

Board Members

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

Committee Chairs

Arkansas History: Diann Fancher
Cemetery Marking: Jim Fletcher
Library Collections: Burr Fancher
Carrollton Lodge: Scott Fancher
Membership: Scott Fancher
Survivor plaques: Burr Fancher

In Memory of Larry Fry

One of our most active members passed away on July 10. Larry was 67 years old. He was most active in bringing the Mountain Meadows story to students in Carroll County schools. Larry was helping plan our wagon train trip just hours before his death. The Larry Fry humor and ready smile will be missed in our organization. I will especially miss our discussions of Longhorns and Durham cattle on the Fancher-Baker train. Both of us had Dr. C. J. Brown as an animal science professor and used his book to support our opposing views on the type of cattle on the train. Some of you may recall that Larry and Coy Huff followed the Cherokee Trail to our Utah meeting in 2005. Larry, we will miss you.



Larry, daughter Debbie and granddaughter at September 25 dedication of Carleton replica in Carrollton

Schedule for Meeting in Arkansas

Our annual meeting will be held in Carrollton, Arkansas on September 8-10. The meeting format will be changed because of the wagon train event. Our annual auction will be held in conjunction with the wagon train rather than as a part of our MMMF meeting. We will not have a meal function with our annual MMMF meeting since a barbecue is planned for Saturday. After the meeting, members will have time to attend a Branson show, visit with friends, or join the early bird wagon people at Fancher farm. No doubt the group will be in a storytelling mode.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 *(snacks and beverages will be provided)*

- 2:00 p.m. MMMF Meeting of Board Members and Committee Chairs
- 3:00 p.m. MMMF Annual Meeting of General Membership
 - Minutes and committee reports
 - Power Point presentation on MMMF accomplishments
 - Discussion of future plans
 - New proposals by members
- 6:00 p.m. Wagon train participants are welcome to overnight at Fancher farm Friday and Saturday

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 *(LOCALS PLEASE BRING LAWN CHAIRS)*

- Before 11:00 Wagons and horses will arrive at Fancher farm.
- 11:00 a.m. Shuttle vehicles and horse trailers to Carrollton Park
- 12:00 noon MMMF provides sandwiches and beverages to group at Fancher farm
- 1:00 p.m. WESTWARD HO! Wagons depart Fancher farm for Carrollton
- 4:00 p.m. Wagon train arrives at Carrollton Park *(approximate time)*
 - Another shuttle back to Fancher farm begins for moving horses
- 5:00 p.m. Country music begins with Kenny Underdown and his band at Carrollton Park
- 5:30 p.m. Barbecue provided at Carrollton Park by Grannys Kitchen at \$10 per person. Large meal.
- 6:30 p.m. MMMF auction with auctioneers Phil Bolinger and Dan Dotson at Carrollton Park
(Note: Bring items for auction and money to buy. The auction is our major support for practical MMMF projects. In case of rain, activities will move to Yell Lodge.)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 10:00 a.m. - Meet at Boone County Heritage Center in Harrison. View MMMF library collection of Mountain Meadows related materials.
 - Visit historical marker at Caravan Spring
 - Visit monument on Harrison town square
 - Visit Martha Elizabeth Baker Terry's grave at Capps
 - Lunch at Polly's between Alpena and Green Forest
 - Visit Triphena Fancher Wilson grave at Rule Cemetery
 - Visit Kit Carson Fancher grave at Osage*(Note: If this proposed tour does not meet your needs, please let us know and we will try to steer you where you wish to go. Local MMMF members will be available as tour guides in the area for small groups. If anyone is interested in a trip into scenic parts of the beautiful Ozark country, please make your wishes known to board members or designated tour guides.)*

Lodging

Lodging may be obtained at Holiday Inn Express (\$85), Comfort Inn (\$75), Harrison Days Inn (\$68), and Super 8 (\$47.25-\$68). Further information, photos, and reservations may be obtained on Internet at roadsideamerica.com. There are many bed and breakfast options available in the area.

Branson Shows

Discount lodging, tickets and packages are available on-line at bransonchamber.com, branson.com, and bransontourismcenter.com. The tourism center can be reached by phone at 1-800-785-1550. Lodging is available in economy, standard, deluxe, luxury, condos, cabins and bed and breakfast categories. Show tickets can be bought for popular, discounted and limited engagement categories. The average show ticket is about \$25.

Directions to Wagon Train Trip Starting Point

The wagon train will leave from the Fancher farm at 9770 Keeton Lane, Harrison, Arkansas.

Directions to this farm from Harrison are as follows:

- Take Highways 62/65 North five miles to Bear Creek Springs
- Turn left on Highways 62/412 for 3.5 miles
- Turn left on Arkansas 392 for 1.3 miles
- Turn right on Dunkard Lane for .5 mile
- Turn left onto Patton Lane and follow signs to wagon train .33 miles

Directions to Fancher farm from Alpena (traveling East) are as follows:

- Go East on Highways 62/412 for 3.18 miles
- Turn right on Arkansas 392 for 1.3 miles
- Turn right on Dunkard Lane for .5 mile
- Turn left onto Patton Lane and follow signs to wagon train .33 miles

Benefit Auction

The auction will be held at the end of the wagon train ride rather than with the general MMMF meeting. Members are urged to bring some items for our annual auction. Unique items from your home state add to the fun at our auctions. Past auction items have included such things as bird feeders, quilts, wines, special jellies, antique medical devices, books, special recipes, etc. Auctioneers Phil Bolinger and Danny Dotson promise a good show of stand-up comedy and auctioneering.

Issues to be Considered by Membership

The major issue before our membership is federal stewardship of the Mountain Meadows site. Next year is the 150th anniversary of the massacre. If we wish to make a strong bid for a National Monument status, it must be well planned, highly organized and pursued with great vigor. The MMA has openly expressed their desire to keep it within the bosom of the LDS Church. I don't know where the Descendant group stands on the issue. Regardless of other MMM organizational postures, the MMMF can and should keep the issue before the LDS Church. There will never be closure on Mountain Meadows until the graves are in hands other than an organization involved in the massacre. Bring your best thinking on this issue and we will plan our next step.

The Descendant group and MMA are working with the LDS Church on the restroom project at Mountain Meadows. The Foundation was contacted last September (immediately after our dedication of the Carleton replica) by a high official in the LDS Church about the restrooms and upper gravesites. The Foundation expressed moral support for both projects but no contact has happened since the initial call. They may or may not have information to us by our September meeting. I informed them if they expected financial support, the issue must be approved by our membership and budgeted in advance.

At our September meeting the MMMF must identify what it wishes to do for the 150th anniversary. All members should submit their best ideas for a successful year in 2007. We can do whatever we set our minds and hearts to.

We have a piece of good news. Diann Fancher, working with the textbook revision committee, has gained approval for an MMM chapter in Arkansas History textbooks. That chapter is being developed at this time. The massacre has not been taught in history classrooms during the past 50 years and was never a part of history textbooks. What an achievement! Way to go Diann.

Our Foundation continues to grow in membership. The focus on Arkansas-based projects has kept us out of Utah politics, free from the organizational strife, and free from LDS Church influence. Our focus on survivors has reaped great benefits. The grave marking project has been pursued with vigor by Jim Fletcher. Larry Fry and Diann Fancher helped to bring the massacre into school curriculum. Scott Fancher and the VFW have worked hard to restore the historic lodge at Carrollton. Yell Lodge now serves as our interpretative site in Arkansas. Four MMMF library collections are being updated as new materials become available. A children's book on Mountain Meadows is being developed upon request of local students. A "History in a Box" project was being pulled together by Larry Fry before his untimely death. As outgoing President of MMMF, I am very proud of our members, our goals, and our accomplishments. I believe our group has grown in stature and effectiveness over our eight years of existence. It has been possible because of the good natures and commitment of our members. Let us plan the 150th anniversary with great care. We can continue to grow by focusing on positive ideals and completing meaningful projects. Education and history should be our guiding principle. See you at Carrollton.