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PIONEERING YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

ISSUE 230

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am so pleased to proclaim the Sons of Utah Pioneers 2024 Encampment an amazing success. I want to give a big thanks to Les Langford and his team for planning and executing an event with excellent speakers, entertainers, food, and tours with great tour guides. Thank you Timpanogos chapter.

Over the past year I have visited many chapters with my wife Allison, and I love the work that is being done in every chapter to further the mission and values of our organization. Every chapter is different in so many ways, but they all work to bring an amazing program to Sons of Utah Pioneers members. I am so proud to be a member of this organization, that is so unique in its focus to keep the stories and values of those who traveled difficult paths to provide us with the advantages in life that we enjoy. I am also grateful to find a home in an organization in which I feel welcomed by every member that I meet … and I am so thankful for the wonderful women that participate with us to make this organization even better.

I am honored to begin my service as your national president and want to thank each of you for your support as I work to serve you from a national basis with Wally Breitenstein as our new National President-elect, Nate Pierce as our National Immediate Past-president, John Elggren as our National Treaurer and Paul Wright as our National Secretary. These dedicated men along with our amazing Area Vice Presidents are working to be a helpful resource to each of you this coming year. Please search our engaging website for upcoming events and news at sup1847.com. And, remember to do something monumental on a regular basis to keep your ancestors proud.

Val

Val Parrish | 2025 National President

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NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT
AMERICAN FORK



Val Parrish Sworn In As National President



Elder D. Todd Christofferson



Wally Breitenstein Sworn In As President Elect



Camp Floyd



Lunch



Roots of Knowledge



Steel Band



Les Langford



National Executive Council



Flag Ceremony



Brandon Gordon

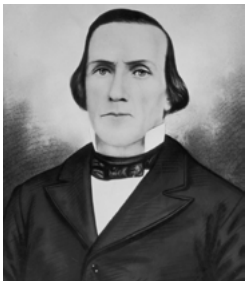


Hardman Band

PIONEER STORIES

LUKE S. JOHNSON

Luke Samuel Johnson (1807–1861) was a leader in the church and an original member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles from 1835 to 1838. He served in the Quorum with his younger brother, Lyman E. Johnson and Orson Hyde, his brother-in-law.



Luke S. Johnson

Luke Samuel Johnson was born November 3, 1807, in Vermont, a son of John Johnson and Elsa Jacobs. He wrote of his family in an autobiographical sketch:

"My grandfather, Israel Johnson lived in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, and was much respected by his neighbors for his honesty, integrity and industry. My father, John Johnson, was born in Chesterfield, New Hampsire, April 11th, 1779. He followed the occupation of farming on a large scale, and was noted for paying his debts and living independently. He moved from Pomfret, Vermont, to Hiram, Protage county, Ohio. He was connected with the Methodist church for about five years previous to receiving the Gospel. My father was satisfied in regard to the truth of "Mormonism" and was baptized by Joseph Smith, Jun.(sic), in the winter of 1830-31, and furnished him and his family a home, while he translated a portion of the Bible." (*see Ludlow, p. 357*)

Luke was an educator and a physician. He married Susan Harminda Poteet on November 1, 1833. This marriage produced six children. Later in life he practiced plural marriage, marrying America Morgan Clark in the Kirtland Temple, and had additional children.

Luke was baptized into the church on May 10, 1831 by Joseph Smith, Jr. By October of 1831, he had been ordained an Elder and went on a mission to southern Ohio with Robert Rathburn. Later in 1831, he joined Sidney Rigdon in preaching the gospel in areas of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Their efforts brought about fifty new members into the young church, including Elder Rigdon's mother and other members of the Rigdon family.

Luke was ordained to the office of high priest by Joseph Smith, Jr. on October 25, 1831. With Seymour Brunson and Hazen Aldrich, he served as an Latter-day Saint missionary in Ohio, Virginia, and Kentucky in 1832-33, baptizing more than a hundred persons on their journey. He was a member of the Kirtland High Council which was formed on February 17, 1843. On June 26, 1834, Johnson marched with Zion's Camp, suffering with cholera on the journey. At age 27, Johnson was chosen and ordained as one of the original members of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles on February 15, 1835. The new Apostles were sent on missions. Johnson served in the Eastern United States, New York and Upper Canada. He returned to Kirtland, Ohio in late 1836.

Luke defended the Prophet Joseph Smith from criticism on several occasions. But, in 1837, he became alienated from Joseph, perhaps because of financial losses suffered in the failure of the Kirtland Safety Society. He was disfellowshipped at Kirtland, Ohio on September 3, 1837. Johnson was later received back into fellowship for a short time, but was excommunicated and dropped from the Twelve at Far West, Missouri on April 13, 1838. After leaving the church, Johnson taught school and then studied medicine, ultimately setting up a medical practice in Kirtland.

In 1846, after the death of Joseph Smith, Johnson requested permission to address an assembly of the saints in Nauvoo, Illinois. He said: "I have stopped by the wayside and stood aloof from the work of the Lord ... But my heart is with this people. I want to be associated with the saints, go with them into the wilderness and continue with them to the end." Johnson's brother-in-law, Apostle Orson Hyde rebaptized him on March 8, 1846. However, he never again served in the higher councils of the Church.

Johnson traveled with Brigham Young and Wilford Woodruff to Utah, serving as a captain of ten, as part of the first group of 143 pioneers in July 1847. He also served as a Captain of Fifty in the Daniel A. Miller / John W. Cooley Company (1853), while traveling with members of his family. Johnson settled in St. John, Tooele County, Utah where he served as bishop of a local Latter-day Saint congregation. He is the only man in this dispensation that served as a Bishop after having served as an apostle. He died December 9, 1861 in the home of Orson Hyde.



Headstone in the Salt Lake City Cemetery

Monument Trek



Mesa Pioneer Monument

SUP SITE #20 PIONEER PARK, MESA ARIZONA

GPS: N33 25 01.27, W111 49 10.78 ELEVATION 1232 FEET (33.4170194, -111.8196611)

The Mesa Chapter erected the Mesa Pioneer Monument SUP #20 in 1988 dedicated to the founding men, women and children of Mesa whose efforts with others of all races, religions, and cultures changed a harsh desert land into a vibrant city of today. When the first settlers came in 1877-78, they found the remains of an irrigation system built over a thousand years earlier by the "Hohokam" (those who are gone). With much effort, the new settlers restored one of the ancient canals and water once again flowed to the desert from which this community was destined to grow.

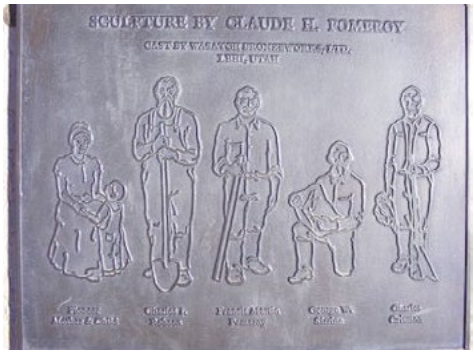
The monument has three plaques documenting the early years of the Mesa settlement, the companies of settlers who were instrumental in the settlement of the area, and a plaque describing the sculpture by Claude H. Pomeroy depicting the first four pioneers who entered the mesa: Francis Martin Pomeroy, Charles Crismon, George M. Sirrine and Charles I. Robson.











CHAPTER 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

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



BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo, Utah



Janiece Johnson

For our September meeting Dr. Janiece Johnson, acquisitions director at Deseret Book, presented a stirring and informative lecture titled "Convicting the Mormons - How the Story Has Been Used," She examined the lasting repercussions of the Mountain Meadow Massacre on the perception of the LDS Church. This tragic event in 1857 has profoundly influenced the church's image in American society. Johnson emphasized the role of media in shaping public opinion, particularly the coverage by Harper's Weekly, which depicted the massacre alongside themes of polygamy. The trials of John D. Lee captivated the public much like the O.J. Simpson trials, serving as a surrogate trial for Mormonism.

Key takeaways included:

1. Savage Perception: The trials reinforced negative stereotypes; portraying Mormons as unable to coexist with others.
2. Ambiguous Progress: While contributing to westward expansion, Mormons were seen as detrimental to the nation. 3. Gender Stereotypes: Mormon men were depicted as either overly masculine or effeminate, with women portrayed as needing to compensate. 4. Fictional Narratives: Misleading stories, like those by Abraham Gash and Buffalo Bill, distorted the church's image.

Brigham Young foresaw the condemnation the church would face despite its innocence, a prediction that came true during Lee's trial. Johnson concluded by highlighting the ongoing misrepresentation of the church in modern media, urging a critical reevaluation of these narratives to foster a more accurate understanding of the LDS Church's history.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Thelma Matheson

On Friday, September 6, we enjoyed the company of about 65 of our SUP members and friends at a potluck luncheon at the Rock Church in Cedar City. Thelma Matheson was our featured speaker. She is a direct descendent of Amanda Smith whose husband and two sons were killed at Hawn's Mill. She related the story of how her ancestor, Amanda, was able to be divinely directed in what to do to save her son Alma who had his hip shot out during the massacre. She related some personal family history of how this story has inspired her and their family for many years as they faced their own trials in life. We then enjoyed a great variety of delicious food and fellowship together.

Our next activity is a trek to the Ashdown Gorge sawmill up Cedar Canyon on October 12. We invite everyone to our symposium on Nov. 1 & 2, topic: John C. Fremont – Early Explorations, Parowan Experience, and Political Activities. Speakers at the Rock Church in Cedar City at 6pm on Friday evening Nov. 1 will be followed by a trek on Saturday to the Parowan monument, Buckskin Flat at Fremont Wash, and Fremont Valley and petroglyphs led by Al Matheson.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Alex Baugh

Our Centerville SUP dinner meeting was held on the 5th of September and after a pot luck dinner we were privileged to hear from Professor Alex Baugh. Brother Baugh is a professor and former chair of the Department of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University, where he has been a full-time member since 1995. Brother Baugh specializes in researching and writing about the Missouri period of early Church history and is the author, editor, or coeditor of twelve books, including three volumes of the Document series of The Joseph Smith Papers and many other historical articles, essays and book chapters.

Brother Baugh entitled his presentation to us "The Hawn's Mill Massacre: Mormon Tragedy in Northern Missouri." The attack was made by vigilantes from Livingston and against those church members who had moved to a newly formed county called Caldwell County. "The mob sent word to us that they wished to meet a committee of our people and have an understanding of each other's movements and expressed their wish to live in peace and friendly terms with us," wrote Ellis Eames. The pretended truce would leave the settlers to believe they had nothing to fear. The ensuing massacre on October 30, 1838, is considered one of the greatest tragedies in Church history leaving 17 killed from the attack. Until 2012, the grounds of the massacre were maintained as a historic site by the Community of Christ. In May 2012 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints acquired the property.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Charles Dahlquist

The Cotton Mission Chapter held their annual fundraiser dinner, which helps in financing scholarships. The chapter annually gives out scholarships to seniors from six area high schools. Our speaker was Charles Dahlquist. Elder Dahlquist is an attorney with Kirton McConkie law firm and was the Young Men General President of the LDS Church from 2004-2009. He is currently a sealer in the St. George LDS Temple.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



Dennis Leavitt



SUP Display

August's Dinner Meeting: We had a marvelous meeting at the Old Red Brick Church, The Old South Ward, where along with a pot-luck dinner we had the privilege of listening to President Dennis Leavitt. There were about sixty persons in attendance. Dennis is the president and CEO of Liberty Village Utah, a non-profit organization established to promote the history and the founding of our country, especially to elementary, junior high and high school students.

Liberty Village will be an interactive facility built on thirty-two acres in southwest Hurricane, just east of SR 7 on 3000 South. Phase one will soon be started and will be a thirteen-acre plaza representing the thirteen original colonies with a replica of the Liberty Bell that will be placed in a tower in the center of the plaza. Monuments of the Constitution, Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, along with a Hurricane Pioneer monument alongside. Phase two and three will be replicas of buildings in Colonial Days, such as the Green Dragon Tavern, where the revolutionary war was planned and executed. A blacksmith shop, printing shop with period printer, Constitution Hall, and other buildings will be built to convey the message and efforts of those early patriots to establish this country. Actors in period costumes, portraying early historical figures will be present to convey their message of the revolution. School field trips to the village will be welcomed. Dennis made an excellent presentation of this project which will benefit our children and their learning of the origins of this country of liberty.

Peach Days: What a monumental festival we had this year. The streets were filled to capacity with cars and people as we again celebrated our famous Peach Days. They asked the HVSUP to put up a booth inside the City Center, and so, with the DUP and the Mormon Battalion we set up an incredible center of learning. It was a wonderful success. Thanks go out to Dan and Rae Catlin and their daughter for putting the display together, and also to David Isom, Brand Winder, Dan Zaleski, and Merlin Spendlove for helping to set up the display. We want to thank each of those who served at the booth during the Fair. We exhibited the purpose of the SUP with pictures and documents of our essay and scholarship winners, and also or our Ditch Riders, plus many other items, with a movie of the founding of Hurricane created by the HVSUP with the wonderful help of Victor Hall.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Annual picnic

We appreciated the over 35 individuals who participated in our annual Chapter picnic. This included some group singing conducted by Michael Smurthwaite and also some interesting tales of experiences enjoyed this summer by others. One thing we were reminded of, is that chocolate still remains "King" when it comes to desserts. We even welcomed a "younger" couple, who are considering membership in the Sons of Utah Pioneers. Thanks to all of you who helped fellowship them. This couple got right in and helped with set up, serving and friendshipping with us.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Emily Jex Boyle

Resuming from our summer break, the Mesa Arizona Chapter held its monthly board meeting on September 5th. Mesa Chapter's monthly gathering was held on Thursday, September 12th 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 Area VP Matt Wharton, we shared a potluck dinner while treated to musical entertainment by Matt and Sandy Wharton. Following dinner, we were treated to a presentation by Emily Jex Boyle. Emily graduated from BYU with a degree in Family History. As a missionary in Italy, she learned of the history of the Church there and its ties to the Utah Silk industry. As a BYU student, she presented research on the topic at the BYU Religious Education Student Symposium. Emily is married to a loyal University of Utah graduate, the mother to six daughters, and a local health insurance agent. She is also a writer for The Arizona Beehive Magazine. Her excellent presentation was on Waldensian pioneers who came to Utah in 1st handcart company, the silk mission and its ties to women's right to vote.

MORGAN PIONEER CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Alan and Anna Louise Medaris

On Monday, September 16 the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers held their fall social. The event started the new year of monthly luncheons after a three-month summer break. The gathering also included invited guests and spouses. Larry's Spring Chicken Inn provided an excellent meal. After a pioneer moment presented by Chapter member, Van Nelson, the main speakers for the afternoon, Alan and Anna Louise Medaris, addressed the group. They have resided in Morgan for 18 years and are the parents of five children, eighteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Alan and Anna Louise met as students at BYU in 1973 and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Alan worked in the information technology industry as an employee of IBM and its partners for over 36 years. Anna Louise was educated as a teacher. In 2020 Brother and Sister Medaris were called to be members of the Ogden Temple Presidency with President Donald Keyes. During that time, they helped return the temple to normal function from the restrictions of the Covid epidemic. The stories and memories they shared with the chapter members centered around their experiences at the Ogden Temple. Presently, Anna Louise is serving as an Ordinance worker and Alan as a Sealer in the Ogden Temple. Alan also serves as a Stake Patriarch in the Morgan Stake. It was an interesting and uplifting presentation, and all were rewarded for being there.

MT NEBO CHAPTER - Nephi, Utah



George Potter

Our speaker for August was George Potter who has done extensive research on Lehi's journey from Jerusalem to the Red Sea. He has written many books including "Lehi in the Wilderness" and "Voyages of the Book of Mormon." He talked about the Valley of Lemuel, spoken of in the Book of Mormon. It talks about a valley with a continually flowing river. Does a river like that actually exist south of Jerusalem as you travel towards the Red Sea? George has visited that area many times and has found such a place. For the most part that area of the world, Saudi Arabia, is very desolate and barren, but he found a place where a river flows and there are trees and vegetation as Lehi described and it would be about in the right place for the number of days that Lehi and his family traveled.

PORTNEUF CHAPTER - Pocatello, Idaho



President Greg Romriell with speaker Eric S Johnston

Local boy Eric Sundrud Johnston a filmmaker and son of Jim and Karen Johnston was the featured speaker at the Portneuf Pioneers, a chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, for their August meeting Thursday the 22. He talked about his experiences in the production of several films but primarily about the making of Escape From Germany. During his presentation, he gave accounts of working to tell the story and the things that they looked for in using the cast members. He talked of his personal experiences and how the films have affected his personal life. Eric is the 6th of the eight children born to Jim and Karen Johnston of Pocatello, a member of our SUP chapter. He attended Pocatello High School, Ricks College, and earned his degree in International Business from Brigham Young University. Upon graduating he began volunteering on professional movie sets all over Utah.

Eric has worked as a freelance filmmaker at the LDS Motion Picture Studio and KBYU (now BYU TV) both in Provo. He also worked with ABC, CBS, NBC, Disney, Comedy Central, Paramount Plus. He has been a part of many of the LDS Church films like "The Book of Mormon Videos," "The New Testament Videos," "Joseph Smith Prophet of the Restoration," "The First Vision" and others. He has also been a part of many of the LDS themed movies through the years. His most recent feature film was "Escape from Germany." This movie tells the story of a missionary from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints serving in Germany just before World War II, who is tasked with finding all the other missionaries and getting them out of the country before the war starts. It tells the story of how he was able to find the missionaries and give them money to get out of Germany.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



Clark B. Hinckley

Clark B. Hinckley spoke, he has published *Christopher Columbus: A Man Among The Gentiles.*

"Columbus's return to Palos marked the fulfillment of a prophecy made more than two thousand years earlier by the prophet Nephi: "And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land." In the forty-two verses of 1 Nephi 13, Nephi singles out only one individual: "a man among the Gentiles" who, wrought upon by the Holy Ghost, "went forth upon the many waters even unto . . . the promised land." In fact, Lehi and Nephi, in their extensive prophetic accounts of the latter-day Restoration, identify only two individuals: Christopher Columbus and Joseph Smith."

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



Paul & Holly Clayton

When: October 9 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

Speakers: Paul N. and Holly B. Clayton

Holly is the daughter of the late President M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve, and a descendant of Hyrum Smith. Paul is a second great-grandson of pioneer William Clayton.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Lamont Crabtree

On the evening of September 5th members of the Settlement Canyon Chapter were delighted to watch and listen to Lamont Crabtree give an enlightening presentation of his quest for 47 plus years to research and document the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. He has been particularly interested in the unknown or lost portions of the route. He has worked on marking and interpretive projects throughout the Hole-in-the-Rock trail and restoration and development projects at the Bluff Fort Historic Site. Lamont is a descendant of Hole-in-the-Rock pioneers James and Sarah Riley. Lamont and his wife Leslie, reside in West Valley and have four children and twenty grandchildren. Occupationally, Lamont worked in the

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



Taylorsville Bennion History Center

In August the Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter took a tour of the Taylorsville-Bennion Heritage Center. Susan Yadeskie, Historic Preservation Committee Chair conducted the tour. It was very informative and interesting. It has a good collection of historical items from the early years of Taylorsville. In September, the chapter was able to enjoy a presentation by our Chapter President, Bill Hardesty. He presented a history of the Mountain Meadows Massacre. He gave us a history of some of those key figures that took part in the massacre. It was very interesting. It is always a great time to get together with the members of our chapter and learn of the history of families and events that happened as the Saints came to Utah.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Trek to Campbell Scientific

Greetings from Cache Valley. The leaves are changing and hopefully the temperatures will soon cool. The Temple Fork chapter did not hold a meeting in September due to the annual SUP Encampment. We had multiple chapter members attend the Encampment and oh what a great Encampment it was. We also had a trek in late August and toured the Campbell Scientific facility in Logan Utah. They design and manufacture many types of equipment to monitor the environment we all live in.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



SUP summer picnic

Summer Picnic: (Activity for August and September)

Forty-eight members of the chapter gathered for our Summer Picnic at the bowery of the Center Stake. Fried chicken, corn-on-the-cob, and a variety of tasty salads and desserts were on the menu.

The program was a short game called "Two truths and a lie." Each chapter member was asked to write down two truths about his background and one lie. Then these were read out loud and the audience tried to guess, first, who was being featured. Then they had to guess what the lie was. Who would have guessed some of the new things we learned about each other!