

THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
September 2009

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

- **Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2009
- **Time:** 2:00 p.m.
- **Location:** The Ranch Country Club – 11887 Tejon Street, Westminster, Colorado
- **Directions:** From I-25 Exit 223, head west on 120th Avenue. The club entrance is on the south side of 120th Avenue between Pecos Street and Federal Boulevard (about 1 mile west of I-25).
- **RSVP by October 21:** Camille Bradford, bradford@usa.net or 303-460-0371.
- **Speakers:**
 - **Susan and Duane Kniebes:** *Graves and cemeteries along the Cherokee-Overland Trail in Larimer County*
 - **Sharon Danhauer:** *Mariano Medina: A Legend in his own time*



Susan and Duane Kniebes (left) became the Larimer County volunteers about 10 years ago for a joint effort of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies and the U.S. Geologic Survey to find, GPS pinpoint, and document all of the graves and cemeteries in Colorado.

They became so interested in the history of the graves and cemeteries in Larimer County, the history of the individuals buried there and of those individuals' ancestors, and the history of the property on which the burial sites were located that they are currently writing a book on that subject. To date, they have given over 20 presentations on their grave-search efforts in Larimer County.

Duane received a BS in Chemistry from Michigan State University after serving in the Army Air Force during World War II. He also holds a Master's degree in Physics from Illinois Institute of Technology which he received while working on campus for an affiliated natural gas industry research firm. He retired as an assistant vice president after 35 years, and moved to Boulder in 1985, where he has consulted as an expert witness in legal cases involving gas fires and explosions. *[Continued on page 2]*



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- Rod Henderson and Doris Leigh – Johnstown, Colorado
- Douglas Moore – Williamstown, Massachusetts
- Emerson and Pam Shipe – Seneca, South Carolina

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For the past 10 years Duane has served as the Colorado Chapter President and Co-president of Palatines to America, a genealogy society for individuals researching their German-speaking ancestors.

Susan is a 1966 graduate of the University of Illinois. She has held editorial and managerial positions in technical communications and marketing for firms in the Chicago area and Boulder.

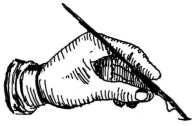


Sharon Danhauer (left) is a member of the Board of Directors of the Loveland Historical Society and of the Berthoud Historical Society.

She is a native of Colorado and has had a long interest in regional and local history. Her interest began as a child in Littleton. In fourth grade she read Ralph Moody's *Little Britches*, a story about a child growing up in Colorado, which she found enthralling. While raising her own two sons in Berthoud she developed a home school curriculum for Colorado history for others to use.

Sharon began volunteering with the Berthoud Historical Society in 1997 and is a regular docent at its events. She helped establish the annual tour of homes in Berthoud and has participated in the reenactments that the society sponsors. She lives in Loveland and has also been part of a team working to save the historic site of Loveland's first settlement in 1858.

Sharon was one of the organizers and tour leaders of *Trails Across the Thompson Valley* at OCTA's convention in August. This tour was organized jointly by the Berthoud and Loveland Historical societies. Sharon was also a speaker on Mariano Medina at the convention and her talk at our chapter meeting will capture highlights of the tour and her presentation at the convention.



Tim and Jennie Goodale in Colorado

By Jim McGill



Many events in the lives of Timothy and Jennie Goodale while in Colorado have appeared to be almost forgotten in the state's records. As research for the now published comprehensive book¹ on Tim and Jennie was being done - their history, their accomplishments in the West, and the present family offspring in Washington and Oregon - little information was found in any Colorado library or archives on this couple or about anything concerning Tim's 39 years in the West.

There is a Goodale, Colorado on the Santa Fe Trail, east of both Bent's Fort sites, which was probably named for Tim. There is a Goodale Slough and an old same-named School in the area, two miles north of Carlton, Colorado. Tim had used that trail many times over the years leading pack trains from the east, hauling wagon freight, and driving animal herds along the same route with other frontiersmen. However, much like the lack of other records, no record seemed to verify convincingly the source of the name. There was also a Goodale's Crossing of Lodge Pole Creek in Northeast Colorado, named after Tim, on the Pony Express route of the Pikes Peak Road.

Tim spent a great deal of time in the Colorado-New Mexico areas, and was a partner of Kit Carson in the late 1840 and early 1850s. Where Kit was found Tim was usually present also. He was mostly a silent and somewhat obscure partner and never sought much recognition, but evidence has proven that he was more accomplished over the years than many other more well-known men.

Kit Carson wrote that when they were with Fremont on one of several tours they came to a place in the Northwest that no other guide knew anything about except Tim. He led the party through more than 100 miles of an area strange to others. He had started as a trapper there in 1830, had lived with several Indian tribes over the years, and could speak several of their languages.

Tim had children with his first Crow Indian wife, and in the late 1840s they lived with and interacted with the Bent family for three years at Fort St. Vrain. When Bent's New Fort was opened Tim was asked to be a supervisor there.

When his first wife was gone (an unknown circumstance) his second wife, Virginia "Jennie" (a Lemhi Shoshone and great niece of Sacagawea) helped raise the older children, and they had more. They had been married in about 1854. They also took in other needy Indian children. Tim was murdered in Oregon in 1869 for protecting a teenage Indian girl from an old man who demanded and wanted her for himself. *[Continued on page 4]*

Photograph: Mountain Man likeness. Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, Oregon.

¹ James W. McGill, *Rediscovered Frontiersman: Timothy Goodale*, Oregon-California Trails Association, 2009.

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Tim and Jennie had many adventures on the Cherokee Trail, and all other main trail routes. He helped open Berthoud Pass in 1861, assisted emigrants on many trails, and was a friend and partner to Louis Vasquez. Tim and Jennie lived on the Big Thompson with Mariano Medina in 1861, and they were snow-stranded with Colonel Marcy in the winter of 1857-58. He helped build many military/emigrant roads including Frederick Lander on his Lander Road.



Tim and Jennie spent their last years in Colorado before starting for the Northwest from the Boulder area in the late summer of 1862. They started with only six wagons of miners, intending to lead them to the mines in the Northwest. Others groups of wagons joined his small train along the way until at one time he was leading more than 350 wagons. All the additions were also mostly miner/emigrants, and this became the longest wagon train anywhere on all the trails system. With them he opened the new Goodale's Cutoff across Idaho and Oregon.

Tim was well educated, but was satisfied to be respected by his peers and to be involved extensively in the West with little public recognition. He did not boast about himself or write of his adventures and so few primary records have remained behind. However, with an extensive effort his whole life story is told in the new book, with many years of good details and accomplishments. He was very knowledgeable about the entire West, and was highly respected by many military leaders and government officials.²

During his life he crossed the country from Massachusetts to Oregon and California several times. He traveled, freighted, and drove cattle and sheep from Minnesota to Texas, and from Missouri to California. He represented many Indian tribes during visits to Washington, DC. In traveling around the West he worked to improve Indian/White relations, was a military guide, ran ferries and forts, and anyone who ever met Jennie and him had nothing but praise and respect for them!

He was found at various times traveling with about every other known trapper and mountain man. At times journal writers who met groups of these men would not miss the opportunity to comment about and name Tim. He and Jennie were both easily and fondly remembered by those who had met them.

Illustration: Crossing the Rocky Mountains in Winter, from Thirty Years of Army Life on the Border, by Randolph Barnes Marcy, Harper & Brothers, 1866. This illustration depicts Randolph Marcy's troops crossing a Colorado mountain pass in the 1857-58 winter. Tim and Jennie Goodale and Mariano Medina were in this group. Reproduced by the University of Michigan Library, 2005. <http://name.umdl.umich.edu/aa29581.0001.001>.

² See: www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/resources/OLLibrary/mrfk/index.htm. Goodale was often referred to by others and correspondence from him begins on page 10 of this document.

OCTA Credit Card program

By Travis Boley

National Association Manager

As I'm sure you all know, OCTA gets \$50 each time any of our supporters applies for and receives our new Visa card. I hope you also know that we have in place a program that garners us \$10 for each new Visa card generated by other non-profits that we guide into developing their own credit card.

For example, I recently received a statement from our bank showing that six different non-profits that I helped to develop their own program are now generating cards amongst their membership. Here's the breakdown:

- The College Music Society Fund: 12
- Florida Trail Association: 9
- Old Spanish Trail Association: 8
- Bluegrass Railroad Museum: 6
- KJAZZ (LA NPR): 1
- Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona: 1

That totals 37 new cards. At \$10 each, that earned OCTA \$370. We will continue to earn money as these other organizations market their card and generate more applications. Please keep in mind that I can help other non-profits with which you are familiar develop their own programs. They'll get the same \$50 we get for generating our own cards, but the difference is that we'll also receive \$10 for each card they generate, if we steer them into the program.

Let me know if I can help other organizations in which you might also be a member develop their own Affinity Visa card. And if you don't have OCTA's card yet, there's no fee and we'll receive \$50 after you use it the first time.

Member News

Chapter member Marvin Burke has become OCTA's new national Treasurer. Marvin, a retired IRS agent, lives in Northglenn, Colorado with his wife, Dorene.

Ray Schoch, who was active in the convention planning committee, moved to Minneapolis in May. We missed him at the convention. Ray remains active in OCTA, however. He has written a review of *The Rise of the Centennial State: Colorado Territory, 1861-76*, by Eugene H. Berwanger, which will appear in the Fall issue of *Overland Journal*.

Convention volunteer forms

Bruce Watson is collecting the convention volunteer forms on which hours and expenses are recorded for submission to the government, as the basis for computing grants to OCTA. If you haven't already done so, please send your forms to Bruce: bgwatson@comcast.net.



Many thanks from the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
to everyone who has participated in the
organization of the 2009 Convention.

We are grateful for
many dedicated volunteers,
strong community support,
and assistance from
members of other
OCTA chapters.

Notes from the President

By Camille Bradford

After two years of planning, it was a very enjoyable experience for all of us to see the events of the convention finally unfold and to be the host chapter for OCTA's first convention in Colorado. Thanks again to everyone whose many hours of work over the past two years contributed to the success of this event.

Photographs capturing the many highlights of the convention are now posted on the chapter website: www.octa-colorado.org. These are just a few.



The convention marked the end of the tenure of Glenn Harrison (above right) as OCTA's President. We thank Glenn for his leadership and his support of our chapter during the past two years. We look forward to working with Bill Martin (above left) OCTA's new President, in the two years ahead.



Chapter member Lee Whiteley (left), a well-known trail historian and author, delivered the keynote address, *Pathways to Gold: The Cherokee Trail, 1849 and The Smoky Hill Trail, 1859*. Lee is pictured in this photo with his wife Jane, and special convention guest, Denny "Scott" Miller (right) who played Duke Shannon in *Wagon Train* in the 1960s. He autographed Lee and Jane's *Wagon Train* lunchbox.



Chapter member Jane Leche, who works for the U.S. Forest Service, organized each evening's entertainment for the convention. Jane also participated in the entertainment, appearing with the OCTA Band at the opening reception on Tuesday evening and with the USFS *Fiddlin' Foresters* group at the closing dinner on Saturday evening (left). Jane also appears in OCTA's new movie, *In Pursuit of a Dream*, which had its premiere in Loveland during the convention.

Photographs by Roger Blair (top and center) and Robert Lingner (bottom).

Next year: OCTA's 28th Annual Convention, hosted by the California-Nevada Chapter, will be held in Elko, Nevada, August 10-14, 2010. Next year's convention theme is *Emigrants, Elko & THE Elephant!* For anyone wondering what "Seeing the Elephant" means, a Google search offers over 27,000 hits. The California-Nevada Chapter provided this handout at our convention:

WHAT "SEEING THE ELEPHANT" MEANS

The expression "Seeing the Elephant" was commonly used by the emigrants who made the journey to California between 1841 and 1869. No one really knows where the expression began. Some believe that the expression was first used in America in the early 1820s.

European circuses at that time began touring the northeastern part of America, bringing with them elephants. These large, strange looking beasts were a huge hit and people who saw one could not find words to describe the animal. When asked if they had seen the elephant, their reply often was, "yes, I've seen the elephant and nothing else can compare."

By the mid-1840s when emigrants began going west, especially during the gold rush (1849-1852), no expression characterized the experience more than the term "seeing the elephant." Those planning to travel west announced they were "going to see the elephant." Those turning back claimed they had seen the "elephant's tracks" or the "elephant's tail," and admitted that view was sufficient.

The meaning of the expression was best defined in 1844 by George Wilkins Kendall in his *Narrative of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition*: "When a man is disappointed in anything he undertakes, when he has seen enough, when he gets sick and tired of any job he may have set himself about, he has seen the elephant."



Exhibit Design Plans/copy for elephant statue

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In the next issue...

DID HARRIET LOUGHARY SEE THE ELEPHANT?

By Jim McGill