

# FEBRUARY, 2015

# NEWSLETTER



## President's Message:

Our 2014 annual meeting days were a wonderful success. We met in St. George, Utah, for a "Meet and Greet" on Wednesday evening, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Turnout was great and we enjoyed renewing friendships and catching up (and eating!). Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, we met early at the main monument at Mountain Meadows. The "Death Trail Walk" was monumental. So many thoughts and feelings to experience. We dedicated two new monuments, bringing the total number now to five. The **Main Monument**, where numerous victims were buried in 1999; the **Dan Sill Hill Monument**, overlooking the entire valley; the **Monument to the Men and Boys**; and the two newest, the "**Monument to the Ten**" that we worked for many years to see developed and constructed, and then the "**Monument to the Women, Injured and Children.**" On Friday, we were fortunate to have Retired Circuit Judge Roger V. Logan, Jr., lead us on a Day Trip. We visited Fort Harmony, where the little surviving children spent some time, and where John D. Lee and some of the Paiutes who participated in the massacre, met to revel in the "bounty" of their horrific crimes of slaughter and thievery. We visited the museum and a site where John D. Lee and others met to plan their evil deeds; we ate lunch together in Cedar City. Then we traveled by the old two story home in Cedar City where the little surviving children were taken. They say Cedar City was small then, and you could hear the children crying "all over town." We stopped at Leachy Spring, where William Aden was killed, while trying to get help for the besieged wagon train. I left a flower, a memorial and a prayer for him there. Things he was never afforded.....We then traveled the back roads from Cedar City to Mountain Meadows. This was the trail our wagon train took. On Friday afternoon, we stopped and spent "quiet time" in the MMM valley. I love going there when there aren't many people. It is so special to me. Mountain Meadows has come so far over the past several years. But there is still much to do, maintenance and over-sight of the area will never end for the families of those who died there in 1857. The story, the history and the sacredness of that site remains forever in our hearts and minds.

I encourage each of you to join our organization. It has some of the most wonderful people on earth, and I have been blest to meet and work with these individuals. We share a common bond of love and commitment to those who died and the babies that survived, that cannot be broken.

**Patty Norris, President of MMMD**

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Roger V. Logan, Jr speaking at the monument to the Women, Children and Wounded at upper end of Valley



Billy (holding his poem to the victims) and Kenny Hightower at the Monument to the First Ten Who Died in the Siege—where their ancestor, **MILAM RUSH** died

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### UTILITY CORRIDOR (UPDATE)

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 by regularly visiting the BLM.gov web site) The Sigurd-Red Butte project is finished. MMMD was instrumental in defeating this power line’s intrusion through the Mountain Meadows Valley/Burial Sites. We are now fighting a much larger wind tunnel project, TransWest. The threat is real.

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### ELECTION OF NEW BOARD AND ADVISORY BOARD

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, we elected an a new Board and Advisory Board at our annual meeting. Servitude 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!!!!** **NEW OFFICERS** are: President: Patty Norris; Vice President: Currently Open (nominations accepted); Treasurer: Cheri B. Walker; Parliamentarian: Billy Hightower; Secretary: Mary Bump; Webmaster: Mary Ledbetter; News Editor: Chris Horsfield. Our Advisory Board, is a VERY important part of our organization. While they have no voting privilege, this Board is made up of knowledgeable, dedicated individuals that the Board looks to for guidance and input. **ADVISORY BOARD:** Roger V. Logan, Jr.; Donald R. Baker; Ronald Mitchell; Kenny Hightower and Ron Loving. Sincere thanks to each one of these individuals. If you would like to serve this organization in some capacity, please let us know!!! We’re always looking for new, energetic, committed members.

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## CHILD'S REMAINS

Since 2009, we (MMMD) has worked tirelessly to find and acquire remains stolen from the massacre site/killing field. Ronald Loving and Mary Baker Ledbetter found a young child's remains in a museum in Washington D.C. Cheri Walker and I visited the museum and notified them of our intent to take possession of these remains. Since that time, we have worked diligently through emails, phone calls, letters, and even hiring an attorney to meet with the museum's attorney and administration, all to no avail. Upon advice of legal counsel, last year, while in Washington D.C. attending a National Historic Landmark Committee meeting (to include the upper massacre/gravesites of the Cottam Property) Cheri and I visited many United States Senators and even the Department of the Interior, to solicit assistance. Many of the U.S. Senators were direct descendants of the killers!!!! Senator Orin Hatch; Senator Tom Udall and Senator Mark Udall. The only one that responded positively was Senator John Boozman, from Arkansas. None of the others expressed concern. Since that time, Senator Boozman has worked many hours, made phone calls and visits to the museum and worked with the Army (who incidentally were responsible for the removal of these remains from the massacre/burial site).

Currently, we feel very confident that we will eventually see this child's remains, as well as the "Idaho Lady" buried at Mountain Meadows. The "Idaho Lady" who you remember was "found" in a pawn shop north of Salt Lake City with a note identifying her as being from the Mountain Meadows Massacre. A family from Idaho turned her over to MMMD, for further testing and identification. DNA testing and professional consultations have shown this may very well be true. She is a young (early 20s) Caucasian, with a gunshot wound to the head. There has been nothing that would indicate she was not on our wagon train.

I must also note that one of the other "Mountain Meadows" groups (non-descendants) tried to get her, and they never questioned the State of Idaho's testing procedures, which upon examination and consultation by Dr. Jerry Rose and one of his graduate students at the University of Arkansas, was determined to be the wrong tests for a skull of this age. The State of Idaho determined it to be an "Asian male." The president of this group referred to her as a "Halloween ornament!!!!" This is another reason we have a "Descendant's Organization." We (MMMD) will leave no stone unturned, when ascertaining accurate information about our people. We also continue to search for items stolen from the killing field. **We don't believe in "Finders Keepers!!!"**

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## WILLIAM ALLEN ADEN

1838 – 1857

(by Patty Norris—from various research sources)

NOTE: Rose Canon of Waller, TX, William's great-niece, has been an active member of MMMD since it began ten years ago

WILLIAM ADEN was a poet, a musician and an accomplished artist. He left Henry County, Tennessee in early 1857, traveling to California. His father was prominent Doctor Sidney Bennett Aden and his mother was Delilah Aden. William had blue eyes, dark curly hair and fair skin. He sketched scenery along his journey, and did scenic paintings at Provo, Utah, for the Provo Dramatic Association. He joined the Baker-Fancher wagon train in Provo, as they traveled through. William and another young man (sadly, we aren't sure who that was---possibly one of the Baker or Fancher boys) left the besieged wagon train during the five days, trying to get to Cedar City, where they believed they could find help. They stopped at Leachy Spring where they encountered Mormon men, two of whom were identified as Mormon 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant William C. Stewart, another was Joel White; Young Aden thought he had found allies, but when he identified himself and his mission, Mormon Stewart opened fire on the young men, killing

William and wounding the other young man, who escaped, even though Stewart reported they “searched diligently” for him. Some have said the other young man survived and made it back to the wagon train to tell the tale. I do not believe this to be so. My reasoning is that if the wagon train leaders had known Mormons were behind this evil attack, they would NEVER have trusted them when they rode into their camp under white flag, nor laid down their weapons under the false premise of “safe journey” out of the valley. Remember, the wagon train leaders thought the indians were solely responsible for this attack. REST IN PEACE, sweet William. You are our unsung hero.

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## HISTORIC INTERPRETIVE MARKERS

MMMD is working with the LDS Church to develop appropriate Interpretive Markers for the Massacre/burial Site. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. It is of utmost importance that the Massacre/Burial Site, which is now a National Historic Landmark, be accurately marked in a true and honest manner so that those who visit the site will know what happened there.

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### *Sad Farewells*

## **Janet Baker Passow – January 20, 2015**

### **Great-great-granddaughter of Captain John Twitty Baker.**



Janet Baker Passow, of Amarillo, passed from this life on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Services were held 3 pm, Friday, January, 23, 2015, in Llano Cemetery Mausoleum, Amarillo, Texas. Arrangements by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount Blvd.

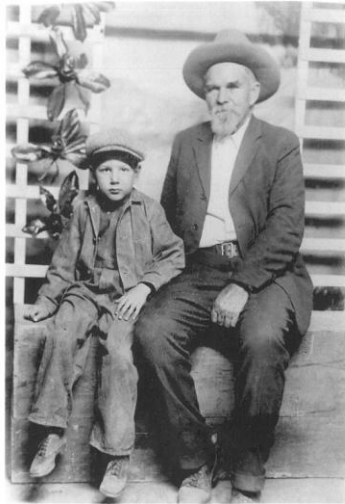
Janet was born March 14, 1953, in Hereford, to Dennis H. and Lois Standifer Baker. Janet was a 1971, graduate of Palo Duro High School.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include two daughters, Kimberley Whitworth and husband Bryan of Benbrook, TX and Stephanie Passow and Siroos Khamifi, of Amarillo; one son, Kris Passow and wife Kim; and grandson, Chase Passow, of Keller, Texas; her sister, Cheri Walker and husband Bob of Amarillo; her nephew, Mark Walker; and her great-niece, Annalee Walker of Amarillo. The family requests memorials be made to Gentiva Hospice, 3232 Hobbs, Amarillo, TX 79109. Janet loved her Mountain Meadows Family and spent a lot of time researching this history.

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**FELIX MARION JONES, SURVIVOR OF THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE  
WITH 4 ½ YEAR OLD MILAM ALEXANDER JONES.**



**MILAM ALEXANDER “BIG DADDY” JONES**

**MILAM ALEXANDER “BIG DADDY” JONES,** 88, of Wimberley, Texas, passed away on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at Central Texas Medical Center in San Marcos, Texas. Milam was born on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1923, in Lockhart, Texas, the son of Milam Alexander Jones, Sr., and Majorette Willy Jones. He was the grandson of Felix Marion Jones, one of only 17 survivors of the Mountain Meadows Massacre, which occurred on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1857 in Southern Utah. Milam was a World War II Veteran, serving valiantly in the United States Air Force. After the War, Milam attended Rice Institute in Houston, where he played football for the Rice Owls, including the 1947 Orange Bowl, where Rice defeated the University of Tennessee 8-0. Milam was a retired Cooling Tower Engineer of many years with various companies in Texas, and was a member of the Wimberley Masonic Lodge Number 1445. Milam was a devoted husband, , father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was deeply loved and admired by all who knew him. Milam touched many lives through his humor, smile, and unconditional love. His presence and companionship will be sincerely missed by his many friends and family. Milam was preceded in death by his grandfather, Felix Marion Jones, his parents, Milam and Majorette Jones; his wife of almost 60 years, Bobbie Gertrude Maddox Jones; daughters Jan Ellen Dickson and Bobbie Eaton; and grandson Jeremy Maddox White. Milam is survived by his daughter, Jerilyn Jones Clayton and her husband Robert “Bob” Clayton of Las Vegas, Nevada; and sons, Milam “Mike” Jones and his wife Mary Lou of San Antonio, Texas, Alan Jones and his wife Carolyn of Wimberley, Texas, Matt Jones and his wife Stephanie of Wimberley, Texas, Ethan Jones and his wife Darlene of Wimberley, Texas; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren, and numerous friends and extended family members. A graveside service was conducted on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, at Wimberley Cemetery in Wimberley under the direction of Thomason Funeral Home in Wimberley, Texas.

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**PLEASE JOIN OUR ORGANIZATION AND HELP PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN THIS  
VERY IMPORTANT SITE. THE MOUNTAIN MEADOWS MASSACRE  
DESCENDANTS WELCOMES ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THIS HISTORY.**



**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT**

## **Membership Application**

**This application is available online at our website:**

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

or you can print and send this application to:

**Cheri Baker Walker, MMMD Treasurer, P.O. Box 1704, Amarillo, TX 79105.**

Please type or print clearly and send with your annual dues.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES - \$25.00 --- (Dues expire 12-31-15)

**\*\*your tax exempt contributions are always welcome too!!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Street number & Street

\_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_\_\_ (state) \_\_\_\_\_ (zip code)

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Connection to wagon train:

Direct Descendant or Collateral Descendant (circle one, if known)

Name of known

ancestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Desire to work in this capacity in the Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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