



Message From The President



Thank You To Many!

As we close out a very productive year and reflect on the 175th anniversary of the enlistment of the Mormon Battalion, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to each of you. Those who have been so supportive of our efforts. Those who have travelled, made presentations and represented The Mormon Battalion Association so professionally. Those who have written checks and solicited donations from

generous community friends and neighbors. Thank you!

In October, some of your Executive staff travelled to San Diego and in conjunction with The Oregon Trails Association worked jointly to insure that the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mormon Battalion in San Diego is well-planned and well-executed. We will be joining OCTA at their annual convention, held in Old Town San Diego this year and will be making some presentations about the "battalion boys."

Coming Events

Many really fun and exciting events are planned for the week of January 25-30, 2022, to include a symposium, exhibits, auto tours, Firesides with Elder D. Todd Christofferson speaking, children's activities and a reenactment of the arrival of the 335 "battalion boys" on January 27th, 1846. Any of you who would like to participate in any of these events is welcome to do so.

We have included links to both the joint MBA/OCTA symposium and a sign-up form to participate in the Saturday morning march into the Old Town Square. I hope you can be a part of these incredible events!

In November, a Symphonic Saga, complete with narration about many of the actual occurrences of the battalion, was recorded and will be made available to our members in the very near future.

There are some really terrific things planned for The Days of '47 in July of 2022, more details will be made available, so stay tuned, because "you ain't seen nothing yet."

May each of you enjoy a safe, happy and peaceful Holiday season and may God bless you all.

*Sincerely Yours,
Jerome*

WOMEN

WITH THE MORMON BATTALION

JANUARY 7, 2022 @ 6:30PM

Guest Speaker Laura Anderson

Executive Director of External Affairs

4300 W 16th St, Yuma, AZ 85364

Light Refreshment Provided

2 Events 1 Celebration

SPONSORED BY
YUMA ARIZONA US ARMY OF THE WEST MORMON
BATTALION FOUNDATION

JANUARY 8, 2022 @ 11:00AM

US Army of the West Mormon Battalion Statue
West Wetlands Park, 282 N 12th Ave, Yuma, AZ 85364
free lunch served

Guest Speakers to Include

Brad Allen
President, Mormon Battalion Historic Site
San Diego, CA,

Larry Nelson
former Yuma, AZ Mayor
former President, US Army of the
West Mormon Battalion Foundation

175th Anniversary Celebration – San Diego, January 27-30, 2022

One of the most significant events in the history of the Mormon Battalion Association will take place over the last weekend in January:

- Thursday January 27 at 3:00 PM, enjoy a narrative about those associated with the Mormon Battalion and Battle of San Pasqual who have headstones in the Fort Rosecrans Cemetery on Point Loma (about 20 minutes from Old Town). Meet at the front entrance.
- The MBA and the Oregon-California Trails Association are jointly presenting a symposium, commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mormon Battalion in California. (The Oregon-California Trails Association is the nation's largest and most influential organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of overland emigrant trails and the emigrant experience. OCTA was founded in 1922 and is headquartered in Independence, Missouri.)
- The two-day symposium (January 27-28) features speakers from both organization who will present on a variety of topics associated with the Battalion, San Diego, The Army of the West, etc. The concluding presenter will be Elder D. Todd Christofferson, who will discuss the partnership between the LDS Church and OCTA in identifying and preserving emigrant trails located on Church lands.
- Registration to the symposium is through the link below. Also, a tour of the Battalion Trail from the California/Mexico border through the Anza-Borrego Desert and finishing at the mission San Luis Rey is offered as well, and special hotel rates are available through the OCTA registration.

. <https://octa-trails.regfox.com/san-diego-historic-trails-symposium>



[San Diego Historic Trails Symposium](https://octa-trails.regfox.com/san-diego-historic-trails-symposium)

Online registration for San Diego Historic Trails Symposium.

- On Saturday, January 29, it is planned to have 335 men march in Battalion uniform into the Old Town San Diego Square. The information to enlist to be a parade marcher is included in the bulletin below. Each man will carry a card with the information about a Battalion member. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of living history! Contact Terry Wirth, parade coordinator as described below:

WANTED

California Living History Parade Marchers



Enlist Now For This Exciting Event
Saturday, January 29th, 2022 is the
175th Anniversary of Mormon Battalion
Marching Into San Diego

Event:

Mormon Battalion Day at Old Town San Diego 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Elder D. Todd Christofferson will preside over the event.
Parade 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM (For about 4 blocks)
Awards and Recognitions 10:30 to 11:00 AM
Entertainment and interactive booths until 3:00 PM

Objective: It is planned to have **335 men** in the parade as a tribute to the original 335 members of the Mormon Battalion that marched into San Diego, January 29, 1847. The Marine Corps Band has been invited to participate in the parade. The six previous directors of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site have been invited to lead the parade.



Those marching in the parade will have the opportunity of receiving a custom designed commemorative medal (We are asking for a \$5.00 donation to help cover the expense of the medal).

Required: wear Pioneer looking attire. (tuck shirt collars under). Notify us you do not have pioneer attire and we will try and help you. Show up at The Cal Trans parking lot (Taylor & Juan St) at 9:00 AM ready to march.

Hurry and confirm your "enlistment" while we have room:

Terry Wirth, Parade Coordinator, **NOW** ! When we fill the ranks, we will close off the enlisting.

Phone: 760-685-4300

E:mail: terrywirth@gmail.com

Or

Mormon Battalion Historic Site

Phone: 619-298-3317

“The Mormon Battalion, A Symphonic Saga”

By Greg Christofferson, Vice President

This Fall, the MBA commissioned Grammy Award winning composer Marden Pond to compose a musical work honoring the 175th Anniversary. Marden produced a “Symphonic Saga,” of ten musical vignettes interspersed with narration, each segment highlighting a part of the Battalion story. The music and narration are about 45 minutes in length. The Symphony was written for a small orchestra. On November 15, seventeen of Utah’s most talented musicians gathered at the in the Isaac Chase Mill building Liberty Park in Salt Lake City and recorded the symphony. The performance was filmed as well. This will allow the MBA to produce and sell the symphony in both DVD and CD formats. It is our hope to have the DVD/CD available at the San Diego celebration. It will also be sold on our website. We are planning a performance of the Symphony at the 24th of July celebration next summer, and additional live performances may be forthcoming.



Composer Marden Pond conducts the recording session of “The Mormon Battalion: A Symphonic Saga”.



Mary Ann, Greg, and Laura were invited to attend the recording session.

Introducing Mark Day, Our New Website Manager



Mark, a native of Rathdrum, Idaho, is an University of Utah graduate who saw combat in the Vietnam War. Mark, now retired, was a manager in the Information Technology field for 30 years. Mark's great grandfather, Abraham Day, was a member of the Mormon Battalion. We are excited to have Mark assume the Website manager duties!

The Chairman's Reveille

Cooke's Journal

Research by Kevin Hensen, Board Chairman

Perhaps the best of all the Mormon Battalion journals between Santa Fe and California was the daily journal kept by LTC P. St. George Cooke.

Most don't realize is that there are multiple versions of Cooke's journal. The original field notes. Cooke's original journal notebook was copied in California and the copy was forwarded from Monterey California to Washington DC, via Panama with Lt Emory.

Cooke's original journal was lost while crossing a stream in the Central Valley. A tribesman recovered it later and it was eventually sent back to Cooke. Swords: "...we swam the Stanislaus and Mocolumnes [Mokelumne]. At the latter, Major Cook[e] had his boat load of provisions, clothing, &c., capsized, and, most unfortunately, our skin boat, which had performed such good service, went down stream and was lost.

Cooke extracted some 'best parts' and provided those to Gen Kearny at San Diego when the Battalion arrived. These are very brief notes.

Cooke then self-edited his journal in California and made at least one copy. Cooke's original version was edited by Bieber & Bender, then published in 1938 by Arthur H. Clark under the title, "Exploring Southwestern Trails, 1846-1854"

Cooke's copy of his field notes were taken back to Washington DC. Cooke collaborated with Lt Emory to 'fill in' Cooke's Wagon Road portion of Emory's map. We should also assume that Cooke reviewed his notes with the government editor(s). This version is what was published as the Congressional Record report in 1848 and used by gold rush travelers.

Later in life, Cooke reworked his journal to become parts of his 'Conquest of New Mexico and California.' That text expanded upon his Battalion experience to include his travel to Santa Fe prior to taking on the Battalion. He also includes information about Kearny's travels and more details about Fremont.

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/300370>

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x000617558&view=1up&seq=11&skin=2021>

<https://archive.org/details/reportfromsecret00phil>

<https://archive.org/details/conquestofnewmex00cookrich>