



## The Home and the Homeland: MHA 2010 in Independence

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Eighty-two years ago, a ten-year-old RLDS member wrote a letter to the RLDS prophet. “I am going to grow up to be a hand maiden of God and teach other people the Law of God and bring other people into the church,” scribbled Olivetta Streeter to President F. M. Smith. “And [I will] try and make Zion Beautiful,” she added. Hailing from a faithful RLDS family, Streeter’s descriptive choice for her future vocation reflected, in part, the religious influences of her family. MHA members are invited to reflect on this very intersection of religion and the family under our 2010 conference theme, “The Home and the Homeland: Families in Diverse Mormon Traditions.” Held in Independence, Missouri, the hometown of Olivetta Streeter and many others like her, our 2010 conference highlights two institutions central to all Mormon denominations—the family and the home. Together, they have been the spatial, social, and emotional places where men, women, and children become religious and moral people. Join us as we explore these themes at a conference location held sacred by dozens of living Latter Day Saint denominations.

To date, speakers for two plenary sessions have agreed to share with our conference. Harvard’s Laurel Thatcher Ulrich has graciously agreed to deliver an address on nineteenth-century Mormon family and kinship. We are particularly grateful for Dr. Ulrich’s participation, since she is the current president of the American Historical Association and is very busy with her duties as such. Second, we have organized a panel on Independence as religiously contested space. Cultural geographer Craig Campbell of Youngstown State University and historian Jon Taylor of the University of Central Missouri have both agreed to serve on this panel. Campbell’s 2004 book, *Visions of the New Jerusalem: Factional Interpretations of Independence, Missouri* addresses religious contestation over the latter day Zion, while Taylor’s 2008 book, *A President, a Church, and Trails West: Competing Histories of Independence, Missouri* addresses contestation between heritage and religious interests in Independence. In addition to these two plenary sessions, the University of Chicago’s Catherine Brekus has agreed to deliver the

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*Community of Christ Temple  
Independence*

*Courtesy of the Community of Christ Archives*



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Linda Thatcher

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Dear MHA Members:

Exhilarating times, tough experiences, and memorable moments: such has been the human experience throughout the history of Mormonism.

With the downturn in the economy, the past few months have been like that for many, including our association and for me personally. Shortly after the 2009 MHA Conference in Springfield, Illinois, I learned my position as Community of Christ Archivist was being downsized. Administrators graciously offered an early retirement package and allowed me to continue working for two and a half months while deciding what would be best for me to do. Financially, our family was not prepared for retirement.

My first act was to inform MHA Executive Directors, fearing this change in circumstances could potentially impact my duties as MHA President. Soon word spread among MHA members, colleagues, and friends. MHA member, and JWHA President, Bill Shepard, initiated a letter writing campaign on my behalf, encouraging colleagues to write letters to Community of Christ leaders inviting reconsideration of this decision. Others MHAers like Bill Russell and Tom Kimball also spread the word. Tom, MHA Media representative, shared news of the campaign with Salt Lake City Associated Press reporter Jennifer Dobner. As a result of Jennifer's very thoughtful AP press article, others joined in. Some provided career counseling and pursued creative ways to help me remain a part of the historical community.

It is impossible for me to adequately express how much I appreciate these actions in my behalf. But it means the world to me and my family. MHA certainly effectively demonstrated itself as a remarkably creative and caring community. Thank you, MHA, for raising your voices in such a powerful witness.

Unfortunately the particular downsizing decision affecting my position was prompted by very real economic constraints precluding reconsideration. But, the letters served a good purpose by effectively demonstrating to decision makers that many scholars have come to rely upon and value Community of Christ Archives resources and services.

As time wore on, it began to look like I would take early retirement and supplement our finances with part time work. Then a totally unanticipated chain of events transpired. Part of this is sad.

For the past seven years Barbara Walden has served with distinction as Site Director of the Kirtland Temple Visitor Center. During the summer, Barbara's husband Jody Blankenship got a great job offer at the Kentucky Historical Society and Barbara

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*Ronald E. Romig*

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and Jody just couldn't pass up this wonderful opportunity. As a result, Barbara who has maintained the Community of Christ's new Kirtland Temple Visitor Center as one of Mormon history's premier destinations, resigned effective the end of August 2009. Losing Barbara in this role is thoroughly regrettable.

Soon thereafter, Community of Christ offered me the position of Site Director of the Kirtland Temple Visitor Center. I believe the letters friends and colleagues had written earlier impacted the overall situation. My wife, Anne, and I accepted and are delighted in having the opportunity to continue to serve the larger historical community.

This is not to say there won't be additional grieving on our part over the loss of associations, colleagues, close friends, and community in the Independence, Missouri, area. I will particularly miss the privilege I have enjoyed for twenty years of greeting and interacting with colleagues and scholars who come to visit the Community of Christ Archives. Fortunately, Mark Scherer, Community of Christ Historian, will administer archives functions. And services will continue unimpeded under the extremely competent care of Barbara Bernauer, who has partnered as Assistant Archives for many years. The Community of Christ Archives will remain intact and accessible.

My new contact information at Kirtland Temple is: Ron Romig, 7809 Joseph Street, Kirtland Ohio 44094; Work-440-256-1830. My work e-mail address will stay the same: rromig@cofchrist.org.

Thanks also to all who have forwarded photographs of the adventures of May, the MHA Seer Stone. I have posted a number of these images on Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/ron.romig?v=feed&story\\_fbid=151844000489&mid=1033921G48cc7e38Ge39b39G36#/group.php?gid=132153165090&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/ron.romig?v=feed&story_fbid=151844000489&mid=1033921G48cc7e38Ge39b39G36#/group.php?gid=132153165090&ref=ts)

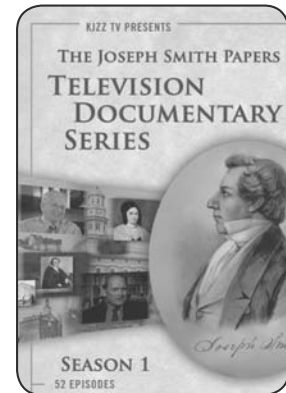
All of this is only prelude. For my real message to MHAers is: The 2010 MHA Conference in the Independence, Missouri, area is a go! My reassignment to Kirtland will have negligible effect on conference planning and arrangements. As you will see described elsewhere in this newsletter, a great conference is shaping up through the able planning of Susanna Morrill and David Howlett, program committee co-chairs, and Cathy Loving, local arrangements chair.

Presenters: please be aware that the October 1, 2009, deadline for submission of proposals is rapidly approaching. You may find the call for papers listed on [www.mhahome.org](http://www.mhahome.org) or contact Susanna and David at: [mhameeting2010@gmail.com](mailto:mhameeting2010@gmail.com).

On behalf of conference planners, we are all looking forward to seeing you in Independence, Missouri, May 27-30, 2010.

*Ron Romig,*

MHA President, 2009-2010



## Joseph Smith Papers Television Series

Although most documentary editing projects labor in relative obscurity, the Joseph Smith Papers project has been given considerable exposure due to a documentary series highlighting the work of the project and its scholars. Produced by KJZZ TV, the television documentary titled "The Joseph Smith Papers: Television Documentary Series" started off as a one hour documentary, but quickly became a weekly half hour show on the inner workings of the project. The shows tell the story of Joseph Smith using historic documents to illustrate his life, many of them the very texts that compose the volumes of The Joseph Smith Papers.

Episodes also feature commentary by historians and experts on Joseph Smith, including the compilers of The Joseph Smith Papers, Journals, Vol.1, and the recently released second *Revelations and Translations, Manuscript Revelation Books*, Facsimile edition. The show's popularity has resulted in a 52 episode DVD series, which is now being sold, along with the Joseph Smith Papers volumes, in LDS bookstores. More information on the DVD's can be found at <http://deseretbook.com>.

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annual Tanner Lecture. Look for more information on Catherine Brekus' work and interests in a future newsletter.

Local arrangements chair Cathy Loving has arranged for the closing worship service to take place in the Community of Christ Independence Temple sanctuary. This stunning worship space hosts a Casavant organ with 102 ranks and 5,685 pipes. Hymnody scholar Dick Clothier is heading up a committee already hard at work planning the worship service. Conference program co-chairs Susanna Morrill and I are pleased to introduce you to the members of an energetic program committee that has tirelessly helped us organize the conference to date:

**Matthew Bowman** is finishing a dissertation at Georgetown University on the changing lives of late nineteenth-century evangelicals in American urban centers. He is the author of many articles on Mormon topics and a regular contributor at the popular Mormon history blog, [juvenileinstructor.org](http://juvenileinstructor.org).

**Rachel Cope** recently finished her dissertation from Syracuse University on women's religious experiences during the Second Great Awakening. She currently is the research editorial fellow for BYU Studies.

**Ardis Parshall** is a prolific blogger and a professional researcher. She spends endless hours in archives across Utah and knows primary sources as few do.

**Thomas Simpson** wrote a 2005 dissertation on early twentieth-century Latter-day Saints who "studied abroad"; that is, saints who pursued higher education at schools outside of the inner-mountain West. He teaches religious studies at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire.

**Connie Lamb** is a long-time participant in MHA's Women's History Initiative. She serves as Social Sciences Librarian at BYU.

**Susanna Morrill** is an American religious historian at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon where she specializes in religion and gender. She published her dissertation as *White Roses on the Floor of Heaven: Mormon Women's Popular Theology, 1880-1920* with Routledge in 2006.

Finally, I (**David Howlett**) am writing a dissertation at the University of Iowa on Kirtland Temple pilgrimage by competing Mormon denominations. I'm an occasional contributor to the unofficial Community of Christ blog, [saintsherald.com](http://saintsherald.com) and a board member of the John Whitmer Historical Association (MHA's sister organization).

In sum, our committee sports a wide spectrum of ages, scholarly interests, and methods. For certain, our planning sessions have not lacked enthusiasm. We hope that you, too, will share our excitement for the upcoming conference.

Committees have been formed. Venues have been chosen. And plenary sessions are being organized. What remains now is for you to place our conference on your calendar. Come home to Zion and walk the roads that Olivetta Streeter wanted to make beautiful. Make reservations today for the 2010 Independence MHA conference.

David Howlett, Chair



*Harry S. Truman Home, Independence, Missouri*  
Courtesy of City of Independence

## Conference Memories



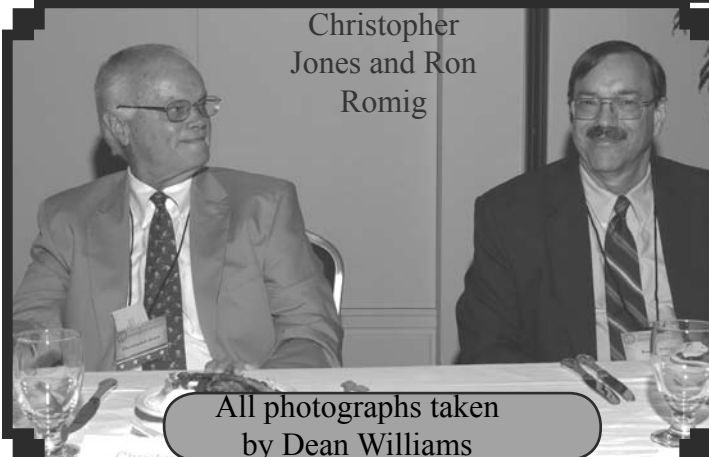
Leo Lyman and  
Ron Walker



Spencer Fluhman  
and Tom Alexander



Rick Turley, Elder Marlen Jensen,  
Richard Carwardine and Kathy Daynes



Christopher  
Jones and Ron  
Romig



Lavina Fielding  
Anderson and Pat Scott

All photographs taken  
by Dean Williams



BOOK NOTICES  
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices  
By  
J. Michael Hunter

- Black, Susan Easton, Harvey B. Black, and Sarah Allen. *University of the City of Nauvoo, 1841-1845*. Wilmington, Del.: World Vital Records, 2008.
- Burk, Freddijo Passey. *The Joseph Hadfield Story: An Incredible Odyssey*. Scottsdale, Ariz.: Concept Management, 2008.
- Davidson, Karen Lynn. *Our Latter-day Hymns: The Stories and the Messages*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2009. Rev. ed.
- Derr, Jill Mulvay, and Karen Lynn Davidson. *Eliza R. Snow: The Complete Poetry*. Provo, Utah and Salt Lake City: Brigham Young University Press and University of Utah Press, 2009.
- Hale, Veda Tebbs. *Maurine Whipple & Her Joshua*. Juanita Brooks Lecture Series. St. George, Utah: Dixie State College of Utah, 2008.
- Jensen, Robin Scott, Robert J. Woodford, and Steven C. Harper, eds. *Manuscript Revelation Books. Facsimile edition. First volume of the Revelations and Translations series of The Joseph Smith Papers*, edited by Dean C. Jessee, Ronald K. Esplin, and Richard Lyman Bushman. Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Press, 2009.
- Leonard, Glen M. *Revisiting the Massacre at Mountain Meadows*. Juanita Brooks Lecture Series. St. George, Utah: Dixie State College of Utah, 2009.
- Lyman, Edward Leo. *Amasa Mason Lyman, Mormon Apostle and Apostate: A Study in Dedication*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press: 2009.
- Mifflin, Margot. *The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2009. (Orphaned when her Mormon pioneer family was killed by Yavapai Indians, Oatman lived as a slave with her captors until she was rescued at age nineteen.)
- Nielson, Roger B. *Utah's Black Hawk War Veterans*. Springville, Utah: R.B. Nielson, 2009.
- Reeve, W. Paul. *Utah's Dixie: A View From Across the Cultural Divide*. Juanita Brooks Lecture Series. St. George, Utah: Dixie State College of Utah, 2007.
- Roberts, Richard C. *A History of the B.H. Roberts Family*. Salt Lake City: R.C. Richards; distributed by Eborn Publishing, 2009.
- Romig, Ronald E. *Lucy's Nauvoo*. Independence, Mo.: John Whitmer Books, 2009.
- Smith, Joseph Jr. comp. *The Parallel Doctrine and Covenants: the 1832-1833, 1833, and 1835 Editions of Joseph Smith's Revelations*. Salt Lake City: Smith-Pettit Foundation, 2009. Introduction by Curt A. Bench.
- Walden, Barbara B., and Mackay Lachlan. *House of the Lord: The Story of the Kirtland Temple*. Independence, Mo.: John Whitmer Historical Association, 2008.
- Walker, Ronald W. *Wayward Saints: The Social and Religious Protests of the Godbeites Against Brigham Young*. Provo, Utah and Salt Lake City: Brigham Young University Press and University of Utah Press, 2009. Reprint of 1998 University of Illinois Press publication.
- Woodger, Mary Jane ed. *Brigham Young University Church History Symposium: John Taylor, Champion of Liberty*. Provo, Utah and Salt Lake City: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University and Deseret Book, 2009.

**Selected Articles**  
**by**  
**Jennifer St Clair**

- Bartholomew, Ronald E. "The Patterns of Missionary Work and Emigration in Early Victorian Buckinghamshire, England, 1849-1878." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 1 (2009): 123-160.
- Baugh, Alexander L. "Haun's Mill Massacre and the Extermination Order of Missouri Governor Lilburn W. Boggs." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 21-30.
- Bennett, Richard E. "'We Know No North, No South, No East, No West': Mormon Interpretations of the Civil War, 1861-1865." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 51-63.
- Black, Susan Easton. "James Adams of Springfield, Illinois: The Link Between Abraham Lincoln and Joseph Smith." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 33-49.
- Callaway, Judson and Su Richards. "Old Lamps for New: The Failed Campaign to Bring Electric Street Lighting to Salt Lake City." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 77, no. 3 (Summer 2009): 222-241.
- Cannon, Brian Q. "'Long Shall His Blood...Stain Illinois': Carthage Jail in Mormon Memory." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 1-19.
- 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. "LDS Church Academies." *Pioneer* 55, no. 3 (Spring 2008): 17-18.
- Flick, Roger. "Karl G. Maeser: Mormon Educator." *Pioneer* 55, no. 3 (Spring 2008): 22-25.
- Jones, Christopher C. "The Complete Record of the Nauvoo Library and Literary Institute." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 181-204.
- Lott, Kent V. "Pioneer School Funding." *Pioneer* 55, no. 3 (2008): 12-15.
- Mays, Kenneth R. "A Man of Vision and Determination: Essay and Tribute to Wilford C. Wood." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 155-173.
- Minert, Roger P. "The Fate of the LDS East German Mission Home in World War II." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 101-110.
- Monson, Thomas S. "Wilford C. Wood." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 147-153.
- Richards, A. LeGrand. "The Evolving Mormon Education." *Pioneer* 55, no. 3 (2008): 26-30.
- Smith, Craig S. "The 1847 Mormon Pioneer Trek: A View from the Unpublished Journal of Albert Carington Written for George A. Smith." *Overland Journal* 27, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 3-17.
- Sweeney, Michael S. "Julius F. Taylor and the Broad Ax of Salt Lake City." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 77, no. 3 (Summer 2009): 204-221.
- Taylor, Tiffany. "Utah's 'Gentile' Schools." *Pioneer* 55, no. 3 (Spring 2008): 30-32.
- Thurston, Morris A. "The Boggs Shooting and Attempted Extradition: Joseph Smith's Most Famous Case." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 1 (2009): 4-56.
- Walker, Kyle R. "'It is Thought They Will be Shot on the Grounds': A Letter from Missourian Josiah Hendrick During the Mormon-Missouri Conflict." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 175-179.
- Watt, Ronald G. and Kenneth W. Godfrey. "'Old 42': The British and European Mission Headquarters in Liverpool, England, 1855-1904." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 87-99.
- Whitley, Colleen. "Thomas Farrar Whitley's Mission Photos of Tonga, 1935-1938." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 1 (2009): 89-121.
- Williams, Frederick G. "Singing the Word of God: Five Hymns by President Frederick G. Williams." *BYU Studies* 48, no. 1 (2009): 57-88.
- Wright, Dennis A. "The Beginnings of the First LDS Institute of Religion at Moscow, Idaho." *Mormon Historical Studies* 10, no. 1 (Spring 2009): 65-84.

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## **MHA News**

Electronic distribution of the newsletter will begin in January 2010. Please check the mailing label to make sure that your E-mail address is correct. If there is not an E-mail address on the mailing label and you have one please let us know what it is. Send all corrections to [mha\\_slc@msn.com](mailto:mha_slc@msn.com).

The 2010 membership renewals have been mailed. If you have a question about your 2010 membership be sure to contact us. Please help us save printing and postage costs by responding to the first mailing. We appreciate your membership in our organization.

The *Journal of Mormon History* (1974-2007) is now available on DVD. The DVD is searchable and can be purchased for \$40.00 plus \$2.00 (\$15.00 international) for postage and handling by sending a check or credit card number (with expiration date) to the above address or by calling (801) 521-6565.