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Military History

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE AASLH MILITARY HISTORY AFFINITY GROUP

Volume 4, July 2012

AASLH Military History Affinity Group

Articles for this e-newsletter are supplied by members of the AASLH Military History Affinity Group Advisory Committee. Please feel free to forward this e-mail to colleagues.

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To sign up to receive future issues of *Military History Affinity Group News*, join the AASLH [Military History Affinity Group](#). **The Affinity Group is not a membership organization and there is no fee to join.**

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Annual Meeting is Upon Us



By Steven L. Stearns, AASLH Military History Affinity Group Field Program Curator, Historical Services Branch, National Guard Bureau

As summer has launched with a preponderance of heat, fires, and violent storms, I am most happy to think to the fall that will bring cooler temps and a chance to return to Utah, host to the annual meeting for AASLH. The [AASLH 2012 Annual Meeting](#) will be held October 3-6 in Salt Lake City. Having just perused the program announcement, I am excited about the variety of workshops, sessions and field trips available to attendees.

The Military History Affinity Group (MHAG) is partnering with the Religious History Affinity Group to host a breakfast on Saturday, October 6 (7:30-8:45 a.m.). On the surface, this may seem a strange collaboration. However, Utah religious and military history are closely intertwined. Bob Voyles, Director, Ft. Douglas Military Museum, will share his thoughts on the Utah Wars and the impact it had on state and ecclesiastical history. Having known Bob for years, I can attest to his knowledge and speaking skills. You won't want to miss this breakfast session!

Following the above, the MHAG is sponsoring a Utah military history tour. In the morning, stops will include the Hill AFB Aerospace Museum (an outstanding facility) and Tooele, UT, site of

the third largest military vehicle collection in the United States. In the afternoon, the tour will pass the Tooele U.S. Army Depot and the Chemical Weapons Destruction Center, followed by a visit to the Fort Douglas Military Museum (on the U. of Utah campus). Fort Douglas is one of our better National Guard museums and I am glad it could be included on the tour.

On Friday, October 5, there is an all-day tour entitled, "Wendover and the Mysterious West Desert." It includes a visit to the World War II Wendover Airfield. I have walked the property there and you feel like you have stepped back in time. Not much has changed since the 1940's. Truly a trip for your consideration.

If you are like me, you always want to clone yourself and attend a lot more of the conference than you are able. Remember to take advantage of the early bird registration before August 17. Visit the [AASLH website](#) to download a PDF of the preliminary program guide or to register. See you in Salt Lake City!

Photo is of the Nauvoo Legion in 1869. As the veterans of the Nauvoo Legion returned to Utah, they became the core for establishing a territorial militia. Photo courtesy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

New Resource on Military Bands

Keeping in mind we are in the throes of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, just published is a new book on Civil War bands, *I Was Detailed to the Regimental Band: How the Music Continued after 1862*. This is the first volume of a compendium on Civil War brass bands from New England. Volume I covers Massachusetts bands. The author, John Bienarz, has been researching this topic for eight years. Volume II should be out next year and will cover New Hampshire and Vermont. It is available from Sam Teddy Publishing out of Maine and also from the website, [Tapsbugler.com](#).

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AASLH is the ONLY national organization dedicated to the field of state and local history. It is a membership association - a home for insitutions and people who work in the field of state and local history. AASLH provides leadership and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful.

Resources for Identifying Military Artifacts

Do you have military artifacts in your collection, but are not sure exactly what you have? Maybe you want to do more in-depth research on a particular object. The AASLH Military History Affinity Group can help.

On the [Military History webpage](#), is a thoroughly-researched bibliography of the best books for identifying and researching military artifacts. The bibliography is arranged by topic and type of artifact. It was updated this month and is available on the [Military History webpage](#).



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