

Late News From The Meadows
The Mountain Meadows Association Newsletter
Honoring the Dead, Historic Preservation, Fellowship, & Reconciliation
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Members of the MMA feel deeply about honoring those who died at Mountain Meadows in Southern Utah in 1857. For many years, we have collaborated with the LDS Church, government officials, and other Associations which include the Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation and the Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants. Consequently, our joint efforts have improved the physical environment at the Meadows by building monuments, posting plaques and road signs, constructing restrooms, acquiring land, and conducting memorial services. We have collectively gained National Historic Landmark status for the Meadows. In addition, we have fostered fellowship and reconciliation between the descendants of both the victims and the perpetrators of the Massacre.

HISTORIC SALT LAKE CITY MEETING

Before our annual meeting, we met with Elder Steven Snow, Elder Marcus Nash, Richard Turley Jr., Benjamin Pykles, and Jennifer Lund. They all expressed a strong commitment to collaborate with MMA, the Foundation, and the Descendants in preserving

Mountain Meadows as sacred space forever.



Vandalism has become a serious problem. To help with this difficulty, Jennifer Lund said the stolen bronze burial markers from the Meadows were replaced with granite pavers with the same text as the original plaques. Apparently, the vandals steal bronze to sell the metal. On Thanksgiving day, thieves took ten bronze markers in the Salt Lake area. Consequently, security will be increased at Mountain Meadows with frequent visits by the residents from the Enterprise Stake. To preserve the Monument on Dan Sill Hill, Lund added, the LDS Church is negotiating a maintenance agreement with the Forest Service.

Benjamin Pykles discussed the challenges of two power line projects. Because of careful

negotiations, the Sigurd to Red Butte project will apparently not have an adverse impact on Mountain Meadows. MMA members are urged to review the document that outlines the impact on historic properties but not to comment. There are serious visual effects, but they will be worked out.

The second project is an extra high [3,000] volt line that starts in Wyoming and goes through Utah, Nevada, and Arizona into Southern California. The preferred route will be out in early 2013. Pykles said the Forest Service has made the power companies use a small corridor, but this project may force the government to enlarge the space for electrical transmission. After this proposal is made public, we need to review it, write our comments, and send them to Jennifer Lund at LDS Church Historic Sites.

Pykles announced the LDS Church officials recently approved the Strategic Master Plan for 2012 to 2032. This plan includes the Mountain Meadows site. It defines the landscape and expresses the commitment to protect and preserve the land.

Before adopting this Master Plan, the LDS Church officials hired Heritage Landscape to make recommendations. This company designed strategic plans for such locations as the United States Capitol, Thomas Jefferson popular forest, Colonial National Historic Park, and Lincoln Cottage. They want each Association to comment on the plan.

Lund reminded us that just as the American cemetery in Normandy “has a great deal of power,” so does the National Historic Site at Mountain Meadows. For example, she cited Joshua Laurence Chamberlin’s feelings twenty years after Gettysburg. He reportedly said, “In great deed, something abides. On great fields, something stays. Vision – a place for souls. Never forget, and never again.” Meadows.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The MMA Board held a Strategic Planning Session on Friday December 14th, 2012. We discussed re-instituting the web guest book. We dropped this feature because of problems with spam messages posted on our website. We deeply appreciate Allison Wallner for managing our site, which includes many

photographs, a guest book, membership news, newsletters, annual dues forms, tax exemption letter, bookstore, DVDs, and videos. Please also notice the web-tab entitled Support the MMA Donate Today. In addition, the web page contains information about the wagon train – the emigrants, the children who survived and died, survivor accounts, and family links. In addition, the site includes information on the National Historic Landmark status, the monuments and plaques that have been erected, and the 150th Anniversary. Furthermore, it contains the J.K. Fancher Collection, government reports, scientific reports, and John D. Lee Trials and Confession.

We looked toward the future of the Association. We discussed attracting the younger generation by reaching out to junior and senior high school students in various states. We explored internet links to informed people such as Ben Pykles, Shane Baker, Shannon Novack, Jennifer Lund, and others. We considered inviting guests to write articles for the newsletters. We want to build a link to the authors of current historical scholarship.

We listed nine plans for 2013: 1. Encourage the three Association presidents to reach a consensus about the language on the interpretive plaques; 2. Develop security systems at Mountain Meadows with possible webcams.; 3. Invite the Lee family to become more involved in the Association; 4. Create a mini-web facebook page; 5. Set up links to local school systems; 6. Protect Mountain Meadows from the intrusion of the Red Butte # 3 and the Transwest power line projects; 7. Increase our membership and funds for important projects; 8. Clearly define succession plans; 9. Recruit new Board members to keep a relatively even balance between the relatives of the descendants and the perpetrators.

ANNUAL MEETING 2012



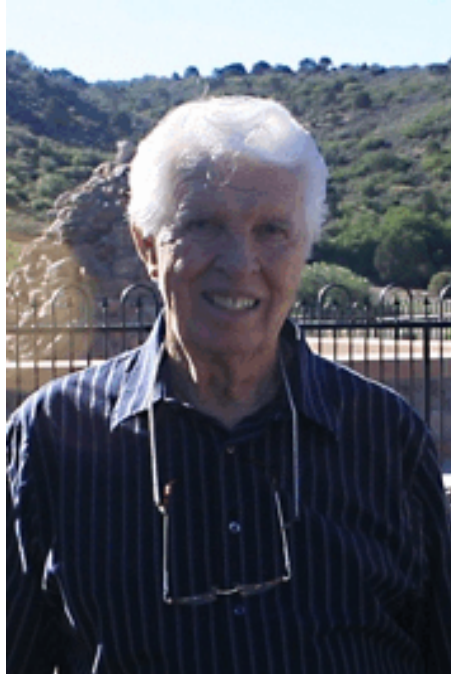
After a prayer and the pledge of allegiance, President Terry

Fancher made a motion to accept the minutes of September 10th, 2011. Those present ratified this motion. The Secretary Treasure’s

report, prepared by Tom Lamb, was accepted unanimously.

Next, the election of officers took place. Terms ending in 2012 included those of Terry Fancher, Larry Coates, and the slot not filled by LeRoy Lee. The Board elected Terry Fancher as President and Larry Coates as Vice President with their terms ending in 2015. The Board named Tom Lamb as Treasurer. Terms ending in 2013 include Kandy Fancher, descendant [D], Tom Lamb, Mormon [M], and an open slot for another descendant. For terms that end in 2014, elections will be held for Rob Briggs Jr. Esq [M], Jared Smith Esq. [M], and Alison Wallner [D].

We discussed the recent re-organization of the Association with Tom Lamb taking on Leroy Lee's responsibilities. Leroy's health problems made it impossible for him to continue the



service which he has preformed so effectively for decades. We also reflected on the service that several other people contributed to this Association – Verne Lee, Ron Loving, Sharon Chambers, Lee Bracken, Gene Sessions, Kent Byland, and Shirley Pyron.

We solicit your help in realizing the goals of the Association. Please pay your dues soon for

2013. If your membership has lapsed, please renew it by filling out the attached form and remitting payment. Furthermore, please share this newsletter with friends, relatives, neighbors, and even strangers and invite them to join with us in this worthy cause.

There are a many personal benefits for joining the MMA. First, your membership dues and contributions are tax deductible, because we are a registered non-profit organization. Second, you will share with us in honoring the dead, sponsoring historic preservation, and fostering fellowship and reconciliation between the victims and the perpetrators. Third, you will receive each issue of the newsletter, which will keep you posted on what we have done and what we plan to do in the future.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your annual dues since January 2012, please fill out the form below and send it to Terry Fancher at tnf49@aol.com or mail it to 16 Spencer Street, Braintree, MA 02184. In addition, you may contact Tom Lamb, the secretary/treasurer. His e-mail address is tomlambconstruction@hotmail.com. His address is 1035 McKinley Way, St. George, Utah, 84790. You may also pay dues on line at <http://www.mtnmeadowsassoc.com/duesform.htm>.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Dues are \$20.00 per year. Please check the following appropriate categories:

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Additional Donations: _____