

time and this connects us with healing others.” “Facing The Past To Heal The Present With Hope For The Future” was expressed by Richard E. Turley Jr., co-author of Massacre at Mountain Meadows. Larry and Colleen Coates of Rexburg, ID, illustrated the birth of the Mountain Meadows Association, when Ron Loving came to a John D. Lee family reunion. Ron sat across a table from Verne Lee, and they talked about forming an association for healing the wounds of the Massacre.

Some blocks stressed feelings of guilt. Berwyn and Virginia Andrus, descendants of John Mount Higbee, acknowledged, “We are sorry. Stitches in time to Overcome the fear, Bridge the Gap, Mend the fences, Bind Broken hearts. With love” from Bountiful, UT. From New York City, Richard and Claudia Bushman prayed, “THE MEMORY OF THE WRONG WE HAVE DONE WILL PURIFY US AS A PEOPLE.” “History cannot be un-lived, but understanding makes both the present and the future brighter,” Marlin K. Jensen from Huntsville, UT, concluded.

### DEDICATION SERVICES

On Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>, some 300 relatives and friends met in a tent near the monument at the location of the siege to celebrate the Mountain Meadows site as one of the fourteen National Historic Landmarks recognized in 2011 for this status. Outside, twenty-four red flags whipped in a strong wind. Each flag contained family names of those who died in the Massacre. The services began with the posting of the colors.



Jock Whitworth, Superintendent of Zion National Park, substituted for Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, who was in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, to dedicate the site where the hijacked Flight 93 crashed exactly ten years ago. After mentioning that Salazar had wanted to be in Utah as well, Whitworth read a letter from Salazar saying, “The Mountain Meadows Massacre site is a sobering place – a place where the consequences of a senseless act are still felt, but where the changes that have occurred in the aftermath offer hope.” Salazar added, he believed the Historic Landmark status will help reconcile the relatives of the victims and the Latter-day Saints.

All the 2,400 Historic Landmarks, Whitworth declared, have "exceptional value" in recalling the American past. "Each ... landmark is an indispensable chapter in our national story," he noted and then added, "They include the shining episodes, but they also include the darkest and most difficult, even the one that occurred here 154 years ago today." Whitworth also gave an important letter about this recognition to each of the three associations. This letter will be posted on our website.



As a powerful gust of wind swept through the tent, Whitworth clutched his hat and spoke about the meaning of the word reconciliation. In one sense, it means to restore friendship or harmony. It also means to reconcile an ideal with reality. Finally, it means to accept or reconcile something unpleasant. After urging the Mormons and the relatives of the victims to seek harmony, he presented plaques to the LDS Church, the Forest Service, and the landowners of the 750 acres designated as a National Historic Landmark. This region represents only part of some 2,500 acres that includes a grassy meadow surrounded by rolling hills covered with cedar trees and sagebrush.

Historian Lysa Wegman-French spoke as a representative of the Intermountain Regional Office of the National Park Service. "The designation means," she explained, "the United States has recognized that this site is among the most important in U.S. history." She compared it with "the Emmy or Oscar awards for actors. This is public recognition of the importance of the site to the nation."

