

### PIONEERING YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Official Newsletter of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers<sup>TM</sup> September 2013, Volume 9, Number 9

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Sons of Utah Pioneers.

This month we celebrated our Idaho Pioneers at our Convention in Rexburg, Idaho. Under Dee Risenmay's able direction the Chapters of the Upper Snake River Valley, Eagle Rock, Grove City, and Pocatello, organized three days full of tours, informative histories, great food, and perfect hospitality. The setting was ideal for the Convention, right on campus of BYU/Idaho University.

I believe the most valuable part of the Convention was being in Idaho and learning of the great pioneer heritage that we have there. We know about the Utah settlements, but most of us in Utah aren't aware of the parallel stories of faith and courage that our faithful Idaho forefathers possessed to settle an unfriendly land of sagebrush, volcanic rock, and severe weather. An advanced system of surface irrigation was

necessary to build there too, because of the dry climate.

Many faithful saints from Utah, left comfortable homes to answer the calls from Brigham Young to settle Idaho. They uprooted their families once again to conquer a desolate and wild land. And, as Anne and I drove to Rexburg for the Convention, all we could see were verdant fields of lush crops, mile after mile, which stand as a testament of the faith and stamina of our beloved Pioneers.

We have so much for which to be grateful. Simply put, we have so much! May we never take all of our blessings today for granted, and remember, remember, why we are so blessed because of them.

David B. Wirthlin National President, 2013 <a href="mailto:dbwirthlin@gmail.com">dbwirthlin@gmail.com</a>

### NATIONAL CALENDAR

- 10 Sept. 2013, 6:30 p.m. **National Board Meeting,** National Headquarters
- 8 October 2013, 6:30 p.m. **National Board Meeting,** National Headquarters
- 12 October 2013, 8:00 a.m. noon **Dedication of the Bluff Fort Co-op Store**, Bluff, UT
- Various Saturdays in Nov. and early Dec. **Area Training Meetings**, various locations

### NATIONAL NEWS

Send National News submissions to SUP1847@gmail.com.

# **2013 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**



Thomas Alexander shown speaking to members on Saturday after being elected as 2014 President-elect.

**Tom Alexander** served in 2012 as the President of the Brigham Young Chapter of the S.U.P. in Provo. He is a past president of the Mormon History Association, and is a retired professor of

history at Brigham Young University. After his retirement in 2004, he served an LDS Church Educational System Mission in Berlin, Germany, with his wife, Marilyn. A native of Ogden, Utah, he has written several books on Utah history, including *Utah*, the Right Place: Mormonism in *Transition: A History of the Latter-day Saints*, 1890-1930; Mormons and Gentiles: A History of Salt Lake City with James B. Allen; Things in

Heaven and Earth: The Life and Times of Wilford Woodruff, a Mormon Prophet; Line Upon Line: Essays on Mormon Doctrine; and Grace and Grandeur: A History of Salt Lake City. The S.U.P. is privileged to have Tom Alexander's experience and knowledge in the national leadership for the next three years.

Past-president **Dick Christiansen** gave the business meeting attendees a careful and loving photo tour of the Headquarters Building, as many had not visited there. He talked of the wonderful library and the accumulated materials over

more than thirty years; and he explained the potential of fully utilizing the building to create needed income to provide maintenance funds for the building.

Dick Christiansen speaking about the Headquarters building.



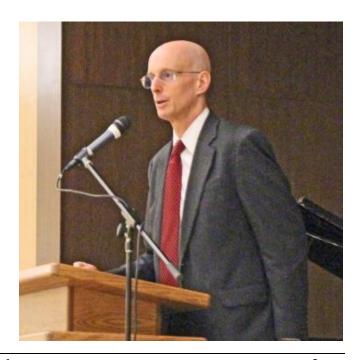


Elder Sheldon Child, S.U.P. Area Vice President, gives the keynote talk at the conclusion of the Saturday business meeting at the Convention.

The Sons of Utah Pioneers is fortunate to enjoy the support and participation of **Elder Sheldon** Child, emeritus member of the First Quorum of Seventy. He spoke to us about Pioneer traditions and values, and related stories of modern but true pioneers in emerging countries in Africa and elsewhere. As the S.U.P. mission statement calls for, the Pioneer values we espouse are still vital in these modern times, and are exemplified by humble and dedicated people around the world. Elder Child is serving as an Area Vice President, and in that position he was instrumental in the development of the new S.U.P. Friends and Family membership initiative and in helping to make the S.U.P. Day at the Heritage Park come to pass successfully.

Bro. **Henry J. Eyring** traced the changes at BYUI from ideas espoused by President Gordon B. Hinckley at the beginning of the four-year university, and those of current BYUI President Kim B. Clark. He explained that BYU Idaho is

applying many creative strategies to enable young people to receive a quality education at affordable cost, at the same time fully utilizing the facilities and staff of the university in highly efficient ways. There were many questions from members of the audience and all attendees came away from the convention impressed and inspired by the success of this fine Idaho educational institution.



Eyring was a businessman and entrepreneur before entering a career in education. From 1998 to 2002, He was the director of BYU's MBA program. From 2003 to 2006, he served as president of the Japan Tokyo North Mission of the LDS Church. Returning from Japan, Eyring began employment at BYU Idaho in Rexburg, where he had lived while his father was president of Ricks College. Bro. Eyring was initially an Associate Academic Vice President. He later became Advancement Vice President of the university. Eyring is the author of *Major* Decisions: Taking Charge of

Your College Education. According to the book jacket, the latter book is a practical, realistic, how-to book that addresses both the challenge of getting into a university and making the most of educational opportunities so that a student can graduate with momentum, confidence, and a career. Bro. Eyring donates all the royalties from his books to the Perpetual Education Fund.





The Saturday Women's and Guests meeting was filled with enjoyable music provided by musicians from the Rexburg area. A family and a mother and daughter duo all performed wonderful classical string numbers. The painting shown in the photo depicts two youthful handcart pioneers from Italy who are ancestors of Art Prof. Leon Parson.

The featured speaker at the Women's session was professor Leon Parson, of BYU Idaho. He is currently painting the murals for the new LDS Temple in Rome, Italy. He explained to his audience that the murals are actually being painted in a large studio in Rexburg on special linen canvas imported from Europe. Upon completion, the canvases will be carefully rolled and prepared for shipping to Italy, where they will be hung and varnished for completion. These murals will reflect the countryside of Italy. He spoke of how the Spirit leads him through his paintings for the temple, and how when he begins to be too proud of his work, he can feel the Spirit leave him. He said that he marvels at what the Holy Spirit seems to know about painting that he has yet to learn.

At left, Idaho Area S.U.P. Vice President Lynn Smith presents a token of appreciation (a miniature wooden handcart) to Henry J. Eyring at the conclusion of his talk.



#### Members at the Potato Museum in Blackfoot.

S.U.P. members tour the Potato Museum located in Blackfoot. The Bingham County Tour gave members a thorough tour and understanding of all the contributors to the important potato industry in Southern Idaho. They visited an implement dealer; an irrigation equipment distributor; an equipment manufacturer that ships Idaho-made machines all over the world; a working potato farm and potato cellar; and the really interesting museum, where a large collection of "Mr. Potato Head" toys and a huge selection of household potato mashers are found, as well as the expected old equipment displays and histories of the development of the potato industry. Of note also is the life-size photo of Marilyn Monroe wearing an Idaho Potato logo "gunny-sack" dress from a promotional advertisement early in her career.

**THE HQ BUILDING CAN BE RENTED** for dinners, weddings, receptions, birthdays, family events, etc. For details and pricing, please call Tess @ 801-484-4441 or 866-724-1847.

### 2014 CONVENTION DATE SURVEY

At the convention, 74 members completed a survey asking about when to hold the 2014 Convention. Of these, 72% said they would likely attend the 2014 Convention in Kanab and 55% preferred September. August was second with 23%, and October got 16% of the votes.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Doug Snow – Twenty Wells Stanley A Schaar – Holladay Orin R Howard – Holladay Douglas Beer – Centerville Terry L Taylor – Eagle Rock Cloy Wurst – Eagle Rock Ed Adams – Mount Timpanogos

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

**Leroy N Pierce** – Ogden Pioneer

### CONVERTED TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP David Midgley – At Large

## **CHAPTER ETERNAL Harold Norton** – Cotton Mission – 5/16/13

September 2013 Trail Marker 5

### **CHAPTER NEWS**

Compiled by Don Lee, donlee0938@gmail.com

Please send Chapter Newsletters and other news, information, pictures and upcoming events to Don Lee at <a href="mailto:done-based-mailto:

### BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER (Provo, Utah)

- Each year the chapter has an essay contest for those in the local schools. The winners of this contest were presented with awards at our recent chapter meeting. boarded the William Tapscott which carried them across the ocean. They arrived in Salt Lake City September 15, 1859 having walked all the way across the prairie – a long walk for a six-year old.

**Shelby Lynn Peay** wrote about her 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, **George Harrison** – the handcart boy. George and his family started across the plains with Captain Martin, but George got malaria and was too sick to travel. The family left him with an Indian family that took care of him and nursed him back to health. It took him two years to cross the plains, but he did make it.

**Isaac Pestana** told about his 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather,



Elijah Walley told about his 4<sup>th</sup> great grandmother, Jane Johnston Black. Jane was born June 11, 1801 in Ireland. On January 14, 1839 she and her husband, William Black were baptized by William Clayton. Jane was a doctor/mid-wife. John Taylor called on her to remove the bullets that he received in Carthage Jail. Over her career she delivered over 3000 babies and often worked as a doctor including amputating a man's leg with a butcher knife and a carpenter's saw.

**Phoebe Valentine Clark** told about her 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather, **John Malmstrom**. John was born in 1853 in Sweden where his family heard the missionaries and joined the Church. In 1859 they left Sweden, traveled to England and there

**Jacob Hamblin**. What impressed Isaac most about his famous ancestor is the way he was a peacemaker to the Indians.

### **COTTON MISSION CHAPTER** (St George,

Utah) – The featured speakers of the evening were



the recently appointed directors of the Saint George Temple Visitor's Center, **Robert** (left) **and Pamela Watkins**. The Center, along with our Tabernacle, Brigham Young home, and the Jacob Hamblin home sites draw 33,000 visitors a year.

Sister Watkins spoke of the great faith of **Sister Aruwititi** of Kiribati Island in Micronesia who overcame many problems and migrated to Utah. She also spoke about her great aunt, **Belle Smith Spafford**, General Relief Society President and her accomplishments.

Brother Watkins spoke concerning his ancestral heritage in the Church. His third-great grandfather was Caleb Baldwin, who spent time with the Prophet Joseph Smith in Liberty Jail. He also related a story about his second-great grandfather, John Solomon Fullmer, who was with the Prophet Joseph Smith in Carthage Jail. They talked into the night. The next morning, Joseph sent Brother Fullmer on an errand. Upon returning, Brother Fullmer was restrained from entering the jail. Brother Watkins' second great grandmother was Zina Diantha Huntington Jacobs Smith Young. Zina became the third General Relief Society President of the Church.

Once again, the Chapter members were reminded of the great faith and endurance required to reestablish the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth. EAGLE ROCK CHAPTER (Idaho Falls, Idaho)

- On June 26, 2013 the Eagle Rock Chapter traveled to Virginia City, Montana (bottom of page) for a one day trek. There were approximately 25 members and their wives who made the almost 4 hour drive from Idaho Falls.

We began our tour in Nevada City. Here we saw and learned about an old restored railroad steam engine used in the late 1800's. We also were able to tour an old restored ghost town. In the 1800's several hundred people lived in Nevada City seeking their riches. A big highlight of our tour was seeing and hearing the large musical instruments.

After a wonderful picnic we traveled a small distance to Virginia City, Montana. One of the highlights there was seeing a melodrama, a "Sherlock Holmes Mystery" along with a musical comedy. Our trek committee made sure we were able to experience a ride in the back of an old restored fire engine to the top of Boot Hill where six desperadoes were hung and buried in the 1800's. Justice was swift and quick in those days especially in Virginia City. Gold was the main reason that brought many honest as well as dishonest people to Nevada City and Virginia City in the Montana gold fields.



JORDAN RIVER CHAPTER (Salt Lake Valley, Southwest) – On Saturday, August 10, 2013 we enjoyed a Chapter trek learning so much at several pioneer sites in Salt Lake City. We thank our host, **Alan McKay** for sharing his day with us to help us increase our appreciation of our individual pioneer ancestry.

Our tour started at the Mormon Battalion Monument on the grounds of the State Capitol. We then visited Ensign Peak and walked up a portion of the peak where we could look out upon the lovely Salt Lake Valley. There, Alan was able to point out to us important features of the valley. Did you realize there were four non-Mormons in that company of pioneers entering the valley and that two of them were of African ancestry?

We then traveled to the Salt Lake Cemetery where so many of our earliest pioneers in the valley are buried. We visited the gravesites of many of our prophets and their families, namely Spencer W. Kimball; Howard W. Hunter; Harold B. Lee; David O. McKay; Gordon B. Hinckley; Joseph F. Smith; Joseph Fielding Smith; John Taylor; Wilford Woodruff; and Heber J. Grant.

Other gravesites we visited included Orrin Porter Rockwell and songwriters William Clayton (Come, Come, Ye Saints) and William W. Phelps (The Spirit of God). Our next stop was the gravesite of Brigham Young. While there we enjoyed a nice lunch under the trees at the park.

We then had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral of the Madeleine. What a beautiful house of worship! Standing in the back of the Cathedral, we were able to witness a wedding being performed.

Our last stop was to visit the gravesites of Newel K. Whitney and Heber C. Kimball. Did you know these two gravesites are less than a block east of the Conference Center?

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** If you are able to give a few hours anytime on Wednesday's and Thursday's when Marilyn is available, it would be a great relief to her. Please call the office to schedule some time!

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

- Mondays Thursdays 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.
- Closed Fridays
- The library is open by appointment only due to staff shortage.



**MORGAN CHAPTER** (Morgan, Utah) – **Sheldon Richins** (below) a former Commissioner



of Summit County and a former Bishop of the Henefer Ward, was the guest speaker. He illustrated the history of Henefer.

He spoke first of the Donner-Reed Party that had stopped in 1846 in the area of the current Henefer

Township, while waiting for a man named Hastings, who was to guide them through the Wasatch Mountains. The Reed Party waited there on the banks of the Weber River for seven days while a search party went out looking for Hastings. This delay, plus an extra seven days to cross Big Mountain, probably cost the Party their lives, because they might have made it across the Sierra Mountains and into California were it not for this delay of fourteen days.

James (or William) Henefer come up from the Salt Lake Valley in 1853 to grow vegetables in Henefer. He worked at this for three years transporting the vegetables back to Salt Lake. Finally, in 1856 President Young asked him to stay in the Valley and settle it. He did so, and was later joined by the Charles Richins family.

One of the best places to work in those early days of Henefer was the brick kiln. The residents made hundreds and thousands of bricks from the unique red clay in the area. It has later been determined that this red clay was probably the best material in the U.S. from which to make bricks.

All towns have a mystery and Henefer is no different. On the Western side of the Valley is a place called the Avalanche. In the middle of it is a hole in the earth. It seems to go on forever. One can throw rocks down and they never seem to hit

bottom. Once a man was lowered into it and he went through a small opening into a great chasm that seemed to have no bottom. The University of Utah geologists came up to examine the hole, and even they could not find the bottom.

OGDEN PIONEERCHAPTER (Ogden, Utah) – There is no one in the church that has more knowledge about Martin Harris than our August

speaker **Rhett** James (right). Rhett wrote the musical play about Martin Harris "The Man Who Knew" which is put on in Clarkston. This play puts forth the true facts about the third witness of the Book of Mormon, and portrays Martin as a noble, intelligent, faithful, stalwart witness to the Book of Mormon.



Martin Harris was the first Mormon financier and provided the finances (\$3,000 gold) for the first publication of the Book of Mormon. Most people estimate that \$3,000 then, was about one million one hundred thousand dollars today.

He had a light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and wore a Greek style beard off the edge of his jaw and chin. On March 27, 1808 he married Lucy Harris, a cousin. Lucy had terrible ear aches and had progressive loss of hearing and deafness. This made her irrational and insecure with paranoia. Martin obtained permission to take the 116 pages home to show Lucy and close relatives. Many historians feel Lucy burned the 116 pages.

Fortunately, both Joseph and Martin were later forgiven by the Lord, and the work of translation resumed. Martin was later chosen by the Lord to be one of the Three Witnesses, this experience became one of the most profound experiences in his life.

The Kirtland High Council excommunicated Martin Harris, but it was never upheld by the First Presidency – so in reality he *never*\_lost his membership in the church. Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer were excommunicated about this same time. Lucy Harris died in 1836. Martin never left the Church, but as Martin always said, 'The Church left me.' In 1856, his second wife, Caroline, and their children went to Utah. Martin followed them in 1870.

There are many testimonies that Martin Harris expressed in his declining years. William Homer wrote that July 10, 1875, marked the end. It was in the evening. Martin Harris woke up and asked for a drink of water. I put my arm under the old gentleman, raised him, and my mother held the glass to his lips. He drank freely, and then looked up at me and recognized me. He said, "I know you. You are my friend. Yes, I did see the plates, on which the Book of Mormon was written: I did hear the voice of God: and I know that Joseph

Smith is a Prophet of God, holding the keys of the Holy Priesthood" Whereupon, Martin Harris rested back on his bed and died as the sun sank beneath the Clarkston hills to the West.

### OGDEN VALLEY CHAPTER,

(Huntsville, Utah.) – On Saturday, 24 August, 18 members and partners met with **Alan McKay** for a historical cemetery tour of Salt Lake City. We began at the top of the Salt Lake City Cemetery and traveled downhill visiting gravesites and talking about history as we toured.

We began at Spencer W. Kimball's grave where we were reminded to "Do It". Several in our group had met President Kimball on their mission or in other circumstances. On down the hill we went stopping to visit Howard W. Hunter, Harold B. Lee and Gordon B. Hinckley.

A highlight of the tour was stopping at the grave of President David O. McKay (right). Some members of our group were relatives and many had personal

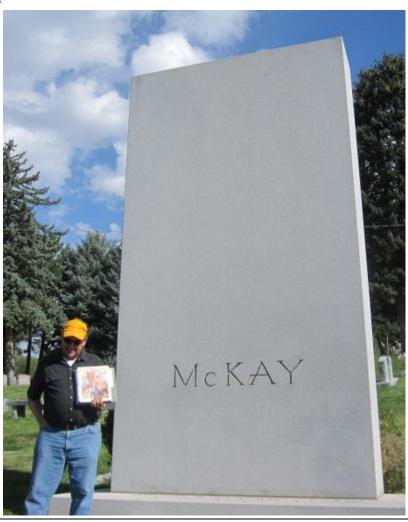
remembrances of him. It was noted that the Huntsville Chapel has a large portrait of David O. McKay in the chapel to remind us of this great man.

Graves of particular note were: Luke S. Johnson, one of the original Twelve Apostles, the Smith family plot with the graves of two Presidents and our final stop in the Salt Lake Cemetery was at the grave of William Clayton where we sang "Come, Come Ye Saints"

Our next stop was at the Brigham Young Cemetery which was originally in the backyard of the Lion House.

Our final cemetery was the Kimball Cemetery which is hidden behind the Kimball apartments and was in the backyard of the Heber C. Kimball home. Sixty two people are buried at that site.

It was a wonderful historical tour!

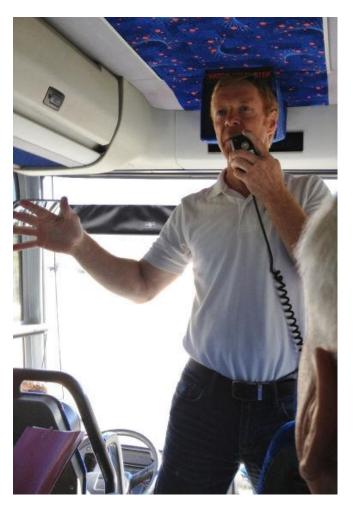


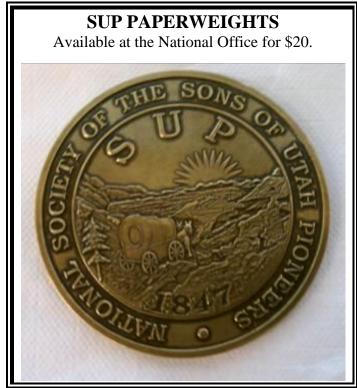
**SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER**, (Salt Lake City, Utah) – Thanks to their guides, **Glenn Rawson** (right) and **Dennis Lyman**, the chapter had a wonderful trek along the pioneer trail.

We were taught from the time we stepped on the bus, stopping at Fort Bridger, Fort Supply and then following the handcart trail back to This is the Place Heritage Park, by way of Henefer, Big Mountain and Emigration Canyon.









### **Medallions**

As of June 3, 2013



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\*\* Call 801-484-4441 for shipping costs for larger quantities.

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### PIONEER NAME MEMORIALIZATION FORM

### National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

3301 E Louise Ave (2920 S), Salt Lake City, Utah 84109 <u>sup1847@gmail.com</u> 801-484-4441

	Head of Family	$\Box$ Spouse
Name of Pioneer to be memori	alized:	
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