

MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MONUMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
8002 Wind Rock Lane, Harrison, AR 72601
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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 Faucher	Albany, Oregon
Secretary	Harley Faucher	Omaha, Arkansas
Treasurer	Phil Bolinger	Hindsville, Arkansas
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Bill Hatch	Huntsville, Arkansas
Board Member	Pat Stroud	Huntsville, Arkansas
Member	Jim Fletcher	Bentonville, Arkansas
Board Member	Mary Migliore	San Antonio, Texas
Board Member	Robert Paul Wilson	Fairland, Oklahoma

DUES for 2004/2005

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. As of January 1, 2005, dues will be \$20.00 annually.

MMMF PRESIDENT REPORT – Burr Fancher

As we start a new year, perhaps we should review recent accomplishments and future plans. We had a successful fall meeting with 85-90 members in attendance. The membership approved a program of work in the form of a long range plan.

New Board Members

Cheryl Gremaux and Scott Fancher completed their terms as board members and were replaced by Harley Fancher and Pat Stroud. We wish to thank Cheryl and Scott for their contributions and welcome Harley and Pat to our group. Harley Fancher will be our new MMMF Secretary to replace Scott.

Library Collections

Our Foundation committed to updating one of our four library collections each year to bring in newly developed documents. The Sequoia Library had their turn this past year. The books and documents were collected throughout the year and shipped in mid-January.

Cemetery Marking Project

Board member Jim Fletcher continues to search out the final resting places of the massacre survivors. Five more cemeteries were marked during 2004. 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. An easement has been given to construct a replica of the original grave at Mountain Meadows. On May 14, a work party will gather at Carrollton to erect the cross and rock. 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.

Annual MMMF Meeting

Our 2005 meeting will be held in St. George, Utah on September 9-11. Our members voted to alternate between Arkansas and Utah to give our western friends opportunity to attend. Our group will gather for a planned activity on the evening of September 9. Saturday will be open for members to visit historical sites in the area. Our annual meeting will start at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner and auction. Sunday will remain open for further site visits, spit and whittle sessions or heading home. Negotiations are underway for meeting rooms at the Best Western Abby Inn in St. George where we congregated in 2003. Final details on motel accommodations, agendas, and tours will be spelled out in the May newsletter.

Work Day/MMMF Board Meeting

We will have a work day on May 14 to erect the cross, rock, sign, and fence along the side road from Highway 412 to Yell Lodge in Carrollton. It will involve some cement work, rock hauling and placement. A tractor and front lift will do the heavy lifting. If you have a pickup for hauling rock, please bring. We will start at 10:00 a.m. and have lunch catered in. We will quit when the items are set in place. During the day we will have a short board meeting to plan our fall activities in St. George. If you would like to join us, call Phil Bolinger (479-789-2960), Larry Fry (870-545-3317), or Scott Fancher (870-837-2718) so that we can bring the correct number of lunches.



Jim Fletcher at the gravesite of Emberson Milum Tackitt, Citizen's Cemetery, Prescott, AZ, Oct. 18, 2004

P.O. Box 798
Huntsville, AR 72740
November 7, 2004

Brother Gordon B. Hinckley, President
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
50 East, North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 894150-3225

Dear President Hinckley:

As news editor for the Mountain Meadows Monument Foundation, I believe that you will be interested in receiving the enclosed complimentary copy of our quarterly News letter. Out of respect for your position among the Latter-Day Saints, I further believe that you are in a special position to act upon our legitimate requests for cooperation from the Church. However, in fairness to you and the brethren, you must first know what it is that we expect from you and the Mormon people. This Newsletter will help to update and inform you.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you are well, as I am

Sincerely,

William W. Hatch

Editor's note: To date, there has been no reply from the prophet to my letter. In times past, the Church's administrative staff have seen fit to acknowledge receipt of such complimentary gifts. Evidently, and unfortunately the Church has decided to simply ignore both my letter and the complimentary copy of our Newsletter!

Biographical Sketch of Harley R. Fancher, Jr.

I was born in Harrison, Ar June 23, 1943 and lived on the Jesse Fancher place, near Osage, Ar until I was two years old, We then we moved to Berryville, Ar, where I graduated from high school in 1961, Later I attended the University of Arkansas and received a B.A. I moved to Little Rock in 1963 and went to work with the Federal Government, retiring from the US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services. I also worked in the Bill Clinton Presidential Campaign on the Advance Team and was transferred to the Transition Section in 1992.

I then took a position with the Department of Human Services in 1993, which resulted in my being appointed State Administrator of Special Nutrition Programs in 1997. In the fall of 2000 I left that position and moved North of Harrison, Ar on a cattle farm to be home-based with Arkansas DHS and be the Program Coordinator for the Summer Food Program for Arkansas, which I continue to be responsible for at this time. We have cattle, horses, dogs, deer and turkey, and the latter are in abundance.

I have been married to Diann (Hall) Fancher for 32 years. She is on the administrative staff of the Green Forest, Ar School District and teaches at North Arkansas Community College in Harrison, Ar. We have two wonderful kids, both married. They are Jennifer D., Elsberry of North Little Rock, Ar and Harley R. Fancher II (Trey), who lives in Conway, Ar.

My interest includes the raising and training of English Setter Bird Dogs of which I have placed in 28 states and 3 foreign countries. I have had numerous field champions and have done training segments for several shows for ESPN. I have appeared in one movie with my family and 7 of the dogs. I love gaited horses and anything to do with the outdoors. I have always been interested in history, and loved politics, having been involved in several races over the years. I am a get along guy, like my father and believe strongly in accountability, honesty and the "do right rule". I like people and I am always interested in their opinions and input, because one can always seek a better way of doing things. I like to think and do things outside the box. I credit my parents,, my wife, my kids and the Good Lord for making me what I am today.





Recently elected to the Board is Pat Stroud from Huntsville, Arkansas. Pat attended Berryville High School in Carroll County and was a school-mate of Harley Fancher. She owns "The Attic", an upscale women's clothing store on the square in Huntsville, Madison County, Arkansas.

Pat Fancher Stroud is a direct descendent of Alexander and Jane (Johnson) Fancher of Carroll County, Arkansas.

Pat is married to Harold "Butch" Stroud of Huntsville. They have one son, Tim, and are the proud grandparents of Shay, their grandson.



145 Years of Remembering 9-11

The first 9-11 tragedy was not a year ago, but *September 11, 1857*. We remember with reverence those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on our nation in 2001. But, we also remember each year at this time, our families who died an equally horrible death so long ago in southern Utah. The place was called Mountain Meadows. The terrorists were not from some foreign country. They were Mormons and Paiute Indians.

In the spring of 1857, a large wagon train of families from northwest Arkansas was immigrating to California. By September, they were in Southern Utah just getting ready to make the final leg of their journey across the desert to their destination in California when the surprise assault began.

Several were killed including the cattle drovers during the onset of the attack, but the immigrants dug in and were able to hold their attackers at bay until they were running out of water and ammunition. On the fourth day of the siege, a rider approached carrying a white flag.

They were promised safe passage back to Cedar City if they would surrender their weapons and follow instructions given them. Relying on the almost sacred display of a white flag as a symbol of a truce and believing the bearer of it to be a benefactor, they came up out of their gun pits, buried their dead and walked out into the open.

The wounded and children were put in wagons and taken ahead of the others. The women and older children followed next. As they were about a half-mile up the meadow, the men were next to go. Each immigrant man was escorted by a Mormon. It was later discovered they were members of the Iron County Militia. As they marched along, an order was given to "Do your duty" and on this signal, each immigrant man was shot point-blank by his Mormon escort.

At this signal, the women and children, except those under the age of seven, were set upon by Indians and other Mormons and were either shot or

bludgeoned to death. Only seventeen small children would survive this most horrendous act.

The bodies were then stripped of valuables as a hat was passed to collect anything of value such as pocketknives, watches and coins. Both Indians and Mormons made use of the clothing and the bodies were left as they had fallen-- unburied. Nearly two years would pass before the bleached bones of the immigrants would be gathered by US soldiers and placed in several mass graves.

The wagons, oxen, and other livestock were taken by the Mormons except for a number of cattle that were taken by the Paiute Indians. The rest of the cattle were branded with the LDS Church brand.

Ironically, other attacks were also being made on immigrants who traveled north on the Oregon Trail as late as 1859, but without the magnitude of lives lost as the Mountain Meadows Massacre in 1857.

These attacks also made use of all material assets of the immigrants with the booty being taken to the LDS Church community storehouse and the cattle being branded with the Church brand.

Many books and memoirs have been written over the years in an effort to fathom what and who could have incited such an atrocity upon not only their fellow man but also killing women, children and babes in arms.

Books have recently been written which lay the blame with Brigham Young, church prophet and president at the time of the massacre. Another book is being written by members of the LDS Church which will provide "unpublished information from a brown packet" that has surfaced recently from the Church archives.

We may never know, with certainty, how many lost their lives in that infamous terrorist attack of September 11, 1857. What we do know, with certainty, their descendants and relatives will never forget what happened to them in that high country valley in southern Utah known as Mountain Meadows.

Shirley Pyron