

Journal of Elder W.W. Miller Grand Hall Baker City,

COMING IN JUNE...

STEVE NELSON'S PRESENTATION:

In 1851, the William Keetch family became actively involved with the missionaries in England to establish the church there.



Neighbors were hostile to these new converts. In 1856, the family immigrated to with the other Latter-day Saints in Utah. However, tragedy and hardship stranded the family in Florence, Nebraska, where they remained for several years. Ultimately, only half of the family completed their journey to the West.

Mercy Truth Barker left her ancestral home in England to join her sweetheart, Charles Greenwood Keetch, in Florence, Nebraska. In 1860, they were married, joined a wagon train going west, had their first child en route, and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley. The young couple struggled to pay their debts and establish a livelihood. In 1864, they moved to Bear Lake Valley, established a home, farm, and raised eight children.

Steven Nelson is a great grandson of Charles G. and Mercy T. Keetch. Steven grew up on his grandfather's farm in Bear Lake, Idaho, and as a child he heard many of the pioneer stories passed down through the family. Steven received his MS in Economics from Brigham Young University in 1977. Steven and Mary have lived in Omaha for 27 years, and they are the parents of five children. Steven is a Vice President at American HealthNet, a computer software company that provides computer programs and services to health-care customers.

CALENDAR *of Events*

June 26, Saturday, 1 p.m. Steve Nelson — historical presentation.
Gail Holmes — Cold Spring Camp & Nearby Council Hill Meeting.

2:30 p.m. auto tour of Council Hill Meeting Site, Parade Route and Meeting Square in Kanesville. Tour begins at the Mormon Trail Center.

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

August 26, Thursday, 7 p.m. Wayne Beeson — historical presentation.
Gail Holmes — Herding, Guarding & Wintering Pioneer Livestock.

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 Brigham Young University History Professor, Bill Hartley.

October 15 & 16, "Voices of Winter Quarters: 1846-1848," a special theatrical performance by Carole Watterman. Friday 7 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

No meetings are scheduled for November & December.

January 23, 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" by Jo Fankhauser and Dan Carter.

GAIL HOLMES' PRESENTATION:

On June 26 Gail Holmes will talk about Cold Spring Camp and the nearby Council Hill Meeting. Cold Spring Camp was the first LDS camp west of the Missouri River. It was intended as a jumping off point for further westward migration to Grand Island or on to the Rocky Mountains in 1846.



RECAP OF MAY PRESENTATIONS

LDS ROADS, BRIDGES, FERRIES & USE OF MISSOURI MARKETS

BY GAIL HOLMES



The Mormon Trail was utterly unique among trans-Mississippi pioneer trails.

Why? The Mormon trek west to the Rocky Mountains was a church and family migration, which continued year after year after year. Church leaders and families felt duty-bound to grade roads and build bridges and ferries which would last for others to cross much faster, safer, and much more easily than the Mormon workmen who had struggled to improve the trail. Also, the church sent back agents to arrange migration of the poor or those coming from the British Isles or Europe. Additionally, missionaries returned to the east or to Europe from the Missouri Valley or from Utah. So the Mormon Trail was carefully developed and constantly used as a two-way road, not just for westering, but for east and west travel.

When we talk about the Mormon Trail we think mostly about a rutted trail running west through Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and into Utah in 1846 and 1847. We should be thinking of scores of related roads. The rutted Mormon Trail turned into a filigree of design etched into the rich soil of south-western Iowa. It linked wagon train community to wagon train community, scattered where wood, water, and grass were found in abundance. Ten or more grist mills were built by the Mormons in southwestern Iowa. That greatly in-creased the traffic on the roads made practical by construction of more bridges and ferries. The Mormons cut deep ruts in the road hauling trade goods into northwestern Missouri and hauling food, grain, and flour back to their Middle Missouri Valley staging communities.

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WELCOME, SUSAN EASTON BLACK!

Susan Easton Black and her husband, Harvey, will be spending the month of July in Omaha doing research on the residents of the 90+ settlements of the pioneers. If you would like to help with this research, please contact us.

THE CRANDALLS

BY KENT CRANDALL & SHARON CRANDALL HILL

Kent Crandall told stories of his ancestors he has been studying for the past 30 years. His daughter, Sharon Crandall Hill, has joined him in his interests. They told about the David and Jerusha Smith Crandall family that settled in Kanessville in 1846. Jerusha married David after his first wife died, becoming an instant mother to his 12 children. One of their sons, Spicer Crandall, and his wife, Sarah Susannah Gill Crandall, were with the group of pioneers that went to the Niobrara camp where Sarah died during the winter. One of David's sons-in-law, Myron Nathan, settled in Kanessville. Myron Nathan had a 6-acre farm, a span of horses, 2 yoke of oxen, 2 cows and enough provisions to last 2 years. On 9 June 1850, 22 Crandalls left Kanessville with the Aaron Johnson Company for the Salt Lake Valley.

TWO NEW MONUMENTS!

There are 2 new National Park Service interpretive panels erected near the Florence/Winter Quarters Mill at Dick Collins Road, east of N 30th St. One 200 feet east of the mill explains about the Mormon Trail. The second just south of the fire sub-station just south across the street from the mill tells about the Mormon Pioneer Council House which stood where the fire house now is.

PICTURES FROM THE KEEL BOAT TOUR!

Thank you to Viva Buttery and Brent Fredrickson for making this tour possible.

