

April 15, 2011

Dear Pratt Cousin:

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Orson Pratt. One of the original twelve apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Orson, born on September 19, 1811, was the fourth of the five sons of Jared and Charity Pratt. He became a distinguished scientist, scholar, writer, visionary, author, political leader, and missionary of the early Church and helped lay a firm foundation on which we build today.

The husband of ten wives, Orson was the father of 22 sons and 23 daughters, 29 of whom lived to have children of their own. His descendants now number many thousands.

The Jared Pratt Family Association and especially the descendants of Orson Pratt are planning a reunion on **Saturday, September 10, 2011** to gather, renew friendships, celebrate our heritage, and honor Orson Pratt. The reunion will be held at the This Is The Place State Park in Salt Lake City from 10:00-2:00. Family members can begin to gather at 9:00 and stay at the park as long as they want. The reunion committee will be led by Brent Beesley, a descendant of Orson Pratt.

Please save the date and plan for you and your extended family to join us that day to celebrate our common heritage. We will send out more information about the reunion over the summer and post it to our website, [www.pratt-family.org](http://www.pratt-family.org).

We need your help to prepare this reunion. We particularly need the assistance of Orson Pratt's descendants. If you can lend a hand, please email us today at [jaredprattfamily@gmail.com](mailto:jaredprattfamily@gmail.com) or Brent Beesley can also be contacted at 801-359-0297 and [bbeesley@xmission.com](mailto:bbeesley@xmission.com). In addition, please help us to spread the word as we want to make sure that every Pratt descendant is invited. Please send in names, addresses, and especially e-mails of all of the Pratt relatives you know.

In other family news, the first scholarly biography of Parley P. Pratt will be published by Oxford University Press in September and will be available for purchase at the reunion. (Think Christmas presents.) Written by Terry Givens, professor of literature and religion at the University of Richmond, and Matthew Grow, the director of publications at the LDS Church History Department, the biography is titled *Parley P. Pratt: The Apostle Paul of Mormonism*.

Best regards,



Robert J. Grow

President, Jared Pratt Family Association