

# Trail Dust

Newsletter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, Idaho Chapter  
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*The next Trail Dust issue will be released March 15. Please send articles to Suzi Pengilly by March 1.*

## Fall Meeting and Fort Hall Area Tours

by Jerry Eichhorst

The newly opened Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center hosted the fall meeting of the Idaho chapter on Saturday, October 6. A beautiful facility in a location filled with historic sites drew 27 visitors and members from 4 states.

After a short chapter meeting, Darrell Shay, Shoshone-Bannock Director of Cultural Resources, spoke about the impact of the Oregon Trail on Indian tribes. Pressed into service the day before, Darrell gave an interesting and informative talk. Such a perspective seems to have been largely ignored in traditional writing and thinking about EuroAmerican emigration to the West. Thanks to Darrell for an enjoyable talk.



After lunch in the hotel grill, Darrell was pressed into service again as a stand-in guide to visit the site of the 19<sup>th</sup> century fur trade post Fort Hall. Blessed with such knowledgeable people as Jim Hardee and Jim Payne in attendance, the group was treated to a thorough history of the site. Thanks to both Jims for sharing their knowledge. The group then returned to the Fort Hall Tribal Museum which Rosemary Devinney graciously opened for our visit. After talking about the history of the museum and other interesting tribal perspectives, we viewed the excellent exhibits. Thanks to Rosemary as well.



Tour group at the monument marking the site of fur trade Fort Hall.

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## Fort Hall Tours, cont'd...



Jim Hardee



Jim Payne in front of the monument marking the site.

## Mt. Putnam Tour

***DUST!*** Deep, powdery, thick. That is one way to describe the outing taken Sunday, October 7, across the Oregon Trail through the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Awesome, beautiful, fun! would be another. Yes, the dust was so bad that 4WD was needed to navigate some of the powder stretches, and seeing the vehicle in front of you was often impossible. But the scenery and trail route were spectacular.



Leaving the Shoshone-Bannock Hotel and Event Center shortly after 9:00 a.m., the group headed east to traverse the Oregon Trail in reverse across the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. We turned off the main road and onto a dusty trail through The Narrows of Ross Fork, often traveling on the Oregon Trail, at other times beside it. Several miles of rough travel brought us to Twitchell Meadows and a lunch break at Big Spring.



Big Spring

Mentioned in many emigrant diaries, the crystal clear water flows from a small pool on the side of the mountain. A number of trout were swimming in the spring and quickly ate a grasshopper thrown on the surface.



Continuing eastward to the summit, the Teton Mountains were visible to the northeast, a distance of over 80 miles. After descending to the Portneuf River valley, we headed north and then east, following the Lander Road for several miles before returning to the hotel.



This was a great trip across a stretch of trail that is not readily accessible. My thanks to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe for allowing us access to the area and to Lyle Lambert who stepped in as an excellent guide.

## Message from the IOCTA President

*by Jerry Eichhorst*

I will remember 2012 as a year in which we were treated to a number of excellent outings across the state of Idaho. I want to thank all of the people who helped arrange and lead outings this year and shared their incredible knowledge.

Next year is already taking shape. I will be presenting classes in the Boise Community Education program on March 12 and 19. The spring meeting will be May 4 in Burley with a tour to the Milner Recreation Site and Caldron Linn after the meeting.

Wally Meyer has agreed to lead another tour on the next portion of the South Alternate. Gar Elison has agreed to lead a tour on the middle section of the Hudspeth Cutoff. Jim Hardee has offered to lead a tour to Pierre's Hole and share more information about early mountain men in eastern Idaho.

Combined with the OCTA convention in Oregon City, it should be another good year. I am looking forward to these activities already. Please let me know if you have other ideas for outings. Please check the website for details and the latest information on all upcoming activities ([www.IdahoOCTA.org](http://www.IdahoOCTA.org)).

I hope all of you have a safe and joyous Christmas season, and I hope to see you on the trail in the spring.

Welcome to IOCTA's newest members.  
Pam Demo - Boise  
James R Fazio - Moscow  
Christopher Smith - Boise



## **Cattle to Laramie: A Little-known Backwards Use of the Goodale Trail for Cattle Droving**

**(with a Wilson component)**

by *Bill Wilson*

Most of us have heard of the cattle drives from Texas to Kansas and points west. But did you know that a large percentage of the cattle in Wyoming came from eastern Oregon and Washington?

"Although there were several herds of cattle brought to Wyoming from Oregon prior to 1880, the real influx from the Northwest came after the treaty with the Sioux, that is to say, after the Indian wars of 1876 and 1877, and after the battle of the Little Big Horn...." [*Wyoming Cattle Trails; History of the Migration of Oregon-Raised Herds to Mid-Western Markets*, by John K. Rollinson & E. A. Brininstool. Caxton Printers, c1948, page 23. This is probably the definitive book on this phenomenon]. Oregon cattlemen had a minimal market in the Northwest for their cattle---and Wyoming cattlemen had lots of range, a market in the East via the new railroad, and not enough cattle to supply the demand.

Perhaps the first herd to try this route was one in 1876 from the Grande Ronde Valley near LaGrande, Oregon [as related in: *William Ensley Jackson's Diary of a Cattle Drive from La Grande, Oregon to Cheyenn, Wyoming, in 1876*, by Jackson, William Emsley, Ye Galleon Press reprint, 1984]. A cursory reading of this booklet indicates that this trail herd primarily followed the old Oregon Trail. They crossed the Snake River near Farewell Bend, then crossed the Boise River somewhere near the present town of Caldwell, and stayed on the south side

of the Boise River to the east past Boise, following the Oregon Trail until it left Idaho into Wyoming.

Subsequent trail drives often followed the Goodale Trail route, after crossing the Snake River at Farewell Bend. One cowboy's story in *Wyoming Cattle Trails* (mentioned above) says that they trailed the herd in the foothills north and east of Boise to get by the city. Jerry Eichhorst has mentioned that there is an alternate route for Goodale's, leaving the Oregon Trail at Bowns Creek. But they might also have turned easterly at Souls Rest Creek or even on southeasterly at Ditto Creek.

A few small herds may have attempted the drive in the next couple of years. But by 1879, eastern Oregon was beginning to see the profit to be made from trail drives. (Keep in mind that 1879 was the year after the Bannock Indian War of 1878.) Some half-dozen herds left that year for the Laramie-Cheyenne area. And one of those herds was captained by a first cousin to my grandfather, Leonard William "Pete" Wilson. That first cousin's name was William H. Daughtrey.



Let me back up and explain this, as best I can. Many of you will remember the picture of my great, great grandparents,

John and Mahala (Scott) Wilson, which was at the beginning of my story of how my Wilsons came west to Oregon in 1851 [*Trail Dust*, May 2004, page 1.] That picture showed their first three children. Their fourth child was Olive Orilla Wilson.

In 1991, I discovered a lady in Springfield, Oregon, who was researching John and Mahala. I wrote to her, and she was a TREASURE TROVE!! She had many pictures that had come down through Orilla's line, plus some Wilson pictures (including the one of John, Mahala, and the three children). Her name was Betty R. Klein, and she was the widow of Orilla's great grandson, Robert Klein.



Olive Orilla Wilson Daughtrey

She explained that Orilla had married Nathaniel Daughtrey in 1857. Her first child was William H. Daughtrey, born on March 11, 1859. Her second was Alice Daughtrey, born in 1861. She subsequently had three more children, but these last three all perished in a span of about three months in early 1878 from diphtheria.

In explaining about all these descendants, Betty mentioned that William H. Daughtrey, at the age of 19, had taken a herd of cattle from eastern Oregon to Laramie, Wyoming. (Sounds a bit like an early Clint Eastwood, in the TV series, *Rawhide*, doesn't it?) Needless to say, I was a bit skeptical, but this info was not critical to my Wilson research, so I passed it by.



Daughtrey Family-- William on left in front row.

Several years later, after having learned a lot of information from the files of the *East Oregonian*, the Pendleton newspaper, I obtained the microfilm for it for 1879. The first thing I found was a letter, written by a member of William H. Daughtrey's crew, from a campsite on Camas Prairie, Idaho, telling how they were doing. This letter confirmed that Will Daughtrey was indeed the foreman. Checking his birthdate, I realized he had just turned 20 in March 1879, before leaving with the herd for Wyoming. Not

far enough off from being 19 to be significant. Here is the letter:

*The East Oregonian*, Saturday, August 16, 1879, page 3:

**Wm. Lee Heard From.** Soldier Creek, Big Camas Prairie, July 23, 1879. Mr. Jas. Turner. --Dear Sir:--We are now one hundred miles from Boise City, on Big Camas Prairie, a very pretty valley surrounded almost entirely by mountains and is plentifully watered. It is about sixty miles long, and if it was in "God's country" would be quite an acquisition to Umatilla county. Plenty of good grass and beautiful spring branches every three or four miles full of mountain trout. The boys are all well and in good spirits with nothing to mar their happiness except thought of the girls they left behind them.

"Press and Nick Nail are doing well and our young foreman, Wm. H. Daughtrey, is getting along highly, and bids fair to be the champion trail driver of the Western slope. It is gratifying to us to learn from people along the route that our cattle are looking much better than any herd of stock cattle that has passed this way. We are getting through so far with but small loss, and as the cattle are now well broken in I do not think we will lose any more. We have a few lame cattle, but as we are now driving slowly they are improving very fast.

"I will try and drop you a line or two at every convenient time. Your friend,  
WM. LEE"



William Daughtrey

In *Wyoming Cattle Trails* (previously mentioned), Appendix J, "Excerpts from the Cheyenne Daily Leader" is the following on page 336:

(February 25, 1881)

"Mr. W. P. Nail, the popular cattle drover from Oregon, came down from Rawlins yesterday. He has some stock in that country, and from letters from his brothers and friends in Oregon, we glean that stock is not doing well in that country. If the storms continue as bad as they have been in the former part of the winter, Oregon will lose 50 percent of its stock, especially cattle. This sad mishap will surely decrease the Oregon drive this year."

(W. P. Nail, must surely be "Press" Nail, mentioned in William Lee's letter above, and for whom William H. Daughtrey worked as their foreman.) Betty Klein told me that William H. Daughtrey continued to drive herds of cattle to Laramie for several years after that first herd in 1879.

Further into the *East Oregonian* appears another mention of Daughtrey (page 3 of the 29 December 1879 issue):

"Nick Nail and young Daughtrey returned last week from a trip East looking fat and hearty. They inform us that Pres Nail was left at Ogden sick, and will be on in a short time. Pres sold his cattle to good advantage and all seem well pleased with their trip."

.....  
As mentioned above, William H. Daughtrey continued to drive trail herds of cattle to Laramie, Wyoming, for several years. On one of those trips, he met the daughter of a Laramie rancher, Charity Ann Farrell, who became his wife on January 1, 1883. They had three daughters, the first two born in Laramie, and the last after they moved back to the Pendleton, Oregon, area. Charity died February 7, 1892, and is buried in Pendleton. William H. Daughtrey married his second wife, Luella C. Rauch, a Boise resident, on October 1, 1894. They had two boys, William and George. In 1902, William H. Daughtrey began working for the Portland Union Stock Yards Company, and became President in 1909, serving until his retirement in 1919.



An older William Daughtrey, then President of Portland Union Stock Yards Company.

After retirement, he moved to a ranch near Stansfield, Oregon---back in the area where he began his stockman career--driving cattle to Laramie, when he was only 20 years old.

William H. Daughtrey died June 6, 1936.

## Hudspeth's Cutoff Tour

A joint outing of the Utah Crossroads and Idaho chapters was held on Saturday, September 29, to tour the last third of the Hudspeth's Cutoff. Meeting at Twin Springs north of Snowville, Utah, over 30 people joined tour leader Gar Elison for a day of dust and adventure.



Twin Springs

Traveling west from Twin Springs, the group had lunch near the site of the Indian attack on the Shepherd-Wright wagon train that killed several travelers.



Group photo overlooking canyon of Shepherd-Wright attack.



Continuing west, we followed the Hudspeth's Cutoff route to its junction with the California Trail near Malta. We enjoyed beautiful scenery, lots of excellent trail remnants, and an informative leader. Gar has agreed to lead a tour of the middle third of the Hudspeth's Cutoff for another joint outing next year. Thanks Gar.



Gar Elison pointing out the Hudspeth's Cutoff route on distant hills.

He promises to lead a tour next summer continuing west from where we left off. Thanks, Wally, for a great outing!



Terry Heslin of the BLM with the trail marker he installed.

## South Alternate Tour

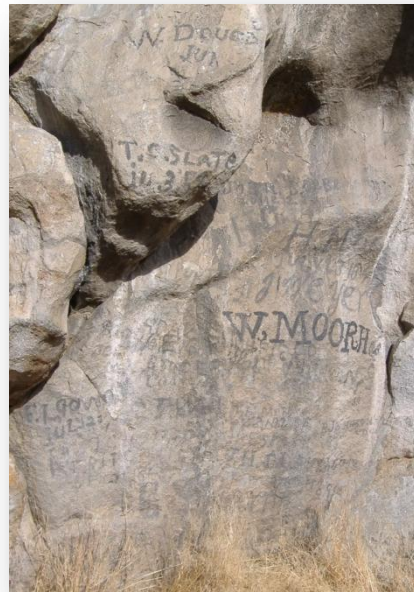
Wally Meyer led a great tour of the South Alternate from Glens Ferry to C. J. Strike Reservoir on Saturday, September 8. Drawing upon many years of trails experience, Wally led us to the scattered remnants of the South Alternate which still remain in this section.



Tour guide Wally Meyer.

## City of Rocks National Reserve turns 25--Soon!

**Save the date!** The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of City of Rocks National Reserve will be held on September 14, 2013. A schedule of events for that day will be posted in *Trail Dust* as soon as available.





# *Diaries Across Idaho*

by Jerry Eichhorst

## Fort Hall

Nathaniel J. Wyeth lost the opportunity to provide goods for the annual trapper rendezvous held at Ham's Fork on the Green River in 1834 because he arrived too late. Proceeding west to the upper Snake River valley, Wyeth selected a site on the southeast side of the river to build a trading post in mid-July 1834. The trading post was named Fort Hall after Henry Hall, a financial backer of the expedition, and originally built of cottonwood logs. Fort Hall became a major trading post on the Oregon Trail and was mentioned in most diary accounts that followed this route. Traffic dwindled as travelers began to take different and often shorter routes west until Fort Hall was abandoned by 1855.

Jason Lee, an American missionary, arrived at the site as construction was starting and stayed with Wyeth for 15 days. On July 27, 1834, Jason Lee held the first public worship service conducted by an American on the overland trail on waters flowing into the Pacific. The next day, Lee conducted a funeral service. Lee's account of his visit follows.

July 15.—Arrived at the place Captain W. had chosen to build his fort.

July 16.—Twelve men went out to procure and dry meat for the journey to Wallahwallah, there being no prospect of finding buffalo below [down the Snake].

July 26.—The men returned laden with meat.

Sunday, July 27.—By request of Mr. M'Kay, whose party had now arrived, we repaired to the grove for public worship, which was the first we had on the journey. Mr. M'Kay's company, consisting of Indians, half breeds, and Canadians, attended, and many of Capt. W's. company. All behaved with the utmost decorum. Being unwell I did not preach, but gave a short exhortation. After service two of Mr. M'Kay's Canadians went out for a horse race, and while they were at full speed another, attempting to run in with them, came in contact with one of the former, who was thrown from his horse and so injured that he knew nothing after and expired before morning.

July 28.—Read the funeral service to all of both companies, who appeared very solemn. O that they would remember this, that they would think on their latter end. Two Indians from Capt. M'Kay's

company came to our tent, and told us they wished to give us two horses. Suspecting that they intended to pursue the same course that the traders say they generally do, viz., give a horse and then require more than its value in goods, I told them if they gave us horses we had little to give them in return. They replied that they wanted nothing in return. Fearing they would be displeased, if we refused, and being in want of horses, I told them that I would gladly accept their favor, and accordingly they brought us two fine white horses. Captain M'Kay had told them that we were missionaries, and it was on this account that they presented the horses. In return I gave them a small present with which they seemed well pleased. Thus we were provided for just in time of need, for two of our horses were nearly worn out, and were able to do nothing after, and we were obliged to leave them in the prairie. The name of Capt. W's. fort is Fort Hall, its latitude 43° 14' north. The place is not pleasant, the sand being frequently driven about by the wind in as large quantities as snow in the east.

July 30.—Left Fort Hall with [Capt. Stewart and] Captain M'K., Captain W., not being yet ready, and we being under the necessity of pushing on with such rapidity that we should not be able to take our cows, we judged it best to leave his company.

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