

**NEWS RELEASE
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History Unrecorded is History Lost Oregon Trail Ancestors Day to be held at Interpretive Center

BAKER CITY, Oregon – Ever wish you had just one more day to talk to your grandparents? Do you wish you had thought to write down the family stories they told you? If you had it to do over would you do it differently? The theme of Ancestors Day at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center on Saturday October 21, 2006 is “History Unrecorded Is History Lost”. The goal of the day is to provide you the opportunity to learn the right questions to ask and how to record the information you gather when you talk to your elders. Historians of the future will thank you.

Ancestors Day activities will take place at the Interpretive Center between noon and 4 p.m. Information on the locally available resources to trace your family tree will be featured. The Baker County Library will be providing information on how to do genealogies and the extensive resources that you can access through the Library. At the same time, the Eastern Oregon University History Club will be presenting information on Oral Histories. They will provide guidance on questions you should ask your elders and ways to record the answers.

At 12:30 p.m. in the Leo Adler Theater, Susan Badger Doyle of the Oregon-California Trails Association will be presenting “Finding the Oregon Trail In Historical Resources.” This presentation outlines how personal diaries of the pioneer era are used to find remaining remnants of the Oregon Trail and what those diaries tells us about life in the mid-1800’s. Ms. Doyle is an Oregon Trail scholar from Pendleton specializing in nineteenth-century western overland trails. Doyle is the editor of a boxed two volume set “Journeys to the Land of Gold: Emigrant Diaries from the Bozeman Trail”.

At 1:45 p.m. Eastern Oregon History professor Rebecca Hartman will moderate a panel discussion with four descendants of Oregon Trail pioneers; Howard Payton of Baker Valley, Beverly DUBY of Unity, Dave Densley of Eagle Valley, and Gordon Colton of Baker Valley. After the panel discussion, attendees will have the opportunity to meet with the panelists and ask questions on an informal basis.

A humorous living history presentation, “Arze Bolder: Back Tracker” will be presented by Michael Hofferber at 3:30 p.m. in the Leo Adler Theater. Hear the tales of a pioneer who traveled west only to travel east.

History unrecorded is history lost. Attend Oregon Trail Ancestors Day at the National Historic Oregon Trail on October 21st, then talk to your family members, record their stories, and trace your family tree.

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The Interpretive Center is 5 miles east of Baker City on Highway 86. Take Exit 302 from I-84. For more information call (541)523-1843 or visit our website at oregontrail.blm.gov. The Interpretive Center is operated by the Bureau of Land Management and is a federal fee site. Admission for adults is \$5. Children 15 and under are free. Federal passes are accepted.

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