

Mormon Battalion Association

"Will be held in honorable remembrance..."

MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION BOARD

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Greg Christofferson



In my message in the last Newsletter, I told of my experience in taking the full time missionaries who are assigned to the San Diego Historic Site on a tour of the Mormon Battalion trail from the Mexican border to the Mission San Luis Rey. As I related, we traveled in 12 hours what took the exhausted Battalion soldiers 17 days. We stopped at ten places where we read from Battalion histories and journals and I could show them exactly where the Battalion had marched, and planted their feet in those sacred footsteps.

A few days ago, I received a handsome tee-shirt in the mail and 22 sheets with a written response from each sister missionary, answering two questions posed by President

Kuffman; **(1) Relate something from the tour that changed your thoughts or expanded your understanding of the key messages of Faith, Service, Sacrifice and Citizenship as shown by the Mormon Battalion, and (2) With regards to the "take away" you give at the end of a tour (those they give at the Battalion Historic Site), write down several thoughts you could share.**



As I read through them, I was impressed with the depth of testimony and feeling each of them has, and how they felt it was increased by experiencing "The Spirit of Place." I wish space would allow for the contents of all 22 responses. Let me give you one answer for each question. In response to the first one, Sister Hancock wrote,

"As we traveled and learned more about the Mormon Battalion, my eyes were opened. No longer was their story a movie on a screen; it was now put into perspective. The men had so much faith to leave behind their families and belongings. They had so much faith to press forward even when there was no end in sight, when they were weak and starving and when they were discouraged. They sacrificed everything they had to heed the words of the prophet. being able to march a short distance and to



July - August 2024

General Membership Meeting

WHEN

**Thu. Sep 19, 2024
7:00 PM MDT**

PRESENTERS

**Kevin and Denny
Henson**

WHAT

**Lessons learned and
epic experiences
hiking the Mormon
Battalion Trail**

LINK

Join Zoom Meeting

**[https://
us06web.zoom.us/j/
6084231645?
pwd=WmB1VDwGPaku
5lXJOaxl1rXbHUt6UQ.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6084231645?pwd=WmB1VDwGPaku5lXJOaxl1rXbHUt6UQ.1)**

**Meeting ID:
608 423 1645**

**Passcode:
jF8Hf3**

experience a little bit of what they experienced was so special. Though these men were tired and struggling, they still turned to serve those around them. I was also amazed at the men and their faith in keeping the commandments and the covenants they had made."

In response to the second question, Sister Mendes wrote,

"I can share how they chose to be happy while marching in the desert with no water...God was taking care of them every step of their march. That is a great reminder for me that God will never leave me alone. He knows me and can help me overcome my challenges."

We are fortunate to have these beautiful missionaries tell the Battalion story to the multitudes of visitors to the San Diego Historic Site.



The 28-star flag became official on July 4, 1846, and was in use for one year before another star was added to represent Iowa. 28-star Great Luminary flag: Since there were no laws in place dictating the pattern of the stars, a variety of 28-star flags exist with different patterns.



The Yuma, AZ contingent of the US Army of the West Mormon Battalion re-enactors will again celebrate Pioneer Days on Saturday July 20, 2024 marching in the Snowflake, AZ parade. Our re-enactor group has roughly 21 young men, 8 young women, (age 14-18) and 6 adults.



Mormon Battalion Association Resources

Website

[https://
www.mormonbattalion.com/](https://www.mormonbattalion.com/)

Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/
search/top/?](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?)

Youtube

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNF
Bj4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNF Bj4A)

Email mobattoffice@gmail.com

Newsletter

dantzelle@gmail.com



By law, a star is added to the U.S. flag on the 4th of July following the admission of a state to the union. This US **29-Star Flag** represents the addition of the state of Iowa and was used from 1847-1848

PART ONE OF SERIES

A List Of Commemorative Works Honoring The Mormon Battalion

Cary B. Skidmore

Mormon Battalion Association, Member

Draft Issue B February 24, 2024



The Mormon Battalion has been touted as the most commemorated unit in United States military history ¹ and the most monumented story in Church History. ² This paper seeks to build upon past efforts to create lists of the monuments and markers associated with this remarkable saga. Although this static list will soon become incomplete because tangible, durable remembrances continue to be erected, the Mormon Battalion Association hopes that it will serve a useful purpose in conveying the extent and variety of existing commemorative works. To this end, the information is presented in a simple narrative format rather than a spreadsheet or a database.

The works are grouped by the boundaries of present-day states of the United States generally following the trail of the Battalion from enlistment in Iowa/Nebraska, to outfitting in Kansas, down the Santa Fe Trail though the Oklahoma Panhandle into New Mexico, across Arizona, and into California. After discharge from military service in present-day Los Angeles, veterans continued to make commemorated contributions along trails that led to Salt Lake City, Utah. Two monuments in Colorado, associated with detached service, are on the list. Also included are purported, but not verified, trail markers located in Idaho and present-day Mexico.

The grave markers for many veterans denote their service with the Battalion. ³ With one exception for a general tribute to all members of the Battalion in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, these are not included in the listing. Also excluded are works that commemorate the achievements later in life of a veteran of the Battalion. ⁴

Photographs are provided for two of the commemorative works that are relatively new and may be unfamiliar to most people.

Iowa/Nebraska (5)

1. Mormon Battalion Mustering Grounds (Council Bluffs, Iowa): This is an interpretive panel on a steel pedestal placed by the Church on the grounds of the Iowa School for the Deaf in 1986.

2. Kanesville Memorial (Council Bluffs, Iowa): This new outdoor memorial created by the Church on the grounds of the former Kanesville Tabernacle site is scheduled to open March 4, 2024. It will feature the footprints of Battalion soldiers walking away while silhouettes of five women who stayed behind look on. They are Drusilla Hendricks (16 year-old son, William, in Company D; her invalid husband, James, also stayed behind), Elizabeth Hyde (her husband, William Hyde, was a sergeant in Company B), Fanny Taggart (her husband, George Washington Taggart, was a musician in Company B), Sarah Allen (her husband, Ezra Healy Allen, was a musician in Company C and was killed at Tragedy Spring), and Sophronia Standage (husband, Henry Standage, Private in Company E).

3. Council Point (Council Bluffs, Iowa): “It was at Council Point in 1846 that Brigham Young appointed acting bishops to care for needy Latter-day Saints, especially the families left behind when the Mormon Battalion marched off to New Mexico and California in the Mexican War.” Placed by the Church in 1995.

4. Calling the Mormon Battalion (Omaha, Nebraska): The Church created this exhibit for the Battalion story at the Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters. ³

5. Winter Quarters Temple (Omaha, Nebraska): One of twelve pioneer scenes ⁵ depicted by in glass windows of the second floor waiting room is Brigham Young enlisting the Mormon Battalion. ⁶

¹ Sherman L. Fleek, USMA Command Historian, personal communication to Laura Kay Anderson, 2023.

² Gary Boatright, Operations Manager, Church History Department, personal communication to C. Bradford Allen, 2019 - 2021.

³ For one notable example see this monument in Idaho to Captain Jefferson Hunt: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=48986>

⁴ See, for example, the Lytle Creek Canyon Marker as described by this website: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=78514> <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2003/07/pieces-of-history-pieces-of-light?lang=eng>

⁶ <https://www.thechurchnews.com/2001/3/17/23244749/windows-that-teach-truth>

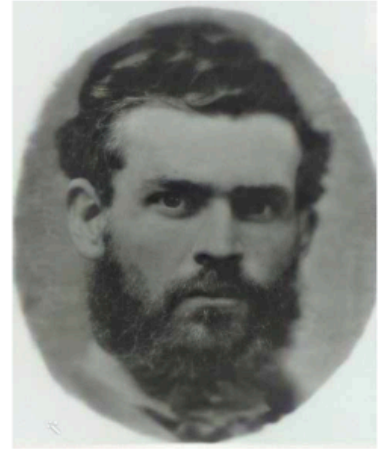


Sacrifice...Service...Faith!

Mary Ann Kirk, contributor

I started as a private soldier, and when we raised the liberty pole I had but a yoke of oxen and an old wagon. My wife and children I left with only about five days' provisions, and not having the least idea where they would get the next. The day following I ascertained that Brother Higgins was going to fetch his wife and family. I, therefore, determined that if I could raise means any way I would take my wife with me, and I made up my mind to do it if I had to tramp all the way and carry my knapsack. I was there a private soldier, without a dime in the world, but the blessings of prosperity and peace had been pronounced upon the Mormon Battalion, and I, of course, knew that it was right for me to take care of my family, and hence I determined to take them with me.

- Thomas Williams, Company D (age 19)

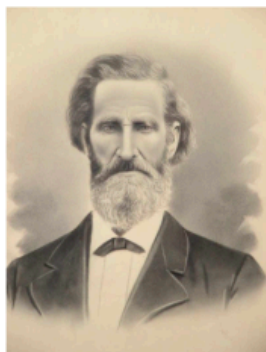


Sometime during the month of June the word reached us concerning the Battalion. My brother John, who was then in his 18th year, made preparations to join the ranks, even against the wishes of Mother and the fact that Father was away from us. His departure was certainly a sad affair for us especially for Mother, and I'll never forget it as long as I live.

- Brother of John McCann Bybee, Company B (age 17)

"a lonely wife was left to care for my child with only the cover of the wagon to protect her.

- William Wallace Casper, Company A (age 25)



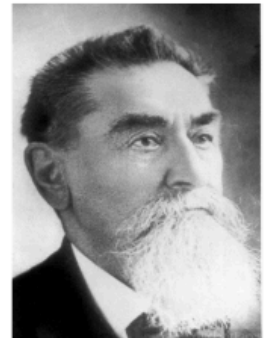
It was a day of sadness, of mourning and of parting. Tears fell like rain.

- Zacheus Cheney, Company B (age 28)



The government provided six mule teams to each company. I was solicited to drive one of them, and for the convenience and comfort of my wife, I consented to do so...these teams had to haul the camp equipment which consisted of tents, tent poles, camp kettles, etc which filled the wagons up to the bows and the women would have to crawl in the best they could and lay in that position until we stopped to camp."

- John Hess, Company E (age 21)



July - August 2024

When this news came I looked upon my family, and then upon my aged parents, and upon the situation of the camps in the midst of an uncultivated, wild Indian country, and my soul revolted....The thoughts of leaving my family at this critical time are indescribable, Far from the land which we had once called civilization, with no dwelling, save a wagon, with the scorching midsummer sun to beat upon them, with the prospect of the cold December blasts finding them in the same place.

- William Hyde, Company B (age 27)

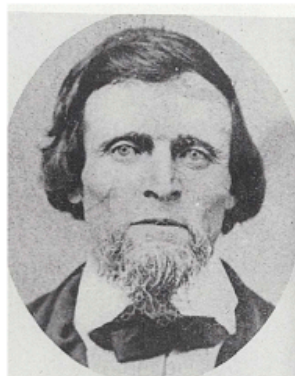


I have writen Two letters to my wife since I left the bluffs and had no intelgence from her I left my family at pisgah with the expectation that they would be fetched to the bluffs...my wife has no connection in the church and she needs a friend and a father. It is my wish that you would take her under your wach care.

- John Morris King letter to Brigham Young, Company B (age 36)

About the time I was leaving Pisgah, news came of Captain Allen's arrival and that he had come to enlist soldiers for the Mexican War. I felt indignant toward the government that had suffered me to be raided and driven from my home. I made the uncouth remark that 'I would see them all damned and in Hell.' I would not enlist, but on the way to the Bluffs we met President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and W. Richards returning, calling for recruits. They said the salvation of Israel depended upon the raising of the army. When I heard this my mind changed. I felt that it was my duty to go."

- Daniel Berry Rawson, Company D (age 18)



I went to Wm Huntington Senr & E T Benson and Councilled with Them concerning the expediency of My volunteering in this expedition stating to them the situation of My family & also My own feelings on the subject, which were that I wished to do that which would be productive of the most good in building up and establishing the Kingdom of God, but did not wish to go inconsiderately at work at anything that might cause Myself and Family to suffer, but the council of these two Men was that the importance of the case required that every Man should go that possibly could and that it was best I should go." On July 8, he penned a letter to his wife, "when you arive here go to Father Huntington or whoever may be the Councelers tel them your situation and they wil tel you what to do..I shal leave My tool Chest with the Council of this place..I now say

goodbye Fanny and Eliza Ann and may the Lord bless you with life and health and with every necesary blessing...until We meet again, this is and shal be the prayer of your absent but afecionate companion."

- George W. Taggart, Company B (age 29)

I left my wife and two children without a house or home and but little to help themselves with. This to me was a trying time after being driven from my home and leaving all both land and house in the hands of enemies, and now to leave my wife and children with nothing but a blanket over them to keep them from the hot sun. But leaving them in the hands of the Lord, I left with Company "A".

- Jeremiah Willey, Company A (age 41)



July - August 2024

 A graphic featuring a red and white megaphone on the left, with two red lightning bolts above it. To the right, the words "COMING" and "SOON" are written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters on a yellow banner that has a folded, ribbon-like appearance.	 A circular, metallic coin or medallion. The outer ring contains the text "U.S. ARMY OF THE WEST" at the top and "U.S. MORMON BATTALION" at the bottom, separated by two stars. In the center, there is a relief of a soldier in uniform, holding a rifle. Below the soldier, the years "1846 - 1847" are inscribed.	<p>Coming soon to the website. Mormon Battalion grave markers. 5.7 inches diameter, 3D made from Zinc. Great way to honor those GREAT MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. \$35.00</p>
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