

SOUTHERN UTAH CHAPTER OF THE OLD SPANISH TRAILS ASSOCIATION

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Chapter Website: http://www.three-peaks.net/spanish_trail.htm
National Website: <http://www.oldspanishtrail.org/>
Old Spanish Trail Discussion Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/old_spanish_trail
Editor: Blaine Nay, 714 South 1175 West, Cedar City, UT 84720-3699
Phone: (435) 867-5976, Cell: (435) 590-7569, Email: blaine@nay.org



President's Message

By Rob Dotson

Greetings!!! Summer is marching in....finally. With good weather comes the desire to be outside and our area provides many opportunities for adventure. We invite all of you to join us on our fieldtrips. Not only in enjoying the activities, but also in the planning. We thank all of you who already make great efforts to support the organization.

Plans for a museum are still in the works. When the design work is completed, we will be working hard towards funding. Special thanks to New Horizons Engineering for their work in surveying and preparing a site map for the proposed location in Enoch.

Old Spanish Trail Days will be an exciting opportunity to inform others about the great heritage left to us in this area. We invite all to volunteer for the numerous activities that will take place. Much planning has to be done.

We ask that those who took assignments for the upcoming Old Spanish Trail Days come to the April 11th chapter meeting prepared to report their plans.

Please feel free to join us and invite all your interested friends and family.

Your servant,
Rob Dotson

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are generally held at 7PM on the second Wednesday of each month in the Enoch City Office Building, 900 East Midvalley Road, Enoch, UT. Old Spanish Trail. The next

chapter meeting will be May 9, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Those who took assignments for the upcoming Old Spanish Trail Days will report their plans at this month's chapter meeting on April 11th.

In addition, the chapter plans regular fieldtrips to Old Spanish Trail sites. These field trips will be announced at the chapter meetings, local newspapers, and this website. See the chapter website for dates and times.

Trail History

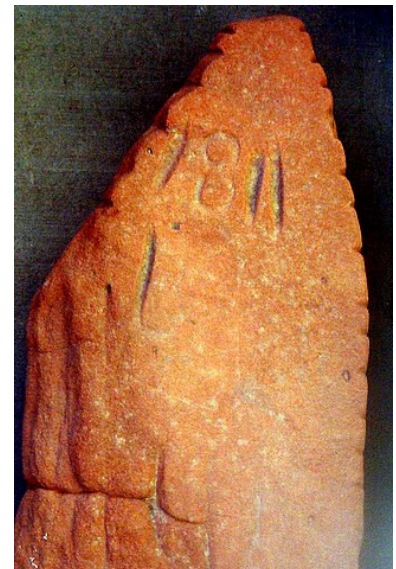
The 1811 Marker and a tale of Gold
by Paul Ostapuk (Forwarded by Leon Matheson)

I found out that the 1811 inscription was found near the Hurricane Cliffs in southern Utah. There's a rumor of a story of Spanish gold. As you can see the inscription was part of a scalloped marker.

From the finder:

"There are also several stories about a lost Spanish Gold mine in the Hurricane cliffs. We have also found several other interesting things, one of which is a writing at the base of a cliff with numerous writings as well

as a box with the number 426 in the middle of it another is the crest of a peak with a hole chipped out in the stone that can be seen at a



certain time of the day from close to these writings, the distance between the two is about 4 miles. We also found an old fire pit at the top of the mesa which sits just above where the marker stone was found. There is also dark brown pottery (almost black) that is on top of the mesa.

I have also talked with an old man that lived in the area for his whole life and he told us of finding a cache of gold bricks in the area of the marker stone, he has since died but he told us that there was an old willow and a spring where he located them. When I talked to him he was bed ridden and on his death bed. His explanation as to why he did not have the gold bricks was that when he found them he was riding his horse bareback and was 12 years old at the time the bricks were too heavy to pack riding bareback. When he got home his parents did not believe him and would not help him find them. He never could find them again.

It is my belief that Don Jose Rafael Sarricino came here to find the buried gold bricks that had been left by Spanish explorers before him who had tried leave in the summer with a load that was too heavy to haul when the temperatures were in the hundreds and water was worth more than gold, there is no water suitable for drinking for many miles from this location. I believe they buried the gold in anticipation of a return, when that was not possible they made a deal with Sarracino giving him the information in return for a portion of the cache.

Jim Knipmeyer knows of an 1811 inscription that is located northeast of Holbrook, Arizona, not in Utah. It is the date "1811" along with the name "Silbestre Esquibel," the name(s) printed in capital letters. The inscription is incised into a rock face.

Background on José Rafael Sarracino

Like the first Pino families, merchants from Mexico City, the Sarracinos were merchants from Chihuahua. The first into New Mexico was José Rafael Sarracino in the late 1700s. He married Maria Gutierrez in 1787. Like many of the caravan merchants during this time, his wife and children resided in Chihuahua while

José was "on the trail." Being a merchant on the El Camino Real was a political appointment and a coveted job for the profits that could be made. For this reason, the male children of these merchants were brought into the "family business."

The two sons of José Sarracino likewise became El Camino Real merchants, residing in Santa Fe with their families around 1820. However, with the arrival of the Santa Fe Trail, and later the railroad, higher-quality goods at lower prices were brought into New Mexico (and without the political corruption from Mexico). The El Camino Real began to die and, along with it, the merchants and their prosperity.

The two Sarracino merchants were suddenly out of a job, becoming ranchers east of Santa Fe and in Truchas. They quickly proved to be good ranchers. Shortly after the Civil War, several families of Sarracinos ventured into the Rio Abajo and southern New Mexico, running ranches from La Joya to the Diamond A near Deming, and of course, near Socorro. In the 1880s, the Sarracino Ranch ran from the Rio Salado to about U.S. 60, near Water Canyon. Some of the Sarracinos in today's Socorro are descendants of these successful sheep and cattle families.

In the early 1800s, Spanish restrictions against trade were apparently slackened, reflecting an official change in policy where trade with Indian groups on New Mexico's northern frontier was seen as a necessity in order to create a buffer against American encroachment. Part of this was an attempt by the Spanish to make the Indians dependent upon them through trade. As part of this new diplomacy, the Spanish began encouraging trade expeditions (Weber 1971:28). As trade with the Utes developed, two major travel routes from New Mexico into Utah became established: the main Spanish Trail and the northern branch of the Spanish Trail. The rapidity of the development of the route is demonstrated by the journey of Manuel Mestas, a 70-year-old genizaro that had served the Spanish as an interpreter to the Utes for 50 years, when he traveled to the Utah Lake area in 1805 and recovered stolen horses from the Timpanogos Utes, presumably

following the route of the main Spanish Trail (Hafen and Hafen 1954:85; Creer 1947). When Jose Rafael Sarracino spent three months in Ute territory in central Utah in 1811, he found the Indians already in possession of Spanish-made knives, razors, and awls (Weber 1971:25). By 1813, Utes as far away as the Sevier River in central Utah were accustomed to trading with the Spanish (Hafen and Hafen 1954:267; Smith 1974).

The Utes were eager to trade with the Spanish and were particularly interested in procuring horses, though they also obtained other items such as blankets, knives, beads, and agricultural products. The Spanish were equally eager to trade in order to bolster their meager economy. Slaves were most highly desired, but tanned hides, furs, and dried meat were also received from the Utes (Hafen and Hafen 1954:261). As the slave trade became established, Utes began raiding unmounted Western Shoshone, Southern Paiutes, and Gosiutes as far west as southern Nevada to steal women and children to sell to the Spanish in New Mexico for use as domestic servants and shepherds (Callaway et al. 1986:354). In 1812, a Spanish law was passed prohibiting Indian slavery. This did little to curb the trade, and pelts and slaves continued to be the major items of exchange with the Utes (Hafen and Hafen 1954:263-264). Local lore suggests that the Spanish mined on Ute Mountain and that Spanish artifacts have been found on occasion in the McElmo Canyon area, though confirmation is lacking (Kenyon and Kenyon 2004; Jeter 2004).

