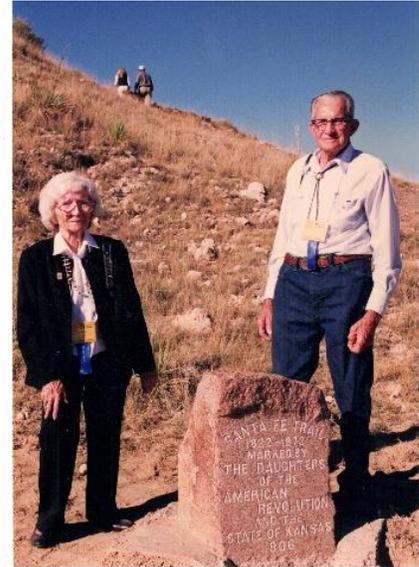


Mary A. (Brewer) Gamble (1914 – 2002) and Leo E. Gamble (1912-2002)

It is my privilege to nominate Leo E. and Mary B. Gamble to the Santa Fe Trail Association Hall of Fame. I was first introduced to the Gambles in the 1990's and awed by their knowledge and friendliness. Mary was a member of DAR and that was how I was introduced to her. Later, as State Regent of Kansas, I was a guest of the Colorado Society at their state conference in 1996 where Mary was my "hostess". She was a tiny, but convicted lady, and what a delight it was to visit with her! Leo was an excellent photographer and provided photographic documentation of their activities as well as Santa Fe Trail sites and events.



Both Leo and Mary were born in Kansas, Leo in Greensburg and Mary in Cimarron. Living on or near the Santa Fe Trail must have given them "trail fever" as they were true advocates for preserving the history of the trail. Leo was a railroad man, working his entire 38-year career with the Santa Fe Railroad. During the Dust Bowl years, Leo started as a track laborer but worked his way up to track supervisor. Leo was a WW II veteran and served in the U.S. Navy. Mary worked for the Dodge City *Daily Globe* and the public library. She enjoyed genealogy, collecting glass, and American Indian and Hispanic arts and crafts. During their marriage and raising three sons, the family would live in Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado, always near the Santa Fe Trail. In retirement years they made their home in Baca County, Colorado near the Aubry Cut-off.

Leo and Mary Gamble are most worthy of induction into the Santa Fe Trail Association for their efforts to locate the Santa Fe Trail and the Aubry Cut-off in Colorado. They were both charter members of SFTA, and Mary served as a SFTA Board member from 1997 until her death in August, 2002. Both, Leo and Mary were quite active in the Cimarron Cutoff Chapter. Furthermore, Mary was determined that the Colorado Society DAR should locate and maintain the Santa Fe Trail markers. For nearly 90 years, those markers were neglected, lost, moved and undocumented. Most DAR members did not even know they existed, or that the Santa Fe Trail was an important part of Colorado history. Mary was appointed Trail chairman for the Colorado State Society, DAR, and began to tell the story and importance of the Santa Fe Trail to DAR chapters. Her enthusiasm and knowledge about the Santa Fe Trail was infectious. Mary and Leo undertook the challenge to find, photograph and document the DAR markers in Colorado. Over a two-year period, this was accomplished, and they also co-authored the "little blue book" entitled *Santa Fe Trail Markers in Colorado*, published by Spearville News, Inc., Spearville, Kansas, 1987, which has become the best written record of the Colorado Society DAR marking efforts. This reference stands alone as the premier history of the DAR markers in Colorado. The Gambles awakened interest and renewed stewardship of a true resource in Colorado and inspired many to travel and learn about the Santa Fe Trail.

After 68 years of marriage, Leo E. Gamble (1912-2002) and Mary Agatha (Brewer) Gamble (1914-2002) died only six weeks apart in 2002. Their graves are in Springfield Cemetery, Springfield, CO.

Nominated by: Pat Traffas