



Friends of Arrow Rock

FALL 2009

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Workmen tuckpoint the John P. Sites House, one of thirteen historic properties maintained with funds raised during the Friends' 50th Anniversary Campaign.

Friends Celebrate 50th Anniversary with Million Dollar Campaign

Who would have thought when the organizing founders of the Friends of Arrow Rock raised \$1,960 in 1960 to restore the log courthouse, that 50 years later the Friends would be in the midst of a million dollar campaign to maintain 13 properties in this National Historic Landmark village.

We are thrilled to report that gifts and pledges to date total \$661,649.19! Generous donors are providing gifts that fund five key areas in our integrated capital campaign: building preservation, collection care, educational programming, operating expenses and increasing the endowment. They are positioning us to carry out the Friends' mission of sharing the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations.

Our founding president, Mrs. Louise Eads, remarked that the Friends of Arrow Rock was organized with five officers, 50 charter members and dreams of restoring Arrow Rock as a village of the 1800s. "Our ambition is to make Arrow Rock a more interesting place to visit," Mrs. Eads was quoted as saying. "Our constant enthusiasm will build results."

Indeed it has! And we continue to see great results because of your constant enthusiasm for this historic village! Thank you.

If you would like to know more about how you can invest in sharing the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations, please contact me at 660-837-3231 or at kborgman@iland.net

Kathy Borgman
Executive Director

Marshall Sip and Stroll Nets \$13,400

Beautiful fall days and exquisite historic homes seem to go together for the Friends of Arrow Rock. Our annual "Sip and Stroll" event this year in Marshall was no exception. September 19th dawned a perfect fall day, and 135 people enjoyed the hospitality of four Marshall home owners and their premier historic homes.

Special thanks to homeowners: Scott and Melissa Hartwig, George and Jane Huff, Steve and Elaine Olson and Rob and Jan Ravenhill. As an added bonus, Donna and John Huston invited guests to tour their home.

Following the tour, guests enjoyed a Pasta Buffet Dinner and a Silent and Live Auction held at the Martin Community Center. Highlights at this year's live auction were a garden tour, a holiday luncheon, a flower arranging lesson, dinners in historic locations, select wines, artwork and home canned foods.

Thank you to each of the 135 people who attended, to the 27 others who made gifts even though they couldn't attend and to all who purchased items. Thank you to our members and especially board members who donated unique live and silent auction items for sale. Thank you to Chuck Mattingly of Heart of America Beverage, Inc. for donating the beverages and to Bill True and Jennifer Richardson for making all the on-site arrangements. The event was expertly planned and executed by the fund raising committee of Donna Huston, Pat Cooper, Sarah Riddick, Grayson Kabler, Kathy Digges, Jan Hinnah and Lucy Fletcher. Thank you to all of you who make this, our single biggest fund raiser of the year, a huge success!

This newsletter is underwritten by the Friends of Arrow Rock Humanities Endowment established by a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

2009 Sip and Stroll Marshall, Missouri



Guests stroll to the Hartwig home.



Homeowner Rob Ravenhill, second from right, greets guests.



Scott and Melissa Hartwig, homeowners.



Rob and Jan Ravenhill, homeowners.



George Huff, left, and Jane Huff, center, welcome guests to their home.



Irene and Harvey Thomas at the Olson home.



Homeowners Jane and George Huff, right, and Reed and Kate Beebe, left.



Steve and Elaine Olson, homeowners.

A Good Friend: The State Historical Society of Missouri.

The Friends of Arrow Rock has benefited for many years from our close association with the State Historical Society of Missouri. Under current Executive Director Dr. Gary Kremer and his predecessor, Dr. Jim Goodrich, the State Historical Society has provided grants, speakers, research assistance, and publicity for the Friends. The collections of Missouri-related historical manuscripts, documents, photographs and works of art, and the collection of Missouri newspapers held by the State Historical Society are unsurpassed, and are invaluable for scholars, genealogists, and anyone interested in Missouri's history. The Missouri Historical Review, published quarterly by the Society, has been the leading journal of Missouri history since it began publication in 1906.

Because of the recent severe drop in state revenues, the state government has cut its 2010 appropriation for the Society by 35%, over \$500,000. Hours of operation and staff positions have been cut back, but to avoid severe reductions in levels of service, all of the staff members at the Society have voluntarily taken a 20% reduction in pay.

The Friends should do what we can to support the State Historical Society, in partial thanks for the help the Society has given to the Friends and to other local history groups all over Missouri. At our last board meeting on November 1, we voted to encourage all members of the Friends to join the State Historical Society as a show of support; the organization's annual membership dues start at \$20. Anyone with an interest in Missouri's rich history will enjoy belonging to the Society; their contact information is below. When you join, tell them that you are a member of the Friends of Arrow Rock!

The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201 (573) 882-7083 | (800) 747-6366
shsofmo@umsystem.edu

Friends Volunteer at the Craft Festival Receive Gift of Two Firearms

Every year at the annual Heritage Craft Festival, held the second Saturday and Sunday in October, a group of loyal volunteers helps to demonstrate historic crafts to the thousands of visitors who have come since the Craft Festival began in 1968. The Friends' buildings are manned by knowledgeable craft workers, historians and re-enactors, to the delight of visitors of all ages. At the historic Sites Gun Shop, we have been very fortunate to have a group of skilled gunsmiths during Craft Festival. This year we missed our friend Jack Davis, who had recently passed away, but longtime Craft Festival gunsmiths Jim Duncan and Ken Porter manned the shop both days, as they have for many years. We are grateful to them, and to their wives Dr. Carol Diaz-Granados and Suzanne Porter, who also helped to answer many of the questions that people always have when they visit the Gun Shop.



Warren Kiso and Sites rifles at the Sites Gun Shop

A special visitor to the Gun Shop during this year's Craft Festival was Mr. Warren Kiso of Slater, Missouri. Readers may recall the unique gift of two fine muzzle-loading percussion rifles made by John Sites, presented by Mr. Kiso to the Friends in 2007. This followed up on a promise Mr. Kiso had made 50 years previously, to donate these historic firearms to a museum in Arrow Rock; Mr Kiso is clearly a man of his word! The photo shows him viewing the two rifles he donated, in the case with other firearms made by the Sites family, at the Sites Gun Shop.

The highlight of this year's Craft Festival at the Sites Gun shop, was when Mr. Kiso made another, totally unexpected, gift of two more very interesting firearms to the Friends of Arrow Rock, both with significant Saline County histories. These are a sawed-off shotgun that was carried by coach drivers in the mid-1800's for self-defense; its history indicates that it was used in the Arrow Rock neighborhood, and it is quite possible that John Sites, the Arrow Rock gunsmith, worked on this shotgun to modify it for purposes other than hunting!

The other firearm is a "pellet gun" or "gallery gun" which used a small powder charge to shoot a BB-sized pellet. A very unusual piece, it was used to shoot at targets set up inside a building. Mr. Kiso related that the man who sold it to him years ago told him that it was used to shoot at targets inside a bar or tavern building in the Saline county town of Cambridge, about 15 miles north of Arrow Rock. Whoever had the best shot had his drink paid for by the other marksmen!

The town of Cambridge crumbled to ruins almost 100 years ago. But thanks to Mr. Warren Kiso, a unique part of its history will now live on in Arrow Rock. We are grateful to Mr. Kiso and to all of the many people who have helped to preserve the history of Arrow Rock and its surrounding neighborhood, often called "the most historic spot in Missouri." Because of their thoughtful generosity, Arrow Rock has been preserved, restored and has gained national recognition for historic preservation and history education. Thanks again, Mr. Kiso!



Symposium participants view the original site of the Arrow Rock ferry crossing owned by Rich Lawson.

Arrow Rock Hosts National Santa Fe Trail Symposium

One hundred fifty-one trail “trekkies” were welcomed in Arrow Rock during the biennial Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium September 24 - 28. A co-operative effort of the Arrow Rock State Historic Site and the Friends of Arrow Rock, four days of lectures, bus tours, historic building tours, and lots of Missouri cuisine meals were planned for those attending. The event was underwritten by the Santa Fe Trail Association, the National Park Service and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

An evening reception at “Prairie Park,” antebellum home of Day and Whitney Kerr, kicked off the symposium. Heavy hors d'oeuvres were served under a lawn tent by Hospitality Services of Marshall under the supervision of Shellee Peuster. Meanwhile, attendees could tour the beautiful 1849 Greek Revival mansion built by William B. Sappington, who himself was involved in the Santa Fe trade in about 1830.

Afternoon guided bus tours east and west of Arrow Rock on the SFT were held on both Friday and Saturday. Over 100 people took these each day.

Friday night a barbecue dinner was served in Boonville's Turner Hall by Shauna Lu's Catering. This was followed by period music in Thespians Hall performed by Dave Para and Cathy Barton and a MoHIP Theatre reading of the 1831 play “Lion of the West.”

A fried chicken dinner Saturday night, served in Arrow Rock's J. Huston Tavern by Chef Liz Huff, was followed by an awards and recognition ceremony under the tent on the tavern lawn.

Morning lectures held in the Lyceum Theatre included Jim Denny (*The Boonslick: A Unique and Special Region*), Dr. James Harlan (*It's All About Geography: The Impact of the Missouri River on Settlement Patterns and Santa Fe Commerce*), Dr. Maryellen McVicker (*Don't Forget The Boonslick in the Rush to Santa Fe*), Katherine Redcorn (*The Osage Tribe: Boonslick Native Nation*) and Dr. Timothy Baumann (*Guns Along the Santa Fe Trail: The John Sites Gunsmith Shop in Arrow Rock, MO*).

Sunday morning many enjoyed a short service given by “Rev. BuckSnort” on SFT Board Member Rich Lawson's property north of Arrow Rock. This site has recently been certified as the origi-

nal ferry crossing for the trail and was a popular “new” site to tour for people who love to walk in the actual ruts of the Santa Fe Trail.

Special thanks to Mike Dickey, Arrow Rock State Historic Site Administrator, who chaired the local planning committee along with committee members Diana Dickey, Rich Lawson, Pam Parsons and Kathy Borgman. Dickey and Lawson are the Missouri state representatives on the Santa Fe Trail Association Board.



A 19th Century Economic Stimulus Package: The Santa Fe Trail

By Michael Dickey,
Site Administrator
Missouri Department of
Natural Resources,
Arrow Rock State Historic Site

The following lecture was presented earlier in the year both as a 1st Saturday Lecture last March and for the May Teachers' Workshop.

During the mid-19th century, three great overland trails led from Missouri to the far west: the California, the Oregon and the Santa Fe Trails. The first two were emigrant trails whereas the Santa Fe Trail was a route of commerce. After 1848, the Santa Fe Trail did carry emigrant traffic, but it remained first and foremost a trade route. Missouri Governor John Miller emphasized the importance of the trade in 1830; “*Our trade to the northern parts of New Mexico continues to be prosecuted by our citizens and is an essential and important branch of the commerce of Missouri.*”¹

The idea of commerce between Santa Fe and the Mississippi valley predates 1821, the official start of the Santa Fe Trail. Itinerant French traders from the Illinois Country reached Santa Fe sporadically throughout the 18th century. Spanish officials were suspicious of foreigners and the traders faced confiscation of their property, expulsion or arrest. Consequently, none of these ventures resulted in the establishment of regular commerce.

At the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763, France ceded the vast Louisiana Territory to Spain to keep it out of British hands. Spanish dominion now stretched from the Rockies to the Mississippi River. Trade between Santa Fe and the new town of St. Louis seemed appealing. The Governor of New Mexico sent Pedro Vial from Santa Fe to St. Louis in 1792 with the express purpose of opening a trade route, but the Spanish government did not capitalize on his success. Spain still feared that trade would invite unwanted foreign influence into New Mexico, as the inhabitants of St. Louis were of French and increasingly, American extraction.²

When the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803, interest in trade with Santa Fe was renewed. William

¹ Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of the State of Missouri, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 1922, p. 151.

² The Spanish in the Mississippi Valley, edited by John F. McDermott, University of Illinois Press, 1974, p. 100.

Morrison of Kaskaskia, Illinois, sent Jean Baptiste LaLande to Santa Fe with an unspecified amount of trade goods. LaLande sold the goods but failed to return to Kaskaskia with the profits.³ St. Louis fur trader Manuel Lisa eyed the possibilities of trade with Santa Fe, but upon hearing the reports of the Lewis and Clark expedition, turned his attention to the fur trade of the upper Missouri.⁴

The exploration of the Southwest by Lt. Zebulon Pike in 1806-1807 again piqued American interest in Santa Fe. Spain continued its policy of isolation fearing, almost prophetically, that American colonists would follow American traders resulting in the annexation of New Mexico. Like the French before them, American traders entering New Mexico were subject to arrest, expulsion and the confiscation of their goods.

In 1809, Emmanuel Blanco led St. Louis traders James McLanahan, James Patterson and Ruben Smith to New Mexico. The party was imprisoned until early in 1812. In April of that year, another trading party under Robert McKnight left St. Louis for Santa Fe.⁵ The party was imprisoned until 1820, and many did not return to St. Louis until the spring of 1821. When they got home, they described their disappointment in the government's half-hearted efforts to free them, but most importantly they speculated about the prospects of future trade in Santa Fe.⁶

The conclusion of the War of 1812 and peace with Britain's Indian allies opened the way for a flood of emigration into the wilderness of central Missouri's "Boonslick Country."

Towns literally sprang up in the wilderness overnight. The largest of these was Franklin, founded in 1816 on the banks of the Missouri River. By 1819, the town was second only in size to St. Louis and was the hub of trade, industry and commerce in the Boonslick Country. It was destined to play a crucial role in the development of the Santa Fe trade.

Excessive land speculation in the western states and territories led to price inflation by 1819. Nearly everyone was in debt as people rushed to buy on credit. Land was sold and resold at a profit, without any payments being made. Finally, the economy collapsed. Known as the "Panic of 1819," the depression was felt in Missouri Territory by late 1820. Emigration to the Boonslick Country halted; land was no longer saleable, and farm produce was unmarketable. Specie, which was gold and silver coin, fled the country and prices fell. Merchants went bankrupt, and many of the frontier boomtowns went bust, some reclaimed by the forests from which they had been carved. Banks produced their own notes, but most were unredeemable. Missourians distrusted banks and their "soft money," so the banking system collapsed. Missouri was without any new banks for the next seventeen years.⁷

In this atmosphere of despair, one man in Franklin took desperate action to stave off prosecution for his personal debts. William Becknell took out an ad in the July 25, 1821, issue of

the Franklin, *Missouri Intelligencer* newspaper. It read in part, "An article for the government of a company of men destined to the westward for purposes of trading for Horses and Mules, and catching Wild Animals of every description, that we think advantageous to the company."⁸ Each man was to stake \$10.00 worth of merchandise for the trip. The ad was a first step in what would become the first successful trading venture to Santa Fe with lasting economic consequences.

Becknell and several others with packhorses crossed the Missouri River near the Arrow Rock ferry on September 1, 1821.

The expedition coincided with two events that would facilitate and foster regular trade between Santa Fe and the Boonslick Country: the admission of Missouri as a state and the establishment of Mexico as an independent republic. In contrast to earlier adventurers arriving in New Mexico, Becknell reported that on November 13th, "...we had the satisfaction of meeting a party of Spanish troops. Although the difference in language would not admit to conversation, yet the circumstances attending their reception of us, fully convinced us of their hospitable disposition and friendly feelings."⁹ Becknell also reported that the Governor of Santa Fe "...expressed a desire that the Americans would keep up an intercourse with that country..."¹⁰

Approximately two weeks after Becknell's arrival, St. Louis Merchants Thomas James and John McKnight arrived in Santa Fe via the Arkansas River. McKnight was primarily interested in finding his brother Robert who had failed to return from the ill-fated trade expedition of 1812. James, however, sought to dispose of surplus mercantile goods. Shortly after them, the Glenn-Fowler party, which had been trapping in the mountains, came into Santa Fe and did some trading.

Becknell recognized the opportunity at hand and returned to Franklin in January of 1822. Mr. H.H. Harris reminisced about Becknell's return. "My father saw them unload when they returned, and when their rawhide packages of silver dollars were dumped on the sidewalk, one of the men cut the thongs and the money spilled out clinking on the stone pavement and rolled into the gutter."¹¹ If the account is true, this would have been an electrifying sight in economically depressed Franklin. Becknell planned a second expedition in the spring of 1822. **On May 14, 1822, Becknell's party crossed the Missouri River at the Arrow Rock with three wagons loaded with goods. These were the first of many wheel conveyances to be used on the trail. Two other trade expeditions left Franklin that year.**

New Mexico's policy towards foreign traders changed for several reasons. Spain had consumed the raw resources of the province while returning little to the inhabitants in the way of finished goods. The economic poverty of the people was exacerbated by the official policy barring foreign traders. With independence, New Mexicans were now free to utilize their resources to purchase manufactured goods. For example, the silver mines within forty miles of Santa Fe could now benefit the

³ The History of Missouri, David S. March, Lewis Historical Publishing, New York, 1967, p. 476.

⁴ Ibid. p. 476.

⁵ Commerce of the Prairies, Josiah Gregg, edited by Max Moorehead, University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.

⁶ Ibid. p. 477-478.

⁷ March, History of Missouri, p. 375-377.

⁸ Missouri Intelligencer, July 25, 1821, State Historical Society of Missouri Newspaper Collection, Columbia, Missouri.

⁹ Diary of William Becknell, Missouri Intelligencer, April 23, 1823, State Historical Society of Missouri.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ The Santa Fe Trail, R. L. Duffus, Longmans, Green & Co., N.Y. 12 1931, p. 68.

local populace instead of filling coffers in Mexico City or Madrid, Spain.

Conversely, economically depressed Missouri finally had an outlet for the surplus merchandise that had accumulated as a result of the Panic of 1819. Geography and topography also fostered the growth of trade. The distance from Franklin to Santa Fe was about 900 miles, but the Great Plains made it a relatively easy course to travel for most of the distance. This contrasted sharply with Vera Cruz, Mexico's official port of entry. It was over 1,500 miles from Vera Cruz to Santa Fe on the Camino Real following rough and mountainous terrain.

The Boonslick Country being at the westernmost edge of American settlement was naturally poised to take advantage of the new trade relations. Josiah Gregg reported in 1844 that, *"The town of Franklin on the Missouri River...seems truly to have been the cradle of our trade: and in conjunction with several neighboring towns continued to furnish the greater number of these adventurous traders."*¹²

For the first six years or so, two thirds of the men on the Santa Fe Trail owned their own trading goods. They were not necessarily involved in the trade full time and found it beneficial to sandwich a trip to Santa Fe between other enterprises, typically leaving in the early spring and returning in late fall when traveling conditions across the Great Plains were optimal. Missouri merchants were the middlemen for goods purchased for the trade, usually at a 20-30% markup over Philadelphia prices. From the mid-1820s through the 1830s, St. Louis, Franklin and Independence merchants commonly advertised new shipments of goods in terms such as *"expressly for the Santa Fe market."*¹³

From 1822 to 1827, the yearly amount of merchandise taken to Santa Fe was approximately \$50,000 in eastern prices. From 1838 to 1843, the amount of merchandise exported was approximately \$200,000 annually.¹⁴ In 1824, Franklin trader Augustus Storrs reported that this merchandise consisted of *"Cotton goods, consisting of course and fine cambrics, calicoes, domestic shawls, handkerchiefs, steam-loom shirtings, and cotton hose. A few woolen goods, consisting of super blues, stroudings, pelisse cloths and shawls, crapes, bombazettes, some light articles of cutlery, silk shawls and looking glasses."*¹⁵

Twenty years later, these types of goods still composed the bulk of trade items. Josiah Gregg in 1844 advised traders that at least half of a *"Santa Fe assortment"* should be made up of domestic cottons and about equally divided between *"bleached and brown"*. The remainder of the cargo was to be divided between calicoes and a miscellaneous assortment of articles.¹⁶

While Missouri benefited most directly from the trade, clearly the cotton growing states in the South and textile milling states in New England derived some benefit as well. Missouri politicians, especially Senator Thomas Hart Benton, many times used this wider appeal of the trade in hopes of gaining federal legisla-

tive and military protection of the trade. Benton sought "drawbacks," that is, the elimination of taxes and tariffs on items imported for use in the Santa Fe trade. Maritime commerce frequently benefited from "drawback" legislation, and Missourians simply saw the Santa Fe trade as a logical extension of that protection.

The principal articles that were returned to Missouri were furs, livestock, specie and small amounts of raw wool. Coarse Mexican blankets were occasionally in demand on the frontier as were Spanish-style saddles.¹⁷ In some respects, the Santa Fe trade was an offshoot of the fur trade. "Catching wild animals" or trapping had been one of the original reasons cited for Becknell's party to go west. The Glenn-Fowler expedition had returned to Missouri with beaver fur. Independent trappers operating in the southern Rocky Mountains used Santa Fe as a base of operations. For the first fifteen years of the trade, many returning caravans carried quantities of beaver and other pelts. Plains Indian tribes sold raw buffalo robes to the New Mexicans, who in turn prepared them as robes for the Santa Fe trade. Even as late as 1843, Simeon Turley in Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico, wrote to his brother Jesse in Arrow Rock, Missouri, that he was shipping him *"200 buffalo robes and a load of beaver."*¹⁸

Of greater long-term consequence to Missouri was the livestock, consisting of horses, jacks, jennets, and mules. As early as 1823, the Cooper family of Howard County brought back over four hundred mules to Missouri. Those numbers increased in 1825 to 600 mules, in 1827 to 800 mules and in 1832 over 1,300 mules.¹⁹ Missourians began crossing Mexican jacks with mares from Kentucky and Tennessee, thus establishing the mule industry in Missouri. In the 1850s, "Missouri mules" were widely shipped to the southern states for the use on the cotton plantations. Although large European jacks were being bred with mares by this time, the mule industry clearly had its roots in the Santa Fe trade. By 1880, Missouri was the nation's leading mule-producing state.

The importation of Mexican specie and bullion profoundly impacted Missouri's economic stability, far more than the importation of furs or mules. There are no official statistics on the amount of bullion or specie imported into the state: traders fearing competition were reluctant to report their profits. Letters from traders frequently reported poor conditions in the trade. *"This trade is done as all will inform you,"* said one letter in the June 4, 1825 edition of the *Missouri Intelligencer*.²⁰ The paper was quick to declare that the writer was a man with no motive for misrepresentation. Another letter published in 1825 read in part, *"On the whole it appears that there is little prospect of successful trade being kept up between the United States and this Province, except on a very limited scale indeed. The country has but few resources...They are very poor but very contented."*²¹ *The Missouri Advocate*, a St. Louis paper, criticized the *Intelligencer* for belittling what was obviously an important industry to Missouri. The editor of the *Intelligencer* replied, *"Our own citizens were the first to explore the route and find the*

¹² Commerce of the Prairies, Josiah Gregg.

¹³ Santa Fe Trail in Missouri, F. F. Stevens, Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XI, nos. 3 & 4 p. 300.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Augustus Storrs to Senator Benton, Senate Document 7, 18th Congress, 2nd Session, New Mexico University archives.

¹⁶ Gregg, Commerce of the Prairies.

¹⁷ March, History of the Missouri p. 483.

¹⁸ Simeon Turley to Jesse Turley.

¹⁹ Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XI p. 304.

²⁰ Missouri Intelligencer, June 4, 1825.

²¹ Missouri Intelligencer, Nov. 5, 1825.

market, and in our opinion, ought to reap the advantages resulting from the discovery. We have generally stated plain matters of fact, in regard to this trade, abstaining from all unnecessary embellishments or exaggeration, which could only have a tendency to attract the attention of the other states, and induce large bodies to engage in it, to the injury of our own citizens and the annihilation of the commerce by the glutting of the market.”²² *The Advocate* got the point, and to protect Missouri's economic interests, also began printing articles describing the “ruinous embarrassments” of the Santa Fe trade.

The market in Santa Fe itself did in fact become saturated rather quickly. However, traders often took their goods into the interior states of Chihuahua, Sonora or Coahuila merely using Santa Fe as the port of entry. In the same way, Missouri was simply a port of entry for goods from Philadelphia, New York and even London conveyed up the Missouri River. American traders partnered with or sold goods to Mexican firms who in turn conveyed the merchandise to the interior Mexican states. As early as 1826, Mexican merchants began coming to Missouri to purchase trade goods directly. *The Missouri Intelligencer* reported, “Six or seven substantial built waggons [sic] arrived in this place on Tuesday last, heavily laden with merchandise, on their way to new Mexico owned by Mr. Escudero, a native of that country... This may be considered as a new era in the commerce between Mexico and this country, and it is probable the example of Mr. E. will be followed by others of his rich countrymen who will bring hither large portions of their surplus wealth for the same purpose.”²³ Josiah Gregg reported that by 1843, over half of the merchants in the trade were Mexican nationals.²⁴ Regardless of who actually conducted the trade caravans, the Missouri economy was being enriched.

Profit margins for the traders fluctuated greatly. Like all business endeavors, there were setbacks, losses and cyclical variations in the market. Mexico often imposed high tariffs on imported items. American Indian tribes sometimes struck caravans, especially those returning with livestock. Trader Meredith Miles Marmaduke, who surveyed and platted Arrow Rock and was later a governor of Missouri, lost nearly all of his investment in 1828 when Comanche Indians stole all the livestock he was returning to Missouri.²⁵ Arrow Rock residents Henry C. Miller, a close friend of artist George Caleb Bingham, and Jesse Turley and Philip Thompson lost 55 head of oxen to Indians in 1847. They filed a claim for their loss in 1852, but Congress failed to act on it. Despite such periodic losses the trade overall grew in profitability.

As early as 1828, Governor Miller had stated, “That trade [Santa Fe] is one of much importance to this State; the principal part of the silver coin in circulation, particularly in the western part of the State, is derived from that quarter...”²⁶ Spanish and Mexican coin continued to be legal tender in Missouri long afterwards. For example, consider this statement by Dr. Glenn O. Hardeman in 1840. “I took lodging only at the hotel kept by that well-known and popular citizen, Joseph Huston Sr... I was

charged the sum of 12 ½ cents or, I should say a 'bit.' On my return ... I dined at the same hotel and was charged another 'bit' for an excellent dinner. The currency of that day was exclusively of Mexican or Spanish coin.” A 'bit' was obtained by cutting a dollar into eighths and some of these coins in circulation were minted in the early 18th century.²⁷

Alphonso Wetmore estimated that Becknell's second expedition made a profit of 2000%. In 1824, \$35,000 worth of merchandise netted \$200,000 for a profit of 300%. In 1832, Secretary of War Lewis Cass provided the Senate with a report estimating the profit margin of the trade averaging from 25% to 100%, dependent on conditions.²⁸ That same year, Governor Miller reported that the trade, “...is believed to yield a greater gain than any other branch of industry employing the same amount of capital.”²⁹

In 1824, Augustus Storrs estimated the value of bullion and coin from Mexico at \$180,000 and furs worth \$10,000. Secretary of State Eaton reported profits from the Santa Fe Trade to include “at least \$200,000 in specie.”³⁰ William Bent brought back \$100,000 in coin in 1832, and similar amounts were reported in the *Missouri Intelligencer* for the next three years.³¹ Most of this money remained within the coffers of individuals or businesses.

By 1836, Missourians were demanding the creation of a bank in the state. The Bank of Missouri opened its door in 1837 as a specie-paying bank, refusing to issue paper notes as many previously failed banks had done. The main bank was in St. Louis with branches in Fayette in Howard County and Palmyra in Marion County. The bank was soon recognized as one of the soundest in the nation and served as a bank of deposit for the United States Government. The bank had intimate ties with the Santa Fe trade as it served as a place of deposit for the traders and simplified commercial transactions between the traders, Missouri merchants and eastern wholesalers. In 1839, a run on the bank was staved off when Santa Fe traders pumped \$45,000 of specie into it.³² *The Arkansas Gazette* reported: “The state of Missouri is at this day the soundest in the Union in her monetary affairs. She is filled with specie; and the interior Mexican states have supplied it.”³³

The Arrow Rock community benefited from this abundance of specie. Philip W. Thompson “conducted personally some very large freight trains or outfits to Santa Fe and other points in the Southwest.”³⁴ In 1826 Thompson used his profits from the trade to purchase a 1,000 acre tract of land a mile north of Arrow Rock. The farm and Greek-Revival style house “Chestnut Hill” remains in the family's possession today. Other residents of Arrow Rock and vicinity who had been active in the Santa Fe trade included Thomas McMahan, “Uncle” Billy Scott, John Leffler, Jesse Turley, Stephen Turley, J.A.J. Aderton and James W. Smith. William B. and Erasmus Darwin Sappington supplied goods for the trade from their store in nearby Jonesboro (now Napton).

²² *Missouri Intelligencer*, June 4, 1825.

²³ *Missouri Intelligencer*, June 9, 1826.

²⁴ Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies*, p. 332.

²⁵ Thomas Hart Benton to M. M. Marmaduke, Feb. 2, 1829, *Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Sappington Papers*.

²⁶ *Ibid* p. 137.

²⁷ Arrow Rock, the Story of a Town, Its Tavern and Its People, by Charles Van Ravenswaay, *Missouri Historical Society*, 1959.

²⁸ *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. XI p. 301.

²⁹ *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Missouri*, p. 171-172.

³⁰ *Missouri Historical Review*, Vol. XI, p. 306.

³¹ *Ibid*.

³² *Ibid*.

³³ *Ibid*. p. 312.

³⁴ Napton, p. 804.

By 1829, Franklin had largely been washed away by the Missouri River, and outfitting for the trade in the Boonslick Country began to decrease. After 1831, Independence was the main outfitting center although Josiah Gregg makes it clear some caravans were still outfitted in the Boonslick Country. Philip Thompson continued to be active in the Santa Fe trade until 1861. After 1854, Westport and then Kansas City assumed that outfitting role. With this geographic change in outfitting points, the nature of the trade itself began to change. The number of individual proprietors decreased while the number of men employed in caravans as teamsters, hunters or salesmen increased.

The traders' average per capita investment of goods rose from \$3,000 in 1829 to \$6,000 in 1839 and to \$15,000 in 1843. In conjunction with the brokering services provided by the Bank of Missouri, the larger traders hired agents to purchase directly from wholesalers in Philadelphia. The local merchants in Missouri began to be cut out of the Santa Fe trade. However, residents of Arrow Rock and Boonville were still receiving cash dividends for investments in Santa Fe commerce as late as 1850.

During the War with Mexico from 1846 -1848, an early attempt by the Army to do its own freighting proved disastrous. Large freighting firms such as the Aull brothers of Lexington, Waldo and Hull of Independence and Alexander Majors in Westport were contracted with the U.S. government to supply the Army of the West. These and other large firms soon dominated the commerce on the Santa Fe Trail. The day of the individual trader, supplying three or four of his own wagons on credit from local merchants, was virtually over.

In 1846, approximately 414 wagons left Missouri carrying \$1,752,000 worth of goods. In 1850, over 500 wagons went out from Kansas City alone, and the total value of the trade was estimated at \$5,000,000. The Civil War seems to have been only a minor disruption to the trade. Colonel J.F. Meline who was touring New Mexico in 1866 said, "*In 1865 there came into New Mexico from the States three thousand wagons belonging to traders alone exclusive of government transportation. This year there will be from five to six thousand wagons...Most of the large trains return empty.*"³⁵ These caravans were supplying United States military posts and new American settlements in the southwest rather than trading with a foreign nation as in years past.

Despite this phenomenal post-war growth, the singular importance of the Santa Fe trade to Missouri's economy was in fact rapidly declining. The state's agricultural and industrial production had diversified and grown to the point that the Santa Fe trade no longer had a dynamic impact on the state's economy. The burgeoning cities of St. Louis and Kansas City were scarcely the specie starved Boonslick villages of forty years earlier. Furthermore, trail heads and outfitting points followed the advancing line of the railroads across Kansas, annually decreasing both the length of the Santa Fe Trail and the amount of Missouri originated commerce carried on it.

Technology and transportation spelled the end of the trade. In August 1867 this editorial appeared in the Junction City, Kansas, *Union*, "*A few years ago the freight wagons and oxen passing through Council Grove were counted by thousands, the value of merchandise by millions. But the shriek of the iron*

horse has silenced the lowing of the panting ox and the old Trail looks desolate. The track of commerce of the plains has changed and with the change is destined to come other changes and more blessed."³⁶ On February 9, 1880, the railroad reached Santa Fe, and the last remnants of the trade were swept away.³⁷

It is difficult to pinpoint the precise end of Missouri's commercial involvement in the Santa Fe trade. The diminishing of the trade's singular economic importance to the state was gradual, perhaps even indiscernible. However, it is certain that for the new state of Missouri, the Santa Fe trade was an economic stimulus during a great depression, providing a solid financial base on which to build for its future.

³⁶ *Ibid* p. 258.

³⁷ *Ibid* p. 267.



Mary Katherine Hall Horner and husband Charles pose by the portrait of Edward Marmaduke, a recent gift from Mrs. Horner to the Friends of Arrow Rock.

Friends Receive Gift of Marmaduke Portrait

The Friends of Arrow Rock are pleased to announce the gift of a portrait of Edward Marmaduke, circa 1865, from Mary Katherine Hall Horner. The 19th century primitive oil portrait shows Edward as a young boy posing with a goat. The artist is James F. Wilkins, ca. 1808-1888. Edward Marmaduke was the son of Jane Caroline Sappington and Darwin William Marmaduke and the grandson of Erasmus Darwin Sappington and Penelope Caroline (Breathitt) Sappington.

The portrait is on loan from the Friends to Day and Whitney Kerr at Prairie Park, the 1849 home of William B. Sappington. "It is good to have this interesting portrait back in Arrow Rock after many years, and it is most appropriate for it to be displayed in the parlor at Prairie Park," said President Tom Hall in his letter of thanks to Mrs. Horner. "The Friends are pleased that the Kerrs generously allow the Friends to take prearranged tours of the house. With this arrangement visitors will enjoy seeing the portrait of young Edward in an attractive and historically appropriate setting. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity in making this happen."

³⁵ Duffus, p. 255.



President Tom Hall presents Kathy Borgman with gift of a watercolor print and plaque in recognition of her 25 years of service as Executive Director at a reception given in her honor.

Executive Director Honored for 25 Years of Service

By President Tom Hall

On Sunday, August 2, following the quarterly board meeting, the board of trustees of the Friends hosted a reception honoring Kathy Borgman for her 25 years of exemplary service as the Executive Director of the Friends of Arrow Rock. The reception was held at the Huston Tavern, and was open to the public, with a good crowd from all over Saline County and elsewhere in Missouri. Chef Liz Huff graciously opened the Tavern especially for the occasion. Guests left messages for Kathy in a book of thanks and congratulations, and a gift of the print "Pastoral" by Missouri artist Catherine Mahoney was presented to Kathy, from the board of trustees of the Friends. A plaque on the picture expressed the thanks of the board, and of the entire membership of the Friends:

"With gratitude and admiration to Kathy Borgman
from the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Arrow Rock
for her 25 years of selfless, inspiring and dedicated
service and leadership
as Executive Director of the Friends
August 2, 2009"

Day Kerr and I spoke to thank Kathy; Day said that in hiring Kathy, "We hit the jackpot - she's a great ambassador for Arrow Rock." I pointed out that honoring Kathy in this way was especially appropriate following the celebration on June 14 this year of the 50th anniversary of the Friends' founding on June 14, 1959, because Kathy has served as Executive Director of the Friends for exactly half of that time.

Kathy has provided outstanding leadership for the Friends during these 25 years. In addition, she has been a leader in Saline County Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, as a member of the board of Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall, and as a member of the board of the Old Trails Regional Tourism Partnership (the new historic byway program). In 2004, Kathy was recognized by the Missouri Alliance for Historic Preservation with the Rozier Award, the top award for an individual in the field of historic preservation in Missouri. Kathy's many achievements, her

dedication, her friendly personality, her wide circle of friends all over Missouri, and indeed nationwide, and her tireless work as a goodwill ambassador for Arrow Rock and for the Friends, are very largely responsible for the success of the Friends over the past 25 years. She makes my job easy, and I know that the entire board of the FAR joins me in saying that it is always a pleasure to work with Kathy.

For those who don't know Kathy yet, I hope that you will make it a point to come to Arrow Rock to meet her, and that you will make it official by joining the Friends of Arrow Rock, which she has led so well for 25 years!

We Remember a Friend: Roberta Gaba

As you will see in this newsletter, we have recently lost long-time friends and members such as Roberta Gaba. Both Roberta and her husband Woodrow were longtime members, tracing their roots back to Arrow Rock. These gifts will be placed in our endowment fund providing support to carry out the Friends' mission of sharing the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations. We are honored to receive gifts from the following people in Roberta Gaba's name.

William and Sarah Alley
Michael and Sharron Benavides
Brenda Coffman
Barbara Haley
Henry H. Harris IV
Stan and Debby Hinnah
Julie and Jim Lewis
Shirley Mach
Dale and Linda McDaniel
Jerry and Brenda Miller
Sharon Mills/Mills Motor
Richard and Maria Murray
Robert and Jan Ravenhill
Elaine Reabus
Tom and Gina Sandwith
W. R. and Betty Sue Simonson
Sharron Toulouse
John and Ellie Vasilopoulos
Jean Gaddy Wilson
Eleanor, Beth and Shale Yorke

More Memorials for Barbara "Bobbie" True

Bobbie brought many good things and people to Arrow Rock. She was tireless in her work for the village on the architectural review board championing what is appropriate for the historic nature of the village. Her home and shop were show-places, and her rug hooking camp was legendary bringing women from around the country to Missouri and to Arrow Rock. In her quiet way she always brought a level of excellence to all her endeavors, including her service as a trustee for the Friends of Arrow Rock. We are honored to continue to receive gifts in Bobbie's name from the following:

Bobbie True Memorials

Keith and Leslie Anderson
Wayne and Barbara Carroll
Tom and Winnie Davis
Carl Dick
David and Nancy Finke
Robert and Karen Peterson
Janet Reeter
Kevin and Pam Riggs
Rug Hookers Class % Barbara Carroll
Don and Pam Stouffer
Sue Taggatz
Michelle Wendling

Arrow Rock Remembers a Friend....Sue Hall

Arrow Rock woke up to shocking news on October 16, learning of the sudden death of longtime resident Sue Hall. She had completed a 40-plus-year career as an LPN and activities director at Fitzgibbon Hospital and The Living Center in Marshall, and Oct. 16 was to have been her last day at work before retirement. To say that Sue was liked by all kinds of people is an understatement! Since she worked in the maternity ward in her younger years, she knew about everyone in Saline County. We all remember her 50th birthday party when she held a "street party" in Arrow Rock and hundreds of people attended with a boardwalk full of food!

Sue was a talented artist (portraits were her specialty) and craftsperson, and she loved to collect things. Her black doll collection is well known. I think people enjoyed giving her things just for the pleasure of watching her reaction, which was always one of pure delight and enjoyment. Sue was a champion organizer; when she took on a project, you had better look out when you saw her coming! This past spring she organized a highly successful George Caleb Bingham Art Show here in Arrow Rock. She was also active in the Friends of Arrow Rock's restoration of the Black Lodge and Brown's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church organizing a number of Juneteenth dinners and raffles.

Sue often said when she started a project she always had a goal in mind. We all knew her goal was to retire, and she indeed reached that milestone. May the joy she shared with others shine upon her always. The Friends of Arrow Rock are honored to receive gifts in her name for the Black History project from the following:

Kathy Borgman
Pat Cooper
Nancy and David Finke
Beth Hanes
Tom and Margaret Hall
Georgia Hollywood
Jean Klein Horman
John and Donna Huston
Pam Parsons
Abby Pheiffer
Kevin and Pam Riggs
Page Williams

President Tom Hall Remembers a Friend.... Jack Davis

Arrow Rock, the Friends of Arrow Rock, the John P. Sites gunsmith shop and the Christopher Collection of Early Missouri Firearms, and I personally, have lost one of our best friends, with the death of John L. S. "Jack" Davis, Jr. on September 23. Jack was a native of the Arrow Rock neighborhood, and although he left to enlist in the U.S. Army during the final months of World War II, and made the Army his career, followed by retirement in the St. Louis area, he maintained his dedication to Arrow Rock throughout his life. Jack's expertise in several areas helped to make possible the second restoration of the Sites gun shop in 1991, and the restoration and permanent display of the Christopher Collection that same year. Jack was a skilled master gunsmith and restorer of antique firearms. He was a diligent genealogist, knowledgeable about American, Missouri, and Saline County history, and the history of firearms, especially 19th-century American guns, and this unique combination of talents made him the ideal person for these projects.

Jack donated hundreds of hours and all of the materials needed to completely restore and properly display both the Christopher Collection, and the Friends of Arrow Rock's small but important collection of firearms made by several members of the Sites family, all with no expectation or request for reimbursement. None of this work would have been possible without Jack's generosity, and many visitors have told us that the display of these firearms as set up by Jack, visible from all sides, including the powder, ammunition, and percussion cap or flint for each weapon, in airtight secure cases, is the best display of firearms that they have ever seen. Jack also researched and wrote up detailed descriptions for each weapon, which are included in the catalog that describes both collections.

One of Jack's many fine characteristics was loyalty; once he committed to a project, he followed through exactly as planned. Having restored the weapons, Jack wanted to help educate others about them, and for 20 years without fail, Jack has come to every event in Arrow Rock involving the Sites gun shop, dressed in his buckskins, as an authentic Mountain Man: the Heritage Craft Festival every October, Children's Craft Festivals, living history events, educational programs, visits of Scout groups, and others. No matter how early I arrived at the Sites gun shop to meet him, Jack was already there, having driven from St. Louis, often before sunrise, and with a fire already started in the wood stove in the shop.

We are grateful to Jack's family for designating memorials in his name to be made to the Friends of Arrow Rock. Jack rests in the Arrow Rock cemetery not far from the grave of his hero, "Uncle Johnny" Sites, the Arrow Rock gunsmith. Their names will both always be remembered, together, whenever anyone talks about the colorful history of Arrow Rock and its firearms. Jack was truly one of the masters of "the guns that won the West."

We are honored to receive gifts from the following in Jack Davis' memory:

Joyce Anne Auxtinee
Milt and Cherrie Barr
Kathy Borgman
Jeff and Jean Comrey

Bill and Francis Davis
 Donald and Karen Davis
 Mabel Davis
 Ursula Davis and Frank Beck
 Fidelitas Lodge No. 830, Germany
 Lloyd French
 Mr. and Mrs. Brownie French
 Joe and Antoinette Gordon
 Tom and Margaret Hall
 Sunghei Han
 Robert and Betty Hanks
 Kathryn Hines
 Mary Joye
 Judy Gay King
 Dorothy and Jeanne LaRue
 Jesse Leimkuehler
 Ken and Melba Leimkuehler
 Ray Leimkuehler and Kathryn Lewis
 Ruby Neff
 Pam Parsons
 Martha Davis Waddell
 Sandy Whitman

1st Saturday Lecture Series Announced for 2010

The Friends of Arrow Rock are pleased to announce the third annual 1st Saturday Lecture Series will be held February through May, 2010. The lectures are underwritten by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and are held at 10 a.m. at the Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center.

February 6: Dr. Debra Miles: *Legal Representation for Slaves: Zealous or Passive?* What was the adequacy of representation for slaves charged with capital crimes?

March 6: Mike Dickey: *The Missouri Indian Nation: A History of the Nyut'achi People*. Learn about the once powerful Missouri native nation that gave name to the river, then to the state, from a new book Mike is writing.

April 3: Dr. James Harlan: *Saline County: When You Could Find Buffalo and Elk*, a look at the landscape of Saline County and the Boonslick based on survey notes taken in 1816 and 1817.

May 1: Mark Belwood: *Rediscovering the Tallgrass Prairie*, both today and in the past, illustrated with recent photographs Mark has taken on his farm in Saline County.

"Friends on the Go" Tour Santa Fe August 27-31

The second "Friends on the Go" fundraising trip began August 27 with a late morning flight to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our intrepid group of 20 was met by our guide and bus, and we stopped first at the adobe style home of Charles and Linda Borgman in Corrales where we were refreshed with food and drink and fabulous views of the Sandia Mountains. Then it was on to Santa Fe and check-in at La Fonda on the Plaza at the end of the Santa Fe Trail. Our days were filled with a town



"Friends On The Go" pose in front of the home of Charles and Linda Borgman in Corrales, New Mexico.

tour, a reception in the southwestern home of Tom and Carolyn Minton, formerly of Marshall, a day trip to Taos, shopping (a big hit!) and museum going. Of course, we had outstanding meals and an excellent guide. Even the weather cooperated perfectly.

A big thank you to Donna Huston and Liz Huff for arranging another fun expedition and to those who made the journey.

Yvonne Anderson
 Sandra and Don Arens
 Kathy Borgman
 Kathy Cary
 Pat and Charlie Cooper
 Helen Evans
 Rook Evans
 Susan Fitzpatrick
 Jan Hinnah
 Donna Huston
 Audrey Jones
 Darleen and Ken Mueller
 Pam Parsons
 Geraldine Ritchey
 Ernest and Judy Smith
 Jeani Wilson

"Friends on the Go" Plan 2010 Trip to Newport, RI

While we are still enjoying the memories of this year's Santa Fe trip, Donna Huston, Blaine McBurney and Alex and Donna McBurney are busy planning the August 26-30, 2010 trip to Newport, Rhode Island! The five day trip will include airfare, lodging at the America's Cup Inn and touring the Hunter House, the Breakers, the Elms and the Doris Duke 18th Century Furniture Museum. Dining features include a special evening of cocktails at the private home of Donna and Alex McBurney followed by dinner at the Dune's Club along with lunch at the Tennis Hall of Fame, dinner at the White Horse Tavern, and an evening dinner cruise. Call the office at 660-837-3231 for more information about the "Friends on the Go" Newport trip. The trip is limited to 20 people, and we will maintain a waiting list with a refundable \$100 deposit.

Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc.

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Thank You

Theresa Churchhill for community service of cleaning properties and scraping and painting interior windows at the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall.

Tom Beamer for handyman and electrical jobs.

George Huff for donating an 1855 copy of the *Life of Daniel Webster*.

Judy Fitzsimonds for weeding the yucca bed in front of the Sappington Museum.

Arrow Rock Chapter DAR for a new flag to fly at the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall.

Marty Selby for donating and installing a water alarm for the sump pump at the Post Office.

Neil G. Broku for donating a reference book entitled *Pistols* by Adriano Sala.

Tom Hall for donating a top hat for our costume clothing collection.

Leland and Jill Shurin for giving a memorial in memory of Faith Pitman.

Beverly Lockridge for giving a memorial in memory of Tish and Bill Berlin

Chuck Petty and Dustin Conrad our 2009 Historic Tour Guides.

Memberships Matter

Thank you to the 512 members and Life members who have made gifts this year totaling \$27,500 towards our budgeted goal of \$34,000. Your continued support is needed and appreciated. You may check the mailing label which will indicate the date your membership expires. "Exp" means your current membership has expired, and we have not received a gift within the past year. "Life" means you are a Life member and may make gifts as you choose. Your gifts help us share the Missouri frontier experience with this and future generations. Thank you!

An Invitation To Join

The Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc.

The following annual memberships are available to interested individuals. Please make checks payable to Friends of Arrow Rock, Inc. Memberships may be deductible for income tax purposes.

Annual Memberships:

Supporting, \$30.00; Sustaining, \$50.00; Sponsor, \$100.00; Patron, \$250.00; Benefactor, \$500.00; Life, \$1000.00

Name _____

Address _____

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