

Late News From The Meadows

The Mountain Meadows Association Newsletter
(Honoring the Dead, Historic Preservation,
Fellowship, & Reconciliation)

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(Submitted by Larry Coates)

New Interpretive Signs

Memorial Overlook

Leaders of the Mountain Meadows Foundation, the Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants, and the Mountain Meadows Association have worked with Ben Pykles for more than two years on the wording for the interpretive signs. For example, look at the photo of the Memorial Overlook. On the edge of the parking lot on Dan Sill Hill, there will be a map and a summary where the trail starts and goes to the Memorial



Overlook. The first sign along the trail contains words from Senator Berry. The second sign includes word from Rachel Hamblin. The third sign discusses the leaders of the wagon train.

By the Memorial Wall, the Mountain Meadows overlook sign reads, In 1990, relatives of the victims and of the perpetrators of the massacre worked together to design the memorial wall behind you. *Emigrants' Campsite* At this spot in September 1857, members of the Arkansas caravan camped, fought off a five-day siege, and were deceived to walk to their deaths. In 1859, soldiers buried bones of 34 victims and built a memorial here. That memorial was replaced with the current memorial in 1999.

A separate memorial was erected in 2014 to honor those who were murdered in the initial siege. *Militia and Indian Campsites* Mormon militiamen and Paiute Indians camped in various locations in this valley. *Trail to Mountain Meadows* Time has erased much of the well-worn wagon trail that once led to Mountain Meadows. Some traces of the trail remain. The Arkansas caravan came from the northeast, through the valley, and across the creek before camping close to a substantial spring west of the current ravine. *Hamblin Ranch* Seventeen small surviving children were taken here just after the massacre. The next day, they were distributed to families in the area. Three of the children—Rebecca, Louisa, and Sarah Dunlap—remained with the Hamblins. After about two years, the families surrendered those seventeen children to federal authorities. The children were returned to relatives in Arkansas.

Memorial to the Women, Children, and Wounded When the attackers deceived the emigrants into leaving the campsite, they separated the women, children, and wounded from the men and older boys. A memorial was erected here in 2014 to honor the women, children, and wounded who were murdered in this valley. ***Memorial to the Men and Older Boys*** The men and older boys were murdered some distance behind the women, children, and wounded. A memorial was erected in their honor in 2011.

There will be interpretive signs at the Siege Memorial and Mass Gravesite, the Men and Boys Memorial, and the Women and Children Memorial. We are waiting for the final approval from the representatives from the three associations and the LDS Church. If we are get permission, we will post the Interpretive Signs Proposal Mountain Meadows Massacre Site National Historic Landmark pdf file on our website – www.mtn-meadows-assoc.com.

Annual Meeting 2017

Because September 11th is on Monday, we plan to hold our annual meetings from Thursday the 7th through Saturday the 9th. After we receive confirmations of the details, we will provide more information about hotel rooms, meeting times, and locations in subsequent newsletters.

On June 7, 2016, the Associated Press reported Senator John Boozman introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal 2017 to permit the burial of a human skull that apparently came from the Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857. The skull has been housed in the National Archives. Boozman acted on a request from the Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants to bury this skull in an ossuary beside the bones of the other victims at the Meadows. The burial will occur Saturday, September 9th, 2017. The MMMD asked our Association to pay for one third of the costs.

Our Website Upgrade

The Mountain Meadows Association website contains a significant amount of accurate information on the massacre that occurred in September 1857. Our website includes the annual meetings, tax exemption letter, DVDs and Videos, Arkansas Emigrants, 17 Survivors, 37 dead children, family links, genealogy, National Landmark, and twenty-three additional items. Unfortunately, the technology that developed this website is longer supported. So we need to turn to a completely new system. We plead with you to make a special donation to make it possible to update our website. Just click on the link **PLEASE JOIN THE MMA OR MAKE A DONATION**.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER(S): _____

E-MAIL: _____

Individual memberships are \$20.00. Family memberships are \$35.00. Lifetime membership for an individual is \$250.00. Lifetime family membership is \$400.00. (Lifetime memberships of those who currently hold lifetime memberships will still be honored.)

Please check the following appropriate categories:

NEW MEMBER _____ **RENEWAL** _____ **LIFETIME** _____

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