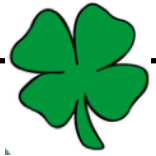


MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN

Thur, March 16th
7:00 PM MDT

WHAT

“Monuments to the
Mormon Battalion”

LINK

[https://
www.gotomeet.me/
LauraKayAnderson](https://www.gotomeet.me/LauraKayAnderson)

Dial in: 224.501.3412
Code: 498-830-885

PRESENTER

Cary Skidmore

WHO

Mormon Battalion
Association members,
guests and those
interested

President's Message

Greg Christofferson



Dear MBA Members,

As we're going through a cold, snowy winter in Utah (not complaining, we need the moisture), I can't help but think of the Battalion members who suffered from the heat in the Anza Borrego Desert in January, 1847. As Daniel Tyler said in his journal, "The Indians call the region 'the hot land' - a name that strikes the writer as being quite appropriate, as it is by far the hottest region he ever saw..." I guess shoveling snow is preferable to sweltering heat!

Let me update you on the progress of the two projects I described in the January Newsletter. The Mormon Battalion National Historic Trail Designation Committee is fully formed, with Mike Bilbo as Chair. Mike has spent his career at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), bringing an important skill set to the goal of achieving National Historic Trail recognition.

I renew my request that if any of you have a relationship with a Congressperson in Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona or California, please contact me at gregmobatt@gmail.com, or 714-318-6644.

I had promised in my last message to give you more information



about our second project — the refurbishment of the Mormon Battalion Monument in New Mexico (see photos). This



monument is directly off I-25 on the Budagher's exit, north of Albuquerque.

Continued on page 2

Mormon Battalion Association Resources

Website

<https://www.mormonbattalion.com/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?>

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFJ4A>

Email

mobattoffice@gmail.com

Meeting Link

<https://www.gotomeet.me/LauraKayAnderson>

Newsletter

dantzelle@gmail.com

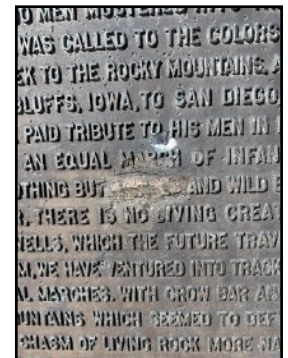
Continued from page 1

The brass plaque on the monument shows three bullet holes and the word “savages” has been chiseled out. It is our intention to replace the plaque with basically the same language as the original, minus the “savages” phrase. The landscaping around the monument is in need of upgrading and maintenance. The parking lot and sidewalk are also in need of repair/resurfacing. We also would like to add all-weather storyboards at the site to tell the story of the women of the Battalion, and the interactions with Native Americans and Hispanics.

A working group has been formed to rehabilitate the monument, including Laura Anderson, Ron Kirkpatrick and myself from MBA, and representatives from the Church



History Department, Office of the Presiding Bishopric, Sons of the Utah Pioneers, and the LDS Area Presidency overseeing New



Mexico. While the New Mexico DOT is pleased we are doing something, they don't claim any ownership, so it's up to the interested parties to do the repairs, additions and maintenance.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MEETING

Thu March 16th
7:00 pm Mountain Time

General Membership Meeting Monuments to the Mormon Battalion



MEET OUR PRESENTER: Cary Skidmore “Monuments to the Mormon Battalion”



Cary and his wife, Wendy, were reared in separate Kansas towns. They met at Kansas State University, married in the Salt Lake Temple, and upon graduation moved to New Mexico where they reared their five children and Cary worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory. After his retirement, they were delighted by an opportunity to serve as senior missionaries assigned to the Mormon Battalion Historic Site at San Diego (2020 – 2022). They enjoyed discovering the many monuments and markers (some very old and some very new) that commemorate the journey of the Mormon Battalion from Iowa, along the route of the march, and back to Salt Lake City. Cary and Wendy now live near Madison, Indiana and have 17 grandchildren. Cary’s 3rd great-grandfather, Albert Knapp, was a private in Company E who made it to San Diego. Two decades later his daughter married William Lobark Skidmore, Cary’s first Skidmore ancestor to join the Church.

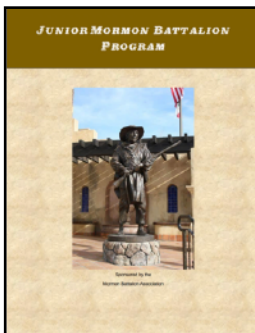
Give

The Mormon Battalion Association has established an endowment fund to provide a source of long term funding for the operation and projects of the Association. We received a generous contribution that was designated to be a matching donation. So far the fund has received \$3,600 in matching funds. Our goal for a full match is one hundred thousand dollars. Following the example of the Mormon Battalion of 1846-1847, we are steadfastly matching towards our goal. The Mormon Battalion Association is a 501(c)3 charitable organization recognized by the IRS. Donations, depending on your personal situation, are tax deductible.

Donations to this fund can be made to the Mormon Battalion Association, c/o Ronald P Kirkpatrick, 8610 President Place NE Albuquerque, NM 87113 Donations can also be made on our website.

ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY AND YOUTH

Want to teach your family or a group of primary age children about the Mormon Battalion? Go to our website at mormonbattalion.com. Click on "Activities for Family and Youth" and open the pdf that says MB Jr Ranger Book. Developed by one of our board members, Denny Hoeh, this contains a brief history of the Battalion and several fun activities for kids such as a bull maze and a crossword puzzle. There is also a certificate in a pdf format you can print and give to those who completed the requirements. This link also contains a pdf file for the Trails Award for older youth and adults.



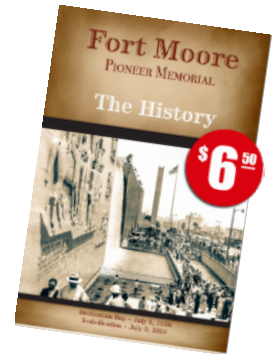
General Membership meeting presentations on YouTube

The MBA has tried to record and post our general membership meeting presentations on YouTube so they could be watched later. Unfortunately, we had a few glitches on some of the more recent recordings.



The recording for the September presentation on the Fort Moore monument will be uploaded soon.

The presenter, Marilyn Mills noted we could purchase her booklet for \$6.50 by going to fortmoore.org. We have a variety of presentation topics including Jesse Little, enlistment, Fort Leavenworth, clothing, equipment, debunking the Dr. Death myth, detachments, Pueblo, July 2022 symposium, and a number of women's stories. These are often shared on our Facebook page so you can share easily. Watch for info about upcoming presentations in March and May for general membership meetings.



Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/@themormonbattalionassociat5568/videos>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thu Mar 16	General Membership Meeting	7:00 PM MDT
Sat Mar 18	Ft. Lowell 150th Anniversary	(Tucson, AZ)*
Thu May 18	General Membership Meeting	7:00 PM MDT
July	NO General Meeting	
Thu Sep 21	General Membership Meeting	7:00 PM MDT
Thu Nov 16	General Membership Meeting	7:00 PM MST

* more information found in this newsletter



The Mormon Military Experience

1838 to the Cold War

Sherman L. Fleek and Robert C. Freeman

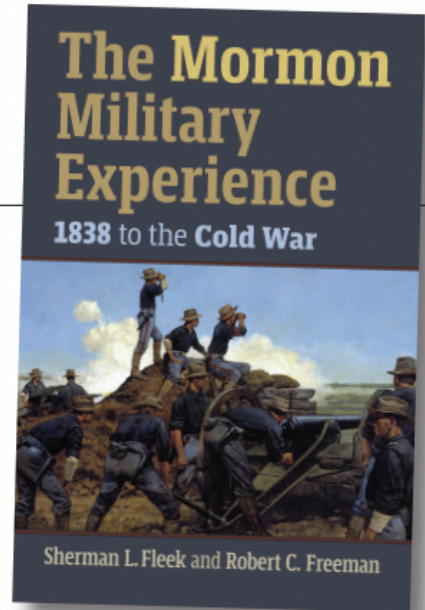
“We overuse the terms *unique* and *overdue*, but this study of the Mormon military experience is truly both. Fleek and Freeman bring to the fore a fascinating and intricate history of the often-troubling and always-complicated involvement of Mormonism with the force of arms, from the LDS Church literally operating its own army for many decades in the nineteenth century to becoming an ardent advocate and supporter of the armed forces of the United States in the twentieth. Their work ranges effectively from the stories of individual Mormons in uniform to analyses of the institution’s interface with military affairs, events, and issues.”

GENE A. SESSIONS, COAUTHOR OF *CAMP FLOYD AND THE MORMONS: THE UTAH WAR*

JUNE
368 pages, 13 photographs, 3 maps, 3 figures, 1 table, 6 x 9
Studies in Civil-Military Relations
Cloth ISBN 978-0-7006-3432-3, \$44.95(s)
Ebook ISBN 978-0-7006-3433-0, \$44.95

The Mormon military experience is unique in American history. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is the only denomination to field military units for its own support and purpose rather than national interests, an effort which began in Missouri in 1838 and lasted through the Spanish American War of 1898. From World War I onward, however, the military exceptionalism of the LDS Church faded and Mormon soldiers came to serve national interests as loyal citizens alongside their fellow Americans. *The Mormon Military Experience: 1838 to the Cold War* is the first book to present a historical overview of the Mormon military experience. Sherman Fleek and Robert Freeman tell this unique story of how the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has experienced war and military service and of their teachings concerning participation in armed conflict.

The LDS Church’s distinct relationship between religious life and military service is rooted in its adherence to the Book of Mormon and its unique doctrine based in ancient and then-modern revelations from church leaders. Religious and military exceptionalism went hand in hand during the nineteenth century, when LDS Church leaders dictated when and how members would serve in armed conflict. Mormon militiamen were often more loyal to church interests and the guidance of LDS leaders than they were to government policy, from the mustering of the Mormon Battalion during the Mexican War to orchestrating the armed effort



during the Utah War of 1857–1858 to serving as Civil War volunteers in the West. Similarly, they followed Church leaders’ teachings not to serve in the Civil War’s bloody campaigns in the East.

While LDS leaders adapted church practices and policies to support national objectives at times, there were also occasions when Mormon militia units defied state and federal military forces, sometimes to the point of open combat. No other American denomination has done this. This is a story about changing loyalties: as the LDS Church transformed from a personalist religious movement on the edge of society to a mainstay of American religious and political life, Mormons have moved from battling the US military to serving with distinction within it.

Lt. Col. Sherman L. Fleek, US Army (ret.) is the command historian at the US Military Academy at West Point.

Robert C. Freeman is professor of Church History and Doctrine at BYU.

The Mormon Military Experience

1838 to the Cold War
Sherman L. Fleek and Robert C. Freeman

Qty	Title	Price
	<i>The Mormon Military Experience at \$44.95 each (cloth)</i>	
	Postage and handling* \$	
	Subtotal \$	
	Kansas residents add sales tax \$	
	Total \$	

* \$6.00 for first book, \$1.25 for each additional book
For orders outside the U.S. add \$9.50 for the first book
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Mormon Battalion Activities (Tucson) Randy Madsen

Ft. Lowell 150th Anniversary Celebration Mar 18, 2023

Ft. Lowell was the main Army cavalry staging base in Tucson during the 1870's-1890's. Anticipating large community participation, including Baffle Soldiers, performing cavalry unit from Fort Huachuca among others. Mormon Battalion has been invited to bring historical perspective for the Mexican War era.



ENDOWMENT FUND



HIKE THE HILL Laura Anderson

Hello, this is Laura Anderson from Washington DC. I have just been to Hike the Hill. This conference is sponsored by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for the National Trails System every year and the Hill to be hiked is the Capital Hill.

I was confirmed to be part of meetings with: Bureau of Land Management Leadership Meeting with Director Tracy Stone-Manning USDA Forest Service Leadership with Chief Randy Moore National Park Service Leadership, including Director Charles F Sams.

On Tuesday, Feb 14 I was asked by the partnership to speak to the subject of the Mormon Trail a National Historic Trail (Not Mormon Battalion Trail) - especially about the economic benefit that the State of Wyoming gains for having the Mormon Trail and other national trails in their state at the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Majority and Minority Staff where I was given 3 minutes to speak. I said the following:

“I had ancestors who traveled the Mormon trail in 1847,48,50,53,55,56,57,60,62 ,63,and 69. My Mortensen family who were in the 1856 migration were in the ill-fated Willie Handcart company & helped dig a common grave for 13 who died from exposure. For me, being on the trail is about remembering, you might say it is a pilgrimage. When I return I have a fresh look at what hardships really are!

The Oregon California Trails association is taking the lead in preserving the Northern and Southern trail corridors. In that effort they had a conference and a mapping seminar attended by over 200 trail enthusiasts. That one conference brought an estimated \$200,000.00 in one week to the Casper economy. .

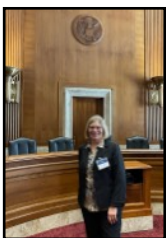
In the five years pre covid, an average of 40,000 people visited the Mormon sites along the trail in Wyoming. Each person equates to tourism dollar.

At the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, in 2022 they reported 38,000 visitors. That is about \$4 million dollar addition to Wyoming’s economy. This kind of economic benefit is repeated for every state along the trails system!

Heritage societies for the Mormon trail, aided by National Parks Service employees, have been instrumental in identifying & preserving the trail. These volunteers are aging. We need to capture their knowledge. Doing that and filling so many other needs take funding!

I would appreciate your support as well when we ask for a study of the Mormon Battalion trail. This trail was studied and turned down in 1975 as there was no Historic trails act at that time. It has never been restudied under the new criteria. In turning it down the report said it gets up to 110 in the summer. It can’t be used for recreation. Tell that to today’s Snowbirds who winter there.

The Mormon Battalion trail has Wyoming Connections as a detachment of 137 men and some wives and children went from Pueblo Colorado via Wyoming to SLC. Also, General Kearney when returning Fremont from California to the east for Court Martial had an escort of 14 Battalion members who came through along this trail corridor. Thank you! “



That was my 3 minutes. At the end of the hour the staffer said that as an Arizona Native, he got my feelings about the trail that it is not just a trail that it is a part of our history in the West. Do you like the way I tied our trail into Wyoming?

Stay tuned for some further information as my husband Craig and I are spending 6 days researching at the National Archives. We have done three days already and I will tell you what we have located in our next bi monthly Newsletter.

Activity #3

Help the battalion find their way through the bull's head without any injuries or wrong turns.

