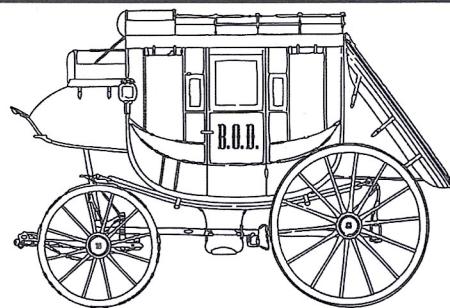


OVERLAND DESPATCH



Volume VII No. 4

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail

Summer 2015

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Please note that the official address for the Smoky Hill Trail Association has changed. It is now:

Smoky Hill Trail Association
PO Box 978
Hays KS 67601

This change is effective immediately. Thank you for your cooperation in addressing any and all further correspondence that is sent to us through the U.S. Postal Service to our new address.

The Board has also decided that memberships will now be on a calendar year basis rather than the specific month you joined. The membership committee is reviewing everyone's memberships and adjusting them in order to ensure that everyone's current membership will be pro-rated over the next year so no one is paying twice for the same time period. Over the next year, letters will be sent out to each member over explaining this process in detail. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this complex undertaking. We are certain it will be more beneficial to the Association and its members in the long run.

A letter was sent to the Atchison County Commissioners seeking their support for the installation of the BOD/Smoky Hill Trail memorial marker to be placed in Riverfront Park. The monument will be in black polished granite with laser lettering. One side will have the inscription "Butterfield's Overland Despatch Smoky Hill Trail 1865" above
(continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Your Board is busily planning for the fall conference. We will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the B.O.D. by David Butterfield. The conference will be held October 16-18, 2015, in Atchison, Kansas, the city where Butterfield had his headquarters and warehouse. We have located the spot where these were sited on the banks of the Missouri River. There is a beautiful city park there with a walking path along the river. Several monuments commemorate important events that happened there. One such is where Lewis and Clark camped in 1804 when they started on their exploration along the Missouri River of the new territories of the United States added by the Louisiana Purchase. In recognition of the historic importance of the Smoky Hill Trail and the B. O. D. we hope a similar monument will be placed during our conference in close proximity to the location of Butterfield's warehouse. This plan must be approved by a commission that controls the river front park. We are working closely with that group to do our best to see this accomplished.

The theme of the annual conference is "David Butterfield's Dream - 150 Years of the Smoky Hill Transportation Corridor: BOD to I-70." This clearly states our goal, to show the importance of the BOD and the Smoky Hill Trail in the history of the Central United States from covered wagons, to stage coaches, to freight wagons, to the railroad, to dirt roads, to modern paved roads, to the well-traveled interstate
(continued on page 3)

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 the 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 (may be paid in quarterly installments during one or two years). Membership fees should be sent to Smoky Hill Trail Association, PO Box 978, Hays KS 67601. Other donations are always welcome.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is the financial position of the Smoky Hill Trail Association as of June 7, 2015:

Checking Account	\$ 6,037.03
Savings Account	\$ 6,213.27
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 7,358.65
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,265.55
Total	\$29,874.50

Sam Chestnut, Treasurer



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for articles to be included in the next edition of the Overland Despatch is **August 31, 2015**. Please have your articles, announcements, notes, etc. sent to the newsletter editor either by US mail or E-mail by that date (addresses in box at left). Please note that you do NOT have to write an article for it to be included in the newsletter. If you come across an interesting article during the course of your reading or research, and you think the membership might enjoy it, please consider photocopying, scanning, or transcribing it and send it to me. Thank you.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Smoky Hill Trail Association welcomes the following member who joined since our last newsletter was published:

Special Collections of the Pikes Peak Library District, Colorado Springs CO

Welcome!



(President's Column continued from page 3)
 highway. The speakers at the conference promise to tell this story from beginning to end.

Atchison, Kansas, is an historic city and maintains many original buildings from its past. Of course we all know of Amelia Earhart and her aviation exploits. Her family home is preserved as a museum. There are trolley tours of historic Atchison that will be available at scheduled times during our conference, several of which are at free times in our schedule of events. An interesting bus tour to Leavenworth, including a visit to the Frontier Army Museum and Fort Leavenworth is another activity. Two delicious dinners are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, the former is the annual membership and awards meeting and the latter is a banquet with a speaker, preceded by a social hour.

Apparently, October is a very busy tourist season in Atchison. You are forewarned that motel rooms are in demand by visitors, in addition to our membership. The conference brochure is due out very shortly and you should plan on making early reservations for your housing. There are two motels that are recommended, AmericInn and Super 8. Four members of our Association visited Atchison and inspected the Super 8 and found it to be very good. The other motel was highly recommended by Atchison tourism officials. These motels both offer a discounted rate for early reservations by our members. These facilities are within walking distance of the Atchison Events Center, the venue for our conference. There are also two B and B inns available. These were not inspected by us and are farther from the Events Center.

Several members of the Association are acquainted with Jody Zeman, long-time Board member and officer. She was forced to resign her position in early spring as Secretary due to some health concerns. We wish her well and a successful treatment and speedy recovery. Her absence from the Board has been severely felt and we realize the

many tasks she has performed since the beginning of the Association. We pray that she can return to us soon.

Elton Beougher, President
 Smoky Hill Trail Association
 REMEMBER THE SMOKY HILL TRAIL!



Smoky Hill Route.

Ellsworth, Sept. 12, 1865

Hon. Thomas Carney, Mayor Leavenworth City, Kansas:

Dear Sir: I have returned from Denver via Smoky Hill River Route, to this point with ten men, without a military escort, without molestation from Indians or any other sources. Two hundred and fifty mules, belonging to Butterfield's Overland Despatch, reached here a few days since, with which I returned, and stocked the road to Denver. The road has been fully stocked for a daily line from here to Leavenworth, and with the stock I have with me, it will be complete to Denver in fifteen days.

The following is a table of distances on the Smoky Hill route, with the stations from Leavenworth to Denver:

Leavenworth to Junction City	Miles	Miles
" " Herseys	16	
" " * Solomon River	17	
" " * Salina	16	
" " Spring Creek	15	
" " * Ellsworth	14	196
" " Buffalo Creek	14	
" " * Lost Creek	15	
" " Fossil Creek	14	
" " * Forks Big Creek . . .	14	
" " Downer Station . . .	14	
" " **Ruthton	10	81
" " Blufton	11	
" " * Bridgens Raisin . . .	18	
" " Grannell Sprig	12	
" " Chalk Bluffs	13	
" " * Monuments	14	

(continued on page 4)

(Smoky Hill Route, continued from page 3)

"	"	Four Crossings	12	
"	"	**Eaton	11	91
"	"	Henshaw's Spr'gs .	13	
"	"	* Pond's Creek	11	
"	"	* Fitch's Meadows . .	14	
"	"	Blue Mound Cr'k . .	9	
"	"	* Cheyenne Wells . . .	13	
"	"	Eureka Creek	21	
"	"	* Dubois	13	
"	"	**Cornell Creek	11	105
"	"	Coon Creek	12	
"	"	* Hedingus Lake	18	
"	"	Big Bend Sandy. . . .	10	
"	"	* Reed's Springs	16	
"	"	Beaver Creek	10	66
"	"	**Bijon Basin	<u>12</u>	539
			78	
"	"	Beaver Creek		539
"	"	Box Eldor	10	
"	"	* Parkhurst	11	
"	"	Cherry Valley.	14	
"	"	Denver	14	<u>49</u>
		Total distance		598

The stations designated by one star are home station, and those by two stars cattle and home stations. At the home stations passengers procure their meals, and are always kept by a family. At the cattle stations trains change their cattle and drivers the same as horses and mules are changed on a mail and passenger line.

The cattle stations are selected with reference to the large quantities of hay that can be procured in their immediate neighborhoods. At all the cattle stations the amount of hay that can be procured is limitless, and along the whole route there is abundance of grass and watering places.

At fifteen of the stations named, there are large springs of water, varying from five to twenty feet in depth, and these springs, or pools formed from the springs, are filled with bass and other pan fish, sufficient to supply all the demands of the stations.

There is no alkali whatever on the route, and if all the sand (including the crossings of streams) was put together it would not reach five miles. The road bed itself is the best natural one I have ever seen, and I fail to do the Smoky Hill route justice when I say it is one hundred per cent superior to either the Platte or Arkansas routes in every respect. I have no doubt of the verification of my prediction, when I say that in twelve months from now there will not a wheel turn, destined for Colorado, New Mexico and Utah from St. Joseph and points south of it except by this route.

The Butterfield Overland Despatch Company are making arrangements to build a road from Pond's Creek on the Denver route, via Fort Lyon and the McFerren trail to Santa Fe, and thus save one hundred miles in distance over the route now traveled between Leavenworth and New Mexico. The Company will also during the coming season, extend their Denver route via Berthoud's pass, over the Rock Mountain range--the Middle Park, down White, and up the Uinta rivers, through Provo Canon to Fort Crittenden and thence to Salt Lake City.

This route, the Smoky Hill, is the natural track for the Pacific Railroad and the only one in which the people of Kansas, Missouri, and the Middle and Central States are particularly interested.

The Company are erecting the most substantial kind of buildings for station, and also bridges over all the streams and ravines. The stations are frame, made of yellow pine lumber, one-and-a-half stories high, thirty-two by sixteen feet in front, and kitchen attached, eighteen by twenty feet. The stabling is made of the same material and substantiability. These will all be completed by the first of November, proximo. The stations and bridges from the Saline west are all framed in the Pineries near Parkhurst station and in close proximity to the saw mills of Colorado and shipped down the road by the returning

(continued on page 5)

(Smoky Hill Route continued from page 4)

freight trains of the Company, and are erected at less expense per station than the miserable hovels erected on the Platte route.

As Leavenworth City has always felt a deep interest in the opening of the Smoky Hill route, and has contributed liberally towards it, I have thus given you, as the official head of the city, as briefly as I could, the position of the route now, and Butterfield's Overland Despatch in relation to it. You will please furnish the *Times Bulletin* and CONSERVATIVE this letter for publication, and very much oblige,

Yours truly, ISAAC E. EATON.

(Article from the Leavenworth Daily Conservative, Friday morning, September 22, 1865. ed.)

(Association News continued from page 1)

which will be an engraved representation of a Butterfield coach. The other side will have a longer description: Butterfield's Overland Despatch Smoky Hill Trail Established 1865 Atchison, Kansas by David A. Butterfield The B.O.D. followed the Smoky Hill Trail, the Shortest and most dangerous trail from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountain gold fields Butterfield's first supply wagons left Atchison in July 1865 and his first stagecoach to Denver departed Atchison in September 1865 B.O.D. headquarters was 100 yards south of this site on the river Erected by Smoky Hill Trail Association 2015

The size of the marker will be approximately 36" high x 12" wide x 4' tall and will look similar to the Lewis and Clark marker that is nearby (see photo showing SmHTA Vice President Kay Homewood next to Lewis and Clark marker). The dedication of the memorial is scheduled to take place at 3:30 p.m. on October 16, 2015, during our annual conference.



TRAIL TREASURES

Memoirs of Captain Richard Watkins Musgrove, First U.S. Volunteer Infantry, on the Smoky Hill Trail, 1865-1866: Part VII

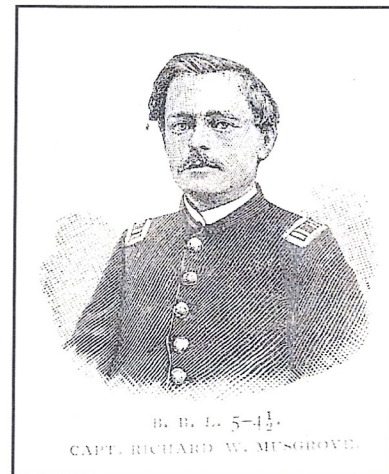
(Musgrove continues his account of life along the Smoky Hill Trail):

Indian Tribes

The Indians of the plains with whom we came in contact were the Cheyennes, Sioux, Apaches, Kiowas and Arapahoes. The Sioux were a part of the great Sioux nation of the North. These Indians roamed the vast plains between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains, and were leagued together for war purposes against the Comanches of the South. These tribes were at war with whites, and when the region of the Arkansas river was invaded they were with all other tribes of the plains and mountains. There was also a band of Indians, said to contain two hundred fifty lodges of from eight to ten each, known as the Keoxa or Cut race, composed of renegades from all the other tribes of the plains. These ranged mostly in the Cheyenne country.

At the time I was on the plains the chief of the Northern Cheyennes was White Crow. The chief of the Southern band had been Grey Eagle till June, 1865, when he was killed at Platte Bridge and was succeeded by his brother, Spotted Wolf. The Man Afraid of His Horses was war chief of all the Sioux of the Arkansas and the Powder river country, while his son, Ta-Sungy-Ko-Ku-Pa or Son of the Man Afraid of His Horses was the war chief of the Ogalalah Sioux; of the Kiowa, or Cut race, Dog Valley was chief; of the Kiowa, Setank was chief; of the Comanches, White Buffalo; of the Southern band of Arapahoes, Left Hand and Single Eye were chiefs; and of the Northern band,

(continued on page 6)



(Trail Treasures continued from page 5)

Wolf Moccasin and White Wolf were chiefs; and of the Smoky Hill Apaches, Broken Nag was chief.

The Apaches, which formerly were a large and formidable tribe, were reduced to less than a hundred lodges. In 1856 the smallpox made fearful ravages among them, and threatened their extermination. The smallpox has been a great enemy to all the tribes of the plains.

Its appearance caused consternation among them. They did not know how to avoid infection, or care for the sick, and once an Indian was stricken, he was deserted and left to die alone on the prairie. The same may be said of cholera and the measles, though not to the same extent.

All the Indians of the plains are nomadic. They remain

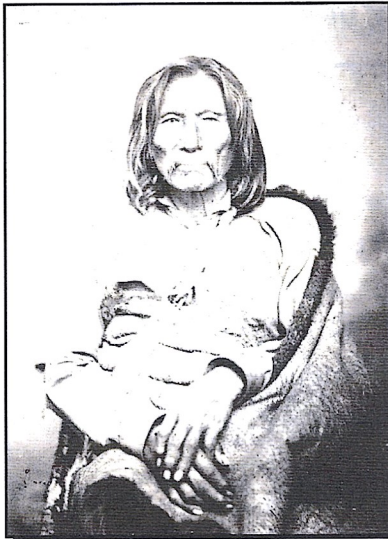
desired. A fire is built when needed in the center, and the smoke, when it passes out at all, disappears through a small hole in the top. This fire is used for cooking and heating purposes in cold weather, but the cooking is done outside in warm weather. The Indians sleep or recline in a circle around the fire. The home life inside the tepees is but little above that of cattle.

These tepees are put up or taken down in a few minutes by the squaws. In traveling the large ends of the tepee poles are lashed to the sides of the ponies, and the small ends left to drag on the ground. On the ponies' backs and on these poles are placed the papooses, the tent robes and other belongings of the Indian encampment.

These Indians, physically, are a superb race of men, almost a race of giants. In Africa there is a race of men called the Wolofs, which average over six feet in height (1.730 meters), said to be the largest race on earth. The Cheyenne Indians of the plains come next with an average height of nearly six feet, and to the casual observer there is but little difference in height between this and the other tribes. These Indians by nature and training are capable of great endurance — a marvel to the white man.

While the Indian is really nomadic, abiding in no locality long at a time, yet his migrations are and have been confined to a limited territory, and no race of people have shown a stronger love of country than they. Their removal from one section of the country to another has been a fruitful cause of decimation by

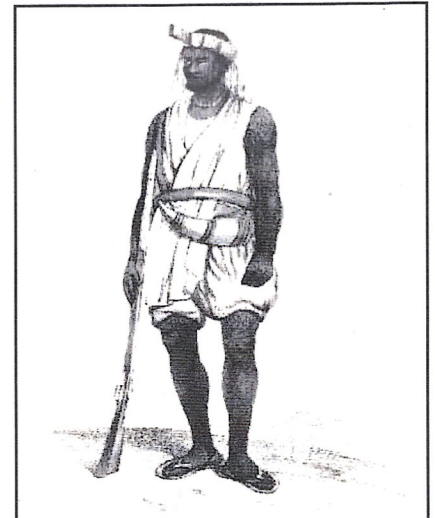
(continued on page 7)



Satank also known as Sitting Bear, 1870 (William S. Soule, PD)



Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses, 1884 (John K. Hillers, PD)



Portrait of a Wolof warrior in war costume in mid 19th Century (Anne Raffanel, PD)

in one locality only as long as convenience or necessity requires. Their homes are tepees or lodges. These are made of long poles, fastened together at the top, spread out in a circle to the width of fifteen feet, more or less, on the ground, and covered with robes, with a place left for a door, which may be closed with a blanket when

(Trail Treasures continued from page 6)

homesickness and climatic changes to which they were unaccustomed.

Indian Chiefs

All tribes have, or are supposed to have, three or more chiefs — the war chief, the village chief, and the medicine man. First is the war chief — the man who is generally known and recognized by the outside world as the chief of a tribe or nation, for he is the leader of his tribe in war and in council. This man by the force of his character may be a Little Crow, a Black Hawk, or a Sitting Bull, and controls not only his immediate tribe, but brings a nation under his control like Passaconaway of the Pennacooks.

A warrior must be a born leader of men to long occupy the position of war chief at the head of a tribe of Indians that have existed and does now exist on the plains or among the mountains of the West.

The village chief is generally or always one of the old men of the tribe, one who is too old to engage in war. His most responsible duty seemed to be to care for the village, or tribe, while the able bodied men were on the war path. In times of peace he probably had duties to perform, but his position seemed to be one chiefly of honor or distinction because of his record as a warrior, but one of his duties was to decide the question of the moving of the village to new locations.

The Medicine Man is the third chief. He also holds his position by the force of his character — his ability to correctly prophesy, his success in healing the sick and his valor in war. The famous Indian doctor, skilled in the knowledge of the curative value of herbs, is known in story, but among the Indians of the plains he is a myth. When the women of a lodge cannot cure a case of sickness by the use of common herbs, of which they have some knowledge, they set up a series of howls among themselves. This failing, the

Medicine Man comes to their assistance. He summons all the women of the village and they join in a greater howl, sing incantations, and beat the tom-toms over the head of the sufferer, and sometimes, in spite of this treatment, the sufferer recovers. This treatment is sometimes varied by a treatment that may have some virtue, viz.: burying the affected one in a trench, previously heated by a fire, with only his head exposed, thus giving him a sweat. If he survives this cooking process, he is sometimes cured of a cold or rheumatism.

The presence of the Medicine chief is required with every war party, and he must prove his immunity to harm by being a leader in action, and if his medicine fails, he is likely to be deposed and another given his position. He is also a semi-priest or comes as near a spiritual leader as is known among the savages of the plains. Perhaps it would be more proper to call him an oracle. Sometimes this man has such power that even the arrows that his squaws make (for he is allowed two wives) and that he sells have such wonderful power, that there is great competition to possess them, and he grows rich in ponies and blankets by their sale.

The Indians of the plains have no written language, and the number of their spoken words is very limited, for the reason that a few words will cover the full scope of ordinary conversation or intercourse. With any people words are used to express ideas or convey facts, and so the Indian, having but few ideas to express, (has need of but few words. To illustrate, there is no word in their language to correspond to the word virtue in the English because such a trait is unknown among their men or women. The word would as appropriately apply to the buffalo of the plains as to them.

Probably no other word is so extensively used or has such varied meaning as the word "medicine." Its use as applied to remedies for the sick is of small importance as compared with its use in many other directions. An omen for good or evil 'is good or bad medicine as the case may be. If about to engage in war

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Remember the Smoky Hill Trail

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(Trail Treasurers continued from page 7)

or the hunt, the Indian "makes medicine" to ascertain what the result will be. Indeed, making medicine is an every-day affair for the Indian.

Indian "Medicine"

"What is it to make medicine?" is asked. This question is not so easily answered. As a partial answer, it may be said the Indian is a very superstitious being. He believes in the existence of a good spirit and a bad spirit, who are constantly at war in their efforts to obtain mastery over him. If he succeeds in accomplishing his desires, it is because he is assisted by the good spirit; if he fails, it is because the bad spirit is in the ascendancy at the time. To propitiate the spirits or learn how to read their desires or designs, every warrior has a method of his own that is known only to himself, and this is called his "medicine." Every young man before becoming a warrior in his tribe, retires to some lonely spot, and spends days or even a week in solitude, fasting and undergoing bodily

discomfort and privations, seeking to know what shall be his medicine through life. Constantly dwelling day and night on the problem until exhausted by hunger, and the prey of his own benighted mind, he falls into a trance and is then told what shall be his "medicine." Usually it is the mixing of two or three ingredients, like water and ashes or pulverized bone, or two or three kinds of sand, or something else that can be done quickly and secretly, but whatever it is, his "medicine" is never revealed to his nearest friend. In making medicine he thinks he can divine what the near future has in store for him, and so he never engages in a hunt or does anything of importance without first making "medicine" to determine what the result will be.

To be under the influence of the good spirit is not to be influenced to do right, but to be assisted to do what he wants to do, if it is to steal or even to commit the most atrocious crimes. All success or good luck is attributed to good medicine.

Musgrove's account continues in the next issue. 