

# Mormon Battalion Association

## Minutes – Executive Staff Meeting 10:00 AM, Saturday, 15 February 2014

LTC Max Jamison Residence, 2854 N. Augusta Drive  
Lehi, UT 84043

The Mormon Battalion Association Executive Staff meets at least once per quarter on the third Saturday the month at 10:00 am, except when that day is a holiday or conflicts with another event. In that case, the meeting will be re-scheduled and the Executive Staff will be notified of the change. Members of the public are invited to attend.

**Executive Staff Attendance:** The minimum quorum of four was present: LTC Max Jamison (Battalion Commander), COL Carl V. Larson (Battalion Executive Officer), Margaret Larson (Membership Officer), and MAJ Val John Halford (Quartermaster/Logistics Officer). Excused: COL Jerome G. Gourley (Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor), Steven L. Rinehart (Judge Advocate General), and MAJ Clark Olsen (Community Relations Liaison).

**Leadership and Guest Attendance:** Kevin Henson (Senior Historian) and BG Ashley J. Hall, Las Vegas, Nevada (USA Retired, attending by phone).

**Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests**

LTC Max Jamison

**Invocation**

MAJ Val John Halford

### **Minutes of 18 January 2014 Executive Staff Meeting – Reviewed and Approved**

#### **General Business**

##### **● Recognition & Awards**

Over 50 Mormon Battalion Eagle Scout neckerchief slides have been awarded throughout the United States since October 2013.

Swore in MAJ Val John Halford as Quartermaster/Logistics Officer and member of the Executive Staff.

##### **● Service Opportunities**

□ Identify and refurbish trail markers like done on Old Spanish Trail for Eagle Scout projects. BG Hall to send copy of proposal on Old Spanish Trail Eagle Scout projects.

##### **● Project Request Forms**

*Project Request Forms* and *Budget Request Forms* need to be turned in by local units. We welcome your input on a list of potential projects in which local units can become involved. Such projects might include finding locations for placement of Battalion-related plaques.

##### **● Action Item Review**

#### **Leadership:**

□ All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**. *We now have four candidates willing to serve: Hugh S. Gregson, Orem, Utah; BG Ashley J. Hall (USA Retired), Las Vegas, Nevada; Edwin N. Kimball, Sandy, Utah; and James L. Waite, Nibley, Utah. Recruitment of others in process. BG Hall and Kevin Henson to forward recommendations.*

□ All: Recruit and vet a new **Chief Finance Officer**, preferably a CPA already familiar with QuickBooks. *COL Gourley has found two willing to serve. BG Hall to forward recommendations.*

#### **Recruiting:**

□ LTC Jamison: Follow up with representatives of University of Utah and Brigham Young University regarding recruiting of new college aged units. *In process.*

□LTC Jamison: Follow up with four local universities to recruit university staffs for *The Valiant Journal*. *In process*. Bg Hall recommended we add Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah. Will contact Al Matheson of that city for input.

### **Journals Transcription:**

□COL Larson and Kevin Henson: Create list of locations of original Battalion journals and their custodians so we can request/create new transcripts. Many journals are still in possession of descendant families. Once journals are located, seek opportunities to authenticate current transcriptions and/or retranscribe them, and then post results on website for public use. *In process*.

☒COL Larson: Send letter to Elizabeth Rogers, Curator of Manuscripts, University of Utah Special Collections Library, advising of the Mormon Battalion Association's support for Kevin Henson's offer to retranscribe Dr. Sanderson's Journal, and then coordinate with Kevin Henson. *Overcome By Events (OBE)*. *Kevin Henson is 45% finished with transcription, and is verifying copyright is in public domain so we can publish photocopy and transcription on website.*

### **Graves Memorialization:**

□COL Gourley, COL Larson, MAJ Olsen, and Kevin Henson: Coordinate Graves Memorialization planning with LDS Scouting Representative and Philmont Scout Ranch Representative for Milton Smith gravesite near Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. COL Gourley to take lead due to proximity of his home, and will arrange to set marker in concrete onsite. *In process*. *Deferred to 2015*. *Kevin Henson researching location of grave*. *BG Hall may be able to assist, has good relationship with Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*.

□COL Larson, LTC Jamison, and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of Lewis Dent and George Sanderson to invite to graves memorialization. COL Larson to research placing ad in local St. Louis newspaper. *In process*.

□COL Larson and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of two Battalion members in Michigan to invite to graves memorialization. Contact historical organizations in Michigan. *Location of living descendants in process*.

□COL Larson: Contact LDS Church about "Faith in Every Footstep" grave markers to determine who makes them; then contact that company about making new Mormon Battalion markers to replace bronze medallions. *Symbol Arts, a major supplier for the LDS Church, may be the source and may be able to make the new grave markers for us*. *We already do a lot of business with them*.

### **Documentation:**

☒LTC Jamison: Obtain copies of all correspondence between our former Executive Directors and providers, advisors, and consultants. *Have obtained correspondence with Symbol Arts and i4 Solutions*. *No others identified*.

□LTC Jamison: Find software to translate .pek audio recordings of our meetings and .aiff music files from Apple format to Microsoft format, so we can transcribe them verbatim, and recreate minutes. *Will ask Experian Software for references*.

### **Museum:**

□LTC Jamison: Respond to 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul requesting insurance for private displays in our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park. *Tabled pending further discussion*.

□LTC Jamison and MAJ Halford: Per request from Robert Paul, replace Civil War era "kepi" hat on the Battalion's mannequin in our Museum with an authentic 1846 era hat. *Tabled pending further discussion*.

### **Website Revitalization:**

☒LTC Jamison and COL Larson: Visit i4 Solutions to finalize redesign of website and make \$1,250.00 payment (\$500.00 to convert website from native HTML format to lay user editable format, plus \$750.00 to redesign our Quartermaster's Corner "shopping cart" to sell all of our products via PayPal). *Done*. *BG Hall recommended more readable font*.

## **● Membership Reports**

**1. Website Revitalization – LTC Jamison:** It is vitally important that we start marketing the rest of our inventory online to generate funds more quickly. We have forwarded favorite similar sites to website designer: Sons of Pioneers (<http://www.sonsofutahpioneers.org>) and California Pioneer Heritage Foundation (<http://www.californiapioneer.org>). Website designer will contact shortly.

a. *Quartermaster's Corner tab* – When we first set up our online PayPal account, we collected a single shipping fee of \$5.00 for all orders, no matter how many items were purchased, or what their value. This caused us to "eat" the excess shipping costs of large or valuable orders. After some research, I learned our online PayPal Shipping Calculator can assess shipping fees based on:

- total order amount,
- total order weight,
- total item count.

Since our orders may include a number of small items with values from \$5.00 to \$130.00, plus framed art work with values from \$20.00 to \$300.00, I implemented the following PayPal Shipping Calculator for standard domestic delivery in 2-7 business days based on total order amount:

- \$0.01 to \$20.00 merchandise value = \$5.00 shipping and handling fee,
  - \$20.01 to \$40.00 merchandise value = \$10.00 shipping and handling fee,
  - \$40.01 to \$60.00 merchandise value = \$15.00 shipping and handling fee,
  - \$60.01 to \$80.00 merchandise value = \$20.00 shipping and handling fee,
  - \$80.01 and up merchandise value = \$25.00 shipping and handling fee.
- b. *History tab* – will include searchable databases, including the original Battalion Roster, side by side photocopies and transcriptions of Battalion journals, life histories of original Battalion members, COL Larson’s Graves Memorialization Database, a listing of all known Battalion-related museums, monuments, maps, and trails, and an annotated reference list of Battalion-related documents.
- c. The *Publications tab* will include current versions of our *Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, General Handbook*, and other manuals. It will also include printable copies of all known issues of our old *The Valiant* newsletter, non-current issues of the new subscription scholarly *The Valiant Journal*, copies of talks and presentations given in our Heritage Day programs and annual business meetings on our Battalion Days, and winning essays from our youth essay contests.
- d. The *Member Activities tab* will include a Battalion calendar, Battalion and local unit meeting agendas and minutes, and links to related organization calendars, including events outside of Utah where Battalion-related activities and celebrations are being held. This will make it easier to coordinate events in several different areas. Look for our *Battalion Budget Request Forms* and *Project Report Forms* soon!
- e. The *Links tab* will point to our FaceBook page, member advisory committee blogs, family, associated, and affiliated organization links, and excerpts from the news media about the Mormon Battalion.
- f. The *Contact Us tab* will include organizational charts, our official mailing address, and “blind” protected email addresses for Battalion and local unit leaders. We are gathering biographies and photos of members of Board of Directors and Executive Staff.

**2. Adjutant General Report – Steven Rinehart:** No report.

**3. Stake Eagle Court of Honor in Farmington, Utah on 19 March 2014:** We have received inquiries from Rocky Dustin, a Farmington stake scouting representative requesting a flag honor guard and multiple Eagle Scout Slide presentations on 19 March. LTC Jamison is coordinating with MAJ Olsen, CPT Olson, MAJ Halford, and a West Jordan Venturer Post specializing in flag honor guards about filling this request. The Venturer Post advisor has promised to bring over 40 Unites States flags from different historical periods with flag bearers. If they perform as expected, we may invite them to march with us in the 2014 Days of ‘47 parade.

**Associated Organization Reports:**

**1. Battalion Trek – Kevin Henson:** No report.

**2. Mormon Volunteers, “A” Company, Historic Reenactors – MAJ Val John Halford:** Reenactors have changed name, and are now part of Utah Living History Association. Have committed to marching in 2014 Days of 47 Parade with us.

**3. Sierra Nevada Mormon Pioneers – Peter D. Guilbert:** Received numerous reports on their activities

**4. Sons of Utah Pioneers:** Received numerous reports.

**5. Friends of the Battalion:** No report.

**6. Mesa Company:** Three times a month from October through April, they are telling the story of the original Trail at Christmas Camp (120 miles round trip each time). They are developing their own Wild Bull Eagle Scout neckerchief slide to present to those who have participated in Christmas Camp.

#### **Local Unit Reports:**

**Headquarters (HHC) Company – MAJ Clark Olsen:** MAJ Olsen has made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.

**Utah North Platoon – CPT Robert Olson:** CPT Olson and MAJ Val John Halford have made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.

**Eastern Idaho Squad – CPT Thomas Griggs:** No report.

**Logan Squad (aka “D” Company) – CPT James Hansen:** No report.

**Ogden Section (aka “C” Company) – SGT Thayne Fry:** No report.

**Salt Lake Section/Squad (aka “A” and “B” Companies):** LTC Jamison has made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.

**Utah South Platoon – LTC Jerry Harris:** No report.

**Albuquerque Squad – CPT Blaine Bachman:** CPT Bachman has made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.

**Cedar City Squad – CPT Robert Tingey:** No report.

**St. George Section (aka Dixie Company) – CPT Robert Wood:** CPT Wood has made a number of Eagle Scout Slide presentations.

**White Mountain Section – CPT David Crockett:** No report.

**Field Company – CPT Lynn Tegland:** No report.

**California Detached Section – LTC Frank Szeles:** Held annual Mormon Battalion Day on 25 January in San Diego. Representatives from the rest of the Battalion were invited to attend.

**California South Squad (aka “B” Company) – MAJ John Bascom:** No report.

**Arizona Detached Section – LTC Lloyd Smith:** No report.

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

#### **● Member Advisory Committee Reports:**

**1. Graves Memorialization Committee – COL Larson:** No report.

**2. Historians Committee – Kevin Henson:** No report.

**3. Membership Committee – Margaret Larson:** No report.

**4. Scouting Relations Committee – MAJ Clark Olson: Mormon Battalion Trail Award:** On 5 December 2013, LTC Jamison assigned Kevin Henson – under the direction of MAJ Clark Olson – the responsibility of researching our “taking over” the Mormon Battalion Trail Award (created and managed by our own CPT Brent Bryner from Logan) from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and/or the LDS Church. Following is a summary of his 29 January and 10 February 2014 discussions and a copy of the 12 February 2014 letter he wrote to BSA Headquarters:

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The LDS/BSA Relations Office is a national-level BSA liaison office in the Salt Lake City area, created in the 1950s at the request of the LDS Church, its largest unit sponsor. There are two (2) BSA professionals at the office, Mark Francis, Director, and Dawn, his assistant. The Mormon Battalion Trail Award appears to have been originally instituted by the Mormon Battalion Association and sanctioned by the National Headquarters of the BSA. The BSA Scout Handbook used to show it as one of the BSA Historic Trails.

## CURRENT PROCESS:

The LDS/BSA Relations Office maintains a digital copy of the 1979 Mormon Battalion Trail Award booklet online. If a group or individual desires to obtain the award, they must download the booklet, complete the requirements, fill out the form, and send a check to cover the patch costs. The LDS/BSA Relations Office receives and approves the application, and forwards the patch. *Sadly, no copy of the completed requirement application is forwarded to the Mormon Battalion Association!*

## DISCUSSIONS:

The LDS/BSA Relations Office was pleased to hear the Battalion was considering “taking the award back” under its wing. Though not seriously taxing their resources, they are anxious to divest themselves of responsibility for administering the Award. I emphasized that it had been discussed by our Executive Staff, but no decision had been made, and that I was simply an intermediary authorized to make inquiry as to how the program evolved, how it was currently administered, what their issues were, etc. I was able to:

1. Examine and document what forms and materials their office has in its possession.
  - a. I obtained copies of some key documents – brochure, booklet, maps, and an official BSA document outlining the start of the program, and the original LDS and BSA National links that approved it. Most are dated and/or incorrect to some greater or lesser degree, requiring changes before redistributing again.
  - b. The existing requirement booklet is a Frankenstein – literally taped together with insertions, additions, etc., pasted into the original document. I asked them to preserve their files for eventual placement with the Mormon Battalion Association’s Archives at BYU. Agreed.
2. Discuss some practical issues facing the Battalion:
  - a. It was *unclear* whether altering the booklet and/or requirements would in any way require a “re-certification” of the award by National BSA office.
  - b. It was *clear* that the requirements booklet, all related forms for awarding the patch, and the PROCESS will need to be modified *before* the Battalion “takes the award back.” *Importantly*, there should be high-level discussion about how the new requirements and *process* will be rolled out to the LDS and BSA communities. Agreed in principle; details to be determined.
    - i. *BSA Community* – Because some councils have preserved information in their own files locally, the LDS/BSA Office will push down the new requirements to BSA councils around the nation through internal memos, etc. They are also willing to provide a link to the revised materials/process if hosted on the Mormon Battalion Association website. A diligent web search should be made to determine what other avenues for information/distribution of the patch have been “out there” and to close those “outdated” lines.
    - ii. *LDS Community* – The Battalion is willing to work with the Presiding Bishops’ Office and the General Primary Presidency to announce the change of process and to promote the award. Need to do so through a high visibility “news” effort, i.e., the *Deseret News*, *New Era*, etc. Need to contact the *New Era* ASAP to make their July deadline.
    - iii. The upcoming publication of the *Comprehensive Trail Guide to Mormon Battalion Routes, 1846-47* will be a good opportunity to more widely promote the Battalion Trail Award.
3. Determined that in the past 13 months, requests for Mormon Battalion Trail Award patches totaled 97 through 13 groups (7.5 average/group), and that there are only about 75-100 patches left in the LDS/BSA Office inventory. The LDS encampment near Denver, Colorado this summer anticipates needing 200+ patches. They will likely be the largest group to complete the award. We will need to order new patches soon to meet this need. This may be a good opportunity to “test” the new materials and process before rolling out to the general LDS and BSA “public.” *[COL and Mrs. Larson offered to attend to make the presentations.]*

*Tuesday, 12 February 2014* – I wrote the following letter to Susan Fitzhugh at the Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Irvine, Texas:

The LDS-BSA Relations Office in Salt Lake said I should contact someone at National about some historic trail award questions.

## BACKGROUND:

In 1979, the National BSA office approved the “Mormon Battalion Trail” historic trail award which is currently administered by the Salt Lake LDS-BSA Relations Office. That trail award was originally sponsored by the U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc., which organization has seen significant changes over the decades. [That organization has changed its name to Mormon Battalion Association, but still holds the dba for U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc.]

I’ve been asked by the “descendant” organization, “The Mormon Battalion Association” (“MBA”), to review the status of the award, to scope out the current process for obtaining the award, to revisit the requirements and background information booklet provided to Scouts and make recommendations regarding what changes (if any) to the process should be made.

One major issue that has arisen is a desire to place responsibility for administering the trail award with the Mormon Battalion Association instead of with the LDS-BSA Office. I’m trying to flesh out what potential issues should be addressed prior to making a commitment to that position by the MBA.

All other [BSA] “historic trail” awards that I could find on-line seem to be administered by the specific BSA council in which the trail resides. Since the Battalion routes cover nearly 6,000 miles, my assumption is that the Salt Lake City LDS/BSA Office was designated by National to administer for all the councils through which the trail passes.

## QUESTIONS:

- 1) Are there any other private organizations – outside the BSA – that administer any of the BSA National approved historic trail award programs?
  - a. Would the contemplated change of responsibility for administering the Mormon Battalion Trail Award be a precedent-setting situation?
  - b. If so, what potential issues would National see in this concept?
- 2) If National feels it appropriate for the Mormon Battalion Association to “take over” administering the Mormon Battalion Trail Award, would that in any way jeopardize the Mormon Battalion Trail Award’s current or future standing as an approved BSA “historic trail” award – or would there need to be a reanalysis/re-approval process to go through?
- 3) The current booklet that provides information about the trail apparently has not been revised since the original 1979 edition. Significant research since then suggests textural, factual, and source material revisions which would also affect some award requirements.
  - a. Should any award requirements be revised, would that necessarily trigger a review of the entire trail award by BSA National? OR, are the requirements and information the responsibility of the sponsoring organization (i.e., the Mormon Battalion Association)?
  - b. If a re-approval process would be required, what would that process be and what time frame would be involved?
- 4) If the contemplated information and oversight responsibility changes take place, could the Mormon Battalion Association depend upon the BSA National Office to help promote the revised award through appropriate channels (BSA newsletters, e-mails, a *Boys Life* article, etc.)?

**5. Men’s Uniform Committee - MAJ Halford:** No report.

**6. Women’s Dress Committee - Kayla Willey and Wendy Sorensen:** No report. *Margaret Larson promised to make contact.*

**7. Battalion Flag - Mike Anderson:** No report.

8. **2014 Heritage Day Committee – LTC Jamison:** Have briefly discussed possibility of hosting full day symposium at BYU in April. *Will follow up with Professor Brandon Plewe.* Need to place ad in newspaper inviting descendants of original Mormon Battalion to march with us in Days of 47 Parade wearing pioneer clothing.

● **Continental Support Staff Reports:**

1. **Quartermaster/Logistics Report – MAJ Halford: Mormon Battalion Eagle Scout Neckerchief Slides:**

LTC Jamison reported that some of our presenters are (a) not including the \$5.00 shipping and handling fee with their payments, and (b) providing little or no feedback on their presentations. As a general rule, we sell our slides to anyone representing an Eagle Scout. Our only stipulation is that they properly acknowledge that the trademarked slides came from us and make the presentation in accordance with our official *Presentation Guidelines*. We have no way of knowing whether presenters are using our trademarked slides to solicit "coat tail donations" for themselves or their organization. In order to remain in strict compliance with IRS rules, and maintain a log of slide recipients, I recommend the following:

- *In Person Purchase from Eagle Kits* – Require a completed *Slide Request Form* with every in person purchase. The Eagle Kit holder must then turn in one form to the Quartermaster for every new slide received.
- *Online Purchase Via PayPal* – Restructure our online payment process to require submission of a completed *Slide Request Form* before proceeding to the via PayPal direct payment window. The Quartermaster will send a copy of our official *Presentation Guidelines* with the confirmation email.
- *Mail In Purchase Via Check or Money Order* – Change our mail in order process to require submission of a completed *Slide Request Form* with their check or money order made out to the Mormon Battalion Association. The Quartermaster will send a copy of our official *Presentation Guidelines* with the shipment.
- *Follow up* – The Quartermaster will send all purchasers a numbered Certificate of Authenticity after the presentation. This will help to maintain communication with recipients.

*The Executive Staff voted unanimously to implement the above policy.*

2. **Acting Finance Officer Report – LTC Jamison:** Our financial status continues to improve. Our Quartermaster Corner supplies are adequate. No local units have requested any funds. We paid \$xx.xx for three months of UPS shipping costs. Other than our Heritage Day expenses in June 2014, renewing our annual UPS contract in September, and our Battalion Day expenses in October, we foresee no major expenses in 2014.

**New Business**

**(Open to Floor)**

1. **New Board of Directors – LTC Jamison:**

a. **Membership** – Per our new Articles and Bylaws, we are creating a new Board of Directors comprising 7-10 civic leaders friendly to the Battalion. We expect to fill the Board quickly. To date, four have accepted our invitation. They need not be current members of the Battalion or reside in Utah, but do need to hold at least one meeting per year to conduct Battalion business and adjudicate such policy issues as may be brought before it by the Executive Staff. They may rotate the Chairmanship of the Board among themselves as they see fit. The Board will also include the separately elected pair of Battalion Commander (*ex officio* President) and Battalion Executive Officer (*ex officio* Vice President), and the two appointed Executive Directors of business operations. The more I think about it, the more I am convinced that our Board of Directors – rather than being inbred from the membership of the Battalion – should be comprise fresh cross-pollinating wise and successful business and community leaders from *outside* the Battalion capable of rendering unbiased decisions.

b. **Supreme Authority and Oversight of Board of Directors** – They are far more than an advisory board. While the Battalion Commander, Battalion Executive Officer, and their Executive Staff will continue to run the day to day activities of the Battalion, the Board will serve as our highest governing body, and will be responsible for adjudicating matters related to the Battalion, its purpose, and its general operations. It will be their duty to hold all directors, officers, and other personnel accountable to the highest standards of professional ethics and legal guidelines as defined by the Utah Nonprofits Association, or other designated authorities and professional groups.

**c. Frequency of Meetings and Quorum** – Our Bylaws require them to hold at least one public Board meeting per year to review the condition of the corporation and conduct such business as needed. We recommend that meeting be held in conjunction with our annual business meeting at our October annual Battalion Day normally held somewhere in Northern Utah. Other than that, they may meet as often or seldom as they see fit. They may attend electronically from remote locations, designate proxies in advance to attend in your place, or send proxy statements. To be binding, they must have a quorum in attendance. That quorum is defined by our Bylaws as having 60% of their members present, including their Chairman, the two Battalion Commanding Officers, and the two Executive Directors of the administrative support staff.

**d. Minutes and Communications** – By law, they must keep and publish minutes of their meetings. The Executive Staff will share the minutes of our monthly meetings plus all other vital communications with them. They will maintain familiarity with that information, and provide input and feedback.

**e. Governance Committee and Terms of Service** – The Board will organize a separate, subordinate Governance Committee, who will formulate plans for General Elections. Per Section 6.02(b) of our Bylaws, members of the Committee can be Battalion members, non-profit specialists, or other professionals, and will be chaired by a Human Resources Specialist appointed by the Board. Per Section 6.02(e), no member of the Board or Executive Staff may serve on this committee. In order to maintain corporate memory and continuity, they will arrange to gradually convert current Board appointments into staggered 3-year elected terms of office, with no more than two full 3-year terms.

**f. General Election of Board of Directors, Battalion Commander, and Battalion Executive Officer** – We are due to hold General Elections of select members of the Board, plus a new Battalion Commander and Battalion Executive Officer in September 2014. I was elected to a four year term as Battalion Executive Officer in August 2010. As Battalion Commander *Pro Tempore*, I automatically succeeded COL Jerome Gourley upon his unexpectedly resignation in March 2012. COL Carl V. Larson and I are serving out Jerome's four year term of office. While eligible for election for two 2-year terms in our own right, neither of us intends to run, but will faithfully perform whatever other duties we are assigned.

**2. Report on Creation of Early Saints Research Group – LTC Jamison:** Kevin Henson held exploratory discussions with BYU Geography Professor Brandon Plewe, and Terry Latey, a Research Librarian at the Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters in Omaha, Nebraska regarding the approximately 30,000 early LDS Church members and their activities from 1820 through about 1848, including things like where they lived, where they traveled, what they did in the Church, land they owned, their families, etc. It was understood that each early saint represented only a small portion of Church history, but the same people were involved throughout these eras, so it might be advantageous to share possibility of sharing detailed information.

Following Sister Latey's presentation at the recent RootsTech Conference at BYU on 31 January 2014 regarding her Early LDS Database ([earlylds.com](http://earlylds.com)) and the Crossroads to the West Project ([mapntour.com/view/crossroads](http://mapntour.com/view/crossroads) - created by Kevin Henson), COL Larson, Margaret Larson, Kevin Henson, Denny Henson, and I attended the organizing meeting of the Early Saints Research Group. This meeting was attended by over a dozen groups interested in linking their research and databases on early LDS membership. Such sharing of information is of vital importance to our research on the membership, journals, life histories, and graves memorialization of members of the original Mormon Battalion.

On 4 February 2014, Professor Plewe sent out the following email:

Hi everyone, I was happy to see so many of you at the meeting at BYU last Friday. I thought it was a very productive meeting, and I hope we can keep up the energy that was generated there, and accomplish some great things together. It was great to see so many people paired up afterwards, forging new partnerships; that's exactly what we hoped to accomplish. I'm just happy that we came up with a name I hope "EarlySaints" will be inclusive of members of the various groups and churches that follow Joseph Smith (there may be some confusion among Catholics, but what can we do?) ;-)



I said I would set up a website for the group, to enable us to work together, and share our work with the world. It is now operational at: <http://earlysaints.byu.edu/> Currently, there are two things here:

1-*a list of all of us.* Please review this list and let me know if I need to add or edit it, or if you do not wish to be on the “public” list. I chose not to include e-mails on the page to limit the potential for spam, but do you want me to include them? For your purposes, you can get each others’ e-mails from this message.

2-*A simple document library.* There seemed to be a lot of demand for this, and then I realized that it isn’t very difficult to set up in WordPress. I have uploaded a few examples. If you wish to upload your own work, just register on the site as a new user, then e-mail me, and I’ll switch you over to an “author” role, which will let you upload media and post to the blog.

E-mail me if you have any ideas for additional features. Also, e-mail you me if you would like to be part of a technical working group to figure out how to get our various websites to talk to each other better.

## Review of Current Action Items

### **Leadership:**

- All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**. *We now have four candidates willing to serve: Hugh S. Gregson, Orem, Utah; BG Ashley J. Hall (USA Retired), Las Vegas, Nevada; Edwin N. Kimball, Sandy, Utah; and James L. Waite, Nibley, Utah. Recruitment of others in process. BG Hall and Kevin Henson to forward recommendations.*
- All: Recruit and vet a new **Chief Finance Officer**, preferably a CPA already familiar with QuickBooks. *COL Gourley has found two willing to serve. BG Hall to forward recommendations.*

### **Recruiting:**

- LTC Jamison: Follow up with representatives of University of Utah and Brigham Young University regarding recruiting of new college aged units. *In process.*
- LTC Jamison: Follow up with four local universities to recruit university staffs for *The Valiant Journal*. *In process. Bg Hall recommended we add Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah. Will contact Al Matheson of that city for input.*

### **Journals Transcription:**

- COL Larson and Kevin Henson: Create list of locations of original Battalion journals and their custodians so we can request/create new transcripts. Many journals are still in possession of descendant families. Once journals are located, seek opportunities to authenticate current transcriptions and/or retranscribe them, and then post results on website for public use. *In process.*

### **Graves Memorialization:**

- COL Gourley, COL Larson, MAJ Olsen, and Kevin Henson: Coordinate Graves Memorialization planning with LDS Scouting Representative and Philmont Scout Ranch Representative for Milton Smith gravesite near Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. COL Gourley to take lead due to proximity of his home, and will arrange to set marker in concrete onsite. *In process. Deferred to 2015. Kevin Henson researching location of grave. BG Hall may be able to assist, has good relationship with Bureau of Land Management (BLM).*
- COL Larson, LTC Jamison, and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of Lewis Dent and George Sanderson to invite to graves memorialization. COL Larson to research placing ad in local St. Louis newspaper. *In process.*
- COL Larson and Kevin Henson: Locate living descendants of two Battalion members in Michigan to invite to graves memorialization. Contact historical organizations in Michigan. *Location of living descendants in process.*
- Col Larson: Contact LDS Church about “Faith in Every Footstep” grave markers to determine who makes them; then contact that company about making new Mormon Battalion markers to replace bronze medallions. *Symbol Arts, a major supplier for the LDS Church, may be the source and may be able to make the new grave markers for us. We already do a lot of business with them.*

### **Documentation:**

- LTC Jamison: Obtain copies of all correspondence between our former Executive Directors and providers, advisors, and consultants. *Have obtained correspondence with Symbol Arts and i4 Solutions. Others in process.*
- LTC Jamison: Find software to translate audio recordings of our meetings from Apple format to Microsoft format, so we can transcribe them verbatim, and recreate minutes. *Will ask Experian Software for references.*

### **Museum:**

- LTC Jamison: Respond to 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul requesting insurance for private displays in our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park. *Tabled pending further discussion.*
- LTC Jamison and MAJ Halford: Per request from Robert Paul, replace Civil War era “kepi” hat on the Battalion’s mannequin in our Museum with an authentic 1846 era hat. *Tabled pending further discussion.*

#### **BSA Mormon Battalion Trail Award:**

- Kevin Henson: Obtain a long-term binding agreement assuring that the BSA National Headquarters will not “drop” the Mormon Battalion Trail Award from its’ list of “approved” National Trails.
- Kevin Henson: Provide the LDS/BSA Relations Office with a current leadership list of the Mormon Battalion Association.
- Kevin Henson: Establish a process for the Battalion to “take the award back” under its review/approval process. This includes promoting and publicizing the new requirements through the BSA and the LDS Church.
- Kevin Henson: Create a small committee to update the requirements list, booklet, PDS file, artwork, and appropriate bibliographic/resource documentation and provide to the BSA National Trails Office, the LDS/BSA Relations Office, and the Battalion’s webmaster for use on their websites. This committee should make a diligent search of the internet to identify the sources of outdated copies of the Award and replace them with links to the new Award on the Mormon Battalion Association website.

#### **Mormon Battalion Historic Trail Monuments:**

- Bg Ashley Hall: Identify and refurbish trail markers like done on Old Spanish Trail for Eagle Scout projects. Send copy of proposal on Old Spanish Trail Eagle Scout projects.

#### **Days of 47 Parade:**

- LTC Jamison: Place ad in newspaper inviting descendants of original Mormon Battalion to march with us in Days of 47 Parade wearing pioneer clothing.

#### Closing Remarks

LTC Max W. Jamison

There are some rather astounding parallels between the beginnings of our nation and our Battalion. Everyone knows that the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776, envisioning a manifest destiny of growing into a world leading democracy. But very few people are aware of the constitutional controversy, bickering, and infighting that went on between the 13 former colonies over the next 13 years. Very jealous of their local sovereignty and content with the *status quo*, they formed the loose **Confederation of American States** on 15 November 1777. Barely able to cooperate sufficiently to expel the British, they were repeatedly in grave danger of dissembling into independent state-countries. Having no Executive and Judicial Branches, their weak Continental Congress was unable to agree on many important issues, electing eight long forgotten figurehead Presidents to one-year terms. They eventually realized that they needed a **stronger central government** and ratified our present Constitution in 1789. *The United States of America was not established until 13 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence!* Even after formation of the United States, internal dissension over local “states rights” continued for 73 years, eventually resulting in **secession** of the Southern States and Civil War. Sadly, dissension and hidden agendas have been with us since the days of Cain and Able. There have always been secret combinations plotting to achieve wealth, power, and influence at the expense of others.



The founders of the modern Battalion envisioned a growing organization, with influence and membership growing among “men and nations” “to the latest generation.” But like the 13 colonies, our membership has polarized. Jealous of their parochial autonomy and content with the *status quo*, some ultra-conservative members have preferred a loose **confederation of affiliated local units** doing their own thing – akin to an alliance of community churches – with little or no upward accountability. Several times, super-progressive members have secretly plotted to usurp leadership of the Battalion, converting it into a monolithic corporation for their own

aggrandizement. Repeated innuendo, backbiting, false accusations, and caustic defamation during our history of about 69 years have led to the **secession** of several groups and driven many honest people away. This has *got* to stop! I find it quite ironic – even complimentary – that both the conservative traditionalists and progressive reformers criticize me for being an autocratic, even dictatorial leader of the OTHER faction. Such is the lot of a moderate compromiser attempting to lead by consensus. Your Executive Staff is trying to steer a middle path with a **strong central organization** with close bonds of trust to local units – akin to the LDS Church – with centralized accountability, using the modern age of global communication to foster local service projects. We need to be more tolerant of each other, and less apt to find fault. Fostering hidden agendas and holding grudges is the *wrong* answer. WWJD....

**Inspirational Thought**

**LTC Max W. Jamison**

"O, what a tangled web we weave,  
When first we practise to deceive!"

(*Marmion: A Tale of Flodden Field*, Canto vi, Stanza 17, Sir Walter Scott, 1808)

Explanation: “When you plot to deceive someone with a lie, the single lie can create even bigger problems. Unfortunately by the time the lie is discovered, others may be involved in the situation as well.”

(<http://www.ask.com/question/oh-what-a-tangled-web-we-weave-when-first-we-practice-to-deceive>)

**Benediction**

**COL Carl V. Larson**

**Next Executive Staff Meeting:**

10:00 am-noon, Saturday, 15 March 2014  
Residence of LTC Max W. Jamison  
2854 N. Augusta Drive  
Lehi, UT 84043