

# The Jared Pratt Family Association's Bicentennial Star

Jared Pratt Family Association Newsletter

June 20, 2007

## Pratt Family Reunion: July 20-21, 2007

### Finding Parley: Moving Parley by Robert J. Grow

Parley P. Pratt was murdered in Arkansas 150 years ago last month and was buried with the help of a few sympathetic neighbors, and perhaps reburied in secret later that night by his missionary companion to protect the place of his interment. Since that time, the family has sought to find the exact location of Parley's resting place and move his remains, including efforts in the 1890s, 1902, 1912, 1936-37 and the 1950s. Members of the family have conducted new historical research concerning the early eyewitness and other accounts of the burial. In addition, with recently completed scientific results from an electromagnetic investigation and ground penetrating radar, it may now be possible to identify within a foot the exact location of his Arkansas grave. The area around the grave is beginning development for commercial and light industrial sites, which will dramatically change the character of the one-acre property where the monument is located.

In these circumstances, the family is asking again whether we should fulfill Parley's dying wish that his body be buried among the Saints in Utah (in the plot reserved for him by his wives in the Salt Lake City Cemetery).

This will be the most important discussion about this issue since the 1950s effort to find the location of his grave which led to the purchase of land and the erection of the granite monument. Tens of thousands of



dollars in time and resources have already been expended to locate his grave which appears just *one* foot from the property boundary and from the future development. Those of us who were at the April conference in Arkansas concerning Parley's legacy were shocked at the grading of the adjoining land and the construction of the first truck stop, particularly since bulldozers may have been operated within a few feet of Parley's actual gravesite. We now feel strongly that we should move Parley's remains to Salt Lake City, while of course preserving the site and the monument as a gathering place for the local Latter-day Saints and family members who may travel to Arkansas.

The GPR and EM studies will be posted on the website as well as research concerning the historical efforts by the family to move Parley,

including the 1902 effort which was approved in writing by the LDS First Presidency.

We will seek to make a formal decision about this at the Friday night reunion meeting. We invite those of you who cannot attend the reunion to e-mail or write your thoughts, comments and questions before the reunion. If you are one of the older living descendants of Parley, we, in particular, need to hear from you and whether you would join us as the "next of kin" in making this request.

Our intention is to move Parley and hold the memorial service for him that was never held. Come join the discussion and help us make the right decision.

Write Robert Grow at [jaredprattfamily@gmail.com](mailto:jaredprattfamily@gmail.com) or 9767 Little Cottonwood Pl., Sandy, UT 84092.

# **PRATT REUNION 2007**

## **Federal Heights Chapel, Salt Lake City**

### **(See Map on Page 3)**

### **Thursday, July 19, 2007**

10:00 a.m.	Baptisms
4:00 p.m.	Temple Session, Salt Lake Temple
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Chapel Session, Salt Lake Temple
7:00 p.m.	Temple Session, Salt Lake Temple

### **Friday, July 20, 2007**

7:00 p.m.	Finding Parley/Moving Parley: Should Parley P. Pratt's remains be moved to the Salt Lake City Cemetery to fulfill his dying wish?
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### **Saturday, July 21, 2007**

8:00 a.m.	Register; Get acquainted; View exhibits, including the descendency charts that will cover the walls.
9:00 a.m.	Setting the Record Straight: The Murder of Parley P. Pratt by Robert J. Grow, President, and Matthew J. Grow, Ph.D. History, Notre Dame
10:00 a.m.	Family Meeting
11:30 a.m.	Stories of the Five Pratt Brothers by Paul DeBry, Vice President for Descendency Research
12:30 p.m.	Lunch. We will do a group order for pizza that morning and will have cold soft drinks and éclairs for dessert, all at a reasonable cost. Feel free to bring a sack lunch if you would prefer.
1:30 p.m.	Legacies of Orson and Parley Pratt by David Whittaker, Ph.D. History, Brigham Young University
2:30 p.m.	View Exhibits, Socialize, Share, Make Plans
3:00 p.m.	End of reunion

There will be crafts available for children throughout the reunion on Saturday.  
Children must be accompanied by a parent or sibling (12+ years old).

## Setting the Record Straight: The Murder of Parley P. Pratt

During a highpoint of national tensions concerning Mormonism, Parley P. Pratt was murdered in Arkansas in May 1857. The nation's newspapers cheered his death, while the Latter-day Saints mourned their fallen Apostle. Since then, controversy has swirled about Parley's death. Using the best historical records available, Robert and Matthew Grow will discuss the contexts and circumstances of his arrest, trial, acquittal, murder, and burial.

## General Family Meeting

It has been six years since the family has gathered for a reunion. At this meeting, we will discuss progress on the major family objectives of keeping track of the Pratt descendants, sharing the stories and history of our ancestors within the family, and recent family projects including the DVD of the five Pratt brothers, the historical and scientific research concerning Parley's life, death and burial, and a demonstration of a new prototype family website. Music will be provided by Deanna Edwards, an Orson Pratt descendant and well known musical artist.

## Stories of the Brothers

For the last year, Paul DeBry has led the effort to create a wonderful historical DVD about the lives of the five Pratt brothers. This landmark project will provide the best way to share the stories of these ancestors with your children and grandchildren (think Christmas presents!). From his unique perspective, Paul will share some highlights from the lives of each of the brothers and why each of us can be proud to be part of this great family.

## Things For Sale\*

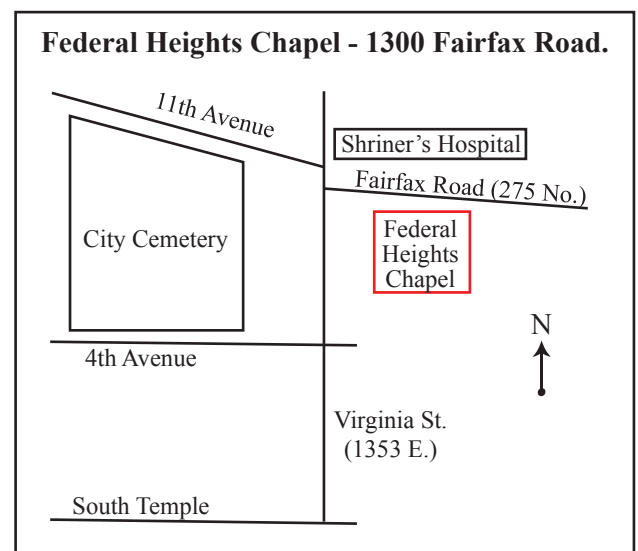
Five Pratt Brothers DVD	\$15
Arkansas Conference DVD	\$15
Pratt Picture Project DVD	\$10
Pioneer Magazine Article	\$2
Ensign Article	\$2

## Legacies of Orson and Parley Pratt

David Whittaker (Ph.D., Brigham Young University) is Curator of Western and Mormon Manuscripts, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, and Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University. After years of studying the writings of Orson and Parley Pratt, David will share his insights about the legacies that these brothers left for the Church and their families. If you haven't heard him before, this presentation will be a "knockout".

## Things You Should Bring

1. Cash/Check. In the last year, many thousands of dollars have been spent on Pratt family related projects. We strongly encourage a family contribution of \$25. The ongoing work of preserving and sharing the family's history is not inexpensive and we invite your generous assistance. Contributors will receive discounts on the items for sale.
2. Family Address Lists (names, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses). We are trying to reach more family members and need your help!
3. Family Artifacts/Photographs. We will have protected display tables for items related to Pratt history that you would like to exhibit. We would like to document and photograph these family artifacts! Bring your photographs to show relatives and get help identifying the unknown people in your photographs.



\*All proceeds will support family projects.

## Call for Volunteers

We still need volunteers to help set up and take down on Friday, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

We are also searching for a:

1. **Satellite** wireless internet card
2. Large projection screen, preferably up to 10 feet in size that could be used at the reunion meetings
3. Locking display cabinet.

If you have any of these items that could be used, please contact us. If the reunion building is your home ward, we could use help doing some pre-planning.

Contact David Grow at [jaredprattfamily@gmail.com](mailto:jaredprattfamily@gmail.com) or 801-885-8589.

## Thursday Temple Session

For members of the LDS Church, cousin Rebecca Tollefson has organized several events at the temple on Thursday, July 19. At the chapel session, we will gather as a family to sing two of Parley's hymns and listen to brief remarks from a member of the family and a member of the temple presidency. Family members are invited to attend a session before or after the chapel session at 4:00 or 7:00 p.m. Rebecca has also reserved a session for baptisms at 10:00 a.m. Names will be provided.

For more info: Call Rebecca Tollefson at 435-835-4423.



## Update on the Graves

Over the last year, many volunteers (from inside and outside of the family) have helped locate most of the graves from the first three generations. While most headstones are still in good condition, some graves are not marked or only have headstones in poor condition. A new headstone costs approximately \$500 and below is a list of our ancestors who need new headstones for their graves. Will you help honor your ancestors, including those who died as children or without posterity? Contributions of any size are welcome and can be given through the mail, on the website or at the reunion.

### Orson

Margaret Phelps Pratt Armstrong – Miami, Florida  
 Royal Graham Pratt\* – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Sarah Marinda Pratt\* – Nauvoo, Illinois

### William

Alice Fleet Smart Pratt – Albion, Idaho  
 Martha Marinda Pratt\* – Nauvoo, Illinois  
 Stephen Pratt\* – Nauvoo, Illinois

### Parley (including 9 wives)

Thankful Halsey Pratt – Kirtland, Ohio  
 Mary Wood Pratt – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Belinda Marden Pratt – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Ann Agatha Walker Pratt – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Elizabeth Brotherton Pratt\* – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Hannahette Snively Pratt – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Keziah Downs Pratt\* – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Eleanor McComb Pratt\* – Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Phoebe Soper Pratt – Provo, Utah  
 Abinadi Pratt\* – Provo, Utah  
 Evelyn Pratt Woods & Francis Charles Woods – Ogden, Utah  
 Nathan Pratt\* – Nauvoo, Illinois  
 Susan Pratt\* – Nauvoo, Illinois

### Nelson

Marietta Ensign Pratt – Garden Grove, Iowa

\*Died without posterity