



Salt Lake City Chapter

The Sons of Utah Pioneers

Newsletter - April 2016

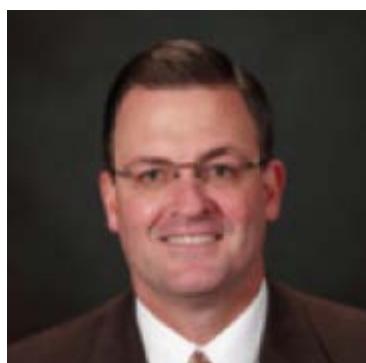
SUP Chapter members ---- We encourage you to share this email. It is easy enough to hit forward and type in the names of your friends.

Friends ---- If you receive this email you are most welcome to join our email list, and attend our meetings. They are open to everyone, you do not need to join the Sons of Utah Pioneers. To be added to our email list use this link: [SUP Salt Lake City](#)

Jeffrey D. Meservy was our speaker on Thursday, April 7, 2016, telling us about the Martin and Willie handcart companies

Brother Meservy is Director of the Taylorsville Utah Redwood Institute of Religion, Seminaries and Institutes of Religion, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has been in charge of the "Pioneers Trails Workshops" for the past 5, 6, or 7 years, where they begin in Scotts Bluff, Nebraska and follow the trail to Utah.

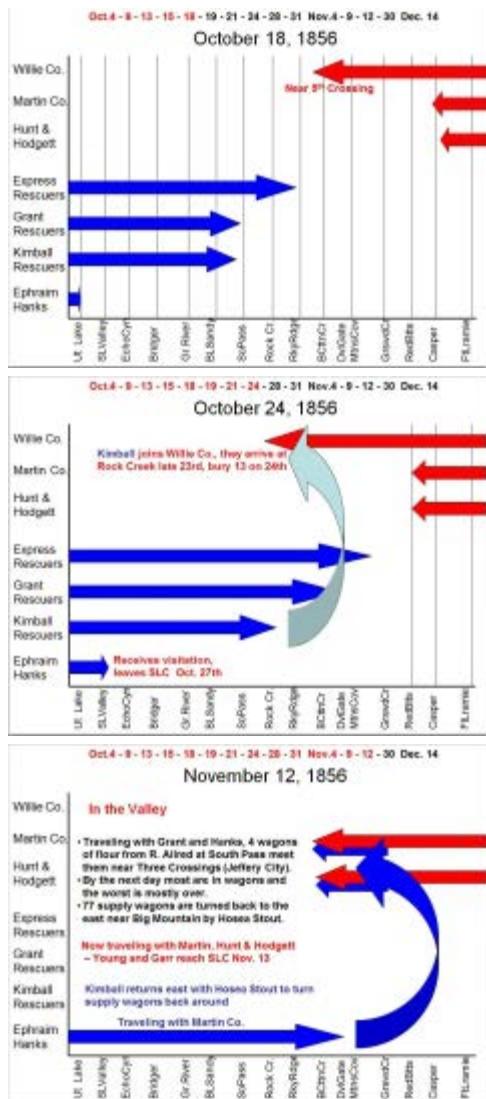
But, unlike the original pioneers, they stay in hotels or motels at night, ride in modern motorized vehicles, and do get out of them on occasion and walk portions of the trail, recounting the experiences of the pioneers.



He started the presentation with portions of the story familiar to us all, about how Brigham Young, on hearing of the situation with the Martin and the Willie handcart companies, then announced in the October 5th, 1856 General Conference of the church that the theme and the focus of that conference should be that "they must be brought here." The conference speakers followed that theme and supported the effort, which was carried out, and Brother Meservy detailed what happened very well.



I will now give this people the subject and the text for the Elders who may speak to-day and during the Conference, it is this, on the 5th day of October, 1856, many of our brethren and sisters are on the Plains with hand-carts, and probably many are now seven hundred miles from this place, and **they must be brought here**, we must send assistance to them. The text will be—to **get them here!** I want the brethren who may speak to understand that their text is the people on the Plains, and the subject matter for this community is to send for them and **bring** them in before the winter sets in.



The most fascinating and unique part of his presentation, which one rarely sees, is that of tracing on Power Point Slides, the day by day events of the two pioneer companies coming from the east, and that of the several rescue parties leaving Salt Lake City heading to the east to meet the Handcart companies and help them come west. He added information about Ephraim Hanks, who in the end played a key role in helping the Handcart pioneers. A couple of his slides are shown here. You really have to hear him tell it to fully appreciate the story.

Some interesting tidbits I drew from the presentation. October 5th was the General Conference. The weather was good, even hot until the 18th of October, then on the 19th began the cold and snow storms. There was an express rescue party, the Grant rescuers, the Kimball resuers, and Ephraim Hanks. There were 250 wagons sent out from the Salt Lake Valley. Tragically there were decisions made to turn back many of the rescuers, which when Brigham Young heard it, he turned them around again toward the east. Ephraim Hanks' story about killing a buffalo and finding the Martin company occurred on November 9th, 1856.

Henry B. Eyring spoke in April 1997 General Conference about these events, President Gordon B. Hinckley in 1991 in General Conference, and President Monson has also talked about them.

There were 500 saints in the Willie Handcart company, of whom 67 died on the plains, and 576 in the Martin Handcart company of whom 135-150 died on the plains.

Brother Meservy was raised in Centerville Utah, served a mission in Rosario Argentina, attended Ricks College, then received a degree from the University of Utah in Political Science, a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah, and a Juris Doctorate from Concord University School of Law. He is married to Lorinda Mitchell and they have five children. He loves to be found often on the pioneer trail. Now we see why, and are very grateful for his presentation.

Our May Meeting is coming up right away, on Thursday, May 5, 2016 -- you will not want to miss this one!

Steven L. Olsen is Senior Curator of the Church History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He will be speaking to us on "The Priesthood Restoration Site, its history and development leading to the wonderful present day location".

He has worked for the LDS Church History his entire professional career, most recently as Managing Director and Acting Director of the Church History Museum. In his current position, he directs the restoration of major Mormon historic sites. On-going projects include sites in northeast Pennsylvania, west central Illinois and Laie, Oahu, Hawaii.

His service to the wider profession has included terms as president of the Utah Museums Association, the Western Museums Association and terms on the boards of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Utah State Office of Museum Services, National Alliance of State Museums Associations, American Society for Church History, and Utah Humanities Council.

He has published widely in the fields of museums studies and Mormon studies and frequently presents at scholarly and professional conferences.

(The images are from the April 2016 issue of the Ensign Magazine, article written by [Mark L. Staker](#), Master Curator, Historic Sites Division, "[The Priesthood Restoration Site](#)".)



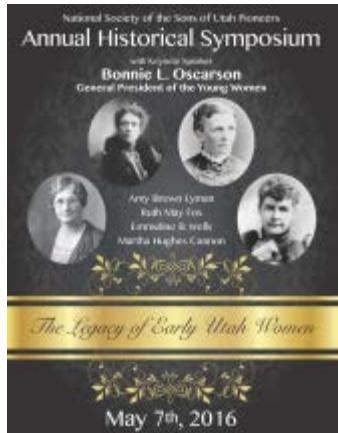
Chapter Calendar

- May 5, 2016 (Thursday) - Monthly Chapter Meeting - 10th Ward Chapel, 4th South and 8th East, Salt Lake City, Utah
- April 16, 2016 (Saturday) - Scholarship Banquet at the Sheraton Hotel - Salt Lake City, Utah - for all of the Scholarship recipients and their family guests
- June 2, 2016 (Thursday) - Chapter Trek in Salt Lake City - a visit to the Armstrong Inn and the Governor's Mansion, with dinner following
- July 7, 2016 (Thursday) - Days of '47 Royalty
- September 1, 2016 (Thursday) - Visit the State Capitol
- December 1, 2016 (Thursday) - Institute Choir

National Calendar

- April 30, 2016 (Saturday) - Spring Clean-up day - 10:00am - noon: Bring shovels, rakes,

- clippers, chain saws, come-alongs, hats, gloves, eye protection: treats will be provided.
- May 7, 2016 (Saturday) Afternoon Canyon Rim Stake Center, 3051 South 2900 EAsst from 1:00pm to 5:00pm - Evening Dinner 6:00pm to 8:00pm at National SUP Building 3301 E Louise Avenue.
 - July 18, 2016 (Monday) SUP Day at This is The Place Heritage Park - 4:00pm - 8:00pm: tickets Park entrance \$7.00/person or SUP store \$5.00/person.
 - July 25, 2016 (Monday) - 7:00am Sunrise Service in the Tabernacle and 9:00am Days of '47 Parade
 - September 22, 2016, 1:00pm - Saturday, September 24, 2016, 2:00pm: SUP National Convention in Hurricane, Utah
 - More information on these items at the [National Web Site](#)



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April 29, 2016 ~ Alonzo Cook, editor

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