

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER



President's Message:

ANNUAL MEETING and Board Elections – September 11-12, 2014 In Utah!

There was a drainage issue at the main monument site. We are in close contact with LDS site managers and as of last week, the project went fine with no problems.

I encourage everyone to become more active by writing news articles and setting up booths at your local fairs and events. Local papers are usually willing to do a story. Work, work, work. Our ancestors deserve our perseverance! Also, note the upcoming Board and Advisory Board elections! GET INVOLVED! **YOU MUST BE A DIRECT OR NEXT-OF-KIN RELATIVE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD.**

Tentative Plans for the Upcoming Annual Meeting

The annual meeting this year will be September 11th and 12th. On the 10th we will have a "meet and greet" at the Best Western Abbey Inn from 6-8 pm. Everyone is invited. Thursday, the 11th, we will be dedicating the two latest monuments at Mountain Meadows. (The LDS say this is all they are going to do).

Members of the wagon train refused to leave their campsite for the death march out before burying their dead. The first monument will honor the ten (or more) victims who were killed in the initial siege. The monument is just now being built, even though all MMM interested groups and the LDS Church Leadership approved it more than twelve years ago! It will be located near the main monument. The other monument is for the women, older girls and injured who were led away first and killed after the men were killed. It will be located in the north end of the valley where they are most likely buried.

On the 11th we will meet at the main monument at 9 am. **WEAR YOUR PRAIRIE CLOTHING!** We will dedicate the **Monument to the Ten** first. Then we are walking the "path of death" up to the Men and Boys' Monument. The walk is one you will never forget. Wear comfortable shoes and cool clothing. We will have a short ceremony, rest and have water available. Next, we'll trek up to where the new monument for the women, girls and injured has been constructed. At each monument we will have short ceremonies that will include a prayer, song and the reading of the names of all the victims. Each organization, MMMD, MMA and MMMF will participate in a part of each ceremony. We've requested and stressed that we want them to be **S-I-M-P-L-E** with no tents and no long, drawn out speeches. You may bring flowers or mementos to leave at the monuments.

Our annual meeting will be held on Friday night at the Best Western Abbey Inn. We have several important items to discuss. Please attend. Hope to see you in Utah next September!

-Patty Norris, President of MMMD

.....

WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP (Patty and Cheri's Big Adventure)

Tuesday, May 27th, was a dreary, rainy day in Springfield, MO, where I flew out; and in Dallas, TX, where Cheri went through. I personally hate flying. It's hot, dirty and you have to breathe other people's air (yuck). The four-hour layover in Atlanta airport was grueling. But we made it to D.C. by late afternoon. The weather was beautiful. Wednesday was a busy, busy day of meetings. We attended the meeting of the NHL Committee, where Rick Turley gave a memorable, inspired talk about our wagon train people. The Committee asked a few questions, then voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to send their recommendation on to the Secretary of the Interior! We went to six U.S. Senators' offices. The Senate was in recess, so we met with their staff and handed out the Mountain Meadows Massacre Information packets Cheri prepared along with a cover letter I wrote to explain our needs and requests. We also visited the Department of Energy and left a packet for Secretary of Energy Moniz. Hopefully, it will get to him. I spoke personally to his secretary (and him briefly when he inadvertently picked up the wrong line!) and she assured me it would get to him. The Department of Energy is key in our fight to get the MM Valley "undeclared" as a utility corridor.

Many people sent letters to Sharon Knowlton, Project Leader with the Bureau of Land Management, to voice opposition to the TransWest power lines coming through Mountain Meadows. A large part of our Washington D.C. trip was dedicated to fighting these power lines. We've now been informed that there has been a lawsuit filed by some environmental groups against the BLM, the Department of Energy and the Forestry Service. So, these groups have opened up public comment about the utility corridor. Our focus now is to try to get the MM valley "undesigned" as a utility corridor. I am gathering information now on what we further need to do in this regard. Watch the website.



In the Office of Arkansas Senator John Boozman



Front Row , Left to Right: Terry Fancher (MMA), Patty Norris (MMMD), Cheri Walker (MMMD), Phil Bolinger (MMMF)

Back Row, Left to Right: Ben Pykles (LDS), Jenny Lund (LDS), Richard Turley (LDS), Scott Fancher (MMMF)



Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives
Meeting Place for the National Historic Landmark Committee

UTILITY CORRIDOR

Many, many years ago, the Mountain Meadows were designated as a "Utility Corridor." This designation has caused us many problems with proposed power lines. The construction and maintenance of massive power lines constitute a serious threat to the sanctity and peaceful atmosphere of the Mountain Meadows Massacre site. The Mountain Meadows Valley should not be a "Utility Corridor." We continue to fight diligently for the burial sites of our ancestors. This has proven to be a time-consuming, tedious process, but we remain vigilant and committed. Your input and help are essential to our success! Many of you have written letters in this regard. Thank you! We have many projects in progress as well as the power line issues. (You can keep informed best by regularly visiting the BLM.gov web site).

DNA SUBMISSIONS

Further DNA testing needs to be done on the Idaho skull and on the child's skull that is in a museum. So far we have no clearance to do DNA testing on the child, but we're still trying to get it. When this happens, we need to be ready with DNA data from our members. This is a "long shot" at best due to the circumstances and the time that's gone by, but we must try. If we can prove that the skulls are from the Massacre, we hope to obtain them to see that they are given proper burial. For this reason, we need DNA testing done on a direct lineal descendant **from each family** that was killed in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. The best sample would be from a direct maternal line (straight female line); however, we'll take what we can get.

Your DNA information will remain private and confidential and used only to establish the familial identity of any physical remains that we have reason to believe are from the Baker/Fancher Wagon Train. Patty Norris has DNA Kits available to send to those who are willing to be tested. **There is no charge.**

To request a free DNA kit, write to Patty Norris at:
545 CR 846, Omaha, AR 72662 or email her at pat.norris1502@gmail.com.

.....

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD

September 12th, 2014, we will be electing an entirely new Board and Advisory Board at our annual meeting, as all terms will be up. Please send your nominations (you can nominate yourself !) to Patty Norris, 545 CR 846, Omaha, AR 72662 or pat.norris1502@gmail.com. The MMD Board will evaluate the nominations, verify willingness to serve and present the nominees for a vote at our Annual Meeting on September 12th in Utah. If you cannot attend, you can proxy out your vote to any member who will be in attendance. Service on the Board and Advisory Board is an honor and privilege. This organization is the VOICE of the Direct and Next-of-kin to the MMM Victims. GET INVOLVED! Nominations need to be in no later than August 1st for us to get our verifications done.

Message from Cheri Baker Walker:

I have 6 issues of the September 2013 *Carroll County Historical Quarterly*. It has an excellent article and pictures about our MMMD annual meeting in Harrison, AR in April 2013. If anyone would like a copy, please send me \$5.00 to cover the cost of postage. There is no charge for the Quarterly.

I also have 9 copies of the *Arkansas Family Historian*, Volume 51, Number 4, December 2013. In it, Russell P. Baker writes about the Mountain Meadows Massacre and our MMMD meeting in April. Russell is a genealogical lecturer, writer, researcher and retired archivist for the Arkansas History Commission. He spoke at our meeting last year on the history of the land and the people of Northern Arkansas in the 1800's. There is no charge for a Copy. Please send \$5.00 to cover postage.

Send your money to: P.O. Box 1704, Amarillo, TX 79105



Membership Application

This application is available online at our website:

<http://mtnmeadowsmassacredescendants.com/mmmd-organization/mmmd-membership>

or you can mail this application to:

Cheri Baker Walker at P.O. Box 1704, Amarillo, TX 79105.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES : **\$25.00** (Dues expire 12-31-14)

Your tax exempt contributions are always welcome!

If mailing it in, please print clearly and return this form with your annual dues.

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ - _____ - _____ (cell) _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Connection to wagon train:

Direct Descendant or Collateral Descendant (circle 1 if known)

Name of known ancestor: _____

Desire to work in this capacity: _____
