



Seeking the Elephant: Oregon-California Pioneer Trails

**Friends of the Albany
Library Program**

**September 13 at noon
Albany Main Library
2450 14th Ave.**

**All are welcome!
Coffee, tea & cookies served**

Sallie Riehl, retired public librarian and native Oregonian, will present a slide presentation showing remnants of the Oregon-California Pioneer Trails and relate stories of this massive 19th century American migration. Sallie and her husband Jim are members of the Oregon-California Trails Association which seeks to protect the Historic Emigrant Trails by promoting research, education, preservation activities and public awareness of the trails. Trails Association members since 2001, Sallie and Jim believe in honoring the many pioneers who came to settle our great West.

Born in Medford, Oregon, Sallie has one pioneer ancestor who travelled the early trails by wagon to California in 1849 and then continued north within the year to settle in Oregon. Her husband Jim has ancestors who made the trek to Oroville, California, in 1852 and settled there to farm and provide food for the miners. In fact, one of his ancestors was born in a wagon just as the family reached California!



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Between 1840 and 1869 over 500,000 men, women and children passed over the many trails leading from the Missouri River west to the Pacific Ocean. Many came to build a new life based on the golden promise of "free" land. Others came for the idea of easy riches based on the gold finds in California, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. And a few came for just the adventure of it all. The pioneers walked for 2000 miles over difficult terrain for anywhere from 5 to 8 months to find their new life. Many died along the way of disease and accidents, but still they came!

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Be sure to ask Sallie about the title: Seeking the Elephant!

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