CASTOR CANADENSIS

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

FALL 2025

Red Bluff, CA Rendezvous, October 22 – 23, 2025: Jedediah Smith 1828, Buenaventura to the Pacific

Due to postponement because of inclement weather, the Jedediah Smith Society (JSS) rendezvous at Red Bluff, CA has been rescheduled for the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express in Red Bluff, hotel details included below. JSS member Jim O'Callaghan is leading the Rendezvous event with assistance from Richard Cimino and Joe Molter. The field trip locations include Ide Adobe California State Park, Jed's Overlook, and Jed's route from the Sacramento River to the Trinity River.

The Rendezvous commences with Saturday's field trip departing from the host hotel parking lot at 1pm. Next, the group proceeds to a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) trailhead about five miles east of Red Bluff. The trail leads to BLM kiosk "Jed's Overlook" highlighting Smith's departure from the Buenaventura/Sacramento River. The trail is approximately 3.0 miles round trip, rated as moderate with little elevation gain. However, the trail is rough and rocky in certain areas requiring hiking boots and hiking poles if desired. A leisurely hike with ample time at the kiosk will take about 3 hours. BLM maps and guides will be available for attendees. While at the kiosk, Joe Molter will provide an overview of the site. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and/or have a brief discussion.

For those who decide not to take the hike to the monument, Rich will lead an alternative hike, an easy walk on a level

Historical Panel Installed at Jed's Overlook

By Joe Molter

Looking SW from panel towards Turnabout Flat

Visiting the Bureau of Land Management's Redding Field Office on January 15th of this year, I was pleasantly surprised to hear that the long anticipated historic panel, commemorating Jedediah Smith's passage through these Northern California lands, had finally been installed at Jed's Overlook the previous month! [1] Excited to see it, I went the following day and had a pleasant hike to the overlook where I took these pictures, enjoyed the beautiful view and contemplated Jed's travels through this area so many years ago. Thanks to the Bureau of Land Management, this well done panel will help educate and remind us of the significant contributions this worthy man made towards western exploration. This historic panel can be accessed via an easy 1½ mile trail from the Iron Canyon trailhead and parking lot off of California State Highway 36, which is located 7.5 miles northeast of Red Bluff, CA. For further information, contact the BLM's Redding Field Office by phone at 530 224-2100 or connect to their computer web site at www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/redding.

Footnotes: 1. See articles written by the author dealing with "Jed's Overlook" in past issues of the Castor Canadensis, as follows: *Jed's overlook and Turnabout Flat*, Fall, 2006 and *Jedediah Smith's Buenaventura Farewell*, Summer, 2012.

From left: Joe Molter, Jim O'Callaghan and Jim Crumpler on a November 2024 scouting trip to Jed's Overlook.

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surface, to nearby Ide Adobe Park. The park memorializes California pioneer William Ide, captain of the Bear Flag Revolt and the only president of the California Republic, June to July 1846. After returning to Red Bluff between 4 and 5pm and with a bit of down time, JSS invites all Rendezvous attendees to an early (exact time TBA) Saturday evening "social" at the host hotel or a local restaurant. Location of the social will be determined by the final attendee count. If held at the host hotel, JSS will provide light snack food and non-alcoholic beverages. The hotel does allow attendees to "BYOB" i.e., bring your own libation should you desire.

Sunday's field trip will be a vehicular tour of Jed Smith's route from Red Bluff to the south fork of the Trinity River at Hyampom, California. The roadway generally follows Smith's west/northwest route to the Trinity River. The road trip will include a few stops at notable locations to point out specific route details. After visiting the Trinity River location, upon return the group can stop in Hayfork for lunch. (Various lunch options included below.)

The Rendezvous will conclude upon return to the host hotel with any closing comments/discussion.

Hotel:
Holiday Inn Express
Reservations: 888 HOLIDAY (888) 465-4329
Front desk: (530) 528-1600
2810 Main Street Red Bluff, California 96080 United States
Check-in: 3:00 PM
Check-out: 11:00 AM

Hayfork Lunch/Dining Options:
Casa De Castellanos
7130 CA-3, Hayfork, CA 96041
Hours: 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Phone: (530) 628-5309

Hayfork Hotel
7230 CA-3, Hayfork, CA 96041
Hours: 10:00 AM – 11:45 PM
Phone: (530) 628-5337

Cali Jay's BBQ
91 Trinity St., Hayfork CA 96041
Hours: 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Phone: (530) 628-4448

The President 's Stump

The Jedediah Smith Society (JSS) is marking its 68th year of commemorating the historic journeys of its namesake, Jedediah Smith. We are a committed volunteer organization.

There is much good news to report to you that is supporting the Society its role in keeping American history alive and well, specifically the fur trapping industry of the early 19th Century.

We plan to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Jed's crossing the Colorado River in 1826, making him and his brigade the first Americans to reach Mexican California by traveling over land. The rendezvous will be a multi-day trip across southern California. See the multi-day itinerary detail on the JSS website under the Events tab's future events. A registration form for this event is enclosed.

We need volunteers to help board members prepare for the event. Please see the Call for Volunteers on page 4.

We now have a active volunteer manager for the Jedediah Smith Society Facebook page. Some of you may know Jim Smith of Missoula, Montana. Jim is a long-term member and leader of the Society who has held a number of positions such as Treasurer and Society President.

Please take some time to log into Facebook and check out the latest postings by Lance Holt. Lance and Jim worked eagerly to post Lance Holt's latest field trip across the Mojave Desert of California tracing Jed's epic journey of 1827—crossing and entering Spanish California. If you're not already a friend of the JSS Facebook page, use the search bar to type "Jedediah Smith Society" and the page will appear. Along with the photos, Lance and Jim included a wonderful narrative of Lance's reckoning of the planned Fall 2026 JSS Rendezvous.

The opportunity opened up for the JSS to reallocate the student scholarship. We worked with the University staff

to realign the endowment monies to be used to fund a student as an archivist working under the guidance of Mike Writz (a JSS member), director of the University Holt-Artherton Special Collections library.

This is important to the JSS since the UOP Special Library is the depository for the Jedediah Smith Historical collection and the legacy records of the society.

Our website is managed by a trained professional webmaster; this contract person is also the co-editor of the Castor, and on occasion will attend the Board of Directors meetings.

Mike Wartz Director of the University of the Pacific Special Collection showing us the massive volume of the Jedediah Smith Special Collections.

The society operates solely on membership dues—we have no government support and no large corporate grants. May I ask you to make an unrestricted donation to the Society to support the expenditures which keep the Society a relevant American history society? A self-addressed envelope is included for your donation response.

The society is now accepting payments through Zelle, which is a bank-to-bank transfer. Add JSS as a recipient in your bank's online portal with the phone number 707-246-8942. Or send a personal check to our treasurer Art Hurley 1230 Olive Hill Lane, Napa CA. 94558.

I look forward to working with you, keeping the society active in American history.

With Appreciation,
Rich Cimino, President
richcimino@jedediahsmithsociety.org

Rich Cimino and Mike Wartz finalize scholarship details.

On the Website

Did you know that you can read back issues of *Castor Cadensis* going back to 2009 on the Jedediah Smith Society website? Have you read Jed's famous 1830 letter lately? You can also find and order the wall map of Jed's travels, learn about upcoming events, order Castors and other publications. The website has much to offer. Stop on by!

Donations

Your generous donations will fund our education and outreach efforts regarding Jed's work and life, and will make membership events and rendezvous possible. Mail contributions to Arthur Hurley, 1230 Olive Hill Lane, Napa, CA 94558, online at jedediahsmithsociety.org/donations, or via Zelle at 707-246-8942.

We are a 501c3 nonprofit; all gifts are fully tax deductible.

Castor Canadensis Newsletter Guidelines

The Castor is your publication and your contributions are welome. Please write to richcimino@jedediahsmithsociety.org with your proposed ideas and to learn about specific guidelines for articles. We are seeking a volunteer to assist Rich Cimino and co-editor Lisa Thompson in this tri-annual process.

- Submit articles in Microsoft Word, photos welcome.
- After receipt, the article will be reviewed by a technical editor. Once this is completed the author will be notified.
- Please note the *Castor Canadensis* is not responsible for either the research or the opinions of the writer.

Call for Volunteers

We are in the planning stages to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Jed's crossing of the Colorado River into what is now California in 1826. We're looking for a few volunteers to help make the rendezvous happen. Please contact the appropriate contact person below.

- Help compile a list of hotels along the travel route: Art Hurley (treasurer@jedediahsmithsociety.org)
- Help collect and create collateral material for the rendezvous, detailing the travel routes, maps, and historical information: Peter Meyerhof (p.meyerhof@comcast.net)
- Help craft a boiler-plate press release that can be edited for various media outlets: Rich Cimino (richcimino@jedediahsmithsociety.org)

Message from the Treasurer

Plans are now being finalized for our October 22 – 23rd Rendezvous and we encourage you to take part in this weekend adventure. I want to send a gentle reminder for those of you who have not yet sent in your 2025 dues, these funds are central to our efforts of organization. We thank all those who have sent in dues, especially those of you who have donated at higher levels. Remember you are all central to our success, consider telling your friends about our organization and encourage them to become members! Happy Trails!

Receive this Pathfinder magnet after sending your membership dues.

The First Rendezvous (an excerpt)

In July of 1825, Smith found Ashley and his men gathered near the Green River. This was the trappers' first rendezvous. These summertime meetings, held at a prearranaged place, occurred annually from 1825 to 1840. Many old friends greeted Smith, including Thomas Fitzpatrick and James Clyman. After being separated from Smith, Clyman had wandered on foot for eighty days before reaching a U.S. fort.

Ashley came with supplies from St. Louis. The trappers came with furs. They exchanged their furs for gunpowder, ammunition, sugar coffee, and tobacco as well as blankets and beads for trading with the Indians. With fresh supplies, the men of the brigades could survive another year in the mountians.

Henry had decided to retire, and Ashley selected Smith to be his new partner. Ashley and Smith headed back to St. Louis with nearly 9,000 pounds (4,082 kg) of furs. When they reached St. Louis in October, the Missouri Advocate newspaper reported that they came with "one of the richest cargoes of fur that ever arrived in St. Louis."

A month later, Smith started west with men, horses, and supplies. Snow trapped them on the Great Plains, and two men walked back to St. Louis to inform Ashley. In the spring, Ashley arrived with more horses and supplies. Then they all traveled to the rendezvous in Cache Valley in present-day Utah, near the Great Salt Lake.

Above excerpts and illustration from *Jedediah Smith* by Sharlene and Ted Nelson, former members of the Jedediah Smith Society. (c 2004, Scholastic, Inc., U.S.A.)

Jedediah Smith Society
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