

# Mormon Battalion Association

## Minutes – Executive Leadership Meeting

7:00 PM, Thursday, 15 August 2019

LTC Max Jamison Residence and via GoToMeeting.com

189 E. 1864 South, Orem, UT 84058

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

**Executive Staff Attendance:** The following was present: LTC Max W. Jamison (Battalion Commander), MAJ Laura Anderson (Senior Historian), MAJ Val John Halford (Quartermaster/Logistics Officer), and Kevin and Denny Henson (Trails Experts).

The following were absent: COL Jerome Gourley (Battalion Commander's Chief Advisor and Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors), COL Carl V. Larson (Battalion Executive Officer) and Margaret Larson (Acting Membership/Human Relations Officer) who are working at the Payson Temple, CPT Todd Crappa (Chief Finance Officer and Board Member) who is caring for his special needs family, MAJ Clark Olsen (Scouting Relations Officer) who is working, CSM David Munford (Command Sergeant Major) who is working in Heber Valley, Mike Anderson (Chair of the Historians Editorial Review Board), Steve Reinhart (Judge Advocate General),.

**Board of Directors Attendance:** The following were absent: Edwin Kimball (Chair), James Waite (Vice Chair), Greg Christofferson, Guy Dickson, Ashley Hall, Dennis Holland, and Al Matheson (Members).

**Local Leadership Attendance:** The following was present: SGT David Jamiel (Colorado Squad).

The following were absent: CPT Blaine Bachman (Albuquerque Squad), SGT Larry Bilyeu (Cedar City Squad), and CPT Thomas Griggs (Eastern Idaho Squad).

**Associated Organization Attendance:** The following was present: Peter Guilbert (California LDS Living History Mission, Northern California Area).

**Guests:** None.

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

**LTC Jamison**

**Invocation**

**Kevin Henson**

**Minutes of 20 June 2019 Executive Leadership Meeting – Approved**

**General Business:**

**Recognition & Awards**

None

**Service Opportunities**

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

**Project Request Forms and Annual Budget Requests**

We have received no *Project Request Forms* and *Annual Budget Requests* from local units. We can only allocate funds to you if we know your plans and needs.

## Action Item Review:

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### Leadership:

- All: Recruit civic and community leaders to serve on our new **Board of Directors**. We have two remaining unfilled positions.
- All: Find viable candidates to run for offices of **Battalion Commander (*ex officio* President of Board)** and **Battalion Executive Officer (*ex officio* Vice President of Board)**, who will stand for election for two years. Section 2.02 of the *Articles of Incorporation* states that they coordinate and direct all member activities. Their roles are that of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Operations Officer (COO).
- All: Find individuals willing to serve as **1<sup>st</sup> Executive Director** (S1 - Adjutant General) and **2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Director** (S7 - Public Relations Commandant) of the Battalion Continental Support Staff. Section 2.02 of the *Articles of Incorporation* states that they manage all administrative support business matters. Their roles are that of Chief Business Executive (CBE) and Chief of Business Operations (CBO), supervising the Battalion Continental Support Staff.

### Finances:

- LTC Jamison: Work with CPA Gary Lunt, Steven Reinhart, and legal colleague to prepare IRS Form 1023. *In process.*
- LTC Jamison: Prepare summary of finances to forward to Board of Directors for internal audit. *In process.*

### Mormon Battalion Historic Trails Awards:

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

### Honorary Memberships:

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

### Website Updates:

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

### “All Things Mormon Battalion” Project:

- Dan Roper: Implement Release 4.0 as quickly as possible. *MAJ Anderson proposed that her daughter, Aspen Anderson, who is a professional website designer, build our new website using open source software similar to Dan’s*

proposal. With no objections, LTC Jamison authorized setting up a meeting in early October between MAJ Anderson, Dan Roper, Aspen Anderson, and himself. It will likely be possible to link to the Early Saints Working Group, LDS Church History sites, and FamilySearch™. There were no objections.

- All: Nominate indexers good at reading cursive to MAJ Anderson to help with indexing and transcription in Kindex™ software. *Maj Anderson reports that she has recruited three people, that they now have 15,301 documents loaded into Kindex™, 5,138 of which are Battalion related, and that they are about 50% through indexing and transcribing the documents.*
- COL Gourley and LTC Jamison: Follow up with Greg Christofferson regarding his contacts with our friends with deep pockets to fund \$20,000 for two BYU students in Dr. Jill Crandall's BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy to find and digitize original "cradle to grave" documents of the approximately 2,000 members of the original Mormon Battalion and their laundresses, guides, and family members.

### Research Mormon Battalion Association Documents in BYU Special Collections:

- LTC Jamison: Research missing history of Mormon Battalion Association from late 1940s through late 1990s in the Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University. *Maj Anderson reports that she has identified 16 boxes for digitizing of the 52 boxes donated, and that BYU has promised to start digitizing soon.*

### Membership Reports:

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#### Affiliate Organization Reports:

**1. Battalion Trek/MapNTour.com (Michigan Contingent) – Kevin and Denny Henson:** (16 August) Ruminations On What to Call the Hill in San Diego – The USGS topo maps refer to the general area as 'Mission Hills' without naming any of them specifically. So it appears there is no formal USGS recognized name, just local tradition which is replete with references to 'Presidio Hill.' (See *The Use of Presidio Hill*; <https://sandiegohistory.org/journal/1999/july/presidio-2.>) The California State Parks' San Diego Presidio website refers to 'Presidio Hil.' (See <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/Detail/59>)

**2. Boy Scouts of America:** No report.

**3. California LDS Living History Mission, Southern California Area – Guy Dickson:** None

**4. California LDS Living History Mission, Northern California Area – Dennis Amaral:**

#### Past Activities:

- 23 June – Group Meeting, Citrus Heights
- 4 July – Parade, Carmichael
- 20 July – CPHF Bus Tour
- 24 July – Sons of Utah Pioneers Sunrise Service and Days of '47 Parade, Salt Lake City, UT

#### Future Activities:

- 17 August – Sutter's Fort
- 18 August – Group Meeting, Citrus Heights
- 15 September – Group Meeting, Citrus Heights

**5. California Pioneer Heritage Foundation – Dennis Holland:** No report.

**6. Daughters of Utah Pioneers:** No report.

**7. Early Saints Research Group – MAJ Laura Anderson:** Future meetings in Church History Library?

**8. FamilySearch™:** No report.

**9. Friends of the Battalion & Ship *Brooklyn* – President Donald L. Eastman:** No report.

**10. Heritage Trails Association – Marilyn Mills:** Fort Moore Mormon Battalion Monument Plaza. (*See June 2019 Minutes for details.*) Here's a summary:

- **4 July 2019, 9:00 AM, Annual Fort Moore Memorial Committee (FMCM) Flag Raising Ceremony** – Held annual flag raising in coordination with members of the Church and the Battalion community.
- **8 November 2019, Veteran's Day Interfaith Ceremony** (the Friday *before* the Monday, 11 November Veteran's Day holiday) – This event is now in doubt, given stronger support for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**11. Mormon Battalion Arizona (Mesa Company) – CPT Owen Garner:** No report.

**12. Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego, California:** No report.

**13. Mormon Battalion Volunteers, Historic Reenactment Group, Utah Living History Association. – CPT Jared Cornell:** (Mike Anderson) Our Living History group marched in the Days of '47 Parade as we usually do. I and a few others did a MB display at Cove Fort for Cove Fort Days on August 2-3.

**14. Mormon History Association – President Brian Cannon:** No report.

**15. Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) – Ashley Hall:** No report.

**16. Sons of Utah Pioneers:** LTC Jamison and four members of the California LDS Living History Mission, Northern California Area, did the flag presentation in the Sunrise Service on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. President and Sister Oaks made a surprise visit and sat on the front row of the audience.

**17. Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA) – Gar Elison, Convention Committee Chairman:** September 2019 Convention in Santa Fe. MAJ Anderson will be discussing the finances of the women of the Battalion. Mr. Henson will be giving a presentation about the march of the Battalion through New Mexico and the creation of Cooke's Wagon Road in particular. Tom Jonas will be speaking before me and detail GEN Kearny's route through New Mexico. We happen to intersect at Emory's Butte which we collaborated on to definitively locate. The butte will be a very small part of my presentation, but an important find nonetheless, as it pins down a Battalion camp site, influences the route interpretation for both military units and may result in a 'historic site' designation. And – it may help us find two of our lost, buried men, **PVTs James Hampton and John Green.** Mr. Henson requests that our Board consider how we might work to FIND and MEMORIALIZE their grave. He says "It will be a small miracle to actually find the grave – but I'm of the opinion we ought to organize a work group to go look. It would be nice to have a Youth Conference do it! Rattlesnakes and all. Maybe wintertime?" (*See February and March 2019 Minutes.*)

**18. Santa Fe Trail Association –** No report.

**Board of Directors Reports:** No report.

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

**Headquarters (HHC) Company – MAJ Clark Olsen:** No report.

**Utah North Platoon – CPT Robert Olson:** No report.

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

**Logan Squad – James Waite:** No report.

**Ogden Section – MAJ Clark Olsen:**

**Salt Lake Squad – CSM Munford:** No report.

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

**Albuquerque Squad – CPT Blaine Bachman:** No report.

**Cedar City Squad – SGT Larry Bilyeu:**

#### **Past Activities:**

- 21-22 June, Folk Festival, Frontier Fort Museum and State Park, Cedar City, UT. – Fort display of Hospital Tent and Military Surgeon and Nurse set up in Frontier Fort beside Museum building. History of Military Medicine during Mexican-American War and Civil War presented by Larry L Bilyeu RN, Crystal I Bilyeu, Michael Moon RN, Jay Petrell.

**Colorado Squad – SGT David Jamiel:**

#### **Past Activities:**

- 26 April, Annual History Day, Front Range Community College, Westminster, Colorado – My wife Shirley and I took part. History students meet to share research on various topics of history. Part of the event included displays from history museums and historical re-enactment groups. In conjunction with the Broomfield Veterans Memorial Museum (BVMM) and the Mormon Battalion Association, Shirley and I displayed the equipment that the Battalion members who spent the winter in Pueblo, Colorado 1846-47 would have had with them. We visited with about 70 students and teachers during the day.
- 18-19 May, California Trail Interpretive Center, Elko, Nevada – MAJ John Helford, Kayla Willey, Dennis Watson, his wife, Shirley, and I provided a display and visited with the public about history of the Mormon Battalion veteran movements through Nevada. We had contact with over 750 people.

- 29-30 June, National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, Casper, Wyoming – MAJ John Helford, Kayla Willey, Shirley, and I set up a Mormon Battalion trail camp and spoke to over 300 people during the weekend about the history and movements of the Battalion along the historic trails the Museum interprets.
- 4 July, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Fort Collins, Colorado. As a member of both the Battalion and the American Military Living History Association (AMLHA), I marched in the parade representing a Battalion detachment member from the Pueblo Colony (1846-47). Although I only got to visit about my impression with the 20 people who walked in the parade around me, there were a few thousand who saw me march with other AMLHA in period clothing. Our impressions were broadcasted to the public as we passed the reviewing stand.

**Future Activities:**

- 21 September, Annual Broomfield Days parade and celebration, Broomfield, Colorado – As a member of both the Battalion and the AMLHA, I will march in the parade, put up my Battalion display at the Veterans museum, and talk to the public about the Battalion and the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Volunteers; both non-uniformed military units that had contact with Bent’s Fort during the Mexican American / American War. I will also speak about the Battalion detachment at the Pueblo Colony (1846-47).
- 23 September, Colorado Educators Night, Colorado Museum of Science and History, Denver, Colorado – Will join with BVMM, AMLHA, and the Battalion Association do my Battalion impression and talk about the colony at Pueblo.
- 24 September, West Metro Veterans Fair, Lakewood, Colorado – Will join with BVMM, AMLHA, and the Battalion Association to do my Battalion impression and talk about the colony at Pueblo.

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

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

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

**California Detached Section – LTC Frank Szeles:** No report.

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

**Arizona Detached Section:** No report.

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

**At Large Members –** No report.

**Membership Advisory Committee Reports:**

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**1. Art Committee – Mike Anderson:** Working on plans for a new painting.

**2. Website Historians Editorial Review Board (HERB) – Mike Anderson:** We have received and are reviewing:

- Maj Halford’s article on Mexican War Infantry Acouterments
- Mr. Henson’s article on the music of the Mormon Battalion.

**3. “All Things Mormon Battalion” Project – LTC Jamison, MAJ Anderson, and Dan Roper:** (For details, see Board of Directors Report in our 21 January 2017 *Minutes*.)

**Phase 1:**

1. Fund two BYU student researchers part time through Dr. Jill Crandall’s BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy to find and digitize original “cradle to grave” documents of the approximately 2,000 members of the original Mormon and their laundresses, guides, and family members, i.e., original birth, christening, marriage, property, census, death, and probate records.
2. Fund digital copying of:
  - a. our growing collection of primary and secondary Mormon Battalion data, i.e., *Muster Rolls, Pay 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.
3. BYU has agreed to host the Item 1 data compiled by Dr. Crandall, plus whatever Item 2 data we are willing to share with other researchers, but we must store our private data on our own website.
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.

**Phase 2:**

5. Rehost and build Release 4.0 of our [www.mormonbattalion.com](http://www.mormonbattalion.com) website, replacing the current limited proprietary CMS with a portable more flexible and user friendly one, and hosting it on the Google™ cloud based server.

**4. Mormon Battalion Historic Trails Award Program Committee – CSM Munford, Chair:** *Endorsement by LDS Church* – Greg Christofferson is arranging for a meeting in the near future with the youth leadership of the LDS Church to obtain their endorsement and support for our new awards program.

**Commander's Staff Reports:**

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**1. Senior Historian's Report – MAJ Anderson:**

Dr. Crandall, Kevin Henson, and I will be presenting and the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA) Convention in Santa Fe on 3-10 September. I will have some expenses on the OCTA Santa Fe trip in September, but these will be minimal, as OCTA will give me some stipend money for speaking. This will give the Mormon Battalion Association a lot of exposure and help with networking with those who are in these areas for putting together our future events.

I plan on going on my fourth Battalion sponsored trip to the NARA in November, when the specialists are there again this year. Hopefully, the Battalion can help with this trip! LTC Jamison and Kevin Hensen are talking about joining me on this trip.

**2. Commander's Report – LTC Jamison:** MAJ Halford and I drove to Southern California, where we visited:

- *4 July – Fort Moore Memorial, Los Angeles* – Participated in the flag raising at the newly dedicated Fort Moore Memorial. As guests, I gave the opening prayer and MAJ Halford participated in the 26 gun salute (one for each state in the Union at the original flag raising). We experienced a 6.2 earthquake during ceremony.
- *4 July, Mission San Luis Rey* – They have a new leader, who has asked for someone to tell the story of the Mormon Battalion posting there during the 40 years that the mission was vacant after the Spanish priest left with the independence of Mexico. We put them in contact with President Dickson.
- *5 July, Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego* – We visited the Church historic site, as well as the nearby Mormon Battalion Soldier monument on Presidio Peak, and the courthouse built by the Battalion in Old Town San Diego.
- *6 July, Box Canyon* – We drove past Warner's Ranch, and visited Box Canyon, where we verified the location of an old photograph obtained by Mr. Henson.
- *6 July, Barstow* – We experienced a 7.2 earthquake at our motel that evening. Both this and the earlier earthquake were centered about 70 miles to the north in the Mojave Desert.

**Continental Support Staff Reports:**

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**1. Chief Finance Officer Report – CPT Crappa:** (LTC Jamison) We currently have a bank balance of **\$10,823.98**, down from \$11,455.06. Since our last meeting in June, we have had the following activity:

**a. Main Share Savings:**

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

**b. General Fund:**

- *Deposits:* \$0.27 interest, \$110.00 cash donations, and \$92.99 PayPal deposits,
- *Expenditures:* \$39.40 for normal monthly fee from GoToMeeting.com™, \$59.24 for normal UPS shipping and handling, and \$577.28 stipend for Ltc Jamison and Maj Halford's trip to Southern California
- *Current Balance:* **\$2,733.48**, down from \$3,370.37.
- *Pending Expenditures:* \$250.00 to Gary Lunt, CPA, to prepare IRS Form 1023, normal monthly UPS Store shipping and handling fees, normal \$39.26 monthly fee from GoToMeeting.com, and normal shipping and handling fees.

- *Pending Deposits:* \$1,000.00 donation from Maj Laura Anderson, which would be forwarded to Kindex to further their work in our behalf.

**c. Arts Fund:**

- *Deposits:* \$5.07 interest
- *Expenditures:* None
- *Current Balance:* **\$6,742.42**, up from \$6,737.35
- *Pending Expenditures:* None

**d. Historical Research Fund:**

- *Deposits:* \$0.74 interest
- *Expenditures:* None
- *Current Balance:* **\$1,347.03**, up from \$1,346.29
- *Pending Expenditures:* Minimal stipends for MAJ Anderson's and Kevin Henson's trip to represent us at the September OCTA Convention in Santa Fe, and a \$250.00 stipend for MAJ Anderson's November NARA trip, and Mr. Henson also requested assistance with funding the search for and marking of the common grave of **PVTs James Hampton and John Green** in New Mexico.

*We have gradually depleted the \$10,000 Historical Research Fund grant given us three years ago, and need to start raising funds to continue this vital work. Pending those donations, LTC Jamison suggests that we transfer some funds from our Arts Fund to the Historical Research Fund.*

**2. Webmaster – LTC Jamison:**

- **Member Activities | Minutes** – We posted the June Minutes.
- **HERB Corrections and Additions** – We posted the new outline, and are preparing to post two approved articles. *(See HERB Committee notes above.)*

**New Business**

**(Open to Floor)**

None

**Projected Action Items**

**Leadership:**

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

- COL Gourley and Greg Christofferson: *Continue* coordination with Elder D. Todd Christofferson regarding continued association between LDS Church and Mormon Battalion Association, including historical research and LDS participation.
- CSM Munford and Greg Christofferson: Arrange for a meeting in the near future with the youth leadership of the

LDS Church to obtain their endorsement and support for our new awards program.

- Dennis Holland: Coordinate placement of posters and website information with Mormon Battalion Historic Site, San Diego, California, and other strategic locations in California.

#### **Honorary Memberships:**

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#### **“All Things Mormon Battalion” Project:**

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- All: Nominate indexers good at reading cursive to MAJ Anderson to help with indexing and transcription in Kindex™ software.
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#### **Research Mormon Battalion Association Documents in BYU Special Collections:**

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#### **Closing Remarks & Inspirational Thought**

**LTC Jamison**

None

#### **Benediction**

**SGT David Jamiel**

#### **Next Executive Staff Meeting:**

7:00 PM, Thursday, 19 September 2019  
Residence of LTC Max W. Jamison  
189 E. 1864 South  
Orem, UT 84058