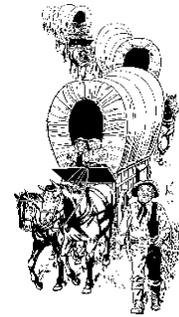


Trail Dust

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, Idaho Chapter
Vol. XXI Issue I Amy Ballard, Editor Spring 2009



Jim McGill hands over Trail Dust reins

by Amy Ballard

Photo from IOCTA archives



IOCTA members have enjoyed Jim McGill's editorship of the *Trail Dust* since December 2002. Sixty-two issues later, Jim has chosen to step down for personal reasons. Besides running the newsletter, Jim served as chapter president for five years and preservation officer for another five or six.

Jim and Patti, Nampa residents, have been tireless and generous supporters of trail preservation over the years. Their past projects include cooperating with the BLM to have the trail from Fort Hall to Mountain Home renamed the Jeffrey-Goodale Cutoff and rediscovering, mapping and marking Goodale's Cutoff from Eagle to Brownlee Ferry. Jim has also led numerous tours and taught college classes related to the Oregon-California trails.

Often, Jim and Patti's own trail-marking experiences provided colorful content and photos for the newsletter.

"We had a blast most of the time," Jim recently told the *Trail Dust*. "We heard the ghost wagons out there, shed tears at graves and the Utter sites, and took thousands of photos of the remaining trails."

Jim emphasized that the intangibles of trail preservation are what make the adventure satisfying and fun. "Nothing could begin to match the inner pleasures and intrinsic satisfactions we have had!" Jim said.

His book on Timothy Goodale is scheduled for April release.

From all of us in IOCTA, *thanks, Jim!*

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The IOCTA general membership meeting is April 25 in Hagerman!

Trail Dust Goes Green

With Jim stepping down as editor, Amy Ballard, a new member of the Board of Directors, takes over, assisted by VP-W Jerry Eichhorst.

We need your help to streamline the delivery process. To save time and resources, we ask you to help us switch to **paperless publishing**. IOCTA members will receive an e-mail link to the newsletter for free.

Of course, we will still send print copies of the *Trail Dust* to those who

specifically request them and keep their \$10 *Trail Dust* membership current.

Please send correspondence related to your **subscription** to IdahoOCTA@gmail.com.

Have you researched a trail portion in your area? Want to share your trail marking experiences? Have a glamour shot of IOCTA at work? This transition is the perfect time for you to send content to the *Trail Dust*. Send **contributions** to amy@amyballard.com. Submissions are subject to editing for length and/or content.

Thank you for your patience during the switch!

More on the end of Emeline Tremble's life

by James W. McGill

The most recent research has finally opened the last chapters of the life of Emeline Lucinda Tremble Whitman Fuller Calhoun. A search of the census records through 1930 (which was difficult because of Emeline's changing names at least every ten years) gives information that concluded her life. The last record discovered from Seminole County, Florida, places her death in 1932, at age 85. All information indicates that she never lost her mental capacity, and was alert and bright with her many tragic memories until the end.

When her autobiographical memories of her Utter Train experiences were republished in 1992, Glen Adams added some notes about her marriages. He also speculated about her later life. He recorded nothing past the year 1909, when her third husband, Andrew Calhoun, died in Manchester, Tennessee.

Some of the dates given by Adams when she lived in Rosalia, Washington, when her first husband, John Whitman,

was killed, and in Wisconsin where she lived with her second husband, Melvin Fuller, were incorrect. She had divorced Fuller after four years, when his older step children to her, of seven children, had evidently repeatedly "clashed with Emeline."



Emeline Tremble

In researching my book on Tim and Jennie Goodale, I found that Emeline and John Whitman were neighbors of the Goodales for four years in Tillamook County, Oregon, including the time of Goodale's murder in 1869. Emeline placed their move to Netarts, Oregon, in about 1865, the same year the Goodales went there from Baker County.

After Tim's death, Jennie went to Whatcom County, Washington, according to the 1870 Census, and later married Jacob Highbarger, the Whitmans having taken in the Indian children, John and Josephine Dishaw. Before that, the Goodales had taken in the children in Netarts. Josephine was the 17 year old girl Tim had been protecting against an evil old man who wanted to take her, and for which reason Tim was murdered by the same man. In

late 1870 the Whitmans moved to Eastern Oregon.

At age 16, Emeline married Whitman on November 12, 1863. She never had any children of her own by her three marriages. In December 1872, they took in Willie Riggs, who was only two weeks old. "He grew to be a sweet and good little fellow." He lived only six years and seven months, and another tragedy rocked Emeline's life upon his death August 22, 1879.

According to the 1880 census, John and Emeline moved to Rosalia, Washington. He was 37 and she 33. They had also taken in a six-year-old boy in Oregon in 1873, Frank Riggs, Willie's older brother.

John Whitman was killed in a train accident in 1886. The death of her husband of 23 years was the next tragedy of Emeline's painful life.

She moved back to Wisconsin, where the 1860 wagon train had come from, and later married Melvin Fuller. After four difficult years with his seven children, they were divorced. By the 1900 census, she was still in Wood County, Marshfield, Wisconsin, listed as Emmeline (sic) Fuller, age 53, a carpet weaver. She only had a boarder, Charley Budhan, age 35, living with her. Soon thereafter, she moved back to Rosalia.

In 1901, she married widower Andrew Calhoun in Rosalia. Andrew had children living there. Soon after 1906, they moved to Manchester, Tennessee, purchased a farm before he died in 1909. Their time together seems to have been quite a happy and contented time for Emeline.

In the 1910 census, Emeline was listed as "Mrs. E. Calhoun," still in Manchester, age 65 (sic), and living by herself. She was on her "home farm." Glen Adams speculated that after

Andrew's death she moved "to Mississippi or Florida where we lost track of her." He also wrote that she died in "about 1923 or '24."

The 1920 census of Manchester listed a "Lucinda Calhoun," age 72, widow, and is the first discovered use of Emeline's middle name on any record, other than her putting her middle initial, "L," on her book in 1892. All the other census information proved that this was the same Emeline, still in that city. The census was taken one month before her 73rd birthday, February 21, 1920.

This is surprising, given the death dates Adams recorded. The 1930 census in Lake Mary, Seminole County, Florida, listed Emeline Calhoun as living in the Seminole County Home for the Aged. Adams's guess that she may have gone to Florida was correct. She was described as a widowed inmate, age 83, first married at age 17 to John Whitman. Since she married on November 12, 1863, she would not actually have been 17 until the following February 21.

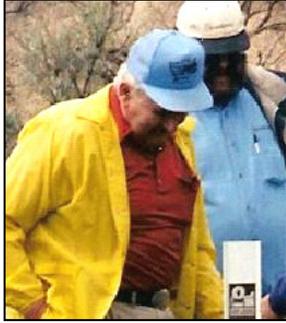
In the 1932 Death Index from Seminole County, "Emetine" (sic) Calhoun was listed on Death Certificate number 9773. Thus ended one of the most catastrophic lives, as far as death losses, of any emigrant trail-day pioneer.

Emeline wrote in 1892, "In 1861 I was converted to God and joined the Close Communion Baptist church. Since then I have found Jesus to be a 'friend that sticketh closer than a brother.'" About Willie Riggs' death in 1879, after she took him in and loved him for more than six years, she wrote, "It was hard to give him up but God knows best. I shall meet my dear ones some sweet day in that beautiful heaven beyond." She finished her book with a short verse:
*Far from a world of grief and sin;
With God eternally shut in.*

In Memory of Clair Ricketts, 1923-2009

by Jerry Eichhorst

Photos from IOCTA archives



IOCTA lost a dedicated founding member February 5, 2009, when Clair Ricketts passed away in Twin Falls.

Clair Ricketts helping mark the Northside Alternate

Clair and his wife, Virginia, were instrumental in organizing the Idaho chapter of OCTA in 1985 and have faithfully served the chapter since in numerous positions and on the Board of Directors. Only in the last year as advancing ill health slowed him down did Clair not attend meetings of the chapter. Clair will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Born and raised in the Magic Valley, Clair was a long-time supporter of the College of Southern Idaho. He donated his books and other materials to the school as part of a research collection. Clair enjoyed hunting, fishing, baseball, archeology, and of course, the Oregon Trail. He was an accomplished flint knapper and gave numerous demonstrations in area schools.

Through the years, Clair and Virginia led many expeditions along the Oregon Trail and shared their knowledge with many people. They worked with the BLM and Jerome County for many years to establish the North Rim Park in 2007. Consisting of 7200 acres, the park is located on the north side of the Snake River Canyon near Twin Falls and preserves some early roads in the area.

Several chapter members shared their memories of Clair:

When on a large club tour down in Nevada, Clair had a handyman jack which he loaned to Larry Jones to change a flat tire. Larry really never lived down that the state vehicle didn't have a jack. Clair just grinned and chuckled. He also supplied the shovel and used it on a snake which found its way into the evening campsite.



Marking the trail

On another tour out in the desert, after several vehicles had tire problems and one vehicle high centered he was heard to exclaim "guess we won't go out there by ourselves again, this could have been us and it is miles from nowhere."

Clair Ricketts was at heart always a rancher. An IOCTA meeting was scheduled for the headquarters building at City of Rocks in southern Idaho, with a tour of the area to follow. We all arrived at about the same time and visited in the parking lot waiting for meeting time. There at the edge of the parking lot by the fence stood a halogeton plant. (Halogeton is a noxious weed in Idaho.) When Clair saw it, he turned around and headed back to his pickup. Removing the always present – in a rancher's truck – shovel, Clair returned to remove the poisonous weed from the landscape.

Diaries Across Idaho

Cattle Rattle

by Jerry Eichhorst

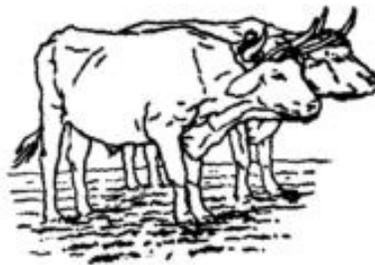
January 26 marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year – the Year of the Ox. It seems only fitting that this story should therefore be about oxen. As the emigrants worked their way across the emigrant roads, they moved from level plains of lush grasses with plenty of water to mountains and desert of alkali dust, sage brush, scattered dry grasses and poor water. Especially along the Snake River through Idaho, the emigrants and their animals suffered disease, starvation and death. Bodies and bones of dead cattle littered the trails through southern Idaho. As the oxen died off, the emigrants left their belongings and even entire wagons in order to continue westward. Numerous diarists commented on the number of dead oxen and the stench of the decaying bodies. Few hinted at having feelings for the animals, which were treated as working animals, not pets.

Elisha Brooks traveled through southeastern Idaho on the California Trail in 1852. Her reminiscence provides a graphic picture of the agony endured by the oxen as they pulled the wagons across the desert.

In this region

grasshoppers were so thick as to dim the light of the sun and make us shield our faces at times with handkerchiefs or veils. Every green thing was devoured, and before we escaped from this plague of locusts, two of our oxen starved to death, and we yoked up our two cows to take their places.

With a lean and worn out team at the tail end of the procession we entered the alkali tracts, only to find the pasturage eaten up, dried up, and burned up, and the August sun beating fiercely down on the brackish alkali pools from which we must often drink or die of thirst. Our cows soon lay down and yielded up the bovine ghost; then the death rattle was heard in the throats of two more of our faithful beasts; and we dragged ourselves on with four lean skeletons that actually rattled as with slow and



dragging step they wobbled about. It was with mingled feelings of pity for them and alarm for ourselves that we saw these dumb creatures, our only friends, roll up their

eyeballs and stretch out their limbs in death after faithfully drawing us so far on our way; and with heavy hearts we looked back on their poor old skeletons as we drove on and left them alone. It seemed a heartless, wicked thing to leave them a prey to the wolves.

We cast aside everything but the most absolute necessities; we exchanged our wagon for a lighter one that we found abandoned—and we had our choice of many—and wondered when the end would come and what that end would be.

Brooks, Elisha. *A Pioneer Mother of California*. San Francisco: Harr Wagner Publishing Co., 1922, page 26.

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**Donald Shannon book
featured in Magic
Valley newspaper**

The Jan. 18 issue of the *Times-News* featured an article entitled, “Idaho's trail of tears: One distant summer, Magic Valley erupted in violence.” Steve Crump’s story features Donald Shannon’s latest book, *Massacre Rocks and City of Rocks: 1862 Attacks on Emigrants Trains*. To read the article, paste the following into your browser and remove the spaces:
[http://www.magicvalley.com/
articles/2009/01/18/opinion/
centerpiece/153131.txt](http://www.magicvalley.com/articles/2009/01/18/opinion/centerpiece/153131.txt)