



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



#### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU!

New Year Resolutions are a tradition, most common in the Western World, but are also found to a lesser degree in the Eastern World. Individuals resolve to continue good practices, change an undesirable trait, accomplish a personal goal, or otherwise improve their behavior at the beginning of a calendar year. The start of a new year marks an opportunity for each of us to reflect on our life and think about where we would like to be in the future. While New Year Resolutions may get a bad rap for encouraging unrealistic goals or placing pressure on us, they can also be a great starting point to prioritize things in our lives.

When each of us joined the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, we committed ourselves to the Mission and Values of the National Society. During the COVID Pandemic many of us members drifted away into inactivity. The habit of being actively engaged with the Sons of Utah Pioneers slipped off of our priority lists and it has been difficult to rekindle the fire and enthusiasm that we once had for the organization. To all of us I proffer a few New Year Resolutions that you might consider as you develop your 2024 Resolution List:

- 1. Increase my attendance at my SUP Chapter meetings.
- 2. "Memorialize" at least one of my pioneer ancestors with the National Society.
- 3. Volunteer to serve on my chapter board.
- 4. Write a life sketch/history of one of my pioneer ancestors and share it with my family.
- 5. Keep a "Gratitude Journal" each day just record one thing that I am thankful for and why.
- 6. Attend the SUP Annual History Symposium in April.
- 7. Attend the SUP National Encampment in September.

We need not put all of these on our New Year Resolution list, but just two or three of them will be sufficient to increase our enthusiasm and desire to re-engage or become more engaged with the Sons of Utah Pioneers. We, as a National Society, need each one of us to be an active participant in our local chapter and the National organization. Each one of us has something of value to offer to the organization and each one of us makes the organization stronger.

When I was in college, I joined an organization that had as part of its Creedo the theory that: "... friendship among members possessing different temperments, talents, and convictions is superior to the friendship among members having the same temperments, talents, and convictions; and that genuine friendship can be maintained without surrendering the IN THIS ISSUE H 2 NATIONAL HQ CHRISTMAS PARTY H 3 LUCIUS SCOVIL'S SPIRITUAL WEALTH H 4 DAN JONES AWAKENS WALES H 5 PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS IN YOUR

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CHAPTER

principle of individuality or sacrificing one's personal judgment." I believe this to be true with membership in the Sons of Utah Pioneers. If you aren't currently involved, get involved; if you are currently involved, kick it up a notch. All of us are in this together and we will make 2024 a year of great things.

Nate Pierce 2024 National President





National Library Volunteers and Staff

Remarks by President Pierce



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# THE SPIRITUAL WEALTH OF LUCIUS NELSON SCOVIL

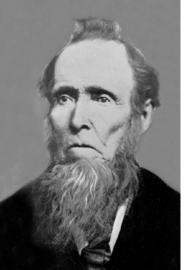
By Kristine Frederickson, Deseret News Columnist, Dec 28, 2008

Lucius Nelson Scovil joined the LDS Church in 1837 in Kirtland, Ohio, and one month later left on the first of many Mormon missions. On his way home he met the Prophet Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon, who alerted him to mob violence against the Saints in Ohio.When he arrived home the Saints were fleeing, and few families had the means to transport their goods to the Ohio River about 100 miles away. Scovil made five trips totaling almost 1,000 miles, transporting others, then gathered his family, left all his worldly goods behind and traveled to Missouri. There he took what work he could to pay off debts. Driven from Missouri, and

once more destitute, in 1840 the family migrated with other Saints and eventually settled in Nauvoo.

When Scovil and family arrived in Illinois they were penniless. Further, his family was incapacitated by what was described as "the bilious fever" and malaria. His daughter succumbed to "black canker," which ate a hole through her lip, two of her teeth and her chin. Scovil worked hard to get back on his feet and renew his family's health and wellbeing. He oversaw construction of and managed the many activities that took place in the Masonic Hall, was a member of the Nauvoo Legion and built and ran the popular Scovil Bakery.When the Saints were compelled to leave Nauvoo in 1846 Scovil not only lost all his material goods but as wagons were pulling out along the "Trail of Tears" his wife died in





childbirth. The twins she delivered, Mary and Martha, died 10 days later. Despairing, Scovil made preparations to depart with remaining family members.

And then he received a call to serve a mission in England. Scovil traveled a few days onto the plains "to get (his children) properly regulated," placed them under the care of others and left them with a blessing. The children "collapsed in tears," and, fraught with grief, Scovil turned east to fulfill a mission 6,000 miles away, without a penny to his name.He wrote: "This seemed like a painful duty for me to perform, to leave my family to go into the wilderness and I to turn

and go the other way. It cost me all that I had on this earth ... (but) I thought it was best to round up my shoulders like a bold soldier of the crop .. and assist in rolling forth the kingdom of God."

Scovil worked hard and prospered each place he lived but lost everything time and again when persecution drove him from his homes. His focus in life however was not gaining and maintaining material wealth. He lived his life with an eye single to the glory of God and was determined to move God's kingdom forward in keeping with the covenants he made at baptism.What sustained Scovil through challenging economic times? The answer seems almost too simplistic, but there is only one explanation. It was his testimony of Jesus Christ and his conviction that in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints he had found Christ's gospel restored to the earth again. Understanding the plan of salvation and how fleeting, in the eternal scheme of things, material wealth is, he chose the restored gospel over the comforts and riches of the world....

Hopefully economic hardships will not as harshly affect us as they did Lucius Nelson Scovil. Yet whatever the new year holds let us determine to esteem most that which is of eternal value and, as did Scovil, "round up our shoulders, like bold soldiers of the crop ... and assist in rolling forth the kingdom of God."

Scovil Bakery, Nauvoo

THE TRAIL MARKER ~ OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS



SUP Monument #58 - Missionary Training Center, 2005 N 900 E Provo, Utah 84604

Inside the Provo MTC there is an SUP Monument usually only seen by missionaries and staff of the training center. The monument is comprised of a painting by Clark Kelley Price entitled "Dan Jones Awakens Wales" along with a wall mounted plaque.

In June 1844, Joseph and Hyrum Smith were arrested and imprisoned in Carthage Jail. With Willard Richards and John Taylor, Jones was chosen to accompany the Smiths to jail to offer support and protection. The night before Joseph and Hyrum were killed, Joseph Smith asked Jones if he was afraid to die. Jones replied, "Has that time come, think you? Engaged in such a cause, I do not think that death would have many terrors." Smith replied with what many have identified as his "last prophecy": "You will yet see Wales and fulfill the mission appointed you before you die."

The painting was commission by the SUP and dedicated March 6, 1993, by President Gordon B. Hinkley. Clark Kelley Price's painting is a dramatic depiction of Dan Jones's missionary activity. The South Wales locale shows industrial Wales against a background of verdant hills and castle ruins. The street meeting audience represents people from all walks of life, including a blackened coal miner returning from his 14-hour shift below ground. Elder Jones is powerfully communicating the gospel of hope, eternal salvation, and dignity for persons of all classes.

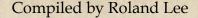
Elder Jones served two missions to his native Wales. The first was from 1844 to 1849 and he served as the mission president with more than 3,000 converts joining the Church. He went back to serve a second mission in 1852. On his first return 300 converts accompanied him to Utah. On his second return 500 converts returned with him. It is said on the plaque that "His energy in proselyting, publishing, and confounding adversaries truly 'awakened Wales'".

Evidently, Clark Kelley Price, was wont to include his likeness in pictures he painted. He is supposedly represented by the gray-haired man in the lower left in the painting.

To visit this monument, you must contact the Training Center (801.422.2602) for an appointment to be escorted.



THE TRAIL MARKER ~ OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS



If you would like to have your chapter news printed in the Trail Marker please do the following:

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- 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

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4. News must be received by the 25th of each month

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

# **NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!**

NAME .....CHAPTER

#### NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

McKay Lewis Allen Salt Lake Pioneer
Raymond H BurgoyneTimpanogos
Kory Butler WorldWide Pioneer
Richard Chamberlain Sevier Valley
Mark DraweHurricane Valley
Sonny Hunt Cedar City
Rod Jackson Temple Quarry
Grant MillerTimpanogos
Jay Ripley Bountiful
Tyler Smith WorldWide Pioneer
Roger SorensenUpper Snake River Valley
Tyson Thorpe Bountiful
Michael F Turner Mt Nebo

#### NAME .....CHAPTER

#### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Ron L Andersen	Bountiful
Travis Felshaw	WorldWide Pioneer

#### **NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

Deirdre Paulsen M	ills
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#### **CHAPTER ETERNAL**

M Russell Ballard	. Salt Lake City
Joseph E Goodman Jr	Mills
Elwin R Merritt	Box Elder
F Lee Taylor	Mills



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

## **BOULDER DAM CHAPTER - Boulder City / Las Vegas, Nevada**



Legrande Neilsen Modern Pioneer Award

The Boulder Dam Chapter met at the home of Ned and Sue Shamo for our annual Christmas dinner. It was well attended. All enjoyed our ham dinner and great desserts. After dinner John Norman gave us a history about McKeeversville Camp. This camp is where families lived in tents and dugouts as work on the Boulder Dam was in progress. It was the beginning of Boulder City. Following the history, Bob Gurr, our area vice president, swore in the chapter officers and the board of directors for 2024. Randy Dyer was nominated and sustained to be the president elect. Brian Ewell, the president for 2024, then addressed us. LeGrand Nielsen was given the Modern Pioneer Award for contributions to the camp activities for 2023. An incredibly good year for our chapter with great plans for the upcoming year.

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



John Schmidt

For the December meeting we had the extraordinary opportunity to be entertained by Jon Schmidt of the famous group The Piano Guys. The evening consisted of Jon performing a variety of musical numbers as well as talking about his music career. He was born to German immigrant parents, who gave him the gift of early education in music although they had limited funds. He began appearing in piano recitals at age eight and at eleven he was composing music. At sixteen he was teaching piano. He began his solo career in his twenties. He worried about a career in music, so in college he studied English and planned to get an MBA. People kept pestering him to play piano for them. He eventually rented a large concert hall to present himself to the public. His audience

loved him, and he never went back to his English and business plans. For 20 years his solo career was successful and included many albums, performances, and awards. However, The Piano Guys entrapped Schmidt with their lair of beautiful pianos and they all joined together to create spectacular music/video content. Their goal is to inspire those that may listen. They have won many awards and performed all over the world. During the evening Schmidt performed a variety of numbers including, "O come, O Come Emmanuel", "Can't Help Falling in Love With You," "Waterfall," Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (which he played on his back without seeing the music), and "Christmas Morning."

## **CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah**



John C Fremont Monument

Our Monuments Committee was busy in December with a restoration project on the John C. Fremont monument in Parowan. This monument, which has been present on Main Street for many decades, was deteriorating and in need of restoration. The decision was made by the board to take on this project as our major monument restoration project for the year. In 1854, John C Fremont was leading an expedition to map out a route for the transcontinental railroad. They got caught in a tough winter while traveling across the area. In Fremont's own words: "We were all so feeble we could barely drag ourselves down the trail, but the Mormons took us in one or two in each home, fed us, and nursed us back to health." The monument sits on the spot where Fremont himself cared for by Mrs. John C. I. Smith. It is expected that the project will be complete by the end of January.

#### **CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah**



Monument Trek



Bear River Massacre Site

Our Centerville Chapter took an amazing trek a few months ago to the site of the Bear River Massacre near Preston, Idaho. Very few people have heard of this conflict between the Shoshone Indian tribe and United State troops. It was one of the largest, if not the largest, Indian massacres in U.S. history. Darren Perry, a descendant of members of that tribe led our chapter on the tour.

On January 29, 1863, Colonel Patrick E. Connor led a group of California Volunteers from Fort Douglas (Salt Lake City) in search of Shoshone Indians responsible for raids on settlers. The Indians had been pushed out of more and more of their lands in northern Utah, and some of them reacted by attacking settlers. In the early morning darkness, the soldiers attacked the winter camp of Chief Bear Hunter on Battle Creek, trapping them in the ravine, and slaughtered at least 250 men, women, and children. Native oral tradition says the amount is closer to 400, and about two dozen soldiers also died. The Indians had "very few rifles," according to Darren Parry. They fought with tomahawks, spears, bows and arrows. "They flanked the Indians," Parry said, and the river "became their last resort." Some jumped into the river and were shot, and others were swept away in the icy current and drowned. It was the worst massacre of Native Americans in the West, but received little attention. The Northwestern Shoshone and Bannock tribes have now obtained the site (550 acres) for a permanent interpretive site. On a hill overlooking the highway you can park and linger to read the interpretive panels and ponder the meaning of the event. The various markers show how the event has been remembered; first as a "battle" and later as the massacre it was.

## **COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah**



Durant McArthur Modern Pioneer Award



Pine View HS Choir with Robert Reimer

The Cotton Mission chapter enjoyed a repeat performance from the Pine View High School Choir on December 19. The choir sang a variety of Christmas tunes both acapella and with accompaniment. Director Robert Reimer has developed this group into a finely tuned and amazingly competent performing group.

We also enjoyed a pioneer history moment by member Tony Allen.

A modern pioneer award was presented to chapter member Durant McArthur. Durant received degrees from Dixie College, where he played basketball with Elder Jeffrey R. Holland. He then went on to receive Masters and PhD degrees serving as a Research Geneticist for the Intermountain Forest and Range Research Station. He has made many quiet contributions to both the Church and community. He has been involved in the Cotton Mission Chapter for 12 years serving as chairman of the scholarship committee and as chapter President in 2014. He served as chairman of the recent SUP National Encampment sponsored by the Cotton Mission Chapter in 2023.

# HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



December meeting

As the 2024 Chapter President, I hope each of you have a wonderful holiday season and take time during this year end to reflect on the many great things we have accomplished in 2023 as the Hurricane Valley Chapter. We are excited to enter into a new year. We will continue to strive to follow in the exceptional footsteps of the 2023 President David Isom who has done so much behind the scenes. The bar has been set extremely high in examining our accomplishments in 2023 and will be difficult to exceed the height of the bar set in the past year. We express appreciation to all of you for the things you've done to assist and hope to have continued support

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in participating in all the events and treks to assist the chapter in the ways you have in the past. Together we will experience a very successful year in 2024. Again, thank you all so much!

**December's Activity:** We met at the Colonial Building for a wonderful Christmas Dinner served by Golden Corral, and the entertainment was Casey Lofthouse and Layne Benson, his guitarist! There were over 80 in attendance, and the meal and entertainment were amazing. Thank you Casey for your talent and being willing to come and bless our lives on this special evening! Along with dinner and entertainment the new Executive Board was introduced along with the rest of the board members.

New Leadership: Our President for next year will be Brad Winder, with Brian Hinton as our new President-elect and David Isom as Past President, Gerry Buckner as Treasurer and Gary Tomsik as Secretary. The rest of the board as pictured. Thank you to all who attended. You made the evening so enjoyable for all of us.

**January:** We will be meeting at the Legion Hall on January 24th at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be pot-luck and we will have the privilege of hearing from Justin Osmond the son of Merrill Osmond of the Osmond Family Singers.

#### JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Mountain Ridge High Choir

This month, we enjoyed our Christmas program presented by the Mountain Ridge High School Madrigal Choir as pictured. They are directed by Mr. Kelly DeHaan. These choir members are an inspiration to see and watch their performance. Their selections of Christmas and sacred music were wonderful. Those attending our chapter meeting enjoyed the spiritual treat of the Christmas season. And, in addition to the entertainment we were treated to a lovely turkey dinner!

On Saturday, October 21st, a group from our Chapter made a trek to the Utah Valley University to view the stained glass portraits entitled "Roots of Knowledge." This presentation is located in the Bingham Gallery at the University's Fulton Library. This is an exceptionally presented display of our world's history. It is handcrafted and presented in 80 stained glass windowpanes spanning ten feet high and 150 feet in length. We all enjoyed this inspirational artistic presentation. It was even made much better when the docent (guide) guided our group through all 80 windows. Her service made it so much more informative and interesting. We suggest if any other Chapters get to go see this exhibit that you arrange for a docent to assist you.

#### MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Christmas Dinner

The Mesa Arizona Chapter met on December 7th for our monthly board meeting. Planning for our 2nd Thursday event was the main objective of this meeting. On December 14th we held our Annual Christmas Dinner in the Cultural Center of the Evergreen Ward building in Tempe, AZ. No potluck this night! After our usual announcements, patriotic moment, Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of The Star-Spangled Banner, we served dinner to 60 people—members, past presenters, friends and family. A dinner of chili, corn bread, chips, hot chocolate, hot cider and pumpkin pie with whipped cream was enjoyed by all. 5-piece band The Brass Cats, of which our current Past President and Area VP Matthew Warton is a member, regaled us with Christmas music and history of each song played. A marvelous evening that reminded us of the blessings we all enjoy as members and associates of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

# MORGAN CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Van Nelson receives Modern Pioneer Award



Rudy Cordeiro, Anne Elkins and Emily Pfeifer

Monday, the 18th was the annual Christmas luncheon for the members of the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers. A delicious lunch was provided by Larry's Spring Chicken Inn. Next year's Chapter board members and Presidency were sworn in by visiting National SUP President, Nate Pierce. These included Past President, Van Nelson; President, George Hopkin; President Elect, Vaughn Larson and Vice President, Howard Hansen.

The Modern Pioneer Award was presented to Van Nelson by board member Mark Francis. Van has served in the Chapter Presidency in multiple positions. Congratulations Van and thank you.

A Christmas message was presented by George Hopkins. He related the touching story of early Morgan residents Peter Anderson and Sophia Heiner, a prosperous local couple who had brought a great deal of happiness to the valley with their generosity and service.

Entertainment was performed by very gifted local talent Rudy Cordeiro, Anne Elkins and Emily Pfeifer. Rudy is the orchestra director at the high school, and the Youth Pastor at the Morgan Valley Church. Anne is a native of SLC and earned a degree in Violin Performance from the U of U. Emily Pfeifer was raised in Hawaii. She has a degree of Music and Vocal Performance from BYU. Emily is a founding member of the Morgan Valley Arts Council and Director of the "Messiah" by the Morgan Valley Chamber Orchestra and Choir. All who attended were inspired and left filled with the Spirit of Christmas.

#### **OGDEN PIONEER CHAPTER - Ogden, Utah**



The Heartbeats Choir

The December meeting of the Ogden Pioneer Chapter was with partners, and featured vocal Christmas music by "The Heartbeats," 18 wives of medical doctors, who have been performing for 38 years! Paul Stevenson gave a Pioneer Moment about his ancestor, John Morris King, and his preparations to go west from Winter Quarters after returning from the Mormon Battalion. Paul also read 1852 pioneer diary entries of difficulties encountered in caring for the poor and needy.

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



Kim Wilson

**When:** Wednesday, January 10, at 12pm. Please email <u>jedavis2012@gmail.com</u> to RSVP.

**Location:** Monson Center - Carriage House, 411 E. South Temple, rear building, upper floor.

Cost: \$25 per person.

**Speaker:** Kim Wilson is co-founder and chairman of the board of Ensign Peak Foundation, formerly known as the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation. He chairs the Editorial Board of the ongoing initiative collecting and publishing the legal papers of Joseph Smith. He chairs the Citizens Advisory Board for the new Museum of

Utah under development on the Utah State Capitol campus and is a member of the Utah Board of State History. He is also a member of the Utah Symphony / Utah Opera Board of Trustees, the Salt Lake Community College Board of Trustees, the Days of '47 Rodeo Board, and a number of other boards. Kim has a passion for history. He enjoys traveling, preserving historical sites, reading history and biographies, staying current on world affairs and scientific advances, attending to his traditional farm and farmhouse in Cache Valley, and beekeeping.

**Webpage:** Click <u>HERE</u> to see all of the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter's upcoming events and watch past luncheon presentations.

## SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



On December 7, 2013, the Tooele Valley Choral Society entertained the Settlement Canyon Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

with a medley of Christmas Music following their annual December meeting and Christmas dinner.

Tooele Valley Choral Society

## **TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION** CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



Taylorsville High School Mad-

The Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter had a really entertaining dinner meeting for December. We had the privilege of having the Taylorsville High School Madrigals come and sing to us. This has been an annual event for our chapter for 28 years now. It was enjoyed by all and even some of the patrons at Jim's Restaurant stopped by and listened to the group sign. What a great way to help us celebrate the Christmas season.

## **TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah**



New Board

Greetings from Cache Valley. We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that 2024 will be healthy and prosperous to you all. Our December meeting for the Temple Fork chapter was held at the Logan Country Club. Following a wonderful holiday dinner our Area Vice President gave the oath of office to our 2024 chapter officers which will be led by our new chapter president, Garth Sweeten. We then sang Christmas carols and a few members shared Christmas traditions and memories. Our final memory was given by chapter member Alfred Kock who grew up in Germany during World War II. His remarks reminded each of us what the true spirit of Christmas is.

# TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah



Jason Nelson and Les Langford

Les Langford, 2023 President-Elect was formally installed as 2024 Timpanogos Chapter President together with Chapter Board Members by Dan Adams, National Area Vice-President. Les Langford, Chapter President gave an audio-visual presentation to introduce himself and what his goals will be in 2024. Les is also the Chairman of the Host Committee for the 2024 National Encampment on September 19-21. Les gave a presentation about the plans that has been developed for the 2024 National Encampment.

#### **UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Upper Snake River Valley Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. The musical number was performed by Sam Edwards with a piano solo: What Child Is This? It was a nice reminder of our Christmas season. Richard Larsen, a longtime member of our Chapter, gave a presentation on the "Legacy and History of the Larsen Family Farms." Richard lives in Salem but spends winters in Florida. He attends our meetings faithfully when he is in town.

**Upcoming Activities:** See you there! January 18th: Shawn Boice: "The Past and Future of Real Estate in Madison County."