

Mormon Battalion Association

"...will be held in honorable remembrance..."

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN

Thur, September 14
7:00 PM MST

WHAT

"After Discharge"
Part 2

LINK

To be announced

PRESENTER

Kristine Forbes

WHO

Mormon Battalion
Association members, guests
and those interested

President's Message

Greg Christofferson



In the past few weeks, I have given presentations about the Battalion to two groups--an "empty nester" family home evening group and a group interested in history that are in the same HOA. I give my presentations in my period clothing and Battalion military accoutrements. I give the attendees one of our brochures and they follow along the map trail as I tell the Battalion story.

I start my presentations by asking who had an ancestor in the Battalion. and generally several people raise their hands (I also joke that if everyone in the Church who thinks they had an ancestor in the Battalion actually did, the Battalion would have comprised the entire Army of the West!).

What I find interesting is that invariably those who had ancestors in the Battalion want to talk to me afterwards and tell me the stories passed down in their family histories. Some even send me information. One such story was sent to me by Terry McEwen. His ancestor was Joseph Dobson, a private in Company A. His son, Thomas, wrote a life sketch of his father.

Joseph and his wife were baptized in England by Joseph Fielding in 1839. Joseph travelled to Nauvoo and worked for the funds to send for his wife Elizabeth and three small children. Elizabeth and their youngest died in Nauvoo in 1843. Joseph worked as a lumberjack to support himself and his remaining children. He suffered an accident when he split his foot open with an ax. According to the family account, he joined the Battalion while his foot was still healing. A quote from the life sketch:

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July - August 2023



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/
UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFBj
4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFBj4A)

Email

mobattoffice@gmail.com

Meeting Link

<https://www.gotomeet.me/>



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Presidents Message

"Father said that the day before the enlistees started their long march that the whole company joined in a big farewell party of dancing and merrymaking. They danced all afternoon, interposed with speeches, songs, readings, and refreshments. He said there were tears and laughter everywhere. It was hard to tell who was laughing and who was crying. Father's foot was still very bad, and the excitement of getting prepared to leave caused his sore to open afresh and it bled badly. The story was later told by some of the officers that for the first three hundred miles of that long march, Joseph Dobson might have been tracked by blood from his crippled foot which he left in the snow. For some reason, father spoke very little about their long and trying experience the following months before reaching their destination in California, except to say there was much sickness and suffering among the company."

As Mary Ann Kirk has pointed out, family stories tend to be embellished or are otherwise incorrect as they are written by subsequent generations. For example, while we know Joseph was enlisted in the Battalion, it is highly unlikely he would have been with a serious wound to his foot, and he (and the Battalion) certainly didn't march in snow!

Nevertheless, while we strive for accuracy, each Battalion story is precious in its own right for the descendant families. Let's keep the flame burning bright as we honor these incredible men and women of faith and courage!



July - August 2023

MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION PIONEER ACTIVITIES

JOIN US! - JULY 22ND & 24TH, 2023

DAYS OF '47, ENCAMPMENT HIKE - JULY 22ND

- MEET AT 7 AM - DONNER PARK - FREE - FAMILIES ARE WELCOME
- A 5 MILE TREK ALONG EMIGRATION CREEK
- EXPERIENCE PIONEER AND BATTALION DETACHMENT STORIES ALONG THE WAY.
- DRESS IN PIONEER COSTUME OR WEAR A NAME TAG TO HONOR A PIONEER.

GOOGLE DAYS OF 47 ENCAMPMENT HIKE FOR MORE INFO
REGISTER BY EMAILING JOHANNA.HOWCROFT@COMCAST.NET
OR CALLING 801-455-6006

SYMPOSIUM - JULY 22ND

- 1 PM - 5 PM FREE ADMISSION
- FORT DOUGLAS MUSEUM 32 POTTER - WEST ROOM
- SPEAKERS INCLUDE:
 - 1 PM - SHERMAN FLEEK, MILITARY HISTORIAN
PRESENTING: *THE MORMON MILITARY*
 - 2 PM - LAURA ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE
DIR MORMON BATTALION ASSOC
PRESENTING: *MORMON BATTALION WOMEN*
 - 3 PM - KEVIN & DENNY HENSON, TRAIL EXPERTS
PRESENTING - *THINGS WE LEARNED ON THE TRAIL*
 - 4 PM - KEN NELSON, FAMILY SEARCH GENEALOGIST
PRESENTING - *MORMON BATTALION REUNIONS
AND THE UTAH MILITIA*

DAYS OF '47 PARADE - MONDAY, JULY 24TH

- MORMON BATTALION ENTRY MEETS AT
8 AM - MEET AT SW CORNER O
SOUTH TEMPLE AND STATE ST.
- PARTICIPANTS 14 YRS OR OLDER AND
MUST SIGN A LIABILITY WAIVER
- TIME PERIOD COSTUMES AND UNIFORMS
SHOULD BE WORN.

FOR FULL INFORMATION CONTACT
TOM GRIGGS, 208-681-1177

July - August 2023

2023 FIRST ENCAMPMENT HIKE

COMMEMORATIVE TREK TO FIRST PIONEER CAMPSITE IN THE SALT LAKE VALLEY

WHEN

Saturday - July 22, 2023 @ 7:00 a.m.

WHERE

Donner Park

2770 East and 990 South
Salt Lake City, UT
(East of Hogle Zoo)



ABOUT THE EVENT

2023 will be our 19th year with the Commemorative Trek to the first pioneer campsite in the Salt Lake Valley. During this family-oriented event, you can walk in the footsteps of the 1847 pioneers in a festive and commemorative hike that follows Emigration Creek through beautiful Salt Lake City neighborhoods. Points of interest will be described and pioneer conveyances demonstrated along the way. Foods prepared during the era will be discussed.

The hike begins at 7 a.m. at Donner Park (2770 East and 990 South, east of Hogle Zoo) and ends at First Encampment Park (1700 South and 500 East), near the site where the pioneers camped in the Salt Lake Valley on July 22, 1847. The hike is five miles long. Please arrange your transportation accordingly.

Families are encouraged to participate, but no unaccompanied children can be accommodated. Wagons and strollers for children are welcome. No bicycles, skateboards or scooters are allowed, except as reasonably necessary to facilitate disability access. To add to the festivities, participants are welcome to bring an American flag, wear a name tag or dress in period costume to honor a pioneer. Be sure to bring your own water!

Commemorative badges will be issued to all hike participants.

Tours of the Wilford Woodruff farmhouse will be available at the conclusion of the Hike at 1604 South 500 East.

An authentic pioneer breakfast of buckwheat pancakes and old-fashioned bacon will be served at the Hike's ending spot at First Encampment Park for \$5.00 a plate.

REGISTRATION

There is no fee.

To register for the First Encampment Hike or for more information contact:

Wayne Howcroft - Home: 801.466.2290 -

Cell: 801.455.6006 - Email: johnna.howcroft@comcast.net



July - August 2023

SYMPOSIUM

WHEN

Saturday, July 22, 2023 @ 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE

Ft. Douglas Museum
32 Potter, SLC



ABOUT THE EVENT

1:00 p.m.	"The Mormon Military"	Sherman Fleek
2:00 p.m.	"Mormon Battalion Women"	Laura Anderson
3:00 p.m.	"Things We Learned on the Trail"	Kevin & Denny Henson
4:00 p.m.	"Mormon Battalion Reunions and the Utah Militia"	Ken Nelson



March with the Mormon Battalion Entry

Monday, July 24th

8:00 a.m.

Southwest corner of State Street and South Temple

14 years + and sign liability waiver

Wear period uniform or costume



Life Sketches, A Family Affair

by Mary Ann Kirk

For those who follow us on the Mormon Battalion Association Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069476179805>

you will notice I have been posting a life sketch, mostly of soldiers, multiple times a week. We are slowly compiling these stories one soldier at a time. These life sketches are somewhat different than life sketches provided by early church historians such as Andrew Jensen. Using primary documents such as first-hand accounts while on the trail, later autobiographies, original military and church documents, I have included a little of their early and later life before and after their Mormon Battalion experiences with more focus more on their enlistment and activities in Utah and California shortly after discharge and travels back to their families. These sketches have become a "living" document as we find new material and sometimes need to correct past information that we or others have used.

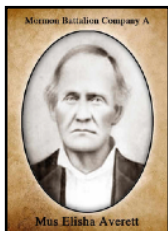


I have become acutely aware of how the battalion was truly an intimate family experience, doing their best to take care of their immediate and extended families. Thirty-five men (soldiers and followers) had wives with them. Many men served with fathers, sons, siblings, and extended family. About 200 men left wives behind. Here are just a few examples.

- * **Joshua and Ruth Abbott** left their nine year old daughter Ellen Elizabeth with Ruth's sister, Betsy and her husband Elias Gardner. Joshua sent \$10 from his clothing allowance back to Council Bluffs in care of Elias Gardner to care for their daughter, which was noted as received at Council Point on August 23.



- * At age 35, **Elisha Averett** enlisted in the Mormon Battalion as a musician in Company A, leaving his pregnant wife Sarah Jane behind with two oxen in the care of his twin brother Elijah according to the Brigham Young return (church roster). Sarah Jane gave birth to a baby girl in December 1846, naming her Dorcus after her mother and Elisha's first wife. His 7 year old son William from his first marriage was taken care of by his sister Eliza and her spouse John Harvey. Elisha sent money to his wife at Fort Leavenworth and Santa Fe. She drew money from a Church account established for her on September 3. In a letter to his wife in October from Santa Fe, he sent a \$15 check with John D Lee instructing her to give it to John Harvey for the care of William. She drew money again on December 5 and January 16. On January 20, money was drawn in her name by her husband's twin brother, Elijah.

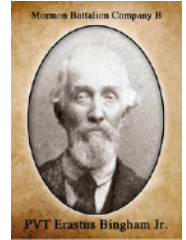


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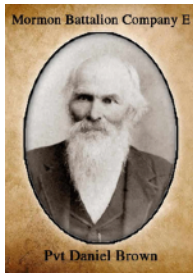
- * **Gordon**, along with his 16 year old cousin **Orin Mortimer Beckstead**, and uncle **William Ezra Beckstead**, enlisted in the Mormon Battalion. At age 20, Gordon and Orin were in Company A and their uncle was in Company C. The church record of Battalion enlistees showed he planned to donate \$5 a month from his wages and Gordon sent \$30 from his clothing allowance received at Fort Leavenworth to his father Alexander to care for his parents and a number of younger siblings. A church account receipt book indicates his father drew \$10 from the account on November 9 and his mother received \$5 on December 21.



- * **Erastus Bingham**, age 23, enlisted in Company B with his brother **Thomas** and his brother-in-law, **Elijah Norman Freeman**. Erastus left his wife and children with his parents. The BY return (church roster) indicated Erastus intended to send his full \$7/month pay to his wife. A church receipt book indicated his father received \$60 on December 2 from combined contributions by his son, Elijah Freeman, and **Robert Bliss** on December 2.



- * **Daniel Brown** had several family members join with him. His brother **John Brown** was in Company A. His half brother **Francis** was in Company B. His wife's father, **Stephen St. John**, also joined in Company E. In November 1846, his mother-in-law received \$7 from the clothing allowance Daniel sent back and \$3 in December. He tried to continue to California with his brothers and father-in-law while his wife was sent to Pueblo. But about three weeks later on November 10, he left with the many sick men of the Willis detachment, spending the winter in Pueblo with his wife where they wrote letters to his step-mother.



- * **Edmund Lee Brown**'s family had seven family members serving as soldiers including him, his three sons, two nephews, and a brother-in-law. His youngest son served as an officer servant, and his wife, Mary came along, possibly serving as a laundress. All of them made it to California. Edmund left two wagons, ten oxen and three cows in charge of the Church and indicated \$2 per month from his pay should go for tithing.



Monument
dedicated to
Levi Savage
in Toquerville



July - August 2023

- * **James Stephens Brown** provides a first account of his baptism and enlistment. "I had a desire to serve my country in any legitimate way. Yet I felt that, as I was under age, and, as my Uncle Alexander Stephens had decided to enlist, the responsibility of my father's affairs now rested on me.... We went to the south fork of the Grand River, and with Uncle A. Stephens as a witness were baptized. This was on the 7th of July, 1846.... Then I got the spirit to enlist...the next morning Uncle A. Stephens and I went over to the grove. I told the Elder my feelings, and the responsibilities left upon me by my father.... He told me to go on, saying I would be blessed, my father would find no fault with me, his business would not suffer, and I would never be sorry for the action I had taken or for my enlistment. ,,,I then went to a tent where men were giving in their names as volunteers. We handed in our names, and were enrolled as members of the historic Mormon Battalion." At age 18, he and his uncle Alexander Stephens, the brother of his mother, served in Company D. His uncle from his father's side, James Brown, served as Captain of Company C, with his two sons, Alexander and Jesse.



These are just a few excerpts from the life sketches that illustrate the sacrifice and human stories of these courageous individuals. We encourage you to "like" the Mormon Battalion Facebook page and share the individual posts with family and friends so others learn about their remarkable stories and hopefully learn a few new pieces of information you didn't know before. If you haven't noticed, many primary documents are being uploaded on Family Search.



Mormon Battalion Association General Meeting
Thursday, September 14th
7:00 pm
"After Discharge" - Part 2
Presenter: Kristine Forbes
Zoom link: TBA