2000

Deseret News / Manti, Utah / Marriott, J. Willard / Snow College

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Original Publication Citation

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Hunter, J. Michael, "Deseret News / Manti, Utah / Marriott, J. Willard / Snow College" (2000). All Faculty Publications. 1400. https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/1400

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ENCyclopedia of

Latter-day Saint

HISTORY

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DESERET BOOK COMPANY
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
DESERET NEWS. The Deseret News, owned by the Church, is one of the most influential newspapers in the Intermountain West. It began publication in Salt Lake City on 15 June 1850 under the direction of Brigham Young. It was published as a weekly periodical from 1850 to 1898 and, besides, as a semiweekly from 1865 to 1922. The Deseret Evening News, a daily, began publication in 1867 and changed its name to the Deseret News in 1920.
The *Deseret News* has editorially taken a conservative to moderate position with special attention to high moral values. Willard Richards was the first editor of the *Deseret News* (1850–54). Other general authorities who have served as editors include: Albert Carrington (1854–59), George Q. Cannon (1867–73, 1877–79), and Charles W. Penrose (1880–92, 1899–1907). Mark E. Petersen worked as a reporter, news editor, and manager before becoming editor of the *News* in 1946.

In 1952, Elder Petersen brought the *News* into an agency arrangement with the *Salt Lake Tribune*, which combined printing, circulation, and advertising departments while keeping editorial and news departments separate. Under the new arrangement, Thomas S. Monson became the assistant classified advertising manager. Elder Monson served as an officer, director, and chairman of the periodical before stepping down in 1996 after 49 years of service. In 1997, President Monson dedicated a new nine-story Deseret News Building in Salt Lake City.

The *Deseret News* has published a special weekly supplement entitled *Church News* in its Saturday editions since 1931. This section enables readers to keep current on news of the Church worldwide.

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**Sources**


**J. Michael Hunter**
MANTI, UTAH. Manti is located 123 miles south of Salt Lake City in the Sanpete Valley. It was the fourth town founded by the Saints in Utah (after Salt Lake City, Ogden, and Provo). Chief Walker (Walkara) sent a delegation of Ute Indians to Salt Lake City in June 1849 to request Mormon colonists for Sanpitch Valley to teach the Indians how to build homes and till the soil. Brigham Young responded by sending an exploring party to the area with Chief Walker acting as guide. They reached the present site of Manti on 20 August 1849, where the Indians entertained them. The group reported favorable conditions for founding a colony, and Brigham Young responded by sending 50 families from Salt Lake City and Centerville in the fall of 1849. The colonists settled on the site of Manti on 22 November 1849 under Isaac Morley's secular and ecclesiastical leadership.

Morley suggested the name from the location mentioned in the Book of Mormon. The first settlers settled on City Creek, but three feet of snow fell on the camp the first night. The settlers then moved their camp south of Temple Hill. Their first homes were dugouts, which did little to protect the pioneers from heavy snows, loss of animals, famine, and serious Indian troubles. In time, however, the agricultural community became known as the "granary of Utah."

As immigrants from Scandinavia poured into Utah, they settled in the Sanpete Valley, which was very close to their native climate. The Manti settlement may have failed had it not been for the hardy Scandinavians whose heritage is still evident today among the names,
architecture, and customs of the people, including the annual Scandinavian Days celebration.

Manti was incorporated in 1851 with Dan Jones as mayor. The city suffered during the Walker War from 1853 to 1854 and the Black Hawk War from 1865 to 1867. Wilford Woodruff dedicated the Manti Temple on 21 May 1888. Manti is perhaps best known today for the Church-sponsored Mormon Miracle Pageant, presented annually for two weeks on Temple Hill with a cast of roughly 800 and an estimated audience of 128,000.

Sources


History of Sanpete and Emery Counties, Utah. Ogden, Utah: W. H. Lever, 1898.


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MARRIOTT, J. WILLARD, SR. John Willard Marriott Sr. was born 17 September 1900 in a two-room farmhouse in Marriott, Utah, and later became a well-known Latter-day Saint philanthropist and founder of a billion-dollar international business conglomerate. The son of Hyrum Willard and Ellen Morris Marriott, he received his education from Weber College (1922) and the University of Utah (1926). He married Alice Sheets on 9 June 1927 and was the father of two sons—John Willard (1932) and Richard Edwin (1939). Starting in 1927 with an A & W root beer stand in Washington, D.C., Marriott eventually operated 125 hotels, 2,500 fast food restaurants, cruise ships, amusement parks, and the largest airline catering service in the world by the time he died 13 August 1985.

Marriott served a mission for the Church in the Eastern States Mission from 1919 to 1921 and was later the president of the Washington D.C. Stake. In 1976, he helped bring the Tabernacle Choir to Washington, D.C., for the country’s bicentennial celebration. His many philanthropical contributions include the Marriott Center and the Marriott School of Management at Brigham Young University, the Marriott Library at the University of Utah, and the Marriott Allied Health Sciences Building at Weber State University.

SOURCES


J. Michael Hunter
SNOW COLLEGE. Snow College began as one of 33 academies founded by the Church between 1875 and 1910. It was established because of a lack of public education and to compete with non-LDS academies. Located in Ephraim, Sanpete County, Utah, Snow College was founded 3 November 1888 as the Sanpete Stake Academy. The academy’s name changed several times from Snow Academy (1902)—in honor of Lorenzo and Erastus Snow—to Snow Normal College (1917), to Snow College (1923). The name changes represented the gradual changes in curriculum from elementary to college subjects. In 1932, the Church turned the school over to the state of Utah.

SOURCES


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