



Message From The President



Dear Mormon Battalion Association Members,

Friday, July 23rd at 7:00 a.m. The opening event of the Days of 47' Celebration will kick off in The Assembly Hall on Temple Square. It is always a treat of music and the spoken word. Everyone is invited, we hope that you will schedule your friends and family to join you at this beautiful service. The posting of our nation's colors and the pledge of allegiance will be offered by your association's leadership. Come join us!

The Mormon Battalion Association will, again, lead the Days of 47' Parade with our horse-drawn wagon and riders. We will carry a new banner announcing the 175th-year anniversary of the enlistment of the original members of the Mormon Battalion. A youth group from Yuma, Arizona is also registered to participate in the parade, representing the battalion as well. Directly behind the SLCPD lead car, the colors of our nation and state will be carried proudly by members of the MBA. Additional 175th Anniversary Events are listed in The Newsletter and your participation in any of them is warmly welcomed.

God bless you, the great State of Utah. and the United States of America!

God bless you.

Jerome Gourley, President

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next general membership meeting has been designated as the annual meeting of the association and is scheduled for July 15 at 7 pm (MDT). A link to the meeting will be sent out a few days before, but it is the same one we use on a regular basis. Besides the business of voting on bylaw revisions, Kevin Henson, our trail expert, will use his Map N Tour program to describe the events related to the enlistment experience at Council Bluffs. If you missed last month's presentation on Jesse C Little, you can find that on our YouTube Channel.

BYLAW REVISIONS

The Mormon Battalion Association Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are in the final stages of revision and will be voted on at the annual meeting. They have been distributed to members via email with a feedback request. Some of the key changes include:

- * Removal of military language for officers and association structure
- * Officers will be appointed by the Board, not elected by membership
- * Office of President will manage the affairs of the association and all executive staff
- * The executive staff will include President, Vice President, secretary, treasurer, and Executive director(s)
- * Simplification of wording by referring to Utah State Code rather than repeating language
- * Board will have power to amend future bylaw changes

UPCOMING EVENTS

A full list of events is posted on the Mormon Battalion Association Website. If you click on a specific day on the calendar, it will bring up additional detail.

We have reserved two virtual tours of the Mormon Battalion Visitor's Center in San Diego for members of our association and their families. You may choose between Friday, July 16 (the enlistment date) or Tuesday, July 21 (the day the battalion left for Fort Leavenworth). Both nights are at 7 pm (MDT). If you would like to join a virtual tour, please email mary_ann_kirk@hotmail.com and she will send you the link to join the tour. If you plan to share that link with other family members, please let her know how many.

August will be a busy month. Laura Anderson will be touring sites in Nauvoo on August 17 and trekking along the pioneer trail through Iowa on August 18, stopping at historic sites along the way. She invites others to join her. A symposium about the historic events 175 years ago from Nauvoo to Council Bluffs is scheduled for August 19-20 and will include some presentations about the Mormon Battalion. Local church celebrations and musical tributes are planned for August 21. There may be some virtual opportunities for presentations. On-line

registration will be coming. Be sure to check the Mormon Battalion Facebook page for details. Other events for the following week at Fort Leavenworth and Garden Grove are listed on the website.

CALL FOR EVENT PHOTOS

We would love to post photos at local events related to the 175th celebration so we can document the activities happening along the trail. If you are participating in or watching an event related to the Mormon Battalion 175th celebration, please send us photos with a description of the activity (location, date, and event title) and provide credit to the photographer. Email to mobattoffice@gmail.com. Then we will post it on Facebook and our new instagram account. We prefer group photos with no identification that can be tagged by the individuals themselves unless we have written permission from individuals to list names.

MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

We hope you will share the membership form with this newsletter with family and friends or share the Facebook post with instructions on where to send it to. Your membership fees help provide the financial foundation to help us continue with research, basic office supplies, and event expenses. If you already have a membership, consider making a donation.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media efforts are off and running with a variety of Facebook posts and the beginning of YouTube videos. We encourage everyone to like the “page” (Mormon Battalion Association) at the top right hand so you receive the posts on your news feed as much as possible. Be aware that Facebook does not automatically send out all posts to every person who likes the page. In fact, fewer than half actually see the posts. The more you interact with the page, the more posts you will see. So like the posts, comment if you want, but most importantly, share the posts with your family and friends. This broadens our reach significantly and allows others to join in the fun. Over the past month, our posts have reached nearly 3000 people. Let’s continue to increase that number!

GET INVOLVED!

Most of our current leadership has minimal technology skills. If you or someone you know has social media skills and would be willing to help us at times, consider volunteering. We are especially in need of website development and management experience. Retired with these skills? We could use your help! Other needs include board members to fill a few vacancies (meet 4 times a year), secretarial work to help manage our membership list/contact info, transcription of primary documents, and researching individual battalion members where info is lacking. Let us help find an assignment that fits your availability and interest. Many hands make light work! We would love to have you on our team. Email mobattoffice@gmail.com.

COMMUNITIES AND SITE NAMED AFTER BATTALION EXPERIENCE

We are compiling a list of communities and sites named after the Mormon Battalion experience. If you know of more, please send us an email so we can add it to our list.

Slaterville, Utah (Richard Slater)
Hanksville, Utah (Ebenezer Hanks)
Huntsville, Utah (Jefferson Hunt)
Davis County, Utah (Captain Daniel Davis)

Draper, Utah (Draper family, Phoebe Draper Palmer Brown)
Melissa Coray Peak, CA (Melissa Coray)
Porterville, Utah (Sanford Porter)
Hyde Park, Utah (William Hyde)
Layton, Utah (Christopher Layton)
Hatch, Utah (Meltair Hatch)
Holden, Utah (Elijah Holden)
Payson, Utah, (James Pace)
Smithfield, Utah (John G Smith)
Adairville, AZ (Wesley Adair)
Bunkerville, NV (Edward Bunker)
Lamb's Canyon, UT (Lisbon Lamb)
Bingham Canyon, UT (Erastus and Thomas Bingham)
Mormon Island Dam/Cemetery, CA (named for WS Willis/Wilford Hudson gold discovery and former mining town)
Mormon Battalion Center at San Diego, CA
Allens Bay, Cass Lake, MN (Colonel Allen)

Other men who were involved with the Battalion.

Fort Kearny State Park, NE (General Kearny)

Kanesville, UT, Kanesville Tabernacle, IA (General Thomas Kane)

NEW DISCOVERY

During the past month, our researchers have focused on a man name Peter Fife. He is listed in Tyler's book in Company B but is not listed on any military roster including muster, clothing, equipment, or payrolls. Over time, his name was removed from subsequent lists in later publications. However, there are other documents that create some confusion. Someone submitted an application for 3 month extra pay in 1850 from Iowa with power of attorney, stating he was in Company C - not B as Tyler reported. Three months extra pay was typically given to soldiers for the cost to return to the place of the enlistment. The date and location of the application and witnesses that verify his service are the exact same as his nephew's, John Fife, bounty land application which was another benefit for veterans. It is uncertain who actually submitted the application for Peter Fife and why, but the application was denied with a note that his name did not appear on the rolls. In 1873, his obituary states he was in the battalion. Subsequently, family members have described his service in family histories.

In 1954, a military office at Fort Douglas, sent a letter to his family, listing service in the battalion and the Utah Indian Wars and noted he was eligible for a military headstone. By 1956, a headstone was ordered by his grandson, Samuel L Fife, and placed on his grave, noting his service in the battalion.

In researching this situation, two journals were found documenting the gold mission in 1849 that took the southern route to California and mention Peter Fife.

First, George Q Cannon journal, October 19, 1849 indicates Peter Fife made a comment that he has been this way before. The only known group that had been on the southern route up to that date was a group of Mormon Volunteers who reenlisted and returned from San Diego in March of 1848, arriving in Utah in June.

Second, Tullidge's History by EW Tullidge, documenting men on the gold rush mission, includes a statement from Henry B Gibson's journal that "soldiers Henry Bigler and Peter Fife had barracked at Los Angeles and

knew Colonel Williams." Although Company B would have been in San Diego with Company B, they might have been in Los Angeles for a brief assignment or would have barracked there for a few days before or after discharge. The battalion was well acquainted with Colonel Williams who owned a nearby ranch.

Based on the two gold mission journals, it does appear Peter was involved with the battalion in some capacity. The question is how. Since it has been documented that he was not an enlisted soldier on military rolls, there is a possibility he was with the group as a teamster or officer aide. So now the search is on for new sources that might provide an answer to that question.



TRIBUTE TO LT COLONEL JAMES ALLEN

The following bullets were is taken from:

[https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/James_Allen_\(1806-1846\)](https://familypedia.wikia.org/wiki/James_Allen_(1806-1846))

- 1829 Graduate of US Army Academy in West Point
- Member in the 1832 Schoolcraft expedition to find the headwaters of the Mississippi
- Had charge of producing the first US Army maps of the western frontier
- Supervised improvements to the harbor of Chicago
- Commander of Fort Sanford to patrol the Sac and Fox Indian agency
- Commander of Fort Des Moines which was then became the core of the city Des Moines
- Organized the Mormon Battalion in 1846 and was their highly regarded first commanding officer
- First US Army officer to be buried at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery
- Allens Bay on Cass Lake in the State of Minnesota is named in his honor.

Although the Saints were suspicious of Captain James Allen as he rode into Mt Pisgah on June 26 to deliver his circular to create a military unit of 500 Mormon men by direction of General Kearny, they developed a great deal of respect for this man who did his best to accommodate the needs of the Saints and Brigham Young including negotiating the ability for the Saints to stay on Indian land for two years. On July 16, Lt Colonel Allen took command of the Battalion. His later death at Fort Leavenworth created an unexpected challenge for the newly created Battalion.

James Pace recorded in his journal:

“I arrived at the fort....and learned the Colonel was not expected to live many hours....I remained through the day watching over the Colonel. At evening he was removed to his old quarters. Lieutenant Gully and myself followed in the procession, we remained with him through the night. His niece, a fine young lady....gave her special attention to him during the night. She was the only relative I heard of.... The Colonel died at six o'clock a.m. August 23, 1846 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.”

