

# Trail Marker

VOLUME 19

PIONEERING  
YESTERDAY, TODAY &  
TOMORROW  
ISSUE 209

1 NUMBER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!

The changing of the calendar from 2022 to 2023 gives us the time to reflect on the past year and look forward to a New Year with new challenges, opportunities, and the time review our life's and resolve to make changes in our behavior and actions. I challenge you to look for ways to included the Pioneer values as listed in the mission statement of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers an active part of your lives and the lives of your children and grandchildren.

I am planning on providing opportunities for my family to create memories that they can pass to their children, this will include having family time where stories of our ancestors can be told and retold, family dinners and vacations. Our extended family visits senior centers to present them with a small program of song and stories. These visits have given them the opportunities to visit with veterans and local leaders that have made our society what it is today. The memories that are created are will be talked about for years. These opportunities don't have to be a planned formal family meeting. They can be as simple as a car ride or around a campfire, wherever the opportunity occurs, don't let it pass by.

The Sons of the Utah Pioneers have developed events that will give you memories that will enrich your lives. These events include, SUPer DUPer Day at This is the Place Park; The Days of 47 parade where we can walk in the parade and pull handcarts; the Days of 47 Sunrise Service sponsored by the Salt Lake Chapter; the National Symposium theme this year is Zion Camp; and the National Encampment hosted by the Cotton Mission Chapter in St George, Utah. These are great places to rub shoulders with fellow pioneers and learn of their trials and services. Add these events to you calendar of events for this next year.

John Clayton  
2022 National President

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# NATIONAL NEWS

## 2022 CHAPTER IN EXCELLENCE & CHAPTER RECOGNITION APPLICATIONS DUE FEB 16TH

Click [HERE](#) to download the Chapter In Excellence and Chapter Recognition Awards Form, reporting your Chapter's achievements for the 2022 calendar year. The application form is due February 16, 2023. Award Certificates will be given out by the SUP National Executive Council at the Chapter President's Council Meeting held on February 25th at the National Headquarters Building.



## NATIONAL OFFICERS 2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY



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



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

## “THE POSTMAN WHO SAVED CHRISTMAS”

*By Gayla Woolf Holt, granddaughter of George Schow (as remembered by her mother Ruth Schow Woolf)*

1927 was one of the coldest winters ever in Cardston, Alberta, Canada. This little town and area had seen and the Depression had families scrambling to be frugal and resourceful. The Schow family was anticipating the arrival from work of their father, George, and were marking time. He was the postman assigned to deliver the mail to the many little communities around Cardston.

Just as anticipated, George Schow arrived home, happy to have the mail all delivered for the day. Yet George was troubled. He shared with his wife, Ingeborg, the final events of his work. While he was finally headed for home, he had been informed of a late train delivery of ten crates to the station. These crates were all for one family living in Hillspring. However, being so late in the day and almost dark, it was reasoned that the crates would have to wait until the day after Christmas for delivery. It was just too far to Hillspring, plus there was now a raging blizzard to add to the situation. All George knew about this Hillspring family was that they had several children and were having a very hard time. Christmas Eve brought Mr. Jeppson back to Cardston for one final and desperate check for the crates. But he had left empty-handed and devastated.


George and Ingeborg were deeply religious and had great faith. Quietly they knelt and prayed for direction. Simultaneously after the prayer they looked in each other's eyes and knew what must be done. Those crates needed to be delivered and they needed to be delivered that night! George only had sight in one eye due to an affliction and nighttime perception would be a tremendous challenge, especially in blizzard conditions. So Ingeborg insisted their oldest fifteen year-old son Sidney must accompany his father. George's team of horses was weary from the day's work so they borrowed a fresh team from neighbors to make the long journey. The family gathered for a last-minute family prayer. With great faith they watched the sleigh quickly disappear into the dark with their father and brother. George and Sidney left and soon were at the train station and the crates were safely loaded. Their long night journey began. They were grateful for the wrapped hot rocks at their feet, scarves pulled up over their mouth and nose, and hats were pulled as low as possible over their brows. Only their eyes could be seen as they anxiously

searched the horizon looking for familiar landmarks to guide them on their journey. Many times they felt unseen promptings and guidance as they traveled and felt peace they would be all right. In the early hours of Christmas morning the sleigh finally slid into the yard of the Jeppson family in Hillspring. They were relieved to see a small light still on in the house. George quietly knocked at the door, not wanting to wake any of the children within. He must have looked a sight as the snow had turned to ice from his breath and had created frozen layers of icicles hanging on the scarf around his face. The woman exclaimed at the sight before her, including the weary horses. Quickly George explained the purpose of the visit and as the crates were unloaded into the house, the woman tearfully related how very destitute their family was and with no hope of Christmas for her children. The Postman and his son observed the bare and humble surroundings and now knew why they had felt so urgently prodded to make this trip. Mrs. Jeppson insisted they should stay and rest, but both father and son knew their family would be worrying.

As daylight broke Christmas morning in Cardston, the Schow children resolved not to open presents until their father and brother returned. They kept busy, but the waiting seemed eternal. Just after lunch, Paul suddenly spied the familiar sleigh coming and let out an excited whoop which summoned the family to come running.

Tired but happy, George and Sidney stumbled into the house and arms of their loved ones. They immediately shared their heartfelt experience of the Jeppson family and how vital those crates were, not just for Christmas but for survival through the winter. They told of that mother's ecstatic joy and gratitude as the crates were unloaded. They knew Heavenly Father had guided and protected them on their harrowing journey. Tears of love and gratitude filled George's eyes as he hugged his wife and children close. Words couldn't adequately explain the thoughts and feelings of this quiet and unassuming man. George's heart was full as he tried to imagine the happiness of Christmas morning at that humble Hillspring home. He felt so blessed having obeyed the promptings of the Spirit that helped create a "special delivery" Christmas miracle!

# Monument Trek



## Brigham Young Cemetery

### RENOVATION & REDEDICATION

140 East 1st Avenue, Salt Lake City

A rededication ceremony was held on Saturday, October 22, at the newly renovated Brigham Young Family Cemetery in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The 150-year-old landmark is the burial place of the second president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brigham Young, and several of his family members, including Eliza R. Snow, the Church's second General Relief Society President and renowned Latter-day Saint poet.

Planning for the family cemetery's renovation began in April 2020. Multiple Church departments worked together with meticulous care to preserve the historical integrity of the site. The cemetery has more than 40 graves, the vast majority unmarked. To avoid disturbing the graves ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology was used to find their precise location.

Contractors also conducted all digging by hand, which proved challenging when two layers of concrete about 10 inches thick were discovered under the sandstone-paved

walkway. Special care was taken in restoring and reinforcing the site's original workmanship, such as the pioneer-era wrought iron fence and sandstone wall on the cemetery's perimeter.

"We have tried to create an open, inviting, peaceful atmosphere where the Spirit can be felt. Also, a place to reflect on the past, and help inspire us as we move forward with our lives," said Project Manager Greg Green during remarks given at the rededication.

Aside from Brigham Young, other marked graves in the cemetery include his wives, Mary Ann Angell, Lucy Ann Decker, Emmeline Free, Mary Van Cott and Eliza R. Snow, as well as his children, Joseph Angell Young and Alice Young Clawson. The majority of the graves in the family cemetery are unmarked. (<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/brigham-young-family-cemetery-reopens-after-major-renovation>)



# C H R R T E R N E W S

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

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

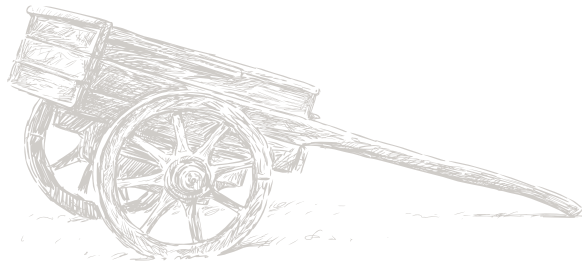
James Neeley..... Temple Fork  
 Roger P Smith..... Timpanogos  
 Ann Wagstaff..... Timpanogos

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Quin J Gardner..... Snow Horse

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Sylvia Haycock..... Temple Quarry



NAME .....CHAPTER

### NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Phil W Berger..... Ogden Pioneer  
 Owen W Coon..... Holladay  
 Eric Foutz..... Maple Mountain  
 Greg Skeen Montgomery..... Ogden Pioneer  
 Rik Wadholm..... Upper Snake River Valley  
 Scott Douglas Allen..... Ogden Pioneer  
 Jonathan Beutler..... WorldWide Pioneer  
 David L Brand..... Bountiful  
 Lance Melvin Bybee..... Morgan Pioneer  
 John Randy Dyer..... Boulder Dam Chapter  
 James Hamilton..... Maple Mountain  
 Brent Hardy..... Cotton Mission  
 Charles Brent Metcalf..... Ogden Pioneer  
 Nicholas Jensen Pond..... Snow Horse  
 Tyler Smith..... WorldWide Pioneer  
 David Wilson..... Ogden Pioneer  
 Joseph Woodard..... WorldWide Pioneer

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

**BOUNTIFUL CHAPTER - Bountiful, Utah**

We met on Wednesday, November 30th to hear an entertaining presentation on the JC Penney company and its history in Bountiful. Three members of the chapter had parents that managed and worked at the store during its long history in Utah's second settlement.

Ross Smedley, whose mother worked at the Bountiful store, talked about the early history of the company which started out as the Golden Rule Store and under the leadership of James Cash Penney became one of the largest department stores in the country. He related Mr. Penney's connection to Utah as the Penney family lived in Salt Lake City for awhile.

Jeff Thorpe, whose father managed the store on downtown Main Street from 1964

until it was replaced by a new, larger store, presented the history of the JC Penney (and Golden Rule Store). The first Bountiful store was opened in September 1910 on north Main Street in a temporary structure which was store number twenty in the chain. Within a few months the store was relocated to the corner of 100 South and Main Street directly south of the Bountiful Tabernacle. In April 1942 a new building was constructed farther south on Main Street and remained at that location until a new building in 1972.

John Ord, whose father preceded Jeff's dad as manager of the store, reminisced about his experiences working in the store as a 12-year old and then during high school and college.

**BOX ELDER CHAPTER - Brigham City, Utah**

*Box Elder HS Choir*

We held our Christmas dinner meeting Dec. 14, and had a wonderful time. We had 77 members and guests in attendance. The scrumptious meal was catered by Idle Isle Cafe. The entertainment was Christmas music presented by the Box Elder High School Madrigals directed by Casey Wood and accompanied by Misa Findlay. The presentations were active, entertaining,

relaxing to listen to and very enjoyable. A comment was made, how can they continue to get better each year. We have had the privilege of having them for our Christmas entertainment for many years now and hope it continues for many more. After the program, there were about 24 Poinsettias taken home by members in attendance.

**BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo / Orem, Utah**

*Roger & Melanie Hoffman*

On December 8th, we had a lovely evening of music featuring Roger and Melanie Hoffman. When Roger was 12, he auditioned for and was accepted to the American Boy Choir School where he had three years of intensive musical training including opportunities to record and perform under the direction of Leonard Bernstein. He later attended BYU where he led small ensembles and a large choir as a student director. He has soloed with the Tabernacle Choir on Music and the Spoken Word and on their Come, Come Ye Saints CD. Roger has received major industry awards for his songwriting and compositions, including CLIO, Peabody, Telly and New York

Film Festival awards. His most recognized song is "Consider the Lilies". Melanie grew up memorizing musicals, singing in choirs, and performing in community theater with her dad. During her time there, she also met Roger. Early in their marriage, the Hoffmans decided to leave Roger's job at BYU and pursue an independent career in music. The Hoffmans have created music for many different projects, including music scores for videos by Truman and Ann Madsen and five award-winning documentaries about civil rights. We very much enjoyed the music they shared with us, and they helped create a wonderful beginning to the season.

## CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



*Ft Pierce*

The Cedar City Chapter hopes that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday. We took the month off from sponsoring chapter activities due to all the competing events this time of year, but we are looking forward to many activities this coming year. Immediately upcoming is a post-holiday dinner scheduled

for January 14 at the local Marriott hotel. We look forward to a catered dinner and a special program. In March we have scheduled our next trek, a visit to historic Fort Pierce, in Santa Clara, Utah. Also in March will be our annual general authority fireside. We send everyone our best wishes for a great new year.

## COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



*Pine View HS Choir*

The Cotton Mission Chapter enjoyed a nice Christmas dinner catered by the Golden Corral Restaurant, followed by a wonderful program. The Pine View High School Chamber Choir gave us an excellent presentation of choir numbers arranged in a tightly harmonized fashion. We appreciate their planning since last February for this

program under the direction of Robert Reimer. He was awarded the Outstanding Senior High School Music Educator for the 2020 - 2021 school year by the Utah Music Educators Association. The evening also included the new chapter leaders for 2023 being sworn in by area vice president David Hinton.

## JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Our chapter meeting was held December 14th. The Bingham High School Madrigals presented a marvelous performance of our favorite Christmas hymns. As you can see by their picture, their presentation was full of various dance moves and action. We thoroughly enjoyed your musical

performance. Thanks to all of you so much. The director of this Bingham High School Madrigal group is Ryan North. The accompanist is Shayla Bentley. In addition, Michael Smurthwaite from our Chapter led some musical singing for those in attendance. This too was very enjoyable.

## MAPLE MOUNTAIN CHAPTER - Mapleton / Spanish Fork, Utah

The Maple Mountain Chapter held a wonderful musical evening in December. It was performed by the Spencer Taylor family. He told us that music was a "vital role" in the family. Even as a youngster, said Spencer, sacred music was the primary driving force that helped him to go on a mission. His wife, Jaime, also grew up in a very musical family. This love for music was passed on to their children. Their message to us this night was that we feel the Love of God and the peace that comes through His Spirit by listening to the

music of Christmas that they would sing. They sang 10 or so Christmas songs with a few readings about the sacredness of Christmas. The family concluded their wonderful program by singing "Silent Night" in which they invited our members to sing with them. But to our surprise Brother Taylor added one more song by accompanying his daughter as she sang "I Wonder When He Comes Again". Their beautiful rendering of those sacred Christmas songs was a perfect way to begin the Christmas Season.

## MORGAN CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Gerald Betournay



Hansen Bros Band



Vaughn

On Monday December 19, the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers held their annual Christmas luncheon with their wives. A delicious meal was catered by the newly reopened Larry's Spring Chicken Inn. Following the meal Chapter member Gerald Betournay gave a touching and spiritual message. He related a story about a pioneer Christmas, talked about the Savior's life and how blessed we are today as we celebrate his birth.

The 2022 Modern Pioneer Award was presented at the gathering by Chapter President Howard Hansen to long time Chapter member, Vaughn Larsen. Vaughn is one of the founding members of the current Morgan Chapter of SUP. He has served as President of the local Morgan Chapter. His service to SUP would continue for two years as an area vice president for the national organization. As their representative, he

was assigned to assist and support the Huntsville, Ogden and Morgan Chapters. Vaughn's pioneer heritage is from Denmark, England and Scotland with ancestors settling in Morgan and Sanpete counties. He was born and raised in Morgan, graduated from Morgan High School and Utah State University with a degree in Education. He taught at the high school for 34 years. Vaughn served the Morgan community as a city councilman, a member of the Selective Service board and as a Morgan City Justice Court Judge for nearly 18 years. Congratulations Vaughn.

After the presentation the Chapter members and their wives were entertained by our local Nelson Brothers Band including Lee and Brent Nelson and Howard Hansen playing some old favorite melodies and sing-a-long Christmas carols.

## MOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAPTER - Heber City, Utah



M and M Band

The Mountain Valley Chapter held their monthly Chapter meeting on 21, December 2022. The chapter had a musical Christmas Program given by the M & M Band of Heber Valley. The event was open to the public. Fun was had by all.

## MT NEBO CHAPTER - Nephi, Utah



Alonzo Gaskill

The Mt. Nebo Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers met on Dec. 1 in an attempt to miss the many holiday events. The meeting was well attended and everyone enjoyed an amazing catered meal, followed by a really spiritual experience.

Our guest speaker in December was Dr. Alonzo Gaskill, who is a professor of Church History and Doctrine at BYU. Before his conversion to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he was a member of the Greek Orthodox Catholic religion, and is a riveting speaker. He spoke on the subject of apostasy in the Church

today, with a focus on the large numbers of good women falling away because of doctrinal misunderstanding connected with equal rights. The world is also drawing away a large number of our YSA youth with its many distractions, temptations, and worldly trends. His presentation was an eye-opener for all of those in attendance, and we could see that this day was also prophesied. *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."* Matt 24:24



## OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah



*Briggita Broadbent*

The Ogden Pioneer Chapter had a wonderful Christmas Luncheon with partners hosted by the Comfort Suites Inn & Conference Center in Ogden, UT. Over 100 people were in attendance. After a traditional Christmas lunch (mashed potatoes with gravy, turkey strips, steamed vegetables, and pumpkin pie/raspberry cake for dessert – we were treated to a Christmas musical program presented by Susan Broadbent and her daughter, Briggita. Susan introduced her daughter who

performed several Christmas carols on the piano. All of the musical pieces were arranged by Briggita and included classical, jazz, pop, and traditional styles. Part way through, Susan led the group in a few traditional Christmas carols and then Briggita concluded with two more musical pieces. Briggita is a fabulous talent. She has recently accepted a mission call from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to serve in Denmark. She will enter the MTC after the holidays.

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



*Brad Westwood*

Click [HERE](#) to see all of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter's upcoming events and watch past luncheon presentations. Our upcoming Luncheon details are as follows:

**When:** Wednesday, January 11th at Noon.

**Location:** Thomas S. Monson Center, Main Building Banquet Hall, 411 E. South Temple.

**Cost:** \$25 per person.

**Speaker:** Brad Westwood has been a Senior Public Historian since 2018. Before this, he was Director of the Utah State Historical Society, a manager of collection development for the LDS Church's History Department, and the director of the BYU's L. Tom Perry Special Collections. Brad has degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

## TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



*Taylorsville HS Madrigals*

The Taylorsville/Bennion chapter had a wonderful chapter meeting in December. We were blessed with the opportunity to listen to the Taylorsville High School Madrigal Choir. They performed a selection of Christmas songs that was a delight to listen to. We had a good showing from Chapter members and even had a couple of new members there to enjoy the evening. This Chapter meeting is always a highlight of our year. We are always thrilled to be able to meet with our Chapter members and enjoy a wonderful dinner and

evening together. We are looking forward to the new year and being able to enjoy several other meetings together where we have planned a couple of our Chapter members sharing a history of their ancestors. Hearing about our ancestors brings us all closer together. Our next Chapter meeting will be on January 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm at Jim's Restaurant. We invite anyone that would like to attend with us come and enjoy an evening with us. The cost of dinner is \$14.00 per person.

## TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Greetings from Cache Valley. In December the Temple Fork Chapter held its monthly meeting at the Logan Country Club. We were not able to get in a round of golf due to the foot of snow on the fairways and near zero temperatures that evening; however we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas meal and program. Rockie Ricks a very talented local musician and chapter member provided us with a Christmas concert and sing along.

During the evening stories were shared by chapter members about Christmas's past. It was a great evening as we shared good food and entertainment along with great friends and fellow pioneers. We look forward to another great year of pioneering with the SUP and all of our pioneer friends. The Temple Fork Chapter wishes each of you a Very Merry Christmas.

## TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



The December Chapter Meeting was held on December 15, 2022 at the American Fork Senior Center in American Fork, UT. The Chapter Officers for 2023 were installed by area vice president Dan Adams. Christmas entertainment was provided by the Blowhard Bottle Band as directed by Tom Powell. Chapter President, Jason Nelson, outlined goals for the Timpanogos Chapter in 2023.

## UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



*Ruben Dwagnue Family*

Mike Lenhart accompanied himself on the Guitarelle—a six-string guitar that is used when accompanying the Christmas carol Silent Night.

Three young adults from foreign countries spoke, each with an amazing story of divine guidance and perseverance.



*Cathy Hansen*

Ruben Dawagne (Belgium): Ruben's family history is full of grandparents and parents who cherished freedom because of their very difficult experiences in Europe during WWII. His family joined the church when Ruben was young and Ruben grew up riding trains and buses to attend church activities. He served a mission in Quebec, Canada, where he briefly overlapped with his future wife who was finishing her service in the same mission field. They wrote and became good friends and eventually married. Their story took them to Mexico City and finally BYU-Idaho through Pathways as children were born into their family in different countries. He graduated from BYU-Idaho with a degree in Software Engineering and works on Doug Conway's team at BYU-Idaho.

the missionaries found them when Kathy was nine years old. Eventually her father gave up his coffee, joined the church, and Kathy was able to serve a mission in Arizona in April 2019. Afterwards, she enrolled at BYU-Idaho, met her husband, and graduated in 2022 with her degree in Software Engineering. She is also employed on Doug Conway's team.

Alexia Franco (Colombia): As a young twelve-year-old, Alexia began searching for a religion that answered her questions. Her mother was strict Catholic and her father was an atheist. At sixteen, missionaries met the family and she and her younger sister gained the desire to be baptized. Her younger but braver sister faced up to their parents and told them they wanted to be baptized. When her mother asked her Catholic priest what she should do, he said that Alexia and her sister were still following Jesus and it was ok. Alexia was able to serve a mission on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. She also finished a B.S. degree in economics. Eventually, her parents were also baptized in 2020 and Alexia came to BYU-Idaho in January 2022 to study family and child development. A special miracle happened when she was able to be sealed with her family with the help of friends who financed her trip. She serves on the same temple shift as Doug and Bonnie Conway.



*Alexia Franco with Conways*

Kathy Hansen (El Salvador): Kathy's journey began in South America but the family moved to America to escape gang violence in their native country. They settled in Virginia where