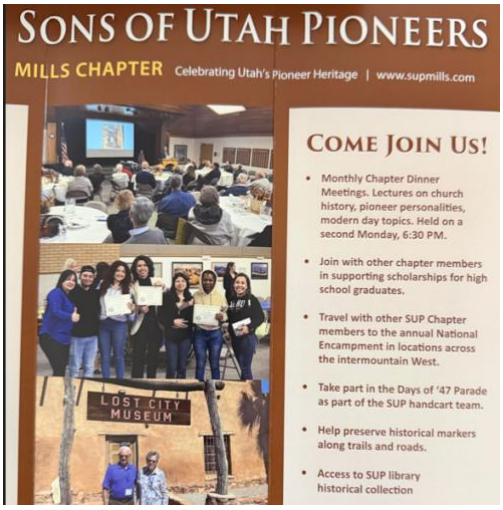
SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

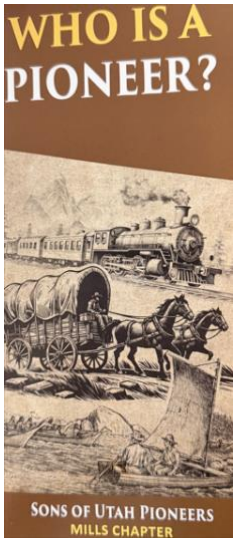
Next Meeting, Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m.
*at the **National Headquarters, 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, Utah***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Randy Baker, Mills Chapter President

Our August Mills chapter meeting was another treat. James Barker spoke about his experiences of the purchase of the land for the Washington DC Temple and his knowing the actors involved. A video of his remarks is posted to the meeting section of our chapter website.





To help expand the membership of the Mills chapter and to promote the mission of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, three of our board members, Steve Cook, Rees Petersen, and Jeff Edwards developed a superb pamphlet that tells what we are all about. These pamphlets were distributed to those attending the August meeting and are also being mailed to other chapter members with this newsletter. **Please use it to invite a friend to join us**.

As I have urged each chapter member this year to connect with an ancestor, I hope you have had a gratifying experience in this endeavor. When I became aware of my responsibility to know my ancestors, and while it has given me information about my family, I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about what they left me and how much I am enjoying learning what made them think. I have also discovered that I have some Scottish royalty from the 1300s. Amazing what I have found about how they thought, and I think it is what has made me a better person. Thank you for making the Mills Chapter so wonderful. **PS - There is NO Chapter Meeting in the month of September because of National Encampment.**

We are sad to announce the passing of Terry Clemmer, one of our longstanding Mills Chapter Members. Terry served as Chapter President and a member of the Board for many years. He had a remarkable career in medicine and a great family. Our condolences to his wonderful wife Jan.
https://www.larkinmortuary.com/obituary/view/terry-clemmer/?utm_source=legacy&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=legacytraffic

Meeting Recap

August 10, 2026

The Interesting History of the Washington DC Temple

Our August speaker was Jim Barker who spoke about the unique and surprising history of the building of the Washington DC temple. In particular, he told us the story of how the purchase of the land came together at the last minute for the Church to buy some of the most coveted and impressive acreage in the Washington, DC metro area.

There were many years of discussion about where to put the first temple east of the Mississippi River since the Nauvoo Temple was built in 1846. Many cities were considered but the DC area kept rising to the top. However land prices were high there as were construction costs and the Church was not in a strong financial position for large capital projects like a new temple. But the First Presidency wanted to continue the process to find the right place. Jim told us about Robert Barker who was an attorney in the area and was engaged to help find a proper site.

In early 1964, Robert Barker began an extensive survey of available sites in the DC area. The property that was by far the most desirable was a wooded 50 acre site next to the I-95 beltway. It was privately owned by three men and James knew that they had accepted an offer to build a shopping center there. He felt repeatedly impressed that this was the right site and decided to make one last try. He also knew that the owners happened to be Jewish. After much prayer, he invited one of them to lunch and told him of the deep connections between Latter-day Saints and Jewish people in their shared understanding of ancient prophets and the sacred purpose of a temple. The spirit was strong and by the end of the meeting, he agreed to talk to his partners. A short time later he called Brother Barker to say they would sell them the property, and even offered it a reduced price.

Jim Barker and Jeff Edwards are both cousins of Robert Barker who acquired land for the DC temple in 1962.

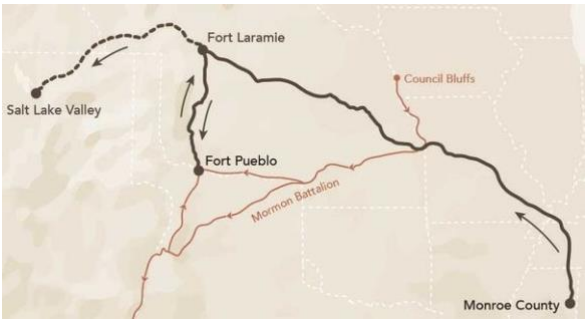
Plans for temple were first made public in 1968 and it was dedicated in 1974 by President Kimball.

After an extensive remodeling project, it was rededicated in 2022 and Jim also shared some of the experiences he and his wife Anne had during that remarkable event. Over 250,000 people attended the open house including dozens of members of congress, the presidential staff and the supreme court.

PIONEER MINUTE

George Washington Thirkill – Relative to Clive Thirkill as told by Jim Gee

In the early 1840s, a Latter-day Saint schoolteacher named John Brown served a mission in the South. He and his companions found a "fertile field" in Monroe County, Mississippi, and in a short time established a congregation of about 200 members. Hearing about the move west, Brown and captained by William Crosby, a company of about 43 to 60 converts left Mississippi with 19 wagons on April 8, 1846. Most were former plantation owners and their party included some enslaved persons.

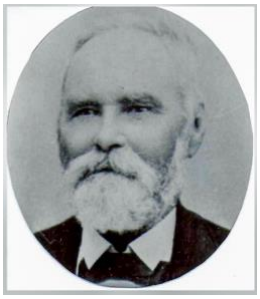


They intended to meet Brigham Young's main vanguard along the Platte River near Grand Island, Nebraska. Failing to find the main body of Saints (who had been delayed and were wintering along the Missouri River), they pushed on to Fort Laramie, Wyoming

Mountain men at Fort Laramie told them no Mormon companies were ahead of them. Invited by trappers and guided by advice, they turned south along the eastern foothills of the Rockies to winter at Fort Pueblo (modern-day Pueblo, Colorado), arriving in the fall of 1846. There they joined sick and detached members of the Mormon Battalion who had left Ft Leavenworth, Kansas on the way to San Diego, California.

Mississippi Saints camp at Fort Pueblo in winter of 1846

While in Pueblo, George Washington Threlkel and another man were pursuing a wounded deer through thick brush. A grizzly suddenly charged and knocked both men to the ground before they realized what was happening. Threlkel was severely bitten on the head and suffered deep lacerations in multiple places. Campmates rushed to the location of the screams and succeeded in killing the grizzly bear, saving the men. Threlkel recovered from his wounds and later settled in Placer County, California, living there from 1849 until 1900.



George Washington Thrikill

In the spring of 1847, the group traveled back north to Fort Laramie and joined Brigham Young's vanguard company route through South Pass into the Great Basin. Some of the Mississippi Saints, including African-American pioneers, made history by arriving in the Salt Lake Valley on 23 July. By the time President Young arrived on 24 July, they had already planted potatoes and beans. The 275 Pueblo Saints arrived a few days later.

JOIN US AT THE TYHEE STAKE CENTER
12146 W. Tyhee Rd., Pocatello, Idaho
September 17-19, 2026

Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 17th

- Temple Sessions at 9:30 am, 10:30 am, and 11:00 am
  (arrive 30 minutes before each session)
- 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm Registration & activities at the Tyhee Stake Center, (DUP) - pioneer games, crafts, family history, local history, western night.
- 6:00 pm Welcome and Dinner
- 7:00 pm Speaker: Bryan Murray, retired judge speaking on Pocatello history, followed by entertainment - Boyd Murdock, Roy McKee (music), and Todd Andrus (cowboy poet)

Friday, September 18th

- 8:00 am Registration
- Full-Day and Half-Day Tours
- 6:00 pm Dinner and Guest Speaker
  Timothy J. Dyches, Emeritus 70 – more info
- Entertainment by Angel Tones

Saturday, September 19th

- 8:00 am National Board Members Meeting.
- 9:15 am Business Meeting for all SUP Members.
- 9:15 am Spouse's meeting: Jynnea Smedely, Speaker
- 10:15 am General Meeting, Catered Luncheon & Farewell

Lodging Options

Dump Station for campers 850 Barton Rd., Pocatello, ID – open May 15th through November 15th

Hotels and places to stay
Trip Advisor for Hotels & Places to Stay in Pocatello

Best Western
1415 Bench Rd.
Pocatello, ID
(208) 471-5212

- Theme –
"Gateway to the Northwest"

Full-Day Tours **(Box Lunch provided for each attendee)**

Friday, September 18th

1 - ATV Trail head at 9:30 am.
1st meet at 8200 West Portneuf Rd. at 9:00 am (Mink Creek Ward building Map). Then proceed as a group to the trailhead.

Scout Mtn. Rd. is located on the West side of Scout Mountain in the Bannock Range, just south of Pocatello, Idaho, within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. It is accessed via the Mink Creek Recreation Area (South Fork of the Mink Creek Rd. off of the main Mink Creek Rd. via Bannock Hwy). The area features steep, forested terrain (Douglas fir, aspen) and is accessible by hiking and motorized trails, including high-clearance 4x4 trails. Important Note: Out of State attendees – get Idaho ATV permit from the Idaho Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

2 - Visit Malad-Samaria Area
- bus Leaves at 8:30 am
from the Tyhee Stake Center.

Home of the largest concentration of Welsh people outside of Wales. Visit the Oneida Museum in Malad and the Heritage Square in Samaria. Visit the original Olive Davis Osmond Cabin, mother of the famous Osmond family of performers.

Half-Day Tours (Instructions and maps provided)

Friday, September 18th

6a - Visit Idaho State University - 9:00 am in the Morning - personal auto to the ICCU Dome. (Celebrating 125 year anniversary) Visit Strategic Rocks, Performing Arts Center, EAMES Reactor Simulator.

6b - Visit Idaho State University - 1:00 pm in the Afternoon - personal auto to the ICCU Dome. (Celebrating 125 year anniversary) Visit Nuclear Reactor Lab, EAMES Reactor Simulator (Richard Lindsay – presenter) and the Performing Arts Center.

7a - Visit historic Pocatello - 9:00 am in the morning - personal auto to the Museum of Clean then visit the museum and historic ZCMI Memorial Building close by. More Info

7b - Visit historic Pocatello - 1:00 pm in the afternoon - personal auto to the Bannock County Museum. Visit the museum, and Fort Hall Replica then the miniature railroad. More Info

Full-Day Tours (continued)

Note: All buses leave at 8:30 am from the Tyhee Stake Center

3 - Visit historic Chesterfield townsite and Soda Springs.

More Info

4 - Visit Blackfoot, Idaho historic sites and Potato Museum, Sho-Ban Museum and Honey Bee operation.

More Info

5 - Visit American Falls Idaho historical sites – Register Rock, Massacre Rocks, Oregon Trail, Power County Museum and potato processing.

More Info

* Optional * - Print out, fill in sections below, then cut along line to separate and mail in. -

2026 SUP National Encampment
Register Online at: https://www.sup1847.com/store
or Print and Send this Form to:
SUP, 3301 E. Louise Ave., SLC, UT 84109 or Call Pat at SUP to Pay Over the Phone: (801) 484-4441

Full Name: _____

Spouse / Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email: _____

SUP Member: Yes ○ No ○

Chapter Name: _____

Please indicate any physical limitations, dietary restrictions: _____

Registration Fee

○ Before Aug 15th): $105 x __ = $ _____
($50 for individual days)
○ After Aug 15th: $125 x __ = $ _____
($70 for individual days)
○ Thu. - Number of Attendee(s) ___
○ Fri. - Number of Attendee(s) ___
○ Sat. - Number of Attendee(s) ___

Tour Selection

Full – Day - Select 1 per attendee(s)
○ Tour 1: ATV Ride $30 _____
○ Tour 2: Malad/Samaria $60 _____
○ Tour 3: Chesterfield/S. S. $60 _____
○ Tour 4: Blackfoot, Sho-Ban $60 _____
○ Tour 5: American Falls $60 _____

Half – Day - Select 1 or 2 per attendee(s)
○ Tour 6a: ISU AM $15 _____
○ Tour 6b: ISU PM $15 _____
○ Tour 7a: Pocatello Tour AM $20 _____
○ Tour 7b: Pocatello Tour PM $20 _____

Grand Total: $ _____