

CALIFORNIA- NEVADA CHAPTER SPRING SYMPOSIUM - 2010

Our chapter's 2010 spring symposium will be held in conjunction with the Kern County Historical Society in Bakersfield on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 for the purpose of marking the recently-identified grave of Elisha Stephens, captain of the 1844 Stephens Townsend-Murphy emigrant wagon train to California. The historical accomplishments of this emigrant party include: 1) the opening of what was to become known as the Sublette Cut-off in Wyoming; 2) the discovery and opening of the Truckee River Route, the first of the emigrant wagon routes to be established over the Sierra Nevada; 3) the first emigrant wagon train to succeed bringing some of its wagons over the crest of the Sierra (in 1844) and all of its wagons over the crest and then on into the settlements of Mexican Alta California in the spring of 1845. (All of this achieved without the loss of human life, and, indeed, with the addition of two babies born along the trail.) It has been known that Captain Stephens was buried in Bakersfield's Union Cemetery, but the actual grave site has remained unknown. The research of John Codd of Bakersfield has now provided us with persuasive evidence of the location of the Stephens grave, thus ending one of the enduring mysteries of California history. In a joint ceremony on May 1, the Kern County Historical Society will place a marker on the Stephens grave and our chapter will install one of OCTA's historical markers commemorating Stephens and the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party.

Symposium headquarters will be at the Best Western Crystal Palace Inn in Bakersfield. We have arranged to have a block of rooms set aside at \$69.00 per night plus 12% tax. This price includes a **full** breakfast. You must make your own reservations. The phone number and address for the Inn:

Best Western Crystal Palace Inn 2620 Buck Owens Blvd., Bakersfield Phone:
(661) 327-9651

(Identify yourself as a member of OCTA in order to receive the special room rate. Please plan to stay at the Inn. We have to fill a certain number of rooms in order to get our meeting room free of charge. The cut-off date for making reservations is March 31.)

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA:

Friday, April 30:

7:00 P.M. Chapter meeting at Crystal Palace Inn. Ask at desk for location of meeting room.

Saturday, May 1:

9:30 A.M. Joint dedication ceremony at Union Cemetery Address: 730 East Potomac Avenue

10:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Symposium and lunch at Stars Theater and Restaurant. Address: 1931 Chester Avenue. Phone: (661) 325-6100

SCHEDULE OF SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS:

1. PBS Documentary Film: "The Forgotten Journey" Timothy Lemucchi
2. Locating Elisha Stephens gravesite. John Codd
3. Elijah Stephens and the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party. Tom Hunt
4. Joseph R. Walker and Walker Pass.

There will also be a silent auction of 35 trail-related books under the auspices of Don Buck, designated purveyor of books to the gods.

Lunch will be served during these presentations. We must vacate the theater by 2:30 P.M. in order for the staff to set up for the dinner trade. I am assured that the food and theater facilities are first rate.

7:30 P.M. Basque dinner at Wool Growers Restaurant Address: 620 E. 19th Street. Phone: (661) 327-9564

PLEASE NOTE: We are inviting the members of the Kern County Historical Society to attend the symposium session on Saturday on a space available basis. This means that we must have a cut-off date for our chapter members to register in order not to overbook the facility. The Stars Theater seats a maximum of 130 persons. We are therefore establishing a cut-off date of MARCH 31 for our own members. There may still continue to be openings after that cut-off date, but it will be on a first come/first served basis for both groups. **Please register early.**

**** The dinner at Wool Growers is for our members only, but their banquet room seats a maximum of 60 persons. The rest of the restaurant remains open to the public, so you may be able to make reservations individually. You must make your own reservations in that case. I am told that the food is very good there. Again, register with me early to ensure being seated with the main group. This is strictly a social event-Do chapter business is involved-so you may even prefer to get together your own little group.

More detailed driving instructions to the various venues will be provided at the chapter meeting on Friday evening. I am told that all of the sites are within short driving distances of each other.

For those of you who have never visited this area, let me suggest that you consider making it into a springtime jaunt by driving home by via the scenic Kern River Canyon and historic Walker Pass (Highway 178) and then along the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada through Bishop on Highway 395. In the springtime, this is one of the most beautiful drives in the U.S. Depending on the winter snowfall, a number of routes over the Sierra will be open-beginning with Tioga Pass and Yosemite in the south. I would also point out that Bakersfield is a good jumping off point in all directions-north, south, east and west-for wildflower viewing (again depending on the winter rains).

Have fun and drive safely. Hope to see you in Bakersfield!

REGISTER EARLY!

REGISTRATION FORM
CA-NV CHAPTER SYMPOSIUM
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA
APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 2010

NAMES:

ADDRESS: _____

(Number & Street)

_____ (city, zip) (____)

_____ (telephone no.)

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00 per person x no. of persons _____ = \$

LUNCH AND SYMPOSIUM AT STARS THEATER:

\$20.00 per person x no. of persons _____ = \$

Indicate number:

Tri-tip _____

Eggplant Parmesan (vegetarian) _____

Note: The theater seats 130 people. Register early.

DINNER AT WOOL GROWER'S BASQUE RESTAURANT:

(Traditional family-style, multi-course Basque dinner, featuring a lamb main entree.)

\$30.00 per person x no. of persons _____ = \$

[Note: The Wool Growers has a banquet room which only seats a maximum of 60 persons. However, the restaurant also remains open to the public so you can make reservations on your own or with your own group if you so wish. We will ask them to allow you to sit with other OCTA members to the extent that it proves feasible. I must submit our banquet room count no later than April 26.]

Total of check enclosed: \$

Please return this registration form and your check to:

Thomas Hunt
1936 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501-2911

For information call (707) 442-1839

You will be sent a confirmation notice upon receipt of your check.

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You received this message because you were subscribed to the Google Groups "OCTA CA/NV Chapter" group by this chapter.

Chapter Website: canvocta.org National Website: octa-trails.org

If, for some reason, you wish to be removed from this group, contact Mary Ann Tortorich, E-News editor.

Mary Ann's address: Annamae1846@gmail.com

Mary Ann's phone: 209.296.7242