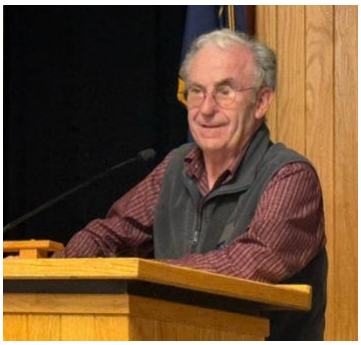
SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS
MILLS CHAPTER Celebrating Utah's Pioneer Heritage / www.supmills.com

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Next Meeting, Monday, May 11, 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 April Mills chapter meeting was one that really had some core pioneering examples. Reed Haslam was one of first missionaries to serve in Southeast Asia (Thailand specifically) and he did some of the first efforts to introduce the gospel to those who did not believe in Jesus Christ (buddists). Fortunately, the Catholics had introduced schools and those with a good education had been exposed to Christianity. The protestants had introduced hospitals and had also broken the ice about Jesus. Still the Book of Mormon was not translated to Tai and Brother Haslam was part of its translation efforts. This perspective showed pioneering efforts. Thank you, Reed! Your presentation helped me see better the values of humility in working on the small things that made a difference.

Last February, chapter member David Finch passed away at age 93. He is the father of Janeen Patterson who presented several months ago about the remarkable experiences he had of discovering his family history. You can view his obituary here. We wish the best to his remarkable family.

Regarding my urging each chapter member to connect with an ancestor this year, I hope that your personal efforts are rewarding. I have discovered some very touching things from a couple of my ancestors. I will be sharing some of these experiences as i refine my thoughts about them. We also encourage all chapter members to be involved in SUP national events to support our own connection with the values of our ancestors.

Thank you for making the Mills Chapter so wonderful.

It is time again for our annual Mills Chapter scholarships, and part of our June meeting will be devoted to introducing chapter scholarship recipients to you. Your generous contribution has been appreciated in the past and encourage you to contribute this year with the stamped envelope included in this copy of the chapter newsletter mailed to you this month.
Contributions to the Mills Chapter Scholarship fund can also be made online at
https://supmills.org/OnlinePurchases.aspx

Upcoming Meeting

May 11, 2026

Jeff Lowe

"Firearms of the 19th Century and their importance in early Utah Pioneering"

Our May speaker will be Jeff Lowe, an illustrator, artist, historian, and retired schoolteacher who spent his career teaching Visual Arts and German language. A lifelong student of history, he is also an experienced historical reenactor and interpreter specializing in the cultures of Western Europe and North America from the late Roman era (c. AD 100) through the time of the Mexican–American War (1847).

Lowe is known for combining scholarship with hands-on historical experimentation. Over the years he has built numerous suits of armor spanning the Roman period through the 15th century and participated in medieval combat demonstrations for many years. Today his work focuses primarily on the American colonial and Mountain Man eras.

Believing that history is best understood through lived experience, Lowe studies the material culture of each period and then recreates it as faithfully as possible. He practices traditional crafts such as blacksmithing, leatherworking, woodworking, and historical garment construction, producing equipment and clothing that adhere closely to historical standards whenever practical.

His research also extends to historical weaponry. Lowe has handled and studied arms from many periods and frequently demonstrates black-powder firearms dating from the 14th through the 19th centuries—many of which he has personally built or restored.

In addition to practical reconstruction, Lowe has traveled widely to places of historical significance, studying forts, castles, battlefields, and sacred sites connected with the past. Through lectures, demonstrations, and artistic work, he seeks to bring history to life and help modern audiences better understand the people, technologies, and cultures that shaped earlier centuries.

Meeting Recap

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 be called to the southeast Asian country of Thailand, where he served from 1973 – 1975.

He pursued a career in the computer industry but his strongest interest has been documenting the development of the church in that Southeast Asian nation. He has published five books on the subject.

He also talked about the start of proselyting in other nations in Indochina including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Thailand was dedicated by Elder Gordon B Hinckley in 1966 after his assignment from President McKay to take the gospel to all of Asia.

A key development in the growth of the church in Thailand was the translation of the Book of Mormon into the Thai language in 1976. This was aided by an early convert sister who was well educated and remains a dedicated member.

The first stake was organized in 1996 and President Hinckley returned to Thailand in 2000 and promised that a temple would be built if they remained faithful. The Bangkok Thailand Temple was dedicated in 2023.

The church in Vietnam was aided by faithful American LDS servicemen during the war. Missionaries from Hong Kong started serving there in late 1973 and full time elders were sent there in 1975 but were withdrawn after only a few months because of the fall of Saigon.

Chapter member Barry Smith introduces Reed Haslam

Board members Steve Cook and Lyman King help prepare dinner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUPer-DUPer Day at This is the Place Heritage Park

- Saturday, July 18, 2026
- 10:00 AM 5:00 PM
- National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers (map)

10am Speaker at the Pioneer Center followed by a day of fun and activities in This is the Place Heritage Park.

Days of '47 Sunrise Service

- Friday, July 24, 2026
- 7:00 AM 8:00 AM
- Social Hall Avenue Chapel (map)

Days of '47 Parade

- Friday, July 24, 2026
- 8:30 AM 11:00 AM
- National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers Handcarts

National Encampment - Portneuf / Grove City Chapters

- Thu, Sep 17, 2026 to Sat, Sep 19, 2026
- National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers (map)

SUP 2026 National Trek: Washington DC, Philadelphia

- Tue, Oct 13, 20269:00 PM Fri, Oct 23, 202610:00 PM
- National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers (map)

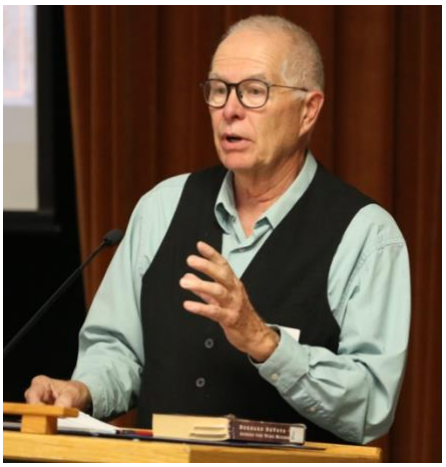
THE MISSION OF THE SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS

- 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

Riley Cutler

The Role of the Mountain Men in Pioneering the West



Our *Pioneer Minute* chairman, Riley Cutler, talked about the important role that the so called "Mountain Men" played in the exploration and settling of the West after the Lewis & Clark Expedition. These men took part in the fur trade from the 1820's to 1840's which originated mostly from St Louis. They pioneered overland wagon transport across the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains. The knowledge of the interior West gained by the Mountain Men played an essential role in the large overland migrations to Utah, California and Oregon in the 1840's. Many of the former trappers worked as scouts and guides after the fur trade collapsed due to over-hunting of beaver and changes in fashion. Jim Bridger is a famous example of one who directly aided the early Mormon companies coming to Utah. Our May speaker, Jeff Lowe, will talk about this history. Future speakers will further explore this fascinating part of American history.

'Carson's Men' a painting by Charles Beck depicts mountain men under direction of Kit Carson traveling through the Rocky Mountains

How to pay your Mills Chapter and National SUP Annual Dues

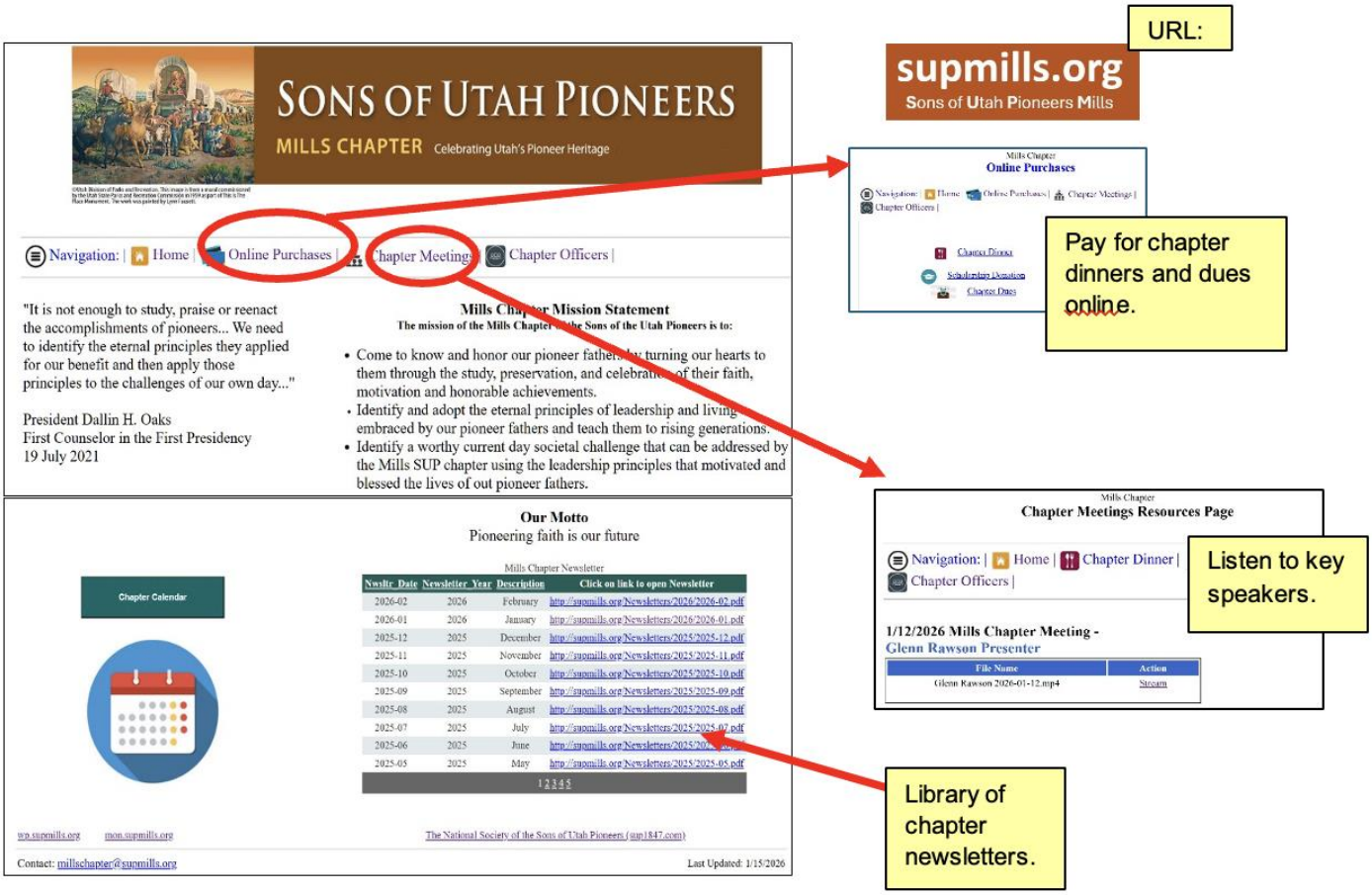
Chapter Dues

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.