

CHAPTER SPRING SYMPOSIUM, 2010

Our chapter's 2010 spring symposium will be held in conjunction with the Kern County Historical Society in Bakersfield on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1 for the purpose of marking the recently-identified grave of Elisha Stephens, captain of the 1844 Stephens-Townsend-Murphy emigrant wagon train to California. The historical accomplishments of this emigrant party include: 1) the opening of what was to become known as the Sublette Cut-off in Wyoming; 2) the discovery and opening of the Truckee River Route, the first of the emigrant wagon routes to be established over the Sierra Nevada; 3) the first emigrant wagon train to succeed bringing some of its wagons over the crest of the Sierra (in 1844) and all of its wagons over the crest and then on into the settlements of Mexican Alta California in the spring of 1845. (All of this achieved without the loss of human life, and, indeed, with the addition of two babies born along the trail.) It has been known that Captain Stephens was buried in Bakersfield's Union Cemetery, but the actual grave site has remained unknown. The research of John Codd of Bakersfield has now provided us with persuasive evidence of the location of the Stephens grave, thus ending one of enduring mysteries of California history. In a joint ceremony on May 1, the Kern County Historical Society will place a marker on the Stephens grave and our chapter will install one of OCTA's historical markers commemorating Stephens and the Stephens-Townsend-Murphy Party.

Symposium headquarters will be at the Best Western Crystal Palace Inn in Bakersfield. We have arranged to have a block of rooms set aside at \$69.00 per night plus 12% tax. This price includes a **full** breakfast. You must make your own reservations. The phone number and address for the Inn:

Best Western Crystal Palace Inn
2620 Buck Owens Blvd., Bakersfield
Phone: (661) 327-9651

(Identify yourself as a member of OCTA in order to receive the special room rate. Please plan to stay at the Inn. We have to fill a certain number of rooms in order to get our meeting room free of charge.

The cut-off date for making reservations is **March 31.**)

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA:

Friday, April 30: 7:00 P.M. Chapter meeting at Crystal Palace Inn. Ask at desk for location of meeting room.