

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Executive Leadership Meeting

10:30 AM, Saturday, 20 October 2012

West Valley City Library, 2880 W. 3650 South
West Valley City, UT 84119

The regular monthly meeting of the Mormon Battalion Association Executive Leadership is held at 10:00 AM on the third Saturday of every month, excepting August and December, or when that day is a holiday. 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.

Executive Staff Members in Attendance: LTC Max Jamison (Battalion Commander), COL Carl Larson (Battalion Executive Officer), COL Jerome Gourley (Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor), John Hayes (Multimedia/Operations Officer), Anthon Jeppesen (Communications Officer), and Margaret Larson (Acting Membership/Human Relations Officer). Steven Rinehart (Judge Advocate General) was excused.

Executive Leadership in Attendance: COL Norm Erekson (Battalion Commander's Advisor) and MAJ Clark Olsen (Scouting Relations Officer).

Also in Attendance:

Kevin Henson (Battalion Trek).

Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests

LTC Max Jamison

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Kevin Henson

Minutes of Previous Month – Review and Approval

LTC Max Jamison

General Business

(Open to Floor)

- Service Opportunities –
 - Ogden VFW parade, 10:00 AM, Saturday, 10 November 2012
 - St. George Veteran's Day Parade
- Grants / Funding / Sponsorship Updates – No report
- Recognition & Awards – No report
- Battalion Projects [*Project Request Form*] – No report
- Presentations of Projects, Review & Approval – No report
- Review of Action Items:
 - LTC Max Jamison: Refer Oscar McConkie to Gaylen Maynes for copy of *Women of the Mormon Battalion*, compiled and edited by Carl V. Larson and Shirley N. Maynes. – *LTC Jamison reported that this book was out of date and inquired about best substitute. COL Larson said his database would be more appropriate, and volunteered to send one.*
 - John Hayes & Anthon Jeppesen: Review brochure about Mormon Battalion Monument Plaza and Museum submitted by Robert and Helen Paul for posting on website. – *Still under review.*
 - John Hayes: Respond to 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul regarding our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park. – *Still under review.*
 - COL Carl Larson: Make Eagle Scout slide presentation in Payson. – *Postponed to 13 November at 900 S. 930 West, Payson.*

- LTC Max Jamison: Forward electronic copies of *Unit Leadership Survey* and *Membership Survey* to Anthon Jeppesen for conversion to Adobe Acrobat fillable forms for online use by LTC Max Jamison and Margaret Larson. – Electronic copies forwarded to Anthon.

New Business

(Open to Floor)

None.

Subordinate Unit Reports (in person or electronic)

Company Commanders and representatives are invited to attend and make a report. Such reports may also be made by e-mail, or written report.

Affiliated Organizations:

Battalion Trek – The annual “River of Time” timeline living history event at Bay City Michigan was held 28-30 September. The River of Time is getting a new website courtesy of the Henson’s: www.riveroftime.org. BRENT SCHINDLER, former Scoutmaster at Bay City, reported our participation of 22 reenactors as follows:

Both Friday and Saturday were VERY NICE! Friday was Education Day with over 2,000 students and teachers attending. Some teachers have included several questions about the Mormon Battalion/Mexican War for their classes. The kids were targeting us to answer these questions. One of the teachers told me that she knew that we would work with the kids on these questions.

On Saturday, as usual, the kids and families LOVED our activities and games. had much bigger crowds this year at each of our events. The games were a HUGE success throughout the day. We had MUCH interest in the 3-way tug of war. The Bay City missionary Elders did a tremendous job promoting this. We had kids, teenagers, men AND women competing. It was a huge hit! The rag dolls were also very popular. We had as many wanting to play “Button Button (Who’s got the Button)” as we had people to staff the game. As long as we had youth staffing the games, they were all full. We always had a crowd with the other games. Many of the kids repeatedly came back to play these games.

For the past two years, the largest crowds, in decreasing order of size, have been at, 1) the soda pop concession, 2) the popcorn concession, and 3) The Mormon Battalion camp.

The food was GOOD! The tortillas were very popular and the public had much interest in this demonstration. Sister Martinez and Sister Waibel kept me very busy cooking the tortillas. We had, for the first time, a professional Dutch oven cook in charge of our camp victuals.

We had a lot of public interest in the Mexican-American War. I had several history buffs come over to share information with us. We had a lot of people who wanted to hear more. Having the Hispanic boys in Mexican uniforms was also very fun. Some people asked me who we (the U.S. and the Mexicans) were fighting together. There was such a unity in our camp that they assumed that we were on the same side of the conflict! After I would explain that we represented both sides of the conflict, everyone thought it was very cool that we were now showing the unity of our cultures. For the past two years, we’ve held a “joint camp” with both the Mexican and US flags flying beside our tents.

We had a lot of fun with the enlistment ceremony. The kids and parents really enjoyed this. We have an “Enlistment Officer” sitting at a table with copies of the 1846 enlistment form. He attempts to interest and then interview potential “volunteers” and our “doctor” examines them for suitability for the Army. At 4 PM Saturday, we hold a mock enlistment. We line up about 15 people, outfit a couple young’uns with the musket, pack and accouterments and explain the process. Then, we have the “volunteers” recite the 1846 Oath of Enlistment with hands raised to the square. When they are finished, we ask the viewing public if any of them served in the Armed Services. Invariably, there are a few. We then recognize them for their service and point out the continuity of the Oath from 1775 to today. It never fails to bring a great feeling to the public and allows us to recognize our veterans.

The River of Time Committee was very happy that we had the flood lights for the Saturday evening dance.

2013 Plans

1. Research, manufacture and train the Bay City compañoons in the use of the lance and pike. The intent is to make a public demonstration at the 2013 River of Time.
2. Research and prepare to mark the graves for the two Battalion members buried in western Michigan. We desire that anyone with family information should contact us to assist.

DUTCHER, Thomas P – Pvt, “B” Company. Age: 20 at Enlistment. Completed the march to California. Reenlisted in the company of “Mormon Volunteers” posted at San Diego during 1847-48. Cooper by trade later in life. Pension application (1887) indicates he suffered from chronic asthma and was hard of hearing. Born: 12 May 1826 at Boylson, Oswego NY (now Boylson Center). Died: 25 October 1902 at Portland, Ionia County Michigan. Grave: Portland, Ionia County Michigan

REYNALDS (asa – “REYNOLDS”), William – Pvt., “C” Company. Age: 20 at Enlistment. Completed the march to California and then was selected to escort Gen. Kearny back to Ft. Leavenworth, being discharged there on 24 Aug 1847. Born: 8 Aug 1826 at Fayette County Indiana. Died: 5 Dec 1886 as witnessed by his physician Henry M Brown, M.D. Grave: Hubbardston East Cemetery, Ionia County, Michigan

Kevin and Denny HENSON made a total of three “Mormon Battalion Trail” presentations during the past month: one at Linden Utah and two at Santa Fe New Mexico.

At Santa Fe, el Rancho de los Golondrinas living history community lies astride the 1846 Battalion route. On October 5-7 of this year, a small group of reenactors set up camp during the annual “Harvest Festival.” Participating were BLAINE BACHMANN, RON and SUSAN KIRKPATRICK (all of New Mexico), RANDY and KATHY MADSEN (Tucson), KEVIN, DENNY and BRIAN HENSON (Michigan). We camped with the Topographic Engineers (out of Colorado) and in general, had a very pleasant time at Santa Fe. Camp was “thronged” on Saturday and Sunday. The women cooked. The men talked camp life and Battalion history. The personnel, events and environs at Golondrinas are worthy experiences for anyone wanting to have an appreciation for the Battalions experiences in New Mexico.

It is worth noting that the Archbishop of the Albuquerque diocese blessed our Mormon Battalion camp. (KRH note: I don’t think he realized what he was doing.)

We have also fallen into company with CLIVE ROMNEY who is heading up the new ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION. Anyone interested in furthering their abilities as a reenactor, storyteller or living history interpreter can contact Clive at: thermlhc@gmail.com

We are working with the folks back in Winter Quarters to help them document the early LDS settlements and cemeteries – some of which hold Battalion members and their families. After 20 October, you may access this material by going to: www.earlylds.com The presentation of this information is similar to our Battalion Trail software.

Finally, I am making progress on my book, *Comprehensive Trail Guide to the Mormon Battalion Routes of 1846-1847*, with hopes to publish next year.

Requested Letter of Intent be drafted to University of Utah Special Collections Library requesting correction of transcript of Dr. Sanderson's Journal.

- **Mormon Volunteers, "A" Company, Historic Reenactors** – No report
- **Sons of Utah Pioneers** – No report
- **Friends of the Battalion** – No report
- **Mesa Squad** – No report

Subordinate Units:

"C" Company – No report

"D" Company – No report

California "B" Company – No report

California North Company – No report

California Orange County Company – No report

Cedar City Company – No report

Dixie Company – No report

Eastern Idaho Company – No report

White Mountain Company – No report

Inspirational Thought

LTC Max Jamison

Reviewed efforts to find primary documents at University of Utah Special Collections Library about founding of modern Mormon Battalion by COL Fred M. Reese and President David O. McKay in late 1940s.

Executive Leadership Reports

Battalion Leadership

Acting Adjutant – No report

Acting Membership Officer – No report

Acting Finance Officer – Ron Valentine, our tax accountant, requested meeting on 31 October to review 2012 IRS tax forms. Referred to John Hayes for action.

Multimedia Officer – No report

Scouting Relations Officer – Assisting CPT Thomas Griggs of Eastern Idaho Company.

Communications Officer – Website is updated. Request review.

Graves Memorialization Officer – Only 65 of 535 original members of Battalion are still "missing persons."

Judge Advocate General – No report. Available only for legal consultation.

Acting Chief of Chaplains – No report

Acting Affiliated Organization Representative – No report

Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor – Requested status of relationship with Bob and Helen Paul. – Tabled. Affirmed that he signed original lease with Ellis Ivory of This Is the Place Heritage Park two years ago. Mr. Ivory does not require annual lease renewal. Requested letter of release from bank signatures.

Battalion Executive Officer – No report

Battalion Commander – No report

Review of Action Items:

LTC Max Jamison

- COL Carl Larson: Provide Oscar McConkie with current copy of database.
- John Hayes & Anthon Jeppesen: Continue review of brochure about Mormon Battalion Monument Plaza and Museum submitted by Robert and Helen Paul for posting on website.
- John Hayes: Continue review of 8 August 2012 email from Robert Paul regarding our Museum at This Is the Place Heritage Park.
- COL Carl Larson: Make Eagle Scout slide presentation in Payson. – Postponed to 13 November at 900 S. 930 West, Payson.
- Anthon Jeppesen: Provide LTC Max Jamison and Margaret Larson with online Adobe Acrobat fillable versions of *Unit Leadership Survey* and *Membership Survey*.
- COL Carl Larson: Draft letter of intent to University of Utah Special Collections Library requesting correction of transcript of Dr. Sanderson's Journal, and then coordinate with Kevin Henson.
- John Hayes: Contact our tax accountant regarding 31 October review of 2012 IRS Form 990.

Working Session

Battalion Executive Staff

Closing Remarks

None

Benediction / Adjournment

COL Carl Larson

Next Meeting:

10:30 AM, Saturday, 17 November 2012
West Valley City Library, 2880 W. 3650 South, West Valley City, UT 84119