



TERRITORIAL DAUGHTERS OF COLORADO

SOUTHERN CHAPTER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2019

September Southern Chapter Meeting

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The September meeting will be on **September 28 at noon**. We will meet at the Windsor Hotel, 625 Grand Avenue, Del Norte, CO. The program will be on the history of Del Norte and the 1876 Susan B. Anthony visit to Del Norte. **RSVP to Tamara Estes by Sept. 23** at territorialdaughters@gmail.com or 719-244-4747. Map is available on the website. Anyone interested in staying at the Windsor can make reservations through their website at www.windsorhoteldelnorte.com. The Southern Chapter is grateful to Suzanne Off for arranging this meeting.

Lectures and Events

Powwow

September 21, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

The rich American Indian heritage of the Pikes Peak region is interpreted on a daily basis at **Rock Ledge Ranch**. On this special day, the Ranch celebrates America's indigenous nations with a traditional Powwow. The 10th Annual Garden of the Gods Rock Ledge Ranch Powwow will represent many American Indian Tribes. Powwow will include various exhibition dances, Specials (contest) for youth and adults.

Location: Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, 3105 Gateway Rd, Colorado Springs, CO

In the Shadow of History: Teresita Sandoval, 1811-1894

Nov 15, 6 p.m.

Join Deborah Espinosa as she tells the history of one of Colorado's most important trailblazers: Teresita Sandoval. Deborah will highlight the how Teresita, who may never have called herself a Chicana, set a path for activism for women to follow in for years to come.

Part of PCC's Year of La Chicana, this is a lecture with a reception attached.

Please contact marissa.volpe@state.co.us for more information.

Location: Pueblo Community College, 900 W Orman Ave., Academic Building, Room 110, Pueblo, CO, 81004

September Birthdays

September 3—Gayla Goss

September 4—Mary Ann Fleming

September 4—Tonya Sharp

September 6—Cynthia Johnson

September 8—Nola Cox (91)

September 8—JoAnn Peralta-Templeton

September 11—Betty Duran (90)

September 23—Peggy Martin



October Southern Chapter Meeting

The October meeting will be **October 19 at noon**. We will meet at the Chico Basin Ranch north of Pueblo. Directions and further information will be coming soon





September 2019

Southern Chapter News

2020 State Meeting— The Southern Chapter will be hosting the 2020 State meeting. We are planning on this being a full day meeting. The meeting committee is working on securing the Penrose House in Colorado Springs as the meeting sight. The Penrose House is free to use by non-profits. TDC is not a 501 (c) 3, so we will be partnering with the Florence Historical Archives (the official TDC archive location) to host this meeting. Anyone wishing to participate in planning this meeting please contact Tamara Estes to get added to the list of committee members.

2020 Southern Chapter Meetings— The meetings are being scheduled for 2020. Anyone interested in hosting a meeting or scheduling a program should contact Tamara Estes (territorialdaughters@gmail.com) to select a date. Tentative meeting dates and areas will be April 18— Colorado Springs area, May 16—Walsenburg area, June 13—State TDC Meeting, July 18—La Veta area, August 15—Canon City area, September 19 or 26—San Luis Valley, October 17—Pueblo area

The Old Spanish Trail By Suzanne Off

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail has three branches. In 1829-1830, Antonio Armijo led the first successful commercial round-trip trade caravan from Abiquiú, New Mexico, to Los Angeles, California. His caravan of 100 pack animals opened a direct but difficult route across northern Arizona. The Main Route, first blazed by William Wolfskill and George C. Yount in 1831, veered northwest from Abiquiú through southwestern to northwestern Colorado and into central Utah. It joined the Armijo route near the Colorado River and not far from Las Vegas, Nevada. **(The North Branch forks are discussed below-Trails and Roads of the San Luis Valley.)**

The Old Spanish Trail was used from 1829 to 1848, as an official trade route between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Los Angeles, California. Woolen textiles, woven in Northern New Mexico, were traded for strong Californian mules and horses.

Textiles transported over the Old Spanish Trail were made from the wool of Churro sheep. The wool was desirable because of its water resistance, warmth, and multiple colors. Churro wool allowed weavers to create beautiful blankets, shawls, and rugs with mixtures of black, white, grey, tan, cinnamon, and brown.

Mules were not only a trade item but were also the primary mode of transportation used during the Old Spanish Trail period. Carrying up to 400 pounds of merchandise, mules traveled the approximately 2,400-mile trail (round trip), in caravans of 50 to 4,600 animals. Traveling 12 to 15 miles per day, a round trip would take from 180 to 225 days, assuming that nothing went wrong along the way.



*Wagon Ruts on the Old Conejos Road
(Photo courtesy of Jan Alfred.)*



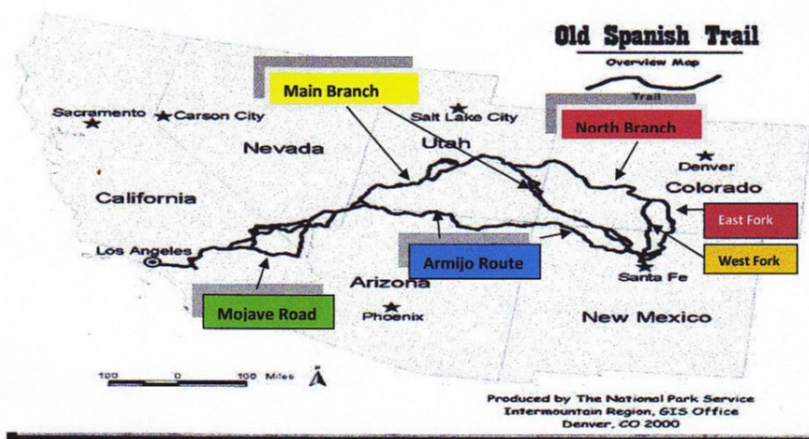
The journey along the trail was difficult. Travelers had to deal with water issues, both the lack of it for drinking and the over-abundance of it at river crossings. Food for the journey had to be dried or gathered along the way. While jerky, piñon nuts, berries, and posole are enjoyable treats for many people today, eating these foods day after day for months would certainly be monotonous. Another concern for the travelers was encountering hostile people. Understandably, many Native Americans were not willing to have these travelers passing through tribal domains. The journey along the Old Spanish Trail was long, dangerous, tiring, and very challenging.

In 1848, with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hildago, the end of the U.S.-Mexican War forever changed the geopolitical landscape and the primary trade period of the Old Spanish Trail. The southwest became part of the United States, and the Mexican territories of Alta, California (San Diego area), and Santa Fe de Nuevo Mexico, were ceded to the United States. There was no longer any need to link Santa Fe with Los Angeles by this difficult mule trail. Wagon-friendly routes were opened, railroad lines, and eventually, automobiles followed along some of same trail corridors in more recent times.

Trails and Roads of the San Luis Valley: The North Branches of the Old Spanish Trail

“Old trails and wagon roads are pulsating landmarks, travel-dramas that speak of men and their most daring dreams, their schemes, their driving purposes for good or evil. They carry stories of exploration, trade, war, escapes, rescue, and, during the last 150 years [now 180 years], the flow of men, women, children, sheep, goats, and cows as they came to make the first permanent homes in what had been a valley of Nomads. Trails and wagon roads of the Valley are the foothills, mountain passes, and rivers...When they are walked, in a wondrous way they become Then and Now, sunshine and cloud, shadow flowing, and a tremendous cast of characters coming alive.” (*Mt. Lookout, Where You Can See for Two Days*, by Ruth Marie Colville.)

Two ancient routes ran the length of the San Luis Valley. One, designated today as the East Fork of the National Historic Old Spanish Trail's North Branch, coursed the open sage country along the base of the Sangre de Cristo mountain range. The other, the West Fork, traversed the San Luis Valley along the base of the San Juan mountains. For thousands of years these trails were well used by ancestral natives, and later by Spanish colonists, fur trappers, explorers, herdsman, prospectors, invaders, military (expeditions), slave traders, and settlers. In following river courses and the lay of the land, the trails say with courteous proof, “this was the way, the ancient way.” Early photos show traces of the trail, and early survey maps show the commonly used wagon roads prior to their becoming official roads. An early map, based on the Hayden survey, shows the trail—not a road—from the Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve northward.



Finding present day traces from the Old Spanish Trail period today is difficult. Mule caravans did not follow the narrow type of trail we are familiar with today. Instead, they wandered all about, looking for the best way that day. Modern highways often follow or parallel the trail routes, a testament to the skills of early scouts and explorers. The West Fork Trail brochure (*La Vereda del Norte, The Trail of the North*, published by the La Vereda del Norte Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association), includes a trail map, historical information, and a Time Event Chart from 10,000 BP to 1876, the year Colorado became a state.



The Old Spanish Trail Landform Sculpture, located between Monte Vista and Del Norte, Colorado (along US 160), holds special significance to the Old Spanish Trail within the San Luis Valley. The sculpture stands near a portion of the West Fork Trail of the North Branch of the trail. As long-used trails evolved into roads, this west-side route became known as the “Old Conejos Road.” Prior to the formation of Rio Grande County in 1874, pioneering settlers used this road because all legal records related to property within the terrain lying south of the Rio Grande, including mining claims, brands, personal and real property ownership, had to be filed at the courthouse in Conejos, a 100-mile round trip. Deep wagon ruts nearby indicate this use.

The Old Spanish Trail Landform Sculpture was conceived as a way to mark an historic trail and highlight the cultures of the San Luis Valley. Sculptor Mettje Swift, of Del Norte, began by creating a proposal and identifying the participants. During the process of the work, the project received funding from the Rio Grande County Tourism Board, the US Forest Service, and the Colorado Council on the Arts.

Mettje salvaged the large stone scraps from the Old Stone Quarry nearby and hired the Gates family to move the stones to the sculpture site. Work began in 1999, and was to take three years. Working during the summer in the cool of the early morning, Mettje was joined by Ross Martin, a young sculptor from La Garita. The theme of the sculpture was inspired by a small *santo* called *La Conquistadora*, which came north from Santa Fe in 1859, with the 14 New Mexico families who set out following the Old Spanish Trail to a “beautiful place far north along the *Rio del Norte*” (Rio Grande). The first settlement, just east of Del Norte, was called La Loma de San Jose. The front sculpture is a wheel, representing both time and travel of those families and others who came after. Other themes include local rock art and a map.



Old Spanish Trail Landform Sculpture. (Photo courtesy of John McEvoy.)



September 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	LABOR DAY 	3	MaryAnn Fleming and Tonya Sharp Birthdays	5	Cynthia Johnson Birthday	7
Nola Cox and JoAnn Templeton Birthdays	9	10	Betty Duran Birthday	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	Western Chapter meeting 1 pm Powwow—Rock Ledge Ranch 10-5
22	Peggy Martin Birthday	24	25	26	27	Southern Chapter meeting, Del Norte, Noon
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Meeting and Event details available on the website, or by contacting The Southern Chapter at territorialdaughters@gmail.com

