

Trail Marker

VOLUME 20

PIONEERING
YESTERDAY, TODAY &
TOMORROW
ISSUE 223

3 NUMBER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In recent days I have been contemplating what I pledged to do when I first joined the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. I have been focusing my attention on our SUP Pioneer Values Statement:

**We Honor the Pioneers
for their
Faith in God,
Devotion to Family,
Loyalty to Church and Country,
Courage in Adversity, Personal Integrity,
and Unyielding Determination**

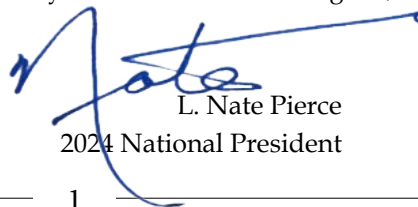
If these are the values for which we honor the Pioneers, do I or am I striving to have these same values reflected in my life? As we cherish and honor these values in our ancestors, will our descendants and future generations have cause to honor these same values in our lives?

We should each ask ourselves, "What manner of men ought ye to be?" (3 Nephi 27:27) I would encourage all of us to do some reflection on our role and responsibilities as a member of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. We might each ask ourselves:

Am I attending my chapter meetings? Am I serving in some capacity that helps to build the chapter or am I just going along for the ride? Am I actively engaged in "inviting" others to come and join the SUP? Do I commit any time or other resources to the furthering of the SUP Mission Statement:

**"Come to know our fathers and turn our hearts to them,
Preserve the memory and heritage of the early Pioneers of the Utah Territory
and the Western U.S.,
Honor present-day pioneers worldwide who exemplify these pioneer values, and
Teach these values to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers."**

I am inviting all of us to focus more clearly on what we, as the SUP, are all about and resolve to increase the level of our commitment to both the Pioneer Values Statement and our SUP Mission Statement. Thank you for all you are and what you do to make the SUP great, but we can all do a little bit more.


L. Nate Pierce
2024 National President

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2 CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING

PAGE 3 SALT LAKE PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHER

PAGE 4 SPENCER W. KIMBALL'S BOYHOOD HOME

PAGE 5 PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS IN YOUR CHAPTER

NATIONAL NEWS

Chapter Presidents Council Meeting



Our own National President Elect, was recently highlighted in The Deseret News

FROM A SCOUTING LIFER: THE BOY SCOUTS ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL IN UTAH

Val [Parrish] is 64. He's been involved in Scouting ever since he got his Bobcat as a Cub Scout when he was 8. As a boy, he grew up in Latter-day Saint patrols and troops; as a grown-up, he's climbed all the ranks, worn all the hats. He loves scouting like trees love sunshine, like boys love knives. When the church left Scouting, he didn't.

And while noting that the new incarnation has considerably fewer numbers, Val is happy to point out the advantages for those who remain....

Read the full article [HERE](#).





PIONEER STORIES

CHARLES R. SAVAGE

By Preston Nibley

To the student of Church history it is quite amazing to note how many of the Stalwarts of Mormonism came from the British Isles. Our subject, Charles Roscoe Savage, pioneer photographer, and founder of "Old Folks' Day," and an Englishman, was born at Southampton, on August 16, 1832.

It is related that the early life of Charles Roscoe Savage was one of poverty and hardship. In his youth he had no opportunity to attend school and had to gain his education as he went along through life. His father's wages as a gardener were not sufficient to support his family, and Charles went to work at an early age in order to assist his parents and brothers and sisters. In this struggle for survival he learned a valuable lesson: that he had to depend upon himself for any success he was to gain in life, and that he could not depend upon others to assist him.

At the age of fifteen Charles R. Savage first heard doctrines taught that there was really something to live for, that life was an opportunity rather than a burden. He was baptized at Portsmouth on May 21, 1848, a few months prior to his sixteenth birthday. In 1852 he was called to do missionary work in Switzerland. He remained there three years and was sustained by the kindness and help of the Saints.

After returning to England he sailed for America in 1856 and arrived at New York City in February, 1857. There he sought and obtained employment in a printing office where he worked for two years. He also met and married at this time, Miss Annie Adkins, a Mormon immigrant from England.

During his residence in New York City, Charles became interested in photography and soon concluded to adopt that business as a profession. Securing a limited amount of equipment he moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1859, where, for a few months, he set up a photography shop. The next year he was able to obtain an ox team and a wagon and cross the plains with his family to Salt Lake City.

Arriving at the headquarters of the Church, Charles formed a partnership with Marsena Cannon, a pioneer photographer who had preceded him to the Valley. Their business prospered;



Savage Studio Near Temple Square



Old Folks Day Monument

soon Charles R. Savage had his own studio. He was thorough and painstaking in his work and kept up with all the new developments in photography. He soon became known as the leading photographer in the Territory.

The active mind of Charles R. Savage led him into many fields of endeavor. He became a captain in the Nauvoo Legion. He served for years as a member of the Tabernacle Choir. He was a member of the high council of Salt Lake Stake when that stake included the entire county. But what he is best known for, outside of his photographic work, is the fact that he originated "Old Folks' Day," which today is known and observed throughout the Church.

In the spring of 1875 Charles R. Savage suggested to Presiding Bishop Edward Hunter that it would be both fitting and proper to designate a day each year for the enjoyment and pleasure of the Old Folks. Bishop Hunter then appointed Charles R. Savage and George Goddard to work out such an arrangement. May 14 of that year the first Old Folks' Day was held, when 240 aged people were conveyed by train to Lake Point, a popular resort on the shore of Great Salt Lake. A band accompanied them, and they were provided with refreshments. Old Folks' Day has been observed annually since that time.

On the 21st of June, 1883, Savage's store and photograph studio on Main Street in Salt Lake City were destroyed by fire. This was an incalculable loss as hundreds of negatives of pioneer scenes were burned—a loss that could never be replaced.

Charles R. Savage died at his residence in Salt Lake City February 3, 1909, at the age of seventy-six. At his funeral held on February 7, in the Assembly Hall, Presiding Bishop Charles W. Nibley paid him this tribute:

"His work with the aged was his chief delight. He it was who originated the movement that has blessed so many thousands of aged men and women. He loved all mankind and he recognized in every man a friend and a brother. He exemplified the message heralded by the angels, 'Peace on earth, good will to men.'"

Monument Trek



Kimball Home

3515 W Church St., Thatcher, Arizona 85552 (GPS: N32 50 43.11, W109 45 30.88)

Andrew Kimball (President Kimball's father) was called to preside over the St. Joseph Stake in 1898. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided ten acres of land on which the adobe and brick home was constructed in 1902 utilizing 12,000 adobe bricks that Andrew helped make. Andrew's son Spencer lived in this home from the age of seven until his marriage at the age of 22 to Camilla Eyring of Pima, Arizona. Upon Andrew's death in 1924, Jesse A. Udall, later a Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, purchased the home.

Spencer W. Kimball was sustained as the 12th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in late 1973 and served until his passing at the age of 90 in 1985. We honor President Kimball in the Month of his birth by remembering his boyhood home and the many contributions he made to his family, friends, church, and the nation in his 90-year life span.



THE TRAIL MARKER NEWS

Compiled by Roland Lee

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

1. Write-up should be one-paragraph (Less than 250 words) in MS Word or send as the text of an email. NO PDF FILES please.
2. 1 high quality jpeg photograph as an attachment to your email. Poor quality photos cannot be used.
3. Email to: rolandleefamily@gmail.com
4. News must be received by the 25th of each month

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

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

NAMECHAPTER

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Stephen R Adams..... Snow Horse
 Randall Allen Cedar City
 C Kevin Anderson Upper Snake River Valley
 Dave Anderson..... WorldWide Pioneer
 Dave Blackhurst..... Temple Quarry
 J Braun Settlement Canyon
 Michael Christensen WorldWide Pioneer
 Craig Edwards Bountiful
 Richard K Graham..... Maple Mountain
 Rick Holman..... Cedar City
 Harvey Horner The Mountain Valley
 William Johnson..... Cotton Mission
 Edwin Kumferman Upper Snake River Valley
 Scott Larsen..... The Mountain Valley
 Gregory Maxfield..... WorldWide Pioneer
 Jerry Miller Timpanogos
 Henry Morrison Mills
 J Ryan Nelson Timpanogos
 Errol K Ormond Pocatello (Portneuf Pioneers)
 Lynn Perks Upper Snake River Valley
 Samuel Roach Boulder Dam Chapter
 Robert B Schwartz Upper Snake River Valley
 Richard Lynn Smith..... Mills
 Melvin VanWagoner Salt Lake Pioneer

NAMECHAPTER

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Doug Brinkerhoff..... Mt Nebo
 Jeff Corry..... Cedar City
 Joseph Woodard..... WorldWide Pioneer

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Roland Hall.....Hurricane Valley
 Dean William HurstOgden Pioneer
 Ronald Dean Layton WorldWide Pioneer
 David Kent Moore Mt Nebo
 Clare Reed.....Hurricane Valley
 Lee Hal StoddardOgden Pioneer



BOUNTIFUL CHAPTER - Bountiful, Utah



Tombstone

For February, the Bountiful Chapter heard a presentation on a pioneer love story by Allan Hill. The story is about Charles and Elizabeth Seymour. Charles came to America from England after joining the church. He crossed the plains and made it to Utah. Eventually he was called to bring

saints across the plains. These were known as down and back wagon trains. He met and fell in love with an immigrant named Elizabeth while he was taking her to Zion. She had also joined the church in England. They moved to Rockport. Elizabeth died first and they are both buried in Rockport.

BRIGHAM YOUNG CHAPTER - Provo / Orem, Utah



Taunalyn Rutherford

Dr. Taunalyn Rutherford recently addressed the Brigham Young Chapter, discussing the growth of the Church in India and highlighting key figures who have propelled its progress. She began by recounting the challenging early missionary efforts in the 1850s, complicated by rumors of polygamy. Despite initial difficulties and negative perceptions, the Church has thrived in areas distant from British settlements. Rutherford emphasized how the Church's growth in India often stems from encounters with anti-LDS material or the influence of

influential converts. One group converted through a representative who inadvertently omitted certain commandments, rectified in 1985 by official missionaries. In closing, Rutherford quoted C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity," underscoring the goal of becoming like Christ. She urged envisioning Christ in the people of India, trusting in their acceptance of the gospel, and believing in the blessings awaiting them. The journey of the Church in India reflects perseverance, cultural adaptation, and the transformative power of faith.

CEDAR CITY CHAPTER - Cedar City, Utah



Monument Restoration

Saturday evening, February 17th, we held our annual Valentines activity. This year we invited a live band to come provide the music for a dance with potluck refreshments. The band was made up of retired and current faculty members from Southern Utah University. Appropriately, they called themselves "Diminished Faculties." It was an

enjoyable evening with good participation. Also in February, our monuments committee project to rebuild the John C. Fremont monument in Parowan was completed. It turned out very nice. We have a couple other monuments that also need work that we hope to get to this year.

CENTERVILLE CHAPTER - Centerville, Utah



Robert Freeman

JANUARY MEETING: After a wonderful dinner, we were privileged to hear from our National President Elect, Val Parrish, who was sworn in during our last National Encampment in St. George. Val shared some history from several of his ancestors and emphasized that it has been 177 years since our faithful pioneers first entered the Salt

Lake Valley. He told about his great, great grandfather, Henry Strong Parrish who was born in 1818. His father passed away when he was only 16 and his father asked him to take care of mother and his other family members. Henry knew the prophet Joseph Smith and had actually wrestled with him.

(Continued On Following Page)



WWII Military

He also helped build the Nauvoo Temple. He traveled to Salt Lake City in 1852 and resided in Bountiful where he helped build the Bountiful Tabernacle which still stands today and is still in use. He was a caring person who gave away grain for free to widows and others in need. Val told of several other ancestors and how their trials, hardships, faith, forgiveness taught him lessons and that "we are the dream of many of our ancestors." Val's last tribute was to his own mother. He showed us a pair of her "rose colored glasses" because she always had positive things to say about others.

FEBRUARY MEETING: We were privileged to hear from Robert (Bob) C. Freeman, a professor of Church History and Doctrine at BYU. He is the director of the Saints at War Project which he and an associate worked on resulting in a series of volumes documenting the contribution of Latter-Day-Saints in the military during

wartime. Brother Freeman told of meeting with Elder L. Tom Perry who told him of serving as a marine in the Pacific Islands and special experiences during his time including a baptism. Elder Perry then showed Bob some of the artifacts from his service and how involved members of the Church have been in all military wars. He encouraged Bob to study and write about the impact they have had during wartime. Brother Freeman also talked about Boyd K Packer's experiences that solidified his testimony while serving in WWII. He also mentioned David B. Height and Neal A. Maxwell increasing their commitment to serve the Lord during their war time experiences. Bob learned about President Russell M. Nelson spending time serving as a doctor during wartime and how he visited MASH units in Korea. President Nelson also reviewed medical procedures at Walter Reed Hospital which serves so many of our veterans.

COTTON MISSION CHAPTER - St George, Utah



F. Melvin Hammond

The Cotton Mission chapter had the privilege of hearing from emeritus general authority seventy F. Melvin Hammond. Elder Hammond gave a wonderful and concise history of pioneer Dan Jones and his effect on the early Church. Before Joseph Smith was martyred he prophesied that Dan Jones "would yet see Wales and fill the mission appointed to you before you die." Dan did just that serving two amazingly successful missions to that country. On his first mission

he was able to convert and baptize 2000 people. On his second mission he baptized 2000 more bringing back 703 families with him to Salt Lake City strengthening the early church. He passed away in 1861 at just 49 years of age. Elder Hammond was called as a Seventy in 1989 and served as Young Men General President. He also served as president of the Washington DC temple and as a mission president in Brazil.

HURRICANE CHAPTER - Hurricane, Utah



Justin Osmond

JANUARY'S EVENT: We met at the Legion hall for a fantastic dinner and an incredible presentation from Justin Osmond. He gave us a brief history of his struggles growing up, with a speech and hearing disability he had to deal with, and how he overcame it. We were all impressed with the resilience of the entire Osmond family as Justin talked about his families struggles. We were grateful that so many turned out to hear him. There were nearly 90 in attendance there.

FEBRUARY'S EVENT: We met on February 28th for another pot-luck dinner, and listened to Brigadier General Rich Howard from LaVerkin talk to us about his experiences. because of space constraints, we met at the Red Brick Chapel at 274 South 100 West in Hurricane. This will be where we meet each month in the future. We will begin our meetings at 6:00 for mingling and visiting, then dinner will start around 6:30 pm.

JORDAN RIVER TEMPLE CHAPTER - South Jordan, Utah



Spencer & Dorothea Condie

Our speaker this evening is an emeritus General Authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is Elder Spencer Condie who was accompanied by his wife Dorothea. On this evening of Valentines Day, Elder Condie paid tribute to his wife. He said, "My relationship with my dear wife, Dorothea, has given me the successes of my life". What a beautiful tribute personally given to her that he shared with us. Elder Condie then followed with some kind counsel as we work within our families on keeping them on the covenant path as follows: "The gospel of Jesus Christ is a happy gospel. Do not dwell on negativity. Too much negativity results in loss of hope, depression,

etc." He then shared some stories of some past Church members he has known who experienced some disappointment within some family members. He said, "many of the early faithful Church members had some family challenges." He saw the heartbreak these families were having. Elder Condie closed with the following suggestion when we face a similar situation with an inactive Church member within our family: "Hold on, trust on, healing from God will often follow. And, continue to minister and never give up on your loved ones." And finally, "after all your patience, love, and support is offered, those who have strayed will often be brought back to the covenant path."

MESA ARIZONA CHAPTER - Mesa, Arizona



Ricky at Bingo Night

The Mesa Arizona Chapter held its monthly Board Meeting on Thursday, February 1st, during which we discussed chapter business and plans for our February "2nd Thursday Gathering." We met for this event on Thursday February 8th at the Evergreen Ward building in Tempe, AZ. After our usual opening of opening prayer, announcements, patriotic moment,

Pledge of Allegiance and "Star Spangled Banner" played on trumpet by Area VP Matt Wharton, we headed for the pot luck buffet line. After dinner we conducted our Annual Game Night! Treasurer Ricky Heywood led us all in a robust game of Bingo (no money or prizes were offered!). We hosted a good deal of guests invited by Trek Director Craig Linford. An excellent evening, for sure.

MORGAN CHAPTER - Morgan, Utah



Francis Tilby

Monday, February 19, the Morgan Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers gathered for their monthly luncheon at the Rock Chapel where Larry's famous "Spring Chicken Inn" chicken was served. Visitors and new members were introduced. Local chapter member, Francis Tilby, presented the pioneer minute introducing himself and sharing the story of Nicholas Paul, his great great grandfather, a convert and early Immigrant to Utah. Nicholas was a major contributor in the construction of Cove Fort in central Utah.

The luncheon's presenter was Clark B Hinckley. He has worked in banking most of his life, including as senior officer of Zions First National Bank where he continues to serve as an advisory director. He is the author of "Christopher Columbus: A Man Among the Gentiles," and editor of "Rescued,

the Courageous Journey of Mary Goble Pay." Clark is a graduate of BYU in mathematics and Harvard Business School. He and his wife Kathleen, who was at the luncheon, served as mission leaders in the Spain Barcelona Mission. They also served as president and matron of the Tijuana Mexico Temple. They coauthored "Taking off the Tag: A Transition Guide for Returning Missionaries." They are the parents of six Children. Brother Hinckley presented the fascinating story of the "Redemption of Poncho Villa." Known as a robber, murderer and revolutionary, Poncho was pursued by both the Mexican and US governments. He did however maintain a sporadic relationship with the Mormon colonies in Mexico. Later in his life he had a significant conversation with Mexican Mission President James "Bert" Whetten

(Continued On Following Page)

and Bishop Joseph Bentley. In 1965, 46 years after that meeting and 42 years after Poncho's assassination, President Whetten would have a dream with a visit from Poncho Villa, reminding him to keep his promise to help him. After receiving permission from Church President Joseph Fielding Smith, his temple

work was completed in the Mesa Arizona Temple. Ten years later he would finally be recognized by the Mexican government as a national hero instead of an outlaw, making his "redemption" complete. Thank you for a glimpse into a little known and inspiring part of church history

SALT LAKE PIONEER CHAPTER - Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah



Richard N.W. Lambert

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

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

Cost: \$25 per person.

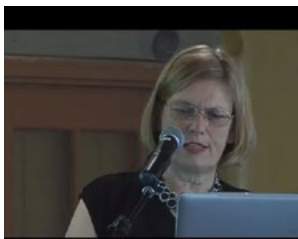
Speaker: Richard N.W. Lambert, trustee and vice chairman of the Mormon Historic Sites Foundation, was born in San Francisco, California and grew up in the Bay area. He served in the British Mission. Richard graduated from Brigham Young University and the University of Michigan Law School. Following graduation from law school

Richard served as a Deputy District Attorney before being appointed an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Utah in 1981. He is currently serving as the Chief of the Criminal Division.

Richard has a long standing interest in LDS Church History. He regularly volunteers as a Church History tour guide. He serves as vice-president of the Wilford Woodruff Family Association. Active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he has served in numerous positions.

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

SETTLEMENT CANYON CHAPTER - Tooele, Utah



Laura-Anderson

On February 1, 2024 the featured speaker Laura Anderson dazzled the members of the Settlement Canyon Chapter with her knowledge of "The Women of the Mormon Battalion." Laura Anderson is a home-grown historian from a long line of SUP and DUP members. She grew up attending meetings with her grandparents and started in earnest doing genealogical research at the age of 13. After all her children were in full day school in 1987, she renewed her efforts and soon was doing professional genealogy. In 2009 she and her husband Craig were recruited by the Church History Department as Missionaries. They started by focusing their research on the Overland Trail database. Over the next 10 years she was a researcher on many different

projects and eventually became interested in the Mormon Battalion. They left their mission after 10 years to pursue that passion. Starting in 2015 she has made eight trips to the National Archives to research obscure records and has been able to locate most of the Battalion muster rolls, payrolls, pay vouchers and other pertinent records. Laura is the Executive Director of the Mormon Battalion, Mormon Trails across Wyoming and Utah, and the National Mormon Trails Association. She is also the Senior Historian for the Mormon Battalion Association. Laura is the owner of a start-up called Kindex where a person can have a shared web page for all of the family to enjoy and share the precious documents and pictures from the past.

TAYLORSVILLE-BENNION CHAPTER - Taylorsville, Utah



President and Sister Wakefield with Val & Allison Parrish

This month's Chapter meeting of the Taylorsville-Bennion Chapter was the opportunity to hear from President Preston Wakefield and his wife Becky. They are part of the Temple Presidency of the new Taylorsville Temple that will be dedicated on June 2, 2024. President Wakefield explained a bit about the operation of the temple and said that they are in the process of calling workers for the new temple. The temple district is comprised of forty stakes. President Wakefield and Sister Wakefield gave us some history of their pioneer families. Sister Wakefield's family lived in Orangeville and Castledale. They were some of the first families in Nauvoo. They came to the Salt Lake Valley with the Edmond Elsworth handcart

company. President Wakefield's family lived in Nephi. They came to the Salt Lake Valley with the Willey handcart company. While traveling to the Salt Lake Valley, Ann Jewell and her fourteen children didn't have very much food. The children were eating leather strips. Ann had two sea biscuits left for them to eat. She was worried that she didn't have enough for the whole family. She put water in a pot and the two sea biscuits and when she opened the pot, it was full of food to feed the whole family. This was at Rocky Ridge. Val Parrish swore-in the secretary for the Chapter since he wasn't in attendance last month. Paul Bambrough and Bill Hardesty shared a story about their families. It was a wonderful evening.

TEMPLE FORK CHAPTER - Logan, Utah



Smithfield Temple

Greetings from Cache Valley. We are excited about another year of honoring our pioneer ancestors. Our February meeting was held on February 19th at the Logan Country Club. Following a wonderful dinner our speakers were Elder and Sister Barraclough. The Barraclough's are serving as missionaries

in the visitors center for the Smithfield Temple. The Temple is under construction and we learned about the site selection process, the ground work and the Temple construction. This was very informative and was a great meeting.

TEMPLE QUARRY CHAPTER - Salt Lake City, Utah



Salt Lake Temple Construction

The Temple Quarry Chapter enjoyed an inspirational and an informative evening with Elder Douglas and Sister Pauline Todd. They are serving as senior missionaries to document the Salt Lake Temple Renovation. For four years they have been at the construction site daily, interacting with the workers, taking pictures, and recording the progress that is being made to fortify the temple. Their presentation included information on the changes inside and outside of the temple, both above and below ground. They also showed an instructional church video that describes the retrofitting of the

foundation, walls, and spires for earthquake mitigation. Much of the work so far has been done to provide a better foundation for this magnificent edifice. The work that Elder and Sister Todd are doing will be a lasting tribute to the effort of hundreds of skilled workers who are performing this massive task. Members of the chapter and their guests had a greater appreciation of the magnitude of this undertaking and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was especially meaningful for some of the members of the chapter who have remnants of the granite that was quarried for the temple near their homes.

TIMPANOGOS CHAPTER - American Fork, Utah

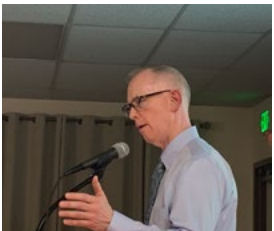


Cami McKinney

The Timpanogos Chapter dinner meeting was held on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the American Fork, Utah Senior Citizen Center. The guest speaker was Cami McKinney, retired Park Ranger at the Timpanogos Cave National Monument. She is the author of "The Heart of the Mountain—History of the Timpanogos Cave." Cami gave a power point presentation about the history of American Fork Canyon and the development of the Timpanogos Cave National Monument. She discussed the

Native American Tribes who live in Canyon and Utah Valley, the European explorers, Father Escalante and Dominguez, the coming of the Mormon Pioneers and the occupation of Johnston's Army. The discovery of minerals and the subsequent mining in American Fork Canyon was described. The history of finding the three caves that have become the present-day Timpanogos Cave National Monument was explained in detail.

UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER - Rexburg, Idaho



Robert Chambers

Our member meeting for February was a treat! The musical number was presented by Annie Trentman, who sang, By the River. She is a returned missionary from Albania and is studying Vocal Choir at BYU-Idaho. Our speaker was Robert E. Chambers, former Stake President, Mission President, and Area Authority. He was recently released as the Department Chair of the BYU-Idaho Religion Department. He is a member of the Rexburg City Council. His topic was "Pioneer History: Ordinary Events Make for Extraordinary Histories." Brother Chambers began his remarks by telling of a short historical note found in the Villamor University archives about the A62-Firetruck. The note recorded details about the first firetruck pulled by horses, the successful use of high-water pressure to combat fires, and the risks inherent to the work of firefighters. The author probably didn't realize how much his short note contributed to a greater appreciation of the historical context of firefighting. He then talked about George Goddard, his 2nd great, great grandfather. Goddard left a remarkable history of ordinary events. He and his wife

were disowned by their families, and they immigrated to Utah. He told details about the Overland Trail that was followed by the Saints from 1847 to 1852. He became a secretary to the Presiding Bishop, worked with George Q. Cannon and Karl G. Maser, sang for 20 years in the Tabernacle Choir, and was the secretary to the School of the Prophets. He was also a very successful businessman with a wide reputation for honesty and service in the valley. After all that high-level service, he was called to gather rags for the Deseret News—so the paper would be able to stay in business with fiber for the newsprint. Eventually Bro. Chambers likened this kind of mission call to his own when he and Sister Chambers were called to preside over the Salt Lake City South mission. He went through a short period of self-discouragement for such a place to serve. Then he had an attitude-changing insight...it is not the place where one serves but the missionaries to whom he is called to minister. Like his great, great grandfather, the Chambers served faithfully and found great success and many tender mercies from their call.

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