

Late News From The Meadows

The Mountain Meadows Association Newsletter (Honoring the Dead, Historic Preservation, Fellowship, & Reconciliation) Volume 16 • Number 3 • November, 2013

THE UTAH QUILT

Friday morning November 1, 2013, Board members met with Barbara Jones Brown and Anna Rolapp, designers of the Remembrance and Reconciliation Quilts. They joined us in exploring three locations in St. George, Utah, one of which could serve as a possible permanent home for the Utah quilt. The other quilt will be placed in Arkansas.



Four principles guided our selection of a site. First, we wanted an area that provided as much public exposure as possible. Second, we looked for people who felt considerable passion for displaying this masterpiece. Third, we needed to find a region protected from theft and the hazards of the environment. Fourth, we searched for a place that would be acceptable to all

those who had a vested interest in displaying the quilt.

At 10:00 am, we met with Dr. Stephen D. Nadauld, President of Dixie State University. He took us into the boardroom. We unfolded the quilt and laid it on a large table. Dr. Nadauld's eyes sparkled when he saw the beauty and heard the story behind this important piece of history. He then discussed the challenges of finding a satisfactory place on campus to display this artistic gem. He phoned a lady who knew every possible location. She took us to the library and various other potential sites. All the rooms were either too small, had too much light, or did not have much public exposure.

Next, we talked with Gary Sanders and Deborah Reeder in the St. George Art Museum. They showed us their current exhibit, "Dorothea Lange's America," which highlighted three Mormon towns. Reeder and Sanders explained the museum did not have facilities for

permanent displays, because the exhibits are periodically rotated.



Finally, we went to the St. George Chamber of Commerce, which is currently housed in an old courthouse. On the second floor, we saw a room that displayed historic paintings and quilts on all sides of the room. After seeing the potential in this old courtroom, we showed the quilt to two staff members. We expressed our desire to find a good location where visitors would be able to view this artistic masterpiece and grasp the meaning behind it. The staff members told us they have hundreds of people come to see the building every year. They seemed very eager to have this quilt on permanent display. We talked about various locations in the

courtroom. The staff members said they did not have control over decisions about the quilt, but they said they would talk with the chairperson of the Chamber Board.

MMA ANNUAL MEETING

After gathering in the Sabra room in the Lexington Hotel, we pledged allegiance and listened to Robert Briggs Jr.'s opening prayer. President Terry Fancher made a few pertinent observations, gave the treasurer's report, and conducted the election of officers.



He then introduced Dr. Douglas Alder, who spoke about the difficulties Juanita Brooks experienced while publishing *The Mountain Meadows Massacre*. For example, she had to keep her research private to avoid being ostracized. Church officials refused to give her access to important documents. After printing the book, people in Southern Utah shunned her as an apostate and a traitor.

Next, Terry introduced Anna T. Rolapp and Barbara Jones Brown as the creators of two quilts, one for Arkansas and one for Utah. They pointed to the features on the quilt with reference to the title, "Remembrance and Reconciliation" and explained the following symbolisms:

The vine around the edges of the quilt represents all the victims in the Massacre. The branches display their families, and the leaves recall the names of those who died, while the flowers depict the children who survived. The green on the outside edges of the quilt depicts the vegetation in the Ozarks in northern Arkansas. The red portrays the mountains and the arid climate in Southern Utah.

The words written on the blocks by people on both sides of this terrible disaster bond the descendants of the victims and perpetrators of the Massacre together in forgiveness, reconciliation, and remembrance. At the conclusion of this presentation, the audience expressed their feelings of gratitude for all who participated on the program.

At the end of the program, President Fancher gave awards to Dr. Douglas Alder,

Anna T. Rolapp, and Barbara Jones Brown for their significant contributions to healing the wounds of the Massacre. Then, Robert Briggs, Jr. surprised President Fancher by giving our MMA president an award for his extensive contributions and endless service to the Association. Terry prayed at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

SATURDAY SESSION



After driving to Mountain Meadows, we felt a kinship with these victims when we placed wreaths, that were created by Patsy Lamb, on three sacred locations: Dan Sill Hill, Siege Site, and the Men's Monument. We finished our annual meetings by going with Tom and Patsy Lamb to their cabin in the Meadows. The Lambs expressed their generous hospitality by providing us with a wonderful meal.

MMA MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your annual dues, please do so. Membership dues cover from January to January. Individual memberships are \$20.00. Family memberships are \$35.00.

Lifetime membership for an individual is \$250.00. Lifetime family membership is \$400.00. Lifetime memberships of those who currently hold lifetime memberships will still be honored. Members who donate money beyond their basic membership fees will receive formal recognition in the following categories: Bronze for donations of an extra \$100.00; Silver for donations of an extra \$250.00; Gold for donations of an extra \$500.00; and Platinum for donations of an extra \$1,000.00.

These funds are used exclusively to pay for the expenses of the Association. None of the money pays for any personal income for the administration. We are a tax exempt non-profit organization. Please, keep your receipts for tax deduction purposes.

Please pay your membership dues by following the instructions on the form below. Furthermore, please forward this newsletter to relatives and friends and encourage them to join the Mountain Meadows Association. If you have not paid your annual dues since January 2013, please fill out the form below and send it to Terry Fancher at tfn49@aol.com or mail it to 16 Spencer Street, Braintree, MA 02184. You may also pay dues on line at <http://www.mtnmeadowsassoc.com/duesform.htm>. And you may also send your membership to Tom Lamb, M.M.A. Treasurer, c/o 1035 McKinley Way, Saint George, UT 84790.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

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Please check the following appropriate categories:

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