

Trail Marker

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PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



2021 has been a most interesting year as we have worked our way through some difficult challenges but also many wonderful experiences. As we conclude 2021, we hope you all take some time to reflect on all that you have done and been through and with confidence say "We made it!" As we move into the new year of 2022, we also hope each of you individually, as families, and as a part of our wonderful chapters and national organization are looking forward with anticipation. It will be a wonderful year and journey!

We have made progress in working our way through the various strains of COVID. We are starting to realize that there can and will be a new normal in which we will learn

to live with optimism and joy. There is a very special future ahead of us. Let me reiterate our appreciation for each of the Chapters staying close to and regularly reaching out to all of our members providing the social experiences they need with formal meetings, treks, home visits and phone calls, etc. What a blessing you are and have been in supporting and being the sustaining scaffolding around them. Thank you for your many efforts. We express on behalf of the National leadership team, our gratitude for all that each of you are doing to keep our chapters closely knit together and moving forward. We are confident that 2022 will be an even better year for our National Society of Sons of Utah Pioneers. We are excited!

As we begin this new year, please know that the National Organization is on a firm foundation and will continue to be. We recently held our National Board Meeting and Christmas Dinner on December 8, 2021. You were all invited and those who attended had a very choice opportunity to mingle with old friends, partake of a wonderful dinner and be entertained in a way that brought joy, laughter, and togetherness. Please put on your calendar right now, April 23, 2022, the date for the 2022 National Symposium. This is an event that you will not want to miss! Remember, 2022 is the 175th Anniversary of the Vanguard Pioneer Company entering the Salt Lake Valley for the first time and the Mormon Battalion entering California following their major journey. It will be an enjoyable year of celebration and the theme for the Symposium.

The Vanguard Pioneer Company left Winter Quarters and gathered at a place about 20 miles from Winter Quarters on the banks of the Platte River. There they worked repairing wagons, organizing supplies, and chopping firewood. It was not until the

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16th of April that the company was officially organized into the hundreds, fifties, and tens, with captains appointed and they started their journey. The organized company consisted of 142 men, 3 women, 2 children, and 72 wagons. They traveled 1,031 miles before reaching their destination. Some members of the company traveled ahead and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley as early as the July 21, 1847, with the entire company arriving by the 24th of July.

During this same time the Mormon Battalion, the only religious unit in United States military history, was recruited solely from one religious body and given a religious title, "Mormon Battalion" as the unit designation. These volunteers served from July 1846 to July 1847 during the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848. The battalion was a volunteer unit of between 534-559 Latter-day Saint men, led by Mormon company officers but commanded by regular U.S. Army officers. During their service, the battalion made a grueling march of nearly 2,100 miles from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to San Diego, California.

The Battalion's march and service supported the eventual cession of much of the American Southwest from Mexico to the United States, especially the Gadsden Purchase of 1853 of southern Arizona and New Mexico. The march also opened a southern wagon route to California. Veterans of

the Battalion played significant roles in America's westward expansion in California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and other parts of the West.

Both the Vanguard Pioneer Company and the Mormon Battalion have amazing histories. We will be focusing on these histories in 2022 and celebrating their great accomplishments 175 years ago. You will not want to miss any of the planned events.

From all of us here at the National Headquarters, we wish you the very best and happiest New Year ever. Please know that we are constantly thinking about you and appreciate the privilege to serve you. May the Lord's blessings ever attend you and all those you love.

CHALLENGE: I hope you took last month's challenge and found 2-3 stories regarding your mother's father to share with your family. I found several stories about Austin Clinton Miner which I will share with my children. This month find 2-3 stories about your mother's mother that you want to share with your children. Write them and share them.


 Larry M. Gibson
 2022 National President

SATURDAY

23

APRIL

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PIONEERS ENTERING THE
SALT LAKE VALLEY & THE MORMON BATTALION ENTERING CALIFORNIA



SATURDAY

23

JULY

DAYS OF '47

SUNRISE SERVICE IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL AT TEMPLE SQUARE • 7AM
PARADE 9AM • COME PULL HANDCARTS WITH THE SUP



8-10

SEPTEMBER

2022

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

HOSTED BY THE HOLLADAY, MILLS, JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE
& SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTERS
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)



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.

GOD COMES TO US

By Richard D. Kirkham, AVP Pioneer Stories

Many of the early saints of the Church were good and faithful people who believed in God and the ministering of angels. It was not beyond their faith to have divine personages from beyond the veil come to them in their times of need, providing comfort, support, knowledge, and direction.

Mary Whitmer, one of the early matriarchs of the restored gospel, was one such recipient. In their book, "God Comes to Women", Heather Farrell and Jen Mabray recount Mary Whitmer's story. They write, "Due to persecution, the Prophet Joseph Smith, his wife Emma, and Oliver Cowdery moved . . . into the home of Peter Whitmer. Even though they had never met Joseph and Emma before, Peter and his wife, Mary, welcomed them warmly. They provided Joseph and Oliver with a quiet place in which to complete the translation of the Book of Mormon. Mary had faith in Joseph's work, but she had eight children and the new house guests added to the burden of her work."

They go on and describe a remarkable witness that Mary received as recorded in the book Saints:

The Standard of Truth (Vol. 1, pages 70-71) which tells how one day, while Mary was going about her daily chores, she received a witness that God was aware of her and appreciated the sacrifices she was making.

Mary had little time to relax herself, and the added work and the strain placed on her were hard to bear. One day, while she was out by the barn where the cows were milked, she saw a gray-haired man with a knapsack slung across his shoulder. His sudden appearance frightened her, but as he approached, he spoke to her in a kind voice that set her at ease.

"My name is Moroni," he said. "You have become pretty tired with all the extra work you have to do." He swung the knapsack off his shoulder, and Mary watched as he started to untie it.

"You have been very faithful and diligent in your labors," he continued. "It is proper, therefore, that you should receive a witness that your faith may be strengthened."



Peter Whitmer Farm, Fayette, New York

Moroni opened his knapsack and removed the gold plates. He held them in front of her and turned their pages so she could see the writings on them. After he turned the last page, he urged her to be patient and faithful as she carried the extra burden a little longer. He promised she would be blessed for it. The old man vanished a moment later, leaving Mary alone. She still had work to do, but that no longer troubled her.

"God had seen Mary's burden. He knew that she had a houseful of people and that she probably did not have much time or space for quiet reflection," concludes Sister Farrell. "Yet, He also knew that she was struggling and that she needed confirmation that what she was doing, and the sacrifices she was making to enable Joseph to complete the translation of the Book of Mormon, were important and valued by God. So, in a rare, quiet moment in the barn, God sent her a divine manifestation of His love and appreciation for her work."

Many such manifestations were experienced and recorded in the journals and histories of the early Saints. But God has not limited his promises only to those early pioneers of this last dispensation. In the Book of Moroni, the man who would one day appear to Mary Whitmer, asked, "Have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved? Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain." (Moroni 7:36-37).

No matter how weary or burdened we are with life's challenges, God is willing to come to us if we are believing and faithful. He has promised, "I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up." (Doctrine and Covenants 84:88)

Mormon Trek

Possible Endowment House

Spring City, Utah



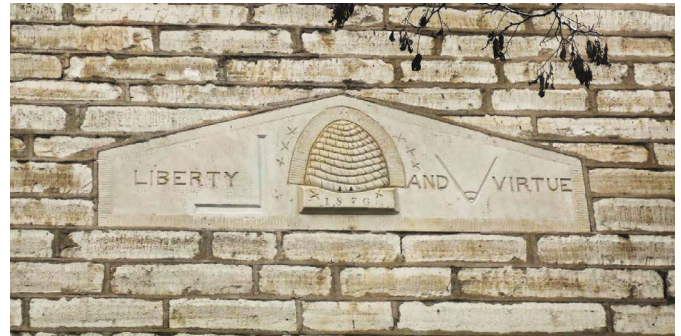
Spring City, a tiny community located in Sanpete County, offers some of Utah's best-preserved examples of pioneer architecture. The town is listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located just off the main road is this curious one-story historic structure with Greek Revival architecture. Historians are unsure if the building was used as an early endowment house, a dedicated sacred house of temple worship for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Built in 1876, it was sold to the Spring City School District in 1878 and named the Allred School, after teacher John Frank Allred. It served this purpose until 1899. However, the records regarding the two years prior to it becoming a school are vague.

This lot was originally deeded to the Female Relief Society; but was considered to be the office of Apostle Orson Hyde, as he lived in town, served as the Stake President of the Sanpete area, and is buried in the Spring City Cemetery just outside of town. Church records list "O. Hyde's office" in Spring City as a temporary dedicated endowment house, but if it was this structure or another, it is unclear. For whatever purpose, Louis Justesen, the stone mason, was instructed to carved the inscription over the doorway featuring sacred temple symbols.

The building was purchased and restored by artist Randall Lake in 1982 and currently serves as a small apartment.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE OFFICE STAFF AND LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS



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 a short (one paragraph) article in MS Word (or send as the text of an email)
2. Attach 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 can we extract and re-write information from your own chapter newsletters. Please have your secretaries or publicity chairmen take a few minutes and provide the information we need in the manner requested above. Thank you.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

NAMECHAPTER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

M Gale Lemmon.Porter Rockwell

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Rocky WhiteCotton Mission

FAMILY & FRIENDS CONVERTED TO ANNUAL MEMBERS

Robert Grow Temple Quarry

Norman Randy Smith Pocatello

NAMECHAPTER

NEW FAMILY & FRIENDS

Kenneth Brailsford..... Timpanogos

Don Bryson WorldWide Pioneer

Paul Clayton Snow Horse

Kenneth Godfrey Temple Fork

Doug HoneyBoulder Dam Chapter

Dennis Johnson..... Snow Horse

Kregg Smith Snow Horse

John Sundloff Snow Horse

Bill ToblerBoulder Dam Chapter

Jerry Torgesen.....Boulder Dam Chapter

Richard Warnick..... Mt Nebo

Gary P Weagle Murray

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

BOX ELDER CHAPTER - Brigham City, Utah



John Kartchner



Madrigals

On Dec. 8th the Box Elder Chapter held our Chapter meeting. We enjoyed a delicious steak dinner catered by the Idle Isle Cafe. After dinner, John Kartchner gave us a short history of William Morley Black. We enjoyed hearing of their experiences and how the Gospel touched and influenced their lives. We were entertained by the Madrigals from the high school under the direction of Casey Wood. They presented very enjoyable Christmas music. We could tell by the quality

of the presentation that they were well trained and enthusiastic as they performed. New chapter board members for 2022 are shown in the attached photo. Identified L to R front row: Jack Small, Darwin Jensen, Norman Nelson, Dwight Holman, Calvin Dennison, Mark Folkman, Robert Folkman. Back row: Thomas Johnson, Denton Beecher, Dennis Moody, Bruce Whiting, Reese Beeton, Mark Forsgren, Ricky Pond (President), Val Roberts, Elwin Merritt.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo / Orem, Utah



Organ Presentation

The world-famous Tabernacle organ on Temple Square was the venue for the December 9 meeting of the Brigham Young Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. Dr. Andrew Unsworth, one of the three full-time Tabernacle organists, hosted the group. He lead a fascinating discussion of the history of the iconic instrument, demonstrated some of the various sound "colors" provided by different shapes and materials of the pipes, played several pieces for the group (including some of his own arrangements), and graciously responded to a number of questions from the audience. The pioneer-era organ has been rebuilt several times. There was an almost complete rebuild in the late 1940s, and various improvements and refurbishments have continued until the present day. With 11,623 pipes and

147 voices, this instrument now one of the largest and most versatile organs in the world. Dr. Unsworth pointed out that the Tabernacle organ has the versatility to not only accompany choir broadcasts but is an excellent choice for recitals of the classical repertoire. The audience, including participants from our brother chapters in the Utah and Heber valleys, were invited to sit in the choir seats near the console, where we were able to have an excellent view of the console and to watch Dr. Unsworth's agility as he put the organ through its paces. This also allowed us to talk to him as he described what it was like to be a full-time organist and accompanist for the Choir at Temple Square. Those who braved the first snowstorm of the season to make the trip to Temple Square were well rewarded.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



Board members

The Cotton Mission Chapter meeting was held December 21. Following a nice catered dinner from the Golden Corral, we enjoyed Christmas musical entertainment from a mixed quartet. They were accompanied by our chapter member Jon Green. At the conclusion of their performance they invited all of us to join in on their final two numbers. Our area vice president David Hinton conducted the swearing-in ceremony for

our new 2022 board members. We had some unusual changes due to the tragic loss of our president-elect Brent Miner who passed away suddenly last month due to Corona virus. He was a tremendous strength to our chapter and is deeply missed. It was decided that our current president, David Humphrey, will continue as president for a second term with Rick Erickson as president-elect.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Madrigals

This picture is of the West Jordan High School Madrigals. Aren't they wonderful! These beautiful young women and handsome young men made our hearts fill with the joys of this Christmas season at our recent December Chapter meeting. We so enjoyed their program of singing and dance. How inspiring to see the future

right before our eyes. These young people will soon be our teachers, doctors, scientists, and other professions in their future. The pianist for this group is Marla Hintze and the conductor is Keith Evans. Thank you for sharing this evening with us. It was spectacular!

MORGAN PIONEER CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Award

The Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers held their December Christmas Social on Monday with many wives in attendance. Mama Lakes catered the luncheon held at the Rock Chapel. New Chapter President, Howard Hansen, and other board members for the upcoming year were sworn in by Alan Turner, a SUP regional representative doing the honors from the National organization. Mr. Turner also presented to outgoing Chapter President, Kent Nichols, and the Morgan Chapter, the "Chapter In Excellence Recognition" for the year 2021. The Morgan Chapter was one of only a few nationwide that qualified for the award this year. Following dinner the members and their wives were entertained by the Nelson Brothers including Lee and

Brent Nelson and Howard Hansen, who were drawn out of retirement to perform for the evening. All enjoyed many old favorite melodies and Christmas carols.

At our November meeting financial advisor Marvin Reynolds discussed qualified retirement plans, social security planning and RMD's, investment risks vs, returns and the benefits and drawbacks of annuities. There were many questions from the Chapter members and a good discussion. This appears to be a topic of great interest among the Chapter members many of whom are retired or nearing retirement age. It is good to know that we have qualified advisors in our community to help us make financial decisions affecting our future.



Nelson Brothers

MURRAY CHAPTER - Murray, Utah

The Murray Chapter has had some success increasing our membership in 2021 after the passing of several members during the year. We expect to further increase our numbers in 2022. Our last 2021 chapter meeting was on December 15th when we hosted the Taylorsville High School Madrigals for their final concert of the year. We're glad to have this excellent group back in our schedule after missing them in 2020 due to Covid 19. We have several exciting meetings planned for 2022. In January we'll hear from Dr. Bill Tanner, editor of the Pioneer Magazine who will speak about future plans for this excellent publication. Our February meeting will feature Beau Burgess, Fort Douglas Museum Director

and Curator who may arrive in Civil War era costume and will speak on the Fort's legendary history. We hope to have a daytime tour of Fort Douglas following his presentation. In March, we'll have a presentation from the Public Relations office of the Salt Lake Temple Reconstruction project. One of the architects or engineers working on this project will describe some of the technical aspects of the seismic upgrade and remodeling of this century-old edifice. As always, we welcome non-member guests and visiting members of other chapters to any of our meetings, which are held at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Midvale on the fourth Wednesday of the month, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



On 13 December 2021 the Ogden Pioneer Chapter held its Annual Holiday Luncheon and Christmas Program with partners. We had 98 people in attendance. The Comfort Suites Inn provided a wonderful holiday lunch with all the seasonal trimmings and decorations. After the luncheon the group was entertained by a double-trio called "In Harmony." These six talented ladies, who have been performing together for 35

years, gave us a wonderful performance of Christmas music interspersed with jokes and comments. It made for an uplifting experience and put everyone in the Christmas Spirit. The enthusiasm in seeing each other was evident by the warm greetings and table conversation. It was great to see so many chapter members and the partners who attended. It is good to be back together again.

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



Gary Hollingsworth

The SUP Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter, is pleased to invite you to our January luncheon meeting, January 12th at the Monson Center in downtown Salt Lake City. Guy Hollingsworth, Vice President of Student Services at Ensign College and retired Army Colonel, will be our guest speaker. His topic will be: "Freedom - Don't Take It For Granted." Guy is a retired Army Colonel who served in the National Guard and Army Reserve for over 41 years. He returned in 2014 from a 400-day deployment to Afghanistan, where he served as the Department of Defense Lead for the Afghanistan Threat Finance Cell. In 2009 he was deployed on another 400-day combat tour to Iraq, where he served as the Director of Training for the Iraqi Army and

Senior Advisor to the Iraqi Deputy Chief of Staff over training. Brother Hollingsworth was called to be the first District President of the Baghdad Iraq Military District in 2009, and served as the Bagram Afghanistan Branch President in 2014—both in combat theaters. Dr. Hollingsworth holds a Ph.D. in Education. He has served as an Associate Academic Vice President at BYU-Idaho, and as a full-time faculty member, teaching courses on Pakistan, the Middle East, and World Religions. He currently serves as the Vice President of Student Services at Ensign College.

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

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had a wonderful meeting this past month. We celebrated the veterans in our chapter. We had eight members of our chapter in attendance that are veterans. Five of the veterans spoke to us of their experience in serving our country. Delton Campbell served in Vietnam. He told us that he was truly blessed with protection throughout his service and experienced many miracles as he served. Jerry Davis was a mechanic at Lackland base. He served six years right before the Vietnam war. Will Smith served twenty years in the Air Force. He was a fighter plane mechanic. He had experiences with helping others come into the Church through baptism. Dick True served from 1954 to

1958. He was an electronics technician. He told us that the service prepared him for his future working for IBM for 40 years. Riley Draper served from 1962 to 1970 in the Army-3 years active duty and 5 years as a guardsman. He experienced going through many officer trainings as he moved up the ranks. He told us that he was able to see many others come closer to the Lord. This was a great evening. We invite all to attend with us at our meetings each month on the second Monday of the month. In December we are looking forward to enjoying the talents of the Taylorsville High School Madrigals.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Father James Blaine

The Timpanogos Chapter held their monthly dinner meeting on December 16, 2021. The Guest Speaker was Father James Blaine. Father Blaine spoke about "The Influence of the Catholic Church in Utah prior to its Statehood." Father Blaine has served for twenty-two years in the Saint Peters Catholic Church in American Fork, Utah. He also served for twenty-four years at the Utah State Prison. Father Blaine centered his talk about the exploration of Father Escalante and Father Dominguez in 1776. The exploring group were sent to find a route between Santa Fe, New Mexico and Monterey, California. Father Blaine discussed the route the expedition took, naming the various towns and cities in today's world in which they passed through. This group was the first white people to see the Anasazi ruins near Mesa Verde, Colorado. He discussed the lack of food and the need once to kill a horse for food. He also

discussed the difficult terrain in spots and the lack of wood for fires. On the other hand, he also mentioned the beauty and fertility of the land in areas and the support received from the various native americans along the route. Of significance, the expedition traveled through the present Uinta National Forest, from Strawberry Valley, along Diamond Creek, on to the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon, where for the first-time white men saw the beauty of the Utah Valley. A tall monument of a white cross marks their entrance to Utah Valley at Spanish Fork. Then they traveled southwest, with camping sites near Payson, Starr, Levan and Scipio. The Dominguez-Escalante expedition ultimately decided to return to Santa Fe and crossed the Colorado River at a place called "Crossing of the Fathers" which is now beneath Lake Powell. They were truly pioneers of their age and paved the trail for us to follow and appreciate!

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Terry and Eileen Wilcox



Handcart Award

Three of our chapter members received the "Handcart Award for Meritorious Service" at our chapter meeting. Steve Parkinson received the award for service as Chapter President for two years, Martell Grover was the "Wagon Master" for the National Encampment 2021 held in Rexburg, and Louis Clements received the award for being the "Resident Editor" for the recent issue of the Pioneer Magazine that featured the history of the Upper Snake River Valley. Doug Conway, the new President of the Chapter in 2022, made the presentations. The handcarts were supplied by Todd Grant, a chapter member from Rigby. The program featured the Terry and Eileen Wilcox family—they not only provided the baked potatoes from their potato industry, but Eileen played "Sleigh Ride" for the musical number. Terry gave a presentation about the "Wilcox Family Legacy: Pioneering the

Potato Industry in the Snake River Valley." Most of the chapter members could relate to the stories Terry told about the early days of farming potatoes—picking potatoes off the ground in wire baskets, dumping the baskets into the burlap sacks, and bucking the sacks onto the flatbed truck for delivery to the potato warehouse. Their company will ship millions of 100-weight boxes during the year. At the end of their program, they announced their mission call to the Illinois Historic Sites Mission. Their assignment will be in preserving and maintaining the historic sites in Nauvoo and surrounding areas. We look forward to their return in 23 months. Upcoming Activities: January 20th: Ross Baron. "Pioneering the Church in Israel—Past, Present, and Future." February 17th: Eric and Tammy Erikson: "The Church in France—Still a Need for Pioneers."