



December 2017 Newsletter

Wishing each and every one of you a happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas season

NOTE: *THIS IS THE LAST CONSTANT CONTACT NEWSLETTER*****
please visit our website and blog mmmd1857.org to stay updated on projects and activities.

Watch our website: mmmd1857.org for current information

The Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants was formed in 2004 by direct descendants of Captain John T. Baker and Captain Alexander Fancher on behalf of **ALL** MMM families, to ensure that direct and close collateral descendants of those Victims have a voice. We have a wonderful, strong organization and are proud of what we've been able to be a part of on behalf of those Victims. We make efforts to see that all interested parties are kept informed and anyone can offer input via our website and blog, Constant Contact mailings, paper newsletters to paid members and our fun, informative annual meetings. Our group consists of family members from every known family on the wagon train. See our website (massacre/genealogy) for help with your family connections. MMMD believes every Family and every Victim is equally important and we will continue to defend each one against attacks of imagined superiority or entitlement by any person or group.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN ST. GEORGE, UTAH

The 2017 Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendants Annual Meeting was held September 9th, 2017, at the Clarion Inn Conference Center in St. George, Utah. The room was overflowing, and we had an informative meeting. Ron Loving gave a presentation on what lead him to the discovery of the Child Victim's remains in a Washington DC museum. He also provided a PowerPoint showing details on the discovery and recovery of victim remains at the Main Monument Site in 1999, which he was involved in. Benjamin Pykles and Aaron West of the LDS Church brought us up-to-date on the individual memorial stone project and the projected date for completion. Other information about the Interpretive Sign Project was shared, as were details for the following days' activities.

MMMD has always had fun meetings. They are well-attended and this one was no exception. The food was plentiful and wonderful. **(A special THANK YOU to Cheri Baker Walker, MMMD Treasurer, for making the arrangements)** We had several gifts for those in attendance, a drawing for



the numerous door prizes donated---several flags that have been flown over the massacre/burial site were included as door prizes. As we've done every year we've visited Mountain Meadows, MMMD gave a beautiful lapel pin and ribbon inscribed with the date and event being honored, as well as the MMMD logo, to those in attendance. Such beautiful and meaningful keepsakes.

One of the lapel pins MMMD created for special event at the massacre/burial site.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

We appreciate those descendants who live near The Meadows for taking their time to watch over the site and help in many ways. Thank you to Retired Circuit Judge Roger V. Logan, Jr. for the preparation and for leading an informative tour of the new Interpretive Signs where many asked questions and observed the beautiful, artistic signs telling the Massacre Victim's Story.

MMMD hosted a delicious luncheon at the site. Thank you to the LDS Church for setting up a large tent, chairs, podiums and speakers for the service, and for furnishing the burial vault.

Thank you, Kenny Hightower, for your beautiful songs at the child's service, and to Cheri Walker, Ron Loving, Roger Logan and Billy Hightower for the beautiful words and reading of the Victim names. For every word, song and prayer----**THANK YOU!**

And our thanks to Ben Pykles for coordinating the preparations done at the burial site, with the sizing of the little casket, and to all the workers and those who helped with the logistics for the burial. **THANK YOU!!!**

WORKING HARD FOR MMM VICTIMS

A committee made of members from each of the three MMM Organizations, consisting of representatives of several victim families as well as the LDS Church, has been working very hard on behalf of the Mountain Meadows Massacre Victims to see accomplishments in the MMM Valley. Most are not aware of the selfless sacrifice; the tremendous amount of time and energy members of this Committee have given on behalf of the Mountain Meadows Massacre Victims.

Some things we've accomplished at Mountain Meadows working together with the other two MM Organizations and the LDS Church:

1) In 1999, the MMMD had not yet been formed, however, we saw the old monument taken down and replaced by the beautiful monument in place today. Several of us were part of those 29 Victims being given a Christian funeral/burial by their Kin.

2) We've seen five granite memorial markers erected in the massacre valley.

3) The LDS purchased hundreds of acres in the massacre/gravesite valley and applied for and were awarded the **NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK** status for most of the massacre valley.

4) Currently working to get the last piece of MM property in the valley secured, marked and protected, then added to the NHL.

5) Worked three-plus years on **"The Interpretive Sign"** Project. We have 19 beautiful, artistic, historically accurate signs placed in the massacre valley, telling the story of the Victims.

6) We've worked hard, attending every meeting, writing letters, emails, making phone calls to challenge and interrupt the construction of two *major* power lines that targeted and wanted to go through the middle of massacre valley. (Sigurd-Red Butte and TransWest). We succeeded. There are no large intrusive power lines through Mountain Meadows Massacre/Burial Sites.

7) In 2009, Ron Loving found a Child Victim's remains housed in a dark, cold museum where it had been since 1864. MMMD has since spent tremendous man-hours on research, communication and planning over an eight-year period, to get the MMM Child Victim's remains released for burial back at Mountain Meadows. This child deserved and was given a beautiful, Christian funeral service by family members, that included beautiful prairie floral arrangements, Christian music, old-time fiddlers played "Arkansas Traveler" and other period tunes, (some on the wagon train played the fiddle--- Captain Alexander Fancher was reported to be one of them); poems and scripture reading. Family members lined the pathway to the burial vault as a lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace". Roger Logan offered statements and prayers at the committal. Prior to the services/burial at Mountain Meadows, family members gathered at the mortuary that morning to give this child the ultimate

memorial service, honoring this child and **ALL THOSE** who died within this age group. The child was buried in a handmade, Oak casket, from Oak wood from Northwest Arkansas where the wagon train originated, (made by Doug **Richardson**, who is related to the Dunlap Family). Two precious ladies, (also from that family and all from Bergman, Arkansas), Lesia **Foresee** handmade a beautiful loomed wrap for the child's remains; and a handmade quilt by **Marilyn Richardson** embroidered with the known names of all those killed in this age group, as well as one for "Unknown" as there may be others. The child's remains were lovingly wrapped in these items. A small Angel was also placed in the casket by family and a beautifully engraved plaque placed atop the tiny casket which reads, "**Child Victim of the Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857. Recovered from a museum and buried by family members on September 9th, 2017. Rest in Peace little one WE WILL NEVER FORGET**" see: mmmd1857.org for pictures

The child's remains were escorted to the Mountain Meadows burial site at the main monument by Metcalf Mortuary and buried next to the vault where 29 victims were re-interred in 1999. This child was buried atop Arkansas soil hand-carried by numerous family members (soil was taken from Victim Captain John T. Baker land owned in Arkansas and several Survivor graves) and put in the vault by Kyler Clark, Captain Alexander Fancher's descendant. **ALL** the children's names within this age group were on the little quilt and hand wrapped for the burial; and **ALL** children names were read at the funeral service. See mmmd1857.org for pictures of the service and activities.

MMMD will be preparing and placing loom-cloths and an embroidered quilt, identical to the ones used for the burial, plus photographs of the Oak casket (with engraved plaque atop) at the **Boone County Heritage Center in Harrison, Arkansas**, and the **Carroll County Historical Society in Berryville, Arkansas**, (the wagon train began south of Harrison, Arkansas, which was Carroll County, Arkansas, at that time), for family members to visit and know the love and care given their little angel, and for information to the public. Watch the website for updates and dates of presentation.

8) We helped with finances, planning and preparation to see personal granite markers placed around the main monument, honoring **Each Victim** individually, that we have a name for. (Others may be/can be added later). We would note this was a \$25,000+ project that all three MMM Organizations and the LDS Church participated together to see this accomplished. Identifying and memorializing the Victims individually has long been a goal of MMMD. See image below.



Left shows how the memorial stones are set all around the main monument.

Every Man, Woman and Child Victim of the Mountain Meadows Massacre are equally important and MMMD will continue to work to see their gravesites and their stories are honorable and remain as accurate and true as possible. We're not perfect, we know, but we have spent unbelievable time and effort to be as historically accurate as possible.

MMMD is a totally volunteer organization. Our motivation is LOVE and HONOR for the MMM Victims.

We work very hard to keep you informed and up-to-date and to represent the majority of direct and next-of-kin of MMM Victims to the best of our ability. MMMD desires to see everyone interested given opportunity to be involved, if they are willing to work within our group in an atmosphere of respect, conformity and unity, toward honoring and appropriately memorializing our Kin who died at Mountain Meadows. We have always done that, and we always will.

Visit our new web site and blog: www.mmmd1857.org for news and Information!!!

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