



# Heritage Trail Partners, Inc.

## NEWSLETTER

June 2009

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### Good News On Federal and State Legislation

Federal and state legislation at the end of March, 2009, brought good news for Heritage Trail Partners. President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Land Act into law recognizing additional Arkansas routes of the Trail of Tears for inclusion in the National Trails System under the Department of the Interior / National Park Service. That Act also directs the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study to add the Butterfield Overland Mail Route to the National Trails System. At the same time, both houses of the Arkansas State Legislature approved the Arkansas Heritage Trails System that would include the Trail of Tears Routes and the Butterfield Routes, and the Southwest Trail as parts of a new state trail system.

On March 27, Heritage Trail Partners representatives John McLarty, Kirby Sanders, Marilyn Heifner and A.D. Poole, met with U.S. Congressman John Boozman in Fayetteville and presented him with a limited edition copy of the HTP publication *Driver's Guide to the Butterfield Overland Mail Route* in recognition of the passage of the federal legislation.

On March 31, Marilyn Heifner, Kirby Sanders and Mayor Jackie Crabtree of Pea Ridge represented HTP at Governor Mike Beebe's signing of the Arkansas Heritage Trails System legislation in Little Rock. Governor Beebe was presented with a limited edition copy of the *Driver's Guide to the Butterfield Overland Mail Route*, as was state Representative Lindsley Smith, who sponsored the legislation.



*Kirby Sanders, U.S. Congressman John Boozman, John McLarty, Marilyn Heifner, and A.D. Poole. Boozman was presented with the recently published Heritage Trail Partners book: Driver's Guide to the Butterfield Overland Mail Route.*

***Have you paid your Heritage Trail Partners annual dues this year? Would you or someone you know like to join Heritage Trail Partners for the first time?***

Here are our categories of membership: **Partner: \$15; Family Partner: \$25; Community Partner: \$25** (school, civic and heritage groups); **Trail Builder: \$75; Trail Blazer: \$150** (individual, business and corporate). Please send your dues to: Heritage Trail Partners, c/o Glenn Jones, Treasurer, 623 Spring Creek Road, Lowell, AR 72745. You can also join using Paypal on our website:

[www.heritagetrailpartners.com](http://www.heritagetrailpartners.com)



## Letter from the President

First, let me thank all the members of Heritage Trail Partners for their support. There is a lot of excitement at Heritage Trail Partners these days, so if you are not already a member, now is a great time to join.

The Heritage Trail concept is now an official state-wide system enacted into law by the Arkansas General Assembly. Also, the National Park Service Historic Trails Division is about to embark on a study to determine if the Butterfield Overland Route warrants status as a National Historical Trail. We, at Heritage Trail Partners, already know the answer to that question!

In addition, with the new routes added to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, there are new signage opportunities all across Arkansas. Marilyn Heifner (Vice President) and I were talking after our last board meeting and we concluded that the sky is the limit for the opportunities available to Heritage Trail Partners.

And ...congratulations to our new board members: Lonnie and Barbara Horn and David Malone.

Take care,

John McLarty  
President

## HTP Annual Meeting In April

Our Annual Meeting took place on April 15 this year. Officers and board members were appointed. Regular members mingled with board members. Refreshments were served. We had a fun and educational program, and a good time was had by all.

### 2009—2010 Board Members

#### *Officers*

President: John McLarty  
First Vice President: Marilyn Heifner  
Second Vice President: Jackie Crabtree  
Secretary: Susan Young  
Treasurer: Glenn Jones

#### *Board Members*

Barbara Horn  
Lonnie Horn  
Cynthia K. Lee  
David Malone  
Scott Mashburn  
Matt Mihalevich  
Bill Millager  
A.D. Poole  
Alan Thompson  
Gloria Young

#### *Advisory Board Members*

John Scott  
Kirby Sanders



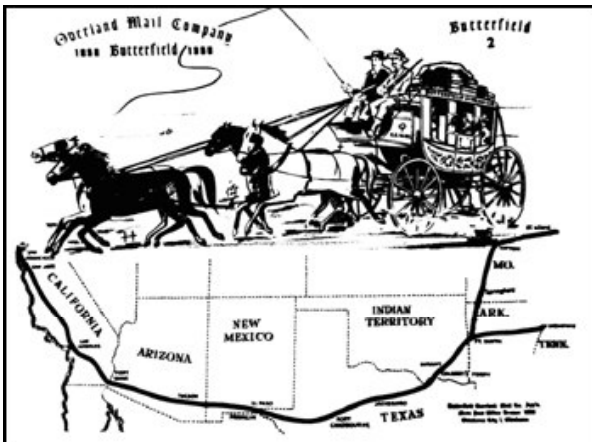
*New board members Lonnie and Barbara Horn pause in front of Elkhorn Tavern.*

## Update on Callahan's Station on the Butterfield Stage Coach Route

In 1858 John Butterfield began operating the longest stagecoach run in the history of the world. Butterfield's mail coaches ran from Tipton, Missouri to San Francisco, right through Northwest Arkansas. The mileage of the route was approximately 2,800 miles. Coaches were to run each way twice a week. Having 25 days to make each run, the coaches traveled day and night to meet this deadline. There were stage stops every 20 miles or so to change teams.

In Arkansas, the first westbound Butterfield Stage stopped at **Callahan's Station** in present day Rogers on September 18, 1858, a Saturday morning. It then proceeded through Cross Hollow on the way to Fitzgerald's Station in Shiloh (modern day Springdale). The stage arrived in Fayetteville at 11:00 a.m. that Saturday morning and left at 10 minutes till noon southward toward the rugged Boston Mountains on the way to Van Buren and Fort Smith. The stage arrived in San Francisco on October 10, 1858. It was one day early.

At the HTP board meeting on May 20, Monte Harris of the Rogers Historical Museum shared her latest research on the location of Callahan's Station with Heritage Trail Partner Board members. Her meticulous research provided new insight that will lead to further investigation of the exact location.



*The gathering of eagles in Tahlequah to discuss a Cherokee Trail of Tears commemorative site.*

## A Gathering of Eagles

by Glenn Jones

John Scott, two Pea Ridge park employees and I met with Principal Chief Chad Smith at his office at the Cherokee Tribal Head-quarters in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on May 31 (*see photo above*). Tahlequah is the capitol of the Cherokee Nation.

As you may or may not know, there are many changes scheduled at Pea Ridge National Military Park. Each of the changes ultimately will impact visitors in a big way.

One of the changes is a proposed Cherokee Trail of Tears commemorative site that includes a five-foot-wide paved walking trail, four wayside markers and four benches, all surrounded by a forest. The centerpiece is a huge bronze or color tile star representing the seven Cherokee clans.

The purpose of our meeting with Chief Chad Smith was to discuss the project, obtain his approval, and hopefully garner some financial support from the Cherokee Nation.

After reviewing the drawings and hearing the information we presented, Chief Chad Smith immediately sent his secretary out to round up additional staff, including the roads engineer and the director of communications. We anticipated a 30-40 minute meeting with Chief Chad Smith, but we ended up spending almost two hours with him! It was an extremely productive and encouraging session.

# Events of Interest

## **Siloam Springs Heritage Festival**

**Saturday, June 27, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

**Twin Springs Park &**

**Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**

This is a family friendly celebration. Free entertainment, including old time Southern Gospel, Bluegrass Gospel, Country Western, Western Swing, and Cloggers — Displays of Civil War artifacts, Victorian Women's Jewelry and Siloam Springs Memorabilia— Living history performances and walking tour of the downtown historic district — Lots of food! Many kinds — Arts and Crafts — Demonstrations of making lye soap, lace and arrowheads. For additional information email:

siloomspringsheritagefestival@gmail.com or visit the website [www.siloomspringsheritagefestival.org](http://www.siloomspringsheritagefestival.org)

## **Spin-A-Round Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

**Prairie Grove Battlefield Park**

Meet in the Latta Barn

Wool and Wheel Handspinners will demonstrate the traditional art of spinning thread and discuss the basics of making cloth.

## **Cannon Firing Demonstrations**

**with First Arkansas Light Artillery**

**Saturday July 18, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.**

**Prairie Grove Battlefield Park**

Meet in the Ozark Village

## **Burgess Civil War Collection**

**Sunday, July 19, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park**

Meet in the Visitor Center

Local Civil War expert Steve Burgess will display and talk about Civil War items from his personal collection, including bullets, cannonballs, and other items found in Northwest Arkansas.

## **Genealogy Workshop**

**Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**U.S. Marshals Museum, Fort Smith**

**Genealogy 101: Tracing Your Roots** featuring **Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG** She is a nationally known genealogy speaker and author of "*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*" Sessions include:

**How to Begin a Genealogy Project**

**How to Conduct Effective Oral History Interviews**

**How to Utilize the National Archives and Records**

**Administration (NARA)**

**How to Do Genealogy Research on the Internet**

**How to Research U.S. Marshals.**

Cost is \$35, which includes a box lunch and workshop materials. Contact Jessica Hayes at [jhayes@usmarshalsmuseum.com](mailto:jhayes@usmarshalsmuseum.com) to register or get additional information.

## **Mule Jump**

**Saturday, October 10, Pea Ridge**

The 21st Annual Pea Ridge Mule Jump will be held in the City Park. An anticipated turnout of over 1000 people will watch mules jump over barricades that are sometimes higher than their heads. There will also be halter classes, barrel races, a hog calling competition and more. For additional information call the Regional Chamber of Commerce at: 479-451-0599.

## **Cherishing Children Trail Ride**

**Benefiting the Children's Advocacy Center of Benton County, Saturday, October 10, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Pea Ridge National Military Park, Highway 62 East**

Cost: \$35 Registration Fee per rider, which includes a \$10 donation to the Friends of the Pea Ridge Military Park. Participants can choose to ride either a 4-mile or 9-mile trail. For additional information contact Cindy Black [blackycjb@aol.com](mailto:blackycjb@aol.com), Al Acosta 479-621-0385 or [www.CherishingChildren.net](http://www.CherishingChildren.net).