

**MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MONUMENT FOUNDATION, INC.  
8002 Wind Rock Lane, Harrison, AR 72601**

**Volume 26**

**February 2006**

**Board Members**

**Burr Fancher, President  
Harley Fancher, Secretary  
Phil Bolinger, Treasurer  
Pat Stroud  
Jim Fletcher  
Ron Wright  
Susan Fancher**

**Committee Chairs**

**Arkansas History: Larry Fry  
Cemetery Marking: Jim Fletcher  
Library Collections: Burr Fancher  
Carrollton Lodge: Scott Fancher**

**Thanks**

**We wish to extend our appreciation to Dr. Bill Hatch for his yeoman work in cranking out the MMMF newsletter during the past years. Robert Paul Wilson and Mary Migliore completed their terms on the MMMF Board. We wish to thank all of them for their contribution to the growth of our organization.**

**Officers for 2006**

**Board members decided to keep the current officers throughout this year. New officers will be identified at our annual Board meeting on September 9, 2006. Phil Bolinger has agreed to assume the President role in January 2007 – not sooner. A new Treasurer will be appointed by the Board to take his place. A newsletter editor to replace Bill Hatch will be identified at our September Board meeting. Burr Fancher will produce the three issues prior to the annual meeting at Carrollton.**

**Report on Projects**

**The library collection at the Paiute Indian Center in Cedar City, Utah was updated this past year to keep current with the books, videos, and news articles that keep cropping up. Mountain Meadows seems to be a hot topic with writers and movie makers at present.**

**The memorial at Carrollton was dedicated in September. Interpretative materials are being generated for display inside the Lodge. Individual plaques for each of the seventeen surviving children will be mounted on the lodge walls. Sponsors have come forth for seven of the survivors. Each plaque costs \$75. Anyone who wishes to be a sponsor should speak up. Our Foundation will pick up the tab for those without sponsors. We do plan to have the plaques in place on the lodge walls before the September meeting. Some are being made now. We need sponsors for Prudence Angeline Dunlap, Nancy Huff, Joseph Miller, Mary Miller, John Calvin Miller, Felix Marion Jones, William Tackitt, and Emberson Milum Tackitt. Cheri Baker Walker is working with the Baker family to sponsor the three Baker survivors. Who would like to sponsor Nancy Huff as shown on page 4? First come -- first serve!**

**Interpretative materials will be incorporated into a "History in a Box" program and stored at Carrollton Lodge for access by students and historical groups. The Arkansas History Project in local schools will be refining their pilot testing of materials and incorporating the most desirable elements into a transportable curriculum unit. The curriculum unit can then be shared across Arkansas.**

Jim Fletcher has completed marking eleven of the survivor graves. Two more will be marked in the near future. Some have not yet been located. If anyone knows the location of the graves of Mary Miller, John Calvin Miller, Joseph Miller, or Nancy Huff, please help us out. We hope to get 100% of survivor graves marked.

### Historical Tidbits

While doing some research in Prescott, Arizona, I found an interesting article on massacre survivor Emberson Milum Tackitt.

Copied from THE FLAGSTAFF SUN, November 27, 1898

E.M. Tackitt is a quiet and unassuming man. Years ago he was a terror to evil-doers throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Some years ago he was attached to the sheriff's office in Yavapai County. He has been engaged for the past six years in hunting down moonshiners in northwestern Arkansas. Mr. Tackitt returned to Flagstaff Sunday night.

Mr. Tackitt has the distinction of being one of the survivors of the famous Mountain Meadow massacre in 1857. A little previous to this a number of families living in northern Arkansas caught the gold fever and concluded to emigrate to California. The older people will remember how this brave band of pioneers made their way westward, hoping to make their way to the gold field, taking their families with them and dreaming of happy lives on the western slope.

When they reached Salt Lake City it was with difficulty they procured food and supplies from the people, but at last succeeded by paying exorbitant prices. They again started on their way, and at Mountain Meadow they were met by John D. Lee and a band of followers. They had been attacked by what they supposed to be a band of Indians and several were wounded. Lee went to them with a proposition that if they would give them their arms and ammunition he and his followers would conduct them in safety through that part of the country infested with hostile Indians. The emigrants innocently delivered their arms to Lee. Lee then placed one of his men with a gun at the head of each of the emigrants and marched them to a heavily wooded section, and at a given signal Lee's men shot or brained the emigrant at his side. They then went back to the wagons and cut the throats of the sick and those wounded in the fight the day previous, making way with the plunder, taking with them all the children they thought were too young to remember the murder of their parents. These children were afterward ransomed by the government and turned over to relatives and friends in Arkansas, except young Tackitt and a boy named Miller, who were taken to Washington to bear witness to the terrible tragedy in case Lee was apprehended.

Lee then went to live with the Supai Indians, whom he learned to raise corn and fruit. Then years later he was captured, and after a lengthy trial, was convicted and executed in the spring of 1877, Tackitt and Miller being the principal witnesses.

*Emberson Milum Tackitt was a deputy sheriff in Prescott when sent to quell the range war between the Tewksburys and Grahams in the Tonto Basin (Zane Grey stuff). He is buried in the Citizens Cemetery in Prescott, Arizona. MMMF member Jim Fletcher placed a Foundation marker on his grave in Row B, Block 4, Plot 24. Jim Fletcher has done a banner job for our Foundation in finding and marking the final resting places of the massacre survivors. Emberson Milum Tackitt was born on May 29, 1853 and died June 12, 1912.*



Plans for Meeting in Arkansas

Our annual meeting will be held in Carrollton, Arkansas on September 8-10. We will have many joint activities with the Mountain Meadows Descendants group which is headed up by Patty Norris. Patty is a contributing member of our Foundation and shares many of our goals. We are hopeful that our groups can join forces on projects of mutual interest in the future. The basic program will be:

- Friday, September 8 (4-8 p.m.) MMMF Board Meeting, MMMF Annual Meeting, Auction.
- Saturday, September 9 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) Wagon Train trip, Barbecue, Joint Meeting.
- Sunday, September 10 (To be arranged) Tours of Mountain Meadows related places.

Mark your calendar early. You are only one hour from the shows at Branson. Allow some extra time to tour the beautiful Ozarks if you are coming in from outside. If you are inclined to fish, Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Table Rock, and Beaver Lakes offer world class fishing. If you prefer to spit, whittle, or visit, you will find Arkansas to be an enjoyable area. We will provide you with specific details on lodging facilities and conference activities in the May newsletter. Ya'all come.

Wagons Ho

A brochure on the proposed wagon train trip has been included in this mailing. Wagon boss Phil Bolinger and Grand Marshal Robert Paul Wilson will start the wagons rolling down Dunkard Road toward Carrollton. You do not need a wagon to join in. Promises have been made to some of us elder citizens that horse trailers and other conveyances will be available with comfortable hay bale seating. There will be wagons, buggies, mounted horsemen and horsewomen, and people walking. Do not miss it! It will be fun.

Crossword Puzzle

A Mountain Meadows crossword puzzle has been included for the intellectuals among our membership. It is designed to test basic knowledge of the massacre. You will have to wait for the next newsletter to get the answers or e-mail Burr at [Docfanher@aol.com](mailto:Docfanher@aol.com) if you are anxious. I am sure that you can build a better puzzle. Just remember that this is my first attempt and it wasn't as easy as expected. In fact, my age has been working against intellectual pursuits such as creating trivia games.

---

**Membership Application**  
**Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation, Inc.**  
**8002 Wind Rock Lane**  
**Harrison, AR 72601**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: \$20 per family**  
**\$250 lifetime membership**

## NANCY SOPHRINA HUFF CATES



Nancy Sophrina Huff Cates was born in 1853. She was the daughter of Peter and Salidia Brown Huff of Benton County, Arkansas. Peter Huff was the only fatality before reaching Mountain Meadows. He died from a spider bite and was buried near Fort Bridger, Wyoming. After the massacre, Nancy Huff lived in the home of Mormon John Willis in Cedar City. Later, she moved with the Willis family to Toquerville. Nancy returned to Benton County and later went to Tennessee to live with her grandfather Alexander Brown. By 1875, Nancy was married to Dallas Cates and living in Yell County, Arkansas. Her final resting place is unknown at this time.