

SPANISH TRACES



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Spring 2016

Petroglyphs Pictographs OSTA Conference Voting Trujillo Adobe

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OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Old Spanish Trail (OST), one of America's long-distance pioneer trade routes, is recognized by Congress as a National Historic Trail. From 1829 through 1848, traders and pack mules followed the OST on typically a six-week trek from northern New Mexico to Southern California, where woolen goods from New Mexico were swapped for horses and pack stock raised on California's ranchos. Many took the trail – traders, frontiersmen, trappers, families, military expeditions, and Indian guides.

The mission of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) is to study, preserve, protect, interpret and promote appropriate use of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT). OSTA promotes public awareness of the OSNHT and its multicultural heritage through publications, a website and interpretive activities; by encouraging research; and by partnering with governments and private organizations. We encourage you to join OSTA, help in trail preservation, and increase appreciation of the multicultural heritage of the American Southwest.

Visit our website: www.oldspanishtrail.org

The OSTA website is the place to go for both general and comprehensive background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail, and a bibliography of relevant books with links for purchases of books and other OSTA merchandise from the Association. There is also a regularly updated news page that contains links to government reports, activities of OSTA members, and other news related to the trail. The web page links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites, where public documents and maps related to the OSNHT can be found. Memberships (new or renewal) may be paid on the OSTA website, and donations, both general and for specific projects, can be made through the OSTA website as well.

Spanish Traces is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. *Spanish Traces* welcomes submission of articles, book reviews, and OST-related news. OSTA assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors. *Spanish Traces* is copyrighted to OSTA in its entirety, but copyright to individual articles is retained by the author. The next deadline for submissions is **July 18, 2016**. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA Editor.

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On the Cover: *Sego Canyon pictographs, located on the OSNHT North Branch between Grand Junction, Colorado, and Green River, Utah. The pictographs include Ute era depictions of horses and riders, possibly influenced by travelers on the Old Spanish Trail. The site is administered by the BLM.*

Photo: Ruth Friesen



President's Corner

by Ashley J. Hall
OSTA President

As OSTA states and chapters plan future projects and activities along the Old Spanish Trail, I thought it would be good to provide Nevada's experience and perspective in the conception, planning, development, and execution of a major re-marking project along the OST designed to help carry out the mission statement of OSTA. During my years of involvement in OSTA, I have found that OST projects are generally a process and not an event. Projects that yield great results take time to properly conceive, plan, and execute. Most major OST projects require multi-year planning, development, and execution.

In 2010, the OSTA Nevada Chapter met to discuss opportunities and challenges that the Nevada Chapter might focus on, both short and long term, to better identify, mark, and maintain the OST through Southern Nevada—approximately 160 miles.

The Anatomy of a Major Project along the OST

Nevada was fortunate to have two past OSTA presidents, noted authors and OST enthusiasts Hal Steiner and Liz Warren, who had both been deeply involved in identifying, marking, protecting, and interpreting the Trail. They provided those assembled with a historical perspective on the Trail, the mapped corridor, and specific locations in many important areas along the Trail, and how to access both public and private lands needed to preserve the Trail and tell the OST story.

Following a lengthy discussion on options and opportunities open to the Nevada Chapter, we begin to narrow down the type of OST project that was within our reach in both scope and resources. Our discussion led to several possible projects, the needs for such projects, and the timeline it would take to carry them out. We determined that the first course of action was to fully reacquaint ourselves with the Nevada section of the Trail through study and travel along this portion of the Trail.

Utilizing available NPS/BLM and historic maps that identified the OST, reviewing historic materials available in the Special Collections library at UNLV that covered the initial 1964 Nevada Centennial project to mark the Trail, studying Hal Steiner's acclaimed book *The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert* and Liz Warren's master's thesis on the OST, combined with a great deal of additional research and study, helped us determine where we needed to focus our "on-trail" hiking, biking, flying, auto tour

research, and familiarization of the Trail between the Arizona/Nevada and Nevada/California state lines.

In 1964, several OST enthusiasts headed by Sherwin "Scoop" Garside of Las Vegas, along with the Downtown Optimists Club of Las Vegas, made a presentation to the Nevada Centennial Commission to mark the Old Spanish Trail through Southern Nevada as part of Nevada's Centennial celebration. The group cast 35 OST markers (obelisks) that stood seven feet high, were square at the base that was eight inches on each side at the bottom, tapering up to five inches on each side at the top, with an arrow pointing up at the top (pointing the direction of the OST), accompanied by the inscription "Old Spanish Trail 1829-1848" impressed in block letters on two sides.

The Centennial markers were placed approximately 18 inches deep every eight miles or so along the Trail, starting at the Virgin River adjacent to Bunkerville, Nevada, running along the river to Half-Way Wash, up Half-Way Wash, then up the east bench of the Mormon Mesa, running directly west across the Mesa to old Highway 91 (today's I-15), down off the Mesa to the Muddy River Crossing (California Wash) near Glendale, Nevada, up the California Wash to Ute Junction along old Highway 91 (I-15), continuing south to the Valley of Fire exit, the UP railroad underpass, to Apex and into the Las Vegas Valley following old Highway 91 past Nellis AFB, Kyle Ranch and the Las Vegas Meadow and Springs, continuing southwest to a ravine in the southwest corner

of the Las Vegas Valley, up the ravine to the Blue Diamond Spring, then up Cottonwood Wash to the crest of Mountain Springs Pass on Nevada Highway 160, then over the pass into the Pahrump Valley following Highway 160 to the Sandy Valley turn-off, then southwest to the California state line, passing Resting Springs, over Emigrant Pass to Resting Springs and Tecopa, California.

Since the planting of the initial Nevada OST markers 50 years ago, most had been stolen or shot to pieces, while others had been run over by off-road outfits. Following careful on-the-ground assessment of each of the remaining markers, it was determined that the Nevada Chapter needed to have 30 new OST markers fabricated as replacements at old and strategically located locations. The Nevada Chapter estimated the cost of replacing the OST markers, had a replica mold made, identified a cement specialist who was willing to cast 30 new OST markers, obtained the approval of the BLM where located on their lands, and the approval of private and public property owners. We then began to organize the replacement of needed markers along the Trail. Boy Scout Eagle Projects were perfect for replacing the markers. Community history and civic clubs were invited, as were the media, local youth groups such as FFA, 4-H, and Hispanic social clubs.

As a result of our invitation to these groups, we found many willing to assist Nevada OSTA members in replacing the markers. Beginning on October 30, 2013, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval kicked off Nevada's

Sesquicentennial Celebration at the Old Las Vegas Fort in downtown Las Vegas, where the Governor unveiled the first replacement marker, which Eagle Scout candidate Thad Erickson had planted, joined by his project committee, family, and media.

The project to replace the original OST markers installed in 1964 formally got off the ground on October 30, 2013, taking over four and a half years to conceive, plan, develop, organize, and begin executing the project. So, in the spring of 2016, we have conducted 20 Eagle Scout projects, several OSTA, community, history club, and general public marker replacement projects, and

we still have at least two more Eagle Scout projects to finish our plans of re-marking the OST routes through Southern Nevada.

Thousands of volunteer hours have been devoted this project. Thousands of dollars were donated to pay for the casting of the new markers, fuel, and additional supplies needed to make each replacement marker. This project was indeed a process, coupled with many events to carry it out. In the spring and fall of 2016, the Nevada Chapter is scheduling an Auto Tour, North and South, along the Trail to fully familiarize OSTA members and citizens about the Trail. ♦

Archaeology Featured in this Issue

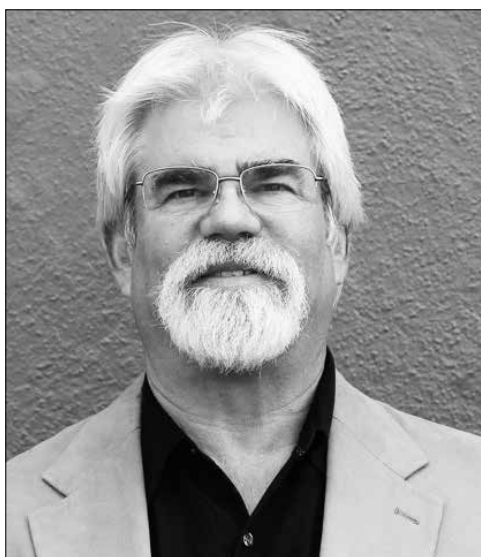
Archaeological sites and other physical traces of the Old Spanish Trail are featured in this issue of *Spanish Traces*. These on-the-ground sites, inscriptions, and artifacts are the remnants of hundreds of years of cultural occupancy and passage—before, during, and after the period of significance of the Old Spanish Trail, 1829–1848.

Archaeological sites, including historic and prehistoric rock inscription (petroglyph) and painting (pictograph) sites, are sensitive for a host of reasons. Unfortunately, such irreplaceable heritage resources have often been the focus of uninformed, misguided, or even purposeful vandalism. Where such sites exist on federal public lands they are protected by law (the Archeological Resources Protection Act 16 USC 470aa-mm) and by land management agency regulations and policies. Some states also have protective laws. Many such sites also carry important sacred value to Native Americans and deserve everyone's respect and care.

On private lands, where these sites are hopefully preserved by landowners, any public visitation must be by landowner permission and private property rights must be respected.

The Old Spanish Trail Association stands for protection of all such sites, respect for the cultural groups having historical or spiritual connections to such sites, and for limited, respectful viewing where permitted by land management agencies or private landowners.

Trail Dispatches



by John W. Hiscock
Association Manager

I am now well into my second quarter as your Association Manager, and what an experience it has been thus far. My knowledge of the Association, the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, and our partners and partnerships is continually growing. I'm enjoying the work, with your help, and hope you are seeing some of the results.

In January I helped facilitate, and participated in, my first full-fledged Association Board meeting in Barstow, California. The meeting itself was held at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Barstow Field Office. Our thanks to Field Office Manager Katrina Symons for making meeting space available for us at the BLM office. The meeting was attended by federal agency partners: Zachary Pratt, Recreation Planner, Barstow Field Office, BLM; Rob Sweeten, Trail Administrator, BLM; and, Aaron Mahr, Superintendent, National Trails, Intermountain Region, National Park Service

(NPS). In addition to many OSTA Board members, the meeting was attended by Jack Prichett, Tecopa Chapter President, and interested California OSTA members.

The meeting agenda was full, and interesting information, discussion, and ideas exchanged. Updates on the good health of the Association budget, the distribution phase of the Utah/Arizona auto tour guidebook project, status of membership, stewardship activities, and signage plans were provided. Discussion regarding planning for a second auto tour guidebook project for the states of Colorado and New Mexico took place, and steps are now being taken toward initiating that project. Colorado State Director Vicki Felmler introduced proposals for trading institutional memberships with other like-motivated organizations, and for desert ecosystem enlightenment and appreciation. The proposals were passed by the Board (see pages 19 and 32). Board membership nominations and elections for 2016 were also planned. An update on planning of the 2016 OSTA conference for Grand Junction, Colorado, was presented, and a firm commitment for the succeeding annual conference in Barstow, California, in October 2017 was passed by the Board. BLM Administrator Sweeten and NPS Superintendent Mahr "assured" the Board of the issuance of the long awaited Comprehensive Administrative Strategy for the OSNHT by Spring 2016.

In the evening in Barstow, the Board and other members were treated to a reception at the BLM Desert Discovery Center organized by Director Jane Laraman-Brockhurst and staffed by enthusiastic local student interns, including musical entertainment and a presentation on local Barstow history. The next day Board and Association members were provided a tour of the Mojave River Valley Museum by Cliff Walker and associates, the Barstow Main Street Murals project by Jane Laraman-Brockhurst, the historic Casa del Desierto/Harvey House Railroad Depot, and nearby OSNHT sites, including the "Forks of the Road," guided by Mojave River Chapter President Nelson Miller. All of these opportunities were presented in part in preview of the planned 2017 annual conference.

That afternoon and the following day, joined sequentially by Nelson Miller and Los Angeles member Alex King, my wife Tracy and I visited additional OSNHT sites. Nelson drove us into the Alvord Range east of Barstow and to Spanish Canyon and Impassable Pass at the edge of Fort Irwin, where we experienced some of the quiet and colorful beauty of the Mojave Desert sections of the Trail. The next morning we met Nelson at Crowder Canyon in the Cajon Pass area, where the OSNHT and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail intersect, and then proceeded to Mission San Gabriel and its fine grounds and

exhibits. From there we traveled to the Workman and Temple Family Homestead Museum and toured the adobe home of William Workman, originally built in 1841. Our knowledgeable Workman docent, tour guide, and great interpreter was OSTA member Janet Austin of Diamond Bar, California. Then on to the Los Angeles City Historic Monument of El Pueblo de Los Angeles. My never-ending gratitude to Nelson and Alex for showing us desert Trail traces and sharing their knowledge of OSTA and the fascinating history of the OSNHT. Tracy and I spent the next couple of days up the coast and toured related California Spanish/Mexican period historic sites such as El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, Mission Santa Barbara, La Purisima Mission State Historic Park, and Mission San Antonio de Padua. The historic operations and commerce connections of these sites intrigued me and are cause for more learning and research as related to the OSNHT.

More travels. In early February, along with OSTA Director-At-Large Reba Wells Grandrud, I attended the annual Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) business meeting in Washington, D.C. This was a great investment and opportunity for OSTA and for me as its new Association Manager. An entire day was spent on strategic planning for the future guidance of PNTS. I can assure you that PNTS greatly benefits OSTA and all of the national scenic and historic trail organizations

that comprise its membership. The collegial value of interacting with other leaders of trail associations alone is of great significance. Add to that the tremendous work that PNTS and its Executive Director, Gary Werner, do in communicating trail operational, management, and advocacy needs to federal agencies at the Washington level, and to Congress, and our dues and involvement are clearly worthwhile. Personally, I had the chance to interact with Association counterparts from around the country, and with federal agency managers such as Rita Hennessey, National Trails System Program Leader, NPS; Deb Salt, National Trails Coordinator, BLM; Nikki Moore, National Landscape Conservation System Division Chief, BLM; Nathan Caldwell, Trails Program Lead, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Jaime Schmidt, Assistant National Program Manager for Trails, U.S. Forest Service.

Within the next month or so I will represent the Association at other events and activities. From March 18-20, I will attend the Oregon-California Trails Association's "Historic Trails of Southern Utah" symposium in St. George, Utah. The symposium will examine the post-1848 use of the Old Spanish Trail for commerce, travel, and emigration. I will have an OSTA exhibit for introducing attendees to OSTA and for recruiting members. In early April, I will join a NPS and BLM staff field trip along the OSNHT between Los Angeles, California, and Cedar City, Utah. I look forward to this trip as a

chance to get better acquainted with federal management agency staff and Trail locations.

There are a number of items worthy of everyone's attention at the moment:

2016 OSTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Planning for the 2016 conference scheduled for Grand Junction, Colorado, on July 29-30 is nearing completion. Conference Chair Colorado State Director Vicki Felmler and her committee are doing an excellent job of arranging interesting speakers and activities. Grand Junction will be a great place for a conference, at a wonderful time of the year. See details and registration information on page 12-14.

2016 BOARD ELECTIONS. The Board has recruited a great slate of nominees for leadership succession. Thanks are due to long and short term Board members Liz Warren, Reba Wells Grandrud, Paul Ostapuk, and Lorna Hall who vacate their positions in July. New and well-known people have been nominated for open Board seats in this election. Please vote in support of your fellow members who dedicate their service to all of us in the Association. See biographical sketches of each candidate on pages 18-19, and a mail-in ballot inserted in the envelope for this issue.

In addition, the position of Treasurer on the Board has recently been transitioned. Former Treasurer Debi Plum, has resigned from

Continued on page 16

Chapter Reports

Fish Lake Chapter

Members of the Fish Lake Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association are bringing new attention to the historic trail and to a frequently-used alternate route through the Central Utah region, known as the Fish Lake Cut Off.

A Resolution is being considered by the Utah State Legislature which supports and encourages the designation of the Fish Lake Cut Off as part of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Richfield, Utah, Mayor and active OSTA member David Ogden appeared recently before the Utah Senate Natural Resources Committee in support of the measure. Utah Senate Majority Leader Ralph Okerlund, the sponsor of the Resolution, joined Mayor Ogden at the presentation.

Mayor Ogden noted the historical significance of the Trail, reminding the Senators that during the period from 1829 to 1848, thousands of horses and mules were moved through Utah from California to New Mexico. He noted that the route varied from time to time, depending upon available vegetation, weather, and conflicts with Native Americans. Evidence strongly suggests that the alternate route known as the Fish Lake Cut Off was frequently used. By identifying and designating this and other alternate routes, we add to our knowledge of the important trade routes that were traversed by traders, trappers, missionaries and explorers.

The Natural Resources Committee unanimously approved the Resolution, it passed through the House and Senate, and is now on the Governor's desk, awaiting signature. The Utah State Legislature wraps up its 45-day session on March 10, 2016.

--David Ogden

William Workman Chapter

All Chapter members and honorary members have now received copies of the recent edition of *Spanish Traces* (Winter 2015) and enjoyed the new format. This is always much appreciated by us all and is our real lifeline to the Old Spanish Trail itself and the Association.

Paid members have also received the publication *Driving the Old Spanish Trail through Utah and Arizona*, and some great comments on its quality have been passed to me. The two authors are to be complimented for their work in this regard.

Since our last chapter report we have lost one member, Yvonne Ramsay, wife of our Chapter President Bill Ramsay, who died in November 2015 after a long illness. Members John and Anne Thompson returned to UK in mid-February, having sojourned for our three coldest months in the Spanish Canary Islands.

Also, since we reported in the Autumn 2015 edition of *Spanish Traces* on the ill-health of Chapter Director Bruce Alderson, it is pleasing to report that he is back at home. The secretary [David Fallowfield] visited with him last week in Penrith when he was in the good company of fellow director and Appleby neighbour Donald Harrison. We send greetings and best wishes to all the U.S. members and officers of the Association.

--David Fallowfield



In the News

OSTA member Harry Murray has an article published in the February 2016 issue of *Wild West* magazine. The article presents George Yount, "The Taos Trapper Who Made His Mark."

Tecopa Chapter

Weather forecasts for this winter in California called for torrential El Nino rainstorms. The January to April period is when the Tecopa chapter does most of its field survey work, locating and GPS-recording segments of the OST and the later Mormon Road (MR) wagon trail.

To date (February 15), however, those storms have failed to materialize, and the Tecopa chapter is hoping to take advantage of cool but dry winter weather to extend its recording of the Trail. The chapter was active in recording during 2015 and has field records and GPS waypoints for about 19 miles of the OST/MR. Weather permitting, the trail committee hopes this year to add several more miles of OST/MR to our inventory.

The chapter is also pursuing steps to convert the GPS waypoints, photographs, and field records to GIS (Geographical Information Systems) shape files. This would result in a set of digital overlay maps that can be transferred in easily usable form to the NPS, the BLM, Inyo County Planning Department, the California State Historic Preservation Office, and other agencies concerned with cultural resources.

--Jack Prichett

Salida del Sol Chapter

Salida del Sol Chapter's first meeting of 2016 was February 20 at the studio of our newest member Liane Brown, a spinner and a weaver. Lianne shared her skills and knowledge of wool and weaving.

Our annual meeting will take place on April 16, with time, location and speaker to be announced. Field trips are being planned for June and August.

The weekend of April 19 is the Historical Society of New Mexico's meeting in Farmington, New Mexico, at which Rachel Prinz, Dennis Ditmanson, and Pat Kuhlhoff will make a presentation about the Armijo and the Main Route trails through the San Juan Basin and preservation of the routes there.

--Pat Kuhlhoff

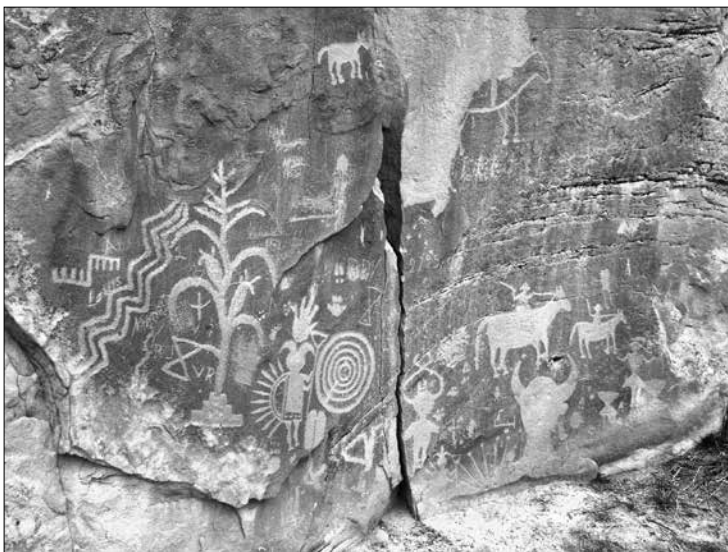


Photo credit: Camerafiend at the English language Wikipedia (www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html), from Wikimedia Commons

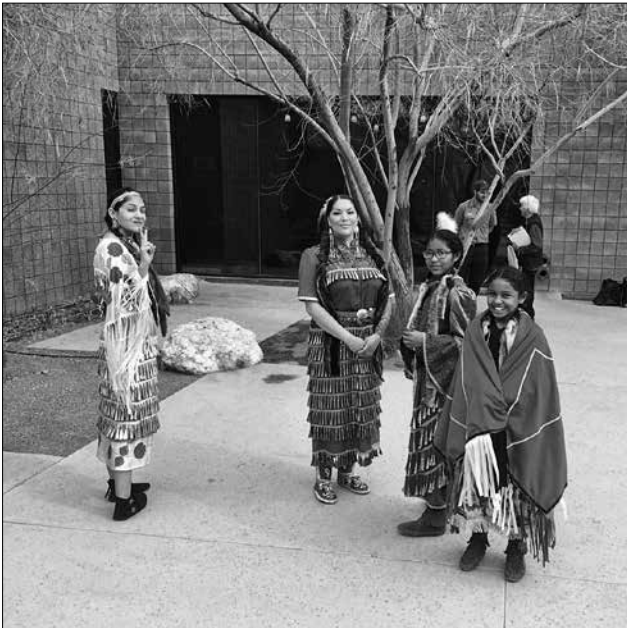
Largo Canyon: Crow Canyon Petroglyphs

Crow Canyon is a historic site located in Largo Canyon on the Armijo Route of the Old Spanish Trail, about 30 miles southeast of Farmington, New Mexico. Largo Canyon is one of the most sacred areas for the Diné (Navajo) people. The site, located in Dinétah, the traditional homeland of the Navajo people, contains a variety of Navajo ruins and rock art from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, including horse and rider petroglyphs possibly inspired by the OST that crosses the area. The Crow Canyon Petroglyphs are the most extensive and well-known collection of 16th–18th century Navajo petroglyphs in the American Southwest. The site is administered by the BLM. See www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/farmington/crow_canyon.html for more information.

Nevada Chapter

The winter months for the Nevada Chapter of OSTA have been active with Boy Scout Eagle projects to replace the OST markers along the Trail. We transported the new OST replacement markers to finish sealing and getting ready for placement.

We made educational presentations to Daughters of Utah Pioneers Nevada Chapters and Daughters of the American Revolution Nevada Chapters, and worked with the Old Las Vegas Fort in support of several activities. Of particular note was the Native American Day at the Old Fort where the Nevada Chapter paid for the lunch that was served to those who attended. See photo below.



The Nevada Chapter continued to place Hal Steiner's book *The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert* in many book outlets at both national and state recreation areas and historic parks. We have found this to be a good fundraiser for the Nevada Chapter, which designates the proceeds to reprinting additional copies of the book. Additional funds are procured through donations from members and businesses throughout Southern Nevada.

We are planning a "Spring Fling" in late March in

the form of a one-day Auto Tour from Las Vegas, north along I-15 to Bunkerville near the Arizona state line. The purpose of the Auto Tour is to allow OSTA members and interested history buffs to become better acquainted with the OST from the Arizona state line along the Virgin River through Bunkerville, Riverside, over the Mormon Mesa to Glendale and the Muddy River, along California Wash to Ute Junction, Valley of Fire exit along I-15, the old Railroad Underpass where old Highway 91 once was, to Apex and then into the Las Vegas Valley. We plan to stop at each of the markers along I-15, with a lunch break at the beautiful Anderson Dairy Ranch at Glendale to review plans for the "John C. Fremont Rendezvous Site" to be located on the Ranch.

Members of the Chapter will be guides and presenters of histories about the Old Spanish Trail and its impact on the growth and development of the American Southwest.

--Nicole Marie Dominguez

California State

Public Hearing on Proposed Desert Monuments

On October 13, 2015, California Senator Diane Feinstein hosted a public hearing on the proposed national monuments in California's Mojave Desert—supported by OSTA and National Parks Conservation Association members in Washington, D.C.—near Palm Springs. As an indirect result of Senator Feinstein's legislative proposal, President Barack Obama established the Mojave Trails (BLM), Sand to Snow (BLM), and Castle Mountains (NPS) National Monuments by presidential proclamation in February. The Mojave Trails NM includes portions of the OSNHT.

Planning Session for the 2017 OSTA Conference

On December 3, 2015, Jack Prichett met with Nelson Miller, Ed Pearson, and Paul McClure in San Dimas to iron out details for the January 2016 OSTA board meeting in Barstow, as well as the October 7, 2017, annual membership meeting also scheduled for Barstow. The conference will coincide with Old Spanish Trail Day and should be an informative and memorable event.

--Paul McClure

Nevada State Director

In 2015 and continuing into 2016, the Nevada Director has been deeply engaged in OSTA activities, attending planning meetings and Board meetings, making presentations about the OST to numerous social groups and the general public, and continuing to research details about the OST through Southern Nevada. OSTA President Ashley Hall's project to restore the 50-year-old trail markers also includes a presentation about the trail at each site. I have made numerous such presentations during the year to help Eagle Scout candidates, and am happy to note that we've enabled these boys to meet their goal. Currently, I am working with the City of North Las Vegas to identify the place on the Kiel Ranch Historic Park where an OST monument will be placed.

This year, I've provided programs for Spring Mountain Ranch State Park Docents, the Siena Rotary Club, and the Old Spanish Trail Chapter of the DAR. The BLM invited me to present a program on OSTA at the Red Rock National Conservation Area Visitor Center, and I presented to the general public at the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas and at the Clark County Museum in Henderson. I participated in Native American Day at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, providing information on the role of the OST in Native American life. I also gave a talk to the general public, invited by the fort interpreter to learn

the history of the Fort and its relationship to the Old Spanish Trail.

Throughout the past year, I've attended official OSTA board meetings in Page, Arizona, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and in Barstow, California.

Perhaps the most significant activity of all is the relationship I've developed with the local BLM office and its archaeologist, Stan Plum. Together we have made field trips to sites on lands managed by the BLM, and evaluated the impacts of proposed power line and other projects on the trace of the Old Spanish Trail. This has proven to be a major effort, as huge projects are constantly being proposed to provide power to California and Nevada, and water to Las Vegas developments. Numerous pipelines and power lines of varying sizes are proposed to pass through Clark County, requiring careful evaluation to determine the impact on the OSNHT. This work has also nourished a good, working relationship with Jack Pritchett, California OST President.

Although my term as Nevada Director is ending, I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of this national historic trail, educating the public as to its significance and why it deserves protection from intrusions.

--Liz Warren

Colorado State

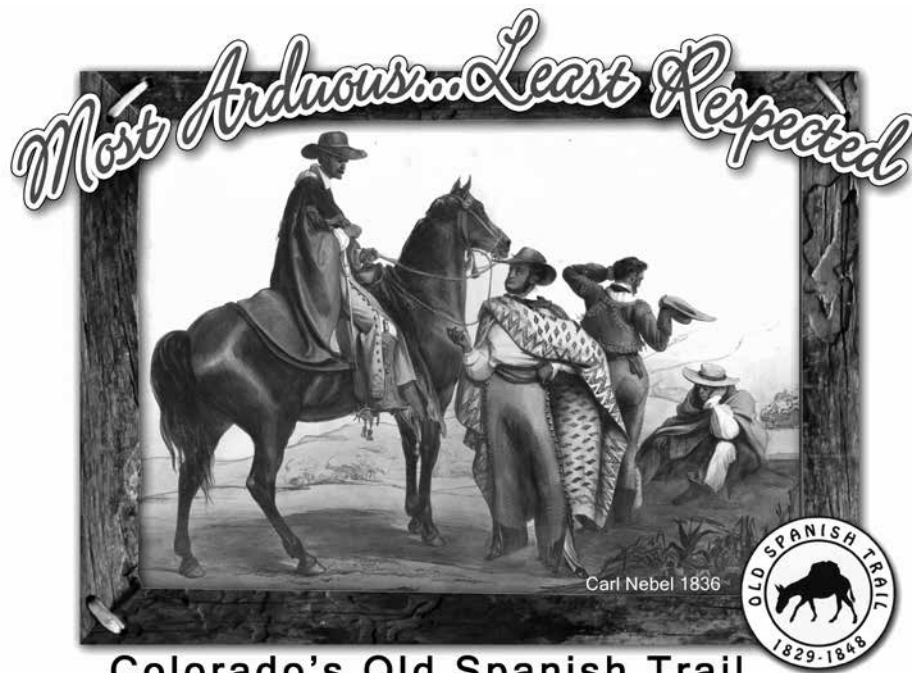
Fort Uncompahgre on the Old Spanish Trail in Delta, Colorado, has a new website. Designed by John Nelson, the site features pictures, videos, schedules, and history, and went live in November. Visit it at <http://fortuncompahgre.org>.

Mesa County, and partners OSTA, the City of Grand Junction, and the National Park Service have acquired funding for signage, recreational and interpretive improvements on the OSNHT in the Orchard Mesa - Whitewater areas. In 2015, the National Park Service

base funded pedestrian signs for trails in the area.

Recently, the partners acquired National Park Foundation Active Trails grant funding for health and wellness events on the recreational trails, additional signage for Highway 50 and adjacent roads, and interpretive waysides at trailheads. The NPS funding will be managed by the Western Colorado Interpretive Association to achieve these actions.

--Vicki Felmlee



**Colorado's Old Spanish Trail
2016 Annual Conference
July 29-30
Grand Junction, Colorado**

Was “commerce king” on the Old Spanish Trail, or were there significant additional factors that motivated and influenced historic travel and deserve further consideration in research and interpretation of the Trail? How did the historic natural environment—plants and wildlife—sustain and/or affect early travelers and their livestock, and how has that environment changed since the early 1800s? How can our members and our community help to protect and preserve the trail in their area? Learn how quality photographs can help interpretation, education, preservation, and management, and receive tips from a professional.

Those are just some of the topics to be explored at the 2016 Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) Conference July 29–30 in Grand Junction, Colorado, at the Clarion Inn. With the theme, “Most Arduous—Least Respected—Colorado’s Old Spanish Trail,” the conference is sure to be rich in history, provoke questions, and demonstrate that history is alive and well on the trail.

Some of the presentations scheduled are:

- Jon Horn, Archaeologist from Alpine Archaeology - *On-the-ground Research on the North Branch*
- Chris Miller - *Antoine Robidoux's Fort Uncompahgre*
- Professor Steven Stern - *How the Trail's Ecology has Changed in 200 Years*
- Rod Martinez, author of four books - *Photographing the Desert*
- David Bailey, Curator, Museum of the West, author, and scientist with Western Investigations

Team - *Distant Treasures in the Mist*

- Various - *Anomalies of the Old Spanish Trail*
- Vicki Felmlee, Colorado Director - *Engaging your Community to Protect the Trail in your Area*

Other presentations are planned but not yet finalized. The OSTA membership meeting will be held Saturday morning; OSTA's board of directors will meet Thursday, July 28.

Conference fees are only \$65 for OSTA members, which includes all presentations, field trips (with free transportation), reception, refreshments, and private tour of the Western Colorado Museum.

A special deal is available for those becoming new members of OSTA, a total of \$85; \$65 for conference registration, and \$20 for annual individual membership (a \$5 discount from the normal annual membership rate of \$25). For those who choose not to become members, the conference registration rate is \$75.

The banquet Saturday night is only \$27 (members and non-members), which will include entertainment and door prizes.

Some of the other activities planned are:

- A field trip sponsored by Mesa County, re-dedicating the county's segment of the trail with conference attendees and the public invited—free to conference goers.
- A field trip to Las Colonias, near the fabled crossing of the Colorado River, providing an overview of the history of the park and future goals for improvements—free to conference goers.
- Transportation from, and return to, the Clarion Inn for both field trip locations will be provided free of charge by Grand Valley Transit.
- Reception with entertainment Friday night—free to conference goers.
- Banquet Saturday night with guest speaker and/or entertainment. Banquet will also honor our local OSTA VIPS, such as William Chenoweth and Maggie Robb; posthumously, the Honorable James Robb, Jack and Kathryn Nelson, and Earl Heusser.
- An auxiliary event prior to the conference, the evening of July 28, is being planned and will include transportation and a Chuck Wagon dinner at Fort Uncompahgre in Delta, for approximately \$25 (*watch the OSTA website for updates and registration information*).
- The Western Colorado Museum will host a private tour of the museum Sunday morning, the day after the conference—free to conference goers.

The Clarion Inn is hosting the conference and is providing a block of rooms at the special rate of \$84, which includes a hot breakfast. The address is 755 Horizon Drive, just off of I-70, and contact info is 970-243-6790. Early reservations are encouraged (mention the conference).

Information and registration is available at oldspanishtrail.org and ostcolorado.org, and will be updated regularly. Feel free to call Vicki Felmlee, the Colorado Director, at 970-245-8484 or email her at info@gjmarketing.com with any questions.

See the reverse side of this page for a registration form you can mail.



**Register today for the 2016 Old Spanish Trail Conference
July 29-30
Clarion Inn, Grand Junction, Colorado**

Just fill out this form and mail with your check or money order (made out to Old Spanish Trail Association) to:

Ms. Vicki Felmlee

178 Glory View Drive

Grand Junction, CO 81503

OR register online at oldspanishtrail.org.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

OSTA member? Yes No (see our special membership/conference fees below)

Conference - includes Friday evening reception, refreshments, all field trips with transportation—the Free Ride—to and from field trips (departing from and returning to the Clarion Inn)

OSTA members registration _____ person(s) @ \$65 each

New members SPECIAL. Join OSTA and save! _____ person(s) @ \$85 each

Your one-year, individual OSTA membership (normally \$25) included w/ registration* (at a \$5 discount)

Non-OSTA members registration _____ person(s) @ \$75 each

Banquet - entertainment, win _____ person(s) @ \$27 each
valuable door prizes, dine with
your fellow conference attendees

Total - Please make check out to Old Spanish Trail Association \$ _____

Please indicate if you want the Free Ride. Seating is limited, so get in quick.

Yes, I want the Free Ride for the Friday field trip _____ person(s)
to the “Back to the Trail” anniversary ceremony

Yes, I want the Free Ride for the Saturday field trip _____ person(s)
to Las Colonias Historical Park

* Individual OSTA membership is \$25 per year. Membership includes three issues of Spanish Traces, OSTA’s periodical of technical papers, news, book reviews, local chapter information, and updates; **and** advocacy, education, leadership, and management opportunities.

Registration Deadline: Friday, July 15, 2016

Report on 2016 Partnership for the National Trails System Weekend in Washington, D.C.

By Reba Wells Grandrud, OSTA Director-at-Large

Familiar surroundings, sights, and sounds, familiar goals and agendas, and best of all familiar faces—been there, done that?

On February 5th I had the honor and privilege to return to Washington, D.C. as OSTA's representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), a membership organization that represents the 30 national scenic and historic trails so-designated by Congress since 1968. Flying into Reagan National Airport, nothing is quite like that first glimpse of our nation's capitol area---the Potomac, the Tidal Basin--then the park-like atmosphere, iconic obelisk, stately domes, columns, statuary, and reflecting pools of the National Mall and Memorial Parks. A swift shuttle ride and I am again at Washington Plaza, 10 Thomas Circle. For the 5th year, it is the conference hotel for Hike the Hill, an event co-sponsored annually since 1997 by the American Hiking Society (AHS) and PNTS. There I see the familiar friendly faces of Trail folks, some who were in trail work before the National Trails System was created, some brand-new to Trail work, some youthful, some aging, hikers, bikers, equestrians, volunteers, staffers, federal partners, affiliates, reps of like-minded agencies and organizations. It *is* something of a Trail reunion.

Saturday morning, the full weekend of PNTS work gets underway: Finance and Advocacy & Policy committees meet from 8 to 9:30. The rest of the day, with a networking lunch, is devoted to strategic planning, led by Chair Mike Wollmer, the strategic planning committee, and consultant Mary Stelletello of Vista Global. Sunday morning is devoted to a joint business meeting of Leadership Council (voting delegates of PNTS membership organizations) and Board (5 officers, 13 members: 9 elected from the Leadership Council; 4 elected as at-large members with no specific trail affiliation), a networking lunch, and in the afternoon (joined by perhaps 20 other guests), pertinent committee reports (such as that of Advocacy & Policy) are given, followed by partners with briefings on major legislation, and agency partners' (BLM,



PNTS Meeting - Washington D.C. - Sunday, February 7, 2016. Reba Wells Grandrud, OSTA Director-At-Large and PNTS Secretary and Executive Committee (foreground); Liz Bergeron, Executive Director, Pacific Crest Trail Association and PNTS President (2nd beyond Reba).

NPS, USFS, USF and WS) briefings. Following adjournment, a welcoming reception kicked off Hike the Hill Week (HTH), February 8-12, with a sizeable number of newly arriving volunteers who were in D.C. to advocate for their specific trail organizations. Monday through Thursday, this dynamic group of hikers and volunteers meet with members of Congress, federal land management agencies, and the Obama Administration to advocate for trails, open space, and related conservation benefits. (I am happy to report that no major snow storm arrived in Washington, D.C. during HTH 2016.)

I would like to conclude with information from the American Hiking Society (AHS). The first bit of information is from an AHS webinar prior to HTH Week.

Trail organizations may find that in addition to, or more likely in lieu of, meeting with members of Congress in D.C., it could be more effective to work with your own Senators and Representatives (or more likely their staffs) in their home district—in your own state or Congressional district. Four quick bullets:

- **Plan your visit**—request appointment with appropriate staffer—convey issue or bill you wish to discuss;

Continued on next page

PNTS, continued from previous page

- **Be prepared**—take trail information to leave with staffer—gather information on trail or projects by congressional district—maps, picture, brochures are effective; draft talking points, know substance of legislation, consequences if legislation fails, its cost, and impacts on legislator’s constituents;
- **Be timely**—arrive no earlier than 10 minutes prior to appointment, but not late;
- **Learn about the member**—her/his positions on similar issues, background, occupation, education, etc.

The second bit of information concerns National Trails Day, celebrated this year on Saturday June 4, 2016, and details why your OSTA Chapter (s) and/or state would benefit by hosting a National Trails Day Event this summer:

- **Reach a new audience, new supporters** by using social media and by checking out the American Hiking Society’s national media platform for free publicity;
- **Recruit volunteer support** to finish a trail project or help with a community activity;
- **Fundraise AND Friend-raise** which would “grow your organization’s constituent network and increase its donation potential . . . [try] a community hike, bike ride, paddling trip, or horseback riding event;”
- **Showcase trail-related successes** by inviting your community “. . . to explore a newly opened or recently renovated section of trail;” or highlight your organization by setting up group hikes or other recreational opportunities;
- Join “hundreds of thousands of others” in our 50 States, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, and Canada by **participating in National Trails Day**.

In closing, I want to offer kudos to OSTA’s Association Manager, John Hiscock, who made new friends for the Old Spanish Trail Association by his engaging and active participation in PNTS’ working weekend in Washington, D.C. ♦

Trail Dispatches, continued from page 7

this position for personal reasons. My personal thanks to Debi for her coordination on many fiscal management requirements. She has been replaced for the remainder of her term of office via Board appointment of Mr. Gary Boyd of Henderson, Nevada. Gary is an accomplished accountant with over 14 years of tax, accounting, and audit experience, and has been the treasurer of the OSTA Nevada Chapter for a year and a half. Welcome Gary!

STEWARDSHIP. The OSNHT is confronted with innumerable and ceaselessly forthcoming development proposals on federal, state, local government, and private lands that threaten to damage the Trail, its resources, and its values of historic/cultural landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities. The Stewardship Committee led by Chairman Mark Henderson, Board Liaison Paul Ostapuk, me, and limited others are striving to communicate and address all of these proposals. We need your help in the form of State and Chapter representatives for local knowledge, input, and attendance at meetings. Please contact your Chapter President, State Director, Mark, or me if you can volunteer your time and knowledge.

MEMBERSHIP. We need to continually grow our membership, especially in the areas of advocates, youth, and diversity. Everywhere I travel, I carry a box of membership brochures to distribute and leave behind, and talk up the value of membership in the organization to the OSNHT. I hope each of you does the same. If you have a need for membership brochures, please contact your Chapter President, State Director, or me. Let’s grow! ♦

Hope to see you on the Trail soon.



Historical Assessments Underway on the OST North Branch

By *Chris Miller, Executive Director*

Interpretive Association of Western Colorado

An attempt to “connect the dots” is under way to complete historic assessments on three segments of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail. Sections of the trail are located on the Rio Grande and Gunnison National Forests, Curecanti National Recreation Area south of Gunnison, Colorado, and the Escalante State Wildlife Area just west of Delta, Colorado.

In 2015 the Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison Field Office received funding to complete additional archaeological and historical work associated with the use of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail by identifying, completing assessments, and recordation of a camp area used by Colonel Loring on August 30, 1858. Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc. was retained by the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado (IAWC) of Delta, Colorado, to complete the work.

The IAWC will submit applications for funds from

Photography Show Opens

Moving Forward, Looking Back: Journeys Across the Old Spanish Trail, a photography exhibit by Spanish photojournalist Janire Nájera, will open in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Friday, April 1 at 6 p.m. at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Nájera followed the footsteps of trader Antonio Armijo, and met and interviewed Spanish descendants to analyze how the traditions of the first settlers have merged with local cultures, revealing some traces of Spanish intangible heritage that remains across these states.

The free show runs through September 30, 2016. For more information, see www.spainculture.us/city/albuquerque/moving-forward-looking-back-journeys-across-the-old-spanish-trail/



Re-enactors at Fort Uncompahgre

History Colorado to complete Historic Assessments on the parcels of public lands that known sections of the North Branch are located on, with permission from the three involved agencies, which include the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the State of Colorado land. Preliminary work has been completed by Alpine Archaeological Consultants on several of the parcels. The Historic Assessments will provide an opportunity to leverage and help to fund a formal survey of the trail segments.

The Escalante State Wildlife Areas encompasses additional layers of history. In 1765 Juan Rivera led his company of explorers to the Roubideau Bottoms just west of Delta. The original Fort Uncompahgre was located in Roubideau Bottoms, along with several historic camp sites from a later period. The area is also the location of the first U.S. Army Survey Pin to be installed in the Uncompahgre Valley.

This area is also known as one of the great historic travel gateways of the American West and particularly Colorado, according to Steven G. Baker, in his article “Trails, Trade, and West-Central Colorado’s Gateway Tradition” in the Spring 2008 issue of *Southwestern Lore*. The area is located near a historic ford on the Gunnison River. Antoine Robidoux built his fort in Roubideau Bottoms because of the location of historic Indian Trails and the north branch of the Old Spanish Trail. ♦

2016 OSTA Board Nominations

Enclosed in the envelope with this issue of *Spanish Traces* is a ballot to vote on these board nominations. Please vote and mail—must be postmarked no later than May 15 to be counted.

Vice President – Reba Wells Grandrud

For thirty years, Reba Wells Grandrud has given major attention to researching and promoting national historic trails as a member of several volunteer trail-related organizations, serving in chapter, state, national, and international leadership roles. An OSTA board member since 1998, Grandrud has been OSTA's representative to the Leadership Council of the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) for the past six years, serving also as an active member of the Partnership Board and Executive Committee. She is currently involved in PNTS's Strategic Planning process, and has been through two similar national trails experiences since 2009.

Reba has served two terms as OSTA Arizona Director, two terms as OSTA President, Past President, and OSTA Director-at-Large. She has also served on the Arizona State Committee on Trails, Amigos de Anza/Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona/Anza Trail Foundation, SW Chapter/So. Trails Chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association, Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Association, and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Secretary – Paul Ostapuk

An OSTA board member since 2004, Paul Ostapuk has served two terms as Arizona Director and two terms as OSTA Vice President. He is currently the OSTA webmaster and as vice president managed updates for the OSTA Strategic Plan. He also recently chaired the nomination committee for the hiring of the new OSTA Association Manager.

Ostapuk is a trail steward for the Arizona National Scenic Trail and serves on the board of the Glen Canyon Natural History Association.

Arizona Director – Earl Fosdick

Earl Fosdick's interest in serving the OSTA stems from a desire to increase the general understanding of the history of Arizona. During his first term as Arizona Director he promoted the Old Spanish Trail at talks given to several historical and natural history groups in the Phoenix area. He is also interested in linking OSTA with other National Trails in the state, particularly the Arizona Trail, in an effort to forge an alliance with other trail enthusiasts.

Fosdick is a Trail Steward of OSTA and the Arizona Trail. In 2012, he worked on the BLM-funded project to establish long-term monitoring of high potential trail segments and historic sites along the Armijo Route. More recently, he has begun a long-project to retrace Father Garces' 1776 trek across northern Arizona.

California Director – Alex King

Alexander King has been a lay researcher of the early genealogy and history of California and the southwest United States for over 30 years and is a member of several heritage, history, and genealogical societies. In the 1990s, King served two years on the board of Los Californianos (an organization of descendants of those in Alta California before 1848). He programmed OSTA's very successful 2011 conference in Pomona, California, served on OSTA's board as interim California Director from 2010 to 2012, and participated in the 2013 mapping workshop.

King is currently a member of OSTA's Research Committee and has served the Culver City Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico, Los Californianos, Los Descendientes de Santa Barbara, New Mexico Genealogical Society, and the San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society.

Nevada Director – Robert Spurlock

Robert Spurlock is a Southern Nevada native raised on a small farm just a few miles from the Armijo route between Goodsprings and Stump Springs, where he still resides. Spurlock's formal education began at the historic Goodsprings Schoolhouse, continued at Basic

High in old Henderson and concluded at Clark County Community College. His informal education is ongoing and largely self-taught, and he currently teaches classes on various aspects of natural history for the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park Docents, the Nevada Naturalists, and the Las Vegas Tourist Guide Guild.

Spurlock has been certified as an interpretive guide by the National Association of Interpretation in Fort Collins, Colorado, and by the Las Vegas Tourist Guide Guild. He is certified as a naturalist by the University of Nevada, Reno's Nevada Naturalist I and II Program, and by the Nevada Environmental Education and Interpretation Program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He previously served several terms each on the Executive Committees of the Spring Mountain Ranch

State Park Docents and Southern Nevada Mensa.

Native American Director – James Jefferson

Dr. James Jefferson, a Ute Tribal Elder, is a student of National Trails and his homestead is on the OST on the Southern Ute Reservation in Colorado. His interest is the Utes on the OST and the role they played on the Trail. ♦

PLEASE VOTE

Trading OSTA Memberships Approved

The Board of the Old Spanish Trail Association has approved a policy to allow OSTA chapters the opportunity to trade memberships with local organizations and groups.

Currently, an OSTA chapter can add an organization/club/group to the OSTA membership roster with the sole intention of sending *Spanish Traces* to that organization/club/group. Chapters can now establish a more structured, beneficial, and communicated approach for an OSTA Chapter to form community partnerships, with the following significant advantages:

- Increase community attention and education about the Trail and the OSTA Chapter, and increase membership through outreach to like-minded members of the community.
- OSTA chapter members would be introduced to a wider variety of community members, including business owners, who might be interested in the Trail and the chapter.
- Many groups have meetings and activities, including networking opportunities (i.e., Business After Hours), where OSTA chapter members might be able to attend as members.

- While speaking opportunities are often open to non-members, actual members might have more and longer speaking opportunities and “enhanced introduction” opportunities at meetings. Additionally, OSTA chapter meetings would give similar opportunities to the partner.
- Links to websites and other information about the OSTA chapter would be included in the partner's newsletter, mailings, and Internet features, and would be reciprocated by the OSTA chapter, if applicable.

OSTA chapters can use complete discretion over the groups that are considered for membership trade, and it is completely optional. The trade is a full trade—no discounts. Partners would not receive the printed versions of *Spanish Traces*, but would be able to access electronic/digital versions of the journal.

While the OSTA chapter can consider any group for the trade, some obvious local groups are museums and libraries, historical societies, Native American and Hispanic groups, and smaller Chambers of Commerce.

More information will be developed and added to the website at oldspanishtrail.org. Call Vicki Felmlee, Colorado Director, at 970-245-8484 with any questions. ♦

Spanish Trail Crosses: Treasures Found

By Al Matheson

Long before the Old Spanish National Historic Trail came into being, the waters of Lake Bonneville served as an impenetrable barrier between the interior of the continent and the Pacific Ocean.¹ When the waters of the lake receded, the southern shoreline was exposed, and a convenient corridor for trade and transit was discovered. Native Americans availed themselves of the opportunity to find new lands and new trade routes, the rim of the Great Basin² becoming a natural highway of commerce. Thus it is no surprise that the original Great Basin corridor continued as the route of choice, and often the only choice, for transport and commerce through Great Basin country. And as travelers are wont to do, both Indians and Spanish travelers along The Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) left ample evidence of their passing.

The Indians did so in their descriptive rock art along established trails. The Spanish and Mexicans used inscriptive crosses or initials while traveling the same trails. The findings represented herein were all identified by Association members along Old Spanish Trail (OST) segments in either Iron or Washington County in Southern Utah and Mohave County, Arizona.

Antonio Armijo may have been the first to leave evidence of his transit through Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, but his better-informed followers elected to follow a more northerly route, doing so within the Great Basin corridor between Paragonah, Utah, and Castle Cliff, Utah. This petroglyphic image (illustration 1) was found by an Old Spanish Trail Association

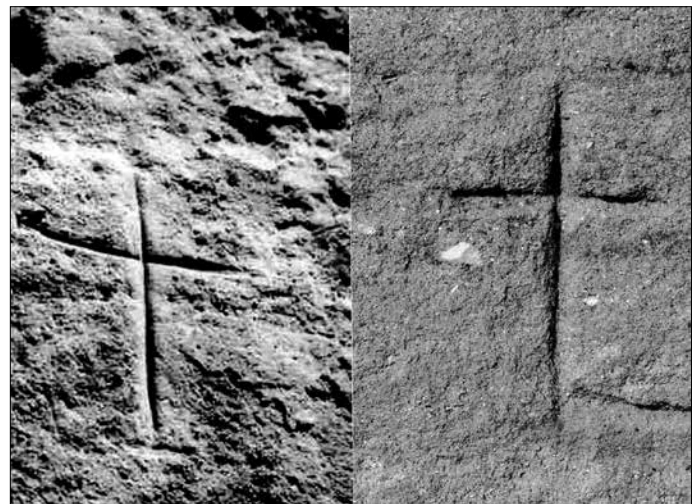
(OSTA) member near the Santa Clara River, presumably where Armijo would have likely bypassed the Virgin River Gorge. Such petroglyphic inscriptions routinely bear evidence of Spanish travel, and to discover even one more Spanish Trail treasure can really make your day.

The thrill of discovering another Trail Treasure was repeated when members of the Southern Utah Chapter of OSTA discovered deeply engraved crosses (illustration 2) while searching for possible trail segments along the Arizona Strip.³ Several years ago, Jim Guyman was one of the first to start the treasure hunting craze, but other OSTA members have been following his lead since that time.

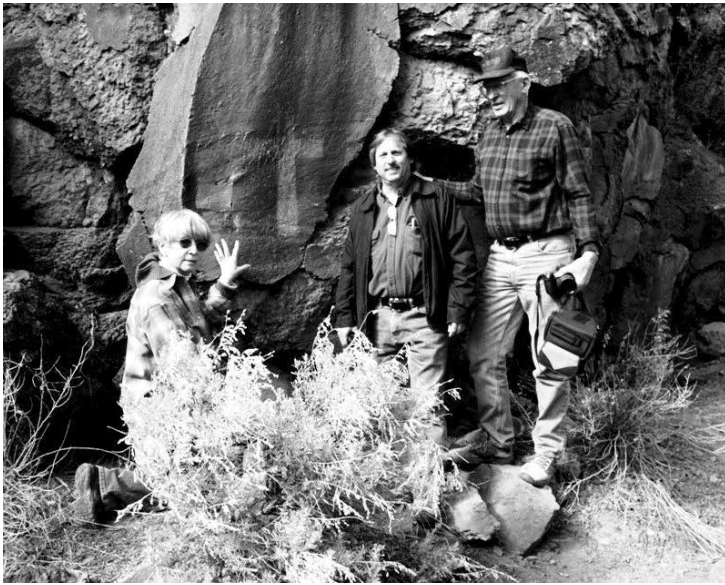
What Jim discovered was one of several steel Spanish crosses incised in hard sandstone, each etched with a unique “tail” attached. Chapter member and renowned Spanish recorder Lyman Platt has identified the characteristic crosses as being typical Spanish directional markers. The tail of any given cross was often used to direct travelers toward a nearby mission and/or water location. Lyman also found them to be period specific for the nationally designated OSNHT.

Another pictographic cross was found in the vicinity of the Armijo crosses, along with a typical Zia sun

1. Spanish Trail mule



2. Double crosses



3b. Witches Pocket

symbol, which is featured on the New Mexico state flag (illustration 3a). Just ask one of our chapter members who frequent the site what they think about Spanish treasure and the “Witches Pocket.”⁴ While the large white cross may be attributed to Maj. John Wesley Powell’s exploration party because of a historic Dellenbaugh⁵ sketch of the site, it is still a treasured discovery for any avid trail seeker (illustration 3b).



3a. Zia sun symbol

Trail-related inscriptions and crosses are most often found near junctions and known camping locations along the OST trail corridor. One such treasure was found by an OSTA member near Parowan, Utah (illustration 4). It too is a deeply incised (cut out from the rock) emblem, an apparent spear point some four inches long and

4. Spanish spear



well above accessible height. It points upwards to the southwest of the Center Creek OST camp trail site. Below the spear head is a Cross of Lorraine equally incised but with an inscriptive element adjacent to it. Illustration 5 is a black and white version of a digitally enhanced false color rendering of this same cross and the adjacent inscription to better define them for our membership. Perhaps some *Spanish Traces* reader can help with the interpretation.



5. Cross of Lorraine with inscription

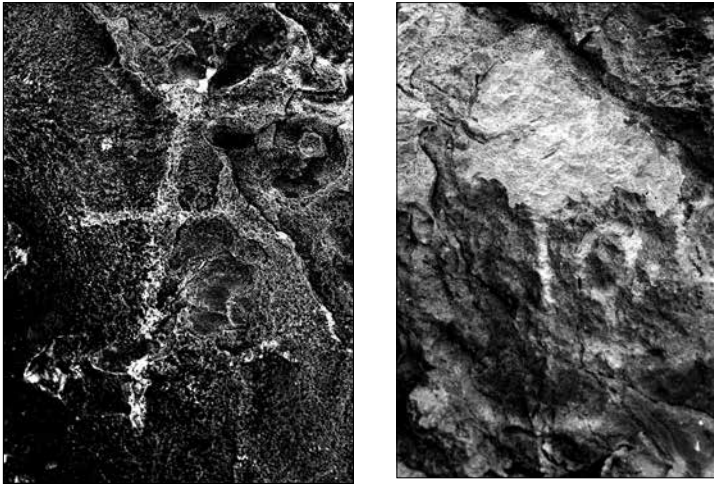
Considering a similar known OST location, in search of Spanish Trail treasure OSTA members traveled to the narrow defile on the trail above Beaver Dam, Utah, known as Castle Cliff (illustration 6). At this location on the Utah Hill, Utah Highway 91 and the Old Spanish Trail converge. This may be a likely spot to look



6. Castle Cliff Aerial

for Spanish Trail treasure.

Actually three crosses and what appears to be a scepter were identified several years ago. Unfortunately, a recent trip to the location for better photography reveals that the top half of one cross has since been ground away, presumably with a powered cutting concrete saw (illustration 7a and 7b).



7a and 7b. Castle Cliff cross

Another beautiful OST glyph was found by OSTA members near the entrance to Little Creek Canyon. This one appears to be a tally mark. (illustration 8) While its meaning or purpose is unknown, it appears that the pictograph was used to record a series of trips or events since it is in association with numerous other petroglyphs left by early Indian travelers of the trail.



8. Little Creek Canyon tally marks

This glyph is located near the mouth of Little Creek Canyon, Utah, the only canyon that gives exit passage from the Great Basin eastward through the Hurricane Mountains.

One of the more momentous discoveries by an OSTA member is that of another unique glyph depicting a Cave Valley-style figure with apparent lines of lightning over the left shoulder (illustration 9). The glyph is particularly significant because of its close proximity to a major OST campsite at Antelope Springs, Utah. It is also associated with a sacred Native American religious site. It is a common destination for OSTA members and their families.



9. Cave Valley-style figure

Though impressive in its own right, the red anthropomorph is an ancient pictograph (painted) rather than a petroglyph (chipped out with a rock) that would typically be expected. This beautiful pictograph is painted into an alcove just a couple of miles west of Iron Springs, Utah, on the Old Spanish Trail and is likely to be prehistoric.

At the Iron Springs OST location, an OSTA member identified a unique archaeological feature, a series of petroglyphs along the trail that include true “water” glyphs. In this case the incised images are channels cut deeply into a flat rock surface, and precipitation is required to reveal the images. (illustration 10) The

water glyphs and petroglyphs are near where a variety of Spanish Trail artifacts were discovered, including a Spanish amulet, matchlock pistol, and trail accoutrements. (The artifacts now reside in the Museum of the San Rafael in Castle Dale, Utah, just north of Interstate 70.)

One peculiar petroglyph at the same OST site (illustration 10) is one of two zoomorph images on either side of what appears to be a lightning bolt, but what is most interesting about this location is the superimposed “desecration glyph” or an ancient petroglyph intentionally placed over the top of the first. One BLM archaeologist shown this location suggested that the second was intended to remove the “power” of the



10. Water glyphs

first image, and that the earlier glyph was likely to be over 2,000 years old.

Other inscriptive crosses have been located along the OST corridor north of Enoch, Utah, by OSTA members. One has four dots sloping upwards from the central cross. It is perfectly preserved by its location and anonymity. OSTA members are inclined to keep it that way (illustration 11).

A short distance away from this cross is a petroglyph of an obviously pregnant mule, diminutive but detailed to perfection. Someone certainly knew what a mule looked like, and well before pioneer times. There is



11. Four dots with cross

another cross with what appears to be a “map” field below it. Should you go looking for this cross and possible map, be sure to check out the Indian anvil stone (a bed of grinding mortars) and dinosaur/crinoid fossil deposits that can be spotted along the north side of the road to Parowan Gap.

The Virgin River causeway is yielding some interesting treasures, too. This area was visited by the Dominguez/Escalante expedition in October of 1776, and again by Antonio Armijo using the Escalante diaries for guidance. There are some exquisite petroglyphic panels near the confluence of the Santa Clara and Virgin Rivers. (illustration 12) Because of their discovery after searching likely trails locations, these treasures are likely evidence of Armijo’s passing along the Vir-

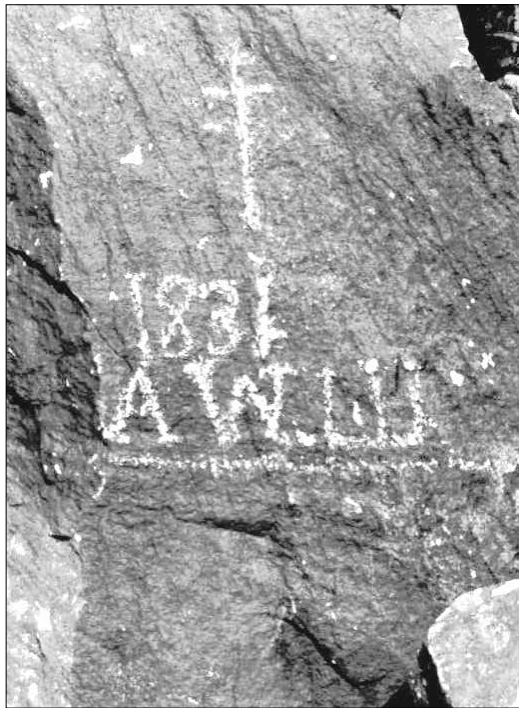


12. Virgin River area cross

gin River just prior to the confluence of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers.

Not all treasures of the OST are of Spanish or Indian origin. The Great Basin/OST Corridor was routinely used by mountain men, explorers, and emigrant pioneers, and evidence of their transit of the trail is routinely encountered by OSTA members. These include historic inscriptions of the Wolfskill/Yount party near Summit, Utah. There are/were at least three trail-related inscriptions and Spanish crosses located near Summit, Utah, dated 1831. Unfortunately, other treasure seekers, NOT looking for history, placed dynamite beneath the inscriptions in hopes of finding metallic treasure. They lost, and so did we (illustration 13. Photo by Alva Matheson, Charter member of OSTA, circa 1949). One of the sole survivors of the destruction is a date inscription directly over a petroglyph. Both are near where a Spanish treasure of another sort was found—a deteriorated leather pouch with glass beads still inside.

Another set of spectacular crosses (illustration 14) was located by OSTA members while participating in a Trail Steward training session led by Paul Ostapuk



13. Date inscription over a petroglyph



14. Three crosses

and Mark Henderson. Training was being conducted near the most likely route used by Antonio Armijo, Emigrant (or Pioneer) Gap east of Kanab, Utah, on Highway 89. In addition to finding a large panel of exquisite mountain goats hiding in a variety of other petroglyphs at the site (illustration 15), further exploration revealed a near perfect Cross of Lorraine, very similar to the one identified at Parowan, Utah (illustration 16).

A second cross, somewhat reminiscent of a Maltese Cross, in red and yellow was later found in nearby Catstair Canyon, where any diligent exploration to locate a passage through the reef would lead one to the



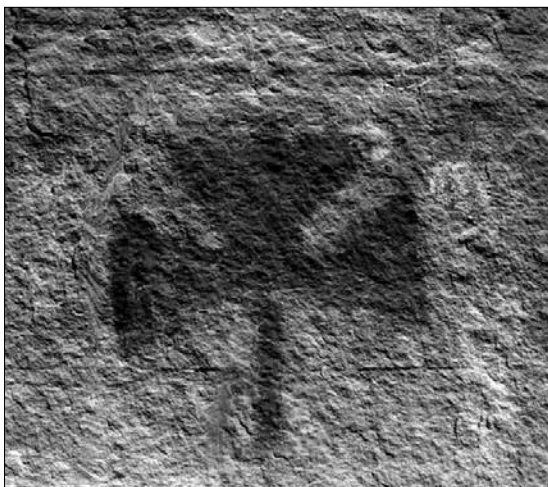
15. Mounted horsemen and mountain goats on OST trailside



16. Cross of Lorraine

exact location where the pictograph was found. Either treasure was worth the time spent treasure hunting on the Old Spanish Trail (illustration 17).

Just like gold, treasure is where you find it. While it is not every day or every person who is fortunate to find trail treasure on The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, for those willing to try, it is highly unlikely they will be disappointed in their experience. All of the discoveries herein were located by one or more OSTA members on or near the Old Spanish Trail, and I suspect there are many more treasures waiting to be discovered. Is that an invitation for you to try? Yes, it is. ✦



17. Maltese Cross

Endnotes

1. Ancient Lake Bonneville was located in north-central Utah and was fed by the Bear River, until 14,500 years ago, during the Pleistocene Epoch. Lake Bonneville was the largest stage of the ancient lake that is now the Great Salt Lake. http://geology.isu.edu/Digital_Geology_Idaho/Module14/mod14.htm, accessed February 4, 2016.

2. The **Hydrographic Great Basin** is a 200,000 square mile area that drains internally. The region is bounded by the Wasatch Mountains to the east, the Sierra Nevada to the west, and the Snake River Plain to the north. The south rim is less distinct. The Great Basin includes most of Nevada, half of Utah, and sections of Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and California. <http://www.nps.gov/grba/planyourvisit/the-great-basin.htm>, accessed February 4, 2016.

3. The Grand Canyon isolates the Arizona Strip from the rest of Arizona, making it among the most remote and rugged public land in the lower 48 states. http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/arizona_strip_field.html, accessed February 4, 2016.

4. See John Azar, "Witch Pool," *The Ol' Pioneer - The Quarterly Magazine* of the Grand Canyon Historical Society, Vol. 17, No. 3, Jul/Aug/Sep 2006, p.3 for more information on the history of this site. Read it www.grandcanyonhistory.org/Publications/TheOlPioneer/TOP_2006_3.pdf.

5. Frederick S. Dellenbaugh. *A Canyon Voyage: The Narrative of the Second Powell Expedition down the Green-Colorado River from Wyoming, and the Explorations on Land, in the Years 1871 and 1872*. Reprint of the 1962 edition, (University of Arizona Press, 1984).

All photos by Al Matheson.

Col. Alva L. (Al) Matheson first encountered the Old Spanish Trail in the company his father S. Alva Matheson, a charter member of the Spanish Trail Association. After retiring from the Air Force as Director, Space Launch Control and Communications Contracting, he, with his father, undertook construction of what became known as the "C" Trail (Centennial Trail) above Cedar City, Utah. Al was chosen as the Iron County, Utah Director for the Utah State Centennial history initiatives. He served as the President of the Iron County Historical Society for many years before being nominated to serve as the Utah State Director for OSTA in 2004 and again in 2013. He and his wife Barbara share a common interest in trails issues and activities.

The Ivie Creek Pictograph Panel: A Landmark on the Old Spanish Trail

By Edward A. Geary

The Ivie Creek pictograph panel is located on a sandstone ledge at the top of a steep talus slope near the point where westbound Interstate 70 enters Ivie Creek Canyon in Utah, and begins its ascent to what was historically known as Wasatch Pass (now called Emigrant Pass on road maps). The panel is visible from the Interstate, if you know where to look, but is most easily viewed from the frontage road on the south side of the freeway a short distance west of the rest area.¹ The rock face on which it is painted can be distinguished from the other rocks in the ledge by the presence of an overhang that extends out over the panel, which has protected the pictograph from the elements for many centuries.

Below the overhang, in the lower right quadrant of the rock face, the naked eye can discern a red circle. With binoculars, it is possible to make out the other elements of the painting. The circle is part of a shield figure, about four feet in diameter. The body of the circle is painted white, with possible traces of yellow, and there are two parallel red lines, tilted slightly left of vertical, crossing the circle a little left of center. The circle rests on four legs, two red, one white, and the fourth made up of red and white bands. To the left of the shield figure are two sets of red handprints, left and right hands. Farther left and higher on the rock face is a row of three human-like figures (anthropomorphs), each about three feet tall, rendered in typical Fremont Culture style, with wide shoulders, triangular torsos, and short limbs with fingers splayed. The two figures on the left have joined hands, decorative ear-bobs, and curved, feather-like lines rising from their heads. The figure on the right has short bristle-like lines extending from the top and sides of the head and appears to have a pouch suspended on the chest. Between the two joined figures and the third, a thick snake rises more than 12 feet up the rock face, with a bulbous head at the top and a tapering tail at the bottom. The heads of the anthropomorphs are triangular. The central figure has two wide eyes in a face in-filled with red. The face of the figure on the left is composed of one triangle inside another, with no in-filling. The face of the figure on the right has white eyes with



red pupils and an oversized triangular nose. All three figures appear to be wearing some kind of (possibly) ceremonial clothing, a robe over one or both shoulders, and a loincloth. The figure on the left has suffered some erosion since 1855. The other figures are in excellent condition, considering their likely age of 700 years or more. The artist, or artists, clearly possessed some skill in executing an apparently purposeful scheme, though what the purpose might have been we can only guess.

Notwithstanding its nearness to a heavily-traveled route, the panel is free from visible signs of vandalism except for the initials ANK in red paint just below the handprints. The steep climb to the rock face has probably discouraged casual visitors, and the natural obstacles have been augmented by legal ones. The panel is located on Fishlake National Forest land, but between the Interstate and the forest boundary lies a strip of private land that is fenced and gated, with a “No Trespassing” sign.

The Old Spanish Trail route intersects I-70 a short distance east of the pictograph panel. After crossing the Green River, the westbound Trail loops to the north to avoid the barrier of the San Rafael Reef, reaching its northernmost point on Buckhorn Flat, then bears southwest toward Ivie Creek Canyon. The route past the present-day towns of Castle Dale, Ferron, and Emery

runs roughly parallel to but several miles east of Utah Highway 10, following the base of the Molen Reef, which is the first visible landform of the San Rafael Swell on the west side. Instead of continuing along the Highway 10 route to its junction with I-70, the OST turns to the west up a broad draw called Gilson Valley toward Oak Spring, an important water source, especially for westbound travelers. From Oak Spring, the Trail crosses a low saddle into Ivie Creek Canyon to another favorite camping/watering spot at the confluence of Clear Creek with Ivie Creek. From this point, the Trail proceeds up Ivie Creek Canyon for about half a mile to Red Creek, then up Red Creek Canyon to the point where the Fish Lake Cutoff branches off from the main trail. [The map on page 34 of *Driving the Old Spanish Trail through Utah and Arizona* is an overview of the area. However, this is one of the few stretches in this region where there is clear historical evidence of the exact route, which is only approximated in the book. The 1855 Gunnison expedition noted the creek crossing points very precisely.]

For the active period of the 1830s and 1840s on this section of the Old Spanish Trail, only two detailed first-hand travel accounts are known to exist. Lieutenant George D. Brewerton, who departed from Los Angeles with Kit Carson in May 1848, published an account of the journey in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in August 1853. Brewerton's illustrated narrative contains a lively account of camping at Fish Lake and a disastrous crossing of the Green River, but says almost nothing about the stretch in-between.

Later that year, on August 27, a government official named Orville C. Pratt set out from Santa Fe with an escort of 16 men. Pratt kept a daily diary of the journey and also carried a trail log given to him by B. Choteau, who had just completed a trip from California. Choteau's log listed campsites at Green River, Green River Spring (Trail Spring), "St. Rafall" (Huntington Creek), "the Garambuyo" (Ferron Creek), "El Rio del Puerto" (Ivie Creek), and "Wasach Lake" (Fish Lake). Pratt crossed the Green River on September 19, lost the trail and had to make a dry camp, then found his way back to the trail, nooned at Trail Spring, and camped near a spring in Cottonwood Wash. The following day, September 21, he wrote, "Made a fine march today of 30 m.

& camped on the St. Rafell. A fine stream, & the best grass we have found since leaving Santa Fé."²² Despite his positive comment on the feed in the Huntington Creek bottoms, Pratt's overall assessment of the region was unfavorable: "The country continues as almost all the way heretofore, sandy, hilly & utterly barren. Water is also scarce, & if there is no mineral wealth in these mountains I can hardly conceive of what earthly use a large proportion of this country was designed for!"

On September 22, Pratt camped at the Ferron Creek crossing, where he again found "good grass and water." The next day, he continued toward "Rio Del Puerto" but was "stopped about 5 miles this side at 2 P.M." by "a terrific hail storm." This would have been in Gilson Valley. On September 24, the party crossed the Wasatch Pass divide but apparently missed the trail to "Washash Lake" (Fish Lake). After two days in the complicated geography of the Fish Lake Plateau ("This getting lost so often almost discourages the men"), Pratt reached the Sevier River on September 26. Pratt does not mention the pictograph panel. However, as he camped in Gilson Valley rather than on Ivie Creek, it is unlikely that he would have caught sight of it.

The first published reference to the Ivie Creek pictograph occurs in the report composed by Lt. E. G. Beckwith, second-in-command to Captain John W. Gunnison, in the railroad survey in 1853. The Gunnison expedition consisted of more than 40 men and 18 wagons, who were the first travelers to convert this portion of the Old Spanish Trail to some semblance of a road. The party camped at Oak Spring on October 12. On October 13, Beckwith wrote:

Passing a low break in a ridge of hills to the south of our camp, after a ride of a mile we reached the Akanaquint [Ivie Creek], a small mountain brook of two feet in width, running over a stony bed, well skirted with bushes, but without grass. We turned up this creek nearly due west, following its narrow gorge, averaging in width from one hundred to two hundred yards, walled in on either side by high hills of nearly perpendicular sandstones, often water-worn into holes, from which, our Indian guide informed us, the stream received its name. He also told us that a circle in red, high up on a shattered rock on

the face of one of the hills, where some rude human figures are seen, also sketched in red lines, was called Akanaquint. These rude figures, in the place in which they are seen, were a great wonder to him, and he had often attempted to describe them to us during the previous day, telling us that they had been made by an American captain—all chief men of parties are captains with these Indians—who had passed here on his way to California, which the Indians knew by the name of Monterey; and, in pointing them out to us, he seemed to think he was showing a remarkable sight.³

It is apparent that Beckwith was less impressed than the guide by the pictograph panel. It is not clear whether he accepted the guide's attribution of the painting to an American traveler. The guide, presumably a Ute, evidently had no awareness of the prehistoric Fremont culture—hardly surprising, as the Fremont were not named and described until 1931, by Noell Morss.⁴ The guide knew that this pictograph, though in Ute country, was not Ute work; therefore, it must have been made by an American traveler. Nor did Beckwith seem to realize that the pictograph was of ancient date. It was common for nineteenth-century explorers to greatly underestimate the age of the prehistoric remains they encountered.

The most extensive accounts of the Ivie Creek pictograph by nineteenth-century travelers are to be found in the journals and reports of members of the Elk Mountain Mission in 1855. This was a party of 41 men under the direction of Alfred N. Billings, assigned by Brigham Young to establish a Mormon settlement near the present site of Moab. The party departed from Manti and traveled south to the later site of Salina, then followed the Gunnison road over Wasatch Pass. They reached the campsite at the confluence of Clear Creek and Ivie Creek before midday on Sunday, May 27, and halted there for Sabbath services.

Alfred Billings wrote in his journal, "May 27 Sabbath morning. Traveled up pleasant canyon 2 miles to the rim of the Basin 3 miles to cottonwood creek [Ivie Creek] Encamped 10.AM the morning. On the rock opposite the camp is 3 men painted on the rocks 2 of them standing together Snake between them. 2 feet to the right is a circle 3 ½ Feet across it. . . . from the ap-

pearance they look to be of Ancient date. Snake 15 feet long."⁵ Several of the men, including Billings, climbed up to the panel and wrote their names and the date on another rock face a few feet to the left, using axle grease as a medium. The inscriptions are still legible but much faded.

John McEwan provided additional information on the campsite. He described the crossing of Red Creek (which he called "Serrappi Creek") as "steep in and out, good bottom." After this crossing the party traveled half a mile to Clear Creek, which he, like Billings, identified as "Cottonwood Creek." He added, "The water in the first creek was reddish in color. The water in the second creek clear, but it soon emptied into Serrappi Creek. Here we camped during the remainder of the day, feed good, wood plenty. Held meeting in the afternoon. There is stone coal not far off. There was also some old characters painted on the mountains on the left side of the creek. A number of the brethren went up to see them."⁶

Another member of the party, Ethan Pettit, sketched the figures in his journal, listing the approximate dimensions beside each figure. From his sketch it is apparent that the erosion of the left anthropomorph has occurred since 1855. Pettit wrote, "This sketch is taken from a perpendicular rock 300 feet high and takes hard climbing to get to it. It is on the north side of the road and one fourth of a mile from camp."⁷ William B. Pace noted in his journal that there was another pictograph "about two hundred yards farther east" on the same rock stratum: "a small white Circle also two hands with the appearance of spattered blood for several feet above upon the rocks."⁸

A prominent Utah pioneer named James Ivie was a member of the Elk Mountain Mission, and it is likely that his name was subsequently applied to Ivie Creek, even though none of the available journals use that name.

In the summer of 1858, during the period of the so-called "Utah War," Col. William Wing Loring was sent with a sizeable detachment of men and fifty wagons to build a military road to connect Camp Floyd in Utah with Fort Union, New Mexico. He followed the general

course of the Gunnison road, but with ample available manpower was able to shorten the route in some places and make it more easily passable by wheeled vehicles. When the area that would become Emery County was settled in the late 1870s and early 1880s, many of the settlers came by way of the Loring road. When the Rio Grande Western railway was extended west from Colorado in 1880, the initial plan was to have it cross Wasatch Pass. Several miles of roadbed were constructed in Salina Canyon and a longer stretch of grade near the Old Spanish Trail route on Buckhorn Flat. However, in 1881 the plans were abruptly changed, the roadbed abandoned, and the railroad routed over Soldier Summit, 80 miles to the north, with a shorter connection to Salt Lake City.

After this, Wasatch Pass ceased to be an important travel route. The old wagon roads were used mainly to move livestock to and from the summer range or for access to small coal mines. An early transcontinental highway, The Pikes Peak Ocean-to-Ocean Highway, theoretically crossed Wasatch Pass, but only a few automobiles actually traversed the rugged route. The road was improved in the years after World War II, but not heavily traveled until 1970, when Interstate 70 was opened to traffic. Now multitudes of vehicles speed past the old Clear Creek campground and the Ivie Creek rock art panel each day, with drivers oblivious to the history of this travel corridor.

C. Gregory Crampton and Steven K. Madsen included a black-and-white photograph of the panel in their book *In Search of the Spanish Trail, Santa Fe to Los Angeles, 1829-1848*, and also noted the nearby presence on an important Fremont habitation site.⁹ The Ivie Creek panel is well known to rock art enthusiasts. There is a fragmentary reference in Polly Schaafsma's early study, *The Rock Art of Utah*.¹⁰

Kenneth B. Castleton included a black-and-white photograph of the panel and a reproduction of Ethan Pettit's sketch in his voluminous *Petroglyphs and Pictographs of Utah*.¹¹ More recently, Steven R. Simms and Francois Gohier printed a large color photo in *Traces of Fremont: Society and Rock Art in Ancient Utah*.¹²

[The Ivie Creek pictograph panel, on Fishlake National

Forest lands, was vandalized in 2013/2014. Read more about the incident, its investigation, potential criminal consequences versus public education, and restoration of the panel in a United States Forest Service news release by OSTA member and USFS Archeologist Bob Leonard at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/fishlake/news-events/?cid=STELPRD3819687.]

Endnotes

1. I am grateful to Wade Allinson for supplying copies of the Elk Mountain Mission journals, for guiding me to the panel, and for generously sharing his store of knowledge about the historic trails in this area.
2. Pratt's diary and Choteau's trail log are reproduced in their entirety in Leroy R. Hafen & Ann W. Hafen, *Old Spanish Trail: Santa Fe to Los Angeles* (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark, 1954).
3. E. G. Beckwith, *Report of Exploration of a Route for the Pacific Railroad, Near the 38th and 39th Parallels of Latitude, from the Mouth of the Kansas to Sevier River, in the Great Basin* (Washington, D.C.: A. O. P. Nicholson, Printer, 1855), 66.
4. Noel Morss, *Ancient Culture of the Fremont River in Utah: Report on the Explorations under the Clavin-Emerson Fund, 1928*. (Cambridge, Mass: Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, 1931).
5. Alfred N. Billings, Diary 1855, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University.
6. John McEwan, Diary, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University.
7. Ethan Pettit, Diaries, Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah.
8. *Diary of William B. Pace During the Elk Mountain Mission* (Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University, 1941).
9. Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publisher, 2007, 61-62.
10. Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, 1971; Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1994, 43.
11. Salt Lake City: Utah Museum of Natural History, 1984, 1:10, 2:95.
12. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, and Price, Utah: College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum, 2010, 109. ♦

Edward Geary is an emeritus professor at Brigham Young University who retired to his native Huntington, Utah, to pursue interests that include historic trails and prehistoric rock art. Among his publications are Goodbye to Poplarhaven: Recollections of a Utah Boyhood and The Proper Edge of the Sky: The High Plateau Country of Utah.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Offers Hands-on Experiences

The first Spanish travelers through Southwest Colorado along what is now known as the main route of the Old Spanish Trail not only met the current American Indian inhabitants of the region, they must have noticed evidence of a previous civilization.

Stone walls and roofless rooms rose above the Great Sage Plain. Silent cities were tucked into cliff alcoves high above the valleys. These structures weren't the homes of the people currently living in the Central Mesa Verde region. Who were the builders and occupants? Why, after investing so much effort in building enormous villages, did the entire population depart the region? Where did they go?

Archaeologists know that drought and the depletion of natural resources, food shortages, and social conflict contributed to the migration from this area to pueblos along the Northern Rio Grande as well as Zuni in western New Mexico and Hopi in northern Arizona. The inhabitants of the Mesa Verde region probably already had connections with people in those areas. By 1280, the Four Corners region had been almost completely depopulated.

For more than 30 years, the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, near Cortez, Colorado, has been at the forefront of research into the people of the Mesa Verde region. In recent years, its Basketmaker Communities Project centered on an early community center that included the only known Basketmaker III-era great kiva in the region. Now scientists are studying how later communities were organized, how the population of the area fluctuated, and what impact Pueblo people had on the landscape. As climate change affects modern agriculture in the Southwest, knowing how previous inhabitants dealt with changing conditions is becoming increasingly important.

A unique aspect of the center is the way it involves the public in its work. Through the flagship Archaeology Research Program, adults can spend a week excavating alongside Crow Canyon's professional archaeolo-



Cliff Palace, in Mesa Verde National Park, has been standing for nearly 800 years.

gists, bringing to light artifacts untouched by human hands for 700 to 1400 years and contributing to the body of information about the region's history. Finding a pottery sherd with the fingerprints of the potter can be awe-inspiring. Participants stay on the Center's campus in a comfortable hogan, a traditional Navajo dwelling. Crow Canyon is known for its high-quality meals, served in the Lodge.

Crow Canyon also offers travel programs throughout the region and to archaeological sites in other countries. This year, cultural explorations trips of interest to Old Spanish Trail Association members are Archaeology of Chaco and Mesa Verde Country, and A Thousand Years of Taos History.

For travelers with less time to spend, the Center offers a one-day program that provides a concise introduction to the archaeology of the region. The Archaeology Day Tour, each Wednesday and Thursday throughout the excavation season, takes participants to Crow Canyon's current dig site, and provides an orientation into the lives of the Pueblo people who created the buildings and artifacts tourists see at Mesa Verde National Park, Hovenweep National Monument, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and on public lands throughout the region.

The Center's one-hour Crow Canyon Tour is an even briefer introduction into archaeology and the center's programs. It's held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings.

Glen Canyon Inscription Being Protected

By Paul Ostapuk

In September 2006, a group of volunteers removing graffiti in the Glen Canyon National Recreational Area reported a “Paso por Aqui Año 1776” inscription. The finding was historically significant and likely related to the Dominguez-Escalante expedition of the same year, whose successful ford of the Colorado River became known as “The Crossing of the Fathers” (now Padre Bay, Lake Powell). This historic ford is also part of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

The Dominguez-Escalante expedition is widely regarded as one of the great explorations in western U.S. history. Their 1,700 mile and 159 day journey represents the first comprehensive effort of the Spanish Empire to officially traverse the Plateau Province of the Colorado River and portions of the Great Basin. The diary kept by Dominguez and Vélez de Escalante, along with the post expedition maps created by topographer Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, represent some of the best historical documents for this vast region of the interior West.

“Paso por Aqui Año 1776” (passed by here year 1776) was inscribed by an unknown member of the Spanish expedition of Padres Domínguez and Escalante, Franciscan priests who sought a route from Santa Fé, New Mexico, to Monterey, California.

Stopped short of their destination by unknown ter-

Crow Canyon also has programs for school groups from fourth grade through high school, one-week camps for middle school and high school students, longer field schools for high school and college students, and an annual program for educators sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

More information about all programs—as well as a wealth of information about the people and archaeology of the Central Mesa Verde region and the results of Crow Canyon’s extensive research programs—is available at the Center’s website, www.crowcanyon.org, or by calling 1-800-422-8975, ext. 451. ♦

Handwritten inscription: "Paso por Aqui Año 1776". The text is written in a cursive, slightly faded style. Below the main text, the word "Año" is written in a smaller, more distinct font, followed by the year "1776".

INSCRIPTION
INTERPRETATION
RESIDUAL MODEL



rain and the onset of early winter conditions, the party found themselves in Glen Canyon on November 6, 1776. While a gale raged on with rain, thick hailstones, horrendous thunderclaps, and lightning flashes, the expedition sheltered in a nearby alcove and recited the Litany of the Virgin. Facing starvation and hypothermia, the padres determined to find their way successfully back to Santa Fé.

Expedition members became the first non-native people to cross the Colorado River at a site later called El Vado de Los Padres, the Crossing of the Fathers.

After 235 years, the 1776 Paso Por Aqui inscription survives as a faint whisper carved into the soft Entrada Sandstone. Although marred by graffiti, the inscription and the physical setting provide emotional context and a powerful interpretive opportunity.

[After Chapter members and stakeholders visit the site this spring with the NPS to view the new protective fence, an update will be written for the Autumn issue of *Spanish Traces*, describing NPS efforts to protect the site.] ♦

**What a tenderfoot
calls a wasteland,
I call a workout.**

We love our desert.
oldspanishtrail.org



Tenderfoot Campaign Emphasizes Importance of Desert

The Board of the Old Spanish Trail Association has approved a unique campaign to bring attention to the value and diversity of our Southwestern deserts, through which many sections of the Old Spanish Trail traverse.

OSTA members Reba Grandrud and Elizabeth Warren have noticed the tendency for some people to use the term “wasteland” when describing desert areas, especially by those who may be unfamiliar with the importance of the desert to flora, fauna, and to people. The term seems to connote that deserts have little value, an untrue and demeaning representation.

The campaign materials were designed to illustrate through effective, quality pictures, the importance of the desert, with a short narrative, “What a tenderfoot calls...” The campaign will also demonstrate that there are eyes on the desert, and therefore on our Trail.

Press releases to regional and national news organizations will be issued this spring. The materials will be used on OSTA’s website and Facebook pages and will also be available to partner and associated groups/organizations free of charge for their usage.



**What a
tenderfoot
calls a
wasteland,
I call home.**

We love our desert.
oldspanishtrail.org

As the campaign develops, more information, and all of the materials, will be available on OSTA’s website at oldspanishtrail.org. Call Vicki Felmlee at 970-245-8484 with any questions. ✦

Mojave Trails National Monument Established

On February 12, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation (text at www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/02/12/presidential-proclamation-establishment-mojave-trails-national-monument) establishing the Mojave Trails National

Monument in California's Mojave Desert.

The new monument will be managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the National Landscape Conservation System and includes portions of, and adds

greater protection for, the "Mojave Road" and Armijo Route of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail at the east and west extremities of the new monument. (See map at www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/prog/nlcs/Mojave_Trails.html).

The Trujillo Adobe: La Corazon de La Placita

*By Nancy Melendez, President
Spanish Town Heritage Foundation*

Three walls, four windows, a door frame, and adobe bricks with layers of renovation efforts are all that remains of the once “heart” of La Placita de los Trujillos in Riverside, California, a thriving pioneer community of immigrant families from Abiquiú, New Mexico.

A community centered around faith, family, and the American dream, Lorenzo Trujillo and J. Manuel Baca and their families joined the Rowland Workman party, and walked along the Old Spanish Trail from Abiquiú to La Politana on the Lugo Brothers rancho in what is now the city of San Bernardino on its border with Colton, in the fall of 1841. The Lugo brothers promised land ownership to the pioneers in return for their help in protecting against local raids on their livestock. The Lugo brothers reneged on that promise and the families were planning to return to Abiquiú when a fellow member of the Rowland Workman party, Benjamin Wilson, who had just purchased a portion of the Jurupa Rancho from Juan Bandini, donated 2200 acres of land on either side of the Santa Ana River to the New Mexican families. All that he asked was that they settle permanently in the area and aid all community members in protection of their crops and livestock. This was the beginning of La Placita de los Trujillos under the leadership of Lorenzo Trujillo.



1980s version of the Trujillo adobe showing it just before the roof and kitchen room addition was lost.

Lorenzo acted as spokesman for subsequent emigrants arriving from Abiquiú in the assignment of land parcels from the Bandini donation. The same was asked of each new settler—to settle permanently in the area, help protect against raiders, help retrieve stolen stock, and bring violators to justice. Adobe homes were built on the parcels, and the river frontage afforded the new landowners the ability to water crops of grapes, grains, vegetables, and fruit trees. The irrigation canals dug by these early families were the precursor to the Trujillo Ditch and the still functional Trujillo Water Company. The first Trujillo adobe was constructed in 1843 fairly close to the Santa Ana River on Lorenzo’s parcel. This adobe remained the hub of activity in La Placita until the flood of 1862.

The settlers’ need to practice their faith as a community led to Lorenzo building a communal altar in the square or plaza in front of his adobe until a formal church could be built in the winter of 1851-1852. Just as the roof was about to be completed, the church washed away in a heavy rain due to the instability of the soil near the river. Subsequently, it was decided to build the replacement church on the Agua Mansa side of the Santa Ana River, the Church of San Salvador, which was completed in 1852. It remains a parish to this day.

After the Mexican-American war, California became a state of the United States in 1850. With statehood came citizenship in the United States and voting privileges for the New Mexican pioneers.

Once again the Trujillo family and its adobe home were the heart of the community, serving as the first voting precinct and polling place for La Placita and Agua Mansa, now known as San Salvador.

Lorenzo passed away in 1855, but his four sons took up his torch of leadership and civic engagement. 1862 was a year of torrential floods and the original Trujillo adobe was washed away. Lorenzo's sons rebuilt the adobe on higher ground, the remains of which we see today at the corner of North Orange and Center Streets in Riverside. The Trujillo School was established in 1875 and employed the first African-American teacher in California, Alice Rowan. The Trujillo School District was formed, and the Trujillo School was built across from the Adobe in the La Loma hills.

With the creation of Riverside County in 1893, La Placita became the first supervisorial district in the county. Although given the honor of becoming the first supervisorial district, the voting power of La Placita/Agua Mansa was cut in half with Agua Mansa now in San Bernardino County, yet the Trujillo Adobe remained as the center of activity in La Placita.

John W. North and the Riverside colonists headed west and were welcomed by the residents of La Placita. They founded the city of Riverside in 1870, but La Placita de los Trujillos remained a distinct community and was often referred to as Spanish Town because of the dominant language spoken. North Orange Street was called Spanish Town Street because it connected the mile square of the new city of Riverside to La Placita. The La Placita area and the Trujillo Adobe were in the unincorporated area of Riverside County and remained so until the area was annexed by the City of Riverside in the mid-2000s.

The adobe remained with the Trujillo family descendants until 1957 when Juan and Sarah Trujillo sold it to the Snyder family, wanting a "modern house." Juan Trujillo purchased the adobe from Antonino Trujillo for \$10 in 1918. This was the first recorded sale of the adobe within the family since the Bandini donation. The 1957 sale to the Snyder family necessitated all living descendants of Lorenzo Trujillo to relinquish

any ownership rights before Juan and Sarah could complete the sale.

Antonino Trujillo built a smaller adobe structure adjacent to the Trujillo Adobe in the early 1900s. It served several purposes but was most remembered as the Cantina. The Cantina remained an active social center throughout Prohibition but was closed after World War II. It collapsed in the late 1960s/early 1970s.

The Snyders lived in the house for ten years or so and then sold the Adobe to JoAnn Dreesen, a Trujillo descendant, who in turn gave the Adobe to Riverside County with a proviso that the County would maintain the structure and build a park around it. Sadly, history repeated itself in the form of a very rainy year before any work was done to preserve the adobe and it was seriously damaged.

Today the three remaining walls of the 1862 Trujillo Adobe are protected by a wooden structure and it is not visible to the public. The adobe was designated Riverside County Historical Landmark #009 and was designated a site of historical significance by the California Office of Historic Preservation (plaque 75). A sign and plaque noting these significant tributes were erected at the Trujillo Adobe in the 1980s. The sign and bronze plaque became the victims of vandals and are no longer on site. (The County of Riverside will be installing a new sign at the site shortly.)

In the late 1970s, family members worked with the County and with a UC Riverside graduate student, Joyce Vickery, to share the story of La Placita de los Trujillos and the Adobe. Olive Trujillo Vlahovich read stories to children inside of the adobe prior to its demise, and Joyce Vickery published *Defending Eden*, a wonderful history of La Placita.

The Riverside Tamale Festival was created in 2013 by family members to reach out to the broader community and share the story of Lorenzo Trujillo, the Trujillo Adobe, and La Placita de los Trujillos by gathering people together, sharing a meal, and enjoying music, art, and dance much as one would have enjoyed in La Placita. The Festival along with a broad ranging

presence on social media (Facebook: Save the Trujillo Adobe, Riverside Tamale Festival, Spanish Town Heritage Foundation) (websites: www.riversidetamalefestival.weebly.com and www.spanishtownheritageFDN.weebly.com) have brought the story of Lorenzo Trujillo, the Adobe, La Placita de los Trujillos, and its importance in the formation of the City of Riverside to the forefront. In December of 2015, the City of Riverside's Cultural Heritage Board recommended to the City Council that the Trujillo Adobe be designated as City Landmark #130. The City Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation. Read the proposed legislation and background information at <https://riversideca.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.x?ID=2524343&GUID=0DFCE690-2915-4D90-AE7F-5378FA68AA&Options=&Search=>

The Riverside Tamale Festival was also the impetus in the formation of The Spanish Town Heritage Foundation. Incorporated in 2014 as a non-profit charitable foundation whose mission is to restore the Trujillo Adobe and La Placita de los Trujillos, the Foundation continues its work to share the Hispanic legacy of the Inland Empire's earliest settlers by developing Adobe history curriculum for the region's third and fourth graders, upgrading the Adobe's California historical status, and applying for National Historical status.

Please join us April 16, 2016 for the Riverside Tamale Festival in Riverside's White Park. Nuestra casa es su casa. ♦

Red Creek Markings



Bob Leonard is an expert on the rim rock above Red Creek. He discovered these markings, and still marvels at the "JS" and the small "c". Captain Jedediah Smith? Fire burned over and scorched the "OS" inscription. Nearby, 1917 shepherders scratched the date through the scorching. The OS is pre-1917. Up on the rim rock is also what may be a boat. The St. Anthony's Cross is directly down slope, as is a 75-foot livestock corridor.

To explore more archaeology discoveries and discussions, visit Facebook page, Old Spanish Trail Archaeology & History Summit.



St. Anthony's Cross



Photo: Scott Smith

Jack Prichett indicates the mule trace of the Old Spanish Trail, near a trail marker at the summit of Emigrant Pass in California. Photo looks east; from the summit the trace begins its descent westward toward Resting Spring and the Amargosa River.

Old Spanish Trail Association Membership Form

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