

Mormon Battalion Association

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 AM, Saturday, 14 January 2017

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

The Mormon Battalion Association Board of Directors meets at least once a year at a time and place of their mutual agreement.

Board of Directors Attendance: The following voting members were present: James L. Waite (Vice Chairman), Greg Christofferson (Director), D. Guy Dickson (Director), and LTC Max W. Jamison (President). The following nonvoting member was present: COL Jerome G. Gourley (Board Executive Secretary). The following were excused: Edwin N. Kimball (Chairman), CPT Todd Crappa (Director), Ashley J. Hall (Director), S. Dennis Holland (Director), Al Matheson (Director), and COL Carl V. Larson (Vice President).

Battalion Leadership Attendance: The following members was present: Laura Anderson (Historian and Family History Expert) and Kevin Henson (Trails Expert).

Welcome / Call to Order / Recognize Guests / Administrative Items

James Waite

Invocation

LTC Max W. Jamison

Action Item Review

none

General Business

1. Board Membership: Our Board of Directors now comprises the following civic and community leaders from California, Nevada, and Utah:

Chairman: Edwin N. Kimball, Sandy, UT

Vice Chairman: James L. Waite (CDR retired), Nibley, UT

Director: Greg Christofferson, Palm Springs, CA

Director: CPT Todd Crappa, Toquerville, UT

Director: D. Guy Dickson, Irvine, CA

Director: Ashley J. Hall (BG retired), Las Vegas, NV

Director: S. Dennis Holland, St. George, UT

Director: Al Matheson (COL retired), Hurricane and Cedar City, UT

Director: [TBD]

Director: [TBD]

President (Battalion Commander): LTC Max W. Jamison, Lehi, UT

Vice President (Battalion Executive Officer): COL Carl V. Larson, Spanish Fork, UT

1st Executive Director: [TBD]

2nd Executive Director: [TBD]

Executive Secretary: COL Jerome Gourley (COL retired), Toquerville, UT

Your nominations for the remaining two Director positions and the 1st and 2nd Executive Directors of business administration are welcome. Greg Christofferson's brother, Tom, has been nominated to serve on our Board. *Greg advised that Tom is grateful for the nomination, but is busy with a book tour and family matters, and would like to postpone consideration for joining our Board.*

2. **Search for New Battalion Commander and Executive Officer:** LTC Jamison – We need to get serious about finding successors for Carl and myself as Battalion Commander and Battalion Executive Officer. Not counting filling out Col Gourley's second term from March 2012 to November 2013, we will have served four years in our own right by October 2017. I am still in good health and fully expect to live an active life - like my mother and grandmother - until I exceed 100. But I will turn 72 this month. And while Carl is willing to continue as Graves Memorialization Officer, and I as Webmaster, we need to step back and let younger, fresher men/women take the lead. *The Board need to make recommendations for replacements for Max and Carl.*

3. **Implementation of Long Overdue Annual Audit:** CPT Crappa – *COL Gourley advised that CPT Crappa is very preoccupied with hosting numerous people in his home and working on his degree. He is working on preparing the Association's Quickbooks for the audit preparations, and preparation of the 2016 IRS Form 990. Col Gourley advised that he has located a CPA in the St. George area willing to perform the audit.*

4. **Proposal for "All Things Mormon Battalion" Project:** Laura Anderson, Dan Roper, Kevin Henson, and LTC Jamison – We have prepared a proposal to upgrade our website to become 'THE recognized source' for online, authenticated information regarding the Mormon Battalion, and become the 'BEST OF' website for all things Mormon Battalion related topics by 2019. We request the Board enact a long term, multi-generational policy to fund and host/link to "all things Mormon Battalion" via the internet. With the Board's approval, Laura, Dan, and Max will meet with Jill Crandall of the BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy, President Brian Cannon of the Mormon History Association, and Dr. Brandon Plewe of the Early Saints Research Group to discuss and implement an alliance for research, transcription, and storage of our data after RootsTech on 15, 16, 22, or 23 February. *The Board authorized Laura, Dan, and Max's meeting with Jill, Brian, Brandon, other members of the Early Saints Research Group, and the BYU computer experts to discuss Phase 1 below.*

Phase 1:

1. Fund two BYU students part time for up to 20 hours per week for one year at \$12,000 each through Jill Crandall's BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy to research the approximately 2,000 members of the original Mormon Battalion and their laundresses, guides, and family members from "cradle to grave," finding original birth, christening, marriage, property, census, death, probate, etc. documents. They could start with the 500 Battalion members, and if there are funds remaining, do more. – *The Board will need to reach out to our friends with deep pockets to fund this.*
Laura and the Board discussed hiring the two BYU part time researchers to collect and image all documents pertinent to the original Mormon Battalion. Laura explained that Jill Crandall's group of over 40 students are well trained in gathering "cradle to grave" primary documentation on early Saints from several sources. Laura is laying the groundwork for this work. We hope to have a contract in place by the start of the Fall Semester in September 2017.

2. Fund digital copying of:
 - a. our growing collection of primary and secondary Mormon Battalion data, i.e., Muster Rolls, Post Reports, medical reports, finance reports, LDS Church records, etc.,
 - b. digital copies of the Mormon Battalion Association library we donated to the BYU Special Collections.
 - c. The Norma Ricketts library in the Bancroft Library at University of California at Berkeley.
 – *The Board will need to reach out to our friends with deep pockets to fund this.**The Board approved \$700.00 reimbursement to Laura Anderson to travel to UC Berkeley to photocopy Norma Ricketts' library.*

3. Approach BYU about hosting Items 1 and 2, periodically syncing with our own domain/website. – *Depending on BYU's reaction, the Board may not need to fund this.*

This is **not** an “either-or” choice **between** two different hosting architectural options:

- a) Multiple users in Early Saints Research Group with linked/shared read/write access ↔ our data on BYU servers – **This provides secure off site storage of our data for future generations, but can cause data integrity problems when two different users attempt simultaneous or overlapping changes.**
- b) Mormon Battalion Association native read/write access ↔ our data on our own server, but periodically resyncing and deconflicting with the master data set on BYU servers – **This maximizes both ease of access and data integrity, but does not provide secure off site storage.**

We need **both** options. **We need synergism**: “Interaction of discrete databases and research such that the whole is greater than the sum of the individual parts.” We also need to explore expansion capacity to handle future capabilities such as high resolution trekking simulations.

NOTE: Guy had to be excused part way through the meeting due to other commitments, but sent the following comments later in the evening. While not part of our official minutes, his opinions as a lawyer are worthy of further analysis:

Thoughts I would have expressed, if I'd been able to stay with you longer:

- 1) *Because my focus is in oral presentations of the Battalion history, I will have preferences which may not match all of yours. I recognize that, and thank you all for being patient with me.*
- 2) *Because of my focus, preservation is a big deal. The data should be preserved for generations to come. Despite many years of dedicated service by many good men, the future of the MB Association seems fairly uncertain. This data needs to survive us all.*
- 3) *I agree that pulling together with other dedicated organizations may offer a solution, but only if we can keep a hand in what happens to the MB Association's data.*
- 4) *I agree that giving the data to the Church would result in none of us ever seeing it again, for the reasons that were articulated today. However, having worked for BYU in my pre-legal life, I can tell you that to some extent, the same problem will exist at BYU. BYU has vast collections which have not seen the light of day, due to resources being allocated in so many different directions. This concern needs to be carefully considered, and discussed with BYU.*
- 5) *Because of my focus, not only access, but EASE of ACCESS is extremely important to me. I think access needs to be carefully considered, and discussed with BYU.*
 - a) *In working with the Church, and with BYU, I wish I had a dollar for every time I've had to petition someone in Salt Lake, or someone at BYU for assistance in getting past some security hoop that has been placed in the way of my gaining access to information. I won't bore you with any sad stories, but many times I've spent hours trying to get through their computer security hoops, only to have to do the same thing again the next time, because I've failed to update my passwords, etc.*
 - b) *People are people, even at BYU. Once given a little authority, and put in charge of maintaining anything, they will exercise dominion over it. I would want to know that we have carefully discussed, and developed safeguards in this regard. Access is what we are after, not hoop jumping.*
- 6) *Knowing a little bit about the way the world works, when approaching BYU, I would anticipate that we will need to pay to play. Why would they be interested unless we can offer them something to help with their goals. However, I am all too familiar with what can happen when money is pooled (co-mingled) for common use in tandem projects which do need seek identical goals. In the legal world, this is one of the reasons why litigators have so much work to do, and keep so many forensic accountants busy. With this in mind, before we turn donor money over to BYU (assuming Greg is successful in his efforts to find some money for us) we need to develop a meaningful accountability*

system, which will clearly demonstrate to our organization that we have received value for our dollars. Quarterly audits & reports are fine, but they need to be more revealing than creative in nature.

- 7) None of my comments are geared to derail a good relationship with BYU. On the contrary. I believe that the best way to accomplish our long term goals would be to come to an arrangement with BYU. To date, I have not heard that anyone from the Church is coming to our rescue on the future of this Association. Hence, it falls to us to take action to preserve our existence, or at least to safeguard all the valuable data of this Association, in some maintainable fashion. BYU may in fact be the best opportunity to do this.

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4. Join the recently formed Early Saints Research Group/BYU computer working group. If we find out where they are headed, we can map out what we want to accomplish without duplicating their efforts. We hope to refine our own Content Management System (CMS) well enough to become the default standard for sharing access to data from Items 1 and 2.
- Develop a standard database/template system where data can be served without building individual pages. Individual research projects can be added or extended.
 - Link related information together so that research is not duplicated and users can easily access all available information.
 - Implement standard levels of security to allow updates:
 - restricted* – scholarly multilevel password protected access by those working on transcription of and research on the various original digitized documents.
 - public* – open access to side by side digital images and peer reviewed transcriptions of the primary documents in Items 1 and 2.

The Board approved Dan Roper joining the Early Saints Working Group/BYU computer working group and working to build a common CMS.

Phase 2:

5. Rehost and build Release 4.0 of our www.mormonbattalion.com website on a different server such as Amazon™, Google™, or A2 Hosting™, replacing the current stilted proprietary Windows-based i4 Solutions™ CMS with a portable user friendly one. The new CSM should:
- be open source (or free)* – We don't want a proprietary or custom solution.
 - be easy to build* – We need to customize our CSM in house at little or no cost. We need templates to choose from that have a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface.
 - be easy to maintain* – We need to easily update or reformat pages without having to deal with complicated code. Again WYSIWYG.
 - be capable of multiple data input formats* – We will then be able to consolidate our www.mormonbattalion.com and www.mormonbattalion.info domains/websites with our mirrored/backup of the BYU data onto a single hosting environment.
 - be capable of multiple data output formats* – We will have the capability of output to Windows™, Apple™, and Android™ desktop, laptop, tablet, and smart phone platforms.
 - implement standard levels of security for data storage and eCommerce* – We need multilevel password protected access to our historical minutes, membership records, activities, and secure functionality for our financial records, donations, and sales.

– Beyond the cost of purchasing the right CSM software and trauma of rehosting our website, this will NOT be an expensive operation. We should be able to design, build, and populate Release 4.0 ourselves.

The Board approved rehosting our website using a new CSM after we achieve as much commonality as possible with the Early Saints Research Group's CSM.

6. Using the new CSM from Item 5, develop and implement program for indexing and transcription of all digital records in Items 1 and 2. This can be done by volunteers, much as FamilySearch™ has done with their Records Extraction Program.

Laura advised that work on this item cannot proceed until Items 1-5 are completed.

Phase 3:

7. Approach Denny Henson about funding a MapNTour™ site on our website with maps tracing the “cradle to grave” movements of each person in Item 1.

Max advised that work on this item is not a core requirement, and can be indefinitely postponed.

8. Proceed with our previously proposed scholarly *The Valiant Journal*, in which we would publish peer reviewed scholarly research papers based on Items 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7. This would be a self-sustaining subscription based copyrighted semiannual hard copy journal, with free digital copies posted online after a judicious period of time. We would create an editorial review board, with contributing editors and reporters from the various contributing local universities. They would coordinate with our new Historians Editorial Review Board, which is tasked with ensuring the correctness of all information posted on our website.

Max advised that work on this item is not a core requirement, and can be indefinitely postponed.

5. Recommendations for 2021-22 Commemoration of 175th Anniversary of Mustering of the Mormon

Battalion: The upcoming 175th anniversary of the Battalion’s formation and service will be in 2021-2022. That’s not far off. Leading up those dates we ought to propose some projects worthy of the commemoration and seek support to accomplish them. So – I put out a call for suggestions from other folks to add to what was already underway. Here are some of the ideas which are either in progress of being proposed:

- a) Project to commemorate all those ‘lost along the trail’ by death.
 - I. Markers should be placed at or near the new best estimates for unmarked grave locations.
 - ii. The Veterans Administration & National Cemeteries can provide very basic markers free of charge.
- b) In the absence of anything from the Battalion leadership, one can easily foresee a series of events all along the trail, conceived by and carried out by local LDS Stakes & Wards. However, if that is the case, then the ‘old stuff’ which we’re trying to improve upon will be reiterated and reinforced for yet another generation.
 - I. One can instead contemplate a year-long series of coordinated events along the trails (and I include Pueblo and the detachments) to commemorate key events at key locations.
 - ii. Commemorative events and mini-symposia with support of local historical societies
 - iii. Fireside type events
 - iv. Reenacting depictions (high level quality) – would suggest efforts to recruit
 - v. Local tours or a long-distance tour
- c) If the Battalion leadership wishes to ‘herd’ the efforts along, perhaps a digital publication along the lines of what was done for Handcart Trek oversight should be considered. This approach would suggest quick decision and actions to hit a 2019 release date so effective planning can take place for 2021.
 - I. Suggested kinds of events
 - ii. Standards expected
 - iii. History of the Mormon Battalion with an improved interpretation, etc.

I’ll continue to seek opportunities for other ‘worthy projects’ and pass them along.

The Board approved support of the 2021-22 Commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of Mustering of the Mormon Battalion. Committee chair and details to be determined.

6. Details on Gravesite Research and Preparations: Kevin Henson – There were 30 deaths along the various Mormon Battalion routes. Of those, 20 men were in the Battalion when they died and two were in the Davis “reenlistment” company. Only about three of those are marked – one in Arizona (but an incorrect location) and two in California. I’m a military kid and it bothers me that the rest of these men are not identified. Based upon research by others and myself, we now can narrowly constrain where some of those ‘lost burials’ are. In addition, we are having success in identifying some of the Army men and others who assisted the Battalion. Some of those remain to be memorialized as well.

- a) *Dr. George Sanderson (St. Louis, Missouri):* Grave and family plot have been located at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, St Louis, Missouri. The cemetery has granted permission to emplace an upright stone during the June 2017 Mormon History Association conference in St. Louis. I’ve already raised \$1,100 for a marker. Ordering the stone is imminent and additional funds will be needed before delivery and erection. Since he and his wife are buried in a ‘historic’ part of the cemetery, we should purchase a nice stone that would ‘fit’ the area. It could be a nice Public Relations opportunity if we could get some attention in Salt Lake as we do this. We are also preparing Dr. Sanderson’s journal for publication.
- b) *Pueblo Deaths (Pueblo, Colorado):* The second grave marking project would be to add two plaques to the existing monument commemorating both Mormon Battalion and Mississippi Saints deaths in the 1846-47 “Mormon Town” in Pueblo. Jay Todd says he is willing to help this project happen since it is related to his Mississippi Saints roots. That effort should take care of all the Pueblo burials in one effort.
- c) *James Hampton and John Green (Crawford Hollow, Socorro County, New Mexico):* The third project is a bit unusual. Cadaver dogs can locate bodies which are very old. I’ve done some research and spoken to a cadaver dog volunteer group from Denver which has offered to come to the Rio Grande with their animals if we cover their expenses. There is a high probability that James Hampton and John Green are buried side by side at Crawford Hollow, Socorro County, New Mexico. We can get two birds with one stone, so to speak. But, if we find the bodies, what will we do with them and where would an appropriate marker be placed?
- d) *Milton Smith (Rayado, Colfax County, New Mexico):* Project Four is to emplace a marker at Rayado, Colfax County, New Mexico for Milton Smith. I’ve had some preliminary discussion with representatives of the Boy Scouts of America’s Philmont Ranch and in general they’re intrigued about the idea. The actual grave is about two miles east of the Kit Carson Museum – which itself is along the Santa Fe Trail “Mountain Branch.” While the actual grave is elsewhere, the museum is a logical place for the marker. Strong LDS connections to the Boy Scouts are obvious and should pave the way. Again, it is a good opportunity for LDS public relations efforts. Locating the actual gravesite along the creek would be another worthy effort for cadaver dogs. The grave is on private land and we’d need to have some further thought about how to approach the situation before asking to go for the body.
- e) *Seven others:* I have seven more that could be marked but with only a general proximity identified for grave locations. These would probably need to be “Near this location...” kinds of marker. Approximate locations have been proposed for the following and for whom recovery of the actual gravesite I think will be much less likely:
 - Alva Phelps (Ingalls, Kansas);
 - Norman Sharp (Heartland, Kansas);
 - Abner Chase (near el Moro, Las Animas County, Colorado);
 - Richard Carter & Elijah Freeman (near Socorro, New Mexico);
 - George Coleman (near el Prado, New Mexico);
 - David Smith (Mission San Luis Rey, California)

Because of the Mormon History Association Conference tie-in during June 2017, marking of Dr. Sanderson’s grave must happen this year. Marking the rest could be done during the 175th Anniversary of the Mustering of the Mormon Battalion during 2021-2022, but the cadaver dog efforts would need to happen sooner so we

know we have the actual bodies located. But that is only to confirm my research prior to emplacing a marker. Personally, I'm confident enough about my research that I'd put up markers for all these men without necessarily finding the body. Besides, as Stan Kimball told me: "We put markers where people will read them – not necessarily where things happened." But wouldn't finding and repatriating the remains be epic? We could easily appeal for help from the Utah National Guard, family groups, Mexican American War and other veteran organizations, the various states, the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Oregon-California Trail Association, the BLM, etc.

New Business

(Open to Floor)

Fort Moore Memorial Refurbishment Status Report: Greg Christofferson – The monument has National Historic Landmark protected status and considerable pains are being taken to insure that the monument is restored to its pristine condition, complete with 1950s text which would be considered politically incorrect today. There has been significant vandalism which has slowed progress. There have been several changes in people involved. The exact rededication date and role of the Church and the Mormon Battalion Association are to be announced.

Projected Action Items

- Board: Make recommendations for replacements for Battalion Commander and Executive Officer.
- CPT Crappa and COL Gourley: Finish preparing the Association's Quickbooks for the audit preparations, and preparation of the 2016 IRS Form 990. Then have CPA in the St. George area preform the audit.
- LTC Jamison: Cut stipend check for \$700.00 to Laura Anderson for travel to UC Berkeley to photocopy Norma Ricketts' library.
- Laura Anderson, Dan Roper, and LTC Jamison: Meet with Jill Crandall of the BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy, President Brian Cannon of the Mormon History Association, Dr. Brandon Plewe of the Early Saints Research Group, and BYU computer experts to discuss and implement an alliance for research, transcription, and storage of our data after RootsTech on 15, 16, 22, or 23 February.
- Dan Roper: Join the Early Saints Research Group computer working group and work to build a common CSM. Then rehost our website using a new CSM after achieving as much commonality as possible with the Early Saints Research Group CSM.
- Board: Support of the 2021-22 Commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of Mustering of the Mormon Battalion.
- LTC Jamison: Assign Committee Chair for 2021-22 Commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of Mustering of the Mormon Battalion.
- Board: Seek donors to help fund gravestone for Dr. Sanderson in St. Louis in time for June 2017 Mormon History Association conference there.
- LTC Jamison and Jay Todd: Prepare and fund plaque(s) to be added to existing "Mormon Town" Monument in Pueblo, Colorado.
- Board: Find funding to bring cadaver dog team from Denver, CO to Crawford Hollow, Socorro County, NM to search for graves of James Hampton and John Green.

- Board: Find funding to emplace a “two miles east of here” Milton Smith grave marker at Kit Carson museum/activity center at Rayado, NM, near entrance to the BSA Philmont Ranch.

Closing Remarks

None

Inspirational Thought

COL Jerome Gourley

Gentlemen: We need your participation! We thank you for your efforts, but please stay with us and help the Mormon Battalion survive and move forward. Your comments, thoughts and even prayers, are needed.

Benediction

James Waite

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Proposed Saturday, 8 May or Saturday, 10 June