

OREGON TRAIL: Family connection made experience powerful

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amazement, respect, gratitude and sadness swept through me. Unexpected tears welled up in my eyes as I felt a direct connection to this weary, frail woman who produced the offspring who became my great-grandfather.

When growing up in Portland, I had been steeped in the family history of the Scotts who came to Oregon in 1852, but not until that moment at Ann's grave had I appreciated the bravery and the sacrifice that resulted in my being born an Oregonian.

A visit to the National Oregon/California Trail Center in Montpelier, Idaho on the way back home provided the final stroke of reality garnered from my trip.

The interactive exhibits in this museum include a re-enactment of riding in a covered wagon, complete with the sounds, movements, and shadows of bumping along across rough prairie, while voices read passages from pioneer diaries and letters home.

Two of the voices, surprisingly, represented Ann's daughters, Abigail and Margaret, describing their journey to Oregon. Having walked the ruts and stood by the grave, these words provided the capstone to my journey back in time. Again, tears fell unbidden as my soul was so deeply touched.

History read about is interesting and informative. History experienced is meaningful and moving. My travels to Wyoming have created a palpable link to the past and brought to life the amazing migration that created the state of my birth.

Sunny weather likely for eclipse

By Mark Floyd
Correspondent

CORVALLIS — Visitors from around the world will flock to Oregon to be first in line to see the solar eclipse on August 21, but will there be anything to see?

Time will tell, experts say, but Oregon is usually delightful in the summer and whoever scheduled this eclipse picked a good date. August is just about the least likely time to experience inclement weather in the Beaver state.

"If you were going to go to Las Vegas or Atlantic City and put down a bet on which location in the United States will have good weather for the eclipse — Oregon would be a great choice," said Kathie Dello, deputy director of the Oregon Climate Service at Oregon State University. "The

average high temperature on August 21 is 82 degrees and it just doesn't rain very often here in August.

"The biggest threat during the summer months is low-level marine stratus sneaking its way into the Valley," Dello said. "But the chance of that is weighted more toward June than it is August. In Madras — which is on the path of totality — the biggest threat to cloudy skies in August would be an afternoon thundershower. But the eclipse will be over by lunch."

Scientists in Oregon and nationally will also be watching the eclipse to see what happens to temperatures when the sun disappears in mid-morning — and the effect of that on the rest of the day, according to Philip Mote, director of the Oregon Climate Change Research

Institute at Oregon State.

"Temperatures on a summer day in Oregon typically rise quickly between 9 a.m. and noon, but on August 21, the shrinking sun from 9 to 10:15 a.m. could actually make the day get cooler during that period," Mote said. "Once the shadow of the moon starts to pass, temperatures will resume their rise, but the eclipse will probably end up affecting the daytime high by several degrees.

"If it's cloudy, the effects of the eclipse on the hour-by-hour temperatures will be less."

Researchers and "citizen scientists" around the country will be recording temperatures and sharing them with the National Aeronautics and Atmospheric Administration (NASA). To learn more, go to <https://go.nasa.gov/2tBJyxH>.

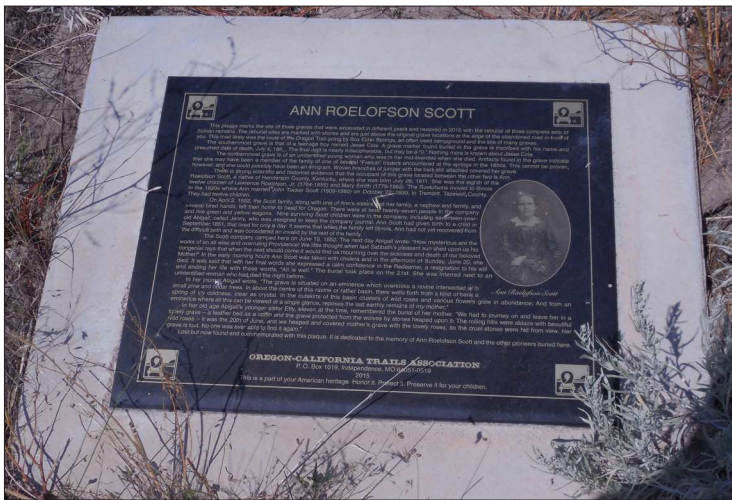


PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Bronze marker with photograph of Ann Roelofson Scott, placed by Oregon California Trails Association on the occasion of the re-interment of her remains at Box Elder Springs



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