

Journal of Elder M.W. Miller Grade Ball Baker City,

CALENDAR *of Events*

July 27, Tuesday, 7 p.m. **Harvey & Susan Easton Black** will tell what they've learned during their July visit to Omaha to do research.

August 26, Thursday, 7 p.m. Brent Frederickson — The John Lambert Family who came to Winter Quarters in 1846 from Nauvoo.
Gail Holmes — Herding, Guarding & Wintering Pioneer Livestock.
Nomination of officers for 2004-2005.

September 25, Saturday, 1 p.m. Election of officers. Paul Larsen — Job Taylor Smith. Gail Holmes — Cutler's Park, Indian Delegations, and Nauvoo Legion Reorganization.

2:30 p.m. Auto tour of the Reorganized Nauvoo Legion sites at Winter Quarters; Mormon Battalion sites (mustering grounds, Farewell Ball, Point aux Poules supply site).

September 26, Sunday, 6 p.m. Fireside given by BYU History Professor, Bill Hartley. "Joseph Smith's Early Years as Prophet as Reflected in His 1829-1833 Papers" at the Mormon Trail Center. William G. Hartley is also one of the editors of the Joseph Smith Papers, a 10 to 20 volume project that the Church will begin publishing next year to commemorate Joseph Smith's 200th birthday.

October 15 & 16, A play, written by Carole Waterman of Omaha, will be performed by a group from Oak Park, California. "Voices of Winter Quarters: 1846-1848. Friday 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Seating will be on a first come first serve basis. No admission charge. Children must be 12 and older to attend.

No meetings are scheduled for November & December.

January 22, Saturday, 1 p.m. Elder Thurber, Trail Center Director, and Gail Homes will be the speakers.

February 25 & 26 — Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. "Refuge and Rest," a Winter Quarters Cantata" written by Jo Fankhauser and Dan Carter.



HARVEY & SUSAN EASTON BLACK

After spending the month of July in Omaha gathering information about the pioneers, Harvey and Susan Easton Black will be speaking at our Tuesday, July 27 Pioneer Heritage Society meeting to talk to us about the things they have learned!

Everyone 12 and older is invited to attend. You don't have to be a member of PHS to attend — there is no charge.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions and visit with the Blacks. 7:00 p.m. at the Mormon Trail Center. Refreshments will be served.

Mormon Battalion Files Updated

The Kanesville Tabernacle now has a file on each member of the Mormon Battalion for visitors to access. The Mormon Trail Center has a file on each person whose name is on the plaque at the Monument in the Cemetery as well. These have been provided through the research of Harvey and Susan Easton Black.

New PHS Meeting Schedule for 2005

For the year 2005, all Pioneer Heritage Meetings will be held on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m or Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. We will alternate every other month between Friday and Saturday.

RECAP OF MAY PRESENTATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: These are excerpts of June's presentations. To read the entire presentations, please refer to www.pioneerheritage.org. These talks will also be published in their entirety in the next PHS Quarterly Journal.

COLD SPRING CAMP & COUNCIL HILL MEETING

BY GAIL HOLMES

Cold Spring Camp, Nebraska territory, was established July 1 and abandoned August 7, 1846. The nearby Council Hill meeting started at 2 p.m. and ended at 6 p.m. July 24, 1846. Don't let the brevity of the camp or of the meeting mislead you. Cold Spring Camp for nearly a third of its brief existence was headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Council Hill meeting, at the most elevated site in the surrounding countryside led to a change in the Mormon exodus from western Illinois and southeastern Iowa to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

A Philadelphia Lawyer's Words Provided the Key: "I searched for years to find the location of Cold Spring Camp. No city or county official, street or engineering department seemed to know such a camp ever existed." Thomas L. Kane, a Philadelphia lawyer who came west in 1846 to see what the Mormons were up to, provided a key. His 1850 address to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania gave the only useful clues as to the location of the site. He said: "It was situated near the Petit Papillon (cq), or Little Butterfly River, and upon some finely rounded hills that encircle a favorite cool spring. (The Mormons, a discourse delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania March 26, 1850 by Thomas L. Kane, King & Baird, Printers, Philadelphia p. 35)

After years of fumbling around with government workers, I happened to stop at an eight-sided motel at 60th and L Streets, Omaha, near the Little Papillion (cq) Creek. The clerk behind the desk, in a wheelchair, said: "...favorite cool spring near Papillion Creek? It was just north of here. My aunt said she used to skate on the pond created by the spring. It was about as large as a city block. The spring has been capped and is now piped underground west to the Papillion.

When I asked this man about Kane's expression -- "...upon some finely rounded hills that encircle a favorite cool spring" -- he quickly explained: You can see the hills on the east side of 60th Street. Before low-cost homes were built west of 60th, big earth-moving machines leveled the hills to the west.

A Historical Marker Not Welcome Here

At 59th Street north of L Street is a long, multi-windowed building which used to house a parochial school. It now is occupied by an evangelical church organization. An Eagle Scout candidate was turned down when he asked permission to erect a Cold Spring marker at the west edge of a very large parking lot west of the building, overlooking 60th St. The Scout then asked and received permission to put the marker at the foot of the flag pole of Satellite Motel, now Relax Inn Motel & Suites, 60th & L. Remember Kane's words, "finely rounded hills..." Kane added this description of Cold Spring Camp for his 1850 Philadelphia audience:

"On each of these (hills) a square was marked out; and the (covered) wagons as they arrived took their positions along its four sides in double rows, so as to leave a roomy street or passage-way between them. The tents were disposed also in rows, at intervals between the wagons. The cattle were folded in high-fenced yards outside. The quadrangle inside was left vacant for the sake of ventilation, and the streets, covered with leafy arbor work and kept scrupulously clean, formed a shaded cloister walk. This was the place of exercise for slowly recovering invalids, the day-home of the infants, and the evening promenade of all.

Kane, himself, was a slowly recovering invalid. He had contracted a respiratory illness while serving in the American Consulate in Paris, France. Neither French nor American doctors could solve the problem. Thomas returned to the home of his parents to recover. His father was Federal District judge in Philadelphia, and a friend of United States Vice President Dallas and members of the Cabinet.

While out walking for his health, Kane had come upon a meeting conducted by Jesse Little, Eastern States Mission president of the LDS Church. Thomas was so taken by what Little said that he invited him home and questioned him for a couple of hours. He learned that Little was on his way to Washington, D.C. to seek a government contract whereby the Mormons might finance their great migration to the Rocky Mountains.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY MERCY TRUTH BARKER KEETCH (1835-1910), DATED 1902

PRESENTED BY STEVEN NELSON

I have thought many times that I would try and write a little of my history, but I never made a beginning. But since my dear mother died, I have often thought of things that I would like to ask her. Now it is too late. My children might feel as I do when I am gone hence, so I will try and tell them a few things that I know, with the help of the Lord. I cannot give the dates.

Childhood Memories — We lived in Marston, and that was such a large and scattered parish. We lived so close to Cranfield that joined to Marston, it was not more than two or three good stone throw. That was a large parish also.

When Mother was a child, and when she was grown, she always went to the Baptist Sunday School and meeting, and when she had children she sent them to the same place. My mother was very religious all of her days.

I will now tell a few things I remember: When I was very young, in the spring months the birds would build their nests. I remember Pa giving me some bird eggs, pretty green ones. I ran to show Mother, but I fell and broke them. I remember Mother curling my hair in pretty paper to please me. I remember Father took me with him one day to a house which I knew. They gave me a farthing to buy me some candy and I lost it; but they all thought I had swallowed it, but I did not.

I remember well when Mother had no baby and Father would not let her hold me on her lap, and sent me out of doors to play in the yard with my sister. I can remember well my brother Thomas being born and they set me on Mother's bed and I saw the baby. I was two years old on February 21st and Thomas was born on September 21st. I could sing very early, but I could not talk for a long time as my tongue was tied with flesh. The doctors said that if they cut it I would bleed to death, so I had to grow out of it. There are not many long words that I can pronounce now very plain. I mostly read to myself. My memory was very good when I was young and all the time I was growing up. My memory never failed me until I got over 56, or thereabouts.