

Trail Marker

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PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 246

2 NUMBER



It is now February! February is notable for significant events from the pioneer era, when individuals relocated from their ancestral homes to safer regions. In February 1846, the initial groups of Latter-day Saints began their departure from Nauvoo, leaving behind homes, cultivated fields, and even a temple.

The first wagon companies encountered severe winter conditions during that February, experiencing prolonged delays due to deep mud in Iowa.

A separate but concurrent pioneer effort commenced as Saints boarded the ship Brooklyn in February 1846, embarking from New York on a voyage around South America to establish new lives in California.

Although these events presented considerable challenges, they fostered greater unity and resilience within the Latter-day Saint community.

February serves as a transitional period between the conclusion of winter and the onset of spring. It also presents an opportunity to reinforce and refine the resolutions that we may have established at the end of last year, to shake off old habits and gain renewed courage to move forward.

As we continue into the new year and progress into February, National SUP presents opportunities for continued growth of our wonderful chapters. On Saturday, February 28th, National SUP will convene a Chapter Presidents' Council Meeting, providing chapter presidents and other chapter leaders with valuable insights and guidance on sustaining the viability of their respective chapters. Spouses are invited. The meeting will start at 10a.m. and run to 1p.m. As a part of that meeting, there will be a separate spouses meeting where a presentation will be given on "Aggression Avoidance and Women's Basic Self Defense." A luncheon will be provided after the training and presentations.

We have just celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I hope each of you found time on that day to reflect on the powerful message of this national hero, who advocated for the oppressed and for the universal rights and dignity of all people. We as pioneer descendants, and as modern-day pioneers, can especially appreciate that message as we pass on the values of our pioneers, which include all that is good and right, even rights and dignity.

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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PIONEER STORIES

LUCY WARD A MEMBER OF THE WILLIE HANDCART COMPANY

Pioneer information and story provided by Hal Reeder, to SUP Library on April 13, 2016. Story written by Isabell May Tinsley Johnson, (granddaughter of Lucy Ward) from the article titled "A Pioneer Gristmill and The Coles that Built it"



Lucy Ward was born, May 1, 1833, London, England and died March 19, 1920, Ogden, Utah.¹

Lucy Ward had a superior education and one who was true to herself, and one of God's chosen children. Her father and mother and sister, Elizabeth, had passed

way not long before she came to America. She came in the fall of 1855 and stayed in New York City that winter and worked at a millinery shop; that is where she got the green veil.

In the spring of 1856, the [Willie] handcart company with whom she was supposed to cross the plains, was detained...[until] 15 July 1856, [at] Iowa City... Several carts were drawn by young girls exclusively. Lucy, my grandmother, was one of these. She had just turned 23 years old in May... The journey to Florence, 277 miles, was made in a little less than four weeks. The Willie Company reached there [on] August 11, 1856. Here, they are delayed for repairs... It was not without some hesitation that these companies left Florence at so late a date... A monster meeting was called to consult with the people about it.

...The men all talked at the meeting just mentioned, and all, with one exception, favored going on. Levi Savage declared that they could not cross the mountains with a company of aged people, woman, and little children so late in the season without much suffering and sickness and death.... Savage was voted down.

...Cold weather, scarcity of food, lassitude and fatigue from over exertion soon produced their effects... My grandmother said a fine old man had a handcart next to her and, when they came to the Platt River, she was stronger than he and she waded [across] and took his cart, then went back and got hers... The next night, the man died.

At this time, the Salt Lake Conference in Salt Lake, 6 October 1856, was taking place and Brigham Young was sending a rescue party to the stranded handcart companies. My Grandfather, James Barnet Cole, went with them. One night, he dreamed he would meet his future wife with the stranded Saints. He even was shown what she looked like. She had fur cap and green veil tied over her cap to keep the wind off, and she was very beautiful. He told his dream to Brother Kimball and he remarked, "We will see no beautiful girl with a [fur] cap and green veil in those frozen Saints."

The Handcart Companies traveled on in misery and sorrow day after day. As they were resting for a short time at noon, a light wagon was driven into camp from the west. The occupants were Joseph A. Young and Stephen Taylor. They informed the Saints that a train of supplies was on the way and they could expect to meet it in day or two...

On this fatal morning, therefore, they had no issue [of flour]. However, they had a barrel or two of hard bread which Captain Willey had produced at Fort Laramie in view of their destitution... Two of the broken-down cattle were killed and their carcasses issued for beef. With this, they were informed that they must subsist until the coming supplies reached them.

The rescue relief started from Salt Lake on October 6, 1846... [By October 15th], the relief trains reached the... South Pass...[where] they were overtaken by a severe storm... At Willow Creek... [into camp rode Captains] J.G. Willie and Joseph Elder of the fourth Handcart Company, on the evening of October 20. They reported the immigrants were freezing and starving. All would perish if help did not reach them soon. Early next morning, the rescue party pushed on and, by night, arrived at the destitute encampment. They had come in time to save most of these people's lives.

Grandmother Lucy remembered this day, October 21, 1856, all the rest of her life. When the saints first saw their captain returning, they could hardly believe it. He had been gone three days and probably given up for dead... When the people caught sight of the train coming, they shouted, they cried, they threw off all restraint and freely embraced their deliverers. Just then, William Kimball caught sight of Lucy Ward in the green veil. He drove up to her and said, "Brother Jim, there is your dream girl. James Barnet Cole asked her to get in the wagon and her reply was, "No, I don't know you."... Anyway, she got used to the idea of having him around because, on the way to Salt Lake, on November 2, [1856], they were married at Fort Bridger by William Kimball.

They stayed over the winter at Fort Supply to guard the supplies and for Grandfather to nurse Grandmother back to health.

¹ - familysearch.org

Monument Trek

Murray Smelting



SUP #1 | MURRAY CITY PARK, ABOUT 455 E. 5300 S.

GPS: N40 39 22.5, W111 52 40.5 ELEVATION 4307 FEET (40.6562500, -111.8779167)

A memorial for pioneer-era smelting in Murray was erected by the Murray Chapter in 1984. The monument was later moved and recently rediscovered by Rusty Harward during a survey of SUP monuments in January. Now that its location is known to us, directions for visiting can be provided.

Between 1864 and 1869, gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc were discovered in Alta, Park City, and Tintic. Since there were no local smelting facilities at that time, new smelters had to be constructed. Billy Morgan established the first furnace on State Street near Cottonwood Creek in June 1870. In 1871, the Germania Refinery and Wasatch Smelter were built west of State Street, each on different sides of Little Cottonwood Creek. The Hanuer Smelter followed in 1872, while the Horn Silver Smelter at 200 West 4800 South and the Highland Boy Plant at 800 West Bullion began operating between 1880 and 1886. The American Smelting and Refining Company later took charge of the Germania Plant and built another facility at 5200 South State Street, beginning operations in 1902.

The smelting and refining industry expanded significantly, growing from handling just 8 tons of ore per day to processing thousands of tons daily. Over time, the demand for smelting lessened, and in November 1950, Murray's major smelting operation came to an end. This industry had directly employed around 10,000 individuals and provided indirect employment for thousands more, many of whom were pioneers who settled in Murray even before the railroad arrived.

The smokestacks were eventually torn down in 2002.



PIONEERS

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!

NAME CHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

David HawkinsHurricane Valley
Glenn Spencer Mills
Johnny JohnsonWorld Wide Pioneer
Josh Madsen Salt Lake Pioneer
Stephen van Dijk Temple Quarry
Garth AllredMaple Mountain
Loyd JessopHurricane Valley
Joseph Ewell Boulder Dam

Darrell Buffaloe Pioneer Heritage
Joe DeakinBear River
Richard Lund Snow Horse
Larry C JonesHurricane Valley
Victor IversonHurricane Valley
Justin Waltman Eagle Rock
James Gee Mills
Wayne ScottBear River

NAME CHAPTER

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Kathleen MoyesTemple Quarry

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Justin R Eccles Ogden Pioneer
Marvin Gardner Bountiful

FOR UPCOMING SUP NATIONAL EVENTS, CLICK HERE

BOX ELDER CHAPTER - Brigham City, Utah



Peach Queen

The Box Elder Chapter met on January 14th at the Academy Building in Brigham City. Beverly Whiting provided an inspiring personal history of her modern-day pioneer journey from growing up Lutheran in Minnesota to eventually joining the church, marriage, and living in Utah. As a young woman she was encouraged to meet with the LDS missionaries because her mother was impressed by one of the elders, a young man from Norway. The rest, as they say, is history. The chapter was also pleased to hear a report from Grace Packer, the 2025 Peach

Queen. She related a fascinating history of the 95 years of Peach Days celebrations held in Brigham City and the role they have played in the development of local businesses and cultural events that continue to this day. Grace is the third in her family tree to wear the Peach Queen crown, including her grandmother and her aunt, Donna Packer. Grace encouraged all of us to do hard things, get out of our comfort zone, and contribute in a meaningful way to the betterment of our communities.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Brian Q. Cannon

The January meeting of the Brigham Young Chapter was held on January 15, 2026, at the Culinary Arts Institute, Utah Valley University. After being served a gourmet dinner, the featured speaker was Dr. Brian Q. Cannon. He is the Lemuel Hardison Redd, Jr. Professor in Western American History at Brigham Young University. He has served as chair of the BYU history department for 6 years and directed the Charles Redd Center of Western Studies at BYU for 15 years. He is past president of the Agricultural History Society and of the Mormon History Association and is an honorary fellow of both the Utah State Historical Society and the Agricultural History Society. The Western American History Association honored him with the Gordon M. Bakken Award of Merit in 2020. He studies rural history, Western American history, Latter-day Saint history and social and cultural history.

Dr. Cannon's lecture was about President David O. McKay. He shared highlights from President McKay's life based on his own research and his recent book *Building a Global Zion: The Life and Vision of David O McKay*. Called as an apostle in 1906, David O. McKay devoted the remaining sixty-four years of his life to serving in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including nineteen years as church president and prophet. He is one of the church's most beloved and influential leaders of all time. Memories of President McKay's teachings and ministry remain a taproot for the spiritual convictions and values of many Latter-day Saints, including many individuals who attended the meeting. The presentation and information were well received by everyone in attendance.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Hole in the Rock

On November 7-8, 2025, we sponsored our most ambitious trek in many years, an overnigher to the Hole-in-the-Rock site. The trek started in Cedar City and followed several spots along the Old Spanish Trail passing through Little Creek Canyon to Long Valley with a stop at Butch Cassidy's boyhood home near Circleville. Circleville was also the site of the 1866 massacre of 26 Paiute men, women and children that took place during the Black Hawk War. Other sites visited on the first day were Kingston, Antimony, Osiris and the Widtsoe ghost town. After overnight in Escalante, the group met at the Hole-in-the-Rock Heritage Center before

continuing with the day's activities. There were several stops along the 50+ mile dirt road to Hole-in-the-Rock that were of interest, including Devil's Garden, 40 Mile Spring, and Dancehall Rock before finally arriving at the Hole-in-the-Rock site for a late lunch. It was a long, rugged road but enjoyed by all.

January 10th, we held our annual post-holiday dinner with Jay Jones as our featured speaker honoring the 175th anniversary of the visit of Parley P. Pratt and his scouting party to Southern Utah.

Next up will be our Valentines Dance and Social in February.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Gudrun Sommerfeld Parr

On January 20, at the first 2026 meeting of the Cotton Mission Chapter, we heard from Gudrun Sommerfeld Parr, whose subject was "My Father, the Third Reich, and LDS Teenage Martyr - Helmuth Hübener." Many of us are familiar with "Truth and Treason" the thrilling movie about a group of LDS teenagers in Nazi Germany who dared to defy the regime and expose the truth of Hitler's evils. Based on a true story, the film depicts 16-year-old Helmuth Hübener as he forms a resistance group with friends

Karl and Rudi after his Jewish friend's arrest by the Nazis. Their brave actions lead them to a trial in Nazi Germany's highest court. A fourth young man, Arthur Sommerfeld, belonged to the same branch in Hamburg, Germany as these teenagers and was heavily involved with their efforts. Arthur's daughter, Gudrun Sommerfeld Parr presented the captivating and courageous story of their fight against Hitler's Third Reich regime with documentary videos, pictures and publications.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Jason Jones

January's monthly chapter meeting hosted guest speaker Jason and his wife Susan Jones. Until recently, they have been living in Las Vegas but are moving after purchasing a home here in Idaho. Jason's work title is "International Director of Events." He has traveled all over the world including cruise ships living the dream of many teenage boys providing special

effects, pyro-technic displays, as crew chief and operator. He displayed many photos and videos of the shows he has done in the past for big-name well known music groups and stars. Welcome to our community and thank you for presenting to our chapter this month.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



David Hirschi

November's Activity: This month we honored two of our Modern-day Pioneers, Steve and Pam Stout. These two wonderful people have been part of the history of Hurricane for many years. They are the owners of Stout's Home Furnishings in Hurricane and have served our community for many years. Besides providing that service, they raised a wonderful family here, some of whom were there on this night. They have served in many positions in their wards throughout the years and have been willing to bless the lives of anyone in need. Steve also joined our chapter and served as our president in 1999. Our potluck dinner was again outstanding with many choices of main dish, salads, breads and desserts. What a wonderful chapter we belong to.

December's Activity: We met at the Colonial Chapel early that month for a scrumptious Christmas Dinner with two kinds of meat, two kinds of cooked potatoes, with rice & gravy,

Green Tossed Salad, and green beans. Dessert was Apple Pie and ice cream. Thank you, Golden Corral, It was delicious. Our entertainment was Lindy Butler, a young and upcoming musical talent from here in Hurricane. She blessed us with several of her own creations plus a few Christmas songs that we all joined in on. Our new chapter board was introduced to us that night. They will be sworn in during our January Dinner Meeting. All in all, it was a marvelous evening.

January's Activity: We will meet on January 21st, the third Wednesday of the month. We usually meet on the 4th Wednesday, but our speaker will be David Hirschi who, with his wife, Dixie, will be entering the MTC before that time. We are excited to hear from him. He will give us a History of Claudius Hirschi, a Pioneer of our area, and his ancestor. The meeting will be in the Red Brick Church, at 274 S. 100 W. and will be potluck. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Greg Jarrard

Pictured is Greg Jarrard, a member of our Chapter, who spoke to us this January. He wrote a book entitled "Marching on Zion" about the Utah War of 1857-1858. Brigham Young asked the Lord to bless and protect the pioneer saints who settled in Utah in July 1847 for ten years of peace in their new location. Ten years to the day, word arrived that U. S. Troops were marching on toward the Salt Lake Valley. As quoted from Greg Jarrard's presentation, the Troops were coming "to put

down the Mormons' rebellion and install a new governor at the point of a bayonet, if necessary. But Brigham and the Saints are standing ready to burn wagons, steal cattle and set the prairie on fire to stall the Army's advance for cooler heads to prevail until Thomas Kane's arrival in early 1858 to mediate the peace." We are grateful to Greg for his interesting look back at this pioneer historical event and the way an actual war with much destruction and even deaths was prevented.

MAPLE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER - Maple Mountain / Spanish Fork



Nicholas Shrum

Our presenter for January is Nicholas Shrum. Nicholas is a PhD Candidate in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, where he studies postwar American religious nationalism. He earned an MA in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a BA in American Studies from Brigham Young University. His work has appeared in *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, *Journal of Mormon History*, *Latter-day Saint Historical Studies*, and *The Conversation*. His 2024 article with *Dialogue*, “Materializing Faith and Politics: The Unseen Power of

the NCCS Pocket Constitution in American Religion,” was awarded the Mormon Historical Association’s “Best Article Award.” He is also the host of the UVA Mormon Studies podcast “Scholars & Saints.” Nicholas presented on ‘The Center Place of Zion:’ Postwar Mormonism and its Turn Back to Missouri.

“Hearken, O ye elders of my church, saith the Lord your God, this is the land of promise, and the place for the city of Zion.... Independence is the center place; and a spot for the temple is lying westward...” (D&C)

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Brass Cats

The Mesa Arizona Chapter held its first gathering of the new year on Friday, January 9, 2026, at the Olive Ward building in Mesa, AZ. After announcements, opening prayer, patriotic moment, Pledge of Allegiance and the Star-Spangled Banner played on trumpet by SUP Area VP Matt Wharton, Area Vice President swore in the 2026 Mesa AZ Board Officers. That was followed by awarding a local student with a Sons of Utah Pioneers scholarship check, and an annual SUP membership

for the student’s father. Afterwards, we enjoyed a wonderful potluck dinner and were entertained by The Brass Cats five-piece band. The Brass Cats have played together for five years, after getting together at the beginning of Covid to play music while everyone had shut down for social distancing. A highlight of their performances is the history of each song being given before it is played. Past President Matthew Wharton leads the group of Tom Krech, Karen Beck, Kris Ramsey and Josie Torres.

MILLS CHAPTER - Millcreek, Utah



Olympus High School Madrigals

The Olympus High School Madrigals brought their talents to the December meeting of the Mills Chapter for our annual Christmas program. They entertained and inspired us with their creative performance for the past two Christmas seasons and we were fortunate to have them back again this year to put us in

the Christmas spirit. Over the last three years, Director Erin Tall has fostered the talent in this group and it really shined through in fun creative ways. What a great way to start our Christmas season! See video of their singing [HERE](#).

MORGAN PIONEER CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Jill Hatch

On Monday January 19, the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers held their monthly luncheon at the Rock Chapel in Morgan. The meeting was conducted by newly elected Chapter president, Howard Hansen. A "Pioneer Moment" was presented by chapter member, Randy Butcher. He related the history of his third great grandfather, Jesse Haven, an early American settler, church convert, missionary and Utah pioneer. Following lunch prepared by "Larry's to Go," the main presenter was local educator, wellness practitioner and entrepreneur, Jill Hatch. Jill has been in education for over 18 years. She founded "BEE Well with Jill" and the "Poised Journey Academy." She has been a resource for education, church and local government organizations to learn about working

with technology, especially lately with AI. She explained that technology is not a replacement for human wisdom but as a tool to support learning, organization, creativity and problem solving. She referenced quotes and talks by multiple church leaders on the blessings and problems with using AI and the responsibilities that come with the technology. She works with AI to build positive, ethical uses to clarify ideas, preserve stories, support families and strengthen individuals. Jill is passionate about teaching responsible AI use and believes that how we use it today will influence the world's future generations. She expressed a firm belief that when good people use powerful tools with the right intention, good things tend to follow.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAPTER - Heber City, Utah



Dan Adams

On January 8, 2026, the Mountain Valley Chapter held their monthly Speaker's Forum. Dan Adams, Orem, Utah was the guest speaker. The title of his powerpoint presentation was "History of Flour Mills in Wasatch County and Utah State." Dan is a retired elementary school principal who is a life member of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. Dan served as president of the Timpanogos Chapter in 2015 and more recently as president of

the Mountain Valley Chapter. He is also serving on the National SUP Board as an area vice president. Dan's interest and research about flour mills comes from his desire to preserve the memory and heritage of two generations of flour millers and millwrights in his family. Dan's great-grandfather was a Utah Pioneer of 1849 and an early builder of three gristmills in American Fork, Utah.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Swearing in officers

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met for its monthly luncheon meeting on 12 January at the Comfort Suites Inn and Conference Center. The chapter members and guests enjoyed a spaghetti dinner provided by the facility. The 2026 Chapter Executive Council and Chapter Board members were sworn into office by Alan Turner, Area Vice President. The meeting was highlighted by a "State of the Chapter" presentation by outgoing President, Robert O. Scott. His presentation included a review of the

past year's activities, including: the new Landmark/Heritage Monument Trail project; treks to historical sites; scholarships for high school students; joint meeting with the DUP with partners; summer picnic; Christmas social; and hosting the National Encampment. The gavel was then passed to the incoming President, Paul C. Wright. 2025 was a great success, and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2026.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah

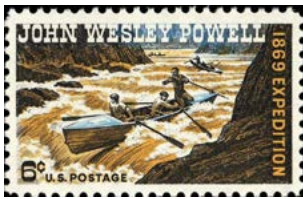


Wally Breitenstein

The Settlement Canyon Chapter had the privilege of hosting SUP National President Wally Breitenstein at our January dinner meeting. He spoke on the SUP Pioneer Value of "Unyielding Determination," sharing several powerful examples of this principle in action. He highlighted Thomas Edison, who viewed his thousands of unsuccessful attempts as discoveries of what wouldn't work rather than failures, and Helen Keller, whose determination to overcome her disabilities allowed her to guide others. We also learned about a young man with Muscular Dystrophy who successfully learned to play the piano using

his knuckles. He also shared the story of pioneer Jens Nielsen, whose "stick-to-it-ivity" helped him survive the winter trek over Rocky Ridge. Nielsen went on to found Cedar City and Bluff as part of the Hole-in-the-Rock expedition. The recipient of the monthly Pioneer Spotlight was Barbara Barlow, a stalwart of our chapter. Her long-time association has been very beneficial, including the use of her Spiers Farm for our July dinner meetings. She and Wally received the special handcrafted wooden token.

SQUAW PEAK CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



John Wesley Powell stamp

On January 20, 2026, the Squaw Peak Chapter in Orem Utah held their monthly dinner meeting. New Chapter Officers were installed. The guest speaker was Jonathan Clegg from Midway, Utah. Jonathan is a Civil Engineer and has a personal interest in the remarkable accomplishment of John Wesley Powell. Mr. Powell was the first to map and travel by boat down

the Green River and Colorado River in 1869. Jonathan Clegg developed an amazing power point presentation about Powell's remarkable accomplishment. Powell was a civil war veteran who lost most of his right arm at the Battle of Shiloh. Even though handicapped Powell directed his crew to accomplish the impossible.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Swearing in new officers

At the January meeting of the Temple Fork Chapter our officers for 2026 were sworn in by Ricky Pond, our National AVP. Ricky Pond then gave a pioneer vignette from his family history. Following dinner our president Brad Clayton gave a state of the chapter presentation. This was eye opening for everyone to learn of all things our chapter offers to our members. In 2025 our members participated in no fewer than

33 offered activities. These included 11 chapter meetings, 12 board meetings, 3 treks, monument maintenance, along with national events such as the symposium, encampment, SUPer/DUPer day, sunrise service and 24th parade. We also awarded 3 scholarships to graduating seniors from Cache Valley. We look forward to another great year in 2026.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Bruce Frandsen

The January meeting of our Timpanogos Chapter opened the new year in a spirit of gratitude, reflection, and renewed purpose. As officers for 2026 were installed and retiring leaders honored, members were reminded how rich our chapter has become through faithful service and devoted leadership. President Dewey Garner's final address as presiding officer set the tone for the evening. It was one of appreciation for the friendships, service, and shared heritage that unite us. The review of the past year's activities and presentations was a powerful reminder of how blessed we are to gather month after month and learn from individuals whose knowledge, talents, and experiences truly enrich our lives. The evening was made especially memorable as newly installed President Bruce Frandsen shared both personal history and pioneer heritage. With humor and humility, he recounted a lifetime of service, including a remarkable experience at the Pentagon on September 11, where a missed turn and a timely phone call

spared his life and quietly reminded us that God is mindful of His children. He then turned our hearts toward his pioneer ancestors. The story of the Warnick family's journey from Sweden, marked by faith, sacrifice, devastating loss, and unwavering hope, reminded all present of the extraordinary price paid by those who came before us. Their endurance and devotion stand as a quiet testimony of the courage that built both families and communities along the pioneer trail. As the meeting concluded, hearts were full with gratitude. Gratitude for faithful leaders, devoted volunteers, inspired presenters, and for the opportunity to preserve and honor the stories that shape who we are. We were reminded that recording our own lives is a sacred gift to future generations, just as pioneer journals bless us today. The Timpanogos Chapter moves forward into 2026 strengthened by its past, united in its present, and inspired to continue celebrating the remarkable heritage entrusted to our care.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Sahar Qumseyethn

F. Martell Grover, Area Vice-President, conducted the swearing in ceremony of our chapter's new officers. From left to right in the photo: Bill Moss, President, Dan Shewell, Past President, Ken Hart, Secretary, and Ron Gibb, Treasurer. A new President-Elect will be nominated and elected at a future date. This month we hosted Sahar Qumseyethn, a BYU-Idaho mathematics professor and native Palestinian. She shared her story of conversion and how God eventually brought her to Rexburg and BYU-Idaho. She was born in a small village just outside of Bethlehem and grew up in a culture of fear, tear gas, and persecution by the occupiers of her homeland. She joined the Church when she was able to come to BYU on a scholarship and heard President Gordon B. Hinckley refer to her people as Palestinians. When she returned to her homeland, she had to overcome great obstacles. (i.e. soldier check points, the Wall, and out-of-the-way journeys) just to attend church in Jerusalem. For twelve years she lived like this until she got caught and was warned that the next time she tried to enter Jerusalem illegally, she would be jailed. She then miraculously got a job with the UN as a

data analyst and had papers which allowed her to travel freely into Israel and Jerusalem. She held multiple church positions but then felt impressed to quit her job and serve a mission. She was called to the London South mission but afterwards struggled for over a year to find employment again. She even flunked a secretarial screening for a job in New York...which added to her confusion about what the Lord had in store for her. Through the help of Elder Rasband, she was able to receive a teaching assignment at BYU-Idaho. Now she is a tenured professor of mathematics at BYU-Idaho and enjoying the chance to serve in just a few church callings rather than 6-7 at the same time! After her presentation, Sahar was presented with the Modern-Day Pioneer award. This award recognizes a member of our community who has demonstrated pioneer-like courage and determination in facing challenges for the Gospel's sake.

Upcoming Programs: February 19th, 2026: Mike Hammond: "The Entrepreneurial Spirit: How is it Affecting Rexburg?"