



Discovery Road
Presents

"Treasure Boxes"

Road Series rides into the past stagecoaches, drivers and traveling

The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) and *Discovery Road* present *"Treasure Boxes"* a documentary episode about stagecoaches in the American West. The half-hour program features a visit to the Terry Ranch in southern Utah where an imposing rock stagecoach station once known as *Moroni Springs* stands next to the roadway. Family members tell viewers how silver bullion from nearby mines was hauled on stagecoaches and they share a favorite family recipe for Apple Crisp once served to stagecoach passengers.

"Back when the stagecoach would stop at the ranch and come through between Silver Reef and Pioche, Nevada. They'd stop at the ranch. They'd be able to change horses, get fresh horses to continue on, bathroom breaks whatever they had. Then Great-Great Grandmother Mary Ann Pulsipher Terry she'd prepare the meal for them." Dave Terry said about the family ranch.



STAGECOACH TRANSPORTATION-----Gronway Parry leads a stagecoach filled with passengers into a southern Utah venture. Parry collected and restored wagons and coaches citing their important historic value. Along with his brother Chauncy, Gronway started the Grand Canyon Transportation Company. --photo courtesy of Southern Utah University Special Collections.

At the Frontier Homestead State Park Museum *Discovery Road* is introduced to some of the original stagecoaches that traversed the state and transported people. Gronway Parry donated many of stagecoaches and wagons to the museum saying early transportation was an important part of the pioneer story. Parry and his brothers were also instrumental in developing camping and lodging for tourists and visitors to the American West. The Parry Lodge in Kanab, Utah is an operating example of the contributions his family made to preserving history. The lodge remains a popular spot on heritage highway 89 for visitors from around the world.

Discovery Road wanted to know what it was like to ride in a stagecoach so they headed to Declo, Idaho where they found a man who has worked for decades to tell the stagecoach story and keep it alive.

“It took us four or five years. I was still running the ranch at that time. So, I was working on it a little bit here and there. Until we finally got it done. I’m so proud how we got it so close to the original Concord. We’re just dang proud of it, and that’s all there is to it.” Ray Bagby said about his stagecoach efforts.



A replica 1886 Concord stagecoach is ready for a tour of the countryside in Declo, Idaho. The stagecoach was built by local rancher and craftsman Ray Bagby using Smithsonian Institute plans and vintage tools. -photo courtesy of Discovery Road

Discovery Road traveled north on highway 89 to uncover an amazing story about a stagecoach driver. Near the swift and cold currents of the Missouri River and sweeping beauty you only find in the state of Montana we found remnants of the compelling story of stagecoach driver Mary Fields. It's remarkable history you just don't hear every day. Fields used her gardening and hunting skills to assist St. Peter's Mission, but her independent spirit led to conflict and she was eventually dismissed to the nearby town of Cascade, Montana.

"It didn't lead to any shooting. They only had that sort of a brief confrontation, most of it verbal. The nudging of rifles together. But that's been blown into the myth of her as a gun slinger, shots being fired, and she could outshoot anybody on the streets of Cascade. Just outlandish things," said historian Ken Robison to *Discovery Road*.



BASEBALL & THE STAGECOACH DRIVER---In this historic 1880s photograph the Cascade, Montana baseball squad poses for a picture with their team mascot Mary Fields. Fields was the first black woman to deliver mail for the postal service. -Photo courtesy of *The History Museum Great Falls, Montana*.

Discovery Road Show producer and creator James Nelson says this episode offers stories that will educate and inspire people about the important role stagecoaches played in transporting people, treasure and dreams.

“The stagecoach is another beautiful piece of history about the settling of the American West. Brigham Young made sure the wagon masters of the day crossed through Utah territory, and did business with his people. It’s a fascinating ride into the past for viewers.” Nelson said.

Discovery Road is an award-winning ongoing documentary series broadcast each Saturday on the Utah Education Network (channel 9) at 6pm MST and on several local cable television stations in Utah and surrounding states. All episodes can also be found on the website mormonpioneerheritage.org.

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The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) is a federally designated area of central and southern Utah running along the beautiful and historic U.S. Highway 89 — including the All-American Road Utah State Route 12, and Capitol Reef Scenic Byway Utah State Route 24, which both intersect with U.S. 89 and together form the MPNHA’s Boulder Loop. The area includes the counties of Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield, and Kane.

The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance is the local coordinating entity of the MPNHA and receives annual funding from the National Park Service. Its purpose is to preserve, tell and interpret the stories, history, and heritage of the area, and to promote its culture and value.