

THE LIFE OF CHARLES O. FULLER IN CENTRAL KANSAS, 1855-1879

by John M. Stratton

[Stratton is a charter member of SFTA and director of the Regents Center Library at the University of Kansas, Edwards Campus. If anyone has additional information about Charles Fuller or Fuller's Ranch, he would appreciate hearing about it, <jstratton@ukans.edu>.]

CHARLES O. Fuller founded the Running Turkey Ranch, also known as Fuller's Ranch, on the Santa Fe Trail in eastern McPherson County in 1855. His ranch, by most accounts, was the first permanent settlement in that county, and he operated it until 1864 or 1865. Yet in the literature of the Trail there has been only scattered references to Fuller, one of the first individuals to establish a trading ranch in that part of the route, and there exists no single account bringing together the facts that are known about him and his place in the history of the Trail, not to mention his contributions to the development of Marion Centre, Kansas (now known only as Marion) and Marion County.

Who was Charles Fuller? Where did he come from when he came to Kansas Territory? What can we discover about his ranch on the Santa Fe Trail? What became of him?

These questions form the basis of this article, which had the original purpose of delving only into the history of the Fuller Ranch. However, as research progressed it became increasingly clear that Fuller played a much wider role in the development of other communities in central Kansas until his death at age 51 on August 2, 1879. Fuller was an entrepreneur as well as pioneer, a man who entered into several businesses after leaving the ranch he established. He played an important role in the early history of Marion Centre, Kansas, and was not without political ambitions.

As research into Fuller's life progressed, the emphasis of this work expanded into its present form: the beginnings of a biography of Charles Oscar Fuller, a man of compelling if unsung importance in the early history of central Kansas. While his contributions to the history of the Santa Fe Trail are noteworthy and

are discussed below, the purpose of this article is to survey his life as lived in central Kansas in the middle part of the nineteenth century. It is interesting to note that in two obituaries about him published in the *Florence Herald* and the *Marion County Record* in August 1879, neither mentioned his ranch on the Santa Fe Trail. Both, however, offered some commentary about his civic contributions to the development of Marion County, Kansas, and lauded him as a pioneer.

Fuller's Early Life

Charles Oscar Fuller was born on July 4, 1828, in Rome (Oneida County), New York, the eldest of nine children. His mother, Diane (Tubbs) Fuller, and father, Dennis Fuller, were both born in New York State in the early years of the nineteenth century and married in 1826 or 1827.¹ Apparently, however, the family did not remain long in New York but moved west to Illinois in 1839 when Charles Fuller was ten or eleven years old.² Sometime in or before 1852, Charles Fuller's father Dennis died and his mother Diane remarried in that same year in Dundee, Kane County, Illinois.³ By that year Fuller, who would have been 23 or 24 years old, may have already moved west to Missouri. The 1875 Kansas state census, for example, notes he came from Missouri to Kansas, though the year is not noted.⁴ A biographical sketch of members of the Kansas legislature for the year 1868 (Fuller served one term as a state representative from Marion County in 1868-1869) noted simply, "He came west, and for a time drove a stage for the Overland Stage Company from Missouri to New Mexico."⁵

During Fuller's employment as a stage driver, he may have been acquainted with William Allison, who also served as a mail carrier and stage conductor on the Independence-Santa Fe route in 1851 and 1852.⁶ In the summer of 1855, Allison himself established a trading ranch on the Santa Fe Trail near Walnut Creek east of present Great Bend, along with a partner named Francis Boothe. It may be that Allison and Boothe established their ranch at Walnut Creek first, since it

was declared to be "the first attempt at building by citizens made West of Council Grove."⁷ Fuller settled farther east on Running Turkey creek apparently, then, after Allison's Ranch was already established.⁸

Fuller's Ranch and Allison's Ranch were two of the earliest ranches established on the Santa Fe Trail for the accommodation of travelers. Both were established a few years prior to other Trail ranches established in central and west central Kansas during the late 1850s and 1860s. At least one source, however, mentions that Fuller's "ranch house and tavern" were established in 1854.⁹ This may be a simple typographical error in that source since later in the same source Fuller's Ranch is listed as having been established in 1855.¹⁰ What may be surmised is that, after the summer of 1855, Fuller had given up the occupation of stage driver for that of ranch operator on the Santa Fe Trail along Running Turkey Creek in central Kansas.

Fuller's Ranch

In the lengthiest biographical sketch of Charles Fuller to date was stated in part that, "In 1855 he established a ranch on Turkey Creek, in what is now McPherson county, which was called Fuller's Ranch, or Big Turkey Ranch. These ranches for the accommodation of travelers were numerous along the Santa Fe Trail, and were located by the government, the land being given to any one who would undertake to keep the place."¹¹

In her work *Marion County Past and Present*, Sondra Van Meter expanded upon this: "In order to encourage the establishment of stations along the trail, the United States government gave a quarter section of land to anyone who would undertake to live on it. These stations were usually located at stream crossings, or where cattle and horses could obtain water. They were about a day's journey or, ten to fifteen miles apart. Not all stations owners received government land. One of those who did, Charles Fuller, lived outside the boundary of Marion County in McPherson County. At one time his ranch was in Marion

County, when the boundary extended to the Colorado-Kansas state line."¹²

The site of his ranch was apparently already an established stopping place on the Trail. In 1854, for example, the mail stage to Santa Fe made stops there. In August of that year, William Allison served as conductor of the stage carrying William Carr Lane, the new governor of New Mexico Territory, to his new post in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Lane recorded in his diary that "on the 11th they breakfasted at Cottonwood creek; stopped to rest, at 2 P.M., at 'Running Turkey Creek.'"¹³ In the territorial period, this area of Kansas was known as Washington County (1855-1857). That name was assigned to the current Washington County, Kansas (bordering Nebraska) on February 1, 1857. Peke-ton County, the area that would have included Fuller's Ranch, was established February 21, 1860. By 1865, Marion County was enlarged to include all the territory in the former Peketon County, but McPherson County itself was not created from land originally part of Marion County until February 26, 1867.¹⁴

In an article about trading ranches on the Santa Fe Trail, Sondra Van Meter McCoy posed the question, "What kind of person would open a ranch on the trail? Most likely he would be young, in his twenties. He would have been over the trail previously, either as a worker or traveler. So he had some idea of what to expect. Most of the men stayed in the general area after the SFT closed down."

This generic description certainly fit Charles Fuller, who had already been a stage driver operating out of Missouri for at least a few years before establishing his ranch. In the summer of 1855, Fuller turned 27 years old, and he remained in the area until his death in 1879, about the time the Trail was made obsolete by the railroad (the railroad made the Fuller Ranch area obsolete by 1866 when Junction City, at end of track, became the outfitting point for wagon trains to New Mexico).¹⁵

In the literature of the Santa Fe Trail, Fuller's Ranch has been called a "celebrated inn,"¹⁶ a "celebrated stopping place,"¹⁷ a "ranch and tavern,"¹⁸ a "fortified ranch,"¹⁹ and a

"huge ranch."²⁰ In addition, Fuller's Ranch was lauded as "offering good accomodations, good liquor and good food."²¹ But perhaps more revealing are contemporary historical accounts noting the "accommodations" available to weary Trail travelers at Running Turkey Creek. For example, the *Western Journal of Commerce*, November 6, 1858, published a "Tables of Distances from Kansas City to the Gold Regions on Pikes Peak," noting that the "Running Turkey creek," some 186 miles from Kansas City, offered travelers a "mail station, Buffalo chips, water, grass, Buffalo."²² In May 1859 Charles C. Post, on his way to the Colorado gold fields, wrote in his diary that on May 27, his party passed "big Turkey creek" where there was located a "ranch and mail station, but no post office. They charged us ten cents per bucket for riley well water."²³ William Salisbury, also bound for the gold fields of Colorado in 1859, noted in his diary on Tuesday, May 17, "we are camped on the Running Turkey There is no timber here and poore water There is wone house maid of small logs and turf and a grocery in a wagon [illegible word]. The nearest timber is within 8 miles."²⁴

These descriptions hardly present a picture of "wine, women and song" at Fuller's Ranch, although it is true that Fuller employed two sisters at his place of business, something that must have been quite unusual in that part of the territory. Whether a "huge ranch" or a "house maid of small logs and turf," Fuller's female employees did assist in making travelers comfortable, for there was "one to cook and one to wait upon the table. These women were French and were sisters; they married and settled in the locality."²⁵ Their names were Clara and Norma Nomo or Noma.²⁶ It is not clear exactly when these women began to work for Fuller, nor can it be claimed with any certainty they were the "first white women in McPherson County"²⁷ having supposedly arrived at Fuller's Ranch in 1856. In fact, the first French-speaking settlers did not arrive in central Kansas until some time in 1857, some two years after Fuller had arrived.²⁸ Eventually they both married: Clara married a man named Henry Schonfeldt, and Norma married a man with the

last name of Smith, a butcher at Fort Dodge.²⁹ Whether or not they remained in the vicinity is not known. Schonfeldt paid a Marion Centre "dram license" in 1866, indicating his presence in Marion County until at least that year, but no further information about Clara has been discovered.³⁰

Besides providing accommodations for travelers, Fuller "must have expected to make a good profit from the travelers and the military. The ranchers also obtained licenses to trade with Indians in the area. In addition, ranchers sold buffalo hides and wolf skins to eastern merchants."³¹ Fuller himself obtained a "dram license" in Marion County in 1865 but as noted below may not have been at his ranch by that date.³²

That he "expected to make a good profit" may be more clearly appreciated when one notes the traffic on the Santa Fe Trail during the time he occupied his ranch. In 1857, for example, "at least 300 merchants and freighters were engaged in the trade, and 9,884 wagons loaded at the levee at what is now Kansas City, Missouri."³³ Two years later, in 1859, "traffic became very heavy on the trail. Freightage has increased, Mexicans were hauling many loads of wool to the United States and in the early spring gold seekers were on their way to the gold fields of Colorado. The disillusioned 'Pikes Peak-ers' returned in June of that same year by way of the Santa Fe Trail. From between April to September 8, 1859, over 2,170 wagons and 8,000 tons of freight passed westward through Marion County over the trail. This did not include the large number of immigrants' wagons, gold seekers or Mexican traders headed east."³⁴

Throughout the first half of the 1860s, trade on the Trail increased to the extent that there "was little question the Santa Fe Trail carried the heaviest traffic in its history during the Civil War years."³⁵ By 1865, for example, nearly 4,472 wagons crossed Marion County on the Santa Fe Trail.³⁶ Fuller must have indeed been well positioned to accommodate travelers along the trail at his central Kansas ranch. After nearly a decade as ranch operator on the Santa Fe Trail, however, Fuller was apparently willing to try new ven-

tures.

Later Life

When Fuller left his ranch is not precisely known. One of his obituaries states "he came to Marion County in 1862 and commenced his business on the Santa Fe Trail on the line between this and McPherson County."³⁷ This seems to refer to his ranch established in 1855, as noted above. No other sources note what other business venture this may have been. It may be that by 1864, Fuller had left the ranch he established some nine years before. While some writers have noted he was there as late as 1865,³⁸ one intriguing bit of evidence may be found in an undated letter from A. A. Moore, himself an early pioneer in Marion County, Kansas, to A. E. Case. The letter discusses the death of Ed Miller on the Santa Fe Trail on July 20, 1864. In that letter, Moore wrote: "When Ed Miller was killed I was living on the farm I had bought from E. P. Waterman, afterwards known as the Brumbaugh farm, ½ mile north of Main street [in Marion]. I had rented Moore's ranch to Chas. Fuller and gone down and bought that place and the Watermans had moved out to 'Running Turkey' ranch and were running a mail station."³⁹ According to Moore then, by July 1864 Fuller had left the ranch he had established and was living on Moore's Ranch.

On February 25, 1865, Marion County "was enlarged to replace Peketon Co. which included all the unorganized territory south and west to the Colorado line."⁴⁰ On November 7 of that year, Fuller, in his first venture into the local political scene, was elected to a two-year term as county commissioner by 25 votes.⁴¹

Fuller's stint as a politician did not end with the expiration of his term. In 1868 he was elected to a one-year term as a representative to the Kansas House of Representatives, a Democrat representing the 76th district.⁴² He served until 1869, when Alexander E. Case was elected as district representative to replace him. Fuller served two more terms as county commissioner after his service as state representative ended in 1869.⁴³ After leaving his ranch, Fuller served in both county and state political office until 1873 or later.

During the time from 1864/1865-1871, it may have been that Fuller's place of domicile was at Moore's Ranch. In the year 1871, he ventured into another line of business, having constructed the "Centre House, of this city [Marion], which he conducted for some time under the name of the Fuller House."⁴⁴ This hotel was the "first hotel in Marion, a frame structure,"⁴⁵ one apparently still in use as late as 1907/1908, some 29 years after his death in 1879.

It is not completely clear if Fuller was residing in Marion Centre after 1871, at Moore's Ranch, in the hotel he himself constructed, or in another domicile he may have owned. The 1870 U. S. Census lists the "Value of real estate owned" by Fuller as \$2500.00.⁴⁶ One year later, in 1871, Fuller purchased some share of ownership of a flour mill that had been built by Ira Moore, brother of A. A. Moore. This was the first flour mill in Marion County.⁴⁷ Sources differ, however, as to the year the first milling operation commenced, but it was either 1871⁴⁸ or October 1872.⁴⁹ In 1872 or 1873, Fuller sold his interest in the flour mill in Marion Centre.⁵⁰ Jacob Funk, who owned the mill not long after Fuller sold his interest in it, eventually began operating the mill in late 1873, after Center Township in Marion County approved bonds in the amount of \$4,000.00 to furnish it.⁵¹

By the summer of 1872, Fuller was 42 years old. He had been residing in Kansas (a state after 1861), since 1855. He had established a ranch on the Santa Fe Trail, served as county commissioner and state representative, and constructed the first hotel in Marion Centre. He also had purchased part interest in the first flour mill in Marion County. But in addition to these business and political pursuits, Fuller was a husband and, by some accounts, a father.

The 1870 U. S. Census, for example, lists Fuller as living in Centre Township in Marion County, along with his wife Martha J. Fuller. His occupation was listed as "Farmer and Co. Commissioner." Two other persons were also listed as occupying their place of residence. One was Jacob Seaser, age 29 years, originally from Ohio, whose occupation was

listed as "Farmer." The other was Seth B. Tubbs, age 41, occupation listed as "Millwright," originally from New York. Tubbs may have been a relative of Fuller's because his mother's maiden name was also Tubbs. One may speculate that Seaser may have been more than a hired hand since the value of his real estate holdings was listed as \$1,000. In addition, Seth Tubbs may have either been in partnership with Fuller or owned his own property elsewhere since his real estate holdings were valued at \$1,000.⁵² Given Fuller's later ownership in the first gristmill in Marion County, one cannot help but think that Tubbs, a millwright, was in some way connected with that business as well.

Martha J. Fuller, who had the surname Rice before marriage, was also born in New York State in "about 1828,"⁵³ the daughter of Ailiff Rice. She and Fuller may have married in Marion County, Kansas, though the year is not known.⁵⁴ It may also have been, however, that they married in Missouri before coming to Kansas in 1855.⁵⁵ The Kansas census of 1875 notes that both Charles and Martha Fuller indicated they came from Missouri prior to settling in Kansas. In any event, records indicate they had two children, a boy Silas and a girl Ida Mae, though neither one was listed on the 1870 U. S. Census of Marion Centre, Kansas.⁵⁶ The 1875 Kansas state census reveals the existence of "Ida Mary" Fuller, age six, listed below the names of her parents, Charles Fuller, age 46, and Martha J. Fuller, age 44.⁵⁷ If the state census is correct, then Martha must have been born in about 1831, not 1828. Silas Fuller is listed neither in the U. S. Census of 1870 nor the 1875 Kansas census. A statement in one of Fuller's obituaries further obscures the matter that Fuller left a "widow but no children to miss and mourn him."⁵⁸

In 1873, Fuller and his immediate family moved from Marion Centre to a farm outside of Florence, Kansas. Neither Jacob Seaser nor Seth B. Tubbs are listed as occupants of the Fuller place of residence. His last six years in central Kansas (1873-1879) were spent on a farm on Doyle Creek in Fairplay Township, outside of Florence. Ever interested in serving

the public interest, Fuller was a Trustee of that township from the time of its organization in 1877 until his death at home on August 2, 1879.⁵⁹

Sadly, the last few years of his life found him suffering from the effects of cancer. His obituary in the *Marion County Record* reads: "The immediate cause of his death appears to be a matter about which the physicians differ, but whatever may have been the special disease that terminated his life, it was undoubtedly superinduced by the cancerous affection which commenced its insidious attack upon his face some years ago, gradually eating into his right eye. Last Spring he went to St. Louis and placed himself under the treatment of an experienced physician and optician, who took the eye entirely out and returned Mr. Fuller to his home it was hoped a sound man. But the wish was vain, for the disease kept on at its silent work, destroying the vital forces of the previous robust constitution of its victim till some local malady, it matters not what, came to snap the brittle thread of life."⁶⁰

An obituary that appeared in the *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879, noted that the ultimate cause of his death was "typhoid pneumonia, from the effects of which disease he died."⁶¹ Moreover, in yet another source his cause of death was listed as "nicotine poisoning."⁶² Given the latter information, one wonders if Fuller was perhaps a tobacco user who developed some form of oral cancer, one that spread, possibly, throughout his facial tissues.

After his death, Fuller's funeral was conducted by both the Marion Masonic Lodge (of which he was a member) and assisted by the Florence Masonic Lodge. A "very large delegation of Masons and others went down . . . to pay the last tribute of respect to their departed brother and friend and the funeral cortege is said to have been the largest that ever followed any one to the grave in Marion County."⁶³ Charles Fuller was laid to rest in the Florence city cemetery. His widow Martha survived him by ten years.⁶⁴

Conclusion

Today there is nothing remaining of Fuller's Ranch in McPherson

County, Kansas. Though the Daughters of the American Revolution marked the Santa Fe Trail through Kansas in the early years of the 20th century, including placing five markers in McPherson County, they did not place one of their distinctive red granite markers at the site of Fuller's Ranch. Fifty years later, in 1965,⁶⁵ a privately-erected monument constructed of natural-colored stone, inlaid with bronze and granite stones, was placed by "Mr and Mrs H H Steinbeck [and] Dr. and Mrs Guy E. Finkle" of McPherson, Kansas. The bronze plaque atop the marker reads:

**1825 Santa Fe Trail 1878
Turkey Creek Campground
Town of Empire
Big Turkey Creek Post Office 1861**

Below this, carved in an inlaid granite stone on the pedestal of the marker, are these words:

**Fuller's Ranch 1855
First White Settlement
in McPherson Co.⁶⁶**

Fuller's Ranch, it seemed, would have its marker after all.

In summary, the purpose of this article was to survey the life of Charles Fuller in central Kansas in the middle years of the nineteenth century. This article is incomplete, of course, and there is still work to be done in researching and writing a more comprehensive biography. Fuller was a prairie entrepreneur on the Santa Fe Trail, a business man, a farmer, a family man, and a man with some political ambition who contributed to the development of the communities of Marion and Florence. After his death, it was noted of Fuller in the *Florence Herald*: "Few men have been more intimately connected with our history as a county."⁶⁷ Perhaps in closing we can find no more appropriate words than those written by the unknown journalist in an obituary in the *Marion County Record*: "All that is mortal of Charlie Fuller rests beneath the sod in the cemetery at Florence. Peaceful be his sleep!"⁶⁸

NOTES

1. Tubbs Family Research Pages, "Charles Oscar FULLER," <http://www.worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.egi?>; "Obituary," *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879, p. 2.
2. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879.
3. The Tubbs Family Research Pages, "Diane TUBBS," <http://www.worldconnect.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm>.

4. State of Kansas, Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Census of 1875, Reel 12 (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1951).
5. John S. Dawson, "The Legislature of 1868," *Transactions of the Kansas State Historical Society*, X (1907-1908): 271. See, also, Wilma McCracken Bremer, *Overland Mail and stage to Santa Fe, 1846-1860*, Unpublished dissertation, St. Louis: Washington University, Department of History, June, 1938, 58-59.
6. Louise Barry, "The Ranch at Walnut Creek Crossing," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XXXVII (Summer 1971): 121.
7. *Ibid.*, 122.
8. William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A. T. Andreas, 1883), 810.
9. W. J. Krehbiel, "Santa Fe Trail Brought Fame Early to McPherson County," *McPherson Daily Republican*, May 10, 1947, 7A.
10. "McPherson County Chronology," *McPherson Daily Republican*, May 10, 1947, 1A.
11. Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271.
12. Sondra Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas, Past and Present* (Hillsboro, Kansas: M. B. Publishing House, 1972), 22-23.
13. Louise Barry, comp., "Kansas Before 1854: A Revised Annals; Part Twenty-One, 1852," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XXXIII (Winter 1966): 481.
14. Robert W. Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices, May 29, 1828-August 3, 1961*, 3rd printing (Topeka: Kansas Postal History Society, 1986), 202, 203, 215, 236.
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16. City of McPherson, Kansas. Comprehensive Plan, "Chapter 2: Historical Development: Early History of the McPherson Area," 3 (<http://www.mcphcity-bpu.com/cpmchpt2.htm>).
17. McCoy, "Trading Ranches," 114.
18. "McPherson County Chronology," 1A.
19. "Some Interesting Pioneer History of McPherson Recalled," *Topeka Daily Capital*, March 24, 1905.
20. "Mixed Group of People Settled in McPherson County," *McPherson Daily Republican*, May 10, 1947, 1A.
21. "Wine, Women, and Song at Fuller's Ranch," *McPherson Daily Republican*, May 10, 1947.
22. "Tables of Distances from Kansas City to the Gold Regions on Pikes Peak Compiled from United States Surveys, and Information Derived from Traders Across the Great Western Plains," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XXXVII (Summer 1971), 136-137.
23. LeRoy R. Hafen, *Overland Routes to the Gold Fields, 1859 From Contemporary Accounts* (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1942) 37; see, also, "The Arkansas Route: Diary of Charles C. Post," *Ibid.*, 19-55.
24. David Lindsey, ed. "The Journal of an 1859 Pike's Peak Gold Seeker," *Kansas*

- Historical Quarterly*, XXII (Winter 1956): 328.
25. McCoy, "Trading Ranches," 114.
 26. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 811. Cutler lists the surname as Nomo while the article "Wine, Women, and Song" states the name as Noma, as does Kelly (see footnote 27).
 27. H. B. Kelly, "Some Early History from 1870 to 1883," Property Owners of McPherson Co. Kansas, 1884: taken from *Edwards' Atlas of McPherson Co. Kansas*, ed. Roberta J. Woods (San Jose: Woods, 1970 [1980]), 2-3.
 28. Alberta Pantle, "History of the French-Speaking Settlement in the Cottonwood Valley," *Kansas Historical Quarterly*, XIX (February 1951): 12.
 29. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas*, 810-811.
 30. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 25.
 31. McCoy, "Trading Ranches," 109.
 32. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 25.
 33. David Dary, *The Santa Fe Trail: Its History, Legends, and Lore* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000), 235.
 34. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 23.
 35. Dary, *Santa Fe Trail*, 275.
 36. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 24.
 37. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1859.
 38. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 25; McCoy, "Trading Ranches," 114.
 39. "The Death of Ed Miller on the Santa Fe Trail," *Wagon Tracks*, X (February 1996): 13.
 40. Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices*, 203.
 41. Marion County Commissioners Meetings Minutes (typescript), Kansas State Historical Society, undated, 7.
 42. "Marion County Commissioners, 1866 -," County Lists of Kansas State Representatives, 1861-1965 (typescript), Kansas State Historical Society, undated, unpagged.
 43. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879.
 44. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 25; "A Pioneer Gone" [obituary], *Marion County Record*, August 9, 1879, 2.
 45. Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271.
 46. Population Schedules of the Ninth Census of the United States, 1870. U. S. Census, 1870, [Microform, Roll 438]. Kansas: Lincoln, Linn, Lyon, Marion, and Marshall Counties, v6 (1-383A), National Archives and Records Service, available at Kansas State Historical Society.
 47. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 75; Marion County Clippings, Volume 1, 1896-1929, Kansas State Historical Society, 1998, 13; Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271.
 48. Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 75.
 49. Marion County Clippings, 13.
 50. Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271; Van Meter, *Marion County, Kansas*, 75.
 51. *Ibid.*
 52. U. S. Census, 1870.
 53. Tubbs Family Research Pages, "Fuller."
 54. *Ibid.*
 55. Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271.
 56. Tubbs Family Research Pages, "Fuller."
 57. Kansas State Census, 1875.
 58. *Marion County Record*, August 9, 1879.

59. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879.
60. *Marion County Record*, August 9, 1879.
61. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879.
62. Thelma Carpenter and Helen Franklin, comps., 1880 Mortality Schedule of Chase, Lyon and Marion Counties of Kansas, Deaths Occurring between June 1, 1879 and May 31, 1880 (typescript), Topeka Genealogical Society, located in the Kansas State Historical Society.
63. *Marion County Record*, August 9, 1879.
64. Dawson, "Legislature of 1868," 271.
65. City of McPherson, Kansas. Comprehensive Plan, 4.
66. Inscription recorded by this writer.
67. *Florence Herald*, August 9, 1879.
68. *Marion County Record*, August 9, 1879.

GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD

(continued from page 1)

the West" by historians because it was the turning point of the war in the Southwest. Although the Confederates gained the upper hand in fierce fighting near Pigeon's Ranch, a daring flanking maneuver by a Union battalion that traveled over Glorieta Mesa resulted in the destruction of Confederate supply wagons at Johnson's Ranch, forcing the Texans to retreat to Santa Fe and eventually back to Texas.

Congress added portions of Glorieta Battlefield to Pecos National Historical Park in 1990. The National Park Service, which manages the park, currently prohibits general public visitation to the battlefield because of hazards associated with NM Hwy 50, which passes through the middle of the Pigeon's Ranch unit.

The Glorieta Battlefield Coalition sought support for a federal study to investigate transportation needs in the greater Pecos area and the feasibility of rerouting a portion of NM Hwy 50 around the Pigeon's Ranch unit of Glorieta Battlefield. The New Mexico State Legislature approved a joint memorial last March in support of the study and for restoring Glorieta Battlefield. Both the Village of Pecos and Governor Bill Richardson urged the New Mexico congressional delegation to seek necessary funding. Congressman Morris Udall and Senator Jeff Bingaman led the effort in Congress. Thanks is extended to all these for making the study possible. This is the first step in opening the battlefield to visitors. For more information, visit the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition web site <www.glorietapass.org>.

THE EXACT LOCATION OF FLAG SPRINGS IN OSAGE COUNTY, KANSAS

by Glen D. Norton

[SFTA member Norton, Topeka, KS, wrote this article to identify the correct location of Flag Springs near Overbrook, KS, in Osage County, because another spring in Douglas County to the east had mistakenly been called Flag Springs. Thanks to Mr. Norton, it should be noted, the location of Flag Springs is correctly identified in Gregory Franzwa's Santa Fe Trail Revisited and in Marc Simmons & Hal Jackson's Following the Santa Fe Trail (3rd revised and expanded edition). It should further be noted that there is also a Flag Spring (another name for Upper Spring) near the Santa Fe Trail in the Oklahoma panhandle. Thanks to Norton for clarifying the location of Flag Springs.]

THE first time I learned about Flag Springs was when my future wife introduced me to her father, Alvin Miller, in 1946, whose family lived one mile west of Overbrook, Osage County, KS. On that occasion I was told of the historical fact that their home, in the southeast quarter of Section 36, Township 14 and Range 16, was the site of the famous Flag Springs near the Santa Fe Trail. Later, my wife and I built a new home there, about 400 feet from one of the springs, where we lived for 50 years. Over the years I learned more about these springs.

In the mid-1980s I was surprised to find another spring in nearby Douglas County, approximately five miles east of the springs where I lived, identified as Flag Springs (the same information appeared in *Wagon Tracks*, August 1991). I started searching for additional evidence to support the location of the Flag Springs I knew. I inserted a plea for information in *Wagon Tracks*, but that produced no results. I contacted other people and continued my search for documentation of Flag Springs. Slowly I was able to find the evidence.

Because Trail travelers and their livestock needed reliable sources of water every day, the road to New Mexico included a stream or spring every few miles (except for a few