

# Trail Marker

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PIONEERING  
YESTERDAY, TODAY &  
TOMORROW  
ISSUE 216

8 NUMBER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In the weeks leading up to, and the week surrounding, the 24th of July, we enjoy parades, rodeos, fireworks, and other activities that remind us of our pioneer forefathers and the founding fathers of our country. On SUPer DUPER Day, we as Sons of the Utah pioneers, enjoyed a day at This is the Place Monument Park where we were introduced to the Days of '47 Royalty and learned how their pioneer ancestors influenced their lives. We then had the privilege of listening to Sister Gail Miller relate stories of her ancestors, how they left the land of their birth, traveled to the Intermountain West, and how their lives influenced her and made her the person she is. On the 24th of July, we as Pioneers and Utahns, celebrated the arrival of the vanguard company to the Great Salt Lake Valley.

The morning of the 24th of July we had the opportunity to attend a morning fireside hosted by the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers in the historic Assembly Hall at Temple Square. The Mormon Battalion Association provided the flag ceremony. During the ceremony, and while the national anthem was sung, my mind reflected upon the personal sacrifices of those that went into harm's way to secure our freedom and forge a new society in the wilderness. We were then favored with several spiritual and thought-provoking musical numbers provided by the Salt Lake Combined Institute Choir. Elder James W. McConkie, III; a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Quorum of Seventy then addressed us. His talk focused on three Latter-day Saint women, two of whom had broad influence in society, and the third who influenced him personally. Two of the women were General Presidents of the Relief Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The first was Sister Eliza R. Snow who was instrumental in the reorganization of the Relief Society in the Salt Lake Valley and surrounding regions. The second was Emmeline B. Wells, the editor of the Women's Exponent for over 30 years who was instrumental in securing the vote for women, both on a local and national level. The third was a family relative not so famous or known to the public, Gwendolyn Bitner Wirthlin, who was just as valued by his family. All three of these sisters were pioneers, they took one step forward into the unknown and created a better world for themselves and

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those who followed after. They stepped into the unknown just as the pioneers did when they walked to an unfamiliar destination and placed their plows into an unforgiving earth to plant crops in hope of a harvest.

We all are pioneers in our own right, we have experiences that try our physical and mental capacities. These challenges in our life can be a means of defeat or a source of great joy. For these events to be a source of joy we need to keep placing one foot in front of the other and marching into the darkness of the unknown just as the pioneers did. I am sure that these men, women and children had no idea of what the outcome would be, but they forged forward, one step at a time, and we today see the results of their pioneering efforts.

The time is now for you and I to record our pioneering experiences so that we can reflect upon them in the future and our family can rejoice in the blessings of our pioneering efforts.

John Clayton  
2023 National President

# Calendar of Events

<p><b>7-9</b> SEPTEMBER</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT</b></p> <hr/> <p>HOSTED BY THE COTTON MISSION CHAPTER KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND</p>	
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<p>OCTOBER DATE TBD</p>	<p><i>Brigham's</i></p> <hr/> <p>FALL FAMILY SOCIABLE</p>	
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# NATIONAL NEWS

## SUPER DUPER DAY AT THIS IS THE PLACE



SUPER DUPER Day was a great start to the Pioneer Day week! The devotional by Gail Miller was very interesting as she talked about her Pioneer ancestors. Afterward everyone that came into the park enjoyed the sights and fun things to do. There were lots of SUP Members and some who were not members. Lots of seniors and children. It was a very good day!

## DAYS OF '47 SUNRISE SERVICE



The Sunrise Service was a great spiritual start to honoring the Pioneers on Pioneer Day! SUP and DUP leaders were there, along with the Days of 47 Royalty, the Mormon Battalion and political leaders. There was wonderful music by the Salt Lake Valley Combined Institute Choir and Elder James W. McConkie III spoke about ancestors. "Our task today is to be open – open to what the pioneers in our lives have to teach," he said, "and to be mindful of all that they have done to prepare the way." **Click on the play button to the left to listen (or read) the address.**

## DAYS OF '47 PARADE



The Downtown Salt Lake City Days of 47 Parade was loads of fun! It was a lot cooler than expected and fun to interact with the crowds. We enjoyed those of our group shouting We are the Sons of the Utah Pioneers! Woohoo!



Everyone has stories of pioneer ancestors that have and moved and motivated our lives that can benefit us all.



## PIONEER STORIES

Please enjoy reading and submitting at: [suponline.org/pioneer-stories](http://suponline.org/pioneer-stories).

### LEVI RITTER AND THE STORY OF HIS LITTLE CABIN

By Richard D. Kirkham, AVP Pioneer Stories

Those who attended Super Duper Days this year at "This is the Place Heritage Park" may have visited a small cabin that belonged to Levi and Rebecca Riter. It was one of the first houses built in Utah in 1847. The cabin is different from others because it was built of logs split with the whip saw and covered with boards and slabs. It shed the rain very well, but it had no floor.

So why did Levi build such a curious little cabin? It turns out that Levi was a millwright and knew a good deal about milling lumber. In fact only eleven days after his arrival to the Salt Lake Valley on October 2, 1847, Levi Riter and two other men were granted a petition to build a sawmill. Two months later the valley's first Christmas celebrations were held in the little Riter cabin.

Elder Levi Evans Ritter was born January 1, 1805 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Levi learned the millwright trade in his early years. In December 1834, he married Rebecca W. Dilworth. He first heard the gospel preached by Bishop E. D. Woolley and others in 1839. He went in 1843 to Nauvoo to visit the Prophet Joseph and bought a city lot from him, and then returned to his home in Pennsylvania where he remained engaged part of the time in storekeeping until April 1846.

About that time, he was baptized by Elder Julian Moses. With his family, he moved the same spring to Nauvoo to join the main body of the church then fleeing to the west from mob persecution. After fitting up his teams there, he continued his course with a company of saints across the state of Iowa and wintered with the church at Winter Quarters. There he was ordained a bishop and set to preside over a ward containing a large number of the families of the brethren in the Mormon Battalion who were in a state of utter destitution. These were the first scenes of misery and destitution Levi had ever seen, and he frequently wept over the sorrows of these people. Coming into the church with considerable means, Levi spent a large amount of his substance in feeding the poor families of his ward. In the spring of 1847 he moved with the church to the Salt Lake Valley. Upon arrival in the valley he built his curious little cabin.



Levi was proactive in getting things done. In a January 1848 letter to relatives, he said he "had already planted seven acres of wheat" and was "preparing to plant thirty acres of corn, buckwheat and vegetables."

In the fall of 1848, he went to California to look after the goods he had sent there on the ship Brooklyn, in charge of Samuel Brannan. He braved the dangers of this journey to California alone, the country at that time being a trackless wilderness. Late in 1849, he returned from California. On his way home, in company with one other man, he was attacked in the night by Indians. Both escaped with their lives only. He and his companion separated in the night, and each thought the other was killed. Levi wandered about the country several days, hiding in the daytime and subsisting on rosebuds, and finally came across a squad of emigrants. Having eight guns, the company was attacked again by a large number of Indians. They stood their ground and fought until their ammunition was exhausted. Some of their party killed, and the remainder made their escape. A few days later, a company of saints from California came along with whom he had placed most of his means, and he along with those immigrants, came to Salt Lake.

In 1852 he went on a mission to Europe and returned in 1853. In the spring of 1856 he was sent with others to found a colony in Carson Valley and again revisited California. He returned the following winter and went back again the next spring and returned again with others who were recalled on account of the troubles in 1857. In the foregoing travels, he crossed the American continent three times before there was a railroad west of the Mississippi.

His latter years were spent at his vocation as a farmer, his labors having no end. He also served as councilor to Bishop S. A. Woolley. In rain or sunshine, storm or calm, he was always at work, knowing no method of gaining a livelihood but by incessant toil. His method of doing business was to have his word as good as his bond, to pay as he went, and he remained to the day of his death one of the noblest men of God.

# Monument Trek



## Little Sandy Crossing

FARSON, WYOMING - UPTLA #26

At the Eden Valley on the bank of Sandy Creek just south of Farson, Wyoming on Wyoming Highway 28 just west of US highway 191 - GPS N42 06 29.0, W109 27 11.6 elevation 6595 feet) stands a Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association (UPTLA) monument memorializing the meeting of President Brigham Young and James (Jim) Bridger.

The Pioneer company and the Jim Bridger party camped in proximity of each other near this monument's location on Monday evening of June 28, 1847. During that night President Young and Jim Bridger conferred with each other regarding the route and the possibility of establishing a settlement for a large population in the valley of the Great Salt Lake. It

is here and on this occasion that Bridger discouraged such an undertaking and allegedly offered Brigham \$1000 for the first bushel of corn grown in the Salt Lake Valley.

It is uncertain where Bridger would have had dollars to pay such a price so far into the western wilderness (outside of the USA). Nevertheless, history has proven the wisdom, leadership, and success of Brigham Young in his endeavors to colonize a great portion of the southwestern part of what is now the United States.

The UPTLA erected this monument in association with the members of Lyman Stake in 1933.



Jim Bridger



Mural at Utah State Capitol of Jim Bridger Scouting the Great Salt Lake

# 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 please.
2. 1 high quality jpeg photograph as an attachment to your email. Poor quality photos cannot be used.
3. Email to: [rolandleefamily@gmail.com](mailto:rolandleefamily@gmail.com)
4. News must be received by the 25th of each month

We cannot use PDF files nor will we re-write information from your own chapter newsletters. Please take a few minutes and provide the information we need in the manner requested above. Thank you.

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

NAME .....CHAPTER

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

Lyman King ..... Mills  
 Bruce Grant Stewart..... Mills

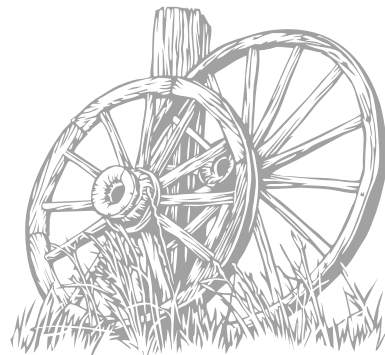
### NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

John Butrick ..... Centerville  
 Dennis A Clegg..... The Mountain Valley  
 Vern J Ferrin ..... Pioneer Heritage-Canyon Rim  
 Kraig Ford..... The Mountain Valley  
 Richard H Moore ..... The Mountain Valley  
 Eric Gubler Nielson .....Hurricane Valley  
 Bob Roberts.....Timpanogos  
 Porter Alan Wayman..... Lehi

NAME .....CHAPTER

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

Marvin Sid Allsop ..... WorldWide Pioneer  
 J LaMar Anderson .....Temple Fork  
 Darrell Herndon..... Grove City  
 Bruce Hoggard .....Timpanogos  
 Lincoln Clair LeCheminant .... WorldWide Pioneer  
 David Wirthlin ..... WorldWide Pioneer



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

## BOX ELDER CHAPTER - Brigham City, Utah



*Gold Panning*

On July 24, the Box Elder Chapter held its annual Pioneer Day in Brigham City event. A crowd of over 800 attended and participated in 12 different pioneer-related booth activities. Local musical groups performed on stage, and we enjoyed a visit from the Box Elder High School marching band at lunchtime.

With unexpected clouds, the weather was near-perfect. The Idle Isle Restaurant and a shaved ice vendor kept everyone well-fed and refreshed. The event is free for everyone and has become a family favorite over the last ten years.

## CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



*Higbees, Broughs and Ortons*

The Cedar City Chapter sponsored our annual town meeting at the Rock Church in Cedar City on July 24th as part of our Pioneer Day Celebration. During the meeting we recognized our six college scholarship recipients from three local high schools and our essay contest winners. This year we had 379 essays submitted from 4th graders in 9 different schools. Each essay told a story about an ancestor of the submitting student. The overall winner was Anniston Shumway from Three Peaks Elementary who wrote about her great, great, great grandmother Haley Ruth Ellis Ward. She was born without arms, but despite this never let her handicap prevent her from living a normal life and being an inspiration to future generations.

We presented “Modern Pioneer” awards to our outgoing Cedar City Temple presidency and matrons – Larry and Joy Brough, Thomas and Carolyn Higbee, and Dale and Netta Orton. Our featured speakers were President and Sister Higbee. Having made multiple trips to Ukraine and Russia where they served a mission, they related some of the background behind the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine and told stories relating how the people they worked with in both countries are modern-day pioneers.

## COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



*Dean Terry Speaks at his Ranch*

The Cotton Mission usually takes July off. But one of our great leaders, Dean Terry, decided to throw a potluck dinner up at his ranch near Enterprise. There was a great turnout and we enjoyed the cooler air as

well as hearing from Dean Terry and Monte Holm. The food was excellent and some of Dean’s children and grand-children helped organize the dinner and serve the food.

## LEHI CHAPTER - Lehi, Utah



*Visiting Monument*

The Lehi Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers has been visiting local historical markers and having discussions about the significant events that took place at each site.

On Saturday July 1, we ventured out to the location of the first settlement in Lehi, near Sulphur Springs-Snow Springs Park. The first

settlement happened in the summer of 1850, but by 1853 the settlement had moved and joined with two other settlements in the area to form Evansville, which would be renamed Lehi. Everyone enjoyed this brief history of those who came before us and how difficult life on the frontier would have been.

## OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



*Eden's Yellow Rose*

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers enjoyed a well-attended summer social and dinner with partners and friends on Monday, July 10. We met

at Friendship Park in South Ogden. It was a Hawaiian theme with entertainment by Eden's Yellow Rose, a cover band made up of five residents of Eden, Utah.

## PORTER ROCKWELL CHAPTER - Salt Lake City South, Utah



*Jim Backman Presents Award to Dale and Rachel Kimball*

On June 28, 2023, the Porter Rockwell Chapter presented the Modern Pioneer Award to Dale and Rachel Kimball. Judge Kimball was the speaker that evening in the chapter's regular dinner meeting where he discussed several historically significant Utah cases. His contributions as a federal judge to the community, the state of Utah, and the nation are significant and memorable. Both he and his wife, Rachel, are Draper natives. Rachel is a granddaughter of Henry Eastman Day, lived on Ballard Corner and served long and well in the medical community. Dale was born in Provo, Utah and grew up on a dairy farm in Draper. He worked in the fields where his family grew alfalfa, sugar beets and grain. His family sold their farm to the

Catholic Diocese in 1996, and it is now the site of the Skaggs Catholic Center, which houses Juan Diego High School. He graduated magna cum laude from BYU with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and received a Juris Doctor degree, second in his class, from the University of Utah College of Law. Throughout his life, he has served his church in leadership positions both on a local and regional level. In 1997, President Bill Clinton nominated him as a United States District Judge, and he was confirmed by the United States Senate. During his time on the bench, Judge Kimball presided over many notable cases including the Brian David Mitchell criminal trial. (Submitted by Ned Arnold, board member)

## SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



*Elder McConkie of the Seventy*

Click [HERE](#) to see all of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter's upcoming events and watch past luncheon presentations. There will be no regularly scheduled luncheon for August for the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter.

Click [HERE](#) to listen to Elder James W. McConkie's address at the annual Sunrise Service that kicked off the downtown Days of '47 events.

Joining Elder McConkie on the stand this year was Elder McConkie's wife, Laurel; Val Parrish, President of the SUP Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter; John Clayton, 2023 SUP National President; Nate Pierce, SUP National

President Elect; Larry Gibson, 2023 SUP National Past President; Greg Christofferson, Mormon Battalion Association President; Erin Mendenhall, Mayor of Salt Lake City; Lane Summerhays, Days of '47 Chairman; Burgess Owens, United States Congressman; Ellen Jepson, President of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers; the 2023 DUP Royalty, and members of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter Board.

For those who weren't able to make it, we hope you'll join us next year in the Tabernacle.



**SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah***Bob Brown*

Bob Brown was our speaker on Thursday, July 6th. Bob's interest in the Pioneer Jubilee began more than 20 years ago when he began researching one of the souvenir items from the Jubilee that a friend sold to him. He has since collected many mementoes that were issued for the Jubilee and has extensively researched the history of the event. The original pioneers continued to meet annually for several years after the Jubilee until they had all passed on. The Brigham Young statue between the Church office building and the Joseph Smith building was originally placed at the present location as part of the Jubilee. Bob has many fascinating stories to tell about

this seminal event in early Utah history. On July 24, 1897, the LDS Church held a grand Pioneer Jubilee celebrating 50 years since the first pioneers entered the Salt Lake Valley. Although Brigham Young's company arrived first in the valley, it was determined that any of the arrivals in 1847 should be considered one of the original pioneers. In total, 1949 pioneers arrived in Utah in 1847. Fifty years later, 727 of those original pioneers were still living. In 1897, 28 of the 148 pioneers in Brigham Young's original party were still living. Twenty-six of those survivors attended the celebration.

**TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah***Michael Paskett*

Thursday, July 20th the Temple Fork chapter met at the Logan Country Club for our monthly meeting and dinner. Our presenter was Michael Paskett. Michael grew up on a sheep ranch and talked about raising sheep and predators, specifically bears. He explained how a bear goes through a herd of sheep killing lambs and eating the choice parts. He then gave a rendition of Old Ephraim, the last Grizzly Bear in Utah.

Old Ephraim terrorized sheep herds for many years in the early part of the 20th century. In 1922, after many years of predation Old Ephraim was finally caught in a bear trap. When daylight came Old Ephraim, with a trap still on his paw charged the herder who had set the trap. Six shots were fired from a seven shot rifle. Finally with the 7th and last shot Old Ephraim went down. A monument stands today near this location in Temple Fork Canyon on the South side of Logan Canyon.

**TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah***Dr. LaMar Adams*

The Timpanogos Chapter dinner meeting was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at the American Fork, Utah Senior Citizen Center. The speaker was Dr. L. LaMar Adams. Dr. Adams is a member of the Timpanogos Chapter and is also a Past President of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. LaMar has a distinguished career in teaching at Brigham Young University. He retired as a professor emeritus after teaching for thirty-

two years. He holds a PhD in ancient scripture and has directed tours to Israel, Egypt, and six other countries. The title of his presentation was "The Exodus as a Pioneering Prototype of Things to Come". Dr. Adams recounted the teachings of ancient and modern Prophets showing patterns of things to come in our lives. It was a thoughtful and stimulating talk for each of us to consider.