

### Of Special Interest

- SOCAL Fall 2008 Gathering
- In Pompeys Pillar, Leo's the Man
- New version of Prince Maximilian's journal being published
- Plans for Spring 2009 Gathering
- Chapter Elections



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### SOCAL Fall Gathering Explores Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau's Participation in Kearny's Army of the West and the Opening of the Southern Emigrant Trail

Claremont, CA  
 Warner Springs, CA  
 by Ken Jutzi

On Saturday, November 1, 2008, 26 attendees gathered at the Claremont Public Library to listen to two guest speakers, one who discussed the Southern Emigrant Trail into California and the other, the participation of Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau in the march of the Mormon Battalion, part of Kearny's Army of the West.

Local historian Phil Brigandi discussed the Southern Emigrant Trail and Wayne

*Nan Kaeser assists Pierre Cruzatte (a.k.a. Dan Slosberg) in welcoming attendees (Barbara Gaitley Photo)*



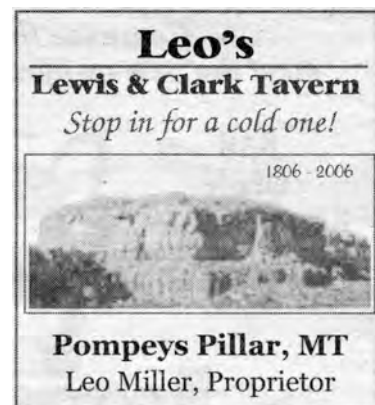
McKinley, President of the Grand Canyon Chapter, gave the talk on Jean Baptiste. Wayne also briefed everyone on the upcoming Spring Regional in Scottsdale, AZ, being hosted by his Chapter. (See the insert to this newsletter for details).

The next day, 17 attendees regathered near Warner Springs, CA, for a field trip, led by Phil, to historic points of interest along the Southern Emigrant Trail. This included visiting the site of Warner's Ranch House; Box Canyon, where the

(continued on page 2)

### In Pompeys Pillar, Leo's the Man

*Tiny town celebrates its lone business proprietor*



by Tom Lutey  
 of the Billings Gazette Staff  
*(reprinted with permission)*

Pompeys Pillar, Montana. Two rumors swirl in this town carved from sagebrush and wheat stubble.

One is that crusty bartender Leo Miller poured beer for William Clark in 1806, perhaps before the explorer carved his name and date into the nearby sandstone pillar.

The second is that next year could be Leo's last in business and the 77 year-old operator of the town's only establishment could finally turn out the lights. And if he did, tiny Pompeys Pillar would also go dark.

"Why would I want to retire?" said Miller, as he fetched a Bud Light and a fly swatter for an early afternoon patron. "When people retire, they die." He works as if perpetual motion were the secret for warding off death, shuffling with his walker to put a frozen Tony's Pizza in the oven, returning with a pack of cigarettes

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Mormon Battalion widened the solid rock walls to the permit the passage of wagons; the Vallecito stage stop of the Butterfield Overland Mail Company; and exploring remnants of the original trail.

After Phil's tour we were given a private tour of Warner Springs Resort by Betty Rayfield of the Warner Springs Ranch Historical Committee. We started at the library where we learned some of the history of Warner's Ranch. We then visited an original adobe structure, the historic hot springs and the Indian grinding holes. That evening a few of us stayed at the resort and enjoyed additional discussions over dinner as well as a dip in the hot springs fed pool.

The area is rich in history. An excellent resource for learning about this history, from the time of Indian trails to today's modern interstate highways, is a book by noted local historian John W. Robinson entitled *Gateways to Southern California*<sup>1</sup>. Most of what follows was found in this book. Except for photo captions, text in italics are quotes from Robinson's excellent work.

### **Warner's Ranch**

Born in Connecticut in 1807, Jonathan Trumbell Warner gave up his trapping adventures and settled in Los Angeles in 1831.<sup>2</sup> Sometime in 1845, he moved his family from Los Angeles to the Valle de San Jose<sup>3</sup> where he established a ranch and raised cattle, horses and sheep.

The Warners initially settled in a small adobe structure near the hot springs close to the Indian village of Cupa. Eventually, Warner built a larger adobe ranch house at the southern end of the valley, near a junction (the meeting place for our field trip)<sup>4</sup> where the trail from the Yuma Crossing of the Colorado diverged into two branches, one going to Temecula and Los Angeles, the other to Santa Ysabel and San Diego.<sup>5</sup>

*"Within a few years, Warner's Ranch became an important stopping and resting point for those traveling the southern emigrant route to California. It was a place where 'the weary travelers could stop and refresh themselves and their animals after crossing the burning sands of the Yuma desert, on their way to California; or where they might stop to take on extra supplies before undertaking that most difficult part of the journey when returning to the East'."*<sup>6, 7</sup>

Warner had hardly settled on his ranch when war between the United States and Mexico broke out in 1846. *"Within the next three years, the Carrizo-Vallecito Corridor and*

*Warner's Ranch were to see first a trickle, then a stream, and finally a flood of traffic on what became known, during the Gold Rush years, as the Southern Emigrant Trail, one of the major overland routes to California."*<sup>8</sup> The military would be first.

### **Kearny's Army of the West**

Under orders from President James K. Polk to occupy New Mexico and proceed from there to California, Brigadier General Stephen Watts Kearny left Fort Leavenworth with the 1st U.S. Dragoons, some three hundred strong, on June 27, 1846.<sup>9</sup>

Kearny was also instructed by the President to recruit up to a fourth of his Command from the Mormons, then beginning their historic trek west from Iowa to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. However, Kearny could not wait



*Local historian Phil Brigandi discusses the history of the Southern Emigrant Trail into Southern California*

for what became known as the Mormon Battalion, as it had not yet been organized, and hurried west over the Santa Fe Trail.<sup>10</sup>

In early October 1846, along the Rio Grand, Kearny was met by Kit Carson who was traveling east with dispatches for the War Department.<sup>11</sup> *"Carson informed Kearny, prematurely it turned out, that California was safely in American hands. With the war in the Far West apparently over, Kearny made the fateful decision to send most of his dragoons back to Santa Fe. His conquering army was reduced to a mere escort"* totaling 121 men.<sup>12</sup> Carson, who had just passed over the route to California that Kearny planned to traverse, was ordered, against his will, to turn back and serve as a guide to Kearny's remaining forces.<sup>13</sup>

Kearny crossed the Colorado on November 25 and headed northwest through the Carrizo-Vallecito corridor

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along the Southern Emigrant Trail.<sup>14</sup> His worn-out half-starved party reached Warner's Ranch in the afternoon of December 2 but Warner was not there. They camped nearby and refreshed themselves from Warner's plentiful supplies of beef, mutton, grapes and melons. On December 4 they resumed their march to San Diego in a cold and drizzling rain. On December 6, 1846, Kearny's forces encountered a mounted force of Californios in the San Pasqual Valley armed with long lances. They were mauled and lost twenty-one. Remnants of his "army" finally reached San Diego on December 12.<sup>15</sup>

### *The Mormon Battalion*

The second military group to follow the southern overland route to California was the Mormon Battalion led by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke. It arrived in San Diego on January 29, 1847 - too late to engage in battle. Hostilities had ceased two weeks earlier, on January 13.<sup>16</sup> Although missing the fight, the long march of the Mormon Battalion was nevertheless a significant accomplishment. Enduring unbelievable hardships during their 2,100 mile march over inhospitable terrain, the Mormon volunteers built a rudimentary wagon road from New Mexico to California that would later be followed by thousands of emigrants and gold seekers.<sup>17</sup>

*"On July 18, 1846, at Council Bluffs on the banks of the Missouri River, five companies of Mormon men, ranging in age from fourteen to sixty-eight, were sworn in for a year's service in the United States Army. The original company rosters listed 496 volunteers, who were accompanied by thirty-three wives and forty-four children"* and were initially led by Captain James Allen.<sup>18</sup> The Mormon Battalion reached Fort Leavenworth on August 1, and twelve days later set out on one of the longest infantry marches in American history. They arrived in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on October 9, minus Captain Allen, who had died en route, and a group of men, women and children who had suffered illness or injury along the trail from Fort Leavenworth and were sent, via Bent's Fort (for re-provisioning), to a new settlement near today's Pueblo, Colorado.<sup>19</sup> General Kearny, who had departed Santa Fe several weeks earlier, upon learning of Captain Allen's death, sent a deeply disappointed Captain Philip St. George Cooke back to Santa Fe to take command while promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.<sup>20</sup>

The Battalion, less another contingent of sick, lame, elderly, women and children (who were also sent to the new settlement near today's Pueblo, Colorado), marched

out of Santa Fe on October 19, 1846, bound for San Diego. They now numbered about 340 men and just a few women who refused to leave their husbands.<sup>21</sup> It included *"twenty-five government wagons, twelve private family wagons, and a train of pack mules ..."*. *"Mountain men Pauline Weaver and Stephen Foster were hired as guides, later joined by two other former trappers, Antoine Leroux and Jean Baptiste Charbonneau [emphasis added]. During most of the long journey, the guides would each day go out ahead of the column to scout the route and locate water sources."*<sup>22</sup>



Barbara Gaitley

Wayne McKinley, President of the Grand Canyon Chapter, discusses Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau's participation in the Mormon Battalion and plans for the Foundation's 2009 Spring Regional in Scottsdale, AZ, commemorating it.

Although undocumented, Sacagawea's little baby boy, Jean Baptiste "Pomp" Charbonneau, now an experienced mountain man of 42 years of age, was probably recommended to Kearny by Carson as a capable guide who could assist Cooke. Baptiste (as he preferred to be called) was also now fluent in English, French, German, and Spanish, thanks to the education he had received while under the guardianship of William Clark and while traveling in Europe with Duke Paul of Wurttemberg, Germany. He was also fluent in several Indian dialects. Cooke probably recognized that Baptiste's linguistic skills would be useful during negotiations with the Spanish inhabitants of Tucson and in trading with the Indians along the Gila River.<sup>23</sup> Robinson's narrative continues ...<sup>24</sup>

The Battalion *"followed the well-worn Chihuahua-Santa Fe Trail down the Rio Grande Valley for four weeks, then turned southwest, away from the river, through arid, mostly uncharted territory. Charged with building a wagon road as they went, they turned away from Kearny's difficult trail west over the Continental Divide and dipped*

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southwest into Mexico. Work crews went ahead each day to improve the route so it would be passable for wagons. The column turned northwest to the San Pedro River, a tributary of the Gila.”

“They took two days to ford the Colorado with their wagons at what became known as **Yuma Crossing** [emphasis added], several miles south of the Gila-Colorado confluence, and set out on the most difficult part of the entire journey. Their track across the featureless, barren desert, just south of what later became the international border, was marked by dead and dying mules, forcing the abandonment of more wagons.” After fifteen miles they reached “a well that appeared to be dry. The men dug deep into the sand to reach water barely sufficient to ease the thirst of men and mules. Thereafter this was known as **Cooke’s Well** [emphasis added].” The next “day they traveled ten miles west across bleak terrain to Alamo Mocho Well, with only a slight seepage of barely drinkable water. The Battalion now turned northwest, following Kearny’s tracks, across more, dreary desert, to Pozo Hondo, where they rested and partly restored themselves with the well’s muddy, brackish water.”

“A few days earlier Cooke had sent Antoine Leroux and a guide named Tesson ahead to the California settlements to purchase fresh mules and cattle. On January 15, Tesson returned with thirty-three fresh mules and twelve cattle. The guide brought Cooke news of Kearny’s defeat at San Pasqual. Cooke decided the Battalion must push on as quickly as possible.”

“Although his men were near exhaustion, Cooke decided not to tarry at Pozo Hondo, where the muddy water was hardly fit for human consumption. They left the waterhole in late afternoon and marched northwesterly across the desert until almost midnight. ‘As usual, the night was very cold,’ wrote Sergeant Daniel Tyler. ‘The contrast between an almost tropical sun in the day time and a December cold atmosphere at night was very hurtful and weakening to both man and beast. The Indians call this region ‘the hot land.’<sup>25</sup> Cooke awakened the men - those not straggling far behind - and resumed the march under the cold, starry sky at two a.m.”

“About eleven a.m. on January 16, Cooke and the lead wagon reached the first water of **Carrizo Creek** [emphasis added]. ‘A clear, running stream gladdened our eyes after the anxious dependence upon muddy wells for five or six days,’ exclaimed Cooke. ‘Without water for near three days (for the animals) and encamping two nights in

succession without water, the battalion made, in forty-eight hours, four marches of eighteen, eight, eleven, and nineteen miles, suffering from frost and from summer heat!’<sup>26</sup> Some of the men filled their canteens and carried water back to those straggling behind. It was near midnight before the last weary foot-sore volunteer reached camp. Cooke ordered a one-day layover to give the men a rest, mend their clothes, and clean their weapons for a battle he believed was imminent.”

The next “day, January 18, the Battalion headed up Carrizo Creek in a more orderly fashion, scouts ahead, men in semi-marching order, the eight remaining wagons (5 government, 3 private) in the rear. They turned up sandy Vallecito Wash and reached Palm Spring [not to be confused with Palm Springs] by late morning. The few palm trees here were the first the men had seen. ‘The road, not quite so deep with sand, was much more broken, and obstructed with great lumps of mescal,’ Cooke reported. ‘Altogether, it is the worst fifteen miles of road since we left the Rio Grande.’<sup>27</sup> The Battalion, again strung out, reached the lush meadowlands of **Vallecito** [emphasis added] that afternoon, the last wagons straggling in after dark. ‘Here, at the Vallecito, is a wet, flat valley a mile or more in extent, where grow, besides grass, a few small willows,’ wrote Cooke. ‘The grass, which is plentiful, I fear is very poor, as the mules are straggling on the broken ground around.’<sup>28</sup> Here an Indian courier delivered a message to Cooke welcoming him to San Diego and informing him that Kearny’s Army



Ken Jutzi

Field trip participants examine wagon ruts at Campbell Grade (La Puerta) where remnants of the original Southern Emigrant Trail are clearly visible. Left to right: Phil Brigandi, Maralee Gratham, Nan Kaeser, and Barbara Gaitley.

of the West, along with Stockton’s naval and marine force, was marching on Los Angeles. The prospect of imminent battle appeared to fade, although Cooke was warned to

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be on the lookout for some of the Californio leaders who might try to flee to Mexico via this route.”

“January 19 was one of the most difficult days of the long march. They entered the narrow, rocky gorge of **Box Canyon** [emphasis added], passable to those on foot but not to the wagons. Sergeant Tyler related how the difficulties were surmounted: ‘Our route lay up a dry ravine, through openings in the solid rocks .... As we traveled up the dry bed, the chasm became more contracted until we found ourselves in a passage at least a foot narrower than our wagons. Nearly all of our road tools, such as picks, shovels, spades, etc., had been lost in the boat disaster [in crossing the Colorado]. The principal ones remaining were a few axes ... a small crowbar, and perhaps a spade or two. These were brought into requisition, the commander taking an axe and assisting the pioneers. Considerable was done before the wagons arrived. One wagon was taken to pieces and carried over about an hour before sunset. The passage was hewn out and the remaining wagons got through about sundown, by unloading and lifting through all but two light ones which were hauled by the mules.’”<sup>29</sup> Thus the Mormon Battalion opened a wagon road through the narrow gorge, a route that would later be improved and used by multitudes of gold seekers and emigrants. The Battalion encamped on a ridge just beyond the chasm and suffered through a cold, waterless night.”

Early the “next morning they ascended a rocky hill [today’s Foot and Walker Pass], the men using ropes to help pull the wagons over the top, and entered the **San Felipe Valley** [emphasis added]. They climbed up the broad, gentle valley and camped at dusk amid tall live oaks, the first they had seen in California. Grass was abundant for the animals.”

“January 21 was one of the most pleasant days of the long trek. They crossed the pass at the head of San Felipe Valley [today’s Teofulio Summit (Warner Pass)] and were rewarded with a glorious view of **Valle de San Jose** [emphasis added], dotted with live oaks, with cattle grazing on the verdant expanse of grass. They descended a short distance north and camped close to **Warner’s Ranch** [emphasis added] - the first houses they had seen since leaving Tucson a month earlier. Here they enjoyed a day of rest, feasting on beef and pancakes they bought from the Cupefios of Agua Caliente. Some of the men bathed in the hot springs.”

On January 27, 1847, the Mormon Battalion arrived at the San Luis Rey mission in today’s Oceanside, CA. They

reached San Diego on January 29. “Cooke met with Kearny, who had just reached San Diego from Los Angeles and was awaiting [a] ship to Monterey, and reported that a wagon road ‘of great value to our country’ had been opened from New Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. (Cooke could not have known that a year later gold would be discovered in the Mother Lode country, and thousands of gold seekers and emigrants would use his wagon road to reach California.)”<sup>30</sup>

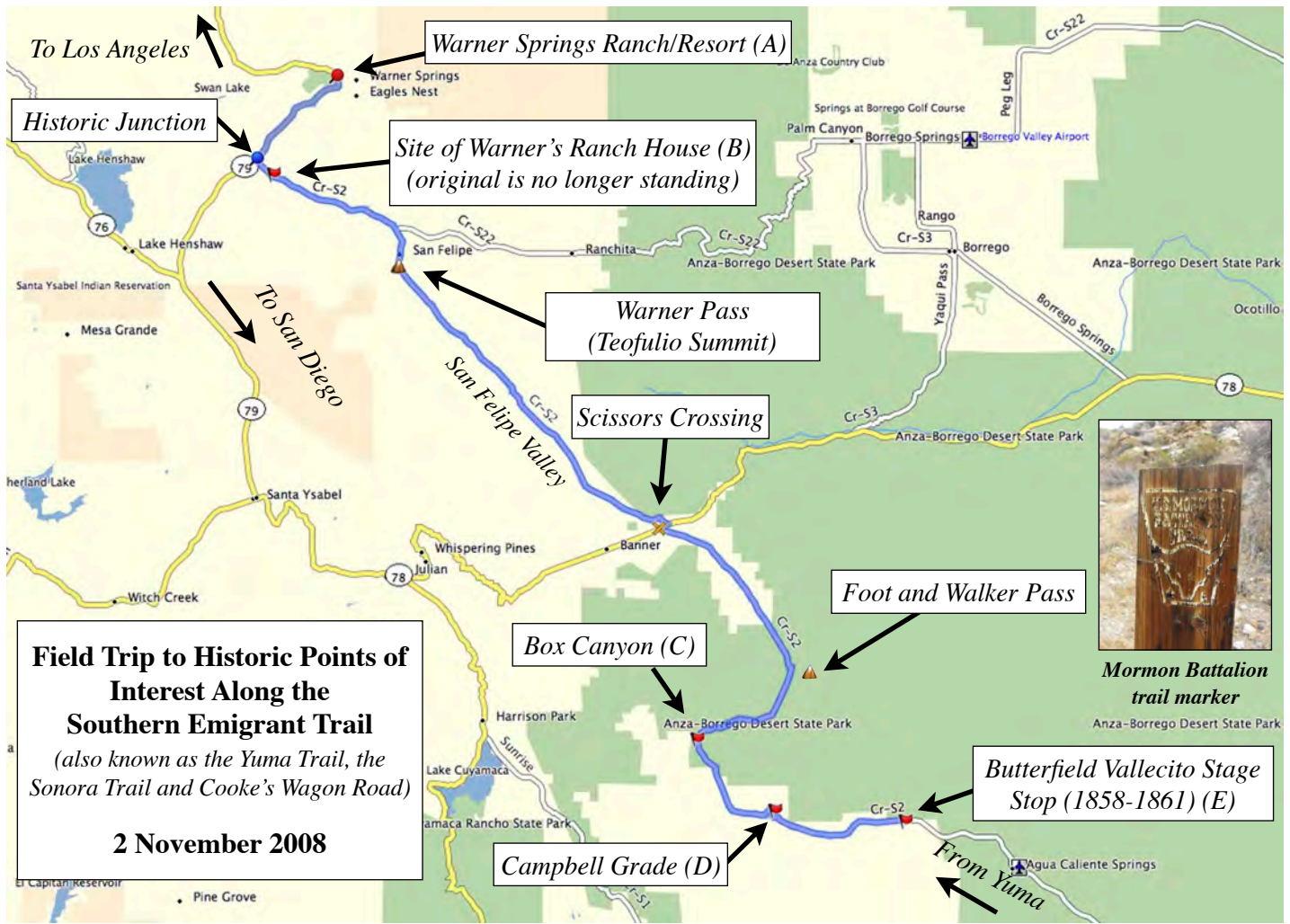


Ken Jutzi

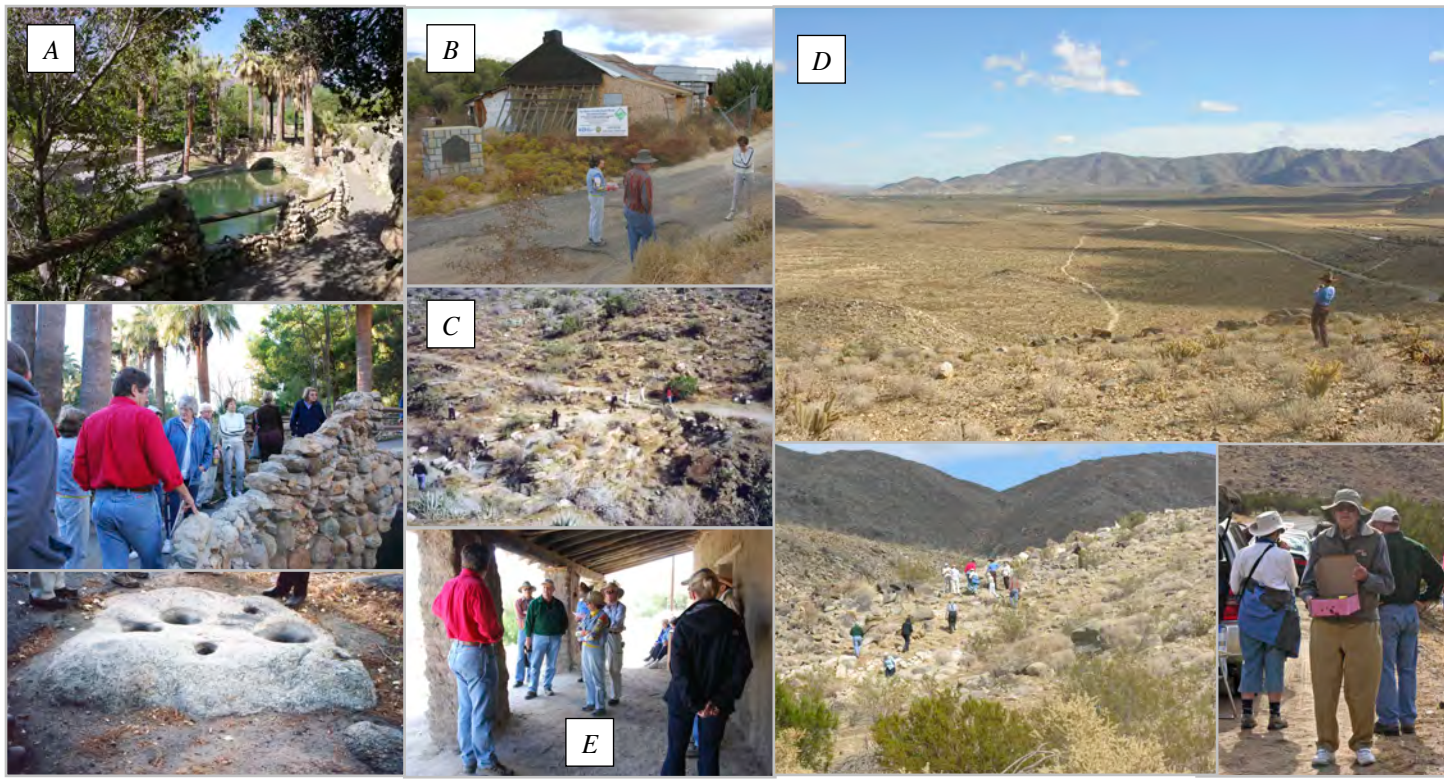
Field trip participants examine additional wagon ruts at Box Canyon where the Mormon Battalion widened the solid rock walls with only hand tools. Right to left: Adam Saling, Maralee Gratham, and Adam’s friend

In July of 1847, when their one year enlistment was completed, the Battalion was discharged. Eighty-one re-enlisted for an additional six months. Some traveled northward to help build a grist mill and sawmill for John Sutter<sup>31</sup> and other infrastructure on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada that would be instrumental in accommodating the influx of settlers and gold seekers that would soon occur. Others traveled to the Salt Lake Valley to rejoin their families and friends.<sup>32</sup>

Jean Baptiste himself remained at the San Luis Rey Mission, serving as an alcalde (magistrate), until July of 1848 when he too traveled north to the newly discovered gold fields near Auburn, CA. There he partnered with his old friend, Jim Beckwourth, a black mountain man from Virginia, in the hotel business<sup>33</sup> and pursued the operation of a ferry on the south fork of the American River.<sup>34</sup> He stayed in Auburn for about eighteen years. At the age of sixty-one, Jean Baptist left Auburn for a new gold strike in what was then know as the Montana Territory. On the way he contracted pneumonia to which he succumbed on May 16, 1866, at a roadhouse known as Inskip Station, near today’s Danner, Oregon.<sup>35</sup>



**Field Trip to Historic Points of Interest Along the Southern Emigrant Trail**  
 (also known as the Yuma Trail, the Sonora Trail and Cooke's Wagon Road)  
**2 November 2008**



Photos by Barbara Gaitley, Margaret Miller and Ken Jutzi

**CALCTHF Fall Gathering  
Box Canyon, Southern Emigrant Trail, 2 November 2008**



*CALCTHF members gather at Box Canyon during a field trip to the Southern Emigrant Trail into Southern California.*

*Left to right: Ken Jutzi (Camarillo), Mary Ann Kvenvolden (Palo Alto), Barbara and Dr. Rodney Willard (Redlands), Nan Kaeser (Sierra Madre), Ken Smith (Camarillo), Maralee Gratham (Santa Monica), Barbara Kelley (Fullerton), Keith Kvenvolden (Palo Alto), Barbara Gaitley (Van Nuys), Phil Brigandi (our tour guide), Margaret Miller (Cathlamet, WA), Marsha Smith (Camarillo), and Adam Saling and friend (San Diego). (photos by Margaret Miller, Mary Ann Kvenvolden and Ken Jutzi)*



Margaret Miller

Field trip participants relax in the bar at Warner Springs Resort after exploring the Southern Emigrant Trail into California. Left to right: Nan Kaeser, Margaret Miller, Mary Ann Kvenvolden, Ken Jutzi, and Keith Kvenvolden

<sup>1</sup> Robinson, John W., "Gateways to Southern California", The Big Santa Anita Historical Society, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 37.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 40.

<sup>4</sup> This junction is located at the junction of today's San Diego County Highway S2 (San Felipe Road) and CA-79.

<sup>5</sup> Robinson, p. 40.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., p. 41.

<sup>7</sup> Hill, Joseph J., "The History of Warners Ranch and Its Environs" (Los Angeles: privately printed, 1927), p. 113.

<sup>8</sup> Robinson, p. 41.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., p. 42.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Carson had come to California in 1845 with Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont.

<sup>12</sup> Robinson, p. 42.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 43.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., p. 45.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 46.

<sup>19</sup> McKinley, Wayne, "When the Saints Came Marching In: Manifest Destiny and the Mormon Battalion", a final paper written for a course on the history of the south western United States, November, 2006, p. 9-10 (Claremont handout).

<sup>20</sup> Robinson, p. 46..

<sup>21</sup> McKinley, p. 11.

<sup>22</sup> Robinson, p. 46, and Norma B. Ricketts, "The Mormon Battalion, U.S. Army of the West, 1846-1848", p. 71.

<sup>23</sup> McKinley, pp. 11-12.

<sup>24</sup> Robinson, pp. 46-50.

<sup>25</sup> Tyler, Sgt. Daniel, "A Concise History of the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, 1846-1848" (Chicago: Rio Grande Press, 1964 (reprint of the 1881 edition), p. 244.

<sup>26</sup> "Cooke's Journal of the March of the Mormon Battalion, 1846-1847", Ralph P. Bieber, (ed). "Exploring Southwest Trails, 1846-1847" (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1938), pp. 215-216.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p. 218.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 219.

<sup>29</sup> Tyler, pp. 247-248.

<sup>30</sup> Robinson, p. 50.

<sup>31</sup> "The Saga of the Mormon Battalion", handout of the Mormon Battalion Visitor's Center, Old Town San Diego, CA. (undated)

<sup>32</sup> McKinley, p. 15.

<sup>33</sup> Colby, Susan M., "Sacagawea's Child, The Life and Times of Jean-Baptiste (Pomp) Charbonneau", The Arthur H. Clark Company, Spokane, WA, 2005, p. 164.

<sup>34</sup> Handwritten request to the Placer County Board of Supervisors, dated June 12, 1857, and signed by Jean Baptist Charbonneau, Placer County Museum archives, Auburn, CA.

<sup>35</sup> Anderson, Irving W., "A Charbonneau Family Portrait, Biographical Sketches of Sacagawea, Jean Baptiste, and Toussaint Charbonneau", Anchor Graphics, Astoria, OR, 2002, p. 18.

**Winter 2008 - Great Falls, Montana**  
(12/20/2008) (-10°F)



Black Eagle Dam and Reservoir



Giant Springs State Park

Courtesy Don Peterson



**President's Note**

As I think about 2008, I believe our Chapter has had a pretty good year. Our membership levels have remained strong and some of you have chosen to renew at a higher level. I and our Treasurer, Keith, thank you for that, as does our Membership Secretary, Mary Ann, who sends out those dues renewal reminders. Without your continued support our Chapter would not be able to do what it does.

Our 2008 gatherings were well attended and have created, for me, fond memories. For those of you who attended at least one of them, I hope that has also been the case for you. For those of you who were not able to attend at least one of them, I hope 2009 will be different.

This coming spring promises another interesting experience as we will combine our traditional spring gathering with the Foundation's Spring Regional in Scottsdale, AZ, hosted by the Grand Canyon Chapter. We will again focus on Jean Baptiste and his participation in the march of the Mormon Battalion, but this time the focus will be on the Arizona portion of their historic journey. Be sure to review the details contained in the insert to this newsletter. I hope you will be able to attend.

Opposite you will find some demographics about our Chapter's membership that I thought you might find interesting. Have a great 2009 everybody!

Ken

<b>CALCTHF Membership Demographics (December 2008)</b>	
<b>Total Members</b>	
Dues Paying	77
Honorary	2
<b>Membership Levels</b>	
Individual	29
Family	9
Willard Club	6
Pomp Club	9
Heritage	17
Explorer	5
Jefferson	1
Discovery	1
<b>Geographic Distribution</b>	
California	73
Northern	41
Southern	32
Illinois	1
Maryland	1
Nebraska	1
Nevada	2
Washington	1

**Chapter Elections  
Planned for April  
Call for Candidates**

Our Chapter bylaws require us to elect Chapter Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) every two years.

The terms for current office holders will expire on 1 October 2009. Ballots will be sent out to our membership in April 2009. New office holders will be announced in July 2009 and assume their positions 1 October 2009.

Please consider serving in one of these positions. If you have questions about what's involved, please contact either  
 Mary Ann Kvenvolden  
 at (650) 328-0414 or Ken Jutzi  
 at (805) 444-3236.



*Geographic distribution of CALCTHF members in CA & NV*

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for a woman from down the road. The phone rings and Leo answers, "Good morning Mr. President, ready for duty."

"Leo," as everyone knows Miller, is the mayor when the town needs counsel. He's the banker when a family's milk runs out before payday. When the temperature drops below freezing and the children of Pompeys Pillar are standing on the roadside freezing, Leo's Lewis and Clark Tavern opens early and becomes the bus stop.

"I'll tell you, for the last 45 or 50 years, if a kid needed money to go on a date, he came to Leo," said Bud Sherrodd. "People who needed \$100 could come to Leo and cash a post-dated check and know he wasn't going to cash it early. He's helped not just a few people, but hundreds of people."

On a Saturday afternoon this past September, Sherrodd and others shut down the Pompeys Pillar main drag for an all-day celebration of Miller's 49th year in business. There were hot rods and dachshund races, live music and maybe enough beer sold to keep Miller going for another year. Because Leo's tavern isn't just a bar. Locals say it's the town's soul.

Here, the history of Pompeys Pillar hangs from the walls in layers. So many artifacts that the overall effect seems to dull the significance of this repository. The current copy of Leo's liquor license hangs in front of the previous copy, which hangs in front of a shriveled wad of government paperwork half a century thick.

There's a photo of a much younger Leo sporting manly sideburns and rubbing noses with a cute blonde in a hunting vest. The photo, positioned over a refrigerator stocked with beer and bait, documents the closest Leo ever came to kissing a woman - that is, according to Brandy Bradshaw, the one-time owner of Worden's Beartrap Bar and the subject of the photo.

"Well, a lot of us used to hunt together, customers of mine, and when we hunted and fished, if we ever went east we stopped at Leo's," Bradshaw said. "We thought if you didn't stop at Leo's something bad was going to happen to you."

And if they happened to discover some new found immunity to the prairie chill after a few hours of tipping cans at Leo's and wandered out the front door without their coats, the bartender would hang their jackets from a peg on the south wall, where a half-dozen other forgotten

coats also hung, waiting like dogs at the pound for their owners' return. Leo, after a while, adopts the coats out to anyone with a bare back.

"They're there for hitchhikers," said Miller, though it's been years since any traveler on foot or otherwise exited the highway in search of anything in Pompeys Pillar. The closest freeway exit is more than a mile to the west and sports a sign proclaiming "no services." The story behind the sign and the exit so far from Pompeys Pillar is the tale of how the community became a one-bar town.

When Leo Miller first set foot in Pompeys Pillar, it was a thriving little farm town on the shoulder of two-lane U.S. Highway 12. It had three gas stations, two general stores and two bars, one of which, The Pillar Club, struck Miller, a traveling laborer from Wilton, N.D., as a sound business opportunity.



Ken Jutzi

*Leo's Lewis & Clark Tavern  
Pompeys Pillar, Montana*



Gazette Photo

*Leo Miller, 77, sits inside his bar, the Lewis & Clark Tavern  
in Pompeys Pillar, MT. The town's residents celebrated  
Miller's 49th year in business in September 2008.*

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At the time, there was a buzz about the town's future. A local couple, Stella and John Foote, had bought the towering Yellowstone River monument after which the town was named. The sandstone column features the signature of Capt. William Clark and for a long time was considered the only physical evidence of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The Footes promoted the monument as a tourist attraction. They got the pillar designated as a National Historic Landmark. And with four-lane U.S. Interstate 94 about to replace U.S. 10, the Footes successfully lobbied to get the highway exit off Interstate 94 located near the monument, not near the town.

Miller's Pillar Club stood in the interstate's path and was knocked down. The overpasses and guardrails of I-94 pretty much shut the town off.

Leo bought the town's remaining bar to keep the community wet with beer while the rest of its prospects dried up, until finally his screen door was the only one still banging on the main street.

"When Leo goes, I don't think there will be much of a town left," Bradshaw said. "I can't imagine anyone taking over the business in that rundown building. But he's the reason probably three generations of kids, down waiting for the bus, or waiting for folks, could grab a pizza or a Coke and weren't on the side of the road freezing to death."

"A small-town bar becomes a community center. People have their birthdays there, their anniversaries there. You can use the church, but if you don't go to church, you use the bar. And people are on fixed incomes. Leo carries them for a month and at the end of the month, after they repay him, if they still don't have anything, he carries them for another month. He carries the community."

On Saturday, September 13, 2008, the community paid Leo back as they celebrated Leo Miller's 49 years in business with hot rods, dachshund races and live music.

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*Editor's Note: While attending the Bicentennial event "Clark on the Yellowstone" in July of 2006 I was attracted to the ad for Leo's Lewis & Clark Tavern and decided to "stop in for a cold one". Discovering this article about Leo brought back fond memories of that experience and reading it put a smile on my face. I hope it did the same for you.*



*Stella Foote meets the great, great, great grandson of William Clark (a.k.a. Peyton "Bud" Clark) at Pompeys Pillar during "Clark on the Yellowstone" festivities in July 2006.*



*Today a boardwalk leads to Clark's 1806 inscription and to the top of the 150 foot tall sandstone butte.*



*In 1882 the Northern Pacific Railroad placed an iron grate over the signature to protect it. In 1954 the Foote family replaced the grate with the present brass and glass case. In 2001 Pompeys Pillar National Monument was established and placed under the protection and management of the Bureau of Land Management. (Source: <http://www.pompeyspillar.org>) (photos by Ken Jutzi)*

**Bay Area Book Discussion Group Report**

by Mary Ann Kvenvolden

The Book Discussion Group met for the ninth time on September 28, 2008, at the home of Joan Saczynski in San Jose, California. Ten members attended and we watched a videotape entitled "Views of a Vanishing Frontier" that the Kvenvoldens obtained at the Fort Union National Historic Site.

This film retraces the historic journey of the German naturalist, Prince Maximilian zu Wied, and Swiss artist, Karl Bodmer, as they followed part of the route of Lewis and Clark almost 30 years after the original expedition.

Together the Prince and the artist provided valuable scientific documentation of the landscape, flora, fauna, and Native American culture that is still greatly appreciated today. Soon after their two year journey many things changed rapidly. Many Indian tribes disappeared due to smallpox and other diseases and farms and cities altered the landscape.

As usual the group enjoyed refreshments and discussion. Tau and Ann Alpha brought art books featuring Bodmer's famous paintings and sketches as well as the works of other artists of that era.

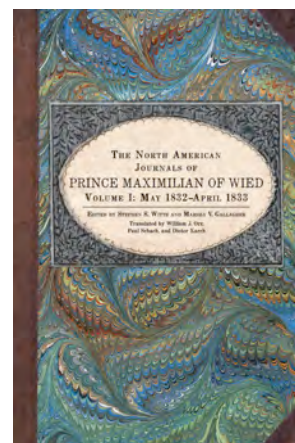
The next meeting will be held at the Kvenvolden home in Palo Alto on Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 2-4 PM. Please call Mary Ann Kvenvolden (650-328-0414) or Pat Hartinger (408-356-5363) for more information. We plan to view and discuss another videotape or DVD relating to Lewis and Clark. The title has not yet been announced.

*Editors Note: The documentary film "Views of a Vanishing Frontier" was produced by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1998. It was produced in collaboration with the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, and features interviews with George Horse Capture, Gerald Baker and Marsha V. Gallagher (Joslyn Art Museum). It is available in both VHS and DVD formats from the Fort Union Association, 15550 Highway 1804, Williston, ND. (800-434-0233)*

**A New English Version of  
Prince Maximilian's Journal is Now Available**

The University of Oklahoma Press (Norman), in collaboration with the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, has embarked on an effort to publish, in three volumes, a new English version of Prince Maximilian's journals. The Prince's journals have never before been fully published in English.

An Oklahoma Press press release announcing this new publication indicates that the North American Journals "offer an incomparable view of the upper Missouri and its Native peoples at a pivotal moment in the history of the American West". It goes on to indicate that this "meticulous account, newly translated with extensive modern annotation, faithfully reproduces Maximilian's 110 drawings and watercolors as well as his own notes, asides, and appendices".



*The North American Journals of Prince Maximilian of Wied, Volume 1*, covering the period May 1832 (the Prince's departure from Germany) to April 1833 (the Prince's arrival in St. Louis where he first encounters American Indians, thanks to William Clark) was released in May 2008. Subsequent volumes are planned to be released over the next 2-3 years.

More information may be obtained on the internet at <http://www.oupres.com>; by mail from the University of Oklahoma Press, 2800 Venture Drive, Norman, OK 73069-8216; or via phone at (800) 627-7377 or (405) 325-2000.

**Lexophile Humor**

- The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. He did a number on it.
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
- A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.
- The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
- If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

**Treasurer's Report  
Funds on Hand 12/31/08:  
\$1,857.13**

Golden Notes is published on a semi-annual (January and July) or quarterly (January, April, July and October) basis depending upon the availability of funding to cover our printing and mailing costs. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send them to CALCTHF, c/o Golden Notes Editor, P.O. Box 1767, Camarillo, CA 93011-1767, or email to [calcthf@verizon.net](mailto:calcthf@verizon.net). Newsletter Editor: Ken Jutzi



*You are invited to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's*

# **Southwest Regional Meeting**

**April 17 -19, 2009 in Scottsdale, Arizona**

## **Planned Agenda**

**Friday — Evening Reception at the Noriega Livery Stable and Carriage Museum hosted by the Grand Canyon Chapter.**

**Saturday — Scottsdale Civic Center Library Auditorium, Downtown**  
**Registration and Continental Breakfast — 8:30 a.m.**  
**Foundation & Chapter Speakers — 9:00 to 11:30**  
**Lunch on your own — 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Keynote Program Presentations — 1:00 to 4:30**  
**Dinner on your own**

**Sunday — Optional Tour 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

A tour to the public unveiling of a marker at Gila Bend honoring Jean Baptiste Charbonneau (Pomp) for his participation as a guide for the Mormon Battalion on their historic journey through Arizona. Cost of the bus and lunch will depend on number attending.



Numerous hotels, restaurants, and world class shopping surround the meeting site. Scottsdale Trolleys provide free transportation throughout the downtown areas.

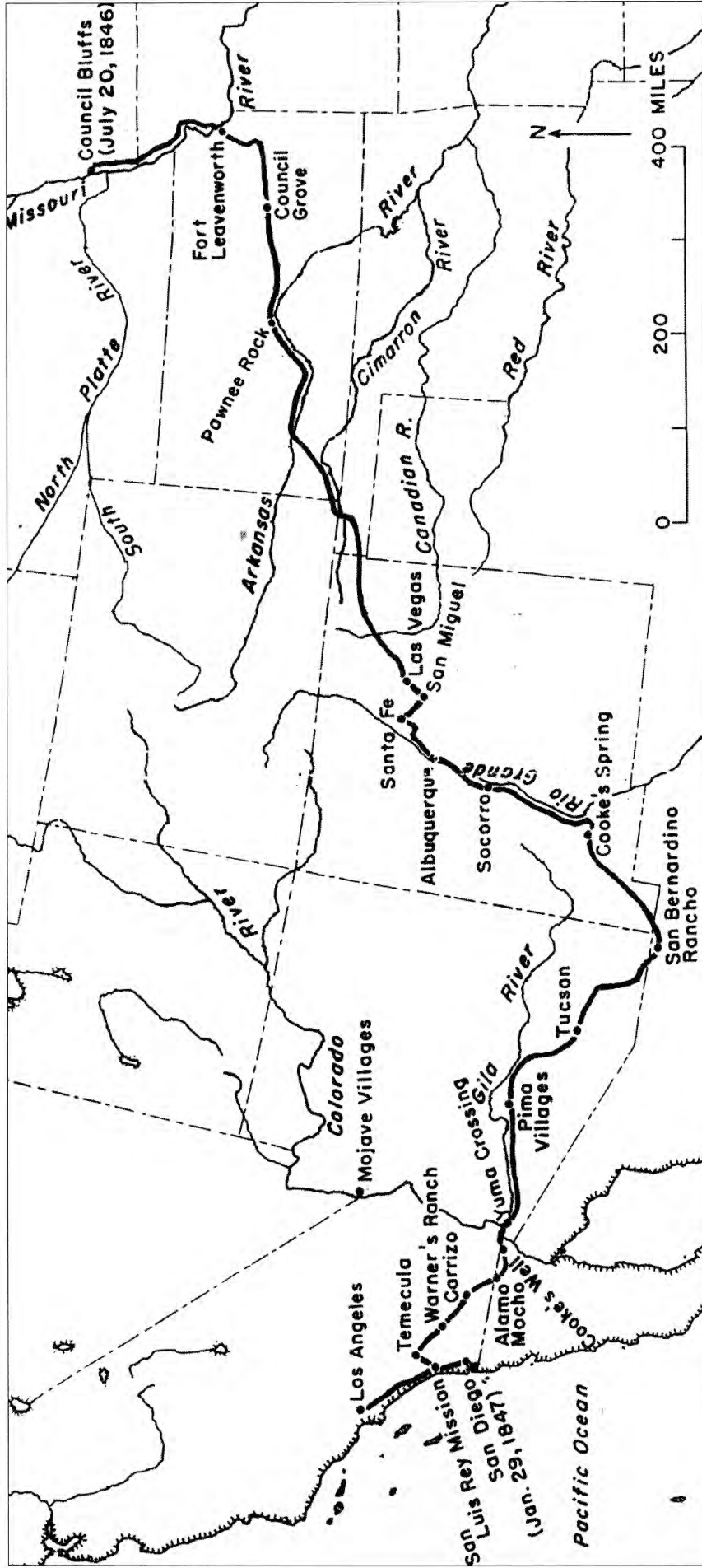
For more information contact

**Jean Myers: [jenicely@cox.net](mailto:jenicely@cox.net) 480-471-8290**

**Inquiry & Registration: [lcasregister@yahoo.com](mailto:lcasregister@yahoo.com)**

**Downtown Scottsdale Website: [www.scottsdale-downtown.com](http://www.scottsdale-downtown.com)**

**Join us for your next Spring Break in beautiful Arizona**



**Route of the Mormon Battalion**

Council Bluffs, Iowa (July 20, 1846) to San Diego, California (January 29, 1847) (Map by Laurence Jones)

Source: *Gateways to Southern California*, John W. Robinson, The Santa Anita Historical Society, 2005, p. 47.  
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