



CASTOR CANADENSIS

Newsletter of the Jedediah Smith Society • University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

SUMMER 2017 CASTOR

The Namesake of Jedediah Strong Smith (Part 2)

BY LILLIAN A. SMITH

The Pacific Historian, Summer 1969, Vol 13, No. 3, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

In the way of men who have known too much of war's unbearable sights and sounds, Dier Smith had little to say of his experiences in the Civil War. We must depend on the records of others to learn what he did. He enlisted in Co. D of the Eighty-third Illinois Infantry Regiment in August of 1862.

"The regiment was organized at Monmouth, Ill. in August, 1862, by Cal. Abner C. Harding, and was sworn into service on August 21. Company D was enlisted in Mercer County with one-fourth of the members from the south west corner of Henry County. On Aug. 25 it proceeded by way of Burlington and St. Louis (down the Miss. River) to Cairo, Ill. and Sept. third moved to Fort Henry."²⁷

"The regiment did heavy guard duty the most of the first year and a half. The country along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers was infested with guerillas, and this regiment had almost daily skirmishes with them, some of them quite severe."²⁸

The history of the Eighty-third Ill. Infantry Regiment gives a detailed account of a battle at Fort Donelson on Feb. 3, 1863, and the use of a thirty-two lb. cannon. But it does not mention whether or not Company D took part in that particular battle in which the Eighty-third "won its fame as a fighting regiment."²⁹

"In the winter of 1864-5, the regiment went to Nashville on provost duty, and on June 30, 1865, they arrived at Chicago to disband. Of 1050 men who went to the field, 640 returned. Twelve men of Co. D had fallen in battle."³⁰

Among Dier's mementos kept from his army life is a picture of his commanding officer, Lt. Francis M. Sykes of Oxford.³¹ Another memento that he carried through his last year in the army and kept for the rest of his life was a letter that his mother wrote to him on March 10, 1864, telling him of the brief illness and death of his father, Israel, on March 2, 1864.

Late in February in 1864, Israel, now fifty-two years old, had made the two day trip by horses and sled to Camden to have grain ground at the mill.³² Even though he was probably protected by a buffalo coat, winter has hardly given an inch at that time of the year in western Illinois. There was snow on the ground adding its chilling sting to incessant wind. He returned without incident.

Emma wrote in her letter to Dier, "The next day he went out with horses and sled to get shock corn to feed. The stalks rolled and he fell off the sled. - Shaken by the fall, the next day he took to his bed with a chill and a pain in his side." Characteristically, "He did not complain much."

Then Emma relates the details of his illness, their efforts to save him, and their hopes until the day before he died that he would get well. But through the night of March first his cough worsened and the doctor, again summoned, spoke cheerfully but said that his lungs had nearly filled. Before noon of March second, the sixth day of his illness, Emma "thought he would not live out the day." The day wore on. While the thread that held his physical life weakened, his spirit shone out as a strong and steady light.

Emma wrote, "I asked if he was going to leave

Continued on page 2

us. He replied, 'Yes, I guess.' He then wanted to know where the boys were. Edwin was at the stone quarry. I sent for him. The children came around the bed. He told them to be good children and serve the Lord Jesus Christ."

"He said, 'Tell Dier to be a good boy and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and serve him.'"

"He wanted us to send for Amy. She got here about an hour before he died. He was perfectly calm and resigned. He asked where we would bury him, if we would bury him here. I asked if he wanted to be buried here. He said, 'Yes.' He wanted us to send for Mr. McAlister.³³ He died about eight o'clock in the evening without a struggle. His work was done. He was sensible to the last breath."

A month after Israel died, Edwin, who had turned twenty-one the previous December, left to join the Union forces. He arrived at Franklin, Tenn. immediately after a battle in time to help bury the dead. This left seventeen year old Eugene and his sisters to put in the spring crop.

Dier and Ed returned from the Civil War in the summer of 1865. Dier was partially deafened by the roar of cannonading, a condition that became progressively worse as he grew older.³⁴ They bought a farm joining that of their sister, Amy Babcock, in Section 28, less than a mile west of Emma's farm. Later, Emma sold her farm and lived with her daughters in a house in Viola. Amanda, who had become a second mother in the family, stayed in the home and cared for Emma in her final years. Irene became a teacher in Mercer County schools for seventeen years. Eugene went to Monmouth College and Rush Medical School. He practiced medicine in Viola with Dr. Frazier for five years.³⁵

We do not know when or why Dier Smith began to think of going to Nebraska. ³⁶ At any rate, by 1871 he was ready. Edwin bought out Dier's share of the farm they had owned jointly. Into his wagon he packed all his personal possessions, tools, food supplies, and his father's

gun, given to him by his mother because he was their eldest son. He would use this gun to provide much of the meat for the table of his own family in Nebraska. He hitched his team, Jack and Charley, to the wagon and with the company of a friend, William Crosby, of Viola, headed west. They probably crossed the Mississippi River on the ferry at Keithsburg, Ill. It may have been early spring before the spring thaws turned the road into axle deep mud.

Now a mature man, he was tall and slender with dark smooth hair and regular features. His deep set gray blue eyes, intense and alert, were his most arresting feature. He moved with a quick light step and preferred to "walk to town rather than hitch up the horses."

He bought 154 acres of land in Butler County, Nebraska, from the C, B, and Q railroad, located one and one-half miles south of the village of Ulysses, when that village was just beginning. He built a frame house, 16 by 24 ft. down by the bank of the Blue River that flowed through the east side of the farm. There was timber along the river and part of the farm was in wild prairie hay to be harvested in September. When the railroad was built he worked on the grade that went through his place.

The 1870's were lean years in Nebraska. Dier Smith would pit his stubborn will against blizzard, tornado, flood, grasshopper scourges, and drought. He would use all of his wits to plan and save far ahead for survival. The climate and farming problems were more severe than those faced in Illinois and Ohio by his father and grandfather. In 1873 when the Easter Blizzard came roaring and howling across the Great Plains hitting Dier's place with fury, he had to bring his precious horses into the house to save them. Also in that first decade the Blue River flooded his house and he had to move it farther back from the bank.

A strong characteristic of many of Israel and Emma Smith's descendants is a proud and stubborn will. It is often seen as a source of

strength in facing the challenges and temptations of life. But it should be said that this stubborn will sometimes shows itself as a weakness in an unreasoning and unrelenting self will. In Dier's makeup there was much of the strength, without which he might have failed in Nebraska, but also a little of the weakness.



Jedediah Strong Smith and his wife Laura Merrill

In 1873 Dier joined the Presbyterian Church at Salem school house, in Seward County. "He was deeply interested in the life and work of the church."³⁷

On August 18, 1875, Dier married Laura Merrill at Seward, Nebraska. Early in 1874 Laura Merrill had come to Nebraska from her home in Sydney Center, New York, at her mother's request, to help in the home of her sister, Sophia, wife of Esmond Gifford, at the time of the birth of Sophia's baby. The Giffords lived two miles southwest of Dier Smith's farm. Laura's talents were soon put to further use as a teacher at the Salem school where she was one of the earliest teachers in north Seward County.³⁸

Although Laura was sixteen years younger than her husband she was prepared by background and temperament to be an understanding wife. She was descended from another old New England

family.³⁹ Her family also had suffered much during the Civil War. One brother was killed in the war. Another brother was sent home from the war to recuperate from a "virulent fever". He recovered at home but two of his younger sisters contracted the disease from him and died. He went back into the army, this time to be wounded, before coming home to stay.⁴⁰

The 1880's brought better times. Dier and Laura's farm prospered, their family grew, and they built a comfortable house. Dier's orchard began to produce. He raised corn, oats, and wheat, a patch of buckwheat, and a little sorghum cane. He raised hogs and cows were kept for milking. Bees came into the hives he had built.⁴¹ It was a self-sufficient family farm providing Dier with the personal independence so essential to his nature.

Down on the southwest pasture of Dier's farm were two deep paths cut by the hooves of the horses of the Indians. When the Indians rode this way they stopped and asked Dier, "always a great hand to help others for no pay", to sharpen their knives and tools with his grind stone. Laura greatly feared the Indians. One day when she was baking bread the Indians smelled it while waiting for some tools to be finished and came to the door and asked for some bread, which, needless to say, she quickly shared.

Six children were born in this family, all at Ulysses; Cora Eliza in 1877, Arthur Merrill in 1880, Velma May in 1881, Lovisa Elizabeth in 1885, Leslie Newell in 1895, and Leland Jedediah in 1897.

Dier Smith was a member of Fransworth Post No. 73 of the GAR at Ulysses and he enjoyed the gatherings of this group for many years. When the Presbyterian Church at Salem Schoolhouse disbanded he became a charter member of the Congregational Church at Ulysses, in 1878. In his later years the deafness that began during the Civil War became almost total and he withdrew from church attendance and social gatherings that

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he had formerly enjoyed. His younger children were never able to talk to him in a normal way.

In 1900 he made his last visit to relatives in Illinois with his family.

Tragedy came to the family in 1905 with the death of their twenty-four year old daughter, Velma. She had been an active and ambitious rural school teacher when stricken with tuberculosis.

In letters written to Laura while she was visiting in New York, he reveals himself, in slightly formal style, as firmly the head of his household, a man tenderly devoted to his wife and “little ones”.

Dier Smith died on January 12, 1909, following a stroke. He was buried in the little cemetery south of Ulysses. The writer of his obituary says, “He was highly esteemed as an honorable and upright man, fair in all his business dealings.” His efforts to fulfill his dying father’s wish for him had been faithful.



Jedediah Strong Smith, 1840-1909,

All photos courtesy of the author

Dier Smith’s bright vision of hope in the new land of Nebraska became reality, for the seed that was cast from his hand fell on good soil and grew to fruition.

NOTES

27. History of Mercer and Henderson Counties p. 854
28. Ibid. p. 784
29. Ibid. pp. 854-856
30. Ibid. p. 856
31. The village of Oxford no longer exists. It was located about ten miles east of Dier’s home. It’s buildings were removed to the present village of New Windsor, Ill., when a branch of the C, B, and Q railroad came through Mercer County in 1869. The old Oxford cemetery is back in a field two miles south of New Windsor and east just over the county line in Henry County.
32. Camden Mills were located on Rock River at the site of the present town of Milan, Illinois.
33. Mr. McAlister was the minister of the United Presbyterian church at Viola. Israel and Emma had become members of this church in 1862 shortly after Dier joined the army. It has been organized in 1855 under the care of the Associate Reform Presbytery at Monmouth.
34. This probable cause of his deafness is suggested by Mrs. Alice French.
35. Dr. Eugene Smith was a pioneer physician at Burchard, Nebr., from 1882 until 1898. From there he went to Lawrence, Kansas, where he became Demonstrator of Anatomy at the University of Kansas. His only son, Dr. Frank Herron Smith, was a noted Methodist missionary to Japan and Korea for many years and was holder of the Order of the Rising Sun, Japan’s highest award for a foreigner.
After Emma’s death in 1885 and Libby’s in 1886, Amanda, Irene and Frances went to live at Burchard, Nebraska. Edwin and Amy stayed in Illinois.
36. Information about Dier Smith’s life as a Nebraska farmer has been given to this writer through letters and conversations with his sons, Leslie and Leland Smith.
37. Newspaper obituary of Jedediah Strong Smith
38. Newspaper obituary of Laura Merrill Smith
39. Laura Merrill was the youngest of twelve children of Calvin Leonard Merrill. His line of descent: Daniel⁷, Samuel⁶, Daniel⁵, Nathaniel⁴, John³ Nathaniel², Nathaniel¹. The emigrant ancestor, Nathaniel Merrill, landed in Ipswich, Mass. in 1634, the same year that Samuel Smith came to Watertown, Mass. (Information from Mrs. Leland Smith.)
40. Newspaper obituary of Laura Merrill.
41. Bee-keeping was a skill that the Smith had learned at Medina County, Ohio.

Editor's Note

From the *Castor* Editor - Ed Sieckert



Since last writing it has been a busy time working with the map committee that is producing a large wall map and an interactive digital map for our web site. The map is coming along well and nearing a final review by Jim Hardee in August. Our 61st JSS rendezvous meeting was a great success at the Green River Rendezvous and Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming. Jim Smith did a great job in coordinating the meeting and introduction of Clint Gilchrest, Jim Hardee and Scott Walker all of Museum of the Mountain Man. Dr. Ned Eddins led a 2 day field trip to South Pass, Union Pass and other fur trade sites. By the time you read this the year will be half over and we now have over 100 members across the US and Canada. A Roster has been completed and mailed to all members.

CASTOR CANADENSIS NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The editor welcomes articles for publication. Please review the following guidelines:

1. Prospective authors should send their articles or questions to Ed Sieckert ed@sieckert.com
2. Submit in MS Word, double spaced with pages numbered.
3. End notes should be numbered consecutively.
4. Photographs, maps or illustrations should be sent as an attachment and not embedded into the article. They should also be numbered i.e. Fig 1. A separate list with Fig. No. should be attached with a short title of the photograph etc.
5. After receipt the article will be reviewed by a technical editor. Once this is completed the author will be notified and an approximate date for publication will be provided.
6. Please note the *Castor Canadensis* is not responsible for either the research or the opinions of the writer.

President's Message



Jedediah Smith had met his fate on the Cimarron River two years before the first Rendezvous was held on the upper Green River in 1833. But an intrepid group made our way to this year's Green River Rendezvous Days in Pinedale, Wyoming; and for the 61st Jedediah Smith Society Rendezvous on July 7th. We had a good visit with Clint Gilchrist, Director of the Museum of the Mountain Man; and Jim Hardee, Editor of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal. The Museum was the site for all of the great events: the lectures and presentations, the American Mountain Man Camp, the BBQs, and the Author's Reception for the Eleventh Issue of the Fur Trade Journal.

It's probably fair to assume that Jedediah's memory was invoked and his untimely demise commented on at that first Green River Rendezvous, and at the other five held in the valley between 1833 and the last one in 1840. For an example of those conversations might have gone, check out 'The Song of Jed Smith,' by John G. Neihardt. The setting for this epic poem is a chance reunion between three of Jedediah's comrades: Arthur Black, Robert Evans and another mountain man named 'The Squire' (I'm still not sure who he was exactly). It's an amazing, beautiful, lengthy poem, with these three survivors recalling their many difficult and dangerous journeys with Jed over a jug of 'Taos lightning.' It's well worth a read.

One can imagine Jed observing Dr. Marcus Whitman removing the 3 inch arrowhead from Jim Bridger's back and shoulder at the 1835 Green River (Siskeedee-Agie) Rendezvous. It would no doubt have reminded him of

President's Message - *continued*

his own troubles with the Native tribes and peoples he had encountered during his travels, and of the many men under his command who had perished along the way. And, I'm sure Jedediah would have been amazed to see the arrival of Narcisse Whitman and Eliza Spaulding at the 1836 Rendezvous on the Green.

In any case the valley of the Green River is indeed in the heart of Fur Trade Country in the Rockies. The Museum of the Mountain Man is truly a great institution dedicated to the Fur Trade Era. Each Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal begins with this preface: **"The Rocky Mountain fur trade era is defined as beginning in 1824 and ending in 1840. In March 1824 Jedediah Smith led a party of trappers into the Green River Valley, finding an abundance of beaver and few hostile Indians..."** It's a great partnership between our two organizations.

We're working on the 2018 Rendezvous right now. We're going to explore the final leg of Jed's 1826-27 Southwest Expedition. This will be out on the Utah-Nevada border in the Fall of 2018. Watch for further details and plan to join us.

Sincerely, Jim Smith jim@smithandmcmgowan.com

Events

61ST JEDEDIAH SMITH RENDEZVOUS

Museum of the Mountain Man
Pinedale, Wyoming, July 6-9

The Green River Rendezvous was a great opportunity to see Rendezvous Country, Landscape and meet new people and see what a Rendezvous was like. The first evening was a Museum of the Mountain Man Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal award reception presentation, social hour and Western Art and Wine Auction. Friday was the Jedediah Smith Society Member meeting opening with a welcome from Clint Gilchrest, Director, Museum of the Mountain Man and Jim Hardee, Editor of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal. Presentation of the Digital Map and what it will look like; Eager Beaver Awards, and open discussion with members. Friday and Saturday were presentations on the fur trade by the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal recipients. Excellent information and it gave each attendee an opportunity to learn and ask questions. The American Mountain Men Camp had numerous demonstrations including Beaver Trapping and Skinning, Spinning, Firearms, Trade goods, Camp fire stories, Clothing, and Knives and tools were on exhibit. The camp had tents, teepees, and lean to tents. Saturday was the Parade which went down Main Street. Bad Hand a Plains Indian Historian was a well-attended session. He is a Seminole Indian and is a Plains Indian Historian. His subjects were, Horses, food, guns, bow and arrow, headdress and clothing, teepees, religion and many topics. He had a great sense of humor and his ability to share the information made you want to listen to more of the sessions. Sunday was the Green River Pageant. It was a reenactment of the Rendezvous of the past. Six rendezvous were held in the area South of Pinedale, Wyoming during the fur trade years of 1824-1840. Indian encampment, Fur Trade wagons, Trading days, famous people such as Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, Jedediah Smith, Jim Bridger and other paraded in front of the grandstand. I interviewed Don Stroud who portrayed Jedediah Smith and will send him some of our information about the Society and the Castor.

Field Trip The Monday & Tuesday field trip headed by Dr. Ned Eddins, JSS member, fur trade author and historian. We toured South Pass, South Pass City and Atlantic City, Mormon Hand Cart Memorial, Union Pass, and Trappers Point. It was a great time as we learned about the history as well as seeing the historical

Events - continued

site. Great job Dr. Eddins, and thanks for sharing your boots on the ground experience and history.

The photographs of the events share the excitement of the 5 day Rendezvous.

The Museum of the Mountain Man and the community should feel very proud of this Rendezvous.



Wind River Range



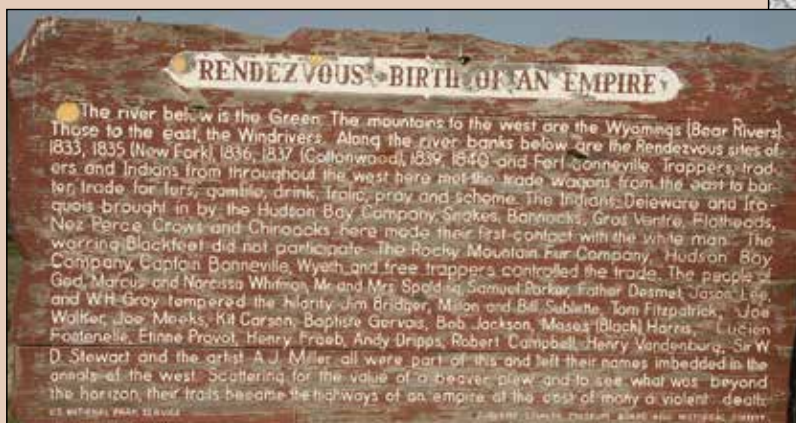
Green River



Green River Rendezvous



Green River Rendezvous Sites



Green River Rendezvous Participants



Marcus and Narcissa Whitman
Early Missionaries

Events - *continued*



Jebediah Smith Society Meeting



Museum of the Mountain Men



Jim Smith leading the meeting



Clint Gilchrest, Mark Walker, Jim Hardee



Hugh Glass Exhibit, MMM



Dr. James Hansen, Symposium Speaker

Events - *continued*



Encampment of the American
Mountain Men Museum Grounds



Bad Hand,
Plains Indian Historian



Fur Trapper and gear,
bronze



Jim Smith and Milton von Damm



Linda Turner, Salt Lake member
and Don Smith



Green River Rendezvous Parade



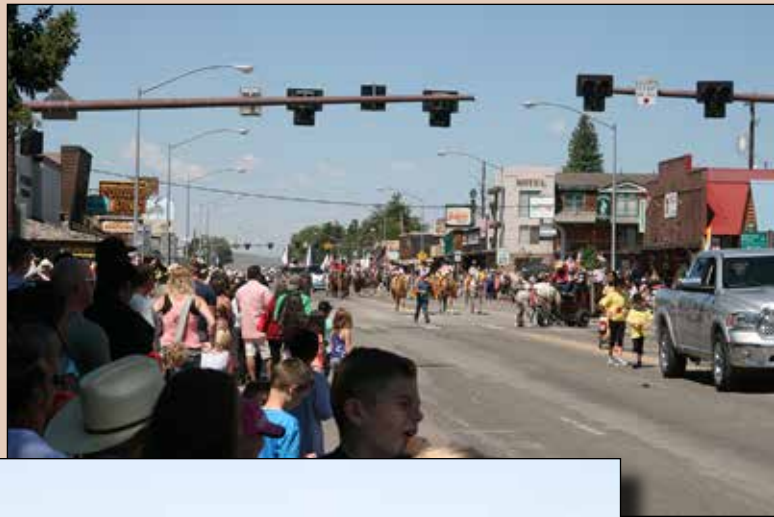
Fur trade items

Events - *continued*

Down the Parade Route



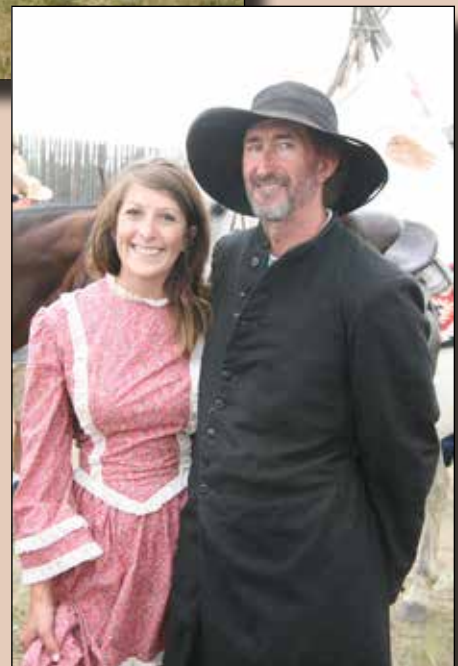
Fur Trapper in the Parade



Pageant- Rendezvous Reenactment



Horse and Travois



Marcus and Narcissa Whitman

Events - *continued*



Trading time



Jedediah Smith
portrayed by
Dan Stroud



Rocky Mountain Fur Co. St. Louis Wagon

The Oregon Trail

The Fur Trade

The demand for beaver pelts in the early 1800s led to the exploration and eventual settlement of the American West. South Pass was part of a major thoroughfare through the Rockies and its discovery is significant to the era known as the fur trade.

South Pass was first crossed by white men in 1812. The Astorians,

a small party of American Fur Company trappers led by Robert Stuart, used it as they traveled east with dispatches for company owner, John Jacob Astor. Even though Stuart noted South Pass in his diary and word of his journey was printed in a Missouri newspaper, it would be another decade before white men "rediscovered" it.

For Jedediah Smith and other mountain men working the fur trade, the rugged Wind River Range in front of you was a barrier between them and the beaver-rich Green River Valley further west. Failing to negotiate these mountains through Union Pass further north, Smith and his men finally reached the Green River by traversing the southern end of the range at this gradual incline. Traveling west with supplies in 1825, Ashley initiated the Rendezvous, an annual event lasting until approximately 1840 when the demand for beaver played out.

The Fur Trade-South Pass

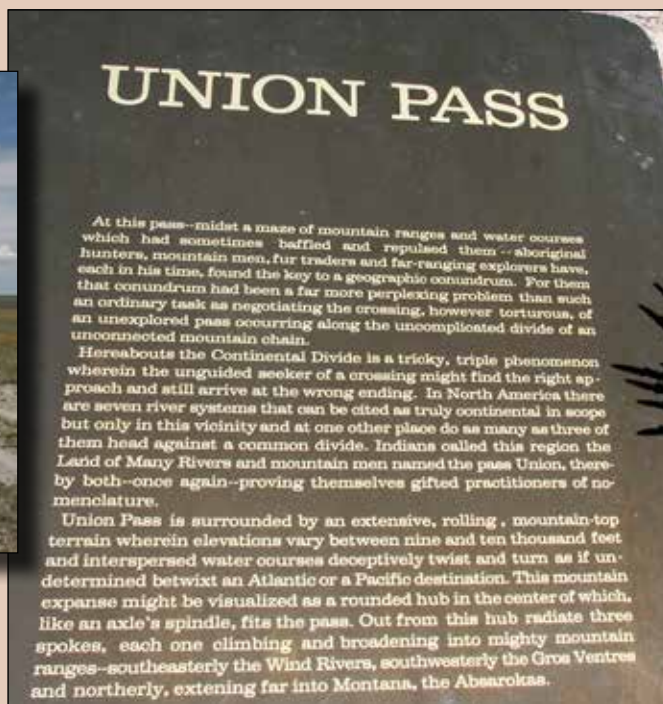
Events - continued



Oregon Trail/ South Pass in distance



Dr. Ned Eddins, Field Tour Leader



Union Pass



Mike Beehler, Dr. Ned Eddins,
Sheri Wysong,
Kathy Sieckert, Milton von
Damm /South Pass



Field Tour Discussing Union Pass



Sheri Wysong - 2018 Rendezvous Leader

2018 RENDEZVOUS

The 2018 Rendezvous will be held in September 2018 to see some of Jed Smith's Southwest Expedition through Utah. Sheri Wysong of Delta, Utah and JSS digital mapping specialist will guide the trip. More to follow in the next issue.

Jedediah Smith Map Development

A group six JSS map specialists will work on a digital map of Jedediah Smith's explorations during the fur trade period. Ed Sieckert, coordinator, Jim Hardee, Technical Review editor, Dr. Ned Eddins and Albert Eddins Montana, Wyoming, St Louis to Wyoming, Kansas and the Mojave area. Joe Molter, California, James Auld, Oregon, Washington; Sheri Wysong, Utah & Nevada. Milton von dam and Wayne Knauf are the financial advisors. It will be interactive on the JSS web site for researchers, students, and the public. The map team is getting closer to finalizing the interactive portion of the map.

New Member

Please welcome our new member to the Society. We welcome you to our events and participation in various committees. If you like to write articles please see the guidelines under the editor column.

Josie Smith

Chico, CA

Eager Beaver Awards

The 2017 Eager Beaver Awards were presented to:



Ed Sieckert for his tireless efforts to reorganize and revitalize the Jedediah Smith Society. As well as for his excellent work at the University of the Pacific and as Editor of *Castor Canadensis*.



Wayne Knauf for his efforts to improve the relationship between Jedediah Smith Society and University of the Pacific. And to Wayne and Pat Knauf for the hospitality of their home and hearth they extended graciously to the Society in 2014-2017.

Committee Position

Events Director

We have a new position "Events Director" which will plan, execute the Rendezvous each year. Planning the event, obtaining speakers, coordinating lunch if needed, program bulletins are part of the position. If you have an interest/experience in this area please contact Jim Smith, President at (jim@smithandmcgowan.com) You do not necessarily need to live in California.

Archives Corner



Holt- Atherton Special Collections University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA

A Tribute to **Maurice S. Sullivan (1893 to 1935)** **THE JEDEDIAH SMITH JOURNAL**

Ed Sieckert, MS

I became interested in the life of Maurice Sullivan while working as a volunteer map archivist at the University of Pacific (UOP), Holt Atherton Special Collections. After reading the major portions of the Maurice Sullivan Collection I felt it would be good to bring this man and his important research discovery to the group.

Maurice Sullivan came west to San Bernardino from New Jersey in the early 1920's to find a more healthy climate. He went to work as a writer for the *San Bernardino Sun* newspaper, then became a news editor. Charles Horn, newspaper reporter in Redlands, chronicled Maurice Sullivan's life "Maurice was one of the finest men I have ever known and he possessed one of the best minds I have ever encountered." "He was interested in the fur trade and it led him to one of the most outstanding of Mountain Men, Jedediah S. Smith. He was instantly attracted because of the integrity he found in Smith; this struck a harmonious note with Sullivan's own integrity." He put in a great deal of time, as one Smith record led to another, in digging deeper into Smith's life. ¹

L. Burr Belden city editor of the same newspaper gave an address to the 1957 Jedediah Smith Society Rendezvous. Belden said "through friends in St. Louis he learned of the supposed existence of Jedediah Smith's own journal and despite strained circumstances, made a trip to find out. He returned with the journal. Sullivan became a man with one cause." ² His extensive research is documented in all the letters he wrote to various Smith relatives. J. Ernest Smith of Eagle Pass, Texas a relative of Benjamin Green Paddock Smith (a brother of Jedediah) was that one person who held the lost journal. He was able to obtain a photo static copy of this journal and later the original journal. The photo copy of this journal resides in The Register of Maurice Sullivan Collection on Jedediah Smith MS 19 at UOP. His first book *The Travels of Jedediah Smith, A documentary Outline, Including His Journal* was published by Santa Ana Junior College Fine Arts Press in 1934. He went on to write the first Jedediah Smith biography entitled *Jedediah Smith Trader and Trailbreaker*. He died before it was completed. Notes and annotations were completed by Rufus Rockwell Wilson and published in 1936. According to Mr. Belden "Mrs. Sullivan was left in the middle of the depression with almost no resources. She had literally slaved to keep Maury in food and medicines. A sick man, he had foolishly cancelled his life insurance. Helen Sullivan's mind broke under the strain and she died at the Patton State Hospital, San Bernardino, California."

The rest of the story....

What happened to the original journal? The journal was purchased in 1934 from Mrs. Neary Sullivan by US Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico and Dr. Leland Case, a news paper editor. Senator Anderson was an alumnus of Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota. It was presented to the friends of the Middle Border, Mitchell, South Dakota pending the building of a museum on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University at Mitchell, It remained in the possession of one of the trustees of Friends of the Middle Border ³. Dr. Case was to hold the journal and letters in his Chicago, Illinois office until the Library of the Dakota Wesleyan University was completed ⁴. Later Senator Anderson asked that the journal and original letters be deposited at the Library of Congress early in 1952 to afford Dr. Dale L. Morgan ⁵ access to it for his biography of Jedediah Smith and to



**Senator Clinton P.
Anderson**

Archives Corner - *continued*



Dr. Mathew B. Smith

preserve the documents with greater security until a fireproof museum would be completed in Mitchell. At the Library of Congress it was filmed and positive prints of that microfilm were made for the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Missouri State Historical Society in St. Louis, Utah State Historical Society at Salt Lake City. In 1964 after completion of the Layne Memorial Library at Dakota Wesleyan University the journal was formally presented to the Layne Memorial Library ⁶. The Layne library was renamed the George and Eleanor Mc Govern Library where the Jedediah Smith journal was placed in the Archives of Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell South Dakota. Dr. Mathew D. Smith related to Ralph Smith, Jedediah's brother, was president emeritus of the University at that time. Both Senator

Anderson and Dr. Smith were original signers on the articles of Incorporation of the Jedediah Smith Society in 1957. Today the original Jedediah Smith journal resides in the Dakota Wesleyan University Archives (personal communication with Laurie Langland, Archivist, Dakota Wesleyan University). Dr. Case later contacted President Robert Burns, at University of the Pacific about organizing a new society centered around Jedediah S. Smith to hold the documents from Mrs. Sullivan ⁴.

Further - The original journal was transcribed by Samuel Parkman a friend of Jedediah Smith in 1831. This copy was intended to be published by Jedediah and was listed in the inventory of his estate, "A Manuscript Journal of the travels of Jedediah S. Smith thro' the Rocky Mountains and West of the same together with a description of the Country and the Customs and Manners of the different tribes of Indians thro' which he travelled. Sullivan wrote "The Journal is a record of his advent into the fur trade, of his remarkable walk across the Utah dessert, of his second journey into California before any other American had penetrated there overland, of his escape from the Mojave's, and his adventures in California and Oregon." The Journal covers the daily record from June 23, 1827 to July 3, 1828. The photo static copy of the original made by Maurice Sulllivan is at UOP. It is interesting to read the handwriting and compare it with Sullivan's printed book. The author wishes to thank Laurie Langford Archivist, Dakota Wesleyan University for the Summary Index of the Jedediah S. Smith Journal which is held by the Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley. This summary presents a clear timeline of the Journal as it left California. Dr. Dale Morgan also stated in the index summary that there were missing pages and drawings not associated with the actual journal ³.

Summary

Maurice Sullivan was an amazing and persistent researcher, author and historian who found and published the first Jedediah Smith Journal. This opened up along with Burr map (1839) new directions for research and publications.

In addition, The Maurice Sullivan Collection provides the reader and researcher a great look into Sullivan's extensive research and written letters to many of the distant relatives of Jedediah S. Smith when trying to locate the journal.

References:

1. Charles Horn , May 1962, *Jedediah Smith's Biographer*, The Pacific Historian p. 79, Vol 6, No. 2
2. L. Burr Belden, "Maurice Sullivan", *The Pacific Historian*, 1957 Vol. 1, No. 4. Presented to the Jedediah Smith Society Rendezvous October 12, 1957
3. *Transcribed Journal* -Bancroft Library 1986. Documents the journal and its travels to Dakota Wesleyan University. Courtesy of Laurie Langford, Archivist, Mc Govern Library, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota.
4. Daryl Morrison, Spring 1997, Jedediah Smith Society, "Back to the Beginning 1956-1957", Castor Canadensis. Presented at the 1996 Jedediah Smith Society Rendezvous. Ms. Morrison was Head, Special Collections, University of the Pacific. Currently Head, Special Collections, University of California-Davis.
5. Dale Morgan, 1953, *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West*, p.437
6. Daily Republic (Mitchell SD), April 10, 1964, *Jedediah Smith Journal Given to Wesleyan*

Members' Book Corner

Book Review by Steve Mair

Competitive Struggle, America's Western Fur Trading Posts, 1764-1865

by R.G. Robertson, Caxton Press, Caldwell Idaho.

I purchased this book at the gift shop/bookstore in Champoege State Historic Park near Newberg Oregon where they have a charming small museum with a few displays covering the fur trade era.

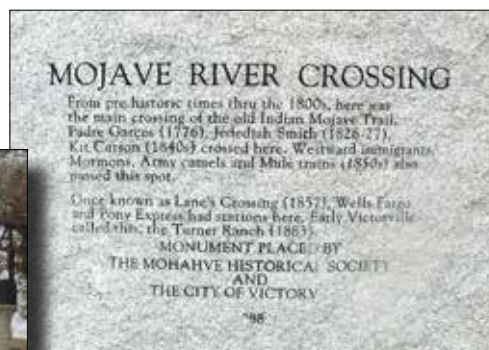
Mr. Robertson has provided an invaluable guide to western fur trading posts and forts constructed in the nineteenth century. In each instance, he describes who built the first fort on a particular site, why it was constructed there, the Native American tribes that would be involved in trade there, and the reasons for its closure if it was later abandoned or destroyed. The author covers further history if the fort or post was re-established or acquired by another company. Robertson includes a detailed chart of mergers and sales related to the businesses of the major fur companies of North America. He also provides a brief summary of the fur trade era and life of a typical fur trader. If a trading post had been reconstructed or can be visited today as part of a park or other attraction, Robertson provides maps and directions as well as photos of the location today. I found this book to be a great addition to my fur trade era library and it motivated me to plan more trips to explore historic locations. JSS members might find this a valuable research book as well as of interest because of the locations that intersect with Jedediah Smith's life.

If you have a book that you would like to recommend to other JSS members, please send your info by email to Paige Mair at pfriend@yahoo.com. You can follow the above format. Title, author, publisher, why you read it, your review of the book, and why other members might find it a good read.

Monuments

Mojave River Crossing, San Bernardino County, CA

The Mojave River originates in the San Bernardino Mountains and flows intermittently north along the cities of Hesperia and Victorville and eventually ends up in Soda Lake. Jedediah Smith coming west from the Colorado River crossed this river at a point called Lanes crossing on his way toward a pass adjacent to Cajon Pass then toward Mission San Gabriel in 1826-7. It is located in San Bernardino County. It was also used by Padre Garces in 1776, Kit Carson (1840's), and Army camels and mule trains in the 1850's.



Location: On the left side of Turner Road, one and one tenth miles west from the National Trails Highway (northward extension of D Street in Victorville). Turner Rd is two miles northwest of Highway I-15. Monument is close to two ornamental concrete pillars, which form an entry way to Desert Springs Ranch, a private ranch.

Further Reading: Lanes Crossing Monument is documented in the Jedediah Smith and his Monuments p.46,47, published by the Jedediah Smith Society, 1999.

Photos courtesy of Joe Molter

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Paige Mair

Steve Mair

Ed Sieckert

Jedediah Smith Relatives:



Barbara Bush

Jeff Bush

Jessica Bush

John Felt

Ed Sieckert

Loretta Smith Buxton

Lillian Smith

Marlene-Smith-Baranzini

Marlene is the editor of *Overland Express*, Oregon California Trail Association. She is related to the 'Strong' side of the family. Verified in the JSS Genealogy section of Mss 018 at UOP Special Collections.

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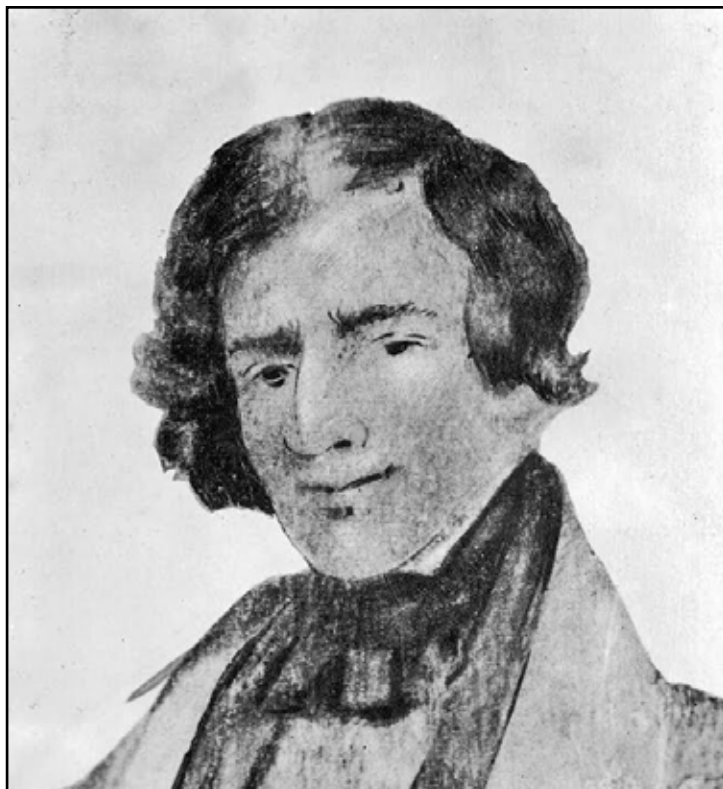
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