



THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
September 2010

Upcoming Chapter Event

- **Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2010
- **Time:** 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- **Location:** 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 Zuni Street (about one mile west of I-25).
- **Speakers:**
 - **Bill Martin - President of the Oregon-California Trails Association.**
 - **Doris Monahan - Historian and author.**
- **RSVP by October 27:** Camille Bradford, bradford@usa.net or 303-460-0371.



Bill Martin is OCTA's President for the 2009-2111 term. He and his wife, Diane, live in Georgetown, Texas. Bill is Director of Communications for the Children At Heart Ministries in Round Rock. During his career he has been a writer, journalist, communications consultant and small business owner.

He served on the OCTA Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007 and was also the Editor of *News From The Plains* for six years. Before moving to Texas, he lived near the California Trail in Reno, Nevada for more than 25 years. He has a number of ancestors who traveled the trails in the 1840s and 1850s.



Doris Monahan is an historian and author who lives in Sterling, Colorado. For many years she has been interested in the South Platte Trail with its intriguing stories of stage stations, the Pony Express and conflicts with Native Americans. After years of research Doris authored *Destination Denver City: The South Platte Trail*, originally published in 1985. Historian Merrill Mattes, a founder of OCTA, commended this book as "the definitive scholarly work" on the South Platte Trail.

Last year Doris published *Julesburg and Fort Sedgwick: Wicked City – Scandalous Fort*. This book is the culmination of ten years of research into the history of Julesburg and Fort Sedgwick and focuses on the travel, settlements, commerce and conflicts in the area from the 1850s to the 1870s. A book signing will follow this presentation.

► This event is free and open to the public. Please bring any friends or family members who may be interested in joining OCTA.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

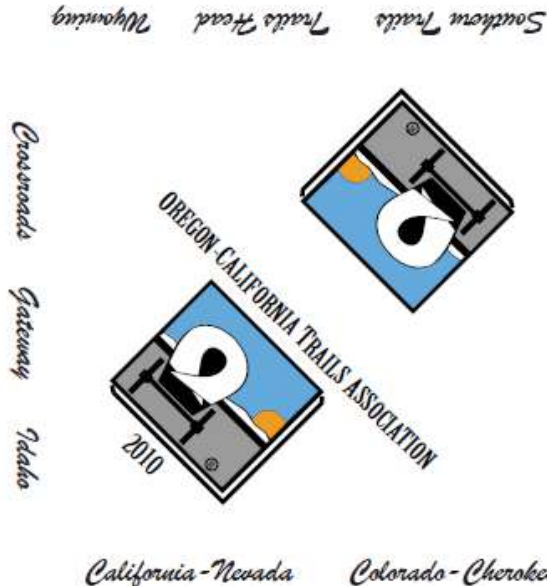
Michael and Louise McCullough – Leavenworth, Kansas



Congratulations to chapter member Pat Surrena, who has been elected to OCTA's national Board of Directors.



Many thanks to our new Webmaster, Berl Meyer, who has transformed the 2009 Convention logo into a logo for the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter.



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Duane Iles, OCTA's national Vice President and Membership Chair, recently announced that a special bandanna (left) has been designed and will be awarded to each member of the organization who recruits a new member.

Upcoming Event:

Smoky Hill Trail Association Conference - October 15-17, 2010



Chapter member Lee Whiteley will be one of the presenters at the 4th Annual Conference of the Smoky Hill Trail Association in Limon, Colorado, October 15-17. The conference theme is *The Smoky Hill Trail: Transportation Corridor of the High Plains*.

Lee's presentation, *Auto Trails' and 'Good Roads' Clubs, 1910-1930*, will be on October 16. The conference brochure is on the Association's website:

<http://smokyhilltrail.com/annualconf.htm>.

Cherokee Trail "Hot" with Artifacts

By Jack and Pat Fletcher

Four life members of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter, Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle, Jack and Pat Fletcher, along with OCTA members Gail Carbiener, Ed and Ann Bagne, were among approximately 20 volunteers who participated in the Medicine Bow National Forest *Passport In Time* (PIT) project August 30-September 3, 2010.

The project was organized and carried out under the supervision of Dr. Kolleen Kralick, Heritage Program Manager of the Laramie District Office of the USDA Forest Service. The purpose of the project was to locate and verify the 1850 Cherokee Trail, using found period artifacts. Gail, one the most qualified PIT participants (73 PIT projects), stated in his communication to the Ashley National Forest archaeologist at the conclusion of the project:

"We verified exactly 3.5 miles of Cherokee Trail, 1/2 mile on the BLM the balance on the National Forest. The Trail coming up the hill from the Laramie River was deeply rutted with several parallel swales, once on top the Trail had terrain much like that west of the Flaming Gorge, low sage and gravel with some grass. Even on top the Trail was mostly visible with a very shallow swale.

The Trail is a "Trail of Cut Nails" with a fair number of wagon iron parts and a few .38 cal lead balls. Jim [Kline from Wisconsin] was our hero by finding a flint-lock (hammer &) pan mechanism complete!... We also found an Ox shoe and many mule and horse shoes. Since this Trail was used for...years, we even found .50-70 cartridges and quite a few Henry's.... we probably found over 200 period diagnostic artifacts."

The group met each day on the trail, working from 9 am to 4 pm. Most had metal detectors and would dig up their "hit," record it on the prescribed form, and leave a small flag at the site. Recorders, mostly Forest personnel, would follow and record the artifact location with a GPS reading, then measure and trace each object on the form, and re-bury the artifact.



Chuck and Suzanne Hornbuckle, Kolleen Kralick, Pat and Jack Fletcher.

Each evening the group gathered at the campsite, with drink and snacks, having a hardy discussion of the day's finds. The evening ended with dinner, either at one's individual campsite or at the Woods Landing dance hall.

Wednesday evening we gathered at the Forest Service Office in Laramie for pizza and the showing of the PBS video of the Cherokee Trail over the Atlantic Rim (Continental Divide).

Filmed in the Rawlins BLM District, it was part of the mitigation with the energy companies for damage done to the trails during operation

of a coalbed-methane extraction project. BLM and OCTA, along with several other governmental and interested parties participated in the development of the mitigation. Pat Fletcher is and has been the Cherokee Trail OCTA representative (mitigator) for the past three years. The evening ended with Kolleen giving each person a beautiful PIT Cherokee Trail tee shirt and PIT patch.

This PIT project originated in discussions the Fletchers had with Kolleen and the Forest Service staff at last year's OCTA Convention in Loveland.

Tentatively, Kolleen plans to schedule another Cherokee Trail PIT project for next year. It will be a challenge to find more of the trail; the forest is full of large aspen groves, dead and dying lodgepole pine.

The Fletchers will be working closely with Kolleen in scheduling this project to coordinate with the OCTA convention in Rock Springs and their pre-convention tour over the Cherokee Trail.



"Looking east, one of two parallel Cherokee Trail swales along the Colorado-Wyoming border within the Medicine Bow National Forest, about 35 miles west of Laramie. Here the swale is about one-foot deep and 8-feet wide." Photo and caption by Chuck Hornbuckle.



"A well-worn or broken ox shoe. Since oxen have cloven hooves a complete shoe has two halves which mirror each other. Finding an ox shoe generally means an early use of the trail since mules and horses were more frequently used in later years. And we do know the Cherokee used oxen to pull several of their wagons." Photo and caption by Chuck Hornbuckle.

Forest and adjacent BLM land. James indicated he would try to set up a similar project on BLM lands next year. A joint coordinated PIT project would be great.

The Ashley National Forest Cherokee Trail PIT project out of Manila, Utah, was one week earlier than Medicine Bow. The PIT study was to find the trail as it exited the Green River, near the present Buckboard Crossing in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, and the trail's continuance west to Fort Bridger.

In the summer of 2004, the Hornbuckles and Fletchers had spent much time in locating, GPS-ing, and remapping the trail. After contacting the private property owners, many areas were visited, and the trail located.

This effort in 2004 and the current PIT projects have led to revisions of the 1850 Cherokee Trail maps done by Lee Whiteley for our book. An example: from the crossing of the Big Laramie River, the trail runs directly east to Streamboat Lake on the north side of Red Mountain, not entering Colorado at that point.

Next year should be a very exciting year on the Cherokee Trail and hopefully our Chapter will provide many of the volunteers for upcoming projects.

Previous to the PIT, the Fletchers stopped and "talked a little trail" with the Rock Springs BLM Cultural Resource staff; then proceeded on to the Rawlins BLM office, meeting with Bonnie Bruce, in charge of the Cultural Resources staff.

She mentioned she would be having an archeologist in the Jelm area that coming week and would instruct him to visit our Cherokee Trail PIT site.

Rawlins BLM archaeologist James McNaughton was onsite for one day.

Kolleen outlined our project to him, showing him the trail and artifacts on both the National

Cherokee Trail Preservation Workshop in Galva, Kansas: A Roaring Success

By Jack and Pat Fletcher



“It was a great weekend!” This is how Linda Andersen and others summed up the workshop July 17-18, 2010, held in Galva, Kansas. Organized by Linda with assistance from Brian Stucky, the workshop had 21 attendees, one of the largest preservation workshops conducted so far by OCTA.

Linda is curator of the Galva Museum where the workshop was held. Linda also took care of the many organizational details and

made the arrangements. The workshop was conducted by David Welch and was open to OCTA, members of the Santa Fe Trail Association, and interested parties. Many of our Colorado chapter members will recall the following people from our Loveland meeting: David Welch, Linda and Bob Andersen, Bill and Darlene Maggard (owners of the CT crossing of the Verdigris River), and Aaron Mahr of the National Park Service. Chapter member Gary Dissette participated in this workshop.

Brian Stucky arranged for the two field trips and was the tour guide. The Saturday evening tour of the Cherokee Trail went south approximately 70 miles. A stop at the home of Lauren Flaming proved to be very interesting as he showed some of the artifacts he had dug up on his farm (below left).

Sunday’s tour was to Steve Schmidt's property to show ruts of the Santa Fe Trail, Chisholm Trail, Cherokee and possibly others (below right). It was amazing that one area could contain so many historic ruts.



Photos by Linda Andersen.

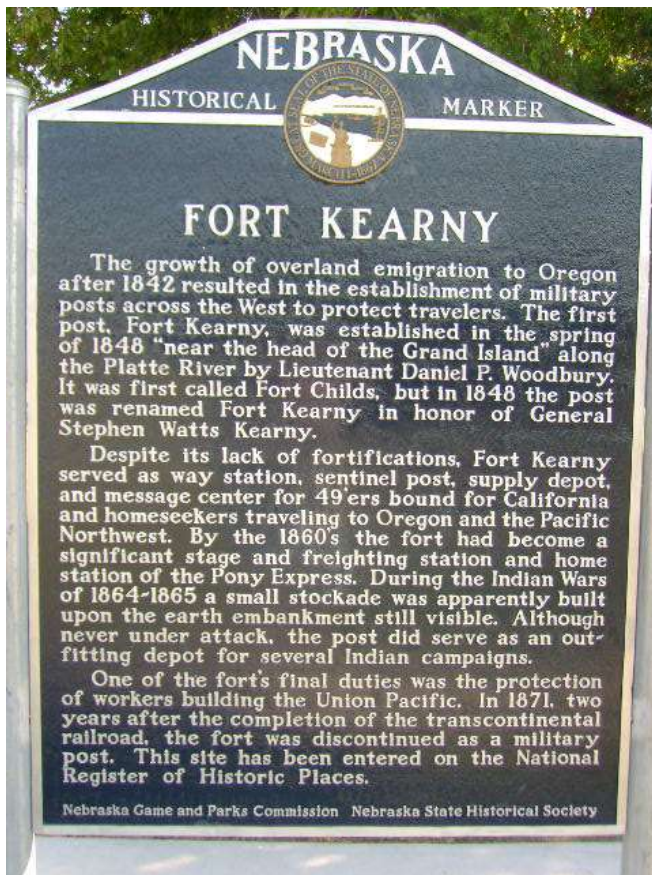
Galva, Kansas is located near Running Turkey Creek, where the Cherokee Trail from the south joins the Santa Fe Trail. The area is marked with a monument to the Fuller's Ranch that was established there in 1855 as a Post office Ranch (and to the town of Empire, established in 1872, the forerunner to Galva.) Future plans are to have the site marked on the Santa Fe Trail. Hopefully this would be an undertaking involving our chapter and the Cottonwood chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

A future chapter outing of several days to Galva and south along the Cherokee Trail to Oklahoma to see the Maggard's crossing of the Verdigris River would certainly enhance our understanding of the length of the trail and the hardships encountered by those who traveled over it.

Photos by Bruce, Peggy and Rachel Watson

Many thanks to Bruce, Peggy and their granddaughter, Rachel, for these photographs from their recent visit to Fort Kearny, Nebraska.





Photos by Bruce, Peggy and Rachel Watson.

Slide shows and historic tours of Northern Colorado and Wyoming

Sharon Danhauer, a member of the Board of Directors of both the Loveland and Berthoud Historical Societies, is now offering private slide shows and tours of historical sites in Northern Colorado and Wyoming. Sharon and her colleagues in both organizations organized the popular *Trails Across the Thompson Valleys* tour for our 2009 convention. Contact sdanhau@yahoo.com for further information and pricing.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Camille Q. Bradford, President
11515 Quivas Way • Denver, CO 80234
303-460-0371 • bradford@usa.net