



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I love July ... fireworks, parades, special events, rodeos, family gatherings. I especially love that it is a month of celebration and appreciation for the pioneers who paid the price for us to have the benefits of life that we enjoy, including religious freedom. This year commemorates the 178th anniversary of the Mormon Pioneers entering the Salt Lake Valley. I'd like to share a few July activities I've enjoyed with my wife and many of you.

SUPER DUPER DAY - This event was held at This is the Place Heritage Park. It originated with the Sons of Utah Pioneers, and we cooperated with other organizations to finance the construction of the This is the Place Monument. I was honored to conduct the devotional where Ellis Ivory and his wife, Katie, were the guest speakers. Ellis was the past Executive Director and Chairman of This is the Place Heritage Park. The Days of '47 Royalty also performed at the event. Each year, the Sons of Utah Pioneers, Daughters of Utah Pioneers, and This is the Place Heritage Park plan this event. I want to give a huge thank you to Pat Cook and Linda Sorensen for making sure all the logistics were taken care of.

SUNRISE SERVICE - The Salt Lake Pioneer chapter has sponsored this event since 1967 and continues to do so in partnership with the Days of '47 Committee. Elder Kevin S. Hamilton of the Seventy was the guest speaker with music by Christian Afflect & Jensen Diederich, along with a number by the Days of '47 Royalty. The Mormon Battalion Association participates each year in the flag ceremony for this event. I want to give thanks to Jody Davis, Salt Lake Pioneer chapter President, for planning this inspirational event and continuing this tradition as a gift to the community.

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DAYS OF '47 FLOAT PREVIEW PARTY - Did you know that the Pioneer Award is given to a deserving float selected by the Sons of Utah Pioneers every year? The Riverton Stake float was the winner this year and bore the banner of the Pioneer Award.

DAYS OF '47 PARADE - This year, the television parade coverage for the Sons of Utah Pioneers was amazing. As we all know, "some must push, and some must pull" to ensure 10 handcarts make it through the parade route. Please join us in the handcart pull next year for this fun family event!

BOUNTIFUL HANDCART DAYS - I was able to represent the Sons of Utah Pioneers in this parade this year, where my wife, Allison, and I rode on a Mustang. Okay, we rode IN a Mustang, which isn't very pioneer-like, but it was extremely fun 😊!

I am so grateful for each of you who celebrate our Pioneer ancestors all year round. I love attending your chapter meetings and am inspired by every story I hear about our ancestors, and every story I hear about each of you - our modern-day pioneers, and my modern-day heroes.

Val Parrish | 2025 National President

SUPER DUPER DAY AT THIS IS THE PLACE



SUNRISE SERVICE AT SOCIAL HALL CHAPEL





SEPT 18-20
NAT'L ENCAMPMENT -
OGDEN, UT

We invite all SUP members, your friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances, and everyone else you can think of that has a passion for history to join us in a once in a lifetime experience. Click [HERE](#) for detailed information and tour options. **Number of attendees per tour are limited, sign up soon!**

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**FOR THE FULL SUP
LIST OF UPCOMING
EVENTS CLICK HERE**



PIONEER STORIES

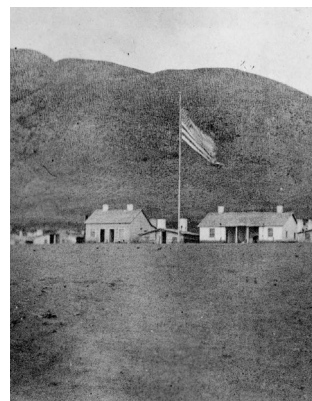
BRIGHAM'S SPY AT FORT DOUGLAS: JAMES CAMPBELL LIVINGSTON, SR

Colonel Patrick Connor's hostile posture toward the Saints from his outpost above the city led Brigham to conclude that he needed a man inside the army's camp. "It was deemed advisable to have a man that could go into [Camp Douglas] at any time night or day and become acquainted with the officers and men that that we might know of their plans, etc. for at that time there was bitter feeling manifested by both officers and privates against [the Church's leadership] and a great many threats were made against them." The prophet asked the local bishops and a leading number of the city "to nominate men they thought fit for the job. "There were quite a number of names presented," James recalled, though he didn't record the total. Brigham interviewed the assembled candidates and explained that whoever the chosen man was, "if you are caught, it will mean the firing squad." Then he added, "I don't think the Lord will allow you to be caught if you will act in wisdom, and if the right man volunteers." The group recommended several men as the to candidates, but Brigham did not feel impressed to choose any of them.

"Brethren, I don not think you have mentioned the right man," he announced. The prophet stood, walked over to James, and put his hand on the stonecutter's shoulder.

"Will you volunteer?" Brigham asked.

"Gladly," James replied, but he added that he thought several men present were better suited. The Prophet persisted, and James announced that he



would "give his life willingly if he could be of service to the presiding officers. The brethren then took him up and have him a wonderful blessing in which he was told no hair of his head would be harmed if he obeyed."

Thus charged with his duty, James came up with a plan to infiltrate the army's outpost. He drove a wagon up toward Camp Douglas, which was not far from the mouth of Red Butte Canyon. When stopped by the sentries, he informed them that he was a stonecutter—which had the virtue of being true—and, being intimately familiar with the canyon and quarry where he'd spent years working, he was well prepared to answer any questions along those lines. Satisfied with his answers, they gave him a pass that would allow him to come through the guard post as he pleased. Having thus established his bona fides, James went back up a few days later under the same pretense, this time with a keg of whiskey in the back of his wagon. He arranged for

the barrel of booze to roll off onto the ground at an appropriate moment near the soldiers, but continued on as though oblivious to the loss of his liquid cargo. After a short time, he returned as though looking for whiskey. The soldiers had recovered it, of course, and James agreed to share some of the liquor as a finder's fee. The guards talked freely as they imbibed, and one of them admitted that he'd been assigned as an aide to an officer in the camp. James "got one of the men to go to the city with him while they were all kind of fuzzy," and James and some compatriots relieved the drunken soldier of his uniform. When the guard sobered up, his kindly abductors gave him an undisclosed sum of money and told him "not to be seen" in that part of the country. The soldier apparently was amenable to the arrangement, and he possibly used his new slush fund to return home because he wasn't seen in Utah again. James took up the man's identity and replaced him in Camp Douglas. How he went unrecognized is not entirely clear. Perhaps the soldier had been a recent arrival and was still largely unknown to the general for whom he was acting as an aide. But however he managed the feat, James was never caught. For weeks, he recorded every important message that came into the camp via the telegraph during the day, slipped out of the camp and reported to Brigham each night, then returned in time to answer roll call.

*Forty Years: The Saga of Building
the Salt Lake Temple, P. 210-212*

Monument Trek

Pioneer Telegraph Office Monument

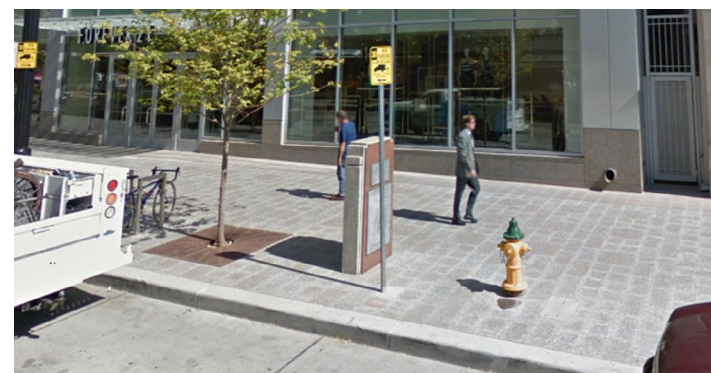
GPS: N40 46 03.26, W111 53 27.36 ELEVATION 4309 FEET (40.7675722, -111.8909333)
73 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CITY CREEK CENTER, SALT LAKE CITY, UT



A monument to the pioneer telegraph located at 73 South Main, Salt Lake City, Utah memorializes the connection of Salt Lake City to the telegraph on October 24, 1861.

In 1955 the famed sculptor Ortho Fairbanks created this marker located at the spot where the transcontinental telegraph lines were connected. The monument was removed during the construction of the City Creek Center and replaced near the same spot and rededicated on October 24, 2011.

The monument was erected by Sons of Utah Pioneers in 1955 and rededicated in in 2011.



PIONEER 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

John A Fife. Salt Lake Pioneer
 Casey P Griffiths. Timpanogos
 Leonard Grover Pioneer Heritage-Canyon Rim
 Dave Ipson WorldWide Pioneer
 Danny Mullen. Hurricane Valley
 Kenneth Shaw. Modesto-New Hope
 Daniel B Spendlove Hurricane Valley
 Gary Spendlove Taylorsville Bennion
 Rodney K Wanlass. Sevier Valley

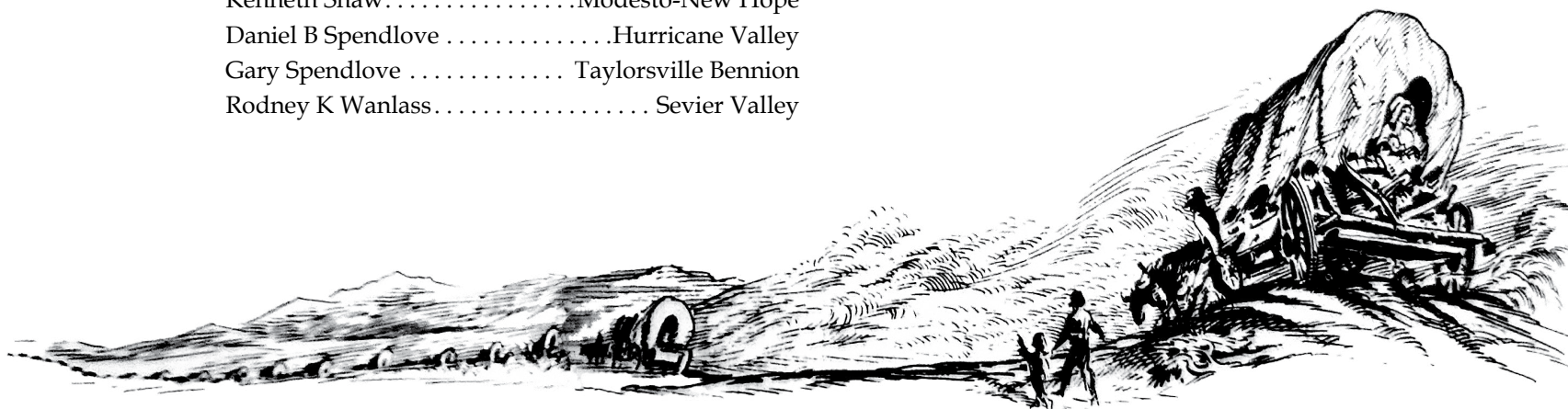
NAMECHAPTER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Jay Wilcken Little Salt Lake

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Dwight Stevenson Ogden Pioneer
 Paul Carroll. Sevier Valley



FOR CHAPTER RECOGNITION & EXCELLENCE AWARD FORMS & OTHER CHAPTER RESOURCES, CLICK HERE.

BOUNTIFUL CHAPTER - Bountiful, Utah



Bountiful History Museum

The Bountiful, Utah Chapter met at 6:30 pm on the outside porch veranda at the Bountiful Museum on Main Street and 350 North for a potluck dinner and program. The invited speaker, Bill Strasser, and his lovely wife, Diane, were introduced. Bill has served as National President of Sons of Utah Pioneers, is from Salt Lake City, Utah and has been in charge of the scholarships program through SUP for many years. He gave a brief history

of the scholarship program which included names such as John Morgan, Jon Huntsman, the Senior Games in St. George. Also, the guidelines and rationale behind the scholarships such as Pioneer values, higher education and opportunity for improved lifestyle and success for scholarship recipients, and future SUP membership potential for recipient families.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Paula Mitchell

Following a long-established tradition, we held our annual town meeting on July 24th in the Rock Church in Cedar City. During the meeting we were able to honor two of our six scholarship recipients who were in attendance. All our recipients this year were outstanding young people, and we feel it a privilege to help them with their future educational endeavors. We also spent time recognizing the efforts made by 166 4th grade students from eight local elementary schools who participated in our annual essay contest. We were privileged to have our overall winner, Ida Wainwright, from Iron Springs Elementary read her essay. She was named after her great-grandmother

Ida Nelson, whose mother died giving birth to her. She wrote about how her great grandmother grew up to be a strong and independent woman and had many special life experiences that she has benefited from learning about.

Our featured speaker was Paula Mitchell, a member of our local historical preservation society and a retired librarian in charge of special collections at Southern Utah University. She took us on a fascinating journey through the history of Parowan, Cedar City and Iron County relating it back to the importance of establishing a "place" in our lives that is more than just a location but provides us with feelings of community and belonging.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Lynn Bradshaw Receiving Award

The Grove City Chapter joined up with us this month to socialize and partake from a well-stocked potluck luncheon for our Annual Summer Picnic held in the Iona City Park. During the Business portion of the meeting, the Pioneer Day Celebration at the Snake River Historical Homestead Park, west of Shelley, Idaho, was promoted and volunteers solicited to serve as docents for various stations or as cooks to prepare scones and homemade root beer. We also discussed the delay that has come up in moving the Steam Engine. The time was then turned over to Anna Williams, the Director of Homestead Park. She provided some history on the establishment of this park in the 1990s and fielded questions regarding when it is open, who can attend, and the cost to enter,

which is free to the public. Groups can schedule tours, or events such as outdoor weddings, family or class reunions, or a nice quiet place to relax and enjoy a family picnic. The Eagle Rock Chapter promotes and solicits volunteers to help with the never-ending projects. We intend to add more historical artifacts and monuments each year. The meeting then shifted gears and a long overdue award that was delayed due to the pandemic was presented. Lynn Bradshaw, a member of our chapter for 21 years, was presented with the Modern Pioneer Award in recognition for his many years of devotion to the Eagle Rock Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. He has quietly and generously contributed his resources and talents with the support of his lovely wife and family.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



Nate Pearce



Scholarship recipient

JUNE'S EVENT: We had the privilege of honoring two high school scholarship recipients on this night. These were amazing young ladies who had earned this award for turning in an essay to us. They were in attendance with their parents, and we had the privilege of listening to them read their essays. What an amazing job they did, not only honoring their ancestor, but explaining the benefit they had gained for their own lives by doing the research they had to do. These young ladies were Stacia Leavenworth from Hurricane High School, and Olivia Oliverio from Water Canyon Hight School in Hildale.

Our guest speaker was our current National Past President LeRoy Nate Pierce. It was such a blessing to have him come and join us. After giving us a short history of his life, and his desire to ride horses, he told us wonderful stories of several of his ancestors. He let us know that he would not have known these stories if someone had not written them down. He then explained the importance of

each of us writing our life stories and not leaving it for others to do. He ended his presentation by reading several incredible poems he had written in cowboy poetry form. He left us with one he had written that day that honored the community of Hurricane.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

AUGUST 20TH: Rob Snow will speak to us about his Grandpa Elmer Graff. (a week early)

September 18th - 20th: National Encampment in Ogden

September 24th: Gifford Nielsen a former BYU Quarterback and a member of the 1st Quorum of the 70 will speak to us on the rise of the Church in Africa

October 22nd: TBD

November: Date TBD Honoring a Modern Day Pioneer

December: Date TBD Christmas Dinner

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Parade

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter held our annual picnic on July 14th. Mayor Russell Porter and Matt Dixon, City Manager, South Ogden City shared insights on the project to install historic monuments along the Heritage Trail in Friendship Park. The first

of 15 monuments has been erected. The Ogden Pioneer Chapter is a partner in this effort. The first monument has been installed highlighting the geology, geography and Lake Bonneville.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Sondra Jones

Sondra taught as an adjunct instructor (variously, and by choice) between 1998-2023, at the University of Utah, Utah Valley University, and Brigham Young University. Her classes included World History, American History, Utah History, and Native American history, in addition to various writing classes. In addition to FTF classes, Sondra worked with a U of U Professor to develop and teach an online World History course. She has

written, presented, and published scholarly works focused on The Ute Indians, Mormon-Indian relations, the Indian slave trade, Utah History, and Western Folklore. Her appreciation for

Native people was enhanced during archaeological digs and ethnographic field work, in addition to an eight-year residence on the Navajo reservation and marriage to an "Urban" Native American. By necessity, her academic and professional work has been woven into raising ten children and spending decades working with both Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Cub Scouts, teaching them all to love the adventure of learning and trying new things. During the July 10th Dinner Meeting Sondra spoke extensively and with great detail about the Black Hawk War.

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



Days of '47 Royalty

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had Chapter members Riley and Beth Draper represent us by walking in the Taylorsville Dayzz Parade in June with a handcart and a group of local Church of Latter-day Saints full-time missionaries. This has been a nice yearly event to interact with the local people. For our July Chapter Meeting, we had the privilege of having the Days of '47 Royalty come and speak to us and entertain us with song and dance. They are very talented. It was very enjoyable to hear

from them about their pioneer heritage and to see them sing and dance. Queen Elle Simmons has a deep love for music. She sings and plays guitar incorporating songs that she writes. Attendant Megan Haynie is a trained classical singer, excellent pianist and performs with the Brigham Young University women's choir. Attendant Jacquelyn Barinet is a ballroom dancer, has musical theater and vocal training. She works as a vocal coach and recording engineer.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Tom Kerr Accepting the Modern Pioneer Award

In July the Temple Fork chapter held our monthly meeting at the Logan Country Club. Following a delightful dinner we heard from local resident Mr. Tom Kerr. Mr. Kerr has a fascinating life history which he shared with us. He was born 97 years ago at his family home in Fairview Idaho. Several hours after his birth the doctor finally arrived and found all well. From small town Idaho Mr. Kerr served a mission, served as a Bishop, Stake President

and many other callings. Professionally he was a nuclear scientist serving in the US Air Force for 10 years then 24 years at NASA. He was heavily involved in the Apollo program where he helped develop the plan to safely bring Apollo 13 safely home. He had the final day to bring Apollo 13 home. Because Mr. Kerr exhibited the qualities of a pioneer for the last 97 years we awarded Mr Tom Kerr the National SUP Modern Pioneer Award.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Bill Cox

Timpanogos Chapter member Bill Cox shared a memorable presentation this month about his grandmother, Hannah Dora Blake, a true Utah pioneer born in 1890. Raised in Hinckley, Dora's family homesteaded 360 acres of wild desert, turning it into productive farm-land. At age 17, she moved to Provo to attend the Beaver Branch of Brigham Young University High School. At the time, Provo was still growing into the city it would become. While in school, Dora collected a remarkable set of photographs that captured homes, churches, and streets of turn-of-the-century Provo. These carefully preserved images were tucked away in a family trunk for nearly 100 years before Bill rediscovered

them! With help from historians and even a 105-year-old Provo native, many of the buildings were identified and matched with historical records. It was so neat to see the uncovering of these long-hidden treasures, and witness history come to life through Dora's eyes. Paired with Dora's personal writings, the photos brought to life a vibrant pioneer town in transition from a humble frontier settlement into a growing center of education, commerce, and community life. Through this collection, chapter members caught a rare and personal glimpse into early Provo. It was truly a place filled with faith, hard work, and the hope of what was to come!