



CASTOR CANADENSIS

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

SUMMER 2016

SPECIAL 60TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Jedediah Strong Smith: Trails West (Part II)

BY, RICHARD L. DYER

MANIFEST DESTINY

JEDEDIAH STRONG SMITH'S HERITAGE evolved from pioneer American stock. The Smiths (his father's family) and Strong's (his mother's family) immigrated from England and settled in Massachusetts shortly after the arrival of the Pilgrims in 1620. They were statuesque, brown-haired, blue-eyed farmers who led sober, God-fearing lives; they were representative of a strain which has flowed steadily in all the tides of western migration.¹¹ Their adopted wilderness home was an American Eden, a place of new beginnings for them and their progeny. Smith never doubted that his Creator was involved in his enterprises, directing him to be nobler than his human self. Not surprisingly, he was among the proponents of a "manifest destiny" mentality before such an attitude would alter the course of events in the American West, and certainly before such rapid expansion became corrupted by the blind chauvinism, greed, and arrogance of subsequent exploiters.

Most modern Americans—and historians, too, for that matter—have generally accepted the view of contemporaries that the continental expansion of the American people was "natural" and part of Manifest Destiny. To reach from ocean to ocean and from Great Lake to Gulf seemed too geographically neat not to be a part of the Divine intention.¹²

The conquerors of the West were not the mountain men.¹³ Credit for that goes to many of the pioneer exploiters who received encouragement to use, abuse, and move to additional virgin resources to satiate an increasingly ravenous public appetite. Perhaps this was illustrated by a venerable oldtimer who remarked after being introduced, "Don't call me a pioneer! They destroyed the land."

Smith never deviated from the influence of his

fundamentalist upbringing. He was Bible-preaching and Bible-quoting, inspired to spread the Word and culture to the spiritually deprived. His personal characteristics included unmistakable faith in his Creator and fastidious attention to personal cleanliness—qualities frequently neglected by mountain men west of St. Louis. His letters contain many references about his faith and appeals to family members for prayers to sustain him during arduous expeditions. Smith's sanctuary was the vernal wilderness where he could meditate and commune with his Creator, receiving from Him the sustenance needed to withstand yet another ordeal. Religion governed his every action; and there was no compromise of the Divine principles.

Smith remained committed to his humble ancestry. In a letter to a brother, Ralph, he disclosed his intention to provide financial assistance for kindly Dr. Titus Simons who had befriended and tutored young Diah (his name as a youngster) while his parents endeavored to raise their growing family in frontier New York and Pennsylvania. Also, he sent money and advice to help in the education of his younger brother. "Jed did all the right things with his money. He bought a farm for his brother Ralph. He bought a city lot with a house on it large enough for his father and for his younger brothers, whom he invited to come to Missouri to join him."¹⁴ While enduring the rigors of the frontier, his letters included frequent references to personal hardships and the need to rejoin "civilized society," his family, and friends. In another letter to Ralph, he wrote:

It is that I may be able to help those who stand in need, that I face every danger. It is for this, that I traverse the mountains covered with eternal snow. It is for this, that I pass over the sandy plains, in the heat of summer, thirsting for water where I may cool my overheated body. It is for this, that I go for days without

Continued on page 2

eating. . . it is for this, that I deprive myself of the privilege of society and the satisfaction of the converse of my friends!"¹⁵

CAPTAIN

SMITH WAS AN ADMIRER AND VALUED LEADER of the mountain men. As with the unsurpassed Roman legions while participating in military campaigns, Smith and Ashley were the first in America to master a procedure of organizing, moving, and sustaining sizable brigades of trappers to and from the mountains. Ashley's description of his partner's success includes the following passage:

In the organization of a party. . . four of the most confidential and experienced of number are selected to aid in the command; the rest are divided in messes of eight or ten. A suitable man is also appointed at the head of each mess, whose duty it is to make known the wants of his mess, receiving supplies for them, make distribution, watch over their conduct, enforce orders, & c. & c.¹⁶

Such planning ensured order, efficiency, and safety—"instances are almost unknown of men in such parties being cut down by Indians."¹⁷ The exceptions occurred when the camp rules were ignored. Jedediah Strong Smith—"Ol' Jed," "Capt'n," or "Mister Smith"—although not twenty-five, was the watchful "booshway," the leader of choice by sagacious mountain men old enough to be his father. Their livelihood depended on his perceptive judgment.

Smith's camp rules kept the trappers and Indians in separate camps while permitting the safe exchange of information and trade goods. The rules were for everyone's safety while traversing unfamiliar terrain to avoid life-threatening incidents, especially when encountering unpredictable Indians. The last thing Smith wanted was an Indian fight. Eternal vigilance and individual assignments were stressed.

Smith engaged in talk and trade with Native Americans which, for his time, were usually honorable and fair. It was his intention to be exemplary in dealing with all people. Smith's camp rules were reasonable and essential; they contributed to the brigade's success while removed from its base of support and supplies. Tragically, rules were not always followed by the men during Smith's scouting absences from camp. It was not his lack of diligence that led to the Mohave and

Kelawatset Indian uprisings that resulted in the death of many of his comrades. His primary concern was the welfare of his companions, even to the extent of depriving himself of the necessities of life. However, when challenged, he could be stern if a man's behavior was not acceptable, as was illustrated by the flogging of cantankerous James Reed for his "impertinence" while at the Mission San Gabriel.

EXPLORER

AS SMITH AND HIS MEN TRAPPED AND EXPLORED the northern and central Rocky Mountains, they encountered Indians who disclosed tales of a mountain pass leading to streams that teemed with beaver. His decision to investigate led to the "discovery" of South Pass in early 1824.

One of the more popular sports among western historians is arguing about who first discovered South Pass. . . . The effective "discovery" of the pass, meaning that crossing which brought it to public notice, was probably this one of the Smith-Fitzpatrick party, regardless of who was the first individual to set his moccasins on it.¹⁸

This easily traveled route led the trappers across the Continental Divide and to historic Sandy Creek, the very route destined to become famous when a generation of restless and courageous pioneers passed through South Pass on the historic Oregon-California Trail. Tom Fitzpatrick prophetically remarked, ". . . ox-drawn wagons would one day be seen trundling up the valleys of the Platte and the Sweetwater to this Place [South Pass]."¹⁹

Smith must have sensed that he was making history. The dangers were evident. The men were eager. The opportunities were endless. There would be no turning back until a route had been opened to the Pacific Coast. He and his men descended the western slope of the Continental Divide. In doing so, they were striding into the future.

American and English explorers who referred to the Rocky Mountains as a "rugged and frightful barrier" to westward expansion were obviously unaware that an almost effortless route across the mountains had been found. Indeed, in 1830, Smith, Jackson, and Sublette took wagons from St. Louis to the rendezvous site at Wind River, in the periphery of South Pass. If there had been a reason, the Americans could have taken their

wagons across the Divide at South Pass. On the eastern slope, they traveled fifteen to twenty-five miles a day with almost no terrain delays. In all probability, the first wheel ruts marking the Overland Trail in the area were etched in the mountain sod by Smith's trappers. These pathfinders provided the knowledge that introduced the Oregon-California Trail to a generation of pioneers searching for their promised land in the Far West. Today, westerners acknowledge that the Mosaic epic and mythos of the Oregon California Trail began with these emigrating pioneers.

The partners sensed the significance of their find. Now, for the first time, Jefferson's vision of a continent-wide empire for the United States was possible. Too, the Missouri-Platte waterway would be the link uniting Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It was an incomparable opportunity! A letter sent to the U.S. Secretary of War John H. Eaton described the ease with which they had gone across the Rocky Mountains, thus augmenting the national claim to the Oregon Country by right of discovery, exploration, and now occupation. All that was required to officially secure the regions was a U.S. Army safeguard to the claim. Subsequently, this letter was published by the U.S. Congress; it was an example of one of the earliest stimuli for land-hungry American emigrants to embark for the Oregon Country. Thus, Smith has been described as America's original pathfinder.²⁰

He was the first man to reach California overland from the American frontier, the first to cross the Sierra Nevada, the first to travel the length and width of the Great Basin, the first to reach Oregon by a journey up the California coast. He saw more of the West than any man of this time, and was familiar with it from the Missouri River to the Pacific, from Mexico to Canada. . . . Jedediah Smith is an authentic American hero, a man who packed a staggering amount of achievement into the time between his twenty-third and thirty-third [sic] years.²¹

He, rather than others who have received in some instances their rightful publicity, should be distinguished as a remarkable mountain man. "Not even Kit Carson at the close of a much longer career, knew the Far West better than Jedediah Smith knew it."²² In a tribute to companion James Clyman, Charles L. Camp wrote an appropriate description of all the influential mountain men, including Smith:

Trails that he found across the mountains were now traversed by highways and steel rails. Cities had grown up on his camp grounds, farms had invaded the old cattle ranges of the California valleys, and the beaver and the buffalo had gone from the land that knew them, forever.²³

Certainly Camp's eulogy could have described Smith's Southwest Expedition which followed portions of the Old Spanish Trail and blazed a route for Mormon pioneers over twenty years later as they sought a corridor to the fertile southern California basin and coast. Smith was the first American to reach that coast by a route other than one followed by Lewis and Clark. One of his supporters wrote:

History now recognizes that it was the fearless enterprise of just such men as Smith, of pioneers of iron breed and indomitable manhood, that first opened the hitherto hidden ways of the great West and explored its main route, knowledge of which later made possible the great overland emigration of our race to California and Oregon. These were the actual pathfinders, the genuine trail-breakers that found and traversed the immense territory west of the Rockies....²⁴

Smith, during his abbreviated lifetime, saw more natural and human resources in the American West than any of his contemporaries. He traveled twice the distance of Lewis and Clark while methodically describing the flora, fauna, topography, and Native Americans. Students of ethnohistory have expressed amazement at the scope of Smith's recorded observations about Native Americans, their religions, social structures, and political life. Indeed, recent ethnohistorians have verified most of his observations. "He had visited whole tribes of Indians that had never before seen a white man or horse. . . . There is no written notice of these people anywhere except in the notes of Mr. Smith. He was a close and accurate observer and a student of nature."²⁵ Additionally, his descriptions unmistakably indicate that he was not misled into stereotypes. Indians, he observed, displayed a full range of human traits. Despite hostile encounters, he understood Native Americans and, to some extent, respected their culture. During his central California journey, his trappers shot two Indians who were inspecting their traps. Smith "reprimanded them severely for their impolitic conduct." Smith's Southwest Expedition

Jedediah Strong Smith: Trails West (Part II)

journal attests to his perceptive observations of the great undeveloped resources which would be sought eagerly for Yankee enterprises by tens of thousands of pioneers in subsequent decades.

... Yes, Smith greatly respected the wilderness, even though the popular philosophy, at the time, was to conquer it. Jedediah Smith in the 1820's had already come to understand the unique relationship between humans and the natural environment that Americans are beginning to fully appreciate today.²⁶

Was Smith deserving of such adulation? An increasing number of history students are reexamining his activities and, consequently, improving his standing among his contemporaries. To Smith, he merely was being directed by the "great invisible hand" of his faith and heritage.

Part III - to be continued in the Fall 2016 issue

NOTES

11. Morgan, *Jedediah Smith*, 23.
12. Carl N. Degler, *Out of Our Past: The Forces that Shaped Modern America*, rev. ed. (New York: Harper & Row, 1970), 424.
13. Winfred Blevins, *Give Your Heart to the Hawks* (New York: Avon Books, 1976), 269.
14. Wood, *Monuments to Jedediah Smith*, 9.
15. Dale, *Ashley-Smith Explorations and Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific*, 301.
16. Morgan, *Jedediah Smith*, 177.
17. Ibid., 179.
18. Don Berry, *A Majority of Scoundrels: An Informal History of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1961), 72.
19. Neihardt, *The Splendid Wayfaring*, 145.
20. Billington and Ridge, *Westward Expansion*, 496.
21. Morgan, *Jedediah Smith*, 7.
22. Francis P. Farquhar, "Jedediah Smith and the First Crossing of the Sierra Nevada," *Sierra Club Bulletin* 28 (June 1943): 2, reprinted in Frederic R. Gunksy, ed., *Fur Trade Series 1* (Stockton, Calif.: The Jedediah Smith Society, 1990).
23. Charles L. Camp, ed., *James Clyman, American Frontiers man, 1792-1881: The Adventures of a Trapper and Covered Wagon Emigrant as Told in His Own Reminiscences and Diaries* (San Francisco: The California Historical Society Special Publication # 3, 1928): 10.
24. George Wycherley Kirkman, "Jedediah Smith, Pathfinder," *Los Angeles Times*, March 14, 1926, p. 22.
25. Edwin L. Sabin, *Kit Carson Days, 1809-1868*, rev. ed., 2 vols. (New York: The Press of the Pioneers, Inc., 1935), quoting Appendix 1, "Captain Jedediah Strong Smith, A Eulogy" (June 1832) from *Illinois Magazine*, 822.
26. Letter, Bruce S. Howard, Save-the-Redwoods League President, San Francisco, October 27, 1986.

Please note the Castor Canadensis is not responsible for either the research or the opinions of the writer. Publication dates for 2016 are July 15, September 15, January 15. The editor welcomes articles for publication, please send double space, in MS Word 30 days prior to publication date by email. Editorial Committee, Ed Sieckert, Wayne Knauf, Joe Molter, Irene Steiner.

Editor's Note

From the Castor Editor - Ed Sieckert

October 8, 2016 the date of the 60th Rendezvous is now 3.5 months away.

The program is finalized, lunch, catering service, public relations, the plaque and its boulder mount and seminar site have been completed. A warm welcome to all the members to join us for a special occasion this year. Dave Stuart, Director of the San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum here in Lodi has provided the boulder for mounting the new JSS monument plaque. The Conference room for the seminar and the luncheon room in the Red Barn will be enjoyed by all. The dedication of the plaque will be done by Jim Smith, President, JSS and Chuck Winn, San Joaquin County Supervisor. Dr. Edie Sparks will discuss the history of the University of the Pacific and its involvement with the Jedediah Smith Society. In addition, we have received an Assembly Resolution dedicating this day to Jed Smith which will be presented. Joe Molter and Ed Sieckert have been working on a map of Jedediah Smith's travels in San Joaquin County which will also be presented at the dedication.



President's Message

Happy 4th of July from the Jedediah Smith Society. Here's hoping for a peaceful holiday.

On July 3rd, 1827 Jedediah, Robert Evans and Silas Gobel arrived at Bear Lake, site of the annual Rendezvous, after their long journey to California. There is a Journal entry from Jedediah: "My arrival caused a considerable bustle in camp for myself and party had been given up as lost. A small Cannon brought up from St. Louis was loaded and fired for a salute." The cannon, along with all the other goods and items required, had been brought to the Rendezvous by William Sublette. It was the first wheeled vehicle to cross the Rocky Mountains. It was the first of thousands of wheeled vehicles, including covered wagons, Mormon hand carts, and military vehicles to cross South Pass and travel the Oregon and California Trails.



Jedediah's 'Southwest Expedition' is arguably his greatest accomplishment as an explorer. The crossing of the Mohave Desert to Mission San Gabriel is depicted in a wonderful Frederick Remington painting entitled "*Jedediah Smith Making His Way Across the Desert from Green River to the Spanish Settlement.*" His arrival in California sent diplomatic shock waves all the way to Mexico City; much as his arrival at the Hudson Bay Company's Flathead Post in 1824 sent shock waves all the way to London. Such is the impact one person or one event may have on the future course of events.

The Rendezvous was over by July 13th. Smith, Jackson and Sublette parted ways once again. Silas Gobel returned with Jedediah to rejoin the men and get furs he had left in the foothills of the Sierras in May only to be killed on the banks of the Green River by the Mohave Indians. Robert Evans quit the mountains and did not make the return trip. His story is beautifully told in John G. Neihardt's "The Song of Jed Smith." Neihardt portrays Evans as forever regretful that he didn't return with Jedediah to California.

The Society will be in the heart of California on October 8th for the 60th Annual Rendezvous. We'll spend the day discussing Jedediah and the Fur Trade Era at the San Joaquin County Historical Society in Lodi. Jim Hardee, from the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale, Wyoming, will be the keynote speaker. He'll be joined by other distinguished historians including Jim Auld, Dr. Ned Eddins, Leo Dumell and Dr. Richard Ravalli. Please plan to join us in October.

Sincerely, Jim Smith jim@smithandmcgowan.com

Events in 2016

60TH ANNIVERSARY RENDEZVOUS

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8, 2016

The Jedediah Smith Society will be celebrating the founding of the Society with a special 60th Anniversary Seminar and Luncheon. We welcome all members and the general public to share in this historic milestone.

Registration is \$30 per person and includes 5 speakers, buffet lunch, Commemorative CD, program, and exhibits of the fur trade.

Registration Closes **September 10** to allow for room and meal planning.

Please make your check out to Jedediah Smith Society and mail to:

Jedediah Smith Society
1040 West Kettleman Lane #147, Lodi, CA 95240



Location San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum
11793 N. Micke Grove Rd., Lodi, CA

Directions Google maps or Map Quest will also provide direction. The museum is North of Stockton.

Take CA 99 Highway from Stockton (North) and take Armstrong Road turnoff and go left over the freeway (west) to Micke Grove Road. Then turn left and go approximately 300 feet to the signed entrance for Mike Grove Park. Entrance fee is \$6.00 per car. Signage will take you to the museum entrance. At the museum entrance tell the docent you are with the Jedediah Smith Society.

60th Anniversary Program

October 8, 2016

Location: San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum, Lodi, CA.

Time	Presentation	Speaker
9:30-9:35	Opening	Ed Sieckert , Chairman 60 th Anniversary
9:35-9:45	Welcome	Jim Smith , President Jedediah Smith Society Dr. Edie Sparks , Chair, History Dept. University of the Pacific
9:45-9:50	Invocation	Rev. Darrell Thomas
9:50-10:20	Jedediah Smith and His Slaves	Jim Hardee , Editor The Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal
10:25-11:10	The Sea Otter Fur Trade in California	Dr. Richard Ravalli History Professor Willam Jessup University
11:15-12:00	State of California Assembly Resolution to Jedediah Smith Society Dedication of the site of Jedediah Smith's path crossed the Lodi area	Susan Eggman , Assemblywoman David Stuart , Director San Joaquin Historical Society/Museum Mr. Chuck Winn , San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Dist. 4
12:00-1:15	Buffet Lunch <i>Catered by Bueno Italiano</i>	
1:25-2:05	Jedediah Smith and His Travels	Dr. Ned Eddins , Author and Fur Trade Researcher
2:10-3:00	Jedediah Smith and His Early Life in Ohio	James C. Auld , Author and Researcher on Jedediah Smith
3:00-3:40	Arms of the Fur Trade	Lee Dummel , Author and Historian
3:40	Closing Remarks	Ed Sieckert

Registration is \$30.00 per person and includes lunch, program and 60th Anniversary commemorative disk. Send check to: Jedediah Smith Society, 1040 W. Kettleman Ln. #147, Lodi, CA 95240

Jedediah Smith, South Pass, the Sierra Nevada and the Pioneers who Travelled to San Joaquin County

Ed Sieckert, Jedediah Smith Society

In 1824, Jedediah Smith effectively discovered South Pass (1) at the South end of the Wind River Mountain Range in Wyoming (1824). This pass opened up the trail for Pioneers traveling to Oregon and California. Jed Smith was also the first American to cross the Sierra Nevada Range adjacent to the current Ebbetts pass on Highway 4 in 1827.

How does this relate to some of the families who settled in San Joaquin County? As reported in the San Joaquin Historian (2) the Bartelson-Bidwell Party member Charles Weber, founder of Stockton crossed South Pass and the Sierra 1841.

The Elliott Family featured in the settlers exhibition at the San Joaquin Historical Society & Museum (SJC), started on an overland trek in 1859 from Illinois to San Joaquin County. They started from Illinois on May 5 and reached South Pass on August 2. Maria Elliott recorded in her diary, "We went through South Pass, altitude 7400 feet. This is the dividing ridge between the Atlantic and the Pacific. The ascent to the pass was so gradual that the traveler would scarcely know it, if he were not looking for it." David Stuart noted that "Inconspicuous South Pass, the twenty-mile wide 7490 feet high passage over the Continental Divide, has been called the gateway to the Far West. Without it there may have been no Oregon or California Trails, and perhaps no United States spanning 'from sea to shinning sea' The pass is about forty miles southwest of present-day Lander, Wyoming, near State Route 28."

Stuart also noted that the Elliott wagon party took a version of the Sublette Cutoff, near present day Farson, Wyoming. The Sublette Cutoff was one of the earliest shortcuts on the California Trail. It was discovered in 1844 when the Stephens – Townsend Murphy wagon train, guided by mountain man Caleb Greenwood decided to go due west from the Little Sandy River and cross the forty-five mile desert directly to the Green River. The Elliott Family in 1859 apparently took a later variant, the Slate Creek Cutoff.

The Stephens – Townsend – Murphy – Party that blazed the Sublette Cutoff in 1844 was the first group of settlers to cross the Sierra Nevada into California with wagons intact. The Murphy family was prominent in the early history of San Joaquin County and the Southern Mines. Helen Murphy was a member of this party; in 1850 she married Charles M. Weber, the founder of Stockton (2).

The Elliott family went through Carson Canyon to Hope Valley (off present day Highway 88) to the Big Tree Wagon Road. That route went over Ruffian Pass near Blue Lakes into Charity and Faith Valleys to Hermit Valley between Lake Alpine and Ebbetts Pass. It then turned south following the present Highway 4 into Murphys and ended near Farmington, San Joaquin County.

Eva Elliott wrote, "The 19th of October 1859 long be remembered by me and the doubtless many of our company as the day our long and tedious journey came to an end."

Jedediah Smith travelled in 1827 and 1828 through San Joaquin County. In January and February of 1828 (3) he spent time in French Camp then travelled over light soils to near Bellota, Lockeford, and Lodi before heading north to the Sacramento River area.

Jedediah Smith played a significant part in the discovering new routes in Central and other parts of California. This ties our story of how Jed's time in San Joaquin County affected the early pioneers who came later.

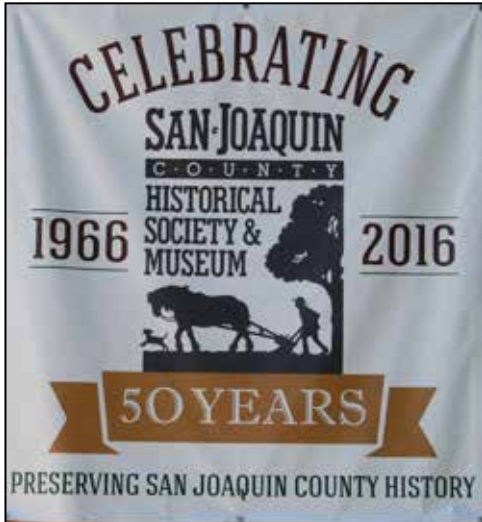
1) Dale L. Morgan, 1953, *Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West*

2) David. R. Stuart, (ed) "Overland to San Joaquin County in 1859. Selections from the California Trail Diaries of S. Eveline 'Eva' Elliott Morse and Maria J.Elliott." *The San Joaquin Historian*, Spring 2015

3) Maurice S. Sullivan, 1934, *The Travels of Jedediah Smith, A Documentary Outline, Including his Journal*.

**The San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum
Celebrates its 50th year June 25, 2016.**

We thank them for providing the meeting and luncheon rooms
and the Monument Rock for mounting the Plaque on the Sunrise Trail.
We wanted to share some of our excitement for celebrating the 60th Anniversary.



Celebrating 50 Years



Jedediah Smith Monument Plaque Setting
David Stuart, Mike Mason



Jedediah Smith Monument Plaque
for the dedication on October 8, 2016

The San Joaquin Historical Society and Museum *(Continued)*

Here are some of the things you should see when you visit the Museum.



Native American Basket Exhibit



Inside the Cortopossi Building
Innovations in Agriculture



Holt Caterpillar



Beaver Trap



The Delta as it looked in the Fur Trade era



Captain John Weber's Cottage



French Camp
Trapper Exhibit

University of the Pacific



University of the Pacific and Burns Tower

In 1957 the **Jedediah Smith Society** was organized by Dr. Robert E. Burns, UOP President, Clinton P. Anderson, U.S. Senator, Leland D. Case, Dr. Malcom R. Eisslen, Arthur R. Frarey, Dr. George D. Goodwin, Dr. Mathew D. Smith, President of Dakota Wesleyan College, Reginald R. Stuart and Dr. G. A. Werener.

The objectives of the Society are:

- Preservation
- Research
- Education
- Scholarship

The Society Sponsors a yearly Endowed Scholarship for history and social science students at UOP

- Rendezvous

To present current and new information on
Jedediah Smith and other explorers of the fur trade period.

Today we work with our Academic cooperators in the History Department at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA to continue this tradition started 60 years ago.



Dr. Edie Sparks, Chair History Dept.



Dr. William Swagerty,
Professor of History



Dr. Greg Rohlf,
Professor of History



Michael Wurtz,
Head Special Collections (Far Right)
Nick Harrison,
Special Collections Intern (Middle)
Nicole Grady,
Special Collections Librarian (Far Left)

Members' Section

New Members

Welcome to our new members
from across the US.

Jeff Bush	Houston, Texas
Jessica Bush	Nashville, Tennessee
Terry Bennett	Layton, Utah

Jedediah Smith Relatives

We are compiling a list of Jedediah Smith Relatives. Let the editor (ed@sieckert.com) know and your name will be placed on this list for inclusion at the JSS archive at UOP and on the 60th Anniversary Program Bulletin.

1. Lilian Smith
2. Barbara Bush
3. John Felt
4. Ed Sieckert
5. Jessica Bush
6. Jeff Bush

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We thank the Donor Levels for their contributions to help provide further research and events. We also want to thank *each member* for their 2016 dues which help support the Society in the newsletter publication and Rendezvous costs, New Member Roster and the new Jedediah Smith monument. Each new member receives a New Member kit and a phone call to welcome them to the Society.

Book Review

The Castor summer issue is featuring Jed Smith. The article on page 12 was written by Julian Smith Bacon, for an article in *Pacific Historian*, Summer 1974. Julian Smith Bacon gave a presentation to the Jedediah Smith Society's 6th annual breakfast at the University of the Pacific, Stockton Ca. March 23, 1974.



Mahogany shaving cabinet of Jedediah Smith. One of his holster pistols and holster's thereof.

Photo Courtesy Kansas Historical Society

Jed's shaving case and pistol

PRESENTATION SPEECH GIVEN BY JULIAN SMITH BACON, JR.,
JEDEDIAH SMITH'S GREAT GRAND NEPHEW, AT THE JEDEDIAH
SMITH ANNUAL BREAKFAST, MARCH 23, 1974, AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE PACIFIC, STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA.

My words today are from my father's notes of 1926 during the Jedediah Smith centennial. He used these notes when he spoke at the dedication of the bronze plaque to Jedediah, located at the corner of Carthay Center and Wilshire Blvd., in Los Angeles, California.

You will understand, of course, I have revised all family references down by one generation in order that they be correct for my speaking these words today.

"My great grandfather, Peter Smith, who was Jedediah's younger brother and partner in his [Jed's] last venture, continued in the business after Jedediah's death. My grandmother, Evelyn [Smith] Bacon, as a young girl, spent many years traveling the West with her father and mother, Peter and Juline Smith."

"Just after the turn of the century [1900] my grandmother spent considerable time gathering data and going to places of historical interest which had been visited by Jedediah and her father, Peter Smith. My Father was with her on many of these trips which made Jedediah and events of those other years very real and close to him."

May I just say here that we spoke of him as Uncle Jedediah in our household.

"I only hope the adventurers of today who are advancing the scientific frontiers, are as courageous and farsighted as our forefathers and that their discoveries will open up as many marvelous vistas and produce as many opportunities for the generations to follow as did the discoveries of Jedediah Strong Smith and his contemporaries."

That is the end of my father's notes.

I want you to know that it was Troy Tuggle, a member of your Society, who is in part responsible for my gifts today to the Stuart Library. His many letters and visits to my home convinced me that the dedicated members of the Jedediah Smith Society should be the recipients of these artifacts.

JULIAN SMITH BACON, JR.

Monuments

A new monument will be featured in each newsletter to bring attention to Jedediah Smith's travels. This past winter I was able to travel and visit the Jedediah Smith Monument adjacent to the Serra Museum near Balboa Park in San Diego.



It reads:

La Playa Trail
Jedediah Strong Smith
Pathfinder of the Sierras
Here Completed the First Trail
from The Atlantic to the Pacific
January 1827
Erected by San Diego Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
1934

Archives Corner

Smith Bacon Collection

Holt Atherton Special Collections UOP

This collection has a number of manuscripts, newspaper articles, genealogy, family photos and Jed's obituary. It also has in the Jedediah Smith display case, the 2 snuff boxes, the wooden shaving kit Jed used, carved pocketbooks, and paintings of Jed. Julian Smith Jr. was a great grandson of Peter Smith, one of Jed's brothers. In addition there are great references on Jed's pistol.

This year one of Dr. Swagerty's students is working as an intern in Special Collections. Michael Wurtz, Head of Special Collections asked me earlier in the year if I would work with him on creating a display for the library on Jedediah Smith. Nick Harrison is majoring in environmental sciences and we have assembled an outline and are currently researching and determining which documents and text will go into the display. In addition to this project he will spend his time on other archiving projects. We are very fortunate to have Nick working on this project.



Nick Harrison,
Special Collections
Intern

OTHER MUSEUM EVENTS:

Museum of the Mountain Man, Pinedale, Wyoming

A new display diorama on Hugh Glass who was featured in the movie *Revenant*. Green River Rendezvous Days July 7 to 10.

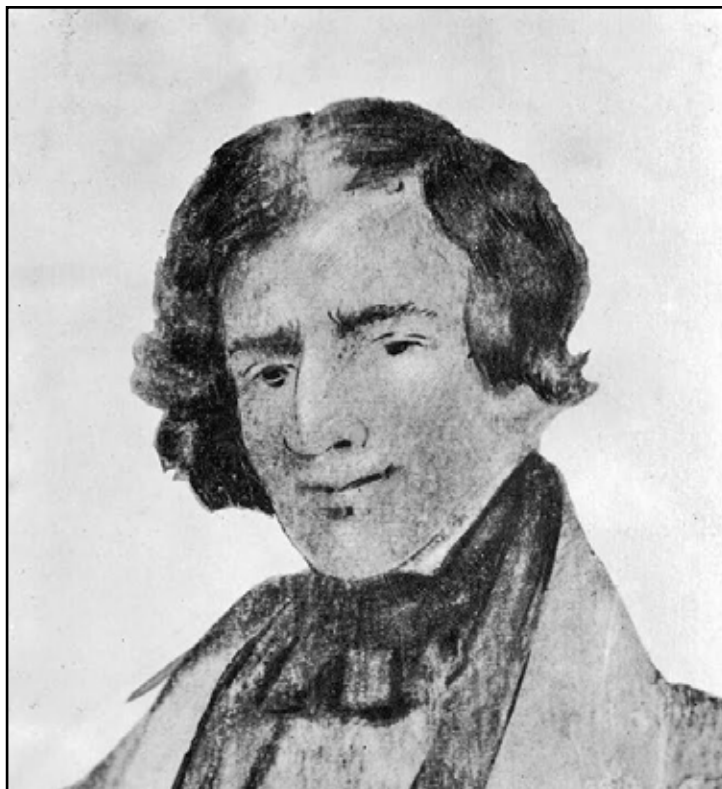
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Jedediah Smith Society membership is open to all who wish to join in support of research, preservation and information about the 1st American arriving overland 1826 and other California pioneers of the 18th & 19th centuries.

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