

HOLE IN THE ROCK NEWS

Preserving the History and Sharing the Legacy

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CONSTRUCTION OF BLUFF CO-OP STORE UNDERWAY

By Dennis Harvey, 2nd Year Full-time Docent

It may have been Monday, April 9, 2012, but we were as excited as kids on Christmas Eve as we watched Tri-Hurst Construction (out of Blanding, UT) begin to dig the footings and compact the ground for the new **Bluff Co-op Store**.

We are thrilled that so many local people will have an opportunity to work on this project. Local subcontractors include Creative Floors (Blanding), Eddie Jim Painting (Blanding), Redd Mechanical (Blanding), and 4 Corners Electric of Blanding.

The completion date of the **co-op store** is anticipated to be the end of August 2012. However, the dedication will not be held until spring of 2013.



SPRING CLEANING AT BLUFF FORT - MARCH 1, 2012



You can read Janet Wilcox's complete article at <http://blandingbitspieces.blogspot.com>.

March 1 was spring cleaning for Bluff Fort, and nearly 50 volunteers arrived like a lion to get the 14 cabins spiffed up and the chapel, Relief Society building, and grounds ready for a new season. LaRue Barton, director of the Visitors Center, was exuberant in her appreciation of those who came to help.

The Bluff Fort is run by volunteers and each year has its own challenges and rewards. With all the new buildings cleaned and windows washed, that challenge has been met.

We are trying to build the HIRF data base. We are looking for your living relatives' information so we can share the Bluff Fort Newsletter with them. Please email Beverly Vowell at inquiry@hirf.org the following information concerning your mother, father, siblings, married children, aunts, uncles, and living grandparents:



- Name
- Mailing Address (including City/State/Zip)
- Phone #
- Email address

If you will send us your email address, we can mail the newsletter to you electronically. You would receive your newsletter in full color and help the Fort save money to use for additional projects.

A ROUND TUIT!

Beverly Guymon Vowell, Bluff Fort Newsletter Editor



Unidentified photo

I am proud to be the great granddaughter of Benjamin and Sarah Perkins. Their only son, Leonard, is my maternal grandfather. My mother, Freeda Perkins Guymon, loved Bluff, having lived there as a child.

My first connection with the Bluff Fort was when I was invited to “come help build the Perkins cabin” in July 2009. What a delightful experience I had, rubbing shoulders with relatives I had never before met. Shortly after, I received a visit from Grant Taylor and LaMar Helquist, asking if I would be willing to work as a docent at the Fort. I had never even heard the word “docent” (a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis), but soon found the meaning as I experienced the weekly privilege of feeling the great spirit of the Fort.

About that time, the book *The Undaunted* was released. As I saw others reading the novel, the thickness of the book was daunting! I was always going to read the novel, but never did “get around to it.” Then a few months ago, a good friend asked me if I would like to borrow her audio edition of *The Undaunted*. Since I have been traveling from Blanding to St. George quite a bit, I was more than excited to have something to keep me entertained. Little did I know that I was about to embark on one of the most remarkable journeys I’ve ever taken. Author Gerald N. Lund pulled me into a story where I felt as if I were actually standing side by side with the characters from his novel. My soul was deeply touched when I heard, in detailed description, what the little boys (my Grandpa Ben being one of them) experienced while working in the coal mines of Wales. The audio reader’s Welch accent made me long to hear my great grandfather and grandmother’s actual voices. I loved everything about the book and feel I am better qualified, as a docent, from having read this amazing novel based on actual facts.

So I pose the question, “What if I had never read that book? What if I had never gotten a “round tuit?” I would have missed an opportunity of a lifetime.

What is a “round tuit”? It is a circular object giving its owner the ability to get done everything that would have otherwise been put off to a later date. The Hole in the Rock Foundation would love to share with YOU a “round tuit” as a reminder that the HIRF needs your donations. With the construction of the new Bluff Co-op Store this year, we are in the process of encouraging people to get a “round tuit”...we need your contributions to be able to “tell the story” of the Bluff Fort through audio visual and electronic multi-media equipment and also to help with general expenses at the Fort.

Please send your contributions to the address on the front. Don’t miss the opportunity of your lifetime. Get around to it. Donations will make this happen!



HELP WANTED

By LaRue Barton, Bluff Fort Visitor Center Manager

Last year a strong team of couples helped run the Fort throughout the tourist season. Some will be returning again for part of the summer, but there is still a gaping docent hole, which LaRue is hoping local people will help to fill.

We need couples or two women willing to come for one morning or afternoon each week for a five hour shift. They would answer tourist’s questions, run the cash register, show the video, and if possible, when they are not busy, they could work on a quilt or a woven or crocheted rug.

In addition, the Fort also needs couples willing to come for two weeks, or a month to work in the visitor center, and help with whatever needs to be done. Sometimes that includes working in the garden, keeping the cabins clean, or hoeing weeds.



While working at the Fort there will be time for seeing the local tourist spots as well. Contact LaRue Barton 435-459-2092 or email larueb@frontiernet.net.

VOLUNTEERING - A GREAT WAY TO GET TO KNOW YOUR ANCESTORS

Bernice Perkins, Bluff Fort Docent, Interviewed by Bev Vowell



Corinne Roring has a way of persuading good friends to do great things. This was the case with Bernice Perkins. After three years of being a docent at the Bluff Fort, Bernice remarked, "It was after Corinne's invitation to volunteer at the Fort that I developed a strong desire to know more about

my husband Carl Perkins' family." Carl's father, George Perkins, was six months old when his parents, Hyrum and Rachel Perkins came with the original party through the Hole in the Rock. Bernice hadn't had the opportunity to know his parents. Carl's mother, Annie Bayles, passed away just a year after Carl and Bernice were married. His father, George, died in 1937. Working at the Fort has given Bernice the opportunity to investigate the history of the Perkins' family.

Early in their marriage, Bernice and Carl spent a lot of time in Bluff. The Perkins brothers (Clarence, Ray and Carl) ran cattle from Bluff to Mexican Hat. As they spent time during the winter in Bluff, breaking ice and graining cattle, she learned to love Bluff and its beautiful red rock landscaping.

Bernice exclaimed, "Once you start volunteering, you have the great pleasure of visiting with people from all over the world. I love hearing their stories and testimonies of how strong the spirit is here at the Fort."



THE BIG PICTURE: 2012 BLUFF BALLOON FESTIVAL

by Kay Shumway

The view from above gives one a valuable insight into what the big picture is for the Fort that can happen in no other way. This value is multiplied several times when annual aerial photos are compared from year to year. The changes each year are very impressive and show that a great amount of work has taken place in just a few years. Also, the photos serve to illustrate how much of the block is still not included in the fort projects. These photos show so very graphically that about twenty five percent of the land in the block is not owned by the Fort organization. This realization will likely create a desire among friends of the fort to donate funds to complete purchase of the entire block.



PHOTO: ANNUAL BLUFF FORT EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 7, 2012

Thanks to Amanda Bouchard, Mary Lou Harvey, the Bluff Senior Center, Bluff Merchants, the Bluff Fort and anonymous donors the Annual Bluff Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success. Each of the 50+ children in attendance received multiple prizes. Parents joined in the fun as they soon realized that all work and no play can make you a "basket case".

THE OLD SWING TREE

Submitted by R. F. McDonald



Old Swing Tree at Bluff, Utah, Circa 1900. Charles Goodman photo provided by Lynn and Hazel Lyman.

During 2011, Calvin and Ron McDonald set out to locate the exact spot where the Old Bluff Swing Tree once grew. Four Charles Goodman photographs from the 1890s were used—two close up views and two photographs taken from the cliff north of Bluff. The first step was to identify the exact spot where Mr. Goodman was standing to take his photographs. We took new photographs from the same exact locations.

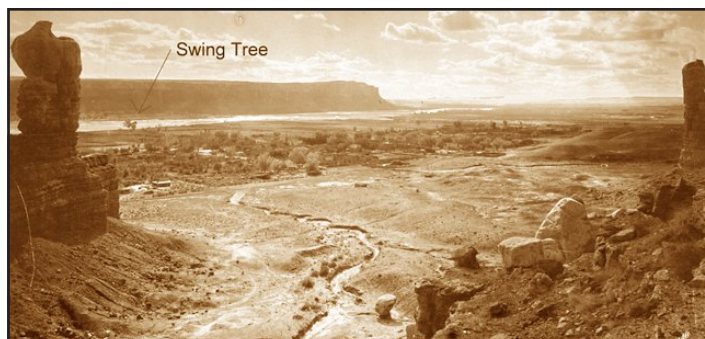
The Goodman photographs were scanned and loaded in a computer and zoomed up about 1000%. We then added lines from the Navajo Twins and from Locomotion Butte, to specific locations on the south rock wall of the valley. All of the lines were placed so they intersected at the base of the Swing Tree.

Next, we loaded the new photographs into the computer, zoomed up 1000% for accuracy, and sized the new photographs to be exactly the same size as the Goodman photographs. Then we merged them with the Goodman photographs. When that was completed we could see where the lines intersected on the current photographs. With the use of two-way radios, mirrors, and binoculars we were able to mark the exact spot on the ground. We drove a steel stake in the ground.

Later, we located two additional Goodman photographs, which were taken from the Bluff Cemetery. This was a new angle, so we were able to improve our accuracy. We moved the stake 20 inches. The stake is located approximately 30 feet southeast of the southwest corner

of the Cadillac Ranch property. We marked the spot on Google Earth. You can see it from your own computer.

We were able to measure the tree with the computer. The height of the limb which held the swing from the ground was 34 feet. The swing seat was wide enough to hold two adult women with space left over. The total height of the tree from the ground was 70 feet. It dwarfed the other trees in the area.



Bluff, Utah. View looking southwest. Charles Goodman photo. From the Hilda Perkins photo collection.

The photo below was taken a short time before the demise of the tree. In this final photograph of the tree, the swing ropes were still hanging, but the seat was gone. It would have extended over the river by then. Perhaps nobody wanted to swing out over the river anyway.

The Old Swing Tree Photo is from the Wanda Black Collection. When the people arrived at what became Bluff, and before they had time to build "The Bowery", a shed of cottonwood limbs, they organized a Sunday School and held meetings under this tree. For years it was a favorite place to stage social parties and pleasant meetings; lovers met here, and people in sorrow came here to think. This tree became a part of the fence in Bishop Nielson's field. With its lofty spread of protecting limbs and its rugged strength to meet the wind and the storms, it is typical of the bishop's unremitting vigil in the long fight he made to maintain the little settlement of Bluff.



CHARLIE REDD SYMPOSIUM

By Jessie Embry

Interest in the Hole-in-the Rock lives on, as evidenced by more than 300 people who packed the BYU Conference Center for presentations on the San Juan Mission on February 17, 2012. The event was sponsored by the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, a research center at Brigham Young University. There were three presenters: LaMont Crabtree discussed the selection of a route for the trail, Doug Major talked about the decision to take the difficult route, and David Carpenter described life in Bluff. The Utah State Historical Society honored Crabtree at the symposium for his work on the trail.

expanded the cattle operation but had many interests. BYU professor Karl Young called him a renaissance man. Charles was especially interested in the history of the area and published an article about the Hole-in-the-Rock. He and his wife, Annaley Naegle Redd, donated funds to BYU to establish the Lemuel H. Redd, Jr. Chair of Western History and assisted in the creation of the Redd Center. At the time of the donation, Charles explained, "I would like somehow to get into the hearts and souls of young people the lessons of history, particularly those of Western America. The American pioneer has much to teach us, with his insistence on individual freedom of action, his spirit of adventurousness and his willingness to accept challenge. He reminds us how precious the heritage of individual freedom is. Perhaps more important to youth today is how acceptance of challenge and risk taking strengthens character and contributes to individual growth. Only through the acceptance of great challenges and the struggle with adversity is man's soul enlarged and extended. Learning of the successful settlement of this country, we may gain courage to face squarely the challenges and problems of present-day frontiers."



At the event, the Center handed out copies of its latest publication, a booklet entitled "Stories Told: Life on the Public Lands in San Juan County." It includes quotes from oral history interviews conducted with county residents. By focusing of what people like about the area rather than the politics that divide them, the Center hopes through this publication to foster common ground and respect.

The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies offers a variety of programs to increase the understanding of the Intermountain West. The Center's mission is to promote the study of the Intermountain West by sponsoring research, publication, teaching, and public programs in a variety of academic disciplines including history, geography, sociology, anthropology, politics, economics, literature, art, folklore, range science, forestry, and popular culture. Besides the symposium, this year Richard Francaviglia talked about his book *Go East, Young Man: Imagining the American West as Orient*. The Redd Center gave a subvention to Utah State University Press to help with the publication. In addition, each year the Redd Center funds dozen of research grants to students, faculty, museums, and independent scholars. Other Center's programs include oral history, assistance to K-12 school teachers, and a Western Studies minor offered through BYU's American Studies program.

If you were unable to attend the symposium, there will be a video available to view online shortly. The booklet is available for browsing on the homepage of the Redd Center website at <http://reddcenter.byu.edu>. You can also request paper copies from the Redd Center; 366 SWKT, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602, or you may email the associate director at jessie_embry@byu.edu. The booklet is free.

The Redd Center has its roots in the red soil of San Juan County. Lemuel H. Redd, Jr. was on the Hole-in-the-Rock adventure and became a leader in the cattle industry and the LDS Church in southeastern Utah. His son, Charles,

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Guests from Australia, Basque Country, Belgium, Canada, Czeck Republic, Denmark, England, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Poland, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA have visited the Fort so far this year, 2012.
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2012 UTAH LEGISLATURE GIVES OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO THE HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK SAN JUAN MISSION HISTORIC TRAIL

Submitted by Gay Taylor Jones



Lamont Crabtree photo.

As part of the 2012 General Session of the Utah Legislature, Senator Ralph Okerlund sponsored a Joint Resolution of the Legislature that honored “the Utah pioneers who participated in the 1879-1880 trek of the San Juan Mission and successfully constructed and traversed a trail from Parowan, Utah, to Bluff, Utah.” This resolution also designated “the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, over which the San Juan Mission passed, as a state historic trail for the use and enjoyment of future generations.”

The joint resolution recognized there is currently “no unified, trail-wide effort to interpret the Trail for visitors.” The resolution noted the Escalante Heritage Center can serve as a focal point for visitors who want to access the middle part of the trail, and the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation can provide information for visitors at the end of the trail in Bluff, Utah.

The Legislature recognized that having historically significant trails attracts tourists; and tourists contribute to the local economies and benefit from the interpretive sites. The Legislature noted “coordination between federal and local agencies will maximize responsible use by current and future generations.”

The Legislature urged the co-operative and coordinated efforts of counties, state and federal land and resource management agencies, and relevant non-government organizations to develop a management plan that focuses on interpretation and management of key, trail-related public use areas on public lands, and on access to this state historic trail. Garfield County, Iron County, Kane County, San Juan County, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the United States Forest Service were specifically urged to be part of the team that develops this overall management plan.

THE OLD COIN



A cute Bluff resident, Carolyn Kendrick, was working out back of her house one day in March 2012 (she owns the Clarence and Jean Johnson property) and discovered an old coin. The following was inscribed on one side of the coin—Good for 10 in trade. On the other side of the coin was imprinted—San Juan Co-op General Merchandise – Bluff, Utah. You can only imagine how thrilled we were at the Fort when Carolyn came in to present the coin to LaRue Barton. None of us had heard about co-op tokens up to that point.

In the internet article Mormon Pioneer Minor Coinage by Fred N. Holabird, he states the following:

A new field of coin collecting emerged from the publication of Alvin Rust’s Mormon and Utah Coins and Currency in 1984. This landmark work opened the eyes of collectors worldwide to the world of Mormon money, and in so doing created hundreds of new collectors in several different collecting fields. One of those fields is the pioneer minor coinage of Utah, sometimes called tokens. In his work, Rust identified a specific group of pioneer minor coins known as “co-ops,” and stated that the class, as a whole, was Mormon. The majority of this minor coinage was made and used during the approximate 1890 to 1935 period.

To read the entire article you can log on to: <http://www.holabirdamericana.com/MormonPMC.html>.

THE FORT SPEAKS!

Comments From the Visitors Center Log Book

“The historical significance is vital to all of us.”

“What a wonderful place and great spirit.”

“Don’t miss this place. It is GREAT!”

“Thank you for a fascinating history lesson— what a great chapter in American history.”

“This is a wonderful old town.

We loved it with all our hearts.”

“Incredible! If not the best, it’s real close!”

“You should advertise yourself more. A great take!”

“A treasure! Really increases our appreciation for pioneers.”

“What a great stop for our children to learn and see history.”

I HAVE A STORY TO TELL

With permission from Anne E. Gray, Portland Oregon, we share the following letter LaRue Barton received from Anne in December 2011.



This was a particularly difficult year for me with the passing of my mother and then my father, and far too much other life turmoil. With things so unsettled in my life, I needed to find balance and direction and peace, so my cousin and I

went on a month-long road trip. I had determined at the outset to have no schedule, but rather to let the road take me wherever I might find meaning and answers. Each morning I began with prayer, asking for guidance and understanding to whatever messages and insights might present that day.

As I sped along the highway passing through Bluff, I felt a strong influence to deviate from the road, being guided up a hill where I discovered a cemetery. I walked about, reading the markers and respecting the long journey that had brought many to this final resting place. When I came to a small fenced area identified as the Nielson family, I was drawn to a stop. I read and re-read the names and dates and tried to imagine what they endured as pioneers. I was unable to move away from the marker of Ane Katrine Jorgensen Nielson and stood for a very, very long time contemplating my own life's journey. I identified a commonality with this hand-cart family's struggles to overcome adversity and do what one knows in their heart to be right.

I found a brooch leaning against the base of Ane Katrine's stone marker. It seemed to light up, and I could not take my eyes off it. A compelling feeling urged me to pick up the brooch. As I held it in my hand, a soft voice counseled me to let the brooch help me to move through my own grief to find comfort and peace in the passing of my parents, and in the very long life journey that still held so much regret and sadness to me. The soft voice advised me to carry the brooch for a while as an aid to understanding life's quandaries that had initiated this trip for me.

I was then "directed" to return to the town of Bluff, to visit the Fort, and to walk into the visitor's center where, unbelievable, I met the great-granddaughter of Ane Katrine Jorgensen—the only person I met or talked to in Bluff, I wondered if she noticed my extreme surprise at

discovering she was a descendant of the family markers where I had just stood. I identified myself to her as having just come from the cemetery with my cousin, and we then enjoyed a video of the history of the Hole-in-the-Rock, narrated by this lovely woman. I decided not to share with her the extraordinary experience I had just encountered with the soft voice that spoke to me, as it seemed too unbelievable—the experience upon the hill and then to be guided to a direct descendent. I could only hope that when I shared this story with her someday, that she would find some value in the telling and possibly an acceptance to my experience.

For many weeks I carried the brooch through 6 states as I prayed each morning and held the brooch as my "friend". During this time, I found understanding and clarity to the confusion and chaos that had been deeply troubling me and I was finally able to allow a flood of emotions to be released.

From my journey was born much understanding and wisdom that continues to support and encourage me today. My life has been about making choices that kept me safe and operating from a place of survival-mode with great uncertainty. I now understand what it means to accomplish through a higher purpose, to answer a Divine calling. At last I feel peaceful and more confident to proceed into the unknowns of the future.

I do not know what part of the support the brooch played; I only know that my prayer for help was answered in the strangest way, and that in the end what I set out to accomplish did indeed happen.

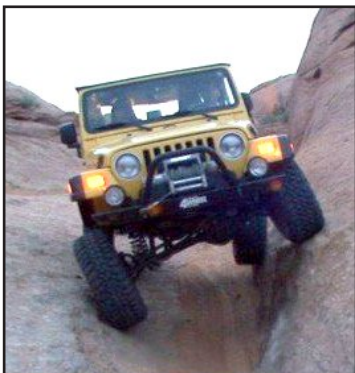
Upon my return home, I was advised by the soft voice that our journey together was now complete, the service and the support were no longer needed by me and that it was now time to return the family heirloom back to Bluff.

I thank you for the temporary use of the brooch and hope that its absence was not a cause for distress.

Cordially, Anne Gray

Note: If you placed the brooch on Ane Kathrine's headstone, please contact the Fort.

CAN I VISIT THE HOLE-IN-THE-ROCK TRAIL?



Many people, from a variety of countries, wander in the Bluff Fort and ask, "How can I visit the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail? Can we get there from here?" The answer is, "Yes, thousands are visiting sections of the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail annually."

A word of caution, due to the risks involved for the less experienced traveler, we strongly recommend that you explore the trail with an experienced guide.

If you plan on going, we encourage you to spend some time researching the history of this trek and would recommend you read the book "Hole in the Rock" by David Miller. This book is a little over 200 pages long and talks about the pioneers who built the route and the many challenges they faced along the way. Having a better understanding of the history of this journey will add to your experience, it's truly amazing and almost unbelievable where they took wagons. Plan on spending some time hiking, if you're on motorcycles we would suggest you make a two day trip out of this adventure and three days on ATV's or in 4WDs.

For further information on the sites along the trail, visit the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation's Web site (see www.hirf.org, click the Trail Section tab, select Trail Maps tab for detailed maps). We have also marked the key places and the trail itself on the Google Earth file located on this website. GPS coordinates can be taken from Google Earth as well, and can be found in the list at the end of this part of the website.

There are several local tour companies you can contact for 4-wheeler trips in San Juan County. Ben Black of Black Hawk Transportation provides, among other trips, vehicle tours into San Juan Hill. Contact information: 435-678-3224 or 435-459-3010 or blackhawktravel@citlink.net.

Four Corners Adventures, a new tour company based out of 245 East Center Street, Blanding, Utah, is now providing the "Hole in the Rock Extreme Adventure." Contact Jared and Spring Barrett, 801-592-1045 (cell), 435-678-2628, or log onto fourcornersadventures.com for further information.

Elder Boyd K. Packer once made this interesting observation: "Inspiration comes easier when you can set foot on the site related to the need for it" (Brigham Young Magazine, November 1995, 47). HIRF Board Member, Lynn Stevens, encourages people to take the trek and experience the pioneer spirit. Regarding the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail, Lynn states, "If we don't use it, we'll lose it."