

US MORMON BATTALION THE VALIANT

Editor Cpt. Earl Gillmore

mtnews@hotmail.com

www.mormonbattalion.com

2005 Winter

Vol. 10 No. 1



**The
Historic
10th Ward
MB Ward**

January 2005

Dear Fellow Battalion members:

Here it is holiday season is over and it seems it should only be spring of 2004. Time goes too quickly any more. The USMB museum, teaching center, library, and historical building plans continue to progress, but we need more funds. Please dig deep in your pockets and also extend an invitation to your friends and fellow workers to participate in this tax deductible, educational, and memorable project! One good 91 year old Sister called and said she was sending all she had. She sent a check for \$10.00. It is the Widow's mite but gladly received. May we all be so dedicated and give in that spirit!

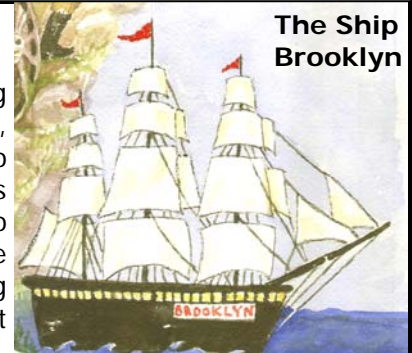
I find that we need to become united in the stated purposes of Mormon Battalion as found in the By-laws of the U.S. Mormon Battalion, Inc. Perhaps it would be well to consider our situation as similar to what General George Washington found at the end of the Revolutionary War and if I may paraphrase his words to the nation and adapt them to the Battalion. There are four things I perceive are necessary for the USMB to survive.

Legacy for USMB Survival:

1. A sacred regard to memorialize the memories and heritage of the Mormon Battalion men and women and their historic march.
2. An indissoluble union of the various Companies under one national head.
3. The adoption of a proper national and local organization, following the high goals as written in our By laws.
4. The prevalence of that specific and friendly disposition among the members of the USMB which will induce them to forget their local prejudices and policies, to make those mutual concessions which are requisite to the general prosperity, and in some instances, to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the Battalion and those honorable men and women who sacrificed so much for us. With this in mind let us be united and go forth to accomplish all the worthy goals established by our predecessors.

Commander, US Mormon Battalion, Inc

Col Norman T. Erekson



**The Ship
Brooklyn**



SOUTHERN UTAH HERITAGE CHOIR

To Mormon Battalion, Inc., Mormon Battalion Reenactment Groups From San Diego Multi-Stake Historical Committee

This invitation is being sent to all Mormon Battalion groups. This great activity is the result of planning by our local Multi-Stake Historical Committee. The event last year was on a much smaller scale. We were so grateful when the multi-stake Historical Committee took ownership of the event. We look forward to an excellent event. We hope you can join us in this great celebration. Please let us know approximately how many of the USMB are going to attend. The San Diego Multi-Stake Historical Committee extends an invite to your organization to participate in the 2nd Annual Commemoration of the Mormon Battalion's Arrival in San Diego. This activity will be held on Saturday 26 Feb 05, 10AM to 4PM. at Old Town San Diego State Park. For participation in the parade and events, please RSVP Kathy Marler 760-518-4143 kathymarler@svcgloval.net, Randy Madsen at (858) 578-4110/email: or rmadsen1@san.rr.com Frank Szeles at (619) 479-0954/email: fjszeles@cox.net. Details of the parade costuming, staging area and route will be forwarded at a later date. Period appropriate attire (either uniform or volunteer) is desired. Bring accouterments as you have them.

George Washington, "Let us therefore rely upon the goodness of the Cause, and the aid of the Supreme Being, in whose hands Victory is, to animate and encourage us to great and noble actions."

**San Diego
Monument**



AUXILIARY

CORNER



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Norm, and I flew to San Diego for Thanksgiving so we could spend this holiday with our daughter's family who live in Brawley and San Diego, Ca. How easy and comfortable this trip was compared to the march of the Battalion one hundred fifty eight year ago. Our travel took us through the very area where the Battalion traveled before reaching the Pacific Ocean on January 29, 1847. What a mountainous, boulder strewn territory they had to maneuver, being already worn down and exhausted. Imagine with me the feelings of the four women who walked side by side with their husbands: Phebe Draper Palmer Brown, (49) who was the oldest woman to accompany the Battalion, Lydia Edmunds Hunter, (22), expecting and delivering her baby, Diego, 20 April, 1847 (the first child born in California to American parents). Lydia did not do well after the delivery and suffered much before dying April 27, 1847. Susan Moses Davis, (22) whose washtub LTC. Cook

confiscated to get water from a new well, which proved to be unsuccessful, and Melissa Burton Coray, (18) who also delivered a baby boy, William, born in Monterey, 2 October, 1847, and who lived just a few short days. The first part of November I had fun searching for long lost David Pettegrew decedents, and sending them letters informing them about the huge endeavor the U. S. Battalion is undertaking to erect a museum and teaching center in honor of these men and women, who paid the price in helping save their church and nation. I know many ancestors and friends of the Battalion will feel it an honor and privilege to participate in this Interactive Museum and Library, and they need to know about this planned "Home for the Battalion". As a friend to the Battalion can we count on YOU?

The Mormon Battalion, And First Wagon Road Over The Great American Desert by Miss Eliza R Snow

When "Mormon" trains we're
journeying thro' To Winter
Quarters, from Nauvoo, Five
hundred men were called to go To
settle claims with Mexico
To fight for that same Government
From which, as fugitives we went.
What were their families to do,
Their children, wives, and mothers,
too,
When fathers, husbands, sons were
gone? Mothers drove teams, and
camps moved on.
And on the brave Battalion went,
With Colonel Allen who was sent
As officer of Government The noble
Colonel Allen knew His "Mormon
boys" were brave and true,
And he was proud of his command,
As he led forth his "Mormon Band."
He sickened, died, and they were
left
Of a loved leader, soon bereft!
And his successors proved to be
The embodiment of cruelty,
Lieutenant Smith the tyrant, led
The Cohort on, in Allen's stead,
To Santa Fe, where Colonel Cooke,
The charge of the Battalion, took.
'Twas well the vision of the way,
Was closed before them on the day
They started out from Santa Fe.
'Tis said no infantry till then, E'er
suffered equal to those men.

Their beeves were famished and
their store Was nigh exhausted
long before They neared the
great Pacific shore. Teams e'en
fell dead upon the road, While
soldiers helped to draw the
load.
'Twas cruel, stern necessity
That prompted such severity;
For General Kearney in
command Of army in the
western land, Expressly ordered
Colonel Cooke, The man who
failure could not brook, To
open up a wagon road Where
wheels, till then, had never trod;
And Colonel Cooke was in
command Across that desert
waste and sand: He, with a
staunch and iron will,
The general's orders to fulfill,
Must every nerve and sinew
strain The expedition's points
to gain. Tho' stern, and e'en at
times morose, Strict sense of
justice marked his course. He,
as his predecessors, knew The
Mormon men were firm and
true. They found road-making
worse by far Than all the
horrors of the war: Tried by the
way when they got thro'
They'd very little more to do:
The opposing party, panic

struck,
Dare not compete with "Mormon"
pluck,
And off in all directions fled
No charge was fired, no blood was
shed.
Our God who rules in worlds of
light,
Controls by wisdom and by might.
If need, His purpose to fulfill,
He moves the nations at His will
The destinies of men o'errules,
And uses whom He will as tools.
The wise can see and understand,
While fools ignore His guiding
hand.
Ere the Battalion started out
Upon that most important route,
'Twas thus predicted by the tongue
Of the Apostle, Brigham Young,
"If to your God and country true,
You'll have no fighting there to
do."
Was General Kearney satisfied?
Yes, more for he with martial pride
Said, "O'er the Alps Napoleon went,
these men cross'd a continent."
And thus, with God Almighty's aid
The conquest and the road were
made,
By which a threatening storm was
stayed,
And lo! the Saints of God were
saved.

February

24 Feb Mormon Trails Assoc Lecture on Iowa Mormon Trails by William G Hartley, Writer 7:00pm to 8:30pm SUP HQ

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	
1 Dixie Co Mtg 7:00pm 300 W Telegraph Cottonmill Dance Hall Washington, UT	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17 Co B Mtg 7:00pm Old Rock Church 1135 W 7800 S W. Jordan, UT	18 Co A Mtg 6:30pm Granite Tabernacle 20th S 9th E Salt Lake City, UT	19 9:00am BN Exec Board 11:00am BN Nat Staff, BN Nat Aux at HQ, the Historic 10th Ward 420 S 800 E SLC, UT		20 21	
22	23	24 Co C Mtg 7:00pm Roy City Library 1950 W 4800 S Roy, UT Co D Mtg 7:00pm Logan Senior Citizen Ctr 240 N 100 E Logan, UT	25-26 LDS Conference Ctr BYU dancers honor the Mormon BN in dance and music See Co for free tickets San Diego Arrival Celebration 8:00a.m. San Diego VC at Old Town 10:00 a.m. parade			27	28

March

26 FEB San Diego Arrival Celebration 8:00a.m. San Diego VC at Old Town 10:00 a.m. parade

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
1 Dixie Co Mtg 7:00pm 300 W Telegraph Cottonmill Dance Hall Washington, UT	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Co B Mtg 7:00pm Old Rock Church 1135 W 7800 S W. Jordan, UT	18 Co A Mtg 6:30pm Granite Tabernacle 20th S 9th E Salt Lake City, UT	19 BN Exec Board Mtg BN Nat Staff and Nat Aux Cancelled For San Juan Capistrano		20 21
22	23	24 Co C Mtg 7:00pm Roy City Library 1950 W 4800 S Roy, UT Co D Mtg 7:00pm Logan Senior Citizen Ctr 240 N 100 E Logan, UT	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	18-19 March San Juan Capistrano CA Outing, TV program by Guy Dixon 949-854-5111 Work 714-796-4548 No Uniforms			

meetings between Elder Little and President Polk and others can be found in President Polk's diary, Vol 1 of 11, pp. 443-450, June 1846. Opposition from Missourian leaders and others, notwithstanding, President Polk directed Secretary of War, W.L. Marcy to issue orders to General Kearney to muster 500 Mormons into the Mexican War, Executive Order No. 60, dated June 3, 1846. Elder Jesse C. Little fulfilled his mission from President Young and the Council of Twelve Apostles, with "virtue, integrity, and truth...." President Brigham Young wrote, October 1, 1848, regarding the men of the Mormon Battalion, of whom most all held the Priesthood and had received their endowments in the Nauvoo Temple: "I felt glad that their conduct had proved to their commanders and general that they were their

Mormon Battalion Center

Re-enactment area, entrance to Jessie C Little Memorial Garden
Designers Rendition 2004 Back Area



best and most reliable soldiers; and although there were, perhaps, no other people in the Union who would have responded to the call under our circumstances, still it was the best course, as a people, we could have pursued. I further remarked that I saw the whole plan concocted as plain as I saw the faces then before me, and I felt within myself that my faith in God would out general the wickedness of our enemies. Away went the battalion and sword fell on the other side; if they had not gone, we would not have been in the valley now."

To capsulate the numerous and enormous accomplishments of the Mormon Battalion is very difficult to list, other than to say, they not only saved their Church from certain perils, but also, contributed substantially to the building of the West to fulfill the "Manifest Destiny of the West" as envisioned by President James K. Polk. (Editors note: Quite an example for an outcast people.)

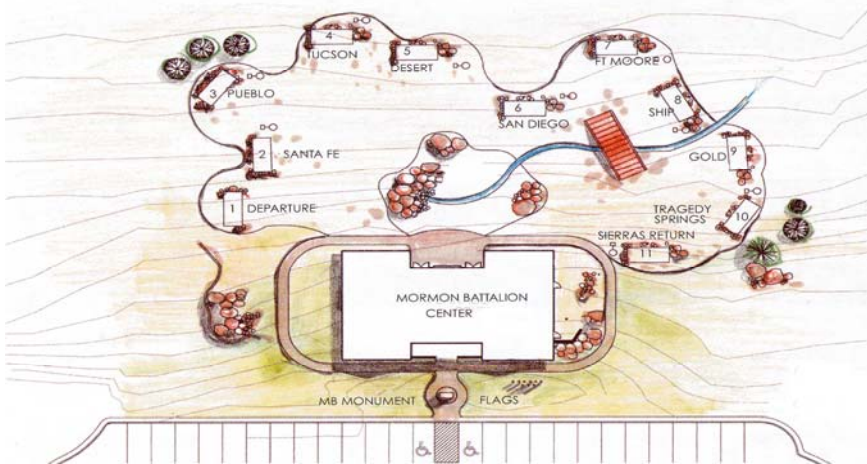
JESSE C LITTLE MEMORIAL GARDEN

DESIGNERS RENDITION 2004

JESSE C LITTLE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Honoring the Mormon Battalion requires that we honor the father of the Mormon Battalion, Elder Jesse C. Little. Appropriately we have named the Mormon Battalion Center gardens, "The Jesse C. Little Memorial Garden" in honor of his tenacious valor to his church and fellow pioneers.

President Brigham in February, 1855 issued this tribute: "The Battalion went on and performed their duties and fulfilled their mission, and every person who has the spirit of revelation can see that to all human appearance this people must have perished had not these men gone into the service of their country. So far as human nature can discern I say that these men



now before me were the saviors of this people and did save them from carnage and death. I have always felt a special interest in their welfare and the Lord knows it, and my feeling towards them have always been good and I do not know that every thought of them but that the feeling burst into my heart, 'God Bless Them.' I bless you now and pray every good being to bless you for I have always felt to bless you from morning till evening and from evening till morning." (Brigham Young quote)

Thank you Jesse C. Little from the Mormon Battalion. May you always be remembered with the Mormon Battalion.

Robert Pettegrew Paul, Fund and Building Chairman, Mormon Battalion Center

References: *Journal of David Pettegrew, Church Office History Dept; Frank Alfred Golden, book "The March of the Mormon Battalion from Council Bluffs: July, 1928; Pres. Polk diary, Vol. 1 pp. 443-450, June 1846; Journals of President Levi Ward Hancock, First President of Seventies by Herbert Hancock, book, "The Saving sacrifice of the Mormon Battalion."; "Brigham Young: American Moses" book by Leonard J. Arrington.*

The Story of Why the Mormon Battalion Came into Existence

The Mormon Battalion history and their achievements entitle them to a conspicuous place among the great events in the building of America and the preservation of their church. Details of this extraordinary history have been forgotten and buried in the dusty annals of time. Their fame in a broad sense of enduring interest rank with events of the Louisiana Purchase, Corps of Discovery, and even the Revolution. Their accomplishments are firmly woven into President James K. Polk's doctrine, "Manifest Destiny of the West" during the mid 1800's. Events of our Church comprised numerous great and beautiful manifestations and the gathering dark clouds of adversity. The years of 1830 thru 1847 saw the gathering of the dark clouds from which flashed the lightning of intense hatred upon the young prophet, Joseph Smith, his leaders and converts known as the "Camp of Israel." Unfairly, mayhem of mobocrats by other religious leaders was inspired and encouraged, condoning judges, government leaders, and apostates ignited fuel of prejudice towards this people. From Fayette, New York, always seeking a place of refuge to worship God, they traveled to Kirtland, Ohio then to Far West, Missouri to Nauvoo, Illinois. Not satisfied, on a hot humid afternoon of June 27, 1844 with faces painted black with dirt and gun powder, howling like mad dogs, murdered the Prophet Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith while imprisoned at Carthage, Illinois. Earnest appeals by President Brigham Young and other church leaders for injunctions Government redress and protection, asylum in Arkansas and other places were all denied thru the Spring and into the Winter of 1845. Final desperation, a proclamation, to leave Nauvoo was issued to Col. Levi Williams for a cessation of destructive operations and vexatious lawsuits so that departure by the Mormons could be peaceably achieved. Desperate, President Brigham Young had on his hands thousands of men, women, children and infants with little means of supporting and transporting them Westward. The treasury of the Church was empty! Events leading up to 1846 had brought gloom and sadness. They were forced to plunge into the bitter cold of the wild unknown wilderness not knowing what the future held for their families. As they established Winter Quarters they had become an exiled nation, leaving behind

their beloved twenty-eight United States of America. From their journals one can read how their grandfathers, fathers, and other family members fought the War of Independence with George Washington. They all loved the United States of America. Now, being an exiled nation was more than they could bear. Especially when all requests for protection and redress had been denied by governors, judges, and government leaders who should have been their friends.

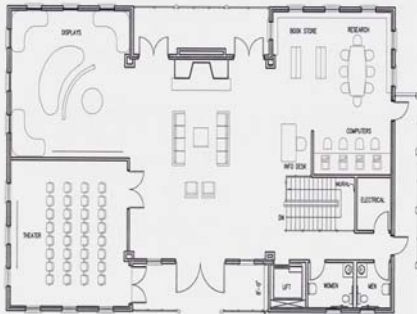
The following is a history which only the Lord could have scripted. On January 26, 1846, President Brigham Young and the Council of the Twelve Apostles wrote a letter of appointment as presiding elder of the Eastern States and special instructions to Jesse Carter Little. Quoting in part: "If our government shall offer any facilities for emigration to the Western coast, embrace those facilities, if possible. As a wise and faithful man, take every honorable

advantage of the time you can. BE THOU A SAVIOR AND DELIVERER OF THAT PEOPLE, and let virtue integrity and truth be your motto; salvation and glory the prize for which you contend." In the Journal History, July 6, 1846, it is recorded that Elder Little reported to the brethren: "In consonance with my instructions, I felt an anxious desire for the deliverance of the Saints and resolved upon visiting James K Polk, President of the United States, to lay the situation of my persecuted brethren before him and ask him as the representative of our Country, to stretch forth the federal arm in their behalf."

The monumental results of the

Mormon Battalion Center

Upper Level-Interactive Museum, Library, Geneological Research, Theater and Presentation Area, Interactive



Mormon Battalion Center

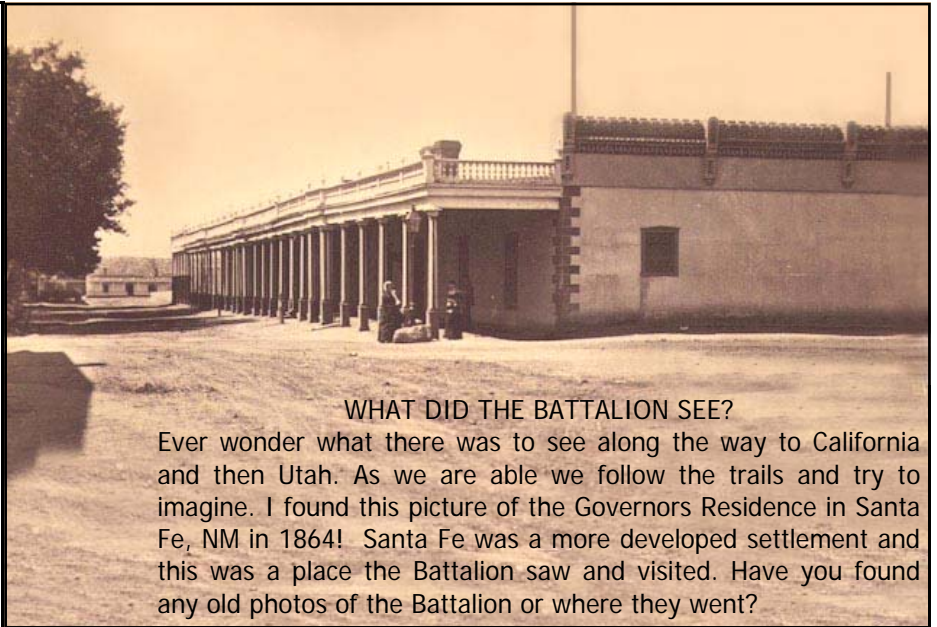
Library, Museum, Lectures, Tours, Re-enactments, Period Entertainment
Special Events and Socials, Business Headquarters
Designers Rendition 2004



**US MORMON
BATTALION
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWALS**

MAJOR GLOYD SPROUSE A Valiant spot as a reminder that ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP is from January 1st through December 31, and is now due for 2005. Men's dues are \$30.00 per year and ladies \$10.00 per year. Are you interested in Life Membership? Call me at Garden City, UT 435-946-3275 or 801-266-4304. Early payment keeps our costs minimized by keeping memberships current. It's a good time to make a commitment towards the Mormon Battalion Center Interactive Library, too.

Gloyd Sprouse gsbearlk@cut.net
Membership can be mailed to:
US Mormon Battalion
PO Box 1983
Sandy, UT 84091-1983



WHAT DID THE BATTALION SEE?

Ever wonder what there was to see along the way to California and then Utah. As we are able we follow the trails and try to imagine. I found this picture of the Governors Residence in Santa Fe, NM in 1864! Santa Fe was a more developed settlement and this was a place the Battalion saw and visited. Have you found any old photos of the Battalion or where they went?

A Special Gift from a couple of special families wanting to help in the building of The Jesse C Little Memorial Garden has contributed towards two large Bronze statues (currently in clay form and still under design and construction). Known as "Duty Calls" and "Duty Triumphs" by Sculpture Artist, Dr Steven L Neal.



"Duty Calls"

Artists Clay Rendition 2004



Company A, November, meeting Brother Brigham Young visits. As portrayed by James Arrington, who as an actor does an one man presentation of Brother Brigham.

EMELINE BIGLER HESS

I am a descendant of John W Hess of Company E. I am also President of our family organization of over 700 families. We are looking for a picture or sketch of Emeline Bigler Hess who was a Laundress for the Battalion and who traveled with her husband John. When she died, the family story goes, that John was so distraught that he destroyed all pictures of her. Do you know if anyone in the Battalion made a sketch of her? Any other photo's owned by other family members? Any help you can give in this matter will be greatly appreciated! Chuck Hess, Company B.

Mormon BN Proven True

A US President during the time of the Mexican-American war of 1847 saved the LDS people from eminent destruction, by



James K. Polk, 1849

Elder Eldred G Smith with California Mormon Battalion Flag From 1847



his order in forming the Mormon Battalion. They're response proved to Congress and Senate that Mormons were loyal to the US. Although there were battles that were fought. The Mormon Battalions long march fought no battles but instead brought 7 states into the Union by cutting both the trails into California (to the South and North) and preventing US Military Leaders in California from revolting against the US over California ownership.

April

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
1	2	3	4	5 Dixie Co Mtg 7:00pm Cottonmill Dance Hall 300 W Telegraph Washington, UT	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Co A Mtg 6:30pm Granite Tabernacle 20th S 9th E Salt Lake City, UT	16 BN Exec Board Mtg 9:00am BN Nat Staff and Nat Aux 11:00am at BN HQ, The Historic 10th Ward 420 S 800 E SLC, UT	17	18	19	20	21 Co B Mtg 7:00pm Old Rock Church 1135 W 7800 S W. Jordan, UT
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Co C Mtg 7:00pm Roy City Library 1950 W 4800 S Roy, UT Co D Mtg 7:00pm Logan Senior Citizen Ctr 240 N 100 E Logan, UT
29	30	<h1>May</h1>				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Dixie Co Mtg 7:00pm Cottonmill Dance Hall 300 W Telegraph Washington, UT	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Co B Mtg 7:00pm Old Rock Church 1135 W 7800 S West Jordan, UT	20 Co A Mtg 6:30pm Granite Tabernacle 20th S 9th E Salt Lake City, UT	21 9:00am BN Exec Board, BN Nat Staff at BN HQ, Historic 10th Ward 420 S 800 E SLC, UT
22	23	24	25	26 Co C Mtg 7:00pm Roy City Library 1950 W 4800 S Roy, UT Co D Mtg 7:00pm Logan Senior Citizen Ctr 240 N 100 E Logan, UT	26-29 Mormon History Assoc Annual Conf Killington Grand Hotel Killington, VT Larry & Alene King 1-888-642-3678	
29 Mormon History Assoc Annual Conf Killington, VT	30	31	29 May Mormon History Assoc Annual Conference Killington Grand Hotel Killington, VT Larry & Alene King 1-888-642-3678			

MEETING PLACES AND TIMES OF THE MORMON BATTALION COMPANIES JAN 2005

National Headquarters The Historic Tenth Ward Chapel 8th East 400 South, SLC, UT 84102
www.mormonbattalion.com PO BOX 1983 Sandy, UT 84109 801-256-0329
Exec Board Mtg 9:00 AM Third Saturday of each month National Staff Mtg 11:00 AM are 3rd Saturday of Jan, Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct Check the WEB site or Major Richard Bullock for changes
National Commander: Col Norman T. Erekson **National Auxiliary President:** Anne Erekson
801-731-3538 zye@juno.com

Company A: Granite Tabernacle 20th South 9 East SLC, UT Capt Jay Bowen 801-968-4173
sheldonteeple@aol.com Aux Pres: Callie McMurdie 801-486-6018 Mtg 3rd Fri of each month at 6:30 PM

Company B: Old Rock Church 1135 West 7800 South, West Jordan, UT
Capt Duane Sutherland 801-253-4943 cell 801-867-5424 Sutherlandcollision@earthlink.net
Aux President: Javann Nuttall 801-562-5823 Meets 3rd Thurs of each month at 7 PM

Company C: Roy Library 1950 West 4800 So. Roy, UT Capt Dale Read 801-392-1254
readcread@comcast.net Aux Pres: Roselyn Slade 801-544-3835 rwslade@juno.com Mtg last Thurs 7 PM

Company D: Senior Citizen Center 240 North 100 East Logan, UT Commander: Capt Rodney Rasmussen
435-245-4814 Aux President: Arlene Miller 435-753-2586 Meets 4th Thursday of each month 7 PM

HQ Company E: The Historic Tenth Ward Chapel SLC Contact Capt Earl Gilmore cell 801-541-1061 or
801-359-7055 **TOURS of the "Mormon Battalion Ward" , VALIANT EDITOR & PUBLISHER**

Dixie Company: Commander: Capt Leo G. Richardson 435-628-4694 presleorichardson@netzero.com
Aux President: Lynette Baker 435-628-3883 Meets every three or four months

Kane Company: Commander: Capt Dennis Pace 435-644-3012
Aux Pres: Genevieve Despain 435-644-3108 Contact Capt Dennis Pace

Mesa Company: Commander Capt Royce Hatch 480-396-2616 royce@hatchs.net

Northern California Company: Ceres, California Ward Chapel
Commander: Capt L. Denton Hoeh 209-847-7119 Ldhoeh@yahoo.com
Aux Pres: Cynthia Honor 209-848-8375 chonor@msn.com Meets 3rd Fri of each month 7 PM

Ship Brooklyn Company: Commander: Major Richard Bullock 801-943-9393 silver2a@earthlink.net

US Mormon Battalion
PO Box 1983
Sandy, Utah
84091-1983

