

TRAILS HEAD HISTORY PART #5 - 2001 THROUGH 2005

2001

LONE ELM CAMPGROUND PURCHASED

Great news! The 154-acre historic site of Lone Elm Park at 167th and Lone Elm Road just south of Olathe has been purchased by the City of Olathe! It was finalized by the Olathe City Council on **Tuesday evening, January 12, 2001.**

This is very good news for those Trails Head Chapter leaders who have been working very hard to have the City purchase just a few acres, even just two, as **Ross Marshall** suggested to the Zoning Commission during an evening meeting several years ago.

The Lone Elm campground site was one of the most popular campsites on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails, and was mentioned in countless diaries of the emigrants to the west. There has been a DAR plaque on a stone there for almost a century at the corner of 167th and Lone Elm and Trails Head has been wanting the opportunity to get some additional interpretive signage there.

The City will purchase the farmland property for \$1.85 million from the Willsey family and it will increase the Olathe park space by more than 10% according to park officials. It will be funded by a park sales tax incentive.

The campsite was known for its trees for firewood and water from Cedar Creek that flows through it. It was first known as “Round Grove” that reflected the large amount of trees there. But the campsite was so heavily used that when the trees were all gone except for one, it was called “Lone Elm” in the late 1840s.

Newton Ainsworth became the first owner of the farm in 1858, shortly after the Territory of Kansas was opened for settlement. He owned it into the early 1900s and supported strongly the history of the farm.

According to the City Manager **Michael Wilkes**, the large property will preserve the historical site in its primitive state, but it will also have playgrounds, soccer fields and softball fields in certain areas.

For years Trails Head members feared that the land would be sold for commercial or residential development, but now historic trail leaders look forward to developing interpretive markers there to tell the historic trails story!

OCTA MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

On **March 2-3, 2001**, the OCTA Mid-Year Board meeting was held at OCTA Headquarters in Independence. The Mid-Year meeting is held every other year at some other location on the trail.

This 2001 meeting was attended by over 30 OCTA members including officers, board members, committee chairs, chapter presidents and Trails Head members.

OCTA Headquarters staff (**Kathy Conway** and **Susanne Vinduska**) coordinated the logistical arrangements for this meeting and were assisted by several Trails Head Chapter members. The Friday evening dinner was hosted by **Ardis Everett, Ona Gieschen, Barbara Magerl** and **Judy Budde**. Transportation from and to KCI airport was provided by **Bob Hamilton, Bill Bullard, Dick Nelson, Howard Magerl** and **Jim Budde**.

TRAILS HEAD AND GATEWAY JOINT MEETING

On **Saturday morning, May 19, 2001**, members of Gateway and Trails Head Chapters gathered at OCTA Headquarters to share experiences and compare notes about future Chapter events.

OCTA Headquarters Manager **Kathy Conway**, welcomed the chapter members and led the visitors on a quick tour of the headquarters facility. Brief remarks were made by **Jackie Lewin**, Gateway President **Bob Hamilton**, Trails Head President **Bill Bullard**, and a report on the upcoming Casper Convention by **Jim Budde**.

The group then toured the National Frontier Trails Center, Merrill Mattes Library and NFTC Archives, led by staff member **David Jackson**.

Then attendees went across the street south to the swales on the Bingham-Waggoner Estate, where **Ross Marshall** and **Bill Bullard** shared their interpretations of the swales.

The group then adjourned to the cool cellars of the Courthouse Exchange for a delightful lunch and further discussions.

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXVI – June 23, 2001 – To Lawrence and Topeka

On **Saturday, June 23**, Trails Head Chapter sponsored its first bus trek of the year with 19 members and guests enjoying a sunny day at two historic sites west of Kansas City. The trek was led by **Jim Budde**, **Jim Lee** and **Orvis Fitts**.

The bus departed from the Sears parking lot at Metcalf South Shopping Center at **8:30 a.m.**

On the way to Lawrence, Orvis shared his research on the Border War in Kansas Territory in the late 1850s. This information related to the first stop which was at the farm of **Fred** and **Lilian Six** (Trails Head members), who own the 160 acres on the Wakarusa River south of Lawrence where the so-called ‘Blanton’s Bridge’ crossing of the river was located.

This crossing was one of several in this area for the Oregon-California Trail; the others being known as Bluejacket crossings. This was the “upper” Wakarusa crossing but its more common name was derived from a toll bridge built by Napoleon Bonaparte “Bony” Blanton on his property at the crossing site in 1855 at the very end of the Oregon-California Trail use of this route. It was three miles south of Lawrence and figured very importantly during the Border War in the late 1850s.

Fred Six, an Appellate Court Judge for the State of Kansas and a very congenial host, met the trekkers near the Highway 59 bridge south of Lawrence, a few hundred yards west of the historic crossing. The **Sixes** have built a wonderful home on the high ground in the middle of their 160 acres and have become very interested in the history that took place on or near their property.

Fred took the trekkers to the stone foundations of an old structure very near the highway on the south bank of the River on his property, that likely dates to before 1870. Participants next examined some signatures carved into a limestone wall that forms the east bank of a gully that empties into the river from the south, just east of the crossing. **Jim Budde** has researched some of the signatures in OCTA COED database, but found no matches. They probably are not trail related.

The group then bid the **Sixes** a warm farewell and stopped for lunch at a city park in South Lawrence near the Haskell Indian Nations University.

On the way through Lawrence, **Jim Lee** read excerpts from a talk he presented to the chapter in early 2000 on the subject of early railroads in Kansas. This was in preparation for the ~~our~~ stop

at the restored Great Overland Station/Union Pacific Depot in north Topeka on the north side of the Kansas River just west of the Topeka Boulevard Bridge.

When the tour later arrived at the Depot, the largest steam engine still operating in the nation pulled away just minutes before the bus arrived. It was a “Big Boy” 4-8-8-4 style engine, called “Challenger” and was on its way west from stops in St. Louis and Kansas City. However, a special celebration day surrounding the arrival of the huge engine drew exhibits of railroad history and the trekkers had an opportunity to enjoy these displays.

They then did a brief tour of the Station.

Coincidentally, the depot is essentially on the Oregon-California Trail as it crossed the adjacent Kansas River on Pappan’s ferry established by two Pappan brothers in 1843. The 1844 flood washed their ferry and home away which was on an island in the river, but they reconfigured the ferry and continued to operate it for several years.

The bus returned to the Sears parking lot at 3:30 p.m. after a very successful trek.



Union Pacific Depot in Topeka, taken 3/31/18

2001 OCTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

On **August 13-18**, the OCTA 19th Annual Convention was held in Casper, WY, which was the same site as the fifth convention in **1987**. About 470 attended which included **Ona Gieschen, Shirley Coupal, Pat Traffas, Jim and Kathy Conway, Kalista Lehrer, Carl and Irene McDonald, Tom McCutcheon, Howard and Barbara Magerl, Jim and Judy Budde, Kendall and Elaine McNabney, and Jana and Ross Marshall.**

Judy Budde was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award.

There were several pre-convention tours and the usual number of regular tours. All were led by local members, except the one to the west which **Ross Marshall** helped to lead.

The keynote speaker was **Fred Gowans**, who has spoken before for Trails Head. Many other very qualified speakers followed.

Wednesday night was the Reception, featuring a band of nearly 20 people! The annual barbeque was held Saturday night at Fort Caspar.

Most convention attendees found time to visit the site of the yet-to-be-completed National Historic Trails Center on a bluff overlooking the North Platte River, the City of Casper and Fort Caspar (yes, they are spelled differently).

The usual Board of Directors meeting, annual membership meeting, chapters meetings and workshops rounded out the week. As always, the most fun is seeing old friends again and thinking about nothing but historic trails for a week!

Following the OCTA Convention, the seventh National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference was also held in Casper. It was hosted by the Partnership for the National Trails System, which is a partnership of the 22 National Scenic and Historic Trails, which are supported by non-profit organizations, of which OCTA is one.

Three members of the PNTS Executive Committee are **Treasurer Jim Budde**, **Secretary Ross Marshall** and **Bill Watson** representing OCTA. **Gary Werner** of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is the salaried Executive Director.

About 130 people were registered. Registration was handled by **Jim** and **Judy Budde**. **Ross Marshall** handled the bus tours which went to the Continental Divide, Fremont Canyon and Muddy Mountain. **Jana Marshall** helped lead the Fremont Canyon boat ride and tour.

JOHN LEAMON PASSES

Trails Head members were all saddened by the loss of old friend and companion **John Leamon**, who passed away at his home on **September 29, 2001**. He is survived by his wife **Jean**, married for 49 years.

It would take many pages to properly review all that **John** did for Trails Head Chapter and the historic trails in the Kansas City area and beyond. He was a retired aeronautical engineer, a smart guy and had a good personality, well-liked by everyone. He was a good leader, good friend and companion for the nearly two decades that OCTA and Trails Head have functioned.

His first pursuit of historic trails history started when he purchased Greg Franzwa's *Oregon Trail Revisited* book in the 1970s. He became a charter member of OCTA in 1983 and attended the first OCTA Convention in Independence in 1983. He jumped on board when Trails Head Chapter was formed in the mid-1980s.

He also was active with Gateway Chapter in St. Joseph, the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association and Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of SFTA.

He did research, public promotion and was a frequent speaker about historic trails. He was one of the regular planners for Trails Head Trail Treks, early as car caravans and later in buses. **John** helped lead many Trails Head Trek tours.

He was the Trail Head Preservation Committee Chair for many years. He knew the locations of the trails and many of the landowners.

John received the OCTA Meritorious Achievement Award during the Convention 2000 in Kansas City. He certainly deserved it and he will be missed in so many ways by many trail enthusiasts!

ANNA BELLE CARTWRIGHT PASSES

On **October 21**, **Anna Belle Cartwright** passed away. She will be missed by the trails community. After serving as curator of the National Frontier Trails Center in Independence from 1990 to 1998, she continued her trails work as a Board member of the Santa Fe Trail Association and a Board member of the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter. She twice received the SFTA Award of Merit.

She also created the pioneer family sculpture at 69th and Mission Road in Prairie Village, KS.

TRAILS HEAD ANNUAL MEETING

On **Thursday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m.**, the Trails Head Annual Meeting was held at **Budde's** house at 11712 Glen Arbor Terrace. 13 members were present.

The business meeting was conducted by **President Bill Bullard**. In his early remarks, he noted the very successful Kansas City Convention 2000. He also mentioned some issues that need to be resolved.

The marker for Elm Grove has been approved, developed, constructed and is awaiting installation.

Also, the confusing Barnes marker Trails Head has been trying to promote for more than a year needs to be addressed. Considerable discussion followed and it was suggested that the sign be installed next spring with publicity.

The first order of business was a motion to rescind the previously approved marker for the Barnes site in Raytown and it was approved.

The next order of business was to elect officers nominated for 2002:

President – Dick Nelson Vice
President - Eva Allen
Secretary – Elaine McNabney
Treasurer – Judy Budde

They were elected.

The outgoing treasurer, **Jim Budde**, distributed copies of his report. It was moved and seconded that we approve:

The following items were then accomplished:

1. A \$50 memorial donation for **John Leamon**
 2. **Jeanne Miller**, retired Executive Director of OCTA, to receive OCTA ~~2s~~ Certificate of Appreciation, presented by **Jim Budde**
 3. Trails Head to maintain membership in Heritage League by paying the \$25 annual dues
- Jim noted that the 44th Missouri Conference on History will be held on April 18 to 20, 2002 in Kansas City and that an OCTA table should be manned.

New **President Dick Nelson** announced the next chapter meeting will be held in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

2002

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Sunday January 27 at 2:00 p.m.**, Trails Head had a meeting at National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence. **Mark Armato**, who is an 8th grade Social Studies teacher at Maple Ridge Middle School, portrayed Alexander Majors.

Treasurer Judy Budde reported that \$2849.62 is in the available funds plus \$3367.00 is in the KC150 Grant restricted fund.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to **Jeanne Miller**, retired executive director of OCTA. Also, \$100 was contributed to the foundation being established in support of National Frontier Trails Museum.

The Missouri Conference on History will be held April 18-20 at the Marriott Crowne Plaza. Volunteers will be needed to staff a Trails Head table. **Judy Budde** moved and **Elaine McNabney** seconded that the \$50 fee be approved. It carried.

After many years as editor of *Tidings*, **Mary Conrad** has resigned. Some discussion was had about who could replace her. Trails Head leaders will need to address this need at their next meeting.

Dick Nelson stated that his goals for the chapter include:

- Activities out on the trails – June 15 at Ft. Osage is planned
- Increased support by paid members for programs and activities
- Glenn Larson** of the Kanza Chapter will be asked to lead a mapping workshop on **May 4 or 18**. **Ross Marshall** will facilitate the planning for this event.

A chapter planning meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, February 23 at **President Dick Nelson's** house.

A chapter meeting will be held at **10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 23** at Johnson County Library at 51st and Roe in Roeland Park. Program to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at **4:00 p.m.**

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Saturday, February 23 at 10:00 a.m.** the chapter had a planning meeting at the home of **Dick Nelson**. Also in attendance were **Ross Marshall, Jim Budde, Judy Budde, Eva Allen** and **Elaine McNabney**.

Dick mentioned that he and the **Buddes** would be attending the OCTA preservation conference in Salt Lake City in March.

Discussion about our *Tidings* newsletter ensued since **Mary Conrad** resigned. We decided:

1. The name *Tidings* will be maintained
2. Three samples for a new *Tidings* banner were presented and the one that included the national OCTA logo was selected.
3. **Judy Budde** volunteered to prepare the next newsletter that will include information on:
 - MO History Conference – written by **Jim**
 - Thank you to **Mary Conrad** – by **Elaine**
 - President's message – by **Dick**
 - Future calendar – by **Judy**
 - Next chapter meeting plus a separate flyer – by **Eva**

Next chapter meeting - **March 23 at 10:00 a.m.** at Cedar Roe Library in Roeland Park.

MO History Conference - Volunteers needed for the MO History Conference on **April 19 & 20**

Mapping Workshop - Will be held **May 18 at 10:00 a.m.** at OCTA Headquarters.

Elm Grove marker – **Ross** distributed a copy of the marker's text. It will be installed in preparation for a dedication on National Trails Day on **June 1, 2002**. **Ross** will handle the installation, and **Barbara Magerl** will handle publicity. MRO, KANZA and Gateway Chapters will be invited.

Fort Osage Trek – **Saturday, June 15** with **Jim** and **Ross** in charge. This will be a full day activity (9-4) and a bus will be rented and beverages provided for sack lunches.

OCTA Convention – **August 11-18** in Reno, NV, at Circus Circus Hotel.

September Trek – Liberty to Weston early trails was planned for **Sept 4** with **Ross** leading.

Chapter meeting – **Tuesday, October 24** – **John Forbes** speaker.

Annual Chapter meeting – **Thursday, November 14**.

The meeting was adjourned at **11:45 a.m.**

NEW EDITOR OF *TIDINGS*

As result of resignation of **Mary Conrad** as the *Tidings* newsletter editor in January, **Judy Budde** put out a four-page Trails Head Chapter *Tidings* in **March 2020**.

HISTORY DAY

On **March 9, 2002**, the Greater Kansas City History Day Competition was held at Truman Library and Museum. Trails Head members **Ona Gieschen, Barbara Magerl** and **Peggy Smith** judged entries.

They selected **Alicia Duren** and **Elizabeth Germinder** of Blue Springs High School for their exhibit “The Oregon Trail; The Way to the West” to receive the Trails Head History Day Award certificate plus a \$25 check at the awards ceremony.

Their exhibit was also selected as third place winner in their division by the regular panel of judges, qualifying them to compete in the state finals at University of Missouri in Columbia on **April 13**.

MISSOURI HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Missouri History Expo, as part of the 44th Annual Missouri Conference on History was held at the Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City on **April 18 - 20**. Trails Head had a booth there and handed out a great number of new membership applications for OCTA and Trails Head. Trails Head members thank **Dick Nelson, Eva Allen, Ona Gieschen,** and **Jim** and **Judy Budde** for volunteering to handle the chapter booth.

MET WORKSHOP

On **April 27**, several members of Trails Head attended a Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) workshop on the second floor of OCTA Headquarters, led by **Glen Larson** of KANZA Chapter.

The purpose was to train members of Trails Head to begin the systematic mapping of the Oregon-California Trails in the Trails Head area according to the procedures of the OCTA Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) manual. The OCTA MET manual has become the standard for historic trail mapping in the nation, accepted by the National Park Service and other organizations like the Santa Fe Trail Association.

The procedure requires precise on-the-ground location of the trail route using all available maps and emigrant diaries. When the trail location is determined, assessment is made of any visible swales, ruts, or other resource that remains. The last step is to plot this data on USGS 7½' Quadrangle maps using the specified notations and symbols. A digitized map will eventually result from this work. When completed, copies will be on file at the Trails Center, with the OCTA chapter and the National Park Service.

On **June 22, at 9:00 a.m.**, a field session was held at the Minor Park swale to apply what Trails Head members learned in the workshop.

NEW TIDINGS EDITOR

As a result of **Mary Conrad's** resignation as the *Tidings* newsletter editor in January, **Judy Budde** published her second four-page *Tidings* newsletter in June.

ELM GROVE MARKER DEDICATION

Trails Head Chapter dedicated a historical marker at the Elm Grove Campground on **Saturday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m.**, on National Trails Day. It is actually about a mile west of the campground

and is next to a DAR SFT monument placed nearly 100 years ago. The Elm Grove Campground is on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe- Oregon-California Trails.

Trails Head **President Dick Nelson** opened the ceremony, and discussed the Mission of OCTA relating to markers.

Ross Marshall, past president of Trails Head and OCTA, introduced various dignitaries, such as:

- **Kevin Corbett** and **Mike Latka** of Olathe Parks & Recreation
- **Bill Maason** of Johnson County Parks & Recreation
- **Norm Bowers**, County Engineer
- **Mindy Love**, Director Johnson County Museum

Shirley Coupal, Kansas DAR Historian, talked about DAR monuments along the trails, especially the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

Craig Crease, trails historian, spoke about the history of this site on the trails. The marker was unveiled and **Dick** made closing remarks.

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXVII – June 15, 2002 – to Fort Osage

On **Saturday June 15, at 9:00 a.m.** our minibus with 17 people aboard left the K-Mart parking lot at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch. **Ross Marshall** was the guide.

The bus drove through downtown and east on I-70 discussing trails and historic sites on the way.

For the rest of the way, the primary focus was the Lewis and Clark Expedition. **Ross** discussed the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, President Jefferson's and Meriwether Lewis's preparations, the struggle that Lewis had to get his boat built (he hired a drunken boat builder), and they finally left on the Ohio River from Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803.

Ross continued discussing the journey all the way to St. Louis and their winter campsite at Wood River (Camp DuBois) near the Missouri River Confluence with the Mississippi River. In April, 1804 they departed up the Missouri River and past the future site of Ft. Osage.

The tour went north on I-435, east on Highway 24, north at Buckner and arrived at the Ft. Osage Visitor's Center and cemetery at 10:00.

The trekkers took a short walk through the cemetery and saw the DAR marker, which is in the wrong place when it was placed in 1909. Where it sits is not where the trail came up from the landing in trail days was. Instead, it is where a later road came up to the village of Sibley.

They then entered the Visitor's Center for a tour and saw a short film and toured the fort area. Attendees also had a couple of "shade tree" talks by **Pete Cuppage** on Lewis and Clark and by **Craig Crease** on George Sibley, who was the "factor" (trader) at Ft. Osage and later did the Sibley Survey of the Santa Fe Trail in 1825 and 1827.

After attendees had sack lunches, they left about 1:30.

They went south back to the Buckner-Tarsney Road and west on Blue Mills Road. The tour did a brief stop at New Salem Park that has a DAR marker and couple of Battle of Westport markers.

The trek went on west and then north on Highway 291, crossing the Missouri River and went on north to Liberty. After crossing the old Missouri River channel, the bus turned right along old 210 highway which is where the old Liberty Landing was in trail days, before the river shifted in the 1951 flood.

The trekkers went back south and west on Kentucky Road to River Boulevard and then turned right and went down to the Independence Landing that overlooks the Missouri River. This was

the site of the early landing for Santa Fe Trail freighters and Oregon-California emigrants.

The bus left at 2:30 and went back south and southwest on Kentucky Road through Sugar Creek, ending up on Highway 24. The tour went past Mt. Washington Cemetery and went north on I-435 across the Missouri River.

The bus went west on Highway 210 and south across the Paseo Bridge and turned right on Front Street along the river through Richard Berkley Riverfront Park. The trek ended up at 2nd and Main and had a look at the Town of Kansas Pedestrian Bridge, now under construction.

The bus left at 3:10 and went south on I-35, ending up at K-Mart parking lot at 3:30. (~~Our~~ Metropolitan Transportation Services bus was not very good – plus it had no microphone and cost \$525. With 14 paid passengers x \$20, Trails Head lost \$245).

FLAT ROCK CREEK MARKER DEDICATED

An interpretive marker was dedicated at Flat Rock Creek Park, at 103rd and Hauser in Lenexa, on **June 29 at 10:00 a.m.** It was conducted by Legler Barn Museum and Lenexa Parks and Recreation Department.

2002 OCTA CONVENTION

The 2002 OCTA Convention was held in Reno, NV. On **August 13-17**. Over 500 attended. It was very hot! Eight from Trails Head were there.

The OCTA Board decided it was time to hire a professional Association Manager to manage all of OCTA business operations and to aid in solicitation of funds to operate OCTA.

INDEPENDENCE LANDING

Work is underway to place historical markers at a site overlooking the Missouri River at Independence Landing. The site at Kentucky Road and River Boulevard in Sugar Creek is on LaFarge Cement Company property. They have been very supportive in allowing public access and placement of markers on company land. The Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails used this landing and the Lewis and Clark Trail is on the river below. The project will be completed by **2003**.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On **August 28, 2002** a Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was called to order by **President Dick Nelson** with **Eva Allen, Judy** and **Jim Budde, Elaine McNabney** and **Ross Marshall** in attendance.

The first agenda item was the proposed Challenge Cost Share grant request to the National Park Service to help map the trails in the Greater KC metro area. After a lengthy discussion, those present voted to submit it to the membership at the **October 24** Trails Head meeting. Notification of this matter will be in **Judy Budde's** September 15 *Tidings* newsletter. The previously scheduled September 14 trail trek will be postponed.

A nominating committee will be selected and a slate of officers will be presented at the chapter annual meeting on **November 14**. All current officers, except **Elaine McNabney** are eligible for a second term.

Judy Budde's third *Tidings* newsletter, a six-page issue, was published in **September 2002**.

CHAPTER MEETING

Trails Head held a chapter meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24 at Harris-Kearny House in Westport. 24 members were in attendance.

Attendees discussed the National Park Service/OCTA Challenge Cost Share mapping project. **Dick** explained the reason for the proposal and **Ross Marshall** explained the details of mapping the trails routes through Jackson, Johnson and Douglas Counties. The funding money is readily available to OCTA chapters. However, Trails Head Chapter will be committed to accomplish the project. Those present approved the proposal.

The speaker **John Forbes** explained his research and involvement in the planning for the reenactment of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition. The re-enactment will go from St. Louis to Idaho and back in 2004-2005 to celebrate the 200th Anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

SECOND NEW *TIDINGS* EDITOR

On October 27, **Judy Budde** resigned as the *Tidings* newsletter editor. Soon after, **Ross Marshall** volunteered to do the newsletter.

TRAILS HEAD ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Head Annual Meeting was held on Thursday evening, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Cedar Roe Library in Roeland Park.

Treasurer Judy Budde submitted her financial report. Trails Head has a total of \$5543.96 in the account, which includes the KC150 grant of \$3367.00 for markers.

The nominating committee consisting of **Chair Kendall McNabney** plus **Judy Budde** and **Barbara Magerl** submitted the following names, which were elected.

President – Dick Nelson Vice

President – Eva Allen

Secretary – Jim Lee (new)

Treasurer – Jim Budde (new)

President Dick Nelson showed the new video produced in partnership by OCTA and National Park Service. It was a high-quality video highlighting the preservation efforts all along the Oregon-California Trail by chapters and members of OCTA. Trails Head will certainly be showing it again, perhaps at the July 10, 2003 chapter meeting.

Dick also reviewed his experiences as he traveled with members of the Wyoming Chapter last summer in southwestern Wyoming on the Sublette Cutoff. Several Trails Head members have traveled this route before also. He had some good pictures to show us.

2003

Trails Head ended 2002 with 64 members. Fairly consistent over the last few years. However, chapter members need to focus on some growth in membership this year and ongoing.

FORT OSAGE ENLARGED

As learned during the Trail Trek XXVII last June, Fort Osage is about to be enlarged. The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department plans to replace the small existing museum which presently sits just south of the reconstructed Fort. The new museum and education center will be on the bluff overlooking the river between the Fort and present museum.

In preparation for the beginning of construction, the department hired archaeologist **Jim Feagins** to survey and test the proposed location of the new building.

Archaeological activities were conducted from **July 1-16, 2002**. **Mary Conrad** was one of the archaeological volunteers that was recruited.

The findings of this recent excavation, along with the artifacts from a number of other Fort Osage archaeological projects, will help tell a detailed story of the site. Visitors will be able to read and see exhibits about the prehistory and history of the bluff site when the new education center opens, probably in **June, 2004**.

TRAIL MAPPING

At the annual membership meeting **last November 14**, the chapter approved a plan to begin mapping the Oregon-California Trail routes in the Trails Head Chapter area.

Since preservation of the trails is a top priority of both the National Park Service and OCTA, detailed mapping becomes essential as one of the tools in order to establish what resources still exist that need to be protected. Most OCTA chapters have begun mapping efforts in their areas in recent years and Trails Head Chapter is strongly urged to initiate trail mapping in the Trails Head area.

A Challenge Cost Share Program grant has been obtained from the National Park Service to cover the cost of maps and other expenses involved in the mapping project. The grant requires at least an equal match, but the chapter match share will be in manhours of volunteer time, which is evaluated at \$14.00 per hour. That counts up quickly and Trails Head should have no trouble meeting its matching obligation.

The mapping that is needed is not just drawing lines on paper. The objective is to actually be 'on the ground' and walk the route of the trail and look for any remaining traces of the trail.

OCTA has developed a 'Mapping Emigrant Trails' (MET) Manual that has become the standard guidebook for OCTA and the National Park Service as well. Criteria for assessing trail resources and the map codings to be used are included in this manual.

All information is then to be put on 7.5 minute United States Geological Survey quadrangle maps (USGS quads for short), each one of which covers about six miles of the trail route. Final copies of these quads will need to be sent to OCTA Headquarters and NPS. Trails Head will have one final copy in its own files.

Ross Marshall has a stack of quad maps already ordered and on hand. The plan is to start at Lone Elm Campground south of Olathe and proceed southwest on the trail. Rural locations will be easier as a starting point than in urban areas.

Many Trails Head members have signed up or committed verbally to be interested in being involved. This will be a good education for all and everyone that wants to be involved will have an opportunity at one time or another.

One of the key issues is that MET participants will be on private property. They will be knocking on the doors of landowners to get permission and later teams will need to go in small groups. Ideally two to four at a time is probably the best. **Ross** will stay in touch about progress and dates and times, etc.

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Thursday, February 20, 2003** Trails Head held a chapter meeting at Cedar Roe Library in Roeland Park. 11 members were present, including new member **Joy Little**.

President Dick Nelson called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.**

Dick reminded those present that Trails Head still has over \$3600 that the KC150 Legacy Fund granted about three years ago. It was for three projects: replace/refurbish the NPS Oregon National Historic Trail marker at the Independence Square (which has been done), reprint an updated version of our Johnson and Jackson County Trails Maps, and renovate/remount the Santa Fe Trail plaque and monument at the old St. Mary's Hospital property (which has now been removed) just south of Liberty Memorial. **Jim Budde** has been trying to make contact with someone at Kansas City Parks and Recreation about that. **Dick** said he would like to use that grant money this year.

A Trails Head Trek is tentatively planned for **May 10** on the Liberty to Leavenworth Road. Details will be forthcoming soon.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, **Dick** introduced member **John Mark Lambertson**, Director of the National Frontier Trails Center, who spoke on *Hopes, Fears, Excitement and Tears: Jumping off on the Oregon-California Trail*.

John Mark is one of the Kansas City area experts on emigrant trails and has researched this topic extensively. He talked about the emigrants' emotions, mindsets, their first days on the trail, and how they coped with the daily challenges.

An article by **John Mark** on this subject may be published soon in the *Overland Journal*.

After a few questions and answers, the meeting was adjourned.



Speaker John Mark Lambertson

OCTA MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

The OCTA Mid-year Board meeting was held **March 7-8** at OCTA Headquarters in Independence. **Dick Pingrey** of the Northwest Chapter is now president. It went well. OCTA is, and will be, in good hands for the foreseeable future. Several Trail Head members were in attendance.

WESTPORT ROUTE

Recently, the City of Olathe Parks Department purchased a portion of the Elm Grove Campground which is on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail. Historic trail leaders dedicated a post mounted interpretive marker last year about a mile west of that site. This may be an excellent opportunity to interpret more of the Westport Route just like what is being done by the City of Olathe at Lone Elm Campground on the Independence Route. The City is willing to spend money to preserve/interpret this historic site for the visiting public.

LONE ELM CAMPGROUND

Construction is progressing on the Lone Elm Campground site at 167th and Lone Elm Road, south of Olathe. Sitework began about a year ago and the general construction contract was signed last summer. Work on the athletic fields should be completed this coming summer. The soccer and girls softball fields are now clearly defined and much of the lighting is installed.

The 156-acre farm site was purchased by the City of Olathe from the Willsey family in 2000 to provide recreational opportunities for the residents of Olathe and to preserve as much as possible of this historic trail site. Nearly half of the acreage is being preserved in its natural state.

Interpretation of the Campground itself will begin this year and should be substantially completed within a year or so. Markers, kiosks, walking paths and a 'rendezvous' shelter will interpret for visitors the history of this famous campground on the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. This will be a fantastic trail site when finished!

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXVIII – May 10, 2003 – Liberty to Weston – (Ft. Ly. Military

Rd) The loaded bus, with **Ross Marshall** as guide, left the Harris-Kearney House at 8:30 a.m. and headed toward Liberty, MO. The bus paused briefly at the site of Liberty Landing, used from the

1820s, which was the beginning point for the Liberty to Fort Leavenworth Road. The landing site is just east of Highway 291 on the north side of the old Liberty Loop channel of the Missouri River. It was known first as Allen's Landing, then as Baxter's Landing.

The tour followed the old road route into the heart of Liberty, which was founded in 1821, predating Independence and town of Kansas. Participants walked around the 1934 Clay County Courthouse, saw some historical markers, the bank building that the James gang robbed in 1866, and viewed some historical murals near the new county courthouse a block away.

After leaving the square, the bus went by several historic homes, some of which belonged to family members of John Dougherty.

Before leaving Liberty, the trek stopped at Fairview Cemetery which is about three blocks southwest of the square. It contains the family burial plot of John Dougherty that also includes his son O'Fallon and several others. John died in 1860 and was buried near Multnomah, but his wife Mary had his body moved to Fairview in 1863. Their son Lewis Bissell Dougherty lived in Liberty for many years. His wife was Anna Missouri America Kerry, whose family plantation included the current Kansas City International Airport.

Participants also saw the elaborate marker of General Alexander Doniphan. He led the 1st Missouri Volunteers into the Mexican War in 1846.

After leaving Liberty, the bus went west on Barry Road (which is the approximate location of the Liberty Road), then north on I-435 and northwest on Staley Road to the site of Multnomah. **Mark Kelly** met the bus there and the bus riders arranged lawn chairs in front of the bus on the east side of the county road. He talked as participants ate lunch, interrupted only by an occasional passing car and a couple of bicycles. **Mark** is a great researcher and book author.

Dougherty, born in 1791 in Kentucky, came to St. Louis in 1808 and began a ten-year stint with the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company as a mountain man. He went west with Stephen Long and the Yellowstone Expedition in 1819. He then became Indian Sub-Agent under Benjamin O'Fallon, after whom he named one of his sons. When O'Fallon retired, he became Indian Agent of the Upper Missouri until 1839.

When William Clark of Lewis and Clark fame died in 1838, John aspired to his job as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, but did not get it. He was then post Sutler at Forts Kearny and

Laramie and a partner of Robert Campbell.

John and his wife Mary, from a wealthy Philadelphia family, then moved to Clay County and began to accumulate land, eventually 5300 acres. In 1856, Multnomah was completed after three years and \$12,000, a princely sum in those days. The mansion became the focal point of Clay County society until his death in 1860. The plantation was later broken up and sold by the family. The mansion burned in 1963.

The trek retraced to Barry Road and west to Platte Purchase Parkway, the site of the now-vanished town of Barry. Barry was on the original Missouri state line when the west side was Indian Territory. When the Platte Purchase was completed in 1837, that town lost its advantageous location. The Clay and Platte County border today is at the location of the old state line.

The bus then went northwest on Stagecoach Road, or what is left of it, then onto old Highway 71 segments on the east and north side of the airport, following the basic route of the old road to Platte City. The crossing of the Platte River on the west edge of Platte City, near its falls, was where all early area roads crossed.

The Liberty Road also crossed there and then went west to Fort Leavenworth basically on the current Highway 73 to link up with the Missouri River ferry at the well-known big swale up the bluff at the Fort.

The trail forked off to the north from the crossing toward Weston, basically on the current Highway 273 after Weston was founded in 1837. It became the outfitting point for emigrants who wanted to use the trail west from the Fort.

After reaching Weston, enough time was left for strolling up and down picturesque Main Street, browsing and shopping.

On the return to Kansas City, the bus took the exit at the Paseo Bridge through Berkley Park and stopped briefly at the new Town of Kansas pedestrian bridge at the Main Street Cut from the edge of the river up to 2nd Street. The tour then followed the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail down Main Street, arriving back at the Harris-Kearney House a little after 4:00.

Special thanks again to Trails Head friend **Mark Kelly** for doing a super job of meeting the trekkers at Multnomah and reviewing the exciting life of John Dougherty and early fur trade era.



Mark Kelly speaking to us with the Multnomah Mansion site on the Ridge behind him

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Thursday July 10, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head held a chapter meeting at Westport Library with about 20 people attending. Members reviewed and updated plans for meetings during the rest of the year, led by **President Dick Nelson**.

The speaker was **Ross Marshall**, who led those present in a review and a discussion of the Lewis and Clark 1803-06 Expedition. Attendees viewed slides of Lewis and Clark sites in South Dakota, which with the help of South Dakota native **President Dick Nelson**, the audience was able to get some enlightened interpretation of the Expedition and its participants, and many of the sites and locations involved in the Expedition.

2003 OCTA CONVENTION

The 2003 OCTA Convention, our 21st Annual, was held in the Flint Hills of Kansas **August 11-16**, hosted by the Kanza Chapter, headquartered at the Holidome in Manhattan. Most of the days were pleasant until a pretty hot day on Saturday in Fort Riley.

The approximately 380 registrants enjoyed an impressive array of speakers, workshops and evening activities. But probably the highlight for many were the bus tours that featured the many trail swales in northeastern Kansas. They remain because much of the land has never been plowed for crops.

Four different bus tours covered the Oregon-California Trail from Lawrence to the Nebraska border; *Wakarusa to the Kaw*, *Kaw Crossings*, *Cannonball Run* and *Between the Blues*. In addition, a segment of the St. Jo Road was a pre-convention tour, led by **Jackie Lewin**.

Participating from Trails Head as speakers, tour guides or members of committees were **Dick Nelson, Mary Conrad, Bob Boland, Jim and Judy Budde, Ryan Marshall and Ross Marshall**. Among other chapter members attending were: **John Atkinson, Kathy Conway, Craig Crease, John Mark Lambertson, Kalista Lehrer, Nancy Lewis, Barbara Magerl, Anne Mallinson and Elaine and Kendall McNabney**.

Ross Marshall received the OCTA Meritorious Achievement Award at the Annual Banquet. The 2004 convention will be at Fort Vancouver, WA; 2005 at Salt Lake City, UT; 2006 at St. Joseph. Trails Head will probably offer to help Gateway Chapter in 2006.

SFTA SYMPOSIUM

On **September 24-28**, the eastern end of the Santa Fe Trail was featured at the SFTA biennial Symposium, headquartered at the Bannister Mall in Kansas City, MO.

Speakers dealt with various subjects and sites along the entire Santa Fe Trail with a focus on Greater Kansas City area. Bus tours covered the Westport and Independence Routes as well as the routes from Fort Leavenworth and Lexington. Except for Lexington, the routes were also the principal ones used by Oregon-California Trail emigrants as they jumped off the Missouri River.

Trails Head members **Anne Mallinson, John Atkinson, Nancy Lewis, Mary Conrad and Ross Marshall** formed the coordinating committee under **Anne's** leadership.

Other members of Trails Head Chapter who helped were tour guides **President Dick Nelson, Vice President Eva Allen, Secretary Jim Lee, Bob Boland, Arnold Cole, Shirley Coupal, Craig Crease, John Mark Lambertson, Pete Cuppage, Jeanne McGuire and Pat Traffas**.

Craig presented a paper entitled "*The River, the Rock and the Road*". **John Mark** hosted events at the National Frontier Trails Museum. **Dorothy Kroh** hosted the book room.

LONE ELM CAMPGROUND SURVEYS

Construction of the athletic fields on the Lone Elm Campground property south of Olathe on the Independence Route is essentially complete. Construction has now started on the 'rendezvous shelter house'. During the late fall, the walkways through the campsite area will be constructed. Next spring, exhibits, kiosks and other interpretive media will be installed to interpret the trail history of the campsite.

Preceding and during all the above work, a number of archeology surveys and digs have occurred on the property. This work was done partly to conform to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and partly because of historical interest by the owner (the City of Olathe), and historic trail enthusiasts, about what the site could reveal about its past use.

Most of the above work has been under the leadership of professional archaeologist **Bert Wetherill** of the Kansas City Archeology Society. Artifacts collected have included many from the early farming days of the site as well as many that may be from trail days, including forged metal objects, military items, lead musket balls, old coins, ox shoes, etc.

Trails Head Chapter members involved in one or more of the above activities included **Mary Conrad, Craig Crease, Jeanne McGuire** and **Ross Marshall**.

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.**, a Trails Head meeting was held at Cedar Roe Library in Roeland Park. **President Dick Nelson** opened the meeting with a review of Trails Head trail mapping plans and a few other announcements, such as current paid memberships are 68.

Trails Head memberships as of **October, 2003** were 68.

The speaker was **Phil Barbour** who talked about *Shoemaking During Trail Days*. **Phil** was in costume as a shoemaker would appear in those days and brought an extensive collection of shoemaking tools, some of which are over 200 years old.

Shoes 150-200 years ago were basically three pieces; a flat leather sole (no heel or arch), tongue and back. And they were not 'handed'; both the left and right shoe were the same.

Attendees learned that shoemakers of that era were called 'shoe-peggers', because wood pegs were used to hold the shoe together instead of steel nails. Because of the War of Independence against Great Britain and subsequent American support of the French Revolution in the 1790s, Great Britain refused to export steel brad nails to the U.S.. These nails were very small, had a small hook on the end and were difficult to manufacture. U.S. technology at the time was not advanced enough to manufacture those brad nails. Therefore, American shoes were made with wooden pegs for several decades until after the Civil War.

Much of the manufacturing in those early years was done by families as a 'cottage industry'. Companies shipped the three pieces and pegs to homes and families would assemble them. The French had a lot to do with establishing fashion 200 years ago. The symbol of the French Revolution was the buckle shoe. When Thomas Jefferson wore them at his inauguration in 1801, that style became popular in the U.S. also. Ben Franklin pictures also show he wore that shoe before Jefferson.

A 'well-heeled' person of that era was the French aristocrat and his high-heeled shoes. The name therefore came to mean a person of wealth.

The invention of the sewing machine in the late 1840s helped to revolutionize shoemaking. The manufacture of 'handed' shoes was begun during the Civil War, at least for the Union.

Phil was a good speaker and he presented a program on a subject that most knew little about.

TRAILS HEAD ANNUAL MEETING

On **Thursday November 20, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.**, the Trails Head Chapter Annual Meeting was held at the Westport Library.

Officers for 2004 were elected as follows:

President – Arnold Cole (new)

Vice President – Pat Traffas (new)

Secretary – Jim Lee (re-elected)

Treasurer – Jim Budde (re-elected)

Outgoing officers are **President Dick Nelson** and **Vice President Eva Allen**, both of whom have served faithfully for two one-year terms, the maximum per Trails Head bylaws.

Both **Arnold Cole** and **Pat Traffas** have been active chapter members for several years and are serving as chapter officers for the first time.

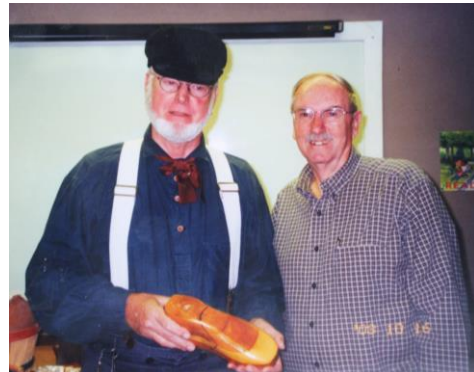
Treasurer Jim Budde distributed copies of his report which showed a balance in the bank account of \$2355.90, plus the KC150 grant of \$3367.00 designated for the renovation or re-mounting of the St. Mary's Hospital Santa Fe Trail plaques, etc. **Jim** and **Ross Marshall** agreed to continue to explore methods to do this project.

Dick mentioned the recent renaming of Comanche Park to Sapling Grove Park by the Overland Park City Council. This was the result of more than a year of work by **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall**, working with the Council as well as the neighborhood association.

Ross mentioned attending recent meetings in Nebraska, along with OCTA new Business Manager **Travis Boley**, to revive the Nebraska OCTA Chapter.



(l-r) Jim Lee, Pat Traffas, Arnold Cole, Jim Budde



(l-r) Phil Barbour and Dick Nelson



Mary Conrad and drawing of Multnomah

The next annual meeting presentation was by Trails Head member **Mary Conrad**, who presented an interesting set of slides taken last June during an archaeological dig at the site of Multnomah, the 1856 mansion of John Dougherty, the legendary frontiersman of the first half of the 19th century.

The dig and **Mary's** presentation were timely follow-ups to the chapter Liberty to Weston bus tour on **May 10** which did a lunch stop at the site, as written up in the **July, 2003 Tidings**.

Several people participated in the dig as volunteers including **Mary**, archeologist **Bert Wetherill**, historian **Rodney Staab**, and archeologist **Mark Kelly**, who discovered the site a few years ago while doing a subdivision sewer line survey. Mary is standing beside a drawing illustrating the front view of Multnomah as it probably appeared before it burned in 1963. This drawing and floor plan drawings were created in the 1960s by two University of Kansas architectural students from the still existing rubble plus a few photographs.

Among the features found and authenticated by the dig were the cornerstones of the mansion, the circular driveway up to the mansion, the step stone edging lining the driveway at the walkway to the front door, the kitchen in the back, fireplaces, cistern and outbuilding foundations. **Mary** distributed copies of a map showing the location of these remains.

The dig was done to help detour a proposed parkway that would have come directly through the site. The City of Kansas City, MO has now, on the basis of the findings, indicated the parkway will go north of the site. The possibility also exists that a Kansas City Park will be made of the site, which is about five miles west-northwest of Liberty on Staley Road.

A few minutes for questions from the audience concluded **Mary's** very fine presentation.

2004

JANA MARSHALL PASSES

On **January 4**, **Jana Marshall** passed away after a 15-year bout with cancer. Along with husband **Ross**, she was a charter member of OCTA and also of Trails Head Chapter. Thanks to all who attended the visitation and/or memorial service for her.

CHAPTER MEETING

On **Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head held a chapter meeting at the Cedar Roe Library. 25 people were in attendance, including some first-timers and their youngsters. One of the visitors was **Jim Kullberg**, who became the newest Trails Head member!

After introductions, new **President Arnold Cole**, opened the meeting with a review of Trails Head and OCTA upcoming events in 2004, which includes an April 16-18 OCTA Mid-Board meeting in Independence, Trail Trek XXIX on May 8 to Lawrence and LeCompton, Sapling Grove Park dedication on May 15, August 9-14 OCTA Convention in Ft. Vancouver, Trail Trek XXX to local Indian sites, and chapter Annual Meeting on November 11.

Treasurer Jim Budde recommended that the chapter donate \$110 to buy a 12"x12" commemorative brick at the new Lewis and Clark Park at Kaw Point, which was approved. It will have Trails Head Chapter name on it. This is a fundraising effort to finance the new interpretive overlook at the park, which is at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers.



Above is **Ross Marshall** who presented a program on the Louisiana Purchase and the preparations made for the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1803-06. What is not generally known is that President Thomas Jefferson and his secretary Meriwether Lewis were planning the expedition before the Louisiana Purchase was an issue. Jefferson had dreamed of such an expedition his whole life, as had his father Peter.

The ingenuity of the preparations made was quite remarkable and was a tribute to the creative genius of both Jefferson and Lewis. The quality of the preparations contributed to the great success of the expedition, in which only one man died. It is truly an epic American story.

Refreshments were provided by **Pat Traffas** and **Dick Nelson**.

JIM BRIDGER STATUE DEDICATED

The Jim Bridger statue at the National Frontier Trails Museum was dedicated on **Sunday March 14, 2004**.

The noted frontiersman Jim Bridger has been commemorated once again in the Kansas City area, his home for the last years of his life.

Bridger descendants **Mildred Elliott** and **Kenneth Stinnett** unveiled the life-sized statue of the legendary Bridger.

The statue was sculpted by **Tom Beard**, a prominent local sculptor, as a result of \$26,000 in donated funds raised by the students of the Jim Bridger Eighth Grade Center over a period of two years under the leadership of Bridger Center Librarian **Judi Wollenziehn**. **Judi** is an OCTA member who received the OCTA 2002 Educator of the Year award for her work with students.



Above are some of the gifted students from Jim Bridger Eighth Grade Center with Sculptor Tom Beard (front, second from left) and project sponsor and OCTA member Judi Wollenziehn (right rear)

The sculpture depicts Bridger facing west with his rifle, holding a hand to his brow to shield his eyes from the sun. His hand actually does create a shadow on his eyes in the afternoon sun.

In the latter days of Bridger's life he lived in Westport and owned a store there.

He passed away on his farm near 103rd and State Line in 1881 and is buried in Mount Washington Cemetery in Independence.

Undoubtedly, this was a proud day for Trails Head member **Peggy Smith**, who has championed the memory of Jim Bridger for many years and helped support this effort. She was successful recently in getting Kansas City to rename a short street in Westport after Bridger.

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXIX – May 8, 2004 – KS Territory – to Lawrence & Lecompton

The bus with 38 people aboard left Johnson County Community College at **8:30 a.m.** to tour a circle in northeast Kansas on the 150th anniversary of the formation of Kansas Territory in 1854. Guides were **Ross Marshall** and **Craig Crease**. The tour went southwest on I-35, then Highway 56 at Olathe, and drove through Gardner and past the Trail Junction Park southwest of town.



Pictured above is guide **Craig Crease** leading part of the group across the swales of the Santa Fe Trail in Black Jack Park east of Baldwin, KS. Participants walked across the Santa Fe Trail ruts in the 18-acre Ivan Boyd Memorial Prairie Preserve to the 'Battle of Black Jack' Park. The group is preparing to cross the road to the site of the Battle of Black Jack, the first Border War skirmish between organized forces. John Brown's free-soilers attacked and defeated the camp of pro-slavers under the leadership of Henry Clay Pate on Monday, June 2, 1856.

In May, 1856, several events ignited the 'Border War', basically to settle the question of whether Kansas would be admitted as a free-soil or slave-holding state:

--May 21, 1856 – Raid on Lawrence led by Sheriff Sam Jones and Missouri Senator David Rice Atchison. The Free State Hotel (current Eldridge House), the Charles Robinson House and other structures were burned and looted.

--May 22 - Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts nearly caned to death on the floor of the Senate by Rep. Preston Brooks of South Carolina for remarks made by Sumner against Brooks' aging uncle, South Carolina Senator Andrew Pickens Butler.

--May 25 – Early morning hour Pottawatomie Massacre of five men (James, William, Drury Doyle, Allen Wilkinson and James Harris) on Pottawatomie Creek by John Brown and sons Fred, Salmon, Owen, Watson and Old John's brother-in-law Henry Thompson.

The bus followed the Santa Fe Trail through Baldwin and northwest past several markers and paused near the site of the November 21, 1855 murder of free-soiler Charles Dow. He was shot by pro-slave neighbor Franklin Coleman, who had been trespassing on Dow's claim.

A witness, Jacob Branson, was arrested on the night of November 26 by Sam Jones, the pro-slave sheriff of Lawrence, and his posse.

The trek proceeded north to the property of OCTA member **Fred Six** at the 'Upper' or 'Blanton's Bridge' crossing of the Wakarusa River just south of Lawrence on Louisiana Street. **Fred** and wife **Lilian** have graciously hosted Trails Head on a number of occasions in the past.

The tour proceeded into Lawrence, the site of the famous Quantrill Raid in August, 1863. William Clarke Quantrill's guerrillas were an aggravation to the Union Army of Missouri, which occupied Missouri during the Civil War.

Quantrill's attackers approached Lawrence early on the morning of August 21 from the south up Massachusetts Street, the main street through town. They looted and burned the Eldridge Hotel, the largest building in town. Most of the homes and other buildings in town were looted and burned. About 150 men and older boys were killed. Free-Stater James Lane escaped.

After a delightful buffet lunch at the historic Eldridge Hotel, where trek participants were addressed by the owner on the history of the hotel, the bus we headed for Lecompton along Highway 40, which is essentially the Oregon-California Trail route to Topeka.

The trekkers visited two sites in Lecompton, the pro-slave capital of Kansas Territory. The first was the Territorial Capitol Museum, the basement of which was built in 1857. President Eisenhower's parents were married in the top floor in 1885. The restored Constitution Hall was the next stop. Kansas was admitted as a free soil state in 1861 by Congress.

The tour returned to Lawrence on Highway 24 and did a drive-through of the campus, reviewing the Oregon-California Trail route, the Quantrill Raid, and some of the final details of Lawrence founding in 1854 by the New England Emigrant Aid Company, led by Charles Robinson. Lawrence had several early names including Wakarusa, but it was officially named for Amos Lawrence, one of the chief supporters of the emigrants and the first treasurer of the company.

The trek returned via Highway 10, arriving at 5:00. Several passengers were non-members. But at least one of them joined! It was a great trip and great history!

SAPLING GROVE PARK

The Overland Park City Council voted last fall to rename Comanche Park at 82nd Terrace and Grant to “Sapling Grove”. The dedication ceremony was held on **Saturday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m.**

The park site (below) is the general location of the Sapling Grove campground on the Westport Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trails. It was first named by George Sibley in 1827 during his government ‘Sibley Survey’ of the Santa Fe Trail.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On **Tuesday May 18 at 6:30 p.m.**, Trails Head held an Executive Committee meeting.

President Arnold Cole reminded everyone that this is not only the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Territory, but also is the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He also cited the Kaw Point improvements in progress and the recent dedication of Sapling Grove Park.

Ross Marshall, the new Trails Head Preservation Officer, discussed the new markers at Lone Elm Park and that a plaque will be at the shelter house which will list names of people and organizations that helped with that major project. Also, he mentioned new waysides at Independence Landing.

New wayside exhibits and upstanding kiosks costing about \$12,000 are in the works at the new Gardner Junction Park, led by Santa Fe Trail Association. Trails Head Chapter could partner with SFTA and others by donating \$500 toward those costs.

2004 OCTA CONVENTION

The 2004 OCTA Convention was held **August 9-14** in Ft. Vancouver, Washington. There has never been a bad OCTA convention....they are all outstanding! And this year was no exception.

The activities at OCTA conventions are generally about the same year to year...speakers, trail tours, membership meeting, awards banquet, barbeque, chapter meetings, workshops, book rooms, and a lot of good socializing with some trail friends.

But every convention is also vastly different because attendees see and learn about the trail in each area. This convention also had a unique feature with an appearance by Ezra Meeker (not the real one of course) who arrived via OCTA **President Dick Pingrey's** antique airplane at the Fort Vancouver landing strip. ‘Ezra’ was preparing to embark on his 1924 plane trip back across the Oregon Trail that he had traveled by wagon in 1852 with his family. He traveled the trail

again by wagon in 1906 with markers, also in 1910 and 1915 by automobile. ‘Ezra’ climbed out of the plane and addressed the crowd. Quite a show!



Trails Head Chapter member **Ryan Marshall** (Ross’s grandson), received the ‘Young OCTAN Award’ at the awards banquet. He is a first year student at Kansas State and has aided Trails Head with trail work and bus tours for years and helped lead one of the pre-convention tours last year in Manhattan. He apparently endeared himself to the Kanza Chapter and Kanza members remembered him in the nominating process. He is pictured above with the award.

Resident members attending from Trails Head Chapter were **Arnold Cole, Pat Traffas, Jim and Judy Budde, Shirley Coupal, Howard and Barbara Magerl, Dick Nelson, and Pat and Ross Marshall.**

Spending a week on the Columbia Gorge learning about the Oregon Trail and Lewis and Clark was a lot of fun. And the Northwest Chapter did a superb job hosting. Next year Salt Lake City and St. Joseph in 2006!

MAJORS HOUSE SAVED

One of the most important historical sites in the Kansas City area now has a certain future!

With the death of **Terry Chapman**, trustee of the foundation that owns the Majors Historical House and Museum in January, 2010, its future became somewhat uncertain.

The Majors House Board and several members of the Native Sons and Daughters of Greater Kansas City explored several options.

A special fundraising event was held last July 10. Over a hundred people attended and members of the Wornall House Board of Directors were there.

They were impressed and saw both the possibility of the privately-funded Wornall House operating the Majors House. The result was that the Wornall House Board on October 27 voted to merge with the Majors House and Museum! It will again be open for tours and events as in the past.

Ross Marshall, Trails Head *Tidings* editor, was the Executive Director of the House from May, 1993 to January, 1996 and Ross knows that under the professional staff and operations of the Wornall House, the Majors House should have a secure future

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXX – September 11, 2004 –The Indian Side of the Story

On **Saturday September 11**, Trails Head Chapter sponsored Trek XXX, led by **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall**. The trek saw and discussed sites in Johnson, Wyandotte and Jackson Counties that relate to both the indigenous and removed tribes that lived in those counties. The

basic themes covered were the Removed Tribes of the 1830 Indian Removal Act, the missionaries and mission sites, and the government Indian agencies.

The bus left the Kmart parking lot near I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway at 8:30 a.m. and paused along Johnson Drive at the various Shawnee Friends Mission sites. Then the same at the Shawnee Baptist Mission sites at 55th and Walmer and 48th and Nall. Then on to the Shawnee Methodist Mission, now being renovated.

The next sites were the home of Joseph Parks northwest of Shawnee Mission Parkway and State Line Road and the Cummins Indian Agency sites at 45th and about 63rd and State Line.

Then north past Westport and a stop at The Scout sculpture in Penn Valley Park. Although it is a Sioux Indian sculpture that arrived from San Francisco in 1915 and was dedicated in 1922, it signifies the Indian presence in the Kansas City area as part of the regional history.

The next stop was the 1843 Huron Cemetery at 7th and Minnesota in KCK for a discussion of the Wyandots buried there and for morning snacks/drinks.

The trek proceeded over to Kaw Point for a discussion of the indigenous Kansa Tribe.

Next stop was at the burial site of the Prophet Tensequatawa at 3818 Ruby in KCK. The site is on private property that displays a nice marker. Since then the landowner has donated a piece of the property to Shawnee Indians in Oklahoma.



Craig Crease speaking at the Tensequatawa burial site

Next stop was at the original site of the Shawnee Methodist Mission which was located in 1830 near 52nd and Edgehill in KCK. A monument with a plaque is still there on private property.

We made a brief pause at the site where the Muncie Indians settled in 1837 near 71st and Kaw Drive. A marker is there.

A wonderful lunch stop was arranged by **Mary Conrad**, current president of the Friends of the Grinter House, at the House at 78th and Kaw Drive. Although the annual Applefest Fall Festival was in progress at the House site, she prepared the famous ‘Grinter House noodles’ complete with rolls, cake and drinks just for the modern trekkers!

After enjoying the festival, the trekkers ~~w~~e left for a look at the site of the first Baptist Delaware Mission near 105th and Shelton in Edwardsville, started in 1836 by Ira Blanchard and his wife Mary.

Then on to the Baptist Delaware Mission site in a wooded area in the southwest corner of the Kansas Speedway property, built in 1848 by John Gill Pratt and his wife Olivia to replace the above site which was rendered unsatisfactory by the giant 1844 flood on the Kansas River.

The bus then went south on I-435 and over to Shawnee where the bus riders saw the new fountain depicting Charles Bluejacket on Johnson Drive at Cody. The tour then stopped at the city hall, opened especially for this Trails Head trek by the City of Shawnee. The trekkers viewed a wonderful historic mural painted by **Charles Goslin**, which depicts the people and sites associated with the Shawnee Indians in Shawnee. This was also the afternoon snack/drinks and bathroom stop.

The bus paused at the following Shawnee sites, which were noted on the maps and handouts:

- Military Road marker at Nieman & McAnany.
- Charles Bluejacket homesite on the south edge of Bluejacket School at about 50th and Cody.
- Shawnee Tribal Council House just behind 5103 Mansfield.
- Shawnee Council House marker at 10613 W. 52nd Terrace.
- Burial site of Merriam founder David Campbell's parents at 55th and Queal, which is on the 1858 toll road from KCMO to Shawnee.
- Gum Springs site at about 59th Terrace and Larsen, the epicenter of Shawnee activity.

The tour stopped at the Shawnee Indian Cemetery near 59th Terrace and Ballentine, which was the burial site of Joseph Parks, Charles Bluejacket's second wife, others of Bluejacket's family and Amos Silverheels.

The bus arrived back at Kmart at 4:30. The weather was perfect and the day enjoyed by all.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

A Trails Head Executive Committee meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on September 14 at **Jim Lee's** house.

Craig Crease and **Ross Marshall** led the very successful bus tour of September 11 and the chapter made \$66 profit!

Those present authored two amendments, the very first for Trails Head Chapter bylaws, allowing both the Secretary and Treasurer to serve an unlimited number of one-year terms. These will be voted on at the November 11 Annual Meeting.

Ross gave an update on the progress of markers at Lone Elm, Gardner Junction and Elm Grove Parks and spoke of the chapter needing to make some donations for markers.

President Arnold Cole appointed a nominating committee consisting of **Chair Dick Nelson, Pat Traffas, Mary Conrad, Kathy Conway and Eva Allen**. They will bring a slate of nominations for the four officers to the November 4 Annual Meeting.

TRAILS HEAD ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Head Annual Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. **Thursday, November 4** at the Johnson County Central Resource Library. 19 people attended. Congratulations to **President Arnold Cole** for completing a busy business agenda, allowing sufficient time for an outstanding program and still got attendees out of there by 8:30 p.m.!

Treasurer Jim Budde said the chapter has \$2554.57 plus the \$3367.00 KC150 Grant in the account.

Ross Marshall presented and moved that those present pass the first amendments to the Trails Head bylaws since they were first developed in 1988. These amendments allow the secretary and treasurer to be re-elected an unlimited number of times. The President and Vice President remain able to serve only two consecutive terms. The motion was approved at this Annual Meeting.

In addition, the chapter voted to partner with the local Missouri River Outfitters Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association and financially support four trail initiatives as follows:

- \$500 for the new Lone Elm Park that will help complete the interpretation exhibits.
- \$500 for the planned exhibits at the Gardner Junction Park southwest of Gardner, Kansas.
- \$250 to purchase trails workbooks for local schools.
- \$125 to purchase a commemorative brick in the Shawnee Indian Mission renovations.

The Gardner Junction Park project is chaired by **John Atkinson**, who has been president of both the SFTA Missouri River Outfitters and the OCTA Gateway chapters.

The partners, including Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas State Historical Society, National Park Service, City of Gardner and Museum of Gardner, met **October 26-27** at the Gardner City Hall under the leadership of facilitator **Sharon Brown** of NPS to plan this Gardner Junction Park project which may be a prototype for other sites.

The last order of business was the election of officers as presented by Nominating Committee Chair **Dick Nelson**. Elected were:

President - Arnold Cole

Vice President - Pat Traffas

Secretary - Eva Allen (new)

Treasurer - Jim Budde

The program was presented by **Pat Traffas** and **Shirley Coupal**, Trails Head Chapter members and key leaders of the Kansas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The presentation was on “DAR Markers on the Trails”, and included an impressive array of slides and background history of DAR markers they have accumulated in their many years of locating and researching them. Trails Head and OCTA are indebted to the DAR that has erected countless markers over the past century along the historic trails as well as other historic sites. A wonderful program **Pat** and **Shirley!**



(l-r) Shirley Coupal, Arnold Cole, Pat Traffas

The Shawnee Indian Museum in Fairway has been working on the design of a Historic Trails room in the East Building, which will cost about \$50,000. This exhibit could prove to be the first awareness of the Oregon and California Trails for many students, teachers and local residents. Donations are sought. Trails Head will purchase a \$125 commemorative brick. The bricks will border the walk to the main entrance of the East Building.

Alisha Cole will become the new Shawnee Indian Mission Administrator in **January**. In the interim, questions can be directed to Trails Head member **Barbara Magerl**.

JOINT MEETING WITH MRO

Trails Head had a joint meeting with SFTA Missouri River Outfitters Chapter on **December 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.** at Grinter House.

The speaker was **Craig Crease** on the Military Road in anticipation of Trails Head Trek XXXII next year. The Military Road was constructed in the 1839 period.

Trees were cut in a 30 foot wide right-of-way with stumps six inches high or less. Bridges of timber were essentially 16 feet wide with a timber puncheon floor. There were some stone bridges also 16 feet wide. The appearance of the right-of-way would have been essentially like the Liberty to Ft. Leavenworth Road which was built in 1829.

John Bartleson had a contract to build 28 miles of the road from Marmaton to Marais des Cygnes River. Daniel Morgan Boone had a contract in 1839 to build 72 miles from Ft. Leavenworth to Trading Post.

2005



Speaker Shirley Christian

CHAPTER MEETING

Trails Head held a chapter meeting at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15** at Waldo Branch Library at 2151 E. 75th Street in Kansas City, Missouri. Attending were **President Arnold Cole, Vice President Pat Traffas, Secretary Eva Allen, Bob Hamilton, Shirley Coupal, Dick Nelson, John Forbes, Peggy Smith, Ross and Pat Marshall, Mary Conrad and Jeanne McGuire.**

The early part of the meeting was devoted to planning events for the year.

Those attending were privileged to hear **Shirley Christian** (pictured above) speak about her recent outstanding book entitled *Before Lewis and Clark.....the Story of the Chouteaus, the French Dynasty that Ruled America's Frontier.*

She is a local resident, a former foreign correspondent for the Associated Press and other leading U.S. newspapers, and winner of a Pulitzer Prize. Christian's fluency in both French and Spanish enabled her to use an incredible number of early St. Louis archival resources.

Her book tells the story of the large, wealthy and prominent Chouteau family of St. Louis that dominated the fur trade industry of the Missouri-Mississippi valley and tributaries in the late 1700s and well into the 1800s.

Shirley related a distinctive sidelight to the historical part of the story, in that most of the Chouteau children were actually fathered by Pierre Laclede, the founder of St. Louis, after Therese's husband Rene Chouteau deserted her at a young age. Coupled with the fact that this large family tended to name their children the same names from generation to generation makes the Chouteau family tree confusing.

An interesting part of her remarks centered on the profound influence this family had on the beginnings of Kansas City.

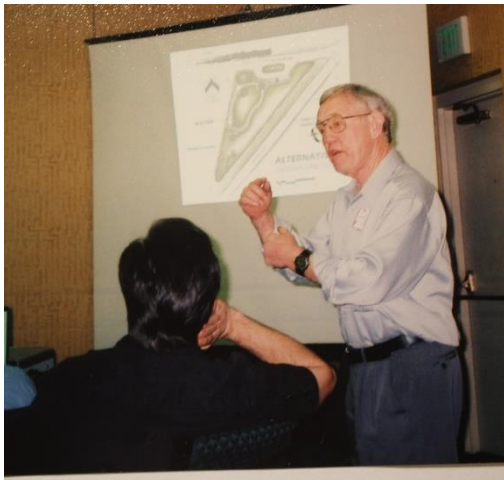
Several of the first trading posts in the Kansas City area were established, starting in 1819, by three Chouteau brothers, Francois, Cyprian and Frederick. Francois' first post on the Missouri River near Randolph Bluffs became the first commercial venture in what would become Kansas City. This post was also the home of Francois and his young wife Berenice, the daughter of Pierre Menard of St. Louis, who was also prominent in the fur trade and a former Vice Governor of Missouri Territory.

After the Randolph Bluffs post was swept away in the 1826 flood, Francois and his wife established a second post and farm just east of the Paseo Bridge.

Francois Chouteau died in 1838 at age 41, and his brother Cyprian took over running the operation, along with Francois' widow Berenice. The post was visited by nearly everyone who headed west and was known commonly as 'Chouteau's Town'. It was the main landing for Westport travelers through much of the 1830s, before the Westport Landing came into common usage at the foot of Main Street.

When the giant 1844 flood washed away this post, the Chouteau operations ceased, mostly because the fur trade days were over. Madame Chouteau lived many more years, until 1888, and died at 87 as the 'grand dame' of Kansas City society.

Shirley's remarks and the contents of her book reflect high quality scholarly research and made the evening very informative and enjoyable.



John Atkinson

As reported in the January *Tidings*, Trails Head Chapter voted **November 4, 2004** to support the expansion of the interpretation at the Gardner Junction Park.

The project is chaired by **John Atkinson**, who is currently president of both the SFTA Missouri River Outfitters and OCTA Gateway chapters. **John** is also a Trails Head member.

John is pictured above on **March 3** in Denver at the OCTA recent Mid-Year Board meeting as he presented a proposal for OCTA to support the project in the amount of \$6000. The proposal was approved unanimously by the Board. Good job **John!**

The financing of the park renovation and installation of the new National Park Service exhibits will be anchored by a \$30,000 Challenge Cost Share Program grant by NPS. This grant calls for matching funds or 'in kind' (man-hours, local expenses, etc.).

OCTA national joins Trails Head Chapter, MRO Chapter of SFTA and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association in financially supporting this project. Others will also be approached for financial help.

Other partners include Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas State Historical Society, City of Gardner and Gardner Museum.

The preparation of conceptual design drawings has been coordinated by NPS with considerable input from many local trail experts at each step of the development. Soon, the project will enter the 'request for proposal' stage, and these conceptual drawings will be given to design-build firms for their submission of bid proposals.

The final draft of this design shows a new entrance/exit from 183rd Street as opposed to the current entry/exit from Highway 56. A parking area is provided.

The visitor will then have an opportunity to take a short loop walk and view at least five interpretive exhibits that will tell the story of how the Independence and Westport Routes came together. And immediately beyond this proposed exhibit, the Oregon-California Trail branched off the older Santa Fe Trail... a 160-year-old interchange!

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

National History Day (NHD) is the culmination of a series of regional contests in which students are presented the opportunity to conduct historical research and present their findings in papers, performances, documentaries and exhibits based upon a central historical theme.

This year the contest theme was "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding". The Greater Kansas City area (Region 3) History Day of the Missouri side was held at Truman Library on **Saturday, March 12, 2005**. The individual entries are divided into specific categories and evaluated by volunteer judges, who are drawn from the local historical community.

Over the years numerous members of Trails Head Chapter have volunteered and participated. This year, "volunteer judges" included **Jim and Judy Budde, Mary Conrad, and Barbara Magerl**. Judges focus on the skill level and historical content, although judges are faced with evaluating a wide array of historical subjects. Note the following:

<u>JUDGE</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>WINNING CONTESTANT'S TOPIC</u>
Mary Conrad	Senior Documentary	Propaganda Wars of WWII
Judy Budde	Senior Exhibit	The Underground Railroad
Jim Budde	Senior Historical Paper	Communication in Northern Ireland
Barb Magerl	Junior Group Performance	History of the Pony Express

Winning contestants are eligible to participate in the state contest and, if successful, they would move on to the national finals in June at the University of Maryland.

During the last several years, Trails Head Chapter has been able to select individual candidates for special awards whose projects demonstrated meritorious effort and which focused on one of the National Historical Trails. The recipients of awards from Trails Head this year were:

--**Adam Hare**- "The Pony Express: A Foundation of Communication in the West" (Senior Paper)
--**Sam Armato & David Snyder** - "History of the Pony Express" (Junior Group Performance)
Trails Head Chapter presented each of these student historians a \$25.00 cash award.

PLANNING MEETING

On **Tuesday March 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.**, Trails Head held a planning meeting at **Eva Allen's** house.

Pat Traffas gave a glowing report on **Shirley Christian's** presentation on **February 15** about the Chouteaus and their influence on the founding of Kansas City.

Ross Marshall reported on the OCTA Mid-Year Board meeting in Denver in February, including **John Atkinson's** success in getting approval for \$6000 for Gardner Junction markers.

Ross and **Craig Crease** reported on the plans for tours on **April 2** and **September 10**.

Those present discussed the upcoming Dedication of Lone Elm Park on **Thursday, June 9 at 4:30 p.m.**

They also planned a picnic at the Lone Elm Park Rendezvous Shelter on **Saturday, June 11**.

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXXI –April 2, 2005 – Bleeding Kansas – Black Jack, Ottawa

A perfect spring **Saturday on April 2** provided an enjoyable experience as approximately 40 Trails Head members and guests journeyed to little-known sites associated with 'Bleeding Kansas' in east central Kansas. The bus left Johnson County Community College at **8:30 a.m.**

Pictured below is guide **Craig Crease** at Black Jack Park near Baldwin as he explains details of perhaps the very first battle of the Civil War between organized parties on June 2, 1856. The key figure in this battle was John Brown who was involved in most of the stops on the day.



Guide Craig Crease in white shirt

John Brown had come to Kansas Territory in October, 1855 to join his sons Owen, Salmon, Frederick, Jason and John Jr., who had come to this new territory to seek their fortune during the last year. The sons had filed claims along North Middle Creek that came to be known as Brown's Station, 8-10 miles northeast of Lane in Franklin County, on what was called "California Road" (not the same as the Westport to Lawrence "California Road"). Brown arrived in October with youngest son Oliver and found his sons' shelters pitifully crude and crops untended.

In January, Brown chaired a convention in Osawatimie near where his brother-in-law Rev. Samuel Adair lived, to nominate candidates for an alternative free-soil legislature to replace the 'bogus legislature' elected the previous year. John Jr. was elected to this free-soil legislature.

On **May 22**, a messenger arrived who said border ruffians and pro-slavers led by Sheriff Jones were sacking Lawrence, destroying the *Free State* and *Herald of Freedom* presses and burning the Free-State Hotel. They also controlled Blanton's Bridge just south of town.

The next morning, **Friday, May 23**, another messenger arrived and relayed the story of the severe caning of Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts by Rep. Preston Brooks of South Carolina over remarks that Sumner made about Brooks' uncle, Senator Andrew Pickens Butler of South Carolina.

That was the last straw. Brown asked for who would join him and return to Pottawatomie Creek on a 'secret mission'. After spending several hours sharpening their broadswords the group headed south on the "California Road" at **2:00 p.m.** The group consisted of Old John, Owen, Frederick, Watson, Salmon, Oliver, son-in-law Henry Thompson, Theodore Weiner and James Townsley, who had a wagon. They forded North Middle Creek south of Ottawa and camped in a ravine northwest of Lane.

The next night about 10:00 p.m. they headed northeast, crossed Mosquito Creek and went down it a short distance to the James Doyle cabin, about a mile north of Lane.

In the next three or four hours, this group worked their way down to Dutch Henry's Tavern brutally hacking to death, near their front doors, James Doyle, his sons Drury and William, Allen Wilkinson and Dutch Henry's brother William (Dutch Bill) Sherman.

They washed their broadswords in the creek near Dutch Henry's, stole one of his horses and a saddle and returned to their camp in the ravine 3-4 miles northwest of Lane. That Sunday afternoon June 25, the group headed up the "California Road". Five pro-slave men lay dead in this Pottawatomie Creek Massacre.

Henry Clay Pate, a *St. Louis Republican* newspaper reporter, organized a posse to track down John Brown after the Massacre. The Battle of Black Jack occurred a week later on June 2. Brown's small force of about 15 men won the battle and captured Pate's men, totaling about 25.

Brown was never captured and he and his sons left Kansas Territory and returned to Ohio in the fall of 1856. Brown later organized the raid on Harper's Ferry, VA in 1859. He was captured and hanged. But John Brown's impact on Kansas Territorial history was substantial.

The trekkers lunched at the Whistlestop Buffet, a just-opened and delightful restaurant in Osawatomie. Plenty of good food and a large dining room.

After lunch, the participants visited the John Brown Park just up the street. This was the site of an August 30, 1856 battle where John Brown and his followers led in the defense of Osawatomie against an attack by General John Reid and about 250 men. Brown's son Frederick was one of the first to die. Reid prevailed and burned the town.

The next stop was at the Osawatomie Museum, which has a lot of exhibits on the battle and also delightfully friendly people.

The tour then went to Trading Post, site of the 1830s Chouteau trading post on the Marais des Cygnes River.

Arnold Schofield, former historian at Fort Scott, met the bus that afternoon just north of Trading Post at the Marais des Cygnes Massacre Park. He explained this May 19, 1858 massacre led by pro-slaver Charles Hamilton.

Hamilton and a band of about 25 men rounded up eleven nearby free-soil farmers and herded them up to this high ground. In the ravine behind Arnold, the men opened fire and then dismounted and shot anyone that moved. Miraculously, six survived. The five that died are buried in the cemetery north of Trading Post.

A visit to the Trading Post Museum concluded the day. This was the second bus tour Trails Head has taken in connection with the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Kansas Territory in 1854. The bus returned to the JCCC parking lot at 5:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On **Tuesday, June 7, 2005** Trails Head held an Executive Committee meeting at **Marshall's** house. Attending were **President Arnold Cole, Secretary Eva Allen, Treasurer Jim Budde, Dick Nelson, Craig Crease** and **Pat and Ross Marshall**.

Jim reported the chapter has \$2822.63 in the checking account plus \$2867 left in the KC150 Grant Fund, since Trails Head donated \$500 to Lone Elm Park and also to Gardner Junction Park for markers, plus some other smaller donations. The chapter currently has 60 paid members.

Dick and **Ross** recently attended the OCTA mapping workshop in Salt Lake City. Trails Head now has all the necessary equipment and software from National Park Service to start mapping.

There will be wayside exhibits in the Pioneer Crossing Park being built on Shawnee Mission Parkway west of I-35. Dedication of the park is scheduled for August.

Those present discussed the calendar of upcoming events

LONE ELM DEDICATION

To quote **President Arnold Cole**, a long-awaited dream came to pass on **Thursday, June 9** at 4:40 p.m., when Lone Elm Park was dedicated at the newly constructed shelter house in the park.

Several new interpretive markers have recently been installed as well as a new 'lone elm' tree!

Speakers included several from the City of Olathe including **Mayor Michael Copeland** and Trails Head good friend, Superintendent of Community & Neighborhood Services **Kevin Corbett**, whose leadership has been invaluable throughout the development of this park, including the land purchase to helping with creating the interpretive markers.

Other speakers included **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall**. A large crowd was on hand.



(l-r) Kevin Corbett, Trails Head President Arnold Cole and OCTA Gateway Chapter President John Atkinson.

Pictured above (at left) at the dedication are (l-r) **Craig Crease***, **Lee Kroh**, **Dorothy Kroh**, **Ross Marshall*** and **Kevin Corbett***. (* denotes event speaker)

Trails Head Chapter was the first organization to reserve the new Rendezvous shelter house at Lone Elm Park! About 30 chapter members and guests met there Saturday, **June 11 at 11:00 a.m.**

Kevin Corbett was present to review the history over the last four years of how the park came to be. **Craig Crease** spoke about the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trail history of the park. **Ross** made a few remarks about the significance of this site on those National Historic Trails.

A planned interpretive tour, led by **Kevin**, of the new walking paths was scrapped because of a light rain. But at the close of the program, a tasty lunch was served by Backyard Burgers.

Trails Head Chapter is named on the bronze plaque at the shelter house as a donor supporter.

ELAINE McNABNEY PASSES

All Trails Head members were saddened at the recent news of the **June 17, 2005** passing of **Elaine McNabney**, charter member of OCTA and also of Trails Head Chapter. Few members have contributed more to OCTA and to the chapter.

When the OCTA national headquarters was established in Independence in 1988, she volunteered to be the first OCTA office manager. Within a few months, OCTA was able to hire its first paid person, **Jeanne Miller**. But for years, **Elaine** continued to volunteer her efforts at headquarters and to assist with the publication of the Overland Journal. In fact, **Elaine** was the first recipient of the OCTA annual Volunteer of the Year award in recognition of her service.

Likewise, **Elaine** was a very valuable Trails Head Chapter member. **Elaine** has served not only in leadership roles, but also as someone who volunteered to help with needed tasks. And, many times, Trails Head members met in her living room to plan various chapter activities.

Countless times **Elaine** presented to school groups and others “Little Elaine Goes West”, a first-person portrayal of a little girl going west on the Oregon-California Trail.

A Kansas City native, **Elaine** was a nursing graduate of Duke University. She is survived by her husband and Trails Head friend, **Dr. Kendall McNabney** and their son **Lucas**.

TRAIL SITES EXAMINED

During the **week of July 11**, representatives from the National Park Service in Santa Fe, plus volunteers, searched Minor Park, the Hickman Mills School and Schumacher Park with high-tech equipment for evidence of trail locations.

John Conoboy and **Peggy Nelson** of NPS and **Steven Devore**, a NPS archaeologist from Lincoln, NB, came equipped with various remote sensing equipment such as ground penetrating radar, a conductivity meter, and magnetic sensing equipment. Professor William Johnson of the University of Kansas came with a soil corer. This equipment measures the soil compaction and other soil disturbances that would have resulted from wagon travel at the above sites in Kansas City, MO which are on the Independence Route of the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail National Historic Trails.

Preliminary results show evidence of the trail in Minor Park, located at Red Bridge Road and the Big Blue River, at the several known trail swales plus one or more that we did not know about because of eroded soil covering some swale areas. The trail route across the Hickman Mills School at 91st and Old Santa Fe Road was found to not be in alignment with the silhouette sculptures of wagon train figures recently installed. The trail trajectory actually went to the northeast of the Hickman Mills silhouette as doubly confirmed by NPS Conoboy when Conoboy looked at an aerial map reproduced on a Schumacher Park interpretive marker. The results at Schumacher Park, east of Hillcrest Road on 93rd, proved inconclusive because of the various county roads that have run through it.

Volunteers for the week were enlisted by **Mary Conrad** and included **Eva Allen, Jeanne McGuire, Anne Mallinson, John Atkinson** and **MRO President Roger Slusher**. **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall** also assisted.

In addition to verifying the quality of this kind of testing, additional verification has now been gained for two of these key sites (Minor Park and Hickman Mills) on the Independence Route. These sites are also going to be a part of the area-wide MetroGreen Hiking and Biking recreational trail system that is presently being constructed.



Pictured at Minor Park at front are (l-r) Roger Slusher, Mary Conrad and Peggy Nelson. In back are Ross Marshall, John Conoboy and Steven DeVore.

2005 OCTA CONVENTION

August 9-13, the Utah Crossroads Chapter hosted the 2005 OCTA Convention in Salt Lake City. Convention attendees were able to visit routes and sites associated with four National Historic Trails; the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer and Pony Express Trails.

Even though some of the trail tours were similar to the ones offered in 1994, the last time the OCTA convention was in Salt Lake City, different stops and different guides provided new information and experiences. Additionally, the Donner-Reed Party as well as the 1847 Mormon Pioneers are unique and dramatic stories, worthy of re-telling.

Approximately 400 were in attendance. Trails Head members attending included **Howard and Barbara Magerl, Jim and Judy Budde, Dick and Ruby Nelson, Kendall and Eleanor McNabney**, and **Ross and Pat Marshall**. Several of Trails Head non-resident members were also there like **Tom McCutcheon**, formerly of Overland Park.

Next year, the convention will be in St. Joseph **August 9-12**. Short trip. Plan now to go!

FT OSAGE ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG

In preparation for the construction of the new visitor center at Fort Osage, an archeological dig has taken place **during most of 2005**.

The dig has uncovered both prehistoric and historic features, complexes and isolated finds. A cistern, a regimental button issued in the 1817-19 period plus another button has been found. Evidence of a late Kansas City Hopewell culture has also been found.

Construction has been delayed because of the need to complete funding and because of design changes to accommodate some uncertain foundation soils. But construction should start by this winter or next spring



Pictured above (at left), looking north toward the Missouri River, is the east slope of the Fort Osage bluff where the new visitor center will overhang. At top left is one structure of the reconstructed Fort Osage, which was originally constructed in 1808 by William Clark. Barely visible at top left is **Mary Conrad**. At far right is **Gordon Julich**, Director of Jackson County Parks and current President of the national Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Pictured above at right are some of the digs on top of the bluff at the new visitor center site. Standing at right center is **Mary Conrad**.

TRAILS HEAD TREK XXXII – September 10, 2005 – Military Road to Ft. Leavenworth

A wonderful fall day was enjoyed on **September 10** with the Trails Head Chapter bus tour to Fort Leavenworth. 30+ members and guests participated in a tour of the Military Road, the town of Leavenworth, the Fort and the Santa Fe-Oregon-California Trail routes westward from the Fort. Guides were **Ross Marshall** and **Craig Crease**.

The bus left K-Mart parking lot at Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-35 at 8:30 a.m. and went west on Shawnee Mission Parkway through Shawnee and then north on I-435. The tour crossed over the Kansas River and went east on Kansas Highway 32 and made a brief stop at Grinter House.

The bus left there at 9:00 and went north on 78th Street following the Military Road corridor on Riverview, 86th Street, State Avenue, north on I-435, west on Leavenworth Road, north on 123rd Street, west on Donahoo St. and then north on Kansas Highway 7 through Lansing and into Leavenworth and then crossing both Five-Mile Creek and Three-Mile Creek finally ending up going north on 7th Street and into Ft. Leavenworth going north on Grant.

Fort Leavenworth was established in 1827 in anticipation of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and to help safeguard the new Santa Fe Trail. It remains important today as the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff Training College.

The trek stopped at the Buffalo Soldiers Monument and had ~~our~~ snacks and drinks, then arrived at the Ft. Leavenworth Museum at 10:30 for a tour.

The bus departed at 11:10 and went east and then north on Sherman ending up at the Parade Grounds for a walking tour of the Grounds and then east down the hill along the big swale to the site of the original Missouri River Landing before the river shifted a long time ago.

The bus re-loaded and went west through the Fort and out the west entrance. The bus riders went back to downtown Leavenworth for lunch at the Village Square Restaurant.

The trekkers left after lunch at 1:30 and went for a circular walk through downtown during the Leavenworth Annual Riverfest and back east to the river at Leavenworth Landing Park. The pedestrians re-boarded at 2:40 and traveled through downtown and west, finally ending up going north on Highway 73 following the old Santa Fe Trail Road by Bill Cody's boyhood home and up to Eight-Mile House.

The bus went west on Easton Road and back south on the new 73 Highway, which after a few miles goes east on Highway 92 by the Fort Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. The trekkers made their way to under the Centennial Bridge which goes over the Missouri River and read the Lewis and Clark markers which are near one of their campsites.

The tour went east across the Centennial Bridge on Highway 92 to Platte City, then caught I-29 south by Platte City, onto southbound I-635 and onto I-35 and arrived at K-Mart at 4:45 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On **Tuesday, September 13** Trails Head held an Executive Committee meeting at **Nelson's** house. Present were **President Arnold Cole, Secretary Eva Allen, Treasurer Jim Budde, Dick Nelson** and **Ross** and **Pat Marshall**. It was called to order by **Arnold** at **7:00 p.m.**

Eva reported 65 paid members now.

Jim reported \$5530.20 total in the chapter account, including \$2867 left in the KC150 Grant.

Ross, with comments from others, gave a review of the OCTA Convention in Salt Lake City. A little over 400 were present.

Because the **November 10 Annual Meeting** will be with Accessible Arts at the Kansas School for the Blind, **Jim** suggested that Trails Head ~~we~~ donate \$500 toward the School for the Blind 2006 Accessible Arts Trail Tour with visually impaired students. Those present agreed and will bring that up at the Annual Meeting.

The Trails Head planners reviewed the upcoming events and their arrangements and locations.

A nominating committee was appointed consisting of **Chair Dick Nelson** plus **Arnold Cole** and **Pat Marshall**. **Dick** will find a couple others.

The meeting was adjourned at **9:00 p.m.**

SHAWNEE MISSION PARK EVENT

On **September 17**, the 150th anniversary of Johnson County was celebrated by a one-day event at Shawnee Mission Park. Trails Head Chapter shared a tent/table with the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association and volunteers spent the day telling an unexpectedly large crowd about local historic trails and what the ~~our~~ chapter is doing.



At Shawnee Mission Park (l-r) Eva Allen, Dorothy Kroh, Pat Marshall, Arnold Cole and guests.

Visitors to the historic trails table had the opportunity to sign up for a drawing for an attractive OCTA overland trail throw blanket donated by **Arnold Cole**.

JOINT MEETING WITH MRO CHAPTER

On **Sunday afternoon October 16 at 2:00 p.m.**, the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter invited Trails Head members to attend a fascinating meeting at the National Frontier Trails Museum. It was a program after the MRO Chapter meeting at 1:00.

The program was led by **Bob Dyer**, historian and musician from the Boonslick area of central Missouri, who did ‘storytell’ and ‘storysing’ about steamboats and Missouri, Santa Fe Trail and Civil War history. Very entertaining!

There was no charge for OCTA members.

TRAILS HEAD ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Head Annual Membership Meeting was held at **7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 10** with Accessible Arts, Inc., at Kansas State School, at 1100 State Avenue, KCK. Members in attendance were **President Arnold Cole, Vice President Pat Traffas, Secretary Eva Allen, Treasurer Jim Budde, Bob Hamilton, Kendall McNabney, Shirley Coupal, Pat and Ross Marshall, Craig Crease, Dick Nelson and Eleanor Craig**.

Arnold opened the meeting at **7:05 p.m.** with a welcome and introductions.

Treasurer **Jim Budde** stated that the chapter has \$2982 in the account plus \$2867 left in the KC150 Grant Fund. Trails Head has 65 paid members for 2005. 2006 dues are due January 1.

Dick Nelson presented a motion from the Executive Committee to award \$500 to Accessible Arts in 2006 to help support historic trail work with sight impaired children. The motion passed. Trails Head member **Eleanor Craig**, the host for the evening, is the Executive Assistant of Accessible Arts and helps to lead the work.

Dick Nelson, Nominating Committee Chair, then presented the following slate for officers for 2006, which were approved:

- President – Pat Traffas (new)**
- Vice President – Pat Marshall (new)**
- Secretary – Eva Allen**
- Treasurer – Jim Budde**

Dick then thanked outgoing President **Arnold Cole** and all our past officers for their service. **Craig** offered his appreciation for **Arnold's** work in promoting partnering among the local trails groups in his two years of leadership.



(l-r) **Ross Marshall and Craig Crease**



(l-r) **Eleanor Craig, Justin Harris, Kari Hiltner and President Arnold Cole.**

Arnold surprised **Craig Crease** and **Ross Marshall** with a special recognition award consisting of caps inscribed with their name and “Captain of the Caravan” on them, plus gift certificates for their work in leading the chapter bus tours in recent years. It was a surprise and very much appreciated by them.

The business meeting was adjourned and **Eleanor Craig** then introduced the program entitled “*How Sight-Impaired Children Travel and Experience the Oregon Trail*”.

She led, as she has done for many years, a group of 15 sight-impaired students and 16 adult sponsors along the trail last May.

Kari Hiltner, who had helped lead the tour after having been on two previous tours, presented a slide presentation of the tour, which began in Kansas City, went through South Pass and ended in Salt Lake City. Her pictures covered key sites along the trail and showed the students climbing the base of Chimney Rock, measuring the depths of ruts using ropes strung across them, pulling handcarts and camping out each night.

The 16-day trip was not only a unique experience for the students, but also for Trails Head members as we felt their interest and excitement. **Justin Harris**, one of the students, then played songs of his own composition on an Indian flute called the ‘plaius’

It was an excellent program of excellent work by Accessible Arts, Inc. and **Eleanor Craig**.