

Message from the President - Bill Leppert

The year was 1987. Ronald Reagan was President. The Soviet Union was still America's primary nemesis and the Berlin Wall was still standing. The Gateway Chapter of OCTA was formed. Yes, this marks the 20th year anniversary of the Gateway Chapter. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the formation of OCTA.

I am proud to say that our chapter is going strong with a membership of 78 people. Our treasury looks good, and we're off to a new and exciting year for the Gateway Chapter.



We have some exciting events planned for this spring. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 20, and Thursday, April 19. We will have two interesting talks held at the East Hills Library here in St. Joseph. The first talk will be conducted by Suzette McCord-Rogers of the Kansas State Historical Society and her topic is titled, "Indian Removal to Kansas and Creation of the Mission System." Dr. W. Raymond Wood from the University of Missouri at Columbia will conduct our second talk that is titled, "The Missouri River before Lewis and Clark."

On May 19, we are conducting a bus trip to Alcove Spring, Kansas and Rock Creek Station, Nebraska. This will be a full-day event. Alcove spring was located on the Independence Road, and it was a well-known stopping place for settlers heading west to Oregon and California. This included the famous Donner Party. Rock Creek Station was a Pony Express station, and it was there that Wild Bill Hickock began his notoriety as a gunslinger and lawman. This outing was initially scheduled for last October, but we had to cancel it because we were unable to reserve a bus. Del Sutherland and I will be your tour guides.

I recently sent out 37 letters to past Gateway members who are still on our mailing list but not current with their membership dues. I hope that you decide to renew your membership with us. You don't want to miss receiving our future newsletters that keep you abreast of our chapter activities. If you are one of the recipients of my recent letter, won't you renew today?

I would like to close by reminding you that the OCTA national convention this year will be held in Gering/Scott's Bluff, Nebraska, from August 7 to 12. This will be a special convention marking OCTA's 25th anniversary. There are many interesting and notable Oregon-California Trail landmarks in this area of Nebraska.

I hope to see you on the trail this year.

New and Reinstated Members

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Fred Amesbury
1412 E. River Oaks Lane
Springfield, MO 65804 | Mary Conrad
3900 N. 55th Street
Kansas City, KS 66104 | William Gloy
2749 bluestem Drive
Topeka, KS 66614 | Duane Isles
P.O. Box 310
Holton, KS 66436 |
| Walter & Barbara Breyfogle
3210 Friends Road
Hays, VA 23270 | Paul Dittimore
P.O. Box 277
Troy, KS 66087 | Glenn & Carol Harrison
1132 30 Place S.W.
Albany, OR 97321 | David Yates
111 West 86th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64114 |

Suzette McCord Rogers presents "Indian Removal to Kansas and the Creation of the Mission System"

**March 20 (Tuesday) at 7 p.m.
Lower Level of East Hills Public Library in St. Joseph**

With passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, the U.S. government sent many eastern Indians to reservations in the Kansas Territory. After this 1830 shift in federal policy, the numbers of missionaries administering Indians in Kansas increased dramatically since a system of missions was one component of the official response to Indian removal. The Iowa, Sac and Fox Mission in northeastern Kansas was one of dozens of Kansas missions designed to educate Indians in European American ways.

Suzette has two degrees in history, a bachelors from the University of Nebraska and a masters from the University of Kansas. She is the director of the Native American Heritage Museum in Highland, Kansas, which is administered by the Kansas State Historical Society.

Please plan to attend this educational and informative program.



Just a reminder to renew your membership for 2007. Please continue to support Gateway by cutting out and returning the following form. You may renew with this form directly to Gateway or by sending your Chapter dues in with your OCTA national dues to headquarters in Independence. Thank you.

2007 Gateway Chapter Membership Form		
Name	_____	
Address	_____	
City/State/Zip	_____	
Phone	_____	
	E-Mail	_____
Individual Membership	\$10.00	Please fill out form and send cash or check to: Gateway Chapter, OCTA 2929 Sacramento, St. Joseph, MO 64507
Family Membership	\$15.00	
What I most enjoy about Gateway is _____		
