

OUR PIONEER HAPPENINGS

CALIFORNIA PIONEER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Preserving Our Pioneer Heritage

Spring 2021



The rock behind the spring cover had been vandalized and tagged with paint. The sign that describes the site had been damaged and the support posts broken from snow damage.

Damaged Tragedy Springs Site Is Restored

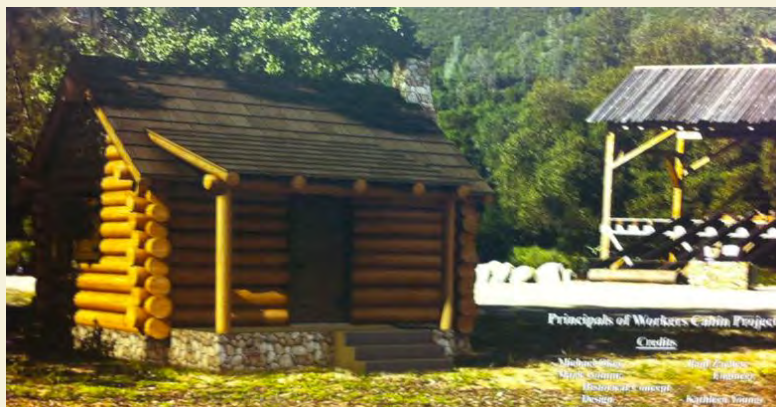
Peter and Virginia Guilbert visited the Mormon Emigrant Trail to look for potential fall hiking sites. While stopping at Tragedy Springs for lunch, they found the site in need of maintenance and repairs. The rock behind the spring cover had been vandalized and tagged with paint. The sign that describes the site had been damaged and the support posts broken from snow damage.

California Pioneer History volunteers, Margo and Sumner Howes, Dick Williams, Virginia and Peter Guilbert, with retired USFS volunteer trek coordinator Frank Tortorich, organized a work party to restore the site. The workers replaced the posts with new ones and secured them in cement. Biodegradable paint cleaner was used to remove the paint. The leaves and debris surrounding the grave site were swept and removed. During lunch, Frank shared many interesting facts about the three scouts, Daniel Browett, Ezra Allen, and Henderson Cox, for the Mormon Battalion. The men were murdered at the site and Frank described the scene as described in the journal entries.

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Progress on the Mormon Worker's Cabin in Coloma



After their discharge from the military many members of the Mormon Battalion traveled north in California. Six of these battalion members hired on to assist John Sutter and James Marshall build a sawmill on the south branch of the American River. They built a cabin like this, completing it on January 23, 1848. Because of two of the battalion men's journals, we know the actual date that gold was discovered-January 24, 1848.



Volunteers from the Gold Discovery District staff the cabin year-round.

A replica of the cabin in which the mill workers lived, known as the Mormon Workers' Cabin, has been one of the features of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park for many years. Over the years it has been attacked by the sun, rain, dry rot, carpenter ants and termites. It is not only becoming unsafe to interpret but it is now located too far away from the newly completed replica of Sutter's Mill.

We have undertaken construction of a new replica cabin which will be located prominently near the Mill site. Today the cabin is maintained by California Living History volunteers, 25 from the El Dorado area. The volunteers staff the cabin year-round and explain the history of the Mormon Battalion and the six Mormon-boys (as Sutter lovingly called them) who helped him build the lumber mill.



Michael Duggan and Bubba Blair from the Sacramento District

Over 70,000 school children experience this rich history each year, and nearly 2 Million visitors from all over the world visit Marshall Gold State Historic Park and the Mormon Worker's Cabin.

Natomas Dredge Crew Shack Rebuilt at Folsom Pioneer Village



The Dredge Office, a small building at the Folsom Pioneer Village was crushed by a large limb in August. The rebuild was completed in early December 2020.



Pioneer Village is an outdoor, living history museum. This interactive interpretive area includes gold panning and a working blacksmith forge. Here, you can explore a miner's cabin, a genuine Southern Pacific Railroad caboose and walk through historic Ashland Station. California Living History Specialists share stories of early California pioneers and their role in the discovery of gold. The [Folsom Pioneer Village](#) is located at 196 Wool Street, Folsom, California 95630 in Sacramento County. Hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm Tuesday-Sunday, weather permitting.



Coordinating Council Liaison Report

By Elder Jay Pimentel

North American West Area Communications Director

To align California Living History Church-Service Missionaries connections with local leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, CLHM liaisons will now attend Coordinating Council Communication Council meetings. "What's a Coordinating Council Communication Council?" you ask.

Church leadership in California is divided into 15 Coordinating Councils. The boundaries for each CC match the boundaries of a proselyting mission. (See the map) Each CC has a CCCD – Coordinating Council Communication Director and a CC Communication Council that "helps coordinate relationships, events and issues that cross stake boundaries" and that offer "support and training to stake communication councils." (Gen Handbook 5.2.1.7).

CC liaisons from the CLHM will be a link in informing Church leaders about the CLHM and in recruiting new Church-Service Missionaries to serve California Living History missions. Currently there are 116 missionaries serving in 12 districts and geographic areas.



All of the CCCDs report to Elder Jay Pimentel, the Church's Communication Director for the North America West Area of the Church that includes all of California and additional West Coast States. Elder Pimentel has been an enthusiastic proponent of the CLHM for years and is excited to continue to work closely together with the CLH Church-Service Missionaries.



Elder Jay Pimentel is interviewed at Marshall Gold Discovery State Park during a visit to the park and the Mormon Worker's Cabin. Elder Pimentel makes an appeal for others to consider being a part of the California Living History Mission and to participate in sharing the history of the area.

Living History Specialists Present California Pioneer History in Local Schools

Antonia Amaral, School Living History Program Coordinator for the California Pioneer History Program plans the schools presentation calendar almost a year in advance. Placer, El Dorado, and Sacramento counties are open again after almost a year of school closures due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The program is designed for 4th graders and meets the California State Standards.



The Mormon Battalion Historic Site Reaches a Global Audience By Offering Virtual Tours

San Diego, California

Because of COVID-19 and the subsequent worldwide global pandemic, the Mormon Battalion Historic site has been closed to in-person visitors since March 2020. As a result of experimenting with sharing the tours with family and friends through social media, virtual tours were further expanded to larger global audience.



Sister Caelie Noall and Sister Isabella Rich show virtual visitors some of the artifacts found in the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. Because of COVID-19, Church historic sites have been closed to in-person visitors since March 2020. **Credit: Courtesy Mormon Battalion Historic Site**



Sister Jessa Lethbridge and Sister Hannah Van Holten welcome virtual visitors to the Mormon Battalion Historic Site in San Diego, California. **Credit: Courtesy Mormon Battalion Historic Site**



Sister Guo You Li and Sister Sydney Warner help give a virtual tour of the Mormon Battalion Historic Site. **Credit: Courtesy Mormon Battalion Historic Site**

DESCENDANTS OF THE MORMON BATTALION MARCH IN THE CARMICHAEL 4TH OF JULY ELK'S CLUB ANNUAL PARADE



Three Generations of Corless Family March Together in the Parade



Grandson Collin, Son Andrew, Father John

John's great, great, great-grandfather was Thomas Weir, a 3rd Corporal, Company A. in the Mormon Battalion. The following is an account John shares as a California Living History reenactor.

He left behind a wife who was 3 months pregnant. At one point, Thomas and a companion were captured by the enemy. They were taken to an adobe cabin and held captive. They managed to befriend the cook who told them that the enemy wanted to do away with them but they were not worth powder and ball. The cook advised them to be careful with food and drink given to them. They gave a bit of food given to them to a dog that was tied nearby before eating it. It was not long until the dog showed signs of poisoning and died.

Thomas and his companion realized that their only hope of survival was to make their escape which they did that evening. In making their escape, Thomas suffered a blow to the back of his head that affected him throughout his life. They ran and walked as best they could all night.

Following are Thomas's own words as quoted in the book **500 WAGONS STOOD STILL**. "When dawn came, we were hungry, faint, and almost exhausted. We knelt down to pray and ask God to help and direct us. In a short time we came to a beaten trail. We followed it but a little distance when to our astonishment and gladness we found a soldier's knapsack well filled with food and water. From its contents we discerned that it belonged to one of our own company. We knew from the shoe tracks that the company was marching ahead." "the finding of the knapsack and our escape were miracles wrought by the hand of God, in answer to [our] prayers."



David Kaufman III, Peter Guilbert, Jessie Brown, Dennis Amaral, John Corless, Bubba Blair Virginia Guilbert, Carol Tullis, Sandra Lunceford, Jayden Russell Edwards. Peter Guilbert descendants, Moses and Edward Davis Wade, were in Company C.



Wesley Imire, Claire Giles, Elizabeth Garbett, Emily Giles-The Giles children are descendants of Henderson Cox, Company D. Henderson Cox was one of three murdered at Tragedy Springs.

Elizabeth is a descendant of Alvah Chauncey Calkins, Edwin R. Calkins, James Wood Calkins, all privates in Company A.



Cousins, Jayden Russell Edwards, Pollock Pines, California and David Kaufman, III Three Lakes, Wisconsin, both descendants of Elisha Averett, Musician, Company C, march together.

California Living History Reenactors March with the Mormon Battalion Association in the Days of '47 Parade

*Salt Lake City, Utah
July 24, 2019*

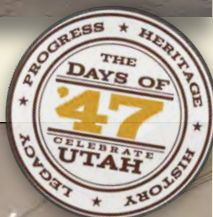
California Living History Specialists and friends traveled to Utah to participate in the annual Days of '47 Sunrise Service co-sponsored by the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square on July 24th known as Pioneer Day in Utah.

This year's color guard included Peter Guilbert from the Sacramento district and Eric Durston, Russell Harper, Carmichael, California, with Lieutenant Colonel Max W. Jamison, Battalion Commander and the Mormon Battalion Association for the posting of the colors and the pledge of allegiance. The program included the presentation of the Days of '47 royalty by the President of the International Daughters of Utah Pioneers, music from the Salt Lake Valley Combined Institute Choir, remarks from Elder Lawrence E. Corbridge of the Seventy. President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency was in attendance with his wife, Kristen.

Following the Sunrise Service, Peter and Virginia Guilbert, Eric and Hannah Harper Durston, and Naomi Harper marched with members of Mormon Battalion Association in the Days of '47 Parade, one of the oldest parades in the United States.



Eric Durston and Peter Guilbert, third and fourth from the left marched with Mormon Battalion Association members.



Eric Durston, Peter Guilbert, and Russell Harper post colors during the annual Sunrise Service. The event is co-sponsored by The Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers as a gift to the community.



Hannah Durston and Virginia Guilbert smile at the crowd.

Preserving Our Pioneer Heritage



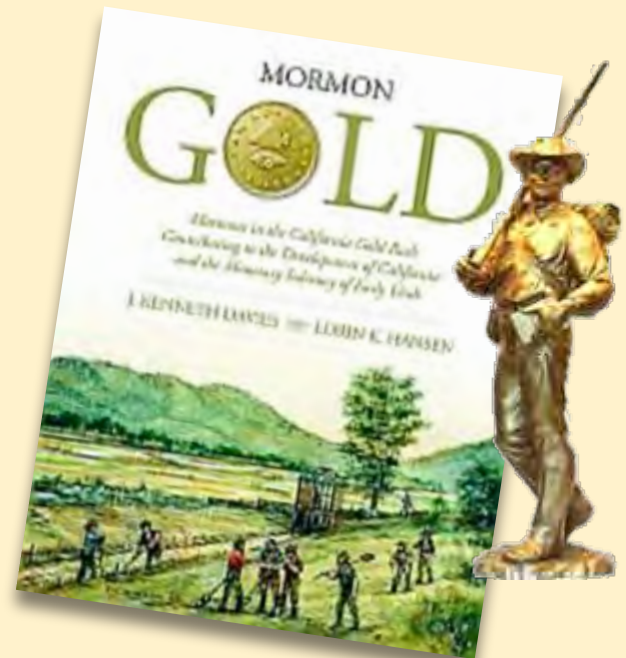
The mission of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation is to promote recognition of the contributions made by the men and women who came to California prior to 1869, with particular emphasis on the contributions of pioneers who were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We will accomplish this by:

- ☐ Encouraging research
- ☐ Producing and distributing educational materials
- ☐ Preserving and establishing monuments and historical sites
- ☐ Sponsoring and supporting commemorative events and activities.

As a 501c (3) non-profit corporation, the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation enables donors to help us accomplish worthy goals through through tax deductible contributions.

Thank you for your interest in preserving California's pioneer heritage. Your contribution will assist us in identifying and preserving historical sites and records, and educating others about the contribution of California pioneers.



Limited Time Special!

For a donation of \$100 or greater we will be happy to send a gift of the book

"Mormon Gold", a regular \$49.95 value.
(request book at time of donation)

California Pioneer
Heritage Foundation

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