



## Scattering of the Saints: Diverse Expressions of the Restoration

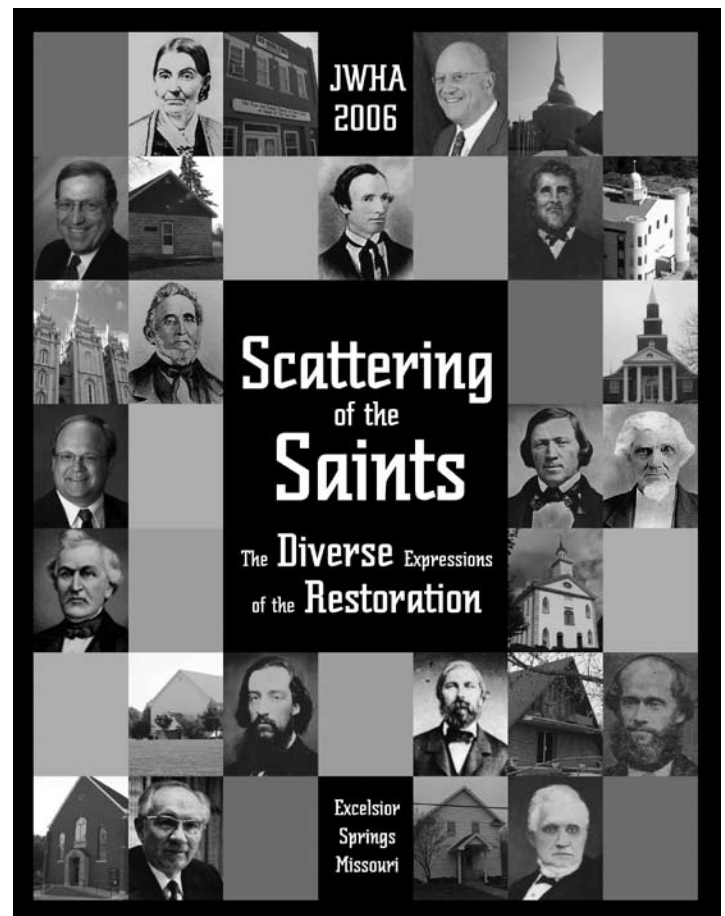
**A**t our recent Presidential Banquet, Alex Baugh, President-Elect and Chair of JWHA's Program Committee, announced that the theme of our 2006 conference would be "Scattering of the Saints: Diverse Expressions of the Restoration."

He and Program Co-Chair Steve Shields, author of *Divergent Paths of the Restoration*, invite interested scholars, students and enthusiasts to send proposals relating to the hundreds of organizations and churches that have enriched the history of the Latter Day Saint movement. Proposals should be 1 page in length and should be accompanied by a brief C.V. (For some ideas and examples of paper topics, please see pp. 8-9 of this newsletter.)

The 2006 Conference will be held at the old favorite JWHA home ground of Camp Doniphan in Excelsior Springs (just northeast of Kansas City, Missouri). A historic sites tour will focus on sites relating to the "Diverse Expressions of the Restoration" including the headquarters of Latter Day Saint churches such as the Church of Jesus Christ (Cutlerite), the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), the Church of Christ with the Elijah Message and the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Members will be excited to learn that the Sterling M. McMurrin lecturer will be none other than former Community of Christ President and former JWHA President W. Grant McMurray.

In all, we hope you will plan to participate and attend what promises to be an enlightening and exciting exchange of ideas.



Where: *Excelsior Springs, Missouri*

When: *September 28 – October 1, 2006*

Send proposals to: **Proposals@JWHA.info**

Or visit **www.JWHA.info** to contact the Program Committee: *Alex Baugh (Chair), Steve Shields (Co-Chair), John Hamer, Barbara Higdon, Robin Jensen, Margaret Rastle, Bill Shepard, Jason Smith.*

Proposal deadline: *February 28, 2006*

## 2005 Presidential Message

# Toward Continuing Growth and Expansion



I am both honored and excited by the challenge of serving as the John Whitmer Historical Association President for 2005–06. I applaud the ongoing trend of continued growth and expansion evident in the association’s various activities as promoted by my most able predecessors in this office, especially during the past several years.

Such growth has been reflected by increased participation in our annual programs by younger scholars as well as academics from outside the Latter Day Saint/Restorationist community — a trend which I expect and hope will continue. Also, it is important to expand our total membership base. Consistent with this goal is the recent reactivation of the association’s long-dormant membership committee. In further pursuit of this goal, I urge that “every JWHA member be a missionary” in recruiting new members — to paraphrase the words of one-time LDS Church President David O. McKay.

A further aspect of expansion involves increased interaction with other professional organizations. Our ongoing close relationship with both the Mormon History Association and the Sunstone Foundation was reflected by the presence at our Springfield meeting of the leaders of both organizations, both of whom also participated in our program. I encourage expansion of our interactive relations with both organizations. I also look forward to establishing a closer relationship with other organizations, specifically the American Society of Church History — the premier organization for scholars of American religious history, and one in which immediate-past JWHA President Jan Shippo is currently serving as President-Elect. Another organization, the Communal Studies Association has expressed interest in co-sponsoring a joint meeting in conjunction with our 2007 annual

meeting scheduled for Kirtland, Ohio.

Finally, growth is evident both in the quantity and quality of the association’s publications. Specifically, the 2005 *JWHA Journal* is the most ambitious ever brought forth, thanks to the indefatigable

energies of journal editor Pat Spillman. Equally significant is the publication of Matthew Bolton’s outstanding *Apostle of the Poor: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff* — the first book published under the auspices of John Whitmer Books. I along with other lead-



ers of the association anticipate the bringing forth of other books and monographs published by the association, a number of projects which are already in the works.

In summary, I look forward to achieving these goals working closely with newly-installed Executive Secretaries John Hamer and Michael Karpowicz as well as other leaders and interested individuals. I actively encourage and welcome the suggestions of any and all members of the association as I undertake my responsibilities as your president. Feel free to contact me in any of the following ways:

By E-Mail: [newellgb@hotmail.com](mailto:newellgb@hotmail.com)

By Mail: 2218 East Vassar, Visalia, CA 93292

By Telephone: 559.732.1251

—Newell G. Bringhurst  
JWHA President

# A Conference of Comparisons

*A Few Reflections by Ken Mulliken*

**M**ark Twain once wrote, “History doesn’t repeat itself but it does rhyme.” There are no exact replications of history, but one can draw from the past applicable analogies to current events. Comparison and contrast are the tools for determining similarities and patterns. I could not help but compare and contrast this year’s John Whitmer Historical Association (JWHA) Conference to those of the past.

Each year, as JWHA members meet for the annual conference there is a similarity in the gathering. Friends renew bonds of camaraderie and scholars exchange ideas that invigorate and renew their devotion to the discipline of history and broaden their intellectual understandings. There were certain obvious similarities between this year’s conference in Springfield, Illinois and gatherings in previous years. The structure of the sessions was essentially the same, and many of the diverse presentations focused on familiar topics. Of course there was the ever-present indecision on which session to attend, which is a quandary at every conference.

Contrasts were clearly evident as well. The venue was significantly more upscale than many of the locations hosting our conferences in the past. The President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, the Prairie Capital Convention Center, the First Presbyterian Church, New Salem State Historic Site, and Fulgenzi’s all contributed to a sense of professionalism that I believe the John Whitmer Historical Association deserves. Adding to the sense of professionalism, John Hamer’s graphic-design skills have significantly improved the appearance of the conference program and attracted the advertising of several organizations and vendors. John’s work on the cover design of the *JWHA Journal* raised the image of the *Journal* significantly and matched the excellent editing Pat Spillman provided, including the twenty-five year index.

Springfield afforded an excellent opportunity to explore history through the Old State Capitol, Lincoln Home, and New Salem. While there was

less Restoration-related history, I was interested to learn of a trial of Joseph Smith that took place in what is now the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office. Anyone who failed to visit the Lincoln Presidential Museum missed out on an incredible experience; that one attraction made Springfield worth the trip. We even enjoyed a classic automobile show in the streets surrounding the hotel.

The Springfield Conference presented many other comparisons and contrasts worthy of acknowledgment. At Thursday evening’s McMurrin Lecture, Professor Ronald Numbers contrasted Joseph Smith with Ellen G. White and Mary Baker Eddy. Friday’s Senior Scholar Lecture featured Professor Richard Bushman’s comparison of Joseph Smith and Abraham Lincoln. Friday evening’s “Dinner With a Filmmaker,” was a form of comparison as Richard Dutcher contrasted his experience of portraying historical “truth” through film with the apologetic or distorted representations depicted by others. On a personal level, for this dinner, I found myself sitting at a table full of Strangites, which was a contrast from my usual LDS/Community of Christ and was equally enjoyable to the lecture itself.

There were two highlights for me. One was participating in the session on Saturday morning with Steve Olsen and Phil Barlow focused on “Mormon Religious Identity.” The other highlight was Sunday morning’s Round Table Discussion at the Community of Christ Church focused on the contrast between the 2004-5 Community of Christ leadership transition and the previous transitions within that organization’s history. Although not a highlight, I must also say that the food was exceptionally good this year. I think without exception each meal exceeded my expectations.

When I accepted the position of Executive Secretary of the John Whitmer Historical Association in 2003, I had not yet accepted full-time employment at the University of Saint Mary. I had not yet

**Reflections cont. on page 13**





**Tom Kimball** of Signature Books was host of the Opening Night Reception.



**Jan Shipps** gave opening announcements at the historic First Presbyterian Church.



**Nick Literksi** spoke about Masonic connections to the assassination of Joseph Smith.



**Richard L. Bushman** responded to a panel discussion of his new biography, *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*.



**John Hammond** chaired a session on "Violence and Diverging Trends among the Latter Days Saints."



A panel discussed the new biography, *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling*. (L to R): **Roger Launius, Mark A. Scherer, Newell G. Bringham, Ronald L. Numbers, Richard L. Bushman, and Jana Riess**.



Conferees gathered on the opening night in the lobby of the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center to visit and exchange ideas.



**Devery S. Anderson** gave a presentation from the recent books he co-edited with Gary Bergera.



After his Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture, **Ronald L. Numbers** discussed his ideas and personal history with past JWhA President **Kenneth Stobaugh**.



Members lined up for some excellent food at the Opening Reception in honor of **Devery S. Anderson** and his new books, *Joseph Smith's Quorum of the Anointed* and *The Nauvoo Endowment Companies*.



**Richard Behrens** talked to **Bill Main** during the Opening Reception about Smith family connections to Dartmouth.



Conversation about the Missouri Mormon conflict spilled out into the halls. **Steve LeSueur** (center) made a point to **John Hamer** (left) and **Alex Baugh** (right).



Founding JWhA President, **Bob Flanders**, reflected on Nauvoo history.



**Richard L. Bushman** compared the lives of Joseph Smith and Abraham Lincoln in the Senior Scholar Address.



**Robin Jensen** gave an excellent paper narrating Strangite and Brighamite interactions in the Nauvoo period.



JWHA Board Member **Bill Shepard** talked about the rogues in Marietta Walker's early Mormon family.



Board Member **Jeanne Murphey** spoke about cults, evil and the tragedy of the Jeffrey Lundgren murders.



Outgoing JWHA President **Jan Shipps** listened to the Panel Discussion of the Bushman biography.



**Richard Bennett** spoke about Samuel L. Mitchell.



**John Hamer** responded to papers by Jeanne Murphey and Bill Russell.



**Steve Shields** responded to Robin Jensen and Vickie Speek's papers.



Most of the sessions included a discussion between the participants and the audience, including this concurrent session.



**Ronald Esplin** gave an update concerning the Joseph Smith Papers Project.



Former JWHA president **Ed Warner** reviews the printed conference program.



Outgoing JWHA Executive Secretary **Ken Mulliken** (left) had a conversation in the Book Display Area with **Jason Smith** (center) and **David Howlett** (right).



**Bill Hartley** talked about the status of the Joseph Smith Papers Project which recently moved to Salt Lake City.



**Mike Karpowicz** demonstrated diverging trends in the LDS and Community of Christ hierarchies.



Immediate Past President **Mark A. Scherer** gave a review of Bushman's biography during the panel discussion.



**Michael Marquardt** was elected to the JWHA Board at the annual business meeting.



**Vickie Speek** of the Society for Strang Studies talked about the women in James Strang's life.



The Plenary Session Lunch where Richard Bushman's biography was discussed was sold out.



JWHA President **Jan Shipps** introduced the distinguished Senior Scholar Lecture.





MHA President **Phil Barlow** introduced Jan Shipp for her Presidential Address.



The Presidential Banquet was held at Fulgenzi's, an excellent restaurant near Abraham Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site.



**Bill Russell** presented the **JWHA Smith-Pettit Best Book Award** to **Robert S. Wicks** for *Junius and Joseph: Presidential Politics and the Assassination of the First Mormon Prophet*.



**Fred Larsen**, Prophet and President of the Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, talked with outgoing JWHA President **Jan Shipp** in the Book Display Area between sessions.



Incoming JWHA Executive Secretaries **John Hamer** (left) and **Mike Karpowicz** (right) make last minute conference planning arrangements between sessions.



The **Best Article Award** was presented posthumously to **Kim Loving**. Loving's wife **Cathy** and daughter **Becca Loving** accepted the award from **Bill Russell**.



**Jim Crooks** rested his feet between sessions.



**Jason Smith**, who moderates the online discussion group LDS Groups, talked between sessions to **Kerry Carlini**, Great Lakes Area Historian for the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickerton).



Nominating Committee Chair **Ron Romig** announced this year's nominees.



**Mark Scherer**, Church Historian of the Community of Christ, led a panel discussion on Sunday morning which put the 2004-05 Community of Christ leadership transition into historical perspective.



Incoming President **Newell Bringhurst** received the JWHA gavel from outgoing President **Jan Shipp** at the Presidential Banquet.



Celebrated filmmaker **Richard Dutcher** (*God's Army*) spoke about Joseph Smith in film and the present state and future of Mormon cinema.



Conferees listening to Jan Shipp's Presidential Address, which was entitled "Prophets and Prophecy in the Mormon Tradition(s)."



**Jan Shipps'** last act as President was to conduct the Annual Business Meeting.



**Mike Karpowicz's** presentation included many of charts which demonstrated the diverging trends in the age of the LDS and Community of Christ hierarchies based on the policies of each church.



**Robert S. Wicks** gave a presentation about his intriguing new book, *Junius and Joseph*.



Former JWHA President **Mark A. Scherer** was elected to chair next year's nominations committee.



**John-Charles Duffy** was awarded one of JWHA's student travel scholarships.



**David Howlett**, another scholarship recipient, presented a paper on RLDS Atherton.



Incoming JWHA President **Newell Bringham** was program chair for this year's conference.



**Mike Marquardt** commented on papers by Bill Shepard and Mike Karpowicz.



**Ron Numbers** engaged in a discussion with several of the conferees.



**Ken Mulliken** was given a special thanks for all of his hard work making the conference a success.



**Melvin Smith** chaired a session on Joseph Smith in Court and Secret Ceremonies.



At the Presidential Banquet (left to right): **Alex Baugh, Ken Mulliken, Mark Scherer, John Hamer, Jan Shipps, Phil Barlow, Newell Bringham, and Mike Karpowicz.**



**Roger Launius** talked about new perspectives and possibilities for researching Nauvoo.



The panel discussion Sunday morning in the Community of Christ chapel talked about the church's 2004-05 leadership transition (left to right): **Bill Russell, Pat Spillman, Mark Scherer, Jan Shipps, and Ron Romig.**



Longtime JWHA Board Member **Alex Baugh** was voted President-Elect.



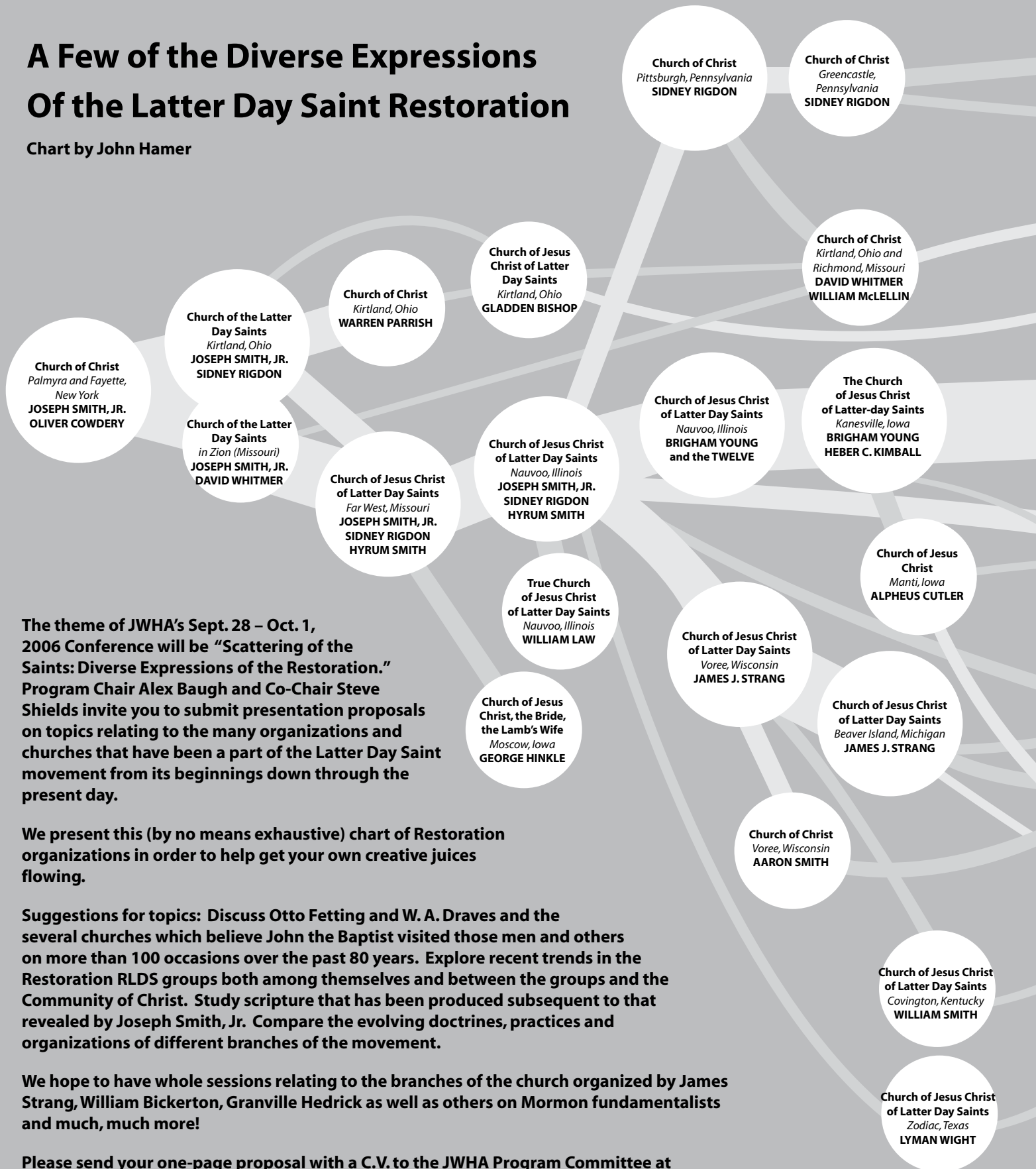
**Bryon Andreasen** spoke of early Mormon connections to Springfield in a breakfast plenary session.



**Ken Mulliken** gives into the strain of conference planning and attacks the photographer, Dominik Graziano.

# A Few of the Diverse Expressions Of the Latter Day Saint Restoration

Chart by John Hamer



The theme of JWHA's Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2006 Conference will be "Scattering of the Saints: Diverse Expressions of the Restoration." Program Chair Alex Baugh and Co-Chair Steve Shields invite you to submit presentation proposals on topics relating to the many organizations and churches that have been a part of the Latter Day Saint movement from its beginnings down through the present day.

We present this (by no means exhaustive) chart of Restoration organizations in order to help get your own creative juices flowing.

Suggestions for topics: Discuss Otto Fetting and W. A. Draves and the several churches which believe John the Baptist visited those men and others on more than 100 occasions over the past 80 years. Explore recent trends in the Restoration RLDS groups both among themselves and between the groups and the Community of Christ. Study scripture that has been produced subsequent to that revealed by Joseph Smith, Jr. Compare the evolving doctrines, practices and organizations of different branches of the movement.

We hope to have whole sessions relating to the branches of the church organized by James Strang, William Bickerton, Granville Hedrick as well as others on Mormon fundamentalists and much, much more!

Please send your one-page proposal with a C.V. to the JWHA Program Committee at [Proposals@JWHA.info](mailto:Proposals@JWHA.info) no later than February 28, 2005.



**Church of Jesus Christ**  
Monongahela, Pennsylvania  
**WILLIAM BICKERTON**

**Church of Jesus Christ**  
Monongahela, Pennsylvania  
**PAUL PALMIERI**

**Church of Christ of the Children of Zion**  
Attica, Iowa  
**SIDNEY RIGDON**  
**STEPHEN POST**

**Kingston Clan**  
Bountiful, Utah  
**JOHN O. KINGSTON**

**United Apostolic Brethren**  
Bluffdale, Utah  
**RULON C. ALLRED**

**Centennial Park Community**  
Centennial Park, Arizona  
**MARION HAMMON**

**Church of Christ**  
Richmond, Missouri  
**DAVID WHITMER**

**Council of Friends (Fundamentalist Mormons)**  
Short Creek, Utah  
**LORIN C. WOOLLEY**

**Short Creek Community**  
Hildale, Utah  
**LEROY S. JOHNSON**

**The Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Hildale, Utah  
**WARREN JEFFS**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Kanesville, Iowa  
**GLADDEN BISHOP**

**Church of the First Born**  
Kingston's Fort, Utah  
**JOSEPH MORRIS**

**Church of Zion**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**WILLIAM S. GODBE**  
**AMASA M. LYMAN**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**BRIGHAM YOUNG**  
**HEBER C. KIMBALL**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**JOHN TAYLOR**

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**GORDON HINCKLEY**

**Congregation of Jehovah's Presbytery in Zion**  
Preparation, Iowa  
**CHARLES THOMPSON**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ("New Organization")**  
Nauvoo, Illinois  
**JOSEPH SMITH III**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ("New Organization")**  
Plano, Illinois  
**JOSEPH SMITH III**

**Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Lamoni, Iowa  
**JOSEPH SMITH III**

**Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Independence, Missouri  
**FREDERICK M. SMITH**

**Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Independence, Missouri  
**WALLACE B. SMITH**

**Community of Christ**  
Independence, Missouri  
**STEPHEN VEAZEY**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Beloit, Wisconsin  
**JASON BRIGGS**  
**ZENAS GURLEY**

**Church of Christ**  
Bloomington, Illinois  
**GRANVILLE HEDRICK**

**Church of Christ (Temple Lot)**  
Independence, Missouri  
**GRANVILLE HEDRICK**

**Church of Christ (Temple Lot)**  
Independence, Missouri  
**DANIEL MCGREGOR**  
and others

**Restoration RLDS Independent Branches**  
Independence, Missouri and elsewhere  
**RICHARD PRICE**  
and others

**Remnant Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Independence, Missouri  
**FRED LARSEN**

**Church of Jesus Christ (Cutlerite)**  
Clitherall, Minnesota  
**CHANCEY WHITING**

**Church of Christ with the Elijah Message**  
Independence, Missouri  
**OTTO FETTING**

**Church of Christ (Temple Lot)**  
Independence, Missouri  
**WILLIAM SHELDON**  
and others

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Voree, Wisconsin  
**WINGFIELD WATSON**

**Church of Christ**  
Independence, Missouri  
**PAULINE HANCOCK**

**Church of Christ with the Elijah Message (Three Separate Organizations)**

**Church of Jesus Christ (Cutlerite)**  
Independence, Missouri  
**JULIAN WHITING**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
Voree, Wisconsin  
**WILLIAM SHEPARD**  
and others

**This chart is much simplified by necessity. Many more organizations have existed and continue to exist to the present day.**

## New Board & Committees

### The 2005-06 JWHA Board

Newell Bringhurst, *President*  
 Alex Baugh, *President-Elect*  
 Jan Shipps, *Immediate Past President*  
 John Hamer, *Executive Secretary*  
 Mike Karpowicz, *Executive Secretary*  
 Billie Young, *Endowment Fund Treasurer*  
 Greg Kofford  
 Michael Marquardt  
 Margie Miller  
 Jeanne Murphey  
 Bill Russell  
 Bill Shepard  
 Barbara Walden

### 2005-06 Program Committee

Alex Baugh, *Chair*  
 Steve Shields, *Co-Chair*  
 John Hamer  
 Barbara Higdon  
 Robin Jensen  
 Margaret Rastle  
 Bill Shepard  
 Jason Smith

### 2005-06 Nominations Committee

Mark Scherer, *Chair*  
 Peter Judd  
 Don Compier  
 David Howlett  
 Dianne Shepard

### 2005-06 Financial Committee

Billie Young, *Chair*  
 Paul Edwards  
 Bill Morain

### 2005-06 Publications Committee

Billie Young, *Chair*  
 Newell Bringhurst  
 Pat Spillman

# 75th Edition of the JWHA Newsletter

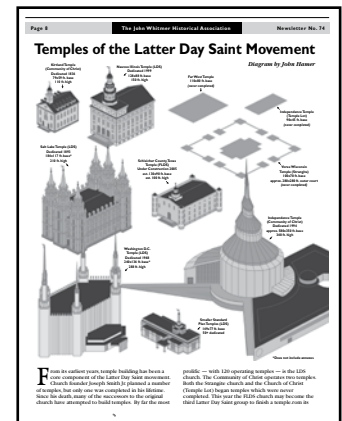
This issue marks the 75th Edition of JWHA's *Newsletter*, and at 16 pages in length, this issue is also the largest and most ambitious edition to date. As such, it seems appropriate to discuss some continuing features as well as some new features we hope to develop.

The irregular publication of the *Newsletter* was standardized as quarterly under the editorship of Norman Bernauer (1998-2003). Norman also worked to add scholarly content of interest to the membership. Both of these traditions have been maintained through 2003-05 under the co-production of the *Newsletter* by editor Ken Mulliken and myself.

Moving forward, I'm hoping to develop several features: (1) News from sister organizations and Latter Day Saint churches, e.g., the update from the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickerton) on p. 13 of this issue; (2) Charts and pertinent information relating to our conference themes and/or to events in Latter Day Saint news (e.g., the "Diverse Expressions" chart on pp. 8-9 of this issue and the Temple Chart on p. 8 of issue No. 74); (3) JWHA history — recollections from members along with reprinted highlights from the *Newsletter's* archives; and (4) An ongoing Calendar of Events — hopefully much more fleshed out than the first version here on p. 15 — to make JWHA members aware of events sponsored by sister organizations and Latter Day Saint churches.

Building on our strong foundation of 74 past issues, I'm looking forward to helping move the *Newsletter* and JWHA forward with help and suggestions from all of you.

— John Hamer



# What History Means to Me

By David Howlett

*The following is a talk that David Howlett gave at the worship service at the JWHA annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois on October 2.*

The distinguished historian of church creeds, Jaroslav Pelikan, once stated that “we do well to recognize as infantile an attitude toward our parents that regards them as all-wise or all-powerful and that is blind to their human foibles. But we must recognize no less that it is adolescent, once we have discovered those foibles, to deny our parents the respect and reverence that is their due for having been, under God, the means through which has come the only life we have. Maturity in our relation to our parents consists in going beyond both a belief in their omniscience and a disdain for their weakness, to an understanding and a gratitude for their decisive part in the ongoing process in which now we, too, must take our place, as heirs and yet free.”\*

As I was doing research for my master’s thesis two years ago now, I spent day after day in the Community of Christ archives, mostly poring over old application forms for Zionite colonies that were envisioned by church leaders and laity in the 1920s. Back in the 1920s, members of the RLDS church really, really wanted to build a physical community that would be the Kingdom of God on earth. Motivated both by a desire to eliminate poverty and a millennialist belief that the end was a moment away, members tried to set up cooperatives where people would help each other, would take care of the poor, and be unified as one body. Of course, their hopes were not met completely, as the communities never were built or the communities never functioned in the envisioned capacity. Knowing this, I scanned their applications looking for what they expected for the future, asking rather academic questions through the lens of critical theory about power and the human body. What I found is hard to verbalize. Even while trying to guard myself against nostalgia (and trying to definitely not feel like I was LDS), I experienced a surprisingly deep, spiritual connection to the people that I

met on the yellowed application forms. Here were very ordinary people, old, young, immigrants and citizens, people of other nations, saints, and even a few scoundrels. They all longed for something better for themselves and their children. Many had problems in their lives — from sick children to bed ridden spouses, and from broken homes to broken bodies. Some were poor and some had modest means. The year on most of the applications was 1930, and the applicants were all struggling, but they were struggling forward. I was sad for many of them when I read about their own human brokenness, but I was also grateful for their lives. To my surprise, I recognized the last names of some of the applicants. They had been the grandparents and great-grandparents of people that I knew. No, the people who filled out the applications were not omniscient, and they were wrong about a great many things (as I am sure that I must be, too). But, as theologian Paul Tillich once eloquently stated, “Ultimate concern is ultimate risk and ultimate courage.”† These saints displayed such human courage in the face of life’s most difficult questions.

In a less philosophical and more confessional mode, I might add that even in their brokenness, the hopeful, ordinary saints of the 1930s served as a conduit for divine grace to many individuals. Even in their limited understanding, they provided hope, friendship, and spiritual communion for countless people. Even in their weakness, they passed on a goodly faith and heritage to others. Or to paraphrase Pelikan, they were “under God, the means through which has come the only life” that I have, that in a metaphorical sense, we all have. With God’s grace, then, may we all grow in a mature appreciation of our past, as we too, take our places in the ongoing story of history, “as heirs yet free.”

\* Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Vindication of Tradition* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1984), 54.

† F. Forrester Church, ed., *The Essential Tillich: An Anthology of the Writings of Paul Tillich* (Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1999), 23.



# Announcing Our New Imprint: John Whitmer Books

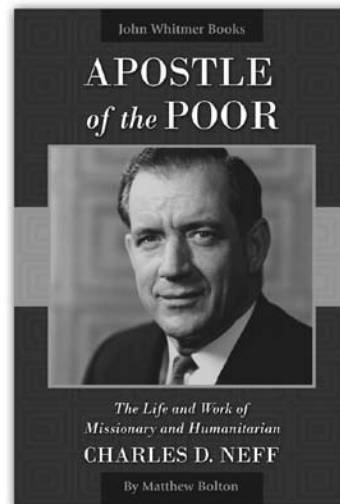
In keeping with JWHA's mission to "encourage interest in Latter Day Saint history" and to "provide a vehicle for the dissemination of the fruits of scholarly research," the Board voted on Thursday, September 29, to create a new publishing imprint to be known as "John Whitmer Books." Building on our editorial experience with the *Journal* and with the Monograph Series, John Whitmer Books will provide a new venue for the publication of books dealing with the history of the Latter Day Saint movement, focussing especially on the early church, the history of the Reorganization, and on the history of "Prairie Saints" in general.

The first book to be published under the auspices of John Whitmer Books is Matthew Bolton's new biography of RLDS Apostle Charles D. Neff, which had previously been approved for inclusion in the JWHA Monograph Series. The book was edited by W.B. "Pat" Spillman and typeset and illustrated by John Hamer. It is currently in production and will soon be available for sale at JWHA's website and through Herald House's catalogue.

Outgoing President Jan Shippis named an *ad hoc* Publications Committee consisting of Biloine Young (chair), Pat Spillman, and Newell Bringhurst and advised by Liz Dulany of the University of Illinois Press to consider the issue for the Board. The committee's preliminary report established the following editorial and production guidelines:

Manuscripts will first be read by the three members of the John Whitmer Books Editorial Board. Manuscripts that pass this initial screening will be sent to two readers, knowledgeable in the field, for their recommendation. The JWHA Executive Committee, with the Editorial Board, will make the final decision on publication.

Prior to a publication decision a budget will be drawn up outlining costs and establishing a break-even point. Authors will sign a standard book contract. A basic provision of the contract will be



*The first title from John Whitmer Books will be Matthew Bolton's new biography, Apostle of the Poor: The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian Charles D. Neff. Having read the manuscript, Jan Shippis said that she was "blown away" by Bolton's work.*

that an author's royalty of 10% of receipts will be paid to the author only after all costs of production and marketing have been recovered by JWHA.

While much of the work of book production can be done by JWHA members who have expertise in editing, book design and typesetting, persons doing this work will be paid fees for their services which will be added to the costs of production.

A principle of the Editorial Board shall be that the John Whitmer press imprint will be self-supporting and will be operated so as to provide a modest return to the organization. No books will be published that do not have an excellent prospect of going beyond the break-even point in sales.

Books will be published by firms specializing in the "books on demand" form of publication.

In the coming weeks, the committee will make further recommendations concerning marketing, order fulfillment and book storage.

In all, the prospects and potential of the new imprint has already sparked a great deal of enthusiasm among JWHA members who have mentioned a number of important upcoming titles as possible future John Whitmer Books.

# New President of the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickerton)

The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania — sometimes referred to as the “Bickerton organization” after its early re-organizer, William Bickerton — is often cited as the third largest Restoration church to have resulted from the 1844 break.

For the past 31 years, the President of the church has been Apostle Dominic R. Thomas. (In the Church of Jesus Christ, the President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles is also the President of the church.) President Thomas oversaw a period of unprecedented growth for the church which now

has 80 congregations in the US and Canada and members in over 20 nations.

President Thomas “passed to his reward” this spring after over sixty years of church service.

The new President of the church is Paul Palmieri, who has been an apostle since 1986, and has served as First Counselor to the general church since 1992.

President Palmieri has been an active missionary for the church, having served previously in Nigeria, India, Mexico, Italy, England, Poland, Guatemala, and the Philippines.

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## Reflections continued from page 3

started teaching Nauvoo history to the Graceland University summer interns. I had not yet agreed to teach Community of Christ History for the Graceland University/Community of Christ Seminary. Among these and several other duties, I realized that no matter how hard I tried I could not serve adequately in the position of JWHA Executive Secretary. To try to do so would seriously compromise the quality of service JWHA members would receive. This is why I resigned my position. So, next year will also be a conference of contrast for me because I will actually be able to enjoy the conference and not worry as much about issues such as nametag holders, the temperature of the conference rooms, and the number of vegetarian meals.

I had big shoes to fill when I replaced Norm Bernauer. He trained me well and any success I enjoyed in the position of Executive Secretary should be credited to his instruction and support. In this role, I have had the great pleasure of becoming acquainted with many of the best and brightest scholars alive today. You are all my friends. I pass

the responsibility to a team of bright and talented men, John Hamer and Mike Karpowicz. I know they have the talent, skills, abilities, and enthusiasm to take John Whitmer Historical Association to a new level. I warned John and Mike that the title of Executive Secretary is actually a clever pseudonym for “Head Worker Bees.” Since they did not balk, but willingly took on the new duties, I am confident that they will do a fantastic job.

This year’s conference will always be memorable for me. Next year’s conference promises to be even better. I hope you will join me in 2006 at Camp Doniphan!

## JWHA Newsletter

The JWHA Newsletter is published quarterly by and for the benefit of the members of the John Whitmer Historical Association.

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John Hamer, *Editor and Production Director*

Mike Karpowicz, *Editor*

Please send letters and notices to the editor: John Hamer, 1710 South Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or by e-mail at [JHamer@Annutech.com](mailto:JHamer@Annutech.com).



# JWHA Membership Renewal Form

If a notice to renew your membership appears above your name in address portion of this newsletter (see page 12), please take this opportunity to renew your membership in the John Whitmer Historical Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

*(List if your spouse is registering for a Spouse Membership)*

## Membership Levels

JWHA's Bylaws provide for Sustaining, Patron and Lifetime Memberships for members who wish to make an additional tax-deductible contribution to the association.

**Regular Membership** — Full Membership in the organization with a subscription to the quarterly newsletter and annual journal and full voting rights at the annual meeting.

**Spouse Membership** — Same as above except that the spouse shares the subscriptions.

**Student Membership** — Full Membership is offered at a reduced rate to encourage students to join the association.

**Sustaining Membership** — Sustaining Members are full members who provide an extra donation to help sustain the association's important initiatives and programs.

**Patron Membership** — Patron Members are helping JWHA with its long-term goals of growth and increased professionalism. Patrons will be invited to sit with the JWHA Presidency and keynote speakers at the Patrons' Dinner during the Annual Meeting.

**Lifetime Membership** — Through a one-time-only generous donation, a Lifetime Member's name is permanently updated on JWHA's membership roles.

### JWHA Membership

New Member:       Renewing Member:

Regular Membership	\$25.00	\$ _____
Spouse of Member	+10.00	\$ _____
Student Membership	17.50	\$ _____
Sustaining Membership	75.00	\$ _____
Patron Membership	200.00	\$ _____
Lifetime Membership	1,000.00	\$ _____
Please add postage for Foreign Membership	+5.00	\$ _____

### MHA Membership

New Member:       Renewing Member:

Regular Membership	\$35.00	\$ _____
Spouse of Member	+10.00	\$ _____
Student Membership	20.00	\$ _____
Institutional Membership	45.00	\$ _____
Sustaining Membership	100.00	\$ _____
Patron Membership	250.00	\$ _____
Donor Membership	500.00	\$ _____
Please add postage for Foreign Membership	+10.00	\$ _____

JWHA Subtotal	\$ _____
MHA Subtotal	\$ _____
Less \$5.00 for combined JWHA & MHA membership	- \$5.00

Membership Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to JWHA and send them to:*



**John Whitmer Historical Association**  
c/o Mike Karpowicz  
1710 South Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



# JWHA Calendar

Please send notices of events relating to Latter Day Saint history to [jhamer@annuitech.com](mailto:jhamer@annuitech.com).

## Calendar of Events 2005

- 9/29–10/02 — 33rd Annual Meeting of JWHA in Springfield, Illinois
- 10/01–02 — 175th Semiannual General Conference of the LDS church in Salt Lake City, Utah
- 10/05–09 — General Priesthood Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickerton) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.
- 10/20 — Arrington Mormon History Lecture at Utah State University in Logan: “Inlaws and Outlaws: New Lessons from the Archives” by Sara Gordon.
- 10/20–21 — Claremont Graduate University Conference: “Joseph Smith and the Prophetic Tradition.”

## Calendar of Events 2006

- 2/28 — Proposal deadline for JWHA’s conference.
- 4/1–2 — 176th Semiannual General Conference of the LDS church in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 5/25–28 — Mormon History Association 2006 Conference in Casper, Wyoming commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Mormon Handcart Companies.
- 6/16–18 — Society for Strang Studies Annual Conference on Beaver Island, Michigan commemorates the 150th Anniversary of the Assassination of James Strang.
- 8/9–12 — Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 9/28–10/01 — 34th Annual Meeting of JWHA in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- 9/29–10/01 — 177th Semiannual General Conference of the LDS church in Salt Lake City, Utah.

MHA CONFERENCE 2006

CASPER WYOMING

Celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Handcart Companies

VISIT [WWW.MHAHOME.ORG](http://WWW.MHAHOME.ORG) FOR DETAILS!

## A CALL FOR PAPERS!

# Big Man Dead!

*150 Years Since the Assassination of James J. Strang*

Papers and projects are being sought for presentation at a conference to be held June 16–18, 2006 in St. James, Beaver Island, Michigan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the shooting of **James Strang**, originator of the Strangite Mormon Church.

Interested persons should send a one-page outline of the proposed paper or project to **Vickie Speek** at [vickie\\_speek@yahoo.com](mailto:vickie_speek@yahoo.com). Deadline for proposals is Feb. 3, 2006.

## The Society for Strang Studies

This special anniversary conference will be held in conjunction with the **Beaver Island Historical Society**. The mission of the **Society for Strang Studies** is to promote scholarly research and to stimulate and facilitate interest in James Jesse Strang and Strangite Mormonism.

# APOSTLE of the POOR

*The Life and Work of Missionary and Humanitarian* CHARLES D. NEFF

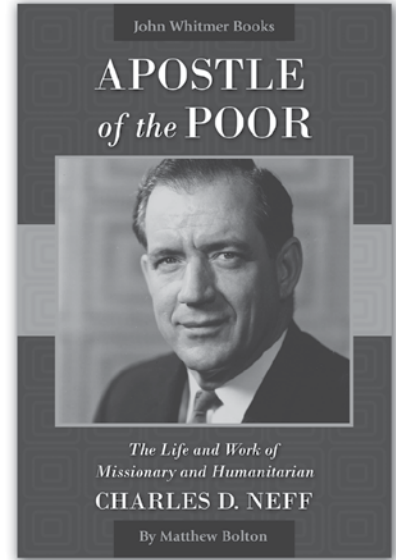
By Matthew Bolton

From humble beginnings as a Midwestern American farmboy, Charles D. Neff went on to participate in the fundamental transformation of the Community of Christ, from a small provincial sect centered in the Midwestern plains, to a worldwide church spanning over 50 nations.

His missionary work in Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, India, Nigeria, Liberia, and Kenya challenged him to

rethink the church's theology — opening it to the voices of other cultures — and confronted him with the horrific realities of massive poverty.

Deeply affected by the terrible conditions he saw in the developing world, he founded several humanitarian organizations, including Outreach International, and dedicated his life to bringing relief, release and dignity to the world's poor.



*This apostle was not merely an important church leader, he was an indefatigable humanitarian and campaigner for world peace...I was "blown away" by the work.*

—Jan Shipps, author of *Sojourner in the Promised Land*



## John Whitmer Books

Place your order today using the form on page 9 or visit [JWHA.info](http://JWHA.info)

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