

P.S.

The First Horse Creek Treaty Marker



NSHS RG2546-8

Addison Sheldon and his grandson, Keith Sheldon, pose beside a monument along the Old Oregon Trail Highway, two-and-a-half miles east of Lyman, Nebraska, in June 1933. “Original Oregon Trail Crossed Highway at This Point,” the bronze plaque says, explaining that the First Fort Laramie Treaty was signed at the mouth of Horse Creek “10,320 feet N 29° 28’ W from this point.” The plaque describes other nearby historical sites with similarly precise compass bearings.

Today known as Lyman Road or County Road G, the road was once part of an early “automobile trail” tracing the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri, to the Oregon and Washington coast. The monument was placed with compass-savvy auto tourists in mind.

Although the seventy-two-year-old Sheldon was then superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Society and editor of *Nebraska History*

(positions he would hold until his death ten years later), the monument was not an NSHS project. The Society only began erecting state historical markers in the 1960s. A local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution placed this monument in 1929, with contributions from local citizens and the Union Pacific Railroad. It remains to this day, though it is no longer on a main tourist route. The NSHS has placed a state historical marker commemorating the Horse Creek Treaty Grounds along U.S. Highway 26 four miles west of Morrill.

—David L. Bristow, Editor

“Explore Nebraska History,” a free Android/iOS app for the state’s 500-plus official state markers is available at mynehistory.com