

March 2015

Pioneer Heritage | Preserve the Past | Prepare for the Future

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"Mormon Money" presented by Hank Thompson on April 2, 2015

Chris Christensen wrote and asked Hank for a short biography to help introduce him to the members and guests of our Chapter, when he speaks to us on April 2nd. Here it is.

Name: Hank Thompson

Place of birth: Heber City, Utah.

Where Did you grow up? Heber City until I was 12 years old then we moved around Utah working on dairy farms in Orem, Lehi and Duchesne, and in 1969 (at the age of 15) we moved to Grantsville, which has been home ever since. I married a "Grantsvilleite" in 1974 and we have 4 children (3 girls and a boy), and eleven grandchildren with another on the way in May.

What occupations have you had? I was with the U.S. Government for over thirty seven years retiring on 31 January 2011. Twenty five years were in Chemical Weapons Demilitarization, with thirteen of those on Johnston Island (about 700 miles SW of Hawaii). For the past two plus years I have been a handyman on LDS chapels in Tooele, Holiday and West Valley City.

Education: Graduate of Grantsville High School.

Hobbies: Grandchildren, Yard work, Woodworking, Coin Collecting, but my main hobby is tinkering in my shop, making sawdust and bending nails.

Interests: Church History and of course old money, both United States and Mormon Money. I joined the SUP Twenty Wells Chapter in 2006 and have held most board positions including President in 2011 and currently am the Chapter Historian.

Travel: I have been to 40 States, but never outside the United States.

How did you develop an interest in your topic? I was interested in coins as a kid, but never had much of a collection to speak of. Most times I just spent money, and in 2000 when my wife and I became empty nesters, finally I had a few dollars left over at the end of each payday.

What have you learned as a result of your research into your subject? That the pioneers' hardships were a lot of the same as ours when it came to economics, that is they were worried about inflation and where the their next dollar or meal would come from if they didn't work, the same as for us today.

What are you hoping we will learn from attending your lecture? Perhaps a little better understanding of how the early pioneers made do with what they had and if they needed something then it was worth praying and working for it.

I'm mostly just looking for a good way to introduce you. Easy: A small town boy who has a passion for pioneer lore and old things.

National Calendar 2015

May 9, Saturday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Annual Historical Symposium at the S.U.P. Headquarters in Salt Lake City. "The Life and Death of Apostle Parley P. Pratt." **Matthew Grow** will speak on "The Apostle Paul of Mormonism: The Missionary Journeys of Parley P. Pratt". **Alexander Baugh**, "Tis Not for Crimes I Have Done": Parley P. Pratt's Missouri Imprisonment, 1838-1839." **Mitchell Pratt**, "'I Die a Firm Believer': The Murder, the Reaction, and the Grave of Parley P. Pratt." **Robert Steven Pratt**, "The Hymns and Poetry of Parley P. Pratt."

We will send along with this newsletter a copy of the biographies of the speakers, a way to register for the symposium, and an advertising brochure announcing the event.

May 9, Saturday: 6:00 p.m. Dinner Session.

The Keynote speaker is Elder Craig A. Cardon, a great-great grandson of Parley P. Pratt, who currently serves as a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, assistant executive director in the Priesthood Department, and Editor of Church Magazines.

July 24, Friday: 7:00 a.m. Days of '47 Sunrise Service at the Tabernacle on Temple Square. 10:00 a.m. Days of '47 Parade, Salt Lake City.

July 27, Monday: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.: S.U.P. Day at This Is the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City.

September 17-19, Thursday to Saturday: SUP National Convention in Brigham City, Utah. Visit this link on the National Web Pages for more information: <http://www.sonsofutahpioneers.org/2015-s-u-p-national-convention-in-brigham-city-utah/>

THE PIONEER VALUES

We honor the pioneers for their faith in God; devotion to family; loyalty to church and country; hard work and service to others; courage in adversity; personal integrity; and unyielding determination.



On March 5th Explorer George Potter spoke to our members and guests (about 75 people). George works in Saudi Arabia and for many years has been involved in the Nephi Project which has focused on discovering the trail Lehi's family followed after they left Jerusalem until they left the Arabian peninsula by ship and sailed to the new world. George briefly introduced his topic then showed a film introducing us to Arabia, one of many films and books he and his colleagues have produced over several years.

Pictured above with Chris Christensen and Kay Stevens of our chapter.

We were pleasantly entertained and pleased with the information he presented, having gained, obviously, much experience, knowledge and insight into the history of the Arabian Peninsula, its very few routes for travel, and those locations of dwelling that Lehi and his family had



available to them when they left Jerusalem. George and his colleagues have identified several most likely travel routes, encampment sites, halts (those locations where caravans halted and resupplied), also where and how they most likely built their ship and departed for the Promised Land. The pictures he had show it is "bountiful" and lush.



Chris presenting a copy of Pioneer Magazine and one-year subscription in thanks for coming and speaking. George's films and books are available on



his website, http://www.nephiproject.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=SFNT&Store_Code=TNP

LITTLE MOUNTAIN SUMMIT



All monies have been contributed to replace the plaque at the Little Mountain Summit, it has been ordered to be delivered toward the end of April, then will be announced the time of placement and rededication. Thank you to every generous member who helped with this project.



Little Mountain is the last summit in the Wasatch Mountains along the pioneer trail. From this point the trail descends Northwest until it reaches Emigration Creek. As William Clayton's "Emigrant's Guide" warns: "The

descent is very steep all the way." The Donner party passed over the summit August 21, 1846, and the Mormons on July 21, 1847. It is located 7.6 miles from the mouth of Emigration Canyon. --Utah Division of State History, Markers and Monuments Database.

Robert Pollei has been in charge of this project. Now he is busy finding other monuments needing attention.

Some more news:



The Board is busy with plans for the Chapter Trek and are collaborating with the Twenty Wells Chapter in Grantsville, thinking to set up some tours for **Saturday, June 27th, 2015**, including the Donner Reed Museum, Benson Grist Mill, and the Ophir Historic District where we can gain information about the area, have a nice barbecue, and be entertained with some "old west" music and poetry.

Some discussions have been held with members of the Board, with the National S.U.P officers, and will be ongoing to see if it is feasible to put up a booth at the Fair this fall from **Thursday, September 10, 2015 through**

September 20, 2015 with the objective of advertising and inviting anyone who may be interested in joining with the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

