

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the April 1855 General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brigham Young surprised nearly one hundred men by announcing from the pulpit that they were called to serve in one of the Indian missions of the church. One of those missions was the Las Vegas Indian Mission.

The missionaries prepared and left immediately to The Meadows, as known by the Native Americans. An early Spanish explorer called the place Las Vegas, which means The Meadows in Spanish.

This year marks the 170th anniversary of the Las Vegas mission. A Pioneer Heritage Day, celebrating the 170th anniversary of the Las Vegas Mission and the descendants of the original missionaries was held on June 14 in the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.

I want to thank Friends of the Fort President, Larry Moulton, and Vice-President Lisa Messenger for inviting me to participate in this wonderful celebration as a representative of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. I was one of the speakers who shared some of the history of the Old Mormon Fort and Las Vegas.

It was wonderful to see Boulder Dam Chapter members, Clare & Kaye Tobler, and Doug & Lynn Thompson at the event. Also, William Keil of the Porter Rockwell Chapter traveled from the Salt Lake valley to participate in the celebration. He is a descendant of the original mission president, William Bringhurst.



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Although the Las Vegas Indian Mission lasted only two years, the influence of the missionaries and their service had a lasting effect.

The Las Vegas Fort was the:

- Location of the first post office in the region,
- The birthplace of the first white child in southern Nevada,
- An important stopping place for mail carriers, migrants, and freighters.
- Site chosen by the missionaries, which led to the establishment of the city of Las Vegas.

The fort is thought to be the oldest non-Native American structure in southern Nevada.

Those missionaries who opened the Las Vegas Indian Mission were brave and faithful men and women.

The historic Mormon Fort even played a role in the growth of our great country. It is located on the Mormon Corridor, now known as I-15. It is only a few blocks from the freeway that joins Salt Lake City to San Bernardino.

I honor the early missionaries of the Old Mormon Fort, with a special thanks to the Native Americans who offered a hand of friendship to welcome the missionaries to their home. This cooperation led to the building of this historical fort, and ultimately to the beginning of the city of Las Vegas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Val".

Val Parrish | 2025 National President



JULY 21

SUPER DUPER DAY AT THIS IS THE PLACE PARK

10AM - 5M | Half Price Admission for SUP members and guests. Purchase at thisistheplace.org

JULY 24

DAYS OF '47 SUNRISE SERVICE

7AM - 8AM | Social Hall Avenue Chapel (Rear Entry of 95 S State Office Tower)

JULY 24

DAYS OF '47 PARADE

8:30AM - 11AM | Please join us in this unprecedented tradition

FOR THE FULL SUP LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS CLICK HERE



PIONEER STORIES

THE TOUGHEST MAN TO EVER LIVE?

(THE FOLLOWING LIST IS NOT TOTALLY INCLUSIVE)

Wilford Woodruff, 4th President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, once said, "The protection and mercy of God has been over me, and my life thus far has been preserved; for which blessings I feel to render the gratitude of my heart to my Heavenly Father, praying that the remainder of my days may be spent in His service and in the building up of his kingdom." Evidence of this statement is found throughout his 7,000 journal pages:

1810	Fell into a vat of boiling water; 9 month recovery	1833	Dragged by a team of horses for more than 300 feet with a sleigh on top of him	1848	Survived another shipwreck on Lake Michigan
1812	Fell from the great beam of a barn onto his face	1834	Rifle accidentally discharged missing his face by a only few inches	1848	Inspired to move carriage and family in the night; 30 minutes later tree fell to that spot
1812	Broke his arm falling down the stairs	1834	Musket accidentally discharged while pointed directly at his chest, but misfired	1856	Poisoned by infected meat; restored through a priesthood blessing
1812	Broke his other arm falling off a porch	1835	A black bear and a large pack of wolves preserved him from being attacked by a mob of about fifty people	1859	Severe lung fever "spirit fluttering between life and death"
1813	Almost gored by a bull	1835	Got lost for 5 hours in a white-out storm	1860	Thrown from mule onto his head and dragged
1814	Leg got caught in sawmill gears and broke	1837	Tornado tore apart a building he was in	1864	Stung by a scorpion, "shock through whole system"
1814	Kicked in the abdomen by an ox	1839	Thrown from a wagon, dragged for half a mile	1872	Dragged by runaway horse; almost run over by both horse and wagon
1814	Hay load overturned and he almost suffocated	1839	Left on mission to England while suffering with malaria	1873	Mild stroke "it seemed to be paralysis and death"
1815	Horse bolted and flipped the wagon he was in	1841	Survived shipwreck on Lake Michigan	1874	Fell 10 feet from a ladder
1816	Fell 15' from a tree and knocked unconscious	1842	Bedridden for 40 days with bilious fever	1879	Severe bout of bilious colic
1819	Almost drowned, "suffered much being restored"	1843	Train crash smashed the passenger car he was in	1881	Thrown from a wagon
1820	Nearly froze to death in a blizzard; a passing stranger found him in a hollow tree and carried him to safety	1844	Ship he was on caught fire	1886	Mild heart attack or stroke; completely restored by priesthood blessing
1821	Split open his foot with an ax "nearly clear through," crippling him for nine months	1845	Inspired to disembark a steamer, it later sank	1893	Severe bout of bilious colic "lay at the point of death"
1822	Bitten by a rabid dog	1846	Hit in the head with a rock thrown by a mob while performing a baptism	1898	Died at 91 years old from infection caused by botched medical procedure
1823	Thrown 16 feet over a runaway horse; broke leg and dislocated both ankles	1846	Crushed by falling tree; broke breast bone, three ribs and internal injuries		
1827	Almost crushed de-icing wheels of sawmill				
1831	Again almost crushed de-icing sawmill				
1831	Suffered a severe bout of pneumonia				

Mormon Trek

Mormon Pioneer Trail

UPTLA #117 | DODGE COUNTY, FREMONT, NEBRASKA

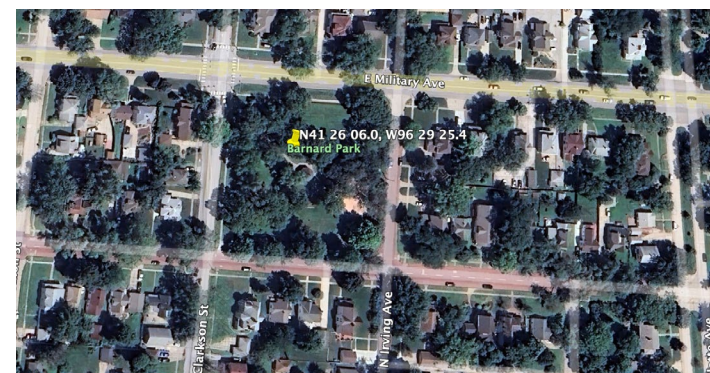
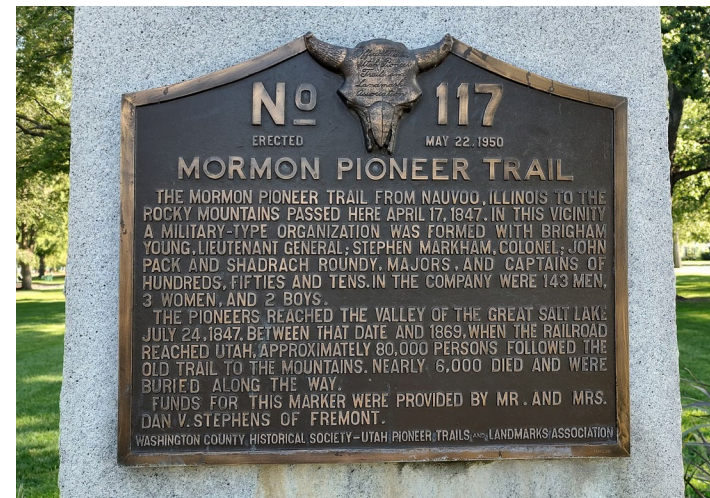
GPS: N41 26 06.0, W96 29 25.4 ELEVATION 1184 FEET (41.4350000, -96.4903889)



The Mormon Pioneer Trail monument was placed by the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association and the Washington County Historical Society on May 22, 1950. It recognizes the Mormon Pioneer Trail from Nauvoo, Illinois to the Rocky Mountains. The pioneers passed near this location on April 17, 1847. Additionally, The Mormon Battalion was organized in this area with Brigham Young as Lieutenant General; Stephen Markham as Colonel; John Pack and Shadrach Roundy as Majors; and various Captains of Hundreds, Fifties, and Tens. The group included 143 men, 3 women, and 2 boys.

The monument records that 80,000 individuals traveled through the area on the old trail and arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake between July 1847 and 1869, when the railroad reached the Utah Territory. It also notes that nearly 6,000 died and were buried along the way.

Funds for this marker were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Dan V. Stephens of Fremont.



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!



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

NAMECHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Russell J Davey..... Taylorsville Bennion
James Jacob Brigham Young
Jordan Oakeson Mt Nebo
George Sansom..... Pocatello (Portneuf Pioneers)
Joe Anderson..... Jordan River Temple
Karl J Armstrong Taylorsville Bennion
Horace B Beesley Salt Lake Pioneer
Kim BowerbankOgden Pioneer
Dennis Card Harmony
Kenneth Coles..... Harmony
Arlan Dopp Sevier Valley
David Eldredge Lehi
David Evans Timpanogos
Bryan Grimshaw Jordan River Temple
Mark F Howard Timpanogos
LarrY MatthewsHurricane Valley
James S Osby..... Harmony
Nathan Peterson..... Jordan River Temple
Paul Tikalsky Cotton Mission
Kelly W Van Noy Snow Horse
Mark Welker.....Hurricane Valley

NAMECHAPTER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Steven Ralph Bringhurst..... Washington DC Area
Stewart E Smith The Mountain Valley

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Catherine Johnston..... Timpanogos
Janice Larson Morgan Pioneer
June OstlerJordan River Temple

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Alvin S Anderson.....Holladay
William M Condie Settlement Canyon
Deon C GreerOgden Pioneer
James W JohnstonTimpanogos
Norman Nelson Box Elder
Allen L Peterson..... WorldWide Pioneer
Stephen RicheyOgden Pioneer

BOUNTIFUL CHAPTER - Bountiful, Utah



Brent M. Rogers

Brent M. Rogers from the Church History Department presented the unfortunate and fortunate intersections in the histories of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and the Latter-day Saints from 1846 through 1917. In Cody's autobiography he claimed to have been a member of the U.S. Army wagon train that was burned by the Saints during the Utah War of 1857-58,

(quite likely another one of Buffalo Bill's tall tales). Less than twenty years later he began his stage career and gained notoriety by performing anti-Mormon dramas. By early 1900 he actively recruited Latter-day Saints to help build infrastructure and encourage growth in the region surrounding his town of Cody, Wyoming.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah

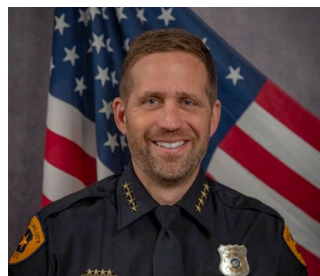


Dinner & Auction in the park

For the second year the Cedar City Chapter supported the effort in Parowan, Utah, to raise funds for renovating and preserving the Old Rock Church (ORC). The ORC currently serves as a DUP museum but has a long history with many significant events taking place in the structure as the center of the Parowan community. With the funds raised last year, the steeple has been straightened and rebuilt, exterior woodwork replaced and painted, and a brick inlaid patio placed in front with bricks recognizing the donors who contributed to last year's efforts (see photo). More work needs to be done to strengthen the foundation and structure itself so that it will stand for many more years. The

committee has a goal to raise \$50,000 this year to continue this effort with the Leavitt Foundation pledging to match the funds raised this year. On Friday evening, May 20th, a dinner and bake auction was held to raise funds. After the auction, President John Yardley was the keynote speaker at a devotional that also honored two prominent local families – the Adams and the Cowans. On Saturday, May 21st, activities included a children's parade, a re-creation of the original fort using large hay bales, pioneer crafts and skills demonstrations such as leather working, horse shoeing, weaving and more. Entertainment and games provided lots of things for people to enjoy.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Chief Brian Redd

Our June meeting was our annual summer picnic that we hold at a ward bowery in Centerville. We honored a local 4th grade student, Carter Brady, who was chosen by our committee after the many pioneer-related histories from 4th grade students from schools in our area. Carter read the story of his great grandmother who came across the plains in the Martin Handcart Company. His parents Tawny and Nick Brady and his teacher Rebecca Berry were also introduced. Our essay scholarship winner was Anne Stephens. She will be attending BYU and will be honored during our September meeting.

Our guest speaker for the meeting was Chief Brian Redd. Chief Redd was recently sworn in as Chief of Police for the Salt Lake City Police Department after serving two years as the director of prisons. He has a long, distinguished career in law

enforcement including being appointed by Governor Cox as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Corrections. In that role he oversaw two state prisons, six community correctional centers, five Adult Probation and Parole districts and managed a workforce of approximately 2,900 employees. He gave a brief history of early prisons and the deplorable conditions in many, some even being in old mineshafts. The Sugarhouse facility that became known as the Utah Territorial Penitentiary was opened in 1855 and in 1896 was designated as the Utah State Prison. In 1952 the Draper Prison was constructed and gradually prisoners were moved into that facility. The cost of that new prison was 35 million dollars; the new prison in southwest Salt Lake cost one billion dollars. The new prison focuses on rehabilitation as much as possible.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Old Relief Society Building

The Cotton Mission enjoyed a historical trek that included the Mesquite Relief Society building, Jacob Hamblin home, and Littlefield cemetery. They also visited the ruins of the town of old St. Thomas, which have been exposed since the shrinking of Lake Mead. At our June 16 dinner meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Brent L. Top. Brother Top is Professor Emeritus of Church History & Doctrine at Brigham Young University and former Dean of Religious Education. During his 45-year career in

the Church Educational System, he has authored over 20 books and numerous articles. Brent served as mission president/site leader at the Mormon Battalion Historic Site in San Diego (2022-2024) and previously was president of the Illinois Peoria Mission (2004-2007). Brother Top is currently serving as a sealer in the St. George Temple. They are blessed to be the parents of four children, 25 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Miner's Cabin Homestead Park

Last week a group of hearing impaired toured the homestead park. We manned the wagons and miner's camp stations in period dress. Teaching the youth and adults some techniques in panning for gold. The Grove City Chapter has invited the Eagle Rock Chapter to their June Meeting to hear a presentation on the Mormon Battalion. The Steam Engine Monument will be moved within the next 2-3 Weeks to its new location. The seat for the Doctor's Buggy we have been restoring is nearing completion which will leave only the overhead canopy to complete the entire

project. The annual chapter summer picnic is scheduled for July 21st with dutch oven chicken, beans, and cobbles with potluck salads, desserts, and vegetable trays. The Snake River Heritage Homestead Park has asked us for volunteers to assist with the Miner's Camp, the Wagon Monuments, and Root Beer/Scones for the Pioneer Day Celebration July 24th. For more details check the calendar on our website <https://eaglerocksup.org/index.php/chapter-news/>

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



Kayzil Fischer



Mark Olsen

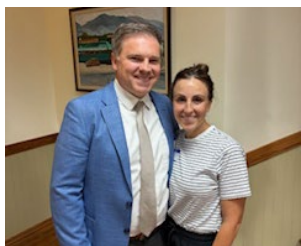
Our dinner in May was fantastic with some of the most delicious pot-luck food you can imagine. We had a marvelous attendance as we anxiously looked forward to listening to Jim Rhoades tell us of stories of his great and great, great grandfathers Caleb and Thomas Rhoades. We learned that Thomas was the first member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to cross the Salt Lake Valley on his way to California. He was the first to find gold at Sutter's Mill and later asked by Brigham Young to return to Utah. He returned with \$17,000 in tithing, paid in gold. We learned of Chief Walkara coming to Brigham Young offering him access to the sacred money rock in the mountains. Brigham Young got Thomas to be his representative and when he became too old got permission to have his son Caleb bring the gold out of the mountains to the Church. Jim has told this story to our chapter several times, and each time it has entranced the audience.

We also honored and heard from the winner of the 4th grade essay winner for this year, Kayzil Fischer. She read her essay to us about her great grandmother. These essays we do each year for the 4th grade, and the 7th grade. Thank you Kayzil for entering this year. Also, at the beginning of this meeting we saw Mark Olsen presented with a certificate and Life Member Pin. We are grateful welcome him as our newest Life Member.

In the month of May our Chapter had a trek to learn about some of the local sites such as the Wilkinson Dairy, the LaVerkin/Hurricane Powerhouse and Pah Tempe commonly called the Hot Pots. Todd Furse gives a marvelous description of that trek.

Upcoming: June 25th: Nate Pierce, our National Past President will be our speaker; July 19th: We will again head to the Hinton Cabin on Kolob; August 27th: Rob Snow will speak to us about his Grandpa Elmer Graff.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Eric and Amanda Simper

Pictured is our speaker, Erik Simper, along with his wife, Amanda from our June Chapter meeting. Erik took us all on a most delightful and interesting journey on the process the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints uses in procuring future Temple sights around the world. He is employed by a real estate brokerage firm named CBRE. That firm is contracted by the Church to assist in procuring properties. He has served the Church's Real Estate function in that role for 17 years. What goes into selecting a Temple site? Lots and lots of planning within the Church with an emphasis on the following:

- The site has to be located in or near communities that can provide enough Temple Workers to support operation.
- Is the site located in an area that would be conveniently located to facilitate traveling to the Temple.
- The site should not be located in an industrial area. A residentially zoned area is preferred.

Erik shared his personal testimony that often he senses Heaven's guidance and help in finding and procuring the properties requested.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



The Brass Cats

The Mesa Arizona Chapter held its Annual June Ice Cream Social on June 13th. After announcements, a patriotic moment recounting the history and significance of Flag Day, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," we opened our ice cream and toppings bar. The highlight of the

evening was The Brass Cats 5-piece band that entertained us with a set of patriotic numbers. About 45 members and guests attended the event. A video of the concert may be viewed here: https://youtu.be/8_GAbbbop0U?si=jTktZ4nrODcO0Z11.

Our chapter then adjourned for the summer until September.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Gary Boatwright

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met on June 9, 2025. A Pioneer Moment was presented by Kent Neilsen highlighting his grandfather, Brendt Neilsen, Sr.

Brother Gary Boatwright, Regional Manager, Church History Department shared the process for the acquisition of the former Community of Christ properties.

PORTNEUF CHAPTER - Pocatello, Idaho



Hayden Lambson

We are pleased to have had Hayden Lambson as our program for our March meeting. We had an unforgettable program featuring acclaimed wildlife artist Hayden Lambson. With a career spanning many decades, Hayden's stunning artwork has been celebrated by organizations like Whitetails Unlimited, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the NRA. His paintings and sculptures have raised thousands for conservation efforts, and his illustrations for Barebow and the prestigious "Pantheon Award" highlight his mastery of wildlife artistry. Hayden's passion for nature and community shines through in everything he does. We were able to experience his incredible work and hear

his inspiring story! He displayed some of his artwork and showed pictures related to his artistry. He contributed three prints of his artwork as door prizes, which was greatly appreciated. Hayden was born and grew up in a small rural community in Arizona that he still visits and to which he has contributed some artwork and other promotional items. After attending Brigham Young University he, at the urging of his cousin, moved to Pocatello and began working for the Boy Scouts of America as one of their professional scout leaders. After a few years he started doing his wildlife photography full time. Hayden still lives in the Pocatello area with his family.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Ruby Hansen

At the Settlement Canyon monthly dinner meeting, held on June 5th, Ruby Suzanne Hansen was awarded the annual Settlement Canyon Chapter \$1,000 Scholarship. Ruby will graduate this month from Yorba Linda, High School in Yorba Linda, California with a GPA of 4.45. She is a Nationally Ranked Junior Tennis Player and has committed to play NCAA Division I Tennis at the University of Denver, Denver, Colorado this fall and plans to study finance. "Candidates must be the child/grandchild, or great-grandchild of a member of the Settlement Canyon Chapter and write about their pioneer ancestors." Ruby gracefully articulated the history of her 3rd Great-Grand Father's (Jorgen Hansen) wife, Mary Caroline (Nielsen) Hansen,

Mary at 11 years old migrated with the John G, Holman Ox-Train from the end-of-the tracks at Benton, Wyoming in 1868. In 1885, Mary was left to raise two children while Jorgen served a 27-month mission in Denmark. Upon returning from his mission Jorgen took a 2nd wife Alma Natalia (Nielsen) Hansen; mother to Ruby's Great-Grand Father Donizett Dunbar Hansen, fifteen days after Donizett was born, Alma died, she was 22 years old. Mary was the mother of twelve children, seven girls and five boys. She raised four children who were not her own, including Donizett and Arnola Berg. She was a devoted wife and mother; "no sacrifice was too great for her family". Donizett severed a mission in Denmark in 1909-1910.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah

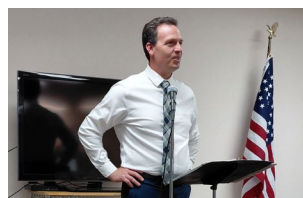


Karl Anderson

This month, our Timpanogos SUP chapter was reminded that prophecy doesn't just live in dusty journals, it unfolds in our own time! Brother Karl Anderson shared the remarkable story of Kirtland, Ohio, once a center of early Church revelation, later forgotten and even cursed, now being restored in fulfillment of prophecy. From the 1950s beginnings, when Church leaders began quietly reclaiming sacred sites (many of them bars at the time) to the 2024 purchase of the Kirtland Temple. Throughout

the evening Brother Anderson taught us how the Lord has directed every step. He recounted miracles both large and small, like a Sports Illustrated photo of Steve Young wearing a "Kirtland, Ohio" T-shirt that helped win over a skeptical city council. Quoting leaders from Joseph Smith to President Ezra Taft Benson, Brother Anderson testified that Kirtland's time has come! The Lord is once again building it up—refined, polished, and ready to fulfill its prophesied role in this dispensation.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Randy Collins

Our Upper Snake River Valley Chapter met at the Rexburg Senior Center on June 19th. We enjoyed a light supper together, then had the pleasure of hearing from Randy Collins, Rexburg Temple Recorder. Randy began his career with the Church temple department in 2009 as an assistant recorder for the Idaho

Falls temple. In 2015, he was asked to move to Phoenix, AZ and open the new Phoenix Temple. As a temple recorder, Randy is a full-time employee of the Church. He holds no priesthood keys but serves under the direction of the temple president and often performs other administrative duties.