



“Home and the Homeland”: MHA in Independence

"We have great things to look forward to," cries Neil Cameron in the closing lines of a 1922 RLDS novel. As he and his wife embrace and look out over Jackson County, Missouri, Neil sees a vision of the future. "We shall see mills and factories built that will give employment to thousands of our people. They will not be ground down under the heel of big business, but will be given a chance to work for that God-given right—a home of their own." This reformist vision for the kingdom of God in Jackson County represented one way that past people in diverse Restoration churches have desired a home in the homeland. Come to the 2010 meeting of MHA in Independence, Missouri, and explore the many other ways that Mormons past and present have constructed homes and homelands. With a full conference schedule, MHA members have great things to look forward to.

The pre- and post-conference tours, organized by MHA local arrangements chair Kathy Loving, will give conference attendees a window into the historical significance of Independence and Western Missouri in American history and Restoration history in particular. MHA plenary speaker and University of Central Missouri history professor Jon Taylor will lead a walking tour of the Harry S. Truman neighborhood where Taylor once worked as a U.S. Park Service guide. In another tour, longtime MHA member Steve Shields will lead groups on a tour of the many different Restoration denominations based in the Independence area—including the Church of Jesus Christ (Cutler), the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), and many others. Another preconference tour will combine visits to Truman sites (including the Truman Presidential Library and Museum) and nineteenth-century frontier historical sites and museums (such as the National Frontier Trails Museum). Finally, conference attendees may register for a post-conference tour of Restoration history sites in Western Missouri. This includes a visit to the graves of two Book of Mormon plates witnesses, a tour of Liberty Jail, a visit to Far West, and a stop at Adam-ondi-Ahman.

During the regular conference, many presenters will focus on the importance of Missouri and the family to Restoration denominations. For instance, one set of presenters will examine family tragedies during the Mormon-Missouri conflict, while another set will explore the theme of "crossing and dwelling" in Jackson County. Many presenters will focus on the family: nineteenth-century theories and practices of marriage, polygamy in the nineteenth-century hierarchy, the history of the Strangite family, and the significance of early LDS adoption
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Joseph Smith and Book of Mormon
LDS Visitor's Center
Courtesy Independence Tourism Department



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Published quarterly by the
Mormon History
Association
10 West 100 South, Suite
610

Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801-521-6565 (Voice)
1-888-642-3678
801-521-8686 (Fax)
mha_slc@msn.com
www.mhahome.org

Please send news items,
announcements, calls for
papers, and letters to
Linda Thatcher

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Dear Gathering Saints,

2010 marks the Sesquicentennial of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, now known as Community of Christ. As an essential part of the larger Restoration movement and sharing a common early history, the RLDS Church is part of an amazingly diverse extended religious family. MHA provides an informed forum where its members may explore commonalities and rightfully celebrate the successes and accomplishments of the various expressions of our remarkable extended family tree.

As the Reorganized Church coalesced in mid-west United States in the 1860-1880s, its members remained anxious to fulfill Joseph Smith Jr's vision of gathering to and building up Zion in Jackson County, Missouri. Joseph Smith III, son of Joseph and Emma Smith, having experienced some of the hardships of the Saints during his youth, remained cautious throughout his career about committing the time, talent, and treasure of the RLDS movement into a return to Missouri. Though adamantly committed to his father's ideals, he suspected that unless the church approached such an undertaking thoughtfully and with careful planning and execution, this effort could again result in disaster.

Under Joseph III's leadership, the Reorganization staged a gradual though persistent re-gathering, beginning first with a colonization of the regions round about Zion by establishing its headquarters directly across the northern Missouri border in Lamoni, Iowa, in 1881. The Lamoni experiment proved to be such a success, that it encouraged individual RLDS families to begin establishing homes in Missouri.

Another son of Joseph and Emma, Alexander H. Smith, relocated his family from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Andover, Missouri, about five miles south of Lamoni. During the 1880s concentrations of RLDS families developed throughout Missouri. Alexander settled with his family briefly in Stewartville in northwest Missouri and then gathered to Independence, Missouri, in 1882.

Though Alexander's family, like other early RLDS families in Independence, experienced a degree of hostility from non-member neighbors, they persisted and the number of church members inhabiting the area multiplied. During the 1880s the RLDS Branch outgrew the modest brick church first constructed on East Lexington Avenue. In 1886 they initiated an ambitious construction project resulting in the dedication of an impressive Stone Church in 1889 near the Temple Lot.

Joseph Smith III himself moved his family to Independence in 1906, essentially fulfilling a portion of his father's vision of successful gathering Saints in Jackson County, Missouri. Independence became the official RLDS Church headquarters in 1920.



Ronald E. Romig

Similar yearnings persist throughout the Mormon movement. There has always been a fascination and longing to return to our movement's roots in Jackson County, Missouri. That is one of the main reasons why MHA selected Missouri as the location for this conference. It is conference planners' hope and belief that the exciting array of outstanding scholars, papers and presentations that compose our conference will elucidate our theme, "The Home and the Homeland."

A wonderful conference is planned for you. Many thanks and great appreciation is due to the conference program committee, local arrangements committee volunteers, and the MHA Board and staff for their tireless efforts culminating in this special gathering of Saints. Special thanks are also extended to our many scholarly participants for their excellent research efforts and presentation preparations.

The conference is only a few short weeks away. Please do come to Independence and join us with us in this event. Your timely registration will be of great help to MHA staff. Would you also continue to serve as conference ambassadors? Encourage others to register for the conference and gather with us in Independence. Also seriously consider participating in and inviting your friends to participate in our outstanding pre- and post-conference tour. We are very much looking forward to greeting you and welcoming you to the 2010 Mormon History Association Conference in the Independence, Missouri. See you soon!

Ronald E. Romig,
MHA President, 2009-2010

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rituals—to name only a few of the sessions that focus on the family. And there are a number of sessions that will expand our understandings of topics outside of our conference themes. Sarah Gordon, Jan Shipps, Richard Bushman, and Mark Silk will discuss the Mountain Meadows Massacre as an event in religious history.

Several sessions feature presentations other than the standard paper format. On Friday, filmmaker Kenneth Ballentine will show his new documentary, "Trouble in Zion," about the 1838 Mormon War in Missouri. Ballentine's film features commentary by many MHA members such as Richard Bushman, Alexander Baugh, Steven LeSueur, and Richard Turley. During a Saturday concurrent session, Claudia Bushman has organized a reader's theater, previewed at the lunch session that day, titled "Voices from the Silent Majority: Mormon Women's Lives in the Twentieth Century." Another session features a group discussion about new questions and new themes we can probe in Mormon history.

Several years ago, MHA board members began to target greater student participation at our conferences by sponsoring events like the Leonard J. Arrington Student Reception (this year held on Friday, May 28 at 9:15) or offering a limited number of modest student scholarships to help defer travel costs. These efforts appear to be paying dividends. Twenty-four presenters at the upcoming conference are currently enrolled in graduate programs in history, religious studies, or American studies. These scholars attend Harvard University, Michigan State University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Michigan, Western Illinois University, Brigham Young University, Utah State University, Georgetown University, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Chicago Divinity School, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the University of Utah, Claremont Graduate University, Boston University, and Åbo Akademi University, Finland. The number of schools and the erudition of the new scholars are tangible signs of the growth of Mormon studies at universities across the country and across the world. These are heartening trends for MHA's future.

The 2010 conference does not end on Saturday. Conference attendees are encouraged to attend the Sunday morning MHA devotional, held this year in the sanctuary of the Community of Christ Temple in Independence. Long-time MHA member and Graceland University music professor Dick Clothier will lead the congregation in a service that performs the very earliest Mormon hymns published in the 1830 periodical, the *Evening and Morning Star*. Dick will be assisted by Community of Christ organist Jan Kraybill and the Mormon Chorale, directed by Alice Beebe.

So...come home to Independence! It might not be the social and religious utopia that the fictional character Neil Cameron exuberantly envisioned, but it is a wonderful setting to deepen your appreciation of Mormon history in the Midwest. Register online today for the 2010 MHA conference at www.mhahome.org <<http://www.mhahome.org/>>.

David Howlett and Susanna Morrill,
2010 Program Committee Chairs

2011 St. George Utah Conference Call for Papers

“From Cotton to Cosmopolitan: Local, National, and Global Transformations in Mormon History”

The forty-sixth annual conference of the Mormon History Association will be held May 26-29, 2011, at the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah, revisiting the location of the 1992 and 1976 MHA conferences. The 2011 theme, “From Cotton to Cosmopolitan: Local, National, and Global Transformations in Mormon History,” evokes both the specific history of St. George and environs, and Mormonism as a religious tradition more generally.

Once a sparsely populated corner of what became the American Southwest, St. George was founded as part of the LDS Church’s Cotton Mission in 1861. This year’s conference marks the sesquicentennial of the community’s settlement and seeks to highlight the remarkable transformation of the city and the region from isolated outpost to recreation destination. The theme also refers to the transformations of the Mormon tradition, in all of its varieties, from its frontier American origins in the early nineteenth century to its contemporary global presence at the dawn of the new millennium. The conference also aims to further the transformation of Mormon history and historiography from its provincial origins to greater consideration of broader trends, themes, and connections, as well as new interpretations. It is emblematic that St. George, its region, and college were for decades the residence and intellectual home of one of the great change agents of Mormon historiography, Juanita Leavitt Pulsipher Brooks.

The program committee welcomes papers and panels on all aspects of the transformations in the history of the Mormon-Restoration tradition. Studies focusing on the conference location and its environs (from Las Vegas to Colorado City), region-related themes, and/or notable anniversaries, are particularly encouraged. Accordingly, the following topics are of interest: the founding and history of the Cotton Mission (1861); the development of St. George and southern Utah; Mormon perspectives on and involvement in the American Civil War (1861-1865); the history and impact of Dixie College (1911); the environmental and agricultural history of the region, including the use and conflict over resources (particularly water and timber), the founding of national parks, the impact of nearby nuclear testing, and the development of nature-related tourism; and Mormon relationships with Native Americans.

While we encourage presentations related to the conference theme, we also welcome high-quality proposals related to any aspect of Mormon history. The Program Committee will give preference to complete two- or three-paper session proposals, but individual paper proposals and innovative formats will also be considered. Please send an abstract of each paper (no more than 300 words) outlining your argument and sources, plus a short CV (no longer than 2 pages) for each speaker; complete panel proposals should also include a short abstract describing the rationale and contribution of the overall panel, as well as suggestions for session chairs and respondents. Previously published papers will not be considered. Since MHA is particularly interested in fostering a new generation of scholars, generous donors have offered to pay the travel expenses for some undergraduate and graduate students whose proposals are accepted. Students’ proposals should include estimated expenses if applying for a travel grant. The deadline for proposals is October 1, 2010. Proposals should be sent by e-mail to mha2011@gmail.com. Hard copies of proposals can also be sent to Matthew Grow, Center for Communal Studies, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be made by January 1, 2011. Additional instructions and information are available on the MHA website at <http://www.mhahome.org>.

MHA St. George Program Committee

Co-chairs: Matthew J. Grow, Assistant Professor of History, University of Southern Indiana and
Patrick Mason, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Polly Aird, independent historian, Seattle, Washington

Wayne K. Hinton, retired Professor of History, Southern Utah University

Gregory A. Prince, independent historian, Potomac, Maryland

David Pulsipher, Professor of History, Brigham Young University-Idaho

W. Paul Reeve, Associate Professor of History, University of Utah

Lisa Olsen Tait, Ph.D. candidate in English, University of Houston

2010 MHA NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

Ron Esplin, past-president and chair of MHA's nominating committee, has announced the nominees for MHA President-elect and two council members for 2010. Richard L. Jensen, senior writer, research historian, and review editor for *The Joseph Smith Papers*, succeeding William P. MacKinnon, incoming president. Selected as council members are Grant Underwood, a BYU Professor, and Barbara Walden, executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. They are replacing retiring council members Tom Kimball and W. Paul Reeve.



Richard Jensen

Richard L. Jensen is a senior writer, research historian, and review editor for *The Joseph Smith Papers* and is a co-editor with Dean C. Jessee and Mark Ashurst-McGee of volume one of the *Journals Series of the Papers*. He received his M.A. in history from The Ohio State University and a B.A. in history from Utah State University. Richard joined the History Division of the Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1972, initially as a research assistant to Leonard Arrington; was transferred in 1980 to Brigham Young University's Joseph Fielding Smith Institute for Latter-day Saint History, where he first became involved with *The Joseph Smith Papers*; and was transferred again in 2005 to the LDS Church History Department. His publications focus on a wide variety of topics in Mormon history, primarily in the nineteenth century, and include *Mormons in Early Victorian Britain*, co-edited with Malcolm R. Thorp (Utah State University Press, 1989). He has served as book review editor for the *Journal of Mormon History*, member of the board of the John Whitmer Historical Association, member of the council of the Mormon History Association, and twice as program co-chair for MHA's annual meeting. He is secretary-treasurer of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. Richard and his wife, Dorothy, are the parents of six children and live in Provo, Utah.



Grant Underwood

Grant Underwood is a professor of history at Brigham Young University. He received his B.A. and M.A. in history from BYU, and his Ph.D. in history from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1988. Grant worked as an LDS Seminary teacher in Phoenix, Arizona (1977-81); in Los Angeles (1981-86); and the director of the Institute in Pamona, California (1986-92); and a religion professor at Brigham Young University-Hawaii (1992-1999). He joined the faculty of Brigham Young University as a professor of history in 2000. He has written or edited a number of books and articles on Mormon history including, *The Millenarian World of Early Mormonism* (University of Illinois Press, 1993). Currently, he serves as co-chair of the Mormon Studies Consultation of the American Academy of Religion and is the lead editor of the first two volumes of the Documents Series in the Joseph Smith Papers project. He and his wife, Sharee, are the parents of seven children.



Barbara Walden

Barbara Walden is the executive director of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. She received her B.A. in history from Graceland University and a MA in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program (SUNY Oneonta). Her museum experience includes work at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Women's Rights National Historical Park, and Liberty Hall (the Joseph Smith III home from 1881 to 1905), in Lamoni, Iowa. In 2002, she returned to her origins and love for church history as the historic site director of the Kirtland Temple. A highlight of her Kirtland experience included the construction and dedication of a new visitor center in 2007. Barbara is an active member of the John Whitmer Historical Association.



BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices

compiled by

J. Michael Hunter

- Bagley, Will. *So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812-1848*, vol. 1 of *Overland West: The Story of the Oregon and California Trails*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010.
- Bennett, Richard E., Susan Easton Black, and Donald Q. Cannon. *The Nauvoo Legion in Illinois: A History of the Mormon Militia, 1841-1846*. Norman, Okla.: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2010.
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- Holzapfel, Richard Neitzel, and Kent P. Jackson, eds. *Joseph Smith, the Prophet & Seer*. Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2009.
- Madsen, Truman G. *Joseph Smith the Prophet: Illustrated Edition*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Company, 2010.
- Maxwell, John Gary. *Gettysburg to Great Salt Lake: George R. Maxwell, Civil War Hero and Federal Marshal among the Mormons*. Norman, Okla.: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2010.
- Mendenhall, Mark E., Hal B. Gregersen, Jeffrey S. O'Driscoll, Heidi S. Swinton, and Breck England, eds. *Joseph & Hyrum Leading as One*. Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2009.
- Pykles, Benjamin C. *Excavating Nauvoo: The Mormons and the Rise of Historical Archaeology in America*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010.
- Rohrer, S. Scott. *Wandering Souls: Protestant Migrations in America, 1630-1865*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010. [An American Exodus: Mormons and the Westward Trek" pp. 215-243].
- Spencer, Thomas M. *The Missouri Mormon Experience*. Columbia: University of Missouri, 2010.
- Watt, Ronald G. *Mormon Passage of George D. Watt: First British Convert, Scribe for Zion*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 2009.
- Woolley, Caroline Keturah Parry. *"I Would to God": A Personal History of Isaac Haight*. Cedar City, Utah: Southern Utah University Press, 2009.
- Young, Brigham. *The Complete Discourses of Brigham Young*, edited by Richard S. Van Wagoner. Salt Lake City: Smith-Pettit Foundation, 2009.

Selected Articles

compiled by

Jennifer St Clair

- Alexander, Thomas G. "Thomas L. Kane and the Mormon Problem in National Politics." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 3 (2009): 57-88.
- Baugh, Alexander L. "Guilty of High Misdemeanors, Villainy, Conspiracy, and Treason: Samuel Bogart's 1839 Letter about the Mormons to the Quincy, Illinois, Postmaster." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 2 (2009): 175-186.
- Bennett, Richard E. "'He Is Our Friend': Thomas L. Kane and the Mormons in Exodus, 1846-1850." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 3 (2009): 36-56.
- Bennion, Lowell C. (Ben) and Thomas R. Carter. "Touring Polygamous Utah with Elizabeth W. Kane, Winter 1872-1873." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 3 (2009): 158-192.

- Derr, Jill Mulvey and Matthew J. Grow. "Letters on Mormon Polygamy and Progeny: Eliza R. Snow and Martin Luther Holbrook, 1866-1869." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 2 (2009): 139-164.
- Esplin, Scott C. "The Mormons Are Coming: The LDS Church's Twentieth Century Return to Nauvoo." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no.2 (2009): 103-132.
- Lawrence Foster, "Beyond Black Muslims and Reorganized Mormons: The Transformation of Two New Religious Movements in America," *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal* 28 (2008): 34-64.
- Foster, Lawrence. "Sex and Conflict in New Religious Movements: A Comparison of the Oneida Community under John Humphrey Noyes and the Early Mormons under Joseph Smith and his Would-Be Successors." *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 13, no. 3 (2010): 34-58.
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- Harper, Steven C. "The Making of Modern Scripture: Latter-day Saints and the Book of Commandments and Revelations." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no.2 (2009): 31-39.
- Hoskisson, Paul Y. "Different and Unique: The Word of Wisdom in the Historical, Cultural, and Social Setting of the 1830s." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no.2 (2009): 41-61.
- Kirk, Andrew Taylor. "Dens of Hell in the Cities of Zion." *Journalism History* 35, no. 4 (2010): 229-237.
- MacKinnon, William P. "'Full of Courage': Thomas L. Kane, the Utah War, and BYU's Kane Collection as Lodestone." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 3 (2009): 89-119.
- Neilson, Reid L. "Turning the Key that Unlocked the Door: Elder David O. McKay's 1921 Apostolic Dedication of the Chinese Realm." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no.2 (2009): 77-101.
- Roper, Matthew. "Early Publications on the Book of Mormon." *Journal of the Book of Mormon and Other Restoration Scripture* 18, no. 2 (2009): 38-51.
- Smith, Daymon Mickel. "The Masque of Underground and Spy: Ubiquitous Addressivity, Dependent Social Roles, and Panopticism among Nineteenth Century Mormon Polygamists." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 19, no. 2 (2009): 246-265.
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- Souders, Michael C. "Preaching the Restored Gospel: John Nicholson's Homiletic Theories for Young Mormons." *Rhetorica* 27, no. 4 (2009): 420-445.
- Starrs, Paul F. "Meetinghouses in the Mormon Mind: Ideology, Architecture, and Turbulent Streams of an Expanding Church." *The Geographical Review* 99, no. 3 (2009): 323-355.
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- Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. "An American Album, 1857." *The American Historical Review* 115, no. 1 (2010): 1-25.
- Weber, Curtis G. "Skulls and Crossed Bone?: A Forensic Study of the Remains of Hyrum and Joseph Smith." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no.2 (2009): 1-29.
- Whittaker, David J. "'My Dear Friend': The Friendship and Correspondence of Brigham Young and Thomas L. Kane." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 3 (2009): 193-225.
- Woodger, Mary Jane and Jessica Wainwright Christensen. "Lincoln and the Brethren." *Religious Studies* 11, no. 1 (2010): 109-141.
- Woods, Fred. "The 1854 Mormon Emigration at the Missouri-Kansas Border." *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 32 (Winter 2009-2010): 226-245.

Mormon History Association
10 West 100 South, Suite 610
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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2010 Conference Updates

- **Pre-Conference Tour (May 27):**
 - Tour 1 – “Pioneers and a President” is not full.
 - Tour 2 – “Divergent Paths to Zion” Full.
 - Tour 3A – “Harry S. Truman’s Neighborhood: A Walking Tour” is not full – may be cancelled
 - Tour 3B – Afternoon tour (2:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.) Full.
- **Post Conference Tour (May 30)** – a second bus has been added.
- **Need a roommate?** A few individuals have contacted the MHA Office about finding a roommate. If you are interested contact Pat Scott (801-521-6565).
- **Price Changes:** Remember conference prices expire on April 30, 2010 and prices will increase on **May 1, 2010**. Also, rooms at the Holiday Inn CoCo-Key Water Resort will be released to the general public after **April 30, 2010**.
- **Presenters:** All presenters (speakers, chairs, and commentators) **must register** for the conference.
- **Late Registrations:** On-line registrations will end May 17 and prospective registrants are asked to register on-site in Kansas City. The MHA Office will be closed May 25-31, 2010 and will be relocating at the Holiday Inn during our annual conference.
- **Watch for additional conference updates on our website: mha.org.**

AWARDS

Western Legal History 2010 Jerome I. Braun Prize. For more information to www.njchs.org

Western History Association 2010 Arrington Prucha Award. For more information go to www.westernhistoryassociation.org

Papanikolas Best Student Article on Utah Women’s History. Contact: (801) 521-6565.

Journal of Mormon History looking for a Volunteer

The *Journal of Mormon History* is looking for a volunteer to serve as advertising manager. This position involves contacting various publishers to secure paid ads for the *JMH*. If you or anyone you know someone who might be interested in the volunteer position, please contact the editor, Martha Taysom at: marthataysom@gmail.com