



“(Your Town) 20 Years Ago – Gathering Cow Chips”

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Rendezvous 2022

September 22-24

“Youth on the Santa Fe Trail”

presented by the

SANTA FE TRAIL CENTER

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

FORT LARNED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Principal funding for this program is provided by Humanities Kansas, a nonprofit cultural organization connecting communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life.



Children of three primary cultures were involved with and affected by the Santa Fe Trail, 1821-1880. Although Indigenous American, Hispano American, and Anglo-American children and young adults lived or traveled on the trail of commerce and conquest, their stories are seldom heard. Rendezvous 2022 explores how one culture sent their children east along the trail to learn a new culture; how westward expansion, encouraged by the trail, forced youth of another culture to deny their culture; and how youth who participated in the U.S. conquest found the trail to be a path to great adventure.

PRESENTATIONS

Perceptions of Childhood in the Nineteenth Century: Eastern Experiences versus Western Expectations: Dr. Michael Olsen will be this year's keynote speaker presenting on the changing perceptions that defined childhood in 19th Century United States. In the eastern U.S. the century began with the view that children were an economic component of the family and expected to contribute to it. With the rise of the middle class, some children came to be treated as we treat children today; childhood came to be defined as a distinct and separate part of family life. On the westward moving frontier this change did not occur for many children and families, especially those engaged in agriculture. Numerous trappers and traders on the Santa Fe Trail started down the trail when they were teenagers, including the Bent Brothers, Kit Carson, and Miguel Antonio Otero, Jr. There are many documents, diaries and published works to draw on for this information.

The Only Apparent Path Out of the Darkness: Ronald D. Parks, author of *The Darkest Period: The Kansas Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873*, will summarize the history of Kansas prior to the tribe's relocation to the Council Grove Reservation in 1847. He will touch briefly on the failed efforts of the Roman Catholic Church and Methodist Episcopal Church South to educate Kanza children prior to 1847. He will provide an overview of the three schools that operated the Kanza's Council Grove Reservation: The Kaw Methodist Mission (1851-1854), the first Kaw Quaker School (1863-1866), and the second Kaw Quaker School (1869-1873). Understanding the reasons for the failures of the first two schools and the partial success of the third school requires that we examine the desperate circumstances the Kanza faced as their situation deteriorated during the twenty-six years, they lived on the Council Grove reservation. Faced with diminished prospects in every aspect of their lives, some Kanza leaders finally chose to support white man's schooling of their children, at least experimentally, as the only apparent path out of the darkness.

Fort Larned Elementary School Dedication: Join Dr. Leo Oliva and members of the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter as they dedicate a new marker. The Fort Larned Elementary School sits on the Dry Route of the historic Santa Fe Trail. There will be musical performance from the elementary students with selections composed by Janet Armstead with a Santa Fe Trail theme.

Rebecca Mayer's Santa Fe Trail Honeymoon with 500 Mules and 50 Men: Joy Poole is the recently retired former Deputy State Librarian for the New Mexico State Library, and former museum administrator for the Colorado Historical Society, Trinidad Properties. She cofounded the Santa Fe Trail Association and served for ten years on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Advisory Council for the National Park Service Long Distance Trails. An award-winning librarian and museum director, Joy has worked with the National Park Service, numerous state and local historic sites, various western trail associations, research libraries, museum and humanities councils. An authority on western trails, she has discovered, researched and edited numerous travel diaries and memoirs including *Over the Santa Fe Trail to Mexico: The Travel Diaries and Autobiography of Dr. Rowland Willard 1825- 1827* as well as those of Rebecca and Henry Mayer from the 1850s.

The Two Best-Known Young Women on the Santa Fe Trail: Susan Shelby Magoffin and Marion Sloan Russell: For nearly sixty years, Dr. Leo Oliva has focused on the history of the Santa Fe Trail, especially its multicultural and social aspects. Dr. Oliva will present two of the best-known young women on the trail, looking at Marion Sloan Russell and Susah Shelby Magoffin. One wrote her memoirs decades later, and the other kept a daily diary of her ventures. The Santa Fe Trail had a life changing influence on each of these young women who traveled the trail in the 19th Century. They contributed to our knowledge and understanding of the trail experience through the beautiful memoirs and journals they left us.

The Contested Plains: Writer/Director Ken Spurgeon, and co-writer Deb Goodrich, along with Mike Baughn present the film "The Contested Plains." The story encompasses the Plains of Kansas, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), and Texas. The docudrama tells the story of the John and Lydia German Family. The family was attacked on the western plains of Kansas in 1874 by the Southern Cheyenne. The band that attacked the family were part of a group who had lost family members in the Sand Creek and Washita Massacres. What followed was a six-month search to find the surviving four girls as well as the in-fighting of the members of the tribe, who are weighing their own survival. Historians help to bring meaning to the challenging period of the Plains Wars and the Red River Wars on the Southern Plains. In the end, we see the struggle of both the girls and the Native Americans who are all fighting to survive in an impossible scenario. In the end, both groups are captives. The Contested Plains is a story that occurred in the midst of what is known as the Red River War of 1874.

El Niño Loco: Miguel Antonio Otero, Junior: Dr. Michael Olsen presents Miguel Antonio Otero, Jr., who was the bane of this parents' existence. His father was one of the leading merchants on the Santa Fe Trail, and his mother was a genteel woman from South Carolina. He gave them many a sleepless night. At the age of eleven, he was hobnobbing with Wild Bill Hickock in Hays City, Kansas. A year later he went buffalo hunting in eastern Colorado with the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia and General Phil Sheridan. Four times his parents enrolled him in Catholic schools in St. Louis, put him on the eastbound train, which he promptly jumped off of, went down the line and caught the next train west. But all ended well. He became a territorial governor of New Mexico. This presentation will follow his footsteps along the Santa Fe Trail and explain it from a child's perspective.

Children of Military Families on the Santa Fe Trail: Dr. Leo Oliva, Joanne VanCoevern and George Elmore will present the stories and memoirs of children of military families who served at forts along the Santa Fe Trail, some of whom traveled the trail accompanying an officer father, and others who served in uniform as teenage soldiers. Children were affected by life with the military on the trail; some boys became soldiers, and some girls married soldiers. In some cases, they were affected by the loss of a parent,

by disease that affected the frontier army, and the loss of military personnel through engagements with American Indians, through Mexican War clashes, or through Civil War battles. Joanne VanCoevern has a B.S. in Education, and is the current manager of the Santa Fe Trail Association. Her relationship with the Santa Fe Trail Association began when she helped form the Wet/Dry Routes Chapter in 1988-1989, and served as the first chapter president in 1990. George Elmore is Chief Ranger of the Fort Larned National Historic Site, and one of the foremost contributors to the history of this region.

The Emergence of Young Hispanic Women Studying in the U.S. in the 19th Century: Professor Sienna Cordoba addresses the tendency in historiography, which assumes that because the word ‘teenager’ did not exist until the 20th Century, the transition between childhood and adulthood during the 19th Century did not involve a similarly hyper-charged and crucial developmental period with long reaching reverberations felt throughout society. Professor Cordoba will highlight the transformative experiences of adolescent Latinas who traveled the Santa Fe Trail to attend Catholic boarding schools in St. Louis and the distinctly teenage experiences of their cross-cultural youth. She will describe the competent intercultural fluency and prowess of teenage girls in the U.S. during the late 19th century as the southwestern borders expanded and changed.

Celebrating the Santa Fe Trail in Story and Song – proclaimed Poet Laureate, Ron Wilson, and historian/entertainer Jeff Davidson will provide the closing program for Rendezvous 2022. Jeff Davidson brings the history of the Santa Fe Trail to life through song, stories and pictures. With over thirty years of experience, twenty-five of those years spent as an entertainer for the Flint Hills Overland Wagon Train, education has been a big part of his life, with an educational component to his presentations of Kansas history. Proclaimed “Poet Lariat” by the Governor of Kansas, Ron Wilson is a working rancher, rural development specialist, and cowboy poet. Ron is legislative chair for the International Chisholm Trail Association, national secretary of the Western Wordsmiths chapter, an official spokesperson for the National Day of the Cowboy organization, and an Ambassador for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rendezvous Schedule 2022
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 22

- 9:00 a.m. - Santa Fe Trail Association Board Meeting at SFTC (open to the public)
- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. - Rendezvous Registration at Santa Fe Trail Center
- 5:00 p.m. - Registration at Larned Community Center
- 6:00 p.m. - Opening Event and Dinner at the Larned Community Center
- 7:00 p.m. - Dr. Michael Olsen presents the overview of the theme:
“Perceptions of Childhood in 19th Century America – Eastern Experiences versus Western Expectations.”

Friday, September 23

- 8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Registration at Larned Community Center
- 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. - Welcome and Introductions at the Larned Community Center
- 8:45 – 9:00 a.m. - Introduction to Theme – Dr. Michael Olsen
- 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. - Speaker: Ron Parks
Topic: “The Only Apparent Path Out of the Darkness”
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Break/Travel to Fort Larned Elementary School
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. - Musical – Larned Elementary Students
Topic: Medley of Santa Fe Trail Songs
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. - Fort Larned Elementary School Trail Sign Dedication
- 12:15 – 2:00 p.m. - Lunch On Your Own
- 2:00 – 2:50 p.m. - Speaker: Joy Poole
Topic: “ Rebecca Mayer’s Santa Fe Trail Honeymoon with 500 Mules and 50 Men.”
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. - Break
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. - Speaker: Dr. Leo Oliva
Topic: “The Two Best-Known Young Women on the Santa Fe Trail: Susan Shelby Magoffin and Marion Sloan Russell”
- 5:00-6:00 p.m. - Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. - Presentation of “The Contested Plains”
Presented by Writer/Director Ken Spurgeon, co-writer Deb Goodrich Mike Baughn

Saturday, September 24

- 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. - Registration at Larned Community Center
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. - SFTA Membership Meeting – Public Welcome
- 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. - Speaker: Speaker: Dr. Michael Olsen
Topic: “El Niño Loco: Miguel Antonio Otero, Junior”
- 11:00-11:20 am - Reconvene at Fort Larned National Historic Site.
- 11:30 – 5:30 p.m. - Registration at Fort Larned National Historic Site
- 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. - Boxed Lunch at the Fort
- 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Panel Session with Dr. Leo Oliva, Joanne VanCoevern and George Elmore
Topic: “Children of Military Families on the Santa Fe Trail”
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. - Break
- 3:00 – 3:50 p.m. - Speaker: Sienna Cordoba
Topic: “The Emergence of Young Hispanics Studying in the US: New Mexican Teens in St. Louis during the Late Nineteenth Century”
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. - Afternoon at Fort Larned: special events such as living history volunteers and vignettes featuring youth at the Fort
- 5:30 p.m. - Retreat Ceremony at Fort Larned NHS
- 6:15 p.m. - Dinner and Program in Quartermaster Storehouse
Evening Program: Celebrating the Santa Fe in Story and Song with “Poet Lariat” Ron Wilson and historian/entertainer Jeff Davidson.

- Please note, due to any unforeseen circumstances, the schedule may change. Any changes will be posted on Facebook.