



**Trails West, Inc.**

MS/NC 1151

Karen Gash

2017

Trails West, Inc. is an organization of emigrant trail enthusiasts who research, identify, mark and aid in the preservation of the trails used to reach California and southern Oregon in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. As an organization it marks the trails in Nevada, Oregon and California with T-shaped railroad rail. Each marker bears a plate inscribed with the location, trail name and a descriptive quote from an emigrant diary of the 1840's to 1860's. In 1984, Trails West began publishing guides with "Emigrant Trails West: A Guide to Trails Markers Placed by Trails West, Inc. along the California, Applegate, Lassen and Nobles' Trails in Idaho, Nevada, and California." Members participate on both work trips (installing markers) and fun trips (learning about the trail).

Trails West was organized on July 17, 1970, at Crowder Flat, Modoc National Forest, California. Attending were about 40 people traveling the Applegate pioneer trail on a tour arranged by the North Cal-Neva Recreation RC&D (Resource, Conservation and Development) Recreation - Tourist - Beautification Committee. It was first proposed in January at a meeting of North Cal-Neva trail buffs in Reno. It would raise money through dues, donations, etc. to promote awareness and protection of historical resources. It was agreed the name Trails West was appropriate, and on August 17, 1970, it was incorporated as Trails West, Inc.

Trails West, Inc. had been preceded by the Nevada Emigrant Trail Marking Committee (NETMC). It was established in 1967 to preserve and mark the trail across the 40 Mile Desert in western Nevada. In 1974, NETMC disbanded and offered maps, supplies and markers to Trails West, Inc. In 2000, a dispute arose between previous members and members of Trails West over placement and ownership of markers and they sued Trails West, Inc. The suit was settled in 2001, with Trails West, Inc. agreeing to reattach plates and returning those markers not fitting into Trails West's trail alignment to the original members of NETMC.

Trails West, Inc.'s website, [www.emigranttrailswest.org](http://www.emigranttrailswest.org) describes its mission and lists the trails guides (with updates) available for purchase, and a schedule of activities. The Members Only section has current news, Board Minutes (2009 to present), its newsletter The Marker (September 1999 to present), current membership roster, Bylaws, and other information, including photographs.

The records in this collection, 1968-2017, include minutes of the Board of Directors, agendas, committee reports, correspondence, attachments, and information on markers, NETMC suit, financial information, publications, plaques, albums and scrapbooks.

**Box 1**  
**Minutes**

Received in 2 binders titled Minutes (with agendas, correspondence, reports, etc).  
Transferred to 10 folders

1. Organizational meeting, July 17, 1970
2. Meeting agenda, Aug. 6, 1971
3. Aug. 4, 1972-Nov. 12, 1977
4. March 11, 1978-Dec. 5, 1984
5. March 7, 1985-April 6, 1991
6. April 4, 1992-March 25, 1995
7. June 23, 1995-Nov. 13, 1999
8. March 25, 2000-March 28, 2006
9. June 18, 2004-March 31, 2007
10. July 14, 2007-Nov. 4, 2010

Received in 1 binder titled Minutes, transferred to 3 folders

11. April 2011-April 14, 2012
12. July 28, 2012-April 13, 2013
13. August 3, 2013-Jan. 10, 2015

Received in 1 binder, no title, transferred to 4 folders.

14. Constitution and Incorporation information, 1977-2008
15. Minutes, April 2, 2011-March 29, 2003 (descending order as received)
16. Minutes, December 8, 2002-April 4, 1992 (descending order as received)
17. Treasurer's report, Jan. 1, 2010-Aug. 31, 1984 (descending order as received)

Received in 1 binder titled TW File (Minutes, forms, The Marker, correspondence, marker inspections, NETMC). Transferred to 3 folders

18. 2008-2005 (descending order as received)
19. 2004-2001 (descending order as received)
20. 2000

## Box 2

### Documents – Correspondence, Newsletters, Fieldtrip Notes, Litigation, Guidelines

21. “Early Trails West Organization Notices and Letters” [1970-1999]
22. “Trails West Inc.” Jan 4, 1971-Aug. 14, 1991 Minutes, announcements, Newsletter (descending order as received)
23. “Early Trails West Marker Info.” Ca. 1994-1977 (descending order as received)
24. TW Constitution and Bylaws [1974-2013]
25. Trails West Position on Proposed Emigrant Trail National Monument. 1977; 1999.
26. Tax Exempt Status Federal and State [1978-2014]
27. “Plaques sold to members” and “Donations for Manuscripts” [1981-2012]
28. Miscellaneous correspondence - mail and email – [1984-2012]
29. “Marker History per Field Trips” [1985-1995]
30. “Marker History per Field Trips” [1997-2005]
31. Membership Rosters [2010-1988] (descending order as received)
32. Membership Applications [1997-2002] NOTE: personal information – checks, addresses.
33. “Red River Cart” by Bert Ashton, ca. 1989
34. TW/NETMC litigation. Emails June 6, 2000-Dec. 28, 2000
35. TW/NETMC litigation. General information. Includes Appendix A. Copy of The Nevada Emigrant Trails Marking Committee and Its Markers Along the Truckee Trail. Injunctions and restraining orders. 2000
36. TW/NETMC litigation. General information.
37. TW/NETMC litigation. Legal Fund and Insurance. 1999-2001
38. TW/NETMC litigation. Newspaper clippings. 2000
39. Secretary of State Filing of Officers [2002-2011]
40. Insurance [2003-2014]
41. Miscellaneous Guidelines, policies, order forms, ballot [2004-2012]
42. 40 Anniversary, 2010
43. Donation to California Trail Interpretive Center, Elko, NV 2013
44. Stationary, Envelope, Membership Card, Brochure, Inventory, Bylaws 2017.
45. Trails Commentaries (Published on website)
46. The Marker. Sept. 1999-Summer 2008
47. The Marker, Winter 2008-Winter 2015
48. Trails West, Inc. Highlights. The First 10 Years – 1971 to 1980. Based on Minutes of Meetings, By Bob Black, 7/30/11 [Published in The Marker , Fall 2011; Spring 2012]; The Second 10 Years – 1981-1990, by Bob Black, November 5, 2011 [Published in The Marker, Fall 2013; Winter 2014; Summer 2014]

### Box 3

**Trails Marker Placement Permits**, ca. 1971-2015, in order as received with folder title, 19 folders

49. Emigrant Trail Marker Permits. Lists, 2004; 2009
50. Applegate Trail Marker Permits, [ca. 1971-1986]
51. Beckwourth Trail Marker Permission, 1992; 2012
52. Burnett Cut-off, 2013
53. California Trail Marker Permissions, 1974-1979
54. California Trail Marker Permissions, 1984-2015
55. California Overland Trail Marker Permission, 2014
56. Carson Trail Marker Permission, 2001-2002
57. Central Overland Trail Marker Permission, 2014
58. Hastings Cut-off Marker Permission, 1997
59. Henness Pass Marker Permissions, 2015
60. Johnson's Cut-off, 2011
61. Lassen Trail [1974-2007]
62. Nobles Trail [1973-2008]
63. Sonora Emigrant Route, 2015
64. Truckee Trail [1989-2015]
65. Yreka Trail, 2008
66. Marker Releases and placements, [1969-1980]
67. Marker Releases [1976-1985]
68. Nevada Emigrant Trail Marker Placement Release (NETMC), 1968-1971
69. Oregon-Applegate Markers, 1992
70. Miscellaneous correspondence re: Permits, Road Closures, Leases [1997,2007-2008]
71. **Photocopied photo album.** Burt Ashton's photos of wagon part found on 40 Mile desert and general photos of Trail West members, ca. 1985 [Original in possession of Ralph and Sandy Theiss to go with wagon, cart and carved oxen]
72. **Album.** Contents removed from one binder. Photos of Bert Ashton, 1990; Bruff Camp, 2012; Publicity; member obituaries, 2014
73. **Photos**, individual images from trips, 1980, 1981, 1995, 2001, 2006
74. **Binder**, Trails West Outings, 1976-1985. Itineraries of trails trips with photos.

## **Box 4**

### **Financial**

- 75. Financial. Audit Reports, 2005-2010
- 76. Financial. Print outs of General Fund and Publishing Fund, 2002-2007
- 77. Financial. Print outs of General Fund and Publishing Fund, 2008-2012
- 78. Financial. Print outs of General Fund and Publishing Fund, 2013-2014
- 79. Canceled Bank Books (2) 1984-1987
- 80. Financial. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 2010

## **Box 5**

### **Publications**

*Emigrant Trails West: A Guide to Trail Markers Placed by Trails West, Inc. Along the California, Applegate, Lassen, and Nobles' Emigrant Trails in Idaho, Nevada, and California.* 1984.

*A Guide to the Applegate Trail, the South Road to Oregon.* Edited by Richard K. Brock. Trails West, Inc. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2005.

*A Guide to the Nobles Trail.* Richard K. Brock; Robert K. Black. An Emigrant Trails West Guidebook by Trails West, Inc. 2008.

*A Guide to the Applegate Trail from Lassen Meadows to Goose Lake.* Richard K. Brock, Editor; Donald E. Buck, Historian; Alison Portello, Photo Editor; Herman Zittel, Cartographer. An Emigrant Trails West Series Guidebook by Trails West, Inc. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2010.

*A Guide to the Applegate Trail from Goose Lake to Southern Oregon.* Richard K. Brock; Robert S. Black. An Emigrant Trails West Series Guidebook by Trails West, Inc. 2011.

*A Guide to the California Trail along the Humboldt River.* Richard K. Brock; Donald E. Buck. An Emigrant Trails West Series Guidebook by Trails West, Inc. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2012.

*A Guide to the California Trail to the Humboldt River.* Richard K. Brock; Donald E. Buck. An Emigrant Trails West Series Guidebook by Trails West, Inc. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2012.

### **Plaques:**

1. Trails West, Inc. Executive Members of Nevada Emigrant Trail Marking Committee, Inc. Reno, Nevada. List of Members.
2. Oregon-California Trails Association, Award of Meritorious Achievement Presented to Trails West, Inc., 1991.

Charter, List of Trails West Charter Members, Aug. 17, 1970, on Trails West letterhead.

## **Box 6**

### **Scrapbook**

**#2 Scrapbook**, 1977-1991. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification. Cover is wood with covered wagon and the letters *Trails West* carved on cover with leather ties to close album.

## **Box 7**

### **Scrapbooks and Photo Albums**

**#5 Binder**. Photographs by Betsy Washburn, 1985-1991. First section, June 1985, photographs not identified; other sections are arranged by location (route, trail) and identified. At back of binder is Annual Banquet program, 2007; correspondence re: Milt Otto and 1979-1982.

**#6 Binder**. Photographs by Betsy Washburn, 1988-1992. Sections are arranged by location (route, trail) and identified. Miscellaneous Photographs, 1989, by Herman Zittell.

**#9 Binder**. Trails Photos by Edgar W. Stanton, III. Author of "The Trek of James MacDonald: New Concord, Ohio to California, 1850" (published 1989) which retraces the journey of his great grandfather. Donated to Trails West, Inc. 2009. Photographs of emigrant trails, ca. 1986-1991. Included are copies of drawings from the Journal and Drawings of J. Goldsborough Bruff, 1849-1853.

## **Box 8**

### **Scrapbooks and Photo Albums**

**#1 Scrapbook**, 1971-1979. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.

**#3 Scrapbook**, 1992-1993. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.

**#4 Scrapbook**, 1993-1999. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.

**#7 Photo album**, 2003-2006. Photographs identified.

**#8 Binder**. Trails West and OCTA (Oregon California Trail Association) on the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Survey at Black Rock Springs, June 25-26, 2005; June 2006. Photos electronically transmitted and printed. Photographs, Sept. 9, 2006, Nobles Trail, by Clarence Barger. Printed thumbnail photographs of 2009 Applegate-Lassen Trails work party/Black Rock Desert Double Hot Springs Survey. Photographs of plaques (undated); Recognition by State Preservation Office to OCTA for preserving the Fernley Swales, 2008; member obituaries, 2010.

## General Scrapbooks, Binders, Individual Photos and Photo Albums List

1. See Folders 71, 72, 73 and 74
2. Scrapbook, 1971-1979. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.
3. Scrapbook, 1977-1991. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification. Cover is wood with covered wagon and Tails West carved on cover with leather ties.
4. Scrapbook, 1992-1993. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.
5. Scrapbook, 1993-1999. Newspaper clippings, printed materials, photographs with identification.
6. Binder. Photographs by Betsy Washburn, 1985-1991. First section, June 1985, photographs not identified; other sections are arranged by location (route, trail) and identified. At back of binder is Annual Banquet program, 2007; correspondence re: Milt Otto and 1979-1982.
7. Binder. Photographs by Betsy Washburn, 1988-1992. Sections are arranged by location (route, trail) and identified. Miscellaneous Photographs, 1989, by Herman Zittel.
8. Photo album, 2003-2006. Photographs identified.
9. Binder. Trails West and OCTA (Oregon California Trail Association) on the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Survey at Black Rock Springs, June 25-26, 2005; June 2006. Photos electronically transmitted and printed. Photographs, Sept. 9, 2006, Nobles Trail, by Clarence Barger. Printed thumbnail photographs of 2009 Applegate-Lassen Trails work party/Black Rock Desert Double Hot Springs Survey. Photographs of plaques (undated); Recognition by State Preservation Office to OCTA for preserving the Fernley Swales, 2008; member obituaries, 2010.
10. Binder, Trails Photos by Edgar W. Stanton, III. Author of "The Trek of James MacDonald: New Concord, Ohio to California, 1850" (published 1989) which retraces the journey of his great grandfather. Donated to Trails West, Inc. 2009. Photographs of emigrant trails, ca. 1986-1991. Included are copies of drawings from the Journal and Drawings of J. Goldsborough Bruff, 1849-1853.