

JUANITA BROOKS' LETTERS AND LEGACY
presented by Craig S. Smith

Juanita Brooks, a long-time resident of St. George, is well known for producing her landmark book, *The Mountain Meadows Massacre*, and writing or editing a number of other books. In addition, she was an extraordinary letter writer. She was constantly at her typewriter completing writing projects or typing letters, when not at her unending household tasks or serving as a host to visitors. Her letters are a window into her life and priorities in her own voice allowing for an intimate encounter with the woman who has become an icon. They provide background to her major accomplishments including the hurdles she overcame in the writing and publishing *The Mountain Meadows Massacre* and the aftermath and its acceptance. They offer insights into her many legacies such as her strong will and unwavering commitment to honest scholarship, her personal faith, her continued focus on and support of John D. Lee, and her unceasing public speaking to a wide range of groups throughout Utah. Mr. Smith will discuss her legacy and read from some of her letters.

Craig S. Smith has spent the last couple of years researching and editing Juanita Brooks' letters for a recently published University of Utah Press book, *The Selected Letters of Juanita Brooks*. Though he never met her, he has become closely acquainted with her from the study of these illuminating letters. Mr. Smith is a retired archaeologist living in the Salt Lake Valley. His interests include the archaeology and history of the West. In addition to many archaeological publications, Craig has contributed historical articles to the *Utah Historical Quarterly*, *BYU Studies*, *Overland Journal*, and the *Journal of Mormon History*.