

July 2009

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- **Membership**  
*Bob Fancher*
- **Arkansas History**  
*Diann Fancher*
- **Newsletter**  
*Pat Fancher*
- **Carrollton Lodge**  
*Scott Fancher*
- **Interpretative Plaques**  
*Susan Fancher*
- **Cemetery Plaques**  
*Jim Fletcher*
- **Library Collections**  
*Bob Fancher*
- **Proxy Baptism**  
*Harley Fancher*

# MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MONUMENT FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



The Foundation members have been busy and expect to continue so. In this newsletter we show some things we have been doing and some things that are planned. Please read and review everything, as there are several items for which the board is seeking your input.

**150th Commemoration of Carleton's Reburial at Mountain Meadows**

On May 28 and 29 the Foundation along with MMA and MMD observed the 150th anniversary of Major Carleton's reburial of the bones left exposed at Mountain Meadows. This event was in May 1859. On Friday, May 28, members attended a luncheon hosted by the LDS church and heard a presentation by Richard Turley on

the status of the application for National Historic Landmark and plans for improvements at the site if the application is approved.

The new LDS library and archives were opened to members of all three descendant groups and documents were displayed for study. Several LDS workers were present to answer questions.



Phil Bolinger (yellow) and Harley Fancher (blue) at luncheon. Diann is hidden .



Ellie Porter, Charlotte Hysell and Will Bagley at luncheon



Jake Fancher, Phil Bolinger and Rusty Carleton at archives



Bill Basham, Larry Bolinger and Rusty Carleton at center table

On Saturday, May 29, a tour of the upper grave sites was conducted, especially the Cottam property. This property is not owned by the LDS church but they have an option if graves are proven to be there.

A ceremony honoring the victims and observing the anniversary of their reburial by the army was conducted by the three descendants groups. The president of each group spoke and Kent Dunlap read an excerpt from Carleton's report as it related to this event in 1859. A squad of seven men dressed in period uniforms fired a 21-gun salute. Among this squad were Foundation members Phil Bolinger, Kent Dunlap, Jake Fancher, Paul Wilson and Rusty Carlton.



Frank Kirkman, Terry Fancher, Harley Fancher and Bill Basham at upper graves



Left: Kent Dunlap reading from Carleton report.



Right: Squad firing salute.

## Library Updates

The plan as presented last fall projected library updates for 2009—2010. The libraries in Harrison, Tulare, Salt Lake City, and the Paiute Center have been updated. The materials and books are assembled for Butler Center and Independence libraries and will be delivered soon. Two books have been received for each of the county libraries and will be delivered in August. All libraries will be updated before our annual meeting.

## Return of the Children— 150th Commemoration

The return of the children who survived the massacre to Arkansas in September 1859 is one of the few days out of this chain of events that brought joy to our families. In September, we will commemorate this reunion with one of our own in conjunction with our annual meeting. Please mark these dates and make plans to be with us in Carrollton, Arkansas. We are recruiting relatives of the survivors to participate in our reenactment. Even if you are not in the drama your participation in the audience is needed. Rick Wilson, 918-961-1365, is Chairman of the program. Here is the schedule:

Friday, September 18— Daytime will be spent in preparing for the ensuing events.

6:00 pm CDT— Dinner in the Yell Lodge, Carrollton—catered, members cost, speaker

7:30 pm CDT— Annual meeting

9:00 pm CDT— Auction

Saturday, September 19—1:00 pm CDT—Return of the children program—Program will begin at the Yell Lodge where the children spent their first night and continue to the Carrollton park for the receipt of the children by the families. The children will be represented by a child in their descendant family as far as possible  
4:30 pm CDT—Catered BBQ, Carrollton park, members cost, music.

## Foundation Board Positions

Each year at our annual meeting we must consider our board positions that have concluding terms. This year the terms of Pat Stroud and Harley Fancher end as of December 31, 2009. Both have served well. Our by-laws call for nominations from the floor at the annual meeting and by written nominations for a short time afterwards. The election will then be conducted by mail-in ballots due December 1. There are no restrictions on incumbents nor any term limits. You must, of course, be a member of MMMF.

## Annual Auction

You will see the auction listed on the schedule after our meeting. This is one way in which we raise funds for our Foundation. You can participate in two ways: find items that you can donate to be auctioned and bring or send them to the meeting; be at the meeting and bid for those items you find interesting. Each year there are unusual items along with valuable relics. If you can't do either one we still accept donations from our loyal members.

## Survey of Member Opinions

The board wishes the membership's input on the activities you believe we should participate in. Included with this mailing is a survey form to be completed and mailed back to our Foundation address. Please include your name and phone number on the form in case we need to contact you. Return by August 15.

## Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan approved last year is enclosed. This plan has allowed our group to be focused toward accomplishing our goals and has resulted in the achievements we list. If you have not attended an annual meeting, this may be the first time you have seen the plan. Please review the projects we have completed and those planned. Send any comments to the Foundation address by August 15 along with your survey form.

## Plan for Mountain Meadows Site Improvements

The plan as presented by LDS representatives in Utah is enclosed. This plan will become effective when the Landmark status is approved. There are no indications of the upper graves being of importance at this time. They must be protected and made accessible to family members. This plan is designed to do so. The MMMF has been asked to comment on this plan. Please send comments as soon as possible or call one of the board members.

## Member Information

The board would like to complete our member data base to perhaps take advantage of modern technology if the situation warrants. Please send your telephone number and email address to the Foundation address. It will be added to our member file.

## Planning for 2010

Looking toward next year, the Foundation will hold our annual meeting out west. Place Tulare, California, on your calendar for next fall. Tulare was the destination for the wagon train as relatives lived in that area. Many do even today and this would be a good chance to visit with them. In addition, there are numerous attractions in central California. Jot it down and let's all go west next year.

## New Members and Application

We have some new members to welcome:

Kent Dunlap

Keith Jeffreys

Dave and Barbara Mattos (Barbara is the granddaughter of Rose Fancher Hysell)

Included in this mailing is a membership application form with an explanatory letter to help in signing up new members. Please copy as needed and recruit family and friends. The form is also available on Frank Kirkman's website, [1857masacre.com](http://1857masacre.com).

## Motels in Harrison, Arkansas

For those visiting the fall meetings, these motels are available in Harrison:

Days Inn, 870-391-3297, rates \$51.00 plus taxes

Quality Inn, 870-741-7676, rates \$70.00 plus taxes

Holiday Inn Express, 870-741-3636, rates \$85.99 plus taxes