

# **NATIONAL STAGECOACH AND FREIGHT WAGON ASSOCIATION**



**WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER**

*“Sharing The Legacy of a Transportation Empire”*



# "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

## ***NSFWA President's Message***

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Holiday Issue 2025

Holiday Greetings, From the NSFWA Board of Directors,

We would like to wish each of you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We hope that you had a great Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing each of you, at our 2026 NSFWA Conference, to be held at Fort Davis Texas, on May 14-16, 2026. More Information is coming to you, either inside this Newsletter or within a few days. Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Happy Trails!!

President Jeff

## ***NSFWA Newsletter Editor Report***

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Starting in 2026, businesses will have the opportunity to advertise their business with a business card sized ad in our newsletter for \$75.00 a year or at a pro-rated amount (\$25 per issue) if you get your ad submitted part way through the year. Members will also have the ability to have their business card sized ad put on the website free of charge. By doing this, this will spotlight your business, as well as, help the National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association offset the cost of printing the newsletters. Currently, the newsletter goes out three times a year in March, September, and December. More information on this along with a form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Merry Christmas,

Adam Hanger

Newsletter Editor

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**Front Cover: Photo courtesy of Adam Hanger, Photo is of a Single Horse Buggy (This buggy was partially restored in the 1970s and then the seat was restored with genuine black leather in 2021. The buggy is set up to take a top but does not have one.)**

**Left: Photo courtesy of hansenwheel.com. This photo is of a WFB Wide Track Bobsled. The box is 12-foot long, 6-foot wide, and 24-inches deep.**



## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### Upcoming Events

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#### Farm Team Competition:

(Lyndon, Kansas)

April 25-26, 2026

The Lyndon Saddle Club is holding their Fifth Annual Farm Team Competition in Lyndon, Kansas. Farm teams from different parts of the country will have fun and compete in a log skidding challenge, cultivating challenge, driving challenge, and more! Come out to Lyndon, Kansas to check out this event that is focused on participants being challenged to become better teamsters. If there are any questions, please contact Frank Burkdoll @ 785-256-3430. More information to come.

#### 2026 Annual Conference:

(Fort Davis, Texas)

May 14-16, 2026

The NSFVA 2026 Conference will be held in Fort Davis, Texas! For any questions, contact Glenn & Patty Moreland, 512-627-5943, the conference hosts, or contact Adam Hanger at 540-490-2565.

We hope that you all can come out to this exciting and event-filled conference to enjoy the history of the past, the old Butterfield-Overland Trail from the 1850s, and the Fort Davis, Texas area!

Please see the end of this newsletter for a registration form and tentative schedule with lodging information.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days:

(Middlebrook, Virginia)

August 28-29, 2026

Come out to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Middlebrook, Va. We will be having a horse drawn vehicle and farm implement display, farm team/single horse exhibition, chuckwagon meal and chuckwagon dessert, historical presentations, saddle and harness demonstrations, and more! Come check out this event that promotes the horse heritage of the past! More information to come to include a flyer and schedule of events! Contact Adam Hanger @ 540-490-2565 for more information!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2nd Annual  
Middlebrook  
Horse Drawn Heritage Days**

Friday, August 28th, 2026

(Chuckwagon Dinner, Horse Drawn Vehicle/Farm  
Implement Display, and more!)

and

Saturday August 29th, 2026

(Horse Drawn Vehicles/Farm Implement Display,  
Chuckwagon, Historical Presentations, and more!!)

For info, contact Adam Hanger @ 540-490-2565  
or visit  
Middlebrook Horse Drawn Heritage Days -  
Middlebrook, Va. on Facebook.



## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### ***Past Events: 2025 Annual Conference (Part 2)***

**(Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska)**

July 9-12, 2025

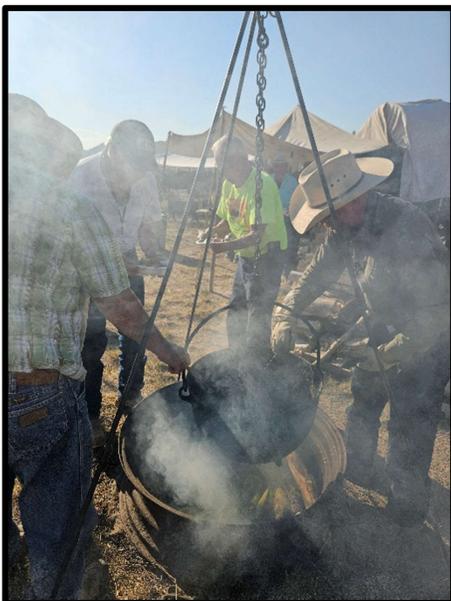
Our 2025 NSFVA Conference was held at Gering, Nebraska on July 9 – 12, at the Legacy of the Plains Museum. David Wolf, who is the Legacy of the Plains Museum Executive Director and a NSFVA Member, was a major part of the professional success of the Conference. This Museum is located at the foot of The Scotts Bluff National Monument. We were also blessed with an exceptional job done by several NSFVA Members and their families, along with all Members of the NSFVA Board of Directors, working together to make this Annual Conference successful. We appreciate our first time ever being awarded a grant from the Scotts Bluff County Tourism Board, this helped defray costs. With our scheduled events we brought awareness of the Oregon Trail trials and tribulations of Wagon travel.



***Above: Todd Johnson's wife, Laura, and Adam Hanger's wife, Jasmine, make homemade ice cream with an old-style hand crank ice cream churn on the, hot, first evening of our 2025 conference. It was 100+ degrees!***

***Below (left): A pot of stew was made for the individuals present for the meal.***

***Below: Troy Peterson operates a team and sweep rake while spectators watch.***





## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### *Past Events: Council Grove Wagon Show*

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(Council Grove, Kansas)

September 19-20, 2025



### **"Marking A Road to Santa Fe Wagon Show"**

On September 19 & 20, 2025, The National Freight Wagon and Stagecoach association participated in the 2025 Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium, "Marking a Road To Santa Fe: Set Your Sights on Sibley." The event was held September 19-27, 2025 and the weather was beautiful. Part of the event was a wagon show held in Council Oak Park right on the Santa Fe Trail in Historic Council Grove, Kansas. The two-day event had seventeen wagons and carriages registered. An estimate of 400 adults and local school children totaling 100 students attended the two-day event. During the day, presentations were held by National freight Wagon and Stagecoach Association President Jeff McManus, who demonstrated blacksmithing as a traveling blacksmith on a Santa Fe Trail bound wagon train. Jeff McManus captivated the audience as he created wagon parts and tools in his traveling forge. Nationally renown Wagon expert, David Sneed, presented on the parts of a wagon and what to look for when researching or buying a wagon. Sneed's knowledge of wagons always amazes and delights those that gathered to hear him talk. Wagon maker and Wheelwright Don Werner shrank tires on wooden wheels during the two-day event. Don is renowned for creating and building wagons that have been shipped all over the country and overseas. Historian and NFWSA member Mark Brooks presented on the Santa Fe Trail.





## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### *Past Events: Council Grove Wagon Show (continued)*

Surveyor and Historian Steve Broesmer, presented on the Sibley Survey of the Santa Fe Trail as this was the 200th commemoration of that event.

Trophies were awarded to the top winners in two categories, Wagon and Carriage. Another trophy was awarded to the people's choice award. Prize money was awarded in each division. In the wagon division, Frank and Peg Burkdoll won first place with his Peter Schuttler, Patrick Goodknight and Greg VanCoevern also won. In the Carriage division, Connie and Don Werner won first with a Dairy buggy, Greg and Joanne VanCoevern won second with a child buggy, Marci Gesewein won third with a doctor's buggy. A total of \$1,000 in prize money was distributed to the winners. Frank and Peg Burkdoll won "People's Choice" Trophy with their stagecoach.





## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### *Past Events: Council Grove Wagon Show (continued)*

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*Photos (Immediately Below): Two Seat Sleigh, Photo courtesy of hansenwheel.com*

*(Below): Two Seat Albany Sleigh, Photo courtesy of hansenwheel.com*





## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### *Before and After: 1893 Spring Wagon Project (Part 1)*

*Story submitted by Adam Hanger, Middlebrook, Va.*



This 1893 Spring Wagon came from Upstate New York from an estate auction. The history behind this wagon is unknown other than it was made in 1893 after finding dates and the wheelwright's initials stamped on the inside of the hubs on the wood section while in restoration. All four wheels had the month, day, and year the wheels were made, and one of the four wheels had the wheelwright's initials.

Upon arriving back to Virginia, the wagon was in need of a full restoration. The running gear of the wagon was sound and only needed to be cleaned, primed, and painted to the colors that I had in mind, however, the wagon box was in need of a full rebuild.

The restoration on the running gear began by cleaning the wheels. The metal was cleaned with a wire brush using a cordless drill and the wood was cleaned with sandpaper. The old paint was flakey, and the new paint would not have applied properly so we sanded all the wood by hand, down to a smooth finish to get it ready for the primer.



***Stamped date of manufacture on inside of hub.***



While in the process of cleaning the wheels, we removed the wagon box from the running gear so we could clean the running gear. We used the same process for the running gear as the wheels, a wire brush on the metal, and sandpaper on the wood, however, this spring wagon did not have much wood on the running gear. The rear axle was completely metal, and the front axle was metal with wood on top that was fastened by old style U-bolt axle clips with a wood-metal combination on the reach.



## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

### ***Before and After: 1893 Spring Wagon Project (continued)***

After the sanding of the wood and the cleaning of the metal was completed, the running gear parts were cleaned of dust, and the parts were prepped for being primed and painted. The wooden parts were sanded between primer coats when needed and then the paint was applied. I love the Wells Fargo stagecoach colors and wanted this wagon to be a parade wagon so I chose to go with a yellow color for the running gear and a deep red color for the body. The yellow that was used was Daisy Crown from Ace Hardware.

The primer was applied via spray can primer and the paint was applied utilizing a Wagoner paint sprayer that was purchased from Lowes. After the paint had cured, it was time for the wheels to get there striping. A Beugler striping tool was used as well as a brush to apply the black striping that the wheels and running gear received to add its finishing touches. The Beugler striping tool worked very well.



***Yellow paint being applied to the wheels with a paint sprayer.***



***Beugler Striping Tool being used to stripe the wheels. The tool has a gauge that can be set to keep the line at the correct measurement all the way around the wheel.***

This wagon has both a set of shafts and a team pole. After the running gear was completed, work began on the wagon box with the first step being to get the main frame of the box built. Stay tuned for part 2 of this project.



***Thank you to our partners!!***





## "Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

**Merry Christmas!**

***"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.***

***For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."***

***- Luke 2:10-11 KJV -***

***"The real reason for Christmas was born into this world a Baby, yet still held the whole world in His hands."***

***- From "He Made the Tree" by Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver -***

### **NSFWA Mission Statement:**

***We are dedicated to the interpretation, education and preservation of the legacy of commercial stagecoaches and freight wagons which were integral to the development of the western United States in the 19th century, this includes the stories of the people who designed, built and drove these remarkable vehicles.***