

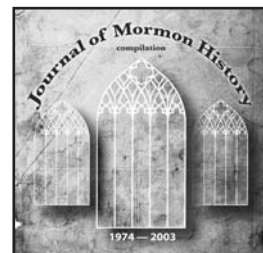


Casper Conference Stimulating, Informative, and Delightful

These and many other words such as sobering and challenging describe the reaction of those who attended the Casper conference in May 2006. While the conference focused on a broad range of subjects of interest, special recognition was given to the sesquicentennial of the Mormon handcart migration in general and the Martin and Willie handcart companies specifically. Nearly 600 people were in attendance from all parts of the country and several countries outside the United States. Our hat's off to program chair Michael Landon and local arrangement chair Elizabeth Anderson, all under the direction of President Philip L. Barlow.

Casper Conference Recordings

One of the changes made in this year's conference was the audio recording of the various conference sessions. This is the first time MHA has attempted such a feat and the activity has been well received. Individual sessions can be purchased by going on our website, www.mhahome.org and clicking on the button "Wyoming Conference Session Recordings." The cost is \$8.80 for individual sessions or the entire conference for \$60.



Journal Compilation DVD

For some time MHA has been working on the digitization of the Journal. Issues from 1974 to 2003 are now available and fully searchable by author, article, or word, and is available for only \$40, on MHA's website. No serious personal library should be without a copy.

New MHA President Installed



Retiring MHA President, Philip L. Barlow, prepares to pass the MHA Seerstone to incoming President, Ronald K. Esplin

During the annual business meeting in Casper Wyoming, Ronald K. Esplin was elected president of MHA. Ron is with the LDS Family and Church History Department as the Managing Editor of the Joseph Smith Papers.

In behalf of all MHA members, we thank Philip L. Barlow for his leadership during the past year. His careful involvement in all aspects of MHA helped make the Casper conference an exciting event. Appreciation for their great contribution, is also extended to retiring council members Brian Q. Cannon and J. Stephen Rizley.

Paul L. Anderson was selected as President-Elect for the year 2007-2008.

Newly elected council members are:

Gregory P. Christofferson, Irvine, California
Susan S. Rugh, Salt Lake City, Utah



*Mormon History
Association*

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Ronald K. Esplin

President-Elect

Paul L. Anderson

Past President

Philip L. Barlow

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Ronald O. Barney
Sherilyn C. Bennion
Gregory P. Christofferson
Sarah Barringer Gordon
William P. MacKinnon
Susan S. Rugh

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

Volume 41
No. 3

President's Message

In 1980 I had the exceptional experience of traversing much of the Mormon Trail with trailmaster Stan Kimball. Vivid memories remain of following the Platte, traipsing across the dusty Wyoming sage-scape, marveling at hillsides covered by Pronghorn antelopes, spotting swales etched by countless wagon tracks, and contemplating the human drama that once dotted the remote landscape. Could a few days with MHA in Casper help recapture some of that? Indeed it could—and for me it did. My family and I were among the nearly 600 who enjoyed an outstanding conference in Wyoming. The sessions were stimulating, but so was the setting.

In 1980, we pitched a tent along the trail or, in Casper, threw down bedrolls in the park. Sleep was cut short by thundering trains and then by diligent police officers who informed us in the early a.m. that they didn't look kindly

on sleeping in the park. This May, though the railroad still passed nearby, sleep was cut short only by captivating sessions and late-night discussions. Right outside the hotel, the Platte still flowed quietly by, a formidable barrier to cross but a lifeline of moisture in the arid high plains. Though Casper today is a thriving and sprawling community of 50,000 with its Target, Home Depot and Wal Mart, it remains remote. Whether one arrived by highway across hundreds of square miles of open Wyoming vistas or flew in on small commuter aircraft, the sense of remoteness remains.

And a powerful sense of place: Bessemer Bend on the Platte, the iconic Independence Rock a short distance "up" the trail; Martins Cove and Devils Gate on the peaceful, meandering Sweetwater. And we visited them all. Though our MHA colleague Stan Kimball has moved on, local trail experts and historians of the handcart experience helped us connect the history with the landscape.

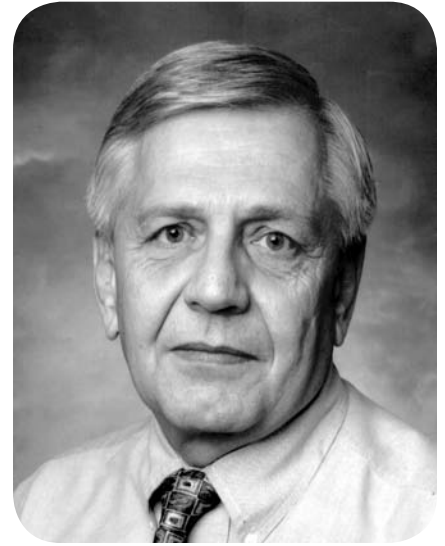
With the Casper experience behind us, already we look forward to—and are making plans for—a similarly rewarding experience in Salt Lake City in May 2007. Program co-chairs Richard L. Jensen and Pat Scott and local arrangements head Craig Fuller and their committees are assembling ideas for another memorable conference.

Please read the call for papers and consider proposing a paper or presentation. The theme "Crossroads and Confrontations" invites consideration of several significant events with important anniversaries in 2007: the 150th anniversary of the Utah War and related events and the 100th anniversary of the seating of US Senator / LDS Apostle Reed Smoot. The seating of Senator Smoot after more than fifty years of conflict and confrontation marked a new era of promising political resolution and accommodation.

Papers on these and related events are especially encouraged, but also on any aspect of the interactions between Mormon and non-Mormon cultures, figures, and events. And as always, proposals for papers on other aspects of the Mormon past are also welcome.

Perhaps no other professional association attracts half its members to annual meetings as MHA did in Vermont last year and Wyoming this year. For many the draw is to feel the power of place and to explore with the aid of experts where (and how) things transpired long ago. But MHA conferences are also wonderfully packed with

(Continued on page 3)



*Ronald K. Esplin
MHA President*

Call for Papers

2007 Salt Lake Conference

“Crossroads and Confrontations”

The forty-first annual meeting of the Mormon History Association will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 24-27, 2007. The theme, “Crossroads and Confrontations,” reflects the location of the conference and marks the sesquicentennial of the first major clashes between Mormon Utah and the United States. The Mormon Reformation was underway, highlighting the renewed fervor of a distinctive religious orthodoxy, when in 1857 James Buchanan ordered the U.S. Army to march toward “rebellious” Utah Territory to enforce national norms. The horrific Mountain Meadows Massacre of that year was but one of many manifestations of the ensuing collision between the two cultures. Over the following century and a half, the scene changed considerably, as demonstrated by the seating of Latter-day Saint apostle Reed Smoot in the U.S. Senate in 1907. But adherents of the varieties of Mormonism throughout the world continued to define their own identities in part through encounters between faiths and cultures, the sacred and the secular, and languages and ethnicities. Our theme invites us to consider what we can learn from historic points of contact and interaction, violence, accommodation, adaptation.

MHA invites and is actively seeking proposals for papers and other presentations for the conference. While we encourage presentations related to the theme, we also welcome other proposals. The program committee will give preference to proposals for full panels of three papers and a discussant for ninety-minute sessions. However, proposals for single papers are also welcome. We also welcome and will seriously consider proposals for historically based creative presentations in other than the traditional panel format. A proposal form and instructions for submitting proposals will be available at the MHA website, <http://www.mhahome.org/>. The deadline for all proposals is October 1, 2006. Notifications of acceptance or rejection will be mailed by January 15, 2007.

2007 MHA Program Committee

Co-chairs

Richard L. Jensen,

Senior Writer/Editor, The Joseph Smith Papers,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT.

E-mail jensrichard@gmail.com

Patricia Lyn Scott,

Archival Consultant, Salt Lake City, UT.

patricia_sco@msn.com

(President’s Message, continued from page 2)

concurrent sessions offering a rich (and maddening) selection of papers. Serious students of history, both scholars and dedicated “buffs,” share their insights. In Casper and we trust again in Salt Lake City, young scholars making their first forays into professional history join with seasoned presenters.

But the draw of an annual conference is also to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Important as are the onsite experiences and the stimulating sessions, connecting with a broad range of folks interested in Mormon history is equally so. The diversity of the association is remarkable and stimulating. Rub shoulders with people from different traditions growing out of the religious movement set in motion by Joseph Smith. Or discuss Mormon history with those from other religious backgrounds (or none at all) who nonetheless share an interest in Joseph Smith, the Mormon past, and the impact those have had or are having in today’s world. Such interactions are rich and provocative.

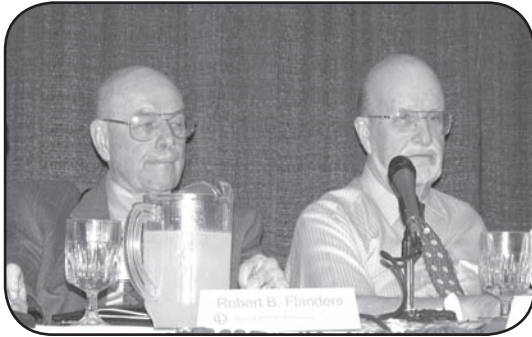
By any measure—membership, academic rigor, enthusiasm—the Mormon History Association is healthy. Still, we face significant challenges going forward if we are to continue to expand our publication program and professionalize our operations. Additional members can help. We invite your assistance in spreading the word and expanding our base. Please invite others who would enjoy the association to join us. Also, we who serve on the MHA council expect during the coming year to address some of these challenges in significant ways and will be suggesting additional ways you may help.

You are the association. Without the intellectual, emotional, and human resources each of you represent, nothing can be done. But together we can put in place a foundation that can take us healthy and strong into a promising 21st century association of shared learning and experience.

Casper Conference Report

“What brings me back each year?”

Each May, for three out of the past four years, I have attended the annual conference of the Mormon History Association. It is the only academic conference that I regularly attend and has earned a permanent place on my calendar. It has been an occasion when I have made some wonderful friendships and gained fascinating insights into Mormon history. My friends and family are bemused by this as I am a Catholic priest and a Franciscan friar. Not only that, but I generally teach Russian, not Mormon, history. What brings me back each year? I so enjoy the conference because I



Bob Flanders and Armand Mauss at the MHA 40th anniversary luncheon.

can truly put myself into the shoes of others and, at the same time, share my own perspectives as one who is actively involved in a faith tradition. The MHA conference is a place to develop both empathetic and critical skills.

This year I went on the post-conference tour, which was a great opportunity to build friendships and share at a deeper level. While looking at the sight of Custer’s “Last Stand,” on the banks of the Little Bighorn, I thought about how unlikely it was that I would have come to Wyoming or Montana on my own. The chance to visit places I would not otherwise go adds to the fun of MHA. The timing of the conference has suited my academic schedule and I have always received a warm and respectful welcome. I am already preparing a talk for presentation in Salt Lake City and next year I hope to bring a friend to experience the hospitality of the membership and the intellectual excitement of Mormon history.

Father Daniel P. Dwyer, O.F.M., Loudanville, New York

“...rib tickling reminiscences”



Visiting with friends

Our time at MHA was great from start to finish. We began with the pre-conference tour for our first experience with the trail from Casper to Martin’s Cove. Each stop offered a digital Kodak moment, and we discovered that

the Plains aren’t just flatland! How did our ancestors, including some in the Ellsworth handcart company, make it through that challenging terrain? Their diaries came alive with a sense of place.



Students visiting with Richard L. Bushman

Presenters in the conference sessions opened new vistas and motivated us to keep learning. Of special note for us were the papers by Samuel Brown and Jeff Johnson and the exuberant celebration of Richard Bushman’s new book by Martha Bradley-Evans. The session on the “Mormon Built Environment” delighted us. We’ll not forget Sunday’s devotional, with Lee Groberg’s personal reflections on filmmaking and our experience with the fitting message of the music. Eating together allowed us to renew old friendships and make new ones. As always, we scanned new books in the exhibit room.

We’ve been attending MHA since the Salt Lake conference in 1973. The rib-tickling reminiscences of Jan Shipps, Jim Allen, Armand Mauss, and Bob Flanders on MHA’s 40 years were worth this year’s price of admission. Phil Barlow’s eloquent and thought-provoking presidential address sent us on our way anxious for another place, another time. We’ll see you in SLC in ‘07.

Glen and Karen Leonard, Farmington, Utah

Leonard Arrington Student Social

For me, the MHA at Casper was a great mixture of scholarly presentations, time out on the pioneer trail, talking with old friends, and making new ones. We had a good turnout at the Leonard J. Arrington Student Social this year. Paul Reeve (USU), Kathy Daynes (BYU), and Quincy Newell (WSU) came to talk about the programs at their institutions, and Patrick Mason and Jed



Student Social

Woodworth spoke about their experiences at the University of Notre Dame and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. We have had a number of good students at a variety of good institutions working on Mormon topics or on topics including or relating to Mormon history.

MHA President Phil Barlow and President Elect Ron Esplin dropped by and joined us in a discussion with Richard Bushman about building a better community of student members. If you are interested in organizing another student event as part of or in addition to the annual conference, or if you are interested in spearheading an electronic solution to community building, share your ideas with MHA executive director Larry King through the MHA website.

Hope to see you next year on one or more occasions as we support each other in continuing the growth and professionalization of Mormon scholarship.

Mark Ashurst-McGee,
Graduate Student, Arizona State University



*Dr. Stephen J. Stein
Tanner Lecturer*

close that I was not familiar with. It also gave me an opportunity to get to know other people that I might never have had the opportunity to meet otherwise.

With great appreciation
Sherman Feher

“The overall aura of the place affected us deeply...”

A special treat Thursday night was the presentation of a concert opera, “1856: Long Walk Home,” composed by Harriet Petherick-Bushman, who provided the piano accompaniment for the fine voices who performed. Again we heard the handcart message:



Following his address for the conference devotional at Martin’s Cove, Lee Groberg shakes hands with a conference attendee

“Some say the season grows too late,
That you are fodder for trail side graves.
What say you, hardy saints?
Shall we not go forward?

Hoorahs rose from our throats,
We could taste Zion in the dust
That parched our tongues.”

The plenary session Friday morning assessed the causes of the handcart disasters. Who or what to blame? Is there value to assigning blame now? The underlying motives were good, but as Lyndia Carter said, “Something very human went wrong.” Even so the words that lived for me came from moderator Bill Hartley who said (and I’m paraphrasing) that Brigham sought to bring the poor from those places where there was no hope of escaping from poverty. He believed those people could rise by their own efforts in a place where their labors were rewarded, which was true as time went on. The fact that things went wrong just shows that Murphy’s Law was in operation even then.

Lael Littke, Pasadena, California

Dear MHA Student scholarship supporters,

Thank you for your generous support of MHA’s student scholarships. Your gift made the 2006 conference much more affordable for me. As a graduate student who lives on a very small teaching stipend, I was very grateful to receive a student scholarship.



Gathering for the Sunday Devotional at Martins Cove

Very few historical associations grant the support that MHA provides student scholars. In addition, MHA graduate students are welcome participants that are mentored by more senior scholars. Few conferences treat students so well. I am blessed by this grace-given generosity.

Grace and peace in Christ,
David Howlett
PhD Student, Religious Studies
University of Iowa

“...to see some history up close”

At the close of our tour I didn’t really take the time to thank you for the GREAT conference and tour. I enjoyed the variety of sessions and other activities at the conference and I especially enjoyed the tour. It gave me the opportunity to see some history up



Presidential banquet friendly discussion

“To Be or Not to Be in Casper”

I was very close to staying home from this conference. I had attended the last five conferences; wasn't it time for a break? Finances made the trip difficult on paper. The out-of-the-way location and the infrequency of flights into Casper made me think this was the year to take a break from MHA. The journals and the newsletters would come my way, keeping me informed, but the face-to-face encounters could wait another year.

All of this reasoning started to fall apart when Michael Landon wrote asking me to chair a session. Michael needed help, and I did not want to disappoint him. Soon my mind started ticking off all the reasons why I had to be in Casper. Five conferences in a row meant I had a streak going. Why not make it six? The cost of a trip into the heart of the American wilderness never bothered my ancestors.



Trails historian Lyndia Carter in discussion with conference attendees

Why should it bother me? The deal was sealed when I pondered the lives of my great-great grandmother, J e m i m a Nightingale, and her mother, Jane Archer, both of whom trekked across the plains in the ill-fated Martin H a n d c a r t Company. This

was my chance to walk parts of the trail they walked, and under expert guides. How could I not be in Casper?

People attend conferences for any number of reasons, the least of which is to deliver and hear delivered, academic papers. We attend for all sorts of personal reasons. We come to see old friends, to make new ones, to experience the thrill of seeing new surroundings, to feel the security of terrain we know well. The Casper conference taught me that the ties that hold me to MHA

are not so easily severed. Try as I might to resist, MHA pulls me in year after year, like the turning of the seasons, fitting my life to its rhythm.

Jed Woodworth



Let the discussion begin!



Presidential banquet conversation



*Valeen Tippetts Avery
1936–2006*

Valeen Tippetts Avery

MHA President 1987-1988

By Jan Shipps

Sometime between Monday night, April 3, and the time her family found her on Friday April 7, a valiant heart stopped beating. Jan Shipps said, in a tribute to Val, “A vital and incredibly dynamic woman whose persona gave meaning to the expression ‘full of life,’ Val retired from teaching at Northern Arizona University at the close of last year. ...Valeen Tippetts Avery was a gifted biographer with a special interest in the lives of women. She was the co-author with Linda King Newell, of *Mormon Enigma: Emma Hale Smith, Prophet’s Wife, Elect Lady, Polygamy’s Foe* (1984), and author of *From Mission to Madness: The Last Son of the Mormon Prophet* (1998). Both biographies won the Evans Award for the best biography in Western history. Val was also the author of many articles, reviews, and commentaries.

“In many ways, Val’s death from a heart arrhythmia was simply a tragic loss to her family and a huge array of friends throughout the historical community. But her death also closed the door on a signal career of a brave scholar and extraordinary woman.”

(Sunstone, April 2006, p. 5. Used by permission)

MHA 2006 Book and Article Awards

(Awards given for work published in 2005)

THE MORMON HISTORY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING AWARDS EACH YEAR TO ENCOURAGE AND FOSTER THE HIGHEST IDEALS IN SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

LEONARD J. ARRINGTON AWARD

Steven R. Sorenson
LDS Family and Church
History Department



Davis Bitton presenting Arrington Award to Steve Sorenson

MHA BEST BOOK AWARD - \$2,000

Richard L. Bushman
Joseph Smith, Rough Stone Rolling: A Cultural Biography of the First Mormon Prophet.
New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 2005

SMITH-PETTIT BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD - \$1,200

Robert S. Wicks & Fred R. Foister
Junius and Joseph: Presidential Politics and the Assassination of the First Mormon Prophet
Logan Utah: Utah State University Press, 2005

TURNER-BERGERA BEST BIOGRAPHY AWARD - \$1,200

Gregory A. Prince & William R. Wright
David O. McKay and the Rise of Modern Mormonism
Salt Lake City, University of Utah Press, 2005



Richard L. Bushman accepting the MHA Best Book Award

CHRISTENSEN BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD-\$1,000
Devery S. Anderson & Gary James Bergera

Joseph Smith's Quorum of the Anointed, 1842-1845: A Documentary History, and The Nauvoo Endowment Companies, 1845-1846: A Documentary History
Salt Lake City, Signature Books, 2005

T. EDGAR LYON BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR-\$500

Stephen C. LeSueur
"Missouri's Failed Compromise: The Creation of Caldwell County for the Mormons"
Journal of Mormon History, vol. 32, no. 3,(Fall 2005), 113-114

J. TALMAGE JONES AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE-\$350 EACH

Craig Livingston
"Eyes on the Whole European World: Mormon Observers of the 1848 Revolutions"
Journal of Mormon History, vol. 32, no 3, (Fall 2005), 78-112

Gregory Prince & Gary Topping

"A Turbulent Coexistence: Duane Hunt, David O. McKay and a Quarter-Century of Catholic-Mormon Relations"
Journal of Mormon History, vol. 32, no. 1 (Spring 2005), 142-163

JUANITA BROOKS BEST GRADUATE PAPER-\$300

Matthew J. Grow
Thomas L. Kane, Antebellum Reform, Defense of Mormons

JUANITA BROOKS BEST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER-\$300

Stanley J. Thayne
Walking on Water Stories Revisited



Stanley J. Thayne (L) and Alex Baugh

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT-\$100

Benjamin P. Allred
Thomas Sharp: The Man Behind the Smith Murder Conspiracy
Presented February 24 at the 2006 Religious Education Student Symposium, Brigham Young University

SPECIAL CITATION

Robert A. Clark
MHA recognizes the significant contribution to the study and publication of Mormon history by Robert A. Clark, publisher of the Arthur H. Clark Company.

THOMAS L. KANE AWARD

Elizabeth G. Dulany
Elizabeth G. Dulany, recently retired Associate Director of the University of Illinois Press, is recognized by the Mormon History Association as the catalyst behind the press's monumental accomplishment in publishing serious Mormon history over the past generation and longer.



Sally Gordon (L) presented the Thomas L. Kane Award to Liz Dulany

THOMAS RICE KING FAMILY OR COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARD - \$500

Not awarded this year

Mormon History Association
c/o Larry & Alene King
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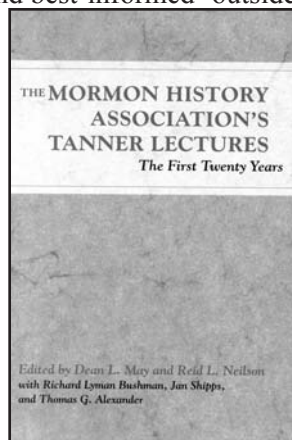
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TANNER LECTURE BOOK

“Since a good bit of LDS historiography has come from the inside, and sometimes defensively, this collection objectifies the field in an eye-opening way. As a group, the lectures represent a very high level of thinking about the Mormon historical experience, from and by highly qualified thinkers. These may be the most learned and best-informed ‘outsider’ historical analyses of Mormonism ever done.” (Walter Nugent, Tackes Professor of History emeritus, University of Notre Dame)

“As this collection amply demonstrates, when these scholars do their homework, the results are enlightening. This volume includes the Tanner lectures for the last two decades of the twentieth century, a general introduction, and specialized introductions to the three sections.” (From the back cover of the book)



Published by the University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, this book is available wherever books on Mormon History are sold.

Association for Mormon Letters Writers Conference November 4, 2006 Westminster College, Salt Lake City

Keynote speakers: Tracy and Laura Hickman

More information is available at
<http://www.aml-online.org>

“The Missouri Mormon Experience From conflict to understanding”

September 8-9, 2006

at the Missouri State Capitol,
Jefferson City, Missouri

A Mormon history conference like no other in a place like no other. Join leading scholars of early Mormon history to explore a tumultuous and yet vital period for a state and a faith.

Share in a spirit of healing as church leaders join Missouri political leaders at a commemoration at the Missouri Capitol.

Presenters include Jan Shipps, Kenneth Winn, Susan Easton Black, Alex Baugh and a dozen others.

For more information and to register visit www.mormonhistory.org or call 573-445-3239

2006 Salt Lake Sunstone Symposium and Workshops August 9 - 12

“Mormonism and Popular Culture”

Salt Lake Sheraton City Centre Hotel
150 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

In addition to the usual smorgasbord of explorations on Mormon thought, history, and contemporary moral and ethical issues, this year’s symposium features many sessions on the intersection between Mormonism and popular culture.

For more information go to www.sunstoneonline.com