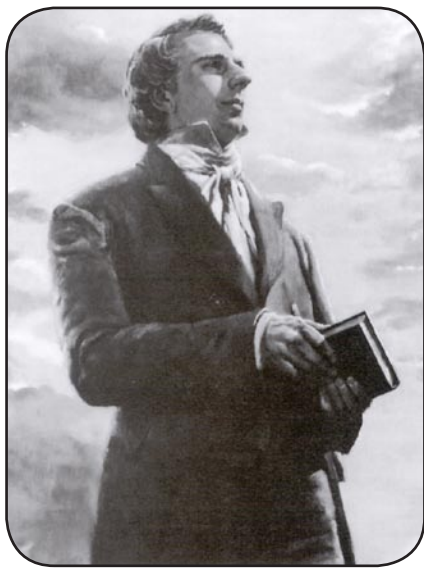




Schedule set for Vermont Conference

Exciting events are in store for the Killington, Vermont conference scheduled for May 26 – 29, 2005. Mark your calendars as the conference this year will be a once in a lifetime experience.

Besides the many papers and speakers scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 27 & 28, there will be both pre-conference and post-conference tours.



These tours will encompass the rich Mormon and American historical sites of the New England area.

The pre-conference tour is scheduled for a full day on Thursday, May 26th and will include the restored Fort Ticonderoga on beautiful Lake Champlain, the world renowned Shelburne Museum, and dinner in Middlebury, Vermont's landmark college town.

The post-conference tour, under the direction of President Donald Cannon, will leave mid-morning on Sunday, after the devotional, and travel to Plymouth, Boston, Concord and Salem, Massachusetts. Here, as we weave the two together, you will experience Mormon and American history at their best.

You won't go hungry as you visit all the historical sites because you will experience a Plimoth Plantation Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday evening. Monday will feature dinner at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury. The grand finale will be a Boston Pops' concert in the heart of downtown Boston.

This tour will conclude Wednesday morning, June 1st in time to catch your homeward flight.

We are fortunate to have as a special devotional speaker on Sunday morning, Elder Marlin K. Jensen of the First Quorum of Seventy, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elder Jensen was recently appointed Executive Director of the Family and Church History Department.

Special conference speakers will include Richard Bushman, Kevin Grafagnino and Charles L. Cohen.

Bushman, Professor Emeritus, Columbia University, is considered the foremost authority on the life and history of Joseph Smith. Grafagnino is the Director of the Vermont Historical Society and will speak of Vermont during the Smith family's tenure there. Professor Cohen of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the invited Tanner lecturer. His lecture will "deal with the importance of Old Testament and Jewish imagery in the construction of Mormons' self-identity as a distinctive people during the period 1825-1855."

Registration packets will be sent out the middle of February. Also, our web site will have updated information as it becomes available.

For the first time we will have complete online registration and everyone is encouraged to use this new service.

Conference Schedule

May 26	(Thursday)	Pre-conference tour Fort Ticonderoga, Shelburne Museum
May 27	(Friday)	Conference sessions
May 28	(Saturday)	Conference sessions Conference bus tour to local Mormon historic sites
May 29	(Sunday)	Worship service at Joseph Smith Memorial Travel home
May 29	(Sunday)	Post conference tour Plymouth, Massachusetts Dinner: Plimoth Plantation
May 30	(Monday)	Post conference tour Plymouth, Salem, and Concord, Massachusetts Dinner: Longfellow's Wayside Inn
May 31	(Tuesday)	Post conference tour Boston, Massachusetts Boston Pops concert
June 1	(Wednesday)	Travel home



*Mormon History
Association*

President

Donald Q. Cannon

President-Elect

Philip L. Barlow

Past President

Martha Bradley-Evans

Council Members

Brian Q. Cannon

Sarah Barringer Gordon

William P. MacKinnon

J. Stephen Rizley

Lola Van Wagenen

Maurine Carr Ward

Executive Directors

Larry & Alene King

Published quarterly by the
Mormon History
Association

581 South 630 East
Orem, Utah 84097
801-224-0241 (Voice)
1-888-642-3678
801-224-5684 (Fax)
klarry@comcast.net

Please send news items,
announcements, calls for
papers, and letters to
Larry & Alene King

Volume 40
No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

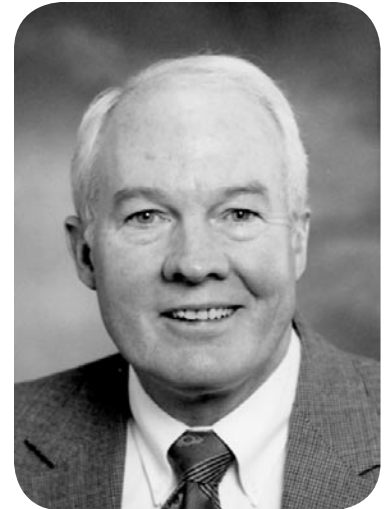
Now that 2005 has come, I find myself experiencing what the Germans call *Vorfreude* (the joy of anticipation). Truly, I do find joy in anticipating a successful conference in May. Also, I look forward to visiting with each of you.

In 2005 the annual conference of MHA will take place in a remarkable setting. Vermont is one of my most favorite places in all the world. As Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy has said: "Vermonters are a modest breed, but we take justifiable pride in our history and the natural beauty around us."

The meetings will be held at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel and Convention Center in Killington, Vermont in the center of the breathtaking Green Mountains. The program promises to have something for every taste. The program committee under the direction of Susan Rugh has created a unique and broad-ranging series of sessions. Of course, there will be several sessions on Joseph Smith, whose 200th birthday will be celebrated in 2005. Of special note is the plenary session to be given by Richard L. Bushman, concerning his forthcoming biography of Joseph Smith.

In addition to the stimulating program, we have planned wonderful trips before, during and after the conference. The pre-conference trip will include such highlights as a visit to Fort Ticonderoga and the world-class displays at the Shelburne Museum in northern Vermont. The post-conference tour will take us into Massachusetts, with such highlights as a seventeenth-century meal served at Plimouth Plantation and a concert presented by the Boston Pops. The days we will be at Killington (26-29 May 2005) we will be able to visit both Smith and Mack family historic sites in and around Sharon, Vermont.

Plan to join us in Vermont for the annual MHA Conference.



*Donald Q. Cannon
MHA President*

BEST WISHES TO ROGER LAUNIUS

In mid-December, former MHA President, Roger Launius was hospitalized for heart problems. Stents have been placed in one quadrant of his heart in hopes of some recovery of the extensive damage in that area. It was also determined that for some time Roger has had undiagnosed diabetes.

We hope he is home by now and doing better. Vianne says that he is feeling good and she is concerned about being able to hold him down and limit his activity.

Our thoughts and prayers are with him, Vianne, and their family.

VERMONT CONFERENCE HOTEL AND TRAVEL PLANS

Many people are anxious to make travel and hotel plans for the upcoming conference. Please feel free to do so.

Hotel: Arrangements can be made directly with the Killington Grand hotel. Special discounted rates are available for MHA guests. For reservations call: **888-644-7263**. The hotel also has guest rooms that can accommodate several individuals if there are those who want to bring their families, or get together and double up.

Airline: The main airport that can service Killington is Boston's Logan International. This airport is home to most of the major carriers. There are other smaller airports in the area with connecting flights such as to Burlington, Vermont.

Drive time from Boston to Killington is about four hours. From Burlington to Killington is about an hour and a half, but you may want to weigh the cost and airport down time waiting for a connecting flight.

This year, as in the past, we have made arrangements with **Delta Airlines to offer a discount up to 10%** for anyone flying to the conference. These arrangements may be made by **calling 1-800-241-6760 and referring to file number 209868A.** Where possible, we encourage you to use Delta as MHA receives from this airline additional benefits based on the number of traveling passengers.



Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts



Pilgrims Landing in 1620

Do you have a Mayflower or Fort Ticonderoga connection?

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.

Airport transportation: MHA is making arrangements with a local bus company to provide transportation from Boston's Logan International airport to Killington. This will include both Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as the return trip to Boston on Sunday morning. Details, including cost, will be available in your registration packet.

Rental cars: For those who choose to rent a car, we have made arrangements with Avis Rental Car to offer special discounted rates for conference attendees. Arrangement can be made by calling **1-800-331-1600 and refer to AWD number D900876.**

Post Conference Tour Attendees: Please be aware that for those planning to go on the post conference tour, buses will leave directly from the Killington Grand hotel Sunday morning, by way of the worship service at the Sharon, Vermont Joseph Smith Memorial. The tour will conclude Wednesday morning at the Boston airport. If your plans include renting a car, you will need to have someone return it for you, or you will need to make arrangements to ride on the bus Wednesday or Thursday evening to Killington.

Nominating Committee announces new MHA Leaders

William G. Hartley, past president and Chair of MHA's nominating committee, has announced the nominees for MHA President-elect and Council members for the coming year. Ronald K. Esplin, Executive Editor of the Joseph Smith Papers project, Brigham Young University, has been selected as President-elect, succeeding Philip L. Barlow who becomes President. Selected Council members are Ronald O. Barney, Senior Archivist, Church Archives, Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Sherilyn Cox Bennion, Emeritus Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, Humboldt State University. Ronald and Sherilyn will replace retiring council members Lola Van Wagenen and Maurine Carr Ward. Ron will serve as chair of the Awards committee and Sherilyn becomes chair of the Publications committee.



Ronald K. Esplin

Ronald K. Esplin was born in Cedar City, Utah, is married to L. Judith Mortensen and has four daughters and three sons. Ron graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Utah, and has an M.A. from the University of Virginia.

Currently he is the Executive Editor of the Joseph Smith Papers Project, prior to which he was Managing Director of the Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History, Brigham Young University.

Esplin has an impressive list of accomplishments which includes: Council member, Mormon History Association, 1992-1994; and from

1975 to 1986 he served in MHA on a conference program committee, Vice president, and Membership chairman. Ronald has received many awards and presented numerous papers at MHA conferences and other symposia.

Sherilyn Cox Bennion is an Emeritus professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California. She recently retired and now lives in Salt Lake City. She holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Utah and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mass Communication, with a minor in American Studies, from Syracuse University. She also studied at the University of Munich, Germany, under a Fulbright Fellowship. At Humboldt State, she served as Department Chair, Faculty President, and Program Leader of Women's Studies. She received a Service to Journalism Award from the University of Utah.



Sherilyn Cox Bennion

Sherilyn is the author of one book, *Equal to the Occasion: Women Editors of the Nineteenth-Century West*; several book chapters, and numerous articles, most concerning early journalism of the West. She has been an active member of the Mormon History Association for thirty years, participating in conferences in various capacities and serving on the Executive Committee of the *Journal of Mormon History*. She appreciates MHA's emphasis on quality scholarship, its openness to members of many different interests and backgrounds, and its encouragement of young historians.

Ronald O. Barney lives in Kaysville, Utah, is married, has three children, and one grandson. He grew up and was educated in Ogden, Utah, and attended Ricks College before serving in the Northern States Mission in the 1960s for the LDS Church. He later obtained history degrees from Weber State and Utah State universities.

Barney is Senior Archivist and historian in the LDS Church Archives, where he has worked since

1977. He has taught as an adjunct instructor of history at Weber State University. His book, *One Side by Himself: The Life and Times of Lewis Barney, 1808-1894* (published by Utah State University Press) won the 2002 Best Biography Award from the Mormon History Association and the Evans Biography Award for 2002 from the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies. He is the Document Series Editor of the forthcoming *The Joseph Smith Papers* and has edited *The Mormon Vanguard Brigade to the West: Norton Jacob's Record, 1833-1852*, forthcoming in 2005 from Utah State University Press.



Ronald O. Barney

"THE WORLDS OF JOSEPH SMITH"

A conference entitled "The Worlds of Joseph Smith" will be co-sponsored by the Library of Congress and Brigham Young University in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on May 6-7, 2005. Recognizing Joseph Smith's bicentennial, the conference will examine his historical, religious, social, and theological contributions.

On Friday, May 6, the morning session will commence at 9:30, to discuss Joseph Smith in the world of his own time. Speakers during the two-day event will include Richard Bushman, Robert Remini, Richard Hughes, Terry Givens, Richard Mouw, Randall Balmer, Rodney Stark, Douglas Davies, Gerald McDermott, as well as several other participants from BYU and members of the Mormon History Association. Elder Dallin H. Oaks will speak on Friday evening. Other sessions of the conference will examine Joseph Smith's recovery of past worlds, his challenges to the theological world, and his making of a global religion.

The public is invited. Each session will afford time for questions and discussion. Because seating is limited, advance ticket reservations are strongly recommended.

For ticket reservations and further information go to <http://josephsmithconferenceloc.byu.edu>.



W. Grant McMurray

W. Grant McMurray Steps Down

JWHA is saddened to note the resignation of W. Grant McMurray as president of the Community of Christ, effective 29 November 2004. Grant has been a long-time friend of JWHA and a participant in numerous Association events throughout the years. He was with us most recently at the September 2004 gathering in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Grant graduated from Graceland College, obtained a master of divinity degree from the Methodist-sponsored Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, and served in a variety of church administrative positions throughout his career. On 15 April 1996, Grant was ordained to the office of prophet-president.

In his letter of resignation, Grant indicated that his struggle with personal and family issues has impacted his ability to function unreservedly in his office and calling as prophet-president. Additionally Grant announced he has been diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson's disease, which, at this point, is very treatable. Life choices and circumstances now prompt the need for a period of personal renewal and healing.

Grant's presidency will be known for its application of creative leadership in guiding the church through uniquely stressful and opportune times. He endeavored to empower the church body, broadened participation in the decision-making process of the church, and called members to become a prophetic people. "Grant articulated a new vision for the Community of Christ with skill and wit," said William D. Russell, professor of American history and government at Graceland. "His leadership will be missed."

Grant is quoted from a phone interview, 2 December 2004, from his Independence, Missouri, home as saying, "I'm looking forward to having an opportunity to reflect on what's really important to me. I'll try to take time for personal renewal, then I'll figure out something to do that will be consistent with my primary values. It will probably have to be a different venue" (Peggy Fletcher Stack, "Head of [Community of Christ] Former RLDS Church Unexpectedly Steps Down," the *Salt Lake Tribune*, 3 December 2004).

JWHA and the church history community extend to Grant and his family our deep appreciation for their service to the Community of Christ and for his support of and contributions to historical scholarship throughout the movement.

Predictably the church staff, and friends have met this announcement with genuine sadness and shock. This action brings the church face to face again with the issue of succession. Succession is at the very heart of Community of Christ (RLDS) identity.

This situation is reminiscent of earlier instances in the life of the church. Joseph Smith Jr. failed to establish a clear-cut succession procedure during his lifetime. Frederick M. Smith failed to publicly name a successor. In another way, this instance thrusts another sudden loss of leadership upon church members and friends, as did the death of Israel A. Smith in an automobile accident in June 1958. Many of that era vividly remember the circumstances of hearing the news of Israel's death. And, again, Grant's resignation is similar to Wallace B. Smith's decision to retire from the presidency, rather than to serve until his decease. While established precedents are clearly in place to fill this vacancy, there are yet many questions outstanding about the eventual outcome and impact of this event on the church.

Each generation is faced with significant moments of history such as this. We, too, have reason to hope we will rise to the occasion. JWHA joins with others of good will in anticipation of a meaningful and enabling outcome.

— Ron Romig, *JWHA past president, 1997-1998*

MHA PLANS FUTURE CONFERENCES

MHA has announced the selection of two new conference locations. Nauvoo, Illinois has been selected for 2008 and Sacramento, California selected for 2009. Already on the drawing board is Casper, Wyoming for 2006 and Salt Lake City, Utah for 2007.

We are delighted that we were able to work out the necessary arrangements to host a conference in the center of old Nauvoo. It has been thirty years since our last conference in the City of Joseph when the membership was much smaller. It is fitting for MHA to return with the extensive restoration and construction that has taken place in the last few years. We are grateful to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and to the Community of Christ for assisting with these arrangements by making available many of their excellent venues.

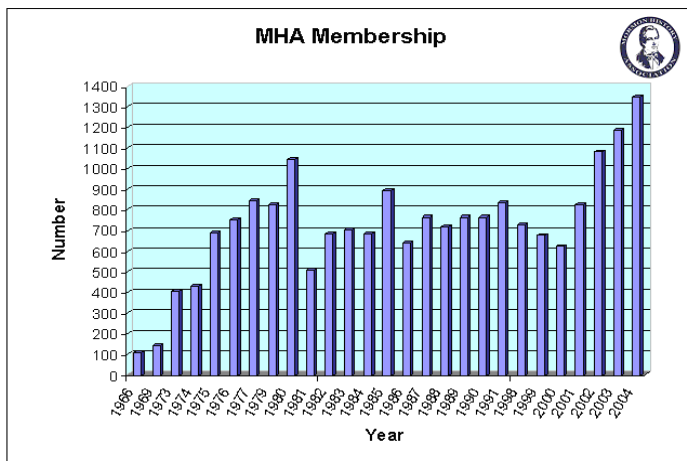
MHA has never been to Sacramento or to any Northern California city. Rich in Mormon history, Sacramento becomes an ideal spot for a conference and will include a

celebration of the Mormon Battalion's participation in the discovery of Gold at Sutter's Mill; their help in the settlement of the Sacramento area; and their establishment of a critical wagon trail across the Sierras. This route became a major entryway into California for thousands of gold seekers.

Put the following dates on your calendar.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| May 25 - 28, 2006 | Casper, Wyoming
Parkway Plaza hotel |
| May 24 - 27, 2007 | Salt Lake City, Utah
Hilton hotel |
| May 22 - 26, 2008 | Nauvoo, Illinois
Various facilities |
| May 21 - 24, 2009 | Sacramento, California
Red Lion hotel |

— *Larry and Alene King*



MHA's membership reached an all time high at the end of 2004. While 1,348 members (see above chart) is commendable, there is much more that needs to be done. The more members we have the wider we are able to spread out the fixed costs of the organization, and the greater the impact we can have on the study of the Mormon past. If you have not been able to send in your membership renewal for the new year, we would encourage you to do so. In the meantime spread the word. We need all the help we can get to grow the organization.

– Larry & Alene King

MHA Book and Article Awards

Every year the Mormon History Association presents to authors, scholars and students over \$6,200 in book and article awards. These awards are given during the Awards banquet at MHA's annual conference. The awards presented in May 2004 will be for the calendar year 2003, and are given to foster the highest ideals of Mormon history scholarship including research, writing, and publication.

Awards include:

Best Book	Best First Book
Best Biography	Best Documentary
Best Family History	Three Best Articles
Best Undergraduate Paper	Best Graduate Paper

Submissions for consideration are to be made as follows:

Deadline is March 15, 2005

Book Awards

Richard Sadler
875 E. Edgewood Dr.
Ogden, UT 84403
rsadler@weber.edu

801-626-6232

Article Awards

Kenneth Godfrey
1689 E. 1400 N.
Logan, UT 84341
kenaud@pcu.net

435-752-8765

Student Papers

Alex Baugh
275 F JSB, BYU
Provo, UT 84602
alex_baugh@byu.edu

801-422-5164



The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences

at

Utah State University

is proud to create the

Leonard J. Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture

The Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture is part of Utah State University's developing Religious Studies Program in the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, joining the recently endowed Redd Chair in Religious Studies.

Join us in honoring Leonard J. Arrington and help memorialize his career.

Mail your contribution to:

Arrington Chair
0700 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT 84322-0700



For additional information contact:

Victoria Dutson (435) 797-0178 or vic.dutson@usu.edu





By
J. Michael Hunter

Arrington, Leonard J. *Great Basin Kingdom: An Economic History of the Latter-Day Saints, 1830-1900*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004. This new edition includes thirty new pictures and an introduction by Ronald W. Walker that provides a brief biography of Arrington, the book's place in Mormon and Western historiography, and the book's lasting impact.

Book of Mormon. New York: Doubleday, 2004. Unique trade edition with gold-colored cover.

Brown, Matthew B. and Val. W. Brinkerhoff. *Joseph Smith: The Man, The Mission, The Message*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant, 2004.

Busk, Judy. *The Sum of Our Past: Revisiting Pioneer Women*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2004.

Campbell, Craig S. *Images of the New Jerusalem: Latter Day Saint Faction Interpretations of Independence, Missouri*. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2004.

Charles C. Rich DVD Library. Provo, Utah: BYU Studies, 2004. Available only from BYU Studies. Contains biographies of Rich by Leonard J. Arrington and John Henry Evans, biographical sketches of Rich's wives and children, speeches given by Rich, a chronology of Rich's life with links to original letters and journals, original manuscripts from the Church Archives, and photographs.

Deseret Morning News 2004 Church Almanac. Salt Lake City: Deseret Morning News, 2004.

Facione, Mario. *Mafia to Mormon: My Conversion Story*. Springville, UT: CFI, 2004.

Givens, George W. *500 More Little-Known Facts in Mormon History*. Springville, Utah: Bonneville Books, 2004.

Kelly, Brian and Petrea Kelly. *Latter-day History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant, 2004. "Expanded and updated edition"

Kissi, Emmanuel Abu. *Walking in the Sand: A History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ghana*. Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 2004.

Murdock, S. Reed. *Joseph and Emma's Julia, the "Other" Twin: A Biography: Includes the Julia Letters*. Salt Lake City: Eborn Books, 2004.

Nguyen, The Van, David Lynn Hughes, and Virgil N Kovalenko. *When Faith Endures: One Man's Courage in the Midst of War*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant Communications, 2004.

Owens, Kenneth N. *Gold Rush Saints: California Mormons and the Great Rush for Riches*. Kingdom in the West; v. 7. Spokane, Wash.: Arthur H. Clark Co., 2004.

Selected Collections From the Archives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 2005. Four new DVDs are being added to the existing thirty-six in the current Volume 2 of the set. The Journal History Index on this DVD was created by staff members of the Church Historian's Office and its successor, the Church Historical Department, from around 1906 until 1972.

Smith, Lucy Mack. *The History of Joseph Smith by His Mother*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant, 2004. This "Collector's Edition" is edited by George A. Smith and Elias Smith and includes illustrations by well-known LDS artists.

Valletta, Thomas R. *Church History for Latter-Day Saint Families*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Deseret Book, 2004.

The Wasp. Salt Lake City: Greg Kofford Books, 2003. Reproduction of 1842-1843 newspaper with CD in back. Introduction by Peter Crawley.

Call for Papers

In commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of Joseph Smith's birth, the John Whitmer Historical Association's 2005 Conference will address the theme: *Joseph Smith and His Complex Legacy*. We invite you to participate by submitting papers that focus on:

- Joseph Smith, his life, work, and influence he had on individuals inside and out of Mormonism;
- Smith's legacy and the many divergent expressions of the restoration (followers of James Strang, Lyman Wight, Joseph Smith III, etc.);
- Comparisons between Smith and other founders or leaders of religious movements;
- Dynamics between Smith and the Mormons and non-Mormon residents during the Illinois period.

Young scholars are especially invited to submit papers – JWHA will fund 8 travel stipends for students to attend this year's conference!

Address your 1-2 page proposal to:

Newell G. Bringhurst, *Program Chair*
Department of History
College of the Sequoias
Visalia, CA 93277
Or e-mail Newell: newellgb@hotmail.com

Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2005
The Conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois,
September 29 – October 2, 2005

Mormon History Association
c/o Larry & Alene King
581 South 630 East
Orem, UT, 84097

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH 84199
PERMIT NO 667

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS ON INTERNATIONAL MORMONISM

During 2005 and 2006, Dialogue expects to publish a series of articles on the Mormon experience, identity, and use of history outside the usual Anglo-Mormon cultural realm.

Under Guest Editor Ethan Yorgason, this series will feature articles on a variety of topics from the perspective of various scholarly disciplines, including history, literature, and the social sciences. Each paper may focus in depth upon a particular cultural setting, preferably outside the U. S., or offer cross-cultural comparisons among two or more settings.

Manuscripts for this series must be received no later than May 1, 2005. They should be sent as attachments in MS Word or Word Perfect to yorgasoe@byuh.edu; or if typed "hard copy" is absolutely unavoidable, it may be sent in triplicate to Ethan Yorgason, BYU-Hawaii, Box 1970, Laie, HI 96762. Manuscripts should be sent as soon as possible up to the deadline. Questions may be directed to Dr. Yorgason at (808) 293-3617; fax: (808) 293-3888.

CHARLES REDD CENTER RESEARCH GRANTS

The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at Brigham Young University offers research grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000 to students, professors, and independent scholars who are studying topics pertaining to the Intermountain West (defined as Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). Researchers from any discipline in the sciences, humanities, and social sciences may apply. Applicants

are not required to utilize collections created or maintained by the Redd Center or by Brigham Young University. Applications for 2005 must be submitted by March 15. For more information and application forms please visit the Center's web site at <http://fhss.byu.edu/reddcent/>

MORMON SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

The Mormon Social Science Association is planning an edited volume of scholarly essays to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Thomas O'Dea's classic sociological study of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *The Mormons*. Appropriate essays could focus on (but would not be limited to) assessments of O'Dea's ideas and scholarship on (a) Joseph Smith in the context of his religious environment, (b) the Book of Mormon, (c) the state of contemporary Mormon identity, (d) O'Dea's "sources of strain and conflict" within Mormonism, (e) the O'Dea archive at BYU, and (f) O'Dea's sociology as seen through the lens of other disciplines (e.g. history, anthropology, psychology, etc.) The project has the preliminary encouragement of the University of Illinois Press. Scholars interested in contributing to this project should contact the MSSA via Ryan Cragun at ryan@genesoc.com or Ryan T. Cragun, University of Cincinnati, Department of Sociology, P.O. Box 210378, Cincinnati, OH 45221. Please respond by March 1. The MSSA also seeks a senior scholar(s) with an enduring interest in Mormon Studies to serve as editor or coeditor of the volume. If you are interested in editing this volume, or want to nominate a potential editor, please contact Ryan Cragun by March 1.