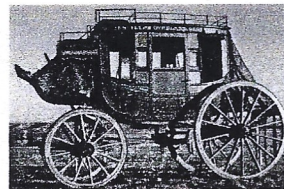


OVERLAND DESPATCH

SMOKY HILL TRAIL ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY

VOL. II No. 3 REMEMBER THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL September 2009



Editor's Note: This issue was delayed, waiting for our volunteer printer to fit it into his schedule. This is another short issue, but we want to get publication on a firm schedule as soon as possible. Material for the next issue is welcome anytime.

ANNUAL SMOKY HILL TRAIL CONFERENCE AT JUNCTION CITY, OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1

If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do so now (schedule and registration form included as inserts in this issue). Any questions, please contact Secretary Jody Zeman at <jodyzeman@ruraltel.net>.

JOURNEY STORIES EXHIBIT AT GEARY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Journey Stories is a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition, which explores America's history of travel and transportation. The exhibit includes stories of people coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journey of Africans and American Indians forced to move; and, of course, fun on the open road.

Journey Stories is a collaboration of the Smithsonian Institution and Museum on Main Street. *Journey Stories* appears at Geary County Historical Museum through the Kansas Humanities Council. Everyone attending the Smoky Hill Trail Conference is invited to view this traveling exhibit.

There will also be a local companion exhibit *Junction City: On the Road to Everywhere*. Junction City is unique among the 6 Kansas hosts of this exhibit in that we have locally experienced five major eras of transportation in parallel with their development in the rest of the nation. Our local exhibit will look at our unique geographic location in relation to American Indian and westward emigration trails, our brief history of steamboat trade and other water transportation, the evolution of the Smoky Hill Trail transportation corridor, railroads in Junction City, and, finally, local aviation.

Dates: October 2 through November 15, 2009

Times: 9:00 AM through 4:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday; 1:00 PM through 4:00 PM Sundays

There is no admission fee; we have an accessible

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LITERATURE OF THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL: GUIDE-BOOKS FOR THE 1859 "RUSH TO THE ROCKIES"

Compiled by Michael L. Olsen

[Mike Olsen, Colorado Springs, retired professor of history at New Mexico Highlands University, is a member of the SmHTA board. His presentation at the annual conference is "Fact or Fiction? The Literature of the Smoky Hill Trail." This article is the first in what he anticipates will be an ongoing (and never completely done) bibliography of materials dealing with the Trail.]

THERE were many guidebooks published delineating the route west to the Pikes Peak gold regions. The following list includes only those which have particular application to the Smoky Hill Trail in that they have some textual description of the route or they map the route, whether accurately or inaccurately. Many guidebooks only covered the Platte River Road or the way west via the Santa Fe Trail-Arkansas River.

Most of these guidebooks are scarce in their original form. Some have been reprinted and others are described and summarized by compilers of Western Americana. Three sources are especially central to the preservation and reprinting of all the Pikes Peak gold rush guidebooks. LeRoy Hafén included various guidebooks in Volume 9 of the Arthur H. Clark Company's *Southwest Historical Series*; Nolie Mumey, of Denver, with the collaboration of Hafén, reprinted many guidebooks from the 1940s through the 1960s; David White's compilation and annotation, *News of the Plains and Rockies*, also includes Pike's Peak gold rush items in Volume 7.

Bibliographic references for Hafén and White are included below after the guidebook entries. Each guidebook entry indicates if a reprint is included in Hafén, was reprinted by Mumey, or if a synopsis is provided by White.

The Guidebooks

Allen, Obridge. *Allen's Guide Book and Map to the Gold Fields of Kansas & Nebraska and Great Salt Lake City*. Washington: R. A. Waters, 1859. 68 p.: map. (Hafén, Mumey 1953)

Allen includes a short description of the Smoky Hill route, but only up the Smoky Hill River to the "Pawnee Trail," which LeRoy Hafén, in his *Pike's Peak Guidebooks of 1859* located near Palatine, Kansas, ten miles southwest of Hays, Kansas.

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

THE presentations planned for this year's Smoky Hill Trail conference will continue to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the trail. Speakers Ron Harris, Sonie Liebler, Bill McKale, Lee Whiteley, Mike Olsen will be presenting on Junction City, Fort Riley, steamboats on the Kaw River, monuments, markers, and literature on the Smoky Hill Trail. Serle Chapman will be continuing his presentation of information on Cheyennes and the Smoky Hill Trail. You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear what these speakers have to offer!

Junction City and Fort Riley, clad in autumn colors, will provide a wonderful scenic backdrop for the conference. Conference Chairman, Ron Harris, has organized tours on trail sites so you will not only visit the sites, but be able to appreciate the change of seasons as we make the tours.

Your Board of Directors and Chairman Ron have worked hard to make your conference available to everyone who shares an interest in researching, teaching, and learning about the Smoky Hill Trail. We encourage connections between scholars, historians, teachers, students, writers, readers, and everyone who enjoys learning about the trail. The Conference provides a perfect venue for making those connections.

This year's Conference will follow our first two in Hays and Salina, by continuing to provide rich historical content, networking, and a time to just have fun. Please come to Junction City and join us!

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail!

—Mike Baughn

JOURNEY STORIES EXHIBIT

(continued from page 1)

entrance and restroom facilities.

For more information on the *Journey Stories* exhibit or Museum on Main Street, contact Dan Carey-Whelan at Kansas Humanities Council, 785-357-0359 or <dan@kansashumanities.org>.

For more information about Geary County Historical Museum or the local exhibit, contact Georganne White at 785-238-1666 or <gwhite@gchs.kscoxmail.com> or <georganne75@gmail.com>. Please note that we are in our offices during the hours listed above, however our museum is open to the public only between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM until the exhibit arrives.

GUIDEBOOKS FOR 1859

(continued from page 1)

From there this guidebook takes travelers to the Arkansas River and out the Santa Fe Trail to Bent's Fort.

Eastin, Lucian J. *Emigrant's Guide to Pike's Peak*. Leavenworth City, Kansas Territory: L. J. Eastin,

1859. 8 p.: map. (Hafen, Mumey 1959, White)

Eastin recommends the Smoky Hill route as the "Best Route to the Gold Mines," with Leavenworth as the starting point. He says 2,000 "whites" in Cherry Valley "gave preference to the 'Smoky Hill route.'" He does not include a "log" of distances as is found in most guidebooks.

Green, Henry T. *Report and Map of the Superintendent and Engineer of the Smoky Hill Expedition*. Leavenworth, KS: Daily Times and Job Printing Establishment, 1861. 19 p.: map. (White)

David White, editor of the *News of the Plains and Rockies*, calls this map "the best of the whole 1859-1860 crop. It shows the Smoky Hill and Arkansas routes, and the Rocky Mountain Front, with

OVERLAND DESPATCH is the official publication of the Smoky Hill Trail Association, Inc., a nonprofit, 501(c)(3), corporation chartered in the State of Kansas. Primary missions of the Association are to preserve, protect, promote, and interpret the Smoky Hill Trail for the benefit of present and future generations, and to promote awareness of the historical legacy associated with remnants and locations that represent the historic trail and Butterfield's Overland Despatch (BOD) and its successors as well as the railroad that replaced the overland trail. Letters and articles are welcome, and they become the property of SmHTA and may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. All rights reserved.

Membership in the Association is open to all individuals, families, institutions, and businesses. Annual dues are \$25.00 for individuals, \$30.00 for families, \$40.00 for nonprofit organizations, \$50.00 for businesses, and \$100.00 for patrons. Life membership, individual or family, is \$500.00. Membership fees should be sent to Smoky Hill Trail Association, PO Box 322, WaKeeney KS 67672. All memberships are for the calendar year and expire on December 31. Other donations are always welcome.

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extraordinary accuracy.”

Gunn, Otis. *New Map and Hand-Book of Kansas & the Gold Mines: Containing Descriptions and Statistics of the Indian Tribes, Settlement, Soil, Productions, Climate, Roads, Rail Roads, Telegraphs, Mail Routes, Land Districts, Legislatures &c.: with Description of All the Routes to the New Gold Mines, Outfits for Miners, and a Variety of Other Useful Information.* Pittsburg: W. S. Haven, 1859. 71 p.: fold. map. (Hafen, Mumey 1952)

Besides information as indicated in the effusive title, this guidebook contains an important map, “Gunn’s New Map of Kansas and the Gold Mines, Embracing all the Public Surveys up to the 6th Principle Meridian.”

McGowan, D. and G. H. Hildt. *Map of the United States West of the Mississippi Showing the Route of Pike’s Peak, Overland Mail Route to California and Pacific Railroad Surveys...* St. Louis: Leopold Gast & Bro., 1859. (White)

David White, in *News of the Plains* says McGowan’s routes of the Republican and Smoky Hill trails “are impracticable and hazardous guesses.”

Oliver, J. W. *Guide to the New Gold Region of Western Kansas and Nebraska: with Table of Distances and Accurate Map.* New York: J. W. Oliver, 1859. 32 p.: fold. map. (Hafen, Mumey 1951)

Oliver has a short description of the “Central Route,” in this case from Leavenworth to Fort Riley, then up the Republican River to its source, then to Cherry Creek. There is an alternate route also described, from Fort Riley up the Smoky Hill River to its sources, and thence to Cherry Creek. Oliver says, “This [latter route] is called the ‘air line’ route, with a distance of only five hundred and sixty-five mile.”

Parsons, William B. *The New Gold Mines of Western Kansas: Being a Complete Description of the Newly Discovered Gold Mines; the Different Routes, Camping Places, Tools and Outfit; and Containing Everything Important for the Emigrant and Miner to Know.* Cincinnati: Geo. S. Blanchard, 1859. 63 p.: fold. map. (Hafen, Mumey 1951)

Parsons has a short description of the Smoky Hill route, but only up to the “Pawnee Trail,” which LeRoy Hafen in his *Pike’s Peak Gold Rush Guide Books of 1859* locates near Palatine, Kansas, ten miles southwest of Hays, Kansas. From that point the guidebook continues to the Arkansas River and Bent’s Fort.

Pike’s Peak; Great Through Line Between the East and West, via Cincinnati and St. Louis by the Ohio & Mississippi Broad-gauge Railroad; with Map of Western Connections, including the Kansas Gold Fields. Cincinnati: Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Company, 1859. 16 p.: folded map. (Hafen, White)

This guide is important for its map. Hafen, in his

Pike’s Peak Gold Rush Guidebooks of 1859 notes, “The third and most direct route is labeled ‘Express Co.’s route.’ It leaves Fort Riley in a direct line for Denver and runs almost midway between the Smoky Hill and the Republican forks. It was the route first used by the Leavenworth and Pike’s Peak Express.” He continues, “The second, or Smoky Hill route, follows the Smoky Hill from Fort Riley almost exactly along the route which became known as the Butterfield’s Overland Despatch route.”

Pratt, C. N. *Pacific Railroad of Missouri: the Old Established and Most Reliable Route to Kansas, Nebraska, and All Points on the Missouri River: the Most Direct Route to the Newly Discovered Gold Fields of Pike’s Peak and Cherry Creek.* [s.n.], 1859. 10 p.: map. (Mumey 1963, White)

The Smoky Hill route is covered, with stopping places and the distances between each one.

Pratt, John J. and Francis A. Hunt. *A Guide to the Gold Mines of Kansas: Containing an Accurate Account and Reliable Map of the Most Direct Railroad Routes from the Atlantic Cities to the Farthest Point West Now Reached by Railroad Communication ... and from thence to the Gold Mines; also, All Other Practicable Routes.* Chicago: C. Scott & Co., 1859. 70 p.: fold. map. (Hafen, Mumey 1950-1959)

LeRoy Hafen, in his *Pike’s Peak Gold Rush Guide-books of 1859*, notes that Pratt and Hunt have “meager information on the Republican Fort route, including a description of Frémont’s report.”

Redpath, James. *Hand-book to Kansas Territory and the Rocky Mountains’ Gold Region; Accompanied by Reliable Maps and a Preliminary Treatise on the Pre-emption Laws of the United States.* New York: J. H. Colton, 1859. 177 p.: 2 fold maps. (Hafen, Mumey 1954)

The chief value of this guidebook is its map of the Smoky Hill route.

Reed, Jacob W. *Map and Guide to the Kansas Gold Region, the Map Embracing Both Routes - the Northern and Southern - from the Missouri River to the Guide Giving a Description of the Country, Game, Water-Courses, Distances from Camp to Camp; also, General Directions for Outfitting, Traveling, etc.* New York: J. H. Colton, 1859. 24 p.: fold. map. (Mumey 1959, White)

David White, in his *News of the Plains and Rockies, 1803-1865*, says of Reed, “His regional map by Colton has about the best of any base for much of its geography; at its worst, however, supposed roads sweep up the Republican, Solomon, and Smoky Hill rivers, as well as up Big Sandy Creek from the Arkansas.”

Stevens, W. H. *Field Notes: Crossing the Prairies and Plains from Atchison, Kansas, to Denver, through the Mineral Region of Colorado Territory.* Philadelphia:

J. B. Chandler, 1865. 21 p. (White)

Stevens was a passenger on the first coach of the newly inaugurated (1865) Butterfield's Overland Despatch from Atchison, via the Smoky Hill route to Denver.

The Hafen and White compilations are:

Hafen, LeRoy, ed. *Pike's Peak Gold Rush Guidebooks of 1859* by Luke Tierney, William B. Parsons and *Summaries of the Other Fifteen*. Glendale, CA: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1941. 346 p. pl., ports., fold. map.

This is Volume 9 in *The Southwest Historical Series*. Hafen's "Historical Introduction," pp. 19-80, places the guidebooks in the context of the gold rush. This volume was reprinted as *Pike's Peak Gold Rush Guidebooks 1859*, by the Porcupine Press, Philadelphia, 1974.

White, David A., compiler and annotator. *News of the Plains and Rockies, 1803-1865: Original Narratives of Overland Travel and Adventure Selected from the Wagner-Camp and Becker Bibliography of Western Americana*. Spokane, WA: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1996- .

Volume 7 of this compendium includes synopses of 19 Pike's Peak gold rush items.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

THE Nominating Committee will present the following nominations for officers and directors at the annual membership meeting in Junction City, October 31. All nominees are currently members of the board, and the only change recommended is to switch Mike Baughn to director and Mike Olsen to president. Director Lee Whiteley has another year of his two-year term. Other nominations may be made by any member at the meeting. Everyone who is a member of the Smoky Hill Trail Association may vote.

President: Mike Olsen, Colorado Springs, CO

Vice-President: Donna Malsom, Collyer, KS

Secretary: Jody Zeman, WaKeeney, KS

Treasurer: Sam Chestnut, Quinter, KS

Smoky Hill Trail Association

PO Box 322

WaKeeney, KS 67672

Change Service Requested

One-year to complete Mike Olsen's two-year term as director: Mike Baughn, Brewster, KS

Two-year director terms (all are incumbents): Jim Gray, Ellsworth, KS; Lem Marsh, Grinnell, KS; and Joanne VanCoevern, Salina, KS.

NEW SmHTA MEMBERSHIPS

This list includes new memberships received since the last issue. If there is an error in this information, please send corrections to Secretary Jody Zeman, PO Box 322, WaKeeney KS 67672. We thank you for your support.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS

Car R & Marty Reed, 1418 Leavenworth St, Manhattan KS 66502

TRAIL CALENDAR

Everyone is invited to send notices for this section; provide location, date, time, and activity. This is a quarterly. The next issue should appear in December, so send information for January and later to arrive by November 15, 2009. Thank you.

Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2009: Third Annual Smoky Hill Trail Conference, Junction City, KS.

ITEMS FROM THE JUNCTION CITY UNION

THE *Junction City Union* is an invaluable source of information about the Smoky Hill Trail. Reprinted articles will be included as space permits.

From the *Junction City Union*, June 21, 1866:

The Topeka Record says: On the 4th of April, an ox train for Hollidays Overland company started from Grasshopper Falls for Denver via Smoky Hill route. On the 8th inst., or in three months and four days the same train on its return reached Junction City without the loss of an animal. No such time was ever made on the Platte route, and we think a trip was never made on it without the loss of more or less stock. This shows which is the best route to Colorado.

In the same issue is an advertisement for W. S. Blakely & Co., a new store located on the Smoky Hill Route at Chapman Creek Crossing, stocking dry goods, groceries, hardware, and tools.

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