



Presentation of mail to President Roosevelt at White House, 1935.



EMIGRANT TRAILS HALL OF FAME

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Howard Roscoe Driggs

Biography

- Born: 1873, Pleasant Grove, Utah
- Died: 1963, Bayside, New York
- Married: Eva Frampton; Margaret Brazier Quarrier
- Educator, author, historian, trail association president

Achievements

- Professor of English Education, University of Utah and New York University
- President of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association and American Pioneer Trails Association, 1928-1963.
- Author and co-author of books in the fields of English education and Western American history.

Dr. Howard R. Driggs was a noted educator, Western historian and author. He began his career in 1897 as an English instructor at the University of Utah's Branch Normal School in Cedar City, now Southern Utah University. He later became a professor of English Education at the University of Utah. In 1923 he joined the faculty of New York University, where he was a Professor and Chair of the English Department in the School of Education, retiring in 1942.

Dr. Driggs was the author and co-author of over 50 books on English education and Western history. Many preserved accounts of trail history and pioneer life learned from his parents, who were trail pioneers as children. In the 1920s he was editor and co-author of books in the Pioneer Life Series.

He became the President of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association after Ezra Meeker's death and expanded the trail-marking movement begun by Meeker. OTMA also sponsored the 1930 Covered-Wagon Centennial, authorized by President Hoover, and the 1935 Pony Express Diamond Jubilee.

In the 1930s OTMA expanded its mission to include preservation of other trails and changed its name to the American Pioneer Trails Association, which Dr. Driggs headed until his death in 1963. His papers are now archived at Southern Utah University.