

## Newsletter

Volume 18, October 2016

Arthur L. Morin, Editor

### The Third Rail

Jed Lyman

While serving an LDS mission in Sao Paulo, Brazil, I heard a story, perhaps an urban legend, of a man who attempted to steal the copper cable that electrified the third rail of the Metro train that ran through the center of the city. The third rail describes the electric conductor that runs along the tracks and delivers power to the electric motors that drive the wheels of a commuter train.

The thief worked quickly to coil the valuable wire and complete the heist before the system was energized for the morning commuters. When the system operator hit the switch and noted the failure, he started off along the tracks to find what he assumed must be a short somewhere in the electrical circuit. The story ends with the operator making the grisly discovery of the thief's crispy demise and why the train did not leave the station.

This story, for me, has added clarity to the meaning of the phrase "touching the third rail" - that there are some topics so charged with controversy that any who dare to broach the subject will likely suffer the same fate as the wire thief.

If there is a third rail in Mormonism, it might be the history and doctrine of plural marriage. Although it has not been sanctioned within the Church for over 100 years, and members found practicing it today are summarily excommunicated,<sup>1,2</sup> the modern Church is still stigmatized by this early practice. And any Mormon who ascends to prominence must often defend him or herself against the brush that paints them the same as the modern-day, fundamentalist practitioner of polygamy.

(Continued on the next page)

### SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

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It is not only a third rail for those who dare to enter the breach and pronounce their opinions on the subject, but even the casual mentioning of the topic (as must be done with any honest treatment of Mormon history) may raise the hairs of some listeners.

Such was the case with my wife, Angie, as we attended the lecture given by Jed E. Lyman at the Co-Op Store during Lyman Days at Bluff earlier this year. Brother Lyman held his audience spellbound as he delivered a masterful presentation without any notes. His brief, passing mention, of the plural marriages of some of Bluff's early settlers was like a pin dropping to my ear. However, for my wife - and I think for many women (and some men) - the mere mention of the subject is like the piercing whine of a dentist's drill.

For Angie, the questions which are the greatest sources of psychic distress regarding this topic are as follows:

1. At what point (in this life or the next) will this latent doctrine lunge from the shadows and eviscerate the monogamous romantic ideal otherwise furnished by the doctrine of eternal marriage?
2. Even if Angie and I, as modern Church members, are never faced with this question ourselves, how is it just for early church members to have their salvation hinge on living this principle?
3. If viewed as an Abrahamic test, how does a test that places its participants in an eternally undesirable arrangement compare with Abraham's test of sacrificing his son Isaac? In Abraham's case, he had the assurance of an eventual reunion in an afterlife and faith that the resurrection would restore what was temporarily lost to him. Furthermore, the eternal covenant bond which he shared with his son would protect them from any future separation.

These are some of the tough questions for which I struggled to find adequate answers following Brother Lyman's lecture and during the remainder of our family vacation. While perhaps a completely satisfying answer is not available given the limited information revealed on the subject, our subsequent search did bear some fruit that provided a measure of comfort.

Angie's quest for answers included extensive reading of materials found on the Church's official website,<sup>3</sup> and other articles by LDS scholars offering perspectives grounded in faith.<sup>4</sup> She directed me to these sources and I too studied them with great interest. Additionally, a friend of mine who works for the Church Educational System (CES) invited me to attend an inservice training for seminary and institute teachers in southeastern Idaho. One institute teacher, Ken Southwick,<sup>5</sup> who had made an extensive study of the subject for many years, was scheduled to present on plural marriage for 90 minutes. I went as an interloping engineer (cunningly disguised in a white shirt and tie) and was richly rewarded by the presentation that went far longer than its scheduled duration.

I make no attempt here to fully detail the arguments, scriptural references, and historical sources that have been brought to bear by the much more capable authors and the presenter mentioned above. The interested reader is encouraged to use the notes following this article to discover the value of these sources for themselves. Rather, I intend to jump right to some of the conclusions that my wife and I found satisfying and greatly eased her mind. First, the following verses in Jacob summarize what we know about God's law of marriage:

"Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife..." (Jacob 2: 27).

"For if I will, saith the Lord of Hosts, raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things" (Jacob 2: 30).

In these short verses, the Prophet Jacob succinctly states the law (monogamy), and then gives the lawful exception (plural marriage). The one reason given for the lawful exception is to "raise up seed unto [God]", which exception must be commanded by God.<sup>6</sup>

The potential for confusion arises when reading the much less succinct Section 132 of the Doctrine and Covenants. But here also, there is a division between the verses that describe the law of the new and everlasting covenant of marriage<sup>7</sup> (in which plural marriage is not mentioned); and the verses which follow that introduce the practice of plural marriage (the exception to the law). It is of interest that these later verses begin with a discussion of Abraham's sacrifice, indicating that God himself considers the implementation of plural marriage to constitute a painful departure from the rule.

In this context, plural marriage appears to be as dramatic a departure from the general law of monogamous marriage as asking Abraham to sacrifice his son was a departure from the general law of "Thou shalt not kill". And just as God provided a ram in the thicket after Abraham had demonstrated his willingness to follow God at all hazards, perhaps there is a similar escape provided for those who faithfully submitted to this exceptional command to depart from the general law of having "save it be one wife."

If there is such an escape, then there may be some solace for those who have struggled, like my wife, with the tough questions listed above. On this point, one author, Valerie H. Cassler, writes persuasively on what might be the "ram in the thicket." The following is the comforting crux from a much longer essay that was filled with clarifying and calming analysis:

Here we inevitably move beyond what the scriptures and modern revelation have told us. Though we can feel fairly assured that our description of the situation in mortality is accurate, we do not know enough to feel so assured about our thoughts on the hereafter. Nevertheless, we venture into that territory for one good reason: no woman who has ever felt pain about polygamy is satisfied until her concerns about the hereafter are at least addressed. No woman who has felt pain about polygamy can honestly strive for a place in the celestial kingdom unless she feels that that kingdom is a place in which she would actually want to live. Women are greatly affected in mortality by their perceptions of the mysteries of eternity. And so, acknowledging that our thoughts on the hereafter are merely our own, but having pondered long and hard on what we do know, we will present such thoughts as we have for the sake of the women we know who are in great pain over the issue of polygamy in the hereafter.

What will the ram be? Perhaps those who honorably entered and kept their marriage covenants in a time of God-commanded polygamy will have the opportunity to "escape" that exceptional commandment to depart from the law in the next life, if they so desire. For God not to allow that escape would be tantamount to condemning certain persons, because of the time period in which they entered mortality, never to partake of the natural joy brought by the law of marriage ordained by God. Remember that whatever an individual's reaction to polygamy in this life--joy, sorrow, or the two intermixed--the most mature and fully understanding perspective must be that of the Lord, who, it appears, views polygamy as an Abrahamic sacrifice. If escape were not allowed at some future point, this sacrifice, and its accompanying suffering, would then be an eternal decree for persons who were born in periods when God commanded a departure from the law. Heaven, in a sense, would be a place of eternal sacrifice and eternal suffering for these individuals. We feel strongly that God could not ask this of any person, especially given God's view that polygamy is an Abrahamic sacrifice about which he is not indifferent. Even Christ's sacrifice and his suffering in his sacrifice came to an end. No, God in his infinite mercy must provide an escape from all Abrahamic sacrifices he commands his children to make because of the greater good that comes to others from them. In the eternities those who sacrificed and suffered like Abraham will have the opportunity to live under the law, not under the departure from the law, without this affecting their exaltation. We do not say that no

one will live polygamously in heaven. We do claim that, given the Lord's analogy as discussed above, it is plain that no one can be commanded to do so, and that the choice to opt out of polygamy cannot and will not affect an individual's exaltation.<sup>8</sup>

Well, this makes sense to me too.

And this is very similar to the conclusions drawn by Brother Southwick, the institute teacher who presented on the subject at the meeting I attended in Idaho. His opinion, after extensive study of the topic, is that monogamy is the rule, that God follows the rule, and that obedience to the rule is all that will ever be required of us. He further ventured that just as divorce was made available to plural wives during the time when this practice was sanctioned by the Church,<sup>9</sup> those who do not desire to eternally live the exception will be allowed to live the rule in the next world.

While these considered opinions significantly eased the stress that this topic induced in my wife, I am sure that others have found other explanations to address their concerns on the subject of plural marriage. For some, plural marriage may not be the juggernaut that it was for Angie; perhaps for them, their test of faith, arises from some other quarter. Whatever the challenge to faith, I believe the first and best defense is to make a choice...and then persevere in making that choice daily. That choice is summed up as follows: Believe! It can be as simple as choosing to "doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith."<sup>10</sup> As we persist in this choice, the evidence will mount in support of belief. But the choice must come first.

I believe that it was Angie's persistence in belief while she sought for answers that allowed her to be comforted by a well-reasoned, faith-based resolution. Others, faced with these same questions, have made another choice. And while they may feel freed from the immediate dilemma of these or other questions, it is a costly liberation. For while they no longer feel threatened by the high voltage of the third rail –whatever that may be for them – they have also withdrawn themselves from the only source of power that can propel them to the one destination that really matters. Personally, the blessings and gifts that flow from the fullness of the Restoration more than compensate for the occasional question or quandary I encounter. And perhaps such questions are the inevitable result when God suddenly floods the earth, as He did beginning in 1820, with ways and thoughts which are so much higher than ours.<sup>11</sup>

(This article is dedicated to my wife, Angie - my one and only)

#### Footnotes

1. "If any officer or member of the Church shall assume to solemnize or enter into any such marriage he will be deemed in transgression against the Church and will be liable to be dealt with according to the rules and regulations thereof and excommunicated therefrom." ("Official Statement by President Joseph F. Smith," *Deseret Evening News*, Apr. 6, 1904, 1.)
2. "If any of our members are found to be practicing plural marriage, they are excommunicated, the most serious penalty the Church can impose... More than a century ago God clearly revealed unto His prophet, Wilford Woodruff, that the practice of plural marriage should be discontinued, which means that it is now against the law of God. Even in countries where civil or religious law allows polygamy, the Church teaches that marriage must be monogamous and does not accept into its membership those practicing plural marriage." ("What People Are Asking about Us?" President Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 71–72.)
3. Many articles are available at [lds.org](http://lds.org) which can be found by searching "plural marriage" in the search tool. The following are particularly informative: <https://www.lds.org/topics/plural->

marriage-and-families-in-early-utah?lang=eng and <https://www.lds.org/topics/the-manifesto-and-the-end-of-plural-marriage?lang=eng>.

4. Among the most helpful of these is a chapter excerpted from a book titled *Women in Eternity, Woman of Zion*. The author, Valerie.H. Cassler, received her Ph. D. from Ohio State University and was a professor of political science at BYU for 24 years.
5. Brother Southwick is the coordinator for the U.S. Idaho East Area of Seminaries and Institutes of Religion, and teaches classes at the Rexburg and Pocatello LDS Institutes of Religion. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Utah in Philosophy.
6. I also spoke with my stake president about what counsel he might have for one struggling with the history of plural marriage in the Church. Among the things he shared with me was some email correspondence between himself and Richard Lambert, his first counselor before Richard moved from our stake. Some may remember that Brother Lambert gave a wonderful talk at our last AML Expo in Fillmore, Utah in 2013 which focused on the sacrifices Amasa made for the Church and how he continues to labor with his brethren of the Quorum of the Twelve in the hereafter. On how this purpose (of "rais[ing] up seed unto me") was fulfilled, he had the following valuable insights:
  - ...as to the historical polygamy in the Church, I believe it served a purpose. In the rigors of life in frontier communities, it provided protection, a place in a family, and the opportunity for marriage and children for many women who would otherwise not have had the experience...
  - ... I believe as a prophet [Joseph Smith] knew that obeying this command [of plural marriage] would be an ordeal and trial for his wife Emma and many of his followers, and would result in his own death. I think he knew it would also result in the expulsion of the Latter-Day Saints from Illinois and their being driven and persecuted for the next 50 years. I think without plural marriage there may have been no persecution, no pioneer trek, no becoming a distinct and peculiar people in midst of the Rocky Mountains. Rather we might have become largely indistinguishable from the surrounding culture like the Community of Christ (Re-Organized Church). Clearly, the Lord knew all that would follow the re-introduction of plural marriage much of which would help define us as his people and be for our good.
7. D&C 132:3-33 describes the new and everlasting covenant of marriage through which those who "marry **a** wife" (v19, emphasis added) and are faithful to the covenant, "shall pass the angels...to their exaltation and glory in all things" (Ibid).
8. V.H. Cassler and Alma Don Sorenson, *Women in Eternity, Woman of Zion*, Chapter 3 (Cedar Fort, Inc., 2004). The chapter cited here is available with permission of the publisher at the following: <http://squaretwo.org/Sq2ArticleCasslerPolygamy.html#note1>.
9. Church leaders recognized that plural marriages could be particularly difficult for women. Divorce was therefore available to women who were unhappy in their marriages; remarriage was also readily available. See first link in Footnote No. 3, above, which includes the following references: Brigham Young to William H. Dame, Aug. 8, 1867, *Brigham Young Letterbook*, vol. 10, p. 340, Brigham Young Office Files, Church History Library, Salt Lake City; Daynes, *Transformation of the Mormon Marriage System*, 141–70. In general, women in Utah Territory could obtain a divorce more easily than in most other places in the United States at the time. One of Brigham Young's clerks explained: "As a rule, the Prest. [Brigham Young] never refuses a bill [of divorcement] on the application of a wife, and NEVER when she INSISTS [emphasis in the original] on it." Quoted in Embry, *Mormon Polygamous Families*, 253.
10. "Come, Join with Us," President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, *Ensign*, Nov. 2013, 21-24.
11. Isaiah 55:9: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."



## A Portrait of Platte DeAlton Lyman for the Bluff Fort Co-op

By Margaret Dayton

Earlier this year, the AML Society convened in Bluff Fort to hear a presentation of the Hole in the Rock Expedition from Jed Lyman. All who were fortunate to attend were truly uplifted by this experience!

Those of us who grew up hearing that story never weary of it - and never ever cease to be inspired by it! So it was with eager anticipation that my sister and I, along with our husbands, were able to in attend. We were very impressed with the amazing reconstruction of the Bluff Fort!

Knowing the important leadership role of Platte Lyman, son of Amasa Mason and Eliza Maria Partridge Lyman, in the Hole in the Rock Expedition, and remembering that he was the first president of the Bluff Co-op as well as the first Stake President of the San Juan LDS Stake, we looked forward to hearing a well-prepared story which included a look into the life of this great man, and we were not disappointed! Jed Lyman's presentation was incredibly thorough, detailed, and riveting. Most of all, it was deeply and thoughtfully inspiring. Jens Nielson features prominently in the narrative, and we have come to love him from our early youth. As a member of the Hole in the Rock Expedition as well as the first Bishop there, he was a valued and much revered contributor to the Bluff community. A large and beautiful portrait of him hangs in the upper room of the Co-op. We learned that some of the descendants of Bishop Nielson had contributed this portrait to the recreated Co-op, making a wonderful addition to the historic atmosphere.

It became clear to me that members of the Platte Lyman family needed to do the same. We had assumed we would be viewing portraiture of this ancestor whose significance in the entire Expedition and Bluff settlement cannot be overstated, but disappointed that that had not yet happened. So before leaving the upper room of the Co-op that day, a plan was generated to begin that project.

Research indicated that the artist who had created the Bishop Nielson portrait several years ago was no longer available to prepare one for my Great Grandfather. I did, however, find a photographic artist and colorist who used a black and white photo of Platte Lyman and created a portrait presentation with a frame that not only enhances the picture but is also appropriate to the time period. Much gratitude is owed to cousins (thanks to Janean Lyman Tullis, Scott Lyman and Lyn Lyman) who assisted in the re-creation efforts. And a depth of gratitude is owed as well for the financial contributions of several family members as well as contributions from the AML Society. The re-creation of the Bluff Fort, as both a Utah State Historical Site and an historical site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, depends significantly on donated time and resources of the State, the Church, and descendants of those faithful pioneers. On October 10, 2016, Lynn and I took the finished portrait to Bluff to present to the Bluff Fort Co-op.

We were received by Dale and Beverly Black, the current directors of the Bluff Fort, who accepted my idea for where the portrait should be hung - and then hung it while I was right there! Initially while attending the Hole in the Rock presentation, I had thought that the



FIGURE 1 BEVERLY BLACK, MARGARET DAYTON, AND LESLIE NIELSEN



**Figure 2 Platte DeAlton Lyman, son of Amasa Mason Lyman and Eliza Maria Partridge Lyman**

portraits of Platte and Jens should hang side by side. As the portrait project progressed, however, I realized that the different kinds of art work and framing were not compatible as a hanging pair. I recalled walking up the stairs earlier this year anticipating a picture of Platte - and realized how inspiring it would be if a Platte Lyman portrait hung at the top of the stairs where those downstairs, as well as those going up the stairs, could view it. Gratefully, the Blacks agreed to hang it there.

In the picture above you can see the hung Platte DeAlton Lyman portrait with Beverly Black and me on one side, and one of the Fort volunteers, Leslie Nielson, a Perkins and Nielson pioneer family member, on the other side. I have also included a picture taken from the stairs to illustrate the visibility of the newly placed portrait. A picture of the large upstairs meeting room, taken from the back of that hall, shows the

placement of the two portraits of those wonderful leaders. Another picture is included that was taken in front of the Albert R. Lyman Middle School in Blanding yesterday. Albert, the son of Platte and his brave little wife Adelia Robison, was carried down through Hole in the Rock as a newborn several weeks after the initial group of pioneers reached Bluff. He was the first settler on White Mesa in what was to become the City of Blanding.

The day after our June 10 visit to Bluff Fort to join the AML Society, Lynn and I, together with my sister Patti King and her husband Dennis, had gone to Blanding to take a picture of the Albert Lyman Middle School there. Summertime



**Figure 3 Platte DeAlton Lyman and Jens Nielson**



**FIGURE 4 ALLISON DAYTON, MARGARET DAYTON, AND CHRISTIAN DAYTON**

notwithstanding, the school happened to be open, and the principal invited us inside. We wanted to see what picture of Albert R. Lyman hung in the school bearing his name. We were surprised that there was no picture of ARL in the school! Principal Aaron Brewer kindly accepted our offer to bring some pictures. One more time, we combined the Bluff trip with a trip to Blanding, and yesterday (October 10), my supportive and helpful husband and I, along with two of our grandchildren, went to the school with pictures of Albert to put in the school's case near the front door. The new principal, Mr. Murdock, asked that I present the pictures in an

assembly. I was thrilled that when I asked for a show of hands from the 300+ sixth, seventh and eighth graders of those who knew the story of Hole in the Rock, almost everyone raised their hand! It was a sweet experience for me to be with my own grandchildren in the school named for my grandfather, and present pictures of Albert Lyman to the school. It had been somewhat concerning to me that the school library had only one of the many books written by Grandpa Lyman in the library, and so I was pleased to be able to present the school with three copies of the book *Indians and Outlaws, the Settling of San Juan*, by Albert R. Lyman, for the school library. Many of the family members who contributed to the Platte Lyman portrait also contributed to the Albert Lyman project - and it is all a part of our wonderful AML family history!

### **Society Meeting**

September 30, 2016

Edward Leo Lyman Lecture on "Thirteenth Apostle"

On Friday, September 30, the Society met in Orem Sunset Heights Stake Center to hear Edward Leo Lyman's presentation about "Thirteenth Apostle, The Diaries of Amasa M. Lyman | 1832-1877" edited by the late Scott H. Partridge and published by Signature Books. As we hoped, Leo gave us a wonder-filled tour through the fascinating life of Amasa, reflecting on his diary and Scott's contribution as he went. He reminded us of Amasa's upbringing in New Hampshire, his conversion to the LDS faith, his trek to Hyrum Ohio where he met Joseph Smith, the prophet and was quickly sent on missions. He reviewed some of his mission experiences from his diaries, his roles in Missouri, his close relationship with the prophet in Nauvoo, and how he was trusted to speak on many occasions. Then he taught us about Amasa's role in the Council of Fifty, at the church gathering after the prophet's death, in building the Nauvoo temple and performing temple ceremonies, and in the trek to the Salt Lake Valley, including his role in recruiting the Mississippi saints who became deep friends. Then, how Amasa was trusted to work with saints in the gold fields near San Francisco and to settle San Bernardino, was brought back to Utah for the Utah War, and was sent to preside over the European Mission, where his diaries reveal a very hard working preacher caring for missionaries all over the continent. Finally, Leo reflected on his fall from grace over the Dundee Sermon, his big role in the New Movement, and his retirement to build homes for his wives in Fillmore. "Thirteenth Apostle" brings a very personal light to these experiences. Reading Amasa's own words helps cement our love for his valiant, gentle, and noble life. We are very grateful to Leo for coming to Orem to share his wonderful knowledge of the events with us, and to remind us of the courage of the pioneers in settling the West.

For those who would like to hear the audio recording of the Society Meeting, browse to [AMLSociety.org](http://AMLSociety.org) and pick News and Videos from the Information drop down menu. The handout with announcements that was passed out at the meeting is included below.



### Greetings from the Joseph Smith Papers Project in Salt Lake City:

We are writing to let you know that our most recent published volume includes significant information about your ancestor, Amasa Mason Lyman. Amasa was a member of the Council of Fifty in Nauvoo, Illinois. This council was formed by Joseph Smith in [March 1844](#) and was continued by Brigham Young. You can see a brief biography here of your ancestor (<http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/amasa-mason-lyman>). You'll see there that Amasa was admitted a member of the Council of Fifty on [26 March 1844](#).

More information about Amasa and his involvement in the Council can be found in *The Joseph Smith Papers, Administrative Records, Council of Fifty, Minutes, March 1844–January 1846* (<http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/articles/administrative-records-council-of-fifty-minutes>). An overview about the Council of Fifty can be found here (<https://history.lds.org/article/council-of-fifty-minutes-joseph-smith-papers?lang=eng>). The complete minutes of the Council of Fifty will be made available for free on our project website, [josephsmithpapers.org](http://josephsmithpapers.org), about eighteen months from now.

We thought that as a descendant of a council member you'd be interested to know that the never-before-published minutes of the council are now available.

--Joseph Smith Papers Team

### Hole in the Rock News

For those who are interested in goings on in Bluff Fort and with the Hole in the Rock (HITR) Foundation, their latest newsletter has been released. You can read it at:

<http://www.blufffort.org/newsletter/november2016.pdf>

Particularly of interest to Society members is that Jed E. Lyman, who addressed the Society at Lyman Days in Bluff on June 10, 2016 and who has volunteered as a docent weekly with his wife Candice at Bluff Fort, has been appointed to the HITR Board of Directors.

Also of interest: Lamar Helquist, President of the HITR has been replaced, by Lynn Stevens and Lana and Burnis Skinner will replace Bev and Dale Black as Directors at Bluff Fort. Some fun new activities have been added at the Fort: an erosion table that simulates the flood of 1884, a gold-panning area, and a 12' water wheel that waters a garden, simulating those that worked the San Juan River. Finally, KBYU's one-hour Hole in the Rock documentary will air for the first time on December 7 on KBYU. For those who want to travel to Bluff, there will be a special premiere of the documentary on December 1 at 6:30 PM at Bluff Fort, with refreshments following.

\* \* \*

## Book Signing, Benchmark Books

Scott Partridge is the editor of *Thirteenth Apostle, The Diaries of Amasa M. Lyman | 1832-1877*. Signature Books distributes that book through Benchmark Books, [www.benchmarkbooks.com](http://www.benchmarkbooks.com), 3269 South Main St. Suite 250, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. On Wednesday, October 5, Benchmark invited John Hatch, an editor who helped finalize *Thirteenth Apostle*, David D. Busath, President AML E&H Society, and Brad Partridge, Scott's son, to speak at a book signing event. About 40 people crowded into the narrow, book-filled independent LDS bookstore. First John Hatch gave a touching review of three stories from the Diaries that displayed Amasa's love and humanity.

Then Dave Busath gave a personal account of how he relates to Amasa on many levels. He had not heard anything about Amasa until his teens, which made him wonder if the family was embarrassed by Amasa's history. Because of his testimony of the Restoration, Dave finds the story of Amasa's posthumous redemption to be the most compelling part of Amasa's story and is grateful that the Society has adopted the theme of "redemption, a labor of love." Interestingly, in Amasa's journal for 1870, it is intriguing that Amasa often spent all day reading and each night at a séance. He obviously had a deep love of learning. In that era, it would be fair to say that his interest in spiritualism was natural for someone with deep faith in the reality of the spirit world. Perhaps this is not unlike our interest nowadays in near death experience accounts.

Following Dave's talk, Brad Partridge was invited to share his impressions of his father's project, and he reflected on how thoroughly consumed Scott was with the diaries for Amasa's last decade. Thumbing through the 1050-page volume, it is easy to see that it took an immense amount of work to read Amasa's handwriting, identify the full names of all of the hundreds of individuals that Amasa referred to, and to flesh out the context and transitions with truly professional footnotes. The footnotes are balanced and show mature understanding. The volume truly helps us get a much better understanding of Amasa the man.

Fortunately, Scott's daughter Jennifer, Leo Lyman, and several other Society members were present to help celebrate and dignify the occasion. The Society is truly grateful to Signature Books for the publication and to Benchmark Books for the event.

The book will be perpetually available at Benchmark at a 10% discount for Society members who identify themselves to the sales representative. They are also available via Amazon. The publication of *Thirteenth Apostle* is certainly a momentous occasion for Amasa.

## Financial report for the Society

As of October 15, the financial standing was:

Previous Quarterly Balance	\$3130.59
Receipts for Membership Fees, Books, and DVDs	\$ 560.00
Expenditures on Platte D. Lyman Portrait	\$ 646.00
Current Balance	\$3044.59

## Executive Committee and Board Meeting Reports

The executive committee held conference call meetings on August 3, 2016 and September 8, 2016. Present: David Busath, Jed Lyman, Jeremy Lyman. In both meetings, we discussed the coming Society Meeting featuring Leo Lyman and discussed the agenda for the preceding Board Meeting.

Prior to the Sept. 30, 2016 Society Meeting, a handful of family leaders gathered to discuss the direction of the membership contact information drive. The Board Meeting that was planned was cancelled for lack of a quorum, and instead we discussed the topics intended for Board Meeting, including a progress report on the use of MailChimp to email potential Society members, the financial status of the Society, a call for newsletter articles, Margaret Dayton's initiative to get a portrait of Platte D. Lyman for Bluff Fort, and the need for a tombstone repair for one of Francis Marion Lyman's wives in the Tooele Cemetery. The refreshments were shared between those in the meeting and incoming guests, and were also enjoyed after the Society Meeting by the many who came.

After the Society meeting, the Board was surveyed about the proposal to spend an additional \$150 on the Platte D. Lyman Portrait. The motion to do so was passed unanimously by a quorum of the Board.

## AML E&H Society Meeting Program and Handout, September 30, 2016

1. Greetings from the Joseph Smith Papers Project in Salt Lake City:

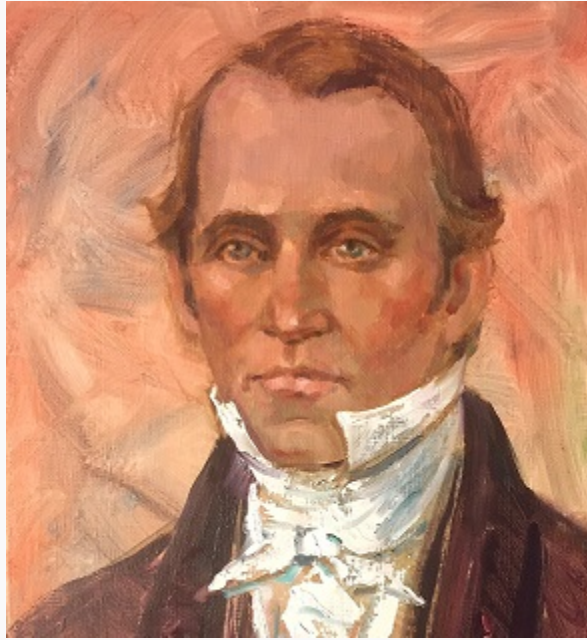
We are writing to let you know that our most recent published volume includes significant information about your ancestor, Amasa Mason Lyman. Amasa was a member of the Council of Fifty in Nauvoo, Illinois. This council was formed by Joseph Smith in [March 1844](#) and was continued by Brigham Young. You can see a brief biography here of your ancestor (<http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/amasa-mason-lyman>). You'll see there that Amasa was admitted a member of the Council of Fifty on [26 March 1844](#).

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We thought that as a descendant of a council member you'd be interested to know that the never-before-published minutes of the council are now available.

--Joseph Smith Papers Team

2. Stephen Sorenson has authored his 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> chapters for his Biography of Francis Marion Lyman.
3. Edward Partridge video (see below)



EDWARD PARTRIDGE SPECIAL  
BY *HISTORY OF THE SAINTS*

This Saturday, October 1, 9:30 AM KSL Channel 5 (in Utah), *History of the Saints* will broadcast a 30-minute selection from the full-length documentary on Bishop Edward Partridge, which they have been producing. The complete show will last one hour and is expected to be ready for Christmas 2016 distribution. Bishop Partridge was a close associate of and father-in-law to Amasa Mason Lyman. Thanks to Dennis Lyman for providing this notice.

4. The Edward Partridge Papers are now available at:  
<http://www.josephsmithpapers.org/person/edward-partridge>

Sherilyn Farnes and Steve Harper continue their interest in expanding this edition.

5. "Thirteenth Apostle, The Diaries of Amasa M. Lyman | 1832-1877," Scott H. Partridge Editor, Signature Books will be distributed by Benchmark Books ([benchmarkbooks.com](http://benchmarkbooks.com)) - 3269 Main St #250, Salt Lake City, UT 84115 for \$60.

Society members and attendees at this Meeting can get a 10% discount from Benchmark. Coupons are available on the table near the entry and will be printed in the October 15 Society Newsletter for descendants to use. If you wish to update your membership in the Society (August is our annual renewal month),



please pick up a membership application form at the back. The book is also available at Amazon.com for \$40.06 (new).

On Wed, October 12, from 5:30-7:00 PM at Benchmark Books, there will be a presentation on the book. Michael Homer, John Hatch (final ed), and hopefully Brad or Nadine Partridge, as well as yours truly, will each speak about the book, followed by a panel discussion. We sincerely wish that Leo could be there, but it would be too far for him to travel.

6. Margaret Dayton will be presenting a portrait of Platte D. Lyman to the Coop at Bluff Fort on October 10. The Society and other family members have contributed to the production, which has cost over \$3,000. Lamar Hemquist and Bev Black of the Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation have expressed their gratitude for this decoration for the second floor hall, which will complement the lovely portrait of Jens Nielsen already there.
7. Clisbee Hunter "C.H." Lyman C.H. passed away at home on September 6, 2016, in Salt Lake City. C.H. was born in Mayfield, Utah on February 3, 1928 to Joseph Alvin Lyman Jr. and Lavinia Hunter. The youngest of 11 children. He married Doris "Colleen" Peterson in the Manti Temple on February 1, 1947, who preceded him in death in July of 2009. He served in the United States Marines and attended Snow College.

He worked 40+ years in the motion picture industry in the intermountain west as a Service Technician, equipment sales, a projectionist, and theater manager. He was a faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After serving in the bishopric and various other callings, he was called to serve a 2 year assignment in the Salt Lake Temple which continued for 11 years.



He has 6 children, of which 2 preceded him in death, David K, and Russell L.; 4 surviving children: Pamela H., Dennis C. (Margi), J. Cory (Kary), and William B.; 14 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. He was loved dearly and will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers C.H. would prefer you donate to your favorite charity.

Funeral services will be were held Saturday September 10th, 2016 at 11am at the Emerson Ward (formerly Hawthorne Ward); 808 East Roosevelt Avenue, SLC UT 84105. A viewing will be held at the Larkin Mortuary 260 E S Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 Friday September 9th, 2016 from 6 – 8pm and again from 9:30 – 10:45am at the Emerson Ward prior to the funeral. Interment will be held at the Lake Hills Cemetery, 10055 South State Street, Sandy UT, 84070.

8. On September 5, 2016 Edward Ashton "Ted" Jones passed away peacefully at home and returned to his Heavenly Father. He was reunited with his loving wife and son. Edward was born on March 11, 1933 to Alma and Marion Jones in Blanding, Utah. He married the love of his life; Ola May on September 7, 1954 in the Manti Temple. He had a love for genealogy. He held many positions in the church. Edward is survived by his daughter Janie (John) Zmuda, 14 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren, his two brothers and three sisters. He is preceded in death by his wife, his parents, and son Ed. A funeral Service will be was held on Saturday, September 10, 2016, 11:00 AM with a two hour prior viewing at Wasatch Ward, 1750 South 1500 East, Salt Lake City, Utah.



Ted was a founding organizer and early president of the AML E&H Society. A memorial for him can be found here:

<http://www.memorialutah.com/obituary/redwood/edward-ashton-ted-jones/>

Many of us recognized his email moniker, "treeshaker," which bespoke his love of family heritage. He had an undying love of Blanding and the beauties of southern Utah. He was a faithful supporter of the Society. We will miss you Ted. May the Lord bless you on the other side.

#### Introduction of Guest Speaker

Edward Leo Lyman is a historian and teacher, having taught at California Polytechnic University at Pomona and California State University at San Bernardino, among others. His publications include:

*Political Deliverance: The Mormon Quest for Utah Statehood*  
*San Bernardino: The Rise and Fall of a California Community*  
and  
*Amasa Mason Lyman, Mormon Apostle and Apostate, A Study in Dedication*

He helped with the finishing of *Thirteenth Apostle*, and we have invited him here tonight to lecture on the meaning and merits of this volume and the work that Scott H. Partridge did in preparing it.

Before I hand the floor over to Leo, let me also introduce Scott H. Partridge. He was a professor emeritus in business administration at California State University-Hayward, where he taught for 32 years. He had an MBA from the University of Oregon and a PhD in history from Harvard University. He previously published the *Eliza Maria Partridge Journal* and "The Failure of the Kirtland Safety Society" in *BYU Studies*. He descended from AML through Francis Marion Lyman, whose daughter, Lucy, married George A. Partridge (grandson of Edward Partridge). Scott passed away one year ago while *Thirteenth Apostle* was in production.

Guest Speaker: Edward Leo Lyman

## Society Board Members

Please feel free to contact any Board Member about ideas for or about the Society. We are looking for a new 2nd Vice President, Executive Secretary and a website developer, as well as many family reps and some new committee chairs, so please volunteer yourself or a loved one to serve as we expand our vision in 2016!

Pres. David D. Busath, 706 Sunny Lane, Orem, UT 84058, [\(801\) 623-4174](tel:(801)623-4174),  
[david.busath@gmail.com](mailto:david.busath@gmail.com)

1st V.P. Jed Lyman, 1632 E Moor Dale Ln, Salt Lake City, UT 84117, [\(801\) 272-0357](tel:(801)272-0357),  
[jlyman@vbfa.com](mailto:jlyman@vbfa.com)

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Executive Secretary Vacant

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[jeremyjl@gmail.com](mailto:jeremyjl@gmail.com)

Membership Chair Jody Fellmeth, PO Box 1169, Monticello, UT 84535, [\(435\) 459-9764](tel:(435)459-9764),  
[jodyfellmeth@gmail.com](mailto:jodyfellmeth@gmail.com)

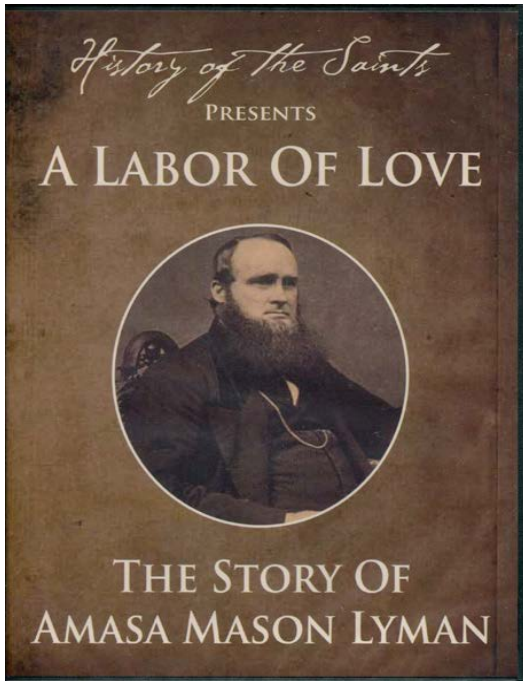
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[mmlyman.123@gmail.com](mailto:mmlyman.123@gmail.com),

Legacy Chair Julie Bliss Hammons, 3852 Rachel Drive, Santa Clara, Utah 84765, [\(435\) 705-1468](tel:(435)705-1468),  
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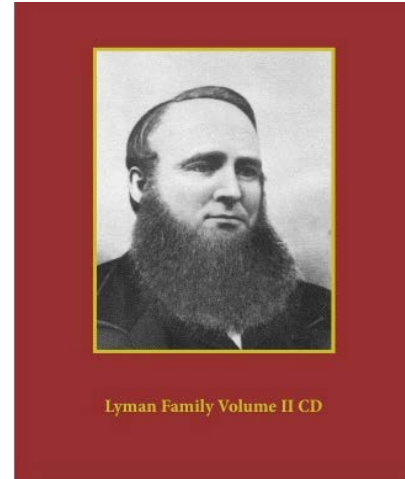
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[trking@3kingslaw.com](mailto:trking@3kingslaw.com)

Web Development Chair Dilworth D. Lyman, 11335 N 5500 W, Highland, UT 84003-3632, [\(801\) 492-7889](tel:(801)492-7889),  
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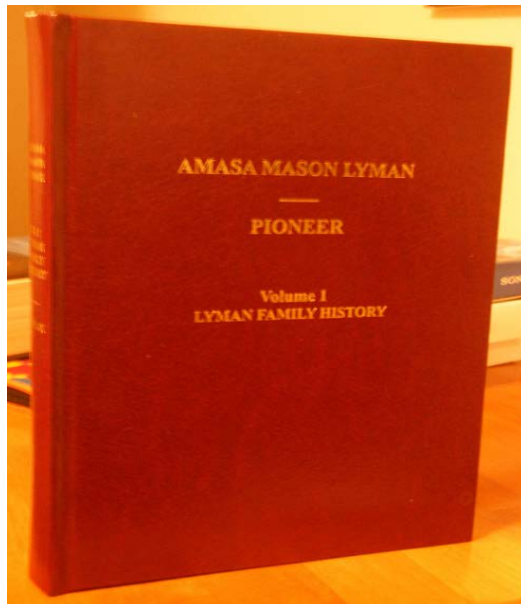
## AML Society Publications



Amasa Mason Lyman documentary



This DVD contains the histories of Amasa Mason Lyman, his wives, and his children



Written by Albert R. Lyman

## Francis Marion Lyman

by Albert R. Lyman



Edited, Printed, and Published by  
Melvin A. Lyman, M.D.  
1958

Biography



## Other Educational & Historical Material from Outside Sources

***Voice of the Intangible*** Kindle Edition Ebook \$1.99. Order at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*Voice of the Intangible* was written by Author Albert R Lyman and first published in book form in 1936. It is the story of young Ben Roger, who spends his youth herding cattle with his father in the wild country of western San Juan County. Young Ben first fears, then learns to listen to the sweet "Voice of the Intangible" amid the rigors and hardships of the pioneer era.

## History of a Pioneer

the life of Edward Leo Lyman Jr.



*February 19, 1881 - January 20, 1958*

For Edward Leo Lyman Jr's biography, Contact Matthew Lyman at [435.529.6662mmlyman.123@gmail.com](mailto:435.529.6662mmlyman.123@gmail.com)

*Thirteenth Apostle, The Diaries of Amasa M. Lyman | 1832-1877*, edited by Scott Partridge, published by Signature Books, published in 2016. There was a 20% discount offered by Benchmark Books for Society members until the end of October; after that there will be a 10% discount for Society members. The book is also available on Amazon.com

Benchmark Books

3269 S. Main St., Ste. 250

Salt Lake City, UT 84115

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Hours: Mon. - Fri., 10-6; Sat., 10-5

Benchmark Books accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, check, or Money Order

*Amasa Mason Lyman, Mormon Apostle and Apostate, A Study in Dedication*, by Edward Leo Lyman, University of Utah Press, SLC, UT 84112.

Order By Email – [orders@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:orders@press.uchicago.edu)

Enter the discount code LYMAN25

The discount is a special offer for Christmas and will probably not last beyond 2016

Order by Phone – [800-621-2736](tel:800-621-2736) Mention the discount code LYMAN25

Order by Fax - [800 621-8476](tel:800-621-8476). Include the discount code LYMAN25

Another book written by Edward Leo Lyman is *San Bernardino: The rise and fall of a California community*, published in 1996 by Signature Books. It is in its final edition, so you may want to get a copy while you can.

<http://signaturebookslibrary.org/san-bernardino/>

## Websites

**[amlsociety.org](http://amlsociety.org)** - Official society website that has information on the society, including meeting minutes, how to join, ancestry biographies, and available publications.

**[amasamasonlyman.com](http://amasamasonlyman.com)** - Created by Jack and Amy Lyman, this is a free website for the everyday user who wants to know more about the man Amasa Mason Lyman and his family.

**[aml.lymansite.us](http://aml.lymansite.us)** - Created by Carl Lyman, this site contains information about Amasa Mason Lyman and his wives, as well as family history photos and resources.

## Facebook Page

Look for the Amasa Mason Lyman page on Facebook at [facebook.com/Amasa Mason Lyman](https://www.facebook.com/AmasaMasonLyman)

Cut Here-----

Publication Orders

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>UT Tax</u>	<u>Shipping</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<i>Amasa Mason Lyman - Pioneer</i> by Albert R. Lyman hardcover	\$19.95	\$1.30	\$3.72	\$24.97	_____
<i>A Labor of Love, The Story of Amasa Mason Lyman</i> DVD	\$19.95	\$1.30	\$2.74	\$23.99	_____
<i>Lyman Family History</i> Volume II CD	\$14.95	\$0.97	\$2.74	\$18.66	_____
<i>Francis Marion Lyman – Apostle</i> by Albert R. Lyman softcover	\$19.95	\$1.30	\$2.74	\$23.99	_____

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Make Check to: Amasa Mason Educational and Historical Society

Mail order form and check to: OR: Email Order form to:  
 Jeremy J. Lyman                      jeremyjl@gmail.com  
 842 North 300 West                  Make PAYPAL Payment to:  
 Blanding, Utah 84511              SocietyAML@gmail.com

Website payments are currently unavailable. We hope to have the website operational again in due time so you can easily check when you last paid membership fees. The Membership Committee Chair keeps the record of past membership fee payments and will respond to inquiries.

Meanwhile, the Board has decided to run a membership drive every August and to encourage members to pay dues to the Treasurer (see above) at that time each year.