



N E W S L E T T E R
MORMON
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION
Volume 39.5 No. 1

Vermont Conference Set for May 2005

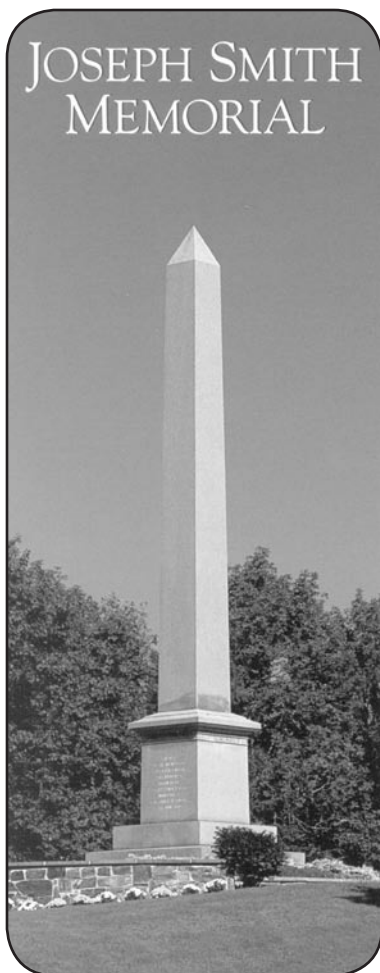
The Vermont conference is scheduled for May 26 - 29, 2005 in beautiful Killington, Vermont. Start making plans now to attend.

Under the direction of President Donald Cannon, and Program chair Susan Rugh, plans are well underway for an exciting program celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Joseph Smith. Theme for the conference is: *Joseph Smith and the Creation of Mormon Religious Traditions*.

Besides the many papers to be presented a special plenary session will feature Richard Bushman, Professor Emeritus Columbia University, considered the foremost authority on the life and history of Joseph Smith. The Tanner lecturer is Charles L. Cohen, Professor of History and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Kevin Grafagnino, Director of the Vermont Historical Society, will also speak on Vermont during the Smith family's tenure there.

Not to be outdone, the ever popular Paul Anderson will lead a conference tour on Friday afternoon to the sites and sounds of Mormon history in the Ver-



mont area close to Sharon.

Sunday morning, the worship service will be held at the Joseph Smith memorial in Sharon, Vermont. The speaker will be

(Continued on page 3)

MHA Goes High Tech!

For the past year the folks at MHA have been working to automate the membership records and conference registration to the point that a person can obtain or renew online, their MHA membership, or to fully register for a given conference. During the last twelve months pieces of this puzzle were implemented but not to the extent that was needed for the size of the organization MHA is becoming. With membership now over 1,300, and conference registrations at Provo nearing 650, comprehensive automation is the only answer. We are happy to announce that all the pieces are in place. We now encourage everyone to go online to www.mhahome.org and renew their 2005 membership. We will still process membership coming in by the US mail but we encourage as many as possible to use our web site.

Our plan is to have complete conference registration online by the end of January 2005 which will be earlier than the traditional method of waiting for the pre-conference registration packets to be sent out. We will continue to send out the packets in the foreseeable future, but again the more we can promote and encourage people to use the online facilities the easier the work load for the Kings (Hurray!!)

While you are online visiting our web site take a look at the new bulletin board, post a question, or answer a question someone else has posted. Order Mormon History books by going to Recommended Books, Awards, or Book Reviews. Books that are ordered from our web site, not just the ones listed, but any book, sends a cash rebate back to the Mormon History Association. So you book-worms who order tons of books every year, please do it on www.mhahome.org.



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No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I have been preparing for the upcoming Vermont Conference, I have reflected on my own personal experience with MHA, which began in 1974. Since that time enormous changes have taken place in MHA. As MHA has matured in recent years, this process of change has accelerated and has led to some significant developments in our organization.

What are some of the key developments?

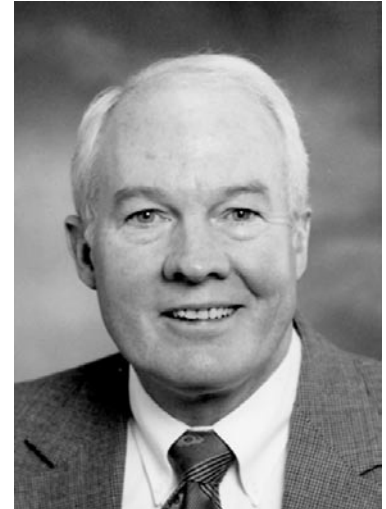
The most observable change is in the size of our membership. What was once a small group has now become a large organization with more than 1300 members. This increase of membership has mandated that MHA become more formal and professional. This professionalization of MHA has included more substantial by-laws, a more rigorous set of expectations from would-be presenters, the increased use of computer resources, etc. The result of these and other modifications has been a shift from a casual approach to a higher degree of efficiency and quality.

Another very welcome and necessary change has been the shift from a negative to a positive bank balance. Through the hard work of our administrators and professional advisors, MHA now enjoys a modest financial reserve. This development has enabled us to do some things which we could only wish for in the past. We now have the resources to publish three issues per year of the *Journal of Mormon History*. This, in turn, has given MHA greater visibility and enabled us to publish the results of more of the scholarly work of our membership.

Furthermore, through our increased financial resources, we have been able to establish a scholarship fund to assist students in attending our conferences, especially in places outside Utah.

MHA has also gained greater visibility through the enhancement of our web site, including its use for submission of session proposals for our conference in Vermont.

In a way, MHA is like a small, family-owned business which grows to the point where it either expands to become more efficient and competitive, or it ceases to exist. If upgrades are not made, the company is no longer viable. MHA has successfully met the challenges posed by increased membership and continues to be a very viable organization. As MHA has matured and grown, it has become a dynamic association, one which looks to the future full of confidence.



*Donald Q. Cannon
MHA President*

(Continued from page 1)

Elder Marlin K. Jensen of the First Quorum of Seventy, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Jensen is the new Executive Director of the Family and Church History Department replacing Elder Todd Christofferson.

Conference plans also include both pre-conference and post-conference tours. Who can go to Vermont and Massachusetts without weaving Mormon history with American history and understanding the rich heritage of the New England area?

A one day pre-conference tour will be conducted on Thursday, May 26 to Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, which played a pivotal role in the early French & Indian, and Revolutionary wars. Following Fort Ticonderoga the tour will spend an afternoon at the world class Shelburne Museum, followed by dinner at Middlebury, Vermont's landmark college town.

Sunday morning after the worship service, the post conference tour, under the direction of Donald Cannon, will leave and arrive in Patuxet (Plymouth) in the afternoon. Participants will come face to face with the 17th Century in reconstructed Plimoth Plantation. Meet Governor Bradford, Massasoit and his wife, Samoset, Squanto, and Hobbamock. Our modern holiday fare bears little resemblance to the food eaten at the 1621 harvest celebration. You will be able to partake of an authentic thanksgiving dinner. Monday we will walk the deck of the Mayflower II and then travel to Salem, known for the notorious witch trials of the 1690's, but also the location where Joseph Smith received D&C 111.

Monday afternoon will be spent in Concord and Lexington learning about Paul Revere and those pesky patriots that took on the British regulars in April 1775. The day will conclude with dinner at the notable Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

That's not all! Tuesday will be a day in Boston walking the Freedom trail, visiting such sites as Faneuil hall, King's Chapel and the old State House. The finale of the trip will be a concert at Symphony hall with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops. Wow!!

Flight home will be Wednesday morning, June 1.

The conference will be at the Killington Grand hotel where MHA has been able to negotiate special rates. For reservations, call 888-644-7263.

The closest airports to Killington are at Boston, Massachusetts and Burlington, Vermont. Boston is a four hour drive to Killington, and to Burlington about an hour and a half, but Burlington is a connecting flight airport. There are also smaller airports at Rutland, Vermont and Manchester, New Hampshire. For those planning to go on the post conference tour, plans are to fly out of Boston. Also in the works are plans for buses to pick up attendees at Boston on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

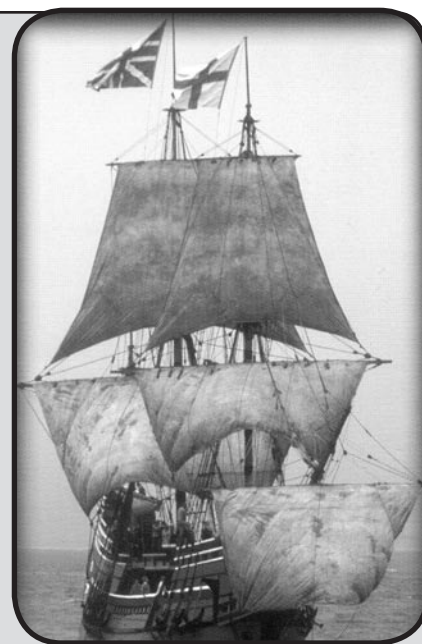
As more information is available, including pricing, we will post it on our web site at www.mhahome.org.



Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts

President Donald Cannon reports that "this is a once in a life time opportunity." Spread the word and tell your family and friends. The conference will be thought-provoking, inspirational, and educational, all wrapped up into an exciting week.

Do you
Have a
Mayflower
or
Fort
Ticonderoga
connection?



The Mayflower II

If you plan to attend the conference and have a family connection to someone who arrived on the Mayflower or was stationed at Fort Ticonderoga

during the Revolutionary War, let us know. We want to compile this information in advance of, and to enhance, the pre- and post-conference tours.

If you have such a connection please e-mail Larry and Alene King at klarry@comcast.net and tell us about it.

Killington Conference Goals and Objectives

Susan Rugh, Killington, Vermont Conference Program chair has identified the focus of the conference by establishing the following goals and objectives.

As the birthplace of the first two Mormon prophets, Joseph Smith and Brigham Young, the state of Vermont was the seedbed for Mormon history and culture. The state also warrants the attention of historians because Vermont congressmen Justin Morrill and George F. Edmunds authored significant anti-polygamy legislation in the late 19th century. Vermont became important as a destination for Mormon pilgrims after 1905, when Utah Mormons erected a monument at the birthplace of Joseph Smith. While today there are proportionately few Mormons in the state, it remains important as a historical site for Mormons.

Specifically, the goals of the conference are:

- To familiarize MHA attendees with the environment, culture, and history of Vermont and New England.
- To examine the history of writings about Joseph Smith, and to nurture new approaches to that history.
- To provide opportunities for MHA attendees to visit sites important to the birth and early life of founding prophet Joseph Smith.
- To create a venue for the presentation of the most recent research in the field of Mormon history, and to honor strong scholarly contributions to that history.
- To generate interest in Mormon history among scholars not previously associated with the field.
- To build bridges with the Vermont Historical Society and other local historians.

NHPRC ENDORSES THE JOSEPH SMITH PAPERS PROJECT

On May 14, 2004, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) announce that it would formally endorse the Joseph Smith Papers Project. NHPRC, affiliated with the National Archives, has a Congressionally mandated mission to support activities that preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. Their endorsement is given only to projects that meet rigorous standards in the field of documentary editing. . . .

The NHPRC application process was extensive, with the final product amounting to 166 pages. Information was required about the purpose of the project, the significance of its subject to U.S. history; then plan of work, the publications to be produced, and the qualifications of personnel.

Copies of the Joseph Smith Papers Project application were sent to several peer reviewers for critiquing. The most intense scrutiny was given to the documents and their transcriptions, and no errors were found. Our methodology concerning collection and selection of documents and consistent adherence to stated editorial procedures were also carefully examined.

Ronald K. Esplin, executive editor . . . expressed his satisfaction. “. . . As the project reviews made clear, it is also a measure of the importance non-LDS scholars attach to Joseph Smith and his papers. NHPRC clearly considers this a potentially first-class project, both because of its subject and how we have gone about preparing for publication.”

Used by permission of Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for LDS History, “*Things As They Were*,” Issue 3, 2004

Elder Marlin K. Jensen Named New Executive Director Family and Church History Department Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Elder Marlin K. Jensen

Elder Marlin K. Jensen has been named the new Executive Director of the Family and Church History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, replacing Elder Todd Christofferson.

Elder Jensen has been a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy since April 1, 1989, and previously served in the Presidency of the Seventy, and as the executive director of the Curriculum, Historical, and Priesthood Departments. He has served as the President of the Utah North, North America Northeast, and Europe Central Areas. He was president of the New York Rochester Mission from 1993 to 1995.

At the time of his call as a Seventy, he was serving as a Regional Representative. Prior to that assignment, he had served as president of the Huntsville Utah Stake, bishop of the Huntsville Ward, priests quorum adviser, and elders quorum president.

Elder Jensen previously practiced law in Ogden, Utah, specializing in business and estate planning, and is a partner in a family ranching enterprise. He received his bachelor's degree in German from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, and his juris doctorate from the University of Utah Law School in Salt Lake City, Utah.

He was born May 18, 1942, in Ogden, Utah, to Keith G. and Lula Hill Jensen. He is married to Kathleen Bushnell of Clearfield, Utah, and they are the parents of eight children.

BYU, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HOST SYMPOSIUM

The World of Joseph Smith” symposium May 6-7, 2005, in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., will feature sessions focusing on Smith’s known world, his recovery of “past worlds,” his challenges to the theological world, and his founding of a global religion.

The symposium is open to the news media and invited scholars in the fields of American religious history and religious studies. Each session will feature the presentation of a paper, three respondents, and then open for discussion. Some seating by registration only will be available to the public. The program will also be broadcast via the Internet.

James H. Hutson, chief of the manuscript division at the Library of Congress, says people will find it instructive to be informed by a group of distinguished scholars exactly how the church founded by Joseph Smith evolved from a small, persecuted band to a major religion influential in the United States and the world.

Jack Welch, professor of law at BYU and co-planner of the symposium with Hutson, is pleased that the Library of Congress and BYU could come together to sponsor a scholarly examination of Smith’s life.

“... The conference is not aimed at proselytizing or advocating any particular point of view. It will not involve polemics or propaganda. Anyone who would be interested in knowing how informed scholars approach the study of Joseph Smith, just as they might study ... any other major religious leader, will find the outcome of this conference informative, up-to-date, interesting and reliable.”

Religion experts from Baylor, BYU, Columbia, Pepperdine and other major universities will make presentations and participate in the symposium. Elder Dallin H. Oaks, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be a featured speaker. Prior to his call to full-time church service, Elder Oaks served as a Utah Supreme Court justice, as president of BYU, and as a professor of law at the University of Chicago.

Richard Bushman is the Gouverneur Morris Professor of History emeritus at Columbia University and chair of the executive committee at the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History at BYU.

“The time is ripe for an assessment of Joseph Smith’s position in American culture,” said Bushman. “Events of the two hundred years since his birth have proven that the religious culture he created has staying power.”

Excerpted from: Madsen, Grant. “BYU, Library of Congress Host Symposium.” *YNEWS* 10.5 (2004):

NAUVOO LEGION BOOK FORTHCOMING FROM B. B. C.

Black, Bennett, & Cannon

JOSEPH SMITH AND THE NAUVOO LEGION

The Nauvoo Legion took root in December 1840 in the boggy marshlands of Illinois. Within two years, the Legion had become the most feared city-militia in the state. Articles in *BYU Studies* (1995), the *Nauvoo Journal* (1993), and two theses—T. E. Dickerson, “Conflicts between the Mormons and Non-Mormons, Nauvoo, Illinois, 1839-1846,” (1956) and J. Sweeney, “A History of the Nauvoo Legion in Illinois” (1974) address the Legion’s unique chapter in American military history, but leave scholars and military buffs wanting more. Although historians have attempted to write “more,” the repetitive nature of their writings reveal few insights.

Readers will find insights galore in a new manuscript, *Joseph Smith and the Nauvoo Legion*, being prepared for publication by BYU professors Richard E. Bennett, Susan Easton Black, and Donald Q. Cannon. Their book-length text is an interpretive analysis of the origin, development, and demise of the Nauvoo Legion and what that city militia meant to Mormon, Illinois, and American history. Readers will have the opportunity to discover within its pages a virtual saga of a religious-based militia committed to defending beleaguered Mormons.

The saga was born in the mobbing, abuse, and extermination that forced Mormons to flee from their homes in Missouri to the marshlands of Illinois. The saga unfolds by explaining the reasons why Joseph Smith believed a legalized force of men, even a state sanctioned militia, was needed to defend Latter-day Saints from further persecution. As the Legion swells in numbers with men ranging in age from 18 to 45 according to the requirements of Illinois law, readers will find riveting details of drills, parades, and mock battles. Caustic editorials of Thomas Sharp of the *Warsaw Signal* will keep even the novice historian turning the page: “How military these people are becoming! Everything they say or do seems to breathe the spirit of military tactics. ... Truly fighting must be part of the creed of these saints.” Sharp then asked, “Are the Danites still separate or merged with the Nauvoo Legion?”

Such questions lured a curious, but fearful readership into buying newsprint. Although Joseph Smith’s own writings were replete with such statements as, “I would ask no greater boon than to lay down my life for my country,” few readers were looking for the patriotic—they wanted the sensational, the lie—the lie that the Mormon Prophet led a legion of 5,000 armed men.

Who controlled the Legion? Was it Mormonism? Was it the city government? Near neighbors wanted to know. Professors at BYU are prepared to answer. We are convinced that Joseph Smith and the Nauvoo Legion has the promise of reviving interest in one of the most powerful, yet peculiar city militia in American military history.

JWHA HOLDS 32nd
ANNUAL MEETING IN
OMAHA/COUNCIL BLUFFS

President Mark Scherer welcomed attendees to the 2004 annual meeting of JWHA. The conference theme was “Places of Decision: The Spatial and Metaphorical Geography of the Restoration.”

Professor Richard Hughes, Director, Center for Faith and Learning, Pepperdine University, was the Sterling M. McMurrin lecturer, speaking on “*Rethinking the Restoration Vision.*”

The conference was indeed “action-packed” with many interesting, insightful papers, and tours.



Left: Jan Shipps receiving the JWHA Presidential gavel from Mark Scherer

Right: Alma Blair receives JWHA Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Bill Russell

**LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

Alma Blair, who received the 2004 JWHA Lifetime Achievement Award, taught church history at Graceland College throughout his 39 year teaching career (1955-94).

He has given many papers at conferences and published some very important articles in Church History. His 1974 “Moderate Mormons” paper remains the classic single article on the origins of the RLDS Church. Other landmark articles are one on Jason W. Briggs; a 1985 article on the historiography of polygamy attitudes among the RLDS which, along with Dick Howard’s article two years earlier, was a major cause of the RLDS shift in thought on the subject.

Alma was a founding member of the John Whitmer Historical Association, and its second President and is one of only two persons who have served twice as president. He was also one of the first RLDS historians to become involved in the Mormon History Association and has served on its board, and has been on the Restoration Trail Foundation Board for some time.

Robert Flanders’ 1965 book, *Nauvoo: Kingdom on the Mississippi* remains the best book on Nauvoo 39 years after it was published and perhaps makes it appropriate that he received the “best article” award for “Nauvoo on My Mind” published in the John Whitmer Association Journal for 2003 (vol.23).

The JWHA Smith-Petit Best Book Award was presented to Dan Vogel for his *Joseph Smith: The Making of a Prophet* (Signature Books). Dan has written an extensive volume on the controversial Mormon prophet, focusing on his Book of Mormon. Vogel has undertaken an extensive treatment of ways in which the Book of Mormon relate to Smith’s life.

Thanks to Bill Russel for providing the information for this column.

**MHA Sponsors Western
History Association Session**

by Brian Q. Cannon

On October 14, an MHA-sponsored session will take place at the annual meeting of the Western History Association. Chaired by Richard Francaviglia of the University of Texas at Arlington, the session is entitled “Mormon Boundary Maintenance, Regional Identity and Cultural Identity.” Three papers will be presented. The first, by Thomas W. Simpson of the University of Virginia, will focus upon Mormons who traveled outside the Intermountain West for graduate education between 1870 and 1900. Numerous Latter-day Saints from Utah and Idaho enrolled in graduate and professional programs at Michigan, Cornell, Stanford, Berkeley, Columbia, and the University of Chicago in this era. Simpson’s paper will discuss how experiences in higher education affected LDS students, how these students maintained their religious identity, what commitments and restraints brought them back to Zion, and how well the students reconciled faith and intellect once they returned. The second paper by Stephen C. Taysom, a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at Indiana University, focuses upon Mormon responses to external pressure at three critical junctures in the nineteenth-century: the abandonment of Zion in Missouri, the exodus from Nauvoo and the official abandonment of plural marriage. Taysom writes, “All of these periods follow a pattern of an asserted ideal, external pressure met with internal resistance, and increased external pressure met with accommodation.” Taysom shows, though, that the accommodation was only partial – a shift in practice rather than a renunciation of belief. The third paper, by Ethan Yorgason, an adjunct assistant professor at BYU-Hawaii and the author of *Transformation of the Mormon Culture Region*, explores changes early in the twentieth century in the relationship of the Mormon culture region to the nation, with their attendant shifts in the ways in which the Mormon culture region was perceived and imagined. Charles S. Peterson, a former president of MHA and a professor emeritus at Utah State University, will comment on the papers.



By
J. Michael Hunter

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ARTICLE NOTICES

MHA extends appreciation to Mel Bashore for his time and excellent service as editor of the article notices. He has received another assignment that precludes the continuation of this service.

In time for the January 2005 Newsletter we will have resumed the article notices with a new editor.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELLA RUTH TURNER BERGERA PASSES AWAY

Following a long illness, Ella Ruth Turner Bergera passed away on August 31, 2004. She is the wife of James Bergera, mother of five children, and seven grandchildren.

On behalf of the MHA membership we extend our condolences to Ella Ruth's family: her husband James, grandchildren, and children, Gary; Gregg and Joann; Scott and Janet; Cathy Bigler; and Paul.

As well as a wife, mother, and grandmother, Ella Ruth was a teacher and writer in whose name, as well as that of her mother, MHA awards the \$1,000 Ella Larsen Turner-Ella Ruth Turner Bergera Best Biography Award.

THANKS TO MHA:

"Thank you for the lovely award Jere and I received from the Mormon History Association. Receiving the Thomas L. Kane Award was one of the highlights of my years in the Trail's office. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in recognizing our work."

Kay Threlkeld

"My thanks and appreciation to the Mormon History Association for the Thomas L. Kane Award conferred on me this past month. It is an honor."

Jere Krakow

These awards were presented at the Provo Conference.

SPRINGVILLE AUTHOR RECEIVES AWARD:

D. Robert Carter received the 2004 Provo Mayor's Award in the Humanities for his work in documenting and writing about Provo's history. Said Provo Mayor Lewis K. Billings, "Robert and Lyndia Carter are treasures. . ."

Carter who writes the Daily Herald's History Page has authored two books, "Founding Fort Utah: Provo's Native Inhabitants, Early Explorers and First Year of Settlement," and

"Utah Lake: Legacy." Carter taught history and English for 30 years before his retirement in the early 90's.

Courtesy of Caleb Warnock, The Daily Herald, Provo, Utah

The Carter's local tours for the MHA Provo Conference were very informative and popular. We thank them for their help.

DAYNES AND GORDON SEEKING INFORMATION:

Dear MHA members:

In connection with our project studying criminal prosecutions of LDS members in territorial Utah who were involved in plural marriage, we are especially interested in learning about those who were never prosecuted. If you have family members or know of polygamous marriages celebrated between 1843 and 1896 that did not result in arrest, indictment, or trial of any of the participants, please contact Kathryn Daynes, kathryn_daynes@byu.edu; or Sally Gordon, sgordon@law.upenn.edu. In advance, we thank you for your help. Kathryn Daynes and Sally Gordon

FREE LECTURE PRESENTATION BY MEL BASHORE:

"AVOIDING ROCKY RIDGE: MORMON TRAVEL ON THE SEMINOE CUTOFF"

7:00 PM — 8:30 PM, Thursday, October 28, 2004
Sons of Utah Pioneers Headquarters Building
3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah

(Get off of 1215 East on 3300 South, go to 3300 East and turn north. Go north as far as you can and you will be in the parking lot of SUP headquarters)

Jointly sponsored by: Mormon Trails Association, Sons of Utah Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, The Mormon Battalion, Mormon History Association, Heritage State Park, Utah State Historical Society.