



THE FIFTY-NINER

Quarterly newsletter of the
Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter
Oregon-California Trails Association
January 2012

www.octa-colorado.org

NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS



Richard Deisch, President



Sharon Danhauer, Vice President



Peggy Watson, Treasurer

Richard Deisch, a native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, lives in Windsor. He is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Rich and his wife moved to Colorado from the Los Angeles area after his retirement. His interest in the Oregon Trail in Wyoming and Nebraska prompted him to join OCTA about 12 years ago. He worked on the planning committee for the 2009 convention in Loveland. Rich has a strong interest in geographic information systems (GIS) and has been an active member of the chapter's Preservation Committee, mapping the Cherokee Trail in northern Colorado.

Sharon Danhauer has devoted much time and effort to the preservation of local and regional history as a board member of both the Berthoud Historical Society and the Loveland Historical Society, and through her business, Danhauer's Tours, www.danhauerstours.com. Sharon and her colleagues in the Berthoud and Loveland societies organized the tour of the Thompson Valley for OCTA's 2009 convention. Sharon is presently actively involved in the Loveland Historical Society's project for preservation of the Mariano Medina family cemetery in Loveland and serves on our chapter's committee to support this project. Sharon lives in Loveland and has two sons and five grandchildren.

Peggy Watson grew up on a family farm in southeastern South Dakota, densely populated with Norwegians, which is her heritage. She attended grade school in a one-room school house, and upon graduation from high school, moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she met and married her husband Bruce, and had two sons. They moved to Colorado in 1980. Peggy has been active with school and community organizations, Little League baseball, and a neighborhood HOA. Bruce's avid interest in western American history led to their joining OCTA. They have been active in the chapter since its inception in 2005 and worked on the planning committee for the 2009 convention.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- Edna Kennell – Casper, Wyoming
- Steven Sguordos – Loveland, Colorado
- Rick Wallner – La Junta, Colorado

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Richard Deisch

Hello. It's a pleasure for me to serve as the President of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of OCTA. OCTA has done a wonderful job over the years in preserving the trails of Western American history and honoring the bravery and accomplishments of the pioneers involved.

Members, thank you for supporting this organization. Duane Iles, President Oregon-California Trails Association recently sent out an e-mail on membership, indicating that it still continues to decline. Restoring the level of our membership prior to the economic downturn is vitally important and I hope that you will encourage your friends and family members who share your interest in trail history to join OCTA.

The mapping of the Cherokee Trail in Colorado is about fifty percent complete.

Two of the events planned for next year are at Fort Lupton in March and at Bent's Old Fort in May.

On behalf of the chapter I would like to thank Ian Steyn, the owner of Jellystone Park in Larkspur, and his wife, Sally, for hosting the great meeting in October their home and the tour of the historic site on their property. Ian is recreating Fort Lincoln in its original location and we are looking forward to seeing the fort. Thanks also to Jane Leche and Pat Surrena for organizing the event.

UPCOMING EVENT:

**Lee Whiteley to speak at Rocky Mountain Map Society meeting
January 24, 2012**



Lee Whiteley will be the speaker at the January 24 meeting of the Rocky Mountain Map Society. The topic of his presentation is *Mapping the Nation's Highways from "Auto Trails" to Interstates*. The meeting will be held at 5:30 pm at the Denver Public Library, Gates Room, Fifth Floor. The meeting is open to the public. Further information concerning this event is contained on the Rocky Mountain Map Society's website: www.RMmaps.org.

OCTOBER 29 MEETING AND TOUR

By Camille Bradford

Photos by Jane Leche

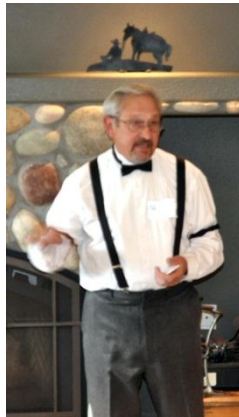
The chapter met on October 29 at the home of Ian and Sally Steyn in Larkspur. This was my last meeting as President of the chapter and it was a great pleasure to welcome our new chapter officers, Rich Deisch, Sharon Danhauer and Peggy Watson. Many thanks to Tim Kelly for his five years of service as chapter Treasurer.

Larry Schlupp from the Larkspur Historical Society was our speaker and provided fascinating insights into the life of D.C. Oakes and the history of the site of Fort Lincoln, the nearby sawmill and clay mine. LaVonne Perkins, author of *D.C. Oakes: Family, Friends & Foe*, was a special guest at the meeting.

Ian conducted a tour of the historic property after the meeting.



Buffet lunch before the meeting



Larry Schlupp



Larry Schlupp, Mark and Lynn Voth



Ian Steyn, Bill and Sally Burr



LaVonne Perkins, Ian Steyn and Pat Surrena

APACHE PASS/FORT BOWIE

By Bruce Watson

On November 17, Jack and Pat Fletcher, Peggy, and I visited Apache Pass/Fort Bowie. It's located south of the town of Bowie, Arizona in the Chiricahua Mountains. Apache Pass was on the Butterfield route, and was a necessary stop for water at Apache Spring. In February 1861, an Army contingent led by Lt. Bascom was sent to recover a child captured by the Apaches. Believing that Cochise's band was responsible, they met with him in Apache Pass, where they tried to hold him captive. Cochise escaped, and this incident caused an Apache war for 10 years. The incident was known as the Bascom Affair.

In July 1862, a Union army column commanded by General James Carleton was ambushed in Apache Pass while en route to confront Confederate troops in Arizona and New Mexico. This was known as the Battle of Apache Pass, where the Apaches were driven off the high ground by artillery. This battle led to the building of Fort Bowie to protect the pass and Apache Spring. Between 1862 and 1886, Fort Bowie was the military center for action against the Apaches, first Cochise, and then Geronimo. Further information on this site is on the National Park Service web site: <http://www.nps.gov/fobo/index.htm>.



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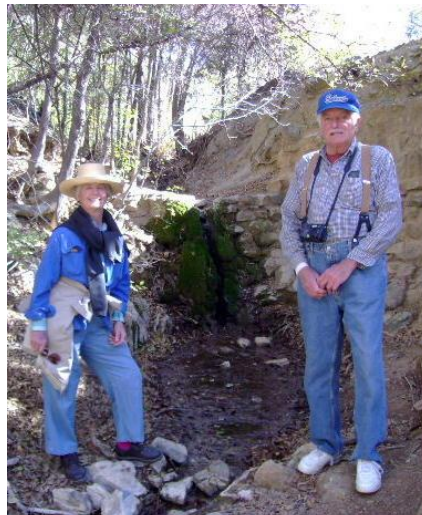
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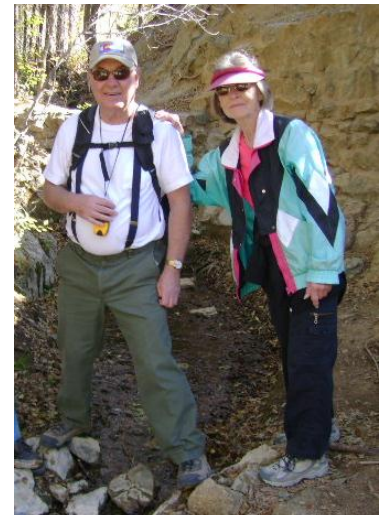
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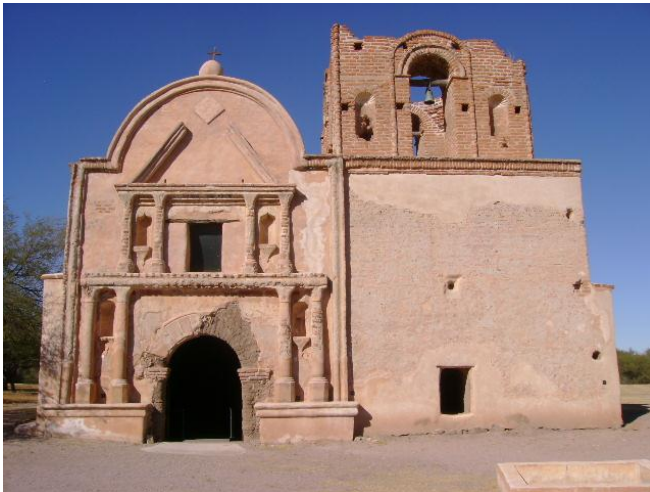
Photo 1 above is a marker for the intersection of sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 of Township 15S, Range 28E. I couldn't help myself; I used my GPS to guide me to the spot, which is located close to the trail into Fort Bowie. This is probably of no interest to anyone other than mapping geeks! Photo 2 is of Jack and Pat on the trail into Fort Bowie; the trail is 1.5 miles from the parking area. Photo 3 was taken at the location of the Bascom affair. Photos 4 and 5 were taken at the post cemetery. Photos 6 and 7 were taken at Apache Spring of the Fletchers, Peggy and me.

TUMACACORI

By Bruce Watson

On November 22 we visited Tumacacori, an old Spanish mission south of Tubac, Arizona. A brief history from the National Parks handout: In January 1691, Father Kino established mission San Cayetano de Tumacacori on the east bank of the Santa Cruz River (its current location is on the west bank). In 1751, Pima Indians attacked the Spanish settlements there. Fearing retaliation from Spanish soldiers, those at Tumacacori fled to the hills. As a result, a 50-man presidio was founded at Tubac, and the mission at Tumacacori was resettled on the west bank.

About 1800 Fray Narciso Gutierrez began to build a large church to replace Tumacacori's modest structure, but his mission's poverty and the Mexican wars for independence slowed construction. When a Mexican decree forced all Spanish born residents to leave the country in 1828, Tumacacori lost its last resident priest. Scaffolding still clung to the bell tower. The Indians and a few settlers, with the aid of visiting native-born Mexican priests, hung on for another 20 years, but a series of Apache raids and the hard 1848 winter drove the last residents from Tubac and Tumacacori. The 157-year thread of continuity begun by Father Kino was now severed. Further information on this site is on the National Park Service web site: <http://www.nps.gov/tuma/index.htm>.



Above - Views of the Mission exterior.

Below - Left: Interior of Mission, looking toward the entrance. Center: The current interior. Right: Painting of what the interior probably looked like.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY - VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Annette Gray – Archivist, Douglas County History Research Center

Now that 2012 is upon us, it's time to start thinking about your New Year's resolution! If volunteering is something you would like to do, then consider helping with National History Day on the local level.

Students who participate in National History Day research a historic topic, related to the assigned theme. One of the requirements is that they must use primary source material. They then present their finished research, which can be anything from a paper to a website, to panels of judges. There are a number of regional contests in each state and those students who have the best entries in each category then move on to the state contest. Colorado History Day is on May 5, 2012 and it looks like Wyoming's is on April 16. If you are interested in helping please visit either of these websites for further information:

Colorado: <http://www.coloradohistoryday.org>

Wyoming: <http://ahc.uwyo.edu/eduoutreach/historyday/default.htm>

The Colorado regional contests will be held on different days, so check the website for locations and days. If you would like to help with the Greater Denver Metro regional contest, it will be on March 17 and the timing for it will be similar to the timing for the state contest. It will be held at Legend High School in Parker, which is a few minutes' drive from the main Parker intersection at Parker Road and Main Street.

People who judge in the preliminary round will need to be available from about 8-1; people who judge in both preliminary and final rounds will need to be available from about 8-4. The History Day staff is in the process of setting up a web site with information for the regional contest. The web site for the state contest is already in place, and people can use the signup form on that web site to sign up to judge at any of the contests, regional or state.

I hope you will consider helping. I know I've enjoyed the chance to meet and talk to some great kids who have been very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their projects.

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