

HOLE IN THE ROCK

News

Preserving the History and Sharing the Legacy

Volume 10 Summer 2011



JULY 2011 ENSIGN MAGAZINE FEATURES HOLE IN THE ROCK TREKKING



The July 2011 issue of the *Ensign Magazine* features trekking on the Hole in the Rock trail. R. Val Johnson, Church Magazines Editor, spent nearly two weeks hiking the trail and interviewing Hole in the Rock trekkers during and after their treks to San Juan Hill and the Hole in the Rock.

In his article, "Sand and Stone," Johnson tells how two LDS stakes, Blanding West and Kanab Kaibab, used handcarts to travel down Comb Wash and up to the base of San Juan Hill. Three stakes performed significant service projects at Bluff Fort before attacking the Hill or traveling by 4-wheel drive vehicles to the Hole in the Rock. Brother Johnson said, "It was a fun trip, and I've been re-living fond memories in getting the article and its accompanying slide show into print and online."

In addition to "Sand and Stone," July's *Ensign* features a talk given by Jeffrey R. Holland entitled "Faith to Answer the Call" about the sacrifices made by the Hole in the Rock pioneers. You can find both articles online at the *Ensign's* website www.lds.org/ensign/2011/07.

To see a pdf color copy of the article with photos included, click on the DOWNLOAD icon to the right of the article. This will give you two options: you can download an audio file to listen to or you can click on the "text" option which will pull up the full-color pdf file. On the *Ensign's* homepage there is also a link to a slideshow with 21 additional photos.

For more information for your stake, click on "trekking" link on the www.hirf.org homepage.

WE NEED YOU: WE'RE ALMOST THERE

As we look back at the tremendous changes at Bluff Fort over the past four years, we know that your contributions have played a vital part in making it all possible. Your assistance has helped with the following projects:

- the memorial plaza including the John Taylor statue
- 15 cabins which complete the original fort setting
- a visitor/hosting center, including restrooms
- the Relief Society building which complements the log meeting house

The final "gem of the fort" will be the re-creation of the stone co-op store. The co-op was the center of commerce and society in Bluff for nearly 30 years.

We have successfully completed the permitting and architectural design phase for the new structure, staying in harmony with the original historic design. The Hole in the Rock Foundation has successfully raised \$900,000 in a public/private partnership with the federal government. (\$500,000 federal, \$200,000 in land and 200,00 in cash has been raised and is in reserve). Original design cost estimates were expected to come in under the original budget, but final estimates exceeded estimated costs by \$200,000. In order to access the half million dollars from the federal grant, all monies must be in place for construction to begin.

We are now facing a \$200,000 shortfall that could jeopardize the entire project. This spring, we have raised \$80,000 thanks to generous donors. We are incredibly appreciative. We are asking you to join us in raising the remaining \$120,000.



In a recent meeting Elder Gary Porter said it would certainly be a shame to lose the federal funding for the lack of \$120,000. Your contribution of \$10, \$20, \$100 or more will help us build this historical structure this year. Contributions can be made on our website through PayPal or PO Box 476, Bluff, UT 84512.

THE BAYLES CABIN

Descendants of Ole Hanson Bayles “descended” upon Bluff on Thursday, April 21, 2011. We began the day with breakfast, and then we went to work. A friend who knows the Bayleses well, heard about our cabin project, laughed and asked, “With all those Bayleses, how will you decide who’s in charge?”

The Bluff Fort volunteers took charge, and amazingly enough, all the Bayleses worked wherever they were asked, and without question! For three days, members of the Mary Ann Durham branch of the family and members of the Evelyn Lyman branch of the family worked together in harmony and friendship to accomplish the marvelous task of constructing a pioneer cabin in memory of Ole Hanson Bayles and his two wonderful wives. There was never a moment of disagreement or disharmony. Old acquaintances were renewed, and new ones were forged. We all moved from task to task doing whatever needed to be done. There was a strong spirit present, and it guided us in our work.



Fortunately, many members of the younger generation were there to do the heavy work. Men, women, and children stood side by side as the walls went up. This was followed by the tedious labor of “chinking” all of the cracks and then “mudding” the chinking. One little shaver, about four years-old, even began to put mud on the windows! He, along with some of his cousins of the same age, worked all day alongside their fathers, uncles, grandpas, and other strange folks they didn’t even know! How could we not be successful with such assistance! With the last bit of energy we could muster, the roof went on in the waning hours of Thursday evening.

Friday morning we admired our handiwork. We thought we were through, but alas, we discovered it was now time to treat the logs! While some treated the outside of the logs, others laid the floor and built the fireplace. The door was installed, and then the cabin interior was decorated. Artifacts were donated by various members of the family. John Bayles (descendant of Evelyn Lyman) made the bed frame. It was covered by a beautiful quilt entitled “Mary Ann’s Garden” sewn by Mikki Palmer (descendant of Mary Ann Durham). Other items in the cabin include an antique rocker, a small antique sewing box with antique thread, an antique chair, another beautiful quilt made by Lindsey Bayles, and a small doll buggy. Dwayne Bayles’s family (descendants of Evelyn Lyman) contributed some interesting artifacts that were hung on the outside wall of



the cabin. Other artifacts will be added as appropriate.

Having completed the work on the cabin by Friday noon, some of the families took the afternoon and went to San Juan Hill. There is not space here to describe the powerful impact on those who traveled there. Let me just say it was an incredible experience. If you have never been, you should put that trip on your “bucket list.”

Saturday morning we were treated to a breakfast of johnny cakes. This was just one of the great meals provided for us by the Bluff Fort volunteers. We were well fed. They worked tirelessly to help us with our cabin building experience, and they made it very enjoyable. The Navajo tacos were marvelous, as was the barbecue.

We gathered in the old meeting house where we sang “Come, Come Ye Saints,” and then Dennis Harvey, one of the volunteers at the Fort, played the pioneer version on his harmonica. Lloyd Bayles (descendant of Evelyn Lyman) gave a short history of Grandpa’s life. It was interesting and informative. He helped clarify the genealogy of the two families. Mark Bayles (descendant of Mary Ann Durham), a newly ordained Patriarch, dedicated the cabin. It was a beautiful dedicatory prayer.

This was a special time for all those who were there. It was truly a memory to be cherished.

—grandson George W. Bayles



MARY ANNE'S GARDEN



My great grandmother Mary Ann Durham Bayles has always had a special place in my life. From the time I was a child and heard stories about her I have felt a strong connection to her. She came to Bluff as a young bride, and people who knew her spoke of what a gentle and kind nature she had. They also spoke of her beautiful singing voice, but also how unsuited she seemed to be to the harsh conditions in which she lived.

Mary Ann Durham Bayles gave birth to three girls--Mary Ann, Emma, and Caroline--and a boy Hanson Durham. She died of complications from childbirth three hours after giving birth to her youngest, Caroline. She was just twenty seven-years old.

Over the years I have visited her grave many times on that rocky barren hill and wished she could have flowers there, so I made the quilt. The pattern is "grandmother's garden," and it is hand-pieced and hand-quilted. I named it *Mary Ann's Garden* in her memory, and now at long last Mary Ann has her garden.

—granddaughter Mildred Bayles Palmer

THE FORT GOES DIGITAL

The Old West has gone high tech. Bluff Fort has its own Facebook page! You can find us on Facebook by using the search words "Bluff Fort." There are a couple of other pages about Bluff Fort, but the official page of the Hole in the Rock Foundation is designated as "non-profit."

On our Facebook page you can read about the latest happenings at the fort, view photographs of the fort property, and the interior of the cabins and access pictures of the fort's original inhabitants.

Leave us a note on our page. We'd love to hear from you! Be sure to click "Like." From our Facebook page, you can find links to Bluff businesses and artisans.

Coming Soon: the Bluff Fort Blog!

THE FORT SPEAKS

Comments From the Visitors Center Log Book

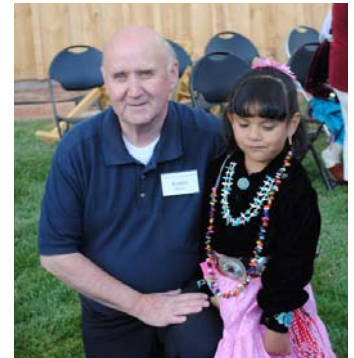
HOLLAND: "Beautiful, Interesting. Could almost feel them around."

NEW ZEALAND: "Superb"

FRANCE: "Very interesting and moving."

AUSTRIA: "Most amazing service in a visitor's center we have ever experienced! Thanks."

GERMANY: "Thanks for the step back in time and for all the handmade things."



The Sons of the Pioneers national tour included a visit to Bluff Fort on May 19 & 20, 2011. Below is a thank you note from two of the group to Grant and Graig Taylor.

Dear Grant & Graig,

Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed your commentary on the Hole in the Rock tour. All of your stories and history made the tour so much more interesting for us. When we arrived at Bluff, we really almost felt as if we had been invited to your home. It was a great experience. It was a special experience and you played no small part in that. Also we really appreciated Nina's efforts in giving us those great meals. We both returned happy but definitely heavier from all that good food. Larry has been after me to get back to baking cookies. I wonder why. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Larry and Marcha Bradford
SUP Tri Cities



HIRF WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER LYNN STEVENS



Lynn Stevens of Blanding is the newest board member of the Hole in the Rock Foundation. He brings with him an abundance of knowledge and a wealth of wisdom acquired quite literally from a world of experience. His career as a military officer took him to over 20 countries in Europe and Southeast Asia.

Stevens also brings with him extraordinary vigor and a lively enthusiasm for Bluff Fort. He describes the Fort as “The symbol of a remarkable heritage. It is a classic example of what faith, commitment to a cause, and follow-through can do.”

Stevens’ acceptance of duties as a board member is prompted, in part, by his direct tie to Bluff Fort. His paternal grandparents, newlyweds Walter Joshua and Elizabeth Kinney Stevens, were among the 250 pioneers who accepted the 1878 mission call of their church to establish a settlement in Southeast Utah Territory.

Stevens sees a link. “I think my childhood in San Juan County was the most influential ingredient in the foundation of my professional career.” In 1958, Stevens simultaneously received a bachelors degree in Industrial Arts from Utah State University and a commission from the United States Army. Following graduation he entered active service at Benning, Georgia as a second lieutenant.

Thirty-three years later he was honorably discharged as a two-star general. He subsequently entered active retirement. (There’s that vigor again.)

In 2003, he began eight years of civic service as a San Juan County commissioner. As a current member of the Governor’s Council on Balanced Resources, he is active in county and state land issues in Utah.

Stevens looks forward to serving on the Hole in the Rock Foundation Board. He comments, “With the re-birth of the Bluff Fort, we honor our ancestors who made the arduous and difficult journey to colonize what we now call home. At the same time, we offer inspiration and a statement of commitment of life philosophy to future generations and to visitors from all over the world.*”

*As an example, since Bluff Fort has been opened this season (since March 1st) visitors from 45 countries have toured the fort. Bluff Fort has also welcomed visitors from all 50 states in the U.S.

—Joyce Martin, docent

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE FORT

Recently, after a day of work at Bluff Fort, I sat resting. As I was looking east, the evening sun was displaying its warmth and light on the Twin Rocks and the bluffs behind them. The beautiful scene created a peaceful feeling. I thought, evenings like this are why people are drawn to Bluff. A recent magazine article listed Bluff as the 10th best small town to visit. Bluff is no longer a secret.

Since our last newsletter, the restroom facility has been completed. Thanks to all who have donated time, skills and money to complete this project. I heard someone comment, “It is the best restroom in San Juan County.” The restrooms were made possible by donations from several foundations as well as many individual contributions.

We thank all of you who have donated. Thanks to Don Rasmussen for donating time and training for the architectural work. Thanks to Ron Snowden for overseeing the construction of the building. Thanks to the many volunteers who assisted Ron. Thanks to the contractors who had a part in the building of the restrooms: Mike Redd, Joe Hurst, Vance Seely, Tom Palmer, and Rye Wojcik. Thanks to contractor Clark Bayles for the septic tank. Thanks to all of you, the building was completed in a timely manner.

The little cabins at the Fort now have electricity thanks to Ron Barton and all who assisted him. Yes, we know that the original settlers did not have electricity. However, to make it easier to clean the cabins, electricity was necessary. Also, in the future, we hope to have video presentations in the cabins. The outlets have been placed in such a way that they are easy to hide and do not detract from the pioneer nature of the cabins.

Our cabin raising has been completed with the erection of the Bayles cabin. It is hard to believe that in less than three years, fourteen cabins have been erected and a first class restroom facility completed. I heard one visitor comment, “The Bluff Fort is the miracle of San Juan County,” and so it is. The president of the Hole in the Rock Foundation, Corinne Roring, often says, “When it is time, it will happen.” Thanks to all of you, it is happening.

—LaMar Helquist, Vice President



THE FIRST ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND POTLUCK AT BLUFF FORT



Bluff Fort's Easter Egg Hunt was featured in the travel blog "Been There, Done That." You can read all about it by visiting www.beenthere-eb.blogspot.com.



On Saturday, April 30th, Bluff Fort in downtown historic Bluff, Utah was the place to be. Ask any one of the children that were there. This was the location of the First Annual Bluff Community Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck.

There is no better place to celebrate than spring time in Bluff. This, coupled with the laughter of about 100 children, was the recipe for success. This event was a marvelous success because it was beating with the heart of the whole town. Bluff Fort (spearheaded by docent Lorraine Harvey) along with Business Owners of Bluff, St. Christopher's Mission, and the Bluff Senior Center came together to support this event.

One thing that Bluff does well is potlucks, and this event was no exception. Hot dogs were served out of the back of a chuck wagon and side salads and desserts galore. Children pulled each other around handcarts among the rebuilt historic pioneer homes of days gone by. It held all the makings of a grand celebration. Thank you to all who participated in this celebration and to the village that made it happen.

—Amanda Bouchard, event co-chair

BLUFF FORT VISITED BY WOLFS!

This is no tale! The Bluff Fort Visitors Center really was visited by a large "pack" of Wolfs the weekend of May 27, 2011. The William and Merilyn Wolf Family chose to do a service project as part of their family reunion by repainting the Bluff Fort Visitors Center. Five children and their spouses, along with seven grandchildren ranging in age from nine months to nine years, came to help.

Merilyn's grandmother, Anna Lillian Decker, came through Hole in the Rock at three years of age. She helped care for her two-year old sister, Genevieve, as her mother carried the new baby, Lena Deseret, born on the journey. Merilyn is also a great granddaughter of Samuel & Jodie Wood.



THE ESCALANTE HERITAGE/HOLE IN THE ROCK CENTER DEDICATION

On May 28, 2011 the first phase of the Escalante Heritage/Hole in the Rock Center was dedicated. Representatives from the offices of Senator Hatch, Senator Lee and Representative Matheson were in attendance along with commissioners and city officials from several southern Utah counties.

Over four hundred attended the dedication including State Senator Margaret Dayton, a descendant of both Platte D. Lyman and Benjamin Perkins, and Lt. Governor Greg Bell, a descendant of the Davis family who was with the first exploring group that traveled south through Moenkopi.

Elder Steven Snow of the Presidency of the Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints gave the dedicatory prayer. Two original songs were written for the dedication. "Josiah's Theme," by Quinn Griffin, expresses the feelings of the occupants of the first wagons to roll into Escalante Valley in 1876. "Beautiful San Juan Valley," by Joette Marie Rex, expresses the feelings of the San Juan colonizers once they reached their destination.

Noted author Gerald Lund talked about writing his book "The Undaunted." At 7:00 p.m. an original play was presented by local town's people entitled "The Hole in the Rock Trek: The Last Wagon."

The second phase of the Escalante Heritage Center is a 6,000 square foot visitors center that will house exhibits, a movie theater, and a gift shop.

VOLUNTEERING AT BLUFF FORT

When asked if I would be a docent at Bluff Fort, I thought it would be fun and interesting. To be totally honest, because Jens Nielson is my great-grandfather, I felt a bit obligated. So I became a docent at the Bluff Fort Visitors Center. It is my opportunity to have a meaningful effect on visitors at a historical site established by members of the LDS faith.

The town of Bluff was established April 6, 1880 by church members called by President John Taylor to form a settlement in southeastern Utah. Our goal is to preserve the memory of those brave souls who gave their all to fulfill their mission. Visitors come here from all over the world. I have learned much from them. Bluff Fort is a valuable resource. It gives us an opportunity to learn about our ancestors' impressive contribution to our culture.

by Donna Washburn



CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Listen to excerpts from pioneer journals and letters on your mobile phone as you tour the historic buildings at Bluff Fort.

Audio mobile phone tours are now being offered at Bluff Fort! Visitors to the Fort can dial 435-338-3009 on their mobile phones and hear a welcome message.

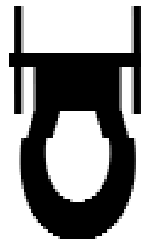
Small signs placed at various locations around the fort will have stop numbers that visitors can dial to hear 2-minute stories about the first Bluff Fort settlers. The stories are taken from original journals and letters. The first-person voice of these personal accounts evokes great feelings of emotion and helps visitors understand what life was truly like on the trail and at the fort.

Messages can even be downloaded to mobile devices.

The Joseph Franklin Barton cabin (stop #1021), the L.H. Redd cabin (stop #1031), and the George Hobbs' cabin (stop #1071) mobile messages are up and running.

Eventually we hope to be able to offer these stories in foreign languages.

Photo: (left to right) Elaine Rowley, Lorraine Barton, Joyce Martin, Sandra Black, Lorraine Harvey, Bernice Perkins, Donna Washburn



Hole in the Rock Foundation
PO Box 476
Bluff, UT 84512