On The Cover: The Historian
by Tracy Teeter

This portrait of Jeff Trotman acting the role of Jedediah Smith represents the myriad of reenactors along the Trail, some of whom we saw at the Rendezvous in Larned, Kansas, in September. They included Dr. Ann Birney portraying Julia Archibald Holmes; Kitty Frank, Kitty Hays; Angela Bates, Stagecoach Mary; and Donna Madison on the facing page portraying Cathay Williams.

Telling the stories of trail travelers in the first person brings history alive in a way that reading about them cannot. For the portrayer, acting the role involves research, drama, and an opportunity to step outside of oneself and be part of history. If this sounds appealing to you, one way to get involved is to attend Ride into History’s “Preserving our Past through Performance” workshop on March 4-5, 2017, in Admire, Kansas. Led by Dr. Joyce Thierer and Dr. Ann Birney, the workshop does not require attendees to have prior acting experience or a history degree. Dr. Thierer is the author of Telling History: A Manual of Performers and Presenters of First Person Narratives. For details about the workshop, visit www.historicperformance.com, email ridehist@satelephone or call 620-528-3580.

Another way to get involved is to attend Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site’s Frontier Skills Day on March 17 in La Junta, Colorado. Applications will be available online at www.nps.gov/beol on January 3.

The cover artist, Tracy Teeter, created the artwork for the 25th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail Association. She owns MainARTery, a gallery in Ulysses, Kansas, http://mainarterykansas.com. Her work can also be seen at http://fineartamerica.com/featured/the-historian--jeff-trotman-tracy-l-teeter.html, where prints and items with Jeff’s portrait can be purchased.

Renew your Santa Fe Trail Association membership now.
Your membership will be valid through December 2017.
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Donna Madison portrayed Cathay Williams, a woman who disguised herself as a male and enlisted as a Buffalo Soldier in order to survive after the Civil War. Her narrative at the Rendezvous in Larned represented Williams as an old, freed, illiterate black woman.

Photo: Ruth Friesen
President’s Corner by Larry Justice

As I See It

A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link to our cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, and economic legacies—all of the things that quite literally make us who we are. – Steve Berry

The meeting of the Santa Fe Trail Association Board of Directors on September 21, 2016, preceded an excellent Rendezvous in Larned, Kansas. Several significant additions to the life of the SFTA were discussed, some of which required motions to be passed, and future bylaw considerations to be addressed by our general membership at the Symposium in Olathe in 2017. Allow me to address both of these topics and close with a comment about Rendezvous and a specific need.

The issue of wind-energy challenges to the preservation of the Santa Fe Trail continues to grow. As a result, the Preservation Committee proposed, and the BOD passed, a wind-energy policy statement. What follows are the principal statements from that policy proposal.

• Prevent destruction of visible remnants and other cultural resources of the Trail.
• Discourage construction of tall structures close to the Trail.
• SFTA’s concerns are not only for impacts from the wind energy towers themselves, but for impacts from the access roads, buried utilities, construction staging areas, and related activities that accompany such development.
• SFTA offers consulting assistance to any developer and consultants.
• SFTA would like to have input to the development process so that development decisions can be made in an informed and thoughtful manner, giving due consideration to the historic resources of the SFNHT.

One additional aspect of this policy is the fact the SFTA does not want to be an obstructionist. We know there will always be a need for energy development. Also, we are fully aware that we want to be seen as working with land owners who would benefit from installation of energy towers. All of this is in line with our motto to preserve, protect, and promote the legacy of the SFT.

Another area where we are remaining vigilant regarding progress is with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the improvements to US 50 in eastern Colorado. The Trail will be impacted, but we are working with CDOT to minimize the impact. The key to both of these situations is collaboration and two-way conversations.

Change is on the horizon. We are developing our commitment to scholarly research. We are addressing issues concerning updating chapter bylaws, particularly regarding dissolution clauses, to recognize compliance with IRS Form 990 and non-profit status 501 (c) (3) obligations. Because of these concerns, please continue to read future issues of Wagon Tracks for notifications of proposed bylaw changes.

My congratulations to all who made Rendezvous 2016 a great success. Well over 200 participants heard wonderful and informative presentations centered on the topic of Shadows on the Land: Women of the Santa Fe Trail. First-person narratives provided glimpses of historical figures such as Julia Archibald Holmes (Dr. Ann Birney), Kitty Hays (Kitty Frank), Cathy Williams (Donna Madison), and Stagecoach Mary (Angela Bates), and delighted those who were able to attend. In addition, great entertainment was provided by the 4th - 6th grade St. George Elementary Honor Choir. One of the highlights of that presentation was the opportunity of the young man who portrayed Kit Carson to meet and have his picture taken with John Carson, great-great-grandson of Kit Carson.

What lies on the horizon for excellent programs regarding the Trail? Plan now to join us in Olathe, Kansas, for the 2017 Symposium and the 2019 Symposium in St. Louis. And don’t forget, 2021, the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail, is around the corner. We are working with our National Park Service friends and our chapter presidents to make 2021 extremely memorable.

Finally, we need your help. The position of Publicity Chairperson is a specific and important need. This person will become more and more essential as we move toward our bicentennial in 2021-22. Perhaps you have experience with writing articles for newspapers or scripts for radio. This might be an area of interest you have had for many years. If you think you can help us, please contact me, manager Joanne VanCoevern, Vice President Larry Short, or Nominat-
Also, Ross Marshall is our Partnership for the National Trail System (PNTS) representative. He has decided to retire from representing SFTA next year. So, we need a person(s) to help as PNTS representative. This person(s) should have a desire to carry our message to “The Hill” in Washington, D.C., and help our chapters discover ways to interact with U.S. representatives when they return to their local offices in the five-state region identified with the Trail. If you are interested, again contact me, Joanne VanCoevern, or Larry Short.

As I told the SFTA members attending the general meeting in Larned on Saturday morning, I count it an honor and privilege to serve as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association, trying to ensure The Trail Lives On.

Each spring the leadership of the Santa Fe Trail Association and representatives of the National Park Service—National Trails Intermountain Region (NPS–NTIR) come together to discuss identified topics and determine strategies for building SFTA’s capacity, with one of the goals focusing on maintaining a strong and viable organization. This cooperative NPS/SFTA Spring Workshop has focused on a variety of topics including strategic planning, interpretation, preservation issues, membership concerns, and project development. Throughout these workshops, SFTA strives to improve our association and develop goals, plans, and projects that continue to fulfill our mission statement “to protect and preserve the Santa Fe Trail and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with it.”

On Friday, April 21, 2017, the SFTA Board of Directors, committees, and chapter representatives will gather in Salina, Kansas, with representatives of NPS–NTIR. The primary focus for this workshop will be how to commemorate in 2021 the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail to trade. The event that many have determined as the actual “opening” of the Trail for trade starts with the first “successful” trading trip, led by William Becknell with five companions, departing from Franklin, Missouri, on September 1, 1821, and arriving in Santa Fe on November 16, 1821. Becknell then departed Santa Fe for his return trip to Missouri on December 13, 1821, and arrived back in Franklin, Missouri, on January 30, 1822. Becknell’s second trip to Santa Fe departed from Franklin, Missouri, on May 22, 1822 – this time taking some wagons loaded with trade goods.

Many of SFTA’s members will remember the various events that occurred along the Trail for the 175th anniversary in 1996. Some may remember anniversary celebrations prior to that, including those that took place in 1971 for the 150th, or in 1976 for the Bicentennial of the United States. At this time, we are asking for input from our membership on how you would like to see the years 2021–2022 used to commemorate the opening of the Santa Fe Trail to trade, as well as what events that have occurred during the Trail’s 200 years of history we should emphasize. All input received from our members will be incorporated into discussions at our spring workshop, as we develop goals and a list of events/topics for consideration for the commemoration of the opening of the Santa Fe Trail.

Comments/suggestions may be sent to manager@santafetrail.org or by phone at 785-643-7515.

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2021 SFTA Logo Contest Announced

The 200th year of the Santa Fe Trail, the United States’ first international trade route, will be celebrated in 2021. You are invited to re-charge your creative juices and submit a logo design for the 2021–22 commemoration of the Trail. The logo design should reflect the commemoration and the history of the Trail centered on preserving, protecting, and promoting the legacy of the historical Santa Fe Trail.

March 1, 2017, is the final submission date. Additional information will follow in the next issue of Wagon Tracks and in SFTA e-blasts regarding submission details. The logo design selected will become the sole property of the Santa Fe Trail Association and cannot be reproduced apart from written permission granted by the SFTA Publication Committee.

Not a member of the Santa Fe Trail Association? This is your invitation to join and be eligible to submit the winning logo design. Discover membership information in this issue of the award-winning quarterly publication, Wagon Tracks.
IN THE NEWS

Rod Podszus earned a “Subject Matter Expert with VIP All Star Status” by Constant Contact, the platform SFTA uses for the e-blast emails, for his excellent results with the e-blast. The percentage of people who open the e-blasts he sends is considerably greater than the typical “open” rate.

George Donoho Bayless’s 25th Anniversary Edition of Mary Donoho - New First Lady of the Santa Fe Trail, published this March by Rio Grande Press, is a finalist in three different categories in the 2016 New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, sponsored by New Mexico Book Co-Op. The three categories are: 1) History Book - New Mexico subject; 2) Non-Fiction - Other; and 3) Best Cover 6x9. Winners will be announced November 18, 2016, at the awards banquet in Albuquerque.

Frank Norris, National Park Service historian, receives our heartfelt thanks for updating the indexes for Wagon Tracks. The indexes are online at www.santafetrail.org, under the “Publications, Wagon Tracks” tab. His efforts include all thirty years of Wagon Tracks, both alphabetically and chronologically.

IN MEMORIAM

Roberta Bonnewitz, 105, passed away September 18, 2016, at her home in Raytown, Missouri. After graduating from college, she taught grade school for 32 years. The lack of local history available for her classes started her lifelong passion for history research and led to her establishing the Raytown Historical Society, preservation of the 1844 Rice-Tremonti Home, and working with the Cave Spring Association. Roberta wrote more than 15 books about local history and was honored many times for her 50 years of historical research. In 2011, Roberta received the Santa Fe Trail Association’s Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award (which is presented to individuals who have made extraordinary achievements and lifetime contributions to the Santa Fe Trail, including lifetime achievement in research and writing about the history of the Santa Fe Trail.)

Nancy Jackson Lewis, 74, of Blue Springs, Missouri, died on October 12, 2016. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and had served on the board of directors for the Santa Fe Trail Association as well as on the board of the Missouri River Outfitters. For decades she gave programs to civic groups on various aspects of trail history, both of the Santa Fe Trail and of the Oregon/California Trail. She and Anne Mallinson worked together to demonstrate women’s roles of the Trail era. The National Council of the Social Studies awarded her the National Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1999. Online condolences may be expressed at www.speakschapel.com.

2017 SFTA Research Grants Available

Applications for SFTA Scholarly Research grants for 2017 are now being accepted. A total of $1500 per grant is available. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2016.

Funds may be used for supplies and materials; services such as literature searches, computer use, and/or technical assistance, and copy fees; and travel. Funds may not be used for the purchase of equipment.

For more information, additional requirements, and an application form, visit the SFTA website at www.santafetrail.org. Click on the menu item for Research. The SFTA Scholarly Research Committee will review all applications, and awards will be announced on January 2, 2017.

SFTA Financials Open for Review

The SFTA 2015 federal tax return (Form 990) is available upon request or for review at the headquarters office by appointment. Please contact Linda Revello at 620-285-2054, trailassn@gbta.net to schedule a review.

Partnership for the National Trails System

by Ross Marshall, SFTA Representative to PNTS

PNTS is working on a rather comprehensive Strategic Plan. I am chairing one of the five committees, and the work will be completed soon, and then to be submitted for Board approval in Washington, D.C., in February. That will be the culmination of the project of over a year and a half.

Planning is also underway for events and celebrations in 2018 concerning the 50th anniversary of the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968. A committee is being assembled with our old friend Steve Elkinton, retired from the National Park Service, as chair. More later as details are available.

The dates for the annual PNTS Hike the Hill in Washington D.C. have been set for February 11-15.

Thanks to all SFTA leaders and members for responding to the Volunteers in Parks volunteer hours, expenses, and mileage that were collected last month. I use the same totals for the Partnership’s Gold Sheet which is distributed to Congress and other entities in Washington, D.C.

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January 10 is the submission deadline for the February issue of Wagon Tracks.
Marc Simmons Retires from Writing Career

In September, Marc Simmons at 79 decided to put aside his manual typewriter and discontinue writing his “Trail Dust” column, which appeared weekly in *The New Mexican* for the past 16 years. “I am pretty much through with writing,” he told the newspaper. “I kind of struggle through on the typewriter. I answer letters and that is about all.”


It’s a lengthy article, rich with details and anecdotes, with color photographs of Simmons in his off-the-grid home a couple miles north of Cerrillos, New Mexico. Marc was one of the founders of the Santa Fe Trail Association, along with Joy Poole and others.


Donation of Simmons Library and Archives

Ronald Kil and Phyllis Morgan gave talks on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at the Marc Simmons Celebration held at the Alkek Library of Texas State University-San Marcos. This gathering of Simmons’s family and friends, university administration, and library/special collections staff marked the acquisition of Marc’s library and archives, which he built over sixty years, and the completion of five large exhibit cases showing hundreds of items from the Marc Simmons Collection, now part of The Wittliff Collections at San Marcos. This impressive collection includes 12,000 books, correspondence with leading writers of the American Southwest and West, rare photographs and documents, Santa Fe Trail memorabilia, and an array of valuable artifacts.

Ron Kil painted a portrait of Marc on horseback, which hangs in the spacious room showcasing treasures from the collection. Ron’s talk at the celebration was about his friendship with Marc and his artwork done for some of Marc’s works.

Phyllis Morgan’s talk focused on Marc’s connections to the Santa Fe Trail and on the making of her bio-bibliography, *Marc Simmons of New Mexico: Maverick Historian*. Phyllis also has a collection in The Wittliff Collections related to the book and Marc’s works.

The Marc Simmons Collection is a very important resource for researchers on numerous subjects relating to the Spanish Colonial Period of New Mexico and the Southwest, the Santa Fe Trail, and the history of New Mexico and the Southwest. An inventory of the collection may be accessed online at www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/a-z/simmons.html

---Contributors Phyllis Morgan, Ruth Friesen, Michael Pitel
Osage Treaty Line Commemorated

By Steve Schmidt, SFTA Ambassador

On August 20, 2016, the Missouri Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS), in cooperation with Jackson County (MO) Parks and Recreation (which manages and operates the Ft. Osage National Historic Landmark) hosted an all-day seminar about the survey of the Osage Treaty Line. As part of the seminar, a new stone monument placed on the Osage Treaty Line, along with an accompanying historic interpretive panel, were dedicated; the monument and panel are located just south of the fort and north of the museum building.

The survey was made 200 years ago and began in August 1816. The treaty line was specified in the 1808 Treaty of Ft. Clark (later Ft. Osage). In the surveying profession, the Osage Treaty Line is significant because it was the first survey of a Boundary of Missouri (the boundary was later moved 24 miles west to its present location).

This all has significance with respect to the Santa Fe Trail because in 1816 George Sibley was factor at Ft. Osage; Sibley would lead the expedition (which bears his name) to survey the Santa Fe Trail in 1825-27. Joseph Brown surveyed the Osage Treaty Line in 1816, with Archibald Gamble as his assistant; Brown would be the surveyor of the Santa Fe Trail on the Sibley Expedition in 1825-26, and Brown would prepare the final maps and the “field book” of the Expedition in 1827. Gamble was Secretary for the Sibley Expedition. The survey of the Santa Fe Trail began on the Osage Treaty Line, 1-3/4 miles south of the south gate of Ft. Osage.

The MSPS has researched available survey records of the State of Missouri, and has found survey references to the Osage Treaty Line. From those records, the MSPS has determined the location of the line, although no physical monuments marking the line have been found. The MSPS is offering a bounty to anyone who can locate an original monument on the Osage Line. This has created renewed interest in the Sibley Expedition, and Jackson County Parks and Recreation is planning a special exhibit and programs at Ft. Osage in 2017 about the Santa Fe Trail and the Sibley Expedition. ♦

Thank You

9-23-16

Thank you for the honor [Ralph Hathaway Memorial Heritage Preservation Award]. This is a very nice experience for me and my family. We feel that it is important for preserving history, and particularly the history of the SFT, that the State of Kansas is the owner of the Last Chance Store (LCS).

The LCS was owned by the family of Helen Prater for over 100 years. Helen was a dear friend, and like a part of our family. She left it to our family in her will, and we enjoyed making it available to groups and travelers many times over the past 21 years, but now are very happy to have it in the hands of the real experts at preserving history.

We thank Tom Moxley, our Legislative representative, and Jennie Chinn and Patrick Zollner of the KSHS for facilitating this change of ownership. It has been so exciting to witness the archaeological dig and all of the new attention to the LCS and the Trail.

We had a quote from a 1961 letter from a cattleman hanging on the wall in the LCS, referring to the time it served as a Federal Land Bank Office. It reads, “Any mention of the Old Last Chance Store can bring to mind how the present is enriched by the past, and how this old building, built to serve a primitive trade route, stands today as a symbol of a great agricultural and commercial region.”

We feel Helen Prater would be very happy with this change of ownership. Back in the 1950s, she wrote a two-page history of the LCS. It is not dated, so I am guessing at the date, but the last sentence reads, “It is our hope that this historic building will become the property of the state of Kansas, so that it can be preserved indefinitely.”

We feel that hope has been realized now. Thank you very much.

Connie Essington
The Santa Fe Trail Association presented a number of awards on September 23 at the 2016 Rendezvous.

**Award of Merit:** recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the purposes of the SFTA

**Derby Boy Scout Troop 683** for their work in assisting the Quivira Chapter with maintaining and marking Trail sites.

**Rod Podszus** for his work with the Santa Fe Trail Association e-blast to help members stay abreast of information about the Trail-related activities and news.

**Dottie Russell** for her work in preparing and sending the Bent's Fort Chapter e-blast and newsletters.

**Paul F. Bentrup Ambassador Award:** Given to an SFTA member who has demonstrated exceptional promotion of the SFTA

**Pat Palmer** for providing leadership and promotion of the Santa Fe Trail Association for many years.

**John Carson** for promoting the Santa Fe Trail and preserving the stories and traditions of the Trail through his work at Bent’s Fort and his interpretation of the life of Kit Carson, his great-great-grandfather.

**Louise Barry Writing Award:** Best original article or book about the history of the Santa Fe Trail based on research in primary sources.

**Phyllis S. Morgan,** *As Far as the Eye Could Reach: Accounts of Animals along the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2015)


**Ralph Hathaway Memorial Heritage Preservation Award:** Landowners, former landowners, leaseholders, or tenants who have preserved and protected significant portions of the SFT and provided for public access.

**Don and Connie Essington** donated the Last Chance Store in Council Grove, Kansas, to the Kansas State Historical Society in 2015.

**Marc Simmons Writing Award:** Contributions to *Wagon Tracks*: Category 1: Best original article about the history of the SFT based on research in primary sources; Category 2: Best edited work of a previously unpublished source on the SFT


**Gregory M. Franzwa Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement:** Extraordinary lifetime achievement in the preservation, protection, and promotion of the Santa Fe Trail

**Hal Jackson** for his years of service as President of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the publications and books he has written as well as his leadership in marking the Santa Fe Trail. ✦
Dr. Leo Oliva led the dedication on September 22, with members of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter, of a marker relaying the story of Susan Magoffin's carriage spill at this location near Pawnee Rock, Kansas. The text of the marker follows.

SUSAN SHELBY MAGOFFIN 1846

Susan Shelby (1827-1855) grew up on a large plantation in Kentucky, attended by slaves, and received a good education. In 1845 she married Santa Fe trader Samuel Magoffin, age 44. They traveled the Santa Fe Trail with a wagon train in 1846, first year of war between the U.S. and Mexico. Susan, pregnant at the time, traveled in a Rockaway carriage, slept in a tent, had a slave, Jane, to attend her, and traveled in a way that perhaps no other woman traveled the historic trail. She described herself as a "wandering princess." She kept a diary, the earliest account of the trail by a woman, first published 1926 and still in print. She picked wild flowers and berries, complained about mosquitoes and gnats, described the details of a traveling wagon train, and provided her perspective on the trail and the land through which it passed. On July 4 she hurriedly carved her name on Pawnee Rock. Later that day, here at the crossing of Ash Creek, her carriage upset. She was shaken but not seriously injured. Of that day she wrote: "What a disastrous celebration I have today. It is certainly the greatest miracle that I have my head on my shoulders.... The wagons left Pawnee Rock some time before us.—For I was anxious to see this wonderful curiosity.... I cut my name, among the many hundreds inscribed on the rock and many of whom I knew. It was not done well, for fear of Indians made me tremble all over and I hurried it over in any way.... The wagons being some distance ahead we rode on quite briskly to overtake them. In an hour's time we had driven some six miles, and at Ash creek we came up with them. No water in the creek and the crossing pretty good only a tolerably steep bank on the first side of it.... The bank though a little steep was smooth and there could be no difficulty in riding down it.—However, ....we were whirled completely over with a perfect crash. One to see the wreck of that carriage now with the top and sides entirely broken to pieces, could never believe that people had come out of it alive. But strange, wonderful to say, we are almost entirely unhurt! I was considerably stunned at first and could not stand on my feet.... My back and side are a little hurt, but is very small compared with what it might have been." The carriage "was a perfect mess... of people, books, bottles—one of which broke, and on my head too I believe—guns, pistols, baskets, bags, boxes and the dear knows what else. I was insensible to it all except when something gave me a hard knock and brought me to my self. We now sought refuge in Jane's carriage for our own could only acknowledge its incapability." The next day she wrote, "I am rather better of my bruises today. It is only for a little while though, I fear; such knocks seldom hurt so much for a day or two. I am yet to suffer for it." A few days later she wrote "I am sick." Soon she was under a doctor's care. Most likely the injuries at Ash Creek resulted in her miscarriage on July 31 at Bent's Fort. She later traveled far into Mexico and returned to the U.S. in 1847. She died in Missouri in 1855, from complications after childbirth. She may be the only woman traveler on the trail who has a statue in her memory, dedicated in El Paso, Texas, in 2012.

Erected by the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association

Angela Bates portrayed Stagecoach Mary at the Rendezvous, representing the westward migration of African American women from the South and the marks they left on the western frontier. Bates is the Executive Director of the Nicodemos Historical Society & Museum, and a historian of the African American experience in the West.
In October 2015, Mrs. Connie Essington, the owner of the historic building known as the Last Chance Store (LCS) in Council Grove, Kansas, gave that property to the Kansas Historical Society. The Historical Society plans to restore and interpret the building along with the existing Kaw Mission State Historic Site, which is also in Council Grove. The LCS is a native limestone building which stands in its original location on the north side of the Santa Fe Trail where it has been maintained since its construction in 1857. The site is currently on Main Street across from the courthouse in Council Grove. Prior to beginning restoration of the building, the Historical Society conducted an archaeological excavation at the site as the focus of the Kansas Archaeological Training Program (KATP), in June 2016. The KATP is an annual event sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society in cooperation with the Kansas Anthropological Association. For the 2016 KATP, there were 134 volunteers who worked for varying amounts of time at the site, with supervision from the professional staff at the Kansas Historical Society. The dig ran from June 2nd to June 17th.

The Last Chance Store was constructed by the Westport firm of Northrup & Chick in the spring of 1857 to trade with travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and with the Kaw Indians. Thomas Huffaker was employed by Northrup & Chick as their manager during the construction of the store, though he left that job soon after. It has been reported that the store was built and run by Thomas Hill, but Hill never owned the property, and there are no records indicating that he was one of the construction workers. It is possible that he worked for Northrup & Chick after the store was built or that he leased the property, but no records have yet been found to verify that.

C. H. Strieby was a blacksmith who came to Council Grove about the time the store was constructed. His daughter, Alice Strieby-Smith, wrote an article describing her then-20-year-old father’s stay at the Last Chance Store, where he served as a guard in 1857. She told about a band of some 50 Indians coming to the store and asking for protection. It seems that the head of this band had killed the head of another band, and they feared retribution from the dead man’s relatives. Strieby allowed the group to camp close to the store for the night, but later that night they persuaded him to let them sleep inside.

Reportedly, the store was used as a meeting place for local settlers, and was used as a polling place when the election to approve the Lecompton Constitution was held on August 2, 1858. It is uncertain just how much commerce was transacted at the store over the first few years or exactly who was involved. The store was apparently not in operation during the years 1860 to 1863.

In March 1860, when the Mather family moved to Council Grove to operate a mill south of the Kaw Mission, they moved into the then-vacant Last Chance Store until fall, when they moved to their new mill. Local historian Lala Brigham reported, “In 1863 Mr. Foster, with Company F, 2nd Colorado was stationed in Council Grove. The soldiers ate and slept in the little stone store.”

According to their family history, the Charles and Jennie Harness family escaped from slavery in West Virginia in 1864. After traveling by the Underground Railroad to Pennsylvania, they eventually made their way to Council Grove. They hid in the cellar of the Last Chance Store for a time before hiding on the Kaw Reservation until the war was over.

Sometime around 1865-66, Peter P. Houck was reported to have begun operating a family grocery store in the Last Chance Store building. Trade on the Santa Fe Trail effectively ended in this area in 1866, with the advance of the railroads, so Houck’s store was probably not focused on Santa Fe Trail trade. The building became a residence for the Tolbert family starting about 1880.

To prepare for the archaeological work, the site was surveyed to lay out a grid of two meter squares. In addition to the lot, the City of Council Grove gave permission to excavate in the right-of-way area between the lot boundaries and the street, and the neighboring landowners to the north also gave permission to explore their yard, which had once been part of the same property. A series of geophysical surveys were then performed at the site, prior to excavation. This research was directed by George Crothers of the Archaeology Geophysics Laboratory at the William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology, University of Kentucky.

Volunteers at the Last Chance Store dig
The geophysical survey methods included gradiometer, ground penetrating radar, and electrical resistance. Results and interpretation of these geophysical surveys identified a number of locations that likely represented buried cultural features. Using GIS technology, these likely features were overlaid on the site grid map. Early in the fieldwork, metal detector surveys began, in order to help choose the best areas to excavate. A push-tube corer was used to verify all anomalies identified in the geophysical surveys and in the metal detector survey. Archaeological excavation in the yard was done in arbitrary 10 centimeter levels within 2 x 2-meter excavation units. However, smaller units were used in a few areas where specific goals and conditions warranted.

This project included more than the usual archaeological dig, in that the interior of the store also was “excavated.” Particular attention was paid to the cellar under the south end of the store, the attic, the floor, and the crawlspace beneath.

In the cellar there was a clay floor, which had been very hard with wide mud cracks during initial site visits. However, a three-inch rain just before the project began left a few inches of water on the cellar floor. Due to significant mud cracking when the floor was dry and to deep footprints from when the floor was wet, there was a good potential for buried cultural material in the cellar floor. Therefore, a sump pump was used to pump water from the cellar, and fans and a dehumidifier were used to partially dry the floor before digging.

In the main part of the building, the floor had small gaps between boards and a number of holes and gouges, which were all cleaned out with a vacuum. In addition, there was a layer of dirt between the layers of flooring, which was also vacuumed up. All material from the vacuum was passed through ¼-inch mesh or window screen. In the north section of the building, the floor boards were removed to access the crawlspace beneath the part of the building where there was no cellar. The boards were carefully numbered, so they could be replaced in their original positions. Archaeological excavation units were also laid out on the crawlspace once the floor boards above had been removed. Most of the earliest artifacts recovered came from the crawlspace under the floor. The attic was also explored and mapped.

The archaeological investigations turned out to be quite successful. A large number of artifacts were recovered, which represented over 150 years of occupation, but a surprising number were from the early part of the occupation. Many early beads, buttons, and lapel pins were found in and around the store. There were also several early patent medicine bottles. Fragments and parts of early dinnerware and eating utensils were recovered, as well as toys and games such as clay marbles, parts of ceramic dolls, dominoes, and dice. A Civil War-era brass trade token from Foster & Parry Ironworks, Grand Rapids, was found. Foster & Parry produced stoves, iron, and hardware, indicating that some of these items may have been sold in the store.

There was a lot of ammunition, such as musket balls, percussion caps, and early rim fire cartridges. Several .58 caliber Minnie balls found, which likely relate to the military use of the building during the Civil War. Horseshoes, horseshoe nails, a hoe, and other tools indicated outdoor activity areas. Other items such as a pair of eye glasses, a masonic lapel pin, and a couple pair of scissors give further information on the occupants. Early coins recovered included an 1844 quarter from the cellar, an 1864 penny, an 1851 three-cent piece, and an 1866 nickel.

On one edge of the trap door which connected the cellar to the main floor, two spikes in a floor joist show where a ladder once descended into the cellar. Immediately behind where the top rung of the ladder would have been, there were a couple of loose stones at the top of the cellar wall. When the floor boards above this were removed and the crawlspace was exposed, a whiskey bottle and a metal cup were found immediately behind the loose stones in the cell-
lar wall, indicating a whiskey stash had been hidden behind the stone wall. An area that included fire-cracked rock and flaked flint was found in the yard, indicating that the site may have also been inhabited prehistorically.

Archaeological fieldwork at the Last Chance Store is complete, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Several thousand artifacts were recovered from the dig, and they still need to be cataloged and analyzed. When that work is done, a final report on the project will be prepared and published.

Bob Blasing retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in 2014, after working as Area Archaeologist in the Grand Island and then Oklahoma City Offices since 1987. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Kansas State University in Geography, and earned his Master's Degree in Anthropology/Archaeology at Wichita State University. His family has had a lakeside cabin at Council Grove City Lake, which is about 5 miles from the Last Chance Store, since 1960. He served as Principal Investigator for the KATP dig reported here, and will be responsible for analysis and final report preparation.

Francisca Lopez Kimball (1841- 1907)
SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Francisca Lopez Kimball was born in Mexico. The death of her mother, Maria del Carmen Severina Ruiz de Esparza, in 1847 was the event which changed the course of her life.

Her father was a prominent Spaniard trader/merchant Damaso Lopez. In 1850, she travelled the Santa Fe Trail from Santa Fe to St. Louis, Missouri, with her father and her three brothers. She was enrolled in the Academy of the Visitation Convent School at age 8.

The following are her own words from her recollections of her childhood: "We children found ourselves in a covered wagon with an escort of soldiers to protect us from the Indians, bound for the United States. We traveled six months through the plains. The first place I remember to have stopped was a town in Missouri called Independence. We visited a friend of my father's there, Mr. Waldo, who had lived some years in Mexico. My father left two of my brothers, Melquiades (11) and Francisco (6 or 7), in Independence at boarding school. Then we came to St. Louis. I was placed in the Visitation Convent, my brother Trinidad (about 14) at the Jesuit College, my Father saying to me as he bade me goodbye, "Francisca, you are to learn everything that the Nuns can teach you. When you have finished your education, then I will take you to Spain to see my old home."

After this journey, Francisca never saw her father again. She became a well-educated young woman of St. Louis, with connections to the founders of St. Louis through her marriage to Benjamin Kimball in 1860.

The Santa Fe Trail delivered Francisca to a new life, where she was able to obtain a good education, an introduction into St. Louis society, and a stable life. She is an example of someone who benefitted greatly from the mobility provided by the Santa Fe Trail.
Barbara (Huff) Peirce (1939 - 1995)
SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Barbara Peirce was a founding member of the Santa Fe Trail Council in 1986 that became the Santa Fe Trail Association in 1987, served on the governing board as a director from Kansas, and hosted the 1987 Symposium at Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, Kansas. She came to the 1986 Symposium with a letter of invitation for the 1987 Symposium from the president of the college. She arranged a magnificent Symposium, with excellent programs and field trips, typical of her enthusiasm, energy, hard work, and persistence. More than 350 participants attended.

Marc Simmons paid tribute to her at the Hutchinson Symposium by relating his nearly fatal auto accident the previous November with a story that, as he was trapped and nearly crushed in his wrecked car awaiting emergency crews to extricate him, an angel kept after him to come along to his final reward. Marc replied he could not go because he had promised Barbara Peirce he would give the keynote address at the Hutchinson Symposium, and he would rather say no to God Himself than say no to Barbara Peirce.

A graduate of Kansas State University, she taught Kansas History at Hutchinson Community College. She became fascinated with the Santa Fe Trail long before there was a Santa Fe Trail Association, and she arranged field trips to the Trail remnants at Ralph Hathaway's farm in Rice County, Kansas, for her students and other groups. She named “Ralph’s Ruts” and arranged a Symposium field trip there, including a covered wagon in the imposing ruts. When Barbara died of cancer in 1995, Ralph wrote, “we have lost a great person, a dear friend.”

Barbara was also the retired owner of Peirce Puzzle Co. which manufactured jigsaw puzzles of several state maps. Had her health not failed, she would have remained a leader in the SFTA. We are grateful for her many contributions to the Santa Fe Trail.

Gregory M. Franzwa, (1926 – 2009)
SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Gregory Mathew Franzwa probably did more to create the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail than any other individual. He led the organization of the Oregon–California Trails Association and their designation as part of the National Historic Trails System. Then Franzwa advocated for a new and separate Santa Fe Trail Association. He brought those ideas to the first Santa Fe Trail Symposium in 1986. He took the lead in proposing legislation to add the Santa Fe Trail to the National Historic Trails System. For this work he was presented an Award of Merit at the first Santa Fe Trail Symposium in 1986. He arranged for Santa Fe Trail scholars, including Marc Simmons, to go to Washington, D.C., and testify before Congressional committees in support of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. He used his contacts within the National Park Service to move the feasibility study along quickly and with positive results. Congress created the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1987.

Franzwa offered to be part of the National Park Service team that surveyed the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1988, donating his time and preparing the maps for the trail, with the proviso that he publish those maps through his Patrice Press. In addition to Maps of the Santa Fe Trail (1989), Franzwa wrote three books about the Santa Fe Trail: Impressions of the Santa Fe Trail: A Contemporary Diary (1988), Images of the Santa Fe Trail (1988), and The Santa Fe Trail Revisited (1989, a guidebook plus an audio guide on CD for those traveling the historic trail). He had many talents and devoted most of his time to the overland trails. Most of the 21 books he wrote were about the trails.

Franzwa continued to support the Santa Fe Trail Association while also involved with the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Lincoln Highway Association. He received the SFTA Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award in 1999. Following his death, SFTA created the Gregory M. Franzwa Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2010.

A graduate of Kansas State University, she taught Kansas History at Hutchinson Community College. She became fascinated with the Santa Fe Trail long before there was a Santa Fe Trail Association, and she arranged field trips to the Trail remnants at Ralph Hathaway’s farm in Rice County, Kansas, for her students and other groups. She named “Ralph’s Ruts” and arranged a Symposium field trip there, including a covered wagon in the imposing ruts. When Barbara died of cancer in 1995, Ralph wrote, “we have lost a great person, a dear friend.”

Barbara was also the retired owner of Peirce Puzzle Co. which manufactured jigsaw puzzles of several state maps. Had her health not failed, she would have remained a leader in the SFTA. We are grateful for her many contributions to the Santa Fe Trail.
David K. Clapsaddle, (1934 – 2016)
SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

David Clapsaddle, Ph.D, worked for many years to preserve and promote the historic Santa Fe Trail and its history. As a member of SFTA, his focus was on the chapters, because he recognized that is where most of the work gets done, and he served many years as president of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter.

David wrote numerous articles about the historic route. He worked to preserve Trail remnants, oversaw the marking of scores of Trail sites, developed auto-tour guides to those sites, organized and led Trail tours, and collected Trail artifacts which he shared with museums.

He was especially interested in the Wet and Dry routes, stream crossings, trading ranches, connecting roads from the Union Pacific Railway to the main routes of the Santa Fe Road, and people who made Trail history. He presented lectures about the historic Trail to many organizations, worked with the Santa Fe Trail Center on the biennial Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous, wrote a series of booklets about the Trail for children, developed trunk programs for use in the schools (programs he presented for years to thousands of students, each trunk includes a story with artifacts for children to touch and understand—and these programs continue to be presented by others), volunteered at Fort Larned NHS, and was a constant supporter of Fort Larned.

David led the purchase and marking of the 1825 Sibley Survey campsite and the acquisition and development of the Little Red House. Today, both sites in Larned are the property of the Fort Larned Old Guard of which David and Alice have been longtime active members.

Recognizing the importance of Zebulon Pike’s contribution to the opening of the Santa Fe Trail, David led the creation of Pike Plaza in Larned. David also recognized the importance of Spanish Lieutenant Facundo Melgares, and the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter erected the Melgares Marker in 2014. David’s final chapter project, a marker commemorating Susan Shelby Magoffin and telling the story of her carriage accident at Ash Creek Crossing in 1846, was dedicated at Rendezvous 2016.

Garrett E. “Pete” Gaines (1924 – 1999)
SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee

Garrett Edward “Pete” Gaines grew up and lived all his adult life, except for his military service during World War II, at his family’s Point of Rocks Ranch, New Mexico, on the Santa Fe Trail. He and his wife Faye recognized the important history of the Trail and welcomed everyone who was interested to visit their ranch, see Trail remnants, and observe the geology of this Point of Rocks, one of the major landmarks on the entire Cimarron Route of the original Santa Fe Trail. They compiled the history of this important Trail campsite and gladly shared those stories with visitors. They assisted with the National Park Service survey of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1988 and became active members of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

Pete served in the Second Armored Tank Battalion during World War II and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He organized a Boy Scout troop, was a community leader, served on county agricultural boards, and was Colfax County Commissioner for eight years. He explored every nook and cranny of the Point of Rocks and enjoyed sharing that information. Pete and Faye welcomed publicity of the Point of Rocks, agreed to have interpretive signs placed there, and created a welcome center for Trail travelers. As someone wrote at the time of Pete’s death as part of his tribute, “As the Santa Fe Trail ran through his property, so too did it run through his blood.” Pete’s remains are buried at the Point of Rocks, and “Pete is now part of the land he loved so well. As people visit the Point of Rocks they will still be welcomed by Pete Gaines, whose spirit now forever resides there.”

Because of their efforts to preserve the Point of Rocks Ranch and historic site, Pete and Faye Gaines were two of the first recipients of the Santa Fe Trail Association Heritage Preservation Award, created in 1997. In 2015 the name of the award was designated the Pete & Faye Gaines Memorial Heritage Preservation Award.
In her fourth letter, Isadore describes to her mother typical February weather in Kansas, how the baby keeps her busy and what their house is like, her housekeeping requirements, some leisure activities and some excitement at the Fort when they believe they are under attack.

LETTER 4

Fort Dodge, Kansas, Feb. 3, 1867

Dear Ma,

Your two very welcome letters reached us. I will answer them tonight. Though I do not feel in the writing humor. I am quite blue today. You know how gloomy a rainy day is at post and particularly this post so far from civilization. It has rained today, and the wind is now howling so pitiful that I feel inclined to cry more than write. Then the baby is crying. I must take him up. This is always the way the little rogue seems to know when I am busy, he insists then upon my undivided attention. I have now got him in my arms, he nursing and just ready to snatch my pen. He is a bright little fellow, and has "lots" of pretty ways, such as pat-a-caking, putting his arms out to go to others, etc. I am now keeping house. Our house consists of a dining room, a bed room on either side of the dining room, a kitchen back of the dining room and a lobby in front. We are three feet below ground, four feet above. They are very comfortable quarters, though the thermometer is below zero we hardly know it is cold. We have four rooms, each room with a large stove. A river, the Arkansas, is about ten yards back of the house. The houses here are more picturesque than elegant. The buildings are low, so the women can see them and baby. The ball passed through the door into the room where I stood, and hit the stove. The alarm proved to be the man said "my pistol went off by accident," I stood in front of him two seconds before, he might have killed me. I thought they had commenced firing our house. When the man said "my pistol went off by accident," I stood in front of him two seconds before, he might have killed me and baby. The ball passed through the door into the room where I stood, and hit the stove. The alarm proved to be the corporal calling for the corporal of the guard, three or four times. Then he fired his musket, then the other sentinels fired their muskets. They kept loading and firing for about fifteen minutes. I could see the flash from the window. I called the man he put on his equipment for a fight. The long roll commenced to beat, for everybody to come out. I would not let the man go, but got Henry's pistol. I stood in front of the man while he was fixing the pistol, then I said I will lay the baby (Baby was in my arms) with the boys, and I will sit on the bed with them and defend them with my pistol, while you run out and see which way the Indians are coming. I had not gone from him two seconds when I heard the report of a pistol, and the man said Oh! I thought they have commenced firing our house. When the man said "my pistol went off by accident," I stood in front of him two seconds before, he might have killed me and baby. The ball passed through the door into the room where I stood, and hit the stove. The alarm proved to be the corrals, on fire. The soldiers sleeping, the officers all at the Sutler store outside the garrison. The sentinels could not make anyone hear by calling, so they fired. The officers were without their arms, so they picked up stones as they ran to the garrison. We have no block houses here, but breast works which are as good. There is not much danger now but in the Spring time will be more. Henry is preparing for it. He is building redoubts etc. They can never take this Fort. We have only three companies now. I am getting so well and strong. I ride horse back, shoot at mark. I beat Henry the other day shooting at target. I made the most beautiful line shot you ever saw. Most houses are not damp. The little boys will be so glad for the valentines, poor little fellows have no amusements here. I must soon say good night. Write often for I have so little here to interest me.

Affectionately your daughter
Isadore Douglass

P.S. Your property must be worth a great deal. Baby's name is Charles Edward after Henry's eldest brother. He was baptized the day before we left Columbus [Ohio]. We have canned jellys also in the commissary. My washing is 20 dollars a month. We have 100 employees building this Post.
Feb. 8th We are quite excited here about the Indians. Maj. Page [John H. Page] and the Sutler with three men went to their camp ten days ago. The camp is twenty miles from here. They started from camp five days ago and have not returned. The Indians sent message to Henry that if he and his command (three companies) did not leave the post in ten days they the Indians would take it and that Henry must fatten his horses as they were too poor for them there. We have drills and Cavalry guards out.

I.

I will write next mail.

LETTER 5
Fort Dodge, Kansas, March 10, 1867

Dear Ma,

I feel so excited and angry. I don’t know whether I can write or not. I see by the St. Louis papers that there is a report in it that the officers here are so afraid of Indians that they dare not leave their quarters. I will tell you how fearful Henry is: he only goes about five miles from the post, alone duck hunting, and he and I often ride on horse back ten miles from the post. We certainly were very much worried about Maj. Page and the [sutler], they being six or seven days over the time that they were expected back, and the Indians sending such impertinent messages. But as for the officers being frightened, it’s no such thing. I have a side saddle. Henry bought me a second handed one. Riding on horse back and shooting at mark is our principal amusement. I shoot with Henry and the other officers, and can put a pistol bullet as near the mark at 40 yds. as any of them, and the other day tried at rifle - 80 yds. - made very good shots, but a rifle is too heavy. I like a pistol best. Send me papers occasionally and write often. Letters here are so acceptable. We have nothing to read. Write me soon, affectionately,

Your daughter,
Isadore

Send me recipes for puddings and cakes without eggs. Eggs are $1.00 doz. Butter [1] dollars [a] pound.

In this letter to her mother, Isadore is extremely worried about their financial situation. In addition, she has to make plans for entertaining “company” which is General Hancock and staff that will visit the fort. We learn about the high cost of food, and the difficulty in getting needed clothing items for her boys.

LETTER 6
Fort Dodge, Kansas, April 29th, 1867

Dear Ma,

I received yours this morning. I am sorry you are sick. I send you the ten dollars. I wish I could send more. We have had a very heavy debt to pay, the six hundred dollars that Stratton took from the government. Every year we have to save nearly two hundred dollars for life insurance. The 400 dollars which were left from the one thousand five hundred dollars, went toward paying Stratton’s debt. The debt is all paid but one hundred dollars. This we have to save this year, besides two hundred dollars War Risk for insurance, and two hundred yearly policy. We have to save five hundred dollars between this and January 1st. How, I don’t know. We have to have company. Everything is high, butter one dollar per lb, and eggs the same. I have been all winter without a girl. I now have one. I pay her thirty dollars a month. I wish you could see the poor boys. They have no hats, and I can’t get any here for love or money. I want to make them sun bonnets, but they would tear them to pieces they would be so angry. We have a sutler here, but the sutler stores are to be all broken up the first of July and he takes no pains to have such things brought here. The Commissary are out of potatoes. They have had them at the sutlers for only fifteen dollars a bushel, onions the same. I know you will think I lie about all this. If we bought things at the store we could not live on our pay. The commissary are out of all canned fruits and vegetables. So we have nothing but beans and rice, or pay enormous prices at the store. Gen’l. Hancock’s expedition stopped here for a few days. We entertained the Gen’l. and his staff. I believe they are trying to pass a law for having Com’d officers of Post pay raised, for entertaining, like it used to be. I wish they would. The Gen’l. was very much pleased with the post. The girl is washing and I have all the work and cooking to do, besides taking care of Baby. Charley has short clothes on. His name is Charles Edward after Henry’s brother.

Affectionately,

I.

Direct hereafter
Mrs. Isadore Douglass, care Maj. H. Douglass, U.S.A.
Commanding Fort Dodge, Kansas
Isadore shares the news of another pregnancy in the following letter, and announces there is a new woman at the fort. She expresses frustration with Army pay, their housing conditions, and the lack of a variety of foodstuffs.

LETTER 7

Fort Dodge, Kansas, June 26, 1867

Dear Ma,

I have been real ill is the cause of my long silence. I commenced a letter to you but did not finish it. If I had known what was going to happen I do not believe I should have come out here. I am in the family way again, are you not sorry for me. I suppose it is all for the best however, Baby has been very sick with dysentery, and still has it. I have weaned him, and he looks very thin and pale. I had a beautiful little pony given me by Lieut. Hessleburger. But I cannot ride him now. We have two cows, lent us by the Butler, and we make our butter, and the other day we had such nice smear case [In Pennsylvania, cottage cheese is often called by its Pennsylvania Dutch name—smearcase] for dinner. We will make it often for Henry and the boys like it as well as myself. I have been for a long while the only lady at the post. Now we have a Mrs. Karples [wife of Henry M. Karples] here. The officers come in quite sociable, always. They make themselves at home, and Henry and I try to make it pleasant for them. You sent me a paper not long ago about the officers pay. The pay of the Majors that is put down there is a great deal more than Henry gets, and he has several [illegible] rations. Henry says it is a great mistake. Henry says my eyes were like stars or diamonds when I read it, and when he told me it was a mistake I looked as if I would cry. I felt disappointed I know but I did not feel like crying. A Major's pay now is one hundred and eighty-one dollars per month. You see this is a great deal more than they used to get. But Oh Ma is it not too bad that when they increased the pay proper, thirty three percent, they cut off the fifty percent? It makes our pay just fifty four dollars a month less. They call these mud houses quarters, while if we lived in tents which are much more comfortable we would be entitled to the 54 dollars. I will tell you how comfortable we are. Every time it rains we are flooded in our house, and last night we had a storm, and the water was 8 inches deep, besides what we carried out in tubs and pail. We remained in this state till the storm ceased. They call these quarters at Washington, and have taken off the fifty per cent ration. It makes our pay just fifty four dollars a month less. They call these mud houses quarters, while if we lived in tents which are much more comfortable we would be entitled to the 54 dollars. I will tell you how comfortable we are. Every time it rains we are flooded in our house, and last night we had a storm, and in our bedroom and sitting room the water was 8 inches deep, besides what we carried out in tubs and pail. We remained in this state till the storm ceased. They call these quarters at Washington, and have taken off the fifty per cent ration. We have a board floor in our dining room now, but the roof is going to tumble in so we are to have a new mud house made. I shall be glad when it is finished for I do not care to be buried alive or killed. Oh what I would give for a radish or an onion, or lettuce, it is so hard to be deprived of vegetables living on rice and beans. We attempted to have gardens, but the flood washed them all away. We will have nothing this summer. I have a girl now. I have been all winter without one. I pay her thirty dollars a month and I have to do a great deal of work myself. I should do without a girl if I could but my condition and large family and sewing will not allow me. I paid several dollars for shoes for Harry the other day. One of the officers sent for hats for the boys. They are blistered from the sun, no hats. We have five hens and I raised this spring sixteen little chickens. We have four companies here. The other day we had all the cavalry herd run off by the Indians. I expect every day to have the post attacked but Henry says there is no danger. Last summer there were three immense rattlesnakes killed in this house. It used to be the old mess house and was repaired for us. They are all through these mud houses. Yesterday Henry killed one outside of the window, nearly every day Harry and Frank come in with a snake, that they have killed. They can kill them as well as men. I send you their pictures they are not very good I had them taken before I left Columbus.

Evening. I am sitting on the bed under the mosquito bar trying to get rid of mosquitos. Baby is such a brave little boy, the other day when the herd was run off and shells were fired at some Indians, and Baby and I stood about a yard back of it, the cannon, and he never cried. Write me as often as you can, and believe me, affectionately yours,

In this letter, written by Henry to Isadore's mother, Henry is sharing news of illness.

LETTER 8

Fort Dodge, Kansas, August 12th, 1867

My dear Mother,

After more than two weeks of fearful illness I am by the favor of God convalescing—weak and feeble I take this first opportunity to tell you of my great sorrow—indeed the sorrow that is common between us, for God had deprived you of a daughter and me of a devoted faithful wife.

On Friday the 26 July the cholera broke out in virulent epidemic form at this Post. It came upon us like a clap of thunder. I was the first and only officer seriously ill with it, owing probably to the unfortunate locality of my dwelling, which was near the river, and the receding waters had left a thick malarial deposit, which I vainly tried to counter act with lime. I suffered intensely but the kind attentions of friends, medical skill and above all the constant attention of my darling wife, and a sturdy constitution, I was brought safely through the dangerous stages of the malady, but left me utterly prostrated. On Sunday little Eddy was taken ill and the boys showed symptoms. Issie still kept well, but was unremitting in her care of the sick. On Monday Ed-die was worse, and I lay all day attended by two soldiers in a state alas! of helpless torpor arising from prostration and free use of narcotic poisons. On Tuesday evening Issie was
taken sick. She would not lie down and I was too helpless to enforce it. I sent for the surgeon and he made her lie down, the women of the garrison were in immediate attendance. The Chaplain's wife took charge of little Eddie and saved his life. Lieut. Hesselburger took the two boys, and Issie with three surgeons and I with two soldiers were left to fight for life. My disease again assumed a serious type. I was again and again dosed with morphine and other poisons. Utterly prostrated, helpless and torpid. I did not know that Issie was dangerously sick until about 1/2 hour before her death. The Dr.s deceived me, they said to save my life. They may be right but I thought it very cruel. A soldier whispered into my torpid ear that the surgeons were deceiving me that Mrs. D. was very low. I will not attempt to describe the fearful agony and horror which this information produced. I tried to rise but could not. I called out. It was useless. One of the surgeons told me they were trying to produce a reaction and all might yet be well, poor hope! An indistinct muttering told me that Issie was still alive. I sank back in a state of semi insensibility. I know nothing more. They informed me that she died at 10 minutes past 12 on August 1st.

And so my darling died -- this pattern of womanly purity and loveliness. This incarnation of all the household virtues. This loving and devoted wife and fond mother passed away. In life respected and honored, petted and loved by all, from the General down to the meanest camp follower, in death, universally lamented. The Lord gave her to me, but she was too good for me and for this world so the Lord took her away.

And so my darling Isadore died and I who had infinitely less claim on the Divine mercy was allowed to live.

I lingered on between life and death, utterly reckless which way the scale turned. Medical skill and the assiduous care of friends brought me to a state of convalescence, and here I am a wreck of my former self, scarcely able to drag one foot after the other or hold the pen with which I recreate this sad story. The children have recovered their health.

I will send you, according to Issie's often expressed desire, her diamond ring, as soon as I can find a safe opportunity. Show this letter to Aunt Mary and Isadore's other relatives for their information. I am too feeble to write more. In a few days I will be stronger and will write again. --that God bless you and temper this affliction to your strength to endure is the prayer of

Affectionately your Son
Henry Douglass

In the last letter written to Isadore's mother, Angelina Bowman, by Henry Douglass, he lays out plans for the future care of the boys.

LETTER 9

Fort Dodge, Kansas, August 16, 1867

My dear Mother,

I rec'd yours by last mail and am much stronger now than when I last wrote to you, the cholera has disappeared from this place and has gone on up the river. Two cases of cholera were brought to this post from above yesterday.

My dear mother your request for the children I would gladly grant but I feel a sense of responsibility in the case of Harry and Frank. Harry is in his ninth year and Frankie will be seven in December, just the ages when they most need a father's watchful care. --the balance of my life shall be devoted to their proper training and education. --I have received the same request from my mother and sisters and with reference to little Eddy have consented to let them keep him for me. --but I shall see to the two eldest as far as possible under my [watchful] eye.

I shall not allow them to forget you as the mother of my darling wife. --When on East they shall visit you frequently. --and while with me I shall continually keep alive their remembrance of you.

I know you have as good a claim if not better to little Eddy as my mother, but having received early notice of their earnest desire in this respect & in a measure consented to it (though I do not like to part with the child at all) I do not think it would be proper to change the arrangement. --but I will try to still further arrange it so that Eddy may be with you part of the time. --I have refused to part with the boys until their education makes it necessary. --indeed I think the life they now lead is better conducive to their development in both a physical & moral point of view than any city or (tame) experience could give them. --this fact added to my sense of responsibility in their bringing up, makes me unwilling to part with them. --I consider them gifts of God for which I am accountable. So forgive me my dear mother if I cannot accede to your request. I have alike informed your son for which I am accountable. So forgive me my dear mother if I cannot accede to your request. I have alike informed my own mother.

I have packed Issie's trunk with most of her dresses and underclothing and will send it to you by 1st opportunity. I have retained such articles of clothing as I could not bear to part with such as her wedding dress, and a few trinkets such as flower fans etc. which she used to wear so often. As I have no daughter to estimate the value of such things I thought it would be proper to send them to you. I am afraid it will be some time before I can send it. I shall put the diamond ring in the trunk.

I am thinking strongly of sending or taking Issie's remains to the Greenwood Cemetery to be placed in our family burying lot, if I conclude to do so, I will visit you. It is more than probable that I shall get a sixty days leave some
time in November and in any event will call upon you.

May God bless you my dear mother, and give you consolation for an irreparable loss. You have lost a daughter, and I the loveliest wife that ever lived. Faithful, pure minded and entirely devoted to me. She truly lived a sweet and lovely life. I have lost her and so have you, it is God’s will, and we must bend to it.

I will write you frequently, our ties are not sundered by this infliction of providence you are still my mother, for Isadore is my wife still. --though she is dead I am wedded to her memory.

I would be glad to hear from you frequently. That God will bless you is the prayer of

Your affectionate Son
Henry Douglass

*****

In the years following my discovery of the letters of Isadore and Henry Douglass, I have continued to search for more information about the family in the hopes of discovering what had happened to them. Follow-up research provided the following letter from Henry to his brother, Malcolm Douglass, that did, indeed, provide some more information. Henry’s brother, the Rev. Malcolm Douglass, was an 1846 graduate of Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and was rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Windsor, Vermont, during the 1860s, when this letter was written to him by Henry. This letter is held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Wilson Library, Manuscripts, North Carolina 27514–8890; the Malcolm Douglass Papers, 1809–1886, #227 digitization (Zeutchel) of folder 1.

*****

Fort Dodge, Kansas, March 28, 1868

My dear Mal, [short for Malcolm]

Your last letter, (if it is the last) after going all through Iowa and Colorado, has at last reached me. Your letters will share the same fate, or not reach me at all, as long as you direct to Fort Dodge, IOWA. This post is situated in the state of Kansas—on the Arkansas river, about 9 miles east of the 100th meridian of longitude. Your letters will reach me in about 8 days if you simply direct them to “Ft. Dodge, Kansas”.

I thank you, my dear Mal, for your kind consoling letter. I shall never cease to feel my bereavement, though time has tempered . . . my grief. Every leisure moment (and they are but few), the image of my darling wife appears to me with as much vividness as if she were only temporarily about. It is hard for me still to realize this irreparable loss—the circumstances of her death were so harrowing and I so ignorant of it (for I never saw her in death), that I cannot realize that I have lost my beloved wife. These circumstances you have no doubt been made aware of.

I was exceedingly blessed in my nine years of wedded life, too much so perhaps for it to last long. The lovely traits possessed by Isadore. The purity of her life and her domestic and social virtues, rendered me happy far beyond the happiness ordinarily allotted to mortals. Now that she has gone from me, I often wonder why I did not appreciate the lovely gift of her more fully. I do not believe that any of God’s gifts are fully appreciated until we feel their loss.

I moved her remains from this sterile spot to beautiful Greenwood,* and she sleeps in the same vault with father. Our little infant son, a beautiful child, is with her (Isadore’s) mother. The two eldest boys I have undertaken to instruct myself, and they are improving in their studies. They have plenty of time for play allowed them and Harry, the eldest, is a bold, daring rider, though only 8 years old. They have excellent dispositions & have military order. Harry is honorary Sergt. and Frank is honorary Corpl. in Company “A”, 3 Inf. [They] wear the uniform and attend inspection and roll calls and occasionally drill. Always salute the officers when they meet them and are in every respect fair specimens of . . . . soldiers. This little freak of theirs’ will I think rebound to their benefit—it gives them habits of subordination and discipline and the results are already perceptible. I do not allow them free intercourse with the men, for prudential reasons. I expect from their dispositions and temperaments to make of both of them good and useful men. Thanks to the efforts of their judicious mother in their earlier days.

I have been very busy of late with all kinds of litigations and current military business. I have had but little time for correspondence. I will do the best I know how and would be glad to hear from you often.

Give my best love to Sarah and the children.

Hoping to hear from you soon and trusting that your letter will be directed to Fort Dodge, Kansas.

I remain,
Your affectionate brother,
Henry

*****

*Isadore is buried at Green-Wood Cemetery, in Brooklyn, New York. Burial Date: 1867-12-12; Lot 6521; Section 50, along with her husband, Henry B. Douglass. Also in this lot is Henry’s father, David Bates Douglass, who was the designer of the Green-Wood Cemetery that is now a National Historic Landmark. By the early 1860s Green-Wood Cemetery had earned an international reputation for its magnificent beauty and became the prestigious place to be buried, attract-
Elizabeth Caroline Newcomb (1825 - ?)  
**SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee**

Elizabeth Caroline Newcomb was one of the earliest-known Anglo-American women to travel on the Santa Fe Trail. She was the first-known woman to serve as an enlisted soldier on the Trail. In September 1847, First Lieutenant Amandus V. Schnabel of Company D, from St. Louis, induced an “abandoned female” named Elizabeth Newcomb to disguise herself as a man and join his company of the Missouri Battalion of Volunteers (known as the Indian Battalion) as a soldier named William (Bill) Newcomb. Her age on enlistment record is 22, but her place of birth and family background are unknown.

Newcomb traveled to Fort Leavenworth where she was mustered into the battalion on September 18, 1847. The volunteers were issued equipment but given no basic training for military service before marching along the Santa Fe Trail to the site of Fort Mann, near present-day Dodge City, arriving in early November 1847.

Soon after they arrived at Fort Mann, Private Newcomb was ready to quit playing soldier and bed partner with Schnabel. She may have been pregnant, but there is no documentation to support that. Private Newcomb joined a wagon train returning to Fort Leavenworth on December 1, 1847. Newcomb’s absence from Fort Mann was discovered, she was intercepted and returned to Fort Mann, her gender discovered. She still continued to serve as a soldier at Fort Mann for several months before she was sent to Fort Leavenworth with a wagon train.

When Elizabeth arrived at Fort Leavenworth on May 28, 1848, having spent two weeks traveling along the Santa Fe Trail, she was discharged from service in mid-June. Little is known about Elizabeth during the next few years. She married John Smith, date unknown, and in 1853 successfully petitioned for her military pay and bounty land warrant for her service.

What became of Elizabeth Caroline Newcomb Smith remains unknown. No image of Elizabeth has been located.

Cathy Williams (1844 – c. 1892)  
**SFTA 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee**

Cathy Williams was an African-American who served in the 38th U.S. Infantry (Buffalo Soldiers). She was born a slave at Independence, Missouri. During the Civil War, Cathy was assigned to a company of the 8th Indiana Volunteer Infantry as a cook. After the war, on November 15, 1866, she cut her hair, wore men’s clothing, and enlisted at St. Louis into Company A, 38th Infantry as Private William Cathey. She is the only documented African-American woman to serve in the frontier army.

Reportedly, she was tall, looked masculine, and easily passed as a man. Soon after her enlistment, Private Cathey contracted smallpox which caused continuing health issues. The 38th Infantry moved to Fort Leavenworth, and then to Fort Riley. From there the regiment marched over the Santa Fe Trail in 1867. Some of these soldiers were infected with Asiatic cholera.

Although Private William Cathey did not develop cholera, she continued to have health problems. She was admitted to the post hospital where the surgeon discovered her gender. Private William Cathey was immediately discharged from the military for medical reasons on October 14, 1868, but there is no indication of the gender issue. Original documents regarding this can be read at [www.nps.gov/goga/learn/education/upload/BS_PrimarySources_2008-01-18_med.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/education/upload/BS_PrimarySources_2008-01-18_med.pdf)

As a private citizen again, Cathy Williams worked as a cook at Fort Union on the Santa Fe Trail, then moved to Pueblo, Colorado, where she served as a cook, seamstress, and nurse. She then moved to Trinidad, Colorado, on the Santa Fe Trail. Her health problems increased but her pension claims were denied. She was listed in 1892 as “indigent” by the county. She probably died the same year, although her date of death remains unknown. It was a tragic end for the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S. Army, a woman who had marched over the Santa Fe Trail as a soldier. There are no known photographs of her, although artists’ representations are widely available on the internet.

**Nicodemus National Historic Site**

The town of Nicodemus, Kansas, was founded in 1877. Formerly enslaved African Americans left Kentucky in organized colonies at the end of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period to experience freedom in the “promised land” of Kansas. Nicodemus represents the involvement of African Americans in the westward expansion and settlement of the Great Plains. It is the oldest and only remaining Black settlement west of the Mississippi River. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/nico](http://www.nps.gov/nico). See Angela Bates on page 10.

Douglass Letters, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Douglass Letters, continued</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>giving 500,000 visitors a year, second only to Niagara Falls as the nation’s greatest tourist attraction. Crowds flocked to the cemetery to enjoy family outings, carriage rides, and sculpture viewing. Green-Wood’s popularity helped inspire the creation of public parks, including New York City’s Central and Prospect Parks. Green-Wood is a Revolutionary War historic site (the Battle of Long Island was fought in 1776 across what is now its grounds).</td>
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</table>

**Nicodemus National Historic Site**

The town of Nicodemus, Kansas, was founded in 1877. Formerly enslaved African Americans left Kentucky in organized colonies at the end of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period to experience freedom in the “promised land” of Kansas. Nicodemus represents the involvement of African Americans in the westward expansion and settlement of the Great Plains. It is the oldest and only remaining Black settlement west of the Mississippi River. Learn more at [www.nps.gov/nico](http://www.nps.gov/nico). See Angela Bates on page 10.
Mentions of Women on the Santa Fe Trail Listed

By Joanne VanCoween

Offered here is a chart that cites specific women who traveled the Santa Fe Trail, or were identified as being seen along the Santa Fe Trail. The year is provided, as well as the source from which the reference was taken. This chart is only a beginning. I would like to continue to build upon this information and invite anyone to submit additional information on women who traveled, or were seen along the Santa Fe Trail. Please include the following information: name of woman who traveled or was seen; the year they traveled or were seen; and the source of the reference. Send all information to: manager@santafetrail.org with “Women on SFT” in the subject line. Let’s work together and see how many of the women using the Santa Fe Trail can be documented.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR TRAVELED OR SEEN</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SOURCE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1829 and 1831</td>
<td>Six Spanish exiled women</td>
<td>Ibid., 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Mrs. Harris, a ransomed Comanche captive, traveled w/ Donoho</td>
<td>Meyer, Marian, <em>Mary Donoho, New First Lady of the Santa Fe Trail,</em> (Santa Fe, NM: Ancient City Press), 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Rachel Parker Plummer, a ransomed Comanche captive, traveled w/ Donoho</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Sarah Horn, a Comanche captive, ransomed and traveled w/ Donoho</td>
<td>Ibid.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>“Nice Little Dutch Woman” accompanied her husband with the spring caravans.</td>
<td>Ibid. Also cited by Barry, Louise, <em>The Beginning of the West,</em> (Topeka, Kansas: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 426-27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid 1840s</td>
<td>“White woman named Dale” (who had been an Indian captive)</td>
<td>Lavender, David, <em>Bent’s Fort,</em> (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1954), 274.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>“Few emigrants—women and children” heading to Santa Fe</td>
<td>Ibid., 558.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Soledad Abreu Leitensdorfer traveled the Santa Fe Trail, from west to east, along with her husband Dr. Eugene L. Leitensdorfer and his merchant caravan</td>
<td>Ibid., 572-3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Susan Shelby Magoffin, wife of Samuel Magoffin, a veteran Santa Fe trader.</td>
<td>Drumm, Stella M., editor, <em>Down the Santa Fe Trail and into Mexico; The Diary of Susan Shelby Magoffin 1846–1847,</em> (Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 1982), 65-69.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Jane, Susan Shelby Magoffin’s servant</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event/Description</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>“A real white woman” (seen at Pawnee Fork by Lewis H. Garrard).</td>
<td>Ibid., 281-2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>On May 21, 1848, the <em>Santa Fe Republican</em> reported: several American families on the road to this place</td>
<td>Meyer, “Mary Donoho,” 32.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Ann Dunn White and Virginia, (wife and 10-year old daughter of James M. White) and Negro servant woman, captured and killed by Indians at Point of Rocks, New Mexico</td>
<td>Ibid., 885.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>1 woman and 3 children on their way to California by way of the Santa Fe Trail</td>
<td>Ibid., 82.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>“some families” heading to Santa Fe</td>
<td>Ibid., 859.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Wife of Thomas W. Sutherland, the former District Attorney of Wisconsin Territory, traveling to San Diego, California, via the Santa Fe Trail.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Several American families heading to Santa Fe</td>
<td>Meyer, ibid., 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Several officer’s families</td>
<td>Barry, <em>The Beginning of the West</em>, 947.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Spencer and lady</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Mrs. C. McKnight and sister</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Anna Maria Morris traveled from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory, to Santa Fe in 1850 with troops led by her husband Major Gouverneur Morris, Third Infantry.</td>
<td>Webb, Dave, <em>Santa Fe Trail Adventures</em>, (Dodge City, KS: Kansas Heritage Center, 1999), 53.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Over 30 women from the U.S.</td>
<td>Meyer, “Mary Donoho”, 32.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Margaret; Katie Bowen’s slave</td>
<td>Ibid., 265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Wife of Major Ebenezer S. Sibley</td>
<td>Ibid., 266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Mrs. Hoffmann’s sister (who lived at Las Vegas)</td>
<td>Ibid., 272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Mrs. Hoffmann (wife of Colonel Hoffman), spent 8 months at Fort Mackey in Kansas.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Katie Bowen states in her letters, “Two more ladies added to our train, making ten in all.”</td>
<td>O’Leary, Leo E. “A Faithful Account of Everything; Letters from Katie Bowen on the Santa Fe Trail, 1851”, <em>Wagon Tracks</em>, (Feb. 2004), 15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Source</td>
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<td>1851</td>
<td>“Some of the workmen’s wives will be along”</td>
<td>Ibid., 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>“Our Dinah is a jewel, works to a charm.”</td>
<td>Ibid., 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>H. Mayer and lady, traveling with the mail party</td>
<td>Barry, <em>The Beginning of the West</em>, 1118.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Mrs. Charles Spencer and lady with the September Santa Fe-bound mail party</td>
<td>Ibid., 1121.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Martha Ann Calhoun, daughter of James S. Calhoun, the Territorial Governor of New Mexico.</td>
<td>Ibid, 1107.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Carolina L. (Calhoun) Love, daughter of James S. Calhoun, the Territorial Governor of New Mexico.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Major and lady</td>
<td>Ibid., 1118.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852-53</td>
<td>Wife of Captain Wm. Steele</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<td>1852-53</td>
<td>Wife of 2nd Lt. Samuel D. Sturgis</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852-1864</td>
<td>Eliza St. Clair Sloan, mother of Marion Sloan Russell.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>Catherine Gorman, wife of a Baptist missionary</td>
<td>Barry, <em>The Beginning of the West</em>, 1118.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Sister Magdalen Hayden</td>
<td>Ibid., 1115.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Sister Catherine Mahoney</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Sister Rosanna Dant</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Sister Roberta Brown</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Mrs. Spiegleberg arrived at Independence with the Sept. mail coach. (One of three women married to brothers who were Jewish Santa Fe traders and living in Santa Fe: Levi and wife Betty; Lehman and wife Carrie; and Willi and wife Flora.)</td>
<td>Barry, <em>The Beginning of the West</em>, 1179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Old German woman, at the small trading establishment of Baker and Street at Bull Creek</td>
<td>Ibid., 1187.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Sgl. white woman w/Armijo train</td>
<td>Ibid., 1206.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Two Mexican captives who had escaped from the Kiowas and were given refuge in McCarty’s merchant train.</td>
<td>Ibid., 1165.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Miss Richardson, arrived at Fort Leavenworth from Ft. Union.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Miss Shoemaker, arrived at Fort Leavenworth from Ft. Union.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Wife of Captain Wm. Steele, arrived at Fort Leavenworth from Ft. Union</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<td>1853</td>
<td>Miss Richardson, arrived at Fort Leavenworth from Ft. Union.</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year(s)</td>
<td>Name(s)</td>
<td>Accompanied/In Company Of</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>Mrs. Bowler, wife of the manager of the Exchange Hotel, accompanying Kate Kingsbury to Santa Fe</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Facunda, Kate Kingsbury’s maid</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>1 woman/57 men heading to the goldfields of Colorado</td>
<td>Simmons, <em>On the Santa Fe Trail</em>, 80.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>3 women/100 men heading to the goldfields of Colorado</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Emma Boone, A.G. Boone’s niece</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Julia Archibald Holmes, the first-recorded white woman to climb Pike’s Peak, wearing the woman’s “reform dress.”</td>
<td>Holmes, <em>Covered Wagon Women 7, 1854–1860</em>, 194-5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Mrs. Robert Middleton (in same wagon train as J.A. Holmes)</td>
<td>Ibid., 196.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860s</td>
<td>Lydia Spencer Lane, army wife of William Bartlett Lane. (From Leo Oliva presentation at Rendezvous, 2016: traveling with Lane were her daughter Minnie and a free black child, about 8 years of age, named Kit Hawkins.)</td>
<td>Lane, Lydia Spencer, <em>I Married a Soldier or Old Days in the Army</em>, (reprint, Albuquerque: Horn and Wallace Publishers, Inc., 1964.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860s</td>
<td>Sister of Mary Bernard Aguirre</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
<td>Event/Note</td>
<td>Source(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Wife of Augustus Howell was severely wounded on May 5, 1863, when Dick Yeager and his bunch attacked the stage station at Diamond Springs, Kansas, and killed Augustus Howell, the operator of the station.</td>
<td>McCoy, “Central Kansas Trading Ranches on the Santa Fe Trail,” 111.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Mrs. Frank Laloge, wife of “French Frank” who operated a trading post at Cottonwood Hole.</td>
<td>Ibid., 112.</td>
</tr>
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<td>1863</td>
<td>Huning’s &quot;colored&quot; cook</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Sister of E.D. Franz, Huning’s business partner in New Mexico</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Two families from Mexico</td>
<td>Simmons, <em>On the Santa Fe Trail,</em> 80.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>George E. Vanderwalker met a large Mexican outfit going to the Missouri river, their wagons loaded with the produce of their ranches, and noted a “few Women.”</td>
<td>Simmons, <em>On the Santa Fe Trail,</em> 93.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Wife of A. A. “Lank” Moore (daughter of Mrs. E.P. Waterman)</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mrs. Martha Franke, mother of Ernestine Huning, killed by Indians at Plum Buttes, Rice County, KS</td>
<td>Simmons, <em>On the Santa Fe Trail,</em> 107.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Alice Baldwin, wife of Lieutenant Frank D. Baldwin, and maid</td>
<td>Baldwin, Alice, <em>An Army Wife on the Frontier,</em> (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Library Tanner Trust Fund, 1975), 46.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Ladies and households traveling w/ the Baldwins</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Body of wife of Lt. Henry Romeyn (Sarah E. Tindall Romeyn was being taken to railhead to be shipped back to Michigan for burial.)</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mrs. J.A.M. Tourrette, wife of U. S. Army Chaplain J.A.M. LaTourrette</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mrs. Henry Karplees</td>
<td>Ibid., 55.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mrs. Edmund Thompson</td>
<td>Ibid., 57-8.</td>
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<td>1867</td>
<td>Dick Wooton’s daughter</td>
<td>Ibid., 59.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Sisters Louise Barron, Mary Isabella Traell, Mary Kostska Gauthreaux, Alphonsa Thompson</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Mother and sister of Jean Baptiste Brun</td>
<td>Ibid.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FASHION SHOW AT 2016 RENDEZVOUS**

*Top left: Brooke Coulson, Candice Peterson; middle: Kista Holt, daughters Katherine, Abigail, and Olivia; right: Ellen Jones. Bottom left: Marla Matkin, Christine LaRue, Celeste Dixon; middle: Georgia Bauer, Jan Elder, Jo Molleker; right: Marla Matkin*

*Photos: Ruth Friesen*
“Journey’s End” [at right]

Wagons and mules so silent never to be heard again. Wagon tracks in our deep past while we are in our endless future. From oxen to horses and mules, cultures to cultures, time to time, from wagons to cars. Time is the thing that matters most to us.

“The Journey’s End of the Santa Fe Trail”
Located in Santa Fe, New Mexico
By Caden Cress, entering 4th grade, Sacramento, CA

“What a Struggle it was for Two” [below]

Charles Bent was a hard-working governor for his new state. Unfortunately, he was killed in the Indian massacre of Taos. Here I am at his grave with a story to tell.

I was recently at the Santa Fe National Cemetery looking for Governor Bent’s grave. He was the first governor of the state [territory] of New Mexico. All I had to do was find his grave in Section H, but it just wasn’t there. I looked up and down the section three times. I even asked my Dad to help, but we just could not find it. Finally, I decided to look it up on my phone which indicated that he was indeed buried here. The picture on my phone of his gravestone showed a pedestal base that none of the other graves had. So then I started running looking for that one special base that had to be in the cemetery. And then there it was in Section C. I was so happy I jumped and screamed, “I found it, I found it.” And then my Dad asked me, “How did you find it?” And I told him what a struggle it was.

Governor Bent’s Grave, Santa Fe National Cemetery
By Ryan Cress, entering 7th grade, Sacramento, CA

Chapter Reports

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

Missouri River Outfitters
President Larry Short
3930 S. Jackson Drive #106, Independence, MO 64057
816-835-4397 ♦ ldshort@comcast.net

MRO continues to move forward with several projects this fall. Chief among them is the Salem Park project which consists of three interpretive panels and a new historic site sign, all furnished by the National Park Service. The placing of the pad will be completed by Jackson County Parks and Rec by mid-October. The dedication of the new park area is planned for late October or early November.

In conjunction with the Salem Park project, original route signs will be placed by the Jackson County Public Works Department along the route just north of Buckner, Missouri, and west along Blue Mills Road to Salem Park. Fort Osage will be noted with the use of NPS directional signs to the historic site. Funding from NPS will cover the costs of these new signs.

The signing of Johnson County, Kansas, will be completed by the end of the year. This will complete the signing of the entire Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails from the Upper Independence/Wayne City Landing to Gardner Junction. MRO is proud of the fact that the entire MRO coverage area from Franklin, Missouri, to Gardner Junction, Kansas, is now signed with the exception of the MoDot controlled highways. Our thanks go to Kristin VanFleet, NPS Landscape Architect, for developing the sign plans.

Student Photo Contest Winners

Each winner received a certificate and a $50 award. Start thinking about your entry for next year!
SFTA Annual Membership January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Name(s) ___________________________________________ □ Life $1000, 1 time or 3 installments
Address ___________________________________________ □ Patron $100/year
City ______________________ State _______ Zip ___________ □ Family $40/year
Phone _______________ Email ___________________________ □ Individual $35/year
□ Business $50/year □ Institutional $50/year □ Youth (18 and under) $5/year
□ New member □ Renewing member
I am a member of the following chapter _____________________
I’d like to make a donation to assist the SFTA with programs and events. □ $50 □ $100 □ Other $________
I’d like to donate to the Junior Wagon Master Fund. □ $50 □ $100 □ Other $________
I’d like to donate to the Marker Fund. □ $50 □ $100 □ Other $________

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

Total enclosed ___________________

Mail to Ruth Olson Peters, Treasurer, Santa Fe Trail Center, 1349 K-156, 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, continued

Meetings with the individual government entities in each of the nine cities located along the 3-Trails Corridor continue as we work with Vireo and NPS to develop the comprehensive retracement trail plan. Each of the nine cities has provided their insight into how they envision the pedestrian trail within their boundaries.

MRO will enjoy its annual holiday potluck dinner at the home of Sandy Slusher in Lexington, Missouri, on December 4 at 2:00 p.m. This celebration in her 1844 historic home is always a highlight and much-anticipated event of the year.

Douglas County
President Roger Boyd
PO Box 379, Baldwin City, KS 66006
785-594-3172 ♦ rboyd@bakeru.edu

The Douglas County Chapter will hold its annual winter meeting on Saturday, February 25, 2017. The meeting will be a potluck supper beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church at 8th Street and Grove in Baldwin City, Kansas. The meeting is open to the public. Please bring a dish to share.

Besides a brief business meeting including election of officers and board members, we will have a presentation by Craig Voorhees entitled “The Route of the Army of the West between Ft. Leavenworth and the Santa Fe Trail.” There are few diaries or detailed notes about the route of the trail(s) used by the military. Mr. Voorhees has researched many of those accounts and tried to find evidence on the ground to find where the route might have been. The route that will probably be of greatest interest to those of us in the Douglas County Chapter will be the possible route location between Eudora and Willow Springs and where it traversed the escarpment between Pleasant Grove and Brooklyn.

Other activities of the chapter have been related to restoration of the stone and brick work at the Santa Fe Depot in Media or West Baldwin and doing some restoration work on the Old Palmyra Post Office and Blood’s General Store, which is now located at the Old Castle complex on Fifth Street between Elm and Fremont. This is the only known building left from the town of Palmyra that was founded on the Santa Fe Trail in 1854.

Members of the chapter are also organizing the various committees needed for the Symposium 2017 to be held in Olathe in September 2017.

Heart of the Flint Hills
President Sharon Haun
704 Hockaday Street, Council Grove, KS 66846
khaun@tctelco.net

Cottonwood Crossing
President Steve Schmidt
1120 Cobblestone Court, McPherson, KS 67460
620-245-0715 ♦ wfordok@yahoo.com

Following the October 27 chapter business meeting to elect 2017 chapter officers, Larry Short, SFTA Vice President and President Elect, will present a short program. He will discuss how the SFTA and the local chapters work together and complement each other’s efforts. The chapters are important to the success of SFTA, and the SFTA is important to the success of the chapters. He may even tell us a little about the planning
the 2017 Symposium. Following Larry’s presentation, Cè-
este Dixon, National Park Service Ranger from Ft. Larned, Cè
will present a program about “Civilian Women on Frontier
Military Posts.” Celeste is an avid historian, and frequently
has written articles for the Outpost, the newsletter of the Ft.
Larned Old Guard. We have enjoyed speakers in the past from
Ft. Larned, and we thank the National Park Service for their
support of the chapter in this way.

The 2017 Chapter meeting dates are: February 23, April 27,
June 22, August 24, and October 26.

Dudley Donahue has received National Register listing of
Santa Fe National Historic Trail ruts on his property north of
Durham, Kansas. Congratulations to Mr. Donahue for achiev-
ing this status and for preserving his property’s ruts. There was
a nice article about this on page 2 of the September 21, 2016,
Marion County Record.

George Schutte and Steve Schmidt recently replaced dam-
aged or stolen SFNHT signs, including two “Crosses Here”
signs and posts, and one “Local Tour” sign post. Several other
signs have been used for target practice, but are not too badly
damaged. Just days after the damaged and missing signs were
replaced, the “Crosses Here” sign post was broken off us-
ing a large ATV, and the signs and post stolen near George
Schutte’s house. It is difficult to stay ahead of the vandals.

**Quivira**
President Linda Colle
724 Penn Drive, McPherson, KS 67460
620-241-8719 ♦ blkcolle@swbell.net

Few animals conjure the power and symbolic presence of the
North American bison. Buffalo or bison were an important
part of Native American life on the Plains and were also
important to the travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. On Saturday,
October 22, the Quivira Chapter and the McPherson Mu-
seum and Arts Foundation presented Buffalo & More at the
McPherson Museum, with events for both adults and children.
Several programs and demonstrations were held throughout
the day.

**Wet/Dry Routes**
Rosetta Graff
918 Colony, Kinsley, KS 67547
620-659-2534 ♦ librarian281942@yahoo.com

Forty members, children, and guests convened for the fall
meeting of the chapter at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, at
the Santa Fe Trail Center in Larned. Following the luncheon,
Vice President Rosetta Graff thanked Becca Hiller and Marty
Scranton for hosting the meeting in the east gallery at the
Santa Fe Trail Center. The chapter welcomed Marty Scranton
as a new member. Thank yous were given to Doug Springer,
Tom Seltman, and Leo Oliva for the completion of the Susan
Shelby Magoffin signage on the Adam Apley property at Ash
Creek Crossing. This two-year effort was initiated by David
and Alice Clapsaddle and completed by the chapter with the
dedication of the sign at Rendezvous 2016. Reports were given
on Rendezvous, the nominating committee, and the David
K. Clapsaddle memorial fund. Announcements included the
Santa Fe Trail Symposium in September 2017 in Olathe,
Kansas, and the chapter winter meeting in Kinsley on Sunday,
January 15 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Straits Café.

Becca Hiller, director of the Santa Fe Trail Museum, presented
a brief overview of the Santa Fe Trail Museum and Research
Library, so named by Melba Wood in a contest in 1972. Fifty-
three acres were given by the Doerr family for the site of the
new facility, with the museum situated on ten of those acres.
The Pawnee County Historical Society was initiated on 1923
with 50-cent dues. The two societies merged in 1957, and
the present museum was completed in 1973, with a rousing
dedication which included cast members of the television
show Gunsmoke as well as other notable figures. Following
the presentation, the group, led by Becca Hiller, toured the
museum. Memberships in the Ft. Larned Historic Society are
always welcome and necessary for the ongoing programs of
the museum.

**Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron**
President Bill Bunyan
PO Box 1656, Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-8203 ♦ dchawk38@gmail.com

The chapter met Sunday, September 25, at the Occident at
Boot Hill for our usual fried chicken dinner and the great
side dishes supplied by chapter members. During the busi-
ness meeting, the chapter agreed to restore the Major Robert
Chilton Monument to the way it looked in 1931, when it was
dedicated. Major Chilton was the officer-in-charge at Fort
Atkinson in 1853, when he, along with Indian Agent Thomas
Fitzpatrick, negotiated a treaty with the Southern Plains tribes
to stop raiding on the trail.

Our program speakers were National Park Rangers Superin-
tendent Aaron Mahr, Deputy Superintendent John Cannella,
and Interpretive Specialist Carol Clark. They spoke about the
100th anniversary of the National Park System and their work
with the Santa Fe Trail. After the meeting, President Bunyan
took the Rangers on a tour of the story boards in our area.

The Rangers had attended the Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous
which is held biennially at Larned, Kansas. Thirteen of our
chapter members attended Rendezvous, which highlighted
women on the Santa Fe Trail.

The SFTA is already beginning to work on plans for the
200th anniversary of the Trail in 2021. Each chapter will be
asked to have a project about something that happened in
their trail area. With the Caches, Fort Mann, Fort Atkinson,
Fort Dodge, and the 1853 Indian Treaty and other important
events and places, we will have much from which to choose for
a project.

Chapter President Bunyan spoke to the Over 60 Methodist
Church group about our chapter activities and our story boards
in the area.

Our next chapter meeting will be Sunday, November 20,
where we will look back at our last four years highlighting
what we have accomplished and a look to our future. We will
be having our annual Christmas party with the Great Western
Cattle Trail, Kansas Chapter, at Casey’s Cowtown on Thursday,
December 15, at 6:30 p.m.
**Wagon Bed Spring**
Linda Peters  
1035 S. Bridge Street, Lakin, KS 67860  
620-355-6213 ♦ mothhrhen@pld.com

The SFTA Board asked Linda Peters to work onreviving and expanding the Wagon Bed Springs Chapter. Fifteen people attended a chapter meeting on July 12. Another meeting with an activity or speaker was scheduled for October 10. Linda was asked to speak about the Santa Fe Trail at a Finney County Museum meeting in February: she gladly accepted.

**Cimarron Cutoff**
President Leon Ellis  
PO Box 668, Elkhart, KS 67950  
620-453-2286 ♦ lbe@elkhart.com

Bent’s Fort Chapter members have enjoyed several treks and activities throughout the summer of 2016:

- On July 16 over 75 members and guests gathered at the historic Grand Theatre in Rocky Ford to hear Jim Dunham. His presentation included many facts about the early days, from telling how Indian tribes were named as we know them today to talking about TV and movie western stars of the 1900s. His fast-gun demonstrations kept the audience’s attention.
- August 13 found the Bent’s Fort Chapter and Huerfano County Historical Society on the Trappers/Taos Trail Tour in the beautiful Colorado foothills. This was a tour into the rich history of this area of southern Colorado with connections to the Santa Fe Trail. From American Indians through trappers and traders, a lot of history passed this way from New Mexico to Wyoming. Settlements and trails, including the Huerfano River, played important roles.
- Many Bent’s Fort Chapter members enjoyed the SFTA Rendezvous in September in Larned. We were honored to have five Bent’s Fort Chapter award recipients: Award of Merit, Rod Podszus and Dotti Russell; Paul F. Bentstrup Ambassador Award, John Carson and Pat Palmer; and Marc Simmons Writing Award to Joanne VanCoevert.
- On October 8 chapter members enjoyed an Apishapa Canyon trek. The Apishapa Valley History Society and members of the Corazon (NM) Chapter also joined us on the tour. This was a tour into the rich history of this area of southern Colorado and the Great Cattle Empires, and included some connections to the Goodnight Trail.
- November 12 will find the Bent’s Fort chapter members enjoying an educational meeting. Our presenter Sandy Dexter will speak on the life of “Walking Woman” Amache Ochinee Prowers, wife of John Wesley Prowers.
- December 10 will be the 2017 planning meeting. January 14, 2017, will be the Bent’s Fort Chapter annual meeting.

At the Boggsville 150th Anniversary Celebration held October 1, there was a dedication of a nice stone bench in memory of Richard Carrillo. The former Colorado State Historian William Convey moderated the dedication, and several members from the audience spoke of their memories of Richard and his contribution to archaeology and to Boggsville.

**Bent’s Fort**
President Pat Palmer  
PO Box 628, Lamar, CO 81052  
719-931-4323

The Bent’s Fort Chapter mourns the loss of Teresa Kesterson, who passed away on July 24 after a courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. She and her husband Dale were part of the small group of eight people who started the Bent’s Fort Chapter in 1994. They helped write the bylaws and design the logo. They also led over 80 tours in the 1980s and 1990s.

As a result of these activities, our membership keeps growing. As of October 2016 we have 163 memberships. Check out the schedule of activities on the Santa Fe Trail website and come along with us!

**Corazon de los Caminos**
President Dennis Schneider  
828 South Euclid Ave., Cimarron, NM 87714  
575-376-2527 ♦ schneidermusic@q.com

We have had some very good events this year, and a couple had to be put off due to rain (we seldom have rain, so this might be a good thing). Our August event had too much moisture to tour the site, but we did have a film and an archaeologist speaker. The Larned rendezvous was good as always. October 8 our chapter joined the Bent’s Fort Chapter for an outstanding tour. Nine from our chapter attended.

Please do not miss our annual fall business meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the St. James Hotel in Cimarron on November 19. We have a lot of important business to cover, and Steven Zimmer always has a good presentation. This meeting will conclude our yearly activities until we can meet next year to plan our agenda for 2017. Everyone have a good Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year!

**End of the Trail**
President Joy Poole  
125 Lupita Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505-820-7828 ♦ amusejoy@msn.com

On September 17, our program was provided by Alysia Abbott, Ph.D., Principal Investigator – Abboteck, Inc., speaking about “Santa Fe Cemeteries and the Santa Fe Trail.” On November 19, François-Marie Patorni, retired historian, will present “Frenchmen on the Santa Fe Trail” at the Eldorado Community Center at 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Fe Trail Association partnered with Renee Harris and the New Mexico History Museum on an after-school program which featured the Santa Fe Trail. The state museums received a grant from the Santa Fe school district to conduct this pilot program for students. Information on the Santa Fe Trail Activity trunks was distributed to approximately 50 teachers in the Espanola and Santa Fe School Districts. As a result there have been requests for the trunks from additional area teachers.
November 12: CO. Bent’s Fort Chapter, Sandy Dexter speaks on the life of “Walking Woman” Amache Ochinee Prowers

November 19: Cimarron, NM. Corazon de los Caminos, Steven Zimmer presenting

November 19: Santa Fe, NM. End of the Trail Chapter meeting, François-Marie Patorni speaks on “Frenchmen on the Santa Fe Trail”

November 20: Dodge City, KS. Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter meeting

December 1: Deadline for 2017 SFTA research grant applications

December 2-3: La Junta, CO. Bent’s Old Fort NHS traditional holiday celebration

December 4: Lexington, MO. MRO Chapter potluck

December 10: CO. Bent’s Fort Chapter meeting

December 15: Dodge City, KS. Dodge City/Fort Dodge/Cimarron Chapter Christmas party

January 3, 2017: Online applications available for Bent’s Old Fort Frontier Skills Day March 17

January 10: Submission deadline for February Wagon Tracks

January 14: CO. Bent’s Fort Chapter meeting

January 15: Kinsley, KS. Wet/Dry Routes Chapter meeting

February 11-15: Washington, D.C. PNTS Hike the Hill

February 23: Cottonwood Crossing Chapter meeting

February 25: Baldwin City, KS. Douglas County Chapter potluck

March 1: Deadline for 2021 SFTA logo contest

March 4-5: Admire, KS. “Preserving our Past through Performance” workshop

March 17: La Junta, CO. Bent’s Old Fort NHS, Frontier Skills Day. Applications available January 3

April 20-22: Salina, KS. SFTA /NPS Workshop and SFTA board meeting

May 27: Waynesville, NC. GeoWoodstock 2017