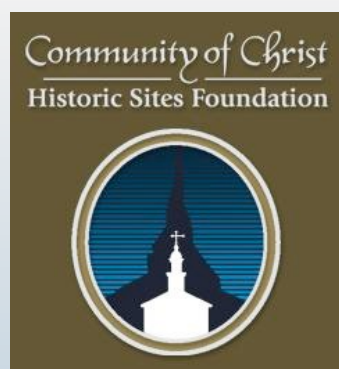
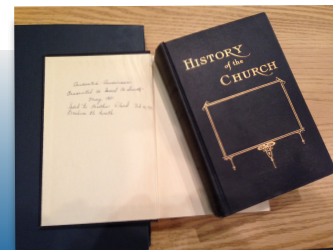


THE FORUM

Sharing:
Tell us about
your objects and
stories, p. 4.



Community of Christ
Historic Sites Foundation

*Preserving & Sharing
Church Heritage*

To Make a Donation

Preserving and sharing church heritage and telling the sacred story is both a privilege and a responsibility.

To give to the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, call (217) 453-2246.

An alternative is to send donations to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354. You also can give at www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

On the Web

To stay up to date with foundation events, view striking photos, and learn contact information, visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

Electronic Forum

If you want The Forum electronically, visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

Visit Us on Facebook and Instagram

The social network is a big hit with many historic-site fans. Visit www.facebook.com and www.instagram.com to learn more.

Getting a Read on History

By Greg Clark

Andrea Read says that at 16 she was a painfully shy girl living in a country thousands of miles from home. Today she's a self-assured 33 years old, working in an international career while also serving the church and the Community of Christ Historic

Sites Foundation.

The shyness she attributes to a singing performance in the first grade. "I was prepared to sing, and I woke up with a sore throat. I finished the song but was bawling through

See Read on Page 6



Andrea Read, a board member for the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, has seen global travel become a way of life in her job with Outreach International.

Artifacts Provide a Personal Look into the Past

By Greg Clark

What do books, paintings, and a wooden crib have in common?

Each represents a link to Community of

Christ history, and each recently was donated to the historic sites.

"Usually, the artifacts are most interesting to me because of the sto-

ries of the church associated with them that they help us to tell," said Lach Mackay, historic

See Artifacts on Page 7

Oh, the Stories They Told!



By Greg Clark

All good storytellers put their listeners at the scene of the tales they're telling. It's a tactic effective in religion since long before the time of Christ.

That tradition continued on a March evening at the Beacon Heights Congregation in Independence, Missouri. The occasion was the first Storytellers event sponsored by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

Guests were treated by some of the best storytellers in Community of Christ: Richard and Barbara Howard, Lach Mackay, and Barbara Walden. Their tales focused on thrills, hardships, and joys. Their topics ranged from Joseph Smith III's experience in Nauvoo, Illinois, to the impact of women's ordination in the 1980s.

But besides exploring tales from the past, leaders helped prepare for the future.

The event, presented as a fundraiser for internships at

properties supported by the foundation, reflected on experiences from church history that reflected the theme, "Preserve the Past, Inspire the Future."

After the four storytellers finished, audience members added their own stories. Then guests enjoyed a dessert bar in the church's fellowship hall.



Barbara Howard

It all provided education and entertainment. But it did something more. It raised more than \$1,200 in freewill offerings for the Alma Blair Internship Program (see page 8). Those funds will enable young adults to further their leadership skills and church knowledge while learning storytelling skills of their own at the historic sites in Nauvoo and Kirtland, Ohio.

"I was amazed by the turnout," said Walden, the foundation's executive director. "I was expecting 30-40. But the total count was 96 or 97 guests. It was awesome! I was also blown away by the donation. For our first time out of the gates, the evening couldn't have gone better."

If you are interested in hosting a Storytellers event at your congregation, reunion, or mission center event, contact Walden at bwalden@HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

A “New, New Path” Brightens Nauvoo Historic Site

River Walk to Provide Scenic View

By Greg Clark

The phrase, take a stroll down memory lane, carries new meaning these days at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois.

The community that heard the footsteps of Emma and Joseph Smith Jr. during the early days of church history now is developing a “new, new path.”

Because of a new project, visitors will be able to amble along the Mississippi River at the historic site and beyond.

“The Nauvoo walking trail is intended to connect those driving the Great River Road (US 96) with the nationally significant history to be found at the Joseph Smith Historic Site” said Lach Mackay,

director of the site. He added that it also would allow walkers to connect with the flora and fauna of the Mississippi River and the migratory waterfowl rest stop next to the historic site.

“A sidewalk project—not part

of the original grant but later combined with it—will connect Water Street and the nature trail with a new walk that parallels Highway 96 to the Nauvoo Temple,” Mackay said. “Another stretch will run from Highway 96 down Mulholland to Main Street.

“These walks will improve the safety of Nauvoo visitors as they move from the commercial district next to the temple to the historic properties on the flats.”

Construction is expected to end sometime this fall. Mackay said the cost, funded by grants, is about \$400,000.

“Signage on the trail will connect visitors to the important role the river played in 1840s Nauvoo and the important role it still plays today,” Mackay said.

Now guests can stroll along old places while making new memories.



Bench to Honor Don Albro’s Legacy

The walking path isn’t the only new amenity for the Joseph Smith Historic Site.

The path will feature several benches, including one that honors the memory of Elsie and the late Don Albro, who played a prominent role in presenting, preserving, and promoting properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

“We will be raising funds for the Albro bench throughout the summer and into the fall and winter,” said Barbara Walden, executive director of the foundation.

The bench will be near the home where Don and Elsie lived for many years. For more information, Contact Barbara Walden at bwalden@HistoricSitesFoundation.org.



Share Your Object, Share Your Story!

By Barbara Walden

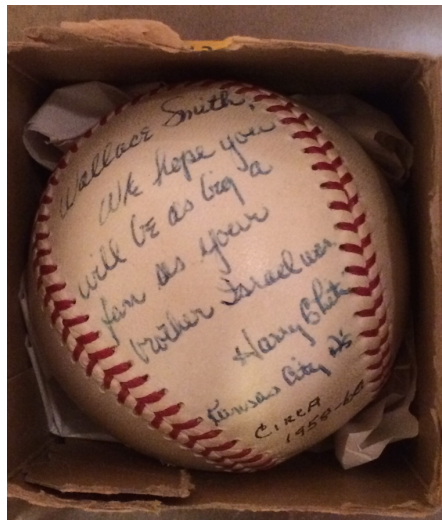
The Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation is on an exciting journey to find unique stories and objects in church history. We need your help! We need your stories!

We invite you to submit a photo and story of a historic object, place, historic photograph, document, etc. that you believe contributes to the unique story of Community of Christ. Your submission could be a book, image, decorative piece, clothing, or photograph of a place or historic marker.

Search your home's attic and closets and your congregation's library and storage rooms for historic items that tell your story. It could be an old hymnal given to you by someone who played a significant role in your journey, a wooden cross carved by a founding member of your congregation, an image of a ship used by early missionaries, or a recent photograph of you at a place that carries historical significance in the Community of Christ story.

Is there a historic object that represents an early missionary who helped plant your congregation? A photograph that captures the story of your mission center or reunion ground? Is there an item that represents your family's beginnings in the church?

We would like to feature your object and story in our online exhibit. To download the Object Story Form and begin sharing your unique story, visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation. Click on the Projects tab and scroll down.



The Share Your Object, Share Your Story project already has resulted in numerous interesting pictures of places and possessions linked with church history. Among them is a Kirtland Temple finial (far left). Other photos (from top) are of a watch and jewelry owned by Joseph Jr., and Emma Smith, a decorative box from Africa, and a baseball that once was treasured by W. Wallace Smith.



Seth Bryant

Two Paths, One Faith



Peter Smith

Historic Sites Board Welcomes New Faces

By Greg Clark

At first glance, Seth Bryant and Peter Smith might not seem to have a lot in common.

Seth lives in Salt Lake City, Utah, and enjoys the great outdoors. Hiking and fishing top his list of personal interests.

Peter lives a 2,320-mile drive to the east—in Odessa, Florida. His pastimes include music (piano and vocal), reading, and gardening.

But each shares a passion for church history and faith. Those qualities make them naturals as the newest board members of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation. Executive Director Barbara Walden is thrilled by the gifts they bring.

“Seth brings to the board an incredible knowledge of church history and passion for sharing the sacred story,” she said. “He will help us expand our audience and strengthen our message.”

Seth, who came to Community of Christ from the LDS church, is a

veteran who has traveled throughout North America, parts of Central America, Europe, and Asia. He served a combat tour as a US Navy chaplain.

As for Peter, Barb said: “I’m certain his ministerial gifts, contagious enthusiasm for the sacred story, and love for all people will have a significant impact on both his fellow board members and the historic sites.”

She’s already seen first-hand how Peter works. He helped her on two bus tours. “His love for the

historic sites is genuine, but more importantly, he has a gift for connecting with people. Board members and tour guests of all ages and background feel comfortable around Peter.”

Seth came to the board while serving as a missional consultant in the Western USA Field. Peter is a co-pastor of the Clearwater Congregation. Each has visited historic sites previously. Peter recalled how it impacted him.

“I attended a GALA retreat at Temple Grove Campground in Pennsylvania,” he wrote in his biographical statement to the foundation. “We spent most of Sunday at the Kirtland Temple...I was overwhelmed with an amazing profound connection to this historic site and the thousands of people who have found themselves sitting in those very pews....It will always be, for me, the holiest of holy places.”

You Can Help

Donating or working as a volunteer at properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation can prove to be enriching.

For more information, call (217) 453-2246, visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org, or send mail to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

Read

Continued from Page 1

most of it.”

The self-assurance she credits to her parents and their work overseas. “I turned 16 when living in China with my parents. That was before my parents worked for the church. I went to an international school there, and it completely changed the trajectory of my life. It opened my world. I realized it’s an amazing place with amazing people and cultures. I needed to embrace it.”

She’s done more than embrace it; she’s dived head-first into a life of service that includes Outreach International and the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

For the former she serves as international director of field operations, working to support the field staff in eight countries. For the latter she’s a board member, helping the foundation make decisions to preserve historic properties and share church heritage.

Read, a lifelong church member, started on a different career path.

“I was working with an architectural firm in Seattle, Washington, and we were doing work that was glamorous and pretty, but didn’t make me feel good about my impact in the world. I started to look for opportunities that made me feel better.”

She found one January 10, 2010, the day of the horrible earthquake in Haiti. Outreach International brought her in to help part-time. From there she also connected with church employment. That part-time OI position became full-time in 2013.

“I was very excited because I felt a connection with this work,” she said.

A couple of years later, Presiding Bishop Steve Jones, who had

Time to Volunteer

Serving as a volunteer at properties supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation is rewarding, essential, and uplifting.

It can change your life and help others.

For more information, contact Lachlan Mackay at lmackay@CofChrist.org or (217) 453-2246.

helped her connect with OI, contacted her about the historic sites board. The prospect excited her for several reasons, including the opportunity it gave her to fulfill the architectural side of her education. It also presented an opportunity to help young adults and youths understand the importance of the church’s heritage.

“I think it is crucial for young people to appreciate what has shaped and formed this church. Our church has evolved so much... that without returning to our history—long-term and more recent—we tend to lose sight of how

How to Help Preserve and Share Heritage

People give to the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation for many reasons.

Some give because they’re impressed with the properties the foundation supports. Others give because the sites have been a key to their religious development.

Still others give for many other reasons.

Your donations are appreciated. To give to the Foundation, call (217) 453-2246, visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org, or send mail to P.O. Box 3308, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

far we’ve come and the incredible people, groups, and sites that have played such significant roles in making us who we are today as a faith.”

That outlook isn’t lost on Barbara Walden, the foundation’s executive director.

“Andrea is a dynamic leader with a gift for motivating and encouraging others. Her professional experience working for Outreach International gives her a unique perspective on non-profit boards, finance management, and volunteer-based organizational style. I look forward to learning from and serving alongside her.”

When reviewing Read’s qualities, President Karen Graham Wade noted several traits.

“When considering some of the key characteristics of an ideal board member—passion, commitment, professionalism, creativity, and integrity—I can’t imagine a better fit than Andrea. During the relatively short time she has served on the board, most recently as chair of the Communications Committee, Andrea has brought to our team a blend of idealism and pragmatism that is infectious.”

But don’t get the idea that Read, a priest, is one-dimensional. Her life extends beyond church. She still loves fine arts, which she studied in college and later dabbled in during a business partnership with a friend. She especially likes ceramic pieces, displayed throughout her home in Independence, Missouri.

And of course, there’s Oki.

He’s a 90-pound black Labrador. She said his name is Hawaiian. He’s named after an earlier dog, a Scottish terrier. She enjoys taking him for walks.

It’s a down-home, in-the-moment type of pleasure for a person who spends so much of her time savoring the past and working to help people in faraway places.

Artifacts

Continued from Page 1

sites coordinator for the church.

The crib, from about 1874, isn't just any old wooden cradle. Mackay said it was made by Mads Madison for his grandson, Frederick Madison Smith, son of Bertha Madison Smith and Joseph Smith III.

"It would almost certainly have been used for Joseph III's later children, as well, including Israel A. Smith and W. Wallace Smith," said Mackay. "Fred M. Smith later used it for his daughters, who later used it for their children. The crib ended up with Ruth Edwards Fairbanks, daughter of Alice and F. Henry Edwards, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

So the crib could have held three church presidents.

Mackay said Ruth's children—Hal, Frank, and Sarah—recently donated the crib in memory of their mother.

"We often talk about places as the 'cradle of the Restoration'" Mackay said. "This artifact is literally the cradle (or crib) of the Reorganization."

He said the crib soon would go to Liberty Hall, which was Joseph



Smith III's home in Lamoni, Iowa.

"The crib is wonderful to me not just because of its role in the church story," said Mackay, himself a descendant of the Smith family. "It is personal. My mom slept in it as an infant."

As for the paintings, they were done by Sidney Moore, who in the 1950s helped restore properties at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois. They were acquired by L.F.P. Curry, who earlier

was in the Presiding Bishopric and First Presidency, and his wife, Anna May. They later were passed to their son, Myron Morgan Curry, and spouse, Mabel Hyde Curry, before being donated by Penelope and Charles Curry.

The paintings now hang in the historic site's Visitor Center. The set depicts several properties: the Homestead, Mansion House, Joseph Agnew Home, Jonathon Browning Home, and Lucy Smith Home.

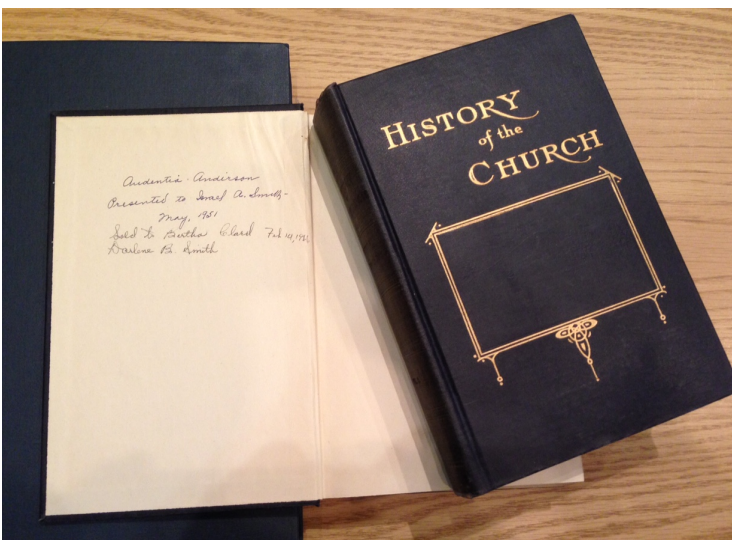
"We think they should be enjoyed beyond our family," said donor Penelope Curry.

Meanwhile, the books came from Carol Cease Campbell.

"Carol is donating a number of books, including a four-volume *RLDS History* set that is in the best condition I

have ever seen, and a six-volume *History of the LDS Church* that was a gift from Audentia Smith Anderson (daughter of Bertha Madison and Joseph Smith III), to her brother, President Israel A. Smith.

"Almost completing the circle, they later were conveyed by his daughter-in-law, Darlene Smith, to Bertha Hulmes Clark, Audentia's daughter."



Make a Donation, Aid Preservation

Preserving and sharing church heritage and telling the sacred story of our journey is a privilege and a responsibility.

To help the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation fulfill that mission, call (217) 453-2246 to make a donation.

Another alternative is to send donations to P.O. Box 338, Nauvoo, IL 62354.

You also can donate at www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org.

Volunteers Needed

To volunteer at a historic site supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, call Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or e-mail him at lmackay@CofChrist.org.

Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

P.O. Box 338
Nauvoo, IL 62354

Scholarship Honors Alma Blair's Lifetime of Service

By Greg Clark

Perfect.

Naming the summer internship program for church historic sites after Alma Blair, a professor emeritus, could not have been more fitting.

In one swoop it acknowledged Blair's lifetime of service, his love of history, and the dedication he showed an estimated 8,000-10,000 students over his 39-year teaching career at Graceland College, now Graceland University.

The recently completed summer program was the first in his name. Blair learned of the honor earlier while attending an appreciation dinner hosted by the board of directors for the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

Over the years he contributed to the historic sites as a board member, field representative, donor, and site director. He intro-



duced generations of summer interns to Community of Christ history through evening classes at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois.

His lectures, lessons in culture, and field trips to various historic sites throughout Illinois gave stu-

dents greater understanding and increased appreciation for interpreting church heritage.

While working on the foundation board, Blair said two things were of great importance to him: children and history.

"I think it's very important for the average person who doesn't sit down and read a lot of history books," he said at the time. "When they come [to one of the historic sites] they enter into another world. They are stimulated by the visual as well as the words and sounds.

"Children see it, and they're always thinking and looking."

To honor Blair's lifetime of contributions, we invite you to contribute to the Alma Blair Internship Program. Visit www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org, click on the donate tab, and select student internships.