

# MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MONUMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

8002 Wind Rock Lane, Harrison, AR 72601

(870) 437-2718 ([mmmf@eritter.net](mailto:mmmf@eritter.net))

Volume 24

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William W. Hatch, News Editor

## Our Purpose

As I continue my task as your Newsletter Editor, I am again reminded of just how large our Foundation family has become. Each of our family members has a part to play. Our diversity is our strength. What we currently lack in members is soundly solidified in mutual purpose. That purpose has not changed. The Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation received its name, elected its officers and held its first meeting September 11, 1999 in the old American Legion Community building in Kingston, Arkansas. My purpose, like all of you, is to continue to seek the truth about what really happened at Mountain Meadows, Iron County, Utah Territory, September 7-11, 1857, and why? We do this through research and common sense. We refuse to be anyone's pawns in a cover up. We expect all like minded people of good faith to support our worthy efforts. God willing, may we not rest until that task is complete.

The Editor

## BOARD MEMBERS and OFFICERS for 2005

President	Dr. Burr Fancher	(541) 926-3125	Albany, Oregon
Secretary	Harley Fancher	(870) 743-2385	Omaha, Arkansas
Treasurer	Phil Bolinger	(479) 789-5263	Hindsville, Arkansas
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Board Member	Jim Fletcher	(479) 248-1164	Bentonville, Arkansas
Board Member	Mary Migliore	(210) 320-5259	San Antonio, Texas
Board Member	Robert Paul Wilson	(918) 676-3876	Fairland, Oklahoma

## DUES for 2005-2006

If you have not paid your 2005 dues, please mail \$20.00 to the Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation, 8002 Wind Rock Lane, Harrison, Arkansas, 72601. Any additional donations will be greatly appreciated. The renewal date for dues is printed on your mailing label.

### Cemetery Marking Project

Board member Jim Fletcher continues to search out the final resting places of the massacre survivors. The final 3-4 grave sites will be a major challenge but together we can find them. If you have ideas on the burial sites of Nancy Sophrina Huff Cates, John Calvin Miller, Mary Miller and Louisa Dunlap Lynton, please let Jim know. Jim Fletcher has done a wonderful job finding and marking sites. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

### Carrollton Lodge Restoration Project

During the past few years, our Foundation has cooperated with the VFW in restoring the Old Yell Lodge. Our groups have shared proceeds from a joint money-making auction. The Lodge will house interpretative materials related to the 17 surviving children. Sponsors have contributed plaques for four of the children. We expect other sponsors to pick up the other 13 in the future.

### Arkansas History Project

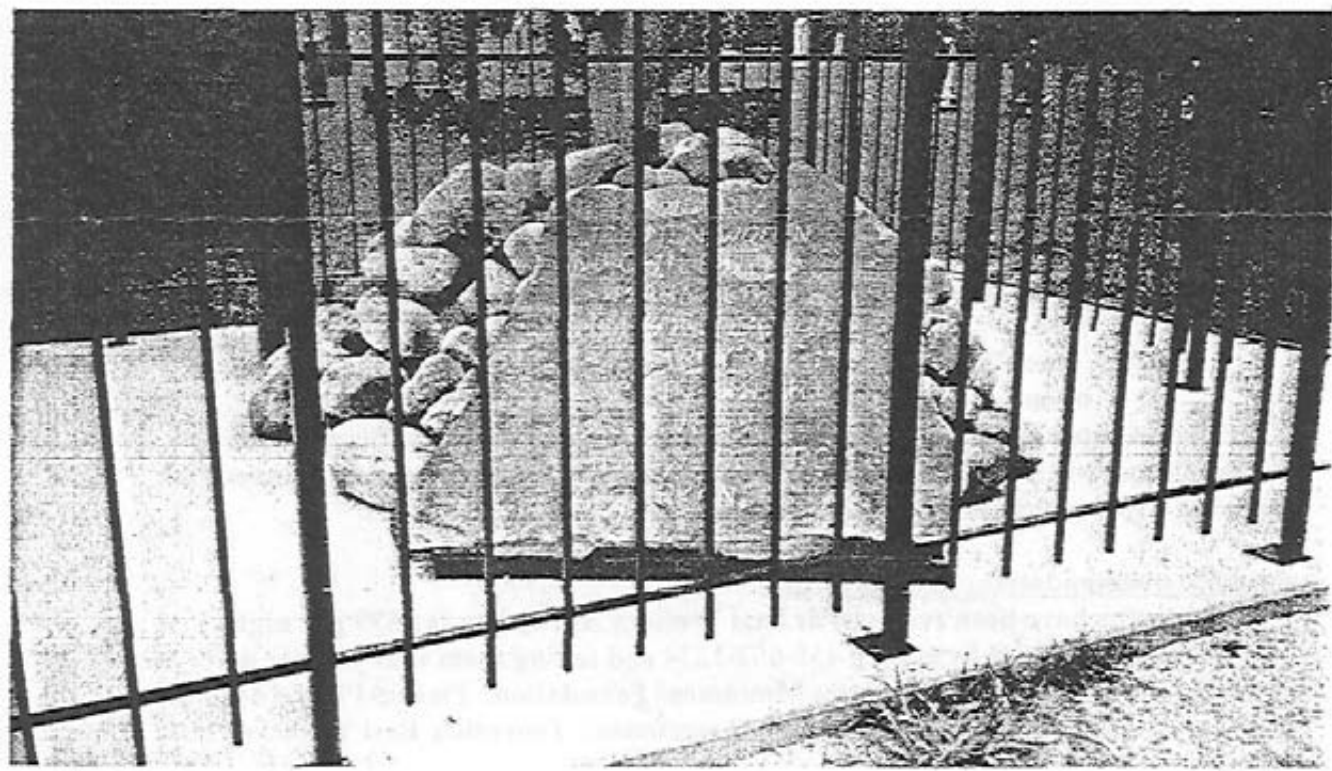
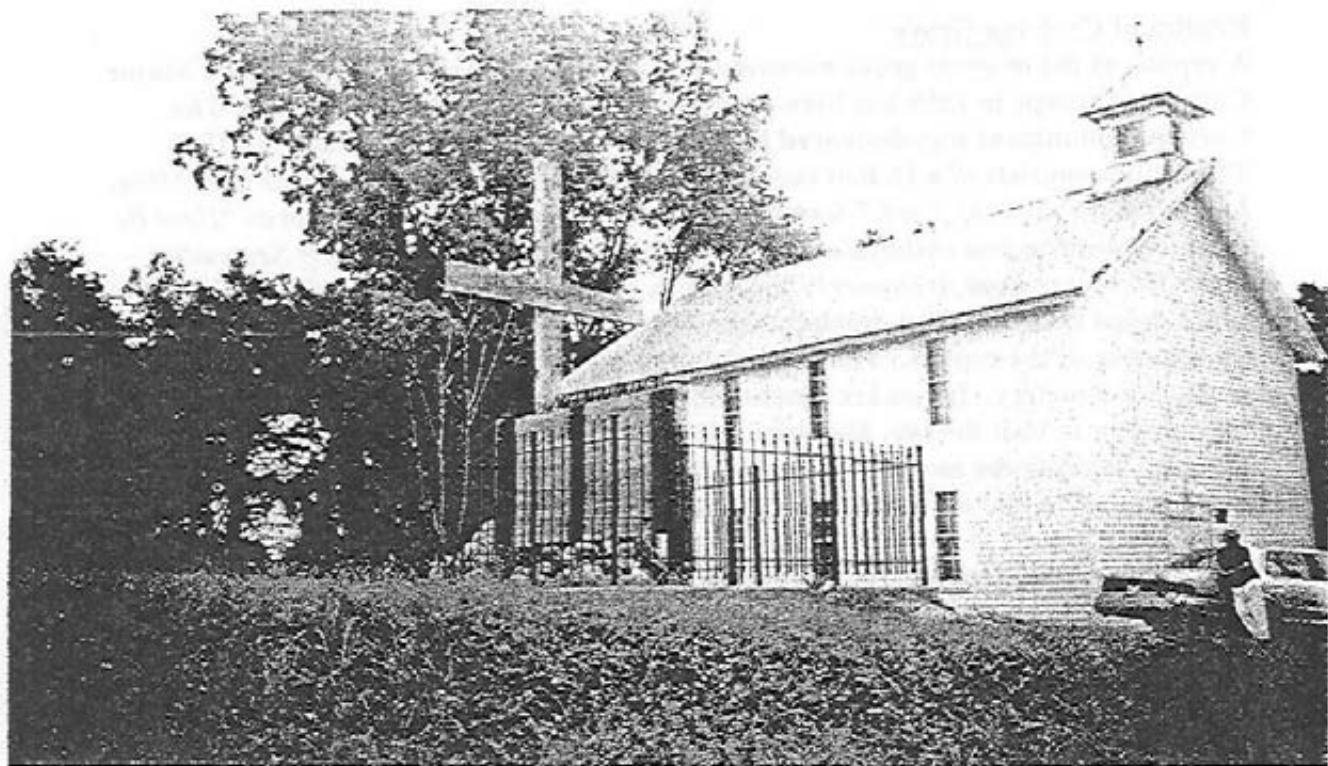
Materials have been provided to history teachers in Alpena, Berryville, Eureka Springs, Green Forest and Huntsville Schools. Teachers will use some of these materials for teaching a unit on Mountain Meadows. Larry Fry of Green Forest is the local coordinator for this project.

### Interpretative Center

The Foundation has begun to pull together materials for an interpretative site at Carrollton. An interpretative sign will explain the significance of the replica to tourists who travel Highway 412. The replica will be 2/3 scale of the Carleton grave that Brigham Young ordered destroyed in 1861. This replica will give Arkansas relatives a connection with the wagon train victims without traveling to Utah. Project now completed: see below and separate photo's



# Carrollton Lodge and Mountain Meadows Replica Site



### Replica of Carleton Grave

A replica of the original grave monument at Mountain Meadows as placed by Major Carleton's troops in 1859 has been erected at Old Yell Lodge in Carrollton. The Carleton monument was destroyed by Brigham Young and his followers in 1861. The replica consists of a 16 foot cedar cross with the inscription "*Vengeance is Mine, I Will Repay, Saith the Lord.*" A sandstone rock is engraved with the words "*Here lie 120 men, women, and children who were murdered in cold blood in early September 1857. They were from Arkansas.*" The replica is situated on a cement slab and surrounded by a beautiful, wrought iron fence. A 4' x 8' interpretative sign explains the purpose of the replica. This monument is located between the lodge and the adjoining cemetery. If you are passing through Carrollton on Highway 412, take a few minutes to visit the site. Historical marker signs have been placed along the highway to bring the monument to the attention of motorists. Our newsletter editor has promised to include a photo of the finished monument.

### Dedication of the Replica of the Carleton Monument

A formal dedication of the replica will take place at the Old Yell Lodge in Carrollton on September 25, 2005. That date is the 146 anniversary of the return of 15 of the surviving children of the massacre. They were reunited with their loving relatives in the Carrollton Square after spending the night in the old Masonic lodge. The dedication ceremonies will commence at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 25. Please mark your calendar and join us on that date.

### Annual Meeting in St. George

Our gathering at St. George is rapidly approaching. We will congregate at the Abbey Inn Motel (Burr's room) on the evening (6-10) of September 9 for snacks and stuff. The remaining agenda will be:

Saturday morning - visits to historical sites in region. Maps provided.

Saturday afternoon - MMMF Board meeting at 2:00 p.m. Full membership meeting 3-4 p.m.

Saturday evening - Dinner at 6:00. Keynote Speaker at 7:00. Auction at 7:30.

Sunday morning - Local tours of places of historical interest. Adjourn at noon.

Our keynote speaker will be Forest Cuch, Executive Director of Indian Affairs in Utah. Forest will provide MMMF members with the Native American perspective on what happened at Mountain Meadows.

### Motel Accommodations at St. George

Sixteen rooms have been reserved at Best Western Abbey Inn for \$79 per night. These can be reserved by calling 435-652-1234 and telling them that you are a member of the Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation. Please! Please! Do not confuse us with the Mountain Meadows Association. Two other Best Western



motels are located in St. George. The Best Western Travel Inn at 435-673-3541 and Best Western Coral Hills at 435-673-4844 have a combined total of 128 rooms. There are many other motels in the St. George area.

### Information Packets

I will contact the St. George Chamber of Commerce and ask for tourist information and maps of the area. When you make a decision to attend the St. George meeting, ask me for a packet and I will forward one to you. There are many interesting features in the St. George area for you to see. We hope you can attend.

### Auction

Do not forget! Bring or send items to St. George for our annual auction. This event is the source of our project funds for library updates, cemetery marking, Carrollton lodge restoration, and interpretative site development. If you cannot come to St. George, send auction items by someone who will be attending the September meeting. For sending items to auction, contact me at 541-926-3125 and I will put you in touch with a courier. Auctioneers Phil Bolinger and Danny Dotson will assure that your contribution brings top dollar and amuse the buyers at the same time.

### Nominations for Board Positions

Robert Paul Wilson's term as an MMMF board member expires at the end of this year. Have your nominations ready. Once nominated, a written ballot will be mailed to all members.

### President Position Open

Your current MMMF President is getting "long in the tooth" and needs to be replaced by some dynamic young person with bundles of energy. Since officer positions in MMMF are designated by Board members, all members should visit with their Board members in regard to future direction of the organization and who should lead in completion of our mission.

### Long-Range Plan

The MMMF has a highly specific plan for the future. Copies of this plan will be reviewed by the membership and updated to reflect at least five more years. It will serve as our roadmap for all future endeavors.

### Interpretative Center at Carrollton

We need to select material for display inside the lodge at Carrollton. That material will focus on the surviving children. Materials will be brought to St. George for the meeting. Anyone interested in helping with selections is welcome. We hope to have materials of educational value to local students and historical groups. Inner space limits wall displays but some materials might be stored and displayed whenever visiting groups tour the site.

## Reports

Members will be updated on our financial status, cemetery marking, library updates, Arkansas History project, interpretative center, membership, communication, etc. Larry Fry, Phil Bolinger, Harley Fancher, Jim Fletcher, Burr Fancher, and Bill Hatch will be prepared to give oral reports. In case they cannot attend, they will be asked to submit a written progress report on their respective areas of involvement.

## New Books Related to Mountain Meadows

Our newsletter editor, Dr. Bill Hatch, has a new massacre-related book hot off the press. The title is *"When Push Came to Shove: Mormon Martyrs in an Unrelenting Bible Belt, 1831-1923."*

Will Bagley is working on another blockbuster book *"Innocent Blood."* He shared his manuscript with me and, as usual, I am highly impressed with Will's research. Will's book will probably come out later this year.

I am finishing up a book on Piney Alex Fancher's life. The title keeps changing but will probably settle on *PINEY ALEX: Adventurer, Drover, Wagon Master and Victim of the Mountain Meadows Massacre.* I don't know when my book will be printed. First, I must clean up the tone of the last chapter. I tend to become overly passionate about the legacy of Mountain Meadows and must be careful not to overreach.

Larry McMurty of Lonesome Dove fame is coming out with a book on massacres which includes Mountain Meadows.

The LDS Church historians are writing a book on the massacre. Supposedly, the writers have had access to secret church documents. It will be interesting to see their product.

**SEE YOU IN ST. GEORGE ON SEPTEMBER 9-10!**





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## NEW TITLE INFORMATION

### When Push Came to Shove: Mormon Martyrs in an Unrelenting Bible Belt, 1831 - 1923

Inkwater Press is pleased to announce the publication of two new editions of *Mormons in the Southern States: A Century of Religious Bigotry, Murder and Civil Mayhem, 1831 - 1923*. The new, updated work is now re-titled, *When Push Came to Shove: Mormon Martyrs in an Unrelenting Bible Belt, 1831-1923*. Available in both paperback and hardback at \$24.95 and \$38.95 respectively, these editions are available through local and online booksellers and directly to readers at [www.inkwaterbooks.com](http://www.inkwaterbooks.com). The old edition is now out of print.

Author William Whitridge Hatch broaches the subject of Mormon persecution throughout the South during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This brutality was in retaliation for the little-known Mountain Meadows Massacre in the Utah Territory in 1857, and the church's open admission of practicing polygyny in defiance of national law.

Considered an expert in this field, Dr. Hatch's study is based on solid research and well-documented scholarship. He offers no judgment on the events that occurred or of history's evaluation up to this point. However, with the advantage of increased scrutiny directed to this study, the implications surrounding the Mormon participation in this massacre and the tragic fallout are brought to light.

In true scholarly fashion, much of the book is dedicated to appendices and footnotes, an extensive bibliography and index. Scattered throughout the book are contemporary photos of the landscape under discussion and Dr. Hatch's last chapter presents an insightful summary of the basic issues.

This important addition to the library of Mormon literature is highly relevant in that it presents a non-biased and historical rendering of the events of the past and invites readers to re-examine their own understanding of some very basic religious issues.

### When Push Came to Shove: Mormon Martyrs in an Unrelenting Bible Belt, 1831-1923

Hardback, ISBN 1-59299-124-6, \$38.95

Paperback, ISBN 1-59299-114-9, \$24.95

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Inkwater Press, a division of First Books®

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## THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE

IN EARLY 1857, A LARGE WAGON TRAIN, KNOWN AS THE FANCHER - BAKER TRAIN, LEFT CARAVAN SPRING (SOUTH OF HARRISON) AND HEADED FOR CALIFORNIA. THEY CAMPED AT THIS SITE ENROUTE TO INTERCEPT THE CHEROKEE TRAIL AT THE GRAND SALINE IN INDIAN TERRITORY. MONTHS LATER, THE WAGON TRAIN CAME UNDER SIEGE BY THE MORMONS AND INDIANS IN SOUTHWEST UTAH AT A PLACE CALLED MOUNTAIN MEADOWS. ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1857 THE MORMONS BRUTALLY MURDERED 121 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, AFTER ASSURING THEIR PROTECTION. ONLY 17 SMALL CHILDREN WERE SPARED FROM THE MASSACRE.

THE DEAD WERE LEFT EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS UNTIL 18 MONTHS LATER, WHEN U.S. ARMY TROOPS LED BY MAJOR JAMES H. CARLETON BURIED THE REMAINS IN SEVERAL MASS GRAVES. A CROSS AND STONE WERE PLACED OVER ONE SUCH GRAVESITE CONTAINING 34 OF THE VICTIMS. THIS IS A SCALED REPLICA OF CARLETON'S ORIGINAL CAIRN.

THE SURVIVING CHILDREN WERE BROUGHT BACK TO ARKANSAS AND SPENT THEIR FIRST NIGHT AT THE SITE OF THE OLD YELL LODGE., JUST UP THE HILL FROM THIS SIGN. ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1859, THE ORPHANED CHILDREN WERE REUNITED WITH RELATIVES IN THE CARROLLTON TOWN SQUARE. ABOUT 200 YARDS SOUTH ACROSS HIGHWAY 412.

IN 1861, BRIGHAM YOUNG AND HIS ENTOURAGE VISITED THE UTAH GRAVESITE. HE READ THE WORDS ON THE CROSS AND SAID, "VENGEANCE IS MINE AND I HAVE TAKEN A LITTLE." THEN YOUNG RAISED HIS ARM IN THE DANITE SIGNAL OF THE SQUARE AND WITHIN MINUTES HIS FOLLOWERS COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE MONUMENT. PRESENTLY, THE LDS CHURCH OWNS THE GRAVE AT MOUNTAIN MEADOWS IN UTAH. THEY CONTROL THE INTERPRETATION OF THE MASSACRE. THIS REPLICA OF THE ORIGINAL GRAVE MARKER ALLOWS ARKANSAS RELATIVES TO MEMORIALIZE THE VICTIMS AND INTERPRET THE MASSACRE IN THEIR HOME STATE.

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