

Trail Marker

VOLUME 21

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 237

5 NUMBER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



April was a great month of activities for the Sons of Utah Pioneers. Our first event was the National Headquarters cleanup day. "Put your shoulder to the wheel; push along. Do your duty with a heart full of song." There is nothing better than a group of people working together to complete in 2 hours what can be an insurmountable task for a single individual. If you haven't joined in on headquarters cleanup day, please plan on joining us for the next opportunity coming this fall.

We were also privileged to attend the National 2025 Annual Historical Symposium. This was an amazing event titled LDS Music. Pioneer Era to the Present. What a wonderful day of learning about the Tabernacle Choir on Temple Square and from songwriters and lyricists. We were even able to be taught and sing the melodies that were originally used for some of the most inspiring songs in our hymnal.

I also had the opportunity to speak at two chapter meetings.

The first meeting was with the Snowhorse Chapter, whose area includes much of Davis County. Most of my pioneer ancestors who crossed the country to join the Saints in Utah began their new lives in Davis County. I loved being with fellow Sons of Utah Pioneers in Syracuse enjoying an evening together. I grew up in Clearfield and did numerous bike rides with my friends through the farming community of Syracuse en route to the Great Salt Lake and Antelope Island. Many farms have been replaced by homes and businesses, but it is still a wonderful place for a walk down memory lane. My conversations with those in attendance stirred up great memories of Davis County. We were able to connect with each other through conversations about common acquaintances, locations and experiences.

The second chapter meeting was in Mesa Arizona. I am so grateful for the faithful men and women who keep this chapter going so far away from our headquarters in Salt Lake City. I am also grateful that some of the early Pioneers extended their journey from the Salt Lake valley to Mesa Arizona. It is a long drive from Salt Lake City to Mesa but was even a

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much longer journey for the pioneers. Mesa was a stronghold for the Saints in the early days of the Church and continues to be so to this day. And yes, I even found a relative in Mesa.

No matter what chapter I visit, I am always warmly welcomed by stalwart men and women who are truly striving to keep the memory of our pioneer ancestors alive. That is who we are, and I am proud to stand side by side with each of you in a noble cause.

Val Parrish | 2025 National President



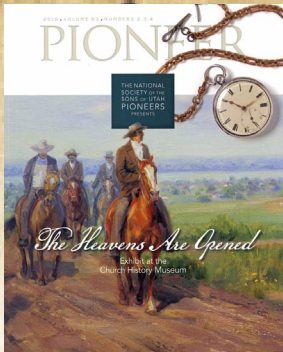
FOR CHAPTER RECOGNITION & EXCELLENCE AWARD
FORMS & OTHER CHAPTER RESOURCES, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Calendar of Events

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 CHRISTMAS DINNER

FOR THE FULL SUP LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS [CLICK HERE](#)

NATIONAL NEWS



"THE HEAVENS ARE OPEN" IS BACK IN STOCK

The 228 page deluxe issue, commemorating the 2015 renovation of the Church History Museum at Temple Square. Many historical items that have not been on display are showcased. Pioneer art, interactive exhibits and historical recreations are also featured.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase at a limited time discount.

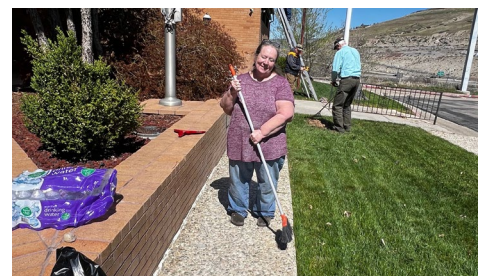
2025 NATIONAL HQ CLEAN-UP DAY

We would like to recognize all of our great volunteers.

Alan Gibson
Brent Horton
Darrell Sanders
Rob Scott
John Clayton
John & Diane Smith

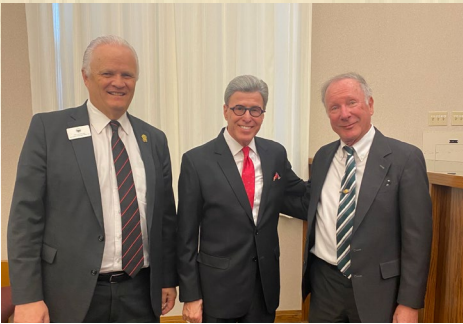
Dil Strasser
Gene Miner
Alonzo & Lynda Cook
Leon & Cherie Twyman
Val Parrish
Mike Norton

Brad & Dantzelle Allen
Wally & Judy Breitenstein
William Keil
Nate Pierce
Linda & Zach Sorenson
Michael Williams



NATIONAL NEWS

2025 NATIONAL HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM LDS MUSIC, PIONEER ERA TO THE PRESENT



Val Parrish, Ronald C. Gunnell,
and Wally Breitenstein



Doug & Jill Furness



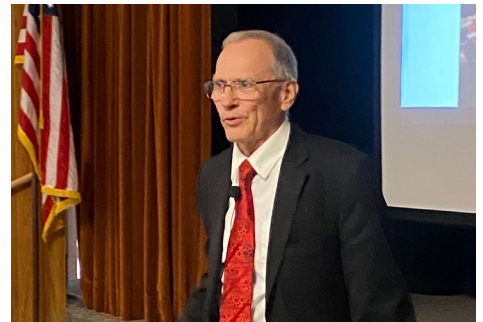
Lynne Perry Christofferson



Vanja Y. Watkins

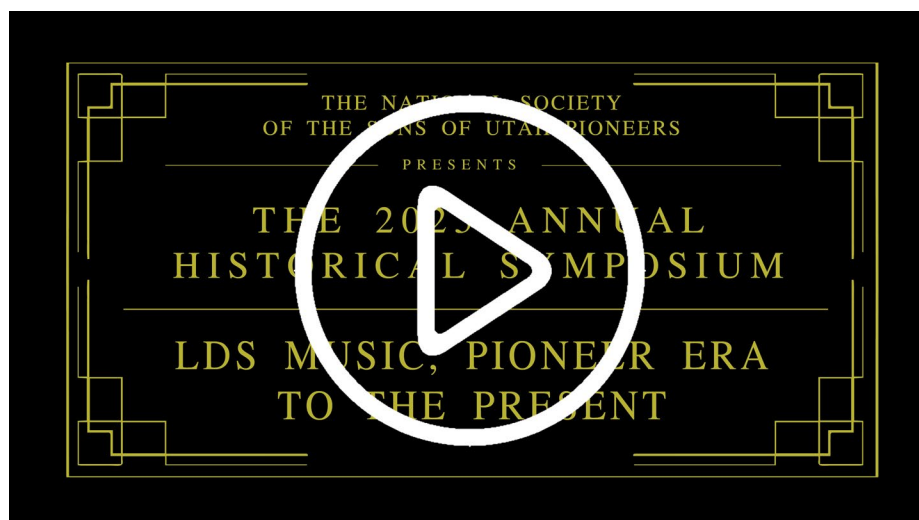


Marvin K. Gardner



John R. Bringhurst

SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHT CLIP BELOW TO SEE WHAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.





PIONEER STORIES

NELSON D. HIGGINS & SARAH BLACKMAN

NELSON HIGGINS, B 1 SEP., 1806, OTSEGO COUNTY, NY; MD

SARAH BLACKMAN 24 DEC, 1826, DIED 22 OCT, 1890.

Nelson married Sarah Blackman 24 Dec, 1826 in Huron County, Ohio. In 1834, Nelson & Sarah learned about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) and they were baptized that year. Nelson soon joined with Joseph Smith and Zion's Camp to Missouri that year. Zion's Camp was a brutal experience that acted as a refiner's fire on its members. They marched over 1000 miles and at the end of the journey, they contracted Cholera. Some fell away from the Church because of the tremendous hardships endured there, but others were anchored more solidly in their faith and testimony and Nelson was one of those. He remained true to the Church and to his Savior throughout his life and Zion's Camp was probably the cementing influence upon his life.

Nelson and Sarah went through the extreme persecutions of Kirtland, Far West, and Nauvoo. When the Nauvoo Legion was formed, Nelson Higgins became a 2nd lieutenant, lieutenant, and colonel. After the martyrdom of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young organized the Second Quorum of Seventy and ordained Nelson as one of the Seven Presidents of that quorum. Persecutions continued to increase, and Nelson and Sarah moved out of Nauvoo only a few weeks after they received their endowments.

Prior to leaving Nauvoo, Daniel Allen, Nelson Higgins, and Samuel Shepherd were called as a committee to sell properties belonging to the saints in the Bear Creek area. They were successful in collecting money for the saints, but when they returned, the mobs had hit Nauvoo and the exodus had already begun. That exodus happened so quickly that the saints were forced to leave unprepared for the winter travel through mud, snow, and freezing temperatures. That story was one of extreme suffering and death.

Upon arriving at Winter Quarters, Nelson joined the Mormon Battalion. This was done with mixed emotions because the government was asking them to help defend the country that had mobbed & killed so many of them. The following is quoted from the journal of Nathaniel V. Jones, who was one of the men enlisted in Nelson Higgins' company: "Got to Grand River, west of Pisgah, camped there



until Colonel Allen came along with his aide authorized to raise a Battalion of Mormons of 500 men. Nelson appointed captain of Company D in another time of extreme hardship. One writer, John Steel, indicated that they started out with 1 spoon, 1 fork, 1 knife, a tin cup, and one blanket for each person. Nelson left the battalion with a company of sick to Pueblo for the winter, where he left them

and returned to the main battalion.

When spring finally came, they heard that the first group of saints had headed west so they eagerly packed up their gear and headed out. They made good time in their travel and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on July 29, 1847, only 5 days after the first company of saints had arrived with President Brigham Young. Nelson's company included 140 of the Battalion and 40 of the saints that had been divided from other battalion companies. His entry to the valley was welcome because he brought 29 wagons, 1 carriage, 100 horses and mules, and 300 head of cattle. That greatly increased the strength of the new pioneer settlement in the Salt Lake Valley.

In 1849, the Higgins family was asked to move into the Sanpete Valley to help establish a settlement there. He first settled in Manti, where he was elected mayor in 1853, then northwest to the town of Moroni. His skills in establishing settlements must have been noticed because he was then asked to move to Carson Valley, Nevada to settle that area in 1855. Records show that he was there until at least 1857. In 1864, Nelson and his family returned to Richfield, Utah to help that new community, and was there ordained a bishop by Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. The town was abandoned in 1867 because of Indian troubles, but regained in 1871 and Nelson Higgins resumed his position of bishop in that town until 1873. He then moved to Brooklyn, a small settlement between Elsinore and Monroe, and lived there for the rest of his life.

1 *Journal of Nathaniel V. Jones*, p.6, LDS Family History Suite 2, Pioneer Heritage Library.

2 *John Steel Journal, Our Pioneer Heritage*, Vol. 1, p.505.

3 *Heart Throbs of the West*, by Kate B. Carter, Vol. 4, p. 343.

Monument Trek

Log Cabin Grist Mill



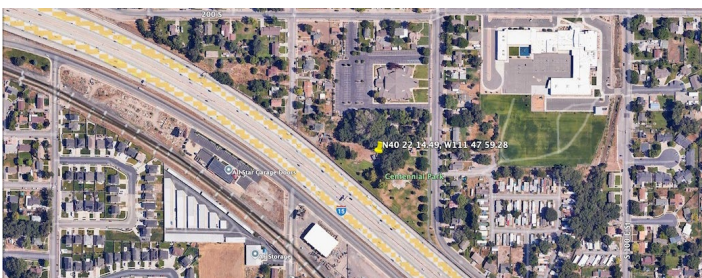
SUP #189, GPS: N40 22 14.49, W111 47 59.28 Elevation 4572 (40.3706917, -111.7998000)

At the American Fork City's Centennial Park, 300 South Center Street, American Fork, Utah stands a replication of the Arza Adams grist mill placed by the Timpanogos Chapter and members of the Adams family in 2015. It was dedicated by Daniel K. Adams, Arza's Great-Grandson.

During the winter of 1850-51, Arza and Sabina Adams moved their family of seven children here from Mill Creek, Salt Lake Valley. They built a log cabin across the street east of where this monument stands. Journals tell that Arza built a Grist Mill near his log cabin. Arza learned how to build and operate flour mills from his father, Capt. Joshua Adams, in Ontario, Canada. The Adams Flour Mill was the first to produce baking flour for American Fork families. In 1853, Arza moved the water wheel, mill stones and other workings 4½ blocks north from the monument's location and built a larger mill near the Lake City Fort. During his lifetime, Arza also built and operated a third flour mill one mile north of town.

No photographs exist of the original 1851 mill. The log cabin and water wheel are replications of that grist mill. Arza Adams built this log cabin at 234 North 100 East, American Fork in 1880. It became the home of his daughter, Bets Adams Robinson. The cabin was taken down log by log in 2012 and reassembled on this site in 2014. The water wheel is a replica of a wheel built in the mid 1800s. This park property originally belonged to Stephen Chipman who was Arza's maternal uncle.

This Log Cabin Grist Mill stands as a Historical Monument of American Fork City and a tribute to Arza Adams, pioneer miller and one of the co-founders of the city.



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 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Susan Flick Squaw Peak
 Sherrie M Johnson Brigham Young

CHAPTER ETERNAL MEMBERS

Lindalie Benson Brigham Young
 J Wayne Edwards Hurricane Valley
 Jay Ostler Jordan River Temple
 Wayne Octave Ursenbach WorldWide Pioneer



NAMECHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Alan Williams Box Elder
 Brian C Underwood Pocatello
 Bronson Bills Murray
 Byron M Wright Upper Snake River Valley
 Charles J Ogden Sevier Valley
 Charlie Jaynes Hurricane Valley
 Coby Zobell Cedar City
 Craig P Christiansen Box Elder
 Douglas Halladay Squaw Peak
 Eric Duthie Hurricane Valley
 John McClurg Brigham Young
 Kurt Hibbert Upper Snake River Valley
 Larry Hibbert Upper Snake River Valley
 Steven R Robinson Cotton Mission
 Terry Wilcox Upper Snake River Valley
 William N Spafford, Jr. Cotton Mission

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Thomas Alexander

At a recent Sons of Utah Pioneers' meeting, historian Thomas G. Alexander discussed John A. Widtsoe's appointment as President of the University of Utah. Widtsoe took the role during a time of serious controversy. His predecessor, Joseph T. Kingsbury, had ruled the university in an authoritarian manner, firing faculty over political disagreements, and creating deep divisions. The Board of Regents' Executive Committee, largely composed of Latter-day Saints, pushed for Widtsoe's appointment without consulting the full Board, further fueling Mormon-non-Mormon tensions. Widtsoe initially

hesitated, wary of becoming embroiled in conflict and facing a salary cut, but after prayerful reflection and mixed advice from Church leaders, he accepted. Widtsoe quickly worked to heal the university by proposing a new constitution that empowered the faculty and stabilized governance. Alexander praised Widtsoe's steady, principled leadership, noting his belief that true science and true religion are compatible. Widtsoe's presidency helped set the University of Utah on a stronger, more collaborative path and left a legacy of service, faith, and academic integrity.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Dixie Leavitt

In April the Cedar City Chapter kicked our annual 4th grade pioneer essay contest into high gear. Essays were submitted by students in eight local elementary schools. Winners will be announced in May and the overall winner will be invited to read his/her essay at our July 24th town meeting. We also awarded \$5100 in post high school scholarships to six deserving students from our Iron County high schools. We are actively working to replenish our scholarship funds

so that we don't have to draw on general chapter funds to finance these scholarships. Our next sponsored activity will be a trek to the small community of Bunkerville, Nevada. Dixie Leavitt will be leading this trek and informing us of the pioneer history of Bunkerville and the surrounding area. We have a busy summer planned with additional treks in June, August and October to be reported on in future Trailmarkers.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Ken Alford

Our April Centerville Chapter meeting included a wonderful dinner and announcements of an upcoming trek and other chapter news. We then had a presentation by Kenneth L. Alford who is a professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University and a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army. Ken served in numerous assignments during almost 30 years on active duty in the Army. He has published and presented on a wide variety of subjects, including authoring and editing a dozen books and over 200 articles. His current research focuses on Latter-day Saint Church history including the Hyrum Smith Papers and Latter-day Saint military service in times of conflict. The title of Ken's presentation was "The First Four Latter-day

Saint Chaplains." They included a mission president, a general authority, a prophet's son, and a future governor of Utah. They served our nation during wartime, and they all had unique, faith-promoting experiences. The first LDS Chaplain was Elias S. Kimball, the Southern States Mission President. The next three were chosen by the Church's First Presidency after the army asked the Church to supply three chaplains. Joseph F. Smith, who was president of the Church, stated that he must have his son, Kenneth serve. The third chaplain Brother Alford talked about was B.H. Roberts who was in the presidency of the 70s. Calvin S. Smith, the son of Joseph F. Smith, was the other chaplain and became known as the "fighting chaplain."

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Stan Poole

At our April dinner meeting we enjoyed a catered meal from Golden Corral Restaurant. Our speaker was Stan Poole. Stan's father, Harold Poole, served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Stationed in the Philippines as a private on the day the war began, he found himself helping to defend the base at Clark Field less than an hour after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the day before. Although Harold brought down a Zero warplane with

the machine gun he fired from his foxhole and would later be awarded the Silver Star for his valor, it wasn't long before he found himself among the soldiers struggling to survive the tortures of the infamous Bataan Death March after the Japanese overran the Pacific islands. Stan grew up hearing his dad's stories of surviving three-and-a-half years as an enslaved prisoner of war and spoke not only of those experiences but also of the power of forgiveness and faith exhibited by his father and other POWs.

EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER - Idaho Falls, Idaho



Scott Nobel

MARCH MEETING - In an effort to expand our horizon of knowledge, Scott Nobel from Alpine Jewelers was invited to be the guest speaker for our March Chapter Luncheon. His topic was Lab Grown Diamonds.

MARCH MINI TREK - Earlier in March, two members of our chapter embarked on a "mini-trek" through muddy grain fields to locate and document the locations of two "Eagle Rock Ferry" markers erected as eagle scout projects.

APRIL MEETING - Our Presentation this month was from a local member of the DUP, Author and Historian, Connie Otteson. She has written four books regarding the history of Bonneville County, Idaho and surrounding area. Her presentation centered around her book, "Unsung Heroes and Settlers of Bonneville County Idaho" (Learn More to read online or purchase) She spoke of the early history, around 1880, of Idaho Falls originally named Eagle Rock.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



Brian Chandler

MARCH ACTIVITY: We met at the red brick church this month to listen to Brian Chandler. He spoke about the great experiences he had while they remodeled and made the St. George temple ready to stand up to earthquakes. With such an old and historic building, it was a great challenge to make everything come together. He and others working on the project felt the Lord's hands working to make things come together. He spoke about the opportunities he had to be with General Authorities and the temple personnel that head the Church in temple work, as they came to check on the work as each phase was being completed. He also talked about how glad he was when the temple was rededicated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 23rd: Honoring a Modern Day Pioneer
 April 26th: National Historical Symposium
 May 28th: Rhoades Lost Gold Mine.
 June 25th - Nate Pierce, National Past President.
 July 19th - Hinton Cabin on Kolob.
 August 27th - TBA
 September 18th - 20th: National Encampment
 September 24th - Gifford Nielsen of the 70
 October 22nd: TBD
 November: date TBD Honoring a Modern Day Pioneer
 December: date TBD Christmas Dinner

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Greg Christofferson

Pictured is Greg Christofferson dressed in the typical uniform of a member of the Mormon Battalion when organized in July of 1846. He is the president of the National Mormon Battalion Association which was organized in 1980. As described by him, "this organization (he chairs) strives to keep the Mormon Battalion in remembrance by uniquely identifying each man, woman, and child who participated in this march. Our goal is to preserve their history and help the generations that have followed

to know about the individuals' courage, dedication, and sacrifice in support of their church and country." On the anniversary of the date of their arrival, 175 years to the day, on January 29, 2022, the legislature of the State of California presented a proclamation honoring the Battalion to Greg Christofferson as President of the Association and to Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Greg and Elder Christofferson are brothers.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Val Parrish

The Mesa Arizona Chapter enthusiastically welcomed National President Val Parrish to our April 10, 2025, 2nd Thursday of the Month potluck and presentation. Brother Parrish was in town with his wife Allison to experience the Mesa Temple Easter Pageant, and his trip perfectly coincided with our

monthly gathering. Val and Allison shared a presentation on the history of both the National organization and the Mesa Chapter, along with fascinating pioneer family history stories from both sides of their lineage. We were honored with the visit and a bit more fired up about our membership in SUP.

MORGAN PIONEER CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Newel Boyd Knight

On Monday April 22 the Morgan Chapter of the sons of the Utah Pioneers held their monthly luncheon at the Rock Chapel. The meal was again catered by Larry's Spring Chicken Inn. Following the meal, chapter member Rod Taggart shared the pioneer history of his great-great grandfather and his contribution to the settlement of Utah, especially in Morgan Valley. The quest speaker was Newel Boyd Knight, the great grandson of Jesse Knight. Newell was born in Utah but raised on a farm in Mink Creek Idaho, one of ten children. After attending high school in Provo, he served a mission to the Northern States Mission and for several years after, was employed in northern Alaska. Newell published a book about his great grandfather titled, "Jesse Knight - The vision To See, The Courage to Do" after reading a history of him written by his

grandfather William Knight. Jesse Knight was an entrepreneur in the early history of the Provo area. Having made a small fortune in the silver mining business, he established multiple businesses in the area to serve the needs of the community. Jesse contributed much to the downtown area of Provo City and to Brigham Young University. There are still multiple buildings on BYU campus and in the city center that bear his family's name. As the book title suggests, Jesse Knight was a faithful, visionary man who could see the needs of a community and had the perseverance to create solutions that benefitted the lives of countless people. As a side note, my language training in Portuguese for an LDS mission was in Allen Hall in Provo, one of Jesse Knights buildings.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



The Ogden Pioneer Chapter met on April 14, 2025. Our Chapter awarded 8 college scholarships to 8 outstanding Seminary students representing each of the 7 high schools in Weber County. The reason for 8 scholarships is that twins shared a scholarship. The featured speaker to the Chapter was Ken Alford, Jr. Professor of Church History and

Doctrine at Brigham Young University. He shared insights on "The Vision - Doctrine and Covenants 76. "The Vision" is acutally a series of six visons that Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon received in February 1832 over the course of about ninety minutes.

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



TC Christensen

When: May 7 at 12pm

Location: Thomas S. Monson Center,
Main Building,
411 E South Temple

Cost: \$25 Per Person

Speaker: TC Christensen

In 1965, at Central Davis Junior High, T.C. Christensen won the Intramural Shot put. It's all been downhill since then.

His film work includes 10 IMAX films, 36 Feature films including 17 Miracles, Forever Strong, The Cokeville Miracle and Escape

from Germany. His latest project is Raising the Bar: The Alma Richards Story.

In 2010, T.C. was invited to join the American Society of Cinematographers.

Few are aware of his physical prowess. Although he weighs slightly less than a horse, he continues to have a vertical leap of 18 inches.

T.C. lives with the lovely Katy Christensen in Farmington, where he continues to be tutored in the finer points of putting dirty dishes into the dishwasher and closing drawers all the way.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Terry Whittier

On April 24, 2025, Terry Whittier, presented the History of Fort Limhi, truly a Son of Utah Pioneers on both sides of the family; his mother's ancestors arrived in America with the Massachusetts Bay Colony of 1630 and can be found in early church history, Zera Pulsipher and Hulets. The Hulets were featured in the Pioneer magazine about their

contribution to settlements in Southern Utah. The Whittiers (Whitears) joined the church in England in 1855 and immigrated to the Layton, Utah area. Eli Whitear conducted the band to honor Governor Cummings as he was escorted into Salt Lake City, by General Albert Sidney Johnston.

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



Jim Dunnigan

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had the choice opportunity for our April Chapter meeting to hear from State Representative Jim Dunnigan. He gave us a report of the legislative session that just ended and how it works. It was very informative. One of our

members, Jim Backman, gave us a pioneer moment about his grandfather William Price who ran the only store in Leigh, England. He was a Bishop in Goshen for 36 years. We are looking at adding several members that are living at the Summit Vista Living Center.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Wayne Scott

On Monday, April 21st the Temple Fork Chapter held our monthly dinner meeting at the Logan Country Club. Following dinner our speaker was Wayne Scott. Mr. Scott participated in the 1997 sesquicentennial (150 year) anniversary of the Mormon Pioneer Vanguard company. Mr. Scott traveled every mile of the re-enactment and shared stories

from along the trail. Though traveling the re-enactment was easier than those who traveled in the original Vanguard company, the 1997 journey was filled with history, spiritual experiences and many miracles. Mr. Scott brought many pictures and journals from the trail. This was a great evening and lesson about the Pioneer Trail.

TEMPLE QUARRY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



Narrow gauge

For April in the Temple Quarry Chapter, Drew Weaver gave a presentation of the Wasatch and Jordan Valley Railroad. The train was used to bring gold and silver from Alta and granite from the stone quarries in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The stone was used in the construction of the LDS Temple and later in the construction of the State Capitol. Drew spoke about how the stones and precious mineral were removed from the canyon prior to the train and how slow and difficult it was with horse pulled wagons. With the use of the train, the construction of the Temple was approximately four times faster. Drew showed the different types of trains and

rails used in the Salt Lake Valley. There were narrow-gauge and standard rails. The rails out of Little Cottonwood Canyon were the narrow-gauge, so this was a much smaller train than the trains passing through Utah. Drew showed where the train ran through the Granite neighbourhoods, and though the train is no longer here, there are still places where the train route can still be seen. Drew showed a truck that had been converted so it could travel on the tracks. It was used to take people on rides up the canyon. He also shared photos of the train and sites from that time. The train continued service after the Temple was completed and eventually ended in 1896.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Daryl Tucker

Daryl Tucker's riveting presentation on early community theaters illuminated a little-known yet deeply meaningful part of our heritage. From Nauvoo's "Fun House" to the grand Salt Lake Theater, we saw how the Saints prioritized the arts even amidst hardship, knowing that music, drama, and dance could uplift the soul and knit communities together. The tales of traveling troupes, velvet-lined opera houses, and even yellow paint made from mustard brought the past to life with surprising warmth and humor. What stood out most was the message that the stage wasn't merely a place for entertainment—it

was a pulpit of values, family, and resilience. Brigham Young's decree that no drunkenness would pollute the theater underscored a belief that wholesome recreation was essential to righteous living. Whether it was plays like Pizarro inspiring courage and virtue, or local dances paid for in wheat, the spirit of unity and joy ran strong through the curtains of every hall from Payson to Pleasant Grove. As Brother Tucker reminded us, the curtain may have fallen on many of these buildings, but their legacy still echoes each time a local actor steps into the light and begins to tell a story.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Elder and Sister Anderson

The Teton River Temple is under construction and scheduled to be dedicated in 2027. To give us an update on progress, Elder and Sister Anderson, Temple Construction Missionaries, joined us for our tasty shepherd's pie supper and then told us all that they are allowed to share—meaning what has been shared already in the public domain. Nevertheless, their presentation was full of new insights and many questions were answered. The Teton River Temple will be approximately 100,000 square feet, (note: The Rexburg temple is 57,000 square feet) like the Saratoga Springs and the Red Cliffs temples. They held up a model of the temple and shared

that it will only have one baptistry, unlike rumours have suggested. Other facts shared:

Their typical day is up at 7 a.m., study from 8-9 a.m., then Elder Anderson walks the construction site taking pictures. He downloads them for Sister Anderson to use in her weekly report. They open their trailer for visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and welcome groups and families to come see what is going on.

Of the 100 acres purchased by the Church, only 17 acres will be used for the new temple. Rexburg is the smallest city to have two temples.