

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



“Sharing The Legacy of a Transportation Empire”



"Sharing the Legacy of a Transportation Empire"

NSFWA President's Message

September 2024 Newsletter

Greetings NSFWA Members!!

Our year 2024 has been, so far, a successful year with interesting NSFWA activities. We sure hope that you had a great summer and are enjoying the Fall season. Your Board of Directors are hoping and praying for those families that were caught in the terrible storm, Helene, are faring well with the recovery efforts of many and soon let the rebuilding begin.

The 2024 NSFWA Conference, held at Virginia City and Nevada City Montana was well planned by our new NSFWA Events Coordinator, Ashlee Ganoung. We had fun and Ashlee pulled it off, without a hitch. Thank You Ashlee!! Please see the well written story about the NSFWA Conference, written by Jon Christensen and Tammy Harty in this newsletter. A thank you also goes out to our tour guides; Harlan and Joel Olson, who showed us a great old collection of Stagecoaches, Touring Coaches, Gold Ore Wagons, to name a few and a tour of two historic 1800's towns. Speakers: Thorton Waite, Jim Jarvis, Patrick Goodknight and Rawhide Johnson. Blacksmith: Jem Blueher, our "Book Lady" Kayo Fraser of Wild Horse Books, and our Friday night Dinner: prepared by Vigilante Carriage Service. We wish to give a huge thank you to the Ruby Dell Ranch, and its owners, Jim Anderson and Family, for a special day of enjoyable time at their historical old red barn that has been turned into a very nice reception hall. Last, but not least, to all of our members who attended. The Organization greatly appreciates your efforts of being there, and those mentioned that made it a success. Thank you each.

The NSFWA attended and was part of a weekend celebration, located at Bannack, the first Territorial capitol of Montana. At Bannack we set up a display of 3 types of Stagecoaches and gave talks to the public about all aspects of Stagecoach travel. We had a good turnout. Thank you to Rawhide Johnson, the organizer and David and Jennifer Woods for providing great old Coaches for the public viewing.

Looking ahead, 2025 hosts 1) Lyndon Farm Team Competition at Lyndon Ks. /April 26-27, 2025) 2) The 2025 NSFWA Conference at Scottsbluff/Gering Ne. /July 10-12.

All of these are in the works to get out more important information to you, before Jan 1.

I'll sign off for now,

Jeff McManus – NSFWA Pres.

We would like to welcome the following new members to the NSFWA; Jake Bauer (Kansas), Ron Sieg (Missouri), Nicholes and Debra Elings (Montana), Todd Johnson (Missouri), Ron Yates (Idaho), David and Jennifer Woods (Wyoming) , and Tate and Sue McKee (North Carolina).

In addition, we would like to announce that our Secretary, Julie Williams of Missouri, has now become a Board of Director!



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NSFWA News

We would like to make you aware of some changes to the NSFWA Newsletter that will be taking place. Starting in 2025, there will be three newsletters, as well as a change in story submission deadlines and mail out dates. Listed below are the new dates for the newsletters.

Submission deadline of February 15th/Mail out first week of March

Submission deadline of August 15th/Mail out beginning/mid-September

Submission deadline of December 1st/Mail out week of Christmas

This change was made mostly to give more time for the Spring events to be advertised. This change will also add one newsletter to the mail outs for the year to give the membership additional information to read. The December newsletter will most likely be smaller than the main two newsletters.

Also, we are always looking for stories you may have of history or something you did with your wagons, Before and After's from projects, as well as helpful books or resources that you may have that may help others in their research. If you have any information, feel free to send it to the NSFWA email or to Adam Hanger @ adamdhanger@gmail.com or call Adam at 540-490-2565.

Past Events

Farm Team Competition: (Lyndon, Kansas)

June 15-16, 2024

On June 20, the Lyndon Saddle Club with the support of our great local sponsors, and The National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association, Rural Heritage Magazine and the Kansas Draft Horse and Mule Association, was able to put on the 2024 Annual Farm Team Competition in Lyndon Kansas.

We had thirteen outstanding teams of multiple breeds. Teams came from as far away as Texas, we always welcome these out of state teamsters.

The Belt Buckle winner was a local Kansas teamster, Mr. Clay Sharp. He came to us from Stilwell, KS with a team of well-manicured Belgians. Out of the five classes, Clay won three first place, one second and one fifth, this gave him a total of twenty points and \$995.00. Not bad for two days of fun. The total pay-out for all five classes was \$3500.





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Our competition consists of five classes. Cultivator Challenge, which consists of two rows of fifty water bottles 20 feet apart. Using old farm cultivators, the object is to leave as many water bottles standing in the least amount of time. An old teamster watching the competition was over-heard saying "If I had cut off that much corn, Dad would have been adjusting my overall straps."

Our second event was a log skid using a small tree butt. There was a series of obstacles that had to be maneuvered as working through the timber. This was a timed event with both obstacles and penalties.

Our number three class was the barrel obstacle. Two Teamsters going at the same time, again, time and obstacles was navigated with a team not to break a trot, if the team broke out of a trot for more than two strides a penalty was assessed.

Our number four class was an obstacle course. The 1st place was given to the teamster with the best combined score from both days. Day one was with a fore-cart going over the bridges, maneuvering around a mailbox, over manhole covers, backing through several sets of cones, then turning back doing several more cones, and back over the bridges doing a figure 8 to the finish line.

The second day a four wheeled wagon was used, which made the course much more difficult. The teamster had to maneuver the wagon over a narrow bridge, back into a mock barn, then parallel park the way on the way out.

Our final class was the feed team challenge, which was also a combination of a two-day score. Having a scamper, the teamster must bring his/ her team, (yes, we had one lady teamster, and she is a very competitive driver - winning first place in the Cultivator challenge), with the sled, pull up to the first station and load all the hay and feed on the sled. The swamper must always be on the sled when the sled is moving, and the team must stand still while the swamper is loading and unloading. There was a total of four stations to stop at to load and unload. Two teams went at the same time, and again no loping.

On Saturday evening we provided a Chuckwagon Stew and cobbler for our sponsors and contestants. This meal was cooked over an open fire by HeartSlash Chuck Wagon - Mike and Connie Kitchener, Cedar Vale, Kansas. We want to give a special thanks to them for all their hard work in cooking and setting up the chuck wagon camp.

On Sunday morning there was Cowboy Church with many of the participants attending. The service was given by one of our contestants, Chuck Asbury.

We again want to thank all our participants, sponsors and spectators. Our hope is that everyone had a good time and will be back next year for a bigger and better show. We would like to see more local and out of state teams come and compete.

A Special Thank You to: Harrison Shooter Supply, Lyndon Kansas - Superior Real Estate Land Group, Lyndon Kansas - Calhoun Jewelers, Topeka KS - DNS Sanitation, Lyndon Kansas - Farm Bureau Investments, Osage City KS - Mid America Bank, Baldwin KS. with a heartfelt thanks to Rural Heritage Magazine, The Kansas Draft Horse and Mule Association and The National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association for their financial and moral support.

Story by Frank Burkdoll



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Past Events

2024 Annual Conference: (Virginia City and Nevada City, MT)

June 20-23, 2024

A Trip Back in Time.....

It is springtime 2024 and we are all set up for the cattle drive down Main St. in Prineville OR. It is the tradition that on the opening day for the Crooked River Roundup Rodeo, they drive the cattle down Main Street to the rodeo grounds. We had been asked to bring the Chuck wagon and our team of Haflingers to follow the herd down Main St. Years prior, the cattle stampeded at the end of the drive and made the headlines of the local newspaper. so, Jon is always up for one of those memorable adventures.



The newsletter from the NSFVA and the itinerary for the summer conference arrived and it looked very interesting to us. Neither Jon, nor Tammy, had heard of Virginia City, Nevada City, or Bannack, Montana, nor had we ever attended the conference. But we are always up for anything of the old west. This year's NSFVA conference sounded like just "up our Valley". So, we decided to switch it up and pulled out of the cattle drive! We sent our gold and staked our claim in this year's event.

Summer rolled in, Jon gathering our gear for the trail and Tammy picking her best old mare (Chevy Silverado). We decided to make a vacation of it. First, we headed off for Sun Valley, Idaho. A bit to the left and not out West for us. Next day off to Salmon, Idaho which has been on our radar as a potential relocation spot. We spent enough time there to figure out it was an unfriendly town and a good place to get in a brawl.

We mounted up for Dillon, Montana after a few days. The ride was interesting as we ran out of pavement for approximately 30 miles. After some switchbacks and a lot of crow hopping we got back on pavement towards Dillon. Dillon was our kind of town. Clean, warm and friendly. After lunch and picking out some chinks for the youngest granddaughter at the local Saddlery, we mounted up for the trail to Virginia City. We arrived in Virginia City, so we thought, and pulled right up to the hotel. All the doors were locked! The sign overhead said Nevada City. Puzzled, we walked a bit then looked in at the museum. They informed us we were in Nevada City and assured us that Virginia City was just up the road a bit. Tammy looked quite relieved and couldn't mount the old mare fast enough. That hotel looked very rustic and did not look habitable to her. (and it wasn't.)





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Jeff McManus pointing to writing on a rock. The writing is axle grease from years ago.

We arrived at the historic Fairweather Hotel in Virginia City. Much more comfortable looking than the hotel in Nevada City. The room they gave us was up a narrow windy back staircase and they informed us that room was haunted and on the ghost town tour. Somehow, we always end up in the haunted rooms. The room was small and cozy with a tiny bed. (As was common at that time.) Jon had planned ahead and brought his bedroll just in case there wasn't room for him in the bed. Lol!! We did hear strange sounds every night in the room and just assumed it was the ghost. After the third night, we figured out the strange noise was actually one of the blinds rattling on the headboard. Darn, no ghost.....

We spent Wednesday afternoon walking the streets of Virginia City and Nevada City. The storefronts were open and full of antiques. Endless amounts of smalls on the shelf. John found this quite fascinating being an avid antiquer and also one

himself. The quantity of duplicates was amazing. Tammy was taking what used to be called kodak moments. Lots of pictures with her phone. At one point we hit the vigilante stage stop right as the Stagecoach was

arriving. We got to meet Shiloh Moore who operates the stagecoach rides with her stepson Cody and his wife Hannah. Shiloh was exceptionally kind and allowed Jon to get a look over the Stagecoach. It was a replica of the Abbot Downing but done in fiberglass. Tammy talked up a storm with Shiloh and she invited us for a ride and a tour. We have a smaller stagecoach and realized that Jon had never ridden inside the coach- he always drives. It was quite a treat, and we learned a bit about the history of Virginia City. Our Stagecoach is also a replica and is not an Abbott Downing, but we know it was in a few movies. We were told it was "held up" several times in the movies.



Jon Christensen & Tammy Harty



Jem Blueher blacksmithing at the conference

Thursday afternoon was the meet and greet at the Bale of Hay Saloon. There we met our new friends from Missouri as well as Rawhide, Jeff, and others. We might even have met a few boys from Nebraska. Jon was shocked because he didn't realize anyone actually lived in Nebraska. There were many others who we did not meet and some we met later on. Friday morning, we met in some tall grass next door to the open air museum. Rawhide quickly noted the area was full of mosquitoes and headed out of the grass and towards the center of the ghost town. Harlan gave the tour of the ghost town of Nevada City. We got to see all of the old buildings and some places that the tourists don't get to see. The barn full of all the old vehicles was amazing and over the top. Just absolutely an amazing collection of wagons and buggies. We also got to see a blacksmith demonstration which was quite engaging for some.



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We both sat a while but mostly it was hot and dry so we wandered around town. We ended up in the saloon for a sarsaparilla. We both took tons of photos and when we stopped to look at the Sheriff's Office, several people wandered by and waved "Hey Sheriff". So, Jon took on that role and offered to take the ruly kids to jail.

We got a private tour of Harlan's cabin that he and his wife live in when they're in Nevada City. It's very primitive and has no modern luxury but does have an outhouse. That's a plus!!

That night was dinner barbecue style right out of the back of a chuck wagon at the Discovery Park. The event was hosted by Shiloh Moore, and Cody Moore was the cookie or camp chef. Dinner was tri-tip with all the fixings done over the fire and in Dutch ovens. We sat family style with our new friends from Missouri. Right after dinner, we got Dutch oven brownies for everybody. We loaded up into two wagons for a tour and history of the town. Jon studied everything over and noticed just a ring where the lines cross over on



the team of horses. Jon questioned Shiloh about that because we always use a heart with a ring on it and it's always flopping all over the place. Shiloh indicated that her horses were so lite mouthed, and she didn't want any added tugging on the lines. So, we learned something. Both of us enjoyed being hosted as mostly we are doing the hosting at home. It was a good night. Saturday morning, we all met in Alder at the Ruby Dell ranch. The morning was filled with a history of trains and how that impacted the use of stagecoaches. Rawhide shared information about thorough braces among other maintenance and care of harness and gear. We took a lot of notes.



Gold ore wagon that was used in the Virginia City, Montana

We skipped the directors meeting and instead went shopping in Virginia City. We also participate in the cowboy action shooting and are always dressing in the early 1900's clothing for the parades we do. We found a great store on Main Street with lots of that clothing and Jon found civil war era style boots, and Tammy a long "1893" style coat. Lots of treasures.

Then there was the Saturday Soiree with period clothing encouraged. This was held in the historic barn at the Ruby Dell ranch. All folks in costume were eligible for a drawing. The winner gets one year free membership to NSFVA. Only part of us dressed the part. It would have been quite a sight to have all of us dressed in that era clothing. Maybe that will happen next year.



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The next morning before saddling up, Jon met with Patrick for breakfast. They had a really good talk and Jon helped him load his buggy and horses for his trek home. We both enjoyed this trip to Montana and continued our ghost town adventure as we headed to Bannack on the way home. Another amazing ghost town.

On the way, we watched a cow moose wander into the road and we got to see her close up.

Somewhere along the way the boys from Nebraska mentioned next year's event might be held there in Nebraska. We are certainly looking forward to visiting Nebraska next year.

Overall a great experience. See ya next year..... Jon & Tammy – Bend, Oregon



Above Left: Patrick Goodknight's Mountain Wagon with a rave frame body.

Above Right: This photo shows the NSFVA giving one of our harness posters to the Anderson Family, owners of the Ruby Dell Ranch, in turn for the use of this historic old horse barn, to hear our speakers and dine. Left to right are: Jeanie Anderson-Bluett, Jeff McManus, Jim Anderson, and our Event Coordinator, Ashlee Ganoung, presenting The Ruby Dell Ranch the harness poster to hang in this barn for public viewing, during other events.

Past Events

Bannack Days: (Bannack, Montana)

July 20-21, 2024

One of the Events that the NSFVA participated in this year was the Bannack Days celebration, where we gathered 3 styles of Stagecoaches and showed them to the weekend visitors. The Stagecoaches are owned by, left to right, David & Jennifer Woods, Rawhide Johnson and Bannack State Park. This Event was well attended, and the speakers did a fine job presenting the important services that these coaches performed. The visitors had many questions.





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Upcoming Events

Farm Team Competition: (Lyndon, Kansas)

April 26-27, 2025

The Lyndon Saddle Club is holding their Fourth 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.

2025 Annual Conference: (Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska)

July 10-12, 2025

The NSFVA 2025 Conference will be held in Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska! The conference's top feature will be a start to finish demonstration of haying with horses and mules. It will also feature learning from speakers and each other; about, horse drawn wagons, coaches, service wagons, the importance of buggies and surreys, fire fighting equip. army wagons, and chuckwagons! We will explore the Legacy of the Plains Museum as well as make a short trip to see Fort Robinson, Fort Laramie, The Scottsbluff Monument, etc. There are also lots of other attractions as you come and go from the conference such as the Oregon Trail Ruts Site, Register Cliff, etc. Please stay tuned for more information to come as we get 2025's Conference planned out as this information is still in planning with some details tentative! For any questions, Contact Jeff McManus @ 307-272-1838.

Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium: (Council Grove, Kansas)

September 19-27, 2025

The Heart of the Flint Hills Chapter of the Santa Fe Trail Association is hosting the 2025 Santa Fe Trail Symposium in Council Grove, Kansas. The theme this year will be, "Marking a Road to Santa Fe: Set Your Sights on Sibley", which will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the 1825 Sibley Survey of the Santa Fe Trail. The NSFVA will be involved with the event September 19-20 with a wagon show. The Santa Fe Trail Association will be conducting other events during this time. Stay tuned for more information to come!



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Photo Gallery: A Glimpse from Cheyenne Frontier Days' Grand Parade

Photo Contributions: Hansenwheel.com, Frank Burkdoll



Left: Concord Stagecoach

Below: Tank Wagon



Left: Hitch Wagon

Bottom Left: Dairy Wagon

Below: Yellowstone National Park Touring Coach





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Photo Gallery: A Glimpse from Cheyenne Frontier Days' Grand Parade (continued)

Photo Contributions: Hansenwheel.com, Frank Burkdoll



Above is a picture of Peg Burkdoll driving her team of Haflingers. She is pulling a 3/4 stagecoach in the 2024 Cheyenne Frontier Days Parade. She pulled four parades in 10 days. Peg is the wife of Frank Burkdoll, one of our NSFWA Directors.

JR Hill Harness Poster Preservation Project

Poster size: 24" X 27 3/8"

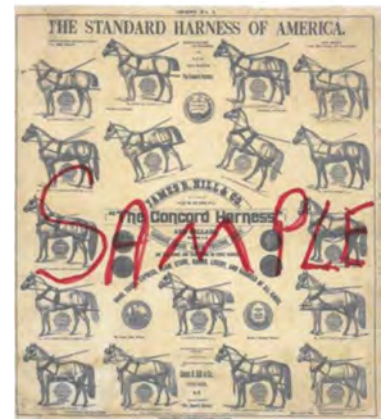
JR HILL HARNESS POSTER ORDER

Please make check to: National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association
_____ poster(s) each at \$130/member or \$150/nonmember Total Included:

For more information contact,

Jeff McManus @ 307-272-1838 or

Jerry Palmer @ 816-582-1209



Send Order To:
NSFWA Attn: Jerry Palmer
Box 77 Carthage, Mo. 64836



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Roads Well Travelled: Pictures from the Past and Historical Information

Rural Free Delivery: How Mailboxes Came About

Story by Adam Hanger, Photos by Adam Hanger and Library of Congress



Today, we have elaborate mailboxes on country roads, mail collection boxes in neighborhoods, and small post office boxes all across the country, but how did mailboxes come about?

The first contracted mail was carried by horseback. Later, the stagecoach and horseback went back and forth in popularity and usage. In 1845, Star Bids and Star Routes came about, and in 1863 Free City Delivery was started.

Prior to 1863, postage paid for only the transportation of the mail from post office to post office where citizens would then pick up their mail. An Act of Congress, that went into effect July 1, 1863, changed that when Free City Delivery began. The Free City Delivery provided a free service, other than the postage paid, to have mail delivered city-wide, "as frequently as the public convenience...shall require," according to the U.S. Postal Service history page. This eventually led one farmer to ask, "Why should the cities have fancy mail service and the old colonial system still prevail in the country districts?" This thought continued with the Postmaster of 1889-1893, John Wanamaker, who thought it made more sense to send one person out of town delivering the mail rather than everyone from the country into town to pick theirs up. Proposals were made and on October 1, 1896, Rural Free Delivery (RFD) commenced in three towns in West Virginia; Charles Town, Halltown, and Uvilla. Within a year, 44 other routes were in place in 29 different states. Rural Free Delivery, which provided delivery of the mail from post office to mailbox, was a success and became a permanent service on July 1, 1902, after going through nearly 6 years of experiment.

To provide this service, buggies and wagons were utilized. Larger wagons were used on the post office to post office transfers, while smaller wagons and buggies were used on the actual rural routes. These buggies and wagons were driven both single and as a team. RFD buggies commonly had an enclosed cab that set on top of the buggy or wagon running gear in which the driver would sit along with the mail. Some buggies or wagons would also have little boxes directly behind the buggy dash that would hold mail for the route.



Rural Free Delivery Buggy at Pony Express Barn & Museum, Marysville, Ks.

This buggy was driven by John Boyd, a rural carrier from Irving, beginning in 1911.



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Roads Well Travelled: Pictures from the Past and Historical Information

Rural Free Delivery: How Mailboxes Came About (cont'd)



Left: Pictured here are two photos taken of the inside of a RFD Mail Buggy. One picture looks to the front of the buggy and the other to the back showing the seat.

RFD Buggy from Pony Express Barn & Museum, Marysville, Ks.

One style of access door on these buggies was a sliding door. The sliding door ran in a groove that was at both the top and bottom of the opening. This can be seen in the picture at right.



Sources:

Harris & Ewing, photographer. *POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. PARCEL POST. RURAL FREE DELIVERY.* Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2016865323/>.

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Roads Well Travelled: Pictures from the Past and Historical Information



Deadwood Trail Freight Line Photo Courtesy of Doug Hansen, Hansen Wheel & Wagon Shop



1885 Deadwood Stagecoach Photo Courtesy of South Dakota Historical Society



Trail Creek Freight Train Photo Courtesy of Rawlinda Johnson



Freight Wagon Team Photo Courtesy of Doug Hansen, Hansen Wheel & Wagon Shop



Arizona Freighter Photo Courtesy of David Sneed, Wheels That Won The West® Archives



Mud Wagon Photo Courtesy of David Sneed, Wheels That Won The West® Archives



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Thank you to our partners!!

The American Chuck Wagon Association mission is to preserve the heritage of the chuckwagon.

For more information or if interested in joining, visit their website or contact them!

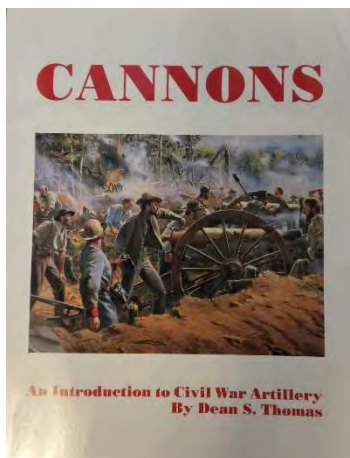


Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail Center Museum & Research Library!

It is our mission to provide visitors with fun and engaging educational opportunities to learn about the historic commerce route known as the Santa Fe Trail and the effect of Westward Expansion on what is now known as central Kansas.



Helpful Books: Here are books that you may find helpful in your historic preservation, restoration, and conservation.



Cannons: An Introduction to Civil War Artillery by Dean S. Thomas is a small book that lists and shows cannons, limbers, and caissons. It also has a drawing of a horse drawn travelling forge and battery wagon. This book is a very thorough resource for someone that is interested in Civil War artillery. It includes cannons from the small field cannons to large cannons used on seaboard garrisons.



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One Nation Under God



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.