

Trails West Unscheduled Fun Trip

On October 28-30, Trails West will have an unscheduled fun trip beginning at the Susanville Masonic Lodge, where we will attend a program about Peter Lassen and his Danish heritage. Dave Freeman will do a presentation on the discoveries he has made of building sites, canals, mills, and other Lassen legacies at Lassen's Rancho Bosquejo and Benton City on the banks of the Sacramento River. After the presentation, Abelskivers (a Danish treat) will be served by the local Job's Daughters for a donation.

After the presentation and treats, we will go to Ramhorn Campground about forty-five miles northeast of Susanville on Highway 395 and about three miles east of the highway. On Sunday morning, we will drive about ten miles to the starting point of a hike to see the pyramid rock with petroglyphs J. Goldsborough Bruff drew in Smoke Creek Canyon on October 1, 1850.



Bruff's Drawing

It will require hike over rocky, petroglyph rich Creek.



Current Photo

about a two-mile roundtrip but nearly level, ground to the "Hieroglyph Defile" of Smoke

We will discuss the significance of Lassen's and Bruff's search for the legendary Gold Lake and how their search led them to Smoke Creek and to the discovery of Honey Lake Valley. We will also discuss the influence this may have had on the later discovery and development of the Nobles Trail. It started at Black Rock, went through Smoke Creek Desert, crossed Smoke Creek Canyon (Bruff's Hieroglyph Defile), and went through Susanville, to Shasta City where the merchants of the town rewarded William Nobles with \$2,000 for disclosing the route. Then we'll again camp at Ramhorn Campground.

On Monday morning, Oct. 30, we'll break camp, and those wishing to do so can car caravan south on Hwy. 395 to Smoke Creek Ranch Road and then go east to the site where Bruff and Lassen camped in the meadows south of Smoke Creek Ranch as shown by Bruff's journal drawing and descriptions. Here, we'll discuss the 1849 journal descriptions of a "Cherokee Cutoff," the possible route and implications it may have had during the Gold Rush. We'll discuss evidence Bruff discovered of those who may have used the "Cutoff."

If you are interested in going on this Fun Trip, contact Ken Johnston for more information, a map, and directions.

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