

Spring Issue

2021



## Through the Lens of History - Preserving the Past - Focusing on the Future



The 39th OCTA Convention will kick off it's annual event with several pre-tours. Starting Saturday with a 2-day tour in the Burley, Idaho area showing the ascent into the Great Basin area from the City of Rocks area.

There will also be a bus tour of the Lamoille Canyon, just outside of Elko on Sunday.



This year's focus will be on the Hastings Cut-off and the Humboldt River corridor of the California Trail going through Nevada.

Dr. James Armstead will be the keynote speaker on the Socio-Political Origins of the Western Migration.



From our Nevada tribes, Western Shoshone speakers will share their family stories, cultural beliefs and cultural sites. Leah Brady will



share her family's "First Encounter" with non-natives along the Humboldt River in the Battle Mountain area.

Norman Cavanaugh will talk about cultural traditions and the Shoshone Sites in Northeastern Nevada.

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CALIFORNIA TRAIL HERITAGE ALLIANCE

# The Wagon Tongue



# Through the Lens of History - Preserving the Past - Focusing on the Future (continued from pg. 1)

Pilot Peak was a major landmark to the emigrants on the Hastings Cut-off. For some it was a symbol of hope and relief after passing the Great Salt Lake Desert. The springs that were there helped to rescue both emigrants and their livestock. Speaker Peter Meyerhoff will provide valuable insights on his research on the Hastings Cut-off.



Louann Speulda-Drews and Chimalis Kuehn will also provide more info on this part of the trail when they speak about “Fort Ruby at the Crossroads”. Both archeologists have worked on-site at Fort Ruby and will share their experiences.



Last speaker on Monday will be Pat Fletcher. She will speak on the Cherokee Trail to the California goldfields by way of the Hastings Cut-off.

The day will end with Chapter meetings that will be held inside the convention center. The location of each meeting will be announced during the speaker sessions.

Tuesday, September 14th and Thursday, September 15th will be two days of 5 tours around the Elko area. Thursday will be a repeat of Tuesday’s tours. The Guns and Ruts Bus tour will take participants to Wells where the emigrants would stop for water and livestock forage. They will then travel south to the Hastings Cut-off crossing into Ruby Valley then north to Secret Pass. Participants will then head back to Elko with a stop at the Williams Family Gun Museum.



The Long Canyon Bus tour will take participants out to one of the Nevada Gold Mines that runs along the Hastings Cut-off route. Participants will also stop and visit the Settler’s Cabin and learn about it’s ranch and cabin history. They will also be

presented with a talk about the old Central Pacific railroad.

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# Through the Lens of History - Preserving the Past - Focusing on the Future

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Another tour will take participants to Gravelly Ford and the Elko Hot Hole. Participants will see the junction of the Hastings Cut-off and the main California Trail. Trail ruts will also be visible on this tour as participants will travel over Emigrant pass and down into the Gravelly Ford area near Beowawe, Nevada.

The fourth tour will be to Fort Ruby going through Secret Pass. Following the Hastings Cut-off



route, the bus will return to the South Fork State Park by way of the Overland Pass. The tour will travel a short way on the Pony Express Trail as it travels on the Overland Pass.

Ancient Pronghorn Antelope Trap site van tour will be on a first-come, first serve basis. Elko County has among the largest number of existing aboriginal pronghorn traps in the western United States. The tour will be to one of the best preserved traps in northeast Nevada. Good walking shoes are required since there are no trails and access is down a gentle slope through sagebrush vegetation. About .4 miles to 1.5 miles of walking.



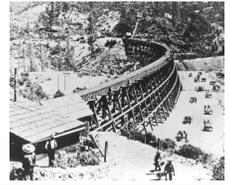
“The Humboldt is North of Us...So Let’s Go South” tour. This tour will examine two deviations from the Hastings Cut-off trail. One route is traveling north through Clover Valley to (Humboldt) Wells. The second route would be through Secret Pass, which was thought to be just a pack trail.

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# Through the Lens of History - Preserving the Past - Focusing on the Future

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Wednesday, September 15, 2021 will start the second day of speakers and activities.

Starting out the day will be Dr. Sue Fawn Chung speaking on the contributions of the “Chinese Railroad Workers on the Central Pacific Railroad.”



**Andrew Beckman**, "The Studebaker Wagon: Hoosier Made, World Famed" Mr. Beckman is an Archivist at the Studebaker National Museum and has written several books on the Studebaker that he will share with participants.



Learn about “Sarah Winnemucca’s Temporary Grave on the California Trail” from **Dr. Sarah Keyes**, assistant professor of History at the University of Nevada Reno.

**Frank Tortorich** will speak on “The Mormons on the California Trail.” Having written three books on the California Trail, Frank will share his knowledge of Mormons on the California Trail



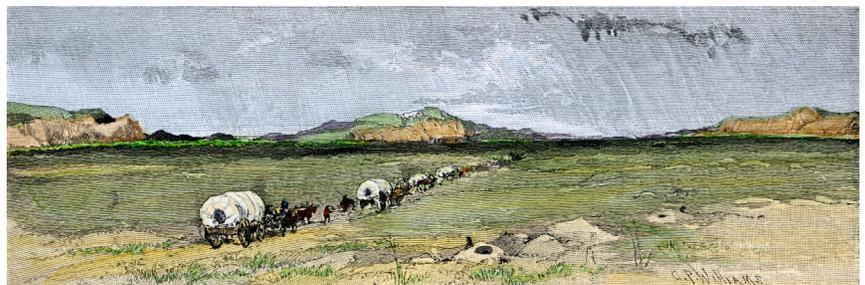
Having followed the Hastings Cut-off, **Bob Crowley** and **Tim Twietmeyer** will be talking about the Donner Party and “The Forlorn Hope: Surviving the Sierra.” Prior to the convention, Bob and Tim will be following the Hasting Cut-off route around the Ruby Mountains

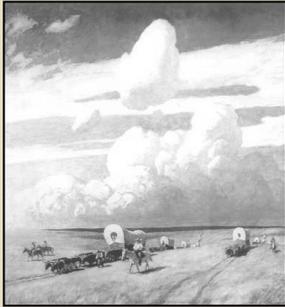
**David and Karen Vixie** and their students will relate the adventures, the challenges, and choices as well as the insights and inspiration they have acquired as they progress towards the future. They immerse modern students in 19th century sights, sounds, and the wagon migration experience.

Wednesday’s Activity Stations will finish out the convention with numerous demonstrations and crafts people that will share their skills with participants.

Thursday night will be the “End of the Trail Banquet.

Hope you can join us in Elko.  
Happy Trails!





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## CTHA Board Meetings

\*At this time California Trail Center Foundation Board meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m. Location will be posted.

Aug 12, 2021 – Board Meeting

Sept 9, 2021 – Board Meeting

September 13-16, 2021 – ELKO OCTA Convention

# KEY LINKS

[www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463](https://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Trail-Center-Foundation/157116030992463)

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

[www.emigranttrailswest.org](http://www.emigranttrailswest.org)

[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

[www.appl.org](http://www.appl.org)

[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko\\_field\\_office/blm\\_programs/blm\\_special\\_areas/](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/elko_field_office/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/)

The California Trail Interpretative Center's website message regarding their closure:

*"The Trail Center is currently closed to the public until further notice. All programs at the Center will be cancelled for the time being. We apologize for any inconvenience."*

The CTIC may open occasionally but you should call to make sure it is open before driving there. (1-775-738-1849)

### Core Members:

- Leah Brady
- Marlene Goddard
- Walt Goddard
- Helen Hankins
- Duane Jones
- Kevin Lee
- Gratton Miller
- Rebecca Stanton

## CTHA Board of Directors

### At-Large Members

- Chuck Briggs
- Lisa Dinwiddie
- Paul Dinwiddie
- Jacqueline Lucero
- Larry Schmidt
- Jordan Thomas
- Frank Tortorich
- John Winner

### Newsletter

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Helen Hankins

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Leah Brady

Frank Tortorich

Kevin Lee

US National Archives



**2021 octa convention**

**elkonv**  
september 13-16



**bus tours**

Long Canyon

Fort Ruby (including site tour) and Ruby Valley

Wells/Osino area (including Gun Museum)

Gravelly Ford



**special highlights**

Trail Days at the

California Trail Interpretive Center

Basque Dancers and Cowboy Poetry



**for hotel reservations  
and more information**

[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

## *Rescue.....*

### Pictures from the trail happenings

Frank Tortorich reported on the damage to the trail at Tragedy Springs in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The wind storm that came through that part of the Sierra last spring averaged 180 miles per hour. Hundreds if not thousands of trees were blown down. Three of those trees blew down and uprooted about half of the 173-year old grave.

Through the efforts of volunteers from OCTA and the Mormon Battalion Association, the historic grave has been restored to its previous condition as close as possible.

There is still a lot of clean up of the surrounding area to be done.

Here are photos of before the damage, the damage and the restored grave.





# CALIFORNIA TRAIL

HERITAGE ALLIANCE



President's Letter – July 2021

The California Trail Heritage Alliance has made great progress in the last few months.

The fabrication of the interpretive panels for the hot hole has been approved and work is progressing. Much of the work to reach this point was completed by Kevin Lee and Duane Jones. These panels and the wayside where they will be situated are part of a plan to place waysides talking about the California Trail across the state of Nevada. Nearly 20 are already in place. Most of these were envisioned and developed by Dale Porter and Paul Sawyer.

Kevin Lee has been moving forward with explorations in the Goshute Valley for future MET Mapping locations. In a field trip earlier this year, Kevin, Roger Gash (Reno) and Jess Peterson (Utah Crossroads) joined forces to evaluate likely trail locations.

The Alliance partnered with the California Trail Interpretive Center in June for a day of fun and hiking on the Hastings Cutoff in South Fork State Park. The Alliance provided sandwiches for the event.

Officer elections were held at the June Board meeting. New officers are Helen Hankins, President; Duane Jones, Vice-President, Gratton Miller, Secretary and Marlene Goddard, Treasurer. They will serve from July 1 2021 through June 30, 2022.

The Elko County Recreation Board approved \$4,000 for marketing related to the California Trail Interpretive Center for the 2020-2021 year. \$5,000 was approved for marketing the OCTA convention for the 2021-22 year. Duane Jones has submitted grant requests for TravelNevada funds totaling approximately \$40,000 for billboards, social and print media for the year beginning January 1, 2022.

Several board members have been involved with the acquisition of a new computer at the Trail Center. The computer will be used to provide access to OCTA Paper Trails and the OCTA website. Several trail diaries will be placed on the hard drive. Links to important repositories for numerous trail diaries will also be accessible on the computer. Because the computer will be available for the use of minors, measures will be taken to preclude inappropriate use of the device.

Considerable work has been done by numerous board members on the upcoming OCTA convention. Despite setbacks caused by the BLM decision to not support the event and the declination of Coach USA to serve as the tour bus company, things have worked out well. All facilities have been secured. Speakers have been confirmed and presenters for more than 30 activity stations have been contacted. Isabel Sanchez is working with the Boys and Girls Club to bring a large number of students to the convention center to view the activity stations.

Food and entertainment have been finalized and members of the CA-NV Chapter are stepping up to help with various needs.

The opening reception will be held at the Northeastern Nevada Museum. The Carlin Historical Society will lend OCTA the Chinese Exhibit for the duration of the Convention. In addition, the BLM is now willing to host OCTA conventioners for a two-hour window on Monday evening (September 13).

Detailed information about the convention is available at [octa-trails.org](https://octa-trails.org).

Sincerely, Helen Hankins, President



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[www.ctha-nv.org](http://www.ctha-nv.org)



## 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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