

Trail Marker

VOLUME 22



4 NUMBER



April is upon us! In some of our areas we are seeing April showers. Garden seeds are being planted in time for their sprouting the following month, which is approaching very rapidly.

For me personally, April brings many good memories: I was born in the month of April. Twenty-four years later, I joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the month of April.

April holds significance for all members of SUP as we all have an interest in history, church history in particular. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was officially organized on April 6, 1830, in Fayette, New York, marking the beginning of the restored church. April 6th stands out not only for this foundational event of the church but also for the date's association with numerous other notable religious and secular events that have occurred on the same date in subsequent years:

The cornerstone of the Nauvoo Temple was dedicated on that day in 1841. In April of 1853, the cornerstone of the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated. In April of 1892, the capstone of that temple, and the angel Moroni, were set in place, signaling the completion of the temple. The dedication of the Salt Lake Temple took place exactly one year later. The St. George Temple was dedicated in 1877, and the Palmyra Temple in 2000. Again, all those events took place on April 6th of those years.

Outside the church, other significant events that have influenced our lives occurred in the month of April. The following events, coincidentally, all occurred on the 6th of April of their respective years:

Start and end of the American Civil War in 1861 and 1865 respectively; Opening of the first modern Olympic games in 1896; First explorers reached the North Pole in 1909; Beginning of the collapse of Nazi Germany in 1945; First human in space in 1961.

This April, there is an additional noteworthy event to address. On Saturday, April 25th, our annual SUP National Historical Symposium will take place. This year's symposium will address "The Significance of Temples to the Pioneers." The relevance of this theme is highlighted by the anticipated completion of the Salt Lake Temple renovation project.

I encourage you to make time to attend the symposium, which will be held at Canyon Rim Stake Center, followed by a dinner and keynote speaker at SUP's National Headquarters that evening. The National Website will have more detailed information about the symposium.

Please join me in recognizing April as a wonderful and memorable month of the year! I hope that you have planted seeds of enthusiasm for SUP's upcoming events, which include the above-mentioned symposium, and, in addition, July activities, an encampment in September and a National SUP trek in October. This month, April, remains an appropriate time to initiate efforts to participate in these events, if you have not yet done so already.

May the principles of faith, family, loyalty, courage, and other pioneer values continue to burn brightly in your hearts!

Wally

Wally Breitenstein Sr. | 2026 National SUP President

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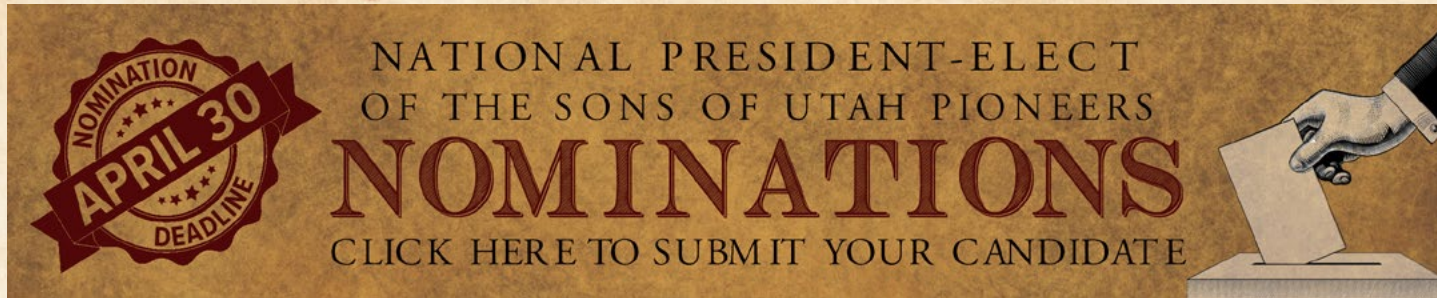
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2026-2027 NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT ELECT



The banner features a maroon seal on the left with the text "NOMINATION APRIL 30 DEADLINE". In the center, the text reads "NATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS NOMINATIONS" in large, bold, serif font, followed by "CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR CANDIDATE" in a smaller font. On the right, there is an illustration of a hand placing a ballot into a box.

Please take the time to nominate a qualified candidate, and remember, it is perfectly fine to nominate yourself. The nomination period is from April 1 - April 30 so please read the requirements and instructions by clicking the banner to the right.

2026 CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S TRAINING & CHAPTER AWARDS



For those in Chapter Leadership who missed this year's training, you may view it [HERE](#) at your convenience.



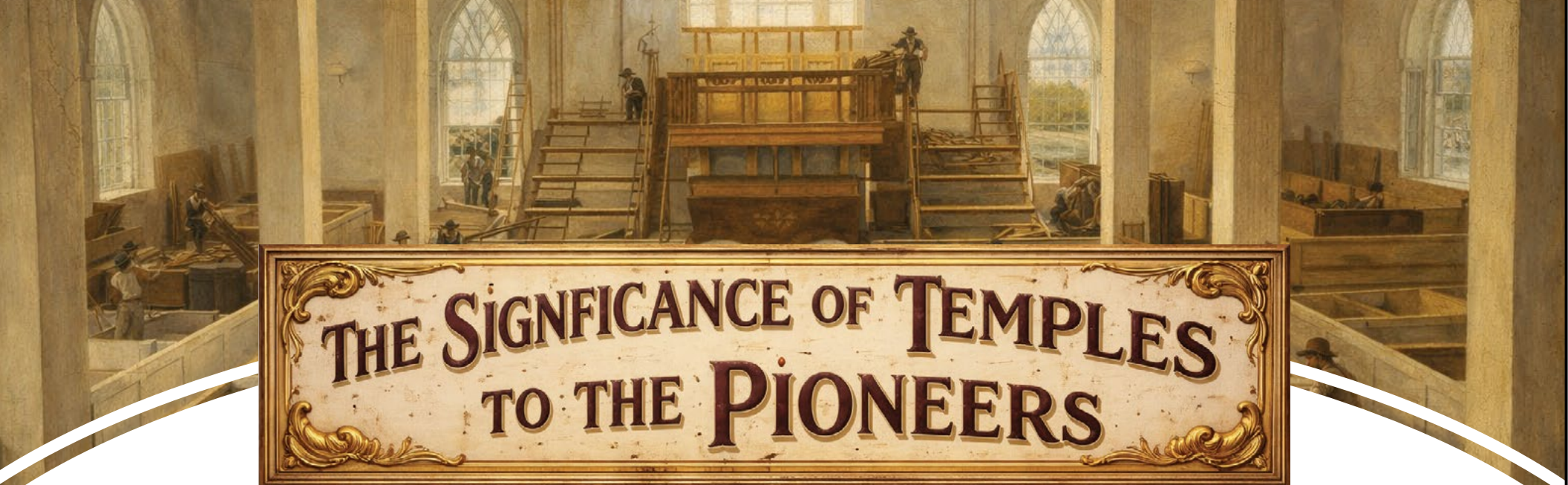
CHAPTER RECOGNITIONS

Bountiful
Eagle Rock
Jordan River Temple
Timpanogos



CHAPTERS IN EXCELLENCE

Box Elder	Morgan Valley
Brigham Young	Ogden Pioneer
Cedar City	Porter Rockwell
Cotton Mission	Portneuf Pioneers
Hurricane Valley	Temple Fork
Maple Mountain	Upper Snake River Valley



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TEMPLES TO THE PIONEERS

THE 2026 NATIONAL HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH, 2026

FOR TICKETS GO TO
[SUP1847.COM/STORE](https://sup1847.com/store)

Symposium & Dinner/Key Note: \$50.00

Dinner/Key Note Only: \$40.00

Symposium Only: \$25.00

(Discount Rates if Reserved
Before April 16)

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A
DETAILED FLYER



SYMPOSIUM 1PM-5PM CANYON RIM STAKE, 3051 S. 2059 E.

DR. L. LAMAR ADAMS

"PIONEERING THE TEMPLES: ADAM-2026"

Professor Emeritus BYU, Education week instructor and Tour Guide



BILL HARDESTY

"LESSONS FROM PIONEER TEMPLE DEDICATORY PRAYERS"

Area Vice President for Salt Lake West, former corporate trainer.



GEORGES BONNET

"INSIGHTS TO THE REMODEL OF THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE

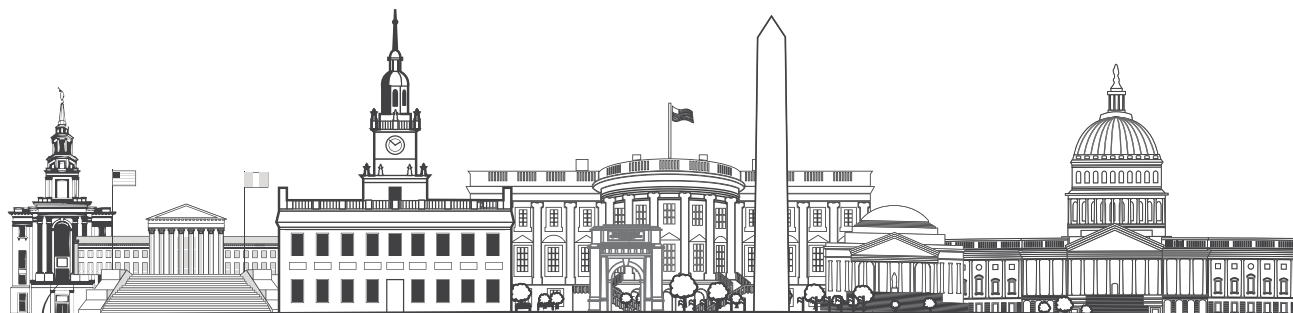
Director of Communications for the Salt Lake Temple Renovation for The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints.



DINNER & KEYNOTE ADDRESS 5:30-7PM SUP HEADQUARTERS

MARK HENSHAW - "THE BUILDING OF THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE"

Author of "Forty Years, the Saga of the Building of The Salt Lake Temple."



SUP 2026 NATIONAL TREK

PHILADELPHIA • WASHINGTON D.C.

In celebration of 250 years of American Independence 1776-2026

ITINERARY:

ARRIVE IN PHILADELPHIA - Tuesday October 13

PHILADELPHIA - Wednesday Oct. 14th - Friday Oct. 16th

Museum of American Revolution

Independence Hall

Liberty Bell

Washington Crossing State Park

The Barracks

Valley Forge

National Constitution Center

GETTYSBURG - Saturday, Oct. 17th

National Military Park

Authentic Amish Dinner

WASHINGTON D.C. - Sunday Oct. 18th - Thursday Oct. 22nd

National Mall, Museums and Memorials

Arlington Cemetery

Mount Vernon

Holocaust Museum

RETURN HOME - Friday October 23

TOUR DIRECTORS: John M. Beck, Paul Wright and Steve Kruman

ESTIMATED PRICE: To be determined

SPACE IS LIMITED: Reserve your seat by calling Pat at SUP 801.484.4441 \$400 per person refundable deposit (check only) will seal your spot

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: August 1st

AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOUR: Do not purchase airfare until you received word from the SUP office to proceed with flight reservations





PIONEER STORIES



His real name as a boy was simply Charles Ramsden, he tacked on 'Bailey' as his last name after he left England. . .

. . . Charles Ramsden Bailey, son of Charles Ramsden and Jane Robbins Bailey, was born in the little town of Honley, Yorkshire, England, August 31, 1839. .

FEDERAL IMPRISONMENT

Charles R. Bailey entered the United States Penitentiary in Salt Lake City on 24 November 1888 for a four-month confinement at the age of 49.

The following description of the prison and life therein is taken from the article "Life Behind Bars: Mormon Cohabs of the 1880's," by Melvin L. Bashore.

. . .The dilapidated adobe prison, on a site, later developed as Sugar House Park, was little changed from when it had been first put into operation in 1855. A twenty-foot-high adobe wall, four feet thick, enclosed the prison buildings and an acre of yard. Sentries armed with rifles manned catwalks ringing the exterior of the upper wall, and during inclement weather, they peered from turrets placed at opposite corners. . . Outside the walls, near the entrance, were out-buildings such as the kitchen, butcher shop, blacksmith shop, stables, women prisoners' quarters, and warden's office and home. . .

In the beginning stages of the polygamy raids, a stigma was attached to being in the penitentiary,

CHARLES RAMSDEN BAILEY

In his autobiography, Charles Ramsden 'Bailey' makes this profound statement concerning his involvement in plural marriage: "It was the grandest step in my whole life and while it brought its many cares and as some would call trials, yet, I never felt it as such." (He was) sealed to 3 wives in plural marriage. . .

but as the resident clientele became predominantly Mormon, a sentence in the pen conferred honor and status. The prison community itself became a kind of social club, since many of the church, community, and business leaders were behind bars at one time or another. George Q. Cannon, hesitant at first about leaving the underground for a stint behind bars, gave himself up upon hearing about the conditions and experiences of a former inmate. After one week of prison, Cannon told a fresh arrival that he "would not miss it for anything." Serving a prison sentence had all the aura and honor of a mission; in fact, many inmates seemed to have kept journals only during those periods of their lives. They had considerable time on their hands to spend in writing. From these diaries it is possible to reconstruct a fairly complete picture of life for the Mormons in the penitentiary. . . The first night in prison was understandably a trying ordeal. Prisoners were locked up in a dark, unfamiliar place among strangers. Bedding was not provided and either had to be brought in or borrowed from fellow inmates. . . George Q. Cannon came well equipped with a hammock to the merriment and consternation of envious cellmates. . . The hawking and spitting, foul tobacco smoke, and prisoners' screaming in their sleep combined to hinder a good night's rest. Abraham Alona Kimball was kept awake by Henry Nebeker's snoring. Kimball said he threw his boots at Nebeker, but nothing happened.

The most bothersome hindrance to a good night's rest was the pesky bed bugs. Many suggested renaming the bunkhouse the "Bug house". The nightly raid of the bugs was met with stubborn resistance by the

men. The bugs attacked James Kirkham in one final rampage on the eve of his release. He records that "such a night I shall never forget. We spent the whole of the time fighting bedbugs. We killed by actual count 249." In airing out his bed in the morning, George Wood "picked and scraped off 225 bugs so you may know we have something to do at night." When Marshal Frank Dyer brought the grand jury out to see the prison, he told them that there were fourteen thousand bed bugs living there. Levi Savage remarked that he "thought he had come far short of the number." . . .

Letters from home were read, reread, and shared with others. In quiet corners of the yard, bowed heads shielded tears coursing down the cheeks of men separated from their wives and children. . . Behind bars longer than most, Clawson said, "One day so nearly resembles another in every particular as almost to create confusion in the mind...one long, tedious, never-ending day-a living death."...

When the time finally arrived for release, the prisoners philosophically looked back on their months without liberty as a valued experience. . . Homecomings were sweet for long-separated loved ones. The prison period of the 1880s had been the capstone of the polygamy persecution. Not too much is known of Charles' personal life in prison, but we do know that he was at one time assigned to work in the kitchen, . . . On page 76 of his prison journal the following statement appears: "March 7th, 1889, released from the Penitentiary after Serving four Months and Paid a fine of 165 Dollars. Chas R. Bailey."

Monument Trek

Captain Jefferson Hunt



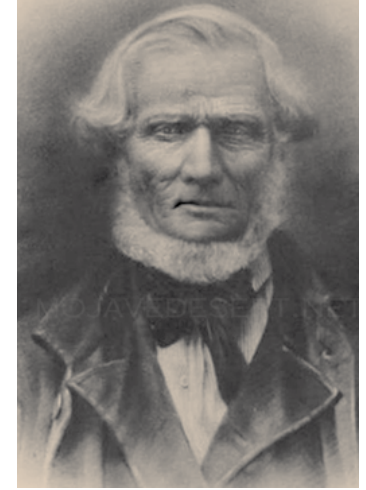
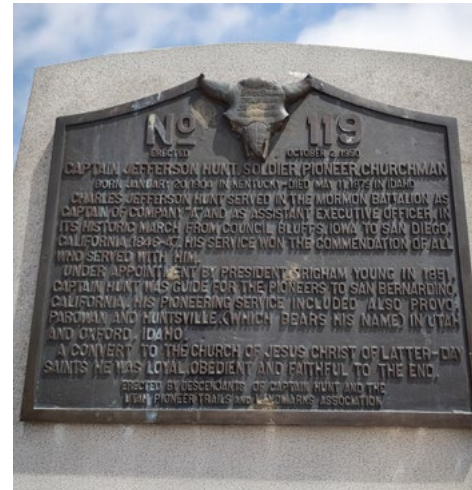
UPTLA #119 | GPS: N 42 21 16.3, W 112 02 56.53 ELEVATION 4816 FEET (42.3545278, -112.0490361)

**Soldier, Pioneer, Churchman,
Born January 20, 1804 in Kentucky,
Died May 11 1879 in Idaho**

Eight miles south of Downey at Red Rock Pass is a monument, placed in 1950 by the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association, honoring Captain Jefferson Hunt—a notable U.S. western pioneer, soldier, and politician. Hunt served as captain of Company “A” in the Mormon Battalion’s historic march from Iowa to California in 1846-47, was a brigadier general in the California State Militia, a state assemblyman, and a representative to the Utah Territorial Legislature.

He was appointed by President Brigham Young in 1851 to serve in the Mormon Battalion and guided pioneers to settle San Bernardino, California. He also contributed to settlements in Provo, Parowan, Huntsville (named after him) in Utah, and Oxford, Idaho, earning praise from his peers.

Captain Hunt was a convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was loyal, obedient, and faithful to the end.



THE TRAIL MARKER NEWS

Compiled by Roland Lee

If you would like to have your chapter news printed in the Trail Marker please do the following:

1. Write-up should be one-paragraph (Less than 250 words) in MS Word or send as the text of an email. NO pdf files.
2. Attach 1 quality jpeg photograph to your email
3. Email to: rolandleefamily@gmail.com
4. News must be received by the 25th of each month

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!



NAMECHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Brent NordgrenBrigham Young
Craig SmedleyBrigham Young
David Hansen Murray
Derek KirbyMaple Mountain
Eric Zenger Ogden Valley
Gary DunnPortneuf Pioneers
Greg Hadley.....Brigham Young
J Craig Larsen.... Jordan River Temple
Jeff CottleBrigham Young
Kaye NicholsMaple Mountain
Kent Partridge ... Jordan River Temple
Leon Jones Porter Rockwell
Marvin R Reynolds... Morgan Pioneer

NAMECHAPTER

Owen Michaelis .Jordan River Temple
Richard Lee..... Ogden Valley
Richard DayPortneuf Pioneers
Tim Zundel.....Brigham Young
William W Clayton.. Salt Lake Pioneer

CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERS

Kendell Bundy..... Cotton Mission
Robert J LoveSnow Horse

CHAPTER ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Loretta WinderHurricane Valley

FOR UPCOMING SUP NATIONAL EVENTS, CLICK HERE

BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada



Red Rock Trip

Members of the Boulder Dam Chapter toured Red Rock Canyon and explored its visitor center on March 21, 2026. They were amazed by the many desert flowers in bloom, and the canyon's colors were breathtaking. The group stopped to see handprints on a rock wall made hundreds of years ago. They

drove the 13-mile loop before heading to Old Spanish Trail and Mormon Trail Park, where they walked along a trail established in 1829. Informational markers described life along the route. As a capper to the outing, the group gathered for lunch at the very spot where pioneers once stopped to rest.

BOX ELDER CHAPTER - Brigham City, Utah



Monica Holdaway

The Box Elder Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers gathered for the monthly dinner meeting at the Academy Center in Brigham City on March 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. The featured speaker was Monica Holdaway, CEO of the Box Elder Chamber of Commerce. She updated the group on the current business climate in the county and some of the changes coming in the near future. Highlights included expanding paper goods production at the local Proctor and Gamble facility, a new

branch of the Ogden Clinic opening soon in Brigham City, and a "Towers and Structures" production facility for Nucor that will produce steel towers for high tension electrical lines. Construction is underway on the new \$200 million facility located on Nucor's existing Brigham City campus which will create 200 new full-time jobs. The new jobs created by these projects will spur continued population growth in the county along with a need for new, affordable housing.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Mark L. Grover

The meeting of the Brigham Young Chapter was held on March 19, 2026, at the Culinary Arts Institute at Utah Valley University. After being served a gourmet dinner, the featured speaker was Mark L. Grover. The title of his presentation was, "South America in the LDS Church, One Hundred Years of History." Grover was born in Malad, Idaho, and served as a Latter-day Saint missionary in Brazil from 1966-68. He has a BA in history and a Master of Library and Information Science degree from BYU. He also holds a MA and a PhD in Latin American and African history from Indiana University. He is a specialist on Brazil and an author on religion in Latin America. He worked as Latin American and African Studies Librarian in the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University. He and his late wife Ivelisse Colón Morales served a temple mission in the Campinas Brazil Temple prior to her death in July 2021.

Dr Grover's lecture was very interesting and informative and provided an overall history of the church in South America starting with Parley P. Pratt's early missionary work in 1851. Pratt's time only lasted a short while, but on December 25, 1925, Elder Melvin J. Ballard dedicated the continent for the preaching of the gospel. The growth of the Church was slow due to non-Catholic churches not being able to proselyte in many countries and other political and cultural issues. Elder Ballard prophesized that the growth of the church would be slow but like the acorn seed it would eventually grow strong throughout the entire continent. Dr. Grover gives Elder Theodore Tuttle who served in South America from 1961-65, credit for much of the future growth of the Church in South America. This includes his special prayer for church leaders and missionaries given at Machu Picchu.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Elder Kgomotso T. Sehloho

Each March we sponsor a spring devotional, usually with a general authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as our featured speaker. This year we were privileged to have Elder Kgomotso T. Sehloho, an Area Seventy in the Africa South Area, address us. Elder Sehloho spoke of his conversion at age 18 to the restored gospel of Jesus Christ and about pioneers in furthering the Church's progress within the countries of the Africa South Area. The countries

in the Church's Africa South Area include South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Reunion.

On April 18th, we are planning a trek to visit many pioneer sites scattered throughout Washington County. Highlighted will be the history of the Shivwits Band of the Paiute tribe, the history of Gunlock and Pine Valley and then traveling north through Pinto and surrounding historical sites.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Jeff Tucker

Our March meeting included a wonderful St. Patrick's Day dinner prepared by our chapter president's family. Our speaker for the evening was Jeffrey Tucker. Jeff is a communications manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he currently serves in the Materials Management Department. His topic for our meeting entitled "The Arsenal Hill Explosion." Jeff told us that the area where the capitol is now located was first referred to as Prospect Hill and later named Arsenal Hill because the hill had five bunkers that stored gun powder. The bunkers were located a bit northeast of the hill near City Creek Canyon not far from our present Capitol area. It was thought that location would be a buffer zone between the bunkers and downtown Salt Lake City. The bunkers held 45 tons of explosive material which would be

equal to 32 tons of TNT. On April 5, 1876, the bunkers exploded over a 47-second span and shock waves were felt as far as 20 miles away. The explosion showered the area with 500 tons of rock including a saloon over a mile away that had a 115-pound boulder break through the ceiling and was buried in the floor. 1,000 panes of glass in the Tabernacle that were blown out, and many houses had their windows blown out. There were two teenage boys playing in the area who were killed and also a pregnant woman who was three-quarters a mile away. Many homes and businesses were damaged, and the destruction was so severe that it was reported internationally. Needless to say, that explosion caused rethinking by not only Salt Lake but other cities of where to safely store explosive materials.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah

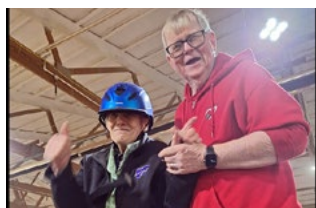


Shane & Angela Smeed

At our March meeting we enjoyed a presentation from both Angela and President Shane B. Smeed, the current president of Utah Tech University in St. George. Angela spoke first introducing her family and was followed by President Smeed. He is a native of Utah and began his tenure as president of Utah Tech University on May 1, 2025. Since joining the institution, he has committed to engaging deeply with students, faculty, staff, and community leaders. With 27 combined years of experience in higher education, he has launched a comprehensive

institutional strategic planning process that will shape the university's future, while also emphasizing the importance of celebrating the rich history and heritage of Southern Utah. He is addressing the hurt feelings of many in the community who fear losing the name "Dixie" will erase the "Dixie Spirit" from history. He feels that we should preserve the Dixie Spirit and the University's history. Instead of hiding the name "Dixie College" it can be found on many sweatshirts and items now for sale in the University bookstore.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Participant with Larry Cudmore

Recently, we became aware of a not-for-profit organization that has existed amongst us since 2019 – Champs Heart. The founder, Larry Cudmore, was a Pastor who had to retire early from his ministry. See <https://www.champsheart.org/when-life-comes-to-a-crossroads> to learn more about his past. At our regular monthly luncheon He shared with us his story of battling cancer and how his retirement has opened a new chapter in his life. His presentation, along with photos of various participants, touched all who were in attendance. This excerpt from their website introduces what he and an army of volunteers do six days a week, “At Champ's Heart, we believe

in the transformative power of connection – between horses and humans, between hearts and healing, between community and hope. Located in the heart of Idaho Falls, we provide free equine healing experiences for children with special needs, veterans, first responders, and their families.” He charges nothing for this service and depends solely on contributions and donations from people, community, and businesses to service the \$500,000+ annual operating expenses. They work with 300 monthly participants, with 2,200 volunteer hours, 250 volunteers monthly, and have 22 horses ready to serve.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Brent Ashworth

Brent Ashworth presented a very interesting program on what it is like to be a dealer of American Historical Documents. When Brent was seven years old, he witnessed the burning of several old pictures and documents. Brent was struck by such a great loss to the family and to future collectors and historians. That experience introduced him to the hobby of collecting and dealing historical documents. He brought several items including a letter written by George Washington. Several other letters and items from prominent Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints early Church leaders. Brent said he has been very liberal in giving religious items as donations to the Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On a personal note, several years ago while visiting my aunt we were sorting a box of old pictures and letters. She handed an envelope to me and said, “Should I just throw this away”? I opened the envelope and found an original recommend to attend the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple that was signed by then Church President, Wilford Woodruff. I started to tremble at the importance of what I was holding in my hand. My Aunt gave it to me, and I handed it to our oldest son who was with me, who still has it in his possession. --*Gaylan Gallacher, editor*

MAPLE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER - Maple Mountain / Spanish Fork



C.C.A. Christensen

Our monthly dinner and presentation for March featured our Chapter President Carl Nielson, the great-grandson of Carl Christian Anton Christensen, along with Maddy Blonquist, the Roy & Carol Christensen Curator of Religious Art at Brigham Young University. Carl presented a biographical sketch of C.C.A. Christensen while Maddie provided us with a historical perspective on art as a means of providing historical details that words alone can't communicate. Originally from Denmark, Carl Christian Anton Christensen studied at the Royal Danish

Academy of Fine Arts and converted to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1850 before immigrating to Utah. He is best known for his portrayals of early Utah pioneers and for his 175-foot panorama illustrating the history of the Church, which he presented alongside lectures throughout Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming. Christensen's work has been credited with preserving the visual history of Mormon migration and pioneer life, with some noting that he did more than any other individual to capture these formative experiences.

MORGAN PIONEER CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Scholarship Winner
Tabitha Palmer

On Monday, March 16, the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers held their monthly luncheon at the rock chapel. The recent passing of three of our Chapter members was announced, Robert Poll, Jim Seely and Paul Dickson. The Three finalists in the High School pioneer essay contest were announced, each receiving a \$200 award. They were Makayla Williams, Owen Hadley and Tabitha Palmer. Tabitha was in attendance with her parents, Jared and Michelle Palmer, and read her essay to the members. Following lunch provided by "Larry's To Go," Mark Francis introduced the program,

presenting some of the history of John Moses Browning and the Browning Arms Company. He shared some of his personal experiences with John M Browning. Mark has worked at the Browning headquarters here in Morgan County for 45 years. Members then watched a video documentary about John Moses Browning, his pioneer migration with his father to the new settlement of Ogden Utah. and the evolution of the firearms created by him over multiple decades. His inventions changed the course of history, the outcome of world wars and continue in production and use today.

MT NEBO CHAPTER - Nephi, Utah



Steven Olsen

On February 26, the Mt. Nebo Chapter had its monthly dinner meeting. Our speaker was Steven Olsen, who retired as a Senior Curator in the Church History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His topic was "Nauvoo, Cornerstone of Zion." Bro. Olsen explained how Nauvoo was central to the development of Temple Ordinances and doctrines in the Church. Although the temple wasn't originally designed with ordinance rooms other than the baptism, baptisms for the dead and temple ordinances were introduced in Nauvoo, and early church members made it a priority to

receive these ordinances before migrating westward. Bro. Olsen went on to introduce the new Nauvoo Illinois Temple Visitors' Center. He showed us artists' renditions of each room and display, including such things as theaters, a ten-foot-tall Tiffany stained-glass window from the early 1900s depicting the savior, a cutaway model of the current Nauvoo Illinois Temple, and a reconstruction of a segment of the baptismal font featuring stones from the original edifice. The Visitors' Center is scheduled to open later this year.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Honoring Gary Laird

A "Pioneer Moment" was presented by Richard Scott. He shared experiences of his ancestors, James and Hannah Gardner, who were part of the Willey Handcart Company. His focus was on examples of how they exhibited the pioneer values that the SUP holds dear in its Pioneer Values Statement. The balance of the meeting was to honor Gary Laird as a 21st Century Pioneer. Each year the Pioneer Chapter honors 2 or 3 of its members as a 21st Century Pioneer in recognition of them exhibiting Pioneer Values in their professional and personal lives. Gary always wanted to be of service to his fellow man, but he wasn't sure

what that would look like. After a short time in Washington DC "to set this country straight," he realized that the enormity of the Federal Government and futility of one bureaucrat being able to "make a difference" was not how he wanted to spend his life. He realized that local government has a bigger impact on our day-to-day lives than our huge federal government. He shared some of his lifetime achievements, the role of mentors in his life, and the importance of the old civil-rights adage "if you are not part of the solution to the problem, you are part of the problem." Gary made a career being part of the SOLUTION.

PORTER ROCKWELL CHAPTER - Salt Lake City South, Utah



*Charles Westfahl Receives
Modern Pioneer Award*

Whatever you want to know about the early history and present-day situation of Kirtland, Ohio, Karl Ricks Anderson, affectionately known as “Mr. Kirtland”, is the person to ask. His popularity drew an overflow crowd to the Porter Rockwell chapter meeting on February 25. He related how many times the Prophet Joseph Smith and others received visits from the Savior and other divine visitors, revelations, translations, and other experiences that established a solid foundation for the Church to grow upon. He also related many miracles associated with the Church’s recent acquisition of the Kirtland Temple and other properties, along with how Kirtland civic leaders were moved upon by the Spirit – and Steve Young (yes, that “Steve Young”) – to allow the Church to modify the city’s map in order to

accommodate several projects. Having lived in the Kirtland area and done research there for over 50 years, he is well qualified to consult with Prophets and speak authoritatively on the subject.

Also, that night, the Porter Rockwell chapter honored one of its long-time members as the recipient of their 2026 Modern Pioneer Award, Charles “Chuck” Westfahl. Among other talents, Chuck is known for his “do-it-yourself” skills, which he shares generously with anyone who needs his help. Several of our chapter members have been beneficiaries of his unselfish service – water heaters, flooding, home repairs, you name it. His quiet fame is known here in Utah as well as in California. This humble person shed tears of gratitude as he was handed the award.

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



Melody Riches

When: April 8, 12PM

Location: Thomas S. Monson Center,
411 E. South Temple Street

Cost: \$25 Per Person

Speaker: Melody Riches is NCIDQ certified and works in the Interior Design Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most recently, she contributed to the renovation of the Joseph Smith Memorial Building. Through this work, she developed a deep appreciation for the history, legacy, and tradition of the former Hotel Utah and looks forward to sharing those insights connected to this iconic landmark.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Trek

Greetings from beautiful Cache Valley. We had a couple of busy days in our chapter. On March 16th we had our regular chapter meeting and dinner. Our guest speaker was Heber Lundburg who spoke to us about a piece of forgotten history. On January 6th, 1953, a troop transport plane was flying from Seattle going back east with a total of 40 crew and passengers. The troops aboard had just finished service in Korea and were heading home. Late that night contact was lost with the plane. Six days later it was found, crashed in the Bear River mountains

between Logan and Bear Lake. There were no survivors. Mr. Lundburg, a young airman and medic from Hill Air Force Base along with others was sent to the scene to look for survivors and examine the crash site. As he spoke it was obvious that the images from that day still haunt him. He gave a good explanation of the investigation. On March 17th we took a trek to the new Logan Fire Station. It was a great trek followed by lunch at Cage Rio.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



LaMar Adams

At our March meeting, past National President LaMar Adams reframed pioneering as a spiritual principle rooted in sacrifice. Drawing on the teachings of Joseph Smith, he taught that giving up the things of the world is how we come to know God and lay hold on eternal life. He emphasized that throughout history, the gathering of God's people has centered on one purpose, building temples, places where ordinances are revealed and the path to salvation is made known. Focusing

on Abraham, he connected Egypt to temple themes. Using the Book of Abraham facsimiles, he pointed to symbols, crowns, veils, and sacred figures, as representations of divine authority, eternal marriage, and access to God's presence. Brother Adams concluded with a clear invitation, come unto the temple, seek to understand its covenants, and continue pioneering in faith. True pioneering is not just our past, it is our present and our future.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Greg Palmer

New Officers for 2026: F. Martell Grover, Area Vice-President, swore in our chapter's new President-Elect Don-David Powell (on the right in picture) and Steve Fauth, the chapter's new chairman over New Membership Recruitment.

Our Historic Tabernacle: Past and Present: Brother Greg Palmer is well known in Rexburg. He and his wife, Tamara, were mission leaders in the Veracruz, Mexico Mission. He retired from BYU-Idaho as a professor of Religion three years ago and they are now the Area Service-Missionary Coordinators of the Idaho Falls, Idaho Mission. In his civic activities, he serves as the Chairman of the Tabernacle Legacy Committee and directs the affairs of restoring the Rexburg Tabernacle. His presentation included photos and stories about the history of the Tabernacle and the plans for restoring and enhancing it for future generations. The Tabernacle was dedicated in

January 1912 by Heber C. Kimball after only eight months of construction, something unheard of in that era of Church tabernacles. It served as a gathering place for the Saints and many of the individuals in the meeting remember being baptized in the Tabernacle, an apostle's visit, and attending a cultural arts program. The basement was flooded in the Teton Dam Flood in June 1976. The City of Rexburg offered to purchase the Tabernacle rather than have it torn down. Since then, it has housed the Teton Dam Flood Museum and been used for many civic community and cultural activities. To learn more about 1) the history of the Tabernacle, 2) the vision of what it will look like after it is restored, and 3) an invitation to participate in this campaign, go to: <https://www.rexburg.org/o/tabernacle>.



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