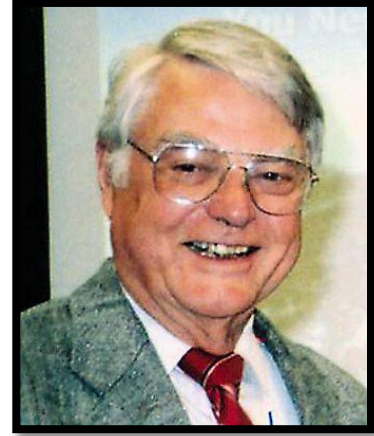


Gregory M. Franzwa (1926 – 2009)



Gregory Mathew Franzwa probably did more to create the Santa Fe Trail Association and the Santa Fe National Historic Trail than any other individual. He led the organization of the Oregon-California Trails Association and their designation as part of the National Historic Trails System. Then, Franzwa advocated for a new and separate Santa Fe Trail Association. He brought those ideas to the first Santa Fe Trail Symposium in 1986. He took the lead in proposing legislation to add the Santa Fe Trail to the National Historic Trails System. For this work he was presented an Award of Merit at the first Santa Fe Trail Symposium in 1986. He arranged for Santa Fe Trail scholars, including Marc Simmons, to go to Washington DC and testify before Congressional committees in support of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. He used his contacts within the National Park Service to move the feasibility study along quickly and with positive results. Congress created the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1987.

Franzwa offered to be part of the National Park Service team that surveyed the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1988, donating his time and preparing the maps for the trail, with the proviso that he publish those maps through his Patrice Press. In addition to *Maps of the Santa Fe Trail* (1989), Franzwa wrote three books about the Santa Fe Trail: *Impressions of the Santa Fe Trail: A Contemporary Diary* (1988), *Images of the Santa Fe Trail* (1988), and *The Santa Fe Trail Revisited* (1989, a guidebook plus an audio guide on CD for those traveling the historic trail). He had many talents and devoted most of his time to the overland trails. Most of the 21 books he wrote were about the trails.

Franzwa continued to support the Santa Fe Trail Association while also involved with the Oregon-California Trails Association and the Lincoln Highway Association. He received the SFTA Jack D. Rittenhouse Memorial Stagecoach Award in 1999. Following his death, SFTA created the Gregory M. Franzwa Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2010.