



MHA 2011 CONFERENCE IN ST. GEORGE

In October 1861, six months after the shelling of Fort Sumter that initiated the Civil War and cut off the South (and its cotton) from the rest of the nation, Brigham Young addressed his people in the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. He declared his intention to “call upon a number of Swiss and other brethren to go into the Southern part of the Territory ... to raise cotton, indigo, grapes, figs and other such articles as cannot be raised in the northern counties.” With his typical confidence in the Saints and their promised land, Young declared that they could raise these and other warm-weather crops “as well as they can be raised in any other part of the world.”

Though Mormons had begun colonizing the area as early as 1854, Young’s announcement, spurred by national events thousands of miles away, launched the Cotton Mission, led to the founding of St. George, Utah, (and the broader “Dixie” region), and began the transformation of southern Utah from isolated desert outpost to what is now one of the most popular destinations in the state for modern-day settlers and tourists alike.

Utah’s Cotton Mission was plagued from the beginning with a host of problems. The region’s signature industries of cotton and silk never became sustainably profitable, and the cotton factory closed for good in 1910. Failure in the cultivation of crops, however, was replaced by a new initiative in the cultivation of minds, which helped precipitate a revolution in Mormon history. In 1911, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of St. George’s settlement, Dixie College—now Dixie State College—opened its doors to students. One of Dixie’s early instructors was Juanita Pulsipher Brooks, who became fascinated with her newly adopted home and began researching its history. Working late at night from previously unused pioneer documents, she wrote articles and family narratives, culminating in her two master works, *The Mountain Meadows Massacre* (1950) and *John Doyle Lee: Zealot, Pioneer Builder, Scapegoat* (1961).



St. George Tabernacle

With these anniversaries in mind—the sesquicentennial of the Civil War and founding of the Cotton Mission, the centennial of the establishment of Dixie College, and the fifty-year anniversary of one of Mormon history’s seminal biographies—we are pleased that the Mormon History Association is returning to

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President's Message

In my last "Newsletter" message, I promised news about the reorganization of MHA's staff resources in the wake of Linda Thatcher's retirement as Co-Executive Director at the end of August. I am pleased to announce that MHA's Board and Pat Scott have completed discussions by which Pat's commitment to MHA is to be extended through the summer of 2012 (from 2011) and that, effective September 1, 2010, her title has changed from Co-Executive Director to Executive Director. She remains a member of the Association's board. In a related move, Ms. Marilyn S. Barney of North Salt Lake, a long-time MHA member and veteran volunteer, has assumed the office role of MHA Business Manager, reporting to Pat. Marilyn's role is similar to, yet somewhat different from, the one fulfilled by Linda. All of this – plus Linda's continued presence in Salt Lake City and availability to respond to questions and provide advice as an MHA retiree – means that the Association will have strong staff support to carry us through at least the next two conferences in St. George (2011) and Alberta (2012). Congratulations to Pat, and welcome to Marilyn!



Elsewhere in this "Newsletter" you will find the announcement of more good news on the grantsmanship/capital campaign front. I refer you to that article for the details, but I must at least express my thanks here to the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation and its (our) anonymous donor who have expressed such wonderful confidence in MHA through this most generous and welcome financial support.

Having said that, though, I want to emphasize that it will be important in these difficult economic times for you to respond thoughtfully and promptly to the mailer going out soon to solicit your MHA membership renewal and other financial support. Renewing your MHA membership this fall is not only the best way to assure continued receipt of the "Newsletter" and Journal of Mormon History in 2011, it is a way of demonstrating to the potential donors, philanthropists, and foundations with whom we are in ongoing contact that MHA is indeed the premier organization dealing with Mormon history – one that is demonstrably supported actively by its own members. I leave this subject with the suggestion that, as you read through this fall's membership renewal material, you consider the attractiveness of an MHA membership as a holiday gift for family members or friends. It is a gift that has multiple benefits at relatively low cost and that will throughout 2011 remind the fortunate recipient of your thoughtfulness as well as your interest in Mormon history.

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(President's Message continued from page 2)

Finally, I want to repeat a thought from my last "Newsletter" message: The St. George conference during May 26-29, 2011 is going to be a stimulating and enjoyable one in a highly unusual part of the world – a region dense with scenic wonders, national parks, and multiple reminders of the Mormon past and how our interpretation of it has been transformed since the mid-nineteenth century. Matt Grow and Patrick Mason, Co-Chairs of the Program Committee, believe that some stimulating plenary speakers have accepted our invitation to enlighten us at St. George, and that MHA's members have submitted absolutely first-rate proposals for ground-breaking panels and individual papers. Co-Chairs of the local Arrangements Committee, Doug Alder and Janet Seegmiller, are hard at work to complete the details of some wonderful activities in St. George itself as well as tours throughout the most colorful, scenic parts of the region. We also have a wonderful tribute to Juanita Brooks taking shape, since much of her later life and professional career were closely associated with St. George, her adopted home after leaving Bunkerville, Nevada.

MHA is on the move, and we want you to continue to be with us on this journey during what promises to be an extraordinary 2011.

Cordially,

Bill McFurin

*McEwan Conference
& Events Centre
Courtesy
University of Calgary*



2012 MHA CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The 2012 MHA will be held from June 28-July 1, 2012 at the MacEwan Conference & Events Centre at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Canada. Housing will be made available at the campus hotel appropriately named - Hotel Alma (opened October 2009) plus new dormitory units. 2012 is the centennial year of the Calgary Stampede and the conference will be concluding just days before the start of the Stampede.

President-Elect Richard Jensen announces that Calgarian attorney Bruce Blumel will serve as local arrangements chair. Information on the program committee and other aspects will soon be made available in future newsletters and on the MHA website.



*Dixie Center at St. George
Courtesy of the St. George CVB*

ST. GEORGE CONFERENCE HOTELS

Surrounded by beautiful sandstone bluffs and red soil the Dixie Center at St. George, Utah is the site of the 2011 MHA Conference. It is a modern conference facility located just off 1-15, Bluff Street exit (exit 6). MHA has negotiated a very favorable rate of \$89 (single/double/triple) per night at six St. George Hotels. All hotels are located within 3 miles of the Dixie Center. The following is an alphabetical list of the conference hotels:

Best Western Abbey Inn

(www.bwabbeyinn.com - 435-652-1234)

Comfort Suites

(www.stgeorgecomfortsuites.com - 435-673-7000)

Fairfield Inn by Marriott

(www.marriott.com - 435-673-6066)

Hilton Garden Inn

(www.hiltongardeninn.com - 435-673-6066)

Holiday Inn

(www.histgeorgeutah.com - 435-634-4100)

LaQuinta Inn & Suites

(www.laqtstgeorge.com - 636-674-2664).

Complete descriptions and registration information on all hotels will be posted on the MHA website (www.mhahome.org) by November 1, 2010.

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St. George for its annual conference from May 26-29, 2011. Our chosen theme, “From Cotton to Cosmopolitan: Local, National, and Global Transformations in Mormon History,” seeks to capture both the stunning metamorphosis of the region in the past 150 years as well as to advance the remarkable transformations in our historical understanding of the Mormon-Restoration tradition.

Along with MHA president Bill MacKinnon, as program chairs we have begun to put together what we think will be a terrific lineup of plenary speakers, including: Paul Reeve, associate professor of history at the University of Utah and author of *Making Space on the Western Frontier: Mormons, Miners, and Southern Paiutes* (2007), winner of MHA’s Smith-Pettit Best First Book Award, and most recently editor of *Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia* (2010); Bruce Hafen, a native son of St. George who went on to be an attorney, president of Ricks College, dean of the law school and then provost of BYU, and now is an emeritus member of the First Quorum of the Seventy of the LDS Church; Susan Rugh, associate professor of history and associate dean in the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences at BYU and author of *Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations* (2008) as well as an award-winning article on postwar Utah tourism; and Phil Tuckett, a film professor at Dixie State College and an Emmy-award filmmaker who will be giving an exclusive preview of his new documentary on Juanita Brooks. In future newsletters we will announce the remainder of our main events, including the Tanner lecturer and the devotional program (which will be held in the historic St. George Tabernacle).

Finally, we want to introduce the members of our outstanding program committee, who will help in reviewing submissions and organizing conference sessions. Since we, as program chairs, are both Notre Dame Ph.D.’s, we considered inviting only fellow Fighting Irish alums into our cabal. Prudence prevailed, however, and we are the beneficiaries of the considerable talent and wisdom of the following:

Polly Aird’s curiosity about a family story of escaping Utah with an army escort drove her into the archives to find out why—and resulted in *Mormon Convert, Mormon Defector* (2009)!

Wayne Hinton spent 38 years teaching history at Southern Utah University (18 years as department chair!) before “retiring”; he currently serves a full-time mission in the LDS Church History Library.

Greg Prince is a pathologist, which explains his interest in Mormon history.

David Pulsipher practices Gandhian nonviolence from his perch as a history professor and BYU Idaho’s resident expert on civil disobedience.

Paul Reeve, our opening plenary speaker described above, is currently researching 19th-century notions of Mormon physical otherness.

Lisa Tait recently completed her PhD in English at the University of Houston with a dissertation on gender and generational dynamics in 1890s Mormondom.

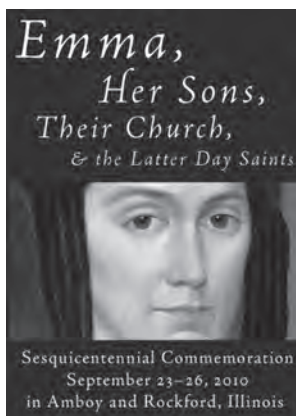
With such a beautiful and historic setting for our meetings, with an exceptional slate of plenary addresses, and with what proves to be a fascinating set of papers highlighting the latest and greatest in Mormon history, we can’t wait to see you all in St. George in May 2011!

Patrick Mason & Matt Grow, Program Co-Chairs

JWHA CONFERENCE REPORT

The John Whitmer Historical Association held its Sesquicentennial Celebration in Rockford and Amboy, Illinois, on September 23-26. The theme of the conference was “Emma, Her Sons, Their Church, and the Latter Day Saints,” in keeping with the 150th anniversary of the RLDS’s birth. On Saturday afternoon attendees took a bus trip to Amboy to view the site of the installation of Joseph Smith, III, as first RLDS President.

In addition to 34 presentations in concurrent sessions, three plenary presentations were made. Linda King Newell



presented the Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture, “Emma’s Legacy: Life after Joseph.” A luncheon panel consisting of Newell Bringhurst, Linda King Newell, Todd Compton, Brian C. Hales, and Craig L. Foster discussed, “Differing Perspectives on Joseph Smith and Plural Marriage.” And President Jeanne Murphey presented, “From Emma to the First Presidency: Women in Community of Christ History” at the Presidential Banquet.

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in Nauvoo, Illinois, in September 22-25, 2011.

DONATION ANNOUNCED

MHA is pleased to announce an unrestricted \$25,000 donation by the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation to the MHA Endowment.

The Mormon Historic Sites Foundation’s mission is to identify, preserve and commemorate sites of significance in Mormon history throughout the world. Board Members Curtis Atkisson and Greg Christofferson, MHA Fundraising Committee Chair, report that, “The relationship between MHA and Mormon Historic Sites Foundation is a symbiotic one, with members of each organization involved with both entities. This substantial donation demonstrates the importance Mormon Historic Sites Foundation places on scholarship provided by MHA for Mormon Historic Sites Foundation’s invaluable preservation activities.”

We remind members that the MHA Endowment Campaign is ongoing and invite you to both donate and refer interested donors to the Fundraising Committee.

CALL FOR PAPERS

“Mormonism in Cultural
Context”

The friends and former students of Professor Richard Lyman Bushman invite submissions for a conference, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, to be held June 18, 2011, at the Springville Art Museum in Springville, Utah.

The summer seminars led by Professor Bushman beginning in 1997 pursued the theme of “Joseph Smith and His Times.”

Participants were asked to connect the Mormon prophet to the religions, philosophies, and cultural formations of his period. More recently the seminars have posed the same question for Mormonism as a whole. How is Mormon thought to be situated in its broad cultural environment?

For the conference, participants are invited to make comparisons to large cultural systems such as democracy, capitalism, evangelism, or science, or to specific thinkers and movements. The aim is to highlight aspects of Mormon thought or praxis that emerge more sharply when juxtaposed against other cultural formations or intellectual perspectives.

Brief analytical reflections of about twenty minutes duration will be most suitable for the conference format. Friends and students of Professor Bushman are invited to submit.

Send a short (1-2 pp.) abstract of the proposed paper, along with a short (1 p.) C.V., to Spencer Fluhman at fluhman@gmail.com by November 1, 2010.



*Richard Bushman
Courtesy Cathy Loving*



BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices
Compiled by
J. Michael Hunter

- Barney, Ronald O. *W. Mack Watkins: A Biography*. Salt Lake City: Sheridan Publishing, 2010.
- Cook, Lyndon W. *A Tentative Inquiry into the Office of Seventy, 1835-1845*. Provo, Utah: Grandin Book Company, 2010.
- Hartley, William G. *My Fellow Servants: Essays on the History of the Priesthood*. Provo, Utah: BYU Press, 2010.
- Reeve, W. Paul and Ardis E. Parshall. *Mormonism: A Historical Encyclopedia*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010.
- Whetten, LaVon Brown. *Colonia Juarez: Commemorating 125 Years of the Mormon Colonies in Mexico*. Bloomington, Ind.: AuthorHouse, 2010.
- Woodger, Mary Jane and Joseph H. Groberg. *From the Muddy River to the Ivory Tower: The Journey of George H. Brimhall*. Provo, Utah: BYU Studies, 2010.

Selected Articles
Compiled by
Jennifer St Clair

- Cannon, Kenneth L. II. "‘One of the Bitterest Fights in Provo History’: The Controversies Over Provo’s Union Depot." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 3 (2010): 230-253.
- Fillerup, Lisa Ottesen. "Wasatch Stake Tabernacle: Redefining Pioneers." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 78, no. 3 (2010): 275-298.
- Firmage, Carrol. "Preserves." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 3 (2010): 128-165.
- Prior, David. "Civilization, Republic, Nation: Contested Keywords, Northern Republicans, and the Forgotten Reconstruction of Mormon Utah." *Civil War History* 56, no. 3 (2010): 283-310.
- Sherry, Thomas E. "Robert J. Matthews and the RLDS Church’s Inspired Version of the Bible." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 2 (2010): 93-119.
- Stott, David Keith. "Legal Insights into the Organization of the Church in 1830." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 2 (2010): 121-148.
- Tvedtnes, John A. "Was Joseph Smith Guilty of Plagiarism." *The FARMS Review* 22, no. 1 (2010): 262-275.

MHA OFFICE REORGANIZED

After three years of service to MHA, Linda Thatcher retired as co-Executive Director on August 31, 2010. President Bill MacKinnon announces the reorganization of the



*Marilyn Barney being Trained by
Linda Thatcher*

MHA Office with Pat Scott as sole Executive Director and Marilyn S. Barney as the new Business Manager.

Marilyn, an MHA member who has volunteered at MHA conferences, will be working with MHA's finances, the newsletter, and conference registration. She owned her own window décor and catering business in northern Utah for nearly thirty years. Marilyn lives in North Salt Lake, Utah, with husband Ron. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Linda is helping Marilyn with the transition to her new responsibilities and has generously agreed to assist MHA at the 2011 Conference in St. George.

Going Green

Electronic distribution of the newsletter will begin with the next issue. Please check the mailing label to make sure that your e-mail address is correct. If your e-mail address is not on the newsletter mailing label, or if your e-mail address has changed, please send your current information, updates, or corrections to:

mha.busmgr@gmail.com.

Upcoming Conference

The annual meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing will hold its conference October 20-22, 2011 at the Salt Lake City Center Marriott Hotel, 220 South State Street. The conference will be hosted by the Joseph Smith Papers and the LDS Church History Library.

Women's History Lecture Series

sponsored by the
LDS Church History Library

November 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

“Emma Smith in the Aftermath
of the Martyrdom”

by Sharalyn D. Howcroft
Archivist, the Joseph Smith Papers
LDS Church History Department

This is the final lecture in the Women's History Lecture Series and has been moved to the Main Auditorium in the Church Office Building to accommodate increased interest.

Joseph Smith's death in June 1844 left his wife, Emma, and their children in tenuous circumstances. The intermingling of Joseph's personal and Church financial obligations, coupled with the tumult of the Latter-day Saint community at the death of their leader, intensified the situation. This lecture will discuss Emma's efforts as administratrix of her husband's estate, the burden of debt left to her and the Church, and the financial remuneration she and her children received from the estate.

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MEMBER NEWS

HONORED: On October 7, Blaine Bake received the Esto Perpetua Award from the Idaho Historical Society for his “significant contribution to Idaho History.”

In September, the Utah State Historical Society named President William P. MacKinnon a fellow of the organization; and also recognized Edward Leo Lyman with the Francis Armstrong Madsen Best History Book Award for his book, *Amasa Mason Lyman: Mormon Apostle and Apostate*; and Richard E. Turley, Jr. and Ronald W. Walker with the Smith-Pettit Foundation Best Documentary Book Award as editors of the *Mountain Meadows Massacre: The Andrew Jenson and David H. Morris Collection*.

RECOVERING: On September 17, 2010, MHA Board Member Andrea Radke-Moss gave birth to Abigail Louise Moss. Congratulations!!

DEATHS: Richard S. Van Wagoner, 64, died unexpectedly at his home in Lehi on October 9, 2010. He authored a number of books and articles important to Utah and Mormon history.

Please submit newsworthy information about MHA members for inclusion in MEMBER NEWS.
Submit to:

mha.busmgr@gmail.com