FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Monday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.
at the ***National Headquarters, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Randy Baker, Mills Chapter President

Our January Mills chapter meeting was a true uplift. Glenn Rawson really engaged those that attended. The biggest takeaway for me was, as we really connect with our ancestors we become changed people. We were able to record his message, and it is available on our chapter website at the following link: supmills.org/Meetings/2026-01/Glenn Rawson 2026-01-12.mp4.

We are saddened at the passing of another one of our chapter members, Steve Rich, a former Mills Chapter President, and the good brother that introduced me to the Mills Chapter and Sons of Utah Pioneers. Our thoughts and prayers are with Melinda. For those that missed the obituary message, it can be viewed at the following link: Steven H. Rich Sr. - Larkin Mortuary Obituaries.

With the start of the new year, we remind chapter members that annual dues of $25 are and can be paid at chapter meetings, online, or mailing a check to Lyman, Riley or myself. You recall that beginning last year that SUP National stopped billing chapter dues with national dues, and chapters are now responsible for collecting their own chapter dues. We appreciated last year's response, and we hope that the reminders will be minimal. Also, when national was billing chapter dues, the timing was the same as the month you signed up with SUP. Now that chapters are collecting their own dues, we hope that we can do it all in the first couple of months of the calendar year.

Thank you for making the Mills Chapter so wonderful.

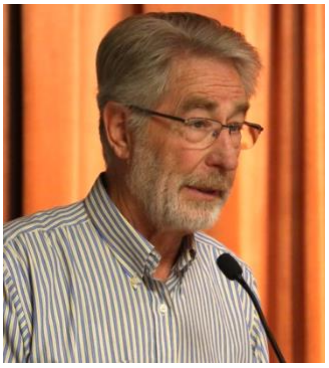
THE MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS

- Come to know our fathers and mothers and turn our hearts to them
- Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory and Western US
- Honor present-day pioneers worldwide who exemplify these same qualities of character
- Teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers

Pioneer Minute

George Passey

Great, great grandfather to
Lyman King



George Passey is my great-great grandfather. His family story began in Twyning, England in 1844 when George was born to John and Ann New Passey. Ann had heard the missionaries preach in 1850 and eventually told John, who was not too supportive. In fact, he was furious that she would believe the fantasy-like teachings of the "Gold Bible" and a "boy prophet in America". He said "I'll drown any man that tries to baptize you!"

One day when the Elders came to teach, a mob gathered and began pelting them with rotten eggs. Ann and her sister Sarah stood up against the mob and refused them entrance. Fortunately the taunting of the mobs did not deter Sarah and Ann from being baptized in late April, 1850, although they were again pelted with rotten eggs as they were being baptized. Upon returning home, John was in tears that Ann would be baptized, but Ann was quietly persistent and the influence of the Spirit changed his outlook and he was baptized about a month later.

After the family was baptized, the intense persecution continued. The Passeys stopped attending meetings at the small Church of England and this came with great sacrifice. The farmer/landowner John worked for requested that he and his family either return to the Church of England or take a shilling less in wages. Ultimately, John was fired, and the vicar and landowner decided to make an example of the hard-working, honest Passey family by forbidding anyone to befriend or hire them. John prayed to know what to do, and wrote to his brother, Henry, in the large city of Birmingham, 40 miles away. They discovered that work was plentiful and immediately left their small cottage for the big city.

All the children found work in Birmingham. Even George worked, who at that time was only 6 or 7 years old. George's job was to sort pins in a pin factory.

Ultimately, the family saved enough to make the voyage to America. They left on the clipper ship Underwriter, in March of 1860 and arrived in New York on May 1st and began making preparations to head west, beginning in July 1861, just as the Civil War broke out. One interesting note in on the diaries on the trek was that the pioneers were more afraid of the soldiers than of the Indians.

I'm grateful for the stories of George and his family, and their sacrifices for the gospel. They give me assurance that as we work through many difficulties of our lives, God is mindful of us and will help us to grow.

Meeting Recap

January 12, 2026

Glenn Rawson

We were thrilled to have the well-known church history expert Glenn Rawson as our speaker for our January meeting.

He recounted many pioneer accounts especially those of early church leaders, such as Orson Hyde, Mariner Merrill and several others, reminding us of the importance of seeking out and learning the true accounts of events that actually happened.

Glenn Rawson was born and raised in Idaho. He grew up on a cattle ranch, and to this day still carries a little bit of cowboy in him. When he was 18 years-old he joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and later served a mission in Iowa. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Wildlife and Range Science, and later from Idaho State University with a Masters Degree in Education. He spent almost 20 years as a seminary and institute teacher.

In 1997 he began writing and producing stories for the radio. His stories continue to be heard on numerous stations around the country. That work in radio later turned into production work for Church specials. Then in 2008 he joined with KJZZ television in Salt Lake City and the Joseph Smith Papers team to produce a weekly documentary television series entitled, *The Joseph Smith Papers.* In 2010 he teamed with Dennis Lyman and Bryant Bush to produce a new series called *History of the Saints.* In all, he has produced over 800 broadcast stories for radio and television. Glenn and his wife Debbie have seven children and nine grandchildren. They live in Utah. Glenn has travelled around the world leading church history and other tours since 2012 and is the author of many books. Here are some of the people Glenn mentioned in his SUP talk.

Orson Hyde

Ben E. Rich

James E. Talmage

Upcoming Event

February 9, 2026

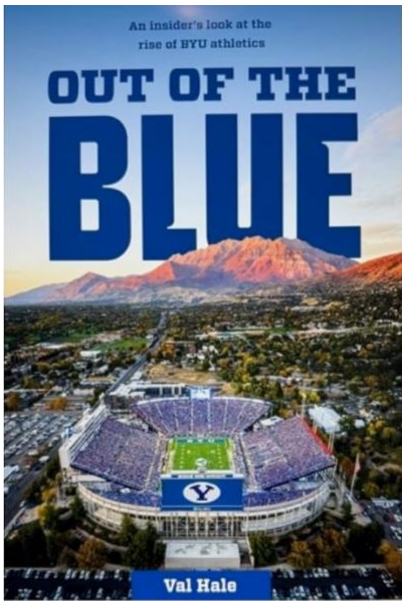
Val Hale

We are very pleased to have Val Hale as our February speaker. He will share with us some highlights from his diverse life. He retired in 2021 after a 40-year career working in the media, in higher education, in the private sector and in state government. For the last seven years of his career, Val was Executive Director of the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development, and prior to that assignment, he served as President and CEO of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Val was Vice President for University Relations and Advancement Vice President at Utah Valley University for seven years. In those two capacities, he oversaw fund raising, legislative affairs, marketing, public relations, media relations, community relations and alumni relations. He played a key role in the lobbying and public relations efforts to move UVU to university status.

Prior to joining UVU, Val worked for 22 years in the Brigham Young University Athletic Department, including five years as Director of Men's Athletics. After graduating from college, he spent a year as a newspaper reporter for the Provo Daily Herald.

Val earned bachelor's and master's degrees from BYU in public relations and communications. He has been active in the community, serving on many boards.



He and his wife, Nancy, served a Church mission to Los Angeles, where they worked with over 100 international diplomats. They have three children and 13 grandchildren and enjoy golf, skiing, snowshoeing, backpacking, pickleball, woodworking and riding a tandem bike.

He has written three books, including a just-released book: *"Out of the Blue: An insider's look at the rise of BYU athletics."*

We look forward to hearing about his experiences and the new book. He will be bringing copies of the book which will be for sale at the dinner.