



MHA Independence Conference Report

The 2010 Conference chairs David Howlett and Suzanna Morrill would like to thank everyone who made the Independence conference such a success—great papers on a variety of topics were presented. Conference attendees were able to listen to the most recent research on the family in Mormonism and the importance of Missouri to Mormon history and culture. It was an illuminating and exciting time.

Even more exciting were the 450 people who attended the conference. Attendees came from around the United States and many foreign countries including Canada, Finland and Holland. The conference began with a well attended opening reception at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library. Attendees not only enjoyed good food and conversation, but were also able to tour the museum, enjoy its gift shop, and meditate at the graves of Harry and Bess Truman.

The reception was followed by a plenary session focusing on the importance of Independence. Community of Christ President Steven M. Veazey welcomed conference attendees, noting that, “From the first time the Prophet Joseph Smith set foot in Jackson County we continue to marvel at the growth and impact of our religious movement in all of its varied expressions.” He noted that he has “challenged [Community of Christ] members to continue exploring our history as one of the ways in which we continue to clarify our identity, mission, message and beliefs,” adding he believed it was important to be reminded while, “history should be informative . . . it should not dictate our faith and belief.”

Samuel Alonzo Dodge, a first time conference attendee commented that “The MHA conference that was held this past May was spectacular. It was my first time attending such a conference as well as my first public presentation of one of my own compositions. People were accommodating and helpful. I was intrigued by the large number of scholars all dedicated to understanding the history of Mormonism and its place in the American story. I loved making new acquaintances and learning of more opportunities. I am already excited for next year’s conference.”

Debra Marsh, one of MHA’s award winners commented “We thoroughly enjoyed the Divergent Paths Tour. It is amazing how many different groups fit under the umbrella of Mormonism. Ultimately, we concluded that we all have much more in common than we have different.”

It is always important to remember that it takes many people to make a successful conference—thanks to everyone who helped in any way.





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Dear MHA Members:

Our 45th annual conference in and around Independence was another highly successful one conducted in a community with special meaning for the churches of the Restoration movement and with a spirit of fellowship and cooperation among them that added to the meeting's pleasures. Thanks for this success need to be extended to a large number of people, especially Cathy Loving, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee; David Howlett and Susanna Morrill, co-chairs of the Program Committee; and MHA's indefatigable executive directors, Pat Scott and Linda Thatcher. As the saying goes, this conference had a great many "moving parts" that needed to mesh under difficult economic conditions. That they did so in good style was due largely to these five people and the groups they led so effectively as well as, of course, the 450 MHA members who attended the conference. I know of no other professional historical organization in which the members attend the annual conference in such high numbers relative to the total size of the organization while taking part with such spirit and effectiveness. For this level and style of participation I give thanks while mindful of the high standard that has been set for MHA's future gatherings.

Before moving to my comments about that future, I want to recognize the recent role change for several of our other leaders: Ron Romig, who has segued from president to immediate past president; Linda Thatcher, who in August retires as co-executive director; and Kathy Daynes, Tom Kimball and Paul Reeve who leave the MHA Board at the end of their prescribed terms. Because of his vast experience with things Independence, Ron served as a catalyst for the entire conference and played a special part in bringing the multiple Restoration churches headquartered in the area into fellowship with their Latter-day Saint colleagues. Ron did so while bringing off a change in job responsibilities and the relocation of his family from Independence to Kirtland. I very much appreciate his willingness and ability to go the extra mile during 2009-2010. Similarly Linda Thatcher has given of her talents and energy unstinting. Linda will be setting aside her executive director duties (but not her active membership) for travel and other activities she has deferred in serving MHA. We wish her bon voyage—literally as well as figuratively. The Board is now completing its plans for the realignment of staff responsibilities, and before the summer is out we will inform you as to the follow-on moves to take place in the wake of Linda's retirement. I view the return of Kathy, Tom, and Paul to full attention to their respective professional and family responsi-



Bill MacKinnon

bilities with mixed emotions because of the wonderful wisdom, energy, and counsel that they have brought to MHA's Board in recent years. What helps alleviate the pangs of their departure is the knowledge that they have not gone far and that they have been succeeded by three very able people in the roles of immediate past president and Board member: Ron Romig, Barbara Walden, and Grant Underwood. My thanks to all.

Much of my focus over the next year will be on MHA's 46th annual conference to be held in St. George, Utah during May 26-29, 2011. There is no need for me to rehash the conference's theme and goals, since they are set forth succinctly in the "Call for Papers" included elsewhere in this newsletter as well as on MHA's website (www.mhahome.org). What I want to say, though, is that in selecting the theme "From Cotton to Cosmopolitan: Local, National, and Global Transformations in Mormon History," the Program Committee, ably led by Matt Grow and Patrick Mason, is pointing the way for an exciting meeting to be held in an extraordinary setting. We will explore not only the transformation of southern Utah since establishment of the LDS Cotton Mission 150 years ago but also the changing interpretations of Mormon history that have accompanied this transformation.

MHA last met in St. George in 1992. Much has happened since then in this colorful, remarkable region of the United States. Helping to bring about a wonderful conference there in 2011 will be the Local Arrangements Committee led by Janet Seegmiller and Doug Alder, two of MHA's most seasoned, wise veterans. Doug served as MHA's president during 1997-1998 and was instrumental in the success of the 1992 St. George conference. He lives in St. George and formerly was president of its Dixie State College. Janet Seegmiller lives in Cedar City where she oversees the manuscript collections at Southern Utah University. Janet led both program and local arrangements for MHA's conference there in 2001. Alder, Grow, Mason, and Seegmiller – what a team!

From what I know now of the conference papers and panels taking shape, the speakers who are being invited for plenary sessions, the activities being arranged in St. George itself, the facilities of St. George's beautiful, capacious Dixie Conference Center, and the recreational/tour opportunities implicit in the colorful mountains, canyons, rivers, national parks, and golf courses of southern Utah, southern Nevada, and northern Arizona, this conference will be a landmark one.

So read the "Call for Papers", respond with a proposal as requested by this coming October 1st, and renew your MHA membership when the mailer reaches you this fall. I look forward to seeing you in a St. George that has been transformed since 1861 and that promises to transform us as we gather together there next May.

Bill MacFarlin

MHA 2010-11 President

MORMON HISTORY ROOM REDEDICATED AT RAY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

On Sunday, May 30th, a refurbished Mormon Room was rededicated at the Ray County Historical Museum in Richmond, Missouri. Originally created in 1974, the room had more recently fallen into disrepair. The new Mormon room contains exhibits detailing the relationship between early-day Mormons, Richmond, and Ray County. More than 200 attendees (including MHA members on the post-conference tour) witnessed the dedication, ribbon cutting, and toured the facility. Mission President (and MHA member) George Van Komen presided over the ceremony which included music and remarks from local church leaders.



2010 Mormon History Association Award Winners

The Mormon History Association presented the following awards at the annual conference (for works published/written in 2009) to encourage and foster the highest ideals in scholarly research and publication.

LEONARD J. ARRINGTON AWARD

**Claudia Lauper Bushman
Richard Lyman Bushman**

MHA BEST BOOK AWARD

Matthew J. Grow, *“Liberty to the Downtrodden:” Thomas L. Kane Romantic Reformer* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009).

SMITH-PETTIT BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD

Megan Sanborn Jones, *Performing American Identity in Anti-Mormon Melodrama* (New York: Routledge, 2009).

STEVEN F. CHRISTENSEN BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Jill Mulvay Derr and Karen Lyn Davidson, comp. and eds. *Eliza R. Snow: The Complete Poetry* (Provo: Brigham Young University and Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2009).

Richard E. Turley and Ronald W. Walker, *Mountain Meadows Massacre: the Andrew Jenson and David H. Morris Collection* (Provo: Brigham Young University Press and Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2009).

ELLA TURNER-ELLA BERG- ERA BEST BIOGRAPHY AWARD

Polly Aird, *Mormon Convert, Mor-*

mon Defector: A Scottish Immigrant in the American West, 1848-1861 (Norman: Arthur H. Clark/University of Oklahoma Press, 2009).

GERALDINE MCBRIDE WOODWARD AWARD FOR BEST PUBLICATION IN INTERNATIONAL MORMON HISTORY

Roger P. Minert, *In Harm's Way: East German Latter-day Saints in WWII* (Provo, UT: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2009).

THOMAS R. KING FAMILY COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARD

Richard C. Roberts, *A History of the B. H. Roberts Family* (the author, distributed by Eborn Books, 2009).

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER

Joseph T. Antley, “Early America’s Treasure Quest: The Effort to Recapture the Supernatural in the American Northeast.” history major, Brigham Young University.

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST GRADUATE PAPER

Matthew Bowman, “Matthew Philip Gill and Joseph Smith: the Dynamics of Mormon Schism,” Ph.D. candidate, history, Georgetown University

LESTER E. BUSH BEST THESIS AWARDS

Debra Marsh, “Respectable Assassins: A Collective Biography and Socio-Economic

Study of the Carthage Mob,” M.A. thesis, University of Utah.

Caye Wycoff, “Markets and the Mormon Conflict in Nauvoo, Illinois, 1839-1846,” M.A. thesis, Brigham Young University.

GERALD E. JONES DISSERTATION AWARD

Jonathan Moyer, “Dancing with the Devil: The Making of the Mormon Republican Pact,” Ph.D. dissertation, University of Utah.

J. TALMAGE JONES AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Matthew J. Grow, “The Suffering Saints: Thomas L. Kane, ‘Democratic Reform & the Mormon Question in Antebellum American,” *Journal of the Early Republic* 29 ((Winter 2009), 681-710.

Edward Leo Lyman, “Chief Kanosh: Champion of Peace and Forbearance,” *Journal of Mormon History* 35 (Winter 2009), 157-207.

Morris A. Thurston, “The Boggs Shooting and Attempted Extradition, Joseph Smith’s Most Famous Case,” *BYU Studies* 48 (2009), 4-56.

**T. EDGAR LYON AWARD FOR
BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR**
Samuel Brown, “Joseph Smith in Egypt: Babel, Hieroglyphics and the Pure Language of Eden,” *Church History* 78 (March 2009), 26-65.

THOMAS L. KANE AWARD U. S. Senator Christopher S. “Kit” Bond

SPECIAL CITATIONS Missouri State Archives

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. 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 mhameeting2011@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-Chair: Matthew J. Grow
Assistant Professor of History,
University of Southern Indiana,
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Co-Chair: Patrick Q. Mason
Research Associate Professor,
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Cedar City, UT

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

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



BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices
Compile by
J. Michael Hunter

- Anderson, C. Leroy. *Joseph Morris: and the Saga of the Morrisites* (Revisited). 3rd ed. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2010. Newly revised edition with updated documentation.
- Black, Susan Easton, ed. *The Best of The Frontier Guardian*. Provo and Salt Lake City: BYU Studies and University of Utah Press, 2009.
- Clark, David L. *Joseph Bates Noble: Polygamy and the Temple Lot Case*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2009.
- Clothier, Richard. *150 Years of Song: Hymnody in the Reorganization 1860-2010*. Independence, Mo.: Herald Publishing House, 2010.
- Corrigan, John and Lynn S. Neal. *Religious Intolerance in America: A Documentary History*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010. Chapter 3 entitled "Anti-Mormonism."
- Hamer, John, David Howlett, and Barbara Walden. *Community of Christ: An Illustrated History*. Independence, Mo.: Herald Publishing House, 2010.
- Kuehne, Raymond. *Mormons as Citizens of a Communist State: A Documentary History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in East Germany, 1945-1990*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2010.
- Lisonbee, Dan A. and Janet L. Lisonbee, *Far West, Missouri: "It Shall Be Called Most Holy."* Springville, Utah: CFI, 2010.
- Lisonbee, Janet L. *Mormon Graves in Kirtland: A Biographical Dictionary of Early Saints Buried in the Kirtland Area*. Independence, Mo.: John Whitmer Books, 2009.
- Neilson, Reid L. *Early Mormon Missionary Activities in Japan, 1901-1924: Strangers in a Strange Land*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2009.
- Rockwell, John W. *Stories from the Life of Porter Rockwell*. American Fork, Utah: Covenant Communications, 2010.
- Snow, Lorenzo. *Within These Prison Walls: Lorenzo Snow's Record Book, 1886-1897*, edited by Andrew H. Hedges and Richard Neitzel Holzapfel. Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University, 2010.
- Staker, Mark L. *Hearken, O Ye People: The Historical Setting for Joseph Smith's Ohio Revelations*. Salt Lake City: Greg Kofford Books, 2009.
- Stout, Hosea. *The Autobiography of Hosea Stout*, edited by Reed A. Stout and revised by Stephen L. Prince. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press and Utah State Historical Society, 2010.

Selected Articles
Compiled by
Jennifer St Clair

- Bagley, Will. "'Except As a Friend': Wallace Stegner Among the Mormons." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 2 (2010): 100-117.
- Bennett, Richard E. "Joseph Smith and the First Principles of the Gospel." *Religious Educator* 11, no. 2 (2010): 11-29.
- Black, Susan Easton. "The Frontier Guardian: Exploring the Latter-day Saint Experience at the Missouri, 1849-1851." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 1 (2010): 135-159.
- Griffiths, Casey Paul. "Joseph F. Merrill and the 1930-1931 LDS Church Education Crisis." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 1 (2010): 93-134.
- Harper, Steven C. "Evaluating the Book of Mormon Witnesses." *Religious Educator* 11, no. 2 (2010): 37-49.
- Henrichsen, Lynn and George Bailey, Timothy Wright, John Brumbaugh, Jacob Huckaby, and Ray

Lebaron. "Building Community by Respecting Linguistic Diversity: Scandinavian Immigrants in Nineteenth-Century Utah." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 1 (2010): 4-22.

Lyman, Edward Leo. "Development of the Abraham, Millard County, Irrigation Project, 1889-1900." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 2 (2010): 118-133.

Morgan, Brandon. "From Brutal Ally to Humble Believer: Mormon Colonists' Image of Pancho Villa." *New Mexico Historical Review* 85, no. 2 (2010): 109-129.

Park, Benjamin. "Salvation Through a Tabernacle: Joseph Smith, Parley P. Pratt, and Early Mormon Theologies of Embodiment." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 2 (2010): 1-44.

Smith, Christopher C. "Joseph Smith in Hermeneutical Crisis." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. 43, no. 2 (2010): 86-108.

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. "Mormon Women in the History of Second-Wave Feminism." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*. 43, no. 2 (2010): 45-63.

Woods, Fred E. "That Journey I Shall Never Forget:" Mormon Emigrants & the Lynchburg, Virginia Railroad Accident." *Pioneer* 57, no. 2 (2010): 31-34.

MHA Student Reception 2010

Over forty students attended the student reception at the Mormon History Association conference in Independence, Missouri. Students represented universities from all over the country, with one coming from Finland to present papers, present a reader's theater, chair and monitor sessions, attend sessions, and build a scholarly network among Mormon historians. Schools represented included Arizona State University, Boston University, Brigham Young University, Claremont Graduate University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, Michigan State University, Ohio State University, University of Delaware, University of Michigan, University of Utah, Utah State University. Mostly graduate students pursuing a variety of master's and PhD degrees in history, religious studies, American studies, library science and archival management, and museum studies, the group also included recent graduates and undergraduates.

At the Friday evening student reception, a rousing white elephant activity awarded prizes of cash, books, journals and DVDs, and Missouri memorabilia. Discussion included methods of digital networking among young Mormon historians across the globe. We welcome students at any level to join the Student Supporters of the Mormon History Association Facebook page. We look forward to student participation in St. George in 2011 and encourage both individual and panel paper proposals.



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**2010
CONFERENCE
PROGRAMS
AND ABSTRACTS
AVAILABLE**

Additional copies of the conference program and abstracts are available from the MHA Office for \$4.00 (cost for postage and handling for both). Contact MHA at 801-521-6565 or e-mail us at: mha_slc@msn.com.

**Donors needed to Fund
Awards Program**

MHA is in need of several donors to help support the MHA Book Awards. To find out more contact Board Member Spencer Fluhman at: fluhman@byu.edu

**2010 Conference
Recordings**

In an attempt to begin providing mp3 audio files of conference papers, a few presentations were recorded at this year's conference. We are experimenting with quality and access and hope to upload audio files to a redesign of our website in coming months. For questions or to volunteer assistance, please contact MHA board member Jenny Reeder at jreeder4@gmu.edu.