

Trail Marker

VOLUME 21

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 235

3 NUMBER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Put your shoulder to the wheel, push along." This is a saying that I learned in my youth from both my dad as well as through a favorite song regularly sung in church services. These words were also reinforced in my mind through the example of absolute work ethic that my parents exemplified every day of their lives.

When I was young, my dad volunteered both he and I to hoe weeds in the tomato patch at the stake farm. I remember arriving for the assignment and when finding that we were the only two who showed up, I exclaimed "Great, we can go home. Nobody showed up," to which my dad replied, "It doesn't matter who shows up, we still have an assignment to fulfill." This was a great lesson in my life. I learned that as long as I had my dad by my side that we could complete anything. Yes, we did spend much more time at the stake farm than we would have if a crowd would have shown up, but it was fun as we did the work with a "heart full of song" ... OK, and we literally sang as we worked.

I am also grateful to have been surrounded throughout my life by wonderful people who showed me how to put my shoulder to the wheel - church leaders, schoolteachers, co-workers, among others. I continue to be surrounded by each of you who put your shoulders to the wheel in the Sons of Utah Pioneers organization just like our pioneer ancestors did. They worked hard and always had a song in their heart.

We just completed our Chapter President's Council training sessions, where I witnessed Chapter Presidents from across our organization gather to earnestly learn how to better fulfill their roles as leaders. As long as we are united and strive together, we can move any wheel. And yes, we did sing a favorite song like we should at any good gathering - "Come, Come, Ye Saints." Thank you all for being an example in my life.

Put your shoulder to the wheel; push along. Do your duty with a heart full of song. We all have work; let no one shirk. Put your shoulder to the wheel.

Val Parrish | 2025 National President

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APR 19

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS CLEAN UP DAY

DETAILS WILL BE EMAILED OUT CLOSER TO THE DAY

Everyone is invited to help.

APR 26

NATIONAL HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM

CANYON RIM STAKE CENTER - 3051 S. 2900 E., SALT LAKE CITY

1pm: "Influence of the Tabernacle Choir Around the World" | Ronald C. Gunnell - Tabernacle Choir Envoy

2pm: "Our Tabernacle Choir Experience Over Many Years" | Doug & Jill Furness

3pm: "My and my Mother's Experiences as LDS Songwriters" | Lynne Perry Christofferson

4pm: "Working Together as an LDS Songwriter and Lyricist" | Vanja Y. Watkins & Marvin K. Gardner

SUP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - DINNER MEETING & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

6:15pm: "Early and Forgotten Hymns That Shaped the Restoration" | John Bringhurst

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR TICKETS

JULY 21

SUPER DUPER DAY AT THIS IS THE PLACE PARK

JULY 24

DAYS OF '47 SUNRISE SERVICE

JULY 24

DAYS OF '47 PARADE

SEP 18-20

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT - OGDEN

DEC 6

NATIONAL BOARD / CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

NATIONAL NEWS

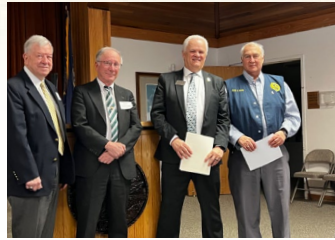
CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S TRAINING



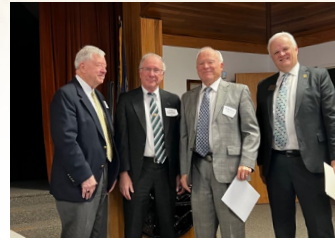
2025 CHAPTER AWARDS



*Certificate of Recognition
Bountiful Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Box Elder Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Brigham Young Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Cedar City Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Cotton Mission Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Hurricane Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Jordan Rive Temple Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Maple Mountain Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Morgan Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Ogden Pioneer Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Porter Rockwell Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Portneuf Pioneers Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Sevier Valley Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Temple Fork Chapter*



*Certificate of Recognition
Timpanogos Chapter*



*Certificate of Excellence
Upper Snake River Valley Chapter*

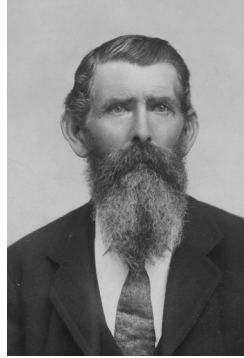


PIONEER STORIES

WILLIAM JASPER HARRIS

By great granddaughter, Carole Call King (condensed)

William Jasper Harris was born at Geneva, Morgan County, Illinois on October 25, 1836. William's father died in 1841, leaving William's mother, Emily Harris, a widow with the two children. Being left without support, Emily took her little family to live with her sister, 30 miles from Nauvoo, IL. They were converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and Emily married Abraham Owen Smoot. They suffered through persecutions in Nauvoo and eventually made the journey to Utah.



walking behind him carrying a brass bucket full of corn which he was planting in the furrow behind the plow. Suddenly lightning struck the brass bucket and melted it. Abbott was killed instantly from the charge. William was knocked unconscious, badly burned, and dragged for some distance by the frightened team.

Patriarch John Smith, Martha Ann's half-brother, happened along the way, the first time he had gone that route in three years. He found William quite a distance away from Abbott. John

William lived at the Smoot home in Salt Lake until he was called to go on a mission to England. At this time William had become very friendly with Martha Ann Smith, who was the orphaned daughter of Hyrum and Mary Fielding Smith. Martha Ann felt sad to have William called to go so far away, but she was handy with her needle and willing to help his mother in the work of preparing things for his journey. Together, Martha Ann and his mother made heavy hand knitted stockings, homespun clothes and gathered provisions and bedding for him to take with him.

William went to the Endowment House in Salt Lake to receive his blessings and to be set apart for his mission by Elder Orson Hyde. Afterward President Young asked the young men in the group if they had sweethearts they would like to marry. William said he did. Brigham Young told him to "Go bring her here right soon and be married before you go!" That afternoon Martha Ann was greatly surprised when William came rushing in the house and said, "Get your sunbonnet, Martha, and come with me. We are going to get married!" So, Martha climbed into the wagon and they went to the Endowment House to be married by President Brigham Young. It was 21 April 1857, three weeks before Martha Ann's sixteenth birthday.

Two days after their marriage, William left his young wife in the care of his mother and left for his mission in company with seventy other elders. Foot worn and weary they arrived in New York on 27 June 1857, and prepared to take the ship for England. The sea voyage was very rough and William suffered from seasickness. The missionaries arrived at Liverpool, England after a passage of 26 days. William served faithfully on his mission & was released early with other missionaries after serving 16 months, this because of the Johnson's Army scare in Utah.

One rainy day William and Joseph Abbot were plowing a field about where Pioneer Park is now. Joseph Abbott was

thought his brother-in-law was dead as he picked him up and saw his mouth filled with dirt and blood. John got him breathing again and found help to take William home to Martha Ann. With her faith and prayers and untiring care over many weeks, Martha nursed her husband back to life, although he was never a strong man after this tragic incident. The family always felt sure the Lord sent Patriarch John Smith at that moment to save William's life.

One of William's grandsons recalled: "When Grandpa told us children to do anything, we knew he meant business. I well remember as long as memory lasts the day, I decided to take my sisters and cousins for a ride in Grandpa's surrey. I was about seven years old and all the others were younger. The children all climbed in behind, and I in front. Old Nig was tied to the hitching post and I was giving him a brisk lashing with a fancy new buggy whip. Nig wasn't going anywhere but he was stepping forwards and backwards plenty fast. Grandpa saw the predicament and hurried to the rescue. After quieting the horse, he set me firmly on the ground by the ear and told me in a way I have never forgotten that I couldn't go for a buggy ride with the horse fastened to a hitching post."

On Friday, 23 April 1909, William went with his son, Joseph A., to attend a performance given at the Opera House in Provo to honor the Black Hawk Indian War veterans. They were returning home about 11 o'clock and were just crossing Center street when William was hit by a team of horses. He was severely injured and died a few hours later.

William Jasper Harris was a faithful Latter Day Saint doing all in his power to be a true citizen and an honest man. At the time of his death, he was 72 years of age. His funeral was planned by the family after they were able to communicate with his three sons who were working out of state. He is buried in the Provo City Cemetery.

Monument Trek

Salem Arizona Settlement



AN EARLY SPRING TREK TO ST JOHNS, ARIZONA

SUP #14 - GPS: N34 30 52.15, W109 22 19.15 elevation 5694 feet (34.5144861, -109.3719861)

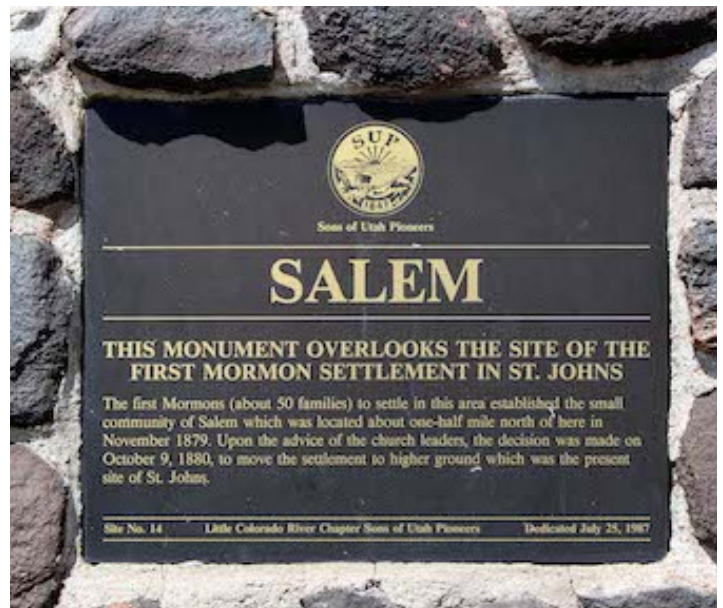
A monument memorializing the first settlement in St. Johns, Arizona in November 1879, is in the St. Johns Cemetery. Salem, the first settlement of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was comprised of about 50 families. They settled this area and established the small community. Salem was located about one-half mile north of where the monument stands today. Upon the advice of the church leaders, the decision was made on October 9, 1880, to move the settlement to higher ground which is the present site of St. Johns.

According to Wikipedia, the location of St. Johns was originally called Tsézhin Deez'áhi in Navajo, a reference to its rock formations. The site of a useful crossing of the Little Colorado River, it was later called El Vadito (Spanish for "the little crossing") by Spaniards as they first explored the area. Starting in 1864, a trader named Solomon Barth began crossing the area as he moved salt from a salt lake in Zuni territory to Prescott, Arizona. In a poker game in 1873 Barth earned enough money to purchase cattle and enough land in St. Johns to start a ranch with his brothers Nathan and Morris. He changed the name from El Vadito to

San Juan. There is some controversy as to whether this was in honor of the first woman resident, Maria San Juan Baca de Padilla, or of the feast of San Juan. William R. Milligan arrived in 1866, followed by Frank Walker in 1870. By 1872 a Spanish-American agricultural community had developed. A stone cabin was erected by Juan Sedilla in 1874. Solomon Barth sold out to a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ammon M. Tenney in 1875 or 1879. The Church members named the community Salem and was led by David King Udall and established just north of the town under the direction of Wilford Woodruff and then moved to higher ground by Erastus Snow.

Today, St. Johns has a population of 3,480 according to the 2010 census and is the county seat of Apache County in Arizona.

The monument was placed in 1987 by the SUP Little Colorado River Chapter, which no longer exists today. It's of interest to note that this was one of the first monuments to implement an anodized aluminum plaque lasting these 38 years.



THE TRAIL MARKER NEWS

Compiled by Roland Lee

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

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

NAMECHAPTER

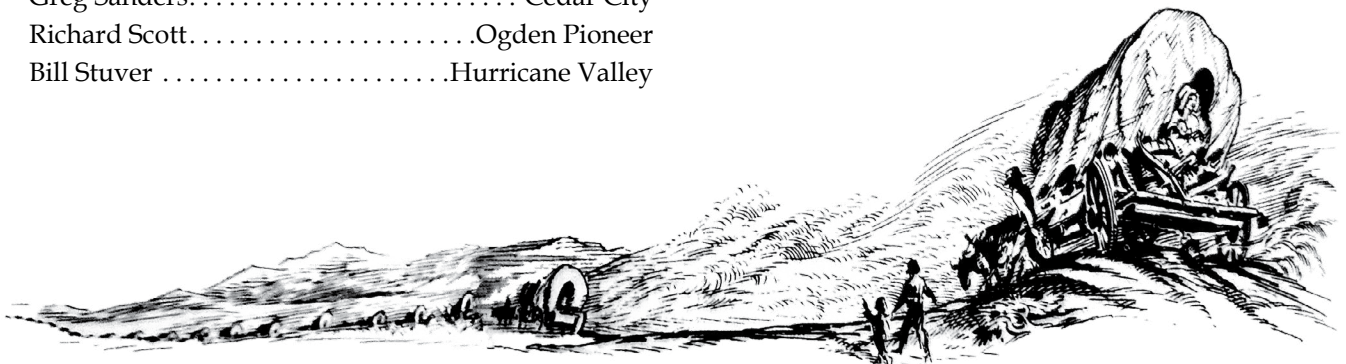
NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Sean Andersen Pocatello (Portneuf Pioneers)
 Joseph Anderson Temple Fork
 Larry Ashurst Sevier Valley
 Jordan Christensen. . . Pioneer Heritage-Canyon Rim
 Allen Endicott. Ogden Pioneer
 Brad Hales. Centerville
 Kert Howard. Pocatello (Portneuf Pioneers)
 Frank F Judd Mt Nebo
 John Manis Hurricane Valley
 Carl Nielson Maple Mountain
 Douglas Nielson. Eagle Rock
 Craig Oberg. Ogden Valley
 Kinley Peterson Sevier Valley
 D Alan Rasmussen. Brigham Young
 Greg Sanders. Cedar City
 Richard Scott. Ogden Pioneer
 Bill Stuver Hurricane Valley

NAMECHAPTER

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Norman Beers. Centerville
 Arthur Fenstermaker Holladay
 Michael B Smurthwaite. Jordan River Temple
 Richard G Sumsion . . Pioneer Heritage-Canyon Rim
 Max Turpin Cotton Mission



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

BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada



Valentine's Dinner & Concert

The Boulder Dam Chapter had our annual Valentine's dinner on the 13th of February at the 5th Street Chapel and had 36 in attendance. We had Cafe Rio with homemade brownies and cheesecake. The gym was set up nicely and the tables and chairs were all decorated perfectly for the occasion. We had

a father and son guitar performance, which was great. We sang along and a little dancing was also involved. The members and their wives all had a great time visiting and getting together. Our March trek is planned for the 22nd to Pearce Ferry.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Steven C. Harper

Historian and faithful Latter-day Saint Steven C. Harper recently presented a lecture titled "Joseph Smith and Money Digging," based on his book *Wrestling with the Restoration*. His talk explored Joseph Smith's early use of seer stones, the cultural context of the time, and the divine role of seership. Joseph Smith was hired by Josiah Stowell to locate buried treasure, as belief in seership and spiritual sight was common in the early 19th century. Though Stowell's nephew later accused Joseph of fraud, historical records show Stowell himself defended Joseph's abilities. Harper shared how Joseph

discovered his first seer stone while digging a well and later demonstrated its use by locating a lost pin in the bushes. This connects to the Book of Mormon, where seer stones are described as divine instruments used by prophets. Harper also noted that figures like Queen Elizabeth's advisor John Dee and Isaac Newton sought spiritual knowledge through similar means. He concluded that while seer stones played a role in Joseph's early experiences, the true miracle was his prophetic mission and the restored gospel, which testifies of Jesus Christ and continuing revelation.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Diminished Faculties

The Cedar City Chapter of SUP sponsored two events in February. The first was a Valentines Dance on February 14th. In addition to a plethora of desserts, we were treated to a live band, "Diminished Faculties." It is a local band made up of current and former faculty members of Southern Utah University, hence the name. Attendance was a little less than we would normally get due to cold rainy weather, the first rain we have had in many weeks.

Our second event was our annual Spring Devotional held on Sunday evening February

23rd. Our featured speaker was Elder Vance K. Smith, a native of Cedar City and one of the Utah Area seventies. His topic was "Hastening" and he told a number of stories from his own ancestors and the scriptures about the importance of hastening when the Lord directs something to be done. He also related interactions he has had with the presiding brethren of the Church indicating the need to hasten the work in preparation for the second coming of the Savior. Music was provided by the Master Singers who sang two numbers, "Upon The Cross of Calvary" and "It Is Well With My Soul."

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Dimon McFerson

At our February dinner meeting we enjoyed a catered meal from Golden Corral Restaurant. Durant McArthur gave the pioneer moment of his ancestor Daniel D. McArthur. Two members of our chapter then talked to us about the efforts being done to construct a new home for the St. George Musical Theater company. Tony Allen began by showing a slide presentation showing the progress thus far. He was followed by Dimon

McFerson who gave more information and invited financial help from members of our group. The St. George Musical Theater company was established many years ago under the direction of Don and Dawna Kenworthy. Over 70 productions have been presented at the St. George Opera House, utilizing the "Theater in the round" format. They have outgrown the space and are excited to get a beautiful new facility.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



David Flanigan

February's Activity: We were honored to hear from Dorothy Huntington who is part of David Flanigan's posterity. She gave us David's history. This was a wonderful trip down Rockville's memory lane. David Flanigan was responsible for Cable Mountain and was a wonderful inventor.

March's Activity: Brian Chandler, a former counselor in the Hurricane Utah Stake Presidency, and works with Security at the St. George Temple, will speak to us about some of the unique characteristics of the St. George Temple that most people are not familiar with. Dinner will be held in the Red Brick Church and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be potluck. The date will be the evening of the 26th.

April's Activity: This month we will honor another Modern Day Pioneer. The date will be the 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Brick Church on 100 W. 300 S.

May's Activity: We have had Jim Rhoades come and speak to us in the past about the Rhoades Lost Gold Mine. By popular demand, he has agreed to come back and speak to us about his families "Lost Gold Mine" It is a fascinating story and brings with it the pioneering effort of crossing the plains, the discovering Gold at Sutter's Mill and the acceptance of Chief Wakara of the Ute Tribe. It is a story of epic proportions! It has been about 6 to 8 years since he was here. It is a dinner you won't want to miss.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



David and Jan Treseder

David and Jan Treseder, of our Chapter, presented a wonderful program as it related to their mission for their Church to the New Jersey Morristown Mission. They served there from December 2022 to February 2024. Interestingly, of the 180 to 200 missionaries serving there, 70% of them teach the Church's Christian principals in a foreign language. The contacts from within this mission come from Europe, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean Islands, Africa, Central and South America, and of course the United States of America. Elder and Sister Treseder's first Sunday at their mission was on Christmas Day. Now, that is personal sacrifice! Each

Sunday, the Treseder's had some of the Elders and Sisters serving to come to their apartment for dinner. Which the Elders and Sisters really appreciated as well as the Treseders. And once a month, the senior missionaries were allowed to visit some of the historical sites of the area. Two examples shared were the campuses of the West Point Academy and Princeton University. One of the positive side-effects of their presentation was the resulting memories produced with those in the audience who also had served as missionaries around the world at a time during their lives - both as married couples or when a young single adult.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Games Night

The Mesa Arizona Chapter held its 2nd Thursday gathering on February 13, 2025, at the Evergreen Ward building in Tempe, AZ. After announcements, opening prayer, patriotic moment, Pledge of Allegiance and the Star-Spangled Banner played on trumpet by SUP Area VP Matt Wharton, and potluck dinner, we enjoyed our Annual Game Night.

Treasurer Ricky Heywood led us in a few games of Bingo. White Elephant-type prizes were given out for the first four games. The one gift that was supposed to prompt some gift trading was taken first and kept. So much for that idea. A good time was had by all.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



New officers

January Meeting -The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met on January 13, 2025. New officers were sworn in that day including Rob Scott, President, Paul Wright President Elect, Greg Montgomery Vice President. Rob outlined goals for the chapter for 2025 including participation in chapter activities, inviting members to be part of chapter committees, invited ideas for chapter improvement, and encouraging members to invite new members.

February Meeting - The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met on February 10, 2025. Brother Ernesto Rodriguez gave a presentation regarding the Worldwide Finding Program. He shared a PowerPoint presentation on how the Church's use of social media is inviting all to Come unto Christ. This is being done through multiple venues including missionary's posting testimonies, Light the World program, Church video posting, and the Church's website. We have been challenged to make our own postings on social media. The Church is receiving 10,000 to 15,000 requests for contact each month.

PORTER ROCKWELL CHAPTER - Salt Lake City South, Utah



Brent M. Rogers



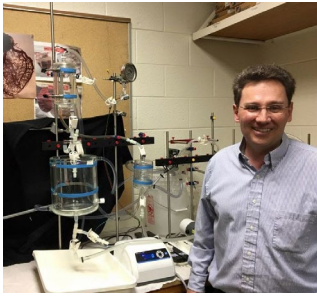
Modern Pioneer award

Brent M. Rogers, Ph.D., Managing Historian at the Church History Department, spoke about his new book "Buffalo Bill and the Mormons" at the January meeting. The book presents the compelling story about a previously unknown relationship between William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, the most famous American entertainer of his era, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In his presentation, Brent discussed some of the fascinating components of a trajectory that took Buffalo Bill from a foe to friend of the Latter-day Saints. He detailed the friendship that developed between the world-famous celebrity and Latter-day Saint Junius F. Wells, a friendship that helped Buffalo Bill see and understand who Latter-day Saints really were at a time when there was almost universal prejudice against the

religious adherents. Cody and his companies recruited Latter-day Saints to the Big Horn Basin of northwest Wyoming to help populate and build infrastructure in a region that he was trying to make a "pioneer's paradise."

We also presented our "Modern Pioneer" award to Lowell M. "Rusty" Snow and his wife Tamara, recognizing their many years of service to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and to the community at large. Elder Snow is a former Seventy, Area President, Mission President, and director of Church Hosting, among many other callings. He received his law degree from the University of Utah and has worked as an attorney and legal consultant. Sister Snow assisted in many of their assignments together and has an impressive history of service in her own right.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



Alonzo David Cook

At the February 13 meeting we introduced a new theme, Sons of Sons -- that is sons of current members (or grandsons). They are being asked to talk about their (1) life and work, and (2) whether a pioneer ancestor influenced that choice.

We heard from Alonzo David Cook (son of President Alonzo Cook), who spoke to us about "Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine." He graduated from Brigham Young University (BYU) with BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering and later received his PhD from MIT in Chemical Engineering, with an emphasis

on engineering applications in medicine. His industry experience was in business development and research and development of Tissue Engineering and Medical Devices, primarily in the fields of Cardiovascular, Ophthalmic and Orthopedic Products. His previous employers include Semprus BioSciences (Teleflex), Johnson & Johnson and W.L. Gore & Associates. His BYU research focused on tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. He is an author on numerous peer-reviewed publications and an inventor on several patents. He is now working as a consultant for several companies in Utah.

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



Derrick Porter

When: March 12 at 12pm

Location: Thomas S. Monson Center,
(We are meeting in the main building while the Carriage House is under repairs. Feel free to park in the main level parking circle.)
411 E. South temple

Cost: \$25 Per Person

Speaker: Derrick Porter

On March 22, 2024, the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints called Derrick to be the new executive producer, principal writer, and presenter of the Spoken Word. He replaced Lloyd Newell, who served in the role for the past 34 years. In September of 2024 as he transitioned into his new role with the Choir. Music & the Spoken Word is the world's longest-running broadcast and has served as a beacon of peace and healing for 96 years.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah

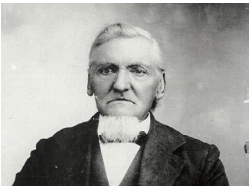


Kyle Anderson

For our February meeting, Kyle Anderson (the temple recorder at the new Deseret Peak Temple in Tooele) spoke to our members. At the outset of his presentation, Kyle addressed various questions asked by some of our chapter's members, including explaining the interview process for becoming a temple recorder and how he personally obtained his position. He also answered numerous other questions, including sharing how much work is associated with opening a new temple. Kyle has a strong testimony and bore witness of the importance of record-keeping in the church. He shared with us the history of recorders from the beginning of the restored

church and the significance of records as explained in the Doctrine & Covenants, etc. His presentation was very enlightening and educational. All those who were present enjoyed it immensely. Before becoming the temple recorder, Kyle previously worked for 27 years as a Seminary Instructor, Seminary Principal, Institute Instructor, Coordinator and Institute Director at various locations. He is also an avid historian of the Mormon Pioneer Trail and has spoken to our chapter in the past regarding different subjects. We are grateful that Kyle would take time out of his extremely busy schedule to be with us!

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



Jens Nielson

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had a brief pioneer moment by one of our chapter members Paul Bambrough. He gave us a history of the Taylorsville area. Our main guest was the National President-elect Wally Breitenstein. He gave us a brief history of himself so that we

could get to know him better. He presented on the subject of "determination." It was very informative and enlightening. He gave a brief history of Jens Nielson who came to the Salt Lake Valley with the Willey handcart company

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Lisa Michele Church

Lisa Michele Church, retired Attorney, was our Temple Fork Chapter Guest Speaker, on 17 February 2025. She has collected over 300 Photos of Utah Vintage Signs. She shared with us those called Ghost Signs, Neon, & Historical. Signs from early 1900's. These signs are iconic of family businesses, which evoke time and place.

These are landmarks of our memories. They add Character to our lives. She shared the history of Neon Signs in Utah. She has also collected Utah's First Beauty Salon's, Motels, & Red-Rock Race Cars, and is anxious to share these topics to groups.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Dr. Brian Cannon

Dr. Brian Cannon delivered a presentation titled "American Indian Indentured Servitude in Territorial Utah and Its Legacy." Long before Mormon settlers arrived in Utah, Native American tribes participated in capturing women and children from rival bands and trading them to European settlers, who enslaved them. This practice continued after the arrival of the Latter-day Saints, who, with Brigham Young's encouragement, began purchasing Indian children in an effort to save them from abuse and likely death. Latter-day Saints treated many of these children as their own, while others faced strained relationships with their new families. Some grew up to lead successful

lives, while others struggled with their identities and cultural roots. The discussion also explored the moral complexities of this practice, these actions were entangled with the difficult realities of Native American displacement and exploitation. Dr. Cannon highlighted the ethical aspects of the Latter-day Saints' involvement in the purchase of Indian children. While they did not create the Indian slave trade, they did play a role in its continuation, affecting Native American families and communities. Despite navigating challenges, many children went on to lead meaningful and successful lives— even reconnecting with their heritage or integrating into white society.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Gerrit Dirkmaat

The February program featured a YouTube presentation by Gerrit Dirkmaat: "How Brigham Young Kept Joseph's Teachings Alive After the Martyrdom." Most of us had not realized the stress that was on the Church after the martyrdom—that there were several conflicting pressures on the Saints when it came to following new leadership. These challenges were: 1) Apostasy within the Church by individuals who wanted to create their own branches, 2) Mob violence and threats against the Saints, 3) Whether or not to complete the temple construction and receive temple

ordinances, and 4) the question of leaving the country to find a safe haven. Also, some of Joseph's teachings were unsettling to some of the members, specifically the doctrine of God's origin (that man can become like God), the Three Degrees of Glory, and the practice of polygamy. New converts were sometimes disquieted by learning things that had not been taught in the mission field. In Dirkmaat's words, Brigham "refused to give it up" for Joseph. Much of our current church doctrine and latter-day success is because Brigham carried on Joseph's work and teachings.