

## Margaret Long (1873-1957)

Margaret Long (1873-1957) came from a wealthy and influential Massachusetts family. Her father, John David Long, was governor of Massachusetts from 1880 to 1883, and Secretary of the Navy from 1897 to 1902. After graduating from college, she traveled Europe and studied there. Margaret then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and entered a three-year medical program at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

Margaret Long became a doctor in 1903, however, in 1905 she contracted tuberculosis and moved to Colorado to recover. In Colorado she did medical research in Denver hospitals and founded a sanatorium there. By 1940 Long was retired, and she began to devote time to her abiding interest in the West and western trails. In 1941 she published her first book, *The Shadow of the Arrow*, about Death Valley. In 1943 she wrote *The Smoky Hill Trail*, which went through three editions, and in 1954 she published her last two books, *The Oregon Trail* and her best-known work, *The Santa Fe Trail*.

*The Santa Fe Trail*, somewhat scarce and much sought after today, reflects her in-the-field work tracking down sites and markers across the West, especially the granite markers placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Much of this field work was done in the 1940s and early 1950s when many trail remnants were still extant in rural areas, and even in some urban areas. Long also gave turn by turn instructions on how to find these trail sites and markers. Long was the first to undertake such work on the Santa Fe Trail, and she preceded the work of authors who followed her, including Hobart Stocking, Marc Simmons, and Gregory Franzwa. Her book on the Santa Fe Trail, as well as her books on the Smoky Hill and Oregon trails, have sent many a modern trail seeker on the dusty backroads of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico.

For her contributions to the discovery and perpetuation of the Santa Fe Trail as described above, Margaret Long is nominated to the Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame.

Margaret Long's papers are located primarily at three institutions. The major collection of her papers are located at the University of Colorado at Boulder. This collection includes most of her papers concerning her work on the western trails, especially on the Santa Fe Trail, including manuscripts, notes and logs, travel diaries, correspondence, maps, and extensive photographs from the 1940s and 1950s of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and Smoky Hill Trails. Some of the photographs are unidentified.

There is a small collection of Margaret Long's papers at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, relating to her time as a student at Smith College as well as some information on her historical avocation and work on the western trails.

At the Autry Library in Los Angeles is the third Margaret Long collection, consisting of her research files for writing in 1941 her book about Death Valley, *The Shadow of the Arrow*.

Submitted by Craig Crease

