

non-responsive

Subject: Contact Email

Bonjour,

First let me say I am proud of my NH Congressman for his support of our President in the domestic and foreign policies he has undertaken for our country and the pursuit of peace around the world.

I am researching the Oregon Trail migration of 1851, and am collecting all Trail Journals of that year and government documents I can find to include in a project I plan on publishing. I am hoping someone in your office can locate and send to me any documents relating to this topic in the Library of Congress and the Dept of the Interior / Indian Affairs and in any other appropriate repositories you might know of relating to the following:

- 1.) the Donation Land Claim Act of 1851 with changes made in subsequent years**
- 2.) The Fort Laramie / Horse Creek Treaty of 1851 including, if possible, a.) photocopy of the original document with the Indians' "signature marks," and b.) the official reports sent to Washington by the participants and other eyewitnesses. I know of the following folks who were present:**
 - a.) Thomas Fitzpatrick, (I would like his annual report in 1850 and 1851 and 1852. He was the Indian Agent)**
 - b.) D. D. Mitchell (He was Commissioner of Indian Affairs at St. Louis, MO. I would like his reports of 1850, 51, and 52)**
 - c.) Col. A. B. Chambers (editor of the Missouri Republican newspaper)**
 - d.) Robert Campbell (of St. Louis)**
 - e.) B. Gatz Brown (newspaper reporter, later governor of MO)**
- 3.) Any period photos / sketches of the forts along the 1851 Trail: Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie, Fort Boise, Fort Hall**
- 4.) Any photos or sketches relating to the Indians and/or the Oregon Trail emigrants in 1845-55 time frame.**

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5.) Any Trail Journals from the 1851 Oregon Trail trek that might be housed in Washington (I have 120 of these, so if you find any, let me know the authors' names so I can check them against my own collection.)

I hope someone in your office will be able to use your "clout" with the various agencies to assist in this project. I'm sure that your involvement will result in a more timely response and helpful cooperation than I could ever hope to obtain as a lowly taxpayer.

Thanks,

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Yes, I would like a reply asap



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D C. 20240

April 8, 2004

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Dear Mr. **non-responsive**

This is in response to your recent letter to the Honorable Jeb Bradley requesting information about the Oregon Trail migration of 1851. Representative Bradley asked the Department of the Interior (DOI) to reply.

In your letter, you stated that you intend to publish the results of your research on the Oregon Trail migration of 1851 and to that purpose you are collecting all trail journals of 1851 and Government documents related to the migration. Although the DOI has no means or authority to conduct your research, we are happy to recommend certain sources which might be helpful in your research effort.

The DOI web site, <http://www.doi.gov/>, can provide some information to get you started; you can search under "Oregon Trail." Within the DOI, the field office responsible for administration of the Oregon National Historic Trail is located in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Superintendent is Dr. Jere Krakow, who is an historian by training and perhaps may be able to alert you to additional sources you are seeking for your research. You may feel free to contact him at the following address:

Dr. Jere Krakow, Superintendent
National Park Service, National Trails System Office—SLC
324 South State Street, Suite 200
PO Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155

The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) is the primary nonprofit group associated with the Oregon Trail. They maintain a current electronic database of all emigrant journals that they have located, which is searchable by name, place name, day/date. For further information about this CD-based collection, called the **Emigrant Names CD**, you may contact:

OCTA
PO Box 1019
Independence, MO 64051-0519
Telephone: 816-252-2276
Email: octa@indepmo.org

Another source, The National Frontier Trails Museum, is located near the OCTA headquarters in Independence; its director, Mr. Lambertson, may be able to provide information regarding some materials to augment your collection. He may be contacted at:

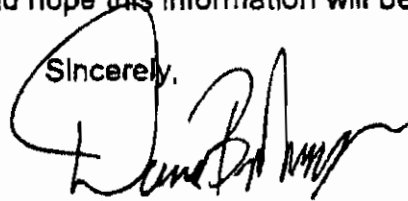
John Mark Lambertson, Director
National Frontier Trails Museum
318 West Pacific
Independence, MO 64050
Telephone: 816-325-7575

Many of the items you seek may be accessible through your local libraries, which may be able to locate items at other libraries. These items may then be available to you through an interlibrary loan. Since much of what you are seeking consists of older historical records, the reference librarian and social studies personnel at your local library may be of invaluable service to you as you search through catalogues for sources or check the bibliographies of other researchers who have studied this subject. You can also contact the Library of Congress for historical material or the National Archives may house some of the documents you are seeking. I would recommend you first contact their web sites for the details of their operation:

<http://www.loc.gov/>
<http://www.archives.gov/>

We wish you well in your research and hope this information will be of assistance to you in that regard.

Sincerely,



David Bernhardt
Director, Congressional and
Legislative Affairs, and
Counselor to the Secretary

cc: The Honorable Jeb Bradley