

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Executive Leadership Meeting

7:00 PM, Thursday, 23 January 2020

LTC Max Jamison Residence and via GoToMeeting.com

189 E. 1864 South, Orem, UT 84058

The Mormon Battalion Association Executive Staff meets at least once per quarter on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm, except when that day is a holiday or conflicts with another event. In that case, the meeting will be re-scheduled and the Executive Leadership will be notified of the change. Members of the public are invited to attend. *Policy:* As with U.S. Congressional minutes, anyone can read appropriate items into the minutes. In the interest of expediency, all participants should be familiar with our proposed minutes *before* each meeting. We will only address items requiring discussion and decisions. We are posting our Action Item Review separately on our website with Sunset Dates for completion.

Executive Staff Attendance: The following were present: LTC Max W. Jamison (Battalion Commander) and MAJ Laura Anderson (1st Executive Director – External Affairs/Senior Historian), MAJ David Day (Adjutant General), MAJ Val John Halford (Reenactor Coordinator), and Ronald Kirkpatrick (Senior Finance Officer).

The following were absent: COL Jerome Gourley (Battalion Commander’s Chief Advisor and Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors), MAJ Thomas Griggs (2nd Executive Director – Internal Affairs/Adjutant General and Eastern Idaho Squad Commander), MAJ Steve Cannon (Membership Officer), Greg Christofferson (Acquisitions/Fund Raising), MAJ David Jamiel (Legislative Relations Officer and Colorado Squad Commander), CSM David Munford (Command Sergeant MAJ) and Kevin Henson (Trails Experts).

Board of Directors Attendance: The following were absent: Chair Edwin Kimball, and members Mike Anderson, Smokey Bassett, Peter Guilbert, Ashley Hall, Dennis Holland, Terry Latey, and Al Matheson.

Local Leadership Attendance: The following were absent: CPT Blaine Bachman (Albuquerque Squad) and SGT Larry Bilyeu (Cedar City Squad).

Guest: Mary Ann Kirk.

Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests / Administrative Items

LTC Jamison

Our meeting was postponed from last week due to LTC Jamison having to work, and MAJ Thomas Griggs’s wife, Linda, receiving a pacemaker over the weekend. Members attending the meeting introduced themselves. Ltc Jamison’s microphone was not working, so MAJ Anderson conducted the meeting.

MAJ Anderson nominated Mary Ann Kirk to become the Secretary for our Executive Leadership Meetings. Her nomination was seconded by LTC Jamison, and approved by unanimous consent. Please send your agenda items to her for inclusion in future agenda and minutes. Her email address is [Mary Ann Kirk@hotmail.com](mailto:MaryAnnKirk@hotmail.com).

Invocation

MAJ David Day

Minutes of 19 December 2019 Executive Leadership Meeting – Approved by unanimous vote

General Business:

Recognition & Awards

None

Service Opportunities

See <https://www.JustServe.org>™ website.

Project Request Forms and Annual Budget Requests

We have received no *Project Request Forms* and *Annual Budget Requests* from local units. We can only allocate funds to you if we know your plans and needs. MAJ Anderson was not sure what those forms were and suggested we send them out so people could make requests on them. They should already be on our website for all to download. Ltc Jamison will research.

Action Item Review

Leadership:

MAJ Anderson nominated Mary Ann Kirk to become Secretary for our Executive Leadership Meetings. Her nomination was seconded by Ltc Jamison, and approved by unanimous consent. Please send your agenda items to her for inclusion in future agenda and minutes. Her email is [mary ann kirk@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_ann_kirk@hotmail.com).

Finances:

LTC Jamison, CPA Gary Lunt, and Ron Kirkpatrick have prepared and submitted IRS Form 1023 and all required documents. It may take several months to hear back from the IRS, and they may ask for more information. Ltc Jamison will get the necessary info to Mr. Kirkpatrick to access the bank account online.

Membership Reports:

Affiliate Organization Reports:

1. **Battalion Trek/MapNTour.com (Michigan Contingent) – Kevin and Denny Henson:** Dan Talbot was a king among men. Yes, he did considerable on-the-ground (and in the air) research, focusing on Arizona. He gave me a copy of his book which I largely copied into my interpretation with some minor edits. Haven't talked for probably 5 or 6 years. He was getting long in the tooth.
2. **Boy Scouts of America:** No report.
3. **California LDS Living History Mission, Southern California Area – Guy Dickson:** No report.
4. **California LDS Living History Mission, Northern California Area – Dennis Amaral:** No report.
5. **California Pioneer Heritage Foundation – Dennis Holland:** No report.
6. **Daughters of Utah Pioneers:** No report.
7. **Early Saints Research Group – MAJ Laura Anderson:** No report.
8. **FamilySearch™:** No report.
9. **Friends of the Battalion & Ship *Brooklyn* – President Donald L. Eastman:** No report.
10. **Heritage Trails Association – Marilyn Mills:** No report.
11. **Mormon Battalion Arizona (Mesa Company) – CPT Owen Garner:** No report.
12. **Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego, California:** No report.
13. **Mormon Battalion Volunteers, Historic Reenactment Group, Utah Living History Association. – CPT Jared Cornell:** No report.
14. **Mormon History Association – President Brian Cannon:** No report.
15. **Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) – Ashley Hall:** No report.
16. **Sons of Utah Pioneers:** No report.
17. **Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA) – Gar Elison, Convention Committee Chairman:** No report.
18. **Santa Fe Trail Association –** No report.

Board of Directors Reports – Ltc Jamison: None.

Local Unit Reports:

- Headquarters (HHC) Company – MAJ Clark Olsen:** No report.
- Utah North Platoon – CPT Robert Olson:** No report.
- Eastern Idaho Squad – CPT Thomas Griggs:** No report.
- Ogden Section – MAJ Clark Olsen:** No report.
- Salt Lake Squad – CSM Munford:** No report.
- Utah South Platoon – LTC Jerry Harris:** No report.

Albuquerque Squad – CPT Blaine Bachman: No report.

Cedar City Squad – SGT Larry Bilyeu: No report.

Colorado Squad – MAJ David Jamiel: I had no interpretive activity so far in January. However, this Thursday night, I will be setting up my Mormon Battalion/Mexican-American War display at the Prospect Ridge Academy in Broomfield, Colorado for the school's History Night. Expect a few hundred participants. Will send details after the event. (P.S. as a result will not be in this Thursday call). Most of this month has been spent studying the 1975 Mormon Battalion Study document and the Butterfield Overland Trail/Cooke's Wagon Road Study and researching enabling legislation related to National Trails designation in preparation for the upcoming conference call about how we might get these two trails on the Register of National Historic Trails. Should have some written comments before the meeting.

St. George Squad – CPT Robert Wood: COL Gourley made several Eagle Scout slide presentations.

White Mountain Squad – CPT David Crockett: No report.

Field Company – CPT Lynn Tegland: No report.

California Detached Section – LTC Frank Szeles: No report.

California South Squad (aka “B” Company): No report.

Arizona Detached Section: No report.

Yuma Squad – CPT Gary L. Smith: No report.

At Large Members – No report.

Membership Advisory Committee Reports:

1. Art Committee – Mike Anderson: No report

2. Website Historians Editorial Review Board (HERB) – Mike Anderson: No report.

3. “All Things Mormon Battalion” Project – Kristine Forbes has been doing an amazing job with a spreadsheet named the “QUILT” that can filter for all the different groups. We are getting ready this month to put up that information on our web page. We also need any information that board members want to go on the new web page. Kevin described the process with Kristine and said we have been cross correlating former publications and new documents from NARA. We think we have a decent understanding of how many, who, and some of the peculiarities about the enlistment process - some who show up on one form but not another. So we think we can explain the numbers at this point. MAJ Anderson is working with Kristine's associate, Tom Brown, to compile various lists.

4. Mormon Battalion Historic Trails Award Program Committee – CSM Munford, Chair: No report.

5. 2021-2022 Sesquicentennial Planning – MAJ Anderson is attending the OCTA convention in Yuma to see what a mid year convention looks like and will try to convince them to come to San Diego for their midyear convention in 2022.

Mr. Henson and MAJ Anderson are making application to participate in the Symposium at Bent's Fort in La Junta, Colorado in 2021. What does the funding look like for that? Mr. Henson shared some family health issues that likely will prevent him from going on the trail for 6-7 months. He will follow through on other commitments for OCTA. He will hopefully be available for the symposium. We may have to have different groups doing different things along the trail. Mr. Henson did not think that was bad and can involve more people in various locations. LTC Jamison said he could help.

MAJ Anderson is looking at the possibility of getting One Voice Children's Choir to come and sing music created for us about the 175th Anniversary, perhaps in both the kick-off and the San Diego conclusion. She thought we could get the book that Kevin has done to them and see if we can work together. She doesn't know if they would charge us anything (See website: <https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=one+voice+children%27s+choir&&view=detail&mid=DC6227CE7A2BD9D566E7D7C6227CE7A2BD9D566E7&rvsmid=1D3D043981AFA08239AC1D3D043981AFA08239AC&FORM=V DQVAP>.)

LTC Jamison spoke to Daniel Carter, composer of “Refuge and Rest,” a special oratorio about the early Saints and the Mormon Battalion first performed at the Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial in Council Bluffs, IA in 1996. Mr. Carter has given permission for us to use the music. We would need to buy copies of the music.

MAJ Anderson made a motion to allow her to follow through to see what One Voice Children’s Choir is willing to help us with. LTC Jamison seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Continental Support Staff Reports:

1. 1st Executive Director (External Affairs/Senior Historian) – MAJ Laura Anderson

a. Meeting with Clive Romney and the Utah Arts Council – Scheduled to meet on the afternoon of Tuesday, 28 January.

c. Trip to February OCTA Convention – Plans to attend the OCTA Convention in Yuma, Arizona in February, where she will try to convince them to come to San Diego for their midyear convention in 2022.

d. 2021 Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Symposium – Making application for Kevin Henson and MAJ Anderson to participate in the 23-26 September 2021 symposium at Bent’s Fort, La Junta, Colorado. Need funding for such things? Rough Draft of proposal for 2021 Symposium for the Bicentennial of the Sant Fe Trail at Bents Fort in Colorado:
Title: “1846 Mexican War/Mormon Battalion story along the trail with an emphasis on the women.

I will touch on:

- President Polk’s calling of the Mormon Battalion,
- their Fort Leavenworth experience,
- money sent back to Council Bluffs to the families,
- Ltc James Allen’s death,
- 1LT Andrew J. Smith taking charge at Council Grove.
- the Higgins Detachment at the Arkansas,
- the Brown Detachment from Santa Fe, and the Willis Detachment 280 miles along the trail to upper California. The detachments were sent to Pueblo due to lack of supplies in Santa Fe.
- a study of letters from the Quartermaster McKissock’s records at Santa Fe and Quartermaster Enos’s records at Bents Fort and what we learn from them.
- how all this fits into the bigger picture of the War and the building of the Cook Wagon Road connecting Santa Fe to the American West.
- the stories of all five women who left Santa Fe on their way to the West Coast.

e. Mormon Battalion Research Group Meetings – We are holding research meetings in the 2nd Floor “glass” classroom at the LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to noon or whenever we want to leave. Our goals are to:

- 1) compare all of these men with the original temple resources in Special Collections. Their temple attendance is an indication of when they arrived in Utah.
- 2) identify the men conclusively in temple records, which often declare their parents, birth date, birth place, marriage(s), etc.
- 3) research conflicting birth dates, etc., to identify individuals conclusively.
- 4) Review the *Battalion Muster Rolls* and *Payrolls*, and get them up and transcribed on Kindex.
- 5) Train people how to transcribe on Kindex.
- 6) Review the Bounty Land and Pension Files and write up a Battalion history for each man.
- 7) Review, update, and post Kristine Forbes’ “quilt” spreadsheet on our website.

f. Monte Bona’s Video – MAJ Anderson reported that Monte Bona for the National Heritage area would like to make a video on the Mormon Battalion. It is in the beginning stages. They would like some reenactors to help them to make a 30 minute video of things about the Mormon Battalion and its trail. MAJ Halford said it was a good possibility and asked for updates. MAJ Anderson thought this might give us an additional opportunity to tell the Mormon Battalion story with our input for historical accuracy. LTC Jamison said that this group approached Sherman Fleek last year about doing an inspirational Christian video about the Battalion. MAJ Anderson reported that Sherman Fleek is their official adviser.

a. Legislative Relations Officer – MAJ David Jamiel: MAJ Anderson met with the staff of Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT) in November, and they reached out recently requesting a meeting to start on legislation that would approve a study of the Mormon Battalion Trail for designation as a National Historic Trail. Mr. Henson helped MAJ Anderson set up a GoToMeeting.com conference call with people from OCTA on Monday, 27 January. Mr. Henson and MAJ Halford will participate. MAJ Jamiel may not be there, and is sending a letter. LTC Jamison recalled that previous that there has been considerable resistance to past efforts to recognize *another* Mormon Trail. The last proposal by OCTA's Southern Trails division tried to combine all the Southern Trails. If we can get them to study the Mormon Battalion trail as part of that process, that is significant. Kevin confirmed the sentiment that there is little interest among the National Parks Service and federal government in doing additional studies about any Mormon trail. He suggested the best approach, not just for ourselves but the other trails as well, would be to work with OCTA on the Southern Trail and ask that it our part be recognized as Cooke's Wagon Road. MAJ Anderson suggested we could take that up with the different players at the meeting. They could decide what they want to call it. LTC Jamison said the only unique portion of the trail would be the Cooke's Wagon Road. The Mormon Battalion Trail sometimes follows existing trails and sometimes makes it's own route. MAJ Anderson said the name could be chosen once they decide on what the legislation should look like.

b. Reenactor Coordinator – MAJ Val John Halford – No report.

c. Webmaster – LTC Max Jamison – LTC Jamison hopes that someone will step up to serve as Battalion Commander after his move, but he is willing to continue as Webmaster. Web designer Aspen Anderson has completed her contracted 40 hours of website redesign implementing Dan Roper's Release 4.0 template, and has been paid in full. We may encounter a minor cost overrun as we post information and activate the new website. MAJ Anderson hopes to collect information from everyone to make sure we have accurate information up on the web page. We need it in a form that can go into Google Docs. The web page is google doc based. She can send board members a link to post to the prototype of the new website. It can include PDF documents, but they are not dynamic. We can upload a Microsoft Word document into that format. MAJ Day offered to help convert other formats into Google Docs.

d. Acquisitions/Fund Raising – Greg Christofferson – Greg Christofferson contacted MAJ Anderson and thought the Battalion Association was a dead organization and was going to leave the group. MAJ Anderson shared her vision of future projects such as preparing material for youth conferences centered on the Mormon Battalion experience to encourage kids to be part of the "youth battalion." LTC Jamison has also talked to him, and reported that he was willing to continue to help raise funds.

2. 2nd Executive Director (Internal Affairs/Adjutant General) – MAJ Thomas Griggs

a. Quartermaster/Logistics Officer – MAJ Thomas Griggs

b. Chief Finance Officer – Ronald Kirkpatrick:

1) Preparation of IRS Form 1023 – LTC Jamison last month submitted a spreadsheet to Mr. Gary Lunt, CPA, and myself summarizing our 2017-2019 expenses, and then I recreated the 2015-2016 data from our online minutes. Mr. Lunt and I have completed, signed, paid for, and mailed the IRS Form 1023 to the IRS. Now we wait for them to process the form or request that we send them additional information. I don't expect any problems, but it can take three or months for them to process our request. Upon acceptance, the IRS will use the post mark date as the date we became a 501(c)3 organization. The IRS lets us retroactively reinstate a charitable status if the re-application is within 27 months of the date they notified us that the status had been lost. *[LTC Jamison never received a notification.]* I don't know when the charitable status was revoked, but we do not show up on the current IRS list of charities. Mr. Lunt thought we were beyond the time for reinstatement. If we are still within the time limit, time the IRS will reinstate us as if the status was never lost. I think we are far too late for a reinstatement but they will let me know when they look at the application. I met with an IRS employee (currently a no-for-profit auditor) explained the situation (without revealing names or tax ID numbers) and she told me this was the best approach.

2) Designated Donations – We discussed procedures for making donations to the Battalion with designation for their use, such as reimbursement stipends for Battalion travel. Mr. Kirkpatrick said that there should be no problem with this as long as the recipient keeps receipts.

3) Financial Status – As of 31 December 2019, we had a bank balance of **\$10,785.48**, up from \$10,654.73. Since our last meeting in December, we have had the following activity:

a) Main Share Savings:

- *Deposits:* None
- *Current Balance:* **\$1.05**

- *Pending Expenditures:* None

b) General Fund:

- *Deposits:* \$1.41 interest, \$215.00 cash donations, \$580.08 PayPal deposits, and \$1,393.00 to cover Checks 128 and 129
- *Expenditures:* \$200.00 transfer to Historical Research Fund for cancelled \$200.00 Check 125 to Kevin Henson, \$95.36 to UPS- Idaho Falls for shipping and handling, \$192.00 to UPS - Orem for annual box rental, \$41.35 for Dan Talbot book, \$39.25 for monthly GoToMeeting fee, \$42.00 for copying fees, and \$72.21 for emergency travel loan to LTC Jamison
- *Current Balance:* **\$2,537.51**, up from \$2,406.94
- *Pending Expenditures:* \$250.00 to Gary Lunt, CPA, to prepare IRS Form 1023, book boxes for shipping library to MAJ Anderson's home, \$372.80 to OCTA for Application to February, 2020 Yuma, Arizona Symposium, normal monthly shipping and handling fees, and normal \$39.26 monthly fee from GoToMeeting.com
- *Pending Deposits:* \$1,000.00 donation from MAJ Laura Anderson, which would be forwarded to Kindex to further their work in our behalf, and reimbursement from LTC Jamison for emergency travel loan

c) Arts Fund:

- *Deposits:* \$1.23 interest
- *Expenditures:* \$5,000 transfer to Historical Research Fund
- *Current Balance:* **\$1,753.80**, up from \$1,752.57
- *Pending Expenditures:* None

d) Historical Research Fund:

- *Deposits:* \$1.41 interest, \$200.00 transfer from General Fund for cancelled check to Kevin Henson, \$5,000.00 transfer from Arts Fund
 - *Expenditures:* Stipend of \$750.00 to Aspen Anderson for website Release 4.0 design
 - *Current Balance:* **\$6,494.17**, up from \$1,347.32
 - *Pending Expenditures:* Stipend to MAJ Anderson of \$643.00 for her November NARA trip, and about \$1,000.00 to help offset her costs replacing her laptop computer overloaded with Battalion research data. Stipend to assist Mr. Henson with the search for and marking of the common grave of **PVTs James Hampton and John Green** in New Mexico.

c. Membership Officer – MAJ Steve Cannon: LTC Jamison has promised to provide a current list of members to MAJ Cannon.

Commander's Report:

1. Status of Mormon Battalion Eagle Scout Slide Program – As The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ended its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America, we have received a flood of last minute requests for Mormon Battalion Eagle Scout slides. We are ordering a new shipment of 75 slides today, but are gauging future purchases carefully. MAJ Griggs recommends that we reaffirm our commitment to continuing to provide slides to successor units.

New Business

(Open to Floor)

1. Swearing in of New Board and Executive Staff Members. The following individuals present last month still need to be sworn in using the new approved verbiage:

A. Battalion Continental Support Staff:

- **Acquisitions/Fund Raising Officer** on the Executive Staff – MAJ Greg Christofferson (not present, and will be sworn in at a later date if he accepts)

B. Battalion Board of Directors:

- **Chairman** – Edwin Kimball Christofferson (not present last month)
- **Director** – Greg Christofferson (not present last month)
- **Director** – BG Ashley J. Hall (not present last month)
- **Director** – S. Dennis Holland (not present last month)

Projected Action Items

Leadership:

- All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**. We have two remaining unfilled positions.
- All: Find viable candidates to run for offices of **Battalion Commander (*ex officio* President of Board)** and **Battalion Executive Officer (*ex officio* Vice President of Board)**, who will stand for election for two years. Section 2.02 of the *Articles of Incorporation* states that they coordinate and direct all member activities. Their roles are that of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Operations Officer (COO).

Mormon Battalion Historic Trails Awards:

- COL Gourley and Greg Christofferson: *Continue* coordination with Elder D. Todd Christofferson regarding continued association between LDS Church and Mormon Battalion Association, including historical research and LDS participation.
- CSM Munford and Greg Christofferson: Arrange for a meeting in the near future with the youth leadership of the LDS Church to obtain their endorsement and support for our new awards program.
- Dennis Holland: Coordinate placement of posters and website information with Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego, California, and other strategic locations in California.

Honorary Memberships:

- Dennis Holland: Submit list of current and past missionaries for honorary membership certificates to LTC Jamison.
- LTC Jamison: Contact Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego for list of current and past missionaries for honorary membership certificates.
- LTC Jamison and Kevin Henson: Send honorary membership certificates to those who have so kindly assisted Mr. Henson in his historical research for and about the Mormon Battalion, particularly Tim Kimball, Terry Latey, and Gail Holmes.
- LTC Jamison, Dennis Holland, Dennis Amaral, and Guy Dickson: Provide honorary membership certificates to current and past California LDS Living History Mission members. *Peter Guilbert will help put together a list for Northern California.*

Website Updates:

- LTC Jamison: Create new recruiting materials (brief background of Association and donation page with receipt) for website to go with Membership Application. Forward copies to David Jamiel.
- LTC Jamison and SGT Jamiel: Complete four Historical Fact sheets and post on website:
 - *The Mormon Battalion Monument*, Pueblo, Colorado.
 - *Peaceful Valley Sign – Mormon Battalion Interpretive Panels* adjacent to Kiowa County Courthouse, Kiowa, Colorado.
 - *Trapper Trails Monument* in the Adams County Historical Site, Brighton, Colorado.
 - *California Trail Interpretive Center* in Elko, Nevada.

“All Things Mormon Battalion” Project:

- Dan Roper: Implement Release 4.0 as quickly as possible.
- All: Nominate indexers good at reading cursive to MAJ Anderson to help with indexing and transcription in Kindex™ software.
- COL Gourley and LTC Jamison: Follow up with Greg Christofferson regarding his contacts with our friends with deep pockets to fund \$20,000 for two BYU students in Dr. Jill Crandall’s BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy to find and digitize original “cradle to grave” documents of the approximately 2,000 members of the original Mormon Battalion and their laundresses, guides, and family members.

Research Mormon Battalion Association Documents in BYU Special Collections:

- LTC Jamison: Research missing history of Mormon Battalion Association from late 1940s through late 1990s in the Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University.

Next Executive Staff Meeting:

7:00 PM, Thursday, 20 February 2020
Residence of LTC Max W. Jamison
189 E. 1864 South
Orem, UT 84058