SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

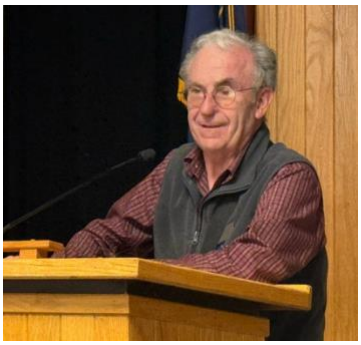
MILLS CHAPTER Celebrating Utah's Pioneer Heritage / www.supmills.com

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Monday, April 13, 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 March Mills chapter meeting was one that really touched my soul. Our mystery guest was our own chapter member, Richard Smith, dressed in costume as his great-grandfather Joseph F. Smith. He entered the room as though he had come down for a visit. The stirring thing for me was that Richard told stories of Joseph F. Smith's life from the perspective of things that happened to him. This view of the stories that I have heard many times made them come alive, making them more real. This added realization made my heart fill with appreciation for the heritage we have and how it has so blessed our lives. Thank you, Richard! Your presentation helped me see better the values of this great leader.

A few months ago, I mentioned that I would like to focus our chapter efforts to connect with an ancestor in ways we have not done before in being more appreciative of what we have been given from them in making our lives more meaningful. The March program certainly built on this. The Mills board has some excellent speakers lined up and we plan to continue the quality chapter meetings to inspire us to link to our own ancestors in new and better ways. We also encourage all chapter members to be involved in SUP national events to support our own connecting with the values from our ancestors.

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

Meeting Recap

March 9, 2026

Richard Smith
"The Story of my family"

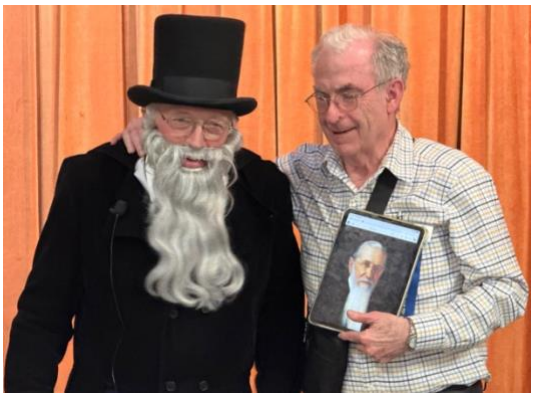
We were very happy to have new chapter member Richard Smith on the program for our March meeting. However, at the hour of presentation, he was no where to be found!

After some anxious moments, suddenly a mysterious visitor walked into the room with a long beard, long coat and a tall hat. He began speaking and after a short time we realized he was a visitor from another time. It also turned out that he was one of Richard's ancestors. In fact, the person who stood before us was none other than Joseph F. Smith! It turns out that Richard is his great great grandson! (BTW Past Chapter President Lyman King is also a part of the Hyrum Smith family too).

We learned later from Richard that President Smith has appeared once before in a similar manner while he and his wife were in Finland. And the President even spoke Finnish!!

The senior brother Smith told us some highlights from interesting life. He was born in 1838 in Far West, Missouri, son of Hyrum Smith and Mary Fielding. They eventually came to Nauvoo in 1840. Joseph was just 6 years old when his father was killed there in 1844. His childhood was marked by severe hardship, including traveling to Utah at age nine, which fostered a life of profound faith, resilience, and extensive missionary service, including a notable mission to Hawaii at age 15.

He became the sixth President of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served from 1901 to 1918. He was known for strengthening church organization, improving public relations, and receiving the revelation on the redemption of the dead which is recorded as D&C 138.



President Smith with Randy Baker and a likeness from his earler years

Kathleen Norton and Elizabeth Van Roosendaal did our delightful St Patrick's Day table decor.

Upcoming Event

April 13, 2026

Reed Haslam
"Pioneering the Church in Thailand"

Reed Haslam has the distinct honor of being one of the very early missionaries to serve in the southeast Asian country of Thailand where he located from 1973 – 1975.

He pursued a career in the computer industry and one of his other interests is the science of weather and meteorology. But his strongest interest has been in the development of the church in that Southeast Asian nation. Reed is the author of five books about his experiences there:

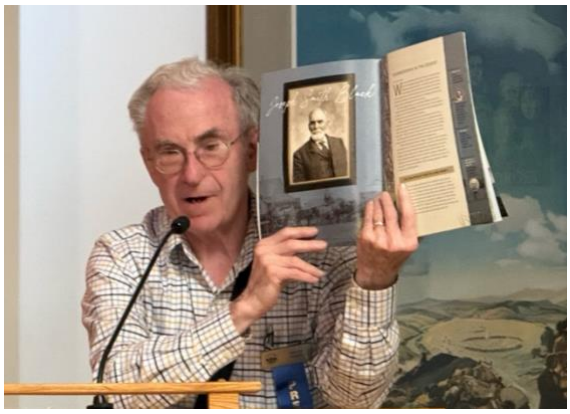
- **Translating Scripture** - ***2006*** – The Thai Book of Mormon
- **Monk to Missionary** – ***2010*** - A short story about how his native Thai companion came to be a convert to the Church.
- **The Light Breaks on Southeast Asia** – ***2012*** – An in-depth (*but certainly not a comprehensive)* history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Indochina, including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar from inception until 2012.
- **The Coming Forth of the Bangkok Thailand Temple** – 2024
- **Sharing Jesus Christ with Buddhists** – **Hot off the press, April 4**, **2026**. This book describes his personal experiences as a pioneering missionary in Thailand

He will have copies of some of these available for purchase at the event.

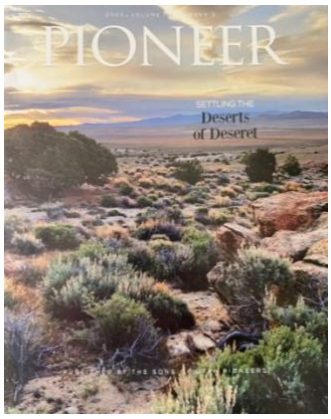
PIONEER MINUTE

Joseph Smith Black

Great great grandfather to Randy Baker



Chapter President Randy Baker told us of a piece that he wrote for the latest edition of *PIONEER* magazine. It is about one of his relatives, Jospeh Smith Black, who was a pioneer in the desert country of western Millard County and the town of Deseret. The impressive article gives an account of the incredible fortitude of Black in the harsh land that he was called to tame.



How to pay your Mills Chapter and National SUP Annual Dues

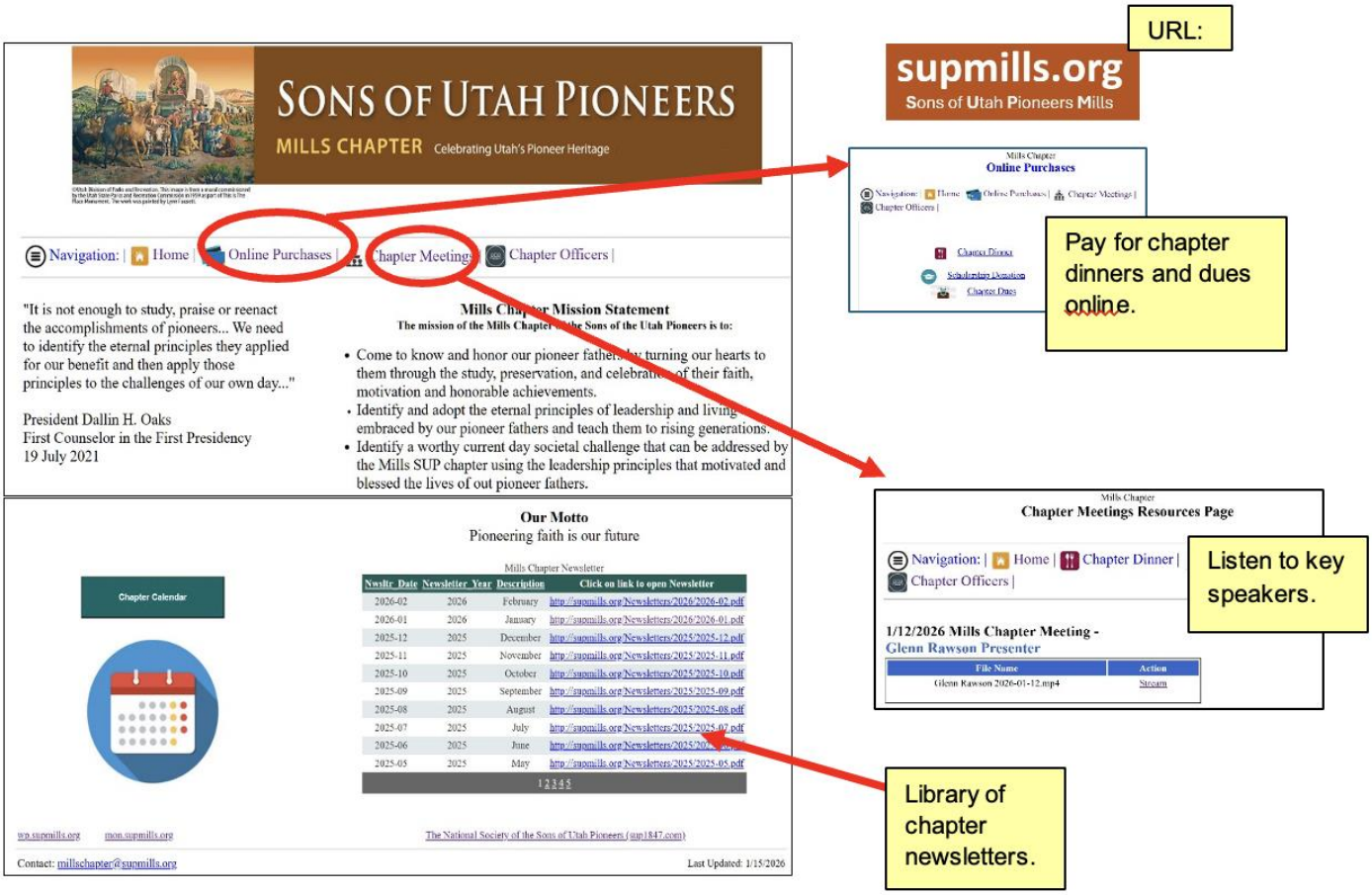
Chapter Dues

Chapter dues are $25.00 per year payable at the first of each year. You can pay this **four** ways:

1. Pay by check at the check-in table by the door at the next meeting
2. Pay by bank card at the check in table
3. Mail a check to Randy Baker, 1109 Harvard Ave, Salt Lake City, UT, 84108
4. Pay on the chapter website with a bank card - https://supmills.org . See instructions below.

National Dues

National Dues are $65.00 per year and are due at the first of the year. They can be paid in person at HQ office during business hours or by check mailed to 3301 East 2920 South Street, Salt Lake City, UT, 84109

Chapter Web Site Information

Overview of the Mills Chapter Website as presented by Chapter President Randy Baker at February Meeting. Shows how to pay dues, view recorded speakers and get copy of the newsletter on your computer or phone.