

“Marking a Road to Santa Fe: Set Your Sights on Sibley”

2025 SFTA Symposium Schedule

Friday -Sept. 19th & Saturday-Sept. 20 -9 a.m.-5 p.m.- Making a Road to Santa Fe: 200th Commemoration Wagon Show begins our nine- day offering of events and will be held in Council Oak Park, 210 East Main Street, the location where the Sibley survey camped and met with the Great and Little Osage Tribes. National Renown wagon expert David Sneed will be a presenter along with National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association President & Blacksmith Jeff McManus as well as Wagonmaker and Wheelwright Don Werner. Steve Brosemer, will portray Sibley surveyor Joseph C. Brown. Historian Mark Brooks will present on Santa Fe Trail. (No fee) *

Friday- September 19th & 20th- 8 p.m.- The Voices of the Wind People, the highly acclaimed historical pageant about the Kaw (or Kanza) Native people. and the Santa Fe Trail, will be performed in the Old Riverbed Amphitheater in Council Grove, Kansas, Friday and Saturday. Voices of the Wind People Pageant starts at 8 p.m. both nights. (Fee required)

Saturday- September 20th - For the geocache enthusiast a special event will be held. Check in at the Wagon Show. Watch for more details.

Saturday-Sept. 20-9 a.m. -Ride the Santa Fe Trail in Lyon County. Northern Heights HS, Allen, KS. Gravel Cycling. Tour 4 miles to 142-mile Creek & back and 18 miles to Wilmington and back. Contact jhuston@fairpoint.net for information.

Sunday-Sept. 21- 10 a.m.-Church Services are planned 4 miles west of Council Grove south of Highway 56 on Santa Fe Trail ruts. Guests will be ushered in on wagons to the service sight. A circuit rider will tie the Santa Fe Trail into his sermon.

Sunday- September 21 - 1 p.m. Join the Kaw Nation at Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, located 3.25 miles Southeast of Council Grove. which is the site of the last Kanza Village in Kansas. The Kanza (who will be here for Voices) plan to have a children’s Pow Wow and a play performed by the children of the tribe.

Monday-Sept. 22- 9 a.m. -Ride the Santa Fe Trail in Morris County. Council Grove Flint Hills Nature Trail Head. Gravel Cycling. 6.6 miles to Dunlap Road and 4 miles to Rock Creek Crossing and back. Contact jhuston@fairpoint.net for information. Rock Creek Crossing- Located 6 miles east on Highway 56 and then North on ¼ mile on 200 Road - 2 p.m. - Historian Ken McClintock will present on Arthur I. Baker, who was murdered by (Bloody Bill) Anderson on July 3, 1862. Other activities are planned.

Tuesday-Sept. 23- 11 p.m. -A dedication of the 10 new National Park Santa Fe Trail Signs, of which, Council Grove is the first to receive, will be held at the Kaw Mission, located at 500 North Mission Street in Council Grove, Kansas. A scavenger hunt will be held along Main Steet, the Santa Fe Trail. Prizes will be awarded. (no fee) More details to follow. We encourage guests to visit our museums, shops, parks, lakes and eateries. Just 16 miles south visitors can enjoy the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve.

Wednesday-Sept. 24- 9 a.m.-Santa Fe Trail Board of Directors Meeting. The Dealership Building, 318 W. Main. Followed by a Social Event at 6 p.m. with a Taco Bar. Registration required. (no fee). Entertainment by Annie Wilson and The Tall Grass Express Band.

Thursday-Sept. 25-Attendees will start their day at the Territory Ballroom-117-119 W. Main at 8 a.m. with coffee and donuts for social time. The first speaker, Steve Brosemer will begin at 9:00 and will display and demonstrate the surveying equipment and techniques used in the time period of the Sibley Survey, along with maps prepared by Sibley surveyor Joseph Brown. Steve Schmidt, 10:30 and his presentation will contain many visual aids, is a detailed summary of the expedition, an expedition that took three years to complete. Discussed will why and how it came about, where it went, how it was conducted, and what the results were. It will contain a "surprise" ending describing the recent discovery of an artifact directly tied to the expedition. * The bus(es) will load in front of the building approximately 11:45 a.m., after box lunches are chosen of either Smoked Ham & Cheese, Roast Turkey & Swiss or Roast Beef & Provolone Sandwiches, Kansas Prairie Pasta Salad, Seasonal Fruit Cup, Honey Oatmeal Cookie, Roasted Sunflower Seeds and Bottled Water are distributed. The bus will head east to Burlingame, Kansas with stops along the Santa Fe Trail. * After returning to Council Grove at approximately 5 p.m., attendees will be on their own for dinner. Guests will tour Greenwood Cemetery at 7 p.m. and visit with historical characters from Santa Fe Trail Days.

Friday-Sept. 26 -The day starts out again at the Territory Ballroom at 8 a.m. with donuts and coffee for social time. Craig Crease will speak first at 9 a.m. His presentation "We Do Not Want a Party of Gentlemen Coffee Drinker... The Men of the Sibley Survey Expedition" The Men of the Federal governments survey of the Santa Fe Trail in 1825 were a stalwart lot of savvy frontiersmen. They were chosen by survey commissioner George Sibley and Benjamin Reeves for their ability to face hardship expected on the survey, and their experience dealing with the frontier. Several men were already well-known in the four-year-old state of Missouri. Some went on to become nationally famous and contribute to the vast legacy of the American West. This is the story of the men of the Sibley Survey. Dr. Elliot West following him at 10:30. Dr. West will present on the Sibley Survey in 1825, into a larger prospective to give some sense of why it was happening and how it filled into the broader context of the time. In this case he will focus on the 1820's, probably overlapped a bit in either direction. His talk will dive into other government projects and explorations meant to open up U.S. intrusions into the West; the opening and refinement of routes to and especially from Santa Fe father west to California; economic interests that were fueling all this (fur trade, commerce, Pacific trade); and of course, Indian relations and how they were affected by all of this. He will introduce to us a nice cast of characters, mountain men, army officers, various ne'er do wells, and Boston merchants. If you have signed up for the bus tour, you will pick up the same delicious lunch as the previous day the group will travel to Ft Riley. The bus(es) will load in front of the building approximately 11:45 a.m. Bus(es) will return at 5 p.m. * Experience a grazing-style feast at 6 p.m. on the Riverwalk and Bridge featuring an array of food stations prepared by local chefs. Derick Doty will provide background music for the dinner guests. Weda Skirts, a 5 -piece bluegrass -adjacent vocal group, will perform in the amphitheater at 8 p.m.

Sept. 27- Begins with coffee and donut at 8 a.m. at The Dealership Building, 318 West Main Street, followed by the Membership meeting at 9 a.m. If you have signed up for the bus tour, you will pick up the same delicious lunch as the previous day for the Council Grove tour. The bus(es) will load in

front of the building approximately 11:45 a.m. Guest will tour Santa Fe Trail, Council Grove and Kanza historic locations. * The bus will return at 5 p.m. This evening, we will dine on the western bank of the Neosho River at 6 p.m. near the site of the original crossing, under the shelter of a grand tent. Guests will enjoy a buffet style meal of smoked brisket or roasted chicken. Awards will be presented during the meal. The Church Ladies, a harmony based acoustic trio, will entertain you in the amphitheater at 8 pm.

- For detailed information see the article on the Wagon Show
- See the article on tours for a detailed account of tours
- See the article on Symposium Speakers
- See the article on food & entertainment details for Friday & Saturday