

Trail Marker

VOLUME 22

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 251

7 NUMBER



Every year on the 4th of July, all 50 states in this great country universally celebrate Independence Day. It is the nationwide observance of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. This year is the 250th anniversary of that signing. Because of that anniversary, our country is going beyond the 4th and celebrating that signing throughout the year.

In addition to national celebrations, some states are marking local events that occurred historically in their states in the month of July. Utah is one of those states as we mark an event unique to Utah -- the arrival of Mormon pioneers to the Salt Lake Valley. We mark that event by celebrating Pioneer Day on July 24th.

Pioneer Day is an official holiday in Utah. On the 24th, the people of Utah (and, as I understand, Latter-day Saints throughout the U.S. and around the world) will celebrate the day when Brigham Young and the first company of Mormon pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Upon arriving in the valley, Brigham Young is said to have announced something like: "This is the place." By announcing that, Brigham declared the Salt Lake Valley as the new homeland for the Mormon pioneers, who had just ended a 17-month, 1000-mile migration from Nauvoo, Illinois. A great many of those pioneers settled the Salt Lake Valley and surrounding areas (including surrounding states).

1000 miles was an arduous and long trek to get to "this place". To commemorate that historical event, a monument was erected in Salt

Lake City -- It is appropriately called This is the Place Monument. The monument was dedicated on July 24, 1947, the hundredth anniversary of the pioneers entering the Salt Lake Valley. In the mid-1970's, This is the Place Heritage Park, a living history museum, was built at a site adjoining the monument.

This year, as is done each year on the 24th, many celebrations will take place in Utah, and in surrounding states where pioneers settled. One of those is the Days of '47 Parade in Salt Lake City. Since 1849, it is the largest 24th of July parade in Utah County, if not in the entire nation. You can join several SUP members in pulling a handcart in the parade, not for 1000 miles, but just short of 2 miles. In addition to the parade, be sure to check the National SUP Website for details on a couple other events involving SUP that you and family would enjoy during this month of July: Family Heritage Day at This is the Place Heritage Park on July 18th (featuring film maker T.C. Christensen as keynote speaker; singer Clyde Romney; and the Days of '47 Royalty). On the 24th, just before the parade, the traditional Days of '47 Sunrise Service will take place (keynote speaker will be Elder Weatherford T. Clayton, Emeritus General Authority Seventy). I hope you enjoy this year's celebrations of both Independence Day and Pioneer Day, wherever you live!

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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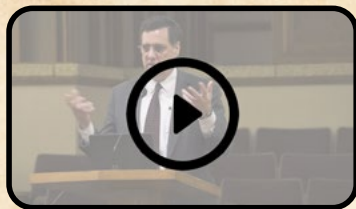
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IF YOU MISSED THE HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM

If you missed the National Historical Symposium last April, attendees were enthralled with speakers centered around the topic of "the Significance of Temples to the Pioneers." Feel free to watch and share this presentation (by clicking on the image to the left) by Mark Henshaw, author of "Forty Years: the Saga of the Building of The Salt Lake Temple." This is the first of two presentations he gave that day. We hope to see you next year.

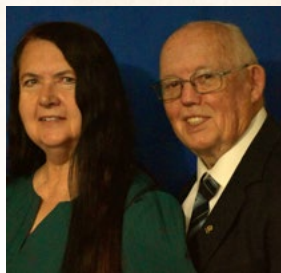
2026 NATIONAL PRESIDENT ELECT NOMINEES

Norman E. Rademacher

My leadership experience includes serving as President of the Bucyrus-Erie Credit Union and several other organizations. I have also served as a Temple worker for nearly 18 years. As a retired member of the Army National Guard, I held various roles, including Platoon Sergeant. Currently, I am serving my third year as an AVP and am organizing the 2026 National Encampment.

Through my association with the SUP, I have developed a deep commitment to our mission and Pioneer Values. If elected, my primary goal is to be of service to you, the individual member. I want to encourage greater involvement in what our organization represents. We are the descendants of ancestors who sought freedom and the right to worship, and I will continue to uphold our traditions of opening meetings with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, maintaining a focus on reverence for our Lord and Savior.

I believe that leadership is a form of service. Just as the Savior washed the feet of his Apostles, I view this position as an opportunity to be a servant to this membership. It would be a privilege to lead this organization.



Bernell Taylor

If elected President-Elect, my first priority will be to listen. Throughout my career, I've helped organizations clarify their vision by bringing people together to explore ideas, identify priorities, and build consensus before taking action. I believe in a "ready, aim, fire" approach—listening carefully, facilitating thoughtful discussion, and developing a shared plan before implementing meaningful change.

Together, I believe we can improve communication, better support our chapters, increase public awareness, and make participation more meaningful, all while remaining true to our mission.

Rather than pursuing change for its own sake, I hope to help SUP build upon its remarkable heritage while preparing the organization to serve future generations.

My commitment is to serve with humility, build consensus, and help position SUP for a strong and vibrant future.



VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE FROM AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 31, 2026



**PIONEER
DESCENDANTS
NEEDED!
[CLICK HERE](#)
FOR DETAILS.**

SAT, JULY 18TH 10AM-5PM

FREE PARK ADMISSION

Join us in celebrating Family Heritage Day at This is the Place Heritage Park. This is a community event that encourages each of us to consider the importance of the precious lessons that have been passed down from our ancestors. Explore the park and participate in the various activities designed to make this a wonderful annual event.

You are invited to participate in an interactive experience at This is the Place Heritage Park. Admission to the park is free, which includes:

- Heritage Village Exploration: Over 50 historical, authentic, and replica pioneer structures (cabins, shops, homes) to visit, including the Mormon Battalion Museum, the Native American Village and the Pioneer Children's Memorial. Descendants of the original Pioneer families will be sharing stories in each home
- Unlimited Train Rides: Rides on the replica trains that tour the park with historical context.
- Demonstrations: Live demonstrations from costumed interpreters, including a blacksmith, tinsmith, and saddler.
- Entertainment
- Splashpad

For an additional discounted fee of \$15, the Daily Experience Pass will also give you access to:

- Hands-on Activities: Panning for gold, Pony Rides, Craft Projects, Pony Rides, Petting Corral, Handcart Push, Rope Making, Blacksmith Demonstration, Tinsmith Demonstration, Print Shop Demonstration, Apothecary, Saddlery, Make a Pioneer Toy, Canoeing, the Children's Playground, Mini Train for children, and more...

Other venues include:

- Great Grub at the Huntsman Grill
- Flavor Brust Ice Cream
- Brigham's Donuts
- Shopping at the Heritage Gift Shop and ZCMI Candy Shop



10AM | TC CHRISTENSEN "KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE" & INTRO OF THE DAYS OF '47 ROYALTY

Our keynote speaker will be T.C. Christensen. T.C. has worked on many films such as, 17 Miracles, Ephraim's Rescue, Joseph Smith: Prophet of the Restoration, The Cokeville Miracle, Testaments, The Fighting Preacher, Escape From Germany, Raising the Bar, Forever Strong, National Geographic's Lewis & Clark, Disney's Roving Mars, The John Tanner Story, and Only a Stonecutter. His latest project is Standout: The Ben Kjar Story".

JOIN US ON THE 24TH OF JULY

DAYS OF '47 SUNRISE SERVICE

THIS IS ONE OF THE LONGEST STANDING TRADITIONS
OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

HOSTED BY THE SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER

110 SOCIAL HALL AVENUE CHAPEL - 2ND FLOOR
(USE NORTH SIDE ENTRANCE OF 95 STATE OFFICE TOWER)
7AM - 8AM (MUST BE SEATED BY 6:50AM)

FREE ADMISSION AND NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.
THE SUNRISE SERVICE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
AND MEMBERS OF ALL RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

POSTING OF THE COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
THE MORMON BATTALION ASSOCIATION

CHORAL ARTS SOCIETY OF UTAH PERFORMING

INTRODUCTION OF THE DAYS OF 47 ROYALTY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ELDER WEATHERFORD T. CLAYTON,
EMERITUS GENERAL AUTHORITY SEVENTY



DAYS OF '47 PARADE - HANDCART PULL

COME WALK WITH THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS. 8:30AM - 11AM.

CALL 801.484.4441 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE 14 YEARS OLD TO WALK IN THE PARADE.

BUT ANYONE AT LEAST 8 YEARS OF AGE CAN RIDE IN THE HANDCART.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! PLEASE CONTACT PAT AT SUP OFFICE ASAP.



2026 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT | POCATELLO, IDAHO

ENCAMPMENT PRICING COMING SOON



JOIN US AT THE TYHEE STAKE CENTER
12146 W. Tyhee Rd., Pocatello, Idaho
September 17-19, 2026

Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 17th

- Temple Session at 10:00 am
- arrive at 9:15 am (sessions every 1/2 hour)
- 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Registration activities at the Tyhee Stake Center, (DUP) pioneer games, crafts, family history, local history, western night.
- 6:00 pm Welcome and Dinner
- 7:00 pm Speaker: Bryan Murray, retired judge speaking on Pocatello history followed by entertainment - Boyd Murdock, Roy McKee (music), and Todd Andrus (cowboy poet)

Friday, September 18th

- 8:00 am Registration
- Full-Day and Half-Day Tours
- 6:00 pm Dinner and Guest Speaker Timothy J. Dyches, Emeritus 70 - [more info](#)
- Entertainment by Angel Tones

Saturday, September 19th (Box Lunch Provided)

- 8:00 am National Board Members Mtg.
- 10:00 am Business Meeting for all SUP Members.
- 10:00 am Spouse's meeting, speaker TBD



Full-Day Tours (Lunch provided for each attendee)

Friday, September 18th

- 1 - ATV Trail head at 9:30 am.
1st meet at 8200 West Portneuf Rd. at 9:00 am (Mink Creek Ward building [Map](#)). Then proceed as a group to the trailhead.



Scout Mtn. Rd. is located on the West side of Scout Mountain in the Bannock Range, just south of Pocatello, Idaho, within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is accessed via the Mink Creek Recreation Area (South Fork of the Mink Creek Rd. off of the main Mink Creek Rd. via Bannock Hwy.). The area features steep, forested terrain (Douglas fir, aspen) and is accessible by hiking and motorized trails, including high-clearance 4x4 trails. **Important Note:** Out of State attendees - get Idaho ATV permit from the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

- 2 - Visit Malad Historical Sites
- bus Leaves at 8:30 am from the Tyhee Stake Center.



Due to the nineteenth century immigration to the Malad Valley of hundreds of Welsh converts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this area has been recognized for having the largest concentration of Welsh people and their descendants in the world, second only to Wales itself. Come and see who these people are and where, and how they turned this amazing valley into the great place it is today. Four participants will visit the Oneida County Pioneer Museum in Malad City, and the Malad Valley Heritage Square in

Samaria. The tour will include actual restored cabins of Olive Davis Osmond (mother of "The Osmonds"), Jesse James (the famous outlaw), and Frank Clark (well-known campfire legend, who barely saved his own life by killing the grizzly bear, Old Ephraim) and others. The restoration of the Frank Clark cabin is currently underway and will hopefully be ready in time for the national encampment. Stops are also planned at the Samaria Cemetery, and the "Blue Goose" historic saloon, that is now a local confectionary and historical souvenir store.

- Theme -
"Gateway to the West"

JOIN US AT THE TYHEE STAKE CENTER
12146 W. Tyhee Rd., Pocatello, Idaho
September 17-19, 2026

Full-Day Tours (continued)

Note: All buses leave at 8:30 am from the Tyhee Stake Center

- 3 - Visit historic Chesterfield townsite and Soda Springs.

[More Info](#)



- 4 - Visit Blackfoot, Idaho historic sites and Potato Museum, Sho-Ban Museum and Honey Bee operation.

[More Info](#)



- 5 - Visit American Falls Idaho historical sites - Register Rock, Massacre Rocks, Oregon Trail, Power County Museum and potato processing.

[More Info](#)



Half-Day Tours (Instructions and maps provided)

Friday, September 18th

- 6a - Visit Idaho State University - 9:00 am in the Morning - personal auto to the [ICCU Dome](#). (Celebrating 125 year anniversary) Visit Strategic Rocks, Performing Arts Center, EAMES Reactor Simulator.

- 6p - Visit Idaho State University - 1:00 pm in the Afternoon - personal auto to the [ICCU Dome](#). (Celebrating 125 year anniversary) Visit [Nuclear Reactor Lab](#), EAMES Reactor Simulator (Richard Lindsay - presenter) and the [Performing Arts Center](#).

- 7a - Visit historic Pocatello - 9:00 am in the morning - personal auto to the Museum of Clean then visit the museum and historic ZCMI Memorial Building close by. [More Info](#)

- 7p - Visit historic Pocatello - 1:00 pm in the afternoon - personal auto to the Bannock County Museum. Visit the museum, and Fort Hall Replica then the miniature railroad. [More Info](#)

Lodging Options

Dump Station for campers 850 Barton Rd., Pocatello, ID - open May 15th through November 15th

Hotels and places to stay
[Trip Advisor for Hotels & Places to Stay in Pocatello](#)



Best Western
1415 Bench Rd.
Pocatello, ID
(208) 471-5212



SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS

National Trek

OCTOBER 13-23, 2026



IN CELEBRATION OF 250 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
1776-2026

★ ★ MAJOR SITES WE PLAN TO VISIT ★ ★



PHILADELPHIA

- Oct. 13** Travel Day
Oct. 14-16 Sites in Philly
- Museum of the American Revolution
 - Independence Hall
 - Washington Crossing State Park
 - The Barracks
 - Valley Forge
 - National Constitution Center



GETTYSBURG

- Oct. 17**
National Military Park



WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Oct. 18-22** Sites
Oct. 23 Travel Day
- U.S. Capital Building
 - National Mall (Museums and Memorials)
 - White House (exterior only)
 - Arlington Cemetery
 - Mount Vernon
 - Holocaust Museum
 - Washington D.C. Temple



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



REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT
\$400 per person will seal
your spot, check only



SPACE IS LIMITED
Reserve your seat by calling
Pat at SUP 801.484.4441



REGISTRATION DEADLINE
August 1st



PRICE UP TO \$2,800 PER PERSON

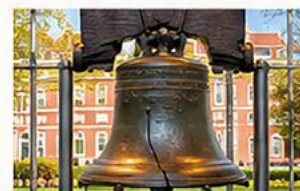
Depending on the number of travelers
sharing a hotel room

We will attempt to match solo travelers
desiring a roommate



**AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED
IN THIS TOUR**

Guests are welcome to book
their flights now Please submit
airfare schedule to Pat at the
SUP office supnatloffice@gmail.com

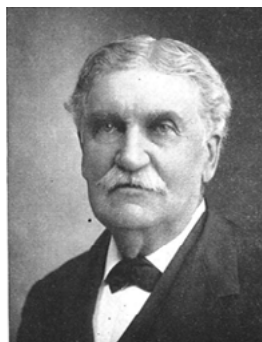




PIONEER STORIES

SAMUEL WHITNEY RICHARDS

Samuel W. Richards, born in Richmond, Mass., August 9, 1824, was the sixth child of Wealthy Dewy and Phineas Richards. . . . A cousin - Brigham (Young) introduced Phineas to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and to Joseph Smith.



Samuel was baptized (as) member of the church at the age of fourteen and spent most of his life in service of - the LDS Church.

When he was fifteen, Samuel went on the first of his several missions for this church. Being so young and articulate, he attracted

a great deal of attention in his travels through New York, Connecticut and Vermont. Three years later, he and his family moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. At Nauvoo, Samuel put his skills as a carpenter to use as he helped build the Nauvoo Temple. He was called to be a member of the group assigned by Joseph Smith to explore in the Rocky Mountains and areas (of the) West, to find a place for the members of the church to settle. This assignment was never completed due to the death of Joseph Smith.

Samuel married Mary Haskin Parker in the Nauvoo Temple on January 29, 1846. They lived in Nauvoo (as) Samuel worked daily at the Temple (despite) the gathering storm of opposition to the church members.

In April of 1846, Samuel writes in his daily journal . . . "Brigham's council is that all the honest in heart be out of this City and County as soon as possible . . . I guess the brethren will have to scatter and leave this place."

By the middle of May, he had gathered their

belongings together and had taken Mary across the river where they said their goodbyes. Mary traveled on to Winter Quarters and Samuel returned to Nauvoo to join his brother, Franklin.

On July 7, Samuel and Franklin set out on their mission to England. They traveled by way of St. Louis to Pittsburg and then to New York. Along the way, they gathered food, bedding and generous gifts of money to help them on their mission. Before sailing, Samuel sent Mary a small box containing a photo of himself, gifts, ten dollars and a letter.

This mission spanned two years and . . . in February of 1848 when the brothers sailed for America. They brought with them one hundred and thirty converts to the church. In May (1848), Samuel rejoined Mary at Winter Quarters, where they remained for a year. During this winter in Iowa, Samuel and Mary had as their guests, Oliver Cowdery and his wife. A visit that proved to be quite interesting in that Oliver Cowdery wrote and signed what was to be his last testimony of the LDS Church while he was in their home.

Mary and Samuel's first child, Mary Amelia, was born in April of 1849. Several months later, they crossed the plains to Salt Lake City where they were allotted some land adjoining that of Samuel's brothers and father. Samuel built a house and farmed the acre; a son, Samuel Parker, was born in 1850.

Another call to the British Mission came in 1852. Samuel left before a third child was due to be born,

this son died as an infant.

Arriving in Europe, Samuel labored in France and Switzerland as well as England. In 1852, Brigham Young appointed Samuel to be Agent of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Co. This fund provided financial assistance for converts emigrating to Utah. Samuel handled these funds, chartered ships and otherwise did what was needed to assure converts a safe and healthy passage to the United States.

Over the years, Samuel spent a total of nine years in the British Mission, part of it as Mission President. He and his brother, Franklin, helped 14,364 people to emigrate to the United States as converts to the LDS Church.

Samuel was a prolific writer; he published and edited a periodical called the Millennial Star while he was in England. He also had a great feeling for history and realizing the importance of records, kept detailed journals and diaries during most of his life. He was a gifted speaker and was often called upon to share his ideas and theories.

. . . During Samuel's long and useful life, he held many positions of service to others; he was always willing to learn and anxious to share his knowledge with others. He died (November 26), 1909, a much revered and respected gentleman.²

1 Photo from familysearch.org

2 21st Century Pioneer Presentation given by Reed Richards to the Ogden Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers (on) 9 January 2017. Submitted by the Ogden Chapter to the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers Library.

Monument Trek



"First Statewide" Pioneer Day Celebration

UPTLA #14 | GPS: N40 36 12.8, W111 35 04.8 ELEVATION 8746 FEET (40.6035556, -111.5846667)

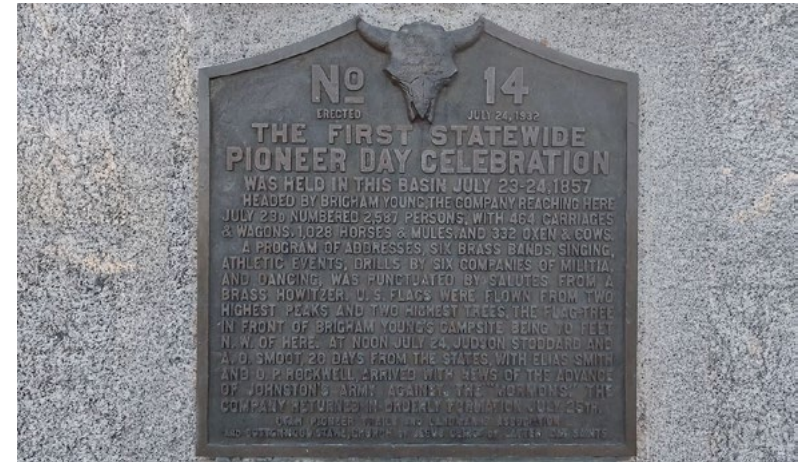
In a community named after William Stuart Brighton on top of Big Cottonwood Canyon, the first "statewide" (Utah wasn't a state yet) celebration of the 24th of July was held on July 23 -24 1857. The celebration was headed by Brigham Young, and included 2,587 persons, with 464 carriages & wagons, 1028 horses & mules and 332 oxen and cows.

A program of addresses, six brass bands, singing, athletic events, drills by six companies of Militia, and dancing, was punctuated by salutes from a brass Howitzer. U.S. flags were flown from two highest peaks and two highest trees, the flag-tree in front of Brigham Young's campsite being 70 feet N.W. of where the monument now stands.

At noon July 24, Judson Stoddard and A. O. Smoot, 20 days from the States, with Elias Smith and O. P. Rockwell, arrived with news of the advance of Johnston's Army against the "Mormons". The Company returned in orderly formation July 25th.

"William Stuart Brighton established Brighton Camp, and then Brighton Village. William Brighton, his wife Catherine, their two children Janet and Mary, and his sister Annie, came to America from Scotland in 1855, and traveled west in 1857. They experienced a difficult journey, burying Mary at sea and little Janet walking barefoot across the plains. The Brighton family created a famous center for recreation and leisure when they built Brighton Hotel. Their contributions made a significant difference in Salt Lake society, with visitors flocking to the mountains for good food, dancing, and beautiful scenery." (Beginnings of Big Cottonwood Canyon: Brighton Village's Forerunner, William S. Brighton, Abigail Clayton, Brigham Young University, click [HERE](#) for article.

More information on the SUP Interactive Map click [HERE](#).



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!

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Coby Rich Jordan River Temple
D Kevin Poff Bountiful
Danny Brock Ogden Valley
James O Coleman ... Hurricane Valley
Malcolm Russell Salt Lake Pioneer
Paul Kelly Taylorsville
Richard C Workman Murray
Robin Platt Ogden Pioneer
Steven Hunt Cotton Mission
Todd Stepan Jordan River Temple

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Marilyn Barton Holladay

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Clayne Arthur Centerville
Conard Jensen Upper Snake River Valley
David J Evans Cotton Mission
Steven S Nelson Centerville



FOR UPCOMING SUP NATIONAL EVENTS, CLICK HERE

BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada



Scholarship Recipients

The Boulder Dam Chapter held its annual Scholarship Awards Evening on May 7, 2026. The families of those receiving awards were invited to attend the chapter activity. Ned Shamo, our chapter treasurer, shared stories of his pioneer heritage. He also spoke about when he and his parents moved to Boulder City while it was still a federal government city. President Doug Thompson and Scholarship Director Randy Dyer presented the Boulder Dam Chapter scholarships: a \$1,000 scholarship to Mariah Torgesen and a \$500 scholarship to Audrey Humes. In addition, three SUP National "Tomorrow's Pioneer"

Scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to Mariah Torgesen, Audrey Humes, and Sierra Ripplinger. We enjoyed desserts provided by the Boulder Dam Chapter. Our next chapter activity will be on September 26, 2026, when we will visit the site of the new Lone Mountain Temple in Las Vegas, which is currently under construction. Afterward, we will have a picnic at Mt. Charleston, hoping the leaves will have started to change colors. Our chapter also completed a service project at the Old Mormon Fort under the direction of Jim Donohoo.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Abby Mageras

Our Centerville Chapter met for a potluck dinner on June 3rd. We then had special presentations by two youth from our Centerville area. Maddie Chan was our 4th grade essay contest winner who received \$100 for her wonderful reflections of pioneers and Abby Mageras was the winner of the Tomorrow's Pioneers Scholarship and will receive money towards her school of choice.

Our speaker for the evening was Ronald C. Gunnell. Brother Gunnell joined the Tabernacle Choir as a singer in 1996 but was soon called and set apart by Church leaders as the Executive Producer for Global Talent and Assistance to the President securing the services of leading artists and cultural figures. He told many fascinating stories of experiences he has had in that position. His first experience was Christmas 2000 when he met with President Hinkley who was concerned how they were going to fill the Conference Center; they ended up filling it for three nights. The next year he contacted Angela Lansbury and was not sure how, or if, he could get her to come. He sent her two dozen white flowers with one red rose in the middle along with his name and phone number. He went to L.A. to meet

with her to make arrangements. Ron has sent her flowers every year since then. The next year President Hinkley wanted Walter Cronkite. Mr. Cronkite's secretary told Ron that his fee was \$100,000, Ron had the impression to tell him (without approval from the choir leadership) that they don't pay money but what if they let him conduct with the choir in front of 20,000 people for four nights Handel's Messiah. When Mr. Cronkite heard that he screamed "Yes!!!" he would love to do it and that was a beginning of a great friendship between Ron and him. Ron told stories of several others he has worked with including Bryn Terfel, Tom, Natalie Cole and others. Natalie Cole who asked Ron, "Why has your church been so mean to us?" He told her things have changed since those days and explained what is happening currently around the world. She met with President Monson and he gave her a book of her genealogy. Tom Brockaw was also an important guest who read WWII stories during the concert. Another group Ron was able to procure was the Muppets and Big Bird got to conduct the Choir. There were so many spiritual experiences Brother Gunnell shared with us and it was truly a wonderful evening for our chapter.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Don Hinton

The Cotton Mission Chapter held our monthly dinner meeting June 16. Our speaker for the June dinner was Donald Ray Hinton. Last September, Don and his wife Ada completed 18 months of service in the Philippines Manila Mission, which was the subject of this month's presentation. Don was called by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the Southern Far East Mission for 2½ years, serving in Hong Kong for 14½ months before being transferred to the Alaskan/Canadian Mission to open Chinese work there. Don's church service includes serving as Bishop, Stake President, Mission President in the China Hong Kong Mission, Executive Secretary

to three Area 70s, and as a counselor in the St. George Temple Presidency. Both Don and Ada attended Dixie College in St. George, Utah. Both graduated with bachelor's degrees from Brigham Young University. Don went on to obtain a master's degree from BYU and was commissioned an officer from BYU's Army ROTC program. He went on to serve on active duty for 5 years. Later he studied and received a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. His career was as a professor and dean at Dixie State University, from which he retired in December of 2014.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Chesterfield

Due to local events taking place next month for Pioneer Day Celebrations we moved our annual summer picnic ahead one month, to June. Arrangements were made with the Daughters of Utah Pioneers, who manage and maintain the Iona Idaho Historical Museum where our Wagon Box Prophecy Monument is displayed, so those attending would have time to view the artifacts of the Museum. See: <https://eaglerocksup.org/index.php/local-history-and-monuments/> for details and history of this Monument. Later, Chapter Business was conducted and then a simple meal of chicken, homemade root beer, and potluck

salads/desserts was served and enjoyed with time to socialize. A DUP Camp was invited to attend which several did with their spouse, also the Museum curators were among several of the guests. After the meal we listened to Jerry Hatch's Life History, now a local member of our community. During his life, he moved frequently and spent some of his growing up years in Chesterfield. This was a pioneer community west of Pocatello near Bancroft that is in process of being restored as funding and time permits. See website [HERE](#).

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Jerry Borrowman

This night, the Jordan River Chapter was blessed by a very inspiring message from noted author, Jerry Borrowman. Joseph Banks co-authored with Jerry Borrowman the book "A Distant Prayer, Miracles of the 49th Combat Mission." Joseph Banks was the co-pilot of the B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber of World War II. This airplane was noted for its ability to keep flying even though heavily damaged by artillery fire. Joseph told Jerry Borrowman that he often asks himself, why was my life spared during all the conflicts I experienced. Their conclusion was so he could share his personal history of World War II experiences.

To be sure no details were missed, Jerry Borrowman actually read some paragraphs from this book to the audience. For example, after a bombing mission to some German oil fields, they experienced heavy artillery fire. As they were limping back to their airbase, they noted the sky in front of them filled with aircraft—thought to be German fighter planes. Upon further investigation however, it turned out to be American P-38 fighter planes coming to escort them back safely to Italy. Other similar miraculous experiences were also shared with us on this night.

MT NEBO CHAPTER - Nephi, Utah



Scholarships

Every year, the Mt. Nebo Chapter of the SUP gives scholarships to deserving students enrolled in Future Farmers of America programs at Payson High School and Salem Hills High School. This year we were able to give four \$1,000 scholarships thanks to the generous contributions of chapter members and some local businesses. The recipients were Kodie Vincent (l.) and Kayleigh Musso (r.) from Payson High School and Grant Stevens (l.) and Brock James (r.) from Salem Hills High School. We honor these remarkable students for their talent and service. On May 28, we held our monthly dinner meeting. The speaker was Zander Sturgill. Zander talked about "Early Interactions of Native Americans and Europeans in Utah." Zander is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter-day Saints, and he is also a descendent of the Indigenous Peoples. He tries not to portray either side as right or wrong, but rather, his goal is to provide a factual account of the lives of both groups and of their relationships with each other. The LDS Pioneers generally thought of all Native Americans as Lamanites who had a divine destiny. But they also believed that could only fulfil this destiny by becoming like the Pioneers themselves. The Native Americans saw that their lifestyles were being disrupted by the European settlers. This led to cooperation at times and conflict at other times. These natural conflicts included several battles and massacres, some of which were not far from Payson.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Jean Tonioli

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met on Monday, 8 June, at the Ogden Comfort Suites Inn & Conference Center for its monthly luncheon. The program included the presentation of a scholarship to Brynlee Richins of Ben Lomond High School Seminary. She was sick when the chapter presented a scholarship to one student from each of the seven high school seminaries in Weber County. Shaun Myers shared a Pioneer Moment from the life of his 3rd great grandfather, John Martin, Sr. (1828-1915). The balance of the program was Jean Tonioli. She is the co-author of several books with renowned storyteller, Glen Rawson, and her son, Jason Tonioli. *STORIES OF THE HYMNS* (Volume 1), and *STORIES OF THE HYMNS* (Volume 2) served as the basis for her presentation. She selected six or seven

Hymns familiar to all. She began her presentation by explaining the importance of story-telling and how stories, when coupled with music, have a much more powerful influence on us. She shared stories of both the lyricists and the composers of the hymns. Most of the hymns that she chose to talk about focused on the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of this Nation. They included God Bless America, Battle Hymn of the Republic, The Star-Spangled Banner, My Country Tis of Thee, Yankee Doodle, You're a Grand Ole Flag, Onward Christian Soldiers, and others. Much of the fun was her leading us in singing the first verse of each of the hymns that she included in her program. It was a very informative and interesting presentation mixed with humor.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



DUP Royalty

Our monthly meeting featured the queen and princesses for the Days of '47 Parade. Young women from throughout Utah were evaluated in March by a panel of judges based on personal goals, education, accomplishments, leadership, values, community service, and their Utah pioneer heritage.

The 2026 Royalty will reign over the Days of '47 Parade, Rodeo, Pops concert and other events during the month of July. They will continue to represent the State of Utah, Days of '47 and International Society Daughters of Utah Pioneers for the upcoming twelve months.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah

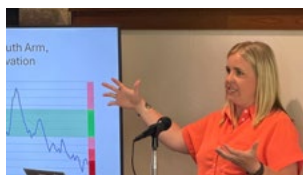


Darrell Johnson

"What history lesson?" Darrell Johnson operator of the Johnson Land and Livestock, LLC, in Rush Valley, Tooele County gave a 170-year history lesson of Ranching in Tooele County to the members of the Settlement Canyon Chapter on June 4, 2026. Darrell grew up working on the ranch and planned how he would run it until he got his chance in 1962 when he began to purchase land from his uncles. He partnered with his father, Orson, until 1988. One of Darrell's first major initiatives was transforming his land from a juniper/sage community to grassland. This was accomplished through a combination of chaining and prescribed fire, as well as fencing to limit cattle access. This transition resulted in a significant increase in water flow, including year-round streams that have created riparian areas on the ranch. He worked with the Utah State Division

of Wildlife Resources in selecting a grass seed mix that would enhance habitat for mule deer and sage grouse. Darrell places a high emphasis on agricultural education and outreach, beginning with his two sons, Bryan and Ed, who live on the ranch and contribute to the day-to-day operation. Darrell spoke about environmental science and range management. The Johnsons also open their ranch to research, including projects on soil fertility and erosion control. To quote Darrell when he received the 2008 Leopold Conservation Award for his ranch, "I believe the best way to educate everyone, from those unsympathetic to ranching operations to fellow producers, is to be willing to show them the rewards we have reaped by being good stewards of the resources we own and control."

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Hanna Freeze

The June meeting of the Temple Fork Chapter was held at the Logan Country Club. Following a delicious dinner we heard from Mrs. Hanna Freeze. She is the assistant commissioner of the Great Salt Lake Commission. She discussed the history of

the Great Salt Lake, rises and falls, weather patterns, and the efforts to preserve the lake for wildlife, recreation, business and as a focal point of Utah.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



David Roskelley



Scholarships

During our June Timpanogos Chapter meeting, David Roskelley challenged members to consider the value of doing difficult things. An environmental engineer, he shared experiences from his work on the seismic renovation of the Salt Lake Temple, helping preserve historic elements while preparing the historic structure to withstand future earthquakes. Drawing from his career and mountaineering, Roskelley taught that growth comes through challenge. He described climbing Mount Everest, completing the Seven Summits and Seven Volcanic Summits, and skiing to the South Pole, emphasizing perseverance, preparation, and optimism. Roskelley connected these experiences to the pioneers, who faced uncertainty, sacrifice, and hardship in pursuit of a better future. Quoting David L. Beck, he reminded members that the Church has always been built by people willing to do hard things. Though he has reached some of the world's highest peaks, Roskelley said service brings him the greatest satisfaction. He encouraged everyone to set meaningful goals, serve others, and keep growing. His message: "Do Something Difficult."

2026 Scholarship Winners: Each year, the Timpanogos Chapter is honored to recognize outstanding youth in our community through its scholarship program. This year's recipients showed courage, faith, resilience, creativity, and a deep respect for the pioneer legacy they have inherited. Through personal essays, poetry, and examples from their own lives, these students reminded us that pioneer values are still very much alive. They are found in students who keep going through illness, adversity, disappointment, and difficulty; in those who value education; and in those who want to serve and strengthen the communities around them. One student wrote, "Sometimes it's easy to focus on the trials that life hands us. Still, trials can also make us stronger." That spirit reflects the heart of the pioneers and the promise of the rising generation. We express our sincere gratitude to the generous donors whose support makes these scholarships possible.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Danny Ricks

Danny Ricks, Religion Professor at BYU Idaho and descendant of Thomas E. Ricks, framed his talk around qualities of willingness to sacrifice self-interest, diligence, frugality, obedience, and integrity. He then illustrated each through episodes from Thomas E. Ricks's life.

Key biographical highlights covered: Thomas E. Ricks was born in Kentucky, joined the Church at 16 (a few years after his family, owing to his stubbornness), and crossed the plains at 21. He participated in numerous missions and assignments, including helping settle Las Vegas as a way station, taking part in the Martin and Willie handcart rescues, settling and becoming wealthy in Logan, Utah, serving missions (including one to England to avoid an arrest from Sheriff Dubois over plural marriage), being imprisoned six months for plural marriage, and ultimately being called by John Taylor to become bishop in southeastern Idaho, where he founded the academy. Brother Ricks emphasized Thomas

E. Ricks's physical hardships: a childhood horse accident which left one leg three inches shorter and being shot three times recovering stolen cattle and carrying the bullets in his body for life. During that ordeal he reportedly heard a voice telling him he would live to do great work in the valleys of the mountains. Other anecdotes included the romance of how Ricks met his wife Tomar during the handcart rescue ("love often blossoms over brisket"), his legendary frugality (a two-day, four-dollar journey to avoid overpaying for matches), his rapid obedience in accepting the Idaho call and leaving his Logan fortune behind, and his determination to keep the struggling academy open by personally soliciting donations of cattle and materials. His presentation closed with Joseph F. Smith's tribute describing Ricks as a nobler and grander man than he was ever given credit for, and Brother Ricks connected the pioneers' sacrifices to the audience's own contributions.