



# CASTOR CANADENSIS

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

WINTER 2020-2021

## The Kansas Nebraska Question: Continued...

BY, KEVIN KUCERA

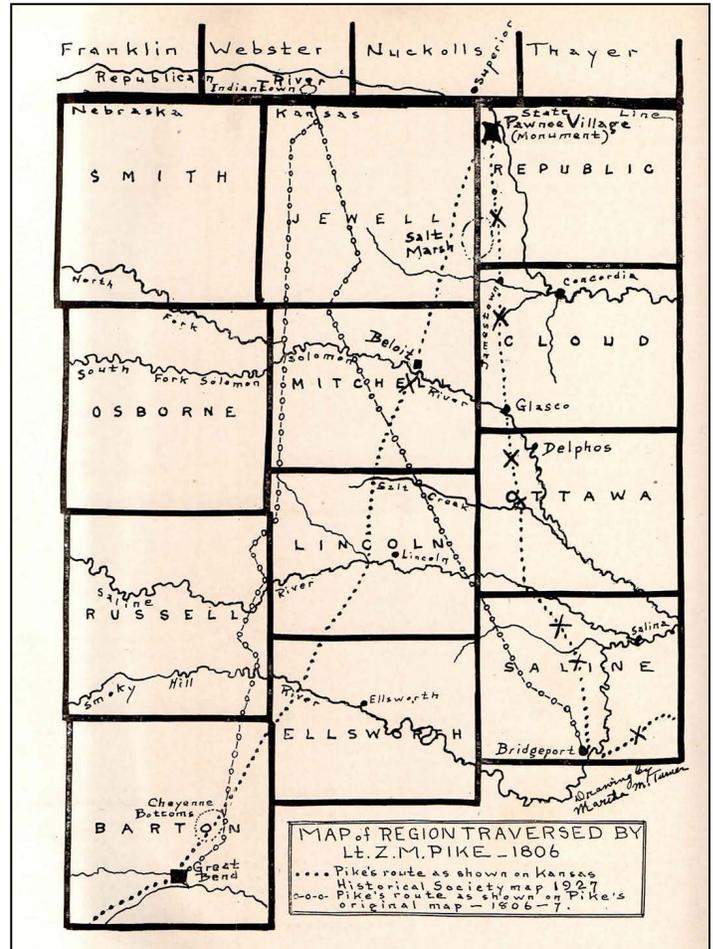
The age old skirmish between these states continues as some author's say Jedediah Smith and Robert Campbell stayed at the Kansas Republican Pawnee Village, while other authors state it is the Nebraska Republican Pawnee Village. In a great American historical moment in 1806, Zebulon Pike had the Pawnee take down the Spanish flag and then raise the Stars and Stripes during his visit to the Republican Pawnee village. What connects the Pawnee Village visits' of Pike (1806) and Smith/Campbell (1825-6) is a Pawnee Indian Chief named Ishkatapa. (see drawing on page 2).

In the Campbell narrative <sup>1</sup> he states: "The chief of the Republican Pawnee was Ish-Ka-Ta-Pa. Mr. Smith and myself staid in his lodge." Pike lost his notes for his visit, but, with him during the Pawnee visit was his commander, Lieutenant Wilkinson. In Pike's book of 1810 <sup>2</sup>, Pike gives Wilkinson's first-hand account of their first meeting with the Kitkehahkis or Republican Pawnee. This ceremony was planned by the Pawnee in advance.

Wilkinson summarizes their 1806 first meeting with the Pawnee as follows:

"About mid-day we reached the summit of a lofty chain of ridges, where we were to await the arrival of the Chief Characterish (or White Wolf), who was a half mile from us with 300 horsemen. The chief advanced in front, accompanied by Ishkatappe, or Rich Man, the second greatest personage of the village and his two sons, who were clothed in scarlet cloth. They approached slowly, and when within 100 yards the three latter halted: Characterish advanced in great state, and when within a few paces stretched out his hand and cried, "Bon jour." Thus ended the first ceremony. We moved on about a mile further, and having gained the summit of a considerable hill, we discovered the village at its base. "

Having visited both the Kansas and Republican Pawnee village sites, the Nebraska site has the

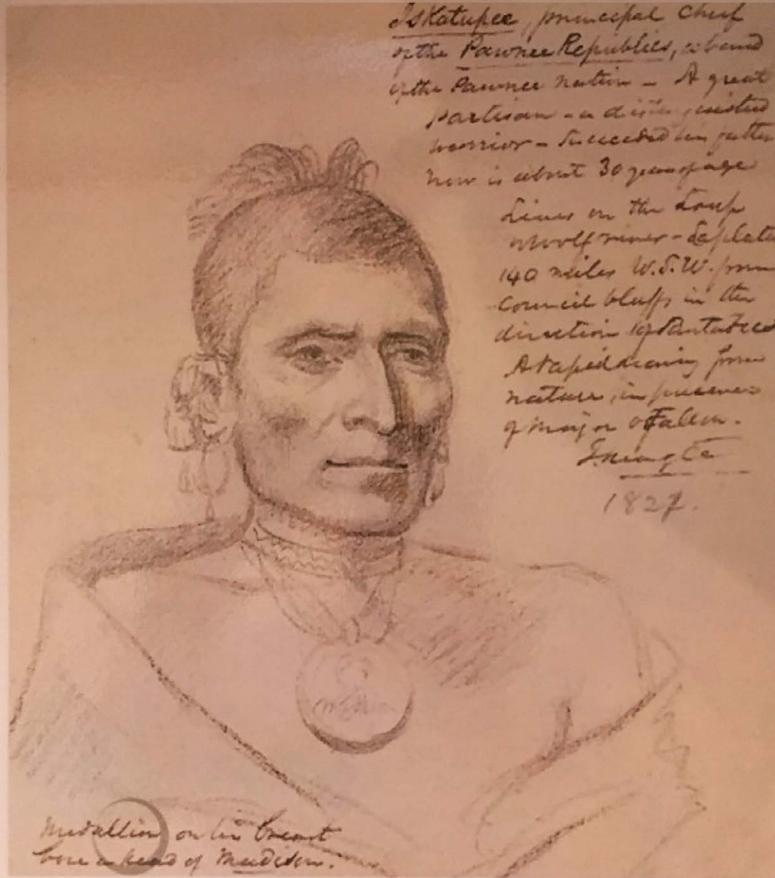


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**The Kansas Nebraska Question: Continued...**

**Chief Iskatupée, Open Chief, lived in this village**



John Negal -sketch of Kitkihahki Pawnee Chief, Iskatupée ("Open"Chief?) visiting Philadelphia in 1827  
 The medallion he wears is of President James Monroe  
 Text: "Iskatupée, principal chief of the Pawnee Republics, a band of the Pawnee Nation. A great partisan - a distinguished warrior - succeeded his father. Now is about 30 years of age. Lives in the Loup Wolf river - 140 miles west-south-west from Council Bluffs in the direction of ? from nature, in ? of Major O'Fallon. 1827  
 Medallion on his breast  
 from a head of Madison.

Of interesting note - Two chiefs called Ishkatappe/Iskatuppe signed the 1825 Kansas Treaty at Fort Atkinson, Nebraska. <sup>3</sup> See the drawing of Republican Pawnee Chief Ishkatappe - which was drawn when this treaty was signed. So now we can put a face on Campbell's Chief Ishkaptapa, and know the real location of his Republican River Pawnee Village that Smith and Campbell stayed at during the winter of 1825/1826 was near in Nebraska near Guide Rock, an ancient landmark used by the Pawnee and others including trappers/traders.

The Kansas Nebraska Question has again been answered: Nebraska is the correct location for the Smith/Campbell Republican Pawnee Village - yet Kansas gets the nod for doing the right thing in preserving Pawnee History. End of story.

Kevin Kucera  
 Duck Lake, December 2020

References

1. A Narrative of Colonel Robert Campbell's Experiences in the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade from 1825 to 1835, Ye Galleon Press, 1999, pg. 19.
2. The Expedition of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, To the Headwaters of the Mississippi River, Through Louisiana Territory, and in New Spain, During the Years 1805-6-7, Elliot Coues, Ross and Haines, 1965, pg. 388-89.
3. Pawnee Indians, George Hyde, University of Oklahoma Press, 1974, pg. 127.

tall hills/ridges, whereas the Kansas site simply has a ledge. The author has other maps A.T. Hill Map(s), Josiah Gregg 1845 Map (see Archives Section), etc. with close up detail that also indicate the location to be the Nebraska site. At the Nebraska site, A.T. Hill found a Spanish Peace Medal, a Washington Peace Medal, and a "1" military button which is consistent with Pike's First Regiment. Artifacts of this type have not been found at the Kansas site. These historical items are located at the Nebraska Historical Society facilities in Lincoln and Hastings.

It is worth noting herein that the Kansas Pawnee Village site has the Pawnee Indian Museum, one of the best natural history museums on the planet! And about a century ago the Nebraska site was obliterated by supposed archaeologists who destroyed the Pawnee lodges and dug up hundreds of Pawnee graves. Much credit should be given to the state of Kansas for their preservation and conservation of the Kansas Pawnee Culture and their amazing Pawnee Indian Museum, respectfully.

**Kansas Fans!**



**L to R: Luke Kucera, Board Member; Richard Gould, Site Director - Retired, Pawnee Indian Village Museum; Corbin Kucera, Member.**

## President/Editor's Comments - Kevin Kucera



**Kevin Kucera**  
President/Editor

In 2020 our society made progress with increasing membership, new board members, and fulfilling our Mission with the completion of the vastly improved Jedediah Smith Bibliography. We have also moved it forward with other pertinent activities including map research, etc.

It is with warm gratitude and appreciation that I thank Joe Green, Milton von Damm and Irene Steiner who pitched in and helped create the wonderful new bibliography of Jedediah Smith. I hope you all get a copy, it is worth it!

Uncertainty remains as we move forward into 2021. It will be fun if we are able to rendezvous at Ft. Atkinson, Nebraska, in September. We hope many members can attend, and a large group is expected for the event. Whagh!

It is a blessing to have good relationships with our industry friends and affiliates including: Museum of the Fur Trade, Mountain Man Museum, The Robert Campbell House, Fort Vancouver, The Hudson Bay Company, San Gabriel Mission, San Joaquin Valley Historical Society Museum, CRF Museum, Missouri Historical Society, Brigham Young University, and our long standing partner - the University of Pacific. If you have the inkling, please reach out to these fine organizations and share in what they have to offer.

Kevin Kucera  
Duck Lake, Indiana  
January, 2020



**Pawnee Indians**

### 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 Kevin Kucera at [kckucera@msn.com](mailto:kckucera@msn.com)
2. Submit in MS Word.
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.

## Smith's Letters

### Smith's "I am no Spy" Letter; 1826 California Editor's Notes:

This previously published letter seems to have been forgotten over time. Smith sent this letter to Joel Poinsett, the American Minister in Mexico. In the letter Jedediah announces without trepidation he is in effect under house arrest by the Mexican Authorities in California. It is interesting to note at the end of the letter Smith states he turned over his Journal and other information to the Mexican Governor in New California. This Journal and the other information mentioned has yet to be found in the Mexican Archives. From the Flathead Post to San Diego to Monterrey to Ft. Vancouver and finally to his death in Mexico, Smith was a man of International intrigue who was pursuing the American westward expansion dreams of President Jefferson's Manifest Destiny.

#### JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH: NEW DOCUMENTATION

Port of Landing Province of New California 16th [December] 1826<sup>8</sup>

Dear Sir

being Detained by the Governor *Gen* of this place and thinking it very probable that I Should be detained for 2 or three months & that perhaps<sup>4</sup> Should then be under the necessity of coming to Mexico — I thought proper to inform you of my Situation — having left St<sup>t</sup> Louis, in the state of Missouri, on the first of [April ?] 1825 as a packer of *Gen Wm H Ashley's* in the Fur Trade and Trapping Business with 60 men an[d] equipment for prosecuting our business *W* of the Rocky Mountains arrived at the place of destination in June — here we met [?] of men which had remained in the coun[try] for the purpose [of] Trap[p]ing a quantity of fine [?] Fur with which the *Gen* started for St Louis. Messrs Jackson, Sublet[te] & my self remained in the country having Bought the *Gen [Ashley's]* interest to prosecute the business Messrs Jackson and Sublet[te] went to the east [?] I with thirteen men went to the S W for the purpose of hunting *Bev [beaver]* but not finding them plenty enough to justify me in Stopping I pushed on through a Country of Starvation — Sandy plains [?] and Rocky Hills once in 20 or 40 *m[iles]* a little pond or Spring of water with a little grass after traveling 8 or 9 day[s] in this way & turning my course from S W to S E [?] fell on to a Riv[er] 30 ys [yards?] or more in width running S W by this time [lined out portion] provision[s] (dried meat) of which I had provided my self with 700 weight before I left the coun[try] of *Beef* — I went down the river — which after changing its course several times fell into the Colorado (or as it is called by the hunters in the moun[tains] *Seetskeedee*) which is [a] little Brackish.<sup>9</sup> I found by the Information of the *In[dians]* a cave which I examined — I entered by a mouth (at the foot of a hill) The entrance 6 or 7 feet wide 12 or 10 in heighth after de[s]cending 18 or 20 feet a room opens 25 or 20 feet in length and 14 or 15 in width the Roof Sides and floor of this room are solid Rock-Salt mostly pure some of it is a little mixed with sand this river & cave I call Adams's river & Adam's cave in honor of our president — I then followed down this Colorado untill I fell in with a Nation of *In[dians]* which call them selves *Amuchabas [Mojaves]* from the time I first struck Adams Riv[er] untill I fell in with the *Amuchabas* our living [was] very hard sometime[s] 2 or 3 days without half a meal 2 [?] times we put in with *In[dians]* of whom I got a little corn & pumpkins in coming through this coun[try] of Starvation (for both men & Horses). I had lost so many Horses that we were all on foot — my men & the remainder of my Horses were worn out with fatigue & hardships & emaciated with hunger — there hap[p]ened to be at this place an *In[dian]* which could speak Spanish & one of my men Spoke a little — by this means I found that it was

<sup>8</sup> Except for the expansion of a few abbreviations and the insertion of letters in some words to promote clarity, Smith's spelling has been followed. In a document nearly devoid of periods, it seemed expedient to indicate sentences by proper spacing.

<sup>4</sup> At this point Smith lined out the words "should I."

<sup>9</sup> Green River of the Colorado, called the *Seedskeedee* or *Seetskeedee* (prairie hen) by Smith.

## THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW

not far to some of the missions of California & I determined (as this was the only resort) to go to that place as soon as my men & horses should be able to travel . . .<sup>6</sup> in the mean time I exchanged some of my Horses for better ones & on the 10th of Nov started for California (having engaged 2 guides) On the 27th I arrived at S<sup>an</sup> Gabriel — here the Commandant of that place requested me to let him have my Arms which I did & an express was started immediately to San Diego to acquaint the Gov Gen of my arrival. I wrote [undecipherable word], stating to the Gov Gen my situation and requesting of him some Horses & permission to pass through this coun[try] to the Bay of St Francisco — I wished to follow up one of the largest Riv[ers] that emptied into the Bay cross the mon [mountains] at its head and from thence to out Deposit on the waters of the Salt Lake — after waiting for an answer 9 days (during which time my self & men were verry hospitably treated by the Rev[erend] Father<sup>7</sup> and obliging little Commandant). I received an order to go to the Gov at Sandiego — on the 10th I started in company with Capt Cunningham of the Ship Courier from Boston which was being in the harbor of San Diego — having Horses & a Soldier for a guide or guard, furnished by the Gov [on the] 12th at 2<sup>00</sup> we arrived at Sandiego a distance of 50 Leagues here I have been questioned & crossquestioned three different times by the Gov (who appears to be much of a Gentleman, but very Suspicious) I have applied to him for Horses & endeavored to convince him of the truth that I was only a hunter & that Dire [?] necessity had driven me here I am to call next tuesday for to know whether I can pass, or be detained here 3 [?] months, for an answer from Mexico — the Gov is so kind as to say if he detains me I shall want for nothing. I have found in Capt Cunningham of the Courier a friend which I stand much in need of as I am destitute of almost everything, with the exception of my Traps (guns which I can not now call mine) Ammunition &<sup>8</sup> The Gov requested my Journal my [undecipherable word] & my Ideas of the cou[ntry] which I gave him — but instead of thanking me for the information which I have given him & requesting [?] me to pass on about my business he seems to be detaini[n]g me untill he ascertains that I am no Spy — which will deprive me of making a valuable Spring hunt

To the United States  
Plenipotentiary  
at Mexico

Jedediah S. Smith

*Dr. Sir* Pls excuse my scrawl. The Brig is now ready to Sail & I have no time to copy<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> At this point Smith lined out the word "directly."

<sup>7</sup> Fray José Bernardo Sánchez, who was in charge at the Mission San Gabriel, befriended Smith's party.

<sup>8</sup> At this point Smith lined out the words "18 [?] horses which I have left."

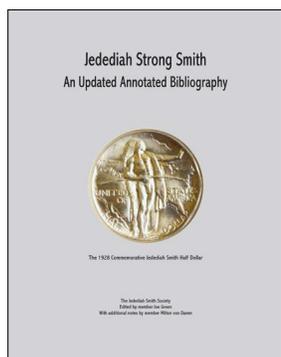
<sup>9</sup> Reprinted with the permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## **Jedediah Smith Manuscript Map Search Update from President/Editor Kevin Kucera**

Due to the Covid 19 Coronavirus Pandemic our Smith map research and discovery efforts have come to a halt. We plan to continue this work once the plague has passed. Below is an update from Professor Dr. Stephen Beckham on his most recent efforts with the Smith Map search:

“Since the meeting in Lodi I have twice been to National Archives in Washington, D.C., August, 2019, and February, 2020. I worked again to track the Joint Army-Navy Commission that sailed north from San Francisco Bay to select sites for military posts, lighthouses, and custom houses in 1849. None of the archival staff knew about this Commission, including the U.S. Navy specialist. In spite of ardent use of finding guides I could not locate the report of the Commission and thus could not confirm its purchase of the Smith Map of the American West at Fort Vancouver. I believe Gibbs when he wrote that the Commission obtained the map and took it from the Columbia River. He was at the fort in 1849 with the Mounted Riflemen who were that fall establishing the U.S. Army's Fort Vancouver on the terrace above the Hudson's Bay Company post. I did locate letters, however, about the work of the Commission in California, Oregon, and Washington, but none mentioned the map. The letters, however, referenced the charts of Charles Wilkes, especially at the bar of the Columbia explored and charted in 1841 by Wilkes and party (U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-42).

I also reviewed the ship logs for the U.S.S. MASSACHUSETTS, 1849-50. The logs are extant for the voyage to Hawaii to hire mariners to keep the ship afloat. Desertions for the gold rush had made the ship nearly inoperable. The log for the voyage to the Columbia River and Puget Sound is not among those for this vessel at National Archives. I suppose it does not survive. I was hoping to find confirmation that Major Smith had brought the Smith map on board.”



### **Jedediah Strong Smith An Updated Annotated Bibliography**

**HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED  
by the Jedediah Smith Society!**

**A limited printing of this 112 page book contains primary, secondary and map sources, updated and painstakingly edited by member Joe Green. There is also a two-page spread of the latest Jed Smith trail map prepared by our Map Committee, and a special report about Jed Smith related sources in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives prepared under the direction of lifetime member David Malaher by HBCA Research Consultant Kenton Storey. Milton von Damm coordinated the project.**

**One copy at a special discount below cost has been offered  
to members with their 2021 Dues request.**

**Member price will be \$30. Non-member price will be \$40.**

# On the Trail

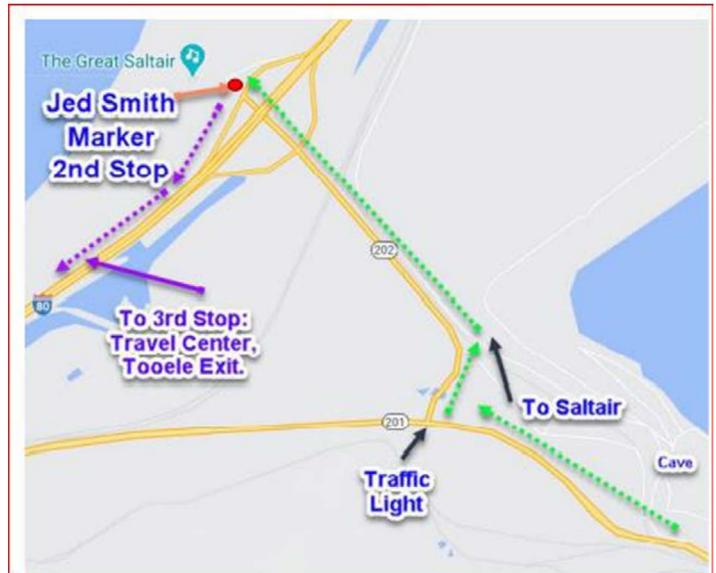
With Jim Smith

## Salt Lake T-Rail Marker Relocation

## Smith T-Rail Marker Location Map



Three Markers Near Saltair



## T-Rail Marker Description

### Jedediah Smith Trail

JSTU-1, N 40° 44.800' W 112° 11.125'

UDOT moved JSTU-1 to Saltair DR, (x104, I-80), Aug 2020

#### JEDEDIAH SMITH'S TRAIL - GREAT SALT LAKE

"Coming to the point of the ridge [Timpie Point] ... I saw an expanse of water Extending far to the North and East. ... The Salt Lake a joyful sight was spread before us. ... I had traveled so much in the vicinity of the Salt Lake that it had become my home of the wilderness. After coming in view of the lake I traveled East [and] found a spring of fresh water and encamped."

2017

Jedediah Smith, June 27, 1827

JSTU-1

Utah Crossroads Chapter – OCTA / National Society Daughters of the American Colonists / Jedediah Smith Society

## Upcoming Events



# 2021 National Fur Trade Symposium

New Date: Sept. 8-11, 2021 • Fort Atkinson State Historical Park

## Call for Papers!

The focus of the 2021 symposium will be on the era of trade on the Missouri River between the return of Lewis and Clark in 1806 through the abandonment of Fort Atkinson in 1827.

**We are looking for:**

- Papers pertaining to notable individuals, companies or events occurring in that time.
- Papers about the impact of the U.S. Army and the implementation of federal law upon the fur trade and the Missouri River native tribes.

Email a copy of your paper, abstract or outline to [Jason.Grof@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Jason.Grof@Nebraska.gov) or mail a hard copy to **Fort Atkinson SHP, PO Box 240, Ft. Calhoun, NE 68023** by June 1, 2021.



**NEBRASKA**  
- GAME PARKS -

Visit us at [OutdoorNebraska.org/FortAtkinson](http://OutdoorNebraska.org/FortAtkinson)

 Find us at "2021 National Fur Trade Symposium"

201 S 7th St. | Fort Calhoun, NE. 68023

**Please remember to go to our website:**

**[www.JedediahSmithSociety.org](http://www.JedediahSmithSociety.org)**

**to check out the interactive maps that have been created by our map team.**

**They're unbelievable!**

**Also please consider purchasing a map for your wall.**

They come in 2 sizes:

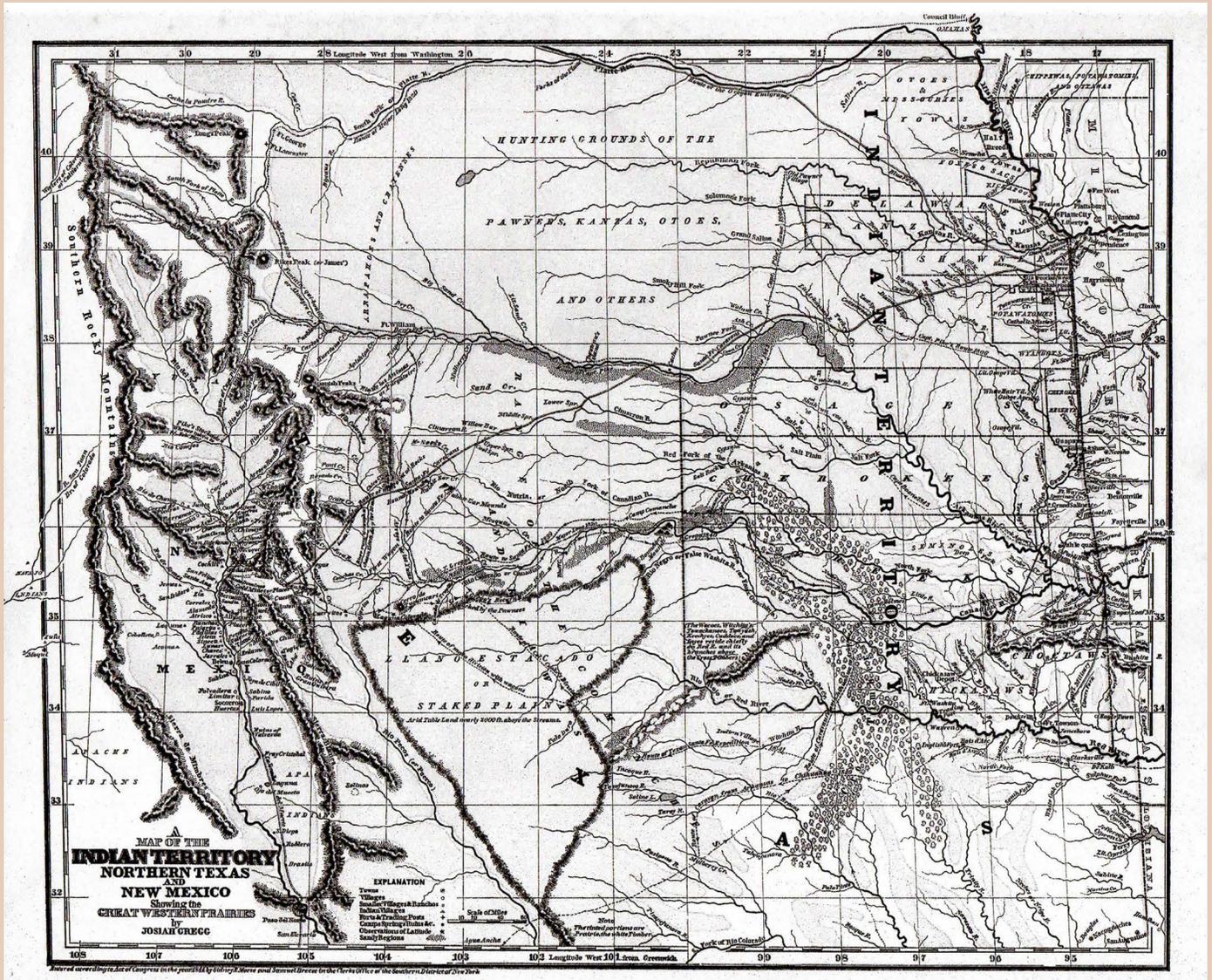
24" x 36"

and 16" x 20".

You may order the historic style or one with modern highways added. You will find the order sheet on-line with instructions.



# Archives Corner



Josiah Gregg 1845 Map - Pike's Route

## Members' Section

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Milton von Damm

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Luke Kucera  
Sheri Wysong

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Kevin Kucera  
Jim Smith  
Milton von Damm

### New Members

**Please welcome our new members to the Society.** We welcome you to our events and participation on various committees. If you'd like to write an article please see the guidelines under the editor column.

#### Paul Fallon

no additional contact information

#### William Lewis

no additional contact information

#### Dino Pappas

5699 South 575 East  
Murray, UT 84107  
801-45000400  
dpappas@roofers.cc

#### William White

1759 Linda Way  
McKinleyville, CA 95519  
707-839-4244  
wwht@sbcglobal.net

### Donor List

The Society wishes to thank the sponsors and patrons and all members for the investment in the future of our society.

#### Special thanks to:

- Theresa Melbar donated \$1,000 to our Society to help fund a replacement of a Jedediah Smith monument near Bakersfield that was stolen. The Bakersfield Historical Society is taking the lead on this project.
- New member, Dino Pappas made a generous donation of \$100 when paying his initial dues making him a JSS Patron.

Thank you!

### In Memoriam

It is with sadness we inform you that one of our long-time members Richard Kitch died on June 10, 2020 at the age of 96.

### Interesting Links

**Museum of the Mountain Man**  
Pinedale, Wyoming  
[www.museumofthemountainman.com](http://www.museumofthemountainman.com)

**Museum of the Fur Trade**  
Chadron, Nebraska  
[www.furtrade.org](http://www.furtrade.org)

**The Campbell House Museum**  
St. Louis, MO  
[www.campbellhousemuseum.org](http://www.campbellhousemuseum.org)

**University of Pacific Holt - Atherton**  
pSpecial Collections and Archives  
Sacramento, CA  
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu>

## INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN

Jedediah Smith Society membership is open to all who wish to join in support of research, preservation and information about the 1st American arriving overland 1826 and other California pioneers of the 18th & 19th centuries.

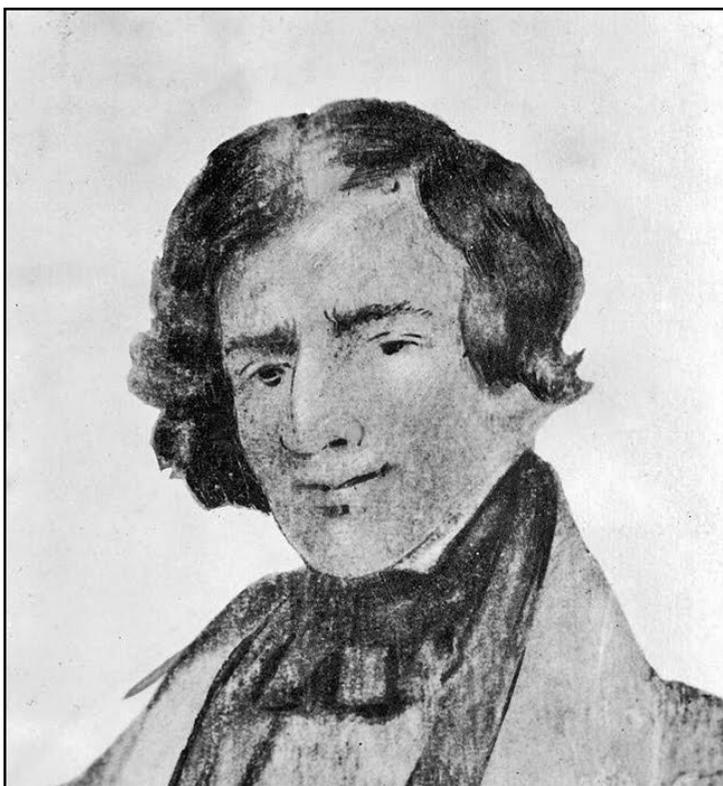
Student \$10.00	Individual \$30.00
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Please make check payable to: JEDEDIAH SMITH SOCIETY  
Mail to Treasurer: 1322 Shattuck Ave. Apt. 401, Berkeley, CA 94709

Need a Membership Application?

See website: [www.jedediahsmithsociety.org](http://www.jedediahsmithsociety.org) Go to Membership then click "Application"



Jedediah Smith Society  
1322 Shattuck Ave. Apt. 401  
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**Pay your dues today!**

**Your dues expired  
on Jan 1, 2021.**

**We thank you for your  
continued support.**

**Membership levels**

<b>Regular Individual</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$100</b>

**Adding a a copy of the new  
"Jedediah Strong Smith  
An Updated Annotated Bibliography"?  
Please add \$30 (Member price)  
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