



Sacramento Conference Report

Those who attended the Sacramento Conference were treated to a wonderful experience. **Jami J. Van Huss**, student, wife, historian, and mother reported that: "While intellectually I enjoy both the company of those engaged in and the pursuit of knowledge and understanding regarding the past, of all the roles I play, being an attentive and available wife and mother is the most important to me. Finding an agreement in this dichotomy is the most poignant impression attendance at the 2008 Mormon History Association Conference left with me. I am so impressed with the diversity and approachableness among the members of the organization and was very pleased with the MHA's efforts to nurture a healthy, scholarly dialogue that is inclusive and supportive. I particularly noticed how the MHA fosters the participation of students



Opening Reception, Sacramento

and other young scholars as I received helpful suggestions, encouragement, and made many new friends."

A highlight for her was meeting James and Renee Allen at Thursday's lunch. She felt that the Allen's were very attentive and showed great interest in both her work as a student and stories about her daughter. "Simply put, I think that the MHA conference provides an environment for all those interested in a serious, scholarly discussion regardless of the participants' curriculum vitae."

Ken Alford reported: "I have learned through the years that one mark of a good conference is numerous comments from attendees who are frustrated because they cannot attend more than one session during the same time period. By that measure alone, the Forty-Third Annual Conference of the Mormon History Association was a success. Before every session, I heard conversations in which attendees lamented the fact that they could not be in two or more sessions at the same time."

"This year's conference in Sacramento, California confirmed that Mormon History is an exciting, vibrant, varied, and extremely interesting field of study. Hosting the conference in a different city each year provides attendees with an easy way to see history from a slightly different perspective. This year attendees had the opportunity to learn some of the many ways that California has influenced Mormon history."

"Where else can you go each year to be exposed to such a wide range of interesting and varied scholarship? With sessions ranging from cutting edge research on the Mountain Meadows Massacre to an analysis of the poems of Eliza R. Snow to an historic review of LDS presidential candidates, there truly was something for everyone.

(continued on page 3)



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Change is the watchword in 2008, and MHA has had and still is experiencing its share of changes. This year Larry and Alene King retired as executive directors after eight years, leaving a legacy of superbly organized conferences and financial soundness. We express our deep appreciation to them. MHA is fortunate that Pat Scott and Linda Thatcher have succeeded the Kings, bringing their experience, knowledge, and talents.

Another change taking place this year is the search for an editor for the *Journal of Mormon History*. Lavina Fielding Anderson has served in this position for seventeen years, overseeing the expansion of the *Journal* from one issue a year to four, all the while mentoring authors and maintaining the high quality of the *Journal*, making it the flagship for new scholarship about Mormonism. Because of its permanence and widespread distribution, the *Journal* is the most significant achievement of MHA in fostering and disseminating cutting-edge scholarship about the Mormon religious tradition.

For the first time the *Journal* editor will be compensated, one sign of the association's reaching maturity. To provide the resources needed for the transition from a volunteer to a paid staff, publication of the *Journal* quarterly, establishing a Young Scholars program, and other activities sponsored by the Association, MHA initiated a \$2 million endowment campaign in 2008. The campaign now has \$500,000 in hand, and we heartily thank all who contributed. The campaign continues, ensuring that the necessary resources are available to support the valuable work of MHA. I invite you to join with me in contributing to the Association's endowment.

The success of the recent Sacramento conference demonstrates the vitality and dynamism of MHA. Paul Anderson as president, Susan Fales and John Murphy as program chairs, Dylan McDonald as local arrangements chair, Ron Barney as awards committee chair, members of their committees, Larry and Alene King and Pat Scott and Linda Thatcher as executive directors, and many others—all richly deserve our appreciation for the intellectually stimulating experience (and even some gold or garnets from Coloma).

Continuing in the tradition of stimulating conferences, we have begun planning the 2009 Springfield/Nauvoo Conference. Next year is the two-hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Bryon Andreasen, research historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library with an interest in Lincoln story/Mormon story interconnections, will be the local arrangements chair. He and Alex Baugh, the program chair, are already working to ensure that the 2009 conference is another opportunity for learning and sharing cutting-edge scholarship.

This is a year of change—change that builds on the firm foundation of excellence established in the past.



*Kathryn M. Daynes
President*

(continued from page 1)

The mix within individual sessions provided the opportunity to attend presentations that I would not have selected on their own, but I learned something new from each one.”

“While I attended many excellent sessions, my personal favorite was the Friday afternoon session entitled ‘Courts, Jails, and Temples: Mormons and the Law in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.’ Jeffrey N. Walker, Morris A. Thurston, and Nathan B. Oman gave presentations that were well researched, professionally presented, and interesting. John W. Welch’s summary comments showed the value that can be added from thoughtful analysis and critique. I am already making plans to attend next year’s MHA Conference in Springfield, Illinois!”

Lisa Tait reported that “This was my fifth MHA and, once again, it was a highlight of the year for me. The great thing about MHA is the mix of people—older, younger, professional, amateur, what have you. I can walk into any session and strike up a conversation with the person next to me and always learn something new and meet another interesting person. As a relative newcomer I’ve been especially impressed by the unpretentious, community-building ethic of even the most ‘prestigious’ MHA members. I know this is not the norm at many scholarly conferences, and it’s something I hope we continue to cultivate. In Sacramento, I especially enjoyed several of the plenary sessions, learning more about the LDS (and RLDS) church in California. Paul Anderson’s presentation on LDS meetinghouses was great—I could have listened for another hour. I am sure many will mention Dr. Jenkins’ Tanner Lecture as a highlight. The Women’s History breakfast was also a lot of fun. The discussion of Eliza R. Snow’s poetry was excellent and, I think, points in the direction of some fruitful work to be done on LDS literary expression.”



Group touring Sacramento

KINGS RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ARE HONORED AT CONFERENCE

Larry and Alene King retired as MHA Executive Directors effective the end of the Sacramento Conference, capping an eight-year administration of the Association. Building on the work of their predecessors, the King’s have taken MHA to a new level of growth and financial stability.

Board Member **Greg Christofferson** paid tribute to the King’s on behalf of the Board and membership at the Conference. He pointed out that membership under the King’s direction has increased 125%, from 624 members to 1,404, the highest our membership has ever been. Attendance at annual conferences has increased 78% since 2,000, largely due to the King’s excellent organizational and management skills. The financial position of MHA has improved under Larry’s acumen to the point that MHA enjoys a “cash cushion” and is in a position to provide the seed money for the Endowment Campaign. Alene has done a wonderful job with the membership data base, newsletters and conference programs (not to mention her handcrafted conference souvenirs). Their warmth and diplomacy, whether negotiating with conference center, vendors, or between MHA constituencies, has benefitted the entire Association and been felt by all.

Slides of the King’s selected by Paul Anderson were shown on the screens during the tribute. Greg concluded his remarks by saying, “On behalf of the entire MHA membership, we thank you for not just a job well done, but a job exceptionally done!” A lengthy standing ovation by the membership in the King’s honor followed.

2007 Mormon History Association Award Winners

The Mormon History Association presented the following awards at the annual conference to encourage and foster the highest ideals in scholarly research and publication.

LEONARD J. ARRINGTON AWARD

James B. Allen

MHA BEST BOOK AWARD

Terryl L. Givens, *People of Paradox: A History of Mormon Culture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

SMITH-PETTIT BEST FIRST BOOK AWARD

(tie)

Matthew C. Godfrey, *Religion, Politics, and Sugar: The Mormon Church, the Federal Government, and the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, 1907-1921*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University, 2007.

W. Paul Reeve, *Making Space on the Western Frontier: Mormons, Miners, and Southern Paiutes*. Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 2007.

STEVEN F. CHRISTENSEN BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Jedediah S. Rogers, ed. *In the President's Office: The Diaries of L. John Nuttall, 1879-1892*. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2007.

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER

John Brumbaugh, "Return to Anti-Mormonism: Fred Dubois and the Reed Smoot Hearings," undergraduate, Brigham Young University.

JUANITA BROOKS AWARD FOR BEST GRADUATE PAPER (tie)

Stanley Thayne, "Holiness to the Lord: Delineating and Maintaining

the Symbolic Boundaries of Zion," graduate student, history, Brigham Young University.

Matthew Bowman, "The Crisis of Mormon Christology: History, Progress, and Protestantism, 1880-1930," graduate student, history, Georgetown University.

LESTER E. BUSH BEST THESIS AWARDS

Nathaniel R. Ricks, "A Peculiar Place for the Peculiar Institution: Slavery and Sovereignty in Early Territorial Utah," Brigham Young University, August 2007.

Jeremy S. Parkin, "Police Work on the Mormon Trail, 1846-1847," California State University, Long Beach, May 2007.

GERALD E. JONES DISSERTATION AWARD

Christine Talbot, "Mormons, Polygamy, and the American Body Politic: Contesting Citizenship, 1852-1890," University of Michigan, 2006.

J. TALMADGE JONES AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Jacob W. Olmstead, "The Mormon Hierarchy and the MX" *Journal of Mormon History* (Fall 2007).

W. Paul Reeve, "Places That Can Be Easily Defended: A Case Study in the Economics of Abandonment During Utah's Black Hawk War" *Utah Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2007).

T. EDGAR LYON AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE OF THE YEAR

George S. Tate, "Death, the Great War, and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic as Context for Doctrine and Covenants 138" *BYU Studies* (Spring 2007).

THOMAS R. KING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HISTORY AWARD

Clifford Stott, *Faith and Dissent: The Nicholas Paul Story* (2007).

GERALDINE MCBRIDE WOODWARD AWARD FOR BEST PUBLICATION IN INTER- NATIONAL MORMON HISTORY

William G. Hartley and Lorna Call Alder, *Anson Bowen Call: Bishop of Colonia Dublán* (Provo, Utah: L.C. Alder, 2007).

ELLA TURNER-ELLA BERGERA BEST BIOGRAPHY AWARD

Frederick H. Swanson, *Dave Rust: A Life in the Canyons*. Salt Lake City: The University of Utah Press, 2007.

THOMAS L. KANE AWARD

William P. MacKinnon

SPECIAL CITATIONS

**Larry and Alene King
Steven Mayfield**

2009 Membership Dues Increase

The MHA Council has approved a membership dues increase for 2009. The new dues structure will be:

Individuals: \$55

Joint membership: \$65

Students: \$25

Institutional members: \$75
Special giving will remain the same.

Members paying before January 1, 2009 will be able to pay at the 2008 rate, members paying after January 1, 2009 pay at the new rate.

Call for Papers–2009 Conference Springfield, Illinois May 21–24, 2009

The forty-fourth annual conference of the Mormon History Association will be held May 21– 24, 2009, in Springfield, Illinois, at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel located in the historic center of Springfield. It has been nearly two decades since the last MHA conference was held in Illinois.

The MHA executive board selected Springfield as the location for the conference to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865). Corresponding with this historic anniversary, the theme of the 2009 conference will be **Mormonism and the Land of Lincoln: Intersections, Crosscurrents, and Dispersions**, a theme which encourages studies of Mormonism within broad historical contexts. In October 1830, the first Mormons passed through Illinois on their way to preach to the Indian tribes west of Missouri. During the 1830s Illinois became a major thoroughfare for Mormons traveling between Missouri and Ohio and other points further east, and as early as 1835 the first branches were established in the state. With the expulsion of the Latter-day Saints from Missouri in 1839, Nauvoo served as the main place for Mormon gathering until 1846. However, by this time, hundreds of Mormons were living in numerous branches established in other counties throughout the state. Significantly, after the main body of the Church departed under Brigham Young, those Saints who chose to remain looked to others for leadership and established Restoration churches and communities which continue to the present.

Place and time connect Mormonism with Lincoln. Significantly, in March 1830, about the time Joseph Smith organized the Church of Christ in New York, twenty-one-year-old Abraham Lincoln settled in Illinois, and he then began his political career, first in New Salem and later in Springfield. By 1840, as Nauvoo was rising on the banks of the Mississippi, Lincoln had distinguished himself as a skillful lawyer, a member of the Illinois state legislature, and a leading figure in the state's Whig party. In addition, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives the month before the last Saints still residing in the City of Joseph were expelled following the "Battle of Nauvoo."

The 2009 program committee invites interested historians, scholars, and individuals to submit proposals for papers, panel discussions, or presentations for the conference. We especially encourage proposals related to the conference theme. However, proposals on other Mormon topics and themes are also welcome. All proposals must be submitted in electronic format. Proposals should be directed to: Alexander L. Baugh, Associate Professor, Church History and Doctrine, BYU at alex_baugh@byu.edu. Deadline for submission is October 1, 2008. Notification for acceptance or rejection will be January 15, 2009. Additional instructions for submitting proposals will be available on the MHA web site at <http://www.mhahome.org>.

2009 Mormon History Association Program Committee

Alexander L. Baugh (chair)

Associate Professor, Church History and Doctrine, Brigham Young University

Ronald O. Barney

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Executive Director, John Whitmer Historical Association

Jacob W. Olmstead

Ph.D. Candidate, Texas Christian University

Andrea Radke-Moss

Assistant Professor of History, Brigham Young University-Idaho



BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices
by
J. Michael Hunter

- Akenson, Donald H. *Some Family: The Mormons and How Humanity Keeps Track of Itself*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007.
- Bringhurst, Newell G., and John C. Hamer. *Scattering of the Saints Schism Within Mormonism*. Independence, Mo.: John Whitmer Books, 2007.
- Brown, James Stephens. *Giant of the Lord*. Orangevale, Calif.: The James S. Brown Family, 2008. Originally published in 1900 as *Life of a Pioneer*. Republished in 1960 as *Giant of the Lord*. New printing has a foreword by Mary Bair with a few typographical corrections from previous editions. Purchase from Mary Bair (916-988-9226; atc2@pacbell.net).
- Bushman, Richard L. *Mormonism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Farmer, Jared. *On Zion's Mount: Mormons, Indians, and the American Landscape*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2008.
- Flake, Lawrence R. *Twelve Sons of Britain: General Authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Who Were Born in England*. Springville, Utah: CFI, 2008.
- Kuehne, Raymond M. *Mormonen Und Staatsbürger Eine Dokumentierte Geschichte Der Kirche Jesu Christi Der Heiligen Der Letzten Tage in Der DDR*. Leipzig: Leipziger Universitätsverlag, 2007. *Mormons and Citizens: A Documentary History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the GDR*. German edition. English-language edition forthcoming.
- Singular, Stephen. *When Men Become Gods: Mormon Polygamist Warren Jeffs, His Cult of Fear, and the Women Who Fought Back*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2008.
- Smith, Joseph. *The Parallel Book of Mormon: The 1830, 1837, and 1840 Editions*. Salt Lake City: Smith-Pettit Foundation, 2008. Introduction by Curt Bench.
- Tracy, Shannon M. *Millions Shall Know Brother Joseph Again: The Joseph Smith Photograph*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Eborn, 2008. 2nd ed., rev. & enl.
- Wardle, Marian. *Minerva Teichert Pageants in Paint*. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 2007.

Selected Articles
by
Jennifer St Clair

- Colson, Dennis C. "Idaho's Founders and Their Mormon Test Oath." *The Advocate* (November 2007): 11-15.
- Embry, Jessie. "Diploma Nursing at Salt Lake City Religious Based Hospitals." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (Summer 2008): 281-299.
- Fleming, Stephen J. "The Religious Heritage of the British Northwest and the Rise of Mormonism." *Church History* 77, no. 1 (March 2008): 73-104.
- Hicks, Michael. "What Hymns Early Mormons Sang and How They Sang Them." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 1 (2008): 95-118.

- Holley, Val. "Slouching Towards Slaterville: Joseph Morris's Wide Swath in Weber County." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (Summer 2008): 247-264.
- Jones, Darrell E. and W. Randall Dixon. "'It Was Very Warm and Smelt Very Bad': Warm Springs and the First Bath House in Salt Lake City." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (Summer 2008): 210-226.
- "Joseph Smith Chronology." *BYU Studies* 46, no. 4 (2007): 7-176.
- MacKinnon, William P. "Sex, Subalterns, and Steptoe: Army Behavior, Mormon Rage, and Utah War Anxieties." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (Summer 2008): 227-246.
- Probert, Josh E. "An Epistle of the Twelve, March 1842." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 1 (2008): 119-131.
- Scott, Stuart D. "A Frontier Spirit: The Life of James Gemell." *Australasian Canadian Studies* 55-115.
- Van Dyke, Blair G. and LaMar C. Berrett. "In the Footsteps of Orson Hyde: Subsequent Dedications of the Holy Land." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 1 (2008): 57-93.
- Walker, Jeffrey N. "Mormon Land Rights in Caldwell and Daviess Counties and the Mormon Conflict of 1838: New Findings and New Understandings." *BYU Studies* 47, no. 1 (2008): 4-55.
- Young, Neil J. "'The ERA Is a Moral Issue': The Mormon Church, LDS Women, and the Defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment." *American Quarterly* 59, no. 3 (September 2007): 623-644.

Mountain Meadows Massacre Program

September 5, 2008

The American West Center at the University of Utah and its partners the Charles Redd Center for Western History at BYU, the Mormon History Association, the Tanner Humanities Center, the Tanner Center for Non-Violent Human Rights, and the Salt Lake City Public Library are collectively offering a panel discussion of Ron Walker's, Richard Turley's, and Glen Leonard's highly-anticipated forthcoming book, *Massacre at Mountain Meadows* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

The event will take on **September 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium at the Salt Lake City Public Library (400 South/200 East)**. A distinguished list of panelists will read the book and prepare formal critiques. The panelists are: Dr. John Mack Faragher from Yale University, a nationally known scholar on western violence; Dr. Phillip Barlow, Leonard J. Arrington Chair of Mormon studies at USU, will evaluate the book in light of its authors as LDS employees and situate it within Mormon studies and 19th century religious studies more broadly; and Dr. Donald Fixico, Regent Professor at Arizona State University, who will critique the book from the American Indian vantage and in relation to imperialism and colonialism during this era. Richard Turley, one of the authors of *Massacre at Mountain Meadows* will then respond to the critiques. A discussion with the

audience will then follow.

Indeed, it is fair to say that the Mountain Meadows Massacre is one of the Intermountain West's darkest hours. It represents the single most violent incident in the history of America's overland migration, most noteworthy because it involved white settlers killing white settlers who were in transit.

The incident is even more firmly anchored to the Intermountain West through its relationship to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one of the region's prevalent religious groups. This panel will not only explore the various aspects of the massacre, but more importantly it will evaluate this scholarly attempt to understand the massacre, an attempt made more complex through the relationship of its authors to the LDS church.

The panel, then, will situate the massacre in time and firmly in the space of the Intermountain West, but it will also situate *Massacre at Mountain Meadows* in relationship to its sponsoring institution. It thus becomes a double lens, both historical and contemporary, into violence and religion in the region. Our ultimate goal is to offer a set of questions and insights from some of the nation's leading scholars – that will serve to place the Massacre within a deeper context of violence, imperialism, and religiosity in the Intermountain West.

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October Newsletter

Items for the October newsletter should be submitted by September 15, 2008 to Linda Thatcher at: mha_slc@msn.com

Conference Recordings Are Now Available

The Sacramento Conference Session Recordings are available for:

\$50.00--entire conference

\$11.00--single session

<http://www.sunstoneonline.com/mha/>

Looking for Research Money Try...

The American Historical Association offers \$1000 for specific research in different topical categories (<http://www.historians.org/prizes/Grants.htm>). The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, which includes the Illinois State Library, offers a \$3,000 fellowship to encourage use of their collections (<http://www.state.il.us/hpa/details.htm>). The Charles Redd Center at BYU also offers research money in several categories (<http://fhss.byu.edu/reddcent/NEW-PAGES/AWARDS/2007%20WINNERS.htm>).