

# THE FORUM

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# Digging Deep



*Bill Oliphant displays a projectile point found during the dig at the Joseph Smith Historic Site.*

## . . . into Nauvoo's Buried History

By Greg Clark

Paul DeBarthe talks with reverence about the importance, influence, and scope of history at the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, Illinois.

But when he wants to feel "alive," he steps into a 10x10-foot archaeology square. He kneels, and with trowel in hand, begins scratching through thousands of years of muck, dirt, and debris.

He searches for artifacts, not only from early Nauvoo, but from people who lived at the site in prehistoric eras. Thrills come in the discovery of thumbnail-sized chips of stone or pottery.

"Every single artifact has a story to tell, and they tell the truth," DeBarthe said.

*Nauvoo Dig continued on page 7*

# Ride, Sally, Ride



*Sally Roth, the newest member of the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation Board, has made it a personal quest to catch as many rides as she can.*

By Greg Clark

“All you want to do is ride around Sally, ride, Sally, ride.”

—“Mustang Sally”

Recorded by Wilson Pickett

just showed up and had the time of my life.

“When I think of walking through the sacred grove, kneeling in the Kirtland Temple, breathing

But while Sally was soaking in the historic sites, Barbara was tuning in to Sally’s energy and enthusiasm for all things historical. The upshot was that Sally soon found herself accepting an invitation to become one of the foundation’s field representatives. From there it was but a

Sally Roth didn’t write the lyrics to the 1966 music hit, but she’s certainly made the song’s chorus her personal anthem.

Roth, who late in 2012 became the newest board member for the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation, has taken the words to a new level. If there’s any chance of getting from here to there—especially in an innovative, unconventional, novel, or exciting way—she’s interested.

She calls each experience a “ride.” In 2012 she took more than 50 rides on everything from zip lines

to helicopters. But one ride in particular took her to the foundation. It was the April bus tour of the church’s historic sites, led by Executive Director Barbara Walden.

“I had never been to the sites,” explained Sally, a 64-year-old resident of Wichita, Kansas. “I didn’t know a soul when I signed up. I didn’t even know my roommate. I



the air in that building...it’s the essence of singing ‘There’s an Old, Old Path.’ It comes alive.

“I liked the bus tour because all I had to do was show up. Everything was done for you. You get pictures and information, and there’s no test.”

short ride to a three-year term on the foundation board.

“Professionally, she has strong administrative and communication skills—two areas where the board needed strengthening,” said Jeff Naylor, the board

president. “All in all, she’s a great fit for the board’s needs in carrying out its mission of preserving and sharing church heritage with present and future generations.”



Those professional qualities were honed in a career involving public service. Sally spent time with the Sedgwick County Convention and Tourism Bureau, the District Attorney Office, and the Wichita Traffic Commission.

She chaired the tourism bureau twice and “oversaw the bed tax and did interviews with groups that wanted funding. I really love things with tourism. Life’s an attitude.”

Her public service also involved the Junior League of Wichita, a women’s volunteer organization. And she served in the pastorate of the Community of Christ’s Webb Road Congregation.

Add it all up, and it’s easy to see why the historic sites board was pleased to land Sally—and her passion for history.

“I really, really like history,” she said. “I have three brothers, and they’re all into history. I have a brother who has done a lot of

work on the family tree, and that makes the family history relevant. I know my great-great grandfather was a seventy.”

She sees history and the sacred story as highly important to the church of today and the future.

how her inclusive nature affirms all she comes in contact with.”

But how did this “ride” thing get started? Very simply, “I like to travel a lot,” said Sally, who has two grown children but lost her husband about three years ago.



“To know where we’re going,” Sally said, “we need to know where we’ve been. We have to make our history relevant to the young kids. I grew up hearing about the Kirtland Temple. That made it so real when I was there. I don’t know if the kids today are hearing those stories.”

“Because of the bus tour, I had this epiphany. I wanted to see how many rides I could do.”

Her list now includes things like motorcycles, a sternwheeler (riverboat), trains, a Fourth of July helicopter ride above the fireworks, and even a camel. She capped off 2012 with a trip in a 1931 Model-A Ford Phaeton.

Jeff, the board president, says she’s already making an impact.

“Sally’s very insightful into people’s interests and desires. She is quite personable and quickly puts people at ease. I appreciate

Entering 2013, she intended to add a hot-air balloon and open-cockpit plane to her list. She says the rides are fun, but the friends she takes them with are what make them special.

“This is not a bucket list; it’s an opportunity list. It’s, ‘What can we do?’”

Hmm, sounds a lot like the way she views the historic sites.

### Save the Date

Bus tours like the one Sally went on have become so popular that one already has been set for October 6-15 in 2014. Mark your calendar now.





# Liberty Hall: A Place of Healing

By Greg Clark

Cindi Wilson calls it a healing place.

It's an apt description. Liberty Hall is the former home of Joseph Smith III, known for starting the church now called Community of Christ on its pursuit of peace.

Wilson, who took over as Liberty Hall's site director in January, senses comfort and peace in many places on the property, such as an orchard and a sewing room with a treadle sewing machine. But her feelings of well-being run even deeper. She feels it's a safe place—a refuge if you will—where she can heal from a commitment of more than 20 years that just didn't work out.

She and her family gave those years to an experimental religious community near Davis City, Iowa. That group, which she said calls itself the Brotherhood of Christ, eschewed things like electricity and running water. The goal, she said, was a deep spirituality and zionic living.

Though she and her family eventually left, she carried with her experience that she said is helping in her new role.

"I lived this life," Cindi said, referring to 1881, when Liberty Hall was built and the headquarters of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ moved to Lamoni, Iowa.

She knows what it's like to live without modern conveniences. She knows what it's like to spin her own cloth, do without electricity, and use a wood stove. All those experiences give her a deeper understanding of the life the Smith family endured when it lived in Liberty Hall, which became a community hub. She'd like to see it resume that status today.

Cindi, 53, didn't immediately step into the site director's post when she moved to Lamoni in May 2011. She and her husband, Bryce, first began serving as caretakers of the property, which is supported by the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation.

That led them into a relationship with Steve Smith, then the site director, and Alma Blair, a long-time Liberty Hall supporter and a member of the foundation board.

Cindi, who attended Graceland College, was quickly intrigued.

"I found I love to do research," she said. "Alma and Steve would bring something up, and I would come back with an answer. I love the challenge of research, to study things and find answers."



She admits leaning on Alma. "I love working with him. I want to glean as much as I can from him."

When Steve stepped down, Cindi remembers him saying that she was ready for the job, adding, "I've

been preparing you.”

That confidence also is reflected in a statement he wrote for a website:

“Not only has she taken care of the site, she has demonstrated interest and skill in researching our history and in caring for the artifacts that help make up our site. I am sure she will continue the tradition of excellent leadership shown by Liberty Hall’s directors.”

Gary Rees, a volunteer, believes she’s doing a good job.

“I find her calm, concise, and direct in how she gets things done. She’s dedicated to Liberty Hall and enthusiastic with what she’s doing, and she’s interested in making it a better experience for the people who come to visit.”

Lachlan Mackay, director of historic sites for Community of Christ, also appreciates Cindi’s gifts.

Her dedication to Joseph Smith III’s Liberty Hall was obvious during the time she served as a caretaker for the site, and her integrity and intelligence made her an obvious choice for the team lead position,” Mackay said.

“She learns quickly and has strong people skills, critical when interacting with both visitors and volunteers.”

Cindi is trying hard to recreate Joseph Smith III’s era. That means hours spent researching, planting, and caring for an orchard of apple and apricot trees.

“It’s a young orchard, so I’m out there keeping the grass away and putting down mulch. I love watching them grow.”

And, as she watches the trees, she finds herself healing.

“I was spiritually lost and troubled for a long time,” Cindi said. “This job and my job at a coffeehouse were very, very healing, especially having people so loving who utterly embraced us. “This has been a healing place. This is a place I could reconnect with...a pleasant, wonderful place.”

## Crockett Says Good-Bye to Kirtland



Kirtland Congregation and Kirtland Temple Visitor Center said farewell to somebody special with a unique service July 28.

Bruce Crockett, longtime spiritual-formation director at the Temple, is retiring to move to Oregon.

Presiding Evangelist David Brock preached on the topic of prayer and gave a statement of appreciation and recognition for the Crockett family’s last Sunday with the congregation. The congregation held a reception for the Crocketts following the service.

Katie Harmon-McLaughlin is the new spiritual-formation specialist.



*In August, reenactors visited Heritage Plaza in Independence, Missouri, to portray the events of Order No. 11, which destroyed much of a four-county area in the Civil War.*

## Joseph III, Audentia sighted at multiple events

Joseph Smith III and his daughter, Audentia Smith, really get around.

In recent months they’ve been spotted at Heritage Plaza in Independence, Missouri; Liberty Hall in Lamoni Iowa; and the Summit Grove Congregation, also in Independence.

Charlie Robison, the site director at Heritage Plaza, portrays the

former church leader. Pam Robison, Charlie’s wife, plays the part of Joseph Smith III’s daughter.

Joseph enjoys presiding and narrating, while Audentia plays the organ.

At Liberty Hall, she played before about 50 people at a special reception, which highlighted a Shoninger pump organ that Charlie had acquired.



# Kirtland Broadens Horizons for Volunteer

*Emile Huri of French Polynesia completed his mission as a Kirtland Temple interpreter at the end of June. During his stay, he marveled at all the cars in the USA, 18-wheelers, and big farms.*

*Site Director Ron Romig reported that "he made a great contribution here. He brought a willing spirit tempered with great maturity and a love for the gospel."*

*"He proved to be a most worthy ambassador of the church while sharing about the Kirtland Temple with many hundreds of visitors. Emile could offer our guests tours in French, Tahitian, Italian, Portuguese, as well as English."*

*Before he left, Emile shared his testimony with the Kirtland Congregation. These are excerpts from that testimony.*

By Emile Huri

Brothers and sisters, for those who don't know me, my name is Emile Huri. I'm a World Service Corps volunteer from Manihi, French Polynesia. I'm really happy to be here among you this morning.

I come from a large family. I have four sisters and six brothers, and we are all members of Community of Christ, known as Sanito Church in French Polynesia. My congregation has 200 members. About 500 people live on the island, so nearly half of the population are members.

I like to go to church every Sunday—we begin our worship early. It lasts from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. We hold the Prayer for Peace every Friday and during the Sunday worship. I also am in charge of the choir on my island and neighboring islands.

I have a son, Tamatoa, who just turned 6 years old June 20. Every night I log in to Facebook to speak with my son and family.

I am grateful to our heavenly Father for the blessings he gives me every day. I worked in a hotel on Manihi, but unfortunately the hotel closed. I lost my job. I prayed with a lot of faith, saying, "Heavenly Father, I know you have a plan for each child. I believe in you, your power, and your boundless love. I really need you. Please help me find a solution.

I made an appointment with Sister Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong, who then was president of the French Polynesia Mission Centre and recently was ordained an apostle. I traveled by plane to Tahiti to meet with her.

Mareva immediately encouraged me and enrolled me to serve as a World Service Corps missionary. And I said, "Thank you heavenly Father for your answer to my prayer and this opportunity to come to Kirtland, Ohio, in the USA."

I am thankful to Mareva, the leaders of the World Service Corps, and the directors of the church historic sites, Lachlan Mackay, Ron Romig, and many others. Thanks also to my dear Glenna Van Buskirk, who after World Conference brought me from Independence to Kirtland.

I really enjoyed taking field trips with the Kirtland Temple Visitor Center summer interns as we visited several church history



sites. It was a great experience for me. While in Kirtland, I enjoyed worshipping with the Kirtland Congregation, which asked me to teach it a Tahitian song.

I thank the Kirtland Congregation from my heart for your love and your kindness. I can say the Spirit of the Lord is with you and will remain forever. Remember, our heavenly Father loves us; we are God's beloved sons and daughters.

And, thanks to all of the Kirtland Visitor Center staff. I enjoyed the times we shared.

I have a lot to tell my family and the members who await me at Manihi and Tahiti. I am very moved and sad, because I must leave this beautiful place—my second family. I will miss all of you. I will always remember all of you. You made my stay a wonderful experience.

## Want to Volunteer?

*You, too, can help at the historic sites. Just contact Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or at [lmackay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmackay@CofChrist.org).*

# Nauvoo Dig

*Continued from Page 1*

Over the summer, while working at the site of the Joseph Smith Sr. home, he and an estimated 100 volunteers and other workers found 15,000 artifacts in more than a dozen squares. That's enough to leave a gifted storyteller with a severe case of laryngitis.

Next summer, he plans to return for even more "stories" in about a dozen more squares.

Some may help explain why "there may be three buildings" at one site. The artifact distribution suggests the first structure was pre-1840, and then we have another accumulation to the south that appears to be a bit later."

Digging in dirt is, well, dirty. But a lot of people wanted to help. There were Mormon missionaries. Community of Christ members. Youth campers and older adults. In some cases, three generations of families assisted. Why did they dig?

"In this particular project we are expanding our perception of who we are and whose we are by 10,000 years," DeBarthe explained. "Mormons come to Nauvoo to see five to six years of Mormon history, and for many of them it's a pilgrimage. When they see the Smith family cemetery, they see about 25 burials."

But he said two other nearby burial places are much older. One



*From left, Haley Newell, Marin McInally, Nicole Brown, Alec Montoya, and Paul DeBarthe enjoyed working at an archaeological site in Nauvoo.*

is a Middle Woodland site "that goes back 2,000 years." Another is an Early Woodland site that dates from 2,200 to 2,500 years ago.

"That site has been made sacred by those burials for over 2,000 years," DeBarthe said, noting other indications of the Dalton Phase from 10,000 years ago.

He added that there's evidence "people living in harmony with the environment are perhaps better off than those who try to dominate it."

Besides learning facts that help the staff offer a better interpretation, Site Director Lachlan Mackay sees another benefit.

"Archaeology is 'hands-on' history in a museum/historic-site environment that is usually filled with 'do not touch.' It captures the imagination of site visitors in ways that talking about history often does not.

"The dig increased the sense that we are an active and alive historic site and reinforced our message

that the pursuit of historical understanding is ongoing."

DeBarthe, who has been part of more than a dozen Nauvoo digs, agrees. "I think it's very important for people to see that. Most people have a very positive image of what archaeology does. On a site like this, we can actually let them get in the square and dig. For many, it is a most exotic experience. The idea of having the site open is more significant for the interns because we have seen them become very significantly involved."

Part of DeBarthe's passion stems from his own experiences during two summers as a Nauvoo guide in the 1960s.

"The way we approached the interpretation of history at that time and now are substantially different, and I'm glad to see that. My motivation is to say that we need to leave as much of an authentic legacy through archaeology and history as we can."

And the best way to do that is to get on your knees and get dirty. Then you come "alive."



*Minerva ware was found at the dig in Nauvoo.*



## 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](http://www.HistoricSitesFoundation.org).*

## Volunteers Needed

*To volunteer at a historic site, contact Lachlan Mackay at (217) 453-2246 or at [lmackay@CofChrist.org](mailto:lmackay@CofChrist.org).*

## Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation

P.O. Box 338  
Nauvoo, IL 62354

## History a Hit at Conference

By Greg Clark

People often hear it said that location, location, location is critically important. At April's Community of Christ World Conference, so was "thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you."

During the event in Independence, Missouri, the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation set up its booth in a great area of the World Peace Village, in the Auditorium's lower level. It drew crowds of visitors every day.

They came for freebies, such as pens and notepads. But more important, they came to celebrate their heritage and plan their future. Guests found information on a bus tour, Heritage Day materials, and pilgrimages to the Kirtland Temple in Ohio.



Each day, they also received a new Mission Initiative display that connected church history with all five Mission Initiatives.

The foundation also used luncheons to say thank you to the

field representatives, volunteers, and donors who help preserve and share church heritage.

Guest speakers included Apostle Art Smith and Lachlan Mackay.