

SUMMER Issue

Summer 2018

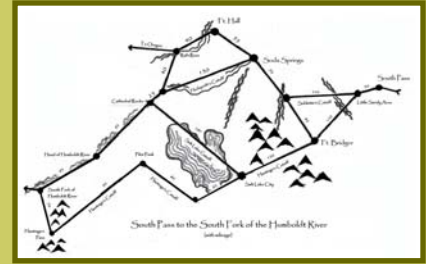
‘Our mission is to enhance the California Trail Experience for our community, visiting public and future generations.’



CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE

THE Wagon Tongue

Which Way to Go?



Middle of July, many of the emigrants had almost crossed the Wyoming area as they headed toward the Humboldt River area. Which way to go? Which way was quicker and less miles? Was there water and food for their livestock? Those were the questions that most of the emigrants had to decide as they crossed South Pass and reached the Little Sandy area. This area was labeled the “Parting of the Ways” because the emigrants had to make a choice of which way they would travel and which was more beneficial to their groups.

Since 1841, most emigrants had traveled towards Fort Bridger and then north to Fort Hall. Most heading along the Snake River towards Oregon. Hence, it was called the Oregon Trail. Later, it changed to California Trail. In 1843, routes changed and emigrants, heading to California, left the Snake River and headed south towards the Humboldt River and California. That route was about 585 miles from South Pass. In the next three years, new routes were found; hoping that they could find a shorter, quicker and easier route. Some had pros but others had cons.

The Fort Hall Route via Fort Bridger from South Pass was 320 miles. Emigrants were able to stop and replenish in areas that had water and fodder for their livestock. In 1844, the Sublette Cutoff allowed emigrants to cut 85 miles off the route but it was also about 45 miles of travel without a water source. So it wasn't taken lightly to go that direction.

In 1846, Lansford Hasting encouraged travelers to follow the new route in which he traveled to the Great Salt Lake area going down the Weber Canyon and across the Salt Flats. Reaching Pilot Peak in the Nevada Territory, they headed south of the Ruby Mountains and rejoined the Humboldt River at the South Fork. Bridger Route to Salt Lake and the Hastings's Cutoff was 595 miles. It didn't save miles and emigrants had to a difficult descent down to the Salt Lake area then crossed 80 miles of desert without a water source. The Donner Party, on their fateful journey, chose this route which caused them to be more than 2 weeks behind schedule before reaching the Reno area.

Eventually, after this tragedy, in 1848, emigrants found a shorter route from Salt Lake going north of the lake and reconnecting with the Ft. Hall route near Cathedral Rocks. It was 20 miles shorter than the Hastings's cutoff.

Once gold was discovered, the emigrants were eager to get to California sooner. Another route in 1849 was used. The Hudspeth Cutoff cut off 25 miles but was found to be more difficult traversing the four mountain ranges and did not save any time but provided more food for their livestock, water and timber for their fires.

Peter Decker, in 1850, put it mildly when describing the trip:



“There is surely no Royal Road to California & traveling it is labor indeed.”



Humanities on the Road Speakers

The California Trail Interpretive Center and Nevada Humanities invites the community to two Humanities on the Road evening programs this summer.

The first program is on the Donner Party. “**In the Footsteps of the Donner Party**” will take place on Aug. 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Frank X. Mullen will take his audience on the trail of doomed wagon train pioneers in a presentation that features artifacts and reproductions of items used by 1840s travelers.

Mullen will explore the tragedy and the triumph of a group of families who thought they were in for a 2,000-mile walk across the continent, but entered the pages of history as victims of an unproven shortcut, unseasonably cold weather, and cannibalism. The families were snowbound in the Sierra about 30 miles west of Reno during the terrible winter of 1846-47, and only about half of the group survived.

Mullen is a Reno-based newspaperman known for his hard-hitting investigative pieces. Mullen teaches journalism classes at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); lectures about the history of the Silver State; and regularly performs in the Nevada Humanities Chautauqua and other Chautauqua venues nationwide. Mullen is author of “The Donner Party Chronicles: A Day-By-Day Account of a Doomed Wagon Train.”

In 2002 and 2005, Mullen was named Nevada's Outstanding Journalist by the Nevada Press Association. He holds a Masters degree in journalism/new media from UNR, has won many state and national reporting and writing awards, and is working on a number of books about Nevada.



The second program is “**Songbird: Telling the Paiute Story.**”

The program will take place on Aug. 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Christina Thomas, a woman of Paiute, Shoshone, and Hopi descent, will share her rich knowledge and insight into her people’s heritage.

Thomas will explore the performing arts of traditional singing, drumming and dancing. She will provide lessons in the Paiute language and tell traditional stories, and will share knowledge of traditional foods and plants. Thomas will also discuss the history of the Great Basin native

peoples, and provide her unique perspective on contemporary Native American issues.

Humanities on the Road is one of Nevada Humanities longest running programs and is a roster of carefully selected creative thinkers who will travel across Nevada to bring engaging public presentations to local communities. These presentations explore history, culture, literature, music, politics, law, science, folklore, environment, immigration, and more. Humanities on the Road presentations are available for booking by any not-for-profit and/or educational organization in Nevada.

2018 California Trail Days Memories



Historic Trail Interpretive Ce





UPCOMING EVENTS

CTHA Board Meetings

*All California Trail Center Foundation Board meetings are held at the California Trail Interpretive Center and begin at 5:30 p.m.

July 28, 2018 – MET Mapping

July 31, 2018—2020 Planning Meeting

August 16, 2018 – Board Meeting

September 14-15, 2018 – Pioneer Dinner

Theater CTIC

September 20, 2018 Board Meeting

September 21, 2018 – Humboldt High Road

SF Canyon Tour

KEY LINKS

www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463

<http://www.californiatrailcenter.org/>

www.emigranttrailswest.org

www.octa-trails.org

www.appl.org

www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/california_trail_historic.html

TRAIL CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Donner Party and the Paiute Story:

Learn about the Donner Party, traditional Paiute dances, and how to make pioneer butter at the California Trail Interpretive Center.

The Trail Center is presenting a variety of family friendly programs throughout August. The following programs are free and open to everyone:

Aug. 4, 10:00 a.m.: Law and Order: California Trail Unit

When emigrants left for California, they left more than just their homes on the east side of the Missouri River. They also left behind laws and the formal justice system.

With methods that varied from Trailside courts to banishment, emigrants found their own ways to deal with disputes. Join Interpreter Jordan Thomas, and learn how emigrants dealt with lawbreakers and other troublesome people along the Trail.

Aug. 5, 2:00 p.m.: Junior Ranger Program: Shoshone Sage Houses of the Great Basin

Sage houses provided shelter for Native Americans living in the Great Basin. Join Interpreter Tim Burns and discover how these structures were built. Work as a team to build a miniature reproduction of a sage house.

Aug. 11, 1:00 p.m.: Tule Duck Decoys by Mike Williams

Tule duck decoys were used in Nevada for centuries. Mike Williams, a member of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone tribe, will demonstrate how to make a female tule duck decoy.



CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER ACTIVITIES

Aug. 11, 7:00 p.m.: Evening Program: In the Footsteps of the Donner Party

Frank X. Mullen will take his audience on the trail of doomed wagon train pioneers in a presentation that features artifacts and reproductions of items used by 1840s travelers. Mullen will explore the tragedy and the triumph of a group of families who thought they were in for a 2,000-mile walk across the continent, but entered the pages of history as victims of an unproven shortcut, unseasonably cold weather, and cannibalism. The families were snowbound in the Sierra about 30 miles west of Reno during the terrible winter of 1846-47, and only about half of the group survived.

Aug. 12, 2:00 p.m.: Junior Ranger Program: Sling it!

What did Great Basin children do for fun 2,000 years ago? Play with slings! Slings have been used as toys and weapons around the world for thousands of years. 2,000-year-old slings made for children were unearthed in Lovelock Cave. Join Park Ranger Greg Feathers and learn how to use this ancient throwing device.

Aug. 18, 10:00 a.m.: The Atlatl: Grandfather of the Bow and Arrow

The atlatl is a simple weapon that gives humans the ability to launch spears twice as far as they could by hand. Many believe the mass extinctions of large mammals 13,000 years ago was caused in part by human's ability to take down these animals with the atlatl. Until the bow and arrow was invented, the atlatl was the preferred weapon of choice for most hunters around the world. Join Park Ranger Greg and learn how to use this simple but effective prehistoric weapon.

Aug. 19, 2:00 p.m.: Junior Ranger Program: Pioneer Chores and Games

Think your chores at home are hard? Join Jordan Thomas in the pioneer camp and learn how to haul water, wash clothes, gather fuel for your campfire, and other pioneer chores. After chores, learn how to play pioneer games, no batteries or electricity required.

Aug. 23, 7:00 p.m.: Evening Program: Songbird: Telling the Paiute Story

Christina Thomas, a woman of Paiute, Shoshone, and Hopi descent, will share her rich knowledge and insight into her people's heritage. Thomas will explore the performing arts of traditional singing, drumming and dancing. She will provide lessons in the Paiute language and tell traditional stories, and will share knowledge of traditional foods and plants. Thomas will also discuss the history of the Great Basin native peoples, and provide her unique perspective on contemporary Native American issues.

Aug. 26, 2:00 p.m.: Junior Ranger Program: How to Make Pioneer Butter

Making pioneer butter required much preparation and hard work. Join Volunteer Dinna Frost and learn how to make butter like the pioneers.

For more information about the California Trail Interpretive Center, call (775) 738-1849. Visit the Trail Center online at www.californiatrailcenter.org or <https://www.facebook.com/californiatrailinterpretivecenter/>.



Volunteer Dinna Frost demonstrating how to make pioneer butter at the Trail Center.



California Trail Interpretive Center Presents Annual Temporary Exhibit, “Through Our Own Eyes: A Native American Youth Art Exhibition”

The California Trail Interpretive Center presents its third annual temporary exhibit that features paintings by Native American students from Owyhee Combined School, located in the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, Owyhee, Nevada.

“Through Our Own Eyes: A Native American Youth Art Exhibition” opens on July 1 and will run through October. The exhibit includes over 100 paintings by Owyhee junior high and high school students.



The Duck Valley Indian Reservation is in both Nevada and Idaho, and is occupied by descendants of the Western Shoshone and Northern Paiute tribes.

“Students who have participated in past exhibits have shown great skill and growth in their art,” said Kit Julianto, former Owyhee Combined School art teacher. “As we continue to build on our education, we also take time to remember who we are and where we come from in terms of holding our Native American beliefs, values, traditions, and culture with high regards.”

Many of the students included artist statements with their artwork. Marquell Knight, a senior, created the painting, “Great Grandfather.” He attached the following statement with his painting: “This is a portrait of my great grandfather. My grandma’s dad. He taught us to respect every living thing and knowledge about our culture.”

The paintings, combined with the statements, provided the artists the opportunity to interpret their culture, experiences and insights through both paint and words. Julianto worked closely with California Trail Interpretive Center staff to create the exhibit.

“We are so proud of Owyhee students, and we appreciate being able to share their beautiful paintings and culture with our visitors,” said Supervisory Park Ranger Alex Rose. “It’s wonderful to see their progress as artists over the years.”

Most of the paintings are for sale through the Southern Nevada Conservancy, a Trail Center partner. Contact the California Trail Interpretive Center office for more information.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL

HERITAGE ALLIANCE



A Summer Update – from the President

One of the exciting things about continuing to serve as President of the California Trail Heritage Alliance (CTHA) is the amazing strength and contributions of our board members. The update below is a reflection of their efforts.

Marketing Grants – CTHA continues to be successful in obtaining funds from Travel Nevada to market the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC) and the California Trail Experience. Monies provided the state, and requiring a match, will be used for social media, print media, Trail Days and billboards.

Marketing Study – CTHA has contracted with RAD to evaluate our current marketing efforts and to work with CTHA to develop a marketing strategy for the future. Preliminary feedback will be provided to CTHA in August.

Hot Hole Project – The state has given CTHA an infrastructure grant to begin work on a \$75,000 fencing and interpretation project at the Hot Hole west of Elko. The Hot Holes is a site used by and mentioned in emigrant diaries.

Site Stewardship – Six members of the CTHA board took Site Stewardship training from the NV State Historic Preservation Office archeologist in June. This lays the foundation for formal monitoring of trail segments. CTHA plans to adopt one or more segments for monitoring this summer.

Trail Mapping – After classroom and field training last fall, several members of CTHA worked on the Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest the last weekend in June to map some of the Hastings Cutoff not previously mapped. An additional mapping trip is planned in late July.

Board Development – Recent work on the Bylaws resulted in the establishment of a formal succession plan for CTHA.

Bike Path to Trail Center – CTHA continues to be optimistic that the bike path will be developed between CTIC and Elko despite the glacial progress at NDOT.

Newsletter – CTHA continues to provide informative and interesting newsletters on a quarterly basis.

- *Helen Hankins, President*

<p><u>Core Members:</u></p> <p>Kerry Aguirre Bailey Billington John Collett Marlene Goddard Walt Goddard Helen Hankins Duane Jones</p>	<p>CTHA Board of Directors</p> <p><u>At-Large Members</u></p> <p>Blaine Benedict Leah Brady Larry Hyslop Kevin Lee</p> <p>Larry Schmidt Frank Tortorich Kerry Tuckett John Winner</p>	<p><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>Editor: Leah Brady</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <p>Helen Hankins Alex Rose Greg Feathers</p>
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Join Today! - Membership Application

Join your friends and neighbors and become a supporter of the California Trail Interpretive Center! Every membership supports the California Trail Interpretive Center and Trail preservation. When you join other enthusiasts to become a member, or renew your membership, you directly support interpretation, education, and special events at the California Trail Interpretive Center, and help preserve the Trail and its history for the benefit of current and future generations.

Annual Memberships: New Renewal

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Email: _____

All members receive the informative electronic newsletter, electronic updates about special events and activities and a 10% discount at the California Trail Interpretive Center store. Invitations to one or more special events are extended to the Supporter membership levels & above.

Level	Individual	Family	Supporter	Partner	Lifetime
Special Events)			1	2	3
Cost	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$200

*Special Events may include presentations, workshops, tours, exhibit previews or other activities. Individuals who choose to make a donation equal to or greater than \$250 will receive recognition, if desired, on the Donor Wall in the California Trail Interpretive Center

PAYMENT: Check Visa MC Amount \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Make Check Payable to: **California Trail Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 1778, Elko NV 89803**

DONOR WALL

IN ADDITION TO BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE, INDIVIDUALS OR BUSINESSES MAY ALSO MAKE A DONATION TO THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE FOR THOSE DONATIONS GREATER THAN \$250.00, THE DONOR CAN CHOOSE TO BE PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED ON THE DONOR WALL AT THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER. RECOGNITION LEVELS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CALIFORNIA TRAIL CENTER DONOR WALL RECOGNITION LEVELS

<u>LEVEL NAME</u>	<u>DONATION AMOUNT</u>
Pioneer	\$250.00 to \$499.99
Trail Blazer	\$500.00 to \$2,499.99
Wagon Master	\$2,500.00 to \$4,999.99
Empire Building	\$5,000.00 or Greater

CONTACT US!

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