

West Texas Archeological Society

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westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website

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(Feel free to pass on to friends. Membership is free. 104 members and growing!)

Newsletter & Website editor: Tom Ashmore

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Butterfield Trail National Designation

I previously mentioned that I was in touch with the Lead Planner for the National Park Service's National Trails Office to assist in the designation and identification of the West Texas section of the Butterfield Trail. I have now contacted the GIS (Geographic Information System) Coordinator. We are working to correctly identify the trail through West Texas and the stations involved with that section. The coordinate-level details will remain restricted from the public due to them being on private property. However, their locations help correctly identify the road through West Texas for their NPS GIS mapping. Since the Butterfield has now been congressionally designated as a 'national trail,' it is essential that NPS has the proper information on where the trail ran. Before my correspondence, it was apparent that the information being held was from some erroneous sources and only partially correct. I will soon meet with these representatives in Fort Stockton and give them a tour of Horsehead Crossing.

Wild West History Association Video

On December 16th, I met Edward Jordan from the Wild West History Association at Horsehead Crossing to do a video walk and talk about the history and crossings. The video will be on YouTube shortly. They produce interesting videos, and you can see their YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WildWestHistoryAssociation>

We also plan to make follow-up visits this year to the Pecos Mail Station and Camp Meyers Spring. This is another opportunity to expand our work outside the boundaries of traditional archeology, merging with organizations interested in the places and stories of the people who lived at the historic sites where we work.

In preparing the presentation, I reviewed J. Evetts Haley's book and Charles Goodnight's account of his 1867 cattle drive from Castle Gap to Horsehead Crossing. Surprisingly, I was able to correlate two stories from his account with locations that match Google Earth imagery. I was also able to relate a story of the Joel D. Hoy Indian fight in the area of the abandoned Butterfield Stage Stand. This will also be in the presentation.

Upcoming Events

I will give a Zoom presentation on January 10th to the Cattle Trails Showcase, which is part of the International Chisholm Trails Association. More information will be coming via email. This new presentation will be on the Goodnight-Loving Trail through West Texas and New Mexico. For those who don't know, the Goodnight-Loving Trail and the Butterfield Trail were essentially the same trail. Charles

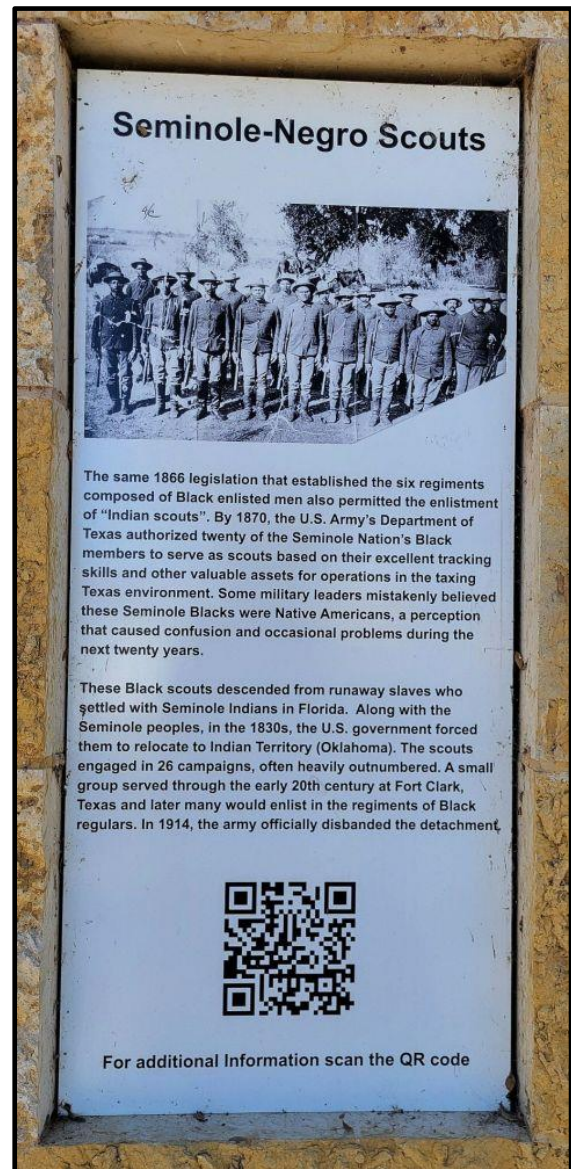
Goodnight and Oliver Loving, not knowing the route, used the abandoned road to guide them through West Texas and up to New Mexico.

You can find previous YouTube presentations on the Cattle Trails Showcase at this YouTube link.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCouW43d6FM6RevtF4ENdh2w/videos>

The Buffalo Soldier Memorial across the street from Fort Concho turned out very nice. They included the Black Seminole Indian Scouts in the memorial.

(Note that the ‘Seminole-Negro Scouts’ was the proper designation, as you can see from this historical society website: <https://www.seminolenegroindianscouts.org/history-2>)



Donations: As you know, we are not charging for membership, presentations, or any work we do on the various projects. We do it because we love it and believe that history needs to be preserved accurately. If you would like to donate to our efforts, please make out checks to IAS. We need to maintain that banking deposit identity under grandfathered banking rules.

Mail any donation checks made out to IAS to:

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