

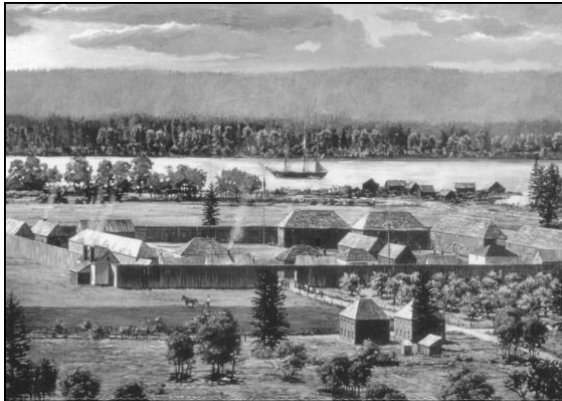
FORT VANCOUVER TO PUGET SOUND

* * * * *

The Cowlitz Trail and The 1916 DAR/SAR Project to Honor Oregon Trail Pioneers Who Settled North of the Columbia River

Extracted in part from "The Cowlitz Trail - an Auto Tour Guide"

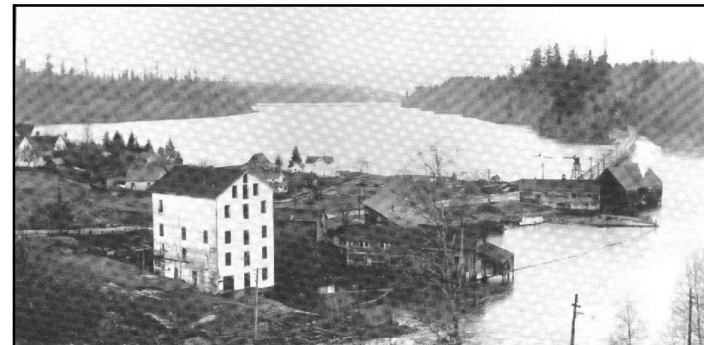
by Chuck & Suzanne Hornbuckle



Fort Vancouver to Cowlitz
Landing by Water - - -

then Overland
to - - -

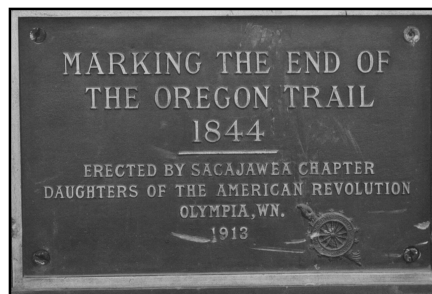
the Deschutes River
Falls at Puget Sound.



DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION TABLETS HONOR OREGON TRAIL PIONEERS



**The Columbia River
- Vancouver -**



**to Puget Sound
- Olympia -**



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- INTRODUCTION -

The DAR - SAR Their Oregon Trail Markers Their Supporters and Their Ceremonies

Shortly after Ezra Meeker completed his ambitious 1906 expedition to preserve the Old Oregon Trail the Daughters of the American Revolution approved a proposal to honor the memory of Oregon Trail pioneers in Washington State. The Sons of the American Revolution give support to DAR's program.

Others joining the effort read like a "Who's Who" list of northwest history.

Ezra Meeker participated in the endeavor. George Himes, curator and later secretary of the Oregon Historical Society and a friend and confidant to Ezra, was recruited to select appropriate marker locations. Hazard Stevens, son of Isaac Stevens first Washington Territorial Governor, assisted the endeavor and was a featured speaker at several of the dedication ceremonies. Other dignitaries included Washington State Governor Ernest Lister and James Allen of the State Highway Commission.

The concept of honoring the memory of the Washington pioneers who crossed the plains was suggested by Judge Overton Gentry Ellis in 1908 according to Mrs. Ellis who was chairman of the Oregon Trail Committee.

The first DAR - SAR marker was placed in Capital Park, now Sylvester Park, in Olympia on February 22, 1913. Other DAR Chapters in western Washington enthusiastically joined the effort.

While most markers featured a pillar mounted plaque the Fort Vancouver Chapter DAR in Vancouver was asked to place a "unique" marker at the entrance to Washington State on the north bank of the Columbia River.

Over the next three years were installed at selected locations with the first one placed in Tumwater at the falls of the Deschutes River on Friday, August 18, 1916.

The following pages include copies of

contemporary newspaper accounts of dedication ceremonies, marker photographs and locations along with historical descriptions followed by copies of several dedication *Programs*.

The last two pages include pioneer descriptions of travel on the Cowlitz Trail and a map of the trail from Fort Vancouver to Tumwater.

In addition to Oregon Trail markers, the DAR have placed markers where other historical events occurred such as the site of the Medicine Creek Treaty.

Over the last several years other historical groups, including Daughters of American Colonists (DAC), have installed markers honoring our pioneer heritage for all generations to enjoy.

The Morning Olympian

Saturday, February 22, 1913

Volume 22, No. 295

END OF OREGON TRAIL WILL BE MARKED THIS MORNING Granite Boulder will be Formally Dedicated in Capitol Park

In dedication of the placing of the granite boulder marking the end of the Oregon Trail at the northwest corner of the Capitol Park, exercises will be conducted by the Sacajawea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution this morning at 10:30 o'clock in the park. The monument is to be presented to the state by the local chapter of the D.A.R. and Governor Ernest Lister will deliver a short address in acceptance of it.

Some of the most prominent men in the northwest have been secured to speak at the exercises, and members of the D.A.R. from all parts of Oregon and Washington will be present. Those who have been secured to speak are: Ezra Meeker, pioneer; George Himes, curator of the Oregon Historical Society; W.H. Gilstrap, curator of the Washington State Historical Society; and Judge Overton Ellis.

Mrs. R.R. Streets, regent of the local chapter of the D.A.R., states that this marker is but one of the many similar monuments which have been placed along the different trails leading from the eastern to western coast by the Daughters of the American Revolution. The trails, she states, have been mapped by the federal government, and according to the government plats, the end of the Oregon Trail is at Olympia. There were five trails which connected the east with the west and it is along these that an endeavor is being made to have a highway laid which will extent from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. The Pacific highway will be part of the road and for that reason is being built along the Oregon Trail.

The following is in the program to be rendered this morning:

Patriotic song by the pupils of the second grade of the Lincoln school.

Lord's Prayer in which all join.

The presentation to the state of the monument marking the end of the Oregon Trail.

Mrs. Ralph Streets, regent of the Sacajawea chapter of the D.A.R.

Unveiling of the monument by Misses Helen Lord and Janet Streets.

Acceptance for the state-Governor Lister.

Reading of sonnet, "End of the Oregon Trail", written by Professor Edmond S. Meany and dedicated to the Sacajawea chapter of the D.A.R- Mrs. Stephen J. Chadwick.

Address-"The Outgoing President and the Sons of the Revolution." - Judge Overton Ellis.

Address-"Patriotism" - W.H. Gilstrap, curator of the Washington State Historical Society.

Address-"The History of the Trail", - George Himes, curator of the Oregon State Historical Society.

Address-"The Oregon Trail vs. The Pioneer Way" - Hon. Ezra Meeker.

Song-"America"

The Morning Olympian

August 16, 1914

Olympia, WA

D.A.R. PLANS TO MARK THE OLD OREGON TRAIL Line of Monuments Will Extend From Olympia to Columbia River

At a meeting in Olympia of a committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution, appointed by Mrs. Henry McCleary of McCleary, president of the woman's patriotic organization, it was decided to mark permanently the historic Oregon Trail from Olympia to the Columbia River over which the first white settlers to come to Puget Sound traveled and founded the first white settlement at Tumwater. Those present at the meeting included the members of the committee: Mrs. Overton G. Ellis, wife of Judge Ellis of the Supreme Court, chairman; Mrs. C.J. Lord, Olympia; Mrs. W.W. Irvine, Aberdeen; Mrs. Herbert Hunt, Tacoma, and Mrs. John Leary, Seattle.

Mrs. McCleary, Mrs. S.F. McMillan of

Hoquiam, a director of the D.A.R., and Mrs. Chapman of Alameda, Cal., past regent of the California D.A.R., whose husband took part in the Indian Wars of 1853, were also present at the meeting and took part in the discussion.

Plans were formulated for the marking of the trail at the relay stations, with bronze tablets in either granite or concrete boulders, similar to the one placed in Olympia to mark the end of the trail. Whether granite or concrete will be used has not been determined. The Chehalis chapter of the D.A.R. has been asked to mark the famous old Blockhouse site with a special monument.

In as much as the old trail runs practically

along the present Pacific Highway, the State Highway Commission has promised its aid and cooperation in marking the historic pathway, while George Himes of Portland, secretary of the Oregon Pioneer's Association, has promised the help of that organization.

According to the plans of the committee the trail will be completely marked by next fall. Arrangements will be made to have a permanent boulder monument or marker at each end of the new interstate bridge across the Columbia River at Vancouver, the organizations of Washington and Oregon cooperating on this work.

At Tumwater, a monument will be erected on the site of the first house built when the white settlement was founded.

PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES WILL UNVEIL MARKER AT TUMWATER

FIRST OF TABLETS ALONG OLD OREGON TRAIL WILL BE DEDICATED FRIDAY

Event Will Be Made Eventful by Presence of President General of D. A. R.- Pioneers and General Public Asked to Exercises.

The society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, aided by the Sons of the Revolution, plan to mark the old Oregon trail from Vancouver to Olympia by erecting at suitable points along the route traveled by the pioneer settlers, ten concrete monuments, each bearing a bronze tablet with appropriate inscriptions. The first of these monuments will be unveiled in Tumwater on Friday, August 18, at 3:30 in the afternoon.

Mrs. William Cummings Story, president general of the D.A.R. will deliver the principal address. Mrs. Edmund Bowden, state regent, Mrs. Henry McCleary, former state regent, Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, chairman of the old trail committee, Orson J. C. Dutton, state president of the S.A.R., Governor Ernest Lister, O.S. Lee, mayor of Tumwater, and others will take part in the exercises.

cises.

"America" and the "Star Spangled Banner" will be rendered by a double mixed quartet.

The pioneers and general public are especially invited to attend these exercises.

The program follows:

Call to Order- General Hazard Stevens, chairman Oregon trail committee, S.A.R.

Invocation - Hon. P. D. Moore, chaplain of the Pioneer and Historical society of Thurston County.

Song- "America", Mrs. Edward Kevin, Mrs. A. D. Torgerson, Miss Knox, Miss Brown, R.W. Elwell, Overton G. Ellis, G.H. Greenbank, A. Ditmars.

Introduction-Chairman of the DAR, Mrs. J.S. McKee, first vice-president, State Society D.A.R.

Marking the National Old Trails- Mrs.

Henry McCleary, chairman national old trails committee, NSSAR.

Presentation of Marker to State Regent, D.A.R., and State President SAR- Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, chairman Oregon trail committee, DAR.

Acceptance for S.A.R. - Orson J. C. Dutton, state president.

Unveiling- Miss Anne Bayless Allen, Miss Elizabeth Jaynes, Master Charles Alden Aetzel, Master James S. Stanford, Jr.

Address- Mrs. William Cummings Story, president general NSDAR

Presentation of Marker to the state and to the City of Tumwater, Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary.

Response for the State - Governor Ernest Lister.

Response for Tumwater- Mayor O.S. Lee.

Song - "Star Spangled Banner."

The Morning Olympian

Friday, August 18, 1916

Volume 26, No. 135

NOTABLES GATHER TO SEE MARKER UNVEILED

Ceremonies At Tumwater Today Will Be Attended By D.A.R. OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT GENERAL IS GUEST

Luncheon at Governor's Mansion in Honor of Mrs. William Cummings Story and Reception
in Her Honor Tonight Are Features of Day's Celebration

With Mrs. William Cummings Story, president general of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the state officials of D.A.R. and the S.A.R. as spectators, the first of a series of markers along the route of the old Oregon trail will be unveiled this afternoon at Tumwater. The unveiling ceremonies will be preceded by a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Story to be given by the Sacajawea chapter of the D.A.R. at the governor's mansion. This evening the general public are invited to meet Mrs. Story and the other guests of the chapter at a reception at the mansion. The evening event will be given by the societies of the D.A.R. and the S.A.R.

Exercises Are Public

The afternoon exercises at Tumwater will be public and the presence of all interested is desired by the committees in charge. The call to order will be made by General Hazard Stevens at 3:30. General Stevens has been one of the chief movers in the campaign of interest in the old trail and his advice was largely followed in deciding the site of the markers. He is a member of the Oregon Trail committee. The invocation will be delivered by P.D. Moore,

chaplain of the Thurston County Pioneer and Historical society. After the singing of "America" by a mixed quartet, the chairman of the afternoon, Mrs. J.S. McKee, the first vice-president of the state society of the D.A.R. will introduce the first speaker of the afternoon Mrs. Henry McCleary, the chairman of the national Old Trails committee. Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, who has had charge of the marking of the Oregon trail, will present the marker to the state regent of the D.A.R., Mrs. Edmund Bowden, and to the state president of the S.A.R., Orson J.C. Dutton. These two will accept on behalf of the societies they represent.

Exercises Are Public

Four children will unveil the monument. They are Miss Anne Bayless Allen, Miss Elizabeth Jaynes, Master Charles Alden Aetzel and Master James S. Stanford, Jr. The address of the afternoon by Mrs. Story will follow the unveiling ceremonies. Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary, the daughter of the first governor of the state and vice-president general of the D.A.R. will then present the monument to the city of Tumwater. Governor Ernest Lister will respond for the

The Morning Olympian

(continued)

state and Mayor O.S. Lee of Tumwater will respond for the city. The afternoon will be closed by the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The noon luncheon in Mrs. Story's honor will be invitational and with several exceptions will be confined to members of the Sacajawea chapter of the national society of D.A.R. At the conclusion of the luncheon the formal word of welcome to the guests of the day will be spoken by Mrs. C.E. Beach. After Mrs. Story's response, Mrs. Edmund Bowden will speak on "Marcus Whitman"

and Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary will deliver a toast to "Our Pioneers." Mrs. Ernest Lister will respond to the toast, "Why I am not a Member of the D.A.R."

Societies Arrange Reception

The reception in the evening in honor of the distinguished guests of the city will be public. It is being arranged by the societies of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution who asked that all interested attend.

Mrs. Story and the other speakers of the day will arrive this morning from Tacoma, where for the last day they have been the guests of the Mary Dare and Virginia Dare chapters of the D.A.R.

Preparedness Urged by Head of National D.A.R.

PATRIOTIC ORDER UNVEILS OREGON TRAIL MARKER
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
HOLD IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT TUMWATER

GENERAL STEVENS PRESIDES

Grandchildren of State's Pioneers Pull Covering From Monument Which Marks Historic Pathway - Mrs. Story, National President of D.A.R. Calls for Training of Citizens for Service.

By Marie

The impressive and deeply patriotic ceremonies held at Tumwater yesterday afternoon when a monument marking the end of the Old Oregon trail was unveiled, was attended by about 600 persons. Most of the speakers lauded the deeds of the early pioneers and endeavored to impress on the present generation the hardships the pioneers suffered and what the later generation owes them.

The meeting was called to order by General Hazard Stevens, son of the first territorial governor of Washington, member of the Olympia Robert Gray chapter of the S.A.R. and a member of the Oregon Trail committee.

General Stevens' address was followed by the invocation which was given by P.D. Moore, a pioneer resident of Olympia. Mr. Moore is chaplain of the Pioneer and Historical society of Thurston county and prominent in all movements.

Quartet Sings America

The singing of "America" by a mixed quartet composed of Mrs. Edwin Kevin, Mrs. O.A. Torgerson, Miss Gertrude Knox, Miss Brown, R.W. Elwell, Judge O.G. Ellis, G.L. Greenbank and H.A.

Ditmars as it floated out over the assembled crowd aroused enthusiasm.

General Hazard Stevens introduced Mrs. J.S. McKee, chairman of the day. Mrs. McKee, first vice-president of the state society of the D.A.R., gave a short talk in her usual clever manner. Mrs. Henry McCleary, chairman of the Old National Trails committee, delivered a short address on the work of the trails committee work and narrated what the Old Oregon Trail would mean to the present generation.

Mrs. Ellis Presents Marker

Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, who is chairman of the Old Oregon Trail committee of Washington, presented the marker to the state regent of D.A.R. and to the state president of S.A.R. Mrs. Ellis has a direct pioneer relation with the state of Washington as her father was one of the early pioneers who crossed the plains. Mrs. Ellis spoke of the indebtedness of the D.A.R. to James Allen of the State Highway Commission for his assistance in the work. Mr. Allen personally went with General Hazard Stevens and located the places on the Pacific Highway where the markers were to be placed. Also,

The Morning Olympian

Olympia, Wash.

Saturday, August 19, 1916

(continued)

to George H. Himes who spent a great deal of his time locating the most prominent places on the Oregon Trail. Mr. Himes is secretary of the Oregon Historical Society. Appreciation was also expressed to the State Highway Board for their cooperation in the work of the D.A.R. in marking the Old Oregon Trail.

Monument Accepted

Mrs. Edmund Bowden, state regent of the D.A.R. accepted the marker on behalf of the D.A.R. and commended their work and lauded the results of two years' labor. Orson J.C. Dutton, state president of the S.A.R. accepted the marker on behalf of the S.A.R. Mr. Dutton expressed the opinion that nearly all the praise was due to the Daughters and not the Sons, as the Daughters had been instrumental in having the markers erected.

Mr. Dutton's address was followed by the unveiling ceremonies proper. The little children chosen to perform this ceremony, all are grandchildren of state pioneers. Miss Anne Bayless Allen represents the State Highway Commission which gave the D.A.R. so much assistance in their work. Miss Elizabeth Jaynes represented both the D.A.R. and the S.A.R. as her father is a member of the local Captain Robert Gray chapter and her mother is a member of the Olympia Sacajawea Chapter. Master Charles Allen Aetzel's grandmother, Mrs. Fannie O'Brien, crossed the plains in the early

pioneer days and both his mother, Mrs. George Aetzel, and grandmother Mrs. O'Brien, are members of the Sacajawea chapter, and Master Allen represented the D.A.R. Master James S. Stanford represented the S (?) one's country.

Presented to Tumwater

In behalf of the D.A.R., Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary, daughter of the first governor of Washington, presented the marker to the state and the city of Tumwater. Mrs. Leary congratulated the city of Tumwater on having the honor to receive such a significant marker.

Governor Ernest Lister, who was scheduled to accept the marker for the state of Washington, was detained at the Elks convention in Hoquiam and sent word for Judge O.G. Ellis to take his place on the program. Mayor O.S. Lee, in behalf of the citizens of Tumwater, accepted the marker and expressed the city's thanks to the D.A.R., and the S.A.R.

Pioneers Present

The program was closed by the entire assemblage singing the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

A great number of pioneers from all over the northwest were present at the ceremonies. Noticeable among the speakers was the fact that Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary has the distinction of being the daughter of the first governor of Washington and General Hazard Stevens is the son of the first territorial governor of Washington.

August 19, 1916

The Morning Olympian

JUDGE ELLIS IS ORIGINATOR OF MARKER PLAN

JUSTICE'S SUGGESTION IN ADDRESS TO S.A.R. PROMPTS MOVEMENT IS WORK OF SEVERAL YEARS

In Presentation Speech Mrs. O.G. Ellis Thanks Executives for Interest and Aid in Erection of Monuments—Pioneer Assists in Determining Location

The unveiling of the Oregon Trail marker at Tumwater yesterday was the culmination of years of research and planning on the part of the committee in charge. As far back as 1908, according to Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, chairman of the Oregon trail committee, who presented the marker yesterday to the executives of the two societies, the plan was suggested by her husband, O. G. Ellis, who was at that time president of the state society of the Sons of the American Revolution, in his annual address to the society.

The first official recognition, however, to the

Trail was made when the Sacajawea chapter of the D.A.R. erected a memorial marker at the end of the trail on the site of the block house, now Capitol Park.

Mrs. Ellis, in her presentation of the marker to the state regent D. A. R. and to the state president of the S.A.R., said:

"On behalf of the Oregon Trail committee of the two societies, it becomes my duty to present to you the first marker of the Oregon Trail in the state of Washington at the city of Tumwater."

Societies join in Movement

"This marker, placed at Tumwater, is the

culmination of about two years' work by the committee in studying state history to accurately locate the old road between Puget Sound and Oregon, in investigating plans of marking the way and securing satisfactory designs, materials, and construction. The entire plan in detail was endorsed by both societies and you committee have faithfully and with pleasure carried it to completion.

"The idea of marking the Oregon Trail as a patriotic work to be undertaken was first officially advocated in 1908.

THE MORNING OLYMPIAN: SUNDAY

September 11, 1916

Olympia, WA

PUPILS LEAD FLAG SALUTE AT UNVEILING OF MARKERS

The presence of the school children of Tenino and of Bush Prairie at the unveiling of the old Oregon Trail markers yesterday afternoon made exercises in connection with the unveiling an event long to be remembered. As the flag was raised from the monument at Bush Prairie by Miss Annie Gaston the children passed before the marker and reverently dropped flowers at the base of the stone. At Tenino the pupils of the schools which were dismissed for the exercises, led the crowd in the flag salute.

The attendance at the exercises which were held at Tenino at 2:30 o'clock and at Bush prairie at 4 o'clock was large. At Tenino the school children were present in a body and stood quietly throughout the exercises and the ceremony of presentation. The tribute to Lafayette whose birthday was being commemorated by the exercises, was paid by Ernest B. Husey in an oration that its literary finish and its patriotic sentiment moved to the audience to enthusiastic applause.

In presenting the Bush Prairie marker to the State George A. Virtue, of Seattle, former sate president of the S.A.R.. paid fitting tribute to Mrs. C. J. Lord of Olympia, who was the first to start the movement of marking the old trail by making possible the erection of the monument in Capital Park.

The marker committee of the D.A.R. held a picnic luncheon at Tenino before the exercises. After the luncheon Mrs. Edmund Bowden, state regent D.A.R. told of her visit to the grave of Lafayette in an out-of-the-way graveyard in Paris.

THE MORNING OLYMPIAN: SUNDAY

October 12, 1916

Olympia, WA

**TRAIL POSTS AT GRAND MOUND AND
CENTRALIA UNVEILED TODAY
SERVICES OF DEDICATION HAVE BEEN
ARRANGED**

OLYMPIA PEOPLE TO ATTEND

In attribution of the discovery of America, and the settling of the state of Washington the societies of the Sons and Daughters of the American revolution will dedicate the Oregon trail markers at Centralia and Grand Mound Prairie this afternoon.

As there is no D.A.R. chapter at Centralia, Mrs. Keir, a member of the society living there, has arrange with the club women of the town, a committee appointed from among the members of the Woman's club, the Commercial club and the Civic Improvement club to entertain the people who will attend the ceremonies. The Centralia services will be held at 2 o'clock.

At Grand Mound Prairie the services will be conducted at 4 0'clock. The honor class of the state school for girls will participate in the program. Lunch will be served in the dining room of the state training school.

Governor and Mrs. Ernest Lister, Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis, Mrs. C. J. Lord, General Hazard Stevens and Mrs. Fannie O'Brien and party of friends will be among those from Olympia who will attend the unveiling ceremonies at both places.

Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution Oregon Trail Markers Placed along the Cowlitz Trail in Washington State

1. Oregon Trail Enters Washington, Clark County

LOCATION:

The marker was relocated to the 1848 Covington House at 4100 N. Main Street in Vancouver about 2008. It had been previously relocated to the Clark County Historical Museum March 28, 2003.

INSCRIPTION:

In Memory of the Pioneers of the Oregon Trail 1844 . Spirit of the Trail, DAR and SAR in the State of Washington 1916

HISTORY:

Sometime around Washington's 14th Annual Assembly, a fountain was placed at the north entrance of the Interstate 5 Bridge over the Columbia River. On October 25, 1917, the Fort Vancouver Chapter DAR assisted by the SAR placed a bronze tablet on the Washington side of the Columbia River Bridge to commemorate the achievements of the pioneers of the Oregon Trail.



On September 20, 1920, the marker was re-dedicated by the Fort Vancouver Chapter DAR.

The marker was relocated to the Clark County Historical Museum and rededicated on March 28, 2003. It remained there until about 2008.

The marble marker is approximately 6-feet in height. A large bronze plaque with a figure of a woman on it is located at the top of the center section of the marker. Lower down and on the right and left side sections are two bronze sconces containing very small water fountains, which have been covered to prevent people from drinking from them.

The marble marker is approximately 6-feet in height. A large bronze plaque with a figure of a woman on it is located at the top of the center section of the marker. Lower down and on the right and left side sections are two bronze sconces containing very small water fountains, which have been covered to prevent people from drinking from them.

2. Woodland, Lewis County

LOCATION:

In the landscaped island just west of the I-5 northbound exit 21 and at the beginning of the city street paralleling I-5.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.



HISTORY:

Two bronze plaques are attached to a large marker of native stone dedicated October 26, 1916. Because of damage due to the construction of the interstate, the original marker was replaced in 1963 and re-dedicated by Waukoma Trail Chapter in 1965.

The lower second bronze plaque on this marker is inscribed: *Waukoma Trail Chapter 1965.*

3. Kalama, Cowlitz County

LOCATION:

Corner of Geranium Street and North First Street next to the Kalama Public Library and City Hall.

INSCRIPTION: *Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington. 1916*



(Kalama marker—cont.)

HISTORY:

The large concrete upright slab has two bronze plaques attached to it. The top plaque commemorating the Oregon Trail has the DAR Insignia in the upper left corner but is missing the SAR Insignia in the upper right corner.

The second plaque commemorating the first home of Ezra Meeker was dedicated August 4, 1953 and is inscribed: *Ezra Meeker first home site 1853. 250 ft. south. 125 ft. east.*

Dedicated October 26, 1916.

4. Kelso, Cowlitz County

LOCATION:

On the 100 block of North 4th Avenue between Allen Street and Academy Street on the left side of the entrance to the Cowlitz County Historical Museum parking lot.



INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.

HISTORY:

Dedicated October 26, 1916. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.

5. Toledo, Lewis County

LOCATION:

At the north end of town on Highway 505 (Old Highway 99) at the intersection of North Fifth and St. Helens Streets. This grassy corner is next to a Church.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.

HISTORY:

Dedicated October 25, 1916. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.



6. Mary's Corner, Lewis County

LOCATION:

To the right of the entrance of the small Matilda Jackson Park on Jackson Highway, 1/8 mile north of the Highway 12 and the Jackson Highway (Old Highway 99) junction in an area originally known as Jackson's Prairie.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.

HISTORY:

Dedicated October 25, 1916. Maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department, the plaque is missing the DAR and SAR insignias in the upper corners. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.



7. Fort Borst Park, Centralia, Lewis County

LOCATION:

About 75 feet from the Borst Home in Borst Park, Centralia.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.

HISTORY:

Dedicated October 12, 1916.

In 1927 the original marker was moved and the stone was replaced by the plaque. In May 1969 the marker was moved again, to its present location, which is 200 feet from where the pioneers forded the Chehalis River. Maintained by the Centralia Parks and Recreation Department, the plaque is missing the DAR and SAR insignias in the upper corners. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.



8. Grand Mound, Thurston County

LOCATION:

20639 Old Highway 99, near the corner of Highway 12 and Grand Mound Way, just south of Grand Mound Loop Road on the west side of the road about 1 mile south of I-5 exit 88A between two deodar cedar trees in a small landscaped area of a parking lot adjacent to a propane dealership in 2004.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844, marked by Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington, 1916.

HISTORY:

The marker is part of the effort by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (Mary Ball Chapter DAR) to mark the Oregon Trail in



1916. Marker dedicated October 12, 1916. The plaque is missing the DAR and SAR insignias in the upper corners. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.

9. Tenino, Thurston County

LOCATION: 420 Old Highway 99, one half mile north of State Highway 507, on the east side of the road about 100 feet from Scatter Creek Bridge, across from the Tenino Elementary School.



INSCRIPTION: *Oregon Trail 1844, marked by Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington, 1916.*

HISTORY: The marker is part of the effort by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (Mary Ball Chapter DAR) to mark the Oregon Trail in 1916. Marker dedicated September 6, 1916. The plaque is missing the DAR and SAR insignias in the upper corners. The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab.

Ezra Meeker Marker, Tenino [not a DAR marker]

LOCATION: Sussex Avenue (SR 507) at Sheridan Street
Inscription: *Old Oregon Trail 1844-53.*

HISTORY: Ezra Meeker first crossed the plains in 1852 and settled in Puyallup. In 1906, at the age of 75, he retraced the Oregon Trail eastward by ox team in an effort to draw attention to the pioneer past. This was the first of many markers dedicated to Meeker along the route.



10. Bush Prairie, Thurston County

LOCATION:

8820 Old Highway 99, east of the Olympia Municipal Airport, on the east side of the road near the intersection with 88th Ave SE.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844, marked by Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington, 1916.



HISTORY:

The marker is part of the effort by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution (Mary Ball Chapter DAR) to mark the Oregon Trail in 1916. September 6, 1916 dedication participants shown below.

The bronze plaque is attached to a large concrete upright slab. George Washington Bush, a man of color, came in 1845 to this area south of Tumwater, named Bush Prairie in his honor, with the first group of Americans to found a settlement north of the Columbia River.



11. Tumwater, Thurston County

LOCATION:

Corner of Boston Street SW and Deschutes Way SW at 106 Deschutes Way, at the west end of the old Deschutes River Bridge, about 200 feet from the Tumwater Falls Park entrance.

INSCRIPTION:

Oregon Trail 1844. Marked by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in the State of Washington 1916.

HISTORY:

Dedicated February 22, 1913 by Sacajawea Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. The bronze plaque is attached to a large granite boulder.

12. Olympia, Thurston County

LOCATION:

In the northwest corner of Sylvester Park at Capital Way and Legion Avenue.

INSCRIPTION:

Marking the End of the Oregon Trail - 1844 - Erected by Sacajawea Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution - Olympia, Wn - 1913.



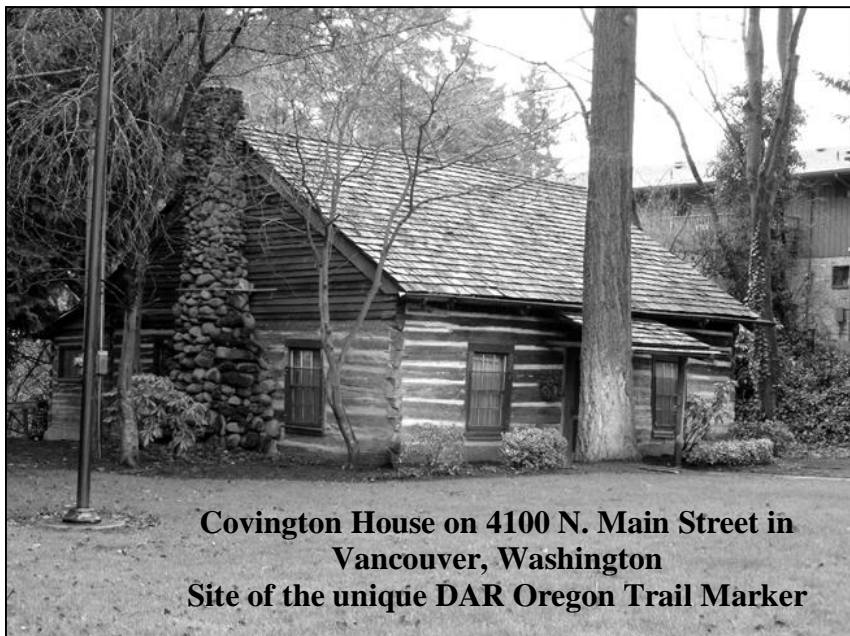
HISTORY:

This was the first Oregon Trail marker placed by the Sacajawea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution with the cooperation of the Sons of the American Revolution. The monument was dedicated on Saturday, February 22, 1913 with Mrs. Ralph Streets as Regent of the Sacajawea Chapter.

Among the notable speakers present were Washington Governor Ernest Lister, Judge Overton Gentry Ellis, W.H. Gilstrap, curator of the Washington State Historical Society, George Himes, Curator of the Oregon Historical Society, Ezra Meeker, pioneer of 1852 As outgoing president of the SAR, Judge Ellis spoke on "The Outgoing President and the Sons of the Revolution". Gilstrap's address was "Patriotism", and Himes spoke on the "History of the Oregon Trail". Ezra Meeker's address was "The Oregon Trail vs. the Pioneer Way".

Professor Edmond S. Meany read his sonnet "End of the Oregon Trail" which he dedicated to the DAR.

According to Mrs. Streets the government has mapped the Oregon Trail and show it ending in Olympia. She also noted the planned Pacific Highway will follow the Oregon Trail in the state of Washington.



**Covington House on 4100 N. Main Street in
Vancouver, Washington
Site of the unique DAR Oregon Trail Marker**



When the Daughters of the American Revolution undertook their effort to memorialize the pioneers of the Oregon Trail in 1913 they adopted a standardized bronze plaque to be mounted on a stone pillar. These were to be installed at the several locations recommended by Ezra Meeker, Hazard Stevens and George Himes.

However, the DAR determined that a “unique” marker should be installed by the Fort Vancouver Chapter on the bank of the Columbia River near the north end of the bridge between Portland and Vancouver.

The first of the markers was dedicated in Capital Park in Olympia on Saturday February 22, 1913. On August 18, 1916 the first of the bronze markers was dedicated in Tumwater. Others followed that year with this “unique” marker dedicated on October 25, 1917 completing the DAR’s mission to memorialize the Old Oregon Trail and the hardy pioneers who followed it to their perfect home in western Washington.

A DAR ceremony dedicating the "End of the Oregon Trail" marker took place Saturday, February 22, 1913 in Olympia.

END OF OREGON TRAIL MARKED WITH CEREMONY

Granite Boulder is Placed by D.A.R.

Surrounded by a large crowd, the members of the Sacajawea Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of Olympia, and pioneers who traveled across the plains and through the mountains in the days of the oxcart, yesterday morning unveiled a monument in the northwest corner of Capitol Park, which marks the end of the old Oregon Trail and shows where the first actual settlers reached Puget



Sound. The big granite boulder used as a monument was secured from a site overlooking Puget Sound in the city of Olympia. On it is a brass plate with an inscription that reads: "Marking the End of the Oregon Trail, 1844. Erected by Sacajawea Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1913." The monument is so situated that it can be seen by all who travel along the Pacific Highway, being on the street that runs south to Tumwater from Olympia.

Among the noted pioneers present were W.H. Gilstrap, curator

Washington State Historical Society, Mrs. Overton G. Ellis of the state D.A.R., Ezra Meeker of Puyallup, while Olympia was represented by such pioneers as Scott Shaser, Allen Weir, G. Rosenthal, Judge Thomas Prather, John Miller Murphy and Judge Robert Frost.

W.H. Gilstrap, who delivered the address of the day, told how Mrs. Shaser was a trail marker, having come across the plains with a babe in her arms. The "babe" was no other than Scott Shaser, who was present at the time. His mother, now 81 years old, was in Olympia, but unable to be present at the exercises.

The Program included songs by the children of the second grade of Lincoln school; the Lord's Prayer, in which all joined; the presentation of the monument by Mrs. R.R. Streets, regent of the local D.A.R., unveiling of the monument by little Misses Helen Lord and

Janet Streets; acceptance on behalf of the state by Governor Ernest Lister; reading of the sonnet, "End of the Oregon Trail", written by Professor Edmond S. Meany of the University of Washington, and dedicated to Sacajawea Chapter D.A.R. by Mrs. Stephen J. Chadwick; address, "Outgoing President and Sons of the Revolution", Mrs. Overton G. Ellis; address, "Patriotism", W.H. Gilstrap, curator of the Washington State Historical Society; address, "The Oregon Trail vs. The Pioneer Way", Ezra Meeker, Puyallup, and the exercises were closed when all joined in singing "America."





On Anniversary of the
Discovery of America

by Columbus
Thursday, October 12, 1916



**Unveiling of the Marker on the Old Oregon Trail
at Centralia, Wash., at 2 p. m.**

At the crossing of Skookum Chuck Creek by the Pacific Highway

Chairman.....Mr. Orison J. C. Dutton
President State Society Sons of the Revolution
Invocation.....Rev. Mr. Dores
Song.....America
Address.....Mr. W. H. Cameron
Pioneer Days.....General Hazard Stevens
Marking National Old Trails.....Mrs. Henry McCleary
Presentation of Marker to State and City.....Mrs. Edmund Bowden
State Regent Daughters of the Revolution.
Unveiling.....Miss Zeola Dickinson
Acceptance for State.....Governor Ernest Lister
Acceptance for Centralia.....Mayor John Galvin
Flag Salute.....School Children
Star Spangled Banner.

**Unveiling of the Marker on the Old Oregon Trail
on Grand Mound Prairie, at 4:00 p. m.**

At the junction of the Pacific Highway and Rochester road

Chairman.....Mrs. Edmund Bowden
State Regent D. A. R.
Invocation.....Rev. Frank W. P. Camp
America.
Address.....Mr. Theodore Hoff
Song Questions.....High School of Grand Mound
Reminiscences.....Mrs. E. W. Sargent
Read by C. C. Scates.
National Medley.....High School
Grand Mound 64 Years Ago.....Mr. John R. James
Solo.....Miss Irene Holcomb
Presentation of Marker to State.....Mr. Orison J. C. Dutton
State President S. A. R.
Unveiling.....Miss Clara James
Acceptance for State.....Governor Ernest Lister
Acceptance for Grand Mound.....Dr. J. B. Stanley,
Secy. Southwest Wash. Pioneer Association.
Flag Salute.....School Children
Star Spangled Banner



Unveiling of the Marker
on the
Old Oregon Trail
on Jackson's Prairie



At 2 p. m. Wednesday, October 23th, 1916

Chairman.....Mr. Orison J. C. Dutton
State President S. A. R.
Invocation.
Song—America.
Address.....Mr. A. A. Hull, Chehalis
Presentation of Marker to State.
Unveiling.
Acceptance of Marker.....Governor Ernest Lister
Song—Star Spangled Banner.

**Unveiling of the Marker on the Old Oregon Trail, Toledo,
at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday, October 23th, 1916**

Chairman.....Mrs. Edmund Bowden
State Regent D. A. R.
Invocation.
Song—America.....Quartette and School Children
Marking National Trails.....Mrs. Henry McCleary
Chairman National Trails Committee D. A. R.
Address.....Mr. A. A. Hull, Chehalis
The Old Trail and Cowlitz River in Early Days..General Hazard Stevens
Presentation of Marker to State.....Mrs. Overton G. Ellis
Chairman National Trails Committee, D. A. R.
Unveiling.....Miss Minnie Packard
Flag Salute.....School Children
Acceptance for State.....Governor Ernest Lister
Acceptance for Toledo.....Mayor Frederick Williams
Address.....Mr. H. H. Hurst, Toledo
Song—Star Spangled Banner...Quartette, School Children and audience



Program
For Unveiling of Markers in Kelso,
Kalama and Woodland
on the



Old Oregon Trail

On Thursday, October 26, 1916

Star Spangled Banner

O say! can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we halled at the twilight's last gleaming;
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there!
Oh say does that star spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh, thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto,—“In God is our trust.”
And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

“America”

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrim's pride,
From ev'ry mountain side,
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love!
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above!

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break;
The sound prolong.

Our father's God, to Thee
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!



Unbeiling of the First Monument Marking the “Old Oregon Trail”

In

Tumwater, Washington,

On Friday, August 18th, 1916

at 3:30 p. m.

Facsimile

Program

Call to Order Gen. Hazard Stevens
Chairman Oregon Trail Committee, S. A. R.
Invocation Hon. P. D. Moore
Chaplain of the Pioneer and Historical Society of Thurston County
Song—“America” Mrs. Edward Kevin,
Mrs. A. D. Torgerson, Miss Knox, Miss Brown, R. W.
Elwell, Overton G. Ellis, G. H. Greenbank, H. A. Ditmore
Introduction Chairman of the Day, Mrs. J. S. McKee
First Vice President State Society, D. A. R.
Marking the National Old Trails Mrs. Henry McCleary,
Chairman National Old Trails Committee, N. S. D. A. R.
Presentation of Marker to State Regent, D. A. R., and State Presi
dent, S. A. R. Mrs. Overton Gentry Ellis
Chairman Oregon Trail Committee, D. A. R.
Acceptance for D. A. R. Mrs. Edmund Bowden
State Regent
Acceptance for S. A. R. Mr. Orson J. C. Dutton
State President
Unveiling Miss Anne Bayless Allen, Miss Elizabeth Jaynes,
Master Charles Alden Aetzel, Master James S. Standford, Jr.
Address Mrs. William Cummings Story
President General N. S. D. A. R.
Presentation of Marker to the State and to the City of Tumwater
. Mrs. Eliza Ferry Leary
Response for the State Gov. Ernest Lister
Response for Tumwater Mayor O. S. Lee
Song—“Star Spangled Banner”

Facsimile



Cowlitz Trail Marker installed by the Daughters of American Colonists on October 4, 2002 in the Tumwater Historical Park where the Deschutes River meets Puget Sound.

* * * * *

The message reads:

“Ancient Trading Path—Near this location passed an important traditional trading path. First forged by game animals, later followed by Native Americans, fur-traders from the Hudson’s Bay Company, and American pioneers who established a permanent settlement here in 1845. Known as the Cowlitz Trail, it was the overland route between Puget Sound and Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River, where it linked with eastern trails.

National Society Daughters of the American Colonists. Project of the 2000—3 Administration. Mary Ann Groome Hepler, National President”

Photo by Carole Holt, DAC, 2002

THE COWLITZ TRAIL—Then and Now

The Cowlitz Trail had its roots long before the arrival of American settlers in 1845.

Prior to emigrant travel, the route was used by Hudson's Bay Company fur-traders as a portage to their McKenzie and Fraser River trading posts north of the 49th parallel. And for many generations before that, it was a trade route between Puget Sound Indians and tribes far to the south.

For American settlers headed north from Fort Vancouver the journey often began by boat down the Columbia River to Monticello near the mouth of the Cowlitz River. From there local Indians with their canoe and bateau were hired to haul worldly goods to the beginning of the overland route near the HBC Puget Sound Agricultural Company 'Cowlitz Farm'.

From Cowlitz Landing the fifteen day sixty-mile overland trail traversed muddy swamps, rocky prairies and dense forests on it's way to Olympia.

The first steam boat navigated the Cowlitz in 1852, and mud-wagon (stage) service from Cowlitz Landing to Olympia was established in 1853.

The first order of business in the evolving territory was to improve roads and establish post offices. The "improved" road north of Cowlitz Landing barely permitted "comfortable" stage travel, post offices were often short lived.

Although the Military Road replaced most of the river travel between Monticello (Longview) and Centralia, the Cowlitz Trail itself lived on as a transportation corridor. By the 1870s the Northern Pacific Railroad brought improved travel to the Puget Sound region.

With the dawning of the twentieth century travel by horse and stage yielded to the automobile and the "modern" Pacific Highway. Gas and power lines to satisfy the needs of a growing population were constructed within the Cowlitz corridor.

Today an interstate freeway, a railroad, numerous utility lines and, six-miles up, jet airplanes follow the ancient Indian path we call the "Cowlitz Trail".

"THE TRAVELERS—In Their Words":

"We left Portland on a little steamer that carried the passengers and mail to Rainier. Here we crossed the Columbia in a skiff, to Monticello. Monticello consisted of a hole in the woods, only large enough to contain one house. We made our bed under a tree, spreading blankets over fir boughs. The next morning we began the ascent of the Cowlitz River in an Indian canoe making about the same speed against the current as did our oxen when pulling up a steep mountain."

Phoebe Goodell Judson, 1853

* * * * *

"The road was rough beyond description; during the winter rains it is just impassable, and is abandoned; for miles it is over trees and sticks laid down roughly in swamps."

Samuel Bowles, 1865

* * * * *

"There is no place in the Territory where a good wagon road is more needed than between Monticello and Olympia. Over this road passes all the mail to and from the Sound Country. In the best weather it is bad, and in bad weather it is well nigh impassable."

Alvin Flanders, Territorial Governor, 1869

* * * * *

"The trail from Cowlitz to Olympia has grown into a wagon road, along which is stretched a telegraph wire, and over which the surveyors of the Northern Pacific Railroad have located a line of their road."

Benjamin Dolbear, 1870

* * * * *

"The facts are, this road 'just grewed', and so gradually became a highway."

Ezra Meeker, "Pioneer Reminiscences of Puget Sound", 1905

The Cowlitz Trail - Misery and Mud

The Cowlitz Trail was the overland road north of the Cowlitz River. It was one of two Oregon Trail extensions to the Puget Sound region of Washington Territory. The other being the Naches Pass route across the Cascade Mountains from Fort Walla Walla.

After five months of travel on the Oregon Trail emigrants arrived in the Willamette Valley in the late fall. For those who did not “winter-over” near Fort Vancouver, fall and winter rains made overland travel north to Puget Sound difficult and exhausting. Steep hills were few but lowlands became quagmires of axle deep mud.

Most emigrants did not record accounts of travel on the overland segment, but those who did had few words of joy about the final sixty miles of their journey.

To the HBC fur-traders the overland route was known as the “Cowlitz Portage” or the “Road from Cowlitz Farms to Nisqually”. To the American settlers it was called the “Road from Cowlitz Landing to Olympia” according to early GLO maps. To satisfy the demands for improved roads in the developing territory the U.S. Army oversaw the construction of the “Fort Vancouver to Steilacoom Military Road”.

As the pioneers traveled north they not only passed through virgin forests, but crossed open prairies that provided a reference for their forward progress.

Today most of the land is developed to one degree or another; either as agricultural land or for residential purposes. While the deep forests have given way to society, several segments of the trail have been identified on private property as well as at the Lewis and Clark State Park north of Toledo. That historic trail was first marked by Ezra Meeker in 1906 and later by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1916.

