

A Family History Documentary Film for the Miles Park Romney Family

Goals:

- 1-produce a world-class full-length documentary film about the lives of Miles Park Romney, his wives and immediate family.
- 2-Involve as many of the descendants as possible in the creation of that film.

The Pattern:

We are taking the example of the Heaton Family who produced a wonderful documentary film on their ancestor Jonathan Heaton and his two wives Amy and Lucy, and hope to even improve on that. See it at <https://vimeo.com/808874330>.

The Heaton family used only descendants of Jonathan Heaton for everything except the music, which they asked me to produce because of my relationship with the cinematographer, Malcolm Judd (juddfilmproductions.com). Our plan calls for filming in Salt Lake City and St. George, Utah, St Johns, Arizona and "B-roll" in the colonies in Mexico. There may also need to be some filming in Nauvoo, Illinois, where Miles P. was born.

Their Financing:

The Heaton family solicited donations from the extended family and were able to finance the production from the donations received.

The Heaton Experience:

After:

- 1-collecting the results of their research and
- 2-writing the script,

Then:

- 3-the Heaton family planned and executed a pre-reunion a year prior to the actual family reunion. At this three-day event they filmed all the major action shots, again using family as the "actors", who never had to speak any parts, only re-enact the scenes the narrator described.
- 4-Clips from the filming were used as a "teaser" to begin building awareness and soliciting donations.
- 5-The enthusiasm generated among these actors by participating in the filming made word of the quality of the film spread quickly, and
- 6-at the family reunion they had an incredible 3,000 family members in attendance at the three-day event, which was held in three different locations, all of which had significance to the story, and all within a hundred miles of each other. The experience united the Heaton family in a way nothing else could.

Our Plan Outline:

Malcolm Judd and I (Clive Romney) shot a preliminary "teaser" video in the St. George environs in November 2016. That first teaser will be posted on the Miles Park Romney Cousins Facebook page administered by Sherman Romney.

Facebook likes and sharing, and emails to descendants will begin to spread the word about this venture and direct people to the Miles Park Romney Cousins Facebook page and MilesParkRomney.com, our new website (goes live 03/19/2023). Donations can be solicited immediately. Additional teaser videos, a blog at MilesParkRomney.com, and other social media can continue to build support for both the documentary film and the grand family reunion where the film will be premiered.

The date of that reunion should be two to three years in the future (perhaps between Christmas and New Year's Day of 2024 or 2025, so the children will be out of school).

Proposed Fundraising:

Our production will be larger in scale and scope than was the Heaton documentary, so our financial needs will be greater. We are counting on some of the "deep pockets" in the Romney family to step forward with major donations, but must first build an extensive and competent team, and a history of many smaller donations so they can see the groundswell of support.

All donations will be channeled through the nonprofit Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts to a separate Miles Park Romney Documentary account so that all donations are tax deductible.

We anticipate that the budget will be approximately \$750,000. At present we have a fairly complete life sketch and timeline, but not a complete script. The budget cannot be finalized until the script is in close to finished form. Only then will we know how complex and extensive the transportation, location, property, set construction, costuming, makeup, lighting, filming, scoring, editing, licensing and permitting needs will be.

A crowd-funding campaign has been created at www.milesparkromney.com, to provide a convenient mechanism for all descendants to donate to this venture, but major donors will also be needed to raise the amount required.

The Grand Reunion:

The reunion itself, where the film will be premiered, will stretch across multiple days, and will have concurrent sessions to provide for children, youth, and adults to be engaged with activities appropriate to their age and interests.

It will also provide a forum for descendants of each of the four wives who bore children to Miles Park Romney (and perhaps Millie Eyring Snow also, though she bore no children to Miles Park Romney) to make presentations that go more in depth into the history of that wife and her children. This event should encourage family history research among MPR descendants on a scale not seen before.

The current proposal is to center the reunion in St. George, the home of much of the Miles Park Romney family's history, and which has good air and ground transportation connections and, depending on our timing, abundant lodging accommodations.

A more complete plan for the reunion will be provided in a separate document. The date(s) for this reunion have not been determined, and date and site selection will need to be one of the first concerns of the reunion committee.