

Trail Marker

VOLUME 22

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 247

3 NUMBER



Welcome to March! Although the weather is confusing this year, March is the season when winter is supposed to melt away and spring emerge. However, there are some days in March when we don't know whether it is winter or spring. As flowers start to bud, cold winds sometimes still blow. Bears will go into a state of torpor (sleep) through a cold winter. Some of those bears will often wake up in

March, find it is still winter-like, and go back into their torpor for a little longer before transitioning to a true, and new, spring.

Do we find ourselves in a torpor at this season, when we are trying to follow our newly made resolutions, but are not sure what direction to take in order to make them happen? Are we at a standstill? Whatever our individual responses, there is one thing we do know for certain about this season – not in terms of climate, but in terms of the current changes in our lives: Transition, for better or worse, is inevitable! But it can go in any direction, or even come to a halt, depending on how we manage and navigate it. We can – unlike sleeping bears who may return to their sleep when the outlook ahead of them looks bleak – wakeup to the fact that now is a good time to rejuvenate ourselves and not back out of a fresh start or opportunity. We can, and should, embrace new beginnings when presented. May that be happening with you!

When considering change, we should remember pioneers who faced challenges and made difficult transitions that often led to positive outcomes. They left troubled circumstances to build better lives in Zion,

where they found dignity and freedom of worship. Despite hardships, they persevered and embraced new beginnings.

We can be thankful for our pioneers who managed their transitions well, despite trials along the way. Being that this is March, when we just so happen to celebrate Women's Heritage Month, allow me to focus on one pioneer in particular. Elsie Nielsen and her husband Jens, who, as part of the Willie Handcart Company, pulled a handcart across the wintry plains. Along the journey, Jen's feet eventually froze to the point that he could not continue the trek on foot. Without complaining, Elsie volunteered to pull their handcart herself. Jens sat in the back of the handcart for the remainder of the trek. They both made it to their destination despite serious challenges occurring along the journey. A shoutout goes to Elsie, and other pioneer women like her, who were determined not to give up as they made difficult transitions in their lives. They deserve recognition as we celebrate Women's Heritage Month.

The legacy of Jens and Elsie Nielsen, along with other pioneers, serves as a valuable example of successful transition when approached with determination. I encourage everyone to embrace new opportunities this year and to continue striving for positive outcomes in your and your family's lives! May the principles of faith, family, loyalty, courage, and other pioneer values continue to burn brightly in your hearts!

Wally

Wally Breitenstein Sr. | 2026 National SUP President

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PIONEER STORIES

PRESTON NIBLEY'S EXPERIENCE WITH CHURCH HISTORY

Preston Nibley was a son of Charles W. Nibley, First Counselor in the First Presidency. The Church was in process of ownership of Carthage Jail and Charles prevailed on President Joseph F. Smith to be with him while he purchased the deed. This account is taken from Preston's own history.



Preston Nibley



Charles W. Nibley



Joseph F. Smith



Carthage Jail (early 1900's)



Nauvoo Mansion House (early 1900's)

I was with him on this occasion and heard him remark to my father, "Charley, I despise this place. It harrows up my feelings to come here." They walked up the steps, turned into the room—and then one of the men present said, "That stain is the blood of Hyrum Smith."

Joseph F. Smith walked over and sat down, put his hands over his face, and wept until the tears flowed through his fingers. Then he said, "Charlie, take me out of here."

While Charles Nibley took care of the deed, Joseph F. Smith took Preston all over the once great city of Nauvoo and pointed out the sights.

His memory was vivid regarding many interesting events. He told me, "I was acquainted with the Prophet Joseph in my youth. I was familiar in his home, with his boys and with his family. I have sat on his knee. I have heard him preach. I distinctly remember being present in the council with my father and the Prophet Joseph Smith and others.

"From my childhood to youth I believed him to be a prophet of God. From my youth until the present I

have not only believed that he was a prophet, for I have known that he was. In other words my knowledge has superseded my belief. I remember seeing him dressed in military uniform at the head of the Nauvoo Legion. I saw him when he crossed the river, returning from his intended western trip into the Rocky Mountains to go to his martyrdom." The President pointed out to me the place in the road where he had stood as he watched his father and "Uncle Joseph" ride away to Carthage on that fateful day in June, 1844. "This is the exact spot where I stood when the brethren came riding up on their way to Carthage. Without getting off his horse father leaned over in his saddle and picked me up off the ground. He kissed me good-bye and put me down again and I saw him ride away." The child never saw his father again, except in death. "I remember the night of the murder," he continued, "when one of the brethren came from Carthage and knocked on our window after dark and called to my mother, 'Sister Smith, your husband has been killed.'" He remembered his mother's scream on hearing this dreadful news, and her moans and cries throughout the night. When we went to the old home of the Prophet Joseph Smith, he recalled of seeing his Uncle

Joseph in the front rooms of the Mansion House working on the Egyptian manuscripts.

According to President Smith, one of the rolls of papyri "when unrolled on the floor extended through two rooms of the Mansion House." As we stood in the kitchen the President said, "In this room the bodies of the martyrs lay in their coffins, after they had been brought from Carthage and dressed for burial. I remember my mother lifting me up to look upon the faces of my father and the Prophet, for the last time."

He pointed out many other sights - where the Relief Society was organized, where the Prophet stood when he preached the King Follett discourse, where Edward Hunter lived when the Prophet was in hiding, and so forth. President Smith was only a child when the events here related took place, but they were firm and clear in his mind nearly sixty years later when we visited Nauvoo with him."

Preston, who had until then taken Church history all for granted, said, "That was the day I knew I had to go home and start being serious about Church history." He wrote twelve books and became assistant Church Historian under Joseph Fielding Smith.

Monument Trek



The Great Salt Lake Base & Meridian Monument

UPTLA #12 | GPS: N40 46 10.27, W111 53 28.8 ELEVATION 4327.27 FEET (40.7695194, -111.8913333)

The Great Salt Lake Base and Meridian Monument and plaque located at 10 South Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84150, Utah were inaccessible due to the Salt Lake Temple Renovation. It has now been uncovered to view again.

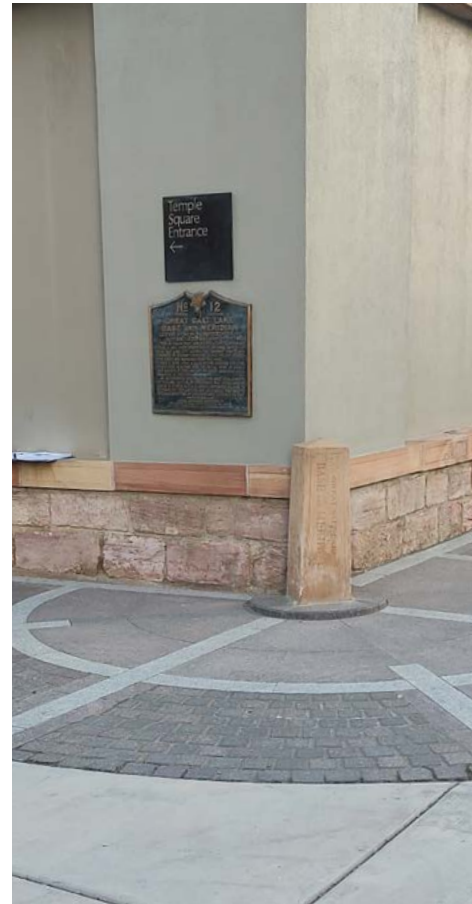
Orson Pratt, with Henry G. Sherwood, established the base meridian on August 3, 1847, for "Great Salt Lake City's" original survey. Located near the site Brigham Young designated for the temple to be built. This point determined Salt Lake City's Street names and numbers.

The stone monument, established in 1855 by David H. Burr, the first United States Surveyor-General for Utah, serves as the initial point for public land surveys in the state. This marker continues to stand as a reference for land surveying in Utah.

An astronomical station, with its stone base remaining intact, was established by George W. Dean of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey on September 30, 1869, to accurately determine latitude and longitude. The station served as a reference for obtaining correct time at this location until December 30, 1897.

After years of weather deterioration, the original Base and Meridian marker was removed, and a replica made of the same sandstone was put in its place in 1989. The original marker is currently on display in the Conference Center.

The Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association along with the Mutual Improvement Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints placed a plaque on the Temple Square wall in 1932.



CHIEF 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

Darrell JohnsonSettlement Canyon
Kelly Anderson Temple Fork
Greg SmithWorldWide Pioneer
Fred LaskoBoulder Dam
Scott HuffakerPocatello
Ronald Carlile Mountain Valley
Ronell CrossleyTimpanogos
Matthew Boone Bear River

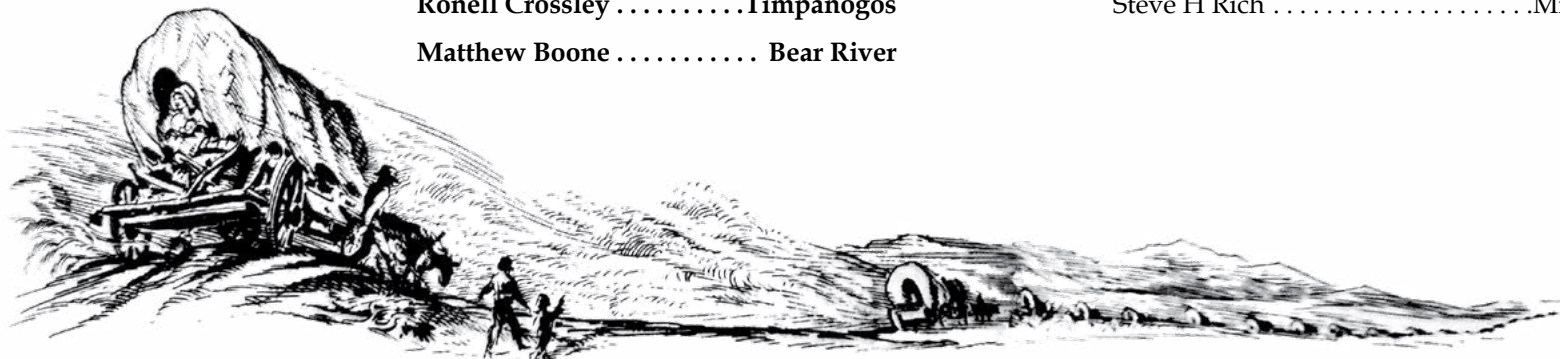
NAMECHAPTER

CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERS

John Lowe..... Ogden Valley

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Spencer Adams.....Hurricane Valley
Ronald Dale..... Settlement Canyon
Richard B Jensen..... Brigham Young
Steve H RichMills



FOR UPCOMING SUP NATIONAL EVENTS, CLICK HERE

BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada



Temple Trek

On January 31, 2026, the Boulder Dam Chapter made a Trek to the Las Vegas Temple, and most were able to do a session. A presentation of the history of the temple and the changes of the past 38 years, compiled by Clare Tobler, Trek Chairman, was given to each participant. **Dedication:** On April 7, 1984, President Gordon Hinckley, then second Counselor in the first Presidency, announced in the semiannual general conference that a temple would be erected in Las Vegas, Nevada. It would become the 43rd operating temple of the Church. The Las Vegas Temple committee decided that the saints in the Las Vegas Temple District would sacrifice some of their means to build this Temple and would raise 100% of the cost of the Temple. The groundbreaking was Saturday, November 30, 1985, with President Hinckley and a small group. On December 16, 1989, President Ezra Taft Benson presided over the cornerstone ceremony and expressed his love to Church members. President

Hinkley told the assembled Saints, "Never has there been such a beautiful day in Las Vegas as we dedicate the House of the Lord, the crowning jewel overlooking the city. I don't know of more faithful Latter-day Saints than in this temple district...I believe the Lord has accepted your sacrifice. I want to make you a promise that you will never miss that which you have contributed; the windows of heaven will be opened." Two unique features are the copper roof and the indoor atrium and garden. **Changes Since Dedication:** Desert landscaping replaced lawn and large trees. Sliding doors replaced wooden doors. New pictures throughout the temple. Inside, tile was replaced with carpet. The assembly room on the second floor was completed. The old Stainless Steel baptismal font was cut out in pieces and replaced. The temple had a wonderful cafeteria that has closed. Metal lockers were replaced with dark wood booths.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Jay H. Buckley

Our meeting was held on February 19, 2026, at the Culinary Arts Institute, Utah Valley University. After being served a gourmet dinner, the featured speaker was Dr. Jay H. Buckley. He completed his undergraduate work at BYU and holds a PhD from the University of Nebraska. He grew up in Bridger Valley, Wyoming, on a cattle and sheep ranch. Presently he is an Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University where he teaches American West, American Indian, and American history courses. He also directs the American Indian Studies Minor and the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies at BYU, and he is an award-winning author of numerous monographs and articles. The title of Dr. Buckley's presentation was, "Woolly Wonders: A History of the Sheep Industry in Utah and the Intermountain

West." Sheep were among the first animals domesticated by humans and have played a vital role in Utah's economy. Sheep comprised a significant facet of pioneer life and in the growth of the Church and its settlements, especially between the Utah War and World War II. The sheep industry comprises all things related to woolen fibers, used for textiles, clothing, and other goods, and meat sources such as lamb and mutton. His presentation was interesting and informative. Attendees learned many facts such as one of Joseph Smith's favorite meats was lamb. Brigham Young required all families coming to Utah to bring three sheep. Members could pay their tithing with sheep and wool. Utah ranks fifth in the nation for the number of sheep.

BOUNTIFUL CHAPTER - Bountiful, Utah



Chapter Meeting

The Bountiful, Utah Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers met February 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Joy Luck Restaurant in Bountiful, Utah. Copies of the 2026 calendar of events for the chapter were on the tables. Outgoing President Alan Hill, conducted. There were twenty-seven people present, including about ten members of the Kimball Mill Ward. Bob Blattner led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, Kimball Jacobs

offered the invocation, Bry S. Davis representing SUP National Headquarters swore in new officers: Gary Sessions, President; Ross Schmedly, Secretary; Ron Anderson, Newsletter; and Kimball Jacobs, Reporter. Ron Anderson, author of two books about President Abraham Lincoln and Joseph Smith Jr. and The Restoration, gave a presentation on that subject.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Chapter Meeting

As has been a tradition for a few years, we held our Valentines Day Desserts and Dancing event on February 14th in the cultural hall of the historic rock church in Cedar City. An amazing array of potluck desserts were shared, and we enjoyed a live band with "Diminished Faculties" providing a variety of golden oldies (not quite back to pioneer days) for our listening

and dancing pleasure. Our next event will be our annual general authority devotional scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026, with Elder Kgomotso T. Sehloho an Area Seventy in the Africa South Area of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints being our featured speaker.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



President Mark Wells

The Cotton Mission Chapter used their dinner meeting to discuss the goals and needs of the chapter in line with the National SUP goals. New President Mark Wells led a searching examination of both our history and our current activities to see if we are achieving our goals and doing all we can to reach out to the community. Many members made verbal contributions and suggestions which were recorded. Our scholarship program was discussed that provides a \$1500 scholarship to the winner in each

of our area high schools. In addition, we have an extensive essay program in the elementary schools and have now added a program for intermediate schools as well. While our membership is large with new members added almost monthly, we discussed the need to do better in presenting ourselves in the community. It was a unique first-of-its-kind meeting for our chapter, with a healthy and vibrant discussion.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



*Jennifer and Aaron Pond as
Emma & Joseph*

Our February Centerville Utah Chapter meeting included a wonderful, valentine theme dinner prepared by our chapter president's family. We then had our chapter's trek chair present several ideas for our next trek which will take place in a few months. Our featured speakers for the evening were Jennifer and Aaron Pond. They are parents of four children, some of whom attended and helped serve our dinner. The Ponds both served missions and graduated from local colleges. They have had a lifelong love of the prophet Joseph and his wife Emma. They have spent countless hours researching the lives of Joseph and Emma and have done dozens of presentations to stakes and groups across the Western United States. The title of their presentation to our chapter was entitled "An Evening with Emma & Joseph." The Ponds came dressed in period costumes (see attached photograph) which added to the authenticity of the story. They took turns relating some of the major events in Emma's and Joseph's lives by quoting from their diaries and taking the parts of Joseph and Emma. Occasionally Aaron would use historical facts to add to his comments. They began by relating their meeting at the Joseph

Knight Sr. home and their time in Colesville New York and surrounding areas. They shared how they went together to get the golden plates and how Emma served for a while as scribe to Joseph and felt the covered plates but never saw them. Jennifer recounted how Martin Harris then took over the duties as scribe but then lost pages of the translated Book of Mormon. One of the most poignant moments came when Jennifer related how many children she and Joseph lost and the children they took in to care for. Other accounts they told using Emma's and Joseph's words were the tar and feathering of Joseph, the Word of Wisdom revelation, the Kirtland Temple building and revelations, the printing of the hymn book, the beginning of the Relief Society, Emma's writing of her own blessing and being signed by the prophet Joseph, the death of the prophet and his brother at Carthage, Emma's difficult marriage and life after Joseph's death, and her care of Joseph's mother during her last days at the Nauvoo House. The Pond's concluded with their testimonies of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church and Its restoration by those whose stories they just portrayed.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Var Speaks

On February 16th we held our monthly luncheon. Our speaker, Var Harris who is a great-great-grandson of Martin Harris, shared a few of his grandfather's life experiences. His name was James Empey. As a young teen he tended sheep all alone. Well one day, a bear stood up from behind some fallen trees. He took his rifle, aimed, and fired. The bear dropped behind the trees. Moments later, the bear stood up! Somewhat surprised, James took careful aim and again fired. Once more, the bear went down. As he started toward the bear, it stood up. Once again, he fired a shot and the bear went down. After waiting some time, the bear did not stand up again, so he went to investigate. Yes indeed, the bear was dead. And so were the other two bears lying next to it. Var told of another story where grandfather was tending the flock and started to get very sick.

He started off to town for help several miles away but had to turn back, convinced he wouldn't make it alive. Not knowing what else to do, he made his way back into his sheep wagon to lie down. Soon after, a small group of Indians visited his camp. The women were overcome by the stench coming from inside the wagon. They all left, but the woman and two young girls soon returned with herbs and medicine which he was told to drink ALL of it. He thought sure his belly would burst but he drank it all. Eventually his strength returned and found the women had left. Later in his life he became an early Bonneville County Deputy Sheriff. He told how he had tracked, chased down, and arrested the notorious outlaw, Hugh Whitney. All of Var's stories were funny and interesting, giving the audience a taste of the real old west.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Mr. and Mrs. Norman Black

Pictured is Mr. and Mrs. Norman Black. What a special treat we all enjoyed from his presentation on the evening of our recent Chapter meeting. He is an employee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We saw pictures of not only artistic conceptions of what the structures on Temple Square and some of the rooms within the Salt Lake Temple would look like but actual current pictures of many of rooms therein and actual current pictures of additional buildings located on Temple Square and what they will be used for. We also saw pictures of the engineering upgrades being made to the Temple to strengthen the structure so it is protected from damage caused by any earthquakes and weather-related phenomena that could damage the Temple. An important message from Norman Black to all of us is that the strengthening of the

Temple foundation should also apply to us as we should all strengthen our foundation in Jesus Christ in our lives. All the statuary being currently located on Temple Square portray the life of Jesus Christ. What marvelous and beautiful structures and grounds this completed project will bring to Salt Lake City. There will even be many exhibits, interior Temple pictures, and information available to world-wide visitors on Temple Square on just what Temples mean and what Temples are used for. For those members of our Chapter who are not members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we thank you for being present. It is important for all of us to know our friends who are members of other faiths and to learn something of their religions too.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Treasurer Ricky Heywood

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 4 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...

MILLS CHAPTER - Millcreek, Utah

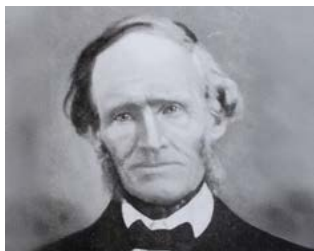


Glen Rawson

We were thrilled to have the well-known church history expert Glenn Rawson as our speaker for our January meeting. He is best known for the creation of a weekly documentary television series entitled, The Joseph Smith Papers on KJZZ TV. In 2010 he teamed with Dennis Lyman and Bryant Bush to produce a new series called History of the Saints. In all, he has produced over 800 broadcast stories for radio and television.

He also leads church history tours in the US and elsewhere. He recounted many pioneer accounts especially those of early church leaders, such as Orson Hyde, Ben E. Rich, Mariner Merrill and several others, reminding us of the importance of seeking out and learning the true accounts of events that actually happened instead of relying on secondary sources that sometimes fail to give an accurate picture.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAPTER - Heber City, Utah



Thomas Moulton

On February 12, 2026, the Mountain Valley Chapter held their monthly Speaker's Forum. Dr. George Pitts was the guest speaker. Dr. Pitts is a retired physician who practiced Family Medicine for 42 years in Heber City having the privilege to deliver about 2,000 babies. Dr. Pitts gave a presentation about the Thomas Moulton Family in Wasatch County. Thomas Moulton and his wife Sarah Denton were born in England. They joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and immigrated to Utah with 7 children. The Moulton Family came across the plains with the Willie

Handcart Company in 1856 and suffered greatly but their entire family survived. Thomas and Sarah came to Heber Valley in 1860 and lived in the Heber Fort. The family worked hard to establish a life in Wasatch County. Thomas fought in the Black Hawk War in 1866. The Moulton Family was considered one of the staunchest families in the community. Most of the audience in attendance were related to the Moulton Family. Dr. Pitts invited other descendants, Jeff Bradshaw and Harvey Horner to share stories about their Moulton Family connections.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Greg Keller and George Muggee

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter held its monthly luncheon meeting at the Comfort Suites Inn and Conference Center with the meal being provided by the facility. The program included the presentation of a "Pioneer Moment" by Greg Montgomery, Chapter President Elect. Greg's Great-Great Grandfather, James Montgomery and his wife, Elizabeth, were early settlers in the North Ogden Area and several family members also settled in the Ogden Valley (Liberty & Eden Area). They were well known for their hospitality. Their home was a haven and a refuge for anyone needing place to stay or a "hand up." The bulk of the program was presented by the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Greg Keller and Mr. George Muggee, officers with the State organization of the

Knights of Columbus, gave a wonderful presentation on the early impact of Father Pierre-Jean De Smet in the Intermountain Area as a Missionary, Pioneer, and Peacemaker, including his interaction with Brigham Young at Winter Quarters. They also discussed the history and impact of the Catholic Church in the Ogden Area. The genesis of this presentation was the recent restoration of a monument honoring Father De Smet. This restoration effort was initiated by the Ogden Pioneer Chapter and was taken over by the Knights of Columbus when they became aware of the vandalism of the monument. A rededication of this monument will take place in the Spring.

PORTER ROCKWELL CHAPTER - Salt Lake City South, Utah



Steve Smith

Do you remember the Utah State Prison in Sugarhouse? Do you remember when it was moved to Point of the Mountain? Steve Smith does. He, his father and grandfather have worked closely with the prison system, both as employees and as ecclesiastical leaders. Steve remembers "breaking out" of the former facility as a 10-year-old. (He'll tell you the story.) For decades, the Church has ministered to the inmates, holding Sunday School, Sacrament meetings (without the sacrament), and counseling sessions. You may be interested to know that a very large number of Indexed Family Search names is produced by the system's inmates. At our

January 28th meeting, Brother Smith recounted the history of the prison system from its Utah Territorial roots through the present-day facility west of the Salt Lake International Airport, with a branch in Gunnison and special post-release facilities for those unable to attend traditional wards. Many Church members serve this population weekly, both inside and outside the walls. It was a very interesting presentation with lots of questions and answers. Brother Smith currently serves in the Great Salt Lake Correctional District which oversees 10 correctional branches in the various state prisons."

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Brian Q Cannon

At their February dinner meeting members of the Settlement Canyon Chapter were thrilled to listen to Brian Q. Cannon a BYU graduate with a BA in American Studies MA in History from Utah State and a PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently teaches upper division courses in the American West in the Twentieth Century, Utah History, and U.S. History from 1890 to 1945. Brian's presentation focused on Indian Slavery and Indentured Servitude. For many years before Latter-day Saint pioneers arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, American Indians in the region had trafficked women and children captured from rival groups. White American and European traders also acquired and sold American Indian captives as slaves or indentured servants, building a slave trade in the West.¹ Within weeks of entering the valley, the Saints encountered Indian tribes who had captured children from other bands. Some Saints bought Indian children from these slave traders, in some instances after seeing the traders kill or torture those the Latter-day Saints did not purchase. In March 1852 the legislature in Utah Territory passed "An Act for the Relief of Indian Slaves and Prisoners," a law

that regulated the acquisition and care of Indian children. The children could be indentured as household servants for up to 20 years, but those who acquired servants were required to process an indenture agreement with county officials, clothe the children "in a comfortable and becoming manner," and provide them with education.³ Brigham Young considered the law a positive disruption to the Indian slave trade. Young believed Latter-day Saints would be "purchasing them into freedom." Over 400 Indian children were taken into Latter-day Saint homes as indentured servants or adoptees between the passing of the 1852 law and the early 1880s. Near the end of the American Civil War, the United States Congress passed the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery and involuntary servitude. In the western United States, the practice of indenture persisted, but new federal laws reduced the number of new indentures. As the government enforced these laws and increasingly confined Indian nations to reservations, Utah's indenture system diminished and by the late 1870s had largely ended.

SQUAW PEAK CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Wally Breitenstein

SUP National President Wally Breitenstein was the guest speaker at the Squaw Peak Chapter February 17 th dinner meeting. He discussed the SUP pioneer value of Unyielding Determination, sharing several powerful examples of this principle in action. Wally spotlighted Thomas Edison, who viewed his thousands of unsuccessful attempts as discoveries of what wouldn't work rather than failures. He also identified Helen Keller whose determination to overcome her disabilities allowed her to guide others. We also learned about a young man with muscular dystrophy who successfully learned to play the piano using his knuckles. He also shared the story of pioneer

Jens Nielsen, whose "sticketytudy" attitude helped him survive the winter trek over Rocky Ridge. Nielsen went on to found Cedar City and Bluff as part of the Hole-in-the-Rock expedition. Wally concluded by urging chapter members to "spread the word" about the Sons of Utah Pioneers organization. We appreciate Wally and his wife joining us at our dinner meeting!

Upcoming Program: Our next catered chapter dinner meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Orem Senior Friendship Center. Scheduled to speak is SUP Area Vice President Dan Adams.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Alex Baugh

Our February chapter meeting was held at the Logan Country Club. Following a fine meal our speaker, Alex Baugh, retired professor of Church history at BYU spoke to us. He gave a brief history of his family and then spoke of Logan Utah history. His subject was local legend, sports hero and inspiration Merlin Olsen. A history of Olsen's life in Logan was given, beginning as a young child and ending as an All-American football player at Utah State University where the field is now

named The Merlin Olsen Field. We then learned about his 15-year NFL career with the Los Angeles Rams where he only missed playing in two games in 15 years. He played in 14 Pro Bowls and is listed as one of the top 100 players in NFL history. He was a force to be reckoned with. Following the NFL, he had a career in broadcasting and acting. Through it all he remained true to his faith and his hometown of Logan Utah.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Les Langford

In 1857, 2,500 United States troops marched west to suppress what Washington believed was a rebellion in Utah. No investigation. No formal inquiry. Just an army on the move. At our February meeting, Les Langford brought this dramatic chapter of history to life in his presentation on the Utah War of 1857 to 1858. Fueled by rumor and political pressure, President James Buchanan ordered the army to replace Brigham Young as governor. The Nauvoo Legion fortified Echo Canyon, raiders burned supply trains, and nearly 30,000 Saints moved south, prepared to sacrifice homes rather than submit. Yet despite the buildup, no major battle took place. Les also addressed the

Mountain Meadows Massacre, one of the darkest chapters in Utah history. In a climate of fear and tension, more than 120 emigrants were killed. It remains a sobering reminder of how quickly suspicion and overreaction can lead to tragedy. In the end, diplomacy prevailed. The army passed through Salt Lake City without incident, and the conflict closed with compromise rather than bloodshed. Les Langford's masterful presentation reminded us that history is not just dates and events, but decisions made by real people under pressure. We are fortunate in the Timpanogos Chapter to gather with men and women who care about preserving these stories, and we are blessed to

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Mike Hammond

New officers for 2026: F. Martell Grover, Area Vice-President, will swear in our chapter's new president-elect in our March meeting. We welcome Don-David Powell in this assignment and give him our support. Program: We enjoyed having Mike Hammond speak on "The Entrepreneurial Spirit: How is it Affecting Rexburg?" In his own words, Mike is a "serial entrepreneur" and is wired differently than most people. His presentation was interesting because this is the same kind of personality and attitude our pioneer colorizing forefathers must

have had to venture into new territories and create new colonies. He is a modern-day pioneer who builds businesses rather than cities. Mike outlined the personality of an entrepreneur. He is one who 1) goes first, 2) takes risks, 3) builds from nothing, 4) solves problems daily, and 5) creates opportunities for others. This would surely describe Thomas E. Ricks and Brigham Young. He is the owner of many businesses and has become very successful in building businesses, scaling them for success, and then selling them when they are on a solid foundation.