

# MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION

“...will be held in honorable remembrance...”

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**When:** Thu, Nov. 17th  
7:00 pm

**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624>

**Meeting ID:**  
243-089-2624  
For help text 209-318-9024

**Who:** Mormon  
Battalion Association  
members, guests and  
those interested.

**Presentation:**  
“The Ship Brooklyn”

**Presenter:**  
Rebecca Ellefsen



## MESSAGE FROM MBA PRESIDENT

While the warm memories still linger of the incredible 175th Mormon Battalion Anniversary year—I’ve added a photo from the Battalion Symphony Concert that I forgot to send our editor to include in the last newsletter—but now it’s time to look ahead! [see page 2]

The Executive Staff met in Orem, Utah on October 19 for an in-person, all-day planning meeting. The theme of our retreat was, “What’s Next?” We enjoyed wonderful camaraderie as we shared ideas for our next goals, plans and events for the MBA. One of our principal objectives will be to grow our Association from the 234 members we currently have. 500 members isn’t out of reach. To achieve that goal, we need each of you to promote the Mormon Battalion Association to your friends and family. Have them view our webpage and YouTube channel so they can see the scope of our activities and invite them to join!

Great things continue to be accomplished by our great research team! More information is in their column.

The biggest news from the Staff meeting was an incredibly generous donation by Craig and Laura Anderson of \$100,000 to the Association, to be used as the initial funds for the creation of an Endowment! Laura is the glue that, in many ways, holds our Association together, and Craig is our strongest supporter. Not enough can be said for their far-sighted generosity.

It is our goal to match the Anderson’s Endowment gift. I have written my check, and I invite all of you to think about what the Mormon Battalion Association means to you, and contribute accordingly. Be assured that the funds from the Endowment earnings will be used for the highest and best purposes of the Association. If you have any questions about how to make your tax free donation, please email or call our Treasurer, Ron Kirkpatrick at [rpkirkp@aol.com](mailto:rpkirkp@aol.com), (505) 331-7118.

I wish you all the happiest of Holiday Seasons!

**Greg Christofferson**  
**President**





## Mormon Battalion Association Resources

### Website

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

### Facebook

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

### Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFBj4A>

### Email

mobattooffice@gmail.com

### November Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624>

### Newsletter

dantzelle@gmail.com



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **October 22nd (Sat) Maricopa History Museum dedication**, 9:00 a.m. (See details on page 4)
- \* **November 11th (Thu) Veterans Day Parade at Folsom, CA** (near Mormon Island), 9:00 AM on East Bidwell Street. Marchers will be representing the Mormon Battalion and women and children of "The Ship Brooklyn".
- \* **November 17th (Thu) MBA general membership meeting** will be held on the usual 3rd Thursday, November 17th @ 7:00 PM via internet. This annual business meeting will include elections prior to the presentation. Only members of the Mormon Battalion Association may vote. At least 25 official members need to be in attendance at the on-line meeting to conduct business. To join the MBA go to MBA website. The following have been nominated to fill three vacancies on the board of directors: **Mike Bilbo, Mark Hunter and Terry Rosvall.**
- \* **November 17-19 (Thu-Sat) Tucson Mormon Battalion Monument Foundation Encampment** at the American Heritage Festival, San Tan Valley, AZ. (See details on page 3)
- \* **January 14th, 2023 (Sat) Yuma Commemoration.** Program & lunch at 11:00 AM. West Wetlands Park.

**FOR SALE**



**A Symphonic Saga  
CD  
\$24.99**



**Anniversary  
Pin**



**4 Anniversary  
Coasters**

*Mormon Battalion  
c/o Tom Griggs  
495 Holbrook Dr.  
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-4168*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kevin R. Henson                      Chair  
Blaine L. Bachman  
John A. Bascom  
Jerome G. Gourley  
Peter D. Guilbert  
L. Denny Hoeh  
Randall D. Madsen  
Kevin C. Nielson  
Gary L. Smith

## EXECUTIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF:

Greg Christofferson    President  
Brad Allen                      Vice-Pres.  
Laura Anderson            Exec. Dir.  
Thomas Griggs              Exec. Dir.  
Mary Ann Kirk              Secretary  
Ronald P. Kirkpatrick    Treasurer  
Richard Harden            Membership  
David Day                      Legal Advisor



The MBA has worked hard to identify all the members of the Mormon Battalion. The birth and death dates of most Battalion members have now been determined. The MBA is now looking to write the histories, with documentation of each Battalion member. The women of the Battalion have been completed.

The MBA needs **your** help! They need...

1. Help in documenting the history of your Battalion ancestor or other Battalion members. If interested, contact Mary Ann Kirk, [mary\\_ann\\_kirk@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_ann_kirk@hotmail.com)
2. Able writers to help in writing a life sketch with primary sources of each Battalion member. If interested, contact Mary Ann Kirk, [mary\\_ann\\_kirk@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_ann_kirk@hotmail.com)
3. Transcribing records specific to the Mormon Battalion. If interested, contact Laura Anderson [paffanatic10@yahoo.com](mailto:paffanatic10@yahoo.com)

To help transcribe, go to Kindex at <https://mormonbattalion.kindex.org/gather> and request access. Once you have received an email granting you access, you will receive a training powerpoint. For additional help, contact Laura Anderson at 801-898-9085.

## Rebecca Ellefsen General Meeting Presenter - November 19th “The Ship Brooklyn”

Rebecca Ellefsen is a Professional Researcher and Genealogist and is best known for her Pioneer History Tours in San Francisco over the last 30 years.



Born and raised in the Bay Area, Rebecca is a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Californian. With a mother known for being a radio personality and prolific speaker, Rebecca has learned from the best how to reach out to listeners. She has had various speaking engagements throughout California.

An Alum of Brigham Young University with a focus on Bay Area History.

Rebecca has served three missions for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including working with familysearch.org, and currently serving in the California Living History Mission.

Currently, Rebecca is worked with private and public entities to uncover details, document, and educate about early Bay Area Pioneers.

She has written a variety of articles on historical topics for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints and other publications.

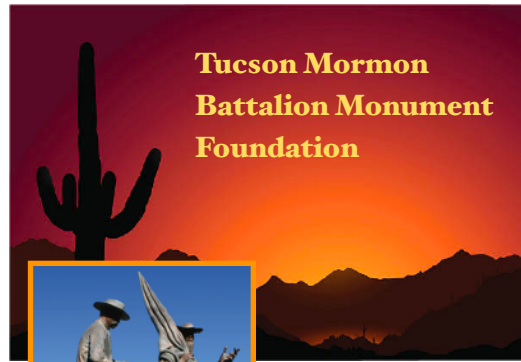
Rebecca’s greatest love is her family. Married to Danny Ellefsen for over 41 years, they raised four daughters who have since married and added 17 grandchildren to their family.



**THANK YOU**



**Laura & Craig Anderson  
for your significant  
contribution to the Mormon  
Battalion Association.**

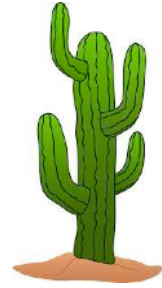


The **Tucson Mormon Battalion Monument Foundation** will be participating in the following events in Nov and Dec 2022:

◆ **American Heritage Festival** in San Tan Valley, AZ. Nov. 17-19. We will have our Battalion encampment representing the Mexican War era. Other encampments and hands-on activity displays cover American history from colonial times through Civil War, WW1, WW2 and modern Army displays. Battle skirmish between British Redcoats and Colonial soldiers is staged in the morning and a similar skirmish between Confederates and Union soldiers is in the afternoon. Around 3,000 school students are expected to attend on Thursday and Friday. Saturday is open to the public. Contact Randy Madsen, [rmadsen23@gmail.com](mailto:rmadsen23@gmail.com) for registration to participate as a docent at the encampment each or any day. <https://wemakehistory.com/american-heritage-festival>

◆ **Battle of the Bulls Hike**, San Pedro River between Tombstone and Sierra Vista, AZ. Saturday, Dec 10. Annual hike covers about 5 miles along the San Pedro River where the Battle of the Bulls occurred. Go on foot or bring your own horse to ride on the trail. Contact David Barnhill, for details [azdzrtfox@hotmail.com](mailto:azdzrtfox@hotmail.com)



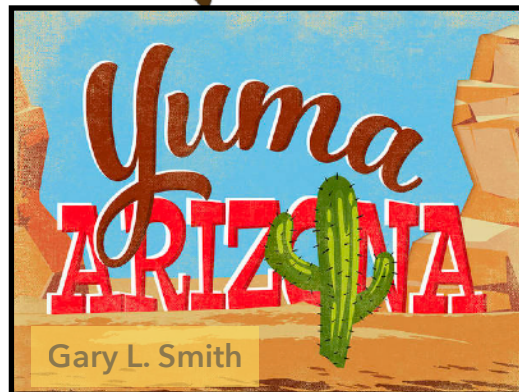
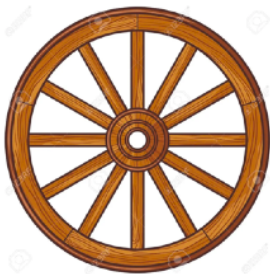


The **Maricopa History Museum** building has been remodeled. A ribbon cutting and grand opening will occur on October 22nd conducted by the Mayor of Maricopa, Nancy Smith and the President of the Maricopa Historical Society, Paul Shirk.

Included in the newly remodeled museum will be an exhibit on the Mormon Battalion. The Battalion marched right through what would become the City of Maricopa in December 1846. The museum will also have a Junior Historian program and badge, which will mention the Battalion in one of the activities.

The museum is designed to help the general public learn about the history of the Maricopa area. This will include the Mormon Battalion helping to establish the Gila River trail that would later be used by gold rush Argonauts, pioneers, and stagecoach mail lines. I have found that many people in our area have not heard of the Mormon Battalion and the contribution it made to the history of Arizona.

For more information visit the Maricopa Historical Society's web site [MaricopaHistory.org](http://MaricopaHistory.org)



The US Army of the West Mormon Battalion, Yuma Arizona Contingent will hold its annual **US Army of the West Mormon Battalion Commemoration** oSaturday, January 14, 2023 at 11:00 am, with a complementary hamburger lunch.

Location: West Wetlands Park (approximate address is 2100 W Water St, Yuma, AZ)

For additional information. <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=22686>

## Nauvoo Community Project



The Mormon Battalion Association collaborates with several church related sites including the Nauvoo Community Project under the direction of Jill Crandell. Most of the Mormon Battalion members have been included on this website. Some have initial data entry, others have been researched in more detail and are labeled as "foundational" research completed but additional research is needed. It also has a link to Family Search. A number of primary sources are attached to each person including Mormon Battalion military documents. This website is found at <http://nauvoo.byu.edu/>. The MBA has been comparing their data set to ours and the former Overland Travel data base hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to spot inconsistencies and make corrections as needed. We want our data base and vital statistics to be as accurate as possible.



### **“The Sad Story of Tragedy Spring”**

*Read or listen to the full radio special here*

<https://kslnewsradio.com/1975939/the-sad-history-of-tragedy-spring/>

# facebook

Check out our Mormon Battalion Association (MBA) official Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069476179805>

Events are posted there along with several life sketches each week. This media platform helps share the story of the Mormon Battalion, a goal of the MBA. You are more likely to see more posts if you hit the "like"  button. Better yet, "sharing" posts with your family and friends will broaden the message of the Mormon Battalion Association to the general public. If five-ten people share a post, it expands the MBA Facebook reach to close to 1,000

# You Tube

Also, check out the MBA YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFBj4A>.

The channel currently has 27 videos available to view. There are a variety of educational videos ranging from 5 to 60 minutes in length from our bi-monthly on-line presentations and others created by the Utah Living History organization. Last year short video vignettes of women with the Battalion or those left behind were created. These can be shared with others.

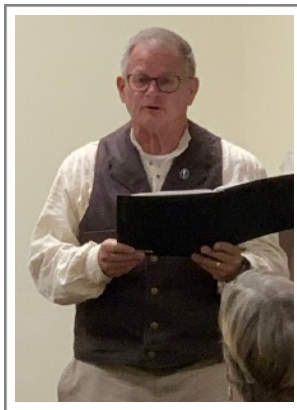




### Sharing the stories!

Staff from the Mormon Battalion Association presented several times this past year in St George. In May, Mary Ann Kirk shared a broad overview of the Mormon Battalion with a historical group. This was followed in September by a reader's theater for the St George DUP narrated by Mary Ann Kirk with storytellers Brad and Dantzelle Allen and Marilyn Adams in costume. This program included life sketches of several women with the battalion and others left behind in first person. A few stories were created specifically to share the stories of a few women who eventually made their way to southern Utah with Battalion veterans.

Also visits were made to the Cedar City and Leeds Cemetery where Battalion veterans are buried along with the Indian wife of soldier Francis Brown who died at Fort Johnson in 1857. These photos include a few examples (Orson Adams, John Brown, Magell Mancheeta Brown). Cemeteries can be a fun place to visit if you are familiar with Battalion names or bring a list along with you.







What a great experience to relive the past of the California Gold Rush during the days of October 7-9, 2022 at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, CA. Service missionaries, in period dress from the California Living History Mission, assisted in hosting thousands of school children and visitors during the three-day re-enactment event. Peter Guilbert, one of the MBA Board of Directors reported that approximately 2,500 school children and over 3,000 visitors participated in a number of early pioneer type activities, games, cannon firing, candle making, wagon rides, branding, log sawing, dutch oven cooking and a host of other booths and historical presentations.

On Saturday, October 8th Brad and Dantzelle Allen, former directors of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site in San Diego and members of MBA and Carl and Pat Witham, former senior missionary couple from the Mormon Battalion Historic Site visited Coloma, CA. Of special interest was seeing the almost completed new "Mormon Cabin" that has been constructed by members of the California Living History mission and financed through generous donations to the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation. The anticipated cabin dedication will be in November 2023. The original cabin was built in 1848 by six members of Mormon Battalion who were employed at Sutter's Mill and were present when gold was discovered.



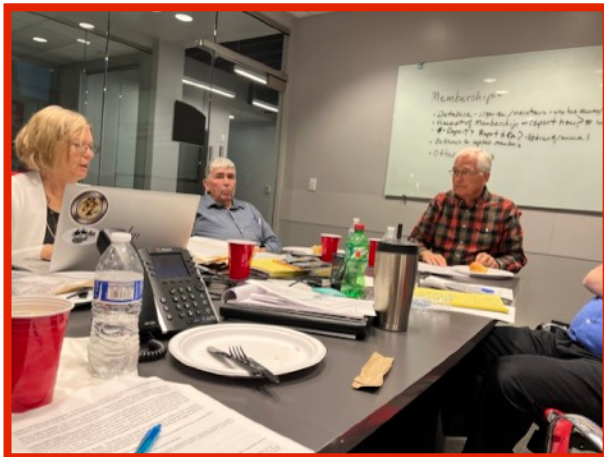


# Mormon Battalion Association Executive and Support Staff



The annual in-person  
**Mormon Battalion Association Executive and Support Staff Meeting**  
was held on Wed. October 19th in Orem, Utah at the KW Westfield office building.

*(L-R) Richard Harden (Membership Officer); Mary Ann Kirk (Secretary), Laura Anderson (Ex Dir); Craig Anderson (Governance Committee); Greg Christofferson (President); David Day (Legal Advisor); Tom Griggs (Ex Dir); Brad Allen (Vice President); Ron Kirkpatrick (Treasurer)*





## MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION

<https://www.mormonbattalion.com/become-a-member>

**Mission Statement:** The Mormon Battalion Association will preserve and celebrate the heritage of the Mormon Battalion.

**Vision Statement:** We will strive to honor the legacy of the Mormon

1. Scholarly research into the life histories of the Battalion members before, during and after their enlistment and including the women and children and others who accompanied them.
2. Outreach to Battalion descendants and all other interested persons.
3. Preservation of the Battalion Trail through coordinated efforts with local, state and federal agencies.
4. Participation in local and national seminars and conferences to promote knowledge of Battalion history.
5. The use of technology and other media platforms to engage the public with the Battalion story.
6. Networking with historical and genealogical organizations to celebrate and promote knowledge of Mormon Battalion history.
7. Participating in reenactments, parades, and other event-oriented activities to educate communities about the Mormon Battalion.

