

Trail Marker

VOLUME 19

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 220

12 NUMBER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE




There is no doubt that we live in troubled times. Many nations are engaged in wars, disputes, and civil unrest. Even in our own country there is a continual "War of Words" between competing interests that often erupts into physical violence. Contrary to being bombarded with news of the ravages of war and civil unrest, this month we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. In times of conflict, adversity, and war, we all pray for Peace. We understand that there will always be "wars and rumors of wars" no matter the era or the age we live in. But, our yearnings, desires, and prayers should always be for Peace, and to be Peace-makers.

The early Utah Pioneers were no strangers to persecution, death, and destruction from those individuals and groups that "warred against the Saints". In order to find Peace, they had to seek refuge in a harsh land that no others wanted. In 1847, the first refugee Saints entered the Salt Lake Valley. They immediately began to build homes, construct shelters, till the ground, and prepare for the first winter. Christmas in 1847 for the Saints was mostly like any other day. They worked that day because they needed to make sure they could survive the winter. For many of the Pioneers, those early Christmases were in the depths of harsh winters and, unfortunately, not a time of plenty. However, in spite of the harsh conditions, memories of those early Christmas celebrations were as simple as a single dance, a word of gratitude, a small gift of sweets, or a homemade token of affection or item of clothing.

For the Saints, it wasn't long before Christmas became a widely celebrated holiday. Dances, parties, family gatherings, presents, games, carolers, sleigh rides, bonfires, fireworks, etc. all became part of the celebration. Some communities celebrated by ice-skating on the perfectly flat frozen ponds and sloughs. Many celebrated with bob sleigh rides piled with soft straw, hot bricks, and plenty of covers. It was Peaceful to hear the tinkling bells on the harnesses of the horses.

The Saints, in all their celebrations, never forgot the "reason for the season". They relied heavily upon the Lord and honored Him and His birth. They found joy, happiness, comfort, and Peace in their new found home in the West. In 1852 the Social Hall was completed. On Christmas Eve a celebration was held for several families with dancing for both the young and old. There was a "Santa Claus" Tree with a present for every child in attendance. This was a delightful evening and brought a Spirit of Peace to those in attendance, both young and old.

During this Christmas Season as we party and celebrate, let us remember to pray for Peace, remember and celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, and find personal Peace in our lives.


L. Nate Pierce
2023 National President

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NATIONAL NEWS

MEET OUR NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY DIRECTOR: BRUCE STEWART



Among Bruce’s multiple educational achievements are a Master’s Degree in Western American History, and a PHD in Colonial American Religious History. He has been a dynamic Church Education System professional for many years. Early in his career he was the wildly popular Principal of the Highland High School Seminary. He was an Adjunct Professor of Church History at BYU for 20 years, then on to the University of Utah Institute of Religion and LDS Business College. He chaired the committee that rewrote the Church Education Manuals that are used world-wide. The last 5 years of his career he was the managing director for Church

History Workshops for Seminaries and Institutes. He has contributed to the Joseph Smith Papers Project, the fabulous volumes entitled “Saints,” and he is part of a team currently working on a new Doctrine and Covenants Commentary for the Church. When the Church decides to take their educators on a Church History Tour, Bruce has been their guide. He is an inspired teacher and writer, and he will be an amazing Librarian! Please check out our National Research Library in person or on the Library web site: suplibrary.org where you can search for your Pioneer ancestors.



GIVE THE GIFT OF PIONEER MAGAZINE

For over 75 Years, the Sons of Utah Pioneers Pioneer Magazine has provided a venue for award-winning authors to cast fresh light on significant Utah historical events, people, and places. Utah’s fascinating story is told in each beautifully illustrated issue with riveting text, exquisite art and rich photography.

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



PIONEER STORIES

Please submit your stories to our Pioneer Stories Director, Rich Kirkham at rich@richkirkham.com

A PIONEER CHRISTMAS

By Richard D. Kirkham, AVP Pioneer Stories

Pioneer George Kirkham was born in London, England in 1852. He crossed the plains when he was seven. He experienced the adventures of childhood and frontier life living in a dug out in Lehi, Utah. Around Christmas of 1872, at age 20 George married Mary Zimmerman and they spent their first Christmas together as husband and wife.

In Lehi, George worked as a carpenter and painter during the first year of their marriage. While thus employed, a call for volunteers was sent out from Salt Lake to all able bodied men who were men who would go to St. George to work on the Temple. George said, "I did not feel like letting the opportunity pass to help rear one of the temples of the last days." He was overjoyed when his name was selected and his journal entry of October 23, 1874 records that he along with his wife and 10 month old son, and his father and brother, Joseph, began the 325 mile journey from Lehi to St. George.

"We had one team and wagon to us four - five with our little boy George. There were 14 of us going to Dixie, with 4 teams. Our team was loaded with flour, meat, dried apples, sugar, soup, matches, and all kinds of provisions, besides our own little notions. I took paper, ink, stamps, and lots of little things we thought we would need on our way."

The company arrived in St. George on November 5, 1874. When they first arrived there was nowhere to stay so they camped in their wagons at the tithing office for the first 5 days. Then the Kirkhams got a room in Brother William McCallester's house where they spent their first winter. A month and a half passed and Christmas came around. That year the entire community got together to have a feast and celebrate the holiday. George describes the memorable event this way;

"Friday December 25, 1874: It was Christmas. We went to the tabernacle to a meeting, where we had speakers and songs, and eating bread, cheese, pie and cake. I was called up to sing. I sang the song which was called, "Let Us Be Happy Together". We had a fine time. There were from 800 to 1000 people eating



and drinking. The wine was carried around in buckets of brass, and I saw men coming in with baskets of tin cups. It was a fine time, such as I never expect to forget. It made me think of the scriptures where the Savior fed the multitude. After meeting we returned home. At night we spent the evening at home with my wife. We spent the evening very agreeable. I was drawing, my wife sewing, and my father sat in a rocking chair in the corner. He looked like he was thinking of home, while we received our light from a little lantern."

George was a popular singer and entertainer. He eventually became a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and traveled with them to the World's Fair Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

According to an article published in BYU studies, author Richard Kimball says the pioneer converts brought a lot of Christmas traditions with them from their home countries. He says, "Mormon immigrants from across the world carried their culinary Christmas traditions with them when they gathered to Zion. Scottish Saints made shortcake for their holiday celebrations, while Danish Saints supped on "sweet soup made of rice and fruit juice." Many Scandinavian immigrants ate their celebratory dinner on Christmas Eve. On Christmas and New Year's Day, Scandinavian Saints looked forward to rice mush cooked in milk and sweetened with cinnamon and sugar. Even the animals in Scandinavian homes received an extra share of food to commemorate Christmas day. Of course, plum pudding was the season's delight for British Saints in Utah. Ann Mailin Sharp, a handcart pioneer of 1856, made her holiday concoction with "flour, suet, molasses, dried groundcherries, and a few dried wild currants." The ingredients, "sewed up in a white cloth," were "kept boiling for hours in the kettle hanging over the fireplace." When the pudding finished cooking, a small amount of brandy was poured over it and lit with a match. The blue flame rising from the pudding may very well have reminded British converts of the Christmases of their past and given them hope for a bright future in Christ."

Monument Trek



Utah War Monument

At the mouth of Echo Canyon at the eastbound rest stop (exit 170)

GPS: N40 59 22.96, W111 24 10.15

In May of 1857, President James Buchanan ordered a United States Army of 2,500 men to march to Utah. The army was commanded by Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston. His assignment was to quell reported difficulties between appointed government officials and Brigham Young, governor of the territory. The following spring, 500 additional soldiers were sent to join Colonel Johnston, giving him an army of 3,000 men to confront the Utah Militia. Sending the U.S. Army out west was a result of falsehoods concerning the conditions in Utah, lack of communication, and politics. Accompanying the army was Alfred Cumming, who had been appointed to replace Brigham Young as governor.

In the spring of 1858, Cumming and Johnston's 2,500 strong were led through the Canyon by Porter Rockwell at night. The Utah Nauvoo Legion company set bonfires from one end of the canyon to the other and had a number of men marching and conversing around the fires to give the appearance of hundreds of soldiers, when in fact there were as few as a dozen men manipulating their knowledge of the Canyon's terrain to their advantage. Armed soldiers greeted the governor at three different encampments, little did he know that he was speaking to the same soldiers at each occasion. By the end of the journey, Cumming and Johnston were less convinced they had a chance in contending against such a large force of Mormon military.

At the mouth of Echo Canyon at the eastbound rest stop (exit 170), GPS: N40 59 22.96, W111 24 10.15 elevation 5766 feet, is a monument (SUP 185A, B C, and D) with four plaques memorializing the "US Army Sent West", "Fortifying Echo Canyon", "The Mormon Response", and "Diplomacy Prevails". This monument summarizes the history of the Utah War and its resolution in good detail and is worthy of a chapter, family, or individual trek.



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
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!

NAMECHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Jacob Bangerter..... Salt Lake Pioneer
 Ted B Barratt.....Timpanogos
 Richard BurrowsOgden Valley
 David G Finch..... Mills
 Ennis Gibbs..... The Mountain Valley
 Steven L GrowBrigham Young
 Newell Boyd Knight Jordan River Temple
 Chad Andrew Mortenson..... Temple Quarry
 Dennis ParkerHurricane Valley
 Dave Quist.....Porter Rockwell
 Reed C Rasmussen..... WorldWide Pioneer
 Douglas Thompson Boulder Dam Chapter

NAMECHAPTER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Ray S ThompsonSettlement Canyon
 H Leon TwymanTimpanogos

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Audrey MuntonTimpanogos

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Ken AlfordOgden Pioneer
 Bill Bingham..... Squaw Peak
 DeLoss Eggleston.....Lehi
 Richard N Heywood..... Mesa
 Reed M IzattBrigham Young
 Gerald C Spencer Red Rock



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

BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada



Sam Roach



Trek to Goodsprings

For the November meeting and in recognition of Veterans Day, the Boulder Dam Chapter invited Sam Roach, a veteran of the Viet Nam War to speak to our chapter. Sam grew up in Texas and because his grandmother was of the Choctaw Tribe, he spent many summers on the reservation. It was on the reservation, that he worked and earned his Eagle Scout Award and was also taught by his native American friends many survival skills which later helped him survive in Viet Nam. When he was 17 years old, he went to join the Marines, but was not old enough. He bribed a woman on the reservation to come and tell the recruiters that she was his mother, and she gave him

permission to join. On a scouting mission in Viet Nam, his group was captured and put in a holding cell. They later escaped and were finally rescued by a helicopter as they floated down a river holding onto a log. He talked about the tragedies of war and various situations he encountered. Even after 55 years, he faces mental challenges. When he returned home, he earned a college degree and then re-enlisted in the reserves in California. He retired after achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He now lives in Boulder City with his family. After his remarks, we gathered for pie, and it was a very enlightening and uplifting meeting.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo / Orem, Utah



Casey Griffiths

Casey Paul Griffiths, a BYU Religious Education faculty member, discussed the origins of modern LDS Seminary and Institute programs in a recent meeting. Joseph F. Merrill, pivotal in their creation, underwent a unique spiritual journey distinct from his father's intense experiences. Struggling with faith while studying in the East, Merrill's skepticism grew. Prompted by a spiritual experience, he resumed church involvement, eventually becoming counselor to Richard Lyman, the Church's newly called Sunday School President. Observing the decline in church schools and inspired by his wife's teachings, Merrill pioneered Seminary

education. Despite initial doubts during the Great Depression, the program succeeded, leading to the Institute's development. Brother Griffiths highlighted Merrill's legacy, connecting historic leaders like Gordon B. Hinckley and Hugh Nibley to these programs. He emphasized their adaptability, effectively merging gospel teachings with secular studies, catering to the youth. Merrill's profound impact on religious education within the LDS community is evident in the enduring legacy of the Seminary and Institute programs, bridging spiritual teachings with the contemporary world.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



New Board Members

The Cedar City Chapter sponsored our annual Bread and Milk Social on October 28 in the old Rock Church in Cedar City. Despite its name, it was a potluck dinner with a variety of soups, breads and desserts to enjoy. Kent Hugh provided our Pioneer Minute reflecting on many of his ancestors who were instrumental in the settling of Southern Utah. We were entertained by the Emily Green family who performed a number of patriotic songs for us. Harold Shirley, our area SUP vice-president, swore in the members of the chapter board for the coming year. This included our new

president, Jeff Corry, and president-elect, Eugene Humphreys and past-president, David Excell. Also added to the board were Paul Fice as chairman of our Potluck/Social committee, Eric Tait as Membership committee chairman and Don Anderson as chapter Historian. We also used the event as a fundraiser for our scholarship program. Those attending generously donated \$1355 to help replenish our scholarship account. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to continuing with our many programs and activities next year.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Emmeline B. Wells

Our Centerville Chapter meeting was held on Thursday, November 2nd and included a dinner prepared by our current and past presidents and their wives. Our guest speaker was Brenda Homer who has served in many city and state positions as well as private organizations. She received the CFO of the year for the Utah Technology Council. Brenda taught us about several keys to doing research which are: #1 Find what has been found by others. #2 Search journals and diaries. #3 Find news and reports, both contemporary and early. She indicated that a good source for finding stories of pioneer women is the DUP publication "Daughters of the Utah Pioneers and their mothers." Brenda was recently released from serving nearly six years in the Church History Library where she led a special projects team of the Emmeline B. Wells project. Brenda used her knowledge of Sister Wells to present a fascinating history

of her and her many accomplishments. Emmeline Blanche Woodward was born in Petersham, Massachusetts in 1828. She was married at the age of 15 and joined the church in Nauvoo. She had many interactions with the prophet Joseph Smith, and she testified that she knew he was a prophet. She traveled to the Salt Lake Valley with the Newell K. Whitney family and in 1845 she was sealed as a plural wife to Newel. After his death, she married Daniel H. Wells. Emmeline was involved in many church and civic activities and was known as "The mother of suffrage for Utah." A famous quote of hers was, "I believe in women, especially thinking women." She spent decades as a journalist and became the editor of the Woman's Exponent. Emmeline was diligent in keeping her personal records and had 47 volumes of her journals from 1844 to 1921. She served as the 5th Relief Society General President.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Lee Caldwell



Trek

Lee Caldwell was our speaker at the November 28 chapter dinner meeting. Lee, a life-member of the SUP is a current member of our Cotton Mission chapter. He was at the forefront of the development of the Internet and helped the LDS Church develop what we now know as FamilySearch. Being involved since the beginning stages, Lee has a wealth of knowledge which he drew from as he shared this history. Lee was a faculty member or served in the administration at Sam Houston State University, the University of Utah, Indiana University, Georgia Tech, Dixie State, Gulf University for Science and Technology (Kuwait) and the American University of Kuwait. "I was the only Church member involved in the early days of the Internet," he said. This led to executive positions at Unisys, Novell, IBM and HP. He was centrally involved in FamilySearch when it initially launched.

Our chapter also held an informative trek to the St. George site of a terrible oil rig disaster in 1935. Former chapter President Royce Griffin drew on his own oil exploration background to explain the geology of the Bloomington Dome, the reasoning that brought wildcat prospectors to it and led local residents to invest in the oil enterprise during the Great Depression, and what is known about the explosion at what was known as the Escalante No. 2 Oil Well that killed nine people and seriously injured a few others in March 1935, including some local residents who were spectators during the incident. Durant McArthur and Loren Webb provided additional information. Because of the seriousness of the explosion, four bodies were never found, including that of the company president who was atop the oil derrick when it blew up. Other victims' body parts were scattered around the area and gathered by workers who buried them in a common pit.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



*DeVon & Carol Armstrong
Modern-day Pioneers*



Than & Cherrie Naegle

This month we our dinner was given to honor not two, but four Modern-day Pioneers! These four individuals have blessed the lives of so many during their tenure on this earth! Than became a life member of the SUP in 1999, and DeVon joined our chapter in July of 2006. Both served on the Hurricane chapter board for a number of years helping to establish a solid and engaging Chapter for years to come! All four have been highly engaged in service to the communities in which they lived. Cherrie is a published author, writing a number of books on the history of various segments of our area in Southern Utah! Carol has been a dedicated supporter of all her husband has been involved in and as a result has blessed not only her family, but many in our community! All have many talents. DeVon has been a scoutmaster blessing numerous young men, and a postman with a walking beat! Than has been an engineer, and in his later year built an airplane from scratch, taking his wife for a flight just last year! Each

of these marvelous individuals have met the Sons of Utah Pioneers Pioneer Values of: Faith in God

Devotion to Family, Loyalty to Church and Country, Hard Work and Service to Others, Courage in Adversity, Personal Integrity, and Unyielding Determination. We are proud to honor them as they join our other Modern-day Pioneers!

December: Our dinner meeting will be held Wednesday, December 6th at the Colonial Building and not the Legion Hall. The address is 1464 South 700 W. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. Our meal will be hosted by Golden Corral, and our entertainment will be presented by our own Casey Lofthouse! This Christmas dinner will also be used as a fundraiser, and the meal will be \$30.00 a plate. The funds will go to help with scholarships, essays, and monuments! It should be an amazing evening!!

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



President and Sister Crump

On November 8th, our Chapter meeting welcomed Scott and Desir'ee Crump. They both presented a program on their experiences serving two separate missions to Nauvoo for their Church. They shared many historical facts about Nauvoo and the Quincy

Illinois Miracle. They even presided over the performing missionaries in Nauvoo—45 in summer months and 30 in the fall. Thank you Brother and Sister Crump for your most interesting and informative presentation.

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Kim Hicks

We recently lost another stalwart member of our Chapter: Richard Heywood. Brother Heywood was a past Bishop and Stake Patriarch. His son Ricky currently serves as our Chapter Treasurer. Richard will be greatly missed. Our "2nd Thursday of the Month" gathering was held November 9th at the Evergreen Ward building in Tempe, AZ. We enjoyed our typically delicious pot luck dinner, patriotic moment and pledge

of the flag of the United States, followed by an excellent trumpet rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner by current Past President Matt Wharton. Kim Hicks rounded out our 3-part Family Search series with an excellent presentation on digitally preserving and sharing our family records: photos, film, video, documents. A video of the presentation may be viewed on YouTube, [HERE](#).

MORGAN CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Mark Francis



Laird Dummer

The Morgan chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers gathered for their Luncheon on Monday, November 20th, at the Rock Church. Mark Francis, a board member of our local chapter, introduced himself and shared some of his pioneer heritage. He is a descendant of Samuel Francis, an early convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in England. Mark was raised in Morgan, served a mission to Australia and retired from Browning after 45 years. He and his wife Lana are the parents of 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

After lunch, provided by Larry's Spring Chicken Inn, the group heard from Laird Dummer who spoke about the Hawn's Mill

massacre. Laird and his wife Vaudys are from Sandy Utah. He is a life time member and currently one of the Area Vice Presidents of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers. Laird is the 3rd great-grandson of Thomas McBride, one of 17 men and boys killed at Hawn's Mill. The settlement, in Caldwell county Missouri, was an early gathering area for migrating converts to the Church. He read journal entries from James McBride Thomas's son, who survived the killings. Laird shared the tragic stories of the ones who died or were severely wounded but also of the challenges faced by the widows and their families who survived the tragic event. Their perseverance and faith in the face of hardships should inspire us all.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



Donald J. Keyes

Donald J. Keyes, recent past President of the Ogden Temple, shared his experiences as Mission President of the Missouri Independence Mission, and his numerous visits to Adam-ondi-Ahmen at our luncheon with Daughters of Utah Pioneers and our partners. Brother Keyes would take missionaries to Adam-ondi-Ahmen every six weeks as they concluded their missions. Adam and Eve went to Adam-ondi-Ahmen

in northwestern Missouri, after being cast out of the Garden of Eden. Nine hundred years later, Adam gathered his righteous posterity at Adam-ondi-Ahmen and there bestowed his last blessing upon them. He spoke of the future, when Adam will return to Adam-ondi-Ahmen, and ten thousand times ten thousand will stand before Adam and Christ, as spoken of by Daniel the Prophet.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



Teichert Exhibit

Last Meeting November 9, 2023. We are grateful to John and Eileen Johnson, Sherry McMullin, and Shirley Jamiel for hosting and directing our visit to the Minerva Teichert exhibit at the Church History Museum. Thank you members and guests (about 30) for the favorable comments. If you were not able to be there, it is very much worth a visit.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 7, 2023 from 2pm to 4pm. "Christmas

Lunch" at the Chuck-A-Rama Buffet, 744 E 400 S, Salt Lake City (next door to the Tenth Ward Chapel). We have reserved the back room. Each one will be responsible to pay for their meal. All seniors get the 15% discount with or without a discount card. Come in holiday festive dress and enjoy the company and your favorite selections from the buffet. Ask at the desk for the backroom.

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



The Murray High School Madrigals

When: Wednesday, December 13, at 12pm. Please email jedavis2012@gmail.com to RSVP.

Location: Thomas S. Monson Center, 3rd Floor Banquet Hall, 411 E. South Temple.

Cost: \$25 per person.

Performers: The Murray High School Madrigals and Julie Perry will be performing. We are anticipating a wonderful time of music to help ring in the Christmas season.

Julie Perry served a mission, raised a great family, worked as a nurse for years, and delights audiences and congregations with her music for years. She enjoys her grand piano and the opportunity to play for those around her.

Webpage: Click [HERE](#) to see all of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter's upcoming events and watch past luncheon presentations.

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Steven J. Allison

November 2, 2023 the members of the Settlement Canyon Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers were very pleased to listen to Steven T. Allison as he presented the topic "Religiosity in American and the Westward Migration." Steve has served as President and Preservation Officer of the Utah Crossroads Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association. He is currently the National President of OCTA. The Oregon-California Trails Association, is dedicated to preserving, studying, and identifying the long-distance

historic trails developed and used by various voyagers and pioneer settlers from the early 1800s through the 1870s. The OCTA goals are to identify and protect the resources, to document the human history of these routes, to promote research, education, preservation of trail traces, and to stimulate public awareness of their significance. Steven has traveled and led groups across the Mormon Trail, the Hastings Cutoff and other Utah trails. He has a vast knowledge of the pioneer experience and was a very interesting speaker.

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had a wonderful chapter meeting during the month of November. We heard from several of our members about their military experience. We heard from Dick True, Delton Campbell, Will Smith, and Riley Draper. Dick True served in the Navy as an electronics engineer. Delton Campbell served in the Army and had experiences that he shared from Vietnam and several instances where his life was directed in a way that saved his life. Will Smith served in the Air Force for 20 years and the Army for 7 years as an aircraft mechanic and he was a

skilled marksman. Riley Draper served in the Army for 7 years and worked up to being an officer. We also heard briefly from a few other members that had served in the armed forces. Bill Hardesty also shared a pioneer moment with us about his ancestors Francis Peay and Eliza Blake.

Our next meeting will be on December 11th at 6:30 pm at Jim's Restaurant in West Jordan. We will have the privilege of listening to the Taylorsville High School Madrigals. We invite anyone that would like to attend with us.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Darrell Sanders

Greetings from beautiful Cache Valley. We hope you all had a very good Thanksgiving and are prepared for the winter ahead. The Temple Fork chapter held two activities in November. First our monthly dinner and meeting was held at the Logan Country Club. Following a fine meal we were pleased to hear from our new SUP area vice-president, Darrell Sanders. Darrell began by discussing the Mayflower ship and passengers that arrived at Cape Cod in November 1620 and settled the area known as Plymouth. He told of the trials and struggles that

the Pilgrims went through as they established the first successful settlement in the new world. He also discussed what it may have been like at the first Thanksgiving in 1621 and what the meal may have consisted of. He then discussed his pioneer ancestry and how his family helped settle the Utah Territory. Our second activity was a trek to the new Family Search Center in Logan. The trek was well attended. Everyone had a great time learning about the advances in family history and what the center offers.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



David M. Bezzant

The Timpanogos Chapter dinner meeting was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at the American Fork, Utah Senior Citizen Center. Past President Frank Mill announced that David M. Bezzant from Pleasant Grove was selected to receive the Modern-Day Pioneer Award for 2023. David became the guest speaker for the evening. Mr. Bezzant is the son of Timpanogos Chapter member, Mark Bezzant. David spoke about the history of the Bezzant Farm in Pleasant Grove. The Bezzant Orchards is one of the multi-generation farms in the city. As the older

generation passes on the descendants do not always agree about whether to keep the farm or sell the property for housing development. Ultimately the Farm was scheduled to be sold to developers but David stepped up and purchased the property and preserved the farm. David's final remark was "The journey we wanted to share with you is the effort to try to preserve history. To try and preserve the history of past generations of those who went before." Therefore, the Bezzant Farms will remain as part of Pleasant Grove history for years to come.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Robert Schwartz

New Leaders Nominated: Dan Shewell was nominated as President-Elect for 2024. Doug Ladle will continue as Secretary and Ron Gibb as Treasurer. Craig Nordfelt will be the Past President and Merrill Pratt will be the new President. We appreciate their willingness to serve the chapter. Russ Norton performed the musical number on the piano. He is the piano technician for BYU-Idaho, servicing over 200 pianos on the campus. He played the historic hymn "A Poor Wayfaring Man of Grief." Louis Clements shared the history of Thanksgiving, including details about the first Thanksgiving dinner of the Pilgrims in 1649 and when this special occasion was declared a national holiday in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln. Robert Schwartz, a retired BYU-Idaho Professor and former mission president to Russia, gave a presentation on "How the Church was Brought to Eastern Europe and Russia." He was

introduced by his daughter, who accompanied her parents as a 12-year-old when Bob taught in Ukraine for ten months. She testified that her father had been led by the Lord to learn Russian before going to Russia as a mission president in 1997. Concluding remarks were given by Ed Kumferman, who also served as a mission president in Russia. Ed reported that the temple in Kiev, Ukraine is functioning three times a week and has not been damaged in the war. The Russian army uses the temple as a landmark to locate the city boundaries and therefore does not bomb it. But we all know the real reason why the temple has not been damaged.

Upcoming Activities: December 21st: Richard Larsen: "The History and Heritage of the Larsen Family Farms." January 18th: Shawn Boice: "The Past and Future Story of Real Estate in Madison County."