, they were three enormous sand mounds formed and eroded by Kansas winds. Today, plum bushes and small sand dunes remain. Franzwa, Maps, 80-81.

71. Cow Creek marked the boundary between the tall grass and short grass prairies stretching westward, the latter dominated by blue grama and buffalo grasses, the prize free range of the buffalo. Jackson and Simmons, Santa Fe Trail, 168-69.

72. In 1843, Antonio José Chávez was traveling east on the Santa Fe Trail with
five servants, one wagon, five mules and a large amount of cash ($10,000). Fifteen men from Missouri under the command of John McDaniel intercepted Chávez east of the creek. The bandits had come west specifically to rob Mexican merchants, and after robbing Chavez they murdered him. Most of the men were apprehended and two men were hanged for his murder, Jackson and Simmons.

The camp would have been Jarvis (Chavez) Creek ten miles west of the Little Arkansas. Email communication with Steve Schmidt, November 2, 2020.

Mud Creek is Wolf Creek four miles east of the Little Arkansas. Ibid.

The arroyo is probably Blaze Fork west of Groveland, Kansas. Ibid.

Running Turkey Creek. Ibid.

Mud Creek is French Creek. Ibid.

Baskerville and his men had supper on Glenda and Steve Schmidt’s property about 5 miles NW of Lehigh, Marion County, Kansas. Ibid.

Through an email communication with Steve Schmidt, the location of the meeting with Baskerville’s and the Bishop Lamy’s parties occurred in western Marion County, Kansas. Depending on the time of day, west-bound travelers like Bishop Lamy’s party usually had breakfast on Cottonwood Creek. The 1854 journey across the Santa Fe Trail was Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy’s second trip. He was returning from the town, Council Grove became the last outfitting place on the trail for west-bound travelers.

Baskerville is confused. He is at Bluff Creek about 12 miles from Council Grove. Email communication with Steve Schmidt November 2, 2020.

Chicken Creek, Ibid.

Onion Creek, Ibid.

Dragoon Creek is about 8 miles from Onion Creek, Ibid.

Soldier Creek, Ibid.

 Soldier Creek is four miles west of Switzler’s Creek. Ibid.

Switzer’s Creek is in present Burlingame, Kansas. In 1847, John Switzer built a log toll bridge over the creek. Switzer had an Indian wife. As a member of her tribe, he was allowed to circumvent the prohibition of white settlement. Franzwa, Maps, 30.

Baskerville’s party apparently camped part way between Switzer and 100 Mile Creek.

West Fork Tauy Creek. Email communication from Steve Schmidt, November 2, 2020.

The Harris House Hotel was located at 444 Westport Road. During the Battle of Westport on October 23, 1864, Union Ma-

Joy L. Poole received an SFTA Research Grant for this project. She is Deputy State Librarian for the New Mexico State Library, and a former museum administrator for the Colorado Historical Society. She also was co-founder of the Santa Fe Trail Association and served for ten years on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Advisory Council for the National Park Service – Long Distance Trails.

News from Other Trails

OCTA has posted a series of videos on their YouTube channel. New videos are rolled out each Friday. Recent releases of interest to Santa Fe Trail members include Lone Elm Campground in Olathe, Kansas and Hiram Young: From Slave to Wealthy Wagon Maker.

The Pike National Historic Trail Feasibility Study is ongoing. A draft route of Pike’s expedition has been digitized in GIS, and route maps are posted on the project website at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/pike. A series of virtual public meetings is planned for May/June 2021. Notification of these meetings will be posted on the project website as well.
In Memoriam

**Davy J. Mitchell** died in Lubbock, Texas, on April 1, 2021, at age 82. He was the owner and operator of The Outdoorsman in Lubbock for 44 years. He loved anything to do with the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and Western American History. Davy was a member and Board member of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the High Plains Jr. Rodeo Association Board for many years. The family suggests memorials be sent to The Santa Fe Trail Assn., 1349 K-56 Hwy, Larned, KS 67550, in memory of Davy Mitchell, or online at www.lastchancestore.org/donations/, or to the First Baptist Church, 202 SE 1st Street, Morton, TX 79346. His full obituary can be read at https://abellfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/1186/Davy-J-Mitchell/obituary.html.

**Robert ”Robbie” Roberts** died on March 29, at age 75. He had been the curator of the Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico, since 2008. A SFTA member, he worked to maintain access to the Santa Fe Trail for the public at the Center.

Chapter Reports

**Chapters are listed in order from the beginning of the Trail in Missouri westward.**

**TO CONTACT CHAPTER PRESIDENTS, PLEASE EMAIL THEM AT info@santafetrail.org.**

**Missouri River Outfitters**

Independence, MO

President Anne Mallinson

The Missouri River Outfitters will hold its next meeting by Zoom at 9:00 on Saturday, May 1. Daniel L. Smith will talk about the Harris-Kearney house, trails, and the town of Kansas. Mr. Smith is a longtime member of the Westport Historical Society.

Officers remain the same as in 2020 since we voted to change the bylaws so board members serve for two years instead of one. Longtime board member John Atkinson resigned due to COVID restrictions. We appreciate the years of dedication and expertise that John brought to trail preservation but he will surely be missed at board meetings. We welcome SFTA member Cindy White Hunt as a new member of the MRO board. Cindy lives in Independence and has enjoyed a lifelong interest in history and economics. She is a member of several historical organizations, so we look forward to her joining us as we work on upcoming projects and events.

Pat Traffas has volunteered to be a part of the planning committee for Symposium 2023. Mary Conrad chairs the Speakers Committee. The Symposium Committee has been researching several Independence venues for accommodations, meetings, and meals. We will center the theme around history as preserved through art.

The wayside at Arrow Rock Ferry Landing is under development by Carol Clark with NPS. Rich Lawson and Larry Short are applying for $1,000 from the SFTA marking fund for additional plaques at the Arrow Rock Ferry Landing site. Members of MRO will take part in events planned for Saturday, June 5th, National Trails Day, at Black Jack Ruts in Douglas County, Kansas.

In June Anne Mallinson will travel to Arrow Rock to visit with members of the Arrow Rock Stock and Trading Company regarding the September 1 MRO kickoff of the commemoration of the bicentennial and events at Fort Osage the following weekend. MRO received a 2020 education grant from SFTA to help fund events for that day and will apply for a 2021 education grant to fund events the following weekend. Both Rich Lawson and Mike Dickey have agreed to do presentations on September 1. The Trailside Center volunteers have decided to have a festival to commemorate the bicentennial on Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

The Kansas City Archaeological Society has completed four days of mapping at the 1844 Rice-Tremonti House in Raytown, Missouri. To view photos of the project, go to Kansas City Archaeological Society Facebook page. Four of the photos are under "Recent Media".
Douglas County
Baldwin City, KS
President Roger Boyd

“Trails and Trailblazers” Bicentennial event, June 5. Commemorate the bicentennial of the Santa Fe Trail and explore the nearby Black Jack Battlefield “Bleeding Kansas” site linked to abolitionist John Brown. Activities between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in downtown Baldwin City at Sullivan Square include old time games, buggy rides, a real stage coach on display, history display, and more. Shuttle buses leave on the half hour from Baker University’s Collins Center Parking lot at 6th and Fremont streets to historic sites. Baker University Old Castle Museum, just north of the parking lot, will also be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The official 2 p.m. dedication of a new Black Jack Ruts Trail that runs along some of the nation’s best preserved Santa Fe Trail wagon ruts will be at the Ivan Boyd Memorial Prairie Preserve 3 miles east of Baldwin. Speakers for the dedication will represent the National Park Service, SFTA, Kansas Department of Transportation, Douglas County, and the city of Baldwin City. Following the dedication will be a tour of the battlefield at 3:00 p.m. with John Brown and Capt. Pate. Parking at both sites is limited, so using the shuttle will be required.

In other activity, we are working with KDOT and SFTA to install new directional signage in the Baldwin area along US 56. Due to COVID, the Midland RR tourist train has gone out of business and we are currently looking for a new tenant for the Santa Fe Depot in Baldwin City.

Heart of the Flint Hills
Council Grove, KS
President Sharon Haun

The year 2020 has certainly been a different kind of year. We have all been challenged by COVID-19. Before the March shutdown, the members of Heart of the Flint Hills chapter were working, along with the committee appointed by the City of Council Grove, to plan a full year’s worth of activities and events in 2021, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail. Once we were closed down in March 2020, we continued planning and hoping we would be able to start our programs and events in January 2021. But as the pandemic closings continued, we finally had to give up any hope of starting with those January events. However, our optimism continued that we would still be able to have our outside events. And we are moving ahead with those plans. They are as follows:

June 11 - Michael Martin Murphey concert. This will be the first event in our new Riverwalk Amphitheater.
June 12 - The Symphony in the Flint Hills will be at Council Grove, with their emphasis on the SFT. Six of our own SFT Trail Troupe will be on the symphony site, in character, visiting with the symphony attendees about their days on and beside the SFT.
July 16, 17 - Gunfight on the Santa Fe Trail. This Friday and Saturday event will feature reenactments and competition of 1800s conflicts, as well as other entertainment. The reenactors will be camping in the Riverwalk Park, with their camps open to the public for visits. Band concerts are scheduled for both Friday and Saturday evenings.
August 28 – Military on the Santa Fe Trail, and a Juried BBQ contest, Grilling on the Trail. The military event will include Civil War troops, Buffalo soldiers, and Mormon soldiers. We are finalizing plans for the evening concert.

Sept 4 – The Madonna Trudge. This is a women’s race, sponsored by the DAR. Prizes will be awarded for best outfitted like the Madonna Statue, best display of stoic attitude exhibited by pioneer women, and best effort to represent the Madonna Statue.

Sept 17, 18 – Rendezvous at Council Grove. Council Grove will host a wagon show and mountain men encampment. The wagon show will feature a display of historic and restored wagons, a blacksmith, wheelwright, wagon experts to explain the wagon features, as well as speakers and other entertainment. The wagon show will be in the Council Oak Park. The mountain men encampment will be in the park near the CG swimming pool and ball park. This encampment will be open to the public to enjoy and learn about the life and experiences of the mountain men.

The historical pageant The Voices of the Wind People will be performed in the amphitheater Friday and Saturday nights. This is a multimedia outdoor pageant, telling the story of the Kaw Indians, Council Grove, and the Santa Fe Trail. The story is told from two viewpoints, Chief Allegawaho and Seth Hays. Members of the Kaw Nation are in an encampment on the set, and sing and dance many times throughout the performance. The Council Grove 1850s residents make their appearances, as do wagons from the wagon trains heading to Santa Fe and returning, and the stage coach providing transportation to and from Council Grove.

September 18 – Burlingame, another significant town on the SFT, is putting together plans for a day-long event featuring many SFT stories and places in and around their town.

The SFT 200 committee has plans for more indoor events to finish out the year, but those are on hold because of COVID. And because COVID-19 has shut down many of our planned events in 2021, we expect to continue with many of those program ideas into the next years and into 2025, commemorating another big year recognizing Sibley’s survey of the trail.

Cottonwood Crossing
Hillsboro, KS
President Doug Sharp

Quivira
McPherson, KS
President Linda Colle

The Quivira Chapter kicked off 2021 with a Zoom program on January 30. Dave Kendall presented “The Making of the Santa Fe Trail Documentary.” On February 9, Pauline Sharp presented another Zoom program, a historical performance as her grandmother, “Chief Lucy, First Woman Chief of the Kanza.” The Zoom program format allows us to reach people from all over the country. It has been interesting to see where people are from. We hope to continue using Zoom in addition to programs we are doing live. Our program from the Barton County Museum on April 17, presented by Jay Clark, “Buffalo Soldiers – Protecting the Santa Fe Trail,” was both live and Zoom.

The Quivira Chapter Photo Contest has been extended to June 30. The cold and inclement weather in the first three months of the year did not encourage people to get out on the Trail to
SFTA Annual Membership January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

Name(s) ____________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________

City ____________________ State _______ Zip ___________

Phone __________________ Email ____________________________

☐ New member  ☐ Renewing member

I am a member of the following chapter(s) ___________________

I’d like to make a donation to assist the SFTA with programs and events.
I’d like to donate to the Junior Wagon Master Fund.
I’d like to donate to the Marker Fund.

TOTAL ENCLOSED ___________________

To pay by credit card, go to www.santafetrail.org, and click on “Join the Organization.”

The Santa Fe Trail Association is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, and all donations beyond membership dues are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Mail to Ruth Olson Peters, Treasurer, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156 Hwy, Larned, KS 67550

Renew by mailing using the above form or renew online at www.santafetrail.org

If you have renewed your membership, pass the form along to a friend or colleague.

Chapter Reports

take pictures so we hope that this extension will give people a chance to get out on the Trail.

Our Quivira Chapter Passport Adventure has been very popular. The Passport book requires people to go out and collect stickers from each of our sites. Once they complete the book, they can have it verified at the three museums, McPherson Museum, Coronado Quivira in Lyons, or the Barton County Historical Society Museum in Great Bend. Once their passport book is verified, they can enter the Grand Prize Drawing for $200. One winner will be drawn at the end of the year. We have given the Passport Books out to several schools, and the students were all excited to visit sites and collect the stickers without even knowing about the Grand Prize. The Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau, especially director Christina Hayes, was key in getting this project going. Christina did the design and provided the funding for printing of 5000 books and stickers. The Quivira Chapter installed the sticker boxes at each site, and now we are trying to keep the boxes supplied.

Coming in June, you can learn to be a historical performer. Joyce Thierer and Ann Birney of Ride into History will share their expertise on becoming a historical performer. Three separate week-long camps will be presented, one in each of our three counties, from 1-5 p.m. each day plus a Friday evening performance, open to the public. The characters represented will all be from the Santa Fe Trail. The camps are for 4th grade through adults. Dates are June 7-11 in Great Bend, June 14-18 in Lyons, and June 21-25 in McPherson. Registration information is on our website and Facebook sites, www.2021santafetrailkansas.com/ and at www.facebook.com/200thSantafetrailKansas/.

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, the Quivira Chapter donated books to the public libraries in our three counties. We donated 22 books for kids and adults, all about the Santa Fe Trail, to each library. Donations were made to a total of 16 libraries, and all the libraries appreciated the donations. In conjunction with the book donation, the Chapter promoted Read Across the Santa Fe Trail on March 1-5 to coincide with Read Across America. Several of our schools participated, including the Ellinwood School, which even provided photos. See photo above.

We have many more activities planned throughout the year to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. We hope to see you at some of our events.
The Wet/Dry Chapter was not able to hold regular meetings in 2020. As a result, members did not have to pay chapter dues for 2021. We have missed seeing everyone.

The chapter will meet at 2:00 p.m. for an ice cream social and meeting on August 1 at the First Presbyterian Church, 8th and Morris, Lamar. No reservations necessary. Featured speaker is Ron Gruber about the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. All are welcome.

A few members have expressed the hopes to attend the Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Symposium sponsored by the “Bent’s Fort Chapter” in La Junta, Colorado September 23-26. 2021. We are looking forward to attending what looks to be a great event.

We are now 200 years from the start of the Santa Fe Trail and the struggle to create the nation. I wonder if we could talk with the teamsters who traveled on the trail what they would have said that they could never put in print. The documented history was often written with a motive or desire to record something. We get an understanding of what happened that is often fantasized or cleaned up. It struck me that we have a wonderful large number of documents and written records, but just what words would really be used if we could sit down and visit with those who traveled the trail?

Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron
Dodge City, KS
President Bill Bunyan

Though we have not held any meetings since February of 2020, we have been getting a few things done. One of our main projects for our 200th anniversary year has been to put a picture and caption of our trail sites in Ford and Gray Counties in our Dodge City newspaper, the Santa Fe Trail Association e-blast, Santa Fe Trail websites, and Bill Bunyan’s Facebook page. So far we have featured the following sites and storyboards: Robert Wright monument, the Santa Fe Trail and Cimarron, the Howell Rut, the Point of Rocks, the commanding officers at Fort Dodge, the Burr Parkway Rut, the Chilton Monument, the Ingalls city park DAR marker, Fort Atkinson, Point of Rocks, and the Caches monument. We will feature one a week for the rest of this year.

With the upcoming highway expansion between Dodge City and Cimarron, several of our Santa Fe Trail sites will be impacted: Point of Rocks, three markers and plaques, two storyboards, and the Caches Monument. It is hoped that KDOT will move these, store them, and re-set them after the highway work is completed. However, we have a contingency plan if they won’t. This work has to be done by June 1. In 2014, we reached an agreement with KDOT to save most of the Point of Rocks and we hope this will be honored.

As another anniversary project we are having 30,000 Santa Fe Trail placemats made for three restaurants; the Cowtown and the Dodge House in Dodge City and the Santa Fe Grill in Cimarron. Each will get 10,000. Another project that is in the works is to bring a speaker to Dodge City Days in August. This would be a joint project with the Western Cattle Trail group and Boot Hill Museum.

Tentatively we are hoping to resume chapter meetings in May if things look positive. I have been checking the geocaches, and so far they look good. On May 22, the DAR will rededicate their marker east of Fort Dodge. This marker commemorates the convergence of the Wet and Dry Routes.

Vice President Deb Calhoun is running for the national Santa Fe Trail Association Board. She will be a good member. She is a life member of the Association and has attended many symposiums and rendezvous and grew up on the Santa Fe Trail near Ingalls.

Wagon Bed Spring
Lakin, KS
President Linda Peters

Wagon Bed Spring members have not been able to meet this year, but hope to have some activities during the 2021 Commemoration.

Cimarron Cutoff
Elkhart, KS
President Jay Williams

The Cimarron Heritage Center will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail with a tour across Cimarron County, visiting the sites along the Santa Fe Trail Friday June 18. We will meet at the museum at 7:00 a.m. Buses will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. and return to the museum for lunch (there will be a fee of $10.00 for lunch) at approximately 1:00 p.m. then head back on the tour to more sites. No dogs or babies allowed! Some walking will be required, so plan accordingly. RSVP is required, 580-544-3479. We will need the number in your party and a phone number. The cutoff date is June 12.

Bent’s Fort
Lamar, CO
President Kevin Lindahl

GREAT NEWS! As of March 19, several southeast Colorado counties achieved the COVID “Green” level status. With fewer restrictions as to gatherings, the Bent’s Fort Chapter is looking forward to more treks. It didn’t take us long to get out on the trail—March 20th found chapter members at John Martin Reservoir maintaining trail ruts, DAR marker, and interpretive signs. A Santa Fe Trail road sign was also placed. The weather cooperated and we had a great time just getting out in the fresh air, enjoying some physical work, and visiting with Santa Fe Trail friends we hadn’t seen for a year or more. Our annual clean-up of the Boggs villa site was April 10. This is more important than ever this year as many of you will be visiting the site during the 2021 Santa Fe Trail Symposium. We hope you have all registered for what promises to be a “stellar” event along the trail commemorating the 200th. Registration is easy and secure at The Last Chance Store. Go to 2021sfts.com for a link to the Last Chance Store, or print a registration form and “snail mail” it.

Over the last months, the Bent’s Fort Chapter has been able to use Zoom and Free Conference Call technology to meet for chapter events as well as symposium planning meetings. We
are thankful for this technology. One such event was our “Read Along the Trail” gathering in February, where we met virtually to hear reviews of several interesting books. We also met virtually in December for our 2021 planning meeting. In addition to the symposium, we have some wonderful events planned for 2021. If you cannot join in person, you can catch us on our Facebook page.

**Corazon de los Caminos**  
Cimarron, NM  
President Doyle Daves

Our chapter has been unable to meet owing to the pandemic and New Mexico’s rules concerning meetings. Just recently, Colfax County was declared green and the chapter met on April 17 in Raton.

The chapter is moving forward with plans to commemorate the SFT 200th anniversary in cooperation with the End of Trail Chapter and the New Mexico Daughters of the American Revolution (NMSODAR). The three groups are planning events for the weekend of November 12-14. The Corazon program will occur on Friday, November 12. On Saturday and Sunday, November 13-14, the NMSODAR will rededicate commemorative SFT markers, and the End of Trail Chapter will present several impressive events. It will be a great SFT weekend!

November 12, Las Vegas, New Mexico  
[Detailed program and registration information will be available soon, lvcchp.org]

Speakers: Henrietta Martinez Christmas, President, Historical Society of New Mexico; Christine St. Vrain, descendant of Santa Fe Trail pioneers; Robert Torrez, New Mexico State Historian, retired; Frances Levine, President and CEO, Missouri Historical Society; and James Abreu, descendant of Santa Fe Trail pioneers. A banquet and entertainment, TBD, will follow the program. Corazon member Rudy Laumbach will be honored on his 90th birthday.

Other SFT 200th events by Corazon communities:

June 19-20 (Saturday and Sunday), Fort Union Days at Fort Union National Monument. Living history and a guided walk along the nearby Santa Fe Trail ruts.www.nps.gov/foun, 505-425-8025 ext. 0.

Sept 27-Oct 3, Trinidad, Colorado, Raton, Cimarron, NRA Whittington Center, Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. marty.hackett@trinidad.co.gov, jchatterley@cityofraton.com

**End of the Trail**  
Santa Fe, NM  
President Joy Poole

**Save the Dates**: November 13-15. Members of the End of the Trail Chapter have organized a 200th Anniversary committee to strategize on events to recognize the beginnings of the Santa Fe Trail trade. With the New Mexico’s lower COVID-19 infection rate and strong progress towards vaccinations, we are cautiously optimistic we will gather in person to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail trade the second weekend of November 2021.

The New Mexico chapters of the Santa Fe Trail Association in coordination with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will offer a series of historical and culinary presentations in our region. Visitors will be welcomed at Jim Gordon’s private museum in Glorieta on Saturday morning. In Santa Fe we are planning an afternoon lecture by Arizona State University - American Indian Studies Professor James Riding In, Ph.D (Pawnee) about the Indians along the Santa Fe Trail. A buffalo or trout dinner will be served, featuring the foods of the Santa Fe Trail at the historic La Fonda Hotel, with the program still being negotiated. The 200th Anniversary events culminate on Sunday morning, with a historic reenactment of William Becknell, portrayed by Jeff Hengeshab, with a group of trail-weary traders riding horses onto the Santa Fe Plaza to be greeted by Governor Melgares, portrayed by Dr. Tom Chavez, PhD.

**Book and Newsletter**  
A Santa Fe Trail Poetry book, edited by Sandra Doe, Dr. Leo Oliva, and Joy Poole with support through the New Mexico State Library, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, will be published in 2021.

Even without in-person chapter meetings with lectures or field trips, our members have stayed loyal. We are fortunate to have Priscilla Gutierrez as our chapter newsletter editor, whose own research and writings and those of others have kept chapter members informed and entertained on the unique history of the trail and northern New Mexico.

**Mapping Committee - High Intensity Sites**  
Mike Najdowski, as a member of the Mapping Committee, gave input into High Intensity Sites and Segment Review organized by Larry Short and the NPS. Of particular interest is a segment of large swales on the west side of the Pecos River between San Miguel del Vado and San Jose del Vado. He also submitted the following two items to the SFTA Historic Map: Old Santa Fe Trail (Rd.) – approx. at Wagon Meadow Rd. on the south where the SFTNHT enters Quail Run area, and Camino Cheros (Rd.) on the north where it meets up with the Santa Fe Trail National Historic Trail, Rayado to Taos section, as noted by surveyor Brown (often with subsequent travel from Taos to Santa Fe).

**Monuments**  
Our final concern in Santa Fe is what should be done with trails-related monuments which are now considered offensive to some members of our community and sacrosanct to others. Our board sent a letter with historical context and our concerns to City of Santa Fe officials. In addition, we are informing our chapter membership as to how they can be involved in the city-organized CHART process, which still has not gotten off the ground since the Soldier’s Monument, an obelisk on the plaza, was damaged and dismantled in October 2020. The CHART Process does have the potential to be a productive experience for the community, and everyone has the opportunity to participate. †
American Solar Car Challenge Schedules Stops along the Santa Fe Trail

From August 4-7, solar car teams from around the world will closely follow in the historic traces of oxen- and mule-drawn wagons along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail (NHT) for the 2021 American Solar Challenge. Starting in Independence, MO, teams will make daily stops in communities and national parks along the route, following the Trail via the Mountain Route from Independence, MO, to Santa Fe, NM, and loop back to finish at Las Vegas, NM. All activities are free and open to the public. Planned stops are:

INDEPENDENCE, MO, August 3. Independence Courthouse Square.


DODGE CITY, KS, August 5. Boot Hill Museum and Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

LA JUNTA, CO, August 5. Thursday afternoon and evening, Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site. If conditions are cloudy, several teams may travel through on the morning of Friday, August 6.

LAS VEGAS, NM, August 6. Solar cars that arrive early may complete an additional loop to Fort Union National Monument.

SANTA FE, PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, LAS VEGAS, August 7.

On the morning of August 7, the solar cars will depart for a final loop to Santa Fe and back, passing Pecos National Historical Park, and returning to Las Vegas for the finish line. The solar cars will remain on display until evening.

The arrival time of the solar cars at each site will depend on traffic, weather, and each team’s energy supply and management decisions. As the date of the event draws near, more detailed information will be available at www.nps.gov/safe/getinvolved/american-solar-challenge.htm. Information will also be posted to the NPS Santa Fe NHT Facebook page @SantaFeTrailNPS and the American Solar Challenge Facebook page @AmericanSolarChallenge. Information: contact Jessica Ostfeld, the American Solar Challenge Event Coordinator for National Trails, at jessica_ostfeld@partner.nps.gov.