CELEBRATING 160 YEARS: “Icelanders and their connection to Utah and the West”

DATE: September 9–13, 2015

PURPOSE: To commemorate the first Icelandic settlers in North America who arrived in Spanish Fork, Utah, in September of 1855 and to educate the public about the Icelanders who immigrated and settled in Utah and the West.


LODGING: Provo Marriott Hotel, 101 West 100 North, Provo, Utah, 84601; 801.377.4700; ($129/night)

REGISTRATION: Only $39, which includes the full conference, field trips, two lunches and the banquet. The Thursday activities on BYU campus are free of charge and open to the public. You can register for the full conference or the Thursday only option online at Icelander.byu.edu or by calling 801-422-8925.

SCHEDULE:

September 9 (Wednesday)
Attendees arrive in Utah in the late afternoon and have a welcoming reception at the BYU Conference Center.

*A BYU shuttle service between the Provo Marriott Hotel and the BYU Conference Center will be available from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Participants staying at the Provo Marriott can also access the complimentary Marriott Hotel shuttle.

7:00 p.m. — Reception, Room 2258–60, BYU Conference Center
Cheese, crackers, and juices will be served. Name tags will be distributed to registered participants. Welcome and recognition of special visitors.

September 10 (Thursday)—Presentation of Papers
Conference papers will be presented at the BYU Varsity Theatre in the Wilkinson Student Center (WSC) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Presentations will be 20-25 minutes each, followed by a question-and-answer session and will feature the following:

9:00 a.m. — Welcome and Announcements. Greetings by Dr. Sandra Rogers, international vice president at Brigham Young University.


9:45 a.m. — Guðmundur Hálfdanarson is Jón Sigurðsson’s professor of history at the University of Iceland — “Setting for the second half of the 19th century history in Iceland.”
10:15 a.m. — Inga Lára Baldvinsdóttir, photo curator at the National Museum of Iceland—“19th century Iceland as seen in Sigfús Eymundson’s photographs.”

10:45 a.m. — Markús Þ. Þórhallsson, graduate student at the University of Iceland — “Freedom of religion and the first civil marriage in Iceland.”

11:15 a.m. — Halldór Guðmundsson, Director of Harpa Concert Hall and Conference Centre as well as author, — “An allegory of disillusion - an Icelandic reading of Paradise reclaimed by Halldór Laxness.”

11:45 a.m. — Mark Mendenhall, J. Burton Frierson Chair of Excellence in Business Leadership, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga — “An Ambivalent Expatriate: The Life of Runólfur Runólfsson.”

12:15–1:25 p.m. — Lunch (on your own)
*For your convenience, the BYU Cougareat Food Court has 10 different dining options and is only a one-minute walk from the Varsity Theatre.

1:30 p.m. — Matthew K. Heiss, archivist in the Church History Department, Salt Lake City—“The Translation of the Book of Mormon into Icelandic.”

2:00 p.m. — Richard Williams and Lacey Neilson, president and vice president of the Icelandic Association of Utah— “History of Iceland Days in Spanish Fork, Utah.”

2:30 p.m. — Steven L. Olsen, senior curator for Historic Sites, Church History Department— "Commemorating the Legacy of the Icelandic Saints."

3:00 p.m. — Sóley Renee Mathiesen, Icelandic LDS Church member—“The re-emergence of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Iceland, 1975-2015.”

3:30 p.m. — Sunna Olafson Furstenau, President of Icelandic Roots — “Icelandic Roots: Connecting Our Shared Stories.”

4:00 p.m. — Free time/dinner on your own

7:00 p.m. — Evening of Entertainment, Varsity Theatre, WSC
Join the BYU Folk Ensemble for an uplifting evening of music and dance. Watch documentary film, Fire on Ice, with Icelandic sub-titles.

8:30 p.m. — Refreshments, Room 3224 WSC (for registered attendees, guest lecturers, and sponsors).

**September 11 (Friday)—Salt Lake City Tour**

9:00 a.m. — Board bus at Provo Marriott Hotel, head for Salt Lake

10:00–10:50 a.m. — Church History Library Tour

10:55 a.m. — Board buses, head for DUP Museum

11:10–11:40 a.m. — DUP Museum Tour

11:45 a.m. — Board buses, head for This is the Place Monument

12:00–12:45 p.m. — Enjoy the monument, have lunch on site
12:50 p.m. — Board buses, head for Humanitarian Center
1:15–2:10 p.m. — Humanitarian Center Tour
2:15 p.m. — Board buses, head for Temple Square
2:35–3:15 p.m. — Tour Temple Square and Conference Center
3:20 p.m. — Walk to Family History Library
3:30–4:00 p.m. — Family History Library Tour with Iceland specialist
4:00–4:50 p.m. — Free Time at Family History Library or Temple Square
5:00 p.m. — Dinner on your own at the Lion House Pantry
6:00 p.m. — Board bus, return to Provo
7:00 p.m. — Cultural Presentation by Andy Geslison, Assembly Hall, BYU Hinckley Center
View the documentary film “Of Icelandic Ancestry,” refreshments will follow.

*A return shuttle will be available to guests staying at the Marriott Hotel.

**September 12 (Saturday)—Spanish Fork Tour**

9:00 a.m. — leave Provo from the Marriott Hotel on a bus tour of Spanish Fork, which will begin at the Spanish Fork Park on Main Street and take us through the early Icelandic historical sites. Spanish Fork Mayor, Steve Leifson, will welcome us and we will enjoy a lunch provided by the Icelandic Association of Utah at the Ponderosa Banquet Hall in Spanish Fork. After lunch, we will visit the Spanish Fork Family History Center. The tour will conclude about 2:00pm.

2 p.m. — Free Time

6 p.m. — Banquet, Main Ballroom, WSC
The evening will include entertainment by the BYU International Folk Dancers followed by brief remarks by several distinguished guests.

**September 13 (Sunday)**

Conference participants are invited as special guests to view the live broadcast of Music and the Spoken Word, featuring the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. in the Salt Lake City Tabernacle on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. This will conclude the conference and commemorative events.