



November 2016

Hole in the Rock News

Newsletter of the Hole in the Rock Foundation

President's Message

Fall Brings Changes

— LaMar Helquist, HIRF President

The fall brings many changes. The weather changes, the growth in garden plants slows, and the leaves on trees change color and drop to the ground. This fall there are also changes with the Hole in the Rock Foundation and at the Fort. Steven Jensen and I are finishing our service on the board. Lynn Stevens, a current board member, has agreed to serve as president. Jed Lyman has accepted an invitation to serve on the board. Beverly and Dale Black have been the directors for two years and will finish their service this fall. As announced in the last newsletter, Lana and Burnis Skinner will be the new directors.

There will always be changes, but there is one thing that never changes. When there is a need, a volunteer church service missionary or docent steps forward to fill that need. I thank church service missionaries, docents, and many other volunteers who came and served when they were needed. It has been amazing to see the skills come to meet our needs. There have been so many, it is beyond a coincidence. It started with the gentleman who built the log meeting

house. He left the area shortly after, unaware of what would come.

As I step down from the board I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve. Thanks to current and former board members for their support and friendship. I will look for other opportunities to help keep alive the stories of the San Juan Pioneers. Thanks!

BYU Broadcasting and KBYU are pleased to announce a new documentary about the Hole in the Rock pioneers.

This 1 hour documentary airing on KBYU, December 7, 2016, will recount the epic journey of the pioneers who constructed the "Hole in the Rock" trail from their call in Parowan to their arrival in what became Bluff, Utah.

SEE PAGE 5 for your invitation

Bronze Statue — Heart Warming Addition to the Bluff Fort

—Janie Roring Lauritzen

Several weeks ago, Mike Roring brought a beautiful bronze statue of Bodil Mortensen and “little Jens” Nielson to Bluff. The statue was created by renowned sculptor Stan Watts, and was placed next to the Jens Nielson Cabin here at the Bluff Fort in memory of those two darling children. Mike’s mother, Corinne Nielson Roring, who often stated that her great-grandfather Jens was her “hero”, wanted this statue as a reminder and tribute to her great-grandparents who gave all they had for the gospel. She was allowed to sign her initials



on the pocket of “little Jens” before it was finished. Corinne felt honored to leave this statue in order to tell the story of a great family who played such a huge part of the Bluff Fort history.

Denmark 1856 - Jens and Elsie assumed responsibility for a little neighbor girl, Bodil Mortensen (then 9), to emigrate with them and their little son, to the United States. They traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, with the Willie Handcart Company.

Bodil was to join a relative who lived in Parowan, but who had come to Utah the previous year. Bodil shared in the responsibilities of the Nielson family and helped to look after their young son, Jens (then 5).

On October 23, Bodil (now 10) and Jens (now 6) struggled through a blizzard across Rocky Ridge and on to the next camp at Rock Creek Hollow. However, both Bodil and Jens lost their lives from exhaustion and exposure that night and died while trying to collect sage brush for a fire. They were both buried the next morning in a common grave along with 12 others from their company.

New HIRF Foundation President

Lynn Stevens appointed Foundation President

Lynn Stevens was born in Blanding, Utah. He is the grandson of Walter Joshua and Elizabeth Stevens who, as newlweds, spent their honeymoon as members of the original company of pioneers who constructed the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail and arrived in Bluff in 1880. Lynn has a bachelors degree from Utah State University, and a masters degree from the University of Utah. He served 33 years as an active duty US Army officer and retired as a two star general. Lynn had a second career as a vice-president in Northrop Grumman aerospace corporation. When he retired from industry, he returned to Blanding. He served as a San Juan County Commissioner for eight years. He also served as a senior staff member in Governor Huntsman's administration, as the Director of the Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination .



In January, 2011, Lynn was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation. His principal duties on the Board have been liaison between the Foundation and agencies of local, state and federal governments, and development of Camp Sticky-ta-tudy.

Lynn and his wife Lynette are happy parents of seven children, twenty one grandchildren and six great grandchildren. They are also serious horse owners and thoroughly enjoy the beauties of the earth during extensive horseback rides.

Lynn has had many church duties as he has lived in twenty five wards and enjoyed thirty seven bishops. This has strengthened his testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lyman Accepts Seat on Board

Jed Lyman was raised in Blanding, where he lives today. He has Hole In the Rock blood flowing through his veins as three of his four sets of great-grandparents came through the Hole. He is married to Candice Halliday, who is also descended from HIRF pioneers.

Candice and Jed are the parents of seven children who have blessed them with 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jed served in the California North Mission. He has served as Elder's Quorum President, Bishop, High Counselor, Stake President, Scout Master and in various other Church positions. He currently serves as the Blanding Utah Stake Patriarch. He feels blessed to have had many wonderful experiences during his Church service.

He earned a bachelor's degree from BYU where he began his life-long love of BYU sports, especially football. Jed says being a BYU fan is



easier some years than others. The jury is still out on this year. He holds a Master's degree from Arizona State University. Jed's professional career includes cowboying for his father-in-law, mental health therapist, high school counselor, three years working with inmates in the San Juan County jail, and concluded as the director of San Juan Counseling Center. His jobs were in Blanding with the exception of the years spent working with state inmates in Monticello.

Jed comes to the HITR Foundation Board with the perspective of a volunteer docent. Jed and Candice serve each week in the visitor's center at Bluff Fort. He thinks this experience will lend itself well to his responsibilities as a Board member.

One of a Kind Waterwheel Exhibit

by Grant Taylor

about 2 gallons of water each as they rotate to the top of the arc. They are tripped at the top and water flows down a trough system and ditch that takes water to a vegetable garden. Included also in the exhibit is a 12' long erosion table and a gold panning area. This area is situated on the south side of the Fort property across from the Stone Co-op. An audio recording in 5 languages along with colorful signage will help visitors understand the ingenuity of the early settlers to the San Juan.

There are 10 documented water wheels that were built along the San Juan River. Descendants of the Henry and Sarah Holyoak family joined together with other private donations and a substantial grant from Sorenson Legacy Foundation to fund this project. The erosion table will allow children and visitors to build ditches and dams and then have them washed out like the flood of 1884. The Gold panning area will give patrons the opportunity to pan for gold much as the miners in the 1890's.

The Water wheel used 1,000 board feet of Black Locust lumber shipped from Massachusetts. Four concrete tanks (one 6,000 gallons, another 2,500 and two 500 gallon tanks) allow the project to use recycled water. Large loads of crushed colored gravel, and stone boulders add to the landscape. White concrete colored to match the sand was mixed and poured by our volunteer labor. Finally there is over 90 running feet of decorative rod fencing made by CSM's to limit access to the water wheel.

Thanks to the skilled group of men who helped construct this amazing feature exhibit for Bluff Fort. This truly is just one more miracle to have such skilled group of men join together to create such great interactive exhibit.

Thanks to:

Dale Black	Brent McAllister
Ron Poulsen	Mark Nelson
Tharon Judd	Bryce Redd
Burnis Skinner	David Walton
Joe Barton	Charley Weaver
Mark Barrett	John Weiss
Bob Combs	Lee Wright
Mike Deming	
Hugh Kirkham	and the Bluff
Stewart Lewis	full-time Elders.





11 ELEVEN KBYU

World Premiere

Join us at the Bluff Fort Co-op to screen this amazing Hole in the Rock documentary on Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. — refreshments will follow.

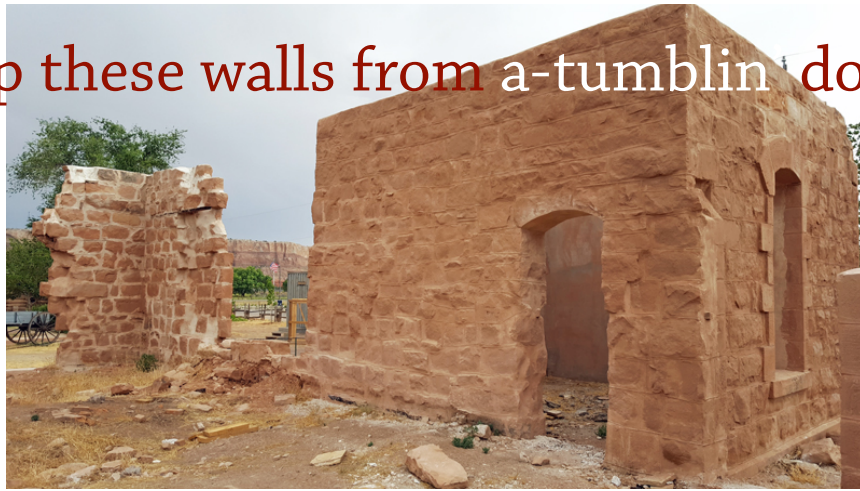
The Hole in the Rock Expedition

— Sondra Latham, KBYU Unit Production Manager

In the annals of western American history there is probably no greater journey than that of the Hole in the Rock expedition. These members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were seeking the shortest route from their comfortable homes in Parowan and Cedar City to the area of the San Juan River in the southeast part of the Utah Territory. There they would establish communities with the specific mission to befriend the Native Americans, combat the growing outlaw problem in the area and launch a farming and ranching operation as an effort to counteract the growing number of 'outsiders' encroaching on the territory. The first major obstacle they had to pass through was a narrow slit in the sandstone cliff in order to reach and cross the Colorado River some 1,500 below. Barely large enough for a man to walk through, this band of explorers blasted a passage, built a roadbed and ferried some 80 wagons, a thousand head of livestock and 250 men, women and children across the river before entering into some of the most rugged terrain on earth.

Theirs is a story of hardships, determination, faith, ingenuity, commitment, and courage. This new documentary produced by KBYU-TV will include stories of their mission call, the perilous journey and the establishment of the communities, presented in dramatic fashion and told by the descendants of these hardy pioneers.

Keep these walls from a-tumblin' down



The Hole in the Rock Foundation seeks your help in making significant improvements and stabilization work to protect the Kumen Jones home ruins. If you would like to help with this project, send your donations to: HIRF, P.O. Box 476, Bluff, Utah 84512. Please make your check payable to HIRF, with the notation "Kumen Jones Project."

'LIVESTOCK' SALE



Handcrafted horses and cows by
Tharon Judd, Bluff Fort CSM

**HORSE WITH LEATHER
SADDLE/BRIDLE \$125
COW \$50**

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MOVE 'EM OUT!**



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New Books Available

Lives of Bluff Settlers: Jody Wood

Winter came heavy and harsh in 1905 to the desert of southeastern Utah, closing in on the town of Monticello with a three-foot blanket of snow that pushed even the most determined of pioneer ranchers inside their cabins before dark. But a plea to assist a mother in labor drew one woman from the warmth of her home into a blizzard on horseback, determined to save two lives if she was able to preserve her own on the two-day journey to reach them.

Josephine Catherine (Jody) Chatterley Wood wasn't a fool-hardy adventurer, but a self-taught nurse/doctor/midwife and the only person with any medical training for hundreds of miles that freezing winter night. The episode was typical of her dedication to a calling given to her by God in 1886 through the blessing of a church leader who told her she would serve as an angel of mercy in keeping the isolated settlements of southeastern Utah alive. "I am as green as a cucumber, and I don't even know how babies are born!" she told friends after receiving her assignment.

In a new book based on her own writings and those of her patients, "**Jody's Journal**" chronicles the faith and fortitude that this mother of eight employed in serving both saints and sinners on the frontier for more than a quarter-century. Commissioned by The Hole in the Rock Foundation, Cathy Wright chronicles the determination one woman had to provide healing of both body and soul for hundreds to whom she ministered...



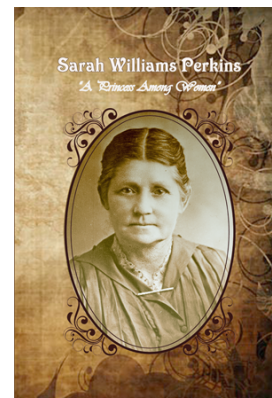
Lives of Bluff Settlers:

Sarah Williams Perkins

To Sarah and her ten children, Bluff was home, regardless of all the other places they had lived. Their hearts were in those enormous rocks, the river and the sand, and even with the Indians who had intimidated her on her first visit there as a single young woman. She loved the isolated little town, but more than the town, she loved the people, and they loved her. Many years after she had moved from there the first time, she wrote: "There is a place in Utah that I remember well. It was on the San Juan River, and the town we lived in and loved was Bluff. My thoughts go back to the dear old spot where we sang and danced and praised the Lord. When sickness came and crowded my soul with grief, my friends came with willing hands, their faces beaming with God's love."

This is the story of "a tiny wisp of a lady" told by two of her granddaughters, Alberta Lyman O'Brien and Elaine Perkins Walton, who knew her intimately, and drawn from her dictations and diaries. They could never understand the source of her energy...that frail little body that brought ten precious spirits into the world in extremely difficult circumstances, raised them and cared for them through such conditions of poverty and want, fed and clothed and loved them. Where could one little lady find the strength to sit up nights with them for months at a time and keep them all together, body and soul?

The Life of Sarah Williams Perkins, now fully updated by great-grandson, David Walton, with new photographs will inspire you to be your better self.



See reverse for order forms



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	Life Story of Sarah Williams Perkins	\$19.95	
	Sales Tax	1.24	
	Shipping (Each)	\$3.00	
	TOTAL ORDER		

Name _____

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Quant	Jody Wood Journal	\$13.99	Total
	Jody Wood Journal	\$13.99	
	Sales Tax	0.87	
	Shipping (Each)	3.14	
	TOTAL ORDER	\$18.00	

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Hole in the Rock Foundation

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