

# SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS

## Salt Lake City Chapter

### January 2013 Newsletter

Our next meeting: January 3rd, 6:30 P.M.



MEETING LOCATION 10TH WARD

#### List of Officers - 2012

Past Pres. Larry Stucki - 801 485-4521  
Pres. Chris Christensen - 801 582-7025  
Pres. Elect Michael Reed — 801 530-4882  
Sec. David Horne — 801 583-1776  
Treas. , Scholarship David Smith — 385 218-7738  
Membership Chr. — Alonso Cook 801-599-6314  
Historian Ron DeWaal — 801 582-3295  
Food & Treks LaVon Day — 801 521-0777  
Chaplain Brent Nilsen — 801 485-5759  
Program Chr.. Bill Tanner — 801 266-2090  
Brd. Members: Robert Pollei, Steve Sorenson

January 3, 2013 Sons of Utah Pioneers Salt Lake City chapter began the year with Chris Christiansen as our new president and Joseph Soderberg was our inaugural speaker. He spoke about the missionary crisis in Europe at the beginning of World War 1. Joseph's research was extensive and the information he shared contained some very important messages. He drew a marked contrast between the churches missionary efforts currently and the control the church has over its missionaries now. In the beginnings of the 20th century communication was limited and travel was slow.

Just prior to the beginning of World War 1, no one had experienced the challenges the missionaries would be faced with in those trying times. President Hyrum Max Smith, an apostle and president of the European mission, left on June 9, 1914 for Liverpool, England on a continental trip that would last the whole summer. He visited 45 branches in the mission, touring eight countries and traveling over 4000 miles. During this time, he had no idea of the challenges that his missionaries would face, and the inability he would have to communicate with them or to learn of their whereabouts. In those times of trial, missionaries were being banished from cities throughout Germany and were suspected of being spies. Even a visiting businessman, David Eccles was arrested and suspected of being a beggar. One missionary commented, "Yes, he was a \$40 million beggar."

Parents, family members, and church leaders were concerned because of the lack of information regarding the safety and whereabouts of the missionaries. Once time during this trying time President Smith commented, "The vision and inspiration of many of the servants of the Lord is undoubtedly better than that of one. Therefore, I am yours to command, but in the absence of your commands, I shall do as the Lord gives me light and act according to my very best judgment and inspiration." When President Smith completed his continental tour and returned to his office on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, having been gone from his office since June 9<sup>th</sup>, he was flooded with letters and cables from parents. "Most of these," he said, "I have not answered for the simple reason, I could not tell them anything, save that those inquired about were somewhere in Germany, which of course they were already aware of. The idea in the heads of many parents is, "If I don't know exactly where their sons are and what their precise condition is, then I am recreant to my duty for I ought to know."

During his travels in Germany, He was joined by President Hyrum Valentine, of the Swiss - German mission. On September 1st, a month after the war had begun, President Valentine received instructions to release all of his missionaries. He set out from the mission home in Basal with 22,000 marks secreted upon his person, and commenced giving relief and releasing the elders in Germany. For the next two weeks President Valentine made the circuit of the German Empire, providing every elder with 120 marks over and above his indebtedness to carry him to Liverpool. It was another month before he could cable President Joseph F. Smith in Salt Lake that, "Every elder in the Swiss - German mission positively safe, well, and secured."

There seemed to be no end to the obstacles and challenges facing church leaders. Elder James E. Talmage gave some sage advice when he wrote the parable of The Owl Express

While studying in college, he was on a field trip in the mountains when his party was overtaken by a storm. He wrote, "The storm reached its height. While we were descending a long and steep mountainside several miles from a little railway station, the train, The Owl Express finally arrived. I spoke to the engineer and expressed some of my apprehensions about the condition of the tracks ahead. I thought of the possibility, and the probability of snowdrifts, or slides on the track, or on the bridges and high trestles which may have been loosened by the storm, of rock masses dislodged from the mountainside, of these and other possible obstacles." The engineer patiently explained how the lamp on the train glided up the track for 100 yards. He said, "All I try to do is cover the hundred yards of the lighted track that I can see, and for that distance I know the roadbed is open and safe. I have never been able to drive this old Angel engine of mine, God bless her, so fast as to outstrip that hundred yards of lighted track. The light of the engine is always ahead of me."

Elder Talmage was struck by the words of faith from this oil stained engineer and he concluded, " We may not know what lies ahead of us in the future years, nor even that in the hours or days ahead, but for a few yards or possibly only a few feet, the track is clear, our duty is plain, our course is illuminated. For that short distance, for the next step, lighted by the inspiration of God, go on. "Such sage advice from the engineer and Elder Talmage help us as we go on our journey in life.

The church grew from this experience and the preparation which took place. Joseph Soderberg once again reminded us of the importance of preparation and learning the lessons of the past for the present and future.

***At Our February 7th dinner meeting we will shift our attentions from a history lesson to a wonderful evening of entertainment and education. Sister Elaine Carr Brewster will be our speaker. She has a rich ancestry of faithful LDS pioneers. Over 40 of hers and her husband's progenitors crossed the plains to Utah between 1847 and 1869. This program relates inspiring stories from three of those pioneers, coming from Ireland, England, and America. Old time music will be created on acoustical instruments such as hammered dulcimer, harp and concertina.***

***Elaine has played leading roles in operas and musicals such as Carmen and Camelot; has soloed with Utah Symphony, Ralph Woodward choral and on the PBS Rachmaninoff special. She teaches storytelling in schools and at festivals, as well as composing children's operas. She recently finished seven years with the tabernacle choir, and loves sharing family history with her 12 grandchildren.***

***We will be delighted to share Elaine's wonderful stories. We look forward to an exciting evening.***

Next month we will have pictures. Ron has been ill and unable to send them. Get well fast Ron. We need you.

Respectfully, Bill Tanner