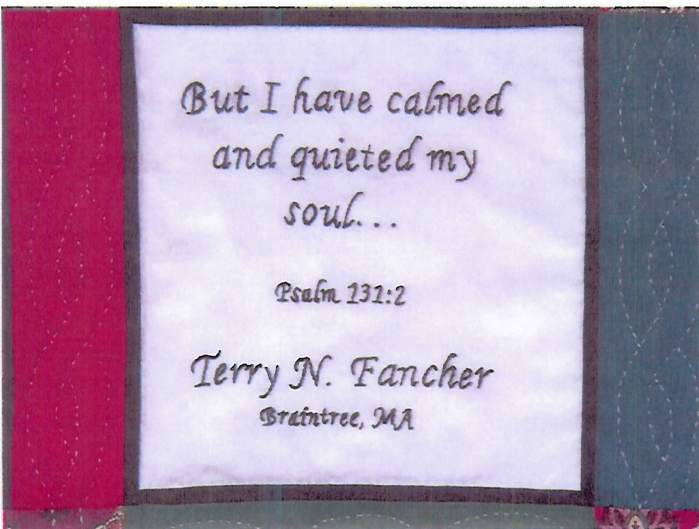


## ANNUAL MEETING



In the evening, the Mountain Meadows Association held the annual meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 PM and used the theme "Dusk At The Meadows." During this time, we noticed the temperature drop as the sun disappeared over the horizon; and we felt a brisk breeze whistle around us while we sat and listened to the program. Even though our lifestyles are radically different from people living in 1857, the atmosphere of this evening helped us to

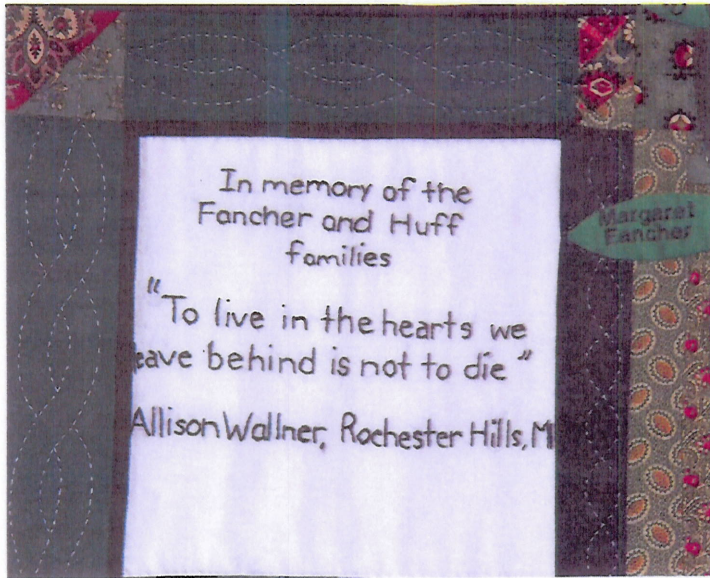
imagine what it might have been like for members of the wagon train at dusk in early September 1857.

President Terry Fancher introduced the speakers and gave each of them a plaque for their contribution in healing the emotional wounds that occurred because of the Massacre. Then, Lee Bracken, a former Board member, spoke first and told about President Gordon B. Hinkley asking him to have his congregation dismantle the 1932 monument so that a new one could be built. When his congregation began removing the rocks, Bracken said his superior church officials questioned his authority for destroying the monument. He calmed their fears and continued with this assignment.

Former Board member, Gene Sessions, expressed his feelings about traveling to Arkansas and meeting many fine people who had lost loved ones in the Massacre. He mentioned how the MMA worked to resolve the hard feelings that had lingered. He recalled hugging Patty Norris and explaining how he was related to her and thereby affectionately calling her his cousin.

Elder Marlin Jensen, LDS Church Historian, recalled visiting many of the relatives of those who died in the Massacre. Meeting in their homes, Jensen said, he felt a kinship with these fine people. Authors have documented many details about this tragic Massacre. We cannot change the past, he said, but we can express our deep feelings of regret. Assistant Church Historian, Richard E. Turley Jr., mentioned that designating Mountain Meadows as a National Historic Landmark was an important step in preserving this region as a sacred place.

Lysa Wegman-French from the United States Park Service explained that for years she had worked to protect this region at Mountain Meadows which is owned by the Forest Service. Therefore, during the process of applying for National Landmark Status, she eagerly used her influence to support this designation. It was clear from her remarks that she had both a personal and professional interest in the landmark designation.



As darkness began to sweep over the valley, we listened to Barbara Jones Brown's daughter, Grace, play some touching violin music. Then, Barbara and Anna Rolapp explained how they created a quilt from squares the victims and perpetrators produced to express remembrance and reconciliation. The words and the images on the quilt blocks truly represent our Association goals of honoring the dead and fostering historic preservation, fellowship, and reconciliation.

Board member, Rob Briggs, photographed 21 of the 48 blocks on this quilt. Following are some of the ideas stitched on the blocks. Thinking of honoring the dead, President Terry N. Fancher of Braintree, MA, quoted Psalms 131:2, "But I have calmed and quieted my soul." Board member, Allison Wallner of Rochester Hills, MI, wrote, "In memory of the Fancher and Huff families. To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die." Speaking for the Captain Alexander Fancher Family, Patty Norris stitched a covered wagon on her block and quoted Luke 12:2-3, "Gone but never forgotten."

Descendants of Captain John T. Baker – Donald Ray Baker, Cheri Baker Walker, and Janet Baker Passam - affectionately remembered their ancestors when they penned, "In memory and honor of our family who were killed and their children who survived. September 11, 1857. You are gone – but will never be forgotten." "In memory of LUCINDA & SUSANNAH DUNLAP (1845-1857) who endured unimaginable horror," wrote Anna T. Rolapp of Los Angeles, CA.

Many quilt blocks stressed fellowship and reconciliation. J. K. Fancher Jr. of Harrison, AR, reminded us that "Acceptance and Forgiveness bring healing." Jennifer H. Bertin of North Salt Lake, UT, quoted, "An eye for an eye makes the world blind. Ghandi. Forgiveness and love are all that we have now." The Kanosh Band of Paiutes mentioned, "Healing takes courage and is a matter of