

Late News From The Meadows
The Mountain Meadows Association Newsletter
Honoring the Dead • Historic Preservation • Fellowship & Reconciliation

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SESQUICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

During the sesquicentennial, the Mountain Meadows Association participated in a variety of activities to honor those who died or survived the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Hopefully this word picture and the photos will bring back fond memories for those who came to the memorial services and will provide some insight about the memorial activities for those who were unable to attend the meetings from 7 through 11 September 2007.

Christopher Carson “Kit” Marker



In Arkansas, MMA Board member, Lynn-Marie Fancher, worked with the Fancher-Seitz Cemetery Memorial Society in Arkansas and arranged to replace the marker for one the survivors, Christopher Carson "Kit" Fancher. Along with 15 other survivor children, Kit and his younger sister, Tryphenia, lived through the terrible massacre while seven of their brothers and sisters died. They were children of Captain Alexander Fancher and Eliza Ingram. Upon Kit and Tryphenia's return from Utah to Arkansas in 1859, uncle James Fancher, along with his three sons, Hamp, Tom and Polk with son-in-law James Wick Kenner, met the two children near Carrollton and brought them to Osage for a family reunion. An older cousin, Hampton Bynum Fancher, became guardian for these two orphans. Eventually, Kit become a much beloved member of the James Fancher family. Along with his cousins, he also became well educated and a respected member of the Presbyterian Church. Before his death at age 21, he joined the Osage Masonic Lodge No. 66, later known as the Ashley Lodge.

On Monday 10 September 2007, Tom Morris of Bentonville, Arkansas, dedicated the new monument in the old Fancher Cemetery, which has been renamed the Fancher-Seitz Cemetery. The property is located on the original James Fancher farm along the road to Delmar about a mile east of Osage, Arkansas. The direct descendants of James & Elizabeth (Carlock) Fancher own the land. Caretakers of the cemetery are Tom Morris and his cousin, Lynn-Marie Fancher of Milwaukie, Oregon, and Holiday Island. They are the great-great-great-grandchildren of James Fancher. They express their appreciation and grant special recognition to J.K. Fancher of Harrison, Arkansas, and Geraldine Fancher Dixon of Portland, Oregon, for their support and significant contributions over the years to the cemetery fund.

To know more about the Fancher-Seitz Cemetery or to make a contribution to this worthy cause, contact the caretakers at fancher.history@msn.com. The family appreciates any who make donations to pay the expenses for the survey and the marker.

Southern Utah Activities

In Utah from Friday September 7th through Tuesday the 11th, MMA sponsored and participated in a variety of activities to honor those who died at the Massacre. Lynn-Marie Fancher and Alison Wallner organized the details for each of the services that MMA hosted on this important occasion. President Terry Fancher arranged for printing the program.

Friday Get Together

Friday evening, eighty people met in the Crystal Inn, registered, and picked up the very professionally printed program that outlined important details for all activities from Friday until Tuesday. Registration also included Robert Steinegger's grandfather's signed lithograph of the massacre site. During the get-together, President Terry Fancher welcomed the group and affirmed our solemn commitment to the MMA goals of honoring the dead, historic preservation, fellowship, and reconciliation.

He then invited everyone to introduce themselves, explain their relationship with the Association, and express their feelings. This forum sparked spontaneous bonds of friendship. Many renewed old acquaintances; others discovered unknown relatives; and still others made new friends. Mr. Dean came half way around the world from Australia. Keith Jeffreys also joined the meeting and arranged to interview several people during the sesquicentennial. He has videoed many of the previous memorial services and is making a documentary. Following the introductions, the group enjoyed refreshments and visiting with new and old friends.

Memorial Service at the Meadows

The Saturday morning memorial service proved to be an extremely emotional experience for some 300 attendees. It was held near the monument at the siege site at 10:00 AM. MMA officers deeply appreciate the large open tent, electricity, sound system, bleachers, some 400 chairs, a rostrum, water, and restrooms that the LDS Church provided.



The service began when Amber Biggs walked along a path into the worship service playing the prelude "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. People reported tingling sensations go up and down their spine and feeling a special kinship with the dead. Rob Briggs said this music sent him "into emotional meltdown. . . I simply wasn't prepared for "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. In fact, I had a hard time singing any of the hymns -- it was too emotional. These emotions continued when the congregation joined the Inspiration Choir in singing "Nearer My God To Thee."

Then, Reverend Buddy Herrington from the Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church offered a touching prayer and led the congregation in repeating the 23rd Psalm, which begins "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down in green pastures" and ends with "And I will Dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." The Inspiration Choir then sang "How Great Thou Art."

Then after reading John 14:1-6, Reverend Harrington introduced his message by reciting some major historical events where people refused to forgive one another. Then, he extended an invitation to all to heal the wounds of the past with a spirit of reconciliation . Briggs praised Reverend Harrington for suggesting "the need for forgiveness, regardless of whether the full truth of the massacre could or would ever be known. I enjoyed his style of preaching, which was personal and accessible without being overly emotional."



MMA President, Terry Fancher, then read the names of those who died 150 years ago in this valley at Mountain Meadows. When he read each name and paused briefly, his clear voice reverberated across the valley and brought to our minds the sober realization that this tragic event left an indelible impact not only on relatives and friend but on millions of people. Hearing the children's names, Rob Briggs pondered, "I have granddaughters the ages of some of those young girls. . . 'Who could kill a 10 y[ear] o[l]d girl?'"

Next, the Inspiration Choir sang "Abide With Me," and members of the congregation placed flowers and



wreaths at the grave site. Then, Reverend Harrington offered a pastoral prayer, and the congregation joined the Inspiration Choir in singing “Rock of Ages.”

The benediction to the service left a powerful message in the hearts and minds of the congregation when we recited in unison, “And so it is that we affirm: Love believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends... Faith, hope, love abide... But the greatest of these is love. Love has gathered us and love lets us depart with renewed faith and hope.” When Amber Biggs played “Highland Cathedral” as the postlude on bagpipes, people felt the sounds touch their hearts and souls and stamp the messages of this day deep in their minds and hearts.

Following the service, people mingled and visited with each other about the meaning of this special service. Many people reported being deeply moved by Reverend Harrington’s powerful message, President Fancher’s reading of the names, and singing by the Inspiration Choir. As a result, folks reached across the Utah-Arkansas divide and extended hands of fellowship to people they did not know. Some lingered and listened to the Blue Sage Trio play western tunes and folk songs, which helped capture the joy members of the wagon train felt when they sang songs on their journey to California.



Annual Dinner Meeting

At 5:30 on Saturday evening September 8th, approximately 200 people gathered in the Entrada Room in the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah. They listened to music played by May Richardson and Jackie Colman and watched slides of winter, summer, spring, and fall flash on the screen of various locations along the Spanish trail.

At 6:00 PM, President Fancher welcomed the audience to the annual banquet. He extended a special welcome to our distinguished guests Iia May Richardson, Jackie Coleman, Reverend Ralph Clingan, Elder I. Lee Ence, Colonel A. L. Matheson, and David L. Bigler. Terry also thanked members of the Board for working so diligently in making preparations for the memorial services, the dinner and annual meeting. He also read a statement about the New Kit Carson Fancher Marker.

Following the introduction, Terry invited Reverend Ralph Clingan from the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church to say grace. In an orderly fashion, Terry then directed the rows of people seated at the tables to pass through the serving lines for the buffet dinner and return to their seats. During the meal, members visited with those who sat near them and enjoyed a wonderful fellowship.

When members entered the dining hall, the MMA offered them an opportunity to buy raffle tickets. According to the rules, the person holding the winning ticket would get one half the money that was collected and the Association would get the other half. So after dessert and a musical interlude, Terry conducted the 50/50 raffle. As an additional incentive, Terry gave a second prize by donating a first edition of Fawn Brodie’s *Know Man Knows My History*.

Next, the Mountain Meadows Association gave two awards. President Fancher reviewed many of LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley’s accomplishments for the Mountain Meadows Association. He played a vital role in the erection and dedication of the Monument of Dan Sill Hill in 1990 and the design, construction, and

dedication of the site at the Siege Site in 1999. In addition, President Fancher expressed his gratitude for President Hinckley protecting many acres of land in the Mountain Meadows from housing developments. Then, President Fancher read “The Lifetime Achievement Award” which says “The Mountain Meadows Association Board of Directors Commends Gordon B. Hinckley President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints For a lifetime of commitment to the preservation of the Mountain Meadows Massacre Site September 8, 2007.” Since 97 year old President Hinckley was unable to attend, President Fancher presented the award to Elder I. Lee Ence, who graciously accepted it on behalf of President Hinckley.



Acting as Vice President, Larry Coates presented an award to President Terry Fancher for his father, J.K. Fancher Jr., who was unable to be in Utah on this special occasion. This Lifetime Achievement Award reads “The Mountain Meadows Association Board of Directors Commends J.K. Fancher Jr. For a lifetime of fostering reconciliation between all parties affected by the Mountain Meadows Massacre September 8, 2007.” A very touching moment occurred when President Fancher phoned his father, who then spoke over the cell phone and through loud speakers to the audience and graciously accepted this award. All who know J.K. Fancher Jr. realize how appropriate this recognition is, because he truly has worked diligently both publicly and privately for the ideals of the Association.

Following making these awards, Colonel A. L. Matheson, Utah Director of the Old Spanish Trails Association, gave an illustrated presentation on the old Spanish Trail in Utah. He provided historical data to demonstrate that there was no one single Spanish trail but many paths that made up this trail. He projected maps as well as a computerized flight simulation of aerial views of the route the wagon train probably took through southern Utah in 1857.

Then, David L. Bigler delivered the keynote address entitled, “A Few Good Men.” He argued persuasively that forgiveness must be based on truth rather than myths. We must shatter the myths and enshrine the truth about the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He supported this view by citing myths that sound research has destroyed about the people in the wagon train, the Indians, and those who killed the immigrants. The audience clapped loudly and gave Bigler a standing ovation.

In his closing remarks, Terry thanked all those who participated in this annual meeting and extended an invitation for people to join in all the activities that would be held from Sunday through Tuesday September 11th. Following these remarks, Reverend Ralph Clingan offered the benediction.

Sunday Services

Early Sunday morning, members of the Association attended services with the Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants at the Mountain Meadows siege site. Then at 1:00 PM, eighty three members from our Association attended services in the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in St. George, Utah.

The Bell Choir began by playing a prelude, “Jesus the Very Thought of Thee.” Then Reverend Ralph Clingan extended a hand of fellowship to all people in the congregation. He said that in all his years of speaking at funerals, this was the first time he spoke to a group who had relatives that died 150 years ago. Then in his call to worship, he stated, “Our help is in the name of the Lord.” The people responded, “Who made heaven and earth.” Reverend Clingan added, “Praise the Lord.” And the congregation replied, “The Lord’s name be praised.”

Following the congregational hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” Reverend Clingan offered a “Prayer for Illumination” and read from the Old Testament Psalms 139, 130, 103, and 23. Next, the Bell Choir played “Amazing Grace,” and the Reverend read New Testament selections from John, 2 Corinthians, and Romans.

As “Words of Promise and Assurance,” he then spoke on the theme, “A Common Spirit.” Making reference to David Bigler’s talk, Reverend Clingan urged us to recognize that there were more similarities than differences between the Mormon pioneers and Arkansas wagon train. They both shared a pioneering spirit; they loved their families; they had very high hopes for the future; and each group stressed being a people of faith.

These similarities became as clear today as they were 150 years ago when President Terry Fancher slowly and distinctly read each name of those who died at Mountain Meadows. Then, the Choral Choir sang the appropriate song, “Thy Will Be Done.” After the Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer, the congregation sang “Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessings.” Then the Bell Choir played the postlude for the services, “Go Ye Now in Peace.”

These services were truly impressive. Terry and Cathleen Fancher were deeply touched. Terry remarked, “I particularly liked the bell choir at the Presbyterian Church and felt at home. . . I believe EVERYONE enjoyed their messages of reconciliation.”

Tuesday 11 September 2007

Nearly 400 people gathered at the Mountain Meadows grave site and watched the simulation of the wagon train enter the Massacre location. According to Rob Briggs, “the two scouts on horseback and the wagon were colorful and effective. As they rounded the bend and rode to the siege site, you got the sense of what it was like when the emigrants first arrived.” Many of the descendants applauded when speakers mentioned crosses on the wrought iron fence surrounding the Monument



and the flags for the Baker, Dunlap, Fancher, and other families, which were situated near those of the United States and Arkansas. Even though these activities made the program start about one-half hour late, Briggs observed they “added a degree of spectacle which I thought was appropriate.”

President Terry Fancher participated in this very important Commemoration Service. His message focused on three important words – reconciliation, relationships, and closure. Terry made it clear that no publication in the form of books, films, pictures, or documentaries has ever captured “the whole truth of what happened” in the massacre. Furthermore, he added, no person alive today “was present 150 years ago.” Consequently, we need the spirit of forgiveness. To strengthen this idea, Terry quoted thoughts from Board members Lynn-Marie, Larry Coates, Alison Wallner, & others who were unable to attend this service. Rob Briggs also spoke some very appropriate words with reference to this theme as well as Leroy Lee.



Another member of the Board, Verne Lee, demonstrate the spirit of forgiveness. Before the recent monuments were built, Ron Loving came to a John D. Lee family reunion and became a good friend to Verne. Over the years, however, they developed hard feelings for each other. So when Verne spoke, he invited Ron to join him. Rob Briggs captured this idea when he said, “the initial bridge between those two gentlemen symbolizes the bridge we’d like to build among individuals from both sides of the divide. It was worth it to make that point alone.”

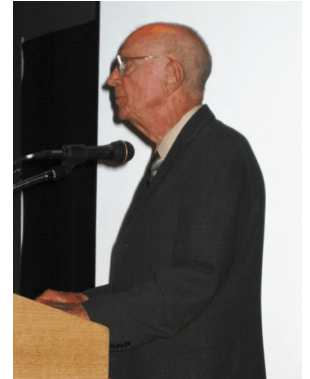
Some of the descendants of the seventeen surviving children participated in these services. Jerilyn Jones Clayton made a brief presentation. Patty Norris read the names of those who died in the Massacre and honored Clive Burgess and Kent Lytle for protecting the land where many of the victims died 150 years ago.

Phil Bolinger, Burr Fancher, Diane Fancher spoke for the Members of the Mountain Meadows Massacre

Foundation. In a poem, Diane linked the events in 1857, 1859, and 1861 with 2007 the year “peace was made.” While some folks expected the Foundation members to present a demand for federal stewardship to LDS Church leaders, but they instead “presented Elder Eyring with letters and petitions from the Arkansas senators and the descendants but the call was for designating the Mountain Meadows as a National Historic Landmark. In future issue of the newsletter, we will discuss this important issue.



When Elder Henry B. Eyring spoke as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve “on behalf of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” he declared, “The truth, as we have come to know it, saddens us deeply,” “The gospel of Jesus Christ that we espouse, abhors the cold-blooded killing of men, women, and children,” he continued and then added, “Indeed, it advocates peace and forgiveness.



What was done here long ago by members of our Church represents a terrible and inexcusable departure from Christian teaching and conduct.”

Elder Eyring then made two important statements of regret. First, he said, “We express profound regret for the massacre carried out in this valley 150 years ago today and for the undue and untold suffering experienced by the victims then and by their relatives to the present time.” Second, he stated “A separate expression of regret is owed to the Paiute people who have unjustly borne for too long the principal blame for what occurred during the massacre. Although the extent of their involvement is disputed, it is believed they would not have participated without the direction and stimulus provided by local Church leaders and members.”



In speaking of those who massacred the emigrants, Elder Eyring, said, “They and their relatives have also suffered under a heavy burden of guilt. No doubt Divine Justice will impose appropriate punishment upon those responsible for the massacre. Nevertheless, our continued prayer for their relatives is that knowledge of a God who is both just and merciful will bring a measure of peace to their souls.”

Three authors have had full access to all relevant materials held by the Church and they are publishing a new book through Oxford University Press, Elder Eyring said, and they drew “two significant conclusions. . . (1) that the message conveying the will and intent of Brigham Young not to interfere with the immigrants arrived too late, and (2) that the responsibility for the massacre lies with local leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the regions near Mountain Meadows who also held civic and military positions and with members of the Church acting under their direction.”

Visit Our Bookstore

The Mountain Meadows Association website lists recent publication and media that members may wish to read. The MMA, however, does not endorse any of these publication; we only offer the list. We accept the idea that critical reading and watching books and videos opens the door to a better understanding of this tragic event.

MMA bookstore hope to raise funds by selling such items as the “Old World Christmas Covered Wagon Ornament” and the PBS home Video *The Mormons* which contains the episodes "Mountain Meadows" and "The Ghosts of Mountain Meadows." MMA also offer subscriptions to the *True West* magazine. During this holiday season, consider placing orders soon by going to our website www.mtn-meadows-assoc.com/mma_store.htm

Slides of the Sesquicentennial

Certainly, MMA members will want to contact Hampton Photograph, because they have offered for sale two slide shows. The slides contain all but one of the fifteen activities of the Sesquicentennial that was held in Southern Utah September 7 through the 11th. The first show, CD-20, was created with *Photoshop CS2* and *Pictures to EXE* and will play on a PC, but not a Mac. This show has 500 plus photographs that are identified by names, direction, and event. The slides automatically cycle every five seconds with background music. CD-20 is copyrighted and can not be reproduced. It sells for \$20.00 post paid USPS.

The second show, CD-50, is not an automatic show but a self-controlled presentation. It contains the same images as CD-20, but there are no titles or names on the images. Hampton permits reproduction of these high quality pictures for personal enjoyment, but will not allow them to be used in professional reproduction, advertising, websites, books, magazines or other publications. Hampson Photography sells CD-50 for \$50.00.

For copies of these slide shows, contact Hampton Photography 601 W. Ridge Ave., Harrison, AR 7260, call (870)-365-0909, or if you use e-mail, be sure to put in the Subject box: MMM or the spam filter may block the e-mail. Contact at fhampson@alltel.net "MACROBUTTON [HtmlResAnchorfhampson@alltel.net](#) Hampton accepts personal checks, postal money orders, or cash. Keep in touch with Hampton Photography, because they are considering producing a DVD so the images may be seen on TV rather than on a PC computer monitor.