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Photo by Marlea Hanson

Volunteers have helped to beautify Toledo's historic Oregon Trail marker prior to a Sept. 27 ceremony celebrating the marker's 100th anniversary.

Toledo Restores Historic Oregon Trail Marker

TOLEDO, Wash. – A dedicated group of volunteers has been cleaning and restoring the Oregon Trail marker and surrounding landscape in advance of a Sept. 27 ceremony, starting at 1 p.m.

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This year is the centennial of the original placements in 1916 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and is one of 10 such markers between Tumwater and Vancouver, Wash. Several members of the Olympia Sacajawea Chapter of the DAR helped remove decades of tarnish from the markers.

Toledo was a major stop on the Oregon Trail in 1844, connecting travelers coming up the Cowlitz River from Portland, with the main overland route to Olympia and Puget Sound.

According to the book "The Toledo Community Story," Ezra Meeker of Puyallup came through Toledo with his ox team, retracing the old Oregon Trail to put up permanent markers.

"The (Oddfellows) Hall was crowded to honor him," wrote Mrs. Ida Lyon of the historic event. Meeker was treated to a welcome song "We Come With Joy to Greet You" by a group of local singers and accompanying piano music. Meeker was reportedly so pleased by the music that he asked the group to repeat the performance.



