

SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

Salt Lake City Chapter

October 2013 Newsletter

Our next meeting: Thursday November 7, 2013

Time: 6:30 PM Place: 10th Ward 4th South and 8th East



List of Officers

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. David Smith Sr.— 385 218-7738
Membership Chr. — Alonzo Cook— 801 599-6314
Historian Ron DeWaal — 801 582-3295
Treks & Dinner arrngmt. LaVon Day 801 521-0777
Chaplain. Brent Nilsen — 801 485-5759
Newsletter, Program - Bill Tanner — 801 266-2090
Brd Members at large: Robert Pollei, Steve Sorenson

It is hard to believe that over 3/4 th of the year is in the books. I hope your book reads well. We have had a remarkable year in SUP, Salt Lake City Chapter. As we pause to reflect, haven't the programs been outstanding and how about the Trek. How can it get any better?



Jay Parry

Last month we heard one of the finest presentations on the life of George Washington and his wife Martha, presented by Jay Parry. What are some of the things you remember? The thing I remember is the way Jay helped us realize the fore ordination of Washington and the protection of his life in so many life threatening situations. He mention 21 separate accounts. I'll mention a few:

Washington became an advocate of inoculation for small pox as result of his having a light case of small pox when he was younger. This enabled him to be essentially inoculated, which protected him when there was an epidemic among the troops and many died.

When crossing the Allegany River in the dead of winter he was knocked off the raft into the river filled with floating ice and ended up on a small island in the middle of the river. He was in his wet clothing all night and it is a wonder that he lived. Over night the river froze over, which allowed he and his companion to cross over on the ice the next morning.

Another time when he and his companion were returning from the French Indian War in Ohio they took with them an Indian guide. After traveling a while in the snow the Indian turned to shoot Washington, but the gun misfired and they captured the guide. His companion wanted to kill the Indian, but Washington refused and sent him on his way.

During the Revolutionary Wars battle for New York, Washington and the Army were trapped on Long Island by the British. When all seemed lost a sudden heavy fog engulfed them hiding them from the British. This allowed Washington to ferry all of his troops across the East River that night under the cover of the deep fog. When the fog lifted in the morning, they were safe, out of harms way.

I could go on, but there is one more important and significant event. The prophecy by an old Indian chief when bullets pierced Washington clothing but failed to harm him in any way.

Quoting from Brother Parry; *"In 1755 George Washington marched with the army of Major General Edward Braddock as part of the expedition to capture Fort Duquesne, held by the French. Washington was serving as an aide-de-camp to the General at the time. The British regulars, drilled for traditional combat, were ambushed by a force of French and American Indians, severely beaten by guerrilla tactics and forced to retreat. Then Colonel Washington took the lead after Gen. Braddock was shot and salvaged the situation the best he could.*

"15 years later, in the fall of 1770, Washington and several other men traveled to the Ohio river to examine some of the western lands that had been granted to colonial veterans of the French and Indian War. During the journey they were met by an Indian trader who "declared that he was conducting a party which consisted of a grand sachem and some attendant warriors; that the chief was a very great man among the northwestern tribes, and the same who [had] commanded the Indians at the fall of Braddock.... Hearing of the visit of Colonel Washington to the western country, this chief had set out on a mission, the object of which [he] himself would make known." (32) After the two groups had arranged themselves around a council fire, the old Indian rose and spoke to the group through an interpreter:

"I am a chief, and the ruler over many tribes. My influence extends to the waters of the great lakes, and to the far blue mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle.

"It was on the day when the white man's blood mixed with the streams of our forest that I first beheld this chief. I called to my young men and said, Mark yon tall and daring warrior? He is not of the red-coat tribe-he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do-himself is alone exposed. Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies. Our rifles were levelled, rifles which but for him knew not how to miss-'twas all in vain; a power mightier far than we shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle.

"I am old, and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades; but ere I go there is something bids me speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destinies-he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire!" (33)

By way of coming attractions

- **CLEAN UP DAY:** This Saturday is clean up day at the National Headquarters. Everyone who can, bring some tools and help with the clean up. You will need to contact Tess and let her know you are coming, so that she can plan the treats.

A NOTE FROM TESS

Dear Chapter Presidents,

Will you please remind your chapter members about the need for volunteers to assist in helping clean up the grounds at headquarters this coming Saturday, October 26, 9:00 till 12:00 (noon). I haven't had much of a response but, I would greatly appreciate a reply from those who are willing to assist myself and other fellow members for a few hours. I will email out a list of the needs for the areas we will be working on, so those assisting can come prepared. Refreshments will be served to help keep the energy level up! Call Tess at 801 484-4441 or 801 688-9467.

- **NEXT MONTHS MEETING** will be presented by Rett James. Once again it will prove to be a marvelous program. Come and bring a friend. November 7th at 6:30 P.M. at the 10th Ward. The following is his resume.

Rhett James is a historian, folklorist, poet, and playwright. His historical works include a groundbreaking article in the *Annals of Wyoming*, "Brigham Young-Chief Washakie: Indian Farm Negotiations," about Brigham Young's efforts to keep Native Americans off reservations.

In *Martin Harris: The Man Who Knew*, James's reestablished the significance of Harris's place in Mormon history. 2013 marked the 30th year for the production as an All-Church pageant. James served in the pageant presidency for 20 years. His other dramatic works include *Utah Statehood*, *Utah State University's Centennial*, and dramas about *Joseph Smith, Jr.*, *Eliza R. Snow* and the *Macabees Hanukkah*.

James' seminal article about Lucy Harris, the wife of Martin Harris, "Lucy Harris: Toward a Compassionate Reinterpretation," published in the *Nauvoo Journal*, changed the way many view Mrs. Harris.

James's five articles on Martin Harris in *Mormon Heritage Magazine* set the context in which history is written about Martin Harris, one of the Three Witnesses of the *Book of Mormon*. In the same journal, James was the first Utah writer to publish the important place of poet May Swenson in Utah history. Utah State University now features Swenson in its university poetry competitions.

Rhett James joined George Mitton in writing the longest book review published by *FARMS Review of Books*, dismantling the attacks of Michael Quinn's against orthodox LDS Church history.

James's introduction to James L. Bradley's *Zion's Camp 1834* introduced how the LDS Missouri conflict was a "Prelude to the Civil War."

James's thousands of poems include his long poem titled *Utah* published in the 1995 *Utah English Journal*, which celebrated Utah's heritage and diversity. His 1984 11,000 line epic poem, *Antidoom* predicted the collapse of the Soviet Union, and was highlighted by Jerry Johnston in his popular *Desert News* column.

As a folklorist, James published an occupational study on ballet titled, *Pink Satin Pointe Shoes, Laughter, and Lemon Drops*: the first study of its kind.

From 1969 to 1974, Rhett James was employed by Church Education to start the Seminary and Institute Programs in New Zealand, where he also served as a stake president. As Bishop of the U.S.U. Logan 21st ward, James received permission to organize two Relief Societies and Elder Quorums because there was no inactivity. James has served five stake missions and a fulltime mission in New Zealand. James has served on high councils and for six years as president of the LDS Hospital Branch in the Ensign Stake. James continues to teach United States history and the Life of Jesus Christ at the LDS Business College.

- **HISTORIAN:** We are happy to see Ron DeWaal back at our meetings. With the change from film to digital his picture taking is notably absent. However his attention to our historical record is not wanting. He has been most faithful in putting together a historical record and has submitted it to

National where past volumes are readily available. You will find on the next page a copy of the certificate recognizing his tireless work.

- I remind you to use the internet and download the Trail Maker newsletter. This is an easy site to go to and very informative. SonsOfUtahPioneers.org
- One more item. We are coming to the end of the year and it is a good time to think of giving. You might consider sending gift subscriptions to the Pioneer magazine. This next issue is wonderful and a tribute to Erastus Snow and his great work. Next months issue will be about the settlement of southern Idaho. I have been busily engaged in gathering information on that development, and I am anxious to see it in print. Gifts subscriptions are a wonderful way to help preserve its publication.
- Come prepared to vote for the slate of officers for 2014.

Well, I hope you have not gotten to tired in reading this lengthy newsletter, but once I got started I just couldn't quit.

Bill Tanner, Editor

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Tess Clark	September 2013
Name	Date