

MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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



General Membership Meeting

WHEN
Thur, Nov 16th
7:00 PM MDT

PRESENTER
Dennis Holland

WHAT
"Mormon
Workers Cabin
at Marshall Gold
Discovery State
Historic Park"
and "California
Pioneer
Heritage
Foundation"

LINK
[https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624)
[us02web.zoom.u](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624)
[s/j/2430892624](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624)

FROM THE PRESIDENT Greg Christofferson



A few weeks ago, Dave Munford, our graphics designer, presented me with a wonderful piece of framed art. It's the patches from the hikes along the Mormon Battalion Trail that are awarded to those who have met the requirements of hiking/driving the various trails. The two large patches appear identical, except the one given by the Boy Scouts has a fleur-de-lis on it. The other one is for anyone who qualifies who are not Scouts.

I have to admit that I haven't qualified for very many of them, but Dave said that my service to the Battalion is sufficient. Whew, that saves a lot of steps! Seriously, I do appreciate the quality of Dave's work in matting and framing these patches and it has a place of honor in my office.

Laura Anderson gave a report in our last Newsletter about our decision to align with the Mormon Trails Association (MTA) in getting recognition for our Trail as a National Historic Trail. The MTA is being reorganized as a national organization and will be fully functional in the new year. I anticipate that I will represent the MBA on that Board. Working together with the MTA and Oregon-California Trails Association, the MBA will be in a better position to present a bill to Congress to extend the Mormon Trail to include the Mormon Battalion Trail. This is still a long-term project, but hopefully these associations will speed things up.

As we come to the holiday season and year-end, I would ask you to consider giving a gift, no matter the size, to our Endowment. The Endowment now has a little over \$116,000 in donations. I'm extending the challenge to grow the Endowment by \$10,000 by the end of the year. Please look at your charitable giving plans and include the MBA Endowment in them.

I wish you all



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**





MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Board

John A. Bascom
Michael Bilbo
Peter D. Guilbert
L. Denny Hoeh
Mark Hunter
Randall D. Madsen
Terry Rosvall
Gary L. Smith
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Thomas Griggs Exec Director
Linda Griggs Secretary
Ronald P. Kirkpatrick Treasurer
Richard Harden Membership
David Day Legal Advisor



**Check out Mormon
Battalion Association
videos**

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/
UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxc
NFBj4A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaCSOJvkFSJWgmUxcNFBj4A)



NOVEMBER 4TH

CELEBRATE
**CALIFORNIA
PIONEER
HISTORY
DAY**

FREE FAMILY EVENT*
10AM-4PM

Historical Presentations, Pioneer Crafts,
Games, Kids Activities, and more!

Food available for purchase
(or bring your own)

*State Parking Fee \$10 per vehicle

MARSHALL GOLD DISCOVERY
STATE PARK
COLOMA, CALIFORNIA



Nov 04	10:00 AM	Dedication of the Mormon Workers Cabin @ Coloma, CA
Nov 16	6:00 PM	Board Meeting
Nov 16	7:00 PM	Annual General Meeting
Jan 01		MBA Newsletter available
Jan 18	7:00 PM	General Membership Meeting
Feb 15	7:00 PM	Board Meeting

Mormon Battalion Association Resources

Website

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

Facebook

[https://
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Youtube

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

Email

mobattoffice@gmail.com

Newsletter

dantzelle@gmail.com

Meet our Presenter

MBA General Mtg.
Thur, Nov. 16th @ 7:00 PM

LINK: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/
2430892624](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2430892624)



Dennis Holland was born and raised in St. George, Utah. Graduated from Dixie Jr. College, and got a Bachelor's Degree at the College of Pharmacy, University of Utah.

His Pioneer ancestors are: Robert Gardner, William Carter, William Snow, and Richard Bentley. He moved to Northern California a year after graduating in pharmacy. He spent 55 years in California, where he owned and operated a small chain of retail pharmacies. He moved back to St. George 6 years ago to be closer to family. He and his wife, Jean, have 4 children, 13 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

He has been heavily involved in civic activities, being President of the Broadway Merchant's Association, President of the Hangtown Chamber of Commerce, member of the American Pharmaceutical Assoc. and Rotary Club. In the Church, he served as Bishop of Placerville CA Ward for 5 years, Director of Public Affairs of Sacramento Temple from ground breaking to dedication for 5 years, served as Director of Public Affairs over the Sacramento Region of 14 stakes for 10 years, and still serves as Director of Public Affairs over historic sites in California, President of the California Living History Mission, and President of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation (a non-profit organization he created to finance public affairs and historic projects.)

He has a new appreciation for the Brother of Jared, in the Book of Mormon, as wherever he goes, he is not referred to by his first name, but referred to and introduced as the Brother of Jeffrey!

January 2024 MBA General Meeting



**Thursday, January 18th
7:00 PM MST
Brent & Wendy Top
Mission Leaders at the Mormon
Battalion Historic Site in San Diego**



REPORT FROM OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Laura Anderson, of the Mormon Trail Association, and I just finished a Zoom meeting with Jacey Albaugh, who works on public lands issues in the office of Senator Mike Lee from Utah. We discussed the 4-Trails Study Bill and the Period of Significance Act Bill (to extend to 1869 the period of significance for both the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer NHTs) as a way to start the process of finding sponsors for the bills on the House and Senate side.



I provided Ms. Albaugh with background information on the National Trails Act and its various amendments that led us to where we are today, explaining how the amendment of 1978 that brought the Mormon Pioneer and Oregon Trails into the system differed from the 1992 amendment that brought the California Trail into the system, in that the latter included various jumping off and ending points over a much longer period of significance, while the former is simply a straight line from one beginning point to one ending point with a period of significance that ends entirely too early.

We also discussed impacts on private lands, willing seller issues, energy development, and all of the other normal concerns that would come from a congressional office, and I provided real-world examples of how OCTA works with private landowners and developers to lessen effects on the trails without stopping their projects. I feel the meeting was very positive and we do plan to call on Sen. Lee's office personally while in DC next February for Hike the Hill.

Travis Boley, Association Manager
Oregon-California Trails Association



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



Forget the Scissors; Cannon to 'Cut' Ribbon for Historic Cabin, Launch California Pioneer Day

COLOMA, Calif. – A cannon blast will cut a ceremonial ribbon for the public opening and dedication of a replica Mormon Workers Cabin, which played an integral role in the discovery of gold that led to the Gold Rush of 1849. The unique ribbon-cutting ceremony will highlight the fifth California Pioneer Day on Saturday, Nov. 4, at Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma.



This year marks the 175th anniversary of the gold discovery by James Marshall at Coloma on Jan. 24, 1848. The six men who built the original Mormon Workers Cabin, all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and discharged soldiers of the U.S. The Army of the West- Mormon Battalion, had been digging the tailrace for the sawmill in Coloma. The day after the workers completed the cabin, Marshall rushed in to tell them he had just discovered what appears to be gold in the tailrace. Historians know who discovered the gold and the exact date due to journal entries by two of those workers.

"The original cabin has been long gone, and we've had temporary buildings act as the Mormon Workers Cabin, but now this new cabin is built to last and is as historically accurate as possible," said Dennis Holland, a California historian and author who is president of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation. "It is located in close proximity to the Sutter Sawmill, where the original cabin was, making it much easier to view how the history of the gold discovery unfolded."

After its opening on Nov. 4, the Mormon Workers Cabin will be staffed by volunteers in period clothing telling the story of these workers and the gold discovery, and how these men completed the sawmill and their other responsibilities while others left their homes and duties to search for gold

full-time. Part of their story is told in the docudrama, "More Precious Than Gold," which is shown in California schools and at the Coloma visitors center.

The California Pioneer History Day held every other year at the site of the gold discovery will be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 4. It features many fun, child-friendly activities, games and entertainment that harken to the Gold Rush days.

The parade featuring historical groups and descendants of gold discovery pioneers will be held at 10 a.m., ending at the Mormon Workers Cabin. The ceremony will feature a dedication of the cabin by Mark A. Bragg, North America West Area president for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Before the cannon "cuts" the ribbon, Dennis Amaral, California Pioneer Heritage Foundation board member who oversaw the construction of the new cabin, will deed the Mormon Workers Cabin to Barry Smith, superintendent of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. Also planning to be in attendance are U.S. Representatives Kevin Kiley and Tom McClintock.

The California Pioneer History Day, attended in the past by thousands of history buffs and families, highlights the contributions of groups traditionally underrepresented in California's history. It includes historical exhibits and demonstrations from the Chinese Friends of the Railroad; Gold Rush Jewish Community; the Black peacetime military unit, the Buffalo Soldiers; the Mewuk Nisenan Native American tribes; the Japanese Wakamatsu Farm; and the Mormon Battalion.

"There are many groups and individuals who were instrumental in the settling and building up of California, but their stories are rarely told," said Holland. "Telling this history at the site of the gold discovery is appropriate, as that ignited the greatest rush for riches in the world and created this wonderful melting pot of people representing nearly every race and religion settling in California. That made it the most diverse state in the nation and it still is today."

During this year's California Pioneer History Day, more than two-dozen interactive exhibits and activities organized into two "tent towns" will straddle Highway 49, the main thoroughfare into Coloma.

The free event features historic reenactments and displays, a parade with descendants of early California pioneers, musical entertainment and various activities for families and children, including a cannon that shoots candy, free wagon rides, pioneer games and children's crafts.

Historical displays will demonstrate how the pioneers met their needs and how they traveled, cooked and laundered their clothes. Visitors can try their skills making bricks, candles, toys, dolls and other crafts, quilting and even cooking biscuits on a stick over a campfire. Old-time photos with pioneer shirts, skirts, dresses, and bonnets will also be available.

There will also be several historical reenactments featuring mountain men, frontier justice, an authentic medicine man mixing formularies of the day and others portraying famous historical figures.

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

Other demonstrations to take visitors back in time will be members of the Mormon Battalion in period uniforms reenacting the safety precautions taken as they fire a replica of the cannon purchased from Capt. John Sutter in 1848. The Pony Express will also re-create a mail hand-off and free wagon rides will be available.

The parade featuring descendants of early California pioneers, Mormon Battalion, the Ship Brooklyn, and other historical groups will gather at the old cabin at 10:30 a.m. and march to the new cabin, followed by an opening ceremony with guest speaker Rep. Tom McClintock, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives whose 4th district includes Coloma and what is referred to as the Gold Country.

California Pioneer History Day is sponsored by the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation and organized by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints throughout Northern California. Besides the Mormon Battalion, which came to California as a U.S. military unit to fight in the Mexican-American War, other members of The Church of Jesus Christ who were in California before the Gold Rush included those from the Ship Brooklyn, who fled religious persecution in the east by ship and landed in present-day San Francisco in 1846. The Latter-day Saints helped found cities, build schools, start farms, print newspapers and spark the Gold Rush. Some of their history will be told during California Pioneer History Day.

While the event is free, the state parking fee is \$10. Food concessions will be available or attendees can bring their own lunch. Maps will be available to show activity and food locations. Visitors can dress in period clothing, which adds to the fun, but is optional.

Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma features a museum and visitors center, a replica of John Sutter's sawmill where gold was discovered in 1848, and many other buildings that recreate the town of Coloma during the Gold Rush. The museum will be open with free admission during California Pioneer History Day.

For more information call the park's museum at (530) 622-3470.

