



MHA in St. George: Welcome to an exciting time!

After months of planning and preparations, the program for the 2011 meeting of the Mormon History Association, to be held at the well-appointed Dixie Center in St. George, Utah, is now set. Not only will we bask in the sun-splashed beauty of southern Utah, but we look forward to hearing from a terrific lineup of speakers and panels about the latest in Mormon history scholarship.

The program sessions begin first thing Friday morning, May 27th, but be sure to arrange your travel plans to be in St. George in time to catch the many goings-on scheduled for Thursday, May 26th. The local arrangements committee has planned three pre-conference tours exploring firsthand the unique history and culture of the region. That afternoon, a research fair featuring exhibitors from a number of archives and libraries with major Mormon and regional collections will be held in the Washington County Library near the Town Square. The conference formally kicks off Thursday evening with an opening plenary session in the beautiful and historic St. George Tabernacle, where the 150-voice St. George Heritage Choir will perform a selection of sacred music. A reception will then follow in the scenic Town Square adjacent to the Tabernacle.

Socializing will give way to serious intellectual business on Friday morning. Paul Reeve, a native of nearby Hurricane and author of *Making Space on the Western Frontier: Mormons, Miners, and Southern Paiutes*, will begin the day with reflections on the conference theme, "From Cotton to Cosmopolitan: Local, National, and Global Transformations in Utah's Dixie." Another native son of Dixie, Bruce C. Hafen, president of the St. George LDS Temple, will offer his insights on local and Mormon history during the plenary luncheon on Friday. That evening, Phil Tuckett, an award-winning filmmaker and professor of film at Dixie State College, will give MHA members an exclusive preview of his documentary about Juanita Brooks, one of MHA's preeminent forebears (this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Brooks' biography of John D. Lee).

On Saturday, May 28th, our plenary sessions consider the figurative and literal travels of many people through the Mormon historical and cultural landscape. George Miles, curator of the Yale Collection of Western Americana at Beinecke Library, will deliver this year's Tanner Lecture entitled, "Mormon History and the History of Mormonism: One and the Same?" The ensuing membership luncheon will feature Brigham Young University professor Susan Rugh, author of *Are We There Yet?: The Golden Age of American Family Vacations*, speaking about the many households who piled into planes, trains, and station wagons to make twentieth-century Utah a "tourist Mecca." At the banquet Saturday night, MHA president and accomplished historian William MacKinnon will reflect on his many experiences traversing the Mormon past in his presidential address. Then on Sunday morning, groggy from sleep deprivation after long conversations into the night on all things Mormon history, we will once again convene in the St. George Tabernacle to hear from two leaders in higher education in southern Utah: Michael Benson, president of Southern Utah University, and Douglas Alder, past president of Dixie State College.

(continued on



Annette Everett
"The Watermaster"
Pioneer Center for the Arts



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of us who study Mormon history take that subject seriously, and so a large number of transformational learning opportunities await us next month at MHA-St. George. Alongside the importance of this educational focus, I want to emphasize that this gathering will also be fun. With intellectual rigor will come the delights of extraordinary musical events, breath-taking scenery, recreational opportunities, and the constant pleasure of re-connecting with old friends while making new ones. The Mormons who pioneered the Cotton Mission in the 1860s and for years thereafter struggled with unbelievable environmental, economic, and family hardships, yet they found a way to keep their sense of humor intact. So too will we, their far more comfortable descendants and beneficiaries.

St. George's patron and namesake, Apostle George A. Smith, had a sense of humor that leavened his grim personal history of constant flight, the gruesome death of a son in southern Utah, investigation of the Mountain Meadows Massacre, and the specter of legal prosecution as well as extralegal lynch mobs. Local folklore tells us that when he traveled through the settlements of southern Utah, he used to amuse the curious Indians who flocked to see him by shedding toupe, spectacles, dentures, and perhaps other possessions before washing off the day's trail dust. According to Leonard Arrington's "American Moses," it was a scene that prompted the Southern Paiutes to dub a portly Apostle Smith "non-choko-wicher," meaning "man who takes himself apart." To me that label indicates that whimsy thrived in many camps amidst the harshness of those days in that place.

Like members of many serious, highly structured organizations, the Latter-day Saints called to establish the Cotton Mission and then build Utah's first Temple, found ways -- often wry, subterranean ones -- to express their view of the hardships that they endured at the behest of Church leaders. And so in the 1860s

pioneer Charles Lowell Walker, a talented, self-educated English convert later called the Sage of St. George, penned a song of gentle but pointed lampoonery about his new home that some say was first performed for Brigham Young and perhaps even George A. Smith. Walker's ditty -- "St. George and the Drag-On" -- was titled to parody an English legend of medieval dragon-slaying, the related name of his town, and the seemingly endless labor required to fulfill the Cotton Mission:

"ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAG-ON"

Oh, what a desert place was this
When first the Mormons found it;
They said no white man here could live
And Indians prowled around it.
T'was said the land it was no good,
And water was no gudder,
And the bare idea of living here
Was enough to make one shudder.

Now green Lucerne in verdant spots,
Beckons our thriving City,
Whilst vines and fruit trees grace our lots
And floweretts sweet and pretty,
Where once the grass in single blade
Grew a mile apart in distance,
And it kept the crickets on the go
To pick up their subsistence.

The sun it is so scorching hot
It makes the water siz, Sir,
And the reason why it is so hot
'Tis just because it is, Sir.
The wind like fury here does blow
That when we plant or sow, Sir,
We place one foot upon the seed
And hold it 'til it grows, Sir.

CHORUS:

Muskeet, soap root,
Prickly pears, and briars,
St. George ere long will be a place
That everyone admires.

With Charlie Walker in mind, be prepared to enjoy as well as learn at MHA-St. George. Start by gathering a merry band of family members, friends, and colleagues to accompany you. Then register for the conference and make your travel arrangements. Stir well, lean back, and savor what promises to be one of the truly enjoyable milestones along your pursuit of Mormon history

Bill MacKinnon

(continued from page 1)

Sandwiched between these terrific plenary sessions are six concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday. You can find a complete listing of papers and presenters in the preliminary program on the MHA 2011 conference website. To whet your appetite, topics will include: the aftermath of the Mountain Meadows Massacre; controversies surrounding various fundamentalist LDS groups; interactions between Native Americans and Latter-day Saints; Mormon educational practices and institutions; plural marriage in southern Utah; Mormons' involvement in the American Civil War (during the 150th commemoration of its onset); early Mormon theology and history; the Mormon colonization of southern Utah and beyond; Mormonism and politics; LDS women's history and experiences; and international Mormon history.

Following the devotional on Sunday morning it will be time to hop on the bus and see some of God's most beautiful, and rugged, creation. One post-conference tour will explore the history and scenery of the "canyon country" of southern Utah and northern Arizona, while another will cover equally majestic landscapes while learning more about the historic Hole-in-the-Rock expedition. (Because of transportation difficulties, we will not be going to the actual location of Hole-in-the-Rock.) The only thing to distract you from the panoramic vistas will be the spirited conversations you will have with people seated nearby about all you learned the previous two days!

As you can see, this is yet another in a long line of outstanding MHA conferences. If you have not already, be sure to send in your registration and make travel plans soon. Do not miss this opportunity to learn new things and meet old and new friends in St. George. We will even one-up Brigham Young by promising air conditioning!



*Alan Clark receiving award
from Spencer Fluhrman*

Student Merit Award

For several years, MHA has encouraged student research and writing in Mormon history by sponsoring an annual award at the BYU Religious Education Student Symposium. Above, (right), MHA board member and awards committee chair Spencer Fluhrman presents the merit award at the February 18, 2011, awards luncheon in Provo, Utah to this year's winner, Alan Clark, a graduate student in Religious Education at BYU. His winning paper was titled, "Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole: Latter-day Saint Healing Practices from 1830-1835."

“We’ll Sing and We’ll Shout”: Kirtland Temple Celebrates 175 Years

Members from several different denominations gathered on March 27, 2011 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Kirtland Temple. The commemoration began at 7:00 AM and lasted until 9:00 PM. Over 1,200 attended three separate worship services in the temple's lowercourt. The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation and Kirtland community hosted a commemoration service featuring Community of Christ President Stephen Veazey sharing the morning message. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presided over two separate services with members from a number of Northern Ohio stakes. Speakers included Kirtland historian Karl Anderson; Kirtland Stake President, Michael B. Haymond; Columbus Temple President, Edward J. Brandt; and the Area Authority Seventy, Walter C. Selden.



*Sunrise at the Kirtland Temple,
March 27, 2011*

CONFERENCE REMINDERS AND UPDATES

Registration: Online pre-registration is ongoing and will close April 30th, with online registration ending on May 16th. Fees will increase on May 1st. Onsite registration opens Wednesday, May 25th at 3:00 p.m. at the Dixie Center.

Conference Hotels: MHA's special Conference rate (\$89) ends on **April 24th** with five St. George hotels: the Best Western Abbey Inn, Clarion Suites, Fairfield Inn, LaQuinta Inn, and the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center. (The Hilton Garden Inn is full.) The MHA website provides detailed information on all conference hotels (<http://www.mhahome.org>).

The following conference hotels, contrary to previous information, have indicated they will provide periodic transportation to and from the Dixie Center: Best Western Abbey Inn, Lexington Hotel, and the LaQuinta Inn.

Pre- and post-Conference Tours: All tours still have seats available. Since space is limited register today to guarantee yourself a seat.

Exhibits: Twenty-one booksellers, publishers, organizations, and libraries will be exhibiting at the conference. This is the largest number of exhibitors since 2007.

St. George Airport: The new St. George Airport was dedicated on January 13, 2011, and, unlike the old facility, is located 19 miles southeast from the city, requiring a 25-minute drive via the Southern Parkway and I-15. The St. George Shuttle (800-933-8320) provides transportation from the airport to St. George for \$10. Also, the Hilton Garden Inn, Best Western Abbey Inn, Lexington Hotel, and the LaQuinta Inn provide free airport transportation.

Dixie Center: MHA is providing free WiFi throughout the conference at the Dixie Center. Remember! - No outside food or drink is allowed in the Center. A concession stand with drinks and snacks will be open during the conference.

THURSDAY ON THE SQUARE

Conference attendees participating in Thursday activities should be aware of logistical issues. With the exception of conference registration, no events on Thursday will be held at the Dixie Center. All events (with the exception of the Las Vegas tour) will be held in downtown St. George at Town Square (adjacent to the Tabernacle) and in the two blocks north of the Tabernacle.

Two pre-conference tours (1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.) will start at the Pioneer Center for the Arts (just north of the Post Office).

Free public parking is available throughout this area. Maps and printed walking-tour guides will be available at the registration desk. Shuttle service is available from the Dixie Center to the Town Square starting at 12:15 p.m. and will run until 6:45 p.m. Service will be more frequent before specific events. Buses will depart the Town Square starting at 8:40 p.m. and return attendees to the Dixie Center or their individual hotels.

ST. GEORGE MUSEUM OF ART

The St. George Museum of Art, founded in 1997, is housed in a building originally constructed in 1934 to store sugar beet seeds for the area's burgeoning sugar beet industry. After the decline of the industry, the building closed in 1979 and remained vacant until being renovated in the 1990s as part of the Pioneer Center of the Arts. The museum seeks to educate its visitors about the art of diverse periods and cultures, in addition to its focus on Utah and the American West.

2012 Calgary, Alberta, Canada Conference Call for Papers “Mormonism In Its Expanding Gobar Context: Invitations to New Interpretations and Understanding”

The 47th annual conference of the Mormon History Association will be held a month later than usual -- June 28-July 1, 2012 at the MacEwan Conference and Events Center at the University of Calgary. The year 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the first Mormon settlement on Lee's Creek (later Cardston) in southern Alberta by Charles Ora Card. Furthermore, July 1, 2012 will mark the 145th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation. Originally established in 1875 as Fort Calgary by the Northwest Mounted Police, Calgary has become a thriving metropolitan center to many of Canada's most successful oil, gas and transportation businesses. So come celebrate with us!

Building upon last year's theme of global transformations, we intend to capitalize on Calgary's dynamic setting to invite papers that interpret the Restoration Movement in fresh, new ways. Canada is a richly diverse and cosmopolitan nation and as such beckons the immigration of new viewpoints on Mormon history. International studies of the Mormon experience and comparative studies with other faiths and their environments are encouraged; we also invite research that considers changing perspectives. For instance, how have media and the new era of electronic digitization influenced the print culture of Mormon history and historical research? What influence has internationalization had on church structures and local memberships as well as interpreting our histories? To what extent has U.S. politics defined the international understanding of Mormonism? How might various disciplinary lenses such as lived religion, theology, praxis, gender, race and ethnicity shape and reshape our understanding of the Mormon past? Beyond the standard North American perspective, how have local cultures, challenging economics, and national politics affected our interpretations?

The intersection of Canadian and Mormon history also begs scholarly inquiry. For example, how did the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1881 impact Mormon migration to Alberta? What unique legal and social challenges did Mormon polygamy encounter in Canada? How does the current debate in the Supreme Court of Canada over plural marriage challenge historical interpretations? How have the Restoration Movements developed in Canada? What of the challenges of secularization?

While we encourage presentations related to the conference theme, we also welcome high-quality proposals related to any and all aspects of Mormon/Restoration history. As a Program Committee we invite proposals for panels as well as individual papers. Innovative formats will also be considered. Please send an abstract of each paper (no more than 300 words) plus a short CV (no longer than two pages) as well as suggestions for session chairs and respondents. Previously published papers will not be considered. Young scholars are especially encouraged to participate. (Generous donors have offered to pay travel expenses for some undergraduate and graduate students whose proposals are accepted. Student proposals should include estimated expenses if applying for a travel grant.)

The deadline for proposals is November 1, 2011. Proposals should be sent by email to mhacalgary2012@gmail.com. If necessary, hard copies of proposals can be sent to Richard Bennett, 370D Joseph Smith Building, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be made by January 31, 2012. Additional instructions and information are available on the MHA website at <http://www.mhahome.org>.

MHA CALGARY PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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BOOK NOTICES
SELECTED ARTICLES

Book Notices Compiled by
J. Michael Hunter

Barker, Dan. *Unique Stories and Facts from LDS History*. Springville, Utah: CFI, 2010.

Bigler, David L. and Will Bagley. *The Mormon Rebellion: America's First Civil War, 1857-1858*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2011.

Burton, Frederick G. *Presbyterians in Zion: History of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Utah*. New York: Vantage Press, 2010.

Chamberlain, Jonathan M. and Beverly Christensen Chamberlain. *Happy is the Man: A Social Biography of Thomas Chamberlain (1854-1918)*. Provo, Ut.: Brigham Young University Printing Services, 2009, 2010.

Davies, Douglas J. *Joseph Smith, Jesus, and Satanic Opposition: Atonement, Evil and the Mormon Vision*. Farnham, Surrey, England and Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2010.

Gibbons, Francis M. *Howard W. Hunter: Man of Thought and Independence, Prophet of God*. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2011. [Reprint.]

Hebner, Logan and Michael Plyler. *Southern Paiute: A Portrait*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2010.

Herman, Daniel Justin. *Hell on the Range: A Story of Honor, Conscience, and the American West*. The Lamar Series in Western History. New Haven, Ct.: Yale University Press, 2010. [Arizona's Rim Country War of the 1880s]

Huber, Leslie Albrecht. *The Journey Takers*. N.p.: Foundation Books, 2010. [Western European immigration experience through the stories of three families]

Jacobson, Cardell K. and Lara Burton. *Modern Polygamy in the United States: Historical, Cultural, and Legal Issues*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Karras, Christy. *More than Petticoats: Remarkable Utah Women*. Guilford, Ct.: Globe Pequot Press, 2010.

Romig, Ronald E. *Alexander: Joseph and Emma Smith's Far West Son*. Independence, Mo.: John Whitmer Books, 2010.

Smith, Joseph, Jr. *Manuscript Revelation Books. The Joseph Smith Papers. Revelations and Translations*, edited by Robin Scott Jensen, Robert J. Woodford and Steven Craig Harper. Vol. 1. Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Press, 2010. [Library Edition. The Facsimile Edition of this volume was issued in 2009.]

Smith, Joseph, Jr. *Manuscript Revelation Books. The Joseph Smith Papers. Revelations and Translations*, edited by Robin Scott Jensen, Richard E. Turley Jr., and Riley Lorimer. Vol. 2. Salt Lake City: Church Historian's Press, 2011.

Spencer, Thomas M., ed. *The Missouri Mormon Experience*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2010. [Nine essays.]

Valentine, Rebecca and Travis Thompson. *Beyond the Land of Gold: The Life & Times of Perry A. Burgess*. Acworth, Ga.: Thompson Media, 2010.

Article Notices

By Jennifer St. Clair

- Black, Susan Easton. "St. Louis Luminary: The Latter-day Saint Experience at the Mississippi River, 1854-1855." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 4 (2010): 157-177; "McCorkle's 1844 Letter to Joseph Smith." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 4 (2010): 81-90.
- Brown, Samuel. "The Early Mormon Chain of Belonging." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 44, no. 1 (2011): 1-52.
- Cannon, Kenneth L., II. "Wives and Other Women: Love, Sex, and Marriage in the Lives of John Q. Cannon, Frank J. Cannon, and Abraham H. Cannon." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 4 (2010): 71-130.
- Cook, Andrew W. and Christopher C. Smith. "The Original Length of the Scroll of Hôr." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 4 (2010): 1-42.
- Evans, Emily. "'In the Absence of Proper Medical and Surgical Skill': Childbirth and Nursing Care Among the Mormon Pioneers, 1846-1866." *Windows in Time* 18, no. 2 (2010): 6-11.
- Flake, Kathleen. "Protecting the Wilderness: Comments on Howe's The Garden in the Wilderness." *Church History* 79, no. 4 (2010): 863-870.
- Godfrey, Audrey M., ed. "'Writing in the Waggon': The 1895 Travel Journal of Lucretia Pepper Wightman." *The Journal of Arizona History* 51, no.2 (2010): 95-154.
- Gore, David Charles. "Joseph Smith's Letter from Liberty Jail as an Epistolary Rhetoric." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 4 (2010): 43-70.
- Griffiths, Casey Paul. "The Chicago Experiment: Finding the Voice and Charting the Course of Religious Education in the Church." *BYU Studies* 49, no. 4 (2010): 91-130.
- Hoyt, Amy and Sara M. Patterson. "Mormon Masculinity: Changing Gender Expectations in the Era of Transition from Polygamy to Monogamy, 1890-1920." *Gender & History* 23, no. 1 (2011): 72-91.
- Laga, Barry. "In Lieu of History: Mormon Monuments and the Shaping of Memory." *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 4 (2010): 131-154.
- MacKinnon, William P. "Buchanan's Thrust from the Pacific: The Utah War's Ill-Fated Second Front." *The California Territorial Quarterly* 82 (Summer 2010):4-27 [Updated reprint.]
- Park, Benjamin E. "'A Uniformity So Complete': Early Mormon Angelology." *Intermountain West Journal of Religious Studies* 2, no. 1 (2010): 2-37.

BY-LAWS UPDATE

An earlier change in the student representative's term on the MHA Board of Directors will be officially voted on at the membership luncheon (May 28) at the St. George Conference. During the November 2008 Board meeting, MHA's officers and Board approved a clarification to the by-laws regarding the addition in 2007 of a seventh Board member, a graduate student, added as a student representative "to serve a term commensurate with his/her school enrollment, to a maximum of three years." The Board's approved change was to make the student representative's term a straight two years rather than an indefinite one. Recently it was realized that this change has not yet been voted on by the membership.

While this modification will be the first change in our existing by-laws since May 2007, it is anticipated that during the next year the by-laws will be fully reviewed and inconsistencies identified, discussed by the Board, and, if approved, submitted to a membership vote.

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**For a map of the St. George area,
including the Dixie Center and hotels, see:**

<http://www.mhahome.org/conferences/StGeorge/2011-St-George-Conference-Map.pdf>

CALGARY COMES TO DIXIE

Sherri DiVincentis, Conference & Event Services Managing Director of **Tourism Calgary**, will be attending the 2011 St. George Conference to market our 2012 Calgary Conference. She is staffing a welcome booth on Friday and Saturday near MHA's registration desk. DiVincentis will be distributing various flyers and brochures, showing images of dynamic Calgary, and will be available to answer all your questions about Calgary and Canada. Watch for special promotional gifts and drawings in St. George.

MHA ON FACEBOOK

In 2010, MHA members created an unofficial Friends of MHA page on Facebook. Become a friend and keep updated on developments related to the 2011 Conference. Starting on April 11th, weekly updates will be posted.

Transportation Options

Some have asked about bus travel between Salt Lake City and St. George. Two companies provide daily service:

Utah Trailways (www.utahtrailways.com)

- SLC to St.G - \$90 roundtrip.
Leave 8:00 a.m. -- Arrive 1:04 p.m.
- St.G to SLC
Leave 2:00 p.m. -- Arrive 7:06 p.m.

Greyhound (www.greyhound.com)

- SLC to St. G - \$42, one-way (advanced purchase)
Leave 8:30 a.m. -- Arrive 2:20 p.m.
- St.G to SLC -\$50.50 one-way (advanced purchase)
Leave 11:35 a.m. -- Arrive 5:10 p.m.

Check websites for locations of departure and arrival, interim stops, and other particulars.

Also, please check www.aztec-shuttle.com, and www.stgeorghuttle.com, for similar services, including shuttles, from Las Vegas, Nevada.