



## Message From The President



*Dear Mormon Battalion Association Members,*

This coming July marks the 175th anniversary of the enlistment of The Mormon Battalion. As an Association we desire to commemorate their enlistment and to celebrate their many accomplishments. We seek to honor and to pay homage to the only known military unit in American history, mustered into service based solely on religious affiliation. Their display of determination, endurance, and sacrifice embodies the romance of frontier America and the westward expansion of the nineteenth century. In this edition of your newsletter, you will find a copy of *Family Discovery Activity*, designed by Dave and Geri Munford. Please, try this activity at home, offer copies to Stake Presidents, Bishops, friends, and neighbors as a really fun way for them to participate in Relative Finder and become familiar with the men, women and children of

the Mormon Battalion. Many of the upcoming will be shown with locations, dates, and points of contact. All of the above-mentioned items can be found on our webpage. Please share the Mormon Battalion story with your Bishop's, Stake Presidents, Stake Public Affairs Couples and Stake Media Couples. In keeping with Covid-protocol, we invite you to become engaged in this continuing celebration. May God bless you all.

*God bless you.*

*Jerome Gourley, President*

## 24th Of July Parade

The Mormon Battalion will again carry the colors in the 24th of July parade (on the 23rd this year). We are asking for volunteers to walk or ride on our wagons. Please dress accordingly, (period dress, i.e., either uniforms or Battalion soldier dress for the men, pioneer-type dresses and bonnets for the ladies) and be at the Brigham Young Monument by 8:00 a.m. We will have two wagons for those who would prefer to ride.

The Sunrise Service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> begins at 7:00 am in the Tabernacle, where we will present the Colors.

## Meet Our New Intern!



Sarah Fletcher

The MBA has obtained a Social Media Intern from BYU Department of Communications to help us with our 175th Celebration. Sarah will be spearheading the creation of a YouTube Channel for our organization where people can find and enjoy recorded on-site and on-line events of our 175th Anniversary, and beyond. Additional videos and presentations on a variety of topics will be created to help provide the public with scholarly research on the Mormon Battalion. Hopefully, the channel will be up and running with the first video by mid-May, so stay tuned for more information.

## Storytelling Festival

Ready to tell a good story about the Mormon Battalion? The MBA will host an on-line storytelling festival this fall and we hope you will encourage members of your family of all ages along with friends to participate. You might want to share this project with a

stake social media coordinator and get your stake and ward members involved. It fits perfectly with the Come Follow Me church history curriculum. So start looking for original journals and documents to help you create and tell a 3-7 minute story about a member of the Battalion, those who accompanied them, or family members left behind. It might be an ancestor or a story about a Battalion individual who has inspired you. There are at least 496 stories of men along with their families to explore so you have lots to choose from. Storytelling guidelines will be released in July but we will be looking for stories that have been based on original sources such as personal journals of the individual or close relatives where available. Many of those sources can be found on our website at: <https://www.mormonbattalion.com> or on Family Search. And stories must be shared in real storytelling fashion - not read from a paper. We might even provide an on-line tutorial on how to do that. Your stories will be recorded and many will be shared on our new YouTube Channel.



*Mary Ann Kirk,  
Executive Secretary*

## Battalion Site Reopening



**Mormon Battalion Center, SD CA**

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has approved the phased reopening of Church historic sites in May 2021. The Mormon Battalion Center at San Diego on May 1.

## Report: 175th Anniversary Committee



Please take a look at our website under "Preliminary Calendar for the 175th Anniversary." We have listed the upcoming events as they stand now, with possible additions and changes as we go along. The Sunrise Service and March on the 23rd of July have already been described. On August 14 at Camp Floyd there will be a Military Appreciation Day and some of our re-

enactors will be participating. on August 19-20, a symposium in Council Bluffs, IA, sponsored by the Visitors Center and local LDS stakes. We will have three presenters in a 90-minute session. The following weekend, August 27-28, a conference held by the Santa Fe Trail Association titled "The Military on the Santa Fe Trail" will be held in Council Grove, KS. Again, we will be represented by presenters from the MBA. If any of you are in those areas at that time, please join us. Further information on these and other events will be continually updated on the website.

*Greg Christofferson,  
Vice President*

## Mark Your Calendars! MBA Membership Meeting

Our next general membership meeting on **May 20th at 7:00 p.m. (MDT)** will feature a special presentation by Mike Hemingway on Jessie C. Little and the formation of the Mormon Battalion. Mike served a mission in Northern California, graduated from BYU, served with his wife, Lee Ann, as mission leaders in Rochester, New York, and as site directors for the Mormon Battalion Center at San Diego, You will NOT want to miss his insights!



**Sister and Brother Hemingway  
Reliving the 1840's**

# WARD OR STAKE

## Family Discovery Activity



1. Use your FamilySearch I.D. and password. Go to [relativefinder.org](https://relativefinder.org)
2. Sign in.to **Relative Finder** and Scroll down and click on **More Groups** then go to **Mormon Battalion** and click on it.
3. Pick a relative or Battalion member. Then click on that Persons ID # it will take you to his FamilySearch site.
4. Find a history under **Memories, Documents**; share it with the family.  
Click on the **Ordinance icon** and see if the temple work has been done.
5. Share a video: Go to **YouTube** on your TV. Then go to **Search**.  
Type in **Mormon Battalion**. Pick a video to watch.  
For more information go to the website: [mormonbattalion.com](https://mormonbattalion.com).