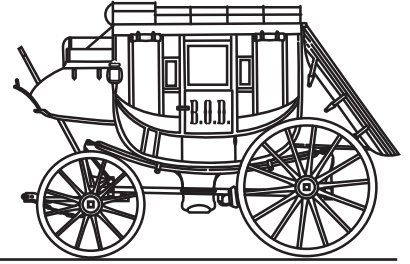


OVERLAND DESPATCH



Volume XV No. III

Fall 2023

Remember the Smoky Hill Trail



ALONG THE TRAIL... WITH JIM

After the summer we have just been through, this fall weather is a real treat. Hopefully it won't be snowing anytime soon, at least until after 23 October.

Yes, the conference schedule is included in this mailing. *So, let's talk about that!*

The Trego County Historical Society Museums volunteers, under the direction of Marjean Deines, have done a fabulous job of preparing for our conference, The Friday tour, on a "party bus" (I think that may have been Mike's idea) will be most comfortable, but we left the party out of the contract. Sorry! We have added a "Meet and Greet" that starts right after the tour on Friday, and we have invited the community to join us. Several collections will be on display. This is a good time to enjoy your fellow members, meet our speakers and maybe make a new friend.

We've got a great bunch of speakers, some are new members and even one that started all of this - welcome home Leo.

We need you to submit your registration soon. The motels can only offer you a discount if you call in your reservations...both Super 8 and Best Western have offered discounts...don't wait,

for there is a wedding planned for that weekend (Lodging info on page 11). Remember, you can register online on our web page. If you have problems, we can help you make it work. Looking forward to welcoming all of our new members, and all of you that haven't been able to make it for a while.

Director, Nancy Arendt, has put together a team to survey the BOD markers. If you are available she could use your help when she is working in your county. If you are aware of land owners, the location of markers or would just like to be helpful -- she would enjoy your help. Be looking for her announcements that she posts on our Facebook page, or email your contact information to smokyhilltrailassn@gmail.com and she will contact you.

Deb Miller and Dee Saddler have also had good success fundraising for this cause and making our name known far and wide.

Thanks to all three of you for a job well done.

*Looking forward to seeing everybody in Wakeeney!
It's going to be fun.*

Jim



Jim Mayhew, President
Smoky Hill Trail Association

SMOKY HILL TRAIL ASSOCIATION 2023 CONFERENCE



If you're anxious to learn about the 2023 Conference... turn to **Page 8!**

DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF TREGO COUNTY

Mail-In Registration Form on **Page 5**
-OR- Register Online at
www.smokyhilltrail.com

Lodging info - **Page 11**

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the Trail.

Karen & Mel Madorin
WaKeeney, KS

Neil & Susan Unrein
Gorham, KS

Mark Serour
Ft. Collins, CO

Mike & Linda Stineman
Elk City, OK

Lynn Peters
Waverly, IA

Morgan & Monica Dreiling
Hays, KS

Jack Johnson
Kit Carson, CO

Edward Williamson
Houston, MO

Bill & Karen McCune
Plainville, KS

Robert Hastings
Watkins, CO

Bryce Walker
Sharon Springs, KS

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 historical 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 can be submitted to smokyhilltrailassn@gmail.com or mailed to the address below.

Submissions become the property of SHTA and may be edited or abridged at the editor's discretion. All rights reserved.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Association is open to all. Members receive the *OVERLAND DESPATCH* newsletter quarterly. Memberships are on the upcoming calendar year until December 31. Annual dues are:

- \$25.00 for Individual
- \$30.00 for Family / Living at same address
- \$40.00 for Institution / Nonprofit Organizations
- \$50.00 for Business
- \$100.00 for Patron (Support the Organization)
- \$500.00 Lifetime Membership*

* May be paid in quarterly installments during one or two years.

Membership fees may be paid through PayPal using email address: smokyhilltrailassn@gmail.com or mailed to the address below. Other donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Smoky Hill Trail Association
PO Box 978 / Hays, KS 67601

SHTA OFFICERS

President: Jim Mayhew, Abilene, KS
Vice President: Bob Andersen, Genoa, CO
Secretary: Mike Baughn, Brewster, KS
Treasurer: Marilyn Copeland, Quinter, KS

Directors:

Deb Miller, Towanda, KS
Nancy Arndt, Colby, KS
Marla Matkin, Hill City, KS
Mary Lattin, Hay, KS
Mary Andersen, Genoa, KS

Newsletter Editor: Tanner Mayhew, St. Joseph, MO

Gold Dust to Coins The Clark, Gruber & Co. Story

Milton E. Clark traveled with a party from Kentucky to Leavenworth in the early months of 1858. The group came to Leavenworth to colonize there. Milton's brother, Austin M. Clark, had already settled in Leavenworth, coming from Ripley, Brown County, Ohio, in 1857. After the brothers were together they embarked in the wholesale and retail grocery business on east Cherokee street.

The town of Leavenworth was expanding rapidly as it became a major provisions stopping point for immigrants headed west. With the discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountains, those traveling through the area increased exponentially. The brother's grocery business became very successful catering to the Pike's Peak bound gold seekers purchasing their last-minute provisions.

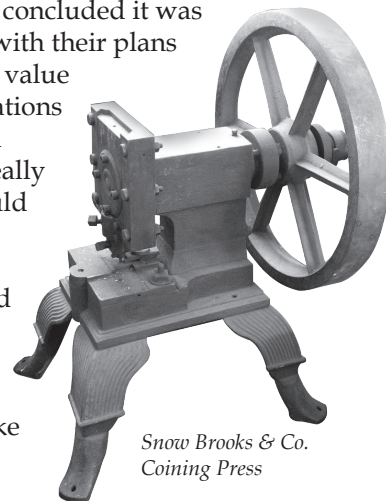
The success of their business drove the brothers to affiliate themselves with the firm of Stone and Co., located in the second National Bank of Leavenworth. It was one of the first institutions of Kansas at that time.

The Clark brothers established a partnership with Emanuel H. "Harry" Gruber. On March 8, 1859, together they opened a new bank under the name of Clark, Gruber & Co.

The banks of Leavenworth were the first access that the returning miners had to exchange their gold dust for coin. Clark, Gruber & Co. purchased dust and shipped it to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia to be coined. They quickly discovered that the 5% charge for freight and the 5% insurance rate was excessive and there had to be a better way to make it more profitable.

The firm conceived the idea to striking their own coins to cut costs. Uncertain of the laws pertaining to establishing a private mint they consulted with several of the best attorneys in the Kansas Territory. Their findings were that there were no explicit provision of the United States law forbidding private coinage. They also discovered private minting had been done in California ten years previously. They concluded it was legal and moved forward with their plans to coin full weight and full value pieces of regular denominations to be "above suspicion and deception" in any way. Ideally the location for a mint would be where the gold dust is most readily.

Milton E. Clark traveled to Philadelphia and New York in late 1859 to purchase the dies and machinery required to strike coins. A coining press was purchased from Snow, Brooks & Co. of Meriden, Connecticut.



Imagine the journey these coining presses made -- changing trains from Connecticut to the Missouri River -- ferried across -- loaded on a freight wagon -- rumbling across the plains to get to Denver!

In the spring 1860, Austin M. Clark and E. H. Gruber went to Denver to purchase land and to make preparations for a bank and mint. They bought lots at the northwest corner of McGaa and G streets (Market and Sixteenth streets today).



Bank and Mint Brick Building

L. L. Todd was employed as a cashier at Clark, Gruber & Co. in Leavenworth and was sent to Denver to supervise the construction of the two story brick building on the corner lots. Todd was previously a superintendent of the Chicago Atchison Bridge Company. The new brick building was built with glass windows was a "show-place" of the time. The interior was tastefully decorated and furnished. The machinery soon arrived in Denver and was installed in late spring.

On July 20, 1860, Clark, Gruber & Co. opened their bank and mint for business.

George W. McClure, an expert assayer and mechanic from Iowa, was put in charge of the minting department. Within a few days of opening they struck their first coins. The denominations were ten and twenty dollar pieces of pure gold equal to the weight of those of the United States coins. The coins were absence of alloy, making them solid gold and of greater value. The ten and twenty dollar denominations were the only ones struck in 1860.



1860 Twenty Dollar Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin

For the year of 1861, new dies were created with different designs and four denominations; \$2.50, \$5, \$10 and \$20 pieces. These coins would be alloyed with silver according to the United States value standard. The first minted 1860 solid gold coins were found to be wearing because of the metals softness. To keep to their "above suspicion and deception" standards and hold a higher value to protect the holder against loss by wear, the 1861 coins were given a silver alloy and with one percent more gold than the United States coins contained.




1861 Ten Dollar Clark, Gruber & Co. Gold Coin

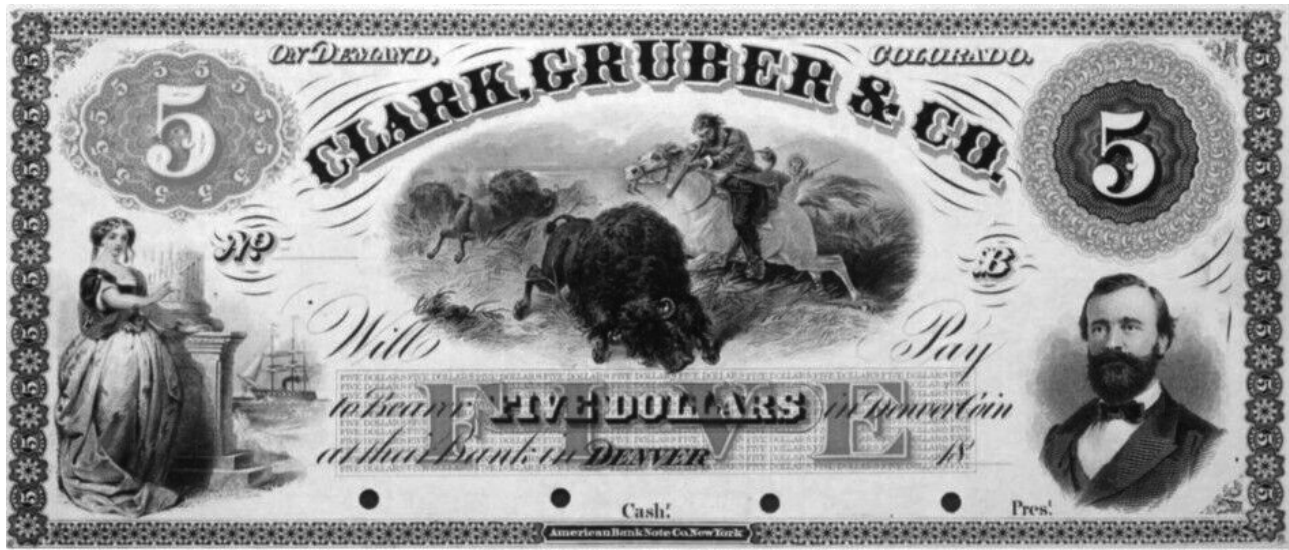
In less than two years, Clark, Gruber & Co. minted and put into circulation approximately \$3,000,000 worth of coinage. For a short time they did coin dust for brokers and miners and charged a five percent commission. They quickly discontinued this service to only coined their own purchases of gold bullion.

Clark, Gruber & Co. purchased gold dust and nuggets with coin, checks, issued certificates of deposit and used their own "demand note" paper script (example next page). This paper currency note was backed by gold and the company's reputation. These steel engraved demand notes were of five dollar denomination and payable in their coinage at the Denver bank.

During 1861, the first Territorial administration had discussions as to the propriety and legality of the coinage within the new Colorado government. During the summer of that year a movement was inaugurated to have the government establish a branch mint at Denver. The first Territorial convention of the Republican party was held at Golden, Colorado on July 2nd. Among the resolutions was one pledging the party's support to procure a public mint in Colorado. The firm of Clark, Gruber & Co., with knowledge of future minting problems, favored the proposition and supported it.

That following autumn, Hiram P. Bennet was elected as Colorado's first delegate in Congress. Austin M. Clark accompanied Mr. Bennet to Washington and met before the assembly of Congress. They brought the matter of a mint in Denver to the attention of Salmon P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, with a statement of what the firm had done in coining gold and provided him some sample coins. Chase sent the coins to the Director of the Mint in Philadelphia who reported them as being full weight, fineness and value. The Secretary reported to

Continued next page 



F.O.C. Darley vignettes were used on Clark, Gruber & Co. notes.

President Lincoln recommending that the existing coinage laws be amended to prohibit private coinage and that a mint be established in Denver. He also suggested that Clark, Gruber & Companies building and equipment be purchased as a branch mint of the United States.

Mr. Bennet's first service in Congress was the introduction of a bill which was in effect the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury concerning a mint at Denver. Because of the war-time turmoil, Mr. Bennet had difficulty getting his bill before the House for action. On April 16, 1862, the bill passed and became a law by the President's approval on April 21, 1862.

The transaction to purchase Clark, Gruber & Co., was delayed about a year. By an act approved March 3, 1863, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to purchase the property for \$25,000. This amount was the price that Clark, Gruber & Co. had agreed to sell. The transaction was made in April, 1863, and the government took possession. The enactment of a law forbidding private coinage wasn't passed until June 8th, 1864.

The Civil War Influence On Money

President Lincoln called Congress into a special session and they promptly passed an expanded tariff bill and a loan bill to raise revenue for the war. The Committee first addressed the issue of an income tax to fund the war. The Committee changed the direct taxes in the bill to income taxes. The income tax provision survived the Senate floor and the House to be signed into law. Treasury Secretary, Salmon Chase, refused to administer the new tax, hoping that loans and tariffs would be enough to support the war effort.

By 1862 it was apparent that government loans had not raised the revenue needed to fund the war effort. Also, the war hindered trade which decreasing many of the tariff revenues. State banks were refusing to buy government securities and citizens and banks began to hoard gold.

Secretary Chase made it known that he was open to any ideas to end the financial crisis. The House Ways and Means Committee adopted a proposal to create the nation's first non-interest-bearing paper currency that would be "lawful money and legal tender in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States." Secretary Chase opposed the legislation, fearing that it would spark inflation and a rash of counterfeiting. Chase's efforts to defeat the bill divided the Finance Committee. Congress passed the measure, and President Lincoln signed it into law. The currency was called "greenback" because of its color, made its way into circulation.

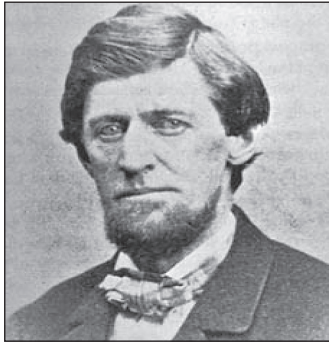
The changing times, the influence of the Federal greenbacks, the progression of miners leaving the gold fields to fight in the war, and the passing of the Bill for a federal mint in Denver changed operations for Clark, Gruber & Co. They did not coin much money in 1862. Instead of turning dust into coins they molded it into small bars. The ingots were stamped with the firm stamp, weight and cash value. These ingots were accepted at stamped value all over the world.

At this time, Clark, Cruber & Co., coins were abundant in Colorado. When the government took possession of the mint most of the three million dollars that were coined went back into the Government melting pots and were coined again in US currency. Some coins survived and are in museums and private numismatists collections.

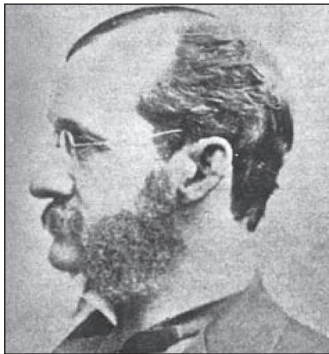
The firm's honor and integrity were never questioned in any of their operations. At the end of the firms minting operations, the engraved five dollar demand notes they used (shown above) commanded a premium in United States currency. These notes were redeemed at their face value and did not fluctuate as did the government greenbacks. They truly were gold notes having the same value as the gold traded for them. This presented an extraordinary circumstance of paper promises to pay, issued by Clark, Gruber & Co., of being of greater value than the paper promises issued by the Nation.



Austin M. Clark



Milton E. Clark



Emanuel H. Gruber

A twist to the story...

Editor: In compiling this story, I ran into a conflict as to who actually presented the gold coin to the Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase (?) The following is an excerpt from an 1890's article from an interview with the old-time banker himself, E. H Gruber...

Late in 1862, Mr. Gruber traveled to Washington on business. While there he was introduced to the Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase. Chase questioned Gruber about imitating United States coins. Gruber acknowledged he was and responded by pulling out of his pocket some \$20 gold pieces. Chase examined the coins carefully and replaced one with a US greenback and cautioned Gruber that he was probably violating the law and the matter would be submitted to the Attorney General for his decision.



DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF TREGO COUNTY

WaKeeney, Kansas ☀ October 20, 21, & 22

REGISTRATION

Mail-in Registration Deadline: October 9, 2023

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone (Cell / Home / Work) Circle One: _____

Conference and Membership Fees

Bus Tour: \$25.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____

1:00 to 4:00 Friday, Oct. 20th

Conference: \$50 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday, Oct. 21 & Sunday, Oct. 22

Banquet Meal: \$25 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Saturday, Oct. 21 at 6:00

2024 Membership:

Individual: \$25.00 per person X _____ = \$ _____

Family: \$30.00 a family at same address \$ _____

Institution / Nonprofit Organizations: \$40.00 \$ _____

Business: \$50.00 \$ _____

Patron (Support the Organization): \$100.00 \$ _____

Lifetime Membership*: \$500.00 \$ _____

* May be paid in quarterly installments during one or two years.

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

Mail completed form (or a copy) and payment before deadline to:

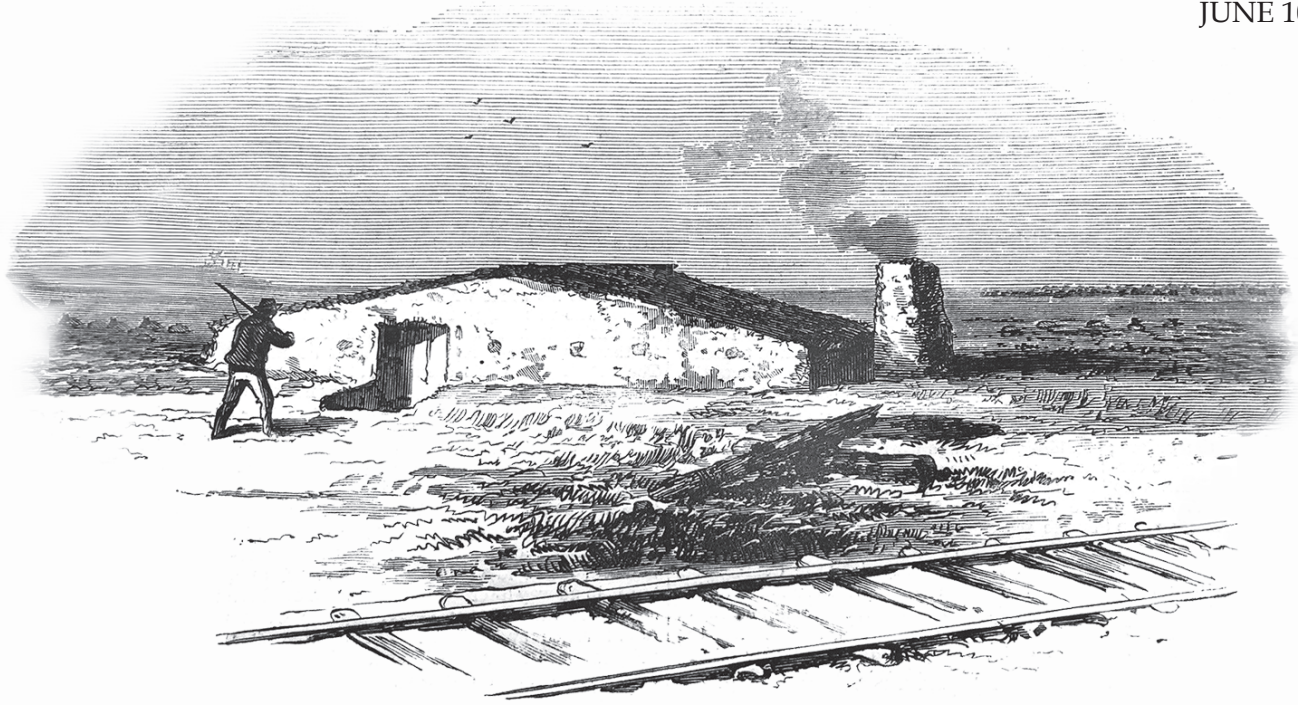
Smoky Hill Trail Association
PO Box 978
Hays, KS 67601

Questions: smokyhilltrailasn@gmail.com



REGISTER ONLINE ANYTIME:
www.smokyhilltrail.com

You can pay with Credit Card or PayPal!



THE FAR WEST. -- EXTERIOR COVERING OF A DUG-OUT ON THE LINE OF THE KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY.

A DUG-OUT ON THE PLAINS

By Thomas W. Knox

The work of constructing the Kansas Pacific Railway was prosecuted under many disadvantages. The Indians were annoying, and a great many laborers were killed by them. They attacked the parties engaged in cutting wood for ties, and were equally troublesome to the surveyors, graders and track-layers. Frequently the men were obliged to labor with arms at hand, and sometimes the day would be equally divided between railway-building and Indian-fighting. At many points small forts were erected, where the marksmen could defend themselves and hold out against the attacking parties of red men. While the road was being pushed from the eastern boundary of Colorado to Denver, hardly a day passed without an encounter with the Indians. But all in vain were the efforts of the aboriginal to prevent the construction of the railway. The work was carried through with the perseverance that characterized American financiers, and in less time than many of its most sanguine friends expected. Since the completion there have been fewer troubles with the savages than before, and some of the employees of the company complain that their life on the Plains is becoming monotonous in consequence of the cessation of fighting.

On much of the territory between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains there is a great scarcity of timber; the writer has traveled two or three hundred miles in a single journey westward, without seeing growing wood in sufficient quantities to make a respectable hog pen. Where there is so little wood, it is necessary to find a substitute that will serve for building purposes. Stone is not to be

had, and the only thing available and abundant is the soil of the Plains. There is a great deal of dirt lying around loose, and when a man wants it for the construction of forts and houses, he can take it without asking anybody's permission.

Along the Kansas Pacific Railway the traveler can see many houses that are almost entirely built of this material. The most common form is that of a dug-out, or sunken dwelling -- the roof being only two or three feet above the ground. A sort of cellar is made, and the earth is piled outside so as to extend the walls to the required height. Steps are cut for a doorway, and the walls are pierced with holes for the double purpose of admitting light and facilitating the handling of rifles in interview with hostile Indians. There is little or no wood besides the rafters which support the roof of dirt. The chimney is made of sods, that have a way of drying and crumbling to pieces, and occasionally dropping into the cooking utensils in the fireplace. They give a gritty flavor to soups and roast meats that is not always relished by the occupants of the house, but it is positively asserted that the dirt does not in any way interfere with their digestion.

The interior of a dug-out is not altogether palatial. The floor is of solid earth, and the furniture consists of a rude table, one or two benches, and possibly, a cot bed. Sometimes there is a luxury in the shape of a few bundles of straw: but this is not always attainable, and the occupants content themselves with a blanket on the solid earth. In pleasant weather, the open air is generally preferred as a sleeping place, since there is less dampness, more space, and no probability that the roof will fall in upon you. The taste for the beautiful is sometimes

consulted by the occupants, who hang cheap pictures on the walls, and add decoration of elk horns and buffalo heads. The presence of lovely woman is not frequent in these rude dwellings; the men generally act as their own chambermaids, washerwomen, and seamstresses, while one of their number officiates as cook. There is but one room, and it serves as parlor, kitchen, dressing room, dormitory, store room, and reception saloon. Coffee pot, frying pan, and stew pan, are the principal articles used in the kitchen; and I have known a resident of a dug-out who used to get up a dinner with no other cooking utensils than a frying pan and a battered tin cup of enormous proportions. But I will do him the credit to say that I never enjoyed a meal better than the one he served. I had prepared for it by an involuntary fast of nearly thirty hours, and was ready to eat anything short of a leather boot or buffalo robe.

There is a great scarcity of water in many parts of the Plains. Whiskey forms a popular substitute for drinking purposes, but it is generally expensive and quite as generally a bad quality. I have seen whiskey there that ought to burn a hole through the back of a sea turtle, but the old frontiersmen used to drink it with a readiness like that of a bulldog swallowing a beefsteak. When water is

scarce, frequent bathing is not fashionable, and the inhabitants do not wash their clothing very often. Dirt is a substitute for water in cleaning plates, knives, forks, spoons and other tableware, and it makes a better substitute than one might suppose. To clean a knife, you must stick it in the ground a few times, and it will shine like the nose of a Fourth Ward politician; forks and spoons are to be treated in the same way, and as for plates and cusps, they must be rubbed with dry dirt and wisps of grass until all the grease is removed, and they are as clean as though they had been submitted to the tongue of a hungry mastiff or the dishcloth of a faithful Bridget.

Many fights have occurred between the Indians and the inhabitants of these half underground houses, but the facilities of defense are so good that the Indians generally come off second best. Where the ground is level or gently undulating, the Indians would be exposed to a severe fire, while they could do little harm to the defenders. In one of these contests a party of half a dozen men repulsed about two hundred Indians. They killed and wounded about twenty of the assailants, while not a single white man was injured, and the whole work was performed one morning before breakfast, though it is proper to say that the initial meal of the day was performed an hour later than usual.



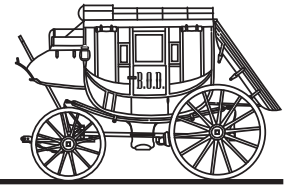
THE FAR WEST. -- INTERIOR COVERING OF A DUG-OUT ON THE LINE OF THE KANSAS PACIFIC RAILWAY.



DISCOVERING THE TREASURES OF TREGO COUNTY

Established 1867 - Organized 1879

WaKeeney, Kansas ☀ October 20, 21, & 22

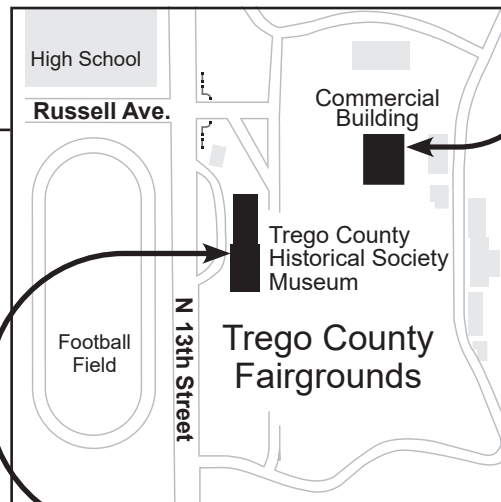


Friday, October 20

1:00 - Tour Leaves
Meet at Commercial Building
4:00 - Tour Returns
4pm -Till Meet & Greet
Commercial Building
You can register at this time.

Friday: Tour / Meet & Greet Saturday: Banquet...

...held at the Commercial Building



Saturday and Sunday presentations held at the Museum

Saturday, October 21

8:30 - 9:30 **Garret Seuser**
"A Window Into Time"
9:30 - 10:30 **Wes Brown**
"The Cartographic Roots of Colorado"
10:30 - 12:00 **Wade Davis**
"The French on the Smoky Hill in the 18th Century"

Lunch Break - not provided

1:15- 2:15 **Leo Oliva**
"Railroaded: The Industry that Shaped Kansas"

2:15 - 3:15 **Byron Strom**
"Silas Stillman Soule: From Coal Creek to Sand Creek"

3:15 - 4:15 - Board Meeting

Banquet

6:00 at the Commercial Building
Banquet presentation by **Chris Herriage**
"Todays Archeology, Yesterdays Trail"

Saturday Morning Presentations



GARRETT SEUSER presents:

A Window Into Time

Irwin and Henry Faris came to Kansas and settled along the Clear Creek crossing of the Fort Riley-Fort Larned Military Road in September

of 1860. There they built a ranch and survived by hunting buffalo on the prairie. Since the trail was the primary military route from Fort Riley to the Santa Fe Trail, and then later part of the Smoky Hill Trail, it saw a lot of traffic in a short span of time as the railroad was completed by the end of 1867.

For the last three years, Garrett and crew have been meticulously researching, recovering, and preserving the artifacts found on the private property where the Faris ranch stood. Each artifact highlights a unique glimpse into a window of the lives of soldiers and pioneers who passed through the area during and after the Civil War. Garrett will be going over the history of the site as well as the artifacts found. He will also detail the research and preservation methods used to ensure that these artifacts are preserved and not forgotten. Each item found was meticulously and carefully GPS recorded and preserved for the historical record.

GARRETT'S BIO

Garrett Seuser is an avocational archaeologist as well as a middle and high school history teacher in Kansas. He graduated from Emporia State University in 2020 with his B.S.E. and was voted as the Undergraduate Student of the Year in the entire Social Sciences department. He was also named as the 2023 Educator of the Year by the Oregon-California Trails Association. A lifelong Kansan, he has spent his free time researching and discovering hidden sites all across the state and Midwest using his metal detector. He has been successfully detecting for 10 years and has found thousands of artifacts, the locations of

Sunday, October 22

8:30 - 9:00 - Coffee
9:00 - 10:00 **Don Rowilson**
"The History of Trego County Agriculture: Before and After the Sod Busters"
10:00 - 11:00 **Wade Davis**
"Smoky Hill Thompson: A Life Wild and Perilous"
11:00 - 11:30 - Closing Details
Happy Trails

over 200 house sites, country school houses, and rural churches. The last few years, he has shifted his main focus to searching for military and emigrant campsites along the westward trails and has located and documented more than thirty with many more on the way. Garrett has also been featured on the Relics Radio podcast and the Great Outdoors Detecting YouTube channel.

Garrett enjoys teaching his students about history using the artifacts he finds. Stressing good ethics, he obtains landowners permission before searching and keeps very detailed location records of every artifacts discovered.



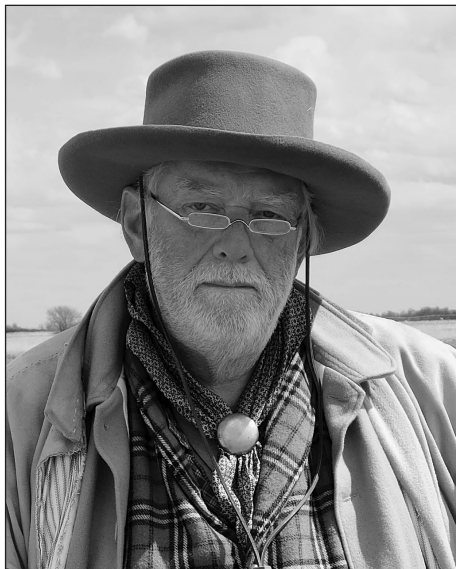
WES BROWN *presents:*

The Cartographic Roots of Colorado

This presentation provides a history of the discovery and exploration of the place that became Colorado and how this information is revealed on maps of the interior-west from 1540 to 1861 (when Colorado became a Territory). The Natives, Spanish, French, Mexicans, American military explorers, and gold seekers each had a key role to play.

WES'S BIO

Wes Brown has been a collector of old maps for forty years with special interest in the exploration and settlement of the West and Colorado from the 16th through 20th centuries. He has been involved with many national and international map societies and is an active speaker and author about maps.



DONALD WADE DAVIS *presents:*

The French on the Smoky Hill in the 18th Century

Donald will address the history of Fort De Cavagnial, which was built in Kansas in 1744. He will elaborate about the explorations to the west by the French over the next 20 years that the Fort was in existence. Donald, being a material culture junkie, will give his presentation dressed in period appropriate clothing. Q&A at end of presentation!

WADE'S BIO

Donald Wade Davis is an independent author and scholar who lives in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Wade was born and raised in Southern California but has spent most of his adult life in the Midwest states of Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas. Earning his undergraduate degree in Great Plains Studies from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and a master's degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Wade has been an avid student of the American West, especially here in the Plains region. Wade's interests are Historic Reenacting and Living History. He portrays a fur trader at Nebraska's historic Fort Atkinson and takes part in many Living History events around the country. He is an active member of the American Mountain Men, and the Coalition of Historical Trekkers. Wade has worked as a Coal Miner, a Cowboy, a Labor

Advocate and a Therapist over his career. When not writing or at a Living History event, Wade can be found at home with his wife Pam, playing guitar or spending time with their blended family of 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

Saturday Afternoon Presentations



LEO E. OLIVA *presents:*

Railroaded: The Industry that Shaped Kansas

"Railroaded: The Industry that Shaped Kansas," examines the legacy of railroads and how they affected society, the importance of technology in our history, the role of railroad expansion in the creation of Kansas Territory, and how railroads helped shape the economy, settlement patterns, immigration, removal of Indigenous people from the state, communication, and the development of towns. It includes the story of the first railroad to build across Kansas, the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division (later Kansas Pacific Railway) that replaced the Smoky Hill Trail.

LEO'S BIO

Leo E. Oliva earned a Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Denver and taught history at Fort Hays State University. His research interest is 19th-century Kansas, including Indigenous nations, trails, forts, transportation, immigration, and settlement. He is fascinated with railroads and how they shaped Kansas.

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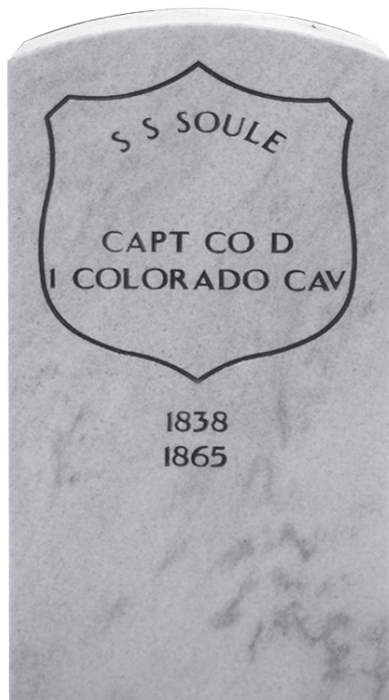


Capt. Silas Stillman Soule

BYRON STROM *presents:*

Silas Stillman Soule: From Coal Creek to Sand Creek

From Pilgrim stock, born in Maine, the Soule family migrated to Kansas in 1854 and 1855 and settled south of Lawrence, Kansas, hoping to vote to make Kansas a free state. Silas was 17 when the family come, and participated in the Underground Railroad, and was in the Kansas Militia. He was part of the Doy rescue



Riverside Cemetery
Denver, Colorado

of 1859, and was among Kansas men who attempted the rescue of two of John Brown’s men from the Charlestown, Virginia, jail in February of 1860. Later that year he went to “Pike’s Peak” to look for gold, and finally joined what became the First Colorado Cavalry. Late in 1864 he was present at the massacre of 250 men, women and children of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes at Sand Creek, in southeast Colorado. As commander of a company of troops, he refused to participate in the massacre. He later testified against his commander, and in the spring of 1865, was shot and killed by a soldier. For his stand against the killing of peaceful Indians, he is honored today by the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Silas was the brother of my Great Grandfather.

BYRON’S BIO

I was born in Lawrence, Kansas just after WWII. My mother’s heritage was of English immigrants in the 1600’s, and my father’s was of Swedish immigrants in the 1870’s. I grew up in South Dakota near the Badlands, and along the Missouri River. Before my senior year in high school, Dad was transferred to New Hampshire, where I graduated. I returned to South Dakota and earned a degree in chemistry from Sioux Falls College. In 1969, I was drafted into the army and spent 14 months in Vietnam as a cook and supply clerk. Returning, I received a master’s degree in analytical chemistry from Iowa State University, and spent 31 years as a chemistry teacher in a community college near Des Moines, Iowa. My wife, Becky, and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We have two daughters and 5 grandchildren, aged 9-14. I enjoy golf, family history and genealogy, archaeology, and baseball. I volunteer at the Iowa Genealogical Society and am on the advisory board of the Sand Creek Massacre Foundation.

**BOARD
MEETING**

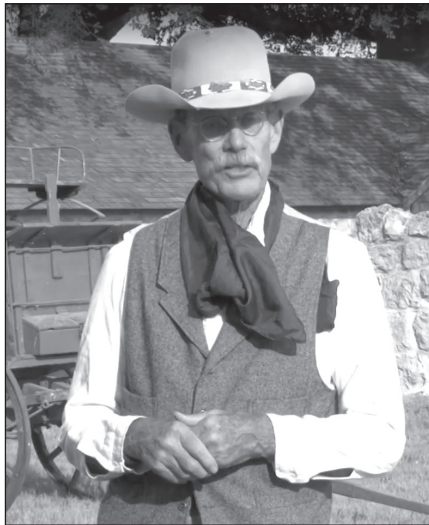


CHRIS HERRIAGE *presents:*

**Today’s Archeology,
Yesterday’s Trail**

CHRIS’S BIO

Chris Herriage received a Master of Arts in Anthropology/ Archaeology from Wichita State University in 2013 under Dr. Donald Blakeslee. While studying at WSU, Chris had the opportunity to serve as a graduate research assistant to Dr. Blakeslee working as a laboratory technician and fieldworker. Chris also had the opportunity to work with Dr. Donna Roper (KSU) on Upper Republican Phase sites at Red Willow Reservoir in Nebraska. After graduation, he spent the next seven years living abroad in Turkey, working as an English teacher in various language learning centers in Antioch, and at Kadir Has University and MEF University in Istanbul. Chris returned to Wichita in 2020, and took a position as Contract Archaeologist with the Kansas Historical Society in 2021 where he continues to work today. In addition to a passion for anthropology and archaeology, Chris is an accomplished drummer and has a love of traditional folk music from around the world. He also enjoys flint knapping, traditional crafts, and fly fishing.



DON ROWLISON presents:

The History of Trego County Agriculture: Before and After the Sod Busters

DON'S BIO

Don Rowlison is a Sheridan county resident and native, being born in Hoxie, Kansas. Don is a fourth generation cowboy in Kansas and he grew up with cowboys while his father operated a feed store. After attending school in Hoxie he went to Colby Community College and later to Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison. He transferred to Kansas State University in 1972 where he obtained a B.S. in Anthropology with an emphasis on Archeology. In 1973 he went to work for the Kansas State Historical Society as an archeologist.

In 1976 he received a Master's in Education from Kansas State and became a project archeologist for the KSHS until 1980 when he became the first State Public Archeologist for Kansas. Don has been the Cottonwood Ranch curator since 1985.

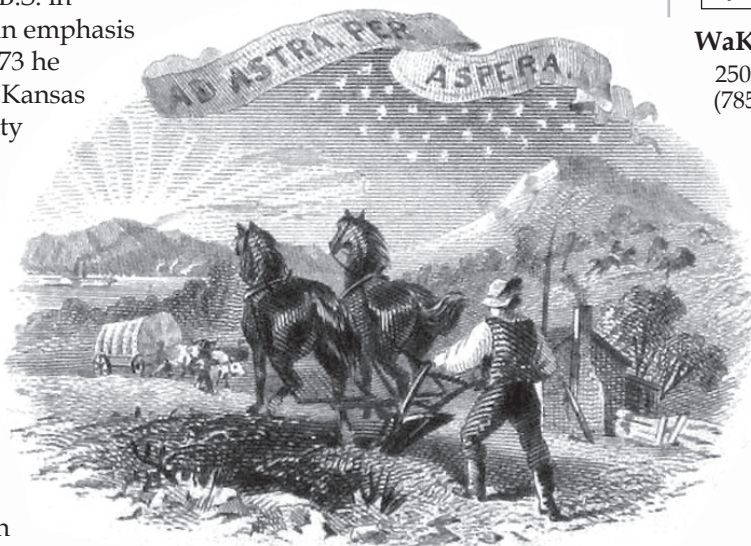


DONALD WADE DAVIS presents:

Smoky Hill Thompson: A Life Wild and Perilous

Wade will address the person of Smoky Hill Thompson, an old Mountain Man who came to Kansas in 1856, and made his living along the Smoky Hill trail as a wolfer, and later as a buffalo hunter. Wade will be dressed in period appropriate clothing and bring along plenty of items to view. Q&A to follow.

See WADE'S BIO on page 9



Closing Details . . . Happy Trails

WaKeeney / Trego County Lodging

1906 Garden-WaKeeney Cottage

510 Warren Ave, WaKeeney, Listed on airbnb
(785) 259-4538, TashaMalay@yahoo.com

Best Western Plus WaKeeney Inn & Suites

525 S 1st St, WaKeeney
(785) 743-2700; bestwestern.com

Special Rates available when you call for reservation.



Butterfield Trail Bunkhouse

23033 T Rd, WaKeeney
(785) 769-3194, butterfieldtrailbunkhouse.com

Collyer Lodge: Hunting and Family Getaway

704 Ainslie Ave, Collyer, KS
(530) 933-8225, vrbo.com/1509672

Country Barn Loft B&B

19065 280 Ave, WaKeeney
(785) 743-5662, countrybarnloftbandb.wixsite.com

Econo Lodge

705 S 2nd St, WaKeeney
(785) 743-5505, choicehotels.com

Kansas Kountry Inn

223 S 1st St, WaKeeney
(785) 743-2129, kansas-kountry-inn.business.site

Kirch Haus (Church House)

438 N Main, WaKeeney
(785) 650-1014

Our Cozy Farm House

319 N 6th St, WaKeeney, Listed on airbnb
(785) 769-4536, Cruedelrdh@gmail.com

Super 8

709 S 13th St, WaKeeney
(785) 743-6442, wyndhamhotels.com

Special Rates available when you call for reservations.

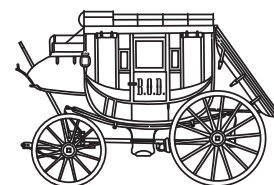


WaKeeney KOA

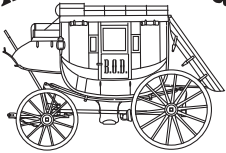
25027 S Interstate, WaKeeney
(785) 743-5612, koa.com



Trego County Historical Society Museum
www.tregohistorical.org



Smoky Hill Trail



ASSOCIATION

PO Box 978
Hays, KS 67601

Vicksburg Surrendered!

IT IS CONFIRMED!

The Leavenworth Times contains the following dispatch, which was received by Messrs. Clark, Gruber & Co. It is two hours later than the regular dispatches:

Vicksburg surrendered unconditionally July 4th --- 24,000 prisoners. (This is official.)



NOTICES

You can Register for the Conference & Renew Your Membership Online

www.smokyhilltrail.com



Questions, Ideas, Comments, Newsletter Articles

Email To: smokyhilltrailassn@gmail.com

Or Mail To: Smoky Hill Trail Association
PO Box 978 / Hays, KS 67601

Messrs. Jos. A. Fuller and Wm. H. Kendall, who left this place for the gold mines about a month ago returned on Tuesday last, completely cured of the "gold fever."

June 4, 1859



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